



BEFORE



AFTER

## FLOOD RECOVERY STORIES

*Martin Walker*

June 2021, the usually calm flow of Middle Creek burst its banks and forged its own path taking down trees and damaging banks in Martin Walker Reserve.

### Middle Creek making its own path

Middle Creek, which flows into Morwell River, suffered during the flood which widened and scoured its banks.

Once the area was declared safe and debris removed, rock was brought in and earthworks commenced. The bank was first battered to a stable slope before being armoured with the quarried rock. Otherwise known as 'rock beaching' this will help to prevent erosion and protect the bank in future flood events.

After the banks were battered and armoured, planting helped restore the gardens for the community to enjoy.

This was a complex recovery project using the experience of the CMA to repair the damage and build resilience," said Dan Cook, Project Coordinator for West Gippsland CMA. "If the bank is weakened, subsequent flood events will compound the issue – especially around reserves and major infrastructures."

"When we can undertake flood recovery works, we also focus on building strength for the future," said Dan.

In June 2021, widespread storm and flood damage across Gippsland impacted in many catchments.

Since then, a comprehensive flood recovery program has been rolled out across more than 150 sites in partnership with local government, agencies and landholders supported by funding from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Since the event, the flood recovery program delivered:

- 150 waterway structures.
- Just under 37 kilometres of fencing.
- Over 27 hectares of vegetation.
- Earthworks at 165 sites.
- 155 management agreements with landholders.

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*We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the region, the GunaiKurnai, the Bunurong, the Boonwurrung and the Wurundjeri peoples, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country.*