



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

MATHEWS_J17

**Sound recordings collected by
Janet Mathews, 1972**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

Restrictions on use

Field tapes 124-133 are open for copying by relevant Indigenous clients. All other clients must obtain permission from Susan Upton. Relevant Indigenous clients may obtain copies of field tapes 116-123 with permission from Roy Barker. All other clients must obtain permission from both Roy Barker and Susan Upton. Permission must be sought from the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1972

Extent: 18 sound tape reels (ca. 18 hrs.) : analogue, mono ; 5 in. + field tape report sheets

Production history

These recordings were collected between 16 April and 22 April 1972 by Janet Mathews, an AIAS grantee, during fieldwork in Brewarrina, Bourke, Enngonia and Coonamble in western NSW. The purpose of the fieldwork was to study the cultures, songs and languages of Indigenous peoples of the area. Jimmie Barker speaks of his life and of some cultural practices and beliefs of the Muruwari. George Harrison performs songs in Wangkumara and Wongerunda (possibly Yandruwantha or Arrernte). Jack O'Lantern performs songs and speaks in Wangkumara and Gurdanji. Mr Bill Davis speaks in Wailwan.

RELATED MATERIAL

Important: before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

A transcript of field tapes 118-123 is held in the AIATSIS library, see [MS 89](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Janet Mathews and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
002442A	Field tape 116	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002442B	Field tape 117	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002443A	Field tape 118	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002443B	Field tape 119	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002444A	Field tape 120	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002444B	Field tape 121	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002445A	Field tape 122	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002445B	Field tape 123	Oral history and discussion with Jimmie Barker
002446A	Field tape 124	Songs in Wangkumara and Wongerunda (Arrernte or Yandruwantha) and discussion, with George Harrison
002446B	Field tape 125	Songs in Wongerunda (Arrernte or Yandruwantha) and Wangkumara and discussion, with George Harrison
002447A	Field tape 126	Songs in Wangkumara and Gurdanji and discussion, with Jack O'Lantern
002447B	Field tape 127	Songs in Wangkumara and Gurdanji, sentence elicitation in Wangkumara and discussion with Jack O'Lantern
002448A	Field tape 128	Wailwan language elicitation and narratives in English with Mr Bill Davis
002448B	Field tape 129	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis
000244A	Field tape 130	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis
002449B	Field tape 131	Wailwan sentence elicitation and discussion with Mr Bill Davis
002450B	Field tape 132	Wailwan sentence and vocabulary elicitation and discussion with Mr Bill Davis
002450B	Field tape 133	Wailwan vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

002442A/Field tape 116

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Oral history, Race relations – Violent, Racial discrimination – Economic, Christianity – Missions, Language maintenance, Social behaviour
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people
Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002442A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of violence and racial discrimination while being brought up and working on a mission station.	16 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:50:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of relations among Indigenous people on the mission and recalls that some people still spoke in Muruwari and used traditional methods of fishing.		
	01:04:50	End of field tape 11 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002442A.		

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002442B/Field tape 117

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords: Oral history, Police conduct & attitudes, Social behaviour, Attitudes – Indigenous attitudes, Racial discrimination, Race relations - Violent
Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people
Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002442B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of differing Indigenous attitudes towards the police.	16-17 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:05:45	Jimmie Barker speaks of his wife and children.		
	00:14:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of racial discrimination by police and of Indigenous social ills and attitudes towards money, work and non-Indigenous wealth.		
	00:52:50	Jimmie Barker recalls particular incidents of cruelty to Indigenous people.		
	01:04:50	End of field tape 117 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002442B.		

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002443A/Field tape 118

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Race relations – reconciliation, Racial discrimination, Social behaviour, Health – Child growth & development, Mental health, Health – Infectious diseases – Influenza, Ceremonies – Smoking ceremonies, Religion

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002443A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of race relations.	17 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:09:56	Jimmie Barker speaks of Indigenous health concerns, including child mortality.		
	00:43:17	Jimmie Barker speaks of Indigenous customs and ceremonies and of his own belief in Indigenous spirituality.		
	01:04:20	End of field tape 118 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002443A.		

