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& AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION



Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION



EDITION 23 | SUMMER 2020

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for the Salvos but let
us also say"*

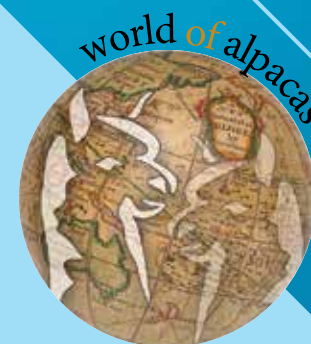
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FOR OUR
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EDITORIAL / MARKETING

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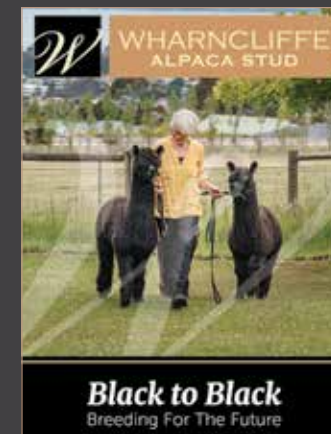
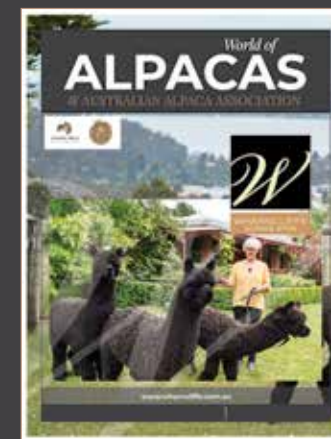
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DESIGN

Scott Hutton

PRINTED BY

Kingswood Print & Signage



FRONT COVER Wharncliffe.

INSIDE FRONT COVER Millpaca.

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Hi to all,
I do believe that we have added to the climate change, however using the recent disasters as a political tool does not sound Australian to me. The poem "My Country" by Dorothea Mackellar tells me that we have endured these disasters over many decades. My thoughts are with all those who have sustained losses over this very difficult time. Stay strong and safe.

Trevor Pavlovich

"I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon.
Green tangle of the brushes,
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When sick at heart, around us,
We see the cattle die -
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine,
She pays us back threefold -
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful, lavish land -
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand -
Though earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly."

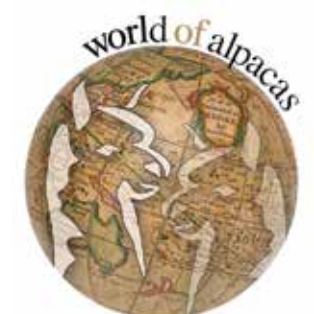


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- FC** Wharncliffe.
- IFC** Millpaca.
- 2** Fibre Naturally/Glenavon.
- 8** Tirrikee Alpacas.
- 10** Keiana.
- 15** Annkea.
- 16** Kallaroo Park.
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- 88** Farm Cottage.
- IBC** Farm Cottage.
- OBC** Wharncliffe.





*In difficult times, united we remain.
And, stronger, we'll grow.*

Australia, we are one!

*To our brave Firefighters,
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*





Our story

Tirrikee Alpacas

Jennie and Roy Menzies “Tirrikee”

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www.tirrikeealpacos.com.au

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.

Some years later, we bought our farmand in the early 2000’s I was driving to Sydney, saw a sign ‘Alpaca Open Day’ and realised I had time to see what was happening. I was very surprised to see that alpacas no longer cost tens of thousands of dollars for a “paddock animal” and that the standard of fleece had improved immensely. It wasn’t until 2007 that we really started to seriously think about the possibility of buying some alpacas and our first alpacas arrived in 2008, five animals from four different studs. At this stage I had no idea where we wanted to go with alpacas and so we had white, dark fawn and brown (which actually turned out to be roan). I did know that we wanted low micron.

We had Miniature Herefords and sheep, Miniature Herefords being the size of the original Herefords (the Hereford winner of Sydney Royal 1960 is the size of a MH) and we decided that when our alpaca numbers had grown enough, the cattle would go as it was so much easier managing alpacas in yards. Our cattle were very quiet, but cattle in yards are “cattle in yards” and we didn’t want to be in the race or yards with them as we added birthdays!

One of the things we missed was the lack of workshops, information days etc that people are able to attend these days. There were none held in our region until a small ‘Running an alpaca business’ workshop was offered and a small gathering of about 12-13 people attended. This workshop made me think about where we needed to go with our alpacas. We did not specialize in white or coloured fleece, so the aim was to breed a commercial white herd and also have the coloured animals which we enjoyed, breeding the best we could with every coloured animal we had.

Hungry for more information, any information about alpacas, I went to an SRS weekend and this helped consolidate our goals, low micron with low SD, thin staples with low crimp frequency and high crimp amplitude. We had about 30 animals at this stage and realised that if we owned a male, we could have our own stud male as well as being able to do spit-offs. We did some research and purchased our first stud male. He was a lovely white boy, a very gentle boy. He was so gentle though, that if a girl looked at him sideways...pregnant or not.. he would almost apologize and move away! He did give us some beautiful cria though.

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. Bonnie Vale Fatal Attraction had the most amazing fleece. Low micron, low primaries, good crimp with low frequency and he cut a very heavy saddle. His first very heavily skirted fleece saddle after he came to us was over 5 kgs. Now we were looking for other males, not to own but to imprint specific traits in our herd.

We owned a beautiful stud boy that was registered as white, however put over a brown girl, gave us (once!) the most amazing leopard appaloosa, a stunning white fleece with spots all over, tiny spots right down to the tip of his nose and down to his feet. He unfortunately died in an accident whilst we were away and we have not been able to reproduce him. We do have one girl from the same line, born ‘blue white’ with dark eyes, dark lashes, black nose, black feet, who is possibly an appaloosa also. Interestingly, we can now (she is now 8) see some light fawn spots on her body after shearing. We now mate her to our beautiful grey boy, Tirrikee Smokey Dawson in the hope that she may give us another appy.

Grey alpacas have always been my ‘secret alpaca passion’.

Every year, we have added to our genetic pool by either using an external stud male(s), or buying quality females.

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. We have had several workshops at our farm (as part of our region’s activities) with visiting guest speakers and have thoroughly enjoyed having a house full of alpaca enthusiasts every time.

We have not done a lot of showing over the years, however we always enjoy the shows we do attend and have left shows with the coveted broad ribbons.

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.....



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 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. We are very much a family business with Keith, Diana, our son Andrew and daughter-in-law Audrey and their children Dylan and Jaiden to look after the over 1900 acres we run on.



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www.keianalodge.com.au

Presidents Message



By Andrew Munn | **AAA President**

I first started drafting this message back in late Nov 2019. Since that time much has happened across our great country. I now sit here in early Jan, looking out the window, to a landscape choked with smoke from what has to be the most widespread fire situation in living memory. We are now expecting cyclones off our northern shores. The world sure has gone crazy.

Whilst Bronwyn and I have been very lucky not to have been directly affected by the fire situation I am in constant contact with our Regional Committee's and members. Unfortunately I hear on an almost daily basis the terrible stories of loss and damage being dealt with by our members and families. I know how much all of our members care for their alpacas and the thought of them having to cope through these devastating times truly saddens and distresses me.

It is times like this when it is imperative that we remain there for each other and provide all the support that we can. I have asked our Regional Committee's to stay in contact with their members and report back to myself and the office.

Your AAA Board, CEO and office staff are working extremely hard and putting enormous amounts of time and effort into building relationships with government and other organisations so that we can leverage our position as the peak industry

body to ensure we gain as much support and assistance for our members as is available.

We are hoping that we will be able to announce a range of opportunities for our members to assist with the recovery from this horrible situation. We understand that the recovery will be ongoing and in some cases may take many months, if not longer. Anyone affected should ensure that they contact their regions in the first instance.

Our mental and physical wellbeing is being challenged on multiple fronts. Please take care of yourselves and each other and reach out if you need assistance.

On a lighter note I am amazed at how quickly 2019 flew by. It was an extremely busy year for our Association with many major activities. At the risk of missing some I will try to cover some of the key points from 2019.

- China Trip by members of the Board and CEO to conduct liaison with Chinese textile companies and fibre buyers
- Judges Training Clinic which has now seen

6 new apprentice judges selected who will start their apprentice journey in 2020.

- National Show in Aug at Canberra.
- The AAA Annual General Meeting was conducted on 21 Sept and resulted in the election of myself as President and Prue Walduck (Vice President) and Rochelle Veitch as Directors. Subsequent to the meeting both Steve O'Keefe and Susan Harris tendered their resignations. These two vacant Director positions have been filled by Sarah Wheeler and Michelle Simberg (Treasurer).

I would like to thank the previous Board members for their time and effort.

Since the formation of the new Board, Directors have been extremely busy taking carriage of their portfolios and regional liaison roles. I have had successful teleconferences with the Regional Presidents which have resulted in substantial strides being taken in bridging the communications gap between the Board and Regional



Photos:
Crazy Weather – Canberra
Bushfire impact
Judges intake

Committees and Members.

Through these meetings we now have a nationally consistent web presence across all our websites. We are very close to establishing a central accounting model which will better support the regions and the office in processing payments and accounting for funds at both national and regional level.

Most recently we have conducted a very in-depth analysis of our current financial position. Due to the significant overspend on the 2019 National Show we find ourselves in a position where we will need to make some very difficult decisions with regards to our budget for the remainder of the 19/20 and 20/21 FY.

Your Directors have done some amazing work in developing the foundations for a very successful show year with the establishment of a new Showing and Judging Committee along with a new National Alpaca Youth Committee. I am excited to see a great level of collaboration between both these portfolios so that we facilitate youth and showing events that are closely aligned so that our youth is provided, where possible, an increased level of visibility at our public events. Both Trevor Parry and Rochelle Veitch have been instrumental pulling this together.

We have seen outstanding innovative developments in the production of a nationally consistent training package. The individual components will be loaded onto the website as training materials as each is completed. Look out for some new video



2019 Year in Review

content on performing our routine husbandry practices. Sarah Wheeler has been working extremely hard on this as well as her portfolio of Bio-Security. It is great to hear the passion in Sarah's voice when we discuss the training and education activities that she is working on.

On the exports, market and trade front we are seeing meaningful outcomes in this area and more will be reported by Director Prue Walduck as this develops further. It is a slow process dealing with a multitude of agencies and other stakeholders both here and overseas. Whilst we would all like to have our export markets opened as soon as possible we are making significant advances in this area and I hope that we will have some positive news to report in the future.

Our office staff along with our Treasurer Michelle have been collaborating closely on the establishment of process and procedures that will better allow our members and the office to interact on repeatable business activities. Amanda our CEO has been instrumental in driving this change across our business and I thank her, Vanessa and Tanya for all they do to support the members and the Board every day.

Michelle and Amanda are currently exploring opportunities to stabilise and increase our membership. We are also conducting a review of how we ensure that the AAA is both 'meaningful' and 'current' and provides value to our members. This also involves how we can future proof the AAA and best position ourselves for the future.

As you can see from the above in a short 4 months the Board has made significant headway in several key areas. We encourage our members to take the opportunity to join with us and assist your association to be the best it can be.

I hope that 2020 is a far better year for all of us and that the challenges of the drought and fires become a distant memory. In the meantime, please stay safe and look out for each other.



Alpaca members helping each other – delivery from Shepparton to Northern NSW drought impacted breeders


Wangurra
ALPACAS


Annkea
ALPACAS



Our focus is to collect and supply commercially viable fleeces under 26micron to a buyer who excels at creating a commercial line of Luxury Alpaca Knitwear and Alpaca blankets. To that end, we have endeavoured, in partnership, to build our coloured herd as well as our whites in order to continue to supply fleeces to this Premium Collection.

Annkea and Wangurra Alpacas are both located in the beautiful Yarra Valley in Victoria.

**Follow us on Instagram @annkea.alpacas
& Facebook @annkeaalpaca
www.annkeaalpacas.com.au**

Breeding fineness across all colours for a sustainable future

Since starting in 2002 we have been committed to breeding for fine, quality fleece on a robust animal with correct confirmation. We are very pleased with our progress so far.

Top 100

At our last shearing, November 2018 we achieved the following herd average for our top 100, including all colours. The average age of this group was 47 months.

FD 19.17 um, SD 3.82 um, CV 20.07 %, CE 1.93 %, CF 97.95 %

All fleece tests are three point combined.



Breeding CHAMPIONS

Kallarroo Park Jassar, multiple champion, producing champions. At Warren Districts and Gidgegannup Show 2019 he was awarded Mature Champion male and his daughters Lalique and Jessie were awarded Champion mature female and Champion adult female.

Jassars 6th fleece at 6 years old grid tested FD 20.0um, SD 3.8um, CV 19%, CE 1.2%, CF 98.4%, CRV 56.6Deg/mm.

A vigorous outstanding male with solid genetics, passing on these traits to his progeny.

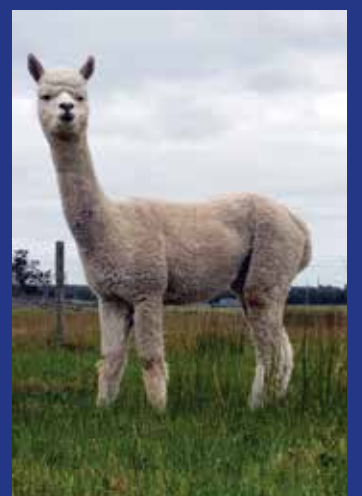
*Matings
available,
all enquiries
welcome.*



Kallarroo Park Jassar



Kallarroo Park Lalique



Just Jessie

Meet the AAA Board



Andrew Munn
President

After almost 20 years in the Australian Army, Andrew Munn with his wife Bronwyn established their stud in 2002 in NSW and now managed their alpacas at Warrenbayne in Victoria. They currently have a breeding herd of over 300 alpacas, both huacaya and suri. Employed full-time off farm, he spends the rest of his time with the alpacas.

Andrew has held various positions on AAA regional committees and the Fibre Market Development Reference Panel. He is a qualified Alpaca Wool Classer and is actively involved in the collection and classing of alpaca fibre for both Australian and international clients.

president@alpaca.asn.au

0408 410 281

Regional Liaison – Overseas

Portfolios – Regional Liaison, Membership



Prue Walduck
Vice President

Prue and her partner Ada purchased their first two pregnant alpacas in 1993. Their small boutique stud specialising in brown huacayas runs approximately 40 – 50 alpacas at any given time on 35 acres near Bendigo in Central Victoria.

Since joining the AAA, Prue has volunteered in many capacities at a regional level. She has also contributed at a national level spending 5 years on the National Marketing Team and 6 years (3 as Chair) on the Showing and Judging Committee. Prue feels privileged to be a Director of the AAA Board and looks forward to working with the AAA Members and fellow Board Members to continue to grow and develop the Australian Alpaca Industry.

Prue brings considerable business acumen to the Board having worked for approximately 30 years in senior positions in the retail, finance and community development sectors. Prue’s last corporate position prior to becoming a full-time alpaca farmer in 2008, was Group Human Resources Manager and a member of the Executive Management Team of a bank.

prue@alpaca.asn.au

0429 437 781

Regional Liaison – Victoria Eastern Region, Tasmania, SQNSW

Portfolios – Market access and trade



Michelle Simberg
Treasurer

Michelle and her husband Robert purchased their first two wethers in 2000 and commenced with a breeding herd in 2005. Their stud of over 100 animals of both phenotypes, specialising in coloured suri and emphasizing client support and training, is based in Gippsland, Victoria.

Since joining the , Michelle has volunteered in many capacities at regional and state level, supporting shows and marketing the alpaca industry and is looking forward contributing further to the growth and sustainable development of the Australian alpaca industry.

Michelle brings considerable business acumen to the Board, having worked for over 30 years in senior positions in the finance, government, community development, retail and not-for-profit sectors. Qualifications – Bachelor of Business and Commerce (Accounting); Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology)

michelle@alpaca.asn.au

0408 371 957

Regional Liaison – South Australia

Portfolios – Treasurer, Audit and Risk



Trevor Parry
Director

Trevor has been a member of the AAA for 17 years and exclusively breeds suri on his property in Western Victoria. He sees the AAA as an integral part of his future vision for alpacas where alpaca farming is regarded as a worthwhile agricultural pursuit by a growing part of the population.

Trevor loves that he gets to be involved in a business with his wife that involves working with these wonderful animals. Whilst a challenge, he also loves helping people see the potential of owning and breeding alpacas.

trevor@alpaca.asn.au

0428 196 946

Regional Liaison - Western Australia

Portfolios - eAlpaca, Youth (joint), Showing and Judging (joint)



Sarah Wheeler
Director

Sarah and husband Perry joined the AAA in 2006, like so many others, initially as a lifestyle owner. She soon became more involved, as their herd grew, in breed improvement and showing. Today, Sarah and her family run a successful family farm comprising of about 250 alpaca located within the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia. They show at national level and are regular exhibitors at Australia’s largest events, including Sydney Royal, Colourbration and the National Alpaca Show. Commercially, the business has successfully exported both animals and fleece, recently opening new opportunities for the industry in both Europe and North America. This has allowed her to aid fellow breeders with the sale of their fleece. Sarah also helps operates one of the larger camelid shearing operations in Australia, providing services for over 500 owners in SA, QLD, NSW and VIC – a side of the business that she believes gives her a unique perspective on the things that are important to alpaca owners.

sarah@alpaca.asn.au

0434 982 760

Regional Liaison - VCR, QLD

Portfolios - Training and education, Biosecurity (Q alpaca, NLIS), Animal health and welfare



Rochelle Veitch
Director

Rochelle has owned alpacas for 22 years and been a full-time alpaca farmer since 2007. Together with partner Ron, they run two herds. Rochelle is committed to ensuring the continued growth of a vibrant AAA and believes a balanced team at the helm of a harmonious association will guarantee a viable future for alpacas in Australia.

