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Medium Fawn, Silver Grey, Rose Grey

Top selling lot 'Coliban Valley Tabatha' at Dalgety's
'Alpaca Classic' Auction 1991.

New herd of white and light fawn Suri Alpacas arriving in Australia October 1992.

TOP: Coliban Valley Matilda
A fine example of Umberto's progeny.

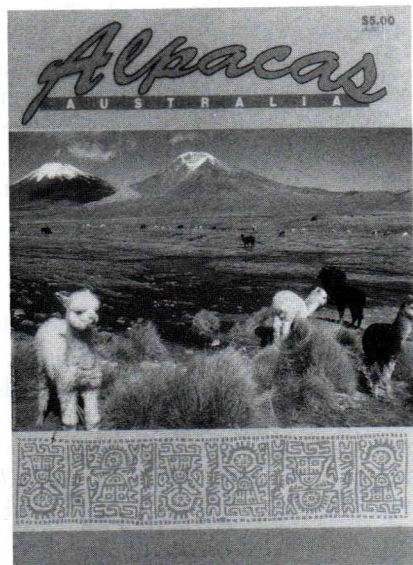
ABOVE: Coliban Valley Umberto.

COLIBAN VALLEY ALPACA STUD

**RMB 4820 BACK GLENLYON RD.,
GLENLYON VIC 3461**

PH: (053) 48 7744 FAX: (053) 48 7754





Cover: AQIS Principal Veterinary Officer, Dr Hugh Millar, took this delightful photograph near Caquena on the Chilean Altiplano (about 15,000' altitude).

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Mark these dates on your calendar.

Across the Editor's Desk

Industry gains momentum

The momentum created within the industry by new alpaca breeders becoming established is clearly evident.

The formation of regions within the body of the national Alpaca Association of Australia will help breeders in every regard.

Networking with people in your region is a great way to exchange relevant information on everything from soil deficiencies in specific areas to sharing of breeding males, shearers, vets, feed, etc.

A good example of this co-operative effort in getting together for a promotion is the newly formed Geelong region.

Its members' efforts made the Geelong show the largest alpaca judging show the industry has seen to date. There were more entries than the Royals in either Melbourne or Sydney. (See page 42.)

We can see the same principle at work in the article on the Alpacafest held in the United States. (See page 17.)

Their use of network marketing and promotion is inspirational - breeders



Alpacas Australia editor Cherie Bridges ... and friends.

working together to create a larger bank of buyers so everyone wins.

□□□

If you enjoy watching your cria play, or your favourite alpaca having a dip in the dam or water trough, don't just stand there - take a photo. We're looking for alpaca pictures for the magazine.

We are offering \$150 and a credit (mention of your name and that of your stud) for any photo selected for the front cover and \$50 and a credit for photos used inside the magazine.

The photos can be serious or funny

- but they must feature at least one alpaca.

Mark each photo clearly with your name and address and forward them to me at 'Lyonbank', Back Glenlyon Rd, Glenlyon 3461. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want the photos returned.

□□□

This year our Alpaca Seminar will held in the lovely, gracious old buildings of Roseworthy College near Adelaide.

South Australia is another AAA region which is up and running. Its members are working hard to push the alpaca industry forward.

The 1992 seminar was sold out, so get in early with your bookings for the 1993 event to make sure of your place.

□□□

The highlight of the alpaca year will be the inaugural Australian Alpaca Association National Show and Sale. Save your best animals for this one! The details are on page 6.

I hope both you and your animals flourish throughout 1993.

Cherie Bridges

**Cherie Bridges
Editor**

Alpacas
AUSTRALIA

Volume 1, No. 4

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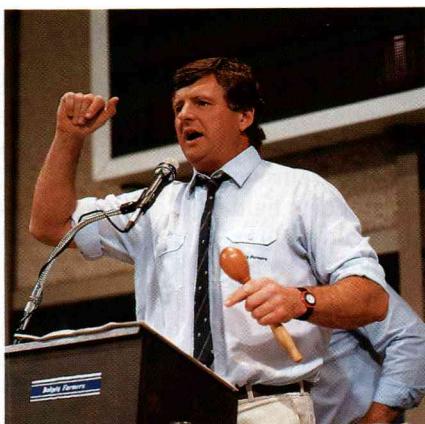
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Andrew Sloan puts the case for selling your alpacas at auction.

Andrew Sloan is a stud stock auctioneer with Dalgety Farmers in Melbourne

Why auction your alpacas?

The Second Dalgety Alpaca Classic, held in early November, was again a resounding success. For a sale that was nearly cancelled through lack of numbers, the prices paid on the day were certainly greater than those on offer in current private sales.

I have been involved in marketing stud stock particularly cattle and sheep, for more than 20 years, and I believe breeders of quality alpacas can enhance their marketing through the auction system.

So, why weren't the numbers forthcoming for the Classic?

I believe there were two factors:

- There were alpacas promised for this sale which were sold beforehand, some at prices well below what they could have reached at auction.

- Breeders are reluctant to accept the costs associated with running a sale of this nature. Once again, these costs were more than compensated for in the auction prices.

The Sydney Royal Show stud cattle auction provides a good example of an auction at work. It has traditionally

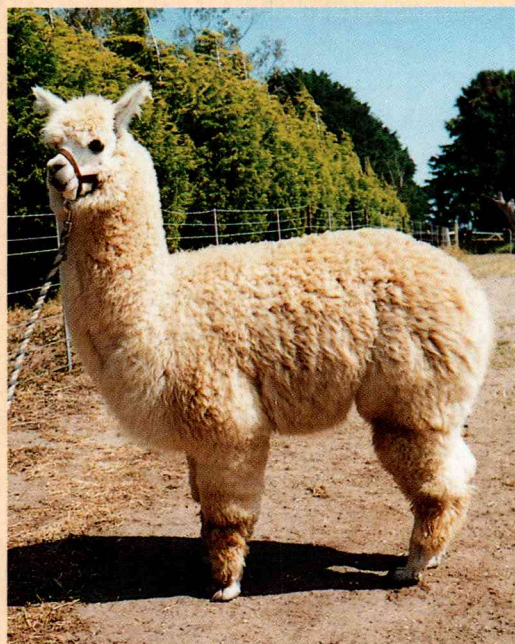
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Buyers and sellers with the top priced female, Aymara Lucy: Lindsay Maddison, Kay and Brian Gursansky (the buyers), Marce Maddison and Bronwyn and Wilson Beer.

been the best venue at which to sell top Hereford bulls.

These bulls are selected by the owner well in advance, entered in the sale and kept for it. Each bull is then promoted through various shows and on-property field days and the like as the stud's entry or entries into the Sydney Show Sale.

The bulls are usually sold at the sale for much higher prices than could be achieved privately.

Resist temptation

I believe the same theory should be applied to the Alpaca Classic.

You should select your top alpaca or alpacas and promote them throughout the year as your Classic entries. You should resist the temptation to sell them beforehand.

There is top money available for top alpacas and if they are sold at a top venue, the premium will be paid every time.

A 'classic' example of the auction system working was the top-priced lot at the 1991 sale. A female with cria at foot was sold for \$30,000. The cria returned to the 1992 Classic and was sold as an unjoined female for \$31,000.

Not a bad return in 12 months!

Get ready now for the 1993 Alpaca Classic auction and show

This year the Dalgety Classic auction will be an Australian Alpaca Association event and will be expanded to include a one-day alpaca judging show.

The two-day event, on November 6 and 7, will be held at Dalgety's superb Oaklands Junction Complex, a few minutes drive from the Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne.

There is also to be a gala dinner at a venue yet to be announced.

For breeders who previously have been put off showing their alpacas because of the long periods of time they are required to be penned, this event will be particularly attractive.

Alpacas can be brought in for judging and taken home on the same day or can be housed over the night before and/or after in comfortable and

secure stabling at the complex.

The judging will take place in the complex's huge auditorium, which has a capacity of about 700 people. The raised platform will be extended for the event and the comfortable tiered seating and lighting will give everyone an excellent view of the judging.

The judge will be selected from those who successfully complete the judging school to be run by the association in February.

The association suggests you plan well ahead for this event in terms of shearing, halter training and grooming your animals for both the judging and the auction.

We want to establish this as the premier annual national alpaca event.

Support your industry by your at-

tendance, bidding and entries of top quality stock.

The association will be arranging strong media coverage before and during the event so it's an excellent opportunity to strengthen and expand the industry.

Dalgety's will donate 1% of all sales back to the association.

Interstate and overseas travellers should note that Dalgety's will have an attractive package rate organised at the Melbourne Airport Travelodge hotel. The 1992 rate was \$99 a night B&B. The standard rate was \$175 B&B.

Association members will receive entry forms for the show closer to the event. If you want more information about entering animals for the auction, contact Andrew Sloan at Dalgety Farmers on (03) 616 6700.

Alpaca Classic 1992 results

8 mated females to \$27,500, averaged \$22,812

5 open females to \$31,000, averaged \$23,400

4 weanling pairs to \$35,000, averaged \$26,000

3 males to \$37,000, averaged \$24,166

Sale gross: \$476,000

20 head to \$37,000, averaged \$23,800

- Top priced male (\$37,000): Aztec Gold from Suricaya Stud, Tocumwal, NSW; sold to Pengelly Alpacas, Kyneton, Victoria.

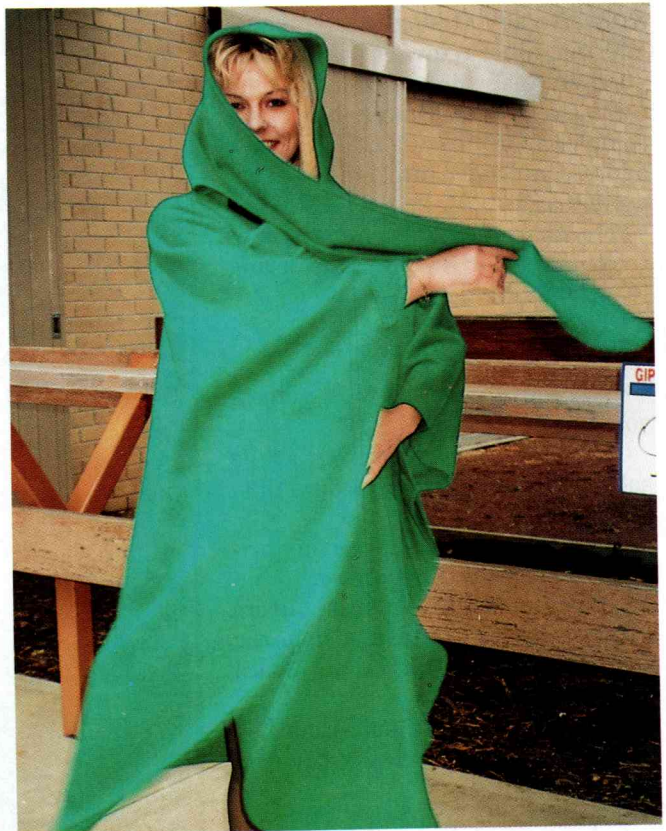
- Top priced female (\$31,000): Aymara Lucy, from Aymara Stud, Echuca, Victoria; sold to B & K Gursansky, South Australia.

- Top priced weanling pair (\$35,000): From Benleigh Stud, Geelong; sold to Windsong Valley, WA.

To market and promote your stock adequately through the auction system does require some cost and input from you, the breeders.

This includes a full-colour catalogue, colour brochures,

RIGHT: Alpaca magic - one of the garments modelled at the 1992 Classic.



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extensive advertising in this magazine and other relevant publications - both in Australia and overseas, and commission (which covers hire of the complex, pen hire, cleaning, public address and video hire, bid board operation and staff).

Your guarantee of payment makes these costs worthwhile, considering the premium prices.

Other advantages

- It is your shop window to promote your stud.

The greater media coverage at the sale allows far greater exposure than selling in the paddock.

- It can set the prices for any private sale stock you may have.

- It attracts many potential buyers to the sale which, in turn, widens the scope for further growth in the alpaca industry.

- Buyers can be confident that they are buying alpacas covered by the usual guarantees.

- Guaranteed payment for what you sell is only available through the auction system.

I believe breeders should look upon the Classic - **their** auction with the foresight needed to entrench the sale as a powerful marketing and promotional tool for years to come.

Remember, one day these animals may not be as easy to sell as they are with the current short supply and now is the time to plan for the future.



