

## Rehabilitating riparian lands

### Trees for fish

#### The site

Mullumbimby Creek near the small township of Mullumbimby is a tributary of the Brunswick River. The lower section of the creek is brackish and provides a variety of pools and fishing holes. Active rehabilitation of the creek by Brunswick Valley Landcare began in 1996 and is helping to develop the riparian zone towards a functioning healthy ecosystem. However, many areas of the lower creek are either dominated by Camphor or unshaded and infested with weeds and grasses.

**Proponent: Brunswick Valley Landcare**

**Land use: reserve**

**Habitat grant: \$8,522**

**In-kind support: \$9,000**

#### The project

Brunswick Valley Landcare with support from Byron Shire Council and the Railway Friendly Bar Freshwater Fishing Club applied for funding to further the rehabilitation works in a priority reach of Mullumbimby Creek. By reducing the impact of environmental weeds and strategically rehabilitating native riparian vegetation along the reach they aimed to improve habitat from Australian bass. Australian bass get a large proportion of their Summer diet such as insects from overhanging terrestrial vegetation.



Over 40 people attended the community tree planting day. Photo: BVL

#### The outcomes

The efforts of Brunswick Valley Landcare which included engaging the local community in the project resulted in:

- extensive removal of environmental weeds
- over 700 native plants planted, with over 95 % survival rate
- further natural regeneration of endemic species
- improved habitat for Australian bass and other species



The new riparian buffer 15 months after planting. Photo: BVL