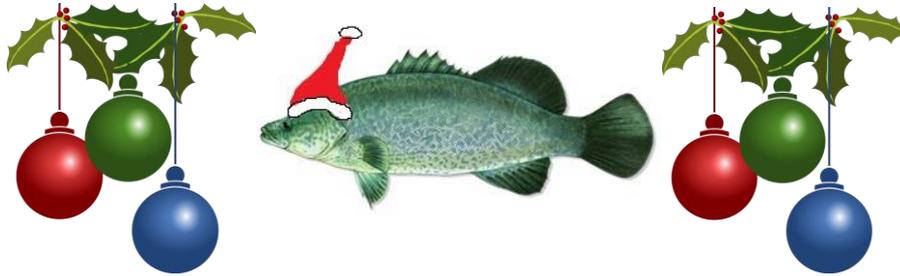


# Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach News

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**Merry Christmas and a happy New  
Year!**

It has been a big year for the UMDR. Thankyou to our adventurous volunteers, landholders, contractors, partners and supporters for your work and support in 2019. We look forward to working with you in 2020! Please enjoy this end of year newsletter recounting some of the highlights of 2019. All the best and a happy and safe holiday season to all 🌟🎄🦋

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**'All I want for Xmas is a fish hotel'**

This year has brought us something we have always wished for.....fish hotels for the Murrumbidgee River!! In recent months the team at Bush Heritage Australia's Scottsdale Reserve have been busy building the mainframes of the hotels and they are to be installed in the river in the new year, thanks to funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grant program. These hotels will provide nursery homes for baby cod which the ACT Government's Conservation Research

Unit have been recording in their biennial fish survey's at the reserve. Our grant also included a fish habitat survey of the upper Murrumbidgee River upstream and downstream of Scottsdale, carried out by NSW DPI Fisheries' MDB Habitat Rehabilitation staff. This information will be used to plan for future fish habitat projects in 2020! We will be featuring pictures of this project on our facebook page ([@Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#)) over the holiday period.

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## Rivers of Carbon Upper 'Bidgee Phase 2 project

We are pleased to continue working along the upper Murrumbidgee River in the Bumbalong Valley to further improve connectivity between the Bredbo and Colinton Gorges thanks to the NSW Environmental Trust and the Australian River Restoration Centre's Rivers of Carbon program. This year the project funding has enabled remediation of erosion gullies near the Ingelara Creek confluence which will help to improve water quality and reduce sediment inputs into the Murrumbidgee. In 2020 the project will focus on planting native riverside vegetation (rain willing!) and stabilising sand slugs. It will also include an exciting project to re-establish a Poa tussock patch on the floodplain of the Gungoandra creek at Bush Heritage Australia's Scottsdale Reserve. We will be featuring pictures of this project on our facebook page ([@Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#)) over the holiday period. You can also read more about this project on the RoC website (<http://riversofcarbon.org.au/rivers-of-carbon-upper-bidgee-river-rehab/>).

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## Improving fish habitat for Macquarie perch on the upper Murrumbidgee

The National Landcare Program's Environment Small Grant program funded the UMDR and the Australian River Restoration Centre to improve riparian habitat along a section of the upper Murrumbidgee River downstream of the Cooma Gorge, which is the breeding habitat of our local Macquarie perch population. The site was infested with dense stands of willows, which we have removed and replaced with native vegetation. Willows were retained along one side of the river to ensure that some shading and habitat elements were retained (in absence of any native/natural habitat being present). In time when native vegetation matures these willows may be removed. Such a staged approach is very important when restoring habitat at highly degraded sites to ensure cover and protection for species is retained. We will be featuring pictures of this project on our facebook page ([@Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#)) over the holiday period.

