

WORLD OF ALPACAS

& AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA
SPECTACULAR
2017



Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION



MILLPACA STUD SIRES

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VENDOR FINANCE

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REDEFINING WHAT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE ALPACA INDUSTRY

Ten years ago we didn't know one end of an alpaca from the other.

Like many who find themselves under the spell of alpacas, we originally looked at it as a hobby. A good reason to buy a few acres and farm an animal that was both attractive and easy to handle. It didn't take long however to see the potential that these magic animals have to offer. After the first few years we started to see some success at shows and we accelerated our breeding program, by combing top line genetics and setting our sights on consistently producing Supreme Champions.

It soon became apparent that breeding success will only take the industry so far. Achieving long term viability would rely on expanding the fleece industry and establishing an all important market for alpaca meat. We are now heavily committed to building the 3 essential pillars for long term viability, Genetics, Fleece and Meat. At **Millpaca | Prime Alpaca** we believe the sky is the limit for the Alpaca industry, both in Australia and worldwide and we are committed to being at the cutting edge of everything Alpaca.



millpaca

BREEDING PERFECTION

Our commitment to quality

Millpaca Stud is a proud member of the Australian Alpaca Association and we're committed to helping ensure the long-term viability of the domestic alpaca industry. The success of our industry depends on all those who are part of it being able to achieve premium prices for the highest quality fleece we can produce, and that's why we place such a high emphasis on genetics.

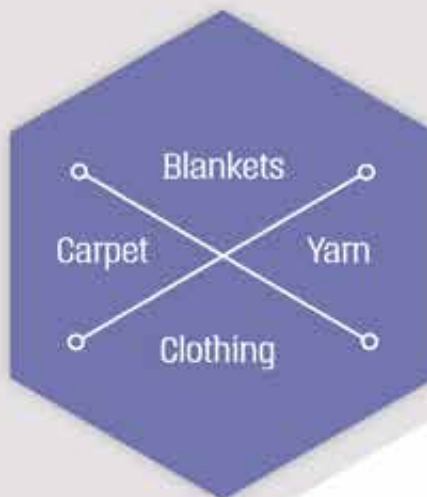
Our breeding program is focused on improving the lineage of Huacaya alpacas in Australia, as the future sustainability and growth of the alpaca fleece market here is dependant upon delivering excellence with sustainability. That means being able to produce a consistent level of fine fleece (below 20 microns) that is of consistently

high volume (4 kilos plus per animal) and a lower standard deviation.

We have over 3000 alpacas at any given time and continue to add top sires and dams to our program as we breed and procure them, ensuring Millpaca remains at the forefront of the alpaca stud breeding industry in Australia.

Our Lineage is Best of Breed

Many of our award winners have been sired from some of the best alpaca stock in the country. Millpaca's speciality bloodlines include Ambersun Fortune Seeker, Koorana Park Black Knight, Shanbrooke Accoya Invincible, Cambridge Streetwise, Shanbrooke Plantel Haynacho, Blaka Galahad, Jolimont Warrior, Warramunga Downs Paladin, Banksia Park Colorado and Blue Grass Centurion.



The Golden Fibre

With careful breeding many of Millpaca's stud animals are achieving superfine (20 micron and below) fleece. This much sort after clip is always snapped up at premium prices that show a healthy margin.

But what about the rest of our commercial herd? Currently we have over 3000 animals grazing over our three farms. Many of these are held for fibre and meat production and some do not have high value fleece. The challenge is finding a ready and reliable market for this part of the clip which can make or break a business.

There are markets for this lower quality fleece. Much of ours is on contract to a company that manufactures fine, luxurious carpets. We don't make a fortune on it but we don't lose anything either.

Currently our fibre is made into coats, jumpers, scarves, wraps, socks, blankets, pillows and doones. We also manufacture a range of premium quality blankets and knitting yarns under the Millpaca brand.



GENETICS



Whole animal philosophy.

Not only does using the whole animal make philosophical sense, it makes sound economic sense too.

Increasing yield is the fundamental of farming success. We have found markets for almost every part of the alpaca and therefore found ways to make every alpaca valuable.

Our meat business is going from strength to strength

and we have recently invested in our own abattoir facilities at Milton on the NSW South Coast. This purchase ensures we can not only meet the needs of the local and wider Australian market but also our growing international markets.

We have also begun processing skins and hides. Keep an eye out in duty free stores around Asia for our luxurious Alpaca hide rugs and a range of supple leather goods.



Who said they would never eat it?

Our alpaca prime cuts have enjoyed instant success in many quality restaurants around the country. Racks, loin, backstrap, sirloin and slow cooked shoulder cuts are all popular. But it has been the success of the lesser cuts that is driving our profitability.

Hamburger patties, gourmet sausages, pies and kofta sticks are all going gangbusters at pub bistros as are slow cooked shanks and neck rosettes.

We are currently in the testing phase on a range of smallgoods and cured meats. Alpaca prosciutto has to be tasted to be believed. But it does not stop there. How about Alpaca jerky? (Delicious!) Or Alpaca Paté? Even Asian-style Steamed Buns full of braised shoulder meat, developed with our fantastic Chef David Campbell. We have been showcasing these products all over the country at the Good Food & Wine Fairs.

One of our customers has even won a gold medal at the recent Official Great Aussie Pie competition!

All up last year we shipped over 48,000kg of Alpaca. This gives us huge faith in the long term viability of not only the alpaca meat industry, but also the long term viability of Alpaca farming in Australia.

We've only just begun.

From a small national herd of only a few thousand animals just two decades ago we now have over 200,000 registered animals. Our best stud animals are often sold for six figure sums. The world's luxury brands have an insatiable hunger for luxury fleece and Australians (and New Zealanders) are just starting to discover that they have a hunger for a meat they hardly knew existed.

Millpaca and Prime Alpaca are totally committed to the long term viability and success of Australia's Alpaca industry. We've come a long way in a short time but in reality, the possibilities are endless.



Join us on our mission of placing the Australian Alpaca Industry firmly on the world stage.

Call us on 02 4464 1728 or email at info@millpaca.com or visit our websites

www.millpaca.com or www.primealpaca.com.au





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EDITORIAL / MARKETING

Trevor Pavlovich
 PO Box 757, Glenelg, SA 5045
 p: 08 8294 9151
 m: 0415 908 321
 trevp@worldofalpacas.com
 www.worldofalpacas.com

DESIGN

Wendy Elliston & Scott Hutton

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This is our first volume as a joint venture with the Australian Alpaca Association and we look forward to many more. World of Alpacas 18yrs young, together with the Australian Alpaca Association 25yrs young, intend to produce a publication that will offer benefits and opportunities to all Owners and Breeders throughout Australia and New Zealand. World of Alpacas has a strong belief in the Alpaca Industry. However, difficult times will come, but Pioneers work through such times. I have had the pleasure of speaking to some 'positive and keen' new comers to the Alpaca Industry (some 80 over this past year), of course they will experience "curve balls and speed bumps" as this is part of business. I am sure they will look for assistance from the established Owners and Breeders. Remember we all started at the beginning and they will be part of the future. We at World of Alpacas are looking forward to the "Spectacular" at Bendigo August 24-27. This will be a time to see many of the finest Alpacas in the world, and enjoy catching up with friends. On a sad note, Wendy Elliston will no longer be involved with World of Alpacas. Wendy continues with a personal battle and for those who believe please keep her in prayer. "Thank you girl".



Trevor Pavlovich



FRONT COVER

Shamarra Alpacas



BACK COVER

Tumi Alpaca Transport

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Keiana Lodge



Keiana Lodge Alpacas are situated approximately 1100m above sea level and about 70kms from either Mudgee, Lithgow or Bathurst. The area here is very well suited to breeding alpacas. We would like to be able to breed a commercially viable herd of black suris and huacayas, however we do have all colours. We have females, males and wethers for sale. We are very much a family business with Keith, Diana, our son Andrew and daughter-in-law Audrey and their children Dylan and Jaiden to look after the over 1900 acres we run on.

You are welcome to visit by appointment, to make it easier to show you what you may be looking for as we have over 700 alpacas, plus sheep and cattle.



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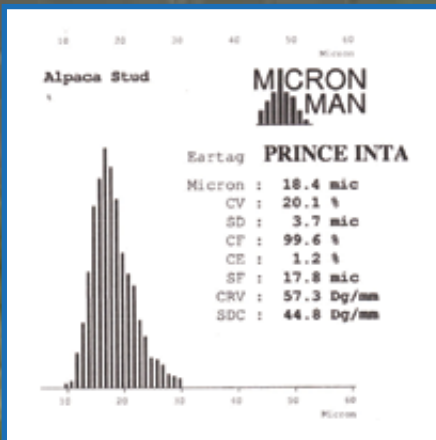
Futura Leading Lady

New stud male arrives

Grand Flowerdale CY PRINCE INTA ET

Has been imported from Gilt Edge Alpacas, New Zealand

**Prince Inta's
fleece profile at 45 months**



Prince Inta in New Zealand 2017

RECORD BREAKING FLEECE SALES

**2016 SAW OUR VOLUNTEER GROUP AFN(AUST)'S
HIGHEST SALES EVER FOR ALL MICRON FLEECE
ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIAN ALPACA BREEDERS**

Over \$95,000 has been paid to Australian Alpaca breeders from sales of fibre to buyers in New Zealand, Germany, Japan and Australia.

Due to the objective method of collecting fibre, each buyer can be assured of obtaining the exact parameters needed for their purpose with minimal wastage.

For our shop at Annkea Alpacas, we are very fortunate to be able to purchase and onsell the superb garments produced by Shamarra Alpacas (NZ).

We have recently worked with Australian mills and designers to now procure 100% Australian made Alpaca yarn and luxury garments. A delightful group of hand-knitters are also contributing garments to our shop. These ladies comment often on the softness and durability of Alpaca Yarn produced due to our stringent objective measurements at fibre collection points.



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Image courtesy of Shamarra Alpacas NZ

OUR METICULOUS FLEECE COLLECTIONS RESULT IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY, MOST LUXURIOUS ALPACA KNITWEAR THAT WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF



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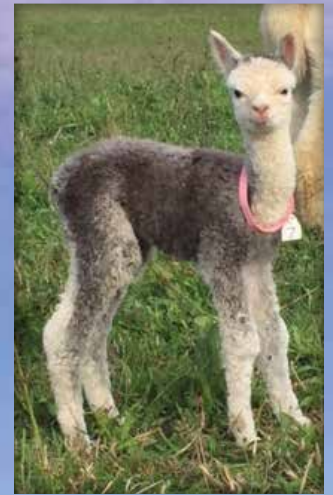
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Silverwillow Alpacas is situated near the Yarra Valley in the beautiful undulating countryside of Kangaroo Ground.

The girls enjoy a happy, stress free life while growing their beautiful fleeces which are then crafted into soft, warm scarves, throws, cot blankets and balls of wool ready for your creation and enjoyment.



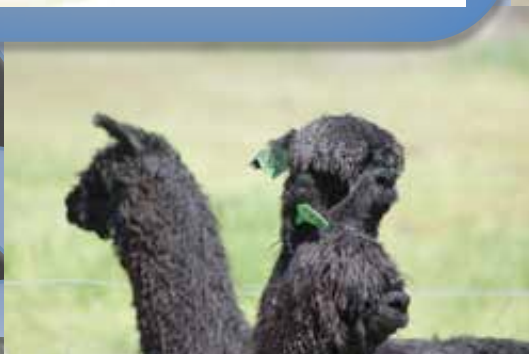
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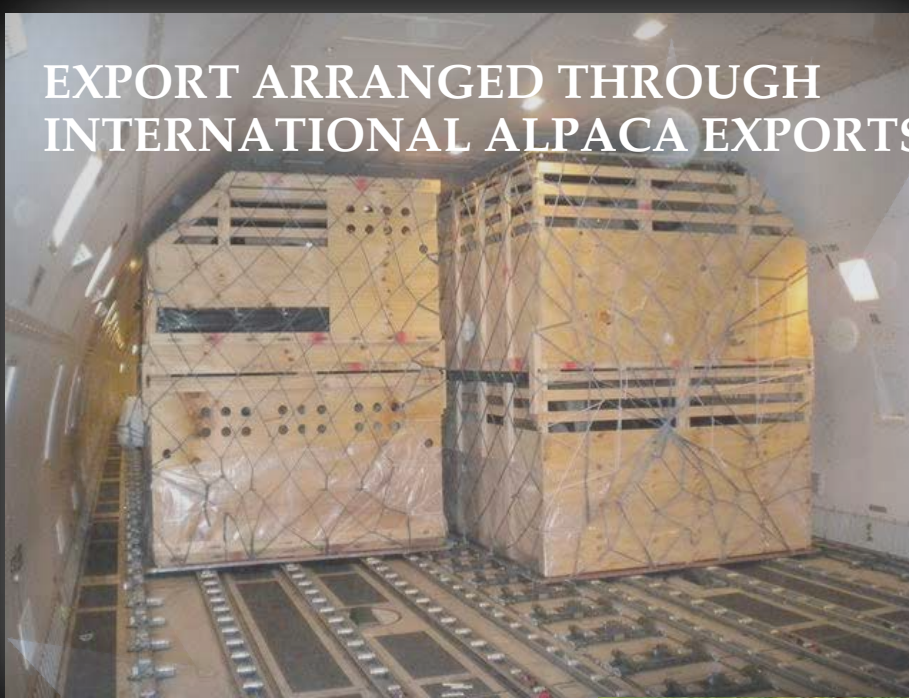


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ALPACA MANAGER has been around for 15 years now. Feedback from our over 400 users has been central to the continued development of the software. We're now in the position of having a very stable product and an established customer base all round the world.

The computer program is the brainchild of software engineer Richard Williams and his wife Miriam. We and our alpacas live on a rural property near the wine village of Martinborough in New Zealand's Wairarapa district. Ours is a familiar story: in 2000 we moved to the country and purchased our first alpacas.

After a very short time the need for record keeping became obvious. It was more and more difficult to remember who was related to whom, the progress of any particular mating, when cria were due and also scheduling the more mundane tasks such as drenching and inoculations. Richard quite quickly decided to write a computer program to assist us in keeping track of our herd, their ancestors and the husbandry tasks. The first version of Alpaca Manager came into being towards the end of 2002 – originally only intended for our own use.

Alpaca Manager is a Microsoft Access database application and can be installed on a Windows-based computer running Windows XP/Vista/7/8/10. If you have an Apple Mac you will also need emulation software such as VMWare Fusion or Parallels in order to run Windows.

If you are already using another software package or spreadsheets we can usually import the data to Alpaca Manager for a modest additional charge. There are no on-going costs; free regular updates are included in the registration fee.

USING THE PROGRAM YOU CAN:

- Record basic animal details including ancestry, shearing data and husbandry tasks
- Create worksheets to take out to the paddock or yards
- Track matings using your self-defined protocol
- Import data from external sources (eg. shearing stats)
- Schedule and record events using the calendar and diary functions

- Print sales sheets and transfer animal data to the new owner once you've sold them.

Over the years Alpaca Manager has been developed in response to suggestions from users and the changing needs of the industry. As well as the Australasian IAR, the BAS (UK) and ARI (USA) registries are catered for. Tracking ET pregnancies has been possible since

2008; Animal Husbandry Worksheets are increasingly popular and there's even an Email Marketing Campaign function.

Taking advantage of the available technology makes it easy for us to communicate with our customers – Skyping and logging on to computers many thousands of kilometres away has become commonplace. To learn more about our remote support service, visit **www.epsilon.net.nz/support**

As with any computer package (think accounting, word processing, spreadsheets ...)

while the program is easy to use, sometimes it's not obvious to see creative ways it can help you run your business. We'd like to show you some of those.

As already mentioned, getting to grips with a more 'advanced' function can be a bit daunting – but it makes sense to 'give it a go'! That's why we are developing a series of YouTube 'How to ...' videos, the first of which is an introduction to the program for new and potential customers – to see it go to our website

www.epsilon.net.nz/products/alpacamanager and click on the YouTube icon.

We've recently released a video on worksheets and are working on tracking matings and preparing for shearing.

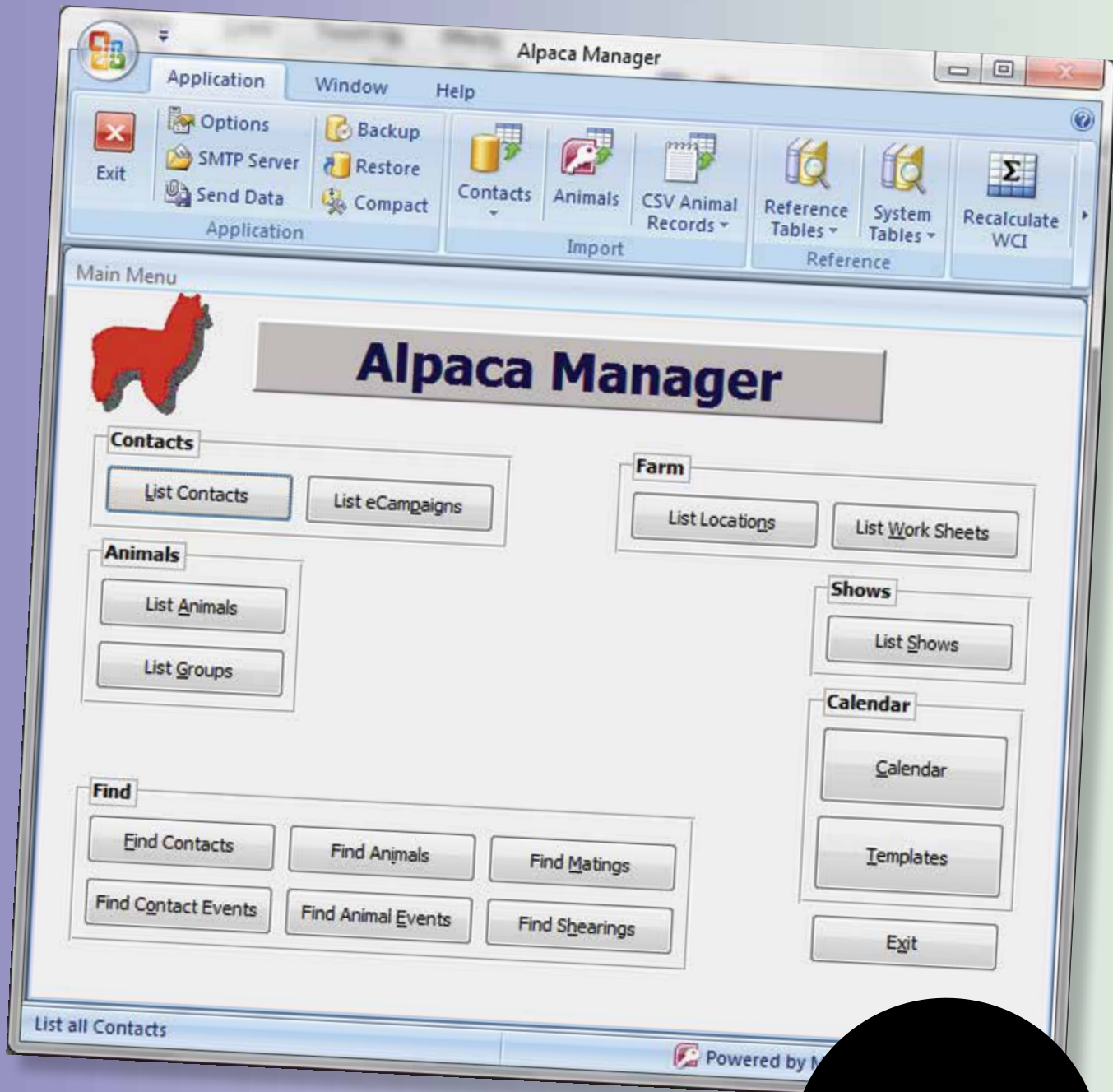
We love meeting other alpaca people and finding out how they are using the program. 2015 saw us travel to the UK, 2016 to South Australia and NSW.

With users all around the globe from Sweden to the USA to Namibia who knows where another trip could take us! In the meantime, we will be at the AANZ National Show and Expo in Feilding, NZ in September so come and say hello.



Alpaca Manager

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Our journey has always been about colour. Primarily black and grey but always committed to breeding coloured alpacas that can stand up against the best of the whites, both in the show ring and in fleece.

With our core high quality breeding herd now at more than 100 we offer reliable high performance progeny for serious stud breeders.



Photography courtesy Doug Page, Marnoo mob. 0413923731

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Nursing Home Visits

ROBIN HILL ALPACAS

The weather earlier in the morning had us a little concerned – overcast and looking very much like rain. However, the clouds cleared and the sun came out and it was the perfect day for entertaining. The group of 15 elderly people, plus carers, from the Day Activity Centre of a local nursing home arrived in two buses – some ambulant, but others requiring walkers, and were settled on hay bales and directors chairs in front of our hay shed. We'd brought some of the animals up to the shed earlier on and they were busy helping themselves to the smorgasbord of Lucerne and grass hay! Keith then gave a short talk on the joys and occasional tribulations of alpaca farming. The group were most appreciative of a day out with a difference and asked numerous questions. Lindy then gave a short talk about the properties of alpaca fibre and showed them samples of beautifully soft home-spun fibre and what can be achieved in the form of a cosy winter scarf and also showed them a wonderfully soft, commercially produced alpaca poncho. The highlight of the activity was the opportunity to become really close to one of the young males who had been haltered and was happy to wander around the group and submit to being touched and admired. One old chap had lived on a farm in the dim and distant past and became quite nostalgic for a bygone era.

Our property is somewhat hilly and getting from the shed to the house took a little time but eventually everyone was seated and ready for lunch. Sandwiches, cake and fruit had been provided by the Activity Centre and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to sit outside in the sun, chat and enjoy the view. All left with a copy of our Robin Hill flyer to show their families on their return home.

We have been welcoming groups from the nursing home for several years now and it is a rewarding experience. Perhaps, if there are similar aged care facilities in your area, you could extend them an invitation to visit your farm. We're sure they'd really welcome the opportunity.



Explaining fleece.



Talking about alpacas.



Close encounters.



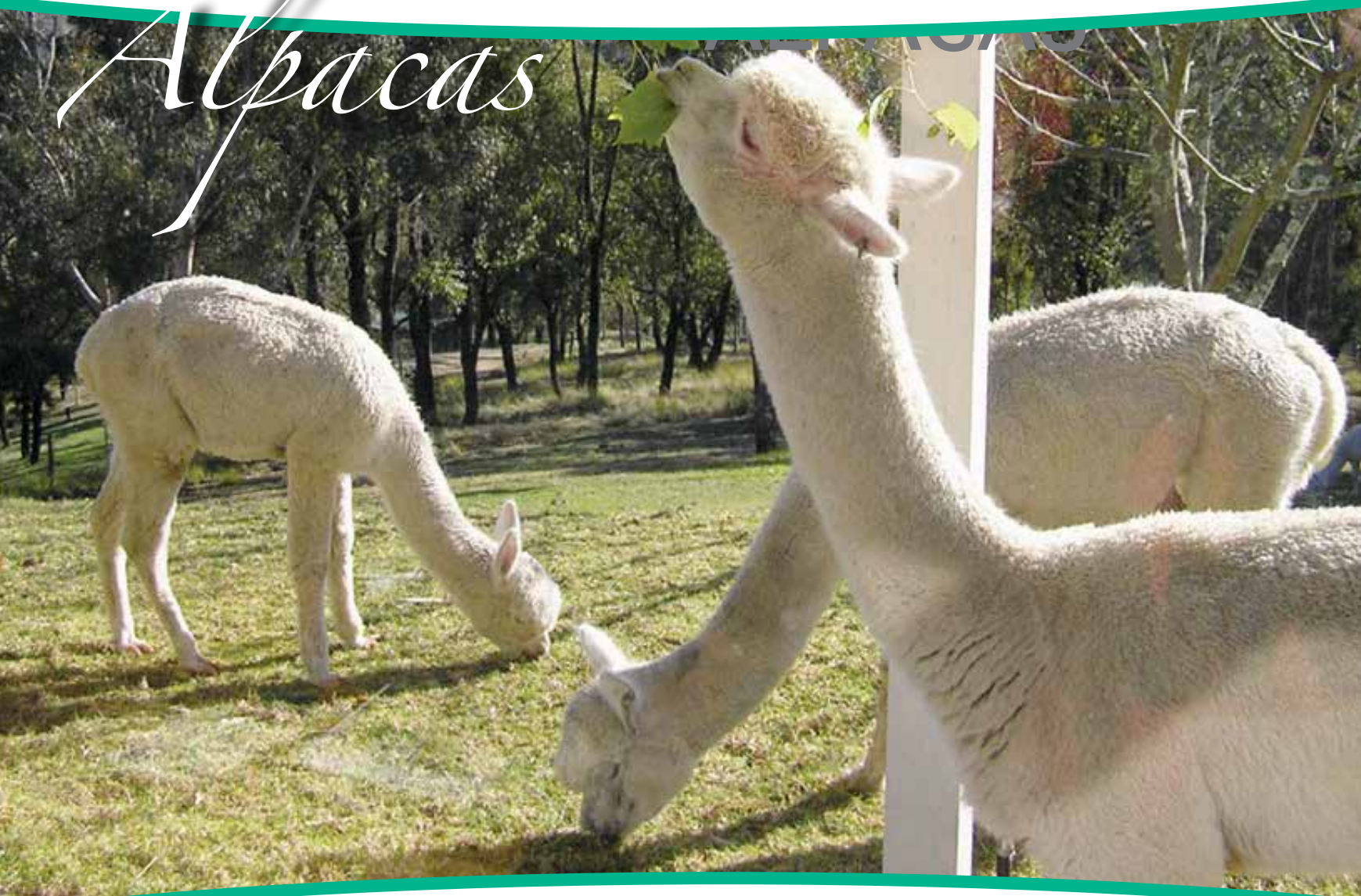
Enjoying the sunshine and lunch.



Admiring the finished product.

ROBIN HILL

Alpacas



a small stud specialising in white huacayas
derived from the best Peruvian genetics

Lindy & Keith Montell are the owners of a small stud specialising in high quality white Huacaya alpacas. Our bloodlines include those of the famed Accoyo and Allianz studs of Peru and we have utilised champion sires from leading studs in our breeding programs. We strive for high quality, lustrous fleece, with well-defined crimp and low micron.

Robin Hill offers the new, or established, breeder the opportunity to enhance their herd blood lines with the addition of our high quality females and Certified males that are now available.

We are able to help new and potential breeders with the establishment of their herd. Advice on the selection of animals, or Starter Packages, is freely offered. We have over 12 years breeding experience and will be happy to provide help and assistance as required.

178 Hargreaves Road, Steels Creek 3775 (approx. 15 minutes from Yarra Glen)

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MERRIJIG ALPACAS



Merrijig is devoted to raising the highest calibre herd with outstanding bone density and confirmation, arriving at the perfect balance of low-micron, lustrous fibre. Our dedicated team selects the genetically exceptional stock to create, maintain and extend an elite herd – the foundations on which to build Merrijig's reputation.

Our farm and its state of the art facilities are at the pinnacle of hygiene and animal welfare. Merrijig strives to bring you the very best in an ethical and animal-centric environment.

Each year Merrijig will hold an auction, releasing an enviable selection of high quality alpacas on to the market suitable for professional and boutique farms alike.





MERRIJIG ALPACAS

– INAUGURAL –
**ELITE
AUCTION**
2 SEPTEMBER 2017

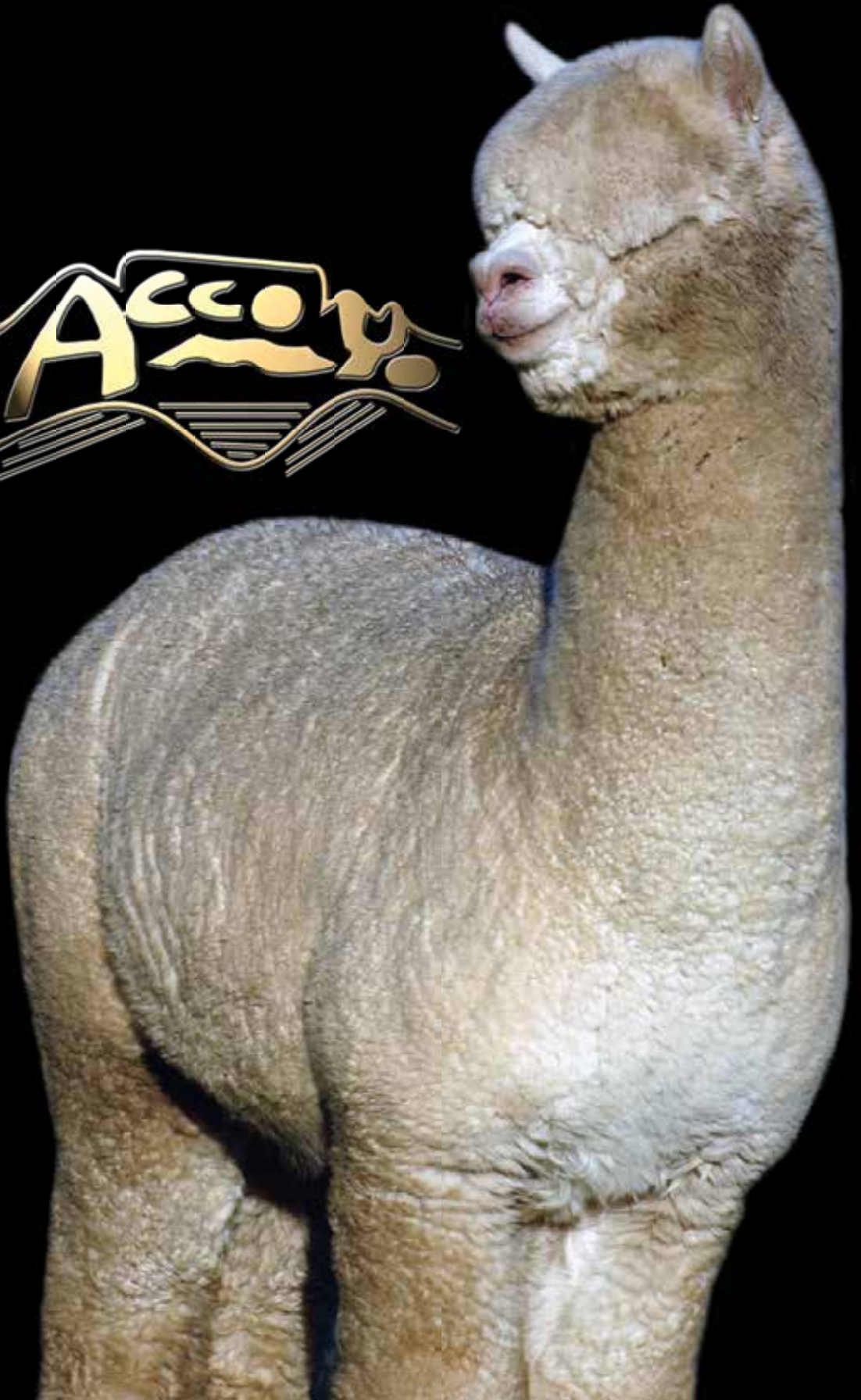
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OWNED AND
OPERATED**



SIMPLYSTUNNINGSURİ

by ANN PARRY

Although the majority of breeders in Australia are developing herds of fine-fleeced, soft-handling huacaya, there is a limited number of us who are just as keen on developing the suri.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BREEDING SURİ?

