



ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

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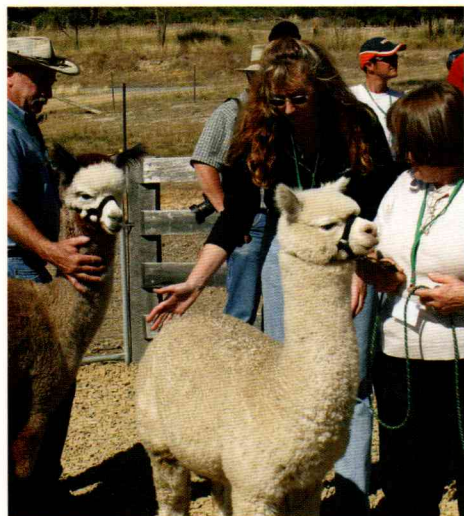
Inside this issue:

International Year of Natural Fibres • National Alpaca Week • AAA at APEC

Join us for our very popular residential weekend for new alpaca breeders at Flowerdale Estate. These "Introduction to Alpacas" workshops attract participants from all over Australia and New Zealand. The next workshop is on July 4 & 5.

The Program.

Workshops include classroom learning and hands-on sessions in the barn working with the alpacas. Participants learn the basics: halter training, chuckering, weighing, body-condition-scoring, nutrition, mating, spit-offs, birthing, cria care, weaning, shearing, fibre classing, vaccinations, drenching, toenail trimming, business plans and record keeping.



There are sessions on goal setting, genetic advancements (SRS and AGE data usage), selecting quality alpacas, farm plans, pasture improvement, herd development strategies, succeeding in the show ring and marketing alpacas.

The Venue.

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning, retreat for up to 60 people. Stay in luxury accommodation and let the chefs tempt you with their delicious menus. These workshops have provided a wonderful opportunity for new breeders to network, socialize and have fun. Many lasting friendships have started at these weekends.

The Weekend Package.

Make it a special weekend of learning and leisure. Relax in the heated pool. Play some tennis. Workout in the gym. Enjoy a sauna or challenge someone to a game of pool. At the end of the day, relax with a pre-dinner drink and a savoury or two.



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The complete weekend price per couple is \$625. Singles are \$425. The package includes accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, use of recreational facilities, workshop tuition and course materials.

Bookings.

Attendance numbers are limited and fill quickly. Complete details including the weekend program, directions and booking forms are on the website now at www.flowerdalealpacas.net

Or phone Jen on 03 9728 7000.

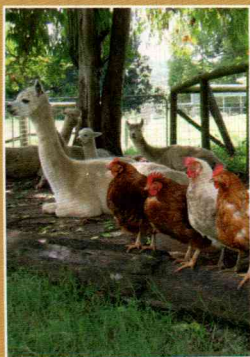


Next Workshop

July 4 & 5.

Sign up today.

FLOWERDALE ESTATE
ALPACAS



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A Message from the President

National Alpaca Week

The first week in May, 2009, **National Alpaca Week** (NAW) presents Australian alpaca breeders with an opportunity to showcase the industry in a way that we have never before attempted.

The Industry Promotion Committee of the AAA Ltd. has put together a comprehensive model for the nationwide promotion of our industry, and made it available through the Regions to every AAA member. Posters, pamphlets, kids' sheets, and a DVD resource of posters, advertisement templates, editorials and photos, have been circulated to every Region for distribution to their members.

The members should regard this promotional material only as a resource, a tool to assist them in the local and regional promotion of their industry. Every member, every stud, every Region, must exercise their imagination and resourcefulness in using those tools to maximal advantage, and getting the word **Alpaca** in front of people in every conceivable way: on radio, in newspapers, on television, in shopping malls, on motor cars and billboards, on web pages and in magazines, in parking lots and schools. Think of stories and events which you might construct, timed to release to local radio stations, newspapers and television outlets during the week; build up a bank of top photographs which you can offer to reporting journos or to accompany articles which you have written in anticipation of NAW, and line up opportunities in local shopping malls, banks, book stores, and car parks to display mothers and crias to capture the hearts and imaginations of the public. Link Mothers Day to mother and baby alpacas, and set up photo opportunities with your stud name in the background as a permanent memento of the day.

Speak now with local radio announcers and television producers about opportunities for interviews or video shoots, and build up a bank of your local media contacts, with their phone numbers, faxes, emails and mobile numbers. Get onto your local newspaper's web page publishers and send them editorial, photos, ads and web links, with the promise of updates during the NAW. Think about how you intend to manage visitors to your farm, and what features you can highlight to inform and entertain them.

Don't forget the logistics of insurance, parking, lavatories, traffic control, and whether you intend to offer food and drinks. Invite one of the local service clubs to do the sausage sizzle and drinks. Have your business cards and literature available for visitors. Invite them to nominate a name for a newborn cria by writing that name on the back of their own business cards, and depositing them in a box, promising a prize to the winner. This will be your new enquirer's database. Have fleece and products on exhibition, and perhaps for sale. Invite a spinner, a weaver, even a shearer. Play Andean music in the background; run a promotional video on a monitor.

Team up with other local breeders to organise an alpaca trail of participating studs, with mud maps and directions for visitors to follow. Drop off printed pamphlets or posters to local rural suppliers in advance of NAW, advising the times and locations where host studs will be open. Keep your eye on the AAA web site forum for other ideas which others may be willing to share, or alternatively, post your own.

And don't forget the follow-up, after the week is over, contacting all those who showed interest, and offering them personalised repeat visits.

Your own imagination is the limiting factor, but think always of what your own response would be, as a visitor, to whatever it is that you have on offer.

Remember that the goal of the exercise is primarily to inform, educate and entertain; if you are successful in doing so, the sales will follow later. Win the kids, and they will win their parents. Keep the AAA logo well to the fore, and emphasise the importance of buying only those breeding animals with IAR registration, and from AAA members. Encourage interested people to join the AAA, apply for a New Enquirer's Pack, and to seek out the AAA web site for further information.

Planning is critical, and should have already begun. Start by listing ideas and media contacts; follow with a timeline for implementation. Above all, be positive, be happy, have fun, and let your visitors share in your natural enthusiasm for the industry and your love of the alpaca.

Good luck! ■

Dr Ian Davison, President

Briefly Speaking

STOP PRESS

2nd World Alpaca Conference going ahead

In recent weeks there has been some uncertainty about whether or not the 2nd World Alpaca Conference scheduled to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, USA on 3-7 June would proceed, as the Conference was in danger of becoming a casualty of the economic crisis in the USA.

In fact, on 25 March the AAA Ltd. received official advice from the Conference organisers that the event was cancelled and AAA Ltd. duly advised its members.

However the decision to cancel the Conference was overturned by the AOBA Board of Directors and official advice to this effect was received by AAA Ltd. on 31 March.

In addition to the Conference the event will feature the AOBA National Show (5-7 June) and the International Fleece Show (4-5 June), the latter showcasing some of the best of Australia's fleeces alongside international rivals. Good luck to all participants!

For more information visit www.alpacainfo.com

Global events

The current worldwide economic crisis threatens the financial futures of businesses, large and small. Businesses and individuals alike will tighten their belts and be discerning in their spending. However it is important to remember that with smart financial management and forward thinking we can all prevail.

Special events

In 2009 it is vital for all alpaca breeders to get involved in the two major national promotional events of the year to continue to promote the Australian alpaca industry. **National Alpaca Week** and the **National Show and Sale** present great opportunities to send the message, "Look to the Future... Farm Alpacas".

Turn to page 6 for more information about National Alpaca Week and page 17 for advance notice of the 16th AAA Ltd. National Show and Sale to be held in Adelaide in October.

Have you moved?

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

2008 National Show Dam's Progeny winner – Softfoot Pasha

At the 2008 National Show a Dam's Progeny class was trialled. This photo was inadvertently excluded from the Show pictorial coverage published in Issue 57, Summer 2008.



Black Saturday

The 7th February 2009 will be forever remembered for the devastating bushfires that raged through parts of Victoria. Fortunately for the alpaca community livestock and property losses were not high. The network of alpaca breeders nationwide rallied with offers of assistance and assurance that support for bushfire victims is ongoing. Turn to page 14 for one breeder's personal account of the bushfires.



Vallon De Or'o

17.6u, 3.1 SD, 17.6 CV

Mariah Hill

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2009 International Year of Natural Fibres

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Fiona Vanderbeek** > AAA Ltd. Industry Promotion Committee

The International Year of Natural Fibres (IYNF) was officially launched on 22 January 2009 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) in Rome.



Discover
natural
fibres
2 0 0 9

So, what is the IYNF and what is its relevance to the alpaca industry in Australia?

The FAO first conceived the concept of a year dedicated to natural fibres in 2004, and in 2006 the General Assembly of the UN formally invited the FAO to co-ordinate this global initiative for the year 2009. The overall aim was to focus world attention on the pivotal role played by natural fibres in ensuring worldwide food security and the alleviation of poverty.

The FAO states that the objectives of the IYNF are to:

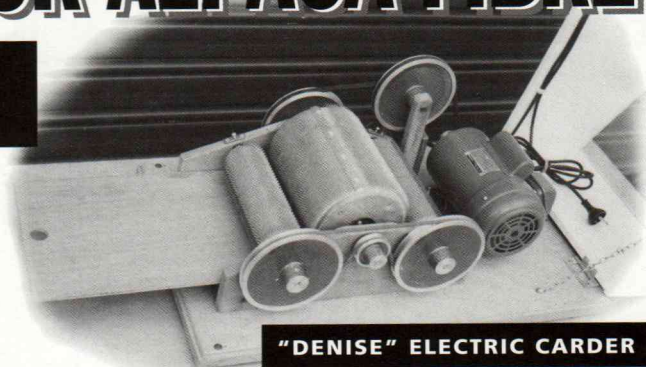
- > Raise awareness and stimulate demand for natural fibres
- > Promote the efficiency and sustainability of the natural fibre industries
- > Encourage appropriate policy responses from governments to the problems faced by natural fibre industries
- > Foster an effective and enduring international partnership among the various natural fibre industries.

ADD VALUE TO YOUR ALPACA FIBRE

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suitable for your needs**

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- Hand Drum Carders
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Why are natural fibres important?

The UN states that some 30 million tonnes of natural fibres are produced in the world each year. However, since the 1960s there has been a dramatic development of synthetic fibres, having a huge impact on those economies dependent upon income from natural fibres. Although these synthetics are currently seen as a cheaper alternative to natural fibres, they are non sustainable and being developed primarily from oil based materials, are both finite and likely to progressively increase in price.

In order to compete in this increasingly crowded market, producers of natural fibres have had to seek and develop new market niches and applications for their products.

Natural fibres have a huge range of uses, from the obvious and traditional – clothing and textiles – to the specialised and innovative – such as composite materials used in the automobile industry and in medical implants.

For many developing countries, the export of natural fibres represents a significant proportion of their nation's economy – for example, cotton in West Africa, jute in Bangladesh, sisal in Tanzania – and alpaca in Peru.

What is a natural fibre?

Natural fibres can be defined as “greatly elongated substances produced by plants and animals that can be spun into filaments, thread or rope.” This intermediary product is then manufactured into fabrics, using a wide range of techniques – weaving, knitting, matting or bonding.

Archaeological evidence shows that man has been using natural fibres in these ways around the globe since 5,000 BC. Whilst obviously the techniques used to turn fibre into fabric have changed enormously, the overall functions remain largely unchanged.

The IYNF includes on its web site profiles of fifteen of the world's major plant and animal fibres. Fibres derived from plant material include seed hairs (cotton); stems (flax and hemp); leaves (sisal) and husks (coir, from the coconut). Also described are abaca (once used for rope and now replacing glass fibre in the motor industry), jute and ramie.

Animal fibres include the obvious wools and hairs, together with secretions (silk). Described are alpaca, angora, camel, cashmere, mohair, silk and wool.

What is the FAO doing for alpaca breeders?

Most of us will be aware of the marginal living eked out by many of the small alpaca farmers in Peru. There are two key reasons for this:

- > A long chain from the grower to the processor, with intermediaries taking a large share of the profits.
- > A decline in the quality of fibre being produced as fibre is purchased by weight, with no premium for quality, and thus no incentive for the small herder to improve the quality of their stock.

The FAO has been working with all the stakeholders, from government down to growers, to focus attention on the need to improve quality. This led to the development of a national strategy to promote alpaca as the ‘flagship product’ of Peru and strengthen the entire industry infrastructure to promote this end. A training centre has been established in Puno to teach farmers how to assess and improve the quality of their livestock, and a network of collection centres has been set up, to break the stranglehold of the intermediaries, and allow smaller breeders to pool their fibre and sell it at auction.

Sadly it seems, as has happened previously in this country's alpaca industry, the Peruvian government decided in 2008 to disband a national camelid development agency, meaning that quality standards have not been widely implemented.

The global economic downturn has also affected the Peruvian alpaca industry but, to quote the FAO:

“Inevitably the cycle will turn. When that happens, much will depend on the willingness of government and industry to act on the central understanding reached during the strategy process: that fibre quality is the key to unlocking the sector's potential”.

A message that holds equally true for those of us fortunate enough to be farming alpacas in Australia.

For more information on the IYNF go to www.naturalfibres2009.org/en ■



BAARROOKA

Coach Rd, Strathbogie, Vic | 03 5790 5288 | www.baarrooka.com.au

National Alpaca Week

MARKETING ARTICLE by **Fiona Vanderbeek** > AAA Ltd. Industry Promotion Committee

An opportunity to showcase our farms and alpacas



Large numbers of the general public and small farm community still know little about alpacas. National Alpaca Week gives us the opportunity to show off the products made from our animals' fabulous fleece and educate interested people in the joys of alpaca ownership.

Opening up our farms so that people can see the animals on the farm, being able to observe our sheds, fencing, watering systems and different types of pastures gives them a much better understanding of our industry compared to seeing alpacas in pens at shows and events. However, the biggest plus is the enthusiasm of the alpaca breeders and the ability to showcase the lifestyle created by living on acreage and breeding an easy to handle animal that gives pleasure to all ages.

National and Regional advertising that displays the AAA branding for National Alpaca Week has commenced and will continue right up to the event in May 2009. This advertising, together with the new information brochures, will give the event an identity to which prospective members can relate.

Visitors to the successful Alpaca Week events in Queensland and the Eastern Region of Victoria last year commented that, in addition to having the opportunity to get up close and personal with the alpacas, viewing the whole range of fleece colours gave them an understanding of the extent to which alpaca fibre can be used and a new perspective on the industry.

INTRODUCING

National Alpaca Week

AND CELEBRATING THE
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF NATURAL FIBRES

Saturday 2 – Sunday 10 May



Join alpaca breeders for an open week and get up close and personal with alpacas!

 **www.alpaca.asn.au**

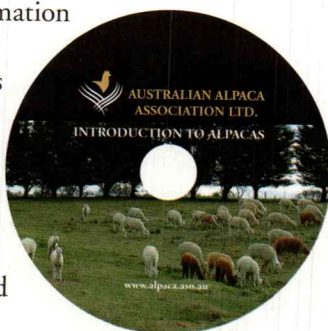
FARMS OPEN 10am–4pm

Advertising shows relevant details listed here for individual regions and open farms

Other comments were that most farms were very friendly and family oriented and the inclusion of children's activities such as colouring-in sheets and 'cuddle an alpaca' pens enabled the parents to discuss and view the more fundamental requirements of farming alpacas.

Many enquirers will be "Looking to the Future" and planning for the day when they can make the dream of owning alpacas a reality. That dream could be much closer than they think if they are in a position to purchase animals now and perhaps agist, enabling them to be better equipped to manage their alpacas once they take delivery of the stock onto their own property. This is just one of many possible scenarios to promote the sale of alpacas to prospective purchasers.

We believe that the information contained in the "Introduction to Alpacas" DVD, which will be available in the enquiry kit distributed by the AAA, will further reinforce the information people receive during National Alpaca Week. The DVD covers all aspects of the industry from breeding, showing, shearing, fleece collection and classing through to the end product, highlighting the large range of garments, home furnishings and bedding now available.



We urge members to get behind the concept of National Alpaca Week and to pool our collective wisdom and resources together to market this industry and the fabulous alpacas that we all enjoy so much. ■



The following quotes were received from Queensland Region members after the 2008 Alpaca Week was held in their area:

"Radio advertising was organized and the station, on hearing a new cria had arrived, ran a competition to name the cria. Created a lot of interest and quite a few people visited to see the cria".

"Radio interview with ABC aired in the week before Alpaca Week brought in a number of visitors from outlying areas where local papers are not delivered".

"Sales of alpaca product were very strong as it was the beginning of winter".

"Large shopping centre allowed a pen of alpacas in the centre before Alpaca Week and members handed out information on Alpaca Week. This brought a large number of farm visitors".

