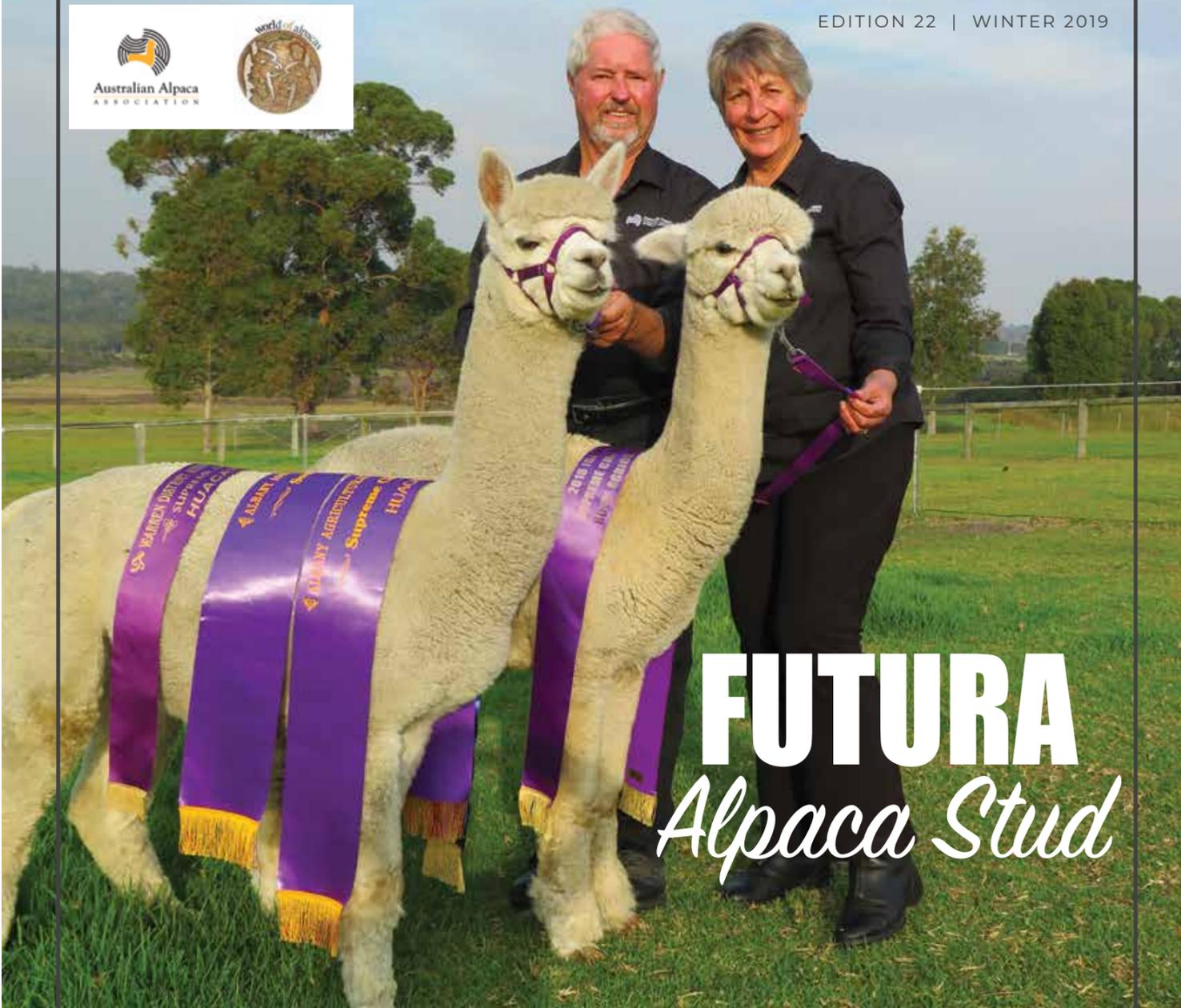


World of ALPACAS

& AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

EDITION 22 | WINTER 2019



FUTURA Alpaca Stud

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Australian National Alpaca Show – Canberra. August 23 – 25

f @worldofalpacas

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

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

Like many who find themselves under the spell of alpacas, we originally looked at it as a hobby. A good reason to buy a few acres and farm an animal that was both attractive and easy to handle.

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

It soon became apparent that breeding success

would only take the industry and our business so far. Achieving long term viability would rely on expanding the fleece industry and establishing an all important market for alpaca meat. We are now heavily committed to building the three essential pillars for long term viability,

Genetics | Fleece | Meat.

At **Millpaca | Prime Alpaca** we believe the sky is the limit for the Alpaca industry, both in Australia and worldwide and we are committed to being at the cutting edge of everything Alpaca.



The Golden Fibre

millpaca
BREEDING PERFECTION

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AUSTRALIAN ALPACA

3 PILLARS

FLEECE

GENETICS

WHOLE

ANIMAL

60
TONNES

Blankets
Carpet
Clothing
Yarn

~20 microns

SUPREME
CHAMPION
Halter & Fleece

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

The Golden Fibre

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

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

Our commitment to quality

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

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

Whole animal philosophy.

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

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

Our meat business is going from strength to strength and we have recently invested in our own abattoir facilities at Milton on the



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

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

All up last year we shipped over 40,000kg of Alpaca. This gives us huge faith in the long term viability of not only the alpaca meat industry, but also the long term viability of Alpaca farming in Australia.

The Future.

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

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

NSW South Coast. This purchase ensures we can not only meet the needs of the local and wider Australian market but also our growing international markets.

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

Who said they would never eat it?

Our alpaca prime cuts have enjoyed success in quality restaurants around the country. Racks, tenderloin, backstrap, rumps and shoulders are all in demand.

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

committed to helping ensure the long-term viability of the domestic alpaca industry.

The success of our industry depends on producers being able to achieve premium prices associated with the highest quality fleece. That's why we have placed such a high emphasis on genetics.

Our breeding program is focused on improving the lineage of Huacaya and Suri alpacas in Australia, as the future sustainability and growth of the alpaca fleece market here is dependent upon delivering excellence with guaranteed supply. That means being able to produce a consistent level of fine fleece that is of consistently high volume in kilos per animal and a lower standard deviation.

We have over 5000 alpacas at any given time and continue to add top sires and dams to our program as we breed and procure them, ensuring Millpaca

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YEARS



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alpacas since 1993



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25
YEARS

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

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EDITORIAL / MARKETING

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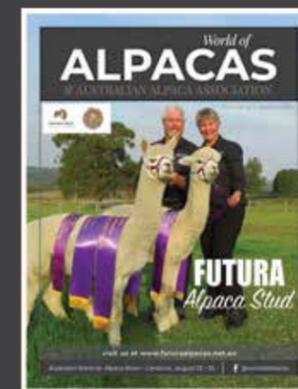
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FRONT COVER Futura.

INSIDE FRONT COVER Millpaca.

INSIDE BACK COVER Kallaroo.

OUTSIDE BACK COVER Beaufort.

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Hi to all,

World of Alpacas this year, is twenty years young and appreciate the support given by the positive thinking owners and breeders who see a bright future in the Alpaca industry.

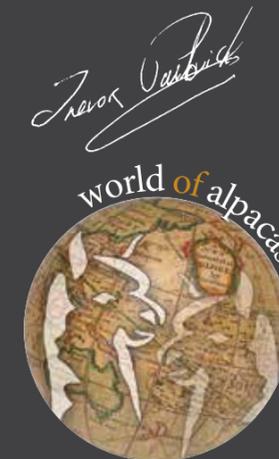


“Tough” is the word that comes to mind when I think of people working the land. The Alpaca industry in Australia is still young and growing. I speak to many owners and breeders on a daily basis and have an understanding about the difficult times. However, the “Leaders” still have an attitude of positivity and continue to seek out new markets for your industry. Meat, fibre exporting and breeding for perfection is what I hear from the leaders in the Alpaca industry.

I do believe that the transition from Melbourne to Canberra has been positive. It allows the Australian Alpaca Association to connect with government departments that can assist with overseas connections and many other aspects of exporting etc.

Graeme Dickson and Julienne Gelber have been lost to the industry and our thoughts and prayers are with their families. Graeme and Julienne gave their time and in many cases directed World of Alpacas in the right direction. RIP.

Trevor Pavlovich



AUSTRALIAN National Show

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NEW ZEALAND National Show

Details page 8

OWNERS & BREEDERS

- FC** Futura.
- IFC** Millpaca.
- 2** Fibre Naturally/Glenavon.
- 10** Keiana.
- 26** Futura.
- 34** Fleur de Lys.
- 58** Alpacas R Style.
- 61** Silverwillow.
- 63** Annkea.
- 72** Brenor Alpacas.
- 75** Mandalla.
- 77** Errydge Park.
- 79** Golden Charm.
- 82** Surilana.
- 94** Dunbars Run.
- IBC** Kallaroo.

PRODUCTS/SERVICES

- 2** Fibre Naturally / Glenavon.
- 6** Sol Alpaca.
- 8** New Zealand Association.
- 12** Studio 41.
- 20** Grace Knitwear.
- 24** Boston Fine Fibre.
- 34** Fleur de Lys.
- 36** Stevley Park.
- 43** Echo Beach.
- 44** Golden Charm.
- 48** The House of Alpaca.
- 58** AlpacasRstyle.
- 63** Annkea.
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- 86** De Wit Trading.
- 90** Alpaca Fibre Barn.
- OBC** Beaufort Animal Supplies.



The Pioneer

The Beginning

In 1922, Frank W. Michell arrived in Peru with the idea of getting to know the mysterious Andes first hand. Of all the riches he discovered, there was one that captivated him: The Alpaca herds spreading out over the mountains and the weavers spinning the fibre of their fur with incomparable elegance.

In love with Perú and the Andes, he decided to dedicate his life to the Alpaca. Thus, in 1931, he founded Michell & Cía. for the classification and export of Alpaca hair, a company that would be the first to offer the world, professionally and sustainably, this noble fibre.

Also, with a clear visión towards the added value, in 1947 he implemented his first combing and spinning plant, creating the Alpaca industry standards that today govern the whole world.



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Shop 13
282 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Ph. +61 3 9650 8661

Sol Alpaca

Proud Legacy of the Pioneer

Founded in 2004, Sol Alpaca, the name of the Michell Group's chain of stores, represents the legacy of Frank W. Michell and the spirit of bringing to Peru and the whole world the highest quality garments, through an exclusive collection made with the finest fibres of the Andes.

Sharing an

Ancient heritage

Our chain of stores, located in the main cities of Australia, Peru, Chile and Bolivia, base its architecture, equipping and ambience, not only in the adequate exhibition of very high quality products, but also in providing unique information of nature and culture, acquiring therefore an interesting and highly sophisticated thematic character.



alpaca
2019
NATIONAL SHOW



12-13 October 2019
NZ Bloodstock, Karaka
New Zealand



TWO DAYS
OF EVERYTHING
ALPACA

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

The New Zealand alpaca community would like to welcome all visitors to the Alpaca 2019 National Show. What better way to learn more about our growing alpaca industry than to talk to breeders and see hundreds of alpacas face to face in one location?

Hosted by the Alpaca Association New Zealand Inc. (AANZ), the Alpaca 2019 National Show will be the place to be... Mark your calendar!

alpacaexpo.co.nz

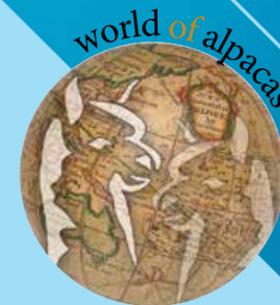
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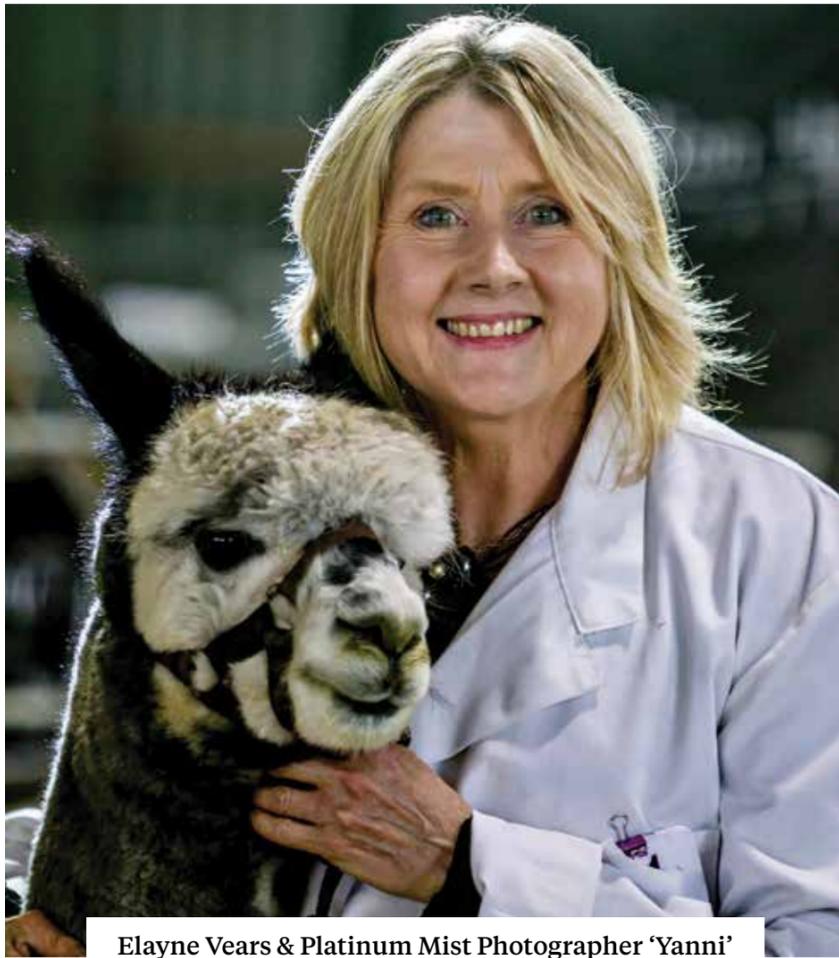


You are welcome to visit by appointment, to make it easier to show you what you may be looking for as we have over 700 alpacas, plus sheep and cattle.

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.



335 Razorback Road,
Running Stream, NSW 2850
p: 02 6358 8275 m: 0428 663 161
e: keianalodge@gmail.com
www.keianalodge.com.au



Elayne Vears & Platinum Mist Photographer 'Yanni'

Two worlds collide.

After 39 years of business, renowned jeweller, Elayne Vears is at the peak of her career, winning awards for excellence in business and long term trade. Her ability to recreate and deliver unique signature pieces to her clients nationally and internally, has made her what she is today.

Elayne took her first steps into the jewellery industry starting as an apprentice in Melbourne and Dandenong, before joining a collaborative in 1988 called "the Barn" in Merrick's North. Here was where she really flourished as a jeweller and jewellery designer. In 1994 Elayne first backed herself and began business in Main Street Mornington. Initially renting a small shop in Empire Street Mall, it wasn't long before she had a well established clientele base.

In order to meet demands Elayne was now requiring a larger shop, so the move was made to 65 Main Street, Mornington.

This was even more successful. A few years later in 1999 an opportunity arose to take over the lease at 41 Main Street Mornington. This was when 'Studio 41' was born! The connection with the historic shop front and her uncanny ability to restore magical pieces from yesteryear resonated her with this space. Elayne draws some of her biggest inspirations to this day here at 'Studio 41' now many years on.

