



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5097

Wangkajunga (Kurungal) Community, West Kimberley, WA 1982-84

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Collection Summary

Creator:	Bolger, Audrey
Title:	Wangkajunga (Kurungal) Community, West Kimberley, WA 1982-84
Collection no:	MS 5097
Reference code:	R01531 MAR
Date range:	1979-1985
Extent:	0.174 linear metres (1 archival box)
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:

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, 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.

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Series 1 (tape transcriptions) and Series 2 (Item 1-3, 5, 9 and 10): Open access - reading. Open copying & quotation. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Series 2, Item 4, 6, 7 and 8 (contain families and personal information and genealogies): Closed access. Closed copying & quotation. CEO's permission. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

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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 Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

Wangkajunga (Kurungal) Community, West Kimberley, WA 1982-84, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5097, Series 1, Item 1.

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Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

This collection is comprised of tape transcriptions and fieldnotes collected and created by Audrey Bolger. Her research was conducted in the Wangkajunga (Kurungal) Community at Christmas Creek, West Kimberley, WA from 1982 to 1984. Audrey Bolger deposited the material with AIATSIS in September 2011. The contents describe different aspects of the Community such as biographies, economics, history and law. The collection is divided into two series: (1) Tape transcriptions and (2) Papers about Christmas Creek.

Provenance

In September 2011, Audrey Bolger deposited the material related to her research about the Wangkajunga (Kurungal) Community at Christmas Creek. The contents include fieldnotes, colour slides, audio cassettes, tape transcriptions and photographs.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

In keeping with current AIATSIS collection archival practices, the colour slides and photographs were transferred to the Photographic collection and the audio cassettes were transferred to the Audiovisual collection.

The colour slides (BOLGER.A01.CS) and photographs (BOLGER.A01.DF) have been digitised.

The audio recording is BOLGER_A01. Transcriptions of some of the audio recordings can be found in this collection (MS 5097), Series 1, Item 1-2 and Series 2, Item 6-8. The audio finding aid is accessible through [Finding aid index page](#) or [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

MS 2466 is the final report for Audrey Bolger's research in 1982-1984, entitled *Kurungal women: socio-economic change amongst women of the Wangkajunga Community, Christmas Creek*.

For a complete list of works by Audrey Bolger 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 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

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Biographical history note

Audrey Bolger was a lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at the University of Western Australia when she conducted research in the Wangkajunga Community. She obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Master's degree from York, England.

In 1972, Bolger undertook fieldwork in the Province of Madang in Papua New Guinea, assisting with research on the national election held that year. From 1974 to 1975, she conducted research in the settlement of Ugandan Asian refugees in Bradford and York, England. From 1976 to 1980, Bolger's research focussed on political developments amongst Aboriginal Communities in the Kimberley area of Western Australia. This involved several visits to Aboriginal Communities in the West Kimberley, WA.

In 1981, Bolger received an AIAS Grant to undertake a study at Christmas Creek station, near Fitzroy Crossing, West Kimberley, WA, entitled *Study of economic change among women of the Wangkatjunka [Wangkajunga] Community*. The research focussed on the social situation and economic activities from the perspectives of Aboriginal women. In 1983, the AIAS provided Bolger with a limited (emergency) grant to support the continuation of her research. Bolger created and collected this material during fieldwork funded by these grants. Audrey Bolger published several papers and reports based on the material in this collection. See AIATSIS collection PMS 2584 (*Women's work - productive or non-productive*) and MS 2466 (*Kurungal women: socio-economic change amongst women of the Wangkajunga Community, Christmas Creek*).

In 1986, Bolger received third AIAS grant entitled *The impact of public sector activity on Aboriginal Communities in the East Kimberley region, WA*. This grant was part of the

East Kimberley Impact Assessment Project; a multi-disciplinary project designed to assess the social impact of major resource developments on Aboriginal Communities within the East Kimberley region. The project also established a framework to enable Communities to develop their own strategies for managing social impact issues.

References

AIATSIS Corporate file, 1981/00052 A Bolger Grants - Individual.

