

The Cicerone Project Inc.

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NEWSLETTER No 19

April 2002

Mulesing day

for the rest of the trial lambs

Saturday 27th April 2002

Cicerone yards at 9.00 a.m.

(Take the Barleyfields road out of Uralla; turn into Big Ridge Road [signposted Big Ridge, Stanley Vale, Lockheed Martin]. Just past the end of the tar, turn left in through the back gate of CSIRO. Follow the lane for about 100 metres then turn left into the Cicerone farm, and follow the lane 500m to our yards.)

Gordon Godson will be mulesing the second group of lambs and we will be looking at the results so far. We have found differences between the weights of the mulesed and non-mulesed lambs, will the others catch up in the next few months???

Learning from the Masters

Thursday 9th May

Liaison Centre, CSIRO, Chiswick

9.00 am register

Speakers will include: -

Robbie Sefton Rural Woman of the Year

John Hartmann on how he has combated parasites

Jon Taylor on all his work on the benefits of trees on farms

Ian Berry will talk on the selection and training of working dogs

Ross Fulloon on his experience in the sheep and fine wool industry

Richard White will look at the work of Colonel White and cattle selection

*Cicerone Members **FREE ENTRY** (includes lunch if you book in)*

Non-Members \$20 (includes lunch if you book in)

To help catering numbers please book in for lunch 6778 3871

Farm Walk after lunch... see the **three Cicerone Farmlots** and the differences emerging already. Help us select where our trees should be planted and what measurements you'd like to see taken on the farms.

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Annual subscriptions are coming up at the end of June. If you are not already a member, and would like to join us, an annual subscription of just \$88 will take you to 30 June 2003. Please fill in the enclosed coloured form and return it to us. Contact Caroline if you need more details on 6778 3871

Congratulations

to the following **Cicerone members** on their achievements

Robbie Sefton on becoming the *Rural Woman of the Year*

Don and Fay Tully of 'Tarrangower', winners of the

Ermengildo Zegna Unprotected Trophy

Tony and Janet Gall of 'Wilson's Creek', second in the Protected section

Barry and Helen Finch of 'Legend' who were awarded *the Ermengildo Zegna Vellus Aureum Trophy*, the Golden Fleece award for a superfine fleece of 11.7 micron, worth its weight in gold!

I wonder if Ian Berry
will tell us how to
teach our working
dog to do this??

(Photo taken from an
unknown internet site)



Meet the rest of the Cicerone Board and staff

Kim Barnet has been involved in wool production 25 years and wool is his primary interest and passion. As manager of the family property, Miramoonna, since 1988, wool has been his primary source of income, running a commercial fine wool flock of 3000 ewes and a stud of 600. Additional enterprises have included wethers, breeding cattle and backgrounding of trade cattle. Kim is interested in innovation in the primary industry that is relevant and new and he has been involved in a number of trials and experiments eg. weaner feed imprinting, salinity in NE, electronic identification, sheep internal parasite trials + Nemesis. He feels producers should be more involved in innovation and research, as they have much to offer, rather than be dictated to. Kim became involved in Cicerone as he feels more and more that scientists appear to not want to involve producers.

Bob Marchant left Sydney at 16 to become a jackaroo on The New Zealand and Australian Land Company's Quabothoo Stn at Coonamble. He says "My first day I was introduced to dagging shears for treating blowflies in unmulesed merino weaners. With the wool industry's intransigent problems, little has changed in 40 years". Bob later went to Wagga Agricultural College and joined NSW Agriculture in 1968. While stationed at Hawkesbury Ag college from 1970-72 Bob played Rugby at Eastwood club from social Sixths to Reserves In 1973 while stationed at Temora Agricultural Research Stn he did collaborative work on mulesing and blowfly control with Jim Watts. One highlight of Bob's career was while in the Sheep fertility Service in Dubbo in 1975 when the lambmarking percentage was improved on Goodooga property from 82 to 117% by use of electric fencing to exclude feral pigs from a lambing paddock. In the mid 1980's, now District sheep and wool officer at Goulburn, he developed the concept of Lambing Paddock Engineering now available through NSW Agric on video. Another more recent highlight was the development of pasture assessment groups the precursor to the highly successful Prograze program, which has gone Australia wide. Bob is now working on wholefarm economics concentrating on key drivers and their basic components. He has developed a workshop series called 80-20 to provide a framework to address these issues.

