



ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

ISSUE 55 • AUTUMN 2008



Inside this issue:

World Alpaca Conference 2008 • Canberra and Sydney Royal Shows • Peru Fiesta



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REGULAR FEATURES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2 President's Message | 52 PacaPics | 55 Order Form |
| 3 Briefly Speaking | 54 Upcoming Events | 56 Advertising Details |
| 50 Business Card Directory | | |

EDUCATION

4 World Alpaca Conference 2008

Highlights with pictorial on pages 28 and 29

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

16 Giving Something Back

Australian vets travel to Peru to share knowledge of embryo transfer process

20 Alpacas as Guardians – A Study

Survey to gather data in order to determine the effectiveness of alpacas as herd protectors

30 Alpaca Owners' Feeding and Management Practices

An insight into alpaca owners' feeding practices

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

10 Winter Manage your Herd

Checklist

26 Cria Neck Band Collars

Cria identification

37 Efficacy of a Treatment to Produce Female Crias

Report on results obtained from a long-term trial

46 Poisonous Plant Profile

Climbing Plants

SHOWING AND JUDGING

12 Royal Sydney Show 2008

Highlights

15 Royal Canberra Show 2008

Highlights

18 Changes to Showing Procedures

Inspection procedure to follow when showing

40 Judging in Peru: A Great Experience

The first Australian invited to judge at the Peruvian Alpaca Fiesta

42 British Alpaca Futurity

Newbury Racecourse, February 2008

43 East German Alpaca Show

Burgstadt in Sachsen, October 2007

FLEECE

6 International Alpaca Fleece Show, Sydney 2008

Highlights and results

22 Alpaca: An Historical Perspective

Fibre production of South American camelids

39 Imminent Closure of Vital Wool Industry Infrastructure

Closure of the CSIRO scour in Geelong

FASHION

9 World Alpaca Conference 2008 Fashion Parade

Highlights

14 Royal Sydney Show 2008 Fashion Parade

Pictorial

MARKETING

44 Alpaca Month

Victorian Eastern Region conducts open farm days to promote alpacas in local region

INDUSTRY

27 Meat Withholding Periods in Alpacas

Guidelines

34 Peru Alpaca Fiesta 2007

Highlights

45 Sheer Wool Power

Egg producer hires alpacas to safeguard hens

COVER

Photograph by
Hayley Deeks
taken at the Royal
Sydney Show 2008
in the lead up to
the World Alpaca
Conference.
See page 12.



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ADVERTISERS

Alcazar Suri Stud	36
AAA Ltd National Show and Sale	18
Baarrooka	17
Bungllook Alpaca Farm	24
Camelid Health Supplies (Aust)	31
Coolaroo Alpaca Stud	3
Coricancha Alpaca Stud	inside back cover
Flowerdale Estate Alpacas	inside front cover
Glenhope Alpacas	25
Mariah Hill Alpaca Ranch	27
Tumi Alpacas	outside back cover
Windsong Valley Alpacas	19

A Message from the President

Even as I type these words, the dust is only just settling on what has been the most extraordinary two weeks for the Australian alpaca industry.

First, we had the International Alpaca Fleece Show, attracting a staggering 480 fleeces, drawn mostly from Australia, but with contributions from NZ, USA, Canada and UK, and judged by guest Canadian judge, Jill MacLeod, together with home-grown judge, Cameron Holt.

Second came the biggest ever showing in the Alpaca section of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with nearly 500 animals, drawn from every state of Australia, and again judged by Canadian Jill MacLeod.

Thirdly, were three days of farm visits to studs near and around Sydney, arranged for the benefit of overseas and interstate visitors attending the World Alpaca Conference, followed on the fourth day by a Harbour Cruise luncheon on an idyllic Sydney autumn afternoon.

Fourthly, we had the International Fleece Expo, a one day 'mini-conference' focussed on raising productivity within the alpaca industry, and concluding with the judges' summing up of the International Fleece Show.

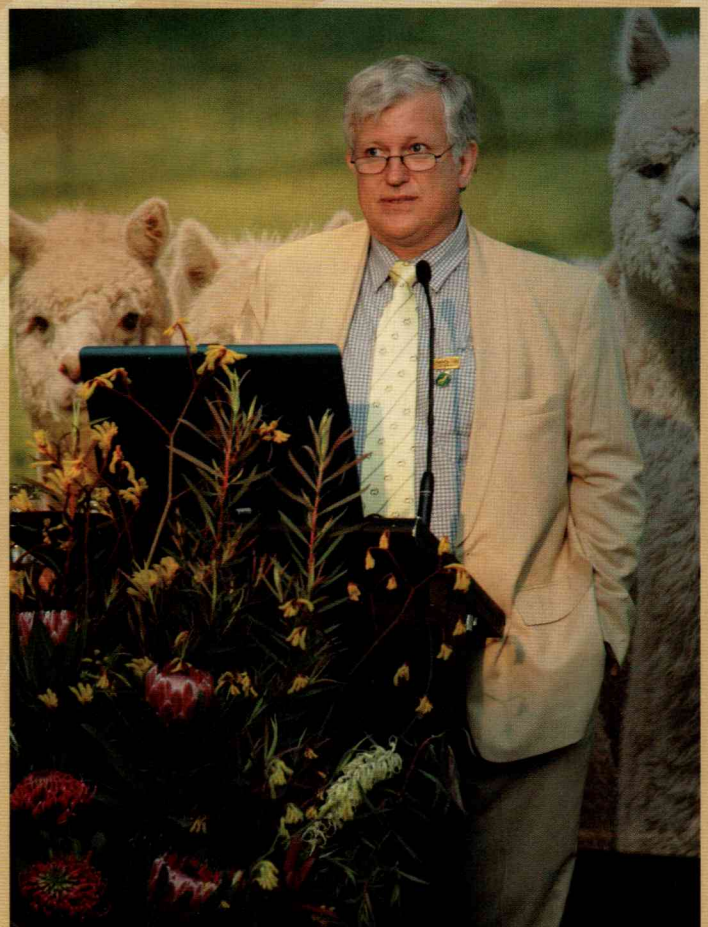
Finally, there followed the most exciting and stimulating two day alpaca conference yet presented in Australia, addressing all manner of topics, and presented by speakers of international renown. And it wasn't all work: the cocktail party and the Gala Dinner saw *Dockside* packed to the gunwales with local and overseas visitors ready to party! The conference can only be described in superlatives: vibrant topics, entertaining speakers, fabulous food, plenty of good wine, sensational entertainment, perfect venue, and great alpaca people drawn from all round the world. Like the Sydney Olympics, this was one event you wouldn't have missed for quids, and those who did will spend their lives rueing that decision. For the 400 who chose to be there, it will forever stand as a watershed in alpaca history, when Australia led the alpaca industry onto an international stage, and marked a new beginning in the world of alpacas. Already, the USA, Peru, the UK and NZ have raised their hands to host subsequent conferences, and all seven presidents of the national alpaca associations represented at the conference have agreed to confer on matters of common interest at those conferences.

There could be few who left *Dockside* without a reinvigorated sense of enthusiasm and excitement for the industry, a collection of business cards bearing the names of new friends and contacts, a notepad full of scribbled thoughts and ideas, and brooding a short list of plans for the future.

All members owe a huge vote of thanks to conference convenors, Heather and Phil Vickery, to fleece show convenors, Julie Bird and Lyn Dickson, to Sydney show convenor Paul Haslin, and to the loyal and diligent staff at the AAA office, for staging such a faultless and stimulating event, and pulling together such a world class performance in the face of doubt and uncertainty. Collectively, you have set a standard which will be hard to match for those associations who follow, and have done your own association proud.

Well done! to all those who contributed in any way to the success of the ten days. Australia has good reason to stand tall on the international alpaca stage. ■

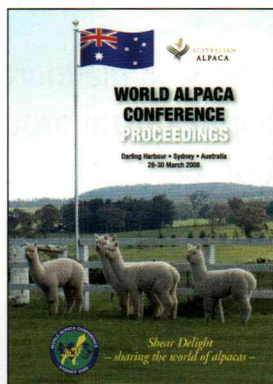
Dr Ian Davison, President



Briefly Speaking

Conference Proceedings

For those who missed out on attending the World Alpaca Conference the Conference Proceedings are available to purchase from the AAA Ltd. National Office.



Alpacas needing good homes

A herd of hand knitted, stuffed alpacas is being agisted at the AAA Ltd. National Office. Grey and rose grey only... they need new homes and are available to purchase individually or as a 'whole herd transfer'. Prices available upon application. Ring Chris on 03 9873 7700 ext. 2.

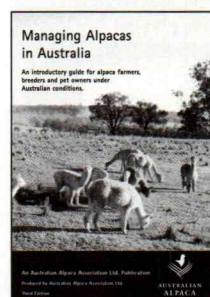


Have you moved?

Please remember to notify the AAA Ltd. National Office of address changes, including telephone, fax and email address, if applicable.

International Fleece Show

Australia made a clean sweep winning all categories in the International Fleece Challenge. Congratulations to all the successful exhibitors. For a full report see page 6.



Also new to the merchandise list is the 3rd edition of **Managing Alpacas in Australia**.

Please see the order form on page 55.

15th National Show & Sale

Exhibition Park in Canberra
29-31 August 2008

Get your animals registered in plenty of time! Select your best fleeces! Consider entering the craft or art/photography sections!

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www.coolarooalpacas.com.au

Coolaroo's Show records 2008 Autumn circuit reflects the depth of quality available in the Coolaroo herd this year:

Coolaroo Coorie's Luna Intermediate Female Champion Canberra Royal, Supreme Camden Show

Congratulations Banksia Park for her purchase at the Coolawarra Classic 2008.

Coolaroo Pharisee Junior Female Champion, Canberra Royal Show, and Res Intermediate Champion, Camden

Loosebeare Wallarenya Orb ET, Intermediate Female Champion Sydney Royal 2008

Coolaroo Marco Rising ET, Junior Male Champion Camden Show

Coolaroo Intrigo, SW, Senior Male Reserve Champion, Sydney Royal (For sale)

Coolaroo Cuzconito SW, solid white male, Adult Male Champion, Camden Show.(For sale)



Next new Breeders workshop:
11 May, 2008

World Alpaca Conference

Shear Delight – sharing the world of alpacas

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

PHOTOGRAPHY by **Cath Norman**



In March the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. hosted the inaugural World Alpaca Conference welcoming in excess of 400 delegates from around Australia and overseas. The event was the culmination of 18 months of planning and set a new benchmark for alpaca industry conferences worldwide.

Prior to the conference a number of related tours were organised and many delegates enjoyed a full week of alpaca activity opting for all or some of the events on offer. Beginning with visits to the Royal Sydney Easter Show to view the alpaca judging delegates also enjoyed visits to the Australian Wool Testing Authority and a number of alpaca studs. Thanks go to the host studs (Belbourie, Hunter, Illawarra and Pacofino) for presenting their properties in such prime condition and for their hospitality. Beautiful scenery, a vineyard and a hotel for lunches plus a visit to The Alpaca Centre were enjoyed along the way. The day of the Luncheon Harbour Cruise was a typically beautiful autumn day in Sydney. The food was excellent, the scenery magnificent and everyone had a relaxing and happy day.

On the eve of the Conference AAA Ltd. President, Ian Davison hosted a cocktail party to welcome the Presidents of the international alpaca organisations in attendance at the conference. The 'meet and greet' was the first of many opportunities throughout the weekend for sharing international alpaca industry conversation.

Presidents of the international alpaca organisations



Lecture theatres

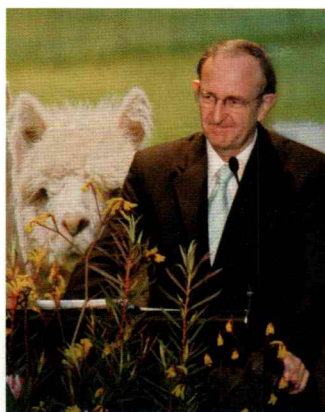
On the Friday the International Fleece Expo attracted 275 delegates all keen to hear the latest fleece and fashion news from the international marketplace as delivered by guest speakers, Derek Michell of Michell Group, Peru and Michael Talbot, Managing Director of Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. Other speakers included Mark Mortimer and Dr Jim Watts who provided 'light' relief with their very interesting technical presentations and, just for something a bit different and non fleece related, Steve Ridout of LaViande Pty Ltd spoke on "The Next Phase of Alpaca Farming" – alpaca meat.

The next two days saw the venue, 'Dockside' packed to capacity with numbers swelling to 385 for the remainder of the Conference.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



The Conference was officially opened by Austrade CEO, Mr Peter O'Byrne who spoke enthusiastically of the future of the alpaca industry worldwide. This address was followed by presentations from the Presidents of all attending international alpaca organisations which gave brief overviews of their operations and the state of the industry in each of their countries.



Austrade CEO, Mr Peter O'Byrne

Dr Jane Wheeler gave a fascinating insight into the history of the alpaca with her presentation, "Alpacas: Past, Present and Future". The lecture by Paul Taylor, a US expert in embryo transfer technology was of great interest to those delegates eager to learn about assisted reproduction, certainly a pathway of the future. Dr Raul Rosadio from Peru spoke about infectious diseases in alpacas in South America and his vital research in that field. German Freyre of Incalpa TPX SA in Peru was last cab off the rank for the day talking about what he does best, "Retailing Alpaca Around the World".

Within a couple of hours our lecture theatres were miraculously converted into a dining room set for 420 guests at the Saturday night Gala Dinner. Delegates bedazzled in their evening finery and the room was abuzz with excitement. Starting off the night's entertainment was a performance by the aboriginal dance group, *Descendance* giving us an insight into their culture through interpretive dance. After more fabulous food guests were then treated to the spectacular fashion parade sponsored by Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd (AAFL). Michael Talbot has written elsewhere in this issue about the parade which was a work in progress in more ways than one for many months preceding the conference. Michael and his team of assistants are to be congratulated on a stunning display.

Aboriginal dance group, *Descendance*



Another highlight of the evening was the auction conducted by Robert Gane. An exquisite oil painting donated by artist and alpaca breeder, Warwick Fuller will be proudly displayed in the UK by the successful bidder upon his return from Down Under. One of the two wall hangings offered by AAFL was snapped up by another UK visitor, the remaining one to be enjoyed in the home of the lucky bidders in regional Victoria.

Jane Vaughan kicked off proceedings on the Sunday morning in her inimitable style with another entertaining talk, this time on feeding alpacas and she was followed by alpaca dentist, Allison Quagliani discussing alpaca dental anatomy. The morning continued with its diverse range of topics as Kylie Munyard spoke about her research into the genes that influence colour in alpacas, followed by Ian Davison with his passion for breeding a better alpaca as an outcome of the AGE program and, squeezed in before lunch, Pierre Baychelier with his animated delivery of "A New Angle on Alpaca Conformation". Wow, what a morning and what a lot to digest.

Of significant note at this point in reporting on the weekend's proceedings is the word digest, but this time in terms of the fabulous food prepared and served by the friendly 'Dockside' staff throughout the course of the weekend. The food was first class and in abundance and was a highlight of the conference for some people!

After lunch Dr Wayne Jarvis presented an excellent lecture on line breeding. Later in the afternoon Dr Chris Cebra dropped by to give an overview of the veterinary conference that was also conducted in Sydney on the same weekend.

The conference offered something for everyone and we offer our thanks to the speakers for sharing their talent and time.

An event the size of the World Alpaca Conference comes at a big price and we offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to the sponsors listed below, together with individual breeders who contributed by way of generous donations for the varied fundraising endeavours that were conducted.

I will give the last word on the conference to the tireless convenor, Heather Vickery who deserves the honour of summing up. As well, Heather's husband, Phillip is to be congratulated on his sustained efforts and support.

Heather said, *"To those of you who attended the conference, thank you. It was wonderful to see the friendships formed between nations, to feel the energy, camaraderie and enthusiasm that was generated by this gathering of nations who came together to share in the world of alpacas. We can now look forward to the 2nd World Alpaca Conference, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, USA in June 2009".* ■

SILVER SPONSORS



International Alpaca Fleece Show

SYDNEY 2008

FLEECE ARTICLE compiled by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

From the Convenors' Perspective, Lyn Dickson & Julie Bird

At the close of entries for the International Fleece Show it became apparent that with 478 fleeces entered this was going to be no ordinary event. Apart from the usual hard work that goes with convening any alpaca event, the logistics due to the sheer number of entries would put us all to the test.

Because the event was generously hosted by the Sydney Royal Agricultural Society, in place of the Sydney Royal Fleece Show which usually attracts around 120-130 entries maximum, we were hopeful that with the 'international' tag we could realistically expect around 200 fleeces.

So, when more than double our expectations started pouring in (much to the amusement of our long-suffering local post-mistress) we were delighted with the huge response, but realised it was time to seriously re-think the organization required to get this show off the ground. There were over 50 international entries from USA, UK, NZ and Canada, with the balance coming from Australian exhibitors.

Transporting, weighing, fleece testing, cataloguing, lifting, carrying and storing all became issues that occupied a great deal of time in the months preceding the show. We needed double the amount of stewards, double the judging time, double the accommodation, double the catering, double the budget in some areas and, dare we say, double the amount of patience!

While the customs and AQIS authorities were helpful when dealing with the international entries, some unexpected import orders were placed on the US and NZ entries at the eleventh hour. This meant unscheduled gamma ray treatments, with much extra travel to and from the irradiation warehouse, and these fleeces only just made it to the judging table in time. Our one Canadian entry which, for reasons known only to the officials at Canada Post and Australia Post, arrived by surface mail in the nick of time on judging day to make it into the competition



(back row: l-r) Richard and Julie Bird (co-convenor); Cameron Holt and Jill MacLeod (judges); Graeme Dickson (front row: l-r) Natasha Clark (Supreme Suri Fleece exhibitor); Jennie Carey (Supreme Huacaya Fleece exhibitor); Lyn Dickson (co-convenor)

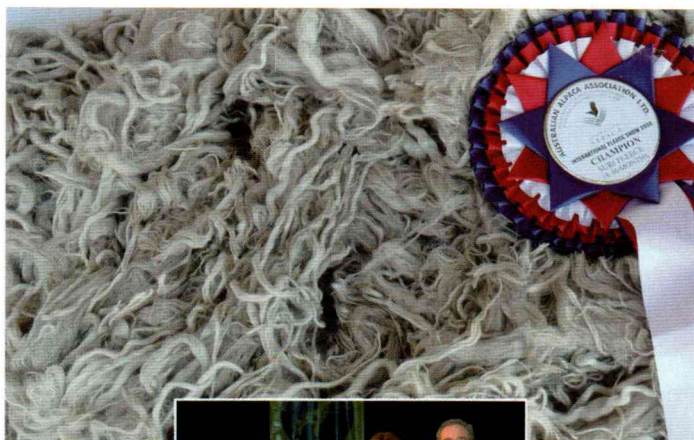
and win a second prize (much to the delight of the Canadian exhibitor, who like us, feared the fleece might be destined to sail the Pacific for all time).

However, thanks to the sterling efforts of our small team of volunteers and the tireless contribution by our stewards we made it, and managed to back up for the halter classes at Sydney Royal a day later.

The unstinting stamina and professionalism of our two international judges, Jill MacLeod from High River, Alberta, Canada and our own Cameron Holt from Pambula on the NSW south coast, deserves a special mention. Jill had come straight from the extremes of a Canadian winter to judging in 30°C+ in Sydney.

