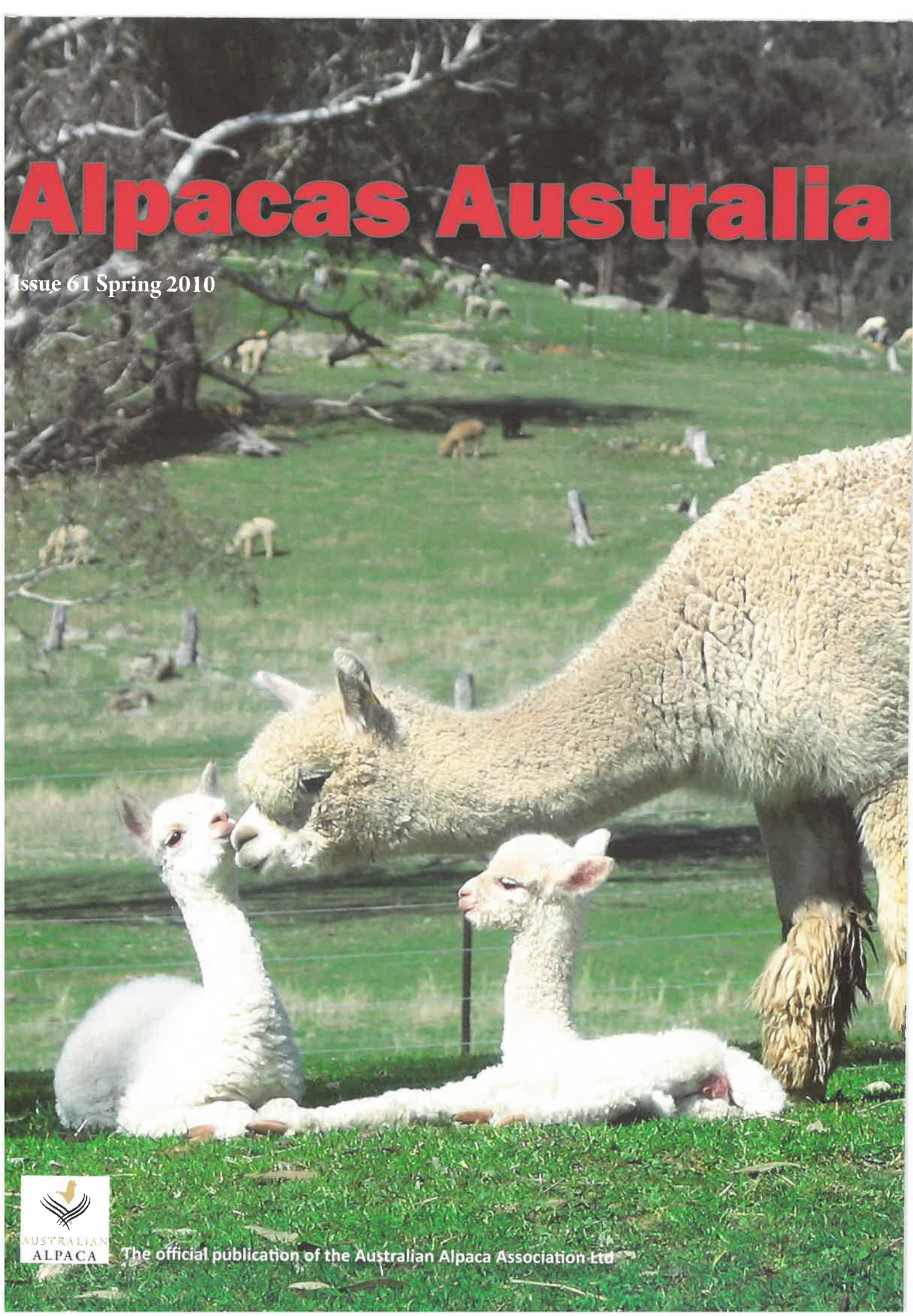


Alpacas Australia

Issue 61 Spring 2010



The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd

WORKSHOPS FOR NEW BREEDERS.

Large numbers of people from all over Australia and New Zealand have attended these residential weekend workshops at Flowerdale Estate, to learn about breeding alpacas.



The Program.

Includes classroom and hands-on sessions in the barn, working with alpacas. Learning how to select quality alpacas, recognising good conformation and quality fleece. Reading pedigree certificates, fleece reports and histograms.

Learn how to look after your

alpaca's health, trim toe nails, administer vaccinations, drench, chucker, body condition score, weigh and shear your alpaca. Understand equipment needed and their nutritional needs.

Learn how to "breed to succeed." What animals should I start with? Do I need my own stud male? Matings, spit-offs, birthing, new cria care. Learn about farm set. What facilities will be needed? Farm plans and layouts. Fencing, laneways, shelter, pasture improvement.

Learn how to establish a successful alpaca business plan. Goal setting, sales and marketing. Train alpacas to walk on a lead. Show preparation.

The Venue.

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning, residential, corporate retreat for up to 60 people. Stay in luxury accommodation and let the chefs tempt you with their fabulous food. These workshops provide a wonderful opportunity for new alpaca breeders to network and socialize.



The Weekend Package.

Relax in the heated pool. Play some tennis. 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.

The individual price is \$425 (\$625 couple). The package includes en-suite accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, use of recreational facilities, workshop tuition and all course materials.

Bookings.

All details and booking forms are on the website at www.flowerdalealpacas.net. Or phone Jen on 03 9728 7070.



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FLOWERDALE

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Champion
Photography
exhibit National
Show
& Sale 2008.
Taken by Tim
Toshack
of Lualto Alpacas



Presidents Note....

After four years as President of the AAA, it is time that I stepped aside in deference to new blood, new leadership and fresh ideas. I thank the members for their trust in electing me to that position, a task I undertook with no small degree of trepidation, but one which I conclude with a modest degree of pride and satisfaction.

I am proud of the advances that our industry has made in the barely twenty years since its inception, and of the many members whose generous spirit and wise counsel have taken the industry to the threshold of agricultural and commercial respectability. The Board and the Council, all elected representatives of the members, have navigated us steadily to that position, and their mostly thankless contribution to the future viability of the industry cannot be overstated. It has been a great privilege to sit with such erstwhile and estimable people as I have whilst on the Board of the AAA.

As AAA directors, ours is not a popular job nor is it our job to be popular. Not being popular is the easy part. Our task, that for which we have been elected, is to make those decisions, and implement those policies, that we think will best serve the industry and its members into the future. That's the hard part. Transition to a company limited by guarantee was the first of such decisions. Engaging the government and the agricultural sector through membership of Animal Health Australia was another; encouraging selective breeding for longterm commercial viability, through our judging policies and the design and implementation of the AGE, is yet another. Striving for increased efficiencies through electronic communications and transactions is a remaining challenge, with which the Board is currently progressing.

Posturing the Australasian alpaca industry as the epicentre of New World alpaca excellence is another challenge with which we have yet to grapple, but one from which we would be foolish to disengage. We have the numbers, experience, history, geography, scientific resources and culture to claim that space, but Australians are typically more comfortable as



“I am proud of the advances that our industry has made in the barely 20 years since its inception”

iconoclasts than icons, and reluctant to take on the mantle of global leadership.

The greatest challenge now facing the Australian alpaca industry is less one of markets, and more one of leadership. Our market is not Australia, but the global marketplace, and we need to establish the Australian and New Zealand alpaca industries as acknowledged global leaders, providing excellence in genetics, breeding, fleece, husbandry and intelligent farm management. We need to find, engage and anoint those of our members who have the vision, understanding, enthusiasm, tools and energy to progress those goals, and back them in their decisions and initiatives. The global market will seek out excellence; it is our role to provide it.

I have fallen well short of my own goals in leading the industry, but remain no less ardent about their pursuit, and absolutely confident that they are achievable. I ask that all members consider what contribution they might make to those goals and, if appropriate, to step up to the plate and take their place in the early history of our still young industry. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity of representing the AAA, and thank the members for it. There are many exciting goals yet to be achieved: share your own enthusiasm and energy, and nominate for a role in shaping the future of our industry.

Dr Ian M Davison

Alpaca Celebs



In a recent interview, Nicole Kidman revealed her true Australian earthy side and the simple things in life. Nicole has become content supporting her local farmers in Nashville, she only buys her fresh produce from her neighbours, whatever is in season is what's on the plates at her dinner table.

However, it seems Nicole and husband Keith are full of surprises; they recently purchased four alpacas for their farm in the NSW southern

highlands.

They recently visited the nearby Elysion Alpaca farm and within hours of the visit four little alpacas were delivered and are now living on Nicole's property.

Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/movies/kidman-buys-alpacas-for-new-mansion/story-e6frfmvr-1225699753942#ixzz0vtu1LPAn>

Freezing temperature puts Peruvian alpacas at risk.

July and August 2010 will be remembered for its cold wave that has caused more than 400 deaths already in Peru and is also endangering alpaca herds in the Peruvian highlands, where some 480,000 of these animals are facing the effects of the cold wave.

This figure represents 25% of the alpaca population in Peru which is the main source of income for many families.

The lack of forage and barns to protect the alpacas from extremely low temperatures, that have reached as low as -23°C in certain areas, is worrying the farmers currently struggling to keep their animals alive.

The Peruvian government has declared a state of emergency in sixteen regions to provide help to the most affected populations.

We use G.I.F.T. Breeding Technology

Mariah Hill

Alpacas & Exports

Creating the Elite ...

**AQIS licensed exporter
& quarantine facilities**

Raelene Strong

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National Show

As the winter winds make their way from the snowy mountains north and the bitter cold invades the New England Tablelands, our thoughts turn to the coming of spring. It is the countdown to the beautiful spring colours and balmy weather that will herald the arrival of the National Show and Sale in Tamworth.

The plans are in place to create a spectacular event. The venue will be dressed and full of anticipation and excitement. The buzz of people setting up trade sites and workers, like little bees making sure everything is in place to welcome exhibitors from near and far.

Soon the animals will be trimmed, inspected, considered and some rejected by enthusiastic exhibitors trying



just waiting and anxious to help make visitors feel welcome. Locals will be involved in a school colouring competition, which will culminate with the winner being announced at the venue on Saturday morning. The children will bring their Mums and Dads along and be treated to one of the most spectacular events on the year's calendar. They can relax and watch while the children are entertained on the merry-go-round and jumping castle.

to select the best of the best for their show team. The final selection and entry forms completed, the accommodation booked and the car packed with all the essentials. Somewhere in the luggage is the hope and dream of a National Show win. A final check to make sure nothing is left behind and the journey begins. The destination is Tamworth and the world class Australian Equine & Livestock Events Centre for the 17th National Show and Sale. Fine weather has been ordered, the venue has a great team

Come 14th October, the long haul from distant places like W.A will have been in progress for several days and drawing to a close. Exhibitors from South Australia and Victoria may have made a well deserved halfway stop at the Forbes showground to rest themselves and their animals. New South Welshmen will have less distance to travel but as it is such a huge country, it will be a monumental effort for everyone to attend the National Show. Let's not forget our Tasmanian troops who are

and Sale 2010



“All the indications are that this will be one of the best National Show and Sales ever presented to visitors from Australia and overseas.”

planning to join the excitement and be part of the Show in Tamworth.

Queenslanders are excited about having the National Show and Sale closer to their part of the world than it has been for a while and we hope they are planning to bring a little bit of sunshine along with their animals, fleeces, arts and crafts.

