



Media Release

Friday, October 6th, 2017

PLENTY ON OFFER AT THE LILYDALE SMALL FARM LIVING FIELD DAY

A renowned gardener and giant freshwater lobster expert are two of the main drawcards at this month's Small Farm Living Field day at Lilydale.

The biennial field day, organised by NRM North and Lilydale Landcare, is designed for those wanting to look after and make the most of their 'small patches'.

The event is run through NRM North's Small Farm Living program, with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

NRM North Facilitator, Megan Dykman, said the field day included a busy schedule of presentations, demonstrations, stalls and displays.

"The day will have broad appeal for anyone with a small property or farm and will cover a lot of topics at the heart of land management," Ms Dykman said.

"We hope landholders will also leave with new ideas and inspiration to explore their property's potential."

Attendees will be able to watch fencing and chainsaw demonstrations, along with hearing about topics such as bee-keeping, soil health, weed and wildlife management, fermentation and property planning.

Guest presenter, renowned gardener Steve Solomon, will share his rich experience in restoring soil health and growing nutrient-dense produce.

"Homegrown produce can comprise a major portion of a smallholding family's entire year-round food supply," Mr Solomon said.

"If that food could be made to be more nutrient-dense, two things would occur - the fruit and vegetables would taste a lot better and the family's overall health would improve. My talk will explain how to achieve that."

Attendees will have the unique experience of learning about an extraordinary and endangered Tasmanian icon, the giant freshwater lobster.

Researcher, Todd Walsh, will speak about the habitat requirements and status of the lobster in the state's north-east and the role landholders can play in ensuring their survival.

"This information is especially important to landholders with creeks and rivers on their property," Mr Walsh said.

"Sediment control is the key in the north-east as juvenile lobsters need sediment-free areas to hide under rocks and to find food close by.

"It's vital that those land managers with lobsters on their property understand what is needed to have a healthy population of lobsters in a healthy stream."

Stallholders will showcase a range of local produce, along with farming and gardening products.

Children will also be able to enjoy a day out on the farm, with activities including a petting zoo, water bugs and worm farms. Drinks and a BBQ lunch will be available for purchase.

The Lilydale Small Farm Living Field Day will be held at 'Sonoma Lodge', 231 Golconda Road, Lilydale from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm on Sunday 22nd October 2017.

More details are available on the event's Facebook page ('Lilydale Small Farm Living Field Day') and the NRM North website: (<http://www.nrmnorth.org.au/events>).

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For more information contact:
Melissa Lewarn, Manager – Engagement & Communications, NRM North, 6333 7776 or 0427 354 058