



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Finding aid**

**HOLMER\_N01**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Nils M. Holmer, 1964**

## ACCESS

### Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact [AIATSIS](#) to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

### Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

### Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from the relevant Indigenous individual, family or community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1964

**Extent:** 4 sound tape reels : analogue, mono.

### Production history

These recordings were collected between January and August, 1964 by Nils M. Holmer during fieldwork in northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland. The field trip was funded by an AIAS grant, the purpose of which was to research languages from northern New South Wales, in particular Dhanggatti and Worimi (Kattang). The resulting paper, *An attempt towards a comparative grammar of two Australian languages*, was published by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in 1967. Many other languages were recorded by Holmer during the field trip, including Kuku Yalanji, Gumbaynggir, Dungidjau, Waka Waka, Bundjalung, Butchulla, Gooreng Gooreng, Gubbi Gubbi and Kaanju. Interviewees included Evelyn Ferguson, Eddie Lobban, William Turnbull (to be confirmed), Harry 'Tiger' Buchanan (to be confirmed), Charlie Collins, Larry Leedie, Joe Weasel, Locky Vale, Len Duckett, Willie McKenzie, Fanny Twist, Fred Bugg, Bertie Holten, Doug Scott and Victor Shepherd.

## RELATED MATERIAL

**Important:** before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

A brief report on research carried out by Holmer in 1964 is held in the AIATSIS Library, see [PMS 824](#). Transcripts and translations of many of the narratives featured in this collection, can be found in the publication *Stories from two native tribes of eastern Australia*, see [B H748.91/S1](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

## **ARCHIVIST'S NOTE**

The original recordings collected by Nils M. Holmer in 1964 are not held at AIATSIS. Instead, four edited compilation tapes were submitted, which were returned to the depositor upon copying. The excerpts on the four tapes supplied were not compiled in chronological order. The location of the original recordings is to this day unknown.

This finding aid was compiled from information contained in documentation provided by Nils M. Holmer and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff. Visitors to AIATSIS have questioned the identity of one of the speakers and the language he spoke. Amendments to the original documentation are reflected in this finding aid.

## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
001755 001756 001757 001758	<a href="#">Field tape 1</a>	Vocabulary, sentences, narratives and songs in Bundjalung, Worimi (Kattang), Kuku Yalanji, Kaanju, Waka Waka, Dhanggatti and English, spoken by Evelyn Ferguson, Eddie Lobban, William Turnbull (to be confirmed), Harry Buchanan (to be confirmed), Charlie Collins, Larry Leedie, Joe Weasel, Locky Vale and Len Duckett
001759 001760 001761	<a href="#">Field tape 2</a>	Vocabulary, sentences, narratives and songs in Kaanju, Gubbi Gubbi, Butchulla, Dungidjau, Dhanggatti, Worimi (Kattang) and English, spoken by Larry Leedie, Willie McKenzie, Fanny Twist, Eddie Lobban, Fred Bugg, Bertie Holten and Len Duckett
001762 001763	<a href="#">Field tape 3</a>	Vocabulary, narratives and songs in Worimi (Kattang) and English with Eddie Lobban
001764 001765	<a href="#">Field tape 4</a>	Vocabulary, sentences, narratives and songs in Dhanggatti and English with Len Duckett, Victor Shepherd, Locky Vale and Doug Scott

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

### 001755 + 001756 + 001757 + 001758/Field tape 1

Performer/speaker(s): Evelyn Ferguson, Eddie Lobban, William Turnbull, Harry Buchanan (to be confirmed), Charlie Collins, Larry Leedie, Joe Weasel, Locky Vale and Len Duckett

Subject keywords: Vocabulary & grammar, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male

Language/people: Bundjalung / Banjalang, Worimi / Gadang / Kattang, Kuku Yalanji / Gugu Yalandji, Kaanju / Kaantju, Waka Waka / Wakka Wakka, Dhanggatti / Daingatti / Dunghutti, English

Places: Coffs Harbour (NSW N Coast SH56-11), Cherbourg / Barambah (SE Qld SG56-10), Armidale (NSW N Coast SH56-10), Bellbrook / Nulla Nulla (NSW N Coast SH56-10)

Recording quality: Poor – fair

Notes: Evelyn Ferguson's granddaughter recalls Holmer interviewing her grandmother and Harry Buchanan together and she believes that the man identified as William Turnbull by Holmer is in fact Harry Buchanan; another visitor to AIATSIS identified the speaker as William Turnbull but the language as a mixture of Bundjalung and Knarkbaul (Ngaku<sup>2</sup>), which she says was the language of Mr Turnbull's mother

