

THE WEEKLY TIMES BUSINESS

ISSN 0837-1939
9 770817 193011



MOLE

LIVESTOCK

Flystrike supplies run dry.
► Page 110



CLANCY

WOOL

Broker loses Italian connection.
► Page 109



KELLY

MARKETS

Reedy-made success at Euroa.
► Page 106



SMITH

DAIRY

Keep clear of the mud.
► Page 101



HEMPHILL

CROPS

Seed risk in rain-hit grain.
► Page 97



GODWIN

HORTICULTURE

Kiwis aim to envy here.
► Page 95



Pain-free mulesing option

By BRIAN CLANCY

THE chemical alternative to surgical mulesing could be commercially available by the end of this year, according to the head of Cobbett Technologies, Peter St Vincent-Welch.

Mr St Vincent-Welch and Cobbett are pinning their hopes on SkinTraction — where Merino weaners are treated with the household chemical sodium lauryl sulphate to develop a bare breech.

And if a research flock which displayed at the University of Melbourne's Dookie College campus this week is any indicator, they have good reason to be optimistic.

SkinTraction, with the assistance of research funding from Australian Wool Innovation, has been four years in development.

Mansfield grazier Mark Ritchie — who had 600 September 2009 Merryville-type

Merino ewes treated in June as part of the on-going research — is already a convert.

"There is no trauma and the result as you can see on some of these young ewes is as good as mulesing," Mr Ritchie said.

On display at Dookie yesterday, visitors were able to inspect non-mulesed, mulesed and weaners treated with SkinTraction.

Mr St Vincent-Welch said SkinTraction was currently undergoing registration with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

"We've passed many of the modules and we still have a few to go," he said.

With SkinTraction, weaners are treated with an injectable solution delivered under high pressure to the breech area.

The treated skin eventually forms a scar tissue which falls off to leave bare skin.

Mr St Vincent-Welch estimated the cost at about \$1 for

the chemical, in addition to an operator's labour costs.

AWI manager of technologies Geoff Lindon was also optimistic with the research to date.

Mr Lindon said SkinTraction was more effective when applied to weaners, rather than as lambs when surgical mulesing is normally performed.

He said there was still a lot of work required on developing the correct dosage rates as there was a lot of variability between sheep.

Mr Lindon said the research results had indicated that mulesing of some form was required on those sheep with either dag, breech or wrinkle scores of 3 and higher.

"Those with scores 2 or less can get by without mulesing," he said.

► It's a powder keg, Page 110

Bare breech: Mansfield grazier Mark Ritchie with a young Merino ewe treated with SkinTraction, the alternative to surgical mulesing, at the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus yesterday. The SkinTraction trial is part of continuing research into viable alternatives to mulesing with research funding from Australian Wool Innovation.

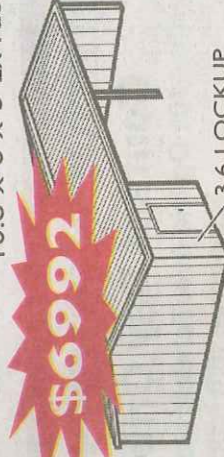
MAIN FRAME - RHS DURAGAL SUB FRAME - C&Z PURLINS

ZINCALUME® sheeting, all Tek screws

• COLORBOND® available at extra cost • Optional extras include side doors & rollers doors, skylights • Erection price on application • Prices shown are GST inclusive • Manufactured from Bluescope Steel (BHP) *is a registered trademark of Bluescope Steel Ltd

Machinery Shed

10.8 x 6 x 3 Ex Factory



\$6992

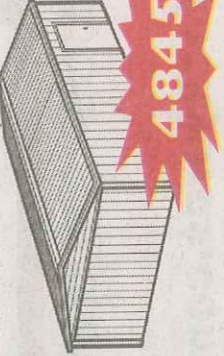
3.6 LOCKUP

• RHS Columns and portal trusses

AGENTS:
Albury (03) 5725 1904
Ararat (03) 5349 2400
Ballarat (03) 5345 2766
Beaufort (03) 5349 2400

Garage

7.2 x 6 x 2.4 Ex Factory



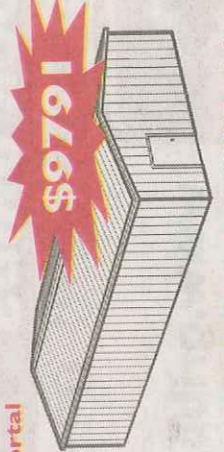
4845

• All Portal Trusses • RHS Columns

Colac 0419 131 856
Corowa 0418 698 985
Deniliquin (03) 5873 2212
Echuca (03) 5873 2212
Grainville (03) 5678 8357

Farm Shed

14.4 x 7.6 x 3.6 Ex Factory



\$9791

• RHS Columns • RHS Portal

Hamilton (03) 5572 1240
Horsham 0418 501 103
Kyneton (03) 5422 1734
Mansfield (03) 5762 6868
Mildura 0429 382 906

95303167
FABRICATIONS PTY LTD
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1966

(03) 9580 0199

Country Callers 1800 133 098

42-46 Tarnard Dve Braeside, Vic. 3195

Melway Map 88 - A8

Visit our website: www.trubuilt.com.au

Open Mon to Fri 9am-5pm

Sat 8.30am-10.30am

Other sizes - Any length, width:

3.6, 4.3, 4.9, 5.5, 6, 6.6, 7.6, 9, 12, 15

Yarrawonga 0402 227 189
Wangaratta (03) 5762 6868
Warrnambool (03) 5561 6201
Wodonga (03) 5725 1904
(03) 5391 3267
(03) 5725 1904
0466 951 300
(03) 5822 2133
(03) 5358 3358