

June 2008

Inside this issue

- A weedy business!
- Start Spraying NOW
- Land managers contribute to new serrated tussock handbook
- DPI's colourful approach at national conference
- Joe Helper visits the Bellarine Agricultural Show in Portarlington
- VSTWP update
- New Partnerships Officer
- \$205 Million to secure Future Farming in Victoria
- Costly for landholders to ignore serrated tussock control
- Research update
- Upcoming events
- Funding opportunities

A weedy business!

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Serrated Tussock Extension officer Craig Clutterbuck could not believe his eyes when he read about a business called 'The Serrated Tussock Café & Second Hand Book Shop' in Braidwood, New South Wales. Craig thought to himself why would anyone name a business after one of Australia's worst weeds?

This question continued to plague Craig, so when on holiday in New South Wales earlier this year he took the opportunity to stop at Braidwood to investigate whether this café was still there.

He started his sleuthing by investigating the town's visitors'

guide and sure enough, there it was – 'The Serrated Tussock Café & Second Hand Book Shop'.

When Craig arrived at the café he found a very different sign than the one he saw when originally reading about the business. The word 'Serrated' had shrunk somewhat. After speaking with the daughter-in-law of the owner he found that she had done the shrinking of the word 'serrated' but the owner insisted the name stay.

After leaving the 'The Serrated Tussock Café & Second Hand Book Shop' Craig could only wonder what the next shop he owns will be called, 'maybe the Mexican Feather Grass Texmex, or Blackberry Bistro'.





Start spraying NOW

Now is the time to spray serrated tussock with flupropanate to ensure that this slow acting chemical has time to kill the plant prior to seed set.

The effects of spraying may not be visible for two-to-five months as the herbicide is absorbed through the roots and needs substantial moisture to move the chemical through the soil profile. Spraying before July allows time for the herbicide to take effect before serrated tussock plants flower later in the year and produce viable seed.

It may take up to 18 months for the plant to die, a benefit to highly erodible soils where native grasses can be established while serrated tussock degrades.

Alternatively you can use glyphosate to kill actively growing serrated tussock but please refer to 'The Serrated Tussock Manager's Fact Pack' found on the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) website, www.serratedtussock.com, for advice on what is suitable for your situation.

Remember long-term control cannot be achieved through herbicide use alone; it is best achieved with combined control and revegetation techniques.

Mobile compliance project will ensure landowners meet responsibilities in pest management

DPI's mobile team will be providing additional compliance support to active groups strategically managing pests under the Victorian Government's Weeds and Pest Initiative (WPI) 2008 – 2009.

A mobile team of DPI extension and compliance staff will be working in partnership with stakeholders to ensure that land owners failing to meet their responsibilities for pest management do not jeopardise efforts and investments of surrounding land managers.

Stakeholders including community weed groups were involved in selecting projects that were assessed by representatives of Biosecurity Victoria's Invasive Plants and Animals (IPaA) Branch, the Victorian Catchment Management Council and Landscape Protection. The following projects were selected and now under implementation:

- Serrated tussock – Toolern Vale, Diggers Rest and Bulla (Port Phillip Catchment)
- Serrated tussock – Rutherglen (North East Catchment)
- Serrated tussock – Seaspray, Maffra and Bairnsdale (East and West Gippsland Catchments)
- Gorse – Ross Creek (Corangamite Shire)
- Gorse Control – Broomfield (North Central Catchment)
- Gorse and Blackberry – Merton, Swanpool, Broken River and Creightons Creek (Goulburn Broken Catchment)
- Blackberry – Glenelg River and Dergholm (Glenelg Catchment)

For further information on the mobile compliance project please contact Ms Elspeth Coker, DPI Partnerships Officer on (03) 5336 6602.

Land managers contribute to new serrated tussock handbook

Over 180 land managers have taken part in eight workshops across New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania in 2007 to develop a new serrated tussock handbook.

“The workshops enabled land managers to discuss their own situations and learn about serrated tussock management,” said Peter Fullerton, DPI Project Officer.

The information gathered from the eight workshops has contributed to the development of the National “Defeating the Weed Menace – Serrated Tussock Best Practise” handbook. The workshops have also provided opportunities for future research into serrated tussock control methods.

The handbook, funded by the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, is due to be published in June 2008.

