



# AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

## Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5293

### First Australians

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## Collection Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Perkins, Rachel and Dale, Darren
<b>Title:</b>	First Australians
<b>Collection no:</b>	MS 5293
<b>Reference code:</b>	MAR14/107 / R00915
<b>Date range:</b>	2001 - 2008
<b>Extent:</b>	4.22 linear metres (24 archival boxes)
<b>Repository:</b>	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

Open access - reading. Closed copying & quotation. CEO and/or Depositor's permission. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Series 2, Series 12 and Series 8, part of Item 5 (separately housed): Closed access – Executive Director of Collections Services' permission. Closed copying and quotation – CEO and/or Depositor's permission. Not for Inter-Library Loan.

Series 3, Item 4 and 7, and Series 4, Item 3, part 11– Closed access and use. Access to original digital materials in this collection is currently unavailable.

### Access and use conditions - further information

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](#) if they have been digitised. AIATSIS Manuscripts are not available for Interlibrary loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

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### Preferred citation

## MS 5293: First Australians

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:

Notes via email from Louis Nowra re episode 4, 1 December 2006, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5293, Series 1, Subseries 6, Item 1.

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## Collection Overview

### Scope and contents note

This collection contains materials related to the production of the seven-part television series 'First Australians', commissioned by SBS Australia and produced by Blackfella Films. The materials include: synopses, treatments and scripts for each episode; records relating to community consultations; Press clippings, promotional and marketing materials; research material for each episode; production documents; First Australians Online Project documents; interview transcripts; location, stills and footage clearances; *First Australians* the book draft chapters; journals and notebooks of Rachel Perkins and Beck Cole.

The materials were produced from 2001-2008, and are related to people, country and communities throughout Australia. While most of the material was produced by the Blackfella Films team, there is also material produced by people and organisations employed by Blackfella Films.

This collection contains both physical and digital material.

### Provenance

This collection was deposited at AIATSIS in 2009 by Rachel Perkins, as part of the Cultural Gifts Program.

### Material separated from the collection

Material separated from the collection is as follows:

PERKINS\_DALE\_01:           First Australians rough cuts  
                                  First Australians rushes - book footage  
                                  First Australians rushes - London footage

## MS 5293: First Australians

First Australians rushes - landscape footage

First Australians - episode masters

First Australians trailers

First Australians rushes - interviews footage

### Related material

Material related to this collection includes the following items, held at AIATSIS:

305.89915 PER DVD	First Australians [videorecording]
REF 994.0049915 PER	First Australians: an illustrated history / edited by Rachel Perkins and Marcia Langton.

For a complete list of works by Rachel Perkins, Blackfella Films or Darren Dale, 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)

### Administrative note

Blackfella Films was founded in 1992 by writer, director and producer Rachel Perkins. Producer Darren Dale joined in 2001. In 2010 Blackfella Films was a recipient of Enterprise funding from Screen Australia. In 2011 Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale, as directors of Blackfella Films, were ranked number 16 in the Encore Power 50. It was the most influential players in the Australian film and television industry.

*First Australians*, a seven-part series which first aired in 2008, was produced by Rachel Perkins, Darren Dale and Helen Panckhurst, and directed by Rachel Perkins and Beck Cole. The series was broadcast in Australia on SBS Television to over 2.3 million viewers, and was accompanied by an interactive website and the book *First Australians* edited by Rachel Perkins and Marcia Langton et al. *First Australians* was awarded Australia's top honours for a documentary series production including the Australian Film Institute (AFI) and IF Awards, the UN Media Peace Prize, TV Week Logie and Australian Writers and Directors Guild Awards. *First Australians* has sold internationally and is the highest selling educational title in Australia.

### References

Blackfella Films, <http://blackfellafilms.com.au/about/>, 2021

## Controlled Access Headings

Blackfella Films  
Special Broadcasting Service Corporation  
Documentary film Australia  
Documentary television programs Australia  
Media - Broadcast media - Television

## Series Description

### Series 1      **Synopses, treatments and scripts**

MS 5293/1      This series contains drafts and edits of synopses, treatments and scripts for the First Australians episodes. These were mostly written and drafted before the series became seven episodes, so most documents are labelled with previous episode numbering.

### Subseries 1      **Synopses**

MS 5293/1/1      The following documents reflect the changing structure of the series expressed through the synopsis spanning from August 2002 through to July 2008.

#### Item

MS 5293/1/1/1	July 2008 – 9 pages
MS 5293/1/1/2	8 November 2007 – 11 pages
MS 5293/1/1/3	August 2005 – 9 pages
MS 5293/1/1/4	30 June 2004 – 2 pages
MS 5293/1/1/5	11 November 2003 – 8 pages
MS 5293/1/1/6	15 November 2002 – 3 pages
MS 5293/1/1/7	15 November 2002 (with Rachel Perkins notes) – 3 pages
MS 5293/1/1/8	Episode breakdown synopsis, undated, 2 pages
MS 5293/1/1/9	First draft chronological synopsis – undated, by Rachel Perkins – 2 pages
MS 5293/1/1/10	31 August 2002 – 3 pages

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### Subseries 2      **Treatments**

MS 5293/1/2      These treatments were undertaken by Rachel Perkins, Julie Nimmo, Darren Dale, Erica Glynn and John Hughes during 2002. They represent an initial different approach, being 'thematic', rather than the final character-based approach used in the series. The thematic approach was abandoned after receiving advice meeting with Ken Burns, documentary filmmaker, in Sydney.