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002443B/Field tape 119

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Hunting, gathering & fishing, Kinship & marriage, Religion – Totemism, Christianity – Missionaries, Story telling, Animals – Stories & motifs, Tracking, Ceremonies – Smoking ceremonies

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002443B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses the disappearance of traditional Indigenous methods of hunting, gathering and fishing.	17 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:10:29	Jimmie Barker discusses the lack of contemporary knowledge of kinship and totemism.		
	00:22:15	Jimmie Barker discusses the forced belief in Christianity among Indigenous people by Christian missionaries.		
	00:32:48	Jimmie Barker speaks of the decline of knowledge in local Indigenous folklore, and relates the story of the Lizard and the Galah.		
	00:42:05	Jimmie Barker speaks of the impact of non-Indigenous culture on Indigenous culture, and of the decline of Indigenous customs and beliefs.		
	01:04:20	End of field tape 119 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002443B.		

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002444A/Field tape 120

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Clever people, Religion – Totemism, Racial discrimination – Health, Attitudes – Indigenous attitudes, Kinship & marriage, Race relations – Violent, Christianity – Missionaries

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002444A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses clever people in the Brewarrina area.	17 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:05:35	Jimmie Barker says that the acknowledgement of totems has declined.		
	00:07:30	Jimmie Barker recalls incidents of racial discrimination in health care.		
	00:19:00	Jimmie Barker describes the psychological effect that the compound conditions of the mission station had on Indigenous people, and a desire among them to return to customary ways of life.		
	00:34:50	Jimmie Barker discusses the consequences of the breakdown of Muruwari customary marriage laws.		
	01:03:35	Jimmie Barker speaks of the authority of mission managers.		
	01:04:38	End of field tape 120 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002444A.		

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002444B/Field tape 121

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Marriage & sex relations, Racial attitudes & stereotypes, Indigenous perspectives, Health – Nutrition disorders, Race relations – Massacres, murders, poisonings etc. - To 1900, Oral history

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002444B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses some marital arrangements on the mission.	18 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:06:20	Jimmie Barker discusses racial attitudes.		
	00:39:40	Jimmie Barker discusses malnutrition among Indigenous children on the mission.		
	00:46:40	Jimmie Barker discusses massacres of Indigenous people in the nineteenth century.		
	00:52:00	Jimmie Barker speaks of his life after retirement from working in the hospital.		
	01:04:35	End of field tape 121 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002444B.		

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002445A/Field tape 122

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Oral history, Racial discrimination, Attitudes – Indigenous attitudes, Health – Nutrition disorders, Punishment

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002445A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses working as an opal miner at Lightning Ridge.	18 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:33:00	Jimmie Barker talks of his wife.		
	00:49:26	Jimmie Barker discusses some Indigenous attitudes.		
	01:00:20	Jimmie Barker discusses nutritional problems among Indigenous people.		
	01:04:10	Jimmie Barker describes some customary Indigenous punishments.		
	01:05:50	End of field tape 122 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002445A.		

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002445B/Field tape 123

Performer/speaker(s): Jimmie Barker

Subject keywords: Religion – Totemism, Kinship & marriage, Baiame – Stories & motifs, Race relations – Massacres, murders, poisonings etc. - To 1900, Costume & clothing, Clever people, Oral history, Ceremonies – Initiation, Legendary beings – Stories & motifs, Cannibalism, Art – Rock art

Language/people: Muruwari / Murrawarri people, Ngiyampaa / Ngemba people

Places: Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002445B	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker discusses totemism and courtship customs.	18 April 1972	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:08:20	Jimmie Barker speaks of Payami (Baiame).		
	00:11:10	Jimmie Barker speaks of massacres at Butcher's Tree and Hospital Creek.		
	00:21:35	Jimmie Barker speaks briefly about Muruwari clothing and ornamentation.		
	00:24:05	Jimmie Barker speaks of clever men, Muruwari burial grounds, initiation ceremonies, self harm, cannibalism, rock art and ghosts / spirits.		
	01:05:50	End of field tape 123 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002445B.		

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002446A/Field tape 124

Performer/speaker(s): George Harrison
Subject keywords: Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Narratives, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people: Wangkumara / Wanggumara, Unclassified languages, Wongerunda
Places: Bourke (N NSW SH55-10)
Recording quality: Fair
Notes: The language name 'Wongerunda', used by Janet Mathews, does not appear on the AIATSIS language thesaurus, it is probably an alternative spelling for Yandruwantha or Arrernte

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002446A	00:00:00	George Harrison sings in Wangkumara, followed by discussion of the song in English.	19 April 1972	Bourke, NSW
	00:06:27	George Harrison sings in Wongerunda, followed by discussions of the songs in English.		
	00:32:24	End of field tape 124 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002446A.		