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Controlled Access Headings

Kroonull Community
Wangkatjungka Community
Wangkatjungka / Christmas Creek (WA West Kimberley SE51-12)
Bayulu / Gogo (WA West Kimberley SE51-12)
Fitzroy River (WA Kimberley SE51, SE52)
Fitzroy Crossing (WA West Kimberley SE51-12)
Wangkajunga people A87
Bunuba people K5
Walmajarri people A66
Wangkajunga language A87
Aboriginal Australians - Western Australia - Christmas Creek region - Social life and customs
Women, Aboriginal Australian - Western Australia - Christmas Creek region
Occupations - Pastoral industry workers
History - Oral history
History - Biographies - Indigenous - Autobiographies
Outstations / Homelands movement
Education - Schools
Religions - Christianity
Law - Indigenous
Ceremonies - Women
History - Biographies - Indigenous
Culture
History - Genealogy and family history
Hunting, gathering and fishing
Food - Bush tucker
Employment

Subsistence and economy
Community development

Archivists note

The series are compiled according to the subject, which reflects Audrey Bolger's original order. The title and description of the items are transcribed from the information on the material provided by Bolger. The '[']' is added next to Audrey Bolger's spelling, e.g. Kroonul [Kroonull], to emphasise the standardised spelling used today (2021).

The facsimiles have been photocopied for preservation. Please access the copies instead of the original facsimiles.

Please be aware that some material in this collection contains personal and genealogical information. 'Restricted' has been stamped on the outside of the folders that are closed access (Series 2, Item 4, 6, 7 and 8).

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Series Description

Series 1 Tape transcriptions

AIATSIS audiovisual collection BOLGER_A01 includes the audio recordings collected by Bolger during fieldwork in 1982. Audrey Bolger deposited the audiotapes along with the transcriptions in 2011. They record the lifestyle, individual and family histories and local peoples' work at pastoral stations.

Item

- 1 Tape transcriptions - Olive Bieundurry
Transcriptions of Tape 11 and Tape 12.
- 2 Tape transcriptions - Christmas Creek
Transcriptions of Tape 1, 2, 2a, 3a, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

Series 2 Papers about Christmas Creek

This Series contains papers about Christmas Creek including biographies, economics, history, law and events. The papers were collected through interviews and participant observation.

Folder / Item

- 1 Kroonul [Kroonull](Christmas Creek, Ngumban, Windmill) - background (1976-1980)
Background information of Kroonull Community, including people, place and development.
- 2 Wangkujunga - history
Information of local history from the readings and the interviews.
- 3 Christmas Creek - general
Notes about Wangkajunga Community, alcohol, children, Christianity, education, families, health, culture, law business, woman's law, marriage and kinship, deaths, dreaming, sacred place, single girls, transport, etc.
- 4 Christmas Creek - population, houses and families
Notes about population, family members, and State Housing Commission (SHC) house allocation in 1982. **Close access - contains families and personal information.**
- 5 Christmas Creek - economic
Notes about bush food, hunting and gathering, clothes, employment, SHC housing, Community housemaker, station and store.
- 6 Christmas Creek - biographies (Group 1)
Close access - contains personal information and genealogies. Original transcription of tape 2a, 3a, and 10 are included (see also Series 1, Item 2).
- 7 Christmas Creek - biographies (Group 2)
Close access - contains personal information and genealogies. Original transcription of tape 1, 5 (see also Series 1, Item 2), and 4 are included.
- 8 Christmas Creek - biographies (Group 3)
Close access - contains personal information and genealogies. Original transcription of tape 6 (see also Series 1, Item 2) is included.
- 9 Jitaparru School (1984)
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, and notes about establishing a secondary school in the Wangkajunga Community. The Community attempted to improve

Aboriginal education, obtain more control of what their children are taught at school, and create an environment for the children to learn their own language and culture.

10 Christmas Creek 1984-1985

Newspaper clippings of events in the Wangkajunga Community in 1984-1985, such as Kimberley pastoral stations selling, land bid, Aboriginal women's rights and accidents. Notes about accidents, houses, land interests, law, women's law, and Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route (CSR). Regional proposal - Community workers' staff tool. Correspondence about Project Officer of Junjuwa and Wangkajunga Community.

Box List

Series	Item	Box
1	1-2	1
2	1-10	1

Finding aid compiled by Man-Ting Hsu, August 2021.

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