Suri is far more rare than huacaya – as anyone who has attended an alpaca show will know. It is thought that less than 5% of alpaca world-wide is suri and even fewer are coloured suri. Most alpaca shows in Australia are comprised of approximately 10% suri and 90% huacaya – so much opportunity!!

The cost of purchasing suri is now comparable with that of purchasing huacaya ... the time is right to begin your suri adventure.

The suri fleece is a minor miracle – softer than cashmere, with the lustre of silk, the featherweight of goosedown and the durability of wool. The fleece is coveted by the high fashion world and cherished by handspinners. Because of its low numbers, suri fleece is not available in large quantities in the world market.

Suri fleece blends well with other fibres and has a soft handle due to the flat, thin scales on the fibre surface – this also gives off a brilliant lustre. Those flat, thin scales also eliminate the ‘prickle factor’ commonly felt in woollen items and the longer fibres of suri help prevent ‘pilling’. Garments created from suri fibre have an enviable ‘drape’ not seen elsewhere.

PURCHASING SURİ

There are many highly reputable suri breeders who will assist you in selecting your suri. We have been in the alpaca industry for over 14 years, starting off, as many do, breeding huacaya – we still have one of our original girls (referred to as ‘The Walking Carpet’!). We did well with our huacaya breeding and developed a few Champions.

However, some 10 years ago we fell in love with the suri and have been breeding coloured champions since that time. When you first see a good suri in full fleece, they blow you away and when they run, with their silky fleece swaying in the breeze, it's like nothing on earth. We love the way they look and are attracted by their rarity. We specialise in colour, because good quality coloured suri are rarer still.

Our decision has been to concentrate on breeding white to dark fawn and, since that decision was made, our success has increased exponentially. We particularly love the mid- to dark-fawn but the lustre on a fantastic white suri is beyond compare.

Since we have been breeding suri, 33 of our alpacas have been awarded championships, some of them several times over. From these championships, we have gone on to win nine Supremes, shared amongst four of our alpacas and six champion fleeces provided by four of our suri. For a stud with only 50 animals, we think we are doing okay.

Because we are ‘hands on’, we have practical knowledge of all aspects of the alpaca business – breeding, birthing, herd health and maintenance, showing ... and we also continue to use our own mentors when we get stuck.

Remember that who you purchase from is just as important as what you purchase. Like our own mentors, we enjoy helping others to succeed in this industry and will be there to support you in all aspects of the business. We will help you to make wise decisions and avoid pitfalls; we'll share with you your joys and sorrows.

Come for a visit and enjoy a hands-on experience where we can discuss with you the attributes of a quality suri – both conformation and fleece.

We have heard, many times, that people consider suris more flighty and more difficult to handle than huacayas. This has not been our experience. The heavy fringe often means that they do not see you approaching and can be startled. We have taken to using ponytail elastics to keep the fringe from their eyes unless they are being led in the showing.

Take the plunge and start your suri journey now ...

alpaca 2017



NATIONAL SHOW

22nd, 23rd, 24th September 2017

Manfeild Events Centre, FEILDING

Breed Judge: Angela Preuss & Diane Marks

Fleece Judge: Sarah Busby (Suri) & Paul Garland (Huacaya)



Join us for New Zealand's largest and most prestigious Alpaca Show

- National Breed Show • National Fleece Show
 - Trade Sites • Public Activities and Craft Demonstrations
- Happening Throughout the Event • Absolutely Fabulous Fibre



The website **www.alpacaexpo.co.nz** is the best place to find out all the info. Updates are being made regularly.



Alpaca Association
NEW ZEALAND



DOWNSIZING DUE TO FAMILY COMMITMENTS

Eskdale Alpaca Stud was started by Robyn & John Lynn in 2004 with the purchase of 5 pregnant females from Bankshia Park.

They were put in a 120 hectare paddock with 550 ewes that had just started lambing we were losing 4-6 lambs a night mostly to stillbirths we thought with the odd one taken by foxes, once the females were introduced the stillbirths stopped instantly. What was happening was the foxes were disturbing the lambing ewe and the ewe would get up and walk off and fail to stimulate with licking and nudging, the lamb would fail to get up and therefore die, after the introduction of female alpacas we would only get 1-2 genuine stillbirths a week a huge saving in live lambs.

In 2004 we were running approx 2000 breeding ewes so more female alpacas followed from Mulunga Alpacas & Struzzi Farm Alpacas. Next we needed a male to service our females, good luck more than good management saw us buy Suncloud Tahlison (a full brother to Suncloud Montgomery the sire of the famous Suncloud Talahasi), we have had over 60 progeny from Tahlison with more still coming. In 2007 we showed Tahlison's fleece at the Perth Royal Show where he won Champion Fleece in the 48-60 month age group. At 14 years of age last year he still cut a commercial fleece at 80 mm's in length, he may even still get there this year too and looks very much the Alpha male he is.

2007 saw us expand again with the purchase of the entire herd of animals from Jewel Estate Alpacas along with a couple stud sires. In 2010 we bought the entire herd of females from Peppertree Alpacas. An addition of 6 females from Encantador occurred in 2011, and a new sire from Suncloud, Suncloud Banderas a great nephew of Suncloud Tahlison (Banderas is a son of Suncloud Talahasi) to follow up on Tahlison's daughters to fix the breeding line of quality fleece

from Suncloud Peruvian Tahlia. We also had several females from the famous Somerset Accoyo Challenger, one that was mated to Banderas that produced us a great young sire called Eskdale Harry Houndini who is leaving us a great line of strong (mostly) white large animals with good fleeces.

Futura Leading Edge a grandson of Challenger was purchased in 2015 to cover Harry Houndini daughters (to bulk up on the Challenger genetics) and to go over some of the daughters of the Suncloud sires. Again in 2016 saw the addition of Morganleah Joule a grandson of Suncloud Talahasi once again linebreeding to Suncloud Peruvian Tahlia.

The above information relates mainly to our white lines of huacaya, we also have been working on a grey and roan line of breeders starting with females from Lyndelup in 2010 along with a male. Then a great grey male from Mystic Valley, Mystic Valley Merlin who is giving us a good line of grey and roan progeny.

We have been running Eskdale Poll Hereford Stud for more than 40 years and have been very successful at the Perth royal Show on and off since the 1980's, which is why we haven't shown live alpaca's, only fleeces and have won a number of ribbon's.

In the 13 years we have been running alpacas we have also had 13 grandchildren with possibly more to come so we are reducing our herd and quite a number are for sale. We shear 3000 merino sheep a year and have used our wool classing skills and our cattle pedigree skills both of over 40 years and applied it to improving our alpacas to breed consistent lines of fixed genes. Over the next few months we will mate approx 90 females. We have shifted from using females as herd guards to wethers and have also been selling up to a dozen wethers a year to other sheep farmers locally but are starting to gain a wether flock as our breeding numbers have climbed. There are 5 or 6 very good young males suitable for stud use also. So all up, we have for sale females of all ages, stud males, and wethers for either herd guards or for the slaughter market.



ESKDALE

POLL HEREFORD

and

ALPACA STUD

J.R. & R.A. LYNN

PHONE 9636 2062

JOHN 0488 362 062

ROBYN 0428 376 076

EMAIL JRLYNN@WN.COM.AU

JOHN AND ROBYN LYNN

PO BOX 107

CUNDERDIN 6407

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF ALPACAS IN AUSTRALIA



DR. JIM WATTS
M.V.Sc., Ph.D.
srs@hinet.net.au 0409 364 864

**Huacaya alpaca fleece, 17.1 microns, from a
four year old SRS sire.**

developed a breeding system ("SRS" or soft rolling skin) in 1988 for improving the fibre density and length of the fleece of Merino sheep. The breeding principles and selection methods have been installed in approximately 1200 Merino flocks throughout Australia. Importantly, 40 Merino studs have participated and are now able to breed and supply 11,000 Merino rams per year of the SRS standard to these many commercial flocks. With this new direction in sheep breeding, the following benefits have occurred. The sheep:

- are plain bodied, fly strike resistant, and do not need to be mulesed

- grow a thin stapled, soft and silky wool of low crimp frequency (bold crimp) and high crimp amplitude (deep crimp) – see Figure 1
- produce more wool of much improved quality, fineness, and processing quality
- produce wool that is almost twice as long (as the traditional Merino), allowing the sheep to be shorn twice a year instead of once.
- produce 120 to 140% lambs per year (c/w industry average of 85 %) and rear most lambs (c/w unacceptably high industry lamb losses of 40 % from conception to weaning)

- survive and thrive in tough conditions, from wet areas to dry hot areas.

The sheep look very different to the traditional Merino which has a wrinkly skin and grows a thick stapled, high crimp frequency wool that is short in length.

With such success in the genetic improvement of the Merino, I began, in 2006, applying the same breeding principles and methods to the Australian alpaca. The work has focussed mainly on white and fawn Huacayas. Again, selection is based on maximising fibre density and length of the fleece. In alpacas, as in the Merino, this outcome requires the primary fibres to be very fine in diameter. Fortunately, all of these traits can be measured.

Like in the SRS Merino, the fleece structure of the SRS alpaca is noticeably different to the conventional type (Figure 1). The fleece consists of thin staples of bold and deeply crimped wool. It is all somewhat counter-intuitive. These thin stapled alpacas produce high fleece weights where one might anticipate the opposite. And the bold and deep crimp of these wools indicate fibre fineness where high fibre diameter might have been anticipated.

So the question is, does the Australian alpaca industry want to use the SRS breeding methods, or does it want to go a different, even opposite, way, as the Australian Merino industry, in large part, has? I am not sure what the result will be. Like the Merino stud industry, the alpaca industry is enamoured with showing successes and judges' opinions, all of which might be quite contrary to the scientifically proven methods I use. However, the SRS breeding system is there for alpaca breeders to consider.

To keep the SRS opportunity alive for alpaca breeders, I have focussed, with my colleagues, on producing advanced alpaca sires. Here is a quick example.

In Western Australia, there is Suncloud Alpacas (Peter and Carolyn Richards) at Merredin and Goldleaf Alpacas (Brett Fallon) at Albany. Murray Ventris is the SRS breeding consultant to these studs as well as the commercial herds in Western Australia.

At Suncloud, a series of impact sires have been bred. The first was Suncloud Talahasi, a solid white Huacaya male with a density of 45 follicles per square millimetre of skin and always producing a very long fleece. The primary fibres averaged only 27.2 microns and the secondary fibres, 20.2 microns. Talahasi bred Suncloud Kinetic, a solid white male with a density of 67.5 and fibre length of 0.44. The primary fibres averaged 26.8 microns and the secondary fibres, 19.4 microns. Kinetic then bred Suncloud

Juanchito, a solid white male with the best crimping, silky wool I have seen on an alpaca. Juanchito has a density of 56, fibre length of 0.43, primary fibre diameter of 22.1 and secondary fibre diameter of 16.7.

Suncloud Talahasi was used at Glenhope Alpacas (David and Bronwyn Mitchell) at Armidale, New South Wales, and bred outstanding sires in Hugo, Gibraltar, Jester and Jupiter. Jupiter is a good prospect with a density of 66.8, a fibre length of 0.48, primary fibre diameter of 29.6 and secondary fibre diameter of 21.2. There have been big improvements in fleece quantity and quality of the herd. The uniformity of the herd is remarkable. Saddle weights average 4 to 4.5 kilograms.

I would invite alpaca breeders who are interested in this approach to contact me. This is an ongoing group effort to accelerate genetic improvement of the alpaca in Australia. It is all about breeding excellence that is measurable and real.



Merino fleece for six months wool growth, 17.0 microns, from a 2.5 year old SRS Merino sire.

SPECIALISING IN WHITE HUACAYA



BRENOR ALPACA

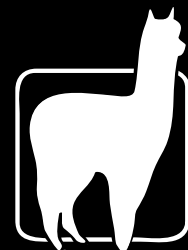
We offer

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BREEDING CHAMPIONS

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Phone/Fax: +64 (0)7 332 2336
Mobile: +64 (0)21 275 3720
Email: alpaca@brenor.co.nz
Address: 200 Kaharoa Rd, Hamurana, Rotorua, NZ
Web: www.brenor.co.nz
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BRENOR
Alpaca

We, Brenda and Ivor Gainsford at Brenor Alpaca, have realized the importance of setting breeding goals and staying on track to achieve them.

It is easy to get side tracked by fashionable fads. If you are not focused on improving the herd it is easy to regress.

The breeding goal at Brenor Alpaca is to breed a quality white huacaya herd.

Breeding a high quality herd is a process of layering. You don't get the perfect alpaca from one mating. You need to make a plan, implement the plan and then assess the outcome. If you don't get the results you were looking for you may need to make changes to the original plan to achieve the results you are looking for while staying focused on your breeding goal.

Fleece testing is an essential tool at Brenor Alpaca. We objectively measure our herd by fleece testing annually. Our focus is on low SD and high density covering the body while always maintaining correct conformation. We now only breed from those that meet our high standards.

We listen to the opinions of outside experts who have viewed our alpaca. We are able to benchmark ourselves against other breeders at shows or visiting farms within New Zealand and overseas. This stops us becoming barn blind.

Brenor Alpaca has produced multiple Supreme Champions during the last number of show seasons from our ever improving herd.

By staying focused on our goals our breeding has become consistent and reliable.





WHAT ABOUT ALPACA?

People purchase alpacas for many reasons – as herd protection for sheep, goats and chickens, as pets; and as part of an exciting lifestyle change.

Alpacas are perfect for all these things.

They are gentle animals which are kind to the environment and don't challenge fences.

They are easy to manage and are perfectly suited to small acreages.

Alpaca people are friendly and always willing to share their knowledge and expertise with newcomers to the industry.

New markets for alpaca fleece are constantly emerging and, for the foreseeable future, demand will exceed supply for good quality fleece.

The Australian Alpaca Association is proactive and supportive and has its annual show – The Australian alpaca Spectacular – in Bendigo each winter. Smaller regional groups around Australia organise many shows each year.

WHAT ABOUT SURI?

Many people are unaware that there are two types of alpaca. This is because the suri, with its amazing silky dreadlocks, remains very rare ... and coloured suri rarer still. A herd of these animals, running in the paddock, is an amazing sight.

The Australian climate suits the suri better than the harsh climate of its homeland and some breeders have chosen to specialise in suri.

The fleece from the suri alpaca is unique in the animal world. It has a natural lustre and softness that is unsurpassed and commands premium prices on world markets.

Initially, many suris were white or light fawn, but some breeders are now producing stunning coloured suris with outstanding fleeces.

WHAT ABOUT TICKENHALL?

At Tickenhall, we specialise in white and fawn award-winning suri alpacas. We usually have about fifty animals on farm.

Suris are no longer as expensive as they once were and quality animals are available at very reasonable prices. Older females or cross-bred females (those with huacaya parents, grandparents or great-grandparents) will give you a cria that are often worth far more than you initially pay for their mother.

Purchasing from Tickenhall means that you become part of our extended family, enabling you to access our stud males at reduced rates and additional purchases come with a discount.

We have considerable experience as breeders and our animals are generally quiet and well-mannered. They are all trained to walk on the halter. We will help you with husbandry and general advice. We are only ever a phone call away.

FURTHER INFORMATION

We believe in straightforward, honest communication with our visitors and clients alike.

Once you make the decision to purchase an animal from us, you can do so with confidence. Until you are able to visit and see the alpacas for yourself, we are happy to send photos and fleece samples to help in making your selection – a wether, a maiden, a female (empty or pregnant) or a potential stud male and we are open to discussing special financing plans to meet your needs.

We have several award-winning herd sires available to use over your female. If agistment is required for your new purchase, your animals will continue to receive the same excellent care experienced by all our alpacas.

wonderful whites to
fabulous fawns



99 Riley's Road, Snake Valley, Victoria 3351
tickenhallalpacas@gmail.com
Ann - 0408 539 359 | Trevor - 0429 428 974

www.tickenhall.com.au

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA NUTRITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT

HOW 10 ALPACA DEATHS ON A CENTRAL QUEENSLAND FARM IN 2015 LEAD TO THE LARGEST ALPACA NUTRITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT CARRIED OUT IN THE WORLD.

by **KELLI PFEIFFER**

It all started after Cylone Marcia hit Central Queensland in February 2015. The cyclone came, a direct path over our farm, we were evacuated and the animals left to sit it out in the paddock. 250km winds threw everything at them: roofs, branches – even leaves would have caused terrible pain at that speed! Immediately afterward we attended to injuries which were mainly contained to eyes/ears/bruising/surface wounds – apart from a loss of two animals crushed under a fallen roof. Then the property clean up started. Half our paddocks had lost fences from fallen trees. The first day was clearing the road onto the property so that we could get access! Then clearing tracks for animals to move along so we could start husbandry – Vitamin D, Phosphorous, Selenium treatments to begin.

March 2015: Two weeks later the animals in our confirmed pregnant paddock started to die – one a day, for 10 days, they were aged 3-5yrs, pregnant for the first time. Symptoms:

- Ataxia, weakness in the rear legs
- Recumbent, eventually on side groaning, stomach grumbly, reflux
- PEM (thiamine deficiency), star gazing
- Kink in the neck, legs in cush, but weak looking more like a frog at rear
- Stools go from beans to water
- Sudden anemia
- Animals were dead within 15hrs of symptoms first appearing

POST MORTEM RESULTS:

Unremarkable, nothing wrong with any of them!

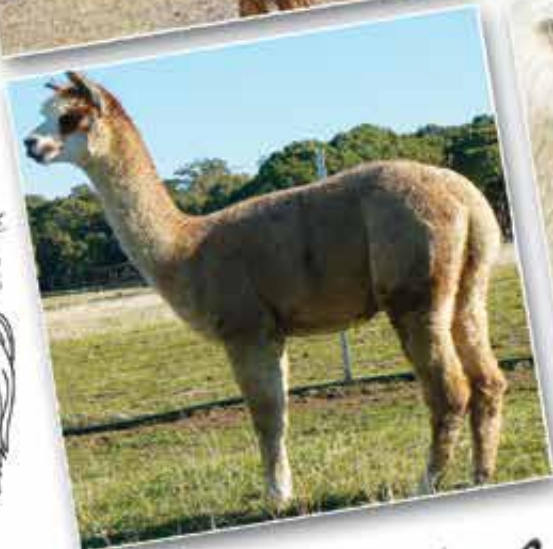
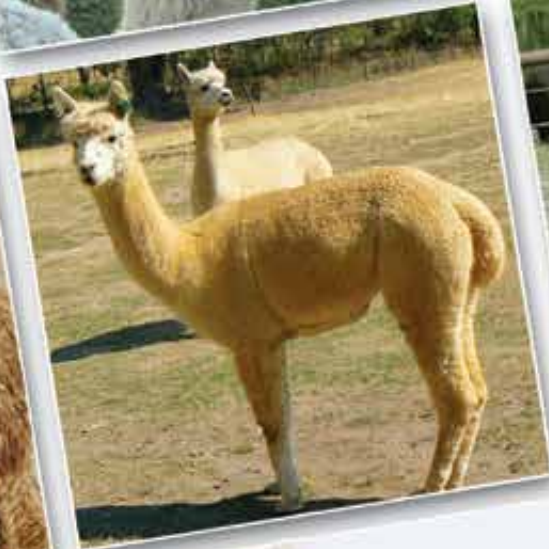
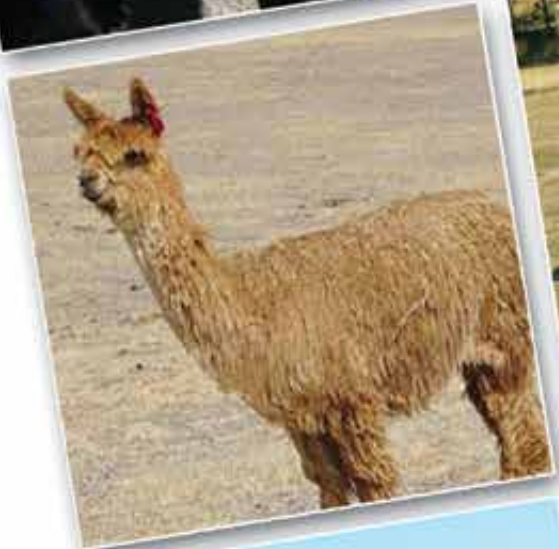
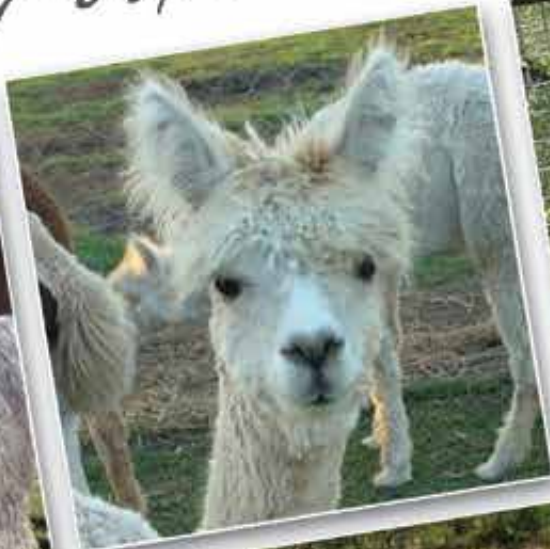
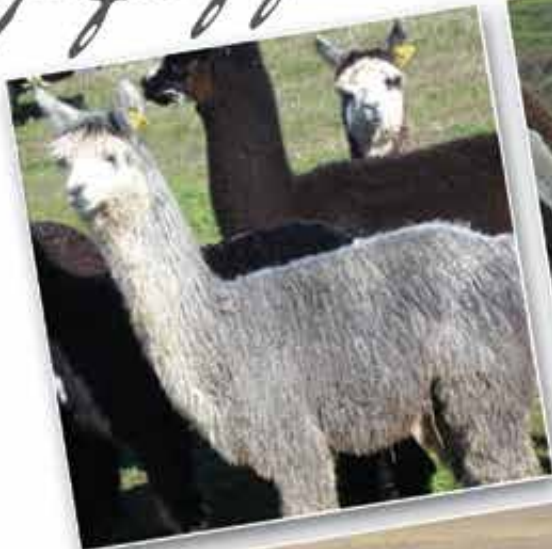
All had orange colour fluid in the perineum cavity, and chocolate colour blood-the latter is known as a lead poison symptom.

Blood and tissue were sent from these animals to a lab for further testing – we needed to establish a cause.

In the meantime the vet assumed that lead poisoning could be the issue. We moved animals to a new paddock, started injecting and feeding them with Thiamine (to address PEM symptoms), Phosphorous (to bind any lead and pass it through the body) and Vitamin C.

June 2015: The lab result came back, and many more deaths had occurred with the same symptoms, but from different paddocks now ... The lab resolved this was a mineral deficiency, then narrow to Selenium deficiency. We gave the whole herd a shot of CobalifeB12 with Selenium (an injectable short acting Selenium supplement, the second dose that year – AAA recommends an annual dose). We decided to blood test Selenium levels of 17 animals out of 250 on farm to establish what was happening across the surviving herd. We chose animals of different ages, sexes, status (ie wethers, males, tuis, empty and pregnant females). The results came back with levels of 150-250, normal range is 250-300 which was advised to us by the worlds leading expert in alpaca nutrition, Dr Robert Van Saun, USA consultant. We gave the herd another dose of CobalifeB12 with Selenium assuming this would surely raise levels to where they needed to be.

Pfeiffer Park



Breeding White & Coloured Suri & Huacaya Alpacas

stud services
pet/guard and breeding stock sales
new breeder support services
product sales
training

Kelli Pfeiffer – PFEIFFER PARK ALPACAS
295 Artillery Road, North Rockhampton. Qld 4702
m: 0409 129 953 e: pfeiffer01@bigpond.com

www.ppalpacas.com.au

July 2015: I had this nagging feeling that maybe we had chosen animals in the sample group with good levels. So we decided to blood test the whole herd – 250 animals at a cost of \$25k. The results came back at: 15-239 (80% were under 50). There were two stud males with levels over 200, the majority of males were over 100; breeding females, cria and tui males/females were nearly all under 50. A number lower than 100 means the animals are no longer metabolically functioning correctly, we were advised by Dr Robert Van Saun. We devised a plan with our Camelid vet to give CobalifeB12 with Selenium to all animals under 200 immediately. In 30 days another dose to those under 150. A further 30 days on we dosed all animals under 100, then blood test whole herd again at 30 days after last dose. There was hardly a change in levels when tested in October 2015!



Conditions post Cyclone Marcia.

January 2016: We started using other Selenium supplements to boost the levels of the animals. We blood tested the whole herd quarterly in January and April 2016. Each time it was done 30 days after dosing the with SelovinLA (long acting injectable selenium recommended by a Victorian Camelid vet) and TNN Industries Mineral Plus (oral multi vitamin/mineral product recommended by a large Victorian breeder). The results were no greater in January – we were keeping them alive by doing the Selenium injections, but not increasing the levels! We then tried the oral product with high levels of Selenium and a variety of other vitamins and minerals. Blood tests showed some improvement – better than after injectable products, but the levels were not getting up to where they needed to be.

April 2016: The experts moved in. Our vet had been in discussions with expert Livestock Nutritional consultants both in the USA and WA to try and ascertain the correct levels of Selenium required by alpaca, and what products would best serve this purpose. The USA consultant had solved this issue for breeders in his country 10 years

earlier. WA consultant had worked with WA and SA breeders to try and resolve this issue 10 years earlier too! Now these consultants would combine forces for the first time – the first thing they told me was this was not going to be just a Selenium problem, but likely a multivitamin/mineral deficiency issue. At the same time I had a couple of animals go down with the Selenium deficiency symptoms that others had died from – and when given the oral Mineral Plus and injectable Thiamine and Cobalt, they not only survived, but had nothing but PEM symptoms, which were resolved a day later with continued Thiamine dosing. We could now save them, but for how long? WA consultant Dr John Milton agreed to take us on in April 2016 as a private research project funded by Pfeiffer Park Alpacas and nine agisteers. He began by having several telephone meetings with myself and our Vets. He analysed all the blood results

to date. Followed quickly by new lab testing of our water/feed/vitamin and mineral chaff mix fed to the animals daily. The water and hard feed came back as nearly perfectly balanced nutritionally. However the vitamins/minerals we were adding were totally wrong! WA consultant sourced the required nutritional alpaca levels from USA based Dr Robert Van Saun, who is the worlds leading expert in this field and in particular alpaca. What was immediately shocking to Dr Milton was that alpaca require 10 times the amount of Selenium that a cow does – in fact if you gave that to a cow you would kill it! It is illegal in Australia to buy a product with levels this high for livestock – so we were going to have to manufacture our own! I was asked to put a spreadsheet together of all animals on farm, detailing any Selenium deficiency symptoms including low birth weights, retained placenta, low/no milk supply, premature birth, dismature cria, dummy cria, fertility issues, ill thrift and the dates that these things occurred. I got half way into this project (150 animals out of 250) and it became obvious that this issue had been going on for around six years and getting worse with each year! The consultant wanted to know what changed seven years prior – we stopped using a product called SelviteE, a Selenium injectable product that was discontinued. When I sent the active ingredients to the consultant – he said he could see why this helped them keep their Selenium and Vitamin E levels in the right place! So began the ground breaking work on this Central

Queensland farm that would change our thinking that this was a localised issue, to an Australia wide and international issue!

WHY DO ALPACA REQUIRE NEED SO MUCH SELENIUM?

The consultant analysed the oral Mineral Plus product, talked to the manufacturers and advised that it was safe to give regularly, given the high nutritional levels of alpaca for all the vitamins/minerals it contained. We decided to give weekly with Vitamin E orally to the whole herd prior to starting the new feed regime that our consultant was putting together. At the same time we added Vitamin E to the herd feed at five times normal rate to boost them for seven days, then at double thereafter. The consultant advised that Selenium and Vitamin E work hand in hand on cellular immune health! We immediately started to see an improvement in the herd.

May 2016: The change begins. New vitamins and minerals were sourced: Phosphorous, Calcium, Magnesium, Selenium (organic and inorganic), Sodium, Limestone, Thiamine, Potassium and

Rumigro (premixed ruminant product) mixed and bound to the chaff mix and lupins with sunflower oil. The consultant now knew the nutritional levels of the hard feed/water and asked me to measure out all the vitamins/minerals in quantities required to raise the alpaca levels to where they needed to be. After a year of testing different injectable and oral products in an attempt to raise the Selenium levels to where they needed to be, we had now only just turned the corner with the help of these consultants. One of the first things we found out – alpacas only take up 40-60% of injectable Selenium in the first 24-48hrs and then the balance leaves their bodies through urine! Oral is the only route in order to get the levels up, and in Australia we cannot get a product that can be given orally that meets their needs. Then something else came into play – I was asked how much Vitamin E I give to the alpacas and how often by consultants. I said that I gave it with ADE shots monthly in the wet season, about three times a year. The consultant advised that the E in ADE products was miniscule and only there to stabilise the D, not to be used as a supplement! So in fact we were not giving Vitamin E at all as a supplement! In the sheep industry – they give Vitamin E after rain and Selenium with Cobalt in drought times!

June 2016: Consultant orders new blood testing to get a better idea of what is happening across the herd. After review of all our previous blood results, along with the feed/water test results, the consultant suspected that Vitamin E and other vitamins /minerals may be at the wrong levels too in the animals. So ordered bloods to be done on a sample group of 15 animals – 12 animals (four age groups, three animals in each group, with a mix of sexes and colours), plus one control animal in each age group with higher Selenium levels. A Vitamin E test and a Vitamin/Mineral screen was done. The Results: Vitamin E showed that our levels were worrying low – ours were 2-8.6 (only two were over 7), normal is 7-23! Vitamin /Mineral Screen: it was obvious that the animals did not die of Selenium deficiency now – but a multi vitamin/mineral imbalance!

OBSERVATIONS POST NEW FEED REGIME

- Great weight gains, although the animals are not eating anymore than they were before in terms of hard feed and pasture. It must be noted that no animal that died suddenly from Selenium deficiency was underweight!
- Manure is now beaded and dark green to black all the time.
- Energy levels are much higher, with pregnant females pronking and racing around paddocks during the day for fun! They have more energy due to the increased Vitamin E.
- Animals no longer come racing to the feeders when we drive the feed in twice a day. Some sit around for a while before attempting to feed. Consultant advise that those animals are starting to reach their nutritional balance!
- Since October 2016 (six months after new feed regime) I have been able to go to sleep knowing that I won't wake to a health issue in the morning due to this vitamin/mineral deficiency.

WHAT CAUSED SELENIUM LEVELS TO DROP?

Stress ... What causes stress? The consultant's advice: extreme heat; extreme cold; heavy, prolonged rainfall; drought; fire smell in the air; ill health, and the constant contact by humans during this time; travel ... This is responsible for the greatest dropper of Selenium levels in alpaca!

WHY DO ALPACAS DIE FOLLOWING RAIN?

