

Bennett Family Films

Accession number 30192

Date 1956-1988

Author / Creator

Bennett, Arnold, Sir, 1908-1983

Abstract 16mm home movie films documenting family life in Brisbane in the 1950s-1970s, Brisbane views and family holidays.

Scope and content The collection is comprised of 20 reels of compiled 16 mm home movie films, mostly shot between the 1956 and 1978 by Brisbane barrister Sir Arnold Lucas Bennett QC. The movies depict family life (sometimes in humorous short films), holidays and recreation around Queensland, scenes of Brisbane and surrounds, significant events in Brisbane (such as 1974 floods, a royal visit, sporting fixtures) and interstate and overseas travel. A considerable amount of footage is filmed at the Bennett family home 'Fairthorpe' on Coronation Drive, Auchenflower and at the family's Tamborine Mountain property. The collection also includes a 16 mm print of the documentary film 'A song of air' directed by Sir Arnold's daughter Merilee Bennett in which she examines her relationship with her father through his home movies. In 1988 the documentary was included in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes Film Festival. A VHS version of the film is also held in the State Library of Queensland collection.

System of arrangement Arranged into 2 series

Description Original reversal positive : 21 reels of 20

Additional format Digital copies available for selected items

Administrative / Biographical history Sir Arnold Lucas Bennett QC (1908-1983), barrister, was born on 12 November 1908 at Toowoomba, Queensland and was educated at Toowoomba and Brisbane Grammar schools. He graduated from University of Queensland in 1931 and completed the Barrister's Board examinations in 1932. Soon after he was admitted to the bar and commenced practice. He married Marjory Williams in 1934 and had two daughters and two sons before her death in 1942. Following military service during World War Two he returned to his legal practice. In 1944 he married Nancy Mellor and they were to have three daughters and a son. Sir Arnold was president of the Bar Association of Queensland (1957-1959) as well as chairman of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland (1957-1972) and of the Barristers' Board (1957-1979). He was an active member of the Rotary Club, serving as president in 1959 and district governor in 1972-1973. A devoted Methodist Sunday school superintendent for over thirty years, he was also a total abstainer. In 1956 he purchased a Bolex film camera and for

the next two decades avidly documented his family life. Sir Arnold died on 30 January 1983. (Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bennett-sir-arnold-lucas-12193> viewed 25/08/2016)

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright.

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Preferred citation

30192, Bennett Family Films, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Home movies (1937-1973)

Series number 1

Series title Home movies

Date 1937-1973

Scope and content

20 reels of 16mm home movie footage. The films feature members of the Bennett Family and friends. Some of the footage takes the form of short films, whereas other footage collates family occasions, holidays, travel abroad and scenes of Brisbane and surrounds. Much of the Brisbane footage is taken at Fairthorpe, the family house at Auchenflower.

Author / Creator

Bennett, Arnold, (Sir) 1908-1983

Bennett family

Description

Description 20 film reels

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Film reel 1 (1956-1973)

Unit ID 30192/1

Date 1956-1973

Scope and content

Six short home movies:

- *A day with the Family* (1956)
- *Ghost story* (1958)
- *Tamborine bunyip* (1957)
- *Too many cooks* (1957)
- *Weird world* (1968)
- *Find the silver* (1973)

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM5CS Trolley 37 Shelf C

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Film reel 2 (1968-1971)

Unit ID 30192/2

Date 1968-1971

Scope and content

Home movies and other family footage including:

- *The vanishing girl* (1971)
- *Bronny the fairy* (1968)
- Footage at Tamborine Mountain
- *Uncle Albert's will* (1968)

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMFILM5CS Trolley 37 Shelf C

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Film reel 3 (1957)

Unit ID 30192/3

Date 1957

Scope and content

Home movie footage including:

- *Sunday School picnic* (1957)
- *Tamborine Mountain* (1957)
- *Trip to Snowy Mountains* (1957)
- Toowong Methodist Church and other social gatherings

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Film reel 4 (1957-1963)

Unit ID 30192/4

Date 1957-1963

Scope and content

Home movies footage including:

- *Family Album No. 1* (1957-1960) featuring footage at Fairthorpe, Cedar Creek, Somerville House, Caloundra
- *Caloundra 59-60* (1959-1960)
- *Family Films No. 2* (1960-1963) featuring footage of Fairthorpe, Brisbane Airport, Cedar Creek, Brisbane River.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access restrictions Unrestricted access

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Film reel 5 (1960?)

Unit ID 30192/5

Date 1960?

Scope and content

Home movie travel footage including *Round the world in 80 days* (1960) showing time spent in USA, Europe, South East Asia. Includes a visit to Rum Jungle, Northern Territory on returning to Australia.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Film reel 6 (1937-1962)

Unit ID 30192/6

Date 1937-1962

Scope and content

Home movies including:

- 1937 footage filmed by John Jackson at Currumbin Beach
- Undated miscellaneous family footage including Caloundra, Lone Pine
- *Carnarvon by Jeep* (1958)
- 1961-1962 family footage including Cedar Creek and Fairthorpe
- 1962 footage at Caloundra and a 1962 visit to Armidale

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Access restrictions Unrestricted access

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Film reel 7 (1964)

Unit ID 30192/7

Date 1964

Scope and content

Home movies titled *World Trip Parts 1-5* (1964) showing holiday footage in Singapore,