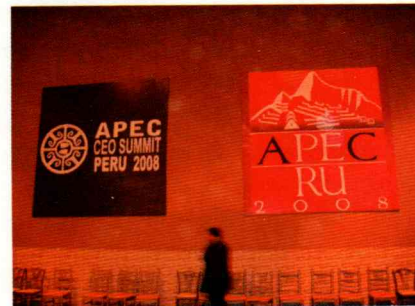
"General impression that the vast majority of visitors resulted from local advertisements rather than larger publications".

"Well worth doing, will join in again next year".

AAA Goes to APEC

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Dr Ian M Davison** > President of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

In July 2008, the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. received a most unusual and unexpected communication from Peru. This came in the form of an invitation addressed to the President of the AAA to attend an event billed as "the most important business meeting of the Asia Pacific region and Latin America", the APEC CEO Summit, 2008.



For those who are not quite sure what this is all about, the explanation was in the next sentence: "the APEC CEO Summit is a 'by invitation only' event that brings together APEC leaders and distinguished business figures to discuss this year's theme, *Growth, Equity and Sustainable Development: Challenges for APEC*."

Che? I asked myself. In which role, as APEC leader or distinguished business figure, was I being invited to come out and play?

An inspection of the accompanying pamphlet quickly revealed that my face was nowhere to be seen amongst the likes of President George W. Bush of the USA, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, President Hu Jin Tao of China, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, or Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand. Nor was it hiding amongst those of political leaders from Chile, Colombia, Mexico, South Korea, or Hong Kong. Australia, it seems, was already represented by a Mr Kevin Rudd.

Thus it was that I came to recognise my station as a "distinguished business figure."

As someone who had, at some other time, infamously owned to being unworthy of being trusted with my own lunch money, this came as yet another surprise. It was only then that I realised that it was my station as President of the Australian Alpaca Association, and not my contributions to solving the global economic crisis, which had earned me this honour.

To be fair, that is something about which members of the AAA Ltd. should feel justly proud, and I was certainly proud to be offered the opportunity to represent them. It is a reflection of our national profile in Peru, as an industry and as an organisation, that we should even be offered a place, and almost certainly a direct consequence of the engagement of Dr Peter O'Byrne, the head of Austrade, as opening speaker at the World Alpaca Conference (WAC) in Sydney in 2008. It required little deliberation between Harriet and myself to resolve that we should go, and so it was that we took ourselves to APEC in Lima, Peru, in November 2008.

Space does not permit a full account of our three days in Lima, and our six days in Arequipa and on the Altiplano. But we were amongst the 30 Australians invited to a working breakfast at the Australian consulate with Dr Nick Baker, Australian Consul, and Dr Peter O'Byrne, whose choice of tie was the same as my own, being the Australian alpaca tie with which I had presented him at the WAC. Other Australian guests present included Peter Beattie, Lindsay Fox, Sam Walsh (Rio Tinto), and Charlie Sartain (Xstrata). Your AAA President felt a bit like a peewee soaring with condors, but I was careful to maintain formation, and it was clear that most were more interested in discussing alpacas than they were minerals or economic meltdowns.

Every invited political leader addressed us at the Seminar, and the security was awesome. The star speakers were George W., Harper, Key, and President Uribe of Colombia, whose uncompromising government has turned that nation from a basket case to a rising star in just four



(above) Tongue-in-cheek discussions with Prime Minister Rudd about National Alpaca Week



(left) Gerardo Freiberg (Michell Group), Peter Beattie and Ian Davison at the APEC Banquet

years. The star of the show, however, did not even speak, and that was the enigmatic, impossibly stylish, and very coiffed Ms Condaleeza Rice, who attended in support of her President. She was mobbed like a rock star by the 'distinguished business figures' who momentarily discarded their sombre dignity and self importance to be photographed like schoolboys standing close to her. Kevin Rudd, who hosted a small cocktail party for the 40 or so Australians later that evening, spoke well, but lacked the passion and vision of many other national leaders. For the second time inside one month, I was able to place the Australian alpaca industry and the AAA within his purview, informing him of our rapid genetic progress, and the potential of the industry for future export dollars.

Interestingly, the theme repeated by almost all political leaders, was that the solution to the world economic crisis, best summarised by 'George Dubya', was "free markets, free trade, and free people." There was nowhere any recognition that it was exactly that freedom, namely from regulation, that got us into this mess. If free trade was the darling of this show, then protectionism was its demon, and I could not escape the feeling that each leader, whilst publicly endorsing the former, was quietly poised to embrace the latter at the very earliest suggestion that there was to be a break in the ranks.

There is much more to tell, which again space does not permit, but I cannot conclude without mention of our visit to the Altiplano. A visit by an alpaca breeder to Peru, which did not include the Altiplano, would be like an artist travelling through France without seeing the Louvre.

As the representatives of the Australian alpaca industry, and of the AAA particularly, we received a very warm welcome from both German Freyre, from Inca Tops, and Derek Michell, from the Michell Group, who were most generous in orchestrating our visit, and providing logistical support. We had private meetings with the management of both organisations, and a conducted tour of both facilities, which added hugely to our understanding of the industry. A further private meeting with Prosur management established an Australian connection with the third of the big three Peruvian processors. At all meetings, we discussed ways in which we might cooperate to further our shared



Alpaca corralled at Pacamarca

interests, and it was my impression that there was a genuine warmth and collegiality between us, which was a reflection of the mutual respect held by each for the organisations which we represented. There is a real opportunity here for Australia to develop its links and cooperation with Peru, and to promote its position internationally by virtue of the special relationship it shares with the cultural home of alpacas.

Our journey finished with a privately conducted two day journey to visit the experimental farms at Mallkini and Pacamarca, owned by the Michell Group and Inca Tops respectively, which was hosted by the enigmatic Alonso Burgos, of Inca Tops. My impressions of those visits warrant a separate article, which may yet be written, either for this magazine or the regional newsletters, but I would strongly encourage all Australian breeders to contemplate an extended visit to Arequipa and the Altiplano for the 2010 Alpaca Festival, which will coincide with the 3rd World Alpaca Conference.

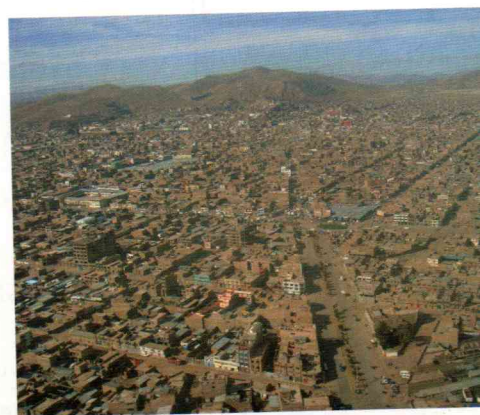
I thank the AAA and its members for the privilege of representing them in Peru, at both APEC and Arequipa, and am hopeful that the visit may have some material benefits to the Australian alpaca industry in the longer term. ■

Ed: *This trip was privately funded by Ian and Harriet Davison, and no funding has been requested by, or provided to them from AAA sources.*

Ian and Harriet Davison welcomed by German Freyre and others at Inca Tops

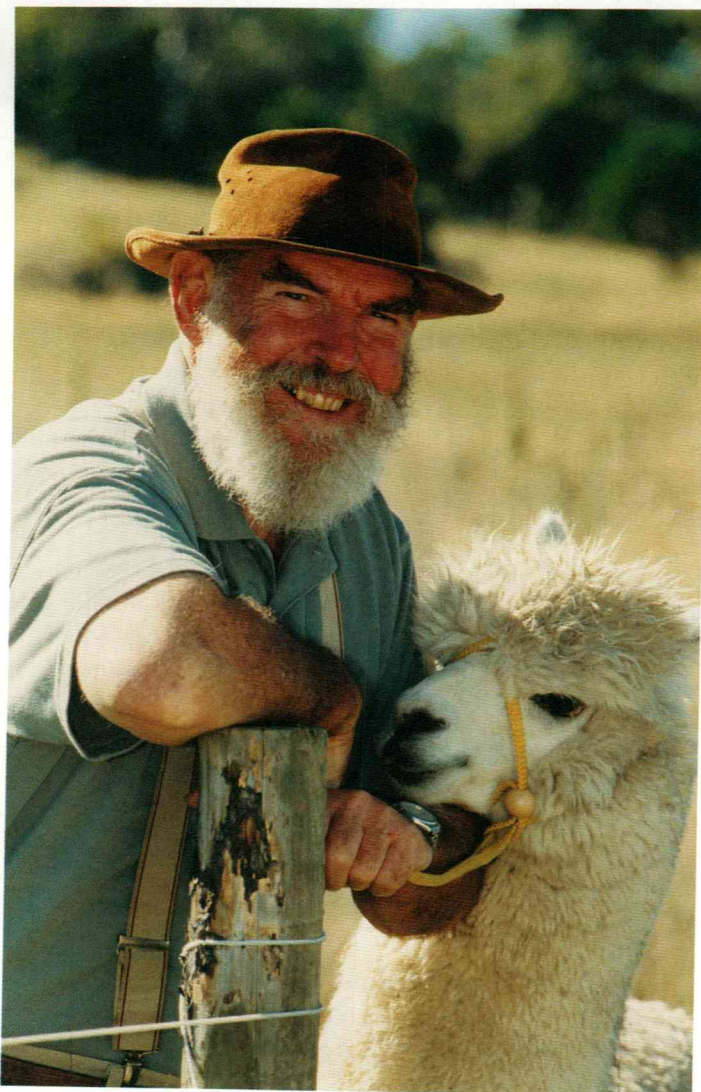


Juliaca, gateway to the Altiplano



Richard Dixon Memorial Scholarship

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Garner-Paulin** > Director, AAA Ltd.



The passing of Dr Richard Dixon in 2007 was a tremendous loss; not only to individuals who knew him but to the Australian alpaca industry as a whole.

Richard's involvement in instigating and establishing AlpacaMAP and Q-Alpaca and his foresight and efforts in ensuring AAA Ltd. membership of Animal Health Australia are just a part of Richard's significant contribution to this industry but they are milestones that will continue to benefit all alpaca breeders and our industry as it continues to develop.

On a more personal level, there are many individual breeders reading this now who will think fondly and gratefully of Richard, for his assistance and immense compassion as they dealt with difficult or protracted health issues with their animals.

There can be no doubt that we owe Richard Dixon a great debt of gratitude.

To honour an ever practical man and his achievements, it is befitting that we establish a living memorial by way of the **Richard Dixon Memorial Scholarship**.

Each financial year, AAA Ltd. will provide funding by way of a scholarship to assist students of Veterinary Science to further their education in medicine and surgery of South American Camelids.

The Richard Dixon Memorial Scholarship is available to senior students of Veterinary Science who are Australian citizens or permanent residents and who are studying at an Australian University.

Last year as the Memorial Scholarship was still under development, David Gunzberg, a final year veterinary student from Murdoch University came to the attention of AAA Ltd. for his dedication and efforts to further his knowledge in relation to alpaca, by way of working on a variety of studs on Australian soil and attending the World Alpaca Conference in Sydney.

Following the conference David was soon to leave for the USA to partake in further training and AAA Ltd. made available to David some funding to assist in the expenses of his trip. The following is an article prepared by David on his experiences in the USA and at Cornell University.

Applications are now invited for the 2009 Richard Dixon Memorial Scholarship. Further information and an application form are available from the AAA Ltd. office or may be downloaded from the AAA Ltd. web site.

Alpaca USA: An Australian Veterinary Student's Experience

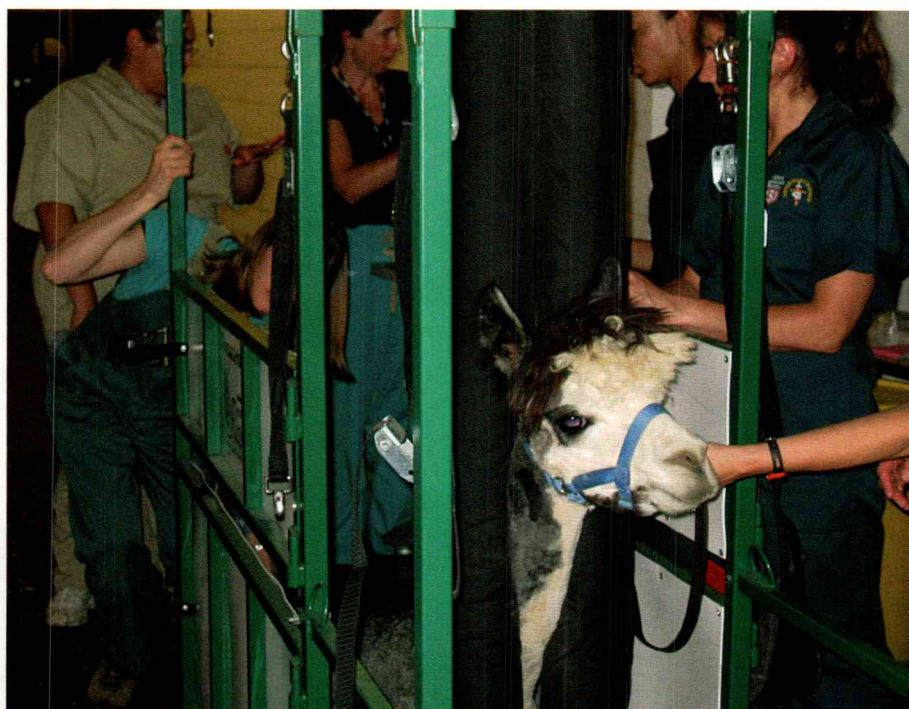
ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **David Gunzburg** BSc BVMS



Dave Gunzburg at University of Massachusetts camelid farm, USA

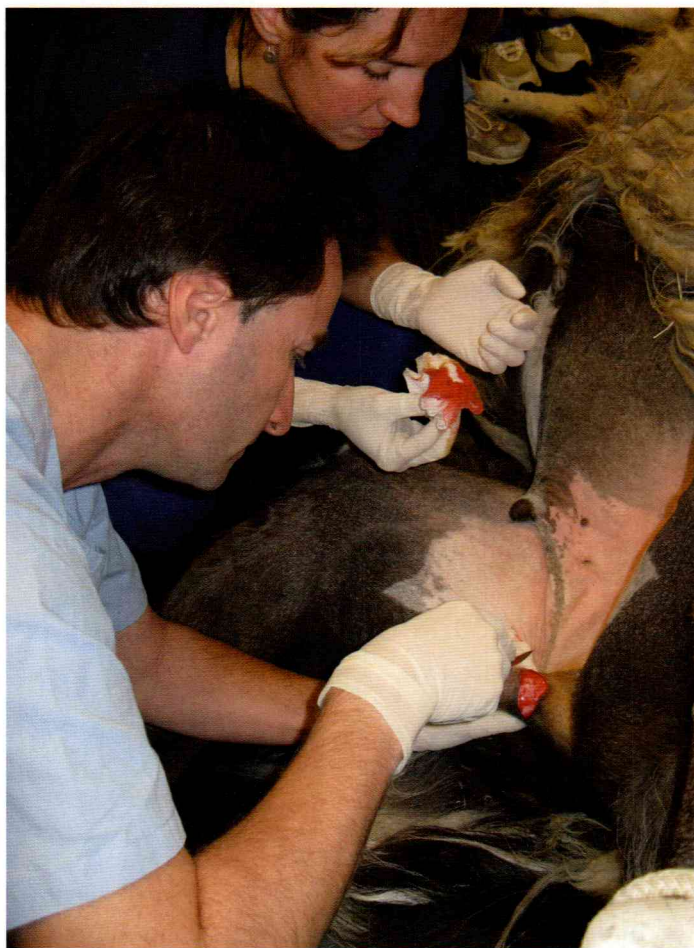
Alpaca are as appealing and curious as the name 'Yackandandah'. Yackandandah is a beautiful little north-eastern Victorian town where I had first planned to establish my alpaca farm. However, with the acceptance of a university offer to study veterinary medicine in Western Australia, thwarted intentions were never more justified.

Alpaca medicine and surgery is not a high priority, albeit any, in the curriculum of most vet schools worldwide, and in order to develop my continued interest and fascination of alpaca as a veterinary student, it was my onus to seek theoretical and practical opportunities that would further my alpaca veterinary skills throughout the five year degree. With this being my final year, it was time to get serious and in June 2008, I was bound for another north-eastern region, this time in the United States, to attend a special two week intensive Camelid medicine and surgery programme.



