



MONASH
ART
DESIGN &
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T6-A2

Insights into Temporary and Emergency Accommodation

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What does a holistic 'resilient' approach to housing recovery look like?

The significant gaps in knowledge identified by Charlesworth and Fien (2024) including taking a holistic 'resilient recovery' approach, will provide a springboard for the research team to develop a nuanced, **culturally** and **socioeconomically specific** investigation of **diverse temporary housing case studies** across Australia, that demonstrate **an integrated socio-technical approach** to gathering insights.



A trauma-informed and socio-technical approach

Our innovative approach is structured around two core principles, reflective of team expertise:

1. Foregrounding socio-cultural concerns with decolonising approaches.
2. Evaluating temporary housing models' performance through a focused technical, delivery, financial and post-occupancy approach.



Project research team



Name: Professor Mel Dodd

Project role: Principal Researcher/ Dean of Monash Art, Design and Architecture.

Expertise: Participatory processes, co-design, resilience, architectural design, action research, cross sectoral partnerships and social innovation.



Name: Bhiamie Williamson

Project role: Co-Investigator

Expertise: Indigenous disaster resilience, geography, Indigenist research, Indigenous governance and data sovereignty, trauma-informed research methods.



Name: Dr Duncan Maxwell

Project role: Co-Investigator/Director of the Future Building Initiative

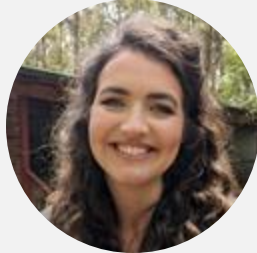
Expertise: Industrialised building, design-led development/evaluation of construction platforms, modular and prefab building systems, assembly and delivery.



Name: Nikhila Madabhushi

Project role: Co-lead / Research Fellow

Expertise: Decolonising and participatory methods, architectural practice, resilience, participatory granting, intercultural and community engagement, action research.



Name: Dr Emma McNicol

Project role: Co-Investigator

Expertise: Race, culture, gender and intersectional theory. Diversity and inclusivity, crisis counselling, trauma-informed and cross-cultural research.



Name: Dr Rachel Couper

Project role: Co-Investigator / Associate Director of the Future Building Initiative

Expertise: Applied research, industrialised/systematic building, emerging technology, offsite manufacturing, advanced construction



Project End User



Name: Catherine Gearing

Project role: Researcher

(NSW Reconstruction Authority)

Expertise: Catherine has been with the NSW Government since 2017, working across the Disaster Welfare and Recovery and Resilience teams. In these roles, she has supported large-scale recovery operations following major events such as the 2017 Lismore floods, the 2018 Tathra fires, and the devastating 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires.



Project Details

DURATION

3 YEARS

CASE STUDIES

Case
Studies

2 per jurisdiction

Diverse
Contexts

4 x remote
5 x regional
2 x urban
1 x semi-urban
1 x island

Diverse
Typologies

At least one temp
housing typology as
defined by SRRG
(except for trans
prefab)

FINAL CORE OUTPUTS

Final research and practice reports, cross sectoral resources and
policy brief detailing leading and innovative practice in housing
recovery programs nationally