Bill Barnett, who owns alpacas in the United States, regularly deposited cheques into his account from the sale of alpaca weanling pairs. His bank manager frequently said he would love to take a look at the little critters which were bringing Bill so much income, so Bill finally took him at his word and - with the help of a friend and a photographer - took the animals to the bank. Needless to say the animals were a hit with all the staff, including the manager who says he now understands their appeal.

Invest in Quality

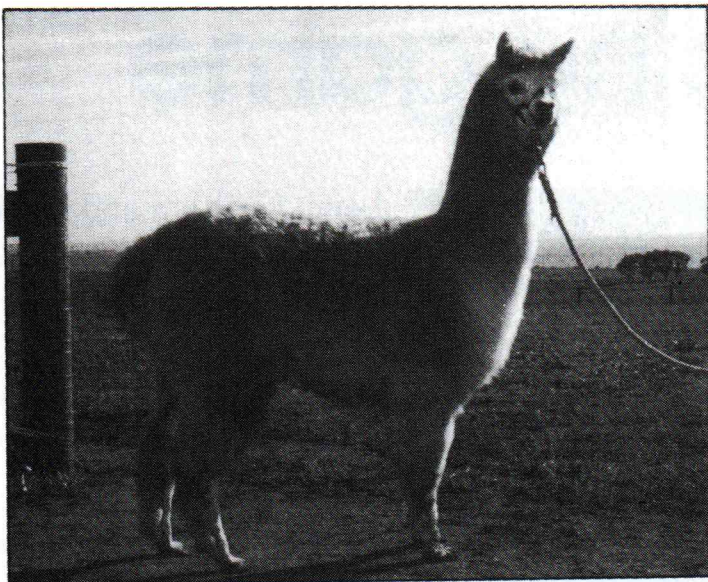
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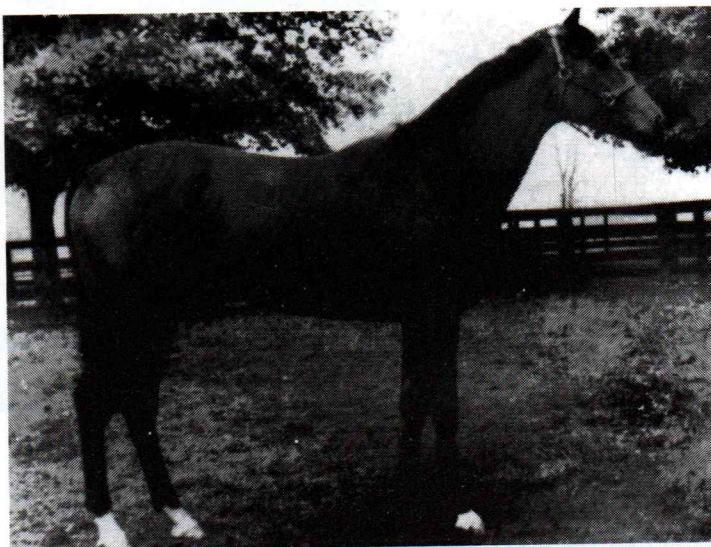
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The mating game



Leigh Coghlan and Denis Ryan look at the special 'quirks' associated with alpacas and their reproductive systems.

LEFT: The male makes a warbling sound as he mounts the female, trying to make her sit.

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white
male
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Alpacas are striking for their "different" appearance and behaviour - similarly they are different to most animals in their reproductive anatomy and behaviour.

The male's penis is housed in a prepuce which, when relaxed, opens to the rear. When the male is sexually aroused, the prepuce faces forward due to muscular contraction.

In young males up to about two years old - though this can vary - the penis is attached to the inside of the prepuce.

These adhesions break down as the male reaches sexual maturity to allow the penis to be protruded for reproduction.

The testicles are closely attached to the body in the scrotum, not pendulous as in many farm animals.

The anatomy of the female's reproductive tract is similar to most other common animals - an external vulva leading into a vagina, with the cervix opening into the uterus.

The cervix is a very narrow and tortuous passage.

The uterus consists of a body and two horns with an ovary at the tip of each horn.

The vast majority of pregnancies are carried in the uterus's left horn.

Mating behaviour

When a sexually aroused mature male is introduced to a female, he will try to mount the female and force her to sit in sternal recumbency.

If the female is not pregnant, she will submit to the male and sit.

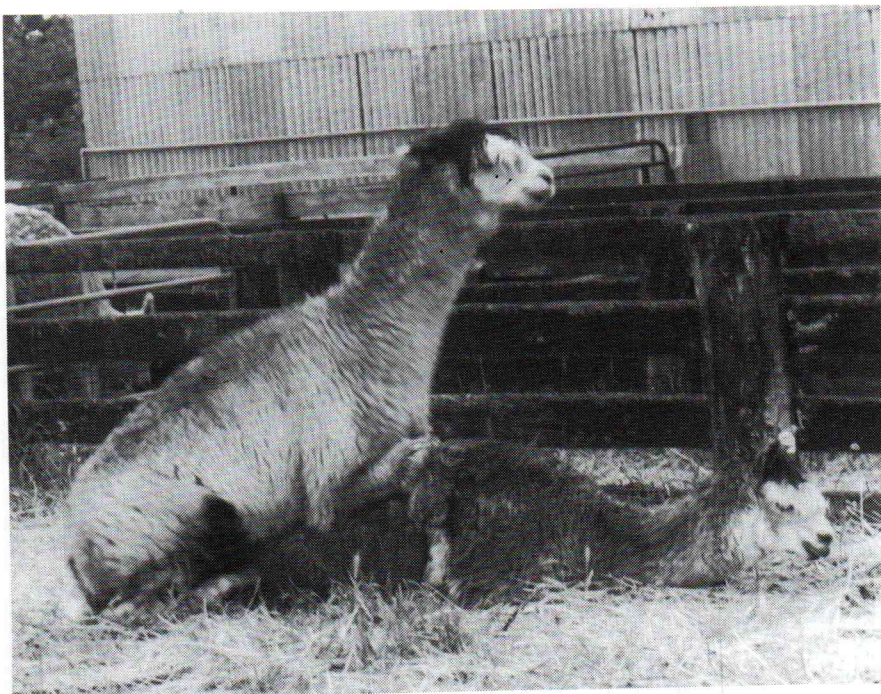
The male sits behind the female, resting on her back. He manoeuvres his body and seeks with his penis until it enters the female's vulva and vagina. Ejaculation then occurs - and may last up to an hour.

Mating can occur more than once during the day.

Semen quality is of uniform composition throughout ejaculation.

If the female is pregnant, or not receptive for other reasons, she will spit at the male and move away until the male tires.

On rare occasions a very dominant male will force a submissive pregnant female to mate.



The female has sat down and the male is still trying to enter. Note that the male's haunches and front legs are too far back.

Females may be sexually mature from the age of six months, depending on their rate of growth, however, it is not advisable to mate them until at least 12 months of age or 40 kilograms weight.

They do not normally show external signs of being ready to mate, other than association with other mating pairs or staying close to fence line of paddocks housing males.

Unmated females do not show cyclic activity but have long periods when

they are receptive to the male.

Ovulation, or release of the egg from the ovary, follows stimulation of the cervix during mating. Ovulation may require repeated breeding over three or more days.

If the mating does not result in an ovulation or pregnancy, the female will again be receptive to the male in seven days and should be rebred.

If she is not receptive at this time, she should be tested for receptivity to the male at 14 days. If she is receptive, she is assumed to be non-pregnant. If she will not accept the male, she is assumed to be pregnant.

Pregnancy diagnosis

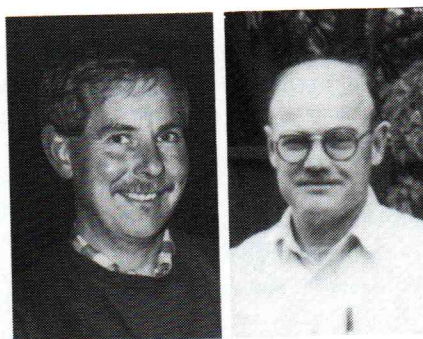
No single method used on its own is completely accurate. There are a number of methods of determining the status of the pregnancy.

1. Rejection of the male or 'spitting off' by the female.

The male is introduced to the female and if she is not pregnant, she should submit to the male and allow mating. This method may be inaccurate, due to a dominant male forcing a mating, or a dominant female rejecting the male.

2. Progesterone assay.

This is a blood test which measures



Leigh Coghlan and Denis Ryan run a veterinary hospital at Kyneton, Victoria. They have been dealing with alpacas and llamas since 1989 and are consulting vets to more than 500 alpacas and llamas in the area.

the level of progesterone in the female's bloodstream. The blood sample is best taken about 21 days after the last mating.

With these two methods there can be false positive diagnoses due to the formation of a persistent corpus

luteum on one of the ovaries. This structure produces progesterone levels which are consistent with those in the pregnant state.

This makes the female behave as though she is pregnant and gives a false blood result.



3. Ultrasound examination.

This is very accurate and allows the developing foetus to be visualised using ultrasonic waves. This is best performed about 40 days or more after the last mating.

4. Abdominal palpation.

This is performed by applying pressure to the female's abdominal cavity and feeling for parts of the foetus. It's highly accurate but can only be performed late in pregnancy - from about seven months on.

Regardless of what method of diagnosis is used, if it is performed early in pregnancy it should be confirmed later because of the possibility of early embryonic loss.

This may occur as a result of the improper implantation of the embryo into the uterus wall, poor nutrition of the female, infection of the uterus,

LEFT: The male is now correctly positioned. His front legs are over the female's haunches and his back legs over hers.

