



# AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL  
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**Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies**

**MS 406**

**Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection**

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## **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

<b>Creator:</b>	Breen, Gavan
<b>Title:</b>	Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection
<b>Collection no:</b>	MS 406
<b>Date range:</b>	1967-1976
<b>Extent:</b>	0.06 Linear metres (2 volumes)
<b>Repository:</b>	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

## **CULTURAL SENSITIVITY STATEMENT**

It is a condition of use of this finding aid, and of the collection described in it, that users ensure that any use of the information contained in it is sympathetic to the views and sensitivities of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This includes

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### **Deceased persons**

Users of this finding aid should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs, film and books or hearing them in recordings etc. may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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## ACCESS TO COLLECTION

### Access and use conditions

Materials listed in this finding aid may be subject to access conditions required by Indigenous communities and/or depositors. Users are advised that access to some materials may be subject to these access conditions

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### Access conditions

Open access reading. Open copying. Closed quotation.

### 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 [insert number], Series [insert number], Subseries [insert number], Item or Folder [insert number].

For example:

Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 406, Series 1, Item 1.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Gavan Breen is an Australian linguist who has contributed to the recording and preservation of a large number of Aboriginal languages.

For over a decade from 1967, Breen worked with Aboriginal people to record, research, transcribe and analyse at least 49 endangered Indigenous languages, supported by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (now AIATSIS). Breen made numerous field trips to remote areas of western and central Queensland, parts of the Northern Territory and South Australia, recording languages on reel-to-reel tapes for later transcription. In some cases he

worked with the last known Aboriginal speakers of a language. The resulting language materials including tape transcriptions, field notes, vocabularies, grammatical analyses, and audio recordings were deposited with AIATSIS.

In 2014, the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) digitised Gavan Breen's materials, available through the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC), at:

[http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/items/search?collector\\_id=2467](http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/items/search?collector_id=2467)

In 1970 Breen completed a Master of Arts degree at Monash University writing the thesis *A description of the Waluwara language*. From 1971-79 he was a researcher in the Monash University Linguistics Department. In the early 1980s, Breen continued his linguistic research and worked in the Northern Territory tertiary education sector, teaching Indigenous speakers of Australian languages vernacular literacy, basic linguistics and other skills required for language-related work. He taught and prepared teacher trainees for bilingual education.

Gavan Breen's efforts over five decades have made a major contribution to the salvaging and preservation of endangered Aboriginal languages. He has written and co-authored books, journal articles, and numerous publications such as grammatical descriptions, dictionaries and wordlists. Breen has also conducted significant work on Arrernte and other living languages of Central Australia. He has transcribed and translated Aboriginal language content and provided linguistic services for organisations and projects such as Northern Territory Museums, Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife, the Central Land Council and the Northern Territory Department of Education. Breen has provided linguistic evidence for Native Title Claims for most language claimant groups in western Queensland.

Nominally retired since 2001, Breen still works voluntarily from an office at the Institute for Aboriginal Development in Alice Springs, continuing his research and publications and actively supporting community language revitalisation activities.

In 2016, Gavan Breen was made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, for distinguished service to the Indigenous community through the preservation of languages, to the development of orthographies and to education.

#### **Reference list:**

Australian National University Press. 'Gavan Breen' viewed 4 January 2021, <<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/authors-editors/gavan-breen>>.

Sleath, E 2014, 'Veteran linguist's work preserved', ABC Alice Springs, 24 April.

Volling, T 2016, 'Alice man's crusade to save indigenous languages honoured with OAM', Northern Territory News, 26 January.

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## COLLECTION OVERVIEW

### Scope and contents note

The collection was created by the linguist Gavan Breen, collected in Queensland and the Northern Territory from 1967 to 1976. The material is comprised of transcriptions of audio recordings and handwritten grammatical description of Antekerrepenhe (C12) and other languages (Arnernte C8; Alyawarr C14; Wangkamanha / Wankamadla G1; Wangka-Yutjurru^ G5; Pitta Pitta G6; Waluwarra^ G10; and Ayerrerenge G12). The collection is divided into two series: (1) Transcriptions of audio recordings and (2) Grammatical description.

