

Deaf Indigenous Dance Group collection

Accession number 33312

Date 2021.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean, photographer, interviewer

Kenton, Aishah, Nuh, photographer, contributor

Morrison, Brenda, Auslan translator, translator

Deaf Indigenous Dance Group, annotator, artist, interviewee

Abstract This collection contains photographs, artworks and oral histories documenting the members and activities of the Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG).

Scope and content During 2021, North Queensland based photo-journalist Sean Davey worked with the group to document the DIDG performers and their work. This involved photographing DIDG practices, performances and events, creating annotated portraits reflecting DIDG member's backgrounds and feelings towards DIDG and recording oral histories of the lives of DIDG members. This project was done in collaboration with photographer Aishah Kenton of the Pacific Centre for Photographic Arts.

System of arrangement Arranged into 3 series.

Description 71 digital photographs :

Guides A series and item list is available.

Administrative / Biographical history The Deaf and Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) is a Cairns based community organisation that celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are deaf or hard of hearing who have a love of Indigenous culture and dancing. The group was established 1997-1998 by Patricia Morris-Banjo and Priscilla Seden (deceased). Their mission is to showcase and promote their abilities and talents. The group is as much a social club as a dance group providing members a safe space to dance, express their culture and hang out with other people with whom they can communicate freely. "First Nations people have a strong cultural connection to language meaning those with hearing loss often experience high rates of loneliness – especially when they don't have other people around them who can understand and support them...its important that Indigenous people with hearing impairment have the space in which to express themselves as well as their connection to culture" (Sue Frank, DIDG dancer and manager). The group usually practices on a wooden stage so that they can feel the drums and the tapping of the sticks. "We respond to vibrations, and we respond to the ground, and we can link to the music through our eyes...Some of us have some residual hearing so we can follow the clap sticks...but

others just feel it, it's just a rhythm." (Patricia Morris-Banjo) (Information taken from: The Guardian and ABC News websites, viewed 10 November 2022).

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright.

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Notes This material contains Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander content, and has been made available in accordance with State Library of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections Commitments.

Preferred citation

33312, Deaf Indigenous Dance Group collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

[View full catalogue record](#)

[Go to One Search, the library catalogue](#)

Series 1: Photographs (2021)

Series number 1

Series title Photographs

Date 2021

Scope and content

This series contains photographs by Sean Davey documenting members and activities of the Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG).

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Description

Description 71 digital photographs

Locate OMDIG

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Items in this series:

Portraits (8 July 2021)



Unit ID 33312/1

Date 8 July 2021

Scope and content

This item contains digital portraits of Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) members Aviu Ware, Elder Patricia Morris-Banjo, Marie Raimo, Shadrach Sales-Graham, Elder Clifford Johnson, Nathaniel Murray, Leslie Footscray, Joanne Samuel, Sue Frank, Amelia Street and Paul Norman. The portraits themselves are the same or similar to the portraits used in the annotated artworks in Series 2.

Description

Description 11 digital photographs (black and white)

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Dance rehearsals (8 July 2021)



Unit ID 33312/2

Date 8 July 2021

Scope and content

This item contains digital photographs of Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) members rehearsing in Cairns.

Description

Description 22 digital photographs (black and white)

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Laura Quinkan Dance Festival (2-4 July 2021)



Unit ID 33312/3

Date 2-4 July 2021

Scope and content

This item contains digital photographs of Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) members at the Laura Quinkan Dance Festival, 2021.

Description

Description 14 digital photographs (black and white)

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

NAIDOC Week, Cairns (8 July 2021)



Unit ID 33312/4

Date 8 July 2021

Scope and content

This item contains digital photographs of Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) members at NAIDOC Week celebrations, Cairns, 2021. Included are photographs of the group leading the NAIDOC parade and performing in Fogarty Park.

