



# ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

ONLINE

An official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association

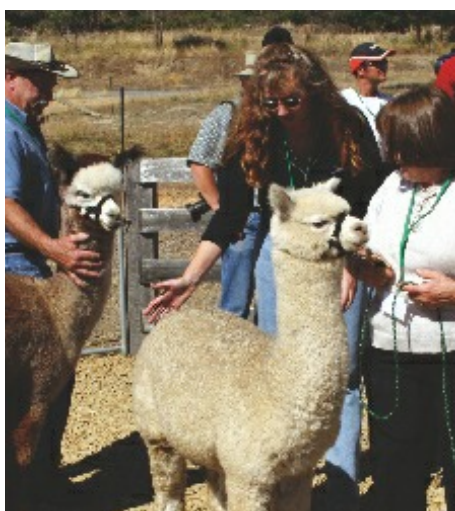




Join us for our very popular residential weekend for new alpaca breeders at Flowerdale Estate. These "Introduction to Alpacas" workshops attract participants from all over Australia and New Zealand.

#### *The Program.*

Workshops include classroom learning and hands-on sessions in the barn working with the alpacas. Participants learn the basics: halter training, chuckering, weighing, body-condition-scoring, nutrition, mating, spit-offs, birthing, cria care, weaning, shearing, fibre classing, vaccinations, drenching, toenail trimming, business plans and record keeping.



There are sessions on goal setting, genetic advancements (SRS and AGE data usage), selecting quality alpacas, farm plans, pasture improvement, herd development strategies, succeeding in the show ring and marketing alpacas.

#### *The Venue.*

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning, retreat for up to 60 people. Stay in luxury accommodation and let the chefs tempt you with their delicious menus. These workshops have provided a wonderful opportunity for new breeders to network, socialize and have fun. Many lasting friendships have started at these weekends.

#### *The Weekend Package.*

Make it a special weekend of learning and leisure. Play some tennis. Workout in the gym. Enjoy a sauna or challenge someone to a game of pool. At the end of the day, relax with a pre-dinner drink and a savoury or two.



## WORKSHOPS FOR NEW BREEDERS.

The complete weekend price per couple is \$625. Singles are \$425. The package includes accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, use of recreational facilities, workshop tuition and course materials.

#### *Bookings.*

Attendance numbers are limited and fill quickly. Complete details including the weekend program, directions and booking forms are on the website now at [www.flowerdalealpacas.net](http://www.flowerdalealpacas.net)

Or phone Jen on 03 9728 7070.



*Details on website*

[www.flowerdalealpacas.net](http://www.flowerdalealpacas.net)

*Sign up today.*

FLOWERDALE ESTATE  
ALPACAS

# Contents



**Publisher**

Alpacas Australia Online is published by the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

ABN 30 067 146 481    ACN 067 146 481

Unit 2, 613 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia  
(PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132)

Telephone +61 (0)3 9873 7700    Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711  
Email: [alpaca@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:alpaca@alpaca.asn.au)    Internet: [www.alpaca.asn.au](http://www.alpaca.asn.au)

**Designed and Produced**

By Oak Grove Graphics  
PO Box 4059, Candelo NSW 2550  
Telephone +61 (0)2 6493 2036  
Email: [info@oakgrovegraphics.com.au](mailto:info@oakgrovegraphics.com.au)  
Web: [www.oakgrovegraphics.com.au](http://www.oakgrovegraphics.com.au)

**Copyright**

All material appearing in Alpacas Australia Online is copyright.  
Reproduction in whole or part is not permitted without the  
written permission of the publisher.

**Liability**

Views expressed by the contributors to this publication, and the  
advertisements appearing in this publication, are not necessarily  
endorsed by the Association. Every care is taken in compiling  
the contents of this publication, but the Association assumes no  
responsibility for the accuracy of information contained in the  
text or advertisements.



**Front Cover**  
2011 National Show  
Photograph by Perry Wheeler

Greetings from our President.....4

Alpacas Protect Bush Fire Fighters.....5

News & Views.....6

Christmas Gift Ideas.....7

Australian Alpaca Fleece in Japan.....8

National Show & Sale 2011.....10

Life Membership Awards.....17

Heat Stress in Alpacas in Australia.....18

Year of the Farmer Launched.....21

Semen Cryopreservation in Alpacas.....25

Sydney Royal 2011.....27

Knitting Patterns .....29

Royal Round Up 2011.....31

Commercialising The Industry.....35

Business Directory.....37

**Advertisors**

Flowerdale Estate Alpacas.....2

Alpaca Dynamics.....9

Stevley Park Suris.....16

Softfoot Alpacas.....20

Paltarra Park Alpacas.....22

Venetia Somerset.....22

Currabungla Alpacas.....23

Mark & Helen Jessop.....23

Surilana.....24

Grandeverge.....30

Alpaca Panache.....30

Creswick Woollen Mills.....32

Millpaca.....33

Absolutely Alpaca.....34

Daisybank Alpacas.....37

Micronman.....37

Fibre Naturally.....37

Braidwood Alpaca Shop.....37

Truleen Downs.....37

The Alpaca Emporium.....37



# Greetings from our President

Dear Members,

We all have different viewpoints on just where our industry is at right now. From my perspective, I see that two things have unmistakably evolved in the last 12 months.

The first is in relation to our improved genetics and that is clearly evident in the show ring, although you don't have to show to know from your own statistics that your herd has improved.

The second is in relation to the all important uses of our fibre. These are not only becoming more diverse but are also reaching a wider audience.

2012 will see the Association continue to progress a number of strategies; none more so than in the key area of marketing our industry. We are in the final stages of developing our marketing plan and we look forward to rolling out those strategies to you in the New Year.

I also look forward to attending as many State events as I can in 2012, so that I can hear and discuss your concerns, ideas and future aspirations.



As 2011 draws to a close may I take the opportunity to thank:

- My Fellow Directors for their untiring efforts and in particular their support to me as President.
- The staff at the Office for all their accomplishments this year.
- The membership, without who we simply would not be.

To those who celebrate the festive season; I extend my best wishes for a very Happy Christmas.

Happy New Year to all; may 2012 be good to you.

*Jenny McDuffie*

## Vale - Ken Allston

The late Ken Allston

We regret to advise that Ken Allston, Tasmania, formerly of Inca Alpacas passed away peacefully on the 7th October 2011 after a long illness.

Ken was a founding member at the time of the initial formation of the Australian Alpaca Association, served on the Executive for a number of years and was also Chair of the Registration Sub Committee.

In 1996 Ken became the first recipient of an AAA Life Membership.

He was instrumental in establishing the alpaca registry, working extensively with ABRI to set the foundations of the registry as we still know it today.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ken's wife Irene and their two children.



## AAA Office Hours During Christmas/New Year

The office will be closed from Thursday 22nd December 2011, and will be reopening on Tuesday 10th January 2012.



# Alpacas Protect Bush Fire Fighters

Alpacas are well known as effective protectors of flocks but now their fleece will provide protection to humans.

Recently a new product that uses alpaca fibre as a core ingredient was recognised at the Bendigo Inventor of the Year Awards – Mike Taylor of Manduarang South, Victoria won the \$10,000 Innovator of the Year Award for his 'Fair Air' fire mask

Mike has long been well aware of what smoke can do to a fire fighter – he got a lungful of smoke fighting his first fire back in his teens. He has fought many fires since, mainly during his time in the Army. About ten years ago he was working in Canberra and volunteered with the ACT Bush Fire Service. Issued his Personal Protective Equipment – boots rated to 300°C, Proban treated uniform, helmet, gloves, goggles, etc – he asked “What about my lungs?” and was told to use an old nappy!

He thought there had to be something better than that, but found out that there really wasn't. The various masks available were either made from synthetics (potential to melt on the skin), were too hot to wear for long, interfered with speech or helmet, simply collapsed when wet or really didn't seal properly.

He decided to make one himself with the prime aim being that only natural, fire-resistant materials would be in contact with the wearer's skin.

Other design aims he set were:

- Provide effective seal for all face types
- Easy to breathe through
- Comfortable to wear for long periods
- Reusable
- Maintain awareness of proximity to radiant heat
- One size fits all
- Quick to put on /take off
- Easy to store.



After considering and rejecting many materials one day Mike happened to visit the alpaca show in Canberra. It was a very fortuitous event for him – he won a dozen bottles of wine in the raffle, but more importantly found a potential new material – alpaca. One of the stalls was selling alpaca felt to be cut for shoe insoles. Mike thought there were possibilities, bought some, and after some tests regarded alpaca as very promising.

Next was to find out where it was made. At another alpaca show (was he hoping for another dozen wine?) he asked a few stallholders if they had any idea of the origin of the felt. One was Trevor Beuth from Kelly & Windsor. Trevor said that he had a fair idea but when Mike said what he intended to use it for Trevor suggested that his company might be able to make something even better.

The result is an alpaca material that is an ideal external element for the filters taking out a lot of the smoke particulates yet being non-irritating to the skin and highly fire resistant.

Testing by the CSIRO showed that the particulate efficiency was high and the addition of other material inside the alpaca raised it to outstanding - 100% for particles 5 micron and above and still 98.6% for 0.3 micron. The filter uses coloured alpaca fleece for the external side and white for the internal.

The filters are held in fire resistant cotton holders with the main component being a stretchy eyelet material with elastic for comfort and Velcro connectors.

The CSIRO also tested it for fire resistance and found that it is the first respirator to pass the two International Standards for protective clothing for protection against heat and flame – ISO 15025:2000 Method of Test for Limited Flame Spread and ISO 9151:1995 (E) Determination of Heat Transmission on Exposure to Flame.

A small production run of the masks has been done and it is anticipated that full production will commence prior to Christmas. The final product has met all Mike's design aims.

Hopefully all the Australian fire agencies will soon provide this missing bit of protective equipment to our bushfire fighters with resulting increased demand for alpaca fleece.

Mike can be contacted on his company email at [danetaylor@bigpond.com](mailto:danetaylor@bigpond.com).

# News & Views

## General News

Do you want to sell your fleece or have it processed? Check the [AAA Web Site](#) to see who is buying or processing fleece.

Check the Calendar of Events on the [AAA Web Site](#) to see events near you.

**HAVE YOU MOVED?**  
Or have you changed your contact details?

Please remember to notify AAA National Office of address changes including - telephone, fax, email and web site changes if applicable

Let us know by:  
Phone +61 (0) 3 9873 7700  
Fax +61 (0) 3 9873 7711  
Email: [alpaca@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:alpaca@alpaca.asn.au)



Merry Christmas

### How to make the most of your online magazine

The AAA online magazine is hosted on the [www.issuu.com](http://www.issuu.com) online magazine web site.

Registering with Issuu is FREE & this will allow you to download a copy of the magazine in PDF format to read at your leisure.

Just click on the small grey Issuu watermark bottom right of your screen when viewing the magazine to go to the Issuu website to register, then login & you will have the download option made available to you in the magazine controls.

To quickly view pages throughout the magazine you can just click on the small thumbnail images along the bottom the page.



**10-12th April 2012,**

**Keble College, Oxford**  
[www.alpaca2012.com](http://www.alpaca2012.com)

### Camelid Cadillac

New Alpaca Transport company.  
Affordable luxury alpaca transport.  
Regular connections to all states.

