



## Chilean Needle Grass Action Group (CNGAG)

# Spring 2017 Newsletter

### *Farming your way out of Chilean Needle grass*

Tim Struthers is winning the war against CNG and improving his profit at his Blind River farm in Marlborough. Tim farms 35 ha of vineyard and 180 ha of grazing land on clay based hill country in the core CNG area. The farm was heavily infested with CNG around 5 years ago when he purchased it. Tim has used a two year cropping system followed by regrassing, to turn these pastures into highly productive farmland with minimal numbers of CNG plants.

Tim has been working through his property developing it block by block. Firstly he subdivides the paddocks into approximately 4 ha and sets up a stock watering system. He then gets a soil test and depending on the test result, applies a capital dressing of usually 2.5 tonne/ha of lime and 250 kg/ha of Sulphur Super. Fertiliser is then applied each year in the development phase until the Olsen P reaches 20, after which maintenance fertiliser is applied.

Tim identifies a CNG paddock and grazes it to reduce the pasture cover and then boom sprays it in October/early November with 3L/ha of Taskforce (this is supplied free by the Council) and 4L/ha of

Quite steep slopes  
have been sown in the  
improved pastures.



Sprayed paddock after the summer fallow period before drilling.

470 Roundup. Taskforce will continue to kill CNG and other low fertility grasses for up to 3 years which reduces the competition for the high quality legumes and plantain that are sown. Tim manages to spray most of the steeper slopes in the paddock with a 200m hose off the tractor. He leaves the really steep, bare northerly slopes unsprayed with Taskforce at this point, not wanting to open these up and risking erosion problems later.

Glyphosate kills all vegetation on the paddock and it is then left to summer fallow to build up soil moisture for autumn sowing, while also adhering to Taskforce's 3 month with-holding period. In February he may then spray the steep northerly slopes with Glyphosate and oversow with cocksfoot, plantain and sometimes sub-clover, if it is not present already. At the same time the previously sprayed Taskforce + Glyphosate parts of the paddock are now bare, and he gets a contractor to drill with either rape or barley with a Duncan direct disc drill for late autumn and winter feed. There are two permanent pasture mixes that are sown depending on the aspect of the block. North facing blocks are sown in early October with a lucerne-plantain-cocksfoot mix. For south facing blocks a cocksfoot-plantain-clover mix is sown. Blocks going into the cocksfoot mix are summer fallowed again and direct drilled in early autumn. These combinations will provide quality bulk feed over the whole year.

CNG infested hill in summer, looking out on lucerne mixed sward and grazing dairy heifers.





Bulls grazing the cocksfoot based new pasture which leaves little space for CNG to come back.



Looking through a flowering CNG to the next paddock thick with CNG where development is being planned for this season.



Bulls grazing oats and growing 1 kg/day over winter are on track to be finished before Christmas.

Tim has found that the cocksfoot, as well as providing bulk feed in winter, out competes CNG whilst lucerne and plantain are also resilient to the residual activity of Taskforce spray. Cocksfoot is persistent and also provides good cattle production, especially the newer more palatable cocksfoot cultivars like Safin. Nitrogen needed to support cocksfoot palatability comes from the lucerne and clovers and careful management is required to keep clovers in cocksfoot swards over time. It is especially difficult in the absence of cattle, as sheep don't find long cocksfoot palatable. This year Tim is also trying prairie grass in the mix. The key to the success of this programme is good agronomic advice which Tim gets from his OsGro Seed supplier. This service is also available from other seed companies.

Occasionally an isolated CNG plant is found in the improved pasture but it is easily controlled by spot spraying. With experience Tim has learnt to spot CNG, even in its vegetative state, at a distance while driving along in his ute!

These sward mixes work well with Tim's cattle finishing policy. Given the workload with sheep and the need to remove sheep from CNG infected paddocks from October to March, Tim has opted to finish cattle, though he has recently purchased some lambs to finish on the lucerne based swards which should complement

Bulls grazing Omaka Barley over winter.



the winter grazing in the vineyard. He has also had success with dairy grazers, which provided him with a good steady cashflow and he even used them to tread in seed after hand oversowing steep slopes and also grazed them in the vineyard.