Tamworth has always been recognized for its fine merino wool industry and annual country music festival. But the strength of the equine and sporting horse industry in Tamworth has resulted in hundreds of businesses and horse studs being located in the city's region.

It is for this reason that the local council invested \$30 million in 2008 to build the largest livestock show venue in the southern hemisphere. But its huge arena and ultra modern stables will be filled with alpacas in the middle of October.

AELEC boasts 187 powered campsites for vehicles and a

further 8 tent sites all for just \$18 per night. Tamworth has a whole range of accommodation and many excellent places to eat.

Charlie Vella, President of CC&H region says “This is an excellent location for the National. But it can only happen with a great deal of hard work from all the volunteers and with the help of the sponsors – particularly the gold sponsors Bumble Hill and Wyona”

We have an official photographer, well renowned for his beautiful pictures, just waiting to take that photo of a National winner that will put your stud on the map. This is publicity that just can't be bought and how exciting it would be to have your photo in the center spread of the next Alpaca magazine.

Come and join us for the cocktail night's buffet meal serenaded by the amazing Mark Bergan. This is a chance to support and applaud our exhibitors from the Fleece, Art, Photography, and Craft sections as they receive their awards.

Look out for the Saturday night Celebration Dinner. It is set to go off with a bang and we can dance the night away after all the excitement of the Dinner Auction. Sunday morning will bring memories of a good night had by all.

The AGM will start proceedings on Sunday morning before the wheeling and dealing of the National Auction. Each of the lots has been assessed by an international judge to ensure the alpacas for sale represent some of the best available. It is rare that a potential purchaser has the opportunity to buy from such a high class selection.

All the indications are that this will be one of the best National Show and Sales ever presented to visitors from Australia and overseas.

How *different* is **GIFT** to other breeding systems?

What is GIFT?



GIFT stands for Genetic Improvement Fibre Technology

GIFT is a breeding tool that is designed to deliver a superior breeding program to breeders with specific breeding goals in place. The breeders can use these tools to make important, breeding and financial decisions.

GIFT is designed to deliver measurable results for specific objectives in alpaca breeding programs. Comparing GIFT to other breeding systems over a ten year period in the Merino Industry (AUST), it has been proven to make genetic gains faster than other systems that rely on a longer term for breeders who aim to be producers of superior quality animals and fleeces.

GIFT offers breeders these important tools and reports by which they design and manage their own breeding program. The skin is only part of the story. The fibre above the skin, tells more of the genetic gain that can be passed on to the next generation.

With this technology, Utilised by Paul Vallely (AAFT Fibre Testing) we now do not have to rely on skin testing, we can get the same information and more through the GIFT reports, used as an objective measurement and visual markers of important fibre characteristics.

GIFT is designed to meet individual needs and wants, and is particularly aimed at improving coloured alpacas to produce elite fibre in the future - in essence, to produce elite animals producing elite fibre- ultimately increasing profits for the astute alpaca breeder.

Using accurate tools, histograms, and taking out the environmental factor, leaving you with the genetic potential, the animal has to improve fleeces.

Identifying these animals, male and female, is the key to making the right breeding decisions, for animal or fleece, with the value adding exercise in mind to maximise your dollar, not only in the sales of your alpacas but also with the fleece, commanding high demand with high returns. This system has already been used in the Ultrafine and superfine Merinos and is proven in the sheep industry. These ultra fine fleeces command the highest prices that could be achievable in alpaca.

GIFT is not invasive for the alpaca tested, no joining fees or club, but a huge database of fleece records. Proven already in the sheep industry and already showing improvement in the alpaca industry, there are reports to help you through and understand the results and guide you into the right business decisions.

DELIVERING PROVEN GENETICS - WHEREVER YOU ARE

MAKING PROVEN GENETICS AFFORDABLE

Our males are now available for mobile mating throughout Victoria and interstate. Visit tumialpacas.com for details.

Twilight Park Poetic Licence, Windsong Valley Nelson, Timbertop Mystic Force, Erehwon Black Onyx, Timbertop Thorpedo, ILR NWA Luminoso



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H O R S E S

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www.tumialpacas.com



are also many aspects of fleece production that are of interest for genetic research. Genetics is believed to play a large role in these traits. We are also pleased to hear from breeders if they have particular traits they would be interested in investigating, after all this research is for the industry and who knows the industry better than the

those affected by a problem, or a difference in fleece etc. It is the comparison of the differences that allows us to work out where in the genetic code the controlling region is located. These affected or different animals are often less common than the healthy animals and therefore obtaining samples is no simple matter. In the case of disorders or deformities, for some breeders, the donation of samples may seem to be a difficult decision. They may be concerned about their reputation if they admit to a problem. This is probably the biggest obstacle to be overcome for the ultimate success of any genetic research. For the first 2 years of our project we found that most breeders would not admit to ever having a problem, let alone come forward with a sample. We understand that livelihoods are at stake and therefore anonymity is uppermost in our minds and our practices. It is most important to realize that without the donation of samples, the research cannot proceed and as a result, the industry will not benefit from the same tests that have allowed cattle and sheep to rid their industries of many similar problems. We are pleased to be able to report that there are numerous altruistic breeders in the Australian industry. These brave (or insightful) souls have donated in excess of 200 samples to our project. From this response we can be very sure that most breeders will encounter some of these problems and it is no reflection on the breeder or the quality of their stock, it is inherent in the species we are dealing with.

“The work will allow more rapid advancement of the Australian herd and will allow the Australian Alpaca Industry to remain internationally competitive.”

breeders?

Our research is in large part dependent on the donation of samples. We cannot conduct genetic research with perfectly healthy individuals that all look the same.. We need to be able to make comparison between healthy individuals and

get to the true genetic location controlling that trait and the better the genetic test will be. We are continually searching for animals with any trait listed above, or any undesirable trait. We have left the definition of an undesirable trait quite wide. This is because we have had experiences where we accepted a sample of a trait we thought would

The samples that we have received to date include affected individuals with many different problems, along with their relatives. These samples are by no means all that we need for such research. The more samples of each trait, the closer we can

be quite rare and that we would possibly never see again. This would necessarily exclude it from any form of genetic research. However we have subsequently found that further samples have come in and it is now on the list of possible investigations. This trait was cyclopia (a single eye in the centre of the head). So, all samples are gratefully accepted, you never know what could already be in our freezer, or what might come in next week.

Involvement in the study is entirely voluntary, and is

the event that a breeder does not have a kit and a problem cria is born, we can quickly arrange to have a sample taken if we are informed as soon as possible. Breeders wishing to donate samples to this study are assured total confidentiality and can remain anonymous if desired.

While it is true that most traits could be investigated, those traits have complex inheritance patterns or result from the interaction of numerous genes will be more difficult for us to deal with. It is also true that we need samples of the traits



A llama showing a severe wry face, obvious deviation of the jaws. Photo taken from directly in front of the animal

simple and quick as the collection of a small sample from affected individuals and related individuals if possible. These animals may be adults, which would involve a mouth/nasal swab taken by the breeder, or a blood sample taken by a veterinarian and is easily arranged by us. In the case of cria that are born with a problem, we would request a blood or tissue sample taken by the attending vet or the breeder themselves. These cria are never expected, and the experience can be distressing for the breeder involved. However it is exactly these animals that are required for the research and these individuals could well provide the key to eliminating these problems from the national herd. Those breeders or vets that are willing to be involved, can be sent a kit to be kept on hand for such an occurrence. In

we investigate. For now we have chosen traits for which we have had samples donated and that show simple inheritance patterns. We have made progress by locating two genetic regions in the alpaca genome that are responsible for traits of interest. We are hopeful that genetic tests for these traits are not too far away from implementation in the industry. With your help, these tests could be available more quickly, and further tests could follow on afterwards.

For any further questions regarding our project or potential involvement please do not hesitate to contact the Head of the Laboratory, Dr Belinda Appleton, Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne, either by email b.appleton@unimelb.edu.au or phone 0418573458.

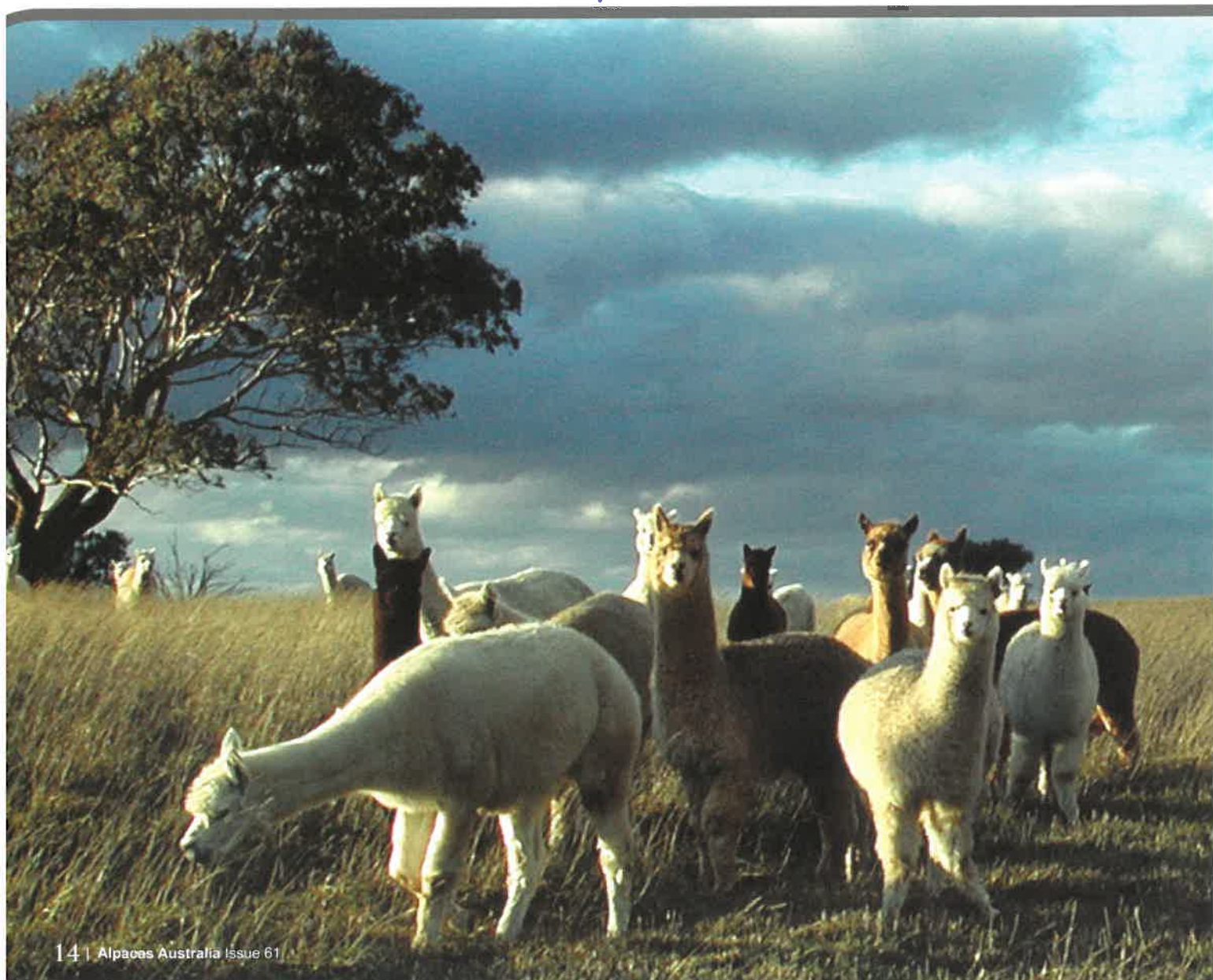
The *Natural* Alpaca habitat

Who could believe that the natural habitat of the alpaca is a harsh and unforgiving? Alpacas come from the Altiplano (meaning high plain) region of the Andes Mountain in South America and generally live at the 3600 to 4300 metre level.

