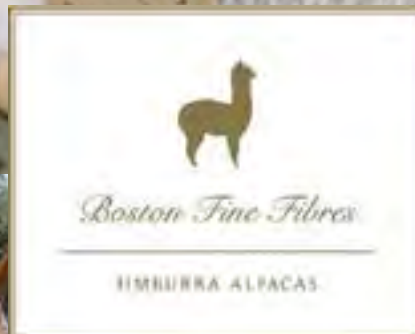


World of ALPACAS

& AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

EDITION 20 | SPECTACULAR 2018



Australian Alpaca Spectacular August 23-26. Bendigo

Exploring the Market for Australian Alpaca Fibre in China

A Year On The Farm: eAlpaca

There has never been a better time to be farming alpacas.

***"Due to increased demand and limited supply there is now a global
shortfall of alpaca fleece of 6000 tonnes"***

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.

However, it didn't take long to see the potential that these magic animals have to offer. After the first few years we started to see some success at shows. We accelerated our breeding program by focusing on top line genetics and setting our sights on consistently having success in the showing.

It soon became apparent that breeding success

would only take the industry and our business 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 three essential pillars for long term viability,

Genetics | Fleece | 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.



The Golden Fibre

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PRIME
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA

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FLEECE

GENETICS

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ANIMAL

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TONNES

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Carpet
Yarn
Clothing

<20 microns

SUPREME
CHAMPION

Halter & Fleece

There has never been a better time
to be farming alpacas.

The Golden Fibre

Millpaca, through selective breeding can now boast across the herd average of 21/22 micron with the clip being sold or negotiated for purchase prior to shearing each year. This is inclusive of our commercial herd for fibre and meat.

Manufacturers use our fibre for the production of a large range of alpaca products. We also manufacture our own range of premium quality blankets and knitting yarn under the Millpaca brand.

Our commitment to quality

Millpaca Stud is a proud member of the Australian Alpaca Association and we're

remains at the forefront of the alpaca stud breeding industry in Australia.

Whole animal philosophy.

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

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



TASTE
THE NEW
WORLD



pub bistros and cafés, as are slow cooked shanks and neck rosettes.

We are currently expanding our range of smallgoods and cured meats. Alpaca prosciutto has to be tasted to be believed, as does the chorizo and salami. Alpaca jerky or Alpaca Paté? Even Asian-style Steamed Buns, full of braised shoulder meat. We are continuing our training program with our TAFE Masterclasses that teach tomorrow's chefs the benefits of this wonderful meat.

All up last year we shipped over 40,000kg 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.

The Future.

Never has the industry looks so good, in the last two decades Australia is providing, and is recognised, world wide for it genetics and fibre.

The PHD study in conjunction with RIDIC & Sydney University has been expanded for two years and continues with scientific proof of the acceptance and sustainability of the alpaca meat industry.

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 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 success in quality restaurants around the country. Racks, tenderloin, backstrap, rumps and shoulders are all in demand.

Hamburger patties, gourmet sausages, pies and kofta sticks are all going gangbusters at

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BREEDING PERFECTION



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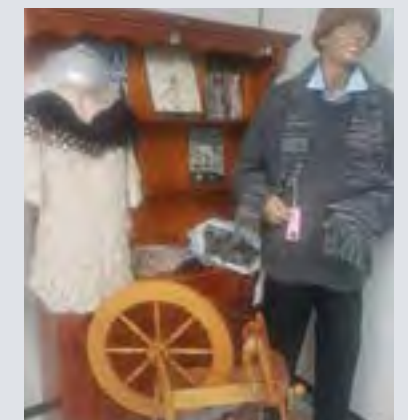
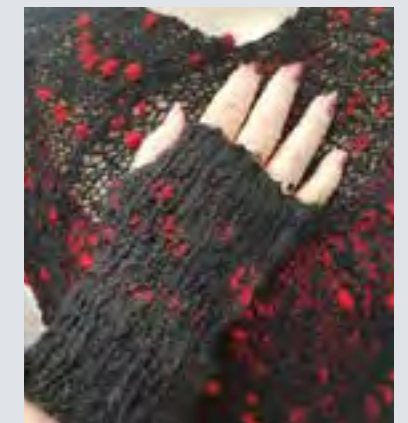
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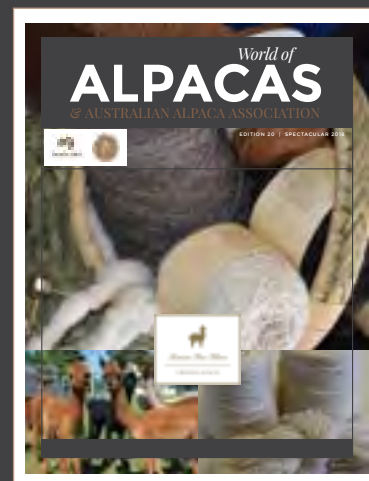
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FRONT COVER Boston.

INSIDE FRONT COVER Millpaca.

INSIDE BACK COVER MIG.

OUTSIDE BACK COVER Tumi.



Hi All,

Fleece such an important element from this wonderful creature.

Throughout this edition of World of Alpacas you will find that fleece is in high demand.

Keeping bales stored does not support the

industry. The tonnage required is growing and as Owners and Breeders you can assist by thinking about the fibre held in your sheds. Holding onto fleece has nil benefit for you but turning this elite fibre into product will value add in many ways. How often have I heard "my fleece is worth more than what I am being offered". The old adage of Supply and Demand is still the rule with any product. My personal opinion (and we all have one) is to supply the fleece as product - the buying public will realise how superior it is and demand will have a natural growth, as will it's worth.

On a positive note World of Alpacas has had requests from South Africa, Germany and Canada to supply our publication! Remember "You Need To Be Seen To Be Known". We look forward to seeing many of our friends in Bendigo in August.

Keith Rutter

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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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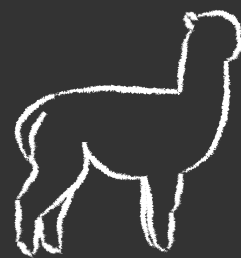
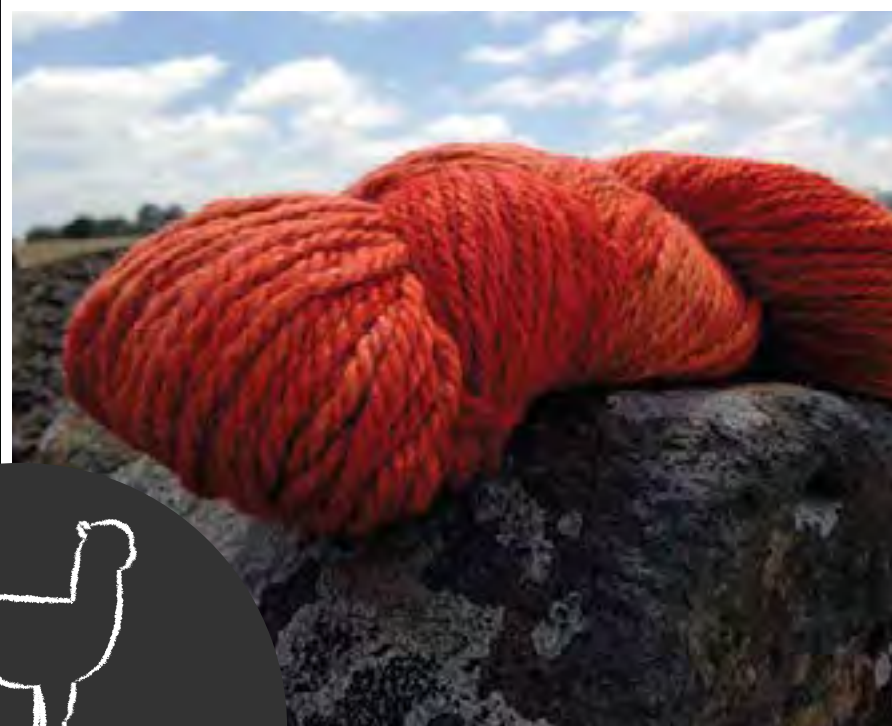


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From the Paddock to the World

Like so many of us, I was captivated by these inquisitive and fascinating animals at the 1993 Sydney Royal Easter Show, some 26 years ago. After purchasing a couple of wethers, we waited until the first shipment of Peruvian Alpacas were imported into Australia. Jingara Alpacas was born. From this shipment we purchased our first group of females to start our breeding program. At our first show, the National Alpaca Show held at Penrith, we won a blue ribbon for fleece.

As life takes its journey of raising a family and moving into a larger property, “Callum Brae” at Wheeo, the breeding continued. Now winning hundreds of show ribbons and amalgamating with Golden Range Alpacas, a white herd of around 450 head was achieved in a couple of years.

From day one our plan was to produce our own Australian Alpaca label. My wife, Kyla started her working life as a pattern maker and cutter at leading textile manufacturers around Sydney and has a Diploma in Fashion Design and Merchandising. It was now time to quit our management jobs so THE HOUSE OF ALPACA could be born. We now had enough fleece to produce our first batch of Alpaca yarn. As we had seen so many natural coloured products on the market, we decided to produce a range of, well bright colours, not really seen before (to the horror of some). Bright orange, vibrant blues, fire engine reds and mint greens were the go. We wanted to showcase the versatility in blending and dying of this wonderful fibre. We had them twisted in 8, 4 and 2 ply. We now could knit them into scarves and shawls on our motorised machines set up in our formal lounge room. Also now manufacturing for a number of large woollen mills in Australia, our growing range of homeware range was developing a small overseas market. We were quickly running out of room in the home.



Commercial Manufacturing

The move to a Factory and Shop outlet came about when we were producing a range of natural coloured woven king and queen blankets for Millpaca. We were also offered the opportunity to manufacture Australian Made brushed throw rugs and scarves in a multitude of both dyed and natural colours. This was a great learning curve and a new line of products. Moving to a commercial premises has given us the opportunity to showcase Australian Made Alpaca products manufactured right in front of them. Something you do not see any more. Bus tours were flocking in, sometimes two a day. Ambassadors, Politicians and Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott. We even featured on the TV show Sydney Weekender with cricketing legend, Mike Whitney.



In 2016 we were finalist in three categories, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Exporting in the Chief Minister for Export Awards.

We continue to manufacture Australian Alpaca products and grow our range of Australian Alpaca products. We also offer contract spinning and manufacturing for other labels. As well as our overseas market with products being sold in Japan, China, Taiwan

and emerging markets, a new range of coats and outdoor products to be launched in the next issue of World of Alpacas. Also we are about to embark on a new range of Australian Alpaca suiting fabrics in natural and dyed colours for our own products, as well as designers.



**But it all starts with collecting quality
Australian Alpaca fibre.**



**Bales of Alpaca ready for
scouring & carbonising**



THE HOUSE OF ALPACA

Fibre Collection and Processing

The collection and availability of all colours and microns is so important to both the breeder and the manufacturer. The House of Alpaca is setting up a specialised handling facility with two highly qualified classers to accept, class and make payment quickly and easy. As an industry it has taken us a long time to get to this point. If done correctly this will help us supply a growing but demanding local and overseas market. THE HOUSE OF ALPACA has, over the past 7 years been building a strong customer base, for the whole micron and colour range of Alpaca fibre with our customers.



The largest area has been in the homewares market, in particular the supply of fill for quilt manufacturers. With tremendous input from E P Robinson Wool Scour in Geelong we are exclusively producing (we believe to be) a world first commercially available Carbonised and Dehaired Alpaca fibre. Carbonising is the complete removal of VM (vegetable matter) by the use of heat. When produced the fibre is so clean and while like nothing we have ever seen before. Production has raised to 15 tons (100 pressed bales) about every 8 weeks. Annual production of this

fibre product should reach 100 tons in the next 12 months. I remember just last year seeing 100 bales being processed and thinking, how the hell am I going to sell all this fibre. Six weeks later I had sold out.

This Carbonised and Dehaired Australian Alpaca has been so widely accepted. Nearly every high quality Alpaca Quilt manufacturer in Australia is now using carbonised Australian Alpaca as a major selling point for their product both here and abroad. Along with the Australian companies we are exporting to New Zealand, Taiwan, China and smaller quantities to the UK. We now have customers using a finer range of our carbonised and dehaired Australian Alpaca who also love how clean the fibre is.

If you have fibre to sell or any other enquiries. **The House of Alpaca +61 409 986 235.**

Bales in store ready to be delivered around the world



Leading the way to a fibre based future...

Waratah Alpaca Fibre is a newly formed member owned Co-operative of Australian Alpaca Breeders (Huacaya & Suri) - all states, all herd sizes and all colours.

Established in June 2018 and already successfully exporting raw fibre to China.

Our clearing house is based in the Southern Highlands of NSW representing all Australian Alpaca Breeders wanting to sell their Fibre - Suri & Huacaya. Fleece markets will see your fleece sold both domestically and internationally.

Waratah Alpaca Fibre accepts fibre from Members and Non Members.

- All Colours
- All Micron Ranges, from Ultra-Sheer to Extra Strong
- All your Fleece – Saddles, Pieces & Skirtings
- All Year Round collections/drop offs points nation wide

Through collaborative farming Waratah Alpaca Fibre can provide Australian Alpaca Fibre producers strong reliable markets for the sale of their fibre - maximising grower returns back to where it belongs - directly to the Breeder.

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Kiwick Alpaca Shearing Table provides a simple & quick means to restrain, treat, & shear Alpaca. Developed by an alpaca shearer to be easy on his back, mobile, and to hold the animal safely and securely.

It features a molded belly girth, neck strap, (not pictured) and adjustable quick fastening leg restraints, holding the animal securely whilst allowing the operator complete access.

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The Kiwick Alpaca can be used for all your year-round animal health requirements - castration, shearing, toe trimming, vaccinations, etc.

A key feature of the Kiwick Alpaca is its simplicity of design. With the alpaca standing against the shearing surface the belly strap is placed under the animal to hold it securely in place. The table is then tilted, lifting the Alpaca and laying it flat on the table top and strap placed over alpaca's head. Ropes placed around the legs are attached to the table arms then tensioned. The belly strap is removed from the animal to allow full access for shearing.



With its legs folded, the Kiwick table can be hung flat against the wall when not in use.

* Please note Kiwick differs slightly from photos. Now includes alpaca head strap. Frame is now galvanised not painted.

The Use of Therapeutic Drugs in Alpacas

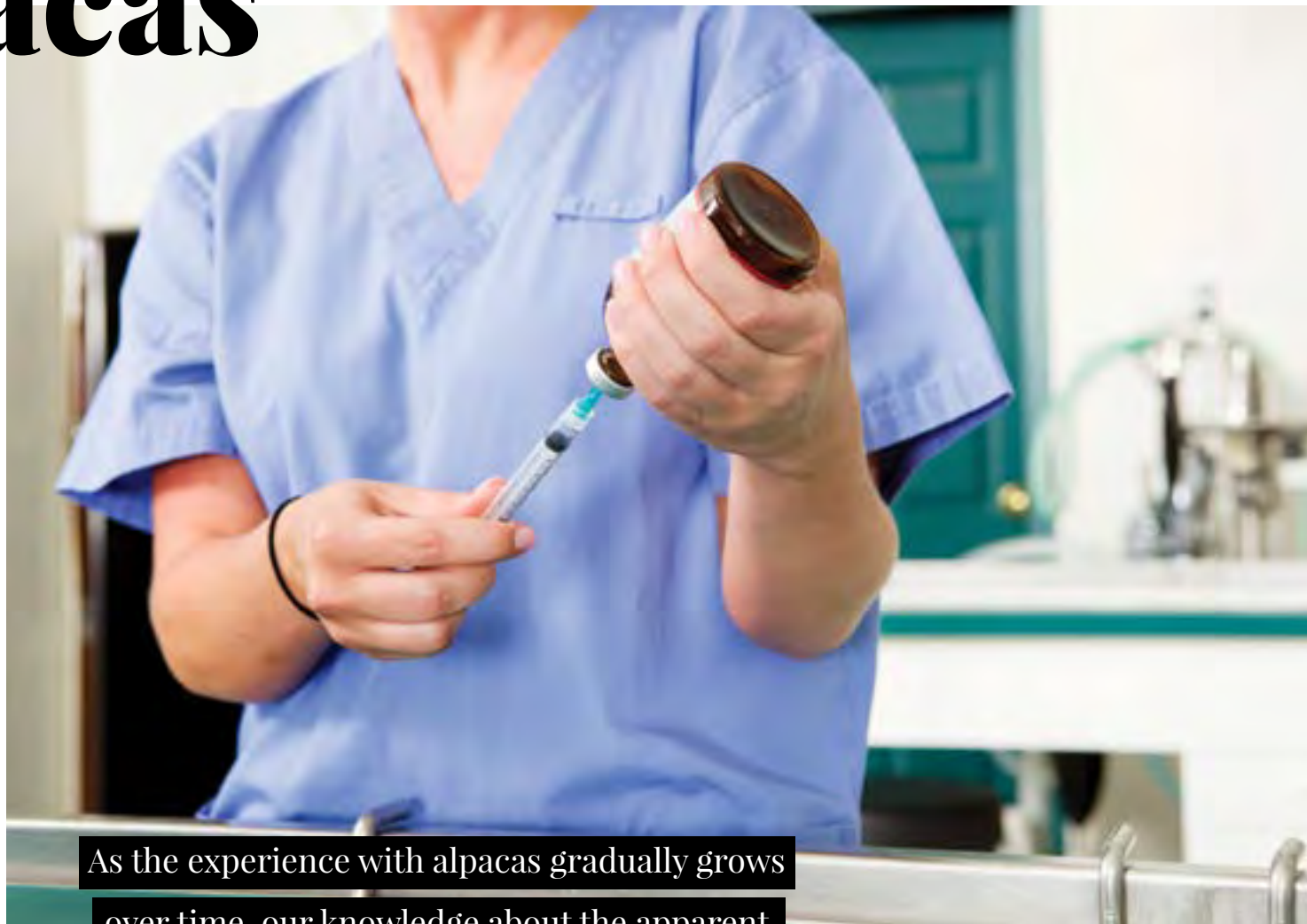
Professor **Andrew Dart** BVSc, PHD,
Dip ACVS, Dip ECVS

Disclaimer: This article describes some specific techniques and medications, which should generally only be conducted by a qualified veterinarian, along with others which can be performed by a trained alpaca owner. Before undertaking any invasive treatment or administering any medication, owners should first seek veterinary advice.

Introduction

For alpaca owners, it is important to realise that most drugs veterinarians use are not registered for use in alpacas. This is because alpacas have only been in Australia since the 1980's and, based on such a small market, there is no economic merit for companies to pursue drug registration in this species. Therefore when unregistered drugs are used, the owners assume the risk of any adverse side effects. However there is little choice because when animals are sick or injured treatment is necessary. While there are some studies out there investigating the pharmacokinetics of drugs specifically in alpacas, most of the drug choices and drug doses we use are based on our experience in other species. As the experience with alpacas gradually grows over time, our knowledge about the apparent efficacy of the

The risk of delivery of oral medications to foregut digesters like camelids and ruminants is the inactivation of the drugs before reaching the small intestine where they are absorbed.



As the experience with alpacas gradually grows over time, our knowledge about the apparent efficacy of the drugs and absence of adverse side effects, increases.

drugs and absence of adverse side effects, increases. This builds our confidence that they are suitable and safe for use in camelids.

Route of Administration

In all species of animals it is imperative that the duration of any treatment be considered. This becomes important along with the volume of drug and routes of administration in choosing the best treatment protocol. Therapeutic drugs are commonly used orally (per os), into the muscle (IM), subcutaneously (SC) or intravenously (IV). Many veterinarians will elect to use an intramuscular route because of the challenges in accessing the jugular vein in alpacas without considering other factors. This challenge arises from the anatomical peculiarities of camelids and the dense fibre cover. If repeated intravenous access is needed, this is not something that can be reliably performed by the owner. Furthermore the alpaca may become resentful. So in this case an indwelling catheter is recommended. Intravenous access is the preferred method of access in very sick and hospitalised animals. It provides both easy access and allows the supplementation with other medications like pain relieving drugs and intravenous fluids. However, it is customary not to send large animals home with an indwelling intravenous catheter because it can be removed by the animal if not adequately secured and does require some professional knowledge to maintain a patent catheter. The alternative to intravenous administration is oral or intramuscular administration. The risk of delivery of oral medications to foregut digesters like camelids and ruminants is the inactivation of the drugs before reaching the small intestine where they are absorbed. With any medication given orally there is a risk of upsetting the microbial population which can lead to digestive upsets and a drop in the production of vitamin B (thiamine). Vitamin B deficiency may cause the onset of polioencephalomalacia. Polioencephalomalacia is a severe neurological disease that can cause irreversible effects on the brain and can be associated with a high death rate.

Intramuscular or subcutaneous administration of drugs is often used for convenience by the veterinarian and particularly where the animal stays on farm and is dosed by the owners. However we must be mindful that unlike other large animals, including horses and cattle, alpacas often do not carry excess amounts of muscle. So where large volumes of drugs need to be given in several injections daily for a number of days the patients tolerance may wear thin and it may become resentful, it may become stressed, and the absorption of the drugs may be affected. So where it is anticipated this situation may occur, a catheter may be preferred.

Intravenous catheters in alpacas are often better tolerated and can be maintained longer than in many other species. The temperament of most alpacas and the anatomy of the long neck and intravenous valves to regulate blood flow seem to reduce the incidence and complications of inadvertent catheter removal. Clinically the incidence of catheter related infection is very low. In addition, the compliance and the level of individual animal care by owners make it possible to manage catheters outside the hospital and at home in select cases where any risks are minimised.

Intravenous Catheter Placement

Using some simple principles, the placement of catheters is not difficult in relatively compliant animals or animals that have been sedated. The text books advise placing the catheter either very high or very low in the neck thereby avoiding the transverse spinal processes that are prominent in adults, and particularly adult males, to protect the blood vessels of the neck in case of fighting. However, I find that if a large portion of the neck overlying the jugular groove is clipped (Figure 1), the vein can be more easily visualised. Often veterinarians will only clip a small segment of the vein which makes it difficult to isolate in an animal, particularly one with dense fibre.

Once the neck is clipped, the jugular vein can be held off by placing pressure on the vein low on the neck and the vein will be able to be seen to fill and distend. By holding the vein off, then releasing, then reapplying pressure again the vein will fill and collapse. The best site to insert the catheter is where this can be visualised clearly on the neck.

The skin of the neck, particularly in adults and adult males, is very thick and it is necessary to pierce the skin overlying the vein where the catheter is to be placed with a scalpel. This provides an opening into the subcutaneous tissues so the catheter can be placed without it riding up the stylet. Making a small incision can usually be achieved, and is often less of struggle, without local anaesthetic. Once the skin is pieced the catheter can be inserted into the distended vein and passed down the lumen with the metal stylet in place. Threading the catheter off the stylet too early may meet resistance from the jugular valves. So the catheter and stylet often have to be carefully advanced further down the vein than might be expected in other species. Once passed, the catheter, with or without an extension tube, is fixed in place with sutures and the neck wrapped to protect the catheter. The catheter should be checked twice daily for patency and any medications delivered through the catheter should be

flushed through with saline to ensure there is no mixing of medications which may lead to the formation of a precipitate. In other species regular injections of a heparin/saline flush are often used to reduce the formation of a blood clot at the end of the catheter. Blood clots act as a nidus for catheter infection. This seems less important in alpacas perhaps because of the valves.

Drugs

Antibiotics: Where possible it is worth getting a culture and sensitivity of any site of infection. This is either a sample of the infected tissues, or where there is diarrhoea, respiratory discharge or urinary infections, a sample of the fluid. Samples should be taken from as deep in the body cavity or wound as possible to get a representative sample. This is submitted to a laboratory to be grown and the isolated bacteria tested against recognised antimicrobials. The results can take 3 or more days to be finalised, so in the meantime, patients are usually started on a broad spectrum antimicrobial. This can be narrowed when the results of culture and sensitivity are returned. It must be remembered culture and sensitivity results do not always reflect the true extent the bacterial agents involved so the decision to change antimicrobials is often based on previous experience.

Oral antibiotics should be avoided for the reasons outlined above related to inactivation and gastrointestinal upsets. Common broad spectrum combinations used in alpaca in include procaine penicillin (20 - 40,000 IU/kg, IM, twice daily) and gentamicin sulfate (6.6 mg/kg/IV, IV, IM, SC, once daily). While this is an effective combination the penicillin must be administered into the muscle and this becomes problematic in animals that require prolonged courses of antibiotics or are heavily stressed already. There are intravenous forms of penicillin and penicillin derivatives in human medicine but these are not inexpensive and not commonly used.

An alternative is to replace the procaine penicillin with ceftiofur sodium (2-5mg/kg, IV, IM, or SC, 2 - 3 times daily). This is more expensive than procain penicillin but in alpacas is very cost effective. Enrofloxacin, a newer antibiotic has been used in alpacas and recommended dose of 5mg/kg once daily (SC) or twice daily (IV). There has been association with cartilage damage in the joints of juvenile animals and blindness with high doses if used long long -term. It does not have the breadth of activity of ceftiofur sodium and gentamicin sulfate.

Analgesics and anti-inflammatory drugs: Animals feel pain just like humans and there is evidence that some animals, like some humans, may feel pain more than others. The idea that the treatment of pain in animals is not important, or as important, is not current. Pain in animals is described as an adverse sensory experience that elicits protective motor actions, results in learned avoidance, and may modify species-specific traits of behavior, including social behavior. In other words animals may change their behaviours in response to pain and this is something the astute owner can monitor.

Pain is best dealt with pre-emptively or prior to the onset of pain. While this is not always possible in the case of existing diseases or trauma, for surgical procedures it has been well documented in humans that the total amount of pain relief needed, when it is administered pre-emptively, is considerably less than when it is administered a after pain receptors have been stimulated. This is because the stimulation of pain loops that magnify the pain through the spinal cord are blocked. Similarly by giving higher doses and getting on top of pain in the early stages after injury and then slowly tapering the dose pain management is more effective than using lower doses that do never suppress the activation of ongoing pain loops.

Often we only consider known anti-inflammatory drugs in a one-dimensional approach to pain management. However, it must be remembered local anaesthetics also provide pain relief by blocking pain receptors and general anaesthetics diminish central pain perception. Combining drugs that act at different levels can provide more effective pain relief while minimising the dose and potential for side effects of any single drug. For example a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug may be given prior to anaesthesia and be combined with a local anaesthetic at the surgery site and anaesthesia to more effectively institute pre-emptive pain relief.

The common systemic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used in alpacas is flunixin meglumine (1 mg/kg IV once or twice daily). Injection into the muscle can be associated with muscle damage and is better avoided. Meloxicam (a more recent cox-2 inhibitor) has been investigated at the dose of 1 mg/kg per os in llamas. The pharmacokinetics of this drug suggest it may be used every 2-3 days. However the efficacy of this mediation in relieving pain in alpacas needs to be established. However, it may be useful for the treatment of arthritis in older animals. Meloxicam has the advantage of being a cox-2 inhibitor that has less potential to cause gastric ulceration with long term use

compared to flunixin meglumine.

