



NORTH EAST  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

*Embargoed until 8pm, 25 August 2006*

### Springhurst dairy farm wins Sustainable Agriculture Award

A dairy farming business in the Ovens Catchment has won the Sustainable Agriculture Award at the 2006 North East Landcare Awards.

Brothers Lindsay and Ian Humphry of 'Avondale', Springhurst were presented with the Award tonight (25 August) at a ceremony in Wodonga that also celebrated 20 years of Landcare in Australia.

The Sustainable Agriculture Award is presented to a landholder whose primary production has made significant contributions to Landcare and has sound land management practices and sustainable productivity.

Located five kilometres from Springhurst, 'Avondale' involves three generations of the Humphry family.

Awards organiser and North East CMA Landcare Team Leader, Mr Tom Croft, said "Avondale" demonstrated that a long-term approach to land and water management could deliver exciting results for the environment.

The Humphry family have initiated some impressive land protection and sustainable land use processes at 'Avondale' including;

- Protecting water systems – through careful management, dams and wetlands have high water quality. 25 water troughs are used by stock in preference to drinking directly from dam water and artificial wetlands have been created to support and encourage biodiversity, including frogs. 75% of wetlands are fenced with stock being excluded in remaining areas on a needs basis;
- Enhancing biodiversity through a significant revegetation and remnant protection program. Approximately 50,000 trees have been planted since 1980, of which 30,000 (thirty thousand) have been planted since 2000.
- Building soil health - salinity is being managed and reduced through alley plantings, soil aeration and use of deep rooted perennials. Acidity is being addressed through lime applications, aeration and strip and rotational grazing. Dairy effluent is being turned into vermacast that is then spread on paddocks as a fertiliser;
- Controlling pests and encouraging wildlife – all boundary fences are rabbit proofed and goats are used to help control thistles and other weeds. Fencing of remnant bush provides habitat for rock wallabies, kangaroos, echidnas and goannas.

Tom Croft said the North East Landcare Awards highlighted the diversity and impact of the Landcare movement in the Region.

"These Awards encourage and recognise the outstanding commitment to Landcare from a diverse range of individuals and groups across the North East. Our winners demonstrate the incredible diversity of Landcare activity going on in our Region."

The annual Awards are run by the North East CMA and proudly supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare.

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