Life is hard for both humans and animals, the vegetation is in short supply, the air is thin, and the temperature can change

hugely in just one 24 hour period. The vegetation that exists is mostly tough clumps of grass, Thola bushes, and occasionally clumps of Quenua trees. The area can be very volcanic and the climate ranges from rain, snow and freezing temperatures to intense sunlight and strong winds. Surviving in this harsh alpaca habitat means an animal has to be hardy and resilient.

By understanding and knowing the original environment of the alpacas and the animals background will helps us to understand the alpaca and will ensure the care we give to this wonderful animal is the best.



It is thought that the reason alpacas have environmentally friendly padded feet was an adaptation that was probably needed to ensure they did not destroy the scarce vegetation and the same is thought to be true for why they don't pull the grass out by its roots.

Alpacas can go days without water and food, since there were times when food wasn't available, alpacas adapted to going without for awhile. With food scarcity, an alpaca's fleece will grow less. An alpaca will borrow nutrients from other parts of its body to continue life. Keeping alpacas at their optimal weight means your fleece will be denser and grow better. If alpacas didn't have their dense fleece, they probably would not have survived the harsh winters on the altiplano.

Alpacas actually need less feed than most other animals. It only takes 1.5 to 2% of an alpaca's body weight of feed to sustain a healthy alpaca. The alpaca's three-compartment stomach converts grass and hay to energy with extreme efficiency so they require less food to survive. The harsh conditions they live in on the altiplano makes this survival adaptation a necessity.

- Alpacas don't drink a lot of water. This is another adaptation of the unforgiving altiplano but of course clean water should always be available to alpacas.

- Alpacas go without food and water in their natural alpaca habitat, but doing so will cause stress to an alpaca. When alpacas fear for their survival they are likely to abort. Keep your alpacas free of stress by making sure that each alpaca is able to feed freely and have plenty of water.

- An alpaca is really a very fast animal and is thought to be another adaptation developed to ensure survival. Not giving an alpaca enough room to exercise keeps them from doing what comes naturally to an alpaca and could be another source of stress. Keep them in large enough pastures where they can run.

- Knowing the natural alpaca habitat can help you understand your alpaca and provide for their needs. A lot is still not known about alpacas, but the industry has made huge steps in learning about caring for alpacas.



Trailers especially *designed* for Alpacas

Olympic trailers is a long established business which has specialised in the manufacture of horse floats and trailers. Several years ago they recognised the need for a purposely designed Alpaca float due to increased demand within the industry and the impracticalities of using trailers and horse floats for Alpaca transport.

that will truly benefit the Alpaca owner requiring a solid, superior and stylish float.

Olympic Trailers take pride in their quality controlled manufacturing process, which produces absolute top quality floats. Their relationship with various top Australian suppliers ensures the floats are of solid construction utilising only the best quality materials available.

They use the latest manufacturing equipment available to aid in the design and construction of the floats. This in turn



Managing director and Engineer Robert Dekker has had over 30 years experience both within Australia and overseas in motor body building and construction. He, along with the support of the professional manufacturing team successfully produce custom built products to order. It is this wealth of knowledge

enables them to produce accurate and professional results with superior workmanship.

Their Alpaca range of floats comes in either single axle or dual axle models to suit the needs of the consumer, the cages inside allow security along with easy access.

For more information please refer to the advert on page 54.

Safely Transporting Alpacas

Transporting alpacas can be achieved safely and without problems if you and your alpaca are prepared correctly and the right transport is used.

SAFETY

Check alpaca trailers for any gaps that an animal might catch their leg in and injure themselves before you purchase the trailer or before you transport your alpaca in a borrowed trailer.

A rubber mat makes the floor less slippery and safer for transporting alpacas.

Transporting alpacas on hot days can be hazardous and special attention needs to be made to the comfort of the animal. Make sure the trailer is well ventilated so there is no chance of overheating. And remove the alpacas from the trailer as quickly as you can so they do not become heat stressed in a stuffy trailer.

Be prepared for problems such as a flat tire or a vehicle break down on your trip; always have halters and leads for every animal you are transporting ready to be used and easily accessible. Have some way of tying your alpaca outside of the trailer should you need to remove them.

It is best if you can transport a minimum of two alpacas because they are herd animals and can become stressed when removed from their herd mates. Bringing a friend along will make the trip less stressful especially for younger alpacas that may not be so used to travelling.

LOADING AND UNLOADING

When transporting alpacas make sure to load the experienced ones first, once a more reluctant ones see their herd mate already in the trailer, they are more willing to join them for the trip.

One Golden Rule is: Don't rush your alpacas, let them take their time and allow them to find their footing. If one is reluctant to go in, you may find that if you place their front feet up into the trailer the rest of the alpaca usually follows.



Buying a customised trailer to transport your alpacas is always preferred

We leave the halters on and remove the lead rope when transporting alpacas a short distance. That way we just need to reattach the lead when we get where we are going. But make sure there is nothing in the trailer on which the halter can get caught.

When unloading, check for safety hazards. You don't want them to leap out onto something that could cause injury. Unload them one at a time. One person goes in the trailer to attach the lead and passes it to the outside person. The

alpaca should be safely tied or penned before the next alpaca is removed.

Transporting alpacas is a necessary part of owning alpacas and if you are nervous or unsure it is best to have an experience person with you until you gain your confidence with both the loading and unloading.

Another alternative is to have a transport company that specialises in transporting alpacas do the job for you.

Liver fluke – *Fasciola hepatica*

Drenches

Anthelmintics, or more commonly ‘drenches’, are products that contain a chemical or chemicals that kill the target worms. There are not currently any drenches on the market that are registered for use in alpaca; however, their use under the direction of a veterinarian is permissible.

The following is a list of drenches commonly prescribed for alpaca by veterinarians in Australia, New Zealand and the USA:

Ivomec – Ivermectin. Mectin (ML) family

Ivomec Plus – Ivermectin & Clorsulon

Cydectin – Moxidectin. Mectin (ML) family

Closicare – Closantel

Panacur – Benzimidazole (BZ) family, Fenbendazole

Valbazen* – Benzimidazole (BZ) family, Albendazole

(NB: * The chemical Albendazole, as present in Valbazen poses serious risk during early pregnancy and must not be used in that circumstance)

With the current drench resistance direction, it is possible that alpaca breeders will be faced with having to use a combination of drenches in the future.

Under no circumstances should drenching with multiple drenches be performed unless under the direction of a veterinarian.

Integrated worm management

Without any new drenches coming on to the market, all livestock industries are faced with having to reassess their management strategies in order to preserve the value and remaining efficacy of the drenches we currently have.

Strategic drenching

With the aim of maximising effect and reducing the number of Treatments required, strategic



Barber's Pole Worm

“As resistance is developing, breeders may experience subclinical production losses that are not easily seen. When drench resistance hits critical level, the results can be catastrophic; most particularly in the case of Barbers Pole Worm (Haemonchus contortus).”



Black Scour worm

drenching treatments are given at critical times of the year in relation to the epidemiology of parasite burden and in association with animal management.

Adult alpaca

Studies documented in 1999 RIRDC report ‘Australian Alpaca Fibre, Improving Productivity and Marketing’ described that adult alpaca can maintain a natural resistance to infection and routine drenching may not be necessary; and that age related resistance to worm burdens usually becomes established in the second year and should persist if general management and husbandry are adequate.

Dams, cria and weaners

Generally, alpacas most vulnerable to worm infestation are cria, weaners and pre and post parturition hembra.

With pre and post parturient hembra, it is the suppression of her overall immune system so her body may not mount a response to the developing foetus which in turn can leave her vulnerable to high burdens of worm infestation. Drenching of hembra post birthing can be appropriate.

Drenching of cria is not recommended unless the cria is under significant worm challenge.

From a management perspective, most important is that cria, dams and weaners are kept on ‘clean’ paddocks and not permitted to run with large groups of adults where they can be exposed to higher levels of larvae.

By avoiding overstocking wherever possible, performing routine faecal egg counts to monitor worm burdens and not running cria, dams and weaners with large numbers of adults,

you can reduce the incidence of excessive worm infestation and reduce drench requirements.

Quarantine drenching

There are two ways of inadvertently obtaining drench resistant worms; breed them yourself or import them. Quarantine drenching of every animal that arrives on your property is imperative. Generally Ivomec has been sufficient for alpaca; however it is possible that a combination of drenches will need to be used in the future under veterinary supervision. Irrespective of the size of the property, a quarantine area is imperative. Having received a quarantine drench, new arrivals should remain in the quarantine area for a minimum 24 hours, preferably 48 hours before release into a 'wormy' paddock so that any resistant worms that slip past the quarantine drench will be diluted by the drench susceptible worm population.

Refugia - Maintaining populations of susceptible worms

As the saying goes, "if you can't beat them, join them". We are never going to achieve eradication of worms. It is the drench resistant worms which are our major concern and we need to keep worms susceptible to the drenches that we have, in order to have some control over them.

So we need to think sideways and implement an additional strategy that will hinder the growth in population of the drench resistant worms.

Refugia is the maintenance of a population of worms that are sensitive to a drench or are in 'refuge' from a drench. The populations of worms in 'refuge' are those that were sitting in the pasture as eggs or larvae when drenching time came around and those inside an animal that missed out on a drench.

When treating all animals in a herd, only the resistant worms will survive. When drenched animals are moved to a clean pasture, only worms that are drench resistant will develop in that pasture.

However, if animals go back to a 'wormy' paddock, the drench resistant worms will breed with the drench susceptible worms to maintain a worm population that should still respond to drenches. In other words, the population of worms in refugia provides a pool of genes to dilute the resistant genes.

Leaving some animals untreated; such as older wethers or

retired hembra, will assist in maintaining a population of drench susceptible worms in 'wormy' paddocks, with faecal egg counts to monitor the health and safety of the animals.

Faecal egg count (FEC)

One of our greatest Weapons in the war on worms and drench resistance is faecal egg count.

Some breeders are able and choose to do their own faecal egg count but your vet and state agricultural department can also perform FEC on a group or individual basis. Performing FEC twice a year will give you a clear indication if your worm management strategies are working. Speak to your vet or agricultural department about the best time of year for FEC in your particular area.

Samples can be from individual animals or from the communal poo pile (avoiding soil) however individual samples are far more effective wherever possible, allowing you to

identify particular animals with problems and also to show patterns of a herd parasite problem that may be developing.

Faecal egg count for drench effectiveness

Faecal egg counts for the efficacy of the drench you are using are very worthwhile. Collect samples 7-10 days after drenching, irrespective of the type of drench used.

Pasture and paddock management

The importance of pasture and paddock management cannot be understated in an integrated worm management programme.

This can prove extremely difficult in this time of drought and with smaller sized properties but keeping some essentials in mind will assist breeders:

Alpaca's general inclination to use toilet areas is a significant bonus in controlling worm infestation and certainly collecting poo is of benefit. It is worthwhile to note that during the height of drought with minimal or no pasture, animals will seek out green pick and even fussy animals can be inclined to graze around poo piles. This will increase the risk of worm infestation.