Reproductive exam crush at Cornell University, USA

As part of a group including nine female veterinary students, this Aussie bloke was head scratching at times with some rather quirky medical vernacular, but over 100 hours of the latest knowledge, theories and practical application of subjects incorporating alpaca medicine and surgery; husbandry and handling; reproduction and neonatal management; orthopaedic assessment and correction; farm biosecurity and disease control; alpaca clinical and anatomical pathology plus parasitology (to name a few) were totally awe-inspiring. The first week was held at the University of Massachusetts under the highly practical and knowledgeable alpaca veterinarian Dr Steve Purdy, after which we travelled across to Ithaca, New York, to attend the second week at the esteemed veterinary college of Cornell University. ➤



Dave Gunzburg performing surgical castration at Cornell University, USA

The University of Massachusetts has the only dedicated Camelid studies programme in the world under the guise of Dr Purdy. This unique programme was established and is maintained by a multi-million dollar donation by Cas-cad-nac farm, owned by Ian and Jennifer Lutz. Cas-cad-nac farm is an extraordinary alpaca stud farm set in the lush hills of southern Vermont. Ian and Jennifer acted on the need for training and developing students in Camelid medicine and herd management as part of the industry's future and to help curtail the recognised shortage of alpaca and large animal veterinarians worldwide.

The development of alpaca medicine at Cornell University has grown by default. Cornell University veterinary hospital has seen a 30% increase in the alpaca medical caseload over the last few years and the growing hum of the alpaca has called upon the university clinicians and professors from wide ranging medical and surgical veterinary disciplines to understand the unique behavioural and physiological attributes of the alpaca and extrapolate knowledge from their relevant fields.

What they don't know, they seek to understand and the commitment to research in the USA is astounding. Not just at Cornell but at numerous universities across America. By my impression, alpaca medicine research in America reigns supreme and although the national registered herd number is roughly the same as Australia, the large number of veterinary institutions, people and donation dollars must help to drive the large number of research projects in USA.

I've no doubt much of the developing knowledge bank will be of great benefit to the Australian alpaca industry, provided there are vets willing to apply the knowledge.

The opportunity to physically apply knowledge is an aspect of veterinary medicine I find greatly appealing and throughout the two-week programme we were provided vast opportunities to explore a number of different techniques for commonly performed procedures. Examples include: reproduction and pregnancy assessment and examination, castration methods, surgical anaesthesia protocols, husbandry and handling techniques (including alternative approaches to dental work), foot trimming, blood collection and lab analysis and instruction in the "Camelidynamics" alternative animal handling approach.

As I gave accolades to the Americans for their pro-activity in alpaca medicine and research, I must wave our own flag for the achievements in reproductive technologies – including embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) – and Australia's reputation for quality fibre and its productive usages. Australia was often referred to with envy as the leader in these fields.

What was surprising to me is that an alpaca cannot be registered for showing or breeding in the USA if it has been bred using a non-natural breeding method such as ET or AI and although there are many herds in the USA that produce quality fibre, there is presently no primary market to which the fibre is sold. It was painful to see bags and bags of alpaca fibre crammed into lofts and high above the barn rafters with no foreseeable use.

The alpaca industry in the USA is based on the value of the animal, not the products of the animal and therein lies the reason for current status on reproductive technology to keep the numbers down. I will leave considerations of industry sustainability to the experts.

The alpaca industry is still a very new industry to the modern world and those involved in the industry are constantly learning new and more efficient ways in practical management and husbandry, reproduction, surgical techniques and medicine of these most unique animals. After gaining an insight into the alpaca industry in both Australia and USA, it is apparent each country has much to offer in regard to the future and development of the alpaca industry.

As established veterinarians, or as emerging new graduates of veterinary medicine such as myself with a keen interest in alpaca medicine and the animal, we have a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn in symbiosis with a young and developing production animal industry. I would hope that collaboration could be developed and strengthened between vets involved in the alpaca industry worldwide, breeders and national and international alpaca organisations. Just like the animal, we should be stoic in our stand, curious in our endeavours and only reserve kicking and spitting should all other efforts fail. ■

2009 Royal Canberra Show

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Susan Nielson** > Convenor

This year's Royal Canberra Show certainly had some wild winds but the exhibitors showed their usual panache and got on with the job. With competitors coming from all over, the quality of animals shown reflected how hard we as breeders strive to move forward. The junior white males and females had to be split due to the number of entries in the classes.

With this year's entries again numbering over 300 and fleeces over 170, the decision has been made that Canberra will now become a permanent four day show. The fleeces will be judged on the Thursday and Friday with animals arriving on the Friday for inspection and ultimate judging on the Saturday and Sunday.

The **Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor** award was a new ribbon this year at the Royal Canberra and went to **Wyona Alpacas** from Thuddungra, NSW.

The wonderful fleece team led by David Rouse once again worked hard behind the scenes. Watching that number of fleeces being processed for judging proved how lucky I was having the team to take on the task. Once again quality was high and the hours long before the decisions were reached.

Supreme Champion Suri Fleece

> *Surilana Quo Vadis ET* exhibited by Surilana/Birrongo

Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece

> *Currumbong Golding* exhibited by Currumbong

Most Valuable Commercial Huacaya Fleece

> *Chachani Mochica* exhibited by Chachani

On Saturday we started with the Suri judging leading into the Huacaya classes, exhibitors were well organised and classes flowed smoothly. The judges, Rick Hodgson and Ron Reid worked together like they had done it a million times before. In tune with each other the judging was done with a consistency that continued throughout both days.

Supreme Champion Suri

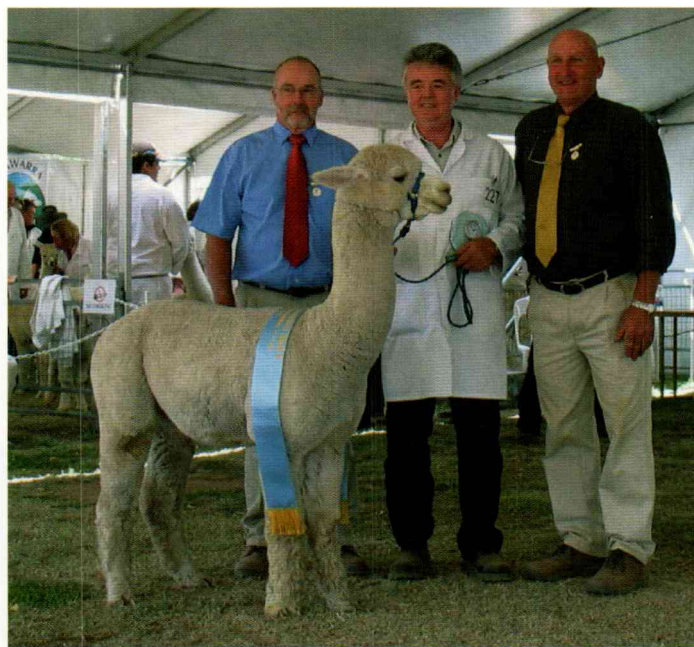
> *Kurrawa Airs N Graces ET* exhibited by Kurrawa

Supreme Champion Huacaya

> *Camelot Tor* exhibited by Grand Flowerdale
(winner for the third year in a row).

The volunteers who work hard must be thanked, without the marvellous effort these people put forward the Royal Canberra would not be what it is. From the ring stewards who stand on their feet all day, to the marshalling stewards making sure the animals are in the classes they are supposed to be, through to the help desk volunteers, inspection stewards, commentator and tent captain, the effort is unstinting and willingly offered. Thank you to all of these people. Also to be thanked are the studs that donate to the silent auction. The funds that this auction raises help to cover all of the incidentals like the security that makes it possible for us to sleep well at night knowing our animals are safe. Special thanks this year must go to **Lavender Park Alpacas**, our Gold sponsors, for donating a beautiful female which was purchased by **Amistad Alpacas**.

Congratulations to all of the exhibitors, whether you won ribbons or not, you too are the people who make the show what it is. It won't take long for the 2010 show to be on us and hopefully we will see you all again next year. ■



Supreme Champion Huacaya, *Camelot Tor*



Supreme Champion Suri, *Kurrawa Airs N Graces ET*

Chile Visitors Subjected To Something Hotter Than They Bargained For

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Jeffrey Farman** > Flowerdale Estate Alpacas, VIC.

A group of four Chilean university academics came to Australia in February to visit five alpaca breeders on a mission to research breeding techniques and practices. In the middle of the four day visit they were confronted by the most damaging bushfires in Australia's history. It turned out to be an unforgettable experience where the aftermath has been described by others as akin to Hiroshima, or Armageddon. Officials have described it as possibly the world's most devastating wild fire.



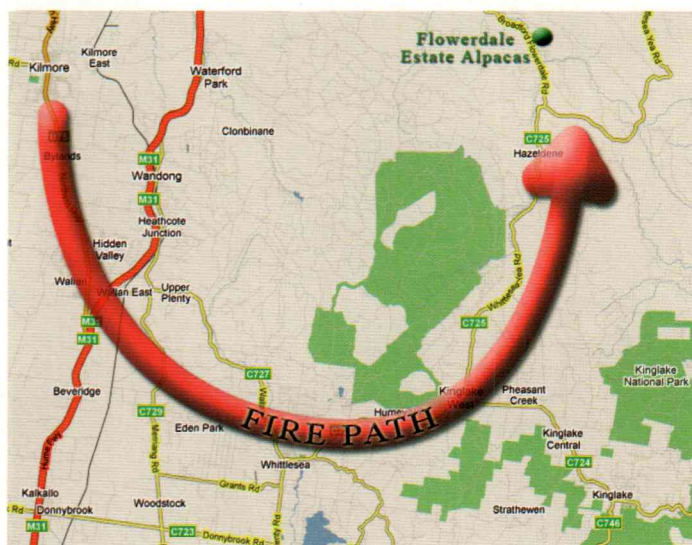
The four Chilean visitors who got to investigate alpaca breeding at Jigarú, Malakai, Surilana and Flowerdale before the fires broke out on Saturday 7 February.

On the evening of Friday 6 February 2009 we took the Chilean visitors, Rodrigo, Victor, Alberto and a second Rodrigo to our local Landcare BBQ in the Strath Creek Reserve. It had been a very hot day. We enjoyed a cold beer and I asked how hot it gets around Santiago. With a tone that was based on some pride they told me it could sometimes reach 32°. I said "Mate, tomorrow it will be 46+." There was a moment of silence, founded on disbelief, I'm sure. The guys from Chile were pleased to meet our locals and try some Australian red wine with some good Aussie beef which they enjoyed immensely. The conversation was focused on the hot weather conditions and the prediction of a real scorcher the next day. Fires had been raging in Gippsland, south east of Melbourne, for a couple of days, so there was a sense of unease from the locals.

Severe conditions

On the morning of Saturday 7 February we awoke to scorching weather conditions that were extremely uncomfortable from the very earliest hours.

The day turned out to be the hottest Victorian day on record (46.7°). The heat was accompanied by gale force northerly winds in the morning – a deadly combination of adverse bushfire conditions that were a Country Fire Brigade's worst nightmare. At 11.49am the alarm went off at the Kilmore CFA headquarters, one hour north of Melbourne. A fire had taken off, driven by the ferocious winds, heading south, not far from the Hume Highway. As we had lunch and listened to reports on the VHF radio, we too were concerned at the speed with which this fire seemed to be advancing. The urgency in the fire controller's voice told us that this was no ordinary fire. Haydn, our farm manager and member of the Strath Creek CFA, got out his CFA maps to pinpoint the location and work out the direction. It was heading straight for the small townships of Wallan, Wandong and Clonbinane – not all that far from us. Then the pager went off and Haydn was called out from the Strath Creek base to support the other brigades already in attendance.



From its starting point, just south of Kilmore, and fanned by strong northerlies, the fire quickly moved to the east as the wind shifted to the west and after passing to the north of Whittlesea then turned north as winds settled in the south. Gusts were reaching 40km per hour.

The fire ripped through the towns of Wallan and Wandong and by mid afternoon was heading west carried by a wind change that eventually swung around to come from the south. The fire tore through the northern end of Whittlesea and on into Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek and Kinglake itself and then further north to Hazledene and Flowerdale. By nightfall, the Three Sisters range (about 4km from us) was fully alight. The fire had forged a semi-circular pathway of over 50km in just 5-6 hours.

Well prepared plans go into action

I spent all afternoon activating our fire plans. Ten fire hoses were set out on the lawns and tested. We moved as many animals as near to the house as possible in close proximity to our irrigation system and fire sprinklers. We were able to saturate the house and two paddocks where most of the animals were assembled.

Fortunately there were no conference guests or staff in attendance that weekend. Our conference complex consists of 12 separate buildings. Doors to the main homestead building were unlocked for full access in an emergency. The huge gas storage tanks were shut off and a fire hose put in place to keep the tanks cool in a fire. Many farm gates were left open to provide access for trucks and tankers in the event of a grass fire. All engines and pumps were fuelled so we would not run out at a critical time. The diesel generator, capable of powering the whole venue, was topped up with fuel. A fire fighting pump was designated to the swimming pool. The furphy fire fighting unit was hitched up. The 600 litre spray tank on the tractor was filled so we would have two spray units for firefighting needs and mopping up after a fire. The Chilean guests had offered to give assistance so they were briefed on the locations of fire hoses and how to operate them if required.

Looking to the sky all one could see was a dark, dense, grey smoke barrier blotting out what must have been a clear, bright blue sky above on such a hot summer day. The sun was visible through this thick grey smoke as if someone had cut a round disc of carrot and hung it in the sky. And the remarkable thing was that you could look right into this sun without any discomfort. Such was the density of the smoke.

Stressful situation for Chileans

You don't have to use a great deal of imagination to figure out what it would be like to be in a foreign country on the hottest day ever recorded, to be seeing thick smoke all around you and to factor in reports of fires everywhere, with houses burning to the ground in an instant, and to be unable to understand the magnitude of the peril surrounding you or where you would go if you needed to evacuate. In a word... Horrific!

Of course we were totally unable to be good hosts and these guys understood our situation. I tried to keep them informed but this was not easy with the emergency in full swing. They agreed to cook dinner so I threw together some ingredients for steak and salad and left them to it. Just before the call to eat, Haydn, who had returned from CFA duties, shouted that the Three Sisters, a local mountain range 4 km south of us was fully alight. We dropped everything and went to see what could be done. There was no dinner for us that night.



Right across central Victoria, and Gippsland to the east, fires broke out and raged for days with no respite.

Concern for our neighbours

At about 10pm on Saturday night we went down to see our alpaca neighbor, Kenilworth Park, to reassure ourselves that Jeanette and Keith were holding together through the stress, being much closer to the fire than us. The whole of the Three Sisters was alight sending out showers of embers and smoke and the winds were getting stronger. We met Jeanette at her front door hooking up garden hoses around the house. The mood was intense. Not much was said. I pulled out a long strip of toilet paper I had been carrying around all day to test the direction of the wind. I held it high. When Jeanette saw that the wind was coming directly from the fire to her front door she was extremely alarmed. So were we, being just a couple of kilometres further up the road in the pathway of the wind. One alarming concern was based on the radio reports advising that the strong winds were causing spot fires as far as 15km ahead of the main fire front. We found that unimaginable. And terrifying. No one knew where the next fire would break out.

At this time we were not aware that the small hamlet of Flowerdale, just 5km south of us, had been totally wiped out with almost every house gone and a loss of seven lives.

Around midnight, we agreed that we should try to get some rest and would patrol the property on alternate 30 minute shifts. This went on throughout the night. ➤

It was just not possible to sleep. The fear of waking to find everything going up in flames was alarming. And exhausting.

On Sunday morning our Chileans were due to go to Canchones, about 1.5 hours away, for their next alpaca experience. Canchones was not an option, as by this time the fires had reached their district at Taggerty and were becoming very threatening. The Chileans were showing signs of agitation and just wanted to get out. The experience had been more than enough. I had to explain that all exit roads to Melbourne and the airport had been closed so Melbourne was not an option.

They had been due to fly to Sydney for some sightseeing before the return to Chile. Eventually they came up with a plan to try to get out and head up the Hume Highway to Sydney. This was risky as we could not say for sure what roads were closed. We enquired through the CFA and agreed that if they could get to Seymour and onto the Hume they should be right. However there had been reports of fires in NSW too. So the likely outcome of this plan was unknown. They agreed to give it a try. They succeeded.

Stirling job by local firefighters

It seemed strange that the wind had been gusting from the south of us for almost 24 hours and that the fire had not entered our valley. Local firefighters had success during the night by keeping the Three Sisters fire on the other side of our road. The Sunday morning was quiet with less smoke than the day before. The forecast, though, was for freshening winds during the day to more than 40-60km per hour wind gusts in the afternoon. Haydn had decided to remain on the farm, as protection for our property had become a priority. He said quietly to me, "I was hoping this day would never come." He had spent several years developing a fire plan to protect his family and house with an elaborate irrigation system and fire fighting capability. Our worst fear, for years, had been the huge commercial pine forest directly over the road from us. Around lunchtime a radio alert advised that our worst fear was upon us. A fire had broken out in the pine forest just opposite. Trucks, bulldozers and tankers arrived in minutes. I received a phone call at that moment from a concerned alpaca breeder and had to abruptly drop the call.