#### **Item**

MS 5293/1/2/1      Thematic Treatment breakdown from whiteboard notes 10 March 2002

MS 5293/1/2/2      Home – by Rachel Perkins, 30 September 2002

MS 5293/1/2/3      'Dreaming' – by John Hughes, 28 August 2002

MS 5293/1/2/4      Law – by John Hughes, 4 versions undated – probably late 2002

MS 5293/1/2/5      'Skin' – by Erica Glynn 17 October 2002

MS 5293/1/2/6      'War' – by Julie Nimmo undated (probably late 2002-2007)

MS 5293/1/2/7      Technology – by Darren Dale undated (probably late 2002)

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### Subseries 3      **Pre 'contact episode' drafts**

MS 5293/1/3      At various times the creative team tried to tackle the period of Indigenous occupation prior to colonization. The various treatments and scripts enclosed testify to the difficulty of this content in forming a strong narrative and its contrasting style to the rest of the series.

#### **Item**

MS 5293/1/3/1      Proposal for episode 1 – extracted from an article by Marcia Langton and Bruno David, undated circa 2002 – 17 pages



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- MS 5293/1/3/2 A step outline by Ian David, 20 May 2004 – 6 pages
- MS 5293/1/3/3 Rough draft script, by Ian David, undated – 15 pages
- MS 5293/1/3/4 Episode 1 'The Dreaming', by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins  
September 2005 – 23 pages
- MS 5293/1/3/5 A Treatment for an introductory episode, preliminary draft,  
September 2006 – 21 pages

### **Subseries 4 Scripts Episode 1 (Comprising scripts from those originally titled Ep 2/3)**

- MS 5293/1/4 As production of the series evolved, episode numbers changed. Initially it was thought there would be a 'pre-contact' episode, called episode 1. This was later rejected, so early scripts identified as 'episode 2' – became 'episode 1'. What began as episode 2 and 3, were joined into one introductory episode. All scripts that read episode 2 and 3, finally became episode 1 - a ninety-minute film which was cut together from both episodes after shooting, in the edit suite, and which was never scripted. The script which began life as episodes 2 and 3, are still grouped into the two episodes from which they evolved.

### **Item**

- MS 5293/1/4/1 First Contact 1770-1835 – Timeline/notes – rough sketch by R Perkins and Erica Glynn 3 December 2002 – 26 pages
- MS 5293/1/4/2 Second draft treatment, episode 3, 25 January 2003, by Rachel Perkins 25 Jan 2003 – 16 pages and 16 pages
- MS 5293/1/4/3 Treatment, episode 3, 1788-1792, 8 January 2003, (with Erica Glynn notes) – 17 pages plus 3 pages notes from Erica Glynn
- MS 5293/1/4/4 Third draft treatment, episode 3, 1788 – 1792, 12 March 2003
- MS 5293/1/4/5 First Australian Nations – early draft script, 16 April, with changes – 11 pages
- MS 5293/1/4/6 Episode 2 – 'They have come to stay' preliminary first draft by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins, undated – 31 pages
- MS 5293/1/4/7 Episode 2, first draft – 31 pages
- MS 5293/1/4/8 Keith Vincent Smith comments, April 2003

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MS 5293/1/4/9	Second draft of first draft, R Perkins comments
MS 5293/1/4/10	Louis Nowra draft, episode 1, 8 February 2006 – 43 Pages
MS 5293/1/4/11	R Perkins first draft of second draft, episode 1, with Rachel Perkins notes, 37 pages
MS 5293/1/4/12	Episode 1, 4 May 2006 with Rachel Perkins notes – 53 pages
MS 5293/1/4/13	Comments from Jeremy Steele, on episode 1 shooting script, 17 May 2006 - 53 pages (double sided)
MS 5293/1/4/14	Comments from Professor Gordon Briscoe, on episode 1 shooting script, 17 May 2006 – 53 pages (double sided)
MS 5293/1/4/15 with	First draft treatment (titled Episode 3) 1792-1824, 25 May 2003, Rachel Perkins Notes – 15 pages
MS 5293/1/4/16	First draft of first draft script, 27 May 2003, with Rachel Perkins notes – 29 pages
MS 5293/1/4/17	First draft script, episode 3, 1792-1824, 23 September 2003 (bound) – 33 pages
MS 5293/1/4/18	R Perkins draft of episode 2, 6 March – no year – 55 pages
MS 5293/1/4/19	Episode 2: an open war 1791-1825, 15 March 2006 with consultation notes taken by Rachel Perkins in March/April 2006 – 42 pages
MS 5293/1/4/20	Readers report, episode 2 ‘An open war’, by Peter Read
MS 5293/1/4/21	Shooting script. 20 April 2006 – 48 pages
MS 5293/1/4/22	Episode 2: ‘An open war’ shooting script 16 May 2006 with Rachel Perkins notes – 53 pages
MS 5293/1/4/23	Episode 2: An open war (with hand amendment) 1791-1825, blue page shooting script 16 May 2006, with Jeremy Steele comments – 48 pages

