



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Finding aid

MORGAN_E01

**Sound recordings collected by
Terry Fox, 1993**

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Listening copies are available. Contact the AIATSIS Audiovisual Access Unit by completing an [online enquiry form](#) or phone (02) 6261 4212 to arrange an appointment to listen to the recordings or to order copies.

Restrictions on listening

This collection is open for listening.

Restrictions on use

Copies of this collection may be made for private research. Permission must be sought from Eileen Morgan's next of kin and community for any publication or quotation of this material. Any publication or quotation must be consistent with the *Copyright Act* (1968).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Date: 1993

Extent: 4 audiocassettes (approximately 60 minutes each)

Production history

These recordings were deposited with AIATSIS on 17 August 1993, by Eileen Morgan. They were part of the research undertaken in conjunction with historian Terry Fox, with the aim of passing down the history and cultural knowledge to the younger generations. It was funded by an AIATSIS research grant (no. 92/4424) and culminated in the publication of the book *The Calling of the Spirits* in 1994 by Aboriginal Studies Press, which documented the history of the Wallaga Lake and Yuin people, interwoven with Eileen Morgan's own personal history and stories of her family.

RELATED MATERIAL

Important: before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

There are several items within the AIATSIS collection which directly relate to this collection. The first is *The Calling of the Spirits*, by Eileen Morgan, the book which resulted from the MORGAN_E01 recordings. A copy is held in the AIATSIS library; please see [B M847.50/C1](#) for more information.

How I Came to Write this Book, is a short manuscript by Eileen Morgan relating to the creation of the above book and containing other information relevant to these recordings. It is held in the AIATSIS library, see [PMS5489](#).

Significant sites, bush tucker and crafts (see [MORGAN.E01.CS](#)) and *Community portraits, employment and material culture on the far south coast of New South Wales* (see [MORGAN.E01.BW](#)) are collections of

photographs which were taken for inclusion within the book. *Family photographs from Wallaga Lake and region* (see [MORGAN.E02.BW](#)) is a collection of family photos compiled for use in the above book. All of these photographic collections directly relate to people and topics discussed within the MORGAN_E01 recordings.

Similarly, *Painting* (please see [MORGAN.E02.CS](#)) – is a photograph of the painting by Eileen Morgan which was used for the front cover of *The Calling of the Spirits*.

Finally, please also see Archive Folder 037101-037107 for transcripts of the MORGAN_E01 audio recordings.

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 Eileen Morgan 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
<u>MORGAN E01_037101</u>	Field tape 1, side A	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Bermagui, 7 April 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037102</u>	Field tape 1, side B	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Farmborough Heights, 3 May 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037103</u>	Field tape 2, side A	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Farmborough Heights, 4 May 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037104</u>	Field tape 2, side B	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Farmborough Heights, 4 May 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037105</u>	Field tape 3, side A	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037106</u>	Field tape 3, side B	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993
<u>MORGAN E01_037107</u>	Field tape 4, side A (side B blank)	Terry Fox interviewing Eileen Morgan (at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993

ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

MORGAN_E01_037101/ Field tape 1, side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	-
Subject keywords:	Fishing; Land rights – Claims, disputes, hearings; Indigenous knowledge - Health and medicine; Housing – shelters; Food - Damper.
Language/people:	English
Places:	Bermagui/Mimosa Rocks (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Dignams Creek (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Merriman Island (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Wallaga Lake Reserve (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Snake Island (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Tilba (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04).
Recording quality:	Good

<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Bermagui, 7 April 1993</u>	
00:00:00	Archive announcement.
00:00:09	Pause
00:00:34	TF announces interview.
00:00:58	EM speaks of going fishing at Dignams Creek many years ago, and about all the land there now being private, fenced-off land, being unable to go fishing. She speaks of being able to access other land previously, whereas now it is no longer accessible to Indigenous Australians. EM also mentions Merriman Island.
00:06:24	EM speaks of the issue of Indigenous people being unable to claim land at that time. She speaks of this being unjust and suggests that perhaps the government should give them some land with a little house.
00:08:41	EM speaks of the Wallaga Lake Reserve, and the other people who have moved there. She speaks of favouritism in relation to jobs, based on family preferences.
00:10:02	TF and EM speak about ticks in the bush, and of repelling them using tea tree, or cooking oil. She also speaks of traditional practice of rubbing animal fat on the body to keep warm and repel ticks.
00:11:50	TF and EM speak of the Land Rights Act and of Indigenous people claiming Crown Land through the Act. Snake Island and Tilba (Tilba Tilba) are briefly discussed, and EM speaks of her parents.
00:15:10	EM speaks of materials used for constructing bark hut, and of many of them being built near Wallaga Lake.
00:19:14	EM speaks of her camping holidays, and of cooking food (especially damper) in the sand. She speaks of traditional practices surrounding food and sharing. EM also speaks of preserved dampers being found many years later during road works.
00:24:40	EM and TF speak again of ways to prevent tick bites.
00:27:00	TF and EM resume speaking about the process for making damper.
00:30:57	End of archive number 37101, field tape 1, side A.