In moist and/or humid conditions, manure should not be spread on paddocks without composting.

Spelling: Pastures need to be spelled for more than ten weeks in autumn/winter for useful reduction in numbers of worm larvae. There are two influencing factors for this:





small brown stomach worm lesions

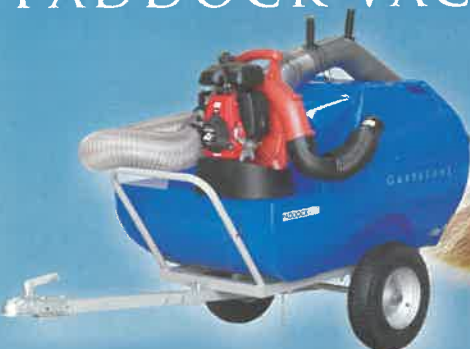
a time lag of several weeks, or even months, between eggs being deposited in the manure and the appearance of larvae on the pasture and also, larvae can survive for many months during cool conditions. Certainly in summer rainfall areas the time between storms during October and November can be hot and dry which provides a shorter life expectancy for larvae; spelling paddocks during these dry times can reduce larvae later on. Contact your state DPI or RLPB to learn more about grazing strategies in your local area.

Rotational Grazing: Cell and rotational grazing systems, with

frequent rotations between paddocks, generally do not leave sufficient time between grazings to significantly reduce pasture worm contamination levels. During the cooler and wetter months of the year this could require several months stock-free. Clean Paddocks: Maintaining areas for dams, cria and weaners that have not been grazed by large groups of adults for 100+ days will assist in reducing exposure to high levels of larvae during a vulnerable stage.

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The alpaca industry has faced

and will continue to face

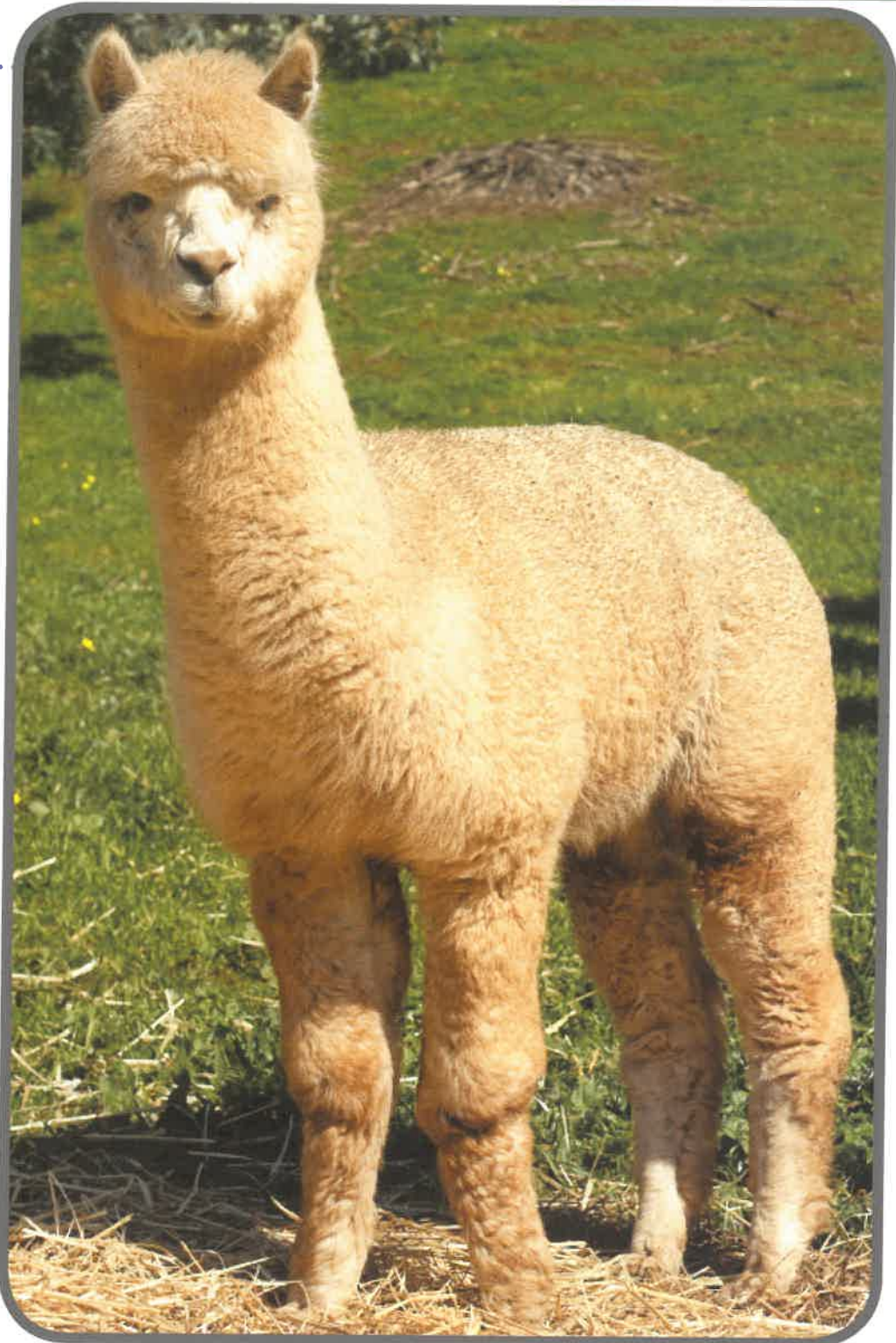
many challenges and breeders' willingness to embrace new practices places us in a strong position for a successful and viable future. Every worm programme should be tailored specifically to the individual farm and this must be done in conjunction with your veterinarian.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Dr Pierre Baychelier.

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Carpaccio of Alpaca with Avocado and Orange Juice Mayonnaise

Ingredients:

- 90g Alpaca tenderloin
- 70g Thinly-sliced Avocado
- 7g Julienne Spanish Onions
- 5g Molle (Peruvian Pepper)
- 6g Shaved Parmesan Cheese
- 12ml Orange Juice Mayonnaise
- 2ml Olive Oil
- 2g Organic Herbs
- 2 Whole Star Anise
- 1 tsp chopped Cinnamon Quill
- 20g Dark Brown Sugar
- 25g Rock Salt

Method:

1. Clean and trim tenderloin of any sinew or fat.
2. With a heavy-based pan and little oil, very

quickly seal the alpaca, then cool.

3. To prepare the curing mix, place molle peppercorns along with star anise and cinnamon quill in a pan on high heat. When aromatic flavors start pluming, take off heat and either in a mortar or food processor blend to powder form.
4. To cure, place some clingwrap on bench, sprinkle curing mix in middle to accommodate the alpaca, then sprinkle cure mix on top and around the alpaca, roll cling wrap around alpaca as to make a cylinder, do this twice then one layer of aluminum foil.
5. Place in freezer for a total of 12 hours.
6. Remove from freezer, slice carpaccio thin, then assemble with small $\frac{1}{4}$ of avocados, julienne Spanish onions, orange juice mayonnaise, olive oil and organic herbs.



Char-grilled Alpaca Sirloin with Bolivian Quinoa and Chimichurri Sauce

Ingredients:

- 85g Alpaca sirloin 85g
- 20g Quinoa
- 40g Black rice
- 35g Roast sweet potato
- 15g Asparagus spears
- 20g Confit baby tress tomato
- 7ml Chimichurri sauce (recipe below)
- Parmesan Cheese (optional)
- Cinnamon Powder (to taste)
- Salt (to taste)

Method:

1. To prepare quinoa cook it much as you would rice. Just put a cup of the de-coated grain in a saucepan and pour two cups of water over it. Bring the pan to a boil, cover, and turn down the heat to a low simmer. Let it cook for about 15 minutes and then remove from heat. Mix sauteed garlic, onions and add parmesan cheese (Optional).

2. To cook black rice, cook it as you cook risotto. Do not add parmesan cheese as this rice contains a high amount of starch.
3. Peel and cut sweet potato into sticks and roast them for 9 minutes in the oven. Dust them with cinnamon powder and salt.
4. Dry tress tomato in the oven at 100 C for 2 hrs.
5. Cut asparagus and blanch in salted water then refresh in iced water.
6. Preheat the grill or grill pan to very hot and cook the alpaca for 2 minutes on each side for medium-rare or medium. Brush chimichurri on sirloin while it's cooking.
7. Ingredients for "traditional" Chimichurri:
 - 62mls olive oil
 - 187g fresh parsley, chopped
 - 30g fresh oregano, chopped
 - 45mls fresh lemon juice
 - 6 large cloves garlic, chopped
 - Salt & freshly ground pepper
8. You can mince the ingredients by hand or use a food processor, which is faster and easier.



Breedersales.com

Since the launch of this website at the Royal Agricultural show of Victoria in late September 2009, Breedersales.com has grown to become one of the preferred methods of researching, buying and selling alpacas by owners and breeders alike.

Created by a young primary producer, Chris Doherty and his business partner William Clennett have seen the growth of healthy interest from Alpaca studs across Australia.

It has been clear that still not a year old, the site is something that breeders across Australia have been waiting for, not only to sell Alpacas but they also boast a solid number of cattle, sheep and horse sales as well.

The site is not just limited to Australia either, keen interest has been generated internationally and when the site provides additional tools such as being able to assess pedigree and ask questions of the breeder or seller directly.

It only costs \$50 to be able to advertise your stock for sale; each listing gives you an unlimited amount of text and up to fifteen photographs, video and an automated upload of pedigrees. This is the base package, there are other packages available including having your own business profile page or a bulk package where you have unlimited private sale listings. It is free to register whether you are a private seller, stud farm or agent.

The company sends out private sale updates to their extensive database of alpaca breeders within Australia and are attracting over eleven thousand visitors to the site each month.

One of their customers is happy for me to publish her testimonial:

From Hollygen Alpacas, Bathurst NSW 2795



'Breedersales.com provides an excellent value for money service. The breedersales website gave me the market exposure I needed to disperse my herd of alpacas and the staff provided me with all the assistance I needed to make sure that the add placement went as smoothly as possible. I would not hesitate to contact them directly if your requirements are out of the ordinary.'

Some interesting facts:

- Launched in September 2009, Breedersales.com has become one of the most preferred options for alpaca trading
- The aim of Breedersales.com was to not only create a thriving marketplace for breeders and primary producers, but to bring the breeding community together, which in just eleven short months has been achieved
- It has become a great way to sell alpacas to buyers anywhere in Australia which has opened up new markets and opportunities for agribusiness
- You get more than just a classified site, Breedersales.com offers business profiles, classified advertisements, promotion of upcoming sale days, web links to business, stock/genetic information, photograph and video uploads of animals and pedigree information

The Gulf Oil Disaster

“I have to say that the alpaca community is an odd lot at best, but the one thing that we all have in common, besides these adorable beasts, is that as Americans, in time of need, we seem to come together.”

The Gulf Oil Disaster of 2010 will be remembered for decades to come and a time when alpaca fibre found a use no one had ever thought about. With the information highway at our finger tips, one member of the Alpaca Fibre Cooperative of North America, Inc. (AFCNA) made a call to arms. They found a non-profit company called The Matter of Trust that was making oil booms using hair clippings from barber shops and beauty parlours. That gave us the idea of them using our trash or 'compost' fibre that had accumulated at the Decatur, TN warehouse for over two years and that of many alpaca breeders who had non commercial valued fibre. Of course, when the local news media in a small town heard of this endeavour it became a media nightmare with schedules and such. Matter of Trust then wanted to do the same. What it did, finally, produce was the shipping of over 10,000 pounds of waste fibre to the state of Alabama where volunteers stuffed this alpaca product into nylon stockings; call it a large fibre sausage.