### Subseries 5

### Scripts Episode 2

MS 5293/1/5	Similarly to other scripts, the Tasmanian episode began life titled episode 4, then episode 3, but ultimately became episode 2 as the series evolved. Initially, the treatments were developed by Rachel Perkins and Erica Glynn, followed by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins as co-writers. On the final drafts Beck Cole collaborated with some assistance from Louis Nowra. These hard copies
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represent a sample of a greater number of drafts created from 2002-2006 for what became episode 2.

### Item

- MS 5293/1/5/1 Rough content – episode 4 1824-1838 – handwritten note from Rachel Perkins: Erica's notes Episode 4, 2002.
- MS 5293/1/5/2 Third draft treatment – episode 4 – 2002, with Rachel Perkins notes – 21 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/3 Episode 4, stamped 15 December 2003 first draft (treatment), by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins – 32 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/4 Episode 4, hand titled 'second draft of first draft' by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins, with Rachel Perkins notes, hand dated by R Perkins; 30 March 2004 – 44 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/5 Cole Episode 4, first draft, First Australians, 31 March 2004, with Beck notes – 41 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/6 Naomi Parry notes on first draft, pages 1-9
- MS 5293/1/5/7 First Australians, episode 4, final draft of first draft, 31 March 2004, with Rachel Perkins notes – 39 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/8 Notes in email from Glenys Rowe, 28 April 2004, based on 31 March 2004 draft
- MS 5293/1/5/9 Episode 3 – revised second draft, 7 March 2006 – 26 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/10 Episode 3, revised 13 March 2006, Louis [Nowra] reversion of Beck's amendment – with Beck's notes – 20 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/11 Episode 3, revised, 15 March 2006 – 55 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/12 Episode 3, second Draft with notes from Clyde Mansell, 7 April 2006 – 49 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/13 Episode 3, 7 April 2006 second draft with notes from James Boyce. Almost duplicate of MS 5293/1/5/12 – 51 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/14 Episode 3 – 15 May 2006 – second draft – 51 pages
- MS 5293/1/5/15 Episode 3, 8 June 2006, third draft by Beck Cole and Louis Nowra
- MS 5293/1/5/16 First Australians episode 3: Tasmania-behind the mountain' by Louis Nowra and Beck Cole, third draft, 7 July 2006 with James Boyce notes – 53 pages

## MS 5293: First Australians

- MS 5293/1/5/17 First Australians episode 3 : Tasmania-behind the mountain' by Louis Nowra and Beck Cole, third draft, 7 July 2006 with Beck Cole notes – 53 pages. Duplicate of MS 5293/1/5/16.
- MS 5293/1/5/18 First Australians, episode 3 Tasmania-behind the mountain (working title) 1824-1876. Revised shooting script, 18 July 2006 written by Louis Nowra and Beck Cole

### **Subseries 6      Scripts Episode 3**

- MS 5293/1/6 This episode, similar to other episodes, changed its number mid-way through the process, so all scripts are identified as episode 4, although they ultimately informed episode 3.

#### **Item**

- MS 5293/1/6/1 Notes via email from Louis Nowra re episode 4, 1 December 2006
- MS 5293/1/6/2 First Australians episode 4: free as any white men, shooting script 21 July 2006, written by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins – 59 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/3 First Australians episode 4 'Live like white men almost', interim third draft script (V3), 23 June 2006 – includes Rachel Perkins notes and amendments in red – 76 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/4 Notes from Ian Clarke, episode 4 'Live like white men almost, second draft script, May 2006 – 2 pages plus script cover page
- MS 5293/1/6/5 'Live like white men almost' episode 4 of an eight-part series *First Australians*, by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins second draft, 24 May 2006, with Rachel Perkins notes - 71 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/6 Episode 5, 'Free as any white man' (working title) first draft, by Louis Nowra and Rachel Perkins, July 2005 – 56 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/7 Notes from Glenys Rowe, Executive Producer, SBS Television, re script 16 June 2004 – 2 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/8 First Australian Nations first draft episode 5, 30 June 2004 – 50 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/9 First Australian Nations episode 5, second draft of first draft, 25 June 2004 – 43 pages
- MS 5293/1/6/10 Episode 5, handwritten note 'first draft of first draft with Rachel P's comments' date 1 May 2005'. Includes R Perkins' notes and excess at end of script – 51 pages

## MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/1/6/11 Episode 5, handwritten 'first 10 pages of first draft' with Rachel Perkins notes

### **Subseries 7      Scripts Episode 4**

MS 5293/1/7 This episode, like others was renamed. It began with elements of material from South Australia, which formed part of the early Victorian episode. Although these elements were transferred to the next episode, they were subsequently taken out and not included in the series. Ultimately episode 4 focused mostly on Central Australia.