### Provenance

The collection was deposited by Gavan Breen in October 1976.

### Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

### Related material

MS 406 includes the transcriptions of numerous field tapes recorded by Gavan Breen in Queensland and the Northern Territory from 1967 to 1976. The related audio collections of these transcripts are listed below: BREEN\_G02, BREEN\_G03, BREEN\_G06, BREEN\_G11, BREEN\_G12, BREEN\_G13, BREEN\_G14, BREEN\_G15, BREEN\_G19, BREEN\_G23, and BREEN\_G30. Click [Finding aids](#) to search for audio finding aids.

PMS 3567 is a later version of the grammar in MS 406 Series 2, deposited by Breen in 1982.

BREEN\_G04 also contains recordings of the Antekerrepenhe language (C12) by Breen, however the transcripts of BREEN\_G04 are not part of MS 406. The recordings in BREEN\_G04 that relate to the Antekerrepenhe language (C12) include A005095/FT 506; A005150/FT 548; A005096/FT 507; A005097/FT 508; A005098/FT 509; A005099/FT 510; A005100/FT 511; A005101/FT 512; A005102/FT 513; A005103/FT 514; A005105/FT 516; and A005106/FT 517.

BLAKE\_B01 (A000247A) and BLAKE\_B02 (A000551 and A000556A) are Antekerrepenhe language (C12) materials recorded by BJ Blake, transcribed and deposited by Gavan Breen. The transcription of BLAKE\_B01 (A000247A) is in PMS 2703 and the transcriptions of BLAKE\_B02 (A000551 and A000556A) are in PMS 2704.

AILEC 0112 (Antekerrepenhe wordlist), created by Breen, is part of the AIATSIS Australian Indigenous Languages Collection and is open access and available for downloading from Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

For a complete list of works by John Gavan Breen, held by the Library, and for other related material consult Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Manuscript and Audiovisual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website. Or phone (02) 62461111

**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.

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## **CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS**

Breen, Gavan

Northern Territory - Central NT

Queensland Far North West (Qld Far NW SE54)

Isa, Mount (Qld Far NW SF54-01)

Dajarra (Qld Far West SF54-06)

Urandangi (Qld Far West SF54-05)

Boulia (Qld Far West SF54-10)

Urlampe / Tobermorey (SE Central NT SF53-12)

Antekerrepenhe language C12

Antekerrepenhe people C12

Arrernte language C8

Arrernte people C8

Alyawarr language C14

Alyawarr people C14

Wangkamanha / Wankamadla language G1

Wangkamanha / Wankamadla people G1

Wangka-Yutjuru language G5

Pitta Pitta language G6

Pitta Pitta people G6

Waluwarra language G10

Ayerrerenge language G12

Ayerrerenge people G12

Language - Linguistics - Grammar and syntax

Language - Linguistics - Phonology and phonetics

Language - Vocabulary - Word lists

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## Archivist's note

This finding aid was updated in 2021 to document and reassociate the close links between the transcriptions and grammatical descriptions found in this manuscript collection and Gavan Breen's related audio collection.

Appendix 1 cross-references the manuscript item numbers and the audio collection numbers, and documents the pages, speakers, place recorded, language (according to [AUSTLANG](#); see AIATSIS website) and linguistic subjects.

Please note that earlier AIATSIS numbering conventions used for the audio collection are written at the beginning of the manuscript Volume 1 (e.g. LA 1884a) and in the content of the manuscript (e.g. A1884a). The current numbering convention is listed in the item description below (e.g. A001884A) and is also listed as the accession number in Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

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## SERIES DESCRIPTION

### Series 1 Transcriptions of audio recordings

The series is divided into 10 sections of transcriptions of audio recordings of Antekerrepenhe in phonetic script, following elicitations in English.

Appendix 1 cross-references the manuscript item numbers and the audio collection numbers, and documents the pages, speakers, place recorded, language (according to [AUSTLANG](#); see AIATSIS website) and linguistic subjects.