Tim purchases young bull calves at 100 kg LW in November and grows them at just over 1.2 kg/day while they are on the farm, and sells them in excess of 620 kg LW at 16-18 months, before December the following year. This level of production would not be possible on the CNG pastures. In fact Tim believes he has increased the production from his grazeable land by 5 fold. The bulls are grazed in mobs of up to 50, in 2-wire electric fenced paddocks. He finds that bloat is not an issue on the lucerne+plantain+cocksfoot mix, with all cattle being shifted mid afternoon when required.

As part of the Earthquake Recovery Biosecurity Project, more data will be collected from trials to compare production and economics of CNG pastures with the improved pastures on Tim's and other properties.

On the clay based Blind River hill country, where CNG used to reach waist height, Tim now has an economic cattle finishing operation and a farm with improved pastures that has increased markedly in capital value.

Heifers grazing rape crop.





Lucerne+plantain+cocksfoot+clover pasture that makes great finishing feed for lambs and young cattle.

## Chairmans Report - September 2017

The big news is that the CNGAG has partnered with NZ Landcare Trust (NZLT) in a successful bid to the Ministry of Primary Industries Sustainable Farming Fund (MPI SFF) Earthquake Recovery Fund on a Biosecurity project which starts at the end of October. Other key partners are Marlborough Research Centre, Marlborough District Council (MDC), Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) and NZ Wine Growers.

It is fair to say that nearly everyone in Marlborough was affected by the Hurunui - Kaikoura earthquake, and if you overlay a map of those significantly affected, with those that are either dealing with CNG or Nassella Tussock infestations, or at risk of getting both; the maps are a strongly correlated match.

Biosecurity is always an important consideration on farms, vineyards and other land use activities. The earthquake has increased biosecurity risks due to the increased activity required to repair infrastructure and resources on these properties. The biosecurity project will step up to address these immediate issues and also bring significant long term benefits for those who choose to engage.

I am privileged to announce that the CNGAG was nominated for the inaugural MPI 2017 Biosecurity Awards. We were short listed for the Community Award and received a Certificate of Appreciation. The winner of this category was the Banks Peninsula Environment Group for the great work they have done over many years.

We are all affected by the presence of CNG, whether on vineyards, agricultural land, lifestyle blocks, or are contractors and other agribusiness service providers, or even recreational users of Marlborough's land. We all have a responsibility to stop the spread of CNG, report sightings and assist in reducing the infested area. As individuals you need to know how your activities spread CNG and understand your responsibilities. Think about our future and how your actions can make Marlborough a better place.

The CNG National Steering Group has submitted on the Environment Canterbury (ECan) and Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) Pest Management Plans, with a view to achieving consistency across the regions. One standard for all is the only way we will succeed in the CNGAG goal of stopping the spread of CNG and hopefully its eradication.

MDC has a regulatory biosecurity responsibility and how that is applied is determined by the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) which is described later in the newsletter. To MDC's credit they have also been working with individual landowners to develop their own special plan that recognizes farm differences but also works towards a common goal. We are fortunate to have Councillors with that foresight and the support from MDC management and staff.

The Marlborough RPMP is soon going to be calling for submissions. I encourage you all to get a copy, discuss it with your neighbours and the CNGAG members and formulate a submission. We need to own our biosecurity issues and help the whole community engage. The RPMP gives regulatory teeth that will affect those who choose to ignore their responsibilities as we all strive to get rid of CNG.

As another CNG flowering season is arriving get your "ute guides" either from the council or via the links below and keep an eye out. Don't be afraid to report any sightings of CNG direct to MDC, or any member of the action Group. The more we know, the more we can do to help you to control CNG.

Regards, Warwick Lissaman, Chairman CNGAG

## CNG on TV 1 News

CNG was on the TV1 News in July 2017 thanks to Kaitlin Ruddock, the TV1 Regional Reporter and the CNG Action Group. It was interesting to see the process, the number of "takes" and Kaitlin interviewing, reporting and filming, all at once. Warwick Lissaman and Tim Struthers were interviewed and the Action Group were filmed in their meeting. The link is here:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/invasive-cng-weed-has-potential-wipe-new-zealand-sheep-sector-cost-3-billion>

The Chairman of the CNGAG, Warwick Lissaman, interviewed on TV1 News



## CNG and Taskforce Research Update September 2017

In 2011, the herbicide Taskforce was registered for use in New Zealand to control Nassella Tussock and CNG. Taskforce is provided to farmers for free by Marlborough District Council (MDC). Taskforce, washed into the soil after at least 100 mm of rain, is taken up by the roots and has a residual effect in the soil for 1-3 years, preventing germination from the seed bank. The registration of Taskforce was seen as an exciting breakthrough for CNG and Nassella Tussock affected NZ sheep and beef farmers in Marlborough, Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury.

