



Victorian Gorse Taskforce

# VICTORIAN GORSE TASKFORCE

## PROGRESS REPORT

2020/21



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## Progress Report 2020/21

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**Acknowledgements:** The VGT wishes to acknowledge the support received from the State Government of Victoria through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions that has assisted in producing this document.

**Acknowledgment of Country:** The VGT acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancestors and elders both past and present.

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[www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au](http://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au)



# MESSAGE FROM THE VGT CHAIR

**I am especially proud of the VGT's achievements over the 2020/21 year period.**

Like so many other organisations, the VGT deliverables were also impacted by Covid-19. Hard lock down measures meant we weren't able to perform our usual core business. Luckily, with our team of quick thinkers we were able to pivot and adjust to the new world order. It was obvious that the virus couldn't diminish the VGT spirit or the community's commitment to the cause.

I am touched that our Executive team and broader committee were able to keep the wheels moving in light of the challenges faced.

## DELIVERABLES OVER THE 2020/21 PERIOD

- Collaborated with Melbourne Water in developing a gorse educational flyer
- Completed 30 property extension services
- Developed a virtual demonstration day, available on the VGT website
- Completed a live zoom presentation on "An Introduction to Gorse"
- Released issue 6 of Gorse Talk
- Development of the 2021/26 Victorian Gorse Control Strategy
- Launched the 2021/22 Small community Grants program
- Commenced development of the new VGT website
- Commenced development of the new Virtual Extension Officer interactive website, that includes 5 new video resources and control factsheets
- Completion of the Federal White Paper Project Round 3 funding – Project: 1 Communication, Community Engagement and Extension Officer
- Contribution to the Landcare Victoria Magazine Winter 2021 issue
- Contributed to Weeds and Rabbit program through membership of the Delivery Leadership Group
- Ensured all 2019/2020 grant groups that were impacted by Covid 19, were able to finish their projects
- Continued to grow the VGT's social media pages

This year proved to be just as hard as last year and so my sincere thanks goes to the VGT members that persevered through the challenges that 2020/21 threw our way.

To our Communications, Community Engagement and Extension (CCEE) Officer Brydie Murrphy, your dedication, enthusiasm and positivity through the year was exactly the distraction we all needed.

Finally, I wish to thank our Executive Officer Nicole Garfi, thank you for your continued dedication to the committee this year, the challenges you faced ensured the VGT maintained momentum and delivered.

*Ron Cosgrave*  
Chair, Victorian Gorse Taskforce



# WHITE PAPER WRAP UP

For the last 4 years the VGT has been delivering projects against the **Commonwealth Government's Federal White Paper**. This funding was administered through **Agriculture Victoria's Weeds and Rabbits Project**.

The Projects purpose was to build community capacity and improve how we manage established invasive species across Victoria.

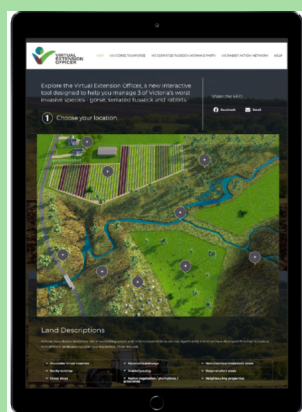


**Weeds and rabbits impact significantly on agriculture, environment and social values.**

White Paper grants were administered to the 4 Victorian Community Pest Management Groups

## Round 3 Highlights 2020/21

### Project 1 - Virtual Extension Officer website



- The Virtual Extension Officer is an interactive online tool, designed to help manage three of the Victoria's most invasive species - gorse, serrated tussock and rabbits.
- Users can explore the exciting virtual map then refine and personalise the search options to best suit your situation.
- Launched December 2021.

### Project 2- Communication, Community Engagement and Extension Officer



- Our CCEE Officer Brydie Murrhly was tasked with building community capacity through community extension services, developing learning resources, engaging with key stockholders and promoting the VGT and its cause.
- Key achievements - Online live presentations, collaboration campaign with Melbourne Water, extension services to 30 properties, meeting with key local councils, radio interviews, grow social media platforms and so much more.....