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HOLMER_N01-001755	00:00:00	Bundjalung vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Evelyn Ferguson, followed by a brief narrative about a picnic by the sea. Vocabulary includes terms for people, values and mentation.	July – August, 1964	Coffs Harbour, NSW
	00:06:10	Narrative in Kattang by Eddie Lobban.		
	00:09:20	Bundjalung vocabulary elicitation with Evelyn Ferguson, followed by a brief narrative about a picnic by the sea. Vocabulary includes terms for material culture, fire and water.		
	00:17:25	Bundjalung corroboree song performed by William Turnbull (or Harry Buchanan, see notes). Vocabulary elicitation follows. May contain some Ngaku language (see notes).		
	00:22:40	Narratives in Kattang by Eddie Lobban. Includes the story of The		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		Whale and the Shark and Meeting Fred Bugg.		
	00:28:30	Brief conversation between Evelyn Ferguson and a man (William Turnbull or Harry Buchanan, see notes).		
	00:29:10	End of HOLMER_N01-001755.		
HOLMER_N01-001756	00:00:00	Kuku Yalanji corroboree song performed by Charlie Collins.	July-August, 1964	Cherbourg, QLD
	00:05:22	Kaanju narratives and language elicitation with Larry Leedie and an unidentified woman.		
	00:14:18	Narrative in Waka Waka by Joe Weasel, translated into English.		
	00:15:20	Narrative in Kaanju by Larry Leedie.		
	00:16:05	Kuku Yalanji song and narrative by Charlie Collins.		
	00:19:29	Kaanju song and narrative by Larry Leedie.		
	00:22:30	Narrative in English and language, possibly Waka Waka spoken by Joe Weasel.		
	00:24:09	Narratives in Kattang and English by Eddie Lobban. Includes Ghost Story.		Coffs Harbour, NSW
	00:35:34	End of HOLMER_N01-001756.		
HOLMER_N01-001757	00:00:00	Narratives in Dhanggatti by Locky Vale, including 'ghost story' and 'little bird made king'.	April-May, 1964	East Armidale, NSW
	00:06:50	Narratives in Dhanggatti by Len Duckett, including 'story about bear', 'story about wallaby' and 'Silver King'.		Bellbrook, NSW
	00:15:10	Narratives in Kattang by Eddie Lobban, including 'story about Djagiri' and 'story about porcupine'.		Coffs Harbour, NSW
	00:20:05	Bundjalung vocabulary elicitation with Evelyn Ferguson. Includes words for parts of the body, bodily		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		functions, senses and perception.		
	00:29:10	Ghost story in Kattang told by Eddie Lobban (incomplete).		
	00:31:20	End of HOLMER_N01-001757		
HOLMER_N01-001758	00:00:00	Continuation of ghost story in Kattang told by Eddie Lobban	April-May, 1964	Coffs Harbour, NSW
	00:07:45	Miscellaneous elicitation of Bundjalung vocabulary with Evelyn Ferguson.		
	00:22:15	Narratives in Kattang by Eddie Lobban, including 'how Taree got its name' and 'a story about the goanna at Black Head'.		
	00:29:10	Evelyn Ferguson speaks Bundjalung. Only some parts are translated into English.		
	00:35:00	End of HOLMER_N01-001758 and end of field tape 1.		

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**001759 + 001760 + 001761/Field tape 2**

Performer/speaker(s): Larry Leedie, Willie McKenzie, Fanny Twist, Eddie Lobban, Fred Bugg, Bertie Holten, Len Duckett

Subject keywords: Vocabulary & grammar, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation

Language/people: Kaanju / Kaantju, Gubbi Gubbi / Kabi Kabi / Gabi Gabi, Butchulla / Batjala / Badtjala, Dungidjau, Dhanggatti / Daingatti / Dunghutti, Worimi / Gadang / Kattang, English

Places: Cherbourg / Barambah (SE Qld SG56-10), Brisbane map area (SE Qld SG56-15), Tweed Heads map area (NSW N Coast SH56-03), Coffs Harbour (NSW N Coast SH56-11)

Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HOLMER_N01-001759	00:00:00	Testing. Unidentified girl sings 'when the sun goes down'.	August, 1964	Unknown location
	00:02:06	Narrative in Kaanju by Larry Leedie.		Cherbourg, QLD
	00:02:46	Gubbi Gubbi song performed by Larry Leedie.		
	00:03:57	Butchulla song performed by Willie McKenzie.		Acacia Ridge, QLD
	00:05:25	Dungidjau song performed by Willie McKenzie.		
	00:09:00	Fanny Twist tells the story of a fig tree near Kempsey, in English.		South Tweed Heads, NSW
	00:17:40	Narratives in Kattang by Eddie Lobban.		Coffs Harbour, NSW
	00:21:19	End of HOLMER_N01-001759.		
HOLMER_N01-001760	00:00:00	Fred Bugg performs 'the old rugged cross' on a gum leaf. Various narratives in English follow, including 'the porcupine story', 'Gulambara, the native Christ', 'man in the moon', 'why the jackass laughs' and 'the mail bird'.	March-April, 1964	Greenhill, NSW
	00:12:10	Dhanggatti corroboree song performed by Bertie Holten		Bellbrook, NSW
	00:12:50	Conversation in Dhanggatti between Bertie Holten and Len Duckett.		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
	00:14:15	Dhanggatti vocabulary elicitation with Len Duckett. Includes words for parts of the body, bodily functions, senses, perception, stance, motion, physical transfer and holding. Some words are provided by Bertie Holten.		
	00:31:20	End of HOLMER_N01-001760.		
HOLMER_N01-001761	00:00:00	Continuation of Dhanggatti vocabulary elicitation with Len Duckett. Includes words for physical transfer, holding, impact, concussion, human classification, values, mentation, material culture, fire, water, topography, sky and heavenly bodies, time, wind and directions. The last five minutes of recording are unintelligible due to problems with the original recording.	March-April, 1964	Bellbrook, NSW
	00:31:30	End of HOLMER_N01-001761 and field tape 2.		

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**001762 + 001763/Field tape 3**

Performer/speaker(s): Eddie Lobban  
 Subject keywords: Vocabulary & grammar, Language elicitation – Narratives, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male  
 Language/people: Worimi / Gadang / Kattang  
 Places: Purfleet (Taree, NSW N Coast SH56-14)  
 Recording quality: Fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HOLMER_N01-001762	00:00:00	Kattang songs, narratives and vocabulary elicitation with Eddie Lobban. Includes a narrative about a fishing and hunting trip. Vocabulary includes heavenly bodies, body parts, stance, motion, physical transfer, holding, impact, concussion, human classification, values, mentation and material culture. Some songs are performed in English.	January-February, 1964	Purfleet, NSW
	00:33:20	End of HOLMER_N01-001762.		
HOLMER_N01-001763	00:00:00	Continuation of Kattang narratives and vocabulary elicitation with Eddie Lobban. Includes narratives about a fishing and hunting trip, wallaby hunting, and a trip to the sea and the bush. Vocabulary includes words for values, mentation, material culture, fire, water, topography, sky, heavenly bodies, time, wind, directions, dimensions, animals and plants.	January-February, 1964	Purfleet, NSW
	00:31:50	End of HOLMER_N01-001763. End of field tape 3.		

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**001764 + 001765/Field tape 4**

Performer/speaker(s): Len Duckett, Victor Shepherd, Locky Vale, Doug Scott

Subject keywords: Vocabulary & grammar, Language elicitation – Sentences, Language elicitation – Narratives, Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male

Language/people: Dhanggatti / Daingatti / Dunghutti, Gumbaynggir / Gumbainggirr, English  
Places: Bellbrook / Nulla Nulla (NSW N Coast SH56-10), Armidale (NSW N Coast SH56-10)

Recording quality: Poor – fair

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
HOLMER_N01-001764	00:00:00	Dhanggatti vocabulary and sentence elicitation with Len Duckett. Includes words for dimensions, animals, plants, camp and colours. Sentences illustrate verbal and noun suffixes.	February – March, 1964	Bellbrook, NSW
	00:20:20	Victor Shepherd talks about the origin of Nulla-Nulla Creek in English.		
	00:26:20	Dhanggatti narratives by Len Duckett. Includes stories about the carpet snake and the two sisters (incomplete).		
	00:32:25	End of HOLMER_N01-001764.		
HOLMER_N01-001765	00:00:00	Continuation of the two sisters story told by Len Duckett. A story about an adventure follows.	February – March, 1964	Bellbrook, NSW
	00:02:50	Dhanggatti corroboree song and song in English performed by Locky Vale.	February – March, 1964	East Armidale, NSW
	00:04:40	Conversation in Dhanggatti between Doug Scott and Locky Vale.		
	00:07:05	Gumbaynggir vocabulary elicitation, including parts of the body, water, fire, the environment, terms for people, plants, animals and material culture. The speaker is not identified.		
	00:11:40	Ghost story in Dhanggatti and some language elicitation with Locky Vale. <b>This recording is of</b>		

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
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**extremely poor quality and mostly unintelligible.**

00:28:05	Ghost story in Dhanggatti by Locky Vale.
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00:32:40	End of HOLMER_N01-001765 and end of field tape 4.
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