

tussock times

October 2007

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DAFF Defeating the Weed Menace – National Serrated Tussock Workshops

Dr David McLaren and Peter Fullerton from DPI's Frankston research group have been implementing DAFF Defeating the Weed Menace National Serrated Tussock Workshops. Workshops have been held at Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Attwood with assistance from Michael Moerkerk (facilitator) from DPI Horsham, with more to be held in NSW and the ACT.

Workshops include selected farmers with local knowledge of serrated tussock and local NRM weed officers. Outcomes from the workshops will be collated to produce a new serrated tussock manager's factpack.

The workshops aim to gain a greater understanding of the life cycle and behaviour of this weed in different parts of Australia. They will also provide an opportunity to discover some new effective control ideas/information that is worth sharing with other landholders, as

well as methods that have failed in the past.

This will allow for potential future research ideas and projects and the development of case studies from farmers that can be included in the updated serrated tussock factpack.

The land managers involved in the workshop have the opportunity to learn from their peers and share information and ideas, as well as learning about herbicide resistance and the importance of integrated weed management.

Landowners will also be made aware of the need to be vigilant against a likely mass germination of serrated tussock post drought.

The release date for the updated fact pack is currently June 2008.

For further information contact David McLaren, DPI Frankston on (03) 9785 0101 or Peter Fullerton, DPI Frankston on (03) 9785 0116.



DPI's new Partnerships Officer, Kellie Hose.

Serrated Tussock Working Party Update

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party met recently to discuss updates on serrated tussock issues.

A research update from David McLaren at PIRVic explained some exciting new research areas including studies into the reproduction, genetics and spread of serrated tussock.

Pasture trials are also being conducted by Charles Grech from DPI, investigating the effectiveness of flupropanate and pre/post applications on native pasture species.

And a New Zealand company, 'Certified Organics' has developed a pine oil product that PIRVic will be looking at as a possible spot spray to be used in conjunction with glyphosate. Small-scale trials into the use of this product will be soon underway.

The working party is also developing an implementation plan for the 'Intensifying the attack on Serrated Tussock (2005-2010)' strategy. This plan will be developed with the help of Yvonne Orlando from DPI and will result in a working document by the end of the year that the working party will use to implement goals outlined in the strategy.

For copies of the strategy, contact Kellie Hose, Geelong DPI on (03) 5226 4018 or email: kellie.hose@dpi.vic.gov.au

DPI Corangamite / Port Phillip Catchment Pest Management Team Meeting

Staff from DPI's Corangamite and Port Phillip Catchments attended a six monthly team meeting held in Lancefield to discuss a range of topics related to pest management. Staff were presented information focussing on current and future projects and priorities, in particular current research projects being undertaken by PIRVIC staff in relation to serrated tussock management and biological

control. Since the last meeting 5 new staff have been appointed within the paired catchment. As well providing updates on pest management information these meetings provide an opportunity for staff to network with colleges from various locations within the regions.

Wyndham City Council's Land Management Rate Rebate Scheme for Serrated Tussock

As part of progressing Wyndham City Council's Land Management Rate Rebate Scheme from 2007 to 2010, eligible landowners will be sent a new three-year property management plan to satisfactorily complete, submit and implement (once approved) between 2007/08 and 2009/10.

Council encourages all eligible landowners to participate in the scheme that operates at a municipal scale, and since its introduction in 2000, has contributed to private landholders achieving significant results in Serrated Tussock control, along with other targeted weeds. The rebate offered remains at 20% of the annual rates applicable for the eligible property.

Council looks forward to its working partnership with landowners in controlling Wyndham's priority weed problem. The Scheme has attracted an average participation level of 82% since 2000.

Further information on the Land Management Rate Rebate Scheme and Serrated Tussock control in Wyndham can be obtained from Wyndham Council's Environment Officer, Peter Gibbs, on (03) 9742 8133.

Corangamite Local Government Serrated Tussock Meeting

The first of regular bi-monthly meetings was held recently for local government members within Corangamite catchment to discuss the issue of Serrated Tussock. The meeting was attended by members from Corangamite Shire, Moorabool Shire, Greater Geelong City Council, Colac-Otway Shire and Golden Plains Shire as well as staff from DPI Geelong.

The meetings will be used as an information sharing session on issues surrounding serrated tussock within the shires, and so members can have a regular update on DPI's initiatives.

Issues discussed at the first meeting included reducing the risk of new infestations, development of joint training programs within the catchment, DPI's isolated infestation project, native grass assets and funding opportunities for serrated tussock management.

A similar meeting will be held at the end of August for council members within the Port Phillip catchment area.

For more information on these meetings, contact Kellie Hose, Geelong DPI on (03) 5226 4018 or email: kellie.hose@dpi.vic.gov.au



Photo: DPI



Serrated Tussock Road Signs (DPI)

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, in conjunction with DPI and Vic Roads and with added funding from Victoria's CMA's, have erected road signs, highlighting the threat of serrated tussock, on major arterial corridors throughout nine catchments within Victoria.