Contact Brett Winterbine on:

Phone: 0400 053 115  
[www.camelidcadillac.com.au](http://www.camelidcadillac.com.au)



### Book review - Should Meat be on the Menu?

*By Terry Naughtin, Consulting Agronomist, Ballina, NSW.*

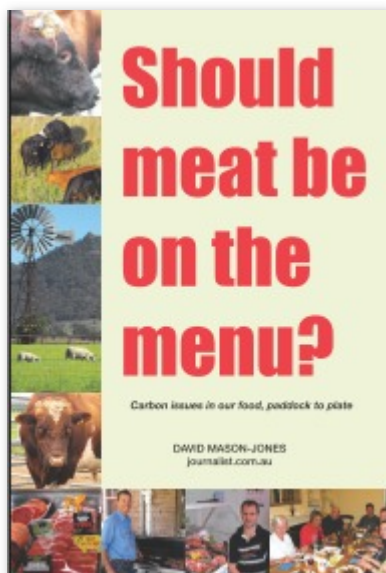
In his book, 'Should meat be on the menu?' David Mason-Jones, has done an excellent job in suggesting that readers look a bit deeper into the real issues surrounding cattle and their carbon emissions. He has done this without being confrontational.

The book is easy to read and flows logically through a series of subjects gradually getting into more complicated issues. The writer has tackled a complicated subject using simple non technical language that the layman can easily understand.

Mason-Jones has thought through the issues and addressed them in a balanced, common sense manner. He has done a good job of systematically debunking myths in a non aggressive, non partisan way. He has also introduced some new concepts (at least new to me) like Carbon Legacy. Whilst we use the term Legacy when talking about salinity, I have not heard it used when talking about Carbon. He has correctly identified the real issue of nutrient transfer as a major environmental problem in farming, not carbon emissions. He has done a good job debunking the methane myth. His arguments against forestry, and in favour of the maintenance of natural grasslands, are very convincing.

All in all, it is a refreshing, original contribution to the environmental debate. The book deserves to be widely read.

Price: \$29.50 Available for purchase from Grand Verge - [Click here](#)





# Christmas Gift Ideas



## Show Fleece Bags

Price: Small \$15 or Large \$16.50

Available from: Azul Products

Contact: Debra Knight

Phone: 0407 587 405

[www.azulproducts.com.au](http://www.azulproducts.com.au)

Colours: Sapphire, Emerald, Scarlet, Pale Grey, Purple, Pale Yellow and Black.



## Plush Alpaca Toy

Price: \$29

Available from: The Alpaca Emporium

Contact: Trish or Jim Thornberry

Phone: 02 6760 9590

[www.theralpacaemporium.com.au](http://www.theralpacaemporium.com.au)



## Alpaca Knitting Yarn

Price: From \$8.50 per ball

Available from: Alpaca Ultimate

Contact: Penny Pittard

Phone: 02 4837 3394

Web: [www.alpacaultimate.com.au](http://www.alpacaultimate.com.au)

Large range of colours



## Alpaca Scarf

Available from: The Australian Alpaca Barn

Manufactured in Australia from Australian Alpaca Fleece.

90% alpaca, 10% merino

Price \$69 (Beanie & gloves also available)

Phone for details 02 4933 5787



**Alpaca throw rug** - Made in Australia by Creswick Woollen Mills  
\$229 - Now \$160 see specials online at [www.creswickwool.com.au](http://www.creswickwool.com.au)

# Australian Alpaca Fleece in Japan

The AAA has established a small foothold for the use of Australian alpaca fibre in traditional Japanese fabric. The opportunity arose as a result of a sister State relationship between Western Australia and the Hyogo prefecture in southern Japan. The supply of some sample alpaca (huacaya) tops allowed the Ozawa textile company to produce some beautiful silky scarves which feature a blend of cotton, silk and Australian alpaca and which has stimulated a further demand for Australian alpaca.

## Banshu textile:

Incredibly expensive and difficult to produce, for years the grand couturiers have been binding, stitching, folding and twisting their own cloth in a bid to create unique, and elaborate patterns.

The highly specialised Japanese technique process is called 'Banshu' and it allows designers to dye yarns in advance and then weave patterns into them. In essence it is a very expensive and intricate method of tie-dye. Hyogo prefecture, located on Honshu Island in Japan's south is the traditional home for the manufacture of this beautiful cloth.

## Sister State relationships:

Since its establishment in 1981, there has been a Sister State Relationship between Hyogo Prefecture and the State of Western Australia and WA has maintained an office in Kobe, capital of Hyogo Prefecture since 1989 as a part of the Sister state relationship.

It has helped set up the Hyogo Banshu scholarship program to establish a link between the Western Australian and Japanese fashion industries. In Hyogo the young WA designers have their designs transformed into quality fabrics by the world-class Hyogo Banshu textile industry.

The programme is co-ordinated by the departments of State Development; and Culture and the Arts and the Western Australian Government Kobe Office in Japan. A scholarship programme in 2010-11 enabled six students to travel to Japan and work with world class textile manufacturers in the Hyogo Prefecture - this program is being repeated in 2011-12



The shawls presented to the Australian Alpaca Association

## Cooperation Opportunities;

When I learnt of the program I felt that there may be some opportunity to introduce Australian alpaca to this initiative. With the support of the WA Department of State Development and Ms Horiko Hirata the Regional Director of the WA Governments Kobe office in Japan, contacts were established between the AAA and Mr Kunihide Ozawa, the President of Ozawa Textile.

## Ozawa Textile;

Ozawa Textile is highly regarded in Japan, was established in 1918 and specialise in this traditional technique of weaving and dying, they do not spin the yarn themselves but this is carried out by another company in Japan.

Mr Ozawa visited Perth in 2010 when we had the opportunity to provide him with a gift of a beautiful knitted alpaca scarf produced by Chris Pietraszak. We also undertook to supply some coloured alpaca tops for them to trial in the Banshu product.

## Supplying the alpaca Tops;

The fawn and grey tops were supplied by Alpaca Ultimate and produced by Cashmere Connections and turned into yarn in Japan.

*Certificates of Origin* showing the linkage to Western Australian growers is seen as an important part of the story to reinforce the mutual benefits of the Sister State relationship.

David and Frances Harding from Cinderella Alpacas are to be thanked for skirting coloured fleeces in the heat of the Australian summer and while not in the best of health, a thankless task.

Arranging the supply of the tops was not without some drama; however we managed to overcome each of them and delivered the test material for the initial trials early in 2011.

## The Banshu product incorporating alpaca;

When Mr Ozawa returned to Perth for the Perth fashion festival in September 2011 he presented us with some scarves / wraps produced by them using the Banshu technique and these were made using the traditional techniques and from 10% alpaca, 25% silk and 65% cotton. These are delightful light and lustrous garments which may actually offer an opportunity for the use of Suri fibre.

We discussed various technical issues and their experience of alpaca and Mr Ozawa expressed a desire to place commercial orders and to trial Suri fibre.

Samples of the scarves were presented to various dignitaries in both Western Australia and Japan, including to the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Colin Barnett, the Lord Mayor of Perth, the right Hon Lisa Scaffidi.



### Where to from here?

Mr Ozawa is intending to place commercial orders with Cashmere Connections to further build their experience with alpaca and he will also be requesting some samples of Suri as I have suggested that this fibre may lend itself better to the type of garment which they are producing.

The WA Government office in Kobe continues to offer professional and helpful free information that we have been fortunate to be able to access and they willingly provide a liaison with the end user.

What we have learnt from this exercise is that by utilising the resources of the State Government we have been able to take some worthwhile steps in developing demand for our WA alpaca fibre at very little cost. Most of the other States in Australia have sister state (or city) arrangements and these relationships may offer regions the opportunity to develop business relationships utilising the resources and contacts which they offer.

The Hyogo Banshu project is very much seen as a model which may be replicated by other States to stimulate recognition overseas of Australian alpaca farming. The role of AAA in *priming the pump* and stimulating demand is now over and it will be in the hands of commercial interests to further this project.

### AAA Acknowledgements:

Ozawa Textile & the New Banshu Project team

The Government of Western Australia (State Development / Commerce & Trade)

Cashmere Connections – de-hairing and Top making

Fibre of the Gods – Free Samples of various colours of alpaca

Cinderella Alpacas – Supply of coloured fleece

Alpaca Ultimate – Supply of Tops

Chris Pietraszak – Supply of knitted scarf



Mr Ozawa from Ozawa Textile / New Banshu Project discussing the shawls with a group of design students in Perth

# www.alpacadynamics.com.au

## providing health and husbandry products for your alpacas & pets

We are an online supplier, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
with prompt and reliable service.

*Owners Alicia Anderson and Cheryl Kosaras (Regal House Alpacas) have been involved in the alpaca industry for over 15 years. With their passion for ALL animals and extensive knowledge on health and husbandry, owners and breeders are assured they will receive quality service and support.*

alpaca  
dynamics+

OPENING 1st December, 2011  
Enquiries: 0415 904 674 or 02 4573 1177

# National Show & Sale 2011



## Conducting the National Show - by Paul Haslin

Every year our National Show grows into a bigger and better event. It has now reached proportions that cannot be controlled by an individual person. So this year we started again from the ground up with a new concept to take the show beyond a judging competition and encompass activities and displays to engage the public. A multi regional team fleshed out the concept and the National Show, Sale and Expo came into being. Management resources needed to be allocated to each aspect of the event with overarching financial control of what has become a major budget event.

As the convenor of the competition events I had the pleasure of putting together a team of hard working volunteers to bring to life the judging of all elements of the show. Successful convening of a show is all about dealing with thousands of details well ahead of the day then acting as a conductor to make sure the team all play their parts to deliver the show in what, hopefully, appears to be an effortless flow and we are fortunate to have a group of dedicated experts in each area who did just that. The behind the scenes management of the fleece, art and craft sections by enthusiasts with a passion for these elements meant that by show day we had an impressive display of exhibits demonstrating the depth of quality in the fibre side of our industry. For a convenor the best time in a show (other than when it's all over!) is having the judges introduced and seeing the first class parade into the ring.

Dealing with the judges, Rick Hodgson and Ron Reid, was a pleasure as they tackled their task with true professionalism and responded positively to timing prompts, keeping us on schedule all the way. A request by senior judges to let onlookers get closer to the exhibits was delivered during the Best Colour classes. With the judges guiding us through their deliberations via a head-set microphone we were able to understand the rationale for their selections. Then came the magic few minutes in the show ring looking into the fleeces to complete the picture. A judging master class, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In closing I must commend the dedication of the team of stewards both in and out of the ring as well as the co-operation and camaraderie of all the exhibitors. Another National Show is over and we can all be proud of the demonstration of quality, depth and professionalism in the Australian Alpaca industry.



Supreme Champion Huacaya  
Shanbrooke Accoyo Ruling Eyes ET - Shanbrooke



Supreme Champion Suri  
Surilana Illinois - Surilana



## **Animal Judges – Ron Reid & Rick Hodgson**

### **Judge Perspective – Ron Reid**

Firstly, could I say, it was an honour to have been asked along with Rick Hodgson to adjudicate as a Judge at this year's National Show held at Homebush NSW in October.

I believe it is most AAA Judges ambition, to achieve this goal and it was truly a memorable occasion carrying out the duties over the duration of this auspicious event.

Having co-judged with Rick Hodgson on previous occasions (including the NZ National in 2009), it was our intention to ensure the judging was done in a professional and precise manner. It was also our desire, to ensure exhibitors were made to feel as relaxed as possible while in the show ring and that their exhibits were given a thorough and honest assessment at all times. I believe we achieved our goals and feedback from a number of exhibitors verified this point.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the excellent organisation which applied at this show. Mr Paul Haslin and his team should be congratulated for their hard work given so generously to ensure the event was such a success.