MDC provides some farmers with Taskforce to control CNG on their properties as part of their commitment to managing CNG. In the surveillance area MDC also provides manpower to spot spray CNG. More farm studies will be possible through the recent funding so if you have ideas you want to try, let us know.

Taskforce trials looking at controlling Nassella Tussock in Canterbury hill country have shown a solution rate increase results in increases in the area of bare ground (33% (control) to 75% (highest rate of 4 L/ha) as a consequence of Taskforce treatment. There was also a large decrease in pasture grasses (51% to 4%) and small increase in weeds (15% to 21%). Rates of Taskforce of 4 L/ha (twice the label rate to control nassella) were needed to get a 100% kill in Nassella Tussock at 1.5 years after spraying, however this left the ground bare making it susceptible to re-infestation.

AgResearch scientists are currently looking to see if there are pasture species that are more resilient to Taskforce so that they can be sown or over-sown in pastures treated with the chemical. In an earlier trial conducted by AgResearch the germination resilience of a number of pasture species under various rates of Taskforce were tested in the laboratory. This experiment found that CNG, Nassella Tussock and several pasture grasses were most susceptible to Taskforce while plantain, chicory, lucerne and some clovers were most resilient.

The results of the laboratory experiment are now being tested in the field by AgResearch scientist, Shona Lamoureaux, using AgResearch Core funding with co-funding from MPI, ECan, HBRC and MDC. This field experiment is looking to answer two questions which are relevant to both Nassella Tussock and CNG control:

Shona Lamoureaux from AgResearch presenting results from the trial at the CNGAG field day.

1. Which pasture species can be safely over-sown in hill country pastures following an application of Taskforce? Treatments are either Glyphosate (Weedmaster) alone, or in combination with Taskforce in January 2016, followed by a summer fallow and over sowing with a range of pasture species at the end of March 2016 (in small plots).
2. Which pasture species, once established in hill country pastures, can be over-sprayed with the herbicide without damage? Plots that had been over sown with various species in March 2016 were treated with Taskforce in January 2017.

Experimental plots were established on two farms (Atacama and Dashwood) in Marlborough and 2 in both Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury in December 2015, with treatments as described above.

Due to lack of rain, plots in Marlborough and Canterbury had to have top-up irrigation after the January 2016 application of Flupropanate to meet the 100ml rainfall requirement for sowing species into areas treated with the chemical. In late March 2016, pasture species were over sown into plots after roughing up the soil surface with a scarifying rake.

Pasture species trialled included perennial ryegrass (3 cultivars, 40 or 50 kg/ha total), chicory (14 kg/ha), lucerne (26 kg/ha), red clover (20 kg/ha), white clover (24 kg/ha), Fescue (64 kg/ha), cocksfoot (16 kg/ha), and plantain (20 kg/ha).

The plots were assessed in August and November 2016 and January 2017 with further assessments planned for November 2017 and January 2018.

At a recent CNAG field day, one of the experimental sites was visited and some early results were discussed. These are summarised below.

Some of the CNG infestation in Marlborough is on cultivatable land and drilling when possible is the preferred method of sowing in dry environments. However if CNG spreads to the hills over-sowing is the only option, but this should only be attempted in those seasons when weather conditions are particularly favourable which is often only known in hindsight!



Germination varied between sites and species. In Marlborough, the germination of sown species was slow, especially at the Dashwood site, perhaps due to late autumn rains. Lucerne and cocksfoot in particular didn't establish following over-sowing.

In general, there was more bare ground in the Taskforce plots compared to Weedmaster only plots. Chicory and plantain had the best establishment rate on plots treated with Taskforce, compared to Weedmaster only plots, due to the suppression of volunteer species (mainly weeds, grasses and clovers) by Taskforce. The "weeds" in the Taskforce plots were largely annual weeds and thistles while resident clover was the main "weed" on the Weedmaster only plots.