DPI’s colourful approach at national conference

The DPI Landscape Protection team adopted a colourful and informative approach to promote the Victorian Community Weeds and Weeds of National Significance programs at the National Natural Resource Management (NRM) Knowledge Conference held at the MCG on 15-16 April 2008.

DPI’s display attracted significant attention from NRM staff from across the country who discussed the programs and improved partnerships, knowledge and enthusiasm that these organisations have contributed to invasive plant management.

Chelsea Wardrope, who recently joined DPI as a serrated tussock partnerships officer, found the national conference very valuable.



The display at the National NRM Knowledge Conference and the Landscape Protection team from left: Craig Clutterbuck, Kelly Snell, Chelsea Wardrope, Michael Reid

“We were able to discuss Victoria’s management programs for invasive species with members from Catchment Management Authorities from across Australia,” Ms Wardrope said.

“We received positive feedback on our display which successfully promoted two of DPI’s leading invasive plant programs.”

Joe Helper visits the Bellarine Agricultural Show in Portarlington



Minister for Agriculture Joe Helper with Department of Primary Industries Craig Clutterbuck at the Bellarine Agricultural Show

Minister for Agriculture Joe Helper and Glenn Pomeroy, DPI Community Relationship Manager, visited the DPI-Bellarine Landcare display at the 18th Annual Bellarine Agricultural Show on 9 March.

Officially opening the show, Minister Helper discussed the importance of extending the weed message beyond the traditional farming community to smaller lifestyle ventures.

DPI’s partnership with the Bellarine Landcare Group reinforces this message, with the two organisations working together to increase awareness that serrated tussock has negative impacts for the whole community.

The show was an ideal opportunity for the two organisations to raise serrated tussock awareness with the district’s absentee landholders in a fun and inviting format.

The display focused on extending serrated tussock identification skills and increasing understanding of the significance of the problem in the region.

The display consisted of live specimens of serrated tussock and look-a-like native grasses, in addition to laminated flower stem displays. Visitors were able to get up close and personal with the specimens.

Bellarine landholders will now be able to identify serrated tussock on their properties with increased confidence, and there is increased awareness of the negative impacts this invasive weed is having on the local community.

VSTWP update

The VSTWP held its annual prioritisation workshop on the 29 February 2008 at the National Equestrian Centre in Werribee.

The working party invited a range of key stakeholders from the Corangamite and Port Phillip and Western Port catchments. The stakeholder groups included Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Landcare networks, municipalities, Catchment Management Authorities, Rail & Road Authorities and private landholders.

The workshop's prioritisation process involved identifying threats (eg. dense areas for serrated tussock) and assets (eg. high-value native grasslands or productive landscapes) and assigning weightings to determine value.

The information accumulated through the workshop will be used by the Working Party to determine where the limited resources of the 2008 DPI extension and compliance programs will be placed in each catchment.

These priority areas will then be incorporated into the DPI's operational plans to enable DPI staff deliver services to individual land managers.

The VSTWP and the DPI thanks those who participated in the workshop for their valued contribution.

New Partnerships Officer



The DPI and the VSTWP welcome new serrated tussock partnerships officer, Chelsea Wardrope to DPI Geelong.

In her new role, Chelsea will be establishing partnerships across the Corangamite and Port Phillip catchments with key stakeholders including local governments, Catchment Management Authorities and Landcare groups.

Chelsea is planning on meeting with key stakeholders over the coming weeks to distribute relevant information such as funding availability, upcoming events and to arrange advertising opportunities

Chelsea hopes these meetings will enhance stakeholders' understanding of serrated tussock and enable her to collect information on past, present and intended future management plans for serrated tussock. This will assist the DPI and the VSTWP to strategically plan and implement control techniques for the invasive plant across the state.

Chelsea Wardrope can be contacted on: (03) 5226 4680 or 0448 537 094
Chelsea.wardrope@dpi.vic.gov.au

\$205 Million to secure Future Farming in Victoria

On 23 April 2008 Premier John Brumby and Agriculture Minister Joe Helper launched the Government's \$205 million four-year Future Farming strategy that will boost farming services, drive growth and innovation in agriculture and help the sector respond to new challenges.

"The future farming strategy sets out new investment built around seven key actions to provide farmers with the tools they need to grow," Mr Helper said.

This includes \$24 million to manage weeds and

pests, including new action plans to assist businesses to strengthen land and water management.