I believe the format used in judging the Best of Colours was an excellent idea and very well received by both exhibitors and visitors alike. For those who did not attend the show, I will explain the format.

A portable microphone was attached to either Rick or myself who explained what we actually encountered on each alpaca (both fleece & conformation), which was presented as we judged the various colours prior to the Best Colour sashes being awarded. Once the sash had been awarded for the various colours (both Huacaya & Suri), the audience was invited to inspect all the exhibits for that particular colour/breed.

Finally, congratulations to the exhibitors. The attention, promptness and friendliness which both Rick and I experienced in the show ring throughout the duration of the show was much appreciated. Thank you all.



### **Judge Perspective – Rick Hodgson**

I concur completely with Ron's comments regarding the superb organisation of the Show, and I would like to add a few observations of my own.

The success of this show can be attributed to the numbers of animals – over 600 – and the depth of quality of the animals presented. This in particular was noticeable in the Suris; the quality of the suris surpassed anything I have judged elsewhere in Australia or the world. They are a credit to the breeders.

This in no way detracts from the quality of the huacayas – they were, as always, outstanding. The colours in particular have noticeably improved.

The supremes in both suris and huacayas were stunning.

Congratulations to all participants. It was an honour and pleasure to judge such a quality show.

# National Show & Sale 2011



## Fleece Judge – Kylie Martin

This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> time judging the fleeces at the National.

There was a large number of suri fleeces mainly in the white and light fawn colours of good quality, some of them however had suffered a little having been shown a few times or had started to cross fibre and cot prior to shearing which relates to some lower scoring in some fleeces that would have otherwise scored higher.

The Supreme suri fleece was an older fleece? scoring top points for weight and also exhibiting excellent lustre with a uniform lock and was holding its fineness and handle for its age.

There were a smaller number of coloured suri fleeces with most of them being of good quality and scoring well against the lighter colours.

In the Haucaya section the overall quality of the fleeces has improved immensely with some stunning greys and blacks which I found to have significant increase their weight scores.

Smaller numbers of dark fawn and brown entries than what I have seen in past years but nevertheless the winning fleeces in this section were of a high standard.

The black section seems to grow every year in size and quality. The weights are getting better and gone are the days of small airy fleeces that blow away with the wind!

I had a large number of fleeces which scored very well in weight as well as lock style and density. Across the board I found the microns to be excellent in the blacks with some older fleeces giving the younger ones a run for their money.

The whites and light fawns as always producing some exciting competition amongst the age groups. There was a strong field in contention for supreme with only 1 to ½ a point separating a handful of fleeces. It is really exciting and a pleasure to be judging fleeces of this quality, with crimp style, density and fleece weights getting close to top points.

The Supreme huacaya tested 17 microns and was a very heavy fleece with exceptional crimp style and density of staple. This fleece was also entered in the best commercial fleece section and for the first time I believe that the Supreme fleece has also taken out 1st place in Best Commercial Fleece.

I think this is a great achievement and what we really need to be focusing on as an industry – Our best show fleeces are suitable for commercial production and not just the show ring!



Supreme Suri Fleece - Ambelside Silk Spinner - Ambelside



Supreme Huacaya Fleece & 1st Most Valuable Commercial Fleece.  
Bill Plunkett Perpetual Trophy for Grand Champion Fleece.  
Ambersun Lord Chancellor - Ambersun



## 2011 Breeders' Choice Auction

The 2011 event saw a radical change in format from the conventional style of auction. Whereas in the past the auction generally contained predominantly white or light fawn alpacas, the Breeders' Choice Auction was designed to provide discerning buyers with a range of colours from which to choose.

Born of necessity, the revised auction offered vendors exclusivity of colour and gender - there would only be, for example, one white female Huacaya in the event. By so doing it was envisaged that the competition for inclusion would encourage sellers to nominate their best animals to ensure selection.

Whilst not without teething problems, the format proved to be a great success. Of the 10 animals offered for sale, eight were sold under the hammer, and one sold after negotiation. The gross figure for the auction was \$155,000 plus GST.

The lone suri, Pacofino Black Sabbath, sold for \$18,000 plus GST and the highest priced huacaya, Lillyfield Spades Are Trumps, went for \$31,000 plus GST.

Interestingly, both these animals were solid black males. The average price was \$17,222 plus GST.

Given the competition from major breeders holding their own auctions, there is a need to provide a distinctive point of difference to ensure the continued success of the sale held in conjunction with the National Show.

The Breeders' Choice Auction format may well provide that differential.

John Hay  
Convenor - Breeders' Choice Auction 2011



Carolyn Austin from Lillyfield Alpacas with Lillyfield Spades Are Trumps



# National Show & Sale 2011



## Section Report on the EXPO Section of the 2011 National Show, Sale & EXPO

For the first time since the inception of this event the organizing committee sought and received approval from the AAA Board to incorporate an Expo section into this event.

We adopted the theme of Australian Alpaca Fibre and Products and to this end set aside an exclusive area – the Alpaca Plaza – for the display and sale of Australian made alpaca products. The Plaza attracted seven manufacturers/ processors and it was both impressive and rewarding to see the range on display; garments, knitting yarn, home wares and carpet, all being produced in Australia from Australian alpaca.

The activity area was designed to show how the fleece is removed from an alpaca and transformed into product. We had continuous shearing, skirting of fleeces, carding, felting, spinning and weaving, all thanks to a devoted band of volunteers. The main attraction was the shearing and hands-on felting where the young (and not so young) were taught the skills to make a simple item such as a felted bookmark. The spinners also had several “students” who will hopefully take up the art of alpaca spinning.

An interactive animal nursery was run under the supervision of the teachers and students from the agriculture department at Cranebrook High School, near Penrith. They were kept busy with the display of mothers and crias, some bottle feeding and managing photo opportunities with our scenic alpaca mural which attracted many city visitors. This included Tim Bailey and technicians from Sydney’s Channel 10 weather crew who now claim to be expert alpaca handlers!

Another innovation was the Breeders Booth where serious enquirers could discuss alpacas with experienced breeders; this booth attracting many applications for AAA information kits over and above those received at the official AAA stand.

In summary it was a busy two days which saw many enlightened city visitors to the world of alpacas, their luxurious fleece and products.

Graeme Dickson  
H/BM Region





### **Craft Section - Judge Jennifer Hopper**

The Craft Section Schedule was very comprehensive and gave useful and specific information with detailed explanations and requirements in a helpful manner.

The entries were varied in presentation - some with clearly stated appropriate information and just a few which could have been improved with a little more detail.

The standard of skill shown was very high in general with an excellent Spinning entry from Darrel Laughton, of a skein of handspun suri alpaca – the most outstanding and evenly spun skein I have ever seen taking out the supreme craft award. Entries were varied and it was good to see a number of people 'having a go' and using the show as a learning opportunity.

### **Art & Photography**

The National Show, Sale and Expo for 2011 nearly didn't have an art and photography section. The 2010 show was marred by some breakages of frames and glass in transit, so this year's art and photography section nearly landed in the "too hard basket". It was resurrected with the proposal to scrap the requirement for framing of the photography entries. The photographs were instead to be mounted on cardboard - much easier to post! We received 46 photographs and 7 artworks - slightly fewer than in 2010, but a good range of styles and media nonetheless.

Unlike the photographs, the artworks were to be framed, due to the delicate nature of some of the materials used.

All entries were received in good order and judging was carried out in a very professional manner by Mary-Lou Nickolls, a Fine Arts graduate, whose love for art and photography has resulted in her both teaching art and exhibiting her own work all over the country, as well as fulfilling many private commissions.

Mary- Lou obviously enjoyed the new challenge of judging alpaca related art and photography and was particularly impressed by some of the junior entries, which showed considerable talent by some of our younger members. The junior awards went to Ariana McCauley, Kassandra Di Bona and Katherine Di Bona, all from NSW.

The Champion Photograph in the adult section was a stunning image capturing the interaction between a suri and a playful pet dog. The photo was taken at the ideal moment by Mel Semmler from South Australia, capturing both the playful expression of the dog and the disdain in the face of the alpaca. The runner up was a close-up of a cria's face where even the fly in the photo was in focus. (By Perry Wheeler, SA).

The Champion Senior Artwork was created in pastels by Bronwyn Munn from NSW, depicting an alpaca and a Spanish dancer. The runner up was a lovely acrylic, painted by Fay Harrison from Qld.

The most successful craft exhibitor was Jan Bentley.

Sue Maynard

Art and Photography convenor 2011





# SPS

Stevley  
Park  
Suri



Q Alpaca

Stud Males – Black Grey Brown Roan  
lt + med Fawn White

Pregnant Females

Packages to suit all needs

Handcrafted Suri products

- \* Felted Scarfs
- \* Ladies Felted Bags
- \* Handknitted Mittens



If your thinking Suri, give us a call...

[www.stevleypark.com.au](http://www.stevleypark.com.au)

Lezley and Steve Golding  
email: [stevleypark@bigpond.com](mailto:stevleypark@bigpond.com)  
03 5941 5561 0417 506 855



# Life Membership Awards



Pictured L - R, Kerry Dwyer, Jenny McAuliffe (President AAA), Dianne Condon

At our recent annual General Meeting, on behalf of all the members, it was a great privilege to present the Associations highest award to two people who have played extremely important roles in promoting our industry in a positive way.

## Mrs Dianne Condon

Dianne was one of the first members of the Association. She was part of the group that worked together to form the Australian Alpaca Association and was an inaugural member of the very first Committee.

Dianne was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the AAA, taking over from Ms Cherie Bridges, and held that position for a few years and was also instrumental in producing the first newsletters of the Association.

Dianne was responsible for alpacas being accepted as a breed of livestock for judging at both Royal Melbourne and the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show.

She qualified and was appointed as one of the first Australian Alpaca association Judges. Her qualification as an International Judge came in 2000 when she was part of the initial intake in Peru.

Dianne served for a number of years as a member of the National Committee. During this time, Dianne was Chair of Showing and Judging and held this position for some considerable time during which she assisted with the implementation of many major changes which occurred in showing and judging as the industry became established in Australia.

On the educational side, Dianne was part of the organising Committee which implemented and oversaw the early Alpaca Association Seminars. She was also instrumental in the promotion of alpacas at Agricultural Shows, fashion shows / parades which resulted in numerous people entering the industry through her love of the alpaca breed.

Dianne has also assisted a number of our current AAA Judges to pursue and achieve their judging goals. Her support to judges and apprentices is ongoing and has been much appreciated by all.

Dianne's contribution to the Australian alpaca industry has been significant and the Association and its members are most appreciative of those efforts.

## Mr Kerry Dwyer

Kerry joined the AAA in 1994

He became President of the Southern NSW Region in 1998.

In 2000 he convened the National Conference in Canberra and in 2001 was the Convenor for the National Show and Sale.

He nominated for the National Committee in 2001 and was duly elected. In 2002 he became the AAA's National President and served in that role until 2006.

Kerry remained as a Director on the AAA Board until his retirement in Dec 2010.

Kerry has undoubtedly demonstrated a longstanding commitment and dedication to the Australian Alpaca industry at both regional and national levels, having served in many roles at both national and regional levels including significant terms as both regional and national Presidents.

His exemplary conduct in those roles has earned for him the admiration and respect of all those with whom he has dealt, from representatives of government to ordinary members of the AAA.