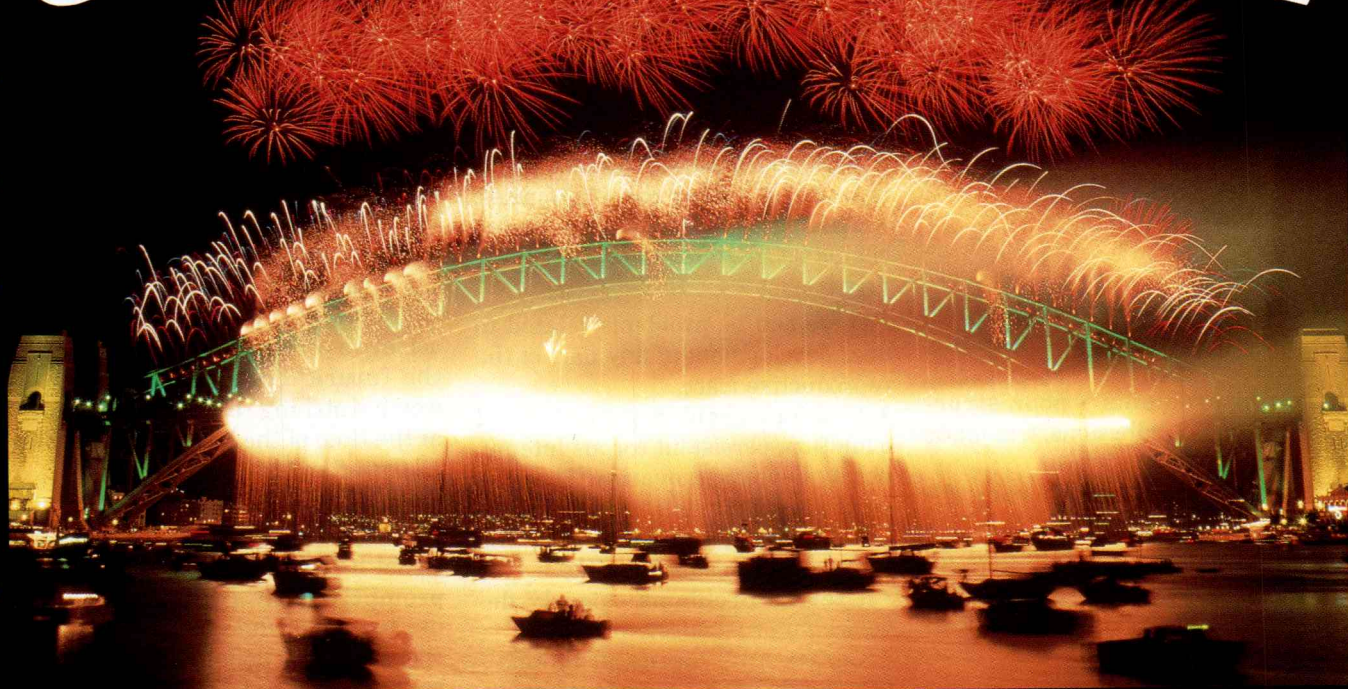
How to be a successful matchmaker

- If the female to be bred is carrying a lot of wool, trimming the wool around the tail or wrapping it in a bandage just before mating will help the male to penetrate.
- Always check to see that penetration has occurred. Males can appear to have a prolonged mating without entering the female.
- A **small** amount of blood appearing at the female's vagina after mating is not unusual and generally not a cause for concern.
- Young males can be encouraged to work with the presence of another male, provided the second male is not aggressive toward them.
- A tape recording of a mating male is an effective way of stimulating a male to work.
- Breeders vary in their methods, the most effective we have found is pen-mating under supervision. Mate the same female and male two consecutive days at about the same time of day (i.e. about 24 hours apart). Re-present them in seven days - if the female accepts, repeat the process. If she rejects the male, re-present in another seven days. If she rejects the male again, we then do one more 'spit off' about two weeks later and ultrasound test 40 or more days after the last breeding. It is advisable to re-present a month or so after scanning to check that all is going well.
- A 'spit off' generally doesn't take very long. As soon as the male tries to mate the female will tell him what's going on. If she is adamant, we let her straight out. Don't keep them penned together; it can stress her and turn him a nasty shade of green.
- If you use outside breeding services, a vasectomised male is very useful to have on your farm to keep checking that your females are maintaining their pregnancies. Lost time is lost money.
- Maidens can be reluctant, even panicky, at first matings. We bring them in for a few weeks with the other breeding females to watch what goes on. If a maiden won't sit for the male, but isn't panicking, have one person stand each side of her and fold a front leg to encourage her to sit. Once the male is on her, she will generally stay down. If she is upset, squeals or tries to take flight, don't push it. Leave her for a few weeks and try again. She will know when she is ready.
- If a female lies on her side during the mating, keep a close eye on her breathing. If it appears difficult, interrupt the mating and sit her back up.
- If a female comes and sits close to a mating pair, it's a sure sign that she is receptive.

- Cherie Bridges, Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud

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twin ovulation, implantation in the right horn, hormonal imbalance or stress.

Obviously a variety of factors may cause this early embryonic loss and it may occur in up to 40% of pregnancies, so it is as well to be aware of it, particularly if a female has tested positive early in the pregnancy.

Reproductive problems

Males:

- Poor semen quality due to poor testicular development which may be inherited, due to heat or drug induced.
- Penile problems - poor structure, persistent adhesions, traumatic conditions.
- Prepuce problems - wrong direction, narrow opening.
- Behavioural - intimidated by aggressive females or nearby males.
- Lameness interfering with mating capability.
- Old age.

If there is any difficulty with the birth, it is worthwhile getting professional help.

- Fighting trauma - males fighting with each other, causing injuries.
- Heat stress - working males should be shorn regularly.

Females:

There can be problems related to poor development of any part of the reproductive tract.

- Ovarian problems - failure of ovulation, persistent corpus luteum, poorly developed ovaries. This can sometimes be remedied with the use of luteinising hormone releasing drugs or luteinising hormone.
- Uterine problems - poorly developed uterus, infection.
- Cervix and vagina problems - poor development, persistent hymen.

- Trauma to any part of the reproductive tract from injury or following a difficult birth.

- Pregnancies in the right uterine horn or twin pregnancies are generally aborted or are one of the causes of early embryonic loss.

Possibly the most common problem is the development of infection in the uterus following pregnancy. This may be the result of a difficult birth or retention of some afterbirth.

Whatever the cause, it can create an immense problem trying to achieve a pregnancy in that female in the future. For this reason, it is worth watching the female carefully at the time of the birth. Be sure that all the afterbirth is passed.

If there is any difficulty with the birth, it is worthwhile getting professional help. If infections are treated promptly with antibiotics and a uterine flush while the cervix is still open they will usually clear and the animal can then be rebred.

A touch of heaven in the Yarra Valley



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- ☐ Outstanding stud males available.

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a pretty face."*

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Developing industries show their style in SA

A one-day seminar in South Australia aimed to expose developing industries - including alpaca breeders - to the marketplace and market forces such as the media, restaurants, garment manufacturers and designers, exporters, importers and processors. Chris Tuckwell reports.

Chris Tuckwell is the livestock officer for developing industries with the South Australian Department of Primary Industries.

The 'Gourmet and Fashion 2002' seminar, held at the Stonyfell winery complex in late October, was a huge success.

Some 200 people attended and the event attracted extensive local and national media coverage and follow-up trade inquiries.

It provided plenty of opportunities for producers to meet with consumers and retailers. Many took advantage of the chance to initiate trade agreements on new products and to discuss their industry's potential.

The industries involved in the seminar supplied raw food products for the event and garments for the fashion parade.

A gourmet meal was a highlight of the day. Diners tasted new venison, emu, kangaroo, camel and buffalo meat products, along with sheep and goat dairy delights.

SA oysters and yabbies provided the aquatic delicacies. The meal was accompanied by a range of donated wine and beers.

The fashion parade, organised by

Phyl Skinner, provided an exciting taste of what is possible with exotic fibres. The range of garments and accessories kept the audience keenly focused.

The alpaca fibre garments attracted considerable attention and praise for their range of colours, soft feel and relative light weight.

The seminar was opened by Ron Flavel, general manager of the SA Small Business Corporation, and the state Minister for Primary Industries, Terry Groom, welcomed the participants.

Cherie Bridges gave the alpaca industry address, providing a general history of alpacas and their presence in Australia. She spoke about the potential for the industry and fibre market, including the Alpaca Association's hopes for the future.

Alpaca Association representatives on the organising committee were Margaret DeZwart, Trudi and Keith Barnett and Lyn Shepherd. They put considerable commitment and time into the project - and organising the association's static display.

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The seminar had been promoted at the Hospitality Olympics, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre during August; leaflets were distributed in 'Open House', a fashion magazine, and through industry groups; and there were several promotional interviews on radio. Other promotions were arranged direct with industry representatives.

Ron Tomlian and David Rayner from the Electricity Trust of SA (ETSA) provided valuable assistance in planning and promoting the seminar. ETSA was a major sponsor of the event.

A radio report on 'Radio Australia' reached Hong Kong. The Australian Trade Commissioner there wrote and asked for information about the seminar.

There were several follow-up inquiries on sources of alpaca and alpaca fibre which were referred on to the Alpaca Association.

The seminar ran at a profit (there was a \$45 a head charge) and the use of the surplus funds is to be voted on by the seminar committee members.

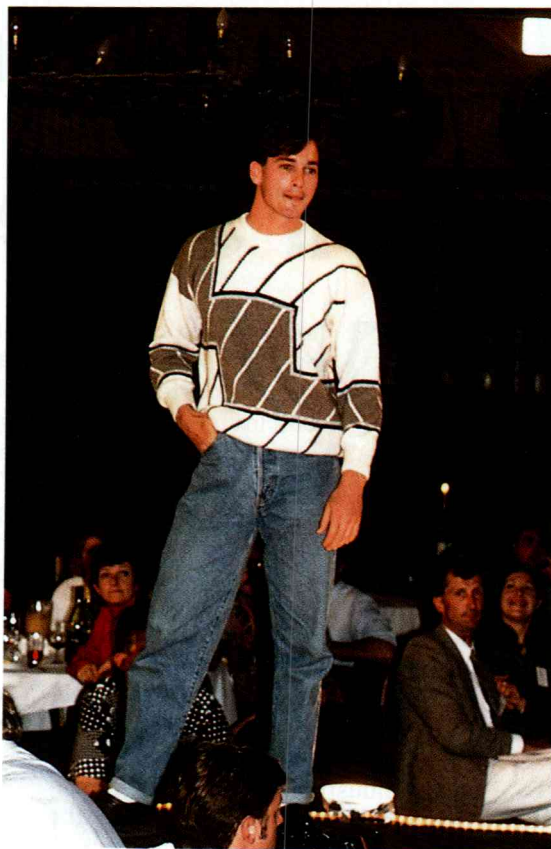
The feedback after the seminar has been extremely positive. Events of this type provide increased awareness of new industries among the processing and marketing sectors of the commercial world. Groups in other states are planning to use our concept for similar seminars, which

helps ensure continued promotion of the industries which become involved.

How it all began...

The South Australian Division of Animal Industries and Analytical Services has been working with developing livestock industries in the

LEFT: Alpaca fibre garments won many fans at the South Australian seminar.



state since early 1990.

A major emphasis in the department's contact with these industries is the need to develop a processing infrastructure and to promote and market the industries and their products.

During late 1991, the concept of a major promotional seminar was discussed. Invitations to attend a meeting to discuss a seminar to promote new livestock and aquaculture industries in South Australia were sent to the secretaries of industries including:

- Australian Ostrich Association
- Emu Farmers Association of Australia
- SA Deer Breeders Association
- Goat Industry Council of Australia

- Australian Alpaca Association
- SA Oyster Growers Association
- SA yabby industries, through the Department of Fisheries

A professional video of the seminar, costing about \$20, is available from David Rayner, Community Services Officer, ETSA, 300 Pirie St, Adelaide 5000. Phone (08) 224 1912.



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US breeders 'go public'

Bruce Barr looks at a co-operative promotional scheme which is helping the American industry spread the word about alpacas.

Bruce Barr is a director of Alpacas and Llamas International at Roche Harbour in Washington State, US.

The alpaca market in the United States has been, in some ways, a well protected "secret" with most sales taking place among existing breeders.

Even though demand is strong and prices have remained higher than those in Australia, a group of ten breeders from Washington and Oregon (neighbouring states in the north west) decided to raise the level of public awareness of alpacas.

We have county fairs, similar to Australian field days and agricultural shows, but we didn't want to share the promotional effort with other animals.

RIGHT: Ken Safley takes one of the AlpacaFest stars for a stroll.



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LEFT: Each stud was assigned a paddock in which to display its animals.

This led to the 'Alpacafest International' concept being developed. The success of the 1992 event, held at Mike Safley's farm, has set the stage for the event to be held each year at a different farm.

During each of the five days, classes were held on alpaca

nutrition, health care, fibre grading, etc, along with spinning demonstrations. Alpaca products, fibre and fleeces were available for sale.

As visitors registered, they were given a map showing the route to take to see all the alpacas and a listing of all alpacas for sale, with their birth dates and prices.

All the animals had velcro 'necklaces' with large readable numbers so, even if the paddocks weren't manned all the time, prospective customers could identify individual animals.

Our budget was offset by seminar fees and consignment income from sales of alpacas from non-sponsoring farms.

The bulk of the expense was in advertising, mostly print and direct mail. The most effective promotional dollars were spent on two public relations professionals - one handled print media and the other electronic.

The festival was promoted as a newsworthy event with seminar classes featuring alpaca experts Don Julio Barreda and Bernardo Montesinos from Peru.

The news stories which the event and the experts generated were rewarding. Alpacas seem to have a magnetic draw upon the media. Newspapers love to cover them, TV cameras love to film them and radio reporters were delighted to broadcast their humming.

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RIGHT: Demonstrations of handcrafts were a popular attraction.

More than 1500 people attended the event, with the biggest crowds arriving during the weekend. Cars started rolling up at 8am the first day, and the adjacent two acre pasture used as a parking lot was filled from morning till night every day.

We think local market development is the key to generating sales and we're already planning next year's AlpacaFest International at another farm 300km to the north.

Staging these type of events collectively makes them large enough to be newsworthy - and that brings in the people to learn about them.

Generating interest

Expanding our regional market, town by town, will ensure alpaca breeders in our area strong future sales. Each new alpaca farm that is established generates more interest in the industry.

Instead of fighting among ourselves for a few sales, we decided to promote alpacas together and increase the overall demand so there's plenty of alpaca buyers for everybody.

The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (US) is disseminating the AlpacaFest International concept to all



its regional chairmen, so the idea can be expanded all across the US.

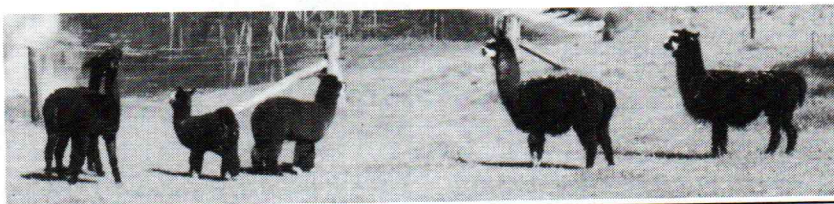
Marketing alpacas is the process of selling a product to people who don't yet know they want it. The alpacas themselves are essential to the process; people need to meet them up close. Local marketing creates this opportunity, the alpacas sell themselves.