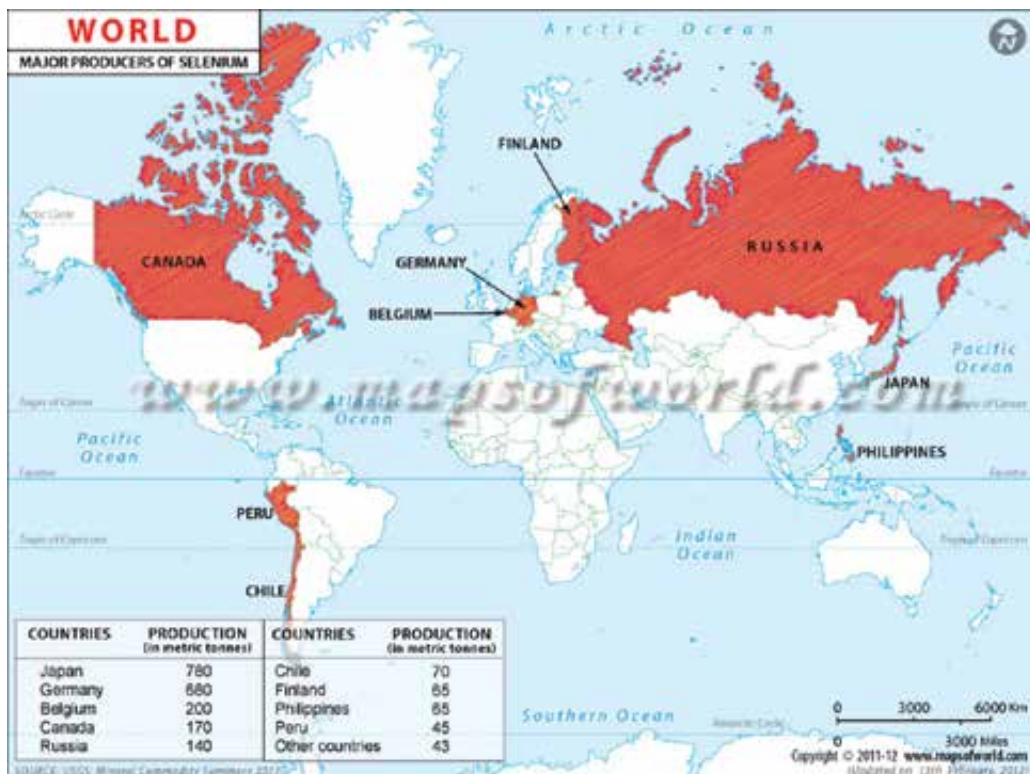
A flush of new grass growth occurs 4-10 days after rain. There is a lot of fatty soluble oils in that grass. It drains the Vitamin E from livestock. If they



Alpaca with white muscle disease, causing muscles in neck to be weak showing a kink.



Blood testing whole herd.



World Seleniuyum map.



New Vitamin – Mineral Feed Supplements.

don't have enough stores of Vitamin E, they draw on Selenium levels (as Vitamin E and Selenium work hand in hand on cellular health) and if those levels are not adequate, then the animal dies from what will be diagnosed as Selenium deficiency. However we now know it is really from a multivitamin and mineral deficiency.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF SELENIUM AND VITAMIN E DEFICIENCY?

Low birth weight, and/or poor growth; stiff gait, and/or arched back; apparent lameness, and/or reluctance to move, weak muscles (white muscle disease-affects organs and muscles); premature births/abortions; ill thrift (poor immune system); loose stools, not associated with ill health or worm burden; skin issues, such as rain scald; eye, ear issues; worm burden; sudden death with little to no symptoms.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF COBALT DEFICIENCY?

Reduced appetite and ill-thrift; anemia; scaly ears; weepy eyes with damp matted fibre below the eyes; tender fibre; affected dams may have small cria; reduced milk production; scours in calves; affected animals may eat bark, leaves or dirt.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THIAMINE DEFICIENCY?

Poor memory; irritability; sleep disturbance; burning pain; muscle cramps; muscle atrophy; brain tissue swelling; blindness (temporary or permanent); death.

This was not a local Selenium issue, but an international issue – however it is quite fixable!

It is an international multi vitamin / mineral imbalance, for animals that reside outside of location of origin – South America.

USA has resolved the issue, with the help of Dr Robert Van Saun.

Australia will resolve the issue thanks to the research carried out on this Central Queensland farm, and the work of Drs John Milton and Dr Carmen Pearson in conjunction with Dr Robert Van Saun.

Remember your animals don't have to show signs of deficiency to be suffering from it. I had animals die with no signs of selenium deficiency at all! Blood testing is the only way to know, and the labs don't quote the correct levels for alpaca, rather using sheep/goat references – which are totally different! We had to get ours from Dr Robert Van Saun.

Have you ever seen an alpaca sitting in a poo pile, or eating dirt, or eating poo from the poo pile? This is a search for vitamins / minerals! Do you have a skinny alpaca that eats more than the others and doesn't gain weight-but has nothing the vet can find wrong with it, it likely has a vitamin/mineral imbalance! Do you see them grazing on dead leaves/bark on trees – they are seeking copper/cobalt; eating the metal fences – in need of zinc; chewing plastic dishes – more phosphorous is required.

Some animals take up the nutrients from feed better than others; some find plants to graze on with higher levels of what they need. I was worried that the alpacas who had high levels on my farm would go toxic with this new feed – the consultant advised they won't eat it, watch them! They were right!

ONE YEAR AFTER BRINGING EXPERT LIVESTOCK NUTRITIONAL ADVICE ON BOARD

May 2016: The new feed regime was introduced. The consultant advised it would take 12 weeks to get the herd health stable with

this feed product. Any animals showing signs of deficiency now – would likely not survive. Any pregnant females at eighth months gestation now would have few problems, in the mean time expect the others to have issues. And it would be 12 months to get the herd nutritional levels to what is required and keep them there.

September 2016: Selenium results rose for the first time since we started the project! Vitamin E results rose too. Thyroxin tests were also done, which showed that our animals were having trouble metabolising. Our results came in at 59-103, normal is 80-180. So Potassium Iodate was introduced to the feed to help change that situation.

December 2016: Our Selenium levels remained relatively the same, but our Vitamin E and Thyroxin levels continued to increase from the last testing. However this testing was done after a quarter of drought – which consultants decided was the reason the levels were relatively unchanged in Selenium as the animals requirement for the mineral in particular was higher in drought times.

April 2017: Selenium, Vitamin E and Thyroxine levels had become stagnant and not risen as expected, however this testing was done after a quarter of heavy rainfall. Consultants believed that the animals utilisation of Selenium and Vitamin E was high at this time due to environmental conditions and therefore expected to not rise.

August 2017: will be our next testing cycle.

Throughout the project I have had telephone meetings with the WA consultant, email discussions with USA Consultant, and constant discussions with our supervising vet Dr Carmen Pearson. All the symptoms that we were experiencing have abated and I have never seen the herd look healthier.

WHAT'S NEXT?

I have been very open about the research we have been doing on our farm, on social media, writing articles for magazines, etc. After receiving over 1000 contacts from owners and breeders of alpaca around Australia who were all experiencing the similar issues as we were – I came to realise that this was not a local farm issue, but an Australia wide issue! And of course the fact that USA and WA/SA had worked on this issue more than 10 years earlier!

We have tried to encourage the AAA to fund, take over, or do further research on what is now known to be a national issue. However, we are advised that their research dollars are committed for the next two years on other projects.

Our consultant will use our research to make a feed product based on the known nutritional requirements of alpaca. The plan was to have it available by December 2016. It is now likely it will come until after our research finishes sometime in 2017. Our consultant is in negotiations with a manufacturer in Victoria who will make the product and distributed to feed stores nationally.

This is ground breaking research. It is the largest fully medically supervised research project ever done in the world on alpaca nutrition. Our consultant will publish a journal on this information in time – which will set in place a lot of change for the alpaca industry in Australia.

WARNING

Do not rush out and use or buy other products that have Selenium in them. Often they can have other vitamins/minerals that will cause Selenium to be bound and not taken up by the animal, or cause a toxic event in your animal.

It is best to blood test your animals and have your vet liaise with Australia's two leading experts on this issue: Dr Carmen Pearson or Dr John Milton. At this stage we can only safely recommend Mineral Plus, Vit E Powder and Sunflower Oil to turn the health of your animals around until the feed product is made from our research project. If you are interested in introducing this to your herd, we are happy to talk to you about this. We have helped many alpaca owners turn the health of their animals around using these products in the past 12 months.



THANK YOU

The Agistees: An incredible debt of gratitude is owed to the agistees on this farm. Between Pfeiffer Park Alpacas and nine agistees have privately funded \$250k on this research, with Pfeiffer Park contributing a further \$250k to cover the cost of feed products/labour/changes to farm, that is a total of \$500k! This will end up being our gift to the industry, when the feed product is made available. These breeders have followed me into this project, and helped me fund it completely and without hesitation or question. They have gone where no other breeder has had the courage to go and I'm so incredibly humbled and proud to have been able to do this with them.

Thank you: **Candisa Alpacas, Capricorn Park Alpacas, Carojoy Alpacas, Courtzguard Alpacas, Jackpot Alpacas, Jukama Park Alpacas, Kerray Alpacas, Nerimbera Alpacas, Whitsunday Alpacas.**



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DOG ATTACKS IN ALPACAS



Not all dogs are dangerous. Maremma or Turkish Anatolian dogs are often used as guard dogs to protect sheep, goats and alpacas from attacks by foxes, wild dogs and other predators. While domestic dogs can attack alpacas attacks are less likely or as aggressive as attacks by wild dogs.

PROFESSOR ANDREW DART

BVSc, PhD, Dip ACVS, Dip ECVS

Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Camden, 410 Werombi Road, Camden, University of Sydney, NSW

andrew.dart@usyd.edu.au 02 4655 0777

Injuries from dog attacks are not uncommon in humans and animals. They make up approximately 1% of admissions in human emergency rooms. In veterinary hospitals, 10 -15% of dogs and cats presenting as emergency admissions involve dog attacks. Despite treatment, death in small animal patients from dog attacks is not uncommon and reported to occur in 11% of cases. There is less known about dog attacks in alpacas and other small ruminants. One report documented 62 cases of which six were euthanased at admission. Of the 56 animals treated, 77% were discharged while 9% died and 14% were euthanased.¹

Alpacas are susceptible to dog bites and attacks because of their quiet, placid and inquisitive nature. They are often kept on small farms on the urban fringe and they are identified as a natural prey for predators like dogs. When alpacas see a threatening dog they will often congregate together in a mob and occasional animals will break and run when threatened. More severe attacks are likely to be associated with packs or individual wild dogs rather than a domestic dog. Whether a wild dog is hungry or not, fleeing behaviour instinctively triggers a response from the dog to chase and attack. Wild dogs may attack many individual animals in a frenzied attack and often these individuals are not killed and eaten, but left maimed and wounded.

Wild dogs are encroaching on urban areas and are often seen and trapped in heavily populated areas. They are known to travel over 10km a night and often roam a large territory. They are often found in packs of between 3 and 12, however this varies throughout the year due to various factors. For example, wild dogs will pair up in breeding time and will live as a family group after whelping. To keep out wild dogs fencing should be at least 1.5m high and should be buried under the ground and at least 150 but preferably 75mm square. This type of fencing is very expensive and often not a priority or is an afterthought for alpaca owners.

Dog bites may apply a pressure of up to 32 kg/cm² which can create extensive damage to deeper tissues or underlying vital structures without similar evidence or damage apparent on the skin surface. Bite wounds are contaminated with the dog's oral bacteria and often bacteria from the victim and the surrounding environment. Teeth bites

often pierce the skin and inoculate the underlying tissues. These tissues are crushed or damaged by the pressure of the bite and the compromised tissue leaks serum and blood. This creates an ideal environment for the development of aerobic and anaerobic infections. In small animals aerobic infections were identified in 65% of dogs and cats while anaerobic infection was seen in 15% of cases. Common aerobic bacteria included *Staphylococcus* and *Enterococcus* species and *E. coli*, while *Bacillus*, *Clostridium* and *Corynebacterium* species made up the likely population of anaerobes. A similar range of bacteria were reported in a study involving a smaller number of ruminants and alpacas.¹



Domestic dogs that stray may breed with wild dogs. Australian wild dogs have been found to be genetically about 50% dingo and 50% domestic dogs. Wild dogs often kill or maim a number of animals from an instinct to attack prey that is running away. Wild dogs do not often kill from hunger. These dogs are encroaching on many urban areas and increasing attacks are occurring on small landholdings close to town.

The skin wounds are often small or seal over quickly trapping infected fluids in the underlying tissues to spread. The long hair coat in alpacas often hides the extent of the damage. Wounds usually involve the head, neck and extremities followed by the perineum (rectum and genital region), thorax and abdomen. The consequences of these attacks be broken bones, major arterial lacerations or penetration of the body cavities which may lead to damage to vital organs within the chest and abdomen. These internal injuries may go unnoticed and delaying treatment can all be rapidly fatal without timely treatment.

It must be remembered alpacas have only been recently domesticated and still have very strong 'fright and flight' response. As an undomesticated species they tend to mask signs of illness to prevent sending signals to possible predators that they are vulnerable. This means that alpacas severely clinically compromised with disease or infection, that would severely incapacitate other domestic species, do not show obvious clinical signs until they are well advanced and often refractory to treatment. This stoic temperament was initially perceived by alpaca owners and veterinarians as a lack of resistance to disease and trauma. However we now know alpacas are highly resilient and very responsive to treatment where early detection of disease, and implementation of treatment, is instituted.

Like all animals, alpacas are susceptible to shock. When injured, excessive handling and manipulation aimed at assisting the animal, may cause further pain and distress can lead to decompensation and death. Shock can take a variety of forms all of which ultimately lead to cardiovascular collapse. In the immediate period following injury providing a safe warm environment with a friend and addressing any immediate areas of haemorrhage is recommended. This provides time for the animal to recover from the acute stressful response. Alpacas that are heavily stressed may, when handled, start to breathe with an open mouth, collapse into lateral recumbency and show opisthotonus (neck folds back). These are signs of decompensation and can progress to death if the handler proceeds with intervention. Implementing slow and steady supportive treatment on a priority basis will help control the situation.

Further treatment will depend in part on the value of the animal economically, but often this is overshadowed by sentimental value. The challenge is that alpacas mask clinical signs, so if diagnosis and treatment is delayed until clinical signs become readily apparent, the prognosis for survival may diminish. The cornerstone of treatment for animals in shock is fluid therapy. Ideally any animal that has undergone a dog attack should have a jugular catheter placed and intravenous fluids commenced until further investigation of the animal's physical condition and needs, can be assessed.



Jugular catheters in alpacas are more challenging to place than in many other large animal species and some veterinarians are not comfortable placing these catheters, seeking other less effective approaches to treatment. The jugular veins are somewhat protected by the transverse processes of the cervical spine, the vein is hidden by fibre, the skin overlying the vein in male and in older animals is quite thick and the vein has valves making it more difficult to advance the catheter. However these issues can be addressed by clipping fibre from the full length of the neck, holding off the vein to visualise where it can be seen clearly for

An alpaca in shock after a dog attack. Often the animal will be found sitting up in a hunched position showing no outward signs but when owners try to help the animal it will often become distressed, begin open mouth breathing and fall into lateral recumbency showing opisthotonus. The stress increases oxygen demand which cannot be met due to poor circulation (shock). If the distress is not relieved the oxygen debt becomes too great to be reversed. Overstressed animals will begin to convulse from lack of oxygen to the brain and die. Treatment involves improving circulation and oxygen distribution to the tissues. The conundrum is that applying an oxygen mask and placing a catheter into the vein to provide fluid therapy creates further stress. Sometimes backing off keeping the animal warm and in a safe, quiet, environment can allow for the oxygen demand to be reduced and the oxygen debt repaid so the animal stabilises.



Wild dogs most commonly attack the head neck, distal extremities abdomen and thorax. This animal has been attacked in the lower neck lacerating an artery and has undergone a fatal haemorrhage. Puncture wounds to the thorax and chest can damage underlying vital organs. Often the damage caused by dogs is hidden internally or under the long fibre hiding the severity of the injuries.



This animal has been attacked and has sustained a large laceration to the left elbow shoulder and thorax. The dog looks on as the animal assumes a cush position and remains still to avoid stimulating the dog's natural instinct to attack.

easy access. Using a scalpel to penetrate the full thickness of the skin will facilitate uninterrupted access to the vein.

The advantage of having a permanent catheter is that it allows the alpaca to receive an adequate fluid volume to treat shock and maintain circulation to vital organs, provides an avenue to collect repeated blood samples and provides ongoing fluid needs to replace losses and ongoing needs if the animal is not eating or drinking. A catheter also provides an access to deliver antibiotics intravenously rather than into the muscle. Intramuscular injections are more painful, create stress combined with the small muscle mass of an alpaca limits the duration of administration.

A RECENT STUDY OF DOG ATTACKS IN ALPACAS AND SMALL RUMINANTS REPORTED A SURVIVAL RATE OF 73% WHICH IS LOWER THAN REPORTED FOR DOGS AND SIMILAR TO CATS

Once the animal is stabilised a more thorough assessment can be made without creating excessive stress or risking decompensation. The long coat in alpacas can hide bite marks so the whole animal needs to be assessed. This may require clipping larger areas of skin to properly inspect whether the skin has been violated and this may require turning the alpaca over. This is stressful so it is important that this is done when the animal is stabilised so it is better able to cope with the stress. Sedation or, if necessary, anaesthesia can facilitate this process with less impact on the alpaca and handler.

Antimicrobials should be commenced particularly where the skin has been broken. This will reduce the risk of infection developing and spreading. There are no registered antibiotics for alpacas however broad spectrum cover with ceftiofur sodium (2-5 mg/kg twice daily) combined with gentamicin sulphate (6.6 mg/kg intravenously) is effective and safe.



These animals have been killed by wild dogs and left to die. Often when threatened the herd will come together and it is only when an animal breaks from the group that the dogs attack. The frenzy of the attack can excite the dogs to attack other animals.

It may be necessary over the ensuing days to debride or surgically remove areas of devitalised skin to expose and clean the underlying damaged tissues and effect good drainage of fluid and dead tissue. Where there are open wounds topical agents can be used to minimise the bacterial contamination, provide pain relief and promote healing. In horses, UMF 20 Manuka honey has been shown to promote healing of open wounds. Manuka honey has been shown to have superior antibacterial properties to many other honeys. The higher the UMF grade the more effective the honey is against antibiotic resistant bacteria and honey with A UMF grade of 10 or above is preferred in infected wounds. Light application several times a day is recommended. While other less expensive honey or ungraded Manuka honey does have some antibacterial properties and properties that promote wound debridement and pain relief, the efficacy is often highly variable. Many of the food grade honeys have been heat treated or stored for long periods of time which can lead to inactivation of many of the active constituents.

Soft tissue and orthopaedic injuries following a dog attack are often painful and affect mobility and food and water intake. There is not a lot known about analgesic drugs in alpacas or small ruminants. Our experience with sheep and alpacas suggest that flunixin meglumine (Finadyne, 1.1 mg/kg) given intravenously once or twice a day is effective. Similarly for longer acting pain relief fentanyl patches placed on an open area of skin appears to be effective. Fentanyl patches (1-5 mcg/kg/hr take 12-24 hours before levels become effective but will last three to four days and can be combined with flunixin meglumine in a pain management protocol.

Ulceration of C3 can be a side effect of stress and analgesic medication. Esomeprazole is a human antiulcer medication that reduces acid production. It comes in an intravenous form and is more potent than many other antiulcer medications. It would appear 0.5-1.0 mg/kg once daily is effective in preventing the development of ulcers.

A recent study of dog attacks in alpacas and small ruminants reported a survival rate of 73% which is lower than reported for dogs and similar to cats. Reasons for this were suggested to be delayed treatment and financial constraints. These two factors often go together with owners and veterinarians taking a wait and see approach rather than incurring the costs of instituting more comprehensive measures which may turn out not to have been necessary.

However the same study reported that 77% of animals had injuries at multiple sites and chest and abdominal wall bites

that penetrate into the body cavity were associated with a higher mortality rate. Penetrating bites to the thorax and abdomen are more likely to be associated with internal organ damage and a delay in treatment is more likely to be associated with a poorer outcome. The stoic nature of alpacas in masking clinical signs and progressive deterioration, in the face of substantial injuries which may have profound systemic effects, should be recognised. Where delaying treatment in other species until clinical deterioration becomes apparent may not have such profound effects on prognosis and survival, this approach may not be as forgiving in alpacas. Where animals have a strong sentimental or economic value early aggressive and comprehensive treatment will help secure a positive outcome.

Dog attacks in alpacas can be fatal. Shock, systemic infection, damage to internal organs and orthopaedic complications can all be masked in alpacas as part of their natural response to preservation. The optimal approach to treatment is to institute early intervention to achieve a complete assessment of the animal's condition and institute appropriate treatment. The stoic nature of alpacas can mask clinical signs of shock and clinical intervention to assist the animal can end up leading to overexertion, increase in oxygen demand and systemic decompensation. So treatment must be prioritised to stabilise any condition that is immediately life threatening such as haemorrhage, and stabilise the animal in a quiet, warm protective environment with a friend. Once the animal is stabilised, further intervention to thoroughly assess the animal and incrementally institute treatment as required on a diminishing priority basis will optimise outcome.

1. Dukti SA, Southwood LL, Van Metre DC. Survival and factors affecting survival in small ruminants and camelids attacked by dogs: 62 cases (1994-2004). J Vet Emerg Crit Care 2007;17:257-261.

COMBE

HILL

Standing at Stud:

- Combe Hill Sirocco (MF)
- Jolimont Esteban (W)
- Combe Hill Avatar (W)
- Combe Hill Manet (W)

- Combe Hill Chaucer (MF)
- Combe Hill Fernando1 (W)
- Pacapark Edward James (RG)
- Shiverton Vivaldi (LG)



by VAL JOHANSON

WHERE TO START?

Maybe open heart surgery at age 21 and a pioneer of the heart lung machine in Australia? The cardiac surgery was obviously very successful as I look back on rearing five children, enjoying 14 grandchildren and our second great grandchild on the way, and a very challenging and rewarding career – I guess I have a lot to thank my dear 99 year old mum for – especially her genes.

Or perhaps packing up four children including an eight month old baby and heading to Europe with my husband John and mum, where we bought a campervan and travelled Europe for five months. What a wonderful experience with indelible memories of our gorgeous two year old daughter singing Abba (all the rage then) and dancing in the snow in the Jotunheim Mountains in Norway, only years later did I learn that some tourists had been attacked and killed by the polar bears in those mountains. Or recalling our eight year old son trying to impress other kids as we waited to go through the ruins of Pompeii by telling them our Prime minister's wife was so strong she could kick start a Jumbo jet! Or the same eight year old trying to sell his grandma by singing out at the top of his voice at another tourist spot "grandmas for sale, grandmas for sale, going cheap!" But then I recall that same son could remember to lead us out of the London underground when we got lost four years later when we repeated the trip from the Arctic circle to the bottom of Greece up through Yugoslavia (as it was then) where we saw the young kids sitting in the fields of a day minding their small herd of goats, and wondered what the noise was at the back of our van at evening. Investigations revealed these same kids rifling through our rubbish bin and taking empty tins, cardboard boxes, paper, virtually our rubbish but to them an absolute treasure. I will never forget the look on their faces when we gave them some coloured pencils and drawing books. So much we take for granted and lessons that our kids would never learn at school.

There were some scary moments too: being chased by gypsies in Spain, or breaking down in Germany and having our van on the back of a tilt tray recovery vehicle to be taken to an automotive workshop to replace the broken differential. While John sat in front

with the driver, mum, I and the kids were in the van on the back of the truck unable to communicate with John, wondering why we came up against the Berlin wall at least three times? I guess in retrospect it was so the driver could charge us an exorbitant fee for taking us to the workshop but at the time we really wondered where we were going to end up? Once back on the road we did go through the wall and into East Berlin with an armed guard on the bus with us. What an eye-opener to a regimented soul-less city as it was at that time.

After adding another very welcome son to our brood and 15 years as a full time mum, it was time to rejoin the workforce. With a Science degree and 3 years Research experience into kidney disease and obesity at Kanematsu Institute, and with limited private enterprise opportunities in Canberra where we moved after my dad died suddenly and unexpectedly at age 51, the Public service was the obvious option. Several placements within the Department of Health provided some great opportunities to achieve several positive outcomes. The first was in the Year of the Disabled where my submission resulted in easy access for disabled persons to public buildings including rest rooms. After promotion into the Food Standards area I was tasked to do the Cabinet Submission on Uniform Food Labelling and with a positive result we finally had common labelling rules for food products in all Australian States and Territories- a great win for common sense. The next challenge as Head of Food Standards was to achieve harmonised food standards between Australia and New Zealand-a goal that took a little longer and required many trips to Kiwi land and the establishment of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority, but it was finally achieved. As a member of the International Codex Committee for food regulation there were also opportunities for

more travel – Hawaii, Thailand, Malaysia ... travelling in Malaysia with food inspectors was an interesting experience. Their rules were: don't eat anything that is not freshly cooked in a 5 star restaurant; only eat fruits that you can peel the skin off; chocolate with wrappers were also okay. But don't eat seafood from the Asian countries as it is full of toxic substances such as mercury from the effluent that is released into the sea in these regions.

The next big decision came as a result of being head-hunted by the Drug Evaluation section to establish an enforcement unit for the new therapeutic legislation to regulate medicines including natural products such as vitamins and minerals and herbal products as medicines. This caused some serious soul searching as I had been warned that this ground breaking legislation had some significant problems. Moreover, an enforcement position was not an attractive option after many years working collaboratively with the food industry by sitting around the table with food inspectors and industry to identify problems and find a solution so that all players went away with some ownership and determination to make it work. However, finally on the fifth approach it occurred to me that this may be a chance to modify the legislation to ensure that Australian consumers had access to proven low risk effective natural health products. After four years and several very successful prosecutions including against companies that were making herbal products on their kitchen stove in WA, or in illicit drug labs on the Gold Coast, I couldn't refuse the opportunity to head up the Natural Product Industry Association (Complementary Healthcare Council) and continue my mission from the other side of the table to achieve appropriate regulation of these products commensurate with the low level of danger they posed. Over the next 10 years I sat on several government committees responsible for refining the Therapeutic Goods legislation. Regulation of natural/herbal medicines became an international focus and my proposal for an international group to work together to influence the development of appropriate regulation internationally resulted in the establishment of the International Alliance of Dietary Supplement Associations (IADSA) which met in a different country annually. This not only gave me a chance to debate, negotiate and understand other country approaches to regulation of these products but also the opportunity to satisfy my love of travel – always with part of the family in tow – at our expense. How else would we get to visit such amazing places as South Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean, Hungary and Canada.

On my way back from one of these trips to Vancouver I was met with a barrage of text messages that the Therapeutic Goods Administration had initiated the biggest medicine recall in world history by shutting down the largest natural product manufacturer in Australia and recalling all products they had manufactured. This action had enormous impact on my industry members, many losing their home, business, marriage and some sadly resorting to suicide. Class action against the Therapeutic Goods Administration for this unjustified action – for which I acted as an expert witness on behalf of my members – resulted in a \$115million payout to those who had been so unfairly affected plus \$55million to the owner of the

business that they shut down. Sadly this compensation for the loss of his business did not stop relieve the leukaemia which escalated from the stress, and caused his death a few months later.

In 2004, due to my ageing mum's onset of Parkinson's I decided it was time for a change and resigned from my position with the industry and was immediately offered contracts by several international organisations to act as the Australian/NZ agent for International Health and Beauty Expos – a position I could manage from a home office while caring for my mum, and which still offered the opportunity to travel – Dubai, France, England, Japan, Hong Kong ... and which I still manage today, at one stage having contracts with 19 countries.



However, after such a challenging and rewarding career, there was something missing and I went looking for another interesting and fulfilling venture. Alpacas of course! When we moved onto our property at Williamsdale just south of Canberra, nearly 35 years ago, we ran cattle, sheep and angora goats. Living on land that was a favourite feeding ground for foxes, we bought two alpaca wethers to act as guards in an attempt to save some of the 60% of baby goats (kids) that we were losing – even though our boys tried convincing us that they were being 'kid'-napped! Of course we had to also buy one pregnant alpaca female just to see? And the rest of the story you can guess. Once that first baby dropped I was totally smitten and fell in love with these amazing intelligent beautiful animals. It wasn't long before our 800

angora goats were replaced with alpacas, initially with the intent to breed grey huacayas, but it wasn't long before suri and the beautiful fawn colours were included in our breeding program. John and I established Qozqo (pronounced KOZKO) Alpacas at Williamsdale just south of Canberra and now run over 300 suri and huacaya. The most important decisions I made from the outset of this venture were to select good genetics and top stud males, decisions that have paid off and resulted in some great wins in the show ring, including many Champions, Supreme Champions and Best in Colour. Winning Best Grey Huacaya at the National 2015 was a highlight. We have found alpacas so much easier to handle and breed than the other live stock we have had. They don't go through fences like goats do. With good husbandry practices they don't have the worm and lice problems that can affect sheep and goats. They are easy to herd without the need for working dogs if they are herded slowly and calmly and they understand where you want them to go. We have found that they react very much to the way they are treated ... if we are slow and calm and quiet with them they respond accordingly.

Having sold some pregnant alpacas to my dear friend Tanya Boston of Jimburra Alpacas a few years ago, I am delighted that she too fell in love with these amazing animals and has now established a processing mill just down the road from our property. I had the honour of officially opening Boston Fine Fibres just over a year ago and we now get our fleece processed just around the corner. My knitting team use the stunning finished product to knit wonderful garments for sale from this premium yarn

www.eliteaustralionalpaca.com



FLEUR DE LYS ALPACAS

by LEE SADLER

As women, we are someone's daughter, sister and friend. For some, we are also someone's wife and mother. Someone's work colleague or coach and for many reading this article, we are alpaca owners too. Is this aspect of your life the best chapter ... ?? Why is it that we are drawn to these elegant and intelligent animals? It has taken more than their gorgeous eyes and eye lashes that we all covet, for us to include them in our lives. Many of the roles we play in life provide us little choice, but most of us have made a significant decision to be involved in all things alpaca.

Modern life places so many demands on our time and attention. For many the dulcet tones of "Mum, can you ..." readily upsets the agenda of the day. We are oft times at the mercy of others who regularly and reliably change the priorities and order of works in any given day. Whether it's home or work related, we are at the mercy of others to find the time to attend to the priorities that we set for ourselves. The elusive "me time" is a mantra that is heard in the popular press, school car parks and over the occasional coffee and chat. For me, time spent with my alpacas can be the restorative medicine I need to refuel my batteries and re-tune my perspective. Perhaps this is why we have collectively decided to have alpacas in our lives. It is seldom for financial success alone that we are drawn to these delightful creatures, so perhaps it is for their capacity to help us find balance in our hectic lives that we have chosen to invest so much of our time, money and effort into the pursuit of our alpaca enterprise.