He has been a most worthy ambassador and statesman for the AAA, serving the alpaca industry with insight and wisdom, particularly in the area of Animal Health and Welfare, where his contribution has been nothing less than outstanding. His contribution to the Australian alpaca industry has been substantial and enduring, and our industry has been greatly enriched by his service.

# Heat Stress in Alpacas in Australia

**What is heat stress?** It occurs when an alpaca's core body temperature is elevated to a point where it interferes with normal metabolic processes. It is caused by excessive heat gains or an inability to lose heat (this excludes fever due to infection). The condition is also called "heat stroke", "sun stroke" and "heat exhaustion" but most accurately, it is hyperthermia.

Alpacas are very adaptable animals and are capable of surviving in a wide range of climatic conditions. Especially suited to cold, they will nevertheless manage in warmer climates with sensible management.

Heat stress is a continuum along a line from the animal being able to cope to not coping at all. It is not possible to put a figure on the temperature at which an animal will pass from being a little warm to suffering from heat stress.

The alpaca has many mechanisms which are used to maintain the core body temperature at approximately 38.0 to 38.5 degrees Celsius. Some of these can be observed as the level of heat stress progresses (see the table below)

## NORMAL

Seeking shade, seeking cool water, maintain a low activity level

## MILD

Panting, nasal flaring, obsessively seeking water, sweating.

## SEVERE

Open mouth breathing, collapse, incoordination, convulsions, shock and weak pulse.

However some of the effects of a period of heat stress are not so obvious.

Infertility of male alpacas can be caused by relatively mild increases of body temperature. It may take 6-8 weeks for their sperm count to recover and more prolonged or permanent damage is possible. Some males definitely appear more fertile in the cooler weather. Females can also be affected by infertility due to heat stress; premature labour, abortion and stillbirths have been reported that could be at least partly attributed to an episode of heat stress.

## How alpacas lose heat

### Evaporation

Heat is removed from the body during the process of water evaporation from the body surfaces. The alpaca loses heat through the respiratory tract during respiration by evaporation from the mucous membrane and also through the exchange of air. The efficiency of these methods of heat loss is dependent on ambient temperature and humidity.

### Radiation

Heat is lost from the body through direct radiation into the surrounding atmosphere.

The alpaca has a ventral area of its caudal abdomen that is sparsely covered in hair, called a "thermal window" as it allows heat transfer in heavily fleeced animals.



Grayleigh Grace in paddling pool - photo courtesy of Grayleigh Alpacas

Heat moves from areas of higher temperature to areas of lower temperature at a rate proportional to the temperature difference. If ambient temperature is greater than body temperature an alpaca will tend to absorb heat. If ambient temperature is close to but below body temperature, heat loss by radiation will be very slow and inefficient.

### Conduction

Heat is transferred directly by close contact between bodies of different temperatures. Alpacas make use of this method very efficiently by wading into water or sitting down on wet or cool ground. Heat is lost directly to the ground or water, especially through the thermal window on the ventral abdomen.

## Risk factors for heat stress in alpacas

### High ambient temperature

The alpaca itself generates heat and needs to dissipate this. Dissipation of this heat is made more difficult when ambient temperature is close to normal body temperature. The body will tend to absorb heat when the ambient temperature is greater than body temperature. Heat loss mechanisms will be fully tested.

### Humidity

Heat loss becomes difficult with high humidity because evaporative cooling (panting & sweating) becomes very ineffective. LaRue Johnson (USA) proposes an index for the calculation of the possible occurrence of heat stress.

The index is the sum of the ambient temperature in degrees Fahrenheit and the relative humidity. Eg an ambient temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit and 80% humidity gives an index of 160. An ambient temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit but a relative humidity of 25% gives an index of 115. So you can clearly see how relative humidity plays an important part in the likelihood of heat stress.



Index of less than 120 = heat stress is unlikely  
Index of 120 – 180 = heat stress is possible  
Index of more than 180 = heat stress is likely

#### *Poor ventilation*

Ventilation assists more effective cooling by evaporation and the removal of radiated heat. It is especially important when transporting alpacas in enclosed floats to have adequate air movement and remember not to park in full sun.

#### *Full dense fleece*

Full dense fleece does not allow effective heat loss by radiation because of its insulating effects. Full fleece also severely affects heat loss by sweating due to the lack of air movement across the skin. In full fleeced animals heat can only effectively be lost through the thermal window.

#### *No fleece*

Without fleece, the alpaca body is directly heated and this can cause a rapid increase in body temperature.

Recent studies performed during a period of heatwave conditions have shown that the core body temperatures of full fleeced and minimally fleeced animals were significantly higher than the core body temperature of animals with a 40 mm fleece length.

The time of shearing has a dramatic effect on the levels of heat stress experienced over summer.

Plan your shearing to have the animals go through the hottest part of the summer with some fleece coverage. Sunburn is also an issue for alpacas shorn too late in the year.



Photo courtesy of McKenzie Park Alpacas

#### *Physical activity and stress*

All management, which involves some stress or activity will add to the risk of developing heat stress. Consider this when taking alpacas to shows over the warmer humid months. The time of weaning is important in this regard. Cria and mothers may continue to seek each other, standing out in full sun or run along fence lines, failing to take normal measures to reduce heat stress.

#### *Overweight alpacas*

A large body mass loses heat more slowly, consequently overweight alpacas will be at an increased risk during periods of continuing hot weather. Fat also acts as additional insulation to prevent additional heat loss. Male alpacas will deposit fat in their scrotum that will severely affect their fertility in hot weather.

#### *Advanced pregnancy*

Additional metabolic rate and body weight increase the risk of heat stress. In some areas of Australia it may be advisable to manage breeding programs to avoid birthing in the middle of summer. I am currently managing my herd to have two birthing seasons, one in spring to early summer and another in autumn.

#### *Shade and cool water*

Shade prevents direct heating of the alpaca and provides a cooler ambient temperature. Cool water to drink is extremely important. Beware of dominant animals whom may tend to defend their drinking place, consider multiple drinking points in each paddock. Cool ground or grass allows efficient heat loss by conduction but be aware that the use of sprinklers and soaker hoses can dramatically increase the relative humidity and add to heat stress.

#### *Newborn and old animals*

These animals have impaired or inefficient thermoregulatory mechanisms and are at increased risk. Crias small bodies heat up very rapidly especially when lying out in full sun during their first few days of life.

#### *Feeding*

Feeding generates heat, creates activity and competition. It is best done in the cool of the evening.

#### *Unacclimatised animals*

The moving of animals from cool or temperate areas to hot locations needs to be sensibly managed.



Photo courtesy of McKenzie Park Alpacas

#### *Veterinary Treatment*

It is extremely important to check rectal temperature regularly and work to reduce the core body temperature slowly.

Mild cases may require the provision of shade and cool drinking water, access to water to sit or wade into, fans to provide air movement.

More severe cases may require a cool bath, cool intravenous fluids and drugs to control shock.

Beware the use of cold enemas as suggested by some US authors as you will lose the only method of assessing core body temperature.

### **Recommendations for management**

#### *Shearing*

Shear animals at an appropriate time of the year to minimise the risk of heat stress in summer but still provide some insulation. This may require shearing cria as young as 6 weeks of age. We would be planning to have the majority of our animals shorn in September

#### *Water*

Provide plenty of cool clean water, preferably at numerous watering points which can't be dominated by a few animals

#### *Plenty of shade*

Employ methods to provide cool ground, either by shade trees or open shelters

#### *Management practices*

Activities likely to cause stress and competition, stud servicing, feeding, transporting should all be carried out in the cool of the morning or evening, this will benefit both the owners and the animals.

With sensible management and a greater understanding of the risk factors for heat stress we should be able to continue to successfully farm alpacas in a wide variety of environments.

## **SOFTFOOT ONLINE ALPACA AUCTION**

[http://www.softfoot.com.au/online\\_auction.php](http://www.softfoot.com.au/online_auction.php)

Open Date: 10/02/2012 - Close Date: 24/02/2012 - 8 pm ACST

*This next auction of 30 alpacas will include - Embryo Transferred Cria*

*- Recipients with elite transferred embryos on board*

*- Broad Ribbon winning Champion Male - Senior Stud Males*

*- Quality breeding females some with cria at foot and pregnant.*

*Softfoot full warranties and guaranties will apply*

*The new auction software will allow bidders time to rebid*

*There will be no reserves, just realistic starting prices.*

*Free delivery to Qld - NSW - Vic - SA for alpacas sold over \$5k*

*Small fixed fee for those sold under \$5k.*

*There will be offered a fixed delivery fee to Brussels, Europe.*



# Year of the Farmer Launched



Pictured L - R: Matthew Coddington, Janie Hicks, Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC & David Bolton

## 2012 – Australian Year Of The Farmer

The Year of the Farmer was officially launched by Her Excellency the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce OA, on Wednesday 12th October at the site of Australia's first farm, which was situated within the grounds of what is now the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.



Our Association was represented by our President and Janie Hicks from Coolaroo Alpacas who brought two very well behaved, photogenic alpacas along to represent our livestock industry.

2012 is shaping up to be a huge celebration of the crucial role that farmers play in our daily lives.

The planned activities focus on two key areas:

Celebrating the importance of farmers in feeding, clothing and housing the nation, leading the world in farming techniques and innovation, and sustaining the vital agribusinesses that underpin our economy

Celebrating and enriching the connections between rural and urban Australia.

The Celebratory Year will bring all Australians together in a national celebration of our agricultural diversity and productivity. The Australian Year of the Farmer team has been busy in the last few months putting plans into place that will:

- ❖ Take nine specially equipped Road show units to every State and Territory in Australia
- ❖ Reach out to teachers, careers advisors, students and parents across Australia
- ❖ Highlight the breadth of farming related career opportunities
- ❖ Profile innovators across the agribusiness sector
- ❖ Produce a TV series
- ❖ Allow shoppers to support the Year via The One Country Privileges Card
- ❖ Invite all Australians to participate in a national photography competition
- ❖ Invite you to our Innovation and Technology Expo and Food of Origin Extravaganza.

As an Association we intend to join this initiative to bring the importance of farming in all its forms to the attention of the Australian public and in particular to raise the profile of alpaca as a sustainable livestock industry.

Further information on the Year of the Farmer can be found at: [www.yearofthefarmer.com.au](http://www.yearofthefarmer.com.au)



# Prime Alpaca Properties For Sale



**S/EAST QLD**

**40 Acres - 2 Titles - 3 Quality Homes!**



1.



2.



3.

- ▶ House 1 + 5 Acres \$785,000
- ▶ House 2 & 3 plus farm on 35 Acres \$1.8 Million
- ▶ Operational B&B + Alpaca Stud Farm
- ▶ Sub Division Opportunity - Great Investment

Full Details: [www.paltarrapark.com.au](http://www.paltarrapark.com.au) or contact John or Esme Graham on 07 3425 3405



## Morningswood

Ellinbank, VIC

- ✿ 40 Acres - Multiple house & shedding options + 4 bay car accommodation
- ✿ Panoramic Views - Northerly Aspect
- ✿ 5 Bedrooms & 3 bathrooms + Artist Studio
- ✿ Stand alone Solar & Wind power

**For Sale at \$875,000** Contact: [venetia@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:venetia@vic.australis.com.au)





# "Currabungla"

Laggan NSW -Southern Tablelands

FOR SALE

*'perfect for pacas'*

Currabungla is located only 2.5hrs from Sydney & 1.5hrs from Canberra & is on a sealed road.

