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## **MS 5055**

### **Records of Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)**

**1965-1967**

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## COLLECTION SUMMARY

<b>Creator:</b>	Dr Walter Barry Wood
<b>Title:</b>	Broadbeach Burial Ground Excavation (Q1), 1965-67
<b>Collection no:</b>	MS 5055
<b>Date range:</b>	1965 - 1984
<b>Extent:</b>	9 boxes, 2.25 metres
<b>Repository:</b>	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

## CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection described in it, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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**This collection contains terms and descriptions which reflect the author's attitude, or that of the period in which the collection was created, and which may be considered inappropriate today.**

### Deceased persons

Users of this finding aid should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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## ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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[Email](#) Collections Staff or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

### Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS [insert number], [insert collection name].

For example:

MS 5055/2/1 Excavation project funding correspondence, 1967–1969, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5055 Records of Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

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### **COLLECTION OVERVIEW**

The Broadbeach Aboriginal burial ground is located about 85 km south of Brisbane and about 2 km inland from the coastline as it was at the time of excavation. Immediately prior to the first archaeological excavation in 1965, it had been disturbed by soil robbing and dumping of waste building materials. These activities exposed human remains; an amateur excavation, carried out under police supervision, revealed seven skeletons.

During the excavations conducted by Walter Barry Wood and Laila Haglund-Calley in 1965-1968, the burial ground was revealed to be one of the largest Australian pre-colonisation burial grounds found. The remains of nearly one hundred and forty burials were found, at which point the site was considered to be 'exhausted'.

Analysis of data generated from the remains continued for some years after completion of the excavation and was undertaken by Dr Wood, often in collaboration with specialists from other universities.

Data analysis provided a picture of the overall health and disease of Aboriginal people in the Broadbeach area prior to European settlement. It has been suggested that the data constitutes a benchmark for determining the health effects of colonisation.

### **Scope and contents note**

This collection contains the records generated during the excavation of the Broadbeach burial ground; and subsequent analysis of the data generated by examination of the remains. Records include:

- funding applications, reports and correspondence with AIAS
- forms completed during excavation, field journals and sketches completed in the field
- laboratory reports, bone record charts, computer printouts, correspondence regarding data analysis and progress of the excavation and research
- drafts of publications and conference presentations regarding the Broadbeach excavation
- records relating to other excavations (Kenilworth Bluff, Rocky Hole, Brooloo Range) and correspondence

### **Provenance**

The collection was donated to the AIATSIS Collections by Dr Wood on 22 September 2013.

### **Material separated from the collection**

The original photographic records of the excavation, selected laboratory images and original radiographs of skeletal material are held by the Audio Visual Archive, registration number RO1313.

### **Related material**

pMS 2045 Preliminary Report on the Excavation at Broadbeach

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

pMS 2046 Progress report [to A.I.A.S.]

pMS 2047 Progress Report on Broadbeach Site

pMS 2048 [Broadbeach material]

pMS 2049 Progress Report on Examination of Broadbeach skeletal material

pMS 2051 A short progress report [to A.I.A.S.] on skeletal material from Broadbeach Aboriginal burial ground

MS 3762 Broadbeach skeletal material.

For a complete list of works by Dr WB Wood, held by the Library, and for other related material, such as Kombumerri Park and Mermaid Waters, consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

Laila Haglund-Calley, Mark Elvery and Neil W Savage have also published on the results of analysis of the burial ground data. Mark Savage and Ann MC Murphy have produced theses analysing the data.

For access to Audiovisual material, contact AIATSIS [Collections](#).

**Important:** Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our [sensitivity message](#).

### **Archivist's note**

Item names follow the file titles used by Dr Wood.

