

Alpacas

A U S T R A L I A

ISSUE No. 21 1997

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SPECIAL FEATURE
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MOVING
ahead**



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a wide selection of imported Peruvian and Australian bred alpacas. Special help and support for new owners.

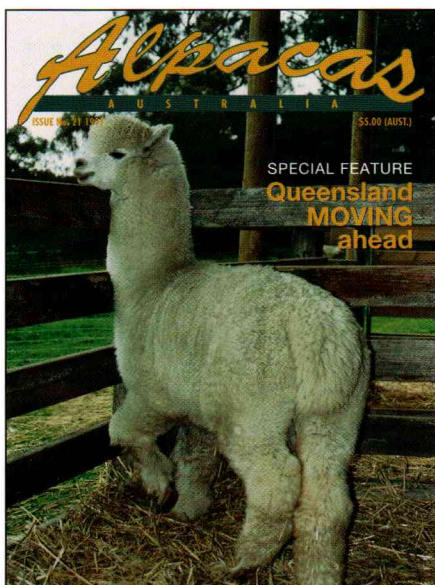
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Tel: (03) 5422 6540

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Kyneton Macedon Ranges





Cover photo courtesy Australian Alpacas.

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David Johnson Reports

As the year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the events and developments of 1997. Also, it is a time to look to a new year and its focus.

The year 1997 has been a memorable one for me, involving a steep and exciting learning curve. I have been given the opportunity to learn about this very challenging industry.

Also, I have been privileged to have input into the first stage of the development of the Business Plan and the Vision for the future direction of this potentially great fibre industry.

For me, 1997 industry highlights:

- *Membership Survey* to assist in developing a profile of our members.
- *Our Industry Seminar 'Shaping the Future'*, held July in Sydney – a great event.
- *Development of the Strategic Components of the Business Plan* – the first step in helping us focus on future directions.
- Another wonderfully successful *National Show and Sale*.
- Recognition of alpacas as a viable diversification in agriculture, demonstrated by alpacas being *feature breed at a Royal Show* for the first time.
- An extremely educative and stimulating trip to Peru for the *Third International Festival of South American Camelids* by some 30 Australian alpaca industry people.
- Development of a valuable strategic alliance with *VACC Insurance and Wilburtins Insurance Brokers* to assist in generating more marketing dollars.
- Launching of *Elite Fibre Pty Ltd* and *AAFMO* as alternatives for end-product sales – most important for the growth of the industry.
- Import of superior genetic material, ensuring the viability of Australian alpaca fibre.

And in 1998? There are exciting and interesting developments ahead, some of which will come to fruition early next year.

Priorities, as I see them, include:

- Commencement of a new, focused marketing program, carefully planned to utilise our marketing dollars wisely.
- Focus on further development of the alpaca industry as a viable broadacre enterprise, encouraging a look by new investors.
- Increase and improvement of membership services – a greater focus on provision of services to our members.
- Development of animal marketing strategies to assist breeders to sell more animals.
- Increased focus on value adding alpaca fibre.

As I see the future, the industry needs to determine its own destiny by identifying and working towards goals that will ensure its success.

Value adding: we don't wish to be like the Peruvian Indians who receive the equivalent of 40 cents per kilo for their fibre, whilst the 'middle men' on sell for vast profit.

Strategic alliances: we need to work closely with other countries including Peru, and the U.S. to ensure the development of a truly international alpaca fibre industry.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Jenny, Jo and Sandra at the National office for their support and untiring efforts and to record my admiration of the devotion to the industry shown by the Executive, National Committee and our members. Their efforts have kept our industry growing and steadily working towards the achievement of our goals.

To everyone, a safe and prosperous New Year. May 1998 be an exciting and successful one for us all.

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At last! A fibre processing plant geared for alpaca

No one will dispute that one of the most pressing problems facing the alpaca industry has been the lack of fibre processing facilities. The Alpaca Co-operative, in particular, has found this lack a major impediment to its work in developing Australian alpaca fibre products.

Realising the seriousness of the situation, Alan Hamilton and Cherie Bridges decided to research the feasibility of setting up a processing plant that would not only be geared to handle short runs of specialty fibre, but also have the capacity to increase output as fibre production increased.

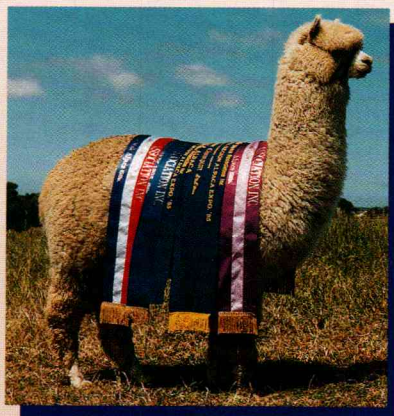
A company, Elite Fibre Australia Pty Ltd, was formed to manage the plant. Cherie Bridges and Alan Hamilton

have taken on unpaid directorships for the time being. Additional Board members with suitable skills will be

added with the likelihood of one being drawn from the company's group of investors.



The Elite Fibre plant at Fellmongers Road in Geelong, Victoria.



National Supreme Champion 1995
"Purrumbete Brigantine"
Now standing at stud

Benleigh offers:

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Only Stud in Australia to be
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Champion Alpaca & National
Supreme Champion Fleece in
same year

BENLEIGH
"BREEDERS OF DISTINCTION"



National Supreme Champion 1996
"Benleigh Highland Lass"

For an appointment call Allan or Carolyn Jinks Ph:(03) 5250 2737 Fax:(03) 5250 3447

Initially financed by the Hamilton-Bridges group of companies, additional capital for the project is being raised by share issue.

At its September meeting, the Board of the Alpaca Co-operative resolved to acquire between two and three hundred thousand shares, depending on how much capital could be raised. News of the offer and of the formation of Elite Fibre Australia Pty Ltd was presented to members at the Co-operative's Annual General Meeting in October.

In October, Hamilton-Bridges invited a small group of people to attend a presentation aimed at raising capital for the new venture. While most members of the group were associated with the alpaca industry, sheep woolgrowers and an accounting/investment firm representative were also present.

Five hundred thousand \$1 shares were subscribed as the result of the presentation.



Work proceeds apace to get the Elite Fibre processing plant up and running early in 1998.

The first step in bringing the plant into being was the purchase of a building on 2.5 acres of land in Fell-mongers Road in Geelong. With floorspace of around 30,000 sq ft and good access,

the building will easily accommodate the required plant and equipment and provide ample space for the sorting and storage of raw fibre. The site's large acreage also allows plenty of room for

'COOL' Studs, Sales, and Science at COOLAROO

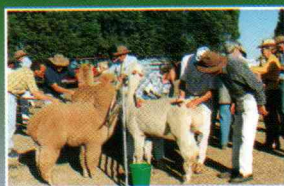
When it comes to *studs* ... COOLAROO is introducing for the first time ever, its stable of stud sires with elite fibre characteristics and sourced from bloodlines around the world, for outside servicing.



When it comes to *sales* ... COOLAROO has one of Australia's largest selection of dams of superior bloodline to offer the discerning buyer. All females are sold with a breeder and fertility guarantee.

When it comes to *science* ... COOLAROO has invested heavily into research for leading-edge technology of animal health and elite fibre analysis and processability, and is generous in sharing its knowledge gained by its lifetime of stud breeding experience, as well as its research through internationally acclaimed Dr Jim Watts, formerly CSIRO fibre scientist.

Get 'cool' with Coolaroo. Ask Janie Hicks for more information on Coolaroo Alpacas or attend one of their popular 'Elite Alpaca Production' workshops.



YES, I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON

- ☐ Coolaroo Alpacas
☐ Elite Alpaca Production workshops
 23 & 24 Nov; 26 & 27 April 1998
☐ Facial Eczema and Pasture Management
 workshop 7 & 8 February, 1998

NAME

ADDRESS

STATE

POSTCODE

PH

FAX

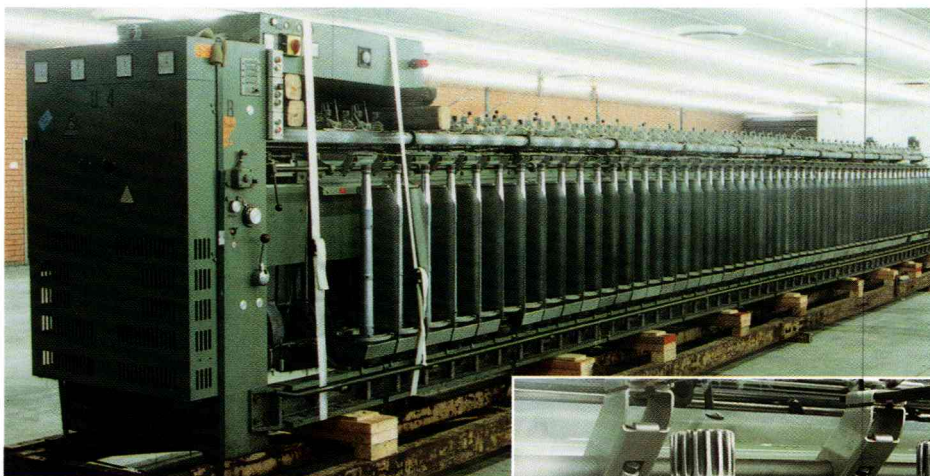
AA/10/97

PHONE 02 4878 5266 FAX 02 4878 5233 MAIL Coolaroo Alpaca Stud Joadja Road Mittagong NSW 2575

future expansion. According to Alan Hamilton, Geelong is the best choice for the processing operation as the city is set to become a major centre for textile processing and research. Already in the area are CSIRO wool research facilities, and a number of commercial textile plants.

The next step was to locate and purchase suitable plant and equipment. For this, expertise and experience in fibre processing were required. Who better suited to the task than Robert Pearce, founder of Woolshed Yarns! In October, he accepted Alan Hamilton's invitation to act as a consultant to Elite Fibre Australia with a brief to play a key role in the sourcing, purchasing and installation of equipment for the new fibre processing plant.

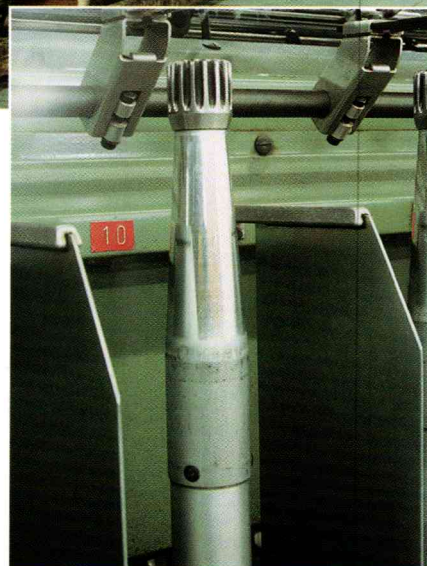
Robert Pearce's mission was to come up with good second-hand equipment suitable for processing natural fibres into scoured fibre, naturally coloured tops and dyed and naturally coloured



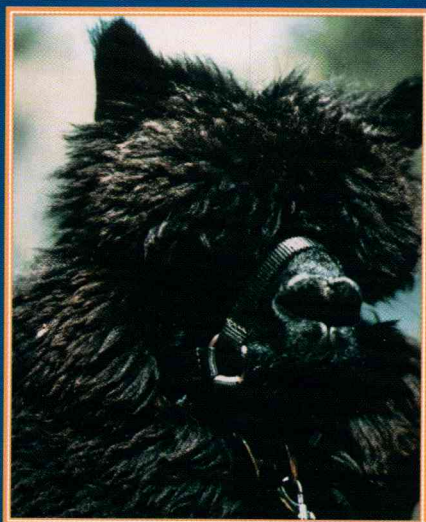
The first of the equipment sourced by Robert Pearce arrives at the factory.

yarns for use in both apparel and non-apparel products.

The timing of all this couldn't have been better. In very short order, Robert had sourced a suitable scour available in New Zealand and, in Tasmania, with a wide range of equipment being sold out of the recently closed Coats Paton plant. With these and other smaller purchases necessary to complement the



INCA ALPACAS



At Stud
Inca Zulu Champion
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Class Winner National Classic 1995

- STUD BREEDERS FOR 25 YEARS
- ALPACA BREEDERS FOR 6 YEARS
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- VARIETY OF EXCELLENT STOCK FOR SALE
- EVERY ASSISTANCE TO NEW BUYERS
- EXPERIENCED EXPORTERS

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Coats Paton equipment, Robert accomplished his task. He describes the equipment as, 'relatively modern and well suited to production of small lots of various fibres of various colours' and at a 'very modest' capital cost.

The scour has a capacity of 600,000 kg p.a. when processing small batches of fibres on a one shift basis.

The topmaking, spinning and dyeing plant has an overall capacity to produce approximately 80,000 kg of yarns p.a. on a one shift basis. Provision has been made for the future addition of further combing equipment as well as a very fine spinning plant.

According to Pearce, the plant has the potential to output a maximum of 350,000 kg of yarn (460,000 kg of unscoured alpaca fibre) per annum for a relatively small additional outlay.

With additional facilities planned to upgrade the scour's basic effluent treatment facility (enabling discharge to local Barwon Water sewers), total capital cost will be around \$1.1 million.

While the emphasis will be on alpaca processing, it is also envisaged that the plant will service the needs of other fibre industries, including cashmere, mohair and producers of coloured sheep's wool. This will be wel-

comed by all specialty fibre producers as there remain virtually no Australian facilities for dealing with small lots. Commercial topmaking and yarn production is presently being undertaken commercially by Woolshed Yarns, but on a small scale.

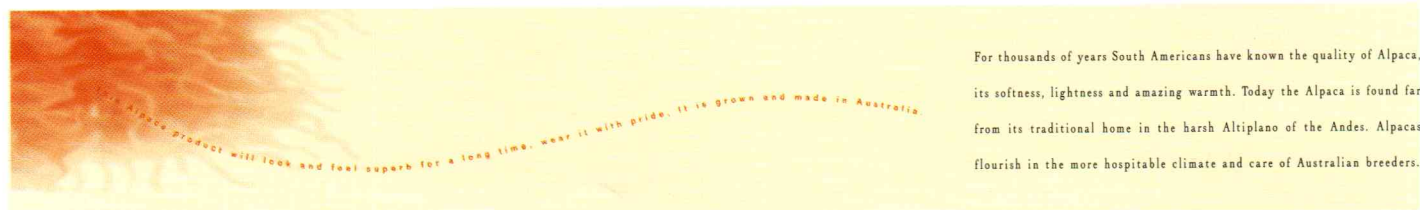
It is considered unlikely that this company will be able to adequately service the industry in the future. Elite Fibre reports there is already 'huge' interest being shown by other specialty fibre industries and, at time of going to press, was planning a mail out to all potential customers inviting bookings for 1998.



ALPACA CO-OP LAUNCHES ITS MARKETING LABEL

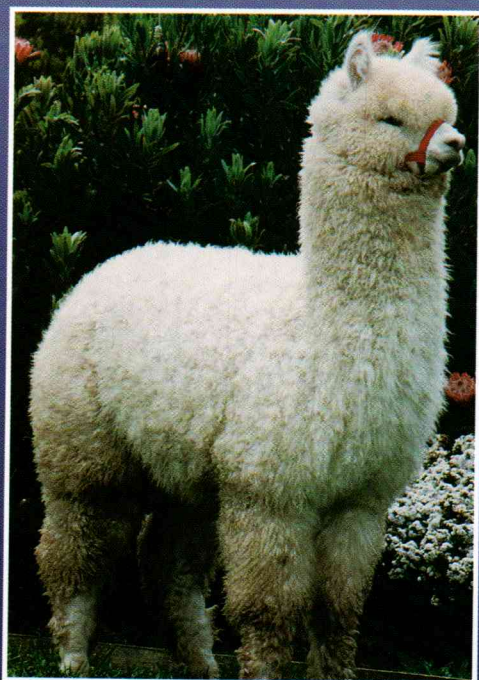
The Alpaca Co-operative has launched its marketing label. Called *Alpaca Alpaca*, it will identify Australian grown and produced products developed by the Co-op. The label employs various colour schemes to designate the percentage of alpaca fibre used in a given product.

A taste of what can be produced from alpaca fibre was given to Co-op members at the launch. This was a superb black coat, designed in Australia from Peruvian fabric. Creating the garment from Peruvian huacaya fabric, the designer also incorporated a touch of suri using its high lustre and longer nap to add fur-like detail to the cuffed sleeves and pockets.