Solid work by a team of fire fighters, including a strike team from NSW, saved the forest and contained the fire to an area of about 100 acres. Haydn assisted with our tractor to haul burning trees back across the containment lines. However, the burning fire inside the containment lines needed to be strictly monitored, as it could be on us in minutes if it broke out.

On Sunday afternoon I was approached by the DSE working in the area to provide accommodation for a crew of 18 fire fighters. In a nano second I realised what a godsend this could be. Our own team of trained professional DSE firefighters on site. "You're welcome," I said.

The legacy?

At the time of writing, almost four weeks after "Black Saturday," there are still fires burning across the state, and an overwhelming level of fire fatigue is everywhere. Today's forecast is for high temperatures and 100km per hour gales. As I look out the window I can observe this and almost breathe in the terror and stress levels for those closest to the remaining fires, many of whom have already fled.



This scene, not far from our farm, will be a reminder for some time of the need to pay attention and prepare.

There have been 210 lives and over 2,000 houses lost. The tourism business in the worst affected areas has completely stopped with a risk of bankruptcy for hundreds of small family businesses.

To my knowledge alpaca losses have been few. Some have been scorched and a few have needed treatment for burned feet. We have been very lucky on our farm with no losses of property or stock. I want to thank all those from around Australia and overseas who contacted me by phone and email showing concern and offering help. People from interstate offered to drop everything and come to assist if we needed it. I particularly want to thank Don Knight who just showed up to help. How he got through the blockades is a mystery. Don stayed with us for several days and was a great support. That level of generosity and commitment to help another breeder is one of the nicest things about our wonderful industry.

As Australians, we must pay attention and prepare. I know of one alpaca breeder with a really robust fire plan. On Friday, the 6th, they had a fire drill. They were dismayed to find that the gardener had been using water from the dedicated fire fighting tank to water the garden. It was empty. But that was Friday, the day before the fires. So we must plan. We must prepare. We must practice. Let's not take anything for granted. ■

Jeffry and Carol Farman run almost 500 alpacas on their farm, Flowerdale Estate. The 150 acre property is 70km north of Melbourne and very close to one of the main areas devastated by fires. Jeffry's son Haydn manages the farm and lives on site with his wife Virginia and daughter Emily. Despite the threat, there was no damage to farm or alpacas.

South Australia to Host 2009 National Show and Sale

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Sharon Warland** > 2009 National Show and Sale Committee Secretary

The AAA Ltd. South Australian Region will be the hosts for the 2009 National Show and Sale to be held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Royal Adelaide Showgrounds from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 October.

As 2009 is the International Year of Natural Fibres, we will be promoting this throughout our lead up to the National. The main goal of the International Year of Natural Fibres is to raise the profile of these fibres and to emphasise their value to consumers while helping to sustain the incomes of the farmers. So that we can truly celebrate the Year of Natural Fibres at this premier alpaca showcase event, we are hoping to see an increase in the number of fleece entries this year. The fleeces will be a large feature of our show so make plans to be a part of this special event.



The Jubilee Pavilion boasts 9,350 square metres of exhibition space and is large enough to accommodate the show ring, alpacas, trade sites, fleeces, and the art, craft and photography exhibits. The Pavilion is air conditioned for the comfort of all and will help reduce the problem of the animals sweating.

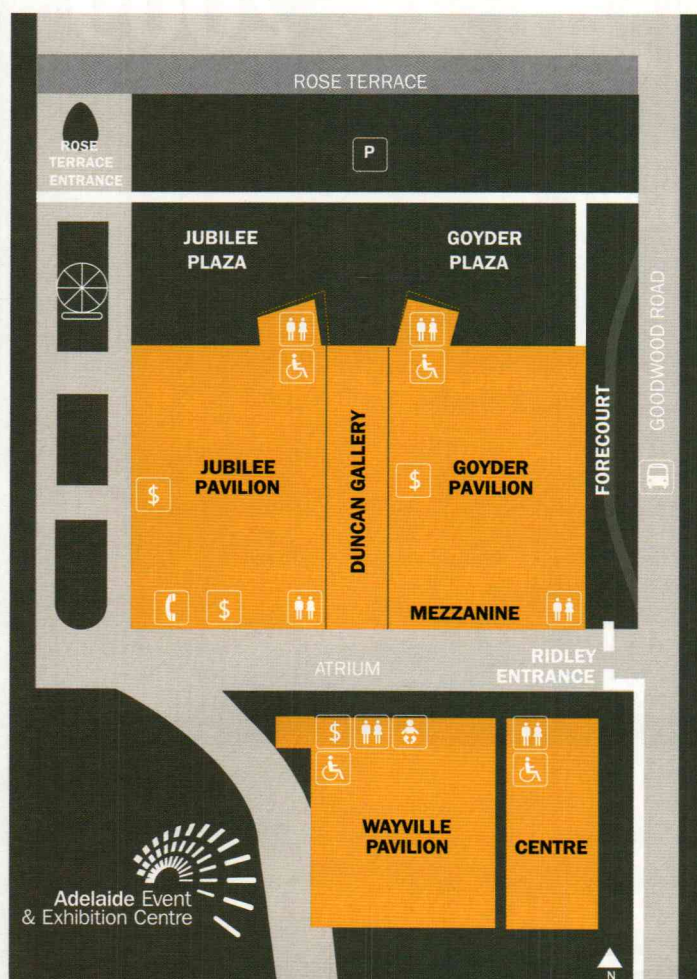
There will be ample parking for floats and vehicles at the showgrounds. Camping is not allowed at the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds but caravan parks and other forms of accommodation (motels, hotels, apartments etc.) are situated at a short walk or drive distance from the Showgrounds. Early booking of your accommodation is recommended.

Arrival of alpacas will be permitted from 10am on Thursday 8 October for interstate exhibitors and 12.00 noon for SA exhibitors. Judging of alpacas will commence on the Friday and finish on the Saturday.

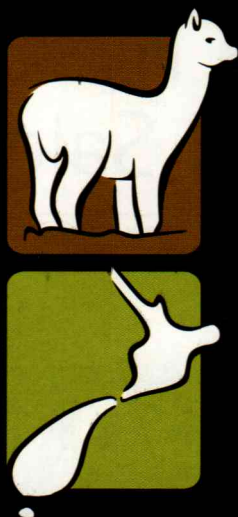
Exhibitors and others will be able to relax and mingle with friends on Saturday night at the dinner to be held at the Hilton Hotel, Adelaide. There will be opportunity for pre dinner drinks and an open bar will be available throughout dinner and the evening. Adding a novel element to this year's dinner is the RM Williams dress theme so dust off those hats and boots to really look the part! There will also be a fun auction prior to the main course to add to the night's enjoyment.

The AAA Ltd. Annual General Meeting will kick off the proceedings on the Sunday morning, followed in the afternoon by the National Auction. We look forward to a quality line-up going under the hammer again this year.

See you in Adelaide! ■



ALPACA EXPO & NATIONAL SALE 2009



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NEW ZEALAND



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SEPTEMBER 25 26 27 2009



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More Information

Register for our email updates & more information on the alpaca event for this year, please visit

www.alpacaexpo09.co.nz

British Alpaca Futurity 2009

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Rachel Hebditch** > *Alpaca World* magazine, United Kingdom

Stoneleigh Park in Coventry, the National Agricultural Centre, was taken over by alpacas for the first major alpaca event of 2009 on 27 and 28 February. The British Alpaca Futurity, now in its third year, played host to over 350 alpacas that took part in judged show classes. It was the first time the event had been staged at Stoneleigh after two successful Futurities at Newbury racecourse.

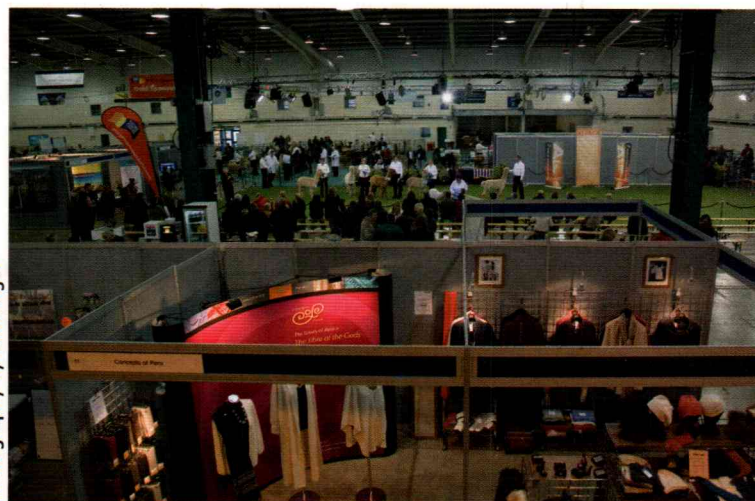
Organised by a group of breeders it was a showcase for the progeny of some of the best stud males available in the UK. Only offspring from nominated stud males resident in the UK were eligible for the show. Nearly £60,000 was raised through an on-line auction of stud services and sponsorship to finance the Futurity and cash prizes amounting to nearly £12,000 were paid out to the winners of the show classes.

International judge Amanda VandenBosch (USA) judged huacaya and suri halter classes on the Friday and Saturday with a break at lunchtime on the first day for a professional fashion show that showcased alpaca garments made in Britain and the rest of the world, followed by a parade of the animals that were up for sale in the Elite Auction at six o'clock that evening. Six alpacas were sold at the auction realising £36,000 in all.

One of the alpacas was bought by the Futurity group and sold at the auction to raise money for a charity – in this case the Quechua Benefit that provides goods and services to the families of alpaca farmers in the Altiplano in South America. Thousands of children each year receive safe and much needed dental care, blankets, toys, computers, books and food.

Saturday evening saw 190 people sit down for a celebration dinner after a champagne reception and fashion show. The commentator, John Gaye and Nick Harrington Smith presided over the raffle and the announcement of the Futurity Champions – *Bozedown Galaxy* (huacaya) of Bozedown Alpacas and *Accoyo Bulleyman* (suri) of Moonsbrook Alpacas

There were authoritative seminars on neonatal care from Claire Whitehead who is a veterinarian specialising in camelids and runs the Farm Animal Hospital at the Royal Veterinary College; veterinarian Gina Bromage on alpaca



Photography by Chris Agar

herd health; John Arbon of UK Alpaca on fibre processing and a presentation from the British Alpaca Society on their Argonaut genetic evaluation scheme. The keynote speaker was Geoff Ramm who, helped by his skeleton Aida, talked about Marketing in a Cold Climate.

A number of trade stands were selling fashion garments and textiles along with associated businesses marketing feed, handling equipment and veterinary care. For the first time there was a Fibre Crafts section featuring hand spinning, knitting, weaving and felting plus a Photography and Art competition judged by Val Fullerlove, textiles expert and international alpaca judge.

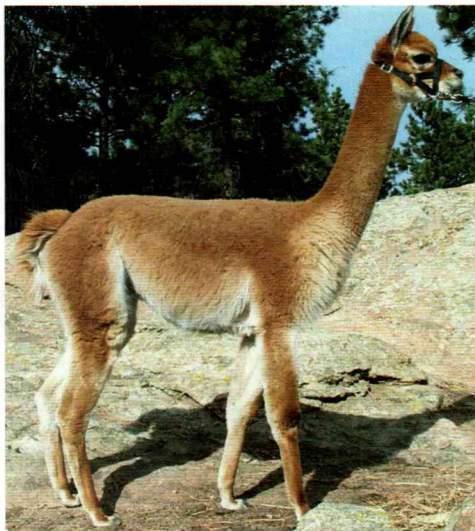
The event was organised by a group of breeders – Classical MileEnd Alpacas (Devon), The Alpaca Stud (Sussex), Alpacas of Wessex (Wiltshire), Bozedown Alpacas (Reading), EP Cambridge UK (Sussex), and Langaton Alpacas (Devon).

For more information visit www.Britishalpacafulurity.com ■



Fighting for Purity

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Francis Rainsford** > Conchotex E.I.R.L., Peru



Paco-vicuña – a cross between the alpaca and the vicuña – is viewed by some in Peru as an animal that could have huge potential commercial value.

However not everyone agrees as they believe the development could damage the future of the vicuña and that the trade in paco-vicuña fleece will always be restricted by its cinnamon colour.

Paco-vicuña is the name given to the cross between an alpaca and a vicuña. Technically a paco-vicuña is a hybrid alpaca that exhibits the phenotypical traits of vicuña. Historically, and by 'accidents of nature' these animals have existed for some time in small numbers in Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

The paco-vicuña possesses a fleece weight of 700g, fibre fineness of 14-17 microns and a fibre length of 35-50mm. Expert breeders point out that today's alpacas are actually descendants of animals originally domesticated from vicuñas some 7,000 years ago and some vicuña traits can still be found in the alpaca herds that exist today in the high Andean plateaus of South America.

Since July 2007, reports have been circulating that indicate apparent interest by the Peruvian government's Ministry of Agriculture in breeding large numbers of paco-vicuñas as a viable addition to the other camelids already produced in this country.

Of the four traditional breeds of camelid, two are domesticated (alpaca and llama) and two are wild (vicuña and guanaco). The vicuña is particularly renowned as one of the finest animal fibres in the world. However, being a wild animal, it is difficult to maintain in captivity, where breeding, birthing, general medical care and so on are a costly challenge. It is also a threatened species, which makes the animal and its fibre difficult to obtain – the species is protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Wild Flora (CITES).

Paco-vicuña is considered more domesticated than wild, thus reducing the high production costs of 'farming' a wild breed such as vicuña, and providing a viable solution to the problem of poverty experienced by traditional alpaca farmers in the country's Altiplano region.

Paco-vicuñas, too, until at least the fourth generation (F4) must also comply with CITES. So, for example, if an alpaca-vicuña hybrid is found to contain just 6.25% of vicuña blood (that could occur up to F4) it is governed by the same legal restrictions as if it were a pure 100% vicuña. However, generations of paco-vicuña after F4 are generally considered more domesticated than wild (i.e. alpaca as opposed to vicuña) thus freeing them from the CITES regulations.

The present Peruvian government's proposal is not new. The first such attempt to breed paco-vicuñas as a means to improve income for alpaca farmers was carried out during the 1840s by an enterprising Catholic priest, Don Juan Pablo Cabrera. His pioneering efforts were recognised by the government, but the project was eventually abandoned, and the vicuñas were let loose and 'merged' with the alpacas in the Altiplano.

More recently, paco-vicuñas have been bred by enthusiasts in the US, where, by identifying the various traits of vicuña in alpaca and selecting the alpacas with these traits, these animals can be bred together to amplify the vicuña traits, such as fibre fineness. Conversely the same can be done for any desired alpaca traits needed, such as faster growing fibre and the animal's calm demeanour. Thus, by identifying those alpacas that have the particular traits required and breeding them together, a successful resultant paco-vicuña can be produced more or less to order.

The idea of producing paco-vicuñas on a commercial scale has divided Peru's commercial sector down the centre. Arguments in favour of paco-vicuña come mainly from the camp occupied by government officials and local leaders and focus on the economic advantages related to its fibre qualities and productive advantages – namely its fleece weight of 700g being considerably heavier than the vicuña's

average 200g fleece; its fibre fineness of 14-17 microns being markedly finer than the alpaca's range of 22.5-34+ microns and its fibre length of 35-50mm being greater than the vicuña's span of 15-40mm.

Rural communities already experienced in the production of vicuña fibre see extra paco-vicuña production as a means of increasing the critical mass of similar fibre to the marketplace as well as increasing their potential earnings. Luis Guerra, a spokesman for the Huayhua community in the region of Ayacucho says: "I feel sure that if the government could provide us with technical and management training, we could sell both vicuña and paco-vicuña directly to foreign buyers. At the moment we're in the hands of brokers who pay us between US\$105 and US\$140 per kg and who then export it themselves at much higher prices".

Those opposed to the proposal tend to be scientists and conservationists. One of the leading critics is the Argentinian, Gabriela Lichtenstein, president of the Group of Specialists for Wild Camelids (GECS), of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Lichtenstein believes that single mating between pure vicuñas and descendants of the hybrid will lead to an irreparable contamination of the pure species, causing a genetic rebound in its preservation and quality of fibre.

Lichtenstein is joined in her opposition by Alonso Burgos, general manager of Pacamarca S.A. – a company in the south of Peru that carries out projects of genetic experimentation with alpacas – and Lima based leading biologist and archaeologist, Dr Jane Wheeler. They both view paco-vicuña as an aberration that will hinder the ongoing commercial exploitation of the alpaca. Furthermore they dread the pernicious consequences of paco-vicuñas escaping into the wild and crossing with free vicuñas.

During last year's XII Technical Vicuña Agreement Meeting held in Bolivia, ministerial delegates from Andean countries agreed not to support any project or measure favouring the production of paco-vicuña. Bolivia's vice-minister for diversity, forestry resources and the environment, Juan Ramos said: "Approval of genetic innovation of the paco-vicuña breed, such as it is, as currently carried out by breeders in Peru and the US was turned down on the grounds of probable biological, ecological and social consequences".