Over the next couple of months fibre was sent from all over the country down to the gulf region, so much so that MoT asked to hold on to it until what they had could be made into booms. Our co-op decided that a T-shirt campaign to inform the general public about alpacas, AFCNA and the general wonders of their fibre would be a value to our industry and also a means of donating the proceeds from the T-shirts to Matter of Trust. Their work relief has been splendid within the area where most of

the booms are being shipped to small water way points, inlets and marinas. It also has created thought provoking ideas on how to better utilise alpaca NCV fibre for profitable commercial ventures.

As of the date of this article, BP has believed they stopped the leak, and most oil on the ocean surface has disappeared. My, Mother Nature is amazing! The fibre booms are continuing to be produced and given out for small remaining sites that still need the clean up closer to shore.

The Alpaca Fibre Cooperative of North America, Inc. (AFCNA) is the leading fibre cooperative in the States, collecting alpaca member breeder's fleeces, directing certain grades, to many product producers throughout the US for profit that is returned back to those investing members. For more information, please visit our website www.afcna.com. For a look at our T-shirt Campaign and see the test of what the fibre will do, go to fiberforthebay.org and to read and view many pictures of the boom making process and the works of the non-profit Matter of Trust go to matteroftrust.org."



InSight Peru

“Change one life, change the world”

Stuart Randell

The little town of Chivay sits cradled between mountain peaks with romantic names like Cotallaulli, Ampato and Hualca Hualca, at the gateway to the legendary Colca Valley in Peru.

Barely half an hour away by bus, intricately terraced hillsides – a legacy of the industry of the Incas – give way to the staggering sheer cliffs and towering rock walls of the spectacular Colca Canyon. Local tour guides proudly tout the canyon’s credentials as the deepest in the world; although some might contest that claim, none would



villages that lie nearby, scattered up and down the valley, are the traditional owners of a place blessed with an unfathomable wealth of natural beauty, and yet in material terms they are among the poorest people in the world. Nowhere is the level of poverty that these proud people endure more apparent than in their inability to access anything more than the most rudimentary health care – and often, no health care at all. After working in the Chivay Health Clinic for a week or so it is hard not to become cynical about the highly politicised and widely publicised claims at home that the health care system in Australia is “in crisis”. “Crisis” is clearly an adjective open to very wide, and careless, interpretation.

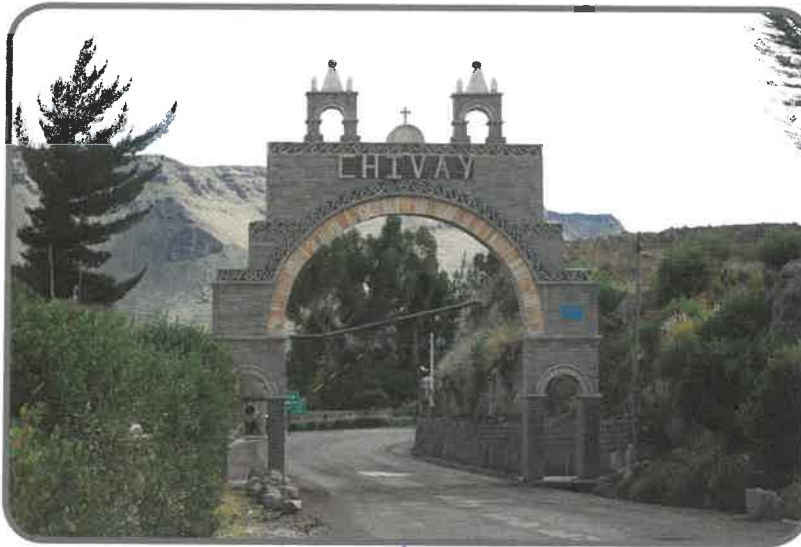
argue that this is truly one of the most scenically spectacular places on earth. Home to the magnificent Andean Condor, the Colca Canyon attracts a steady stream of tourists willing to brave the rarefied atmosphere to experience the unparalleled natural beauty of the Colca every year; none could make this pilgrimage without being inspired.

It is a tragic paradox that the inhabitants of Chivay and the tiny

Although it is impossible to solve all of the problems that beset Peru, InSight¹ was a venture which demonstrated loudly and clearly that with focus, determination, cooperation and open hearts, a small group of people can make a life changing difference to a significant number of people. Mike Safley is no stranger to this philosophy – since 1996, his single minded resolve has seen Quechua Benefit² establish itself as a well recognised charitable organisation in the Colca Valley. His interest in supporting the Peruvian people grew from his

involvement in the Alpaca industry in the United States, and an awareness that the commercial viability of this industry worldwide was due in no small measure to the generosity of the traditional custodians of these beguiling animals.

When a team of Optometrists from America travelled to Chivay with the support of Quechua Benefit in March 2009, they identified a large number of people disabled by cataracts but did not have the



Alpaca Association team³), dragged ourselves into the Customs Hall at Lima's International Airport at one o'clock in the morning – trailing behind us all of those bags! Here we faced our first hurdle, with Customs and Health Department officials opening most of our luggage once, and (in the confusion) quite a few bags several times. Detailed lists pre-approved by the Peruvian Consulate in Sydney were scrutinised, checked and questioned before finally, sometime after three (with my finger tips blue from applying

my prints as well as my signature to every official page!) we were given the all clear. We had made it into Peru with an intact inventory – no small feat, I can assure you (His Excellency Claudio de la Puente, the Peruvian Ambassador to Australia, has my heartfelt thanks for his invaluable role in achieving this miracle). We eventually reached Chivay after a domestic flight to Arequipa, and a bus ride touching the literally breathtaking altitude of 4,950m (barely 300m lower than Everest Base Camp), and there our work began.

Nobody expected conditions in Chivay to be anything other than basic – and our expectations were not to be exceeded. What the local people lacked in resources, however, they more than



resources to help them. Mike extended the challenge, circulating his call for help far and wide. In November, one of his newsletters came to the attention of Dr Ian Davison, an Orthopaedic Surgeon and also President of the Australian Alpaca Association, in the small NSW south coast town of Nowra. He was captivated – and with that spark, the beacon had been lit. Ian set about enlisting the support of the AAA, garnered financial assistance from the Ramsay Health Group, and put together a small team of colleagues with the necessary skills to travel to Peru and help. InSight was born, and on Saturday morning 15th May 2010 (barely six months later) three doctors, an optometrist, and four nurses boarded a QANTAS flight in Sydney bound for South America, complete with nineteen tightly packed and meticulously catalogued bags of medical supplies and equipment. A dream was about to be realised! Just over 30 hours later, "the RAAATs" (Ramsay/Australian



compensated for with enthusiasm and generosity. We were welcomed – and humbled – by student nurses who we were to learn were often volunteering their time off roster and



unpaid; US Peace Corps volunteers who translated for us for more than twelve hours a day; Quechua Benefit staff – including Mike Safley – who would do anything from wielding a mop to finding supplies. The list of willing helpers goes on and on.

And then the patients began to arrive in numbers beyond our expectations, not just with cataracts, but with a wide spectrum of eye problems; damage from past trauma (including fireworks injuries), glaucoma, congenital defects, scarring from toxoplasmosis infection, macular degeneration, untreated refractive errors and more. Very rapidly, the scope of our mission widened, as we found ourselves not only screening patients for surgery, but also arranging coordinated management plans with Quechua Benefit for patients whose problems needed specialised treatment in Arequipa, prescribing glasses (for over 200 people), and providing some general health intervention as well. In all,

close to 350 people – some of whom had travelled for hours just to reach us in – were seen by the RAAATs. Nowra Based Ophthalmologist, Dr Dean Durkin was joined in Chivay by Dr Chris Brown from Fairfield, who took time out from a holiday in Peru with his wife to contribute to InSight. The two went to work in a makeshift operating theatre, adapting not only to the conditions, but also to surgical cases often more difficult than those routinely encountered at home. Thanks to their expertise and dedication, by the time the RAAATs departed, every patient presenting with treatable cataracts had been operated on.

The reality for these people is that without the intervention of InSight, none would have received treatment. Ever. The financial and logistical barriers to accessing specialist surgical care for the people of the Colca valley are so insurmountable that it would have been absolutely inconceivable, making the intervention of InSight, quite literally, a miracle.

As the comfortable world that many of us enjoy becomes saturated with information, the plight of the disadvantaged not only at home but in every corner of the globe is something that is impossible to ignore. And yet, with this “information overload”, I suspect that many of us become overwhelmed by the magnitude of the world’s problems, paralysed by a sense that nothing we do individually could possibly make a difference. InSight Peru was an outstanding success, not because it solved the problem of climate change, but because one woman in the little town of Chivay has seen her children after seven years of darkness; not because it brought peace to the Middle East, but because one man walked home without needing his son to lead him by the hand. To change just one life is to change the world. InSight Peru made me believe that every contribution is worthwhile.

**“Don’t accept that what’s
happening
is just a case of others’ suffering
Or you’ll find that you’re joining
in the turning away”**

(David Gilmour – Pink Floyd)

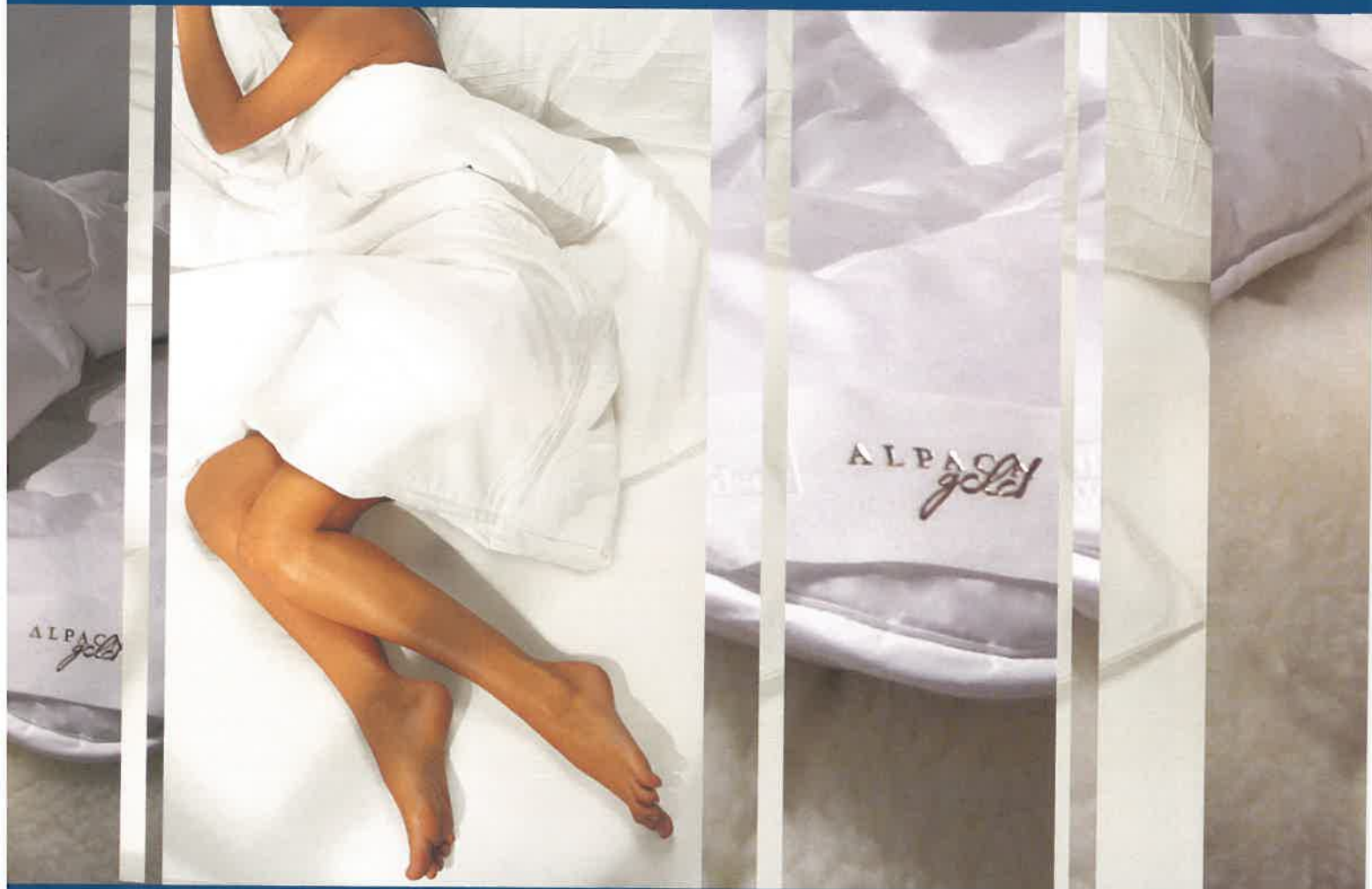
(More information about InSight Peru can be found at www.insightperu.blogspot.com)

