

# Recording Audio and keeping track of recordings

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ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
**THE DYNAMICS OF LANGUAGE**

# What are the recordings?

Heritage records made in the past  
(oral tradition, songs, ...)

- need to be
  - digitised
  - summarised or transcribed

Recordings you are making today

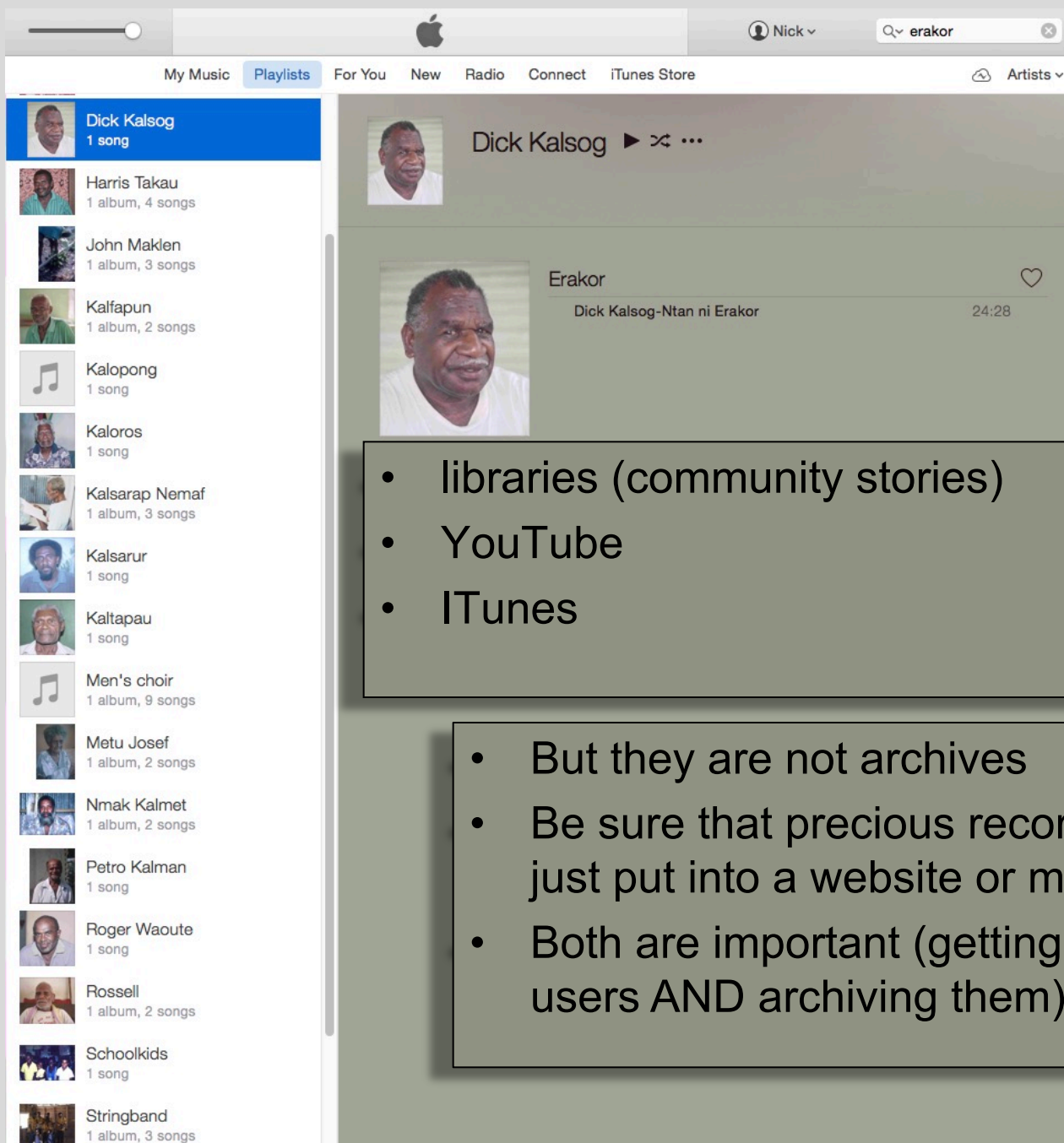
- need to be
  - summarised or transcribed