For its part, Peru's alpaca fibre processing industry is concerned that, like vicuña, the paco-vicuña fibre comes in basically one colour – cinnamon – which only permits the dyeing of dark shades in a fashion-driven market that favours whites and pastels as a rule. It opines that, rather than going to all the trouble, risk and expense of creating a new fibre, surely it would be more sensible to invest in improving something that is already in plentiful supply.

Peru produces 4-5 million kg annually of alpaca fibre with an average fleece weight of 3.5kg, a fibre length of 75-140mm and a range of over 20 commercially reproducible natural colours, including white. Its current

commercial drawback of competing head-to-head in the marketplace with the likes of cashmere and others is its poor fibre fineness, currently averaging 27.5 microns. However, Jane Wheeler observes that in pre-Columbian and Incan times, its average fibre fineness was around 17 microns and that, with genetic improvement techniques, it should be possible to return to this level of fineness.

Perhaps, before proceeding further with paco-vicuña, the Peruvian government would do well to take heed of a parallel example from the world of cashmere where, some years ago, breeders crossed the cashmere goat with the mohair producing angora goat. The resultant hybrid was named Cashgora. The resultant fibre was supposed to possess all the best characteristics of both cashmere and mohair but cashgora has never reached the marketing goals envisaged for it and today has ended up becoming a classification for coarse cashmere. In fact, the Cashmere and Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute classes only fibre not exceeding 19 microns as cashmere and everything in excess of this is cashgora and, as such, not entitled to be labelled 'cashmere'. A salutary warning if ever there was one. ■

This article was first published in Twist, the new Wool Record. The article was also published in Alpaca World magazine, Winter 2008/09 issue and is now reproduced with the permission of the author and Alpaca World magazine. Photograph sourced from the Paco-vicuña Registry web site.

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Not Just Another Web Site, A Successful Web Site!

MARKETING ARTICLE by **Chelsea Wright** in collaboration with **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

Trawling through the internet I find myself easily discouraged at the lack of web sites out there that are helpful. Let's face it, there are an astonishing number of sites floating out in cyberspace which just seem to be there for the sake of it.

The great majority of web sites take precious time to download and once they are finally revealed on your screen are practically useless. So why does it seem the trend for everybody and every business to have their own web site, if they serve no real purpose?

The truth of the matter is that there are web sites out there that do justify the money their owners spend on them. These web sites are the ones that you find yourself returning to, or even decide to add to your favourites list, and in extreme cases of good web sites, set as your home page. These sites have many things in common, but most importantly they are not only visually attractive, but are user friendly.

When creating or renovating your web site there are a number of aspects to aim to include in order to ensure that your site does not fall into the categories of frustrating or useless.

Loading time

There is no use in having a visually stunning web site, packed with pictures, graphics and files of information if the load time discourages viewers to wait for your site to open. Every home and business computer is different, and so the download time will vary from customer to customer. What you have to decide is who are you aiming your web site at? Will they be willing to wait eons for your jazzy pictures and animation to load or will they simply click the stop button in their browser and move on to the next site on their Google list?

In order to ensure that viewers don't have the opportunity to get frustrated with your loading time, be selective about the visual elements of your site; don't have large unnecessary graphics, pictures or files. Instead choose visual additions that don't take up loads of memory.

There are plenty of other ways to entice your viewer once the site has downloaded that don't have to include massive data files. For example, subtle background colour and well chosen, easy to read text and fonts can create a theme for your web site that don't command too much download time. Don't clutter your site with animated graphics that are inappropriate for the web site content and may simply distract and annoy visitors. Above all, make sure your web site looks professional, not an 'amateurish mish-mash'.

Content

Once the visitor is in your web site, it is not only important to keep them there, but to also ensure that they return in the future. This is where the importance of your content comes into play. The information on your web site should be factual and useful. Because the fad of having a business web site is so prevalent, there are enormous numbers of sites that do nothing but act as a 'portfolio'.

Your web site may be aimed at advertising your business but believe it or not, talking solely about you and your show results for example is not how to fill your web site. In order to encourage potential customers to visit and return to your web site, you must first aim to inform them, not bore them! There is a difference.

Information

What you must focus on, in the design of your web site, is the type of information you should include. You must, therefore, first ask yourself who is your target audience? This determines what the readers of your web site are likely to find interesting, and what you should endeavour to provide.

A good way to think about this is in terms of solving a problem – specifically the problems your viewers are likely to have. Your information should endeavour to help them, guide them, inform them and perhaps even direct them to other related sources.

This is all about building your reputation as a credible and reliable source. The only way to successfully achieve this is to ensure that your information is easy to find, easy to read and as true and reliable as it can possibly be. Do not ever let information onto your site which you do not believe yourself.

Consider the visitor

So you now have a great, easily downloaded, visually pleasing, and reliable, informative web site.

Absolutely none of this matters if you don't also have the following implemented:

- > Your web site must be easy to navigate. Have a link on every page that allows them to get back to where they started. Include a site map which would help the viewer browse through your site. This can be a simple page displaying a list that provides links to the specific section of your site they wish to see.
- > You must also update your web site on a regular basis. There is no use in enticing readers to return to your web site if they are never going to see anything new.

Web sites as a communication medium should be designed for the visitor to use, not just for them to sit and passively read. Including an avenue for viewers to give their feedback, ask questions and even suggest improvements is the ultimate way of ensuring people can interact with your site. You can do this via a guest book page, a blog or providing an email link and inviting them to contact you. Not only will this encourage people to return to the site to see the reply to their comments, it could also be valuable in giving you ideas for new material to include in your web site which you already know your visitors are interested in learning more about.

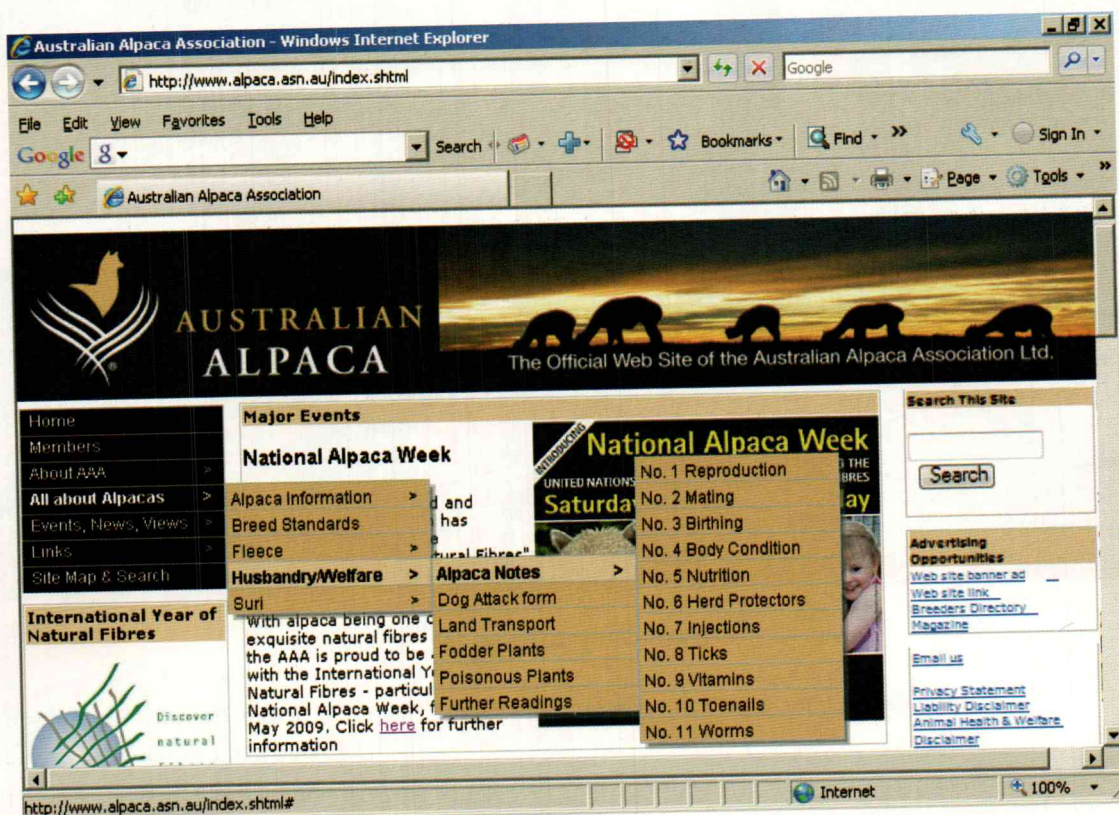
Target your audience

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, is the way in which you manage to circulate the knowledge that your web site exists to your target audience. If they don't know that you are there, then how can they visit? Firstly, start out by ensuring that your address is not only memorable, but also not too complicated to type. Don't make it long and convoluted, but also don't make it something completely irrelevant to your actual web site's topic.

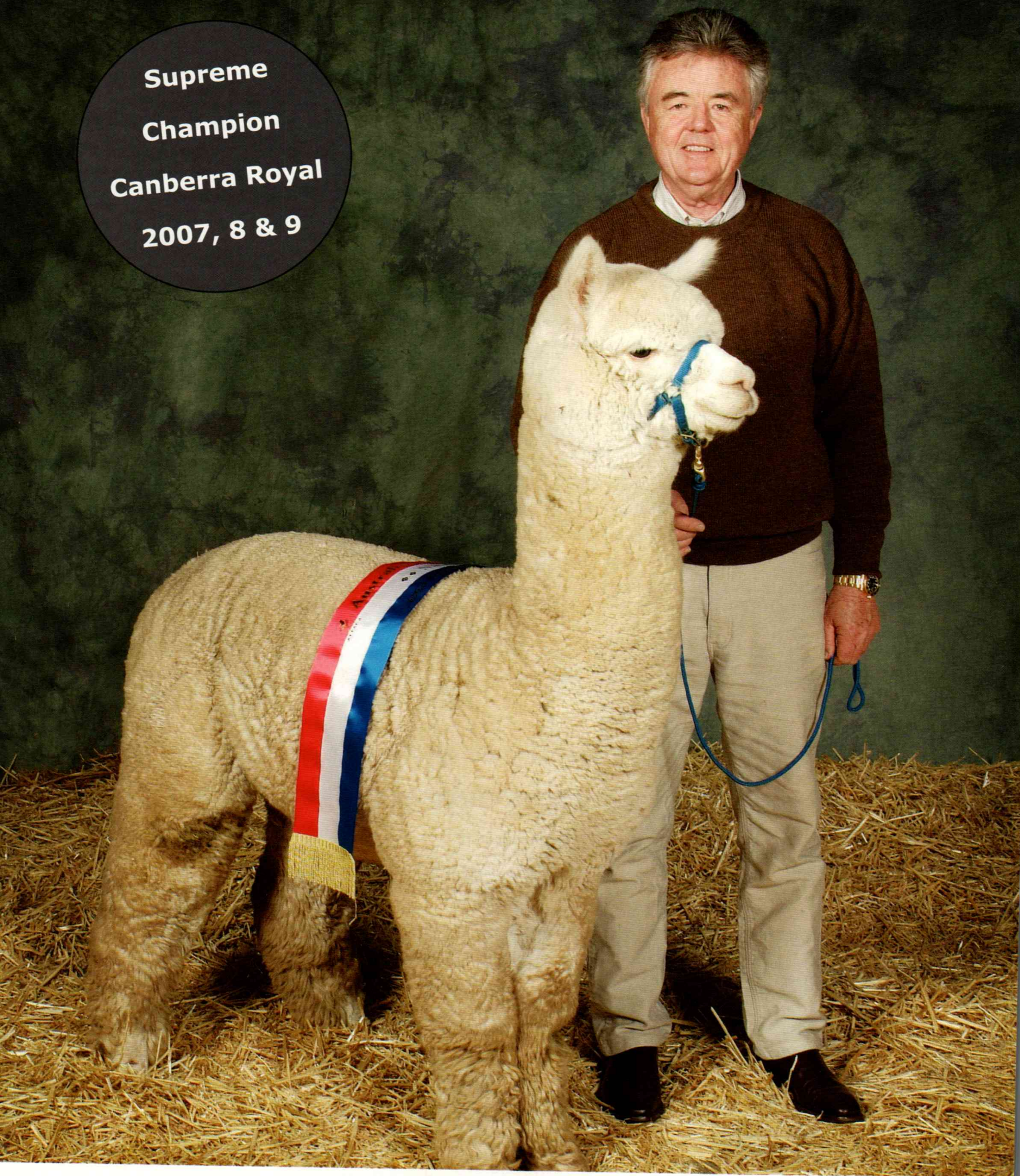
Get the word out that your site exists by ensuring that your web site address is included on all of your business material, and if you choose, all of your personal material – this includes your email, business cards, brochures, catalogues, stationery and even list yourself in the Yellow Pages.

Good luck! ■

Your web site must be easy to navigate



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Horizontal skin sections, about 25 microns thick, are cut on a freezing stage microtome, stained with Nile Blue sulphate solution and examined under a projection microscope to measure: primary fibre diameter, secondary fibre diameter, follicle density, and ratio of secondary follicles to primary follicles.

The overlying fleece sample is used to measure: mean fibre length (in millimetres per day) and the ratio of fibre length to staple length (as a measure of crimp amplitude).

Reducing primary fibre diameter

Primary fibres are produced by the first-formed wool follicles (primary follicles) in the unborn cria's skin from about day 187 of gestation (gestation period is approximately 340 days). Secondary follicles form from about day 264. Secondary follicles aggregate around the three primary follicles to form a 'follicle group' (Figure 2).

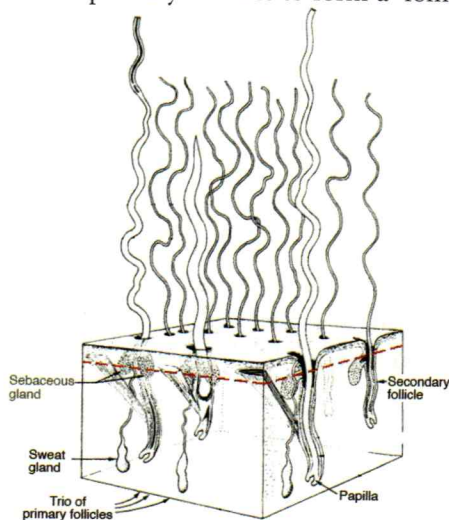


Figure 2: Diagrammatic representation of a follicle group in the skin.

My laboratory data indicate that the mean diameters of the primary fibres (by extrapolation) and secondary fibres need to be reduced to about 17 microns before medullation disappears (Figure 3). Note that medullation is more difficult to remove from the primary fibres than from the secondary fibres.

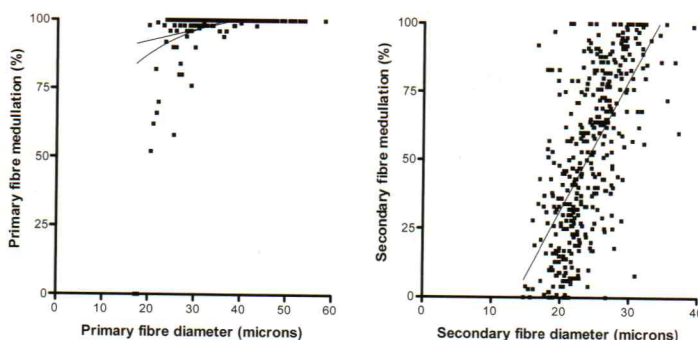


Figure 3: Relationships between mean fibre diameter and medullation in primary fibres (left) and secondary fibres (right) in adult alpacas (n=210).

Increasing fibre density

Unlike primary fibre diameter, there are close links between fibre density and fleece structure. Visual selection can be used as a reliable guide for estimating density levels and choosing appropriate animals for skin testing. Skin and

fleece measurements provide the definitive results. The skin of the high density alpaca (73 follicles per square millimetre) shown in Figure 4 consists of closely packed follicles in small follicle groups that are also packed closely together. The close packing of the wool follicles ensures that the wool fibres are highly aligned (not entangled) and emerge from each follicle group into the fleece as a separate and identifiable structure called a 'fibre bundle'. The fibre bundle, being a mirror image of the follicle group, is no more than 1 millimetre wide. The close packing of the follicle groups means that there are many of these very thin staples (like "many pages in a book") present. Huacaya and Suri alpacas with this follicle patterning have fleeces as shown in Figure 5. In addition to well-aligned fibres, high density produces smooth surfaced fibres that are fine in diameter and evenly sized with high crimp amplitude (in Huacayas) and distinct coiling (in Suris). These features give the fleece its softness and lustre.

On the other hand, the skin of the low density alpaca (37 follicles per square millimetre) shown in Figure 4 has large and widely spaced follicle groups and follicles. Often there are low numbers of follicles in each group. Being widely spaced, the fibres are more likely to entangle fibre bundles into thick staples. Low density alpacas usually produce fibres that are not smooth surfaced and not fine or uniform in size or shape. Fleece handle and lustre are usually diminished.

