



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

LA PEROUSE_01

**Sound recordings collected by
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Studies, 1988**

Prepared December 2017 by LW
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ACCESS

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Listening copies are available.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1988

Extent: 3 x audio cassettes (ca 60-90 minutes each), analogue, mono.

Production history

These interviews were collected by Peter McKenzie, during his time spent photographing the community members of La Perouse for the *After 200 years* project. The recordings contain interviews in English with Jack Simms, Dulcie Simms, Mavis Longbottom, Bert Longbottom, Betty Stewart, Bruce 'Larper' Stewart, Jean 'Bibby' Stewart, Irene Cooley, Cyril Cooley, Tom Williams, Myrtle Green, John Dixon, and Athol Dixon. The interviews were held at La Perouse (Sydney), NSW.

The *After 200 Years* project was conceived by the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies as a visual record of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians two hundred years after the first non-Indigenous settlement of Australia. It was funded with the assistance of the Australian Bicentennial Authority in 1988 and culminated in the publication *After 200 Years: photographic essays of Aboriginal and Islander Australia today*.

This collection was deposited at AIATSIS on 2 May 1988.

RELATED MATERIAL

AIATSIS Collections holds photographic and print material directly related to this audio collection.

- Pictorial collection - *La Perouse: community portraits from the 'After 200 Years' Collection* (1986 – 1988), Peter McKenzie, (call number: LAPEROUSE.001.BW).
- Pictorial collection - *Photographs taken as part of the AIATSIS 'After 200 Years' project at La Perouse, N.S.W.* (1987), Peter McKenzie, (call number LAPEROUSE.001.CS).
- Print collection - *After 200 years: photographic essays of Aboriginal and Islander Australia today* (1988), Penny Taylor (ed.), (call number: B T245.07/A1).

For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult our [online catalogue](#), Mura®. To conduct a search of available audio finding aids, please [click here](#).

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Peter McKenzie and audition sheets prepared by AIATSIS staff.

Timing points may be slightly out depending on the technologies and procedures in place at the time the recordings were auditioned.

ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
032090	FT 9, side a	Interviews with Jack Simms, Dulcie Simms, Mavis Longbottom and Bert Longbottom at La Perouse.
032091	FT 9, side b	Interviews with Betty Stewart and Bruce 'Larper' Stewart at La Perouse.
032092	FT 10, side a	Interviews with Jean 'Bibby' Stewart, Irene Cooley, Cyril Cooley and Tom Williams at La Perouse.
032093	FT 10, side b	Interviews with Tom Williams and Myrtle Green at La Perouse.
032094	FT 11, side a	Interviews with John Dixon and Athol Dixon at La Perouse.

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

032090; FT 9, side a

Performer/speaker(s):	Jack Simms, Dulcie Simms, Mavis Longbottom, Bert Longbottom
Personal subject(s):	Johnny Dixon
Subject keywords:	Sport – Vigoro; Art - Crafts - Shell works; Race relations - Non-Indigenous; Housing; Land rights
Language/people:	English
Places:	La Perouse (S Sydney NSW SI56-05); Botany Bay (S Sydney NSW SI56-05)
Recording quality:	Fair – very quiet