## Previous White Paper Projects

### 2017/18 - Round 1

**Project 1:** What do they want?

**Project 2:** Gorse mapping pilot project

### 2018/19 - Round 2

**Project 1:** Community Engagement, Communication and extension officer

**Project 2:** Atlas of Living Australia forums

# 2019/20 COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

## WRAP UP – Project Achievements



**Seven of our 2019/20 Community grant projects were impacted by Covid-19. These projects required extensions into 2020/21.**

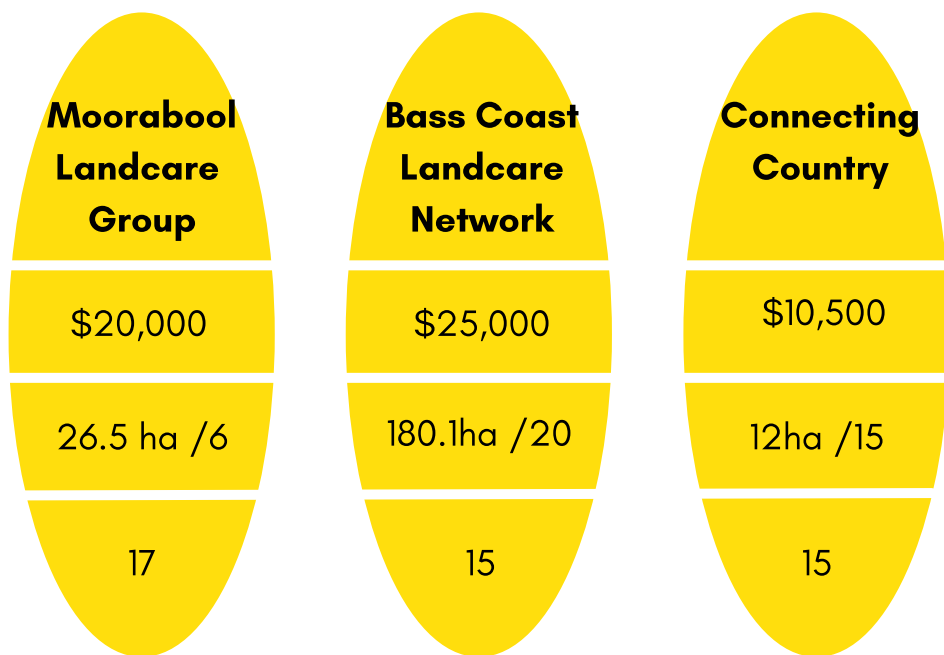
### LARGE GRANTS

VGT funding \$

Ha of gorse controlled/  
landholders involved



Signed 3 year  
Agreements



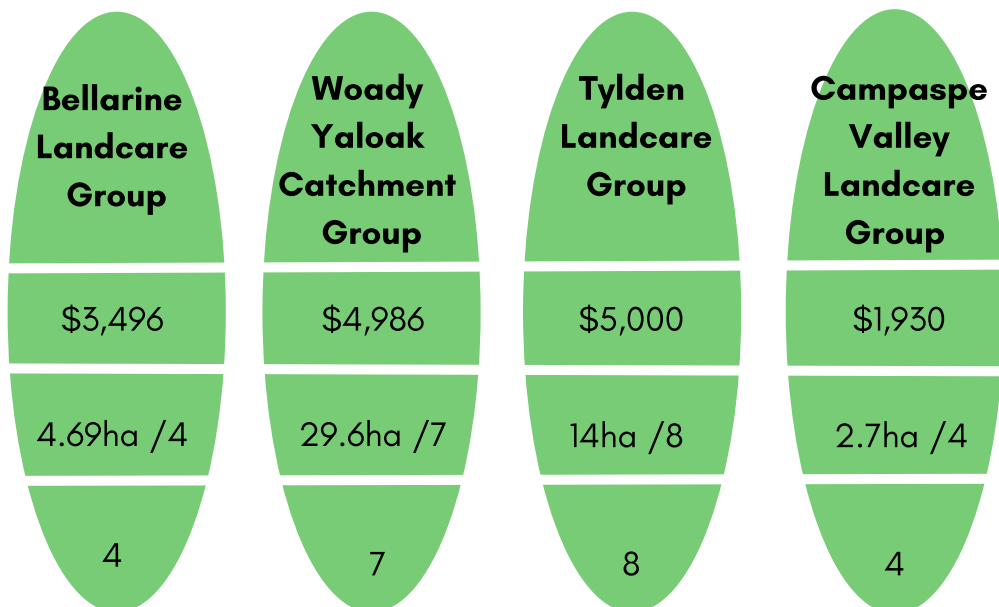
### SMALL GRANTS

VGT funding \$

Ha of gorse controlled/  
landholders involved



Signed 3 year  
Agreements



Learn more about the [2019/20 Community Grants program](#)



# INCOME AND EXPENSES

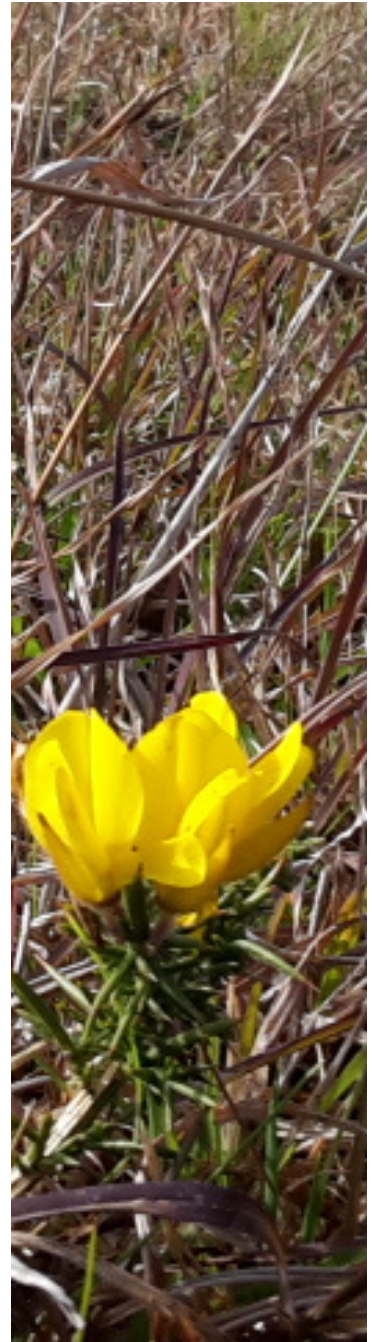
## Income source

DJPR Grants	\$65,000
Refunds	\$7,952
Interest	\$116

**Total income** **\$73,068**

## Summary of Expenses

Project subsidies - Large grants	\$5,675
Research and promotion	\$4,957
Admin and other	\$3,910
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$14,547</b>



*Brian Rowe  
Treasurer  
Victorian Gorse Taskforce*

# MOVING INTO 2021/22

Keep an eye out for .....

## The Virtual Extension Officer - New interactive website

The Virtual Extension Officer website (VEO) is a free, online resource to assist landholders, land managers, professional pest controllers, biosecurity groups and community groups, manage serrated tussock, gorse, and rabbits on their property.

Developed by the Victorian Gorse Taskforce, in collaboration with the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, this website brings all our expert knowledge about these three species together in the one, easy to use place!

It's like having your own personal extension officer in your pocket!

Check out the [Virtual Extension Officer](#) website below today!