### Item

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| MS 406/1/1 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G02 (A000614B, A000616B, A000618A) and BREEN_G03 (A000712A, A000713A). 1967, 20 leaves.  |
| MS 406/1/2 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G06 (A001195B). 1968, 3 leaves.  |
| MS 406/1/3 | Tape transcription of BREEN_12 (A001880A, A001881B, A001882A, A001883A), BREEN_G13 (A001884A), BREEN_G15 (A002135A), BREEN_G30 (A001984A). 1970-1971, 34 leaves. |
| MS 406/1/4 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G13 (A001886A) and GREEN_G14 (A001979B, A001980A). 1970-1971, 6 leaves.  |
| MS 406/1/5 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G14 (A001980, A001983A). 1971, 8 leaves.   |
| MS 406/1/6 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G14 (A001982B). 1971, 2 leaves.  |
| MS 406/1/7 | Tape transcription of BREEN_G13 (A001885), BREEN_14 (A001979B, A001982A), BREEN_G19 (A002468A, A002470B). 1970-1972, 27 leaves.                                  |

## MS 406 Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection

- MS 406/1/8 Tape transcription of BREEN\_13 (A001885B), BREEN\_G14 (A001981B), BREEN\_G19 (A002469, A002471A). 1970-1972, 21 leaves.
- MS 406/1/9 Tape transcription of BREEN\_G23 (A003254B, A003255A). 1974, 8 leaves.
- MS 406/1/10 Tape transcription of BREEN\_G11 (A001610B) and field notes: place names. 13 leaves.

### Series 2 Grammatical description

The series contains predominantly handwritten draft grammatical descriptions of Antekerrepenhe, based on the transcriptions in Series 1. It includes sections on verbs, vowel phonology, noun morphology, pronouns and interrogatives, verbal morphology, syntax, adverbs and conjunction.

#### Archivist note:

The old item number in Series 2 was 11-14. See the box list.

### Item

- MS 406/2/1 Andegerebinha verbs. 11 leaves.
- MS 406/2/2 Note on tape A001982: song material. 2 leaves.
- MS 406/2/3 Andegerebinha vowel phonology. 1976, 22 leaves. Thermo-fax typescript (photocopy).
- MS 406/2/4 Andegerebinha grammar. 134 leaves.

### BOX LIST

Series	Item	Old Item number	Volume
1	1-10	1-10	1
2	1-4	11-14	2

Finding aid amended by Amanda Lissarrague and Man-Ting Hsu, April 2021

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## Appendix 1

MS	Speaker(s)	Place recorded	Audio Collection/ Accession number/ Field Tape No.	Language	Subject
MS 406/1/1	Joe Patterson Aka Joe Trotman	Mt Isa	BREEN_G02/ A000614B/ FT 24 side B	C14: Alyawarr	Nouns, adjectives, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/1	Rosie Mahoney (Harry Mahoney Dora Age)	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G02/ 000616B/ FT 28 side B	G12: Ayerrerege	Nouns, adjectives, tr and intr clauses, time
MS 406/1/1	Dora Age	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G02/ A000618A/ FT 31 side B	C12: Antekerrepenhe G12 (?): Ayerrerege	
MS 406/1/1 pp 67-7, 67-9	Jack Marshall	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G02/ A000618A/ FT 31 side A	C12: Antekerrepenhe	Nouns, adjectives, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/1 pp 67-14, 67-15	Jimmy Ferguson		BREEN_G03/ A000712A/ FT 35 side A	C12: Antekerrepenhe	Nouns
MS 406/1/1 pp 67-10, 67-13	Tom Daley & Sam Dawson	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G02/ A000618B/ FT 32 side A	C12: Antekerrepenhe C8: Arrernte	Nouns, intr clauses unrecorded field notes
MS 406/1/1 pp 67-16, 67-18	Island Jack	Urandangie	BREEN_G03/ A000712B/ FT 36 side B		tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/1 pp 67-19, 67-20	Bob Cook	Urandangie	BREEN_G03/ A000713A/ FT 37 side B	C12: Antekerrepenhe	Nouns, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/2 pp 68-1, 68-3	Jack Hanson (Jack Snap Hanson)	Tobermorey NT	BREEN_G06/ A001195B/ FT 83 side B	G1(?): Wangkamanha / Wankamadla	Nouns, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/3	Tiger George	Bouliia Qld	BREEN_G13/ A001884A	C12: Antekerrepenhe	tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/3 pp 29-32 33-36	Tiger George	Bouliia Qld	BREEN_G30/ A001984A/ FT 227 side B BREEN_G15/ A002135A/ FT 228 side A	C12: Antekerrepenhe	tr and intr clauses, narrative
MS 406/1/3	Tiger George	Bouliia Qld	BREEN_G12/ A001880B/ FT 182 side A BREEN_G12/ A001880B/ FT 182 side B		Nouns
MS 406/1/3			BREEN_G12/ A001881B/ FT 184 side A BREEN_G12/ A001881B/ FT 184 side B		Nouns