Any of the local anaesthetics: lignocaine, mepivacaine (6- 90 min of desensitisation) and bupivacaine (4-6 hours of desensitisation) can be used in camelids. Xylazine hydrochloride, an alpha-2 agonist is a potent sedative and analgesic and is often combined with ketamine to induce a short acting anaesthetic that is useful for field procedures. The analgesic effect is short lived and other analgesic and anti-inflammatory agents should also be included in any protocol.

The efficacy of opioids in alpacas is less well defined. However, we have used fentanyl, a potent analgesic, available in a transdermal patch applied to a hairless or shaved area on the alpacas body. This is best applied 12 hours prior to surgery, or if applied after injury, will take approximately 12 hours to reach peak activity. This will provide 24 – 72 hours of analgesia. The dose requirement for analgesia is 1-5 mcg/kg/hr and patches come in 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg. So based on the weight of the animal the appropriate patch or combination of patches can be used. Our clinical experience is that fentanyl patches are very useful in alpacas.

Sedatives and field anaesthesia: There is a variety of sedatives and anaesthetic combinations used intravenously and intramuscularly to enable short procedures such as castration in males. These appear to be safe. For the purposes of this article I will comment only on the common drugs and drug combinations. Generally intravenous dosing provides more reliable and repeatable sedation and anaesthesia. Furthermore, intravenous administration, encourages, if not requires, the placement of a small short term catheter which is always advisable when anesthetising a patient. It allows additional drugs to be given to prolong the procedure or should emergency access to the cardiovascular system be required.

Like ruminants, camelids do have a propensity to regurgitate food. This is usually not a problem under sedation but may be under general anaesthesia as the depth of anaesthesia increases. Holding animal off feed for 12 hours and water for 2-4 hours prior to any anaesthetic is advisable. For short term field procedures under a light plane of intravenous anaesthesia I will usually lay the animal with the head lying down hill so if there is any regurgitation it runs out of the oesophagus and out the mouth rather than being aspirated into the trachea and lungs. If anaesthesia is to be extended with a gas anaesthetic, intravenous anaesthetics used to induce anaesthesia should be titrated until the animal drops into cush position and is able to be intubated (endotracheal tube passed into the trachea) to secure the airway.

Xylazine hydrochloride is a commonly used sedative that works well in alpacas. Doses (0.1-0.2 mg/kg) given intravenously work more reliably than doses (0.3 -0.4 mg/kg) given into the muscle. Xylazine hydrochloride (0.25 mg/kg) combined with ketamine hydrochloride (3-5 mg/kg) intravenously provide a safe reliable anaesthetic for 20-30 minutes. This works well for castration or other short procedures and provides a nice recovery. Combining xylazine hydrochloride (0.3 -0.4 mg/kg IM) and ketamine hydrochloride (5 -8 mg/kg IM) will provide less reliable immobilization. This combined with local anaesthetic into the testicles and skin incisions with restraint may provide enough immobilisation to allow castration. Using xylazine hydrochloride (0.3 -0.4 mg/kg IM) may also provide sufficient sedation to allow intravenous access to inject a dose of ketamine hydrochloride (5 mg/kg).

It should be noted that ketamine alone may cause excitement. In younger animals the xylazine hydrochloride can often be safely and reliably with the ketamine in an intravenous dose. However in older animals or animals where xylazine hydrochloride is being used intramuscularly, the sedative effects might be overcome by some excitement from the ketamine, particularly where ketamine is used intravenously, and this can cause some twitching and muscle rigidity. This excitement may be reduced with an additional small dose of IV, or less reliably and less rapidly by IM, xylazine. hydrochloride

Diazepam (Valium) is also often used in conjunction with ketamine as an immobilization combination or induction agent for gaseous anaesthesia. Diazepam (0.2 - 0.3 mg/kg) and ketamine (5 -8 mg/kg) given IM can produce immobilization for various procedures. The results IM are always variable. Diazeapm (0.1- 0.2 mg/kg) and ketamine (3-5 mg/kg) given intravenously to effect (until the desired level of anaesthesia is reached) can be used to intubate animals for prolonged general anaesthesia (Figure 2). The most common anaesthetic gas used for prolonged procedures is isoflurane delivered in oxygen.

Ulcer treatment : Ulcers are reported to be a common problem in alpacas in North America (Figure 3). Our experience at the University of Sydney from post-mortem studies is that they are not all that frequent in the population in New South Wales. Nonetheless in animals that are sick, on medications that may have potential side effects that include ulcers, in neonates, and in stressed animals ulcers, should be considered as a potential problem. The proton pump inhibitor group of drugs are the gold standard for ulcer treatment. These

drugs will dramatically decrease hydrogen chloride production from the parietal cells in compartment 3 (abomasum) for up to 24 hours after a single dose.

Currently the medication of choice for humans is esomeprazole which is considered to be at least 4 times more potent than the related proton pump inhibitor, omeprazole. Currently only omeprazole is available for large animals. It is commonly used to treat and prevent gastric ulcers in horses, but only comes in an oral form. The likelihood of any oral medication maintaining efficacy after passing through the fore-stomachs of the alpaca is unlikely. So because esomeprazole is currently available in an intravenous form in Australia for humans, it has been used at dose rates of 0.5 – 1mg/kg daily as an IV injection to reduce gastric acid production in alpacas. Esomeprazole has shown clinical efficacy.

More recently a study from North America has shown pantoprazole (another proton pump inhibitor) given at 1 - 2 mg/kg IV or SC is also effective in reducing gastric acid production in alpacas. Studies in humans suggest that pantoprazole is not as effective as esomeprazole. In any case these proton pump inhibitors are through to be dose responsive. So, in the case of ulcer prevention, lower dose rates may be required, while increasing the dose rate based on the presence of clinical signs of gastric ulcers in patients, may be necessary. Based on our experience we recommend 0.5 – 1 mg/kg of esomeprazole IV for alpacas at risk of gastric ulceration.

Vitamin B (Thiamine): Vitamin B is vital for normal body function. Polioencephalomalacia is the result of a reduced production of vitamin B1. or the presence of thaiminases that destroy vitamin B in alpacas. Alterations in dietary intake associated with disease can precipitate cases of polioencephalomalacia by altering the microbes responsible for producing vitamin B in the fore-stomachs. Early treatment or prevention by vitamin B supplementation is often successful in treating or preventing the onset of neurological signs which include aimless walking, apparent blindness progressing to recumbency, convulsions and opisthotonus(lying with the head and neck pulled over the backline),(Figure 4). Initially high does rates of exogenous vitamin B1 (10mg/kg IV or SC 6-8 times daily) for 24 h then reducing to 5 mg/kg IV or SC 3-4 times daily for 2-3 days in affected animals is recommended. The dose can be tapered off as the animal normalises. In sick animals, supplementation is worth considering and doses of 5 mg/kg once or twice daily IV or SC and may be warranted.

Intravenous fluids: Balanced isotonic intravenous fluids are essential in animals showing signs of shock or are not eating and drinking normally. Shock is a term that covers any disease state that affects the normal functioning of the cardiovascular system and can be due to something like severe dehydration, various forms of infection, haemorrhage secondary to trauma, amongst other causes. The value of intravenous fluids is really about supplementing the circulating fluid volume and providing adequate circulation of the vital organs, however where there are deficiencies in various elements these can be addressed by selecting the correct intravenous fluids or adding specific components. The value of intravenous fluid therapy is often underestimated and many moribund animals are quickly turned around after being rehydrated.

Vaccines

It is important to realise the vaccines available against the potent and rapidly fatal diseases associated with species of the Clostridial family (Table 1) have been developed for domestic ruminants and have been shown to be highly effective at the recommended doses to prevent these diseases. The efficacy of these vaccines in alpacas or other South American Camelids and the susceptibility of these animals to the Clostridial diseases remain unclear. However we do know that animals that are not vaccinated can be affected and death is rapid. It is reasonable to assume that at from what we know is that alpacas are as susceptible as other species and that vaccination is warranted. However the value of the vaccine is untested in alpacas and the ideal vaccination schedule is not known.

Currently most veterinarians and alpaca owners use the 5 in 1 vaccine used for domestic ruminants and provide the recommended sheep dose (or a dose between that recommended for sheep and cattle) subcutaneously. It is advised the adult animals should be vaccinated every 6 months and that pregnant females be vaccinated 4-6 weeks before giving birth to ensure effective antibodies in the milk and to protect the nursing cria. The cria's inherited immunity will wane at about 8-12 weeks so cria should be vaccinated at 6-8 weeks after birth and be given a booster vaccine to top up immunity in the further 4-6 weeks. The dose given to a cria is the same as that for an adult animal. New animals arriving on farm should be vaccinated on arrival and then again in 4-6 weeks to ensure an adequate immune response.

Table 1 : The 5 in 1 vaccine provides protection against the Clostridial diseases described

Tetanus (Clostridium tetani)	animals often found dead soon after shearing/castration/dog bite wounds/where inadequate disinfection of castration equipment used or castration performed in unhygienic conditions (dirty yards, wet weather)
Pulpy kidney/enterotoxaemia (Clostridium perfringens Type D)	sudden death in multiple livestock being fed large quantities of highly digestible carbohydrate (think lush pastures, cereal grain and cereal grain-based pellets). Often affects the largest weaners in a mob.
Black leg (Clostridium chauvoei)	caused by infection of wounds from shearing cuts/rough handling in yards/females following difficult birth/navel infection soon after birth/castration. Infection causes local inflammation (red and swollen tissue), gas under the skin, blood poisoning and rapid death.
Black's disease/infectious necrotic hepatitis (Clostridium novyi Type B)	spores lie dormant in the liver and can be activated by migrating liver fluke, leading to toxin production and sudden death.
Malignant oedema (Clostridium novyi, Type A, Clostridium sordelli, Clostridium septicum, Clostridium chauvoei)	often associated with fighting/infected wounds from shearing/castration/difficult birth/dog bites, leading to blood poisoning and death.



Figure 1. The fibre over the jugular vein should be clipped from the jaw to the lower neck to visualise the jugular vein. The vein can be distended and released and the catheter can be placed where it can be visualised.



Figure 2. Once the alpaca is induced it can be placed in a cushion and an endotracheal tube placed to protect the airway from regurgitation. This also allows extension of the anaesthetic using isoflurane in oxygen.



Figure 3. Third compartment (abomasum) ulcers are reportedly common in North America but our post-mortem records would suggest they are less common in Australia. They can be treated and prevented by using esomeprazole, a proton pump inhibitor.



Figure 4. Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) deficiency in alpacas can cause irreversible neurological signs that include blindness, aimless wandering, convulsions and seizures, recumbency and paddling and opisthotonus (head pulled back over backline). If not treated early with Vitamin B1 injections the clinical progress may be fatal.



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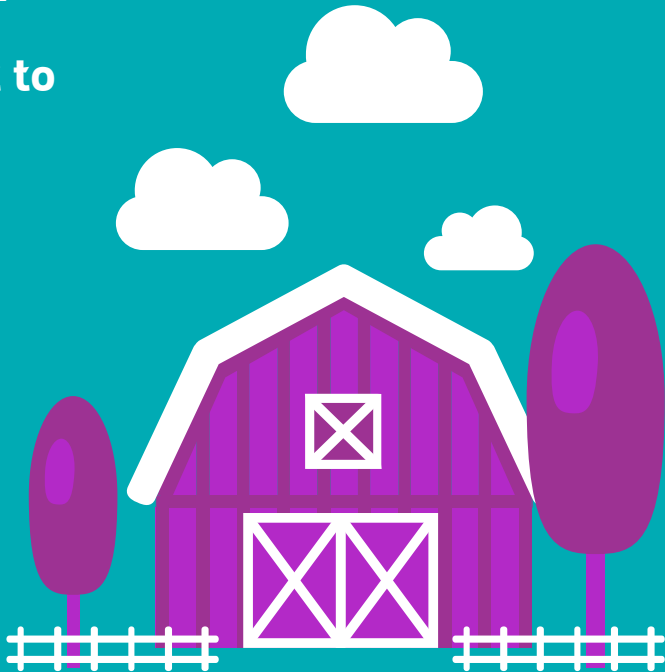
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Established in the 1990s, Forestglen Alpaca Stud is situated on the high basalt Central Tablelands of New South Wales, near historic Millthorpe.

FINE GENETICS IN WHITE AND FAWN

by Jennifer Carey and Alexandra Staples

Forestglen Alpaca Stud

Three generations of the Carey/Staples family have developed Forestglen: Maureen Carey (now retired), her daughter Jennie and her grand daughter Alex.

Breeding stock are built on the foundations of Purumbete El Dorado (SMF), Purumbete Inti (SMF) and Purumbete Minty (SW).

From the beginning we have focused on fleece production, using elite males over females with excellent fleece, frame and mothering.

Our females are our great strength: every girl is continually assessed for the attributes she will contribute to our herd.



Champagne Moment - purchased by Beck Brow, Cumbria, UK



Stradivari purchased by Dural



Champagne's adult fleece



FM's adult fleece



Sydney Royal Easter Show (RES) has been the premier NSW agricultural exhibition event for more than 100 years. The alpaca halter and fleece shows are hotly contested with large numbers of exhibits.

Forestglen has been awarded Supreme fleece at Sydney RES eight times so far:

- 2000 – Purumbete Minty (SW) – her 5th fleece**
- 2003 – Forestglen Clancy (SLF)**
- 2005 – Forestglen Song of Joy**
- 2008 – Forestglen Seth (SDF)**
- 2010 – Forestglen Concerto (SW)**
- 2011 – Forestglen Penzance (SW)**
- 2012 – Forestglen Marakesh (SW)**
- 2017 – Ambersun Fortune of Monaco (SLF)**

Four of these supremes are females, retained exclusively in Forestglen's herd.

We strongly focus on white fleece production, but a quarter of our herd are fawns.

Some notable fawn stud stock bred by Forestglen are:

- Forestglen Seth** – 2008 International Fleece Show Supreme, sold to Waratah Flats, NZ
- Forestglen Angelo** – 2012 Best Medium/Dark Fawn Fleece, Sydney RES. Angelo is retained by Forestglen and works in house only.

Forestglen Catalyst – 2017 Best Light Fawn Fleece National Show, sold to Walkley Field.

Forestglen Illumination – 2018 Best Medium Fawn Sydney RES, sold to Walkley Field.

We have sold 3 alpacas at the AAA National Auction, 2 being fawns:

- 2004** - Forestglen Pendragon (SMF) - sold to Kilnwood Alpaca Stud, UK
- 2005** - Forestglen Queen of Diamonds (SW) – sold to Banksia Park, now at Stoneleigh, NZ
- 2017** - Forestglen Champagne Moment (SMF) – National Champion Medium Fawn 201, sold to Beck Brow, UK

Forestglen have recently purchased Ambersun Fortune of Monaco (aka FM) (SLF) and Millduck Toy Boy (SMF) to compliment our fawn breeding program.

The first FM progeny are on the ground and will enter our show program shortly.

Forestglen Alpaca Stud, a specialist in elite white and fawn huacaya alpacas, has limited numbers of starter to champion stock available.

Forestglen Alpaca Stud

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www.forestglenalpacastud.com.au

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**Alpaca Fiesta is the most important Alpaca festival worldwide.
It's objective is to spread and promote Alpaca in the global textile market.**

Alpaca Fiesta takes place in the Arequipa - Peru, and brings together breeders, researchers, companies and institutions linked to the world of alpaca in a festive and highly competitive environment.

Alpaca Fiesta takes place every 4 years. This year Alpaca Fiesta's 6th edition will go from the 22nd to 27th of October 2018, and it has been reinvented once again,

to give all assistants a renewed atmosphere and new business opportunities, as well as offering visitors innovative experiences that allow them to live and enjoy the Alpaca Fiesta.

Alpaca Fiesta includes activities for the entire alpaca value chain; from the aging stage, going through the stages of industrial transformation, to the processes of clothing and fashion.

Stellar night
Alpaca del Peru

Alpaca National
Contest

Chacra Victoria

Business roundtable

Fleece National
Contest



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Phone: (03) 9311 0933

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA *Spectacular*

In 2017 the Australian Alpaca Association made the brave move to vary the format of the National Show to recognise excellence in the breeding of coloured alpaca stock in Australia.

For many years the range of beautiful, natural colours in the alpaca spectrum has taken a back seat to the dominance of white fleeced alpacas. Whilst nobody denies the commercial importance of white fleece it is important that we do not lose the magnificent advantage that alpaca enjoys over other fleeced livestock – a magnificent array of natural colours.

The Australian Alpaca Spectacular was conceived to provide a format that recognises the best in colour breeding, whilst maintaining the tradition of rewarding the overall best breeding in the country – usually white.

But the breeders of coloured stock are not standing still and the improvement in the fleece qualities is astounding. This is, for the most part, due to the vision of breeders who have decided to specialise in a particular colour and have, by careful and patient genetic selection, developed a level of excellence in those colour lines. Given the environmental attraction of alpacas, it is essential that we do not lose the recognition of the breed as a producer of superb, natural coloured fibre, as well as white.

With this in mind, the Australian Alpaca Spectacular starts the program with the colour championships, selecting and rewarding the best as champions and then the Supreme National Champion in each of the eight recognised colour groups – white, light fawn, medium to dark fawn, brown, roan, grey, black and fancy. The winner and runner-up in each class then progress to the selection of age champions, competing for the traditional perpetual trophies. There is a great deal of pride and sense of achievement in seeing one's breeding success etched on the nameplate of one of these trophies.

Of course, we are all about fleece as the most important product to come from alpaca, so these classes and awards are reflected in the well-supported fleece show, which will be judged prior to the event and the winners will be on display for all to study and enjoy.

One of the regular main highlights of the AAA annual event is the National Elite Auction. This year will be no exception with an exciting and wallet-tempting line-up of elite stud stock offered for sale. Again, this offering

has a strong representation of the best in coloured genetics, which are sure to be eagerly sought after by buyers from all parts.

The Australian Alpaca Spectacular is more than a show. It is an event to celebrate the growth and acceptance of alpaca on the world stage of agriculture. Unlike most other livestock industries, our strength is in our diversity, with the array of fleece colours finding its way into a range of end product. Whilst mainstream processing uses mostly the white and light fawn fibre, the boutique markets create a strong and increasing demand for the luxurious, exciting colours. And, of course, the sensational suri fibre shows off its luxury qualities in many ways with new niche applications being explored and developed every day.

Trade stalls at the Spectacular provide evidence of the possibilities of our industry, with processors, exporters and industry suppliers standing side by side to educate and deliver their products and services.

The possibilities of alpaca fibre are further demonstrated with our Product competition, where the enthusiasm and skills of our more creative members will be displayed and awarded. This display will sit side by side with the Art and Photographic competition entry display – an online competition to be decided by popular vote.

The future of our industry is assured by the skill and enthusiasm displayed by our young members, who will demonstrate their ability in animal handling in the Parader events. Later in the program the national finals of the Junior Judging will be decided.

Another not to be missed part of this event is the annual dinner. This year we will be presenting fine food in a comfortable table-service environment. A chance to relax with friends and enjoy the entertainment. Networking is always a key element at the National Show and the comfortable café seating area near the food and beverage service area provides the ideal place to catch up with friends or to seal a business deal, whilst keeping an eye on the relay screens showing the show ring activity. The main show ring screen will, as we have come to expect, provide a judge's eye view of all the action in the show ring.

On the final day of the show, we recognise the importance of the sires and dams driving the genetic gain in our stock. The progeny classes provide a fitting wind up to the show with an excellent display of colour and quality – the best alpacas in the world!



Australian Alpaca

Spectacular

AAA National Age & Colour Championships

23rd - 26th August 2018

Bendigo Regional Exhibition Centre, Prince of Wales Showground, Bendigo Victoria

The ultimate Australian Alpaca event incorporating

- ❖ AAA National Age Championships
- ❖ AAA National Colour Championships
 - ❖ AAA National Fleece Show
 - ❖ AAA National Elite Auction
- ❖ Art & Product competitions
 - ❖ Annual Dinner
 - ❖ Alpaca Trade Fair

Whether you come to compete, buy, sell, learn or just to be among friends from the alpaca community, this is the alpaca event you cannot afford to miss.

- Compete against the very best of Australian alpaca breeding – there's no better way to measure your genetic development.
- Buy the top Australian genetics at the National Elite Auction.
- Peruse the alpaca products and husbandry supplies on offer from a range of trade vendors.
- Take advantage of the great marketplace opportunities to buy and sell stud stock as the show proceeds.
- Socialise and network with your colleagues at the Annual Dinner and informal gatherings.

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Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION



by **Lezley Golding**

- MY FIBRE - JOURNEY

Felting, Knitting, Dying

When we made the sea change from suburbia and purchased our farm, I never dreamed of the fibre journey the alpacas would take me on and lead me to where I am today.

When we commenced our breeding program 15 years ago, there were few coloured suris around, in fact, showing classes were 'White' and 'Any Other Colour'. We ventured out and started breeding all colours.

In 2013, after noticing many different shades of brown in our paddocks, we narrowed our breeding focus to brown. "Fifty Shades of Brown" was born.

2000 purchased the farm

2002 purchased our first alpacas

2009 attended my first felting workshop

2017 on farm Studio/Shop completed

Zed
Label

*Australian Alpaca
Handcrafts*

Designed and created by Lezley



www.stevleypark.com.au

Over the years I have always tried different handcrafts as opportunities arose, from pottery to basket weaving. Being an avid knitter, the allure of alpaca fibre was calling me. In 2009 I enrolled in my first felting workshop, felting with huacaya fibre unwashed, unprocessed, straight from the animals back, I was hooked. I still have and wear the scarf I made that day. After many attempts at wet felting Suri fibre and being disappointed [suri fibre does not felt well – is fabulous for weaving and makes lovely yarn. I bought huacaya fleeces from friends. I was in heaven, setting up a work table in the corner of the alpaca shed, gathering up embellishments, my fibre journey had begun.

Over the past 9 years I have attended many workshop and been lucky to work along side some extremely talented artists. Today I create with alpaca, merino, corridale and silk.

Working through the process of preparing raw fibre gives an amazing appreciation of fibre and wool.

Skirt, tumble, wash, dry, pick, card and some eventually dying. My wonderful husband has made a tumbler which is fabulous for removing dirt and second cuts before washing.

We shear around 100 alpacas every year here on the farm. Our own and pets from around the local area.

My 'book of ideas' is constantly growing as I take inspiration from everything around me.

My work can now be found in countries including USA, Ireland, New Zealand, and throughout Australia.

Early 2017 my on-farm Studio and Shop was completed.

Under my "Zed Design" label, creations include the following.

Felted scarfs, shawls, baby cot blankets, tote bags, floor rugs and soap in a coat.

Knitted scarfs, beanies, fingerless mittens and alpaca toys [my unique design]

Looking around my studio I feel very blessed to be surrounded by fibre fibre and more fibre. I love creating OoAK items from my 'book of ideas' and 'on commission'.

By the end of 2018 my work will be available through my on-line shop. www.stevleypark.com.au

While still breeding Brown Suri, my Fibre Focus is leading me on the most amazing journey.





Qozzo Jake DOB: 19/04/2014

Royal Canberra 2015 - 1st grey Jr Suri Male
Carousel of Colour 2015 - Champion
Intermediate Suri, Supreme Grey Suri,
Supreme Champion
National 2015 - 1st Int Suri Male



Hidden Lake Outlaw DOB: 25/01/2014

Red Hill Show 2015 1st Intermediate
Male Grey/ Roan Suri; Reserve Champion
Intermediate Suri; Best of Colour Grey Roan
Suri
Carousel of Colour Goulburn 2015 1st
Intermediate Male Roan Suri; Champion
Roan Suri Male; Supreme Roan Suri
Royal Melbourne Show 2015 1st Grey/Roan
Suri Intermediate Male; Suri Best Male of
Colour- Grey/ Roan
Victorian Colourbration Show 2015 Best
Roan Suri Male; Supreme Roan Suri



Qozzo Jeremiah DOB: 12/04/2015

Canberra Royal 2016 - 1st Jr Male MF suri,
Best in Colour Fawn,
First Boorowa 2017, First and Best in Colour
(Fawn) Canberra Royal 2016, 2nd - Canberra
Royal 2017.



Qozzo Colorama

Supreme Champion Fancy Suri - Carousel of
Colour 2015
1st Jr Fancy Suri -National show 2015
Best Fancy Canberra Royal 2016
Best Fancy Charles Ledger 2017
**Best Fancy and champion Canberra Royal
2017**

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 2 alpaca wethers in 2004 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 inquisitive and beautiful animals. It wasn’t long before our 800 angora goats were replaced with alpacas and we established our Alpaca stud called Qozzo- (the Spanish spelling of Cusco- the awe inspiring city that was the capital of the Inca Empire). Initially our intent was to breed grey huacayas- but it wasn’t long before suri and the beautiful fawn colours were included in our breeding program.

Genetics

The most important decision I made from the outset was to select good genetics and top quality stud males- decisions that have paid off and resulted in beautiful animals and many great wins in the show ring- including Champions, Supreme Champions and Best in Colour. Winning Best Grey Huacaya at the National 2105 with Qozzo Marco was one of the highlights of our show career.

My priority in choosing our first alpacas was colour- I loved the greys which were not so popular at that time, but I focussed on the pedigrees choosing animals with good grey pedigrees. It soon became clear that I needed to include fineness, density and conformity in my breeding program. Our first Huacaya stud male was Cedar House Lavender Prince- a lovely grey whose third fleece at 33 mths was 16.7m 3.4sd 20.1cv 100.0cf. Our second Huacaya male was Alpacapartners Bonaparte whose second fleece at 20 mths was 16.1m 3.3sd 20.8cv 100.0cf. Bonaparte added density structure and coverage to our grey girls.

Suri males have been selected on a similar basis for the desired characteristics and superior genetics.

Fancies

In 2014 we ventured into the new category of Fancy and our first fancy – Qozzo Colorama- did us proud in the show ring where she has been awarded 4 Best Fancy, 2 champions and a Supreme Champion. We are now thrilled with the cria- all attractive fancies- by Azzurra Silken Greyman who has the same sire as Colorama.

Biosecurity breeding program

Qozzo Alpacas are bred and nurtured under the principles of the Q Alpaca Biosecurity developed in collaboration with our local veterinarian.

From the Alpaca back to our back-

Alpaca fleece is not only light and beautiful to the touch, it is said to have the best thermal qualities of any of the natural fibres. Furthermore, alpaca fibre does not have barbs like sheep wool so it does not have the prickle factor associated with wool. It contains little lanolin, and is therefore hypoallergenic- perfect for babies or those with sensitive skin. A few years ago I displayed some alpaca fleece at a natural product trade show in Asia and had fabric manufacturers from Russia and China so impressed when they handled this elite fibre, saying it was the most impressive fibre they had ever touched.