Item 5055/6/6 in this collection was not retained, as it was a duplicate of MS 3762. The originals in MS 3762 were better quality and more informative than the duplicates in MS 5055/6/6.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

In 1965, Walter Barry Wood enrolled in a Medical Science degree course in Anatomy at Queensland University during study leave from the Papuan Medical School in the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea. In pursuing his interest in physical anthropology, particularly the anatomy of Queensland Aboriginal people, he became involved in excavating the Aboriginal burial ground at Broadbeach. The burial ground had already been disturbed and was in danger of being destroyed during neighbouring land development.

Under supervision from the Anthropology Section of the Queensland University Psychology Department, and with funding provided by the then Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Walter B Wood conducted two excavations, supervised by Laila Haglund-Calley. She also undertook a third excavation at the end of 1967, after Walter Wood returned to the Papuan Medical School.

Collation and analysis of the data proceeded for some years after the excavations were completed. Dr Wood continued analysis when he returned to Papua at the end of his study leave, and also on his return to Australia, while he was working at Griffith University and Bond University. He retired in 2013.

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## SERIES DESCRIPTION

### Series 1 Field notes

MS 5055/1            This series contains forms completed in the field for each set of remains. Documents in each item may include skeletal record forms, bone lists, post-cranial sex determination forms, laboratory notes, technical data, cross-references to the photographic record of the excavation (RO1313 in the Audio Visual Archive) and sketches.

These documents are originals. Most of these are handwritten, by a number of people; others are copies of typescripts. There may be duplication of forms in an item.

'B' = body. The 'B' numbering is not consecutive, e.g. B32 follows B47. The order in which the records were donated to AIATSIS has been maintained, resulting in occasional non-sequential document numbering.

### Item

MS 5055/1/1	Skeletal Record Forms F127 [documents in this item may be annotated '?B24']
MS 5055/1/2	Skeletal Record Forms, B1
MS 5055/1/3	Skeletal Record Forms, B2

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/1/4	Skeletal Record Forms, B3
MS 5055/1/5	Skeletal Record Forms, B4
MS 5055/1/6	Skeletal Record Forms, B5
MS 5055/1/7	Skeletal Record Forms, B6
MS 5055/1/8	Skeletal Record Forms, B7
MS 5055/1/9	Skeletal Record Forms, B8
Ms 5055/1/10	Skeletal Record Forms, B9
MS 5055/1/11	Skeletal Record Forms, B10
MS 5055/1/12	Skeletal Record Forms, B11
MS 5055/1/13	Skeletal Record Forms, B12
MS 5055/1/14	Skeletal Record Forms, B13
MS 5055/1/15	Skeletal Record Forms, B14
MS 5055/1/16	Skeletal Record Forms, B15
MS 5055/1/17	Skeletal Record Forms, B16
MS 5055/1/18	Skeletal Record Forms, B17
MS 5055/1/19	Skeletal Record Forms, B18
MS 5055/1/20	Skeletal Record Forms, B19
MS 5055/1/21	Skeletal Record Forms, B20
MS 5055/1/22	Skeletal Record Forms, B21
MS 5055/1/23	Skeletal Record Forms, B22
MS 5055/1/24	Skeletal Record Forms, B23
MS 5055/1/25	Skeletal Record Forms, B24
MS 5055/1/26	Skeletal Record Forms, B25
MS 5055/1/27	Skeletal Record Forms, B26
MS 5055/1/28	Skeletal Record Forms, B27
MS 5055/1/29	Skeletal Record Forms, B28
MS 5055/1/30	Skeletal Record Forms, B29
MS 5055/1/31	Skeletal Record Forms, B30
MS 5055/1/32	Skeletal Record Forms, B31
MS 5055/1/33	Skeletal Record Forms, B33
MS 5055/1/34	Skeletal Record Forms, B34
MS 5055/1/35	Skeletal Record Forms, B35
MS 5055/1/36	Skeletal Record Forms, B36
MS 5055/1/37	Skeletal Record Forms, B37