The other action areas include; \$103.5 million for new technologies and practises, 11.4 million to manage climate change, \$12 million to secure farming future, \$11 million to capture domestic and international market opportunities, and \$43 million to upgrade sections of Victoria's rail freight network.

"It also includes the creation of Farm Services Victoria, a new division in the DPI," said Mr Helper.

For more information on the future farming strategy visit: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Costly for landholders to ignore serrated tussock control

An Anakie East company has been ordered to pay over \$5,000 in fines and costs by the Geelong Magistrates' Court for failing to comply with a Land Management Notice issued by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to control serrated tussock on its property.

The matter was heard in the Geelong Magistrates' Court in late April and the Magistrate's ruling delivered a clear message to landholders - non-compliance with a Land Management Notice can be more costly than undertaking weed management works.

The maximum penalty a Landholder can face for not complying with a Land Management Notice \$24,000.

Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party Chairman Peter Lindeman said the working party have worked hard over the past 10 years to raise awareness about serrated tussock and encourage landholders to control its spread.

"The Working Party supports the community's call for strong action by the DPI, including the need for court action where landholders fail to meet legislative requirements," Mr Lindeman said.

Approximately 340 properties in the Anakie,

Lara, Little River, Maude, Lovely Banks, Balliang, Meredith, Winchelsea, Rokewood, Bellbrae and Geelong areas were inspected by DPI during a serrated tussock program in 2007. Of the all the properties inspected only seven landholders received an infringement notices and Court action was only deemed necessary for two of these landholders.

DPI Pest Management Officer Ben Hoggard said that DPI is continuing to ensure landholders are aware of their responsibilities in controlling weeds such as serrated tussock.

"To effectively tackle this weed, it is important all landholders take action to control its spread and the good work done by the majority of landholders is not undone by a few.

"We will be undertaking a major serrated tussock operation in the Corangamite catchment during August, visiting over 100 properties in a five day period to support proactive landholders who undertake voluntary weed control.

"Landholders should control serrated tussock over the coming months to avoid receiving notices under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*."

Research update

Seed spread reduced by 99 per cent using slasher cover

A cover has been developed to fit over slashers reducing the amount of Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) seed spread along roadsides by 99 per cent.

RMIT University conducted a trial in Sunbury which found a slasher with a cover collected 122 Chilean needle grass seeds over a trial distance of 200 metres. Over this same distance a slasher without a cover collected 16,212 Chilean needle grass seeds.

Although the slasher cover is specifically designed to reduce seed spread for Chilean needle grass it can potentially reduce the



The slasher cover modification is simple but effective.

amount of seeds spread from other species such as the closely related weed serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*).

The slasher modifications are very basic and the success of the trial could mean that slasher become mandatory for land managers and contractors.

Currently there is a lack of funding to support the project going further but to find out more about slasher covers visit the Agricultural Note available on DPI's website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Flupropanate found to affect Acacia seedlings

A trial conducted by Dr David McLaren, Kelly Snell and Kym Butler in the Rowsley Valley, Western Victoria between 2004 and 2006 measured the affects of native tree susceptibility to an aerial application of the herbicide flupropanate for the management of unpalatable grasses such as serrated tussock.

Five native species were planted as seedlings in the trial including; grey box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*), yellow gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), varnish wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*) and drooping sheoak (*Allocasurina verticillata*).

Three rates were applied; no flupropanate, 1.49 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ and 2.98 kg a.i. ha⁻¹. The rate

of 1.49 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ resulted in a 2.5 per cent tree mortality and the rate of 2.98 kg a.i. ha⁻¹ showed 5 per cent tree mortality.

Flupropanate application reduced tree height in drooping sheoak and varnish wattle and substantially reduced the height in black wattle from 1160 cm to 440 cm which also showed signs of yellowing and deformity. There were no noticeable impacts to the other species.

The trial found that it is possible to use flupropanate for the selective control of serrated tussock amongst seedling Eucalyptus and sheoak species however, it is recommended that the lowest possible flupropanate rate is used to reduce off-target spray over Acacia species.



The survey area in 2008, four years after the trial began. Notice the dramatically reduced height of the black wattle.

Young scientist interviewed local landholders

A young scientist recently spent over two weeks in the Bacchus Marsh area, conducting interviews with local landholders and government agency staff involved in natural resource management.