As a business woman, Elayne takes her down time traveling from coast to coast spending as much time as she can at her property in Inverloch, where along side partner Graeme they breed alpacas. Originally Elayne chose alpacas as the animal of choice for her Inverloch property as she wanted to be easy on the land and have animals that were easy to handle and train. To this day Elayne and Graeme have 30 alpacas living life to the fullest at their seaside property including prize winning platinum mist (pictured).



Cognac & white diamonds

Transformation



41 Main Street Mornington, VIC 3931 P: 03 5977 0080 E: shop@studio41.com.au
W: studio41.com.au F: facebook.com/studio41mornington I: @vearsfinejewellers



Elayne's passion for her craft and her hobby collide in the representation of numerous customized jewellery designs made for friends and acquaintances throughout the alpaca industry, often representing their stud or most loved animals. After taking to bringing the shop 'on the road' to a number of alpaca shows including colourbration and the nati onals. Keen interest in her craft saw Elayne work towards perfecting a range of alpaca themed jewellery. The range available includes jewellery for both men and women along side the ever popular bronze alpaca sculptures, together encompassing a down to earth nature with a made to last quality craftsmanship.

Elayne and her team have great passion for their work, creating jewellery that tells a story, defines a moment and truly becomes part of the wearer.

2018-19 Year in Review



By Ian Frith | **AAA President**

The Board have worked tirelessly and cohesively as a team this year to fulfil their roles as Directors of the Company in accordance with the AAA's Constitution and the Corporations Act 2001.

Below is a short summary of what has been achieved in this period:

Exports

The AAA has been continuing to develop markets for fibre and animals in Australia and overseas. Strong relationships have been forged with senior personnel at the Department of Agriculture who have worked co-operatively with the Board developing steps towards a potential direct export route from Australia to the EU, with the Dept. of Ag having opened communication channels with their EU counterparts.

A trade route has opened directly from Australia to Canada. A trial to test for Q fever is expected to assist in the re-opening of the export route from Australia to New Zealand. This trial, being conducted by the EMAI and 100% funded by the Dept. of Ag has experienced some delays but is now underway. As soon as results are available these will be circulated to members.

Representatives from the AAA Board, together with our Chinese consultant, made a third trade mission to China in May this year which has resulted in orders for sample orders of both white and coloured huacaya fibre. Chinese representatives visited the National show in August 2018 and through the development of strong ongoing relationships, we expect to see an increasing demand for Australian alpaca fibre for the Chinese market. Strict protocols and procedures have been developed to ensure the fibre consolidated for sale to the Chinese market is of consistently high quality and meets the specifications set by the individual purchasers.

The Board also endorsed a levy to be imposed on export fleece and animal sales resulting from supply of commercial information from the AAA, with those funds being allocated to further Commercial and Market Development activities. Last month we received an Export Market Development Grant from Austrade in respect of 1st and 2nd Chinese Trade Missions. A similar grant will be applied for shortly in respect of the 3rd Chinese Trade

Mission and the August Chinese delegation visit.

Representatives from the various fibre collection groups across the country participated in a teleconference in June with the view of obtaining further information about the Chinese fibre export opportunities. Further teleconferences will be held.

Training and Education

While most training is run through regions, the AAA ran a very successful business training session in January 2019 which was attended by 40 members of the AAA.

We have re-signed an alpaca classing agreement with AWEX for alpaca classing. A committee under Trevor Parry is revising and updating the Alpaca Fleece Classing Code of Practice which incorporates the Industry Standards for the Preparation of Australian Alpaca, which hopefully will be available at the AGM. We are also looking at revising and updating training on shearing and fleece presentation.



THE AAA HAS BEEN CONTINUING TO DEVELOP MARKETS FOR FIBRE AND ANIMALS IN AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS.

Office Relocation to Canberra

The relocation of the head office from Melbourne to Canberra has been very successful. We are now situated only minutes from the offices of the Dept. of Ag and Parliament House and located in the same building as Animal Health Australia. This has enabled us to forge increasingly strong relationships with all relevant government departments, government representatives and other livestock peak bodies. The Mitcham property has been retained as a capital asset and has been leased out.

The AAA Council meeting was held in the Canberra office in February and allowed a good opportunity for Regional Presidents to see the new location as well as meet together with the Board to help set future direction for the industry.

The AAA's purpose-built on-line membership, registry and show system, which was installed in November 2017, has continued to be updated and "tweaked" to ensure that it is meeting the needs of members. New features this year include show entries and a link from show results back to pedigree information of winners.

Showing and Judging

The Showing and Judging Committee appointed in January 2018 has been working extremely hard under the Chair originally of Sharon Dawson, and now of Marc Mullette. This included the



2018-19 Year in Review

running of a highly successful Judges' Clinic in 2018, a review of the Judges' Code of Conduct, and a display at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, both in 2018 and 2019.

A new judge's intake held in June will see a raft of new entrants to the judging world. Approximately 24 excellent applicants attended, full of enthusiasm, which augurs well for the future of our industry. A second stage of the intake will be held in September.

Development Funds

The \$70,000 received from the sale of the AAA's shares in AAFL has been ringfenced to provide funding in three key areas: Youth Development; Commercial & Market Development; Research & Development. Ongoing monthly contributions continue to be made into these 3 Development Funds for future investment and expenditure in these areas

Communication and Consultation with Members

An increased focus and more effective communication with members has been successful this year with a new fortnightly update and increased interaction through new media channels including a members' discussion forum on Facebook. We have consulted on various issues both directly - including the proposed draft Regulations, and also through the member survey.

A member satisfaction survey was recently completed by over 300 members, which will assist in providing strategic insight into member needs and feed into decisions at both Board and regional level. Results should be received by all members within the next few days. Please take time to read these results as they are your opinions and those of your fellow members. The survey results reflect the desires of our members to look further at commercialisation and to take the industry forward.

The AAA website is currently being refreshed - we hope to have a more user-friendly website ready for launch at the Australian Alpaca Nationals in August.

Australian Alpaca Nationals

Our National Show is quickly approaching at the new venue in Canberra, and promises to be exciting and a little different. We are expecting more members of the public to come and view and visit our stall holders, which gives our exhibitors the chance to showcase their animals to the general public with the possibility of enticing some new members into the fold and naturally the possibility of stud sales. Remember the best of the best, Australia-wide is on show. Even if you don't have the chance to exhibit, come and see the animals, and refresh friendships.

In 2017 and 2018, Victorian Colourbration and the National Show were run at Bendigo as a joint Colour and Age Championship show. This year the two shows are being run separately. The colour show, Victorian Colourbration, ran in June this year and was a great success. Let's make our National Show, which this year will be an Age Championship show, equally successful.

Repairing a Toxic Culture

Whilst there is a lot of good news for the future of the alpaca Industry, sadly our industry is not immune from the bullying and aggression which occurs in other sections of our community. Some of our members think it is OK to bully, intimidate or abuse our AAA staff and fellow members. We have built a new team of staff in Canberra, all three of whom are very professional, hard-working and eager to help members. The whole Board stands united behind our staff, in the way they perform their duties, on behalf of all members. This bullying and abuse must stop now. I am calling for suggestions from members and the Board to help turn the culture of the industry around. Most of our members are generous with their time and knowledge and go out of their way to help others. We need to foster that approach and attitude across the entire industry. I encourage all members to re-acquaint themselves with the Member's Code of Conduct. Please let us have your thoughts on how we can promote a more positive attitude to our staff and each other. It will help to build our industry and make it a happier, healthier community.

Other projects underway for our members

- Adopting a new set of Regulations which will incorporate Youth Groups as a recognised arm of the AAA. The draft Regulations have been circulated for comment and the revised draft taking into account the comments received, will be circulated ahead of the AGM and proposed for adoption by ordinary resolution at the AGM.
- As the development of a commercial herd register will be too costly to be undertaken in the next 12 months, the Board are working on providing Full Members and Associate Members with the ability to record female cria as well as male cria as a step towards a commercial register in due course.
- A review of the current alpaca biosecurity program (Q-Alpaca) to bring it more in-line with current practice, including the potential implementation of NLIS for alpacas.
- A focus on getting fleece to the marketplace; more classer training; a more unified shearing system and potential partnerships with designers

Thank you to our volunteers

Thank you to ALL of our volunteers - whether you assist in a committee position, volunteer at a show as a convenor, steward or in another capacity, or volunteer at other events, because of your dedication and hard work, our industry is a great success. Thank you so much for your commitment of time and energy.

With the current strong and focused Board, we expect to continue to make significant progress, for the benefit of all members.

Regards,
Ian Frith



WITH THE CURRENT STRONG AND FOCUSED BOARD, WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MEMBERS.



Dickson college students design with alpaca

At Canberra's Dickson College the Textile and Fashion students have been set a task to create practical item/s using a minimum of 70% alpaca fibre and/or yarn. It is called 'Drape and Make' where they create a garment using weave, knit, crochet, felt and couching techniques. Also, making accessories such as hats, bags and jewellery.

When teacher Jill Pettifer heard that the National Alpaca Show was being held in Canberra in August, she thought it would be a great opportunity for students to learn more about the qualities of alpaca fibre and be involved/visit the show in some way.

Dickson College has a number of table looms and a floor loom that have been set up with wool and alpaca warps, all the weft are alpaca. The alpaca yarns were sourced locally from a handweaver (selling all her yarns), Glenora Craft and Australian Alpaca Yarn (they also kindly donated many short runs of yarn). The students have really enjoyed the weaving

and found it very relaxing. They were also very excited about the different weave structures, colour and textures they could create. There is such variety in each woven piece which is the predominant handmade cloth in their garments.

Mood board comment for a skirt created by a student

'Combining warmth and style this colourful above knee handwoven skirt is created out of luxurious alpaca yarn. The wide variety of colours and textures enable the wearer to combine their skirt with tops in different colours and weights. It is ideal for winter and trans-seasonal wear as it can be worn casually or dressed-up with jewellery a scarf, tights and boots. Woven by hand the front reveals the delicate weave structure and the back also incorporates the same fabric as with the pocket. This skirt is adaptable, warm and stylish. It is a must have item for any young person today.'



AAA logo licencing for

Guaranteed Australian Alpaca products



The AAA has available a licenced logo for use on products that meet the following requirements:

1. Product contains alpaca from Australia

2. Product is completely made in Australia (i.e. Fleece, hide or meat has not left Australia)

3. Product is in a form which is considered a commercial product (i.e. Not bales of fleece)

The second component was stipulated for both chain of custody reasons (guaranteed Australian fibre) as well as to support those members of the organisation who are involved and/or support local manufacturing efforts.

This initiative is consistent with the AAA Board's strategy of working towards building a sustainable industry and company income which is not reliant on membership subscription fees but linked to the success of the market and products. It is also consistent with wanting to promote alpaca products both locally and abroad.

A logo licence form is provided for a product or several product lines. The owner of the business or "seller" must apply for and be granted the licence from the AAA prior to printing any material associated with the logo.

The applicant will be required to affirm that, for the products being licenced, products are sourced from alpacas in Australia and consent to an audit to be conducted if either requested or at random. Fleece products may contain other fibres (e.g. Wool) provided the fibre source is also from Australia and completely processed in Australia to be consistent. Audits will be conducted by AAA staff either on request by a member to the AAA Board or as part of a random assessment to ensure the logo bearers are abiding by this process.

To encourage the licence logo and build the brand name surrounding

it, in June 2018 the Board set the fee for logo at \$0 for the first 3 years or until it is considered that the logo has a value to be charged. It is anticipated that the fees set will then be on a sliding scale according to annual income of the business akin to "Australian Made" campaign. The intent of the AAA is to work towards a sustainable association with income streams not reliant on membership fees but linked to commercial aspects of the industry.

In return for supporting Australian Alpaca, the AAA will:

- list the licenced companies and product category on a specific area of the AAA website for licenced logo holders along with a link to the separate pages;
- Allow up to 2 social media entries for promotion of a special event or launch of a product – provided the post contains clear prominent featuring of the logo; and
- AAA will also advertise the logo at least 2 times per year to increase the profile of the logo.

The application form and further information can be obtained from the AAA Chief Executive Officer Amanda Olthof amanda@alpaca.asn.au or ph 02 61512073.

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COMMERCIAL FLEECE SHOW

Introduction

The worldwide alpaca industry has reached a crossroad – where the pet and hobby industry is in decline and the potential for a commercial livestock industry is growing. The demand for Australian alpaca fibre is at a historical high.

Over the past two years, the fleece score cards in Australia, New Zealand and the US have all been amended. In Australia, a new Alpaca Fleece Micron/ Annualised Weight Matrix has been developed which does away with separate age categories and provides a method of determining equivalent weights for various micron fleeces. There is no longer a score for fineness. The theory behind that change was that there are markets for all grades/microns of alpaca fibre and finer is not necessarily better. However, finer is, of course, more valuable. Currently in Australia, fleeces are judged in age and colour classes. The score card focuses on weight (30%), consistency of micron, length and colour, lack of guard hair, style/density of staple and



lustre/brightness. These are all characteristics that are important for processing and quality of end product.

However, because different grades/microns of alpaca have quite different characteristics, having them all in the one class, with no reward for fineness often disadvantages the very fine micron fleeces. It was considered beneficial to judge alpaca fibre in micron bands – much the same as with sheep wool judging – so that like was judged against like.

By the time this magazine is published, the Commercial Alpaca Fleece Show will have been held at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show on 19-21 July 2019. This show was undertaken as a trial for judging alpaca fleece in micron bands. Amendments to the existing Fleece Score Cards have also been made to put more emphasis on fleece characteristics important for processing and to reduce the subjective assessments



Photo credits: Huacay - Kurrawa; and Suri - Baarooka

in favour of measured criteria. The scorecard includes both Positive Fleece Traits criteria (up to 100 points) and negative Management Faults (up to -25 points).

Depending on its success or otherwise, recommendations for other AAA fleece shows will be made. It is proposed that an International Fleece Show will be undertaken in conjunction with the World Alpaca Conference in 2021, so there will be much marketing to and interest from other alpaca-breeding nations.

Objectives

The aim of a stand-alone fleece show is to:

- raise the profile of alpaca fibre to the public (and processors/designers locally and overseas), particularly emphasizing the commercial characteristics of the fibre and product produced from it – both in terms of increasing demand for Australian alpaca product and encouraging new alpaca breeders;
- provide greater or equivalent prestige to winners of championships for fleece as is the case for halter classes;
- provide education and incentive for breeders to improve commercial characteristics of their clip; and
- provide a showcase for existing and potential processors/designers and buyers to inspect and potentially purchase alpaca of various grades.

Venue: Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show

After much consideration and consultation, there really is only one suitable venue for this stand-alone fleece show – The Australian Sheep and Wool Show in Bendigo. This is the

showcase event for natural fibre and product and attracts exhibitors and visitors from across Australia and around the world. All major processors attend and many alpaca fleece buyers or potential breeders would be present. Very well-run and patronised fashion parades are organised. The Commercial Alpaca Fleece Show is aimed at wool buyers and brokers, wool growers and commercial and craft fibre businesses.

Alpacas have not had a presence at the BS&WS for a number of years, but with the promotional marquee run by AAA in 2018 and this inaugural fleece show, we hope to change that and raise the profile of alpaca fibre for the benefit of all growers.

We are planning on expanding the display set up last year (animals, fleeces, apparel and meat) and have secured a larger Marquee. Our display will outline the process from fleece to product by exhibiting the winning fleeces from the Commercial Fleece Show, will include a 'Processing Corner' which outlines how alpaca fleece is processed within Australia and finish with a display of Australian-made product.