Our fleeces are now processed at Boston Fine Fibres mill just down the road. My knitting team use the amazing finished product to knit wonderful garments for sale from this premium yarn www.eliteaustralionalpaca.com

Show results

Our repeated successes in the show ring have confirmed that our breeding program is on the right track and the use of superior genetics is producing quality animals. Show results include:

2015

National 5 firsts, Champion and best grey huacaya
Carousel of Colour: 19 ribbons including 4 Champions and 2 Reserve Champions
Canberra Royal - Champion

2016

Carousel of Colour: 3 firsts and 2 Supreme Champions
Canberra Royal -Reserve Champion and Best Fancy

2017

Charles Ledger: Best Black suri, Best Grey suri and Best Fancy suri
Boorowa – 5 firsts and Best Grey
Canberra Royal – 3 Firsts, Best grey, Best Fancy, Champion

Family challenges have limited our ability to enter the show arena for the last couple of years but watch for us in 2019!!

For sale

The result of very successful breeding seasons over the last few years has produced high quality alpacas so we now have over 350 suri and huacaya of all colours and ages at very reasonable prices as we are well overstocked and in drought. These include champion stud males, breeding females, pets and guards.

Qozzo Alpacas provide a mentoring program as part of a package with all alpacas that we sell. Fourteen years of breeding alpacas after 20 years of breeding other stock, has provided hands on experience that can never be obtained from reading. Although birthing difficulties are rare with alpacas, the very first alpaca born on our property was stuck at the shoulders and had to be assisted out. Having been through this many times with goats, it was no big drama and we were able to help out a beautiful healthy cria. So the advice that comes with our alpaca sales is “we are at the end of the phone..ring us if you have any questions”.



Royal Flash



Florietta



Qozzo Mitchell



Narabri & Celabrity



Sargeant Major



Jemma

Visit us on our website at www.qozzo.com
or contact me at alpacas@qozzo.com or
call **0412 887 857** or in person at ‘Jingara’-
2/571 Williamsdale Road, Williamsdale NSW.

The value of genetics in a breeding program..

The most important decision I made from the outset was to select good genetics

Made with Australian Alpaca Fleece



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THE NEW TEAM AT THE AAA OFFICE

by **Fiona Vanderbeek**



By now most AAA members should have heard about the relocation of the AAA head office from Mitcham to Canberra. Our new offices are located at 95 Northbourne Avenue, Turner, ACT, where we occupy part of Level 1. Levels 2 and 3 are the home of Animal Health Australia, and it is a wonderful opportunity for the AAA to now be sharing a building and interacting so closely with the dynamic team at AHA.

The relocation has of course meant we have lost two very long serving and loyal staff members – Joanne Rothque, who was the AAA's Registrar for an astonishing 25 years, whilst Janette Law was our Finance Officer for 15 years. More recently the team was also supported by Liz Cecil, who was with the AAA for just under 12 months. We farewelled Jo and Janette on 14 June 2018 and know that many AAA members present and past will join us in wishing them the very best in the future.

The contents of the AAA office in Mitcham arrived in Canberra on Monday 18 June (the day before this article was written!) and so begins an entire new chapter in the future of the Australian Alpaca Association. The new team has been streamlined to comprise two highly qualified professionals, Amanda Olthof and Aaron Makoche Kanwa. Amanda and Aaron are looking forward to learning everything about the alpaca industry and to speaking to and meeting as many members as possible over the coming months.

So, in the midst of moving into the office, I took the chance to find out a bit more about Amanda and Aaron....



Amanda Olthof

Amanda has been appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer and will also take over the role of Company Secretary from Sue Harris, in accordance with the AAA constitution.

Amanda joined us from her previous position as Policy Director at WoolProducers Australia (WPA) and so comes with a wealth of highly relevant knowledge and experience which will be of direct benefit to the alpaca industry. Amanda has a degree in agricultural economics and prior to working for WPA was employed at Australian Pork Limited (APL) and Airservices Australia.

Amanda was brought up in Sydney, before going to university in Armidale (where her degree involved plenty of farm placements – though none with alpacas). She then embarked on a series of positions with NSW government bodies, spent time volunteering in Papua New Guinea, and finally settled in Canberra some 15 years ago.

Amanda tells me the name “Olthof” is from the Dutch (Old House) and Amanda's grandparents came to Australia from the Netherlands in the 1950s.

Amanda lives in Canberra with her partner and three teenage children, together with Mabel, a cattle dog cross. When she isn't at work, Amanda spends her time as a taxi service for the kids, and otherwise enjoys playing netball, reading, gardening, cooking and craft (though she hasn't yet worked with alpaca....). Her favourite tippie is shiraz

Aaron Makoche Kanwa

Aaron has been appointed to the position of Finance and Administration Manager.

Aaron has been working in finance and administration roles in Canberra since completing his degree in Commerce (majoring in Accounting) in 2012. Aaron will be working for AAA for four days a week, whilst continuing his professional development through part-time postgraduate studies.

Aaron was brought up in the city of Harare in Zimbabwe, but used to spend around three months each year of his childhood on his grandparents farm, where they ran cattle, goats and sheep. So far as he is aware there are no alpacas in Zimbabwe, and where we are all used to sharing our country with kangaroos and wombats, Aaron was brought up sharing his with elephants, rhino, buffalo and lions (to name but a few...).

Aaron arrived in Canberra on 26 June 2009 – a date etched in his memory for its extreme cold – to study at the University of Canberra. After achieving his degree in 2012, Aaron made the decision to make Australia home and has been working in Canberra since that time.

Aaron says the name Makoche Kanwa is an uncommon name in Zimbabwe and has no particular meaning.... and if you can't quite get your tongue around the pronunciation, it is exactly as written: Mako – che – kan – wa.

Aaron and his wife live in Canberra (having met at university) and don't yet have any children or pets. When he isn't at work Aaron spends time with other family members (including his young cousins), and enjoys watching soccer, used to play basketball, and loves anything to do with “playing with cars”. As his favourite drink is also red wine, he and Amanda clearly have more than working for the AAA in common! And they also both enjoy good coffee....

I am sure you will all enjoy getting to know Amanda and Aaron as much as I have, in the very brief time we have so far spent together.





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Adelaide Tarp Specialists P/L was first established in 1979 by Tony Pavlovich, who has remained associated with the transport industry and the manufacturing of tarpaulins and specialised load covering systems since 1968 to the present.

Tony has always been an innovator and one of the mainstays of the tarpaulin manufacturing industry in South Australia for over 40 years having been responsible for the training of a great many of employees in the industry today.

Adelaide Tarp Specialists Pty. Ltd. has grown to become the most innovative and flexible load covering manufacturer in South Australia, producing excellent quality innovative product at very competitive pricing

In the late 90's, laws for tipper operator/drivers became an issue with the need for the fitting of ground operated tarpaulin to vehicles becoming a priority to cover RTA requirements initially, but the more important issue of Occupational Health Safety and Welfare in relation to operator safety, and limitation of safe operating heights has now become the focus with significant penalties for operators who do not comply.

Adelaide Tarp Specialists P/L took this news in its stride, and from 1999 to 2015, Tony's eldest son Mark (who is a qualified Welder/Metal Fabricator) came on board to help develop the business' own metal fabrication and welding department. This was done to create time saving for companies that were required to meet major deadlines while tarp systems were being fitted to their trailers, as well as allowing for further research and development of specialise covering systems for a broader range of bulk carrying equipment.

Over the coming years, Adelaide Tarp Specialists P/L developed the Roll-A-Way and the Winch-A-Way tarp systems. Both are fully ground operated and waterproof. These systems not only met strict Safety Guidelines, but increased drivers productivity by increasing loads per day by nearly 25% compared to the old tipper tarps that were manually handled.

Changes were made, and for those not requiring a waterproof system, the Side Cable Winch-A-Way was created for those who needed fast operating systems without having to worry about ropes and rubber rings. Still maintaining the quality and style of the waterproof system, the Side Cable system became one of Adelaide Tarp Specialists P/L most popular load covering alternatives.

In 2005, Tony's youngest Son Wade (now General Manager) returned to the family business after becoming a Sign Writer for 7 years and created Adelaide Sign Tech, a sign design company that enables customers to see signage on their Sliding Curtains, Tippers, Trailers, Vehicles etc. and have it all manufactured in one location, further saving time & costs. Wade's previous experience & knowledge of the Tarp Industry worked hand in hand with Mark's knowledge of Steel and brought it all together.

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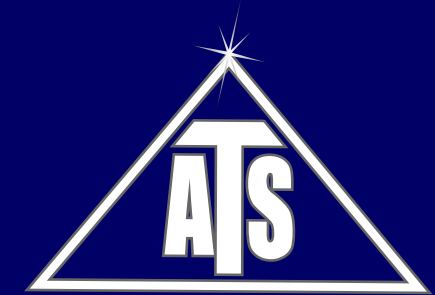
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FLEUR DE LYS ALPACAS

*Somehow the years have flown by
and now Fleur de Lys Alpacos is
celebrating 21 years.*



The dream that was little more than the delightful blend of childhood fantasies and the pipedreams that are concocted on the long drive to the snow with friends, has indeed come to pass. We had devised a plan to breed alpaca and grow cherry trees in the King Valley in Northern Victoria. Of course there were horses and dogs in the scheme of things too! Instead, I find myself outside McLaren Vale in South Australia, with alpaca, horses, dogs and also growing olives. What fun it has been ... !!

The vantage point of significant birthdays (and I confess to having had more of them than I'm yet to have!), is that you have the chance to look back and marvel at the journey thus far. From this vantage point you can also look ahead to dream and plan about the next chapter on life's path.

As Fleur de Lys Alpacos turns 21 this year, this gives me the chance to look back and consider how far we have come, both as an industry and my own contribution to the progress thus far. It also gives me the chance to share our success and we have listed 21 special Fleur de Lys alpacas for sale ... !!

At the outset, as in so many other enterprises, the initial investment to become involved in the alpaca industry was much higher than it is today. I chose to purchase the two best breeding females I could afford and they were mated to the best males I could find. Julie and Richard Bird from The Gorge Alpacas in Arcadia NSW, were generous with their time and freely provided the guidance and advice that would shape our decisions. These foundation girls continue to make a contribution to my herd, with many of their descendants carrying their quality and features through the generations.

When I consider the attributes of these early members of our herd compared to the current group, I marvel at the progress that we have made in two decades. This improvement reflects the progress made across the Australian herd and collectively we should be pleased with the enormous gains that have been



made. The objective measures indicate that the fibre has been improved on all counts: fibre diameter, SD, length and yield. This means we are growing greater quantities of better quality fleece. The corollary to this is that we have also been developing a market for this superb fibre and most of us have been able to empty accumulated years of fleece from our sheds.

In response to the market, we are also more skilled at our pre-shearing preparation and our fleece handling skills and judgment has also improved, as we are chasing better prices for our fleece as it continues to improve.

This transition reflects the gradual maturation of our industry, where we have converted our focus from breeding stud stock alone, to encompass fibre and finding other uses for our non-stud males, including sheep guards and meat. This transition is reflected in the show ring where the judges' comments about ribbon winning animals are blended comments about conformation and fleece, emphasizing the area of "useable fleece" and other phrases to express the value of the commercial attributes fibre they are assessing.

To achieve such significant improvement, there has been a host of people with passion and drive who have helped to move the industry into new realms. Many are still championing the cause, while others are supervising from afar. My memory turns to significant movers and shapers in the industry whom I would like to acknowledge: Dianne Condon, Harriett Davison, Bill Plunkett and Richard Dickson among others, each used their extensive experience and expertise to guide and advise those who shared their passion for alpaca. We have all benefited from the endeavors and efforts of these and other pioneers in our industry.

In this context, Fleur de Lys Alpacos is turning 21 this year. During our time in the alpaca industry we have bred over 400 cria, won some significant awards, enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship of a wonderful group of people and had lots of fun. We have worked hard, laughed and cried, been up to all hours providing bottles and nursing care to alpacas, both young and old, driven for days to participate in shows, deliver alpacas to new owners, attend auctions and access elusive genetics for our herd. It has been an enriching and rewarding time and we are keen to share our success.

Looking to the future, Fleur de Lys alpacas will continue to strive to master the art of white and fawn huayaca. Our focus will be to breed confirmationally correct alpaca, with bundles of fine fibre that is readily converted into quality product. As an industry, I hope our collective goal is to find a way for alpaca to be a part of every home ... this utopia is not about having an alpaca in every backyard, but that every home knows how the unique characteristics of alpaca can be used in their lives. This image potentially includes an alpaca rug on the lounge, alpaca scarf, gloves or socks to keep away winter chills and alpaca as an option for the barbeque. If we can integrate alpaca into the lives of all Australians in some way, then we could consider the introduction of our beloved alpaca to this country to be a success. Alpaca would have moved from a boutique farm enterprise to being part of Australian homes – this reflects the dreams and efforts of so many breeders.

As Fleur de Lys alpacas celebrates 21 years, we look forward to both the challenges and success of the future, keen to contribute to the ongoing pursuit of excellence in white and fawn huacaya.

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By Stuart Marshall

Towarri Alpacas



Over the years of being involved in the SRS® breeding system we and other SRS® breeders have achieved a marked improvement in our herd, with increased fibre length, increased density, lower micron, increased fleece weights and the reduction of primary fibre micron. In addition selective breeding has achieved better conformation in our animals, with stronger and larger frames. All these characteristics lead to improved fleece production per animal.

I have been part of SRS® fleece collection and baling days

Fleece laid out on table ready for skirting

over many years. I saw the importance of having properly skirted fleeces. The number of fleeces that were of good quality but had to be rejected, because they had been poorly skirted or not skirted at all, was disappointing. They could not be included in premium lines because they were contaminated with coarse fibres and as a result paid a lower price.

This started a personal interest in fleece classing and skirting .So when the Australian Alpaca Association offered and subsidised the alpaca classing course at Tocal Agriculture College, Fiona and I both did the short course. This short course meets 2 units of the Certificate 4 in wool classing. Having passed this short course, the next step in becoming a qualified alpaca classer is to do a Certificate 4 in wool classing (1 to 2 year course) through a qualified training provider. Other key elements that are a part of the Certificate 4 wool classing course include:

- The Classer is responsible for the management of the fleece harvesting team
- The Classer has to walk through the shearing shed with the owner and identify any work place health and safety issues, before shearing commences
- The Classer is responsible for documenting the clip and labelling of bales for consignment
- The Classer can only put his stencil on bales that he/she has classed
- The Classer must also hold a First Aid Certificate



Skirted fleece ready for classing



The Certificate 4 course also covers shed design and layout and managing wages and has a major hands on and practical component through working in shearing sheds.

I completed the course in October 2017 and earlier this year I obtained my stencil for alpaca classing. This means that I can now class alpaca fleece and it can be sold through the Australian Wool Exchange. In all I found the course interesting and it gave me a better appreciation of natural fibres. Delivery of the course through TAFE NSW was flexible and I was able to fit the course around my work commitments. I would recommend the course to anyone who has a keen interest in their fleece and wants to see it presented to market in the best possible way.

Good skirting is essential if you wish to produce top quality lines of fibre for sale and processing. As we are an industry of small producers relying on the ability to consolidate fleece to make lines of saleable quantities, it is every alpaca producer's responsibility to make sure they present their fleeces in a professional way. A classer cannot undo a poorly skirted fleece!

If anyone wants help with classing please contact Stuart Marshall at Towarri Alpacas



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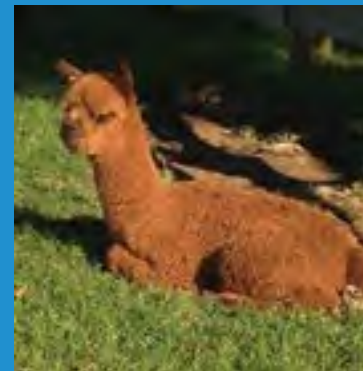
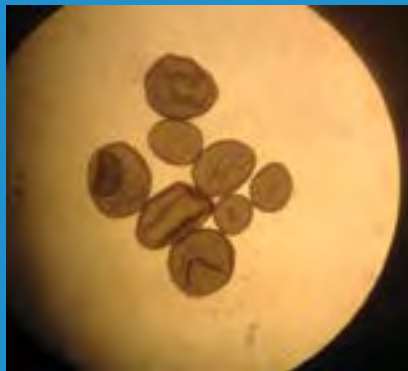
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Using tried and tested bloodlines from around the world their herd now comprises elite quality alpacas of every color. Waters Edge Alpacas put great emphasis on temperament, true-to-type frames that carry elite fleece. With a strong drive to create an elite commercial herd, Waters Edge Alpacas are now creating stud-stock that are sought after around the world.

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Waters Edge Alpaca stud is run by Toni and Greg Charteris and their daughter Lisa. We have adopted a progressive breeding plan, deciding to source bloodlines from the very best alpacas from across the globe. Using these superior genetics, coupled with our elite females and by adopting leading scientific technology, we aim to remain at the 'Cutting Edge' of the alpaca world.

We have a herd of females all selected for specific traits that we wish to concentrate on. They are used in our ET program which is successfully carried out using the skills of Dr Jane Vaughan from Australia. Our first Waters Edge cria are now on the ground and we hope there are many more to come. Our breeding goals are founded upon a desire to produce superior stud stock, capable of producing high yields of super soft, lustrous, fine, uniform fleece on their progeny.

We are committed to the alpaca industry and not only are we at the cutting edge of alpaca genetics but we are also working hard to promote the manufacturing, design and technology side of the fibre industry.



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— ALPACAS AT THE CUTTING EDGE —

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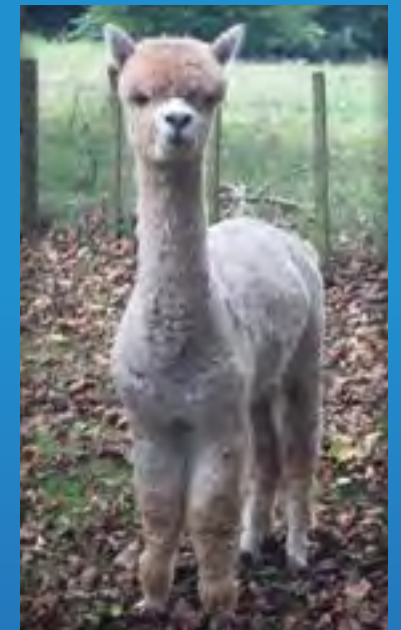
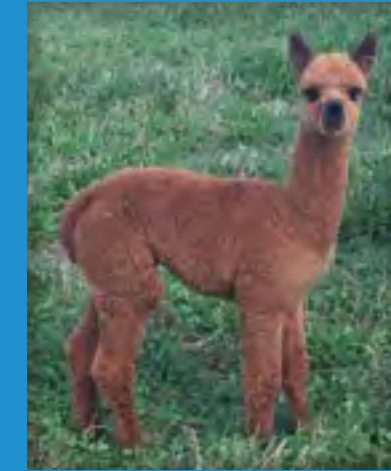
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OUR HERD

Our successful alpaca herd is founded on three important principles. Sound management practices and excellent health care which are underpinned by world class genetics. Waters Edge Alpacas have selected their herd from a wide range of world famous bloodlines. Our years of experience in farming, before alpacas, has taught us the importance of tried and tested genetics. Those alpacas renown around the world have achieved this status because of their elite characteristics coupled with their pre-potent ability to pass these characteristics on to their progeny. We have made a deliberate decision to include many of these tried and tested bloodlines in our herd.



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When getting your fleece processed at our mill, you have three main options.
ROVINGS for Hand spinning, **YARN** for Knitting, Crocheting or Weaving **FELT** for sewing into garments,
artwork or soft furnishings. Here are some suggestions...

HAND SPINNING

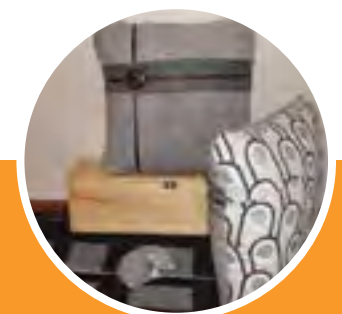
Basic Requirements: Spinning Wheel.
Types of Spinning Wheels: Conventional – for fine spinning,
Country Spinner for bulky yarn (see photo below) & an Electric one for those with leg problems.
Rovings from our mill come in bags which conveniently sit by your spinning wheel for you to spin directly from. No more joining or splitting of thick rovings. Try Navajo plying for something different.
Join a Spinning Guild in your area or get on line for the many Youtube videos or get a copy of Spin-Off Magazine for more inspiration

WEAVING

Basic Requirements: A Loom & Accessories
Types of Looms: Rigid Heddle, Knitters Loom, Table and various types of floor looms.
Most weavers start out with a rigid heddle loom but soon feel the need for more shafts with more design possibilities.
My studio consists of an 8 shaft Ashford for trials, a new Ashford Jack loom, an 8 shaft Sheridan for rugs and a smaller 6 shaft NZ loom.
Get a copy of Handwoven magazine for endless inspiration.

SEWING WITH FELT

Basic Requirements: Sewing Machine, Iron
Nice to have: Overlocker, Embellishing Machine
Sheets of felt from our mill are 900x1200mm & depending on end use, depends on the thickness.
With basic sewing skills you can make your own cushions, wall hangings, garments or even handbags.



The most central accommodation in Bendigo

Clean, comfortable rooms situated by
Bendigo's iconic Cathedral and within walking
distance of Bendigo's centre.



Experience the best of Bendigo

Comfortable, spacious accommodation in the heart of Bendigo.

Characterised for its rich history stemming from the 19th century gold rush era and for rolling hills and valleys peppered with sun-drenched vineyards introduced by the first European visitors, Bendigo is a charming town just under two hours drive from Melbourne.

Located a short 500 metres from Bendigo town centre and a stone's throw from Bendigo's Sacred Heart Cathedral and the main shopping precinct, Best Western Cathedral Motor Inn is the most central accommodation in Bendigo. Being in the heart of town provides guests with easy access to some of Bendigo's most famous attractions such as the Bendigo Art Gallery, Central Deborah Gold Mine, Wattle Park and Vintage 'Talking' Tram Tours.

We look forward to helping make your stay in Bendigo one to remember!

(03) 5442 5333
cathedral motor inn

96-102 High Street Bendigo, VIC 3550

www.cathedralmotorinn.com.au





grAce

GRACE SURI KNITWEAR

A Genuine Aussie

This exclusive range of fine knitwear is genuinely Australian grown and made with the suri alpaca fleece sourced from selected alpaca breeders in Australia. The 2018 winter knitwear range includes the natural colours of warm black, silver grey, steel grey, magnolia and rose brown.

Grace Suri Alpaca Knitwear has been developed and designed by Robyn Betts, an experienced alpaca breeder and wool classer. Robyn is known in the textile industry as The Alpaca Yarn Lady and her expertise has now introduced the wonderful qualities of suri alpaca fleece into the world of commercial high end knitwear.

Grace Suri Alpaca Knitwear is a blend of suri alpaca and quality Australian merino, both white and coloured, which captures the unique cool silkiness of suri alpaca and the light warmth of merino.

The 2018 winter range of Grace Suri Knitwear includes 'the little black dress', easy wear long pants and jacket, jerseys for men and women, textured jumpers and unique alpaca logo scarves, beanies and throw rugs. The knitwear includes fine cable, 3D and diamond stitches – unique to Grace Suri Knitwear

This range is available for purchase from **Annkea Alpacas** (www.annkeaalpacas.com.au) and **Grace Suri Knitwear** (Facebook and Instagram)

Grace Suri Alpaca Knitwear is seeking to broaden its availability and is accepting wholesale enquiries from quality retail outlets in New Zealand, USA and Europe.

For all enquiries please contact Robyn Betts on
1robynbetts@gmail.com
or
telephone 0427879998

PRADOS & KOBLER ALPACAS

Redbank springs is the home of Prados and Kobler alpacas, where there are some substantial changes under way. Whilst the original five-year plan was thrown off course and progress on the farm was slow, there is now a quickening of pace, with rapid progress being made to the property. So how has this change come about?

For five years it has just been Sarah on farm during the week, with Perry and James working on farm at the weekend. However, November 2017 saw James move full time on farm as well, although, for the first few months his time was limited due to shearing commitments.

Since the beginning of 2018 a major restructure of the alpaca operation has taken place including a temporary reduction in herd size by about 20%. The aim is to triple the existing mob building on the core group to generate a sustainable commercial venture returning income from stud stock, fleece and meat production.

Redbank Springs when purchased had been an agistment block in places heavily overgrown for many years. To achieve these expansion plans five new paddocks have been opened, this included clearing acres of blackberry and replacing fencing. Another two paddocks should be available in next month or so, after further vegetation removal and reinstating fences.

So, what is Perry doing? He is still very much involved, and since there has been a big shift in work load for him, he now finds himself with more time to undertake farm projects that he enjoys. The farm has now become a pleasure,

instead of at times feeling like a chore. Kobler shearing is going from strength to strength, with James now shearing from the end of September to mid-March. The collection of fleece from clients sees the sale of many tonnes of fleece throughout the year. There is also a growing husbandry and herd management service that is expanding.

So all in all Redbank Springs feels it has now set itself on a good path for a commercial future.