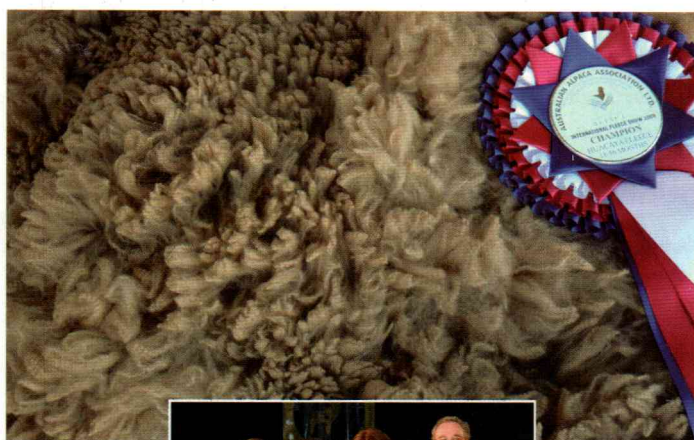
This was not the largest fleece show ever, but certainly the largest held in Australia to date. Any exhibitors who received prizes for their fleece entries can feel justifiably proud that they were up with the 'crème de la crème' of the alpaca fleece world.

With AOBA (USA) planning to host both the World Alpaca Conference and the International Fleece Show next year, now is the time to start thinking about supporting the International Fleece Show with your best fleeces for 2009 and perhaps we can mount a significant effort to retain the four trophies for the International Fleece Challenge that were won by Australia this time around. And now, three days on from the Conference at time of writing, it's back to despatching fleeces from our shed...



Supreme Suri
Fleece, *Kurrawa
Just Cruising ET*

Exhibitor
Natasha Clark
with Platinum
Sponsors
Paul Cramley,
Linda Davies
and Jack
Armstrong



Supreme
Huacaya Fleece,
Forestglen Seth

Exhibitor
Jennie Carey
with Platinum
Sponsors
Paul Cramley,
Linda Davies
and Jack
Armstrong

From the Judges' Perspective, Cameron Holt & Jill MacLeod

Firstly we would like to thank the convening committee for the invitations to judge at Australia's first International Fleece Show. We would also like to congratulate all the breeders around the world, as well as Australians, who took the time to prepare and enter fleece for this very prestigious show. Before judging commenced we made the decision to mark hard, knowing the show would have some of the best fleeces in the world entered. We are glad we did. The fleeces were grid sampled and micron tested for this show.

The suri fleeces were very good for style and of an extremely high standard. The white and fawn classes showed a depth of excellence throughout, but the depth was not as evident in the grey, brown and black classes. Some lustre was hard to assess with some fleeces carrying more grease with an adherence of dirt. The overall increase in density for the suris was very obvious. The **Supreme Suri Fleece, *Kurrawa Just Cruising ET*** was a great example of a fleece with excellent fleece weight and a good balance of lock style, density and lustre. There is no doubt of the huge improvement in suri fleece over recent years, if these fleeces are a true representation of the herd in general.

In the huacaya fleeces the standard was overwhelming, in particular the 'white groups' being not only large by number, but displaying incredible style and brightness/lustre. The evenness of crimp structure, with the depth of crimp, shows the big steps in style this breed has taken over recent years. The fawn and brown groups also displayed this advancement, demonstrated by the fact that most class winners were over 80 points and the **Supreme Huacaya Fleece, *Forestglen Seth*** was a fawn with a 90 point result. Again, some colours did not reflect the big improvement of the lighter colours.

It is interesting to note that both supreme fleeces came from the 18 to under 30 months category. Offering Colour Championship awards in addition to the usual age Championships proved to be a popular drawcard with exhibitors. In order to receive a Highly Commended prize in the largest white classes (after six places had already been awarded), the fleeces needed to score more than 80 points, such was the quality of the whites. The larger white classes (some with over 60 entries) were split down the middle to make an A and a B class, to ensure that the best fleeces were duly rewarded.

To finish we would like to encourage breeders to support all fleece shows, in particular the National Show, along with their regional ones. Showing enables breeders to benchmark their fleece against the best and look at the scorecards to see where they can improve. It also affords the opportunity, if they are successful, to use their success in marketing strategies in a more competitive market.

Thanks again for having us. It was indeed a privilege to officiate at the International Fleece Show. ➤

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Editor's note: Full results are published on the AAA web site at:
http://www.alpaca.asn.au/pub/news/results/2008/intl_fleece.pdf

SURI

Age (months)	Champion	Reserve Champion
6-18	SAMAKIEN SUPERNOVA Exhibited by Samakien Alpacas, Tanawha QLD	LCA INCA'S PRINCESS Exhibited by Latah Creek Alpacas, Washington USA
18-30	KURRAWA JUST CRUISING ET Exhibited by Kurrawa Alpacas, Bellbrae VIC	KURRAWA JUST A RUMOUR ET Exhibited by Kurrawa Alpacas, Bellbrae VIC
30 and over	SURILANA PICCOLO Exhibited by Bumble Hill Alpacas, Orange NSW	SURILANA ORION Exhibited by Samakien Alpacas, Tanawha QLD

Champion White	KURRAWA JUST CRUISING ET Exhibited by Kurrawa Alpacas, Bellbrae VIC
Champion Fawn	SURILANA QUO VADIS ET Exhibited by Surilana Alpacas, Strathbogie VIC and Birrong Alpacas, Canyonleigh NSW
Champion Brown	BAARROOKA SIMPLY RED ET Exhibited by Baarrooka Alpacas, Strathbogie VIC
Champion Grey	ALPACASPECIALIST SILVERTONE Exhibited by Yaringa Alpacas, Currency Creek, SA
Champion Black Suri	CANCHONES COLLATERAL Exhibited by Canchones Alpacas, Taggerty VIC
Supreme Champion Suri Fleece	KURRAWA JUST CRUISING ET Exhibited by Kurrawa Alpacas, Bellbrae VIC

HUACAYA

Age (months)	Champion	Reserve Champion
6-12	WINDSONG VALLEY SNOW PRINCE Exhibited by Windsong Valley Alpacas, Napoleons VIC	TALAMASCA QUATTRO Exhibited by Talamasca Stud, North Richmond NSW
12-18	BENLEIGH SANCHO ET Exhibited by Benleigh Alpacas, Drysdale VIC	PLANTEL ILLAWARRA BARDOT ET Exhibited by Illawarra Alpacas, Cambewarra NSW
18-30	FORESTGLEN SETH Exhibited by Forestglen Alpaca Stud, Millthorpe NSW	FORESTGLEN CAVALIER Exhibited by Forestglen Alpaca Stud, Millthorpe NSW
30-48	FLOWERDALE VALENTINO Exhibited by Grand Flowerdale, Strath Creek VIC	MARRIGLEN MARS Exhibited by Illawarra Alpacas, Cambewarra NSW and Wyndarra Alpacas, Bungendore NSW
48-60	ILLAWARRA YUCATAN Exhibited by Illawarra Alpacas, Cambewarra NSW and Wyndarra Alpacas, Bungendore NSW	WINDSONG VALLEY KENJIRO Exhibited by Windsong Valley Alpacas, Napoleons VIC
60 and over	SOMERSET ACCOYO CHALLENGER Exhibited by Banksia Park Alpaca Stud, Serpentine WA	PATAGONIA SUNLINE Exhibited by Patagonia Alpacas, Meadow Flat NSW

Champion White	WINDSONG VALLEY SNOW PRINCE Exhibited by Windsong Valley Alpacas, Napoleons VIC
Champion Light Fawn	BANKSIA PARK KOK DISCOVERY Exhibited by Banksia Park Alpaca Stud, Serpentine WA
Champion Medium/Dark Fawn	FORESTGLEN SETH Exhibited by Forestglen Alpaca Stud, Millthorpe NSW
Champion Brown	CHAPARRAL DIMPLE Exhibited by Alpacas Chaparral, Minlaton SA
Champion Grey	WYTERRICA PROPAGANDA Exhibited by Wyterrica Alpacas, Cobram VIC
Champion Black Suri	BLAKA GALAHAD Exhibited by Canchones Alpacas, Taggerty VIC
Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece	FORESTGLEN SETH Exhibited by Forestglen Alpaca Stud, Millthorpe NSW

World Alpaca Conference 2008 Fashion Parade

FASHION ARTICLE by **Michael Talbot** > Managing Director, Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd



The concept of staging a fashion parade at the World Alpaca Conference was first floated midway during 2007 as preparations for the overall event gained momentum.

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd (AAFL) extended an invitation to designers worldwide to submit garments for the parade. Garments had to meet set criteria and we were looking for innovative designs that demonstrated the exceptional quality and versatility of alpaca.

I was assisted in the selection process by Leonie Ager of The Australian Alpaca Centre and it proved to be a difficult task indeed. Of course, we didn't want to disappoint anybody but regrettably it was necessary to leave some designs out of the parade. We received many enquiries and had a great number of submissions and it was not a matter of how good the designs were but whether or not they would fit into the flow of the parade. After all, our aim was to impress on an international stage!

Arts Events Management was engaged to produce the parade, together with our stylist Margaret Kernich, as they have experience in both the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Parades and Sydney Shows.

To facilitate this huge production it was necessary to build a stage and temporarily move existing trade sites (thank you to the support of all those affected). In the 'back room' we had a total of 28 people consisting of models, assistants, hairdressers, make-up artists and lighting, audio and visual personnel to put on the event.

And so... the **World Alpaca Conference Fashion Parade** was finally staged at the gala dinner at *Dockside* on Saturday 29 March 2008 featuring garments from Australian, New Zealand and Peruvian design houses.

With a packed house and a moving performance from the Aboriginal dance group, *Descendance* setting the scene, the parade got underway.

With two 8 foot screens, one on each side of the catwalk, the 420 strong audience was treated to a spectacular display of the latest colours, designs and shapes of alpaca products from around the world, to the accompaniment of exhilarating music. The room became alive with excitement and applause.

Designers featured in the parade

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| > The Ardent Alpaca | > Australian Alpaca Connection |
| > Claudia Bahamondes | > BeCreatif Alpacas |
| > Bella Head | > Melissa Jackson |
| > Kuna | > Antonia Pusterla |
| > Jessica Sachs | > Lesley Shea |
| > Softfoot Alpacas | > SOL |
| > Surico Alpacas | > Garry & Janice Ward |

Whilst AAFL took responsibility for the parade and organisation of the designers there was no way we would have been able to create this event on this scale without a huge amount of financial support from major sponsors, **Landmark, The Natural Carpet Company** and **Zenger (Australia) Pty Ltd**. We also had financial support from a number of breeders namely **Bumble Hill Alpacas, Clearview Alpacas, Currumbong Alpacas, Serena Lodge Alpacas** and **Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud**. All of these people made the fashion parade possible. Thanks again for your support.

I do hope everybody who attended the dinner enjoyed the event and certainly would like to congratulate all the designers for all the effort they put into their creations. The industry has come a long way and this is just another step along the path to ensuring Australian alpaca fleece is promoted to the world. ■

Winter Manage Your Herd

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE compiled by **Irene Garner** > Alpacapeña, NSW

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Garner-Paulin, Tarraganda Lodge, NSW



Low temperatures aren't necessarily the problem; it's when heavy rain and especially wind are added to the equation that a breeder could have a sizeable problem on their hands.

Pre-Winter Planning

Autumn is the ideal opportunity to identify the animals that will need extra TLC during the winter months and you can plan your groups accordingly. Logically, special groups will include new mums and cria, late term girls and weaners but also consider the elderly and infirm and those just coming out of ill health.

Fleece Length

Fleece length is crucial to how well an alpaca can handle the rigours of winter. Time your shearing to ensure that your alpacas arrive in the depths of winter with a minimum of 7cm fleece length. However, a huacaya that is overfleece could still be at risk. Heavy rain will weigh an excessive fleece down, thus creating an impressive part along the spine that will allow moisture to penetrate the fleece and chill the skin especially with a serious wind chill factor. If shearing in late summer / early autumn, ask your shearer to use a snow comb which leaves about 1cm of fleece on the animal.

Shelter

You don't need to build the Taj Mahal to provide shelter for your animals, as long as it's dry and protects them from the wind. By building a 6x3 metre paddock shelter and installing gates within the shelter, you will be able to confine the animals during a bad weather event.

It is usually the wind chill that is the killer in bad weather, as it can chill a wet alpaca to the bone. Windbreaks and access to gullies can provide crucial shelter for animals. Consider planting a X-shaped windbreak, which will allow shelter from any direction, making the arms some 3 or 4 metres long.

Coats

For cria that are exposed to the elements, an oilskin coat with fleecy lining will provide high assurance that they will stay dry. If you are using coats made from polyester or plain cotton and if the cria is going to be mostly outside in the elements, ensure you purchase the highest grade coat available and keep a watch on the lining for dampness as they may need changing, drying out and re-waterproofing on a regular basis.

For older animals that are not producing the fleece length and those coming out of ill health, foal rugs are excellent for keeping them dry and warm. When rugging an older animal for the first time some may be prone to panic and could injure themselves. Start by placing the rug on the animal when in a small pen, observe closely its behaviour and be prepared to intervene quickly. If the animal continues to stand in a frozen state it could explode in panic when released from the pen; removing the coat in this circumstance before the explosion is highly advisable. If the animal starts to move around the pen quietly and will accept feed, then moving the animal to a larger area for further behaviour monitoring before release into the paddock is warranted.

Winter Birthing

If you are expecting a winter birth, being well prepared is crucial. Have on hand a straw laden shed for shelter, a hairdryer, plenty of bubble wrap, cria coats and if you or your vet don't have plasma in the freezer, know where you can get some quickly. Newborns do not dry off well in winter and they will be cold, which means they are disinclined to want to rise and feed from mum thereby missing out on vital colostrum. Drying your newborn completely with the hairdryer takes ages but it will warm them up and they will be more interested in feeding.

If you suspect they have had insufficient colostrum, go straight for the plasma transfusion. A partial failure of immune transfer can see a cria kicking along OK for a while but they quite easily crash a little further down the track and often by then it is too late to bring them back.

Feeding

Increasing rations as winter deepens is important to ensure the alpaca maintain condition. In addition, when serious weather hits, feeding out liberal amounts of high quality lucerne hay will positively benefit the chances of the adult alpaca coming through OK.

Vitamins

When the weather becomes regularly overcast many breeders give their animals an oral drench or injection of vitamins.

Regular Vitamin D supplementation from mid autumn through to spring is crucial for growing alpacas, particularly cria and can also positively benefit adults. Commonly used injectable products are Vitamec ADE, Hideject ADE or DBAL D3. **A note of serious caution:** DBAL D3 contains 1 million IU/mL of Cholecalciferol and must only be used under the supervision of your Veterinary Surgeon as the symptoms of vitamin D toxicity often mimic those of deficiency.

In some circumstances, alpacas can also benefit from phosphorous supplementation in addition to Vitamin D. Your vet can advise the most appropriate Vitamin D supplementation programme for your area.

VAM (vitamins and minerals) is a general pick-me-up that is well favoured by alpaca breeders – intra-muscular injection or oral paste of 1ml per cria, 2ml per adult.

Drenches

It is not recommended to drench whole of herd unless they are running with other livestock, most notably sheep. Faecal test to monitor worm count rather than routine drench, as worms can build a resistance to certain drenches. Faecal testing will enable you to assess whether drenching is necessary or if your drench is effective. Worm kits are available from State Agricultural Departments or testing may be performed by your vet.

In some circumstances it may be beneficial to drench newly lactating dams and weaners. Routine drenching of healthy cria is not recommended, as a low burden of worms will allow the cria to develop a natural immunity. Monitoring is most advisable. Running dams with cria in a 'clean' paddock and separate from large numbers of older alpaca will reduce their exposure to significant populations of worm larvae.

Foot care

Check feet and trim toenails back close to neat V-shape. In winter toenails grow more quickly. Check for fibromas (wartish lumps) which are quite common and need to be removed early surgically by a vet to avoid problems. In wet, anaerobic conditions especially where it is warm and humid, check for necrobacillosis. Clinical signs are lameness and a foul, very distinct odour. Consult your veterinarian.

Hypothermia

Normal body temperature 37.5°C - 38.6°C. Combined cold, wet and windy conditions can lead to hypothermia, particularly in cria. It is important to tackle this immediately. First dry the cria off and get the animal out of the weather. If problem continues, treatments can include immersion in warm water (like bathing a baby) and use of a hair dryer or spinal massage to help warm the body core. It is inadvisable to rub ears and legs to warm a cria as this takes heat away from the core. Hot water bottles are another option. If a cria is really cold (<32.3°C) there is not enough metabolic heat to maintain warmth and blankets or plastic bubble wrap in addition to heating methods may be required.

Nursing mums need extra energy intake when coping with producing milk and keeping warm. Therefore, if there is any likelihood of cold plus rain, feed out lucerne hay night and morning until the cold/wet snap subsides.

For an individual cria or larger animal warm saline enemas are recommended. Make up 1 teaspoonful of salt in 600ml of water at 40°C, an ordinary clinical thermometer will do for this. For a cria use 50ml injected slowly using a 50ml or 100ml syringe, or go to your chemist and get a rubber enema bulb. For an adult use 200ml. Repeat the warm saline enemas each hour.

Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au

By routinely checking the Bureau of Meteorology web site you can give yourself valuable time to prepare for a weather event. ■

Acknowledgements

- > Elizabeth Garner-Paulin. *Winterproof your Herd. Alpacas Australia* magazine (2007) issue 53, pp 30-32
- > Rosemary Eva and Liz Coles. *Hypothermia in Alpacas. Alpacas Australia* magazine (2005) issue 46, pp 20-21
- > Carolyn Jinks. *Is there a Thermometer in your Alpaca Kit? Alpacas Australia* magazine (1995) issue 13, pp 3-6
- > *Healthy Wintering. Alpacas Australia* magazine (1994) issue 8, pp 44-46
- > Dr Richard Dixon

Royal Sydney Show 2008

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE compiled by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.
PHOTOGRAPHY by **Hayley Deeks**



Comments from the Canadian Judge, Jill MacLeod

The prospect of stepping into the halter ring at the Sydney Royal to judge a full slate of classes with individual exhibit numbers closing in on 500 head, presented a welcome challenge. The weeks leading up to the event were spent in eager anticipation of the quality which might be in evidence at the show and when all was said and done, the Australian breeders did not disappoint.

The suri section was a strong lead for the beginning of the show, representing approximately 20% of the total entries. The white and lighter classes contained a good number of very high quality stock, with some of the best fleeces I have had the pleasure of examining in the show ring – anywhere. I was pleasantly surprised by the higher fleece qualities still evident in the alpacas placing 3rd, 4th or 5th in the classes. The all important lustre was detectable in varying degrees in the majority of the suri fleeces – I cannot say this is true of all suri shows that I judge.

As the colour groups progressed to the darker shades, the overall quality remained at a competitive level. The breeders had obviously been paying close attention to the lustre required for desirable suri fleece as well as the density and maintenance of an acceptable micron range.

Huacayas were well represented during the remainder of the show. While the high level of quality was no surprise, the depth of quality in the classes was a discovery. In the larger classes, the top third often remained highly competitive, with only minor degrees of separation between placements. The base level of quality at the Sydney Royal was generally very good with a notable percentage reaching the elite level.