Similar trends were seen in Hawke's Bay and Canterbury with chicory and plantain being able to establish and grow in ground previously sprayed with Taskforce. In these regions, the 3 ryegrass cultivars also established well, as did some white clover.

Results are not yet available following the January 2017 spraying.

<https://www.facebook.com/chileanneedlegrass/>

## Regional Pest Management Plan Update

**Jono Underwood, Marlborough District Council**

After plenty of constructive feedback over the last 12 months, especially from the CNGAG with respect to CNG, the Council is in the late stages of preparing a proposal for a new Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP). The proposal will be going through the Council approval process in November and December 2017 and then released for public submissions in early February 2018. Once operative, the new RPMP will replace the old Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS).

The proposed plan outlines 41 programmes for species (or groups of species) that have gone through a rigorous analysis to ensure the investment by the community provides the "best bang for buck". Many of the species targeted in the RPMP are ones you do not see. That is how it is intended to remain! For others - having a real impact, posing an imminent threat, or having had immense investment made region-wide to suppress the population (such as CNG and Nassella Tussock) sees them align with the intent of a RPMP programme.

Council will be running an extensive communication process to ensure the Marlborough community is aware of the proposal and its release for submissions – so keep an eye out.

Council's Biosecurity section delivers many other functions outside the RPMP, such as research, investing in biological control agents, and always looking for and assessing new threats. You will be able to see (and submit on separately) the full Council investment in biosecurity through the Long Term Plan process also coming up in 2018.

## Funding from MPI Earthquake Recovery for Managing Biosecurity Risks

Negotiations are well underway with MPI for a three year funded programme to assist earthquake affected farmers with their biosecurity risks.

In many regards biosecurity is probably the last thing on property owner's minds. But the movement of machinery and stock, both on or near properties dealing with earthquake damage, does introduce the risk of introducing or spreading undesirable weeds or pests. On some farms areas of damaged, bare land could be vulnerable to infestation with CNG, Nassella Tussock or in a few cases wilding pine.

NZLT, in partnership with CNGAG, along with and MDC and Marlborough Research Centre and support from ECan, HBRC, Sustainable Wine Growers of NZ (SWG NZ) and B+LNZ, have been successful in gaining funding for 3 years to assist farmers with biosecurity issues. This project is due to start in October 2017.

Property owners in the earthquake affected areas will be surveyed on their biosecurity issues. Information will be packaged to assist them address their identified issues. There will also be farm demonstrations of ways to control biosecurity risks such as CNG, especially on land too steep for tractors.

Research will look at the spreading risks associated with machinery and stock. We will be working with B+LNZ to incorporate biosecurity plans into the Land and Environment Planning process. We will also be doing farm systems analysis to determine the costs of biosecurity issues such as CNG and profitable ways to farm your way out of the issues.

To pass on your ideas, let us know your issues, register to obtain information, or to give feedback, contact Annette Litherland via email: [annette.litherland@landcare.org.nz](mailto:annette.litherland@landcare.org.nz) or phone 027 724 4445.

To learn more about the Earthquake Recovery Funded Projects go to the MPI website.

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/adverse-events/kaikouraeearthquake/primary-industries-earthquake-recovery-fund/>

Nassella tussock



CNG



## Marlborough District Council Report

**Jim Herdman, Marlborough District Council.**

The MDC team working on CNG this year will be Jim Herdman, Kurt Schollum, Dave Webb and Brent Holms. The Council team will be working on properties again offering assistance where possible and ensuring compliance with the RPMS Rules.

MDC is working hard to assist landowners in the fight against CNG. It works with the local community, landowners, the CNGAG, NZLT, and other Councils around the country and many other organisations to develop strategies to control the weed. Local initiatives include the further development of best practice using trials with both pasture development and herbicides. We are also very excited to be involved in and a key partner in the Earthquake Recovery project to assist with biosecurity on earthquake affected properties.

There are three classifications for CNG in MDC.

- The first is the 'core' area which is around Blind River where CNG has become well established, though there may be some properties where CNG levels are low.
- Outside the core region there are 'fringe' properties where CNG has been found.
- The third type is the 'surveillance' properties which have new small infestations.

You can see where CNG has been found in the region by viewing Smart Maps on the MDC website. This is important to know so you can manage your risks from stock or machinery coming from CNG areas.