1. InSight Peru: Is an initiative of the Australian Alpaca Association, in partnership with Quechua Benefit and with the generous financial support of Ramsay Health Care and the Nowra Private Hospital, established with the aim of delivering cataract surgery to the people of the Colca Valley in Peru – for no better reason than that they need our help.
2. Quechua Benefit: Founded in 1996 by Mr Mike Safley, an Alpaca breeder from Oregon USA, “QB” supports a range of services including dental and medical care in the isolated communities of Peru.
3. The RAAATs: (In alphabetical order) Chris Brown, Warren Bruce, Craig Cameron, Leonie Daveson, Ian Davison, Dean Durkin, Marylouise Laxton, Fiona Martin, Stuart Randell, Carmen Ryan.

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Figure 2 A folder of information was kept for each male



Figure 3 The US males arrive at Baarrooka

on their pedigree and photographs, and contacted the owners to arrange for further information and farm visits. We established quality criteria for assessing each of the animals, with conformation (ability to pass the AAA screening regulations) an obvious number-one on our list. Likelihood of homozygosity was number two, followed by

lustre, density and fineness as the main fleece characteristics.

Many of the breeders and some of the animals were going to be at the National Show in Cleveland, OH, so this was our first stop. While at the show, we arranged to look at a number of animals and fleeces from our short list and, in talking to breeders, added and deleted animals from our list. At the end of the show, we spent a whirlwind ten days driving and flying across the country, visiting studs and arranging meetings in roadside laybys, inspecting potential stud males, their parents and siblings to confirm our shortlist. This task was made more difficult because most of the animals had been recently shorn, so there was no fleece or re-growth

to assess. The animal's conformation was easy to see, but the fleece had to be assessed off-animal. While we were able to inspect the fleece of each animal (and sometimes multiple fleeces), very few breeders were able to give us fleece data, so samples were taken for analysis back in Australia.

When we returned to Australia, we used the fleece data to reduce the shortlist; the remainder of the animals were then skin-biopsied by their owners and the samples sent to Jim Watts in Australia for analysis. A further list reduction was made after the results of this assessment and contract negotiations were begun with the vendors in the US and breeders in Australia for whom I was acting.

Each of the animals was assessed by a vet against the Australian screening criteria and confirmation of pregnancies or a positive sperm test was obtained. An import broker was engaged, contact made with the quarantine facility in Chicago and the process of organising

the import of ten males was begun, with negotiations also continuing with an Australian breeder who also wanted to bring in a suri male. A crate for the air transport of livestock allows for twelve animals of one sex or ten animals of mixed sex. The cost of air freight is per crate, so it is important to ensure the crate is full to reduce cost per animal.

After a number of delays, we agreed on a date of 1 December for entering quarantine and 31 January for fly out.



In the week before quarantine began, we had to remove four young males from the shipment because the vendor was not able to obtain a positive sperm test from them. So, with minutes ticking away and the Thanksgiving holiday beginning, I managed, through numerous emails and phone calls to the US, to substitute the four males with three females (sight unseen, but previously researched), which had to be driven across the country to Chicago to allow quarantine to begin.

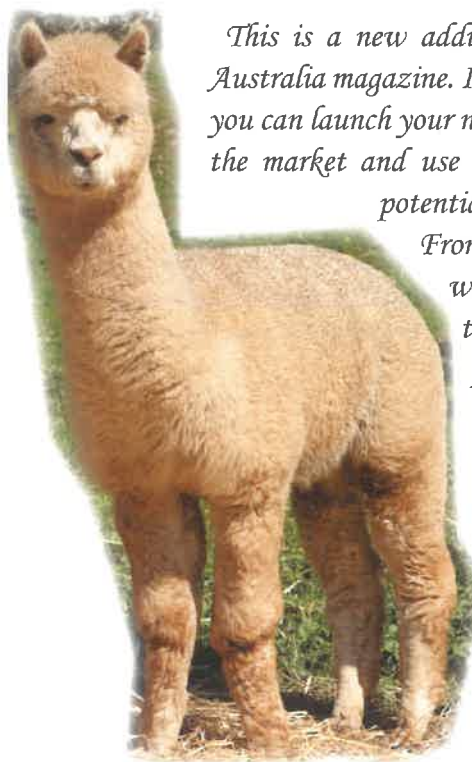
While there were no problems with the animals in quarantine, we had a number of problems with AQIS and the New Zealand quarantine authority with regard to the testing of the animals. At one stage it looked like the entire shipment was to be called off, but ongoing negotiations finally won through.

The shipment date was postponed three times due initially to the testing issues, but then because AQIS wouldn't allow the animals to be transported with horses and we had entered the busiest time

for transporting horses into Australia. We also had to co-ordinate the booked flights with the import permits and space booked in the quarantine facility in Melbourne. The delays resulted in the expiration of the import permits and the animals were all required to be tested again. At this stage, I had aged ten years and was wondering why I was doing this!

Finally, after more than three months in quarantine, everything was in place and the shipment was able to go ahead. Once they arrived in Australia (via transits in Hawaii and New Zealand) the animals were kept in Australian quarantine for two weeks and we were then allowed to pick them up and bring them home. By this time, nine months after I had selected them, I was a little worried by what I had in fact purchased. However, when we arrived to pick them up, even though they had been clean shorn (including legs, ears, forelocks, tails), I was astounded by the depth of colour, lustre and conformation of these animals, and knew that here was a group of stud males destined to join some of the illustrious white suris in the history of suri breeding in Australia.





This is a new addition to Alpacas Australia magazine. It is a page where you can launch your new product onto the market and use to educate your potential customers.

From the next issue we will have space on this page for four new products specific to the alpaca industry. Contact Liz on liz@alpacasaustralia.com.au with your new product review.

Regards

Liz the editor



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The Alpaca Plus Pillow



For some time our family has been looking at an alternative to our trusty pillows that we have slept on for many years. Wanting to support the Alpaca industry my husband and I decided to purchase from Kelly and Windsor two alpaca pillows.

Now I would like to just step back a little; John my husband suffers from severe allergies and some days will sneeze continuously for eight hours. We never imagined it was our pillows as we had always taken great care of them and only ever purchased the very best hypoallergenic varieties.

We both cycle a lot and suffer from the common cyclist's injury of torn shoulder muscles - again never considering our

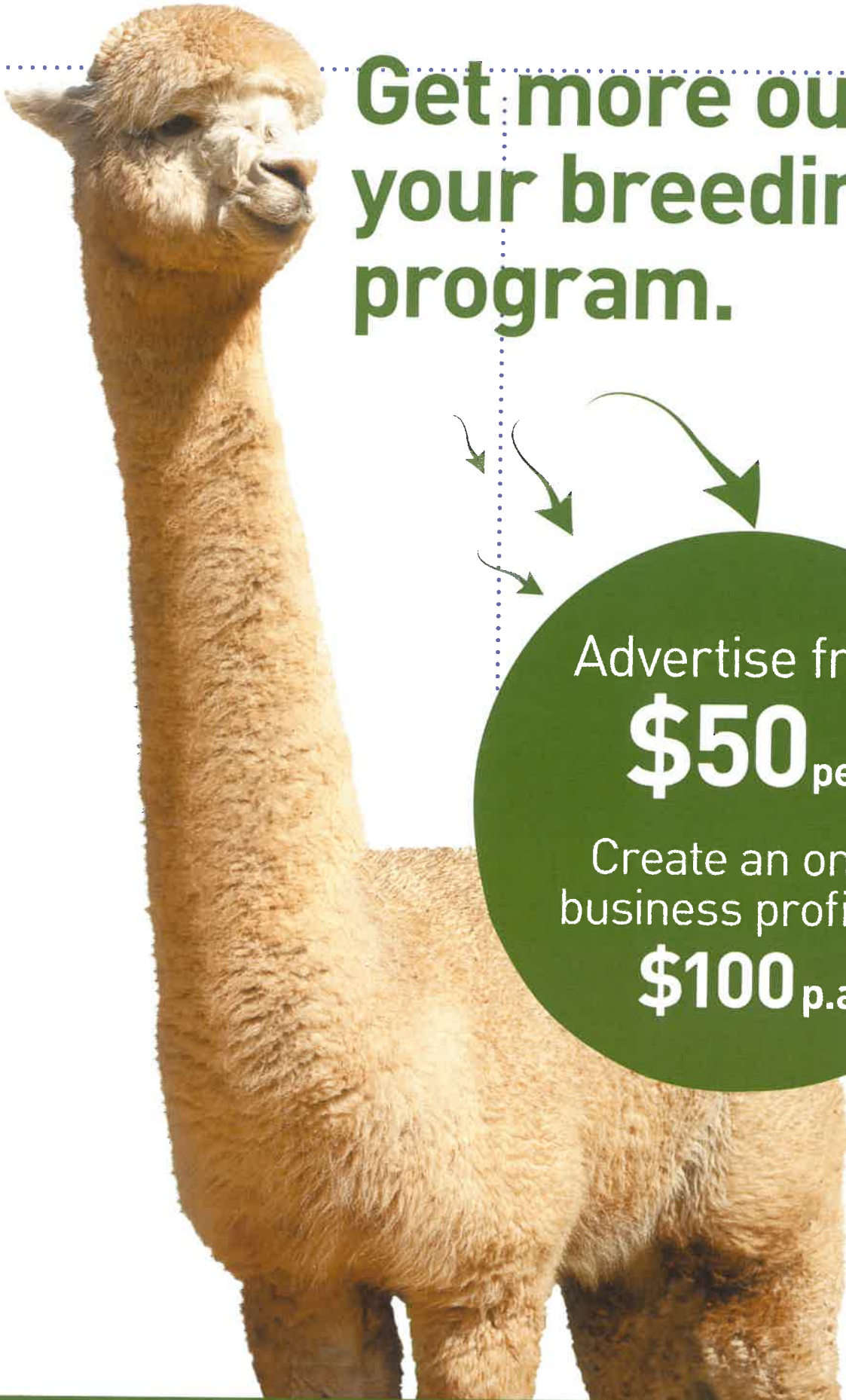
pillows may not be helping this injury.

