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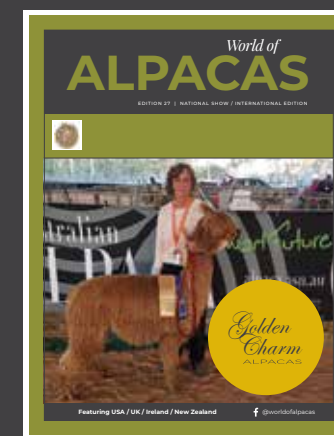
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FRONT COVER

Golden Charm Alpacas.

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Mayland Alpacas.

INSIDE BACK COVER

Thief of Hearts Alpaca Stud.

OUTSIDE BACK COVER

Maylands Alpacas.

Hi to all,

I do hope that you are all in good health.

Congratulations to Jonathon Provis-Vincent and his team Bendigo National Show – 18th – 20th August 2023

To all the Owner Breeders please make an effort to attend, there is strength in numbers.

To all the folks who have product etc when the trade Sites become available, remember first in best dressed.

Remember ...Fleece..Art..Photography etc

Start planning NOW, “its later than you think”

This is our first on-line International Edition....

World Wide...Australia...North America...Britain.... New Zealand...Ireland....

Moving with the times... your exposure is growing.

Stay safe,

Kindest Regards

Trevor.



OWNERS & BREEDERS

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- IFC** Maylands Alpacas.
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Presidents Message



By Brett Fallon | **AAA President**

In 2023, many alpaca producers throughout the world will be impacted by severe weather events due to our changing climate. It is disrupting breeding patterns, increasing risk of parasites and diseases, and affecting feed availability and price. Here in Australia, many regions have experienced widespread flooding, and severe storm events with lightning-sparked bushfires are occurring as the La Nina weather pattern lingers on.

Most alpaca producers are also still experiencing trade disruption from COVID-19. Freight costs have increased, and delays are common. We continue to have a shortage of agricultural workers in most areas of Australia. Input costs are rising across the country, and the global economic outlook is challenging.

Still, I'd rather be an alpaca farmer than anything else!

The AAA's mission is to build a successful and sustainable alpaca industry in Australia. In 2023 we are focused on three things:

- Expanding market access for trade
- Investing in research and industry development, and
- Supporting the resilience of alpaca farmers through education and skills development.

An independent view can often be helpful to see where you are, and where you need to go next. The AAA submitted a successful application in late 2021 to join Agrifutures Australia's Emerging Industries Program.

The program enabled us to work with independent agricultural economist from GHD Pty Ltd, evaluate data on the Australian alpaca industry, and develop a compact business case to guide future growth. This work assessed the strengths of our industry, while also highlighting gaps in knowledge and market challenges that we need to overcome to reach our full potential.

Our commercial export and domestic fleece markets continue to grow with every year. In Australia, formal and informal cooperative ventures help to improve efficiency along the supply chain and deliver more alpaca fleece to market. Flexible and cooperative approaches across the industry are particularly important, as alpacas are suitable for both small-scale and broadacre farming operations.

Our export market to Asia and the Middle East has also grown as Australian breeders deliver quality alpacas to help establish new breeding herds and support expansion in genetic diversity in existing herds.

As an industry, we continue to be challenged by the loss of the export pathway to the European Union and United Kingdom. New Zealand's decision to close off import of alpacas in 2019 due to their concerns about Q-Fever testing, had an immediate and damaging impact on the Australian alpaca industry. Many international breeders, acting in good faith, found their purchases suddenly stranded with little hope of reaching their new homes.

The difficult situation led the AAA to invest substantial time and resources into working with scientific researchers and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to develop and validate a new test.

Lengthy negotiations with the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) have failed to achieve agreement on a protocol to allow imports to resume from Australia. In December 2022, DAFF advised us that MPI has no plans to continue the work to reopen trade.

Global trade must always be balanced with biosecurity. Nobody wants to export pests or diseases that create hardship for another country's ecosystem or agricultural industry. Moving forward, the AAA will redirect its time and resources to obtain direct, cost-effective, safe export pathways to the EU and UK. These pathways will also need to offer the best animal welfare via direct flights in suitably sized transport crates.

Why is global trade important for the alpaca industry?

Alpacas have relatively small populations with a low level of genetic diversity due to the actions of the Conquistadors which decimated traditional farming practices in Peru. The limited populations exported across the world and bred within individual countries has further concentrated genetics through selective breeding practices. Australia is well placed given the substantial registered herd compared to peers around the world.

Trade in genetics is important to increase genetic diversity and robustness. Scientific research tells us that small populations are at higher risk of inbreeding, which increases risk of negative mutations and vulnerability to pests and disease. It also results in genetic drift, which occurs when random chance eliminates an allele within a closed breeding group. Selective breeding without the introduction of new genes reduces the capacity of animals in the long term.

The lack of effective artificial technology limits the transfer of alpaca genetic material between countries to export and import of bloodstock. Future genetic vitality depends on effective, coordinated conservation and trade activity. The entire international alpaca community needs to work together to ensure a robust future for the alpaca industry. COVID-19 has highlighted the benefit that can be achieved through global cooperation.

I am proud to be representing Australia as we continue to work together and focus on the long game.

Keep safe. Keep well. Enjoy everything alpaca.



Building a successful and sustainable alpaca industry in Australia

www.alpaca.asn.au

Stay connected

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LAKELAND ALPACAS



We are thrilled to share some exciting updates from Lakeland HQ. Embarking on our alpaca journey more than ten years ago, raising alpacas in QLD proved to be arduous; battling the heat, humidity, adverse weather conditions including fire floods and drought and relentless barrage of pests and predators, we knew we had to make a change. We found a gorgeous sanctuary in the picturesque Granite belt region of QLD, at high altitude and located near the NSW border, our climactic conditions have proven to be exactly what we needed for the good for our herd.

We are now looking to the future of the farm, breeding and industry. Our aim is to take our passion for alpacas and position ourselves among the best fleece growers in the industry by making several investments into superior animals which we are hoping will pay dividends in the future.

We are happy and proud at the achievements and advancements we have made so far and strive to continue doing so with a focus on fleece density, length and longevity. Understanding quality starts at the beginning with healthy, upstanding, strong boned alpacas which have beautiful well nourished fleeces, suitable not only for the show ring but ensuring significant contribution towards a viable fleece industry.

We are hugely excited for the future with our current cria drop already exhibiting vast improvements not only in quality but importantly, in health.

Grand Duke Ferdinand and Admiration have already begun laying the foundations and impacting our herd and we are looking forward to the cria expected from Granger, Extreme, Torquil, Maharaja and Martino and the following year our up and coming young studs Revolver, Zelensky and Grandeur; all selectively chosen for their amazing pedigrees, elite female lineage and outstanding qualities.

Sam 04208 39030 & Mark 04088 08487

www.lakelandalpacastud.com | sam@lakelandalpacastud.com



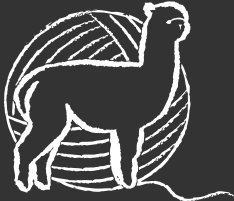
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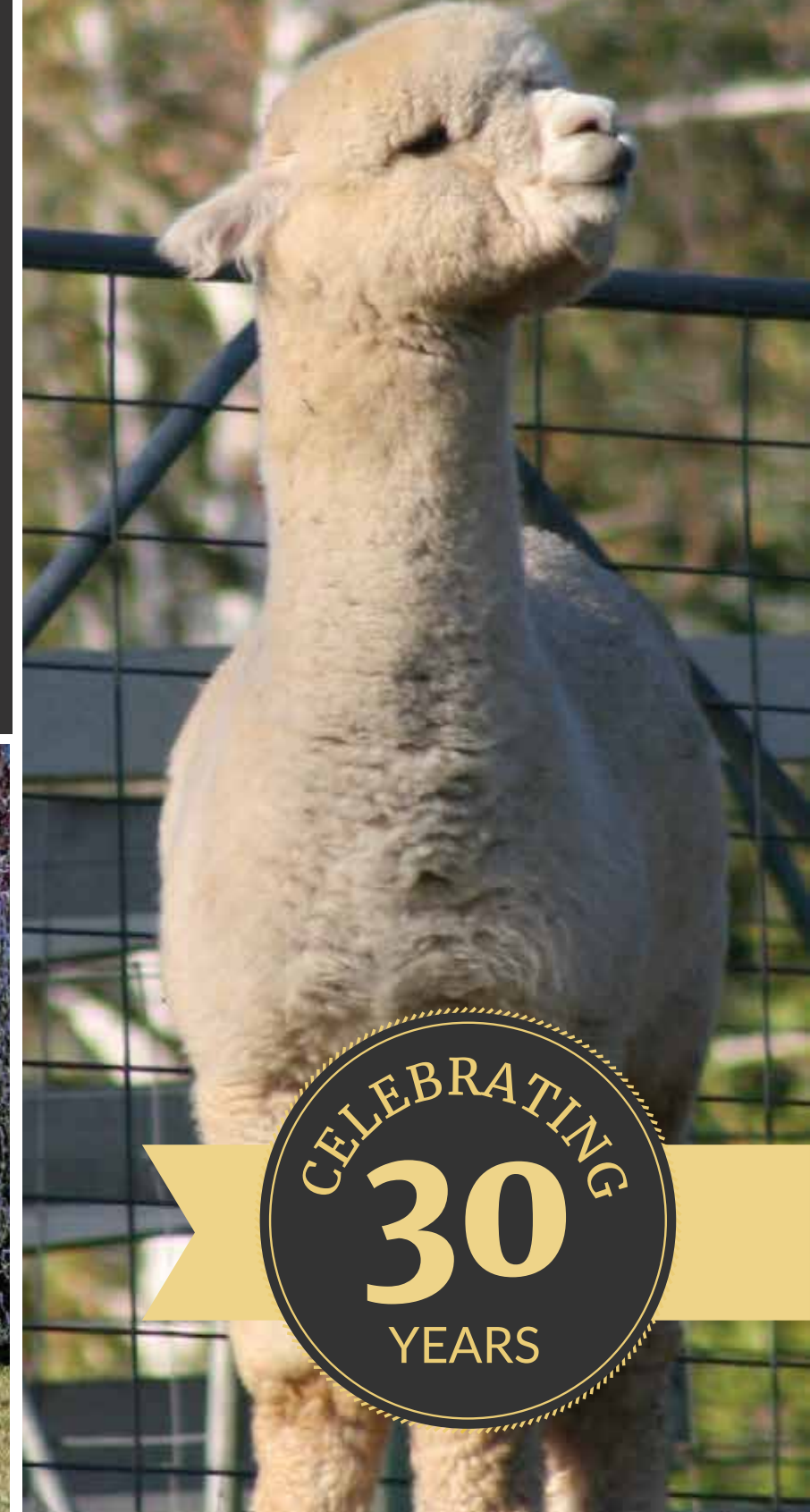
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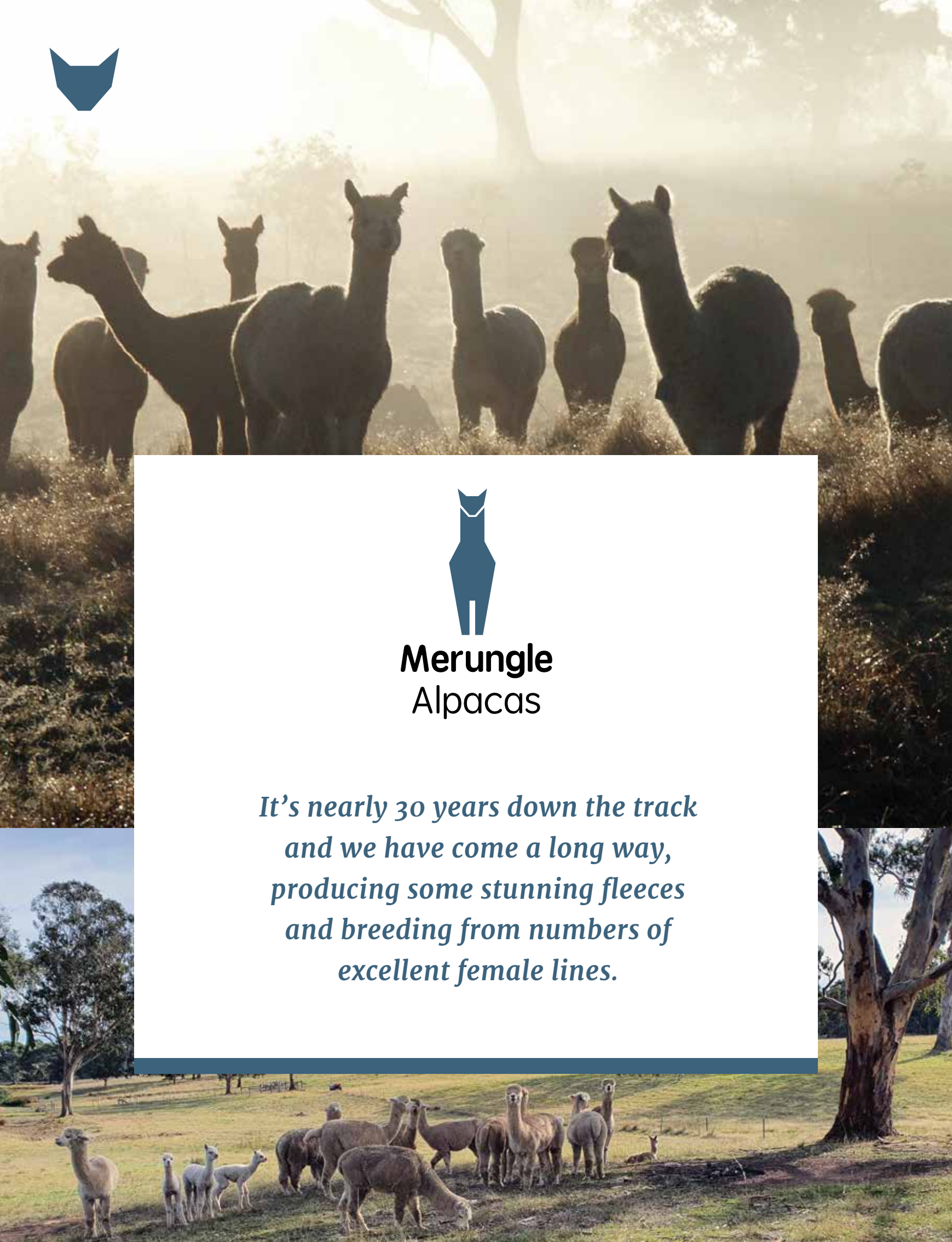
CELEBRATING
30
YEARS



Since 1993, Glenavon has been developing a herd of stud alpacas renowned for their solid frames, gentle temperaments, and heavy cutting, soft uniform fleeces ideal for commercial processing. With 25 years of careful breeding and selection, Glenavon consistently produces premium quality alpacas in all shades from white to black.

Gayle Herring
ph. 0407 729 227
e. fibrenaturally@gmail.com

glenavon.net.au



Merungle Alpacas

*It's nearly 30 years down the track
and we have come a long way,
producing some stunning fleeces
and breeding from numbers of
excellent female lines.*



Merungle is situated on an undulating ridge of marginal country just north of Maffra, East Gippsland. Jen & Pete are running about 150 alpacas on 65 hectares of dry country. It's country that has seen more drought years than anything else so we've found the last 2 years of exceptional weather extraordinary.

The Merungle journey began with the purchase of 2 coloured females from Pucara Alpacas in Torquay, in 1993. This was closely followed by 4 coloured females from the Purumbete herd. Early show success came with Purumbete Hot Shot & Merungle Hot Chili among others. This threw us into the industry very quickly and introduced us to a lot of breeders.

Our herd is very different now with focus constantly being adjusted to reflect progress

Because the focus was and remains fleece, the males we used from early on, were mainly white so our herd has lightened to become mainly white. In recent years we have been using fawn and brown males over a limited group of females with some success to re-introduce colour. It's a compromise between the commercial side of the Industry and alpaca sales.

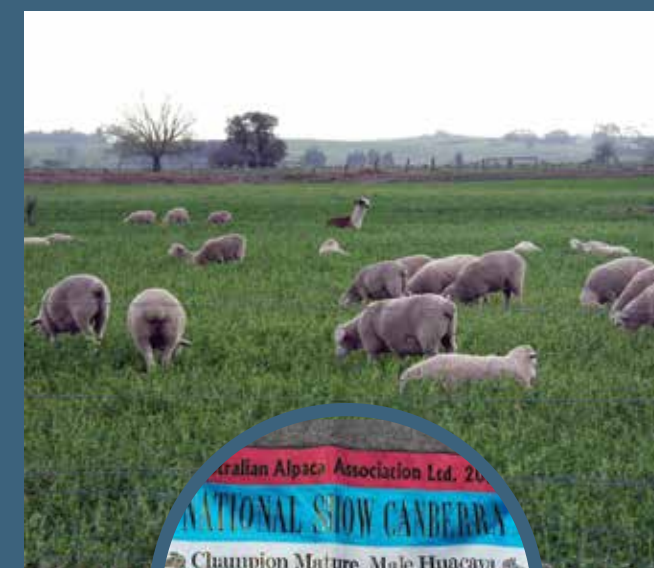
And, naturally, good temperament, conformation and breeding ability are in the picture for many reasons. You'll find males such as Per. Legend & Drambuie, Hot Chi Damocles, Benleigh Legend and most recently Milo, Strobe, Fireproof and Triumph in our pedigrees. We love that AAA database as you can trace alpacas back to when they first arrived in Australia in the 1990's. What a wealth of information this database provides.

To compliment our farming operation and showcase the commercial potential of our Industry, we started purchasing a commercial range of alpaca garments and rugs, mainly from AAFL (Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd) with the Australian Alpaca Connection Label which we sell locally. Unfortunately AAFL is no longer operating.

The yearly calendar includes a few markets, 2 field days and a couple of alpaca shows – all off farm. You meet a lot of people at these events and I'm still amazed at the lack of knowledge of Natural fibre and more particularly lack of knowledge of a wool fibre, its structure and properties

The On-farm calendar includes visitors by appointment, annual shearing, community shearing day and husbandry activities including birthing, weaning, feeding and matings. Also any maintenance for farm and livestock.

Now, nearly 30 years on, we and the Industry are doing OK. It's really only a very short time in the scheme of things when you consider the Sheep industry has over 150 years of development and experience.