Timing point	Description
	<u>Interview with Jack Simms (JS) and Dulcie Simms (DS) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:08	Pause.
00:00:19	PM introduces JS and DS and explains that they will discuss the photo of themselves in the book. DS speaks of how long she has lived in La Perouse.
00:01:15	JS speaks of living in Frog Hollow, and recalls when the ‘gypsies’ used to visit.
00:02:27	DS speaks of changes she has noticed in the community over the years. Brief mention of Mrs Dixon and Mrs Woodsworth.
00:05:53	PM asks DS about the bicentenary celebrations, she notes it brought back a lot of memories. General conversation about Johnny Dixon.
00:07:31	DS speaks of games she used to play as a young girl, including vigoro. She recalls the colours worn by a local football team, then she and PM they speak of football more generally. A noise reminiscent of running water can be heard in the background.
00:13:45	DS speaks generally of life at La Perouse.
00:14:15	Pause.
00:14:23	<u>Interview with Mavis Longbottom (ML) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:14:37	ML speaks of her shell-work practice. She recalls starting it during the depression to make money. ML discusses the skills required to do it well.
00:19:39	ML speaks briefly of the institutions where her work is held, such as the Powerhouse Museum.
00:20:42	ML recalls time spent at the beach as a child. PM refers ML to a more recent photo of herself and Mrs Ryan (no given name mentioned) at the beach. Further discussion of shell collecting and the impact of dredging the bay upon the availability of shells. Further discussion of time spent at the beach as a child.
00:24:02	Pause.
00:24:08	<u>Interview with Bert Longbottom (BL) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:24:11	BL discusses a photograph of him and points out Botany Bay. BL speaks of his work unloading cargo off the ships at Botany Bay. Discusses the photo, pointing to the headlands, history of the area in terms of non-Indigenous settlement, and as an indigenous fishing spot.

00:25:35	PM and BL discuss the issue of Indigenous housing in the area, and the way overcrowding and unemployment relate to this. BL discusses the various housing bodies he spoke to, and the objections of the non-Indigenous community to Indigenous housing projects in the area.
00:28:59	BL speaks of the relationship between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the area. He speaks further about how the housing issues impact upon this.
00:32:51	BL speaks of the celebrations that were held in La Perouse which were held to commemorate the landing of non-Indigenous people in the area. He expresses his views regarding the amount of money spent on the bicentennial celebrations.
00:34:05	BL considers the future of La Perouse and the impact of the government's actions. BL speaks of the Land Rights Act and how it split the community. BL speaks of the La Perouse community, and expresses concern about some of the attitudes of local community members.
00:37:19	BL speaks of his disappointment in the young generation regarding unemployment, and his views on the work-for-the-dole scheme.
00:39:08	PM asks about local government employment. BL discusses two men in another photo who work for the council. They discuss work opportunities and apprenticeships. BL discusses the loss of Aboriginality due to assimilation and the issues and attitudes within the community which he identifies as problematic.
00:43:45	End of 032090, FT9, side a.

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032091; FT 9, side b

Performer/speaker(s):	Betty Stewart, Bruce 'Larper' Stewart
Personal subject(s):	Laurie Daley, Keith Robinson
Subject keywords:	Race relations - Non-Indigenous; Sport – Football; Education - Schools
Language/people:	English
Places:	La Perouse (S Sydney NSW SI56-05);
Recording quality:	Fair – some distortion in parts.

Timing point	Description
	<u>Interview with Betty Stewart (BS) and Bruce 'Larper' Stewart (BLS) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:07	Pause.
00:00:13	BLS is heard singing, and joking with PM. PM speaks of a photograph of them with their grandson at Bondi Beach. BS discusses the photograph and of after-school and holiday activities she runs for local children. Mention of Shane Patrick, who is in the background of the photo.
00:02:19	Tape on/off. PM speaks of the project and how both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people work together. Further discussion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in the city, compared to in rural areas. Brief mention of Maxwell Evans.
00:03:55	BLS discusses La Perouse school, and recalls attending. They speak of kids growing up at La Perouse, and the close relationships and friendships that form.
00:07:25	BLS discusses Laurie Daley, who plays football for Canberra, and Keith Robinson, who plays for Balmain.
00:08:28	BLS recounts a particular story at PM's request, involving an incident when a number of disparaging remarks were made about the La Perouse people.
00:09:23	BLS refers to photographs while speaking of football at La Perouse, in particular, the children's division. BLS and BS speak of the importance of football to the local community. Brief mention of Trevor Walker and Lloyd Walker.
00:12:43	Brief mention of Eric Simms, Kevin Longbottom, Georgie Simms, 'Fluffy' Longbottom, Reggie Russell, Roy Page, Keith Yoolman (sp?). BLS recalls that they once worked at the oil refinery. Brief mention of Warwick Lyons, Bruce Toogood, Jackie Cook, BLS speaks of playing golf each fortnight.
00:16:23	PM discusses the process for writing up the interview material for the book. Further general discussion of sport. The sound of a plane flying over can be heard in the background.
00:18:01	Tape off/on.
00:18:02	Recording from an ABC radio interview, with Margaret Hyes, regarding the leek as Wales' national emblem. This is followed by Welsh men's choir music, an ABC news broadcast, general chit chat and movie reviews for the remainder of the recording. It does not appear to be related to the ' <i>After 200 Years</i> ' project in any way.
00:47:06	End of 032091, FT 9 side b.

