

The Cicerone Project Inc.

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ABN 15 314 685 367

NEWSLETTER

Number 10

November 2000

FOOTROT TRIAL

**PHASE II
at Molong**

FIELD DAY
to view ongoing results

FRIDAY 10th November at 9.30am

**On the property of Mr Henry Thomas, "Wavertree", Toogong.
5 km west of Toogong on the Cudal / Eugowra Road.**

**Please RSVP to Caroline on 02 6778 3871 (or ah 02 6772 7913) so she
can coordinate travel and accommodation. We will travel there on
Thursday 9th November and return after lunch on Friday 10th
November.**

The South African Meat Sheep Trial

The lambs are all on the ground now and the fat tailed breeds are quite different in appearance from the merino whereas the South African Meat Merino and Dohne Merino, as wool sheep, are very similar.

There has been tremendous interest from the media and our lambs featured in Prime Local News as part of the ‘changing face of the Australian sheep industry’ on 16th October.

At our stand at the Fine Wool Symposium it was surprising to see the interest shown in these sheep, especially the Dohne and SAMM. A large framed animal producing 19 micron wool sounds good in anyone’s language.

We will be doing a carcass assessment of each of our five breeds. We will also chase up tanneries about the skins as the Italian luxury car market uses these skins for the seats of their Lamborghinis and Fiats.

The behaviour of the fat tailed lambs is quite different too, they are real survivors. Caroline has 4 poddy lambs at home and each is determined to get all the milk from all the bottles and will fight and push and shove and stand on their hind legs to get what they can. At three weeks old they started to graze the lawn and browse the hedges.

They have also proved to be a real deterrent for the recent prowlers in the neighbourhood. The “Beware of the Dog” sign didn’t deter the ‘visitors’ but four hungry and therefore very vocal lambs soon had them fleeing back over the fence.

MEAT MARKET MAKEOVER DAY

Our speakers included three experts in meat and meat quality and two leaders of the teams doing research into the South African sheep. Copies of some talks will be posted to our web site for members only.

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We have free copies of the Speakers notes available for members or \$5 if posted (\$10 if posted to non members). There is some excellent information for those of you who are lamb producers.

Day to day for your ancestors

From the diary of Ludwig Schrader of Holstein, Walcha

Thursday th 10 July 1873

Weather very frosty. We had an early breakfast. T. Kermode leaving immediately after. The frost lay upon the ground untill 9 oclock.

I went after breakfast to G Martin's for the long swingle tree or whiple tree, (*a swingle tree is a horizontal bar to which harness traces may be attached, there being a bar for each horse, a whiple tree is an attachment for draught gear fixed to the forecarriage of a cart or implement such as a plough*) intending to commence with 3 horses to plough the flat. I made a start at about 10 oclock. The horses however would not work even reasonably well, Dolly making a great ass of herself. Up to dinner time in consequence I could not get along at all, after dinner I put Dolly in the middle tied her back to Trump and Lassie and after a few round she appeared to understand the extent of her folly, in exerting herself to do the work of 3 and settled down quickly. During the remainder of the evening I succeeded in turning over a nice patch. As usual the flat ploughs wretchedly and is too wet. It is always either that or the contrary. This season will however I trust be its last ploughing for a few years, as it is my intention to sow with the oats, rye grass, prairie and clover, thereby laying it to pasture. My three good horses will not regret it I am sure less than myself, it is terribly hard work for them to plough it. Trumpeter understands its nature and with most indomitable pluck, drags through with it the whole day long never giving the others the slightest advantage and drawing almost as much as both of them together.

Sunday th 13 July 1873

An other sharp frosty morning, cold and clear throughout the day. I rose pretty early, fed my horses as usual. After breakfast I took a ride round the big paddock, saw the sheep apparently all well. The working bullocks I turned out into the bush again, not intending to use them for a few days. August called just before dinner to get from Mrs. Hinz a lamp. Towards evening I quickly rode out and saw Mag home for the purpose of using her to lead in the plough tomorrow all being well. At 9 pm weather very cold and clear.

Monday th 14 July 1873

A snowey morning commenced a little before daylight and lay scattered thinly on the ground untill 9 oclock. It has been freezing the whole day in the shade, wind very cold from the west. There does not appear to be much moisture in the air otherwise a most heavy fall of snow must take place, during the greater part of the day the sun shone beautifully warm in sheltered spots. We killed and cleaned behind the barn at Trump's stall 5 pigs, thus leaving us to get through winter 3 barrows, two sows breeding and 1 boar, they are so far all in good condition, and gain with the exception of the boar, their own living. This night 8 pm weather cold, wind west, some clouds in sky threatening snow.

**The Cicerone Project gratefully acknowledges the funding support
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Newsletter Editor: Caroline Gaden, Executive Officer of The Cicerone Project Inc.
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