



WOOL
HARVESTING
NOTE

NO: 1.04

DECEMBER 1980

DEE YARDS

Dee sheep yards are based on a semi-circular layout, and are similar in many respects to the circular yards described in Wool Harvesting Note No: 1.031.

Some operators consider that yards built on the full circle pattern are unnecessarily complex, and that an adequate system can be obtained using only half of the circular laneway, together with the necessary races and pens. These semi-circular or dee yards have become a separate type of sheep yard, although the principles behind their design are the same as for the circular type.

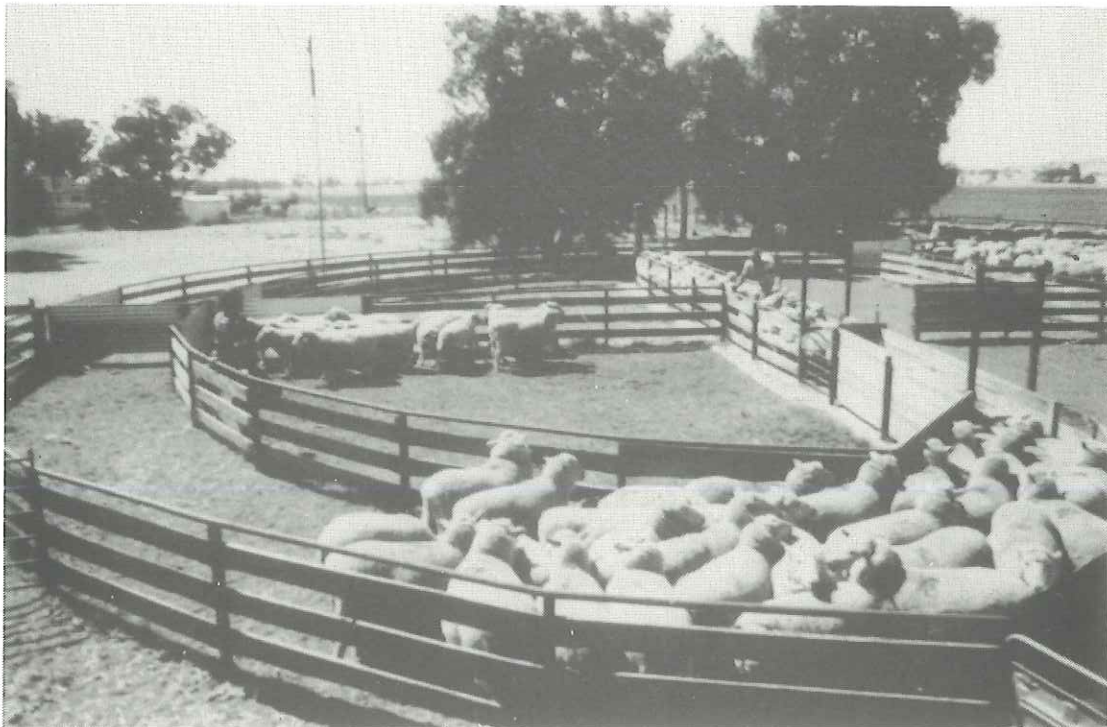


Photo 1. Typical dee yards

FEATURES OF DEE YARDS

The yards consist of holding and handling areas joined by a semi-circular laneway that delivers (or returns) sheep to the drafting race, handling race, shearing shed or dip.

The size and number of the surrounding holding paddocks depends on the number of sheep to be handled. Each is usually large enough to hold the average mob size run on the property. Because the sheep densities and pressures are low in these mini-paddocks, the fence construction need not be as substantial as for the inner yards. Additional strength is advisable however around gates, where increased pressure on fences is likely to occur.

The semi-circular laneway connecting the storage area to the working facilities is usually about 2.5 metres wide. This is enough to encourage sheep to run, yet allows a man or dog to stop any sheep that try to turn back.

The sheep move from the curved laneway into a bugle-shaped entry into the draft. The inside of the bugle turn is closed in or sheeted for a distance of 5 metres to prevent the sheep seeing the operator at the drafting or working race.

The working race is end on to the drafting race, and this means that all working facilities are in the one area.

A comprehensive gate system at the end of the working race allows sheep to be drafted off as well as allowing the transfer of sheep to several different points about the yard.

A particular mob of sheep can be moved about without requiring other sheep to be moved as well. The entry for the shearing shed, dip or loading race can be fitted into the design readily.

It is generally difficult to modify existing yards to incorporate the essential features of dee yards. Dee yards are best built as a complete replacement of derelict yards, or as an additional set elsewhere on the property.

As with circular yards, the working race can be adjustable in width, and can be covered to provide protection and hence better working conditions.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

Advantages and disadvantages are the same as for circular yards, except that there is the additional advantage with dee yards that setting out is simpler, and less materials are needed than for similar circular yards.

