



**Finding aid**

**WOOMERA\_01**

**Sound recordings collected by the  
Woomera Aboriginal Corporation,  
1985, 1997-1999**

## 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 however please note that children are restricted from listening to Field Tape W98/4, Archive Item Number 026359.

### Restrictions on use

This collection is restricted and may only be copied by clients who have obtained permission from the Woomera Aboriginal Corporation. Refer to audition sheets below for more details. Permission must be sought from the Woomera Aboriginal Corporation as well as 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:** 1985, 1997-1999

**Extent:** 13 audiocassettes

### Production history

These recordings were collected in July 1985 as well as from May 1997 through to 18 July 1999 at various locations on Mornington Island, Queensland. The recordings were created for the Lardil Songs Register project as part of AIATSIS research Grant number G98/6144. The purpose of the grant was to document the music from the Lardil language group as well as providing information on Lardil culture and heritage.

## RELATED MATERIAL

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

Please see Archive Folder 026345-026363 for collection material relating to this audio recording including covers, correspondences, field tape report sheets and transcriptions, as well as a Lardil Songs Register. 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 the Woomera Aboriginal Corporation 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
026345	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/1</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026346 026347	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/2</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026348	<a href="#">Field Tape W85/1</a>	<i>Wankabel</i> honey-bee women. The story of Chief Warambay and Makura. Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026349 026350	<a href="#">Field Tape W97/1</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs and language elicitation
026351	<a href="#">Field Tape W97/2</a>	Australian Flora and Fauna, Maarnbil, Dewildewal and Jirn Jirn. Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs and dances. Indian man named Eric from Alice Springs.
026352	<a href="#">Field Tape W97/3</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026353 026354	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/1</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs. Ida Brookdale's angel in Townsville story. Bush names and rain dances. Reverend Hall's murder. Indigenous love songs. NAIDOC week. Lardil culture and language terminology.
026355 026356	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/2</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs and Unseen People
026357 026358	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/3</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026359	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/4</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs and dances. Indigenous burial songs. Courtship and marriage. Poisoned dingoes. 'Stamping' style and stick fighting dances. Dancers, Songmen and message sticks.
026360	<a href="#">Field Tape W98/5</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs
026361 026362	<a href="#">Field Tape W99/1</a>	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs including the Mosquito, Turtle and Bushfire corroboree songs with and without didgeridoo accompaniments.
026363	<a href="#">Field Tape W99/2</a>	Pre-war Japanese landing. Discussion of Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree and dreaming songs. Uses and meanings of bushfire. Discussion about Australian fauna. Freshwater mermaids.

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026345/Field Tape W98/1**

Performer/speaker(s):	Cecil Goodman, Gordon Watt, Kenneth Jacob, Grayson Williams, Lawrence Burke and Selwyn Toby
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music - Traditional
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026345	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	July 1998	Dance North Studio, Townsville, QLD
	00:08:38	{not relevant} Modern Western music		
	00:32:14	End of Field Tape W98/1, Side B and end of 026345		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026346 + 026347/Field Tape W98/2**

Performer/speaker(s):	Cecil Goodman, Gordon Watt, Kenneth Jacob, Grayson Williams, Lawrence Burke and Selwyn Toby
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music - Traditional
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026346	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	July 1998	Dance North Studio, Townsville, QLD
	00:12:45	{not relevant} New Age music		
	00:21:12	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs		
	00:31:17	End of Field Tape W98/2, Side A and end of 026346		
WOOMERA_01 -026347	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	July 1998	Dance North Studio, Townsville, QLD
	00:27:20	End of Tape W98/2, Side B and end of 026347		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

026348/Field Tape W85/1

Performer/speaker(s):	Lindsay Roughsey and Kenneth Jacob
Personal subject(s):	Chief Warambay, Makura, Balibal, Yeren, Kenny [Roughsey] and Paddy Marmies
Subject keywords:	Gender relations – Courtship, Music - Traditional
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026348	00:00:00	<i>Wankabel</i> honey-bee women and Indigenous hunting men	6 <sup>th</sup> July, 1985	Slims Creek, Mornington Island
	00:03:34	Chief Warambay and Makura. Courtship and dreaming songs.		
	00:18:53	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs		
	00:24:04	End of Tape W85/1, Side A and end of 026348		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026349 + 026350/Field Tape W97/1**

Performer/speaker(s):	Kenneth Jacob
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music - Traditional
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026349	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs and language elicitation	29 <sup>th</sup> May 1997	Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:31:18	End of Tape W97/1, Side A and end of 026349		
WOOMERA_01 -026350	00:00:00	Language elicitation for the song ' <i>bathiji minamakun maku...</i> '	29 <sup>th</sup> May 1997	Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:02:05	End of Tape W97/1, Side B and end of 026350		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026351/Field Tape W97/2**