The down side of having the fleece show at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show is that it is sandwiched between the two largest alpaca shows – Colourbration and the National Show. Whether this will affect entries is yet to be seen. Ideally, in terms of timing, the Commercial Alpaca Fleece Show would be held in January or February, soon after breeders have shorn their alpacas and far away from the major shows so exhibitor and public emphasis can be focused on this show, but the relevance and prestige of the BS&WS cannot be denied

It is hoped that this show can grow in size and scope to be the third National-level show on the calendar, with a focus squarely on the commercial product of the alpaca – their fleece.

Alpaca to Product

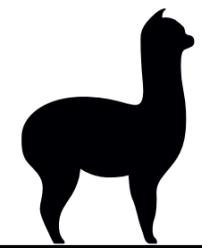
Luxurious yarns processed on farm from finest local fleeces
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The Futura Story

Alpaca Achievements



► Dams Progeny animals at the 2018 AAA National Show & Sale



Committing to the alpaca industry twenty-six years ago has given our life a focus and enabled us to live a wonderful lifestyle which many can only dream of.

Little did we know what an impact these animals were to have on us when we took possession of our initial purchase of four animals in 1993.

We currently farm alpacas full time on our 100-acre property in Albany Western Australia and with our herd of approximately 50 alpacas we are fortunate to have consolidated and been able to concentrate on quality. With 30 females pregnant to our award winning sires we are set for a mini explosion of numbers and we are anticipating some exciting cria from these matings.

The journey has meant many decisions and changes over time and a combination of good judgement and timing have contributed to our ability to be competitive in the industry.

Rightly or wrongly the show ring is our show case to the world and as such we are committed show attendees. Western Australia now hosts

five shows a year. Then we trek across the Nullarbor to wherever the Australian Alpaca Association National Show is held.

Showing highlights have been numerous but some memorable ones include Supreme Champion wins in animal and fleece with Rosedeane Sayonara, Futura Humdinger, Futura Heirloom, Futura Iconic and Wildflower Piccaninnie. Iconic and Piccaninnie feature on the front cover of this magazine and are an integral part of our future breeding.

We have also won Western Australian Alpaca of the year in 2011 with Futura Humdinger, 2012 with Futura Calamity Jane and 2018 with Futura Kudos.

One of our most memorable achievements was breeding Futura Humdinger who went on to be awarded Best Medium/Dark Fawn at the National Show in 2011 and then in 2012 sold to New Zealand at the National Auction. His influence on Gilt Edge Alpacas and Alpaca R Style in New Zealand has been exceptional with his progeny now in England and Europe.

Twice our alpacas have been accepted into the prestigious National Auction. The excitement of watching our animals parading while the bids flew thick and fast was exhilarating and when the hammer came down our bank account was substantially increased. The bonus of knowing our genetics were going to impact other studs breeding programmes was a bonus.

Winning Sires Progeny at the National Show in 2013 for Rosedeane Sayonara was another highlight as was winning the Dams Progeny for Futura Heirloom at the Bendigo National Show in 2018

To enhance our breeding over the years we have purchased several quality males and used outside matings to successfully breed award winning animals.

How do you measure success?

- Is it breeding strong, healthy animals?
- Is it seeing dramatic improvement in fleece quality?
- Is it succeeding in the show ring?
- Is it making money?
- Is it having a purpose and motivation?
- Is it interacting with likeminded people?
- Is it belonging to a viable livestock industry?

We at Futura can proudly say YES to all the above.

Ribbons and trophies adorn our home but sharing this journey as a couple with our family and extended alpaca family is what has made this so worthwhile and rewarding.

We welcome enquiries as we release a limited number of alpacas for sale each year.



Contact:

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See us on facebook

A Third Visit to China

At its February meeting this year, the Board met with analysts from NSW Department of Primary Industries. They came to talk about international trade opportunities for the export of alpaca fibre and stud animals.

Their advice was that to gain the attention of international traders and particularly the Chinese, we needed to visit them three times to show we were serious. After that a visit every second year would be sufficient.

The AAA had already sent two trade delegations to China in 2018. In May this year it sent a third delegation. The delegation consisted of our CEO, Amanda Olthof, our Director responsible for market access and trade, Andrew Hulme and our Vice President, Sue Harris. The delegation was accompanied by our Chinese trade consultant who also acted as interpreter, Karen Jiang.

We flew into Shanghai arriving in the early evening and then travelled two and a half hours by mini bus (to accommodate the luggage required to equip a trade stand) to the small city of Puyuan in Zhejiang province.

The trade fair runs for two days and is organised and run by the China Wool and Textiles Association (CWTA). Last year it was held in a marquee set up in a side street. This year, a new convention centre had just been built on the outskirts of Puyuan. The trade fair was held on the top floor of the centre. The contrast from the previous year was stark: last year - temporary flooring laid over the road surface and no air conditioning; this year - marble floors and air-conditioning duct overhead!

The only downside to the convention centre was that it was in such a new area we had trouble getting the Chinese equivalent of an Uber to pick us up from there. After setting up our stand we called for an Uber but couldn't get one to come to the convention centre. In the end we walked for some blocks and then caught a couple of three wheeled local cabs to get back to our hotel. These are always painted yellow, can only take two passengers, have never heard of seat belts but fortunately only have a top speed of about 40km and generally travel in the bike lane!

Business at the trade fair, like the venue itself was different from last year. Over our time in China and from various conversations with the CWTA, fibre mills and even Austrade, it became very clear to us that alpaca fibre was not the hot property it had been last year. Fashions change fast, this year the preferred fashion item is a polyester coat brushed to look like fake fur and very, very soft to touch. Artificial fibre is much cheaper to produce so the natural fibres are retreating once more to the high end of the market. Fortunately, there is still an appetite for natural fibres and exclusive luxury items in China and across the rest of the world.

Over the course of the trade fair we gathered some good leads from would-be buyers who came to our stand and gave away most of the fleece we had with us as samples. In addition, the AAA was invited to attend a cashmere expo in Inner Mongolia later this year; we spoke to a few fashion buyers, were interviewed for a magazine and even met a buyer who sources garments for an Australian purveyor of winter sports equipment and clothing who thought they might be very interested in Australian alpaca garments, particularly beanies, socks and gloves.

On the day after the trade fair ended and after standing on marble floors for two days we were glad to board a different mini-bus to travel to the three mills we were to visit. We had visited the first two mills in 2018 and in return they had sent representatives to our National Show in August last year.

Mill No 1 had started life as a government-run mill owned by the provincial government but had recently been bought by four private investors, all of whom were there to meet with us. We visited the showroom before touring the mill itself and presented the owners with one of the koalas felted from Australian alpaca which we took with us as presents. All four owners are in the photograph with the Koala. The fabric in the glass case in front



Being shown sample alpaca fabrics at Ningbo Mill



Chinese 3-wheel taxi we took to our hotel



CWTA Trade Fair convention centre

Mill no 1 with Koala made from Australian alpaca fibre



These three women were painstaking picking VM from cashmere fabric with fine tweezers



Bob's mill



is a blend of vicuna and cashmere. One day they hope an Australian alpaca fabric will stand in a case next to it.

All the mills we visited were beautifully landscaped with trees and shrubs along every internal path and roadway.

Mill No 2 is privately owned. Its owner, who calls himself Bob, also visited Australia and attended our National Show last year. Bob is a particularly friendly and welcoming man. He took us on a tour of his mill himself and gave us three hours of his time.

Both Mills 1 and 2 have asked us to assist them to source large fibre samples (roughly 50 kilos per sample) to allow them to create test yarns and even test garments ahead of placing much larger orders if they are happy with the results.

The AAA is contacting a number of collection agencies to have them fill the sample orders to establish a long term supply arrangement with these mills. Both mills produce high end product with a steady demand for natural fibre fabric and knitted garments and so are less dependent on the whims of fashion than some other manufacturers. They would be good long-term customers for Australia alpaca. This will, however, be our final opportunity to supply those mills. They are disappointed that they were unable to source samples when they were in Australia last year.

We left Mill No 2 around 7.00pm and drove three and a half hours to the city of Ningbo, near the coast and south of Shanghai. The following morning visited Mill No 3. It is owned by the provincial government. This mill too makes for a lot of high end brands. The two managers we spent most time with are responsible for purchasing raw materials for the mill. Towards the end of our tour of Mill No 3, they showed us a warehouse containing a huge stack of bales of alpaca from Peru. They did not ask for samples at this stage but did express a wish to maintain contact. Establishing a supply arrangement with Mill No 3 looks like it will be a slow burn.

In the afternoon we drove from Mill No 3 to Ningbo station where we caught a fast train to Beijing. We travelled 1,500 kilometres in seven hours with many stops along the way, arriving in Beijing at about 9.30pm.

We went to Beijing to meet with various organisations, in particular, the China Agricultural Animal Association (CAAA) and the CWTA. The CAAA has divisions representing all kinds of farmed animals. Alpacas are part of the camelid section, looked after by Ms Fu who is also responsible for the deer

section. In addition to about five representatives of the CAAA, there were about fifteen of China's leading alpaca farmers present.

The meeting ran for nearly three hours, starting with a formal speech from the secretary-general of the CAAA, He Xintian, which he concluded by saying that the CAAA was keen to strengthen communication and trade with the Australian alpaca industry. Mr He then introduced Professor Dong as the President of the recently formed China Alpaca Association. Professor Dong gave us an overview of the alpaca industry in China. The first alpacas arrived in China from Australia in 2002; now there are 10,000 alpacas in China. The larger farms are mostly in the North with the largest farming 1,000 alpacas in Xinshu province.

We were told that the domestic price for an alpaca in China had dropped from about AUD \$8,000 a year or more ago to AUD\$3,000 or a little more today. Not surprisingly, Chinese farmers are keen to see the price for Australian alpacas exported to China drop commensurately.

Members of the CAAA are keen to host an international alpaca show which would involve 20 to 30 animals and would probably be for display rather than competition. Such a show could be expected to draw crowds of 100,000 per day and money would be made more from ticket sales and renting display areas to sellers of related products, than from sales of the animals themselves.

We also visited the CWTA in their Beijing headquarters and while there asked about the membership of the CWTA and the development of the animal fibre industry in China. We learned that CWTA was established as an arm of the Chinese Ministry of Textiles but has since broadened to include trade members. It now boasts some 550 members 70% of whom have an annual turnover in excess of 20 million RMB. The CWTA has four specialist committees, wool, cashmere, wool blanket and fake fur. It provides technical support to members and advises the government on textile related issues.

China has 5-year plans for textile production. The current plan focuses on producing high quality woollen textiles. The next 5-year plan which commences in 2020 will focus on improving efficiency which will entail both intelligent design and improved social responsibility. This will include greater emphasis on environmental protection. We hoped that this might give alpaca fibre an edge in the Chinese market – it has a low environmental impact, both because the animals do less damage to the soil



Bales of Peruvian alpaca fibre at Ningbo Mill

Meeting with CAAA



On the fast train to Beijing

and because the fleece doesn't need to be scoured in the same way that sheep wool does, only washed.

On this visit we were invited to meet Austrade at the Australian embassy in Beijing – a first visit to an Australian embassy for all of us. There we met with Dr Duncan Craig, an agricultural counsellor, Ms Sallie Liu, a business development manager (both from Austrade) and Ms Cecilia Fu, an agribusiness development manager from the NSW DPI who had travelled from Shanghai to meet us. They felt that there was a lack of research and development resources to support the Chinese alpaca industry and said they would support the AAA to run training workshops in China. Cecilia also talked about the importance of key opinion leaders (or KOLs) in China. To illustrate this point she told us about the son of the richest man in China who had recently bought an alpaca as a pet. This has sparked intense interest in alpacas as species. Overall though, it seemed to us that alpacas are bred in China as pets and for tourist attractions and are not yet part of a domestic alpaca fleece industry.

On our final day we went to visit the China Sheep Dealers Club. This is a largely private enterprise which aims to establish a pet sheep park as a substantial tourist attraction on the outskirts of Beijing. In addition to a large variety of sheep the park will house alpacas. It is expected to open to the public in 2020. The park will stand on land that was once a fruit orchard and vegetable garden where Beijingers could come on weekends to pick and buy fresh fruit and vegetables in season. The site already has a substantial hotel and a multi-storey structure that has a definite Disney-castle look to it. The Chinese government would like to see some foreign investment in the park and so the China Sheep Dealers Club is seeking relatively low amounts of venture capital from Australia and elsewhere.

Next Steps

There remains a good market for alpaca fleece in China but the demand there has slackened a bit. It seemed to us that the key to breaking into the Chinese market for alpaca is to establish strong relationships with a few mills to begin with while the industry builds more consistent fleece lines and reliable distribution chains. As many have said to us – China is a big market, we cannot possibly satisfy the demand for alpaca in a good year but we can build a reputation for supplying boutique quantities of top quantity fibre to our trusted customers.

The problems for the Australian industry in dealing with the Chinese market are to produce large enough quantities of any given colour and quality to meet even a small segment of the market and to withstand the fluctuations in Chinese market prices.

To address those issues, the medium to long term aim is to establish a market for Australian alpaca fibre with perhaps a dozen mills spread across at least four or five countries outside Australia. This should help to protect fleece growers from fluctuations in the market in any one country. At the same time, we want to improve the supply of good quality alpaca fibre to our mills and manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand. The key to both is steady improvement in producing fleece which is more consistent, improving our fleece handling and skirting in the shearing shed and working cooperatively to get these better fleeces to the market.

We now have a number of alpaca fleece collection agencies capable of providing bales of consistent fleece in all colours to the market. It takes enormous effort on the part of breeders and the fleece collection agencies to achieve the production of good quality bales of alpaca fleece but unless the industry aims to produce fleece of the quality and the quantity that the world wants to buy, can we ever progress from having an alpaca pet industry, like China's, to being a true primary industry?



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FLEUR DE LYS



Extra Virgin Olive Oil

By Lee Sadler

EVOO. It sounds like it could be one of the spectacular shows from Cirque du Soleil. Or for those au fait with science fiction fantasies, it could be alien-speak for something exotic from out of space! Instead, EVOO is the acronym that we have come to appreciate as Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

When we moved to our property, it included an irrigated grove of some 2500 olive trees. While I had always wanted to try my hand at horticulture, olives had not been high on my wish-list. How things can change with time to learn and appreciate what the grove has to offer.

In the main, the olive grove has been used as a safe haven for some of the alpacas. The irrigated area provides a delightful buffer against the worst of the weather; providing shade in summer and shelter in winter. As the seasons pass, there has been the chance to learn more about olive oil; its distinctive flavour and wide range of uses. A few seasons ago, we were encouraged to enter our olive oil in the Fleurieu Food Olive Oil competition. This piqued the competitor in me, and the resultant silver medal spurred me on to find out more ... last year, the medal was gold! Of course, the reason our olive oil tastes so good – alpaca poo ... !!

A little about Extra Virgin Olive Oil:

- Olives are a winter fruit that is harvested when there is a mix of green and black olives, to enhance flavour
- A mechanical shaker is used to remove olives from the tree
- They are pressed within a couple of hours of harvest to ensure flavour and maximise health benefits
- The olives are pressed without using solvents, chemicals or heat (these can be used when making other oils to improve yield, but they reduce the flavour and inherent health benefits when used with olives)
- The result is the juice of the olive
- Olive Oil has been part of the Mediterranean diet since 8000BC
- There is a wide range of well recognised health benefits of olive oil, including improved cardiovascular health and improved glycaemic control in type II diabetes, among others

- Olive oil is best stored in a cool, dark place (like my pantry!) and used within two years of harvest for best results.