Only 15 minutes from Crookwell, a beautiful friendly town with a hospital, nursing home, high school, 2 primary schools, golf course, bowling greens, squash courts, swimming pool, restaurants and a good shopping centre.

- \* Currabungla can be purchased with 400 acres (\$1.6M) or 600 acres (\$1.95M)
- \* House has 3 large bedrooms with b/i wardrobes, 2 bath, lounge, dining, study, sunroom + 2 car garage.
- \* 4 stand shearing shed, machinery shed, 3000 bale hay shed, grain silo, steel yards.
- \* Bore water & laneways to all pasture improved paddocks, excellent tree lanes for shade & shelter.
- \* Ideal for alpacas, sheep, cattle or horticulture.

[www.currabungla.com](http://www.currabungla.com) | Email: [currabungla@activ8.net.au](mailto:currabungla@activ8.net.au) | Ph: 02 4837 3394



View more images on [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au)  
- Crabtree, Tasmania

## Time for a Tree Change?

- 46+ acres of walk-able farm land with an immaculate home, town water, 700 bale barn and a massive 20mx10m shed with 3 phase power – all within 30 minutes of Hobart's CBD.
- Built in 2003, the house has plenty of living options - 4 bedrooms, open plan kitchen, dining and family room, separate sitting / TV room (or 5th bed), 2 bathrooms & separate study. The home is beautifully built & maintained for a practical lifestyle with plenty of space & a smart layout.
- Fantastic Tasmanian valley views, established gardens, and the sunny northerly aspect of the house and farm has great appeal.
- The land is a mix of pasture and light bush – ideal for around 200 DSE and still with spare capacity to cut hay. Features include 2.4km of new internal ring lock fencing that divides this property into 12 larger paddocks (1-2 ha each) – ideal for cell/rotational grazing or a small stud operation. An additional 33 acres nearby is also available.
- The farm is currently running 150 alpacas and is well known in the area as the "alpaca farm". The Huon Valley has the largest concentration of alpaca studs in Tasmania and has market potential for an active stud operator. The Huon is also home of some of Tasmania's best scenery, lifestyle and foodie culture.
- The owners are moving to a larger property and have priced to sell between \$615-\$645K.

Contact the owners – Mark and Helen Jessop on 0412430982 or  
Kate Slatter from Harcourts on 0400279622 or  
[kate.slatter@harcourts.com.au](mailto:kate.slatter@harcourts.com.au)



# Surilana

*Setting the Suri Standard*



*Choice*

*Quality*

*Affordability*

*All  
Colours*



[www.surilana.com.au](http://www.surilana.com.au)

Ian and Angela Preuss  
Strathbogie, Victoria  
PH: 03 57905394 Mobile: 0407931789  
Email: [suris@surilana.com.au](mailto:suris@surilana.com.au)

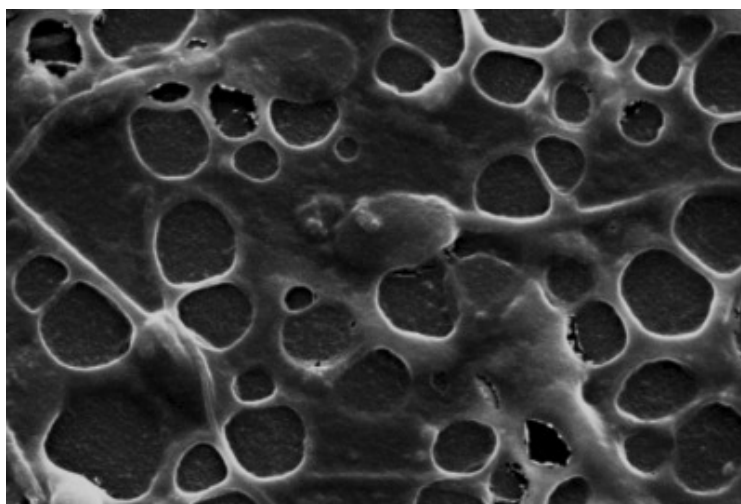


# Semen Cryopreservation in Alpacas

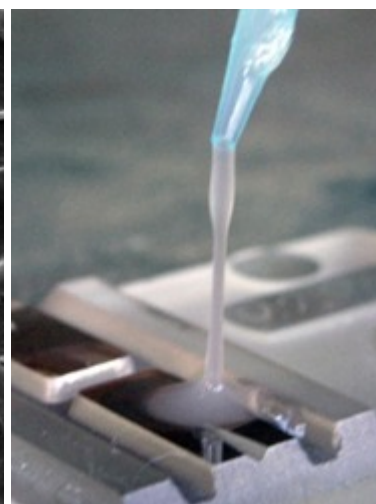
Semen Cryopreservation in Alpacas:  
 A review of 3 years research at The University of Sydney

Over the last three years The University of Sydney has focused it's alpaca research on developing methods for the cryopreservation of alpaca semen. The ability to utilise this assisted reproductive technology will help advance the rapid dissemination of desirable genetic traits such as genetic diversity, fleece weight, fibre diameter and reproductive efficiency. Additionally, cryopreservation will enable the long term storage of sperm, enabling genes from genetically superior males to be preserved indefinitely and the worldwide transportation of sperm from stud males eliminating the need for transportation of males and on farm matings.

Semen is comprised of sperm cells derived from the testes and seminal plasma derived from testes, prostate gland and bulbourethral gland secretions. In alpacas and other camelid species, the seminal plasma is extremely viscous and entraps the sperm (fig. 1). It is postulated that following mating, small numbers of sperm are slowly released from the viscous seminal plasma, prolonging the life of the sperm and ensuring that functional sperm are present when the female ovulates, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful fertilisation. However, the highly viscous seminal plasma is currently the major impediment to the development of sperm cryopreservation in camelids.



Alpaca spermatozoa entrapped in the viscous seminal plasma



Viscous alpaca semen

The cryopreservation of sperm requires the dilution of semen in a cryodiluent; a media that contains protective agents such as egg yolk and glycerol. These protective agents interact with the cell membrane on the sperm to prevent sperm damage during cooling and freezing.

It is therefore imperative that the sperm come into contact with the cryodiluent prior to cryopreservation otherwise cell death will occur. In alpacas, the viscous nature of the seminal plasma entraps the sperm and prevents mixing of the semen with the cryoprotectants. Subsequently the sperm are not protected during freezing and do not exhibit fertilising ability on thawing. In order to develop cryopreservation in camelids, it is necessary to reduce the viscosity of seminal plasma prior to freezing.

Semen cryopreservation has 3 steps:

Semen collection, semen analysis, and dilution of sperm in cryodiluent then freezing

Reliable effective protocols for the collection of semen are in place whereby the male alpaca is trained to mate with an alpaca mannequin fitted with an artificial vagina (fig 2).

Methods for the assessment of sperm concentration (number of spermatozoa per ml of ejaculate) and motility (percentage of sperm moving in each ejaculate) have also been established.

Samples with good motility and concentration can be used for cryopreservation.

Image to right - Semen Collection. Alpaca Tylopoda Bison mating a mannequin fitted with an artificial vagina



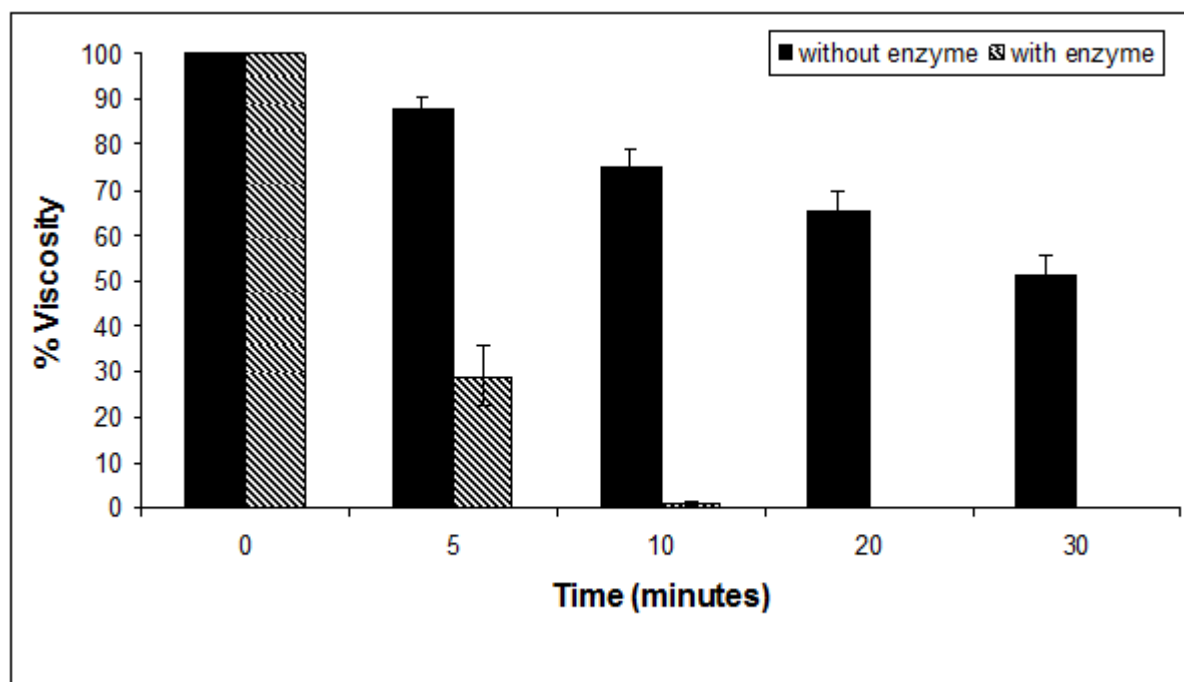
Now that reliable effective methods have been developed for semen collection and assessment it is necessary to develop cryopreservation protocols for camelid semen. However, as mentioned previously this is limited by the viscous nature of the seminal plasma and in order to cryopreserve sperm, the viscosity must be eliminated. This requires an understanding of the cause of the viscosity and has been the major focus of our research for the last 3 years.

It is postulated that the viscosity is caused by glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) or an unknown protein. Consequently, numerous researchers have adopted a shotgun approach to eliminate the viscosity using many enzymes, and whilst some of these enzymes do eliminate the viscosity they also have a detrimental effect on sperm function.

At the University of Sydney, we adopted a different approach. We firstly identified the major GAGS in alpacas seminal plasma (Kershaw-Young et al 2011) and investigated the use of GAG enzymes on the effect of viscosity and sperm function. Whilst the GAG enzymes did reduce viscosity, enzymes that degraded proteins were more successful. We therefore concluded that whilst GAGs are abundant in alpaca seminal plasma, they are not the major cause of viscosity, a protein is.

Next we used cutting edge proteomics to identify the viscosity-causing protein in alpaca semen. Many proteins were identified, but only one was more abundant in seminal plasma of high viscosity compared to low-viscosity seminal plasma. The identification of this protein enabled us to use specific enzymes to degrade the protein of interest and thereby eliminate viscosity within 20 minutes of treatment (fig 3). Additionally, this protocol does not appear to impair sperm function. Experiments on the effect of enzyme treatment on sperm fertility following artificial insemination are currently being conducted in dromedary camels at the Camel Reproduction Centre Dubai.

Figure 3



Reduction of seminal plasma viscosity over time either without (solid black bars) or with (striped black and white bars) enzyme.