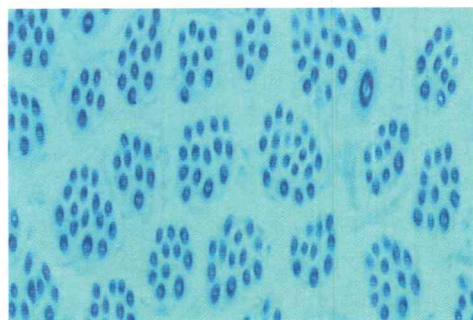
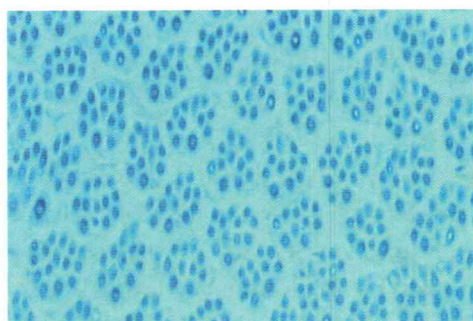


Figure 4: Horizontal skin sections (x 60 magnification) of a high density alpaca with 73 follicles per square millimetre (above) and a low density alpaca with 38 follicles per square millimetre (below). Follicles are the blue rings. Fibres are the white centres in the blue rings. Follicle groups (circled) are oval shaped and about 1.0 mm wide (actual size).

Conference Invitation

Each year SRS AI holds an annual conference for its subscribers. In previous years this was a 'members only' event. This year other breeders will be welcome to come along and learn more about the Breeding System that is changing the approach of so many breeders with an eye on the future. Full details of the conference to be held in Wagga in June are on the SRS AI website at www.srsalpacas.com. Further information can be obtained from Rochelle Veitch at the SRS AI office on 03 5989 6490.



Figure 5: High density and length brings to the alpaca fleece an assembly of many thin, not thick, staples with, in the case of Huacayas, high crimp amplitude and often, low crimp frequency, and for Suris, gently coiling staples that are thin from base to tip.

Increasing fibre length

The growth rate of the fibres is an important piece of new information to have. For example, Table 1 shows that Huacaya alpaca grows wool fibre, on average, at the rate of 0.34 millimetres per day, and as much as 0.69 millimetres per day. This doubling of fibre length can double fleece weights. It also is likely to offset the shortening of fleece length as alpacas age.

Like fibre density, there are close links between fibre length and fleece structure. Fibre length is greatest (when corrected for crimping time) in Huacaya fleeces that have high crimp amplitude and low crimp frequency.

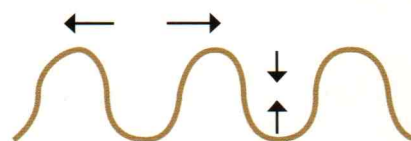


Figure 6: Crimp amplitude of a wool fibre is indicated by the vertical arrows; crimp frequency by the horizontal arrows.

If a semi circle is the maximum expression of crimp amplitude, the fibre will be about 50% longer than the fleece (a fibre length to staple length ratio of 1.50 to 1). High crimp amplitude is associated with high fibre elasticity and excellent drape in finished products. Currently, Huacayas have fibres that are only 11%, on average, longer than the fleece. ■

A Cup of Tea Solves Everything!

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Susan Lenz** > Riverbend Alpacas, TAS

I thought that it would be good to write about my experience after the arrival of a month early premature cria, to give knowledge to those who may be new to breeding and may find themselves in similar circumstances. Although I was sure that I was reasonably equipped for birthing and had good knowledge to deal with arrivals, I found on this occasion that I was not. Here is our story about our little *Riverbend Princess Irina* and her journey of survival.

It was Friday, February 13th and the day had played out with no dramas to this point. It was late in the afternoon and my husband had gone to collect our son, Joshua from school. I sat at our kitchen table wondering if I should stay in and have a luxurious extra 10 minutes reading the newspaper or go and pick up some manure. We were looking after a race horse in our front paddock for a neighbour and I would normally pick up her manure late in the day when it was cooler. Today I felt I needed to do it early (for reasons unknown to me at the time!).

As I pushed the barrow across the back orchard I noticed that my girls were grazing in the top of the dam paddock and one was missing. Suddenly I thought, "Oh no, another snake bite". We had lost a beautiful girl to a snake bite last year and I feared the worst so I went to investigate. From only about a 20 metre distance I could see that she was just lower down in the paddock. I thought it was strange that she was away from the herd and as I neared Blossom I saw a little pile on the ground that looked like nothing more than a piece of gum bark. Blossom appeared fine. What was wrong? Why was she so far from the others and humming loudly?

Then I saw! There was a tiny little newborn on the ground. I tried to get close to pick her up but Blossom was frantic at my presence which is unusual as she is quite a tame girl. The whole herd was now there to inspect and Blossom was very irritated and trying to bite and jump on me as I tried to get to the newborn cria. I realized that I would have to just suffer the injuries from Blossom, should there be any, and just pick up the newborn.

She was limp and like jelly and I thought, perhaps, had been born for maybe half an hour to an hour, as her fleece was dry. She seemed not to be breathing. She had membrane wrapped around her feet that more or less tied her legs together.

What to do?

I knew that I needed to get her up to my sheds where I could assess her better and get her and her mother away from the insistent and investigating herd.

My mobile phone was in my back pocket, so I dialled Irene Allston's number. Irene is a dear friend and as good as having the vet attend. Her knowledge and experience are admirable and I respected her judgment fully. She would know exactly what to do! Lucky for me, Irene was near to the phone and as I spoke and explained the situation she simply said, "I am on my way".

Irene was here within minutes and told me to go in and mix the colostrum mix, while she cleared the newborn's airways. From past years' experience I have kept a small quantity of Impact (Colostrum), Glucose and Wombaroo Milk Replacer on hand. However I would not have realised the urgency to step in immediately. I perhaps would have waited 10 minutes to see if the cria would get up (logic just was not there!)... 10 minutes would have been too late. We would have lost her for sure.

Irene managed to get some colostrum into her, much to her mother's disgust, and we made a bed of straw and laid her in it for Blossom to try and be mother to her. Blossom was still frantic and trying to bite both Irene and myself. Irene suggested that I feed her every half hour or so and we both agreed to leave her with Blossom until as late as possible in the day, and that I would assess if she was standing or feeding before dark set in.

At 5pm I decided it was far too cold and hard to keep the little cria warm in the shed and the mother was helpless as the little one could not stand let alone hold her head up. Things were not looking good. I brought her inside in a basket to keep her warm and to feed her through the night.

To understand more about the time and commitment required in the care of a premature cria, please follow on with my diary entries:



Day 2

8.30am: Contact vet; we have made it through a very hard night, but cria is in a comatose state.

8.45am: Leave for vet appointment. Upon assessment we are told her eyes have some level of toxicity. Cria requires antibiotics (long acting Penicillin, Flunixin injection and Vitamin B complex). She needs to be fed intravenously and stays in the surgery for a couple of hours. The vet advises us it is hard to tell if she will survive.

12.00pm: Take cria home. Vet says she will be sleepy for a few hours.



2.00pm: We feed her by bottle. Her suckling is not good and it is a trial to get her to drink. We feed her a little and often with an eyedropper to keep her hydrated.

4.00pm: Feed time again.

6.00pm: Feed time again. She is not taking to bottle feeding too well and struggles to keep teat in her mouth. Placing a finger and thumb either side of mouth helps to keep her suckling and on the teat.

8.00pm-6.00am: Feeding every 2 hours! I now know why lack of sleep is a form of torture in some countries!

Day 3

8.00am: Feed time again... I try and grab some breakfast, but the minute I turn my back the cria is wobbling all over the place and bumps into coffee table.

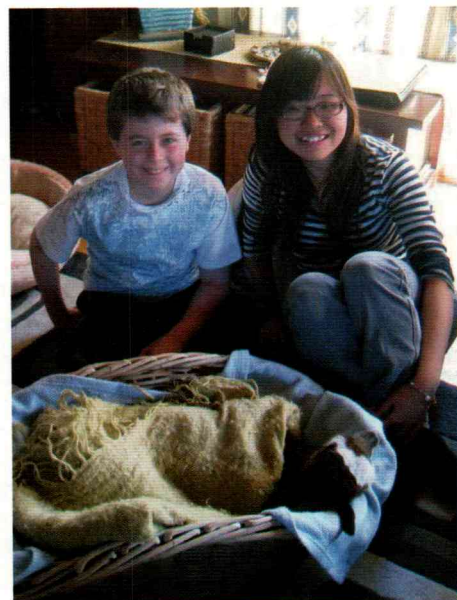
10.00am: Feed time again. She is doing a little better today and tries to lift her head up. Still having trouble suckling and continues to push teat out of her mouth. Feed times are a trial now that she is getting a little strength as she is now constantly moving her head whilst trying to feed her.

12.00pm: Feed time again. No time for a cuppa with visiting friends as cria is now getting the idea she has legs and we cannot keep her safe and contained. I am worried she will break a leg as she is not stable in any way, shape or form!

2.00pm: Irene drops in, the moment she walks in the door I am in tears as I am so relieved to see her, and Irene takes over the next feed. Relief! I am covered in milk and smell like alpaca wee!

Irene suggests the ideal thing to contain her is a child's wooden playpen. Amazing! I'm a hoarder and still have my son's from 10 years ago. We set about finding suitable material to construct a 'padded cell'.

4.00pm: Irene leaves to head home to feed her own animals... and it is now feed time again, but as I am exhausted and seem to be only focused at the job at hand, I forget the time and nick to the hardware store to get some wire to put around the outside of pen so she cannot get her head stuck in the bars. She is being 'babysat' by our friends to ensure she is safe. I return home and continue to try and make the playpen a safe haven. This will be great for both her and me. A little rest will be nice, and she will be able to use her muscles to get herself up and down without my aid.



6.00pm: Our friends decide to stay for dinner, and still I am not thinking straight and forget the feed. I am so exhausted I just cry for no reason. It has now been 3 days and no sleep whatsoever. Cria has been sleeping all afternoon which also makes me not notice her too much.

7.00pm: I look at the clock and realize how long it has been since I have fed her and try madly to wake her with a bottle. She is not responding and has gone back into a comatose state. I try to feed her small amounts with an eyedropper. Still no response. I realise how easy it is to forget when you are so tired. A simple mistake and lack of attention on my behalf has put her life in serious danger.

8.00pm: Contact Irene who comes back to see if she can revive her. We try with the eyedropper again. Things look grim. I admit my inattention may be to blame for her crash. I have never been so tired in my life. I can't even remember feeling this exhausted when I had our son 10 years ago!

10.00pm–6.00am: I continue to try and feed her to get through the night.

6.00am: Cria is still in a comatose state, floppy and like jelly again.

On day 2 we had decided that our little girl should have a name. There was no doubt in my son's mind what it should be. "We need to call her Irene, because she would not be here today if it wasn't for Mrs Allston". Over the following days we added Princess to her name as she really was being looked after like a princess!

As you can see from my diary notes there is considerable work involved in hand rearing a cria. At the point that I sit here to write this, she is humming away contently in her little baby pen and is doing very well with all things considered.

We are taking one day at a time and hope she stays on the positive road to recovery. And I am enjoying a nice hot cup of tea when I have 5 minutes to spare! ■



Day 4

8.00am: I try and feed again, and I know she needs to get back to the vet.

9.00am: Irene comes back and we call the vet. Cria has gone downhill and I feel both guilty (for lack of attention yesterday) and exhausted! Vet gives more fluids intravenously. Cria weighs 5kg.

10.00am–6.00pm: I go back to feeding her every 2 hours.

6.00pm: Things start to look up and Princess Irina and I have found a mutual trust and she is starting to suckle a little better. I hum to her whilst feeding her, she seems to like this and flops on my lap and puts her head against my chest and takes her bottle nicely. Finally!

8.00pm: Feed time again.

10.00pm: Feed time, and I try to get some rest straight after feeding her. My alarm is now set on my mobile phone every 2 hours after feeding to ensure I do not forget or run over time. I have discovered how dangerous it can be, and promise myself to keep on top of it all. It is now entering the 4th day that I have had very little sleep. Those who have experienced this single handedly will understand what I mean here.

2.00am: Night time feeds seem to be the hardest as fatigue sets in!

We continue on...



Dr Richard Dixon Memorial Path

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Andrew Munn** > President, Southern NSW Region



All Saints Anglican Church,
Berridale, NSW

Sunday 21 December 2008 was a perfect summer day with a temperature in the mid 20's. This day was to have special significance for two reasons. Firstly it was the last Sunday prior to Christmas and was to be the Berridale Church's Christmas Service. Secondly, it was the day that the long awaited dedication of the Richard Dixon Memorial Path would take place.

The journey to this point had started in early 2008. The then committee of the Southern NSW Region (SNSWR) had decided that it wanted to do something to honour the memory of its long serving and much loved member, Dr Richard Dixon. There had been much done already at the national level within the AAA Ltd. to ensure Richard would be honoured in the halls of the alpaca industry. The SNSWR committee felt that a more personal memorial or honour from the SNSWR would be appropriate.

The then Regional Secretary, Margaret Dorsch, contacted Richard's widow, Judith to get ideas. It was through these conversations that Margaret very quickly discovered that along with Richard's passion for alpacas he was equally passionate about his involvement with the church. Margaret contacted the Reverend at All Saints Anglican Church in Berridale, Carol Wagner to discuss ways in which the SNSWR could not only honour Richard but also provide something of need for the Church. It was decided that a pathway extending from the front of the church to the wheelchair access ramp at the rear would be perfect. The church obtained a quote from a local contractor, the cost being \$1,400.

The SNSWR then set about raising this money through the kind donations of members. At the Regional Show in July the members contributed almost \$1,000. The regional committee provided the additional funding. The path was built and a lovely plaque erected in Richard's honour.

The journey could have ended here. However this would not have paid tribute to a man that was a true gentleman among men.

This brings us back to Sunday 21 December 2008. A perfect day, which if you did not know any better, would think Richard himself had had a hand in. It was as if he was looking down on everyone with that cheeky smile, for which most of us remember him. The Berridale Church was bursting at the seams with parishioners attending the Christmas Church service. Many SNSWR members also joined in.

Following the Christmas Service the congregation moved to the front of the church where Reverend Wagner formally dedicated the Dr Richard Dixon Memorial Path. She then invited all present to officially walk the length of the newly dedicated path. The many members of the SNSWR who attended were given the honour of formally taking the first steps.

Following the dedication, Judith invited all the SNSWR members present to join her for lunch at the home that she had shared with Richard. It was an opportunity for all those present to talk of the many stories each of us had about Richard.

None of this would have been possible if not for the hard work and dedication of Margaret Dorsch who deserves a tremendous thank you.

Finally, Judith Dixon has asked that her sincerest wishes of thanks be passed on to all those who had a hand in providing the path, a fitting memorial to a wonderful man.

Richard, your memory remains strong in the hearts of many. ■

Dee Two Or Not Dee Two? ...Dat Is De Question

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Dr Ian M Davison** > Illawarra Alpacas, NSW

For centuries, breeders of fleeced animals have been asking that question. Well, perhaps not directly, or at least not in those words.

But whether they be Turkish angora rabbit breeders, Mongolian goat herders, or Australian Merino breeders, the question they have been asking is how to maximize their return on fleece.

Take a step back.

We all recognise that what gets sold is sold in *dollars per kilo*. Or *shekels per drachma*... or *whatever*. It boils down to an amount of money per unit amount of weight. The more the weight, the more the money, right? Well, not quite. Quality is also an issue: the finer the fleece, the more they will be paid for a unit of weight.

The trouble is that, all other things being equal, the finer the fleece, the less it weighs. If the opposing trends were equally balanced, it wouldn't matter: any loss of fleece weight would be compensated by fineness, and any loss of fineness would be compensated by fleece weight.

But it just ain't so.

Let's consider a model alpaca, growing in a model world, where prices don't change, and the fleece is always perfectly even. OK, so it doesn't exist, but it will serve our purpose in trying to better understand what we produce. It's a model for that very reason: it presumes certain things we know not to be true.

For example, in this model world, alpacas grow fleece that is never medullated. This is because we need to assume that every fibre is solid. It also assumes that there is no variation across the fleece or along the fibres, which is of course absurd, but will serve our purpose. So the average fibre diameter is the actual diameter of every fibre, and for its entire length. Next, let's assume that there are no parameters other than fleece weight and fineness which will determine value to the buyer, and hence what price he will pay for the fleece. Next, we will assume all alpacas are the same height and weight, and grow their fleece over

the same surface area of skin. Finally, let's assume that the price per kilo varies according to a formula which exactly compensates for the loss in fleece weight which accompanies any increase in fibre diameter. Let's say, whatever we lose in fleece weight is exactly compensated for by the premium paid for fineness. So saying, we don't mind whether we are improving fleece weight or fineness, so long as we are getting the maximum return on our fleece.