Description

Description 24 digital photographs (black and white)

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

(4 digital)

Series 2: Artworks (2021)

Series number 2

Series title Artworks

Date 2021

Scope and content

The artworks consist of a portrait taken by photographer Sean Davey that has been annotated with ink permanent markers by the corresponding Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) member. The annotations contain biographical information. DIDG members represented include Amelia Street, Aviu Ware, Elder Clifford Johnson, Joanne Samuel, Leslie Footscray, Marie Raimo, Nathaniel Murray, Elder Patricia Morris-Banjo, Shadrach Sales-Graham, Sue Frank and Paul Norman. The portraits are the same or similar to the portraits in Item 1. Often they are cropped versions of these portraits.

Description

Description 11 artworks (black and white, colour)

Additional format Digital copies available

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Items in this series:

Amelia Street



Unit ID 33312/5

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Amelia Street annotated with text and a drawing in black and blue permanent markers. Amelia is from Yarrabah. DIDG is important to Amelia.

Amelia enjoys learning to dance. Dancing gives her peace and makes her feel good. It allows her to express her culture. It allows her to teach others what she has learnt. (partly paraphrased, from annotations)

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Street, Amelia

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)[View the item](#)

Aviu Ware



Unit ID 33312/6

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Aviu Ware annotated with text and drawings in black and coloured permanent markers. Aviu Ware is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Aviu's bloodline is from Mer/Murray Island, the Kabi Kabi Mob, the Goreng Goreng Mob from Gladstone and Bundaberg and the Ambrym and Tanna islands of Vanuatu. Aviu's mob is Wug Island [Wug/St Pauls on Moa/Banks Island]. Aviu enjoys learning to dance. Aviu also enjoys church, diving underwater and gardening. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) The drawings include the Torres Strait Islander flag, himself diving underwater to hunt sea creatures and Waiben/Thursday and Moa/Banks islands.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Ware, Aviu

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

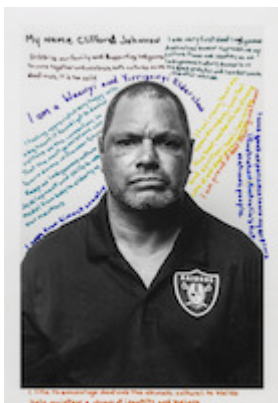
42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Elder Clifford Johnson



Unit ID 33312/7

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Elder Clifford Johnson annotated with text in black and coloured permanent markers. Clifford Johnson is an Aboriginal Elder. He is of the Waanyi and Yirriganyi Aboriginal clans. He is from Gimuy country. Being a DIDG member is important to him as it celebrates culture and enables him to act as a role model to pass down culture to

younger generations. It encourages the deaf mob to build and maintain a strong sense of belonging and identity. (partly paraphrased, from annotations)

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Johnson, Clifford

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Joanne Samuel



Unit ID 33312/8

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Joanne Samuel annotated with text, drawings in black and coloured permanent markers as well as sections of colour photographs. Joanne Samuel is from Jervis Bay, [New South Wales] moving to Cairns in 2018. Joanne's father is an African native of Barbados Island. DIDG is important to Joanne. It makes her feel happy and is good for the children. Silver medal, snow skiing, World [Deaflympics] at Oslo, Norway, 1987. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) The drawings include the flag of Barbados and dragon flies. Photographs of Joanne Samuel at the 1987 World [Deaflympics] at Oslo, Norway skiing and holding a stuffed toy in celebration of her silver medal are also attached to the portrait. The

photographer of these photographs is unknown.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Samuel, Joanne

Description

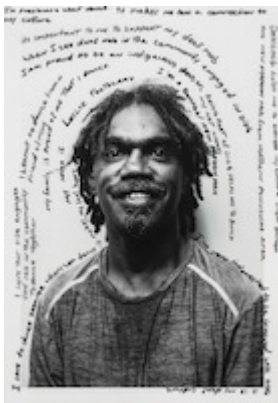
Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)[View the item](#)

Leslie Footscray



Unit ID 33312/9

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Leslie Footscray annotated with text in black permanent marker. Leslie Footscray is a Bamaga/New Mapoon man from the Northern Peninsula area. DIDG is important to Leslie. He enjoys dancing which makes him feel connected to his culture. It allows him to express his culture. It supports the deaf mob and brings it together. (partly paraphrased, from annotations)