EVOO – Extra Virgin Olive Oil, is by definition, the juice of the olive that has been cold pressed without chemicals or additives and complies with the chemical analysis prescribed.

Our olive grove is a quiet corner of our property, with quite a different feel to the open spaces of our grazing areas. The symmetry of the rows of trees is pleasing to the eye as you walk the grove and it contrasts to the large vistas elsewhere. It is easy to be enchanted by the silver green light reflected off the leaves and the quiet pace that the blossoms turn to fruit, as summer turns to winter.

As with any farming enterprise, there is the ever present challenge of balance. The delicate balance of increased irrigation and intensive management to increase yield, at the potential detriment of flavour. The things we can influence – in theory – include, irrigation, fertiliser, pruning and alpaca habitat. One of the biggest predictors of success, is of course the weather ... !! A mild summer allows the fruit to develop well. A strong wind storm can shake the young fruit from the tree, or bruise more established fruit. A frost will damage the flesh of the olives and compromise yield and flavour. Like most farming, we are at the mercy of the weather.

Despite the vagaries of growing olives for their oil, I have come to enjoy this aspect of our property and the resultant olive oil. I have tried a number of dukkah recipes and using locally grown almonds have developed a recipe that is enjoyed by family and friends.

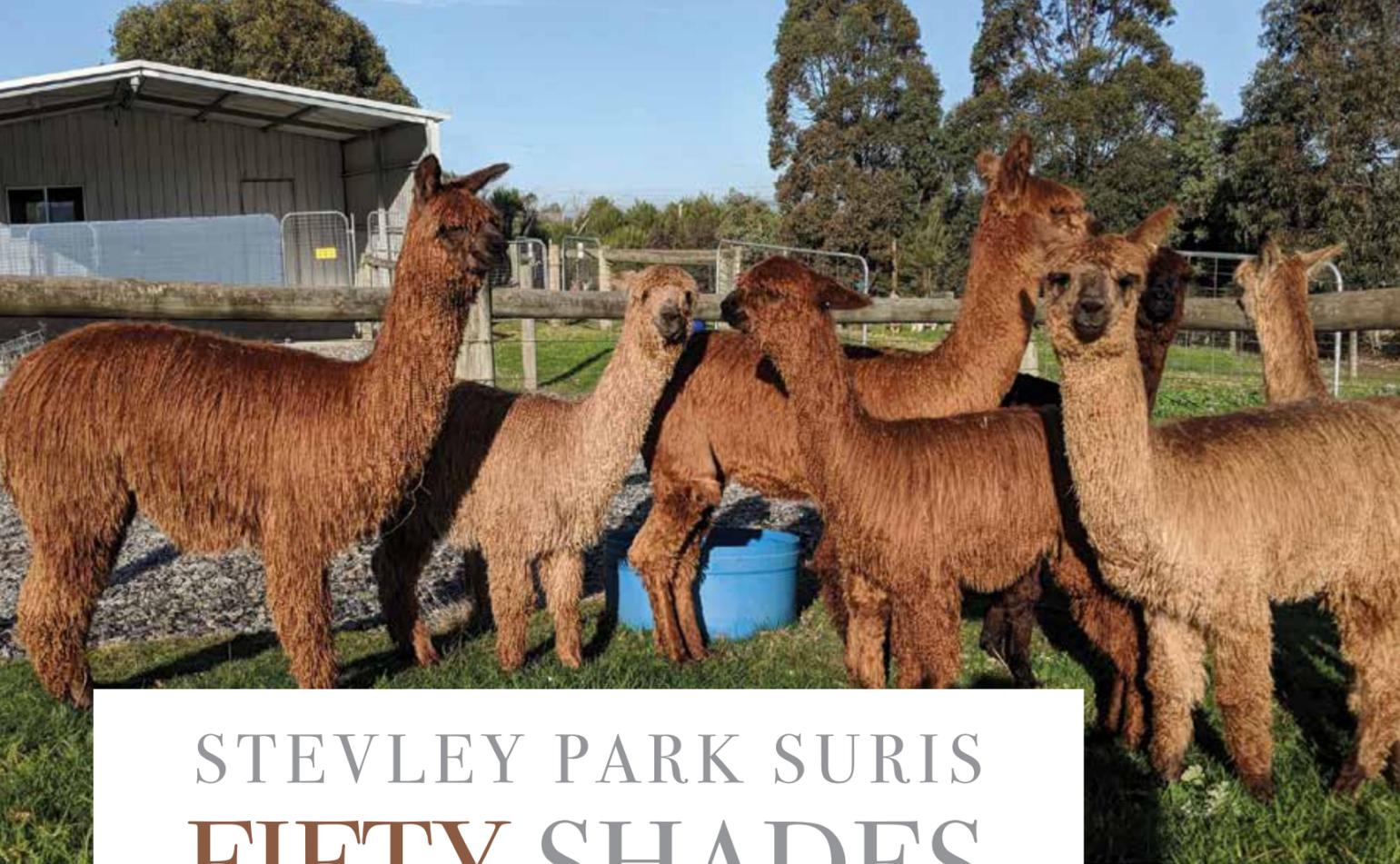
There are many varieties of olives grown in Australia. Our grove includes Correggiola and Luccino as the main varieties, as well as every tenth row being a row of pollination trees.

As we have come to appreciate the wide variety of grapes that are grown in different regions of Australia, so different varieties of olives suit different conditions. Each of these will produce oil that is beneficial to your health and they will have a range of uses, depending on their flavour. Many will be suited to being used in the kitchen to lubricate the griddle before searing steak, but some will be full of flavour and be suited to drizzle over baked veggies, or over a summer salad. Some of the more strongly flavoured oils are most enjoyed with bread, dukkah and a pre-dinner aperitif – my favourite ... !!

While the venture into olive oil was an adjunct to our alpacas when we moved to Pages Flat, it has been an enjoyable journey. For those of you who do not have your own grove, may I encourage you to sample the oil from the grove/s in your area, make a selection and savour the flavour and health benefits that this offers. Find an olive oil for cooking and another one to add flavour. Buy small bottles (at first) as fresh oil tastes better and is also better for you. Of course, I would be delighted if you would like to try our olive oil too – fingers crossed for a medal for this year's oil ...

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Zed Label

Australian Alpaca Handcrafts

Designed and created by Lezley

STEVLEY PARK SURIS FIFTY SHADES OF BROWN

by Lezley Golding



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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' to bring another level of improvement into our herd.

Stevley Park Suris are now 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.

On farm husbandry and shearing workshops are available on request. Having been in the industry for 18 years we enjoy giving back and offer mentoring, help with farm layout and ongoing support for new members coming into the industry.

Lezley is a fibre artist and runs felting workshops on request and her unique handcrafted items are available through our on-farm Studio/Shop, on line and takes special orders by request. Felted and Hand Knitted items include: scarfs, shawls, beanies, fingerless mittens, soft alpaca toys, baby wear, cot blankets and floor rugs. Yarn, hand dyed and many natural colours. Farm shop is open by appointment.



10 Fibre Naturally

YEARS ON...



Once our shed had been repurposed, our equipment from overseas arrived in a 40-foot shipping container and dumped on our road side. Emptying the container and getting all that equipment installed by ourselves is another story. Once we had the equipment set up, we had one of the mill engineers come out and over a week showed us how to run and maintain the equipment we had purchased. From there we were on our own and started by practising on our own fleeces in readiness for the launch of Fibre Naturally to the alpaca community at the start of 2008.

It's only after you start trying to produce your own yarn that you realise running a mill is vastly more complex process than hand spinning. You need to worry about things like static, so the air cannot be too dry/humid, keeping the steel shed cool in

the middle of our summer so the drums on the carder don't expand, getting a consistent roving for the spinner and so on. For sure, there was periods of time when we wondered what on earth we had done but not now, I love my job and the satisfaction we get from processing alpaca fibre every day.

WHILE ALPACA IS DEFINITELY OUR MAIN FOCUS, OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE PRODUCED SOME AMAZING YARNS FROM THE CREATIVE IDEAS OF OUR CLIENTS.

Over time we learnt and improved on the processes that we were initially shown, gaining a reputation across Australia for producing quality beautiful yarn, although to achieve this you do need to start from good quality clean fleeces. Vegetable matter contamination remains our biggest problem. It is almost impossible with the equipment we have

to remove all of it in the processing. Generally, the finer the fleece, the harder it is to remove, with fine tippy cria fleeces the worst. The journey of a good yarn starts with the animal and the harvesting of its fibre and we are extremely pleased to have noticed, especially over the last few years, a dramatic increase in the number of beautifully skirted, fine and totally free of vegetable matter fleeces coming into our mill.

While alpaca is definitely our main focus, over the years we have produced some amazing yarns from the creative ideas of our clients. We have processed raw cotton, hemp, raw silk, recycled sari silk, a few breeds of dog, numerous breeds of sheep, camel, possum and wallaby. We have blended many colours including brightly dyed alpaca or merino to add some highlights in natural coloured alpaca. The possibilities are endless!!

At the time we started out in the fibre processing industry, we had been successfully running our own alpaca breeding business, Glenavon Alpacas for 15 years. Having built up the size of our herd we were looking at how to value add to our business, apart from the usual of breeding and selling animals and stud services.

What we found was that there were not many options for small and medium size breeders to have their fibre processed, and with a herd averaging out at 100 head, we struggled to combine fleeces together to meet the minimum batch requirement in a way that would give us a quality yarn.. After doing considerable research, we decided to take the plunge and import a fibre mill from overseas. It was not a decision to take lightly as these mills are a considerable expense, and support for them is over half a world away.

One factor that was in our favour was that the property we had bought for running our stud had a multitude of sheds and we were able to convert an existing horse barn into our new mill shed at minimum cost. The other factor was that I had a great love of fibre and had been hand spinning since I was a child. I had a feel for the fibre and knew what could be achieved.



Whilst our core business is processing alpaca fleeces on consignment, we also have developed our own line of yarns and products from the fleeces from our own Glenavon herd under our Alpaca Allure brand. Working on our own fleeces my daughter Ashleigh has taken on hand painting skeins of yarn to produce some beautiful and popular coloured yarn. We also produce some artisan yarns by blending alpaca with a variety of different fibres including camel, from our own mini herd, possum, wallaby, silk and bamboo.

In 2018 we added a needle felting machine to our range of equipment and I am amazed and impressed with the felting qualities of alpaca fibre and I just love the products we are able to create from it. We have been experimenting with producing incredibly light wraps and blankets from our alpaca fleece and can certainly attest to the warmth of these beautiful items with the blankets keeping the whole family warm at night. A new craft for me for sure!!

Recently we had the opportunity to further extend our mill, increasing the amount of equipment, which also meant doubling the size of our shed. This was no easy feat, especially whilst trying to continue to run our business at the same time. Luckily for us our builder was willing to work with us to minimise any interruptions, however we still had to cease operation for over a month whilst walls were removed, and roofs needed to be installed. But as they say, no pain-no gain and we now have 2 separate areas, a nice roomy working Mill and through an internal door, an amazing studio area. This will become an alpaca experience centre with Mill and Farm tours and inside the studio, a shop/display area for our Alpaca Allure products and a workshop area where we will hold classes in hand spinning, felting and crocheting.

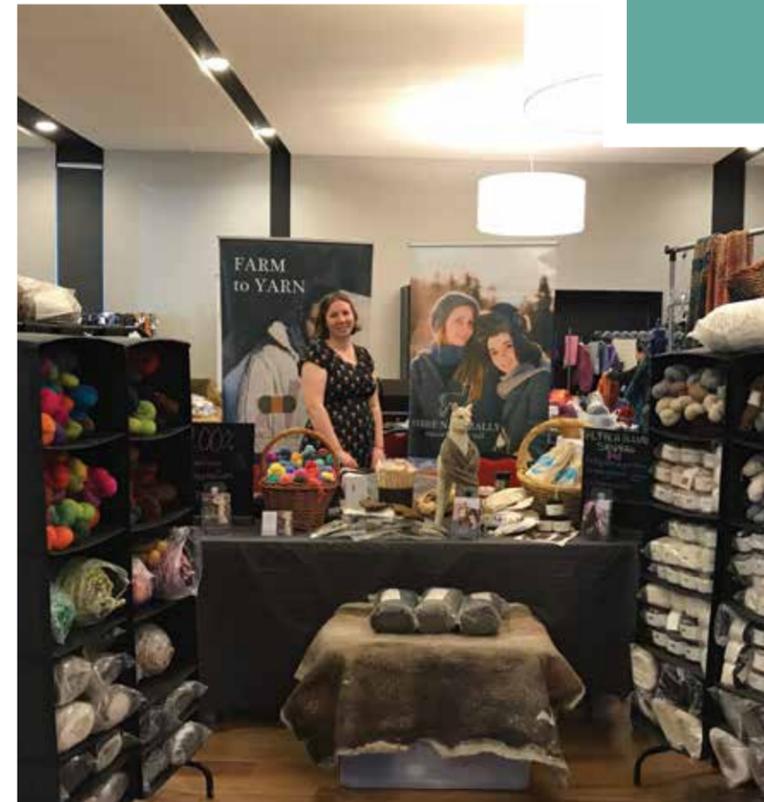
To date, Fibre Naturally has been a great little family business. My mother Kath, who has a lifelong passion for knitting, right at the start bought a couple of knitting machines and offered to make beautiful knitted scarves and baby blankets/throws as a value add service for our clients and their fleeces.

My two daughters help with the business with Ash being very artistic and does all the hand painting of our Alpaca Allure yarn, as well as demonstrating the beauty of the products through the items that she crochets and exhibits. My other daughter Jamie helps in the mill and has taken on an interest in managing the Glenavon herd. My sister Sandra and friend Sharyn also help in the mill, taking care of the washing, picking, dehairing and carding and leaving me to focus on the actual spinning of the fibre.

The last 10 years has been a very satisfying journey, building up our family business and being able to help people in the alpaca industry to showcase the quality and beauty of their alpaca fibre. We are now looking forward to the next 10 years and the endless possibilities that our updated mill and new studio will provide with helping others to see what they can do and achieve with their beautiful alpaca fibre.



TO DATE, FIBRE NATURALLY HAS BEEN A GREAT LITTLE FAMILY BUSINESS.



Research & Development Reports

The AAA has invested in various pieces of research over the last few years and you may wish to look at these reports which will be available on the revamped AAA website.



Studies on gastrointestinal nematodes ("worms") of alpacas



Castration methods and welfare of alpacas. Towards an appropriate solution.



Quantitative Genetic Analysis of Micron Blowout in Alpacas

STUDIES ON GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODES ("WORMS") OF ALPACAS

Alpacas are increasingly popular as a commercial livestock species due to their soft, light and fine fibre, lean meat and hides as well as their ability to adapt to diverse climatic conditions across Australia. The health and productivity of alpacas can be compromised by gastrointestinal nematodes (GINs), resulting in substantial economic losses. Although Australia has the largest alpaca population outside South America, very limited information is available on the GINs of Australian alpacas.

The present project aimed to (i) assess the worm control practices used by Australian alpaca farmers, (ii) determine the prevalence of GINs of alpacas in various climatic zones in Australia and (iii) undertake field efficacy studies to determine the status of anthelmintic resistance in GINs of alpacas. The novel information generated in the project aims to help Australian alpaca farmers and veterinarians in controlling GINs of alpacas.