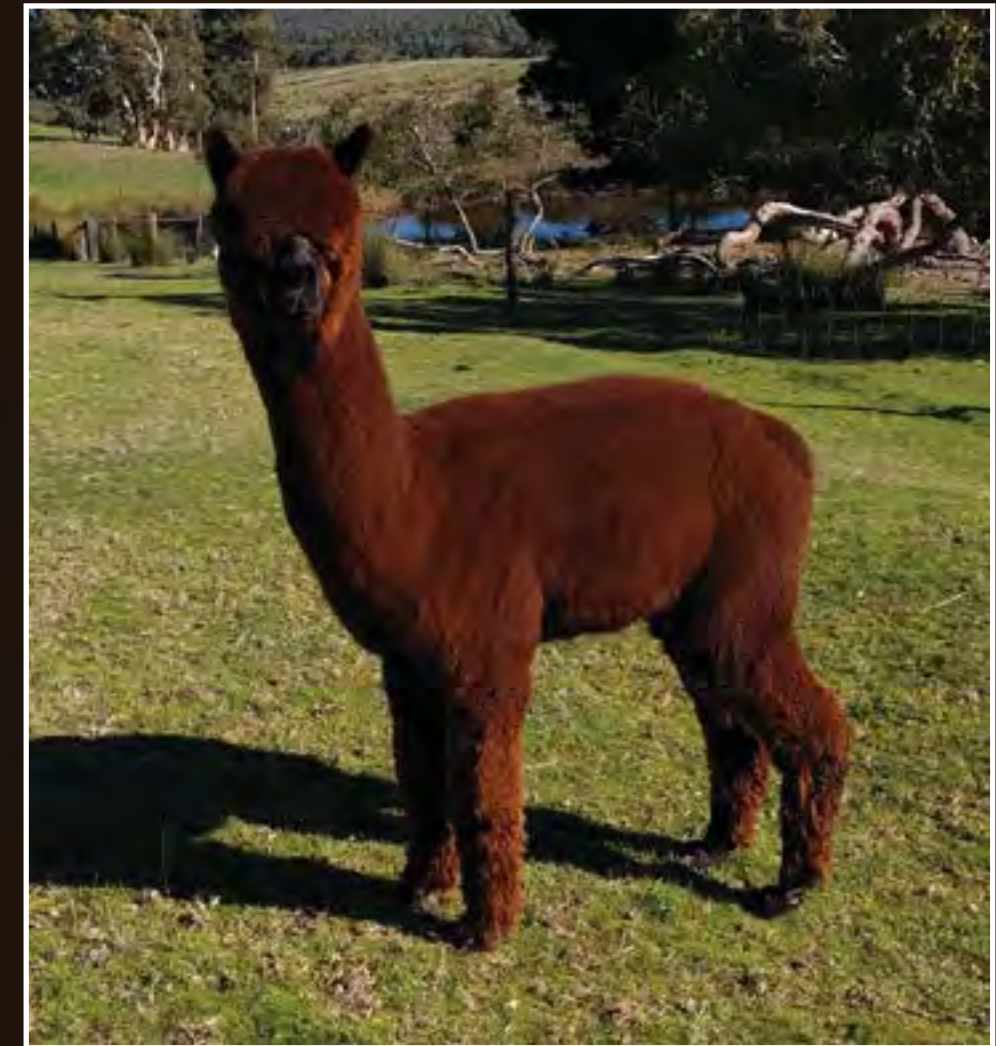
Best Browns

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

Introducing the new Showing & Judging Committee

We are very fortunate to have an excited and productive new team with a great amount of skill sets to continue on the hard work that the previous Showing & Judging Committee have put in over the years.

With their first two meetings concluded this new Committee have some exciting and big projects ahead, creating a first time showers assistance manual, an exciting Judges Workshop coming up in June with some great Speakers presenting, a new Judges intake being looked into and lots of new impressing initiatives to enhance our Members Showing experience and to continue to improve our overall showing experience.



Standing in as Chair: Sharon Dawson (AAA Board Director) Jennjoley Alpacas

I am a small alpaca breeder on 5 acres in Orangeville NSW; we have recently expanded our little place to include over 100 acres at The Rock NSW that my son John manages. I have a passion for showing and am conscious of the window to our industry it provides and how essential the education about alpaca is. I am enjoying being a part of moving alpaca forward in all its attributes, genetics, fleece, meat and hides; I embrace all the directions of alpaca farming, from hobby farmers selling pets to commercial farmers utilising the whole animal. Alpaca is a versatile, exciting industry that is on the cusp of an amazing future and I am very excited to be involved in something that is destined to be an integral part of Australia's agricultural industry.



Julie Wilkinson: Baarrooka

Julie Wilkinson runs the Baarrooka suri herd in North Central Victoria. She has been breeding suris since 2001 and currently has around 900 animals on farm. She has a background in education and environmental consulting and a passion for alpaca fibre (especially suri) with a particular focus on growing the commercial fleece sector of the industry and helping breeders to focus on fibre through mentoring and education.



Natasha Clark: AAA Training Judge, Kurrawa Alpacas

Natasha has had extensive experience with suri and huacaya running a herd of over 450 alpacas of all colours under the stud names of Kurrawa Alpacas and K.A.Silknsuri with her parents Robert & Ann Clark in Victoria, Australia on the beautiful Surfcoast in Bellbrae. In 1991 Kurrawa was formed and since that time Natasha has been a full time alpaca breeder. With her knowledge of both suri and huacaya Natasha has developed Kurrawa into one of the major studs winning Champions and Supremes at National & Royal Shows. A qualified AAA (Australian Alpaca Association) judge in 2000 she has continued to develop her skills to become a senior Level 1 AAA Judge and a AAA Training Judge. In 2004 Natasha successfully qualified as an International Judge at the IAJIS School in Peru and has judged in New Zealand, UK, Europe and all over Australia including all of our major shows. In 2008, 2012 & 2014 she had the privilege of judging the Australian Alpaca Association National Show. In 2015 judged the British National Show and in 2016 judged the New Zealand National Show and the Alpaca Association Benelux Harpet Show. Since 2008 up until 2017 Natasha has been an active member on the AAA Showing and Judging reference panel. She continually gives her time to mentor and train breeders, aspiring judges and qualified judges. Natasha was also a competitive horse show rider and an active Welsh Pony & cob society judge. Having given away the horse riding at a high competitive level Natasha is heavily involved in showing pointer dogs.



Catherine Lukin: Secretary, Sensuri Alpacas

Catherine Lukin has bred both suris and huacayas since joining AAA in 2009. The Sensuri and Piazolla Park herds total over 50 head running just outside Canberra with the intention of expanding in the next few years. The Lukins began this venture based on ease of animal handling, sustainability and the exceptional quality of end product possible via machine

processing for both huacaya and suri fleece. Cath has experience as an exhibitor, convenor, fleece, ring and chief steward. She brings to the committee, 22 years of experience as an educator and trainer as well as 7 years in volunteer management and is highly skilled in information technology and management. She is a trained Health and Safety Representative. Cath has supported Alpaca Youth Parader's (AYP) since its inception, sitting on the original Victorian committee and producing the initial AYP Handbook. Together with Glenda Raimondo, she formed the group BAY - Bellarine Alpaca Youth. BAY has a very strong local presence promoting alpacas while educating and entertaining young people and their families.



Darren Hard - Ashbourne Alpacas

Darren Hard is a huacaya breeder with approximately 8 years in the alpaca industry. He is a business owner with 20 plus years in the building and real estate industries. His focus is to breed quality elite animals within the alpaca industry that have commercially viable fleeces and to create farm environments that are leading edge for the industry. Also of key importance is to have best-practice farming and husbandry techniques that support healthy and happy alpacas.



Lee Sadler - Fleur de Lys Alpacas

Lee Sadler, together with her husband Greg Scarlett, runs Fleur de Lys Alpacas on the picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula, near McLaren Vale in South Australia. Their tag line "Mastering the Art of White and Fawn Huacaya" epitomises their focus, it explains their success in the show ring and their support of a viable and sustainable fleece industry for all alpaca breeders. They aspire to be involved in an industry where success is available for all participants, as are the many benefits of working with alpaca.



Shane Carey- AAA Judge, Malakai Alpacas

Shane has been breeding and showing alpacas for the past 24 years and currently runs a herd of 150 alpacas on a 110 acre property in Ballarat Victoria. Whilst he breeds all colours, he has a keen focus on white and grey alpacas. Since 2004, the utilisation of embryo transfer has been used within the herd and Malakai has now had over 400 Embryo Transfer cria born on the farm. Shane qualified as a AAA judge in 2011 and has judged in all states of Australia and New Zealand; he thoroughly enjoys the privilege of judging both fleece and animals and seeing the advancement of the National Alpaca herd.



Marc Mullette - AAA Judge, Sharhrizai Alpacas

Marc nominated for the SJC because he is a firm believer that the success of shows is critical to our industry. Shows provide the majority of our most effective marketing, giving people a chance to get up close and personal with alpacas all over the country. He has been breeding alpacas since 2007 and at one time was running close to 300 animals in southern Queensland. In order to be closer to the epicentre of the alpaca world, he moved to SA in 2017. Marc is a AAA-accredited judge, having gone through the intake in 2013. He relishes the fantastic opportunity to share knowledge and to keep up-to-date on all things alpaca and believes it is a privilege to be able to participate in shows at that level. He hopes to bring energy and ideas to the committee, and aims to make showing as easy and rewarding as possible for breeders. He is also passionate about comprehensive judge training, and hopes to continue the work from previous committees to ensure our judges remain the best trained in the world.



Ben Schmaal - AAA Judge

Ben’s alpaca interest began in 2004, with the purchase of a small number of breeding animals as a hobby, run on his family’s wheat and merino farm in Mid North SA. In 2008, his alpaca interest became a full time affair, taking on the management of the Softfoot alpaca herd and moving to the Softfoot farm. In 2015, with wife Emma and two young sons, Ben moved to the McLaren Vale wine region where they now manage their own vineyard. Ben owns a herd of around 50 alpacas, as well as a small flock of high quality ultrafine merinos, and still manages the Softfoot alpaca herd which at its peak numbered 1500 animals. Ben has had a keen interest in producing and classing alpaca fibre appropriate to the intended end uses, resulting in him selling large quantities of fibre within Australia and internationally as well as being integrally involved in commercially processing fibre in Europe for a variety of product types. Since 2015, being a AAA judge has allowed Ben to assist breeders in making decisions on their animals and breeding programs in order to achieve alpacas that produce an elite fibre that is in strong demand.

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” which means “Great Cliffs” in Hindi.

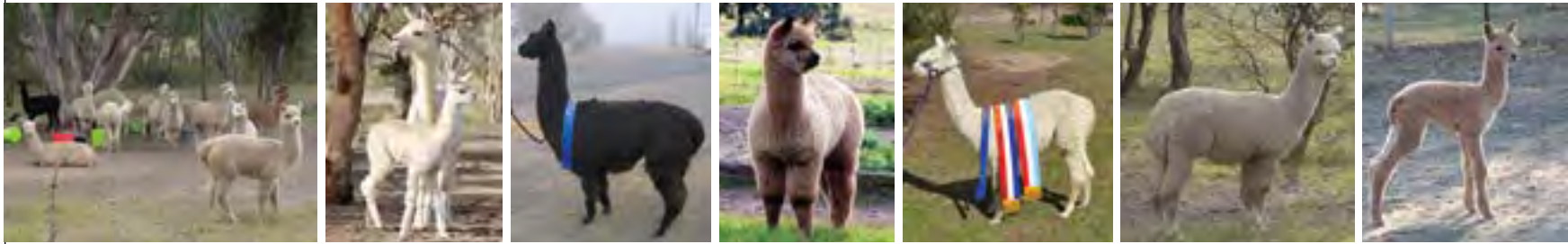
Since entering the industry in 2008, we have learnt from the very best the industry has to offer, now calling them friends. This knowledge we share freely with anyone interested in knowing and learning about these wonderful stoic animals.

Keryn is the past president of the Hawkesbury Blue-Mountain region of the AAA, now amalgamated into the single New South Wales region where she now holds the position of Australian Alpaca Association NSW Event Coordinator and herself Coordinates the prestigious Sydney Royal Show annually.

- 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, across the whole range of colours, concentrating on temperament, fleece fineness and density. We often have show quality males and females, also wethers for herd guards available for sale and visitors are always welcome by appointment. We also have agistment available if required.



Alpaca, a sustainable luxury



SHAMARRA
Luxury Alpaca
Made in New Zealand

Valued for its beauty and warm silky softness, alpaca fibre comes in a unique range of natural colours, is environmentally friendly, sustainable and hypoallergenic. Frank and Anya Walkington of Shamarra Alpacas share why they wouldn't work with anything else.

Alpacas are regarded as one of the greenest animals on the planet due to their low-environmental footprint. Naturally producing one of the most luxurious and remarkable fibres available they offer a unique opportunity to work with a natural product that is not only kind on the environment but kind to us.

Safely able to be called sustainable there is little doubt that alpaca fibre will be sought

after more and more as the desire to move away from synthetics and high-environmental-impact fibres, increases.

Over the last fourteen years, our experience with alpaca has evolved from selling handspun yarn from our own alpacas to the commercial processing of our fibre today. As our huacaya herd grew so did our realisation that the fibre from alpaca had enormous potential.



Knitwear in natural colours in our 21-23µ yarn range

Our customers recognised the qualities of alpaca and quality of fibre going into our products was paramount to producing luxury knitwear.

Our Process:

We are always looking to improve upon the quality of our products with each batch of yarn processed, and our decision to team up with Alpaca Fibre Network Australia (AFN Aust) and our New Zealand growers was influenced by the quality assurance given by

Alpaca can safely be called sustainable, unlike cashmere that is receiving unfavourable media coverage for the desertification of large areas of Mongolia and northern China.

grid testing each fleece. Fibre lines of two micron bandwidths ensure predictability of yarn performance. While core testing of bales may provide accurate information for wool, we feel the variation of uniformity in alpaca does not make this a reliable test for our needs.

From beginning to end we work closely with our spinners to determine the yarn specifications best suited for our requirements. Designed in house our designs begin as knitted samples that are altered, knitted again and tested before going into production for sale.

What we strive for in alpaca fleece: *(we process huacaya)*

- Uniformity of micron. This is relevant regardless of the final product.
- Well shorn blankets free of second cuts. This is achieved by experienced alpaca shearers who remove the blanket first.
- Lack of coarse fibres. Coarse fibres cause prickle on the skin, a highly undesirable trait for fine knitwear.
- Lack of colour contamination in white fleece.

Our reason for looking to work with AFN (Aust) for supply was a practical solution for us.

- Quality assurance – each fleece is grid tested (3 samples tested on OFDA2000), we could specify micron bandwidths of fleece required.
- Supply chain – supply available to us in the quantities we specify.
- Skirting – to a uniform and consistent standard.
- Resources – fibre selection, skirting and sorting is very time consuming and by outsourcing, we could focus on other aspects of production.

Processing is not for the faint hearted. Commercial processing requires substantial quantities of fibre to be scoured, then spun, with weight minimums at each stage.

Forward planning is a must. There's only one commercial scouring facility in New Zealand scouring alpaca, lengthy process from classing to end product.



Top: Farm shop at Shamarra Alpacas
Above: Ilona in cream Ultra fine 16µ alpaca poncho and scarf in natural cream

The woollen process (used for our blankets)

Woolyarns Ltd is the only processor of fine fibres into yarn in New Zealand on the Woollen processing system. Our process entails dyeing, blending, carding spinning and winding on a commercial scale. Woollen yarn processing converts the fibre into yarn at the carding stage. The fibres lay random compared to the worsted yarn process. When the yarn is converted in to knitted or woven products they are traditionally wet finished (washed) to allow the fibre to burst to the surface giving a soft handle.

Right: Shamarra woven blankets



Worsted yarn spinning:

The art of worsted yarn spinning harks back to the 14th century. The process uses natural (initially wool) fibres of determined lengths that can be converted through a number of processes to produce a refined worsted spun yarn.

The aim in producing a worsted yarn is to lay the fibres parallel so as to create a smooth, even yarn with good strength. This is achieved using the following sequence of processes .

1. Blending – opens the scoured fibre, lubricates and moisturises the wool ready for the carding process.

2. Carding – takes the blended fibre and converts it into a sliver where the fibres are gently opened and laid parallel.

3. Preparing – Multiple slivers are fed into gilling machines that refine the carded sliver and commence to draw the fibres out to improve the levelness of the sliver. This preparing can involve up to 4 sequences through ever finer machinery .

4. Combing – this removes all the vegetable matter and noil (short fibre) to leave the sliver in a clean state with long fibres all laying in one direction.

5. Post –comb preparing – this is a repeat of early stage processing to eventually have a sliver at the correct thickness to either spin directly or to make a roving used on extremely fine yarn counts.

6. Roving – this takes the sliver and applies low twist levels to enable the roving to be creeled on the spinning frame.

7. Spinning – this process drafts the sliver (or roving) down to the correct thickness of yarn required by applying drafting and twist.

At this point a worsted spun yarn is created.

Design Spun spin our fully worsted yarn used in our knitwear range. We discuss with management the final product and from there, determine the yarn specifications best suited for our needs.

Woolyarns spin our yarn used in our woven and knitted blanket ranges.

Our knitwear is designed in house with guidance from our commercial knitters. Samples are knitted, altered, knitted again and tested before going into production for sale in our shop and online. This is an ever evolving process.

Alpaca is unique in its natural colour palette and we have chosen to process undyed alpaca only.



Design Spun (NZ) spins all our fully worsted yarn for our knitwear range in three micron ranges - 16-18µ , 18-20µ and 21-23µ



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.



- Silverwillow Alpacas -

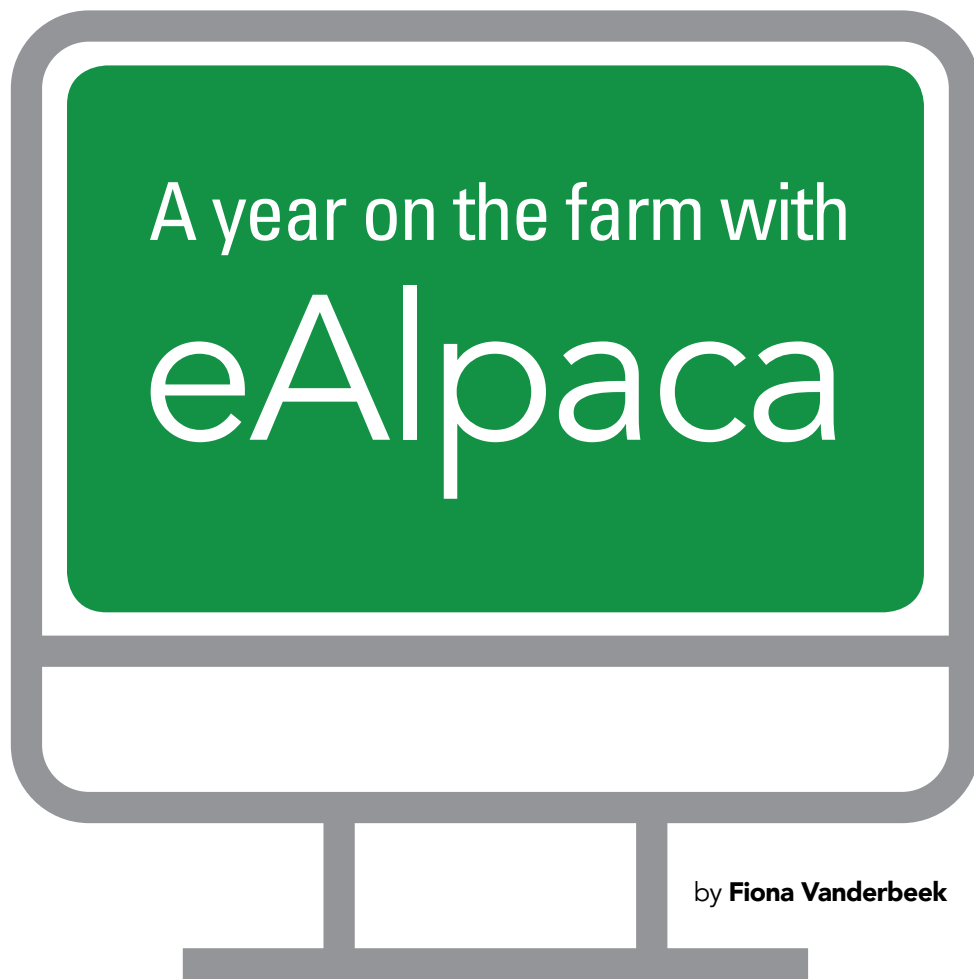
Libby Williams – 85 Nicholas Lane, Kangaroo Ground, 3097
p 03 9712 0536 m 0413 300 371
e libby@jlwgroup Holdings.com.au



As the major contact and collection point for Alpaca Fibre Network (Aust), I would sincerely like to thank our band of dedicated, selfless volunteers for their hard work, passion and vision for collecting alpaca fibre in the correct manner to supply Shamarra Alpacas in order to manufacture and design luxury alpaca knitwear. It is a very rewarding experience to both see and feel the results of our labour. I am also incredibly fortunate to be able to share in the retailing of Shamarra Knitwear in Australia.
Annette Woodgate

www.annkeaalpacas.com.au





By the end of the first six months of operation the feedback from members is overwhelmingly positive, but we are continuing to tweak the system and add new features all the time, to further improve what eAlpaca can do for you.

This article aims to provide a broad overview of the way you may use eAlpaca through the year; not everyone will use all the features, and we all vary in when we do things through the year, but let's presume you have cria born between September-November and/or March-May, and register your cria when they are around six months old...

July-September

The start of the financial year, and it is winter, heading into spring by the end of the quarter. A relatively quiet time on many farms, so a time to catch up on some administration....

Check your browser (no, not the alpaca browsing in your paddocks....)

To ensure eAlpaca functions at its best

for you it is important you use an up-to-date browser, such as Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari.... Please do not use Internet Explorer.... This is an old and unsupported browser and you may experience difficulties with how eAlpaca functions.

Have you renewed your AAA membership?

By now you will have received a renewal notice (1 June) and a follow-up reminder (last week of June) from eAlpaca. You can quickly and instantaneously renew your membership via eAlpaca; if you haven't renewed your membership by 1 July, you will only be able to access eAlpaca to renew, transfer animals out of your herd or issue sire authorities (the latter two features are permitted to allow those leaving the industry to sell down their herds, and remain activated for 12 months after a membership has lapsed). For all your on-line eAlpaca transactions you will need a debit or credit card; transactions are processed via the secure NAB Transact facility.



The AAA's introduction of the revolutionary new on-line alpaca registry and show system, eAlpaca, in November 2017 has transformed the way the individual breeder can manage all their alpaca transactions.

Are your membership details up to date?

Use the Manage Account page to check and edit your membership profile – this includes your email addresses, website, property address (including your PIC), postal address, phone numbers and your privacy settings. You can also upload a copy of your logo and a photo to personalise your Member Profile page.

Are your herd details up to date?

It is ideal to update individual alpaca's details whenever needed but once or twice a year it is recommended you do a Herd Inventory, found in the Manage Herd section of eAlpaca. This feature allows you to go through your entire herd and quickly update colour changes and changes to the animal's status (eg. Dead, Sold, Non-Breeding, Exported).

Note "Sold" should only be used for alpacas which have been sold "off register" – that is, to someone who is not going to be using them in a future

breeding program – typically those sold as pets, herd guards or for meat. If you sell an animal to a non-AAA member, but who is considering joining the AAA in the future, you should use the Animal Transfer process. "Non-Breeding" can be used for males being castrated or females that are considered unsuitable for breeding.

Q-Alpaca annual return

Now is also the time to renew your Q-Alpaca membership including your annual stock return. You can pay your renewal fee and do your annual return via eAlpaca; this year it is still necessary to print the paperwork for signature by your vet and submission to the AAA office for final approval. By next year we should have vets integrated into eAlpaca so they can approve their part of the agreement via eAlpaca as well.

Tax returns

Another administrative task made a whole lot easier.... From My Account, select View Financials and you can view or download tax invoices for all your eAlpaca transactions.

Start planning the next breeding season

Now you've tackled all that boring administrative stuff, time to start planning the next season's mating combinations. Let's assume that this season you are initially going to use your own males, but want to check the mating combinations to be sure they aren't too close, but do perhaps include a degree of line-breeding (up to 12.5% is generally considered acceptable). Using the Linebreeding Calculator, you can either select one female from your herd and then enter up to three possible sires (Dam with Sires), or enter one certified male and up to three possible females (Sire with Dams). If you are new to interpreting Inbreeding Coefficients, there is a summary of what the numbers mean, and to make it very clear any Inbreeding Coefficient over 12.5% will be displayed in red, to show that this combination may be too closely related.

October-December

It's spring, the weather is warming up, and life on the farm is getting busy with cria being born, matings underway and shearing season upon us....



Have you got enough IAR tags?

With new cria being born, and the previous season's drop ready to register, you are going to need enough IAR tags. To order more tags, go to Manage Herd and then select Order IAR tags; these tags will then be allocated to your herd for use in registering cria under your prefix(es).

Registering your cria

Just go to "Register animal" from your dashboard screen and fill in the form. If you don't own the sire of the cria, there may already be a sire authority ready for you to apply, or if not you will be asked if you'd like to send a request to the owner of the sire; you won't be able to complete the cria registration until this has been approved.

You will need to have enough IAR tags allocated to you to register your cria; you cannot register a cria without assigning it an IAR tag number from those allocated to your herd. You can check your tag allocations in Manage Herd.

Remember that the more cria you register in each financial year, the greater the discount you will receive:

Number registered in financial year	Price per Registration
First 1-10	\$23
11-20	\$17
21-50	\$12
Over 51	\$6

And if you have males that are not likely to be used for breeding or entered in shows, you can record them, free of charge, by selecting "Inactive Male" as the animal's Sex. An Inactive Male must not have an IAR tag inserted in its ear as it is not a registered alpaca; they should be identified by your own herd management ear tag. If at a later date you decide to register an Inactive Male you can pay the relevant registration fee and upgrade him to Active; at this point he will need an IAR tag inserted and recorded in eAlpaca.

If you have a large number of cria to register and don't want to enter them one at a time, you can use the Bulk Upload button at the top right of the Register Animal page... this will allow you to upload data from a csv file and will be a considerable time saving if you have a large herd.

Issuing and approving sire authorities

If you have a certified male whose services you sell to other breeders, you can create the necessary sire authorities (previously known as "A4s") in eAlpaca, so that when the cria are born the dam's owner can register them without delay. Select Register Sire Authority from the dashboard and fill in the form. The owner of the female will receive an email confirming the creation of the sire authority and it will be stored against that female's name for use in registering the subsequent cria (even if the dam changes ownership before birth of the cria). As described above, if you don't create a sire authority in advance, when a cria is born, its owner may request that you create one. In this case you will receive an email with a link to eAlpaca; you simply need to select Approve and the sire authority will be created (and the person who requested it will receive notification that it is approved).

Shearing

Spring time is shearing time! This is often the time when we realise an alpaca's colour has changed from when it was registered, or we perhaps discover it has a previously unnoticed spot. You can edit these details either from the individual alpaca's Animal Profile page or via the Herd Inventory (in Manage Herd).

If you want to print a list of your animals to help manage your shearing you can do this from My Animals. If you want to sort the order of your animals before printing the list (perhaps to sort them by colour, or age) you can do this by clicking on the relevant heading in the My Animals table.

January-March

It's mid-summer and heading towards autumn. Perhaps time to think about buying some new animals, selling some others, introducing some new genetics and entering some shows....

Research before you buy

Whether you are buying animals privately from a breeder, at auction or responding to an advertisement, it is always good to do some research before you go and inspect the animal. eAlpaca offers plenty of features to help you with this.

If you want to know more about a particular animal you have seen listed for sale, the first thing is to enter the name or IAR number in the Search Animals – Basic Search tool and bring up the Animal Profile page. Here you will find all the current information on the alpaca, including its full pedigree and its progeny.

If you are concerned the animal you are looking at may have too much in-breeding, use the Linebreeding Calculator to look up that particular animal and check its Inbreeding Coefficient (remember, under 12.5% is a good rule of thumb).

Then if you decide to go and view the animal you may like to print off a copy of its pedigree history to take with you – you can do this from the animal's Profile page.

Another very new feature, built into eAlpaca by system designers Simplify Solutions, is a Sales Listing, where any AAA member can list animals for sale at a small fee – as all the pedigree information is retrieved from the registry, entering an animal for sale is extremely quick and simple. We hope that in time our members will use this facility for promoting trade amongst AAA membership.