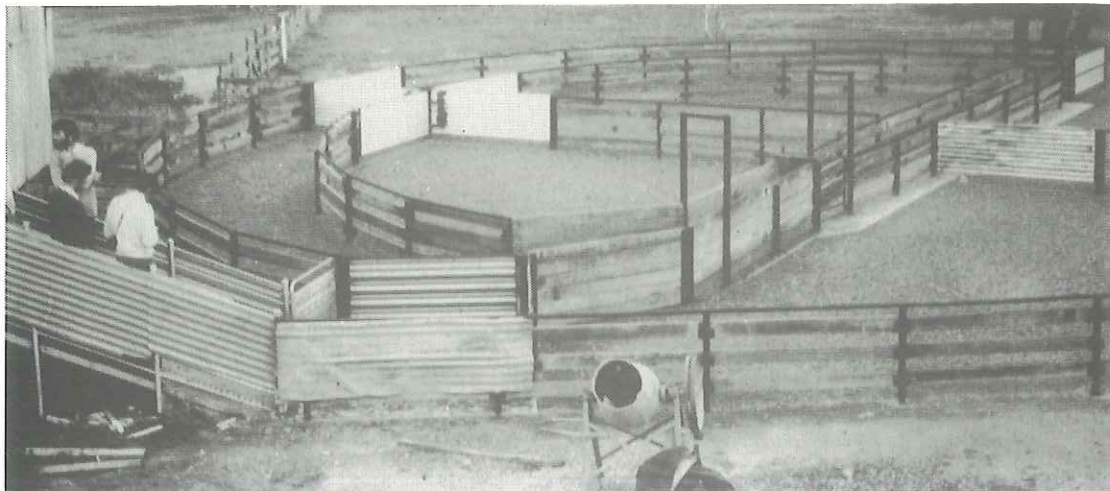


Photo 2. Dee yards showing draft and working race, and the entrance to the shearing shed



Photo 3. Bugle entry to drafting race, together with entrance to the shearing shed and dip