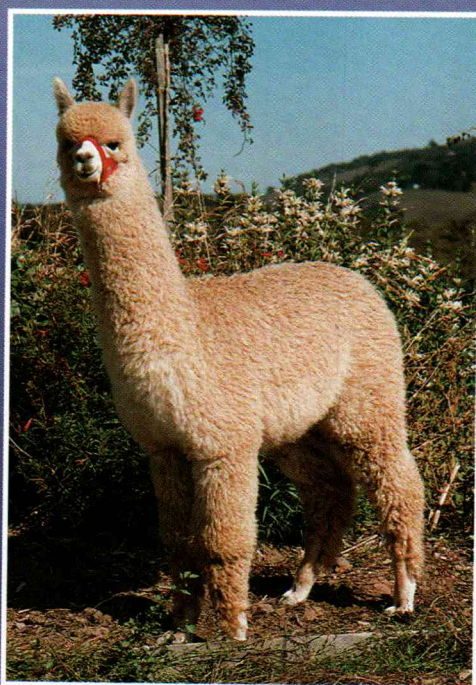
Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud

BUYING FOR QUALITY, BREEDING FOR EXCELLENCE
~ CREATING THE ELITE ~



SHANBROOKE ELITE

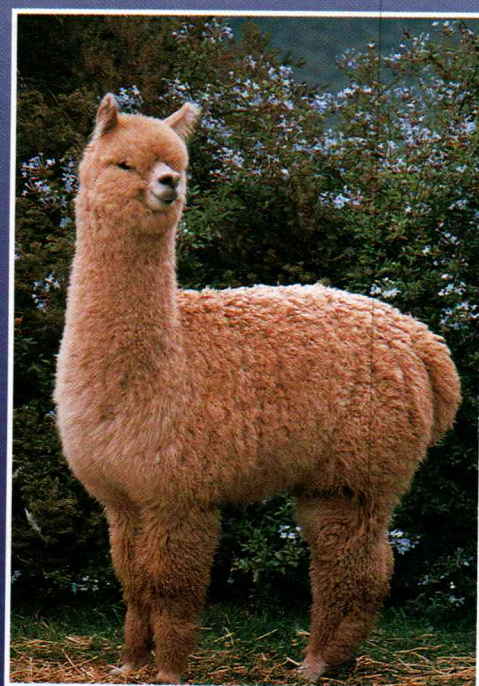
Inter. Ch. Male, National Classic 1996.
Jnr. Ch. Male, Melbourne Royal 1996.
Jnr. Ch. Male, State Show NSW 1996.



SHANBROOKE SOCIETY LASS

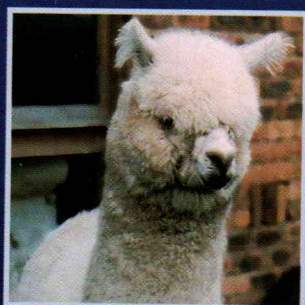
Jnr. Ch. Female, Sydney Royal 1997.
Jnr. Ch. Female, Geelong Alpaca Fest 1997.

Canadian judge, Maggie Kreiger:
"This female has a fleece to die for."



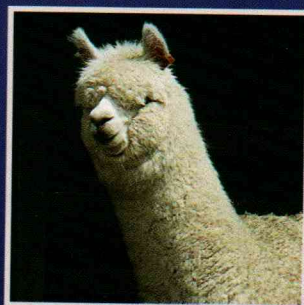
SHANBROOKE ENCHANTER

Jnr. Ch. Male, Sydney Royal 1997.
1st in Class, National Classic Show 1996.
Inter. Res. Ch., Geelong Alpaca Fest 1997.



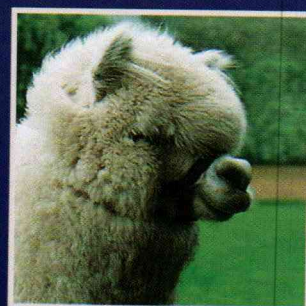
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A champion in her own right.
Australian record top price
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PURRUMBETE COMPASS ROSE

Grand Champion, State Show NSW 1996.
Cut 5+ kg at one year old.
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PURRUMBETE ROMANTIC DREAM

Grand Champion,
Melbourne Royal 1995.

SUPERIOR STOCK FOR SALE
INCLUDING PERUVIAN FEMALES WITH FEMALE CRIA

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www.alpaca.asn.au

online

The Association's Internet site was launched at its Annual General Meeting on September 14.

The Association's home page features the bright yellow of the sun in the Association's logo, and a dramatic alpaca graphic. Like all home pages, it contains the links, or buttons, that you click on with your cursor to take you to any area of the site. The home page (for the uninitiated) is the section of the site that comes up on screen when you access the site.

Information currently available to site visitors includes:

- general information about alpacas and the Australian industry;
- membership services including sample forms and contracts,
- committee member listings;
- publications for sale and those available from the Association's library;
- industry news with show results and upcoming events;
- a breeders listing;
- a bulletin board where you can leave comments and messages.

The creator of the site is a Perth-based company called HarvestRoad which has an Internet application called WebNOW! One of the features of the application is that it allows inexperienced (even slightly computer illiterate!) people to edit their own sites.

Linked sites

Carolyn and Allan Jinks of Benleigh Alpaca Stud were the first of a growing number of breeders ready to take up the challenge of setting up a site that is linked to that of the Association. It is accessible through the Breeders listing in the Association's site and can also be called up independently (www.benleigh.com.au).

Carolyn commented that they had decided to 'jump in with both feet' but were now 'coming up for air'. She reported that she had already received a request for information from an overseas visitor to her site (there's provision for email messages from site visitors). However, having created a site that very much reflects the flavour of Benleigh press advertising, Carolyn is now looking at using the Internet for marketing purposes that are not so easily accomplished in 'conventional' media.

ABOUT THE INTERNET

The Internet is the powerful equipment that runs a formidable entity – the World Wide Web. The Web is a whopping world-wide network – in fact a network of networks – to which are linked literally millions of individual computers. Anyone with a computer that has a reasonable capacity can get access to the Net via a modem into a telephone line and an Internet access provider. There are a number of access providers around all with varying 'deals' on Internet usage.

The World Wide Web (the familiar 'www' we see on Internet addresses) is the system that retrieves and organises information. Based on hypertext technology, the Web enables information to be arranged in many ways. The system allows the seeker of information to retrieve it from all over the world. The 'links' in text (normally bold or underlined) and on menu bars of Web pages, are examples of how hypertext works. Click on a link and be taken straight to the subject matter of the link – within the same or a different Web site. Hypertext may now be better described as hypermedia in that links can be established not only to text but also to graphics and sound.

The kind of reliable networking that runs the Internet first emerged in a project known as ARPANET begun by the US Department of Defense. Originally connecting four computers, it grew to connect computers in all parts of America.

The network was designed to connect the Department with military research contractors, including a number of universities. Their number and that other non-military sites joining the network grew to the extent that the network became unwieldy.

Eventually, military sites were put onto another network (MILNET) but both networks remained linked. The development of IP (Internet Protocol) enabled this link to be maintained. IP was designed to work for not just two but tens of thousands of networks. It allows any computer in a network connected by IP to speak to any other computer also connected by IP.

This was a major breakthrough from a situation in which computers could only communicate with their own central networks. Consequently, IP remains the key to the amazing ability of your personal PC to speak to any other computer connected to the Internet.

The National Science Foundation was the next organisation to set up its own network (NFSET) using five supercomputer centres. ARPANET has now closed down and NSFNET is presently being wound down, but the Internet created survives, increasingly being taken over by commercial and specialist networks.

So, what does this all mean to the average mortal?

Speaking somewhat cynically, the system is really nothing more than a quick way of sending and retrieving information that could be sent or retrieved by more conventional methods such as: computer disk, letter, press advertisement, video or public announcement.

However, the Internet combines speed of transmission with unparalleled international coverage and at relatively little cost. These three attributes make it a very spectacular medium.



Amberdale Alpacas

OUTSTANDING SELECTION OF SIRES FOR MOBILE AND ONSTUD MATINGS



Tranquillity Dream Weaver
Solid Dark Fawn (C & S Seymour)



Murragamba Banjo
Solid Black

★ Also Purumbete Lucky Strike solid white ★ Two Imported Peruvians solid white ★
Show quality males & females available

Jenny & Gray Morgan

2 Atkins Lane, Mirboo North 3871 Tel/Fax (03) 5668 2352

THE WEB SITE

not a page – but an information source

.....
by Carol Hosking

Making people aware of the existence of your Web site is the first task. The challenge is to get them there ... and keep them coming back.

One of the most valuable points made to me by someone who is very much into computer systems and hi-technology was that it is a mistake to think of a Web site as a screen page.

When the Americans set up ALPANET (see page 8), they set it up to be an information resource. In effect, and regardless of all the advances in graphics and sound, the Internet remains just that.

The other key point to remember about the Net is that it is not at all like television where you cannot avoid commercials (other than by leaving the room or watching the ABC), or magazines where the advertisement is part and parcel of the publication. The choice about what site to visit – more importantly, what site to revisit – lies solely with the 'consumer'. The visitor to a Web site is there only because he/she chooses to be. If you're lucky enough to attract a visitor in the first place, for goodness sake make the experience so worthwhile that the visitor will come back again for more.

These two points should be uppermost in your mind if you're planning to go online and create your own Web site.

WHAT MAKES AN EFFECTIVE WEB SITE?

Promotion

The basis of creating an effective Web site is making sure that the site is promoted. Yes, there are search engines on the Internet that people can use to search for sites related to subjects in which they are interested. But the search engines are quirky. They'll be of great help one day and hopeless the

next.

What's more, the time necessary to hone in on specific subjects is, frankly, not something you'd want to put your potential site visitors through.

Lesson number one: if you have a Web site, promote it in the conventional media. On every advertisement, on every piece of stationery and display that www address needs to be prominent and attractive!

You might take an approach something like this:

Come and visit us on the Net at www.greatalpacas.com.au. Hot off the press! Stud stock for sale with latest pictures and info!

Observant TV viewers and advertisement readers will notice that more and more advertisers are including their Web site addresses. Auntie ABC flogs it mercilessly – and effectively, to my mind – in most of their station promos.

Style

Maybe I'm old fashioned, but nothing irks me more than to visit a site that has reams and reams of waffly text. I could, of course, download the stuff onto a printer and run out a hard copy – but I really can't be bothered. Most of this long-winded material is boring anyway.

Apart from anything else, many Web site visitors don't necessarily have access to a printer.

Can *they* be bothered reading off screen, scrolling and scrolling down lines of interminable text? (I can get cosy with a good book – but a computer?) Why expect your visitors to do something they may not enjoy?

The Proof is in the Progeny



Acheron Valley Alpaca Stud

Our Superior Light Fawn Stud Male

Peruvian Primero

Has confirmed his quality with 3 Ribbon Winners and 2nd place in the Sires Progeny class at the Royal Melbourne Show '97. These progeny are all bred by Acheron Alpacas from Chilean Dams.

Peruvian Primero

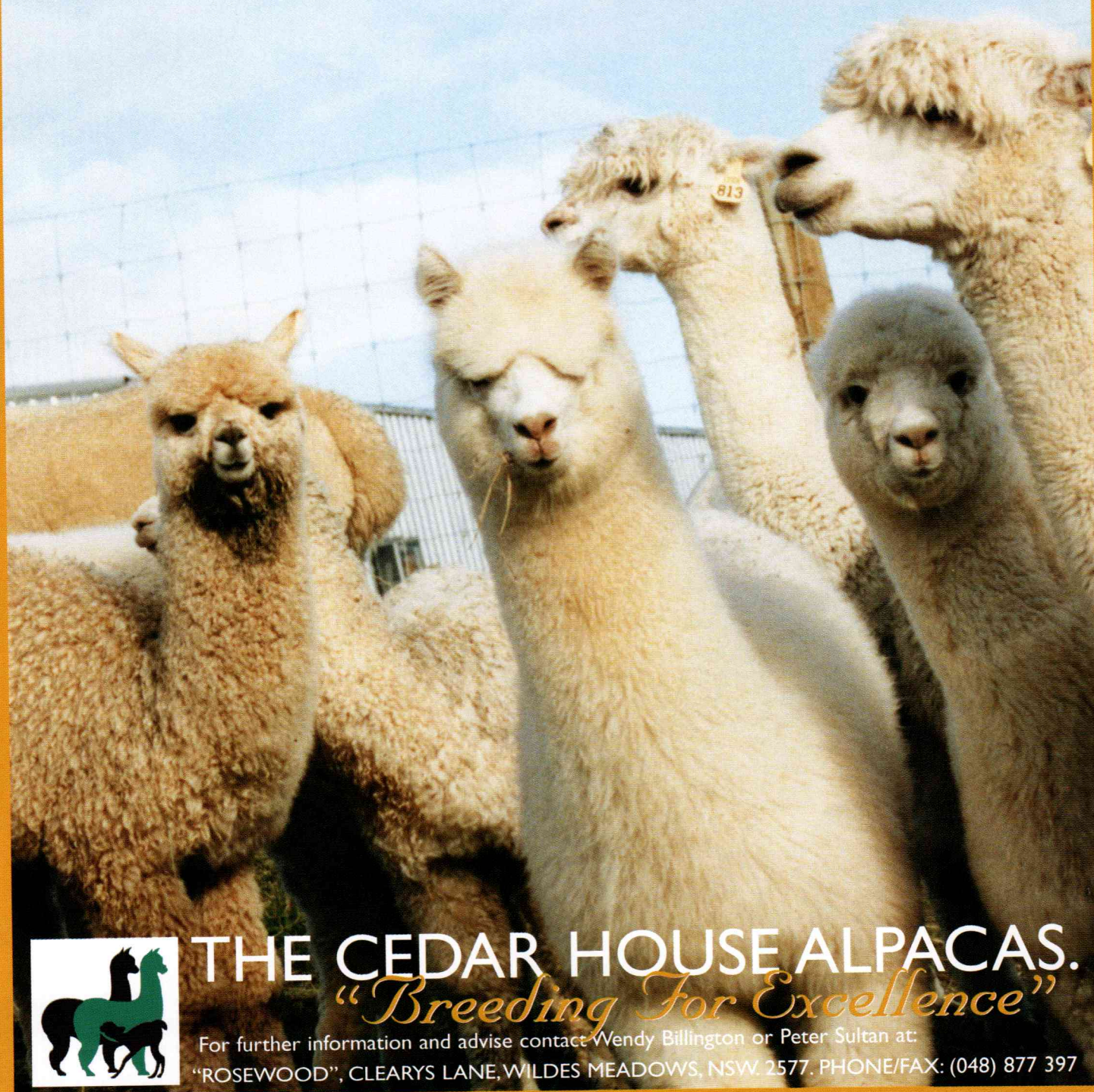
- Fine, even, dense crimp fleece
- Superb conformation
- 70% solid dark fawn cria to date
- Live Cria guarantee
- Mobile matings
- Discount for group bookings



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Why make life difficult when, with a little effort, you can create effective text with fewer, but better chosen words? Try plenty of relief-making headlines and subheads, short sentences and reasonably terse text. If possible, allow your visitor to get to material he/she has a particular interest in by creating plenty of links. Brevity and clarity are the watchwords.

The aim is to grab interest quickly and elicit action – preferably on the spot – via e-mail. Your Web site can be organised to allow prospective clients to key in and instantly send their request to your email address. If it's applicable to your business, you can even have an order form designed.

If your aim is to have your site visitor contact you for more information, give the basics and let your promotional pamphlet, email message or phone call fill in the fancy bits.

Graphics

If your aim is to sell animals, graphics are important. They're also probably important if you are looking for people to agist their animals on your property.

But don't include them just to 'pretty up' a site. Graphics can take an age to make up on screen and bore the pants of someone waiting at the computer. Again, only include what is necessary to add to the information required by a site visitor. Don't waste his/her time on irrelevancies.

But do include your logo – that's a 'never to be left out' part of your communication effort.

Content

So what do you put in your Web site? My feeling is that you use the site to

highlight those aspects of your business, or provide information, which is not so easily done elsewhere.

Some examples

You may be having a stud open day – that's interesting Internet news.

Stock for sale? Ideal! Products for sale? Pictures and order form perhaps?

Perhaps you have a workshop coming up. Why not put the info on the Net and invite people to enrol via email? (But back that up with the usual handouts and press advertising directing people to your Net site.)

Start a regular column about your stud, the industry, alpaca stories.

But, whatever you do on your site, make sure you update the content regularly and tell visitors that you will have more of interest soon. Encourage them to return to check out what's new with you.

That, in a nutshell, is how to use the Internet effectively.

DON'T IGNORE THE POTENTIAL OF THE NET

Sure, it's still a relatively new medium. It still has some bugs. It's still a novelty to many. But, business generally is increasingly recognising the Internet as an effective marketing and information tool – so should you.

Remember, the Internet is a worldwide phenomenon. The number of computers hooked up to the Net is in the millions and Australians are among the most enthusiastic Net users in the world.

Young people, especially, know that the Net is a great information medium. They check out all sorts of things: entertainment, houses for rent, recipes, government information – and even

the youngest are seeking school project information. They're computer literate and very comfortable with the technology. There's a 'growing' audience, in all senses of the word.

So, how about it? Will we be invited to visit you online soon?

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

There are a great many Internet service providers able to set you up whether you wish to merely have access to the Net or actually have your own Web site.

Here are some service providers we know about who are dealing with alpaca people.

