

TUSSOCK TIMES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VSTWP TALK TUSSOCK AT BARRABOOL HILLS

SURF COAST WAVE GOODBYE TO TUSSOCK SITES

HOW TO MOTIVATE DISENGAGED LANDOWNERS

LANDCARE GRANTS FOR TUSSOCK FIELD DAYS

VSTWP EDUCATE AT FARMERS MARKET

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VSTWP TALK TUSSOCK AT BARRABOOL HILLS

Winter is never an easy time for attract the punters, but 40 Landcarers turned out to hear some excellent talks from leading experts in pest management, including two representatives from the VSTWP. Peter Lindeman and Margot Galletly attended on behalf of the VSTWP and delivered an excellent overview of the serrated tussock issues and best practice management.

In her introduction Barrabool Hills Landcare Group President, Kaye Rodden, highlighted the efforts of property owner, Julie Oataway and her family have

made, "when she bought it, this property was infested with gorse and rabbits, and under threat from serrated tussock. As you can see, Julie and her family have done a magnificent job over the years to deal with all these pests. Most importantly, they dealt with all the problems together," she said.

Peter Lindeman and Margot Galletly from the VSTWP spoke about the latest developments in combating serrated tussock. The event was well attended and well received, and also featured demonstrations in how to best deal with rabbit warrens.



VSTWP TALK TUSSOCK AT BARRABOL HILLS (CONTINUED)

Experts from the Rabbit Action Network delivering best practice busting of the warrens, including live demonstrations on rabbit ripping, fumigation and also falling warrens using the implosion method.

Rabbits and serrated tussock often go hand in hand, with rabbits removing the desirable species of grasses and vegetation, making it easier for the serrated tussock to infest areas rapidly. The next event for the VSTWP will be the Sunbury Ag Show on October 13th.



Best management involves ensuring pest are treated each season

SURF COAST WAVE GOODBYE TO TUSSOCK SITES

The Surf Coast Shire have had some great success in treating serrated tussock on high conservation roadsides around the Winchelsea area, enhancing the native grasses that are prevalent in the region and preventing the further spread of tussock.

Cressy Road, Winchelsea, is an important high conservation area, with excellent native grasslands and volcanic plains vegetation types, is largely controlled of serrated tussock and has been the subject of strong resourcing from the Surf Coast Shire.

The Surf Coast Shire Council has continued to maintain the serrated tussock containment line on rural municipal roadsides for the past 8 years to support Agriculture Victoria's containment approach for serrated tussock, using a combination of both State and Council funding. The serrated tussock containment line includes 430km of roadsides through the rural hinterland - from north of Winchelsea through to the coast near Bells Beach.

Council has this year seen a considerable reduction in the amount of serrated tussock requiring treatment on the roadsides within the containment line. This good result is attributed in part to the work of the adjoining landholders on their own properties, particularly those landholders within previous

VSTWP extension areas, and also Council's twice yearly serrated tussock roadside control program. VSTWP Acting Chair, Lance Jennison, said "the Surf Coast Shire has worked well with the VSTWP Extension Officer Tim Johnston, in getting control works completed on roadsides and private land alike". "This prevents further spread and inspires others to do further treatments in the area".

Last spring Surf Coast Council supported and coordinated the mail-out for the Surf Coast Inland Plains Landcare Network and Torquay Landcare Group community education outreach project in Torquay and Bellbrae. The project was funded by the VSTWP through the Federal Governments Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.



Roadside in the Surf Coast Shire free of serrated tussock

HOW TO MOTIVATE DISENGAGED LANDOWNERS

Have we found the answers to one of the most difficult questions in environmental management? How do we motivate disengaged landowners to better manage their land with best practice principles.

Well, we don't have all the answers, but the VSTWP believe their latest social science research project report will help improve extension outcomes and better tailor projects to specific landowner groups.

The Summary of our 6 month long Social Science Project: "Motivating disengaged landowners to control Serrated tussock" is now available for download or mailout to groups and interested individuals. This report looks at improving understanding and motivating disengaged "Don't know/Don't care" landowners to manage invasive plants across Victoria. In particular it breaks down the State of Victoria in to landowner types and looks at what motivates them into best practice land management.

The VSTWP will be implementing the findings into our activities and extension projects across the State in 2018 and beyond. We hope it can be of importance to the community, groups and stakeholders alike. The report was produced by renowned NRM Researcher Professor Allan Curtis, in conjunction with Simon Curtis from Decoy Marketing.

The VSTWP believe the Social Science Summary Report will be beneficial for our stakeholders and the community alike, and that the findings are transferable to many NRM issues and challenges that we face today.

It is worth mentioning the conclusions and recommendations can be found on page 33 of the Summary Report, and the full 82 page report is available on request from us.



Motivating landowners is vital to better land management

LANDCARE GRANTS FOR TUSSOCK

The VSTWP have developed a Landcare Field Day Assistance Grants program that aims to help groups host a serrated tussock related field day. This program offers Landcare groups/networks the opportunity to receive a one off grant of up to \$500 to sponsor the convening of serrated tussock focused field days.

The grant is available to any Landcare group that is incorporated and appropriately insured for such events, and will be useful in raising the awareness to landowners and managers about the threat posed by this noxious weed. To further support the field day, the VSTWP will provide extension material on serrated tussock identification and management, and offer the presence of a VSTWP Extension Officer.

For a copy of the guidelines contact the VSTWP on: info@serratedtussock.com



VSTWP EDUCATE AT FARMERS MARKET

The VSTWP had a great time at the Ballan Farmers Market on the 10th of June 2018, with many landowners coming to see the live serrated tussock plants and learn the finer skills of how to best identify this noxious weed.

Ballan is directly in the firing line for infestations of serrated tussock, with larger infestations to the east and south of the township.

The VSTWP have been active in the Ballan area, with Extension Officers working to the south, east and north east of the township. Farmers markets are a useful way to engage with the public, and many landowners were curious to see what the plants looked like, and had noted that they had seen signage many times over but were still unaware of what to look for.

The next big VSTWP event will be the Sunbury Agricultural Show in Spring 2018, please see our events tab on our website. If you have an event you would like us to attend, please email the VSTWP at: info@serratedtussock.com



VSTWP explaining how to identify the different tussock grasses of the region.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The VSTWP would like to thank the following people for contributing to this edition of the Tussock Times:

Ivan Carter (VSTWP), Surf coast Shire, Barrabool Hills Landcare

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party welcomes your contributions and feedback.

For contributions, feedback or to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please contact:

VSTWP Executive Officer
Phone: (03) 5366 0000
Email: info@serratedtussock.com

In our efforts to reduce the number of newsletters being printed if you currently receive a hardcopy of this newsletter but have access to email please send your email address to the Executive Officer.

More information on serrated tussock can be found on the Victorian Serrated tussock Working Party website: www.serratedtussock.com or by contacting the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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