



AIATSIS

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

MS 4706

Douglas and Doreen Belcher Papers

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COLLECTION SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Creator: | Belcher, Douglas L and Belcher, Doreen |
| Title: | Douglas and Doreen Belcher papers |
| Collection no: | MS 4706 |
| Date range: | 1954-1999 (1914-2000) |
| Extent: | 9 archival boxes + 1 oversize box + 3 folders in Manuscript Plan Cabinet PC7 (1.64 Linear metres) |
| Repository: | Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies |

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.

This includes:

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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, 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 strongly held cultural beliefs.

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

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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:

Douglas and Doreen Belcher papers, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 4706, Series 3, Folder 5.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

The collection contains diaries that the Belchers kept while serving at the Mornington Island Mission. These record many activities at the Mission and include lists of births, deaths, marriages and baptisms. In addition, there is a manuscript by Douglas Belcher entitled 'Windward, Leeward', edited by Doreen Belcher, which is an unpublished history of Mornington Island, together with files of research material used by him when writing this book.

The files cover a wide range of topics related to Mornington Island, such as art, cattle, education, the murder of Rev Hall on Mornington Island in 1917, and other historical events. Also included are reports to the Presbyterian Board of Missions and the Chief Protector of Aborigines and so forth.

Provenance

The collection was deposited by Mrs Doreen Belcher on 19 April 2010.

Material separated from the collection

Photographs separated from this collection have been listed, digitised and allocated the following Photographic Collection call numbers: BELCHER.D01.BW, BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF.

The original prints of BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF have been physically retained with the Manuscript papers, see MS 4706, Series 5 Item 1 and 2. The original negatives of BELCHER.D01.BW have been retained by the Photographic section due to preservation storage requirements, see Series 5 Item 3.

Related material

For a complete list of works by Douglas and Doreen Belcher, held by the Library, and for other related material consult Mura®, the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to 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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BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY NOTE

Reverend Douglas Leonard Belcher, born 21 November 1919 in Melbourne, studied at the Melbourne Technical College Applied Art School between 1935 and 1937. He worked as a

draughtsman and designer in Melbourne until 1940. During the Second World War, he served with the third Division Army Signals and as a medical aid with the AIF in New Guinea and New Britain.

After he married Doreen Loosemore in 1945, the couple spent many years working with Indigenous people. Their first posting was as assistants to Rev McCarthy at the Presbyterian Mission at Mornington Island in 1946. Although they were diverted to Mapoon for six months, they arrived at Mornington Island in September. They spent 18 months at Weipa from November 1947.

Belcher pursued his theological studies during this time before attending Emmanuel College in Brisbane, Queensland between 1949 and 1952.

After six months at Aurukun, the Belchers returned to Mornington Island in 1953 when Douglas was appointed as Superintendent. The Belchers served at a parish in Adelaide for two years (1963-1964) before returning to Mornington Island for another seven years.

Douglas Belcher encouraged the Mornington Islanders to take control of their own affairs. He closed the dormitories so that families could raise their own children. He played a key role in setting up the Mornington Island dance group, which toured many times, encouraged contact with the outside world, for example with linguist Professor Ken Hale who undertook a study of the Lardil language. He championed Indigenous people's cultural and social development, for example, initiation and encouragement of the Islanders to learn and use their traditional language. He was an early advocate for policies, such as self-determination and self-management, which later become official policy.

After leaving Mornington Island, the Belchers continued their missionary work at Ernabella and later at nearby Indulkana in South Australia and Wyndham and Oombulgarri in Western Australia.

In 1979 the Belchers returned to Mornington Island where Douglas Belcher worked as a Community Advisor to Gununamanda Inc. for ten months after the local administration was transferred to the Mornington Island Shire Council, before officially retiring. However, Douglas Belcher continued to work for the church for a further 10 years, working at Apollo Bay in Victoria and also in England and Scotland.

Douglas Belcher was awarded an MBE in 1971. He died on 27 September 1999.

Reference list:

The Age, 23 December 1999. Pages unknown. Held in Series 2 of this manuscript.

Herald Sun, 16 December, 1999. Pages unknown Held in Series 2 of this manuscript.

