



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Finding aid**

**SKIRA\_I02**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Irynej Skira, 1989**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

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

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1989

**Extent:** 13 sound cassettes (ca. 90 min. each) : analogue, mono.

### Production history

These recordings were collected by naturalist Irynej Skira during fieldwork on Cape Barren Island and in Smithton, Scottsdale, Hobart and Launceston, Tasmania; and South Yarra and Reservoir in Victoria. The purpose of the field trips was to gather primary source material, by way of oral histories, for a social history of the mutton bird industry in Tasmania. Interviewees include Frank Jaeger, Walter Bentley, Herbie Nicholls, Karen Brown, Patsy Adam-Smith, Ray Boxer, Ruth Maynard, Kim Stonehouse, Pam Stonehouse, Robert Hughes, Sharon Hughes, Darcy Maynard and George. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 5 September 1989.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

Written extracts from these recordings can be found in [\*A good, hard, tough life : reminiscences of muttonbirding in Tasmania\*](#), held in the AIATSIS Library. 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 Irynej Skira and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
018147 018148	<a href="#"><u>89/1, 2</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Frank Jaeger and Walter Bentley
018149 018150	<a href="#"><u>89/3</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Herbie Nicholls
018151	<a href="#"><u>89/4</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Karen Brown
018152 018153	<a href="#"><u>89/5 tape 1</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Patsy Adam-Smith
018154 018155	<a href="#"><u>89/5 tape 2</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Patsy Adam-Smith
018156 018157	<a href="#"><u>89/5 tape 3</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Patsy Adam-Smith
018158	<a href="#"><u>89/6</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Ray Boxer
018159	<a href="#"><u>89/7</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Ruth Maynard
018160	<a href="#"><u>89/8</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Kim Stonehouse
018161 018162	<a href="#"><u>89/9</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Pam Stonehouse
018163	<a href="#"><u>89/10, 11</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Robert Hughes and Sharon Hughes
018164 018165	<a href="#"><u>89/12</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Max Mansell
018166	<a href="#"><u>89/13</u></a>	Oral history on the mutton birding industry with Darcy Maynard and George

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

018147 + 018148/89/1, 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Frank Jaeger, Walter Bentley
Personal subject(s):	Edwards family
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	North West Tasmania (NW Tas SK55-03), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018147	00:00:00	Frank Jaeger speaks of his involvement in the mutton bird industry.	5 January 1989	Smithton, Tas.
	00:20:00	Walter Bentley speaks of his involvement in the mutton bird industry.	January 1989	Smithton, Tas.
	00:46:19	End of SKIRA_I02-018147.		
SKIRA_I02-018148	00:00:00	Walter Bentley speaks of his involvement in the mutton bird industry. He speaks of the processing, cooking etc of mutton birds		
	00:31:00	Walter Bentley speaks of the local Indigenous people, the uses of mutton birds and the Depression of the 1930s.		
	00:46:19	End of 89/1, 2 and end of SKIRA_I02-018148.		

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018149 + 018150/89/3

Performer/speaker(s):	Herbie Nicholls
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Race relations, Social events
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Scottsdale (NE Tas SK55-04), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018149	00:00:00	Herbie Nicholls speaks of his early life.	3 May 1989	Scottsdale, Tas.
	00:11:50	Herbie Nicholls speaks of the mutton bird industry on Babel Island.		
	00:31:35	Herbie Nicholls speaks the local Indigenous people and the social life on Babel Island.		
	00:46:12	End of SKIRA_I02-018149.		
SKIRA_I02-018150	00:00:00	Herbie Nicholls speaks of the routine of mutton birding.		
	00:27:12	End of 89/3 and end of SKIRA_I02-018150		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Karen Brown
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Education – Schools – Community schools
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Great Dog Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Little Dog Island (Tas SK55-01, SK55-02), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Hobart (SE Tas SK55-08)
Recording quality:	Good (poor from 00:30:59)

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018151	00:00:00	Karen Brown speaks of her mutton birding experiences and of the importance of the industry to the Bass Strait economy.	3 July 1989	Hobart, Tas.
	00:24:40	Karen Brown speaks of the future future of the mutton bird industry, social changes on Cape Barren Island and of her education there.		
	00:41:06	End of 89/4 and end of SKIRA_I02-018151.		

