



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

BARKER_J04

**Sound recordings collected by
Jimmie Barker, 1968**

Prepared March, 2023 by BS
Last updated 22 December 20233

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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

Conditions of use relating to copying, quotation and publication are currently under review and will be updated on this page soon.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1968

Extent: 3 audio tape reels (2 hrs. 36 min. 41 secs) : analogue, mono ; 5 in. + field tape report sheets + transcript + word list

Production history

These recordings were made by Jimmie Barker in October of 1968. They feature Mr Barker discussing Muruwari language and cultural heritage.

The recording project was initiated by Janet Mathews, who obtained funding from the AIAS to provide recording equipment and consumables.

RELATED MATERIAL

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Transcripts of these field tapes are held in the AIATSIS Library, see PMS 205 and MS 89. 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 Jimmie Barker, Roy Barker, Janet Mathews 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
001312A	Field tape 3 and 4 (partial)	Language elicitation of Muruwari words and phrases and discussion with Jimmie Barker
001312B	Field tape 4 (continuing) and 5 (partial)	Language elicitation of Muruwari words and phrases and discussion with Jimmie Barker
001313A	Field tape 5 (continuing)	Language elicitation of Muruwari words and phrases and discussion with Jimmie Barker

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

001312A/Field tape 3A Sides 1 and 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Technology – Stone, Substance use – Alcohol, Technology - Containers - Water carriers, Transport - Water – Canoes, Hunting, gathering and fishing, Animals - Birds – Emus, Indigenous knowledge - World view – Numeracy, Food - Sociocultural aspects – Sharing, Gathering - Seafood / Shellfish, Recreation – Swimming, Food - Seafood – Fish, Food – Meat, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar - Directionals and locationals, Language - Linguistics - Vocabulary and grammar, Substance use - Smoking / Tobacco, Technology - Fire - Fire making, Transport - Vehicles - Motor cars, Transport - Air - Aircraft
Language/people:	English, D32: MURUWARI, L25: Wangkumara
Places:	Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06), Tibooburra (NW NSW SH54-07)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BARKER_J04-001312A	00:00:00	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases.	October, 1968	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:18:42	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of the Muruwari word for water with examples of contextual useage.		
	00:26:57	Jimmie Barker discusses (with elicitation) traditional Muruwari water carriers and canoes.		
	00:32:19	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari phrases relating to water.		
	00:34:41	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including those relating to directionals, emu eggs, Indigenous numeracy and food sharing.		
	00:52:08	Jimmie Barker elicits a Wangkumara word.		
	00:52:21	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari phrases featuring the words “you”, “go” and “come.”		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
	00:53:50	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari locationals and directionals.		
	00:57:37	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including references to tobacco, fire, mechanical transportation, running and water.		
	01:05:02	End of field tape 77B and end of BARKER_J04-001312AA.		

Timing point	Description
	<u>Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases with discussion in relation to cultural practice and language structure and conventions.</u>
00:00:04	Archive announcement.
00:00:13	Jimmie Barker records a tape ID stating the date - October, 1968.
00:00:20	Jimmie Barker begins by referring the listener to a previous recording of Muruwari language “words.” “number 2 reel.” Jimmie previews the words that will be discussed in this recording: <i>goo, ga, ngurra, bu</i> and <i>gar</i> .
00:01:36	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “bread.”
00:01:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me bread.”
00:02:07	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the bread?”
00:02:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the bread is good.”
00:02:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “money for bread.” Jimmie provides the spelling for the word <i>goo</i> used here as a suffix.
00:02:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me money for bread.”
00:03:01	Jimmie Barker introduces a new word, the Muruwari word for “knife.” Jimmie explains that this is the traditional word for “stone knife.”
00:03:22	Jimmie Barker elicits 2 “part English” words for the modern steel knife and explains that “s” is often added for pluralisation, although this practice is foreign to the dialect.
00:04:30	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me a knife for bread.”
00:04:50	Jimmie Barker speaks about the “binding” function of the word <i>ngurra</i> and provides the Muruwari for “the bread is good” to illustrate the way in which <i>ngurra</i> can be used in different word sequences.
00:07:23	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “give me bread.”
00:07:30	Jimmie Barker explains how proficient Muruwari speakers abbreviate and “drop out” words in the course of conversation.
00:09:27	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “give me bread.”
00:09:33	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “the bread is good.”
00:09:46	Jimmie Barker returns to the earlier discussion of the Muruwari word for “knife” and introduces a new word meaning “cut.”
00:10:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “give me a knife.”
00:10:53	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me a knife to cut the bread.”

