

# Charnock Motors

## MOTERING TIPS

In NSW vehicle repairers must be licensed to work on your car and employ only certified tradespeople to carry out repairs. Repairers who carry out repairs below an acceptable standard or who operate in an unfair or dishonest manner can be disciplined and their repairer's licence suspended or cancelled.

### Repairs and service

**Vehicles under warranty** If you have a problem with a new car or motor cycle that is still under warranty, refer to your warranty and talk to the motor dealer who sold you the vehicle.

### Maintenance schedule

Whether new or second-hand, your car or motor cycle should have come with a logbook or owner's handbook that sets out when the vehicle should be serviced and what maintenance needs to be done. To keep your motor vehicle in top condition and to avoid the possibility of breakdown or expensive repairs in the future, you should follow the maintenance schedule. If the vehicle is still under warranty and you don't have it serviced to the manufacturer's maintenance schedule, you may void your warranty. As long as the service is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, any licensed repairer can do it, not just the dealer from whom you purchased the vehicle.

### Type of service

When booking your motor vehicle in for a service, clearly explain to your repairer the type of service you require. Different costs are associated with the different types of services you can have. Don't ask for a service if all you

require is an oil change. There is a great deal of difference in the cost. Whether you require a specific kilometre service or a general service, ask the repairer to be specific as to what is included in the service and what it will cost. If you don't have a logbook or handbook and are not sure what your vehicle needs, ask the repairer to explain what is involved with each type of service, when they are required and the associated cost for each service. If you are still uncertain, it is wise to follow the manufacturer's service schedule.

### Explain the problem

You will help the repairer find the problem if you describe all the symptoms. For example, 'The car won't start. When I turn the key, nothing happens.' With this information the repairer can search various avenues for the reason,

possibly the battery is dead; perhaps a wire has become disconnected. Explaining the symptoms is far better than telling the repairer what to do. For example, 'I need a new battery, this one is dead.' The reason for a flat battery may be as simple as a loose connection that requires tightening - a much cheaper repair than the cost of a new battery. Go for a test drive if necessary to demonstrate the symptoms, for example, if a rattle only occurs at a certain speed.

To be continued...

# The war against weeds intensifies

## Council appoints more staff

By LEIGH BOTTRELL

**G**OULBURN Mulwaree Council has moved to step up its fight against noxious weeds by appointing two additional (temporary) specialist officers.

This is part of a wider attack on serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass, African love grass and other rampant noxious weeds throughout the Council area.

The aim is to meet goals recommended in a report prepared last December for the Noxious Weeds Working Group by long-time local anti-weeds crusaders Stewart Thompson and Terry Hayes.

These included a credible weeds administration, with a management plan for Council-controlled land, and clear operating procedures across public and private land.

The report stressed the need for measurable results and focused outcomes from noxious weed control efforts.

As a result, Council adjusted its 2011/12 Management Plan to initiate a targeted weeds education program by the end of this year, and also a field services program to help land holders prepare weeds management plans by March 31, 2012.

Funding has now been allocated to:

- Review the weed status of the entire local government area;
- Develop a local targeted communication policy;
- Encourage all land owners to have and maintain a weed management plan/program;
- Provide training and supporting resources for all Council outdoor staff on weed identification and reporting;
- Review and revise standard operating procedures and evaluate noxious weed processes and procedures;

Undertake projects aimed at mother lode infestations of serrated tussock.

To carry out all these tasks, Council will appoint two temporary weeds officers to augment the work of its two permanent officers.

Recruitment and appointment of a Noxious Weeds Education Officer will be made this month, and a Noxious Weeds Field Officer will be appointed during November.

Goulburn Mulwaree's Environmental Services Manager, Sonia Spotswood, says outdoor staff have already been trained, and each of their vehicles equipped with a weed recognition card.

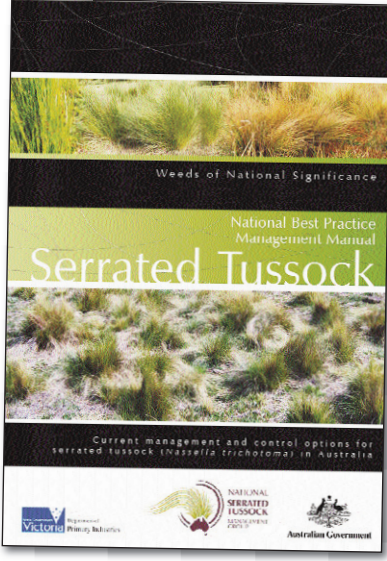
"Report sheets have also been provided to enable staff to report weeds and assist with mapping weed infestations across the local government area," she said.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Upper Lachlan shire, with its large areas of rampant serrated tussock, the Council is again seeking tenders for a helicopter to spray herbicide on otherwise inaccessible mother lode country.