Contractors Ben Minehan and Clive Billingsley and their crews will undertake control work on 'surveillance' properties this season. We hope to visit each property two or three times during October, November and December. Each property will receive an entry advice each time they are visited, with the number of plants found and destroyed recorded. We would also like landowners to search for and control CNG plants on these properties where numbers are low.

Kurt Schollum and Brent Holms will be visiting 'fringe' properties. As in previous years it is the landowner's responsibility to control all CNG plants on these properties. The date for control programme completion will be the 30th November 2017. Kurt and Brent will visit each 'fringe' property to assist with advice and support prior to the 30th November and will visit a second time after the 30th November to ensure compliance has been achieved.

Dave Webb will be visiting 'core' properties where it is the landowner's responsibility to control all CNG plants within 10 metres of the property boundary. The date for control programme completion will be the 30th November 2017. Dave will visit each core property to assist with advice and support prior to the 30th November and will visit a second time after the 30th November to ensure compliance has been achieved.



Along with the local community we have developed the following protocols to reduce the risk of spread is reduced and the RPMS rules are not contravened.

### **Protocols for Minimising the Risk of Livestock Moving Seed from Chilean Needle Grass.**

- All sheep from 'core' properties will only be sold to slaughter.
- All sheep from 'fringe' and 'surveillance' properties that have been grazed on CNG affected areas at any time will only be sold to slaughter.

### **Protocols for Minimising the Risk of Livestock Moving Soil at Risk of Containing CNG Seed or Ingested Seed.**

- If possible stock should not be grazed within areas affected with CNG from the 1st October to 30th April each year.
- If that is not feasible, sheep grazed in infested areas over that timeframe shall not be moved to unaffected areas of the property or moved to other unaffected properties. They shall only be sold to slaughter.
- No cattle will be moved from areas affected with CNG to unaffected areas from 1st October to 30th April.
- If feasible cattle grazed in areas affected with CNG from the 1st May to 1st October shall only be loaded out during dry conditions to avoid the transfer of mud/soil on the animals. A stand down period prior to load out is to be implemented to 'empty out' the animals prior to transport.

### **Farm Biosecurity.**

- All farms and properties should make sure they know where their stock come from and what biosecurity risk they pose.
- All other animals such as dogs and horses must be checked and cleaned of seed and mud/soil before leaving a property with CNG present.

### **Protocols for Minimising the Risk of Hay or Other Stock Feed Moving Seed from CNG.**

- No hay or other stock feed product (baleage, silage) will be made or distributed from areas that have been affected by CNG.



### **Protocols for Minimising the Risk of People, Vehicles and Machinery Moving Seed from CNG.**

- All vehicles and machinery that enter an area where CNG is present must be cleaned down using high pressure water before leaving the property or site. All soil/mud and any plant material must be removed before leaving the affected property. Earth moving machinery and mowers must be inspected by the MDC contracted inspector Armourguard before moving off site. Persons must ensure their clothing and interior of vehicle are clean and free from seed.
- Council contracts Armourguard to come free of charge and inspect earth moving machinery and mowers that have been cleaned before moving off CNG affected properties or sites. Armourguard will come out to the property within two hours of contacting them. Ph: 03 577 8055 for an Armourguard inspection.
- If you believe machinery or equipment coming onto to your property may be coming from a CNG infested area please ask that it be cleaned and checked before coming on to your property.

### **Protocols for Minimising the Risk of Livestock Carriers and Livestock Agents Being Responsible for Moving Seed from CNG.**

- Livestock carriers and livestock agents and graziers must not during the course of their day to day business disregard the protocols above and shift stock from an area affected with CNG to an unaffected area. This would be by way of transporting stock or selling stock from one person to another which would result in the shifting of the seed. Any person undertaking such activity/business would be deemed to be knowingly spreading or causing the spread of plant parts of CNG including seed and soil likely to contain seed.
- Be aware that CNG infestation occurs in vineyards and along roadsides. Find out where stock entering your property have been grazing.

The Marlborough District Council biosecurity team would like to thank the community for their ongoing support of this programme.

## **CNG gets National Steering Group**

On 27 June 2017 a meeting of farmers from Marlborough, Canterbury and Hawkes Bay, B+LNZ and Biosecurity Officers from ECan and MDC, met to discuss the establishment of a national CNG Steering and Governance Group. Warwick Lissaman will be the Chairperson.