It was a high point to view the superior qualities exhibited and maintained by many of the alpacas in the older age categories. Alpacas with the ability to maintain fleece and conformational excellence are a rare treasure.

On analysis of the range of classes, the Australian breeders at the Sydney Royal are to be commended on their efforts in representing both the suri and huacaya breeds and I am grateful for the privilege of assessing their stock.



Supreme Champion Suri
Kurrawa Just In Time ET



Supreme Champion Huacaya
Shanbrooke Society Razor Sharp

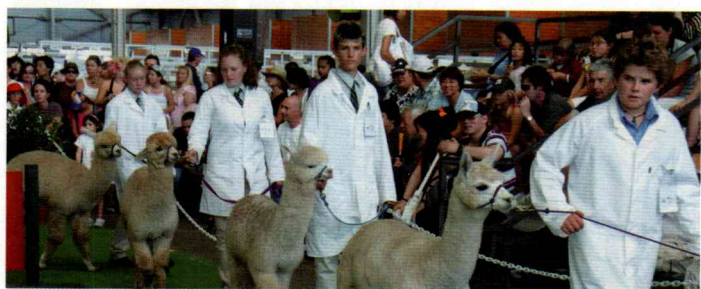
Comments from the Convenor, Paul Haslin

With in excess of 500 entries the Sydney Royal set a new standard in alpaca events. The show was supported by exhibitors from all states of Australia, making the quality of competition akin to a National show. Being preceded by the judging of the International Fleece Show and followed by the World Alpaca Conference the show was part of a smorgasbord of the alpaca scene to be enjoyed by international and local visitors.

Co-operation between the various RAS committees led to us being allowed sole use of the 6,000 square metres in the Munro pavilion. This space, filled with alpacas, a top quality show ring and a fashion parade catwalk was a sight to behold. With over a quarter of a million visitors passing through the pavilion over the four days we could not have presented a better promotion for our industry. Media interest in the alpaca section was unprecedented. Two live crosses on national television networks, extensive coverage in the Sydney press, full page features in *The Land* newspaper both before and after the event and live podcasts on the Royal Easter Show web site – alpacas were truly given star treatment. The main judging took place over two days with well supported Junior Judging and Handling events on the third day. Jill MacLeod from Canada was our guest judge and she certainly had her work cut out to select the winners from the impressive array of alpacas paraded before her.



Junior Judging



Junior handling



Jill's final selections on the Sunday afternoon were, in her words, two alpacas that would hold their own anywhere in the world.

The **Supreme Champion Suri** was *Kurrawa Just In Time ET*, a magnificent 23 month old male moving the judge to comment that this animal had raised her vision of the perfect suri type. The award for the most successful suri exhibitor over the weekend went to Surilana, who shared most of the championship line up with Kurrawa.

The **Supreme Champion Huacaya** award went to *Shanbrooke Society Razor Sharp*. This 18 month old male was described by the judge as a beautiful representation of the huacaya breed. Shanbrooke stole all honours in the huacaya sections, with the first three groups in the Sires' Progeny class being Shanbrooke owned or bred and Shanbrooke was also the overall most successful exhibitor in the huacaya section.

The Junior Judging competition was a highlight of the third day of competition with several young alpaca breeders competing against regulars from agricultural high schools. Monty Hicks from Coolaroo and Jessica Sachs from Bringarum defended the honour of the breeders by taking Champion and Reserve Champion respectively.

Other highlights of the event included a fashion parade put together by Robin Fullerton. This parade, featuring a number of new designers was a popular attraction at each of its eight presentations over the weekend.

A special infotainment area held regular sessions demonstrating the differences between the members of the camelid family and showing the public some of the features of the alpaca.

As the weary convenors crawled from the showground late on the final evening it was with a satisfied fatigue, knowing that we had just witnessed a very special alpaca show. ➤

Full results available on the AAA Ltd. web site www.alpaca.asn.au

Royal Sydney Show 2008 Fashion Parade



Photography by Hayley Deeks

Royal Canberra Show 2008

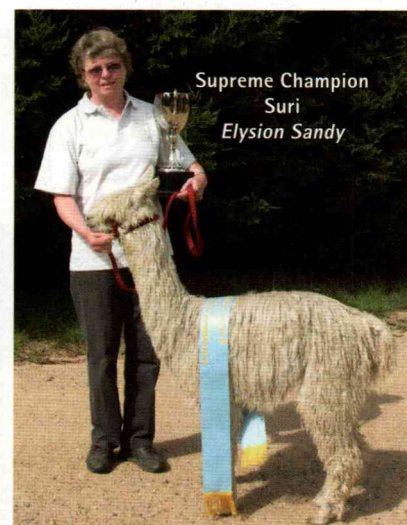
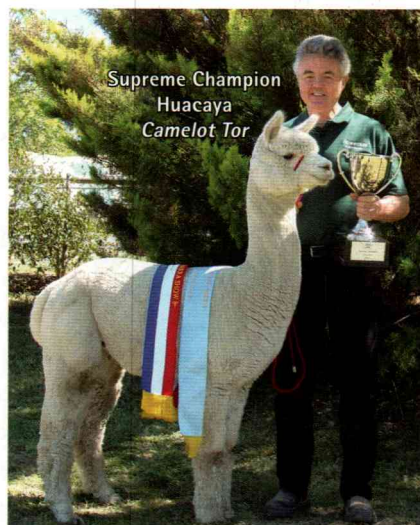
SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Carolyn Austin** > Royal Canberra Show Convenor

The Royal Canberra Show 2008 was much milder in temperature than usual however it was the biggest and best show to date. There was unprecedented support from breeders all over the eastern states – many travelling all day to get there on time which was very heartening – which resulted in the Supremes being highly prized indeed. There were over 360 animal entries and nearly 200 fleece entries, the competition was fierce and the judging extended over four days.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank exhibitors, judges, stewards and helpers for the courteous and professional way in which all responded to the challenge and a change of routine and time frame. This year information was sent to exhibitors well in advance of the show to inform them all of the changed penning arrangements and that animal and fleece judging would be conducted over two days each. Exhibitors were informed that to allow for the additional numbers all animals had to be penned by Friday and that there would be no vet checking on the Saturday.

The fleece judging took two days and there were times when the judge, Rick Hodgson, was offered a miner's light as the sun was going down and classes had not yet been finalised but he doggedly continued on. The fleece team is a fabulous group of enthusiasts who never fail to amaze me with their dedication to the show and willingness to go that next step each time. I thank them one and all and hope that exhibitors understand the hours of work that go into a show of fleeces with nearly 200 entries. The standards were very high and the judge commented on the consistency and cleanliness of the fleece, considering the drought and summer shearing – all had done extremely well and should be proud of each and every result.

- > **Champion Suri Fleece**
Pacofino Cordelia exhibited by Pacofino Pty Ltd
- > **Champion Huacaya Fleece**
Flowerdale Valentino exhibited by Grand Flowerdale Alpacas
- > **Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece**
Eaglewood Courtney exhibited by Eaglewood Alpacas
- > **Most Valuable Commercial Huacaya Fleece**
Flowerdale Ardrossan exhibited by Flowerdale Alpacas



The animal judging started with a rush on the Saturday, thanks to the Friday vet checking, and all exhibitors 'enjoyed' the experience of opening mouths for the judge, Natasha Clark, as a trial of the new biosecurity initiatives. Some did it better than others and some got quite good at it over the two days. The sheer numbers and superior quality of the animals made judging an intriguing process and Natasha did very well to continue with her decisive method of judging. Many competitors commented on the even handed method of selection and Natasha is commended for her professional approach. Again the Marshalling Stewards ran a tight ship with classes running like a well oiled machine.

The Help Desk at Canberra is a shining example of initiative and resourcefulness in the Region. Many hands helped and I thank them one and all for the smooth running of all elements of the show and for hours of talking to children, putting stamps on hands and answering the usual, "do they spit?" question.

Congratulations to the standouts at this year's show:

- > **Supreme Champion Suri**
Elyson Sandy exhibited by Elyson Alpacas
- > **Supreme Champion Huacaya**
Camelot Tor exhibited by Grand Flowerdale Alpacas and winner for the second year in a row.

Congratulations to everyone who participated and see you again next year. ■

Full results available on the AAA Ltd.
web site www.alpaca.asn.au

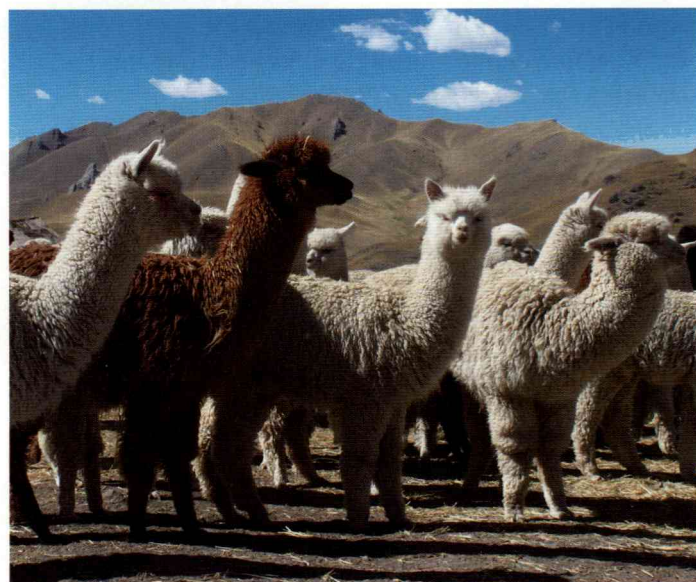
"Giving Something Back..."

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Jane Vaughan** BVSc PhD MACVSc > Cria Genesis

... These were the words uttered by Mr Ron Condon, of Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, 12 months ago when he approached Dr David Hopkins and me to travel to Peru to train some Peruvian veterinarians in the process of embryo transfer (ET) in alpacas.



David and Jane at Pacamarca farm, Peru



Weaners at Pacamarca farm, Peru

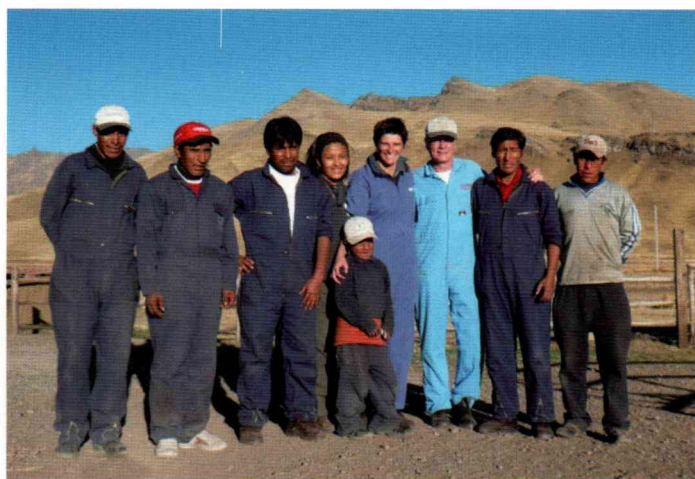
Readers will remember an article by Dr Nicholas Baker in *Alpacas Australia* (Issue 52, Autumn 2007) which outlined the wish of Peruvians to improve fleece yield and quality in their alpacas. Embryo transfer is seen as one method of achieving this outcome. Females of superior quality could be flushed multiple times per year to produce more quality alpacas; the male offspring could then be distributed to some of the 100,000 alpaca farms around the altiplano (elevated plains of Peru), and the female offspring kept in the elite herd and flushed when mature.

Ron co-ordinated the project following negotiations with Mr Alonso Burgos, of Grupo Inca South America, Dr Nicholas Baker from Austrade in Lima and the Council on Australian Latin American Relations (COALAR). Funds were provided by these bodies and proceeds raised at the Flowerdale Alpacaganza held in November 2004.

David and I packed our bags and headed over to Peru in October 2007. We spent a week up at Pacamarca, an experimental farm owned and run by Grupo Inca, one of the main wool processors of Peru. Pacamarca means 'land of the alpacas' and with nearly 2,000 alpacas running on 1,500 hectares, it proved an apt name for the farm. Pacamarca built a laboratory and flush area for the project, and shopped according to a list we sent them.

We negotiated our way through customs and quarantine with all sorts of gear that kept officials on the ball; they were particularly interested in the *Violet Crumbles* stashed in amongst the tubes, dishes, gloves and catheters.

Pacamarca is one farm setting very high standards of alpaca husbandry and pasture management in Peru. The strict selection for fertile males and females in the herd using complete electronic farm records, the use of ultrasound to diagnose pregnancy and reproductive disorders, careful cria management and production of good quality hay and silage mean that fertility rates are high and cria mortality is kept to a minimum.



Some of the workforce at Pacamarca

We spent 10-hour days gesticulating and using rudimentary Spanish to describe the techniques involved in the process of embryo transfer. The farm is more than 4,000 metres above sea level and added to the fatigue suffered along the way.

The three veterinarians involved in the training were Drs Rito Huayta, Rocio Quispe and Javier Llacsca, and were all luckily 'armed' with small hands. Many readers will have met Rito and Rocio during visits to Australia three or four years ago. By the end of the week, all three veterinarians had successfully flushed embryos from donor females and transferred them into recipient females.

The main breeding season in Peru is in summer, when rainfall is highest, giving the vets immediate and ample opportunity to practise and hone their ET skills as crias were due to start dropping in the weeks after our departure, thereby making females available for donation or receipt of embryos, depending on their fleece qualities.

The hospitality shown during our visit was extraordinarily generous. The timing of our trip coincided with the 50th birthday celebrations of Grupo Inca, who put on an impressive fashion parade and party in the cloisters of one of the churches on the main square in Arequipa.

Peru is a spectacular country, and one of my highlights was seeing vicuñas grazing on the altiplano with the active volcano, El Misti in the back ground. We were also privileged to see places on and beyond the tourist trails: Machu Picchu and other Incan architecture, condors soaring on thermals, local farmers ploughing and irrigating fields on the steep, terraced slopes of the altiplano and the local fruit, vegetable and meat markets (quite an eye opener!).



David Hopkins, Javier Llacsca, Rito Huayta, Jane Vaughan, Rocio Quispe at the coal face

Peru has the Pacific Ocean at its doorstep, arable farmland and fertile pastures in the mountains and rainforests of the Amazon River at its disposal to produce a bountiful mixture of seafood, tropical fruits, vegetables and meat of all sorts that make the mouth water. But Peru being Peru, it can also be physically challenging, and when David's wife was yearning for Vegemite toast during recovery from gastro, all she had to do was open the fridge at Pacamarca and help herself to a jar brought up three years previously by other intrepid Australians visiting the altiplano! ■



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Changes to Showing Procedures

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by AAA Showing and Judging Committee

With the increased awareness of bio security issues that were highlighted by the recent equine influenza outbreak, the Board of the AAA requested the Showing and Judging Committee to review and address the current showing procedures.

The inspection of alpacas' mouths, tails and genitalia by judges and stewards was seen as the area of greatest risk and the following changes have been implemented.

Prior to a show, inspection stewards will only check for correct IAR tag, correct class, colour, fleece length, any apparent health issues such as lice or any obvious physical defect. The sex of the alpaca will be confirmed by the exhibitor lifting the tail for the steward.

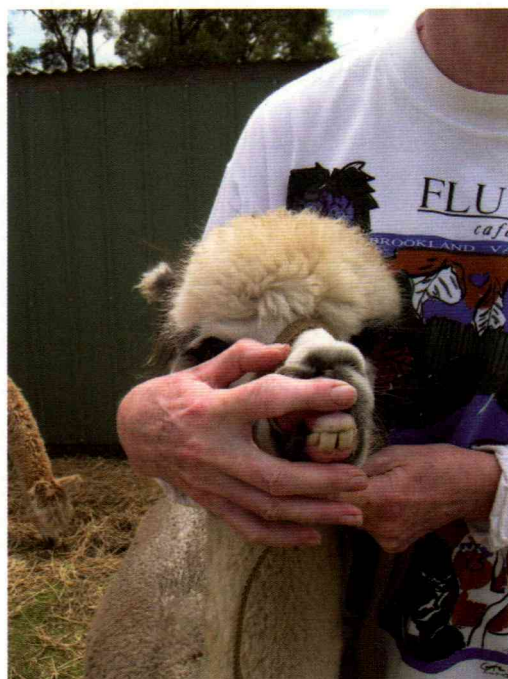
Tails, toes, teeth, testicles, ears etc. will be checked by the judge as part of the show ring judging criteria. Judges will check the teeth of the alpaca with the exhibitor parting the alpaca's lips to enable visual assessment of the alignment of the teeth and jaw. In the event that the judge does need to feel the teeth, he/she will be provided with appropriate hygienic disposable wipes by the ring steward to clean hands before proceeding to the next alpaca.

This procedure has also been adopted by other countries for the show ring (Canada, USA, UK and New Zealand) for similar bio-security reasons.

The new procedure has commenced, with the chief steward or judge demonstrating to exhibitors at the exhibitors' meeting prior to the commencement of the show, the most effective way to part the alpaca's lips.

As part of show halter training, breeders need to 'train' their alpacas to being handled for mouth presentation. This will not take long but now needs to be part of the show training. ■

Mouth presentation method



15th AAA Ltd National Show and Sale EXHIBITION PARK IN CANBERRA • 29-31 AUGUST



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52397 - 6 Months

52385 - 7 Months

52392 - 7 Months

52395 - 7 Months

MOBILE

52361 - 15 Months

52387 - 8 Months

22562 - 48 Months

52334 - 17 Months

52389 - 8 Months

52394 - 7 Months

52323 - 19 Months

52364 - 14 Months

52370 - 13 Months

52265 - 30 Months

52848 - 17 Months

52282 - 30 Months

40583 - 44 Months

52292 - 28 Months

S: Peruvian
Windsong Valley Accoyo Ben-Huron farm \$1,200
 S: Peruvianmobile \$1,310

S: Purumbete Highlander
Windsong Valley Kosioskoon farm \$1,200
 S: Jolimont Goliathmobile \$1,310
 D: Windsong Valley Stardust
 D: Jolimont Mariella

S: Purumbete Highlander
 S: Windsong Valley Iceman
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Windsong Valley Kenjiroon farm only \$1,650
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 D: Kaloma Tamika
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S: Peruvian
Windsong Valley Royal Incaon farm \$1,400
 D: Peruvianmobile \$1,500

S: Windsong Valley Royal Inca
Windsong Valley Tabooon farm \$1,200
 S: Purumbete Highlandermobile \$1,310
 D: Primavera Anushka
 D: Jolimont Gessica

S: Purumbete Highlander
 S: Windsong Valley Iceman
 D: Purumbete Icestar
Windsong Valley Tutankhamenon farm \$1,200
 S: Purumbete El Doradomobile \$1,310
 S: Cedar House Bannister
 D: Suricaya Sumbay
 D: The Pines Queen Of Sheba
 S: Purumbete Lucky Strike
 D: The Pines Phoebe
 D: Peppimenarti Renee

The Windsong Valley herd now resides in Ballarat, Victoria.