Rochelle has a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours, specialising in animal behaviour, reproduction and genetics. Rochelle is a trained embryo transfer technician and applies her skills to breeding and multiplying elite genetics.

rochelle@alpaca.asn.au

0422 329 174

Regional Liaison - NSW

Portfolios - Youth (joint), Showing and Judging (joint)



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F O C U S O N A A A ' S Y O U N G E S T F U L L M E M B E R !



D O U G L A S M A R T I N

Hi, my name is Douglas Martin, I am a pretty ordinary twelve-year-old boy, I have golden red hair, I like basketball and making stuff. 5 years ago my parents bought a little farm in Albury NSW, and that's when our alpaca journey began. We have a herd of suri alpacas – initially I helped to name them and stuff, but they really were my mum's. That all changed a year and a half ago, and now I am very proud to say that I own my own herd of golden coloured suri alpacas – I am Midas Touch.

Here's how it started, mum cut me a deal, she needed a hand to get to her first big alpaca show, the Charles Ledger in Goulburn. Mum offered me the day off school to come to the show (I was 11 at the time, let me tell you, a day off school sounded like a very very good deal!) But here's the fine print of mum's contract, I had to take an alpaca into the show ring too. I could choose any animal in the paddock, and I had to halter train it every morning before school and every afternoon, every day for 2 weeks! I chose Ragamuffin, he has red hair like me, we're pretty good mates.

Mum and I had a lot of fun at that show and I got hooked. I discovered that alpaca shows are really friendly and quite a good atmosphere. You get to wander around all day chatting to people, helping them with their animals – and you get to eat a lot of junk food!

WHY I LIKE ALPACAS SO MUCH?

It's hard to have a bad day when you own alpacas, it's nice to be in the paddock with them and their fleece is amazing and soft. You can't stay grumpy if you look at an alpaca, because they are just so funny to watch. A while ago I had some operations on my feet. The surgeon did a really good job and I wanted to say thanks to her. You know surgeons are very precious of their hands? So, I gave my surgeon some gloves knitted from one of my alpaca's fleece, to look after her hands and a picture of me with my alpacas. She said to me that it was the nicest present she had ever received.

WHAT DID YOU BREED BEFORE ALPACAS?

I have been breeding and showing the pullet strain of Partridge Wyandotte bantam chickens for about 3 years. My grandad helped me quite a bit and I have won quite a lot of awards for my chooks. Partridges are quite complicated, they are known as a “[double mate](#)” breed. This probably helped me a bit before

I got to alpacas. With chooks you concentrate on feather barring, leg and beak colour as well as body conformation and you make culling and mating decisions. Sound familiar? But chickens are easier than alpacas in some ways – in one season you can get lots and lots of progeny to trial your breeding ideas. I hate how long you have to wait to get a cria!

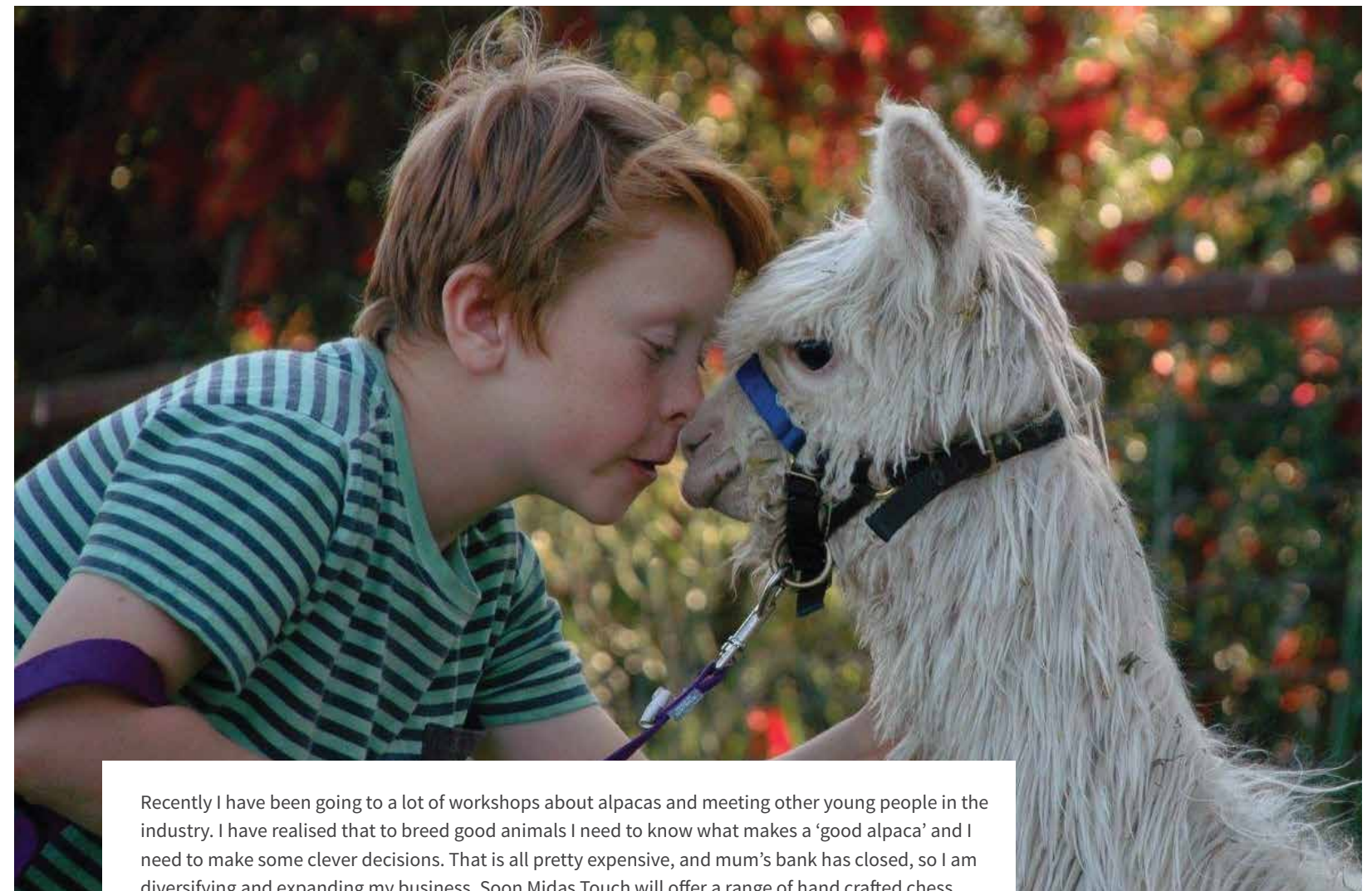
I recently had my interview for high school. At the end of the interview I decided to ask the teachers a question. I said, “Can you tell me about your Agriculture Program”. (They looked at me a bit funny) So I said that the President of the Alpacas Association of Australia, Ian Frith, had told me personally that I should study agriculture at school. That got them going!! So, I explained how my friend, Julie has the best suri alpacas in Australia, and that sometimes she asks me to help her in the show ring. I got a place at the school and I will start year 7 next year, but I'm still not sure how good their agriculture program is.

That is true, I do go into the show ring for other breeders, and I love it. (Especially when they win ribbons) What's not to love about alpacas shows? Chatting to all the other breeders and helping them out and learning about what makes a good animal. Did I mention the junk food? So I decided to start my own herd. I have been really lucky that some of my friends from the shows have helped me out with some very good animals. With my herd, Midas Touch, I am aiming to breed buttery golden fleeced animals. I like the story of King Midas but I hope that for me, having the golden touch will be a gift and not a curse!

HOW DID YOU FUND YOUR ALPACA BUSINESS?

My mum had another deal for me! When I told her I wanted to buy my own animals, mum gave me the job as Farm Manager. I got to keep all the money we made from selling one year's herd guards (and because my mum only ever breeds boys, that was a pretty good deal). In exchange I had to help with all the herd jobs, injections, toe nail clipping, shearing, ear tags and entering all the herd data onto e alpaca.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE?



Recently I have been going to a lot of workshops about alpacas and meeting other young people in the industry. I have realised that to breed good animals I need to know what makes a ‘good alpaca’ and I need to make some clever decisions. That is all pretty expensive, and mum's bank has closed, so I am diversifying and expanding my business. Soon Midas Touch will offer a range of hand crafted chess pieces and metal work. That incorporates the other things I love doing – making things from metal. So next time you see me at a show you can say, ‘hello’ and come and look at my products. In the future I dream of owning an on farm art & sculpture gallery.

The other thing I am looking forward to, is the Sydney Royal Easter show. I've been nagging mum and dad to take us, ever since one of the alpaca youth leaders told me about the accommodation. She said that you get to stay in the show ring area in little wooden shacks! I can't wait, it sounds so fun, and the best bit? At night you get to hear which alpacas snore the loudest!

Join the Australian Alpaca Association today

When you join the Australian Alpaca Association you will become a member of the primary alpaca industry body in Australia. As a member you will have access to the best information, support and services for managing and breeding alpacas in Australia, including access to the International Alpaca Registry (IAR) and alpaca show system, which are both operated via the eAlpaca system.

There are many reasons people choose to farm alpacas: as breeders of stud stock, for fleece and/or meat production, or simply for the enjoyment of owning and breeding these unique animals. With a range of membership categories to suit your interests and stage in the industry, join today and enjoy all that membership of the AAA has to offer.

Benefits

- Use the IAR to research alpaca pedigrees
- Register your own herd prefix
- Register the cria you breed
- Receive regular electronic updates on animal health and welfare issues
- Access Regional and National training and events
- Enter your animals/fleeces in AAA shows
- Network with other members in your area
- Receive World of Alpacas/AAA magazine twice yearly
- Access a range of member incentives
- Have a say in the AAA's future

Because we know there are many different stages to alpaca farming, and that people need a range of support, we offer an array of membership options:

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Retain a herd code and prefix, Register and transfer alpacas, Participate in AAA events and exhibit at AAA shows, 1 vote in elections, Receive and access members' only electronic information and members' magazine.

\$250

JOINT MEMBERSHIP

As per full membership but up to 4 people can participate in AAA events and shows, 2 votes in elections.

\$275

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Retain a herd code and prefix, Transfer animals, Participate in AAA events and exhibit at AAA shows, Receive and access members' only electronic information and members' magazine.

\$50

Wharncliffe



WHARNCLIFFE
ALPACA STUD

A chance encounter with friends at the Huon Show in November 1994 introduced me to alpacas. Not only was I irresistibly drawn to this utterly different animal but I was also intrigued by the possibility of having a viable livestock business, even though I was only on a newly acquired small acreage.

On Australia Day 2020, it will be 25 years since I chose and purchased my first alpaca.

"Chose" might be an overstatement, as there was only one for sale. In 1995 in Tasmania, alpacas were thin on the ground and nobody was selling.

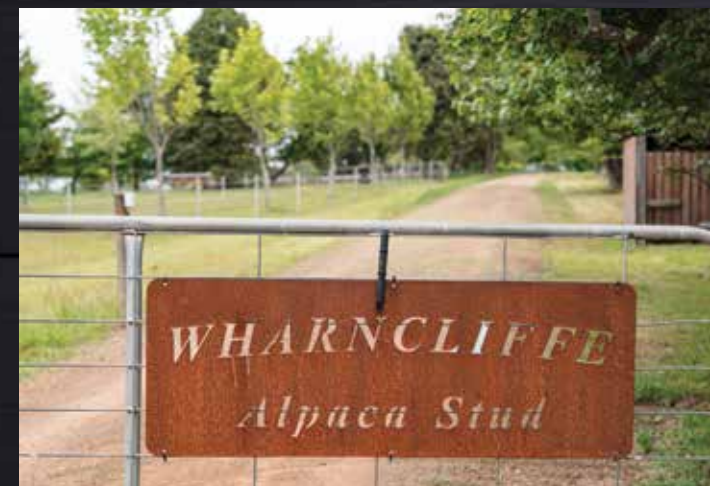
I didn't have the experience or confidence to consider a trip interstate to purchase and so that local girl came home with me, accompanied by her llama-like companion. (dear old Ben) I thought Laura was wonderful.

With the benefit of hindsight, a blue-eyed white, mated to a grey male might not have been the best recommendation for a new breeder to start with. Perhaps unsurprisingly, nothing came of that little foray into alpaca breeding.



Some months later, I purchased her black mother, an original Chilean import, the magnificent and very Chilean Regal Girl, a fiery old thing with a white blaze on her forehead. Also unsurprisingly, Regie gave me a number of very pretty tuxedo blacks with fleece like border collie hair. But I was by then a fledgling "Black Breeder", a niche that I decided on fairly quickly.

A year or two into my alpaca life, I had the opportunity to reshape my herd, refining my niche of sound black. The herd progressed. In 2004 there was a further review of my goals when I was able to access quality Peruvian black genetics and gradually the Wharncliffe herd started to move towards today's look. Since then there have been some wonderful comments from Judges about the lustre, colour and handle of Wharncliffe fleeces and have been awarded a Supreme Championship. multiple Best Blacks and other



Broad ribbons. Significantly, Wharncliffe pairs have won or placed in both Sire's and Dam's progeny awards at Tasmanian Shows over the past few years. This has been achieved by putting as much emphasis on the quality of the females as on the herd sires.

Being on a small property - and wedded to my house and garden - my goalposts have become increasingly narrow. I do not have the room to follow the many interesting byways that black breeding can offer. No space to house the browns and fawns that would appear if I followed the common path of using a dense fawn male to add some of the structure needed by blacks - and no space to deal with the fawns and greys that would eventuate if I used a fabulous grey.

I was told 20 years ago that "the best blacks come out of greys". It can be true and would be fun.

But here's the thing: my best blacks come out of blacks.

The Wharncliffe blacks have now developed a look: sound conformation, true, inky blackness and a silky, soft handling fleece that you just want to smother yourself with. To the best of my ability my alpacas are black out of black out of black.

Others do it differently, using greys and fawns and their blacks are frequently outstanding. I'm aware that there are characteristics - such as extreme density - that I might never develop in the herd to the same extent. However when you live with blacks, even in our cool Tasmanian climate, you realise that extreme density in a black might not be the best thing in terms of animal welfare. I'm far more interested in how the fleece handles, how consistent are the offspring and for how many years will the fleece remain useful.

Over the past 25 years, having gone through various phases, I'm now less hung up on the numbers. Instead: how does it handle? How consistent is it over the body of the animal? Does the judge have to get down on his/her knees under the belly to find where it runs off? The answers to these questions, in order, are: It handles beautifully. Consistency is improving. Yes the judge has to look hard.

And by the by, the numbers are good, according tested samples. First fleeces are 17-18 micron with SDs between 2.8 and 3.6. 16-year-olds still produce 19m fleece. Most are under 25m in any age group and those that aren't, feel as if they are.

Females from the 2017 and 2018 drop are now available for sale to committed breeders whose goals align with our signature of soft handling, lustrous, true black alpaca.

The alpacas attract a lot of attention and bring many visitors to Wharncliffe. We are blessed with trees planted generations ago and have developed the garden beneath the trees over 25+ years. Lately, a number of brides have visited Wharncliffe to be photographed with the black alpacas and in the garden. For one young woman, Wharncliffe was a surprise stop-off en route to her 'Hen's lunch' nearby. On a beautiful spring day, surrounded by the early roses, she was photographed leading alpacas around the garden while her friends enjoyed a glass of Tasmanian sparkling wine on the verandah. For a brief moment she thought of staying with the alpacas for the rest of the day and letting the hens and friends do their own thing.

The late-Victorian house and the garden offer many pretty spots to have photographs taken in most seasons. And the black alpacas are always happy to join the party.

Contact for Wharncliffe Alpaca Stud, Air BnB accommodation and Garden visits: alison@wharncliffe.com.au



From Youth Competitions to Apprenticeship

By Taryan Mathews

Australian alpacas are well known to be some of the absolute best in the world. This position is held, in many ways, due to rigorous breeding programs and passionate individuals, willing to go above and beyond to give their service to our incredible industry. Their hard work has resulted in tremendous leaps forward in quality in a relatively small space of time.

Our judges are a big part of this, giving the industry guidance and support as it develops and matures.

Even Peru, the home of the alpaca, have enlisted the help of Australian judges to embark on a new chapter of formalised judging accreditation! This speaks volumes of the quality of training Australia has to offer. It also highlights the work that goes on behind the scenes. Many years of hard work, dedication, taking every opportunity to learn, highs and lows ... and this only gets you accepted into the judge's intake (maybe)!

So what gets someone through from intake applicant to apprentice?

A deep understanding of fibre and conformational traits is, of course, a must – and the first tick on your long road to judging.

The second tick comes from the ability to weigh up traits and place animals accordingly.

The third, the confidence to back your placement. This can only come through years of practise and training. It comes from knowing the breed standard better than the back of your hand. From dedicating a large amount of your life to continuing to improve your understanding and ensuring you continue to learn, so that you can be consistent and compelling in your approach to even the toughest of decisions.