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018152 + 018153/89/5 tape 1

Performer/speaker(s):	Patsy Adam-Smith
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Research, Attitudes – Indigenous attitudes, Cultural heritage, Health, Gender relations, Housing, Social Events, Religion – Spirituality
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Furneaux Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Melbourne map area (Vic SJ55-05)
Recording quality:	Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018152	00:00:00	Patsy Adam-Smith speaks of her earliest association with the Furneaux Islands Group, its people, their attitudes and culture.	28 August 1989	South Yarra, Vic.
	00:20:50	Patsy Adam-Smith speaks of the mutton bird industry and health problems on Cape Barren Island.		
	00:47:08	End of SKIRA_I02-018152.		
SKIRA_I02-018153	00:00:00	Patsy Adam-Smith speaks of gender equality, housing and social events on Cape Barren Island.		
	00:25:20	Patsy Adam-Smith speaks of the spirituality on the Furneaux Islands. She relates anecdotes about the area.		
	00:47:07	End of 89/5 tape 1 and end of SKIRA_I02-018153.		

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018154 + 018155/89/5 tape 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Patsy Adam-Smith
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Furneaux Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Great Dog Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Melbourne map area (Vic SJ55-05)
Recording quality:	Poor

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018154	00:00:00	Anecdotes about the Furneaux Islands and the mutton bird industry with Patsy Adam-Smith.	28 August 1989	South Yarra, Vic.
	00:46:46	End of SKIRA_I02-018154.		
SKIRA_I02-018155	00:00:00	Anecdotes about the Furneaux Islands and the mutton bird industry with Patsy Adam-Smith.		
	00:46:57	End of 89/5 tape 2 and end of SKIRA_I02-018155.		

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018156 + 018157/89/5 tape 3

Performer/speaker(s):	Patsy Adam-Smith
Personal subject(s):	Michael Mansell. Don McLeod
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, History – Genealogy and family history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Social welfare, Race relations, Animals – Endangered, Environment – Conservation, Crime – Imprisonment
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Furneaux Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Melbourne map area (Vic SJ55-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018156	00:00:00	Patsy Adam-Smith speaks of the histories of some of the families living on the Furneaux Islands, the welfare of the Indigenous people and race relations.	28 August 1989	South Yarra, Vic.
	00:23:10	Patsy Adam-Smith discusses the possibility of the extinction of mutton birds and environmental conservation.		
	00:46:35	End of SKIRA_I02-018156.		
SKIRA_I02-018157	00:00:00	Anecdote about life on the Furneaux Islands and a discussion on prison with Patsy Adam-Smith.		
	00:06:05	End of 89/5 tape 3 and end of SKIRA_I02-018157.		

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018158/89/6

Performer/speaker(s):	Ray Boxer
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Economic sectors – Manufacturing
Language/people:	English language
Places:	Melbourne map area (Vic SJ55-05), Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