**MORE INFO on MOBILE MATINGS or WINDSONG VALLEY ALPACAS or ALPACA AUSTRALIA p/I,
phone (03) 5342 0111 or Benoît on 0419 420 110**

NO ET MATING SERVICE AVAILABLE

52284 - 29 Months

52281 - 29 Months

52341 - 17 Months

52311 - 24 Months

Alpacas as Guardians – A Study

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Rohan Dalgleish** > Tumi Alpacas, VIC

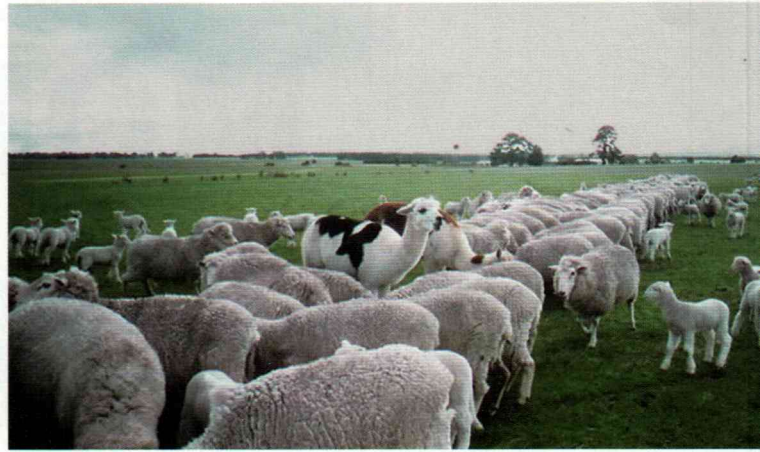
There is a great deal of anecdotal evidence that alpacas are effective in protecting lambs and other animals from foxes. I recently heard that they are being used to protect dairy calves that are vulnerable during birthing. However, only a small amount of work has been done to gather solid data on their effectiveness.

Once they have used alpacas, most farmers are very enthusiastic about them. There are stories of orphaned lambs being led back to their mothers and cases of alpacas surrounded in lambs in a crèche situation while the mothers are off feeding. One farmer that bought an animal from me explained that he was very sceptical until he went to a friend's place with his dog. As soon as his friend's alpaca spied the dog it gave the alarm call and all the sheep ran to the alpaca putting it between them and the dog. Another farmer rang to tell me that the alpaca wasn't working because he had dead lambs everywhere. On questioning him, there was no sign of fox activity and I assume that, in the past, his lambs had died and the carcasses were removed by foxes. I had to explain that alpacas weren't vets and that the presence of carcasses indicated the effectiveness of the alpaca in keeping foxes out of the paddock.

There is also some evidence that alpacas are effective against predatory birds but this seems to be highly variable. On one occasion an alpaca was standing in the paddock well away from the sheep. He was surrounded by ravens. When the farmer approached he found the alpaca standing over a cast ewe. The lamb had died and had to be pulled but the farmer was able to stand the ewe up and it survived. If the alpaca wasn't there it would have had its eyes pecked out and he would have lost two sheep instead of one.

A neighbour of mine decided four years ago to try an alpaca. He was getting around 96% lambing percentage. The next year he achieved 173% indicating that he had been losing his twins and triplets. The next year he bought four more wethers.

Over the last few years I have sold more than 500 alpacas as herd guards. Some have gone as far away as 1,000 kms. Because of demand I have had to source wethers from other



Photograph courtesy Joanne Ham

breeders. All stock are guaranteed and, over the years, I have had to replace only 11 animals. All of these animals were either highly tamed or came from breeders whose dogs were allowed to have the run of all the paddocks. I am not saying that all animals from these situations are ineffective but the common thread was there in every animal I have had to replace.

Stud sheep breeders often rely on small flocks in numerous paddocks. Some of these breeders could have between 10 and 20 alpacas working at any one time. A problem with this is that some alpacas will patrol fences if they are within sight of another alpaca. This can be true even if they have a companion in the same paddock. A number of farmers have overcome this by mixing and matching animals until the right combination is achieved. I have found myself swapping animals until the farmer is satisfied. As we all know, alpaca personalities vary greatly and animals need to be chosen for the situation that they will be working in.

On a recent trip to northern NSW I kept an eye out for alpacas in paddocks. After 2,400 kms of driving, I had seen thousands of sheep but only one alpaca. There is still a huge potential market out there. With lamb prices varying between \$30-110, depending on quality and the vagaries of the market, an alpaca will pay for itself in the first lambing season. So why is it that some farmers are reticent to use them?

It could be that they are sceptical or unwilling to try something new. This is often overcome by word of mouth. You often find that farmers using alpacas are in pockets. One gets one and, if it works, word spreads and his neighbours may be more willing to try one. This is probably amplified by increased fox attacks on neighbouring properties. If an alpaca is effective, where do the foxes go? To ungarded neighbouring properties!

Word of mouth can also have the opposite effect, and bad publicity travels faster than good publicity. There are numerous horror stories out there about alpacas. People are still selling entire males as herd protectors. A staff member at the biggest farming supplies store in the Wimmera was sold an entire male and found it mounting his sheep. He was more than willing to tell everyone that came into the store. Another farmer from Armidale had an exceptionally large entire male that actually killed some of his sheep.

Other breeders are selling males that are far too young. Most people recognise that wethers will not work until they are at least 18 months old and I have found that many won't work until they are well into their third year.

The other thing to remember is that some alpacas just don't work as herd guards, no matter what you do. This is where breeders have to be prepared to replace stock in order to keep the market satisfied.

Another reason is that some farmers are unwilling to take on the responsibility of yet another type of animal. One of the questions from isolated areas is, "Who will we get to shear them?" I have heard of numerous occasions where alpacas have been shorn in the same manner as sheep (the mind boggles). It is vital that the wellbeing of the animal is considered when selling herd guards.

Some breeders have overcome these problems by leasing animals out. The farmer then only has the animal when he needs it and doesn't have to look after it for the rest of the year. The breeder can be assured that the animal will be shorn, injected and cared for. The downside of leasing is the potential for parasites and disease to be transferred. One local breeder who makes a good living from leasing herd guards has overcome this by having two properties. In this way, the guards never come into contact with his breeding stock and individual animals can be quarantined as they come in.

The future success of the herd guard industry relies on people doing the right thing and portraying a professional image. In the past I have been able to answer farmers' questions with anecdotal evidence. With this in mind, I approached Longerenong College in order to see if we could try and collect some concrete data on the use of alpacas as herd guards.

Longerenong College is near Horsham in Western Victoria and runs between 500 and 800 ewes, among many other enterprises. Like most of the farms in the Wimmera they lose a percentage of lambs each year to foxes. They were a little sceptical about using alpacas but decided to give them a try. I lent them some herd guards. Unfortunately lambing had already started so we couldn't get the full picture but there was a noticeable increase in lambing percentages.

This year Longerenong's ewes will be lambing in July. As part of the curriculum for the Advanced Diploma in Agriculture, the students have to design and carry out a scientific survey. The exact method has yet to be finalised. We had originally envisaged a comparison of unguarded flocks with those with a single guard and those with a pair of guards. This has now been adjusted due to the need for enough replicate paddocks to give us viable information. The aim now is to collect figures on lambing percentages in guarded and unguarded flocks. A comparison of single alpacas and pairs will have to be the subject of a future study.

Each ewe will be pregnancy tested and we may even be able to get some idea of the number of twins and triplets. Ewes will be monitored at least twice daily and any dead lambs will be removed and autopsied. The numbers of live and dead lambs will be compared to the numbers expected from the pregnancy testing. This will tell us how many, if any, have been removed.

Although the sample size in this experiment is small, it is a start and I am sure that more questions will be raised than will be answered.

Some questions that will not be covered in this exercise are:

- > Do individuals work better than pairs? (The majority of farmers say they do).
- > What effect do terrain and vegetation have on the effectiveness of herd guards?
- > How many ewes per alpaca?
- > What paddock area is the maximum that an alpaca can effectively cover?
- > Do suris work better than huacayas? (Many farmers say they do).
- > Does colour make any difference? (Many farmers prefer coloured animals because they stand out).
- > Does the sheep breed have any influence? (Merinos and Suffolks tend to flock whereas Texels and Crossbreds tend to spread out).

There are probably enough questions to keep the Longerenong students busy for years to come.

I will publish the results when the survey is completed and at least we will then have some data we can use rather than having to rely on anecdotal evidence. As the project progresses, updates will be posted on the R&D section of the AAA web site.

If anyone has any suggestions to enhance this project please feel free to contact me on 0427 602 773 or (03)5384 7446 or info@tumialpacas.com ■

Alpaca: An Historical Perspective

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Julienne Gelber** > Bumble Hill Alpacas, NSW



Weaver's
tool box

No script is known from ancient Peru; what is known derives from oral tradition among the indigenous inhabitants, much of which is inconsistent. In the absence of historical sources for the pre-Hispanic period, the oral tradition as it was recorded by Spanish and Indian chroniclers post the Spanish conquest and archaeological excavation and interpretation provide an insight into the life and culture in which alpaca and other camelidae feature so prominently.

The discovery of 900-1,000 year old naturally mummified llamas and alpacas at a number of archaeological sites¹ has permitted detailed study of these Andean breeds. Analysis of skin and fibre samples indicates the likelihood of two separate breeds of both llama and alpaca, both much finer and more uniform than the breeds of today.

Of the llamas, the fine fibre breed (22 μ with 2.3 μ SD) is apparently now extinct, whilst a coarse fibred breed is similar to contemporary animals (34 μ) but exhibited a more uniform fleece. Among the alpacas, extra fine fibre (18 μ with a phenomenal 1.1 μ SD) and fine fibred (mean 23 μ , 1.6 μ SD) breeds were distinguished. Both groups exhibited uniform, single-coats reflecting selection for a uniform, single-coated fleece through reduction in the size difference between primary and secondary undercoat fibres (*Wheeler, Russel, Stanley, 1993*). Textile fragments and fibres from small ritually mummified camelids (thought to be alpaca) found in archaeological sites of the Moche, Nazca, Chinchá and Chimu cultures have yielded evidence of even finer micron alpaca fibre, with samples consistently measuring 12-13 μ with a 1 μ SD. Of course this could be vicuña.

So what circumstances might have led these Andean cultures to focus on the production and breeding of such extraordinary fibre and to what degree has the pre-Hispanic genetic excellence been lost?

Apart from silk production, there is no other rare fibre with such a long and refined history as alpaca and other South American camelid fibres.

Pre-Hispanic History

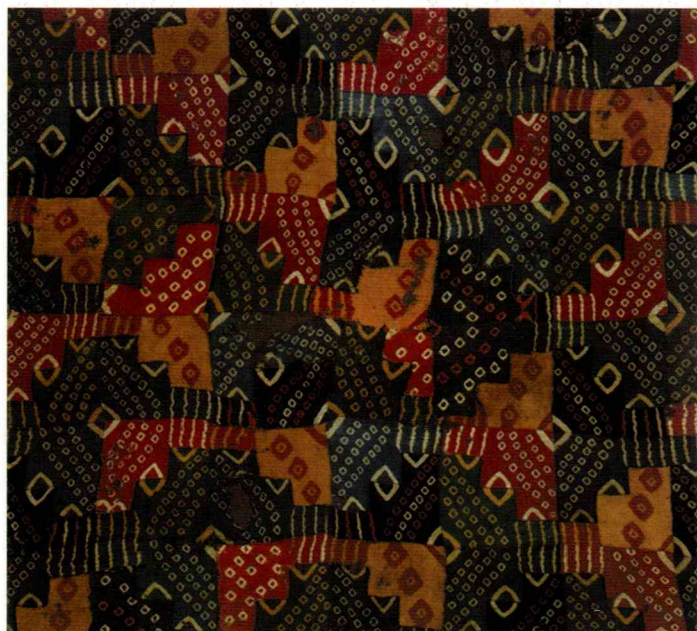
The development of weaving paralleled in complexity the development of pre-Hispanic society. As the invention of agriculture and herding led to sedentary life, the growth of population and the development of classes, weaving was likewise adapted to evolving notions of rank, class and prestige.

By 400BC, on the western coast of South America, native cultures had advanced their textile industry to such a degree that all types of textile weaving currently in use today had been invented: sprang, compound weaves, interlocked and slit tapestries, rigid warps, reps, ginghams, netting, tassels, tufts, braids, embroideries, needle knitting, painted fabrics, tie-dye, batik and a distinctive, warp-lock construction. In succeeding generations and cultures, weaving flourished as new demands for it continued to grow (*Flores Ochoa, MacQuarrie, Portus, 1995*).

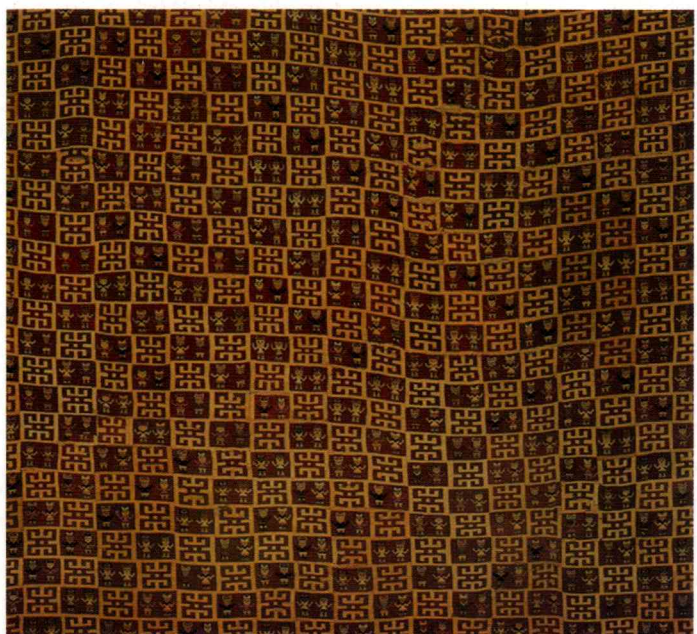
By the time the large South American empires emerged (3rd century AD onwards) cloth was one of the most important materials produced by the state. The outpouring of complex textile wealth on the Peruvian coast around the beginning of the first millennium paralleled the complex states and societal evolution that was flourishing on the coast and throughout the Andes. By the time of the first empires, over 120 colour hues were fashioned from three main dyes – indigo; a still unknown brown-yellow plant dye and red from cochineal. Guilds of weavers produced cloth in enormous quantities since cloth was used not only by common citizens as clothing, but was also used as currency and in sacrifices where great quantities of it were burned as offerings to the gods. In addition, cloth was used for gifts, for payments, for citizen identification, for decoration, for bridal wealth, as ritual objects, burial shrouds, and as

emblems of rank, nobility and prestige. There was humble cloth for wall and floor furnishing made from rough llama fibre, royal cloth made from fine alpaca or vicuña wool, funerary cloth woven from cotton and alpaca.

For 1,500 years, throughout the civilizations of pre-Hispanic Central and south western South America, fine woven bolts of pima cotton and camelid cloth from the Andean cultures were traded for precious metals and stones so prized for adornment of Incan temples and palaces (and which were less plentiful in the south). The textile motifs of the Chimú, Moche and Nazca cultures strongly influenced the Mayan and Aztec decorative styles and Andean technical textile innovation was revered throughout pre-Hispanic Central America.



Wari culture, 600 to 800 AD. – alpaca weaving held by the Fundacion Museo, Amaro, Lima, Peru.



Intricate design weaving from the Chancay culture, 1200 to 1450 AD., held by the Fundacion Museo, Amaro, Lima, Peru.



Chimu weaving, 1100 to 1450 AD., held by Museo National Antropologia y Arqueologia, Lima, Peru.

Early Spanish chroniclers such as Garcilasso de la Vega² describe vast stone warehouses stacked with bolts of fine cloth owned by the Incan state, overseen by official clerks who used specialised quipu³ to account for and describe the contents. Records of the great shipments of conquest booty back to the King and Queen of Spain have noted huge quantities of fine textiles and live alpacas for their enjoyment.

Pre-Conquest Llama and Alpaca Production

Both llamas and alpacas were originally domesticated in the Andean puna at least 6,000 years ago (*Wheeler, 1984 and 1986*). Most probably llama herding began on the coast at least 1,500 years ago while evidence points to alpaca breeding in several locales 1,000 years ago. Undoubtedly settlers from the Lake Titicaca basin brought their highland textile traditions and livestock to the coast but the wealth of herds in the circum Titicaca region continued to Incan times.

Llama and alpaca production were fundamental to the Inca economy and many military campaigns were fought to secure regions with significant alpaca and llama herds such as the Titicaca kingdoms. Sixteenth century documents record that by the 15th century AD the Incan government rigidly controlled llama and alpaca production and breeding (*Murra, 1965*). State herds supplied alpaca wool for textile production, whilst shrine herds, divided according to colour, provided sacrificial animals for state religious observances. An hereditary cast of state herders, the yana, had emerged prior to the conquest. Textile production and redistribution was largely state controlled although communally and individually owned herds did exist. Detailed herd records were kept using the quipu. ➤

The Spanish Conquest

The Spanish conquistadors, driven by their lust for gold and success in Mexico were lured further south by stories of an even richer culture, that of the Incas. Meanwhile Pizzaro and his soldiers of fortune were somewhat disappointed to find that the wealth of the Incas was in fact cloth and a highly ordered culture, which they dismissed as worthless. They resorted to the desecration of the richly adorned temples and palaces to obtain the precious metals they sought (*Prescott, 1858*) and the slaughter of the indigenous peoples and their livestock to appease their thirst for land.

In the Andean kingdoms, the Spanish conquest (Cuzco was conquered in 1532) unleashed an environmental crisis of unprecedented magnitude in which the landscape was irreversibly altered and native genetic resources impoverished. In the Andes, previously unknown diseases reduced the human population by an estimated 80 percent leading to economic and social disintegration of native societies (*Wachtel, 1977*). Native llama and alpaca herds virtually disappeared within the century post-conquest (*Flores, Ochoa, 1977*) as European livestock (sheep, goats, cattle and pigs) displaced them from their coastal and highland valley range, pushing them into the marginal altiplano, where the poorly acclimatised animals did not survive. Records kept by Spanish civil servants recorded the quantum of the camelids' decline⁴.

Post Conquest

The loss of orally transmitted specialist information about breeds and breeding within the first century post-European contact was catastrophic for the alpaca breed. The probable cause of the coarsening and hairiness in both huacaya and suri alpaca would be through hybridization with the coarser fibred llama breeds amid the chaos and destruction of the conquest (*Wheeler et al, 1993*).


Meanwhile, the impact on the European textile industry of the Incan textiles sent to Spain during the 16th-17th centuries, was significant. Many of the weave advances displayed in the Andean cloth were adopted by the European craft guilds and incorporated into machine design as the industry moved towards mechanisation. European woollen cloth was refined and embellished using the New World benchmark.

Yet despite a drastic deterioration in the quality of the raw alpaca fibre, both domestic demand and an awakening to the potential of the fibre in Europe kept the breed alive in South America over the next three centuries.

During the late 18th and into the 19th century, Peru held an alpaca fibre supply monopoly, although little is known about their methods or extent of production during that period. In fact one of the first attempts to break Peruvian control of the alpaca fibre supply occurred with Charles Ledger's attempt to establish alpaca breeding in NSW in the 1850s.


Victorian England's wool milling excellence was acknowledged worldwide and the impact of Sir Titus Salt and his Saltaire mill, built on the profits of alpaca cloth, brought alpaca fibre to pre-eminence in the 1850s when it was once again worn by nobility and became a symbol of wealth.