Now that we have successfully reduced the viscosity of alpaca semen, it is necessary to determine the effect of this viscosity reduction on the success of sperm cryopreservation. Preliminary experiments suggest that the elimination of viscosity does improve sperm motility following chilling of sperm at 4°C compared to untreated semen samples. The effect of enzyme treatment on the motility of sperm following cryopreservation is under investigation. It is hoped that the reduction of viscosity will improve post-thaw motility rates and that our research has aided the development of cryopreservation protocols in alpacas.

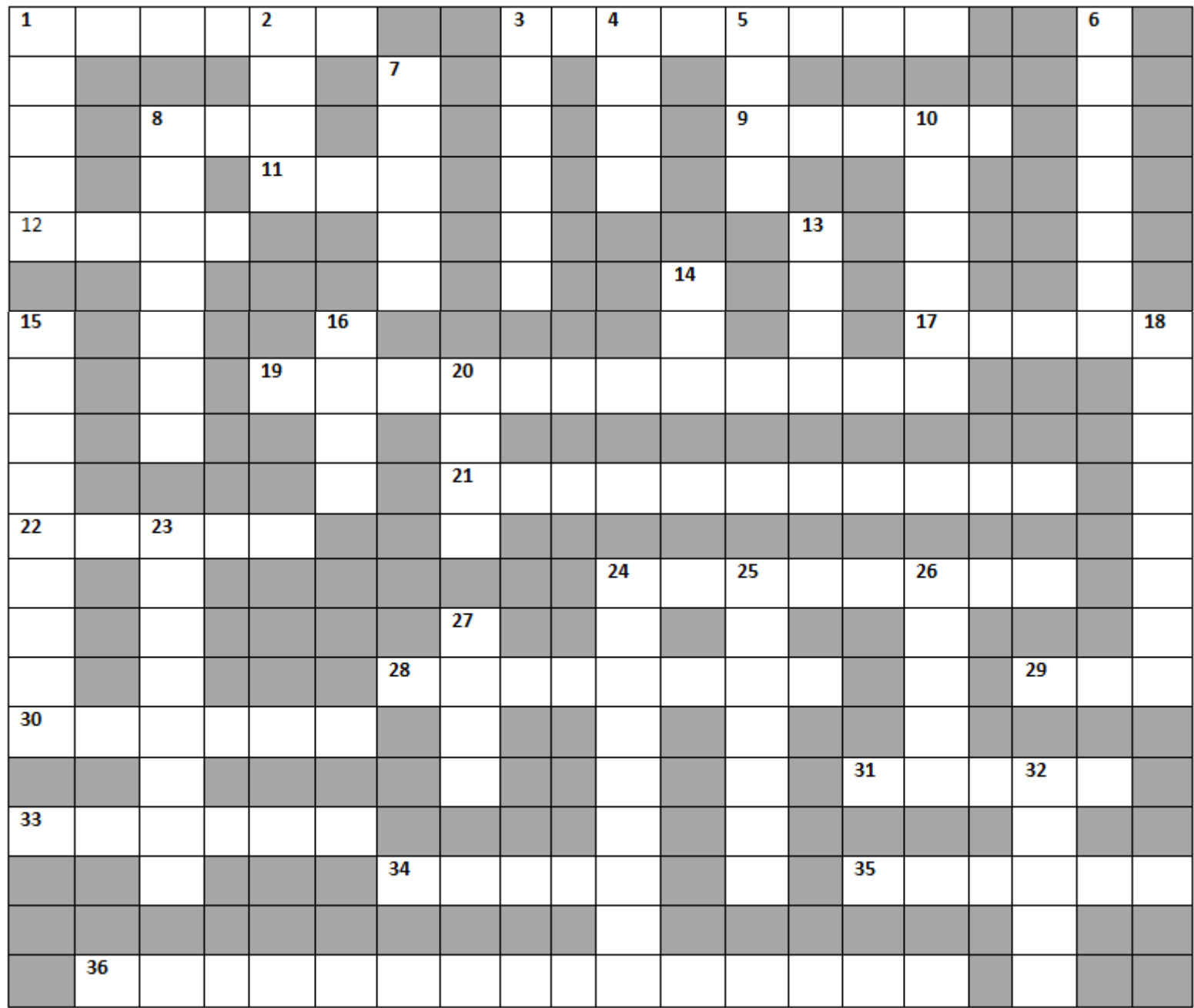
We have been successful in acquiring a further 3 years funding for our research from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). The next 3 years will focus on identifying the optimal freezing conditions for alpaca sperm and developing reliable, effective commercially available protocols for artificial insemination in alpacas using cryopreserved sperm. We anticipate that significant progress in this area will be made by January 2015 and that the development of these techniques will help establish breeding programmes for alpacas worldwide.

This research was funded by RIRDC (PRJ-00054). Thanks to Prof. Chis Maxwell and Xavier Druart for their assistance and guidance and alpaca breeders of NSW for donation of male alpacas.



# Alpaca Crossword

Use the print option in the controls for this page to print out & enjoy!



- Across**
- 1. The name of one of the renown alpaca herds
  - 3. Family alpacas come from
  - 8. Very thin where alpacas come from
  - 9. Male alpaca
  - 11. Noise a young alpaca makes to it's elders
  - 12. What alpacas are known to do
  - 17. Initials for the eye team
  - 19. Continent where alpacas come from
  - 21. The organization that got the RAATs into Peru
  - 22. What male alpacas do when they are 'on the job'
  - 24. Bigger camelids – not so common
  - 28. One of the larger 25 provinces of Peru
  - 29. Provenance where the best Pisco brandy is distilled
  - 30. Wearers of alpaca garments ..... the virtues of this luxury fibre
  - 31. Provoked a rebellion over the Bourbon Reforms – first name
  - 33. Machu .....
  - 34. Another province but a smaller one
  - 35. One of the longest rivers that flow through Peru
  - 36. A man who spent nearly 70 years breeding alpaca and turned it into an art

- Down**
- 1. High mountain range in South America
  - 2. A tale or a length of fibre
  - 3. Andean eagle
  - 4. A province in Peru in the Madre de Dios region
  - 5. Capital of Peru
  - 6. One of the spoken native languages of Peru.
  - 7. Major archeological site set high in Peru .....Picchu
  - 8. One of the major coops
  - 10. Mature lady
  - 13. Sun god
  - 14. Injection that helps prevent ricketts
  - 15. What is expressed in how we/animals/plant etc 'look'
  - 16. On animals, a fleece
  - 18. Famous lake
  - 20. Teenager alpacas
  - 23. The study of our 'makeup'
  - 24. Major manufacturing and breeding coop
  - 25. We all love them and the fleece they produce
  - 26. Archeological culture approx 1800BCE
  - 27. Baby alpaca
  - 32. Surname of 31 across

## Letter to the Editor, Alpacas Australia Magazine.

After reading an article submitted by Mr Wayne Marshall that appeared in the September 2011 edition of Alpacas Australia Magazine, I am caused to respond to some of the comments made.

Mr Marshall states in part "... if (alpaca breeders) want to reduce fleece variation over time, then try sampling from the rump (pinbone) area only. This generally will show the highest fibre diameter result..."

From my experience, following this advice is likely to have the contrary effect.

As many readers would be aware, I own Australian Alpaca Fibre Testing (AAFT). AAFT have provided Genetic Improvement Fleece Technology (G.I.F.T.) testing for over 4 years. This form of fibre analysis incorporates sample measurements from the shoulder, mid-side and rump area, with all results collated onto a benchmarking database.

A review of the collated data from 400 G.I.F.T. reports shows that in 61% of the cases, the shoulder provided the broadest sample, in 17% of cases, the midside provided the broadest sample, and in 22% of cases, the rump sample was the broadest. Based on these figures, the rump is not generally the broadest area of the fleece. In fact in 41% of cases, the rump sample recorded the finest fibre diameter between the three sample sites.

The claims of Mr Marshall offer a further point to consider. Contrary to what occurs with alpacas, the pin bone is generally the broadest part of a merino fleece. The lesson learnt from this is that while there are many points of scientific understanding that are transferable from the merino industry to alpacas, we need to be guarded as there are clearly some aspects of alpacas that are quite unique compared to other fibre producing animals.

It is therefore, my advice that in order to reduce variation in fibre diameter over the fleece area (in a cost effective manner), fibre analysis of the three abovementioned sites should be undertaken, and that relying solely on the rump area is unlikely to provide genetic benefit.

Paul Vallely, AAFT    info@aaft.com.au

<sup>1</sup> A	C	C	O	<sup>2</sup> Y	O			<sup>3</sup> C	A	<sup>4</sup> M	E	<sup>5</sup> L	I	D	S			<sup>6</sup> Q	
N				A		<sup>7</sup> M		O		A		I						U	
D		<sup>8</sup> A	I	R		A		N		N		<sup>9</sup> M	A	C	<sup>10</sup> H	O		E	
E		L		<sup>11</sup> N	U	C		D		U		A			E			C	
<sup>12</sup> S	P	I	T			H		O					<sup>13</sup> I		M			H	
		A				U		R			<sup>14</sup> A		N		B			U	
<sup>15</sup> P		N			<sup>16</sup> C						D		T		<sup>17</sup> R	A	A	A	<sup>18</sup> T
H		Z		<sup>19</sup> S	O	U	<sup>20</sup> T	H	A	M	E	R	I	C	A				I
E		A			A		U												T
N					T		<sup>21</sup> I	N	S	I	G	H	T	P	E	R	U		I
<sup>22</sup> O	R	<sup>23</sup> G	L	E			S												C
T		E								<sup>24</sup> G	U	<sup>25</sup> A	N	A	<sup>26</sup> C	O	S		A
Y		N					<sup>27</sup> C			R		L			H				C
P		E				<sup>28</sup> A	R	E	Q	U	I	P	A		I		<sup>29</sup> I	C	A
<sup>30</sup> E	X	T	O	L	L		I			P		A			M				
		I					A			O		C		<sup>31</sup> T	U	P	<sup>32</sup> A	C	
<sup>33</sup> P	I	C	C	H	U					I		A						M	
		S				<sup>34</sup> J	U	N	I	N		S		<sup>35</sup> Y	A	V	A	R	I
										C							R		
	<sup>36</sup> D	O	N	J	U	L	I	O	B	A	R	R	E	D	A		U		

Answers for:  
Alpaca Crossword  
from Page 27



# Knitting Patterns

## ALPACA MINI SOCKS - Pattern courtesy of Classic Elite Yarns

### SIZE: One Size

Finished Measurements: 2 1/2" foot length, 2 1/2" leg length, 3" leg width.

### MATERIALS:

Alpaca Sox by Classic Elite (60% alpaca, 20% merino wool, 20% nylon; 100 gram hank = approx 450 yards)

- 1 hank Needles
- One set double pointed needles (dpn) size US 2 (2.75 mm)

**GAUGE:** 32 sts and 42 rows = 4" in Stockinette Stitch (St st). Take time to save time, check your gauge.

### SPECIAL TERMS:

**ssk:** (slip, slip, knit) Slip 2 sts, 1 at a time, knit- wise to the RH needle; return sts to LH needle in turned position and knit them together through the back loops (1 st decreased).  
**p2tog:** Purl 2 sts together (1 st decreased). **k2tog:** Knit 2 sts together (1 st decreased).

### PATTERN STITCH:

Circular Stockinette Stitch (St st): Knit all sts every row.