Alpaca transfer

Now you've selected those animals to buy, the owner will need to initiate their transfer to you, using Transfer Animal on the dashboard. If you have purchased multiple animals from the same breeder, they can all be added to the one transfer using Add This Animal after each animal to be included in the sale. The vendor will then indicate who is paying the transfer fees to the AAA... if they are paying, they will go straight to the payment gateway and the transaction will be complete. Both vendor and purchaser will receive emails

confirming the transaction is complete. If the purchaser is to pay the transfer fees, they will receive an email notifying them that this transaction is ready to pay for. In the meantime the animals which have been sold will appear in the purchaser's herd, but will be deactivated (and coloured red) until the fee has been paid. If payment is made within 30 days, the Early Bird discounted transfer fee will apply. There are also discounts for purchases of 20 or more Active animals from one vendor, in one transaction – good when you are getting started or buying the herd of someone who is scaling down.

Obviously the same process applies for animals which you sell to other AAA members. So, what happens if you sell an animal to someone who is not a member of the AAA? If the animal you are selling is likely to form part of a breeding program in the future – perhaps the purchaser is new to alpacas and has not yet joined the AAA – you should still use the Animal Transfer screen, and when you reach the question "Is the buyer a member?" select "No". By entering their name and email address (plus location) we will be able to identify them when they do join AAA and link the purchased animals to their name (they will also then need to pay the relevant transfer fees at that time to activate the animals in their new herd).

Selling pets, herd guards etc

As described above, if the alpaca you sell is likely to be used in a breeding program now or in the future, you should use the Animal Transfer feature to ensure it remains active on the registry. If, however, you are selling animals as pets, herd guards or for meat there is no requirement to transfer them into new ownership; for these alpacas simply go to the animal's Profile and change its Status from Active to Sold.

Create shares in an animal

Thinking of buying shares in a new stud male, or selling shares in one you own? This is done from the Animal Profile page, by selecting the Create Ownership Shares feature. From here you can add the name of a new co-owner, and indicate who is to be the

nominee owner. You can also remove the name of an existing owner – this, of course, requires that person to give their permission. In fact all changes to co-ownership require the permission of the other owners in the syndicate, who will receive an email advising them of the requested change in order that they can log into eAlpaca and approve it.

Planning some outside matings?

Perhaps you feel it is time to bring in some new genetics to your herd by purchasing some stud services or leasing a male. First thing is to look for a male who meets your requirements – try using the Advanced feature in Search Animals. You can use this tool to build up a detailed profile of exactly what you are looking for – for example, a grey huacaya certified male, aged less than 6 years, and located in WA. Then, if you find what you are after you may want to contact that breeder in the hope you can purchase some stud services.

And if you find a male (or indeed a female) that you would really like to use in your herd, did you know that you can set up a lease in eAlpaca? If you and the animal's owner agree to a lease arrangement it will mean that for the period of the lease you can use the animal as though it is yours – so, if it is a certified male, you will not need sire authorities to register his cria, and if it is a female, the cria born would have your herd prefix. You can find the lease feature in Manage Herd.

Show Time!

Shows happen throughout the year and across the country... and almost all use eAlpaca as the show entry system. You can see the shows that are open for entries via the dashboard in eAlpaca, where you will find show results listed. To enter a show, select the show from the Shows Open for Entry screen, and follow the instructions... it really couldn't be easier and will only take moments to enter your show team (and it will automatically place the animal in the correct class, based on breed, colour, sex and age).

April-June

There are still a couple of other features to explore in eAlpaca... did you know

you can set up an agistment agreement with another breeder?

Agistment agreements

This feature can be found in Manage Herd and is particularly useful both in true agistment arrangements – where someone else's animals are kept on your property and managed by you – and also for breeders who work very closely together and want to be able to do things such as share IAR tags or register cria on behalf of someone else. When setting up an agistment authority in eAlpaca, remember that you are giving the agister the right to: edit and update inventory of your alpacas, register cria on your behalf and issue sire authorities on your behalf. They cannot, however, transfer your animals or set up multi-ownership partnerships.

Ordering DNA and male certification kits

Remember that you need DNA kits for a variety of reasons – to certify a male, record an ET donor female, for sire/cria verification checks, or to record a female with an unknown pedigree or an imported alpaca. You can order the various kits via Manage Herd.

Male certification

This is one of the final features to become fully integrated into eAlpaca, as we first need to get vets set up as users of the system. Before long, however, you will be able to indicate the male for certification on eAlpaca, get the vet to complete and submit the form electronically and pay for the certification. Only the DNA sample will still need to be mailed to the AAA and, once received, the certification will be authorised.

IN CONCLUSION

We hope you agree that eAlpaca is a hugely powerful system, which has transformed the way we all conduct our AAA alpaca business. We always welcome feedback from members on how we can further improve your eAlpaca experience, so please let us know if you think we could do something better!

COLOUR CLASSIC



Colour Classic is South Australia's largest show and as its name suggest it is a celebration of alpaca colour and is now in its 12th year. Colour Classic was started in 2007 by the then regional president Mick Peters (2006-2009). In true Mick Peters style when the regional committee wanted to commence Colour Classic in 2008, Mick rang round and organised the first convening group of Sharon Warland, Wendy Jones and Leanne Pearce to run the show from 2007 modelling it on the highly successful Victorian Colourbration Show. With the inaugural show being judged by Jenny Jackson and assistant judge Karen Caldwell.

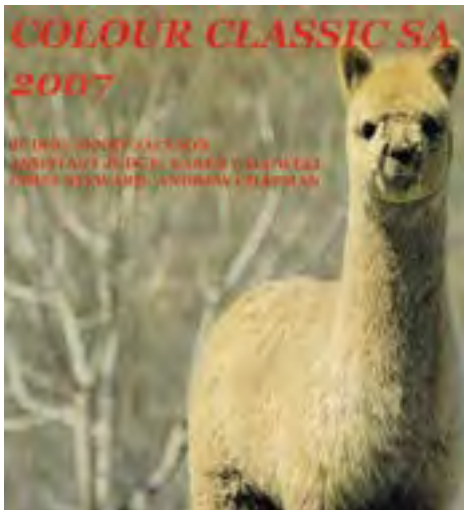
After six years at Murray Bridge the show moved to Strathalbyn for five years. After problems with finding a venue Royal Adelaide Show sponsored the show for 2018 and provided the new home of Colour Classic in a large air conditioned pavilion. This exciting sponsorship will allow for future growth of the show.

This new venue sees an increase of public through the pavilion and although trade stands had a presence at the show it was obvious that the public wanted to see more product. There has already been interest from those members that want to have trade stands next year. With some members indicating as well that they want to return to showing at Colour Classic.

The show yearly draws exhibitors from New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, in past years there have also been exhibitors from Western Australia and Tasmania.

Colour Classic is now convened by James Wheeler from Kobler Alpacas at Hindmarsh Valley. Kobler Alpacas specialises in breeding high quality fawn and browns, James is also an alpaca shearer, shearing over 4000 alpacas each season. James has been involved in running of the show since 2008.

James is assisted by Show Secretary Susan Haese from Yaringa Alpacas at Bald Hills. Susan owns a herd of over 350 huacaya focusing on producing elite huacaya of all colours as well as managing a further 150 alpacas for clients.



Photographs curtsey of EP Cambridge, Marquez Alpacas and Shandara Alpacas.

The fleece section of the show is coordinated by Cheryl Williams from Chereola Park Alpacas at Middleton. Cheryl breeds both huacaya and suri and is working to improve the quality of her herd. Cheryl has been involved in the fleece section of the show for three years now.

Nick De Bruyn from Shandara not only mc's the majority of the show he is also Chief Steward. Without the help of these and the many other volunteers that give their time help run the show it would not be possible to continue.

Youth activities are set to increase in 2019 under the guidance of our new Youth Coordinator Jade DeGregorio. Jade is one of the South Australian representatives to the new Australian Alpaca Association initiative – Alpaca Youth Education (AYE).

Gastrointestinal nematodes in Australian alpacas

Dr Abdul Jabbar <i>Associate Professor in Veterinary Parasitology</i> Melbourne Veterinary School, The University of Melbourne, Werribee, Victoria 3030	Dr Jane Vaughan <i>Cria Genesis</i> PO Box 406, Ocean Grove, Victoria 3226, Australia	Mohammed H. Rashid <i>PhD Candidate</i> Melbourne Veterinary School, The University of Melbourne, Werribee, Victoria 3030
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Alpacas can be infected with both shared (those common in domestic ruminants; e.g. Barber's pole worm) as well as camelid-specific (e.g. *Lamanema chavezii*) gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs), colloquially referred to as "worms". These parasites can cause significant clinical and subclinical problems, resulting in economic losses from lowered production of fibre, meat and/or leather. a

Producers regularly use various classes of anthelmintics (drenches/dewormers) to treat and control GINs in alpacas, although no anthelmintic is registered for use against GINs in alpacas. Given that very little is known about the metabolism of drugs in alpacas, the off-label use of anthelmintics in alpacas registered for domestic ruminants at different dose rates recommended for goats, sheep and cattle is commonplace. However, the dose rate(s) and route(s) of administration recommended for sheep might not be effective against GINs in alpacas as found previously in goats. Thus, under-dosing of anthelmintics may promote the development of anthelmintic resistance (AR) in GINs of alpacas as under-dosing is known to be one of the risk factors for the development of AR in GINs of sheep and other livestock species.

Although Australia has the largest alpaca population outside South America, very little is known about the type of worms present in Australian alpacas, worm control practices used by Australian alpaca farmers and the efficacy of commonly used dewormers against GINs of alpacas in Australia. In 2014, the Australian Alpaca Association and AgriFutures Australia funded a research project 'Studies on gastrointestinal nematodes of Australian alpacas' to better understand GINs of Australian alpacas and their control in Australia. A research team based at the University of Melbourne carried out the research with a significant contribution by alpaca farmers around Australia. This article aims to provide a snapshot of main findings of the research project.

What is the extent of GINs problem in Australian alpacas? To understand the type of GINs in Australian alpacas and the

extent of the national worm burden, we conducted longitudinal and cross-sectional surveys across various climatic zones of the country and analysed alpaca faecal samples using faecal egg counts (FEC), larval cultures and parasite DNA testing in faeces. In addition, we examined 100 gastrointestinal tracts of alpacas to identify worm species and estimate the worm burden. Approximately two-thirds of faecal samples contained worm eggs. Average FEC ranged from 177-352 eggs per gram (epg), individual samples contained 0-17,000 epg. Across many farms, and across different seasons, 53-57% of faecal samples contained strongyle worm eggs, 15-18% contained *Nematodirus* eggs and 6-11% contained *Trichuris* (whipworm) eggs. Weaners (6-12 mo) had the highest average FEC (295 epg), with high individual FECs (15,000 epg) followed by tuis (1-2 yo), adults (> 2yo) and then crias (<6 mo). More than three-quarters of all faecal samples contained worm eggs in the summer rainfall zone (Queensland and northern New South Wales) and alpacas had highest average (630 epg) and individual (11,000 epg) FECs. In the other three climatic zones (the Mediterranean-style rainfall zone of Western and South Australia, the winter rainfall zone of Tasmania and southern Victoria and the non-seasonal rainfall zone of southern New South Wales) around two-thirds of all samples contained worm eggs and average and individual FECs were lower.

What GINs infect Australian alpacas and what they do to alpacas?

Examination of 100 alpaca guts revealed a mean worm burden of 1280±3020, with the highest burden of 28,640 worms. The mean EPG of alpacas whose guts were examined, was 501±609, with a maximum of 3495. Nineteen different species of nematodes were identified by examining adult worms and the main genera/species were camelid-specific (*Camelostrongylus mentulatus*, *Graphinema aucheniae* and *Trichuris tenuis* (whipworms)) and shared GINs which commonly infect sheep and cattle (*Haemonchus contortus*, *Cooperia* spp. *Ostertagia ostertagi*, *Teladorsagia circumcincta*,

Trichostrongylus spp., and *Nematodirus* spp). Although this project did not estimate pathogenic effects caused by GINs in alpacas, parasitic gastroenteritis caused by GINs can lead to diarrhoea and/or anaemia, illthrift, loss of production (reduced growth, less wool production, poor fertility) and death. Incidentally, we found 'Moroccan leather appearance' associated with *Camelostrongylus mentulatus* in the third compartment of the stomach of alpacas (Fig. 1). The relatives of this parasite in sheep (*Teladorsagia circumcincta*) and cattle (*Ostertagia ostertagi*) are known to cause significant morbidity and mortality in south-eastern Australia.

What Australian alpaca farmers know about GINs of alpacas and what are they doing to control them?

To understand Australian alpaca farmers' perceptions about GINs of alpacas and their control, we conducted an online questionnaire survey. Following a pilot survey, 954 members of the AAA received an invitation to participate in the survey. The questionnaire had three main sections: i) farm demography and general husbandry practices ii) worm problems and iii) worm control practices.

Approximately 25% (239/954) of alpaca farmers completed the online survey (Fig. 2). Data analysis revealed that more than 50% of respondents observed GINs as a problem in alpacas and weight loss, anaemia, weakness and death were the commonly observed clinical signs. Majority of farmers regularly dewormed their alpacas using macrocyclic lactones (MLs). Most respondents dewormed alpacas using either the on-label sheep dose and/or one-and-a-half times the sheep dose; however, only 19% of respondents used the actual body weight for calculating the dose of a dewormer. Thirty two percent of respondents followed a deworming schedule recommended by a veterinarian. Sixty percent of respondents were unaware of AR and most of them had never performed a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) to assess the efficacy of dewormer(s) on their properties. Thirty two percent of respondents had shared paddocks with other livestock species and most of them were not aware of pasture spelling and the chances of alpacas being infected with GINs of sheep, goats and cattle.

What dewormers are effective to control GINs in Australian alpacas?

To understand the efficacy of commonly used dewormers against GINs of Australian alpacas, we undertook FECRTs on 20 alpaca farms across Australia as per guidelines of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology.

The following selection criteria were used: (i) the herd was comprised of between 40 and 60 alpacas of different ages and sexes; (ii) deworming had not been carried out within the 8 weeks prior to the scheduled herd visit; (iii) confirmation that average faecal egg counts (FEC) were greater than or equal to 150 eggs per gram (epg) of faeces; and (iv) there was a history of anthelmintic usage on the farm in the last five years. When a farmer agreed to participate and met the first two criteria, faecal samples were collected from fifteen randomly selected alpacas and tested for FEC. Over 50 farms were tested to obtain 20 suitable farms for the FECR trial.

Six anthelmintics were evaluated in this study: (i) monepantel (Zolvix®, Elanco Pty. Ltd., Australia); (ii) a combination of levamisole, closantel, albendazole and abamectin (Q-drench®, Jurox Pty. Ltd., Australia); (iii) closantel with sodium selenate (Closicare Plus Selenium®, Virbac Pty. Ltd., Australia); (iv) ivermectin (Ivomec®, Boehringer Ingelheim Pty. Ltd., Australia); (v) moxidectin (Cydectin® Injection for cattle, Virbac, Australia); and (vi) fenbendazole (Panacur 25®, Intervet Pty. Ltd., Australia). Resistance to ivermectin was found up to the 9th FECR trial. Hence, we decided to replace ivermectin with a potent macrocyclic lactone in subsequent FECR trials. All anthelmintics were administered orally apart from moxidectin (subcutaneously) at 1.5 times the dose rate recommended for sheep. Animals were dosed individually based on body weight using scales where available.

An effective dewormer is defined as one which reduces the FEC by ≥ 95%. Where dewormers reduced FEC by less than 95% in each trial, it was not possible to ascertain whether the lack of efficacy was due to inadequate dose rate or existence of resistance by worms to the dewormer. In this study, monepantel (Zolvix®) and a 4-active dewormer (Q Drench®) were found to be effective against GINs of Australian alpacas. Ineffective dewormers included fenbendazole, ivermectin, moxidectin and closantel. Barber's pole worms were the most commonly resistant nematodes followed by *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Camelostrongylus mentulatus*, *Ostertagia ostertagi* and *Cooperia* spp.

There are a number of dewormers that have been registered for use in sheep and cattle in Australia. A major issue of worm control in alpacas is the lack of understanding of how these dewormers function in alpacas with respect to absorption, distribution in body tissues and duration of action, and this is reflected in the vast range of dose rates that are recommended in alpacas, and the discrepancy in dose rates used within the Australian alpaca industry. Determination of dewormer

dose rates in alpacas was beyond the scope of this project, but needs to be performed in future research to assist with integrated worm management.

How diagnostic methods can be used for GINs of alpacas?

To optimise health and production of alpacas, farmers should monitor worm burdens in their herds by performing FECs and identifying worm species on-farm using larval culture or DNA testing of alpaca faeces.

As a generalisation, most of the worm species found in alpacas produce similar eggs that cannot be differentiated from one another under the microscope, and are collectively referred to as strongyle eggs. Other common worms that lay distinctive eggs are Nematodirus spp. and Trichuris spp.

To identify which worms are laying the typical strongyle-type eggs, it is necessary to hatch out the eggs under controlled laboratory conditions and examine the larvae. Larval culture may take 7-10 days and it also has low sensitivity and specificity. In this project, we established a new DNA-based diagnostic test for the identification and differentiation of GINs in the faeces of alpacas which is rapid and more sensitive and specific. This test is available to Australian alpaca farmers from the University of Melbourne and the project team could be contacted for diagnostic services.

Furthermore, we compared a conventional FEC technique, the McMaster technique, with a newly developed FEC kit, FECPAKG2 by Techion Pty. Ltd, New Zealand. We found that the sensitivity of the two FEC methods was comparable which offers an alternate to Australian alpaca farmers for doing on-farm FECs.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Australian alpacas are affected by camelid-specific worm species, and sheep and cattle worms.
- Parasitic gastroenteritis can lead to diarrhoea and/or anaemia, ill thrift, loss of production (reduced growth, less wool production, poor fertility) and death.
- Alpacas of all ages are affected by worms in all rainfall zones of Australia, across all farm sizes, throughout the year.
- To optimise health and production of alpacas, farmers should monitor worm burdens in their herds by:
 - Regularly performing faecal egg counts (FECs), particularly in weaners and tuis.
 - Identifying worm species on farm using larval culture or DNA testing of alpaca faeces.
 - Interpretation of FECs must be done with respect to individual farm management (stocking rates, season, pasture length, body condition, age of alpacas).
- Many dewormers used to treat alpacas are ineffective likely due to resistance of worms to the active ingredients. Farmers are encouraged to use at least 2 actives when treating alpacas for worms.
- Farmers should monitor efficacy of dewormers by performing FECs 10-14 days after treatment to ensure efficacy (> 95% reduction in FEC).

More research is required to determine cut-offs of FECs and the effective dose rates of commonly available anthelmintics for their use in alpacas based on experimental studies.

Acknowledgments: We are indebted to Australian alpaca farmers for their enthusiasm and continuous support during the course of this research project. Members of the research team at The University of Melbourne are gratefully acknowledged for their support.



Fig. 1. Moroccan leather appearance of the third compartment of the stomach of alpacas.

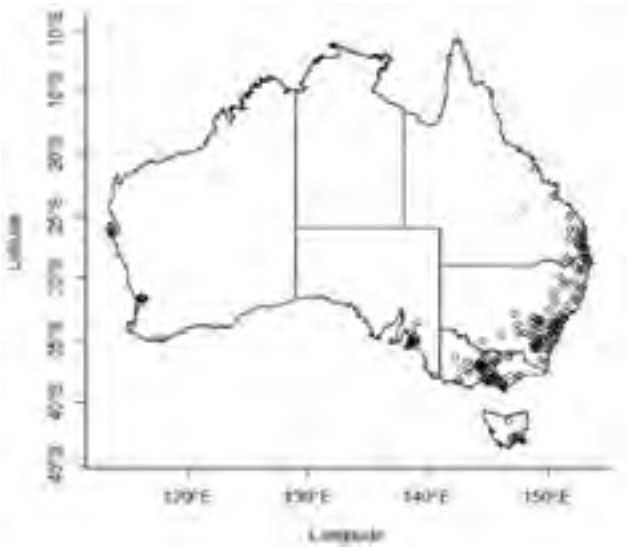


Fig. 2. Distribution of the alpaca farms participated in the questionnaire survey



5-7 October 2018
Canterbury Showgrounds,
Christchurch New Zealand



THREE
DAYS
OF EVERYTHING
ALPACA

**National Alpaca Show | National Fleece Show | Trade Stands & Displays
Gala Dinner & Auction | Creative Alpaca 2018**

The New Zealand alpaca community would like to welcome all visitors to the Alpaca 2018 National Show. What better way to learn more about our growing alpaca industry than to talk to breeders and see hundreds of alpacas face to face in one location?

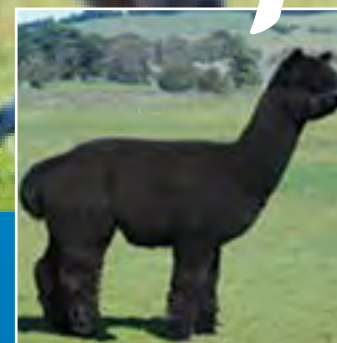
Hosted by the Alpaca Association New Zealand Inc. (AANZ), the Alpaca 2018 National Show will be the place to be... Mark your calendar!

alpacaexpo.co.nz

Across the water is, Tasmania the Alpaca Isle



Leaenna Blush as a cria



Leaenna Armani (photo courtesy of Ambersun Alpacas) & daughter Leaenna Armada



Leaenna Louis Vuitton

BY SARAH WOOLLEY—LEAENNA ALPACAS

After owning and farming cattle and sheep, the time came to find something which was easier to deal with. Something which one individual would be able to work with and be able to do on their own.

After a visit to the Royal Hobart Show in 2003 my decision was made, Alpacas were perfect. They were cute and cuddly, and Australia had a strong growing industry. Tasmania at times may present four seasons in one day, so nutritional requirements were one thing which would need close attention. With all this in mind Leaenna Alpacas began in 2004.

The foundation herd was made up of fawn and black Huacaya alpaca from one of Tasmania's first breeding herds. Terrabarb Alpacas at the time were retiring from breeding, and some of their proven stock was purchased. Invaluable knowledge about breeding, pedigrees, standards, show preparation of fleece/alpaca, farming requirements and husbandry was gained from Terry and Barbara Hanlon. This information has been built on now over the many years and now with my husband Leigh, we are happy to be able to pass forward the knowledge we have gained.

Leaenna Alpacas has from the beginning always been about improving the quality of the alpaca on farm. Choosing genetics to combine which would hopefully breed alpaca that showed improved standards in temperament, conformation and importantly, fleece traits. To be able to breed coloured alpaca

which exhibited the quality of fleece shown by Australia's best white alpaca. Some may say an impossible task, but we say the gap in recent years has narrowed.

The choice to try and breed grey alpaca was quickly made when reading a National Alpaca magazine and opening pages to see amazing pinkish coloured stud males, wow what a natural colour I thought. The males were Greenvale Guido and Blue Grass Waterloo Sunset, both amazing greys.

This then began the 2nd phase of herd building, the gathering of grey genetics from mainland Australia. Many hours of research went in, checking fleece stats, pedigrees, colour backgrounds, progeny of differing grey sires of the time and show results. A plan was made, and on a budget the best group of alpacas available to fit the bill were one by one purchased from breeders across Australia. Pedigrees containing the legendary greys, Greenvale Guido, Merungle Hot Chili, Hope Downs El Gordo, Waterloo Sunset and Bumblehill Shillac were now part of Leaenna Alpacas big plan. Brooklea Ridge Callahan was at the time the only male which I had hoped to gain genetics from but was unable to.

Leaenna Alpacas were successful in not only gaining Callahan's genetics in 2011, but were successful in purchasing this male, who then joined our herd and made the impact we had hoped for.

Showing alpacas has always been about having fun and the valuable information which could be gained from the visiting judge

of the day, and from those fellow alpaca fanatics who we would meet along the way. Where we stood in the line up just showed us what we had to aim for, where we needed to improve. Leaenna Alpacas has always shown in both fleece and halter classes', believing that the fleece carried on the alpaca was just as important to learn from as the alpaca itself.

Many multi champion alpacas have now graced our paddocks, and equal success has been enjoyed with exhibited fleece also. Best colour in show has been won across the colour range with Supreme won in both rings. Modern even coloured grey progeny have been bred from the many genetic combinations held by Leaenna Alpacas and continual quality improvement has been a joy to see. We have exhibited on an international level, gaining 2nd best grey fleece with Leaenna Blush's junior fleece a highlight in early days. We successfully place with all fleeces shown in mainland Australian shows, winning best grey, fawn, black and roan fleece on many occasions.

Our first bred grey, Leaenna Blush has now for a long time been the Matriarch of Leaenna's herd. Winning many championships whilst shown and best grey fleece and alpaca for the largest part of her career. A fine white alpaca disguised as a grey, was frequently stated by many judges. Her fleece could be best described as soft handling bundles, exhibiting high frequency crimp from nose to toes. Just what Leaenna Alpacas were aiming to breed. This particular female has been an integral part of Leaenna Alpacas

largest achievements, in being the dam of extremely successful males such as Leaenna Armani (Black) sired by Erehwon Silverado and Leaenna Louis Vuitton (Light Grey) sired by Brooklea Ridge Callahan.

Leaenna Armani now owned by Ambersun Alpacas and Haylilla Alpacas, was shown and won best black male at the Nationals in 2012, one of many awards. Armani's genetics have made a large impact and his progeny continue to support his success, winning multiple broad ribbons. Leaenna Louis Vuitton was successful at winning Supreme alpaca in show, any breeders dream come true! Leaenna Louis Vuitton now resides in New Zealand with Black Magic Alpacas, and is already enjoying the success of broad ribbons there. Both these males exhibited the same fleece traits as their dam, fleece traits which we are happy to say are getting close to our original goal, to be as good as any white alpaca fleece. We now have Louis Vuitton progeny who are already gaining the success in the show ring that their sire enjoyed, gaining comments already about their bright, high frequency, ultrafine fleeces and correct true to type frames.

So in conclusion, from humble beginnings, this small Tasmanian Alpaca stud has done ok for itself. Faced with limited genetics on a small island state, and turning them into a dream. In our minds the most enjoyable genetic adventure and success anyone could wish for, all wrapped up in the most beautiful of creatures, the alpaca.

Find "Leaenna Alpacas" on Facebook.



