



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5359

Papers of Robert Bos

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Collection Summary

Collection no:	MS 5359
Title:	Papers of Robert Bos
Creator:	Bos, Robert
Date:	1928 - 2012
Extent:	0.08m (1 x Type 2 Archival box)
Repository:	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
Reference code:	R02023

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

People & Organisations

Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family or organisations that are associated with this collection) individuals or groups who have contributed to, performed in, or are mentioned within this collection). Please note that there may be additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that are not included in this Finding Aid, as they have not been identified. If you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this, please contact us at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

Havelock

Kenyon, Tony

Macgregor, Edwin

Sweet, Paula

Tagmuk, Jimmy

Wunia, Peter

Yates Roger Wurdirdi

Community & Language

Yolngu people N230

Arrernte people C8

Pitjantjatjara people C6

Worrorra language K17

Country

Arnhem Land (NT)

Mparntwe / Alice Springs (South Central NT SF53-14)

Arnhem Land islands (NT SC53, SD53)

Darwin (NT Top End SD52-04)

Collection Overview

Scope and Contents note

This collection comprises of material Robert Bos collected whilst working at Nungalingya College, a church training and research centre in Darwin. Material relates to Aboriginal people and communities located in Alice Springs, Darwin, and Arnhem Land. Documents include photocopies of journal articles, reports, transcripts, magazine article, newspaper articles, books, letters, and a handwritten note.

Provenance

The collection was donated by Robert Bos to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in July 2017.

Material separated from the collection

Material separated from this collection includes Photographic slides see [BOS.R01.CS](#) for additional information.

Related material

For a complete list of works by Robert Bos 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 for private study. Exception "Report of the Paula Sweet case" located in MS 5359/1/2 Closed access, permission required from Library Director.

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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Copying and quotation

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Obtaining access, copying and quotation permission

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Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

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:

Transcript of meeting held at Adelaide River Camp, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5359, Series 1, Folder 1

Administrative / Biographical history note

Rev. Dr Robert Bos was born on the 2 September 1946 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Robert Bos moved to Australia in 1955, and completed Degrees at the University of Queensland, Melbourne College of Divinity and McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago USA. Since his ordination in 1972, he served the Uniting Church in numerous roles such as ministry, education, and training and he had an interest in understanding how traditional Aboriginal culture relates to Christianity. In 1970, he worked with Weipa Aboriginal community and in 1972 Aurukun Aboriginal community, both located on the

Cape York Peninsula. In 1975, he was appointed Dean of Theological Studies at Nungalinga College, a church training and research centre in Darwin. In 1978, Bos was made Principal of the college and in 1981 he resigned.

In 1993, Bos was appointed Director of the National Network for Distance Theological Education, in 2002, he became the National Consultant for Theology and Discipleship with the National Assembly, and in 2007, he took up the role as Principal of the Pilgrim Learning Community in the Synod of Queensland. During his time working in those roles, he produced various critical documents that reflect on his work as a Minister, community development and the impact of Christianity.

Bos passed away on 29 December, 2020.

References

Bos, R 1982, 'Fusing Aboriginal and Christian Traditions', in D. Harris, D. Hynd & D. Millikan (eds), *The Shape of Belief: Christianity in Australia Today*, Lancer Books, Canberra, pp. 132-139.

Bos, R 1979, 'From Dependency to Dignity (Guidelines for work among Australian Aboriginal People)', *Nungalinga Occasional Bulletin* No. 5, p.1.

Foye, J 2021, *Vale Robert Bos*, Insights, viewed 19 September 2023, <<https://www.insights.uca.org.au/vale-robert-bos/>>

The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod 2011, *29TH Synod Minutes*, The Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod, viewed 19 September 2023, <<https://ucaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MINUTES-29TH-SYNOD-E-FINAL.pdf>>

Series Description

This series comprise photocopies from journal articles, reports, transcripts, magazine article, newspaper articles, books, letters, and a handwritten note.

Series 1, Papers of Robert Bos. 1928 - 2012

Folder

MS 5359/1/1 Handwritten list of quotes from books written by Author Erich Kolig (n.d.); Journal articles relating to anthropology and impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people in Northern Territory(1978-1992); Transcript of meeting held at Adelaide River Camp (1977); Reports by Aboriginal Advisory and Development Service and Federal Council (1973-1976); Documents relating to Aboriginal Affairs, Uniting Church and Institute for Aboriginal Development; Articles from Occasional Bulletin from Nungalinga College (1974-1980); Letter written by Geoff Eames (n.d.); Newsletter of Health

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Department doctors co-operating with Aboriginal Medicine Men (1972-73); Monograph of Ernabella Mission (2012); Typewritten thoughts on concept of self-determination (n.d.).

MS 5359/1/2

Documents focus on issues relating to Aboriginal ministry, mission and church polity in Aboriginal communities; Essay on 'Indigenous' spirituality and Western churches (n.d.); Book of the Gospel of Mark written in Worora language (1943); Chapters from Thomas Theodor Webb unpublished monograph 'Aboriginals and adventures in Arnhem Land' (1947); A Letter by Rev. J. H. Downing addressing Murder Case in Alice Springs (1976); Judge's rules regarding police interrogation of Aboriginal people; Report of the Paula Sweet case **(item closed access. Users are warned that information contained in this item may be distressing or traumatic)**; (1976); Book titled 'Noonkanbah: A small Aboriginal community struggles to protect its land and community' (1980).

Box List

Series	Folder / Item	Box
1	1-2	1

Finding aid compiled by Kaitlen Wellington, September 2023.

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