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CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Mornington Island (Qld Gulf Wellesley Islands SE54-01)

Lardil people G38

Presbyterian Church - Missions - Queensland

Presbyterian Church - Missions - South Australia - Ernabella

Religions - Christianity - Missions - Australian Board of Missions

Archivist's note

The papers came to the attention of AIATSIS through Mrs Doreen Belcher's granddaughter, Sarah Cutfield, a Research Fellow at the Institute. After Doreen Belcher, her daughter Helen Cutfield and Sarah Cutfield visited the Library in 2009, the Library sent their manuscript officer, Jan Kirkham, to Brisbane to meet with the family and discuss the donation of the material to the Library. The material was received in April 2010.

The Donor had sorted the papers prior to receipt, and the file names are based on those given on the original folders. In order to maintain the alphabetical order used by the Donor, some adjustments were made to the file names, for example, abbreviations spelled out. The Library imposed the Series order.

Photographs separated from this collection have been listed, digitised and allocated the following Photographic Collection call numbers: BELCHER.D01.BW, BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF. The original prints of BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF have been physically retained with the Manuscript papers. The original negatives of BELCHER.D01.BW have been retained by the Photographic section due to preservation storage requirements. See MS 4706, Series 5.

The '[]' is added to illustrate the archivist's addition.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Diaries 1954-62, 1965-1972

The series consists of a collection of diaries kept mainly by Douglas Belcher at Mornington Island Mission between 1954 and 1972. The 1970-1972 diaries are labelled 'Office', while there are two 1968 diaries, one labelled 'Copy used by DRB [Doreen Belcher]'. The daily life of the Mission is recorded in these diaries.

Births, deaths, marriages, baptisms, employment, and activities at the mission such as a school concert, work on, and opening of, a new airstrip, arrival or non-arrival of ships and planes, visitors, including Doctors for clinics, people leaving the mission, for example for medical appointments, church services, meeting times and people attending, illnesses, stock

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arrivals and other stock work and building work, are just examples of the activities recorded in the diaries.

The 1957 and 1958 diaries are not as complete as those for other years although births and deaths are recorded.

There are no diaries for 1963 and 1964 as the Rev Gordon Coutts was in charge of the Mission. The Belchers were serving at a parish in Adelaide during these years.

Item

| | |
|-------|---|
| 1-5 | Diaries 1954-1958 |
| 6-10 | Diaries 1959-1962, 1965 |
| 11-15 | Diaries 1966-1968, 1968 (Copy used by Doreen Belcher), 1969 |
| 16-18 | Diaries 1970-1972 |

Series 2 Douglas Belcher 1999

Order of service for 'Thanksgiving for the Life of Douglas Belcher'; and obituaries from the *Herald Sun* and *The Age*. [1 item]

Series 3 'Windward, Leeward' 2001

A manuscript entitled 'Windward, Leeward', written by Douglas Belcher. It covers the history of the early period of settlement on the Cape York Peninsula and the southern half of the Gulf of Carpentaria; the establishment, history and community life of missions there; tensions over the management of the missions, for example with the Queensland government; and social change from a variety of outside influences. Photographs are included in the manuscript.

Some handwritten editing was done on the manuscript by Doreen Belcher before she submitted it for publication after Douglas Belcher's death. There is a handwritten index of 'Lardil, staff and visitors mentioned in the text' compiled by Doreen Belcher and a letter from University of Queensland Press, 21 December 2001.

The manuscript was rejected for publication by the University of Queensland Press which felt that substantial development was required. A letter from the Senior Editor, Sue Abbey, recommended that Doreen Belcher should consider depositing it in an archival library (Letter, 21 December 2001, Series 3, Folder 1), as the manuscript is 'a legacy to all who shared in the culturally rich and unique experience of the Gulf area'.

Folder

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1-4 | Manuscript |
| 5 | Correspondence and notes related to Chapter 17, Part 3, pp. 293-296 of 'Windward, Leeward' and includes letters from the Foreign Missions Department of the Presbyterian Church on the administration of Mornington Island. |

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Series 4 Research material for 'Windward, Leeward'

These files were used by Douglas Belcher when he wrote the manuscript 'Windward, Leeward' which has not been published. The manuscript is held in Series 3.