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MORGAN_E01_037102/ Field tape 1, side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Percy Davis, Helen Demestre
Subject keywords:	Animals - Birds - Ducks / Geese; Sport - Cricket; Sport - Horse racing; Sites - Sacred sites; Religion - Dreaming - Spirits
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) people
Places:	Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Merriman Island (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Gulaga / Mount Dromedary (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Mumbulla (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Quaama (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Bermagui/Mimosa Rocks (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Farmborough Heights - Wollongong map area / Illawarra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Good

	<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 3 May 1993</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement.
00:00:07	Pause.
00:00:14	EM speaks of the location to Wallaga Lake, and of the Thomas family. She speaks of belonging to the Yuin (S67) language group. Mentions Mount Gulaga, Merriman Island and Mumbulla Mountain. She speaks of her home country.
00:04:10	EM speaks of the black duck as her totem, and its significance to the local Indigenous people.
00:05:37	EM speaks of the history of Wallaga Lake as a reserve.
00:09:30	EM mentions Quaama and Bermagui as places where Indigenous people used to play sport. She also speaks of camping at the cricket ground near the lagoon when water was scarce, and of the Ted Marsh touring party. Uncle Percy Davis is also briefly mentioned in relation to horse races.
00:12:48	EM speaks of the cultural significance of Mount Gulaga and of the sacred sites to the Yuin people. She speaks of the historical uses for the place.
00:16:16	EM speaks of the cultural significance of Mumbulla Mountain, and of visiting it with her family and school children.
00:18:40	EM speaks of the spirits of the mountain, and their effect on her. She compares the spirits to Christian beliefs and elaborates on their role in traditional Indigenous culture.
00:22:50	EM briefly speaks of ghosts, or <i>gunj</i> , and other types of spirits.
00:27:03	EM speaks of an incident when her Granny Helen (Helen Demestre) saw a black spirit dog, after her son had been injured during World War 1.
00:28:50	EM speaks of seeing a spirit at Wallaga Lake in the vision of a person's face with an animals' body.
00:30:56	Interview cuts out. End of archive tape 37102, field tape 1, side B.

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MORGAN_E01_037103/ Field tape 2, side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Helen Demestre; Sam Haddigaddi; Guboo Ted Thomas; Rex Morgan, Arthur, Thomas, Monica Morgan, Arthur Morgan, Wendy Morgan, Granny Andy, Butter Thomas, Andy Bond, Granny Nyaadi, Eva Parsons, Thelma Walker, Emily Parsons, Eddie Parsons.
Subject keywords:	Housing – Shelters; Education - Schools – Attendance; Reproduction – Childbirth; Recreation - Play - Children
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) people
Places:	Tilba (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Cobargo (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Tuross/Bodalla/Eurobodalla (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); School Point (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04), Mosquito Point/Bay (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04), Merriman Island (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Farmborough Heights - Wollongong map area / Illawarra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Good

	<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 4 May 1993</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:06	Pause.
00:00:17	EM speaks of where her families moved to from Tilba Tilba to Wallaga Lake, and of them living in bark humpies and slab huts. She mentions her Granny Helen (Helen Demestre) and Sam Haddigaddi, and the housing standards in the area.
00:03:05	Tape distortion
00:03:08	EM continues to speak of moving to Lake Wallaga with her husband Rex Morgan. She speaks of Ted (Guboo Ted Thomas) and his family.
00:04:14	Tape distortion.
00:04:18	EM continues to speak of the types of places that she lived in.
00:05:10	EM speaks of moving to Cobargo in 1950, and of the houses there.
00:07:48	EM speaks of the threat of being moved to Bodalla and of the school at Lake Wallaga closing, and of her and her brother Arthur Thomas sending their children to school at an earlier age, to stop the school closure. She speaks of her daughter Monica (née) Morgan and son Arthur Morgan.
00:10:16	Tape distortions.
00:10:42	EM speaks again about the bark humpies, and mentions School Point and Mosquito Point (Mosquito Bay).
00:12:02	EM speaks of Granny Andy, the local midwife who delivered her and her siblings.
00:13:30	EM speaks of the female doctor at Lake Wallaga, and travelling to Tilba to see her, as well as birthing practices amongst the local women. She speaks of giving birth to her children, including Malcolm Morgan, Wendy Morgan, Monica Morgan and Rex Morgan.
00:20:20	EM speaks of living at Granny's Corner when she was a child, and of the slab huts. EM speaks of Helen Demestre and her family.
00:23:03	EM speaks of her early years living variously with her mother and several aunts and uncles – she mentions Aunty Butter Thomas, Uncle Andy Bond, Granny Nyaadi and Beatrice (?).