We were wrong on both counts. Our new pillows arrived and were put straight onto the bed, the next morning John did not sneeze even once and both of our shoulders felt great. Not yet putting the new pillows into the equation we did comment on the situation.

After a week of the same we suddenly realised the only difference was our pillows. Now of course I cannot make any therapeutic claims about our Alpaca Plus Pillows but two weeks into our new pillows, not one sneeze and not one painful shoulder. Make your own conclusions.

I have been so pleased with our purchase I felt it worthwhile to mention this in our new products section as for some these will be 'new products'. Next month catch my review on the doona because after our initial great experience I am not stopping with just pillows.

Liz - editor.



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GETTING STARTED.

By Jeffry Farman, Flowerdale Estate Alpacas, Victoria

How will I ever learn to play the game?



So you want to take up the ancient, and noble game of golf. You'll probably need some equipment, a club where you can play, a few good books, some time on the internet to research tips and videos, a good Pro to teach you, lessons and some practice. And so it is with taking up alpacas.

Making a Start.

I have observed that alpaca farming is taken up by people from all walks of life, but mainly those without a farming background. So, when the decision is made to give it a go and learn something new, just like golf, there are prerequisites for successful learning.

Research the game. When we started our research extended to farm visits across Victoria, NSW and South Australia. We called on alpaca breeders in New Zealand, the UK and the USA. In all we may have visited 30 different farms. We noted many useful farm set-ups and methods of handling the alpacas that we could adopt. No one seemed to be hiding their best ideas. Most breeders were keen to share. I have heard this over and over from people attending our workshops for new breeders. "This industry, unlike some others, is full of friendly people willing to share."

Your research should extend to reading books and visiting websites. The Australian Alpaca Association has a supply

of instructive reference books on a range of useful alpaca topics. The AAA also has an excellent website that is a wonderful resource for breeders. You'll need to be a member to receive the password to access all of the useful sections of the site. There are many other websites available to keen researchers. By Googling "alpaca" you will find some very good sites.

Like golf, it is useful to find an experienced coach. You may need a pro to teach you. Some people find a friendly breeder with whom they have rapport. A breeder to take them by the hand and be a mentor. This reassurance is very valuable for newbies to farm husbandry.

When we started we were lucky enough to find a few such "coaches." Susie Rainbow from Kingston Park and Ron & Dianne Condon from Shanbrooke were kind and supportive. In some helpful ways they were like our caddies, guiding and advising us. We have always been most grateful and they have remained good friends.

Membership of a golf club has much to offer. Join up. We did. We could see the value of belonging to the Australian Alpaca Association and having access to all of the beneficial resources on offer. The magazine, the website, husbandry notes, the fantastic pedigree database, regional association membership, the show system and the opportunity to network and socialize with other new and experienced breeders.

The club provides somewhere to play. But it is not necessary to own your own farm to play alpacas. Agistment offers an opportunity to build a herd on someone else's land. This may be a temporary or permanent approach. The real benefit for beginners is that it allows you to dip your toe in the water and learn as you go. Rather than jumping in at the deep end, not knowing if you will sink or swim. Agistment is an opportunity to be involved in the maintenance of your animals, the breeding decisions, shearing and training your alpacas for shows. All this without having to invest in expensive infrastructure and property if you don't want to. We have helped many new breeders make a start through agistment.

Take some lessons. Some regional associations occasionally run new breeder workshops. A few breeders occasionally run workshops and seminars although it may be difficult to find something in your area, when you want it. When we started we attended a weekend at Benleigh Alpacas with Carolyn and Alan Jinks. As new people to alpacas, this experience gave us the encouragement needed to tackle

some of the husbandry tasks that were new to us, with confidence.

On our farm we have been running residential workshops for new breeders for 6 years. In that time people have attended from all over Australia, and several overseas countries. These weekends are our opportunity to contribute to the growing industry by encouraging new people to join in with confidence. Our workshops have been developed to answer all of the questions new people ask. They are an overview of the industry, its prospects and future directions. They are a good combination of classroom learning and practical sessions with the animals in the shed. The program covers mating selection, confirmation of pregnancies, the birthing process, alpaca nutrition and husbandry. Tools and equipment needed on an alpaca farm, record keeping, showing, sales and marketing, farm and business planning. A more comprehensive programme is outlined on the website at www.flowerdalealpacas.net.

Practice, practice, practice. Once you have taken the golf lessons the only way you will improve your swing is to practice. It's the same with alpacas. Find a generous alpaca breeder willing to take you under their wing and try to make yourself useful. Encourage them to invite you to shearing and husbandry sessions at vaccination and toenail trimming time. Be a willing worker and practice the skills under guided instruction.

Agisting your alpacas with an experienced breeder, for a while, also gives you an opportunity to practice your skills and learn as you go, alongside a mentor.



New breeders, Helen and David Kennett, in love with their first purchase, Emerald.

From keen golfer to keen alpaca breeder.

David Kennett, a keen golfer, and his wife Helen have been alpaca breeders for less than a year. Only 12 months ago they both had logistics management jobs, in Melbourne, with large companies. They lived on one acre on the Mornington Peninsula.

They say, "We were looking to plan a future in which our work (the reason to get out of bed) could be much more about lifestyle and interests rather than simply earning money. More than six decades of office bound work, between us, seemed like enough."

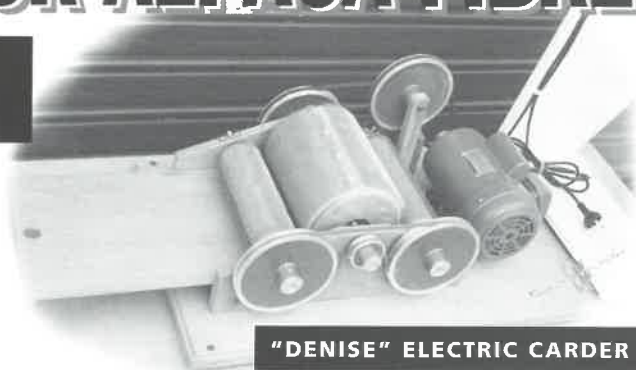
"Amongst other things we wanted to live in the country, have some land we could improve/rejuvenate and animals.

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Helen learning "alpacaspeak" from her first cria

But not sheep or cattle. We looked seriously at organic, free-range pigs. However, a birth to death cycle of much less than a year did not appeal. Also, the workload was endlessly timetable bound, from conception through birth, to weaning and death."

They say, actually alpacas seemed to find them rather than the other way round.

Helen and David discovered alpacas through a chance meeting on the Mornington Peninsula at the Red Hill Gallery. The owners owned and loved alpacas and they talked enthusiastically and passionately about them. So they decided to find out more. A weekend workshop at Flowerdale Estate gave them a lot of the information needed to help decide alpacas were for them. Helen says, "The passion we experienced at Red Hill was endlessly repeated at Flowerdale and when we talked with alpaca breeders at the Royal Melbourne Show. What really struck us was the enthusiasm with which everyone talked about alpaca and the generosity of breeders in answering our endless questions. This seemed to be an industry that welcomed and really helped new comers. We were impressed."

As part of their learning process Helen and David

participated in shearing at Flowerdale. This allowed them to

to get involved with vaccinations, toenail clipping, fleece classing and shearing. They have also started learning about farming (with help from TAFE) – fencing, trough irrigation, farm setup, soil and pasture improvement and learning to drive a tractor.

Helen says, "In the next six months our new farm and alpaca stud, Strath Lorien, in the Strathbogie Ranges will be up and running. Fencing, shedding, a bore, water troughs and fencing will be in place. Our animals will move from being agisted at Flowerdale Estate to living at Strath Lorien. And that is just the beginning!"

David and Helen now say, "We now have 6 alpacas, 3 of which are pregnant and we expect to spend at least the next 20 years developing and growing our herd. Our logistics jobs are now but a memory (hooray!)."

David says he is enjoying alpaca farming so much, he doubts if there will be an improvement in his golf handicap anytime soon.

Jeffrey and Carol Farman run over 400 alpacas on their farm, Flowerdale Estate. The 150 acre property, managed by Haydn Farman, is 70km north of Melbourne. Their website www.alpacas is a wonderful resource for new breeders.

Your ALPACA Baby:

The Two Personality Types and How to Raise 'em Up

by Marty McGee Bennett

It has been said that there are three kinds of people in the world....

"Those who make things happen,

Those who watch what happens,

And those who wonder what happened."



At the risk of oversimplification there are only two kinds of alpaca babies. Type A babies that for one reason or another can't get enough of human beings and the rest of them—type B.

A type A baby may pop right out of the uterus as a fearless little imp or he can be created by circumstances such as medical intervention, bottle-feeding or very early over-handling of an inappropriate nature. Regardless of how a type A baby originates he must learn respect for human



beings, boundaries, and to view human beings as leaders not playthings, peers, or mommies.

The second type of baby type B, is shy but curious, interested in humans but not overly so. A type B baby must learn to have confidence. These babies need to know that human beings are safe to be around and that we two leggeds can be trusted to behave responsibly. Type B babies are by far in the majority. I would guess that for every type A baby there are fifty or more type B babies.

Ironically, with only a few differences the same handling techniques are appropriate for both types of babies. Treat baby alpacas respectfully and EXPECT the same in return and it is easy to raise a baby of either type that is both confident and well mannered.

This baby is most definately not standing in balance!

Type A Babies

We use physics to describe the way the world works.



the back with the neck low -the submissive crouch. Often these behaviors are misinterpreted as love and affection. Far from it, these behaviors are the very beginnings of what will often become controlling, disrespectful and possibly aggressive behavior.

As a type A baby matures his conduct is made more problematic because of his increasing size. The behaviors also are likely to intensify. Encourage a baby alpaca to race up to you from across the pasture, follow you around for food treats, or wrestle playfully with you and there is no reason to expect that these behaviors will magically disappear as your "friendly" young alpaca reaches 150 pounds. Running up can become charging, nibbling can become biting, and rubbing can become chest butting. What used to be a gentle nuzzling for food treats becomes something more like a police search. What used to be adorable becomes annoying if not dangerous.

Type A babies are in to everything. Any new item in their surroundings must be examined. They have an intense desire to control their environment. Type A's that are born that way often grow up to be the female herd leaders or dominant males. While it is fine for type A's to be the leaders of the herd it is important



What goes up must come down.

For every action there must be an equal and opposite reaction.

I invented the word Camelidynamics to describe the way that the world works when it comes to alpacas and llamas.

Law of Camelidynamics:

Behaviors you encourage in a young alpaca will persist and become more pronounced as he grows up.

Type A babies are intensely interested in humans. They follow humans around, sniff, nibble and pull on clothing or rub their necks and heads on a human. They almost always display a preoccupation with feet sniffing and nibbling shoes. They will often run over to humans with the tail over

for them to view humans as something else altogether. Humans lead the dance; we are in charge of the barn and make the decisions. I don't believe that we must behave in a dominant fashion in order to be respected, but we must be very clear about boundaries and discourage disrespectful behavior. Disrespectful conduct is much easier to alter when it first occurs. Ignoring the behavior will not work.

