

The Cicerone Project Inc.

PO Box 1593 Armidale 2350

Phone 02 6778 3871, Fax 02 6278 3872

[cicerone@northnet.com.au](mailto:cicerone@northnet.com.au)

ABN 15 314 685 367

## **NEWSLETTER No 22**

October 2002

You are invited to hear the

### **Mulesing Trial Results**

at the

### **Field Day**

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

from 9:30 am to 3:00pm.

**Liaison Centre, CSIRO, Chiswick**

**Members – Free entry**

**Students \$10**

**Non-members - \$25**

### **Hear if the time of mulesing affects the overall weight gain or the wool characteristics?**

Speakers include representatives from UNE, the RSPCA, the Livestock Contractors Association and NSW Agriculture

Morning tea and a light lunch will be available but please RSVP to assist with catering numbers  
Ring 6778 3871 by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October

## **GREAT NEWS**

### **Brian Cheetham has finally received \$300,000 funding over two years from AWI for the DNA work on footrot!**

New members may not be aware that in the spring of 1999 The Cicerone Project started a trial to compare the field behaviour of various strains of footrot. These included strains that were lab benign (from the gelatin gel test) /field benign, lab virulent/field virulent and various strains that were lab virulent but according to producers were field benign.

Infected animals were run on our Big Ridge site with the footrot strains separated into individual plots. Clean control animals were put in each plot so we could monitor any disease transfer. The field behaviour of the footrot strains was monitored. Swabs were sent to Dr. Brian Cheetham of UNE to study the DNA of the bacteria.

As a follow up to the local results, in spring 2000 we sent the sheep to Molong and again compared them with clean controls and a local virulent strain.

In both locations we found that there were some strains which were lab virulent according to the gel test but which acted in just the same way as the benign controls in the paddocks. **The DNA test was able to pick which strains acted as virulent in the field and which acted benignly in the field.**

Brian applied to **AWI** for funding to continue this research and develop the DNA test for footrot and finally the contract has been signed and work is at last underway.

**Brian now needs your help....** He needs swabs from as many properties as possible so he can compare the field situation with the DNA results . If you are able to help with swabs, please contact Brian at UNE on 6773 3394. **All contact will remain confidential!!**

### **WORK IN PROGRESS on the Cicerone Farm**

As well as the mulesing trial we have been running an Off Shears trial to compare the use of Snow/Winter Combs or Rugs to help sheep to survive the chill of a Tablelands winter after shearing. Results will be in the next newsletter.

Also ongoing is the Farmlet Comparison of the three farmlets with different inputs and grazing managements. Soil tests revealed a variation in the mineral requirements of a number of paddocks and so different fertilizers were used to address particular deficiencies.

Preparation for tree planting is now underway with areas being sprayed and fenced for plantings in the near future.

The Chairman's report later in this newsletter also outlines some exciting new research possibilities on the horizon.

## ***CHAIRMANS ADDRESS to the AGM, 10 SEPTEMBER, 2002***

**HUGH SUTHERLAND**

### **Introduction**

I intend to address three broad topic areas in my Chairman's Address

1. Cicerone's Activities over the last 12 months,
2. The current priorities for Cicerone,
3. Ideas and proposals for the future.

### **1. The Last Twelve Months**

Some of Cicerone's achievements have been

- The Cicerone Farm has continued to evolve into a groundbreaking study of the profitability and sustainability of three management systems common to the Northern NSW. Within these three systems Cicerone has conducted numerous trials based around animal performance and to a lesser extent pastures. A "flexible interface relational database" has been developed to allow all of the Farm information to be easily stored and accessed. The Database allows for the information to be analyzed and presented to interested groups in a number of different and easy to understand formats.
  - During the last 12 months Cicerone has run 8 seminars, workshops and field days with 2 more planned in the near future. These seminars and field days have covered a wide range of topics including;
    - Making Money from New Technology (Oct. 01). Included the latest fleece measurement technologies and their applications, livestock identification, farm mapping and radio/laser fences,
    - A mulesing Trial (Nov. and Dec. 01, April 02). After some initial survey work of local producers a trial to compare mulesing done at lamb marking
- versus autumn mulesing was conducted. The main information collected related to animal recovery after mulesing (weight gain) and wool tensile strength. This work is ongoing. Of significance the Chief Inspector of the RSPCA was invited to attend to gain some appreciation of the usefulness of the practice. As a consequence of activities like this the RSPCA in NSW now respect mulesing as a necessary animal husbandry practice, and
- A "Learning From The Masters" seminar (May 02). Respected leaders in their field spoke of their experience in relation to issues such as tree establishment and varieties for the New England, cattle and sheep industry innovations over the last 50 years and how rural communities can work to ensure a viable future.

