

TUSSOCK TIMES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WORKING PARTY
FACILITATING COMMUNITY
ACTION IN MEREDITH

LISMORE LAND PROTECTION
GROUP CREATES NEW
SERRATED TUSSOCK DVD

LANDOWNER FINED FOR
FAILING TO CONTROL
SERRATED TUSSOCK

MANDY COULSON
PRESENTED LANDCARE
COORDINATOR AWARD



The new look VSTWP website is a great source of information on serrated tussock identification and management.

NEW LOOK WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) is proud to announce the launch of its new look website at www.serratedtussock.com

The website incorporates many features allowing visitors to learn about serrated tussock and navigate easily through different management tools.

Serrated Tussock Engagement Officer Alison Head explained that the website is user friendly, with visitors able to access up-to-date best practice information.

“The website also provides information to the public about what the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party do, and the importance of community led action when tackling serrated tussock” said Ms Head.

The new look website includes dedicated sections to house electronic copies of research articles and the working party’s educational brochures, which are available for download.

Continued on page 2.



NEW LOOK WEBSITE LAUNCHED *Continued*

Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party Chair, Jim Seager said the new website “provides a one stop shop for land managers to access all the up-to-date information available on serrated tussock management.”

“We invite land managers, both public and private to explore the site” said Mr Seager.

Serrated tussock is a weed of national significance, and has been said to cause a greater reduction of

pasture and grazing capacity than any other weed in Australia.

Serrated tussock is a weed that can cause many complex issues within communities that it occurs and requires long-term management with community involvement.

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website can be found at www.serratedtussock.com

NEW DVD HELPS LANDHOLDERS IDENTIFY SERRATED TUSSOCK

With support from Caring for our Country and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party Community Grants, the Lismore Land Protection Group has produced a new informative DVD on serrated tussock management.

The DVD, titled ‘Serrated Tussock: Stories from affected landholders,’ gives insight to the progress that key landholders have made to managing large infestations of serrated tussock on their properties.

Three landholders who have had their properties infested with serrated tussock share insight on how they have managed serrated tussock for successful long term outcomes.

Key community members, Jim Seager (Chair, Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party) and Scott Chirnside (Chair, National Serrated Tussock Management Group) also provide insights about successful serrated tussock control.

The DVD has been distributed to 220 members of the Corangamite Lakes Landcare Network.

There has been positive feedback from landholders about the DVD. Andrew from Vite Vite said that he had little idea of what serrated tussock looked like, but the DVD “really improved our confidence to spot it.”

Evaluation by the Lismore Land Protection Group showed that landholders who had viewed the DVD showed a significant increase in their confidence to identify serrated tussock.

It is important for communities, like those in the Lismore Lakes Landcare region, to be able to identify and treat serrated tussock in a timely manner.

Preventing the further spread of serrated tussock from the core infestation areas west of Melbourne is a vital way for Victoria to ward off new plants in currently un-infested areas.

Another resident, Charlie from Banongil East said “This [DVD] hopefully puts it on people’s radar to minimise the risk of getting it in the area.”

COMMUNITY ACTION ON SERRATED TUSSOCK FROM MEREDITH TO LEIGH RIVER

Landholders from west of Meredith township to the Leigh River have been working together on serrated tussock management with the help of Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party Extension Officer Roger MacRaild.

Working in the area over the past six months, Roger MacRaild has been assisting landowners identify and manage serrated tussock in the area. "Fortunately, this season I have recorded low numbers of serrated tussock in the area." said MacRaild.

This is a positive thing, with the district west of Meredith home to important natural values. During his time in the area, MacRaild noted significant native vegetation and wildlife, including echidnas and platypus.

"To keep these iconic locals present and healthy, it is essential that that serrated tussock be prevented from displacing the native vegetation that supports them" said MacRaild.

Serrated tussock that has been found in the area has generally been seen along waterways or roadsides.



Significant native species have been found in the project area, such as echidna and Greenhood orchids. Source: Roger MacRaild



Serrated tussock infestation along the Cargerie Creek. August 2013. Source: Roger MacRaild

MacRaild explained "the serrated tussock found along the waterways was most likely spread by wind, while plants found along roadsides were almost certainly spread by vehicles."

"These are the areas in the landscape which are first to suffer from disturbance, leading to a lack of competition, providing an advantage to weeds"

The site of the Meredith Music Festival is one where MacRaild has assisted the landholder in identifying unknown isolated infestations of serrated tussock. "I have been able to work with the festival property manager to identify isolated infestations on the banks of the Leigh River that were threatening the site.

These infestations have been treated preventing another season of seed-set, and the manager will continue to monitor these sites and their surroundings in seasons to come" explained MacRaild.

By working in this area, the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party are strengthening previous work in Bamganie, Barunah Plains and Wingeel.

BALLAN LANDHOLDER FINED

A Ballan landholder was convicted and fined \$1000 in the Bacchus Marsh Magistrates' Court in December for failing to control serrated tussock on his property.

He was also ordered to pay costs of \$320.52 to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI). The landholder pleaded guilty to not complying with the legal notice to control the noxious weed within the timeframe specified.

Magistrate John Leffer said that the serrated tussock infestation would have had a negative impact on neighbouring properties and potentially the entire district. He also said that the efforts of surrounding landholders were being compromised by one landholder's failure to do any work.

CONGRATULATIONS MANDY COULSON

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party extends a warm congratulations to Mandy Coulson for her acceptance of the Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator award at the 2013 Victorian Landcare Awards.

Mandy, who works as an important member of the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party as a Serrated Tussock Extension Officer, also spends much of her time supporting the Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network as Coordinator.

Landcare describes Mandy as having a natural ability to consistently share information in a clear, concise and easy manner and initiates engagement and extension activities to support local Landcarers.

These skills have gained her the respect of her local community and the ability to set up many successful natural resource management programs. We congratulate Mandy on her recent award.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Thank you to those who contributed to this edition of the Tussock Times.

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

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

Alison Head
Serrated Tussock Community Engagement Officer
Phone: (03) 5366 0028 or 0419 049 908
Email: alison.head@depi.vic.gov.au

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 Alison .

More information on serrated tussock can be found on the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website: www.serratedtussock.com or at DEPI online: www.depi.vic.gov.au or by contacting DEPI on 136 186.

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Invasive Plants and Animals Operations Branch, and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party.
Bacchus Marsh Victoria, Australia January 2014.

© The State of Victoria, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014. The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, 2014

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

ISSN 1836-8158 (Print)
ISSN 1836-8166 (Online)

Disclaimer: This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@depi.vic.gov.au