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032092; FT 10, side a

Performer/speaker(s):	Jean 'Bibby' Stewart, Irene Cooley, Cyril Cooley, Tom Williams
Personal subject(s):	Evonne Cawley
Subject keywords:	Religions - Christianity – Missions; Sport – Golf; Sport – Vigoro; Land rights
Language/people:	English
Places:	La Perouse (S Sydney NSW SI56-05);
Recording quality:	Fair

Timing point	Description
	<u>Interview with Jean 'Bibby' Stewart (JBS) at La Perouse, recorded 30 March, 1988.</u>
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:07	Pause.
00:00:19	PM announces the date, introduces JBS and notes the interview is in relation to the 'After 200 years' project. He describes a photo of her standing on a verandah.
00:01:03	JBS speaks of how long she's lived in La Perouse. She discusses how La Perouse has changed since she was a girl growing up in the area.
00:03:31	JBS gives her general thoughts about living on the mission at La Perouse, specifically about the confusion people experience and the issues that they face. She speaks of the complex nature of happiness and notes that people are worried about the future. She discusses the flow-on effects of this worry upon the community.
00:08:30	JBS notes that it is the memories of the people who lived there before keep La Perouse alive. She speaks in general terms about the missionaries who worked in the area, of her memories of her family and her close relationship with the community.
00:11:47	JBS speaks of the people of La Perouse trying to be happy, despite the uncertainty of their existence. She also discusses the community's future.
00:14:26	Pause.
00:14:30	<u>Interview with Irene Cooley (IC) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:14:36	IC speaks of the photo of her and Evonne Cawley, the day it was taken, and the BBQ that was held. A phone conversation involving an unidentified male can be heard in the background, making it difficult to hear the interview at parts. She speaks of the sport vigoro.
00:17:20	<u>Interview with Cyril Cooley (CC) at La Perouse, 1988.</u>
00:17:26	PM speaks of the photograph in which CC is featured. CC explains it is from the annual Aboriginal Golf Tournament and discusses the event. He speaks of the golf course more generally. Unidentified people can be heard talking in the background, and they are hushed part way through.
00:19:45	<u>Interview with Tom Williams (TW) at La Perouse, 1988.</u>
00:19:46	TW speaks of living in La Perouse since 1934 and of his relationship with the community. PM notes he is referring to the photo of La Perouse Land Council. TW discusses the impact of land rights legislation upon the La Perouse community and the legislation's general history.
00:23:10	TW speaks of the deeds to Yarra Bay House which are held by the community. The

	house was originally used as an orphanage for boys. He speaks of how the community acquired it. Mention of the politician, Frank Walker.
00:25:00	PM asks whether La Perouse is the only metropolitan community with title to its own land. TW confirms this, and speaks further of the lands rights legislation.
00:26:41	TW discusses how Yarra Bay House is used as a community centre, and how other Indigenous communities are allowed access to the facilities. He speaks of other communities' impressions of the house, and the importance of the place to them.
00:28:52	PM asks about a photo of Charlie Perkins negotiating with a community. TW discusses the photo further, explaining the negotiations regarding reroofing Yarra Bay House.
00:31:39	End of 032092, FT 10 side a.