And recorded at the best  
quality you can achieve



# What can be done with media recordings?

- websites
- mobile phone apps
- dictionaries
- movies
- teaching materials
- archival records



- libraries (community stories)
- YouTube
- iTunes

- But they are not archives
- Be sure that precious records are preserved and not just put into a website or multimedia display
- Both are important (getting recordings back out to users AND archiving them)

# South Efate

Lexicon English - South Efate Categories

a e f g i k l m n o p r s t u w

This dictionary is a work in progress. This edition can be cited as: Nicholas Thieberger (2007-01-16) Dictionary of South Efate (<http://paradisec.org.au/SELexicon/index-english/main.htm>). This work is the result of a collaborative project between speakers of South Efate, mainly in Erakor village, Efate, Vanuatu, and [Nicholas Thieberger](#) who has written a grammar of the language. It was produced using [Shoebbox](#) and [LexiquePro](#).

## English - South Efate

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w y

### A - a

abalone	kaiaraskei
abort	kispun
above	elag
absent	lalu
·	puel
accompany	ptaan
·	plak
act	gien
active	polkirkir
adam's apple	npatnkafik
add	skar
admire	lewi
adopt	pas
adult	pasfop
adze	limur
·	kram pel
aeroplane	man ni
after	nmalfa
·	me
afterbirth?	ntakun
afternoon	nal ni teesa
again	kotfan
against	mer
·	ktekit
age-mate	putkau
agree	tak
aim, point with finger	trok
	tum

**namper** *prep.* ahead, forward, front. **kaler namper seman kaka pafeg namrak.** You took ahead when you want to do something.

**nakpes** *n.* tree sp., young leaves eaten together with **ntali** fruit. Also use the wood to make fish traps by planting sticks vertically in the water to create a fence.

**nakrik** *n.* Fig tree. *Ficus virgata*.

**nakrok** *n.* vine sp. Strong vine.



**nakser** *n.* wild kava, creeping thick vine, leaf eaten, but not the root. Its leaves can stop a devil that is following you.