The fourth, and for many the hardest, conveying your decision to a wider audience in a way that is accurate, understandable, and educational.

Understanding conformation and fleece, and to an extent weighing up traits, can be learnt in many places. Listening to judging, finding good mentors, getting your hands on as many alpacas as humanly possible and so on. But the art of transferring your thought process to a concise, engaging, and educational oral presentation is harder. Learning to be confident enough to stand up and give this presentation? Well next to no one is born with that skill!

The Young Judges competition offers the chance to build just those skills. Participants can build their confidence in appraising animals, balancing traits to place a group, and speaking publically about this decision. This is done in a safe environment, and allows competitors to grow in a way that cannot be achieved through mentoring and listening alone.

The advantages of the Young Judges competition were especially prominent at this year's Judges Intake, where three of the six apprentices chosen from the original pool of 24 applicants were "graduates" of the Young Judges program.

All three of us – Ariana McCauley, Rubey Williams, and myself – have grown up in the alpaca industry. We have all been involved in as many aspects of the industry as we can get our hands on for as long as we remember. All three of us have participated in youth events such as Young Handler and Young Paraders, and have seen Young Judges and applying for the Judges Intake to be the natural progression. We all have a drive to see the industry flourish. We grew up listening intently to judging comments throughout our youth, admiring the way a judge can command the ring and find new ways to engage, inform, and educate the public, even beyond the 20th class of the day!

But Young Judges gave us far more than success at the intake. Young Judges gave us the chance to learn from the best minds the industry has to offer. More importantly still, it gave us confidence. Speaking from the point of view of a very shy and oftentimes introverted child, I can absolutely say I



► 2019 Australian Alpaca National - L-R –Sarah Vaughan, Rubey Williams, Taryan Mathews

attribute much of my confidence in my abilities and in public speaking to Young Judges. Ariana, Rubey and I all feel that the Young Judges competitions greatly helped us in areas well outside of the alpaca industry... If you can stand up in front of every big breeder in Australia and present your thoughts on four alpacas (or fleeces) placed in front of you as a teenager, you can take on anything as an adult!

So our advice to those considering competing in Young Judges and not sure if it's right for you? It is right for everyone!

Young Judges is so much more than a competition. It is a way to immerse yourself in the industry and be afforded insights not seen by many. It is a way to gain confidence in public speaking and create logical and consistent thought processes. It grows your professionalism and teaches you to be assertive in your decisions and judgements, while still keeping yourself open to new knowledge. It gifts you with life-long friendships and partnerships by getting you to network with people you may have never known otherwise. And, if you do want to take the next step and put your hat in the judging ring, it gives you all the tools necessary right at your fingertips.

Finally, don't believe you have to stick to just one industry! The skills learnt in Young Judges competitions are transferrable across all industries, and across all aspects of life. Throw yourself out of your comfort zone! Try something new! You never know what you'll learn about yourself, and the amazing people you will meet, impress, encourage, and inspire along the way.



► Sydney Royal Alpaca Young Judging Competition - Ariana McCauley



► 2014 RAS Sydney Royal Easter Show, The Sydney Royal Alpaca Judging Competition. L-R: Angela Preuss (Over-judge), John Dawson, Ariana McCauley, Menai Student, Katie Armson-Graham, Adrian Stufano (Menai High), (Menai Student) Tara Arduin, Imogen Boughey, Menai Student, Amber O'Neill



If you have a passion for alpacas, our industry or teaching others; judging will provide you with an opportunity to expand on these passions – just like I have. Be bold, be brave, and don't be afraid to just give it a go! We are all here to support you!



– ARIANA



► YJ: Ariana McCauley, handler: Kurtis Parker, steward: Jennifer Carey – 2015 RAS Sydney Royal Easter Show, The Sydney Royal Alpaca Judging Competition.



Meet the new AAA Apprentice judges

After a rigorous selection process, the Australian Alpaca Association has six new apprentices starting their journey to become Australian alpaca judges.

The Board acknowledges and thanks the previous Showing and Judging Committee for its hard work putting together and running the two judge intake weekends in June and September. – a huge undertaking which has identified excellent candidates to progress into this apprentice judge program.

Congratulations to our new apprentices. We look forward to seeing you in the show ring next year learning your craft under the guidance of our great pool of established judges.



Lisa Charteris Apprentice Judge

Lisa lives and works on her family’s alpaca stud in Karaka, South Auckland, New Zealand along with her fiance Dean and her two children. She maintains the day to day management of their herd of 150 alpaca along with running her own business. Their focus is on breeding elite grey huacaya for the local and international market.

Lisa is a qualified level 3 alpaca judge in New Zealand.

Her passion to judge has stemmed from not only her love of all things alpaca but also in her desire to help educate other breeders to grow this industry even further.



Taryan Mathews Apprentice Judge

Taryan, alongside her husband, Max and parents, Erika and Con, run a stud of 600 head alpacas in Baynton, Victoria culminating many years and two generations of alpaca breeding and experience.

Taryan has dedicated herself to the alpaca industry, working with members across the country to help ensure a robust and vibrant future for alpacas in Australia. She has a passion for breeding the highest quality fibre and strongly conformed alpacas in all colours, with a view to produce colours consistently as advanced in their fibre traits as their white counterparts.

She also has a love for medical and veterinary sciences and hopes to one day complete alpaca-specific research into health issues affecting Australian alpacas.



Ariana McCauley Apprentice Judge

Ariana has been involved with alpacas since 1997. Together with her parents, Helen and Wayne, they run their stud of 100 head on the NSW Central Coast.

With a focus on breeding coloured alpacas, Ariana enjoys the challenge and science of coloured genetics, and balancing this with advanced fibre characteristics.

Ariana is excited about the future of the alpaca industry and her enduring participation in the showing arena is a testament to her love for alpacas. She is passionate about continually educating the community, young and old, about all aspects of alpacas.

Outside of alpacas, Ariana is a pharmacist specialising in clinical research and enjoys painting, drawing and playing squash.



Kurtis Parker Apprentice Judge

Kurtis has been surrounded by alpacas from a very young age, rarely missing an opportunity to get hands on with the alpacas. He has recently acquired his own stud where he hopes to breed alpacas with high quality fleeces. Within the industry he has always looked to expand his knowledge about alpacas and fleece characteristics from various experts in the industry. As an apprentice judge Kurtis hopes to continue to build on his understanding of desirable animal and fleece qualities and characteristics as he progresses towards becoming an alpaca judge.



James Wheeler Apprentice Judge

James first became involved in the alpaca industry in Australia in 2006, establishing his own stud in 2008. James has been a full and active member of the association ever since. In the spring of 2017, James left his job in information technology to farm alpacas full time and now manages / assists in the management of approximately 700 alpacas (90% huacaya, 10% suri) across two properties in South Australia’s Fleurieu Peninsula.

James believes passionately in the future of a sustainable alpaca industry within Australian and is involved in many facets of the industry. This includes the shearing of approximately 6000 head of alpaca annually throughout SA, VIC, QLD and NSW. He also classes, sells and ships large volumes of raw alpaca fleece across four continents.



Rubey Williams Apprentice Judge

Rubey has been around alpacas for her entire life. Based in the Southern Highlands of NSW, her family run a herd of over 1,000 alpacas. They breed both huacaya and suri in all colours, while focusing predominantly on white and light fawn. Rubey is honoured to be an AAA apprentice judge and is looking forward to taking the next step in her alpaca journey.

In 2006, Rubey was introduced to the show ring through Junior Handling. Since then she has been involved in both Young Paraders and Young Judges – as a competitor and a mentor. In 2019, she was awarded the inaugural Agricultural Shows Australia National Champion Young Alpaca Judge. She has a true love and passion for the show ring. Her family are active participants in the show circuit and their animals and fleeces have received impressive results at a state and a national level.

She is currently studying a Bachelor of Biological Science at the University of Wollongong. With plans to conduct research into the coloured genetics of alpacas.

2019 National Show Report

Fleece Judge - Shane Carey

I had the privilege of judging the fleece section at the 2019 National Show where the quality did not disappoint. There was a great representation in all colours across the whole age range.

All the fleeces had been grid tested and I was pleased at the overall consistency of fineness of all fleeces. This was most impressive and a great indicator of where our industry is headed.

The supreme huacaya fleece stood out to me as soon as I judged it, it had a deep amplitude crimp than was consistent from base to tip and carried its qualities and fineness over the entire fleece.

The supreme suri fleece was very consistent in its micron across the entire fleece showing great lustre and consistent locking

The most commercial fleece had a great weight combined with it's fineness therefore was very valuable in its net return.

This year there was a judge's choice award which went to a junior fleece which was uniform and consistent with a high level of brightness, making this fleece stand out as a fleece type we should be breeding towards.

On the whole the fleeces were well skirted, however there were some that had the outer edges left in which detracts from the fleece. Breeders continually mention that they leave this in to help with their weight score. Please remove the outer edges in the skirting process, forget thinking about weight - consistency of your fleece is what will gain you good scores.

Think about entering the most commercial fleece class, you must enter this class. Your fleece is not automatically assessed for its value unless you enter it.

I would like to thank Deb Trostian, Sharon Dawson, Dymna Vella, Peter and Lyn Hartford and Sophia Eagleson and the others for their tireless help throughout the judging. It was a great team and I sincerely thank you for all your work behind the scenes

Halter Co-Judge - Natasha Clark.

I had the pleasure of judging the halter section of the Australian Alpaca National Show alongside co-judge Peter Kennedy-Gane. This was my fourth National Show judging appointment and it was once again a privilege to judge Australia's premier alpaca show, which brings

together the best quality alpacas from across the country.

This year we had 360 huacaya entries and 86 suris. The first section of junior huacayas and suris did not disappoint. It was very satisfying to see a field of high quality juniors with a good depth of alpacas presented. The alpacas that rose to the top placings were balanced in both fleece and conformation.

Our champion junior huacaya female had a lot to offer and we couldn't go past her. Her combination of fine micron with density and the lack of guard hair with ample quality and style put her in that winning position. She displayed a lot of potential for her age. The junior male caught my eye. He had an impressive fleece for his age, excellent density combined with fineness. He went on to win best light fawn huacaya of show. This is a male I will look forward to seeing in years to come.

In the junior suri section we saw fewer entries than the huacaya classes. The champion junior female had a low micron fleece, which still had excellent density for micron and superb lustre. The champion junior male suri was from the med/dark fawn class and was exhibiting excellent lustre, which combined with all the other positive attributes, pushed him into the championship position.

As judges, we look for the complete package, which we found in the intermediate section. The intermediate female exhibited correct conformation and all the positive fleece attributes we were looking for. She was growing a good length of fleece for the months of growth, her fleece was highly aligned indicating great density, and she was fine in micron with very little variation in micron between the primary and secondary fibres. The champion and reserve intermediate males were both high quality but the intermediate champion male just had the edge on the reserve. This male certainly looked the part, so true to type in his look with a masculine huacaya head. His fine and dense fleece lacked guard hair and was consistent right across the body. Moving through the older sections we saw excellent quality and depth across all age classes in both suri and huacaya.

The final day saw an exceptional line up of huacaya champions. The two intermediates caught our eye and were awarded best male and female. Both intermediates displayed correct conformation on a well-balanced frame, which is an important trait when assessing alpacas.



They were also displaying a commercial fleece - good length, fine micron, density, superb handle and lack of guard hair. On the day the female peaked at the right time and had the edge on the male but both alpacas deserved winners in our eyes.

The suri supreme line up was impressive. The intermediate female and intermediate male were awarded best female and male. They were both well-balanced alpacas with excellent frames, and good density, micron, handle and lustre. When it came down to choosing our supreme the male had the extra “wow” factor we were looking for.

The judging of the supreme champions was followed by the colour championships. We are seeing great depth and quality in a lot of the colours. The animals overall were of high quality but as exhibitors we must not forget about the conformation there needs to be a balance.

I would like to thank my co judge Peter Kennedy-Gane; it's always great working with you. Thank you to the convenor Sharon Dawson and her working committee, it is a big effort running a National and it was a great show. Lastly thank you to all the exhibitors who paraded their alpacas before us.

Convenor report – Sharon Dawson

Wow!! What an experience to Convene our National Show 2019, so many people involved and so many components came together to present an impressive alpaca industry to Canberra with the best of the best on show. The venue EPIC was great, a bit chilly but the atmosphere of the pavilions with all the public milling about was exciting and a great sight to see.

The interactive craft area involved the public allowing them to get their hands-on alpaca fibre and have a go at the different crafts available

to them, the stands showcased our gorgeous end product and other wares, doing busy pleasing business over the weekend.

The stunning display of beautiful fleeces was another highlight, this section will only continue to grow. The youth ring was a hub of excitement with the competition front and centre to the public's enjoyment. Lots happening with our next generation of alpaca breeders and judges, it's great to see this competition embraced and celebrated at our National Show. The AAA stand was very busy assisting and talking to members of our industry and the public.

The Fashion Parade was a professional celebration of what is happening with our fibre and what a show it was, stunning models on the catwalk in some of the most beautiful outfits I have seen. The dinner was another success the food was great, with a trip down memory lane on the photo wall of past and present photos, dancing laughing and some good old heads and tails to give away kindly donated prizes by the pavilion stands, a great night for all who attended.

Exclusive Images, the wonderful photographer put together the Champion photographs as trophies presented on the Sunday. These framed photographs were top quality, the animals popped in the photo, black shirts looked classy, all photographs were stunning and greatly received.

We had excellent coverage from local media including national ABC TV and WIN News. The marketing was successful, with almost 3000 members of the Canberra public through the doors seeing all that there is to love about alpacas.



2020 National Alpaca Show

28-30 August

The 2020 National Alpaca Show will be held at the Melbourne Showgrounds, on 28-30 August 2020.

Paul Haslin has been appointed by the Board to return as convenor of the 2020 Nationals, with Lyn Dickson as co-convenor.
Judges are Shane Carey and Angela Preuss as halter judges and Adrienne Clark as the fleece judge for the 2020 National Show

Sponsorships are now available – please contact the AAA

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SOL
VICUÑA

The world's first boutique museum devoted to the Vicuña

We present Sol Vicuña. Michell & Compañía and their retail brand Sol Alpaca pay tribute to the history, tradition and heritage of the vicuña - a wild, delicate, elegant and delightfully free animal native to the Peruvian Andes; and, especially, to the inhabitants of the Peruvian highlands, with whom it was to generate a very close, intimate and, eventually, permanent connexion.



Located in the city of Cuzco, the famous historic capital of Peru, the Sol Vicuña Boutique Museum is a milestone in Peruvian culture as Sol Alpaca is the world's first brand to encapsulate the textile tradition of an entire country within an inspiring and sophisticated space. This unique museum is specially designed to offer an unforgettable experience to visitors, both local and foreign, who wish to enjoy an enriching encounter with a textile tradition over 5000 years old.

Luxury is based on experiences. Sol Vicuña offers an educational trip from the beginnings of history up to our present day by means of complete and detailed information that explains the evolution of the vicuña, the ancient Andean ritual of shearing - the Chaccu - the uses and exploitation of the fibre, the sustainability of the species and other interesting historical facts.

The unique experience offered by Sol Vicuña is achieved and complemented by its alliance with the Amano Museum - the first museum of Pre-Columbian textiles in Peru - in a space where time goes by unnoticed while a close-up view is given of an invaluable collection of historic items; they attest to the Wari culture's relationship with the vicuña and how its fibre was used before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors.

Sol Vicuña also offers beautiful accessories made from 100% vicuña, the world's finest and most exclusive fibre. These fine articles possess not only elegance, warmth, exceptional softness, beautiful drape and a magical, unique lustre but also characteristics linked to Nature, culture, technology and creative work.

Backing of the Michell Group

The Peruvian firm Michell & Compañía is the world’s largest alpaca textile business, being vertically integrated from the raising of alpacas to the selling of products to final consumers.

Michell & Compañía is proud to contribute to the rescue of the paradigmatic vicuña. Not only do we believe in its beauty but we also share a love for its history, promoting its breeding in a way that protects and respects Nature. The effort, commitment and devotion addressed to the protection of this lovely animal, together with all the people that surround its textile history, are translated, presented and celebrated through Sol Vicuña, enabling the vicuña fibre, the world’s finest, to be shared once more with the entire human race.

The real treasure of the Andes

Wild, delicate and elegant; delightfully free, and native to the Peruvian Andes.

Facing the sun while feeding on its mother’s milk, the vicuña presides over the highlands; indeed, it could even be said that its domains include the clouds and the limitless skies because it inhabits the high, starry regions at more than 5000 metres above sea level.



Traditional Andean Vicuña fiber selection technique.

The golden fleece

Vicuñas have a beautiful golden coat, thick and soft, which enables them to keep warm in the cold highland climate. Healthful proteins such as keratin make up the main part of their wonderful fibre, a gift from Nature and unsurpassed in quality and texture; it is superior even to the fibres produced by the Kashmir goat in the Himalayas.

The Peruvian Inca Empire was the most sophisticated political organization within the pre-Columbian universe and, in large measure, the camelids were the basis for the development of this imperial people. Camelids were used as beasts of burden, as a source of meat, and as providers of fibre for making warm clothes. Among them, the vicuña was considered a sacred animal by this society which respected, above all, Mother Earth. The animals were shorn without suffering any harm in a procedure known as the Chaccu, a ceremony full of mysticism, offerings and happiness with moments of true religious gratitude when the fibre of the gods was collected.