Also during the last 12 months

- In recognition of the work of Cicerone we have been asked to participate at a number of different industry functions.
- Cicerone regularly publishes newsletters to keep members abreast of our activities.

## 2 How Cicerone will be able to maintain a producer focus

The Vision for Cicerone is to;

“Be a producer led group, based in the New England, which is dedicated to improving the profitability and long term viability of grazing enterprises through the active participation of members in research and adoption”.

The management processes of Cicerone have continued to evolve over the last 12 months. Early in the life of Cicerone we recognized that in order to succeed we must have a more formal approach to providing a producer focus. To achieve this the Cicerone Board considers its priorities based on the following agenda;

- Any research project asking for the support of Cicerone must be approved by the producer members of the Cicerone Board,
- The Producer members of the Board are to oversee a shortlist of preferred research fields and areas of specific interest to Cicerone, (more needs to be done)
- The Cicerone Coordinator and Board are to actively cultivate and promote the commissioning of the aforementioned project shortlist.

## 3. Proposals for the Future

The role of Cicerone is to provide a service to its members that by its very nature extends to the wider livestock producing community. This broad objective is to be pursued by various means. Cicerone activities must continue to place greater emphasis on maintaining and improving the benefits it derives for livestock producers. The priority areas include;

- Ensuring the integrity of the results from the Cicerone Farm – Pastures, Grazing management and inputs,
- Animal health – drench efficacy, worm resistance and trace elements,
- The promotion of financial, production and lifestyle

Given that Cicerone is to represent diverse interests among producers and researchers such a statement ensures that all parties have a focus for their activities. This statement provides guidance for the Board in making all its decisions.

benchmarking among producers, and

- Management innovation via the exposing producers to relevant ideas and technology (field days, seminars, workshops).

By way of example, in order to progress our objectives in these priority areas Cicerone is currently negotiating involvement in 3 potential research projects.

1. The “Lifetime Wool Production” Project. The objective of this project is to develop and demonstrate practical grazing management guidelines that will enable woolgrowers throughout Australia to increase the lifetime production and quality of wool from ewes and their progeny.

The Lifetime Wool Production project is both original and innovative in it’s combination of skills across states, organizations and research disciplines, and to our knowledge, is the first to study the effects of different levels of nutrition during early pregnancy and mid-pregnancy versus late pregnancy and lactation on the performance of both the ewe and it’s progeny during their lifetime. A particular focus will be on the rate of development of wool follicles in the foetus and growing lamb from different levels of nutrition. (Source : correspondence Dr. Andrew Thompson and A. Prof. Jim Scott)

Co-operators in this project are currently the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE – Victoria), Agriculture Western Australia, Australian Wool Innovations and the University of New England.

2. The “Precision Wool Growing Project”. The objective of this project is to develop an even staple along the fibre length. Wool from the project sheep would be regularly dye banded and matched post shearing to

3. Internal Parasite Research. This project will revisit and improve research from the 1970’s into the biology and life cycle for the management of sheep internal parasites, in particular the Barbers Pole worm. This project will extend existing knowledge which has become dated. Incorporated into the research will be techniques that will improve the management of these parasites. For example spelling periods for paddocks, pasture heights, moisture and temperature effects on the larval population of sheep parasites.

The co-operators on this project include the CSIRO and University of New England.