Willow Park Alpacas

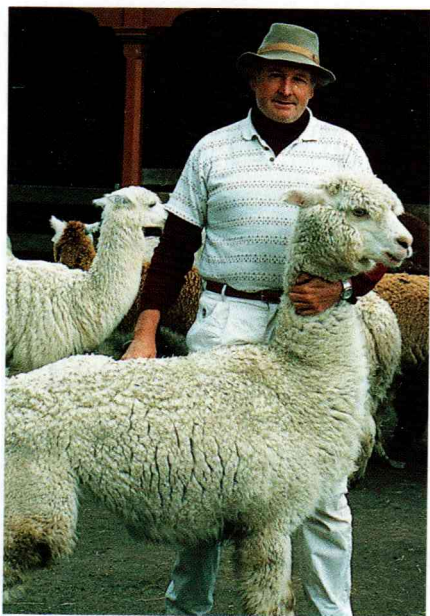
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Playing import snakes and ladders

Importing alpacas from their homeland, Chile, is not for the faint-hearted. Jill Craig talks with Clyde and Roger Haldane and Laurie Harrison, who have spent several tense years helping pioneer the way for the Australian industry. They say they would still have undertaken the task, even if they had known the trials and tribulations that lay ahead. The rewards are seeing the animals happily grazing in the paddocks of their new Australian homes.



Clyde Haldane classing Chilean alpacas which were released from quarantine in South Australia in November. This shipment was the first to come to Australia via the Cocos Islands.

Adventures on the high seas

Clyde Haldane has had enough adventure, stress and suspense to last anyone else a few lifetimes. There's even been a few catastrophes along the way.

It's just as well the 49-year-old alpaca farmer from Camperdown, in Victoria's Western District, is one of those calm, easy-going Australian

characters who takes it all in his stride.

Clyde, and his brother Roger, first looked at starting an alpaca operation in 1985 as a way to diversify their sheep farm.

The brothers have worked as a team all their lives, first in the family's tuna fishing enterprise at Port Lincoln, South Australia, and now as farmers in the Western District.



Workers at the quarantine station at Putre, 3500 metres above sea level. Note the corrals made from fishing nets.

Jill Craig is a freelance journalist based in Albury, NSW.

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Unloading alpacas at the quarantine station at Arica.

While Roger, 47, is married with five children, Clyde is single and it soon became his role to explore the world in search of the alpaca. Clyde has visited Chile 12 times now, as well as New Zealand, the United States and Britain. Not bad for someone who had previously not been out of Australia.

Clyde travelled to the US and Britain in 1985 to investigate the industry, while Roger followed up on protocol arrangement at home. When they began there was no protocol for importing alpacas from Chile.

At the time there was legislation

preventing the importation of alpacas into Australia and Roger and Clyde's first job was to convince each state separately that alpacas would not become a noxious pest.

Submissions had to be gathered and presented to the Vertebrate Pests Committee for their discussion and decision.

Mountains of red tape and 18 months later, the Haldane brothers succeeded in the first of many major challenges in their project - getting the legislation through.

The Haldane plan had been to import alpacas from the US; Clyde ac-

tually put the deposit on 10 animals. But, as he spoke with the vendor and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) he decided to have a look at Chile.

His first trip to Chile was in July 1988, with AQIS representative, David Wilson.

Los Angeles alpaca breeder, Phil Mizrahie, travelled with the Australian men as he had been involved in earlier shipments from Chile to Los Angeles.

The party met Chilean officials and travelled up to the home of the Chilean alpaca industry on the desolate Altiplano.

Clyde decided during that visit to buy a shipment of alpacas in conjunction with Phil Mizrahie, despite the lack of AQIS protocol.

"We took a bit of a punt I guess," he says.

He went back a month later to select and buy the stock.

Clyde then discovered there was no way to get the animals home, even if AQIS protocol was finalised - a shipment of African cattle bound for Australia and undergoing an embryo transfer program had booked out the Cocos Island quarantine station for the following 18 months.

NZ link

Plans had to change drastically and the Haldanes did a deal with a NZ consortium and became part of a shipment importing the first alpacas into NZ from Chile using a boat quarantine.

But there was no protocol between NZ and Australia and Clyde and Roger bought a 200 hectare property south of Timaru in the South Island where Roger and his family ran the alpacas for 18 months.

The NZ shipment totalled 1200 alpacas and some llamas; the Haldanes portion was 350 animals. Deaths on board the ship reduced their final total to 300.

The alpacas had not been in good condition when they were bought. They then spent 70 days in quarantine in Chile before being loaded on board their livestock carrier, the Kerry Express.

They spent another 70 days on the boat.

Quarantine caution protects livestock

Alpaca breeders face the most strict quarantine requirements of any live animal import to Australia if they want to bring animals in from Chile.

Senior principal veterinary officer with AQIS, Dr Ian Davis, says the extreme caution is mainly because of Chile's location.

"Foot and mouth disease is the main worry and while Chile itself is free from foot and mouth disease, it is a very long and narrow country, surrounded by Argentina, Bolivia and Peru - none of which are free of the disease," he says.

"There are other diseases we worry about, too, including several blood-borne diseases transmitted by in-

sects - brucellosis, tuberculosis and Johne's disease."

To this end, alpacas from Chile undergo an extensive three-stage quarantine with many series of tests.

First is an isolation period of up to 50 days in Chile; a pre-embarkation quarantine period of 60 days and a post-arrival quarantine of 70 days on Cocos Island.

Once the alpacas enter Australia, they are placed in quarantine on private property in Australia for a further 12 months.

Finally, they are released on to private property but placed under a two-year surveillance.

That's a total of more than three years.

Most of the deaths occurred during the first month on the boat and, looking back, Clyde believes they were the result of rickets caused by the animals being locked up under the deck and away from all natural light.

As if the deaths weren't enough to worry about, the stuff of a thousand nightmares was just around the corner.

A test for Q fever before the animals could land in NZ came up with inconclusive results.

"This led to all sorts of problems - we didn't even know if they were all going to have to be put down," Clyde says.

The Haldanes were insured for some deaths, but not for a catastrophe like this.

To add to the drama, the Kerry Express had been booked to do another shipment, of cattle, from NZ. Because the alpacas did not have quarantine clearance, they were not allowed off the ship. The cattle



An Aymara Indian family with their alpacas, 4500m above sea level.

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owners were threatening to sue the boat owners for \$1.2 million for not being able to do the shipment. The owners were, in turn, going to sue the alpaca importers for that \$1.2m.

The dilemma was partly solved then the alpaca owners convinced the NZ government to allow the animals to be unloaded into a big warehouse.

The problems did not end there, though, with the wharfies causing trouble, wanting danger money because of the Q fever fear.

Clyde admits this whole period was a worrying time. But he kept his cool.

Drama seemed to follow the alpacas wherever they went.

The animals were in the warehouse for three weeks where, unfortunately, 40 cria were lost. The warehouse had been previously used for storage of fertilisers and the baby alpacas nibbled in the cracks where there were still traces of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia.

Imagine the fear of the deaths continuing until the animals were finally released to the Haldane farm in NZ.

The dramas finally ended when a charter 747 Singapore Airlines jumbo flew the then 480 alpacas from Christchurch to Melbourne in July 1990.

Cocos Islands

The Haldanes were involved in a second Chilean shipment through the Cocos Islands in 1991. This shipment was a partnership arrangement with Victorian breeder Alan Hamilton and involved 300 animals.

But, their understanding of the Chilean situation did not prevent problems. This time there was a suspect brucellosis case while still in Chile, and the animals ended up spending 21 months in quarantine in Keith, South Australia, before finally being declared free and released.

Somehow, Clyde is not deterred. He and Roger are involved in yet another shipment, a pre-sold venture, again with Alan Hamilton.

Looking back on the alpaca adventure, Roger Haldane said the whole episode was like a mirage.

"It would seem like we almost had them in our grasp a thousand times, but they moved away just out of our reach each time."



Putre where the alpacas are kept in quarantine.

Flying high with alpacas

Laurie Harrison, from Cobaw, near Hanging Rock in Victoria, rates the two years he has been involved in the fledgling Australian alpaca industry as the most amazing years of his life.

With a background that includes being a butcher, a car dealer, horse float distributor and marine dealer, Laurie found adventure when his wife, Sandra, convinced him to investigate alpacas.

His first visit to the alpacas' home region in Chile was in March 1991. "A group of us spent a month going

out to the Altiplano, which is 17,000 feet above sea level."

Base camp was a mining town called Putre where conditions were a little more civilised than out on the plateau. Laurie and his friends had early trouble acclimatising to the high altitude - a general lack of breath and energy prevailed at the start.

The alpacas belong to the Aymara Indians, who live in villages on the desolate Altiplano.

The visitors' days involved organising the Indians to corral their alpacas then carefully inspecting each of the herds.

"Sometimes we would select only one or two animals from the whole herd," Laurie says.

"We were looking for a certain type of alpaca with a good coat and no evidence of crossbreeding with llamas."

Laurie says the Aymara Indians' spartan lifestyle is entirely based on alpacas.

The Indians live in tiny stone huts with only the basics - one bed, two chairs and a fireplace where they burn alpaca dung for fuel.

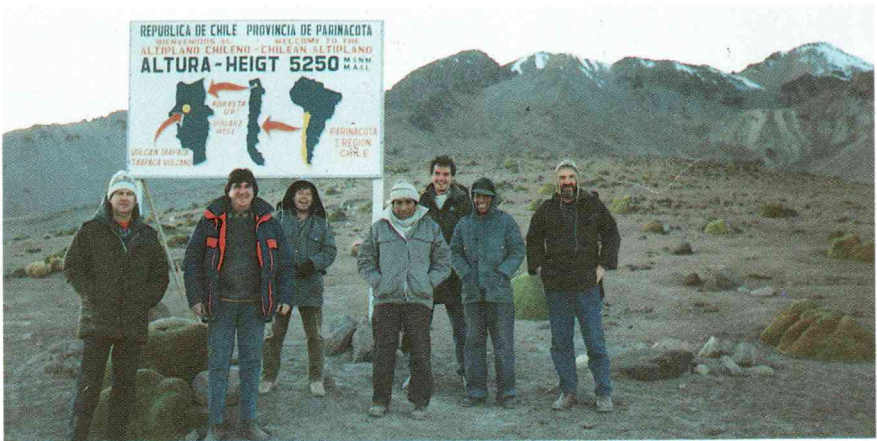
They eat alpaca meat, mostly boiled up in a stew with a few vegetables. Laurie says it tastes a bit like mutton.

They wear clothes made from alpaca fleece. Some make and sell alpaca fleece handicrafts.



Lyle Wykes and Laurie Harrison clowning about in Arica.

RIGHT: At the highest point of the Altiplano area of the Andes at around 6.30am on the first day Laurie Harrison's group spent in the area in June 1991.



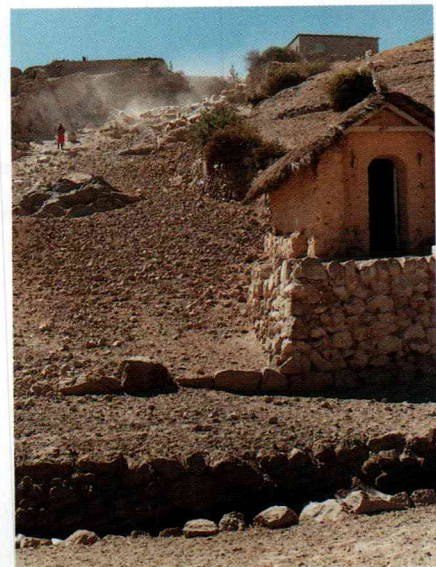
Temperatures on the Altiplano are extreme. At night they can get down to 20-30 degrees below freezing, while the days are hot. The scenery is sparse, but breath-taking.

Laurie says the Aymara Indians are tough barterers. There were some animals they would not sell and there were others that were not a suitable type for the Australians.

The buying party included Ross Moorhouse, from the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, who speaks fluent Spanish; Lyle Wykes, a fourth generation woolgrower from Mudgee, NSW, whose job was to class the fleeces; and another New Zealander, Ben Ensor, who held the Australian alpaca import permit. The president of the Aymara Indians travelled with the party.

