



Pampered top to tail: Brendan Fevola takes it lying down. Pictures: GEORGE SALPIGIDIS

Touch of gender Brendan

ON weekends he is a rough, tough footballer, but Brendan Fevola was getting in touch with his feminine side yesterday.

The Carlton spearhead booked into a men's grooming salon where he was pampered from top to tail.

Beauty therapists started with Fevola's famous dreadlocks and worked their way down to his biggest weapon — his long-kicking feet.

Fevola's hair proved a particular problem for hairstylists.

Man What a Fuss salon owner Kate Allen said Fevola's hair had formed one big dreadlock.

"It was that bad at the back of his head that he couldn't lie down without hurting it," she said.

Matt Cunningham

Fevola's treatment included a manicure, pedicure, one-hour facial and the reshaping of his eyebrows.

"We eliminated the monobrow," she said.

Last on the list for Fevola was the full-body spray-on tan.

"He stood there with his hand over his kit and he got sprayed down," Ms Allen said.

Opened seven years ago, the salon is proving a big hit with AFL footy players.

Ms Allen said the emergence of the "metrosexual" and television shows such as *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* had led to a surge in the male grooming industry.



After: two-eyebrowed and sans dreadlocks.



Before: Kate, Jo and Emily work on hair, nails, feet.

\$230,000 fines fear Fire clear leads to hot water

Milanda Rout

A COUPLE trying to defend their home against bushfires face up to \$230,000 in fines for illegally clearing their land.

Liam and Dale Sheahan, of Reedy Creek in the state's north, have been charged with four breaches of local planning laws.

The Seymour Magistrates' Court heard yesterday the Sheahans had cleared 1.2ha of native bush around their home in November 2002.

The couple face a maximum penalty of \$120,000 if found guilty and may have to pay a further \$111,000 to replace vegetation they destroyed.

Prosecutor Ragunath Appudurai told the court the Sheahans bulldozed 295 trees, some 40 years old, without applying to Mitchell Shire for a permit.

Mr Appudurai said residents were allowed to clear 6m around their home for fire protection without a permit but not 100m — the area cleared by the Sheahans.

He told the court the Sheahans believed they had a right to clear their own land.

In a letter tendered to the court, the Sheahans told the complaining residents and the council to "get stuffed" when asked to explain the clearing.

"We could not care any less than we do now what any self-righteous self appointed 'green police' person thinks about what we are doing," they wrote.

"It is our place, not theirs. We have owned it since 1982. We paid for it,



Bulldozed: Liam and Dale Sheahan.



Stripped: the Sheahans' Reedy Creek property.

not them, and they can go and get stuffed."

Barrister for the Sheahans, Clem Newton-Brown, told the court they were just trying to protect their home in an extreme fire risk area.

Mr Newton-Brown said the local council regulations were not adequate to protect homeowners.

"It would be potentially absurd for the council to assert that 6m is fire protection on a bush block at the top of a hill," he said.

Melbourne University bushfire expert Kevin Tolhurst gave evidence the Sheahans' house was in extreme fire risk and they should have never been allowed to build it.

Mr Newton-Brown said the Sheahans had only cleared 3 per cent of their 40ha land and planned to replant bushfire retardant trees.

He said the Sheahans faced financial ruin if found guilty.

The court heard the couple may have to pay another \$111,000 on top of a fine for revegetation in an order now before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

"This will financially destroy this couple," Mr Newton-Brown said.

The hearing, before magistrate John Murphy, has been adjourned to February.

Speeding fines tumble

REVENUE from mobile speed camera fines is falling, with less than 41,000 tickets issued in June.

This was the lowest monthly figure for more than two years and is well below the 69,142 fines dished out in January. About \$9.7 million was raised from fines in January, compared with \$5.7 million in June.

Victorian motorists were hit with about 730,000 mobile camera tickets last year, pouring about \$102 million into state coffers.

Police data shows the total for the first six months of 2004 was 353,520, but the number of tickets issued monthly has been falling steadily since April.

John Masanauskas

The decline in mobile camera fines comes after the fiasco over faulty fixed speed cameras.

The State Government has been forced to refund fines and cancel demerit points for thousands of people pinged by the fixed cameras.

The Government pocketed about \$230 million from all police fines in 2003-04, down from the original Budget forecast of \$427 million.

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