#### **Item**

- MS 5293/1/7/1 First Australians, episode 5 'Central Australia' 1891-1928, draft script for consultations, 2 April 2007. Written by Rachel Perkins. Includes written comments by Dick Kimber – 51 pages.
- MS 5293/1/7/2 Episode 6 preliminary draft, hand marked 'Louis old draft' – 45 pages
- MS 5293/1/7/3 Episode 5, 25 September 2006 – 36 pages
- MS 5293/1/7/4 Episode 5 'The Final Frontier', preliminary script, 3 October 2006, written by Rachel Perkins and Louis Nowra – 58 pages.
- MS 5293/1/7/5 Episode 5, shooting revisions, 27 April 2007- 50 pages

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### **Subseries 8      Scripts Episode 5**

MS 5293/1/8 This episode began by having some Queensland material included but was redrafted to focus solely on Western Australia.

#### **Item**

- MS 5293/1/8/1 Episode 6, by Louis Nowra, 'first draft' in handwritten note dated 17 September 2004 – 48 pages
- MS 5293/1/8/2 Louis [Nowra] draft April – handwritten note '2006' - 53 pages
- MS 5293/1/8/3 First Australians episode 6 'The cultivation of whiteness' 1894-1936, preliminary script, second draft, May 18, Beck Cole and Louis Nowra – 36 pages

## MS 5293: First Australians

- MS 5293/1/8/4 First Australians, episode 8, 'The cultivation of whiteness' (working title), preliminary first draft by Louise Nowra, undated, 34 pages
- MS 5293/1/8/5 Episode 6 - Western Australia - third draft, 11 October 2006 – 39 pages

### **Subseries 9 Scripts Episode 6**

- MS 5293/1/9 Episode 6 was previously known as episode 7 and sometimes 8. In the final stages of drafting the scripts for this episode, it became apparent that there were too many characters for one episode. A decision was made to extend the script to include the Mabo decision in this episode. A treatment was prepared which refocused the episode, from which a shooting draft was adapted.

### **Item**

- MS 5293/1/9/1 First Australians, episode 7, shooting script, 4 May 2007 – 36 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/2 Treatment for revised episode, 2 April 2007, by Louis Nowra and Beck Cole – 7 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/3 First Australians episode 7, 'Our own destiny' 1936-1939, preliminary script issued 3 October 2006 – page 53
- MS 5293/1/9/4 Episode 7, by Beck Cole, 9 June 2006 – 59 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/5 Episode 9 'A new deal' preliminary first draft – 29 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/6 Episode 7 'Our own destiny' (working title), 3 October 2006, by Rachel Perkins and Louis Nowra – 39 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/7 Episode 8 (7 hand correction) 'Our own destiny', September 2005, by Rachel Perkins and Louis Nowra – 47 pages
- MS 5293/1/9/8 First Australians, episode 8 – first draft 'Our own destiny', by Rachel Perkins and Louis Nowra dated 7 September 2005 – 35 pages

### **Subseries 10 Scripts Episode 7**

- MS 5293/1/10 These scripts were developed late in the process and were written by Rachel Perkins in order to include the Mabo decision and extend the series into the twentieth century.

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### Item

- MS 5293/1/10/1 First Australians, episode 8 'A new deal', shooting script, 11 November 2007, 1951-1967 (corrected to 1993) written by Rachel Perkins and Louis Nowra
- MS 5293/1/10/2 First Australians episode 8, September 2007, (handwritten notes 'first and shooting draft') – 35 pages

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### Series 2

### Community Consultations

MS 5293/2 This series contains materials relating to consultations with community regarding content within the series. Documents include payments made to consultants, an outline of the consultation process, consultations lists for each episode, correspondence, timetables and itineraries, and feedback. Further feedback on scripts can be found in the script files contained in Series 1.

Due to privacy reasons: **Closed access – Executive Director of Collections Services' permission. Closed copying and quotation CEO and/or Depositor's permission.**

### Item

- MS 5293/2/1 'First Australians': Community consultation outline and process
- MS 5293/2/2 'First Australians': payments made to consultants
- MS 5293/2/3 Episode 1 (previously episodes 1 and 2): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.
- MS 5293/2/4 Episode 2 (previously episodes 3 and 4): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.
- MS 5293/2/5 Episode 3 (previously episode 4): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.
- MS 5293/2/6 Episode 4 (previously episode 5): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.
- MS 5293/2/7 Episode 5 (previously episodes 6 and 7): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.

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MS 5293/2/8 Episode 6 (previously episodes 7 and 8): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.

MS 5293/2/9 Episode 7 (previously episodes 8 and 9): lists of consultants, consultation plans and timetables, correspondence and feedback.

### Series 3 **Press, promotion and marketing materials**

MS 5293/3 This series includes original and duplicate press clippings and documentation in regard to the 'Logie' awards, as well as promotional material and study guides for each of the episodes.