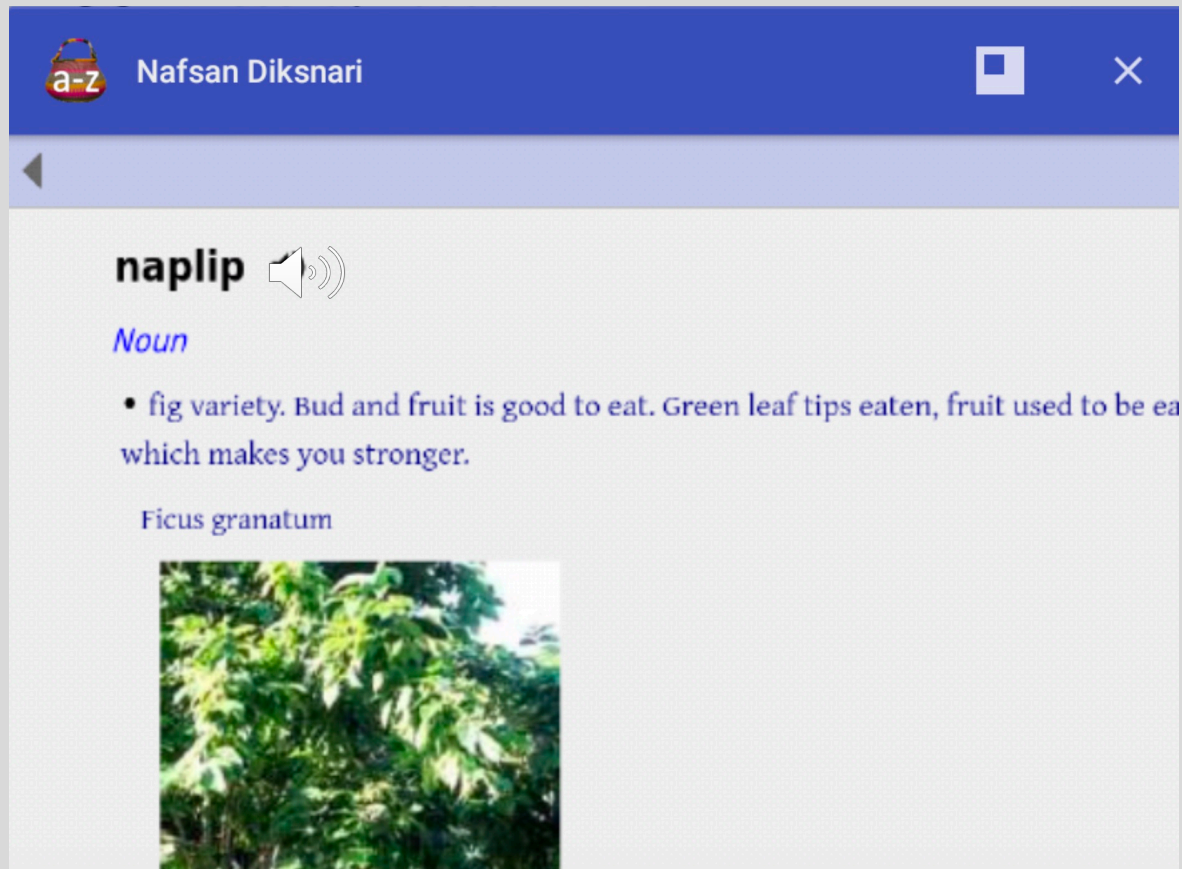


**nakte** *pron ?.* mine (1st person singular possessive).



**nakur** *n.* Indian Mulberry, not used as a dye today, but it was used as a yellow dye for mats and hair. Lavard (1915) says it was used for sickness, and that it was mixed with lime to make a red paint. Also

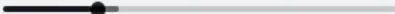
# Phone app dictionary




## Recordings in South Efate

⏮ Multimedia item 1 of 2 ⏭

⬇️ DOWNLOAD MP3

⏸ 10:23 / 45:22  🔊

EAF TRS IXT

▶ PLAY (10:13) 

Go maarik, teetwei malnen kin, mal ni nmalko, gar ruto- rupi  
nafet rupi māau.

And 'maarik', long ago, when, in the time of  
darkness, they were there, they were a group,  
they were warriors.

Go	maarik,	teetwei	malnen	kin,	mal	ni
go	maarik	teetwei	malnen	kin	mal	ni
and	mister	before	as	REL	time	of

# But!

- In order to make media files work in these applications, the media needs to be:
  - of good enough quality
  - described so you know what is on it
  - transcribed with time codes



- Audio recording
  - Machinery
  - Formats
  - Practicalities

# Machinery

- Recorders (audio, photographic or video)
- Ensure settings are correct
  - date, time, location
- Monitor audio recordings through headphones

# Recorders

- New ones all the time
- Know how to select the most useful ones
  - read reviews
  - specifications
  - can they allow external mikes? With XLR input?
  - Why not use a phone for recording?



# Know your equipment

- ... BEFORE you need to use it!
  - How to change batteries!
  - How to set input volume
  - How to copy files
- 
- Read the manual
  - Make test recordings

# Filenaming

- Recorders assign their own filename
  - this will not be unique (STE-100, STE-102)
- Take note of that name
  - For instance: STE-100.wav has Ati Pel telling the story of how the reef was made, 23/5/15, Efate
- Change it when copying to your computer and keep a correspondence list of names and what is on them (metadata)
- New filename is 20150515Pel.wav

# Backup!

- Digital data is very fragile
- Make copies
- Have a few SD cards in case you need to record lots