00:11:37	Jimmie Barker explains that “ngurra” is dropped from these sentences by proficient speakers of the Muruwari dialect.
00:11:52	Jimmie Barker speaks about word sequencing and word dropping in relation to the sentence “to cut the bread.”
00:13:41	Jimmie Barker speaks about what he believes to be a unique instance of word derivation relating to the Muruwari word for “cut.” Jimmie explains there is no Muruwari equivalent to the English word construction that produces telescope, microscope, radioscope etc.
00:16:40	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “meat.”
00:16:51	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “water.”
00:16:56	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “give me bread.”
00:17:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “give me water.”
00:17:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me a knife to cut the meat.”
00:18:42	Jimmie Barker discusses the words that can be dropped from sentences like these. Jimmie explains how the Muruwari word for “water,” when spoken on it’s own in an imploring way achieves the same effect as “give me water.”
00:19:59	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “in the water.”
00:20:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to the water.”
00:20:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “Jimmie Barker in the water.”
00:20:38	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the woman is in the water.”
00:20:51	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I am going for water.”
00:21:16	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the water is good.”
00:21:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the water is bad (bitter, poisoned or no good).”
00:23:30	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “fire water,” and explains that this word was used for any kind of alcoholic spirit.
00:24:56	Jimmie Barker speaks about the changing pattern of alcohol consumption amongst Aboriginal people during his lifetime.
00:25:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “give me good water.” Jimmie explains that the word for good is also used for “anything sweet or nice.”
	Jimmie Barker reiterates - eliciting the Muruwari words and phrases for:
00:25:50	“give me bread”
00:25:53	“give me meat”
00:25:56	“give me water”
00:26:00	“give me knife”
00:26:12	Tape cuts out – no content.
00:26:18	Jimmie Barker records a tape ID – “tape 3, side 2, dialect Muruwari.”
00:26:28	Jimmie Barker returns to the theme of water.
00:26:41	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I am going to swim in the water.”
00:26:57	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “dish” or any receptacle able to hold water.
00:27:26	Jimmie Barker describes the traditional Muruwari bark dish used for the carriage of water. Jimmie refers to the universal Aboriginal language term for this – <i>Coolamon</i> and ponders the origin of this word.
00:28:50	Jimmie Barker explains that the Muruwari word for “dish” was also used for canoes or any type of watercraft.
00:29:04	Jimmie Barker ponders the origin of the word “canoe” and suggests that it is of Native American origin.
00:29:51	Jimmie Barker speaks about Aboriginal methods of bark canoe making.

00:30:56	Jimmie Barker speaks about the Muruwari use of dishes for carrying things other than water, such as honey or grubs. This leads on to a discussion of meat – generally served and stored on a bed leaves. Jimmie describes traditional hunting and gathering practices. Women carried the dishes or Coolamons as the men hunted or foraged “around about.”
00:32:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the water is in a cup/container.”
00:32:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “in the water.”
00:32:59	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “wash in water.”
00:33:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you wash in water.”
00:33:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the water?”
00:33:45	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “over there”
00:33:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the water is muddy.”
00:34:03	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “watery eye.”
00:34:12	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “water in the eye.”
00:34:18	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bathe in water.”
00:34:41	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here Willie.”
00:35:03	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “Willie come here.”
00:35:59	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “go there Willie.”
00:36:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where to.”
00:36:25	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “me” or “I.”
00:37:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “going.”
00:37:45	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “uncle.”
00:37:51	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “open area or plain.” Jimmie expands on the meaning of this word explaining that it denotes a windswept area of hard ground devoid of trees or shrubs.
00:38:34	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “emu” and stresses the need to roll the r’s.
00:38:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “egg” and explains this word has a plural meaning unlike in English where the letter “s” is added.
00:39:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what for?”
00:39:32	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where to?” or “whereabouts?”
00:40:49	Jimmie Barker constructs a set of sentences out of the words discussed:
00:41:00	“I’m going uncle.”
00:41:10	“where to?” or “whereabouts?”
00:41:21	“to the big plain.”
00:41:33	“what for?”
00:41:43	“for emu eggs.”
00:42:02	“there’s no eggs there.”
00:42:14	“oh yes, oh yes.”
00:42:23	“how do you know?”
00:42:33	“there’s emus out there I saw them.”
00:42:52	Jimmie Barker uses the example of emus to explain how the repetition of a word in Muruwari is used to communicate multiplicity.
00:43:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I saw emus out there.”
00:44:24	Jimmie Barker elicits the Muruwari for “emu egg” and explains how in Muruwari the word <i>goo</i> is inserted between two words. Jimmie gives the example of a Swan and her eggs. Jimmie speaks about Muruwari numeracy and how counting didn’t extend beyond 10.