Folder

1a Alan Austin 1978-1987

'A future for our children: report on the visit to North Queensland and Aboriginal communities, April May, 1987' by Alan Austin, Baptist Social Justice Group (Victoria) and also photocopies of pp. 3-4, 22-23, 40-44. *'Land God gave us to look after: report on the visit to Northern Queensland Aboriginal Communities, September 1981, to Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, North Queensland Land Council, Truth and Liberation Concern, Victorian Baptist Social Justice Working Group and Division of Social Justice of the United Church of Victoria'*, from Alan Austin, 1981. *'Land rights, culture and the gospel: a report on the visit to Northern and Central Australian Aboriginal communities, September - October, 1982 to the Victorian Baptist Social Justice Work Group [and the] Evangelical Alliance (Vic) Council'* from Alan Austin, October 1982. *'Aurukun and Mornington Island: a brief historical survey, [1904-March 1979]'*, compiled by Alan Austin. *'A country's shame'*. Other papers relating to the Aboriginal rights confrontation at Aurukun and Mornington Island.

1b Alan Austin 1978-1987

Article *'Bending Blacks behind the Banana Curtain: we present some facts that HAVEN'T been reported. What's really happening in Joh's Queensland?'* by Alan Austin [in 'Nation Review' (School Libraries Branch, Education Department of South Australia, 15-21 September 1978). pp. 12-13. Sacking of Roger Pettit by Queensland government from Mornington Island Council and article includes the text of a telegram from the Chairman of the Mornington Island Council, Larry Lanley, to the Prime Minister. Also held in Serial Folios in AIATSIS Library at call number SF 05/4.

2 Alcohol 1981

Letter to the Editor, *Life & Times*, Uniting Church, Brisbane. Original letter dated 19 May 1981 and transcript of faded typescript original.

3 Art 1970

'Art of the Aboriginal', illustrated article about Dick Roughsey (Gooboolathaldin), source unknown, p. 73. *'To make a boomerang'*, by Lesley Stein, article describing Alick Hill making a boomerang, *The Australian Women's Weekly*, October 28, 1970, p. 57. Held in oversize box.

4 Burketown 1870

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Two letters by Michael Bird Hall relating to the kidnapping of Aboriginal children in 1870, one to the Editor of the *Queenslander*, one to the Colonial Secretary. Photocopies. Held in oversize box.

Arrangement note: the letter pages have been numbered but the numbering does not seem correct. They have been left as found.

- 5 Cape York Peninsula
- 'The historic Bradford Expedition to Cape York Peninsula, by JW Rawlinson', issued by the Public Relations Division of the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department, Brisbane, Queensland. Also includes references, notes, articles etc.
- 6-7 Cattle 1955-1977
- Includes reports, correspondence, proposals and other papers relating to the Mornington Island cattle industry.
- 8 Conference (Superintendents and Chaplains) 15 August 1966
- Typescript carbon copy. Notes from Conference.
- 9-10 Correspondence to and from Mornington Island people 1959-1969
- Includes newsletters in the form of letters and other correspondence to and from the Belchers giving details of the daily lives and events of the correspondents, for example, visitors, staff leaving, cattle work, building work, visiting medical and dental staff, bird banders at Birri, new buildings, practicing for a Corroboree in Cairns, dugong watching and many other daily matters.
- The Belchers were in Adelaide in 1963-1964 when Belcher served as a parish priest but they returned to Melbourne at the end of 1964 as they missed Mornington Island.
- 11a Corroboree (Cairns, Mt Isa, Brisbane) 1965-1971 (Bulk, 1965-1966)
- Includes Mornington Island Aboriginal Music and Dance Corroboree at Cairns Little Theatre Hartley Street, Cairns Souvenir Programme, Mornington Island Ballet Souvenir Programme, newspaper clippings, reports and notes on corroboree performances and 'Historical background of Mornington Island', by DL Belcher, 1966.
- 11b Corroboree (Cairns, Mt Isa, Brisbane) 1965-1971 (Bulk, 1965-1966)
- Mornington Island Ballet, Rialto Theatre 27th-30 May [1971] poster, newspaper article. Held in manuscript plan cabinet PC7, drawer 2.
- 12 Cyclone 1977
- 'Cyclone Ted - the biggest wind since Cooberra', report written by John Friedrich, 1977; and newspaper clipping. Cyclone reached Mornington Island on 19 December 1976.
- 13 Deaths, burials, etc. 1965
- Restricted access.** Closed access - Principal's permission. Closed Copying & quotation. Principal and/or Depositor's permission.