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Footscray, Leslie

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (black and white)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other

Biographical history

Leslie Footscray is from Bamaga on the northern tip of Cape York and also has family in New Mapoon and Lockhart River. Leslie was born with hearing but lost it when he was young because rocks went into his ears when he was swimming. His father is also deaf. His mother helped him a lot when he was young. He moved to Cairns to attend school when he was 10, returning to Bamaga after he finished his education. He didn't have any work and would spend his time hunting. He showed his family his dances but none would dance with him. He later moved back to Cairns. "Didg is part of my family. I love the dancing and the community. When we went to Laura I was happy, it was just fantastic, lots of laughs, it was a great weekend....There is no support [for deaf kids] where I am from. I would love to see more support up there." (Information taken from: The Guardian, 9 April 2022, website viewed 10 November 2022)

Marie Raimo



Unit ID 33312/10

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Marie Raimo annotated with text and drawings in black and coloured permanent markers. Marie Raimo is from Papua New Guinea from the Hanuabada village. Marie moved to Cairns in 2018. DIDG is important to Marie. It allows her to connect and socialise with other people and learn to dance. It allows her to express herself and makes her feel proud of her culture. It allows her daughter Isobel to learn about her culture. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) The drawings include the flag of Papua New Guinea. The borders of the portrait have also been illustrated with four different patterns, one for each side.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Raimo, Marie

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Nathaniel Murray



Unit ID 33312/11

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Nathaniel Murray annotated with text and drawings in black permanent marker. Nathaniel Murray is from Cairns. The annotations describe the Aboriginal

Australian connection to the Great Barrier Reef. The majority of the background contains detailed drawings including representations of sea creatures.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Murray, Nathaniel

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (black and white)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Other**Biographical history**

Nathaniel Murray-Fourmile is a Yidinji man. Nathaniel was not born deaf. As he began to lose his hearing he began to feel sad and isolated. Nathaniel has been dancing with his family and in public since he was seven years old. "I'm getting a lot of teachings from some of the older people within the dance group and I've learnt a lot from them ... getting a lot from Cliff who is an older Indigenous man who is deaf also...Seeing that — wow — there's a deaf, Indigenous man who's dancing and having involvement, I can do that as well." Nathaniel takes a lead in the group, giving mentoring and visual cues to other members. "Sometimes it's very difficult for a deaf person when they're dancing because we can't hear the music... we really having to use the visuals and watch each other as prompts because we're actually going through the dance in silence, so to speak." Nathaniel feels pride When the dance finishes together on the same beat "I love that connection, my heart is really there with Aboriginal people, and with deaf Indigenous people". (Information taken from: The ABC News website, viewed 10 November 2022)

Elder Patricia Morris-Banjo

attended the Laura Quinkan Dance Festival from a young age. In 1998 she established the Deaf Indigenous Dance Group (DIDG) with Priscilla Seden. (Information taken from: The ABC News website, viewed 10 November 2022)

Shadrach Sales-Graham



Unit ID 33312/13

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Shadrach Sales-Graham annotated with text and drawings in black permanent marker. The clothing Shadrach is wearing in the portrait has been coloured in with coloured permanent marker. Shadrach Sales-Graham is a Wadja/Yungulu/Bakanambia/Kullilli man from Woorabinda. DIDG is important to Shadach. It is culture, who he is and shows he can dance. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) Most of the borders and background is covered with drawings.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Sales-Graham, Shadrach

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Sue Frank



Unit ID 33312/14

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Sue Frank annotated with text and drawings in black and colour permanent markers. Sue Frank is wearing a 'We support The Uluru Statement' T-shirt that has been coloured in with coloured permanent marker. Sue Frank is a Wagadagam/Wakaid woman, a woman of Kala Lagaw Ya. Sue's totem is Koedal/Thupmul. Dancing makes Sue proud and connected to my mob and culture. The Deaf Community brings together both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Sue started dancing at 2 years old. Sue's role model is her father. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) The drawings includes flowers.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Frank, Sue