Justin Hoad, who looks after our farm, is Walcha born and bred, coming from the Hoad family property Edina where they breed elite wool merinos and Shorthorn cattle. A graduate of TAFE, Justin has completed the Diploma in Agribusiness receiving the State Medal for the highest pass and a bursary to study in England for a few weeks later this year. Keen to keep learning, he has completed a number of Short Courses and he attends as many field days as possible. Justin has been involved with the various Cicerone trials since July 2000 and is excited to be involved with the Cicerone Project which gives him the opportunity to work with leading producers and industry advisors in producer led research.

Caroline Gaden, who has driven the Cicerone office from the start, is from the area well known in Yorkshire as 'Heartbeat' country. The family farm ran sheep, cattle and the inevitable horses. Travelling across the country to university at Aberystwyth in Wales, she studied a combination of rural and science subjects then went north to Bangor for further study in parasitology before travelling across the world to the University of Queensland. The study and travel plans were disrupted when she met future husband Bob and Goulburn became home for many years. She has taught high school science and horse courses at TAFE, helped run their farm, trained young horses and competed in horse trials, studied family history and managed to find time to bring up their three sons. In 1990 the family

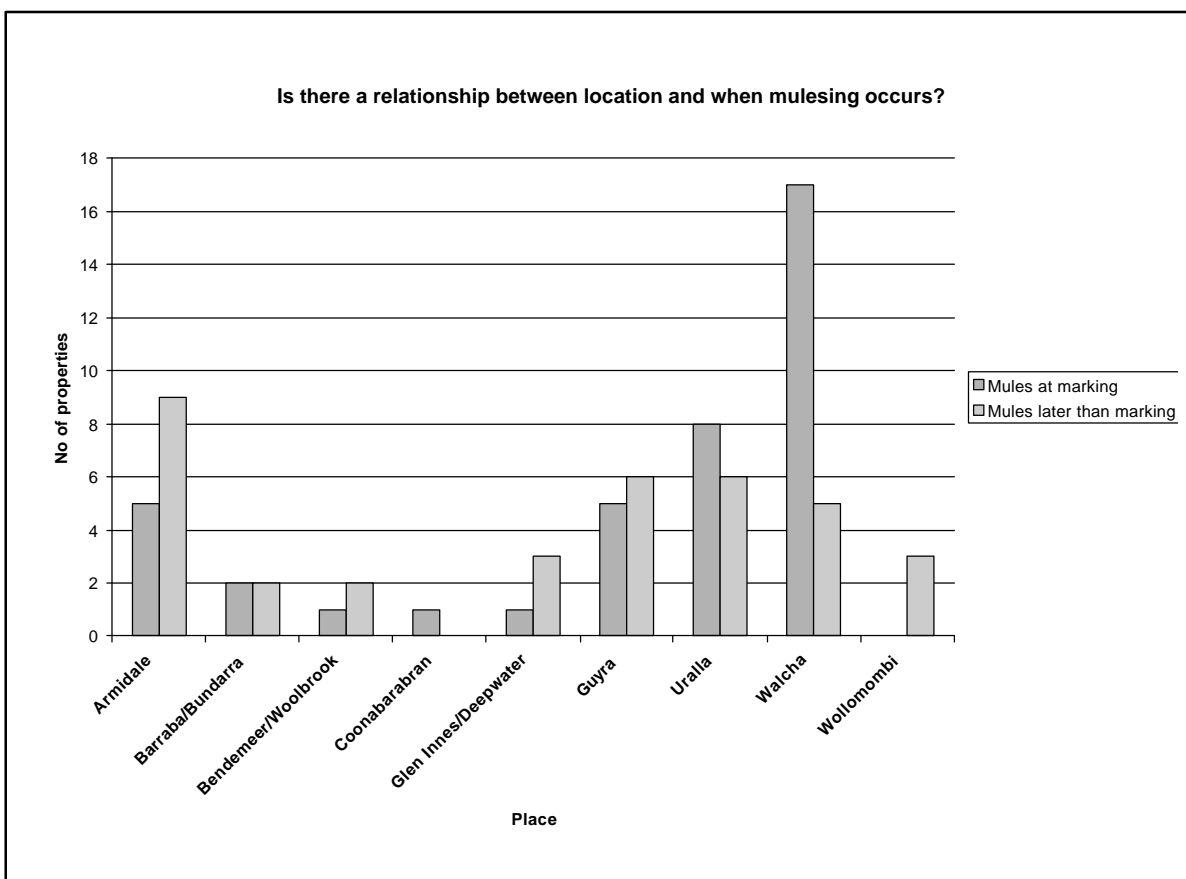
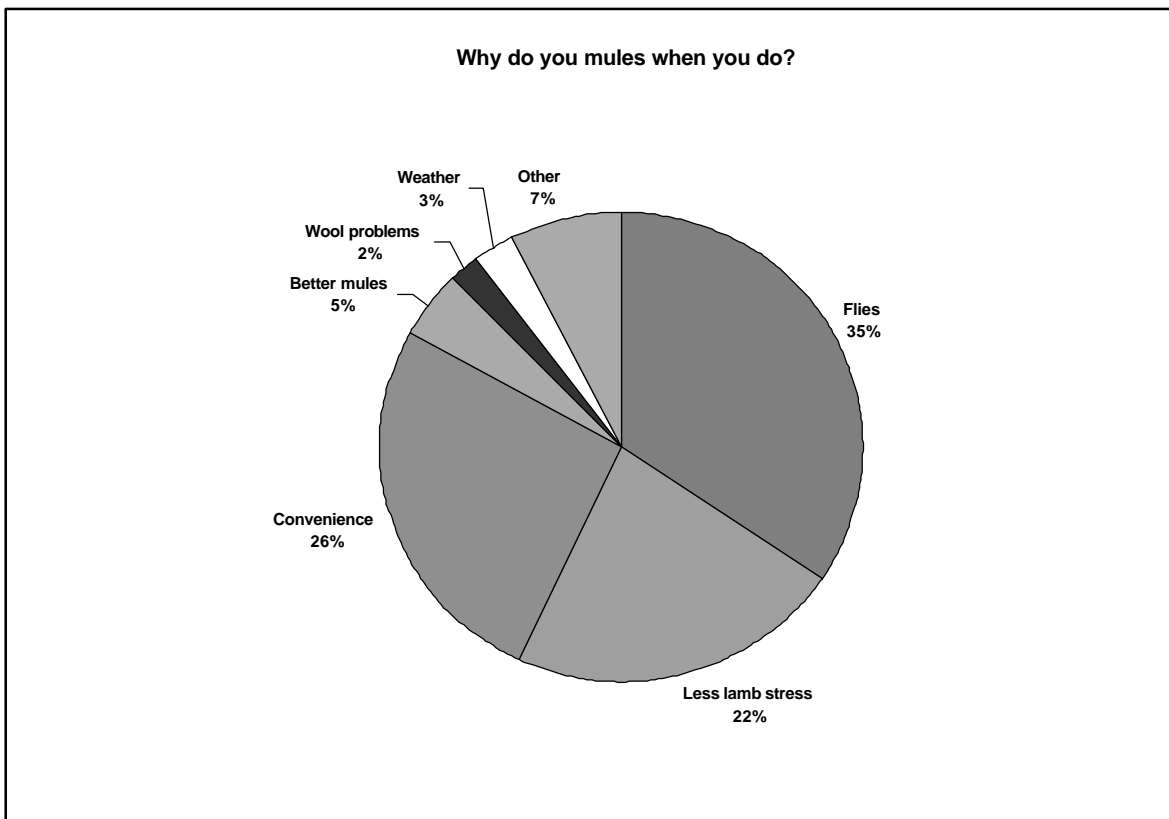
moved to Armidale. Caroline enjoys being involved with The Cicerone Project as the work combines many of her rural interests.