Selecting and buying alpacas was the exciting part. Making the arrangements and getting them safely to Australia was another matter altogether.

There were many delays and problems with the complicated health procedures and Laurie began to think



A typical village on the edge of Putre. The tiny stone huts contain only basic furnishings.

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THE DALGETY ALPACA CLASSIC - SPRING 1993



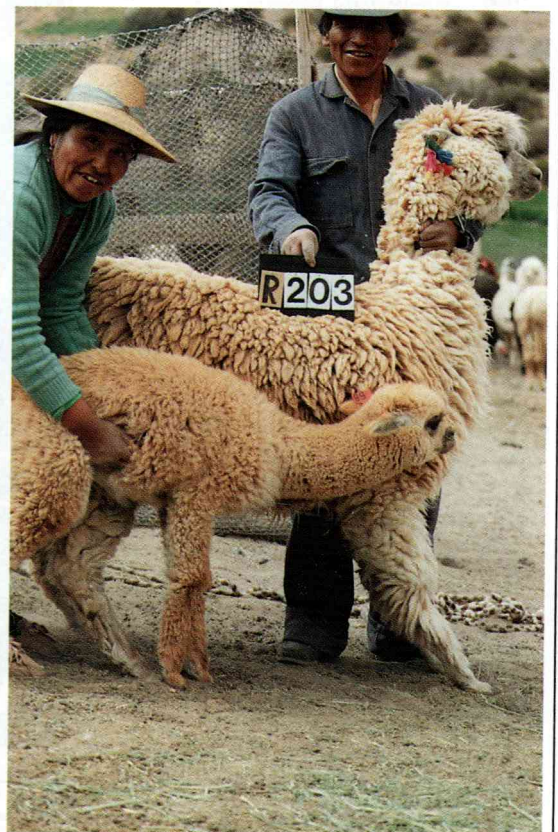
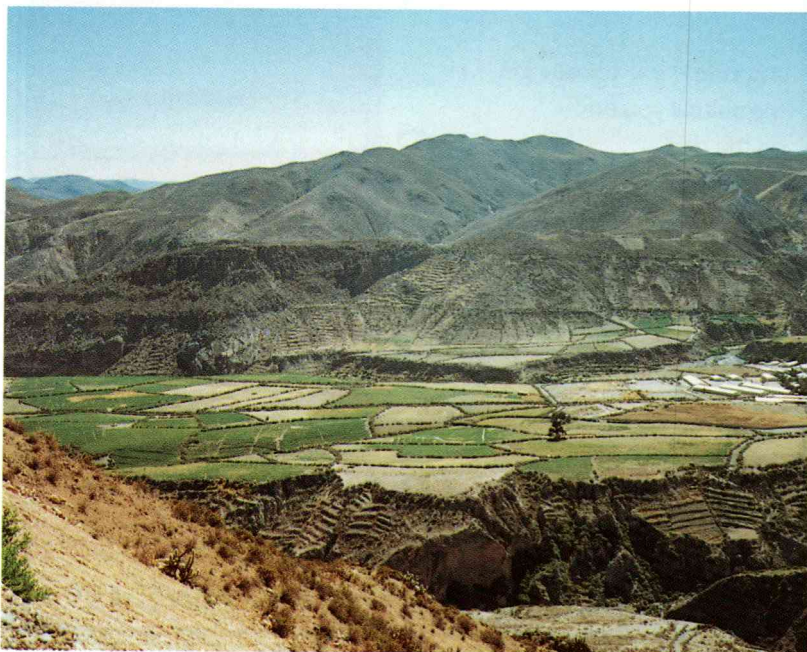
ABOVE: The desolate road down to Arica with the irrigated Lluta Valley in the distance.



LEFT: A herd of alpacas and the truck used to take the animals off the Altiplano are dwarfed by the presence of a snow-covered volcano.

BELOW: Identification photographs such as this are no longer relied on. Under the Australian import protocol, the animals are identified by microchip implants.

BELOW: Fields of lucerne at Putre are irrigated by glacial run-off fed into an irrigation system handcarved by the Incas centuries ago. Note the channels in the foreground to stop erosion.



RIGHT: Tacora village on the Altiplano.

he would never see his alpacas on Australian soil. He estimates he lived for many months on just two or three hours sleep a night.

The site-of-origin quarantine dragged on from the official 70 days to many months due to various problems, while the next 50-day pre-embarkation quarantine at Arica somehow lasted from April to September 1992.

Perhaps Laurie could see daylight at the end of this very long tunnel when he helped load the alpacas on board a truck bound for the airport for their flight out of Chile at Putre.

A stretch DC8 from the United States had been hired to take the animals to Cocos Islands. Laurie, his 22-year-old son Simon and his friends went on the flight to care for the alpacas.

The 70-hour flight is another of the alpacas experiences Laurie will not forget.

"They had dropped the temperature right down for the alpacas and it was freezing. There were no windows and we didn't know if it was daylight or dark," he says.

"All we had was a couple of chairs bolted onto the floor at the tail of the plane. We only had two sleeping bags between the five of us and Simon forgot his coat and I had to give him mine.

"It was a weird trip. I think the cold got to me. In the end I had to go and sit in the cockpit to thaw out."

The plane stopped to refuel at Easter Islands, Tahiti, Fiji and New Guinea before finally arriving at the Cocos Islands Australian Quarantine Station.

Simon Harrison stayed on at Cocos for the 70-day quarantine to help care for the alpacas. He quickly fitted into the lifestyle on the beautiful islands, playing in the football grand final two days after arriving.

No-one would have breathed a louder sigh of relief than Laurie Harrison when his shipment of 200 alpacas finally arrived at his home last November - after almost two years of intense effort.



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No worries!

Dougal Macdonald watched, waited and was rewarded. He has a few words of comfort for other new breeders anxiously pacing back and forth along the fenceline.

Chris Greig had December 22, 1991, as the last date of Paccas' mating with Ngaru. So, from the end of November 1992, we paid particular attention to her in the paddock she shared with Stormin', the untried young male with which she was running for the emotional comfort of both animals.

Stormin' had been optimistically asserting his maleness since autumn. In the end, we put him in the small paddock where we normally confine sick animals, from where he and Paccas could see each other but he could not hassle her.

Our other animals at last came out of quarantine and I brought them back from Tocumwal in the horse float on December 5. We decided to put the two females, each with a nine-month-old cria at foot, in the sick paddock until they adjusted to their new home.

This meant Stormin' could go back to hassling Paccas for a couple of days.

When we put all six in the same paddock, they took a few days to



He's on the way - at last!

make friends and coalesce into a single flock, with the two new females diverting Stormin's attention away from Paccas and easing the amount of hassling she got.

But still, every day, Paccas remained as visibly pregnant as ever.

We decided to separate the three pregnant females from Stormin' and the two cria. Across the end of a suit-

Dougal Macdonald and Tiki Morgan bought their initial flock of four alpacas late in 1991. They now have seven on their property 'Roskhill', east of Canberra on the Lake George Escarpment near Bungendore, NSW, with two more expected by Easter.



Tiki Morgan lends Paccas a helping hand.

RIGHT: Quilla and Talca check out the new arrival while Paccas, right, keeps an eye on her cria.

able paddock, I put up a dividing fence of four white electric tapes connected to the ring main around the property.

The animals have not, so far as we have observed, made contact with it so it forms a purely visible barrier which they accept and obey without problems.

The move had the coincident effect of weaning the cria, a total non-event in terms of complaints by either mothers or offspring.

It was now the third week in December.

I began to remind people of my initial prognostication that Paccas would give us a great Christmas present.

I spent the morning of December 23 swatting flies while I watched Paccas. I timed her visits to the dung pile. About 30 to 45 minutes was the norm. I rang our local vet whom I knew was going away on Christmas Eve.

On her advice, I built a temporary enclosure of portable hurdles in case Paccas had problems needing confinement and human intervention. We contacted another vet. He too was going away.

We felt a little abandoned by the profession.



Welcome to our world.



RUFUS YOUNGBLOOD



Rufus Youngblood has now taken up residence in the Hawkesbury area of NSW. Formerly of Glenwood Alpacas, "Rufus" established himself as a top sire when his first female cria won the 6-12 months class at the Royal Easter Show (Sydney) 1992.

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December 25 came and went unremarked by any blessed event. Our tensions were beginning to rise. It was now 369 days since the last mating and the textbooks said that this was close to the limit of a normal pregnancy.

Boxing day was day 370. And still no cria.

On December 27, I wandered out at 8.30 for my usual morning check. What I saw was Paccas looking quite unstressed with a head and a pair of feet poking out of her rear end. I called Tiki.

The whole thing had us somewhat wrong-footed in relation to our readiness to deal with problems, so we felt pretty good that everything seemed to be happening normally.

We stayed well away and let Paccas get on with it.

We saw the little head moving. It spat out the mucus. I photographed what seemed to me to be significant progress points.

When Paccas went to squat, Tiki, concerned that she might sit on the baby, gently drew its hindquarters clear.

It was 8.48 am. There was a new life.

Each of the other alpacas came and sniffed the new baby at the spot where it had been dropped. Paccas took no notice, preferring to have a few mouthfuls of grazing.

With me carrying the still wet baby (which we had by then established was male) still partly covered in membrane, we herded Paccas into the enclosure.

On the bathroom scales, baby and I together weighed 8.5 kilograms more than I did alone. We stripped away the last of the membrane and dried him with a towel. Then we stood outside the enclosure while Paccas brought her instincts into play to care for this, her first baby.

We had always been anxious about two things - that the birth be normal and that the cria suckle quickly.



Six days later, the handsome cria has the world at his command.

The little fellow was on his feet within half an hour and before he was an hour old, we could hear the joyous sound of sucking. Domingo had got his colostrum and was going to be OK. Soon after that, the placenta came away cleanly and without stress to Paccas.

A week later, Domingo had put on a kilogram and was beginning to graze. Any yes, he passed the meconium in good order, about 24 hours after birth.

To the major media, good news is seldom news at all. The point of this story is that, facing our first alpaca birth - we have had many horse births which are the same but different - we watched, waited and let nature take its wonder.

In hindsight, all the worst-case scenarios we had heard about from

friends and at Alpaca Association meetings and seminars, all the abnormalities of parturition that we had read about in Fowler's pink bible, had frightened us more than we should have taken notice of.

We were not novices in breeding large animals and supervising their birth without veterinary assistance. We could have handled a difficult birth if we had had to, at least up to the point where we knew that we had to call a vet - any vet.

We'd done that for a mare on a neighbouring property which had got into difficulty trying to deliver twins. Both were still-born but we and our vet saved the mare's life, much to the gratitude of the absent owner.

With Paccas we didn't have to resort to grave measures. Nor, we suggest, will most alpaca owners at birth time.

To repeat the salient points.

- Be patient on those days when you think that the time for birth is long overdue.

- Have a sheltered, clean, dry, flat enclosure ready in which you can confine mother and baby for the first hour while you establish that all is going normally.

- Have a cloth ready to dry the cria off, especially if the weather is inclement.

- Make your vet aware of alpacas generally - we lent our copy of Fowler to ours - and of the imminence of the birth.

- Don't be embarrassed if you raise a false alarm but equally, don't hesitate to call the vet if you think something is not right.

Remember, alpacas have spent many centuries bearing their young watched only by other alpacas. While everything is going right, stand well clear and let the mother do what nature has decreed she can do better than any other living creature.

You are sure to come away from the experience feeling very good indeed about it.

And remember to register the cria before it is 180 days old.

Spinning an exotic yarn

Watching your alpacas grow their beautiful fleeces is only half the fun. Joan Dever explains the transformation from fleece to yarn.

Joan Dever has been spinning different fibres for 20 years. She's taken courses in advanced spinning, tutoring, judging and many associated crafts. She lives in Victoria.

Alpaca fibre has a wide range of colours from white to greys and black.

The brown ranges from a soft honey to a deep chestnut.

The fibre is made up of the protein, keratin.

Like sheep wool, it has scales but these scales lie flat against the fibre shaft which makes it much smoother to the touch.

Being partially hollow, the fibres provide extra insulation and make a warm, soft and lightweight yarn.

No matter what the fibre, preparation is very important for a good end result.



Joan Dever: preparation vital.

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For spinning from a staple, use a flicker, or dog comb, to flick out the broken and damaged fibre tips.

Spinning from the staple

A staple is a cluster of fibres within the fleece. A well shorn alpaca fleece will retain much of the staple structure.