Hard copies of this report are available from the AAA for \$25 + postage – contact the National Office for information.

CASTRATION METHODS AND WELFARE OF ALPACAS

"Castration methods and welfare of Alpacas" is publication detailing a research project funded jointly by the AAA and AgriFutures Australia released in September 2017. The project aimed to validate a standard method of castration for alpacas that could be recommended to either veterinarians or trained alpacas producers and would be acceptable in welfare terms. This research will be used to inform recommended amendments to the Veterinary Practice Acts in the States and Territories.

QUANTITATIVE GENETIC ANALYSIS OF MICRON BLOWOUT IN ALPACAS

Some alpacas maintain fine fibre throughout life, while others suffer from significant coarsening of fibre as they age, a trait known as micron blowout. Micron blowout results in reduced productivity, through reduced yield of high quality fibre over the life of an animal.

Data from a well-established alpaca herd in Peru was used in a complex quantitative genetics analysis to determine if genetics plus environment, or environment alone was responsible for micron blowout in alpacas. This project has shown that micron blowout has a moderate heritability in alpacas, and that selection against micron blowout would be successful in reducing the extent of the problem.

Echo Beach Alpacas

FIBRE PROCESSING MILL



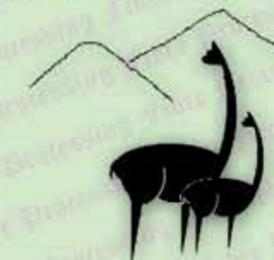
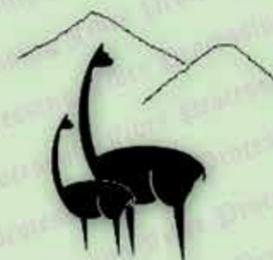
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We are Darryl and Jessie Raines and we live on a 30 acre property on the coast on the outskirts of Bundaberg in Qld. We have owned suri alpacas since 2002.

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TAS REGION

reporting

The Tasmanian region – who are we? Ours is one of the smallest regions both geographically and in terms of membership, with 50 members representing 43 registered studs. Of these, 37 studs hold IAR registered alpacas. Herd sizes vary, as in most regions, with the largest herd of registered animals here currently being 160. The number of studs regularly showing their alpacas or fleeces in Tasmanian shows is about 12. Tasmanian region alpaca shows in 2019 will be the Royal Hobart Show in October and the Flying Colours colourbration show at Longford in November. Previously we have held more alpaca shows but with our small membership we need to ensure that shows are viable. The committee sent a survey to members earlier this year asking which shows they intended to show at and how many animals they anticipated showing at each. Responses indicated that there was only enough support for two shows in Tasmania this year. This is disappointing for the region as fewer shows reduces breeders' opportunities to have their alpacas benchmarked against industry standards by experienced judges and limits avenues for promoting alpacas. We hope that this situation will reverse in future.

The Tas region committee has been negotiating to hold an alpaca show, perhaps fleece only, at the Campbell Town Show held in late May/early June. Campbell Town is located in the Tasmanian midlands and apart from its lovely old buildings and being a favourite coffee stop for many between Hobart and Launceston it proudly hosts the longest continually running agricultural show in the Southern hemisphere. The event has a fine reputation as a sheep and wool show. We are keen to develop the opportunity to show alpacas there and discussions are underway, with plans for 2020 if there is member support. The AAA in Tasmania has been represented at two major events in recent months. The Bothwell International Spin In and Highland Festival brings together fibre artists – spinners, weavers, dyers, textile and fashion designers, and others - from around the world and is held every 2 years in the historic town of Bothwell in Tasmania's central highlands. Over the 2 days of the festival in early March 2019 the Tasmanian region of the AAA presented an information stall under the shade of beautiful old trees on the village green, thanks to Michelle McIntyre, Wayne Debnam and Raewyn Debnam. Olmec Alpacas and

Mossvale Alpacas were also there with their own sites and there was a high level of interest in alpaca fibre and products. A highlight of the festival is the Longest Thread competitions – in the months leading up to the festival spinners take 10g of fibre and spin it finely to make the longest thread they can. The Tasmanian Region of the AAA is proud to sponsor the longest thread competitions for alpaca fibre. This year's winners were: Maria Johansson from Sweden (wheel - 328 metres), Lena Ekelund from Sweden (spindle - 266 metres) and Ali Keywood from Tasmania (e-spinner - 317 metres). Spinners of alpaca fleece out there – does this inspire you to give it a go? In late March we attended the Huon Small Farms Expo, an annual field day in the Huon Valley with an emphasis on small scale agriculture and sustainability bringing together producers, breeders, community groups, and animal associations. In addition to the AAA information site we were represented by stalls from Delfryn Alpacas, Toffeemont Alpacas, Wharncliffe Alpacas, and Mossvale Alpacas for huacaya, and Peter and Dusti Aspinall of Pandda Lodge from the north of the state made the trip with their suris. This is always a popular event with families and those interested in taking up small acreages and the alpacas always draw interest.

The committee is now working on some education events for the region – a birthing workshop and a colour genetics workshop are planned, in addition to preparing for our Annual Regional Meeting in June where we hope to catch up with members and perhaps persuade some new committee members to come on board. Broadly, our region has been going through some challenges in the last few months with a number of members affected by bushfires directly and indirectly and lack of rain has been a worry for many going into our cold, wet winter with little feed on the ground or in the barn. We will be alert to hypothermia risk and watching condition in our vulnerable young and elderly animals. But to take our minds off worries we have some wonderful festivals coming up in Tasmania, including Dark Mofo and a Midwinter Festival celebrating the winter solstice, and we look forward to spring events such as the Tulip Festival in Wynyard. Of course, we always have great food and wine down here to keep us in good spirits. If mainland readers are thinking of a visit to our island there's plenty going on to enjoy and we'd love to see you.





THE HOUSE OF ALPACA



THE HOUSE OF ALPACA

From the Paddock to the World

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

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

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



Commercial Manufacturing

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



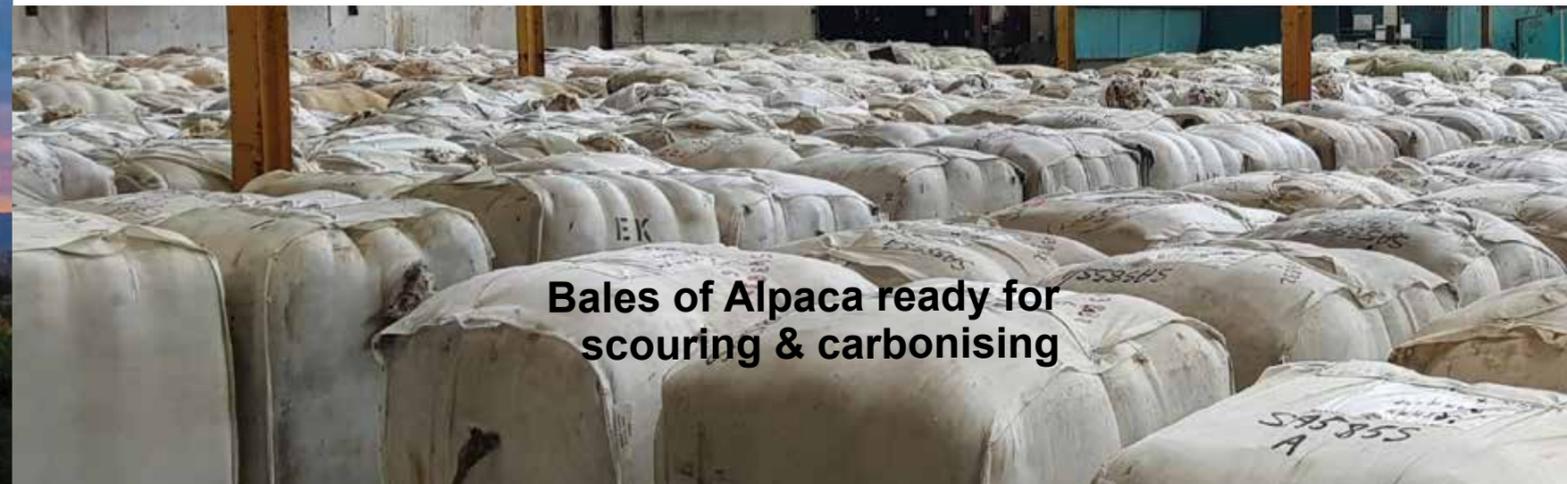
In 2016 we were finalist in three categories, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Exporting in the Chief Minister for Export Awards.

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

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



But it all starts with collecting quality Australian Alpaca fibre.



Bales of Alpaca ready for scouring & carbonising



THE HOUSE OF ALPACA

Fibre Collection and Processing

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



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

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

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

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

Bales in store ready to be delivered around the world



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

p: 02 6358 8275 m: 0428 663 161

e: keianalodge@gmail.com

www.keianalodge.com.au



Dental Issues in Older Alpacas

by ALISON QUAGLIANI

I have an ageing herd of alpacas. Four of them are over 18 years old and several are in their early teens. Last year I lost my first two alpacas, at 23 and 24 years old. It wasn't until they were around 20 that they really started to look 'old' and started to struggle with holding a good body condition score.

Like myself there are many breeders and pet owners that have alpacas that they have owned for many years. Their old alpaca may be a special stud, the first alpaca they bred, a good guard animal or the family pet. Whilst I'm experiencing first hand 'the ageing alpaca' it is the change in their ability to process their food from a dental perspective that I am able to discuss in more detail.

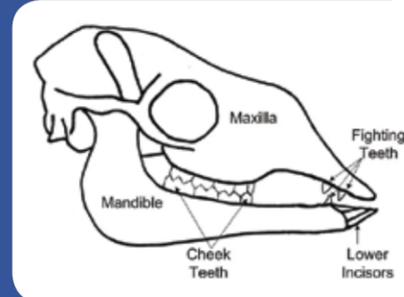


Fig 1 Dental Anatomy



Fig 2 Incisors of a young Alpaca



Fig 3 Functional Incisors of a 16yo alpaca



Fig 4 Incisors Worn to Gum Level



Fig 5 Ulcers Inside the Cheeks from Sharp Teeth



Fig 6 The Skull of an older alpaca. The lower long molar has worn a gap between the upper teeth, worn away the gums and damaged the skull bone

Fig.1 shows the dental anatomy of an alpaca. An adult alpaca has 30-32 permanent teeth and during its lifetime will have two sets of teeth. The first set is the deciduous (or baby) teeth and the second set is the permanent teeth. Cria are born with some of their deciduous teeth, and by several months old will have a complete set. Permanent molars (cheek teeth) start erupting at around nine months of age but eruption of the full set of permanent teeth and the loss of the deciduous teeth will not be complete until well into adulthood.

To further complicate the process, alpaca teeth are designed to keep erupting into the mouth throughout the lifetime of the alpaca. The teeth form and grow in the jawbones beneath the gums. These teeth erupt into the alpaca's mouth and wear away against the opposing teeth or dental pad, little by little as the animal bites and chews. This process of continual wearing and eruption continues throughout the life of the alpaca until the teeth are worn out.

If the molars in the top and bottom jaws or the incisors and the dental pad do not meet each other correctly then the teeth will wear unevenly or often not wear at all. This is usually obvious when we see overlong incisors that do not meet or wear against the dental pad correctly. In the back of the mouth, the molars don't always wear evenly but unfortunately, as it is difficult to see inside the mouth these problems will go unnoticed.

Over time, along with the normal wearing of the teeth any small abnormalities that are present will become more obvious problems as the condition progresses and the alpaca ages.

So what problems do I see in older alpacas?

Individual alpacas will age differently. Conformation, diet, and the dental care that the alpaca receives throughout its lifetime all have

an influence on the long-term health of an alpaca. Alpaca diets vary throughout Australia depending on climate, soil and the type of grasses available. What the alpaca eats will have an influence not only on nutrition but also how the teeth wear.

I see alpacas in their early teens with incisors worn level with the gums. Fig 2, 3 and 4 show incisors of alpacas at various ages. I see alpacas in their late teens with well functioning mouths. I see many that have cracked teeth, loose teeth, gum disease, ulcers (Fig 5) and those that have lost many of their molars. As molars 'wear out' the tooth surface becomes smoother losing the ability to chew or grind.

I also see problems with molars that have usually been present for several years and get to the stage where the teeth aren't effectively grinding the alpaca's food. This results in a negative influence on the general health and body condition of the animal. Most of these serious, more painful conditions are usually the result of molars not wearing against the opposing teeth and becoming long enough to wear into the gums and in extreme cases the bone of the opposing jaw (Fig 6). These issues usually require treatment by a vet or consultation with an animal dentist familiar with alpaca dental anatomy.

When feeding the older alpaca, changes in the teeth need to be considered. Most alpacas cope with worn incisors, especially if they have good grazing and access to additional rations. However, chewing with worn out molars can be a challenge. Hay takes more effort (and energy) to chew than lucerne or oaten chaff. I allow my older alpacas free access to chaff mix.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of checking the body condition of your alpacas, especially the older ones. Weight loss is often an indication of a dental or other health problem and the sooner you can investigate the cause, the easier it will be to manage.



WA REGION

reporting

2018 concluded with our Christmas Party at Sophie & Ross' beautiful home at Banksia Park Alpacas. A great day was had by all in a relaxed environment playing various games of skill including back yard cricket, skenger and a very competitive game of what the members have come to know as "The Stein Glass Challenge" The day ended with an auction of items generously donated by members, with the proceeds going to the region to help offset workshops and regional expenses.

In February we had a workshop & ORM at Bedrock Alpacas. The workshop topics included; Transporting and Showing Alpacas interstate, Show Etiquette and a very informative Grey Genetic Research update.

On the 15th of March the inaugural Warren Districts agricultural Show was held - the first one day short fleeced age show at this location. With 94 animals exhibited, the show was a great success and next year's show is already being planned.

On the 23rd of March we held a fundraiser quiz night at Swan Valley Alpacas to help fund upcoming shows. The hosts Ron and Rose Reid made everyone welcome with Ron "cleaning up" at the gold coin games. With jokes and smart "cracks" from the compare and games organised by key members of the region Dan and Jane from Honky Nut Alpacas, the night was a success. The event continued until late in the evening - West Australians know how to have a good time!

In April it was off to Albany and Denmark. With the best hospitality received from our Far Southern members, we toured properties to see how it was done down south! I think its fair to say most members came away very impressed and possibly a little envious - not just because of the beautiful lush green grass these properties were surrounded by, it was the efficiency these breeders displayed. Thanks again to the breeders visited including, Silver Karri, Goldleaf, Karrie Heights, Futura, and Kallaroo Park, where we concluded with an ORM.

Also in April there was a two-day "Introduction to Paraders" workshop held for youth aged 13-20. It was a great success and has led to some enthusiastic youth getting more involved.

On 5th May, WA Colourbration inaugural show was held. Sophie from Banksia Park and her show committee once again created a very enjoyable event at the SJ Food & Farm Festival at Quarry Farm.

Members are now looking forward to the Gidgegannup Agricultural Show - a two day Show 25-26 May and member workshops to include topics such as "Shearing your Alpacas".

That's it from the West



The Relationships Between Micron, Density, Fleece Weight and Size

BY Bob Kingwell

An alpaca's first fleece, if shorn after it is about 9 months old, will contain fibres of varying lengths. The primary fibres will be the longest since they started growing around 3 months before birth. They represent about 10% of all the fibres and are generally the coarsest in the fleece. It is these primary fibres that produce the coarse tail on the fibre histogram. Most of the secondary fibres will also have started growing by the time the alpaca has been born however the secondary derived fibres generally do not start growing until after birth. These are the shortest and finest fibres in the first fleece and produce the fine edge of the histogram. After the first fleece, the total number of fibres in a fleece will remain relatively stable for at least the first half of an alpaca's life.