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

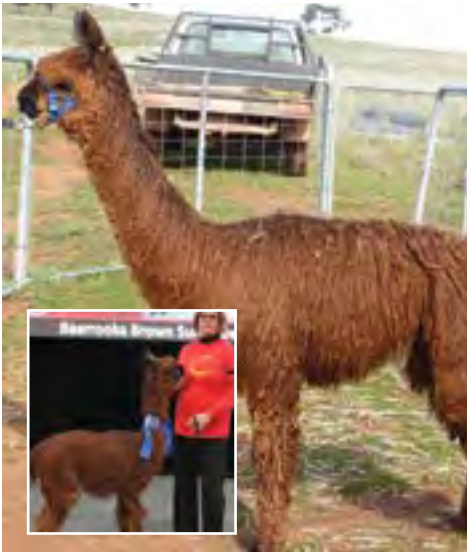
Amulet has star quality with a lovely frame and presence and covered from tip to toe with a beautiful fleece. Her dam, Keilantra, has extensive blue black suri bloodlines and her sire, Azzura Silken Greyman, was a knock out in the showing with multiple championships including Best Grey Suri Male (National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



AZZURA
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
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
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, Sharlotte 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.



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
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
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
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!



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.

Patagonia's quest for Breeding excellence The journey continues ...



Since 1996, our quest at Patagonia has been to breed the ultimate elite Australian alpaca. With alpaca fleece positioned as a luxury natural fibre, we realise the importance of focusing on the key attributes that reinforce this positioning - high lustre, softness and silky soft handle. In our breeding program we select for these traits as well as high fleece weights and strong crimp definition.

To further our path towards breeding elite Australian seedstock alpacas, we have invested significantly over the past few years in importing unique genetics from Snowmass Alpacas - arguably one of the best breeders in the United States.

With our long term interest in fawn genetics we felt privileged to be able to purchase Snowmass Velveteer in our our 2017 shipment. We choose this male for his extraordinary fleece length, uniformity, density, fineness and brightness. We also appreciated his calm temperament and his compact frame. His most recent fleece stats (2017) are very impressive. At his fifth shearing (in Australia) he was 18.9µ, 4.4 SD and 99% CF. He has also establishing strong reputation in the US with progeny conceived before his export to Australia. We are also hearing wonderful descriptions of the fleeces from his progeny shorn in May 2018 at Snowmass.



Snowmass Velveteer - 2016



Patagonia VV Blizzard's newly born fleece



Patagonia VV Blizzard

Finally we must mention Snowmass Absolut Temptation, who has everything we are looking for in a white male, lustre and soft handle, fineness and density and long staple length. He is heavy boned, has the presence of a champion and an easy going temperament.

Over the past few years, Colourbration/Spectacular has provided us with a great venue to share our Patagonia - Snowmass story. We will be there again in 2018 with Snowmass progeny for people to view including our first Velveteer crias. See you at Spectacular!

Visit our website or give us a call to find out more details

www.patagoniaalpacas.com.au

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Talk to us about mating packages to Snowmass Elite Transcendence & Snowmass Royal Kahuna



Over the past few years we have been busy breeding our Celtic Triumph females to Elite Transcendence and Royal Kahuna. Our aim has been to layer into our pedigrees the attributes we breed for including high lustre, evenness and softness. Also during this time we have shared these Snowmass genetics through a limited number of mating packages.

Now you can see in the show ring the progeny from Elite Transcendence and Royal Kahuna. Patagonia Elite Grantham and Milduck Uluru show just what these Snowmass genetics have brought to the Australian alpaca scene.

What's striking about Elite Transcendence is the brightness, soft handle, deep crimp, staple length and outstanding consistency of his superfine fleece packed onto an imposing frame. Royal Kahuna's silky white fleece is superfine, bundling, deeply crimped and bright with good staple length. Given half his pedigree is coloured he is making a significant impact across coloured females and select white females.



Milduck Uluru by
Royal Kahuna



Patagonia Elite Moritz
by Elite Transcendence



Patagonia Elite Grantham
by Elite Transcendence

Snowmass Elite Transcendence and Snowmass Royal Kahuna remain available for outside use. You too can share in these unique Snowmass genetics with our value stud service packages. Choose your favourite male or try a combination of both males in your package.

Single mating \$1,500*

Pack of three matings \$3,900*

* On farm matings at Meadow Flat. Mobiles by negotiations.

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MEET THE NEW GENERATION OF AMERICAN ALPACA



By Meyla Bianco Johnston

One of the best tests for an industry's health is to look at its young people. Are they active in the community? Are they engaged and committed? Is what they are doing lucrative? Are their ideas original and trail-blazing?

If you are talking about the alpaca industry, the answers to these questions are a resounding yes!

Alta Vida Alpacas/Alpaca Partners recently pointed out the importance of mentoring young people in the alpaca community to ensure a bright future. In the June 2017 issue of Alpaca Culture Dan and Cari Corley said: "Our industry is one generation away from stagnation or even worse, extinction. We are at a crossroads of unlimited potential versus irrelevance. Laws of supply and demand require sustainable supply to create a national need for our special fiber. We need more farms producing quality fiber and outstanding products. This will secure a profitable future for all dedicated growers and producers. It is incumbent upon the active grower to engage youth in the alpaca industry and be a voice for its progress and profitability." At Alpaca Culture, we couldn't agree more. The Alpaca Partners model makes a difference with very young people, generally students and pre-teens and teens.

Recently, Stacie Chavez of Sky Ridge Alpacas pointed out that she keeps noticing a small group of high achievers making a lot of difference in the alpaca community and shared their names with us. Many of the respondents interviewed for this story questioned my initial contact to them saying, "I may have been young when we started out but now I'm not." But this is not just about age. It is about doing the alpaca business as your primary gig and being dedicated to its future and believing it can work. It's also about creativity and making something successful out of a combination of sheer will power and ingenuity. It is mustering the determination to take the alpaca industry to the next level. Also important is the fact that with fresh faces come new ways of doing things. Best of all, major herds are not fire-selling but passing the torch to a new generation. They have big ideas, a lot of energy and a remarkable passion for

alpacas.

Here are the profiles of outstanding people making a go of it in the alpaca industry.

Justin and Kara McElroy

Buck Brook Alpacas/ Roscoe, New York

How did you get into alpacas?

I got into alpacas by meeting other folks who were in the business and becoming quite fascinated with the facets of the business. We have always loved animals, but I liked that alpacas were not only breeding animals but offered an end-product as well.

What are your main goals?

Our main goals are to sell the alpaca industry as a whole. We emphasize to our customers that our goals are shared as a family. You have to work hard to sell animals, promote the fiber and sell alpacas as a lifestyle. We promote this by opening our farm as an agritourism business. Folks come visit the farm daily



and they learn what it takes to be in the business. We want to promote the industry so it grows as whole and moves on from being a cottage industry to a mainstream and profitable American industry.

What is your model based on?

Our model is unique and has spawned out of the overwhelming response we have had to our farm. When we first embarked on the business we thought we would just be breeding and selling alpacas. We learned very quickly that there is so much more to it – we didn't expect the overwhelming interest by others to learn about alpacas. Our model is based on four things: breeding and selling animals, fiber production and products, boarding of animals and agritourism. Those are the areas where we derive income.

What makes your project unique?

Our project is unique because alpacas within themselves are unique. They are

docile animals and so beautiful to look at that they do a lot of their own marketing. The end product they produce is an easy sell because it is such high quality. Uniqueness and quality make it very easy to sell the alpaca lifestyle to others.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

It is my hope that the alpaca industry will become a more mainstream fiber industry that still puts a great value on the breeding and selling of alpacas with premier fiber.

Zachary and Jessica Hackett

Halo Ranch / Wilsonville, Oregon

How did you get into alpacas?

My first experience with alpaca ranching was in 2007 when I started helping my dad on the ranch he had been working for, Wilkins Livestock Ranch, owned by Mike and Janet Wilkins in Geneva, Nebraska. While working alongside my dad, Steven Kramer, along with Mike and Janet, I gained experience in

general herd health and basic alpaca husbandry. I have always had a love for animals but as I worked more with alpacas and llamas I grew to have a passion for them. My experience with alpacas was with the Suri breed, and to this day, they are still by far my favorite of the two breeds. Their elegance when in full fleece with their locks is so amazing. They have a regal look about them.

After the Wilkins retired, I started working for Park View All American Alpacas (PVA) working with their show crew and traveling the U.S. going from show to show. While working for PVA, I met my now husband of four years, Zachary Hackett, while at the Nationals show in Grand Island, Nebraska. Since then, alpaca ranching has become a family affair. My daughter Reagan has been around alpacas her entire life. 2018 marks the 11th year that I have been working with alpacas and my passion has only increased for these special animals and all that they have to offer.

What are your main goals?

One of our main goals as alpaca breeders is being one of the best alpaca ranches in the country. We would like to make a sustainable business as an alpaca ranch, being able to use every aspect of an alpaca. Our main focus is to breed, show, and sell animals, however, as we are growing as a business, we are focusing on the processing of alpaca fiber, selling the manure, and also developing an alpaca meat product. As a green livestock, it is important for us to inform our customers of the values and quality of the alpaca as a livestock animal. As younger alpaca breeders, informing people of the alpaca industry and working towards a better sustainable fleece product with the highest of qualities is important to us.

What is your model based on?

Our model is based on several different breeding strategies from a number of farms that I have had the honor of working with. We acquired one of the best Suri herds in the nation last year, Great Lakes Ranch, owned by Brad and Jandy Sprouse, and are working on continuing their legacy of producing

high quality alpacas. We evaluate each dam prior to breeding based on factors such as luster, density, conformation. . . all of the typical qualities, and then we see which one of our herdsires is going to increase the chances of that dam's offspring to have more of a certain quality or qualities.

What makes your project unique?

What makes us different from other breeders is that I have seen and worked for many of the top breeders in the industry and I am able to take all of those different models and views and turn them into our own business and breeding model. I was able to learn from what others have tried and may or may not have been successful in doing and can make sure to make or not make those decisions. We were also blessed in getting the opportunity to start near the top in terms of breeding for high quality. Not many breeders have had this opportunity and have had to spend years getting their herd to where they want it. For us, it has been a blessing and we are very grateful.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

As more people learn and are informed of the benefits and qualities of alpacas as an animal and as a business, I see the industry becoming more known and prevalent. Just in this past year, we have seen new breeders enter the show rings and it is very exciting. New breeders are what makes it possible for us to do what

we do and the more that all of us work together to get more folks interested in alpacas, the better off we will all be. We love alpacas, the alpaca industry, and all of the breeders throughout the U.S. We look forward to the future of the alpaca industry and what it has to hold.

Gabe and Jessica White

Oregon Alpaca Farm | Oregon City, Oregon

How did you get into alpacas?

We sold our construction supply company in 2003 and wanted to get back to our roots with animals and the farm. We were both blessed to have grown up with livestock and understood the hard work and dedication it takes and wanted to get our hands dirty again. After consulting with Gabe's parents, Tim and Teresa Vincent, of Celebrity Alpaca Sales, we traveled the country visiting farms and breeders and fell in love with the Suris right away and knew that was the direction for us. We bought our foundation group in 2003 and continue to expand our quality and goals as Oregon Alpaca Farm.

What are your main goals?

We wanted to put our focus on one or two traits and the most important for us was luster. Over time we have found that the other aspects such as fineness and uniformity just follow. At Oregon Alpaca Farm, even after 15 years of breeding, we still keep that focus of improving individual traits and it has paid off and continues to pay off with three high

selling Suri females in a row at Celebrity Sales Auctions. We continue to evolve with each generation of cria. Our goal is to solidify the fleece traits and produce consistent and high quality alpacas by dedication to the breed and careful planning on the matings. Recent fleece results with awards like "best luster" and high scores from senior judges have given us the confidence that we're on the right track. Even skin biopsy tests from an acknowledged lab report uses phrases like "elite uniformity" and "best Suri set of numbers I have seen for fineness and uniformity."

What is your model based on?

Our model is based on being a productive small farm. Gabe has a full time "nine to five" job and we both work the farm from scooping poo to "farm to table women's luncheons" serving our home grown veggies, chicken and pork. We typically have a very select group of crias each year, which gives time us time to be there for customers. We don't want to sell animals by the volume, we want to sell quality that lasts.

At Oregon Alpaca Farm, we are constantly looking at what not only the judges like but what the buyers want and what is selling. If you can't sell your product in the end it doesn't matter what you do. Quality is what people want and we let our animals speak for themselves.

What makes your project unique?

Oregon Alpaca Farm is unique not only in our extensive knowledge but also our long-term commitment to the industry. We've given back over the years with our donations to AOA, Quechua Benefit and other organizations that strive to continue the unique alpaca industry. We're proud of all that we've done.

Also, for the last five years, I have worked closely with a local high school. We offer an internship to one junior or senior student that is interested in pursuing a career with animals. I have him or her for the school year. I'm on my fifth intern and there is a waiting list. They earn college credits and an actual grade from their advisor after I evaluate their performance.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

We're excited about the future! High quality Suri alpacas have their own niche and buyers know what they want, and if they don't, they are not afraid to ask questions. We have seen that prices are on the rise for these high-end alpacas. Secondly, we have seen a rise in Huacaya breeders diversifying more by purchasing only high quality Suris for their herd. Oregon Alpaca Farm has been involved in several of these transactions. It's been great fun showing the "other side of the alpaca!" We hope to continue our pursuit of the elite Suri alpaca and meet new friends and forge new partnerships along the way.

Elizabeth Taylor

Spotted Circus Alpacas | Freedom, Indiana

How did you get into alpacas?

I got into alpacas in late 2010. My husband and I were in Tractor Supply and saw their magazine with an alpaca on the cover that said "Alpacas: the investment you can hug." Alpaca open farm days was the next weekend and we went to three farms in the area and saw everything from a very fancy farm to one with simple shelters and decided that we could do that, too. We bought our first four boys in January of 2011 and I immediately started learning how to spin, knit and dye fiber. I vended at my first fiber festival that year and have a very successful online Etsy store. I connected with Trip Forstner of Magical Farms later that spring which led to a long relationship teaching fiber classes at Magical and helping to manage their fiber sales. One of the classes I had there involved Ruth Elvestad from Olds College teaching a fiber sorting class. At the time, I took the class because she was there and it made sense since I was hosting it. This later led to me becoming a Master Fiber Classer and being one of the main sorters for the Alpaca Coalition of America's (ACOA) fiber collection along with Wini Labrecque.

Currently, I teach classes across the U.S. to alpaca owners on how to utilize their fiber and add value in the cottage industry. I also travel to several large



farms to sort their fiber at shearing to help them get the best return for their fiber and to help them make decisions on possible culls based on fiber characteristics. I've also learned how to tan alpaca hides and have an ebook on Amazon called "Tanning Alpaca Hides at Home." I am one of several Accredited Spin Off judges for Alpaca Owners Association (AOA). I think one of most important things is, "when in doubt, try it out." You won't know if you like something until you try it.

What are your main goals?

My main goals would be to help owners figure out how to make their alpacas profitable and to have fun doing it. If you don't enjoy what you do, then why are you doing it? Breeding wise, I want to breed a super consistent fleeced animal and I like them in unusual colors that appeal to the cottage industry such as harlequin greys, the greyed fawns and maroon animals. I want to help change crafters' minds about alpaca. A lot of the alpaca that's available out there is very hairy and causes the knitter to itch after knitting it up or it sheds badly. As an industry, we have to put out quality products that don't have these characteristics to be able to compete with the wool yarns that are out there. I see alpaca being offered to crafters that hasn't been skirted at all or has a high level of guard hair and if both the owner and the public isn't educated about what to look for in quality alpaca their one experience with alpaca fiber

could be their last. I'd also really like to educate owners that want to submit their fleece commercially how to get the best bang for their buck. I see a lot of fleeces submitted that haven't been skirted at all, or have too much debris or are tender. Those are fleeces that aren't going to be valued at their highest value because of simple things that the owner could have done to improve it.

What is your model based on?

My own fiber gets mainly utilized for yarn for my online and fiber festival presence. I also utilize it in the classes that I teach. Some goes to either Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America (AFCNA) or ACOA for fleeces that I don't have large enough batches to make processing worthwhile. While I am sorting on a farm, I also buy fleeces in bulk that would be upgraded to a higher grade based on guard hair. This year I bought about 200 pounds of grade 1-3 white and fawn from a very large farm that I sorted and am having commercially de-haired and spun for my use in my Etsy store. I also am going to be utilizing the pelts of cria that I have lost this year in making small ornaments for sale or selling the pelts whole.

What makes your project unique?

I think I have a unique position in that I do vend and sell to the cottage industry but also have a hand in the commercial industry. There is a place for all alpaca fiber. With some, your return is better in processing it yourself, other fiber is



better sent to a commercial collection such as ACOA or New England Alpaca Fiber Pool (NEAFP). If you want to sell to the cottage industry, I can help you do that. Whether it's teaching you how to wash and dye your fiber, what blending fibers to use or where to market it, I want you to be successful. I'm also good at going to a farm to evaluate your herd's fiber for usability without sentimentality. There are some animals in a herd that in reality are going to be what I'd call "freeloaders." These animals aren't of breeding quality and produce fiber that in reality is good for rugs or have such a loss in dehairing that financially it doesn't make sense to keep them around. When I first got into alpacas, I never imagined culling an animal for meat or hides. In reality, to continue to have a good breeding program and to have a high quality fiber harvest, you do need to be culling. Whether it is to a pet home or to have the animal humanely put down and utilized in another manner, you have to be able to cut your losses. What I don't want to see is that animal showing up in a pet home later on having not been shorn for several years. I'd rather know what will happen to that animal and that it will be treated in a humane and dignified manner. When I go to a farm to sort their clip I can take the heart out of decisions. Regardless of who Fluffy is, what their age or lineage is, I'll give you my honest opinion of what that animal is like fiber-wise.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

I think that the future is looking interesting right now. Since I got in in 2010, there has been a lot of change. I see a lot of farms not necessarily basing breeding decisions on the show ring but on what usable fiber is being produced. A sub-20 micron fleeced animal, while nice, is not as useable as a good 22-24 micron animal. I'd take a consistent grade 5 animal over an inconsistent grade 1 fleece any day. I think that there are several models out there that have a fiber producing herd that utilize an animals fiber until it is no longer profitable at which point it becomes a meat and hide animal. I think that educating the public on what

makes a good alpaca fleece will help to create the demand for better fleece and start to increase the price. We as an industry shouldn't be giving away fleece for free or just throwing it away because we don't know what to do with it. Some sheep fleeces go for \$50+ a pound in the cottage industry. Our fiber is just as fine, will have less of a loss during washing and should be valued just as much as wool.

*Alvina Maynard
River Hill Ranch / Richmond, Kentucky*

How did you get into alpacas?

Three reasons: 1. I'm weird. 2. Divine intervention. 3. Alpacas are awesome. Leaving the military, I couldn't see myself working a "normal" job. We wanted a rural life for our children but didn't want to spend our lives mowing grass, so we went looking for lawn mowers. Not being from Ag, I knew we'd have to find a niche: alpacas seemed weird enough. I liked that my children could be around them with low risk of injury, every product they produce is high quality, and being a part of helping the industry mature was a welcome challenge. Of course I thought I needed a challenge before I understood what a challenge being a stay-at-home-mom really is, but the farm keeps us all laughing through the crazy instead of killing each other.

What are your main goals?

1. Pursue happiness. I've got life and liberty, thank God. I'm finally figuring out how to live joyously everyday (but it still takes focus).
2. Spread love for each other and our beautifully imperfect world. People come to visit our ranch because of the alpacas, but I hope they leave with an appreciation that the problems we face don't have simple answers; that our world is a super-complex set of overlapping systems and we're all just doing the best we can with what we know. I hope to spark greater curiosity to explore with a mind open to new information and a heart ready to love instead of being burdened with our own paradigms.
3. Grow our farm as a commercial alpaca fiber operation and agritourism

destination. When we win the lottery, we've got our sights set on several adjacent properties. Until then, we offer mowing services to our non-farming neighbors, go to farmers' market, and have a blast giving tours and Ranch Camp.

What is your model based on?

The need for our industry to grow into a complete Livestock Model. We are still ridiculously top-heavy with farms vying to be seedstock. We need ranchers raising herds in the hundreds for the products these animals produce. We tried to be both a multiplier and commercial herd, but found the two management approaches were too much for just one person to handle so we needed to focus.

What makes your project unique?

One of the major issues we saw impacting the emergence of commercial alpaca farms was the operating cost: folks were spending more per head in annual operating cost than they were making on their fiber harvest. So we started questioning every expense. We looked to other livestock industries that were going grass-fed. We learned about intensive rotational grazing. We became friends with commercial wool producers and learned how they made it work. And then we learned that lamb subsidizes wool. We knew the whole time that alpaca meat was going to be part of our business, but we came to realize that the financial success of the whole industry requires it. Nothing goes to waste if I can help it, and everything that can bring revenue to the ranch is sent to market.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

Part of the modern natural fiber renaissance we are already seeing a glimpse of is consumers becoming more aware of the impact fashion has on our environment and wanting to make a positive change with how they spend their dollars. I see our industry leadership attending and being recognized in larger agriculture and textile circles as we are seen as more legitimate and are invited to have a seat at those tables. I see A LOT of research being funded



phone making an appointment at a nearby farm. When we pulled up to the farm two days later, an overwhelming sense of "this is it" came over me. We became alpaca owners that day. The rest is history.

What are your main goals?

The main goal of our program was based on "Why do this?" We needed to figure out the best way for me to stay at home with the kids. Freedom and profitability drove our learning. The focus shifted many times as we strived to establish what worked best for our growing family as well as what we personally enjoyed about our alpaca lifestyle.

I think the most important question you can ask yourself regarding your goal is "Why? Why that goal?" If you don't know your "why," the goal is not generally great enough to go after. The bottom line always came down to "Does it make us happy? If not, adjust accordingly." We are most happy connecting and serving others in the industry. I specialize in marketing/sales and Chris in shearing. We have each found a way to use our talents to support others in the industry as well as financially support our family.

What is your model based on?

It was apparent about five years ago that our model needed to shift more towards the livestock model. The decision did not come lightly and took almost two years to implement. We quietly began culling alpaca from our herd for our own personal use. We understand that this is

because we fiber producers have A LOT of management questions and some of us are learning to write grants and work with universities. And in the not too distant future, I see the monetary value of alpacas being based on the value of product they produce. As we breed less but hope to grow the herd more, the success of our business depends on alpaca breeders producing animals that are hardy (they're no good to me if I'm spending money de-worming them all the time), with high-quality fiber (I'd like grade 2 with an S/D under 4 and blanket shearing weight of at least three pounds), and good enough size that I get a good meat harvest, but not so big that they require more feed (160-185 lbs. is good).

*Chris and Jody Hatch
Salmon River Alpacas / Pulaski, New York*

How did you get into alpacas?

Funny story, I had been researching various entrepreneur opportunities and meeting with small business and woman-owned business development groups. I wanted something that would allow me the opportunity to have a flexible work schedule as we looked toward our future of having children. One evening as I was searching online and agonizing over the fact that nothing seemed to fit, my husband Chris hollered from the living room. "How about alpacas? A commercial just came on about alpacas. Look at that." I missed the commercial but was quick to do a search because I did not know what an alpaca was. Within a few minutes, I was on the

not for everyone, but for our business it was essential.

What makes your project unique?

I am working to put into place an organized system to support an industry-wide livestock model (for those that choose to use the service). I want the system to be in place so that others can implement into the growth of their own breeding programs.

My goal is to provide real dollars for those seeking to cull but who are not looking to market alpaca meat themselves. At this point, the system is progressing on a small scale in the east, but I am looking to expand throughout the country. It's a fine balance of supply and demand and coordinating processing facilities and product transport to buyers. The world is a big place and the demand is real. It's just a matter of putting all of the pieces into place.

What does the future of the alpaca industry look like to you?

I see the industry continuing to grow but evolving more into a true livestock model operation for sustainability in program development. But the most promising future I see is on the faces of alpaca owners who love what and how they live their own unique alpaca lifestyle.

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www.alpacaculture.com

Our Region South QLD Northern NSW

Many people ask us what do we do in our Region?

In our Region:

- We are the Region of many colours where members feel welcome!
- It is unique, spanning an area south of the Brisbane River in Queensland, across the border to Coffs Harbour and west over the tablelands to the south Australian Border.
- We believe we cater for all aspects of the industry large and small.
- Members work together to promote the Alpaca Industry in a positive way. By Positive we mean; “walk the walk talk the talk positively”
- Experienced committee consisting of members who take responsibility of their portfolio to promote alpaca knowledge and outcomes for members.
- New Members are important to our Region, without the continued growth of members we cannot promote the industry, as one member has implied “from small members big members may grow”
- We are a mixture of stud sizes ranging from members with no alpacas, the pet owner with a few wethers to the largest stud of approx. 100.

What happens to promote our Regions membership....

Members are welcomed and encouraged to become part of our regional network and attend our meetings which are held in four different locations across the Region. This is to allow opportunity for members to attend at least one or two meetings a year.

Two responses from our survey of members feelings about our Region:

COMMUNICATION

CO-OPERATION

COMPASSION

INCLUSION not EXCLUSION

From **Liz Coles** – *Longueville Park Alpaca Stud*



I believe our region is successful because we have a committed group of volunteers who make things happen!

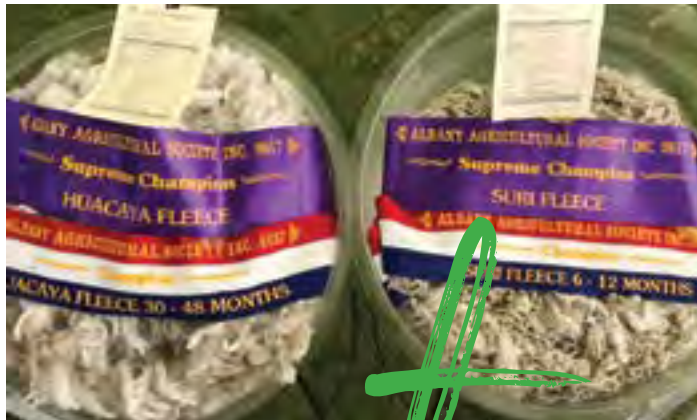
- Displays at a number of shows to spread the word about alpacas (Primex, Coffs Harbour, Ipswich, Lismore etc);
- Education events on a range of topics to suit new and experienced breeders: Showing, Fleece - preparation & classing, Animal Health, Better Breeding, Working with Fibre - spinning, felting, dyeing, etc, New Breeder workshops;
- Meetings at different locations spread across the region (our meetings are brief, giving members the opportunity to ask questions, but then also the opportunity to share alpaca experiences & network), we try to hold meetings at different properties and include a 'farm walk' so people can see how different people set up their farm.
- Judging Shows at Ag Shows & Standalone - enough to provide opportunity to participate, but not so many it's exhausting
- Availability of alpaca merchandise to purchase to promote alpaca fibre and products
- Active Facebook page and up-to-date website
- Regular Newsletter & Member communications
- Information Postcards and Stickers which we use at displays as communication techniques.

From **Michelle Malt** - *Big Sky Alpaca Stud.*

The following are the Directions of our Region for 2018.