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Account of the events surrounding the death of Percy Toby.

Lists of births, deaths and marriages can be found in [Series 1, Diaries](#)
Development (Capital) 1955.

14 Development capital

Presbyterian Mission: Mornington Island Mission Station. 'Capital development estimates for the year ended 31st Dec. 1955'.

15 Dugong 1975-1976

'The dugong: endangered siren of the south seas', by Sandra L Husar, *The Environmental Journal*, February 1975, pp. 15-18; and newspaper clipping, 1976.

16 Education 1959-1972

Includes 'News of Mornington Island (letter from Miss Margaret Bain, April 2, 1959)', *The Missionary Chronicle*, July, 1959, pp. 10-11, including section on the school; and 'Education in (North Queensland) Aboriginal Mission Communities', by DL Belcher, 1972.

17 Ernabella notes 1970-1973

'Ernabella handcrafts', pamphlet, undated. 'Ernabella, origin and the first ten years: a short historical sketch', including handwritten comments by Charles Duguid, undated. 'Ernabella today', a newsletter written by Douglas Belcher, 20 November 1973. The map of Ernabella-Fregon, 4 August 1970. Folder labelled July 1974.

18 Freidrich, John

'[John Friedrich]', by Douglas Belcher. Handwritten, undated. Covers in some detail the time Friedrich managed Mornington Island and touches on his earlier life, including a brief time at Ernabella, and also his later life.

19 Hale, Sarah (Sally) Whitaker 2001

'Reminiscences of the trip to Australia, 1959-1961', by Sarah Whitaker Hale, *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*, Canberra, ACT, 2001, pp. 19-28. Reprint.

20 Hall, Mavis 1912-1993

Photographs received from Hall have been digitised and given the pictorial call number BELCHER.D02.DF. The photocopies and the photo album containing original prints are held with the manuscript in Series 5, Item 1.

21 Hall, Mavis 1912-1993

Reports of the murder of the missionary Rev R Hall and the wounding of W Owens, his assistant and the defence of the house in which Owens and the Hall and Owens children took shelter, protected by Mrs Hall and Mrs Owens until help arrived from Burketown (1917). Copies of mission correspondence and reports (1912-1917). Also correspondence with Hall's children, Mavis and R Ian Hall and M Campbell, the wife of another of Hall's assistants.

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22 Handicrafts 1972-1979

Correspondence and other papers relating to crafts on Mornington Island, including a 1972 report to the Committee of Enquiry into the Crafts in Australia; correspondence relating to a query about the sale of a sacred object produced by Gununamanda Arts & Craft, Mornington at Derby (1976); a stocktake report (1975) and a Gununamanda Arts and Crafts price list (1 May 1979).

23 Health and medical (healing) 1958-1977

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

Includes 'Chapter 4: conflicts of village life', extract from unknown source, annotated 'Cawte & Co; 'A million miles over Flynn's inland', by TJ O'Leary, *Medical Journal of Australia*, April 26, 1969, pp. 868-872; 'Sever illness with anxiety following a reputed magical act on an Australian Aboriginal', by Ivor H Jones and Ian Robinson, *Medical Journal of Australia*, July 16, 1977, pp. 93, 96 [held by Library in Serials, call no. S 61/1]; 'Personal discomfort in Australasian Aborigines', by JE Cawte, GN Bianchi and LG Kiloh, reprinted from the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 2, no. 2, June 1968, pp. 68-79; letter in reply to letters from Rev JR Sweet, Secretary of Missions answering various enquiries including one on malnutrition, 27 March 1958; 'Some problems of traditional Aboriginal people in a hospital situation', by DL Belcher (1972); and 'Facets of Aboriginal culture which may give rise to problems in the hospital environment', by JC Clements.