Surprisingly, despite being categorised as one of the 'rare yarns' and lauded for its lustre and silky handle, the 19th and 20th century alpaca was a two-coated animal with the resultant problems for processors and end-users of its fleece. In Peru, during the 1950s, a single private alpaca breeder, Don Julio Barreda successfully embarked on the most significant breeding initiative to remedy the neglect of the previous 300 years. A decade later, several large alpaca co-operatives, enabled by land reforms for the native peasants, also embarked on breeding programmes to improve the quality of the alpaca fibre collected for despatch to the European market. Within thirty years the average fibre yield of a superior alpaca had doubled, colour patterns were being bred out and uniformity of micron and length had been significantly improved.

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By the end of the 20th century, the Peruvians at their government's instigation and with the technical and financial assistance of European joint-venturers had re-established their textile tradition, fashioning it into a sophisticated, vertically integrated industry supplying the major world markets for pima cotton and alpaca. Yet they still, for the most part, employed primitive animal husbandry practices and fibre collection and sorting systems grounded in the native traditions passed down from Incan times.

The Here and Now

But the story doesn't end there. Alpaca fibre production is no longer the preserve of the South Americans. In the last twenty years major herds of quality alpacas have been established in Australia, New Zealand and North America.


Agreed, we are still many generations of improvement away from the fine llama and alpaca fibre found on the 1,500 year old camelid mummies of El Yaral. However, we do know that the alpaca has the capacity to produce fibre finer and more uniform than any other wool growing animal – it has done it before, magnificently. We also know that the improved fibre's performance will solve many of the processing difficulties currently experienced in the production of high quality alpaca products. The challenge will be to identify what desirable genetic material

of these pre-hispanic alpacas remains in contemporary herds and combine it with sophisticated breeding programmes such as SRS® to replicate the quality of the animals of the pre-Hispanic period. Therein lays our challenge and opportunity. ■

Text references are available from the author on request.


Footnotes:

- 1 At El Yaral in the Lake Titicaca region, the fibre on exceptionally preserved llama and alpaca mummies was tested by Wheeler et al in the mid 1990s with the results quoted in the above paper.
- 2 Garcilasso's descriptions are considered reliable. He had a Spanish father, a Jesuit education and his mother was an Incan princess.
- 3 The quipu is a mnemonic counting device of knotted string made from llama hair or cotton. Most of those found in graves were for astrological calculations whilst other quipu chronicled as used for keeping a variety of records in Inca times, have not survived (*Nordenskiöld, 1944*).
- 4 In 1567, Garci Diez de San Miguel, inspector for the Spanish crown reported a single, privately owned herd of 50,000 llamas and alpacas in the province of Chucuito on the western shore of Lake Titicaca. Five years later Pedro Gutierrez Flores counted only 160,000 head in the entire province, reflecting the devastation of native livestock in what was the most important centre of llama and alpaca production in the Andes.

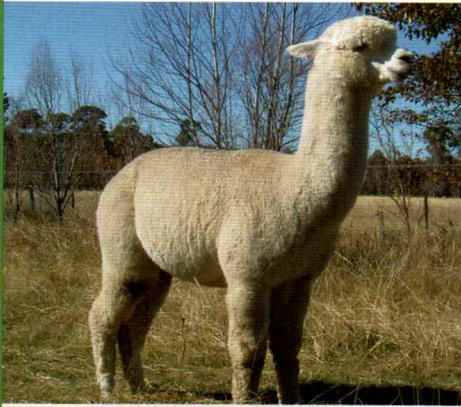

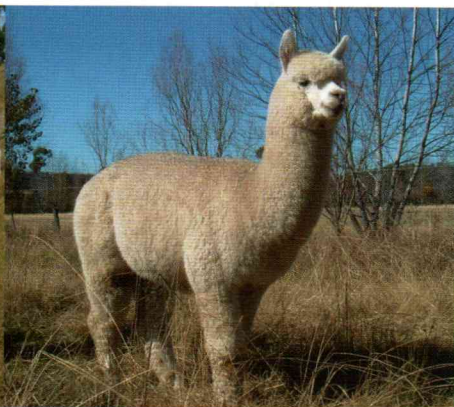


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Cria Neck Band Collars

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Carolyn Austin & Geoff McGowan-Lay** > Lillyfield Alpacas, NSW

When we first started breeding alpacas I could never envisage the time when we didn't recognise one of our cria or be confused about which female the cria belonged to. Those times are now long gone I am afraid. Either we are getting older or many of them now all look the same.

Having a fairly large herd, now over 150 breeding females, the process of using one or two males over many of the stock in succession has given us exactly what we had hoped for – a product or a run of animals with very similar characteristics, all very good for predictability, but not so much fun when it comes to deciding who is who.



We experimented with a range of ideas;

- > Ear tagging early proved to have its own issues - both brass and paddock versions - particularly with very young ears.
- > Hanging thin strings or chains with names, even elastic, always seemed to get caught in the fleece, break or worry us that the cria would hang themselves.

By chance I was doing my favourite midnight past time, searching web sites, when I came across a product referred to as a Calf ID Neck Band.¹ They came in packs of ten and many colours, so we added these new bands to a group of old ear tags and we had the start of a new naming sensation.

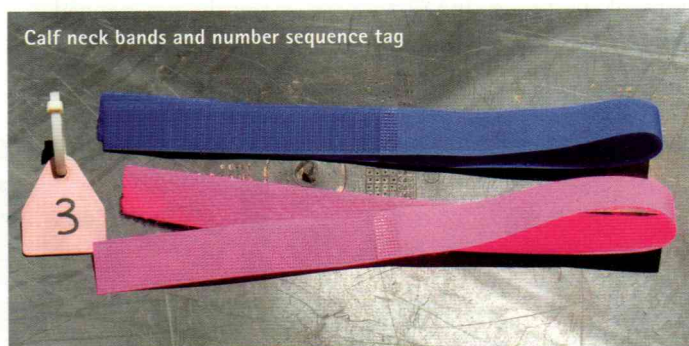
The collar bands at Lillyfield are blue for boys and pink for girls making half the job done before we even start (but many friends now use a range of collar colours even on adults to make group identification easier).

Then there are a number of options for the attached tag.

- > To run a number sequence and re-issue the numbers after use, or
- > Write the cria and dam names on the tag, good for two cria by turning the tag over.

We have a lot of old ear tags here at the moment so the most effective method for us has been to write the names on.

The collars are checked regularly to accommodate rapidly growing cria, but as they are a Velcro based product they will break open if they get caught on anything.



What issues have we had?

One day I saw a little fellow with his front leg up through the collar. How did he do it? I don't know, but the result was that we keep the collars a little tighter now and this problem has not recurred. On another occasion a female cria lost her collar altogether, probably proving she snagged it on something and it came off, which is a positive result from our perspective.

The real bonus for our operation is at shearing time when we are all rushing about and the cria all look the same, yet completely different from just moments before. Then we really do benefit from the collar system and many a cria have been reunited with concerned mums, even when the dams couldn't tell the difference either. ■

Footnote:

- 1 Collars can be purchased from the Farmers Mail Box: www.fmb.com.au

Meat Withholding Periods in Alpacas

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Dr Jane Vaughan** BVSc PhD MACVSc > Honorary Secretary, Australian Alpaca Veterinarians

With the advent of alpacas being slaughtered for human consumption in Australia, meat withholding periods should be observed by all alpaca breeders. Just because an alpaca breeder does not intend to sell animals for slaughter, the animals may be on-sold and end up in the human food chain.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) defines the **Withholding Period (WHP)** as the minimum period which must elapse between last administration or application of a veterinary chemical product, including treated feed, and the slaughter, collection, harvesting or use of the animal commodity for human consumption. WHPs are mandatory for domestic slaughter and on the label of every registered product.

The APVMA web site can be located at:
<http://www.apvma.gov.au> for further details.

Unfortunately, **no drugs are registered for use in alpacas** and little research has been performed in camelids regarding minimum residue limits and meat withholding periods. Extensive lists are available for sheep and cattle (see <http://www.apvma.gov.au/residues/ESI.shtml> for more details), but obtaining information on alpacas can be very difficult or impossible.

Make sure you read the label on every veterinary medicine used (breeders – if in doubt, call your

veterinarian for advice). Do **NOT** use a product if it is not registered for use in food-producing animals (e.g. antibiotics such as enrofloxacin, gentamycin, chloramphenicol and metronidazole; anti-inflammatories such as phenylbutazone).

To check the current registration of a chemical product, you can access a database of all registered agricultural and veterinary products in Australia at:
<http://services.apvma.gov.au/PubcrisWebClient>.

The APVMA (known before March 2003 as the NRA) allocates a unique registration number which is printed on the bottom of the product label. The APVMA uses this approval number to verify the registration status of products. The words "NRA Approval No." always appears in front of the number. The last four digits tell you when the product was last assessed by the APVMA.

Be aware of the potential risks involved in ordering farm chemicals over the internet. It is illegal to import, possess or use unregistered chemical products in Australia. So, before you order a farm chemical product over the internet, check that the product you want is registered for use in Australia. Then you will be certain that your purchase is legal, and you won't attract the interest of the APVMA, Australian Customs or the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). ■



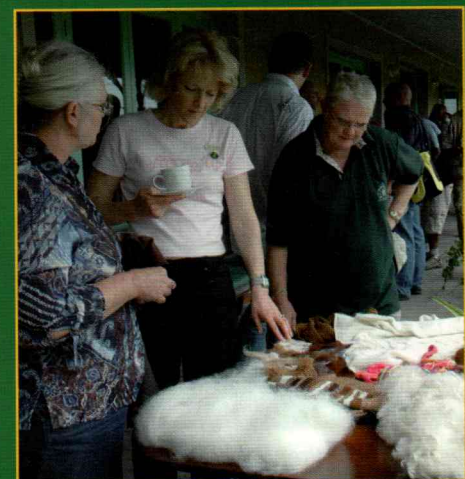
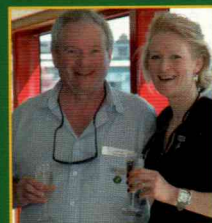
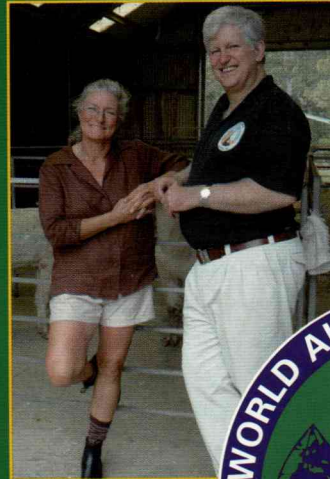
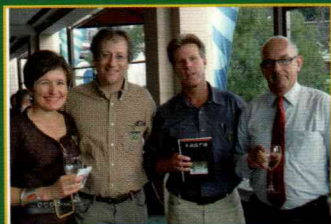
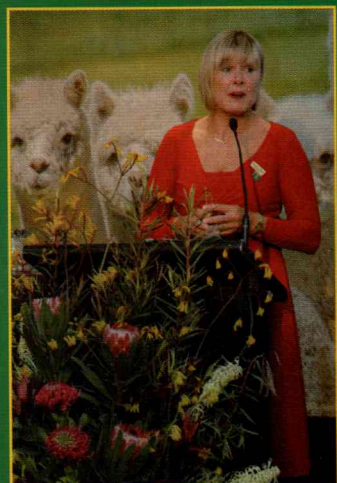
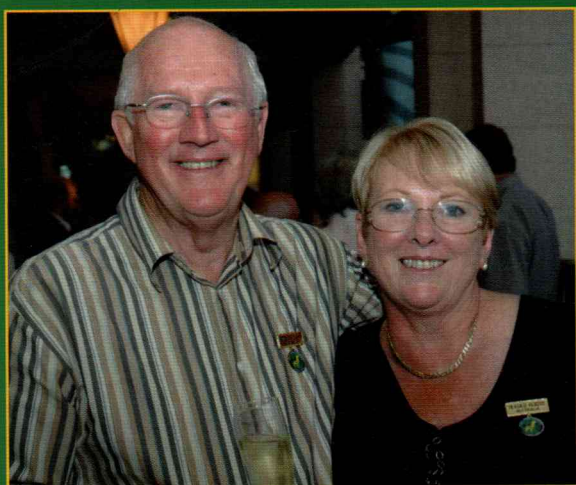
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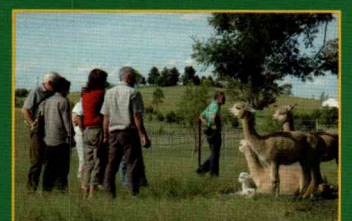
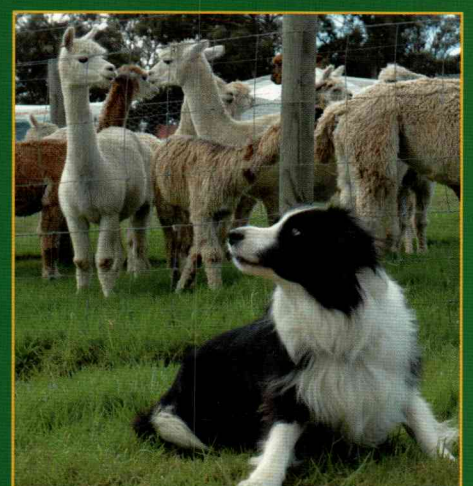
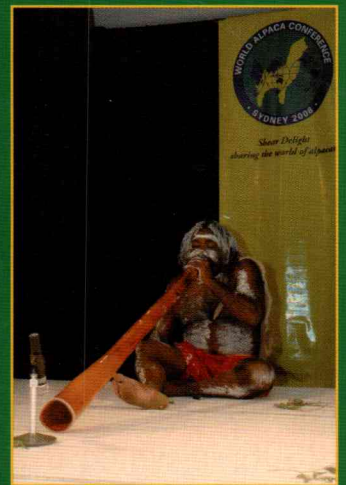
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Alpaca Owners' Feeding and Management Practices

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Pauleen Bennett** > Hevnlee Alpacas, VIC

In the last issue of *Alpacas Australia* I described some of the results from a survey of Australian alpaca owners, conducted by the Animal Welfare Science Centre in 2006, in which the respondents were asked to describe their beliefs about alpacas. In the second part of the survey alpaca owners were asked about their feeding and management practices. The results from this section are summarised below.

Respondents were first asked to indicate whether they engaged in a number of husbandry practices and, if so, how often these practices were typically conducted.

In the first instance, participants were asked to respond according to how they treated most of their alpacas, excluding 'special' groups such as females in the later stages of gestation, working stud males or weanlings.

The first data column in Table 1 shows the percentage of respondents who reported engaging in each practice. The remaining columns provide a more detailed analysis of how frequently participants who reported engaging in each practice did so. This includes the range of responses provided by the participants and the most common response. The table also shows the frequency in number of days for each practice under which 25, 50 and 75% of the sample fell.

As an example of how to interpret the data from this table, consider the results obtained for administration of injectable Vitamin D. According to the results of the survey, 72.1% of alpaca managers engaged in this practice.

The range of 1 to 2190 days indicates that at least one of the respondents who engaged in the practice reported doing so on a daily basis, and at least one respondent reported doing so only once every six years ($2190 \div 365 = 6$).

The most common response provided was 182 days (administration every six months), but 25% of the sample who engaged in this practice did so at a frequency of 90 days (3 months) or less, 25% did so at a frequency of between 91 and 182 days, 25% did so at a frequency between 182 and 365 days and 25% did so less frequently than 365 days.

With respect to body scoring, 91.7% of the sample report engaging in this practice, with a frequency range of daily to once every four years.

The most common response was 30 days, with 50% of the sample body scoring their animals at least this frequently and another 25% body scoring with a frequency between 30 and 90 days. Of those who reported body scoring at all, the remaining 25% did so less frequently than once every 90 days.

There are several interesting results from these data. First, it would seem that nearly all alpaca managers visually inspect their animals on a daily basis and that many also administer daily or weekly a general mineral supplement and/or a selenium supplement.

Most people physically inspect, body score and inspect toenails on a monthly basis, with toenail trimming, vaccinations, worming, Vitamin D administration (oral or injected) and treatment for liver fluke typically taking place twice yearly. More respondents administer injectable Vitamin D than oral Vitamin D but, taken together, these practices are engaged in by almost all alpaca managers.

Fewer respondents administer selenium, but the percentage of managers who engage in this practice remains quite high at over 60% (oral = 34.3%, injectable = 26.5%). Almost 40% of respondents conduct faecal egg count sampling, most on an annual basis, even though 76.8% treat their alpacas for intestinal worms. Relatively few people weigh their animals and most of these do so annually, although others monitored weight daily, weekly, monthly or twice yearly. ➤

Husbandry Practice	% of sample who engaged in this practice	Range (days)	Mode: most common frequency (days)	25th percentile (days)	50th percentile (days)	75th percentile (days)
Visually inspect	100	0.25-90	1	1	1	2
Inspect toenails	99.1	1-2190	30	30	90	182
Trim toenails	98.1	28-1460	182	90	182	365
Physically (hands on) inspect body	97.9	1-1095	30	14	30	90
Vaccinate (5 in 1 or other)	95.8	30-1095	182	182	182	365
Inspect teeth	93.9	1-1460	365	182	365	365
Body score	91.7	1-1460	30	30	30	90
Inspect for external parasites	78.4	1-1095	365	30	90	365
Treat for intestinal worms	76.8	7-1460	182	182	182	365
Administer injectable Vitamin D	72.1	1-2190	182	90	182	365
Trim front teeth	70.9	30-5475	365	365	365	365
Administer general mineral supplement	59.6	1-1460	1	1	7	56
Trim facial hair	58.5	3-1095	365	365	365	365
Trim male fighting teeth	56.8	30-1825	365	365	365	365
Treat for external parasites	46.9	1-1825	365	90	182	365
Weigh	39.4	1-5475	365	30	182	365
Faecal egg count sampling	39.2	7-1825	365	182	365	365
Administer oral selenium	34.3	1-1460	1	7	90	182
Administer oral Vitamin D	26.5	1-1095	182	30	182	270
Administer injectable selenium	26.5	1-1460	365	182	365	365
Treat for liver fluke	23.7	30-730	182	182	182	365

Table 1. Percentage of participants who engaged in various husbandry procedures and the frequency with which these participants engaged in each practice

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	Correlations with variables measuring experience				Correlations with variables measuring experience		
	How informed person felt about alpaca care	Number of years involved in alpaca care	Total number of alpacas cared for		How informed person felt about alpaca care	Number of years involved in alpaca care	Total number of alpacas cared for
Visually inspect#	-	-	-	Administer general mineral supplement	0.072	0.060	-0.033
Inspect toenails	0.071	-0.033	0.006	Trim facial hair	-0.018	-0.078	-0.042
Trim toenails	0.100	0.051	0.032	Trim male fighting teeth	0.041	0.148*	-0.050
Physically (hands on) inspect body	0.051	0.033	0.024	Treat for external parasites	0.025	0.050	0.035
Vaccinate (5 in 1 or other)	0.010	-0.084	-0.003	Weigh	0.066	0.105	-0.013
Inspect teeth	0.065	0.050	-0.165*	Faecal egg count sampling	0.210*	0.156*	0.075
Body score	0.202*	0.045	0.040	Administer oral selenium	0.033	0.067	-0.019
Inspect for external parasites	0.141*	0.026	0.068	Administer oral Vit D	-0.007	0.043	-0.054
Treat for intestinal worms	0.064	0.040	0.055	Administer injectable selenium	0.115	0.073	0.114
Administer injectable Vit D	0.051	0.164*	0.105	Treat for liver fluke	-0.139*	-0.082	-0.043
Trim front teeth	-0.012	0.029	-0.024				

* denotes correlation significant at $p < .01$, # because all respondents reported visually inspecting their animals, it was not possible to correlate this variable with others

Table 2. Extent to which engagement in specific husbandry practices was associated with experience variables

Relationships between general feeding and management practices and experience caring for alpacas

To explore whether experience with alpacas affected general feeding and management practices the variables described above were correlated (Table 2) with three measures of participant experience: how well informed the person believed themselves to be about alpaca care and husbandry; how many years they had been involved in the industry; and; the total number of alpacas cared for over that time. Positive correlations indicate that a practice was more likely to be engaged in by participants with more experience than it was by participants with less experience. Negative correlations indicate the reverse – the practice was less likely to be engaged in by participants with more experience caring for alpacas. Engagement in most husbandry practices was not significantly influenced by experience. Respondents who considered themselves to be well informed about alpaca care were, however, more likely to body score their animals, inspect them for external parasites and conduct faecal egg count sampling, while those with many years of experience caring for alpacas were more likely to administer injectable Vitamin D, trim male fighting teeth and conduct faecal egg count sampling. The total number of alpacas cared for was significantly related to only one practice, that of inspecting teeth, with respondents who had cared for a larger number of animals being less likely than others to engage in this practice.