# Analog to digital

- Sound is analog
- Conversion to digital involves sampling

# Compression

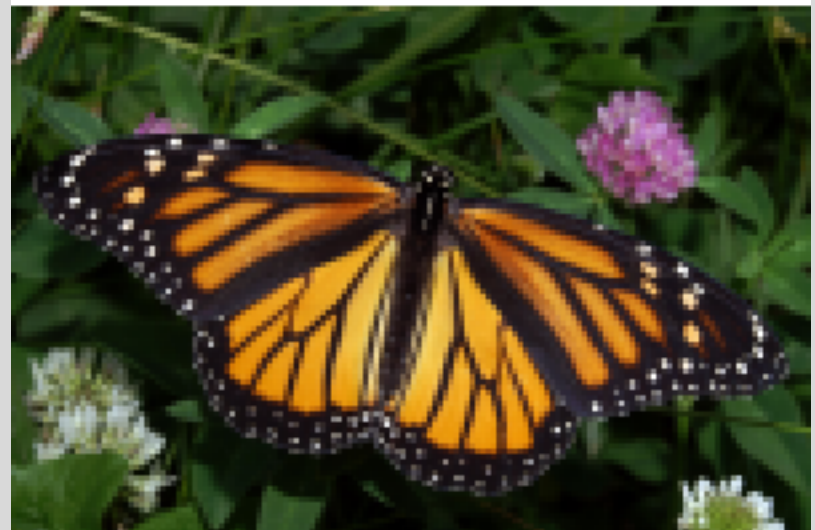


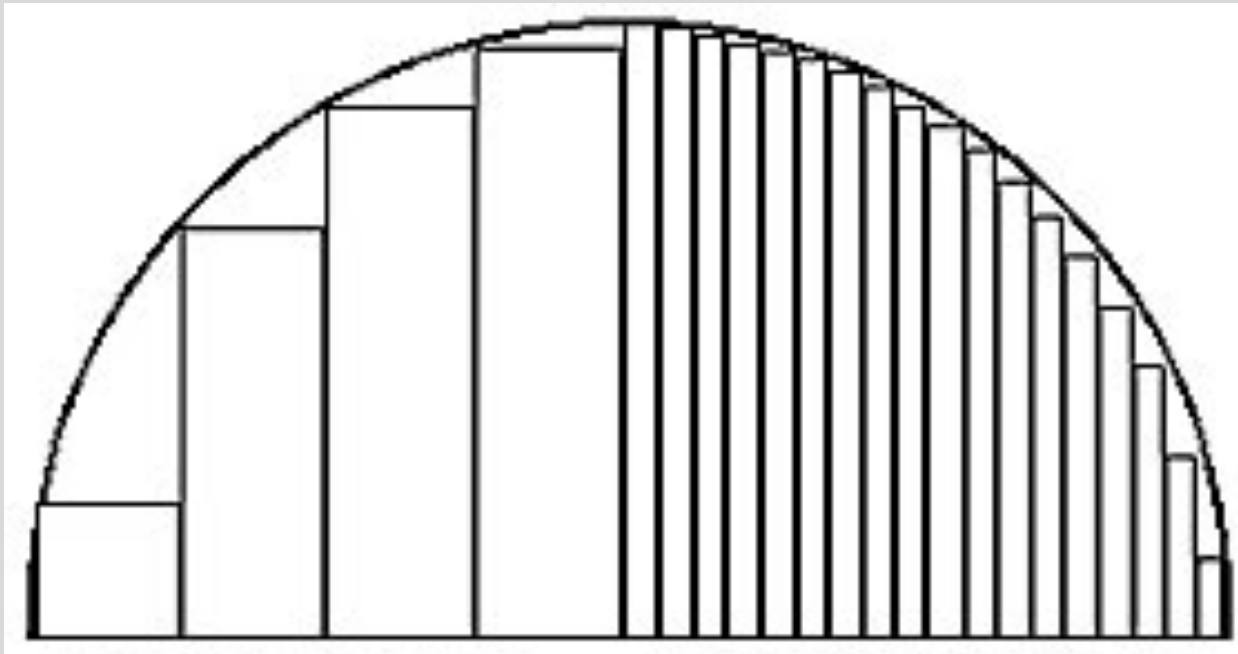
Easier to see than it is to hear



# Record with NO compression

- If you have a choice:
  - Do NOT record in mp3 format!
    - Regardless of how good mp3 *sounds*, the issue is what the format of the file is and how easily it can be read and reused in future.





