



# Media Release

Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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## Field Day to Deliver Landcare and Production Advice in Small Doses

NRM North and Lilydale Landcare are teaming up to organise a field day targeting smallholders in the northern region.

The free event, to be held in February, will feature displays, speakers and demonstrations on topics as varied as chainsaw maintenance, beekeeping, fencing, weed management, stock handling and grazing management for smallholders.

The field day is part of a new program for NRM North which will support smallholders to look after the natural values on their land and make the most of their acreage.

The program includes property planning assistance tailored to smallholders, local workshops and field days on relevant topics, and small grants for activities such as protecting native bush and planting native windbreaks.

NRM North's Biodiversity Coordinator, Kate Thorn, said many smallholders in this region were new to their communities and may be new to land management.

"Often people don't know where to go for advice which is relevant to them, so this program will give them a go-to point for information and support.

"The acreages may be small, but they add up, and many small properties have fantastic natural values on them. Often people don't know if they have an important plant, a threatened species, or perhaps a serious weed on their patch."

The Small Farms Field Day on Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> is being hosted by Lilydale Landcare president, Jillian Weston, on her property just north of Lilydale, where she runs alpacas, black-faced suffolks, murray grey cattle and rare-breed poultry.

"Lilydale Landcare aims to assist the small farmers in our region. Some have little or no farming background but all have an interest in caring for their land and making it as productive as possible. We hope this field day will further that end," Ms Weston said.

**Photo attached. Suggested caption for image: *Focus on Small Farms: L to R Lilydale Landcare President Jillian Weston, Field Day presenter Matt Cook from MJ Cook Rural Supplies, and Kate Thorn, who coordinates NRM North's new Small Farm Living program.***

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