



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

**Finding aid**

**SKIRA\_I05**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Irynej Joseph Skira, 1988**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 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

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from the Herbie Nicholls or his family 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:** 1988

**Extent:** 1 audiocassette (approximately 44 min.) : analogue, mono.

### Production history

This recording contains a 1988 oral history interview with Herbie Nicholls who was a muttonbirder and a shop owner on Babel Island during the 1930s. Herbie Nicholls is the only speaker on this recording.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

Please see SKIRA\_I05-028141-028142\_cover for a photocopy of the audiocassette cover and [MS 3449](#) for Irynej Skira's thesis entitled [Tasmanian Aborigines and muttonbirding: a historical examination](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®. To conduct a search of available audio finding aids, please [click here](#).

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Irynej Joseph 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  |
|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 028141<br>028142 | <a href="#">Field Tape 1</a> | 1988 Interview with Herbie Nicholls, Muttonbirder and Shopowner on Babel Island in the 1930s |

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 028141 + 028142/Field Tape 1

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Performer/speaker(s): | Herbie Nicholls   |
| Personal subject(s):  | Eric Dimperley, Frank Ellis, Dr Stephen Murray Smith, Leonard Teale, Norman Yemm, Bishop Nixon, John Forster and Mr Whitbread   |
| Subject keywords:     | Hunting - Birds - Mutton Bird, Economic sectors - Retail - Shops and shopping, Transport – Water, Film - Film making, Archives and archiving - Sound - Oral history, Religions - Christianity - Anglican Church and Animals - Birds - Ducks / Geese |
| Language/people:      | N/A   |
| Places:               | Babel Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Cape Barren Island (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Launceston (NE Tas SK55-04), Furneaux Islands (Tas Bass Strait SK55-02), Phillip Island (Western Port Vic SJ55-09), Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Tasmania (Tas)      |
| Recording quality:    | Good  |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description  | Date | Place                  |
|---------------------|--------------|--|------|------------------------|
| SKIRA_I05-028141    | 00:00:00     | Herbie Nicholls' experiences as a Muttonbird and shop owner on Babel Island  | 1988 | Babel Island, Tasmania |
|                     | 00:07:07     | Babel Island's population. The work and lifestyle experiences of people on the Island.   |      |                        |
|                     | 00:11:28     | Silence  |      |                        |
|                     | 00:22:40     | End of Field Tape 1, Side A and end of 028141  |      |                        |
| SKIRA_I05-028142    | 00:00:00     | Knowledgeable individuals in regard to Babel Island's history. Herbie Nicholls' plans to create a book or film about Babel Island. | 1988 | Babel Island, Tasmania |
|                     | 00:12:18     | Narrative about important individuals and the Anglican Church.   |      |                        |
|                     | 00:15:48     | The muttonbird industry and Franklin Sound.  |      |                        |
|                     | 00:17:46     | Herbie Nicholls' plans and work towards a film or book about Babel Island.   |      |                        |
|                     | 00:20:28     | Cape Barren goose sounds with description by Herbie Nicholls   |      |                        |

| Archive item number | Timing point | Description | Date | Place |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|

|          |   |  |  |
|----------|---|--|--|
| 00:21:19 | End of Field Tape 1, Side B and end of 028142 |  |  |
|----------|---|--|--|

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)