00:46:53	In this conversation about eggs and how they might be distributed Jimmie Barker reflects upon the inherently “socialist” aspect of traditional Aboriginal culture – “by this lore, perhaps he became one of the first socialists of the world.”
00:48:55	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for muscles.”
00:49:02	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for crayfish.”
00:49:12	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for fish.”
00:49:15	Birdcall clearly audible in the background.
00:49:30	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where are you going?”
00:49:36	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going where the reeds are.”
00:49:50	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “where are you going?”
00:50:16	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for a swim.”
00:50:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “do you know how to swim?”
00:50:34	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “yes”
00:50:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “oh yes”
00:50:49	Jimmie Barker speaks about how the Muruwari word for “yes” has different contextual meanings and can be used as an alternative to the Muruwari word <i>ngurra</i> where it has a similar binding function.”
00:51:40	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “eating.”
00:51:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “eating fish.”
00:51:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “eating meat.”
00:51:58	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “eating bread.”
00:52:08	Jimmie Barker provides a word “from a dialect around about Tibooburra” (possibly Wangkumara) – no English translation provided.
00:52:21	Jimmie Barker records a tape ID “tape 4, side 1, dialect – Muruwari, by Jimmie Barker, October 1968, continuing...”
00:52:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “you.”
00:52:59	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not you.”
00:53:05	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not for you.”
00:53:12	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “it is you.”
00:53:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “oh yes it’s you.”
00:53:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “it’s you.”
00:53:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “go.”
00:53:39	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “going.”
00:53:43	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come.”
00:53:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you come here.”
00:53:57	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you go there.”
00:54:05	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you come away from there.”
00:54:18	Jimmie Barker provides a grammatical rewording of the Muruwari phrase “you come away from there.”
00:54:34	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you go.”
00:54:39	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I am going over there.”
00:54:49	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you are not going there.”
00:55:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “yes I am.”
00:55:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “no, no, you don’t go.”
00:55:32	Jimmie Barker provides a detailed analysis of the previous sentence - in particular the use of the word <i>ngurra</i> meaning “don’t” or “not.”
00:57:02	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “moving.”
00:57:09	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “going.”
00:57:18	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “moving around.”

00:57:37	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for bread.”
00:57:44	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for meat.”
00:57:58	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for water.”
00:58:08	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going for a swim.”
00:58:14	Jimmie Barker explains that the “article” in each of these examples is placed at the beginning of the sentence. Jimmie elicits the following sentences in Muruwari to further illustrate:
00:58:41	“I’m going for tobacco.”
00:58:47	“I’m going for fire.”
00:58:56	“I’m going for firewood.”
00:59:09	Jimmie Barker explains how English words and names can be used within this Muruwari language structure and provides the following examples:
00:59:18	“I’m going in a motorcar.”
00:59:33	“I’m going in a plane.”
00:59:43	Jimmie Barker explains that for the sentence “I’m going for a beer,” the word sequence needs to be altered.
01:00:39	Jimmie Barker speaks about the inevitable incursion of English words and the challenge this poses to preserving the traditional Muruwari dialect.
01:02:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “run.”
01:02:07	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to run.”
01:02:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “run in there.”
01:02:20	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “run this way.”
01:02:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “run over there.”
01:02:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I ran.”
01:02:47	audible page turn
01:02:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “Willie, you run quickly over there for bread.”
01:03:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “running.”
01:03:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “running over there.”
00:41:28	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “emu running over there.”
00:41:47	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “water is running.”
01:03:59	Jimmie Barker explains the Muruwari word sequence for “water is running” is reversible.
01:04:14	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the water?”
01:04:22	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “over there.”
01:04:28	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “there is no water there.”
01:04:35	Tape rolls on – no content.
01:04:40	End of 001312A

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)