24 Historical notes

Includes notes and transcripts relating to Mornington Island, including 'History Mornington Island - rough draft'

25 Initiation 1958-1959; 1970s

'Ceremonial circumcision' by LP Winterbotham, *Medical Journal of Australia*, March 21, 1959, pp. [412]-13, reporting on circumcision carried out by Dr Winterbotham; correspondence; and other papers and articles relating to initiation and circumcision. Some of the correspondence deals with the Foreign Missions Department of the Presbyterian Church working to find a policy regarding ceremonial initiation and it also replies to other matters regarding the Mission. Also 'Circumcision and subincision', by A Abbie, source and date unknown; and a report on a trip by Belcher to Papunya for an initiation ceremony in the 1970s.

26 Kaiadilt 1945-1970

Reports regarding visits to Bentinck Island by F McCarthy and the visit of some Bentick Islanders to Mornington Island (1945-1948); list of Bentinck Island people (undated); photocopies of photographs of Kaiadilt people; 'Peopling of the lands southeast of Asia', by Norman B Tindale, reprinted from *Colorado Quarterly*, vol. 15, no. 4, 26 April 1967, pp. 339-353; extracts from and notes based on, 'Edge of annihilation', by John Cawte; 'Cultural identity and the mental health of Australian Aborigines', by GN Bianchi, JE Cawte and LG Kiloh,

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reprinted from *Social Science and Medicine*, vol. 3, 1970, pp. 371-387, signed by author; and other papers.

- 27a Kin
Kinship terms and skin names. 'Chapter Four: subsections and totemic dreamings', author and source unknown (roneoed typescript)
- 27b Kin
Lists; charts of kinship terms with map on back of kin chart. Held in manuscript plan cabinet PC7, drawer 2.
- 28a Land rights
Memorandum to all Superintendents from Foreign Missions Department of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia, State of Queensland regarding adverse criticism of mission stations and temporal take over by government (1958), INCOMPLETE. Conference on Aboriginal Missions which discussed missions and government intentions (1959). 'North Queensland Reserve land tenure: overall policy for Mornington Island and Aurukun'. 'Land rights for the Aboriginal inhabitants of the Wellesley Islands'.

Also a list of information to be collected which might be useful in obtaining land rights in a court of law, prepared by Paul Memmott 9 September, 1975; 'Mornington Island Community Land Rights Meeting held 17/7/75'; 'Mornington Island: an overview' (1977); and other correspondence, notes, reports, minutes of meetings etc. relating particularly to land tenure on Mornington Island and surrounding areas.
- 28b Land rights
Drawing, with meanings, of message stick. Held in oversize box.
- 29 Lardil dictionary
'A preliminary dictionary of Lardil', compiled by Ken Hale, Ann Farmer, David Nash, and Jan Simpson, MIT, 1981. 'A note on Damin kinship terminology', by Ken Hale, January 1979. 'The sounds of Lardil'; and related correspondence.
- 30 Lewis, Henry
Typescript (2 pages) and handwritten and edited (1 page) manuscript about Henry Lewis, the Mornington Island launch skipper in Hall's time.
- 31 Liquor (Wet canteen) 1969-1971
Correspondence relating to establishment of a wet canteen at the Mission in an effort to reduce problems resulting from the consumption of liquor.
- 32a Mapoon 1972-1991
Notes by Belcher on his first impression of Mapoon and on meeting Mapoon people (Amy Ling and Harry Brown) in Innisfail. 'The story of my early life: an autobiography', by JN Hey. 'Answers to the Inquiry into present conditions and the prospect of future development of the remaining Aborigines (Full-Bloods and Half-Castes) in NSW', annotated 'Nicholas Hey, later than 1919' and related 1991 letter. 'Report of BOEMAR (Qld)', 13 November 1974 including 'Return to

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Old Mapoon' and land rights reports. 'Mapoon Presbyterian Mission, 1891-1961', including a report on the Mapoon Mission closure submitted by the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement. 'Alcohol use and traditional social control in transitional Aboriginal Society', by Margaret S Bain, a paper presented at the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs, Monash University, Research Seminar, Aboriginal Health Services, Farrer Hall, 14-17 May, 1972. 1 Item in oversize box.

32b Mapoon 1972-1991

'Mapoon' 1973 Evacuation, 2 pages. Held in oversize box.