Rescue of the vicuña

Although several laws had been made to protect the vicuña during the Republican era of Peru, indiscriminate poaching increased steadily so that, by 1960, it was estimated that only 5000 vicuñas remained in Peru;

A shameful extinction event seemed imminent

Thanks to the perseverance of some distinguished Peruvians, National Reserves in Ayacucho and Arequipa were established in the latter part of the 1960s. Even so, the rescue of the vicuña turned out to be no easy task and a coordinated international effort was required in order to accomplish it.

This is how, during the 1970s, the basis of formal worldwide protection for the animal was established through the Vicuña Convention signed by Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Chile and the inclusion of the vicuña as a species with a high risk of extinction in the list compiled by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) to prohibit the hunting of the vicuña and the sale of its products.

In 1995, the Peruvian government set up regulations regarding the treatment of vicuñas and their status as commercial property; the rural communities were acknowledged as those chiefly responsible for the conservation, care and beneficial use of the vicuñas.

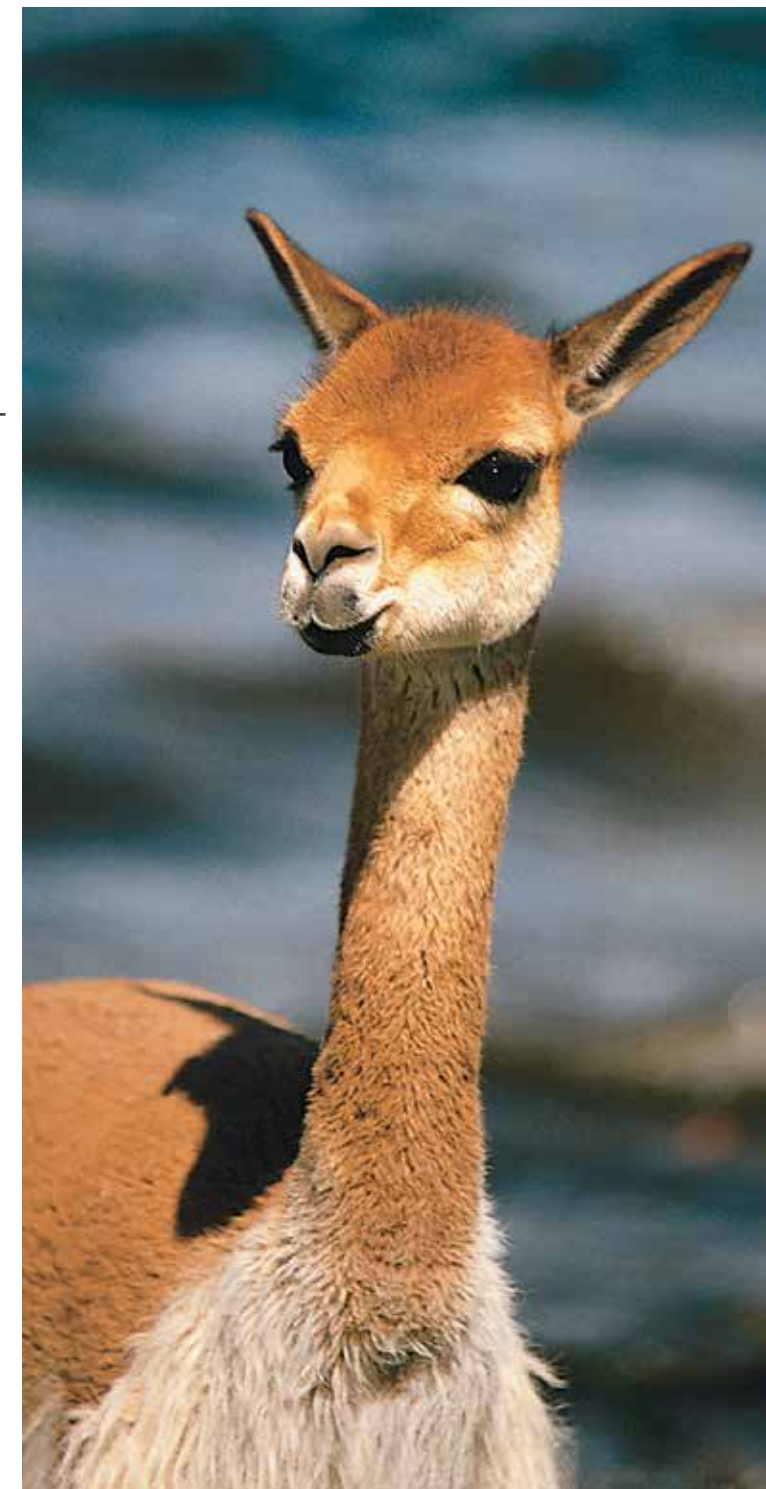
Fortunately, it may now be said that the vicuña has been saved from extinction. Peru is home to 80% of the planet’s vicuña population, and the animals are cared for in accordance with a strict set of rules. This has enabled their beautiful fibre to reappear in the world’s most prestigious shop windows.

The period of the Conquest

The Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire brought an end to a society in which the central concept was Mother Nature, representing the principal religious virtue.

The South American camelids, and particularly the vicuñas, almost reached the point of extinction. New species were introduced from Europe, bringing diseases with them and consuming the natural pasture. Hungry men, condemned to working in the mines and deprived of their beliefs, turned to hunting the vicuñas in order to survive.

It is estimated that during the Spanish viceroyalty almost two million vicuñas were eliminated.





FLEUR DE LYS MYTHBUSTERS

By Lee Sadler



Fleur de Lys Ekaterina –
AAA National Champion Junior Female – sold to Waters Edge Alpacas in New Zealand

Opinions – we all have them, normally lots of them. We also “know”, with great conviction, that we are “right”, and that those who don’t agree with us are “wrong” ... !!

In this land where free speech is lauded, we seem to have lost the art of debate, the chance to espouse our views and to listen to others as they share their perspective. We no longer “agree to disagree” and we seldom try to understand quite how others could have arrived at their alternate view.

It’s ironic that as alpaca farmers, we have chosen to seek an alternate path, to walk to the beat of a different drum and have celebrated that we are “different”, yet we struggle to accept that others have a different view to the ones we hold so close.

How is it that we have arrived at our view, that we hold to our opinions so vehemently ... ?? This is the conundrum that has fuelled the debate clubs of old and of more recent times, now fills copious marketing and political agendas. The craft of packaging the message for the audience in order to influence their opinion, has morphed into a much researched science. Opinion leaders now frequent our screens, both small and large and they are employed to “influence” and change our view.

In the alpaca industry, the “opinion leaders” are varied. Many have years of experience to substantiate their view, many bring expertise from outside the industry to shape and influence their perspective, some are active on committees and some wear a “judges badge”.

At Fleur de Lys Alpacas, we are delighted when others seek our opinion, when they ask to learn from our experience and our “off farm” body of knowledge. As Pharmacists, we are often engaged in discussion across a range of professions in order to find the best treatment options for the patient.



Fleur de Lys Laurent –
AAA National Champion Intermediate Male – sold
to Auravale Alpacas and Walkley Fields Alpacas

When answering some of these enquiries, we have found that some of the “opinion leaders” within the alpaca industry have been creating myths ...
So it is time to clarify a few matters:

Myth 1

Yes, at Fleur de Lys Alpacas our stud males are available for “outside” work

Our boys are queuing at the gate while I tap these words, keen to meet your girls and contribute to the success of your herd. They have been used by local and interstate breeders, but only after we have dispelled the myth of their being coy ... !! Yes, they love to travel and also welcome girls who visit them here at home ... !!

Myth 2

Yes, at Fleur de Lys Alpacas, we are happy to sell our alpacas, even the best ones ... !!

Our National Champions have been sold interstate and overseas to wonderful new homes where they are contributing to the genetic diversity and success of their new abode. We would be delighted if other Fleur de Lys stock had the chance to contribute in this way ...

Myth 3

Yes, at Fleur de Lys Alpacas, we will continue to support and work for our industry, in the belief that this is a viable and sustainable livestock industry with a bright future.

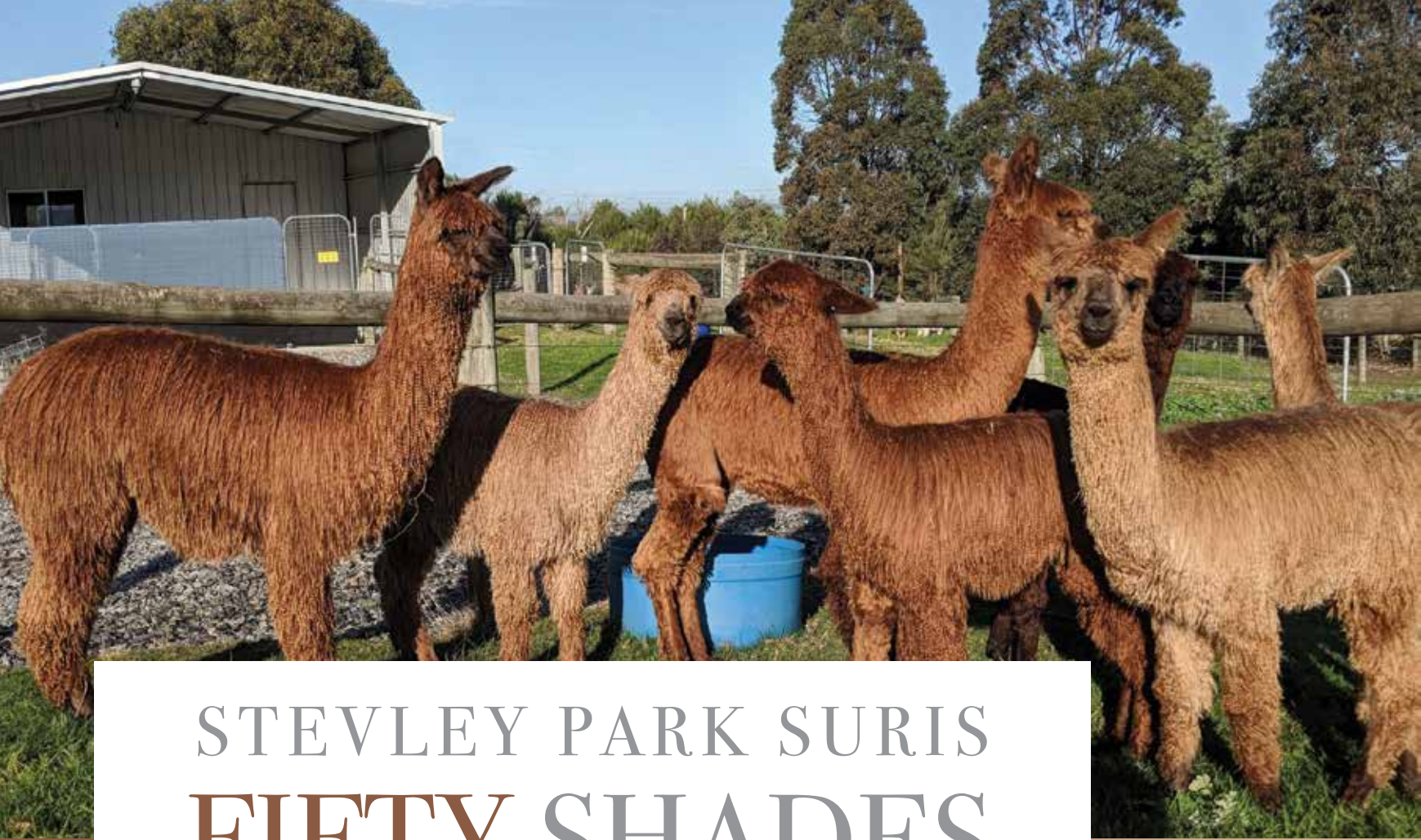
We have served on local and national committees within both Pharmacy and Alpaca and will continue to support the alpaca industry when and where we can.

If you have heard other “unlikely truths” about us, please do not hesitate to contact us to get the story “straight”. We are happy to have “alpaca chat” with you and keen to hear your opinion and learn how you have arrived at your conclusions ...

More importantly, we would be delighted if the addition of Fleur de Lys genetics would be an enhancement to your herd. Please let us know how we could make this happen for you – a shared success is all the sweeter ...



Swan Valley Anacheeva –
Multiple Supreme Champion, Sire of multiple
Champion awards and multiple Sire’s Progeny
awards. We have a stable of 6 stud males, who
are all keen to meet your “girls”.



STEVLEY PARK SURIS FIFTY SHADES OF BROWN

by **Lezley Golding**

Nar Nar Goon, West Gippsland, Victoria, is the home of Stevley Park Suris, owned and operated by Lezley and Steve Golding.

Our breeding program is focused on Brown Suris, striving for fineness, lustre and density in all '50 Shades of Brown'

Stevley Park Suris are proud co-owners of Canchones Diesel Plus ET.

We have bred many broad ribbon winners and our breeding program is now at the stage to offer quality affordable packages. Check out our sales list www.stevleypark.com.au.

On farm husbandry and shearing workshops are available on request. Having been in the industry for nearly 20 years we enjoy giving back and offer mentoring, help with farm layout and ongoing support for new customers and new members entering the industry.



Stevley Park Odin

STEVLEY PARK

Zed

Designed and Created by
Lezley Golding



Triangular Shawl



Nuno Scarf



Luxurious Suri Scarfs



Alpaca Toys

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.



TAS REGION

reporting

The new Tas region committee was formed in June this year - Tas Region President – Dusti (Dawn) Aspinall, our Secretary – Janelle Jago, and our Committee – Karen Howlett-Holmes, Sally Vance, Peter Aspinall and Byron Jago.

The committee came on board with enthusiasm to re-ignite the interest and commitment of the Tasmanian members of the AAA. By listening to our members, we found that most wanted more educational workshops for the region providing a cross section of topics, an open and easy to communication with committee and a forward-thinking approach whilst aiming to grow our membership. As a committee we have worked hard to do everything possible in the short time we have been together to organise as many workshops as we could for our members, keeping in mind that it has also been the busiest time for our members regarding our AAA shows and of course shearing time.

Our first workshop offered to our members was on Colour Genetics in Alpacas held at Ross in September and presented by Karen Gowlett-

Holmes. The workshop was well attended by both new and established breeders, all eager to try to obtain a better understanding of the way colour outcomes can be achieved in our breeding programs. Karen was a wonderful tutor who made the workshop as easy to understand as possible for us neophyte geneticists and a great afternoon was had by all that attended with everyone taking home a better understanding and a lot more questions on this complex subject.

Workshop number two was a Show and Ring Steward workshop held in Hobart during November. This workshop was presented by Jillian Holmes and offered a plethora of information on the requirements of being a successful show or ring steward at an alpaca show. The workshop was very informative and a quick exam at the finish showed that all who attended were indeed listening and taking on board the importance of the various duties of both positions in order to help in the running of a successful show. Our third workshop was Tasmania's first Youth Paraders Workshop which was also held in Hobart in November and presented by Jillian Holmes.

This workshop was extremely well received and showed not only the young people who attended, but breeders from the region just what goes into being a successful entrant in this type of competition. All who attended agreed it was a wonderful day showing the complexities of handling an animal with confidence and calmness to obtain the outcomes required. The youngsters attending were absolutely amazing and the level of enthusiasm was recognised by all who attended, with some of the attendees never handling alpacas before. Special thanks must go to Janelle and Byron Jago who worked extremely hard to organise the event and provide the stations required to enable it to go ahead. The attendance level and enthusiasm of the youth who entered showed that the alpaca industry definitely has a thriving future in Tasmania and we will be building on this in the near future with other events.

Tasmania's first AAA show for the year was held in October at the Royal Hobart Show. It was well attended by our members with approximately 70 animals and 50 fleeces shown. Congratulations go to Kawaii Alpacas with their exhibit "Plantel Melting Moment" winning Supreme Huacaya and Pandda Lodge Alpacas winning Supreme Suri with "Jerula Park Quattro". A great day was had by all exhibitors with many thanks going to the show convenor, Alison Brolsma and all of our volunteers for a smooth event that ran like clockwork.

Tasmania's second and final show for 2019 was the Flying Colours Alpaca Championships held at Longford Showgrounds on the 9/11/2019. This show is run in the "Colourbration" format and is very popular with our members. It was a very well received and attended event with approximately 70 animals and 25 fleeces entered. Congratulations go to Pandda Lodge Alpacas for the

Grand Champion Suri exhibit "Jerula Park Quattro" and also to Streaky Bay Alpacas for the Grand Champion Huacaya exhibit "Streaky Bay Glen". Thanks go to the show convenor, Neil White and all of the volunteers for their hard work contributing to this well-run event.

Due to low numbers there was not an alpaca show at the Huon Show this year but two AAA members attended to exhibit alpacas on the day.

Exciting news for the Tasmanian region is a new alpaca show, to be held at the Campbell Town Show - May 29 and 30 2020. This is a major achievement for the alpaca industry in Tasmania as previously we have been unable to obtain a foothold into this tightly held sheep industry show. This will be an exciting event for all Tasmanian breeders and we are looking forward to see how this develops, many thanks to our previous Tas Region Committee for all of the groundwork that has gone into obtaining this coup – stay tuned for updates!