001312B/Field tape 4B continuing... Tape 5

Performer/speaker(s):	Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Water supply, Technology – Fire, Environment - Climate and weather – Storms, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Discussion / Conversation, Language - Linguistics - Grammar and syntax, Weapons – Spears, Hunting - Kangaroo / Wallaby, Housing, Weapons - Clubs and fighting sticks, Weapons - Spears – Fighting, Weapons - Boomerangs – Throwing, Human biology - Anatomy and morphology, Weapons – Firearms, Singing, Animals - Reptiles – Snakes, Animals - Invertebrates – Spiders, Animals - Mammals - Dingoes / Dogs, Hunting - Birds – Emus, Law - Indigenous
Language/people:	English, D32: MURUWARI, D22: NGIYAMPAA / NGEMPA
Places:	Brewarrina (N NSW SH55-06)
Recording quality:	Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BARKER_J04-001312B	00:00:12	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including references to water, fire, machines and lightning.	October, 1968	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:08:53	Jimmie Barker discusses the Muruwari word for “talk,” with elicitation showing examples of contextual usage.		
	00:13:59	Jimmie Barker speaks about “word dropping” or abbreviated speech in Muruwari with elicited examples.		
	00:21:27	Jimmie Barker speaks about the manner, projection and tone of Muruwari speech.		
	00:26:26	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including references to throwing, truth, kangaroo hunting, housing, weapons, “mock battles,” and human anatomy.		
	00:44:40	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases relating to firearms.		
	00:49:56	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including references to song, phonographs, biting, hitting,		

killing, weapons and kangaroo and emu hunting.

00:59:51 Jimmie Barker discusses (with elicitation) the Muruwari lore forbidding the torture or mockery of animals.

01:04:40 End of field tape 78B and end of BARKER_J04-A001312B.

Timing point	Description
	<u>Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases with discussion in relation to cultural practice and language structure and conventions.</u>
00:00:03	Archive announcement – “tape 4 continuing”
00:00:12	Tape cuts in on Jimmie Barker “there’s no water there.”
00:00:23	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here for water.”
00:00:32	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “river water.”
00:00:41	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “rain water.”
00:00:51	Jimmie Barker provides an alternative Muruwari phrase for “river water.”
00:01:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “muddy water.”
00:01:25	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “you.” Jimmie explains that the suffix <i>ga</i> is expendable.
00:01:42	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “what.”
00:01:48	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what is it.”
00:01:57	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “don’t know.”
00:02:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I don’t know.”
00:02:21	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “yes you do know.”
00:02:39	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “who.”
00:02:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “who did.”
00:02:55	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “who was it.”
00:03:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you did.”
00:03:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “wasn’t me” or “I didn’t.”
00:03:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “close.”
00:03:32	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “close by” or “near by.”
00:03:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “close by the fire.”
00:03:57	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “close by the river.”
00:04:06	Jimmie Barker provides a Muruwari phrase and explains it’s meaning – “a near miss” or “just off the mark.”
00:04:39	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “how do you do it?”
00:05:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “how do you work this machine?”
00:05:42	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “how does this machine work?”
00:06:01	Jimmie Barker speaks about the Muruwari word for “machine,” and explains that it applies to any type of machine, citing the example of a bicycle. Jimmie reflects on the