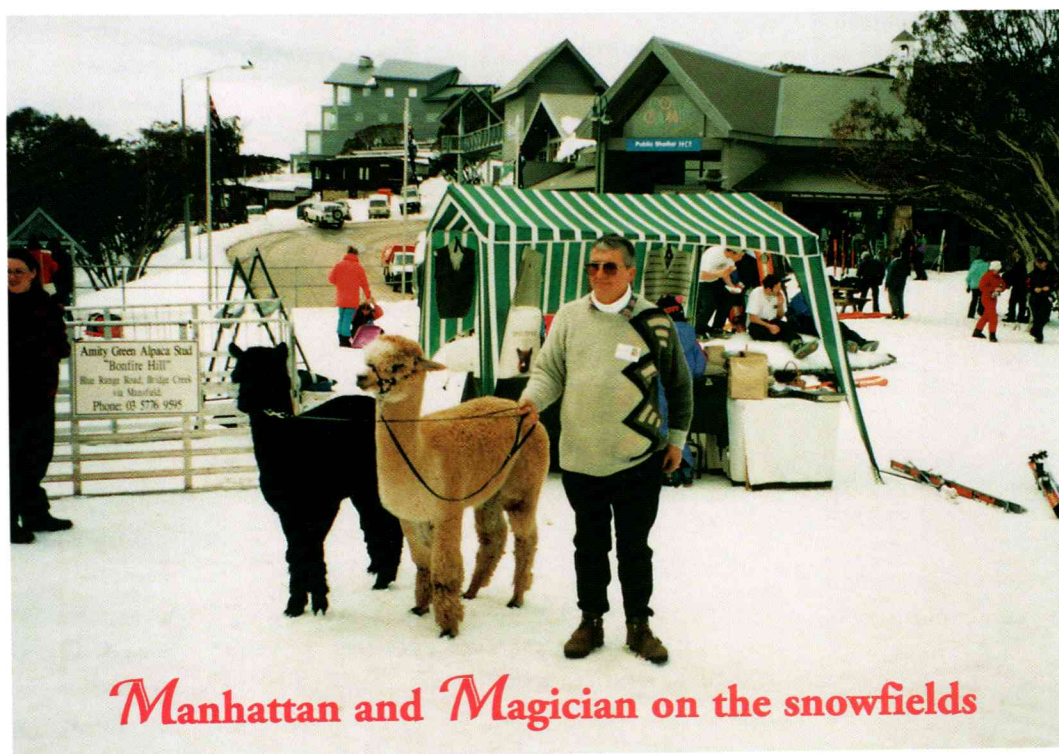
AAA site creator, HarvestRoad is offering WebNOW! package deals to AAA members wanting to have their own Web site. Its online, self editing facility enables you to change and update your site as often as you wish – so important for the maintenance of an effective Web site. Contact Elizabeth Hodge on (03) 9428 9663 for details.

Andeela Graphics has set up a Web site called the Australian Alpaca Trading Post. For those who do not have a Web site, but would like to use the Internet to advertise animals for sale, the Australian Alpaca Trading Post offers the chance to display a photo, pedigree details and brief description for a basic set up cost and low monthly fee. Contact Deanne McCrea on 0418 444 690.

Kenilworth Park Alpaca Stud (advertisers in this issue) are also offering a range of Internet services for those wanting to advertise on the Net – with or without a computer. Access the site on alpaca.net.au.

FROM ALPACAS AUSTRALIA AND THE AAA
Our best wishes for very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

A couple of 'Big Ms' at Mt Buller



Manhattan and Magician on the snowfields

by Ken Green, Amity Green Alpaca Stud

Some time back, Robyn and I thought we could get a lot of interest created in alpacas by taking them up to the snow on Mt. Buller.

Our farm, is in Mansfield, so we are quite close to the mountain. We started making inquiries with the management to find out whether they had any special requirements for displaying the animals there.

As we also wanted to take product for display and (hopefully) for sale, the next hurdle was to get permission from the Alpine Resorts Commission management.

Permission was granted, but not for sales. However, we were allowed to take the animals out of the pen on halters and walk them around.

Luck was with us as the weather was perfect and we were given an excellent position beside the monument at the base of Bourke Street. The boys, Cedar House Manhattan and Windsong Valley Magician proved an instant hit especially when we took them on halters and walked them around. They must have been the most photographed alpacas ever.

It was non-stop talking to people about the animals with many people having their first ever look at the alpacas. Our product display, all of which is made from alpaca, includes ladies' and men's Akubra style hats, ladies' fashion hats, alpaca bed quilts made by us, hand knitting yarns, jumpers, beanies,

scarfs etc. This made a lot of people more aware of the animal and of its fibre, and some of the items that can be manufactured from it.

Obviously we are negotiating with the management to allow us back next season, hopefully a couple of times.

I would like to thank Stan Davies of Holly Ridge Alpacas in Mansfield for his help. We both had a fabulous day.



PEACE OF MIND



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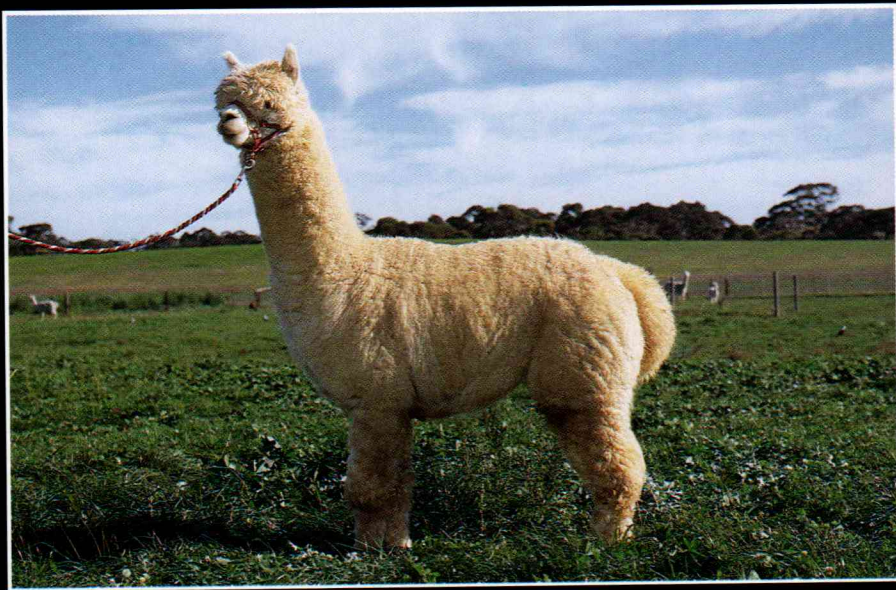
ALPACA STUD

EST. 1993

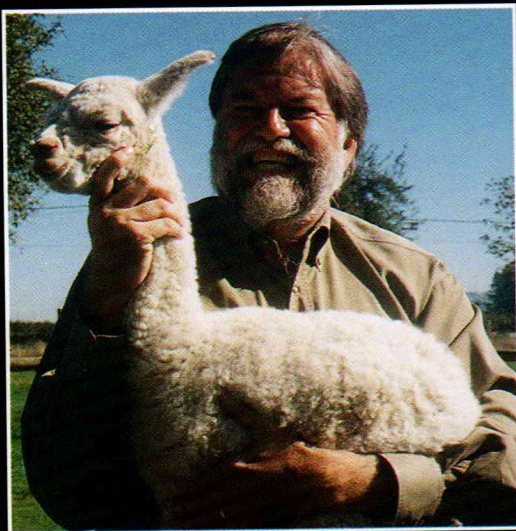
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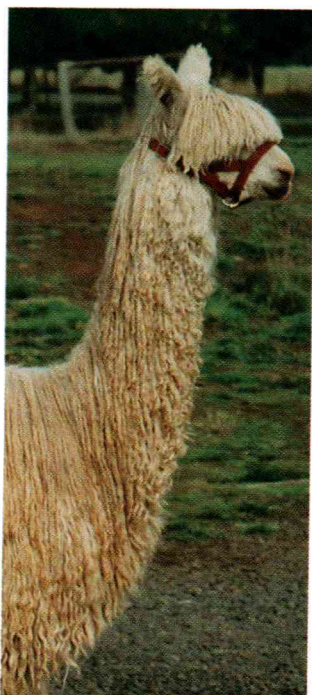
Contact: Matthew or Cathy

Phone (08) 8383 7022

Mobile 0419 828 002

SURI X HUACAYA

So, what's the story?



In fact, there are two theories about the phenotypic outcomes of huacaya x suri matings. Each was given an airing at the 1997 Industry Seminar in Sydney.

What follows is a simplified version of each theory. (See also *Proceedings* 'Shaping the Future'.)

PONZONI ET AL

The material is based on information gained as part of the RIRDC 3-year project involving studies of various aspects of alpacas in South Eastern Australia. It was presented at the Seminar by Dr Raul Ponzoni.

Two hundred and four mating records were analysed. These comprised:

145 huacaya sire by huacaya dam;

24 suri sire by huacaya dam;

35 suri sire by suri dam.

There were no huacaya sire by suri dam matings.

The hypothesis is that a single gene – *ALF* (for alpaca fleece) – controls inheritance. This gene has two alleles (gene determiners): *ALF^h* and *ALF^s*. *ALF^h* represents the huacaya allele, considered



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ALPACA STUD

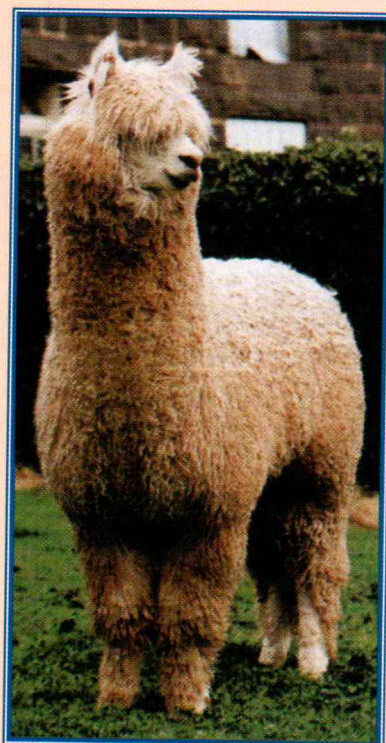
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WORTH A TRIP TO W.A.?

to be recessive while ALF^S is the suri allele, considered to be dominant. The model was chosen because it is the simplest. A more complex model that could achieve the same results is one which assumes the inheritance trait is controlled, not by a single gene, but by an haplotype or group of very closely linked genes that are inherited together.

The results of the studies revealed no suri progeny from huacaya sire by huacaya dam matings. This suggests that the huacaya is homozygous – that is, it carries two ALF^h alleles.

In the case of the 24 suri sire by huacaya dam matings, there were 13 huacaya and 11 suri progeny.

According to Dr Ponzoni, these numbers do not deviate significantly from a 1:1 huacaya/suri progeny ratio. Again, this suggests control by a single gene and that one of the parents (the suri sire) is heterozygous – i.e. carries ALF^h and ALF^S alleles.

Suri sire by suri dam matings (35) produced 6 huacaya and 29 suri progeny. According to Dr Ponzoni, numbers produced did not deviate significantly from an expected 1:3 huacaya/suri ratio expected under this hypothesis. This also suggests that suri sires are heterozygous. Of these 11 sires whose records were analysed only 2 produced too few progeny (1 and 3) to confirm their classification as homozygous or heterozygous. The remaining nine, however, met the criterion of heterozygosity.

While there were insufficient numbers of suri dam offspring to conduct proper analysis, Dr Ponzoni believes that it can be assumed that most, if not all, are heterozygous.

Ponzoni mentions one study that has reported suri progeny from huacaya by huacaya matings, conducted by Flint in 1996. There were 8,446 matings of which 0.45% produced huacaya offspring. However, Ponzoni believes that such a small percentage

could be the result of errors in recording or entering data.

THE WALL AND COLE HYPOTHESIS

Bill Wall and Ron Cole, however, do not believe that this inheritance trait is so simply controlled. They also question the theory that huacaya/huacaya crosses cannot produce suri offspring. They believe that Jane Wheeler's work is one of a number of references that allude to this phenomenon. They also maintain that Australian IAR records also reveal some few suri progeny from huacaya by huacaya matings.

Wall and Cole are 'not attracted to a dominance/recessiveness model and neither do we believe that a simple Mendelian genetic process is operating'. They believe that there are three genes operating as alleles. One of these genes, however, is rarely expressed. This may be why suris are relatively rarely produced as the result of huacaya/huacaya matings. Wall and Cole believe if the suri allele was dominant, as Dr Ponzoni suggests, there would be a higher proportion of suris than that presently estimated in the world population of alpacas (3 million huacayas, 12,000 suris).

This point was raised during one of Raul Ponzoni's seminar presentations. Dr Ponzoni believes that suris are not as hardy as huacayas in their native land and that huacayas are preferred

over suris in South America. On that basis, it could be assumed that the survival rate of suri cria is considerably less than that of huacaya cria, that more suris die at a younger age and that preference for huacaya results in culling of unwanted suris.

Wall and Cole believe that their theory gives a reasonable explanation, not only of suri offspring from huacayas and huacaya offspring from suris, but also of the approximate numbers being produced. They also claim to be able to predict these phenotype outcomes and their numbers with some accuracy.

Dr Ponzoni believes that further analyses of data 'should contribute to a greater understanding of the genetic mechanisms involved in the expression of the huacaya and suri phenotypes'.

Bill Wall and Ron Cole say they 'acknowledge the Ponzoni study and its results and note that he leaves room in his discussion section of his paper for an alternate mode of inheritance of the suri/huacaya genes. We believe that our explanation, involving three alleles (and not the simple two proposed by Ponzoni) will explain anomalies noted above.'

They are currently developing a biochemical test on an external sample from alpacas which is designed to reveal the animal's genetics. They have more work to do to finalise their research, but report that results to date are most encouraging.

Tune in for the next episode!

AAA OFFICE CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Association's office will close for Christmas on

Friday 19 December 1997

and re-open at 9 am on

Monday 19 January 1998



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A New Dawn in the Ancient Andes

by Mike Safley

Over the years, Julie and I have done business with Michell Co., SA, purchasing everything from alpaca tops to top coats. We visited the Michell sorting sheds and spinning plant on our first trip to Peru in 1991.

More recently I was invited to visit 'Los Sauces', the Michell hacienda near Juliaco in the district of Puno, Peru. Here I had the pleasure of getting to know Derek Michell, the grandson of Frank Michell, the company's founder. Derek manages the Arequipa office of the company and his uncle, Michael Michell manages the company's headquarters in Lima.

It wasn't until last year, when I started to research Peru's alpaca industry, beginning at the turn of the century, that I

began to understand the unique odyssey of Frank Michell.

Every country has men whose vision, drive and tenacity create an industry where none was before. Born three days before Christmas, 1886, in Queen Victoria's London, England, Frank William Michell Webster was such a man.

Today, the Michell name is synonymous with the world wide alpaca business. The Michell company is a vertically integrated Peruvian textile manufacturing conglomerate that is known to almost everyone associated with the specialty fibre business.

What isn't as well known outside of Peru is the fascinating story of Frank William Michell and his persistent quest to build a world class business organisation.

THE STORY OF FRANK MICHELL

Raised by the sea along the Bristol Canal, south east of London, Frank's life-long thirst for adventure was rarely quenched. When England entered World War I, Michell joined the Royal Air Force and was soon piloting his Fokker D-VII into battle against the infamous German F-13 Junkers. Shot down more than once over Egypt, he survived the war.

Back home and out on the town in post-war London, young Frank encountered a glamorous young starlet wearing a shimmering chinchilla coat. He had never seen anything quite as beautiful as that coat. He inquired about the origin of the lady's fur and was told the chinchilla was from the high Andes of Peru.

Convinced he had seen his future – and never one to procrastinate – young Frank booked an ocean passage for Latin America. Arriving in June of 1922, he struck out for the high sierra.

At 14,000 feet above sea level, Michell was startled to find that there were no chinchillas in Peru.

His disappointment soon gave way to loneliness as his travelling companion, Mr Ford took ill and had to leave the mountains. Young Frank was left with a gold cigar case, a loyal horse and little else. Always the optimist, he made the best of a bad situation and sold the cigar case for some fine alpaca fibre. Alpacas had replaced chinchillas as his gold at the end of the rainbow.

After making friends with an English engineer working for the English Train Company, he hitched a ride and headed for Arequipa where he made his first sale of alpaca fleece at the

Stafford Company Stores, located at the corner of La Merced and Palacio Viezo. The cycle was complete; he had bought and sold, profitably.

Convinced he had found his path in life, Michell returned to the highlands where he was the lone gringo, speaking Quechua with a strong English accent and trading sugar, cooking oil and alcohol for fibre.

After several years of trading, Michell's fertile mind developed a strategic plan to create a unique Peruvian wool export company. Michell sought and received approval to bring together the Peruvian government and the alpaca producers of the Sierra into the Peruvian Trading Company.

Before this enterprise could get off the ground, a coup d'état brought down Michell's benefactor, President Augusto B. Leguia and the company was dissolved. Never one to dwell on defeat, Frank Michell soon joined with Roy S. Patten, another English expatriate, to form Patten/Mitchell, which exported alpaca fleece abroad until 1945. Along the way, Mitchell, always the innovator, created the current system of sorting alpaca fleece according to a more profitable grading system, including the 'Arequipa fleece' at 26 microns, which became the standard of alpaca quality and helped expand the export market.

The 1940s brought both happiness and despair to Michell. He met and married Marjorie Stafford Gibson and the couple was blessed with two sons, Anthony and Michael.

Michell also pursued his long-held dream of creating Peru's first spinning mill, but this project was not without problems.

Building Michell & Co.

Shortly after World War II ended in victory, Patton/Michell was dissolved with Frank Michell buying out his partner of 15 years. In 1946, Michell went together with three other men and invested 450,000 soles (approx. \$A225,000), forming Michell & Co., SA. Their goal was the construction of a scouring plant, combing facility and spinning mill in Tacna, near Peru's border with Chile. The men took up residence in Tacna's Pittaluga Hotel and began construction on the necessary industrial buildings.

In November of 1946, crates of carding machines, generators and comb accessories began arriving in Arica, Chile from Liverpool, England. The equipment was then shipped to the company compound at Quinta las Palmeras in Tacna. By June of 1947 all the necessary machinery had arrived. optimism was running high as the parts and pieces were being were being

assembled for Peru's first alpaca textile mill.

As with most pioneering enterprises, the path to completion was filled with potholes. Michell's partners, tired of the mounting investment and with no cash flow in sight, wanted out. The company was dissolved. Now it was again up to Frank Michell to step into the breach and put his solitary shoulder to the dream of a Peruvian spinning mill, pushing it forward with a single-minded perseverance.

The plant in Tacna finally came to fruition and from this precarious beginning, one of Peru's great industrial companies was created and with it, a national industry. To this day, the industry adds value to the Peruvian alpaca which is known around the world for being grown closer to heaven than any other fibre on earth.