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032093; FT 10, side b

Performer/speaker(s):	Tom Williams, Myrtle Green
Personal subject(s):	Charlie Perkins, Laura Lester
Subject keywords:	Councils - Land councils; Religions - Christianity – Missions; Child welfare - Child / parent separation - Stolen generations
Language/people:	English
Places:	La Perouse (S Sydney NSW SI56-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Timing point	Description
	<u>Interview with Tom Williams (TW) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:07	Pause.
00:00:21	PM announces that he is talking with TW regarding a photograph of a community consultation with Charlie Perkins (continued on from archive recording 032092).
00:00:49	TW explains that La Perouse is an important area, and discusses the local Aboriginal Land Councils within the region. He also discusses where he sees it heading in the future.
00:04:25	Tape off/on.
	<u>Interview with Myrtle Green (MG) at La Perouse, recorded 1988.</u>
00:04:33	PM asks about living at La Perouse as a young girl. MG notes she was born at Port Kembla. She speaks of her early life, and how she ended up in Sydney.
00:07:23	MG recalls her early days in Sydney. Brief mention of Mrs Page [no given name mentioned] and Tommy (or possibly Arthur?) Miller.
00:09:21	MG speaks of the different houses in which she lived as a child, and she recalls living on the mission. Brief mention of Lizzie Bitts (spelling?) and Linda Foster.
00:11:27	MG speaks of playing vigoro and of going to work for Mr Pausey (spelling?) at the age of sixteen. She speaks briefly of her sister, Laura Lester. She speaks of the rations they used to receive and mission life more generally.
00:15:40	PM asks after Laura Lester. MG speaks of her staying with her aunty, and recalls the boundary fence being put up around the mission. Mention of policeman Don Watts.
00:17:48	PM asks about the police that used to come when MG was a girl. MG speaks further of the police.
00:19:00	PM speaks of finding information about Maudie Wells in the State Protection Board register. MG recalls which children in La Perouse were taken away to homes, and mentions Lisa McKenzie and Ruby McKenzie. Mention of Phylis and George (McKenzie?).
00:21:47	MG speaks of attending school as a child.
00:22:25	MG speaks of where she sees the La Perouse community heading in the future. She speaks of her concerns regarding the younger generation and their perceived reliance upon the welfare system. Reference to the 1967 referendum and the importance of voting.
00:26:54	PM asks about the sense of community. MG speaks of this positively, and briefly discusses those who assist others in the La Perouse community.

00:27:55	End of 032093, FT 10, side b.
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032094; FT11, side a

Performer/speaker(s):	John Dixon, Athol Dixon
Subject keywords:	Weapons - Boomerangs – Making; Employment; Enterprises - Arts and crafts
Language/people:	English
Places:	La Perouse (S Sydney NSW SI56-05)
Recording quality:	Fair

Timing point	Description
	<u>Interview with John Dixon (JD) at La Perouse, recorded in 1988.</u>
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:07	Pause.
00:00:20	PM introduces JD and describes a photo of him sitting at a table. JD explains that the photo is of him burning a decorative pattern onto a boomerang. He recalls a time when he did this as full time work.
00:02:09	JD speaks of boomerang making, as well as the number of people in the area still making them, where they are sold, and who buys them. He recalls learning the craft, following the death of his cousin, Charlie Pender (spelling?), and his cousin Gregory Simms who taught him these skills.
00:06:18	JD explains that he stated making boomerangs in order to make a living. He laments the long hours and limited financial return of the craft.
00:07:39	Tape off/on.
00:07:40	<u>Interview with Athol Dixon (AD) at La Perouse, recorded in 1988.</u>
00:07:45	PM introduces AD and describes a photo of him walking out the door of the Department for Aboriginal Affairs. He asks AD about Indigenous people working in government or outside the general area of La Perouse.
00:08:14	AD speaks of the work that Indigenous people in government undertake and the specific agencies who employ them, including ADC, DAA, Aboriginal Hostels and Education. He also comments briefly upon people from La Perouse having to move elsewhere for work.
00:12:05	AD speaks of the projects at La Perouse funded by DAA, and the need for the particular projects.
00:13:13	PM asks AD about the ways Indigenous people used to earn a living, including fishing, creating art and caddying golf. AD speaks of the workforce in La Perouse. He discusses the difficulties faced by Indigenous artists and craftspeople in the area.
00:16:23	AD speaks of fishing at La Perouse.
00:16:58	End of 032094, FT 11, side a.

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