Breeders of fine, solid coloured huacaya alpacas on the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering a full range of stud and shearing services along with pets and guards.

Shipping alpaca fibre worldwide

A network of logistics partners has been built that can support purchasers with delivery both nationally and internationally.

This includes the production of all export compliance paperwork. To date, raw fibre has been exported to four continents.



ALPACAFIBRE.COM.AU
BY **Kobler**

Alpacafibre.com.au is the brand of the lot building operation of Kobler Alpacas.

To date we have amassed a network of more than 100 alpaca owners supplying fleece. These supplies range in size from just a few head to many hundreds.

Our diverse range of supplies ensure we meet our demands across the colour spectrum.

Our lot building operation came about as a result of our shearing service.

Many customers were either storing their fleece in the shed from one year to the next or disposing of it as a byproduct of owning alpacas.

In 2013 the early foundations were set for the current operation with unwanted fleeces of shearing customers being collected along with suitable fibre from our clip, sorted and sold to a local pieces buyer.

Over the years, the business has grown and proven its ability to supply both quality and volume, selling alpaca fibre of many different grades all over the world.

We pride ourselves in knowing that we supply a sort after quality product globally and help our suppliers by creating a more sustainable Australian Alpaca Industry by the demand generated for their fleece.



**Shipping
Worldwide**



**Large network
of alpaca farms**



**Provenance
of fibre**



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Export is key to unlock \$50million yearly trade

By Annemarie Ashton-Wyatt
Director, Research and Industry Development
Australian Alpaca Association

The farmgate value of Australian alpaca exports has potential to grow to over AUD\$50million per annum if barriers to export and supply chain issues can be resolved.

New research on the potential of the alpaca industry is reported in Alpaca: A compact business case, an economic report which examines the state of the alpaca industry in 2022. This work was funded by the Australian Government through the Agrifutures Australia Emerging Industries program.

Independent consultants GHD Pty. Ltd. worked with the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd (AAA) and alpaca industry stakeholders to understand the current economic value of the industry, assess future market opportunities, and identify barriers to growth.

Fleece Export

GHD estimated the 2022 farmgate value of the Australian alpaca fleece industry at AUD\$13.5million per annum. This is led by consistent growth in the bulk fleece export trade delivering multiple shipping container loads worldwide. China is still the biggest importer of alpaca fleece, but markets also exist in New Zealand, the European Union, and the USA.

Industry data indicates that many operators have challenges achieving the economies of scale enjoyed by broadacre operations, as alpacas are an ideal livestock for small-scale farms. Greater cooperation within and across the industry is needed to optimise fleece accumulation for processing and export, and to reduce overheads in breeding to increase the national herd.

GHD advises that future growth in the fleece trade requires:

- Increasing the annual fleece yield per head through continuous improvement in breeding, feeding, and shearing practices
- Getting all shorn fleece to processing facilities in a timely manner, and
- Reducing input costs through cooperative strategies and technology use

Bloodstock Export

Australian alpaca breeding bloodstock is exported to improve genetic quality and diversity of breeding herds in other countries. Alpacas for export must be listed on a national breed register, like the global trade in thoroughbred horse bloodstock. eAlpaca, developed for the AAA, is an efficient and valuable tool for verifying provenance and makes it easy for international buyers to access reliable pedigree information.

As artificial insemination and frozen embryo technology for alpacas is yet to be developed, growing the global herd heavily depends upon the healthy and safe export of premium bloodstock using air and road transport.

Australian alpacas are currently exported to Asia and the Middle East. GHD estimated the 2022 farmgate value of this trade at AUD\$500,000 per annum.

GHD noted that access to European and United Kingdom markets is key to future industry growth. It estimates the farmgate value of this trade at AUD\$15.5million per annum for Australian breeders. Premium Australian breeding stock exported to the EU or UK has a value more than ten times higher per head compared to exports to establish breeding herds in Asia.

Check out the full report Alpaca: A compact business case at the Agrifutures Australia website <https://agrifutures.com.au/product/alpaca-a-compact-business-case/>

NZ: Shutting the Door!

A ban on imports of Australian alpaca to New Zealand has grave implications for the future growth of the alpaca industry in both countries.

New Zealand alpaca breeders previously benefited from premium Australian alpaca livestock, which they imported to help establish and improve the genetic quality of their alpaca herds. Having an estimated 23,000 alpacas in 2012, of which approximately 70% were registered breeding stock, the NZ industry is less than a tenth the size of the Australian industry and is heavily dependent on bloodstock export sales to fund industry growth.

Australian alpacas previously also transited NZ on their way to the European Union and the United Kingdom under NZ's 'third country' status, which allowed them direct export to the EU. This arrangement was mutually beneficial to many Australian and New Zealand breeders, as both parties obtained income from the sale, agistment, and export process, as well as forging strong business relationships.

The import of Australian and USA alpacas was banned by the NZ Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) in 2019 due to concerns about the efficacy of a Q-Fever test in alpacas. This closure had an immediate and substantial impact on trade for both industries. Alpacas already purchased by international breeders, many in quarantine awaiting transit to NZ, were effectively stuck from that moment on.

The Australian Alpaca Association started working with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to reopen the pathway by supporting the development of a new validated Q-Fever test for alpacas. A new test was developed by the Elizabeth MacArthur Research Institute and has undergone the rigorous scientific testing required for validation.

As of December 2022, MPI has declined to accept the new test and refused reopen imports of alpacas. DAFF advised the AAA that MPI has no plans to reopen alpaca imports from Australia or review this situation in 2023.

What is Q-Fever?

Q fever is a disease caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. These bacteria naturally infect some animals, such as goats, sheep, and cattle. In Australia, *Coxiella burnetii* can also be found in wild animals, such as kangaroos, bandicoots, and rodents and in ticks on infected animals.

Q Fever is usually spread by to humans through inhalation of infected dust or droplets and causes a severe flu-like illness.

Several tests are available to test for *Coxiella burnetii* in alpacas. Researchers from University of Sydney found that the Immunofluorescence Assay (IFA) test is the most effective, providing an accurate result in alpacas in 95% of alpacas tested <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33655708/>

Trade Closure Kills More Than Cashflow

The sudden closure of the NZ export pathway left hundreds of alpacas stranded in Australia. Inability to export alpacas to the UK and EU is damaging the growth of Australia's bloodstock industry and reducing investment in capital infrastructure. We interviewed three of Australia's largest breeders to find out how the closure had affected them.

Baarrooka Suri Stud

Julie Wilkinson of Baarrooka Suri Stud in Victoria had invested heavily in quality genetics and developed an elite coloured suri program. International breeders, particularly in Europe, were taking notice. The demand for quality Australian suri genetics was growing its market share with each year.

The unexpected and swift closure of the New Zealand export pathway in 2019 left many export alpacas stranded at her Victorian stud farm. Buyers from New Zealand, Germany and Switzerland had bought these alpacas in good faith, confident that their high quality, healthy purchases could be exported in a timely manner.

Ms Wilkinson said “I wanted to offer the existing buyers free agistment of their alpacas until matters could be resolved. The export ban added to our costs, but I recognised the disappointment it caused to my customers. They had invested significant money in improving their herds, only to have their new purchases stranded in Australia.”

Premium quality suri alpacas are too valuable and rare to leave unmated for long periods. As months became years, Ms Wilkinson provided stud and husbandry services to stranded animals. Stud income helped to offset mounting agistment costs, and an unplanned benefit was that international buyers were able to access new and improved genetics by using the best males in Australia for mating their females.

A New Zealand buyer, perhaps sensing there was not going to be a quick reopening of the border, quickly obtained a refund for their stud male and female. Several animals owned by European breeders have since been sold back into the Australian market.

The stranded export herds are still growing at Baarrooka, with the original alpacas owned by international buyers growing to a herd of 34. Ms Wilkinson doesn't earn agistment for the original animals but is able to charge agistment for new progeny.

Ms Wilkinson has discussed other export pathways with the international owners. She says “Chile is too risky because of animal husbandry and disease issues, especially the TB risk due to no surveillance program there. Canada is too expensive as the animals must transit through the USA, and there is no guarantee they will get to the EU within that year or the next.”

Ms Wilkinson accepts that the NZ market won't reopen but hopes that Senator Murray Watt, the Australian Minister for Agriculture will support the Australian alpaca industry by finding a direct pathway for alpacas to be exported to the UK and EU.

“We estimate the closure of exports has cost us up to AUD\$100,000 in sales to Europe annually. We still get international buyers contacting us, but I can't help them. They then go and buy from the USA or NZ because we cannot export them safely or offer competitive freight costs,” She said.

EP Cambridge Alpacas

One of the largest alpaca studs in the world, EP Cambridge Alpacas runs an extensive breeding operation in South Australia as well as interests in the USA and Europe. Their Australian operation runs thousands of breeding alpacas with substantial infrastructure. It provides employment for many staff, including a full-time Stud Manager, and generates significant income for local service providers in the Adelaide Hills region.

EP Cambridge's ongoing investment in their Australian premium bloodstock breeding program sees them regularly top the awards at the Australian National Show including six of the last nine National Supreme Champions. This quality is recognised by buyers too, with their stock consistently achieving top sales figures in national auctions.

In recent years, EP Cambridge have invested more than one million dollars importing fresh and proven genetics from the USA making an immediate and significant contribution to the herd. These results have supported EP Cambridge's steadfast belief that sharing genetics and hybrid vigour around the world is crucial to one day breeding the “perfect alpaca” in every colour.

In late 2018, EP Cambridge Alpacas joined with Blackberry Alpacas UK to purchase the entire Canchones Alpaca Stud in Australia. This prestigious stud represented over 20 years of work in Australian black huacaya breeding genetics. A core attraction of the deal was that it would facilitate the export of premium genetic lines to enhance quality of huacaya breeding in their UK operation as well as complimenting their Australian colour breeding program.

In 2019, the NZ export pathway closed and every Canchones alpaca remains in Australia, as well as significant number of other EP Cambridge premium alpaca bloodstock which would be exported to the UK and EU each year.

Lawrence Shapland, Manager of EP Cambridge Alpaca's Australian operations, says “The closure of export is a huge roadblock to growth, for us and for all other Australian alpaca breeders. Whether breeders export their stock or not, the loss of export revenue has a flow-on effect for the whole alpaca industry as well as the businesses and suppliers that our industry supports.”

“Whilst export protocols are in place for other pathways to the EU, they are problematic. Chile doesn't currently meet the European requirements regarding TB surveillance for onward travel to the EU. The export pathway through Canada is cost prohibitive due to freight restrictions. Extended quarantine periods due to Bluetongue windows and onward freight logistics can be hugely expensive,” Mr Shapland said.

When asked if EP Cambridge would consider opening a stud in New Zealand, Mr Shapland said “There would be little point. If we can't get Australian alpacas in, there's no future for us there. New Zealand just doesn't have the genetic range and quality that Australia does to be able to operate an advance breeding program.”

“MPI's lack of resources available to address the export issues is a frustration to Australian breeders. Especially given years of the AAA investing heavily in research, alongside our government department DAFF, to develop a bio-secure and workable option to mitigate the concerns of MPI around Q-Fever.

This situation is a frustration to the European industry, who are looking to advance their breeding, but it has also effectively hamstrung the NZ alpaca industry. Their inability to import new genetics will further compound their struggle to stay relevant in terms of quality within the global alpaca industry.

Mr Shapland called on the Senator Murray Watt, the Australian Minister for Agriculture, to prioritise a livestock agreement with the UK as part of the post-Brexit trade negotiations.

“Direct export to the UK is by far the best option in terms of everything from cost and speed to welfare,” he said. “It would be the most sustainable option for the growth of both our Australian and EU agriculture operations for the future.”

Precision Alpaca Group

Precision Alpaca Group represents more than twenty-five years of investment in the genetic advancement and breeding of Australian alpacas, but owners Max and Taryan Mathews believe it's important to always be looking towards the future.

Alongside other breeders, they were directly disadvantaged by having animals stranded which were already sold to international buyers.

“We had four alpacas bound for the United Kingdom left stranded in Australia,” says Mrs. Mathews. “Two have been resold in Australia, but two are still agisted with us, and their owners have faced a large financial loss because of the New Zealand closure of alpaca imports.”

As time went on, the owners and business partners in Precision Alpaca Group watched with concern as the market for premium alpacas crashed in both volume of trade and price.

“Major individual sales became nearly non-existent overnight. Australian breeders are now very hesitant to pay high prices as

the opportunities to sell offspring from these purchases, and therefore generate significant return, are extremely limited due to the market climate without export. This is too high a risk to attract the ongoing, substantial investment that every growing industry needs,” said Mr. Mathews.

Precision Alpaca Group regularly gets sales enquiries from international buyers.

“They all enquire but want an update on our border issues. Since we cannot provide an opening date, sales cannot progress. We have many customers waiting to buy when borders reopen,” said Mrs. Mathews.

“But they won't wait forever, we have already seen large numbers of sales go to the US and New Zealand because of Australia's ongoing border problems. The UK and EU want Australian first, due to our superior quality, but when desperate for new bloodlines they have to go elsewhere,” she said.

Precision Alpaca Group observes that export to the United Kingdom or European Union via Canada or Chile is not a viable option for Australian alpaca breeders.

“From our understanding, Chile does not meet the EU's new protocol requirements. Even if it did, the security and stability needed to protect the animals, as well as the cost, makes it unsustainable,” said Mr. Mathews.

“From what we have been told by experienced exporters, Canada is also not feasible, otherwise we would have jumped on that pathway years ago to get these stranded animals to their new homes,” he said.

Precision Alpaca Group calls on Senator Murray Watts, the Minister for Agriculture, to join them in looking to secure the future of Australian alpaca by prioritising the establishment of viable and feasible export pathways to the UK and EU.

“Without direct, cost-effective pathways to the UK and EU, our selling options will continue to be heavily restricted,” said Mr. Mathews.

“We, as an industry, need fair access to global markets to keep developing and investing in a bigger and stronger industry here in Australia,” he said.

How Can You Help?

The AAA is calling on the Australian Government to support our industry growth by prioritizing the opening of direct live alpaca export pathways to the United Kingdom and the European Union.

- Write to your local Member of Parliament Asking them to act on your behalf
- Ask your international customers to contact their alpaca industry association and local MPs to help open direct trade with Australia



Where to from here?

The Australian Alpaca Industry has made significant progress across so many areas in the few decades alpaca have been in this great wide land of ours.

In the hands of passionate and enthusiastic breeders, herds both large and small now comprise alpacas with superior fleece characteristics than their forebears. There is also increased record keeping and utilisation of objective data to make breeding and purchase decisions. You could say we are starting to look like a “viable and sustainable livestock industry” – an agribusiness ...

In order to fulfil this aspiration though, there are a few more key elements to be added to our industry. A burgeoning market for alpaca products will assure us of the future we aspire to ...



FLEUR DE LYS



When there is widespread appreciation of the unique qualities of alpaca fibre, amongst the suite of natural fibres on offer, and consumers are making informed choices about which natural fibre they select, that is when we will know we have arrived ... !! Without the sale of alpaca products, it could be argued that there is limited purpose in growing this amazing fibre.

Even though there has been the active export of large-scale fibre processing equipment, technology and experience from Australia, recently there has been an increasing ground swell of interest and investment in the options to “value add” to alpaca fibre for farm gate sales. It is here, on farm, that the industry has the potential to win many hearts and minds, to help people understand when they would choose alpaca over other fibres, and how to care for their alpaca products. The increasing number of alpaca farms tours and alpaca farm shops, has the potential to reach many. From this foundation I would hope that there will be the opportunity for alpaca fibre to become a mainstream option ...

Here, at Fleur de Lys Alpacas, we continue to focus of refining the quality of white Huacaya. Our fibre is sold domestically and overseas, in small and large allotments. We have been nagging some of the fibre processors for years to increase their capacity to include alpaca, so that there can be larger volumes of Australian alpaca fibre processed in Australia.



One of the other markers of a maturing industry has been the quiet introduction of multi-generational alpaca farmers. As a young industry, we were, by definition, all involved because we had chosen to be involved. In a few short decades, there are now successful alpaca breeders who have been “born to alpaca”. The badge of honour that was heard “I’m a fifth generation sheep farmer”, can now be replaced by “I’m a second generation alpaca farmer!”, and quite soon a third generation will follow ... !!

At home, while it is unlikely that our succession plan will include the next generation, we continue to strive for ways to improve the quality of our fibre and to find ways to support a domestic fibre industry. We actively seek opportunities to increase the environmental benefit our farming practices can give to the land we care for and welcome any opportunity for others to learn about alpaca, their care and their amazing fibre.

So to answer the original question; “where to from here ...?” I am quietly confident that the alpaca industry will be able to transition from a stud stock breeding industry to a fibre industry. This has already started with the increasing access to information and alpaca products on farms across Australia every day. The “long game” that is alpaca breeding, is transitioning to the next generation in many areas, often with the accompanying use of data and analytics.

If Fleur de Lys Alpacas was to have a report card, I would hope it would look a little like this:

Alpacas Continuing to strive for excellence in alpaca husbandry and fibre production	✓
Environment Actively seeking projects to optimise environment benefit	✓
Biosecurity Ensuring processes are in place to minimise risk of disease	✓
Community Seeking opportunities to engage with others about alpaca, their husbandry and amazing fibre	✓

We are looking forward to Fleur de Lys Alpacas continuing to be part of the amazing alpaca industry in Australia and contributing to its ongoing success.



FLEUR DE LYS



We always knew that Sydney was never going to be long term for us... traffic chaos, and over populated built-up areas did not appeal to us. So with retiring on the cards for Dominic, we decided on a tree change in October 2019. Our love for wine, concerts, big open spaces, warm climate and the distance from Sydney for our six children to come and visit us, made the Hunter Valley an easy choice. We immediately fell in love with the views, the serenity, the proximity to town, our acreage in Wylies Flat ticked all the boxes, what more could we want?

When we first moved to Wylies Flat it had already been through a terrible drought, and our place looked like a dust bowl... no grass, just dust. We also had the terrible bush fires occurring all around Australia, and within only a few kilometres from our new home. It was a scary time for us, as we had never experienced anything like it before in Sydney.

We upgraded our fencing, and separated them into paddocks so we could rotate them, and to keep wild dogs and foxes out. Our neighbours who own cattle and horses kept cutting down trees, where we planted lots of them, mainly to provide shade for our animals.