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)[View the item](#)

Other

Biographical history

Sue Frank is a Wagadagam and Badulgal woman born in Tully. Her family is from

Badu/Mulgrave Island in the Torres Strait. Sue progressed from lip reading to using sign language when she was seven or eight years old. But it wasn't until she was much older that she met other Indigenous people who were deaf. Sue has been involved with DIDG since its beginning and today as well as being a dancer in the group, is its manager. "I was about 18 when I started getting involved with the deaf mob and the community," Frank says. "I started taking everything in and learning. I started signing [with them] and started to develop my social skills. I got confident from being included." Sue has worked with deaf children in the Indigenous community of Lockhart River. She is an advocate for Indigenous deaf people. (Information taken from: The Guardian, 9 April 2022, website viewed 10 November 2022 and The ABC News website, viewed 10 November 2022)

Paul Norman



Unit ID 33312/15

Scope and content

This item contains a portrait of Paul Norman annotated with text and drawings in black and colour permanent markers. Paul Norman is a Wik man from [Pormpuraaw]. (partly paraphrased, from annotations) Most of the background is covered with drawings including the front and tail of a crocodile.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Norman, Paul

Description

Description 1 annotated portrait (colour)

42 x 30 cm

Additional format Digital copy available

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

(11 digital)

Series 3: Oral histories (2021)

Series number 3

Series title Oral histories

Date 2021

Scope and content

MOST ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE This series contains digital oral histories of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) members Amelia Street, Aviu Ware, Elder Clifford Johnson, Joanne Samuel, Leslie Footscray, Marie Raimo, Nathaniel Murray, Elder Patricia Morris-Banjo, Shadrach Sales-Graham and Sue Frank. Questions are asked by interviewer Sean Davey. These are then translated into AUSLAN by Brenda Morrison, answered in AUSLAN by the DIDG member, then translated into spoken English by Brenda Morrison. The interviews are assisted by Aishah Kenton.

Author / Creator

Davey, Sean

Morrison, Brenda;

Kenton, Aishah

Description

Description 10 digital oral histories

Locate OMDIG

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright

Conditions of use You are free to use for personal research and study. For other uses see <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/understanding-copyright>

Items in this series:

Amelia Street

Unit ID 33312/16

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Amelia Street. Amelia Rose Street was born in Cairns and was placed with a white family at age 4. Amelia lived with her family in Cloncurry until age 17 when she left for Yarrabah, near Cairns. Amelia was encouraged to join DIDG and there has enjoyed forming new friendships and continued existing ones. Amelia was very nervous to start off with and found that dancing helped her walk having had trouble since breaking her leg. Amelia's first performance with the group was at Laura. The experience made her feel happy.

Author / Creator

Street, Amelia Rose

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

14 min. 11 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Aviu Ware

Unit ID 33312/17

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Aviu Ware. Aviu Ware is from the St. Pauls area on Moa/Banks Island. Aviu's mother is Aboriginal and his father an islander. He has had experience dancing previously. Aviu was taught island dancing at age 10 by his Uncle Hans Samboa. He was later taught Aboriginal Australian dancing by his

friend William Each from Gordonvale. He was a member of a dance group in Babinda and travelled with them for performances in the Atherton Tableland and in Brisbane. Aviu is proud to be a member of DIDG and is fond of his fellow dancers. He can hear and feel the vibration of the drums and didgeridoo and dances to the beat. Aviu has surprised family members on Waiben/Thursday Island that he can dance and is still dancing and has surprised members of the non-deaf community that deaf people can dance.

Author / Creator

Ware, Aviu

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)
7 min. 3 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Elder Clifford Johnson

Unit ID 33312/18

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Elder Clifford Johnson. Elder Clifford Johnson was born in Mount Isa in 1969. He has had previous dancing experience at Parramatta School, Parramatta Park, Cairns. Clifford joined DIDG in 1999. He enjoys dancing with other hard of hearing people and has made good friends with other DIDG members. He has travelled to Brisbane, Laura and Sydney with DIDG. He loves seeing young people getting involved with DIDG.

