

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27th June 2013

Land managers rise to the challenge – the serrated tussock challenge!

The Lewis Ponds area, east of Orange typifies serrated tussock country. The area is dominated by native pastures with areas of steep slopes and shallow soils. Serrated tussock is well established across the area and the activities and understanding of land managers varies enormously.

A dedicated group of land managers are keen to get something done, to make a difference on the ground and encourage others to join them. Over the last 6 months they have worked on increasing their understanding of the serrated tussock problem and some of the tools they have to deal with it.

Working closely with the NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator, Clare Hamilton, the group has been successful in securing funding from the Central West Catchment Management Authority (CWCMA) under its Weeds of National Significance Incentives Program.

Jenene Kidston, NSW DPI, lead them in a 3 day workshop where they learnt how to identify and manage desirable species; a variety of weed management techniques; undertook a weed risk assessment of their property, and developed an integrated weed management plan. These plans are now being used to implement on ground serrated tussock control programs.

“They are an enthusiastic and focussed group of people,” Clare Hamilton, NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator said.

“On ground works will involve a variety of activities. Spray equipment suitable for the often rugged terrain has been purchased or updated. Chemicals have been matched to the situation and time of year and no one denies there will still be a place for the humble hoe!”

Many of the landholders also undertook chemical user training and accreditation to ensure they have the skills and understanding to implement their chemical control activities using best practice both for their own safety and that of the environment.

The participating landholders hailed the project a huge success. They have put real plans in place, have shared information, ideas and learning and formed working relationships that will assist them overcome this community problem – serrated tussock.

The Group is now hoping to encourage others to join them. Additional funding under the Community Landcare Grants has been received for this and will be the next stage in the process.

For more information or to register your interest in future activities in the Lewis Ponds, Gowan, Ophir and Fremantle area, contact Clare Hamilton on 0428 791 359

For interview , images or media assistance:

Clare Hamilton, NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator, phone: 0428 791 359



Mature serrated tussock plants in a 'typical' Lewis Ponds landscape



*Lewis Ponds and District Land management Group
– learning and putting it into practice!*

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