One of the great delights of the alpaca industry is the diversity of experience and expertise that we collectively bring from our "off farm" endeavours. As a pharmacist, my science based training, helps brings order and objectivity to my thinking and records (on a good day!). My career has encompassed a number of opportunities, ranging from community pharmacy (owner and manager), senior government pharmacy advisor, project manager, liaison and facilitator roles and university lecturer. I have also been involved in governance, leadership and





representative roles within my profession, including vice president of the Australian College of Pharmacy. My foray into leadership led to the amazing opportunity to participate in the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program as part of the Leaders Institute of South Australia. In the company of exceptional people from all walks of life, we explored the many challenges currently facing our communities and those we will face as the future unfolds. We considered the range of solutions and the leadership strategies that will be needed to forge a successful and peaceful outcome. While this sounds quite audacious, the parallels between the "big end of town" and our quiet enterprise are easily identified. The challenge of sustainable practices and further development within the constraints of our properties, time and budget may resonate with many alpaca breeders.

In this, the "Women's Issue" of World of Alpaca, I'm unsure quite what Trevor had in mind when he asked us to write an article for this edition. It is evident that there are many women actively participating in every capacity within the alpaca industry.

No matter how we found ourselves working with these amazing animals, I am sure you will agree with me that we are indeed "lucky" to be involved. For me, the elegant stature combined with their calm and stoic demeanour is compelling. The utility of their fleece is both a rational and fundamental reason to continue to pursue excellence and reliability in breeding.

As a woman actively involved in a livestock industry, I am sure I am not alone in feeling a little daunted by the many and varied challenges that abound. From the outside, both the challenges and the benefits lie in the unique balance of being your "own boss" in small business. This brings credibility and freedom to make your own decisions – and the necessity to smile, or frown, at the outcome... !! From the inside though, there are a plethora of things that can limit us. Some of these perceptions can be:

- Not good enough
- Not enough time
- Not worthy
- Not given "permission" – from whom ??
- Negative self talk – what does the voice inside your head say to you about you and about your environment ... ?? Is it positive ... ?? Does it allow self reflection and the chance to "readjust my mindset" when I find myself in a negative thought cycle, or one filled with self doubt ... ??

As women we are so often called upon to help others. While this is something that I readily agree to do, I confess that I'm not very

good at "helping myself" and am even worse when I need to "ask for help".

As women, we also find ourselves looking on as others are busy organizing and leading, but something holds us back from offering assistance – why is it that we sometimes need to be asked to help, rather than offering ... ?? Is it the old self doubt, that "I'm not good enough, they won't want my help" ... that voice of self doubt can sabotage so much ...

This stream of consciousness has led me to the challenge that we each face – the enormous task to be the best that we can be, to fulfill the many and varied talents that we find within ourselves, within the context of our families and community. As alpaca breeders, we have the unfair advantage of working with these delightful creatures who give us the chance to learn and reflect about ourselves as we work with them, the chance to be quiet and refreshed as we watch in awe and wonder that so much beauty could be "on my farm". This source of peace and renewal can be channeled into the more difficult areas of our lives, or used to further advance our alpaca enterprise and the industry on a broader scale.

One of the conclusions I reached during the intensive training of the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program, though politically unpalatable in many quarters, was the benefit that would be gained if women were in leadership. The thinking that led to this conclusion ... as mothers, we all want the same things for our children: the chance for them to grow up in a world of peace, where good nutrition, education and healthcare is available for everyone. With this as the goal, the need for ego and political and religious differences seem to pale – this utopia is perhaps a dream, but as we collectively remind each other of what is important, then perhaps we can take a small step closer towards this aspirational goal ...

No matter how or where you take these small steps, the steps that will bring us closer to the type of world we will be proud to leave to our children and grand-children, be proud to be you. No matter our gender, race, culture or creed, our world is suffocating under the oppression of ego and power and is crying out for the peace and perspective that can be found on our alpaca farms. A sense of balance, the rhythm of the seasons and the miracle of new life, are some of the wonders that enrich our lives as alpaca farmers.

Be the best that you can be – be nourished and encouraged by your alpacas and I look forward to hearing about your story in alpacas and leadership within our industry.

Women are renowned for falling in love with these majestic elite animals and then the journey begins.

BACKGROUND

Having a young family and a very busy business we decided a small side interest in another area would be good for us as a family, not realising that our small start with alpacas would continue and grow until now.

Some form of farming was part of my genetic background, having grown up on a farm which involved vegetable growing, milking cows, chocks, pigs etc, but up until this time fibred animals were not part of my farming history. In 1993 having moved out of town onto a small acreage we wanted some pets (no work) for the acreage. Having viewed a TV report regarding alpacas we then started the investigation into two alpacas as pets, as the kids thought they would be 'cool in the backyard'.

After doing some research the family decided not to stop at two pets and our first purchase soon became four huacaya's, a pregnant female (who was on sold to WA), a weanling female (who was sold on and re purchased, due to our child's love of her, but sadly died due to a dog attack), a weanling male (died at the age of 19) and yes we did purchase a wether, Jetty (a very large, but very gentle multi who died at 19.5 years). Back in the early days of 93/94 you were lucky to see and buy a huacaya and much less likely to see a suri in Australia, huge money was asked and paid to purchase these unique animals.

In those early days alpaca information overload was the order of the day, hands on was the way to learn and you attended anything and everything that was available in order to increase your knowledge – from farm open days, conferences, alpaca shows and elite auctions, both in Australia and overseas. By putting your hands on every alpaca you learned, and this hasn't changed in today's modern world, at every opportunity everyone should become hands on, don't be afraid to ask to look at someone's alpaca.

1996 FIRST TRIP INTO THE ALTIPLANO OF PERU

1999 Completed pre selection of suri's in Bolivia (selecting from over 4,500), for export to Canada and Australia.

2004 Completed International Alpaca Judges Training in Peru under the direction of Dr Julio Sumar of Peru and Maggie Krieger of Canada, two of the worlds most renowned alpaca judges.

2004 Returned once again to the Altiplano for selection of both huacaya and suri to be imported into Australia.

2004/2005 Completed second term as regional President for Central Coast / Hunter Region.

BETWEEN 2003 – 2013 CHIEF STEWARD –

FLEECE SECTION SYDNEY ROYAL

2008 The first International Fleece Show and Conference was held in Sydney and the fleeces were judged at the show grounds over several days. Through the hard work of the committee we had over 500 fleeces to be judge, a truly international fleece show, and time management was extremely important in order to complete the judging of these wonderful fleeces within the days allotted. I still recall the judges asking each morning how many they had to judge on that particular day – my reply 'ask me at the end of the day and I will tell you how many you had judged for the day'.

I have been very fortunate to have been able to put time and energy into the alpaca world, but have also benefited by travelling to many countries that I would never have visited nor enjoyed, along with the friendships that have been made that go beyond alpacas. Being a new and emerging rural industry within Australia and overseas has allowed me the opportunity to become involved in a growing and unique area of farming. Women are still a driving force within the industry and will continue to be so.

Alpacas in Australia are still accepted as new to the rural scene and as an industry we must move forward and learn from our failures, don't keep repeating the same mistakes, accept that something doesn't work and move on. Every farm runs on different farm management basis often due to acreage and climate conditions. New areas of trade are opening for alpacas as we no longer just sell the animals and fibre but are expanding into meat and hides, but at the end of the day we are fleece producers and require additional markets for fibre sales. Large scale farms are developing we need to sell our fibre at the farm gate, whereby farmers produce, class, bale and sell their fleeces as end product – leaving breeders free to concentrate on improving their breeding lines and fibre production.

Future growth will rely on broad acre commercial farming, currently breeders are moving away from the small acreage farming onto properties which will sustained large alpaca herds. Animal sales and marketing has altered with many alpacas now being purchased sight unseen via the web. I feel very strongly that this is not the way to purchase livestock unless for commercial use only. Auctions, such as Breeders Choice Alpaca Auction, is a growing trend to buying and selling as it gives many breeders the opportunity to come together under one banner to either sell or purchase alpacas of different quality and value. Today access to the alpaca industry is very affordable allowing all breeders the opportunity to gain access to genetics which were unaffordable several years ago.

Narelle's reputation for her knowledge of the alpaca and its fibre gained over many years of breeding and training is well respected. Today I remain focused and committed to Hunter's breeding standards with emphasis on our high quality animal traits such as animal structure that allows the alpaca to carry fleeces that are



Hunter Alpaca Stud

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Superior Huacaya & Suri Genetics
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Golden CHARM

Darryl and I have been involved in farming for the last thirty-five years. Our main farming venture is growing vegetable seedlings. We produce 8,000,000 seedlings per year for local farms. Although there are ten employees it is often a seven day a week job for us.

Our alpaca journey began in 2002 with three coloured suri girls when we felt it would be wise to diversify into another line of farming. Alpacas are the only livestock we have ever produced so this was the start of a new and exciting learning curve.

Because we were mostly working seven days a week and the best males were five hours away we started looking for males locally although we did occasionally travel to use our male of choice. The local males resulted in some nice cria but nothing outstanding. I started taking time off to attend shows. This proved to be an excellent decision. We had some success in the showing but there were no major ribbons in the early years but the shows proved valuable as a means to network, check out some of the available males and see what other people were breeding. It also gave us the chance to discuss any problems with other people and receive informative comments from the judges.

As much as we love our alpacas, there was a time when I considered leaving the industry because of the politics and everything associated with it that was directed at us. Around this time Sunshine State Alpacas was formed and we joined this group. We found by talking to this group as well as some other positive alpaca members we were able to ignore the negatives in the area at the time and our enthusiasm was reignited.

It wasn't until we sat down and listed all the males we had used and looked at what cria they had produced from our girls that we decided to use the best boys we could so we started selecting our males more carefully. We purchased a white suri boy, Pinjarra Trickster ET, who started improving the quality of our herd. We also bought some better girls that I liked the look of along the way.

The Golden Charm herd today consists of 50% white and 50% colour, mainly fawns and browns. I find this a good mix as although I love a quality colour the majority of the best alpacas are still white and we use a lot of white males.

2016 saw us achieve Qld Suri of the Year with our stunning boy Golden Charm Moscato who won Supreme Suri at every Qld show except one for the year. He was also shown at a few NSW shows, coming away with the supreme ribbon each time. The next challenge is to keep this improvement in our breeding going in the right direction.

2017 has started well with some coloured girls in the show ring. In the first two shows Golden Charm Usha achieved best brown at the Toowoomba Royal show and Golden Charm Emily gained Supreme Suri at the Agrotrend show in Bundaberg.

To stand in the show ring and see the judge open the fleece beside you and you think wow! Look at that! Then you beat it gives a good feeling, knowing you are on the right track with your breeding.

After buying a couple of good quality males and breeding our own great males, our stud male lineup currently consists of four white boys - Pinjarra Trickster ET, Golden Charm Hot Stuff, Golden Charm Moscato and a share in Surilana Belle Boy ET as well as two coloured boys, Golden Charm Lucifer and Didohama Demon.



Golden Charm ALPACAS



breeders of coloured and white suri alpacas



Darryl & Jessie Raines – PO Box 8228, Bargara, Qld 4670
p: 07 4159 4624 **m:** 0407 155 403 **f:** 07 4159 4754
e: gcalpaca@bigpond.net.au

Our Journey

by **DENNIS & SUZIE BOYLE**

Humminghills Alpacas & Jurustalle Alpacas

0439 685 969

Humminghills Alpacas began in 2004 when Dennis succumbed to my pleas for an alpaca, and bought me two wethers as pets for my 50th birthday.

A year later, he tells me that we are selling the cows and horses and we're going into breeding alpacas. Guess who got the alpaca bug? We lived in the Tweed Heads Hinterland for these years with a herd growing to 86 on 65 acres. The north coastal regions present challenges in breeding any livestock – ticks, high rainfall which brings with that worms, little nutritional grasses, so hard feeding is essential.

On the plus side – animal sales are good as you have a ready access to small farmlet alpaca lovers.

Our showing days started in 2007 and continues doing about five or six shows per year. We love catching up with alpaca loving friends, and the showing scene keeps you in tune and keen to improve. Probably our finest achievement to date was Supreming at the Charles Ledger Show in 2010 with our suri boy Humminghills Oliver Twist ... the last year we were able to show in period costume.

Humminghills Alpaca Carding started in 2007 when we were offered to buy this old 1927 Platz Carding Machine.

Now that was a challenge ... Dennis was a carpenter ... he knew about timber, but nothing about keeping this old 2.5 ton machine going ... as the story continues 10 years later the old girl is still humming along creating beautiful carded roving from all our lovely coloured alpacas, as we've always been into colour, right from the beginning.

They say there's no money in alpacas, but for the past eight years we have been keeping ourselves going from the back of the alpaca, you might say. Whilst in the Tweed region we took ourselves to weekend markets for five and half years. We had permanent sites

at Mt Tamborine and Bangalow and casual sites at several other markets, where Dennis would be seen spinning out the front of our marquee, talking about alpacas and entertaining the children, whilst I hopefully would be busy selling our handmade alpaca wares.

By 2014 we had finally sold the farm and moved to a lovely bit of dirt, 168 acres, on the New England Hinterland at Glen Innes.

There's a lot of work to do here, as the house was classified as a knock down, but we chose to renovate ... oh dear, that probably was a mistake, but now three and a half years on, it's starting to take shape.

March 2015, our dear friend Lesley Drake of Jurustalle Alpacas and ourselves became co-owners of the Jurustalle herd.

This has been a wonderful time for us all as Lesley has 23 years alpaca experience and now she knows her babies are in good care, can visit and comes to some of the shows, with regular text photos of the latest cria.

In October of 2015 for lack of something to do we opened 'ARTISANS of the GLEN' ... which is a huge old shed where we

moved the carding machine into and offered artists to display their handmade artworks.

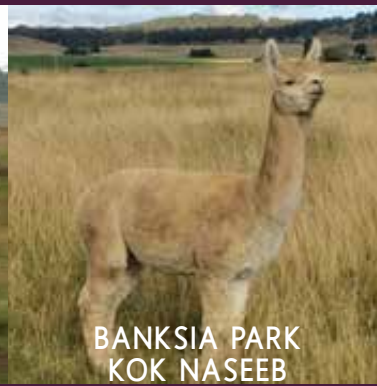
We started with three artists and now 18 months later we have 48 artists and 22 local people with antiques and collectables on show. We are open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10am till 4pm, and hold spinning, felting and weaving workshops continually, by request.

This has been the best way to get to know the locals, I go to work with a smile and come home with a smile, albeit a tired smile, and the old carding machine still pumps out that beautiful carded roving ... probably the best thing we ever bought ... besides our first alpacas of course.





SURPRISE WITH HIS GIRLS



BANKSIA PARK
KOK NASEEB



HUMMINGHILLS
OLIVER TWIST

HUMMINGHILLS/JURUSTALLE ALPACAS

- > Quality Genetics > Alpaca Sales
- > Stud Services > Fleece Carding
- > Shearing > Craft Barn

HUMMINGHILLS OLIVER TWIST

Standing at stud - Our 10 times Supreme boy
at 7 years old

First fleece 16.9, 3.7sd, 22.0cv

Sixth fleece 21.7, 5.0sd, 23.0cv

BANKSIA PARK KOK NASEEB (ET)

First fleece 15.1, 3.2sd, 21.2cv

Ninth fleece 22.0, 4.3sd, 19.6cv

- Arts and Crafts Gallery
- Spinning, Weaving and Felting
- Local Artists, Paintings and Photography
- Woodwork
- Home of our vintage carding machine
- Beautiful alpaca carded fibre and yarn
- Garments for sale in the gift shop
- Old wares and collectables
- Tea and coffee for a gold coin donation



HUMMINGHILLS ALPACAS

Dennis 0407 456 107

Suzanne 0439 685 969

Email alpaca@humminghillsalpacas.com.au

Web www.humminghillsalpacas.com.au



JURUSTALLE ALPACAS

Leley & Stephanie Drake

Phone 02 6332 4947

Email jurustalle@yahoo.ie

Web www.jurustallealpacos.com



ARTISANS OF THE GLEN

119 Taylor Street, Glen Innes, NSW 2370

Suzanne 0439 685 969

Email info@artisansoftheglen.com.au

Web www.artisansoftheglen.com.au



GAYLE HERRING

As a young girl I dreamed of owning a farm and horses. I was fascinated by my Grandparents stories of their farming days. My Great Grandfather, Robert "Bob"

Vinnecombe, owned bullocks and horse teams around the Barham district of NSW. He later took up a pioneer settlement in the Underbool District of the Mallee in northern Victoria. There he continued to cart wool and salt from The Pink Lakes to Linga Railway Station on a large tabletop and heavy wheeled wagon with six inch wide wheels and 12 to 14 horses yoked in pairs, just like his bullock team. He walked beside them carrying a long and heavy whip, which he cracked when necessary and with plenty of skill. Just imagine seven pairs of horses with each pair requiring at least 15 ft between them. It would have made quite a lengthy team, all without reins to guide them.

My Grandmother, Olive Burstall (Nee Vinnecombe), used to tell us stories about how her father would break in mobs of wild brumbies. He would do all the initial groundwork but, as his back was bad, it was my grandmother, just young girl at the time, who did all the riding. Grandma Olive also told us stories about the Afghan cameleers and their camel trains, which like bullocks and horses, carried salt from the Pink Lakes to the railway station. The camel trains were made up of 12 to 20 camels in a string. A strong camel could carry four bags of salt roped to a pad on their back, with each bag weighing nearly 100kg. I think it was these stories that sparked my love affair with camelids.

In 1914, my other Great Grandfather, Robert Burstall, moved from the Waanyarra District with his stepson Jack Lockett and two older sons to a pioneer settlement at Linga. Here they had to clear the land of the mallee scrub before they could develop their farm for sheep and wheat. Later, Robert was joined by his wife and their other five children including my Grandfather James. James married Olive and they started their own farm opposite the original settlement.

Grandpa James loved his horses and was well known in the district for his horse handling skills. He was the only person in the district to have two complete horse teams, which allowed him to rest one team while the other worked. Tractors weren't available back then so all work on the land was done with horses. It's hard to imagine but my mother Kath had to rely on riding a horse to get to and from school. In the 1950's my grandparents retired from the land and sold their farm to other family members before moving to the suburbs

Farming and horses runs in my blood.

of Melbourne. So, unfortunately I never got to experience it first hand. The farms are still in the family and now owned by distant relatives.

With all these stories, it is no wonder I grew up with a love of farming and couldn't wait to get my own farm. Finally in 1982 my dream became a reality with the purchase of 12 acres at Macclesfield, in the Dandenong Ranges, east of Melbourne. It didn't

take long to stock my block of land with horses and coloured sheep. I chose Corriedales for their fleece and at night after work I would spin their wool for Mum to knit.

I married my husband Robert in 1988 and together we built a house on my block of land. By this time my flock of coloured Corriedales was doing very well but then I spotted alpacas and, of course, it was love at first sight. In 1994, with the money from a redundancy package and pregnant with our first daughter, Robert and I bought our first two alpacas. It was a three in one package consisting of Mary, a medium grey who was pregnant again and her brown daughter, Mim.

Clearly I knew nothing about alpacas as I didn't even touch them before or after they arrived on farm. I was too scared to upset Mary just in case it adversely affected her pregnancy. Within a few months, Mary had a little white male and my alpaca stud Beringya Downs was born. I joined Mary and Mim back to a local fawn male and, much to my surprise, they each gave birth to black crias. I liked the look of Romeo so when he turned six months old, I took him to a local show. I was elated when he won his class and encouraged by the compliments and support from other alpaca breeders.

From then on I was hooked by the show ring atmosphere. Mary was an excellent producer and her next cria, Rueben, was carted across four states of Australia to compete at shows. In 2000, with my alpaca stud growing quickly and with two young daughters, Jamie-Lee and Ashleigh, we moved to a much larger property nearby. We also changed the name of the stud to Glenavon Alpacas in keeping with the new property name, Glenavon Park. Glenavon Park was previously a well-maintained Arab horse stud. But unfortunately the current owners, who were not at all interested in agriculture, let the property deteriorate. We had to replace all the fences and had a lot of work to clean and renovate the pastures. Luckily, the need to replace all the fences gave us the opportunity to design an overall



farm plan and create paddocks with central laneways for ease of stock movement.

At the same time as moving to the new property, I also started a new business with a friend, which we called Paca Perfect. Paca Perfect's focus was on alpaca presentation, handling and showing and was a logical extension from my growing interest in breeding and showing alpacas. We used to visit various studs and prepare their alpacas for the show ring by blowing out and body clipping. We would also train and present alpacas for breeders who wanted their alpacas shown but couldn't afford the time or didn't want to do it themselves. Whilst the business was very successful, with both a growing family and also the effort in building and promoting our own Alpaca studs, we decided to call it quits.

Five years after the birth of Reuben our next special cria was born, Glenavon Oliver, my perfect alpaca. Oliver was everything I hoped for in an alpaca - stunning head, extremely solid bone, fine and incredibly dense, crimped and uniform fleece and, most importantly a gentle and easygoing temperament. I have had an immensely enjoyable and successful time over the years showing Oliver and his progeny. Even when I brought him out of showing retirement at 10 years of age, he still won championships. He passes onto his cria his immensely good looks, fine crimped fleece and calm temperament. In addition to his show ring success, Oliver's progeny have also won many championships and Best Colour Awards, with his son Glenavon Rev achieving the highest price at the 2015 AAA National auction. In 2016 the AAA National Show & Sale catalogue featured four of Oliver's progeny on the front cover.

My direction changed again in 2007 with the conception of Fibre Naturally Alpaca Woollen Mill. I found that, even with a herd of approximately 100 alpacas, I was having trouble combining enough fleeces to meet the minimum batch requirement for processing. I thought if I was struggling to get my fibre processed then other breeders may have found it difficult too. So, we decided to go with my other passion, spinning, and made a major commitment importing a Mini Mill from Canada. Ten years on and the business is well known throughout Australia and has been successfully meeting the needs of breeders both small and large in transforming their special fleeces into luxurious yarns. Along the way, Fibre Naturally has grown into a true family business involving my mother, sister and my two daughters Jamie-Lee and Ashleigh, who all play a key role in the Fibre Naturally business. Whilst the main focus has been processing fibre for clients, I still find the time to process our own fleece produced from Glenavon Alpacas, and market yarn and woollen garments under the brand name Alpaca Allure.

Whilst Fibre Naturally has been a major focus over the last decade, I have also continued to develop and grow Glenavon Alpaca stud, and have always been looking for opportunities to continue to improve my herd. This naturally led me to join forces with Rochelle Veitch of Nocturne Alpacas in 2014, who I have been friends with for many years. We both had similar views on the perfect alpaca. Her blue-black male Nocturne Paladium was almost a perfect clone of my Oliver, except for the colour of course.

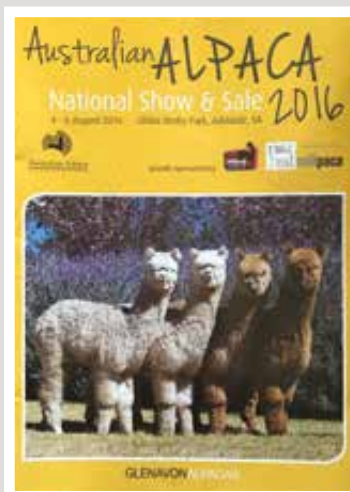
By putting Paladium across my Glenavon Oliver daughters and using Oliver across her Paladium daughters we ended up producing a number of stunning crias. Their progeny have been shown successfully around Australia, with many being quickly snapped up by overseas breeders who want to improve their own herds. We are now fortunate enough have a waiting list for our next drop of crias.

You would think that between Glenavon Alpacas, Fibre Naturally and my joint ventures I would have no time for anything else. However, whilst I love alpacas, I have also wanted to have my own camels, and was lucky enough to purchase a young male in 2014. Of course one camel is never enough, and my herd has now grown to four- Merlin my gorgeous male, and three girls Alice, Ruby and Amy. Having camels is even better if you can actually do something with them, and I have been fortunate to become friends with Karen Ellis from Camel Treks Australia. This has seen me join Karen and the team on several occasions as a cameleer on treks through the wondrous South Australian Flinders Ranges, with Alice being added to their camel string. My ambition one day is to acquire a wagon and follow my great grandfather's footsteps in taking a wagon towed by my camel team trekking through the outback.

No matter which endeavour I am involved in, I hope to be always learning. Whether it is dealing with all the new and interesting ways fibre can behave in the mill or acting as a midwife to my alpacas, learning techniques for embryo transfer, how to grow grass or how to train young camels. Each day life

brings me new opportunities to further stretch myself.

Never did I dream when I bought my first alpacas the lifestyle and journey they would take me on. Almost 25 years later I run a successful alpaca stud with my bloodlines throughout Australia, NZ, and Europe, own and manage a fibre-processing mill that employs my family and services clients Australia wide and go trekking with their big cousins. But most importantly alpacas have given me the opportunity to meet and become great mates with people all around the world, which in my opinion is priceless.



FEMALES

PRICES STARTING FROM \$5000



AZZURA EBONY BEADS

.....

IAR 228998 SOLID
DARK BROWN SURI
FEMALE
DOB 15/2/2016

This rich brown female has an extensive coloured suri background with both Bolivian and USA bloodlines. Sired by ILR Captain Morgan's Blackbeard (Dec) an imported sire that produced quality progeny, Ebony Beads is the only female released for sale from this stud with the remainder being retained in my core breeding program. Ebony Beads has a dense, independent, soft fleece and black points so likely to throw black. She is scheduled to be joined to Hidden Lake Sabre (blue black)



AUSFINESURI AMULET

.....

IAR 231531 SOLID
BLACK SURI
FEMALE
DOB 27/6/2016

Amulet has star quality with a lovely frame and presence and covered from tip to toe with a beautiful fleece. Her dam, Keilantra, has extensive blue black suri bloodlines and her sire, Azzura Silken Greyman, was a knock out in the showing with multiple championships including Best Grey Suri Male (National show 2013). A girl destined to impress!



AZZURA SCAR TARNEE

.....

IAR 209759
APPALOOSA SURI
FEMALE
DOB 16/2/2014

This appaloosan female has it all:- a long lustrous, well locked fleece and great conformation and gorgeous spotted ballet slippers! Reluctantly placed on sale as progeny from her sire, Pacofino Scaramouche (dec), are being retained in my core breeding appaloosa program. Scar Tahnee is the first progeny offered for sale. She is a proven mother, had an easy birth and effortlessly raised her cria. She will be remated to ILR Amstel (Appaloosa USA import) to increase chances of an appaloosa harlequin grey suri and the resulting progeny of this mating will have an hard to beat appaloosan pedigree.



AZZURA GODIVA'S CECILIA DANCER

.....

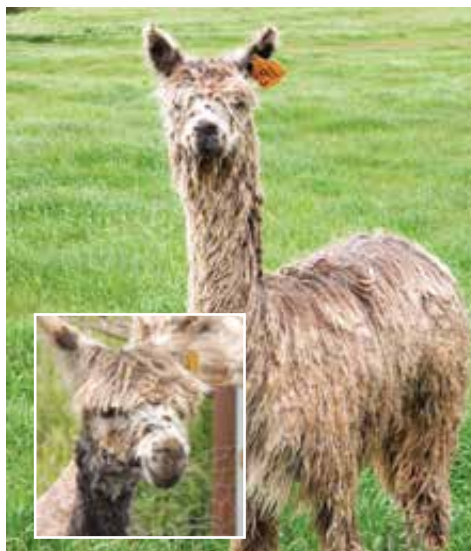
IAR 212039 SOLID
WHITE SURI
FEMALE
DOB 7/12/2014

A stand out in any paddock, Cecilia Dancer is simply dripping with a glorious, bright fleece and a fine upstanding frame. She is the girl that screams quality and impresses on any inspection. Her genetics are impeccable:- her dam has Surilana Zozimo and LCA Tejas (USA import) bloodlines and Cecilia Dancer's sire was ILR Shasta Springs Godiva (blue black import USA). Her fleece is amazing and has it all, tons of lustre, independent locking and a gutsy weight. Currently unmated, she will be mated to ILR Malakai to layer the imported USA genetics. An excellent female for export as she is a superior white, but carries a coloured suri background.

AZZURA FARMS ALPACAS

.....

Specialising in GREY and Black Suris plus APPALOOSAS



AZZURA STELLA STARDUST

.....
IAR 224124
APPALOOSA SURI
FEMALE
DOB 20/11/2015

Stella is an eye catching true appaloosa with a sweet face that is dusted with dark spots. She has full suri genetics.

Her sire is the USA imported appaloosa ILR Caar Amstel and her dam has great coloured suri bloodlines including grey.

Stella has a good frame and soft fleece with great coverage.

Stella will be mated to Azzura Hotshot, multi show winning appaloosa harlequin grey suri.



AZZURA CARME

.....
IAR 228993 SOLID
MEDIUM BROWN
SURI
FEMALE
DOB 18/11/2015

Blessed with dense, fine and greasy fleece this girl has been successfully shown with great results, first in class junior brown suri (Colourbration 2016) and then awarded Reserve Champion Brown Suri. Her fleece has returned beautifully and she will be shown again at this year's premier AAA Spectacular. She has first class genetics:- her dam being an USA import and her sire Esterlina Cervato, a multi awarded suri male. After showing, she will be mated to the USA import ILR Shasta Springs Malakai (beautiful brown) to complement her rich brown fleece. A very good buy.



AZZURA SHARLOTTE

.....
IAR 228983 BLUE
BLACK SURI
FEMALE
DOB 26/12/2015

From a dam that produces successive quality blue black cria, Charlotte is upstanding and outstanding. Covered with an independent, greasy, well locked fleece that has a soft handle she is a female that should not be overlooked. Her sire, Hidden Lakes Sabre, performed extremely well in the showing including Best in Class at the National 2009 and following in his footsteps, Charlotte, will be shown at the upcoming AAA Spectacular and after at the Charles Ledger show. Released for sale as her dam has yet once again produced another quality blue black female, Charlotte will be mated to Hidden Lake Intrigue after her show season.



AZZURA GREY PANTHER SILK

.....
IAR 224106 MEDIUM
GREY SURI
FEMALE
DOB 8/7/2015

Stylish and very pretty, medium grey suri female with amazing grey and black colour genetics.

She has grown out beautifully and carries a very independent and fine fleece as well as good conformation and a proud stance.

Panther Silk was paddock mated to Indigo Avatar, a grey suri son of Surilana Windslip, proven to throw density, fineness and lustre. Mated from 10/8/2016 to 15/2/2017 Her imported sire, ILR Ameripacs Panther, a solid black suri, has been used in house and she is his only progeny released for sale to date.

This female from exclusive bloodlines would be great for export.



Patricia Robb 0428 117 411



azzurafarms@yahoo.com.au

FEMALES

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AZZURA ULTIMATE MOONDUST

.....

IAR 199347 DARK
APPALOOSA
FEMALE
DOB 18/11/2015

This female is a rare, three generational appaloosa suri!
She is a show stopper and has got it all. Amazing head, good coverage and lovely fleece (fleece available for inspection) and her colour is an exquisite harlequin grey with dark points and black spots.
Paddock mated (30/12/2016 to 16/2/2017) to ILR Caar Amstel, pregnancy status to be determined.
A wonderful buy and great female to consider for export.



AZZURA TASMALA

.....

IAR 228905 SOLID
LIGHT BROWN SURI
FEMALE
DOB 23/9/2015

Tasmala has impressive imported USA Suri bloodlines, her dam being sired by ILR ABF Riptide's Ultimate Black, an impact sire with proven quality progeny and added to that her sire is ILR Shasta Springs Malakai a beautifully locked brown imported suri male. Tasmala has excellent fleece weight, characteristic flat locks and is black at the skin with a greyish face and muzzle.
These markings suggest she carries a great chance of producing grey or black progeny. Currently unmated, sire will be chosen to enhance the probability of grey or black cria.



