



Advice for water damaged Parish records, archives and cultural heritage.

The following list of support has been created to assist Parishes with emergency flood recovery of documents, archives, photographs and film. For any disaster, the most important thing is not to put yourself in danger. Don't attempt to rescue records until emergency services have declared an area safe. The two big risks to wet paper, photographs, etc are mould growth (once the rain clears up) and handling. Wet paper is much more fragile than dry objects. Avoid unpacking boxes until you have a plan for salvage. One simple thing you can do immediately is to put damaged records in a freezer. Freezing stops further water damage and prevents mould growth.ⁱ

The following links outline steps to assist in disaster recovery of flood damaged records, film and archives.

Blue Shields Australia – Flood Recovery

<https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/flood-recovery/>

National Archives of Australia – Recovering Flood damaged records

<https://www.naa.gov.au/information-management/storing-and-preserving-information/preserving-information/recovering-flood-damaged-records>

National Archives of Australia – Preserving information

<https://www.naa.gov.au/information-management/storing-and-preserving-information/preserving-information>

AICCM – Flood recovery

<https://aiccm.org.au/disaster/flood/>

National Film and Sound Records of Australia

<https://www.naa.gov.au/information-management/storing-and-preserving-information/preserving-information>

State Archives & Records of NSW– Recovery Checklist

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/recordkeeping/advice/disaster-management/recovery-chcklist>

State Library of Queensland – Salvaging damaged Collections

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/how-do-i/preserve-your-collections/salvaging-damaged-collections>

For further advice or support please contact the Diocesan Archivist Samantha Fabry on 0415600180 or email archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

ⁱ <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/water-damaged-records> (viewed 17/10/2022)