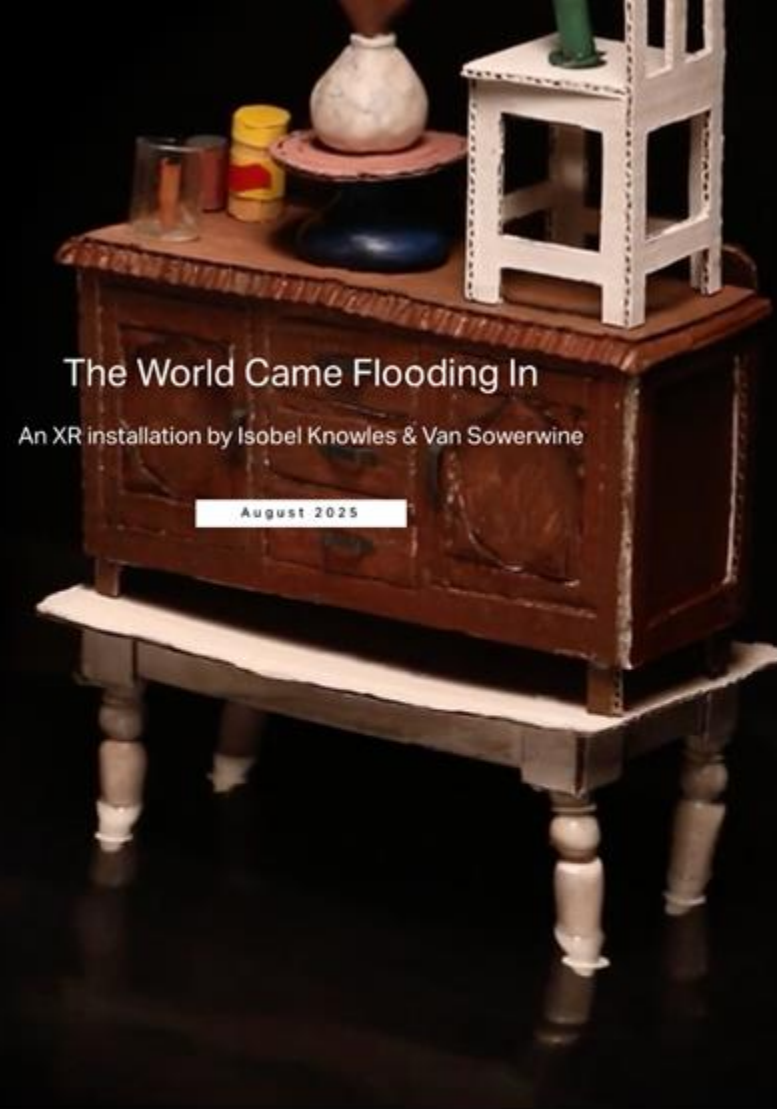


Team track record, interests and specialisations

Our team comprises researchers from Monash Art Design and Architecture (MADA), the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) program and Centre for Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) with a proven track record of leading practice-based research in:

- Lived experience, intercultural and trauma informed methods;
- Indigenous communities' experiences of disasters;
- Participatory and community-led approaches to resilient recovery, including evidence building;
- The design, implementation and evaluation of temporary and emergency accommodation, including modular and prefabricated housing solutions; and
- Non-traditional research outputs (e.g. exhibitions) geared at broad dissemination of research to non-academic audiences.





The World Came Flooding In

An XR installation by Isobel Knowles & Van Sowerwine

August 2025

World Premiere August 2025






Embark on a journey where people's experiences of floods highlight how we all embody objects with meaning, feelings and memories.

What is a case study?

- Observations so far suggest that case studies should not be categorised by housing typology alone, because of the complex scenarios for temporary accommodation in recovery across Australia.
- Because of the above factors, case studies might be organised by **type of disaster** as well as **place/locality**, inclusive of a range of emergency accommodation strategies.
 - **Example 1:** *Insights from 3 remote Indigenous communities about their housing recovery journey in WA after 2023 Kimberley floods—evacuation off Country, to short-medium-long term accommodation on Country (existing commercial facility to short-term units to “forever” homes)*
 - **Example 2:** *Comparative analysis of people’s experiences of staying in temporary villages across several localities in Northern Rivers region after 2022 floods.*
 - **Example 3:** *Comparative analysis of Victoria’s temporary housing strategies across three affected townships after the 2022 Northern Victorian floods.*



Case study shortlist

	State	Disaster Event
1. Rochester and Elmore (regional) 2022	VIC	Northern Victoria floods
2. Northern Rivers (regional/semi-urban) 2022	NSW	Northern Rivers floods 
3. Kimberley—Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Broome (remote/regional) 2023	WA	Kimberley Floods 
4. Shepparton (regional) 2022	VIC	Northern Victoria floods
5. Kangaroo Island (island) 2019/20	SA	Black Summer Bushfires
6. Adelaide Hills (urban) 2019/20	SA	Black Summer Bushfires
7. Gympie (regional) 2021/22	QLD	Southeast QLD rainfall & floods
8. Bloomfield Valley / Wujal Wujal (remote) 2024	QLD	Tropical Cyclone Jasper 
9. Pigeonhole (and surrounding FN communities) (remote) 2024	NT tbc	Big Rivers region floods 
10. Timber Creek (remote) 2024	NT tbc	Big Rivers region floods 
11. Eugowra (and surrounding localities) (regional) 2022*	NSW	Central West Floods
12. Logan, Scenic Rim, Gold Coast (urban LGAs) 2023*	QLD	Southeast QLD severe storms

* Case study will be developed depending on findings from SA case studies / sufficient coverage of pods on private land typology



Disasters:

Northern Victoria floods 2022

Case Study Locations:

- Rochester and Elmore
(regional)



Elmore temporary village—pods and caravans on recreation reserve

Image Source: Emergency Recovery Australia, 2022

Typologies:

Temporary villages

Existing commercial accommodation

Key considerations / questions:

1. Comparative analysis of both towns housing recovery with Shepparton having significantly higher % of CALD/CARM community members
2. Data sharing possible with existing NIDR NHRA project that has commenced interviews with flood affected migrant communities in Shepparton



Disasters:

Northern Rivers floods 2022

Typologies:

Temporary villages

Case Study Locations:

- Northern Rivers (regional/semi-urban—
various towns)



Temporary villages of pods / caravans on recreational reserve across Northern Rivers region

Image Source: NSW Public Works, 2022
<https://www.publicworks.nsw.gov.au/projects/north-coast/northern-rivers-temporary-housing-program>

Key considerations / questions:


1. Diverse insights will be important to gather given the contextual, geographic and demographic differences between the 11 villages set up across Northern Rivers.



Disasters:

Kimberley Floods 2023

Case Study Locations:

- Kimberley —Fitzroy
Crossing, Derby, Broome
(remote/regional) 



Humanihut villages installed on reserve land at Fitzroy Crossing Aboriginal community after Kimberley floods 2023

Image Source: Humanihut, 2023
<https://www.humanihut.com/case-studies/providing-temporary-housing-to-remote-community-impacted-by-flooding>

Typologies:

Existing commercial accommodation
Temporary villages

Key considerations / questions:

1. Fitzroy Crossing communities are moving / have moved into long-term housing— opportunity to capture holistic housing experiences.