Low sample rate

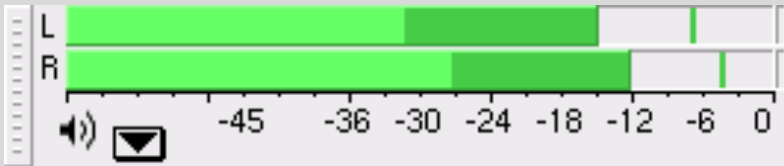
High sample rate

Bit Depth	Sample Rate	File Size for 1 minute stereo mix	File Size for 3 minute stereo mix
16	44,100	10.1 Mb	30.3 Mb
16	48,000	11.0 Mb	33 Mb
24	96,000	33.0 Mb	99 Mb
MP3 File	128 k/bit rate	0.94 Mb	2.82 Mb




# Set levels

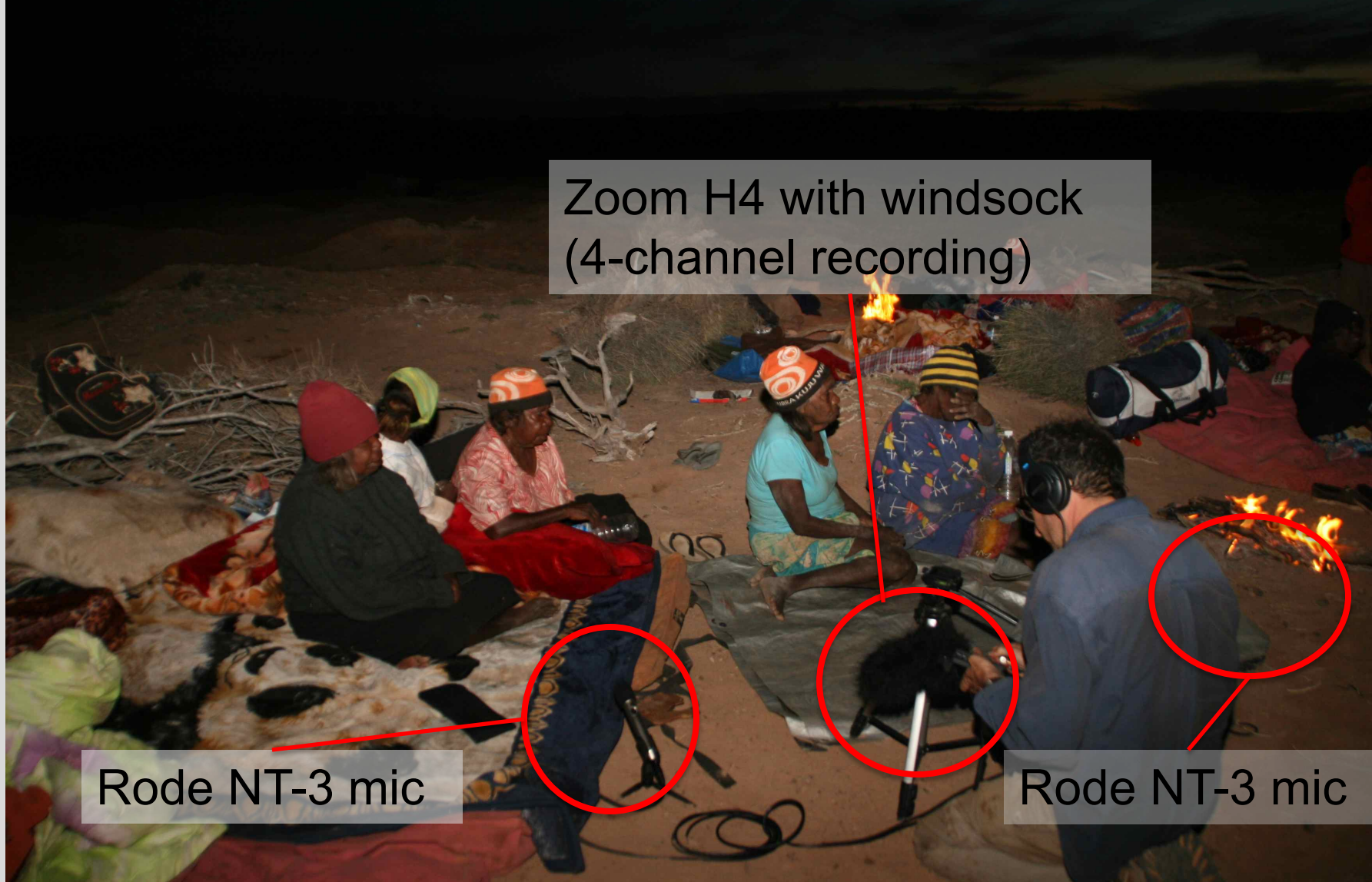
If you can control input levels

- Do not use automatic limiting
- Set recording to peak around -12



# Listen to samples

-  Low volume recording – mic too far from speaker, multiple speakers (Warnman, Great Sandy Desert)
-  Low volume recording – amplified in Audacity (amplifies background noise too)
-  Good quality recording (Nafsan, central Vanuatu)



Zoom H4 with windsock  
(4-channel recording)

Rode NT-3 mic

Rode NT-3 mic

Singing, outdoors, wind noise, fire noise (Warnman, Great Sandy Desert)