Further workshops were held in December - Let's talk about AAA, Alpaca Business ideas, and solid business strategies - and - Good shearing practices including actual demonstration of shearing techniques of a suri and huacaya, how to get the best fleece off- including skirting and what to do to prepare your fleeces for on sale. We are trying to exhaust our members with education and I think we are succeeding!

Our newsletter has been revisited with the first edition sent out to members in late August, with hopes to follow up on a quarterly basis. With the wonderful crew we have on the committee we can only hope that our region can build and expand on all of the wonderful work completed previously by past committees and we thank every one of them for their work and dedication to our industry.



Lynne Staff (left) and Karen Gowlett-Holmes – "Camaraderie at the Flying Colours Alpaca Championships"





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.

Golden Charm ALPACAS



Breeders of coloured and white suri alpacas

Darryl & Jessie Raines - PO Box 8228, Bargara, Qld 4670

P 07 4159 4624 **M** 0407 155 403 **E** gcalpaca@bigpond.net.au

ORA designz
Onyx alpacas
Clifden Park
Carinya Park

Licence holder feature

Guaranteed Australian Alpaca



The AAA has a licence program for us of the “Guaranteed Australian Alpaca” logo. Use of this logo is granted for products that meet the following requirements:

1. Product contains alpaca from Australia

2. Product is completely made in Australia

3. Product is in a form which is considered a commercial product

The program has been taken up by the following businesses:

- ORA DESIGNS
- ONYX ALPACAS
- CLIFDEN ALPACAS
- ADAGIO MILLS
- APPIN VALLEY ALPACA FLEECE
- CARINYA PARK
- MAPA ALPACAS
- TICKENHALL ALPACAS
- THE ALPACA SHOPPE
- THE HOUSE OF ALPACA
- BLACKWATTLE

In this edition we feature a number of our licence holders:

Carinya Park Crafted Alpaca

Carinya Park Alpacas is located at The Branch in the Karuah Valley upstream of Port Stephens, NSW. It is owned and operated by Warren Atkinson and Sue Just. We acquired our first alpacas in the early 1990s comprising animals imported from South America. The herd has been developed and improved using sires from proven elite bloodlines.

Using fibre from our herd we have produced a range of handmade crafted alpaca garments and toys. The fleece from our alpacas is spun by a mill located in central western NSW. At the same time we have established a network of local craft lovers in Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley who knit and crochet the yarn creating a variety of garments, toys and other items. All items use yarn with natural colours that is no dye or other colouring is used. We consider our market to be people who are seeking locally sourced and produced items.

The merchandise is currently available for sale at a local artisan shop located in Port Stephens and other markets within Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley are currently being developed. The AAA Guaranteed Australian Alpaca tags provide confirmation to buyers that the items are produced within Australia sourced from Australian alpacas.

Onyx Alpacas



Natural fawn 100% suri yarn, machine knitted



Natural black 100% suri yarn, machine knitted

onyxalpacas.com.au
onyx@onyxalpacas.com.au
John & Sue Harris

We breed black alpacas. This is partly because our farm is in surrounded by temperate rainforest in the wettest part of Victoria. When we decided to farm alpacas we didn't have the heart to rear white ones only to see them become dark brown in the mud in winter. Farming black alpacas has not been a great value proposition against that of breeding white animals but our theory has always been that there could be a market advantage to breeding fleece that didn't need to be dyed. Fifty percent of the world's fashion products are black and the world's leading fashion countries are becoming increasingly environmentally conscious. There must come a time when the demand for black alpaca fleece will outstrip supply.

It hasn't happened yet but the signs are there. We now sell all the black huacaya fleece under 26 micron that we can produce to Australian and New Zealand manufacturers. Selling black suri fleece has been harder until recently so we decided to start having product manufactured for sale under our own label. Our black suris are bred from the original Wyterrica suri herd of mixed colours so we have a few fawn and brown suri females as well as the core black suris. We engaged Alisdair and Belinda Chew of Wool 2 Yarn at Mornington in Victoria to spin up some fine, 100% suri yarn from our fleece and to manufacture some sample wraps and scarves for us. When the opportunity to licence the AAA swing tag came up we thought it was an excellent idea and would give our product, as we developed it, a boost.

We are still at the developmental stage but are looking forward to producing small and large garments made in Australia from our suri fibre in the future and using the swing tag on all of them.

Clifden Alpacas



Clifden alpacas is the home of a boutique herd of black huacaya alpacas, including Archie, the popular star of our 2 delightful children’s stories.

As well as the Archie books, our alpaca merchandise collection showcases gorgeous alpaca yarn, knitting kits, scarves and cowl - home grown and created on farm near Yarragon in West Gippsland. We are extremely proud that the fleece we produce is skirted on farm and expertly processed at echo beach fibre processing mill in South Australia, making it truly a pure Australian product.

The luxurious Clifden yarn is available in both 4 ply and 8ply 100 gm balls, in true black, cocoa black and grey colourways. Pure alpaca yarn is light, warm and hypoallergenic, and an absolute dream to knit!

LINDY SMITH, CLIFDEN ALPACAS
WWW.CLIFDEN.COM.AU
ENQUIRIES@CLIFDEN.COM.AU
M: 0408 827 896

Ora Designz



ORA Alpaca Knitwear (ORA Designz) is becoming known for specializing in the creative use of Australian Alpaca natural fibre for bespoke and One of Kind knitwear and accessories for men and women.

Alpaca fibre is considered one of the most luxurious fibres in the world and with the development of the Australian alpaca industry, this premium fibre is at our fingertips.

Why Alpaca?

The attributes of alpaca fibre are exceptional – lustre, “handle” of silky softness, light weight and warmth, moisture wicking ability and resistance to odours. It is also known for its flame and water resistance, strength, durability, lower prickle factor, hypoallergenic qualities and a wide range of natural colours with all the tones in between. Alpaca is the only fibre producing animal to produce true black fleece.

These important textile qualities, coupled with the well-known environmental friendliness of the alpaca and minimal scouring requirement of the fleece, result in a textile with extraordinary credentials. Those being sustainability, longevity giving the wearer a celebration of the divine and luxurious elegance that is alpaca.

ORA Alpaca Knitwear evolved through a passion for natural fibres, in particular alpaca, creativity and a heritage of familial textile production – the production of Irish Linen in the 1800 and 1900’s in Northern Ireland, millinery and tailoring in the early 1900’s in Singapore and Perth, Western Australia.

In the creation of ORA Alpaca Knitwear, the attributes of alpaca are very much part the garment design process. These attributes include the lustre, comfort factor and drape when used in knitted or crocheted pieces. Selecting alpaca fibre for wet felted products is more challenging as each fleece behaves differently in the fulling process, this adds to the individuality of design.

Alpaca fibre from Windella Alpacas and Goldleaf Alpaca studs in the south west of Western Australia is the predominant fibre used in the exclusive range of ORA’s designs and ORA Signature Yarns. The genetics of these studs adds to the individuality of the fleece used by ORA. Fleeces are carefully hand selected and hand processed. The yarn is hand spun to create Ora’s Signature Yarns. Both huacaya and suri are used in the production of these yarns. To add to the opulence of Ora’s Signature Yarn, other luxury fibres are often used, these include vintage Irish Linen, Qiviut, Silks, Cashmere, Kid Mohair and fine Western Australian Merino. All Ora Signature yarns are specifically hand spun for bespoke commissions and can be hand dyed on request.

Alpaca dyes well and this extends the colour palette for textile production.

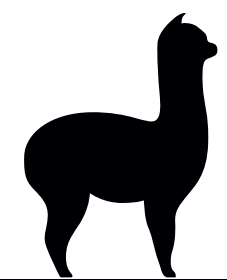
One of ORA Alpaca Knitwear’s specialties is bespoke Commissions. Commissions are created with comprehensive consultation with the client, from fleece choice to finished design. ORA Alpaca Knitwear is proud of the OoAK (One of a Kind Knitwear) range for Men and Women, including cowl, scarves, sweaters, alpaca hand felted hats and knit hats.

The ever-changing range of ORA Alpaca Knitwear and Accessories is available by appointment at the ORA Alpaca Knitwear Studio in Two Rocks, Western Australia.

To arrange an appointment to view the range or a consultation for a commission:

All enquiries to Jo Rhodes
Mobile: 0414 782 277
Overseas Callers: +61 414 782 277

www.oradesignz.com
www.instagram.com/oradesignz
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Spinning services for small breeders

Specialists in processing single saddles and small batches



Proudly **100% Australian** owned and operated





WA REGION reporting

What a busy period it's been in the west.

During late May members set up for the Gidgegannup Small Field day (Gidgie show). 2018 will always be remembered as a wet and dark affair, so this year Dan and his team organised a wonderful marquee for us, and as would you believe, the weather was glorious... *Bedrock Comic* took Supreme Suri, while *Futura Iconic* took Supreme Huacaya.

In July members organised a social weekend, staying overnight in the historic town of York. We visited a Camel Dairy Farm, and then Greenhill and Keis Studs. Thanks to Dromadairy, Keis, and Greenhill, but special thanks to Jane and Danny for organising it all.

Two junior handler sessions were held at Honkeynut Hill in preparation for the Royal Perth Show. These were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. It's great to see the 'young'uns' getting involved.

The Royal Perth Show was held in September. This is usually a long slog for breeders, due to the show running for a whole week, fortunately

we were able to leave after four days. Congrats to Banksia Park winning Supreme Huacaya with *Softfoot Desmanthus* TM while *Bedrock Cointreau* won Supreme Suri. This year at the Royal we were privileged to hold the national final of the Youth Judging. Congrats to the first National Young Judges winners: Rubey Williams from NSW, Jonee Phillips from WA and Sarah Vaughan from Victoria.

In September some members attended a shearing workshop held at Banksia Park. Steve and Leszley from Stevley Park flew over from Victoria to teach us some of their valuable skills. This workshop was a great success, and we really (really) hope Steve and Leszley enjoyed it too and hope they will be willing to come back next year. Special thanks to Jane and Danny for organising.

Early November was Albany show time again. This show is usually used as an excuse by Perth area breeders to have a 'holiday' on the South West Coast. Albany show is a great relaxed, social country show, but



no less competitive than the rest. Futura Stud won Sumpreme Huacaya with *Wildflower Piccannine*, and Bedrock won Supreme Suri with *Bedrock Contender*. Querida Park won the 'Most Successful Exhibitor' award, and Futura won the 'Three Star Fleece' award. Well done to all.

This period also saw a change in guard in our Regional Committee. A big thanks to outgoing Tara Ravenhill, Sophie Stacey, Jane O'Neill and Danny Birch for the great job you have done. Then welcome to incoming committee members Louise Holbrook and Jamie Logan.

Moving forward the committee are looking at some of the members data and look to take a more aggressive stance on promoting the AAA (WA).





SA REGION

reporting

Kerry Porter | *Alpaca Ex-Officio/Convenor*

We have refreshed our activities for the South Australian Region with the return of a couple of past events to complement our usual show schedule. March 2019 saw the return of the very successful Birthing Workshop run by our resident reality TV star Adrienne Clarke. This is a definite event for 2020 as well. A large group of breeders enjoyed the practical hands-on session on how to deal with normal, slightly difficult and more difficult birthing problems. Hopefully this gave them the knowledge and confidence to solve any problems births they are required to deal with in their breeding experiences.

Another returning event was the Stud and Potential Stud Males day, which was a bit of a throwback to the 1990's when we held similar displays to promote alpacas and the industry. These proved very popular then and did so again this year with a steady flow of visitors and breeders to the Mount Pleasant Showgrounds to check out some of the current and up-and-coming breeding males available for services and sale in this state. All the participants were keen for this

event to be held again this year, so it looks like a goer for 2020.

May saw fleece workshops held in Mt Barker, with two days booked out by keen breeders looking to improve their knowledge of the prime alpaca product – the fleece they grow. These workshops were presented by Dianne Marks and Sue Richards who gave their insight into the fleece qualities we should be looking for in our animals. Their entertaining banter and teaching style went down well with those in attendance.

2019 saw the demise of one of our country shows after many years due to increasing expenses making it no longer viable. It was unfortunate to see the end of the Clare Show, but it seems to have provided some extra impetus to the remaining four shows, being Mt Pleasant, SA Colour Classic, Royal Adelaide and Strathalbyn. All these shows had strong numbers with most having increased entries of animals and fleeces. The Committee will aim to build on these shows to make them even stronger in the future.

The planned shearing workshop had to be delayed due to the demand for helpers at the judge's intake being organised for the same weekend. A high level of interest means this will take place in 2020.

This year's Royal Adelaide Show had a great turnout and participation from youth helpers and competitors. Several South Australian High Schools show their own alpacas, and other students volunteer their time to assist with the handling and care of breeders' animals. On Sunday the 1st of September our youth events took place. The young judging competition was judged by Marc Mullette, who awarded first place to Jade De-Gregorio. The young handler event was judged by Perry Wheeler, and proved to be a tough competition with very large class numbers. Scores were very close, but first time entrant, Amity Holland took out the most successful handler award.

My final mention is to recognise a wonderful, hardworking member who was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment to the Association and the industry over the past couple of decades. Rosalie Brinkworth was presented with her certificate at the Strathalbyn Show, and all agree she was a very worthy nominee.

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW 30TH AUGUST 2019

It's always an exciting, yet nervous, time in the lead up any show and our Region's Royal Adelaide show is no different. Will it live up to exhibitors and public expectations? Have all the entries been prepared to their handlers satisfaction? Will the judge like what they see on the day? Do I have the animal that will take the top prize or a prize that makes me very happy and proud! All of the above goes through the minds of those prepared to enter and stand amongst their peers in the show ring.

The Region secured the appointment of Matthew Lloyd, EP Cambridge Alpacas, for this judging and he was very impressed by the high standard of competitors assembled in the ring for his assessment. After many hours of careful selections of champions of both Huacaya and Suri, Matthew bestowed Supreme Champion Huacaya on Ambersun Breakthrough, a white senior female exhibited by Ambersun Alpacas, and the Grand Champion Suri on Surilana Santa Fe, a medium dark fawn intermediate female exhibited by Marquez Alpacas. Congratulations!

After judging had concluded, members were welcome to stay behind (or come in to share with exhibitors) and enjoy a selection of nibbles and drinks courtesy of the region and RA&HS. A great way to relax after a hectic day of showing or lazily spectating.

Fleeces were judged the following day, with long serving supervisor Vaughan Wilson making his last appearance after many years in this position. It is with sadness we say goodbye to his keen eye losing him to the bright lights and competition of the Cookery section and his emerging judging skills. The winning Huacaya Champion fleece for this year was a classic Junior white entry, Fleur De Lys Peter Pan exhibited by Fleur De Lys Alpacas. The Champion Suri fleece was from a first-time exhibitor to this show, Dove Dale Alpacas, with Dove Dale Isabella, a light fawn junior fleece. Hearty congratulations to them both and all the fleece exhibitors.

The Junior sections are an expanding section at nearly all shows these days, and the Royal was no exception, attracting 56 Junior Handler and 3 Junior Judge entries. The third day of the show progressed very quickly with 10 Wethers being judged first up with Urrbrae Ag High School taking out Best Wether then the three Junior Judges were put through their paces and assessed with Jade De Gregorio winning Junior Alpaca Judge with her keen critique and accurate placement of exhibits presented. Finally, the Junior Handlers filled the show ring for the whole afternoon with Perry Wheeler presiding over the hordes in five categories all vying for a coveted ribbon and hopefully the title of Most Successful Junior Handler. After 5 hours that accolade went to Amity Holland with an exceptionally high score of 95.5pts. Well done Amity.

The non-competitive part of the show saw a display for the public to look at, read and absorb, touch and compare, and take information from. The alpacas on display were, as usual, a huge drawcard for the meandering throngs and along with the display saw several potential new breeders asking many questions and acquiring more relevant information to take home and discuss.

It would be very remiss of me to not acknowledge the volunteers and stewards, as well as the generosity of regional trophy sponsors. An extra special thanks must go to Marc Mullette who wonderfully assisted more than he expected – very much appreciated!

Newhaven Wildlife Restoration Project



Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary lies 360 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs at the junction of the Great Sandy Desert, the MacDonnell Ranges and the Burt Plain, in the Northern Territory.

Newhaven is owned and managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), the largest private owner of land for conservation in Australia. The terrain at Newhaven is stunning: dramatic rocky quartzite ranges overlook parallel sand dunes, salt lakes, clay pans, mulga woodlands and rich spinifex sandplains. It is also home to a remarkable diversity of ecosystems that provide refuge to endangered wildlife like the Mulgara, the Great Desert Skink and the Princess Parrot.

Species	Global pop est (2012)	Newhaven Stage 1 (9,400 ha)	% increase	Newhaven Stage 2 (100,000 ha)	% increase
Western Quoll	13,500	90	1%	1,000	7%
Red-tailed Phascogale	9,000	625	7%	1,125	13%
Numbat	900	210	23%	2,250	250%
Golden Bandicoot	25,000	7,000	28%	50,000	200%
Bilby	10,000	700	7%	7,500	75%
Burrowing Bettong	15,000	2,500	17%	37,500	250%
Brush-tailed Bettong	15,000	1,200	8%	7,500	50%
Rufous Hare-wallaby (Mala)	4,000	2,400	60%	30,000	750%
Black-footed Rock-wallaby	9,000	750	8%	0*	0%*
Shark Bay Mouse	10,000	7,500	75%	75,000	750%
Central Rock-rat (Antina)	900	1,250	139%	0*	0%*
Brushtail Possum (Central Aust.)	500	700	140%	750	150%

* Species translocated into Stage 1 only

The feral predator-proof fence at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary protects 9,400 hectares in central Australia.