Next we wanted to own livestock to keep the grass down, and started off with three dorper sheep to see how we would go looking after our first ever livestock. It was at the place we purchased the sheep from that we were introduced to our first alpacas, they had a sweet little bottle fed cria that we could pat, he was absolutely adorable, and so began our very own alpaca journey. We purchased a lot of books, and googled everything about them... we even started looking on Gumtree for these fluffy long necked sheep things called alpacas? We found two rescues not too far away, there was a black one, and a white one, and they were going for a good price, how hard could it be for two city slickers like us? I mean, what could go wrong? Right??

So, on the 25 July 2020 we brought our very first alpaca's home in our neighbour's horse float. As far as we cared they looked cute, and that was enough for us... well, we soon found out that the white one Pegasus was a thirteen year old wethered male huacaya with bad hip joints, and the other was a black intact male suri Pliny who showed a little berserk syndrome tendencies. We had never heard of berserk syndrome before, and we didn't even know that there was a different breed of alpaca, who knew?

Well, our suri kept attacking our old huacaya, and so we decided to wether him in the hope that it would calm him down... it has helped a lot, but we still needed to separate him and he is now a good herd guard to our three dorper



sheep. The old boy is good old uncle Peggie who is a great mentor to our yearlings. Rookie errors everywhere, but we liked it all the same. We had zero idea on how to do anything alpaca and learned a lot of things on the go.

Needless to say, we became addicted to these beautiful and peaceful animals, and it was obvious that we needed to get some more, perhaps females as we would love to breed them and have cria running around our place. After a brief search online using AlpacaSeller.com our paths crossed with Sue and Pete from Harvistas Alpacas, where we purchased our first maiden females and have learned so much. Five friendly alpacas later, we can honestly say that we are head over heels in love with these beautiful girls, they love their neck rubs, the odd cuddle here and there, even the nose-to-nose kiwi kiss, and so learnt that we would from now on look for alpacas that were halter trained and friendly.

We found ourselves drawn to the coloured alpacas, rather than the traditional white and fawn... and so decided to concentrate on greys, fancies and appaloosas. We will endeavour to slowly develop our herd through careful selection to improve the quality of their fleece, conformation and temperament.



Dominic has since learnt how to build shelters, and has built five now, the last one being his best yet, and is big enough to fit all of our girls and cria in to feed. It is so much easier to complete faecal checks, injections, drenching and all other husbandry requirements when you can lock them up in a smaller enclosure. We have built a shed now too, so when we do our annual shearing, we have somewhere big enough to hold all of our alpacas and keep them nice and dry, it will be our third year of shearing this year.

Our breeding program started with just four maiden females and two pregnant females, which has now grown to our current 30 alpacas. The advantage of having such a small herd is that it makes it easier to handle them more often, and in turn makes them more friendly. We had three stud males, however our grey male Shadow unfortunately passed away, but he lives on in his progeny on our farm, and we have our remaining two appaloosa stud males Heartbreaker and Morse Code. We currently have three male yearlings from last year, and seven cria from this year. Nothing



can prepare you for the loss of a cria, one of Shadow's cria was born premature in the flood waters and didn't make it past three days, it has been the hardest thing to lose him despite all of our efforts.

In our short two years in the alpaca industry, we have seen three floods, and have learnt the hard way that snakes move to higher ground where our girls' paddock is... and as a consequence we lost our best fleeced female Dakota to snake bite.

We made the decision to join the Australian Alpaca Association so we could show our alpacas, and have been to three so far, mainly for the experience and to learn from other small and large breeders who are all too happy to share their ideas and experience. We have met so many lovely people through the alpaca industry and recommend other new alpaca owners to join as well so they can go to shows and meet other people like them. We have even started mentoring new alpaca owners in the Hunter Valley, helping them with their husbandry requirements, and giving them general advice.

We are still learning new things every day, and have a long way to go, and consider ourselves to still be very green in the business. Our biggest mentor would have to be Susan from Yaringa Alpacas in South Australia, her years of experience has been invaluable to us.

The highlight of my day is coming home after work and going out to the paddocks to feed our alpacas, and sitting down in the girls' paddock to watch all of my girls and their babies enjoy their feed as the sun goes down.



Fighting Teeth

About Allison Quagliani

Allison is passionate about the importance of dentistry to alpaca health and wellbeing. Over the last 15 years Allison has provided dental care to over 8000 alpacas in Victoria.

Alpacas have several different types of teeth. At the front of the mouth, they have incisors that sit against the dental pad and these teeth are used for cutting grass. At the rear of the mouth, they have molars and premolars, often referred to as cheek teeth and are used for chewing or grinding the food. Between the incisors and premolars are the fighting teeth. The anatomy of the mouth is shown in Figure 1.

Male and female alpacas have fighting teeth although those in females are usually much smaller. The fighting teeth in castrated males vary in size but generally if the alpaca is castrated before maturity, the teeth are much smaller and, in some cases, do not erupt at all.

Figures 2a, 2b & 2c show photos of the fighting teeth of adult male alpacas. You can see from these photos the teeth are quite long, sharp and point towards the rear of the mouth. They usually erupt from 2½yo onwards and may need trimming around 3yo. Fighting teeth don't play a role in eating at all. As the name suggests they are designed to rip and tear during fights for dominance with other male alpacas. Scuffles can turn into serious fights and injuries to the ears, face, legs and scrotal areas can be serious. Handlers have also been injured.

It is for these reasons that it is recommended that fighting teeth be trimmed. Figure 3 shows well trimmed teeth. The points are removed, and the tooth reduced in size and rounded so that the alpaca cannot grip and tear the flesh of its companions.

All alpacas should have their fighting teeth checked. They don't always erupt as they should in a textbook, and I have seen them growing sideways gouging into both the tongue and the lips. Figure 4 shows fighting teeth growing outwards to the lips.

Fighting teeth can also become so long they dig into the opposing gums and gouge into the bone! This is shown in Figure 5 where the upper tooth is digging into the lower jaw. Imagine the pain. Figure 6 shows the same mouth after the teeth have been trimmed. The fighting teeth now clear the lower jaw.

Like the incisors and cheek teeth, fighting teeth have nerves and a blood supply. Careless trimming, grinding, or filing of teeth can cause pain and can result in permanent damage to the teeth.

Dental care is an essential part of alpaca husbandry, however, regulations vary worldwide. Dental procedures should only be undertaken by professionals with appropriate training.

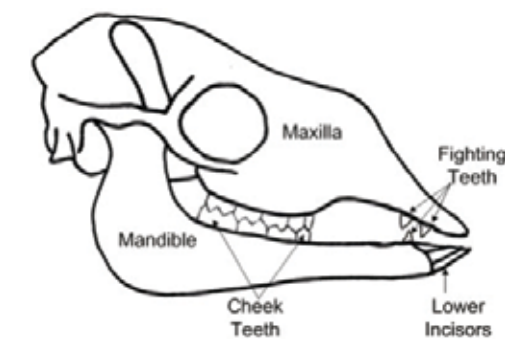


Figure 1



Figure 2a



Figure 2b



Figure 2c

Figure 1. Dental Anatomy

Figures 2a, b and c. Fighting teeth of adult male alpacas

Figure 3. Well trimmed fighting teeth

Figure 4. Fighting teeth growing outwards towards the lips

Figure 5. Upper fighting tooth gouging into the lower jaw

Figure 6. The upper fighting tooth, after trimming, is no longer digging into the lower jaw



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

S H A L O M

"Breeding Suri & Huacaya's..."

A L P A C A S

...in all colours since 2005."



Producing a quality you can trust

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 shalomalpacas
 Shalom Alpacas



BREEDING TOWARDS A COMMERCIAL MARKET

Shalom Alpacas

“...it takes just as much time and money to run poor quality animals as good quality, but the financial returns only come from quality stock.”

- Bill Robbins, Traron Alpacas

It was through meeting our dear friends Bill and Annette Robbins that we realised the importance of breeding commercially viable alpacas.

We were blessed with an extraordinary mentor. Bill is a retired Australian and International Alpaca Judge. As a 5th generation merino breeder, he was also a wool classer and judge. Bill’s extensive knowledge, which he readily shared with us, greatly impacted our alpaca breeding journey over the past 16 years. This is what we learned along the way.....

BREEDING FOR COMMERCIAL viability means focusing on the overall soundness of your animal. Strong constitution, good temperament, frame, fertility and fleece. These 5 aspects are all of equal importance. We need to have animals that are robust and well grown. This is vitally important for reproduction and if we are planning on growing an optimum size fleece, then it will need to be grown on an optimum size animal.



ALPACAS CAN BE bred for many purposes but the one thing that is exclusive to alpaca is their fibre. It has a luxurious handle, unlike any other livestock. This is what makes alpacas such valuable animals to farm. However being able to consistently breed quality alpacas can be a challenge. Having been in Australia for just over 30 years, alpacas do not have the 200+ years of genetic refining that the merino sheep industry has.



OUR BREEDING PROGRESSED over the years but I (Hannah) still had so many questions about fibre and where our focus should be. Bill encouraged me to do a sheep wool classing course as he believed this would refine and increase my knowledge on alpaca fibre. He was absolutely correct. It was through sheep wool classing that I discovered the importance of yielding weight and the production level of fibre. I learnt how to skirt fleeces fast and efficiently. I learnt about the grease content, the importance of staple length, density, different crimp styles

and what a difference it made for the end product. My wool classing teacher encouraged me to bring along alpaca fleeces to test, skirt and grade. He’d question me on the quality and what the fleeces yield (income) would be. My teacher also agreed with Bill’s observations that “alpaca handles approximately 5 micron finer than it actually tests”.

WE ALSO LEARNT along the way that good nutrition produces well nourished fleeces. And that an alpaca’s weight (body score) can influence a fleece’s micron in both directions - underweight (low micron), overweight (micron will be higher). Neither underweight nor overweight alpaca fleece statistics show the actual quality of the animal.



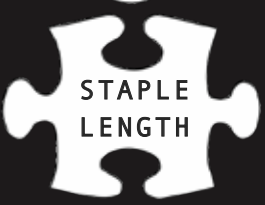
THERE ARE 10 important fleece characteristics that we focus on. Over time, we realised that these 10 fleece traits were like pieces of an interlocking puzzle, each piece relying on the other to complete the entire picture. Understanding these 10 fleece traits and why they are equally important, helped us to produce fleeces that are luxurious, clean and heavy cutting.



With experience you can assess an animals density by feel. However the most accurate way to measure density is to weigh the saddle after shearing. One of the most important fleece characteristics is density, as without it, you cannot get weight of fleece.



Animals that retain fineness throughout their lifetime are of great value to our herd. Breeding purely for fineness without first having density is a waste of time as you will finish up breeding animals that produce uneconomical fleece weights.



Staple length makes all the difference when it comes to processing the fibre. Animals that retain a long staple length (80-100mm) throughout their lifetime are worth their weight in gold. A fine dense fleece is not worth much unless it has a decent staple length.



Huacayas with no crimp have open fleeces that pick up dirt and vegetable matter when they roll. Crimp is necessary as it holds the fleece together, preventing moisture or dust penetration. A good, even crimped fleece indicates a well bred alpaca that is more likely to breed true to type.



The one fibre quality associated exclusively with alpaca is soft handle. Finer fibre normally has the best handle or feel. Heavy medulation (guard hair) in alpaca can adversely affect its handle.



Lustre is the shine that we see when we open an alpaca’s fleece. It is an important and desirable trait in both huacaya and suri fibre. Suri’s in particular, are renown for their lustrous fibre.



This characteristic should be selected against. Most alpacas carry medulated fibre on their chest and up the neck. Some also carry it right through the fleece (try to avoid these animals). Through selection we should be able to eliminate medulation in the body of the fleece and minimise it in other areas, with the ultimate aim being to eliminate it altogether.



The more even the crimp and the micron of the fleece, the more dense the animal. Evenness in fleece length is also a desirable characteristic.





A strong fibre makes a strong thread, and a strong garment that will wear well. Underfeeding, sickness or stress can be a problem causing tenderness or reduced fibre strength.



A small amount of grease in the fleece is beneficial as it assists in preventing moisture and dirt penetration. It also helps to hold the fleece together and prevents crossed fibres. Thus protecting a fleece until it is shorn and enabling it to be presented to a processor, or hand spinner, in a first class manner.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

By *Hannah Hart*
(*Shalom Alpacas*)

Photographs are how we advertise our animals and products. Your photography skills matter... so here are a few helpful tips on how to improve your photography skills.

WITHIN OUR INDUSTRY, micron, in particular, is heavily focused on. An article from the Australian Alpaca Association which was featured in The Land newspaper December 2020 stated, *“Fibre diameter is the single most important fibre trait with regard to commercial processing.”* The winning ribbons awarded in the show ring encourage breeders towards finer micron.

DUE TO OUR harsh Australian conditions there are minimal merino breeders who breed ultra fine (below 17u micron) wool in Australia. Ultra fine wool is a smaller niche market, with wool-clips bringing a higher return at shearing.

ONE OF THE most exciting things to happen in our industry is to finally have commercial fibre buyers. This is great news for the future of alpacas in Australian agriculture. When you ask commercial fibre buyers and processors of alpaca fleece they advise the highest demand is for fleece between 19 to 25 micron. A few months ago it was reported in The Land newspaper (16 June 2022 edition) *“As an industry we are getting a premium for well presented fibre based upon quality, not micron. There is an order for 120,000kg of alpaca fleece to go to China. China does not want our superfine fibre. They will take everything they can get over 22 micron but they don’t want anything under.”*

AS AN INDUSTRY which promotes finer micron as *‘the single most important fibre trait with regard to commercial processing’* are we heading in the right direction? Are we breeding towards where the market demand is? Will there ever be a high demand for ultrafine alpaca fibre on a commercial level? We ourselves, have bred ultrafine alpacas. While the fibre feels absolutely divine, it is not sought after on a commercial level. The micron is very important, but we have realised there is a limit as to how fine we should go. There is a small market available for our ultrafine alpaca fibre with handspinners, though ultrafine fibre is actually not their favourite. They prefer clean fleeces with a long staple length and 18+ micron. Those who spin ultrafine alpaca fibre often mix it with wool to give their final product longer durability. We are fortunate that we shear our own animals. This means that we are able to shear in early spring, before our alpacas start rolling in the warmer weather. Shearing in mid-September results in much cleaner fleeces.

WE HAVE FOUND that strong constitution, good temperament, frame and fertility are just as important as fleece. In our continual journey to improve our herd these five traits are where our focus remains.



shalomalpacos
 Shalom Alpacas

Hannah & Denise
(*Shalom Alpacas*)

FLEECE PHOTOGRAPHY in a shearing shed using an iPhone 5



FIRST PHOTO is taken using normal photo mode without the use of the flash. The shearing shed isn’t the brightest place, and the shadows created make the fleece look worse than it actually is.



SECOND PHOTO is taken using normal photo mode with the flash. This creates a gorgeous lustre and portrays the fleece as being better than it actually is.



THIRD PHOTO is taken using portrait mode without a flash. Portrait mode has the most accurate lighting, it portrays the fleece’s true quality.



FOURTH PHOTO is taken using portrait mode with a flash. This gives a more lustrous look, but still has the natural lighting.

ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Taking pictures from different angles using a SONYa2500



Taking a photo of an alpaca that’s facing downhill can make the animal appear to have a dip in their back (even when they don’t). Make sure to crouch down so your camera is level with their backline, which will ensure the animal looks in proportion.



Level ground photos; this is perfect for displaying what an animal actually looks like. Whether they have a straight or dippy backline, proud or lazy stance, hunched back etc.



Taking a photo of an alpaca that’s facing uphill makes the animal look attractive every time. It particularly helps animals who lack that ‘wow’ factor (proud stance) to look proud.

shalomalpacas
Shalom Alpacas



Honkynut Hill

Alpacas



A Passion for the Darkside

Our Alpaca journey started in the winter of 2014. We had just moved onto small acreage in Bedfordale, WA in the beautiful Perth Hills. The property had previously been owned by retired Alpaca Breeders and it was well organised with small paddocks and lane ways.

Our initial plan was to escape from Suburbia with a dream of owning our own little slice of heaven, have a few chickens and a couple of black faced sheep to keep the grass down! However, it didn't quite turn out like that! Somewhere between then and now the obsessive, passion and love for Alpacas has well and truly entered our lives!

At the latest count we had 35 Alpacas, 29 Chooks, 1 Rooster, 4 Geese and a variety of Parrots not to mention a thriving native Bandicoot colony!

IN THE BEGINNING:

Within the first 2 weeks of living on the property and with the suggestion from the previous homeowners to consider Alpacas

over sheep, we took delivery of two Huacaya wethers, "Surrender" and "Barnaby Jones". Those boys were amazing and full of personality and so began our induction into Alpaca ownership and everything that went with it. We learnt so much.

From the outset we were extremely lucky to have guidance from local Alpaca Breeders who encouraged and supported us along the way. It wasn't long before we decided to step up and purchase our first two pregnant girls. The irony was, we went to purchase Huacaya on that day but were absolutely smitten with the Suri breed when we witnessed the beauty of a running herd in full, flowing fleece that we ended up taking home two Suri's, a black and a brown girl. From that point on we were hooked!

Our first two Suri Cria were black, a male and a female. After they were weaned, we were encouraged to enter our first Show which was at Albany WA in Nov 2016. Our Junior black male "Petrie Black" was awarded 1st place in his halter age class and then went on to get Best Black Suri in the Show against some tough opposition. It was a huge surprise and such an amazing feeling..... the bug bit hard!

As well as participating in other WA Regional Shows we also made the long interstate road trip with our Black Male from Perth to Bendigo in 2017 for the Victorian Alpaca Spectacular. Driving in convoy along with some other WA Breeders it was an amazing experience with a lot of fun, laughs and initiation pranks on the way! We would highly recommend it to anyone. At the Spectacular, our Intermediate male received a Highly Commended Ribbon. He presented very well and was the blackest male in the class. However, he lacked density when compared to the others placed above him. The Judge's comments were very encouraging.

So began our quest for the "Darkside", to improve the quality and density of our fleece focusing mainly on Black Suri.

We look forward to making further Interstate trips as this offers a great opportunity to benchmark our alpacas at a national level and give us further direction on what we need to do within our breeding programme.

