

BEFORE



AFTER



FLOOD RECOVERY STORIES

Noojee Reserve

Durt'Yowan Latrobe River swelled in the widespread June 2021 flood event in West Gippsland leaving damage to a favourite recreation reserve and an existing WGCMA worksite in the popular town of Noojee.

New life for Noojee Reserve

The Noojee Reserve is usually a tranquil spot with shelter, picnic tables, winding tracks and toilet facilities. In the June 2021 storm event, the public reserve was completely inundated as the river broke its banks and roared through the park taking out banks, trees and paths.

When the initial emergency was over and the area declared safe, the team at West Gippsland CMA moved in to assess the damage. Working in partnership with Baw Baw Shire Council, a large amount of debris covering the reserve was removed and the debris taken away.

The team used rock to repair and reinforce the banks. Local contractors worked under the guidance of the CMA to expertly stabilise the banks, armouring it to withstand future events.

Now the reserve is open again, the river has slowed and locals and visitors are once again enjoying fishing, walking and picnicking at this tranquil spot in the heart of Noojee.

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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Glenfalloch Station

Wirn Wirndook Yeerung (Macalister River) swelled in the widespread June 2021 flood event in West Gippsland, leaving the waterway damaged and in need of repair.

Building flood resilience, naturally

When floodwaters subsided, the West Gippsland CMA and property managers at Glenfalloch Station swung into action to repair the damage to the waterway.

The team used their experience of previous floods to achieve the best results by working with natural materials and focusing on long-term resilience.

Machinery was brought in to smooth 200 metres of raw, vertical bank into a gentle slope using a technique known as 'battering'.

Logs and woody debris washed down by the floodwater were salvaged and dug into the bank. This helped with stabilisation and also provided habitat for frogs and fish.

Finally, almost 7,000 plants were put in the ground.

"Trees and shrubs provide the essential last step in flood recovery, acting like the reo in concrete to stabilise banks and to slow the water down in future flooding events," explained Elsa Burnell, West Gippsland CMA's Project Coordinator.

After 18 months, the repaired sites were in a strong shape to withstand future floods.

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.

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Avon River

The severity of the major rainfall event across Gippsland in 2021 led to a rapidly eroding gully posing a threat for the landholder, public and natural environment on a farm near Stratford.

Holding firm on the Avon

During the rainfall event, water rushed down an existing gully line into the Avon River, damaging vegetation, dumping a huge load of sediment into the waterway and severely eroding the bank.

Without intervention the erosion would only worsen with each rainfall event.

Large rocks were delivered and strategically positioned over the eroding gully to create a 'chute', or channel, for rainwater to flow gently down into the river.

The rock surface of the chute will protect the soil from being eroded and prevent sediment from entering the river system and flowing on into the Gippsland Lakes.

After constructing the rock chute with machinery, the team then got to work on revegetating the surrounding area. The plants will help to protect the structure, slow future flows and further stabilise the riverbank providing resilience in future rain events.

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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.

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