Where these projects involve research (versus field trials) our role will not to develop scientific methodology but to test this methodology against Cicerone’s objectives and the wishes of our members. In pursuing these objectives Cicerone will be mindful of existing research outcomes to avoid duplication. If a project is to be supported by Cicerone we must, in some form, be able to add value to the research proposal. This may be via extension or field trials for example.

In order to progress these and other objectives it is important that Cicerone create both formal and informal links with other groups and funding organizations that share similar objectives. The purpose of

pasture and soil information collected during the year.

The co-operators in this project include the Sheep CRC and NSW Agriculture.

this would be to leverage funding and share information. Contact has been made with a number of such groups but more can and needs to be done by the Board of Cicerone.

Increasing the membership of Cicerone raises a raft of issues that are not unique to Cicerone. Like similar organizations we find it difficult to separate a process that will add value to current members whilst offering incentives for non-members to join. The growth of our member base will be a function of the success and profile that Cicerone is able to achieve in striving towards its Vision.

In closing I would like to thank all of those individuals and groups that have contributed their time and knowledge to Cicerone over the last 12 months. I would particularly like to thank our principle financial supporter, Australian Wool Innovations for their continued support and CSIRO for the use of the land. I would also like to thank the members for contributing their time and effort at our field days and workshops. Special thanks should also go to the Board of Cicerone especially long time member Kim Barnet who is retiring from the Board at this AGM, Caroline Gaden our Co-ordinator and Justin Hoad the Cicerone Farm Manager for all of their efforts over the last 12 months.

Hugh Sutherland

## **MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The eleven members of the Cicerone Board for 2001-2 were:-  
Hugh Sutherland (Chair), Kim Barnet, Terry Coventry, Phillip Dutton, Murray Fenwicke, Ross King (producers), Betty Hall (extension- Agribusiness), Pauline Smith (extension-TAFE), Jim Scott (UNE), Bob Marchant (NSW Agriculture), David Paull (CSIRO).

### For 2002-03

Nominations for the Cicerone Board are sought in writing prior to the AGM, nomination forms being circulated to members via the newsletters. Producer and Extension representatives are elected for a two-year term and may seek re-election if they choose. To ensure some continuity to the Board, half the members remain and the other half 'roll over' but may seek re-nomination. Thus three producer and one extension position become vacant each year. CSIRO, NSW Agriculture and UNE nominate their own representative.

Members who are eligible to remain on the Board without re-election this year are **Terry Coventry, Phillip Dutton, Hugh Sutherland** (producers) and **Pauline Smith** (Extension-TAFE)

Kim Barnet, Murray Fenwicke and Ross King retired and did not re-election. [Many thanks to these three producers for all their time and efforts over the past years. It has been very much appreciated.] **Betty Hall** 'rolled over', was eligible for re-election and was duly re-elected. **David Paull** (CSIRO), **Jim Scott** (UNE) and **Bob Marchant** (NSW Agriculture) have all been re-nominated by their respective organizations.

The three new Producer members elected to the Cicerone Board were **Brian Gream, John Hartmann** and **John Beynon**. Brief profiles of two of these gentlemen follow:-

**Brian Gream** joined CSIRO in 1952 as a laboratory assistant at Chiswick and worked in the Parasitology section for eight years before transferring to Arding Field Station where his responsibilities were property management and collecting data on the various sheep breeding trials being run there. In 1965 CSIRO acquired Longford to expand their sheep breeding research.

About 1985 Brian became Properties Manager and Coordinator of the three Armidale properties run by CSIRO. He retired in 1991 to take up full time management of the family farm that had been acquired in 1975.

His special interests are the production of superfine wool, land productivity and sustainable production systems.

**John Hartmann** has been 50 years in Agriculture and is working two properties, 'Mount View' 30 km east of Guyra and 'Sunnyside' 20 km north of Glen Innes where he runs 19 micron Elite Merinos and Hereford Cattle. In 1998 he started a daughter stud of 'Nerstane' and is currently running 200 stud ewes

John has been heavily involved with Hawksbury Ag College, being a member of the Convocation and assisting with student entry interviews at HAC as well as sitting on final Year interview panels for graduation assessments. From 1979 to 1993 he hosted 17 Diploma & Degree Students in Agriculture for four-month blocks to teach them the practical side of agriculture. Obviously a practical man, John won the Queensland Country Life Farm Inventor Competition for the Best Invention in Steel with his Newborn Calf Weighing Cradle. Over the past 40 years John has taken part in numerous parasite and pasture trials with NSW Agriculture and Dr. Berry Hall. In 1968 he started making pit silage on a large scale.