MULESING SURVEY AND TRIAL RESULTS

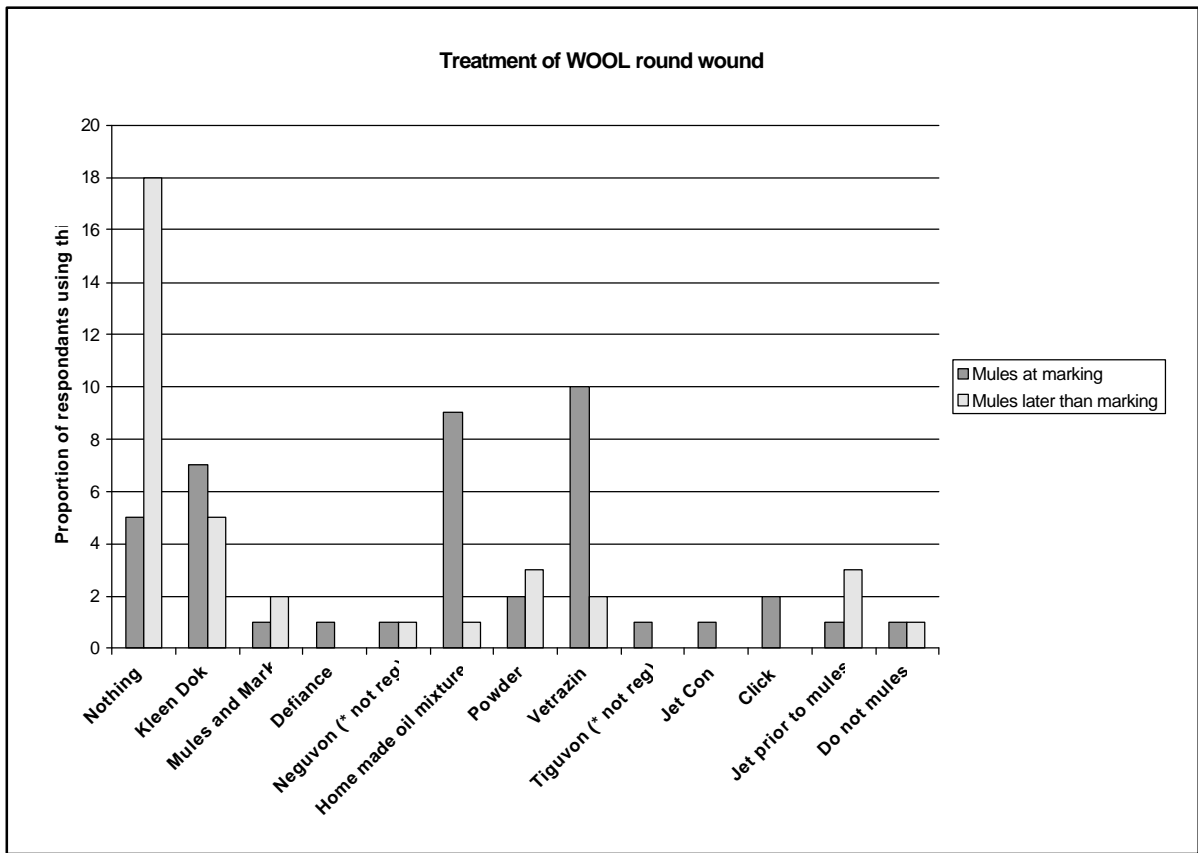
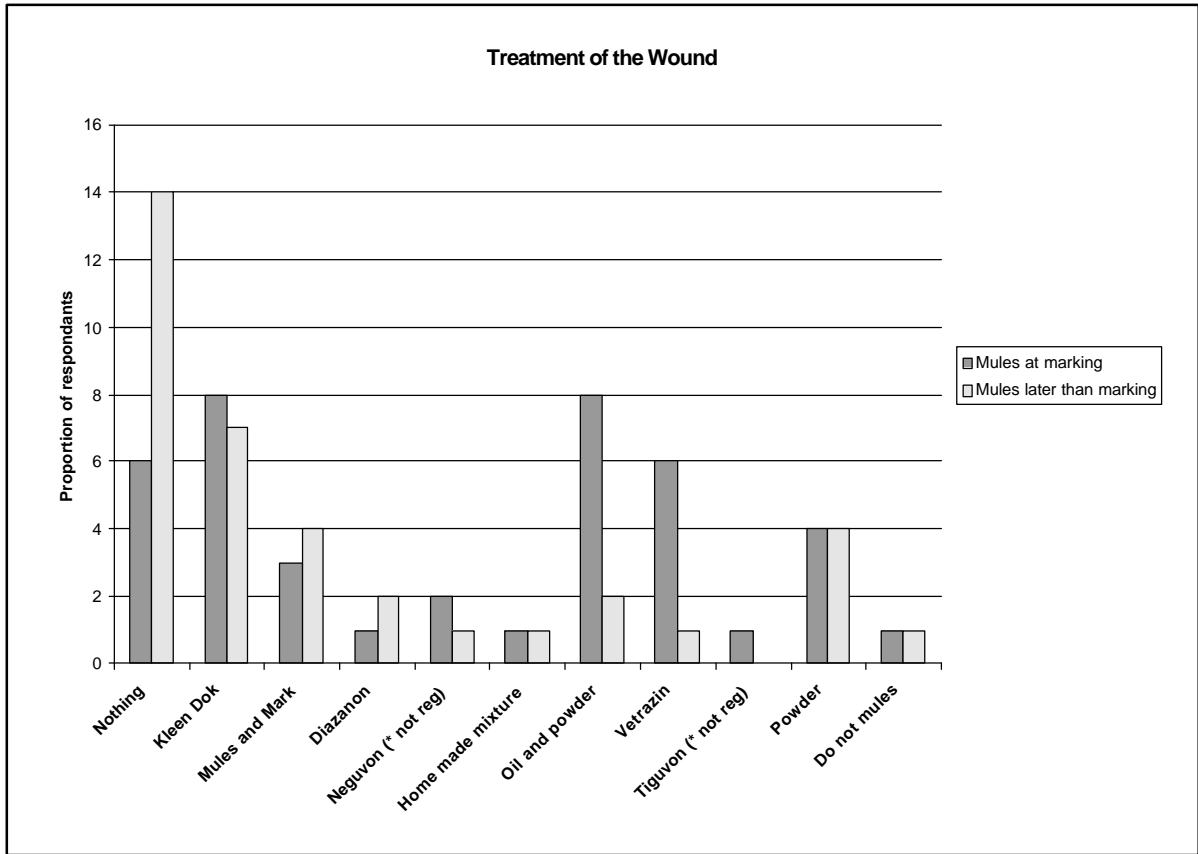
Last year **The Cicerone Project** invited district graziers to take part in a Mulesing survey to be run in conjunction with our Mulesing trial. Here are some of the findings:-