Frank Michell died at high noon on May 27, 1987 in Arequipa. But his story doesn't stop there. The achievements recounted here are only an

abbreviated version of the life's work of a man who was awarded the Silver Medal of Arequipa and the Merit Order of the Great Cross, by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry.

In 1996, Mr Michell was honoured as one of Peru's greatest industrialists by the National Society of Industry for his contributions in the field of textiles. For a man who constantly told his sons that 'in business it is better to be small and strong than big and weak', he was a giant whose true legacy may have been his ability to see a bright future where lesser men saw only defeat.

As we shall see, his sons and grandchildren have inherited his genes of optimism and perseverance, as Michell & Co. continues to push the envelope of growth in modern Peru.

A small story of Michell Company's alpaca farming enterprise helps illustrate the tenacity of a family that refuses to acknowledge defeat and is confident that it will prevail at the end of the day.



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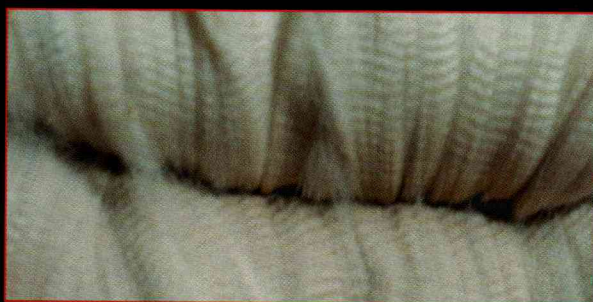
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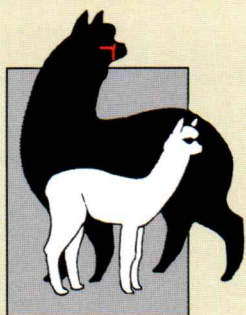
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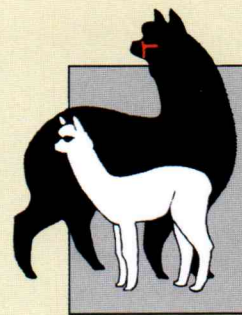
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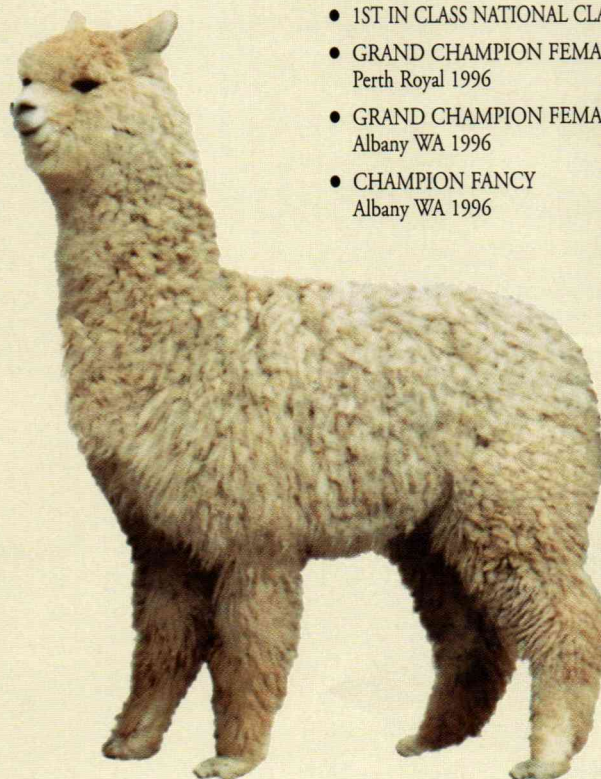
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Perth Royal 1996
- GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
Albany WA 1996
- CHAMPION FANCY
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Alpaca farming in the Altiplano

Frank Mitchell's early beginnings and the company's roots were in the high sierra. Frank's residence in a small cabin outside of Juliaco surely made him the only gringo during the 1920s and early 1930s with a permanent address on an Andean hillside. The natural extension of his love for the mountains was the purchase of an estancia, or farm, located far up in the Andes, miles past Rural Alianza's well-known suri breeding property, which is not far from Nunoa in the district of Puno.

Never a large operation, 'Ciacasa' was only about 1,300 acres, carrying 1,000 to 1,200 alpacas. Nevertheless, the ranch was a source of pride and connection with the sierra for the family. Orlando Barreda, the nephew of Julio Barreda, managed the Michell property on behalf of the family. In 1983, he had stocked the ranch with 350 alpacas from Accoyo, adding to the many fine quality suri and huacaya purchased from neighbouring operators.

The reign of terror

During 1987, the bloody Sendero Luminosa were extending their reign of terror to the mountain towns of the Altiplano. Terrorist acts were becoming more frequent and personal safety had become an issue for anyone with business in the highlands. Orlando, who was universally acknowledged as one of Peru's best alpaca breeders, had invited Alberto Pumayala, a world famous alpaca researcher and breeder, to visit the ranch with two agrarian engineers and eight students from the University of Molina in Lima.

As fate would have it, the Barreda party, driving two trucks, arrived in Nunoa just hours after Shining Path guerrillas had been agitating in the town square. Hurrying to reach the



Michell Co suris: Cornelio Chura with light fawn male; Ignacio Vila Vila with white macho; and Julio Parredes with black male.

ranch before nightfall, the group, whose trucks were full, ignored several people waving their arms, thinking they wanted a ride up the mountain. Several compensinos later reported that they had tried to warn the men of the recent terrorist activity in the area.

The guerrillas apparently spotted the shiny new trucks pulling through town. They followed. That night the men arrived at the ranch and began preparing for the next day's work. Sometime before dawn disaster struck.

The incident ended three days later when the eight students were released, barefoot, to walk out of the mountains. They called the university in Lima; the university called Michell headquarters in Arequipa and Mitchells called their office in Juliaca. When a rescue party arrived at the ranch they found Orlando, Alberto Pumayala and the two engineers dead.

These deaths served notice to the men of Arequipa's alpaca industry: don't travel to the highlands unless you're prepared to die. The terrorist's control of the highlands intensified and the foot they placed on the alpaca shepherds' necks grew heavier.

As a result of the bloody guerrilla scourge, investment in the Altiplano

ceased. Chaos became the order of the day. Alpaca production decreased by 25 per cent; no roads were built or repaired; the railway was bombed; commerce withered. No one in Peru escaped the suffering.

The Michell estancia near Nunoa had to be abandoned. The alpaca population at the ranch declined to less than half its previous total. Eventually, the Michells transferred the property to a Catholic priest who today operates it as under a social program on behalf of the poorest Indians.

No part of the Altiplano escaped the desperate circumstance invoked by Ismael Guzman and his Maoist Shining Path. The terror was indiscriminate. Arbitrary death became a fact of life until salvation arrived in an unlikely form.

'The Chinese'

A Peruvian man born of Japanese parents was elected president of Peru. He was entirely unknown before the election. The Indians called him E Chifa or El Chino, 'the Chinese'. Today, the entire world knows Fuji Mori. He defeated the Shining Path, jailed its leaders and liberated the Peruvian sier-

ra. Recently, when the Tupac Amour captured the Japanese embassy in Lima, holding hundreds hostage, he blasted his way in and set the hostages free with the world watching on CNN.

Fuji Mori didn't stop with the victory over terrorism. He built schools, roads and hydro-electric projects throughout the poorest regions of Peru. Today, you can move from Juliaca to Macusani in half the time the trip took just a few short years ago. New telephone and power lines are bisecting the hills and mountains that frame the Altiplano. Hope has become a legitimate attitude.



'Los Sauces', the old colonial home compound, is in the centre of the picture which is taken from the new home site.

Hacienda Los Sauces

Private investment is following the roads paved by Fuji Mori. The Michell family is back in the highlands, connected again to Frank Michell's beginnings on the high ridges of Peru. They are busy establishing 'Los Sauces', a neo Peruvian hacienda that is being

reorganised from a decaying colonial property.

Located near Juliaco, in the heart of alpaca country north-west of the Sollocotta alpaca co-op and 25 kilometres east of Picotani, a famous sheep

and alpaca operation, the 7,500 acre fundo or farm currently has 2,500 alpacas, 1,000 sheep, both Corriedale and merino, brown Swiss cattle, acres of potatoes, quinoa, rye grass, barley, wheat and alfalfa.



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In the drier part of Gippsland
Where you don't get your feet wet!

AT STUD



PURRUMBETE HOT SHOT
light fawn

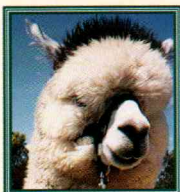
Junior Male & Supreme Champion

Melb. Sheep & Wool Show '95

Reserve Junior Male

Res. Senior Champion Male

Royal Melbourne Show '95



PURRUMBETE SILVERSMITH
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Senior Champion Male

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191 Howick Street Bathurst, NSW 2795

Telephone: (02) 6331 1400 Facsimilie: (02) 6332 1260

More than just a ranch or hacienda, Los Sauces represents a new-found confidence in the Peruvian economy, alpaca production and the Altiplano. The original hacienda's name was Malcuini, which is Quechua for 'plant the land'. That's exactly what Frank Michell's sons and grandsons are doing. This investment would have been considered impossible in 1992.

A dairy is under construction on a recently acquired neighbouring property. The alpaca herd will be increased to 7,500 and the sheep will eventually number 10,000. One new home has already been built, another is under construction. There are immediate plans to plant a forest of more than one million pine trees.

The Mitchell Company has continued to prosper. No longer exclusively involved in alpacas, the company now has interests in the food industry, banking and insurance. Recently it has acquired the Coca Cola bottling fran-



From left: Julio Parredes, Derek Michell, Monica Michell, Fabiola and Juan Pepper.

chise for all of Peru. Cotton, wool and alpaca fashions from their textile plants are found in stores around the world.

The common thread for all this is surely 100 per cent alpaca. But I believe

that, had Frank Michell believed, back in 1922, that chinchilla were to be found in America, instead of Peru, there would be a chapter in US history books bearing his name.

THE MICHELL GROUP OF COMPANIES

Name of Company	Incorporated	Business
Michell and Co. S.A.	1945	Manufacture, trade and exportation of alpaca hair, wool and complementary and related activities.
Dist. Miramar, S.A.	1969	National and international trade of yarn.
Eportadora Misti, S.A.	1978	Production and exportation of farming products.
Jistilana, S.A.	1981	manufacture and trade of wool and alpaca yarn.
Texao, S.A.	1982	Purchase and sorting of alpaca fibre and sheep wool.
Carandes, S.A.	1982	Classification, carding, brushing and commercialisation of alpaca fibre and sheep wool.
Alpalana, S.A.	1982	Industrialisation and trade of alpaca slivers and tops.
Centro Alpaca S.A.	1983	Fabrication and sale of knitted clothing and articles.
Coropuna S.A.	1983	Classification and industrial collection of alpaca hair and wool from industrial process and domestic waste, the fabrication and commercialisation of slivers.
Andes Lana, S.A.	1983	Purchase, classification and scouring of alpaca and wool fibres.
Ciacasa	1983	Experimental farm dedicated to selecting and raising of South American camelida in order to improve the herds of the high Andean farmers.
Linsa, S.A.	1983	Manufacture of Jello and other food products.
Serclasa, S.A.	1984	Classification and commercialisation of alpaca fibre and sheep wool.
Alpateje, S.A.	1984	Spinning mill.
Cia De Industrias Nacionales (CINSA)	1984	Purchasing, washing, carding, brushing, dyeing, spinning and weaving of cotton fabric.
Chachacoma, S.A.	1995	Scouring alpaca fibre and sheep wool
Pefiles Metalicos, S.A.	1985	Fabrication and commercialisation of metal products.
Banco Del Sur Del Peru	1985	Financial services.
Banco Latino, S.A.	1985	Financial services.
La Fenix Peruana, S.A.	1985	insurance.
Cia de Seguros, S.A.	1985	Insurance.
Textile Peru Pacifico	1985	Purchase, washing, carding, brushing and spinning of sheep wool and alpaca fibre, dyeing and fabric weaving.
Topel, S.A.	1986	Raising Angora rabbits for the commercialisation and/or industrialisation of their hair.
Cia Lanera industrial	1986	Manufacture and international trade of textile garments from alpaca fibre and sheep wool.
Negociacion Sur Peruana International, S.A.	1987	Soft drink bottling and sales.
OP Knitting, S.A.	1989	Knitting mill

(Source: Departmental Files of Public Records of Arequipa, Tacna and Puno.)

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING DEADLINES, 1998

Editorial to Carol Hosking

If possible, all editorial contributions should be typed. Visual material can be colour photographs or transparencies. We will endeavour to return all photos and slides.

Advertising to Suzanne Charles

Rates and specifications are available on request. We can accept camera ready material or will produce advertising material to specification.

We cannot guarantee inclusion of late advertising material.

For further information on editorial and advertising matters...

Phone: (03) 9428 9663

Fax: (03) 9428 2728

during business hours.

Please address all editorial and advertising material to:

PTW Desktop & Design
Unit 9, 663 Victoria Street
Abbotsford 3067 Victoria

or email

carol@ptw.com.au

suzanne@ptw.com.au

DEADLINES 1998

Issue 22 – Autumn

Due: March 1998

Deadline: Friday 16 January

Issue 23 – Winter

Due: June 1998

Deadline: Friday 17 April

Issue 24 – Spring

Due: September 1998

Deadline: Friday 17 July

Issue 25 – Summer

Due: December 1998

Deadline: Friday 16 October

OLD MEMBERS MEETING

Sue Creek
Nicholas N Dowling
Judith Easten
Wallace Keir
Maxihaven Pty Ltd
Maxwell Dickens
Anthony C Phelps
Mark W Phillips
Patricia Richards
Geoffrey Roach
Robert D Smith
Keith Sunderland
Caroline Wells

Could these past members of Greater Southern Cross Alpaca Syndicate please forward a stamp self addressed envelope to:

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Meeting to be promulgated when as many members have made contact.

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Grand Champion Female & Junior Female
– Windsong Valley Summer Snow

Reserve Jnr. Female
– Windsong Valley Romany

Jnr. Champion Male
– Windsong Valley Ice Lord

Reserve Jnr. Male
– Windsong Valley Chompers

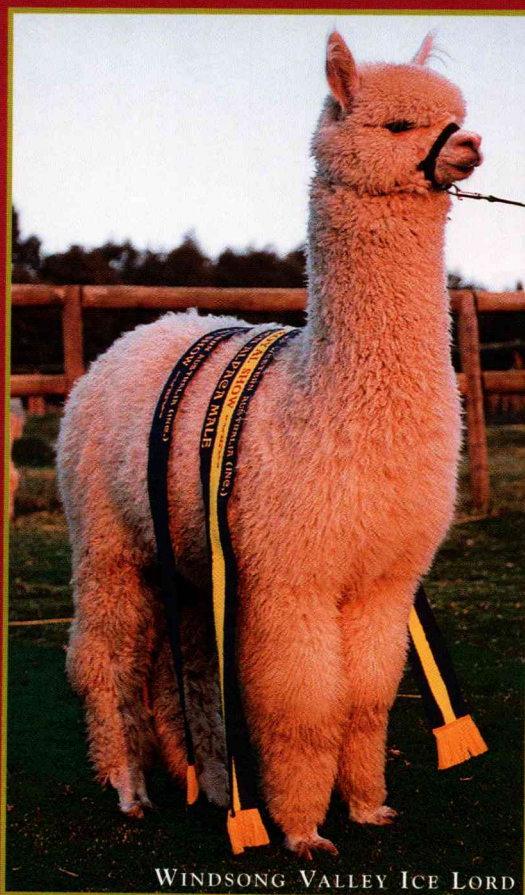
Best Black
– Windsong Valley Romany

Best Fawn
– Windsong Valley Tanami

Reserve Intermediate Male
– Windsong Valley Morocco

Champion Suri
– Peruvian Conquistador

Progeny Class 1st & 3rd
– Aymara Talisman



WINDSONG VALLEY ICE LORD

OUR ELITE SIRES

Aymara Talisman
Purrumbete Ledgers Dream
Purrumbete Highlander
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& arriving from Nuie
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Windsong Valley Snow Legend
Windsong Valley Gothic King



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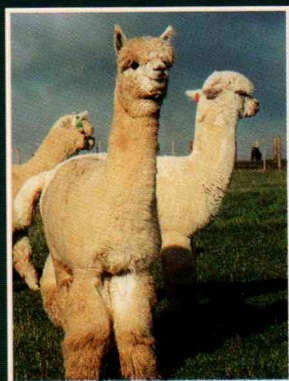
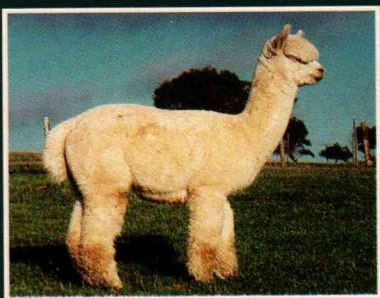
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ALPACAS FOR THE DISCERNING



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See our stunning new arrivals, PERUVIAN MALES:

Accoyo Legend, Allianz Don Julio (whites) and Allianz Drambuie (fawn).
Chosen not because they are Peruvian, but because of their outstanding progeny!

Also at stud:

Pacific Beethoven, Coonawarra Julius and Samarkand Blackadder (blacks),
Purumbete Snowman (white) and Purumbete Hot Shot (fawn).

Congratulations to the Bonavias and the Baglieris on the purchase of the magnificent Peruvian macho, Chubasco.