Yes, I know, we're making a lot of assumptions, but we can do that with a model, so long as it helps us understand better what we are doing.

Now, as a grower, I know I have all types of alpacas. I have a few (too few!) with high fleece weight and fineness; others which are coarse and also have low fleece weights. A lot more in the middle will have fineness but not much fleece weight, or good fleece weight, but not much fineness. How can I select out those animals which are producing fleece weights of uncharacteristic fineness, or fineness with uncharacteristically high fleece weights? Let's call this blend of fineness and fleece weight by an imaginary name. Let's call it *chutzpah*. How do I know which of my animals has it, and how do I measure it? How do I select those animals, and breed on from them, culling the rest?

Going back to high school mathematics, I recall that the volume of a cylinder increases according to a simple formula:

$$\text{Volume} = \pi r^2 h$$

Now, for those of us for whom mathematics is just a distant and unpleasant memory, long since relegated to the 'been there, done that' bin, let me explain: the volume of the cylinder increases proportionately to the square of the radius (the radius multiplied by itself) multiplied by the length of the cylinder. In actual fact, it is the area of the cylinder (πr^2) multiplied by its height, or length, in much the same way as one would calculate the volume of a box.

Forget π , which is a fixed number; it is only those numbers which can vary that matter. Since r is half the diameter, d , we could use $d/2$ for r , and use $d^2/4$ instead of r^2 . The 4, like π , is a fixed number, so we can also put it to one side. So volume now will vary only with changes in diameter or length: $\text{Volume} \propto d^2 h$. (\propto means "proportional to"). This says that volume will vary in a way that is exactly mirrored by any changes in $d^2 h$. If h stays fixed, volume will vary in a way that is determined by diameter alone; if d^2 is held constant, it will vary in a way determined by length alone.

Now, in our ideal model, volume and weight can also be considered to be directly proportional: any increase in one will be *exactly* mirrored by an increase in the other. Like a drum of water, the bigger the drum, the more the volume of water it will hold, and consequently the more it will weigh. The formula tells us that if we double the height of the drum, we will double the volume, and therefore double the weight. But double the *diameter* (say to $2d$), and we will *quadruple* the volume and weight (because $2d$ times $2d$ is $4d^2$, whereas d times d is only d^2).

Now, let's go back to our hypothetical model alpaca. How can we increase his fleece weight? Well, common sense says we can do any of the following:

- ✓ We can increase the *number* of fibres.
This makes the fleece more *dense*.
We are happy to do that.
- ✓ We can increase the *length* of the fibres.
Means we have to shear more frequently, but that's OK.
- ✗ We can increase the *diameter* of the fibres.
But wait on, that will diminish quality, and we want to avoid that.

So we come back to the earlier problem: how can we measure which animals are superior in producing fineness with above expected fleece weights, or fleece weights with above expected fineness?

I thought you'd never ask.

It's w/d^2 , of course. This is the *chutzpah* of which we spoke earlier.

If we have an animal that is blowing out a little in micron each year, we should expect his fleece weight to blow out proportionately, by a relationship determined by the formula for the volume of a cylinder.

If we make the equation

$$\text{Weight} = d^2 l n$$

where we let l be the length of the fibres and n be the number of fibres, and then divide both sides of the equation by the same number, d^2 , we have

$$\text{Weight}/d^2 = l n$$

It follows that the *only way* to increase the value of the ration w/d^2 is to increase either l (the length) or n (the number of fibres, and hence the density). So if you want to know whether one alpaca is producing a better quality fleece than another, as reflected by the combination of increased length and density, look no further than a comparison of their w/d^2 s.

This is the *chutzpah* for which we have been searching! A formula which will tell us that, all other things remaining the same, we are making either *longer* fibres or *more* fibres, and that any apparent increase in fleece weight is not due merely to the predicted increase that results from higher fibre diameter.

So get to your desks, pull out the stats, and get working! Remember, you will need an *annualised* fleece weight to make your w/d^2 s more accurate, which is to say the predicted fleece weight of an alpaca if shorn 365 days after its last shearing. (To work this out, calculate the number of days between two shearings, divide the fleece weight grown over that period by the number of days, and then multiply by 365). It is wise to compare only those alpacas of the same age, grown under the same conditions, and in good health, as the value tends to diminish with age. But what you will get is an index reflecting the value of every alpaca in your herd for fleece weight and fineness!

The table below demonstrates the top five and the bottom five of 74 alpacas, first shorn in Spring 2005, and demonstrating the range of annualised fleece weights, fibre diameters, and w/d^2 s. ■

2 year old w/d^2 based on 2006 shearing					(Recording all animals on their first full fleece) (All animals born between Sept 04 and Sept 05)				
EAR TAG	DOB	1st shearing	2nd shearing	Fleece age (days)	GFW (gms)	Annualised GFW (gms)	FD (2 years) (micron)	w/d^2	w/d^2 index
A	25/03/05	23/11/05	01/10/06	312	2650	3100	17.92	9.65	1
B	05/04/05	23/11/05	29/10/06	340	3375	3623	20.00	9.06	2
C	28/04/05	23/11/05	30/09/06	311	3450	4049	21.42	8.82	3
D	02/07/05	23/11/05	30/09/06	311	2455	2881	18.30	8.60	4
E	29/05/05	23/11/05	01/10/06	312	1895	2217	16.17	8.48	5
L	20/05/05	23/11/05	01/10/06	312	1625	1901	21.98	3.93	71
M	21/12/04	14/09/05	30/09/06	381	2015	1930	22.39	3.85	72
N	19/05/05	23/11/05	30/09/06	311	1135	1332	20.09	3.30	73
O	01/06/05	23/11/05	30/09/06	311	1085	1273	20.49	3.03	74
P	08/06/05	23/11/05	30/09/06	311	1150	1350	22.30	2.71	75

Make Mine A Pisco Sour

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Rachel Hebditch** > *Alpaca World Magazine*, United Kingdom

Pisco Sour is the most important cocktail for the Peruvians and Chileans and a source of some irritation as both countries claim it as their own. If you want to get a rise out of a Peruvian, try telling them that Pisco is definitely Chilean – then duck.

Both countries have a National Pisco Day with Peru's being staged in February and Chile's in May.

John Gaye, ex-Army and a British Alpaca Society board member, who told me that HIS tank was always fully equipped with ice, served excellent Pisco at a Wessex auction several years ago. I think there was cottage pie as well but I missed that and came away with five alpacas: blame it on the Pisco.

Pisco is a regional brandy commonly made from Quebranta or Muscat grapes. The cocktail is a bit like a whisky sour and is made with cane sugar, egg white, lemon and a dash of Angostura bitters.

It is thought that the Spanish brought grapes to South America and that the first vineyard was planted in 1551. Irrigation systems and guano collected from the islands off the coast of Pisco ensured that the vineyards thrived and expanded. The accountant Lopez de Caravantes states that 20,000 arrobas of wine were produced in 1572, equivalent to 230,000 litres, enough to fulfil local demand and export.

Now the Peruvians claim the name Pisco as theirs because firstly it is a Quechua word for bird and secondly on the coast there is a valley where the Piskos used to live. These people were potters who made cone shaped pots in which they prepared 'chicha' and other alcoholic drinks that came to be known as Pisco. They also believe that Chile 'stole' Pisco during the War of the Pacific in the late 1800s. Peru was defeated and lost land in the Tarapaca area where Peruvian Pisco production was important.

The Pisco War hotted up in recent years when the Peruvian Embassy issued a Defence of the Peruvian Denomination of Origin 'Pisco'. The Chileans responded with a spirited riposte asserting their rights to produce and enjoy Pisco as a Chilean drink and began a massive campaign promoting it as a traditional drink. The Peruvian Pisco industry responded in outrage citing Pisco as A Peruvian Tradition with the blessing of the Instituto de Defensa de la Competencia y la Propiedad Intelectual del Peru.

Gosh, this war is best contemplated with a 'catedral', that's a large one to you and me, of Pisco Sour. Even the origin of the cocktail is contentious. In Chile it is attributed to the English steward of a sailing ship, *Sunshine*. Elliot Stubb opened a bar in Iquique in 1872, then in Peru, and came up with the Pisco

Sour, dubbing it 'sour' because of the addition of the limon de Pica, a variety of lime. In 1883 Iquique became a Chilean city. In Peru the cocktail was invented by an American expat Victor V. 'Gringo' Morris at the Morris Bar in Lima. The grand hotels in Lima like the Hotel Bolivar and The Maury started serving them and an international crowd that included Orson Welles, John Wayne and Ava Gardner drank them ... possibly to excess as Ava Gardner is said to have danced on the bar after a large one.

There are four different types of Pisco made in the Ica Valley in Peru and the Elqui Valley in Chile. Pisco Puro is made from the non-aromatic black Quebranta grape and is mainly used in mixed drinks as it is quite dry. Pisco Acholado is the result of two varieties of grapes, usually the Italia and Quebranta grapes being blended. This variety is very popular due to its sweet odour and flavour and the immediate 'kick' which can be felt after drinking. Pisco Aromatico is made from either the Muscat, Italia, Moscatel or Torontel grapes. It has an intensely fruity aroma. Pisco Mosto Verde is the most expensive of all Piscos to produce. This variety is made from grape juice that has not been allowed to ferment completely and therefore still has some sugar content. It has a sophisticated velvety palate and texture.

If you need a drink after reading about this little 'war' or it reminds you of other South American camelid conflicts closer to home, get the cocktail shaker out.

Cheers! ■

The ingredients:

2fl oz (8 parts) Pisco
1fl oz (4 parts) lime juice
3 to 4fl oz (3 parts) simple syrup
1 egg white
1 dash bitters

The method:

You add ice but it must not melt, so shake hard, serve without ice, strain into a glass and put the dash of bitters on top of the Pisco foam.



This article was first published in Alpaca World Magazine, Winter 2008/09 issue and is reproduced with the permission of the magazine editor and author of the article, Rachel Hebditch.

Do You Have Faith In Your Product?

MARKETING ARTICLE by **Mark Jessop** > Mossvale Alpacas, TAS

If you've attended any basic marketing course you would have heard of the 4 Ps – Price, Place, Product and Promotion.

Far too many businesses think about Price and Promotion – SALE SALE SALE – at the cost of the other Ps. Sadly, I see this in the alpaca industry as well.



AAA trade site at the Deloraine Craft Fair.



Moving from the WA Central Region to Tasmania and also taking up the Regional Marketing Representative role in Tasmania, has caused me to consider how we market alpacas – corporately and as individual studs. I wonder if deep down many of us don't have faith in our product – be it the animal itself or the actual product made from its fleece. A risk in all industries is that we can get too close to our product and be too critical.

No one has yet bred the perfect alpaca, but certainly in my 10 years going to shows in WA I've seen some animals which are considerably close to perfection. I attended the AAA National Show in 2008 after a break of a couple of years, and my passion for blacks was rekindled. In five years some fabulous black animals have appeared on the show scene – as if by magic (but I am sure by a lot of hard work).

Shows give us a great perspective on what we should be doing as an industry, but as individual studs knowing the strength of your market is essential to your own viability. It is very easy to become downhearted when you start to evaluate all your sale animals against those that win broad ribbons at the shows. But is that the product you are producing? Ultimately it may be your aim but many animals will not make the grade. Think then about your secondary markers – pets, hobbyists, spinners. Tasmania does not have (many) foxes, whereas WA has lots. In WA I could sell all the white wethers I could produce, the bigger and more alert looking the better, but maybe wethers in Tasmania need to be cuter or have better fleeces for hand spinners. As individual sellers we need to become aware of what sectors of the market we are in and price our animals according to what that market can handle.

But our market is not just animals. Last year the Tasmanian Region sold over \$21,000 in AAFL stock at just two events.

These events were AGFEST, the major agricultural field day in Tasmania with over 30,000 visitors and the Deloraine Craft Fair, an internationally regarded craft event with around 15,000 visitors. It took a lot of dedication to make this happen, particularly from the few volunteers who staffed and organised each event. I have heard many people express concern about the cost, quality, etc. of the product – but in 2008 the market did not seem to have the same problem. I sold one coat to a lady who liked the product so much she purchased a second for her mother – \$1,200 in one sale.

Events like AGFEST or the Deloraine Craft Fair also provide a powerful marketing vehicle for the industry – giving a clear message that alpacas are an industry not a fad. It has concerned me greatly that I have seen the AAA appearing to move away from a basic focus on promoting alpacas as an industry (and lifestyle) to potential market entrants. Decisions such as discontinuing flagship publications and efforts to reduce the information pack for prospective new members all appear on the day to be 'sound economic decisions' but sadly deprive the industry of future leading studs and their show winning animals (by robbing future investment from new members). With this in mind I applaud the decision to have the National Alpaca Week and hope all members support it in any way they can.

Conducting major events takes a lot of effort, but these events are a clear statement of the faith we have in our product. These major events have also provided individual members with the opportunity to get out and promote their animals (whatever their product and target market). The Tasmanian Region has been able to blend three key marketing messages about our product – a great garment, a fantastic industry and a unique animal. ■

Profile of Dog Attacks in the Australian Alpaca Herd

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Cora Zyp** > Coraz Alpacas, QLD > AAA Ltd. Animal Health, Husbandry & Welfare Committee

The economic and emotional loss of any livestock to predators in the Australian farming community is devastating. With an increasing number of attacks by feral and domestic dogs being reported, the AAA Ltd. introduced the Dog Attack Notification Form in December 2007 in an attempt to determine if there were any common factors in these attacks and perhaps ways of minimizing further occurrences.

From December 2007 through to January 2009, 36 cases have been reported and collated but it is believed that this number is not a true reflection of those members affected.

Many members may be too traumatized to complete the form or believe that nothing will come from it.

Working through the criteria laid out in the report the following information has been received



Photograph courtesy Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, VIC

Postcode	Reports were received from every state except the Northern Territory with no particular preponderance.
Distance from nearest town/village	This varied from 1 km – 20kms.
Size of property	This varied from 2 hectares to 287 hectares.
Date of attack	The dates ranged from 1996 to January 2009.
Time of attack	The times varied from 3 unknown; 20 during the night and 16 by day, both morning and afternoon.
Number of dogs involved	Approximate numbers were 33% unknown, 33% one dog, 33% two or more dogs and up to a pack of eight!
Breeds(s) of dog	The breeds ranged through dingoes, crossbreeds, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Labradoodle, Collie, Greyhound, Mastiff, Rottweiler crosses, Pitbull, Staffies and Pig hunting dogs.
Wild dogs?	In 12 instances the dogs were thought to be wild or unknown and 20 instances the dogs were domestic.

The Manufacture Of Natural Fibre

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Robyn Betts** > Jaegar Alpacas and Suri Silk™ Yarn, VIC

A progress report on the CSIRO wool scour

In *Alpacas Australia* magazine, Issue 55 (Autumn 2008) the article entitled, *Imminent Closure of Vital Wool Industry Infrastructure* by Trisha Esson highlighted that the wool scour situated at the CSIRO Textiles and Fibre Division in Belmont, Victoria was to be closed. This posed a huge threat to the future processing of natural fibres in Australia.

However the outlook has since become more promising with the CSIRO announcing in January 2009 that their accepted tender to purchase the wool scour system was Velieris Pty Ltd, a manufacturer of alpaca carpet based in Victoria.

The scour will remain operational at the CSIRO Belmont facility until 30 June 2009, after which it will be decommissioned and relocated to new premises in Western Metropolitan Melbourne. It was made clear to the tender applicants that the 'drier' would not be included in the final sale, however without the inclusion of the scour's drier, the system cannot be operational.

Why is this particular drier and scour so important?

The drier currently attached to the scour was custom built to both fit the scour, and to dry fibres such as wool, alpaca, cashmere and mohair. This was part of CSIRO's research commitment to natural fibres. The Natural Fibre Committee believes that it is vital that CSIRO assist the industry and Velieris Pty Ltd to source a suitable drier and enable this manufacturing process to be fully operational. The dilemma is that it is highly unlikely that another suitable drier can be sourced from within Australia or overseas. The Natural Fibre Committee which represents the interests of the rare and natural fibre manufacturing industry in Victoria (alpaca, cashmere, mohair and superfine wool) are continuing to discuss this problem with CSIRO, the Commonwealth Government and Velieris Pty Ltd to find a resolution. It is essential that the new owners can make the scouring system financially viable and in turn enable a Victorian natural fibre manufacturing industry to be sustained.

In another setback, to the alpaca fleece industry, the CSIRO have stated (at the time of writing this article) that they will not scour suri alpaca fleece this year. It is hoped that this issue can be resolved with CSIRO and Velieris Pty Ltd, to enable the value-adding of suri alpaca fleece to continue to develop in Australia. The hurdles continue to be climbed.