<b>Archive item number</b>	<b>Timing point</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
SKIRA_I02-018158	00:00:00	Ray Boxer speaks of his time as the managing director of PURAX Feather Holdings which used mutton bird feathers from Bass Strait for the manufacture of pillows, quilts etc.	30 August 1989	Reservoir, Vic.
	00:14:07	End of 89/6 and end of SKIRA_I02-018158.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Ruth Maynard
Personal subject(s):	Miss Hudson
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Education – Schools – Community schools, Employment, Social events
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Hobart (SE Tas SK55-08), Great Dog Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018159	00:00:00	Ruth Maynard recounts mutton bird hunting on Babel Island, Great Dog Island and Trefoil Island.	11 September 1989	Hobart, Tas.
	00:08:20	Ruth Maynard recalls growing up on Cape Barren Island and attending the local school.		
	00:10:25	Ruth Maynard speaks of the importance of the mutton bird industry to the local economy. She compares the contemporary Furneaux group to the one she grew up on. She speaks of employment and social events on Cape Barren Island.		
	00:23:10	End 89/7 and end of SKIRA_I02-018159.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Kim Stonehouse
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Employment, Social events
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	North West Tasmania map area (NW Tas SK55-03), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Launceston (NE Tas SK55-04)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018160	00:00:00	Kim Stonehouse speaks of his early life and his work in the mutton bird industry.	6 October 1989	Launceston, Tas.
	00:22:15	Kim Stonehouse speaks of the run down of the mutton bird industry. He tells of the crews he worked with and of their social life.		
	00:42:10	End of 89/8 and end of SKIRA_I02-018160.		

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018161 + 018162/89/9

Performer/speaker(s):	Pam Stonehouse, (possibly) Kim Stonehouse
Personal subject(s):	Bob Luck
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Cultural heritage
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Launceston (NE Tas SK55-04), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01), Chappell Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Fair to good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018161	00:00:00	Pam Stonehouse speaks of her experiences of mutton birding. She speaks of it as an important part of Indigenous culture and economy.	6 October 1989	Launceston, Tas.
	00:47:05	End of SKIRA_I02-018161.		
SKIRA_I02-018162	00:00:00	Pam Stonehouse and (possibly) Kim Stonehouse speak of their experiences of mutton birding. They express a view that a corporation restricts the way they work as mutton birders.		
	00:24:15	End of 89/9 and end of SKIRA_I02-018162.		

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018163/89/10, 11

Performer/speaker(s):	Robert Hughes, Sharon Hughes
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Animals – Reptiles – Snakes
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01), Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Great Dog Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018163	00:00:00	Robert Hughes speaks of his mutton birding experiences.	24 October 1989	Cape Barren Island, Tas.
	00:20:50	Sharon Hughes speaks of her mutton birding experiences.		
	00:36:45	End of 89/10, 11 and end of SKIRA_I02-018163.		

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018164 + 018165/89/12

Performer/speaker(s):	Max Mansell
Personal subject(s):	Miss Hudson, Patsy Adam-Smith
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Art – Carving and engraving, Art – Painting, Hunting – Kangaroo / Wallaby, Economic sectors – Agriculture and horticulture – Gardening, Social events, Law – Administrative law – Tasmania
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Trefoil Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-01), Great Dog Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Little Dog Island (Tas SK55-01, SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018164	00:00:00	Max Mansell talks about his carvings and his experiences as a mutton birder.	24 October 1989	Cape Barren Island, Tas.
	00:20:00	Max Mansell speaks of his painting and art / craft objects made on Cape Barren Island.		
	00:24:20	Max Mansell speaks of mutton birding, kangaroo and wallaby hunting and gardening as sources of income.		
	00:31:10	Max Mansell speaks of social activities on Cape Barren Island.		
	00:43:35	Max Mansell speaks of painting, gardening and the Tasmanian Government.		
	00:47:04	End of SKIRA_I02-018164.		
SKIRA_I02-018165	00:00:00	Max Mansell speaks of mutton birding, his education on Cape Barren Island and of the types of employment he's had.		
	00:15:13	End of 89/12 and end of SKIRA_I02-018165.		

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018166/89/13

Performer/speaker(s):	Darcy Maynard, George
Subject keywords:	History – Oral history, Hunting – Birds – Mutton Bird, Enterprises, Dance – Parties,
Language/people:	English language, Palawa / Tasmanian people
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Chappell Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Kangaroo Island (SE SA SI53-16), Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
SKIRA_I02-018166	00:00:00	Darcy Maynard speaks of his experiences in the mutton bird industry. He mentions social activities and the importance of the industry to the community.	25 October 1989	Cape Barren Island, Tas.
	00:16:39	End of 89/13 and end of SKIRRA_I02.		

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