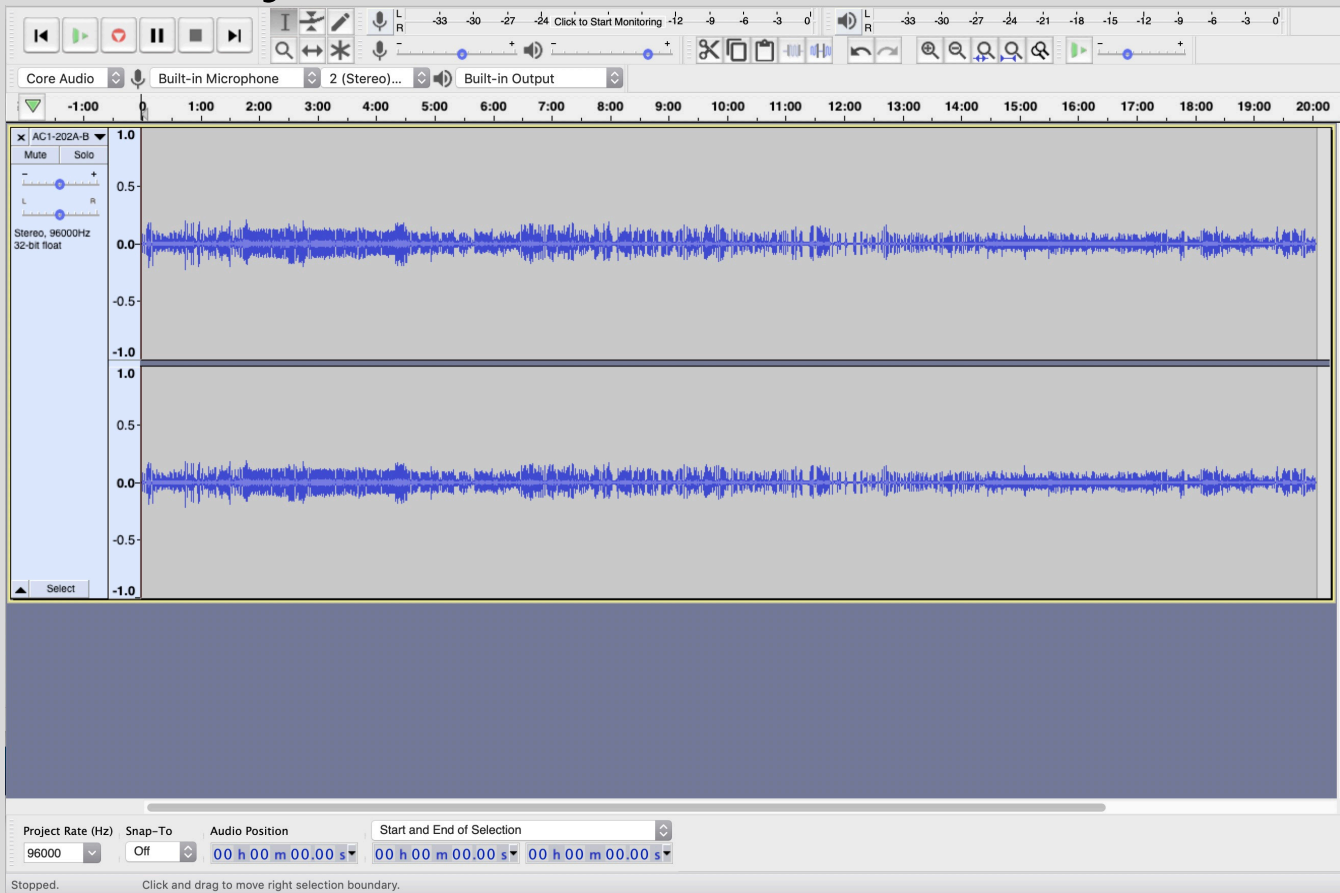
Sample single track



Sample mixed down multitrack

# Editing audio files

- Audacity – free audio software



<https://www.audacityteam.org/download/>

# Basics

- Record time and date (on the recording, in your notes), who is speaking, where you are
- Minimally 44.1 kHz, 16bit WAV
- Sound check



# Metadata

- Keep track of what is on the recording
  - in a notebook while you are making the recording

	Collection ID (e.g. LB8):	Item Identifier (e.g. 1995Elders)	Role: Speaker	Item Title (e.g. Introductory Materials)	Item Description (e.g. Four text stories for interviews)	Content Language (Language as spoken in file)
1						
2	JHER	001	Mona Chuguna	God's Spirit	Acts 1 and 2 with songs	Walmajarri // English
3	JHER	002	Mona Chuguna	Peter and John	Acts 3 and 4 with songs	Walmajarri
4	JHER	003	Mona Chuguna	Stephen	Acts 5 and 6 with songs	Walmajarri // English
5	JHER	004	Mona Chuguna // Peter Skipper	Saul	Acts 8 with songs	Walmajarri // English
6	JHER	005	Mona Chuguna	Peter and Cornelius	Acts 9:32 - 11:18 with songs	Walmajarri
7	JHER	006	Olive Knight // Peter Skipper	Lost Things, The Sower	Luke 15, Mark 4 with songs	Walmajarri
8	JHER	007	Mona Chuguna // Peter Skipper	The Crucifixion	Mark 14:1 - 15:47 with songs	Walmajarri // English