Performer/speaker(s):	Fanny Lanley, Margaret Hills, Nancy Wilson, Roxanne Thomas, Amanda Ahern, Lorna Wilson, Ngare Wilkinson and Anna Ash
Personal subject(s):	John Graham, Connie, Clara, Marmies family, Paul Memmott, Mister Punch, Geraldine, Uncle Sandy, Dale, Garth, Big Peter, Aunty Cora, Ngare, Eric and Gloria
Subject keywords:	Environment - Biodiversity – Animals, Environment - Biodiversity – Plants, Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational - Corroboree
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Melbourne (Vic SJ55-05), Forsyth Islands (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Brisbane (SE Qld SG56-15), Bundaberg (SE Qld SG56-02), Dumadji / Doomadgee (Qld Gulf SE54-05), Stradbroke Islands (SE Qld SG56-15), Mparntwe / Alice Springs (South Central NT SF53-14)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01-026351	00:00:00	Australian flora and fauna. Bush knowledge.	September 1997	Wardirrkana, Mornington Island
	00:03:30	Bilmadkan Point. <i>Maarnbil</i> , <i>Devildewal</i> and <i>Jirn Jirn</i> . Story Rock in the British Museum. Paul Memmott		
	00:09:56	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs		
	00:15:02	Indigenous individuals. <i>Dura</i> and <i>kungul</i> dances. Mister Punch song.		
	00:20:13	General conversation. Indian man named Eric from Alice Springs. Fanny's friend Gloria.		
	00:27:41	End of Tape W97/2, Side A and end of 026351		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026352/Field Tape W97/3**

Performer/speaker(s):	Kenneth Jacob (Big Jake), Gordon Watt (Gumarni), Cyril Moon (Cherokee), Joseph Watt (Bunbudji) and Cecil Goodman
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026352	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	27 <sup>th</sup> October 1997	Kadmakan Outstation, Mornington Island
	00:15:24	End of Tape W97/3, Side A and end of 026352		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026353 + 026354/Field Tape W98/1**

Performer/speaker(s):	Ida Brookdale, Nancy Wilson, Mary Cameron and Louisa Roughsey
Personal subject(s):	Uncle Bert, Felix, Aunty Vida, Missionary Wilson, Sandy, Fred, Aunty Emma, Mr Richards, Bush Jack, Mrs Wilson, Robert Burns' father, Archie, Reverend Hall, Kidikur (Peter), Dick Brookdale, Alfred Jimmy, Mr Riverston, Flora, Maggie [Brookdale], Jodie's father, Bobby Thompson and Oscar
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree, Ceremonies - Rain making , Politics and Government - National symbols and events - NAIDOC / NADOC / National Aborigines Week, Language, Music - Church music, Food - Bush tucker
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01), Marulda / Marula language (L33) (Qld SG54-07), Wangkangurru / Wangganguru language (L27) (SA SG53-12)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Elizabeth Creek (Qld Gulf SE54-09), Townsville (NE Qld SE55-14), Dumadji / Doomadgee (Qld Gulf SE54-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026353	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs. Ida Brookdale being cured by an Angel in Townsville.	8 <sup>th</sup> August 1998	Kanba Outstation, Mornington Island
	00:21:21	Bush names. Rain dances. Conversation about Indigenous individuals. Reverend Hall's murder.		
	00:29:58	Love song performance. Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree song. NAIDOC week. Lardil culture and terminology. 'Somebody's mother' poem.		
	00:46:45	End of W98/1, Side A and end of 026353.		
WOOMERA_01 -026354	00:00:00	Ida Brookdale learning the Lardil language and experiences in the Mission school.	8 <sup>th</sup> August 1998	Kanba Outstation, Mornington Island
	00:05:40	Christian songs in the Lardil language. Preparing ground wardirr.		
	00:14:00	End of W98/1, Side B and end of 026354.		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026355 + 026356/Field Tape W98/2**

Performer/speaker(s):	Hector Thomas, Ian James, Gordon Watt and Joseph Watt
Personal subject(s):	Henry [Watt], Theo, Timothy, Ursula, Avril, Arnold, Joseph Watt's father, Kelly, Charlie Watt, Sam, Cecil Goodman, Henry, Gordon [Watt?], Mr Hills and Henry Peters
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026355	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	August 1998	Mornington Island State School, Mornington Island
	00:31:32	End of Tape W98/2, Side A and end of 026355.		
WOOMERA_01 -026356	00:00:00	Discussion of Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs. Unseen People.	16 <sup>th</sup> September 1998	Mary Cameron's House, Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:07:45	Performance and discussion of Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs.		
	00:19:16	End of Tape W98/2, Side B and end of 026356.		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026357 + 026358/Field Tape W98/3**