	origin of this word, describing it as “not a recent word” and suggests that it may have originated out of the early contact Aboriginal people had with settler machinery, possibly sewing machines.
00:06:35	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where at.”
00:06:45	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what sort.”
00:06:54	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “red.”
00:06:59	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “lightning.”
00:07:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “by lightning.”
00:07:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “struck dead by lightning.” Jimmie qualifies this slightly explaining that the word used here for “struck” really means “hit.”
00:08:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “lightning in the east.”
00:08:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “lightning in the north.”
00:08:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “lightning in the west.”
00:08:26	Jimmie Barker is unable to recall the Muruwari word for “south” and hopes to be able to provide this word at a future date.
00:08:53	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word meaning “to talk.” Jimmie draws connection between this word and the English word “yarn” explaining that he knows no other Muruwari word for talk.
00:09:48	Jimmie Barker provides an alternate Muruwari phrase for “to talk.”
00:10:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you and I have a talk” and suggests that the word for talk must be an “original” pre settlement word.
00:11:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here for a talk.”
00:11:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m going over there for a talk.”
00:11:32	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you talk.”
00:11:36	Jimmie Barker speaks about the “difficulty” of using the Muruwari word for “talk” in a sentence. Jimmie recalls the way the old people would use this word to invite group discussions at nighttime.
00:13:59	Jimmie Barker prefaces the next discussion about “word dropping” or abbreviated speech.
00:14:32	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m telling you to go” and explains there are words that would usually be omitted by proficient Muruwari speakers.
00:15:03	Jimmie Barker provides the abbreviated version of the previous sentence “telling you go.”
00:15:34	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m not going” as a possible response and points out two words that may be omitted.
00:15:54	Jimmie Barker provides the abbreviated version of the previous sentence “not going.”
00:16:05	Jimmie Barker explains that the omitted words are understood by proficient Muruwari speakers in what might be described as a conversational shorthand.
00:16:40	Jimmie Barker uses an English conversational exchange: question - “Where to?” answer - “fishing,” to illustrate the Muruwari convention of word dropping.
00:17:18	Jimmie Barker speaks about how Muruwari, is a very economical language, when spoken in this abbreviated form. Jimmie again explains that a high level of proficiency in the dialect is a requirement to be able to converse in this way.
00:21:27	Jimmie Barker explains that he has been speaking very slowly in these language recordings for the sake of the listener. Jimmie points out that Muruwari in practice is spoken quickly with a pronounced rolling of the r’s.
00:22:12	Jimmie Barker recalls his childhood interactions with old Muruwari aunties trying to control the children in their care. Jimmie elicits some of the phrases he recalls them

	using and imitates their mode of delivery “Where are those children? ... I’m going after them with a stick ... for making all that noise like a lot of cicadas.”
00:23:18	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “cicada” and describes a species of the insect common to the sand hills of northwest NSW.
00:25:16	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “straight.”
00:25:25	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “straight stick.”
00:25:35	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “bent (or crooked).”
00:25:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bent (or crooked) stick.”
00:25:56	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “throw”
00:26:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to throw.”
00:26:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not bent (or crooked).”
00:26:34	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not straight.”
00:26:44	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “throw.”
00:26:50	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari for “to throw.”
00:26:58	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “throw straight.”
00:27:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “throw.”
00:27:16	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “throwing.”
00:27:46	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “tell.”
00:27:53	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to tell.”
00:28:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “telling.”
00:28:48	Jimmie Barker provides a Muruwari word meaning “I”, “I’m” or “me.”
00:29:02	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m not telling a lie.”
00:29:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m telling you straight.” Jimmie talks about how the word for “straight” used in this context comes to mean “I’m telling you the truth.”
00:31:08	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari word for “straight.”
00:31:12	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the truth.”
00:31:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to throw.”
00:31:45	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari word for “tell.”
00:31:55	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you are telling.” Jimmie explains that the word for “telling” is also used for “said” or “you were saying.”
00:32:38	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you said.”
00:33:03	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you said further back” and explains that in other contexts the word for “further back” means “there” or “over there.”
00:33:36	Jimmie Barker again provides the Muruwari word for “spear.”
00:33:40	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I’m gonna spear a man.”
00:33:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I speared a kangaroo.”
00:34:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the kangaroo is dead.”
00:34:20	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the kangaroo?”
00:34:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where the big rocks are.”
00:34:39	Jimmie Barker explains that the Muruwari for “standing” is used in these locational sentences.
00:35:04	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “house.”
00:35:08	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where the house is.”
00:35:20	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where the water is.”
00:35:27	Jimmie Barker provides a detailed physical description of a Muruwari fighting club - the <i>Gudjeru</i> . Jimmie explains that this weapon is commonly referred to as the <i>nulla-nulla</i> . Mention of a “smaller type” of <i>Gudjeru</i> used for games.