CURRENT BREEDING PROGRAMME:

We have been introducing new fawn and brown genetics into our herd to improve fleece quality and density.

To increase the probability of Black within our herd we are utilizing the Genetic Alpaca Colour Coat Testing as developed at Curtin University in WA. We also have an interest in breeding Grey Huacaya and find this colour test an extremely valuable tool.

Ultimately our main aim is to improve the quality and density of our Black Suri Fleece.

Certainly not a quick process but exciting in the planning and execution and fulfilling when we eventually reach our goal

Perfection takes time!



Daniel Birch & Jane O'Neill

Honkynut Hill Alpacas
Bedfordale ~ Western Australia



Many of the award-winning fleeces were on display throughout the 11 days of show, giving visitors the chance to see the best of alpaca fibre. The Australian Alpaca Co-operative perpetual trophy for Champion Fleece was awarded to **Yenaminut Sollocota Skydancer**, exhibited by Precision Alpaca Group.

International judge **Roger Clarke** from Ireland judged the halter section. Roger and his wife Elaine are founding members of the Irish alpaca industry and have one of the most successful, experienced and influential alpaca operations in Ireland.

The first day of alpaca judging was a sell-out with over 50,000 people in attendance. After more than 1000 days since the last competition, it was incredibly pleasing to showcase the alpaca industry to record-breaking crowds.

Precision Alpaca Group took out the double with **Pacofino Bacardi** awarded the **Bill Plunkett** perpetual trophy for supreme champion suri and **Precision Hyperion ET** taking out the **G & N Halpin** perpetual trophy for supreme champion huacaya. We were honoured to have Geoff Halpin, a founding member of the AAA, present the award. Best in show was awarded to Precision Hyperion ET.

The **Dianne Condon** perpetual trophy for champion white huacaya female was awarded to **Buckland Rapture**, exhibited by Keith Wadsworth and Liz Robinson. Diannes' passion and dedication was the driving force behind the first Melbourne Royal Alpaca Show and it was lovely to honour her memory with this celebration.



After a two-year hiatus, the 2022 Melbourne Royal Show returned bigger and better than ever, bringing over half-a-million people together to celebrate agriculture, the highest attendance in 15 years.

This year Australia's oldest alpaca competition celebrated its 30th anniversary. Alpacas have been part of the Melbourne Royal since 1991, with just 17 exhibitors and 37 entries in that first year. Since then the show has grown to be one of the most prestigious shows in Australia, with the 2022 show attracting 47 fleece entries and over 170 halter entries with exhibitors from Victoria, NSW, South Australia and Tasmania.

Alpacas took centre stage in the Kubota Australia Livestock Pavilion over two days, starting Sunday 25 September with suri and huacaya classes followed by judging of the supreme champions, best in show, Royal colour and progeny classes on Monday 26 September.

To mark our 30-year celebration, a selection of alpaca memorabilia was showcased alongside banners depicting each suri and huacaya supreme champion from 1991 to 2021. To top it off, a series of display cabinets highlighted the progression of the alpaca industry over three decades with their contents reflecting the success Australian breeders have had over such a short period of time. Exhibitors also received a commemorative sash to celebrate the occasion.

Senior Australian judge **Angela Preuss** judged the fleece competition on Friday 9th September, prior to the show. Angela, with her husband Ian, have been farming alpacas full time for over twenty years. Angela has many years' experience judging in Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England and Canada.





In addition to the alpaca competition, the alpaca industry was represented in the **Distinguished Service and Achievement** awards for 2022 at the President's Luncheon on Thursday 22 September in the MasterChef Pavilion. **Ron Condon** was awarded the Speed the Plough Medal for exceptional service and commitment to elevating the Melbourne Royal Show Alpaca Competition. Ron is a foundation member of the AAA and the only alpaca breeder to exhibit at the first Royal Melbourne who is still actively breeding and showing alpacas today. His long-term commitment to the Melbourne Royal Alpaca Competition as an exhibitor is unsurpassed. Our congratulations to Ron.

On behalf of the Royal Melbourne Alpaca Committee, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank everyone who made this year's Melbourne Royal Alpaca Show not just a success, but more importantly, an enjoyable get together —

Thank you to our Premier Partner **Scotch Group**. Scotch Group is an Australian owned company committed to sourcing luxury alpaca fleece to supply worldwide markets. Scotch Group also produces their own wonderful alpaca quilts and pillows under the **Uneke** label;

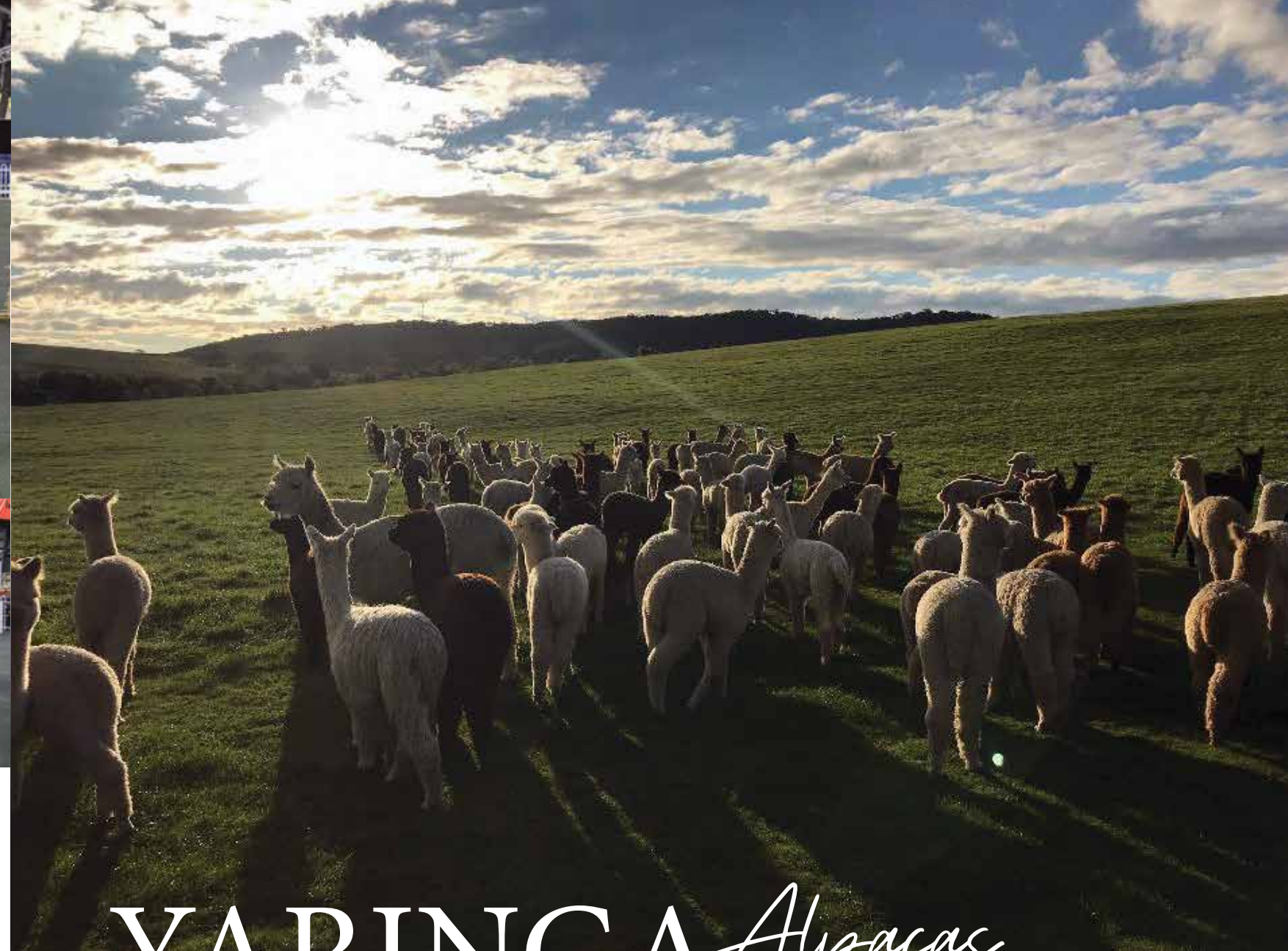
Thank you to our fleece sponsor **Baarrooka Suri Alpacas**. Baarrooka has developed a world-class suri herd with breeding focus on commercial fleece characteristics;

Thank you to our numerous championship, best in show and progeny supporters. Your support is invaluable;

Thank you to our judges, Angela and Roger for volunteering their time, support and talent to make this year's competition a success and to our many volunteers and stewards who enthusiastically support the alpaca and fleece competitions.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our showcase, your trophies, sashes, photos, yarns, garments and fleece made the display a truly wonderful exhibition of what alpacas have to offer. Your generous support is much appreciated;

Finally, thank you to all our exhibitors. Quite simply, there would be no competition without you. We look forward to welcoming you back next year for an even bigger and better show, **September 21 – October 1 2023**. Be sure to mark the date in your calendar.



YARINGA *Alpacas*

Yaringa Alpacas is owned and operated by Susan Haese. At Yaringa Alpacas we pride ourselves on our customer service.

We provide:

- long term and short term agistment including birthing care
- excellent after sales service
- stud services to an extensive stable of elite males and budget males
- embryo transfer
- herd management contracts
- contract shearing
- halter training and show preparation
- workshops on all things alpaca
- consultancy/forward planning
- "Trendy alpaca" selling alpaca accessories

"Coomooloo Station", 91 Coomooloo Rd Bald Hills, SA, Australia 5203

susan@yaringaalpacas.com.au



An honest account of the highs and lows from the perspective of a new breeder

By Marian Hawkins



We had just moved from the hustle and bustle of Sydney to a picturesque 20-acre property in Butterwick NSW, 20 min northeast of Maitland. My partner Steve had recently retired from the Air Force after 35 years' service and now works three days per week as a reservist at the Williamtown RAAF base and I work as an NDIS Support Coordinator with people with severe psychosocial disabilities.

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or find us on Facebook

www.gumnutvalley.com.au

Our alpaca journey started 27 September 2019 with the purchase of 3 pregnant females and a weanling from Hunter Alpaca Stud. It was love at first sight, but we had no idea how to care for alpacas. Without the support, advice and encouragement from some amazing and generous breeders we would not be where we are today.

The first year flew by and life was beautiful. Four alpacas quickly became seven and we were lucky enough to watch the birth of our first three crias. Our boys Archibald and Maximilian are wethers and happily guarding our male weanlings, whereas Annabelle was due to have her first cria in October 22. We increased our herd to 19 alpacas with the arrival of several beautiful brown females and two newly certified coloured stud males with an impressive show career. We handfed our animals through the tail end of the drought, adjusted to life on the farm and learned about birthing, shearing, husbandry, weed control, feeding, worm management and mating. We did lots of fencing, created multiple smaller paddocks with runways and plenty of gates (one can never have too many gates).

Our second year was very different as we learned about the other side of livestock farming and nothing could have prepared us for the lows that were to follow. Our herd had increased to 32 animals and the drought was replaced by extreme wet weather. With the rain came lots of weeds, worms, illness and death. We were devastated to lose four animals that year. The joy we felt with the births of six gorgeous crias from our first hand matings was quickly overshadowed by losing a potential stud male. Worse still, necropsy could not determine a cause of death.

A month later we lost a lactating female to Barbers Pole. Astounded at how quickly Robinette went down, we threw

everything and the kitchen sink at it, with Archibald heroically donating blood to try to save her, but sadly it wasn't to be. We drenched the rest of the herd and had all animals vet checked, as we did not want to lose another alpaca, ever! Six weeks later, just as we started to relax again, we lost another lactating female, this time due to anaemia. Although we had treated our entire herd for barbers pole, Shanti was a bit older, feeding her cria, as well as allowing orphan Romy to access the milk bar when she thought we were not watching. She was pregnant again and heading into winter with the colder night temperatures she was unable to recover. Now we had two orphans to bottle feed!

Farm life was much tougher than anticipated. We felt overcome with self-doubt and guilt, as these animals had placed their lives in our hands, and we had let them down. Determined to learn from every experience and to avoid this from happening again, we bought a poo vac to reduce worms in the paddocks and I completed a faecal egg counting course to monitor worm burdens. We regularly test all animals for worms and only drench where required. We have learned that prevention is the best cure. We feed our animals twice a day and check for anything out of the ordinary. As stoic and resilient as they are, when an alpaca goes down the chance that they get back up is slim.





Initially our vision was to create two herds of 10-12 breeding females to have both a spring and an autumn drop. We found that mating again too soon after birthing would not allow the females to recover fully and they were more susceptible to worms and illness. Instead, we created three smaller herds of 6-8 breeding females and wean our crias at 5 months of age to ensure optimum health of the females before mating them again. With everything we learned and experienced, the health, safety and wellbeing of our animals was our top priority.

In Spring 21 we excitedly awaited the birth of 6 crias, but things did not go to plan. Our first cria Savannah was born septic and the vet gave her little to no chance of survival. The next day Teddy was born and was immediately rejected by his Mum. We had to give colostrum and tried everything to get them to bond, but when Tellulah turned nasty and tried to hurt him, we had to separate them for Teddy's safety.

Both maidens, they could not have been more different. Stormy did not leave her little girls' side for two days, allowed us to express her milk and tube feed it to Savannah. Only when she was convinced her cria had died did she walk away.

However, Savannah's life was still hanging by a thread; her breathing was very shallow and she was completely limp. It was a matter of time and didn't want to traumatise either any further. We ceased antibiotics and feed, wrapped her up one more time and allowed her to die peacefully.

We penned Stormy and Teddy together to keep an eye on both. After a near sleepless night feeding Teddy every two hours, we checked to confirm that Savannah had passed away. We could not believe our eyes when she lifted her head. How was this possible? It was a miracle! We brought her inside, recommenced anti-biotics, fed her and cleaned her up as her bottom was

quite soiled. Thankfully Stormy accepted her back without hesitation. We kept tube feeding Savannah and bottle-feeding Teddy until Savannah was strong enough to access the milk bar independently. Stormy accepted Teddy then also and she successfully fed both cria through to weaning. They were often mistaken for twins as they looked so similar.

In Autumn 22 we welcomed five more crias, including a little male born 6 weeks premature. Kristoph was weak and underdeveloped. He was a fighter and refused to give up. For three days and nights we milked Mum every 2 hours and tube fed Kristoph. One minute he looked down and out and the next he was alert and trying to get up. On the third night he had no more fight left in him and peacefully crossed over the rainbow bridge. In his short time with us, he made a huge impact and will never be forgotten.

We care deeply about alpacas and feel privileged to have our own beautiful animals that want for nothing. Over the past 18 months we have rescued (paid for) multiple alpacas that were severely neglected. Distressed by the state of these animals, we wanted in some way give back by saving these animals from a certain death, bring them back to good health, at considerable cost, time and effort. To see these animals flourish over time, their wounds healing, their tummies getting fatter and learning to trust again, is incredibly humbling. To then be able to find them an amazing new forever home is icing on the cake.

We can't imagine a life without alpacas anymore and want to share our love of these incredible, magical, unique and inquisitive animals with others.

In October we commenced an alpaca education, handling and care program tailored to NDIS participants with disabilities and mental health challenges. In the short time we have run the course, we have seen some remarkable, positive changes in the participants.

We are incredibly excited to offer additional activities as of January 2023:

- Workshops for people considering keeping alpacas, as well as husbandry workshops for those with alpacas providing hands on support
- Grazing with alpacas, a unique picnic experience
- Stud services for any of our coloured, show winning stud males
- For NDIS participants with plan or self-management we offer farm tours to meet our animals and assist with feeding, additional alpaca care programs and 1:1 alpaca assisted activities.

We feel honoured to have the opportunity to bring together our passion for alpacas and the work that we do.

All of this said, our journey continues as we grow and learn with our alpacas and meet more wonderful alpaca friends along the way.





Youth & Alpacas.

With the advent of school based alpaca clubs in Queensland to South Australia and AAA Alpaca Youth groups developing around the country, our Youth have introduced the 'alpaca' into a network that takes our industry into mainstream agricultural industry support networks such as the Agricultural Societies, Agricultural school curriculums and teachers networks and importantly, for consideration for grants for Alpaca Youth education in the wider agricultural sphere.

In doing so it has enriched the pathway for the development of alpaca passionate youth in our industry. Its not just attending a stand alone alpaca show anymore. Across the country, there are students from schools, tafes and universities attending alpaca sections of the multi breed Expos for multiple schools, competing in introductory, carefully designed events at local shows or at school camps learning about alpacas, about handling animals, husbandry, best farm practices and so on.



“

We have students, passionate about alpacas forming committees to run events, programmes for training days, convening youth events at shows, developing camp curriculums, organising Parader/Judge training days, organising stewarding training for their events, and as time has gone on, becoming accredited AAA judges, purchasing, owning and showing their own alpacas.

There are school children, solely introduced to alpacas via their school club. Look at Becca Halcombe, a Year 12 student attends Camden High NSW. She currently has designed a programme, and is running the Alpaca Section of a multi school, multi livestock breed Ag Expo, supported by the NSW Youth Group 17 September. She attends weekly zoom meetings in conjunction with the organizing teachers, ag societies and other breed leaders, whilst keeping the AAA across the progress and working with her mentor, Christie Haywood, a senior member of the Alpaca Youth Group.

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Another mentor, Katy Armson Graham, who represents our industry on the AYE committee, is a current NSW RAS Rural Achiever and competing her Masters of Teaching writes 'The children love working and competing with the alpacas because it gives them a sense of achievement, pride and accomplishment. They like to challenge themselves by taking



in the harder alpacas in halter class and control them safely. The children also like to challenge themselves but competing in the Youth Paraders using alpacas they don't normally use. Alpaca programs give children a chance to experience alpacas and alpaca farming. Which has in some cases lead to these children own alpacas, going to a career in Ag and going into shearing.'

Here we have put together just a small sample of what our youth are doing in the industry.

In WA Mia Hancock and Kira Bunter are a double act, who fell in love with alpacas at school (Kelmscott Senior High School, has a specialist Agriculture program). Their experience with other livestock (cattle, sheep) gave them the confidence to get involved with handling alpacas at shows and are now regulars in WA all within a couple of years. They come along to help any breeder in the show ring or marshalling area, bring positive community spirit (especially when you need extra hands to help pack up events), put themselves out there to try new things, and have found second homes at Windsong Valley Livestock and Honkynut Hill Alpacas as farm hands and friends.