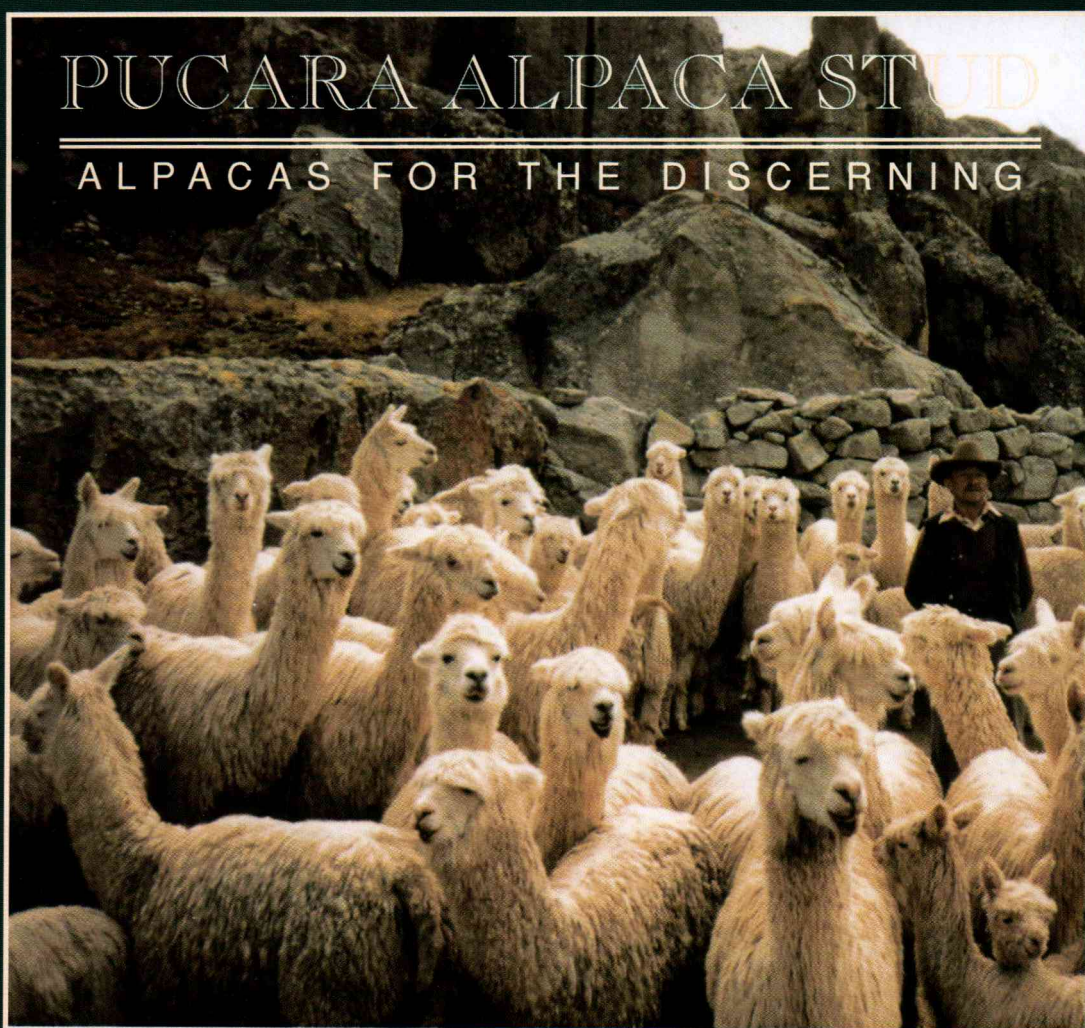
Jude Anderson
Alan Cousill
Pt. Addis, Vic

03 5263 3436
(fax) 03 5263 3364
(mobile) 015 525 391

Many thanks to Margaret & Jim Brewster, Calgary Canada for our recent export!

PUCARA ALPACA STUD

ALPACAS FOR THE DISCERNING



Don Julio Bareeda amongst his suris



Females at Pucara

Introducing our new venture...stunning "curtains of silk"...full blood Peruvian suris from the leading suri herds in the USA.

Witness the beautiful suri hembras and machos for sale, some are the progeny or are selected from the royal suri herd of Don Julio Bareeda's Accoyo. Some coloureds are available. See the progeny of the famous coloured Peruvian herdsires, Accoyo Durazno from Castle Hill Farm and Peruvian Elar, Fuego and Americo from Alpacas of America. See white Accoyo herdsires Amador, Borrajo and Cadete.

If you need PURE BRED suris, for services or purchase, we have them. It is an investment in an exotic livestock that few people have in Australia...indeed, the world!

Jude Anderson
Alan Cousill
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Congratulations Jen & Pete McDavitt for your purchase, sharing the vision.

1997 National Classic



Supreme Champion, Shanbrooke High Society with exhibitor, Diane Condon and Michael d'Apice, representing sponsors, VACC Insurance and Wilburtins Livestock Insurance.



Wendy Billington, Cedar House Alpacas, wins Champion Suri with Cedar House Kingston.



The Champion Fleece – shorn from Benleigh Highland Lass and exhibited by Cedar House Alpacas.

Left: Junior judging session: having made his selections, a young judge explains his reasons.

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Champion Wether: Mopoke, Paddington Alpacas, P Nelson

Champion Suri: Cedar House Kingston, Cedar House Alpacas, W Billington & P Sultan

Reserve Champion Suri: Cedar House Timberwinds, Mirrabrook Alpacas, P & S Mackenzie

Champion Junior Male: Shanbrooke High Society, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Reserve Champion Junior Male: Prestige Valentino, Prestige Alpacas, B & P Thomas

Champion Junior Female: Purumbete Eagles Feather, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Reserve Champion Junior Female: Blue Grass Star of Tulangi, Blue Grass Alpacas, A & J Mavros

Champion Intermediate Male: Purumbete Monarch, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Reserve Champion Intermediate Male: Benleigh Ringleader, Blue Grass Alpacas, A & J Mavros

Champion Intermediate Female: Shanbrooke Society Lass, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Reserve Champion Intermediate Female: Wyterrica Claudia, Wyterrica Alpacas, W Hart & R Delmenico

Champion Senior Male: Kingston Park Paragon, Kingston Park Alpacas, L Fisher & S Rainbow

Reserve Champion Senior Male: Shanbrooke Elite, Swan Valley Alpacas, R & R Reid

Champion Senior Female: Purumbete Compass Rose, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Reserve Champion Senior Female: Jolimont Azzurra, The Gorge Alpacas, J Bird

Supreme Champion Alpaca: Shanbrooke High Society, Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, D & R Condon

Champion Fleece: Benleigh Highland Lass, Cedar House Alpacas, W Billington & P Sultan

Reserve Champion Fleece: Shanbrooke Elite, Swan Valley Alpacas, R & R Reid



Alpaca Show and Sale

ANOTHER EXCELLENT SALE

Cedar House Kingston, champion suri at the National Classic Show, brought the top sale price of \$48,000.

Lot 8, Purrumbete Angel Face, sold with her cria, Messmate White Mahogany, brought \$40,000.

Total sale proceeds were a very pleasing \$363,700 with an average price of \$27,985 per lot sold.

There was big news prior to the sale, too, when an offer of \$190,000 was accepted by Diane and Ron Condon of Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud for the Supreme Champion of the National Classic Show, Shanbrooke Society Lass. The purchaser was Julie Mavros, Blue Grass Alpacas.



Purrumbete Angel Face and Messmate White Mahogany were sold to Chic and Jo Wilson of Noosa Alpacas for \$40,000. Vendors were John and Jo Freudenstein of Messmate Alpacas.



Sealed with a kiss!

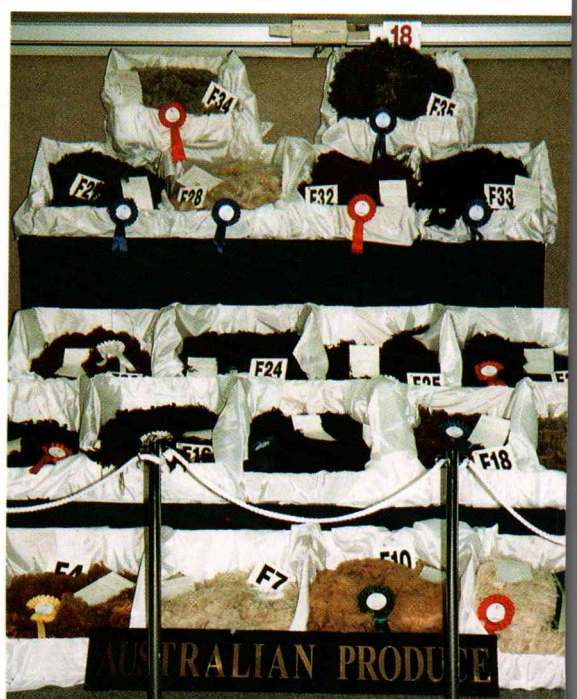
Vendor, Wendy Billington congratulates Jack Hollinger of Bella Vista Alpacas on the purchase of National Sale Champion Suri, Cedar House Kingston.

The National Classic Show and Sale took place on Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 November at the Exhibition Pavilion, Panthers in Penrith, New South Wales.

The show attracted 224 animal entries (including 25 suris) and 28 fleeces.

Judges were Bill Robbins (huacaya), Roger Haldane (suris) with Keith Barnett judging the fleece entries, assisted by Geoff Lenehan.

The auction was conducted by Wesfarmers Dalgety.



SPECIAL FEATURE

Queensland MOVING AHEAD!

1997 ROYAL SHOW a first for alpacas

.....
by Camilla Smith

*A number of breeders
travelled hundreds of
kilometres to give the
industry a great showing
at the Queensland Royal.*

After serving what we termed 'our apprenticeship' at the Nambour, Beaudesert and Warwick Shows, and adopting the skills so professionally imparted to us by Carolyn Jinks and Diane Condon at a mock show weekend on the Sunshine Coast, we were confident that alpacas could make a big impact on patrons at the Royal Queensland Show.

As secretary of the Royal Show committee, I set out to pump alpaca enthusiasm through the veins of the most sceptical, to create a love affair that would warm the hearts of the show councillors and to place our alpacas alongside the best selection of champion animals presented in Queensland.

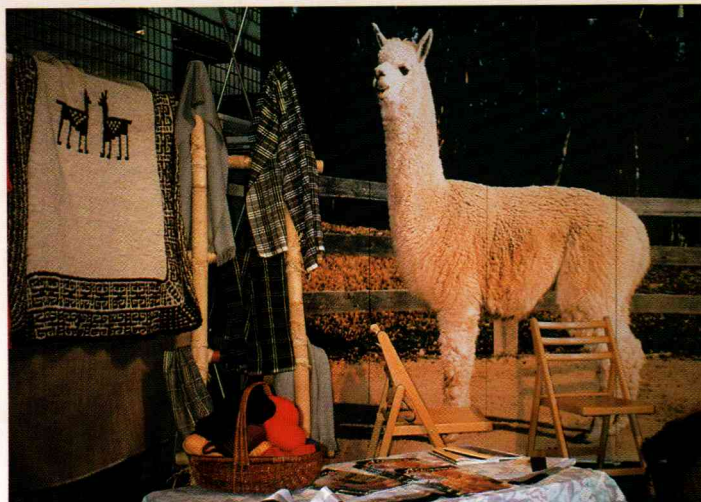
My aim was achieved, with breeders and agistors alike spending many hours over many months preparing their animals.

On Thursday 14 August, our dedicated exhibitors had risen early to travel from as far away as Gin Gin in the north and Armidale in the south to attend the first ever alpaca show and judging at the Royal Queensland Show. As I drove the relatively short distance to the show grounds from my city residence, I had the comfortable feeling that the pieces of the jigsaw were beginning to fall neatly into place.

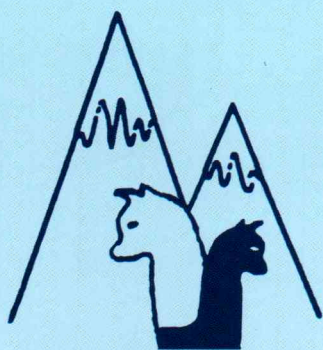
On arrival at our venue, I will never forget the sight – the aftermath of several days' use by dairy cattle exhibitors, and not an alpaca pen in sight! As our enthusiastic exhibitors arrived with our animals, I clung to one thought: 'If we don't quit now, we'll make it.'

Soon, a team of show employees moved into top gear with bobcat, brooms and a hose and a skilful team of pen erectors, with our exhibitors following hotly on their heels preparing their individual allocated pens.

The marketing and advertising skills of our members were put into practice and, before long, their planning presented us with a display to do us proud. Within two hours our jigsaw



*A section of the
alpaca industry
display at the
1997 Queensland
Royal Show.*

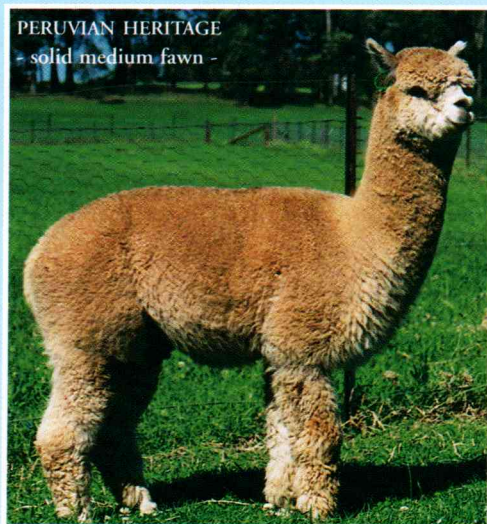


ALPACANDES ALPACAS

Your choice of outstanding *PROVEN* stud sires
Specialising in black & fawn

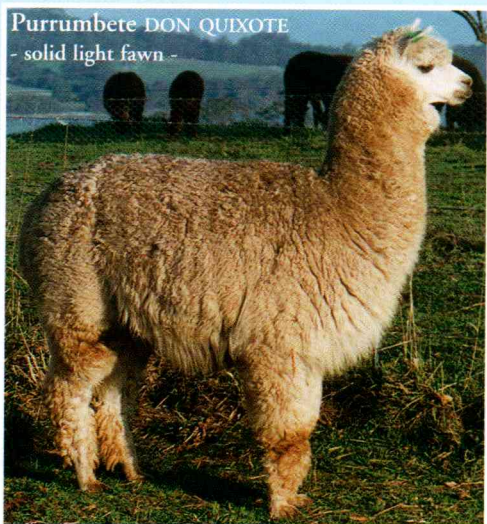
Mobile services – drive bys – on farm matings
Discounts for multiple bookings

PERUVIAN HERITAGE
- solid medium fawn -



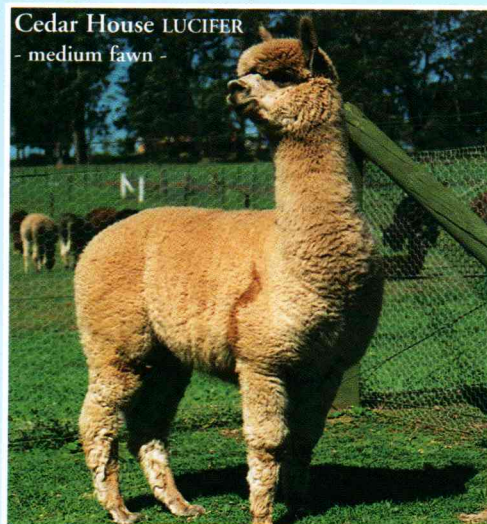
LUCIFER (son of the famous Purumbete Highlander) has stunning apricot fleece with beautiful character, density & lustre. His recent show results prove it – Champion Senior Fleece Sydney Royal '97, Champion Fleece Castle Hill '97, Supreme Champion Picton '97. His first cria on the ground are superb.

Purumbete DON QUIXOTE
- solid light fawn -



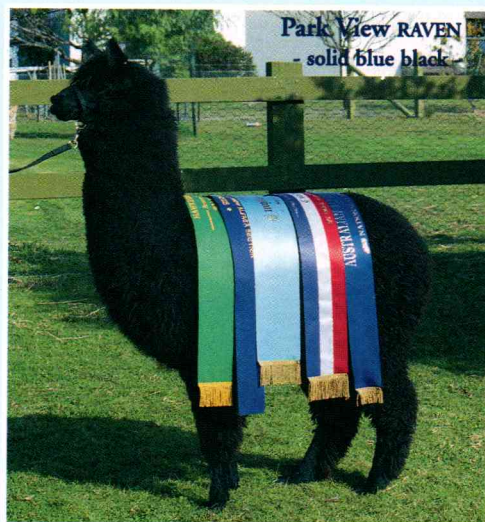
Now 3 years old, RAVEN still retains the beautiful soft, lustrous, crimp & dense fleece which has brought him numerous blue and Championship ribbons at shows up to National levels in '96 & '97. Watch for his first cria in the '98 show scene. You won't be disappointed.