Signs have been established at six locations within the Corangamite / Port Phillip region, including the Princess Highway at Lara, Coulder Freeway at Diggers Rest, the Hamilton & Midland Highway's near Geelong.

For further information on these road signs please contact DPI Geelong on (03) 5226 4667

Photo: Serrated tussock road sign (Princes Freeway) (DPI)



Serrated Tussock Inspections (DPI)

Pest Management Officers from the Department of Primary Industries' were involved in a one week extension and compliance operation inspecting of over 41 properties in the Bullengarook project area. The inspections confirmed that Serrated Tussock has been spreading north against the prevailing northerly winds further into Macedon Ranges. Staff have also continued to inspect properties and liaise with landowners across the Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments in relation to Serrated Tussock.

Extension activities in Corangamite, focussing on isolated infestations, have involved inspections in Winchelsea and Birregurra, with only 6 or 7 isolated infestations found. Compliance inspections have involved 70-80 priority properties, with officers issuing fewer notices than expected.

Upcoming Events/Training

Landcare Learning Guide

An online database as part of the Landcare Gateway. People can search by region, course, competency, skills or service provider to find course information for their professional development.

Information can be found at <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/guide>

Grasslands ID Day

When: Friday 9th November

Where: Lismore Community Centre

A workshop for people wanting to enhance their knowledge of features of the remnant grassy ecosystems of the western volcanic plains. Run by Tim D'Ombain from Ballarat Environment Network.

Contact Anna Carrucan (Greening Australia)
03 5231 6913 / ac.westernlakes@bigpond.com

Developed by Greening Australia, Corangamite
CMA and Corangamite Shire

Publications

Wyndham Council, with a grant from the Department of Primary Industries': Tackling Weeds on Private Land has produced an educational brochure: Benefits of Native Pastures. The brochure outlines the benefits of native pasture for feed value and as a competitor to weed invasion. The brochure is likely to be used by Melton, Geelong and Whittlesea Councils in 2007 as the message it contains applies regionally. Copies of the brochure can be obtained from Wyndham Council's Environment Officer, Peter Gibbs, on 9742 8133.

Funding Opportunities

Exchange Incentive Fund – Australian Government

The Exchange Incentive Fund is a small grants fund managed in a partnership between Greening Australia's Exchange service and Land & Water Australia's Native Vegetation R&D Program, supported by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

The aim of the fund is to help regional practitioners manage their natural resources by:

- Increasing their access to current knowledge and research on native vegetation; and
- Generating new knowledge through links to relevant researchers and organisations

The fund has been established to assist in building the capacity of regional groups and networks to use native vegetation in solutions to NRM problems.

**Applications close 1 January 2008 (unless exhausted more quickly).
Up to \$5000 available.**

For more information visit:
www.lwa.gov.au/Apply_for_Funding/Exchange_Incentive_Fund/indexdl_3694.aspx

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Exchange to discuss project proposals.

PH: 1300 886 589 / Email: exchange@greeningaustralia.org.au

Community Support

Strengthening Communities

A Victorian Government grant to provide project funding for organisations, networks and partnerships to implement projects that will advance the interests of their communities.

Such as involving a wide range of community groups, improve community environments and support volunteers.

**Applications are ongoing.
Up to \$30000, \$50000 or \$500000
depending on category.**

For more information visit:
www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au or contact a
Department of Victorian Communities (DVC)
Program Officer PH: 1300 366 356

Victorian Volunteering Small Grants

A Victorian Government initiative to encourage local community organisations to attract new volunteers from diverse backgrounds and create new volunteering opportunities. Eligibility is limited to not-for-profit organisations that involve volunteers at a local level.

Applications are ongoing. Up to \$5,000

For more information visit:
www.dvc.vic.gov.au or contact a
Department of Victorian Communities (DVC) Program
Officer PH: 1300 366 356

PPWCMA Grants and Incentives Calendar

A list of grants available for environmental projects.

For more information on this calendar contact: Sam Bayley (03) 9296 4644

Calendar can be downloaded from: http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding_calendar.htm.

Several local government grants that involve weed management within Port Phillip catchment can be found in this calendar. Grants are restricted to residents within the relevant shire. Shires include Cardinia, Hume City Council, Macedon Ranges, Manningham City Council, Moorabool Shire, Mornington Peninsula, Melton, Nillumbik

Contributions

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this first edition of Tussock Times.

Contributions for this newsletter are greatly welcome. Please contact

Kellie Hose on (03) 5226 4018 or email: kellie.hose@dpi.vic.gov.au

More information on serrated tussock can be found on the serrated tussock working party website: <http://www.serratedtussock.com> or at DPI online: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au>

Feedback

We welcome your feedback at any time using the space below:

Reply to:

Kellie Hose
Serrated Tussock Partnerships Officer
Department of Primary Industries

By Fax (03) 5226 4725
Email: kellie.hose@dpi.vic.gov.au
Mail: PO BOX 103, Geelong VIC 3220
Phone: (03) 5226 4018

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For more information about the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party visit: www.serratedtussock.com