

Anne Mitchell papers

Accession number 3752

Date 1969-1972

Author / Creator

Pollitt, Anne.

Scope and content This collection contains photographic slides taken at Aurukun; magnetic tapes with Aurukun sound recordings; a tape player; drawings by Aurukun children, genealogical tables and information, and Aurukun newsletters. These records were created and collected by Annette Pollitt (nee Mitchell) while she was a primary school teacher at Aurukun, 1969-72.

Description 4 archival boxes: photographic slides, magnetic tapes, tape player, artworks, genealogical tables, newsletters.

Additional format A CD access copy is available for one of the tape recordings.

Administrative / Biographical history Annette (Anne) Mitchell did her teacher training in New South Wales and applied to the Missionary Board of the Uniting Church in Sydney. She went to Aurukun as a young woman to teach in 1969, initially signing on for 1 or 2 years and staying for a total of four teaching years. She taught the younger grades (no children older than year three) and was part of a large community which included nurses, a carpenter and church ministers. During her time at Aurukun, visitors working for the Wycliffe Bible translations were seeking to develop material for the local children to read in their own Wik language. Annette Mitchell became involved taping the children outside of the classroom and transcribing what they said so that a vocabulary of their language could be compiled. She made tape recordings at traditional house-openings and village dances. After leaving Aurukun, Annette Mitchell continued her teaching career in Brisbane. She married and became known as Annette Pollitt.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status Multiple copyright statuses.

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Preferred citation

3752, Anne Mitchell Papers, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

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Series 1: Artworks (1969-1972)

Series number 1

Series title Artworks

Date 1969-1972

Scope and content

Loose drawings in pencil and crayon, by children of Aurukun Mission School, students of Annette Mitchell.

The artists include:

- Bell, David, 1963-
- Karyuka, Audrey
- Kerindun, Norman, 1963-
- Koonutta, Sandy, 1963-
- Landis, Marjorie, 1961-
- Ngallametta, Tony
- Pamulkan, Laurel, 1963-
- Wikumunea, Kevin, 1961-

[Items 1-8]

Description

Description 8 drawings

Locate OMOSBOX Box 16880 O/S

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 2: Genealogical papers (undated)

Series number 2

Series title Genealogical papers

Date undated

Scope and content

Genealogical tables relating to Aurukun families and Aboriginal people who were associated with the Christian Mission at Aurukun ,which includes surname, second name and dates of birth. Some of the entries are annotated.

Description

Description 3 folders

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Items in this series:

Genealogical tables, Aurukun (undated)

Unit ID 3752/9

Date undated

Scope and content

Genealogical tables compiled by Winnie Kongstema, Jeannie Adams, Barbara Sayers & Chris Kilham using Sister Alison Cameron's work as its basis.

Description

Description 1 folder

Aurukun families (undated)

Unit ID 3752/10

Date undated

Scope and content

Sister Alison Cameron's family book on Aurukun families. Hand-written pages recording family relationships, spouses, children, some entries are annotated 'deceased' or "T.I."

Description

Description 1 folder

Aurukun assisted Aborigines (undated)

Unit ID 3752/11

Date undated

Scope and content

Photocopied pages titled 'Aurukun assisted Aborigines' listing by Aboriginal people who were associated with the Christian Mission at Aurukun which includes surname, second name and dates of birth. Some of the entries are annotated. Copies held AIATIS MS 1525 Aurukun Mission papers and MS 1620 Aurukun Mission School

Description

Description 1 folder

Series 3: Newsletter, Wik ngeeyow (1972)

Series number 3

Series title Newsletter, Wik ngeeyow

Date 1972

Scope and content

Aurukun newsletter 'Wik ngeeyow'.

The issues are incomplete but include: No. 1 February 1972 to No. 20 July 1972; No. 22 - 29, 31, 33 - 40 December 1972 [Item 12]

Description

Description 32 newsletters

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 4: Papers (1969-1972)

Series number 4

Series title Papers

Date 1969-1972

Scope and content

This series consists of a folder of miscellaneous papers collected by Annette Mitchell, including instructions for use of and repair of a Phillips tape recorder; newspaper clippings; a Christmas card in Wik-Munkan language; an order of service Sunday 11 November 1969 in Wik-Munkan language and a hand-drawn photocopied map of Aurukun Mission, June 1972. Two loose pages relating to content of tapes. [Item 13]

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 5: Photographic slides (1969-1972)

Series number 5

Series title Photographic slides

Date 1969-1972

Scope and content

Colour photographic slides collected, or taken by Annette Mitchell of people, places and events at Aurukun Mission, while working as a teacher. Many are captioned. [Item 14]

Description

Description 278 slides

Locate OMBOX ox 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 6: Photographs (1969-1972)

Series number 6

Series title Photographs

Date 1969-1972

Scope and content

Photographs collected or taken by Annette Mitchell of people and events at Aurukun Mission, while working as a teacher. Many are captioned. [Item 15]

Description

Description 41 photographs (black & white)

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 7: Published works (1960?-1978)

Series number 7

Series title Published works

Date 1960?-1978

Scope and content

Published works collected by Annette Mitchell during her time as a teacher at Aurukun Aboriginal Mission, principally translations of Christian texts into the languages of the Torres Strait Islands. The titles include:

- Lat inan jamesang ump / Wik Munkan. This item is a translation of the Epistle of James in the Wik-Munkan Language, made by translators with assistance from the Aurukun community.
- Wik-kath ngechwiw Jesusantam ; Wik-kath pam alpanantam / Wik Munkan. This item is a translation in the Wik Munkan language of two passages from the Gospel of Luke, made with assistance of the people of Aurukun.
- Paulang pam wanch wik inan thaa'-aath thanang / Wik Munkan. This item is a translation of the Colossians Chapters 1:1 to 2:5 in the Wik Munkan language, made by translators with the assistance of the people of Aurukun.
- Ngamp Godant aaka Pathampa. This item is a translation of the Lord's Prayer and a collection of hymns in Wik Munkan language.
- Ina Wik kath monkeyantam (monkey in the bog) story in cartoon form, originally produced in English by Dr Paul White, reproduced and translated by Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- In.Ana Wik Kath Jesus.antam A! [A Christian text in Wik-Munkan language] published by The Bible Society in Australia, Canberra, 1978
- The First Australian's : first book. Published under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; originally sponsored by the Department of Native Affairs, Queensland
- The First Australian's : second book
- The First Australian's : third book

The First Australian's : fourth book

- The First Australian's : fifth book
- The First Australian's : sixth book

[Items 16 - 21, 36]

Description

Description 7 booklets

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 8: Sketchbooks (1971)

Series number 8

Series title Sketchbooks

Date 1971

Scope and content

Sketch books relating to students of Annette Mitchell, while teaching at Aurukun Mission School. The books are illustrated in colour crayon, some images are captioned. The works are attributed to:

- Neville Pootchemunka, 1971
Neville (Tharpitch) Pootchemunka (1961-2012) was born and raised in Aurukun, and attended a boarding school in Herberton before returning home. He was twice elected mayor of the Aurukun community and was a member of the Cape York Partnerships board. He died age 51 in 2012
- Kevin Wikmunea, 1971
- Lloyd Karyuka, 1971
- Arnold Yunkaporta, 1971

[Items 22-24, 35]

Description

Description 4 sketchbooks

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 9: Stories (1972)

Series number 9

Series title Stories

Date 1972

Scope and content

Children's stories, loose pages, both typed and hand-written, attributed to Aurukun students: Stephen Karyuka; Robin Karyuka and Robert Karyuka. They include:

- Story told by Stephen [Karyuka ?] hunting pigs. 2 versions.
- Story told by Stephen Karyuka about what he did in Darwin. 3 versions.
- Story about fishing for stingray, by Robin Karyuka.
- The story of a pig hunting by Robert Karyuka.

[Items 25-28]

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 10744

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 10: Sound recordings (1969-1972)

Series number 10

Series title Sound recordings

Date 1969-1972

Scope and content

Sound recordings on magnetic-tape attributed to Annette Mitchell, while working as a teacher at Aurukun Mission School. Several have not been identified or described.

- Tape 1. Side 1 Choruses. Last one Mr Noah; Side 2: Farewell to Jane and me. Tape is accompanied with printed lyrics for: Surely goodness; The Best book to read is the Bible; Follow follow; Wide, wide as the ocean, Mr Noah, Do Lord; He's got the whole world; Kumbyah; A new commandment; This is the day; Isn't he wonderful; Thank you; Give me oil in my lamp; There's never been a day
- Tape 2. Side 1. [as described by accompanying note] 1. Yippah - Muchi Waka; 2. Yippah - Wanam dance. 3. Yippah. Description of this in Wik-Munkan & Gugu Uwanh. 4. Didjeridoo - Borrooloola 5. Singing from Maningrida 6. Jack Walmbeng - Aurukun (the one that disappeared) 7. Clara from Borrooloola - singing in Yanyula. 8. [possibly] Aurukun's Eagle Dance - but sung at Mitchell 9. An Aurukun house opening; Side 2: 10. Continuation of Aurukun house opening including wailing and calling of the spirit. 11. Singing of New Guinea school children.
- Tape 3. unidentified, undescribed
- Tape 4. unidentified, undescribed
- Tape 5. Side 1. (as described on container label) : Linguistics; Side 2: identified as 'Paint dance' Aurukun 1971; an island dance 15 April 1972; Winchanam - left hand devil dance; Island - Isaac (Big Eric Ron Junkaporta with bamboo drum & sticks; Wannam wallaby dance; Geese - Jack Spea singer - "Geese" flap wings & mimimi etc while 2 hunters approach.
- Tape 6. unidentified, undescribed
- Tapes 7-12. unidentified, undescribed

[Items 29-33, 36-42]

Description

Description 13 magnetic tapes

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status In copyright

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Series 11: Tape player / recorder

Series number 11

Series title Tape player / recorder

Scope and content

1 tape player, with power cord, microphone and ear piece used by Annette Mitchell while employed as a teacher at Aurukun Mission School. Loose notes relating to tapes, in 'Papers' folder. [Item 34]

Description

Description 1 tape recorder

Locate OMBOX Box 10746

Access

Access restrictions Unrestricted access

Copyright status Out of copyright

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