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Finding aid

SKIRA_I04

**Sound recordings collected by
Irynej Skira, 1991**

Prepared May 2017 by CCH
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ACCESS

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Listening copies are available. To arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies, contact the Access and Client Services by sending an email to collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6261 4212.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1991

Extent: 2 audiocassettes (approximately 30 min. each) : analogue, mono.

Production history

This collection was recorded by Irynej Skira in March 1991 as part of his research about life on Cape Barren Island, Tasmania. These recordings link with his Ph.D thesis, *Tasmanian Aborigines and muttonbirding : a historical examination*. The recordings feature speakers Marge Mansell, Gwendoline (Gwen) Archer, and Mabel Brown. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS on 5 April 1995.

RELATED MATERIAL

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

AIATSIS Collections hold print material related to this audio collection.

- Manuscript : *Tasmanian Aborigines and muttonbirding : a historical examination* / by Irynej Skira (MS 3449)

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. Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
024149	Field Tape 1991/1 Side A	Oral History interview with Marge Mansell about life on Cape Barren Island.
024150	Field Tape 1991/2 Side A	Oral History interview with Gwendoline (Gwen) Archer and Mabel Brown about life on Cape Barren Island

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

024149 / Side A of Field Tape 1991/1

Performer/speaker(s):	Marge Mansell
Personal subject(s):	Peter Mansell, Donald Brown, Jimmy Luck
Subject keywords:	Food - Bush tucker ; Food – Plants; Food - Meat; Food - Food shortages; Indigenous knowledge - Health and medicine - Bush medicine; Health - Treatments – Traditional.
Language/people:	English
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02); Launceston (NE Tas SK55-04)
Recording quality:	Good

Timing point	Description
	<u>Oral History interview with Marge Mansell about life on Cape Barren Island. Recorded in Launceston, Tasmania on 20 March 1991.</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:11	Mention of Marge Mansell's grandfather, Peter Mansell. General conversation.
00:01:29	Marge Mansell speaks about the 'wild food' she lived on when she was younger.
00:03:54	Marge Mansell talks about the hard years when she and her family relied on ration books and coupons.
00:06:45	Marge Mansell speaks about the necessity of native foods in order to survive the hard times. She names and describes the different native plants she used to eat and recalls their main source of meat at the time.
00:10:28	Marge Mansell says that the native plants she ate when she was younger were only eaten by children.
00:11:47	Marge Mansell speaks about bush tea.
00:13:44	Marge Mansell talks about particular plants that are used as medicines and says what they cure. Mention of Marge Mansell's uncle, Donald Brown.
00:18:01	Marge Mansell speaks about the grasstree gum.
00:19:11	Marge Mansell talks about an Aboriginal Centre. Mention of Jimmy Luck.
00:20:36	End of Side A of Field Tape 1991/1 and end of 024149.

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

024150 / Side A of Field Tape 1991/2

Performer/speaker(s):	Gwendoline (Gwen) Archer and Mabel Brown
Personal subject(s):	Constable Mansfield, Major Davis, Mr Urquhart, Mr Napper, Mr Maclaine, Charlie Stephens, Mr Knight, Edward Stephens, Sam Barrett, Bill Riddle, Sam Riddle, Miss Hudson, Walter Beeton, Michael Mansall, Mr and Mrs Nicholls, Les Jackson, Patsy Adam-Smith, Mr Berryman, Mr Bailey, George Fisher, Allan Hawkins, Claude Brown.
Subject keywords:	Law enforcement - Police - Community policing; Settlement and contacts - Government settlements, reserves; Education - Schools - Community schools; Buildings - Public - Post offices; Hunting - Birds - Mutton Bird; Trade and exchange - Trade routes.
Language/people:	English
Places:	Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02); Launceston (NE Tas SK55-04); Flinders Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02)
Recording quality:	Good