Kira is going to study animal science and animal health next year at Murdoch University, WA.

Mia is currently completing a Cert 3 in Animal studies, and planning to start a double degree of Agriculture and Business majoring in Animal Science next year. She's just bought her first alpaca (white Suri in the pic) with cria due end of September.

Then, over in QLD Alpaca Youth from the The Calvary Christian College Alpaca Team epitomises the spirit of team work amongst students in alpaca competitions. 2022 Royal Toowoomba Show Young Judges event is an example of this. The Seniors (over 15yrs) coached the Junior (under 15yrs) competitors on the huacaya breed standards and in turn giving the Juniors much needed encouragement prior to the competition.

The CCC team will be competing again at the Royal QLD Show 13-14/08/22 in Young Judges and Young Parader events.

On 19-20/02/23 the Calvary Christian College organises / hosts the Calvary Schools Livestock Challenge, involving approximately 7 schools. The Alpaca Young Judges event involves an education and competition, which has averaged 40 competitors in the past. In 2023 we hope there will be a greater number of students who will then move onto the 2023 AAA & RNA alpaca youth events.

Going south the AAA NSW Alpaca Youth is a committee of young people under the age of 25, founded in 2012, to aid and assist the development of Youth programmes for the Australian Alpaca industry, to create a pathway to encourage learning and to foster leadership skills and confidence. The NSW alpaca youth group and its wider community has been instrumental in supporting up-and-coming Parader, Youth and Young Judge events for state agricultural societies, Nowra, Camden, Canberra, Goulburn Sydney to name a few as well as developing programmes for youth at the Charles Ledger, Sydney Royal, school expos and Agshow zone events. It now have amongst our ranks AAA judges, many large and small breeders, researchers, teachers, tradies and many students studying everything from agriculture to pharmacy and all hoping to continue working with alpacas in the future.

With the 11th annual camp being held at Illawarra alpaca stud 14th and 15th of January 2023 the YG is designing a rich programme for a range of experience levels catered for. For more info or entry forms contact NSW Alpaca Youth on facebook or by email at Alpacayouth@gmail.com.

An example of the pathway our children may follow is no more better exemplified by the path taken by Sam and Christie Haywood and by putting it in point form below, it may act to assist other young people to enjoy their Alpaca journey.

- Born and raised in Sydney NSW
- Commenced alpaca interaction through Menai high School Agricultural program
- Began competing in local Alpaca Parader shows - 2015
- Awarded several Supreme Parader Championships and Master Trainer Awards
- Attended numerous annual Alpaca Youth Camps
- Worked with NSW Alpaca Youth Group – wonderful environment of mentoring and friendship (notably Katy, Rubey and Imogen B)
- Involvement with annual shearing with mentoring stud farm (Storybook)
- Purchase of own animals and commencement of breeding program under own stud name – under the guidance and mentoring of Storybook Alpacas (located in Southern Highlands, NSW)
- Showing of own animals in Halter class Ring events
- Champion Young Judge – Alpaca Nationals (Canberra - 2019) - Christie
- Champion and Reserve Champion at NSW State Alpaca Young Judging Final 2021
- Champion and Reserve Champion at National alpaca Young Judge Final 2022
- Continuing their alpaca journey as they transition out of secondary school and into adulthood. Enjoying the opportunity to continue to expand their own alpaca learning, and mentoring younger members.

Tasmania Youth are hugely self propelling in a more difficult space given their small industry but they punch well above their weight. Learning from their mentor stud, Toffeemont Casey, Shara and Taylah competed at the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year. Casey and Shara competed in junior judging and Taylah in open paraders. Taylah placed 3rd, Casey placed 3rd and Shara Highly commended.



Overall, a great achievement by all these exceptional young women. This year in Tasmania Paraders competition for the Royal Hobart Show will be held on 29th Oct. To support the team, an on farm workshop day will be held at Toffeemont before the show. Also in the pipeline with support from the mentors, and the interstate Youth Groups and the AYE, Tasmanians are planning for a weekend workshop in the January school holidays.

Victorians have had a long participation in the Youth space and continue to do so. They make an excellent presentation at the Melbourne Royal and have activations around the country at various Agshows. At the Celebration Show, held May 2022 celebrated Victoria's first Youth Paraders event. What a ride with hundreds of youth competing over the years. With John Price and Rachel Burnett organising the Stockmanship event, and Leah Burnett and Tahniesha Lazarus helping and mentoring, with Sarah Vaughan, stewarding, it shows again the pathway for all young people passionate about alpacas, may take. Of special mention is Mikhaila Rollinson judging her debut show, having been one of the younger starters 10 years ago.

With Alpaca Youth Group Training day being held at Julie Blake's Chakana Blue, Seville East, Victoria there is much excitement for the youth of our industry.

However none will be as busy as the Youth of South Australia right now who have been hugely engaged in Alpaca events in that state for many years, with great support from mentor studs. It will be post the Adelaide Royal that we will expand on all the activities of both the Youth groups, School Clubs, the Mentor Studs and Youth Supporters in that state.

Watch this space for the development, not just of our Youth, but of our industry and the future young leaders who will take it on from here.



Aberfeldy
Alpacas



Aberfeldy
Alpacas

FOR SALE

AWARD WINNING ALPACAS

Available now due to property downsizing – stud quality, herd guards or pets

- Boutique stud, in the industry 20 years, with a focus on fleece quality
 - All IAR registered with excellent pedigrees, some certified males
 - Selection of whites & coloureds
 - Females offered with matings to award winning sires
- Although we haven't shown a lot, we are proud to say our alpacas have stood their own in the show ring.

Alpacas (and fleeces from our October 2022 shearing) may be inspected on farm by appointment.

Don't miss this opportunity to purchase individual animals or a tailored package. Fantastic prices as we are reluctantly downsizing to smaller acreage.



Orpheus

Aberfeldy Orpheus (Roan)

DOB 2018. IAR 243805;
Certified

Fleece Stats – Oct 2022 (5th):
FD 21.8, SD 4.7, SL 90, CF 95%

Show awards incl:

Halter: 2019 1st at Nationals
- Int Male; & Charles Ledger -
Adult Male;

Fleece: 2020 Best in Colour:
Canberra Royal, & National
Fleece Challenge

Orpheus has a lovely dense
fleece. He's quiet & easy to
handle.



Contact

Margaret 0409 141 595
aberfeldy.alpacas@gmail.com
www.aberfeldyalpacas.com.au
Googong, NSW 2620





PACA POWER MAKES THE CUT

John Cutler OAM –
Bespoke Tailor –
J. H. Cutler, Sydney NSW
*“Nothing is impossible,
everything is achievable”*

Author: Merlene Abbott
Write Angles,
Huonville, Tasmania

What do J H Cutler, Paddock to Garment and Fibre Naturally have in common?

A high-end, beautiful jacket,
handwoven using Australian grown
and processed alpaca, in the
Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

J. H. Cutler, John Handel Lawson Cutler,
OAM, a fourth-generation tailor, known
for “making suits for Prime Ministers,
and A listers”, and recently written up in
Forbes Magazine, New York, as one of
the top ten tailors in the world.

Karen Grady, Paddock to Garment and
Black Ant Alpacas, has kept alpacas
for their soft, luxurious, fabulous fleece
since 2012, and has been weaving
beautiful lofty garments ever since.



Karen Grady – Paddock to Garment
& Black Ant Alpacas – Cygnet, Tas

Gayle Herring, Fibre Naturally Alpaca
Woollen Mill and Glenavon Alpaca
Stud, has been in the alpaca business
since 1993 and processing alpaca fibre
in her mill for the past fifteen years. It
is a family business, that can process
individual fleeces or an entire clip, to
smoothly flow with demand.



Gayle Herring – Fibre Naturally Woollen
Mill & Glenavon Alpacas-Macclesfield, Vic

How did this amazing jacket come about? Now there's a story.

In 2014, Karen could no longer keep
up with hand spinning her alpaca
fleece to meet the demand for the
woven alpaca fabric from her small
herd. Karen turned to Fibre Naturally,
a mini mill in Macclesfield, Victoria,
Australia, to process her fleece. Therein
begins an interesting journey which
started with fine two-ply alpaca yarn
for beautiful garments. Followed by
interesting requests “Gayle, do you
think you could blend recycled sari
silk with a fleece”? The journey was
to grow and continue, with constant
challenges, as you will see.

In August 2021, John Cutler walked
into Karen's weaving Studio in Cygnet,
Tasmania. Admiring her weaving and
meticulous workmanship, he said “we
could work together”. John's thinking
here was that he would come up with
ideas, and Karen could create the
fabric. Karen understood what was
required, and both understood the
limitation of fine handwoven fabric in
such high-end pieces. The process
involved making a black fabric with
multi-coloured stripes. Karen dyed
her white alpaca yarn in the colours

required and then wove a few samples
and came up with one that was
suitable for a man's jacket. Six metres
of fabric was produced to make a
winter weight double-breasted jacket.
When that was completed, J H Cutler
requested a lighter weight fabric
charcoal grey, with wider stripes, which
would be lined in antique Kimono
fabric. J H Cutler then requested
another light- weight fabric in white/
cream.



Weaving the cloth on the Loom

Another challenge posed for Gayle
Herring and Fibre Naturally. Karen
called Gayle just before Christmas.
Her client John Cutler, wanted some
super-fine alpaca yarn to make
jackets – one jacket was to be dark
charcoal grey, the other white/cream.
Karen asked: “What did I think, would
I be able to do it, oh, and singles –
not plied, and PS! It's really urgent!
Always up for a challenge, Gayle
responded, “sure, let's give this a go”.
For this particular commission, the
yarn needed to be spun exceptionally
fine – i.e. Italian suit-yarn style,
which is usually produced in huge
industrial mills. For a mini mill this was
a challenge, as the finer the thread,
the harder it is to spin and provide
consistency in the strand. The quality



of the alpaca fibre certainly affects this, and it required Gayle's skill and knowledge in assessing and selecting the fibre and making the precise adjustments to the equipment to create a fine continuous thread without it feeling too harsh.

The raw alpaca fibre used for this commission was a combination of Black Ant and Glenavon Huacaya blended with locally sourced Suri. In this instance the yarn produced was very fine, soft and luxurious, however it was still strong enough to stand up to the tension and abrasion required for hand weaving. Karen wove six metres of fabric, not without its flaws a skipped thread here and there, a little 'flax' to deal with (particularly in the white). This is what makes it fabulous it is fibre that has come from the paddock, been spun by Gayle, handwoven by Karen and tailored by John to create an exceptional and unique piece.



The spinning of a yarn (no pun intended) is a significant part of the process.

A fleece generally takes approximately a month to work its way through all the mill processes. The fleece needs to be:

- Tumbled to remove dust and short fibres
- Washed to further remove dirt
- Dried
- Picked to open up the fleeces further
- Dehaired to remove coarse & short fibre and vegetable matter
- Carded into a roving suitable for spinning
- Drawn out to make the roving more consistent
- Spun up on the spinner into a thread
- Plied into a yarn
- Wound onto a cone
- Steamed to set the yarn
- Skeined (or wound) into balls.

That's a lot of processes to go through! There are multiple fleeces, from different customers going through the mill at the same time, while keeping each customer's fleece separate from others. It's a constant juggling act, which Fibre Naturally are used to and have the capacity for. As the fleeces progress through the mill, there is also the need to clean the machines between each fleece to prevent contamination, especially as they are dealing with such a variety of coloured fleeces.

Fibre Naturally is proud to say that from small beginnings we have grown and given every client the same dedicated service in making the best of the fibre that is sent to us. The equipment and space for our mill has doubled, there is a separate studio and space for mill tours where people can see the range of yarn and products we produce from our own alpacas and camels.

There is undoubtedly significant room for growth in the Australian alpaca fibre and garment industry. As a team, John, Karen and Gayle are showing the rest of the Australian industry what Australian alpaca is capable of.

There is a bigger push from the Australian public for more home-grown natural fibre, and traceability of where the fibre comes from, where and how it is processed, along with the greater need for environmental considerations. This is one of the reasons to be a member of the Australian Fibre Collective: guarantees all products with this label are 100% Australian grown and manufactured.

People are also more interested in the carbon impact of products. Growing and processing fibre in Australia has a far lower carbon footprint than sending our fleeces overseas and then shipping products, which may not necessarily use Australian fibre, back to Australia. Like the impact of micro-breweries and boutique beers have had on the consumer palate, mini mills, with their capacity to process unique



artisan yarns, are leading the way with the world-wide trend of traceability and accountability of ethically and sustainably produced natural fibre products using fair and safe work practices, and alpaca fibre has such a wide appeal. It is a wonderful, luxurious fibre that comes in a huge range of natural colours, making it is possible to create colourful garments without the need for dyes.

Australia is a diverse country and there is certainly the market here for high-end fashion, as long as people like John Cutler are keen to embrace changes. John has certainly shown what can be achieved and hopefully we will see other high-end tailors and Australian fashion designers look to follow his lead.

This collaboration between J H Cutler, Paddock to Garment and Fibre Naturally, has resulted in several high-end jackets, vests and cravats. It is flattering to be associated with such an admired product. To see fleece turned into fine yarn and handwoven to create such a wonderful garment is an honour. Now an exhibit at such a prestigious high-profile venue - the Power House Museum, Sydney, Australia.

Importantly, this is a great endorsement for the Australian alpaca industry: Australian alpaca fibre is of such a quality that, even spun at a mini mill and handwoven, it is worthy enough to be used in high-end fashion fully processed and created in Australia, and matching the standing of similar garments produced in Europe.

Produced in Australia by John Cutler OAM, Karen Grady and Gayle Herring.



Classic Alpaca garments

Located in Hahndorf, South Australia, the Alpaca Shop also offers other Australian made products, and alpaca garments imported from Peru and Bolivia.



thealpacashophahndorf.com

Contact Us

Shop Location

The Alpaca Shop
4/60 Main Rd,
Hahndorf, South Australia 5245
Ph- 08 8388 1553
thealpacashop@ambersunalpacas.com

Farm Location

Ambersun Alpacas
2721 Victor Harbor Rd,
Mt Compass, South Australia 5210
Chris Williams 0417 826 762
chris@ambersunalpacas.com

Alpaca Farm Tour

Ambersun Alpacas
2721 Victor Harbor Rd
Mt Compass, South Australia 5210
Mitchell Williams 0475 076 385





www.katydidalpacas.com.au



Decades of success in the show ring and fleece competitions have validated our meticulous approach to sourcing and combining superior alpaca genetics to produce healthy, robust individuals exhibiting the best combination possible of desirable fleece characteristics of fineness, density, lustre and handle. Selling our alpaca fleeces annually to commercial processors and producing our own products from them has been a wonderful endeavour and helped confirm the many ways to add value to alpaca ownership.

With over a quarter century of experience to share, we always look forward to welcoming people to our property to learn more about the many attributes of these amazing animals. Whether you already own alpacas and are looking to expand your herd, or you are curious about owning alpacas as pets, herd guards, luxury fleece producers and/or show animals, we are here to help.

Katydid Alpacas is a long-established boutique stud breeding high quality white and coloured Suri and Huacaya alpacas. Located in the scenic hills less than an hour east of Perth, Western Australia, our mission from the outset always has been to select and breed stock with superior genetic qualities. In more recent times we have focused producing a high proportion of coloured alpacas in many of the 22 possible hues.



Katydid Alpacas

Allan & Katherine Williams
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Gidgegannup, WA

Estimated Breeding Value Project

The British Alpaca Society (BAS) are three years into an Estimated Breeding Value project. BAS are Working with EGENES (part of the Scottish Rural University College) in the development of the project. Data has been collected from the last three years shearing as well as historical data from the more enthusiastic record keepers!

Background

There are some basics to breed improvement that everyone can agree on (I hope!).

Any animal breeder, alpaca or otherwise, needs to know:

- what trait, or traits they are trying to improve
- the difference between good and bad in that trait
- how to identify the alpacas that have the “good” traits and therefore genes

There are two broad categories of traits. Those controlled by one or two genes e.g., eye colour, and those controlled by multiple genes like mature body weight or fleece weight. For the first group the effect of husbandry or environment on the outcome of breeding is non-existent. For example, the amount of food an alpaca eats will not affect eye colour. For the second group, husbandry and environment will have a significant effect on the outcome. Better fed alpacas have a thicker fibre micron measure and will have a bigger body weight. Because husbandry and environment vary between farms, the same genetics under different management will produce a slightly different outcome.

For the traits controlled by a single (or perhaps two or three genes) like eye colour or coat colour, you can get quite a long way towards improving your animals just by seeing what is in front of you and picking the animals with the traits you like to be the parents of the next generation. That said, coat colour in alpacas is controlled by 3 or 4 genes and is predictable, however you will benefit from genotype testing, because different combinations of genes can give you the same colour and they will not reproduce consistently.

For other traits, like fleece weight and fibre micron diameter, there are many genes involved in shaping the outcome that we see, as well as the effect of husbandry/ environment. Doing this by “eye” is almost impossible which is where Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) come in to help work out which alpacas are genuinely superior.

Genetics and environment

The key things that EBVs do is separate out the effects of genetics and husbandry/ environment and present a number that only reflects the

genetic potential of the alpaca for that trait. We know (from the data collected already) that in a trait such as fibre micron diameter 40% of what you see in a shorn fleece is down to the genetics of the alpaca and 60% is down to management.

One way of thinking about this, which explains what is going on is as

follows. If you had a group of alpacas of the same age and sex but from different herds (and hence breeding, husbandry and environment)

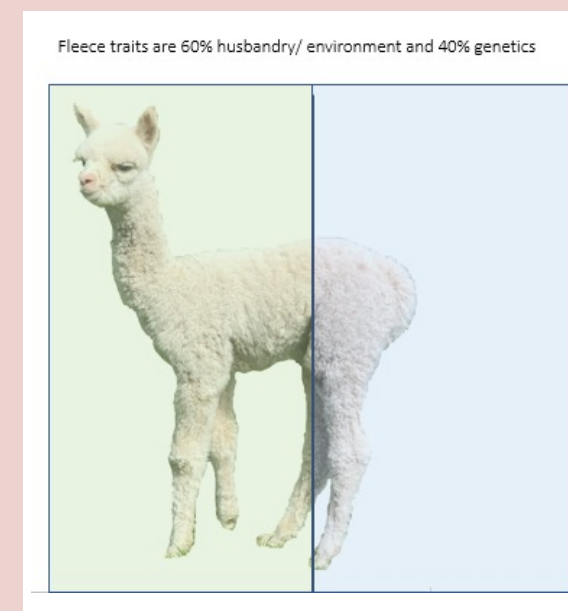
all with a measured micron averaging 20. The EBVs for fibre diameter might vary from -4 to +4 micron. So, although they all look the same you would want to pick the alpacas that carry genes for the finer fleece to be part of the breeding programme, namely those with and EBV of -4 rather than +4.