Author / Creator

Johnson, Clifford, Elder, 1969-

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)
11 min. 8 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Joanne Samuel

Unit ID 33312/19

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Joanne Samuel. Joanne Samuel was born in Canterbury, Sydney and later moved to Blacktown, Sydney. Joanne's father had 3 jobs and life was hard. As a child Joanne enjoyed dancing and athletics. Joanne attended a school for the deaf in North Rocks and started to become depressed at around age 8. This was partly due to people's perceptions that because she was deaf, she was not bright. Joanne represented Australia in the 1987 Winter Deaflympics winning silver in the downhill alpine skiing on a damaged ski. Joanne worked for the Department of Sport and Recreation Sydney for about 27 years and loved her job. Joanne gave up her job following a car accident and became depressed as she couldn't find work. She moved to Cairns and has found happiness there. Joanne is learning a lot at DIDG and is finding she fits in there. She enjoys the culture, social life and community it brings and is keen to bring more young children into DIDG so that they can also enjoy similar experiences.

Author / Creator

Samuel, Joanne

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

51 min. 42 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Leslie Footscray

Unit ID 33312/20

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Leslie Footscray. Leslie Footscray was born in Bamaga in 1975. He went to school in Cairns. He lost his hearing as a child due to small rocks entering his ear. Leslie has since visited and/or lived

in many places including Horn/[Narupai] Island, Bamaga, Moa/[Banks] Island, Weipa, Old Mapoon, Lockhart River, New Mapoon, Cairns and Mackay. He has enjoyed dancing at social occasions at a number of these but found that there was otherwise little interest from his family and friends in dancing there and little support for the deaf. He has also camped and hunted at several locations. Leslie returned to Cairns in 2022 and enjoys the support of Sue Frank and DIDG. Leslie sees DIDG as part of his family and enjoys the dancing and community DIDG provides. He would like to see better support for deaf children in the areas he has lived. Leslie enjoys being on country and hunting.

Author / Creator

Footscray, Leslie, 1975-

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)
23 min. 7 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Marie Raimo

Unit ID 33312/21

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Marie Raimo. Marie Raimo is from Papua New Guinea. She attended school in Sydney, Australia, for about a year aged 4-5 before returning to Papua New Guinea. As a child she was interested in dancing and danced till age 16 when she decided to pursue cricket and netball instead. Later she became interested in dancing again but was reluctant to perform. Marie graduated then went to work. Marie met Sue Frank at Deaf Services during a trip to Cairns in 2016. During 2017 she went back and forth between Papua New Guinea and Australia before moving to Cairns for good in 2018. Marie married in 2018 and had a daughter in 2019. She has been in Cairns 5 years now. Marie enjoys dancing with DIDG. Dancing with DIDG makes her happy and she has incorporated Papua New Guinean dancing, which is different to Torres Strait Islander dancing, into DIDG. Through DIDG and Deaf Services Marie has made friends, learnt a lot, received help and feels included. Marie is learning AUSLAN which is very different to sign language in Papua New Guinea. Marie finds that lacking interpreters at times can be a

barrier to communication but notes that the situation is better than in Papua New Guinea where interpreters are not available. Marie believes DIDG is important for deaf children.

Author / Creator

Raimo, Marie

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

37 min. 1 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Nathaniel Murray

Unit ID 33312/22

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Nathaniel Murray. Nathaniel Murray was born in Cairns in 1997. At age 18 he began dancing with the Police Citizens Youth Club (P.C.Y.C.). Following graduation at the P.C.Y.C. he continued dancing with children at the P.C.Y.C. He also does DJing. He joined DIDG age 17 and has been with them to this day. He loves movement and enjoys performing with DIDG. DIDG is important to Nathaniel both for himself and for his culture. Nathaniel learns dancing by watching others and is involved in designing the dance routines for DIDG. He works for a gardening and landscaping business where he involved with both gardening and excavation.