### LEG

CO 24 sts and divide evenly onto 3 dpn (8 sts on each needle). Place marker (pm) for beg-of-rnd (BOR), join, being careful not to twist sts. (RS) Begin St st; work even until piece meas 2 1/2" from beg. Divide for Heel Flap: Remove BOR marker. K6 sts, place next 2 sts to next needle for instep, turn. Next Row: (WS) [Slip 1, p1] 6 times, slip next 2 sts to next needle for instep, turn—12 sts for Heel Flap; 12 sts for Instep. Heel Flap: \*Row 1: (RS) Slip 1, k11, turn. Row 2: (WS) [Slip 1 wyif, p1] 6 times, turn. Rep from \* 6 times, end WS row. Turn the Heel: Row 1: (RS) Slip 1, k6, ssk, k1, turn—11 sts rem. Row 2: (WS) Slip

1 wyif, p3, p2tog, p1, turn—10 sts rem. Row 3: (RS) Slip 1, k4, ssk, k1, turn—9 sts rem. Row 4: (WS) Slip 1 wyif, p5, p2tog, p1, turn—8 sts rem. Shape Gusset: (RS) Slip 1, k7, pick up and knit 8 sts along edge of heel flap; with a second needle, k12 instep sts; with a third needle, pick up and knit 8 sts along edge of heel flap, k4; pm for BOR—36 sts (12 sts on each needle). Begin St st and Decrease Rnd: On first needle: work to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on second needle: k12; on third needle: k1, ssk, work to end—2 sts decreased. Rep Decrease Rnd 5 times—24 sts rem.

### FOOT

Work even until piece meas 2 1/4" from turning point of heel. **Shape Toe:** \*On first needle: work to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on second needle, k1, ssk, work to last 3 sts, k2tog, k1; on third needle: k1, ssk, work to end—4 sts decreased. Work 1 rnd even; rep from \* 2 times—12 sts rem. Break yarn leaving approx 8" tail. Using tapestry needle, draw tail through each rem sts. Pull tightly.



### ABBREVIATIONS

**approx**—approximately  
**beg**—begin(ning)  
**BOR**—Beginning Of Round  
**CO**—Cast On  
**dpn(s)**—double pointed needle(s)  
**k**—knit  
**k2tog**—see Special Terms  
**LH**—Left Hand  
**meas**—measures  
**p**—purl  
**p2tog**—see Special Terms  
**pm**—place marker  
**rem**—remain(ning)  
**rep**—repeat  
**RH**—Right Hand  
**rnd(s)**—round(s)  
**RS**—Right Side  
**ssk**—see Special Terms  
**st(s)**—stitch(es)  
**St st**—Stockinette Stitch  
**WS**—Wrong Side  
**wyif**—with yarn in front

### 3 BALL HAT & SCARF - Pattern courtesy of Alpaca Ultimate (www.alpacaultimate.com.au)

#### ONE SIZE FITS ALL

#### MATERIALS (Alpaca Ultimate 100% Alpaca Double Knitting Yarn):

3 x 50 gm balls

One pair size 5.0 mm knitting needles.

One crochet hook.

#### PATTERN ROW:

[Yarn forward over needle (at the beginning of each row, this will be before you have knitted the first stitch), knit 2 together.] Repeat across row.

#### SCARF:

Prepare yarn for fringe first. Cut 72 pieces of yarn approximately 22 cm long. (Easiest way is to cut a piece of cardboard 11 cm wide, and wind yarn round this 72 times. Cut through one edge to form 72 pieces).

Using remainder of ball of yarn you have cut fringe from, cast on 36 sts. Work in pattern as above. When first ball is finished, join in second ball. Work as many rows as you can from the second ball, leaving enough yarn to cast off. Cast off.

With rsf and using a crochet hook, attach 2 ends of fringe pieces to every second stitch at cast off and cast on ends of scarf. Weave in loose ends at join of balls 1 and 2, then trim fringes.

#### HAT:

Using 3rd ball, cast on 72 sts and work as many rows as possible in pattern above.

Thread remaining yarn through stitches on needle, and gather up to form top of hat. Stitch down side seam, using a flat hem.



I get everything  
I need at

www.  
grandeverge  
.com

sales@grandeverge.com

ph: 02 6562 7888

Mark and Kim Irving  
Alpaca Breeders' Online Supplies



alpacanache

Exclusive Alpaca Fashions

Summer Collection out NOW!

Funky, Fun and Affordable



Visit your new online alpaca shop

alpacanache.com.au

FREE Delivery - FREE Returns

SECURE Payment

Tel: 03 5470 3510

Email: sales@alpacanache.com.au



# Royal Round Up 2011

## 2011 Perth Royal Show - by *Natasha James*

This year's Perth Royal Show started off with a significantly reduced number of entries compared to the previous couple of years and so it was that the committee decided to extend the entry deadline to encourage more entries. This proved fruitful as the number of entries was boosted by 20, bringing the total of animals up to 217. We were rather grateful to those people who managed to squeeze a few more animals into their floats and bring them to the show. It should however be pointed out that, like the rest of the country, the quality of the animals was not as good as they normally would be, purely due to the climatic conditions that have affected us for the past year

Unfortunately the environmental conditions were not the only problems facing our breeders, a number of studs were forced to withdraw large numbers of animals and some studs withdrew completely, this then reduced the overall total of animals by about 30. Although initially disappointed the committee considered the situation and came to the conclusion that if there is going to be a problem it always occurs when you have something else planned. With that the show soldiered on. A number of animals were obviously affected by the environmental conditions and this was unfortunately reflected in the results. The judge, Natasha Clarke, did a great job discerning where the quality lay in the animals presented to her especially considering the judging of animals was spread out over two days, even though there was a marked reduction in the number of exhibits.

With all of this happening in the alpacas it prompted us to consider what was happening with other breeds of livestock, it was the same across all breeds, seriously reduced numbers of entries and the animals reflected the poor season that they had just experienced. In 2010 the Governor's Cup (a prestigious award that is won by an exhibitor that has earned the most points across all judged breeds at the show) was won by Banksia Park Alpaca Stud, George, Jenny and Sophie Jackson had made it their mission that year to win the cup outright and they succeeded. This year they won the cup again and have shown to the public and other livestock breeders that the alpacas are a breed making their mark felt at the Perth Royal Show.



Supreme Champion Huacaya  
Banksia Park VCK Colorado ET - Banksia Park Alpacas



Supreme Champion Suri  
Lawithick Lady Tito Rose - Lawithick Alpacas

## 2011 Adelaide Royal Show - by *Lea Richens*

The Alpaca Section enjoyed a most successful 2011 Show. The weather did not disappoint and excellent crowds, especially during the first few days, more than made up for the previous year.

Firstly, congratulations to all participants – exhibitors, stewards, shed staff and everyone who contributed in any way. Thank you, one and all, for your wonderful efforts and support. Feedback from exhibitors, stewards and onlookers alike consistently highlighted a well organized, well run event with a great atmosphere and good competition.

We were fortunate to have Rick Hodgson as our 2011 judge. Not only did he do an excellent job, his presence as an AAA judge helped overcome some of the negative perceptions present in recent years. On behalf of the Show Society and exhibitors, thank you to those who assisted with decisions supporting an AAA judge for the Royal Adelaide Show.

Another highlight was the Junior Handler Section with a large number of spectators impressed by the handling skills and management of alpacas which were not always on their best behavior.

Repositioning of the fleeces and the open pens around the fleece area improved shed layout and encouraged the public to study the fleeces. It is hoped to have new fleece cabinets built in the near future which will further enhance the appearance of our Pavilion as well as ensure that these competition fleeces are better protected from dust and the curious public. *Cont ▶*

► A number of breeders again remained in the Pavilion for the second half of the Show ensuring the presence of alpacas throughout the length of the Show, and providing valuable opportunities to interact with the public – a vital and valued part of promoting all aspects of our industry. Thank you to those involved.

Unfortunately due to a number of difficulties, both the Production Classes and Shearing Demonstrations were withdrawn for 2011. The latter in particular has always been a highlight of the Show, attracting large audiences during shearing itself and the shorn alpacas later attracting much attention. It is intended that both features will return to next year's Show.

Finally – congratulations to all prize winners and sincere thanks to all sponsors (another vital ingredient to the success of the Show), for your generosity and support.

I invite all AAA members to exhibit at future Royal Adelaide Shows. I am sure our facilities will impress and the competition offered worthy of the prestige of the combined Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc and the SA Alpaca Breed and Fleece Championship awards. Are there more interstaters willing to take on the SA team on the first Friday of September 2012? In summary – a Great 2011 Show.

Lea Richens  
(Councillor, Supervisor - Alpaca Section)



Grand Champion Suri - Surilana Nuclear ET - The Australian Suri Company

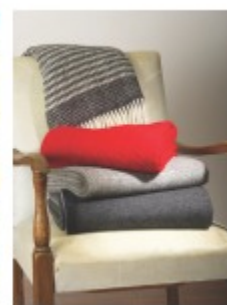
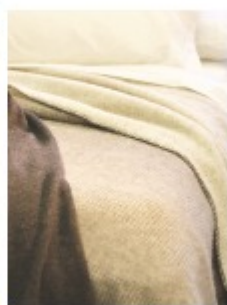


Supreme Champion Huacaya - Ambersun Fortune Seeker - Ambersun

**CRESWICK**  
Woollen Mills

**SAVE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF ALL ALPACA PRODUCTS**  
Enter 'Alpaca' at checkout in the Voucher Number section to receive this offer until 31/12/11

Available online only at:  
**www.creswickwool.com.au**





Fine huacaya genetics in both black and white.



## FEATURED STUD MALES



### ENCANTADOR SIR GALAHAD

Sir Galahad is an excellent well conformed ultra fine, ultra soft handle fleece animal, with the fantastic pedigree and excellent genetics of Jolimont Warrior, Blue Grass Centurion, Purumbete Ledgers Dream, Windsong Valley Royal Inca and Purumbete Highlander all in the mix.

2007 Mic 16.1 SD 3.1 CV 19.4 CF 100%  
2008 Mic 16.1 SD 3.1 CV 19.4 CF 100%  
2010 Mic 22.1 SD 3.9 CV 17.6 CF 96.5%



### JOLIMONT ALESSIO

Alessio is a "Pure Accoyo". His sire is well known Peruvian Accoyo Jolimont Sculptor. His dam Jolimont Palmina is also an Accoyo female. Alessio displays a perfect conformation carrying a superior fleece in density, lustre and crimp definition.

2002 Mic 21.71 SD 3.9 CV 17.97  
Fleece weight 7.64kg  
2004/5 Mic 24.20 SD 4.1 CV 16.9  
2007 Mic 27.60 SD 4.2 CV 25.7  
2010 Mic 29.2 SD 5.0 CV 17.2 CF 66.2a



### ACCAPACCA SHARIFFE

True to type, solid black male with exception fleece density and length. Shariffe is maintaining his softness through to his 4th fleece. His show results are a testament to his excellent conformation and fleece style. A male worthy to any coloured breeders.

2010 Mic 23 SD 4.3 CV 18.9% CF 94.1%



### BANKSIA PARK TESK CENTAUR ET

2010 National Show Reserve Champion senior male with a beautiful ultra soft lustrous and dense fleece with extreme crimp definition. The son of Banksia Park Khan, he is a fine, conformationally correct, hard working male that will further the breeding program of any stud.