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/1/38	Skeletal Record Forms, B38
MS 5055/1/39	Skeletal Record Forms, B39
MS 5055/1/40	Skeletal Record Forms, B40
MS 5055/1/41	Skeletal Record Forms, B41
MS 5055/1/42	Skeletal Record Forms, B42
MS 5055/1/43	Skeletal Record Forms, B43
MS 5055/1/44	Skeletal Record Forms, B44 A-C
MS 5055/1/45	Skeletal Record Forms, B45
MS 5055/1/46	Skeletal Record Forms, B46 A & B [B46B form includes annotation 'alias B49 B']
MS 5055/1/47	Skeletal Record Forms, B47
MS 5055/1/48	Skeletal Record Forms, B32
MS 5055/1/49	Skeletal Record Forms, B48
MS 5055/1/50	Skeletal Record Forms, B49 A
MS 5055/1/51	Skeletal Record Forms, B50
MS 5055/1/52	Skeletal Record Forms, B51
MS 5055/1/53	Skeletal Record Forms, B52
MS 5055/1/54	Skeletal Record Forms, B53
MS 5055/1/55	Skeletal Record Forms, B54
MS 5055/1/56	Skeletal Record Forms, B55
MS 5055/1/57	Skeletal Record Forms, B56
MS 5055/1/58	Skeletal Record Forms, B57
MS 5055/1/59	Skeletal Record Forms, B58
MS 5055/1/60	Skeletal Record Forms, B59 A
MS 5055/1/61	Skeletal Record Forms, B60
MS 5055/1/62	Skeletal Record Forms, B61
MS 5055/1/63	Skeletal Record Forms, B62
MS 5055/1/64	Skeletal Record Forms, B63
MS 5055/1/65	Skeletal Record Forms, B64
MS 5055/1/66	Skeletal Record Forms, B65
MS 5055/1/67	Skeletal Record Forms, B66
MS 5055/1/68	Skeletal Record Forms, B67
MS 5055/1/69	Skeletal Record Forms, B68
MS 5055/1/70	Skeletal Record Forms, B69



## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/1/71	Skeletal Record Forms, B70
MS 5055/1/72	Skeletal Record Forms, B71 A & C
MS 5055/1/73	Skeletal Record Forms, B72
MS 5055/1/74	Skeletal Record Forms, B73
MS 5055/1/75	Skeletal Record Forms, B74
MS 5055/1/76	Skeletal Record Forms, B75
MS 5055/1/77	Skeletal Record Forms, B76
MS 5055/1/78	Skeletal Record Forms, B77
MS 5055/1/79	Skeletal Record Forms, B78
MS 5055/1/80	Skeletal Record Forms, B79
MS 5055/1/81	Skeletal Record Forms, B80
MS 5055/1/82	Skeletal Record Forms, B81
MS 5055/1/83	Skeletal Record Forms, B82 A-D
MS 5055/1/84	Skeletal Record Forms, B83
MS 5055/1/85	Skeletal Record Forms, B84
MS 5055/1/86	Skeletal Record Forms, B88
MS 5055/1/87	Skeletal Record Forms, B91
MS 5055/1/88	Skeletal Record Forms, B92
MS 5055/1/89	Skeletal Record Forms, B93
MS 5055/1/90	Skeletal Record Forms, B94
MS 5005/1/91	Skeletal Record Forms, B95
MS 5055/1/92	Skeletal Record Forms, B96 A
MS 5055/1/93	Skeletal Record Forms, B85
MS 5055/1/94	Skeletal Record Forms, B86 A & B
MS 5055/1/95	Skeletal Record Forms, B87
MS 5055/1/96	Skeletal Record Forms, B89
MS 5055/1/97	Skeletal Record Forms, B90
MS 5055/1/98	Skeletal Record Forms, B97 C
MS 5055/1/99	Skeletal Record Forms, B98
MS 5055/1/100	Skeletal Record Forms, B99
MS 5055/1/101	Skeletal Record Forms, B100
MS 5055/1/102	Skeletal Record Forms, B101
MS 5055/1/103	Skeletal Record Forms, B97 A & B
MS 5055/1/104	Skeletal Record Forms, B96 B