Cedar House LUCIFER
- medium fawn -

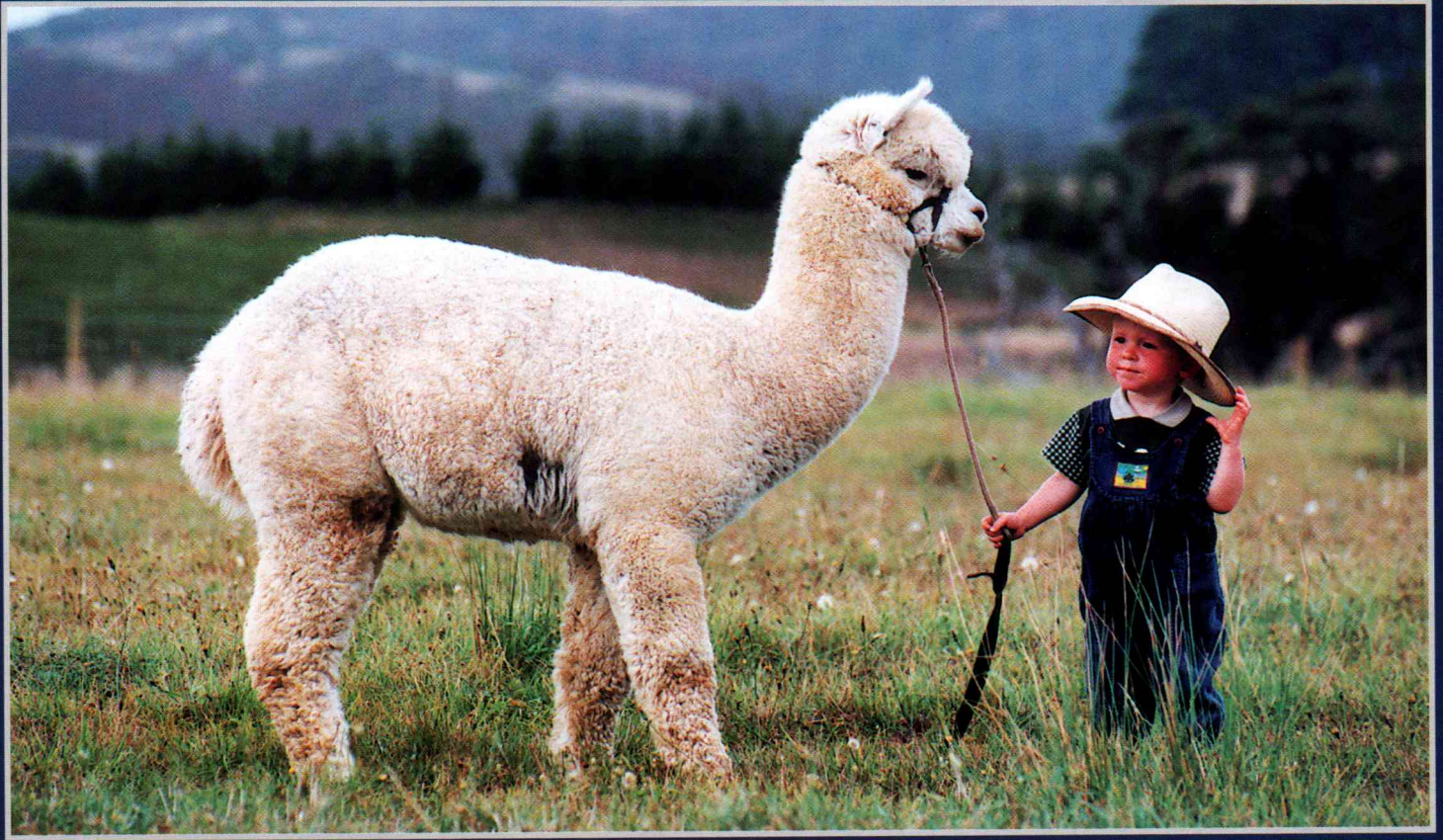


The legendary DON QUIXOTE needs little introduction. His outstanding fleece qualities can still be seen in his offspring, proving that at a regal 14 years of age he continues to impress.

Park View RAVEN
- solid blue black -



Generations of selective Peruvian breeding meet our future



Photograph courtesy of The Advertiser

From Barreda's renowned Accoyo herd,
Peruvian Auzengate
has arrived in Australia.

His dense and crimped adult fleece tested at a low 19.5 microns (SD 4.5)

Peruvian Auzengate was the No 1 selection
from the Peruvian importation to the USA in 1995

Peruvian breeding excellence!

Standing at stud at Ambersun Alpacas (Mt Compass, SA)
for Fine Choice Alpaca Sires

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Fine
CHOICE
ALPACA SIRES

was complete with show patrons enjoying the spectacle.

Day two saw nervous tension rise as owners completed the final preparation of 52 animals for the presentation of nine classes to our well-respected and very experienced judge from Forbes in NSW, Mr Kevin Ruby.

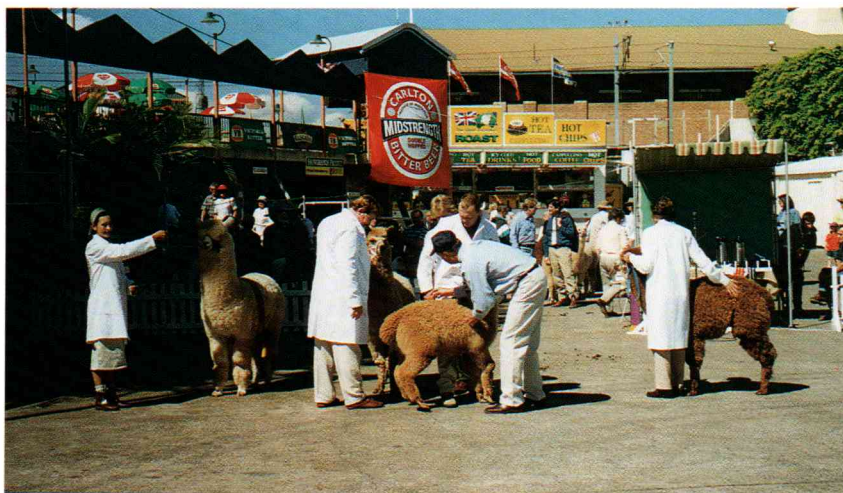
Kevin directed his comments towards the betterment of the industry and, after skilfully completing his task, achieved the selection of champions that won the applause of all concerned.

The Champion Male trophy was presented to a very distinguished Purumbete Warrior, owned by Guy Pounder with the Champion Female going to a very attractive Queenslander (born and bred), Wandamana Acorn owned by C. and G. Morsby.

The media's involvement, bringing film clips of the alpacas to the public in various evening news programs certainly encouraged show goers to pay us a visit and, with our rural newspapers also giving excellent coverage, made sure non-attenders knew who we were!

On the third and final day of our attendance at the show, a shearing demonstration attracted a large crowd.

Much of our success was due to the assistance given by a number of people. They include the Association's general manager, David Johnson; National Office staff for their help with display material; Shelley O'Brien (whose artistic abilities



Judging the senior males at Royal Queensland Show.

personalised our trophies); Chris Humphries for his uniquely sculptured trophies; our corporate sponsors and Queensland and interstate studs whose monetary contributions buoyed our enthusiasm and paved our future. Special thanks to Brian Keown and Glen Dunn from the Royal Queensland Show Association without whose expertise none of this could have happened.

As our very first Royal Show drew to a close, it was generally felt that we had successfully completed our apprenticeships. We have no doubt that our ongoing participation in the Show will greatly assist our aim of promoting the Queensland alpaca industry. Roll on 1998!

ALPACAS IN QUEENSLAND: a vet's perspective



Andrew Paxton-Hall at work at Rosemount Alpaca Stud, with owner George Rose and Champagne Charlie.

by Andrew Paxton Hall BVSc

Following on from my discussion paper presented at the Association's Industry Seminar on the Gold Coast in 1996, I am pleased to report that the Queensland alpaca herd continues to thrive. Many studs have now been established for three full seasons and numbers continue to grow.

Whilst the learning curve has been steep for both producer and vet, most people now feel confident about what they are doing with their alpacas. This confidence in the industry and the local natural environment has led many people with animals agisted in southern states to bring them 'home'.

From a vet's point of view, the level

of animal husbandry practised by owners is exceptionally high. The thirst for knowledge is still displayed by high attendance levels at numerous field days (which also helps to keep the vets on their toes!).

The use of plasma, ultrasound and other medical techniques are now commonplace.

Unfortunately, a serious negative myth about Queensland's so-called greater potential for heat stress continues to be raised. I would emphasise that this is not the case. With 80 per cent of the Queensland herd located in the south-east corner of the State (approximately 600 km from the

KINGSTON PARK ALPACAS

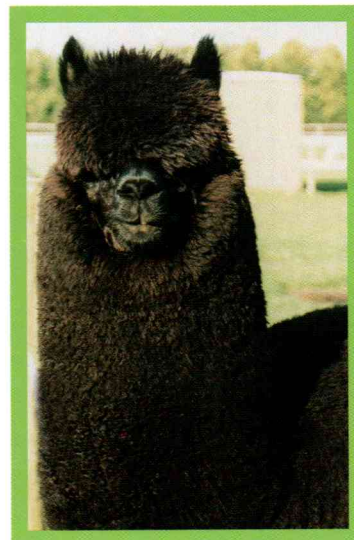
— **Breeders of Champions** —

Present their latest Champion

HE'S



Courtesy of the Weekly Times



HE'S

BEAUTIFUL

HE'S PARAGON

Density, Lustre, Handle, Conformation, Coverage - **HE'S GOT THE LOT!**

AT 17 MONTHS OF AGE - Winner of 5 Supreme Championships
5 Junior Championships (including 1996 National Classic Show)
3 Intermediate Championships

HIS LATEST ACHIEVEMENT - Supreme Champion at the 1997 Melbourne Sheep and Wool Show

Bookings are now being taken for this stunning young male

CONTACT

Lyla Fisher & Suzanne Rainbow
Telephone/Fax (03) 5998 5245
Mobile 015 884 174

Tropic of Capricorn), incidences of heat stress continue to be very isolated. My veterinary practice has not had to treat a single case. Queensland breeders, like most of their southern colleagues, recognise this potential problem and deal with it with sensible husbandry procedures: shade and access to water. In fact, there are alpacas living happily in a number of areas in our tropical north!

Soil and grass types generally experienced in our area appear to suit the alpaca well. However, with most animals living in a geographical region known as 'The Morton Region' which has very changeable soil types, I always recommend soil testing as a basic starting point. Nevertheless, trace element deficiencies are not common, so supplementation is generally not required. Furthermore, our abundance of sunlight means that Vitamin D/Calcium/Phosphorous problems are rarely encountered. In my experience, only

animals that have spent time (and possibly had cria) in southern states in early autumn/winter and then returned north by early spring have required Vitamin D injections.

Similarly, Sporidesmin is of little importance in this State. I have seen this condition clinically only in animals recently arrived from New South Wales where Sporidesmin had been a problem. These cases were severe, due possibly to animals being exposed to our longer hours of sunlight prior to being placed in shaded areas.

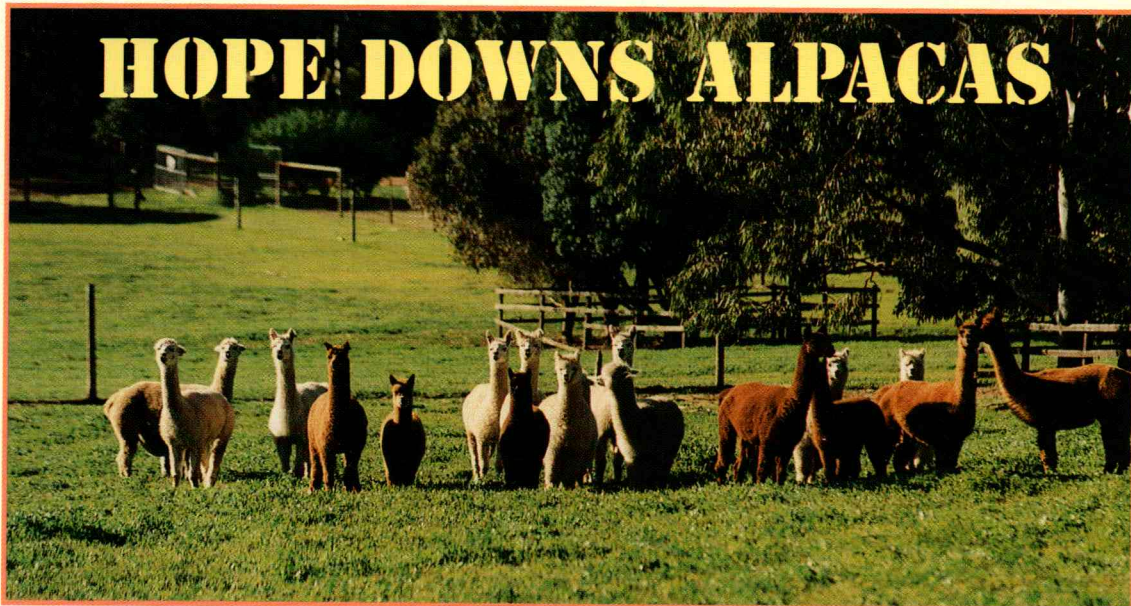
Queensland can experience electrical storms that can be a problem, causing stress to females late in gestation. This has largely been solved by timing the birth of cria away from summer – with the added advantage of cria being born in the cooler months.

Paralysis ticks continue to be a threat to many of our herds, depending on their location. Fortunately, the use of either Cydectin or Dectomax

seems to have solved this problem for now. To date, the only animals I have had to treat for tick paralysis are those that had not been given either of these products.

Johne's disease in Queensland appears to be under control at present. Outbreaks on two properties on the Sunshine Coast in 1995 are still the only reported cases in alpacas. Animals from these properties are awaiting final faecal culture results prior to the lifting of quarantine restrictions.

Many breeders continue to carry out their own Johne's testing voluntarily as there are no actual requirements for them to do so. The Department of Primary Industries hopes that, in the not too distant future, there may be a case for Queensland as a state to proceed towards a certified free status. Such a clearance would certainly be another positive influence on the already bright future of our Queensland alpaca herd.



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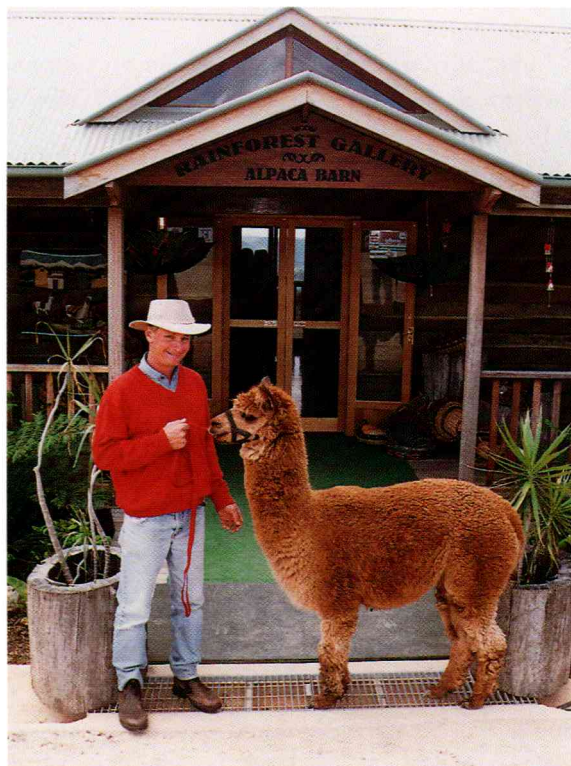


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Bullsbrook WA 6084

ART & ALPACAS

by Lyn Henry
Rosemount Alpaca Stud



When George Rose purchased a picturesque 80 hectare property on Lamington Plateau in Queensland, it seemed that a lifelong dream to own a working property was becoming a reality.

George's wife, Loy is a talented potter. She had always wanted to have a gallery, not only to showcase her own work, but also that of other artists whom she admired.

Within four years, George and Loy successfully developed Rainforest

Gallery in conjunction with Rosemount Alpaca Stud and Barn.

Loy has a wonderful range of her own work on display, including raku pottery, bowls, mugs, teapots and canisters. The most popular are pieces depicting stylised alpacas in soft green, blue and earth colour glazes.

The high quality of art and photographic work, pottery, sculpture, embroidery, glassware, woodwork and silver jewellery has a strong rain forest theme reflecting the colour, mood and

mystery of the adjacent forest. Many pieces of art and craft are exclusive to the gallery and the entire range is proudly Australian.

There is also an extensive section of Australian alpaca knitwear from Darfield along with other Australian designer garments from Longreach Stuga, Lesley Ross, Coolaroo and The Alpaca Centre. Local spinner and knitter, Romy Anders provided a popular range of vests, scarves and beanies during winter.

'We want to encourage other local spinners, weavers and knitters to use Rosemount alpaca in their garments. We have several spinning days planned to promote alpaca and its wonderful qualities as a craft medium,' Loy commented.

'One of the most common requests is for handspun, hand knitted garments from our alpacas. In the future we hope we will be able to more than meet the demand.

'Our aim is to develop and produce advanced fleece from our alpacas that can be processed into the softest, silkiest garments with that superb alpaca handle and drape.'



Inside the Rainforest Gallery, Loy Rose (right) and visitors.

Loy's wish-list includes a bush studio where workshops and potters' weekends can be held and where a host of other creative ideas can be brought to fruition. On the agenda, too, is a coffee shop. The gallery is proving to be a popular spot with day trippers, holiday makers and international travellers en route to the Green Mountains in the Lamington National Park.

Rosemount Alpaca Stud has also been busy these last few months. In

August, it played host to Coolaroo's Elite Alpaca Production workshops attended by over 40 breeders as well as a good number of people who were looking to join the alpaca industry.

