



# AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

## Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 3180

### Fieldnotes on Ngarinyin, Bunaba, Wora, Gunian

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## Collection Summary

<b>Collection no:</b>	MS 3180
<b>Title:</b>	Fieldnotes on Ngarinyin, Bunaba, Worora, Gunian
<b>Creator:</b>	Rumsey, Alan
<b>Date range:</b>	1975 – 1980
<b>Extent:</b>	0.18 linear metres (1 archival box)
<b>Repository:</b>	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
<b>Reference code:</b>	None

## Cultural Sensitivity Statement

### Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly with regard to the use of this material.

### Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

### Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, hearing recordings, seeing images of the names deceased persons may cause sadness, or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural beliefs.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

## People & Organisations

Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family or organisations that are associated with this collection) individuals or groups who have contributed to, performed in, or are mentioned within this collection). Please note that there may be additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that are not included in this Finding Aid, as they have not been identified. If you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this, please contact us at [collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au) or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Knowledge Holders:

Campbell Alanbara	Elsie
Dagi Alanbara	Topsy Gumban
Bandawu	Mary Hunter
Banjo (Bindieminy)	Nuga Jorda
Jack Bear	Leopold
Evelyn Bidd	Johnny Marr
Bindani	David Mowaljarlai
Bindemi	P. Mowanjum
Bindeminj	Splinter Mudulngu
Alice Brooking	George Nandoo
Charlie Brooking	George Napier
George Brooking	Nerdu
Tom Brown	Whistler Ngera
Artie Bundjeru	Wati Njerdu
Jacob Burgu	Old Topsy
Charley	Billy Oscar
Dan Daniels (Dangal)	Pipia
Jerry Djalnggud	Casey Ross
Jack Djowan	Right Hand Spider
Bantom Djudumarra	Fred Toohy

Cocky Widjinggur

Daisy Wombiddy

Billy Williams

Molly Wurunmala

Giga Windjandji

Elsie Yingeela

Banjo Wirrunmarra

## **Community & Language**

Bunuba language K5

Bunuba people K5

Gooniyandi language K6

Gooniyandi people K6

Ngarinyin language K18

Ngarinyin people K18

Waladjangari language K24

Waladjangari people K24

Worla language K43

Worla people K43

Worrorra language K17

Worrorra people K17

## **Country**

Fitzroy Crossing (WA West Kimberley SE51-12)

Mowanjum (WA West Kimberley SE51-07)

Timber Creek (North NT Victoria River SD52-15)

## **Collection Overview**

### **Scope and Contents note**

Items 1-3 contain transcriptions of 75 audio cassettes held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual collection as RUMSEY\_A01. The transcriptions contain Ngarinyin, Bunaba, Guwidj and Wula language elicitation, as well as some songs.

Items 4-7 contain transcriptions of 60 audio cassettes held in the AIATSIS Audiovisual collection as RUMSEY\_A02. The transcriptions contain language elicitation, including

narrative texts; comparison of Bunaba and Walmatjarri skin totems; dialogue text, some morphological segmentation, verb paradigms; story in 'Gungunma'.

## Provenance

Items 1-3 were donated to AIATSIS by Alan Rumsey in 1976. Items 4-7 were deposited at AIATSIS by Alan Rumsey in 1982.

## Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

## Related material

pMS 5171	Bunaba stories [Bunaba/English] / by Banjo Wirrunmarra, Johnny Marr and Billy Oscar : recorded and transcribed by Alan Rumsey
pMS 5321	Ngarinyin customs and country [English / Ungarinyin] / by David Mowaljarlai : recorded and transcribed by Alan Rumsey
RUMSEY_A01	Language elicitation, texts, and songs
RUMSEY_A02	Bunaba and other language elicitation and texts from the Fitzroy Crossing and Timber Creek areas

For a complete list of works by Alan Rumsey held by the library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at [aiatsis.gov.au](http://aiatsis.gov.au) or phone (02) 6246 1111

**Important:** Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at [aiatsis.gov.au](http://aiatsis.gov.au)

## Access to the Collection

### Access conditions for this collection

Closed access - Depositor's permission. Closed copying & quotation Principal and/or Depositor's permission.

### Obtaining access, copying and quotation permission

Clients are advised that the collection materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to particular access and use conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Materials are provided for private study and use, in accordance with the Copyright Act 1968, Section 51. Copying of, and quoting from, unpublished material may

be subject to the conditions determined by Indigenous communities and/or depositors of the manuscripts.

