

# TUSSOCK TIMES

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VSTWP SPRING INTO ACTION  
IN INVERLEIGH

COMMUNITY GRANTS TO BE  
ANNOUNCED

LANDCARE GRANTS STILL  
AVAILABLE FOR FIELD DAYS

VSTWP CONTRACT THIRD  
EXTENSION OFFICER

TUSSOCK HITS THE TV  
STATIONS

[CLICK HERE:  
VSTWP WEBSITE](#)



*A large infestation discovered in Inverleigh South during the Extension Project (VSTWP)*

## VSTWP SPRING INTO ACTION IN INVERLEIGH

**The community led VSTWP launched a new extension project in an area north of Inverleigh in Spring 2016.**

The 6,500 hectare project area is bounded by the townships of Inverleigh, Shelford and Teesdale and includes reaches of the Leigh River and the remnant grassy woodlands of the Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve.

The recently appointed VSTWP Extension Officer, Tim Johnston, has been offering free inspections and providing management advice to the 125 landowners in the target area.

Much of the landscape comprises productive grazing and cropping

enterprises and smaller 'lifestyle' and hobby farm properties.

Several significant infestations with mature plants have been detected in poorly managed blocks, creating concerns amongst some neighbouring landowners. Absentee landholders, wet seasonal conditions and rapid spring pasture growth were also some of the challenges faced in 2016.

Mr Johnston advised that the majority of serrated tussock infestations were low in density and consist of a few scattered isolated plants. These tend to occur on bare or rocky ground along fence-lines and on the drier embankments of waterways.



## VSTWP SPRING INTO ACTION INVERLEIGH (CONTINUED)

Mr Johnston said that “the on-going promotion of serrated tussock control by the Geelong Landcare Network and VSTWP extension activities in neighbouring project areas has contributed to the increased awareness of serrated tussock within the Inverleigh community and beyond”.

“The serrated tussock message is about integrated weed management and productive land management. Prevention and early detection of new infestations and replacement of existing infestations

with desired species is critical in managing this invasive plant” said Mr Johnston.



*Scattered plants across a large area have been treated.  
(Source:VSTWP)*

## COMMUNITY GRANTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

The VSTWP is providing community groups in the core infestation area, the opportunity to apply for grants to manage serrated tussock through innovative and collaborative approaches which promote best practice management. The grant aims to support community groups to build their capacity to achieve long term voluntary management of serrated tussock.

The grant provides an opportunity for community groups to receive funds of up to \$20,000 (GST excl.) to deliver a project which meets the priorities and criteria outlined in the guidelines.

The VSTWP received an initial \$50,000 through the 2016-17 Agriculture Whitepaper to manage serrated tussock through a community lead approach.

“The grant provides a valuable opportunity for communities to build their capacity and advance their community engagement options” said VSTWP Executive Officer, Martin Deering. “Eligible community groups are strongly encouraged to apply.”

Visit the website for more details on how to apply:  
[www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)

**The Victorian  
Serrated Tussock  
Working Party**

**Community  
Grants  
2017**

**(For core infestations  
of serrated tussock)**

**Funding Guidelines**

Victorian  
Serrated Tussock  
Working Party

## LANDCARE GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE FOR FIELD DAYS

The VSTWP are continuing with the Landcare Field Day Assistance Grants program that aims to help groups host a serrated tussock related field day.

This program offers Landcare groups/networks the opportunity to receive a one off grant of up to \$500 to sponsor the convening of serrated tussock focused field days.

The grant is available to any landcare group that is incorporated and appropriately insured for such events, and will be useful in raising the awareness to landowners and managers about the threat posed by this noxious weed.

To further support the field day, the VSTWP will provide extension material on serrated tussock identification and management, and offer the presence of a VSTWP Extension Officer to impart serrated tussock education and management advice.

Please download the guidelines and application form below and submit to our Executive Officer, Martin Deering: [martin.deering@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:martin.deering@ecodev.vic.gov.au).

We look forward to working with you to build the capacity of communities to identify and manage serrated tussock.

Please visit our website to download the application form and to view the guidelines:

<http://www.serratedtussock.com/landcare-grants-available-field-days>



VSTWP can offer extension material and an extension officer for serrated tussock field days. (VSTWP)

## VSTWP CONTRACT THIRD EXTENSION OFFICER

The VSTWP welcome and congratulate Tim Johnston on his recent appointment as a serrated tussock extension officer to services to landowners in the west of the state.

Tim has a strong background in soil science and agriculture and has a few decades of experience, including time in the State Government of Victoria and as a private consultant in soil sciences.

"The role of an extension officer is to support the working party's efforts towards community led action against serrated tussock. I am currently working in the Inverleigh North following on from the excellent work Mandy Coulson delivered in the area during her time with the VSTWP" said Mr Johnston.



# TUSSOCK HITS THE TV STATIONS

The VSTWP have just finished the production of their first TV Commercial, which is a Community Service Announcement that has been aired on the Regional TV Networks over the past few months.

The commercial was produced by BSTV at a location north-west of Bacchus Marsh and highlights the rapid spread and impacts of the declared noxious weed across the state of Victoria. The announcement features landowners sharing their experiences in battling serrated tussock over multiple decades and a short spiel from the current chairperson of the VSTWP John Burgess.

The VSTWP are hoping to highlight the issues and impacts across Victoria and help educate landowners of the options available for control and treatment of this menacing weed.

You can view our first TV Commercial on our Youtube channel at:

<http://www.serratedtussock.com/video-gallery>

or by searching VSTWP in Youtube.

We would love to know what you think of our first production and also what you would like to see our future video productions could focus on and what topics you would like us to cover.

Please email us at [info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com)



## CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The VSTWP would like to thank the following people for contributing to this edition of the Tussock Times:

Ivan Carter, Tim Johnston, Martin Deering

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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