AZZURA SPELLBINDER

.....

IAR 231571 SOLID
BLUE BLACK SURI
FEMALE
DOB 8/9/2016

Young, well conformed solid black female with a great frame and lovely fleece. Spellbinder's dam was sired by ILR ABF Riptides Ultimate Black and her granddam was sired by Canchones Maserati. Spellbinder has been bred with exceptional blue black suri lines as her sire is the import ILR Sierra Bonita's The Bachelor. This girl has second generation imported USA genetics. She is the first Bachelor female from the Azzura herd being released for sale.
A girl with exclusive bloodlines!



AZZURA ANGLE RAKI

.....

IAR 224113 BAY
BLACK SURI
FEMALE
DOB 12/7/2015

A lovely, well grown female with great conformation. Angle Raki is really well covered with a long, independent and lustrous fleece that has a greasy silky handle.
With such great fleece characteristics and having ILR Shasta Springs Malakai as a sire, Angle Raki is scheduled to be mated to ILR Shasta Springs Godiva (Solid Black) to strengthen the imported USA lines and increase the chance of producing black!

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AZZURA SECRET TREATY

.....
IAR 231550 SOLID
BLACK SURI
MALE

A well boned young male with a soft, greasy well structured fleece.
Sired by ILR Sierra Bonita's The Bachelor (not available for outside services) and with a dam with an extensive blue black background, Secret Treaty is a great future herdsire. Well worth consideration for black suri breeders.



AZZURA BISHOP

.....
IAR 231550 SOLID
BLACK SURI
MALE
DOB 1/10/2016

Bishop is a standout in the paddock with a "look at me" attitude.
He is carrying a soft, slippery, independent fleece with a lovely handle like silk. His pedigree has lots of grey and black and with a genetic base of studsires used in house he has bloodlines only available at Azzura. A very promising young boy.



AZZURA ALADDIN

.....
IAR 231479 SOLID
BLACK SURI
MALE
DOB 26/12/2016

A very promising young male with unique USA imported bloodlines.
A future studsire that would inject rare bloodlines into an aussie suri herd. His sire, ILR GLR Lavato (now deceased), was an impressive blue black imported male solely owned by Azzura so this is a very rare release of his genetics. Lavato's parents were both black so Aladdin has an excellent chance of producing quality black progeny. He will join the Azzura showteam and be available for inspection at the AAA Spectacular & upcoming Charles Ledger show. He will be sold with a guarantee of certification.



AZZURA TAZER

.....
IAR 212002
APPALOOSA SURI
MALE
DOB 15/6/2014

This male just owns his name as he is stunning. Beautiful coverage, dense well locked fleece with silky softness and all over appaloosa. He has USA imported genetics on both sides of his pedigree as his dam was sired by Peruvian Boyne Lad, an earlier impact suri stud male imported from USA, and his sire is the USA import:- ILR The Peruvian Stryker grey appaloosa suri. Ready to be certified and tested as working, a halfshare will also be available. A must for the serious appaloosa suri breeder.



Patricia Robb 0428 117 411



azzurafarms@yahoo.com.au

AN INTERVIEW WITH **TANYA BOSTON** from **JIMBURRA ALPACAS**



Tell us a bit about your younger years ... Born in Richmond NSW, I was the third of five children. Dad was in the Airforce so we moved around a bit. Postings were always very exciting for our family, with lots to look forward to – new house, new school, new friends. It also gave us great opportunities to see regional Australia. When I was young, the family bought a caravan enabling us to travel between postings and have great holidays in between – mum and dad, five kids and Monty, the golden cocker spaniel, in the cream Vanguard station wagon and 10ft Globetrotter caravan – quite a squeeze! Definitely my best early memories are of travelling and enjoying the country. I vividly recall gazing at farms and dreaming what it would be like to live in the country; a dream that would eventually be realised!

How many schools did you say you went to? I went to 10 schools during my early education, in three different states. I remember having to learn different handwriting and ways of doing maths with each move, as the states didn't share common educational curricula then. Eventually, I completed years 11 and 12 in Wagga Wagga.

You've had a few careers in your time, how did that come about? Towards the end of year 12, dad was posted to Amberley, near Brisbane. I studied a Science at Griffith University, which was then a fairly new campus. It was in the latter years of university that I met and fell in love with my soul mate – Jim Boston. We were married whilst studying third year. Jim went on to join the Air Force and moved to Melbourne for training in radio electronics. I completed my science degree and followed Jim to Melbourne where I managed to get a job in medical research. After a couple of years, we moved to Darwin where we enjoyed camping and travelling the vast and magnificent Top End. I worked in the biochemistry laboratories of the Royal Darwin Hospital for the duration of this and a subsequent posting to Darwin.

In 1993, we moved to Canberra and with three young children by this stage, we decided to make Canberra our home. I worked for a time at the John Curtin School of Medical Research before I landed a job at the Australian Institute of Sport, where I was involved in research into biochemical changes in elite athletes resulting from training and competition.

Never shy of change, I subsequently joined the Commonwealth Public Service where I undertook a range of health related projects over a period of some 15 years. Recently, I retired from the Public Service to apply some of my skills to my interest in breeding alpacas.

Why did you move to Burra? As young teenagers our girls were madly into horse riding. Their passion led us to buying a small rural property in the beautiful Burra Valley. The property was ideal with plenty of room for the horses and some old stables to shelter them during the cold winter months. We are surrounded by hills and my son soon gave up his horse for a mountain bike, taking to the hills for hours with his mate and his bike. It was my son, at age 11, who named our property Jimburra.

So, what got you into alpacas? The children eventually grew up and left home, as did the horses so we looked into other options for the property. Early in 2012, in search of some herd guardians to mind our small flock of sheep, I went to visit Val from Qozqo Alpacas. This meeting proved to be a life changing event in more ways than one; not only was I introduced to alpacas, I made new and dear friend in Val. I was so utterly captivated seeing the alpacas that I brought home four pregnant females, instead of the wethers I had intended to buy! In just five short years, Jimburra is now home to more than 50 breeding females and eight extraordinary stud males from a range of Australia's top breeders.

What is it you like about alpacas? I have always loved animals and alpacas tick so many the boxes for me. I love their gentle, quiet, curious and intelligent nature. Each animal has its own temperament that I keenly observe. They adapt easily to human contact and are that makes them easier to handle than most livestock. I really enjoy working hands-on, doing husbandry tasks and training the alpacas.

Where is your focus when it comes to alpacas? Alpacas come in so many beautiful natural colours. My breeding program aims to grow a herd of fine-fleeced animals with strong colour genetics. My long-term focus is to progressively reduce fibre diameter across the entire animal while improving fleece density.



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ADRIENNE CLARKE AFSM

AMBERSUN ALPACAS



Adrienne leads an extraordinarily busy life. She passionately holds two full-time vocations, one as an alpaca breeder and the other as a full-time professional firefighter with the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service. She approaches both of these areas of her life with dedication and enthusiasm.

Adrienne has bred alpacas for 25 years with her husband, Chris Williams. Starting with only a handful of alpacas in 1992, the herd has now increased to 1500. Unlike most other breeders with large herds, they purchased their initial herd with a sizeable bank loan, and expanded their vertically integrated enterprise through trading in alpaca and related products. Their stud, Ambersun Alpacas, is located in Mount Compass, approximately 60 kilometres south of Adelaide, South Australia.

In this enterprise, Adrienne is very hands-on with alpaca husbandry and management. She prides herself in knowing the names of most of the herd, and can more often than not also recall pedigree and progeny details. Her on-farm portfolio includes animal health, servicing, birthings and record keeping.

Prior to the alpaca era, Adrienne was an academic, studying towards a PhD in Psychology at the University of Adelaide. In her years of tertiary education, she studied English, Genetics, Statistics, and research skills, which she claims has assisted with many aspects of the alpaca business. The statistics has helped her to interpret and understand fibre reports, and to apply that data when making breeding selections, as has her appreciation for and understanding of genetics. The background in research has helped her with marketing, and provided a sound foundation for the many articles she has authored for the Australian Alpacas magazine, the World of Alpacas magazine and a number of conference papers. She also believes that her tertiary background in research has helped to develop her skills and understanding of reproduction and birthing, to the point that Adrienne has delivered practical courses dealing with alpaca birthing

complications to other breeders within her region, across Australia and in Europe. She often finds herself working with other breeders in delivering their cria when the vet has been delayed or is not readily available. She says she also gets great pleasure when contacted by other breeders who provide stories of success in assisting with a cria that has been stuck during delivery, who claim they gained the confidence and skills as a result of attending Adrienne's birthing course.

An understanding of genetics, she believes, has been integral to her success as a breeder of appaloosa alpacas. She is passionate about her "spotties", as she endearingly refers to them. Adrienne has been breeding appaloosa alpacas since 2000. Her first, named 'Cheetah', was "granted to her by chance and good fortune" she says. It stimulated a curiosity that has led to one of the largest appaloosa herds in Australia and possibly the world. Her aim is not just to perfect the appaloosa colour patterning, but also to advance the quality of their fleece to the point that one day her appaloosas will challenge for Supreme in our alpaca shows. She has her immediate sight set on winning 'Best Fancy' at this year's National Show, and is relatively confident of having 'a gorgeous spotty' to accomplish this.

Adrienne is no novice to showing, and with Chris have been regular exhibitors since 1995. In the early years, they would place at shows behind the leading studs of Benleigh, Shanbrooke and Jolimont, which only stimulated their determination to improve the quality of their herd to a standard that would rival these leaders. More than 20 years down the track, Ambersun Alpacas is highly competitive in the show ring, and has over 1,000 broad ribbons to substantiate



/ Adrienne's Appaloosas



/ Adrienne with Fortune Seeker

this. They have also Supremed with huacayas at the National Show more often than any other alpaca stud in Australia. Their five National Supreme (Huacaya) have been Jolimont Warrior, Ambersun El Salvador, Ambersun Fortune Seeker, Ambersun Pure Exception and Ambersun Que Sera. In her opinion, “the quality at the top is so close, that you cannot sit back and rest on your laurels. There is that constant pressure for improvement, to hold on to that advantage”.

Adrienne also enjoys showing from what she describes as “the other side of the ring”, having been appointed as a qualified alpaca judge in recent years. “I’ve been looking at and evaluating alpacas for 25 years, and I skirt and class about 1,500 fleeces every year. It is wonderful now to be able to apply these skills in a judging role” she said.

It is not only her experiences in the show ring that motivates Adrienne after 25 years. Sometimes it is the quiet and connected contact with her cria and favorite alpacas. She says that she loves to watch the antics of her cria playing on a warm summer evening, and the excitement of finding those ‘hidden gems’ amongst her herd, that help to confirm that her breeding goals are headed in the right direction. Amongst all her herd, she does have a favorite. Her name is Prelude, and she was Jolimont Warrior’s first cria at Ambersun. Prelude had the misfortune of having been born during particularly poor weather, and was found barely living. As Chris and Adrienne were booked for overseas travel at the time, Prelude was restored to health and raised in the kitchen of Adrienne’s mother. While this connection with her mother is part of the reason for Adrienne’s emotional attachment, it is also this alpaca’s delightful character. Prelude comes to her name. She is also a chocolate and sultana lover, a habit she curiously developed spending many hours at alpaca shows. Adrienne believes that the contact she has with her alpacas is very therapeutic, and helps her to deal with the stresses of a busy life.

Adrienne’s involvement with the alpaca industry extends well beyond her own herd. As well as her judging commitments and voluntarily running a number of birthing courses each year, she has served on Association committees, has been a training officer for her region, and is also currently the Ex-Officio Councillor for the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RAHS) of SA on the Diverse Farming Committee representing her AAA region. In 2012, Adrienne gratefully received the Australian Alpaca Association’s Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging her contribution to the alpaca industry.

Adrienne’s other career is her firefighting. Thirty years ago, Adrienne became South Australia’s first female professional firefighter. Her application and appointment to this career created quite a media circus, as the Equal Opportunity Commission reviewed employment practices of this exclusively male occupation. She has seen many changes in working conditions since her employment. There are now 14 female firefighters, amongst approximately 800 male counterparts.

Despite the risks, the heavy and physically demanding nature of the job, the stress of emergency management, and the emotional resilience required to deal with some incidents, Adrienne adores her job. She says that each work day is so different and constantly challenging, as firefighters are responded to all sorts of incidents including fires, motor vehicle accidents, dangerous substance spillage or leaks (HAZMAT), all sorts of entrapments and rescues, flooding, medical assistance and animal rescues. Her most emotionally challenging incidents are those involving children, dealing with serious injury or death, and feeling for others when they have lost their livelihood, their precious possessions or their pets.

Within her 30 year career, Adrienne has progressed through the ranks and she is now a Station Officer, riding in charge of the fire trucks as they respond under lights and siren. She says that it is most satisfying to have the responsibility of helping others in the community and be constantly challenged in decision making to rectify emergencies, alongside of the day to day management of staff and the fire stations.

Adrienne was recently awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for her contribution to bettering the working conditions of women in her male dominated occupation, and also for her voluntary contribution to charitable events favouring disadvantaged children. In a media release, the Deputy Chief Officer said that “Station Officer Clarke’s enthusiasm for the profession of firefighting and her dedication to and active involvement in numerous committees, employee services and especially children’s charities, has not only benefited the MFS, but also fellow firefighters of all ranks and the community of South Australia...Station Officer Clarke is the first female MFS firefighter to receive this award. During her 28 years’ service she has dedicated her time to progressing firefighter’s wellbeing and advancing the roles of females in the Fire Service”. Adrienne said she felt most humbled and honoured in receiving the National award on Australia Day in 2016.

WOMEN ON THE LAND



ROCKVILLE ALPACAS

by **CHERIE WASTLE**

Rockville Alpacas

PH: 0428 566 or 0418 572 595

www.rockvillealpacas.com

I was born in a little town by the name of Skipton in country Victoria. When I was young I grew up on various different farms across the country from as far north as Glass House Mountains in QLD to the south on French Island Victoria.

I am a wife to Ian (Ian and I met in 2001 and married in 2013) mother of 2 sons and grandmother (Ma) to 2 grandsons.

When Ian brought our property in 2004 and suggested that we that we look into Alpaca's, I was thrilled as having been raised on farms and my love of animals although I knew nothing about these wonderful creatures. In 2005 we established Rockville Alpacas. Our property is situated at Tocumwal NSW, we possess approx. 30 Alpaca's, 1 dog, 6 hens, 1 Rooster and 1 cat of which the dog and cat are both rescue animals.

On week days my day starts at 5 am to rise and get ready for work, I leave home at around 5:50 am and return home before 4:30 pm. When driving up the driveway I check the paddocks to make sure nothing is needing my attention immediately, time permitting I like to have at least 15 minutes for myself. I then check on Alpacas again just to be sure and feed out (if necessary). If time and daylight allow I like to go on a half hour power walk then on to feed chooks, dog



and cat, last but not least ourselves. Ian does the morning checks before he starts work as it is daylight then. Working full time (both Ian and myself work fulltime) has its challenges especially around birthing time. Shearing time is also full on as Ian and I also shear other breeders/pet owner's animals, Ian is the shearer and I am the roustie. I love skirting the fleeces especially when I find a good one, the really good ones I describe as yummy and love letting the owners know, they just feel beautiful. Quite often when we set a date to shear ours the weather turns nasty, Ian and myself do all the handling of our animals at shearing time with no other help. If we miss our own shearing date then we will shear after work until the light has faded, we will do this until they are all done.

On weekends I will halter train youngsters when needed as I seem to have more patience than Ian. Some of them as we all know can be trying, with the show animals I take extra time and even walk them through the house. I believe once I can get them to do this

then I have there trust. As most breeders know this is not a quick 2 hour or one day thing.

Our herd consists of mainly white and light fawn Huacaya. We both decide on what females we put to which male. In the past couple of years we have not done many mating's mainly due to me starting new employment, I now have a 45 minute/60 km drive to and from work which cuts back my time at home. This year we will have 4 males of our own to choose from for our girls and are going to get back into paddock mating's.

I have recently stepped back from being the VCR treasurer after being treasurer off and on for the past 10 years, I really enjoyed this role but all things must come to an end and my replacement is very capable and eager. When it is time I also use QuickBooks to manage our finances and lodge the Business Activity Statement.

All and all we all live busy lives and I would not want it any other way.

WOMEN ON FARM

Most people would not appreciate the amount of time and effort women undertake being a farmer. Often women participate in running and managing a farm as well as juggling family, friends, hobbies, work and domestic duties. Here is an example of how it is done.



Since 2006 Jennifer (Jen) Duggin of **Marquez Alpacas** has lived and breathed everything alpaca! Although time poor, Jen is actively involved in the alpaca industry in many ways and juggling priorities occurs daily. Working full time hours for a busy not for profit organisation and dealing with people with high and complex needs ensures that coming home to the alpacas provides a healthy work life balance.

After purchasing their rural property in 2002 with the aim of farming livestock and much deliberation in which livestock they wanted to farm, the Duggins were drawn to the alpaca industry because of the elegance, stature and sheer beauty of the animal.

Their aim is to concentrate on the quality of the fleece, confirmation of the animal and to establish a quality breeding program that would bring great results in the show ring and enable them to process the fleece into unique high quality garments to sell. Anyone who owns a garment made from alpaca will truly appreciate the benefits of this superior fleece!

Jen is involved in all facets of establishing and managing a farm. A recent move from a small 12-acre farm to a larger 53-acre farm has provided more land and scope to increase their small herd of elite alpacas. This has brought its own challenges as the new property requires lots of new fencing and pasture establishment. Not afraid of hard work Jen and her husband John have taken on the challenge and they are developing new paddocks as quickly as possible to allow for rotation of stock.

Family is number one to Jen (known as 'Nanny Paca') and John. With four children and seven grandchildren, spending precious time with family is so important. "Our grandees are growing up so quickly and we don't want to miss out on their special milestones," said Jen. The grandees get a lot of joy getting close to the alpacas and



having cuddles with cria (baby alpaca) and they learn a lot about animal husbandry and how to look after alpacas. Caring for her elderly father and checking in on him daily is all a part of juggling priorities and a very important part of a long day.

A huge part of Jen's love of alpacas is participating in local and interstate alpaca shows. "To be able to catch up with the many friends we have made in the alpaca industry makes the 4.30am starts for a long trip interstate worth it," said Jen. Whilst at shows, you will often see Jen assisting with ribbon stewarding and helping in some way. Jen has been the fleece convenor at the SA Strathalbyn Country show for eight years. **Marquez Alpacas** has had a very successful show history in both suri and huacaya breeds for many years, the most memorable event was winning both Champion Huacaya and Champion Suri at the same show three times in one year!

Anyone who owns a garment made from alpaca will truly appreciate the benefits of this superior fleece! In her spare time (what there is of it) Jen likes to weave alpaca wool into wraps and scarves, as well as knitting and felting garments in both suri and huacaya yarn. **Marquez** attend several shows and hold trade stands each year providing very reasonably priced garments and rainbow died suri yarn and fleece for sale. "Our most sought after produce is woven and died suri scarves, which are very popular," said Jen. If you get to see the **Marquez** trade stand please look us up!

Giving back to the alpaca industry is an important part of owning and being involved in alpacas. Jen and John were lucky enough to have some wonderful mentors that helped them for the first few years in learning all about alpacas and alpaca husbandry. They have given back to the industry by being members of the Australian Alpaca Association SA Region as committee members and Jen has also served for five years as secretary. Mentoring other new breeders, providing alpaca husbandry advice, support and a mobile husbandry service all helps the industry prosper and grow and ensures that the alpacas they treat are looked after properly.



Although Jen and John feel at times as though they live in the fast lane – they wouldn't have it any other way!



Marquez Alpacas



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Alicia Anderson & Cheryl Kosaras are the owners and operators
of **alpacadynamics** and **Regal House Alpacas**.

Venturing into alpacas in January 1996 we quickly became involved with the Alpaca Association and over the years we have convened, stewarded and competed at shows, have organised new breeder seminars and have helped many people get started with their alpaca venture.

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HOW VERY NOW, BROWN ALPACA?

WHAT MAKES BROWN SO NOW FOR PRADOS ALPACAS

by **KAREN DAVIES**



When Sarah & Perry Wheeler launched Prados Alpacas in 2006, they knew they wanted to breed the very best animals they could. “The colour focus came later”, says Sarah. “We started out with 6 head, and that fascination for the alpaca that all the breeders have. They’re just such clever, interesting, and incredibly productive and beautiful creatures. And the fleece is amazing, there’s truly nothing like it. We just loved it.”

Fast forward little more than a decade, and now the business they started has grown into a champion stud, running some 250 head across 80 hectares of rolling Australian countryside. Perry says that as their herd grew in number and the stud began to present - and win - at shows, they knew they needed to drill down their expertise.

“This industry is a fast-evolving and technical one, and there’s an opportunity for everyone to play their part” says Perry. “One of the great aspects of alpaca is their range of natural colours. We found there’s something really lovely about working with those warm-coloured super-fine fleeces. There’s great interest the uniqueness of these colours, which need no further dying in textile production. It’s a real point of difference”.

The Wheelers’ plan seems to be working. To date, the stud has amassed more than 400 ribbons, trophies and prizes, and their fine brown stud males are in high demand, contributing to many bloodlines of excellence throughout the national herd. Perry and Sarah are still as passionate as they were on Day One, busily building the stud’s reputation as well as richly supporting the industry community space. They devote time to industry committees & boards, participate in studies & knowledge base development, and enjoy working with their local client base of alpaca breeders for advice, guidance, shearing, stud work and for more livestock.

“We’ve been kept especially busy lately with growing demand for our stud males”, says Sarah, “Claudius and Sisko keep winning in the show ring, and the bookings for them and our other males are very solid. Throughout all of this, we’ve met so many wonderful people in this industry, and had so much fun. Our life without these animals would be unimaginable now. We can’t wait to see what comes next”

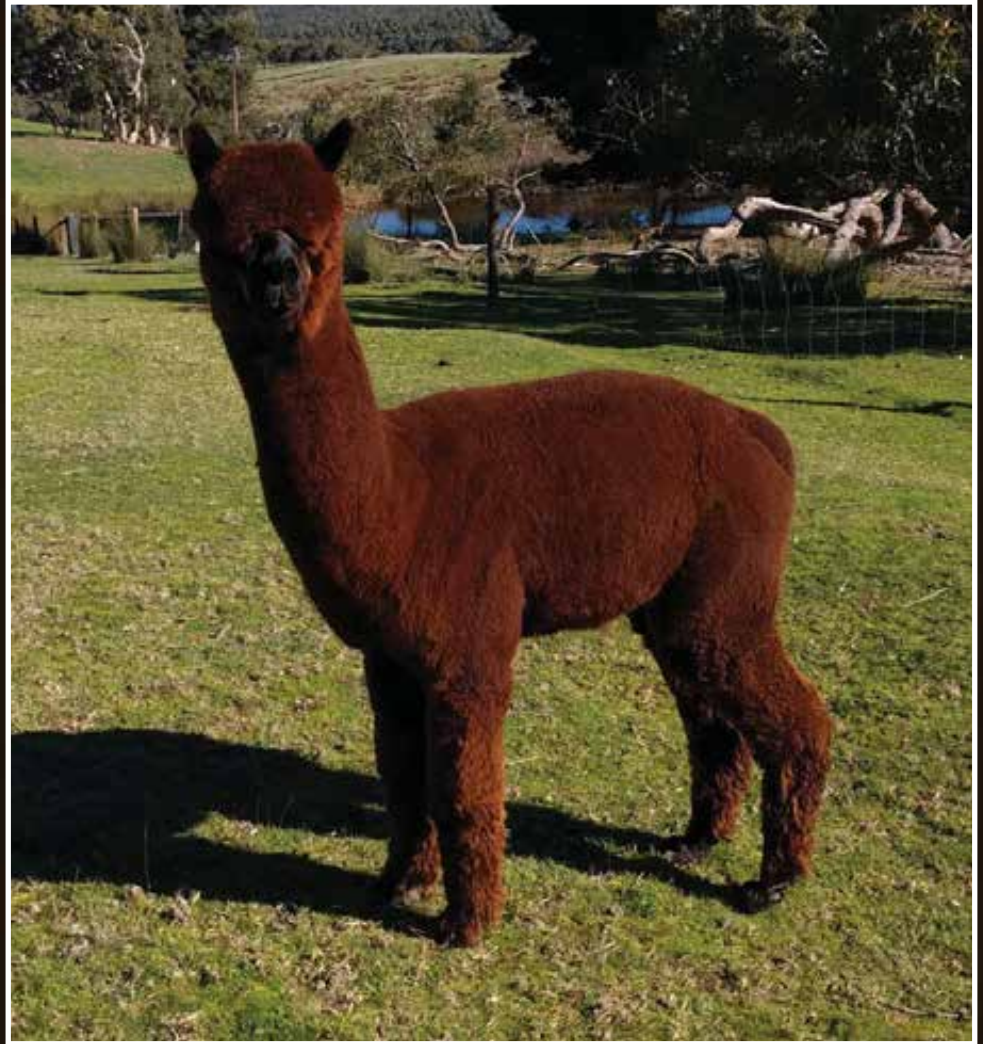
Best Browns

We're thrilled to announce that our latest brown champion, Prados Sisko, has joined our list of stunning brown stud males available for outside matings.

Best brown at the 2016 Royal Adelaide Show, reserve senior male at 2017 Sydney Royal and a long list of first place awards, Sisko brings top-drawer genetics from Ambersun, Softfoot and Ninbella lines.

He joins a proud roll-call of Prados brown huacaya who are amongst Australia's highest awarded coloured alpaca.

Contact Sarah or Perry to find out more or arrange a visit



PRADOSAlpacas
Hindmarsh Valley, South Australia

Tel: 0434 982760 (Sarah)
0424 443855 (Perry)
Email: alpacas@prados.com.au
Web: www.prados.com.au

Common threads

by **PAUL VALLELY, AAFT**

Vanity Fair, Vogue and InStyle have been packed with images of this year's Fashion Weeks, with zig zagging models revealing the latest trends from the big names such as Versace, Prada and Gucci, while alpaca secured its position on the catwalks as this year's fibre of choice.

Perhaps we won't see this imaginary quote in this year's fashion round-ups, however, a number of determined and talented people within the world's alpaca community are making progress within the luxury garment trade whereby we may find such quotes in the not too distant future.

Supplying fibre for the potentially lucrative luxury apparel markets does not just make sense in terms of increased returns to alpaca breeders, but gives alpaca fibre global recognition as a prestige product, recognition it rightfully deserves.

There is, however, an age old saying in the fibre processing industry of 'garbage in – garbage out'. In other words, processing outcomes are constrained by the quality of raw fibre being used. With regard to alpaca fibre, the jury has presented the verdict many years ago – excessive fibre variation and prevalence of contamination has obstructed alpaca fibre being used for the luxury apparel market in the past.

As already mentioned, however, there are some who are carving their mark into the luxury trade. It is therefore worth taking on board what they regard as the key areas that need to be addressed when pursuing these top-end markets.

Frank and Anya Walkington from Shamarra Alpacas, New Zealand, who buy alpaca fibre for luxury knitwear retailing stated "Uniformity of fibre diameter was crucial for processing performance and consistent handle of the end product", while Emma Taylor of UK's East Anglia Alpaca Mill stated that based on their experience, mills aiming for the top end market should be seeing a superior product if batching is correct and SD of fibre diameter is low.

Further, Adagio Alpaca Mills in NSW stated uniformity of fibre diameter is critical for their processing performance towards high quality end product, while Great Ocean Road Woollen Mill in Victoria stated "From a processing perspective, we are more concerned with consistency of fibre including micron, SD, length and cleanliness" and "... that a large variation of individual fibres ... will lead to an uneven yarn and therefore, an inferior product".

Fibre Naturally in Victoria stated they look for evenness in length and micron, and little or preferably no medullated fibres. They also look for narrowing of type between secondary and primary fibres. Fibre Naturally pursues 'next to skin' wear products.

This feedback is remarkably similar to the feedback we received during our market analysis in 2005 before we commenced the Ultrafine Bale Scheme which achieved world record prices for commercial bales of alpaca fibre.

WE CAN SUMMARISE THE FEEDBACK AS FALLING INTO FIVE AREAS OF CONCERN

- 1 Fibre Diameter:** As with merino wool, luxury garments require fleeces that exhibit fibre diameter low enough to allow a soft handle on the skin. For merino wool, the maximum average fibre diameter for fleeces to allow 'next to skin' wear is generally around 18.5 microns. For alpaca, it is generally around 22 microns, although unlike merino, the handle according to micron can be very much influenced by the variation in diameter within the fleece. This brings us to the next area of concern.
- 2 Variation of fibres:** To repeat the words of luxury knitwear retailers, Anya and Frank Walkington "Uniformity of fibre diameter was crucial for processing performance and consistent handle of the end product". In fact variation of fibre diameter was the most mentioned point during both the recent market evaluation and the one conducted in 2005. Low variation of fibre diameter within fleeces has repeatedly shown to achieve greater predictability of processing outcomes, reduced wastage and result in a far superior product in terms of appearance, and in particular, possessing a soft handle.
- 3 Uniformity of fibre type:** Apart from fibre diameter, fibres within consignments need to be even in length and colour.
- 4 Coarse fibres:** Another area of concern when processing alpaca is the risk of extremely coarse fibres within fleeces. These fibres

to luxurious yarns

can be referred to as 'guard hair', 'medullated fibres', 'primary fibres' or whatever term takes your fancy. The main point is that these very coarse fibres, although relatively few in number, will turn a potentially luxurious fleece into doona stuffing. When carrying out fibre testing, it is not uncommon to identify a couple of individual fibres that could be 30 to 50 microns above the sample's average diameter. Although few in number, their severe prickly effect on the skin (and unpredictability with dyeing) can be an absolute game changer in terms of how the fleece can be used.

5 Contamination: When AAFT were coordinating the Ultrafine Bale Scheme and the Premium Alpaca fleece grading days, we would often witness all types of contamination coming over the skirting tables. These would range from fibres from different coloured fleeces to foreign material such as baling twine, socks and threads from feed bags. Not only did these contaminating articles play havoc with attempts to process the fibre, it also sent a very negative message to those we were trying to sell the fleece to. The interesting thing is that when we informed the breeder of the contamination, they had difficulty in accepting the contamination had occurred – and I am quite sure they were genuinely surprised.

With the benefit of many years' experience with marketing and selling alpaca to luxury garment markets, there is resounding proof that if the above five issues have been adequately addressed, then doors of opportunity start to open. For instance, we have seen alpaca used in garments under labels such as Ermenegildo Zegna, Giorgio Armani and Loro Piana – and they don't have to be ultrafine fleeces as they have used 22 micron fleeces and even higher.

WE CAN CATEGORISE THESE AREAS OF CONCERN INTO TWO MAIN THEMES: BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT

In terms of breeding towards luxury fibre, the aims are abundantly obvious – reduce fibre diameter variation and incidence of coarse fibres while controlling average fibre diameter.