It is not until after the first shearing that all the fibres have the potential to grow to a similar length. It is therefore the second fleece that is likely to be the most reliable indication of an alpaca's fleece potential. This is because all the

fibre lengths have grown over the same period of time and the tested fleece results will be a more reliable estimate of the fleece parameters than those obtained from the first fleece.

MICRON, FLEECE WEIGHT AND SIZE

Fleece weight is determined by the number of fibres, their diameters, lengths and mass.

After the first fleece, successive fleece weights are dependent on the number of fibres and are therefore independent of the size of the alpaca.

The graph at Figure 1 shows how micron influences fleece weight. The data assumes that a 16 micron fleece can weigh up to 2 kg and that the number of fibres in each fleece and their average length remains the same. It has also been assumed there is no medullation which affects mass as the micron increases and also that the extent of skirting remains similar. In reality however medullation starts to occur within fibres over about 18 microns and

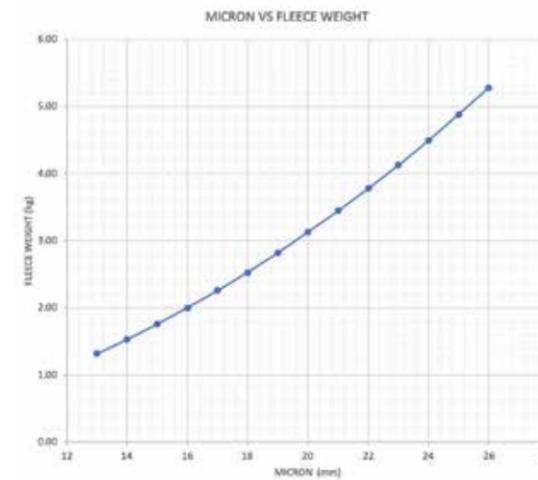


Figure 1

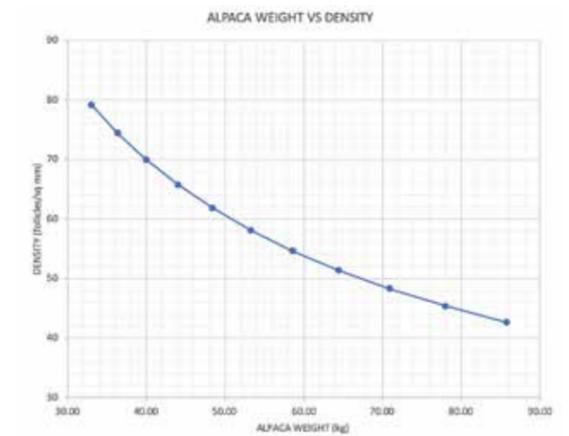


Figure 2

becomes continuously medullated above about 40 microns. The degree of skirting required will usually increase with rising micron due to the increasing extent of coarse straight fibres around the edges of the fleece.

The graph indicates that an equivalent 14 micron fleece will weigh about 1½ kg, an 18 micron about 2½ kg, a 20 micron about 3 kg and a 24 micron fleece about 4½ kg.

Although it is assumed that all these fleeces contain the same number of fibres, their densities however will vary depending on the size of the alpaca.

DENSITY AND SIZE

The number of hair follicles that an unborn cria is capable of producing within its skin is determined by its genetics and environmental influences before birth. By the time it is nine months old, it will have grown fibres from all of its follicles and its fleece will be as dense as it is ever going to be.

As the alpaca grows, its skin area will increase and its follicle density will decrease. Density is therefore influenced by the size of the alpaca. For every 10% increase in body weight, the density will decrease by about 6%. Density is usually measured by counting the number of follicles within a specific area of a skin sample and is expressed as the number of follicles per square millimetre.

The graph at Figure 2 shows how density varies with the weight of an alpaca. Weight has been chosen rather than size since it can be easily

measured and because of the strong correlation between weight and size when alpacas are well proportioned. It has also been assumed that the 16 micron fleece mentioned above came from a 40kg alpaca with a fleece density of 70 follicles per square millimetre.

As this alpaca grows, the density decreases so that when its weight increases to 50 kg its density will have fallen to about 60 follicles per square millimetre. At 60 kg the density will be a bit less than 55 follicles and at 70 kg the density will have been reduced to less than 50 follicles per square millimetre.

If the micron of this fully grown 70 kg alpaca has increased to say 22 microns, its theoretical fleece weight will have almost doubled and it may feel denser than it was at 40 kg even though its actual density has fallen from 70 to less than 50 follicles per square millimetre. This perception of being denser is largely influenced by the increased diameters of the fibres within the fleece. A fleece that has blown out will feel denser than one whose micron has remained relatively stable.

CONCLUSIONS

Fleece weight is influenced by the number of fibres within a fleece whereas density is determined by the number of fibres within a specific area of skin.

The number of fibres in a fleece is determined by the number of follicles and is therefore independent of the size of the alpaca. The fibre density however is dependent on its size.

Any attempt to use fleece weights to estimate differences in density between alpacas will only be reliable when they are of a similar micron, fleece length and body weight (or size) and then only if the fleeces have been shorn from a similar sized area and the fleece weights have been annualised.

A young alpaca with a very dense fleece will still have a very dense fleece when it is fully grown compared to other alpacas of a similar size or weight.

When comparing fleece densities between alpacas it is extremely difficult to make allowances for differences in micron and size. It is therefore almost impossible to reliably compare the density of a young alpaca to one that is fully grown and yet this is what is currently being attempted in our show rings and at sales. Comparisons of density will only be reliable if the alpacas are of a similar micron and size.

QUALITY ACROSS GENERATIONS



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You can entrust your alpacas to us

New Breeders - what to expect at your first Show:

The first step is show entry, which is done through eAlpaca.

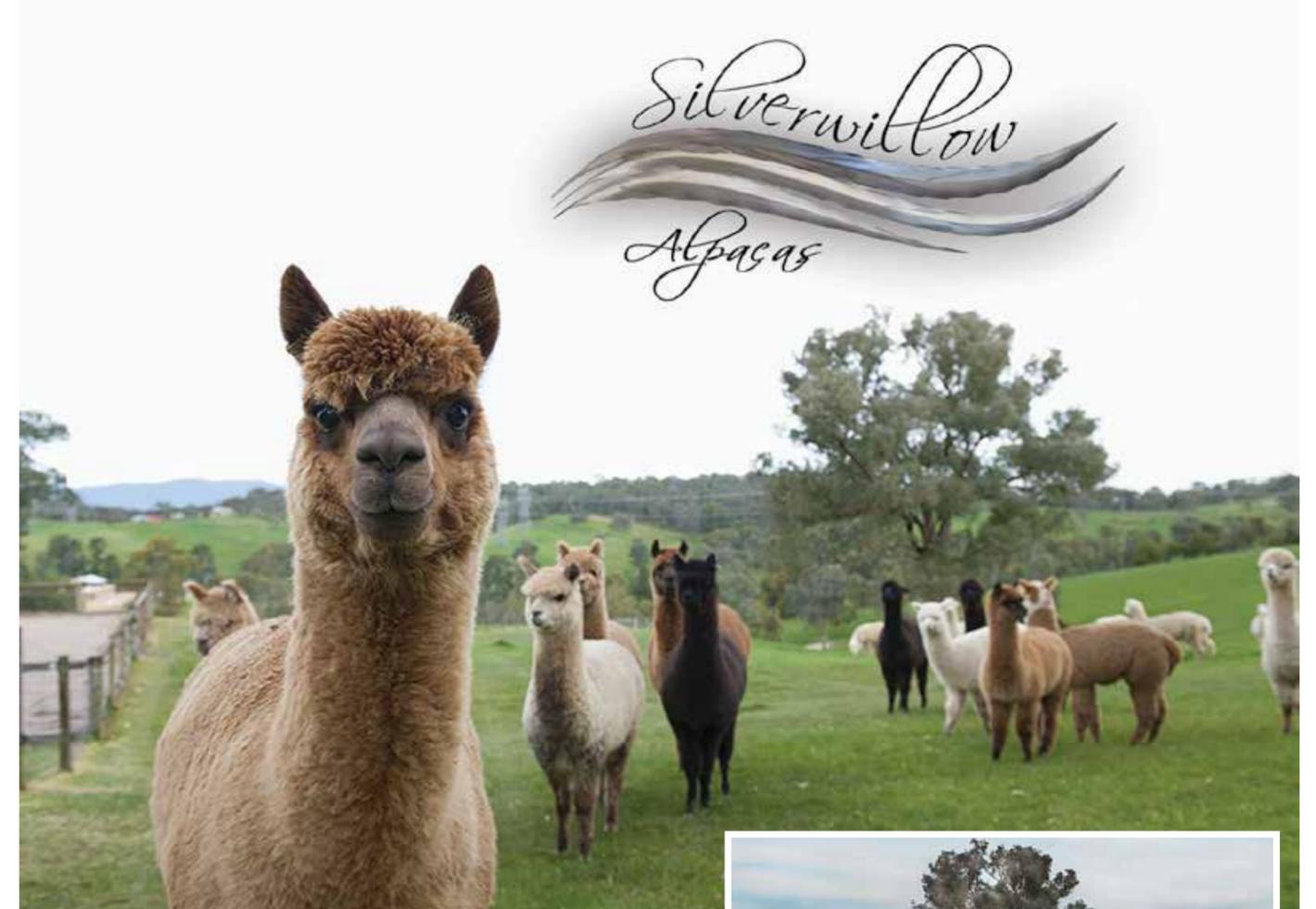
- Go through your alpacas and choose your best alpacas to show.
- Make sure they are halter-trained.
- Print out the Show Rules from the AAA Website to have as a reference
- You will need to check the Show Checklist (available on the AAA Website or via a link on eAlpaca) to ensure that your animals meet basic requirements for showing. You should make sure that you can tick all the boxes on the Show Checklist for each alpaca you enter in the show.

When you arrive at your show:

- Park and find out where your pens are
- Walk your alpacas in and set them up with food and water
- Wait at your pens until your animals are checked by a Steward
- When the Steward arrives, bring each alpaca separately to the front of the pen so the Steward can check the IAR tag, sex, fleece colour & length
- Ask the Steward where you collect your bag and showing numbers
- Collect your bag
- Prepare your numbers in your arm bands
- Check the Catalogue and make sure your alpacas are all in the correct classes
- Make sure your alpacas are clean, no dirty tails, or burrs in their fleece.

At the show

- Speak to as many breeders as possible, you will learn so much from fellow breeders through conversation
- Take each alpaca you are showing to the correct marshalling area (there are usually two marshalling areas, one for alpacas with Q-Alpaca status and a separate one for unassessed animals).
- Let the marshalling steward know when you are at the marshalling area. You may need to bring several alpacas to the marshalling area at once if they are in classes close together on the program. You will be called forward when it is time to take your alpaca into the ring.
- Sit back, relax, watch, learn and enjoy your first show. Don't hesitate to ask people anything you're not sure of or if you need help - the show ring is an extremely enjoyable, social aspect of breeding alpacas.



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

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



- Silverwillow Alpacas -

Libby Williams – 85 Nicholas Lane, Kangaroo Ground, 3097

m 0413 300 371

e libby@jlwgroup Holdings.com.au

Transporting Alpacas

Did you know, that....

When transporting alpacas you should carry with you a waybill?

This should be used for travelling to and from shows, transporting to the vet, moving animals anywhere within the state and definitely if going from state to state.

For a more thorough explanation, go to—
www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/industry/alpaca
You can then find a link to print out your waybill.

NATIONAL SOUTH AMERICAN CAMELID DECLARATION AND WAYBILL VERSION 1, MAY 2017

SECTION 1 - Transport information

Name of consignor: _____
Trading name: _____
Consignment origin (VIC): _____
Consignment to (state and address): _____
Registration No of vehicle: _____
Department of Agriculture: _____

SECTION 2 - Consignor

2.1 Name of the consignor (name of the property or agent): _____
2.2 The number of alpacas (other than those from which camels have been introduced into the consignment) in the lot (not including those to be introduced into the lot): _____

SECTION 3 - Vehicle details

3.1 Is the vehicle used for the transport of alpacas? _____
3.2 Is the vehicle used for the transport of alpacas (other than those from which camels have been introduced into the consignment) in the lot (not including those to be introduced into the lot)? _____

SECTION 4 - Declaration

4.1 I, the consignor, declare that the alpacas in the consignment are from a source that is free from any of the following camelid diseases: _____
4.2 I, the consignor, declare that the alpacas in the consignment are from a source that is free from any of the following camelid diseases: _____

SECTION 5 - Declaration

5.1 I, the person in charge of the vehicle, declare that the alpacas in the consignment are from a source that is free from any of the following camelid diseases: _____



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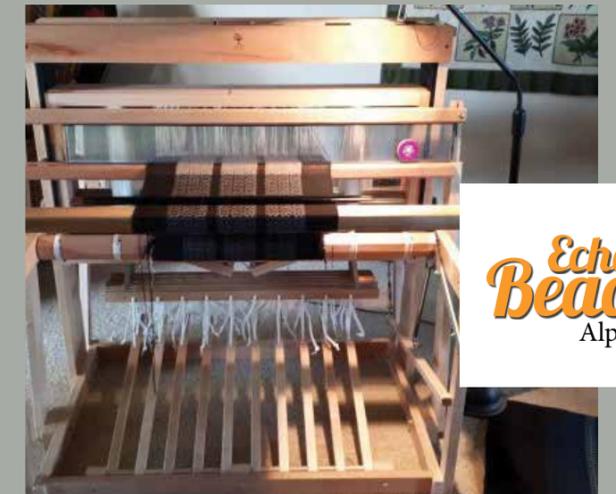


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TRADE SHOW

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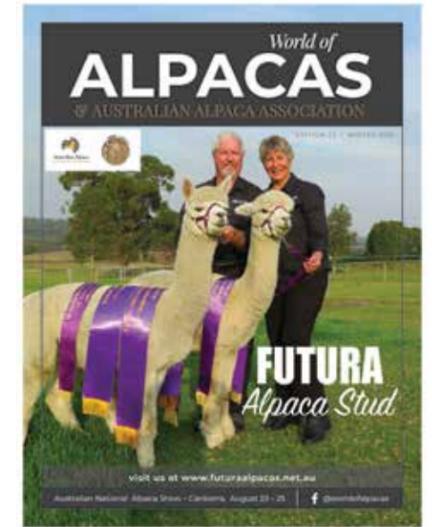
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WORLD OF ALPACAS



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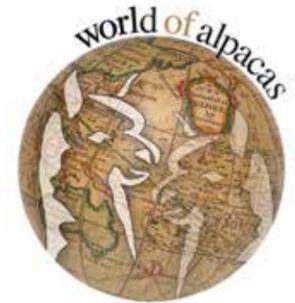
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TRADE SHOW

Come visit us at the National



reporting

It has been a busy time for the Victorian Eastern Region with some very exciting events held over the last several months.

Lilydale Alpaca PADDOCK to PRODUCT was held as part of the Lilydale Show in November 2018. This was the regions opportunity to showcase all things alpaca. Displays and sales of fleece, garments, yarn, craft, books, felting, weaving, spinning, knitting and meat. The weather was stunning on the day and many people visited the Alpaca promotional event. Alpacas to pat, feed and have a photo taken with proved very popular!!