Sonia Graham, 27, is undertaking her PhD at Charles Sturt University and is also supported by CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.

Ms Graham's thesis aims to understand the working relationships that are in place to control the noxious weed, serrated tussock.

"My research looks at the way that farmers and government (local and state) work together to control serrated tussock," she said.

Ms Graham travelled from Canberra to conduct interviews in and around the Bacchus Marsh area. During her stay she interviewed 33 people about their experiences with managing serrated tussock.

Over the coming months Ms Graham will be analysing the results of the interviews. She is planning to conduct similar interviews in New South Wales for comparison.

Ms Graham would like to thank all those people who took the time to participate in her research.

Producer Trial puts Serrated Tussock Research to the Test

The Holly Grail of serrated tussock control has been unlocked by scientific research trials into grazing management. A group of producers all with gorge country in the Moorabool catchment are now using the results to test a grazing strategy that will target serrated tussock seedlings and stop them from establishing.

Lisa Miller, DPI Geelong who is co-ordinating the trial said, "Local producers wanted to break the cycle of needing to blanket spray out serrated tussock every 5 years. It is hoped that the new grazing strategy will reduce the survival of the seedlings so that spraying can be reduced to spot spraying or even patch spraying."

Lisa said that the producers now understand that the herbicide flupropanate used to target serrated tussock will also kill Wallaby grass and Spear Grass which are two of the main native pasture species that grow in the gorge. "Without pasture competition and large areas of bare ground, tussock is given a free reign to re-establish and it only takes about 5 years to get back to the density at which it was sprayed," said Lisa.

"What typically happens after spraying with flupropanate is that 12 months later serrated tussock seedlings start to germinate in their millions in response to autumn, winter and spring rainfall. Most die out in summer but those that survive are the ones that don't have competition from other perennial grasses. This lets them develop a big enough root system to survive through the hot dry summer and later develop into an adult plant."

The secret unlocked by research trials by NSW Agriculture is that the amount of live pasture cover maintained in the paddock is the key to preventing serrated tussock establishment. Lisa said, "The size of seedbank or seed source was shown to have no influence on whether a seedling develops into an adult plant. A million seeds per metre can germinate but all will die if there is enough pasture cover to keep them weak so that they die over summer."

In the trials, the amount of pasture needed in spring was greater than 2 tonne of dry matter/ha which allowed at least 0.5 t of DM/ha to be maintained over summer. The pasture cover targets were only able to be maintained using rotational grazing. "It is competition from live pasture cover over summer that's needed to kill off any remaining seedlings and this amount of cover has to be set up during spring growth," said Lisa.

The producer trial site is located in a gorge just off the Meredith Ballan Rd at Fiskville. Lisa said, "After a few cycles of spraying and stocking over spring, the native grass content has become depleted and the aim is to lift pasture competition. The new grazing strategy will be based on results from the "Steep Hills" project at Ararat. This found that different

spring deferred grazing treatments increased native grass content by up to 40%.”

Lisa explained that the strategy to be used in the gorge will be to defer grazing from October until the autumn break to allow the native grasses to set seed and regenerate. They also hope that the treatment will also kill out any tussock seedlings where there is enough species to provide competition. Rotational grazing using moderate stocking densities of 20-30 DSE/ha will be used from the autumn break to October aiming to maintain 100% groundcover and 0.5 t DM/ha.

Lisa was asked how farmers can hope to maintain pasture cover targets in variable environments and with unfavourable weather patterns. Lisa said, “Rotational grazing is a must and having a stock containment area should be part of every farm. Many farmers think that stock containment areas are just about drought but they are a valuable management option to have when you are battling serrated tussock, have unpredictable rainfall and your pasture cover drops below the desired level.”

The trial has been funded through EverGraze which is a Future Farm Industries CRC, MLA and AWI research and delivery partnership and DPI. Look out for further information on a field day to be held in spring.

For further information please contact Chelsea Wardrope on (03) 5226 4680 or email Chelsea. wardrope@dpi.vic.gov.au

Do you want to be a member of the VSTWP?

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) will be holding its annual general meeting in July and is looking for nominations for community representatives and key stakeholders to be a Working Party Member.

