

# TUSSOCK TIMES

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*Line-search surveillance for serrated tussock in the Phillip Island Park (Source: VSTWP)*

## VSTWP ASSIST PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK

**The recent discovery of serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) on Phillip Island prompted swift action by the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) and Phillip Island Nature Parks.**

Members of the VSTWP were quick to step in and provide serrated tussock identification and best practice management training to the Nature Parks Environment Rangers.

Located in an area of the former Summerlands estate, the infestation, consisting approximately 60 plants, was discovered by an environmental contractor and immediately reported to Nature Parks staff. This is the first confirmed infestation of serrated

tussock recorded in the Phillip Island Nature Parks and, if not controlled, has the potential to significantly impact the coastal grasslands ecosystem.

Community Engagement Officer from the VSTWP, Ivan Carter, teamed up with staff from the Nature Parks to conduct broad scale surveillance around the infestation site. "The purpose of the surveillance was to establish the boundaries of the known infestation and to inspect the surrounding area for possible outliers" said Mr Carter. "Park staff were enthusiastic to learn more about best practice management and how to ensure this infestation is eradicated over time" noted Mr Carter.



Tussock Times is a newsletter of the  
Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party

[www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)



## VSTWP ASSIST PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK (continued)

All serrated tussock plants found at the site were removed, by Nature Parks staff, prior to seeding and the staff will continue their surveillance to ensure no further serrated tussock infestations exist.

Ranger in Charge of Environment, Jarvis Weston, said "Nature Parks staff trained in identification by the VSTWP are now confident of recognizing serrated tussock. It has been great to collaborate with the VSTWP and to learn how menacing serrated tussock can be to agriculture and ecosystems alike".



*PINP staff removing the small infestation (source: VSTWP)*

## MANDY COULSON'S VSTWP LEGACY

**It is with much regret that we inform our readers that veteran tussock authority Mandy Coulson has moved on from the VSTWP.**

Mandy has been battling serrated tussock for the VSTWP for nearly a decade and is one of the most respected experts on this invasive plant in the country. Mandy delivered seven extension projects on behalf of the VSTWP; covering over 50,000 hectares and assisting over 1000 landowners with identification, treatment and long-term management.

VSTWP Community Engagement, Officer Ivan Carter said "Mandy was an outstanding asset for the VSTWP, her unique background in agriculture and training in invasive plants and animals, enabled Mandy to work with all landowners".



*Mandy finds a serrated tussock plant.*

*(source: VSTWP)*

The VSTWP would like to thank Mandy for her dedication and commitment to community-led action, and acknowledge her outstanding capacity to work constructively with all landowners to achieve long-term outcomes.

The VSTWP wishes Mandy the best for all her future endeavours.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### RESCHEDULED DATE

Due to unforeseen circumstances our 2015 November AGM was postponed.

A new date for the AGM has been set and we would like to invite you to attend.

**Wednesday 24th, February 2016**

**State Government Offices  
Bacchus Marsh**

Meeting times and further details are available from the Executive Officer on (03) 5366 0000 or email [info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com)



## COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO FIGHT INVASIVE GRASSES

A workshop was recently hosted by the Campaspe Valley Landcare Group at Barfold, south of Redesdale, to assist the community to identify stipoid grasses. Serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*), Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*), and Texas needle grass (*Nassella leucotricha*) are classed as stipoid grasses and all found to occur near Redesdale.

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) Biosecurity Officer, Martin Deering said the workshop highlighted to the community that DEDJTR officers will assist landowners in identification and provide advice on control if the weeds are found.

"Stipoid grasses are difficult to identify and are often mistaken for native spear grasses or vice versa," Mr Deering said.

"Landowners play a vital role by promptly treating any infestations on their land, however the broader community can also assist by contacting DEDJTR if they suspect an infestation in their area".

"These grasses, in particular serrated tussock, can have a significant negative impact on agriculture and the natural environment." Serrated tussock is a Weed of National Significance, and a declared regionally prohibited weed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 in the North Central Catchment".

Mr Deering said large infestations, covering a total area of approximately 500ha, have been found in areas north of Redesdale and Mia Mia. DEDJTR are ensuring landowners treat the serrated tussock infestations in the North Central Catchment through extension and compliance operations.

For more information about invasive plant management visit the DEDJTR website – [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds) or phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



*Identification and comparison of native and stipoid grasses (source: DEDJTR)*

## VSTWP PROGRESS REPORT

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party 2014 - 2015 Progress Report was recently released and is now available for download or printing through the VSTWP website .

Chairman of the VSTWP Peter Lindeman said that "this past year has been a busy one for the VSTWP, with our Extension Officers working hard over four project areas across Victoria. The continued diligence of the Working Party members and Extension Officers, supported by the enthusiasm of many of the landowners we encounter, has led to a successful year with hundreds of hectares voluntarily treated for serrated tussock".

The VSTWP Progress report highlights the years activities, action and outcomes from all projects and programs of the VSTWP. "I would like to thank the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources for continuing to provide funding to the VSTWP, and for their continued support in managing serrated tussock. I would also like to thank the landowners we have encountered this year, who have heartily taken up the challenge" noted Mr Lindeman.

Please advise us if you would like a printed version mailed to your postal address. Alternatively the report can be viewed and printed at:

<http://www.serratedtussock.com/victorian-serrated-tussock-progress-reports>

## VSTWP EDUCATE AT KYNETON AG SHOW



**The VSTWP had an enjoyable and informative day at the Kyneton Agricultural Show on the 21st of November 2015, with many landowners and managers attending the stall to learn how to identify and manage serrated tussock.**

The purpose of the day was to share and highlight the VSTWP's extensive work on serrated tussock control and management in Victoria and present information on best practice management.

Community Engagement Officer, Ivan Carter said, 'the focus of the day was to show landowners a live specimen of serrated tussock and also some native tussock, and assist in the identification of these two species'. "Landowners really appreciated being able to get up close and personal with the live specimens and see the key differences in identifying each species".

The VSTWP also handed out many information sheets on case studies from successful landowners managing larger infestations of serrated tussock across the state of Victoria. "These case studies, along with the online videos, have proved really popular with the community, and highlight that long term integrated persistence is the key to succeeding in reducing the impact of this invasive plant" said Mr Carter.



*The VSTWP providing extension services at the Kyneton Agricultural Show (source: VSTWP).*

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK

The VSTWP would like to thank the following people for contributing to this edition of the Tussock Times: Martin Deering (DEDJTR) & Ivan Carter (VSTWP)

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  
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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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