This remote location is also the site of one of Australia’s most ambitious wildlife restoration projects. Here at Australia’s red centre, AWC has recently established the largest feral cat-free area on mainland Australia. A specially designed cat-proof fence that runs for 44 km now provides a wildlife safe-haven across a whopping 9,400 hectares of desert wilderness.

This new feral predator-free area (known as Stage 1) is part of a project to re-establish wild populations of at least 10 nationally threatened mammal species, including the Mala – an important ancestral species for the local Warlpiri people and currently listed as extinct in the wild - as well as iconic species such as the Bilby and the Golden Bandicoot.

The proposed Stage 2 of this project will see the feral predator-free area expanded by a further 100,000 hectares - a scale never before attempted on the continent. There are currently only 400 Mala left in existence on mainland Australia. This project is expected to see the Mala population swell to 18,000 animals once Stage 2 has been completed. In fact, this globally significant project is expected to see the populations of at least six nationally threatened species more than doubled.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy is the largest private owner of land for conservation in Australia, protecting endangered wildlife across almost 6.5 million hectares in iconic regions such as the Kimberley, Cape York, Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre and the Top End. Recognising that ‘business as usual’ for conservation in Australia will mean additional extinctions, AWC is developing and implementing a new model for conservation.



At World of Alpacas we are passionate about conserving Australia’s threatened ecosystems and invite our readers to join us in supporting AWC’s practical on-ground conservation land management and world class science programs. In the last 10 years, just 13% of AWC’s expenditure has been directed to administration and fundraising. This means that 87% of your donation will be directed to the field – where it has the greatest impact in protecting Australia’s threatened wildlife.

To learn more about AWC or to help, please visit www.australianwildlife.org.

The Mala (Rufous Hare-wallaby), extinct in the wild since 1991, will see its global population more than double as a result of the Newhaven Wildlife Restoration Project.

2019



Inaugural Winner Shane Read

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the AAA, immediate past president Ian Frith announced a new perpetual medal for an outstanding contribution to the alpaca industry by a volunteer.

"We are proud to present this award to Shane Read as the inaugural winner and namesake of the award. Shane's contribution to alpaca events including local shows, field days, Royal Shows and the Nationals is unparalleled." said Mr Frith.

Shane has contributed and supported many industry initiatives and is best known for his contributions to the ongoing development and success of Australian alpaca shows. For many years Shane has run the set-up teams for Sydney Royal bump-in and bump-out and liaises with the RAS build and audio crews, as well as organising volunteers and exhibitors, alpaca unloading and loading, and he pulls together and manages the vet checking teams. Shane's contributions are not restricted to the halter classes, he also manages these activities for the infotainment area and shearing competition and he contributes to the show planning. Shane undertakes similar activities for other shows, including smaller shows, and is always looking for things that need to be done and encourages others to assist.



Keiana Lodge



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 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. We are very much a family business with Keith, Diana, our son Andrew and daughter-in-law Audrey and their children Dylan and Jaiden to look after the over 1900 acres we run on.



KEIANA LODGE ALPACAS
Diana and Keith Rutter Berwick,

335 Razorback Road,
Running Stream, NSW 2850

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e: keianalodge@gmail.com

www.keianalodge.com.au



reporting

2019 was a year of positive change for Victorian Central and Western members. Our regions were merged, creating a bigger area with a much stronger membership base.

Training and Education

VCR members had the opportunity to learn through a variety of workshops this year, which included Alpaca Teeth, Birthing and Nutrition, Showing and Breeding for youth, Alpaca 101 for beginners, Alpaca 102 and Fleece Skirting. We would like to thank the various presenters who participated in the educational programs this year: Allison Quagliani, Dr Jane Vaughan, Taryan Mathews, Jillian Holmes, Angela Preuss, Prue Walduck, Rochelle Veitch and Andrew Munn.

Diversity is our strength

VCR is made up of a diverse range of members who represent various facets of the alpaca industry. We believe our differences are what bring us together and make us stronger as a region. A number of new members have joined us this past year, including hobbyists, sheep farmers who keep alpaca guards, youth, those yet to purchase alpacas, and more. The VCR committee is trying to engage with all and ensure they benefit and grow in their alpaca niche, whichever it is.

Our youngest member is 13 and has his own stud name now registered with VCR. Our shows feature many members' children and youth participating too.



Shows

The region was delighted to facilitate the return of Australia's largest alpaca colour show Colourbration 2019, with 300 halter entries and 130 fleece entries with halter judges Molly Gardner and Shane Carey and fleece judge Andrew Munn. The support of our sponsors and exhibitors provided for a fantastic show with a great atmosphere. We also held a fleece seminar covering the key elements of the fibre industry and what fleece buyers are seeking in their product. We are eagerly anticipating Colourbration 2020

Across all Central Region shows there has been a very uplifting atmosphere, bringing like-minded breeders and members together. From Wodonga to Ballarat, Seymour, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Colac and Kyneton Fleece Show, there has been a fantastic turnout of exhibitors considering the current drought situation that Australian alpaca farmers are facing. All shows have had great reports and we'd like to thank all of our convenors and volunteers for all their tireless efforts in providing such unique and positive events.

This year saw the first Kyneton Fleece Show to be endorsed by the Australian Alpaca Association. With 45 fleeces entered, the region is happy to report that we hope Kyneton will remain the region's annual fleece competition. As this fleece show is in November, it allows fleeces to be shown almost immediately after shearing, allowing for fresh and clean fleece to be put on display to the public to see the valuable traits of alpaca fibre.

Bendigo hosted the inaugural AAA Commercial Alpaca Fleece Show judged by Amanda VandenBosch (USA) in July. Detailed orals on every fleece were given, videoed and uploaded on YouTube. Andrew Munn valued each fleece. The winning fleeces were then displayed at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show from 19-21 July. There were 107 entries, comprising 59 huacaya and 48 suri fleeces from 18 breeders.





Thriving in the throes of drought

By Margaret Dorsch & Leon Le Leu

Aberfeldy Alpacas is situated within 30 minutes of Canberra and 10 km to the SE of Queanbeyan. We enjoy panoramic 360 degree views, taking in Black Mountain and the Snowies. The property has been developed from scratch since we purchased it as a vacant 200- acre paddock in 1997. It is hilly, dry rocky country, comprising predominantly native vegetation. Currently, about half the property is used for sheep agistment.

I entered the industry in 1999 when I joined the AAA, after an introduction to alpacas at a Harden NSW field day, followed up by visits to a number of studs and educational workshops run by AAA and early industry leaders. Some years as Secretary, then later President of the former SNSW Region, followed by a period on the AAA Board, taught me a lot about the complexity and rewards of the industry.

From the start, **Aberfeldy Alpacas** has focussed on breeding strong, well-conformed huacayas with continued fleece improvement for commercial processing being the primary goal. To date, mainly outside sires with proven genetics and show performance have been used. Our bloodlines include Jolimont Warrior, Ledgers Dream, Shanbrooke Accoyo Rasputin, EP Cambridge Spartacus, Windsong Valley Snow Legend, Cedar House Tijera Hugo and other renowned sires.

We run about 60 huacaya at any one time, a comfortable number for shearing with our resources. Although we have a number of excellent coloured animals we are now moving towards a predominantly white, commercial fleece herd. While showing has never been a major focus, I am proud that **Aberfeldy** animals and fleeces have held their own on every occasion shown.

Most of my coloured fleece is bought by returning local spinners and the white is sent for commercial processing (to Australian Alpaca Yarn or AAFL).

Now (early 2020) is a difficult time to be in any form of agriculture, with much of NSW in the grip of severe drought and ravaged by fire. It is truly amazing that my alpaca are in excellent condition with minimal hand feeding. This is attributable, I believe, to their natural hardiness, our deliberate low stocking rates, and our retention of diverse native vegetation at **Aberfeldy**. Visits are always welcome by appointment.



**MARGARET DORSCH & LEON LE LEU,
ABERFELDY ALPACAS**

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WWW.ABERFELDY.COM.AU

Great news - it finally came to pass that the alpacas were once again present as an animal competition at the Royal Melbourne Show. For some years our Melbourne Royal competition has been held on an out-of-show weekend but this year we had the last two days of the show for the alpacas to strut their stuff.

Adding to the sense of occasion was the opportunity for a little international judging input. Dr Rito Huayta, ably assisted by his entertaining interpreter Jose Berdejo, was invited to judge the halter competition. Dr Huayta's career has been devoted to the breeding of Alpacas, working for some of Peru's best farms and with significant judging experience behind him as well. It has to be said that listening to oral reasoning in Quecha (Rito's native language) then a contracted version in English from Jose was a different way of coming to understand the basis of the judgements. This was only possible due to the generous sponsorship of travel for Rito and Jose by Surilana and Accoyo Legacy. The resulting interest from exhibitors was fantastic with over 360 halter class entries placed in the hands of the out-of-town judging. The feedback from those who attended was that RASV had made the right decision to have the alpacas back in the

September timeframe. There was great competition, chances to catch up with friends and more space than we have had for some years. There was a bonus in the minds of many exhibitors ... they commented on how much more fun (and potentially rewarding) it was to have the public passing through the buildings. There were lots of questions and interest from them and it certainly met the RASV desire to give show-goers something different. It was school holidays, the weather was kind and the fairy floss was abundant. There was noise and movement for two days and it was great. Questions from the crowd such as "Hey Mister, can I pat your alpaca?" or "Why is that man speaking a different language in the judging ring?" were heard equally often. For those that were trying to work out what the judges were looking for, we had printed copies of the AAA What Makes a Champion? flyer available, as well as a wall-sized banner with the same content.

ROYAL MELBOURNE ALPACA SHOW — 2019



Chakana Blue – Hero's Melody was judged as the Supreme Suri, sponsored by Surilana. The Supreme Huacaya was Ashbourne – The Hipster, sponsored by Accoyo Legacy. Then came the Best in Show, won by The Hipster, sponsored by Tickenhall Alpacas. Judging to find the best animal against its own breed standard is a consistent practice across all other animal competitions and this has now become a key component of the alpaca competition.

Congratulations to all those who competed, the commitment you made produced a terrific event for your fellow breeders. Melbourne Royal Fleece Judging – Andrew Munn

It was an honour to have the opportunity to judge this year's Royal Melbourne alpaca fleeces. I was particularly excited to share the judging experience with Rito Huayta from Peru the halter judge.

In total there were 20 Suri fleeces and 60 Huacaya fleeces. The overall standard across both breeds was exceptional. It was very pleasing to see that the message regarding good skirting practices of fleeces is being embraced by show participants.

The longevity of fineness of fleeces into the older age classes was magnificent. It is notable that this trait was obvious across all colours. Some of the more aged fleeces were still in the superfine micron range in classes over 30 months of age.

I have had the opportunity to judge a number of fleece shows across Australia this year. The quality of fibre on display at Melbourne Royal was some of the best I have seen.

Congratulations to all fleece show participants and congratulations to Wendy Billington and Peter Sultan of Cedar House for winning Champion Fleece with Cedar House Sting.

Also a massive thank you to the Fleece Sponsor Waratah Alpaca Fibre, and to the fleece team, Heather and Paul Gardner, Kath Borrow and Jacinta Myers, for your wonderful assistance and in keeping things on track throughout the day.



**QLD
REGION**

reporting

Area wise, the Queensland Region is a very large, spread out region, with a relatively small number of alpaca breeders with small herds. This makes it a challenge to cover the whole region and ensure every member has access to shows and education and social get-togethers. A new committee has been formed and our focus will be to get as much coverage for the region as we can.

The region kicked off the year with a youth agricultural event in February, hosted by Calvary Christian College. Many students from schools competed in a two-day event where they covered the judging of various different animal species, alpacas being one. Adrienne Clarke came to Queensland for this event, demonstrating many aspects of alpaca husbandry prior to the students undertaking some fleece and halter judging. While Calvary College have their own alpacas, most of the other students had come from schools where they do not have alpacas in the agriculture program, so it was their first encounter with alpaca handling.

The next major event in Queensland was the Royal Toowoomba Show, where we had over 100 halter entries and many fleeces. This is a very popular show as it marks the start of the show season for our region and attracts exhibitors from other regions. Andrew Munn judged this show and he complimented the exhibitors on the quality

of the animals in the ring, which was great to hear, as most of the exhibitors are in drastically drought affected areas and are working hard to maintain their herds.

Bundaberg Agricultural Show, held in May, saw youth, fleece and halter classes all being well attended. Adrienne Clarke presented her Alpaca Birthing Seminar on the Friday night and this was very well received. This alpaca show is held in conjunction with Agrotrend Bundaberg, a two-day event attracting over 13,000 visitors, so an ideal venue to showcase alpacas. The Bundaberg area has also been heavily involved in introducing alpacas as a teaching tool for learning challenged youth and some of these students have successfully competed in the parader events and youth camps in the area.

Another popular show for the region is the Maleny show in July. While this is a smaller show of both fleeces and halter classes, the idyllic setting in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast with its green lush forests, makes it an ideal get away, so it would be good to see more southern breeders include it in their itinerary and combine it with some free time exploring the wonderful village of Maleny. This show coincides with the annual Maleny Knit Fest where over 10,000 visitors converge on Maleny and yarn-bomb the streets. A real treat and another great chance to showcase our wonderful animals.

A youth camp was held at Harbak Alpacas in June. Twenty-five students camped out for a night and one of the camp-fire tasks for the students was for each student to tell everyone what they like the most about alpacas. As you can imagine we had a lot of laughs as the children all tried to outdo others with their reasons for loving alpacas. During the first day the students train with alpacas and get instruction from youth judges, then on the second day they do a full youth parader day. This is an annual event that was started with a small group of students but has grown rapidly as other schools join in.

The Royal Brisbane Exhibition (Ekka) took place in mid-August with both fleece and halter classes, RNA Junior Judging (with approx. 50 young judges participating) as well as Parader classes on the Sunday, so it is a busy three days. This year we held the halter classes and youth events in the new multi storey building and everyone that attended agreed that it was a huge improvement on the previous years. The fleeces were also moved to the Convention Centre, from previously being displayed in the Pet Nursery, which overcame the fleeces being covered in dust and handled by the thousands of visitors to the Nursery. Fleece judging was also done live during the show, which means there were public present to hear the judge's comments as he judged the fleeces. Some small refinements will be needed for next year but overall the new locations were a success. We hope that the number of exhibitors will increase now that we have moved to the new premises.

The Annual General meeting was held in September at a farm in the region. It was great to have some new members there, plus have some join the committee and bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We held a combined social and educational event after the meeting with a shearing and wool skirting demonstration which was very informative. At this get together we also awarded Margaret Hassall of Double-H Alpacas with an appreciation award for her contribution to the region and the great effort she has put in year after year convening the Royal Toowoomba Show. Margaret was also awarded with the Alpaca of The State for Queensland award.

QLD Youth represent at the EKKA

Over the past three years, the youth parader numbers at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) have slowly been increasing. This year saw 20 competitors from Brisbane, Gin Gin and Rockhampton participate in the day's events.

For many, it was an opportunity to put the skills they had learned at the various AYE workshops to the test. To accommodate the large number of competitors and the short amount of time available, the showmanship and stockmanship events ran simultaneously. This worked well allowed the day to proceed very efficiently.

As with several events across the country, we did struggle to have enough parader animals available for the young people to use. However, once the Open classes had finished the animals were rotated between the remaining Preliminary classes.

Thanks go to our Judges – Cheryl Cochrane and Courtney Gordon who shared their knowledge with the competitors across the day and provide learning opportunities to our young people.

We are looking forward to Ekka 2020 when we can again showcase alpaca at Queensland's largest show.



Best at Show Fleece at Maleny Show – won by Sunline Quick Step.



Fleece display and judging at the Royal Brisbane Exhibition.



Cria Two Hours Old,
November 2019

- Genetic Consistency
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- Genetic Density
- Genetic Uniformity
- Genetic Depth of Colour
- Genetic Elite Fibre Production
- Genetic Strength & Structure
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BREEDERS CHOICE Alpaca Auction

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Your Auction— Your Selection.

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Even Snow Couldn't Keep Away the Crowd of Bidders, Buyers & Breeders from the Successful 2019 BCAA

Information, Schedule & Booking Form: Contact - prnrtulip@outlook.com Peter & Narelle Tulip (Hunter) 0412 496 520.

Noel & Cathy Reid (Green Gully) 0414 663 541.

Mick Williams (Coolawarra/ Storybook) 0407 407 618.

ALPACA BREED STANDARD

What makes a Champion?