Data

The data required to produce EBVs is easily gathered. The information on the pedigree registry plus the measure of the trait, say fibre micron diameter, and shearing dates is all that is needed. A powerful computer then compares the performance of all related animals and works out the effects of husbandry and genetics. The more data we have from more alpacas the stronger and more accurate the analysis becomes.

In the three years that the BAS EBV programme has been running we have collected data from 50 different herds and, along with historic data, we have information on approaching 10,000 alpacas. Data is collected and collated through the summer and early autumn with a calculation of EBVs for the contributing herds in November each year.

Data is released back to owners in December after checks have been done. EBVs are currently calculated for fibre diameter, Stand Deviation (SD) of fibre diameter, comfort factor, spin fineness, staple length, curvature, and fleece weight. There is a preferential rate agreed with Art of Fibre for the BAS EBV project fleece sample analysis.



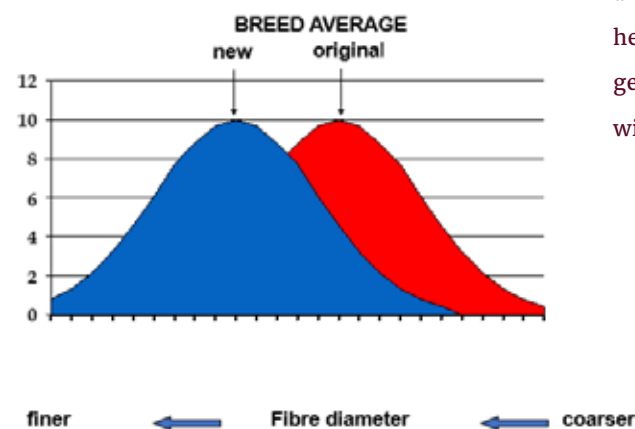
Estimated Breeding Value Project

Summary of EBV solutions for fibre traits for animals in the datafile

Trait	Minimum EBV	Maximum EBV	Mean EBV	MEAN measure
Fibre Diameter (FD) micron	-4.25	6.86	-0.14	21.8
SD FD micron	-1.07	1.75	-0.03	4.6
Comfort Factor %	-26.34	28.94	0.05	90.4
Spin Fineness	-7.42	6.74	-0.36	21.5
Staple Length (mm)	-12.87	12.15	1.74	99.1
Fibre Curvature Dg/mm	-25.39	35.41	-3.26	33.8
Fleece Wt (kg)	-0.46	0.85	0.06	2.1

Using EBVs

I know from the conversations I have been having with herds in the scheme that they will be making matings using the data. It is worth saying that EBVs are a tool that help breeding decisions and are obviously not the entire story. You still need healthy sound alpacas of good conformation but EBVs will help you identify alpacas with the fleece genetics need to make breed improvement. If you only use the best alpacas to be parents of the next generation fleece quality will improve. EBVs will also identify poor animals that should be excluded from the breeding programme.



Sometime in the future, when contributing herds are comfortable with the idea, the full results could be included in the registry for all members to peruse. In other species when this happens the data helps buyers and seller value alpacas and help everyone pursue their breeding goals with more confidence.

As data accumulates a new trait of persistence of fineness should be produced which will identify those alpacas that keep a fine fleece as they grow older. Repeat measures of the same alpacas as they age is a key to achieving this aim.

The good news is that EBVs really do work and the traits we are interested in are highly heritable. By using EBVs within two or three generations noticeable progress can, and will, be made.



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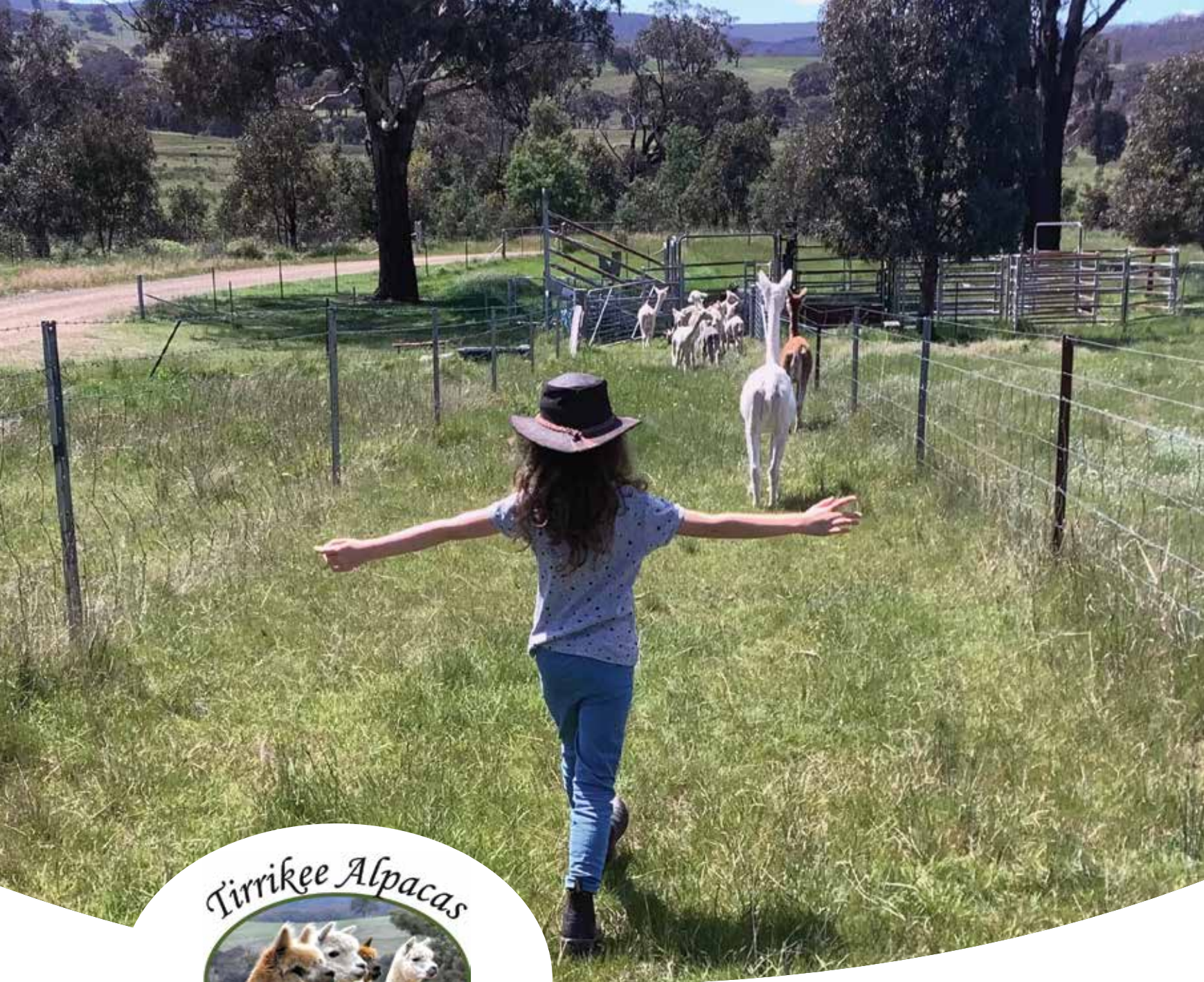
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OUR STORY CONTINUES

A QUICK PREAMBLE OF WHAT YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW.

I (Jennie) have always loved medically related things and animals..just about every animal...and genetics I find fascinating, so alpacas and genetics work well together for me. Roy has mainly been involved in horticulture, so he is very used to plants he works on today, being in the same place tomorrow,.. unlike animals which could be a paddock away! However, we have a good balance between us in running the farm.

I fell in love with alpacas when some of the first imports into Australia landed in the Central West of NSW. At that stage though, we were not in a position to buy alpacas, so instead I read every book on alpacas that I could find.

The years passed quickly, and we obtained our first alpacas which included coloured animals as well as white. A small herd of 13

We now started to look specifically at what we needed to do to improve the quality of fleece in our herd. Jim Watt (SRS) suggested with start by looking at fleece length, an easy trait to improve and then proceed to crimp style. So, our search for specific stud males began. Our first specifically chosen stud male had the most amazing fleece. Low micron, low primaries, good crimp with low frequency and he cut a very heavy saddle. This macho's first very heavily skirted "show fleece" saddle after he came to us was over 5 kgs. We then stated looking for other males, to imprint specific traits in our herd.

What were we looking for in our ongoing breeding program?

Well basically the "perfect" alpaca fleece and animal! Not much!!!!

A fleece with good length and density, brightness, great crimp structure and fineness with a soft handle, and lack of primary fibres. Of course we want uniformity and consistency of these traits, in our white herd and our coloured animals.

We have not done a lot of showing over the years as I am very critical of my own animals and yet going through the herd when we bring them into the yards, I wish someone had encouraged me to show some of these animals in earlier years. Training alpacas is easy and actually very rewarding when you "see" the "light" go on in weanlings that are very intelligent. Showing is a great way to really meet other breeders and to consolidate your own ideas into where you would like your breeding program to be going.

Breeding alpacas has its highs and low

There are the highs of breeding an alpaca where all the genes from both parents have aligned for a fabulous fleece, and then the (slight) disappointment of the cria from a repeat mating, being a "wether" animal. The joys of healthy cria births and watching them grow and the lows of then losing a cria for no apparent reason and maybe after days of fighting to keep one alive. There are the joys of an animal you bred doing well at a show but also the sad times when our foundation animals grow old and pass on.

It is also a great feeling, knowing that all the fleece that comes off an alpaca has a market.

Shearing is an exciting time, though it did take a few years to really enjoy this day. Watching fleece come off the shears is really very exciting (as is getting fleece test results back). A really good lesson we learnt, is to involve other alpaca people or new breeders in shearing days. The days when we tried to do it all ourselves (of course with our shearer and his off-sider) are now long gone and shearing days are much more enjoyable.

Both Roy and I come from scientific fields and consequently this involves teaching and sharing knowledge. As a result, it was natural for us to become involved in organizing alpaca workshops so that expert alpaca breeders could share information with other breeders and people possibly interested in alpacas. Apart from that, it is great when alpaca people get together! We all have different experiences and both 'new' and 'older' breeders can have different experiences which they can share. It is very enjoyable having a house full of alpaca enthusiasts discussing everything "alpaca".

What have we learnt in the alpaca world?

- Alpacas are beautiful, calm and stoic animals.
- Hands on experience with alpacas is the way to go.
- People interested in possibly owning their own alpacas, should ask if they can look, touch feel, inspect alpacas whenever possible.
- Alpacas' trust of humans is quite amazing.
- Alpaca people can be the most generous of people.
- Alpaca people are happy to talk about alpacas ...always!
- Becoming involved (volunteering) in alpaca activities is rewarding on many different levels.
- Never underestimate any visitors to your farm, they may come back to you years later when ready to buy their own alpacas.

There is always more to learn.....

enterprise is evolving, and we were very proud to be a finalist in the 2019 Victorian Tourism Awards (Adventure Tourism). This year, we have been nominated in three categories – Adventure Tourism, Eco Tourism and Accessible Tourism.



Jennie and Roy Menzies
"Tirrikee"
1923 Limekilns Rd, Limekilns NSW 2795
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rjmenzies@activ8.net.au

A CRIA BORN WITH ALIEN BLUE EYES

By Jennie Menzies | Tirrikee Alpacas

It was the second check of the maternity paddock for the morning.

There had been no signs of anyone in labour until then, when I saw a girl with a small opening about the size of a ten cent piece holding her tail up, and the outline of a head just under the tail. No pushing happening. Suddenly two legs shot out. There was still no pushing occurring. The tip of nose then appeared above the legs in an opening about the size of a 20 cent piece, the membrane broke and ‘the nose’ took a breath!

There was no further movement!

In the next perhaps 10 minutes, I managed to help the head of the cria be born. The trouble was that every time I tried to push the legs back to make room for the head, ‘the nose’ would start to go back too. Eventually I was able to manoeuvre the legs and turn the shoulders within the mum enough to be able to pull the head out, the cria started breathing and I let the mum do the rest.

So grateful to Adrienne Clark and her birthing workshops, for her teaching in what to do in difficult situations...the priority was to get the head out.

The cria dropped to the ground and I had a bright royal blue luminous eye looking at me!

The cria went into cush and two royal blue eyes looked at me! In the sun they really were luminous! It looked like an alien!

It took maybe 15-20 minutes before I was sure that the cria wasn’t blind but could see. The blue was in fact on the cornea, rather like the white ‘fog’ that appears from eye damage, in particular when grass seeds get

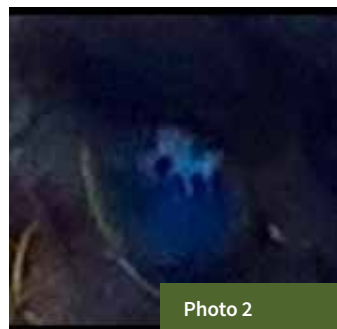


Photo 2

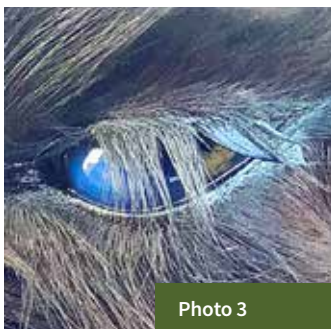


Photo 3



Photo 1

into an alpaca’s eye. This was not a ‘blue flash’ or blue eyes affecting the iris.

I contacted my vet who answered my call even though very busy at the time, with the quick question...‘can I put Orbenin in a new born cria’s eye?’ The quick answer..‘yes’.

I always check placentas to make sure they are intact. The meconium in the amniotic fluid in the placenta from this cria, was black....not just dark but BLACK! Further more, the amniotic fluid was also very, very dark brown. This little cria was stressed before birth.

Next morning, in talking to the vet I was asked if there was any improvement, to which I replied ‘if I am extremely optimistic, I would ‘maybe say yes’’. Over the next few days though, there was define improvement and by day 5, the eyes were completely clear and normal.

The cause of the blue eyes, was oxygen deprivation.

The cria was obviously deprived of oxygen during birth. When the stuck in the birth canal it appears that the cria stopped receiving oxygen from the umbilical chord, then after taking a breath when ‘the nose’ appeared the cria was still deprived of oxygen as its chest and lungs were stuck and compressed.

In photo 2, it is possible to see the retinal veins.

It was impossible to get a photo of the eyes when luminous, yes much brighter than in the first photos!), as the sun decided to go behind clouds by the time I had collected my iPad to take some photos.

In the next photo I have fiddled with the contrast and colours, so you can see part of the iris where the cornea is NOT covered by the blue cloud in the left eye

This cria was a big cria, very healthy, and up and running and bumping into things including his mum, so vision was somewhat limited) within half an hour of birth. He was drinking within that half hour, and by day 7 now with good vision, was leading the older crias in racing around the paddock. If no one would join in, he would race on his own.

Healthwise, he has never looked back.

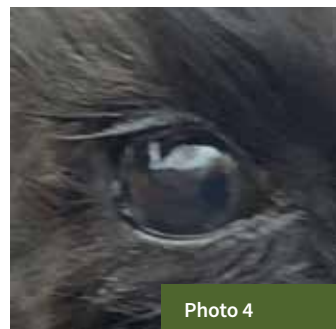


Photo 4

WOA BREEDER SPOTLIGHT

Join our growing list of Alpaca breeders who have joined our online directory to help gain international exposure.

Contact Trevor for a competitive advertising rate .

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KIBWORTH PARK ALPACAS

GREY IS FINE

Our journey with alpacas started back in 1996 with the purchase of two wethers, while living in the small township of Yaapect based in the Northwest of the state. We borrowed a horse float and made the trip to Point Addis to pick up Charley and Gaza so the love affair began. The idea behind this purchase was to learn and understand alpacas with the view of one day developing our own herd.

Kibworth Park Alpacas is located at 40 Roberts Lane, Lake Boga which is just North of the township of Lake Boga.

The name Kibworth Park was the English home of Maxine's Grandfather and properties have borne this name in Australia. On moving to Lake Boga in 2004 we purchased four girls from Almora alpacas our stud had its small beginning, growing to 95 animals currently running 76. The aim of our stud is to breed high-quality Grey Huacaya Alpacas.

We are now seeing the results of much patience and good breeding we continue to strive to improve what we have started. The achievement and recognition of breeding multi awarding winning champion animals has given us further incentive in this great industry.

Living and running alpacas in what is known as a semi-arid environment has its challenges with hot and dry conditions during the summer, with temperatures reaching a high of 47 degrees, then cold, frosty and wet winters. What we have found that alpacas can deal with this variation if you provided them with shelter, shade, fresh water, good quality food and a sparkler for a cool off.

We are now seeing our long term plan to have a holistic business producing great animals with super fine fleece through to producing quality products which are available through our on-farm shop, online and external events. Our property provides us with the options of housing all our herd undercover, (our new shed is 50metres by 12 metre), a studio for guest to do workshops, to create something special out of homegrown fleece.

Kibworth Park remains resolute to achieve a 100% ethical and sustainable business producing.

- Exceptional quality alpacas.
- High quality fleece for production of yarn and products.

We plan and have participated in major field days promoting all aspects of our business and the industry. We have now exhibited at Bendigo Sheep and Wool, Seymour Alternative Field Day and the Mallee Machinery Field Day, we are proud to be offering our 100% Australian grown and produced Alpaca Products

As a breeder it is our ambition to breed alpacas that are recognized at a regional, state, nationally and international level.