00:37:04	Jimmie Barker speaks about a small “saucer shaped” hard wood weapon, the <i>Gurura</i> . Jimmie provides a physical description, dimensions, the method of throwing. Jimmie explains that <i>Gururas</i> were used for games and play, particularly amongst young people.
00:37:45	Tape cuts out – no content.
00:37:48	Jimmie Barker records a tape ID “Tape 5, continuing, Aboriginal dialect – Muruwari, by Jimmie Barker, October 1968.”
00:38:07	Jimmie Barker continues his previous discussion of the <i>Gurura</i> , providing a detailed description of discs trajectory in flight.
00:38:48	Jimmie Barker speaks about making <i>Gururas</i> using “flat iron.”
00:39:10	Jimmie Barker speaks about “mock battles” staged by the old people for the benefit of children, where reeds were used for spears, bark boomerangs were thrown, and the children used the lids of tar drums for shields.
00:41:10	Jimmie Barker speaks about the contemporary commercial boomerangs (at the time of recording) and their limitations compared with the authentic traditional weapons of the old days.
00:42:07	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “run”
00:42:14	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to run”
00:42:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “run run.”
00:42:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I ran.”
00:42:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I ran over there.”
00:42:44	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you run.”
00:42:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “don’t you run.”
00:43:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “don’t run.”
00:43:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where will I run?”
00:43:18	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “run to the house.”
00:43:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I am going to run.”
00:43:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I am out of wind.”
00:43:48	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “blown up (swelling).”
00:44:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “swollen foot.”
00:44:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “swollen eye.”
00:44:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “mouth.”
00:44:26	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “my mouth is swollen.”
00:44:40	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “gun.”
00:44:51	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “gun blew up.”
00:45:08	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “machine.”
00:45:14	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “machine blew up.”
00:45:22	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “the gun.” Jimmie reflects upon how this would likely have been one of the first words to emerge post settlement. Jimmie also points out the universality (common to many Aboriginal language groups) of this word.
00:46:39	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “bang.” Jimmie explains that this word applies to gun fire or “any big explosion.”
00:47:30	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the gun.”
00:47:37	Jimmie Barker elicits the Muruwari/part English word for “bullet.”
00:47:57	Jimmie Barker explains that the English word “shot” was used by the Muruwari.
00:48:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bullet for the gun (or rifle).”
00:48:43	Jimmie Barker speaks about how the “muzzle loader” was commonly used in his younger days and how this English description was adopted by the Muruwari.

00:49:17	Jimmie Barker explains how the English word “powder” was adopted as a descriptor for gun powder.
	In the context of this discussion Jimmie Barker elicits the following:
00:49:28	“Powder for the gun.”
00:49:35	“Shot for the gun.”
00:49:47	“Cap for the gun.”
00:49:56	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “which.”
00:50:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “teeth (or tooth).”
00:50:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to bite” or “bitten.”
00:51:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to sing.”
00:51:59	“I’m going to sing.”
00:52:22	“I was bitten by a dog.”
00:52:36	Jimmie Barker recalls a wax cylinder phonograph from 1908 and elicits the Muruwari phrase the Muruwari old people used to describe it - “the singing machine.” Jimmie explains that in later days this was simplified and the Muruwari word “machine” was used in reference to phonographs.
00:53:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to bite (or bitten).”
00:54:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bitten by a snake.”
00:54:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bitten by a spider.”
00:54:37	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “bitten by a dog.”
00:54:47	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to hit.”
00:55:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “hitting.”
00:55:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “kill.”
00:55:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “kill the snake.”
00:55:28	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “did you kill the snake?”
00:55:37	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “oh yes.”
00:55:42	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what with?”
00:55:48	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “with a stick.”
00:55:56	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “hit.” Jimmie explains that this word is also used by the Ngemba and it remains in common usage (up to the time of recording).
00:57:37	Jimmie Barker provides a traditional Muruwari language translation for “Billy hit Freddie” and contrasts this with the way the word for “hit” is currently used.
00:58:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “hit with a <i>boomerang</i> .”
00:58:16	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “hit with a <i>nulla nulla</i> .”
00:58:28	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “hit with a club.”
00:58:38	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I speared a man.”
00:58:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I speared a kangaroo.”
00:59:01	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I speared an emu.”
00:59:25	Jimmie Barker explains that in these elicitation he is trying to match the Muruwari as precisely as possible to the English.
00:59:51	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to poke fun at.”
01:00:05	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “don’t make a joke of.”
01:00:25	Jimmie Barker explains that torture or any kind of mockery of death or injury was forbidden in Aboriginal lore both in relation to people and animals. Mercy killing for the fatally injured was an obligation under the lore.
01:02:03	Tape cuts out – no content.
01:04:40	End of 001312B

001313A/Field tape 5B Side 1 and 2

Performer/speaker(s):	Jimmie Barker
Subject keywords:	Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation, Hunting - Kangaroo / Wallaby, Gathering – Plants, Plants – Trees, Fishing, Water supply - Waterholes and rockpools, Social organisation - Kinship - Kinship terms, Animals - Reptiles - Lizards / Goannas, Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation - Sentences
Language/people:	English, D32: MURUWARI, D22: NGIYAMPAA / NGEMPA
Places:	Lightning Ridge (N NSW SH55-07), Sydney (NSW SI56-05), Murdi Paaki / Bourke (N NSW SH55-10), Walgett (N NSW SH55-11), New South Wales (NSW)
Recording quality:	Good