Shire president John Shaw says: "Aerial spraying is something we've been doing for several years, and land owners share the cost with Council.

"It's an annual program, and if Goulburn Mulwaree would like to join in we'd welcome it - the more the merrier in the fight against noxious weeds."

While Southern Tablelands councils belatedly take these tentative steps towards stemming the advance of serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass, and - increasingly - African love grass across long-infested grazing country, their pro-active New Zealand counterparts are tackling the threat head-on.



Isolated North and South Island outbreaks of serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass don't add up to anywhere near the spread of these weeds across the Southern Tablelands.

But New Zealand farmers and councils know from our experience that unless infestations are tackled early and often, they'll spread rapidly - with catastrophic damage to the country's crucial rural economy.

Until now, mandatory "grubbing out" of tussock and needle grass has been the way New Zealanders have tackled the weeds. Councils, by law, have insisted on this labour-intensive work for years - billing delinquent farmers if they had to send their staff in to do the job.

And non-payers have had the bill attached to property sale contracts and title exchanges.

But use of herbicides - particularly the current most effective serrated tussock fighter, flupropanate spray - was banned in New Zealand.

That regulation has now been amended, since the eye-opening visit to the Goulburn area by Marlborough District Council

**HELPFUL ADVICE:** The Serrated Tussock National Best Practice Management Manual can be downloaded from [www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock/](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/serratedtussock/).

(South Island) senior bio-security officer Ben Minehan. Mr Minehan oversees a six-man noxious weed control team in the famed Marlborough wine-growing area - three of them permanent.

He was so shocked by what he saw here last July that his graphic account of serrated tussock's ruination of once-productive Southern Tableland farms hastened moves to take flupropanate off the banned herbicide list.

Thus, the Bungonia grazier and no-nonsense industrial scientist Bill Dobbie has been invited to New Zealand in November to run a series of field days across both islands to educate councils and farmers in the use of flupropanate spray.

Mr Dobbie, an outspoken critic of poorly funded noxious weed programs by all levels of Australian government, manufactures and markets Taskforce.

This flupropanate-based herbicide - derived from the same Chinese-sourced chemical ancestor and feedstock as refrigerator gas - has now been registered for use in New Zealand against serrated tussock and Chilean needle grass.

# Spreading the message

ROADSIDE billboards are to be used for the first time by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to increase public awareness of the risk posed by travelling machinery and recreational vehicles in spreading weeds.

The 2011 spring weeds awareness campaign will include billboards located across regional NSW to remind long distance drivers of the need to clean their vehicles, boat trailers, caravans and machinery.

NSW DPI aquatic weeds project officer, Charles Mifsud, said earthmoving machinery and equipment used for recreational activities such as fishing, boating, camping and off-road touring can easily pick up and spread plant material and seeds over long distances.

"Recent high rainfall has increased the opportunity for boaters and fishers to

'Just one small plant fragment can start a new infestation that could be difficult and expensive to control.'

explore previously inaccessible areas and could in turn spread new weeds," he said.

"Just one small plant fragment can start a new infestation that could be difficult and expensive to control," he said.

"Making sure that vehicles, trailers and caravans are clean before taking to the road can prevent weeds invading new areas, potentially saving millions of dollars in control and lost agricultural production.

"To remind drivers, 18 billboards will be placed strategically along the New

England, Newell, Great Western, Mitchell, Hume, Oxley, Gwydir, Sturt and Barrier Highways from September 12 to November 6.

"Their timing will coincide with the peak spring growing season for many easily spread weeds."

Mr Mifsud said each billboard will contain one of four messages tailored for a combination of specific vehicle types and weeds they may encounter.

"Boating trailers and associated equipment are being targeted on the way to coastal waterways as most

invasive aquatic weeds are currently found along the coast," he said.

"Aquatic weeds such as alligator weed are also easily spread by earthmoving machinery, so operators are reminded that keeping their machine clean can stop the spread of aquatic weeds.

"Caravans and camping equipment are targeted along main routes as they travel long distances and into areas that may be infested with land-based weeds.

"A message aimed at recreational four wheel drive enthusiasts is also along major routes as they often drive along these roads on their way to remote areas with thick groundcover."

For more information on the spring billboard campaign running and the NSW No Space 4 Weeds campaign visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds).



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**At Charnock Motors, we understand that good service is more than just good workmanship**



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**CHARNOCK MOTORS**

6 Craig Street Goulburn  
Tel/Fax 4821 9880  
email. [ch\\_motors@hotmail.com](mailto:ch_motors@hotmail.com)  
Trading Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5.30pm  
Contact Name: Adrian & Pat Charnock