Performer/speaker(s):	Ian James, Cecil Goodman, Gordon Watt (Gumarni) and Wayne Williams (Wunhun)
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026357	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 1998	Gee Wee Outstation, Mornington Island
	00:35:19	End of Tape W98/3, Side A and end of 026357		
WOOMERA_01 -026358	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 1998	Gee Wee Outstation, Mornington Island
	00:34:20	End of W98/3, Side B and end of 026358		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026359/Field Tape W98/4**

Performer/speaker(s):	Nelson Gavenor, Kenneth Jacob, Ian James and Roxanne Thomas
Personal subject(s):	Thuwathu, Thuwathu's sister, Policeman Martin, Reggie Robertson, Roxanne's sister, Dick Woodburn, Johnny Watts, Johnny Crees, Arthur, Captain Percy Trezise, Henry, Pompey, Whiskers, Sandy, Clara Reid, Clara Reid's mother, Maude, Tim Roughsey Snr., Percy Toby, Dick Roughsey, Clifford Bush Bunkurri and Larry Lanley
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree, Death - Mortuary / funeral ceremonies – Burial, Gender relations – Marriage, Communications - Message sticks
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Burketown (Qld Gulf SE54-06), Cairns (NE Qld SE55-02), Rockhampton (E Qld SF56-13)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026359	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs. Indigenous burials and burial songs. Thuwathu's song. Falling in love and marrying.	20 <sup>th</sup> November 1998	Nelson's House, Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:06:32	Poisoned dingoes. Unidentified Lardil song. 'Stamping' style of dancing. Stick fighting dance song.		
	00:16:49	Performance and discussion of the Mermaid and Dingo corroboree songs.		
	00:24:58	Discussion and performance of the Shooting Star corroboree dance song.		
	00:31:31	Dancers, Songmen and message sticks. Discussion and performance of the Yirrijirri and Riflefish corroboree songs.		
	00:38:30	End of Tape W98/4, Side A and end of 026359.		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026360/Field Tape W98/5**

Performer/speaker(s):	Ian James, Cecil Goodman, Gordon Watt, Nelson Gavenor, Joseph Watt, Edgar Wilson and Wayne Williams
Personal subject(s):	N/A
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026360	00:00:00	Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs	1 <sup>st</sup> December 1998	'Mango tree,' Old Village, Mornington Island
	00:11:01	End of Tape W98/5, Side A and end of 026360		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026361 + 026362/Field Tape W99/1**

Performer/speaker(s):	Ian James, Cecil Goodman, Nelson Gavenor, Grayson Williams and Wayne Williams
Personal subject(s):	Kelly Banbaji and Kenneth Jacob (Big Jake)
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree, Language - Translation - Translating and interpreting
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Adelaide (SE SA SI54-09)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026361	00:00:00	Mosquito song. Reconstructing dance movements. Discussion and performance of Big Jake's song.	5 <sup>th</sup> May 1999	Woomera Office, Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:07:35	Turtle corroboree and language terminology. Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs with and without didgeridoo accompaniments.		
	00:29:54	End of W99/1, Side A and end of 026361		
WOOMERA_01 -026362	00:00:00	Bushfire corroboree song with didgeridoo accompaniment	5 <sup>th</sup> May 1999	Woomera Office, Gununa, Mornington Island
	00:02:08	End of W99/1, Side B and end of 026362		

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## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

**026363/Field Tape W99/2**

Performer/speaker(s):	Nancy Wilson, Margaret Hills, Clara Reid and Dell Williams
Personal subject(s):	Clara Reid's father, Mr Doherty, Sister Maada, Aunty Ellen and Roberta
Subject keywords:	Defence - World War II , Music – Traditional, Dance - Recreational – Corroboree, Environment - Climate and weather - Bush fires, Religion - Dreaming - Mermaids
Language/people:	Lardil language (G38) (Qld SE54-01), Biri / Birri Gubba people (E56) (Qld SF55-03)
Places:	Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01), Warddeken (NT SD53-01, SD53-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
WOOMERA_01 -026363	00:00:00	Pre-war Japanese landing. Discussion of Lardil <i>burdal</i> corroboree songs.	6 <sup>th</sup> July 1999	Sandalwood River, Mornington Island
	00:03:30	Obtaining dreaming songs. Uses and meanings of bushfire.		
	00:11:37	Fire hawks and sparrowhawks. Freshwater mermaids. Devil and mud crabs.		
	00:17:21	End of Tape W99/2, Side A and end of 026363.		

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