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BARKER_J04-001313A	00:00:13	Jimmie Barker continues the discussion of the Muruwari lore pertaining to animal welfare and care of country.	1968	Brewarrina, NSW
	00:03:54	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases associated with action and direction.		
	00:05:10	Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases relating to kinship.		
	00:06:25	Jimmie Barker provides elicitation and discussion of Muruwari words and phrases including references to tree and sand goannas.		
	00:13:08	Jimmie Barker constructs Muruwari sentences with a focus on the words <i>ghu</i> , <i>ngurra</i> and <i>ga</i> .		
	00:27:21	End of field tape 5B and end of BARKER_J04-001313A.		

Timing point	Description
	<u>Jimmie Barker elicits Muruwari words and phrases with discussion in relation to cultural practice and language structure and conventions.</u>
00:00:03	Archive announcement – “tape 5 continued”

00:00:13	Jimmie Barker records a tape ID “side 2 tape 5.”
00:00:24	Continuation of the previous discussion in which Jimmie Barker speaks about the aspect of Muruwari lore which forbade any kind of cruelty or disregard of animal welfare. Discussion of kangaroo hunting practices by way of example.
00:00:53	Jimmie Barker explains that this lore extended to plants and trees as well. Jimmie speaks about the use of branches of a particular tree that were used for fishing in water holes. Jimmie explains that these branches were used sparingly, so as to not damage the trees from which they were taken.
00:02:21	Jimmie Barker explains how these strict cultural protocols were applied to all aspects of engagement with country including fire making and fire control. Jimmie speaks about how Aboriginal fire making was, for the most part, fairly small in scale.
00:03:44	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to poke fun at.”
00:03:55	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “how?”
00:04:02	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “how do you do it?”
00:04:22	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “this way.”
00:04:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I do it this way.”
00:04:37	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I can’t do it.”
00:04:50	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “you poor thing.”
00:05:10	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “uncle.”
00:05:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “mother.”
00:05:20	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “father.”
00:05:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here uncle.”
00:05:33	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here mother.”
00:05:43	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “come here father.”
00:06:06	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “go there uncle.” Jimmie explains that this applies to other family members as well – father mother etc.
00:06:25	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what for now?”
00:06:38	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “what for?”
00:07:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the goanna (large tree goanna)?” Jimmie explains that this word sequence is reversible.
00:07:54	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “where is the goanna (sand goanna)?”
00:08:30	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “I, me or I’m.”
00:08:47	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I did.”
00:09:19	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “It wasn’t me.”
00:09:32	Jimmie Barker speaks about a Muruwari word from the previous sentence that when used on its own means “no.”
00:10:29	Jimmie Barker discusses the distinction between the Muruwari words <i>ghu</i> (meaning “to”) and <i>goo</i> .
00:11:15	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “to me.”
00:12:00	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “I did.”
00:12:27	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “I didn’t.”
00:13:08	Jimmie Barker discusses the relationship between the Muruwari words <i>ghu</i> and <i>ngurra</i> and considers the role of these words along with <i>ga</i> in sentence construction.
00:14:56	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “mine” or “I do,” and explains that this phrase incorporates <i>goo</i> .
00:16:25	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not yours” or “you don’t own it.” Jimmie explains that this phrase is often used in the context of an argument.
00:17:54	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “no, no, not yours.”
00:18:27	Jimmie Barker speaks about the two Muruwari words for “no,” and the contexts in

	which they might be used.
00:19:49	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not you.”
00:20:09	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “no, no, not you.”
00:21:13	Jimmie Barker provides further clarification about which of the Muruwari words for “no” are used in particular contexts.
00:22:24	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari word for “mine.”
00:22:31	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “it is mine.”
00:22:47	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “yours” or “it’s yours.”
00:23:08	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “not yours.”
00:23:13	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “burr.”
00:23:17	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “burr in the foot.”
00:23:28	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “pick out the burr.”
00:23:52	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “Ho! There’s a big burr in my foot.”
00:24:11	Jimmie Barker provides the Muruwari for “well don’t cry about it.”
00:24:17	Tape rolls on – no content.
00:27:21	End of 001312B

[RETURN TO ITEM LIST](#)