

# TUSSOCK TIMES

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VSTWP WEBSITE NOW  
MOBILE AND TABLET READY

20th ANNIVERSERY FOR THE  
VSTWP

MT DORAN SUPPORTED BY  
MOORABOOL SHIRE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GLYPHOSATE IS NOT THE  
ONLY OPTION



*The VSTWP website is now adaptive to smart phones and tablets (Source: VSTWP)*

## WEBSITE NOW MOBILE AND TABLET READY

The VSTWP is proud to announce that our website: [www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com) is now smart phone and tablet friendly and is adaptive for easy display on these devices.

Given current trends, it's highly likely that the majority of visitors to our website will access via a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet. It is estimated that more than 80 per cent of the world's population now owns a mobile phone, and more than 1 billion people primarily access the internet and a variety of websites from a mobile device.

It is also worth noting that a recent study in the USA revealed that more than one-third of American adults own a tablet – a

figure that has doubled in just one year. This trend is likely to continue, with the agricultural and farming sectors adapting to the new world of online information.

The VSTWP's website is now configured to be viewed with ease on mobile phones or tablets, which will suit landowners trying to identify serrated tussock in the field. You can access the same great content such as Video Case Studies, Identification Guides, the Tussock Times and many other publications and factsheets.

The menu system has been condensed to the top of the screen and you will find most locations of information identical.

*(continued on page 2)*



## WEBSITE MOBILE AND TABLET READY (continued)

We have learned that internet users are five times more likely to abandon a task if the site they are visiting is not optimised for smart phone use, hence the upgrade.

The newly added YouTube clips showing how to identify serrated tussock, and also the Video Case Studies, are downloadable to mobile and tablet devices, which will allow for viewing online or offline by landowners and members of the community,

providing a great resource to assist with serrated tussock identification at your finger tips.

Feedback on how you find navigating our website from a mobile device, a tablet, laptop, or a desktop computer would be most welcome.

Comments can be emailed to:  
[info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com)

## 20th ANNIVERSARY FOR THE VSTWP

### Can you believe it has been 20 years since the VSTWP was formed?

In 1995 the community was deeply concerned with the spread of serrated tussock, a devastating weed that had invaded 130,000 ha of land in Victoria. In response to that community concern, a strategy for the control of serrated tussock in Victoria was produced, which called for the development of the Victorian Serrated Tussock Society.

This organisation is today better known as the community-managed and driven Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP).

Since its creation, the Working Party has assisted thousands of landowners across Victoria,

and has provided tailored advice and management options for landowners in our extension target areas and beyond.



The VSTWP has uploaded a video onto our website featuring former chairperson, Jim Seager, explaining why the VSTWP was formed and the importance it has had on the serrated tussock landscape. This video can be viewed at: [www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)



*The VSTWP committee planning future projects. (Source: VSTWP)*

*To celebrate 20 years of the VSTWP, we are giving away information packages on how to best identify and manage serrated tussock, as well as an annual control calendar. Email a request to: [info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com) and provide your name and postal address.*

# MT DORAN SUPPORTED BY MOORABOOL SHIRE

**Moorabool Shire Council has made some great progress in weed and pest animal control and associated community engagement in the last few years. A major contributor to their advancement has been through the addition of a new position to their team which has very ably been filled by Tom Miller.**

During recent VSTWP extension projects extending from Meredith to Mt Doran, Extension Officer Roger MacRaild recorded infestations of serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass on roadsides and reserves, and passed this information onto Tom Miller at Moorabool Shire Council. The Council was very keen to support the VSTWP's extension projects and ensure their land was managed in accordance with best practice.

Very promptly a weed control contractor was engaged by the Council and the identified sites were treated and added to their database for follow-up in future seasons. This was great news for landowners in the VSTWP target area, who can be sure their ongoing investment into serrated tussock control on private land will be matched on roadside reserves managed by the Moorabool Shire Council.

Roger MacRaild said "It has been encouraging to work with Shire officers who have a good balanced outlook recognising the importance of both the native environmental assets and landscape productivity".



*Serrated tussock growing on a road verge.  
(Source Ivan Carter)*

"The level of effectiveness of their weed and pest control program does depend on the level of funding that is allocated by the State and the willingness of council to fund the position".

The VSTWP would like to thank the Moorabool Shire Council for their control works to date, which are proving to be a very worthy investment. The VSTWP would also like to thank all other local governments who have assisted our extension projects over the years by managing roadside reserves with best practice management.

## VSTWP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The VSTWP would like to invite you to attend their Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of November at Bacchus Marsh, at which time all committee positions will be vacated and a new committee formed.

The committee comprises 8 voluntary community representatives who work towards achieving the VSTWP vision: *'to control the spread of serrated tussock in Victorian and reduce the impacts on the economy, society and the environment'* by overseeing the implementation of the objectives of the Victorian Serrated Tussock Strategy 2012-2017.

Committee members are required to attend quarterly VSTWP meetings and may at times be requested to represent the VSTWP at external events, comment on documents, or present information to groups or communities impacted by serrated tussock.

Nominations for committee positions are currently being accepted, and the VSTWP encourages concerned community members and other key stakeholders interested in the management of serrated tussock to nominate. If you would like to attend the AGM or are interested in nominating a suitable community member to become a committee representative, please contact the Executive Officer on (03) 5366 0000.

# GLYPHOSATE IS NOT THE ONLY OPTION

**Chemical control of serrated tussock can play a vital part in an integrated management plan but using glyphosate to do this is not the only option. In many situations, the application of the herbicide flupropanate can be more effective in controlling serrated tussock for the longer term.**

Flupropanate is a slow acting herbicide that can take two to twelve months to kill the plant. However, unlike glyphosate, flupropanate provides a residual action in the soil for up to three years that can prevent or limit the growth of emerging serrated tussock seedlings.

While glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide, flupropanate provides some selectivity. Some non-target species are however susceptible to flupropanate, and it does have a significant withholding period for grazing animals; both of which should be taken into consideration before use.

The VSTWP recommends that the use of any herbicide to control serrated tussock is used within a broader management plan incorporating other control measures. To find out if flupropanate would be suitable for your application, visit your local chemical reseller for tailored advice. Before use, be sure to read and follow all directions on the label and material safety data sheets.



*Flupropanate can be selective among other desirable pasture grasses. (Source: VSTWP).*

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The VSTWP would like to thank **Roger MacRaild and Ivan Carter** for contributing to this edition of the Tussock Times.

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](mailto: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](http://www.serratedtussock.com) or by contacting the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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