33 McCarthy, JB and Taylor, GW 1947-1950

Report on Mornington Island Mission, 1947, from Superintendent JB McCarthy and for 1950 from GW Taylor; and population figures for 1949-50.

34 McGarvie, Neil 1977

'Research project on the history of the Presbyterian mission establishment and development in North Queensland', by NJ McGarvie.

35 McKnight, David 1985

Letters to Douglas Belcher and letter to Douglas and Doreen Belcher regarding McKnight's work.

36 Memmott, Paul and Robyn Horsman 1983-1985

'A changing culture: the Lardil Aborigines of Mornington Island', by Paul Memmott and Robyn Horsman, first draft, 1985. 'Historical data concerning visits to the North Wellesley Islands by foreigners in pre-mission times', by P Memmott, 1983, appendix 2 to unknown publication. Other related papers.

37 Mission routine, etc., 1958-1963

Daily and weekly routine lists; short instructions regarding police and community responsibilities with regard to law and order; and 'Programme for concert, Mornington Island, 29 June, 1963'.

38 Mornington Island Fisheries 1971-1972

Correspondence relating to the establishment of a fishing industry and to problems with soil and water pollution resulting from the industry.

39 Mornington Island Mission, Part 1, 1959-1971

Annual reports to the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions, 1959-1961, and 1965-1971. Some of the reports have reports from sections of the Mission attached to them, for example, the school report.

Also a medical report for 1963 and 1964.

40 Mornington Island Mission, Part 2, 1956, 1960-1973

Includes annual reports and, for some years, separate reports on specific matters such as medical, buildings, school or cattle development, to the Queensland Director of Native Affairs, 1955/56, 1959/60-1964/65 and the Queensland Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, 1965/66-1972/73.

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(Related materials: Published reports can be found in the AIATSIS online collection 'To Remove and Protect'.)

- 41 Mornington Island Mission, Part 3, 1916-1969
- Report to Chief Protector of Aboriginals, 1916, 1933 and 1939. 'Report on a visit to Mornington Island, December 1950', by JT Robinson. 'Mornington Island Information sheets', mostly undated by annotated with likely dates. 'Consideration of the future of the Mornington Island Mission', submitted by the Staff Council, 1962. 'Report of Conference held 7th February 1968 with Qld. Home Ministry and Aboriginal and Overseas Missions Committees and Australian Presbyterian Board of Mission Representative'. 'A Visit to Mornington Island', by Bob Bos, source and date unknown, possibly 1980s, photocopy. 'Mornington Island Mission, January 1969'. Belcher's writings about Mornington Island people.
- 42 Mornington Island Mission, Part 4, 1941-1968
- Report on activities on Mornington Island Mission, quarter ended September 1941. Completed Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics 'Aboriginals, year ended 30th June, 1941' for the Mornington Island Aboriginal District, the general outlines of which are the Wellesley Group comprising Mornington, Denham and Bentinck Islands. Also correspondence (1968) regarding a survey by David G Jose, Senior Medical Research Fellow on the health of Aboriginal children at Mornington Island and Doomadgee Missions. 'Aboriginal studies' (undated, no author) which appears to be a report of that survey.
- 43a Mornington Island place names
- Maps and associated lists of place names. A letter from Bruce Gall who worked with Lindsey Roughsey in placing names on the map for Belcher.
- 43b Mornington Island place names
- Preservation photocopy of maps. Held in manuscript plan cabinet PC7, drawer 2.
- 44 Mornington Island population 1943-1981
- List of births from approximately 1894 to 1967 sent to Belcher for checking and accompanying letter from the Department of Population Biology, Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University (1981). 1967 population summary. 'Identity cards. List of children over 14 years of age, Mornington Is., 11th May 1943', a list of people born in 1920s with their current addresses. Report of a conference on the Enumeration of Aborigines for the 1971 census (1970).
- 45 Newspaper clippings 1963-2001
- Clippings on a range of issues, art, etc., relating to Indigenous Australians. Held in oversize box.
- 46 Postmaster-General (Australia)
- 'Normanton', by JM Carroll, Archives Assistant, Queensland State Archives and 'Normanton Post Office history', by Jim Lightfoot, Acting Historical Officer, Australia Post, Brisbane; and related correspondence (1977).