We had replies from 77 graziers who mulesed a total of close to 14000 lambs. Replies came from all over the New England, with 17% from Armidale, 14% from Guyra, 18% from Uralla and 28% from Walcha.

- **When are your lambs born?** 8% Aug, 38% Sep, 41% Oct, 10% Nov
- **What month do you mark the lambs?** 18% Oct, 49% Nov, 26% Dec
- **What do you use to tail lambs?** 45% Rings 14% Knife 27% Gas knife 8% Mulesing shears
- **Where do you cut the tail?** 10% 1st joint, 27% 2nd joint, 28% 3rd joint, 4% 4th joint, 24% tip of vulva
- **What do you use to castrate lambs?** 71% Rings 29% Knife
- **Do you mules at marking ?** 53% Yes 47% No
- **Of those who DON'T mules at marking, when do you mules?** 17% Mar, 24% Apr, 28% May, 12% Jun
- **Why have you chosen to mules when you do?** 35% flies, 22% less stress on lambs, 26% convenience
- **Who does the mulesing?** 44% Me 5% Farm hand 36% Contractor 5% Friend
- **Where do you mules lambs?** 53% In your main yards, 35% In a temporary yard with clean adjacent paddock, 8% a combination, 4% in the shearing shed
- **What sort of mules is performed?** 23% Radical 62% V of wool bearing skin along 1/3 of docked tail 5% Light radical
- **As a result of mulesing last season, how many lambs died?** 50% of respondents had 0-0.01% deaths, 20% don't know
- **As a result of mulesing last season, how many lambs developed arthritis?** 51% of respondents had no arthritis, 23% don't know
- **Do you weigh your lambs at marking?** 73% said No
- **Do you weigh your lambs at weaning?** 60% said No, but quite a few graziers will measure a sample to get weights for drench dose rates
- **Do you routinely weigh lambs in their first year to assess growth rates?** 60% said No but again quite a few graziers will measure a sample to get weights for drench dose rates
- **Have you noticed any tenderness in the weaner fleece?** 74% No 25% Yes usually caused by seasonal conditions



Treatment of the wound, or wool round the wound gave rise to a number of home made concoctions as well as propriety brands of chemicals, most relate to avoiding fly strike as well as to help with healing.



For the past two seasons the Cicerone lambs have had Click on the wool round the wound, with nothing on the wound itself and this has given them excellent protection from flies, with no fly strike occurring and no need

to bring them in for a second treatment. *We are most grateful to Click for their donation of the chemical for this trial.*

The Cicerone Mulesing trial has yielded some very interesting results so far. We'll present them at our second mulesing day, organised on a Saturday especially for those of you who were unable to come last time. It is on April 27th at the Cicerone yards at 9.00am and you'll be able to talk to Gordon Godson, President of the NSW Livestock Contractors Association, about the accreditation scheme.

A member brought in this photograph which gives us some idea of the progress made with sheep breeding over the centuries ... how would you like to move this ram round your yards??



The Manx Loghtan These sheep are descended from a primitive type of multi horned sheep that once roamed through many parts of Britain. It is one of the smaller breeds as they were originally grazed on poor upland or hill pasture. The adult ewe is about 40 kg in weight but can grow larger on better pasture. The number of horns in both sexes is variable, usually two or four but some have six. The wool is red-brown in colour (*Loghtan* means mouse brown) and is used mainly for undyed woollens and tweed production. The Manx Loghtan is classed as an 'at risk rare breed'. These historic animals give us a measure of the progress made by the sheep and wool industry. How sad it would be if their genetics were lost to the world. As our knowledge of genetics progresses, who knows what useful DNA these rare breeds may contribute to the future sheep industry.

The Cicerone Project gratefully acknowledges the funding support given to them by Australian Wool Innovation

Newsletter Editor: Caroline Gaden, Executive Officer of The Cicerone Project Inc.
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**REMEMBER WOOL EXPO AT THE CREEKLANDS
FRIDAY 10th MAY TO SATURDAY 11th MAY**

The Cicerone Project Inc.

PO Box 1593, ARMIDALE 2350

WEBSITES

Australian Wool Innovation is located at www.wool.com

The Cicerone Project is at www.northnet.com.au/~cicerone/

but will be moving soon to www.cicerone.org.au

Anti virus software, free to home users, is at www.grisoft.com

Search engine one of the best is at www.google.com

Manx Loghtan sheep three sites from a google search for them

http://www.rare-breeds.com/html/rare_breeds/sheep/atRisk/manx_loghtan.html

<http://www.rarewoolcompany.co.uk/manx.htm>

http://www.gov.im/infocentre/docs/PR_MNH_01/mnh_hou.html (note the underscores)

If you enjoy boats, or a laugh, have a look at this (takes a while to download as there's lots of pictures) <http://koti.mbnet.fi/~soldier/towboat.htm>