Along with Dr Jim Watts, Dr Paul Swan co-ordinator of the WRIST (Wool and Rural Industries Skill Training Centre) Fibre to Fabric Training Program, was a keynote speaker. He spoke of the requirements of the textile industry and the continuing

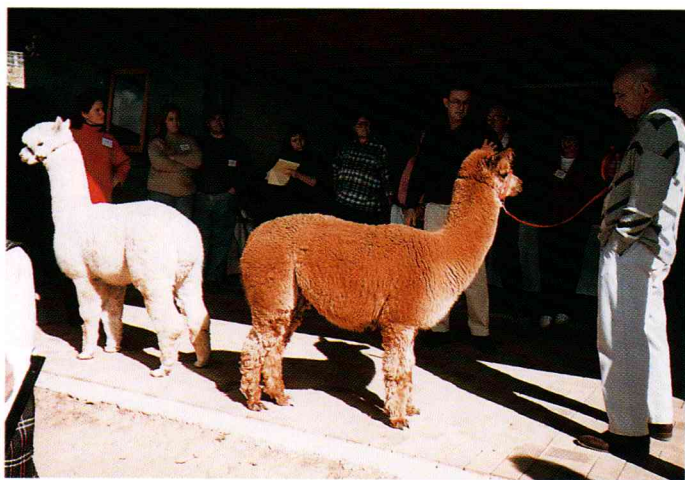
challengers for breeders to meet the standards required by fibre processors.

Rosemount has also instituted a mobile mating service using Purumbete Waratah and Purumbete Son of the Sun.

Both animals have progeny being prepared for next year's NSW show circuit, including Sydney's Royal Easter Show. George Rose and Stud Manager, Nick Henry (pictured at left) will operate the service.

The property is situated half an hour from Canungra on Lamington National Park Road. Overlooking Pine Creek Valley, Mount Tamborine and right through to North Stradbroke Island and the ocean, the view is breathtaking from both the Gallery and Rosemount Alpaca Stud.

The gallery is open every day from 9.30 am and, for those wishing to also tour the alpaca stud, a phone call to Rosemount on (07) 5544 0106 will set up an appointment.



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Coming just two weeks after the Royal Brisbane Show, we crossed our fingers that our alpaca numbers would be good for our first Gold Coast Show. We needn't have worried! Forty-seven animals were shown in eleven classes on a superb Show Day. Record crowds showed up over the three days of the Show and breeders spent all their spare time talking with interested visitors.

Entries came from as far south as Tenter Field and as far north as Gin Gin and our eight Gold Coast hinterland studs were also very well represented.

Judging was undertaken by Lyn Dickson who showed great stamina, flying up to the Gold Coast after only just returning from overseas. The excellent job she did was greatly appreciated by everyone.

~ Gold Coast Show ~

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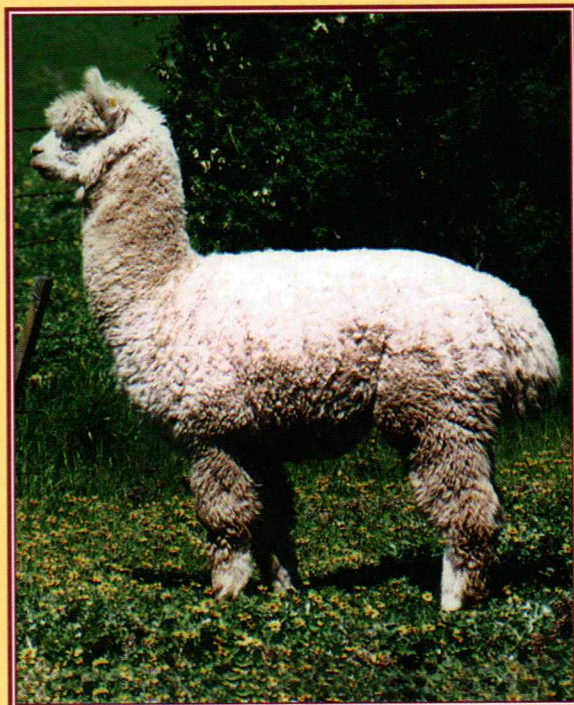
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You've tried the rest now try the best.

South Queensland and Northern NSW regions are already planning for next year, which we hope will be even better. Thanks to everyone who made it such a great success.

MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS

Champion Multi: Majestic Star of Cordillo, J Weatherhead

Champion Male: Purumbete Warrior, G. Pounder

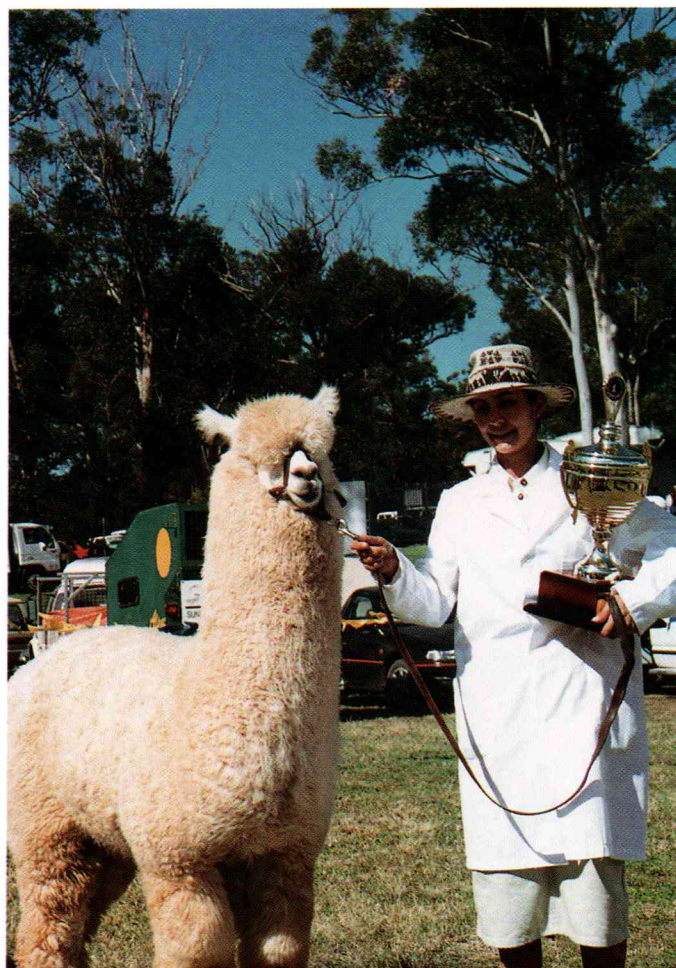
Reserve Champion Male: Shambara Beaumont, G Pounder

Champion Female: Parrakoola Contessa, M & J Daley

Reserve Champion Female: Starwood Sugar Frost,

R & W Summerell

Supreme Champion: Purumbete Warrior.



*Right: Chief Steward,
Camilla Smith (left) with
Goald Coast Show Judge,
Lyn Dickson.*

*Far right: Nicky Brand
with Supreme Champion,
Purumbete Warrior.*



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'Stone the bloomin' crows!
There's mugs down there I never saw
At all, in these 'ere parts before
I'd better 'ave a squizz!'



'All right, you lot below!
I'm coming down – and I'm real mean
A star of Jimmy Shand's old team
I'll show you all what for!'



'Look out, I'm almost there!
I'd nick off while the going's good
Or take the chance I'll spill some blood
You're dealin' with a champ!



'Bigger than I thought!
I'm much too old to pick a fight
(I wonder if the buggers bite?)
I think the game is up.'



'Things is gettin' grim!
You let me go, you bully boys
And stop that nasty orglin' noise
I got me rights, you know!'



'Don't you mess with me!
You ain't no match for Aussie folk
It's just good luck no bones were broke
You long necked gits! I'm free!!

with many thanks to Philippa Ernst for a superb set of photographs.

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The twins just after birth - Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. The alpaca with the bandaged leg, Cuddlepie on the left, had difficulty feeding and weighed only 4.3 kilograms.



The twins at 3 1/2 months - Cuddlepie weighs 16 kgs and Snugglepot 24 kgs- with Di-Vetelact being a major factor in their thriving good health



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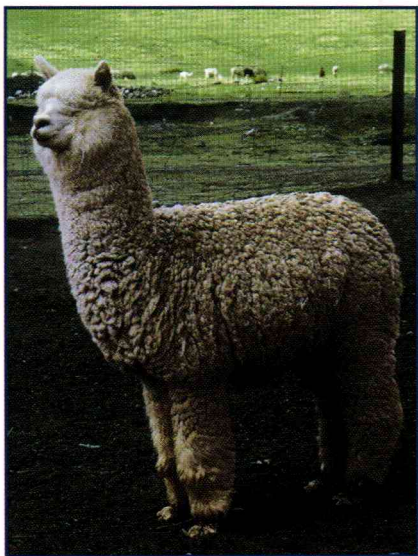
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.....
by Trudi Barnett

*There's nothing as
enjoyable as working
with close friends
during South Australian
Field Days*



I absolutely love alpaca promoting – spreading the word about our wonderful industry to new faces. We have been in the business of opening new hearts to alpacas for the last six-and-a-half years. Our passion never wavers and our interest constantly expands.

This year, as part of the South Australian Field Days, we asked a number of our clients (mostly those who had bought alpacas from us over the past five years) to combine as a group. All those we asked had already indicated that they had animals they could sell.

One of the keys to promoting our event was to hand out flyers and insert a full colour advert in *Australia's Exotic News* for the Royal Adelaide Show. Judy and Trevor Pfeiffer of Serenity

Park Alpaca Stud designed and printed up the flyers and they were handed out by Darren and Annemarie O'Connor of Murray View Alpacas. Annemarie and Darren had hired a stand in the Farming for the Future tent for the ten days of the show. They gave out our field day flyers on behalf of all of us, testimony to true promoters, showcasing the industry as a whole. They were the only representatives of SA alpacas with a stand at the Show.

Lea Richens from the very active group of mid-North breeders was kind enough to give us some promotional leaflets the group had produced for their field day, another example of two groups helping each other in a positive way.

I found it was a major job to co-ordinate this affair and I've learnt a lot for future events through trial and error. Eventually, ten studs combined at one central location at Hahndorf Oval in the Adelaide Hills. I certainly could not cope with any more than a dozen studs and, judging by what our visitors had to say, more studs would have been less intimate and friendly. It was magnificent. All the studs worked so hard on and before the day and their efforts were well rewarded.

We had hired an enormous marquee which ripped, unfortunately, whilst being put up – and then fell



down! So we ended up with a smaller substitute that we couldn't all fit into. We decided to take pot luck with the weather and set up outside. It was the best thing we could have done. Each breeder had a ten foot square pen and set up quite some distance apart from his/her neighbour. Visitors wandered through looking at the penned alpacas in a leisurely manner, without feeling cramped and, perhaps, reticent about asking questions in confined areas.

Our pens were made from panels that we were able to hire from our region. Marlene and Peter Thoday of Bimbimbie Alpaca Stud, with the help of Jim and Helen Richardson of Cherryvale Alpacas collected all the panels we needed from the recent Strathalbyn Show and then transported them all the way to our event – a huge task.

Marion and Barrie Mills of Hildalwood Hof stud were responsible for making a beautiful sign which they positioned at the oval a week before the event. There was a suggestion that we put a sandwich board on Barrie and send him down to the tourist-teaming township of Hahndorf to attract the punters. Maybe another time!

I'm a firm believer in on-farm promotion, but in this case it just wasn't

an option. We wanted everyone to be on the same footing, on neutral ground with no one stud appearing to be at an advantage.

The secret of making everyone happy on the day is fairness, in all respects. We found that giving everyone an equal opportunity made for a cohesive, happy working group.

Comments from members of the public suggested that they thought our industry represented a wonderfully convivial group. We displayed our friendship as much as we displayed our alpacas.

That's another essential ingredient. We are all good friends; all eager for each other to do well and happy to help those who are shy promoters of their own stock. It was wonderful to be able to direct onlookers' glances towards our neighbour's pen and talk about the sires we all use and the awards recently won. We certainly had plenty of interested buyers on the day – far more, in fact, than we anticipated. Not just one stud, but all ten, had firm enquiries which we believe will most definitely result in sales.

The other benefit of taking our product to the core of the public gallery in the central Adelaide Hills was that we were able to hand out leaflets to direct people to the other

studs open around us. This worked very well because visitors were able to visit many more studs than they had expected. Kerry Porter of Yacka Ridge Alpacas even left her husband, Jolyon at home to open their own stud.

We pooled enormous amounts of food. The broadacre farms provided big eskies full of farm produced meat and many salads, cakes and all the usual trimmings were given out free to visitors. Wally and Vicky Faber of Shantas Alpaca Farm brought a huge BBQ and Wally put on the chef's hat for most of the day.

Our shearing displays performed by Keith Barnett were a big drawcard. Also, our huge stripey tent with a felter/spinner, garments and alpaca-related products on view worked well.

A display of goods produced by the Australian Alpaca Co-operative attracted much attention. A Pro-Ag consultant was on hand to advise on soil and animal nutrition. There was also a pen of suris, courtesy Paul Carney of Adsail Alpacas.

Our studs came from as far as Mt Gambier – a five hour drive for Peter Close of Jojay Alpacas – and Robe (Dean and Kerry Burgoyne, Kyimba Alpaca Stud).

I have a whole host of new ideas for future similar events and, as for promoting with ten again, it's just going to get better (but not bigger, I hope!).

If you haven't already tried combining with your fellow breeders, then try it. It is worth the effort, I promise. The rewards of a good marketing experience linger and leave all participants with a sense of achievement and renewed energy. For me, there's nothing as enjoyable as working with close friends towards the goal of highlighting our alpacas.

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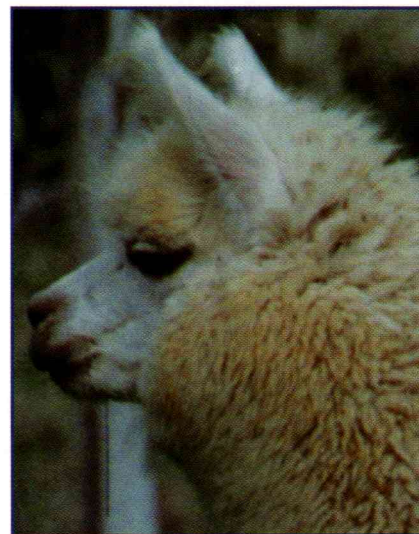
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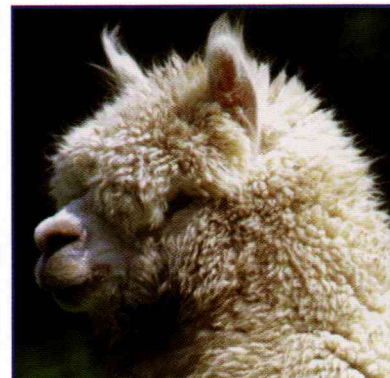
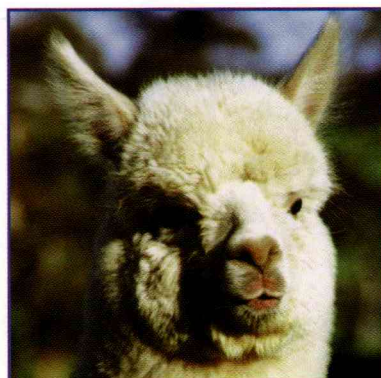
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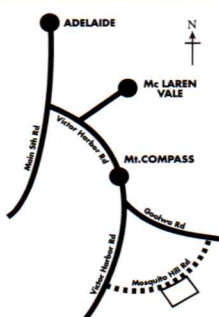
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South Australia

Tulip Time Alpaca Fair

The morning of Saturday 4 October broke into a beautiful spring Southern Highlands day, in time for the Southern NSW region to hold their Alpaca Fair for the second year running.

A number of interesting additions to this year's fair drew attendance from both the public and breeders from throughout the State.

Sue-Ellen Lovett, a visually impaired equestrian on a marathon ride from Melbourne to Sydney, was welcomed with rousing applause by fair-goers for our official opening at 11 am. The region was again raising money for charity. Through the raffling of two wethers and donations of the entry fee into the Fair, the region raised the sum of \$4,000 to be equally divided between Barnardos Find a Family and Rides 200, Paralympics Games, Sydney 2000.

The Fair was also the venue for the staging of the first 'silent auction', sponsored by Aerolineas Argentinas, which donated two free return tickets to Buenos Aires. (The airline is one of the few to fly direct from Sydney to South America.) The top selling lot, from Karama Alpaca Stud brought \$19,000.

Merchandisers reported excellent trade throughout the weekend and visitors took the opportunity to acquire hands-



on experience with basic management and husbandry demonstrated by experienced local breeders.

There was also a stunning line-up of stud males for our Sires Parade that was held on both days of the fair.

Our seminar room was full for 'How to build an alpaca business' presented by Wendy Billington and Pauline Nelson and 'Basic alpaca care' by vet, Andrew O'Shea.

A fun social dinner was held on Saturday night at Annesley House in Bowral. Attendance was excellent and the auction of alpaca novelties, services and merchandise raised over \$9,000 to help fund ongoing regional promotions.

What would we do without our sponsors! Thanks to Alawah, Biolac, Hidden Valley, Paddington, Wollondilly, Andeela Graphics, Cedar House, Illawarra, Roskill, Zanthorea Syndicate, Avis Rental, Coolaroo, Longreach Wools, Tapitalee, Alan Aynsley, Heathray, Octagon Star and Wyona.

Never too old to raise a family

It all began on a clear, sunny winter's day three years ago, as we ate lunch and watched the boats bobbing on sparkling Pittwater. We were celebrating my Aunt Eunice's 85th birthday and the conversation turned to my planned purchase of a pregnant female – alpaca, of course!

Aunty Eun decided, after some thought, that it would be a fun thing for her to do, too; a more interesting investment than stocks and shares.

Several weeks later, with great excitement, we were choosing our girls from a large herd in the highlands. Eunice fell in love with a fine dark grey female, Catalina. She had a long swan-like neck, deep liquid eyes and there was an obvious mutual attachment.