00:25:40	EM speaks of the government giving Andy Bond Merriman Island after he returned from the war in exchange for the land he was currently living on.
00:28:51	EM speaks of her relationship with her cousins and the games they played, including building a cubby house. She mentions Mary (no surname mentioned), Eva Parsons (née Chapel), Thelma Walker, Emily Parsons, Eddie Parsons, Scott and Elva by name.
00:31:15	End of archive number 37103, field tape 2, side A.

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MORGAN_E01_037104/ Field tape 2, side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Helen Demestre, Andy Bond
Subject keywords:	Recreation - Play – Children; Housing - Shelters - Bark; Housing - House construction;
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) people
Places:	Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Shepparton/Mooroopna /Rumbalara (N Vic SJ55-01); Farmborough Heights - Wollongong map area / Illawarra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Good

	<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 4 May 1993</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:09	Pause.
00:00:16	EM continues to speak about her cubby houses as a child.
00:01:57	EM speaks of interactions between the children.
00:04:43	EM speaks of coming back from Uncle Andy Bond's place and staying with her mother when she was five years old.
00:05:26	EM speaks of Granny Helen (Helen Demestre) staying in the bark house when EM and her family moved to Wallaga Lake, and describes the bark house.
00:08:00	EM speaks of using animal fat lights for lighting, and of their construction.
00:10:50	EM speaks of making dolls from medicine bottles to play with.
00:17:35	EM speaks about the house she lived in at the ridge with her family.
00:22:31	Tape distortion.
00:23:59	Tape distortion.
00:24:00	EM speaks of different buildings at Mooroopna, near Shepparton, which used hessian bags for walls. She discusses other readily-available materials used in the construction of these dwellings during the 1940s.
00:29:03	End of archive tape 37104, field tape 2 side B.

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MORGAN_E01_037105/ Field tape 3, side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Rosie (Goonarl) Mumballa, Percy Mumballa, King Jack Mumballa, Granny Tungai, Wendy Morgan, King Merriman, Guboo Ted Thomas
Subject keywords:	Magic and sorcery - Clever people; Stories and motifs - Magic and sorcery; Politics and Government - National symbols and events - King plates; Social organisation - Clans; Social welfare - Rationing - Food
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) people, Wallaga Lake people
Places:	Nowra (NSW S Coast SI56-09); Batemans Bay /Mogo (NSW Far S Coast SI56-13); Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Braidwood (S NSW SI55-16) ; Delegate (S NSW SJ55-04); Tilba (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Farmborough Heights - Wollongong map area / Illawarra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Good

	Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:06	Pause
00:00:18	EM speaks of Auntie Rosie (Goonarl) Mumballa coming to visit for the last time. She mentions Percy Mumballa, and Frank (no surname mentioned), who stayed with her at Nowra, and of Rosie moving there.
00:04:20	EM speaks of relatives and friends gradually moving away, including Cyril and Bobby (no surnames given).
00:05:20	EF asks more about Rosie Mumballa, who is noted as being Percy Mumballa's mother, and King Jack Mumballa's wife. EM discusses Rosie Mumballa further.
00:06:16	EM speaks of Granny Tungai, who had a daughter named Maggie (no surname mentioned), and who moved to Bateman's Bay.
00:06:07	EM speaks of Granny Tungai leaving <i>ganiinas</i> , red and blue 'lights' there to protect the people at Wallaga Lake from <i>bagiinjes</i> . EM speaks of the lights and interactions with them. She speaks of Granny Tungai as a medicine woman and of there having been a medicine man at Wallaga long before EM's time.
00:13:41	EM speaks of Wendy Morgan having travelled around NSW, speaking to the elders and finding out about her culture. She discusses Wendy's upbringing at Cobargo, and the others at Wallaga Lake. Braidwood and Delegate are mentioned briefly.
00:15:45	EM speaks of different words that both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people used to describe Indigenous people.
00:17:10	Pause, and tape distortion.
00:17:15	EM speaks of each family group having its own leader. She mentions Merriman, Aunty Goonarl and the Mumballa family, and the places Delegate and Wallaga Lake again. She tells a story of Aunty Goonarl making a Christmas pudding that didn't go to plan.
00:22:00	TF asks again about each group having its own leader. He mentions the town of Tilba Tilba; and speaks of and Merriman and Jack Mumballa as leaders for the Wallaga people.
00:23:12	EM speaks of the brass plates worn by King Mumballa and King Merriman, and of