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/1/105	Skeletal Record Forms, B103
MS 5055/1/106	Skeletal Record Forms, B104
MS 5055/1/107	Skeletal Record Forms, B105 A & B
MS 5055/1/108	Skeletal Record Forms, B106
MS 5055/1/109	Skeletal Record Forms, B107
MS 5055/1/110	Skeletal Record Forms, B108
MS 5055/1/111	Skeletal Record Forms, B112
MS 5055/1/112	Skeletal Record Forms, B113
MS 5055/1/113	Skeletal Record Forms, B114
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MS 5055/1/118	Skeletal Record Forms, B119
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MS 5055/1/125	Skeletal Record Forms, B131
MS 5055/1/126	Skeletal Record Forms, B132
MS 5055/1/127	Skeletal Record Forms, B125
MS 5055/1/128	Skeletal Record Forms, B126
MS 5055/1/129	Skeletal Record Forms, B127
MS 5055/1/130	Skeletal Record Forms, B128 A – C
MS 5055/1/131	Skeletal Record Forms, B129
MS 5055/1/132	Skeletal Record Forms, B130
MS 5055/1/133	Skeletal Record Forms, B134
MS 5055/1/134	Skeletal Record Forms, B135
MS 5055/1/135	Skeletal Record Forms, B136
MS 5055/1/136	Skeletal Record Forms, B137
MS 5055/1/137	Skeletal Record Forms, B138
MS 5055/1/138	Skeletal Record Forms, B139

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/1/139 Skeletal Record Forms, B140 A - C

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### Series 2 Correspondence

MS 5055/2 This series contains correspondence from Walter Wood, Laila Haglund-Calley, Michael Calley, Professor Hickey, and AIAS; Aboriginal Studies Press promotional material; and communications about the AIAS 1974 Conference.

Documents are typescript originals.

#### Item

MS 5055/2/1 Excavation project funding correspondence, 1967–1969

MS 5055/2/2 AIAS 1974 Conference

MS 5055/2/3 Walter B Wood and Laila Haglund-Calley

MS 5055/2/4 Broadbeach: Re Hickey

MS 5055/2/5 Prof Hickey (1996)]

MS 5055/2/6 General information

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### Series 3 Bone measurements and comparative sources

MS 5055/3 This series comprises index cards, overhead transparencies, slide transparencies and reference articles used in analysis of the remains.

The items are holographs, typescripts and photocopies.

#### Item

MS 5055/3/1 Comparative Aboriginal Remains

MS 5055/3/2 Clavicle tables

MS 5055/3/3 Murray Black - Skeletal Collection

MS 5055/3/4 WBW notebooks

MS 5055/3/5 Broadbeach, Peter Brown, raw data

MS 5055/3/6 Wendy Bosler, Broadbeach juvenile dentition

MS 5055/3/7 Broadbeach femora, raw data and stats

MS 5055/3/8 Broadbeach tibia tables

MS 5055/3/9 Broadbeach age and sex distribution

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

MS 5055/3/10	Broadbeach – male femur comparison
MS 5055/3/11	Broadbeach tibiofemoral indices
MS 5055/3/12	Tibiofemoral index
MS 5055/3/13	Broadbeach tibia graphs, comparative
MS 5005/3/14	Humerus BB315
MS 5005/3/15	Clavicle BB313
MS 5055/3/16	Upper limb BB324
MS 5055/3/17	Tibia diagrams
MS 5055/3/18	[Select anthropometric bibliography]

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### Series 4 Documents from Laila Haglund-Calley

MS 5055/4            Topics in this series include the Broadbeach excavation and further study undertaken by Laila Haglund-Calley.

Documents are holographs or typescripts.