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- 47 Presbyterian Advisory Council 1949
'Minutes of the Presbyterian Advisory Council - first meeting held at the Office of Director of Native Affairs on Thursday Island, on Thursday 24th November, 1949'
- 48 Publications - Legislation 1966-1978
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands (Queensland Reserves and Communities Self-management) Act 1978 (Cwlth). *The Aborigines regulations of 1972* (Qld). *Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978* (Qld). Letter relating to the Procedure to enable an Assisted Aborigine to be declared free (1966) and related manual.
- 49 Publications - Miscellaneous 1961-1979
Hodder, Marlene, 'Mornington Island', compiled by Mariene Hodder for the Mornington shire Council, 1980s. *Mission Probe*, no. 16, no date [also held in Library at call number SF 17/4]. Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Overseas Missions, *Message-stick on missions*, 2nd ed., 1961 [Lacks title page. Half of page 31 missing]. South Pacific Commission, *Beche-de-mer of the tropical Pacific: a handbook for fishermen*, revised edition, Noumea, 1979. (Handbook no. 18). Earlier edition entitled *Beche-de-mer of the south Pacific Islands*.
- 50 Queensland. Chief Protector of Aborigines 1935-1946
Annual report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines 1934-1935, and 1937-1938.
(Related materials: Published reports can be found in the AIATSIS online collection 'To Remove and Protect'.)
- 51 Queensland. Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, September Conference September, 1974
Includes reports of the meetings between the [Presbyterian Church of Australia] Board of Ecumenical Mission and Relations (BOEMAR), representatives from Aurukun and Mornington Island, and the Department in September 1974. Some meetings were with representatives from the Department of Education. The reports cover discussion on a wide range of issues.
- 52 Queensland. Department of Agriculture 1954-1975
Report on a visit to the Mornington Island Mission by SE Stephens, (Horticulturalist, Queensland Department of Primary Industries) and one by B Draffin (Queensland Department of Aborigines and Island Advancement), 1954; and a 1975 letter sent with the report in reply to a 1975 enquiry about the soil and climate conditions on Mornington Island.
- 53 Queensland. Director of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs 1947-1948
Annual report for 1945/46, 1946/47 and 1947/48, extracted from *Reports upon the operations of certain sub-departments of the Department of Health and Home Affairs*. [Also held by Library at call number RS 25.4/3 and in the Library's online collection 'To Remove and Protect']
- 54 Sorcery 1978

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'The Malgri *territorial* anxiety syndrome: Primitive pattern for agoraphobia', by Arthur Hippler and John Cawte, *Journal of Operational Psychiatry*, vol. 9, no. 2, 1978, pp. [23]-31. 'Malgri: a phenomenon in transcultural psychiatry', source and author unknown. Notes on 'Initiation - Sorcery' and 'Dugong - Birth taboo'.

55 Staff 1971

Copy of letter from JM Stuckey, General Secretary, Presbyterian Board of Missions to Ian Barlow regarding Aboriginal Mission work after Douglas Belcher and John Gillanders asked to be relieved, 28th January 1971.

56 Stammer, David 1977

Correspondence relating to photographs taken for Belcher's book 'Windward, Leeward'. The photographs were taken by Stammer in 1965.

57 Sweers Island 1873, 1961-1964

'Deposition taken at the Magisterial Inquiry re the Bentinck Island Blacks held by Aulaire Morisset, JP at Sweers Island, on Jan 25th 1873' and second copy plus travel allowance request and covering letter, transferred from Reports folder. Correspondence relating to establishment of a fishing industry at Sweers Island (1964). Letter from John Dymock describing his finds on explorations of Sweers Island during a 50 day stay, with accompanying maps. Other correspondence relation to Sweers Island (1961).

58a Takeover 1976-1978

Scrap book compiled by Mrs Callandar, Uniting church, office, Darwin, containing newspaper clippings relating to the proposed takeover by the Queensland government of Aurukun and Mornington Island Aboriginal reserves and the subsequent controversies and the issues raised during the dispute between the Aboriginal people and the Queensland government and the Federal Government's role and actions during the dispute.

58b Takeover 1976-1978

Preservations photocopies of the scrap book. Held in oversize box.