HUACAYA



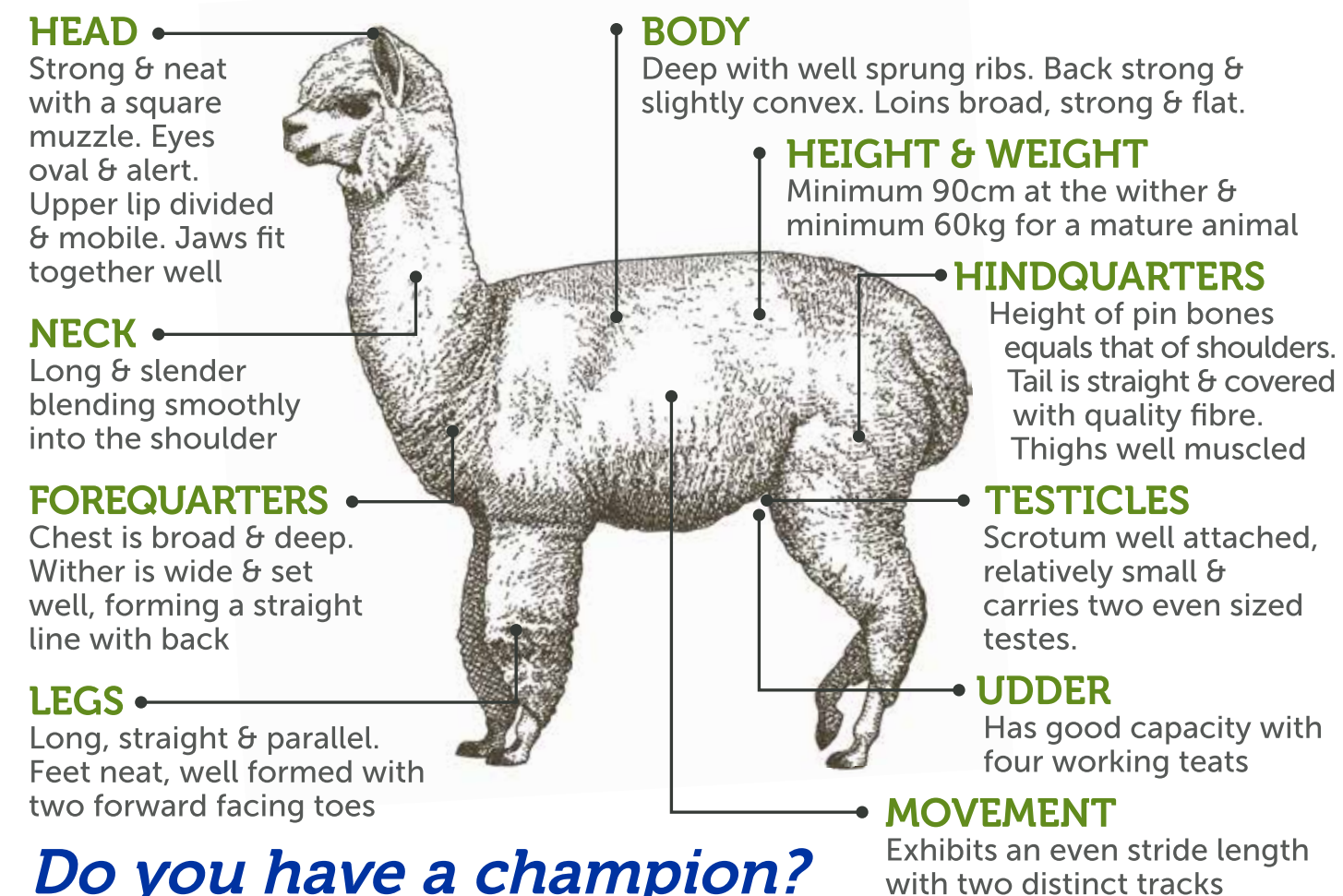
SURI

Judging Criteria:

FLEECE 60% / CONFORMATION 40%

FLEECE		CONFORMATION
Fineness	Uniformity of Colour	Correct Frame Structure
Density	Huacaya – Character, Crimp & Style	Balance & Proportion
Handle	Suri – Style & Lock Formation	Growth for Age & Condition
Lustre/Brightness	Lack of Guard Hair	Head, Legs & Topline
Uniformity of Micron	Fleece Coverage	Reproductive Biology
Uniformity of Length		

What are the Judges looking for?



Do you have a champion?



SQNNNSW 2019 Regional activities

How quickly does the alpaca year go!
Another year with shearing finished and
now time to relax before the Christmas
rush.

Our committee have been working on the 2020 directions of their
portfolios and the draft calendar has been prepared which will be
available on website and facebook after our next meeting. The
committee have been making use of Google drive and SLACK as forms
of storing regional documents and emailing. This forward planning will
support future committees.

The Merchandise portfolio Team have had over 12 displays during the
year. Lehanne and Donna are contact for displays and member stock
, Lehanne organises the merchandise trailer and stock organisation
as well as contact for major displays. Thank you to members who
helped this year, your assistance certainly makes the load easier.
Michelle organised stickers and postcards to advertise and promote
new members to our region these are being used at displays. A big
thank you to this team and the member volunteers we certainly would

not be able to financially support other events in our region such as
subsidising members workshops and convenors show judge expenses.
Fleece Training – ongoing fleece preparation information and
workshops are planned for 2020. A number of Fleece collection agents
are now available across the Region. Julie will send out information to
all as information arrives.

Regional Newsletter, Breeders Directory and Regional Calendar – are
published regularly. Our advertising is very reasonable, value add to
your farm advertising by using our newsletter as well as the breeders
Directory which is handed out to lots of interested public.

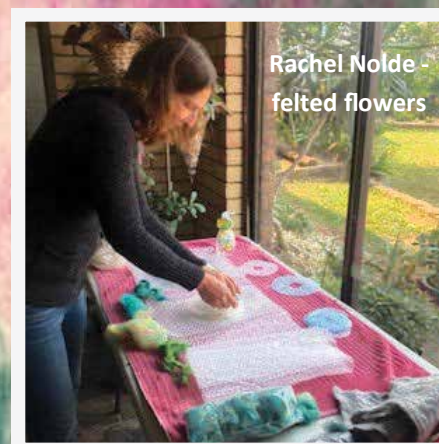
Michelle's planning Education courses coming in 2020 exciting news.
The Regional Fleece Team (Toowoomba, Grafton, Ekka) is supporting
QLD Region currently organising 2020 Toowoomba show early next
year. The Albany Show WA was recently supported by the Fleece team's
setup procedure.

2020 "jump on board" put your hand up, if you would like to have
fun, the committee is supplying the structure! The region just needs
your help by actively supporting initiatives. A rewarding experience
especially if you add an alpaca or two!



Rhonda Tait - Glasses case and "homework" bag!

Sheryl Simper - made Two very creative
Felted Hats



Rachel Nolde -
felted flowers

**FIBRE WEEKEND
LOTS OF FUN!**



Judy Barlow - Setting up wheels



Denise De Freitas-
Laying fibre for scarf



*SthQLD NNSW AAA Region
Education Course*

An Education Course on the skills
of using alpaca fibre proved to
be very popular. Tutors worked
over the two days instructing
participants on the basics of
Felting, Spinning and the
principles of using a variety of
fibres in Weaving. On the second
day participants used their new
learnt skills to produce an
advanced project.



Something was funny!
Cath Bishop -





reporting

Our showing year started off in a spectacular fashion with Canberra Royal a huge success. With numbers up and the fleece show back, it seemed Canberra Royal was going to set the pace for the rest of the year. As convenors and breeders, many felt that our shows would be hugely impacted by the horrendous drought members are going through, but our ever-enthusiastic exhibitors proved us wrong at many of the shows throughout the year. Many using the opportunity as an off-farm break and time to catch up with friends and fellow breeders.

January 2019 saw the NSW Alpaca Youth host their educational and informative youth camp. Held at Illawarra Alpacas, the youth camp is open to anyone aged between 7 and 25. The camp not only teaches new and experienced alpaca youth about the animals, fleece and husbandry but also fencing, a birthing workshop, shearing, felting, processing and much more. The skills and experience as well as the friends made at these camps is invaluable, as we nurture and develop our alpaca breeders of the future.

We said a sad farewell to some wonderful dedicated alpaca breeders in 2019 with the loss of Graeme Dickson, Julianne Gelber and Helen Kingwell. With them, goes many lifetimes of knowledge and passion for the alpaca industry. They shall be greatly missed but very fondly remembered.

The Sydney Royal Easter show of 2019 saw alpacas featured across the whole show ground for the entire 12 days. It gave us our greatest profile at the show to date. As visitors arrived at the show and entered through the main gates, they were greeted by Alpacas and Youth handlers from many schools including Vincentia, Meni and Elderslie High. Thanks to the wonderful dedicated team from Vincentia high, we were also able to offer the "Walk an Alpaca" program for the entire show rather than just the 5 days of the Munro pavilion. Grand Parades and public walk arounds also ensured a high profile for alpacas at this year's Sydney Royal Easter show. Nowhere else in NSW do we get to be seen and interact with over half a million people from every walk of life imaginable. The WA team stole the show in 2019 with Best in Show Huacaya & Best in Show Suri. Who will it be in 2020?



At the AGM in September, Mr Ian Frith announced a new perpetual medal for an outstanding contribution to our alpaca industry by a volunteer. It was wonderful to have our very own Shane Read as the inaugural winner and the namesake of the award. Shane has been an invaluable asset to many shows, fields days and events and I know he is defiantly a very much needed member of our NSW Alpaca community. Thank you, Shane, for all that you do for the Alpaca Industry.

We had numerous courses run in NSW over the past 12 months with the majority being held in the Central West Zone. Everything from Introduction to Alpacas, birthing workshops, fleece preparation, fleece skirting and business course. We would love to see the number of training days expanded and more zones taking up the challenge to run educational and informative days for the members.

Of course, there were many many other shows and field days, training days and get togethers throughout the year and if anyone is missing a copy of our NSW quarterly newsletter you can find them on our brand spanking new updated website, which looks fantastic.



VICTORIAN

Alpaca Youth

The Victorian Alpaca Youth played a large role in this year's Royal Melbourne Show. In addition to the Parader Competition and fancy-dress competition held over two days, activities such as "walk an alpaca", "build an alpaca" and "have your photo taken with an alpaca" were tremendous in involving and educating the public.

Close to 40 children participated

Results of the Parader Competition:

OPEN

Supreme Champion - Tahniesha Lazarus
Master Trainer - Tahniesha Lazarus
Senior Champion - Leah Burnett
Intermediate Champion - Tahniesha Lazarus
Intermediate Reserve - Taleisha Yelland
Junior Champion - Zoe Mather
Junior Reserve - Abbey Mather

PRELIMINARY

Supreme Champion - Ayla Hoskings
Intermediate Champion - Ayla Hoskings
Intermediate Reserve - Malachie Dangerfield
Junior Champion - Adara Hoskings
Junior Reserve - Kara Muller



Summary written by Bronya Monro-Stevens – Parent

The sun was shining as the Donvale Christian College Alpaca Paraders and their families arrived bright and early at the Royal Melbourne Show where we were greeted, and students and families briefed before the competition began. We then managed to have a look around the show before it was open to the public - it was very quiet at that time of morning!

Then it was all hands-on deck as parents got the kids ready for the parades and others helped out at the Victorian Alpaca Youth (VAY) fundraiser activity where visitors to the show could make a wooden alpaca (complete with real alpaca fleece!), have their photo taken with an alpaca and even 'walk an alpaca'.

There was a great community spirit and we all pitched in to help. It was also a good opportunity for us to witness by demonstrating our willingness to help and show the 'Donvale Difference'.

Although it is competition, there is a very strong spirit of encouragement at all the alpaca parading competitions where all are encouraged to 'have a go'. There is a lot of extra encouragement for students who end up with a temperamental alpaca who decides in the moment to be stubborn.

The students train at school during lunchtimes and then compete at

different levels according to their experience and confidence. They all dress in a checked shirt, boots and hat and then lead an alpaca (one they know well and have developed a relationship with) through an obstacle course. Some students at the next level also complete a 'hands-on' assessment where they demonstrate to the judge their alpaca knowledge and how to check an alpaca's health.

The purpose of the VAY is to encourage young people to get involved in the alpaca industry, so the judges are very kind and supportive. All participants receive a ribbon as well as feedback about what they can work on. The students learn valuable lessons about having a go, supporting one another, courage, resilience, as well as respect and care for alpacas - as they enjoy a special bond with them.

My girls are now passionate about all things alpaca (just don't call an alpaca a llama!). I am really grateful for the opportunities and learning provided by the Donvale alpaca training program and particularly grateful to Leah and Rachel for all the volunteer hours they so generously give, as well as the support offered by Mr Jones.

But wait! There's more ...

Not content with their appearance at the Royal Melbourne Show, Rachel, Leah and Peter Jones managed to introduce Mighty Mouse to Light FM's Lucy Holmes on 17 October! Ever the perfect gentleman, he behaved impeccably in the studio and demonstrated another great alpaca virtue – that of calming and consoling."





VER Spectacular

Peruvian Workshop



Alexandra Show



Alexandra Show



Alexandra Show



National Simultaneous Storytime



Halter Workshop

Annual VER Spectacular Fleece Show and Awards Dinner was held in May. It was a fabulous evening showcasing fleeces, craft, photography and the awarding of the following trophies:-

Keith Turner Perpetual Memorial Trophy – Suri of the Year – Chakana Blue Time Machine

Lyla Fisher Perpetual Memorial Trophy – Huacaya of The Year – A draw this year between Auravale Lucian and Grand Flowerdale Ivy League (Moresby Farm)

Dianne Condon Memorial Trophy – Best New Breeder – John Price, Alpacas on the Hill.

It is wonderful seeing John who has come through the ranks of the Victorian Alpaca Youth, being mentored by some great breeders and transitioning into a position where he has been awarded VER Best New Breeder, 2019.

Bill Plunkett Memorial Trophy – Champion Huacaya Fleece – Alternative View Silk'N'Fire

VER Perpetual Trophy - Champion Suri Fleece – Arachello Argle Diamond

Special thanks to our local breeders who supported this event and contributed over 60 fleeces to be judged and a lovely collection of photographs and craft. It was a big day of judging and wonderful night co-ordinated by Lezley Golding and her team.

Australian Alpaca Week – was celebrated in early May with the following regional farms opening their doors to the public:- Pitchingga Ridge, Kelowna, Stevley Park, Pero, Clifden, Granjero, Annkea and Wangurra. Many of our regional farms are now opening their doors regularly for tourists and those interested in learning more about alpacas or wanting to purchase some of the gorgeous alpaca garments, products and wool available in the region.

Halter Workshop – The workshop was held in conjunction with our ORM and followed by a lovely lunch on farm. It was terrific to see some new faces at the workshop. An informal event where knowledge was shared between breeders and everyone had the opportunity for some hands on experience and hopefully learnt some new tricks.

Shearing Workshop – A shearing information day was held in October on farm at Stevley Park. A basic overview of equipment and how to

maintain it was provided. Participants had the opportunity to use a shearing hand piece and found the day very helpful. Both Suri and Huacaya were featured.

Alpacas with Maracas – in May the National Simultaneous Storytime was held at schools, libraries and homes all over Australia and New Zealand. Many of our local alpaca breeders and youth participated by taking their extremely well-behaved alpacas to different venues all over the region. Obviously the children adored their interactions with alpacas and were surprisingly well informed as to the care of alpacas.

Annual VER Shows - The following shows attracted good participation from breeders and great support from convenors and their teams.

Alexandra Alpaca Show – August, 2019

Lardner Alpaca Show – September, 2019

Sale Alpaca Show – October, 2019

Berwick and Red Hill Agricultural Shows and Farm World will take place early in 2020.

Royal Melbourne Show - around 300 alpacas and over 80 fleeces were represented at the Royal Melbourne Show in late September this year. The alpaca were judged by a visiting Peruvian Judge-Dr Rito Huayta and his translator Jose Berdejo. Rito and Jose went on to conduct a few workshops within Australia and the VER were fortunate enough to hold one of these – Alpacas, A Peruvian Perspective. The workshop was fun, informative and all those who attended were very interested and engaged in learning more about alpacas in Peru.

Victorian Alpaca Youth – continue to be a vibrant group within our region, participating alongside many of our shows/events and introducing more and more young ones to the delights of alpacas. Their “build and alpaca”, “walk an alpaca” and “have your photo taken” with an alpaca initiatives continue to delight both young and old alike. The VAY participants are a dedicated and enthusiastic group and we are very fortunate to have them and their well-trained alpacas in our region.



Alpacas in PERU

A report on workshops presented by Dr Rito Huayta and José Berdejo

BY Sue Harris

We arrived at Nocturne Farm, the home of Nocturne Alpacas on the edge of Victoria's Western district at around 8.00am on Friday, 4 October. It was a cold morning and as we got out of our car we saw others hurrying back to theirs for extra jumpers and coats. In contrast to the weather, we had a warm welcome from our hosts, Rochelle Veitch and Ron Condon of Accoyo Legacy and Ian and Angela Preuss of Surilana. Together they had sponsored Rito and José to come to Australia so that Rito could judge the alpaca halter classes at the Royal Melbourne Show, with José interpreting for him. Together they could then present a series of workshops around Australia to give us a better idea of both the Alpaca industry in Peru and their approach to husbandry and showing. This was to be the first of those workshops.

Overview of the Alpaca industry in Peru

With a warm drink in hand we settled in the chairs provided for the first of a series of short talks given by Rito and José. Rito started by giving an overview of alpaca breeding in Peru. As alpaca and llama breeders know, there are four breeds of South American camelid: two wild breeds, the now rare Guanaco (population 3,500) and the Vicuña (population 209,000) and two domesticated breeds, the Alpaca (population 3.7 million) and the Llama (population

750,000). Of the Alpaca population in Peru roughly 80% are Huacayas, 12% are Suri and the balance are cross breeds. Ninety-five percent of alpacas in Peru are bred and live in small holdings high in the mountains. Only five percent of the Peruvian alpaca population are bred in medium or large farms or stations using modern husbandry techniques for the improvement of the breed. Generally, the levels of education received by alpaca farmers in Peru is low with less than 7% having received any post-secondary education and less than 33% having received any secondary education at all.