While this might sound like an onerous task, mother nature has dealt us a winning hand in this regard in that these happen to be the fleece traits with the highest levels of heritability. In other words, these traits offer us our best chances of achieving genetic gain in a shorter period compared to pursuing other fleece traits.

The breeding strategy of reducing fibre diameter variation within fleeces as well as removing the excessively coarse fibres is found

with the fibre trait of Standard Deviation of FD (SD). I have written extensively on this breeding strategy, and will refer readers to my paper 'Should alpaca breeders use SD or CV when evaluating fibre traits?', Vallely, P. 2016, (www.aaft.com.au/uk/uklibrary1.html)

The other group of strategies aimed at pursuing the luxury garment industry lies in how we manage alpacas, and in particular, how we harvest their fleeces

Crucial to meeting the demands of top-end markets is the need for breeders and collectives to adopt fleece collection protocols or standards that effectively address the five above-mentioned key areas of concern.

Therefore, to maximise the price paid for alpaca fleeces, producers or suppliers of alpaca fibre need to put together consignments that consistently exhibit high levels of uniformity with fibre diameter, colour and length with no contamination in order to attract and retain demand from 'high end' markets. I stress, this applies for any consignment of alpaca – single fleeces or commercial bales.

The fleece classing system referred to as Objective Measurement assisted Fleece Classing (OM) was initiated in 2006 specifically with the high end markets in mind. These standards were developed in consultation with alpaca breeders and a range of people regarded as experts in relevant fields including a large number of mill operators, manufacturers and retailers. OM is now widely used by breeders, including those involved in the Alpaca Fibre Network (Australia), AFN(AUST), Premium Alpaca networks and the Suri Rumpelstiltskin scheme, all of whom command the highest prices currently paid for alpaca.

In terms of fleece harvesting, OM requires all breeders who participate in the scheme to have successfully attend a training session that covers conduct of shearing, fleece skirting and an introduction to fleece classing. An important aspect of the concept is that all fleeces need to be skirted immediately after shearing, and before being bagged.

Participating breeders contribute fleeces at group collection days where skirting standards of fleeces are re-checked before a subjective appraisal of the fleece is made for traits such as colour, length and tensile strength. Importantly, three samples are taken from each fleece that meets the minimum standards. These three samples, referred to as grid samples, are tested either on-site or sent to a fibre testing laboratory for subsequent advice on average fibre diameter and SD. The fleece is then allocated to the appropriate classing line (or rejected) based on the grid test results.

Serial	AFD (microns)	Consignment SD	* Classing method
1	22.8	6.8	Subjective appraisal
2	23.7	6.3	Subjective appraisal
3	22.1	5.9	Subjective appraisal
4	19.5	4.9	Subjective appraisal
	Variation avg's	6.0	Subjective appraisal
5	20.2	5.0	OM
6	23.6	5.4	OM
7	23.5	5.2	OM
8	17.8	4.1	OM
9	17.9	4.4	OM
	Variation avg's	4.8	OM

Table 1 showing core test results for various alpaca and wool consignments.

The current price for this grid testing is about AU\$1.65 per fleece (AAFT May 2017).

In Australia, the best method to evaluate the effectiveness of fleece classing systems, is to have core samples taken from the consignments and tested at the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA). The cored samples are tested for traits such as average fibre diameter, variation in fibre diameter, staple (fibre) length and strength and yield. Given the thoroughness of the sampling method, these core test results are accepted by the industry as providing a true indication of the fibre traits within the bales or consignment lines.

As Standard Deviation (SD) is the statistic that indicates the true level of variation (of fibre diameter), we look at the core test SD to reveal the extent of variation that exists throughout the respective consignments.

It should be remembered there are three levels of fibre diameter variation throughout a fleece consignment. There is the variation between fibres within fibre bundles (as reflected in normal midside fibre tests for SD) which is mainly influenced by genetics and environment. Then there is the variation across each fleece which is influenced by skirting technique as well as genetics. Finally, there is the variation between the fleeces within the consignment which is influenced by fleece classing technique.

Table 1 provides core test results for indicative fleece lines classed using OM and lines classed solely using subjective appraisal, that is, classing fleeces using only tactile and visual assessment. The table represents all available data at the time of writing. For effective comparison, only white huacaya fleece lines were considered.

Note: all core test information is derived from AWTA certified test data as presented in AWEX or Australian Wool Handlers catalogue sheets

The above table suggest the consignments supported with grid testing of fleeces (serials 5 to 9) had significantly lower degree of fibre diameter variation than the consignments classed purely with subjective appraisal (serials 1 to 4).

This observation is reinforced by the following comment from luxury knitwear retailers, Frank and Anya Walkington.

"We have commercially processed five batches of alpaca over the past five years. The first three batches were classed by eye and hand. The last two batches were classed based on fleece test results (three samples taken from each fleece) and then classed into lines of two micron bandwidths. We did experience a higher degree of fluffing, pilling and a lower level of durability from the first three batches using eye/hand classing.

"By classing fleeces using micron testing, the most noticeable improvement is the increased comfort factor and reduced SD. This gives us an assurance and confidence that the quality of our yarn/knitwear will be consistent which translates into customer satisfaction".

To further reinforce this point, the following comment from Andrew Hulme of Adagio Alpaca Mill should be noted. "Based on my technical experience, I struggle to see how anyone can class fleeces to effectively reduce micron variation without the use of a fibre testing computer".

Furthermore, Fibre Naturally stated they preferred consignments that had been classed with the support of objective measurement, preferably classed to within two micron bands.

In bringing all the above information together, there is resounding evidence that alpaca fibre possesses obvious potential to develop a position within the lucrative luxury apparel market, although the evidence also points to this being achieved only by way of addressing the abovementioned five areas of concern. Furthermore, while the above information relates to large volumes collected in Australia, the principles covered above apply equally for alpaca communities with much smaller volumes available.

NOTE OF DISCLOSURE

This paper is limited by the narrow scope of enquiry and therefore, it is suggested that further, ongoing evaluation be conducted to validate the above information. The writer also acknowledges the possibility of some bias towards OM as the owner of fibre analysis laboratories (AAFT).



*Luxurious Alpaca garments due to Objective
Measurement assisted fleece classing*

Image courtesy of Shamarra Alpacas NZ



THE LEGENDARY JOLIMONT WARRIOR

by **ADRIENNE CLARKE**

We were privileged to have been able to share a significant portion of Warrior's life, and so fortunate for the remarkable genetic contribution he made to our herd, taking quality to a level we had not previously experienced. The advancement and advantage that he transmitted to his cria was consistent and reliable.

Warrior was a gentleman's gentleman. He was very intelligent, so placid in nature and easy to handle. He responded and came to his name. He was always eager to participate in his service duties. Accustomed to mobile servicing, Warrior would happily jump into the back of the van, quickly assume the best position conveniently alongside the food and water, and await his next servicing opportunity. In anticipation, he often jumped into the van even when it wasn't going anywhere.

Warrior had presence. He was always on parade, standing regal and proud. His demeanour just attracted your attention. He was large framed and very heavy boned. There were so many occasions when other alpaca breeders would first see him and say "Wow, who is that?" That was Warrior.

Warrior produced a fleece quality that was ahead of his time. His fleece was extremely dense. It displayed an advanced level of character, with perfectly aligned, high frequency and deep amplitude crimp structure. These fleece qualities carried well into his extremities. Not surprisingly, Warrior produced a massive, high quality fleece.

His fleece remained fine and soft handling for his entire life, despite the demands on him as a working male. His final fleece tested at a low 23.2 microns with a coefficient of variation of 19.5 percent.

Warrior was born into the Jolimont herd in Australia in August 1999. He was born to two outstanding Peruvian alpacas, imported to Australia by Pat and Rosa Viceconte. His sire was Jolimont Conquistador, a solid framed, extremely dense white male. Tragically, Warrior was to be the last son born to his medium fawn dam, Jolimont Marilu.



WARRIOR'S FLEECE AS A MATURE MALE

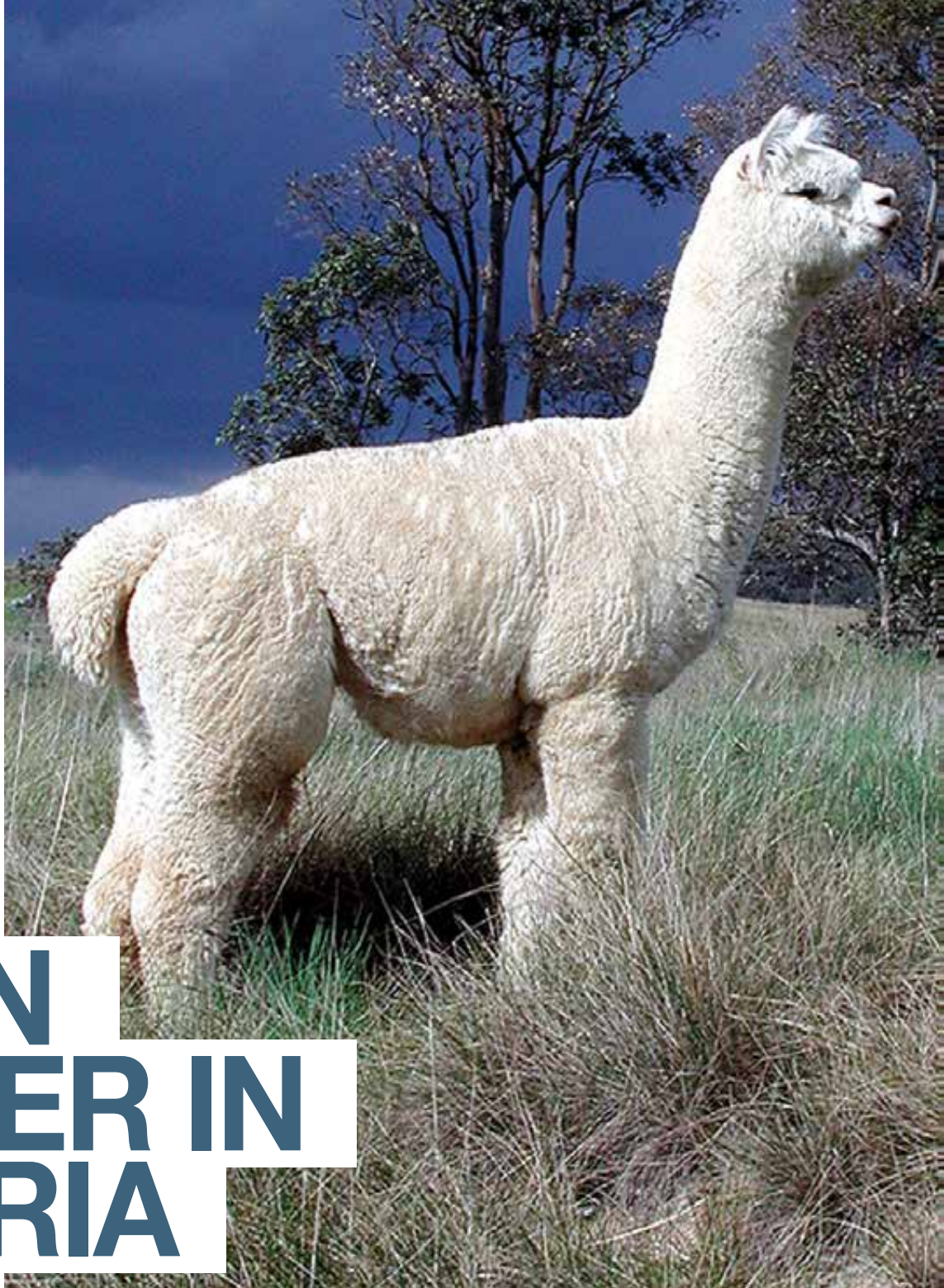
Warrior's first significant industry acknowledgement occurred at the National Show in 2000, when he won the Championship ribbon in the Intermediate Male section, and was offered for sale as a wild card at the National Auction at the same event. His availability stimulated fervours bidding, and was eventually purchased by Julie and Arthur Mavros of Blue Grass Alpacas (NSW) for \$125,000, setting a new record for the highest price paid at the National Auction for that time.

In the same year that Warrior's son, Blue Grass Centurion, was to win Supreme Champion Huacaya at the 2003 National Show, in a private sale Warrior was sold from Blue Grass. He was purchased by Adrienne Clarke and Chris Williams from Ambersun Alpacas and Adrian and Mathilda Cohen from Ichiban Alpacas. En route to his new home in South Australia, Warrior was diverted for a short stay in Western Australia to complete some servicings. It was in WA that he sired the 2005 National Supreme Champion Huacaya, Banksia Park Khan ET.

In 2004, Warrior himself returned to the National Show, and was awarded the title of National Supreme Champion. This success of his genetics at the National Show was to be continued in 2009 with Supreme Champion Alpaca granted to his son Ambersun El Salvador, and in the following year (2010) awarded to another son of Warrior, Ambersun Fortune Seeker. Warrior also was grandsire in the pedigrees of the National Supreme Champions of 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016. In total, 9 of the last 13 National Supreme Champions have carried Warrior's outstanding genetics. No other male has featured so pre-dominantly in the genetics of the highest level show of Australia.

It is with a tear that these details were collated as Warrior is so sadly missed.

It is with pride and conviction that Warrior is acknowledged as arguably the most legendary male in the history of Australian Alpacas.



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FACIAL ECZEMA



(SPORIDESMIN POISONING) IN ALPACAS

by **DAVID & MARGARET MCCONACHY, BARRALONG ALPACAS, VICTORIA**

There is much information on the internet regarding facial eczema (FE) in sheep and cattle in Australia and New Zealand because not only does the disease impact on milk, wool and meat production, but can kill grazing livestock in high numbers under optimal climatic conditions. Facial eczema is actually just a symptom of the insidious ingestion of germinating spores of the fungus *Pithomyces chartarum* by grazing animals. Germinating spores produce a toxin, sporidesmin. The fungus prefers denser pasture, particularly ryegrass (rather than more open grass species) and paddock litter resulting from the feeding of supplementary hay and from slashing of pasture. Germinating spores tend to be present in pasture in the warm humid weather at the end of summer and well into autumn when night temperatures are still elevated. The spores are found at ground level, making heavily grazed pasture of greatest risk to livestock. In our area in East Gippsland, Victoria, thousands of

animals were affected over 2016 late summer/autumn with heavy stock losses (to get an understanding of the importance of FE to the Australian dairy industry, Dairy Australia monitor and publish spore counts for farmers <http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Animal-health/Facial-eczema-monitoring.aspx>). The season this year has been kinder climate-wise and current spore counts on our paddocks are within acceptable limits.

Sporidesmin toxin is highly toxic to sheep, cattle and, of great importance to us, alpacas (have a look at <http://www.schalpaca.com.au/facial-eczema>). The fact that FE is less recognised in alpacas is probably because, compared with sheep and cattle, alpaca numbers are so much fewer overall. Further, our vet has commented to us that, at the height of the problem time last year, there were probably numerous instances of undetected cases in alpacas. The main reason for this is that only a small percentage of cases demonstrate the facial eczema sign. Sporidesmin poisoning

causes acute hepatitis affecting the animal's bile duct and liver cells. In severe cases, death can occur with post mortem examination showing massive liver cell damage. The acute hepatic changes can lead to chronic hepatitis and in both the acute and chronic stages the animals can die suddenly due to haemorrhage (often internal) as a consequence of lack of clotting factors normally produced by the liver. We have noted that it is not uncommon for alpaca owners to mention an unexpected death in their herd without a definitive diagnosis.

OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN AS FOLLOWS:-

Towards the end of March 2016, we noticed that a small number of our yearling females were lying down, extending their necks to rub and shake their heads on the ground. Some developed swollen infected eyes and loss of skin on the nose, around the eyes (even causing loss of eye lashes) and on the ears. These symptoms are classic for facial eczema and are due to photosensitivity associated with the sporidesmin toxin. The animal rubs itchy and sore areas on the ground (especially), trees, posts and fences. One young female with obvious facial eczema was so ill that she lost



the tips of her ears due to circulatory shock with poor blood circulation to her extremities. All these young female alpacas survived after intense treatment. However, we had four deaths amongst alpacas which showed NO evidence of facial eczema. Two adult females appeared unwell from no apparent cause and died before any diagnosis could be reached. One adult intact male also died under similar circumstances. Then we found a yearling male, which had shown no symptoms at all, suddenly dead in the paddock. Autopsy on this alpaca revealed that he had died from massive internal haemorrhage caused by acute liver disease. We then had blood tests performed on a number of our apparently healthy animals. Results showed that they all had elevated liver enzymes ranging from mild to severe. There is no cure for sporidesmin poisoning, and liver damage is cumulative. If the liver is very severely and chronically affected the alpaca may have continued poor health.

Fertility and, in females, the ability to deliver healthy crias, may be compromised.

We were fortunate that our stud males were all grazed in paddocks with no rye grass and they were unaffected. We were also fortunate that we were offered agistment for our herd on ryegrass-free

pasture. We have had excellent veterinarian advice and support. All our alpacas are now clinically well. Our affected paddocks have been repeat sprayed and tested for spores prior to re-working, fertilising and sewing ryegrass-free pasture recommended as ideal for alpacas. This has been a long process and will not be completed until spring 2017.

Facial eczema is not a new disease in alpacas but severity waxes and wanes depending on seasonal and pasture conditions producing a microclimate ideal for fungal growth! The disease has been a problem in alpacas in Australia and New Zealand since importation in the late 1980s. Hot spots include ryegrass-dominant pastures in the Southern Highlands, NSW, East Gippsland, Victoria and the North Island of New Zealand. Speak to your local veterinarian about monitoring risk on your property.

GippsDairy regional extension officer Karen Romano said the most effective way for farmers to be aware of rising spore counts was to go to www.dairyaustralia.com.au/facialeczema where ongoing spore counts are posted during the summer and autumn months.

"To help farmers manage the risk of facial eczema in their herds, Dairy Australia and GippsDairy manage a pasture spore monitoring service across a series of sentinel farms in Gippsland," Karen said.

"For dairy cattle, early intervention is critical. When local pasture spore counts trend upward of 20,000 spores/gram and weather conditions look favourable for sporulation, farmers should consult their veterinarian or feed specialist for advice on how best to prevent facial eczema outbreaks."

WHAT IS FACIAL ECZEMA?

Facial eczema is a potentially fatal liver disease caused by a fungal toxin that affects perennial ryegrass and kikuyu pastures.

Given the right seasonal conditions, the fungus multiplies and produces a toxin (called sporesdesmin) that is ingested by grazing animals. The toxin causes a dramatic fall in milk production, metabolic disturbances and photosensitization of exposed skin, with severe pain.

Animals that survive severe facial eczema often suffer permanent liver damage, never fully recover and may require culling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FE YOU CAN CONTACT THE FOLLOWING ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORS:-

- Dr Bill Beresford, Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre **02 4868 1310** bill@southernhighlandsvets.com.au
- Prof Jakob Malmo, Maffra Veterinary Centre **03 5147 1177** jmalmo@maffravet.com.au
- Dr Andrew Padula, Bairnsdale Animal Hospital **03 5152 4152** info@bairnsdaleanimalhospital.com
- Karen Romano, Regional Officer GippsDairy **03 5624 3900** karen@gippsdairy.com.au
- Dr Jane Vaughan www.criagenesis.cc

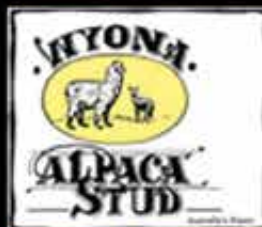
WYONA ALPACA



Karen Caldwell

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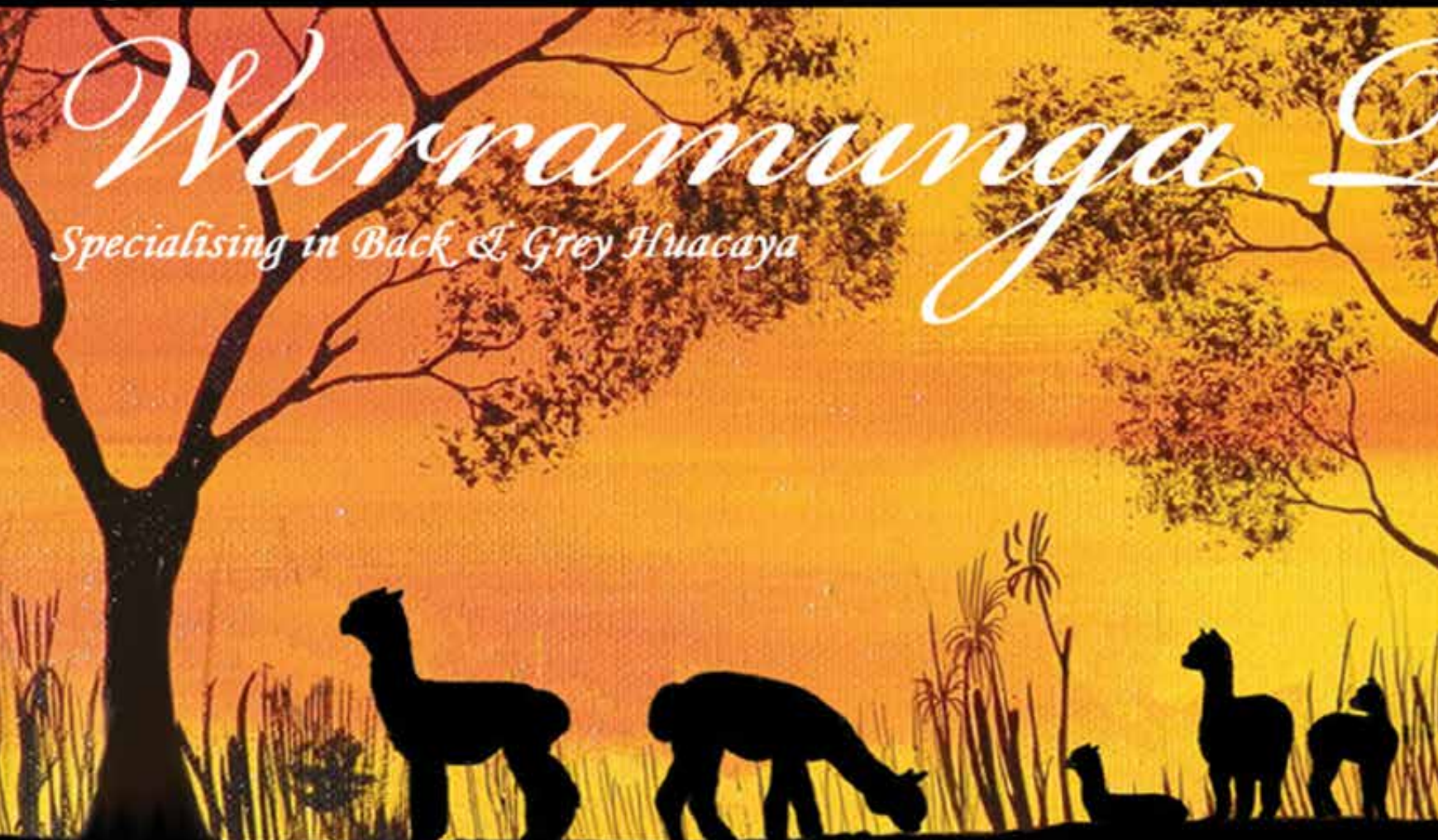
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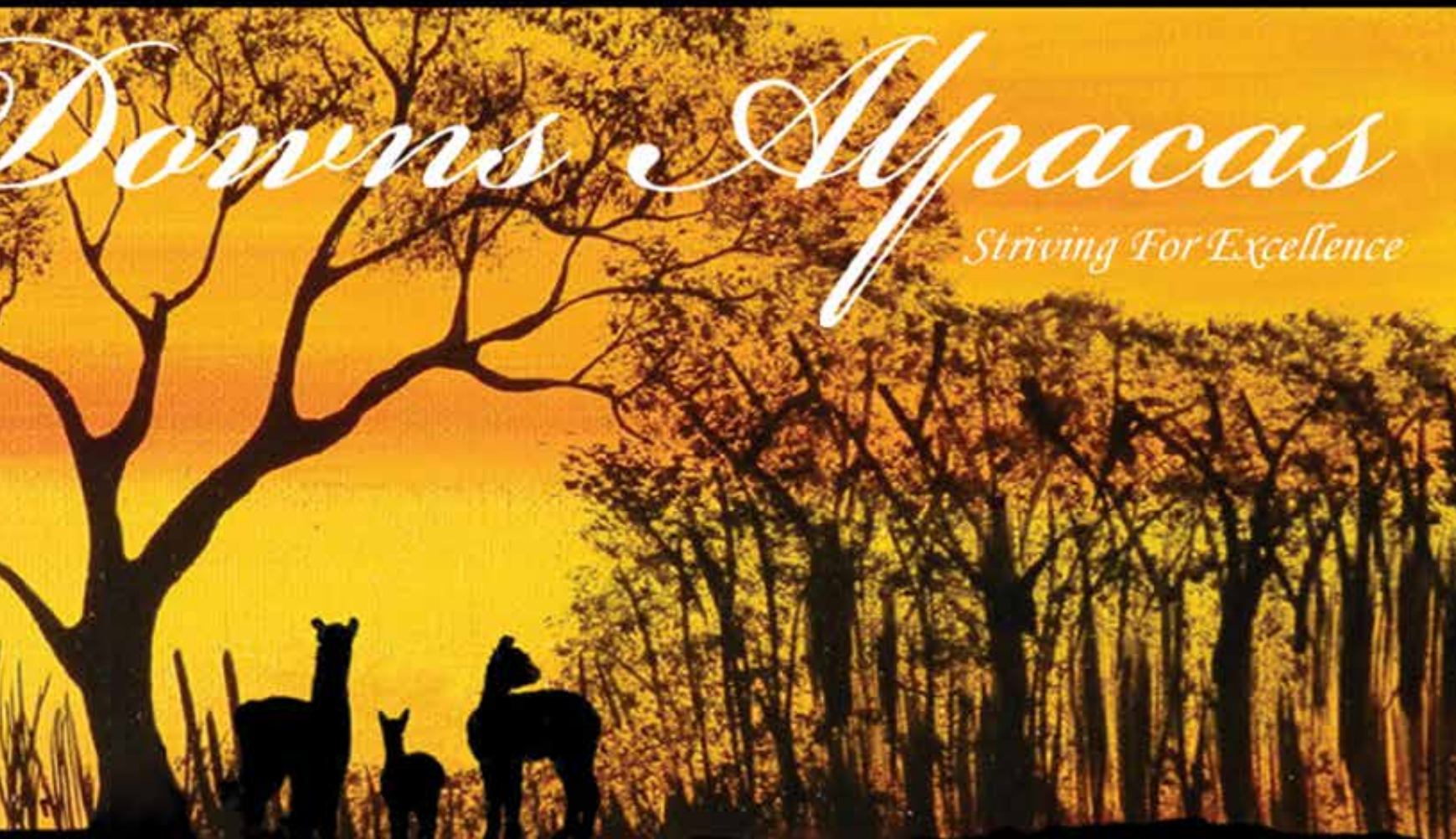
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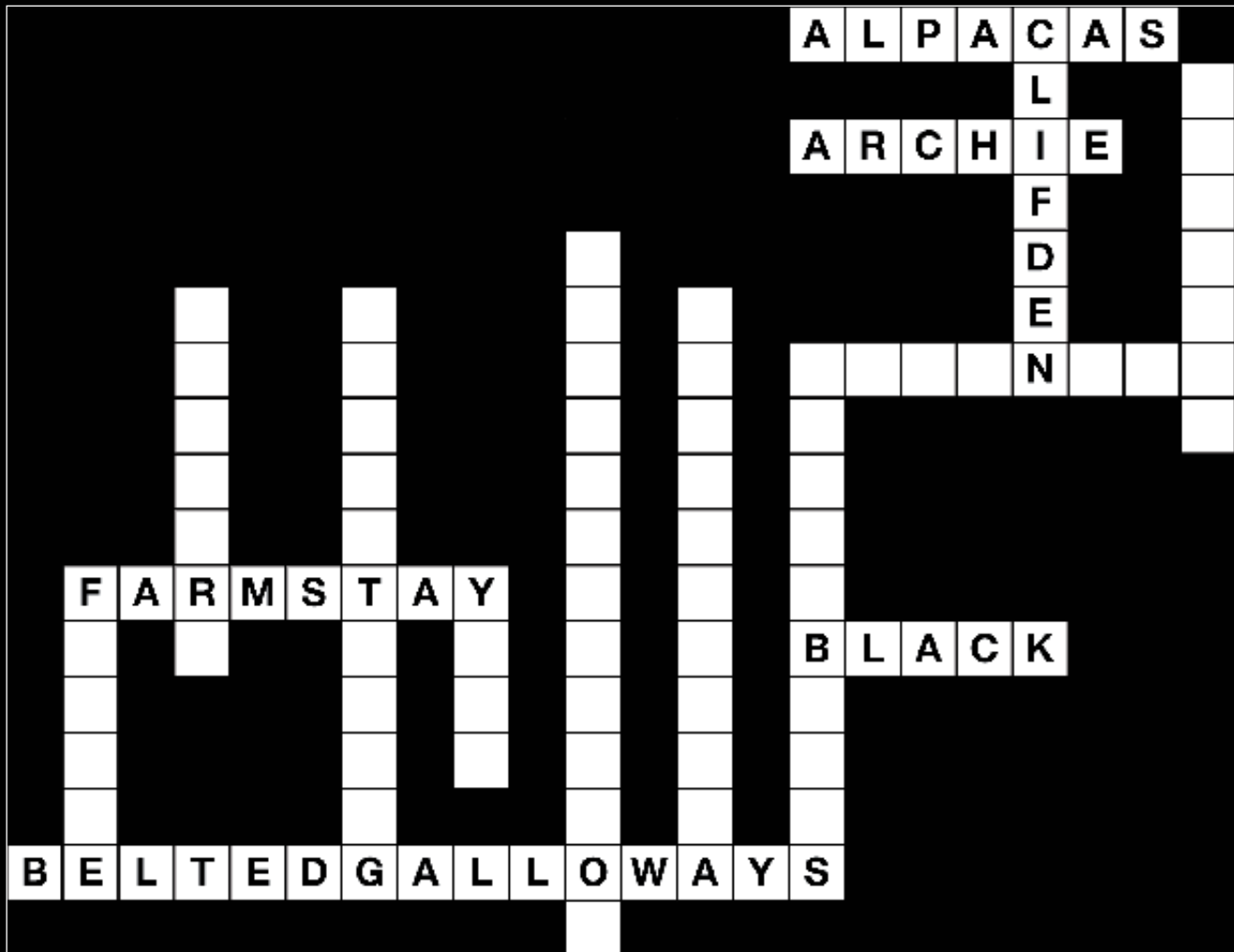
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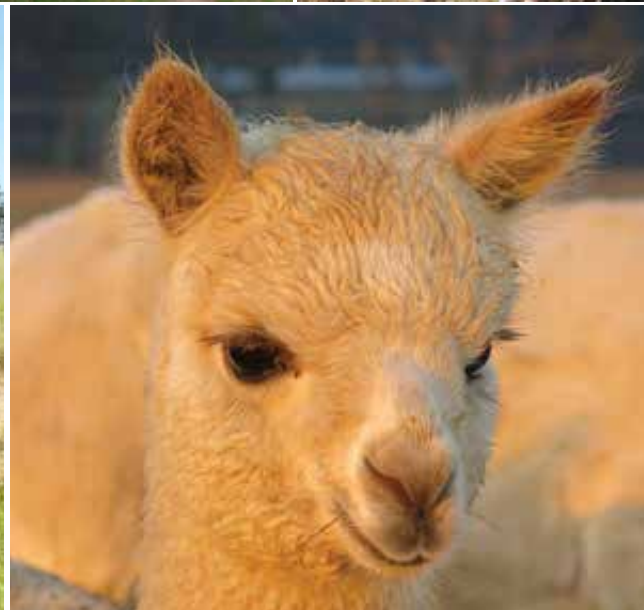
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Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION



ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR SHEARING?