#### Item

MS 5293/3/1 Viewer feedback. Includes letters, emails and cards from viewers.

MS 5293/3/2 Web feedback

MS 5293/3/3 Marketing plan

MS 5293/3/4 Press kit and stills. Includes CD of press kit stills.

**CD: Close access and use.** Housed separately. Access to original digital materials in this collection is currently unavailable, while AIATSIS develops its digital preservation and management infrastructure.

MS 5293/3/5 Audience testing

MS 5293/3/6 Ratings

MS 5293/3/7 Marketing materials. Includes promo and trailer DVDs, Sydney Morning Herald promotional DVDs, posters, flyers and booklets.

**DVDs: Close access and use.** Housed separately. Access to original digital materials in this collection is currently unavailable, while AIATSIS develops its digital preservation and management infrastructure.

MS 5293/3/8 Promotional activity booklet

MS 5293/3/9 Press clippings. Includes newspaper clippings, media monitor reports, reviews and notes from SBS commissioning meetings, 2008

MS 5293/3/10 Awards. Includes material from Logie Awards and NSW Premier's Literary Awards



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MS 5293/3/11 Study guides. Episodes 1-7.

### **Series 4 Research material**

MS 5293/4 This series contains research material for each of the episodes. Documents include research commissioned for the series, as well as copies of books, journals, clippings and articles in relation to the periods and characters represented.

Most material is indexed at the beginning of each group of numbered files.

#### **Item**

MS 5293/4/1 Research material for episode 1. Three parts.

MS 5293/4/2 Research material for episode 2. Five parts.

MS 5293/4/3 Research material for episode 3. Ten parts.

Part 11: CD - Coranderrk Enquiry 1881 (PROV). **Close access and use.** Access to original digital materials in this collection is currently unavailable, while AIATSIS develops its digital preservation and management infrastructure.

MS 5293/4/4 Research material for episode 4. Eight parts.

MS 5293/4/5 Research material for episode 5. Three parts.

MS 5293/4/6 Research material for episode 6. Six parts.

MS 5293/4/7 Research material for episode 7. Three parts. Part two contains original of 'Interim report of field research on the Torres Strait Islands', 1979, hand-addressed from George Ohshima to Murray Lui, Chairman of Coconut Island. Copies of this report held at pMS 3809.

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### **Series 5 Production documents**

MS 5293/5 This series contains production documents for the series. These include call, sound and camera sheets, progress reports, negative reports, post-production scripts, interview questions, timelines and

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bibliographies, as well as correspondence from various investors throughout the lifespan of the series. Logistic documents such as budgets and schedules are also included.

### Item

MS 5293/5/1	Production documents for episode 1. Includes daily progress reports, call sheets, camera sheets, sound sheets and negative reports.
MS 5293/5/2	Production documents for episode 2. Includes daily progress reports, call sheets, camera sheets and sound sheets.
MS 5293/5/3	Production documents for episode 3. Includes daily progress reports, call sheets, camera sheets, sound sheets and negative reports.
MS 5293/5/4	Production documents for episode 4. Includes daily progress reports, call sheets, camera sheets, negative reports and sound sheets.
MS 5293/5/5	Production documents for episode 5. Includes daily progress reports, call sheets, camera sheets, negative reports and sound sheets.
MS 5293/5/6	Production documents for episode 6. Includes call sheets, daily progress reports, camera sheets, sounds sheets and some negative reports.
MS 5293/5/7	Production documents for episode 7. Includes call sheets, camera sheets and sounds sheets.
MS 5293/5/8	Bibliographies and timelines for episodes 2 and 4, chronology of significant events, research on Aboriginal chronological history, and timeline of Aboriginal resistance.
MS 5293/5/9	Investors correspondence from Film Australia, SBS, Rhea Stephenson, Denise Eriksen, Film Finance Corporation Australia, John Hughes, Screenwest, New South Wales Film and Television Office, Ken Burns.
MS 5293/5/10	Shoot schedules and post schedules.
MS 5293/5/11	Budget and finance. Includes cost report and audit report.
MS 5293/5/12	Interview questions. Includes question lists for individual interviewees and episodes.
MS 5293/5/13	Scene and shooting breakdowns

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MS 5293/5/14	Post-production script - episode 1
MS 5293/5/15	Post-production script - episode 2
MS 5293/5/16	Post-production script - episode 3
MS 5293/5/17	Post-production script - episode 4
MS 5293/5/18	Post-production script - episode 5
MS 5293/5/19	Post-production script - episode 6
MS 5293/5/20	Post-production script - episode 7
MS 5293/5/21	Credit lists. episodes 1-7.
MS 5293/5/22	Crew list

### Series 6

### Online Material Documents

MS 5293/6 This series contains material relating to the First Australians Online Project, a virtual project accompanying the TV series. Documents include scripts and overviews, budget and funding material, feedback and correspondence.