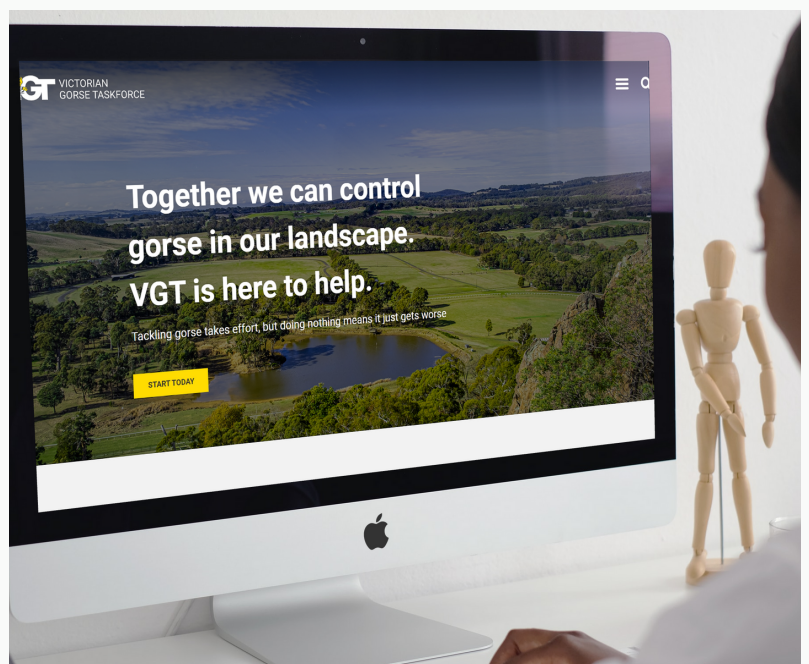
## The new VGT website

We have worked hard on the redesign of the new VGT website.

We have taken all the best parts of our old site and combined them with some exciting new content.

Our new website highlights 14 new gorse notes on the commonly used control methods plus some great video demonstrations.

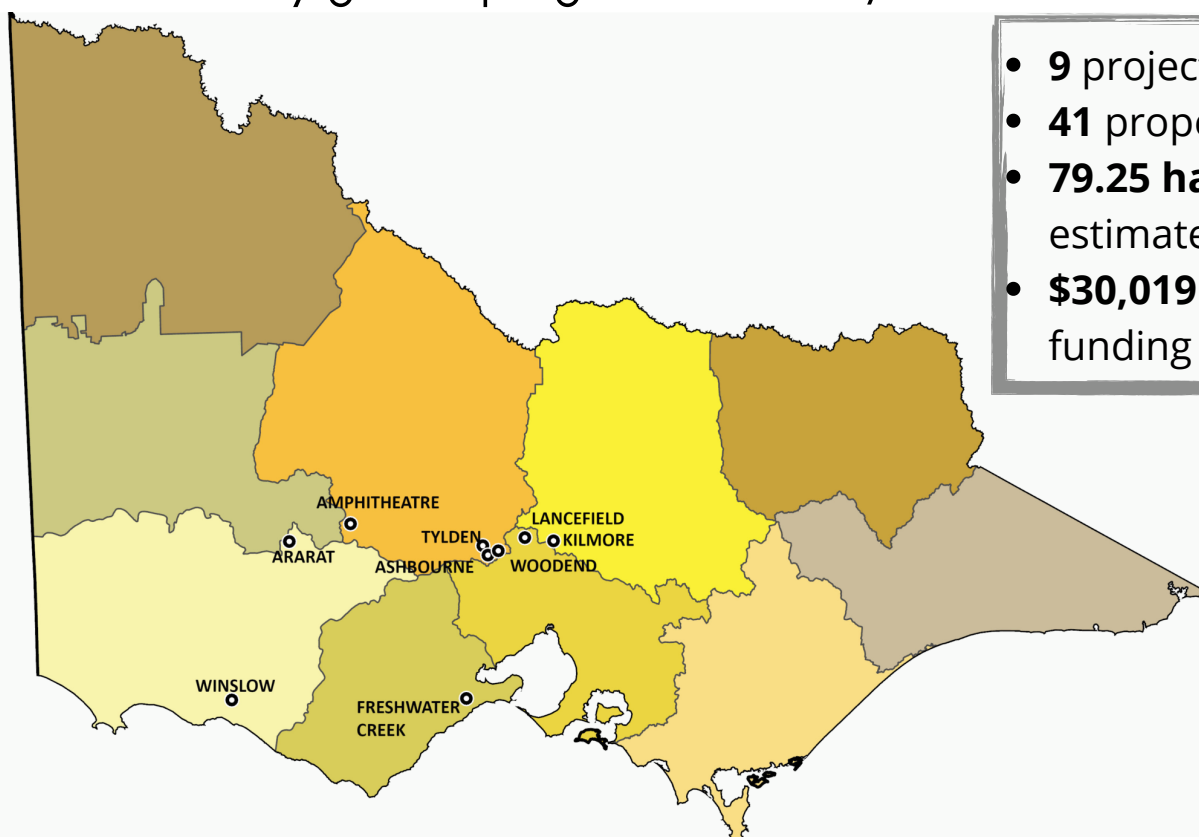
We are confident our new [website](#) and resources will assist you and your communities to effectively control gorse.



