

WOF

REPAIRS

SERVICES

MAINTENANCE

ALL MAKES AND MODELS

Hello  
Autumn

Wow, where has the year gone! It seems crazy that we are already in March and the Automotive Solutions Group are only just wishing you all a very happy and prosperous 2017.

Please stay safe on our roads and remember, drive to the conditions. Since we missed out on summer, maybe you could slip away in winter to somewhere warm and dry to make up for it.

Find us on 

This year, the AutomotiveSolutions Group is launching a public Facebook page with lots of tips for car care and introducing our family to you.

Check out our new and improved Facebook page:

[facebook.com/automotivesolutionsnz](https://facebook.com/automotivesolutionsnz)

Like, share, comment and also keep an eye out for upcoming promotions and specials.

IT'S TIME FOR A  
*giveaway*

**WIN ONE OF TWO \$50 MTA VOUCHERS EVERY MONTH UNTIL MAY.**

Visit our Facebook page, like it, share it, tag a friend in the comments and you will go into the draw.

More details on our facebook page.



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## CARTHRTIS?

Does your suspension need surgery?

Much like humans, a vehicle's joints suffer wear and tear over time. For the human skeleton / chassis, the medical term osteoarthritis is the wearing of cartilage resulting in a 'bone against bone' joint, reducing motion, causing significant pain and not to mention the negative implications for surrounding areas of the body to that joint. In terms of a vehicle, bushings within the chassis/ skeleton and suspension play the role of 'cartilage', and as they wear and tear known as 'carthritis', the vehicle's performance, reliability and safety can suffer.

- *Vehicle noises during acceleration, braking, changing road surfaces and cornering*  
**KEY SYMPTOMS:** knocking, clunks and vibrations
- *Irregular steering wheel behaviour*  
**KEY SYMPTOMS:** vibrations, vagueness, off centre, not self centering and poor responsiveness
- *Inefficient braking*  
**KEY SYMPTOMS:** soft brake pedal feel, darting to one side during braking and wheel shudder during braking
- *Unpredictable stability*  
**KEY SYMPTOMS:** excess body roll during cornering, under-steer or lack of front wheel grip during cornering (common in



front and all wheel drives) and over-steer or lack of rear end grip during cornering (common in rear wheel drives)

- *Premature wear of tyres due to misalignment*  
**KEY SYMPTOMS:** smooth inner edge due to excess negative camber and feathered edges on the tyre due to incorrect toe settings



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Did you know that when it rains after a particularly dry spell, roads can be even more slippery than usual?

What happens is that the fresh rain mixes with the oil and grime that has built up on the road surface.

This makes it very slick - even more so than normal.

Drivers need to be aware of this so that they can adjust to the conditions and stay safe on the roads.

With autumn underway, this may well be a scenario that plays out where you are living. After weeks of sun and dry weather, the first rain cloud should be your warning to take extra care on the roads.

Make sure you slow down on newly wet roads to reduce the likelihood of your car tyres skidding.

It is equally important to increase your following distance when driving behind other vehicles.

This gives you more time to react and will hopefully prevent you from having to slam on the brakes - which may result in a loss of control on slick roads.

Be sure to continue regularly checking your tyres during the autumn and winter months - ensuring that tread is sufficient and your air pressure is correct which will improve your overall tyre safety and fuel performance.



- Replace the lost nutrients from those heavy growing seasons by adding in compost, blood and bone, and sheep pellets. This will provide a healthy new foundation for your autumn and winter crops.
- Harvest pumpkins and dry well before storing.
- Main crop potatoes should be ready for lifting.
- Autumn is an ideal time to plant broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beetroot, spinach and Chinese cabbages.
- Plant lettuce early autumn and you can get a good harvest from most lettuce varieties.
- Sow seeds for your winter crops like carrots, swedes, turnips and radish. A good seed raising mix that is light and free draining will ensure your seeds get the best possible start.
- Autumn is a busy season for slugs and snails so protect your young vegetable seedlings with Quash.
- If early frosts are a concern, protect seedlings with a cloche (translucent cover) or growing tunnel.
- If you choose to rest some areas of your vegetable garden over autumn and winter, planting a green manure crop like lupin or mustard seed adds nitrogen rich organic matter back into the soil.



So what happened to the quintessential Kiwi summer of beaches, barbecues and basking in just the right amount of sun?

Scientists are pointing the finger at a tumultuous lady called La Nina.

The North Island was hit by more rain than normal in December, with Auckland residents living through the wettest December on record.

Throughout summer La Nina continued to bring wet weather to the north, and hot weather to the south.

Yet just a few months ago weather scientists predicted a long, hot summer for the country.

People feel robbed. They thought they were going to have a good summer.

If you are feeling bad, think about those in a worse situation. It puts your own experience in perspective.



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they laid down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies, and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?" Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke. "It tells me that someone has stolen our tent."



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