To determine whether engagement in the various husbandry practices was associated with the beliefs about alpacas described previously (*Alpacas Australia* Issue 54) a correlation matrix was generated. The matrix is not presented due to its large size but there were no unexpected results. In general the strongest correlations were for beliefs and activities that are intuitively related. For example, respondents who believed that alpacas in Australia are susceptible to selenium deficiency were more likely to administer selenium to their animals either orally or intramuscularly. Those who believed that intestinal worms should be monitored in alpacas even when they are not run with other livestock were more likely to de-worm their animals regularly and conduct faecal egg counts. Respondents who believed that alpacas require daily observation to ensure good health were more likely to weigh their animals, treat them for external parasites and administer a general mineral supplement. Meanwhile, those who believed strongly that alpacas can generally live on pasture alone were less likely to treat intestinal worms or administer a general mineral supplement. Those who believed alpacas have higher mineral needs than other animals were more likely to administer injectable Vitamin D, oral selenium and a general mineral supplement. General mineral supplementation was correlated with a number of beliefs about specific health needs including the beliefs that alpacas in Australia may be susceptible to Vitamin D deficiency, Vitamin K deficiency, Selenium deficiency and Cobalt deficiency.

Supplementary feeding

Respondents were asked whether their animals received supplementary feed when good quality pasture was available, and when good quality pasture was unavailable. While nearly all respondents (98.3%) provided supplementary feed in the absence of good quality pasture, a surprisingly high number (74.6%) also provided supplementary feed even in the presence of good quality pasture. Although respondents were given an opportunity to list the feeds that were used as supplements, few chose to do so. Those who did most commonly listed lucerne hay, alpaca pellets, grass hay and/or an assortment of different grains.

Care of special groups

Respondents were asked whether they treated any of their alpacas differently from most of their alpacas and, if so, to list these special groups and indicate how they were treated differently. Just over three quarters of the sample (76%) indicated that some of their alpacas were treated differently. Because relatively few respondents listed those groups of animals that received special treatment or described what this treatment was, these data are not tabulated or presented. When details were provided, they indicated that groups of animals to receive special treatment included nursing mothers, females in the late stages of pregnancy, newborn cria, and aged, ill and recently shorn animals. Treatments included providing extra shelter or, for newborn cria, special jackets, separation from the main herd, the provision of special foods, various veterinary treatments or nutritional supplements, and often access to the best pasture, and, for aged animals, a reduction in breeding activities.

Husbandry personnel

Respondents were provided with a list of common husbandry procedures and were asked to indicate who normally performed these procedures on the alpacas that they cared for. The results are presented in Table 3. From this table it is evident that alpaca managers perform many of the husbandry procedures required by their animals, including halter training, body scoring, birthing, transportation, oral, subcutaneous and intramuscular administration of medications or supplements, nail trimming and mating. Specialist experts or other alpaca owners were frequently used for shearing and teeth trimming, with local veterinarians being accessed primarily for intravenous injections, autopsies and conducting faecal egg counts.

Conclusion

The data reported above provides information about the husbandry practices engaged in by experienced alpaca managers in Australia. As might be expected, this information is mostly consistent with the beliefs alpaca owners hold about their animals. Knowledge about alpaca carer beliefs and how these influence husbandry practices is invaluable for newcomers to the industry. It also provides a starting point from which educational materials can be developed by the industry. In the third and final report about this project, to be published in the next edition of *Alpacas Australia*, mating and cria care practices will be described. ■

	Self	Other alpaca owner or breeder	Normal veterinarian	Specialist camelid vet or other expert	Not applicable
Halter training	95.0	1.7	0.0	0.2	3.1
Body scoring	92.1	1.9	0.0	0.5	5.5
Birthing	91.4	2.9	2.6	1.0	2.1
Transport	91.3	5.4	0.0	0.5	2.8
Subcutaneous injections	89.9	3.1	1.9	2.2	2.9
Intramuscular injections	85.0	4.1	3.4	3.1	4.3
Oral administration of medications/drenches etc.	84.6	2.4	0.7	1.2	10.9
Nail trimming	84.1	9.2	0.0	5.2	1.4
Mating	74.2	11.0	0.0	1.4	2.4
Teeth trimming	22.1	23.3	6.0	32.5	15.9
Shearing	21.2	27.0	0.0	49.6	2.2
Faecal egg count	13.1	1.0	19.4	20.8	45.0
Intravenous injections	11.7	1.9	47.0	15.8	23.6
Autopsy	2.2	0.0	33.8	23.4	40.1

Table 3. Percentage of respondents who indicated that specific personnel performed required husbandry tasks

Peru Alpaca Fiesta 2007

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Carol Mathew** > Jingana Alpacas, VIC

The 2007 Alpaca Fiesta in Arequipa, Peru, was a marvellous event. About 30 Australians attended and it was great to have two Australians participating in the judging, Dianne Condon and Peter Kennedy. Other participants came from the USA, Canada, UK, Europe and Japan. Judging took place over four days with a break on the third day so we could attend the Vicuña round-up and shearing. This was done at an altitude of 4,600 metres so some of us in the mature female class found the going slow! Chris Williams from Ambersun Alpacas, SA, very kindly checked our progress. It was a very interesting event with important fertility ceremonies from Inca times conducted.



Corralled Vicuña

The Fiesta was well run and the alpacas were of very high standard. The white suris were outstanding. The Champion Suri received a prize of US\$5,000, the Champion Huacaya US\$1,000. This was on top of all the other prizes ranging from rolls of ring lock and wheelbarrows to computers and motorbikes etc.



(above) Grand Champion Suri candidates (below) \$5,000 and prizes



The overall Stud winner was Macusani; they also won a Peru government prize of a two week trip to Australia to attend the World Alpaca Conference.

Throughout the Fiesta there was much entertainment. Events included the night time opening ceremony with the parade of the Wasus, (Suri Herd Totems) all with full, unshorn, immaculate fleeces. There were also Inca ceremonies as well as various folk dances. As well, we were treated to a display of the high stepping Spanish horses. The Gala Dinner in the superb 16th century convent will long be remembered. The food was wonderful, the entertainment spectacular, and the dancing fun.

There were a number of mill tours. The Grupo Inca mill was state of the art, very sophisticated Italian and German equipment, with high QA checking and standards. They were doing garments for top European and US labels, as well as their own. They operate with a staff of 1,400. The Michell mill demonstrated some of their experimentation with natural dyes. At the Cusco Inca Museum you can see the vivid colours achieved in beautifully fine, woven cloth made centuries ago. This dye experimentation is all part of the drive to meet the huge interest in eco-friendly textiles.



Natural dyes

After five action packed and informative days some of us set off on tours. These included the Colca Canyon, Mallkini Stud, Lake Titicaca, the Amazon basin, and rail and road trips in the Altiplano. We were all interested in the Mallkini experimental Stud run by the Michell family. They run three herds of alpacas, including their Plantel herd. The record keeping is extensive and all on database.



(above) Mallkini herd (right) Vicuña cross

Of note was the fibre testing and their scoring. They claim to put 40% weighting on fineness, 30% on weight, and 30% on character, but the CV qualifies the fineness, so a low CV will place a medium fine score at the top. Some of the technicians at the mills talked about the importance of low CV to prevent cockling. The message is that they do have integration with the processors who deal with huge amounts of alpaca.

On the Mallkini database you could see the documenting of defects and extensive culling. We witnessed the culling as a mob of rather classy alpacas were run in to demonstrate shearing, this done on a low table and expertly skirted. All the alpacas were marked green and therefore off to the butchers! Each herd of alpacas is about 150 in size and supervised by a shepherd on the Altiplano. All matings are done by hand and documented, and they only do an Autumn drop. It was interesting to see that all alpacas receive ADE injections at shearing. They were doing some crossing with Vicuña to bring down the micron, but the Vicuña hairy apron was very evident in the Huacaya.

At Mallkini we met a Norwegian couple that import over 30 tonnes of alpaca knitting yarn into Europe a year. They put aside 9% of their profits to provide a school for the local children. They have been joined by donors throughout the world to give back to the generous Andeans. The school will house the children for the five school days, as they



will come from very remote areas. We also met a Dutch couple who import a lot of alpaca product to Europe, so the market is strong.

On the bus trips if we saw alpacas being corralled, we stopped the bus and joined in assessing fleeces, much to the bemusement of the shepherds. This is a wonderful event to attend if you are able. The learning is invaluable and you come away with benchmarks for herd improvement as well as great memories. And now for some Andean folklore, if you mate at a full moon you get males; at a new moon you get females! ■



Keeping the Suri Pure ®

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

After 6 years of a very successful female breeding program, the whole Alcazar Suri Stud herd of pure suris is to be offered for sale. At this stage, expressions of interest are sought. The package offered for sale is as follows:

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Starting in 2001, Alcazar Suri Stud embarked on a long-term trial to test the efficacy of a treatment to bias the sex ratio and favour the production of female progeny. The method has been proven very efficacious and results are statistically significant. The statistical analysis is available upon request.
- Others
 - A custom built database for animal records
 - 2 registered Trade Marks: "Alcazar Suri Stud" and "Keeping the Suri Pure"
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Please submit your interest to pierre@alcazar.com.au or to Alcazar Suri Stud PO Box 254 LITHGOW NSW 2790 AUSTRALIA.

Additional information can be obtained by calling Pierre Baychelier or Brenton Spehr on +61 2 6359 3333.

Efficacy of a Treatment to Produce Female Crias

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Dr Pierre Baychelier** > Alcazar Suri Stud, NSW

In November 2001, Alcazar Suri Stud embarked on a long-term trial to test the efficacy of a treatment designed to bias the birth sex ratio and favour the production of female progeny. The present short article is to briefly report on the results obtained so far.

Materials and Methods

Alcazar Suri Stud has bred 42 animals since its creation. The majority is registered on the IAR database and bears the prefix *Alcazar*. Two animals were bred by Alcazar Suri Stud but their respective dams were sold pregnant and therefore these two animals bear another prefix. Two animals (two males) are not registered.

The treatment to influence the sex of the progeny is administered before mating. Any treatment will only be considered valid if it was administered 35 days or less before mating. If it took more than 35 days for the male to impregnate the female after treatment, then the mating was considered as not having received the treatment. Out of the 42 matings which produced a cria, fifteen (15) were successfully administered with the treatment and the remainder (27) were not.

The matings reported here were all suri to suri matings.

Results

The results obtained are presented in the table below.

	Observed progeny numbers		
	Male	Female	Total
Treated	1	14	15
Non treated	14	13	27
Total	15	27	42

Statistical Analysis

A chi-square (χ^2) test was used to return the risk of error (P) associated with rejecting the so-called null hypothesis (i.e. that there is no difference between the observed data and the expected data). The χ^2 test is the classic test used to determine whether hypothesized results are verified by an experiment.¹

As it is usually the case, a maximum risk of 0.05 or 5% has been chosen as the level of significance.

The χ^2 test allows comparison of the observed numbers with the expected results. First the expected numbers must be calculated:

	Expected progeny numbers		
	Male	Female	Total
Treated	5.4	9.6	15
Non treated	9.6	17.4	27
Total	15	27	42

The statistical analysis returned a χ^2 of 8.575 and a P of 0.34%. Therefore, as $P < 1\%$, one can confidently reject the null hypothesis that the proportions are the same, as the differences observed are statistically highly significant.

Discussion

Despite the small size of the sample (42 matings), it was proven with statistical significance that the treatment administered was able to induce the production of female progeny.

It is logical to expect that the time elapsed between the administration of the treatment, which has to happen before mating, and the occurrence of a successful mating (i.e. resulting in the delivery of a cria) had to have an influence. In fact, this can be demonstrated by the statistical analysis. If the cut-off point is changed to 42 days rather than 35 days, then $\chi^2 = 7.135$ and $P = 0.76\%$, which clearly shows that the significance of the effect is stronger if the 'window of opportunity' is 35 days than if this window is extended by one week to 42 days.

The experiment was carried out over 6 years, on a herd of suris of different genetic backgrounds, using animals of various ages, including maidens. ➤



As there are no reported differences in the reproductive physiology of suris and huacayas, it is not expected that the breed of alpaca might have had an influence on the outcome, and this can easily be checked by repeating the experiment using huacayas. The experiment started on one property (November 2001 to April 2004), then the animals were agisted for approximately one year on a second property (April 2004 to February 2005), and finally the herd was moved to yet a third property (February 2005 to present). Although the three locations were within the same region (Blue Mountains, NSW), a location effect is not expected either. A seasonal effect is also very unlikely.

Some females who produced a female cria after the treatment was successfully administered are present several times in the sample. In effect, the 14 'treated' female crias were produced by only 7 dams. It could be argued that these dams were more sensitive to the treatment than the average population. However, these 7 same dams also contributed 16 crias (11 males, 5 females) out of the 27 of the 'non treated' group. Similar comments can be made for the sires used in the experiment.

It should also be reported that 3 of the 14 'treated' female crias have now reached maturity and have had crias of their own. One of them has had a 'treated' female cria (second generation treatment).

At this stage, the nature of the treatment is not revealed. However, it can be stated that it is very easy to administer (it is a simple subcutaneous injection), cheap, readily available, safe, does not necessitate veterinary supervision or prescription and does not need to be repeated over

several days. In fact, the treatment could easily be added to any embryo transfer preparation protocol as the nature of the substance injected makes it extremely unlikely to interfere with the drugs used to induce multiple ovulation and cycle synchronicity. However this needs to be confirmed in field trials.

The experiment is on-going. The next step will be to try and increase the length of the 'window of opportunity' beyond 35 days.

Conclusion

The results and statistical analysis presented in this article have definitely demonstrated that it is possible to bias the birth sex ratio in favour of female progeny in alpacas. Statistical significance well below the usual level of 5% was returned ($P=0.34\%$). These unambiguous results were obtained with only a small sample of matings, which further strengthen the validity of the conclusion. After the treatment is administered, the dam should become pregnant within 5 weeks to ensure that the progeny will be of the female sex. ■

Reference

1. PAGANO M. and GAUVREAU K. – *Principles of biostatistics* – Duxbury Press, Belmont, California, USA, 1993

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Correspondence to pierre@alcazar.com.au

Imminent Closure of Vital Wool Industry Infrastructure

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Trisha Esson** > Cashmere Connections Pty Ltd, VIC

The CSIRO has, for many years, run a small research scour at its Geelong Textiles and Fibre Division. The scour has supplemented income to the CSIRO Geelong division, by taking in small lot commercial contract work when the machine was not being used for research purposes. In many cases this work was the type that larger Australian commercial scours refused to take on, as the lots were either too small for their machines, or contained coloured fibre which they would not touch for fear of contamination issues. The CSIRO scour therefore became an integral part of the development of the Rare Natural Fibre Industries; cashmere, alpaca, mohair and coloured and fine wools. All of those Australian produced and Australian processed products made from these fibres, that we see in shops and stalls at craft markets, fairs and farmers markets, will have been scoured at the CSIRO scour before being further processed by small boutique Australian textile processors.

The CSIRO is now determined to close down and sell their scouring plant. Representatives from the small boutique Australian textile processors as well as cashmere, alpaca, mohair, coloured wool and ultra fine wool interests have united in the fight to keep the scour here in Australia; if possible at the CSIRO. The closure of this scour will impact upon thousands of Australian individuals and small businesses as well as a small number of large Australian Companies (who use the scour's research capabilities with pesticides and detergents).

The fibre which is contract scoured by the CSIRO scour is made into high value goods, some of which are sold locally but much of which is exported to Europe and other high end markets.

According to our calculations there should be enough contract scouring work going through the scour for it to be a profitable business.

The scour is NOT being closed down due to lack of future demand. The scour is closing down because there has been a massive reduction in funds coming into the CSIRO facility in Geelong over past years.

Funds to run the CSIRO Geelong Textile and Fibre Technology division have traditionally come from levy money from wool sales matched by federal government grants. The wool clip has decreased rather dramatically over the past decade due to fewer sheep numbers (drought, low wool prices and Johnes Disease have contributed to reduction in sheep numbers). AWI (Australian Wool Innovations) is the body which currently decides how wool levy money will be spent. In 2007 AWI decided to greatly reduce the amount of levy money used for research and development and instead, in their wisdom, decided to use wool producers' levy money to focus upon the marketing of Australian wool. This decision has further reduced research funds to the Geelong CSIRO facility. In order to survive the CSIRO has made a shift in focus from wool and animal fibres to high tech fibres.

The Head of the CSIRO Geelong Division is advising Rare Natural Fibre producers to send their fibre offshore for scouring; amazing advice given that the introduction of product embedded carbon is imminent.

If scouring is done overseas then it will logically follow that subsequent processing will be done overseas and local small fibre processors will be forced to close through lack of work. So not only will we lose the ability to buy Australian grown and processed natural fibre products, but we will also lose the technical knowledge required to perform processing tasks. Scouring overseas is not a sensible option. Australian fibre industries need the CSIRO scour to remain in Australia and continue to be accessible for both research and contract work. ■

For more information or to obtain templates for letters to the appropriate government departments please contact:

- > Trisha Esson trishesson@bigpond.com or
- > Robyn Betts (Jaegar Alpacas) robyn@jaegeralpacas.com.au

How can you help to save the CSIRO scour?

- > Write to our government representatives expressing your concern over the closure of the CSIRO scour.
- > Tell others about our cause and encourage them to write letters and lobby the relevant Ministers and politicians as well.

Judging in Peru: A Great Experience

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Dianne Condon** > Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, VIC

I have recently returned from one of the most exciting and challenging judging positions I have had in my 17 years of judging alpacas.