Author / Creator

Murray, Nathaniel, 1997-

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

12 min. 1 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Elder Patricia Morris-Banjo

Unit ID 33312/23

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Nathaniel Murray. Patricia Morris-Banjo is from Jowlbinna, 30 km outside of Laura. Her father John Henry 'Hank' Morris was a white man and owned the Quinken Hotel, Laura, while her mother was an Aboriginal Australian woman. Hank Morris was 60 years old when Patricia was born and abuse from her mother led her to be looked after by Percy and Beverley Trezise. Percy Trezise AM wrote a number of children's book, was deeply interested in Aboriginal Australian rock art and was friends with Aboriginal Australian artist Dick Roughsey from Mornington Island. Both Percy and Beverley had a deep interest in and respect for Aboriginal Australian people and culture and this oral history also reveals the life of Percy and his relationship with Dick Roughsey. At age 16, Patricia was given a teletex box which allowed her to understand what was being said on television. Patricia was taught AUSLAN and uses it as a communication tool but other than that has no connection to it unlike gestural Aboriginal Australian languages which were dying out in response to AUSLAN's introduction. Patricia loves dancing and Indigenous dancing is important to her. DIDG allows her to express her culture. Patricia enjoys learning about other cultures and with Priscilla Seeden (founder of DIDG) thought deaf people from different cultures should come together in DIDG to show hearing people that the deaf can dance. Patricia was involved with DIDG at its founding and later around 2005-2006. The group took a break from dancing when Priscilla Seeden fell ill. Patricia is honouring Priscilla's final request to keep DIDG going. DIDG is important allowing those with hearing disabilities to express themselves and provides a community, a family, for the indigenous deaf, regardless of cultural background. It also provides members with opportunities to learn about their culture and their identity with deafness as the common thread.

Author / Creator

Morris-Banjo, Patricia, Elder

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

1 hr. 28 min. 22 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Shadrach Sales-Graham

Unit ID 33312/24

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Shadrach Sales-Graham. Shadrach Sales-Graham is about 21 years old and is from Woorabinda, where his father was from. His family moved to Cairns for access to education for the hearing impaired and has now lived in Cairns for over 17 years and considers it a second home. Shadrach received a good education from his family and can use both Indigenous gestural languages as well as AUSLAN and because of this is often an interpreter between the two. Indigenous gestural languages are very different from AUSLAN and differ from people to people. Shadrach enjoys the deaf interacting with the deaf community in Cairns. He enjoys late nights socialising with the deaf community and has been involved with the Australian Deaf Rugby for 3 years and DIDG for 5. He has also completed various educational courses. He enjoys helping the Indigenous deaf communicate and believes young hearing impaired people should be educated well leaving it up to them which way they wish to communicate later and which world, the deaf or hearing, they would like to join.

Author / Creator

Sales-Graham, Shadrach

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)
12 min.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

Sue Frank

Unit ID 33312/25

Scope and content

This item contains a digital oral history of Deaf Indigenous Dance (DIDG) member Sue Frank. Sue Frank was born in Tully but sees her home as Badu/[Mulgrave] Island. She currently works at Deaf Services and helped acquire government funding to aid the breakdown of communication barriers for the deaf in the Lockhart River region. Sue learnt an Indigenous

gestural language age 7-8. In 1998 aged 17-18 she helped set up DIDG with the support of her family who ran a family business and has been involved with DIDG ever since. DIDG is slowly growing and is a group for the Indigenous deaf and hearing impaired, members of the 'Deaf Mob', regardless of cultural background. DIDG helps provide culture and identity to the Indigenous deaf. Sue talks about the communication barriers for the Deaf Mob in remote communities, the struggle the Deaf Mob face in deciding on which world to join (the deaf or hearing) and Indigenous gestoral languages. Sue discusses in detail with Sean Davey plans for how to best use the photographs, artworks and oral histories in the project [contained within the State Library of Queensland collection Deaf Indigenous Dance Group collection] to maximum effect to benefit the growth of both DIDG and the wider Indigenous Deaf community.

Author / Creator

Frank, Sue

Description

Description 1 oral history (sound)

1 hr. 34 min. 40 sec.

[View the items](#)

[Listen to the audio](#)

(10 digital)