#### Item

MS 5293/6/1	Online script, written by Rachel Perkins, February 2008
MS 5293/6/2	List of 'Branches' (stories) and their status
MS 5293/6/3	First Australians Online Project meta data List
MS 5293/6/4	First Australians Online Project summaries and overviews. First Australians overview, First Australians scoping document, First Australians Online Project summary 26 March 2007, Capstone student paper by Wendy Thompson Spring 2007
MS 5293/6/5	Material by Ross Gibson: Draft 'pitch' to SBS of online presence (not used) and First Australian Nations Information Technology (draft proposal for ARC linkage project)
MS 5293/6/6	Australian Film Commission correspondence 13 Nov 2008 and 17 January 2008
MS 5293/6/7	Australian Film Commission funding application
MS 5293/6/8	First Australians website functional specifications
MS 5293/6/9	First Australians mini stories narration, 11 June 2008

## MS 5293: First Australians

- MS 5293/6/10 First Australians Online structure, creative meeting, 10 January 2008
- MS 5293/6/11 Online Project correspondence:  
First Australians feedback – Juno Games 7 October 2008  
Email from John Paul Marin indicating statistics site usage 24 June 2009 (see MS 5293/3/2 for online forum audience correspondence)  
Interactive Media Awards, Top 10 websites, 2008. Email and listings

### Series 7

### Interview transcripts

MS 5293/7 This series contains transcripts of interviews conducted for the television series. The interviews were used in the final episodes, as well as to inform and assist with research. Interviewees included Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal anthropologists, historians, writers and archaeologists.

The recorded interviews that relate to these transcripts can be found in the AIATSIS Moving Image collection in PERKINS\_DALE\_001. The AIATSIS item numbers are recorded alongside interview names below. For example, the Bill Allen transcript can be found at MS 5293/7/2, and the corresponding recorded interview can be found at PERKINS\_DALE\_001 - V09294\_38-40.

### Item

MS 5293/7/1	Interviewee biographies, episodes 1-7. Two copies.
MS 5293/7/2	Allen, Bill V09294_38-40
MS 5293/7/3	Andrews, Dillon V09294_166-167
MS 5293/7/4	Atkinson, Wayne V09294_86-89
MS 5293/7/5	Attwood, Bain V09294_193-195
MS 5293/7/6	Barker, June V09294_177-179
MS 5293/7/7	Berg, Jim V09294_285, V09294_90-93
MS 5293/7/8	Boyce, James V09294_65-67, V09294_292
MS 5293/7/9	Brennan, Frank V09294_231-235

### MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/7/10	Briggs, Carolyn	V09294_77-80
MS 5293/7/11	Briscoe, Gordon	V09294_4-9, V09294_15-17, V09294_121, V09294_123-125, V09294_244-254, V09294_264- 268, V09294_272-273
MS 5293/7/12	Broome, Richard	V09294_81-85, V09294_196-197
MS 5293/7/13	Chalker, Glenda	V09294_35-36
MS 5293/7/14	Clendinnen, Inga	V09294_44-48
MS 5293/7/15	Connor, John	V09294_10-14
MS 5293/7/16	Day, Ron	V09294_218-21
MS 5293/7/17	Dinah, Sam	V09294_161-162
MS 5293/7/18	Everett, Jim	V09294_64
MS 5293/7/19	Foley, Dennis	V09294_36-37
MS 5293/7/20	Frankland, Richard	V09294_195
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MS 5293/7/22	Gardiner, Margaret	V09294_102-107
MS 5293/7/23	Goodall, Heather	V09294_187-190
MS 5293/7/24	Gordon, Sue	V09294_150
MS 5293/7/25	Haebich, Anna	V09294_168-172
MS 5293/7/26	Keon Cohen, Brian	V09294_236-240
MS 5293/7/27	Kimber, Dick	V09294_130-138, 296-297
MS 5293/7/28	Kinnane, Steve	V09294_172-176
MS 5293/7/29	Kohen, Jim	V09294_31-34
MS 5293/7/30	Langton, Marcia	V09294_24-30, V09294_111-112, V09294_126-129, V09294_255- 263, V09294_269-271, V09294_280-281
MS 5293/7/31	Latz, Peter	V09294_147-149
MS 5293/7/32	Lester, Yami	V09294_184-186
MS 5293/7/33	Loos, Noel	V09294_203-206, V09294_217

### MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/7/34	Mabo, Bonita	V09294_226-229
MS 5293/7/35	Mabo, Gail	V09294_207-209
MS 5293/7/36	Mabo, Malcom	V09294_230
MS 5293/7/37	Madden, Allan	V09294_1-3
MS 5293/7/38	Malbunka, Herman	V09294_144-145
MS 5293/7/39	Malbunka, Mavis	V09294_145-146
MS 5293/7/40	Matthieson, Frances	V09294_200-201
MS 5293/7/41	Mansell, Darlene	V09294_53-56
MS 5293/7/42	McCalman, Janet	V09294_93-97
MS 5293/7/43	Mulvaney, John	V09294_113-116
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MS 5293/7/45	Murrindindi	Audio only - not held at AIATSIS
MS 5293/7/46	Nannup, Noel	V09294_153-154
MS 5293/7/47	Ockwell, Pat	V09294_102
MS 5293/7/48	Pascoe, Bruce	V09294_107-111, V09294_274-279
MS 5293/7/49	Passi, Dave	V09294_224-225
MS 5293/7/50	Patten, John	V09294_180-181
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MS 5293/7/52	Pedersen, Pam	V09294_191-192 (Pam Hendersen on AV FA)
MS 5293/7/53	Pitchford, Phyllis	not found (Phyllis Purdon?)
MS 5293/7/54	Prosser, Phillip	V09294_163-164
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MS 5293/7/56	Purdon, Girlie	V09294_62
MS 5293/7/57	Read, Peter	V09294_41-44, V09294_182-183
MS 5293/7/58	Reed, Liz	V09294_73-76
MS 5293/7/59	Reynolds, Henry	V09294_58-61
MS 5293/7/60	Ryan, Lyndall	V09294_68-72, V09294_298-299

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MS 5293/7/61	Salee, Meb	V09294_222-223
MS 5293/7/62	Scott, Evelyn	V09294_210-212
MS 5293/7/63	Stuart, Max	V09294_139-143
MS 5293/7/64	Suttor, David	V09294_49-51
MS 5293/7/65	Tamiru, Jason	V09294_202
MS 5293/7/66	Tatnell, Faye	V09294_67
MS 5293/7/67	Turner, Alf	V09294_198-199
MS 5293/7/68	Vallee, Peter	V09294_117-121
MS 5293/7/69	Warber, Gerry	V09294_151-152
MS 5293/7/70	Whaleboat, Donald	V09294_213-16
MS 5293/7/71	Xiberas, Annette	Audio only - not held at AIATSIS

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## Series 8 Locations and Indigenous Copyright and Intellectual Property (ICIP)

MS 5293/8 This series includes correspondence and clearances from Indigenous stakeholders such as traditional owners and community elders regarding permission to shoot on country, in addition to image clearances. Material is divided into the episodes containing related footage. No material is held for episode 7.

Item 5 includes sensitive material, which has been housed separately. **Closed access – Executive Director of Collections Services’ permission. Closed copying and quotation CEO and/or Depositor’s permission.**

### Item

MS 5293/8/1	Episode 1 – Hanson Quarry, Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin, Finchley Trigg, Mt Yengo
MS 5293/8/2	Episode 2 – Gadigal, Darug, Bathurst, Yoo-long, episode 1 and 2; location notes
MS 5293/8/3	Episode 3 - Tasmania

## MS 5293: First Australians

- MS 5293/8/4 Episode 4 – Mt William, Coranderk, Merri Creek, Barak’s Grave, Yarra River, Yarra Ranges, Kirrae Wurrung, Wurundjeri families, Taungurung, Yorta Yorta, Hopkins River, Lake Connewarran, Twelve Apostles, Framlingham
- MS 5293/8/5 **Includes sensitive material, separately housed. Closed access – Executive Director of Collections Services’ permission. Closed copying and quotation CEO and/or Depositor’s permission.**  
Episode 5 – Arrernte groups, Hermannsberg, Uluru and Kata Tjuta, Emily Gap, Ellery Creek, Labrapuntja, Irbankura, Owen Springs, Idirrkewerre (Chambers Pillar), Undoolya Station, Heavitree Gap, Western McDonnell Ranges, Telegraph Station (Alice Springs)
- MS 5293/8/6 Episode 6 – Yorta-Yorta Nation, Moira Lakes, Murray River, Barmah

## Series 9

## Stills and footage correspondence

MS 5293/9 This series contains correspondence relating to research and permissions between stills researcher Lea Gardam (as well as other members of the production and writing / research team) and institutions, individuals and organisations in Australia and internationally holding copyright to images used in the production.

The items are arranged alphabetically by institution, organisation or individual.

### Item

- MS 5293/9/1 International images
- MS 5293/9/2 ABC
- MS 5293/9/3 AIATSIS
- MS 5293/9/4 Alice Springs Library
- MS 5293/9/5 Archives Office of Tasmania
- MS 5293/9/6 Arid Zone Research Institute
- MS 5293/9/7 Art Gallery of South Australia
- MS 5293/9/8 Australian War Memorial
- MS 5293/9/9 Art Gallery of New South Wales



## MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/9/10	Berndt Museum of Anthropology
MS 5293/9/11	British Library
MS 5293/9/12	British Museum
MS 5293/9/13	COLLAGE (Corporation of London Libraries and Guildhall Art Gallery)
MS 5293/9/14	Darren Dale
MS 5293/9/15	Encore Editions
MS 5293/9/16	Filmworld
MS 5293/9/17	Film Australia
MS 5293/9/18	Guildhall Library
MS 5293/9/19	Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales
MS 5293/9/20	A-H (Various)
MS 5293/9/21	Koorie Heritage Trust
MS 5293/9/22	Lutheran Archives
MS 5293/9/23	Keith Smith
MS 5293/9/24	Louis Nowra
MS 5293/9/25	Lindsay Cox
MS 5293/9/26	Alec Morgan
MS 5293/9/27	Museums Victoria
MS 5293/9/28	Muse'um D'Historie Naturelle
MS 5293/9/29	National Archives of Australia
MS 5293/9/30	National Film and Sound Archive
MS 5293/9/31	National Gallery of Australia
MS 5293/9/32	National Gallery of Victoria
MS 5293/9/33	National Library of Australia
MS 5293/9/34	National Portrait Gallery
MS 5293/9/35	Natural History Museum
MS 5293/9/36	Noel Butlin Archives Centre
MS 5293/9/37	Northern Territory Archives, Alice Springs