Spinning from the staple takes less preparation and is a quick way to spin a yarn, especially if the staple is clean and of good length (about 13 centimetres).

Step 1: Select a well skirted and clean staple from the shorn fleece,

being careful not to disturb other staples.

Step 2: Taking the cut end of the staple in your hand and using a flicker, flick out the broken and damaged fibre tips.

For this operation, a steel dog comb can be used, combing out the weathered and damaged fibre tips that, if left, would detract from the evenness, appearance and wear of the yarn.

After the flicking or combing, turn the staple around to the cut end and

repeat the process to release the fibres within the staple.

Now the staple should be light and airy with fibres of a uniform length and lying in the one direction ready to spin.

Step 3: Yarn is usually spun in a 'Z' direction. Hold the tips in the hand and fan out the cut end. With the other hand, draw out an amount of fibre and join to the leader on your bobbin. Other fibres will follow in a smooth and orderly manner, controlled by your hand.

Control the amount of twist by the speed of the spinning wheel (how fast or slow you peddle). Thickness is up to you, depending on the amount of fibre you draft through your hands.

Tension is all important to the control of the forming yarn. Tension that is too tight will draw the draught in too quickly with not enough twist. It will result in the draught breaking. A loose tension will have the opposite effect - the draught will not pull in fast enough and over twisting will result.

Spinning from the cut end of the staple allows the fibre scales to engage each other and help make a continuous fine sliver which, in turn twists and becomes a worsted yarn.

When spinning alpaca, because the fibre has little crimp and little lanolin, it should be handled with a light touch to keep air in the fibres.

Spinning alpaca fibre does not come easily, but persistence and practice will result in the technique becoming easier and enjoyable.



Control the amount of twist by the speed of the spinning wheel.

Spinning alpaca tops

An alpaca top is a tightly packed rope-like length of alpaca fibre that has been commercially processed and carded. No preparation is needed before spinning, but to make the spinning easier, try the following technique.

Step 1: Break off a length of alpaca top (about 20cm).

Step 2: Holding the length in one hand, use the other to draw the fibre out slightly less than the length of the fibre until it becomes a light and airy length of top. Spin from one end of this stretched out top.

Try the 'long draw' way of spinning. As the alpaca fibres lies in one direction, a worsted yarn will result.



RIGHT: The steps in spinning alpaca tops.



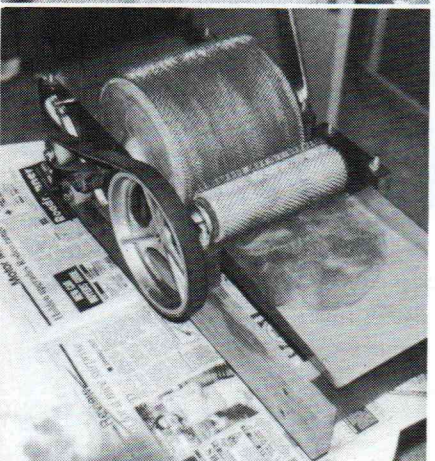
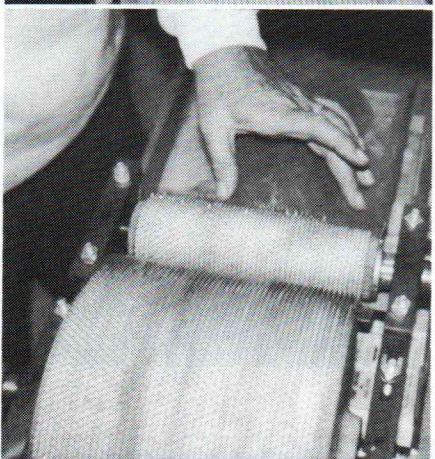
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ABOVE: The finished product of drum carding and, anti-clockwise from top left, the steps involved.

Spinning carded alpaca

Drum carding

Step 1: Using well skirted and clean alpaca fibre straight from the shorn fleece, take out any vegetable matter and open out the fibres.

Step 2: Place the opened out fibres on the apron of the drum carder. Proceed by turning the handle to form a batt on the drum carder's big roller.

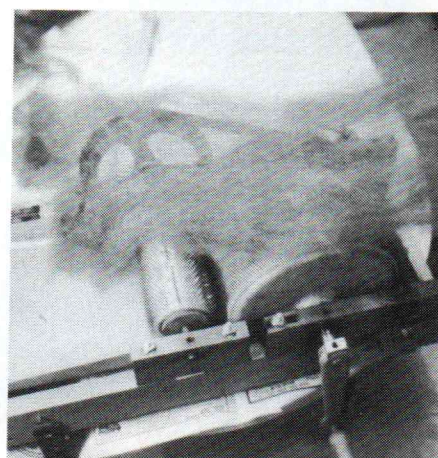
Step 3: At the appropriate place on the drum carder, make a break with a pencil or knitting needle and, with both hands, remove the batt from the roller.

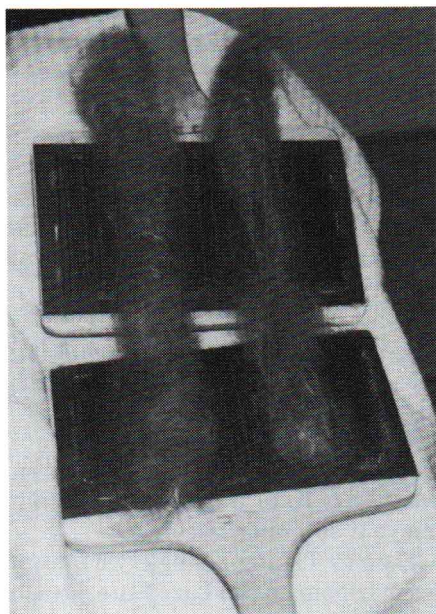
The batt should be light and airy

with most fibres lying in one direction.

Step 4: Split the batt into three equal lengths. There are now three slivers. Take one sliver in your hand and use the other hand to ease the fibres (without breaking) into a longer and finer sliver. It should be airy and delicate. Prepare the other slivers in the same way.

Step 5: Take an end of this stretched out sliver and process to spin as described in the 'Spinning from the staple' section above. This yarn will be of a semi worsted type - light airy and more bouncy. Do not over spin.





A rolag (roll) of blended alpaca and silk.

Spinning blended fibres

Alpaca blends well with other fibres, such as sheep wool, mohair, silk and cashmere.

Sheep wool must be washed and of a micron near to that of the alpaca.

Step 1: The fibres are blended by carding on hand carders and forming a rolag (roll).

Place a light layer of opened out alpaca staple on the left hand carder, then a thin layer of the other fibre.

Using both carders, blend fibres as in previous methods.

Step 2: When well blended, roll fibres into a rolag. It should be very light and airy.

Step 3: To spin, hold the rolag lengthwise, lightly, in your hand and pull the fibres from the end of the rolag with your other hand. Pull and release the draught. Do not run your finger and thumb along the draught of the yarn as what you are creating has to be light and fluffy.

The fibres of the rolag lay

intermeshed so a woolly yarn will result. It's not as even as a worsted yarn, but nevertheless it is attractive, light and warm.

Different percentages of fibre can be used to produce a variety of yarns.

Another way to blend fibres is to ply alpaca with other fibres using one alpaca fibre and one strand of the other fibre to give a 50-50 mix.

Blending creates many unique yarns and textures, created individually by the spinning wheel and the spinner.

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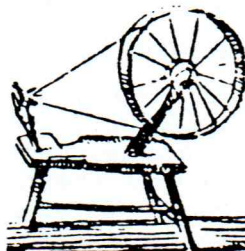
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LEFT: Plying alpaca yarn.

Plying alpaca

It is in the plying that I create a soft, balanced yarn that feels like the unspun fibre. Different methods of plying can be used - two ply or a Navajo (three ply) yarns. The most used is the two ply. If the spinning has been in a Z direction, plying with be in an 'S' direction.

Step 1: For a two ply yarn, place two bobbins of spun alpaca singles on your Lazy Kate and an empty bobbin on your spinning wheel.

Step 2: Taking a single yarn from each bobbin on the Lazy Kate, attach it to the leader on the empty bobbin.

Step 3: A relaxed plied yarn means that the draught should fall in a shallow bowl-like arc between the hands and the orifice, when the right amount of twist has been plied into the yarn. Stop at intervals and test the yarn.

Step 4: Continue until the bobbin is full. Release the tension and wind the spun alpaca yarn on to a Niddy Noddy to form a skein. Before taking the skein off the Niddy Noddy, tie it in loosely in four places to keep the yarn from tangling during washing.

Washing alpaca yarn

Being of a nearly non-greasy nature, alpaca does not require harsh scouring. A detergent such as Softly can be used, in fairly hot water.

Rinse twice in warm water. Add a softener to the final rinse. Wrap in a towel to remove excess water and then hang the skeins to dry.

Knitting

Before knitting a garment, make up a tension square. Use different sized needles to find a suitable tension for the yarn, remembering that alpaca does not have a lot of stretch.

Elastic yarn can be knitted in with the bands to give elasticity and to hold the shape.

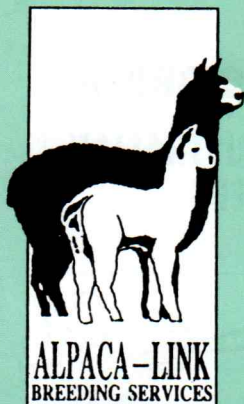
Alpaca - as a shorn fibre or in tops - is very enjoyable to handle and spin. I hope the information in this article will inspire spinners to explore the possibilities of the exotic alpaca fibre.



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It's a fine way to use fibre

There are many uses for fibre such as alpaca and wool. Ian Stapleton and Bob Steadman look at fibre fineness and its relationship with the textile end-use.

Ian Stapleton and Bob Steadman are research consultants with the Textile and Fibre Research Institute in Melbourne.

The wool industry's realisation that mean (average) fibre diameter is the most important fibre characteristic in determining processing performance - and so value - has simplified the Australian sheep breeders' objectives.

Most alpaca growers are by now aware that they too will need to carefully consider fibre fineness in breeding selection if it is their association's aim to create a viable industry capable of supplying textile manufacturers with value-added fibre (such as top or yarn) of consistent and reliable quality.

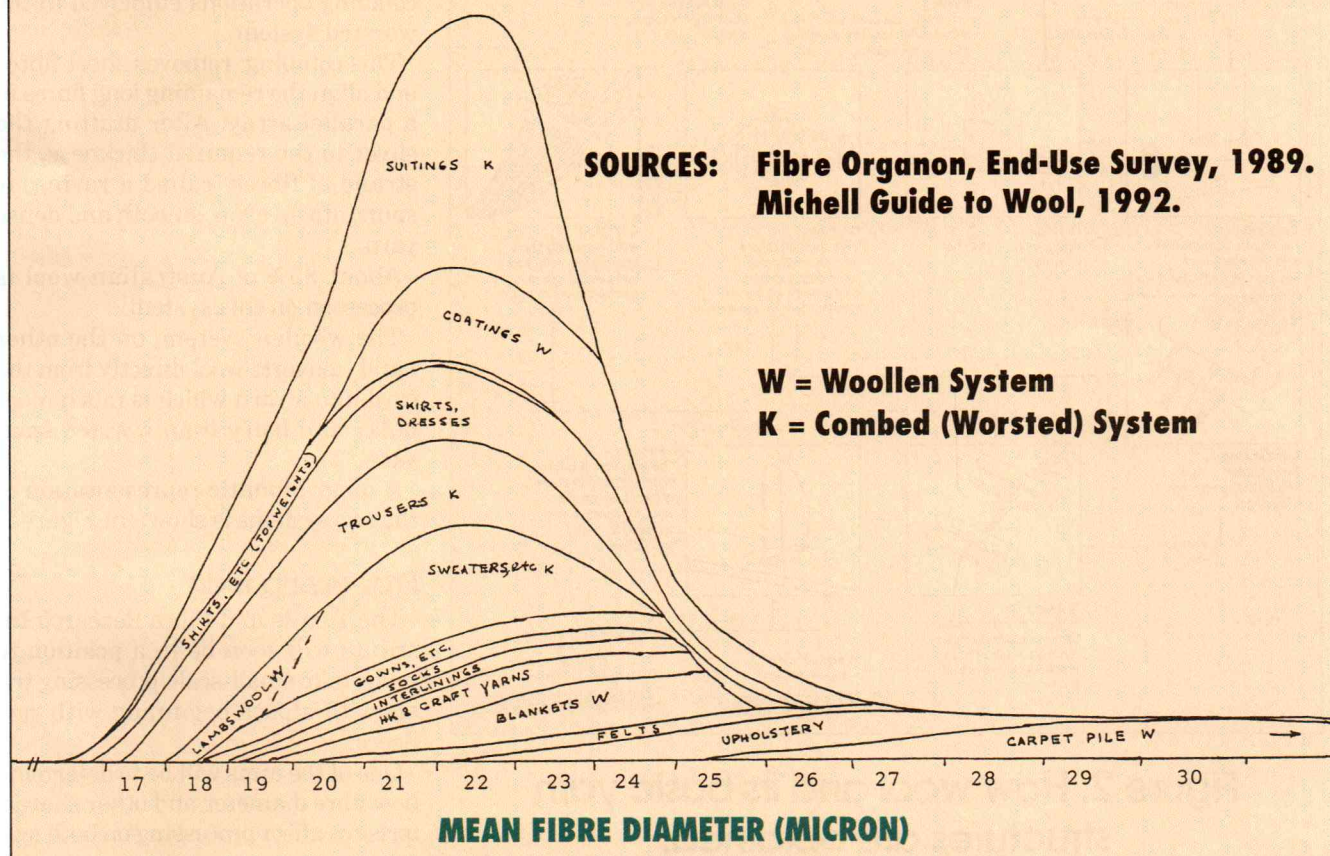
If you think that only fibre diam-

eters at the fine end of the range are going to be of commercial value, it is worthwhile considering how wool of varying fineness is marketed in relation to the many and varied textile end-uses.