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 are breeding a commercially viable herd of black suris and huacayas, however we do have all colours. We have females, males and wethers for sale.

www.keianalodge.com.au



*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.*

KEIANA LODGE ALPACAS

Diana and Keith Rutter Berwick,

335 Razorback Road,
Running Stream, NSW 2850

p: 02 6358 8275 m: 0428 663 161

e: keianalodge@gmail.com



WELCOME TO “OUR” WORLD

New Zealand has a rich history in the agricultural sector, as a country it's known for innovation, kiwi ingenuity and its Number 8 wire mentality - this is the collective wisdom that Kiwis are good at solving problems in an unconventional or surprising way using whatever resources they have to hand (including a bit of fencing wire!). But what does this have to do with alpaca and how has it impacted the alpaca farming industry here? Where is New Zealand placed in the world market and what might the future hold?

Living on a couple of relatively small islands in the Pacific Ocean does have its drawbacks, however, this has become a significant advantage. New Zealand's isolation, along with the difficulty and expense of getting alpaca into the country has resulted in smaller herds with a well-developed genetic base. To make plans for the future it is important to understand where we have come from.



HISTORY

Alpaca were introduced here as early as 1865 but only became established after Ian Nelson (the AANZ's first life member) had the foresight to have the status changed from 'zoo animal' to 'livestock' in 1987. Subsequently, because of the close ties with Chile through the NZ Dairy Board, alpaca were able to be imported from Chile and several shipments ensued. These Chilean alpaca became the foundation of a registry where alpaca (huacaya only at that stage) were rigorously screened before entering the new registry. This early foresight, which was driven by Agresearch, has meant there are very few inherited faults in the national herd today.

So how did it all begin and what drove those earlier pioneers of the industry to invest so much and to take such calculated risks? Their vision was strong, and they could see the potential. The plan was and still continues, to develop a truly unique alpaca, producing the highest quality fibre in the world. Alpaca were rare and New Zealand had a global reputation for the production of high-quality wool and was without doubt the best place to develop alpaca as a top fibre producer.

New Zealand was the first country in the world to import alpaca from South America for commercial farming. Investors attending the Alpaca and Llama Association's first conference were known to be importing alpaca for commercial reasons which were entirely centred around fibre production (ALANZ was the forerunner to the AANZ).

The late 90's saw Peru remove their restrictions on exporting alpaca and the gold rush was on! It was acknowledged that Peru had superior stock and entrepreneurial Kiwi's, with their agricultural background, were quick to recognise their potential and their value.

The high animal value and the trials and tribulations of importing made investors extremely discerning with their purchases. This was fortunate as it led to only the very best alpaca being imported. With additional judicious imports over the next two decades, it set the country up with a wide range of genetics. A great foundation of quality alpaca was established.



Some notable early imported males with influence – New Zealand’s venerable sires

Huacaya

- Coricancha Brujo** – son of the famous Highlander
- ILR Fine Fibers Brutus** – son of world famous Hemmingway
- Kaihere Accoyo Spartacus** – from Accoyo
- Kaihere Accoyo Gauciman** – from Accoyo
- Somerset Accoyo Sappa Inca** – from Accoyo (Tag #1)
- Kaihere Peruvian Ven Chura** – from David Chura, Peru
- Jolimont Attitude** – son of well-known Jolimont Sculptor
- Forestglen Seth** – with ancestry back to Purumbete El Dorado and Inti

Suri

- Cedar House Raphael** – son of renowned Peruvian Senator
- Surilana Parsifal** – from Accoyo, had huge influence on the NZ suri herd
- Kaihere Accoyo Brilliante**



Kaihere Accoyo Spartacus



Surilana Parsifal



Somerset Accoyo Sappa Inca



ILR Fine Fibers Brutus



FARMING

A temperate climate, agricultural expertise and research all go to make this an ideal country for farming alpaca. The distinctive variance in the alpaca imported over the 3 decades of alpaca farming here has accumulated a wealth of genetics, providing a myriad of exciting options for many years to come. The industry is now focused as a nation of breeders rather than traders and has a fine record of agricultural excellence.

The market has changed in recent times with the border from Australia to New Zealand being closed along with the worldwide pandemic. The last 5 years has seen farmers here selectively breeding and building upon their goals from the local industry’s own resources.

Alpaca breeders here achieve fulfilment in various aspects of the industry, whether it’s through tourism, creativity, show accolades or producing top quality fibre. There is a pool of committed Kiwi breeders, focusing on specific characteristics thereby establishing their own unique set of genetics. An example is breeders of coloured alpaca adopting breeding programmes around fleece trait quality and not just colour. A black suri was recently awarded Supreme Suri at the 2022 AANZ National Show.

Thistledown Skyfall – Supreme Suri at the 2022 AANZ National Show

Agriculture is the backbone of New Zealand’s economy making biosecurity paramount.

“New Zealand is more dependent on biosecurity than any other developed country. Our economy and trade are largely based on the exotic species brought here by the early settlers in the 19th century; and our freedom from major pests and diseases is critical to producing efficiently and trading freely”. John Hellström, Biosecurity Council Chair

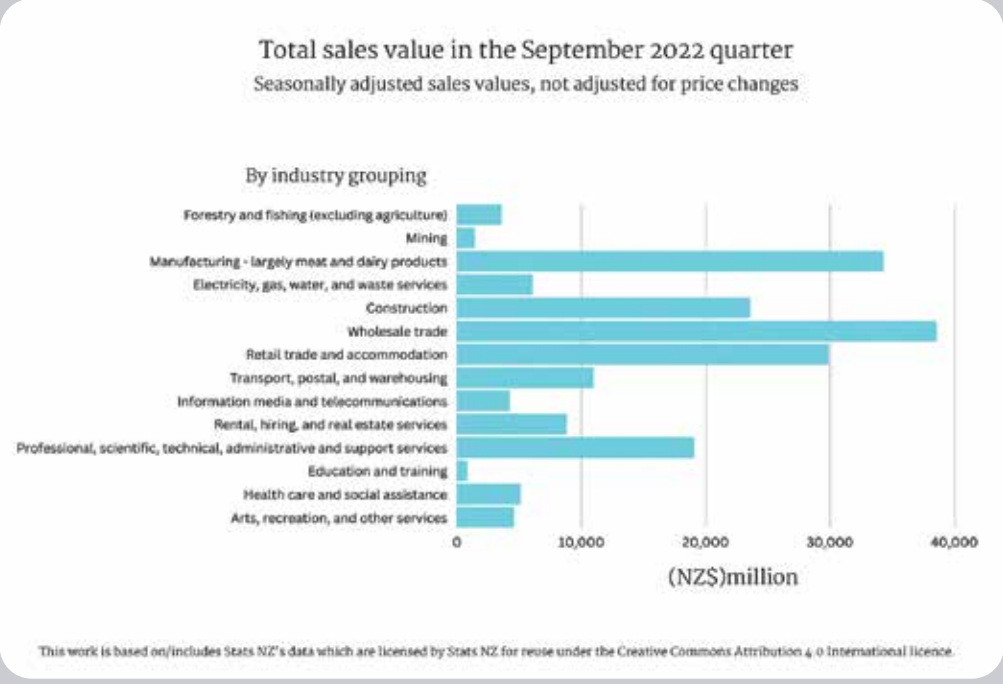
BIOSECURITY

The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) invests heavily in protecting the borders; their duty is to help prevent the incursion of exotic diseases and pests by monitoring our airports and shipping ports. This has meant New Zealand has been protected from a variety of highly infectious exotic diseases such as Foot and Mouth, Bluetongue, Q Fever, West Nile Virus and Rabies.

This country does have strict rules about importing live animals, as do most other countries importing livestock. The Ministry for Primary Industries along with the New Zealand Customs Service have responsibility for verifying the rules here are followed.



After the closure of the offshore quarantine stations subsequent imports came via Australia. They were largely from various Peruvian studs, with the last one being in 2007 from Chile. All alpaca outside South America will be able to trace their heritage back to animals from Peru, Chile or Bolivia. In the following years breeders here also bought from a variety of bloodlines in Australia extending the gene pool further.



EXPORTING

New Zealand has a vibrant alpaca export industry. Although the Covid19 pandemic made freight options more difficult, this country has still managed regular exports. 2021 saw a large group of 140 top quality alpacas exported to UK and EU and more recently, in 2022 there has been smaller exports to Japan and also directly into the UK. In most years the numbers have been very good. Recent EU regulatory changes are being resolved and all indications are that flight options will continue to improve as the airlines get back to normal, so regular exports are expected to resume this year.

Kiwi alpaca have made an impact on alpaca herds in the UK and EU with many being shown or appearing in the breeding programs of alpaca studs across Europe and UK. Breeders here are proud to see their progeny doing well at overseas shows.

THE FUTURE

The global demand for New Zealand alpaca hasn't diminished and a recent resurgence of enthusiasm among breeders, after world shaking events, has put the spotlight back on improved breeding here.

This has led to a revitalised interest in the core functions of New Zealand's breed society, the Alpaca Association of New Zealand. One of its primary goals is to inspire both the growth of the industry and improvement of the breed. There are plans to further develop and enhance the innovations made to the show system a few years ago. This includes the fleece score sheet for shows and its revolutionary management section, which has now been adopted in many other countries. Another kiwi innovation is the Judge Review Panel [JRP] which gives credibility to New Zealand trained judges and judge training. One of the most important resources the AANZ has is its qualified and dedicated judges, who must be held to the highest of standards to ensure their continuing excellent reputation. Further refinements are being explored with the judge training program. Broader breeder education has been sparse over the last few years and is now a priority with the annual conference to be reinstated along with the breeder workshops already happening. The importance of using shows to further educational opportunities will be optimised to provide training to its members.

The alpaca industry in New Zealand is entering a time of rejuvenation. After the disruption of Covid19, it became clear to the leadership that changes needed to occur to keep the industry relevant and to re-start growth. While member

numbers have dropped over recent years the members on board now have new tools available with DNA testing, online systems putting more data at their fingertips and modern management practices.

The AANZ Board has developed a clear path into the future for the local alpaca industry, with a new and well-developed strategic plan and concise annual operational plans. This business-like approach to the leadership and management of the AANZ is intended to continue to keep the industry at the leading edge of alpaca breeding and farming, which will have many benefits across the whole industry.

Like those early pioneers of the industry in New Zealand, today's alpaca breeders face their challenges with dedication and excitement. Just as the first few entrepreneurs were assessing each alpaca and seeing those exquisite alpaca fleeces, today's breeders do exactly the same with each new cria and so the excitement continues.....



Thank you to the many New Zealand alpaca breeders who have kindly contributed to this article.

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PROUD

TO BE AFFILIATED WITH THE WORLD OF ALPACAS





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Some farmers dose their animals with one or two of these necessary minerals, but it has been proved that nothing works alone. Life and health are all about balance. TNN Australia's Mighty-Min® supplies balanced mineral supplements that covers most bases. Users of Mighty Min® tell us that it reduces the need to use conventional worm drenchers and improves fertility with higher weight gains and healthier happier animals.

I have been impressed with the communication between alpaca breeders and I thank those of you who use Mighty-Min® for telling others about the benefits of using it.



Best time to use Mighty-Min® Supplements

- Before loss of production
- When you want maximum weight gain & growth
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- Change of season or weaning
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Mighty Min® is easy and economical to use.

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About the Organically Protected Trace Minerals in TNN Australia's Mighty-Min® and their role in animal health

ZINC: Zinc is an important mineral for fertility and growth of young livestock. **Deficiency symptoms include:** Poor fertility, slow recycling, poor weight gain in young livestock.

SELENIUM: Selenium deficiency is one of the main causes of what stockmen call "White Muscle Disease" **Deficiency symptoms include:** Unthriftiness, pale skin in sheep, weight loss in all stock, drastic decrease in lambing percentages.

CALCIUM: is required for skeletal strength, and is important for milk production. **Deficiency symptoms include:** Milk fever, Tetany.

COBALT: Cobalt is required in ruminants for the manufacture of Vitamin B12. **Deficiency symptoms include:** Cobalt deficiency can be observed by weight loss, lack of vitality, extremely pale skin in sheep, rough coat in cattle, increased number of "poor doers".

LIQUID KELP: Gives an immediate response and adds extra natural trace element minerals for the benefit of the animal.

COPPER: Copper is one of the main promoters of production for weight gain, strength, fleece growth & quality, reproduction & skeletal strength. **Deficiency symptoms include:** (a) IN SHEEP - harsh steely wool, scouring, pale skin, infertility, (b) IN CATTLE rough coat, loss of condition, loss of natural colour in coat, eg; black coat will show a rusty appearance, red coat will show a yellow appearance, scouring and reduced growth weight.

MANGANESE: Manganese is very important for fertility and reproduction. **Deficiency symptoms include:** The first signs of deficiency is abnormalities in young calves and lambs, also in decreased conception rates.

IODINE: Iodine directly affects thyroid gland secretions which to a great extent control heart action, nerve response, rate of body growth and metabolism. **Deficiency symptoms include:** Premature and stillborn calves and lambs.

Alpacas & All Ruminants

6.5	
Typical Analysis for Each Litre	
Cobalt (Co)	3.0g
Selenium (Se)	1.1g
Sulphur (S)	27.0g
Copper (Cu)	6.5g
Zinc (Zn)	8.5g
Manganese (Mn)	6.5g
Iodine (I)	0.11g
Magnesium (Mg)	2.5g
Micro Fine Liquid Kelp	
Stabilizers Flavouring	

Regular

DOSING GUIDE Alpacas, Sheep & other ruminants

Do not administer to livestock more than once every 6 (six) weeks or as directed by a veterinary surgeon	Crias, Lambs & Hoggets	5 ml	4000
	Adult Alpacas & Sheep	10 ml	2000
	Studs & Rams	12 ml	1600

DOSING GUIDE Dairy & Beef Cattle

Frequency of Dose in weeks	Live Body Weight Kg	Dose in mL	No. Animals treated per 20 litres
4	at 1 month	5 ml	4000
4	50 to 100	10 ml	2000
4	101 to 150	15 ml	1330
4	151 to 200	20 ml	1000
5	201 to 250	25 ml	800
5	251 to 300	30 ml	660
5	301 to 350	35 ml	570
6	351 to 400	40 ml	500
6	400 to 450	45 ml	440
6	451 and over	50 ml max	400

This product manufactured & sold to comply with APVMA Veterinary Guideline No. 8

Cattle Only

8.5	
Typical Analysis for Each Litre	
Cobalt (Co)	3.0g
Selenium (Se)	1.1g
Sulphur (S)	27.0g
Copper (Cu)	8.5g
Zinc (Zn)	8.5g
Manganese (Mn)	6.5g
Iodine (I)	0.11g
Magnesium (Mg)	2.5g
Micro Fine Liquid Kelp	
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All the benefits of Mighty-Min® plus extra Phosphorus and the benefit of added Fulvic to address pasture that has not been fertilised with Phosphorus, as found in many areas of Queensland. Used as an aid in reducing Dark Cutters in Beef Cattle while helping to reduce weight loss in stressed animals through transport or yarding. This is a mixture that may benefit livestock during Hard Times.

TNN Australia has a complete range of regenerative biological sustainable fertilisers, both granular and liquids, to improve the health and viability of your soils, for better results in cropping and pastures, horticulture and viticulture, virtually anything that grows in the soil. Good soil grows anything well.



Peter Doyle

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TNN Australia

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Thank you to all of the Alpaca growers who are using and recommending TNN Australia Mighty Min 6.5 + ADE to other growers. I know it is hard to keep a good thing to yourself.

If you want even better results you can do more for your animals. As you know all animal and human health stems from the soil and imagine that everything that you and your animals eat was grown with a full complement of nutrients to make your animals healthy and happy.

We at TNN Australia have a wide range of fertilisers available, both liquid and granular, all of which follow Joseph Steiners' philosophy of 'use anything that works as long as it does no harm'.

All you need are good nutrients in the soil, good biology and microbes and water to create healthy soil. Good soil will grow anything well.

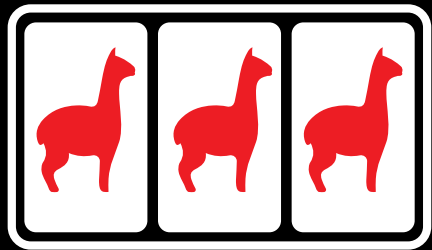
Other benefits of using our products are that you will increase the build up of organic matter in your soil, a 1% increase in your organic matter will give you an extra water holding capacity which means that usually you will be the last in your area to be effected by drought and the first one to come out of it, also with the possibility of being able to sell soil carbon credits.

One of the things that I love best is the bragging rights about how good the place looks and how healthy the animals are and the reduction of costs by reducing my feed bills and vet bills.



Have a look our web page TNN Australia.com and our TNN Australia Facebook page to see how we can help you.





JACKPOT ALPACAS

We started our alpaca journey in 2013 after discovering these wonderful and unique animals. Since then, we have grown our herd to almost 70 alpacas. We have committed ourselves to breeding alpacas with top quality attributes, including lustrous fibre with consistent micron across its lifetime and low deviation and a good temperament on a robust frame.

Breeding mainly suris of all colours and a small selection of grey huacayas, we have had moderate success in the show ring, including a broad ribbons at National level and many more at local shows. These beautiful animals produce a wide range of colours and fibre, which we manufacture into products that we make. Helen and Pat (Helen's Mum) are both spinners and then Helen makes the products. We do attend a few markets but that has been put on the backburner with covid and working around the shows that we take the animals too.



Jackpot Alpacas is a family partnership between Helen and Craig Phillips, daughter, Jonee and son Wade. We are very prominent in the youth industry and both Wade and Jonee competed across the country and at the Nationals. Jonee was awarded Reserve Champion at the National Young Judges in Perth. Now encouraging younger youth to be part of this journey. Wade is the President of the NSW Youth Committee and they both have presented/facilitated at youth workshops. Youth is our future and we all need to support this.

We bought our first alpaca after the Toowoomba Royal Show in 2013. Wade fell in love with a light fawn suri female. His father asked him to create a budget and determine how he would pay for all the costs. Unfortunately, he didn't have enough money to purchase the animal on his own, so it was decided that he and his sister, Jonee would go halves. This was the beginning of Jackpot Alpacas. Our name was decided on the trip back from Toowoomba, with a lot of brainstorming.



For the first five years, we lived in Rockhampton, Queensland. We agisted our animals at a major alpaca stud in Rockhampton. It was a great start to having alpacas as there was always help and guidance. We attended a few workshops, and both the children worked at the stud to pay for their agistment. We also attended shows ranging from a local show at the Caves Show to Nationals in Adelaide. Our numbers climbed to 32 by the time we left Rockhampton.