In Australia and because Peru has by far the world's largest alpaca population, we tend to assume that alpacas are a dominant livestock industry in Peru but this is not the case. Alpacas represent only 16% of livestock in Peru. With the advent of the conquistadors in the 16th century, the Spanish brought sheep, cattle and pigs to the country and occupied the lower more fertile lands for grazing their stock pushing what was left of the alpaca population high into the mountains. So it remains to this day. Only the larger alpaca farms can be found at lower altitudes, the smaller farms all remain high in the mountains and graze their alpacas on the dry puna grasslands found on the Andean altiplano of the Andes. Between them, sheep, cattle and pigs account for over 73% of Peruvian livestock (other than poultry). This does not mean that alpaca fibre is not an important source of income in the Peruvian economy. More than 200,000 families in Peru rely for their living solely on breeding alpacas and/or processing alpaca fibre.

Peru has two distinct seasons, a warmer, wetter season from November to April and a dryer, colder season from May to October. As the feed is at its best in the warmer months, alpaca breeding takes place during the summer months, typically from December to the February. The birth rate for the larger farms is similar to Australia with more than 85% of mated females giving birth to live crias and with a mortality rate of less than 10%. Amongst the smaller holdings the story is different. Less than 64% of mated females in small mountain holdings give birth to live young and the cria mortality rate is then above 20% so that only roughly half of fertile females in those small holdings (which make up 95% of the Peruvian alpaca population) will successfully raise a cria in any given year.

Embryo Transfer in Peru

The larger farms, however, not only manage a much higher birth and survival rate than the smaller farmers, they have also learned embryo transfer techniques. Although ET programs started in Peru as early as 1992, they were further developed in 2007 by a team of Australian vets headed by Dr Jane Vaughan, who travelled to Peru to work on ET techniques with Peruvian vets including Rito. Rito has since headed a team practising these techniques in Peru.

Once the donors and the recipient females are selected the donors will be given hormones to make them super-ovulate and mated naturally. The first flush to harvest fertilised eggs will occur at roughly seven days. Further hormone injections will be given at day 10 and every ten days thereafter with flushes to harvest the fertilised eggs at days 17, 27 and so on. Experience has shown that they harvest 4 or 5 embryos per flush of which 50% are viable and 50% of those viable embryos will result in live birth. In other words, the harvest results in one



live birth per flush. That is why the ET program in Peru is harvests embryos repeatedly during the summer breeding season. In this way Rito and his team have achieved very high pregnancy rates for high quality donor females.

In the 2012 ET program, Rito’s team selected 22 female donors and 154 recipients. They collected 123 embryos and transferred 117 of those to recipient females resulting in 81 pregnancies. This represents a 368.18% pregnancy rate for the 22 donor females. Interestingly, the team like to use smaller llamas as recipients in preference to alpacas. This is because they find that llamas make better, more attentive mothers with a greater milk supply and the alpaca cria mothered by llamas tend to grow out larger and stronger than their counterparts raised by alpaca mothers. The trick is to make sure that the llama recipients are not so tall that the young alpaca cria cannot reach the llama’s teats to suckle!

Alpaca shows in Peru

Many big alpaca shows are held in Peru each year. As there is no central alpaca registry to record the birth and breeding of alpacas, the first step in a Peruvian alpaca show is admission of the animals and classification of them into their judging classes. They must also be checked for health and visible signs of parasites, particularly skin parasites. They are also inspected for various defects including teeth, eyes, ears, toes, super-nummary teats, and size and position of testes in the males. Signs of parasites or any defect will disqualify an animal from entering the show ring.

There are separate classes for Huacayas and Suris. The age of an alpaca for judging purposes is determined by its teeth. Judged by its teeth, an alpaca is then assigned to one of five categories or age groups. These are: Category A-1 Minor milk teeth (approximately 6 to 8 months of age); Category A-2 Major Milk teeth (approximately 1.5 years or under); Category B 2 teeth (approximately 2.5 years and under); Category C 4 teeth (approximately 3.5 years and under; and Category D 6 teeth (4.5 years and more). Animals are also sorted into one of three colour classes – Blanco (white), Claros (lighter colours other than white) and Oscuros (darker colours including grey and black).

As in Australia, judges have criteria for judging the alpacas in the show-ring. In Peru the criteria are:

Tables of Judging Criteria

Huacaya

Vellón (Fleece) 60%	
Finura (fineness)	35%
Densidad (density)	10%
Rizos (crimp)	5%
Uniformidad (uniformity)	10%

Conformación (Conformation) 40%	
Cabeza (head)	10%
Talla (size and stature)	15%
Cobertura de patas (leg coverage)	5%
Apariencia general (general appearance)	10%

Suri

Vellón (Fleece) 60%	
Finura (fineness)	25%
Brillo (lustre)	10%
Rulos (lock structure)	10%
Densidad (density)	10%
Uniformidad (uniformity)	5%

Conformación (Conformation) 40%	
Cabeza (head)	10%
Talla (size and stature)	10%
Calce (fit/coverage)	10%
Apariencia general (general appearance)	10%

Again, as in Australia, the Peruvian judge must assess both the fleece and the conformation of the animal against these criteria to reach a final decision.



Selection of Alpacas

Rito also gave us a quick run through selection criteria for breeding animals looking at objective fleece measurements of micron, standard deviation, Cv and comfort factor and subjective assessments for dentition, crimp (or lustre and lock structure in a suri), conformation of head, leg coverage and balance (being the proportions of the animal’s neck and legs in relation to its body). He used a rating of 1 to 5, where 5 was a top score, to assess these characteristics.

After lunch we were given an opportunity to put the application of these subjective criteria into practice. Our hosts provided a number of alpacas, both huacaya and suri, for us to practice on and we were asked to assess each animal in turn and give a number for a particular criteria. This was harder than you might think and it would take practice to assess consistently across a herd. When it came to assessing heads, Rito also liked to distinguish between what he considered a masculine and a feminine head. A masculine head is what Jose translated as ‘Strong’ and which, when we asked further questions, we found meant broader across the face when looked at head-on than a feminine head should be.

Overall, it was a fascinating day, well worth attending and full of practical information which any breeder could use when assessing their herd to select their best breeding animals. Our thanks to Rito, Jose and the sponsors who facilitated their visit to Australia.

Peruvian rituals, beliefs and traditional alpaca breeding

During the mid-morning break, José disappeared into the house and returned in the outfit of a typical, older, alpaca shepherd. The outfit was not merely indicative. It was the actual outfit previously owned and worn by a man who José knew and who lived and worked high in the mountains, at 4,500 metres, looking after a small alpaca herd every day of the year.

José told us that generally men are not alpaca shepherds that is a task left to women while the men are llama herders. But Jose’s shepherd was an older man who was accustomed to his daily routine. In the summer the shepherd would rise at about 5am and consume breakfast which would be typically a porridge made with barley or a similar grain and herb tea. He would then carry out tasks around the house and the alpaca pens. At 8.00am the shepherd would have his lunch, usually a broth made with alpaca or llama meat or perhaps a sheep’s head maybe with potato or rice in the broth. Otherwise, lunch might be rice with an egg and a hot drink.

Then the herder would let his herd of about 140 alpacas out of the pens and walk them further along and up the mountain in search of fodder for the day. The walk could take more than an hour depending on how far the herd needs to go to find adequate foraging. The shepherd would carry with him a triangular pack called a Tepi which would hold some food and the materials for the herder to work with during the day. While walking and once arrived at a grazing spot the shepherd would watch the herd while plaiting rope, a lasso or a slingshot. Rope-making is a man’s work while the women spin yarn and weave. He would also have his slingshot to hand to ward off attacks by predators. He is deadly accurate with this sling and, with a well-selected stone, can kill a predator using it.

While minding his herd he will eat some of the dried meat and potato and some cheese he has brought with him and drink water from the nearby water source. He will get the herd back to their pens by putting leads on the stud males and leading them back. The rest of the herd will follow. Once he returns with the herd they will be shut up in pens for the night at about 5.00pm and he will retire to his house where dinner will be another grain-based porridge and some vegetables. Then he goes to bed. His routine and his diet do not vary. He does not travel far from his home. Entertainment will be limited to local festivals in the closest village. He does not have access to medical or dental care, power or sewerage. He chews coca leaves and drinks alcohol to forget his people’s history. His way of life is dying out as younger generations leave the mountains for the towns and cities in search of a better education and a more affluent life.

Those who live in the mountains of Peru are concerned with the welfare of the vicuña as well as the alpaca. José told us about the Chaccu or round-up in which communities from the high mountains come together to herd, catch and shear the wild vicuñas, after which they are released back into the wild. Dating back to pre-Columbian times, the Chaccu is a highly stylized ritualistic activity that includes a festival of music, dancing, the consumption of traditional foods and the making of offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth) and to the Apus (Mountain Spirits). The offerings include highly prized vicuña wool. The offerings are intended to ensure fertile crops and animals for the coming years. Vicuña blood is also used to make a ritual drink by mixing the blood with wine. This is drunk at festivals and weddings to ask for fertility.

Mother Earth is centrally important to a Peruvian villager and many of the pre-Columbian creation myths are still told about the Sun, the Moon, Mother Earth and the Mountain Spirits to this day. José told us that the connection between Peruvians, their land and the spirits of their land is so strong that they carry it with them wherever they go. When Rito and José arrived at their hotel in Melbourne their first act was to taste a little of the soil in the garden bed at its entrance and to ask for the earth’s blessing while in Australia.

Sand colic in alpacas

By **Esme Graham**

This article first published in Camelid Connections Magazine - Issue 10 Dec 2019

Very little seems to be written about sand colic in alpacas, although there is plenty of information about this problem in horses, perhaps signalling, that under normal circumstances it is not a major problem.

However with the continuing drought in many parts of Australia our alpacas are possibly grazing areas with very little pasture cover, and perhaps picking up sand and soil as they graze or when they eat feed that has been placed on the bare ground or fallen from feed troughs onto the ground below.

Even when grass shoots start to appear after rain these new shoots are easily pulled up and may bring up fragile roots full of sand and soil and this is another way alpacas may get a stomach full of sandy material.

What is colic?

It is a general term for gastrointestinal ailments in grazing animals including alpacas and llamas and whether it is horses or camelids it could be a veterinary emergency. Mild colic can resolve with treatment, but you need to be in touch with your vet to avoid serious problems.

How do you know if there may be a problem?

You may be able to tell if they are picking up sand by checking the bottom of their water troughs. Are they leaving sand from their mouths when they drink? Do they have sand or soil around their mouths?

Check their faeces for sand by placing a handful of faeces in a ziplock plastic bag, fill with water and swish it around until the faeces are dissolved. Hold the bag with your fingers on one side and run your thumb down the outside of the bag feeling for sand particles. While this is perhaps not the most scientific of experiments it may give you an indication there is a problem you need to resolve.

What are the symptoms of colic?

Unfortunately, as with many other camelid problems, symptoms are usually only visible in severe cases. If your alpaca refuses to eat, rolls frequently, kicks at his side or lies flat out for extended periods, or keeps getting up and down he may have colic.

Colic is painful and he may grind his teeth and generally be restless. Keep in mind that if there is a sand problem the alpaca needs to keep drinking to hopefully move the sand on. Your vet can conduct a physical examination and talk to you about recent changes in feed or management and perhaps give intravenous fluids to promote gut motility or suggest further treatment such as ultrasound or x-ray

How to avoid sand colic.

Feed safely by keeping hay and other feed off the bare ground. If you are feeding in a shed keep the floor clean and make sure your animals have plenty of clean water.

Another possible problem caused by drought which all alpaca owners need to keep in mind!



AGRONOMY TIPS

Post Fires



BY **Rob Harborne**

The challenge for all graziers is what to do post a fire going through your farm.

The better your soil fertility i.e. the higher your phosphorous levels in the soil will help expediate growth of new pasture.

If you want to assist the promotion of new growth there are a couple of tips I would suggest.

1. Oversow the fire ground with a mixture of Italian ryegrass and forage brassica. This can easily be done with a super spreader and then harrow over the paddock.

Rates

15 kg/HA Italian ryegrass, 3 kg/Ha forage brassica and sow with 80-100kg/ HA

This will provide a quick response feed that has high carrying capacity given normal rainfall.

Do not do this until the 2nd-3rd week of February as extreme heat will be detrimental to germination.

But at the same time whilst the soil is still very warm i.e. warmer than 15 degrees this will stimulate the quickest germination.

2. Spread fertiliser-(single supper phosphate 150kg/ Ha) with a clover mix(talk to me about blends available) and leave on the paddock until the clover can handle grazing. Also add annual ryegrass to the mix at 20kg/ Ha of seed.
3. Sow oats if you have the equipment or can get access to contractors. Direct drilling is the quickest way. Please be aware that seed oats will be in short supply so do not delay in ordering seed. Always buy certified seed not the stock feed version of oats as it has not been germination tested or seed vigour tested.

Sowing rate is 100kg/ Ha of seed plus 100kg/ Ha of DAP fertiliser.

Weed Control

In a fire situation weeds sometimes proliferate the regrowth. If this is happening you may need to control the weeds via chemical methods. The weeds will grow more abundantly when there is little competition and when the soil fertility is low.

Do not try and sow a permanent pasture post fire until you have controlled the weeds that may proliferate.

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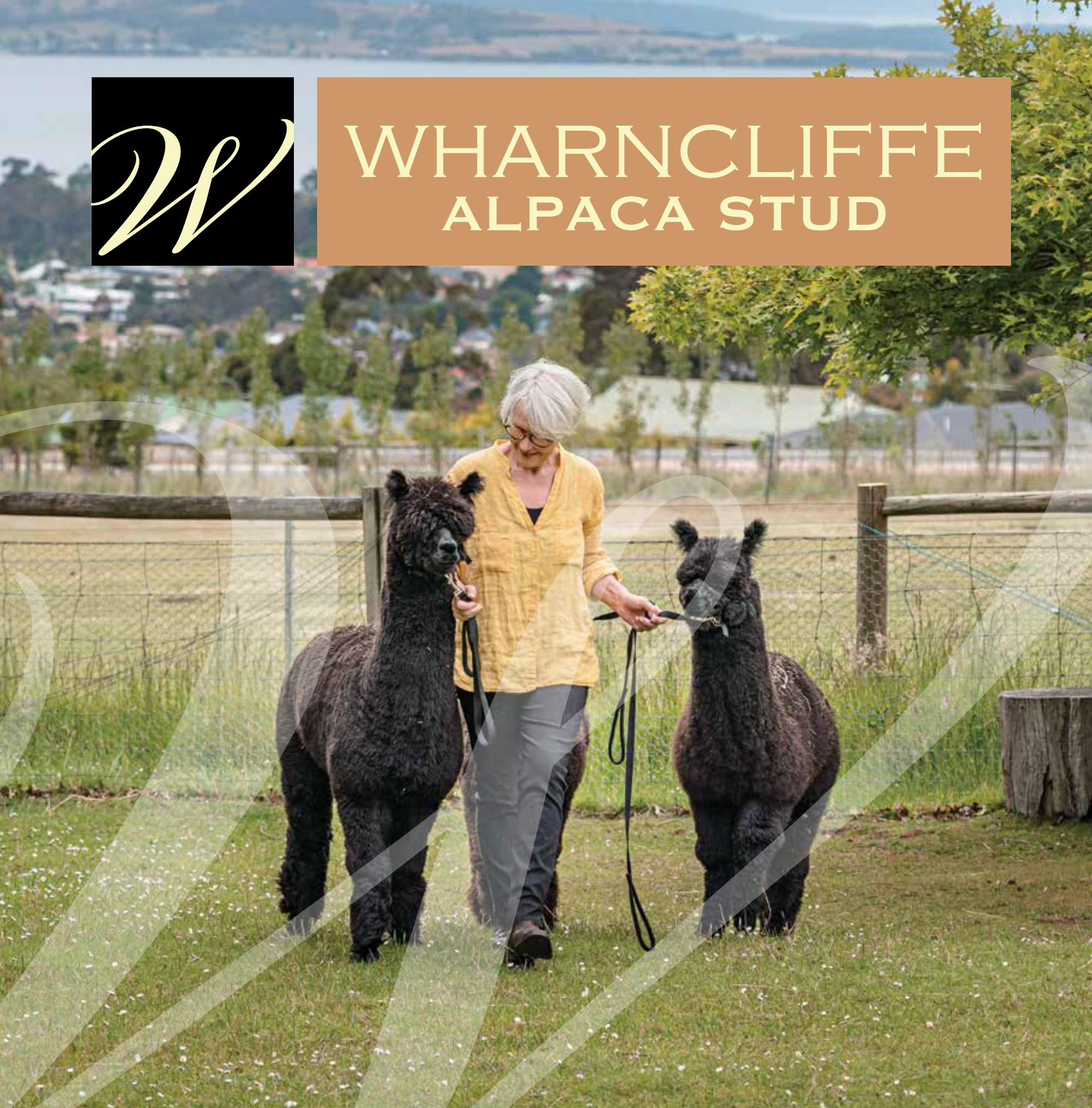
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