About 70% of Australian sheep's wool is used in apparel manufacture. The rest is used in interior textiles such as blankets, furnishing fabrics and carpets.

Information relating to the relative proportion of commercially processed alpaca within these two major divisions is not available, but it could be reasonably assumed that the amount of apparel-related end-uses would be higher.

END USES OF AUSTRALIAN WOOL BY FIBRE DIAMETER

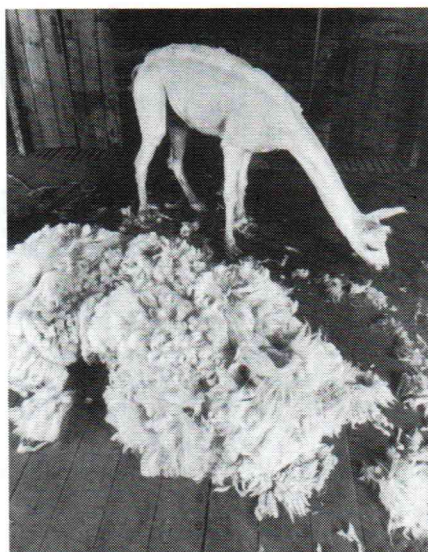


Not only does fibre diameter govern processing performance but it also has a major influence in determining selection by manufacturers for a specific end-use.

Figure 1 gives an indication of the relative volumes of end-use production in relation to mean fibre diameter.

The divisions into the various categories can be more easily appreciated by drawing a vertical line above any given micron; the length of the gap between intersections is a guide to relative production volumes.

An idea of the total amount of processed fibre in relation to fineness can



be gained from the height of the profile. From this it is clear that a large part of Australian wool production is in the 20-23 micron range.

A curve describing alpaca end-use distribution would probably encompass a diameter range of between 20 and 40 microns and be dominated by heavy and lightweight outerwear (knitted and woven) and handknitting yarn.

Because of alpaca's softer handle, it is possible that the fibre could be utilised in sectors of wool end-uses which employ fibre 2 to 3 microns finer.

Some sections of the diagram have the letters W or K after the end-use description. These denote which of the two main systems have been employed to produce the yarn. W indicates the woollen system and K (from kamm, the German word for comb) stands for the worsted system.

Two systems

As alpaca is processed on machinery designed for both systems, it is worthwhile to consider in broad outline how they operate.

The principal difference between the two systems is the extensive combing operations employed in the worsted system.

This combing removes short fibres and align the remaining long fibres in a parallel array. After drafting the sliver to the required thickness, the strand of fibres (called a roving) is spun into an even, smooth and dense yarn.

About 85% of Australian wool is processed on this system.

The woollen system, on the other hand, converts wool directly from the card into a yarn which is much more bulky and hairy than worsted spun yarn.

A diagrammatic representation of the two systems is shown in Figure 2.

Processing trials

The Textile and Fibre Research Institute will soon be in a position to undertake small-scale processing trials with alpaca beginning with raw fleece.

One of the aims will be to determine how fibre diameter and other characteristics affect processing on both systems.

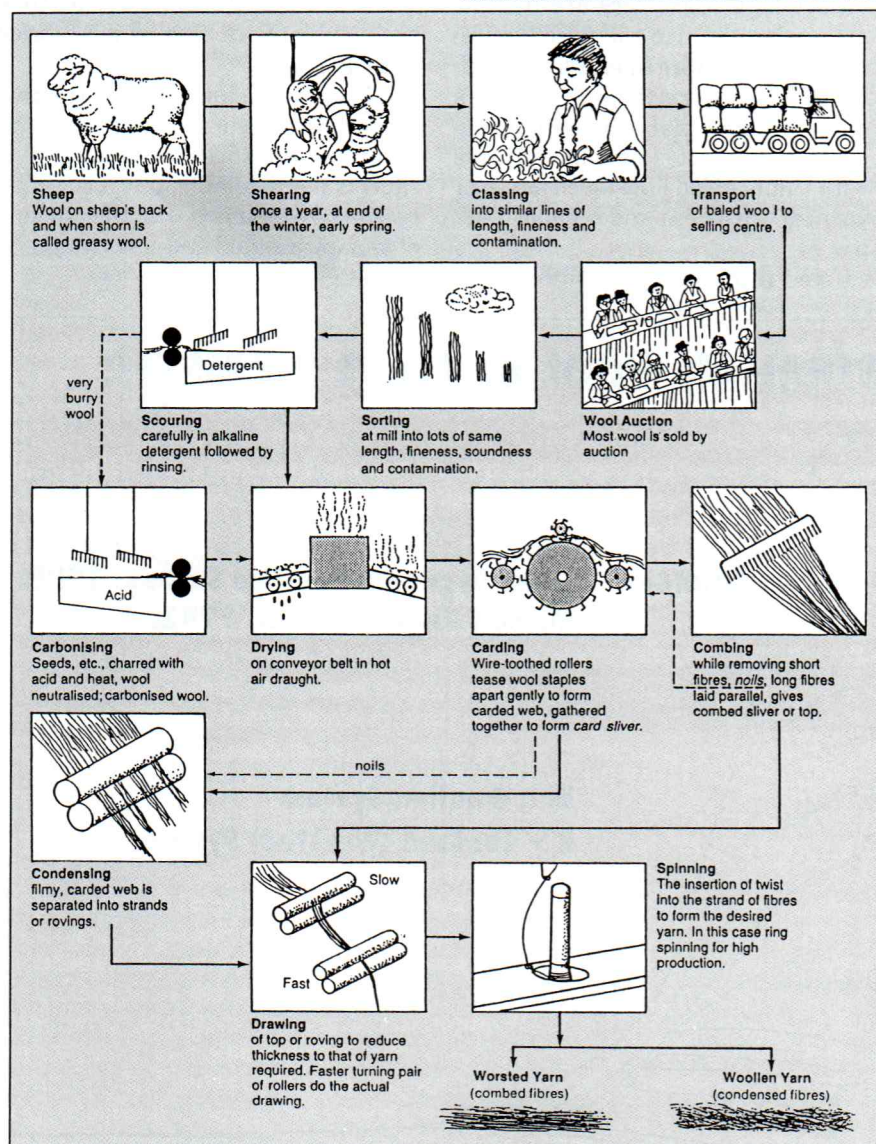


Figure 2: How wool and its basic yarn structures are obtained.

The attributes of wool produced on the worsted and woollen systems are:

The worsted yarn is usually:

Stronger
Smoother
Finer

The woollen yarn is usually:

Weaker
Furrier
Thicker

Worsted fabrics and garments are usually:

Harder handle
Cooler in handle
Lighter in weight
Less absorbing
Quicker drying
Less easily felted
More durable
Less prone to pilling
Less resistant to wrinkling
Less resilient

Woollen fabrics and garments are usually:

Softer handle
Warmer in handle
Heavier in weight
More absorbing
Slower drying
More easily felted
Less durable
More prone to pilling
More resistant to wrinkling
More resilient

This information and Figure 2 were taken from Textiles for Modern Living, by Gohl and Vilensky, with permission from the publisher, Longman Cheshire.



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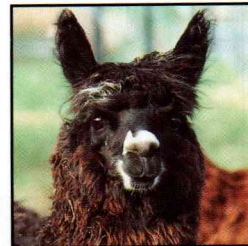
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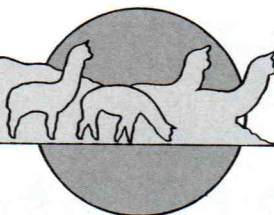
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ALPACA



AAA Notes

from Dianne Condon

Judging School

A judging school will be held at Roger Haldane's property in Camperdown during February.

About 10 people will be trained in all aspects of judging alpacas, including ring craft. They will become the first official AAA judges.

Roger Haldane, Daryl Bishop and Ian Buckwell will train and examine the students with the help of Alan Hamilton.

Standards have also been set for showing of animals. These will be printed with a list of the official judges after the judges' school.

One important rule applying to any show is that fleeces are to be no longer than two years growth.

Show and sale

The committee has decided to support a show in conjunction with the Alpaca Classic auction in November.

This will be a major event with the show on Saturday followed that evening by a dinner dance then the auction on the Sunday.

We encourage all breeders to start preparing your animals for the event.

Sheep & Woolcraft Show

This year's Melbourne Sheep and Woolcraft show will run for four days from July 17 to 20 at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds.

We would like to see as many entries as possible as the show is the largest of its type in the world and provides a huge audience and promotional opportunity.

Last year conditions were a little cramped so the show committee has offered the association the larger Federation ring for the judging. They are keen to support the association, so

Dianne Condon is Australian Alpaca Association secretary and runs Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud at Yarra Glen, Victoria.

please support them with entries.

For more information, contact Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399 or John Holt on (03) 376 3733.

1993 Seminar

The next Australian Alpaca Association seminar will be held at Roseworthy Agricultural College in South Australia on July 10.

The college has accommodation for more than 250 people (and the lecture rooms are heated).

Regional groups

The AAA committee believes the industry and the association are now at a size which justifies the formation of three regions in south-eastern Australia.

Details of the regions - Eastern, Central and Western - will be finalised by March. As numbers warrant, more regions will be formed.

Fibre courses

The first fibre course organised by Gray Morgan was very successful. The two-day course takes in husbandry, genetics and fibre.

To book for the next course, contact Gray Morgan on (059) 62 5352.

Registrations

As from September 1, 1992, all alpacas must be registered. When you buy animals, please check they have been registered. Inquiries about reg-

AAA appoints assistant

The Alpaca Association of Australia has appointed a part-time administrative assistant to work from the association's new headquarters in Hawthorn East, Victoria.

Jenny Jones has worked as an administrative assistant for Enterprise Australia Ltd and has been responsible for planning and co-ordinating numerous business community functions and programs, including the respected Australian Quality Awards. She has also been involved in public speaking and PR.

Jenny will be responsible for organising association field days and shows, everything from inspecting venues to organising media coverage. She will also take general inquiries about alpacas, association membership and animal registrations and will organise magazine subscriptions and video sales.

Dianne Condon remains secretary



Jenny Jones.

of the AAA. She minutes all meetings - both committee and general - and is a member of both the committee and the show sub-committee.

Association members should note the new contact address and numbers for association business:

Australian Alpaca Association, 381 Tooronga Rd, Hawthorn East, 3123. Telephone: (03) 824 8872 and fax (03) 824 8578.

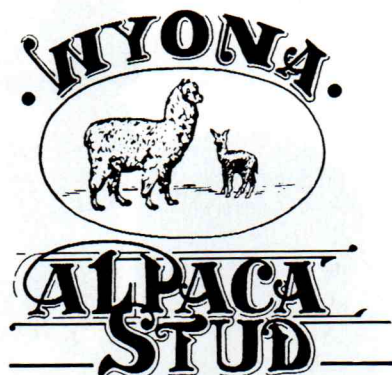
istrations should be directed to Carol Watson on (067) 73 3357.