When we left Rockhampton to move south, we decided that it was the perfect time to lease some land and have the alpacas move with us. It took us nearly 12 months and seven 14 hour trips to move all the alpacas down to the Hunter Valley, where we had signed a lease on a house and acreage. We are still on the same property as we decide where we want to set up our own property.

The last four years, we have had them with us, it is great to see them out the window every morning and seeing them unpack from the verandah. We have slowly grown our suri herd, we have a commercial herd of white and light fawn, where the majority of their fleeces are sold to a co-op. We also have a colour herd that we like to play with their colour genetics. Now with the colour testing, we will be able to fine tune our colour breeding. There is a few Huacaya in the mix, mostly grey, black and roan, though we have just purchased a white last year to add to the mix. These are mainly kept to sell for spinners and also to show people what the difference is.

Naming animals is a bit of a challenge in our house as we have four voices in the decision-making process. We have fine tuned the process, firstly all animals are named with the beginning letter of the year (ie 2023 is 'U'), then we try to stick to a theme relating to the dams name. It makes it easier to know how old they are and which dam they are related to. So, our first alpaca was called Chiquitita (Abba song) and her crias have also been named after Abba songs, her latest is 'Take a Chance on me' and others have been 'Lovelight', 'People Need Love' and 'Mumma Mia'.

Helen is involved with the NSW Regions Committee and is now the Events Coordinator. Helen is also Chief Steward for Fleeces for the Sydney Royal Show. Wade helps to coordinate youth events throughout NSW. Jonee is a Youth Paraders Judge. We like to volunteer and help out where we can, this is an important part of the industry. If everyone volunteers in a small way then it will help the industry to thrive. We are very keen to represent and support the Alpaca industry, by running displays, youth events and mentoring schools.



Words Matter

By: Melody Lane Farm Alpacas

We all know how words affect us. Some words touch our hearts, make us laugh, bring out the anger, open or close a conversation and can bring people in and out of our lives. Words are powerful!

Melody Lane Farm Alpacas has tried through the years to accomplish many of these emotions through our teachings of Alpacas. When someone visits the farm or reads our stories we have no idea the impact the animals or humans may have on an individual by our words and actions and how that may affect their life from one visit or encounter with an animal.

We should all have goals and a passion to follow. When that passion finally rises up in our life and it does not matter when that is, you must listen to that repeating sound and chase it! Our passions Ripple through our lives and affect everything and everyone around us causing that Ripple to reach out and touch others by our words and actions.

This is one such story where a person was touched down to her soul.

Read the story of “Sweet Morena” and feel the passion and ripple from one individual who reached out and touched so many.

Sweet Morena

May 10, 2005 to January 1, 2021

We invite all of you who have been to Melody Lane Farm Alpacas to celebrate Morena home. We lost her at the age of 16 years old. Morena was a special girl with her quiet attitude, princess walk, **long** eyelashes who shared her food with her daughter Ms Piccolo even after all these years. In her last days we tried very hard to rally her back to us and we thought she was doing that on December 31st when we checked in on her. She was kushed (laying down) and seemed peaceful and ate some morsels of grain and hay. All seemed comfortable. Coming into the barn on the first day of the new year Morena was already gone. Beside her lay her daughter Ms Piccolo and the rest of the alpacas around her.

As I approached her the animals got up and left the stall as they heard my cries and I went to hold her. Ms Piccolo returned inside to stand above her mom waiting for her to get up or perhaps to support me? Morena was a great mom and has produced wonderful offspring.

We have witnessed her personal grief over the loss of crias (baby alpacas) that she lost. We know that these animals remember their families and never forget. It is crucial now to keep an eye on Ms Piccolo to make sure she is ok and hope that she will share her food with another herd mate.

We will miss her kisses, she so loved her cookies and Morena always looking at us calmly with those **long, long** eyelashes. Morena was the 3rd alpaca that we purchased to start our business in 2005.

Out of 3 one original remains our Golden Goose. As Kenny Loggins song says “**Please Celebrate Her Home**” as we know she is with her other herd mates that went before her, at peace and comfortable while she and the others wait to meet up with all of us two and four legged beings.



Morena and Daughter, Ms Piccolo, sharing food



Morena enjoying daily pasture and sunrise



Morena and her funny face and lazy eyes!!



Those Captivating Eyes and Lashes!!



Morena enjoying an extra treat!

The Artist: *Mary Baddour*



08/10/2022 Mimi got a wonderful text from a class mate and friend. It's been years since we have seen each other.

Mary said she read the story of Morena who passed away. She said it was an emotional read as she expelled her emotions into creativity. Below is her text and her words that now make me cry.

Hi Mimi, This is Mary, I am not sure if you are showing at the Cuyahoga County Fair or not, if you are, check out "Sweet Morena"; she won 1st place in the Art and Craft Building #27. The Cuyahoga County Fair is one of the largest fairs attended by folks each year in Cleveland Ohio.

This is the painting I did for you, hopefully when I see you soon I will give it to you.

Beside you can see the spectacular painting on the left that portrays the wonderful resemblance of the photo below.

Mary was a Special Education Teacher and Sign Language Interpreter. When she retired she pursued her dream of learning to paint.

Cleveland, Ohio is a wonderful city that supports the arts. This includes the Cleveland Museum of Art and several community art centers in the area. By tapping into the Beck Art Center and Bay Art Center classes, she was able to fulfill her dream. She feels that being creative keeps the mind and soul young.

Mary will be the recipient of a handmade hat from Mimi Foster of Melody Lane Farm Alpacas. This will be made from the fiber and bulky yarn of Morena and her daughter Ms Piccolo.

Melody Lane Farm Alpacas thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for such a loving remembrance of our "Sweet Morena".



Mary Baddour, Artist and Painter

Original Photo Morena, May 10, 2005 to January 1, 2021

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Promotion, education and passion for Alpacas



What Grade Am I In?

A Revolutionary Way of Assessing the Value of All Alpaca Fiber Innovative Fleece Assessment (IFA)

The If you're reading this, chances are you're either a current or future alpaca breeder, and if you're a human, chances are you like games! So we're going to start this off with a game that involves two of your favorite things - you guessed it, alpacas and alpaca fiber. We'll call this game **"What Grade Am I In?"**

Basically, we'll describe the use and the product, and you'll guess what grade of fiber that particular product is made from. Make sure to write your answers down so you can check them at the end. Are you ready? Let's go!

Imagine a snowboarder, carving the fresh powder on the ski run - I'm not only the reason behind keeping their noggin warm under a layer of unmatched, sustainably grown softness, but I'm also the reason they're the hippest shredder on the mountain. I am an alpaca beanie.

What Grade Am I In?

I'm so ridiculously soft and luxurious, you can't resist walking on me with your bare feet. My design not only fits the decor in your home or office, but my style and durability will take your breath away. You'd never guess I was from an all-natural sustainable resource. Plus, no one ties the room together better than I. I am a Suri alpaca rug.

What Grade Am I In?



Na'er a fall or winter's eve will you stroll the city streets or nurse a cup of tea without me keeping your torso covered, cozy and warm. I am your go-to garment to keep you the autumn shivers from crawling up your spine and the winter drafts from touching your tummy. I am a Suri alpaca sweater.

What Grade Am I In?

All that stuff that you don't want on your clothes when you pull them out of the dryer? Thanks to my chemical-free natural qualities, I collect it and feed off it and can't get enough of it! I am a felted alpaca dryer ball.

What Grade Am I In?

The flashes are firing, the red carpet is burning, the runway has cleared for us, the gasps of admiration from the crowd are firing at a pace no race car can keep up with, no one has ever seen anything like us, our fit is impeccable, the drape exquisite, from a natural fiber, they gasp, bling without the actual bling. Luster baby! We are a high fashion men's suit & designer dress.

What Grade Are We In?

With all the various uses for alpaca fiber, from undergarments and socks to high fashion fabric, carpets, insulation and felting, wouldn't it make sense to have various ways of judging and assessing

our animals based on those very uses? You wouldn't necessarily use a Grade 0 for a rug, or a Grade 5 for a beanie? First of all, that simply wouldn't be practical and second of all, it certainly wouldn't be economical.

However, if there were more alpaca rugs and more alpaca beanies and more alpaca socks on the market, the trends increasingly show that they won't be sitting on the shelves for long.

Beyond the obvious - the alpaca's large curious eyes, their quietly grazing demeanor, the sense of calmness they bring, and their glorious draping locks emanating that mesmerizing luster and sheen, they provide us with this incredible, renewable resource that is all natural, sustainable, and even climate beneficial.



All of which are 'buzz words' that stretch across all industries, not the least of which being the textile industry, which has for so long depended on synthetics and polymer-based fabrics.

There is a growing demand for all things alpaca, and, in turn, there is a growing demand for alpaca fibers, no matter the grade.

Whether your goal is to produce the finest of the fine to provide for the high-end market, or if your goal is to produce fibers that sit further from the skin, perhaps fit for felting for rugs, or for products of mass consumption - socks and hats for instance - there is a place, and a demand in the marketplace, for all of it.

If the alpaca industry is looking at a future in which its magical fibers are being used at a commercial level, the time is long overdue for us to begin looking at ways of assessing the value of those fibers at a grade level, within each grade, and with an eye on end-use.



This will not only help us provide the quantities of fibers needed for larger scale production, but by recognizing the genetic value of each and every alpaca, no matter the grade, it will also encourage new breeders to enter the market, whilst giving them the choice to select which grade(s) to raise based on what end-product they would like to cater to.

And that's exactly what **Innovative Fleece Assessment (IFA)** was designed to do.

Not only is it an additional way to have your animals and fleece judged and assessed, but you also get incredibly valuable feedback, with measured data points, as well as suggestions on how to advance your program based on your desired outcomes. The best part is, under the IFA program, all this information is provided directly to you by the judges.

Ultimately, all alpaca fiber is valuable, and IFA aims to lay the groundwork to bring all of that value to market, whilst simultaneously increasing visibility, awareness & demand for everyone's favorite animal (even if they don't know it yet).

In 2021 all AOA judges were trained in the IFA system, 2022 fleece shows are currently being certified. The 2022 AOA National Fleece Show in Burlington, KY in July will be a major highlight for IFA, so don't miss out on the opportunity to enter your fleeces. Please contact: Margie Ault, AOA Show Division Administrator margie@alpacainfo.com if you wish to hold an IFA competition or workshop/seminar at an AOA Certified Show and for more information on IFA, visit www.IFAAlpaca.com sign up for our mailing list to be kept in the loop on the system's progress as well as show announcements and opportunities to sell your fleece.

What we can learn from a revolutionary herd of... Alpacas?



What Are The Experts Saying?

"One of the key benefits of the IFA competition is the technique of measuring fineness across the blanket in four specific locations. This generates valuable feedback related to uniformity of micron, a critical component of every breeding program. The focus on grade across all age groups is ideal as a means of directing the alpaca industry towards end use and longevity in decision making. The IFA model forces the breeder to consider every element of fiber production when setting goals, for the results are immediate and direct. It is very exciting to be part of this forward momentum!"

(Cheryl Gehly, AOA Senior Fleece Judge)

"In 2020 we submitted some fleeces to the AOA National Innovative Fleece Show, just to see what information would come out of it. The show report was interesting. I found myself using the chart that showed 4 samples of the animal's fleece with length and average fiber diameter of each sample a great tool for explaining this to prospective customers. So in 2021 we submitted fleeces again, but I also volunteered to work the show. I was partnered with Wini Labrecque to measure and record the diameter and length of the fleece samples. My interest was as much skepticism as anything. The idea of competing by fleece grade (and therefore by usage of the fleece) made sense to us. Uniformity of staple length is very important in the manufacture of yarn. Uniformity of micron is important, but the range of micron is a little more forgiving than that of length. Using a "4-point grid" sample vs a "single core" sample is eye-opening. It literally is a tangible visual aid.

In processing, deviation of fiber length is not something that can be mechanically removed

whereas fat fibers can be separated out as part of the process. During spinning the spinner is setup based on the long fibers and the shorter ones are the problem. If you are making lumpy bumpy worsted Weight yarn it would not matter. But when you can count the number of fibers actually in the yarn no bumps or lumps are tolerated. Hairy fibers that would not twist the same as the skinnies are a disaster.

Why is it so important? The products we have chosen to manufacture are intentionally light weight. So they can be worn in a broader temperature band. The yarn we use is much finer than traditional lace weight. The single is 9 grams per 100 yds. We developed this yarn because we wanted drapey, flowing, garments with intricate stitch patterns. We were also using a similar weight yarn in a 3 ply to make dress socks.

If a breeder is interested in having their fiber used for end products, then they need to know what the end product requires of the fiber. We have made woven rugs from random 35-40 micron leg fiber. And we have made blankets and outerwear from grade 3-4 older animal blankets. But to make a lacey garment it takes uniformity of length and less than a 25-26 uniform micron count.

The value of this system today is in the report it is an eye-opening teaching tool. A training aid for the breeder and new breeder alike. I suspect it will be a standard report in the future. Maybe it should be included on the registration website.

All of this information is true for Suri's or Huacaya's alike. In fact our stock sweaters are being made from a blend of Huacaya and Suri. They both bring their own properties to the table. All blending fibers fall into these same restrictions."

(Karl Heinrich, New Era Fiber & Suri Alpacas)

"Over the years, I have participated in many traditional fleece shows. Most of the fleeces that I have entered in those shows were from younger animals with fine fleeces. When I first heard about the new Innovative Fleece Assessment format, I was intrigued. To try it out, I entered one fleece from an older female in the 2020 AOA National Show. This fleece was higher in micron, and by no means what I'd describe as a "sexy fleece". But this female was maintaining a bright, uniform fleece as she aged.

When I got the results back from the show,

I was blown away by the amount of useful information that I received on this fleece. The Innovative Fleece Assessment provided me with a detailed, in depth look at the fleece that this animal had produced over the previous year. As part of the assessment, I received data on micron and length from three samples, as well as the actual samples that were used to generate these results. This allowed me to compare the samples to the data. What a great learning tool! The packet that I received also included suggested uses for various grades of fleece, including my fleece. The focus was on finding the best use for a particular grade of fleece, and that every fleece, regardless of grade, had purpose and value.

The Innovative Fleece Assessment is another powerful tool that breeders can use to track and assess their herd. In addition, as more affiliates embrace fiber projects as part of their membership benefits, the push to recognize and promote uses for all grades of fiber will make the Innovative Fleece Assessment more relevant."

(Leslie Oliver, AOA Show Superintendent, Limestone Creek Alpacas, LLC)

"Having your fleeces assessed through the AOA endorsed Innovative Fleece Assessment program is an unparalleled opportunity in the US alpaca industry. The evaluation and subsequent information received by each entrant are relevant, both to our fiber industry and to the breeder. Assessments like the IFA will take the US alpaca fiber industry to the next level. I commend all breeders to add this to their toolbox!"

(Jude Anderson, Senior AOA Alpaca Judge)

"Innovative Fleece Assessment is a new tool that allows us to learn more about our alpaca fiber characteristics. One of the important fiber characteristics for our farm is improving the consistency of the fiber over the entire animal. Using the information that we gained from IFA helps us understand how consistent the animal fiber is within a sample and across several samples. In addition, the comments provided on how the fiber can be used in end-products helps breeders understand what they are producing and how it can create beautiful products to showcase their herd." (Beth Sheets, Chair AOA JTCC, Heritage Farms Suri Alpacas)

"The IFA competition is another informative tool owners and breeders can employ to better understand their alpaca's attributes and then utilize that knowledge in breeding decisions

and how best to transform their alpaca's fleece to product."

(Laurel Shouvin, AOA Alpaca Judge, SN BOD, Bluebird Hills Suri Farm)

We hope this gives you a good understanding of the new Innovative Fleece Assessment (IFA) system and tool. Our aim is to provide you with a comfortable jumping-off point to learn more about how embracing the IFA system can help take your programs to the next level.

With your help, we can get there. Learn more at www.IFAAlpaca.com



Answers:

- Alpaca Beanie: (Grade 2 Fiber)
- Suri Alpaca Rug: (Grade 4 or 5)
- Suri Alpaca Sweater: (Grade 3)
- Alpaca Dryer Ball: (Grade 5 or 6)
- Fashion Dress & Suit: (Grade 0 or 1)

Article by:

Amanda VandenBosch, Creator & Founder IFA, AOA & International Alpaca Judge & Alpaca Breeder, Flying Dutchman Alpacas, LLC Bend, OR, USA & Wasim Muklashy, Creative Director & Multimedia Producer, byWasim.com

Bio: Wasim Muklashy

Wasim is a nature, travel, humanitarian & conservation photographer, and co-founder of Superswell VR, a virtual reality company specializing in immersive experiences for the outdoor & travel industries. He also happens to be the world's premiere alpaca photographer - PacaPics.com. Wasim serves on the board of Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors (ECO), a non-profit that brings ecology education to kids in underserved communities and spends whatever time he has left documenting our outdoors spaces and the endless wonders of Mother Earth.

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STEVLEY PARK



Triangular Shawl



Luxurious Suri Scarfs



Plaied Scarf

Zed

Designed and Created by
Lezley Golding



Felted Bag

Lezley is a Fibre Artist. Her unique handcrafted items are available through our Farm Studio/Shop, On-Line Shop and takes special orders by request. Felted and Hand Knitted items include: scarfs, shawls, beanies, fingerless mittens, soft alpaca toys, baby wear. Yarn, hand dyed and natural colours. Farm shop is open by appointment.

Golden Charm ALPACAS



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.

Breeders of coloured and white suri alpacas

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Fibre Naturally



We are passionate about alpacas and their fibre and with the flexibility of being able to do small batches we can help you achieve your own boutique and unique blends with the satisfaction and pride that comes from producing a product that is created from your own alpacas.

We had a dream.....
To take **raw fleece** and turn it into **soft luxurious** products and **yarn** for **knitting** or **roving**s for hand **spinning** or **felting**

We are a small family business with 3 generations working side by side. With over 10 years Mill experience and over 25 years of Alpaca breeding, we are passionate about alpacas and fibre. With the flexibility of being able to do small batches we can help you achieve your own boutique and unique blends with the satisfaction and pride that comes from producing a product that is created from your own alpacas. We can process as little as a single fleece or your entire clip.



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