(above) Champion and Reserve Champion judged by Dianne Condon and Dr Julio Sumar

(left) Line up of Junior Class 2-3 years

Around June last year I was invited to judge at the Peruvian Alpaca Fiesta, which was held in October 2007. The Fiesta is held every three years and is the most prestigious show in Peru. Alpacas from all over Peru travel for days coming down the mountains to reach the fiesta, which is held at the showgrounds in Arequipa.

Over all the years it's been held, the only judge to judge the alpacas has been Dr Julio Sumar, so you can imagine what an honour it was for me to be asked to judge. Julio was to judge the white animals and I was asked if I'd like to judge the coloured Huacayas or Suris. I chose the Huacayas and an American judge was asked to judge the Suris.

I arrived in Peru a few days before the show was to start, as I needed to acclimatize to the altitude. I met with Dr Sumar to discuss the judging and he invited me to judge the white animals with him. I was over the moon! I had trained with Dr Sumar and Maggie Kreiger many years earlier to become an International judge and now I was judging in Peru with him.

We worked well together and seemed to agree with most results, and during the next five days we judged over 1,000 animals in quite overwhelming conditions. It was extremely hot and judging was out in the open with no protection, so hats and sunscreen were needed along with plenty of water.



1st prize in the 6-12 month old female class



1st prize in the 1-2 year old class



Champion Senior Male

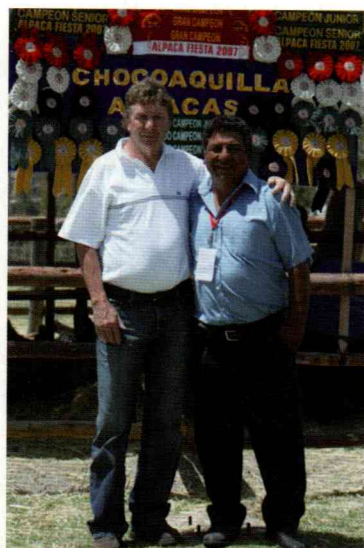
The ceremony to open the show was held after the first day of judging. That evening, while sitting watching the spectacular opening I suddenly became faint and collapsed. What an experience – an ambulance was called and while waiting for the ambulance doctors from several countries offered assistance, as did many of the spectators. The language barrier was a problem however I was treated for low blood sugar and injected, then taken back to my hotel by ambulance, with sirens and bells ringing. While they wheeled me down long, steep steps at the hotel, they tripped and dropped me to the bottom of them. Luckily I was nearly at the bottom when it happened. The next morning I had recovered and was ready for the next day of judging. Nothing was going to stop me from judging these animals.

The judging criteria had been altered for this year's Fiesta with 60% of points being awarded for fleece and 40% for conformation. Normally there is not so much emphasis placed on conformation. They had also introduced a new junior class separating them in age from 6-12 months, 1-2 years, then 2-3 years with their teeth being the guide for their age. It seemed strange having up to 3 year olds competing for Junior Champion but when you see the fineness of these animals you can understand as the 2-3 year olds' fleeces are still the same as the younger animals. All this fibre would be classed as super fine.

The white animals were judged in the first few days and there were large line-ups of up to 50 or more alpacas in a class. Working together we moved through the animals eliminating any that were not fine or dense enough. They are encouraging the breeders to shear annually so any fleeces that had 18 months or more in length were frowned upon or sent out of the ring. We pulled forward around 10 alpacas to the final line up and the rest were sent back to the holding pens. We would then double check their conformation, standing them in profile, checking for leg faults, proportion and general overall appearance. Fineness was the final criteria that would determine 1st to 7th positions. The fineness of all these final 10 animals in the line up was incredible; I was really taken aback by it.



Prizes breeders won



Ron Condon with Porferio Diaz

Training

I was most impressed with the development of the industry in Peru. At the last Fiesta held in Peru the Australian Alpaca Association sponsored the winner of the show, Porferio Diaz to come to Australia. Once in Australia, Porferio and a Peruvian Vet, along with a translator, were sponsored by a small number of breeders in Australia who offered them accommodation at their farms where they picked up many of our more modern methods of breeding and shearing. They went back to Peru and were eager to tell the breeders of the way we shear our animals and class the fibre. They were also impressed with the way we keep records, and now many of the Peruvian breeders are keeping better records.

The day before the show began they had workshops for the Peruvian breeders teaching them to shear correctly. They tied the alpacas down using the same methods they had seen in Australia and they stressed how the alpacas should be shorn annually. They demonstrated how to skirt the fleece as it is shorn off the alpacas, and how to use separate bags for saddle, neck and pieces. Normally these fleeces could be up to 2-3 years' growth and when shorn they tie the whole cotted fleece together and send it off to the manufacturer. Although not all the breeders in the audience were impressed with this new method of shearing, most of them will soon see that if they follow these methods they will get more for their fleece.

Summing up

I would have to say that since my last visit to Peru several years ago the standard of the alpacas has certainly lifted. All the alpacas were extremely fine and 90% of them were in good body condition, with the winning animals being super fine and holding the fineness into the adult classes. The winners were all in good body condition, dense and well covered with correct conformation.

Compared with the Australian alpacas I think that we have alpacas just as fine and dense but we pay more attention to the structure and alignment of the fleece. We have nowhere near the number of alpacas carrying the fineness as they have over there, and in our older classes we rarely see animals holding their fineness as they do in Peru, but I'm sure with our strict breeding programmes that we use in Australia and by using our elite genetic breeding lines, we will achieve this in a few more years.

I would have to say that judging this show was the greatest honour that I have had in my judging career, and although I was constantly taking pain killers for my aching feet which were extremely swollen, nothing was going to stop me from getting my hands into so many fleeces. By the time I returned home I could only shuffle on my swollen, painful feet and I took myself off to the doctor. At time of writing I am on crutches for six weeks, with both legs in orthopaedic boots, with two fractures and torn ligaments in one ankle and one stress fracture in my heel on the other foot. All I can say is, "It was all worth it". ■

British Alpaca Futurity

NEWBURY RACECOURSE, 16-17 FEBRUARY 2008

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Rachel Hebditch** > Alpaca World Magazine, UK

The Futurity is the only show of its kind in Europe where just the progeny of nominated sires can be shown.



Intermediate whites

The top selling alpaca at the British Alpaca Futurity 2008 elite auction was sold for fifteen thousand guineas. *Wellground Killawasi's Keepsake*, a solid white, 22 month old unproven stud male, sired by *Accoyo Killawasi*, is expected to work this year. He was Supreme Champion at the South of England Show 2007.



Highest selling animal at 15,000 guineas– *Wellground Killawasi's Keepsake*

Seven alpacas were sold by the auctioneers, Harrison & Hetherington at Newbury Racecourse Grandstand, for a total of £60,100. One of the animals was donated by the Futurity sponsors, Langaton Alpacas, The Alpaca Stud, Classical MileEnd Alpacas, Alpacas of Wessex, Bozdown Alpacas and EP Cambridge UK, and the proceeds are going to the charities, Quechua Benefit and Practical Action. Both of these charities work with alpaca farmers and their families in Peru. The auction followed a dinner for 200 alpaca breeders from the UK, Europe and Australia and a fashion show where the best of British garments made from alpaca were seen on the catwalk.



The judges Mike Safley (USA) and Paul Cullen (UK)

More than 220 alpacas took part in show classes during the weekend and over £14,000 in prize money was paid out. International judge, Mike Safley flew in from America to judge the classes alongside British judge, Paul Cullen. It was the first time that Mike Safley, who has written many books on alpacas and judged all over the world including Peru, had been invited to judge in the UK. His verdict on the Futurity was, "It is

a world class event". In his lecture on the Sunday morning Mike commented on the quality of the British animals and their world class genetics and urged breeders to consider setting up a system of Estimated Breeding Values to maintain and advance the British herd's superiority in Europe.

The Futurity is the only show of its kind in Europe where just the progeny of nominated sires can be shown. The Futurity championship is won by the sire whose progeny win most points and this year for the second time the winner of the huacaya section was *Galaxy* of Bozdown Alpacas with the suri section being won by *Arunvale Suri Wonder Dream* of Moonsbrook Alpacas. Several hundred people attended the event where there were a number of trade stands selling all manner of alpaca garments and alpaca associated goods and services.

Veterinarian Claire Whitehead, lecturer in camelid medicine at the Royal Veterinary College, conducted morning and afternoon seminars on Reproductive Problems in Camelids whilst Nick Weber, chairman of the Camelids Trust, discussed Practical Nutrition.

The event was organised by a group of breeders – The Alpaca Stud (Sussex), Alpacas of Wessex (Wiltshire), Bozdown Alpacas (Reading), EP Cambridge UK (Sussex), Classical MileEnd Alpacas (Devon) and Langaton Alpacas (Devon).

Information on the show class winners and next year's event can be found at www.britishalpacafulurity.com ■

East German Alpaca Show

BURGSTADT IN SACHSEN, 6-7 OCTOBER 2007

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Dominic Lane** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. Judge

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to be invited to judge an alpaca show, even more so when it is an inaugural event. This opportunity I was honoured to accept.



Best of Show – *Maranon of Alpakas Von Silberberg*

The East German Alpaca Show was held in a pretty village called Burgstadt near Leipzig, just two hours south of Berlin.

The night before the show we were invited as guests of honour to a dinner function that featured a very entertaining alpaca fashion parade. The garments, including some small pieces of alpaca lingerie, were of very high quality and were paraded by professional models that were having a great time and getting the audience involved.

The next day saw us in a well presented, spacious shed that comfortably housed 150 alpacas along with a number of trade display stands. The show ring was very generous in size to accommodate some of the large classes and was surrounded by attractive wooden fencing.

I was very interested to see the quality that is being bred in East Germany and I was not disappointed. The quality was generally very high although there was not the depth that I am used to judging in Australia, New Zealand or the UK. The handlers presented their alpacas professionally and in clean paddock condition. For some this would have been their first show but you wouldn't have known it. In one of the classes an alpaca was led into the show ring by a young fellow who did very well to control the animal when it played up which was fantastic to see. I made sure that my comments reflected this as he was also fortunate enough to win his class. We mustn't forget that our children are the next generation and it was great to see an exhibitor so young displaying the courage to show his alpaca.

The Huacaya and Suri classes had some exceptional female and male exhibits. You may wonder how my oral reasonings were deciphered by the spectators as, in



Suri judging

the east of Germany, English has only been taught in schools since 1989 and therefore not many of the locals of Burgstadt were fluent. Fortunately I had a couple of very competent interpreters who repeated my comments to the crowd, which were received with much enthusiasm. The Champion Female and Male Suris were both wonderful examples of the breed, exhibiting great lustre, fineness and density with outstanding architecture, coverage and sound conformation. It was unfortunate that I was not able to award a Supreme Champion Suri as the Champion Female and Male Suri both compete against the Champion Female and Male Huacaya for Best of Show. This is an interesting approach that I have been faced with before when I judged in Belgium and which of course isn't giving each breed the opportunity to be awarded the Supreme award in their own section. However, as a judge, I have to respect and judge to the show rules of the country in which I am judging.

Both the Champion Female and Male Huacayas were very true to type with excellent fleece characteristics and conformation. As usual there was an alpaca that stood out from the rest and I awarded the **Best of Show** to a German bred alpaca, being the Grand Champion Male Huacaya, *Maranon of Alpakas Von Silberberg*. He was very upstanding and displayed the best uniformity of micron and character throughout the fleece with excellent conformation and presence.

The 4,000+ crowd was always attentive and were genuinely interested in the judging and the show in general which is a reflection of how popular alpacas are becoming in East Germany. This is a very exciting time for the European alpaca industry. ■

Alpaca Month

OCTOBER 2007 - IN VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

MARKETING ARTICLE by **Stella Butler** > Secretary, AAA Ltd. Victorian Eastern Region

Having attended a couple of beef farms during Beef Week it occurred to me that this could work well for the alpaca industry. I spoke to a couple of people who had been part of the organisation of Beef Week within the cattle industry and in July 2006 I presented the idea of *Alpaca Month* to the Victorian Eastern Region committee, as modelled on the Beef Week concept.

The proposal was to run a series of open farm days throughout our Region over five weekends. The Region was divided into over a dozen smaller, local areas with the farms in each area open on the same weekend. The idea was that visitors would only need to travel about 20 minutes between farms, not a couple of hours. Weekends were chosen as many of our members work during the week.

Trevor Parry and John Butler agreed to work with me to advance the idea further and present a budget to the Regional committee for further consideration. Once the committee approved the budget and concept, the proposal was then taken to the membership.

The concept of Alpaca Month was to hold an alpaca awareness month with host farms acting as the means of introducing our industry to the public. As Trevor Parry stated at one of our meetings, "The key element of this endeavour is to raise the profile of alpaca breeding and to attract new entrants to the industry".

It was felt that the on-farm experience was the best method of showcasing our industry. Host farms opening across our Region were encouraged to invite other breeders to share the weekend on the host farm. Although we had 31 host farms spread across the Region over the five weekends, we had a great deal more breeders participating.

All aspects of the industry were on display – Animal; Fleece; Husbandry; Value-adding; On farm management. All farms had alpacas for sale; many had product displays

as well as literature about the alpaca industry. Other properties held spinning and felting demonstrations or demonstrated husbandry tasks such as haltering alpacas, toenail trimming etc.

The month of October was selected as winter sport was over, many of the animals would be in full fleece and we felt that spring was the best time of year when properties looked their best.

Advertising was put in place and the *Weekly Times* was chosen as the rural publication as well as local newspapers to be the best vehicles to advertise the properties. One member of our Region, Ann Jelinek also agreed to assist in writing editorial to be placed with our advertisements. We ran a five-week programme starting two weeks out from the first weekend (6-7 October) and concluding the week leading up to the final weekend (27-28 October). All the advertisements had the same message: **Alpaca Month 'Come Visit Us'**

All host farms were asked to provide feedback. As expected we had mixed results with some having many visitors to their properties, while others only had a few. Sales of both alpacas and product were made by some properties on their weekends; others have reported sales since as a result of Alpaca Month. Overall we estimate that over 500 visitors came to the properties during the five weekends in October.

I believe we achieved what we wanted to do. We had people talking and reading about our industry. We had people visiting our properties. Sales were generated and we introduced new entrants to our industry. Many breeders opened their farms for the first time, while others participated in this type of marketing for the first time. Generally most breeders enjoyed the experience, finding it beneficial to their business and they are looking forward to next year. I believe as a result of Alpaca Month more new entrants to the industry will follow.

All participants should be congratulated as a great deal of time and effort went into the weekends with preparation of properties and animals. Well done to all. ■



Visitors at a couple of different properties who participated

Sheer Wool Power

CLARENCE COURT HIRES ALPACAS TO SAFEGUARD THE FLOCK

INDUSTRY ARTICLE Submitted by **Clarence Court**, UK



Traditional free range egg producer Clarence Court has embarked on a new and woolly initiative at its Special Breeds farm near Camborne, Cornwall. Recognising that happy hens lay the tastiest eggs, the company has hired William and Harry, two Huacaya alpacas, to protect the birds from any disturbance or danger.

Unlike their better-known cousin, the llama, alpacas are affectionate creatures and ideal companions. Their ability to bond with grazing animals – and even defend them with their own life – has meant that many woolgrowers in Australia and New Zealand are swapping traditional sheepdogs in favour of this camel-like species.

With a calm and endearing disposition, William and Harry will help the Clarence Court hens lead a stress-free life, laying eggs that are rich in flavour and taste. And as one of Mother Nature's favourite farm animals – alpacas have soft-padded feet so do not damage terrain and prefer to nibble the top of pasture grass rather than uprooting it – they will preserve the hens' natural surroundings too.

Residents of Clarence Court's Camborne farm will also be pleased to learn that the new guests share their love of music (last year, every Clarence Court producer farm was given a radio to provide the hens with extra

stimulation and an even more exciting environment to hop, bop and bound). After all, when happy, alpacas emit a gentle humming sound. Who knows what hen house entertainment this could lead to!

Founded in 1990, Clarence Court has pioneered the revival of traditional British speciality breeds of hens from old pure breed bloodlines, for use in egg production. These birds, unlike modern hybrids, were bred for egg quality and not quantity. The result, eggs with a unique flavour and texture typical of the old fashioned pure breeds – no wonder celebrity chefs such as Mark Hix and Jamie Oliver are fans of the Clarence Court range.

Says Clarence Court Director, Lisa Rowe, "Our ethos has always been to provide customers with eggs from hens that live life to the full. William and Harry are great company for the birds at Camborne and will ensure that they not only feel safe and sound but fully entertained too." ■

Poisonous Plant Profile

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Paul** > Erehwon Alpacas, VIC

Climbing Plants

Some of these climbers are ornamentals, some garden escapes, and several are declared noxious weeds. Many climbers can propagate by the smallest piece of cutting, and pieces should not be thrown on to compost heaps.

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*

Fam: Caprifoliaceae

Plant description: Aggressive evergreen climber to 10-15m, soft, pale green leaves oblong to oval in shape, young stems red and downy, older stems woody with flaky bark. Tubular flowers open white, turning pink or even purple then yellow as they age, petals curve back and stamens are prominent, with very sweet scent. The berries are black and shiny, about 6-10 mm long and oval. Likes moist areas, creating large thickets in gullies and has become a serious weed in the Dandenongs, Victoria. Native to Japan, Korea and China.

Poison Parts: Berries and leaves are poisonous, also a skin irritant, especially toxic to children. Human symptoms include gastro-intestinal irritation, blood in the urine and diarrhoea, skin rashes.

Status: Garden escape, becoming noxious weed.

Similar species: Giant Burmese Honeysuckle *Lonicera hildebrandiana*, a very vigorous climber with stems up to 10m long, has the potential to be a serious problem as well.



Photo 1: Honeysuckle hedge in the Dandenongs, Vic



Photo 2: Honeysuckle

Golden Chalice Vine, Cup of Gold, *Solandra maxima*

Fam: Solanaceae

Plant description: Evergreen strong climber to 10m, spreading to 2m. The leaves are oblong, glossy green and formed in rosettes, each leaf about 15cm long with a point. The stunning flowers are cream when opening, aging to golden yellow or apricot, with a purple stripe down the centre of each petal. Each flower is up to 25cm across. The fruit is round, about 5cm in diameter, white to pale yellow and contains many seeds. Found in tropical areas, and native to Mexico.

Poison parts: All parts of the plant, except the seeds, are poisonous, with an acidic taste, also a skin irritant causing dermatitis. Human symptoms include intoxication, excitability, swollen hands and feet, followed by hallucinations. Some people are sensitive to the fragrance, which causes dizziness and nausea.

Status: Garden ornamental.



Photo 3: Golden Chalice Vine

English Ivy, *Hedera helix*

Fam: Araliaceae

Plant description: Long lived evergreen climber, with triangular, dark green or variegated leaves, stems grow to 20m in length and have aerial roots. Flowers greenish yellow in clusters, berries green turning black when ripe, about 9mm in diameter. Small pieces of ivy stem readily take root, so pieces should be binned rather than thrown on the compost heap.

Poison parts: All parts are very poisonous, especially the berries. Sap is a skin irritant, dust and sap can cause eye problems. Especially toxic to children and domestic pets. Human symptoms include diarrhoea, vomiting, breathing

difficulties, convulsions, occasionally coma and death. Ivy may cause rashes, skin swelling and irritant dermatitis on skin. Note: There are many varieties, not all as poisonous.