# MOVING INTO 2021/22

Keep an eye out for .....

## Small community grants program for 2021/22



- **9** project groups
- **41** properties
- **79.25 ha** of gorse estimated for control
- **\$30,019** in VGT grant funding

## Congratulations to our 2021/22 Small Community Grant recipients

The successful project groups are:

- Ashbourne Landcare
- Best Food and Fibre Environmental Group Inc.
- Deep Creek Landcare group
- Upper Loddon and Avoca Landcare Network
- Tylden Landcare Group
- South West Goulburn Landcare Group
- We also have three private landowner groups this year which is very promising for those communities.

**We are so happy to be able to continue to support community projects.**



# COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020/21

## Member

Ron Cosgrave (Chair)  
 Peter Forster (Deputy Chair)  
 Brian Rowe (Treasurer)  
 Margaret Hatton  
 Matthew Menhennet  
 Rob Richardson  
 Brydie Murrhiy  
 Brian Bainbridge  
 Michael Peck  
 Rod Sewell  
 Nicole Garfi

## Affiliation

North Central CMA, Community Liaison Group  
 Upper Hopkins Land Management Group  
 Blampied-Kooroocheang Landcare Group  
 Sunday Creek / Sugarloaf Sub-Catchments Inc  
 Landmate and Agricultural Manager - Prison Industries, Corrections Victoria  
 The Grasslands Society of Southern Australia  
 Community representative  
 Hepburn Shire Council  
 Ashbourne Landcare Group  
 Glenlyon Upper Loddon Landcare Group  
 VGT Executive Officer



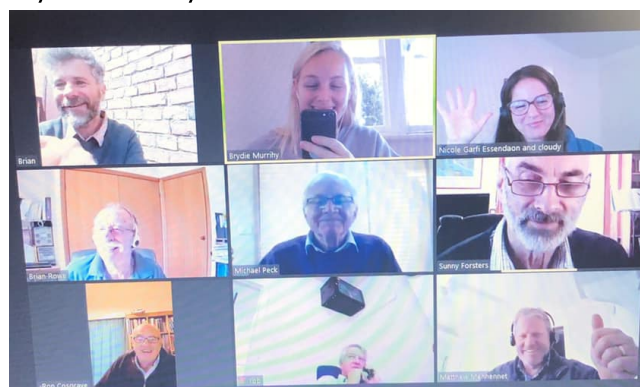
**Above:** VGT Chair - Ron Cosgrave



**Above:** VGT Deputy Chair- Peter Forster



**Left:** VGT committee member Brydie Murrhiy



**From left to right**  
**Top:** Brian Bainbridge, Brydie Murrhiy and Nicole Garfi  
**Middle:** Brian Row, Michael Peck and Peter Forster  
**Bottom:** Ron Cosgrave, Rob Richardson and Matthew Menhennet

**We would like to thank our funders Agriculture Victoria and the Commonwealth Government which enabled the success of our projects this year.**

To the Victorian community and the many stakeholders who have been involved in or supported our cause in 2020/21,

# Thank-you