The VSTWP works in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and other key stakeholders to achieve the objectives of “Intensifying the Attack on Serrated Tussock 2005 – 2010.” These

include undertaking research into pastures and herbicide technology, production of extension materials, provision of incentives to land managers and community groups and a comprehensive mapping, extension, monitoring and compliance campaign.

The Working Party invites nominations of people who have had experience with the management of serrated tussock and encourages self nominations or nominations of friends or colleges.

For more information on the VSTWP and to download a nomination form please visit www.serratedtussock.com or contact Chelsea Wardrope on (03) 5226 4680 or email Chelsea. wardrope@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Serrated tussock – reducing the threat using replacement species

Landholders engaged in a range of land management enterprises within the Upper Moorabool Catchment in the Morrisons area will be involved in an intensive Serrated tussock control project in 2008, to greatly reduce density and its ability to spread within the project area.

A range of stakeholders are involved in the delivery of this project, including DPI, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Barwon Water, working in collaboration, to achieve a variety of land management outcomes focussing on improved water quality, biodiversity as well as the protection and enhancement of natural and agricultural assets within the project area.

Works conducted this year will undoubtedly benefit control efforts in the coming years, particularly when coupled with the affects of the current drought conditions that may lead to a greater susceptibility of serrated tussock invasion and germination across the region.

William Whiteside from the Department of Primary Industries said “Control of dense infestations of serrated tussock requires an integrated approach incorporating a number of



Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra) is a native perennial grass that can be used to minimise re-infestation of serrated tussock.

control techniques”.

Management of this weed may involve a change of land use, eg. from pasture to cropping, which may be the most appropriate management option in the longer term, herbicides and mechanical removal are also used as valuable control measures.

In all cases, the ultimate aims of control are the establishment of competitive vegetation that will resist serrated tussock invasion.

Long term control is dependent not only on killing plants, but replacing them with improved deep rooted perennial pasture or trees and then careful management of the area to minimise re-infestation.

Serrated tussock is proclaimed as a regionally controlled weed in the Corangamite catchment under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act 1994), which means land owners have a responsibility to control the plant on their property.

For further information regarding pest management in this area contact William A Whiteside at DPI Ballarat, on: 03 5336 6631.

Mobile Compliance Project will ensure landowners meet responsibilities in pest management

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) mobile compliance team will be providing additional compliance support to active groups strategically managing pests under the Victorian Government’s Weeds and Pest Initiative (WPI) 2008 – 2009.

A mobile team of DPI extension and compliance staff will be working in partnership with stakeholders to ensure that land owners failing to meet their responsibilities for pest management do not jeopardise the effort and investment of the surrounding land managers.

Stakeholders including community weed groups were involved in selecting projects that were assessed by representatives of Biosecurity Victoria’s Invasive Plants and Animals (IPaA) Branch, the Victorian Catchment Management Council and Landscape Protection. The following projects were selected and now under implementation;

- Gorse Control – Broomfield (North Central Catchment)
- Gorse and Blackberry – Merton, Swanpool / Broken River, Creightons Creek (Goulburn Broken Catchment)
- Serrated tussock – Toolern Vale / Diggers Rest / Bulla (Port Phillip Catchment)
- Serrated tussock – Rutherglen (North East Catchment)
- Serrated tussock – Seaspray, Maffra, Bairnsdale (East and West Gippsland Catchments)
- Blackberry – Glenelg River / Dergholm (Glenelg Catchment)
- Gorse – Ross Creek (Corangamite Shire)

For further information on the mobile compliance project please contact Ms Elspeth Coker on (03) 5336 6602. Maps of the mobile compliance areas are available on www.serratedtussock.com

Clarkefield Field Day Gave Land Owners Valuable Advice

A field day conducted at a property in Clarkefield on Saturday the 24th May 2008 provided land owners with valuable identification skills in serrated tussock and taught prevention and control techniques.

Roger MacRaidl from the Department of Primary Industries, Andy Scanlon from Macedon Ranges Shire and Bridie Wetzel from Hume City Council presented on the day discussing rate rebates available and what their department or shire does for the control of serrated tussock.

"The day was very successful, the land owners were enthusiastic and we were able to teach them the valuable skills in identification, and provide information on prevention and control techniques," said Chelsea Wardrope from the Department of Primary Industries.