Permission may need to be sought prior to access being granted. In cases where these permissions are required, they must be obtained in writing and must be signed. Please contact [collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au) or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

AIATSIS Manuscripts are not available for Inter-library loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

## Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

Field notebook in Bunaba and Mangaringa 1980, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 3180, Series 1, Item 4

## Biographical history note

Alan Rumsey came to Australia in 1975 as a University of Chicago PhD student to study language and its relation to other aspects of social life among the Ngarinyin people in the Kimberley district of Western Australia. He produced a 'Sentence Grammar of Ungarinyin', published by Pacific Linguistics and co-edited 'Languages of Kinship in Aboriginal Australia', Oceania Linguistic Monograph.

References

'Alan Rumsey', n.d., viewed 5 December 2023,  
<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/authors-editors/alan-rumsey>

## Administrative note

Please note, Items 1-3 in this collection was initially arranged and described as the separate Manuscript collection MS 2290. MS 2290 was merged with Items 4-7 prior to 2023 (exact date unknown) to create one collection.

## Archivist's note

Square brackets have been used to indicate notes written by the archivist to provide additional clarification or information.

## Series 1, Field Notebooks, 1976-1980

### Item

MS 3180/1/1 Volume 1, 1975

MS 3180 Fieldnotes on Ngarinyin, Bunaba, Worora, Gunian

Part 1 Elicited words and sentences; verbal paradigms; narrative text; ethnographic data; AIATSIS wordlists; comparison notes on Bunaba and Ngarinyin. 159 pp.

Part 2 : Extensive elicitation from AIATSIS wordlist; dialogue texts [some containing English], most texts not glossed. 151pp.

MS 3180/1/2 Volume 2, 1975-1976

Part 1: Reading notes on Australian languages; dialogue; texts; extensive narrative text [Tape A4282]; 20 song texts; account of Ngarinyin country. 163 pp.

Part 2: Dialogue text, on various topics including country and initiations in Bunaba. 162 pp.

MS 3180/1/3 Volume 3, 1976

Part 1: Ethnographic text; narrative text in Bunaba, some Ngarinyin; elicited forms in Bunaba; kin term lists; song text; text on tracking. 159 pp.

Part 2: Elicited verbs in Ola; sentences and verbs compared in Ola and Ngarinyin; notes on imperatives, reflexives, narratives, negative imperatives; dialogue text; texts: 'Story of Dumbi', 'Gubi Galambi Story' [heron and egret]; comparative verb paradigms in Ola and Ngarinyin; kin terms in Ngarinyin; address and reference terms. 130 pp.

MS 3180/1/4 1980 Field Notebook [Bunaba and Maningrida]

Elicited vocabulary, sentences with grammatical information; AIATSIS wordlists; comparison of everyday language and mother-in-law language [Bunaba]; texts with interlinear translation: 'Darn', 'Ganangadja and Malyna', 'Lilly hole', 'Njawuranj', 'Big Spring', 'Porcupine story', and untitled text by Nerdu; Bunaba dialogue.

MS 3180/1/5 Bunaba Notebook IX, 1979

Elicited vocabulary, phrases, and sentence lists with some interlinear translation; small amount of biographical information; some details about Country [English and Bunaba]; AIATSIS wordlists; pronoun paradigms; texts: 'Bush trips', 'Diyara'; and various untitled texts; comparative vocabulary; phrase lists in Djadadjada and Gungunmu. 50 pp.

MS 3180/1/6 Bunaba Notebook X, 1979

Elicited vocabulary, phrases and sentences: numbered lists [with interlinear translation; very little gloss for vocabulary]; pronoun paradigms; short sentence elicitation with grammatical information: mainly forms of the imperative. 21pp.

MS 3180/1/7 Notebook [dated August 30, 1980]

MS 3180 Fieldnotes on Ngarinyin, Bunaba, Worora, Gunian

Elicited vocabulary lists [Gunian]: listed according to specific topics; AIATSIS wordlists; narratives; percentage shared cognates between Bunaba, Gunian and Ungarinyin; kinship terminology; various texts; list of 'community names.' 49 pp.

Finding aid compiled by Grace Turner, December 2023, based on original typescript guide produced by the AIATSIS library.

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