MS 406 Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection

MS	Speaker(s)	Place recorded	Audio Collection/ Accession number/ Field Tape No.	Language	Subject
MS 406/1/3			BREEN_G12/ A001882A/ FT 185 side A BREEN_G12/ A001882B/ FT 186 BREEN_G12/ A001883A/ FT 187		Nouns and adjectives, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/4	Jack Marshall & Bill Jenkins	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G13/ A001886/ FT 193 side A BREEN_G14/ A001979B/ FT 218 side A BREEN_G14/ A001980A/ FT 219 side A		Trees Nouns, tr and intr clauses intr and tr clauses; mostly Bill Jenkin
MS 406/1/5	Freddie Glenormist on Mary Glenormist on and Harry Mahoney	(Nyambila- Nyambila) pp 1-5	BREEN_G14/ A001980A/ FT 219 side B BREEN_G14/ A001980B/ FT 220		tr and intr clauses Songs in Wangkagurru attempt to elicit narratives; intr and tr clauses
MS 406/1/5			BREEN_G30/ A001983A/ FT 225 side B	C12: Antekerrepenhe	Nouns
MS 406/1/6	Joe Patterson	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G14/ A001982B/ FT 224 side B		intr clauses, people, body parts
MS 406/1/7	Jack Marshall	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G13/ A001885A/ FT 191 BREEN_G13/ A001885B/ FT 192 side A		Plenty River, tr and intr clauses Tr and intr clauses, nouns
MS 406/1/7			BREEN_G14/ A001979B/ FT 218 side B		(With Bill Jenkins) tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/7			BREEN_G14/ A001982A/ FT 223 side B		About catching possums About making camp
MS 406/1/7			BREEN_G19/ A002468A/ FT 300		Tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/7			BREEN_G19/ A002470B/ FT 305		Nouns, tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/8	Bill Jenkin	Antekerrepen he (Nyambila- Nyambila)	BREEN_G13/ A001885B/ FT 192 side B		tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/8		Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G14/ A001981B/ FT 222		tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/8			BREEN_G19/ A002469A/ FT 302 side A BREEN_G19/ A002469B/ FT 302 side B		About flood. About parachutist killed and a man killed by a car; nouns, tr and intr clauses

MS 406 Andegerebinha (C12); Gavan Breen Collection

MS	Speaker(s)	Place recorded	Audio Collection/ Accession number/ Field Tape No.	Language	Subject
MS 406/1/8			BREEN_G19/ A002471A/ FT 306		How to make a net Hunting tr and intr clauses, kin terms etc
MS 406/1/9	Jack Marshall	Dajarra Qld	BREEN_G23/ A003254B/ FT 452 side B	G12: Ayerrerege	tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/9			BREEN_G23/ A003255A/ FT 453		tr and intr clauses
MS 406/1/10	Tiger George	Boulia	BREEN_G11/ A001610B/ FT 153 side A	G12: Ayerrerege G1: Wangkamanha / Wankamadla G5: Wangka- Yutjurru^ G10: Waluwarra^ G6: Pitta Pitta	Place names
MS 406/1/10					Placenames, languages

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