



• Graham Maddock, far right, and his family listen to Rodney Wangman. Picture MATTHEW SMITHWICK

## Organic mix the way to grow

### [VERMICULTURE](#)

BY ELIZA ADAMTHWAITE

The opening of NutriHealth International at Baranduda yesterday is a story of success from adversity.

The family business, based on Whytes Road, deals in liquid plant fertiliser made from organic animal, plant and ocean sources.

One of the founding and family members, Graham Maddock, was a farmer 15 years ago when he had a chemical accident.

As a result he was very ill for many months.

Mr Maddock decided to avoid using chemicals and fertiliser altogether, instead moving to vermiculture.

“We looked at natural fertiliser for the water chestnuts we were growing at Yackandandah,” Mr Maddock’s wife Lyn said.

“We put the worm castings on the paddock, which made for sweeter pastures.”

The family decided to go into worm farming full-time in 1999 when they trademarked NutriSoil, commercialising the natural fertiliser.

“He feeds a mix to the worms and then pumps the fertiliser into tanks, has it tested and packages it up,” Mrs Maddock said.

NutriSoil Liquid Spray is the result of the unique worm

recycling system at the property.

In opening the business, Wodonga Mayor Rod Wangman said he was impressed with NutriHealth’s Story.

“It’s intriguing for me to listen to Graham about how this came about, 15 years after an accident,” he said.

Guest speaker for the day was Dr Maarten Stapper, formerly of the CSIRO, who talked about the importance of getting out into the paddock to inspect your soil and seedlings.

“Seeds are so smart, they’ll only grow when the conditions are right,” he said.