



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – October 2021**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The AAA is a member organisation recognised as the peak body representing the alpaca industry in Australia. Our endeavours are proof that we as an organisation have volunteers and members who are at the forefront of the AAA's activities and resulting achievements for the benefit of all members and industry participants. The AAA is constantly looking for ways to improve its services, member benefits and importantly, the growth of the industry, and during this past year the Directors have sought to ensure that our Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan are upheld and maintained, and that we have continued to make progress towards our strategic goals.

When I reflect on our activities during the past twelve months, I am pleased to advise you of what has been achieved with the assistance of our volunteers:

- Implemented the revised structure and composition of portfolio committees to align with AAA strategic direction from a governance and operational perspective, and to encourage skilled and active participation and support from the membership.
- New AYE youth groups and enhancements to eAlpaca to be more inclusive.
- Family memberships introduced.
- Revised IAR rules.
- New animal welfare statement and policy, including policies on castration and pain relief.
- Worked tirelessly on new COVID rules to enable shows to occur and shearers to travel to conduct their essential services.
- Invested in future alpaca vets through the Richard Dixon scholarship.
- Invested in research into colour intensity of alpaca fibre at Curtin University.
- Member webinars on many topics.
- Regular communication with members via the AAA newsletter; social media presence increased.
- Support and liaison across all Regions.
- Liaison with Animal Health Australia on several matters pertinent to animal health and biosecurity.
- Held a successful promotion and a registration moratorium sale to encourage herd records to be updated on the IAR database
- Maintained relationships with key partners within government and industry to promote and advocate on behalf of members.
- Donated the Alpaca Fibre Showcase to The Centre for Excellence in Agricultural Education at the University of Western Sydney
- Distributed marketing collateral and promotional material to support regional and member activities that create awareness of the scope and viability of the Australian alpaca industry.
- Engaged with our international counterparts through various means to position the Australian alpaca industry as a global leader and share our achievements.

This list is not exhaustive, nor does it include the governance activities that were undertaken in response to numerous matters that arose during the year, and these achievements represent considerable hours of work undertaken on behalf of all AAA members. The Board conducts a regular review of our progress in regard to our Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the key initiatives and deliverables that will guide the future policies, processes and practices of the AAA as the peak industry body and a global leader.

The significance of the above activities cannot and should not be underestimated. The Directors individually and collectively, together with the support from several committed breeders and volunteers, have enabled this industry to continue its progress along a pathway of success.

We welcome four Directors to the Board – Lee Sadler and Julie Wilkinson return after working with the Board since December 2020 as Specialist Directors and we welcome Sue Harris and Annemarie Ashton-Wyatt to the Board. A special mention to Carolyn Austin who has stood down from the Board to take up a voluntary position as the AAA Finance Manager. We had three other resignations from the Board during the last 12

months; Sarah Wheeler resigned in July 2021 having been responsible for the Biosecurity and Animal Health portfolio, Cathi McMullen resigned in November 2020 and Trevor Parry resigned in November 2020.

For the past year as AAA President, I have had the opportunity to work with many people with a broad range of knowledge, experience, and skills; and to communicate with many members about a range of issues and concerns. I have learned something from each situation and have been inspired and challenged by the dedication and persistence of many who share the passion for the alpaca industry

In closing I would like to thank:

- My fellow Directors for their dedication and continuous efforts during the past 12 months.
- The volunteers on whose enthusiasm and commitment we rely to enable AAA to be represented at many and varied events, in order to promote the alpaca industry and AAA. These volunteers take on the responsibilities of Regional Office bearers, Committee Chairs, regional and committee members and event coordinators, and on behalf of all AAA members I thank each of you who have been involved in and led various projects during this past year.
- Our small team of office staff who have worked hard throughout the past year to continue to provide a quality service and support to members, and to assist in the promotion of the Australian alpaca industry and the AAA

**Brett Fallon**  
**AAA President**