The operation of the scouring system at its new location and under private ownership will include a commercial scouring service for fibre processors. A constructive relationship between Velieris and the specialist fibre processors and producers is working to enable appropriate expertise to be



available for the scour's operation. The scouring process for fibres such as alpaca (in particular suri alpaca) and cashmere requires specialist knowledge to enable successful product outcomes.

Communication between the various parties will continue to ensure that this specialist knowledge can be available and that Victoria can provide rare and natural fibre products for the national and international market.

The fleece and fibre manufacturing industry in Australia regularly seems to take two steps forward and one back. However, the international marketplace wants Australian grown and manufactured natural fibre products so it is essential that despite the difficulties, the industry keeps progressing. Manufacturing alpaca fleece into products in Australia is costly and it is still a 'work in progress', but we have to persist for the ultimate benefit of the alpaca breeding industry.

The old adage of not being able to make a silk purse from a sow's ear is very true when it comes to processing both suri and huacaya alpaca fleece. It doesn't matter if growers send their fleece to AAFL or choose to use the fleeces in other ways; the end result will be the same. Well sorted, skirted and classed fleeces which can be commercially processed (the fleece suits the capacity of the machines) will provide quality products, economic returns and sound breeding directions.

The shared understanding between grower and processor about the quality and value of fleece including micron, consistency, length and character provides a sound basis for continuous improvement. Skirting, sorting and classing fleece is time intensive and someone 'has to pay' for it to be done. It's either the grower or the processor. I have made a commitment to learn to skirt and class my suri alpaca fleece clip. This has involved a lot of time and effort and being honestly critical about what fleeces and breeding lines are commercially valuable, and what aren't.

I will continue to keep members informed about rare and natural fibre manufacturing in Victoria and will do what I can to promote the economic viability of alpaca fleece within the Australian alpaca industry. Please contact me if you have any questions or seek further information at robbyn@jaegaralpacas.com.au or telephone 03 5790 5258. ■

Latest News From AAFL

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Kaye Sutherland** > General Manager, Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited

New Season's Ranges

A touch of the highlands... tartan is the trend around the world in everything from coats and pants to sweaters, accessories and homewares. AAFL has introduced into their winter accessory collection two new baby alpaca tartan scarves; Black Watch, a navy/green tartan and Wallace, a red tartan, along with three tartan suri wraps; Balmoral, Lindsay and MacCallum, bringing a touch of the highlands downunder and a great way to brighten a winter's day.

New season's coats and knitwear are arriving in March and April. The *Courtney Coat* is a stunning new addition with a flattering A-line shape, inverted back pleat and topstitching detail. It comes in Donkey Brown, Black and Red. The striking *Funnel Neck Jumper* comes in sizes S-XL in Black, Brown (pictured) and Ecru. The *Weekend Roll Neck Jumper* will be available in sizes S-XXL, in ever popular Black as well as the interestingly named colours, Polvo (pictured) and Zuzette (pink/red shade).



The Courtney Coat



The Funnel Neck Jumper



The Weekend Roll Neck Jumper

In homewares the popular Natural Selection range has had an update with new styles *4 Corners* and *Natural Tartan* being just two of five new styles added to this range. The brushed/boucle offering has also been updated with new checks and plains in colours such as Duck Egg Blue, Lavender and New Orange. New developments are also underway to inject colour and texture into the homewares range throughout 2009.

Staff Changes at AAFL

Ian Johnston moved to China in October 2008 to establish an AAFL Representative Office in Shenzhen. Ian is working hard promoting Australian Alpaca products throughout south-east Asia.

AAFL Fleece Division Manager, Matt McAninly left AAFL at the end of January 2009 and moved on to a position outside the alpaca industry. We are currently searching for a replacement. David Williams is temporarily filling this position.

Managing Director, Michael Talbot is retiring from AAFL at the end of April and his larger than life presence, energy, passion and experience will be missed at AAFL.

Scouring

One of the major hurdles for AAFL is the limited availability of fleece scouring left in Australia. Currently the CSIRO facility in Geelong remains open and is offering limited scouring services which AAFL is taking advantage of whenever possible. This is making it possible to continue supplying local manufacturers with scoured fibre.

Because of the limited scouring available locally and the success of the Australian alpaca products being manufactured in Peru, AAFL is now sending a container per month of classed fleece to Peru. This fleece is being processed from the scouring right through to the finished products, which are then brought back to Australia to be sold locally and in Asia.

AAFL is continuing to look for alternative scouring arrangements such as commercial wool scours, however, due to our relative lack of quantity this is unlikely to be possible in the short to medium term.

World Prices

Globally the economic situation has impacted alpaca fibre as it has with wool and as a result the world alpaca prices have been steadily declining since late 2008; to such an extent that the Peruvian government has implemented minimum rates to ensure that alpaca herders or alpaqueros are able to survive. ■

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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 ★



< ...anyway, that's what she said, and so I told her... >

Ian Davison • Illawarra Alpacas, NSW



< What possessed me to adopt one? >

Antonia Pusterla • Rancho Pusterla, VIC



< Doesn't everyone towel off after a swim? >

Peter Feldman • Surilox Alpacas, NSW



< I love being the centre of attention >

Mark & Kim Irving • Grandeverge Alpacas, NSW



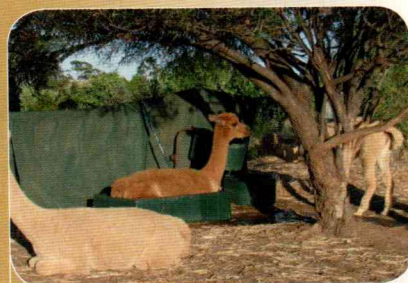
< The joys of alpaca at Ambleside >

Barbara Linley • Ambleside Alpacas, VIC



< Gotcha! Now pass me the hand piece >

Kevin Rubie • Meadow Bank Alpacas, NSW



< This is so lovely >

Sue Rose • Rose Blossom Alpacas, WA



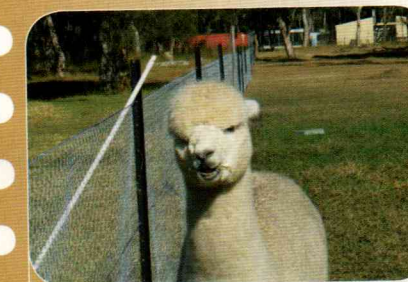
< You are my favourite auntie >

Leslie Gould • Tremere Alpacas, TAS



< This is a secret, you musn't tell >

Barry & Ann Ranyard
Marchmont Park Alpacas, NSW



< Anything in my teeth? >

Barbara Hyatt & Sara Battle
Hyatt Alpacas, NSW



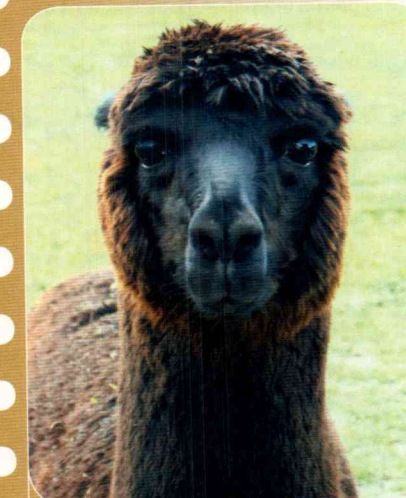
< Peekaboo >

Paul & Fiona Roberts • Surinka Alpacas, WA



< Safety in the workplace >

Rosemary Eva & Liz Coles
Longueville Park Alpacas, NSW



< Big sister not happy >

Margie Stanley • Cuttagee Hill Alpacas, VIC
photo by Vicki Wall



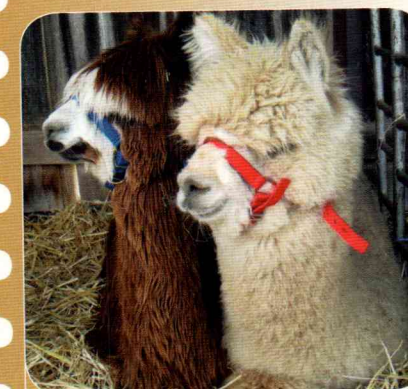
*< Heide's always got her head
in the clouds >*

Denise Tiyce-Mathews • Shalom Alpacas, NSW



< Hello little sister >

Sue Roberts • Tinonee Alpacas, NSW



*< Do you think we should prance around
the show ring again? Nah! >*

Grace Hunter • Hillside Alpacas, TAS



< Smile for the camera, girls >

Des Johnson • Hinchcliffe Alpaca Farm, QLD

Upcoming Events

May

- 1-3 Hawkesbury Show: NSW**
Venue: Hawkesbury Showground
Highlights: Fleece judging 1 May;
Alpaca judging 2 May
Contact: Cheryl Kosaras (02) 4573 1177
- 1-3 Tocal Field Days: NSW**
Venue: CB Alexander Agricultural College,
Tocal, Paterson
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 2 Alpacas in the Vines: NSW**
Venue: Sherwood Estate Winery, Sherwood
and
Venue: Ghinni Ghinni Winery, Taree
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 2-10 National Alpaca Week**
Venue: Open farms in all States
Highlights: Promotional display,
alpaca product sales
Contact: AAA Ltd. National Office
(03) 9873 7700
- 3 Field Day: WA**
Venue: Albany
Contact: Sally Simpson (08) 9857 6171
- 5-6 Maclean Show: NSW**
Venue: Maclean Showground
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Bob Coxon (02) 6645 9092
- 7-9 AGFEST: TAS**
Venue: Oaks Rd., Carrick
Highlights: Promotional display,
alpaca product sales
Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007 or
Alison Brolsma 0438 297 147
- 7-9 Ipswich Show: QLD**
Venue: Ipswich Showground
Highlights: Fleece judging 8 May;
Alpaca judging 9 May
Contact: Julie Macgregor (07) 3202 3113
- 8-9 Grafton Show: NSW**
Venue: Grafton Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging 9 May
Contact: Simone Diver (02) 6644 9970
- 8-10 New England Wool Expo: NSW**
Venue: Armidale
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 9-10 EPIC Alpaca Weekend: NSW**
Venue: EPIC, Canberra
Highlights: Fleece judging; alpaca sales;
promotional display
Contact: Geoff Shephard (02) 6227 6202
- 10 Field Day: WA**
Venue: Bridgetown
Contact: Sally Simpson (08) 9857 6171
- 14-16 AGRO Trend: QLD**
Venue: Bundaberg Showground
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Jessie Raines (07) 4159 4624
- 15-16 Gympie Show: QLD**
Venue: Gympie Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Anita Neeser (07) 5484 3487

- 15-17 Coffs Harbour Show: NSW**
Venue: Coffs Harbour Showground
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 16-17 Stawell Good Life Festival: VIC**
Venue: Stawell
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Joanne Ham (03) 5344 0604
- 23-24 NSW Colourbration Show: NSW**
Venue: TBA
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 6574 7145
- 29-30 Campbell Town Show: TAS**
Venue: Campbell Town
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Briony Cairns (03) 6292 1134

June

- 3-7 2nd World Alpaca Conference: USA**
Venue: Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Highlights: International fleece show,
educational seminars, guest speakers,
Contact: <https://www.alpacaowners.com/2009WorldAlpacaConference/>
- 5-6 New England Show: NSW**
Venue: Uralla
Highlights: Fleece judging 5 June;
Alpaca judging 6 June
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 7 Gidgegannup Small Farms & Sale Day: WA**
Venue: Gidgegannup Showground
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Jenny McAuliffe (08) 9574 0012
- 11-13 PRIMEX: NSW**
Venue: Casino
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Michelle Malt 0438 103 310
- 20-21 ALPACAFEST: VIC**
Venue: Werribee Equestrian Centre
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging,
promotional display
Contact: Reginald Smythe (03) 5266 1459

July

- TBA Tasmanian Alpaca Show: TAS**
Venue: TBA
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Briony Cairns (03) 6292 1134
- 4 Mid North Coast Alpaca Show: NSW**
Venue: Kendall Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046
- 4-5 Mudgeeraba Show: QLD**
Venue: Mudgeeraba Showground
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0000
- 12-13 Sunshine Coast Alpacas on Show: QLD**
Venue: Eumundi Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Cristin & Graeme Smith (07) 5445 9492
- 17-19 Farm Fantastic: QLD**
Venue: Caboolture
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Gillian Macleod (07) 5499 9590

- 17-19 Bendigo Sheep & Wool Show: VIC**
Venue: Bendigo Showground
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Jenny McKenry (03) 5439 6525
- 18-19 Winter Show: WA**
Venue: Canning Vale
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sue Locke & Laurie Dow (08) 9571 2150
- 24-25 Mudgee Small Farm Field Days: NSW**
Venue: Mudgee
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Judy Easten (02) 6372 1714
- 25-26 Southern NSW Regional Show: NSW**
Venue: Budawang Pavilion, EPIC, Canberra
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Graham Lugg (02) 6227 3158
- 26 Ballarat Sheep & Wool Show: VIC**
Venue: Ballarat Showground
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Jenny McKenry (03) 5439 6525

August

- 1 Central Western NSW Region Annual Spring Show: NSW**
Venue: Bathurst Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233
- 2 Creswick Fleece Show: VIC**
Venue: Creswick
Highlights: Fleece judging
Contact: John Edwards (03) 5345 6169
- 2-3 Hamilton Sheepvention: VIC**
Venue: Hamilton Showground
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Andrew McCosh (03) 5565 9413
- 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
- 6-15 Royal Queensland Show: QLD**
Venue: Brisbane Showground
Highlights: Fleece judging 10 August;
Alpaca judging 11 August
Contact: Camilla Smith (07) 3408 7639
- 7-9 New Alpaca Breeders' Seminar: NSW**
Venue: TBA
Highlights: Lectures; demonstrations
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 6574 7145
- 7-9 Colour Classic Show: SA**
Venue: TBA
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sharon Warland (08) 8532 3029
- 8 Lardner Alpaca Show: VIC**
Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140
- 21-23 Spring Colourbration Carnival: VIC**
Venue: Bendigo Showground
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Deborah Patti (03) 5423 2727
- 27-29 Gold Coast Show: QLD**
Venue: Parklands Showground
Highlights: Alpaca judging 29 August
Contact: Maxine Daley (07) 5543 0283

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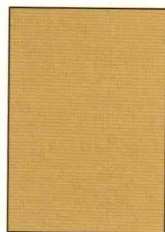
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Material

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 59: Winter

Due: August 2009

Deadline: Friday 5 June 2009

Issue 60: Summer

Due: December 2009

Deadline: Friday 2 October 2009

Issue 61: Autumn

Due: April 2010

Deadline: Friday 5 February 2010

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

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 Reference: 0329 - 0348
 tested: Oct 27, 2008 -
 Oct 31, 2008

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 samples 271008 (345Records)

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Colour	Lot Description	Micron	Count	%	Mean (Micron)
Yellow	Ultrafine	< 19.01	109	31.6	17.4
Blue	Superfine	19.01 to 20.00	27	7.8	19.6
Pink	Fine	20.01 to 23.00	99	28.7	21.3
Red	Medium	23.01 to 26.00	64	18.6	24.4
Green	Strong	26.01 to 30.00	30	8.7	27.7
Purple	X Strong	> 30.00	16	4.6	32.0

345

Count	Mic Ave	SD Mic	CV Mic	GFW Kg	<15 %	CF %	SF Mic	SL mm	Min Mic	Max Mic	SD Along	CRV Dg/mm
All Animals	21.6	4.2	19.5	2.3	7.9	92.3	20.7	89.4	20.3	23.3	0.90	37.7
Selected												
Ultrafine	17.4	3.6	20.7	1.2	21.4	99.7	16.9	97.2	16.2	19.2	0.89	40.6
Superfine	19.6	3.8	19.3	1.9	6.1	98.9	18.8	97.2	18.0	21.3	0.97	39.9
Fine	21.3	4.1	19.2	1.4	2.2	96.7	20.4	89.2	20.1	23.0	0.85	38.8
Medium	24.4	4.6	18.7	1.6	0.2	90.0	23.3	80.8	23.1	26.2	0.93	36.4
Strong	27.7	5.0	18.1	2.1	0.1	75.0	26.3	77.8	26.5	29.4	0.86	32.0
X Strong	32.0	6.2	19.3	2.0	0.1	44.2	30.7	80.6	30.3	34.1	1.14	23.7
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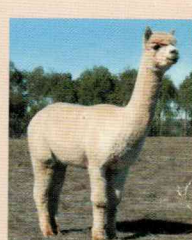
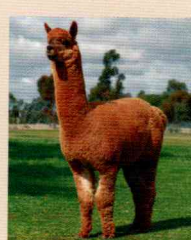
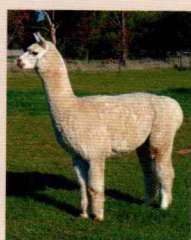
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