



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5350

Papers of Richard Buchhorn

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MS 5350: Papers of Richard Buchhorn

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Collection Summary

Collection no:	MS 5350
Title:	Papers of Richard Buchhorn
Creator:	Buchhorn, Richard
Date range:	1983 – 2002
Extent:	0.09 linear metres (1 x Type 2 archival box)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Reference code:	MAR13/070

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, hearing recordings, seeing images or the names of deceased persons may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural beliefs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

Community

Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi people D23

Country

Boobera Lagoon (N NSW SH56-01)

Boggabilla (N NSW SH56-01)

Goondiwindi (SE Qld SH56-01)

Toomelah (N NSW SH56-01)

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

The collection is comprised of material relating to the protection and designation of Boobera Lagoon as a place of cultural and spiritual significance and includes Government reports, gazettes and correspondence; Boobera Lagoon Management Committee documents; personal correspondence; newspaper articles; press release and speeches and maps.

Provenance

The material was donated to AIATSIS by Richard Buchhorn in October 2013.

Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

Related material

For a complete list of works by Richard Buchhorn 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

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Open access reading. Open copying & quotation.

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 Inter-library loan, however they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions.

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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:

Paperwork regarding the protection of Boobera Lagoon. 2001-2002, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5350, Series 1, Folder 2.

Biographical history note

Richard James 'Dick' Buchhorn, born 1932, was an Australian social activist and former Catholic priest. He served in his capacity as a priest through the north and north-west regions of New South Wales from 1960 until his resignation in 1983.

Buchhorn championed a variety of issues, including the anti-apartheid movement and anti-Vietnam War protests. He worked with Murriss in the Boggabilla/Toomelah regions helping them document significant and sacred sites, including Boobera Lagoon, as well as their history.

Both before and after leaving the priesthood, Buchhorn helped successfully campaign for the protection and recognition of Boobera Lagoon as a place of cultural and spiritual significance to the Gomeri people.

References

Fox, Terry 2022 'Activist priest stood against Vietnam war, apartheid ... and fixed washing machines' Richard Buchhorn's Obituary, viewed 19 January 2023, <<https://www.smh.com.au/national/activist-priest-stood-against-vietnam-war-apartheid-and-fixed-washing-machines-20221208-p5c4ow.html>>

Archivists note

The description of this collection has been transcribed and/or devised from the information on the material provided by the donor.

Series 1, 1983-2002

Folder

- MS 5350/1/1 "Boobera Lagoon: A Focus for Reconciliation" Booklet Launch at St Paul's Seminary, Kensington NSW. 1983-1997
- Speeches by Hon. Justice Marcus Einfeld and Richard Buchhorn (July 7 1997); Media releases and assorted newspaper articles; Leaflet distributed in Toomelah and Boggabilla about Moree Plains Shire Meeting regarding Boobera Lagoon (22 June 1983).
- MS 5350/1/2 Paperwork regarding the protection of Boobera Lagoon. 2001-2002
- Notice in 'Courier Mail' regarding official protection of Boobera Lagoon under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protection Act; Correspondence, handwritten notes and Incident Reports regarding breaches of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 at Boobera Lagoon; Photocopied book chapter 'The Sacred Lagoon' from "Lighting the Way - Reconciliation Stories", ed. D. Johnson.
- Correspondence to and from: Hon. Philip Ruddock; Rosemary Kinne (Kuringai Partners); Kevin McCormack.
- MS 5350/1/3 Hastie Report. May 2000 – February 2001.
- Assorted photocopied and original newspaper articles from the 'Goondiwindi Argus'; Correspondence regarding Land Assessment at

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Boobera Lagoon from Senator Hon. Robert Hill (Minister for the Environment), Peter Hastie, Peter McGregor (UWS Nepean Reconciliation Group), Hal Wootten QC, Angie Dennison, Peter Thompson (Western Heritage Group Inc, Toomelah-Boggabilla Land Council Advisor), Department of Land and Water Conservation, Rodney Knock, Anne and Bill Byrne, Magistrate Sean Flood.

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Correspondence. February 1988 – May 2000.

Letters to and from: Bill Jonas (ATSI Social Justice Commissioner), Hon. Philip Ruddock, Bishop Kevin Manning, David Carrigan, Senator Hon. John Herron (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs), Dr. Tim Battin, Michael Costigan (Australian Social Justice Council), Darryl Melham, Frank Brennan, Sen. John Woodley, David Liddle or Lyndon (FAIRA - Land Rights Queensland), David Fagan (The Australian), Aden Ridgeway (Executive Director NSW Aboriginal Land Council), David Salter (Media Watch ABC), Mauro di Nicola, Anna Reynolds (ABC Radio), Land Resources and Environment Branch Crown Lands Office, Hon. Dr. Meredith Burgmann, John Anderson MHR; Political cartoon from Sydney Morning Herald (17 Aug 1996)

MS 5350/1/5

Correspondence, Notes and Government papers. April 1987-May 2001.

Photocopied documents including: Statement of reasons for placement of initial two year Heritage Protection Order on Boobera Lagoon; funding for water park facility at Goondiwindi; extract from Einfeld/HEROC Report; extracts from Wootten Report; extracts from Toomelah Report; press release from Senator Hon. Robert Hill regarding future of Boobera Lagoon; excerpt from New South Wales Government Gazette declaring Boobera Lagoon an 'Aboriginal Place'; Correspondence to Government Officials: Department of Land and Water Conservation and Senator John Herron; Notes prepared by Richard Buchhorn about Boobera Lagoon.

MS 5350/1/6

Boobera Lagoon Management Committee (BLMC). 1983-1997.

Minutes and official documentation including: Meetings of BLMC and Steering Committee for the Boobera Lagoon Management Plan; Draft constitution and suggested amendments; Photocopy of leaflet distributed in Toomelah and Boggabilla about Moree Plains Shire Meeting regarding Boobera Lagoon.

Letters to and from: Micko Duncan (Chair of Land Council). Colin Markham (Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs); Clover Moore NSW MLA; Irene Moss (Race Relations Commissioner - Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission (HREOC)); Greg Roberts (Sydney Morning Herald); Stan Zemanak (Radio 2UE, Sydney); Sir Ronald Wilson (President HREOC); Hon. Justice Marcus Einfeld.

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Maps and Correspondence. 1987-2000.

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Depiction of local region and towns inc. map of immediate local area around lagoon including roads and stock routes (two copies, one annotated); Leaflet "Boobera Lagoon: The Facts" detailing local importance; Letters between Richard Buchhorn, Senator Hon. John Herron and Herron's Chief of Staff Greg Hunting regarding implementation of Wootten Report; Letters between Richard Buchhorn and Hon. Hal Wootten QC regarding representation for the protection of Boobera Lagoon; Notice and Summary of Submissions Re: Boobera Lagoon: Application under s 10 of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act.

MS 5350/1/8

Newspaper Articles. June 1992-November 1996.

All articles relate to Boobera Lagoon. Publications include: Sydney Morning Herald; The Australian; Weekend Australian; Courier Mail (Brisbane).

Box List

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1	1-8	1

Finding aid compiled by Grace Turner, January 2023.

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