At countless alpaca shows, I have heard breeders and judges discussing the commercial attributes of fleece yet what I see in the shearing shed often does not match that enthusiasm. If alpaca fleece is as valuable as we keep telling ourselves why aren't we more prepared for shearing and more excited about the results? Alpaca fleece is valuable and yes there is a market, just don't expect the buyer to come knocking at your door. By way of example, there is not one fleece left in my shed from this or any other seasons shearing. This isn't because of luck but the result of planning and shearing to meet what the market will pay for. So, what do you need to do to ensure you receive the best return possible.

SHEARING AREA

It doesn't need to be a shed but it does need to be clean, dry, semi-flat, preferably shaded area of at least 3m square. This will help ensure your fiber comes off and is bagged in as good a condition as possible for sale.

ANIMAL CLEANLINESS

Your animals should be as clean as you can make them and dry. This will increase the value of your fleece. You may need to shed your animals overnight and you should also withhold water and feed for 12 hours (overnight) to prevent the animal wetting or staining the fleece during shearing.

SORTING ANIMALS

Sort your animals for shearing runs from light to dark. All light male and female animals (but kept separated) must be shorn first then the next colour. The other option is light to dark females then light to dark males but a detailed clean of the shearing area will be required between runs so as to prevent colour contamination.

HELPERS

Helpers are essential. Your shearer is there to shear not run your shed, clean up, muster animals and the like (unless you have arranged this service beforehand). A minimum number of helpers, for shearing one to five animals only, would be two. More animals

mean more helpers needed. For 10-20 animals four to five helpers would be excellent. If you have a large herd (35+) you might consider setting up two shearing stations so the shearer can work constantly, alternating station.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

A skirting table and sturdy clear plastic bags. The saddle will be removed first and is the most commercially viable part. This needs to be thoroughly skirted to ensure that it meets the length requirements, is free of vegetable matter and is of consistent micron across the fleece. Once the fleece is skirted place it in the bag and ensure the bag is properly labelled. This is also the time to take your fleece sample for testing. Buyers want to know exactly what they are buying so testing is essential. The remaining fleece should be collected and divided into pieces (neck and upper legs), shorts (less than 80mm), and then the remaining hairy and misc pieces. These can be collected as colour groups and do not need to be bagged individually for each animal.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Broom to clean up after each shearing, towels for the nervous alpacas that have 'accidents' during shearing ... this will help keep your fleece clean.

So in conclusion, plan your shearing day, discuss your expectations with your shearer in advance and provide the market with the product it wants not the one you think it needs.

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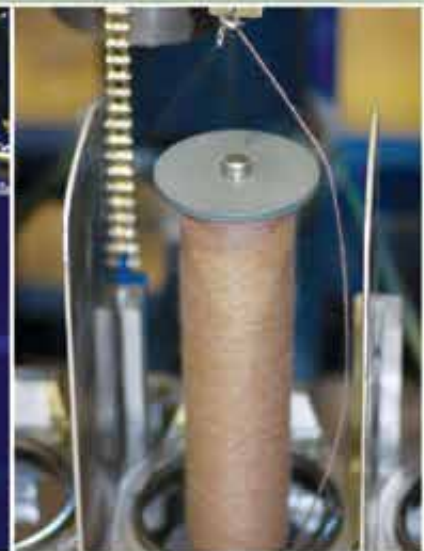
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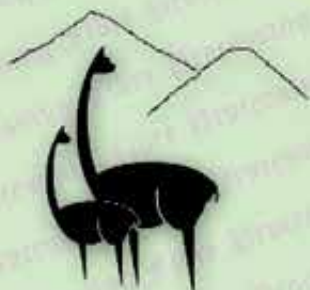


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Mandala: the never ending circle of life

Mandala Alpacas is situated 5km from historic Rylstone, which sits at the northern end of the beautiful World Heritage listed Capertee Valley. The Capertee is the world's widest enclosed canyon with all its rugged beauty and is a whole kilometre wider than the Grand Canyon, but not as deep. The towering cliffs of the Capertee led to the property name of 'Kandara' meaning Great Cliffs in Hindi.

We are relatively new to the industry – only since 2008, but during this time we have learnt from the very best the industry has to offer, now calling them friends. This knowledge we offer freely to anyone interested in knowing and learning about these wonderful stoic animals.

Keryn is president of the Hawkesbury Blue-Mountain region of the AAA, but we really straddle both worlds, we actually live in the central west and support that region with the same commitment.

HUACAYA BLOODLINES INCLUDE:

- El Dorado
- Flaming Gold
- Hillside Gardens Napoleon
- ILR PPPeruvian Auzengate
- Inti
- Jolimont Warrior
- Ledgers Dream
- Sir Titus Salt
- Shanbrook Accoyo Tulaco
- Snowman
- Snowmaster
- True Perfection
- Valentino
- Windsong Valley Royal Inca
- Yavari

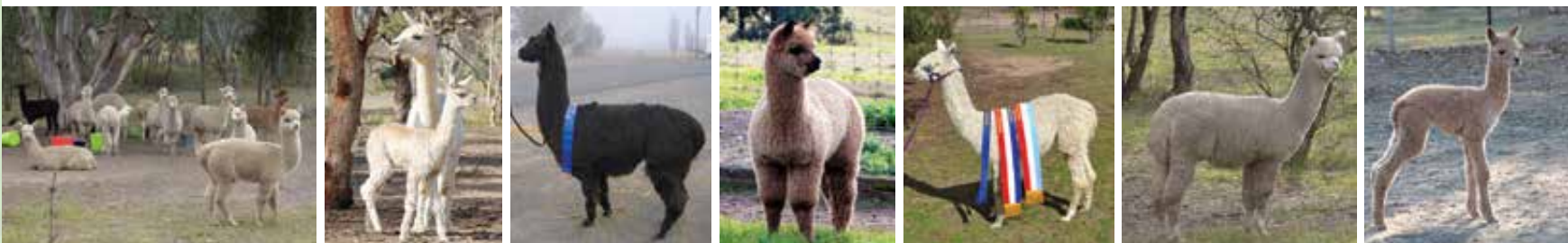
SURI BLOODLINES INCLUDE:

- Cedar House Platino
- Cedar House Thor
- ILR Alejandro
- LCA Tejas ILR
- Pacofino Black Sabbath
- Peruvian Senator
- Somerset Peruvian Black Impact
- Surilana Omar

Our aim is to breed the **best quality huacaya and suri** alpacas we can, across the whole range of colours, concentrating on temperament, fleece fineness and density.

We often have show quality males and females available for sale and visitors are always welcome by appointment.

We also have agistment available if required.



Ian, Beverley and Keryn Burns
120 Windles Lane (PO Box 64) Rylstone, NSW 2849
p 02 6379 0779 **m** 0410 577 667 (Beverley) **m** 0400 780 722 (Keryn)
e beverleybburns@gmail.com

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worldofalpacas 105

WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

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Darren Hard Ph: 0438 756 231



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'When only the best will do'



IVORY PARK

Why use IVORY PARK Stud Males?

- Our Suri studs are fine and lustrous
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- We do not use ET or males with ET in their genetics

Ivory Park Suri Alpacas located just 30 minutes from Bundaberg QLD & specialises in breeding fine micron, lustrous white Suri Alpacas.

Our pure white stud males are selected for their quality genetics of which some are new to QLD & are producing high quality progeny with fine fleeces exhibiting high lustre & excellent locking.

With several different males to choose from, we can offer you the stud service best suited to your girls and help advance your breeding program.

We have a range of Suri alpacas for sale from pets to potential stud males, maiden females and pregnant females to suit a wide range of breeders, from the beginner right through to the discerning Suri breeder.

Contact Ivory Park or come and visit, you are always welcome.

PACKAGE OF WHITE SURI FEMALES - 2 WITH CRIA AT FOOT

TOTAL PACKAGE \$7500 – including GST



SURILANA PRIMADONNA DOB 15/8/07
2017 fleece stats – micron 24.5 SD 5.5
Lovely white suri female, great mother
has produced many stunning cria who
we are now breeding from.
Remated to Elysion Chivas Regal

IVORY PARK PIXIE DOB 31/5/17
White female suri
Sire: Elysion Chivas Regal



PINJARRA SCRUMMY BUN DOB 18/4/07
2017 fleece stats – micron 26.3 SD 5.6
Prize winning white suri female
Great mother who has produced prize
winning cria.

Mated to Elysion Heartbeat – due 28th
October 2017



SURILANA CHUPPA CHUPP DOB 3/10/06
2017 fleece stats – micron 23.4 SD 4.9
White suri female, great mother who has
produced show winning cria.
Remated to Elysion Heartbeat

IVORY PARK CARMELLO DOB 5/6/17
Stunning light fawn male suri
fleece is lustrous with great locking – this
cria will be show winner!!

Ivory Park Suri Alpacas - Bev Callaghan & Darryl Russell
32 Klintstoms Rd, Bungadoo QLD 4671

Ph: 0429 726 280 | Email: bevcallaghan@westnet.com.au
www.ivoryparksuris.com.au



MARQUEZ KRISTIAN

is a highly awarded black Huacaya male winning Champion Black at many shows.

Greatest achievement: 2015 Victorian Colourbration Champion Black Huacaya



MARQUEZ KRISTINA

has achieved Grand Champion Huacaya at a number of SA shows in an Elite line up of Champions.

Greatest achievement: 2015 National Show & Sale first in a class of 13 females



MARQUEZ KATALINA

has had outstanding show results in 2014/2015 winning many Intermediate Championships

Greatest Achievement: 2015 National Show & Sale – first place Grand Champion Suri at Mount Pleasant SA

Marquez Alpacas

“the home of champions”



MARQUEZ JERONIMO

is a stunning Black Suri Male. Jeronimo won the hearts of his new owners and he now resides in New Zealand.

Jeronimo won many Championships in South Australia and Victoria.



SURILANA PROTEA

is an Elite Fawn Suri female, winning many Championships in her first fleece and thereafter.

Greatest Achievements: winning a Championship at almost every halter show and Fleece show



marquezalpacas2@bigpond.com 0412 677 805

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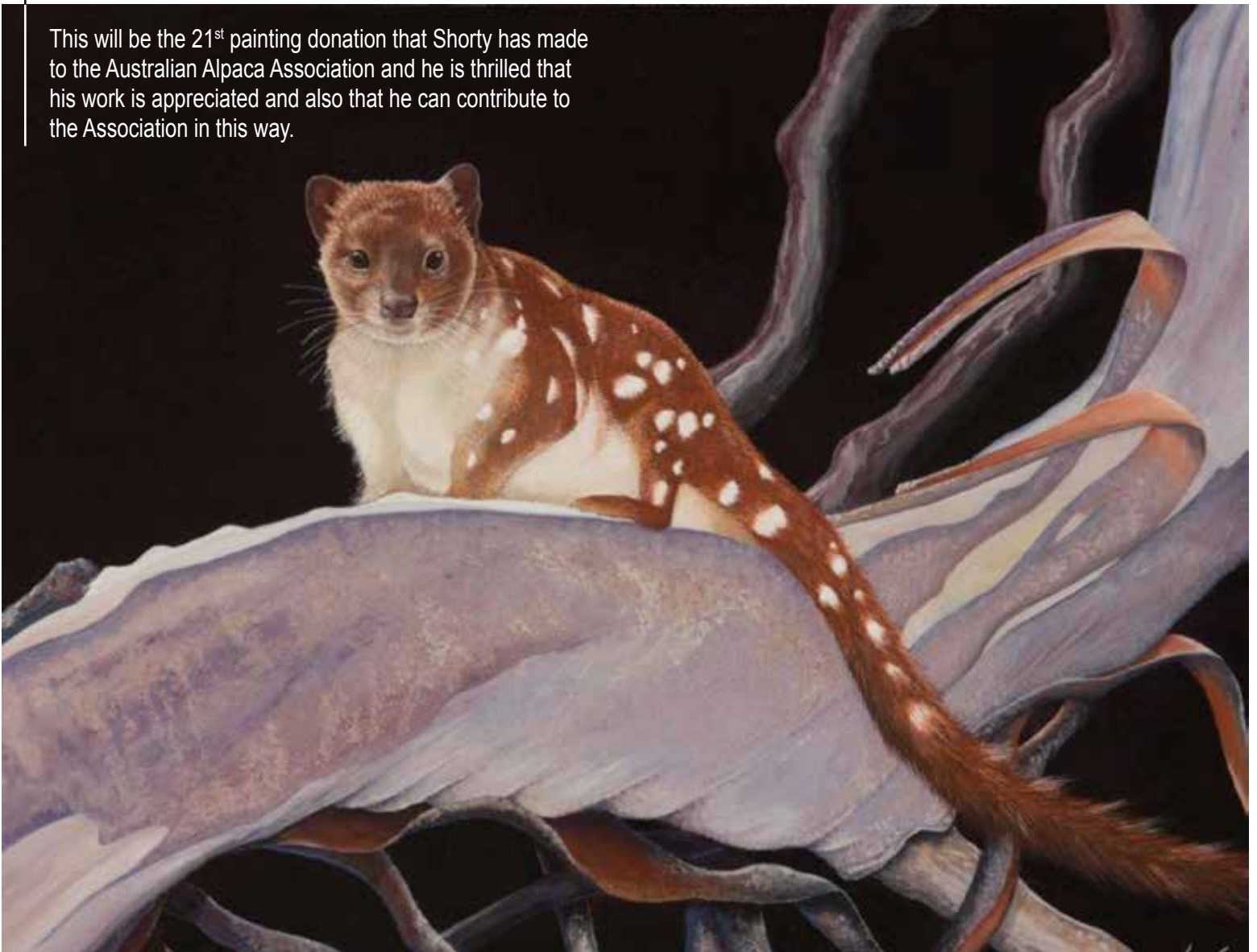
MARK SHORT

Once again Shorty was invited to donate a painting for the fundraising auction at the 2016 National Alpaca Show & Sale held at Globe Derby Park in Adelaide. Instead of doing an actual painting, Shorty decided to give bidders an opportunity to have a 'commission of their choice' and the final bid was won by Gary and Sandy Retallick of Softfoot Alpacas.

Gary and Sandy decided to commission a painting of one of the endangered Australian animals that they are currently breeding on their property at Victor Harbor, the Spotted Quoll. Shorty spent some time photographing the quolls at their property and produced the painting that you can see here. The painting is hung in the reception area of the Native Conservation Project at their property.

In 2017 Shorty will again offer a 'commission of your choice' to be auctioned as a fundraiser at this year's Australian Alpaca Spectacular in Bendigo.

This will be the 21st painting donation that Shorty has made to the Australian Alpaca Association and he is thrilled that his work is appreciated and also that he can contribute to the Association in this way.

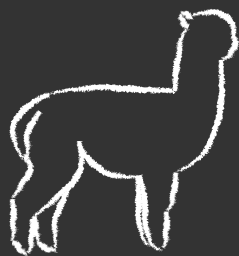
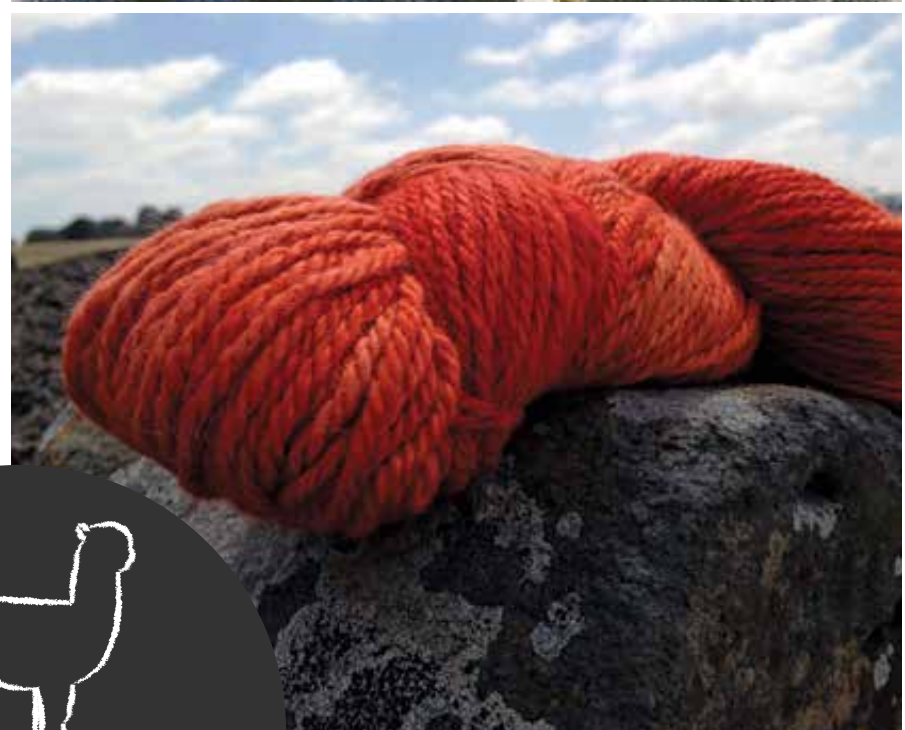


To see more of Shorty's work you can go to
www.alpacaschaparral.com

and to enquire you can phone 08 8853 2354 or 0417 878 296

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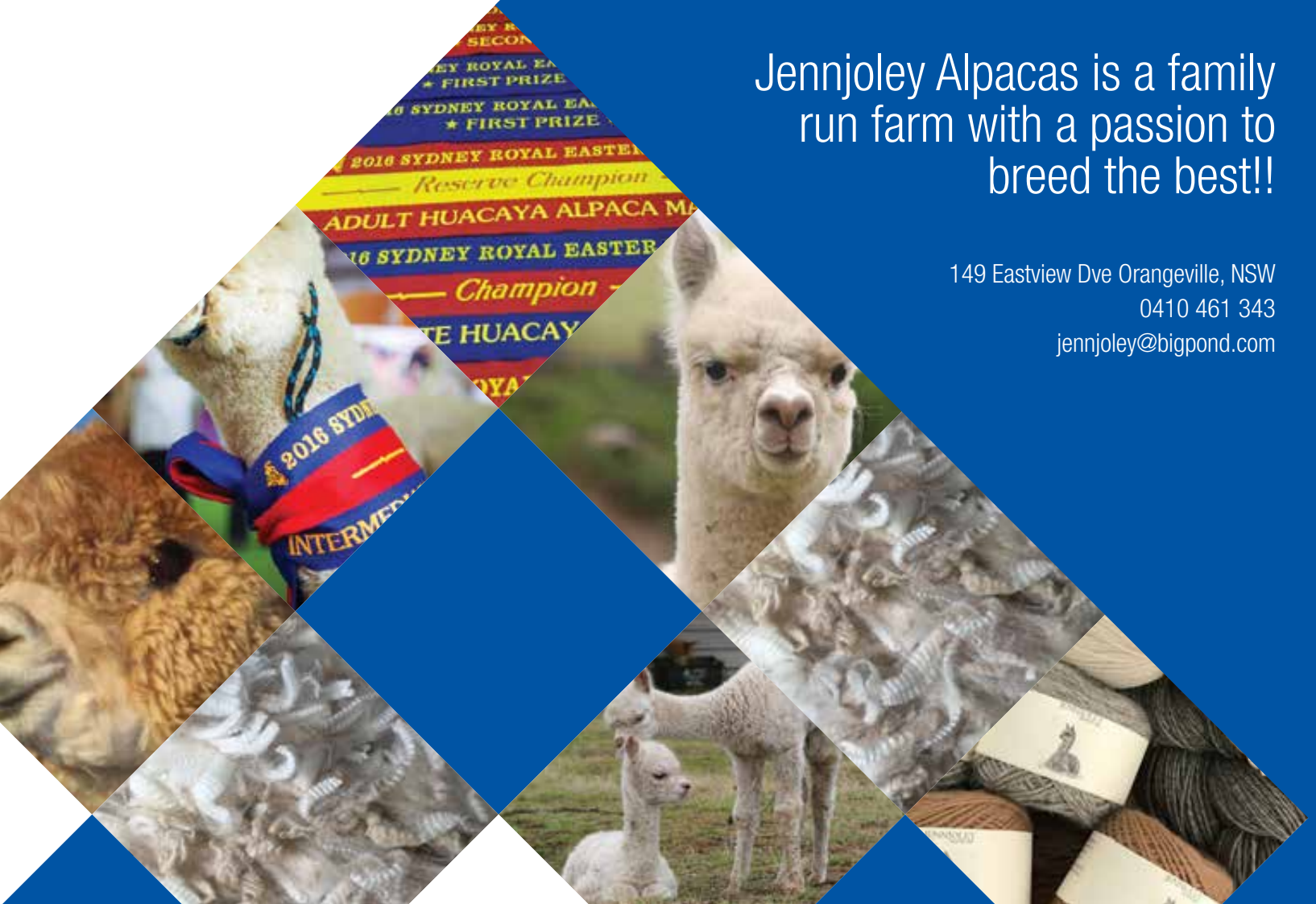
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The KUNA logo is displayed in a stylized, yellow, blocky font within a red rectangular box in the top right corner of the advertisement.

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Suri's at at Mangrove Mountain



The prize winning Bumble Hill suri herd of over 100 predominantly white and fawn animals is located just one hour north of Sydney.

Bumble Hill has focussed on the Accoyo-style suri since their first importation from the US in 2001. In 2007 we introduced a new Accoyo line with our stud male, Surilana Piccolo. For the past six years our breeding programme has been driven by one of his outstanding sons, Bumble Hill Picotec.

The future will be driven by the introduction of yet another potent suri bloodline, through Shanbrooke Prototype. We hope he will add the finishing touches to our unique fleece style.

Renowned suri stud males in our genetics include:

Accoyo Uribe, Accoyo Ganador, Accoyo Santiago, Peruvian Senator, Peruvian Rulio, Pperuvian Amador, Peruvian Pride of Alianca, Peruvian Icalon, Peruvian Bosisto and Peruvian Accoyo Armadeus.

Quality males and unjoined and pregnant females for sale.

Feel free to phone Julianne or Annalisa to discuss the herd.



BUMBLE HILL
 **ALPACAS**

Annalisa Tomich, Manager
Burratoo – 65 Parukala Road
Mangrove Mountain, NSW 2250
p: 02 4374 1666 or 0427 731527
www.bumblehill.com.au

Huacayas at Orange



To take advantage of the cool climate, elevation and rich volcanic basalt soils, in 2006 Bumble Hill moved its predominantly white, 100 plus huacaya herd to Mt Canobolas.

Fleece weights and overall quality have improved, with the fibre exhibiting the characteristics prized by elite overseas mills.

We are also excited to report across the board increased follicular density and enhanced fleece style in the progeny of our current sires, Benleigh Legend and Windsong Valley Kenjiro, Adori Avalanche, Futura Escobar and Cambridge Fireproof.

Our herd genetics include the respected sires, Pperuvian Accoyo Caligula, Accoyo Tulaco, Highlander, Ledgers Dream, Caudillo, Bellissimo and the famous Purrumbete dams, Sweet Freedom, True Perfection and Maid of the Mist.

Quality males, unjoined and pregnant females, pet and working wethers for sale.

Contact Julianne or see details on our website
www.bumblehill.com.au



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**Bendigo Regional Exhibition Centre, Prince of Wales Showgrounds
Thursday 24th - Sunday 27th August 2017**

The Australian Alpaca Spectacular is a new event hosted by the Australian Alpaca Association with a very full program and the opportunity to see, touch and buy the best alpacas in Australia!

AAA National Age and Colour Championships

A completely new format, set to build on the well recognised history, prestige and success of the AAA National Show and Victorian Alpaca Colourbration.

AAA National Elite Alpaca Auction

Alpacas inspected by Peter Kennedy, AAA and International Judge, with strict selection criteria.

The F Factor

A new initiative to highlight the beauty and versatility of Australian Alpaca Fibre and the talents of our crafty AAA members.

Interactive workshops with world renowned experts

Improve your farm productivity with topics ranging from animal husbandry through to fleece preparation and showing.

Industry forums and networking functions

Catch up with alpaca breeders from around Australia and the world in a friendly environment.

www.australionalpacaspectacular.com.au



If you haven't booked your accommodation yet please call Bendigo Tourism on 1800 813 153 or click on the link on the accommodation page of the spectacular website.

AAA National Age and Colour Championships

This new 'super show' is set to build on the well recognised history, prestige and success of the AAA National Show and Victorian Alpaca Colourbration. It will not simply be two shows back to back, but a totally new format designed to give AAA members the best opportunity to display their animals, promote their businesses and learn as much as possible to improve their breeding programs and productivity.

Show Entries open Friday 7 July and close Friday 21 July 2017

All show entries are to be completed online using eAlpaca. If you get stuck you can call for help with contact details listed on the show website.

Proposed schedule (to be finalised after the closure of entries)

Wednesday 23rd - arrival from 3pm

Thursday 24th & Friday 25th - halter classes grouped by colour

This is the same format as Colourbration but only place ribbons will be awarded.

Saturday 26th - championship & supreme awards

1st and 2nd placed animals will enter the ring twice grouped by colour and then by age. Champion and reserve champion male and female awarded for each colour and age. Colour champions will enter the ring for national colour supreme champion awards. Age champions will enter the ring for national grand male and female champion awards and the supreme grand champion award.

Sunday 27th - progeny classes & junior judging

Predictability in breeding is key to the future of the industry and the sire and dam's progeny classes deserve 'prime time' recognition. With that in mind, Progeny classes will be celebrated in a special section of the show on Sunday morning. Exhibitors are encouraged to enter progeny classes at the same time as the normal classes to be listed in the catalogue and take advantage of the opportunity to market their bloodlines.

We will be running sire's progeny by colour with only 2 animals required for each entry, and in contrast to previous shows the animals will be judged even if there is only one entry. This will be followed by an open class (any colour) with 3 animals per entry. Dam's progeny will be an open competition with 2 animals required per entry. Our plan is to have our judges fitted with handsfree microphones to comment on each pair as they are inspected.

The finale of the show will see all the winning progeny groups brought back into the ring, and a photo of their sire (supplied by the exhibitors) displayed on the big screen as they are introduced. The public will then be invited into the show ring to inspect the animals and talk with the exhibitor. All of this will be livestreamed world wide. What a great opportunity to promote your prized genetics!!!

Huacaya Progeny Classes presented by:



Suri Progeny Classes presented by:



National Fleece Championships

All fleeces will be grid tested on site to ensure reliability of results and reduce damage to fleeces. They will all be judged for places, then both colour and age based championships will be awarded, with a Supreme fleece of each colour and an overall 'National Grand Champion'. Sire and Dam progeny classes are included for both Huacaya and Suri plus a Most Valuable Commercial Fleece award for Huacaya.

In place of the traditional speech by the fleece judge and presentation of trophies, Karen has agreed to be 'miked up' to present some examples of high and low scoring fleeces as part of a the 'Fibre of the Gods' workshop on Sunday. Details on the following pages.

Junior Judging National Championship

Competitors to be aged between 15-25 years and must have either won a Junior Judging event at a Regional Show in the past 12 months or have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Junior Judging event at a state capital city royal show in the past 12 months.

The competition will be conducted as follows:

One group of four animals will be judged by the competitors.

There will be one visual class and one oral class.

Each competitor's performance will be observed by an Overjudge who will allocate credit marks.

The judging criteria to be used are that set out by the AAA Showing Rules.

Entrant judged as Champion Junior Judge will receive a Sash and Trophy.



The Alpaca Colour Genetics workshop with Dr Kylie Munyard at Colourbration 2016 was very well attended so we are extending the education program with a series of informative lunchtime presentations. Grab some lunch from the ringside café, take a seat around the show ring and you might just learn something that will help your farm productivity.

Friday 25th August - **eAlpaca launch**

Nathan Bailey of Simplify Solutions and Fiona Vanderbeek AAA Vice President
Who said there's no such thing as a free lunch? Enjoy the complimentary 'burger bar' and a demonstration of our new online registry and show system which will manage our International Alpaca Registry (IAR).



Saturday 26th August - **Alpaca husbandry 'hot topics' Worms & Selenium**

Presented by Dr Harun Rashid from University of Melbourne and Dr Jane Vaughan from Cria Genesis, with snapshots of results from recent studies on drench resistance and selenium levels in alpacas and their recommendations for future treatment of these issues.



Sunday 27th August

ALPACA 'FIBRE OF THE GODS' BUT WHAT ARE US MERE MORTALS DOING WITH IT?

Saddle first shearing demonstration - Graham Moore from Total Alpaca Care

Watch Graham up on the big screen as he shears an alpaca on his customised shearing table and explains the benefits of using the saddle first method on the table.

Fleece skirting workshop - Kylie Martin AAA Judge and Skirting Trainer

With the fleece directly off the shearing table, Kylie will talk us through skirting with the camera zooming in to show us the good, the bad and the ugly bits up close.

Fleece testing procedures and interpretation of results - Paul Vallely from AFT

A brief presentation from Paul about how the testing machines work and what to look for in the results and histogram you receive. This will be beamed onto the big screen.

Show fleece judging demonstration - Karen Caldwell AAA Judge of the 2017 Spectacular Fleece Show

Karen has agreed to be 'miked up' to run through the judging process with some examples of high and low scoring fleeces (with the exhibitors permission) and explain why they received the awarded points in each category of the new fleece scorecard.

Presentation of fleece championship trophies

Presentation of 'The F Factor' prizes



The F Factor is a new initiative to highlight the beauty and versatility of Australian Alpaca Fibre and the talents of our crafty AAA members. We want to engage and inspire the public and increase the demand for Australian Alpaca.

Spin, weave, felt, knit and crochet to create something unique and write a brief description about how and why you made it with alpaca. This description is as important as the completion of the item and will form an integral part of the competition.

All entries will be displayed at The Australian Alpaca Spectacular and reviewed by members of an expert panel, with comments on the show ring microphone and photos beamed up onto the big screen. Your creations will receive prime exposure, rather than just stuck out the back on a static display. The public will be asked to vote on their favourites so it becomes less about technical execution and more about creativity and inspiration.

Prizes will be awarded to both exhibitors and voters. This competition is replacing the various craft sections offered at previous National Shows. Entry forms and further instructions are on the website. Items and descriptions must be received by THE F FACTOR facilitator by 1st August.

The only rule is the item must be made from Australian Alpaca!

Prime Alpaca Degustation Dinner & Fashion Salon

7pm Friday 25th August

Chateau Dore, Mandurang is a beautiful winery about 10 minutes drive from Bendigo CBD. Courtesy buses will collect and drop off diners from a selection of nominated locations around Bendigo.