- **Membership Growth:** Continue to grow and maintain membership. Welcome letter and Farming Alpaca Book sent to all new members and a letter sent to inquirers. (Currently we have 80 members as of MAY 2018)
- **Membership Networks:** grow and maintain networks. Clarence Valley Alpaca Group (CVAG), New England Alpaca Group (NETAG), QLD group (QNET)
- **Regional meetings:** Planned presentations at each NSW & QLD alternate regional meeting venues. Aim: To maintain our Average of 30 members per meeting.
- **Display & Promotion:** Displays are important avenues for the promotion of alpacas. The use of postcards to gain possible attendees to the Introduction to the wonderful world of alpacas course run twice a year in NSW and QLD areas. Alpaca Awareness Weekend, Primex, Rural Discovery Day and Regional Show Displays are examples.
- **Fibre to Yarn** – STH QLD NNSW Region promotes Australian Grown and processed Alpaca. Local fleece is processed into yarn and bought by the Region to dye and sell as handmade Australian products. Australian made doonas, throws and knee rugs are also purchased for display and sales. Members access product through the Merchandise Leaders at a reduced rate – this encourages alpaca breeders to have alpaca products in their own homes.
- **Media:** Ongoing sponsors for Newsletter– produce online and hard copy 4 times a year. Breeders Directory – updated twice a year. Sponsors for Facebook and Website ongoing. Use of other forms of Media especially around our Regional Alpaca Awareness Weekend. Promotional material: Information Postcards and stickers developed for our regional displays.
- **Alpaca Awareness Weekend:** Incorporating Mother's Day weekend. Encouragement of studs to participate by supporting with regional fund raising and promotional material.
- **Workshops:** Showing, Better Breeding, Bio Security and Alpaca Nutrition Course. Two Introduction to Alpaca Workshops, Spinning & Weaving Workshop, Fleece preparation Workshops.
- **Funds:** AAW Fund Raising, Sponsorship, CVAG fund raising, Sales of merchandise – members merchandise discount. Each Portfolio have forecast budgets.
- **Fleece:** Shearing Shed & Skirting Workshops, On-going research: liaise with collection cooperatives for members and distribution of fleece.
- **Showing:** Grafton, Glen Innes New England and Murwillumbah Shows. Sponsorship – shows aim to run to budget.
- Regional Fleece Team supports QLD Region; Toowoomba and EKKA fleece Sections and the 2018 Australian Alpaca Spectacular.
- **Youth:** planned involvement of youth at Region Shows, TAFE presentation courses and High School courses.
- STH QLD NNSW region is doing well with an increase in members, financially stable, and 2018 Education Courses are focused on our member's needs.

Pauline Glasser - *President*



reporting

by **Len Baxter** | President, WA Region

Hello from WA. Whilst we are rather remote from the alpaca breeders in the other states we do keep in contact, with our members travelling across over 1100km of the Nullarbor Plain to support the shows in Sydney, Bendigo, Melbourne and Adelaide. Friendships are developed and genetics transferred through sale and exchange of stud males and females. WA has 140 members in the AAA representing 91 studs. We estimate there are over 6,000 alpacas in the State.

Our activities in the Region include three shows, with more planned for next year, three educational workshops, Information and New Breeders Workshop, four Ordinary General Meetings, regular Committee Meetings and a Christmas Party. In addition we have had fundraising through sausage sizzles at Bunnings and sale of wine. The proceeds enables us to offer our members workshops and associated catering free of charge.

Shows

The Colourbration Show was on 25th May followed by a sale day on Sunday 26th May at the Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day which has an attendance in excess of 6,000. It was a very wet day with 30mm rain and winds gusting up to 67km/hr. Notwithstanding the show proceeded. Three new marquees had been purchased a few weeks before. Judging started at 10.00am and concluded at 5.30pm. Thanks to our Judge, Adrienne Clarke for a job well done in the wet. This was the first occasion to put into use our new show ring fencing which was constructed by committee member Danny Birch. Black show ring jackets as an option to the traditional white coats were worn by many. The following day, the Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day is a sale day for alpaca and alpaca products. Whilst another wet day, many alpacas were sold and likewise with alpaca products. Alpaca burgers were on sale and proved popular.

The Albany Show held on 10th-12th November 2017 was at the new improved Showgrounds and was strongly supported by breeders participating in the show and in the fleece classes. Junior Judging and paraders was a feature of the show with many participants from the Agricultural College.

The Perth Royal Show held on 23rd-30th December 2017 had strong interest from the public. Competition was very keen. Banksia Park was a runner up for the Governor's Cup which is highly coveted and presented to the livestock owner which scores the most points in competition at the Show. On two previous occasions they won the Governor's Cup. A great achievement when competing against cattle, sheep and goats. Currently, due to fleece length the Colourbration Show in May is our first show. At our last ORM the decision was taken to organise and hold a short fleece length show in the early part of the year. A committee has been formed by Greg Smith from Albany.

Consideration is also being given to a show at Serpentine Jarradale Food and Farm Fest Alliance. This follows our information stand at this year's event where many visitors registered their interest in attending our Information Day.

Workshops

Educational workshops have included New Breeders Workshop, Alpaca Nutrition, Parasite and Reproduction and in June we will have an Information Day (for members and new breeders and those expressing an interest in alpacas). Later in the month, a Micron Workshop will be presented by the Micron Man. We endeavour to co-ordinate the workshops with an ORM.

Alpaca Meat

Isi and Keith Cameron of KEIS Alpacas have been supplying alpaca meat to the Naked Butchers, Mundaring for many years. Bedrock Alpacas (Chris & Tara Ravenhill) and Kallaroo (Mahlon & Deb Hotker) have established WA Prime Meat Alpacas. Currently seven other breeders are supplying alpacas and as Chris states there is room for more breeders to participate. There is an increasing demand for alpaca meat in WA.

Youth Education

Louise Holbrook, our representative on the national AYE Committee, is working in conjunction with our committee to promote youth through junior judging, halter and paraders. Her objective is to reach out into the wider community to encourage youth to develop an interest in alpacas through Agricultural Colleges, Regional Shows and the like. Currently we actively promote youth in Albany and through breeders families. With Louise's drive and enthusiasm Youth Education is about to change. WATCH THIS SPACE!

In Conclusion

The alpaca industry is undergoing change, many of our long term breeders are retiring and we acknowledge they made a major contribution. At the same time new opportunities are emerging; we must accept change to achieve a financially viable industry.

In WA our aim is to populate the rural sector with alpacas – initially as herd guards with the aim of encouraging farmers to consider the fleece and meat opportunity. We do this by encouraging our breeders to have a presence at the regional agricultural shows. There are over 60 to choose from.



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PERFORMANCE ALPACA SHEARING COMPETITION

Sydney Royal Easter Show 2018

What a successful year for the 3rd Performance Alpaca Shearing Competition. This Competition was started to try to enable an entry point for our up and coming young shearers, to entice new shearers into the industry and also to strengthen our pool of current shearers, whilst giving them all an opportunity to showcase their skills to breeders and members of the public at the Sydney Royal. The competition is growing and evolving rapidly with lots of support and interest for next year which looks to be heading into a Tri-Nations!! With the addition of an American team. Very exciting!!

The shearing teams consist of three, a shearer, a handler and a roustabout, they are scored by the Judge on Lack of second cuts, smoothness of shearing style, cleanness of finished job and overall team work, there is no speed limit as a lot of the Competitors are young and learning and we didn't want the added stress of cutting an animal, the older shearers Coach, support and assist the younger shearers, there are four shear offs a day in front of a crowd of hundreds for a total of four days, all the shearers stay onsite, they are a really great group of men and woman, they have loads of fun and work really well together.

Congratulations to our Competitors below, you all did amazing!!...it's not an easy thing to be on stage in front of huge crowds, you did yourselves, your sponsors and our Industry extremely proud!

Young Guns

1st: Sean Timmony Sponsored by Storybook Alpacas

2nd: Laura Fletcher Sponsored by Fletchers Farm

Intermediates

1st: John Dawson Sponsored by Nurrenyen Alpacas

Opens

1st: Nigel Wood Sponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas

2nd: Glenn Dawson Sponsored by Bringarum Alpaca Stud

Trans Tasman

1st: Nigel Wood NEW ZEALAND

2nd: Glenn Dawson AUSTRALIA

Roustabouts & fleece skirter

Bradley Dawson: Sponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas

Other helpers: Sponsored by Walkley Fields

A huge thank you to Peter Connelly from America who did an exceptional job of Judging and to Millpaca for sponsoring Peter and last but not least John Hay from Gunamatta Alpacas our MC extraordinaire!

We would also like to thank the rest of our Sponsors & supporters, without your assistance there wouldn't be a

competition, Sponsorship is always difficult & we appreciate the constant support:

Top Gun Shearing, Nigel Wood, Dairy Road Alpacas, Fletchers Ark Alpacas, Dear Enahs Alpacas, Storybook Alpacas, John Dawson, Glenn Dawson, Bradley Dawson, Kurtis Parker, Amanda Parker, Neil Parker, Georgie Matheson-Gee, Issy Boyes, Sharon Dawson, Jennjoley Alpacas.

If you would like to assist, sponsor, support or enter next year, please contact **Sharon Dawson** on **0410 461 343**, jennjoley@bigpond.com.



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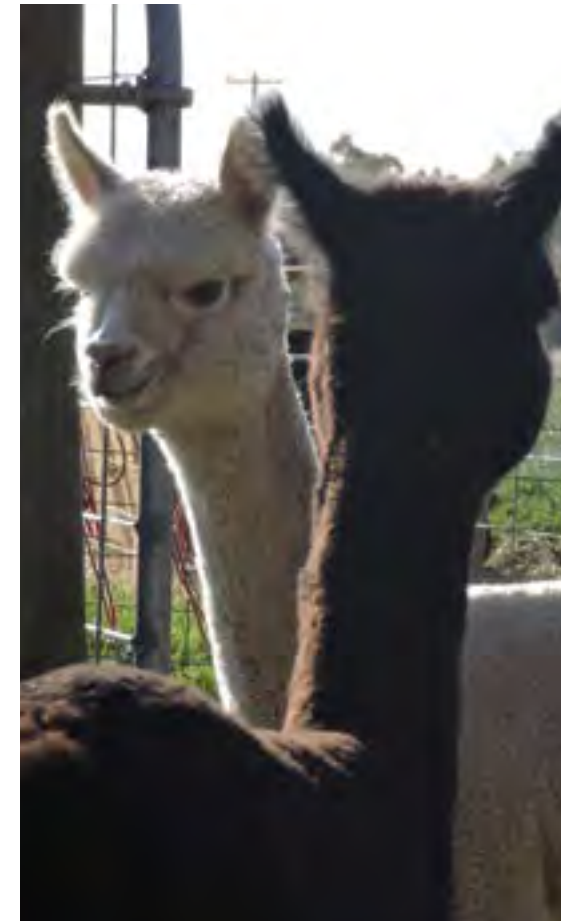
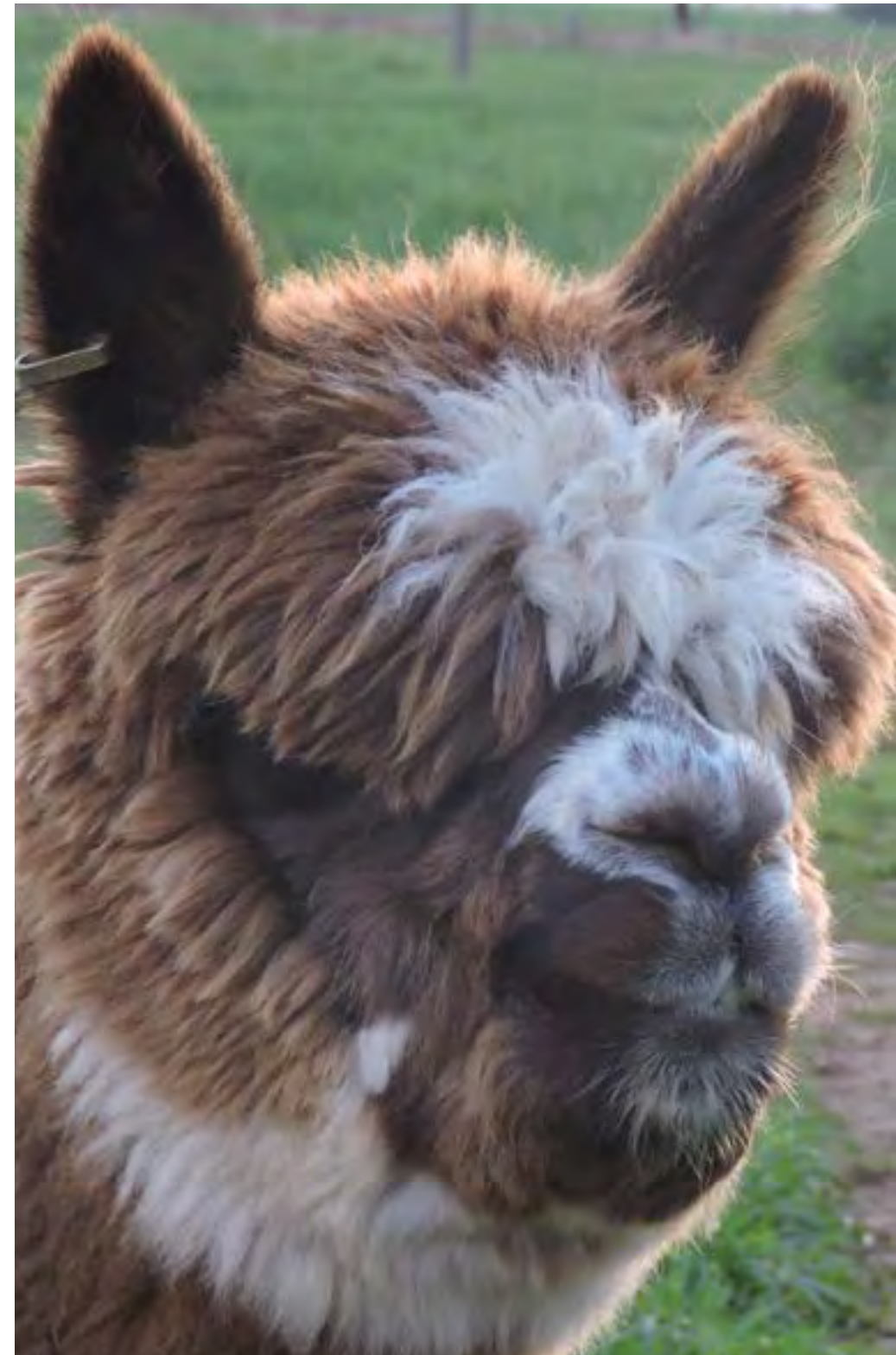
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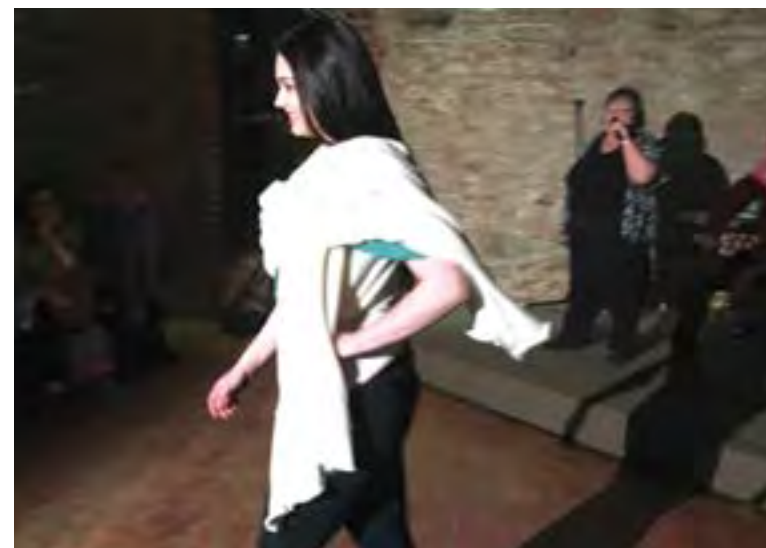
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NATIONAL SHOW

Degustation Dinner





Update from the

Queensland

Region

by **Fiona Laughton** | President

It has been a busy time in Queensland with lots on offer to our members.

The Young Paraders and Young Judges workshops held in March were a great success with some participants travelling many hours to attend. Karen Caldwell and Cheryl Cochrane were very generous of their time and knowledge and the participants all went home with lots of new information and a renewed enthusiasm for all things alpaca.

The following day saw Karen back in action giving a very informative Know and Show workshop to assist our members in learning and upgrading their ring craft ready for the show season.

Also in March we held 2 very successful FEC Worm Identification workshops. Dr Emily Pelling BVSc and Dr Carmen Pearson BVSc instructed our members on all things wormy. From worm identification, using microscopes and herd observation, to selection of drenches, and management to avoid parasite resistance. Everyone enjoyed being back at school in the laboratories. A big thank you to Gin Gin State High school and Rockhampton Grammar School, for allowing us to use their labs.

April saw the start of our show season with both Toowoomba Royal Show and AgroTrend. A huge congratulation to our Convenors Margaret Hassall and Sandra Robertson for well-run shows that allowed participants to have a great time whilst putting their animals and fleeces up for scrutiny by some of Australia's best Judges. Shows are always a fantastic opportunity to get public exposure as well as catching up with old friends and meeting new.

May saw our Fleece Harvesting and Skirting workshop at Bungadoo, conducted by AAA Ltd trained Shane McMahon leading a very attentive and inspired group.

A Young Judges and Young Paraders Workshop is being held at the start of June at Moggill. The weekend camp is

being overseen by Karen Caldwell & Jillian Holmes with the able assistance of Cheryl Cochrane and Di Baker. These workshops are of interest to individual members as well as school groups who participate in the Royal Agricultural Society Shows. Congratulations must go to one of our Youth Program participants, Katelyn Holznagel who has recently been named Beef Young Judge Champion (out of 350 competitors) and Katelyn and her family do not run cattle, just alpacas.

June will also see our stand alone Colourbration Fleece show to be held in conjunction with Maleny KnitFest. We are looking at making this the biggest and best fleece show ever held in Queensland and give owners the opportunity to offer their fleeces for sale to the fibre loving participants at KnitFest. It is the easiest show of the season. No travel, no animals, no accommodation, no worries!

Queensland's Colourbration halter event will be held in July also at the Maleny Equestrian Centre. Our Annual Regional Meeting will be held during the lunch break of judging so even if you are not entering animals on the day, make sure you come along and have your say in the future of our Region.

August will see the grand finale of our Region's showing season with the EKKA (Queensland Royal Show) with the event this year being held in new facilities at the grounds. Make sure you get your entries in for Queensland's premier show and make yourself known to National and International visitors.



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Golden CHARM

We are Darryl and Jessie Raines and we live on a 30 acre property on the coast on the outskirts of Bundaberg in Qld. We have owned suri alpacas since 2002.

Our herd started with three females and now consists of 50 alpacas.

We achieved Qld Suri of the Year for 2016 with Golden Charm Moscato and then again in 2017 with Golden Charm Emily.

In the early days of owning alpacas we started buying our matings as there wasn't enough work to keep a male. This also had the advantage of diversifying our genetics. We made a good start, but as we were very busy we ended up just using males from the local area because it was easy as we didn't have time to travel to the Brisbane area where most of the good males were.

This allowed us to keep breeding and we won some ribbons at shows but we were limiting ourselves by not having a breeding plan in place to guide us to where we wanted to go.

We eventually bought a male in partnership with another stud. This male gave some beautiful cria but he also gave some huacaya. Although we had done our homework and checked his genetics there were no huacaya in his sire or dams pedigree. We apparently didn't check far enough as his uncle had produced a couple of huacayas.

This was not what we were breeding for so had to stop using him. Back to buying our matings, but we then bought a share in another male. This time we paid even more attention to his genetics but there were no problems with him.

Trickster really improved density lustre and length of fleece in our herd so we now had a good start, but we also bought some outside matings at the same time.

Next on the shopping list was a coloured male who has proven himself with quite a few broad ribbon crias. Over the years we have also purchased more girls, increasing the genetics in our herd.

Until 2015 we didn't certify any of the males we bred as we don't believe this should be done unless the boy is of a very high standard.

We have now bred four males worthy of certification. This, coupled with our two suri of the year wins confirms we are finally on our way to where we want to head with our breeding.

The males we now own and use include Pinjarra Trickster, Didohama Demon, Surilana Belle Boy, Golden Charm Hot Stuff, Golden Charm Moscato, Golden Charm Lucifer and Golden Charm Merlin.

If you have alpacas and need to mate them but don't know where to start or what males to use, here are a few ideas.

There is no one right answer as to which males to use but there is lots to think about and decide where you want your herd to advance to.

A good starting point is to decide what your breeding objectives are.

Do you want huacaya or suri, white or black, grey, brown or maybe fawn.

Are you in the business of breeding pets for sale, or guards to sell to breeders of other livestock. Do you want to breed for the fleece, for the show ring, or even for meat production. You will probably have one main objective with one or two sidelines. If you breed for fleece or showing you will probably also sell for pets or guards.

Now you know what you would like your cria to look like it is time to start planning your breeding programme.

Assess your girls to see what qualities you already have and what you need to build on.

You may be better to buy matings until you have enough girls to make it worth while to have your own male. This gives you the opportunity to diversify the genetics in your herd.

Whether buying a male or some services always use a male that will improve your herd as it is a waste of good money if you are not moving forward and this also includes pet breeders. If the male you are looking at is only average then average is probably all he will produce. So why produce an average cria when you can produce a beautiful one for much the same price.

If the male is young and has no cria to show what he can produce don't make the mistake of putting him over your entire herd until you can see what he is producing as he may not give the results you are looking for.

Now we have the do nots out of the way lets see the best way to choose the male we want.

A good starting point if you are looking to buy your own male or buy some matings is to attend some alpaca shows or visit farms who are using good males. This is a good place to see some quality animals so you have a good idea of what you are looking for. Ask the owners of any animals you like the look of if you can check out their animal. Most people are willing to show you and you will probably learn something from talking to the owners and inspecting the alpacas.

Check the results of the shows and see who is consistently winning. This is a good indication of how good he is. Listen to the comments of the judges as this will tell you the qualities of the male as well as any shortcomings he may have. While at the show ask to see and feel any animals that you are interested in as this will show you what you can achieve.

Now that you know what animals you like go one step further. Instead of just looking at the male you like the look of, check out the genetics of all the winners. You may find the same genetics in some of the animals you liked the look of. If you are a suri breeder check the IAR database to make sure there is no huacaya anywhere in his family.

Now you are ready to approach the owners of the animals you like and might be able to do a deal to use your chosen male.

You may have bought a male but don't wish to use him exclusively. Why not take your three best girls and use an outside mating to a good male for them. This will then give you good odds of getting at least one good cria.

It is a long waiting time to see what cria we have produced so it is worth doing a little bit of homework first to give us the best chance of achieving what we want.

Put the effort into your matings and even if you don't end up with the expected colour or something else isn't exactly as you planned, at least you have produced the best outcome possible.



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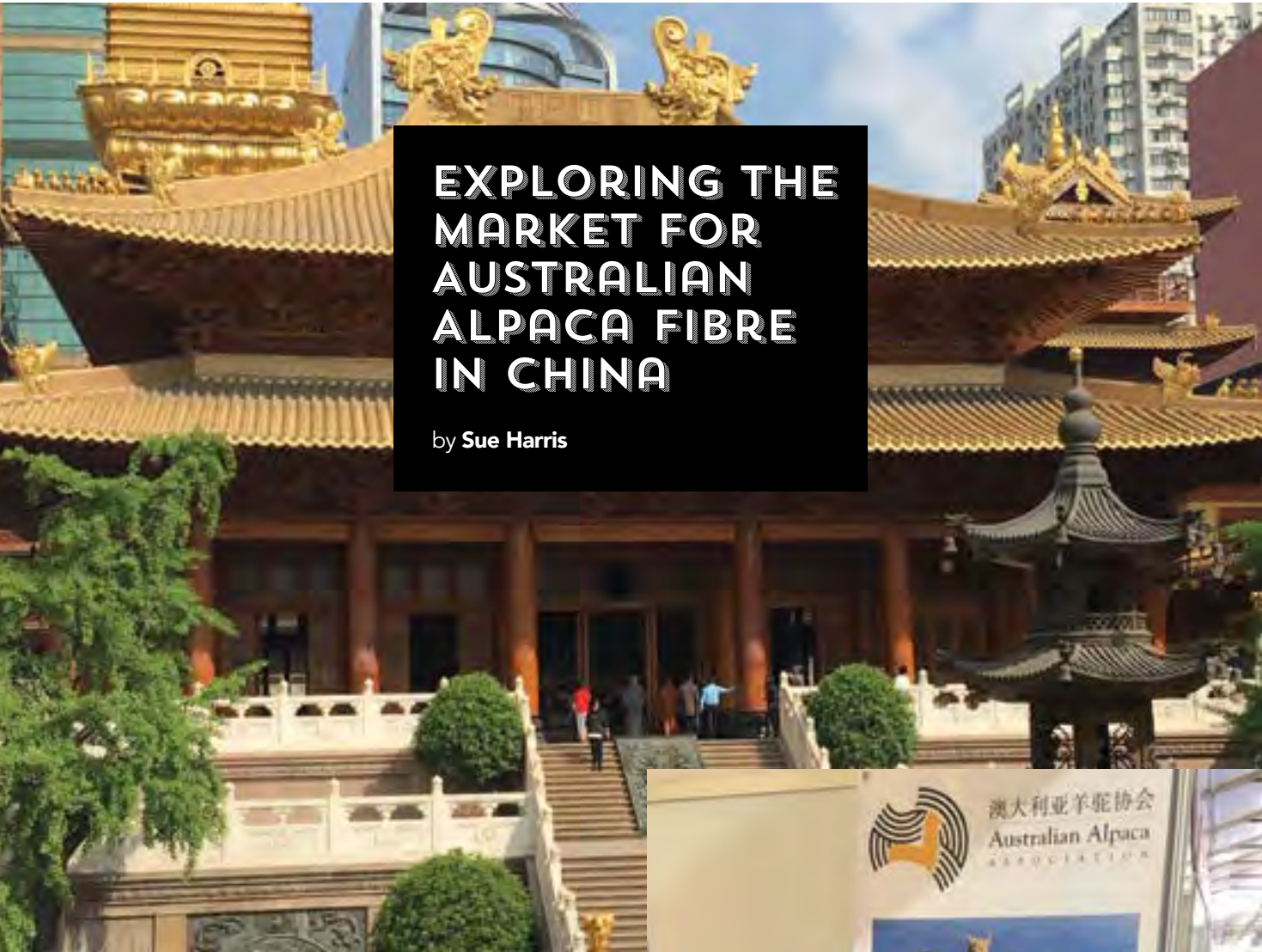
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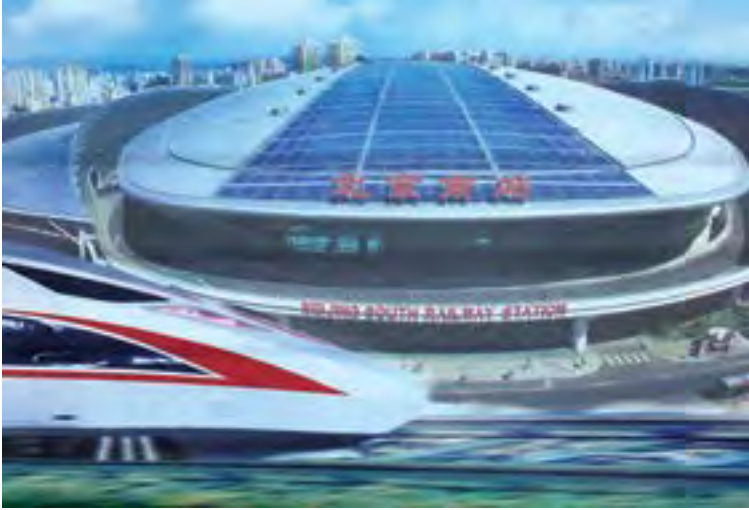
EXPLORING THE MARKET FOR AUSTRALIAN ALPACA FIBRE IN CHINA

by Sue Harris

We got off the train in Beijing at about 7.30pm on Sunday evening and crossed the concourse of Beijing Station. There were three of us, two directors of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd (AAA), Andrew Hulme and me, and our guide, interpreter and path-smoother, Karen Jiang.

