Sheep Muster & Yardwork

The mustering of the sheep to specific locations around the property requires the patience and skill of the stockman and the sheep dogs. The stockman provides the direction and the dogs carry out their orders.

The sheep are mustered and moved to the stockyards for drafting; this is often very lively and comical as sheep can be unpredictable and the dogs often need to work ‘overtime’ to achieve their objective. A demonstration is then given on the drafting of sheep through the yards by the dogs. The dogs, under instruction from the stockman, go around, under and over the sheep to move them through the yards from pen to pen and along the race.

A background on the history of sheep in Australia, and a quick introduction to sheep husbandry is provided during yard work. There is an excellent opportunity to take a photograph of the dog on the back of the sheep, during the drafting process.