The role of the group will be to:

- Provide national direction and to support regional landowner groups.
- Work together with Councils and Regional Councils to develop nationally consistent rules in all Regional and District Council plans.
- Liaise with Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, AgResearch, B+LNZ, SWGNZ, Crop and Food, science and extension providers for long term prescriptive controls and monitoring of outcomes.
- Develop a national focus for science and extension work.
- Explore Animal Health Status declaration for tracing stock movement.
- Seek funding for research to identify the spread risk of animals.

CNG has been found on farms, on vineyards, on life style blocks and on community land.

If don't have CNG you need to be aware about how it can enter your property.

**Prevention is much easier than cure.**

Can you identify CNG?

If you find it ring the Council to confirm it.

If you can identify it, you are less likely to bring it home on your socks.

**The quicker you identify it, the easier it will be to get rid of it.**

Do you know how to control CNG?

Do you know what help there is available?

Do you know how to prevent spreading it?

**Know how to control it.**

**Prevent it spreading!**

The CNGAG in Marlborough with support from MDC and the CNGAG committee supported by ECan have prepared a number of videos and resources for property owners. Share them with family, friends and neighbours, by email or through facebook. Be a farmer taking action.

## Review of Online CNG Resources for Property Owners



### CNG Action Group Case Study - Tim Struthers

Tim, who has both a sheep/beef farm and a vineyard, talks about how he has controlled CNG, his cropping programme using Taskforce and how this has improved his farm performance. (4.30 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXxDnc57Vsc>

### CNG Action Group Case Study - Simon Harvey

Simon, hill country farmer in the Medway Valley, talks about how to prevent CNG and other biosecurity risks getting on to the property. (3.5 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4yEcj8UNY4>

### CNG Ute Guide

This gives a good background on CNG; its distribution; how it is spread; and an excellent run down on how it can be identified. This information is presented as a pdf file for the readers or for the visual learner a full length 19 minute video with excellent interviews with farmers and step by step visual identification by an expert. Or a shortened version, for those with limited time, on identification.

<http://www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/factsheets/chilean-needle-grass-ute-guide> (pdf version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhEvhg3zlxo> (long version 19 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwCxaKQdgek> (short version)

You can also get a wallet sized CNG seed ID chart to carry in the ute and a leaflet explaining and promoting farm security.

### On Farm Biosecurity

This is a good short YouTube video that shows how to minimise CNG biosecurity risks and prevent spreading. (3.5 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKjajQ5Y01A>

## Farm Trials

In 2016 a number of demonstrations of CNG control were trialled on farmer properties with the costs of materials and recording being met by MDC.

The demonstrations on sheep and beef pastures involved intensive counting of CNG plants before the treatment started, followed by either spot treatment or broadcast spraying of Taskforce+ Glyphosate in spring, and then either drilling or oversowing in autumn with lucerne–plantain–cocksfoot–sub clover mix.

In vineyards there are some comparisons of treating the CNG infested inter-rows with repeated Glyphosate or spot spraying or single Glyphosate + direct drill with pasture. In all cases the treatments will be followed up with intensive counting and spot spraying of CNG for another two years.

We intend to carry out more demonstrations on properties over the next three years as part of the Earthquake Recovery Biosecurity Project. Please contact the CNGAG group if you want a paddock or two on your property to be part of the demonstrations to establish best practise for CNG control.

### CNG Facebook - Target 2000 Followers

We would love to get to 2000 followers on this Facebook page before the next newsletter. In fact we would love to get to 25,000; the number of sheep and beef farms in NZ. But for this we need your help. If Shakira can get 100 million followers, 25,000 doesn't seem impossible! Please "share" us on your Facebook page and then "like" the Facebook page.

On this Facebook page you can see a lot of the information on CNG. This is where you can ask your questions, share your experiences or help spread the information.

There are still many property owners, some of which may be your neighbours, who are not aware of the threats posed by CNG. It is now found in Canterbury and Hawkes Bay so the wider we can spread the word the better. It may have spread and not been found yet. The quicker it can be found the easier it is to control.

Australia eased up on the fight and now they have 45,000 ha of farmland infested with CNG. They are realising that it is not suitable for sheep farming. Let's not follow Australia down this road. Let's mobilise to follow a different path.

<https://www.facebook.com/chileanneedlegrass/>

### For further information about the CNG Action Group contact:

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