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MS 5293/9/38	Northern Territory Library and Information Services
MS 5293/9/39	National Maritime Museum
MS 5293/9/40	National Museum of Australia
MS 5293/9/41	Mowanjum Art & Culture Centre
MS 5293/9/42	Old Timer's Museum (including Strehlow Research Centre)
MS 5293/9/43	Parliamentary Library, Parliament of Victoria
MS 5293/9/44	Public Records Office of Victoria
MS 5293/9/45	Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery
MS 5293/9/46	Royal Historical Society of Victoria
MS 5293/9/47	Royal Western Australian Historical Society
MS 5293/9/48	Royal Geographical Society, London
MS 5293/9/49	Rachel Perkins
MS 5293/9/50	P, Q, R (Various)
MS 5293/9/51	S (Various)
MS 5293/9/52	Screensound Australia
MS 5293/9/53	South Australian Museum
MS 5293/9/54	State Library of New South Wales
MS 5293/9/55	State Library of South Australia
MS 5293/9/56	State Library of Tasmania
MS 5293/9/57	State Library of Victoria
MS 5293/9/58	State Library of Western Australia, Battye Library
MS 5293/9/59	State Records of South Australia
MS 5293/9/60	State Records of NSW
MS 5293/9/61	Strehlow Research Centre
MS 5293/9/62	State Russian Museum
MS 5293/9/63	T-U (Various)
MS 5293/9/64	Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery
MS 5293/9/65	University of Melbourne Archives

## MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/9/66	Ursula Raymond
MS 5293/9/67	Western Australian Museum
MS 5293/9/68	West Australian Newspaper
MS 5293/9/69	X, Y, Z (Various)

### Series 10

### Still Images

MS 5293/10 This series contains lists, printouts and metadata of archival images used in the TV series. All images are organised by the episode in which they appeared.

#### Item

MS 5293/10/1	Episode 1
MS 5293/10/2	Episode 2
MS 5293/10/3	Episode 3
MS 5293/10/4	Episode 4
MS 5293/10/5	Episode 5
MS 5293/10/6	Episode 6
MS 5293/10/7	Episode 7

### Series 11

### 'First Australians: an illustrated history' – draft chapters

MS 5293/11 This series contains drafts, notes, correspondence and mock-ups pertaining to the companion book to the TV series. The book was edited by Rachel Perkins and Marcia Langton and published by Miegunyah Press, a special imprint of Melbourne University Publishing in 2008. See AIATSIS REF 994.0049915 PER.

#### Item

MS 5293/11/1	Melbourne University Publishing. This item contains chapter and author lists, as well as correspondence from Melbourne University Publishing, the publishers of this book.
MS 5293/11/2	Prologue
MS 5293/11/3	Chapter 1

## MS 5293: First Australians

MS 5293/11/4	Chapter 2
MS 5293/11/5	Chapter 3
MS 5293/11/6	Chapter 4
MS 5293/11/7	Chapter 5
MS 5293/11/8	Chapter 6
MS 5293/11/9	Chapter 7
MS 5293/11/10	Epilogue

## Series 12 Journals and Notebooks

MS 5293/12 This series comprises the journals and notebooks of Rachel Perkins and Beck Cole that contain episode research, administrative notes, scheduling, meeting notes, contact information and more.

Due to privacy reasons: **Closed access – Executive Director of Collections Services permission. Closed copying and quotation CEO and/or Depositor’s permission.**

### Item

MS 5293/12/1	Rachel Perkins notebook – 2003-2004
MS 5293/12/2	Rachel Perkins notebook – Mid-October 2004
MS 5293/12/3	Rachel Perkins notebook – Late 2004-2005
MS 5293/12/4	Rachel Perkins notebook – October 2005-May 2006
MS 5293/12/5	Rachel Perkins notebook – May-December 2006
MS 5293/12/6	Rachel Perkins notebook – Late 2006-Early 2007
MS 5293/12/7	Rachel Perkins notebook – May-September 2007
MS 5293/12/8	Rachel Perkins notebook – September 2007-January 2008
MS 5293/12/9	Rachel Perkins notebook – January-July 2008
MS 5293/12/10	Beck Cole notebook – February 2006
MS 5293/12/11	Beck Cole notebook – episode 3
MS 5293/12/12	Beck Cole notebook – episode 9

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Finding aid compiled by Angela Schilling, December 2021.

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