2010 Mic 19.2 SD 4.1 CV 20.2 CF 98.2



# **BUSINESS FOR SALE ABSOLUTELY ALPACA**

*absolutely*



**ALPACA**

ABSOLUTELY ALPACA, established in 2007, is a very successful alpaca retail outlet on the south coast of New South Wales. It's owners, Estelle and Lesley, are both passionate alpaca breeders and opened the shop with the goal of showcasing the wonderful garments and accessories which can be produced from this amazing fibre. Absolutely Alpaca has an excellent reputation for friendly service and quality merchandise.

Reluctantly, at the beginning of our fifth year and due to increasing family commitments, the time has come for us to sell Absolutely Alpaca. With an excellent regular return clientele from near by Canberra and situated in the popular historic tourist township of Mogo, the continuing prospects for Absolutely Alpaca's growth look extremely promising.

**\$70 000 plus Stock at Value**

For further information regarding this excellent business opportunity, please contact:

Estelle            (02) 4474 0282        mobile 0404 005 099  
email: [absolutelyalpaca@bigpond.com](mailto:absolutelyalpaca@bigpond.com)

Lesley            (02) 4474 3170        mobile 0429 296 897  
email: [kurralea@pacific.net.au](mailto:kurralea@pacific.net.au)

website: [www.absolutelyalpaca.com.au](http://www.absolutelyalpaca.com.au)

sale website: [www.absolutelyalpacaforale.com](http://www.absolutelyalpacaforale.com)



# Commercialising The Industry

When Annette & I first decided to farm Alpacas we knew that for the venture to be financially viable that apart from obtaining the best genetics (that we could afford) from already successful breeders to start our herd that we also needed to be able to utilise the "whole animal". From fleece, animal sales/export, mating services to meat and hides.

We have been indeed fortunate to have found some great mentors within the industry who have been totally unselfish in assisting us not only with knowledge but the purchase of correct animals for the correct reasons, for the correct purpose. Whilst only fairly new to the industry and knowing the hard yards put in by those earlier breeders there is still a lot to be done. We think (hope) we are only 4 to 5 years away from our fleece objective but only time will tell.



Stage 2 of the adventure (whilst it is a business it is still an adventure) was to source a good chef that with her/his passion for food would work with us to create recipes that would appeal to the "foodies" of the world when we introduced alpaca meat to them.

During national alpaca week 2011 we thought the time was right to take the alpaca meat to the people rather than have the people meet the alpaca on our farm. Together with Ian Davison from Illawarra Alpaca Stud, the new venture Illawarra Prime Alpaca was launched.

Then, together with the slow food society of our region a guest list was made up of foodies, journalists, vigneron's, local politicians & business people from Sydney & the South Coast to attend a seven course degustation menu of Alpaca and local wines. David Campbell, owner/chef of the Hungry Duck restaurant in Berry, prepared and hosted the evening in his restaurant and a great night was had by all.

When looking at the meat side of the industry, from the earliest discussions we decided that we would not hide behind a substitute name for Alpaca, that it is Alpaca meat and that is what it should be called. We also decided that we would only supply restaurants who's chefs have been trained in cooking with Alpaca or were already exposed to cooking and preparation with lean meat. Our meat is not available in butcher shops or retail outlets nor do the public have access to it from us. This way it cannot be incorrectly prepared nor consumed without the proper diligence. It is a meat that cannot be served other than medium rare!!!

In October this year the Fairfax organisation sponsored CRAVE, a month of gastronomic splendour. Chefs from all over the world jetted into Sydney accompanied by food journalist's and critics. Again some good luck came our way with the theme of the festival being South American cuisine. "Hello Peru Hello Alpaca!!!" We had fore warning from Miss Joanna Saville, the festival director, and in conjunction with David Campbell we sponsored a Peruvian chef, Mr Ricardo Zarate of Mo-Chica & Picca in LA, who was voted New Top Chef 2010 by USA Food & Wine magazine, to come to Sydney and showcase to the public and fellow chefs the wonderful taste of Alpaca. During the 1st two weeks of the festival over 800 portions of Alpaca were served at dinners and training days, with the highlight being the Gala dinner with 350 paying guests at The Ivy.

The Hilton Hotel, Bar H, Morena and the Hungry Duck were other restaurants showcasing Alpaca and a training day was also held for the Nowra TAFE school of cooking & hospitality for their students by Ricardo Zarate.

Quality Assurance and planning has been a major concern going forward. When you realise that a new cria takes eleven and a half months to enter this world and then the minimum age of 18 months before an animal is ready, then you are looking at a window of 30 months before that animal is ready for the table. Also added to that are the health requirement and withholding periods of some commercial drenches of up to 91 days before human consumption can take place. Planning and sorting of the herd takes time knowing that you only have X amount of animals on call each month.

All animals are grazed naturally and are not grain fed. The meat is very lean (99% fat free) high in protein, high in iron and low in cholesterol. Our animals have electronic tags and are weighed monthly to check weight gain and health.



To date Illawarra Prime Alpaca has processed just over 2 tons of meat for restaurants. We are still experimenting with cuts and styles and recipes in conjunction with our chefs. We have also been invited by other regions to train chefs in the leading restaurants in their area, which we gladly do as it only augurs well for the sustainability and further commercialisation of our industry.

For further information please refer to the following web sites.

[www.primealpaca.com.au](http://www.primealpaca.com.au)

[www.millpaca.com](http://www.millpaca.com)

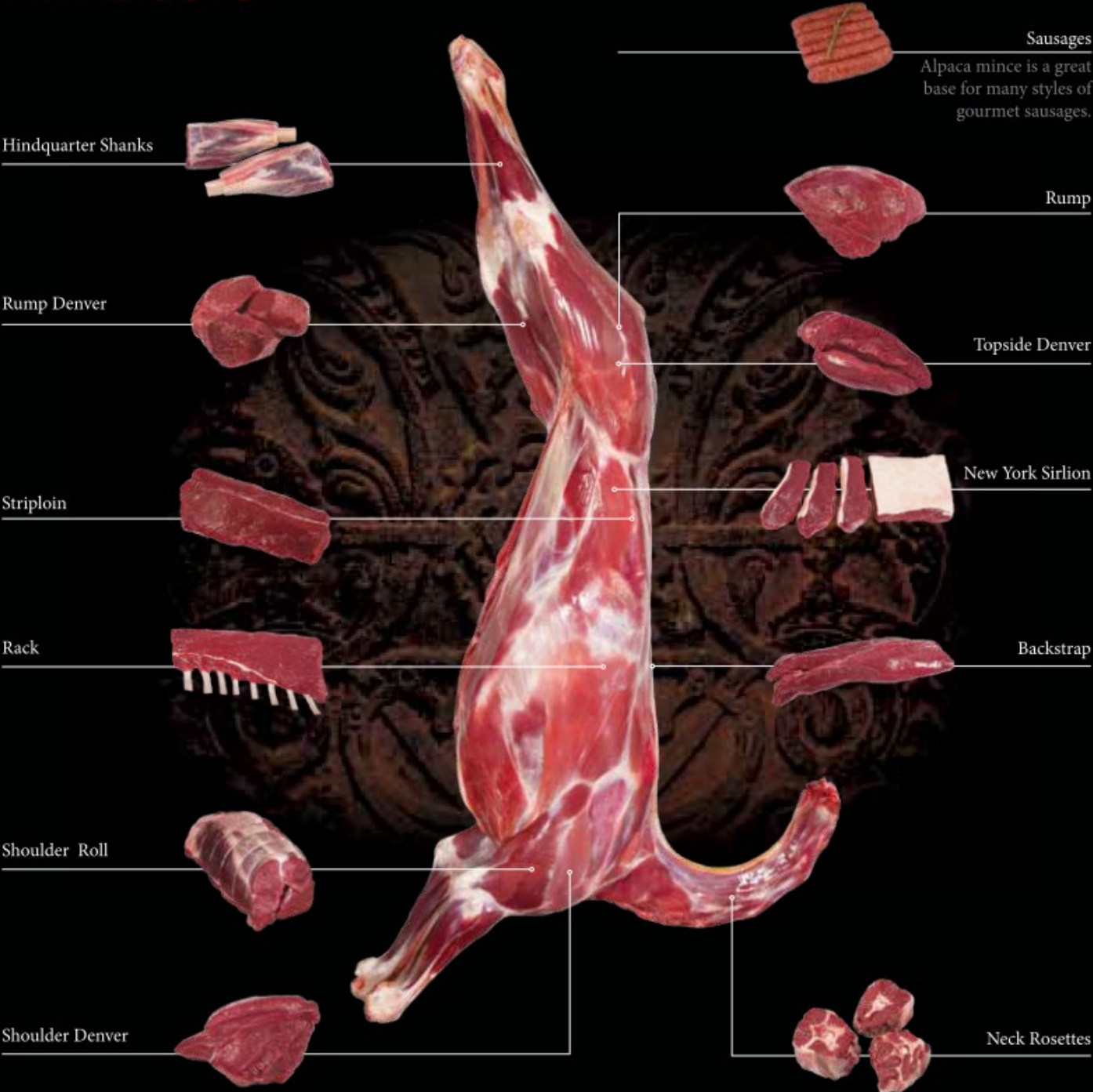
[www.hungryduck.com.au](http://www.hungryduck.com.au)

[www.morena.com.au](http://www.morena.com.au)



ILLAWARRA **PRIME ALPACA**

**PRIME CUTS**





# Business Directory



**CAMELIDynamics™**  
**Marty McGee Bennett's**  
 • Handling and Training Books and DVDs  
 • Halters  
 • Leads  
 • Wands  
 • Other Handling Equipment

phone (02) 4841 5025, mobile 0403 195 349  
[www.daisybankalpaca.com.au](http://www.daisybankalpaca.com.au)

AVAILABLE ONLINE!

**THE Alpaca EMPORIUM**  
[www.thealpacaemporium.com.au](http://www.thealpacaemporium.com.au)

Trish & Jim Thornberry  
 0429 979 757  
 02 6760 9590  
[sales@thealpacaemporium.com.au](mailto:sales@thealpacaemporium.com.au)

**MICRON - FIBRE MAN ANALYSIS**



NEW MID/PIN/SHOULDER COLOUR HISTOGRAMS  
 For the Alpaca Breeder who puts fibre quality as top priority

Established 1988 - Prompt service Australia wide

Contact : Wayne or Jo Marshall  
 Email [micronman@iinet.net.au](mailto:micronman@iinet.net.au)  
 Ph (08) 94181733  
 Fax (08) 94942931

[www.fibrenaturally.com.au](http://www.fibrenaturally.com.au)



WASHING + PICKING + DEHAIRER  
 CARDING + DRAWFRAME + SPINNER  
 PLYING + CONE WINDING + STEAMING  
 SKEINS/BALL WINDING

*We process your fleece from your alpacas into quality luxurious yarn*

Gayle Herring • 0407 729 227 • 03 5968 5614

**braidwoodalpashop.com**  
 for the last 9 years and into the future

proud to support

**Becreatif**  
 creations & wearable art



*Truleen Downs Alpacas*



Alpaca Sales • Agistment • Stud Male Services  
 Knitwear and Hand Dyed Silk  
 Groups & Coaches welcome!

Specialising in:  
 Entertaining seniors groups  
 All visits by appointment

78 Banks Road, Gormandale VIC 3873  
 (Between Traralgon & Yarram)  
 03 5197 7488 OR 0428 558 909  
[www.truleendownsalpaca.com.au](http://www.truleendownsalpaca.com.au)  
 Email: [truleendowns@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:truleendowns@aussiebroadband.com.au)