"The group was very interactive and the 'roll test' with serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) and native tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) was a very popular method of identification" Chelsea adds "When serrated tussock is rolled between the thumb and index finger it rolls smoothly, like a needle. When the native similar looking tussock (*Poa labillardieri*) is rolled it feels as though it has flat edges."



Upcoming events

Can I be paid for farming nature?

Free information seminars are available which outline how landowners may be able to earn income while providing environmental services on the land.

All landowners are encouraged to attend, whether a large farming business or a small rural property.

The information seminars are provided by the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority. For more information and registration visit: www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/events_current.htm or call (03) 8781 7900

Date: Saturday 14 June, 2008
Location: Frankston
 Frankston Arts Centre, Cnr
 Young & Davy Streets,
 Frankston (Melways 100A D8)
Time: 9 am – 1 pm (lunch provided)
Register by: 7 June 2008

Date: Saturday 21 June, 2008
Location: Doncaster
 Manningham Function Centre,
 Manningham Civic Centre,
 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster
 (Melway Ref: 33, F12)
Time: 9 am – 1.30pm (lunch provided)
Register by: 14 June 2008

Date: Saturday 28 June 2008
Location: Rockbank
 Witchmount Estate Winery
 Function & Convention Centre,
 557 Leakes Road, Rockbank
 (Melway Ref: 338, J9)
Time: 9 am – 1.30 pm (lunch provided)
Register by: 21 June 2008

Funding opportunities

Caring for our Country is offering \$2.25 Billion

The Australian Government has recently announced its new “Caring for our Country” program will replace the Natural Heritage Trust and other environmental funding programs as of 1 July 2008.

Caring for our Country will provide \$2.25 billion of funding over five years from 1 July 2008 to June 2013.

The goal of Caring for our Country is to have ‘an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed, and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.’

The grant application opening dates are yet to be released so please keep checking the website: www.nrm.gov.au or call 1800 552 008

Final year for isolated infestations grant

The DPI in partnership with the VSTWP is delivering its final year of funding for isolated serrated tussock infestations on private land. DPI and the VSTWP secured a \$365,000 federal grant to be delivered over three years. Eligible landholders can access the grant until the 2008-2009 end of financial year.

The isolated infestation grants have enabled the VSTWP to strive to deliver a key outcome of the Victorian Serrated Tussock Strategy, ‘Intensifying the attack on serrated tussock.’

The aim of the program is to achieve rapid and long-term control of isolated serrated tussock infestations in Victoria and replace it with appropriate local vegetation.

The grant will provide community groups, such as Landcare, and private landholders with isolated infestations of serrated tussock, the opportunity to access funds to support long-term control programs to prevent further spread.

The grants are available to all landholders in the catchments of North East, North Central, East Gippsland, West Gippsland, Glenelg Hopkins,

Spraying conducted on a steep gorge at Glenelg.



Wimmera and Goulburn Broken. In the catchments of Corangamite and Port Phillip & Westernport funds will be made available in the selected focus areas in the 2008-2009 financial year.

The grants will only fund control measures which are working towards long term serrated tussock management.

Community groups and landholders within these catchments or focus areas who are interested in participating in the program can access further information by downloading the application form: www.serratedtussock.com or by contacting Byron Crowe, Serrated Tussock Project Coordinator, DPI, Geelong on (03) 5226 4607 or e-mail: byron.crowe@dpi.vic.gov.au

Victorian volunteer small grants

Local community organisations are being encouraged to attract new volunteers from diverse backgrounds and create new volunteering opportunities. Small community organisations can apply for funding of projects which improve their capacity to manage, develop and maintain existing volunteer programs.

- Apply for up to \$5,000.
- Ongoing application process.
- To be eligible to apply only non profit organisations in Victoria that involve volunteers at a local level will be considered.

For more information visit www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au or contact the Department of Victorian Communities grants information line on 1300 366 356.

Websites to search for more grants

Visit the following websites for regular updates on grant availability;

www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au

www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding_calendar.htm

www.ccma.vic.gov.au/funding

Or contact your local council as they may have grants available.

Contributions

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

A contribution to this newsletter or any feedback is welcome; please contact Chelsea Wardrope on (03) 5226 4680 or Chelsea. wardrope@dpi.vic.gov.au or PO Box 103, Geelong VIC 3220.

More information on serrated tussock can be found on the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website www.serratedtussock.com or www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Feedback

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

Reply to:

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Department of Primary Industries

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