Annual VER Shows- a full calendar of regional shows were run successfully attracting good entries and attendances. Much effort goes into ensuring the VER show events are well run and we thank our members who work together to ensure their success.

Alexander Alpaca Show - August, 2018
Lardner Alpaca Show - September, 2018
Sale Alpaca Show - October, 2018

The Berwick Show – February, 2019
Red Hill Show – March, 2019

Holland Festival – As part of the VERs relationship with the Berwick Show grounds at Akoona Park and our continued association with past Treasurer Russell Hays and the Rotary Club of Casey we were invited to participate in this year’s Holland Festival, held in March. With many thousands of people attending this was another great opportunity to promote animals and product to the community.

Stewards Workshop – we were very much appreciative of the workshop conducted by Ann Parry. The workshop was held in conjunction with our ORM and followed by a lovely lunch on farm. This workshop takes our VER region to well over 20 trained stewards, a great network for convenors to call on when needed.

Farm World is a major event on the VER calendar, providing a great opportunity for marketing alpacas and alpaca products. The event held over 4 days attracts tens of thousands of people from rural and



semi-rural backgrounds. The VER has been part of this event for the past 20 years and this year’s participants ensured a wonderful display was awaiting visitors.

We have had a busy time promoting all things alpaca in many cases alongside the **Victorian Alpaca Youth**. VAY were present at Lilydale PADDOCK to PRODUCT, Red Hill Show and Farm World holding Paraders competitions, and very successful public participation activities such as walk an alpaca, build an alpaca and have your photo taken with an alpaca. It is very rewarding and often inspiring watching the interaction between the children, alpacas and public.





The Alpaca Youth Group displayed the diversity of skills gained by participating in the event.

Victorian Alpaca Youth at Farm World 2019

By **Miranda Plowman**
(VET Student Donvale Farm).

This year, over the 11-14 of April, I was amongst the 60,000 visitors at Farm World 2019, held at Lardner Park in Warragul Victoria. Naturally we were surrounded by farm machinery, tools, implements and most importantly Alpacas.

As a keen Certificate II Animal Studies student from Donvale Christian College, I had a dual interest in the event. I was there to hone my animal husbandry skills and support the Victorian Alpaca Youth Group. Rachel Burnett co-ordinated a well organised, military styled operation with the key support from an army of Donvale Christian College students, youth alpaca participants, parents and supporters (including alpaca breeders/industry experts).

Clearly Rachel had taken some notes from our neighbouring Sheep Dog Exhibitor, rounding up volunteers and supporters to man the multitude of stations required – photo booths, alpaca walking stations – including building a wooden alpaca (craft activity). Whilst all this was going on, the Victorian Alpaca Youth Group was conducting the showmanship and stockmanship competitions, drawing in crowds of farm world visitors as spectators and participants for our fund-raising activities.

The Alpaca Youth Group displayed the diversity of skills gained by participating in the event. On the microphone giving a rundown of the events were several kids and teens. A shout out to Hannah who is clearly going into a career of public speaking! Animal handling skills come into use by teaching children how to walk an alpaca or positioning an alpaca for a photo opportunity. My risk management

skills were tested in our fund-raising activity – building wooden Alpacas. It's amazing how quickly parents will step away when you are assisting their child with a hammer and nails...fortunately this weekend I manage to retain all my fingers (despite several close calls). It was lovely watching young children admire their handy work and stick some 'real alpaca fleece' on their wooden model, followed by their remarks on how soft fleece was to touch. Their thoughtful questioning on 'how it differs from sheep wool' was answered by some 'in the know' parents.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THESE EVENTS ARE USED TO PLOUGH FUNDS BACK INTO THE GROUP TO RUN SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS, CAMPS AND COMPETITIONS.

Men's shed spent many hours making the alpaca wooden craft kits and they are always a big hit with the kids!

After competing in showmanship (where you display your animal and your knowledge of Alpacas) and stockmanship (where you handle an Alpaca through an obstacle course simulating farm scenarios) the scores were decided.



The winners were:

In open (the more experienced category):

- **Tamaryn Kimber** as Supreme Champion.
- **Tamaryn Kimber** as Master Trainer.
- **Leah Burnett** as senior champion.
- **Tamaryn Kimber** as intermediate champion.
- **Sophie Veenstra** as intermediate reserve champion

In preliminary:

- **Andra Hosking** as Supreme Champion.
- **Noah Hilliar** as Senior Champion.
- **Amy Vglow** as Intermediate Champion.
- **Abigal Fountas** as Intermediate Reserve Champion
- **Andra Hosking** as Junior Champion.
- **Katie Sonsini** as Junior Reserve Champion.

In summing up the Victorian Alpaca Youth Group is a wonderful organisation. Their goal is to encourage youth into the alpaca industry and agriculture in general. This means city kids get to learn practical information in a hands-on environment. Youth train with an alpaca towards competitions where they learn to handling skills and gain theoretical knowledge. I am reminded on the day of how inclusive this group remains, not all kids want to compete straight away, some helped by shadowing an alpaca handler or offering their time at a fundraising station.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Photo 1



Photo 3



Mandala: the never ending circle of life

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

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

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

HUACAYA BLOODLINES INCLUDE:

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

SURI BLOODLINES INCLUDE:

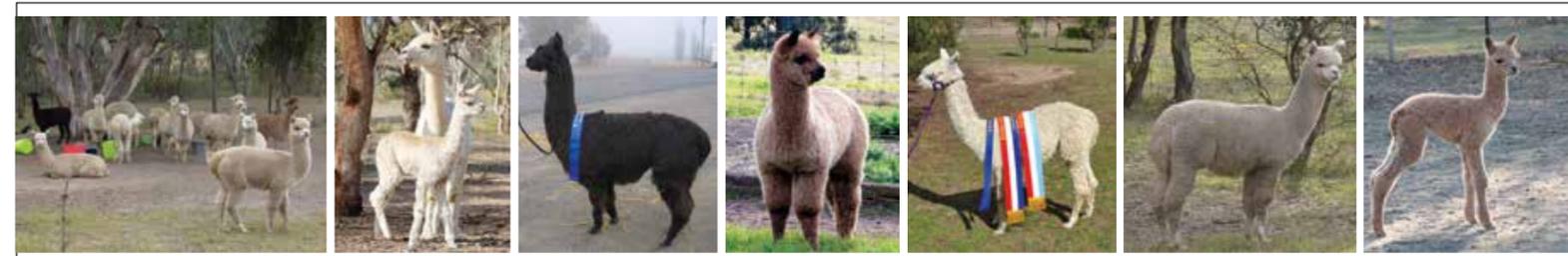
- Cedar House Platino
- Cedar House Thor
- ILR Alejandro
- LCA Tejas ILR
- Pacofino Black Sabbath
- Peruvian Senator
- Somerset Peruvian Black Impact
- Surilana Omar



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

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VIC CENTRAL
REGION

reporting

The Victorian Central Region kicked 2019 with a celebration of 20th Anniversary Wodonga Show. This year it was a colour show with a Hawaiian theme to make it a special event! (Photo 1)

This year we welcomed back the beloved Victorian Alpaca Colourbration! The show was a huge success with exhibitors coming from VIC, NSW, WA, TAS and SA. A huge thank you goes to all of the dedicated volunteers, sponsors and exhibitors for making this year so special! (Photo 2)

The VCR Committee is working hard to put together educational material that is relevant and useful to its members. Allison Quagliani, Alpaca Dentist, presented a free seminar on alpaca teeth health. (Photo 3). We also have a workshop presented by the internationally renowned Jane Vaughan. We have been publishing regular Members Updates via email and being active on the VCR Facebook page, sharing information on pasture workshops and other events from Agriculture Victoria.

We look forward to the remaining of the year and encourage all Victorian Central Region members and prospective members to contact the committee with questions, suggestions and feedback.



Photo 2



The Story of a Mongolian Ger Lined with Alpaca Fibre

Meet the alpaca farmers from the South QLD and Northern NSW Region of the AAA, who also happen to be Alpaca Artisans - JASK Farm, Tal'ngai Alpacas and friends Barbara Fischer and Jenny Jennings. Together, these artists process fibre from their alpacas to create yarn, jewellery, garments, home furnishings, toys, accessories and now a Mongolian Ger (yurt).

The frame and outer covering of the Ger were made in Queensland, by Scott at Beech Mountain Yurts. The internal walls are lined with alpaca hand felted panels. It took three months to complete the stunning panels which show the stunning colours and textures of alpaca fibre.

"The support and feedback we have received regarding our Ger and display has been phenomenal, and we look forward to a visit from you in the near future."

JASK Farm & Tal'ngai Alpacas (Alpaca Artisans)

The Ger measures 6m in diameter and the centre crown is 2.75m high. There are five wall panels made of a curved lattice that are laced together. It also boasts a beautifully fitted canvas outer covering to provide weather protection.

This Ger has become a mobile studio and art installation, which is taken to festivals and special events. It takes around two and a half hours to erect, plus time to set up their display and products inside. This clever group of alpaca artisans have also created an interactive "Paddock to Product" experience which showcases beautiful animals, the fibre processing journey and finished products. It also gives them an opportunity to share their amazing knowledge and skills with others.

Recently, they attended the Summer Land Camel Farm Arts Festival at Harrisville. This was the first outing with the Ger, and they were thrilled to come home with second place in the "People's Choice Award".

You may be able to see the Ger at an upcoming event in 2019: 9 - 11 August - Camel Races at Summer Land Camel Farm, Harrisville QLD

19 & 20 plus 26 & 27 October -

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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

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BY SHARON DAWSON



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The Shearing Competition this year consisted of 6 shearers and two roustabouts, all the Shearers and one o fetch Rosustabouts were generously sponsored. John Hay was our MC and Geoff Smith was this years Judge. The following were our entrants and their placings

This Competition was started four years ago to try to enable an entry point for our up and coming young shearers, to entice new shearers into the industry and also to strengthen our pool of current shearers, whilst giving them all an opportunity to showcase their skills to breeders and members of the public at the Sydney Royal Show. The competition is growing and evolving rapidly with lots of support and interest.

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

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

National Show

EPIC Canberra August 23rd-25th 2019

2019 we welcome the **Alpaca National Show** back to Canberra after many years.



National Show/
EPIC Canberra
August 23rd -
25th 2019

BY Sharon Dawson

The Australian Alpaca Nationals, the most prestigious alpaca event in the country returns to Canberra after many years, taking place August 23-25.

This flagship event will see the best of Australian breeding judged by top judges. This year the halter judges are Peter Kennedy-Gane and Natasha Clark. The fleece judge is Shane Carey, and the Fibre Art & Products Judge is Liudmila Abramova.

Holding the show in Canberra is a great way to celebrate our National Office in Canberra. The RNCAS is extremely keen to assist in promoting and providing our members and the public of Canberra a fabulous alpaca show.

Convenor Sharon Dawson says "I have been convening shows for 9 years now and am excited to take on the mammoth task of a National, with a great working team we have new initiatives and some exciting surprises in the pipeline".

The show is open to members of the public and all visitors are welcome. We plan to have the best of the best animals exhibited, as well as a fleece show that will shine a spotlight on the superb quality of Australian fleece. The fibre arts and product show will be a true celebration of alpaca product.

The Alpaca of the State announcement, presentations, youth events, fashion show, camel rides are just a few of the exciting events that the organising committee have planned. "We hope that many of our members will come and support the alpaca industry while we showcase this diverse sustainable farming alternative to Canberra."

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2019 JUDGES INTAKE WEEKEND

part 1

by TARYAN MATHEWS



THIS CRITIQUE IS OFTEN USED BY BREEDERS TO HELP THEM DECIDE THE NEXT STEPS IN THEIR BREEDING PROGRAM.

In 2013 I had no idea what I was about to put myself through. You may think you know what you're doing when it comes to alpacas, but do you really know when almost all of Australia's judges, some of which have been judging since before you were born, are watching

your every move and analysing your every word? Apparently, not necessarily! By the end of a gruelling weekend of assessment and stress, I was both drained and, quite honestly, overwhelmed. But this experience showed me a lot about myself and made me look more deeply into what it was that judging entailed. It's not all glitz and glam for a start! It was extremely cold and muddy actually. Trying to place 6 animals and give a detailed and accurate presentation as to why the 6 were placed the way you placed them, while your teeth chattered uncontrollably (nerves or cold? Not sure!) is not easy! Nor is it easy to judge fleeces when you can't even feel your fingers and the timer is ticking away mercilessly. But this is a perfect example of exactly what our judges face. Imagine standing in front of breeders who've been in it from the beginning, with their best animals in hand, and having to place and speak about their animals. Now do this in the middle of winter, in a shed, with fans cycling the cold air around, and all eyes on you. Really, the assessments were no more

confronting than judging a show. And these intakes need to find those of us who can do that with a humble confidence and willingness to always listen and learn.

Fast forward to 2019. Now to start with, the 2019 Judges Intake will go down as one of my absolute favourite experiences! And that wasn't just because of the incredible facilities, hospitality, and food on offer from our brilliant hosts! I spent 2 and a half days bonding and laughing with some of the most brilliant people you could ever have had the luck of meeting and working with. It was an extremely supportive group of participants, with a strong sense of comradery. We were all happy to just be there, being given the opportunity to offer our services to the industry we all love and have devoted ourselves to.

Though still stressful, and with similar assessments, this intake had a distinctly different feel. Participants and assessors almost never stopped enjoying themselves. There was nothing but support for each other and, somehow, standing in front of all our top judges suddenly didn't seem quite so daunting. Even being interviewed really wasn't that scary.

However, before we even got to the assessment part, much more important matters had to be addressed.

Behaviour and ethics. Lyn Dickson gave a wonderful talk on why this is, quite possibly, the most important aspect of judging. Judges are the role models of the industry. Their opinion is held in high regard and is often sought by new and old breeders alike. They are also the face of the industry in a lot of way. Expectations are always there. In a way, our judges are always on show. As such, the ability to do the job on the day is only a small part of the demands placed on their shoulders.

Your own health. Adrienne Clarke eloquently pointed out that judging is hard, and stressful, and no it is not for everyone (and you may well realise that along your journey). You need to find a way to be in the right head space and physical capacity to do a very physically and mentally demanding job. On the day, if you are not up to the task it will show.

Conformation. Alpacas are livestock and as such they must be functional. A great fleece is worth nothing on an animal that cannot look after itself and breed successfully. A reminder of how essential correct conformation is was the very first thing we were given. Personally, I was so happy to see such emphasis placed on it!

Oral presentations. I'm sure we are all aware of just how hard it is to get up in front of a room of incredibly knowledgeable people, and talk. Now add in a carefully and specifically formulated delivery. Oh, and do not be inaccurate because that room of people will know if you are! So, what better way to learn than to be given a box of inanimate objects, and told to stand up in front of a group and place them? This may sound ridiculous but I can tell you, if you can be put on the spot and place a line-up of chocolates, or toy cars, or items from the toolbox in a convincing and confident manner, you can do the same with alpacas!

Finally, fleece. Judging alpacas, be it suri or huacaya, is a weigh up of all the different fleece - and conformational - traits. Ultimately, one must be able to scrutinise these traits in a short space of time then place them in a way that leaves us with the most complete package coming out on top.