Sydney Royal Show

Entries closed at the end of January. The alpaca entries are to arrive at the showgrounds before 7am on

April 9. Judging will begin at 9.30am on April 10 and the animals can leave the grounds after 5pm on April 13.

There will be a promotional stand operating during the show. Contact: Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.



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Record showing at Geelong

The Champions

Grand champion alpaca:

Shanbrooke Polyanthus.

Junior champion female:

Shanbrooke Polyanthus;

Reserve: Pucara Gabriella.

Senior champion female:

Ardcree Margurita;

Reserve: Shanbrooke Nusta.

Junior champion male:

Benleigh Silver Prince;

Reserve: Benleigh Geoffery.

Senior champion male:

Narwarren Boy;

Reserve: Ardcree Guinness.

The Geelong Show in October included the largest showing of alpacas so far seen in Australia. The 12 breeders from as far afield as Mt Gambier and the Yarra Valley paraded 49 alpacas.

The judge, Geoff Halpin, said it was a excellent line-up.

"The top quality of the alpacas and the well-organised showing made the judging easy," he said.

"The major prizewinners were excellent representatives of the breed.

"Alan and Carolyn Jinks and the Geelong Alpaca Breeders Association Geelong show committee must be congratulated for their excellent organisation."

Trophies for the event were donated by Geelong Farm Supplies, William and Jackson, Bellarine Veterinary Practice, Australian Alpaca Association and Roger Haldane from Purrumbete Alpaca Stud.

Class results:

Female 6-12 months

Section 1 (Brown): 1, Shanbrooke Polyanthus; 2, Shanbrooke I'm A Toff; both shown by R & D Condon; 3, Kurrawa Fidji, R & A Clark.

Section 2 (Other than brown): 1, Pucara Gabriella, Cousill/Anderson; 2, Shorley Park Melenie, R & P Morley; 3, Koyaanasqatsi Lovechild, S Clifford.

Male 6-12 months

Section 1 (Brown): 1, Lucky, J Ashley; 2, Mickey, Lone Tree Alpacas; 3, Cocoman, Long/Bailey.

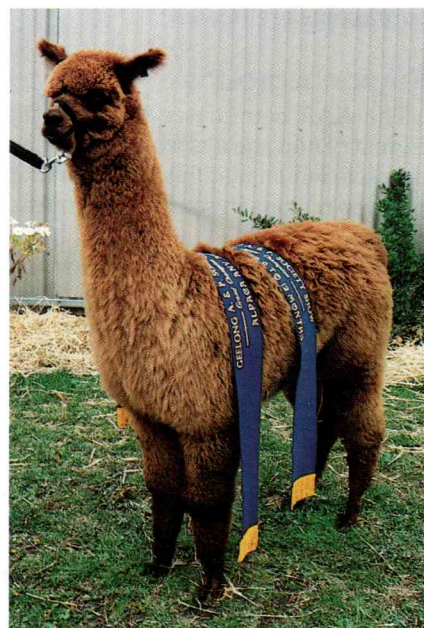
Section 2 (Other than brown): 1, Benleigh Silver Prince; 2, Benleigh Geoffery; both shown by A & C Jinks; 3, Samson, I & J Stewart.

Female 1-2 years

1, Ardcree Margurita, M & N Moore; 2, Shanbrooke Nusta, R & D Condon; 3 Pucara Röxy, Cousill/Anderson.

Male 1-2 years

Section 1 (Brown): 1, Ardcree Guinness, M &




Grand champion and junior champion female, Shanbrooke Polyanthus.



Senior champion male, Narwarren Boy with his co-owner, Trudi Bailey.

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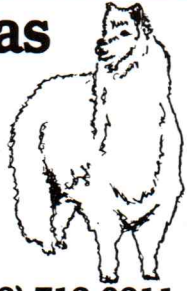
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Senior champion male at Geelong, Ardcrea Margurita.

N Moore; 2, Pucara Watson, Cousill/Anderson; 3, Benjamin, M & S Stockli.

Section 2 (Other than brown): 1, Narwarren Boy, Long/Bailey; 2, Pucara Spiros, Cousill/Anderson; 3, Red Rock Bart, Cousill/Anderson.

Female over 2 years

No entries

Male over 2 years

1, Zack, R & M Terrical; 2, Benleigh Champagne; 3, Benleigh King; both shown by A & C Jinks.



Junior champion male at Geelong, Benleigh Silver Prince.

A right Royal show at Melbourne

The alpaca judging at the Royal Melbourne Show again attracted a huge crowd.

Entries were up on the previous year and, hopefully, will be even bigger this year.

The alpacas were judged by Daryl Bishop.

A fashion parade of garments provided by Nancy Halpin, Margaret Binks and Jan Maude set the scene for the judging.

Class results:

Female, 6-12 months:

Black: 1, Murrumbidgee Alpaca Stud, Avenue Range, Murrumbidgee Cricket; 2, D K Allston, Launching Place, Tuppsidah; 3, A E & Mrs P M Neicho, Kardella, Weemala Cassandra.

White: 1, Haldane Alpacas, Camperdown, Purumbete Charlotte; 2, Haldane Alpacas, Purumbete Lady Penrhyn; 3, Shanbrooke Alpacas, Yarra Glen, Shanbrooke I'm A Toff.

Male, 6-12 months:

Brown: 1, Haldane Alpacas, Camperdown, Purumbete Scarborough; 2, G Brennan and A Batchelor, Bylands, Australian Phantom; 3, Ian McGregor, Chiltern, Cosmic.

Fawn & Vicuna: 1, Shanbrooke Alpacas, Yarra Glen, Shanbrooke Caramello; 2, John Ashley, Warburton, Lucky Star; 3, John Ashley, Bolanger.

Female, 1-2 years:

Black: 1, Shanbrooke Alpacas, Yarra Glen, Shanbrooke Nusta; 2, D & Z Webb, Warrandyte, Jemma; 3, Shanbrooke Alpacas, Shanbrooke Anzac.

Male, 1-2 years:

Black: 1, Shanbrooke Alpacas, Yarra Glen, Pretty Boy; 2, Truleen Downs Alpaca Farm, Narre Warren North, Pretty Boy; 3, M J McBride, Traralgon, Berwin Jack.

Grey/roan: 1, K Francis, Laverton, Top Gun; 2, John Ashley, Warburton, Earl Grey; 3, Ian McGregor, Chiltern, Buster.

White: 1, C Cook, Randwick, Illawarra Kerry; 2, Ian McGregor, Chiltern, Benson.

Female, over 2 years:

1, Lone Tree Alpacas, Rockbank, Sandy.

The Champions

Supreme champion: Haldane Alpacas, Purumbete Scarborough.

Junior champion female:

Haldane Alpacas, Purumbete Charlotte.

Senior champion female:

Shanbrooke Alpacas, Shanbrooke Nusta.

Junior champion male:

Haldane Alpacas, Purumbete Scarborough.

Senior champion male:

D.K. Allston, Snow Spirit.

Male over 2 years:

1, D K Allston, Launching Place, Snow Spirit; 2, Normanby Alpaca Stud, Benalla, Jolimont Harvey; 3, D & Z Webb, Warrandyte, Cocopop.



Supreme champion, Purumbete Scarborough with Clyde Haldane.

Alpacas in the Apple Isle

In the last issue we met young alpaca breeder, Mark Jefferis. Another 21-year-old alpaca enthusiast - Nicholas Ferrar, from Buckland, Tasmania - is pictured here with the first alpaca to be born in Tasmania and his dam.

Nicholas has done a course in farm management and wool classing and is keen on alpaca breeding and fibre.

There are only four alpaca breeders in Tasmania because the state's Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Energy will not allow alpacas in from mainland Australia.

The Australian Alpaca Association vice president, Ken Allston, has submitted a report to a joint working party of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and the department. The report explains the economic advantages to Tasmania of the development of an alpaca industry there. The association awaits the results of the investigation.



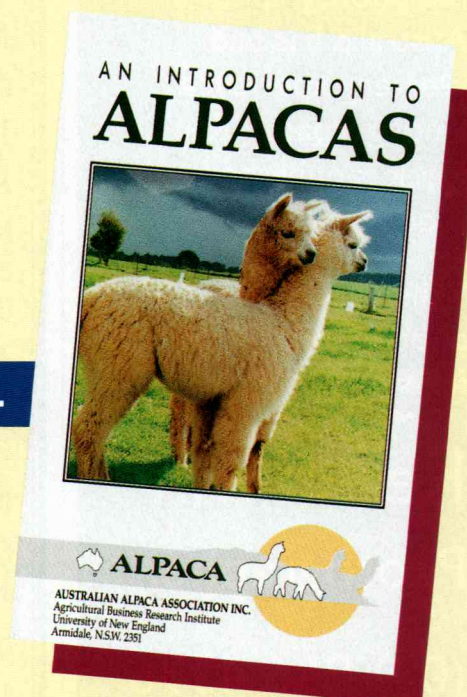
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Coming Events

February 27 Show

Lucindale, South Australia, show. Alpaca fleece competition. Contact: Trudi Barnett (087) 66 0026.

Late February Meeting

Geelong regional meeting. Contact: Alan Jinks, president of the Geelong regional association (052) 50 2737.

March 13-14 Show

St Ives, Sydney, show. Alpacas on display. Contact: Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.

March 20 Show

Yarra Glen, Victoria, show. Alpacas and promotional material on display. Contact: Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399.

March 20 Show

Mt Pleasant, South Australia, show. Alpaca feature classes. Contact: Rob Shepherd (085) 24 6150.

March 27 Show

Red Hill show. Alpacas will be a feature. Animals on display and promotional material. Contact: Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399.

April 2-13 Show

Royal Sydney Show. Contact: Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.

April 24 Fair

National Fibre Fair at Urabrae High School. Contact: Jenny Statton (088) 92 2625 or Cathy Chapman (085) 28 6165.

April 30 Field Day

Total Agricultural College field day. Contact Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.

May 1-2 Display

Garment display. Contact: Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.

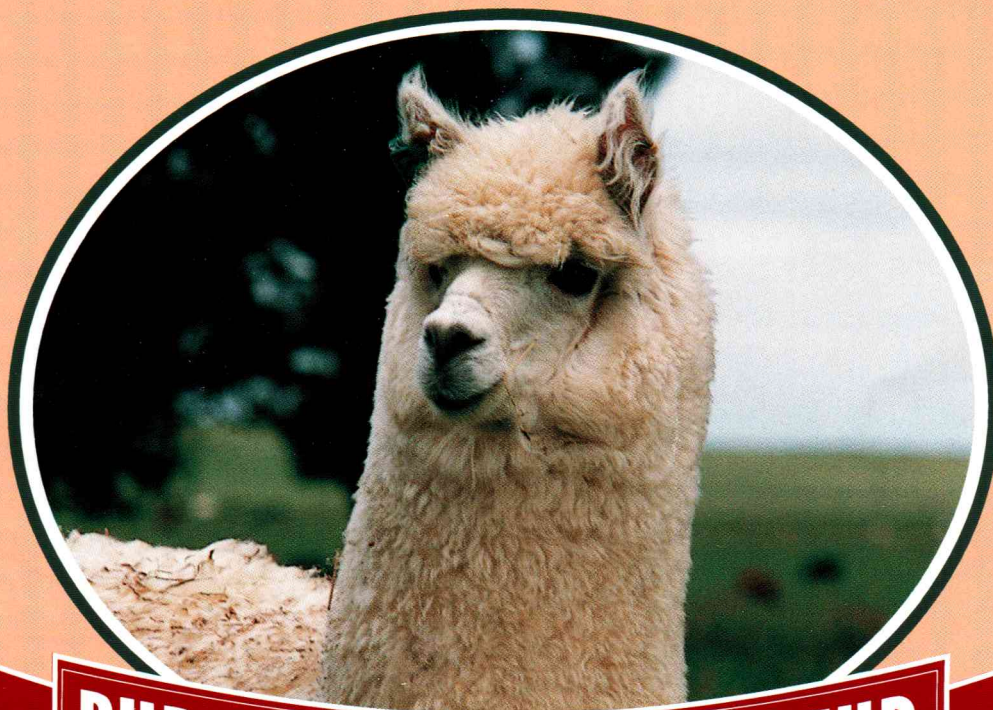
July 17-20 Show

Melbourne Sheep Show. Alpaca classes and promotional stand. Contact: John Holt (03) 376 3733.

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