59 Tourism 1971

Correspondence 1971

60-61 Traditional stories, myths and magic

Includes handwritten and typed traditional stories and notes including notes made by Douglas Belcher after being at Ernabella and Indulkana; a newspaper cutting; and papers relating to the culture and traditions of the area around Mornington Island. Also, received separately, photograph of painting presented to Douglas Belcher relating to the story of the two Lurugu boys which accompanies it.

62 Visitors 1962-1966

Papers torn from 'The Visitor Book, Mornington Island' with first page entry for opening of new airstrip on 26th June 1955, until 7 December 1962; lists of visitors accommodated at the Mornington Island Mission for 1965 and 1966.

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- 63a Weipa 1924-1958
'Gulf missions and lonely men', by Jonathon Queale, typed transcript from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, July 27, no year, with introductory paragraph; exercise book pages with accounts for people employed for 1924-1925 and handwritten reports of Crimes, 1925-1936, with statements and punishments, lists of witnesses etc.; 1937 and 1949/50 annual reports, and November and December 1938 monthly reports.
- 63b Weipa 1924-1958
'Eviction: white progress again catches up with Aborigines', *People*, August 20, 1958, pp. 47-50. Held in oversize box.
- 64 Wellesley Island Sea Title Claim 2000
Papers relating to a statement made by Doreen Belcher for the case Re: Lardil, Kaiadilt, Yangkaat and Gangalidda Peoples v State of Queensland.
- 65 Wilson, Robert
'The mission period on Mornington Island', by Andrew R Wilson, mainly covering the period from 1918 when Robert Wilson was appointed Superintendent of the Mission after the murder of Robert Hall; and 'Great missionary pioneers ... Rev RH and Mrs Wilson', obituary for Frances Albinia Wilson (1972).

Series 5 Photographs

Photographs separated from this collection have been listed, digitised and allocated the following Photographic Collection call numbers: BELCHER.D01.BW, BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF.

The original prints of BELCHER.D02.DF and BELCHER.D03.DF have been physically retained with the Manuscript papers. The original negatives of BELCHER.D01.BW have been retained by the Photographic section due to preservation storage requirements.

Item

- 1 BELCHER.D03.DF
Caption list and photographs of residents, visitors, scenery, wildlife, activities and other aspects of life on Mornington Island compiled by Doreen Belcher. The captions are typed and handwritten.
- 2 BELCHER.D02.DF
Photographic prints with captions on the back collected by Mavis Hall who later sent them to Douglas Belcher. This collection also includes photocopies of the photographs and the captions.
- 3 BELCHER.D01.BW

MS 4706 Douglas and Doreen Belcher papers

Photographs taken on Mornington Island. The original negatives of BELCHER.D01.BW have been retained by the Photographic section due to preservation storage requirements.

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BOX LIST

| Series | Folder or Item | Box |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1-5 | 1 |
| 1 | 6-10 | 2 |
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| 1 | 16-18 | 4 |
| 2 | [1] | 5 |
| 3 | 1-5 | 5 |
| 4 | 1a-2, 5-10 | 5 |
| 4 | 3-4 | Oversize |
| 4 | 11a | 6 |
| 4 | 11b | Plan Cabinet PC7-2 |
| 4 | 12-27a | 6 |
| 4 | 27b | Plan Cabinet PC7-2 |
| 4 | 28a | 6 |
| 4 | 28b | Oversize |
| 4 | 29-31 | 6 |
| 4 | 32a | 7 |
| 4 | 32b | Oversize |
| 4 | 33-43a | 7 |
| 4 | 43b | Plan Cabinet PC7-2 |

MS 4706 Douglas and Doreen Belcher papers

| Series | Folder or Item | Box |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 4 | 44 | 7 |
| 4 | 45 | Oversize |
| 4 | 46 | 7 |
| 4 | 47-58a | 8 |
| 4 | 58b | Oversize |
| 4 | 59-63a | 8 |
| 4 | 63b | Oversize |
| 4 | 64-65 | 8 |
| 5 | 1-2 | 9 |

Finding aid compiled by Judy Churches, January 2011; updated by P. Brady, March 2016; and Man-Ting Hsu, February 2021.

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