England, Scotland, Holland, Denmark, Norway, USA.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 8 (1963)

Unit ID 30192/8

Date 1963

Scope and content

Home movies including *South of the border* (ca. 1963) showing a trip to Sydney and Tasmania; Brisbane River scenes; Toowong Methodist Church and Sunday School activities.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 9 (1957-1958)

Unit ID 30192/9

Date 1957-1958

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Brisbane 1-3* showing footage of various locations and events in and around Brisbane (1957-1958). Includes footage of Town Hall, Central Station, Government Stores, docks, Mt. Coot-tha, Roma Street Station, Storey Bridge, New Farm Park and Powerhouse, Hamilton Reach, Royal visit (Queen Mother), Albert Street Church, regatta on Brisbane River, QLD University, BBC cadets, RNA Show, Parliament and Botanical Gardens, old gasworks, fire brigade training, Golden Circle Cannery, whaling and whale processing on Moreton Island, sand mining.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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Film reel 10 (1966?)

Unit ID 30192/10

Date 1966?

Scope and content

Home movies including *World wanderings 1-2* (1966) showing holiday footage in Sydney, Singapore, Ceylon, India, Middle East, England.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 10a (1966?)

Unit ID 30192/11

Date 1966?

Scope and content

Home movies including:

- *World wanderings: Europe and USA*, featuring France, Holland, Denmark, New York,

North Carolina

- Family footage in and around Brisbane including Fairthorpe, Tamborine, a family wedding at Albert St. Church.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 11 (1963-1968)

Unit ID 30192/12

Date 1963-1968

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Family III, 1963-1966* and *Family IV, 1966-1968*. Features family occasions including holidays, Christmas, weddings, birthdays, children's sporting events, church outings, gymkhana. Includes footage at Fairthorpe, Caloundra, Tamborine, Cedar Creek as well as London in 1967.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 12 (1963-1968)

Unit ID 30192/13

Date 1963-1968

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Family V, 1968-1970* and *Family VI, 1970-1971* Featuring family occasions including Christmas, holidays, beach trips, canoeing on the Brisbane River. Includes footage at Fairthorpe, Cedar Creek, Tamborine, Lone Pine, Melbourne.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 13 (1968-1971)

Unit ID 30192/14

Date 1968-1971

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Family VII, 1971-1974* and *Family VIII, 1971-1974* Features family occasions including Christmas and holidays. Includes footage at Fairthorpe, Lone Pine, The Gap, Cameron Falls, Tamborine, Hobart, Adelaide. Also shows footage of 1974 floods and clean up.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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Film reel 14 (1975-1979)

Unit ID 30192/15

Date 1975-1979

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Family IX, 1975-1976* and *Family X, 1977-1979*. Features family occasions including Christmas, birthdays, social gatherings, holidays, road trips. Includes

footage at Fairthorpe, Cedar Creek, Caloundra, Tamborine.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 15 (1975-1979)

Unit ID 30192/16

Date 1975-1979

Scope and content

Home movie footage (ca.1958) featuring various family occasions. Locations include Fairthorpe, O'Rielly's, Tamborine, Northgate, St. Lucia.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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Film reel 16 (1966?)

Unit ID 30192/17

Date 1966?

Scope and content

Home movies titled *Around the World in 40 days 1-3 (ca. 1966)* featuring travel footage including Brisbane Airport, Singapore, India, Denmark, Holland, England, USA, Canada, Honolulu.

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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Film reel 17 (1968-1969)

Unit ID 30192/18

Date 1968-1969

Scope and content

Home movies mostly of holidays including:

- *QLD Journey* (ca. 1968) featuring Anakie, prospecting, coal mines
- *Old & New Journeys* (1969) featuring Singapore, England, Iceland, USA
- *Brisbane family footage* (ca. 1969)
- *Adelaide Holiday* (ca. 1969)

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

Additional format Digital copy available

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Film reel 18 (1966-1972)

Unit ID 30192/19

Date 1966-1972

Scope and content

Home movies mostly of holidays including:

While away (1966) featuring Sydney, Fiji, USA, England

- *Rotary Tour, 1972*, featuring PNG, Tahiti, USA, Canada
- *Family footage at Cleveland*

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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Film reel 19 (1973-1978)

Unit ID 30192/20

Date 1973-1978

Scope and content

Home movies mostly of holidays including:

- *Southern Trip* (1973) featuring Adelaide
- *Synod trip to New Zealand* (1974)
- *The Dubbing Trip* (1975) featuring Brisbane Airport, Greece, Switzerland, England, USA
- *Centre Trip* featuring Adelaide, Kata Tjuta, Uluru
- *New Zealand trip* (1978)

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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(19 digital)

Series 2: A song of air' film (1987)

Series number 2

Series title A song of air' film

Date 1987

Scope and content

A viewing print of a documentary film made by Merilee Bennett.

Description

Description 1 film reel

Items in this series:

A song of the air (1987)

Unit ID 30192/21

Date 1987

Scope and content

A viewing print of a documentary film made by Merilee Bennett in the late 1980s examining her relationship with her father Arnold Bennett. The film makes extensive use of the home movies in this collection. This film has won several major awards.

Author / Creator

Bennet, Merrillee

Description

Description 1 film reel (16 mm)

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