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## Reaching for Recovery project- Community Habitat Mapping for Maccas

Local Land Services have been funded by the National Landcare Program to support the recovery of the critically endangered Macquarie perch via the 'Reaching for Recovery of the endangered Macquarie perch in the

South East region' project. The project includes a focus on the upper Murrumbidgee River, where one of the last naturally occurring populations of Macquarie perch is holding on! As part of the project the UMDR assisted PhD candidate Prue Haantjens (nee McGuffie) to develop a community habitat mapping toolbox which will allow community members to get involved in assessing river habitat for Macquarie perch and identify what we can do to protect and improve the habitat for this species. A big thanks to Sarah and Jim for giving their time to test run this habitat assessment method. This was discussed at our riverside field day, held on a crispy fresh winters day back in June. You can read more about the field day at <http://riversofcarbon.org.au/rivers-of-carbon-upper-bidgee-river-rehab/reaching-recovery-macquarie-perch-upper-bidgee-riverside-field-day/>

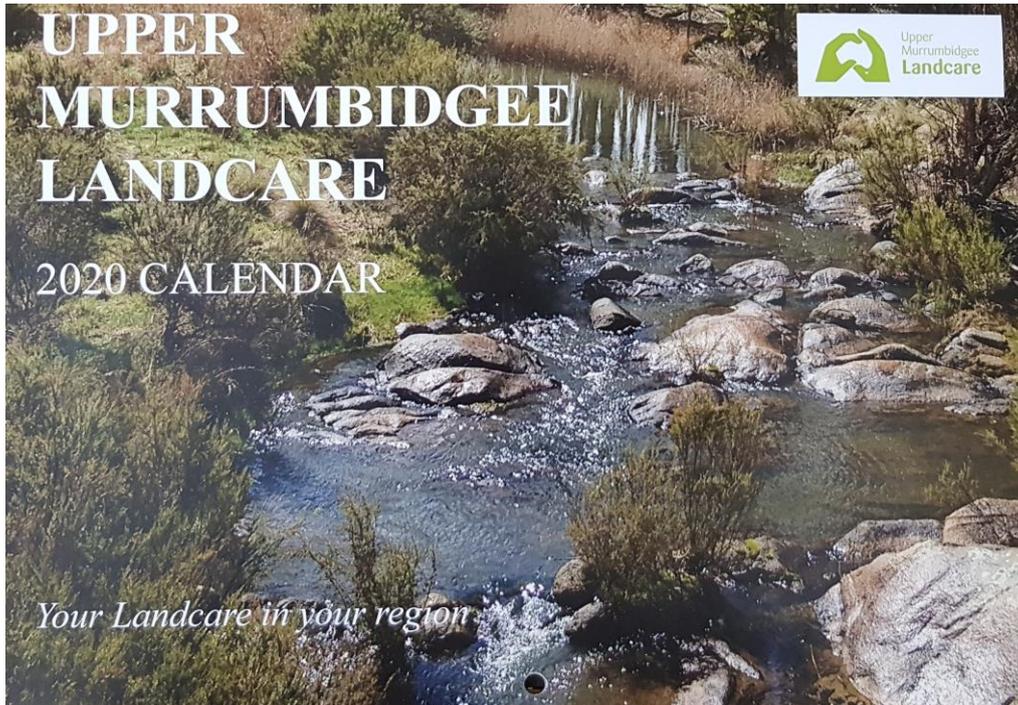
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## Thankyou to our amazing Adventurous Volunteers

This year an amazing crew of volunteers have signed up, undertaken training and got on the river to map and control woody weeds and replant native vegetation to help improve our river habitat. The volunteers worked long hours and in sometimes difficult conditions including very low water levels and amongst dense vegetation. A big focus has been to try and control Box elder, which is establishing along the river in large numbers- but currently is still in seedling and sapling stages. This program was made possible thanks to our fabulous volunteers and the support of Bush Heritage Australia, the Australian River Restoration Centre and funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts' Habitat Action Grant program. We featured pictures of this project on our facebook page ([@Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#)) during July and August.

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## Need a 2020 calendar that's for a good cause?

Yes? Then the Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee (UMLC) calendar will sort you out- plus you are supporting our local Landcare network to boot! The UMLC has been lucky to have attained funding to keep their fabulous Coordinator on board in 2020, but need a little extra funding to help run community activities and events. By purchasing this good quality calendar (or two) featuring awesome photos submitted by all the Landcare groups, Waterwatch and the UMDR in the UMLC area, you will be supporting our local Landcare network to support our community to better care for our catchment. Now that's a hard working calendar indeed! The calendar costs \$20 and can be ordered by emailing Georgeanna Story at [upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com](mailto:upper.murrumbidgee@gmail.com)

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**The Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach is proudly supported by Bush Heritage Australia, the ACT Government, the Australian River Restoration Centre, Local Land Services, Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch, the Murray Darling Basin Authority, the University of Canberra and NSW DPI-Fisheries.**

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