



# AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

## Manuscript Finding Aid

**MS 5294**

### **Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon OBE relating to the Torres Strait Treaty**

#### **Contents**

Collection Summary .....	<b>3</b>
Cultural Sensitivity Statement .....	<b>3</b>
Use of the material .....	3
Language .....	3
Deceased persons .....	3
Access to the Collection .....	<b>4</b>
Access conditions for this collection .....	4
Access and use conditions - further information .....	4
Copying and quotation .....	4
Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions .....	4
Preferred citation .....	4
Collection Overview .....	<b>5</b>
Scope and contents note .....	5
Provenance .....	5
Material separated from the collection .....	5
Related material .....	5
Biographical history note .....	<b>6</b>
Controlled Access Headings .....	<b>6</b>

MS 5294: Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon OBE relating to the Torres Strait Treaty

Archivists note .....	7
Series Description .....	<b>7</b>
Series 1 Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon .....	7
Box List .....	<b>8</b>

## Collection Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Lyon, Malcolm Elliott, 1930-2007
<b>Title:</b>	Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon OBE relating to the Torres Strait Treaty
<b>Collection no:</b>	MS 5294
<b>Date range:</b>	1975 – 2002
<b>Extent:</b>	1 archival box + 1 map folder in Manuscript Plan Cabinet (0.2 Linear metres)
<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. Open copying and quotation. Not for Inter-Library loan.

### **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.

Permission may need to be sought prior to access being granted. In cases where permissions are required please contact Collections staff for further information: Email Collections staff at [collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au) or telephone +61 2 6246 1182.

### **Copying and quotation**

Copying of, and quoting from, unpublished material may be subject to the conditions determined by Indigenous communities and/or depositors of the manuscripts. In accordance with the [Copyright Act 1968, Section 51](#), materials are only provided for private study and use.

### **Obtaining access, copying and quotation permissions**

In cases where these permissions are required they must be obtained in writing and must be signed. Further information can be found on the [AIATSIS website](#) on the 'Contact us' page or by phone: (02) 6246 1111.

Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library

### **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:

Press Kit – Torres Strait Treaty Signing Ceremony – Papua New Guinea House 18 December 1978, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5294, Series 1, Item MS 5294/1/4.

## Collection Overview

### Scope and contents note

This collection contains personal papers of Malcolm Lyon in relation to the work he undertook for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs relating to the Torres Strait Treaty.

The Treaty, signed in December 1978, defines the maritime boundaries and management agreements for the Torres Strait, situated between Australia and Papua New Guinea. The Treaty also outlines the administrative arrangements for people to move between the two countries, protects plant and animal life, and the ways of life of the traditional inhabitants of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

The collection includes general correspondence, a signed copy of the Torres Strait Treaty, an invitation to the ceremony for the signing of the Torres Strait Treaty, Joint Committee reports (including maps), media releases and press kits, newspaper clippings, and copies of DFAT publications and extracts from Hansard.

The collection contains material for the period 1975 – 2002.

### Provenance

This collection was donated to AIATSIS by Diana Lyon, wife of the late Malcolm Lyon, in 2017.

### Material separated from the collection

No material has been separated from this collection.

### Related material

For a complete list of works by Malcolm Lyon, 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)

## Biographical note

Malcolm Lyon OBE, was an Australian Public Servant and Diplomat. Commencing as a Cadet in 1954, he spent more than 30 years working for the Department of External Affairs (note: in 1970, the Department of External Affairs was abolished and replaced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

In the 1970s, Lyon headed the Papua New Guinea Branch in Canberra (1975 to 1977) and worked as Deputy Head of Mission in the Papua New Guinea High Commission. In 1978, Lyon led border negotiations between Australia and Papua New Guinea, that contributed to the signing of the 1978 Torres Strait Treaty. This was a major diplomatic achievement of the time, and Lyon was subsequently made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1979 for public service.

### References

Denoon, Donald, "[The Hundred Fathers of the Torres Strait Treaty](#)".