Timing point	Description
	<u>Oral History interview with Gwendoline (Gwen) Archer and Mabel Brown about life on Cape Barren Island. Recorded in Launceston, Tasmania on 20 March 1991.</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:10	Tape distortion
00:00:20	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown introduce themselves.
00:01:21	Gwen Archer recalls when her father became constable on Cape Barren Island and talks about where they lived before moving there. She goes on to speak about when her father became a special constable. Mabel Brown recalls when Constable Mansfield took over from her father when he was stationed on Flinders Island.
00:03:01	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recollect when their father died. Mabel speaks about returning home in 1924, after being away for years.
00:03:47	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown mention the places they have lived.
00:04:10	Gwen Archer recalls where her father was from and talks about his previous job as a bank teller.
00:04:52	Gwen Archer clarifies what her father worked as and where. She speaks about the time she and her family moved to Launceston and how long they lived there. Gwen goes on to talk about their trip on the boat the old <i>Star</i> .
00:05:49	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recollect where their father was based on Cape Barren Island and the history of that area. Mention of Major Davis.
00:07:03	Gwen Archer says that her father took over as constable from Mr Urquhart. Mabel Brown and Gwen go on to discuss the other constables on Cape Barren Island - Mr Napper and Mr Riddle.
00:08:32	Gwen Archer speaks about the old <i>Star</i> . Mention of Mr Maclaine, who lived on Clarke Island.
00:09:09	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recall some of the duties their father had as constable on Cape Barren Island.
00:10:12	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about the boats, the <i>Waratab</i> and the <i>Lallaby</i> , their father used to travel on to get to the other islands.

00:11:13	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown discuss the year a Reserve was made on Cape Barren Island.
00:12:05	Gwen Archer speaks about the school on Cape Barren Island and the schoolmasters Charlie Stephens and Mr Knight.
00:12:46	Gwen Archer talks about Edward Stephens.
00:14:19	Gwen Archer recalls what school was like on Cape Barren Island.
00:15:36	Gwen Archer speaks about leaving Cape Barren Island and her time working in Hobart.
00:16:40	Gwen Archer talks about moving back to Cape Barren Island. She recalls managing Mr Condry's shop and speaks about the farm she owned.
00:17:42	Gwen Archer talks about where the Cape Barren Islanders lived.
00:18:36	Mabel Brown recalls that they had no social life on Cape Barren Island. She and Gwen Archer speak about the dances and sport events they used to have on the island.
00:19:44	Mabel Brown talks about mutton bird season.
00:20:27	Gwen Archer mentions her farm was located at Ned's Point and speaks about the house there.
00:21:24	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recall how they got around the island.
00:21:48	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown speak about the Rookes River Mine and the Hardluck Mine on the island.
00:22:14	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about the post office's opening hours and pension day.
00:23:11	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown discuss the fluctuating population of people on Cape Barren Island. Mention of Sam Barrett, Bill Riddle, and Sam Riddle.
00:25:22	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about what it was like for the people of Cape Barren Island during the depression and war years.
00:26:53	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about the sort of food they used to eat during the depression.
00:28:06	Gwen Archer speaks about Miss Hudson.
00:28:47	Gwen Archer says why she left the island.
00:29:49	Gwen Archer recalls who got the first car on the island. Mention of Walter Beeton.
00:30:47	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about land rights claims. Mention of Michael Mansell.
00:31:46	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recall the restrictions on the Reserve.
00:32:30	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown speak about the <i>Toroa</i> and the other trading boats that would come to the islands. Mention of Mr and Mrs Nicholls and Les Jackson.
00:34:08	Gwen Archer speaks about Patsy Adam-Smith.
00:34:38	Gwen Archer recalls who her nearest neighbours were when she lived at Ned's Point.
00:35:16	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about their siblings.
00:36:42	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown speak about the other policemen who were on Flinders Island. Mention of Mr Berryman, Mr Bailey, and George Fisher.
00:38:11	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown recall a few funny things their father encountered on the island during his time as constable. Mention of Claude Brown.
00:40:42	Gwen Archer and Mabel Brown talk about lending their old photos to Allan Hawkins. They go on to speak about Mr Hawkins.
00:41:55	End of Side A of Field Tape 1991/2 and end of 024150.

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)