	what she knew of King Mumballa and Aunty Goonarl. She also briefly mentions Guboo Ted Thomas.
00:25:54	EM speaks of the rations received from the manager.
00:31:03	End of archive tape 037105, field tape 3, side A.

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MORGAN_E01_037106/ Field tape 3, side B

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Rex Morgan; Percy Thomas; Helen Demestre; Arthur Morgan; John L Sampey
Subject keywords:	Social welfare - Rationing – Food; Race relations - Racial discrimination - Legislative; Stories and motifs - Devils, monsters, evil spirits, hairy men, bunyips; Education - Schools
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) people
Places:	Cobargo (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Bermagui / Mimosa Rocks (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Farmborough Heights - Wollongong map area / Illawarra (NSW S Coast SI56-09)
Recording quality:	Good

	<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:08	Pause.
00:00:18	EM continues on from the previous archive tape (037105) to speak of the rations.
00:02:56	EM speaks of lighting, in particular fat lamps and kerosene lamps.
00:04:08	EM speaks of when the rations cut out, and of when the law changed to allow Indigenous people into the hotels. She mentions her husband Rex Morgan, and her brother Percy Thomas. EM discusses how dressing properly and behaving well allowed other freedoms not officially sanctioned.
00:07:25	EM speaks of discrimination against Indigenous people by the shopkeepers in Cobargo, during the early days.
00:09:23	EM speaks of the bunyip and how she was always told as a child to never to swim at Granny's Corner. She describes the bunyip's appearance, habits and favoured locations. She mentions Helen Demestre briefly.
00:19:45	TF and EM speak of Shirley and Mervyn, and their views of the bunyip. EM speaks briefly of Bermagui, and of her son Arthur Morgan coming face to face with the bunyip one day when collecting oysters.
00:24:03	TF announces that it is now Friday, 7 May.
00:24:10	EM speaks of her days at school, what she was taught, and the school building itself. She mentions Mr Sampey (John L Sampey), who was both the teacher, and the manager of the farm; and Mrs Sampey, who taught the sewing.
00:31:03	End of archive tape 037106, field tape 3, side B.

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MORGAN_E01_037107/ Field tape 4, side A

Performer/speaker(s):	Eileen Morgan, interviewed by Terry Fox
Personal subject(s):	Cynthia Kelly (née Carter);
Subject keywords:	Education – Schools; Language - Linguistics - Language elicitation
Language/people:	English, Yuin (S67) language
Places:	Wallaga Lake (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04); Tilba (NSW Far S Coast SJ55-04);
Recording quality:	Good

	<u>Terry Fox (TF) interviewing Eileen Morgan (EM) at Farmborough Heights, 6 May 1993</u>
00:00:00	Archive Announcement
00:00:08	Pause.
00:00:17	EM continues on from the previous archive tape (037106) discussing school at Wallaga Lake.
00:02:21	Tape distortion.
00:02:45	EM speaks of after the war, when the first trained teacher started teaching at the school. She mentions that he stayed at Tilba Tilba and rode his bicycle down.
00:06:24	EM speaks of Cynthia Kelly (née Carter) and her ability to pick up information quickly, as well as EM's love of drawing and art, then continues speaking of her school days.
00:10:00	EM speaks of walking home from school for lunch.
00:11:50	<u>Terry Fox eliciting word pronunciations from Eileen Morgan in relation to names, placenames etc that are relevant to her life story. Recording made at the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies on 8 June 1993.</u>
00:12:27	EM pronounces the names of places surrounding Wallaga Lake area, as elicited by TF and notes that she belongs to the Yuin (S67) language group. EM continues with the names of her relatives mentioned in previous tapes in this collection. EM also pronounces several other words in language as elicited by TF.
00:18:08	Tape distortion, followed by more language and pronunciation elicitation, relating to placenames, words in language for particular shellfish, utensils and other food. EM also pronounces words in language relating to Yuin stories and folklore. EM pronounces the names of several people living in the area.
00:23:18	Tape distortion, followed by an unidentified female voice asking EM "what they called themselves now".
00:23:30	End of archive tape 37107, field tape 4, side A.

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