	JHER			Easter	Mark 16:1-8, John 20,21 with songs	Walmajarri // English
9		008	Tommy May // Mona Chuguna			
10	JHER	009	Rela Angle // Mona Chuguna	Jonah	Jonah with songs	Walmajarri // English
	JHER			Christmas, Lazarus	Selections Matthew and Luke, John 11:1-45 with songs	Walmajarri
11		010	Olive Knight // Mona Chuguna			
12	JHER	011	Tommy May	Elijah and Ahab	1Kings 17, 18 with songs	Walmajarri // English
13	JHER	012	Olive Knight	Letter to Timothy	1Timothy 1:1 - 4:5 with songs	Walmajarri // English
14	JHER	013	Rena Pindan	Abraham 1	Genesis 15 - 19 with songs	Walmajarri
	JHER			Abraham 2	Genesis 20,, 21, 22, 24 with songs	Walmajarri
15		014	Peter Skipper			



# Hearing

- Humans can select what to hear
  - your brain can exclude some noise to focus on the target signal
- Machines don't do that

# Recording

- Avoid background noise if possible
- Move away from the wind and use a windsock
- Keep the mic as close to the speaker as possible
- Use a mic stand
- Use headphones to listen to what is being captured

# Doing all of this will help avoid a mess!

What did I record?

What recordings did I get from the archives?

- Who is on the recording? What are they talking about? Have I transcribed the recording? When was it recorded?



# Try it yourselves

- practice with recorders