

# TUSSOCK TIMES

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WOADY YALOK TALKS  
SERRATED TUSSOCK

GISBORNE TREATS TUSSOCK  
INFESTATIONS

UPCOMING WYNDHAM WEED  
EXPO

WANTED: YOUR SUCCESS  
STORIES



Farmers inspect serrated tussock control in the Misery Moonlight hills

(Source: Cam Nicholson)

## WOADY YALOK TALKS SERRATED TUSSOCK

**'Act early and stay vigilant' were the key messages delivered at a serrated tussock farm walk and information session held by the Woody Yalok Catchment Group in October 2015.**

A walk into the Misery Moonlight hills near Illabarook illustrated how challenging the weed can be to control once it has gained a foothold.

The walk and talk was led by retired State Government officer Bill Whiteside, who showed the group how to accurately identify serrated tussock, and shared his wealth of knowledge on the numerous integrated control options available.

With the identification of serrated

tussock often quite tricky, Mr Whiteside explained the key identifying features such as the tightly rolled needle-like leaf, the hairless ligule and tufted form; which often makes serrated tussock appear similar to the native tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) from a distance.

While small infestations of serrated tussock have occurred in the Misery Moonlight area for over a decade, annual control activities by landowners are keeping the weed in check.

Many of the farmers in attendance were unacquainted with serrated tussock and the newly acquired knowledge

*Continued over page*



## WOADY YALOK TALKS TUSSOCK (CONTINUED)

gave rise to two landowners discovering random serrated tussock plants on their properties; once identified the plants were removed prior to seeding.

Controlling serrated tussock before it becomes established saves thousands of dollars and many hours work down the track.

The day proved a great success and the VSTWP were pleased that they could support the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group via a Landcare Field Day Grant.

*Rokewood farmer John Carr learning the finer points of identifying serrated tussock through inspecting the tightly rolled leaf.*

*(Source: Cam Nicholson)*



## UPCOMING WYNDHAM WEED EXPO

Looking to learn more about the common, and not so common, weeds of southern Victoria? Wyndham City Council is again holding their popular Weed Expo in March 2016.

Weeds spread quickly in rural areas when they are not controlled. It is therefore important that all landowners actively prevent weeds from establishing and spreading across their own property and further afield.

The Weed Expo will provide opportunities for you to meet with experts in weed and waterway management and gain skills in how to identify and control weeds on your property.

Community groups and government agencies will be in attendance and will be promoting how they can assist you in the fight against weeds. There will also be weed samples to examine and information brochures to take home.

After the success of the Weed Expo last year, the VSTWP are again planning to attend a stall, with an emphasis on sharing tips on how to identify serrated tussock from other common look-a-likes.

The Weed Expo will coincide with the Little River Primary School Fete and will be held on:

**Sunday, 20th March 2016**

**Time: 10am-2pm**

For further information contact Wyndham's Natural Environment Officer Trevor Prowd, on: 9742 0717 or email: [trevor.prowd@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:trevor.prowd@wyndham.vic.gov.au)



*Many weed species will be on display at the Weed Expo, including serrated tussock and look-a-like native grasses.*

*(Source: VSTWP).*



## GISBORNE TREATS TUSSOCK INFESTATIONS

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party is over halfway through stage 1 of its Gisborne serrated tussock extension project. The project is being undertaken in an area to the south east of the Gisborne Township and complements recent extension projects in the Riddells Creek area.

Since its commencement in June 2015, the project has offered the 230 landowners in the target area the opportunity to attend a serrated tussock information session, receive identification guidance, have their property assessed and mapped for serrated tussock, and be provided personalised treatment advice.

To date, over 130 landowners have taken up the offer of one-on-one advice, improving their ability to identify and manage serrated tussock for the long-term. The outcomes from the project so far include the treatment of approximately 30 hectares of serrated tussock infested land across the target area, with more landowners expected to receive tailored free inspections over the next few months.

The most important aspect of the VSTWP extension projects is ensuring all landowners are given an opportunity to receive a free property assessment and learn to distinguish serrated tussock from the other grassy plants, and how to best manage the serrated tussock on their property.

VSTWP Extension Officer Ivan Carter said "I have found mostly scattered serrated tussock infestations in the areas of Gisborne and northern Sunbury. If left untreated these infestations have the potential to spread and will rapidly decrease biodiversity in native grasslands and seriously reduce the agricultural capacity of properties".



Mr Carter advised "Landowners are reminded that monitoring, early detection and treatment are crucial components of an effective ongoing weed management program."

(Source: Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Star Weekly - January 19th 2016)



A native grassland overlooking Jacksons Creek, near Gisborne  
(Source: VSTWP).

## 2016 VSTWP Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday 24th February the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party held its Annual General Meeting in Bacchus Marsh.

The meeting was well attended by both members of the public and representatives from our stakeholder groups.

The incoming VSTWP Committee:

Office Holders;

- ◆ John Burgess - Chair
- ◆ John Webb Ware - Vice Chair
- ◆ Virginia Lawrence - Treasurer

Community Representatives;

- ◆ Margot Galletly
- ◆ Wendy Bitans
- ◆ Peter Lindeman
- ◆ Alan Morton
- ◆ Elle Fox
- ◆ Rob Shea
- ◆ Lance Jennison

We would like to welcome the four new community representatives to the Committee.

Profiles of committee members will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR SUCCESS

**Serrated tussock can be difficult and expensive to control but success is possible with persistent effort and commitment.**

If you have your own serrated tussock success story, the VSTWP would like to hear about it and see your before, during and after control photographs.

With your permission, the VSTWP will share your story and photos with others via the Tussock Times, on our website or as a case study.

Case studies provide first-hand accounts from landowners successfully treating and managing serrated tussock. Current case studies can be viewed at: [www.serratedtussock.com/case-studies](http://www.serratedtussock.com/case-studies)

Share your achievements with others by sending your photos and a brief background to Ivan Carter at: [info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com)

Your story will demonstrate what can be achieved, and may encourage others to adopt similar practices and share in your success.



## FOCUSSING ON TUSSOCK

### After the dry come the invaders!

**The Barrabool Hills Landcare Group is holding a community event on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at the Barrabool Hills Cricket Pavilion in Ceres.**

Commencing at 6pm the event will focus on the identification and management of serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass and other Nassella species.

A BBQ dinner will be provided and there will be presentations from experts in identification and control of these weeds.

If you would like to attend please **RSVP** by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016** to Kaye Rodden on [nidgee@reachnet.com.au](mailto:nidgee@reachnet.com.au) or 5265 1241

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The VSTWP would like to thank the following people for contributing to this edition of the Tussock Times:  
**Cam Nicholson, Trevor Proud, Kaye Rodden and Ivan Carter**

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.

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources - Agricultural Services Grampians region, and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party.

Bacchus Marsh Victoria, Australia - March 2016.

© The State of Victoria, Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport and Resources - Agriculture Victoria, 2016. The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, 2016

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