He has been a Councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor 1995 to 1999 with Guyra Shire Council and a Controller of the Guyra State Emergency Service for 15 years.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

At the recent seminar on WorkCover and OH&S the presentation from *John Temperley* of Farmsafe Australia raised some disturbing issues. There is a rural safety problem as evidenced by 186 farm fatalities per year making the farm the second most dangerous work place. There are 6000 workers compensation claims annually and the cost is \$0.5 - \$1.29 billion per year. In addition the fact that the farm is also home to many people makes children especially vulnerable to accident. Employers MUST provide and maintain as far as practicable, a SAFE and HEALTHY working environment and employees must co-operate with their employers in their efforts to comply with OHS requirements and must take reasonable care of the health and safety of others. Check out [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au) for more details

Also at the seminar *Duncan Fraser* of NSW Farmers outlined the new Occupational Health and Safety regulations where employers must undertake hazard identification and risk assessment. All risks must be eliminated or controlled and this includes the behaviour of animals and the effect of the weather. Employers must consult with employees on all matters affecting their health and safety. Regulations are incorporated into the Rural Amenities and Accommodation code of conduct. For 2002-3 Workers Compensation premiums for the sheep/beef cattle farming sector will remain around 11.9% but shearing services will rise from 12.10% to 13.91%

### DO YOU HAVE TRACTOR ROLL OVER PROTECTION?

If not you can still receive \$200 per roll bar fitted... this rebate scheme has been extended until 31 December this year.

SHEARSAFETY ... there is a Worm Drive Upgrade Rebate of \$60 to replace the pin drive for a worm drive mechanism in shearing hand pieces or down tubes. This per farm rebate is available to both shearers and woolgrowers. Contact the Rural Safety Hotline on 1800 300 377 or check out [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)

**If you are interested in Cicerone organizing a Farmsafe course or if you need to upgrade your First Aid qualifications, contact Caroline on 6778 3871**

**The Five Levels of Ignorance:-** you didn't know that ignorance can be classified into 5 levels? No? Well in that case you have already achieved the lowest level of ignorance-completely ignorant of anything. This is termed *Infinite ignorance!*  
 The second level is reached when you don't know a way to find out you don't know that you don't know everything. That is considered a *Lack of Process!*  
 The third level of ignorance is a more positive achievement. It is reached when you are aware you are ignorant of something but also unaware of what it is. It's termed *Lack of Awareness!*  
 The fourth level of ignorance is a definite step-up. This is when you don't know something but can now readily identify that fact. You have achieved *Lack of Knowledge!*  
 The highest level is achieved when you can demonstrate your lack of ignorance by developing a reasoning process which builds a reasonable solution to the satisfaction of others. You are then recognized as *Lacking Nothing including No lack of Ignorance!*

From National Business Bulletin, September 2002

**Auditor's report**

**CICERONE PROJECT INC.**  
**ABN 15 314 685 367**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
CICERONE PROJECT**

*Scope*

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Cicerone Project Inc., for the year ended 30 June 2002. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Cicerone Project Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

*Audit Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of Cicerone Project Inc. as at 30 June 2002 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

**Roberts & Morrow****Kevin J. Pike**

9th September 2002

137 Beardy Street, Armidale NSW 2350

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2002**

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
	\$	\$
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>		
Agistment	5,819	3,284
Donations received	996	14

Entrance fees	1,741	1,852
Farm Vehicle Trade-In	1,718	-
Plant Hire	-	427
Sheep Trading Profit	18,763	-
Skins & Dead Wool	165	-
Subscriptions received	6,196	7,180
Sundry income	482	10
Valuation Refund	630	-
Wool sales	<u>25,927</u>	<u>48,599</u>
	62,437	61,366