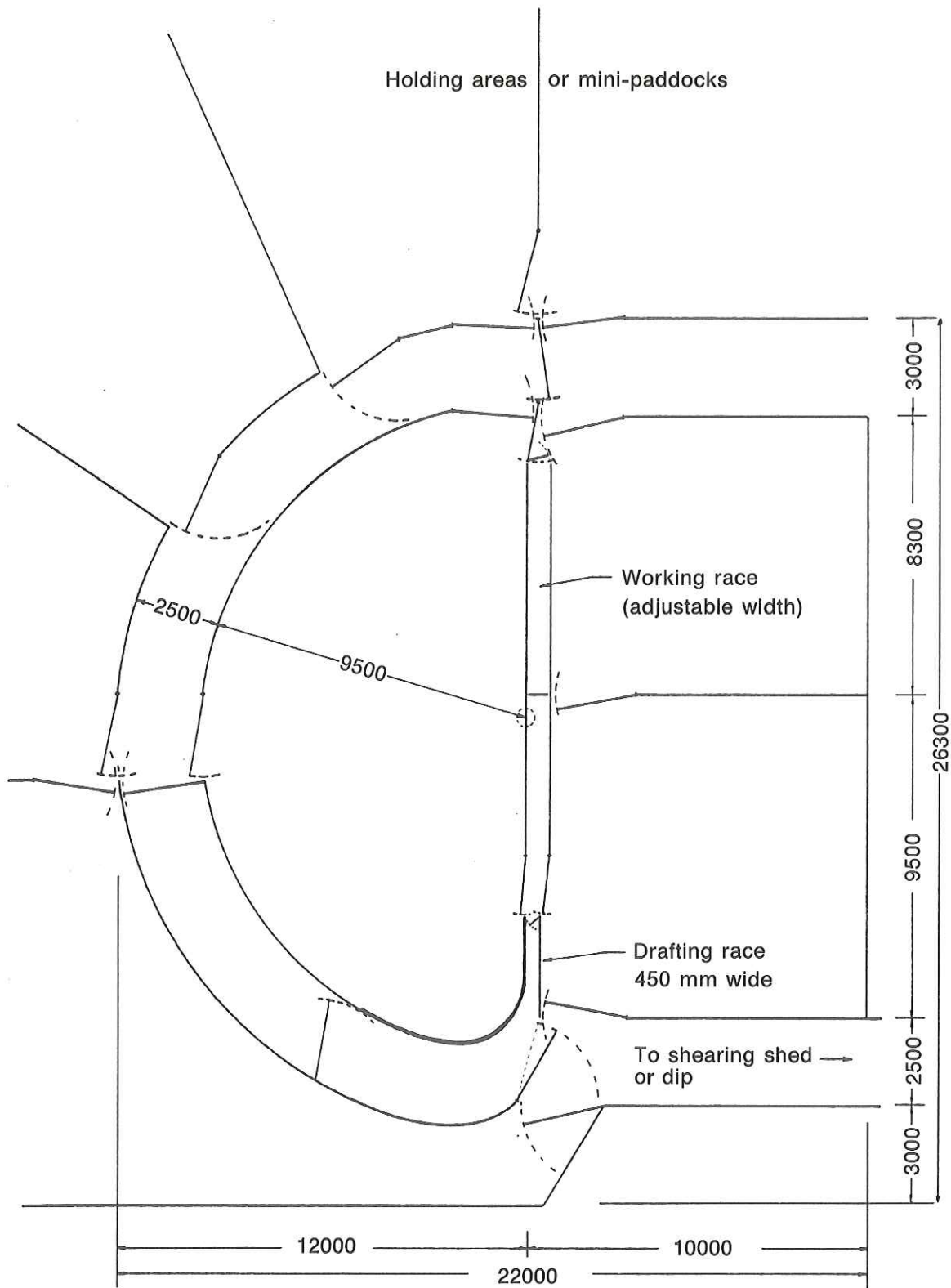


Diagram 1. General layout of a set of dee yards. Dimensions are in millimetres

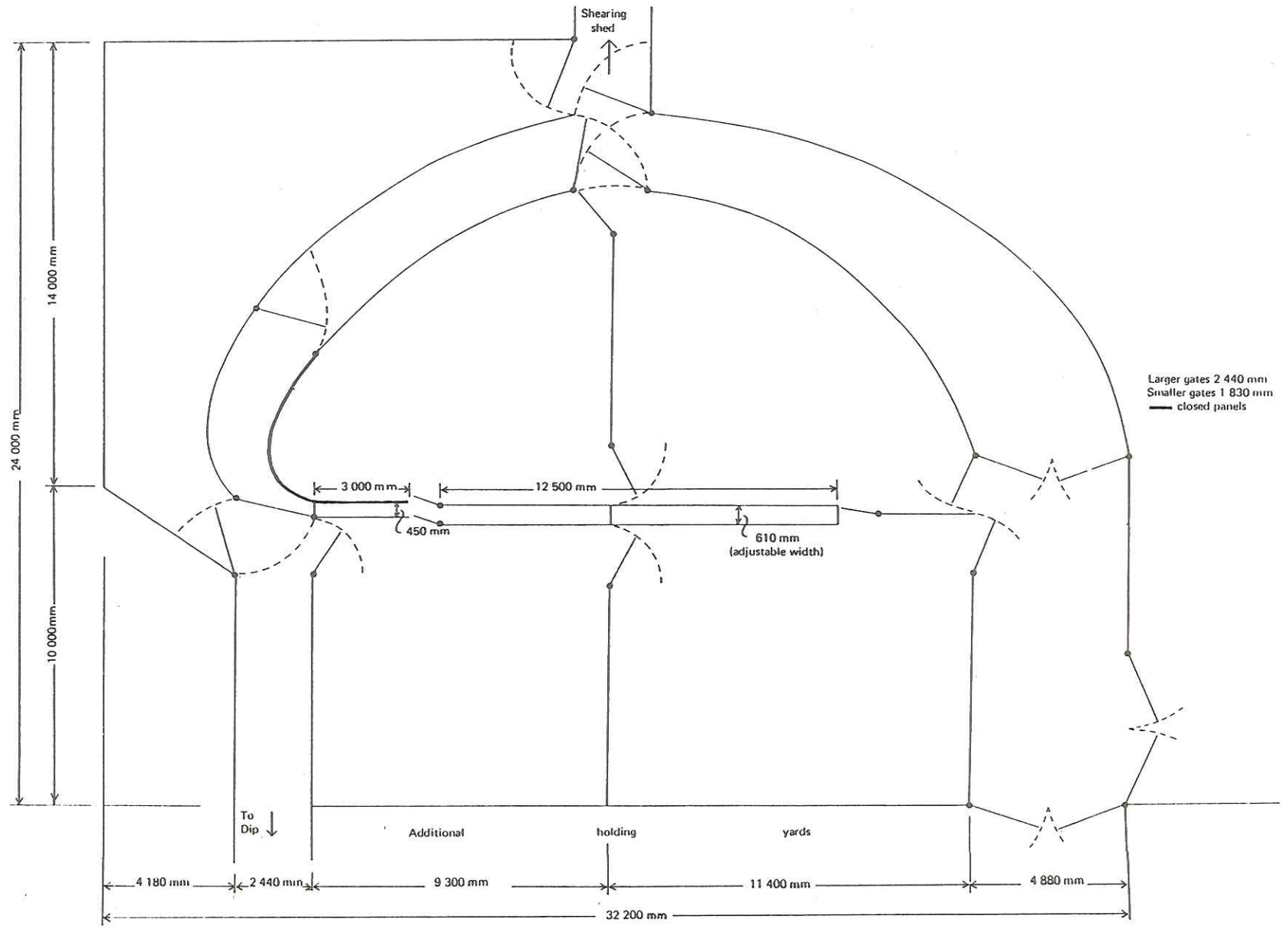


Diagram 2. Dee yards with a bugle-shaped laneway