Status: Noxious weed in SA.



Photo 4: Variegated Ivy smothering a fence



Photo 5: Ivy with flowers

Pink Mandevillea, *Mandevillea splendens*

Other names: Chilean Jasmine, *Mandevillea laxa* and Chinese Star Jasmine, *Trachelospermum sp.*

Fam: Apocynaceae

Mandevilleas are pretty, fragrant creepers native to Central and South America, which are becoming popular for planting near doorways, arches etc in warmer areas.

Plant description

Twining climbers with dark green, oval, glossy leaves, sometimes textured. Flowers are somewhat funnel shaped, pink or red with a yellow throat, or pure white, starshaped flowers. Size varies from tiny white star flowers, to the pink ones and some large white ones being up to 10cm across. The milky sap of these plants is poisonous, not surprisingly as they are closely related to oleanders.

Status: Garden ornamental.

Similar species: *Pandorea sp.*, the native Wonga Vines, can look very similar in flower style, and colour, to *Mandevillea* but the flowers are more tubular and flare out at the end to look more trumpet shaped. Each leaf is divided into 3-5 long narrow pointed leaflets. See Photo 7. They are not noted as being poisonous.



Photo 6: Pink Mandevillea



Photo 7: Native Pandorea sp

Moth Plant, Cruel Vine *Arauja hortorum*

Fam: Asclepiadaceae

This plant is usually found sprawling over a fence or climbing through another garden plant. Occasionally it appears to be deliberately planted in place. Moths and butterflies are attracted to the flowers, and they then become trapped by the proboscis when the flowers close up, hence the name.



Photo 8: Moth plant, flowers and fruit

Plant description: *Arauja* is a straggly climber, with thin woody stems, to about 10m. The leaves are about 10cm long, dull olive green, narrow and with a prominent midrib, sometimes with wavy margins. The flowers are small, pinkish white and bell shaped, with a faint fragrance. The seed pod is rather like a miniature choko, dull green and ribbed, splitting down one side to release numerous downy seeds. See Photo 8. Native of Brazil and Peru.

Poison parts: The milky sap is a strong skin irritant and the seeds especially when mature, are poisonous. Reported to be poisonous to dogs, poultry and possibly cattle.

Status: A noxious weed in NSW.

Sweet Peas, *Lathyrus odoratus*

Fam: Fabaceae

Scrambling annual herbs very popular in cottage gardens, with dozens of colour varieties in pinks, blue/purples, reds, and multi colours. They are native to Sicily, Crete and southern Italy.



Photo 9: Sweet Peas

Plant description: The leaves are divided into opposite leaflets, the terminal leaflet being replaced with a tendrill. The flowers are obviously pea shaped and may be highly fragrant. See Photo 9.

Typical pea pods become brown and dry with age, splitting open to show 4-10 round black seeds.

Poison parts: All parts of the plant, especially the seeds, are poisonous. Especially toxic to children and known to be poisonous for livestock. Human symptoms include slow pulse, respiratory difficulties and convulsions.

Status: Garden annual. ➤

Purple Morning Glory, Dunny Flower *Ipomea indica*

Fam: Convolvulaceae

This is well known as a rampant perennial creeper, smothering fences, outbuildings and other plants in a short time and growing to 15m in all directions. The flowers open for only one day.

Plant description: The leaves are mid to dark green, soft and tri lobed, occasionally with five lobes. The funnel shaped flowers are bright blue when first opening in the morning, fading to purple then pink as the day goes on, and collapsing in the evening. *See Photo 10.* Native to tropical Asia and the West Indies, it is very adaptable, growing happily in colder areas such as Melbourne. Although this plant does have seeds, it apparently does not set seed in Australia, spreading by means of vegetative parts. The stems will grow roots at the nodes, so pieces should be binned not composted. Coastal Morning Glory, very similar but with deeply lobed leaves, does have seeds. There are many smaller convolvulus species, often called bindweeds, with pink, mauve or white flowers. *See Photo 11.*

Poison parts: The seeds of morning glories are poisonous and are especially toxic to children, causing visual disturbance, irritability, nausea, feeling cold and possible death. Status: A declared noxious weed in NSW.



Photo 10: Purple Morning Glory Photo 11: Blue Bindweed

Tradescantia, *Tradescantia fluminensis*

Fam: Commelinaceae

Other names: Wandering Creeper, Snapweed, Spiderwort.

This is the familiar “wandering jew” plant, which can be the bane of any suburban garden (we took two miniskips of the stuff out of our back yard in one day). It can completely smother garden sheds, small outbuildings, rubbish heaps and fences. It especially likes moist, shady conditions, and can form deep masses of vegetation on the shady sides of supporting structures. The leaves and stems can completely shrivel up in dry conditions, only to spring back to life at the first hint of moisture.



Photo 12: Creeping Tradescantia stems



Photo 13: Flowers of reedy Tradescantia

Plant description: The leaves are smooth and glossy dark green, with a pointed end, paler underneath with maybe some purple shading. They may have wavy or even crinkled margins. The stems may grow up to 2m long, with many stems lying on the surface of soil. The soft, jointed stems break off easily, and even the smallest piece with a node can regenerate. *See Photo 12,* where the jointed stem can be seen in the centre piece. The flowers are typical of this group, with three white pointed petals and a boss of yellow stamens on feathery stalks. There are other trailing Tradescantia species, often indoor pot plants with purple or green and white striped leaves. There is also an upright garden form with soft reed like leaves and clusters of the same triangular blue, purple or white flowers. *See Photo 13.*

Poison parts: *Tradescantia* is known to cause rapid death in cattle if eaten, and other livestock should be kept away from it. The leaves can cause severe itchy, blistering dermatitis in some people. They have the same effect particularly on bellies of dogs when they run through a patch. Not every person is allergic – I am not, but my husband has only to brush against a leaf of any *Tradescantia* plant to come up in itchy, water filled blisters. Another friend became quite ill, with dizziness and shortness of breath, while clearing a patch of this plant with his bare hands.

Removal from small areas requires dedication as every piece of stem on or just under the surface, must be removed from the area, and bagged or binned. Follow up removal will be required more than once. It needs a surfactant added if being sprayed, because the waxy coating on the leaves makes it resistant, and requires several treatments. Pieces should not be thrown on the compost or rubbish heap, or down the creek, where it will simply take off again. Complete removal from large areas will be almost impossible.

People with allergies are advised to be cautious if handling this plant. Consider using gloves, long sleeves/pants and possibly goggles when clearing to avoid contact with bare skin. Be careful of getting trails of stem across the back of the neck when clearing overhanging stems.

Status: Darn nuisance!

Madeira Vine, *Andredera cordifolia*

Fam: Bassellaceae

Other names: Lamb's Tail, Mignonette Vine, Jollop Potato Vine.

Plant description: A very vigorous climber with hard, potato like stem tubers above ground, and masses of drooping clusters of tiny white flowers. *See Photo 14.* The leaves are broadly oval to heart shaped, dark green, fleshy and with a waxy coating, and the young stems may be reddish. The stem tubers are brown and knobbly. They can easily break off and regenerate, so cutting this vine down



Photo 14: Madeira Vine

requires gathering up all these pieces as well as removing the underground tubers, which can be football sized. It easily grows up to 20m in suitable conditions and completely smothers lower vegetation. Native of S America. It is suspected of poisoning stock.

Status: Garden ornamental; a serious weed in Queensland and northern NSW, and there are indications it is moving south. Also scattered areas in SA.

Potato Vine, *Solanum jasminoides*, *S wendlandii*

Fam: Solanaceae

Plant description: This is a very commonly grown creeper, with soft, heartshaped green leaves and terminal clusters of white star shaped flowers with yellow stamens, in spring/summer. *See Photo 15.* *S wendlandii* has larger, pointed, glossy, slightly rippled leaves, and crepe like mauve or blue flowers. *See Photo 16.*

Status: Garden ornamentals. There are several other *Solanum* creepers, with white or mauve flowers, which should all be assumed to be poisonous to stock if eaten.



Photo 15: *Solanum jasminoides*



Photo 16: *S wendlandii*

WA Bluebell Creeper, *Sollya heterophylla*

Fam: Pittosporaceae

A native scrambling creeper from WA with pretty, sky blue hanging flowers which can also form a dense bush on itself and smother other vegetation. Widely planted in native gardens.

Plant description: The mature leaves are long, slender, pointed and dark glossy green, new growth may be coppery in colour. The bell like flowers are sky blue, rarely pink or white cultivars, formed in clusters at the end of stems. *See Photo 17.* The fruit is a long, cylindrical berry, ripening from green to purplish green and containing more than 50 seeds. The woody underground stems can resprout if the top is damaged, and there can be massive seedling emergence after fires.

Poison parts: The toxins in the leaves cause skin irritation and nausea, so care should be taken when handling.

Similar species: Very similar to native local Apple berries, *Billardiera sp.*, which should be identified before removal of Bluebell Creeper.



Status: Native and garden ornamental which has become a serious weed out of its own state. ■

Photo 17: Bluebell Creeper

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The winner in the PacaPics feature will receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next magazine. Front cover photo winner will also be awarded the same advertising opportunity as well as five complimentary copies of the magazine bearing their winning photo. The magazines will prove to be excellent promotional tools for your stud.

Send your photos to:
The Editor, *Alpacas Australia*,
PO Box 1076,
Mitcham North, VIC 3132.
Email sandra@alpaca.asn.au

★ WINNER ★



< Checking out the new neighbour >

Regina Isermann • Tarneit Alpacas, VIC



< A vet's caring bedside manner >

Linda Davies & Paul Cramley • Pacofino, NSW



< I think it's our new alpaca float >

Colleen Banks & Neil White • Streaky Bay Alpacas, SA



< Under here could do with a rinse >

Trish Peterson • Burnie, TAS



< Mother and daughter resting in the shade >

Geraldine Liddle • Ger-Bo Alpacas, NSW



< Twin cam ute >

Found on the internet



< Pass the 30+ >

Gayle Lindeman • Wykeham Park Suri Alpacas, NSW



< I'll have what she's having! >

Tricia Gauvin • Didohama Suri Stud, QLD



< Mmm, nice shoes >

Regina Isermann • Tarneit Alpacas, VIC



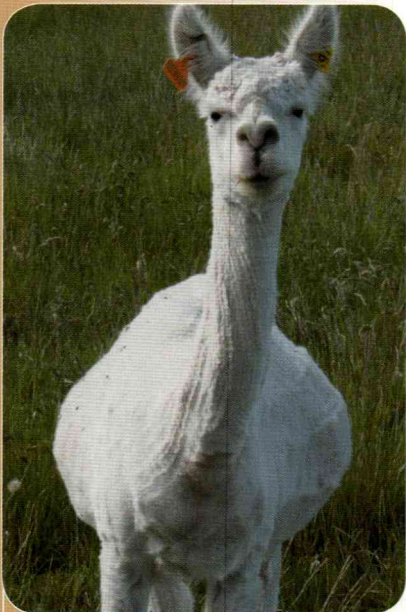
< I am now a rose grey >

Odette Mayne • Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



< I'll just taste this >

Rosemarie Mason • Glen Rose Alpacas, VIC



< Do you think they'll notice that I've been in the watermelon patch? >

Penny & John Pittard • Currabungla Alpacas, NSW



< Suri phone home >

Grace Hunter • Hillside Alpacas, TAS



< What's for dinner, Mum? >

Geoff & Jenni Smith • Aingeal Ridge Alpacas, NSW



< Wow, that was a big kiss! >

Lesley Maxwell • Kurralea Alpacas, NSW



< I love you >

Sue Roberts • Tinonee Alpacas, NSW



< I'm not evil, just misunderstood >

Christine & Graeme Purkiss • Bimbi Alpacas, NSW

Upcoming Events

May

1-3 Agfest: TAS

Venue: Oaks Rd., Carrick
Highlights: Promotional display;
alpaca product sales
Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007 or
Alison Brolsma (03) 6229 7147

2-4 Tocal Field Days: NSW

Venue: CB Alexander Agricultural College,
Tocal, Patterson
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

3-4 Colourbration Show: NSW

Venue: Robertson Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852

4 Field / Sale Day: WA

Venue: Bridgetown
Highlights: Alpaca sales; promotional display
Contact: Lorraine Naylor 0438 412 691

4 Annual Sale & Elite Auction: VIC

Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul
Highlights: Alpaca sales; promotional display
Contact: Michael McMahon (03) 5942 9229

8-10 Ipswich Show: QLD

Venue: Ipswich Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Julie & Sheren Macgregor
(07) 3202 3113

8-10 Agrotrend: QLD

Venue: Bundaberg Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Jessie Raines (07) 4159 4624

9-11 New England Alpaca Show & Wool Expo: NSW

Venue: Armidale
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

15-17 Gympie Show: QLD

Venue: Gympie Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Anita Neeser (07) 5484 3487

17-18 Stawell Good Life Festival: VIC

Venue: Stawell
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Tracy Krupa (03) 5359 2388

24 Annual Dinner & Fleece Competition: VIC

Venue: Amstel Golf Course
Highlights: Fleece judging
Contact: Joy Skinner (03) 5998 8033

24-25 EPIC Alpaca Weekend: NSW

Venue: Exhibition Park in Canberra
Highlights: Alpaca sales; promotional display
Contact: Geoff Shephard (02) 6227 6202

31-1/6 Campbell Town Show: TAS

Venue: Campbell Town
Highlights: Promotional display;
alpaca product sales
Contact: Sarah Priest (03) 6261 4000

June

12-14 PRIMEX: NSW

Venue: Casino
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Michelle Malt 0438 103 310

21 New Breeders' Seminar: NSW

Venue: Armidale
Highlights: Lectures, demonstrations
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

21-22 AlpacaFest: VIC

Venue: Werribee Equestrian Centre
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging;
promotional display
Contact: Reginald Smythe (03) 5266 1459

21-22 New Breeders' Seminar: NSW

Venue: Goulburn
Highlights: Lectures, demonstrations
Contact: Tracy Pratt 0438 298 361

22 Alpacas On Parade: NSW

Venue: Port Macquarie Racecourse
Highlights: Alpaca sales; promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

29 Giddegannup Small Farms Field Days: WA

Venue: Giddegannup Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca sales; promotional display
Contact: Jenny McAuliffe (08) 9574 0012

July

5 Mid North Coast Alpaca Show: NSW

Venue: Kendall Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

5-6 Mudgeeraba Show: QLD

Venue: Mudgeeraba Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207

12 Sunshine Coast Alpacas On Show: QLD

Venue: Eumundi Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Graeme Smith (07) 5445 9492

18-19 Mudgee Small Farm Field Days: NSW

Venue: Mudgee
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Judy Easten (02) 6372 1714

18-20 Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show: VIC

Venue: Bendigo Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Glenn Sutherland (03) 5472 2331

18-20 Farm Fantastic: QLD

Venue: Caboolture
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Gillian Macleod (07) 5499 9590

19-20 Winter Show: WA

Venue: Canning Vale
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sue Locke (08) 9571 2150

27 Southern NSW Regional Show: NSW

Venue: Budawang Pavilion, EPIC, Canberra
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Graham Lugg (02) 6227 3158

27 Ballarat Sheep & Wool Show: VIC

Venue: Ballarat Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Vivienne Grigg (03) 5428 6712

August

2 Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Bathurst Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233

3 Creswick Fleece Show: VIC

Venue: Creswick
Highlights: Fleece judging
Contact: Deborah Patti (03) 5423 2727

3 Alpaca Fiesta, Info & Sales Day: VIC

Venue: Lancefield
Highlights: Alpaca sales, promotional display
Contact: Jillian Holmes (03) 5423 4237 or
Ken Haines (03) 5422 3088

3-4 Hamilton Sheepvention: VIC

Venue: Hamilton Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Andrew McCosh (03) 5565 9413

7-16 Royal Brisbane Show: QLD

Venue: Brisbane Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Camilla Smith (07) 3408 7639

8-10 New Alpaca Breeders' Seminar: NSW

Venue: Ranelagh House, Robertson
Highlights: Lectures; demonstrations
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852

9 Hawkesbury Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Don Culey (02) 4576 4576

9-10 Colour Classic: SA

Venue: Murray Bridge Racecourse
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sharon Warland 0438 072 383

16 Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Wyong Racecourse
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

17 Colourbration Show & Picnic: WA

Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Sue Locke (08) 9571 2150

29-31 AAA Ltd. National Show & Sale

Venue: EPIC, Canberra
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging;
alpaca auction;
alpaca craft competition;
photography/art competition;
Contact: AAA National Office (03) 9873 7700

29-31 Gold Coast Show: QLD

Venue: Parklands Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207

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☐ Adelaide, SA 2006

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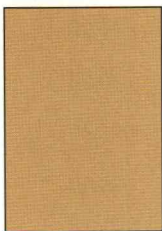





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Material

Editorial Material: If possible, all editorial contributions should be typed and preferably submitted electronically or by floppy disc in Word format. Visual material preferably supplied as colour photographs or transparencies. If supplying digital photography ensure that it is in high resolution of at least 250 dpi. We will endeavour to return all photos and slides.

Advertising Material: Please supply electronic artwork on disc to correct size. Preferred Macintosh programs InDesign, Illustrator or Photoshop. Alternatively save your adverts in high resolution pdf, jpg, tif or eps. Include all screen and printer typefaces, high resolution pictures, logos etc associated with the adverts. For full page adverts please allow 5 mm for bleed. Colour adverts to be supplied in CMYK (not PMS or RGB). Please supply hard copy proof in colour or mono (as applicable) for printing reference. We cannot guarantee inclusion of late adverts.

Further advertising material enquiries can be directed to:

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Deadlines

Issue 56: Winter

Due: August 2008

Deadline: Friday 6 June 2008

Issue 57: Summer

Due: December 2008

Deadline: Friday 3 October 2008

Issue 58: Autumn

Due: April 2009

Deadline: Friday 6 February 2009

Please book and send all editorial and advertising material to Sandra Wright

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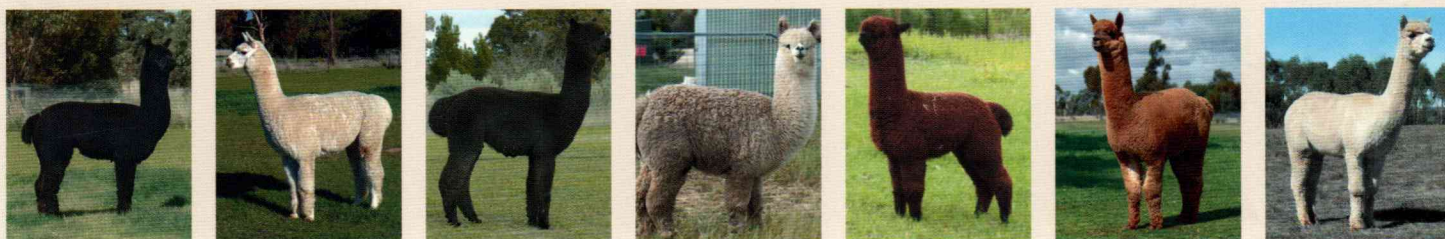
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S: Windsong Valley Iceman
D: Purrumbete Ice Star
Coricancha Guamani on farm \$500
S: Purrumbete Ledgers Dream mobile \$550
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D: Jolimont Brujeria

S: Jolimont Sculptor
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