### *OPERATING EXPENSES*

Accountancy fees	1,525	990
Advertising	2,209	1,152
Administration fees	1,900	1,368
Agistment	-	400
Animal health	4,916	7,792
Bank charges	55	61
Commission & Yard Dues	871	-
Consultancy	49	1,342
Contract work	512	1,195
Electricity & Gas	-	333
Data Base	4,971	-
Depreciation	5,675	5,688
Farm Vehicle expenses	2,773	1,430
Fertilizer and earthworks	11,552	14,115
Fodder	2,188	8,161
Foot rot trial	-	1,479
Freight	262	500
Fuel	414	655
GST adjustment	-	334
Insurance	583	586
Lease of equipment	2,771	898
Licences and permits	<u>179</u>	<u>192</u>

Amount carried forward	43,405	48,671
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

Amount brought forward	43,405	48,671
------------------------	--------	--------

Livestock Selling Expenses	-	868
Loss On Sale of Asset	723	-
Measuring devices	30	118
Measurements – Nutrients	491	-
Measurements – Plant	5,467	-
Measurements – water	175	-
Measurements – Worm Eggs	830	537
Measurements – Wool	1,674	112
Magazines and journals	-	19
Postage and stationery	1,324	935
Protective Clothing	154	-
Rent	5,241	-
Repairs and maintenance - fences	5,240	2,417

- plant	172	496
- general	1670	-
Shearing and crutching	5,639	6,485
Shearing Supplies	269	251
Seminar expenses and dinners	1,261	695
Sheep trading loss	-	4,761
Speakers	-	1,499
Subscriptions	215	30
Superannuation	4,970	5,528
Soil Tests	2,155	444
South African Sheep Project	73	30
Sundry expenses	4339	338
Telephone	1,740	1,684
Travelling Expenses	-	353
Training Course	118	-
Weed and pest control	810	-
Wether trials	-	-
Wool selling expenses	145	1,775
Workers compensation insurance	606	927
Wages		
- casual	1,780	2,460
- administrator	32,476	38,657
- farm manager	<u>29,421</u>	<u>30,760</u>
	<u>152,613</u>	<u>150,850</u>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	<u>(90,176)</u>	<u>(89,484)</u>
 <b>NON OPERATING INCOME</b>		
Industry Funding – AWRAP	157,274	61,382
Government Subsidy	3,206	600
Interest received	1,523	1,575
Refunds	<u>195</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>162,198</u>	<u>63,557</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$72,022</u>	<u>\$(25,927)</u>
 <b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	3,844	1,183
Receivables	-	533
Inventory (1,234 sheep)	<u>16,084</u>	<u>21,143</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>19,928</u>	<u>22,859</u>
 <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Investments	82,483	17,332
Fixed Assets (Note 2)	<u>38,322</u>	<u>27,301</u>
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>120,805</u>	<u>44,633</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>140,733</u>	<u>67,492</u>

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors and accruals	4842	3,623
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>4842</u>	<u>3,623</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>4842</u>	<u>3,623</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>135,891</u>	<u>63,869</u>
 <b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Opening Balance 01.07.01	63,869	89,796
Add: Surplus for year	<u>72,022</u>	<u>(25,927)</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS 30.06.02</b>	<u>\$135,891</u>	<u>\$63,869</u>

**Lambing Paddock South Australian style**  
a dry creek bed with very little grass but a beautiful view!



**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. This newsletter is copyright © and no part may be reproduced without due acknowledgment. The views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of all members of the Cicerone Board.

The Cicerone Project Inc.

PO Box 1593, ARMIDALE 2350

**NSW Agriculture has a new FREE publication  
'DROUGHT MANAGEMENT '  
available from all offices**

**REMEMBER THE RULES FOR KEEPING THE NEW  
CHEMICAL DIARY  
HAVE NOW COME INTO EFFECT**

**Diary Dates**

**Farm Walk with the Tamworth SGS group visit to the Cicerone Farm  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, ring Caroline for more details 6778 3871**

**The new Cicerone web site is at [www.cicerone.org.au](http://www.cicerone.org.au)**