We had just hurtled across China from Shanghai for over six hours on a very fast train reaching speeds of over 300 kilometres per hour. The taxi rank was the longest and most efficient I have ever seen and within twenty minutes we were in taxis and heading for our hotel.

It had been an amazing seven days! The Australian Alpaca Association Ltd had sent two of its directors, Chris Williams, and Sharon Dawson, with Karen Jiang to assist them, to China early in 2018. Their mission had been to establish



connections with Chinese trade and agricultural associations. From that visit had come an invitation from the China Wool and Textiles Association (CWTA) to run a stand at their trade fair in April.

Andrew, Karen and I flew into Shanghai on the previous Monday night where we were joined by Chris Williams. We were there to set up and staff the Australian Alpaca Association Stand at the CWTA trade fair. It had been a mad scramble to get letters of invitation from the CWTA so that we could get business visas in time for the trip.

Tuesday lunchtime saw us at Puyuan about 150 kilometres south west of Shanghai, setting up for the China Wool and Textiles Trade Fair. Puyuan is a centre for textiles, particularly for cloth and knitted garments made from wool, cashmere, yak, alpaca and other protein fibres. The trade fair was by Chinese standards a small one, about 90 stands. It was also a very local fair; we were almost the only foreigners there. Perhaps that was partly why the Australian Alpaca Stand generated so much interest.

Before we left for the trade fair dinner on Tuesday evening we had already landed six inquiries and visited a nearby shopfront from which a local manufacturer displayed, and took wholesale orders for, the fabrics it produced. The manager who had invited us was very excited about the potential of Australian alpaca. He showed us several fabrics which contained coarse alpaca used for its lustre. He also insisted that his boss postpone a flight scheduled for early the following day so that he could visit our stand in person.

Over the next two days at the trade fair we discovered that most of the alpaca fibre sold to



China from Peru is supplied, not as raw fleece, but as tops or sliver. Peru allows only a small proportion of its annual clip to be sold overseas as raw fleece. This may be to allow Peru to control the quality of the fibre sold or to profit from the value-add involved in manufacturing the tops in Peru or both. It means that buyers operating in the Chinese market expect to purchase alpaca fibre in the form of tops or sliver and not as raw fleece. Many of those who visited our stand at the trade fair had never seen raw alpaca fleece and were surprised and, mostly, impressed by our raw fleece samples. Many commented on how fine and clean the fleeces were. We had taken fleeces ranging from about 18 micron through to about 24 or 25 micron with us, thinking that this would be about the range the Chinese market would expect.

In fact, we found that most of the alpaca imported from South America is relatively coarse, generally averaging 26.5 micron and is used mainly to add warmth and lustre to overcoats. This meant that many of the inquiries we received were for coarser fibre.

This came as a surprise to us as we had assumed that the predominant market in China would be for fine alpaca fleece. We did meet some processors who were familiar with fine alpaca fleece and had experience in processing it but the majority of those who were interested in purchasing Australian alpaca fibre were familiar with fine wool or cashmere and were interested in branching out to fine alpaca. Across the aisle from us, a processor of camel, yak and cashmere became very excited at the prospect of processing fine alpaca which he thought could challenge comparison with cashmere. Another visitor from the north of China, told us that he was the largest cashmere manufacturer in China. He was interested in very fine alpaca fibre and was looking for separate micron bands of 13, 14 and 15 micron each.

A few were interested in coloured fleece; many of them were very conscious of environmental issues and wanted to use natural colours in preference to dyeing the fibre.

There were also those interested in purchasing alpaca yarn for high end fashion garments.

EXPLORE THE MARKET FOR AUSTRALIAN ALPACA FIBRE IN CHINA

Exploring the Market for Australian Alpaca Fibre in China

We were shown tiny factories producing knitted product. One worker, who was rapidly and expertly finishing knitted garments, had her baby in a crib next to her. We saw big commercial washers and dryers used to finish knitted garments in another small urban factory and pulled up next to an open-air ironing plant - a room with two walls open to the street and a bank of about a dozen ironing boards each with a worker giving finished knitted product a final steam. Sadly, the yarn that that the Chinese fashion designers wanted was finer than the small mills operating in Australia can produce so supplying yarn to that market would involve a joint venture arrangement with yarn manufacturers outside Australia, possibly in Italy or South East Asia.

In two and a half days at the Trade Fair we appeared to be busier than any other stall there. We had to co-opt additional interpreters to deal with concurrent inquiries and were generally welcomed with open arms. We were in no doubt that there is a huge market in China for Australian alpaca fibre if the Australian alpaca industry can supply the fibre promptly as it is ordered. Many people asked whether we had warehouses in China. If we had had a container-load of fleece with us, I believe we could have sold it on the spot.

After spending Wednesday and Thursday at the Trade Fair, Chris Williams left us to travel to Europe to start his European summer shearing circuit there. Over Friday and Saturday morning Andy, Karen and I visited three different factories each producing high end yarn and fabric mostly using protein fibres such as wool and cashmere and some more exotic fibre such as alpaca. Each factory was clearly a prosperous and sophisticated operation, operating on a very large scale. Each was fronted with a gate house and each had a large block of commercial offices in front of the factory buildings.

Each factory was beautifully landscaped. In the two factories where we were given a tour of the factory floor, we saw that the lush landscaping extended throughout the complex and between the factory buildings so that the walk from one building to another was through a garden. The gardens were quite beautiful; I felt at peace walking through them and thought that they

must promote a sense of well-being for all those who worked there.

We had a slightly cold reception at the first factory. They kept us waiting and were dismissive of the Australian industry's ability to supply fibre in the quantities they were looking for and within the time frames they demanded. They wanted to deal with suppliers who held stocks warehoused locally in China and who could turn around a large order within 10 days of receiving it. Their overall, and not unkind comment, was that the Australian industry was not ready to supply their operation as yet. It was a bit like having your netball coach telling you to keep working on your delivery.

The second factory, which we arrived at in time for lunch, was privately owned. The owner invited us to join him and a couple of other managers for lunch. This was served in a small and un-ostentatious dining room. It consisted of a number of dishes placed on a 'lazy susan' carousel to allow each diner to help himself. Most of the dishes were delicious vegetables served with rice and small quantities of meat generally served on the bone. As happened at every visit we made, we drank copious quantities of green tea.

After lunch we were taken on a tour of the factory. The processing started with scoured and dyed fibre which was often a combination of wool, cashmere and alpaca and often dyed in different colours for each fibre type. These fibres had been scoured and dyed elsewhere. The fibre was then carded and turned into sliver which was spun into singles and later plied to form the final thread used for weaving. We were impressed by the quality of the fabric coming off the looms. Our host and the owner of the operation was very keen to buy Australian fibre. He wants to make garments that can be worn next to the skin using 100% alpaca fibre. He asked to buy sizeable samples to trial and was interested in coming to Australia to visit the Australian Alpaca Spectacular. He has been to Australia many times before and clearly enjoys Australia and its people.

We visited the third factory on the Saturday morning. As we drove to it we passed many small plots of small trees or large shrubs and were told that these were white mulberries,

grown to feed the silk worms. The third factory was owned and run by the local region. The three managers we met with were very enthusiastic about Australian alpaca. Their factory makes fabric for top Italian and European designers and the quality of the fabrics we saw was breath-taking. In particular we saw a glass case containing two rolls of fabric, one was 30% vicuna and the rest cashmere, dyed a lustrous black. The other was 100% vicuna. They said to us that one day a third roll of fabric, 100% Australian alpaca would stand alongside the other two. They too wanted a large sample of fibre and expected that if they were happy with the way it spun up they would be placing a substantial order.

None of the three processors were concerned about price. If Australia could supply the quantity and quality they were looking for, price became a secondary issue for all of them.

After our third visit we caught the fast train back to Shanghai where we were to meet a group of importers for dinner. This was the most disappointing meeting we had during our entire visit to China. I admit that the dinner itself was good but the food was not accompanied by the warmth of welcome we experienced elsewhere. They were not interested in our fleece samples. The dominant one amongst them assuring us that Peruvian alpaca fibre was the best in the world. He then showed us some Peruvian alpaca top which was coarser than any of the fleece we had with us but certainly lustrous. It was suitable for outer garments but not for garments to be worn close to the skin.

We had a couple of hours free on Sunday morning before we were due to catch a very fast train to Beijing so we decided to visit the ancient Jing'an Buddhist temple close to the centre of Shanghai. As on our journey to dinner the previous evening, we passed huge stores selling luxury European goods and motor cars including makes such as Lamborghini and Maserati. The atmosphere at the temple was a complete contrast to the bustling city around us. Many people had come to pray. In chambers to the side of the complex, families and friends had gathered to farewell a person who had died. While the monks chanted the ceremony, the mourners sat at long tables often with food and

tea in front of them. The temple had originally been founded in the 9th century and re-built on its current site, about three centuries later using teak shipped from Myanmar.

From the temple we explored a small park which functioned as everyone's local garden. There were people practising Tai Chi. A little further along, others were ballroom dancing. Some were just sitting, soaking up the sun.

We arrived at the largest inter-regional railway station in Shanghai shortly after 11.00am on Sunday morning to find that our tickets to Beijing were for travel from a different station and, although we had allowed ourselves 45 minutes leeway, that was insufficient time to get across-town by taxi to the station we should have departed from. We established that there was not a seat to be had through to Beijing on any train leaving Shanghai that day (fast trains left Shanghai for Beijing that day every 45 minutes and are generally 16 carriages long!). In order to reach the platform from which a fast train will depart, a traveller needs a ticket showing a booked seat.

Eventually we discovered that what the Chinese do in these circumstances is to book a seat on a train travelling to Beijing to a nearby city. Once on the train, passengers may purchase a standing room ticket from the guard. So that is what we did. Other Chinese people stood around us as we raced across the mostly flat Chinese countryside at 300 kilometres per hour. The hostesses on our original carriage and other travellers were kind to us and tried to help us find seats that were temporarily unoccupied. Finally, we arrived safely in Beijing, none the worse for our adventure and very pleased to be there. Our immediate agenda was dinner followed by a long sleep!

On Monday morning we met with Mr Cheng from the China Animal Husbandry Group (CAHG). This is a Government-owned live animal importer and the largest live-animal importer in China. Originally, CHAG was the only entity licensed to import live animals into China but the government has relaxed the rules so that since 2005 there has been a steadily growing number of licensed importers in China. Generally Chinese importers work with a counterpart in the country of origin so CHAG has

worked with various exporters from Australia.

Mr Cheng told us that initially the Chinese government had not approved the import of alpacas to China because alpacas only have a single cria at a time.

We talked about what the Chinese market is seeking when importing alpacas. Mr Cheng said that pedigree is very important to the Chinese government. The ministry of Agriculture requires at least three generations, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents for the import of sheep and cows. There is no such regulatory requirement for alpacas but the market expectation is there and buyers are looking for the same length of pedigree for alpacas. Pedigree is important because it reduces the tax paid by importers when the animals enter China. For every shipment of alpacas to China the importer needs to apply for a quota. China does not have its own stud registry established so it relies heavily on the pedigree details supplied by countries of origin.

Mr Cheng also mentioned that an alpaca breeder in China who had been importing fine fleeced animals had discovered, like us, that there is no developed market for fine alpaca fleece processing in China as yet.

Later the same day we met with representatives of the China Animal Agricultural Association (CAAA) and specifically with the vice secretary general responsible for the Camel industry in China. They told us that pet quality alpacas cost 40,000 RMB in China (which would be a little over \$8,000 AUD). Much of this cost relates to quarantine and transport but we gathered that buyers in China generally deal with traders who purchase entire shipments and then on-sell in China at significant profit.

We were told that some of the alpacas imported from Australia were not very good. We asked how they were not very good (thinking to ourselves that it was unreasonable to expect stud quality animals for the prices paid in Australia). Their reply saddened us. They said that the animals were not very good because many of them had died. They were not concerned about fleece quality, they just wanted to keep their alpacas alive! The CAAA would welcome assistance from the Australian Alpaca Association to provide education and

training on alpaca husbandry to Chinese breeders. Our first step is to invite CAAA members to the Australian Alpaca Spectacular in August and arrange farm visits and training for them while they are here. The CAAA were keen to arrange visits to Australia and animal husbandry training for their alpaca breeders provided by Australia both here and in China.

We also demonstrated eAlpaca to the CAAA and they found it very exciting. They do not have a stud registry system for alpacas in China and the systems they have for other agricultural breeds don't sound like they are as sophisticated as eAlpaca. There may be government funding available in China to establish a stud registry. While eAlpaca will not be gifted to the Chinese industry, if the Chinese registry were based on or could talk to our Australian eAlpaca registry, this might be a competitive advantage for live animal exports from Australia to China.

Tuesday was our final day. We visited the China Sheep Dealer Club. This is a relatively new business venture in China established in May 2017. They are close to opening a Sheep Park on the outskirts of Beijing, which will showcase 50 breeds of sheep, some goats and miniature donkeys. They also plan to start with about 15 alpacas. They then expect to expand their imports of alpacas and they plan that their second live alpaca import would be of about 200 animals. Like the CAAA they were very keen to learn whatever Australian alpaca breeders were prepared to teach them about alpaca animal husbandry. The meeting concluded with their offer to us to allow the Australian Alpaca Association to use their office as a base in China.

Andrew and I drove to the airport early that evening to catch our midnight flight home to Australia, tired but very excited. We had had many of our pre-conceptions about the Chinese market for alpaca fleece and livestock blown out of the water. We had found a market in China less developed than we had expected but we had also found a receptive audience for Australian alpaca fleece and livestock. It will take careful development but we can see a great potential market for Australian alpaca in China. No doubt we will find similar potential in other countries in the near future.

Red Balloon

You don't see Red Balloon showing very often, but a walk around their paddocks demonstrates 'eye catchers' throughout the herd.

"Running a farm, a stud and working off farm keeps me too busy to have much showing time," Karin said. "We have just quietly worked on our bloodlines, breeding and fibre regime to ensure that every single one is stud quality. We fibre test each individual, every year, to ensure we consistently maintain between 20-24um right into the animals teens," she continued.

The Red Balloon story is an interesting one. Karin visited one of the first alpaca studs in Australia in the 1990's and a love of alpacas began there. It wasn't until 2007 that she was able to purchase her first breeding females to start Red Balloon. As it happened, that very same stud, that she had first visited, had up for offer their private herd. This gave Red Balloon a flying start. "We have been really fortunate to have had such a wonderful beginning. That and the guidance and support from some very experienced breeders have really helped Red Balloon.

As any serious breeder knows it's never a case of just buying a few animals and away you go! Its been quite a learning curve, criss-crossed with a little sadness, like the loss of Red Balloon's foundation stud male Jolimont Teaser in early 2014, but we've had had plenty of blessings too!" Karin said. When you meet Karin, and talk to her about Red Balloon, her enthusiasm is infectious. Plus she has a wicked sense of humour and obviously loves every member of the herd. I'm blessed with lots of visitors and love to take them out in the paddocks – being surrounded by the alpaca.

Some adults find it quite a novelty and the kids always love it!" she said. Red Balloon's move to a new property in Bridgewater on the beautiful Loddon River near Bendigo 12 months ago once again prompted Red Balloon Alpaca Stud to

redefine itself. An opportunity to downsize the herd taking only the most promising to continue the vision.

Always known by the catch phrase 'The long time fine line' Red Balloon has been developing the coloureds in the herd over the past three years. "Of course we will still keep producing our fine white huacaya, as this is the foundation of Red Balloon. But I'm really enjoying producing some high quality coloured alpaca." said Karin.

"One of our coloured alpacas recently took out best black fleece at Canberra Royal 2016 with her new owner which was a real joy for us and many of our animals have gone on to success in the show ring". While the serious breeder is well catered for we also provide sound animals for the hobbyists, and those with just a few acres looking for a pet.

After a break from breeding everyone is now settling into preparing for the next exciting crop of cria due mid 2019.

"The more people that find the joys of alpaca ownership the better for the industry as a whole."

Red Balloon

ALPACA STUD

You can find more about Red Balloon Alpacas on the Facebook page Red Balloon Farm. But the best way to find out more is to call Karin on her mobile **0407 685 601** – that way you'll be able to talk with someone totally dedicated to the future of alpacas in Australia, who is quick to laugh and just loves what she's doing.

Karin Flynn

ph/sms: 0407 685 601

Bridgewater On Loddon, Vic (near Bendigo)

karin@redballoonalpacas.com



Red Balloon Farm

The Road to Alpaca

In 1928, immigrant Isaac Mond and his family, arrived from Poland to the promised land of Australia in order to escape Communism, which was enveloping much of Eastern Europe. Initially, Isaac went to Shepparton, Victoria and was involved in fruit picking but he could not really support the family.

The Australian Government at the time, wanted to "open up the land" and settled the Mond family, Isaac, Esther, Dave, Harry and Bob, on a farm in the small community of Berwick, East of Melbourne. The Mond's farm was across the road from a farm owned by a man who would later become the Governor General of Australia, Lord Casey.

Times were horribly tough, as the world-wide depression hit the Country. In 1930 Isaac would take a cartload of cabbages to the Victoria Market, (in the centre of Melbourne) a long and arduous journey at that time, in an attempt to sell them for six pence a crate, (that's about five cents today) only to return home - having sold none! However, being on a farm had its advantages and the family were never short of the most precious commodity of the day, food. They grew their own vegetables, milked their cows, (Harry was the best at that) bred their chickens that also provided eggs and the family, unlike many families in Australia at that time, had plenty to eat. This was in stark contrast to Poland where food was a scarce commodity. They had few clothes and pleasures but food on the table was a blessing.

In 1933, when things had slightly improved, Isaac decided to leave the farm and try his luck in Melbourne and established a small business in Carlton North together with his then 13-year-old son Harry, the entrepreneur of the 3 children. Harry was very bright at school and learnt English quickly. He won one of only 4 Victorian scholarships to attend Melbourne High School and wanted to be an engineer. Despite the Principal begging his father to allow Harry to take up the scholarship, Isaac said no as Harry was required to help him in the family business. Bread on the table came before education.

Under the name I Mond & Sons, they participated in the rag trade. Harry drove a truck from age 14 and they would go around to many tailoring factories and collect the material offcuts. These were then sorted into colours and types, and sold to the blanket factories such as Onkaparinga, Wangarratta Woollen Mills, Laconia, Ballarat Woollen Mills and others. This was an amazing example of recycling, before anyone had heard of the phrase!

When Isaac Mond passed away in 1957, Harry brought his older brother Dave into the business, a partnership that spanned 33 years until Dave's passing.

The partnership continued as a rags recycling business until the early 60's when a firm by the name of Mushin and Miller decided to close down. This company had three Platt Garnett machines built in England and they would card polyester for clients for the manufacture of the new sensation, polyester quilts.

Harry and Dave also bought a ragging machine. Purchasing wool cardigans and the like from the Salvo's among others, the sorters would cut off the buttons and put them into bins. They would also get assorted face cloth and they would be sorted and emptied into bales. The ragger would process the fibre and create filling for furniture and the like, another form of recycling!

While they continued collecting off-cuts, Harry and Dave understood that times were changing and that quilts would ultimately overtake blankets as the preferred bedding accessory.

For the next 25 years, I Mond & Sons was the sole supplier to the largest polyester quilt manufacturer in Australia, Sleepmaster. Harry's older son, Barry joined the business in 1980. After Dave passed away in 1988, Doreen, Harry's wife became the partner and I Mond & Sons became Mond Textiles.

In 1995, Harry and Doreen's younger son David who had a successful Accounting and Tax practice decided to take an interest in developing the business. With Barry, they decided

that it was time to vertically integrate and acquired a state of the art German technology machine in order to manufacture quilts and pillows. About this time, most polyester quilts were being manufactured in China, and the Monds were looking for a way to introduce a purely Australian product into the Australian market and were one of the first manufacturers to both process wool for other quilt manufacturers, and manufacture wool quilts.

Ever seeking to move forward, in 2013 David's eldest daughter, Rebecca joined the company, making her the fourth generation involved in the family business. The company which was now renamed MIG Textiles, (short for Mond International Group) started looking for new innovations.

The growth of the Alpaca breeding business in Australia meant that there was sufficient fleeced product to develop a scalable pure Alpaca and Alpaca / Wool blended products such as quilts.

MIG Textiles decided to develop high end quality products and extended the range to Alpaca. After much experimentation producing Alpaca wadding on an unwoven line, MIG Textiles developed 100% and blended Alpaca Wool quilts. The highly popular, 60% Alpaca and 40% Wool quilt blend, is able to give end user customers the luxury of pure Australian Alpaca fleece, blended with the finest Australian Downs Wool, providing a balanced quilt which has the attributes of being ultra-soft, light, luxurious and a feeling of great comfort.

As part of a 21st century business, MIG are very proud to say, has developed a strong local and export market as it has become a highly prized item in the homes of our Chinese customers in Australia and in China.

Our Alpaca quilts, are quickly asserting themselves as our most popular products, as more and more people are realizing what a magnificent night's sleep these quilts provide.

We are very happy and extremely proud to be a part of the Australian Alpaca industry and are happy to continue to support this further by extending our supplier network.

At MIG we are incredibly proud that despite the challenges of actually making things in Australia, we are continuing a 4th generation 85-year-old family business tradition, which ensures that our filled Alpaca products emanate from Australian farms and families, manufactured in Australia by an Australian owned company.

We look forward to expanding our Alpaca products and spreading the word to the world, about the magnificent qualities and benefits that we all receive when sleeping under a luxurious Australian bred Alpaca filled quilt.

You will find our quilts at Costco outlets across the country on special promotional Roadshows and we are also able to provide OEM manufacturing for alpaca growers and the regional accommodation market, who might be seeking to create a branded alpaca quilt to offer to guests for purchase.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rebecca Mond

**Managing Director
MIG Textiles Pty Ltd**

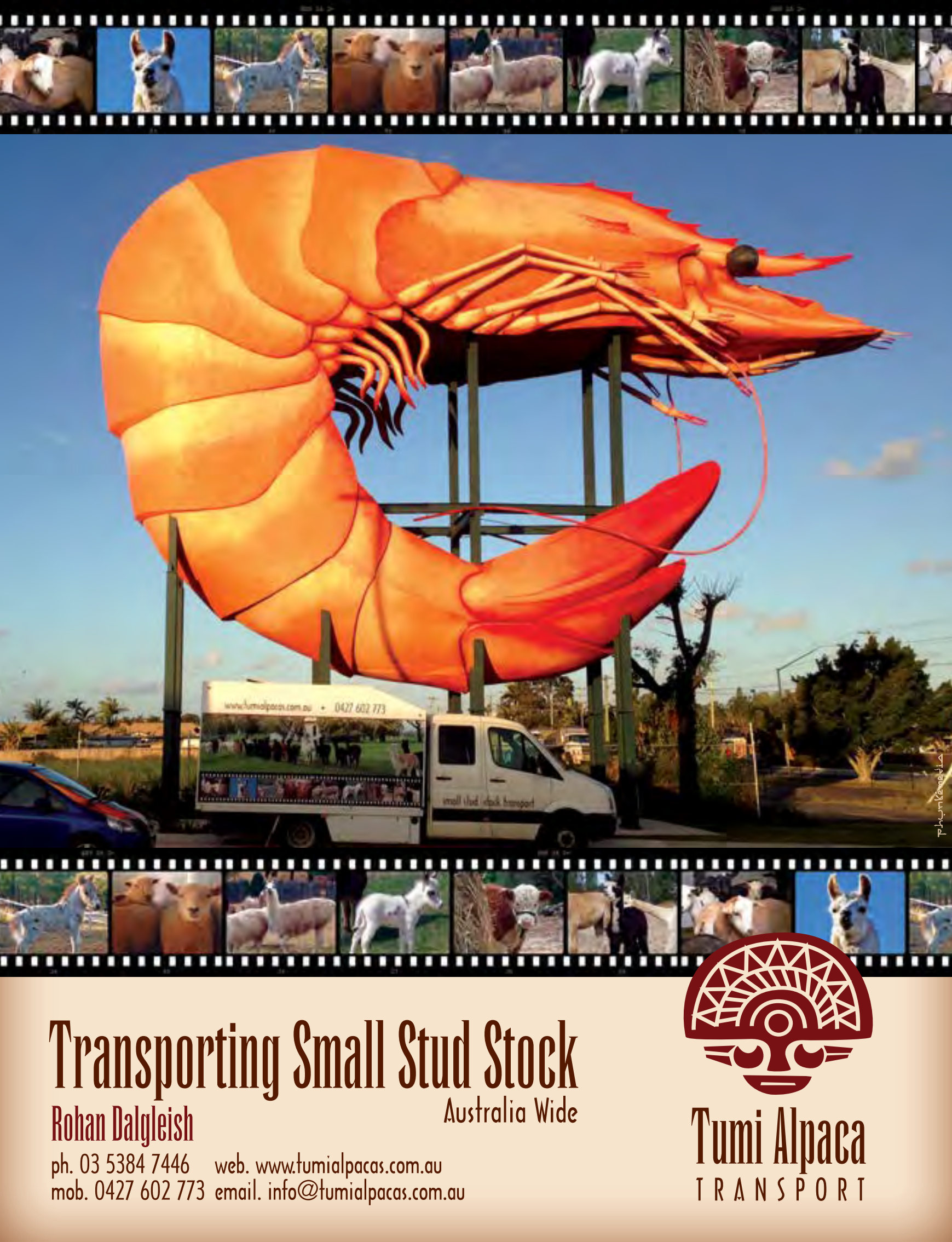
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