All in all, both in 2013 and in 2019 I learnt a lot. I learnt a lot about myself. I learnt a lot about the people I was participating with. I learnt a lot about the demands of judging. Ultimately, I am certain that our industry is in very capable hands. Every single person there wants to

see it thrive for a long time to come, and every single one was extremely talented when it comes to alpacas. I, for one, absolutely commend all organisers, trainers, and assessors on a brilliant weekend and do not, for a second, envy the difficult task they are now facing in picking who to take forward to phase two and then to apprenticeships. Thanks to all organisers, fellow participants, volunteers, and assessors alike for such an exciting, challenging, and fantastic experience! The weekend was such a remarkable success which could never have happened without all of you!

ULTIMATELY, I AM CERTAIN THAT OUR INDUSTRY IS IN VERY CAPABLE HANDS. EVERY SINGLE PERSON THERE WANTS TO SEE IT THRIVE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, AND EVERY SINGLE ONE WAS EXTREMELY TALENTED WHEN IT COMES TO ALPACAS.



Photos Marc Mullette

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

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

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KIWICK ALPACA™ SHEARING TABLE

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

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



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

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

Be a Squirrel!!

BY **Angela Smith**

I was recently reading an article about being successful in business. The article was about being a squirrel and not a puppy. Sounds strange but stay with me on this one. What I can say now is that squirrels have become my second favourite animal, coming second to alpacas of course. The article started with a man, Matt, who lives in the USA, telling a story about how he was trying to stop the squirrels from getting into his 'squirrel-proof' bird feeder. Yeah right – 'squirrel-proof....not likely!



He used to chase squirrels away, yell at them, throw things, etc. He was a little out of control! In the article Matt remembers going to the hardware store and complaining to the old guy called Bob that worked in the landscape section about his war on the neighbourhood squirrels. After he explained it all, Bob asked Matt how much time he spent each day thinking of ways to keep the squirrels out of his bird feeders. It was laughable, even though it was probably more than Matt should have been spending but it was way less than 30 minutes a day. Bob then said, "That damn squirrel thinks about the bird seed and bird feeder from the time it wakes up until the time it goes to sleep. Its sole desire is to get the seed inside the feeder. Nothing you can do can keep that critter out of the feeder when it's got determination like that!" Bob was right and the lesson applies to us all! When you are laser-focused on your task and what you want to accomplish, you are unstoppable! You need to understand your 'bird seed' and then spend every waking moment thinking and planning how to get it. Matt's puppy, called Bailey, on the other hand was anything but laser-focused.

He chases and gets distracted by anything that makes noise or moves. Often people in business are more like puppies but they need to be more like squirrels. In business, people try to identify their niche and target market but every opportunity that comes along catches their eye (the 'shiny object syndrome'), much like a puppy with his new toys. Matt goes on to say: 'Most people in business are just like the puppy described. Chasing after every shiny penny that comes across its path. Squirrels know where it's at though. Laser-focused on the prize, fighting non-stop until it they have reached their goal'. My lesson learnt from reading this article?

I am the squirrel and my bird seed is alpaca yarn and fibre. I spend every waking moment thinking and dreaming about dying and selling stunning Australian grown and produced alpaca fibre and yarn, not getting distracted by other business opportunities. I have found my niche and much like the squirrel I am laser focussed on my 'bird seed'. My lesson learnt and shared....understand and focus on what your customers want and need. Do you know what they want? Do you know what they need? Do you know what makes them become repeat customers? Are you connected to your customers? Do you understand their connections? Do you understand where they are coming from? So many questions.... but questions asked and answered will give you the perspective to focus on your business. Once you understand the customer's wants and needs then focus your attention in producing the best quality products that you can. This may include making hard decisions about your alpacas, your product ranges, your fleece preparation, your marketing strategies, your social media presence or your prices. In business things shift, trends change and customers come and go and we need to be ready when these changes occur but never forget your core business. Previously, my business focus was a little bit of yarn and mainly finished products (e.g. scarves and beanies) however I quickly understood, from chatting to my customers, that people wanted to make their own products. Yes I still make the occasional alpaca beanie but my core business is yarn. I moved with my customers' needs and wants whilst still focusing on my bird seed. We also need to understand that whilst we need to be flexible and move with what our customers are wanting, in business it is very important to focus on the core of business - your bird seed. What is yours? Remember: like the squirrel, keep your eye on the prize and grind it out. You'll be amazed at how much you can accomplish in a very short period of time when you are laser-focused. Like Matt says: "You want to grow and succeed in business? Be a squirrel, not a puppy"





From Paddock to Product

Alpaca Fibre Barn

The *Alpaca Fibre Barn* is a boutique fibre processing mill with a focus on the environment.

This solar-powered mill, set in the hills north east of Melbourne, specialises in processing alpaca into many end products, including batts, corespun yarn, rovings, and yarn in a range of weights.

Mix your similar colours together into one big batch to reduce waste, or process individual fleeces. Choose from a variety of finishes from skeins to balls or cones; in quantities that suit you.

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Newhaven Wildlife Restoration Project



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.

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 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.

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

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.

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.



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.



Dunbar's Run Alpacas are based in the beautiful Hawkesbury region in NSW.



on our genetics. Our focus is on producing a consistent line of animals that show great conformation, good temperament, density, low micron & SD.

We regularly attend shows and this year the Sydney Royal Easter Show was a highlight in our show program winning the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show Most Successful Small Exhibitor In Show. We also were awarded Supreme black in both Fleece and Halter at the 2018 Hawkesbury Colour show, as well as competing at The Australian Alpaca Spectacular for the first time.

Dunbar's Run is a passion project run by husband & wife team, Emma & Sean Timmony. Our Alpaca journey started back in 2013 when we fell in love with two wethers named Raf & Leo. We were hooked and within two years had our first breeding females.

In the beginning we were focused on white and light fawn huacaya. The 2017 National Auction saw us take a new direction for our stud as we decided to add beautiful blacks to our white and light fawn breeding program.

We have handpicked our genetic lines from some of the best bloodlines in Australia and we are dedicated to breeding exceptional stud stock. We are constantly striving to improve



Services

Shearing

Stud services - with live cria guarantee

Quality Stud stock and breeding packages available

Wethers for sale

Skirting tables made to order

Farm visits by appointment

Emma & Sean Timmony

0412 177 577 0417 272 937

DunbarsRunAlpacas@gmail.com

www.dunbarsrunalpacas.com.au



An open letter to new alpaca owners or potential owners

Dear Newbie,

We are so excited you're considering alpacas! We love new people joining us in this adventure! Alpacas are beautiful, sweet, curious, and unique! Due to their uniqueness, sometimes we may suggest something that will improve your alpaca ownership experience. Please don't consider us rude. Our goal isn't to discourage you, but to prevent discouragement in the future.

When we tell you that alpacas are herd animals and require other alpacas, we aren't trying to make you buy from us. We have seen a lonely alpaca light up like a Christmas tree when introduced to other alpacas. We have watched the herd dynamics and realise that these animals require companionship with like animals.

When we tell you that alpacas don't make good bottle babies or indoor pets it's not because we don't think they are adorable. It's because we've watched an overhandled alpaca go berserk and be put down due to mishandling.

When we tell you that alpacas are more difficult to keep with other livestock it's not because we enjoy watching you put in more pastures. It's because we don't want you to witness an alpaca that was fine months ago suddenly go down due to parasites after put in with goats.

When we tell you that alpacas need to be shorn yearly it's not because we like watching you find a shearer. It's because we've watched an animal convulse from heat exhaustion and fight for their lives.

When we say that you can't mix male and female alpacas it's not because we don't want you having a cria. It's because we don't want you to have to deal with the infertility, stress, and infection that comes from overbreeding.

Dear Newbie - when we offer information it's because we love these animals and want you to have a good experience. Please consider what we say, learn from our trial and error, and don't brush us off.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A 10+ year alpaca owner



Reproduced with permission from Amy Pomerantz, Jolly Rancher Alpacas, USA (pictured)

NSW

Alpaca Youth Group at the Sydney Royal Easter Show

Little Hands on the Land

Little Hands on the Land is a fantastic initiative for young children to experience what activities you would have to do while on a farm, and also introducing them to animals they might not have seen before. The NSW Youth Group has been a part of the Little Hands on the Land for a couple of years now, and each year the alpacas are always a favourite. Members from the youth group stand in the pen with the alpacas for the 12 days of the show. They answer any questions and allow the general public to get up close and personal with the alpacas. Visitors to Little Hands cannot believe how soft and incredible they are, so it was amazing to be able to provide them with the opportunity. The NSW Alpaca Youth Group volunteered their time to be a part of the Little Hands on the Land alpaca section and are to be commended for their hard work, as it was long days but very rewarding.

Samantha Hayward



Alpacas at the Front Entry

2019 Sydney Royal Easter Show was a fabulous time for the NSW Youth Group. This year, not only did we assist in the Little Hands on the Land initiative in providing and educating young children about alpacas, but we also had the pleasure of having alpacas greet people at the front entry. We were given a pen that had a farm house background to it, and people from our youth group stood there all day holding some extremely well-behaved alpacas at the fence. This allowed the public to touch them, take photos with them and ask the handlers any questions they have about alpacas. This was very rewarding, as it was the first time many of the public had been that close to an alpaca and was a great welcome and start to many people's Easter Show experience. The members of the NSW Youth Group did an awesome job volunteering their time in providing that opportunity for the public, and we cannot thank them enough for the effort they put in.

Christie Hayward



Vale Julienne Gelber



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death, after a short illness, of Julienne Gelber on 14 June 2019. Julienne was awarded Life Membership of the AAA at the 2018 AGM.

Julienne's involvement with alpacas began nearly 25 years ago and her contribution to the development of the industry, with her passion for both huacaya and suri fibre, is immeasurable. Her depth of understanding of genetics, of rare natural fibres and of processing was without parallel. The scientific rigour of her approach to the development of the fibre on her animals and to the processing of that fibre was unique. This began 22 years ago with the production of alpaca blankets at an English woollen mill (two further blanket runs were to follow), and moved on to include the promotion of Australian alpaca fibre, including suri, at the Pitti Filati fibre fair in Milan; it encompassed the "Surissimo" project taking suri fibre through to a woven fabric in New Zealand, and participation in, and collection of fibre for, the SRS project. This culminated in a further run of blankets produced late last year in Italy as a collaborative project with other alpaca breeders. Her numerous academic papers and articles on breeding and processing brought together global research and was supported by visits to major processing hubs around the world. All of this information was willingly and freely shared with anyone wanting to listen and learn from a pioneer and a visionary in the world of alpaca fibre.

In addition to her fibre development work, Julienne played an active part in supporting regional and national committees, shows and events – with many experiencing her hospitality in offering up her home and shearing shed for workshops and fibre collections. She trained as an alpaca judge and made major contributions to refinement of the breed standards for suri and huacaya.

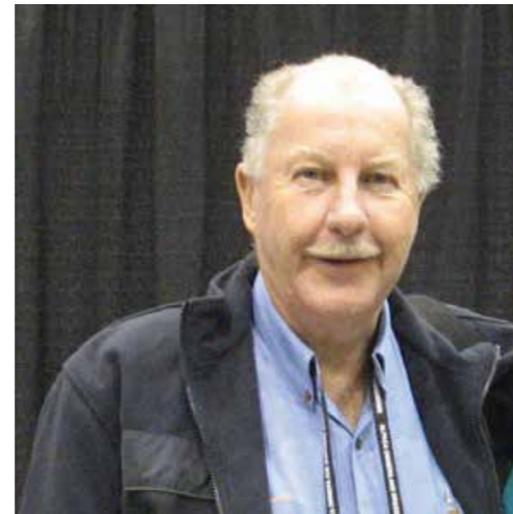
Above all Julienne will be remembered by many for her mentorship, her friendship and her support, always offered without compromise or comparison and with an ability to remain both strong to her own beliefs but also to bring unity through her wisdom and humility. One of the most generous, selfless and ethical people in our industry, taken from us way too soon.

Julienne was an inspirational member of the alpaca industry and will live on in the genetics of her animals which are now spread through many suri and huacaya herds throughout Australia. Tears are flowing for the loss of Julienne, but her legacy remains and will be built upon by those committed to the future of alpaca fibre.

Our thoughts are with Frank and the family.

In Memory

Vale Graeme Dickson



For Graeme the alpaca odyssey began in 1992 when, with wife Lyn, Warralinga Alpaca Stud came into being.

With management skills developed over the years in business, Graeme played a key role in the formation of the Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains NSW Region. Always with a view to ensuring a viable future for this fledgling industry, he was the driving force – making things happen.

Throughout the next 20 years or so he took on a number of roles on the executive: Treasurer, Vice President and President. Indeed, this final role was his for so many years, on and off, that many started to refer to him as "President for Life". That's the real problem with doing such a great job, no one else feels they can live up to your standards.

During this time, Graeme also managed a number of local initiatives, including the very successful annual Alpaca Fiesta and Auction put on by the Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains region.

Obviously, this wasn't enough of a challenge and so, between 1995 and 1998 Graeme served as the Australian Alpaca Association National Vice President.

In 1995 Graeme convened the first AAA National Show to be held in NSW at the Randwick Racecourse. He also worked to stage the Sydney Royal alpaca section in the very early days at the old Moore Park Showground and then helped coordinate the move of the alpaca section to Homebush where it now resides – a tribute to the man, bigger and better than ever.

1995 also saw Graeme's involvement with the first alpaca event at the Hawkesbury Show, the 2nd largest agricultural show in Australia. This year we celebrated 25 years of alpacas at the show, with an entry of some 150 animals.

Over the years this tireless man maintained his involvement with both the National Show & Sale and Sydney Royal Easter Shows – two of the most important alpaca shows in Australia and both mammoth undertakings.

Graeme's true alpaca passion was the fleece. He was instrumental in establishing alpaca fleece standards, alpaca fleece-classing courses and an alpaca classing agreement between the AAA and AWEX.

For a period of some 14 years, together with Lyn, Graeme conducted the "Introduction to Alpacas" course at Richmond TAFE. A number of current alpaca breeders claim participation in this course as the reason they chose to follow their dreams.

Shearing at Warralinga was always an epic event. Whereas for some of us this was rather a haphazard event, under Graeme's leadership everything was regimented. Mid-side samples had previously been taken and so the quality of each fleece was known on the day. Heaven help anyone who accidentally put legs in with necks! Fleeces were immediately skirted and then weighed, details recorded on computer and set aside in the correct bales for processing.

Graeme was also the driving force behind the annual "Getting Started with Alpacas" workshop conducted by the Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains region. His enthusiasm for this fabulous fibre was infectious and his willingness to teach was limitless.

In 2005, the AAA acknowledged Graeme's contribution to the industry by awarding what was then only the 5th Life Membership, joining the illustrious company of Allan Jinks, Ken Allston, Bill Plunkett & Roger Haldane.

The world has lost a true gentleman, a man of quiet wisdom, genuine support for the Australian alpaca industry a friend and inspiration to many.



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 Laliq 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.

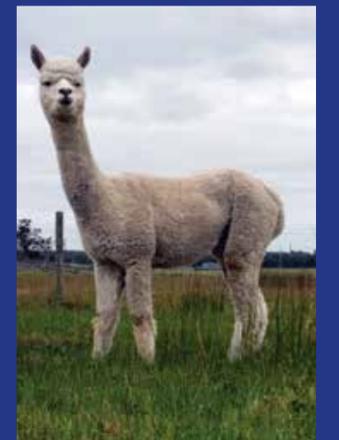
Matings available, all enquiries welcome.



Kallarroo Park Jassar



Kallarroo Park Laliq



Just Jessie



Beaufort Animal
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