#### Item

MS 5055/4/1	Field journal – for Wally [excerpts from Laila Haglund-Calley's field journal, MS 5055/4/3] c.41 pp.
MS 5055/4/2	Broadbeach – Isabel McBryde [Correspondence between Isabel McBryde, Department of History, University of New England and Laila Haglund-Calley, regarding her Master's thesis] c. 32 pp.
MS 5055/4/3	Laila Haglund, field journal c. 105 pp.

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### Series 5 Data analysis, publications and conference presentations

MS 5055/5            This series is a combination of data analysis documents and publication and conference drafts. Authors and presenters include WB Wood, Laila Haglund-Calley, and AMC Murphy.

Documents are holographs, original typescripts and photocopies of typescripts.

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

### Item

MS 5055/5/1	Stature Estimation, ASANZ 78 [display materials for the ASANZ 1978 conference]
MS 5055/5/2	Broadbeach tibia
MS 5055/5/3	Broadbeach mandibular measurements and statistics
MS 5055/5/4	Mandibular sexing
MS 5055/5/5	Broadbeach, Cranial Measurements and Statistics
MS 5055/5/6	Broadbeach Crania – M Pietrusewsky Analysis 1976-77
MS 5055/5/7	Broadbeach; Pathology, Injuries, Anomalies; Key
MS 5055/5/8	Lower limb proportions in the Australian Aborigine (paper presented at ANZAAS 1984, by AMC Murphy)
MS 5055/5/9	Broadbeach Carbon-dating
MS 5055/5/10	WBW Drafts and notes
MS 5055/5/11	Broadbeach article; WBW drafts and notes
MS 5055/5/12	[Dentition] Record sheets – P Smith [includes reference materials]
MS 5055/5/13	Broadbeach dental measurement, Loring Brace
MS 5055/5/14	Broadbeach v. Darewongs[?] femur comparisons
MS 5055/5/15	APAO Paper 76. Freedman/Wood [annotation on one draft refers to presenting this paper to the ANZAAS Annual Conference in May 1976]
MS 5055/5/16	Haglund, L. Comments on Pros & Cons of Publication of Laila's Book [correspondence includes references to letters which are not held]
MS 5055/5/17	Articles, WB Wood and AMC Murphy
MS 5055/5/18	ASANZ, 1977; AMC Murphy, paper and drafts, Broadbeach femur
MS 5055/5/19	ASANZ, 1978; Stature estimates and tibio-femoral indices

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### Series 6 Registers, data analysis, collated forms

MS 5055/6 This series also contains drafts of two articles by Dr Wood.

Item 5055/6/6 was not retained as its contents were poor duplicates of MS 3762 Broadbeach skeletal material, not conveying as much information as the originals. Researchers are referred to MS 3762 for the information contained in this item.

## Broadbeach Aboriginal Burial Ground Excavation (Q1)

### Item

MS 5055/6/1	Faunal remains; soil samples; soil samples register; chemicals register; Report on carbon dating age determination
MS 5055/6/2	Broadbeach photographic key
MS 5055/6/3	Photo register
MS 5055/6/4	Burial forms, F127, B1 – B100
MS 5055/6/5	Burial forms, B101 – B140
MS 5055/6/6	Bone record charts – not retained
MS 5055/6/7	Field notes [These handwritten notes are by Walter Wood and by Laila Haglund-Calley]
MS 5055/6/8	Laboratory notes
MS 5055/6/9	'Laila' [Kenilworth Bluff, Rocky Hole and Brooloo Range excavations]
MS 5055/6/10	S Collier; raw data [& correspondence]
MS 5055/6/11	The Broadbeach Aboriginal burial site, Southeast Queensland; metrical features of the tibiae [drafts]
MS 5055/6/12	Data tables of skeletal measurements
MS 5055/6/13	'The Significance of the Broadbeach Burial Site' [draft, article outline and supporting data]
MS 5055/6/14	'The organisation of an archaeological field excursion involving the excavation of human skeletal material'

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Finding aid compiled by Fiona Blackburn, March 2016

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