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, "[The Torres Strait Treaty](#)".

Heritage Guide to the Geelong College, [Lyon Malcolm Elliott OBE \(1930-2007\)](#).

Office of the Governor-General, [Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 1979](#).

The Canberra Times, "[Two ambassadors Appointed](#)".

Torres Strait Island Regional Council, "[Torres Strait Treaty & Border Movements](#)".

## Controlled Access Headings

Australia

Geography – Territories and boundaries

Government correspondence Australia

International Relations

Land rights – Law and legislation

Land rights – Sea rights

Land rights - Water rights

Law of the sea Queensland Torres Strait

Law – International law – Torres Strait Treaty

Law – Land

Law – Negotiated agreements

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Papua New Guinea Boundaries

Papua New Guinea Boundaries Australia

Papua New Guinea Foreign Relations

## MS 5294: Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon OBE relating to the Torres Strait Treaty

Territorial waters Australia  
Territorial waters Law and legislation Australia  
Territorial waters Papua New Guinea  
Territorial waters Queensland  
Territorial waters Torres Strait Maps  
Torres Strait  
Torres Strait Islands (Qld TSI SC54, SC55-05)  
Torres Strait Islands (QLD) – Government policy  
Torres Strait Islands (QLD) - Maps  
Torres Strait Islands (QLD) - Politics and government  
Torres Strait Islanders – History  
Torres Strait Islanders – Treaties  
Treaties

### Archivists note

The arrangement and description of this collection follow the information provided by the donor. As the material extended to only one box, a decision was made to arrange the material in one series with like materials being collated.

## Series Description

### Series 1 Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon

This series comprises the personal working papers of Malcolm Lyon during the period 1975 – 2002.

#### Folder / Item

MS 5294/1/1	Invitation to Mr Lyon: Torres Strait Treaty Signing Ceremony, 18 December 1978.
MS 5294/1/2	Document outlining Torres Strait – The Proposed Peacock-Kiki Line Point and Sector References – 1 August 1976.
MS 5294/1/3	InsertFo Booklet: Status of the Islands of Kawa, Mata, Kawa and Kussa (includes maps).
MS 5294/1/4	Press Kit – Torres Strait Treaty Signing Ceremony – 18 December 1978.
MS 5294/1/5	PNG General Correspondence includes original and copies of newspaper clippings 1978-1981; copies of Hansard extracts;

## MS 5294: Personal papers of Malcolm Lyon OBE relating to the Torres Strait Treaty

	Minister for Foreign Affairs News Releases; other correspondence and working papers.
MS 5294/1/6	Article reprint: Torres Strait Treaty: Ocean Boundary Delimitation by Agreement, Burmester 1982, American Journal of International Law, Vol 76(2).
MS 5294/1/7	Signed Torres Strait Treaty (two copies, includes maps).
MS 5294/1/8	Joint Committee Report on the Torres Strait Treaty (includes maps).
MS 5294/1/9	Book: The Torres Strait Treaty, Boyce & White. Signed by Malcolm Lyon 1981.
MS 5294/1/10	Booklet – Australian natural History Apr-Jun 1978.
MS 5294/1/11	Booklet – Australian Foreign Affairs Record, March 1976.
MS 5294/1/12	Booklet – Australian Foreign Affairs Record, February 1977.
MS 5294/1/14	Booklet – Australian Foreign Affairs Record, December 1978.
MS 5294/1/15	Torres Strait Treaty signed by Somare and Oleware.
MS 5294/1/16	Maps of Torres Strait and Papua New Guinea.
MS 5294/1/17	Personal papers Torres Strait Treaty.
MS 5294/1/18	Lyon – Personal – Torres Strait includes notes, newspaper clippings, cablegram, proposed Peacock-Kiki line map.

## Box List

Series	Folder / Item	Box
1	1-15	1
1	16	Map folder
1	17-18	1

Finding aid compiled by Robyn Garcia, February 2021.

[Back to top](#)