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002446B/Field tape 125

Performer/speaker(s): George Harrison
Subject keywords: Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Narratives, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people: Wangkumara / Wanggumara, Unclassified languages, Wongerunda (Arrernte?)
Places: Bourke (N NSW SH55-10)
Recording quality: Fair
Notes: The language name 'Wongerunda', used by Janet Mathews, does not appear on the AIATSIS language thesaurus, it is probably an alternative spelling for Yandruwantha or Arrernte

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002446B	00:00:00	George Harrison sings in Wongerunda, followed by discussions of the songs in English.	19 April 1972	Bourke, NSW
	00:04:35	George Harrison sings in Wangkumara, followed by discussion of the song in English.		
	00:27:16	End of field tape 125 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002446B.		

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002447A/Field tape 126

Performer/speaker(s): Jack O' Lantern

Subject keywords: Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation

Language/people: Wangkumara / Wanggumara, Gurdanji / Kurdanji / Gudanji

Places: Enngonia (N NSW SH55-06)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002447A	00:00:00	Jack O'Lantern sings in Wangkumara, followed by discussions of the songs in English.	20 April 1972	Enngonia, NSW
	00:17:00	Jack O'Lantern sings in Gurdanji, followed by discussions of the songs in English.		
	00:30:57	Jack O'Lantern sings in Wangkumara, followed by discussions of the songs in English.		
	32:30	End of field tape 126 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002447A.		

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002447B/Field tape 127

Performer/speaker(s): Jack O' Lantern
Subject keywords: Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Discussion /
Conversation, Language elicitation - Sentences
Language/people: Wangkumara / Wanggumara, Gurdanji / Kurdanji / GudANJI
Places: Enngonia (N NSW SH55-06)
Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002447B	00:00:00	Jack O'Lantern sings in Wangkumara, followed by discussions of the songs in English.	20 April 1972	Enngonia, NSW
	00:04:13	Jack O'Lantern sings in Gurdanji, followed by discussions of the songs in English.		
	00:14:40	Wangkumara sentence elicitation with Jack O'Lantern.		
	00:30:41	End of field tape 127 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002447B.		

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002448A/Field tape 128

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Animal names, Language elicitation – Narratives, Language elicitation – Sentences,
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002448A	00:00:00	Wailwan vocabulary elicitation with Mr Bill Davis, including animal names.	21 April 1972	Coonamble, NSW
	00:02:40	Narrative of the Emu and the Curlew and sentence elicitation in Wailwan with Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:22:00	Narrative of the Crow and the Lizard in English by Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:24:00	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.		
	01:04:08	End of field tape 128 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002448A.		

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002448B/Field tape 129

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002448B	00:00:00	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.	22 April 1972	Coonamble, NSW
	01:04:06	End of field tape 129 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002448B.		

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000244A/Field tape 130

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-000244A	00:00:00	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.	22 April 1972	Coonamble, NSW
	01:05:23	End of field tape 130 and end of MATHEWS_J17-000244A.		

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002449B/Field tape 131

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Baiame – Stories & Motifs, Mortuary customs
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002449B	00:00:00	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.	22 April 1972	Coonamble, NSW
	00:42:08	Discussion about Baiame with Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:42:55	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:53:50	Discussion on burial customs with Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:54:24	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.		
	01:04:42	End of field 131 and end MATHEWS_J17-002449B.		

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002450B/Field tape 132

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Language elicitation – Sentences, Vocabulary & grammar – Interrogatives,
Vocabulary – Animal names
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002450B	00:00:00	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.	22 April 1973	Coonamble, NSW
	00:52:10	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis, including interrogatives.		
	00:58:30	Elicitation of animal names in Wailwan with Mr Bill Davis.		
	01:05:15	End of field tape 132 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002450B.		

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002450B/Field tape 133

Performer/speaker(s): Mr Bill Davis
Subject keywords: Vocabulary – Animal names, Vocabulary – Plant names, Vocabulary – Environment & natural phenomena, Language elicitation - Sentences
Language/people: Wailwan / Weilwan
Places: Coonamble (N NSW SH55-11)
Recording quality: Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
MATHEWS_J17-002450B	00:00:00	Wailwan vocabulary elicitation with Mr Bill Davis, including animal names, plant names and terms for natural phenomena.	22 April 1972	Coonamble, NSW
	00:26:20	Wailwan sentence elicitation with Mr Bill Davis.		
	00:27:40	Wailwan language elicitation with Mr Bill Davis, including animals names, verbs and sentences.		
	00:40:40	End of field tape 133 and end of MATHEWS_J17-002450B.		

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