\$110 pre-purchased tickets include drinks on arrival and a multi course feast of Prime Alpaca prepared by renowned Peruvian chef Alejandro Saravia from Pastuso in Melbourne.

The 'Alpaca Yarn Lady' will be hosting an intimate fashion show featuring some exciting new lines made from Australian alpaca.

www.pastuso.com.au

www.primealpaca.com.au

www.chateaudore.com.au



The 2017 AAA Elite Alpaca Auction Parade

6pm Saturday 26th August

The Inaugural Spectacular Show Ring Soiree

6.30 pm Saturday 26th August

Catch up with alpaca breeders from around Australia and the world in a fun, friendly setting. Why not put together a syndicate to bid at the auction on Sunday?

\$49 pre-purchased tickets include delicious finger food and lots of more substantial dinner options with drinks available from the ringside caravan bar, plenty of casual seating, some great tunes and fun times!





Australian Alpaca Association Ltd 2017 Elite Alpaca Auction

Bendigo Regional Exhibition Centre – Prince of Wales Showgrounds

Auction from 1pm Sunday 27th August

Inspections from 5pm Saturday 26th August

All prospective buyers must register at the Landmark Buyer Registration desk on site prior to the auction. Copies of Terms and Conditions are available from the Auctioneers and are displayed at the auction venue. 10% GST will be charged on top of the bid price unless the alpaca is to be exported within 60 days. Terms of payment are strictly cash at the time of purchase in accordance with the conditions of sale. Personal and business cheques are accepted by prior arrangement. Buyer orders can be placed with Landmark personnel who will be in attendance on the auction day. Telephone bidding will be available on the day and should be registered by 5pm on Thursday 24TH August.



Wilson Beer 0428 5050 520

wilsonbeer@bigpond.com

Andrew Sloan 0428 522 204

andrew.sloan@landmark.com.au

AAA Transfers are at the purchasers expenses, with signed original IAR certificates posted to purchasers upon receipt of cleared funds. Collection will be at the conclusion of the auction unless prior arrangements have been made with the vendors. Prospective purchasers should consider National and State health protocols for the movement of alpacas. All descriptions of the alpacas have been provided by the Vendors and whilst all care has been taken in their preparation, both Landmark and the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd accept no responsibility and recommend buyers assess the alpacas thoroughly and make their own evaluation prior to the auction.

www.australionalpacaspectacular.com.au



Lot 1 - Alpha Centauri Kamando

Sold on behalf of:

Andrew & Bronwyn Munn

info@acalpacas.com 0408 410 281

www.acalpacas.com 0408 410 280

└─ PURRUMBETE BRIGANTINE White
 └─ BENLEIGH LORIMER Solid White
 └─ BENLEIGH LIMA Unreg.
 Imported (Imp. Peru) (NZ) Solid White
 └─ Sire: ELYSION JUPITER Solid White
 └─ BENLEIGH BELLISIMO Solid White
 └─ BENLEIGH JUBILATION White
 └─ BENLEIGH TITICACA Solid White
 Animal: **ALPHA CENTAURI KAMANDO** White
 └─ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO YAVARI Unreg.
 Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └─ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO INVINCIBLE Solid White
 └─ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO TAQUILE Unreg.
 Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └─ Dam: ELITEALPACA KALYANI Solid White
 └─ SHANBROOKE SOCIETY CLASS ACT Solid White
 └─ ALPHA CENTAURI KALEIGH Solid White
 └─ XANADU MOONDANCE Solid White



White Male Huacaya

IAR: 218665 DOB: 19/12/2015

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD20.1 SD4.2 CV20.9 CF98.1%

- An exceptional male already awarded 4 x Supreme Championships in 2017
- Supreme Champion Sydney Royal 2017 and Supreme White Carousel of Colour 2017
- Sired by 11 x Supreme Champion ElySION Jupiter
- Kamando's fleece displays exceptional density and uniformity of character, length and micron
- The style is carried all the way into the neck, belly and down the legs
- A wonderful example of 'True to Type' huacaya with excellent conformation and substance of bone
- Numerous Judges have commented "This male is the entire package"
- Certified and working male with confirmed pregnancies
- Buy with confidence knowing that this male is the best of our breeding Q-Alpaca 08/281

Lot 2 - Forestglen Champagne Moment

Sold on behalf of:

Jennifer Carey & Alexandra Staples

jennie.staples@industry.nsw.gov.au

0487 227 068

└─ PURRUMBETE EL DORADO Foundation Animal
 (Imp. Chile) Solid Medium Fawn
 └─ FORESTGLEN MAESTRO Solid White
 └─ PURRUMBETE MINTY Solid White
 └─ Sire: FORESTGLEN ANGELO Solid Medium Fawn
 └─ ILR PPPERUVIAN ALLIN CAPAC 6004
 (Imp. U.S.A) White
 └─ FORESTGLEN ANATOLA Light Fawn
 └─ FORESTGLEN ANEMONE Solid White
 Animal: **FORESTGLEN CHAMPAGNE MOMENT** Solid Medium Fawn
 └─ BANKSIA PARK KHAN ET Solid White
 └─ BANKSIA PARK VCK COLORADO ET Solid White
 └─ KYANA CHALLICE Solid White
 └─ Dam: FORESTGLEN EXTATIQUE Solid White
 └─ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO RASPUTIN
 Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └─ FORESTGLEN ETHEREAL Solid White
 └─ FORESTGLEN ELEGANCE Solid White



Solid medium fawn female huacaya

IAR: 214949 DOB: 17/03/2016

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD19.4 SD3.9 CV20.1 CF98.9%

- Champagne Moment has been awarded a broad ribbon at every show attended
- Supreme Medium Fawn Carousel of Colour 2017 & Supreme Champion Bathurst Royal 2017
- An upstanding young female with a balanced and correctly proportioned frame
- Bright, golden fawn fleece, characterised by a deep, bold crimp style that is beautifully consistent across her body and runs well into her extremities
- Champagne is an outstanding opportunity to acquire unique and elite genetics
- Sire Angelo is a multiple Supreme Champion and grandsire Maestro is sire of other elite Forestglen medium fawns such as Pendragon, sold to the UK at a previous National Auction, and Seth, International Fleece Show Supreme Champion
- Minty, grand matriarch of Forestglen features amongst Champagne's stellar dam lines, and she is line bred on True Perfection and Highlander

Lot 3 - Merrijig Winning Look ET

Sold on behalf of:

Steve & Mary Chiodo

merrijigpastoral@gmail.com 0438 000 957

www.merrijigalpacas.com.au



Solid true black female huacaya
IAR: 224903 DOB: 27/04/2016

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD20.1 SD4.5 CV22.4 CF97.3%

- She's got 'the look'. Her name says it all!
- Winning Look ET is a beautifully well grown true to type female with that sought after 'look at me' presence
- Her fleece is super soft with excellent length and a luxurious style that carries along the staple and throughout the blanket
- Winning Look's pedigree is something special too with a unique combination of elite black genetics
- She is sure to excel in any breeding program



Lot 4 - Fleur De Lys Christelle

Sold on behalf of:

Lee Sadler & Greg Scarlett

0414 585 955 | 08 8556 1377

lee.sadler@bigpond.com



Light fawn female huacaya
IAR: 213469 DOB: 02/04/2015

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD21.3 SD4.4 CV20.7 CF95.9%

- Christelle represents the breeding goals of Fleur de Lys Alpacas and will be an asset to anyone aspiring to "Master the Art of White and Fawn Huacaya"
- She has been mated to the renowned Rosedeane Sayonara
- She has a well-balanced and correct frame, and a fine, dense and lustrous fleece
- Her fleece displays the crimp style and staple definition that is acclaimed in the show ring so please email for her full show record
- 1st junior light fawn female and Champion junior female Mt Pleasant Show 2016
- 1st junior light fawn female at SA Colour Classic Show 2016
- 3rd intermediate light fawn female AAA National Show 2016
- Christelle's gentle temperament makes her a favourite in our herd

- └ JOLIMONT WARRIOR Solid White
 - └ BANKSIA PARK KHAN ET Solid White
 - └ BANKSIA PARK PERUVIAN PERFECTION
 - └ Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid Medium Fawn
 - └ Sire: SWAN VALLEY ANACHEEVA Solid White
 - └ SWAN VALLEY ACCOYO SILA
 - └ Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 - └ SWAN VALLEY PURE ELEGANCE Solid White
 - └ SWAN VALLEY SUPER ELEGANT Solid Light Fawn
- Animal: **FLEUR DE LYS CHRISTELLE** Light Fawn
- └ JOLIMONT COMMISARIO
 - └ Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 - └ FLEUR DE LYS LORD NELSON Solid White
 - └ WILARI PARK NALANI White
 - └ Dam: FLEUR DE LYS CHRISTABELLE Solid White
 - └ SCHUBERT MAESTRO White
 - └ THE GORGE CHRISTINA Solid White
 - └ JOLIMONT AVENTINA Unreg.
 - └ Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White



Lot 5 - Haylilla Puzzle

Sold on behalf of:

Ruth & Steve Goodfellow

haylilla@outlook.com 0419 809 289

www.haylilla.com.au

— SERENDIP SEAGULL Medium Grey
— EREHWON SILVERADO Rose Grey/Roan
— EREHWON BOURBON QUEEN Rose Grey/Roan

— Sire: LEAENNA ARMANI Solid Black

— BUMBLE HILL SHILLAC Rose Grey

— LEAENNA BLUSH Rose Grey/Roan

— ARCADY AZALEA Solid Medium Fawn

Animal: **HAYLILLA PUZZLE** Appaloosa White/Dark Fawn/Dark Grey

— JOLIMONT WARRIOR Solid White

— CHAPARRAL MOJITO Solid Light Brown

— CHAPARRAL MARTINI Solid Medium Fawn

— Dam: CHAPARRAL AUGUSTINA Dark Fawn

— FINE CHOICE PERUVIAN ULTIMO Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White

— CHAPARRAL CUSQUENA Solid Light Fawn

— CHAPARRAL CHANTILLY Medium Grey



Leopard appaloosa male huacaya

IAR: 208544 DOB: 25/03/2014

Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy May/June 2017

FD23.7 SD4.0 CV16.9 CF94.3%

- Haylilla Puzzle is a certified working stud male and proven herdsire of leopard appaloosa cria with tightly held, rare leopard appaloosa genetics
- He displays an advanced fleece structure with excellent density that extends well into his extremities
- Judges have commented favourably on his solidly built frame, well-balanced conformation and desirable macho appearance
- Show highlights include 1st Adult Fancy and Best Fancy Huacaya of show VIC Alpafest 2017 and 1st Adult Appaloosa Fancy and Reserve Champion Appaloosa Fancy Male VIC Colourbration 2016 (see website for full show record)
- Haylilla Puzzle has a gentle nature, is easy to handle and an enthusiastic gentleman with the ladies
- He raised the highest recorded price of AU \$ 5,000.00 for a single service fee at the 2016 National Show & Sale stud service auction

Lot 6 - Ambersun Opulence

Sold on behalf of:

Adrienne Clarke & Chris Williams

chris@ambersunalpacas.com 0417 826 762

www.ambersunalpacas.com 08 8556 8166

— PERUVIAN SIRE

— WINDSONG VALLEY ROYAL INCA Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White

— PERUVIAN DAM

— Sire: WINDSONG VALLEY LEADING MAN Solid Light Fawn

— WINDSONG VALLEY TABOO Solid White

— WINDSONG VALLEY CHORUS GIRL Solid White

— WINDSONG VALLEY MEDLEY Solid White

Animal: **AMBERSUN OPULENCE** Solid White

— JOLIMONT CONQUISTADOR Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White

— JOLIMONT WARRIOR Solid White

— JOLIMONT MARILU Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid Medium Fawn

— Dam: AMBERSUN INTIMACY Solid White

— BENLEIGH GOLDEN FLAME Solid Light Fawn

— COMPASS INSPIRATION Solid White

— ALPACAS INT T774 Dark Fawn



Solid white female huacaya

IAR: 213900 DOB: 02/01/2016

Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy May/June 2017

FD17.9 SD3.3 CV18.4 CF99.6%

- Opulence is the perfect ambassador for Ambersun Alpacas' 25 year alpaca breeding history
- Her genetics represent the cream of our industry, with the legendary Jolimont Warrior, Royal Inca and Benleigh Golden Flame emerging through her pedigree
- Her soft handling fleece displays crisply defined staples of ultrafine, deep amplitude crimp style, that on her first fleece tested at only 14.8 microns, with a 3.3 SD and 100% comfort factor
- In her only showing opportunity, Opulence was a broad ribbon winner at the 2016 National Show
- Her pregnancy to the National Supreme Champion, Ambersun Fortune Seeker, carries a live cria guarantee
- A 'must have' for the discerning alpaca breeder

Lot 7 - Vista Gitana

Sold on behalf of:

Dean and Jenny Ford

alpacas@vistadelsud.com.au 0413 438 043

www.vistadelsud.com.au 0425 737 037



Tuxedo medium grey female huacaya
IAR: 227787 DOB: 28/08/16

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD16.7 SD3.8 CV22.8 CF100%

— ILR PPPERUVIAN ALLIN CAPAC 6004
(Imp. U.S.A) White
— BUMBLE HILL SHILLAC Rose Grey
— ROBLEE SHILLELAGH Medium Fawn
— Sire: TARRAGANDA LODGE EKEKO Light Grey
— COOLAROO RUFFIAN Rose Grey/Roan
— TARRAGANDA LODGE ALLIRA Dark Brown
— KENADI AMBER ICE Dark Fawn
Animal: **VISTA GITANA** Tuxedo Medium Grey
— KINGSTON PARK MCKENZIE Medium Grey
— ALMORA NOMAD Medium Grey
— ALMORA HIGHLAND SPICE Solid Medium Fawn
— Dam: GRAND FLOWERDALE GYPSY LADY ET Dark Brown
— JOLIMONT SCULPTOR Unreg. Imported
(Imp. Peru) Solid White
— GREENVALE PIA Light Brown
— WORLD CLASS SILK ROSE
Foundation Animal Rose Grey/Roan



- Vista Gitana's pedigree combines two of Vista del Sud's most successful lines
- Her sire Ekeko has produced multiple supreme grey winners, including Supreme Grey Huacaya at VIC Colourbration in both 2015 and 2016 with different animals and yet another alpaca being awarded Best Grey at AAA National Show 2016
- Her dam Gypsy Lady has an enviable pedigree herself with Greenvale Pia and Almora Nomad as parents. She has also produced supreme grey winners, including Supreme Grey Huacaya at Carousel of Colour 2017, and is now a donor in the VDS ET program
- Gitana was awarded 1st junior grey female at Carousel of Colour 2017 and then Reserve Champion grey female with another Ekeko female, Vista Sibekka, awarded Champion
- Her superfine fleece is an even medium grey with no evident spots, very little primary fibre and a high frequency crimp character with uniform alignment expressing density
- Gitana is extremely consistent in her micron with excellent organisation throughout her bright, well nourished fibre

Lot 8 - Yaringa Queen Isobella ET

Sold on behalf of:

Susan Haese

susan@yaringaalpacas.com.au 0418 846 271

www.yaringaalpacas.com.au



Solid light brown female huacaya
IAR: 211381 DOB: 05/01/2016

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD21.4 SD4.0 CV18.7 CF97%

— COONAWARRA JULIUS Solid Black
— COONAWARRA DORCHESTER Solid Black
— COONAWARRA DOT Foundation Animal
(Imp. New Zealand) Black
— Sire: COONAWARRA GLADIATOR Solid Black
— PURRUMBETE HIGHLANDER Foundation Animal
(Imp. Chile) Solid White
— COONAWARRA ELEANOR Solid Dark Brown
— COONAWARRA ELLA Foundation Animal
(Imp. Chile) Solid Black
Animal: **YARINGA QUEEN ISOBELLA ET** Solid Light Brown
— JOLIMONT WARRIOR Solid White
— AMBERSUN KING'S RANSOM Solid White
— AMBERSUN APRICOT NECTAR Solid Medium Fawn
— Dam: CLASSIC QUEEN'S DESIRE Solid Medium Fawn
— ILR PERUVIAN DRAMBUIE G220
(Imp. U.S.A) Solid Light Fawn
— BONNIE PARK DESIRE Solid Dark Fawn
— ALLANDALE BONNIE LASS Solid Medium Fawn



- Queen Isobella is a fine medium brown female with even colour and consistent style across her well grown frame
- Dam Classic Queen's Desire is one of our top ET donors with almost all of her progeny members of our show team at some point, including Isobella's full sister Yaringa Queen Charlotte who had a very successful show career
- Sire Coonawarra Gladiator is still producing show winners at 13 years of age. He is considered to be one of the finest and densest black alpacas of his era
- Queen Isobella is pregnant to Yaringa Black Watch (Best Black at the 2016 AAA National Show). Black Watch is not available for outside services nor are we releasing many females pregnant to him. Live cria guarantee applies within Australia
- Queen Isobella ET was lightly shown as a junior in 2016 with a highly commended ribbon at Victorian Colourbration Show and a 2nd place at Royal Adelaide Show

Lot 9 - Patagonia Smokey Carousel

Sold on behalf of:

Ian Braithwaite & Cathi McMullen

info@patagoniaalpacos.com.au 02 6359 5036

www.patagoniaalpacos.com.au 0407 338 823

└ PATAGONIA CELTIC TRIUMPH White
 └ PATAGONIA CELTIC RISING SUN ET (NZ)
 Solid Medium Fawn
 └ PATAGONIA SUNLINE Solid Dark Fawn
 └ Sire: PATAGONIA SUN-RAZZLE Rose Grey
 └ SWAN VALLEY ACHIEVER Solid White
 └ PATAGONIA PAPAARAZZO ET Solid White
 └ NICHOLI PARK PRINCESS Solid Medium Fawn

Animal: **PATAGONIA SMOKEY CAROUSEL** Roan

└ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO TULACO
 Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └ PATAGONIA CELTIC TRIUMPH White
 └ PATAGONIA CELTIC ROSE Solid Medium Fawn
 └ Dam: PATAGONIA CELTIC CANDY Solid Medium Fawn
 └ JOLIMONT CAESAR (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └ PATAGONIA CATE ET Solid Medium Fawn
 └ NICHOLI PARK PRINCESS Solid Medium Fawn



Roan female huacaya

IAR: 217966 DOB: 13/04/2016

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD18.6 SD3.7 CV19.9 CF99.4%

- Patagonia Smokey Carousel is a head turning "true" roan female with very even colour across her body and an impressive, picture perfect frame demonstrating heavy bone and correct conformation. She has excellent fleece density with superior fineness and length, a fine crimp and a good level of micro-bundling
- Recognition of these quality attributes can be seen in her Championship results since commencing her showing career in 2017 as an Intermediate female including Champion roan female huayaca at Carousel of Colour 2017 & best grey/roan at Bathurst Royal 2017
- She is a carbon copy of her Roan sire, Patagonia Sun Razzle, who is a son of Patagonia Rising Sun ET, a superior stud male now producing consistently stunning progeny in New Zealand. Animals of this lineage just get better and better with age, and this can be attributed back to the legendary sire Patagonia Celtic Triumph and Patagonia Sunline (a Purumbete Inti dam)
- Smokey Carousel if offered with your choice of mating (on farm) to one of our stunning Snowmass stud males personally selected and recently imported from the U.S.

Lot 10 - Kurrawa Legends Thrill Seeker

Sold on behalf of:

Robert, Ann & Natasha Clark

kurrawa@ozemail.com.au 03 5261 3714

www.kurrawa.com.au 0412 960 200

└ BENLEIGH BELLISIMO Solid White
 └ BENLEIGH LEGEND Solid White
 └ BENLEIGH SWEET PETUELE Solid White
 └ Sire: PREMIER KIWI LEGEND Solid White
 └ SOMERSET ACCOYO CHALLENGER
 Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └ PREMIER SAMIRA ET Solid White
 └ SANDJO SHAKIRA (NZ) Solid White

Animal: **KURRAWA LEGENDS THRILL SEEKER** Solid Light Fawn

└ WINDSONG VALLEY ICEMAN Solid White
 └ WINDSONG VALLEY KENJIRO Solid White
 └ KALOMA TAMIKA Solid White
 └ Dam: WINDSONG VALLEY MOONBEAM Solid White
 └ WINDSONG VALLEY ROYAL INCA
 Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 └ WINDSONG VALLEY LAILUNA Solid White
 └ WINDSONG VALLEY ELOISA Solid White



Solid light fawn huacaya male

IAR: 231628 DOB: 25/11/2015

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD20.3 SD3.3 CV16.3 CF98.9%

- Thrillseeker is a well proportioned male with correct conformation and good substance of bone. He is certified and ready to commence stud duties
- Displaying a dense, stylish, lustrous, soft handling fleece with excellent commercial length
- Legend & his progeny excelled in the show ring at Nationals, Royals with Champions & Supremes
- His pedigree brings together some of the most successful bloodlines in Australia with Legend and Moonbeam. Not often do we release a male of this high quality with these genetics for sale
- Shown only once due to Natasha's Australian and Overseas judging commitments and awarded 1st place light fawn adult male and Reserve Champion adult male at Alpaca Fest 2017
- Thrill Seeker would be an asset to any stud wanting to improve their fleece quality and lower SD, MAP MN 3 VA 2103

Lot 11 - Lillyfield Wild Card

Sold on behalf of:

Carolyn Austin and Geoffrey McGowan-Lay

lillyfield@bigpond.com 02 6227 6224

www.lillyfield.com 0410 693 802



Solid dark fawn female huacaya
IAR: 230988 DOB: 01/06/2016

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD15.1 SD3.0 CV19.9 CF100%

- └─ BENLEIGH RINGLEADER Solid White
- └─ BLUE GRASS BOLLINGER Light Fawn
- └─ PURRUMBETE VANILLA Light Fawn
- └─ Sire: LILLYFIELD UP THE ANTE Solid Dark Fawn
 - └─ BLUE GRASS KHAN Solid Light Fawn
 - └─ LILLYFIELD MATILDA Solid Medium Fawn
 - └─ BLUE GRASS PRETTY PHOEBE Solid Medium Fawn

Animal: **LILLYFIELD WILD CARD** Solid Dark Fawn

- └─ JOLIMONT ALESSIO Solid White
- └─ FORESTVIEW PRINCE OF THIEVES Solid White
 - └─ BLUE GRASS CHOISI Solid White
- └─ Dam: LILLYFIELD HELSINKI Solid Medium Fawn
 - └─ TILGROVE BENTLEY Solid White
 - └─ LILLYFIELD HANNOVER Solid Medium Fawn
 - └─ LILLYFIELD HEIDI Light Fawn



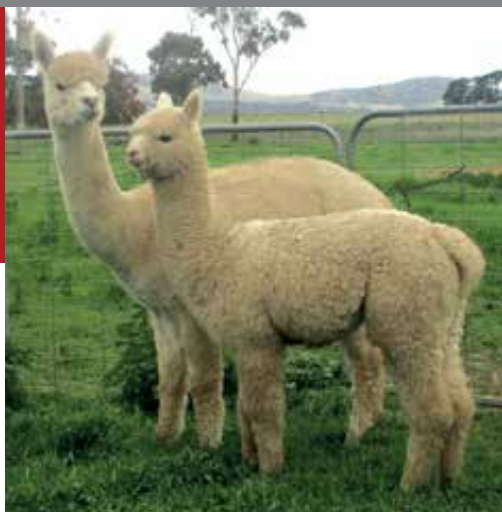
- Wild Card has exceptional substance of bone with a deep chest, solid legs and perfect conformation. She is a real fleece producer with excellent length
- Her fleece is dense and ultrafine with extreme uniformity of style and colour, and a high frequency crimp
- Sire is a multiple Championship winning full brother to Lillyfield Jack of Spades of Inca (UK) and Dam is a multiple Champion through Junior & Intermediate classes and still 19u micron with SD of 3.5 at 7 years old
- Wild Card's show results include Champion Junior Female & Best Medium/Dark Fawn Boorowa 2017 and 1st Place Junior Female Medium Dark Fawn Carousel of Colour 2017 (see website for full show record)
- She is part of a highly fertile, early maturing female producing line. She has long term fineness & low SD in her genes
- Rare opportunity to add elite qualities to your Fawn or Black breeding programs

Lot 12 - Rainbows End Thea & Rainbows End Thorin

Sold on behalf of:

Joanne Ham 0428 440 604

njham1@bigpond.com 03 5344 0604



Solid medium fawn female huacaya
with solid white male cria at foot
IAR: 183800 & 219261
DOB: 29/04/2014 & 03/01/2017

**Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017**

FD21.5 SD4.4 CV20.5 CF96.2%

- └─ JOLIMONT ATTITUDE (NZ) Solid White
- └─ CAMELOT TOR Solid White
 - └─ CAMELOT IVOIRE Solid White
- └─ Sire: BLACKGATE LODGE SUNSEEKER Light Fawn
 - └─ SHANBROOKE ACCOYO TULACO
Unreg. Imported (Imp. Peru) Solid White
 - └─ BLACKGATE LODGE SONNETTE Solid White
 - └─ BLACKGATE LODGE SOLLINCA Solid White

Animal: **RAINBOWS END THEA** Solid Medium Fawn

- └─ PERUVIAN SIRE
- └─ JOLIMONT DOULTON (Imp. Peru) Solid Light Fawn
 - └─ PERUVIAN DAM
- └─ Dam: JOLIMONT GRETA II Medium Fawn
 - └─ PERUVIAN SIRE
 - └─ JOLIMONT SEDONA (Imp. Peru) Medium Fawn
 - └─ JOLIMONT MARCI
(Imp. Paraguay) Solid Black



- Desirable 3-in-1 package - a beautiful, pregnant female with impressive male cria at foot
- Elite breeding in both white and colour – something for everyone!
- Thea's fine, stylish fleece is dense and brilliantly lustrous - traits reproduced in her cria
- Thea is sired by Blackgate Lodge Sunseeker, winner of two consecutive Supreme fleece awards at the Australian National Show and best Light Fawn Fleece World Show. His fleece tested 19.0 micron. 3.6 SD and CV 18.5 CF 99.4% at 72 months of age
- Her cria is by Arcady Quidam, awarded supreme medium/dark fawn huacaya at VIC Colourbration and SA Colour Classic in the same year
- Thea is mated to Autumn Gold Galileo (Medium Grey) 26/01/2017 Scanned 07/04/2017
- Galileo is a son of the highly awarded Almora Nomad and has won best grey in show on 4 occasions
- Thea was awarded Champion Adult Female at AlpacaFest 2016

Lot 13 - Merrijig Foreign Exchange ET

Sold on behalf of:

Steve & Mary Chiodo

merrijigpastoral@gmail.com 0438 000 957

www.merrijigalpacas.com.au



Solid white female huacaya

IAR: 214227 DOB: 01/03/2016

Midside sample taken by Peter Kennedy
May/June 2017

FD17.9 SD3.5 CV19.6 CF99.2%

- With a fleece worthy of Inca royalty, Merrijig Foreign Exchange ET, represents the next stage in the evolution of alpaca fibre
- She is a well grown true to type huacaya female with great presence
- Her fleece is extremely bright with excellent density and fineness, testing 15.3 micron with an SD of 3.5 at her first shearing in October 2016
- This low standard deviation is evident with great handle throughout her entire fleece
- Her pedigree presents the opportunity to add tightly held elite white genetics to you herd
- Foreign Exchange ET is the first of our royal line to be released for sale



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We need to thank our 2017 Rockstars, Roadies and Groupies. Their deep pockets will allow us to stage a truly spectacular event!

2017 ROCKSTARS



2017 ROADIES

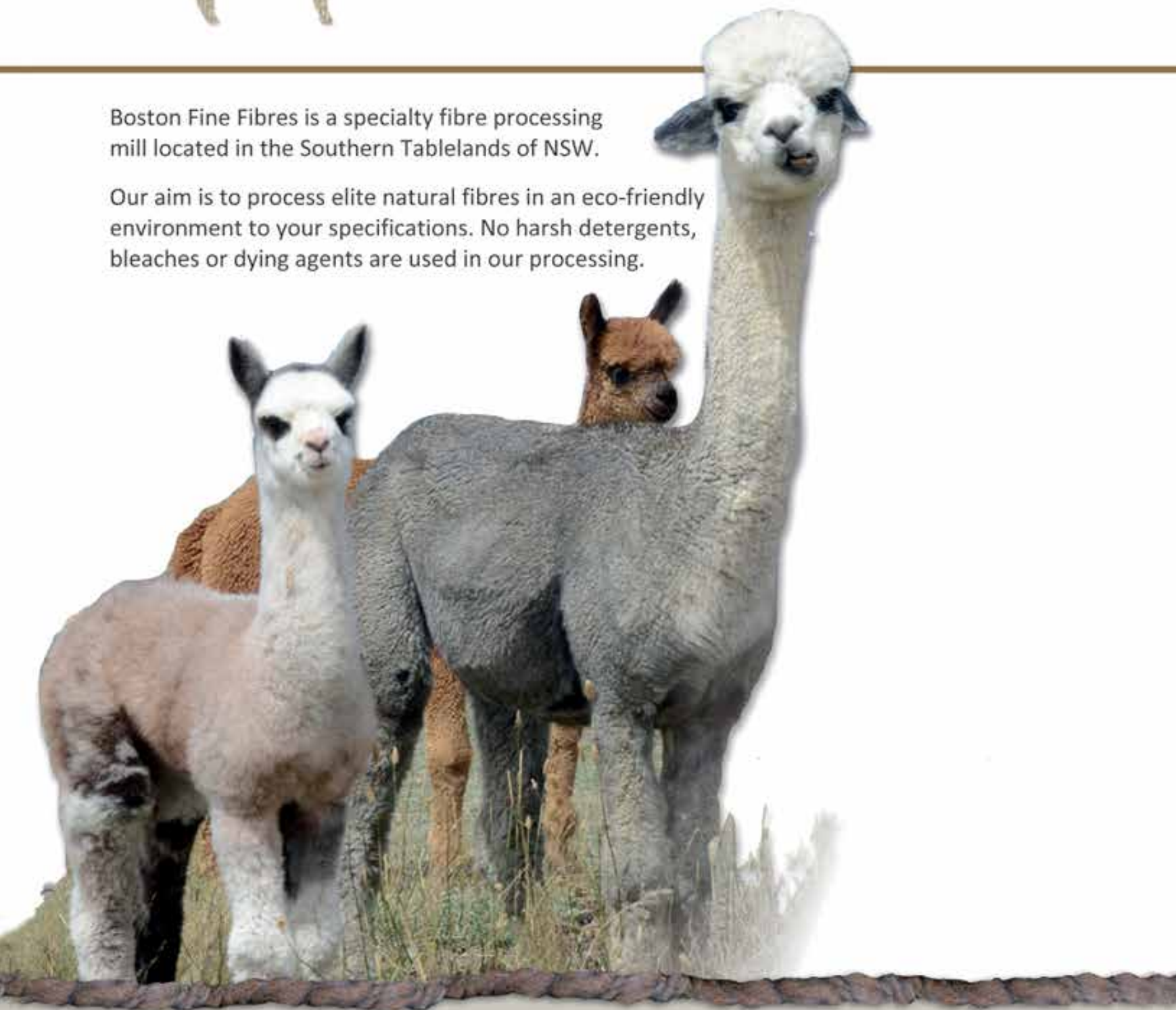




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