Barn Deportment around type A babies

Be aware of your personal space. We can touch babies, we can share a mutual nose sniff but babies should not touch us. This simple rule can save you a lot of heartache. A baby that touches you is corrected. A flick with a finger on the nose and a firm "Stay Back" is usually enough. Babies that don't pay attention to a finger correction can be corrected humanely with a firm bip on the nose with a Frisbee. The correction outlines the edge of the your personal space and



pen. As much as you would like to, do not snuggle or fondle the baby while feeding him. Wait until a more appropriate less confusing time to touch him. It is highly advisable to distance the human from the bottle in some way. Stretch a blanket along a fence, stick your arm through a hole in the blanket and stay on the other side of the fence from the baby. This prevents the baby from learning undesirable behaviors such as nibbling on your clothes and keeps your behavior in check too.

Handling/Training type A babies



Some people advise leaving all babies, particularly the “pushy” ones, alone until they are weaned. I think just the opposite is a safer course of action. It is important to get type A’s in a catch pen ASAP and demonstrate your leadership (more later on what exactly to do in the catch pen). Don’t be surprised when type A’s go crazy when you confine them. Type A’s want to control things and they are afraid when they can’t leave the scene whenever they want to. Getting your type A comfortable with confinement is a key to his training.

Barn Department around Type B Babies

is a not a punishment. Think of the contact as defining your force field. The nose meets the Frisbee at the edge of your personal space with enough oomph to startle the baby but not to enough to hurt him. On the other hand it is important to make your point. Use the Frisbee too tentatively and it will only become a game.

It is a good idea to wait as long as possible to wean a naturally occurring type A baby. A Type A baby often becomes impertinent with other members of the herd as he gets older. Herd females will jump right in this youngsters business and put him in his proper place. Wean him to a peer group too soon and a type A will never get the benefit of learning from his elders.

When you must bottle raise a young alpaca leave him in the barn with the herd. Minimize time spent feeding him and any other unstructured time –that is time not in the catch

When an alpaca baby is born there is no reason he should be any more frightened of you than is another herd member or a fence post. In fact most people notice that young alpaca babies will allow a human to approach and touch them with little fear. What happens in those first days of life to make baby alpacas change their minds about humans?

The handler is overwhelming this baby, handled this way the baby can’t think and will only learn to fight handling.

Law of Camelidynamics

Do things that your alpacas find frightening and they will become frightened of you! Corollary: When alpacas are frightened of something they avoid it.

The neighbor comes over and wants to see the new baby. At few days of age it is easy to chase him down or sneak up and grab him real quick to show him off. Every time we weigh the



1. **Carolyn Austin**, Lillyfield Alpacas, NSW "Summer at Lillyfield 2008"

2. **Denise Durrant**, Alcatraz Alpacas, WA "In my Work Safe coat already."

3. **Des Johnson**, Hinchliffe Alpaca Farm, QLD "How come you are so much bigger than me?"

4. **Wynne and Brian Eldridge** "Kissing Cousins"



1. Wynne and Brian Eldridge
"He always likes a kiss first"

2. Lesley & Alan Maxwell, Kurralea
Alpacas, NSW
"Hey Mum, look what I found"

3. Deborah Price, Beveridge Alpacas, VIC
just follow me, this is how you do it!

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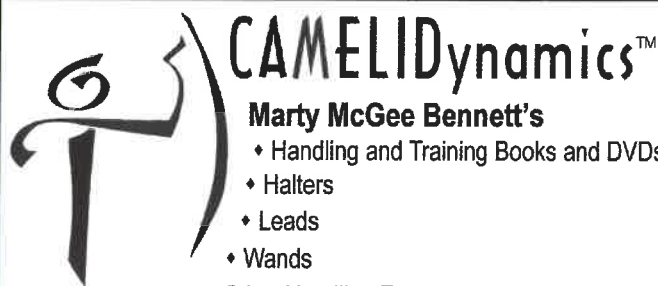
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- 21 -22 COLOURBRATION SHOW - VIC Venue: Bendigo Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Deb Patti 03 5423 2020
- 27 - 29 GOLD COAST SHOW - QLD Venue: Parklands Showground Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Michelle Malt 02 6665 3324

September

- 4 - 5 TOTALLY ALPACA FIELD DAYS - NSW Venue: Goulburn Showground Highlights: Animal displays, sale & new breeders seminar
Contact: Jim Styles 02 4829 2356
- 11 KYNETON DAFFODIL FIESTA - VIC Venue: Kyneton Highlights: Fleece show
Contact: Ken Haines 03 5422 3088
- 12 CHARLES LEDGER SHOW - NSW Venue: Moss Vale Showground Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Heather & Phillip Vickery 02 4930 7873
- 25 - 26 ALPACA EXPO - NSW Venue: Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Graeme Dickson 02 4576 5048
- 25 - 27 ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW - VIC Venue: Royal Melbourne Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Russell Dawe 0419 308 466
- 25 – 2 Oct ROYAL PERTH SWOW - WA Venue: Claremont Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Natasha James 0427 292 691

October

- 1 - 2 BURNIE SHOW - TAS Venue: Wivenhoe Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Carl Cronshaw 03 6362 2107
- 2 SEYMOUR SHOW - VIC Venue: King's Park, Seymour Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Rod & Ann Sales 03 5433 3789
- 4 STRATHALBYN SHOW - SA Venue: Strathalbyn Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Jan Bentley 08 8556 0256
- 7 - 9 ROYAL LAUNCESTON SHOW - TAS Venue: Inveresk Rail Yards, Launceston Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Lyn Koitka 03 6363 1369
- 8 – 10 NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ALPACA EXPO - NZ Venue: Christchurch
Contact: www.alpacaexpo.co.nz

- 9 WANGARATTA SHOW - VIC Venue: Wangaratta Oval Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Peter Harris 03 5765 2396
- 9 SUNBURY SHOW - VIC Venue: Sunbury Showground Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Jenny Errey 03 9457 5735
- 14 - 17 17th AAA LTD. NATIONAL SHOW & SALE - NSW Venue: Australian Equine & Livestock Events Centre,
Tamworth Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging, Alpaca craft, art & photography competitions, Alpaca
auction 17 October
Contact: AAA Ltd. National Office 03 9873 7700
- 16 CLARE SHOW - SA Venue: Clare Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Tracey Earl 08 8847 2017
- 17 LANCEFIELD SHOW - VIC Venue: Lancefield Showground Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Jenny Errey 03 9457 5735
- 19 - 21 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAYS – NSW Venue: Borenore via Orange Highlights: Fleece judging,
promotional display
Contact: John Lawrie 02 6846 7292 or Kate Bailey 02 6887 1233
- 23 BENDIGO SHOW - VIC Venue: Bendigo Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Vicki Hilder 03 5429 1803
- 30 SALE SHOW - VIC Venue: Sale Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Bob McLeod 03 5629 1140
- 31 WARRNAMBOOL SHOW - VIC Venue: Warrnambool Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Andrew McCosh 03 5565 9413

November

- 5 COLAC SHOW - VIC Venue: Colac Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Chris Bayley 03 5264 1739
- 12 - 13 ALBANY SHOW - WA Venue: Albany Showground Highlights: Fleece judging 11/11; Alpaca judging
12/11
Contact: Greg Smith 08 9845 2454
- 13 ALEXANDRA SHOW - VIC Venue: Alexandra Showground Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Bob McLeod 03 5629 1140
- 13 HUON SHOW - TAS Venue: Ranelagh Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Mark Jessop 03 6266 4380



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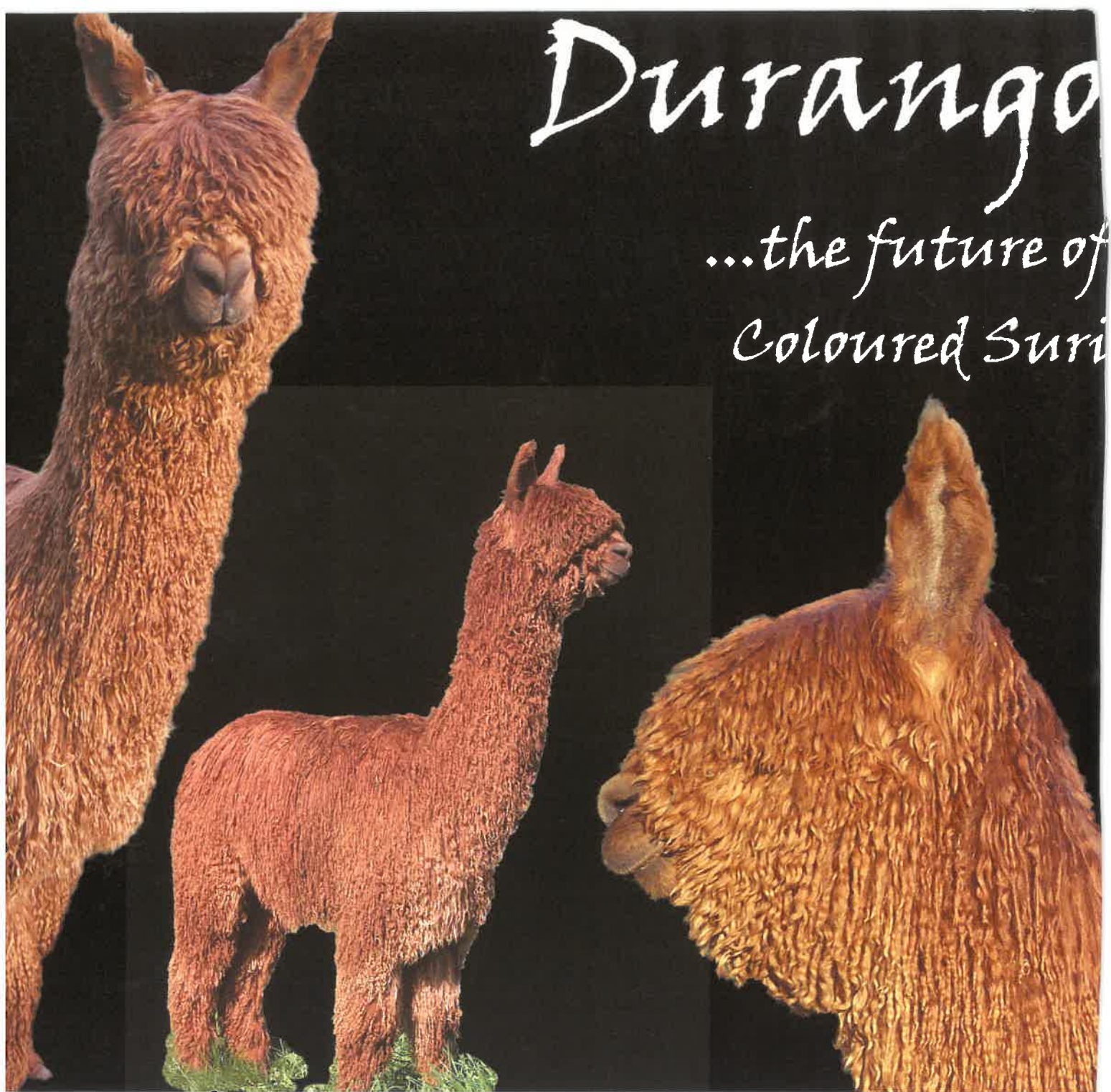
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