Five months after purchase, Catalina produced a beautiful mid-grey female cria, named Chiquita, who grew into a lovely maiden. She was mated to a

Peruvian and, eleven months later, gave birth to a fine 'beefy' fawn cria – female, of course! Meantime, Catalina had been re-mated and produced a lively and unique rose grey suri – *another* female, of course.

Eunice (now 88) and her 80-year-old sister, Madge (who spins and knits alpaca) have been seen at national and local shows, choosing suitable suitors for her girls and even taking an active part in halter training. During bridge competitions, Aunty Eun is often asked, 'How is your family?' or 'When is your baby due?'

Catalina has just given birth to her third cria – grey, dense and crimp and very cute. There is something not quite the same with the 'plumbing' this time but he is a very welcome addition to a family which has brought us all a great deal of amusement and joy – alpacas, of course!

**by Susie Clark,
Chachani Alpacas**



Aunt Eunice with her newest baby, Catalina's latest cria, Silver Cloud.

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Jan Salter, Wildwood Alpacas

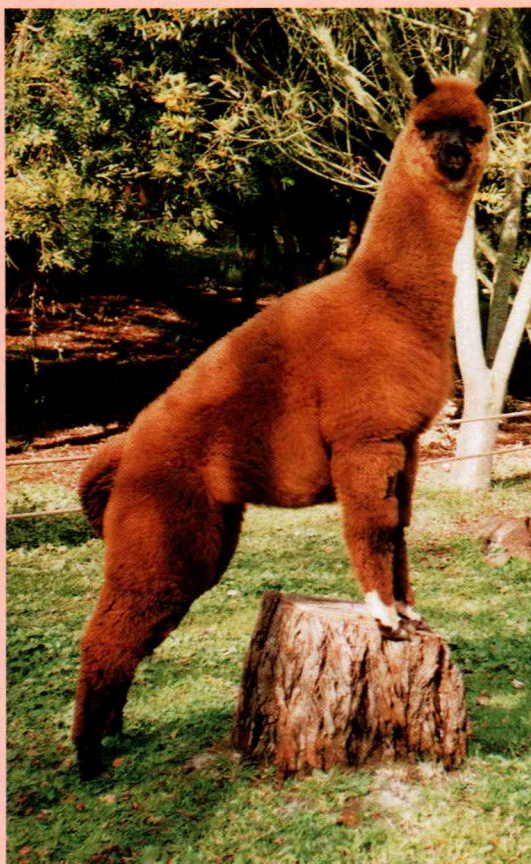
Keep sending in your Paca Pics. The Pick of the Pack winner receives \$50.00 with the compliments of the Association.

Remember, too, there's \$150 for the contributor of a picture used on our front cover... so go to it, all you shutterbugs!



'I'm all set to go - where's that doggone sleigh!'

Sue Maynard, Gunnamatta Stud



'I'm king of the castle!'
Mike Nichols, Dynasty Alpacas



'Take your partners for the next dance.'
Susie Clark, Chatswood NSW



'What's going on out there?!'
Jeanne Brown, Alleena Alpaca Stud



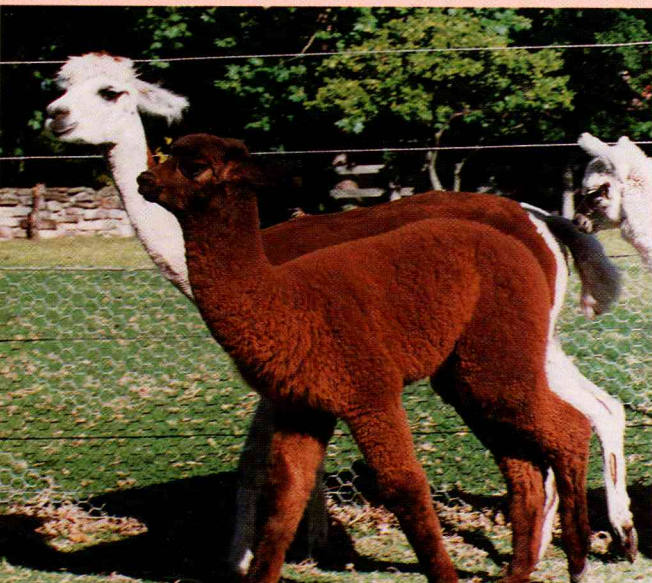
'...and if you've dumped me for that new little blonde, you're *dead meat!*'
Photo Elizabeth Paul, courtesy Greenvale Alpacas



'I keep telling you: "Eat your pellets and you will grow *this* big!"'
Michelle Liptak, Tangilly Alpacas



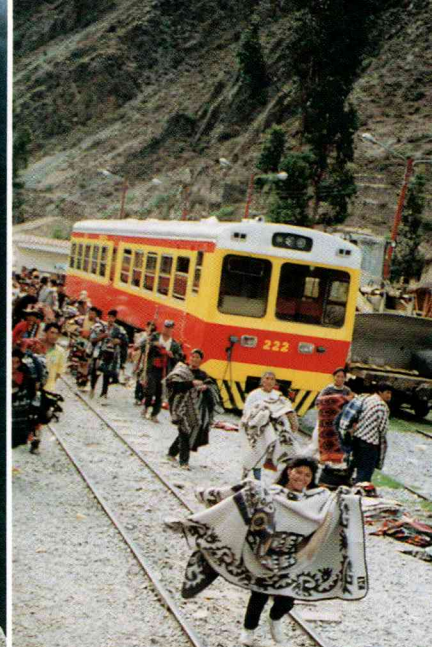
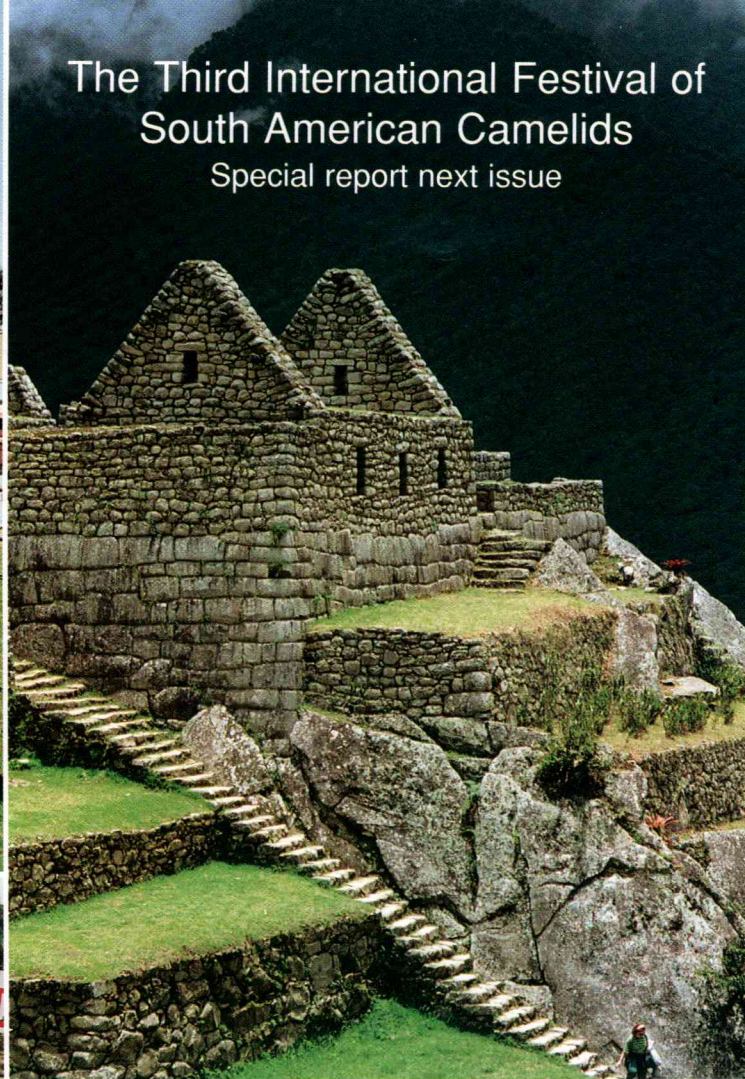
Santa's Little Helper
Kevin and Catherine Mead, Koorana Park Alpacas



'The young lads are so *bold* these days. Just ignore him.'
Susie Clark, Chachani Alpacas

The Third International Festival of South American Camelids

Special report next issue



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When is a sheep not a sheep?

.....
**by Peter Nicolas,
Convenor of the
1997 AAA Royal
Melbourne Show
Committee**

The answer, of course, is 'when it is an alpaca'. The alpaca holds the singular honour of being the first non-sheep ever to have been chosen as featured breed in the sheep section of the Royal Melbourne Show.

Peter Nicolas who was instrumental in setting up the first regional alpaca show for Victorian Central Region, was convenor of the Association's Show committee. Choosing people whose skills he needed, Peter ended up with a committee that was fairly representative of Victorian regions: Lyla Fisher and Bill Plunkett from Eastern Region, Pauline Witham from Western, and Michael Brennan and Sandi Keane from Central. Jude Anderson and Kay Cleaver were seconded (Kay remains on the Committee for next year) and AAA general manager, David Johnson also worked with the group.

Meetings were held fortnightly – full-on 9 to 5 sessions. The committee aimed to create events that would catch the eyes and minds of the public and to expose 'dyed-in-the-wool' tradi-

tional people to this 'new' product, alpaca fibre.

According to Peter, the choice of the alpaca as featured breed highlights the respect alpacas now command among leaders of the livestock industry. It was therefore extremely important that what was presented at the Royal Melbourne Show provided a professional environment within which industry members could present themselves and their animals.

The alpacas were housed in the VACC pavilion. By some shrewd wheeling and dealing, Peter managed to get the entire area including the show ring, free and clear for alpacas during the three days of alpaca presence.

The whole area was set up to resemble a market or bazaar. Trade displays were interspersed between the penned animals so that visitors were constantly greeted with new sights as they made their way through the pavilion. Fleece and animal judging took place on Friday 26 September. On Saturday and Sunday, visitors were treated to a busy program of displays and other events. The ever popular 'shear to scarf' demonstration showed the full fibre process shearing, spinning and knitting; there were training demonstrations; Peter Sporle of Meskills Woolstore gave a talk on textiles and Bill Plunkett covered fleece preparation; there were also junior and senior handlers competitions.

The committee decided to place much more focus on fibre this year and mounted a permanently floodlit display of fleeces. Visitors were eager to feel the fibre and to learn about alpaca from breeders.

In Centenary Hall, where the Association also had a stand, alpaca featured in fashion parades held each afternoon at midday and 3 pm for the duration of the Show. A catwalk flanked by containers of fleece was an



A Trio of Champions

From left: Shanbrooke High Society, Junior Champion Male; Shanbrooke Society Lass, Junior Champion Female and Supreme Champion Huacaya; Shanbrooke Enchanter Intermediate Champion Male.

Photo courtesy Stock and Land Newspaper.

interesting place to be – even when there were no parades taking place – as visitors took the opportunity to compare the feel of alpaca and sheep wool.

‘Not greasy like sheep’s wool...’; ‘Well, I think it’s miles softer than merino’; ‘It’ll never take the place of merino!’ ‘Oh, stop being so b——y conservative.’ was the gist of one reported conversation.

At a breakfast held in the VACC pavilion on the Saturday, the joint sponsorship of the Association by VACC Insurance and Wilburtins Insurance Brokers was officially launched. Already, as a result, the AAA has had constructed a superb display unit that presents alpacas as the rural industry of the future. The concept was developed by Jeff Gittus and his team at Active Display Group whose ingenuity ensured that costs were minimised. It was unveiled at the Show and featured prominently in the industry’s pavilion display.

And so to 1998. The results of the debriefing held after the Royal Melbourne will help make next year’s presentation even better. [Ed: We’ve just heard that Peter has been appointed to the RASV’s sheep committee – well done!]

Show results

Junior Champion Female: Shanbrooke Society Lass, D & R Condon

Reserve Junior Champion Female: Australian Centeno, G Brennan

Junior Champion Male: Shanbrooke High Society D & R Condon

Reserve Junior Champion Male: Highclere Winston, M Buck

Champion Intermediate Female: Carlingford Miss Polly, G & M Aldridge

Reserve Champion Intermediate Female: Burnigula Charlotte, F & J Calleja

Champion Intermediate Male: Shanbrooke Enchanger, I & K Court and D Goodall

Reserve Champion Intermediate Male: Purumbete Monarch D & R Condon

Senior Champion Female; Reserve Champion Senior Female: not awarded

Senior Champion Male: Kingston Park Paragon, L Fisher & S Rainbow

Reserve Senior Champion Male: Altamira Rshan, V Freger

Champion Wether: Pacific Patterson, T & D Oliver

Reserve Champion Wether: Galaxy, J & J Hill

Champion Suri: AS Traders Fortune’s Choice, J Short & M Ruzicka

Reserve Champion Suri: Bella Vista Wendy, J & H Hollinger

Champion Fleece: Wyona Massai, A & K Caldwell

Reserve Champion Fleece: Parnabrae Brutus, Hahndorf Hills Alpacas

Supreme Champion Huacaya: Shanbrooke Society Lass, D & R Condon.

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Treat yourself to a a great read! There are some excellent books available from the Association, including the proceedings from the 1997 Sydney Industry Seminar. Turn the page, fill out an order and post it off today!

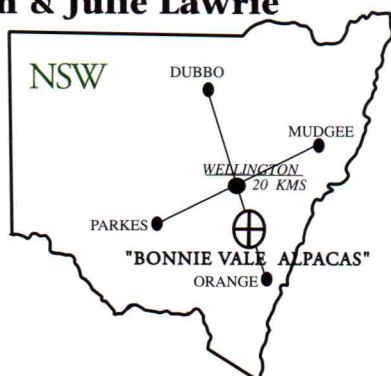


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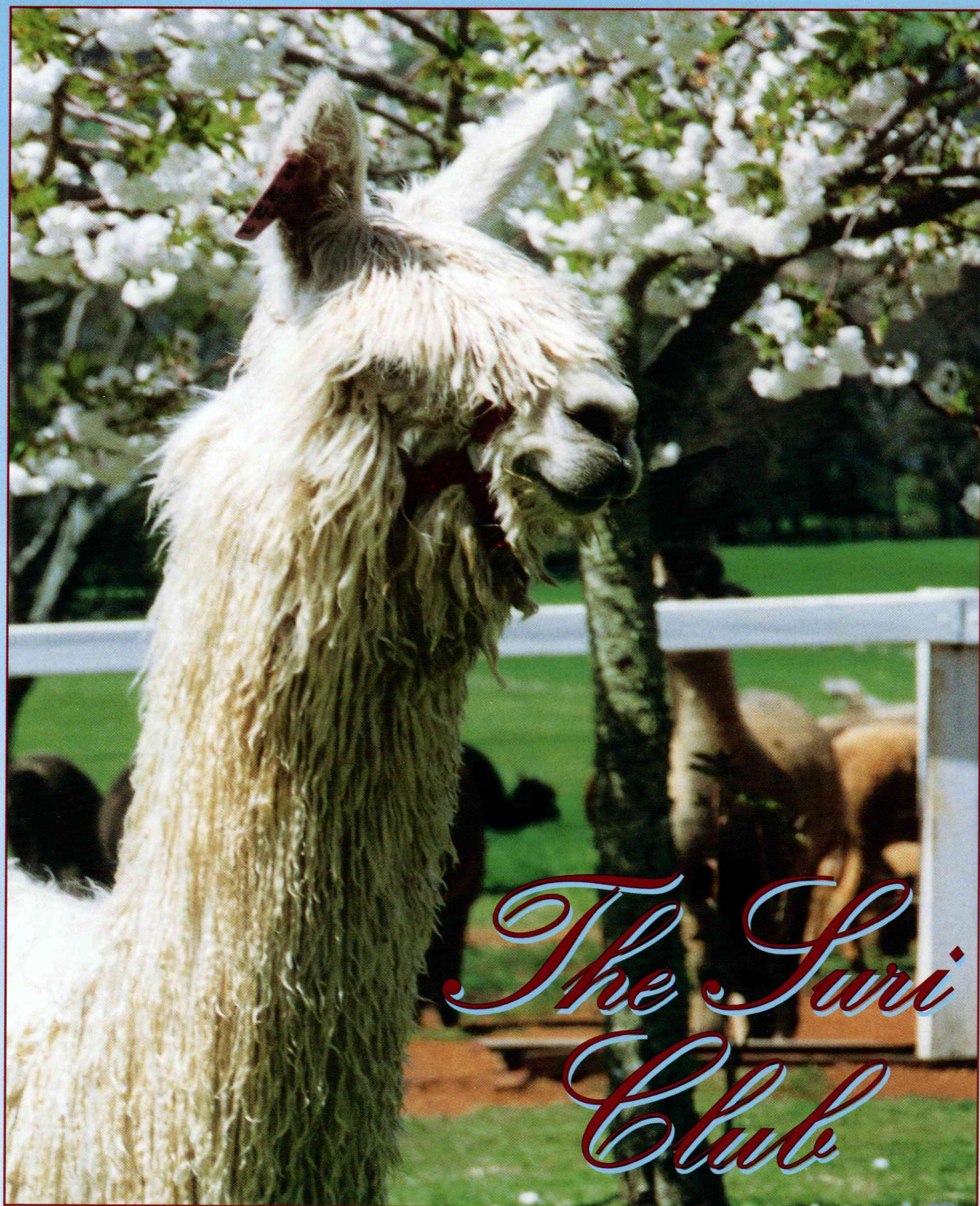
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