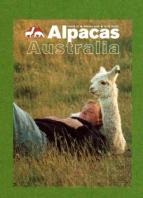


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COVER courtesy of Pucara Alpaca Stud

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Illawarra Alpaca Stud

write this in the knowledge that I have been elected unopposed for a second term as your President. This is something of a surprise and disappointment for me as I am a strong believer that the Executive positions in organisations such as ours need to be contested especially when the terms are for more than one year. This has not happened this year but will certainly happen in 2002, as I will not be standing for another term!

It is too easy to look back on the changes that have occurred and the excellent work that so many people have done over the past year from all sectors of the membership and the wider industry. There is a palpable air of anticipation and quiet

confidence across the industry that is both refreshing and gratifying to see and feel. We have matured over the past twelve months to become an outward looking, progressive organisation which is more concerned with getting the future right than looking back to make sure that everything is in its place, and there being a place for everything...and everybody!

What an absolute pleasure to Chair a recent meeting of the National Committee where three very important portfolios reported their success in planning and achieving not only the goals they set in the Business Plan but also achieving into next year's program!

The International Affairs portfolio has issued invitations to our counterparts in the United States, Canada and Britain to join us in exploratory talks on forming an International Federation of Alpaca Associations. It has also been

actively assisting our New Zealand colleagues to set up an alpaca association in that country that will provide an industry specific focus for our

neighbours.

The Education and Training Sub-Committee has produced the first drafts of our long awaited Alpaca Facts educational sheets. The Sub-Committee is also actively working on developing an Association sponsored and approved on-farm training program that will meet the need for

informed and practically experienced farm workers as we move into the commercial development of our industry.

The Animal Health and Welfare Sub-Committee has produced an enlightening report on Johne's Disease statistics and has been invited to participate in several Government sponsored programs in what I regard as a recognition of our developing primary industry status.

Heady stuff indeed!

When all of this is added to the work done by members within regions (and in their own right) and the stunning financial turnaround from last year, it becomes apparent that we are in, what I believe, to be the healthiest, strongest and most confident

position we have experienced in the past seven or so years.

We as an industry have every right and expectation to an optimistic and successful future. We have a very strong financial base built on an excellent in-house financial management structure. We have an excellent National Committee with a good spread of talent and expertise to manage the affairs of both the Association and the industry. We have a growing membership that is reaping the rewards of hard work, commitment and keeping the faith and we have a vision that is attainable.

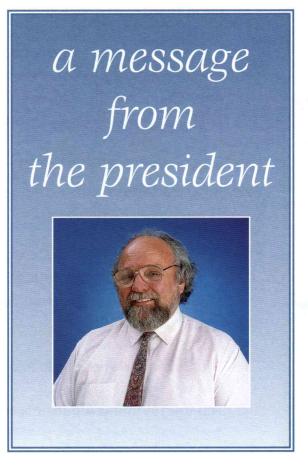
These are the ingredients for a successful industry. We have them in abundance. We also have a prodigious supply of energy and

enthusiasm from a huge number of people who are happy to put in for not only themselves but for others as well. We are actually planning and developing our future rather than letting other forces bog us down in mediocrity and divisiveness.

Where else would you rather be than in this wonderful world of alpacas? Where else would you rather be than at the cutting edge in the evolution of a new primary industry?

Let's join together over the next year and take this Association and industry by the scruff of the neck and move forward with aggression and confidence so we can honestly and proudly claim - we did it!

Ian Watt



Young Scientist Award

Xungai Wang, an associate professor at Deakin University in Victoria, has won a Young Scientist Award for his work on alpaca fibre. The award will be presented later this year at the Wool Textile Research conference in Germany.

At the age of 34, Professor Wang is one of the youngest professors in Australia's history. His work in the development of blended fibres that have the softness of alpaca without the prohibitive cost is encouraging for both the Australian wool industry and the Australian alpaca industry as the popular demand for finer, lightweight fibres increases.

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation recently granted Professor Wang \$250,000 to develop new alpaca blends, part of a total \$500,000 grant. Australia's advanced technology and improved breeding standards in the National alpaca herd see it poised to snare a greater share of the world's market and, with this young academic working on our side, alpaca breeders can share the growing confidence.

weanlings for sale.

Consultation and

advice.

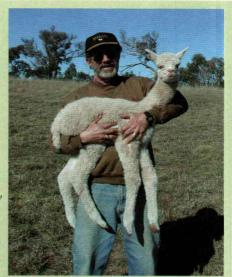
BIG birthday surprise!

Born at 10 am on Thursday 10th August at Bluegrass Alpaca Stud, NSW, a healthy white male cria (pictured here at less than one day old) sired by Benleigh Ringleader out of a Chilean mother.

"So what", do we hear you ask? After a 'short-ish' 316 day gestation this cria was 'unpacked' weighing in at a massive 12.5 Kg!

The parturition was relatively quick, with owner, Julie Mavros, providing some assistance to deliver the cria's shoulders. Even so, within the hour the cria was standing and feeding and was running around by lunchtime.

We understand this gestation/birth weight combination to be rare, but if there is anybody else with a similar experience, we'd like to hear from you. Ed.



Have you moved, or are you moving soon?

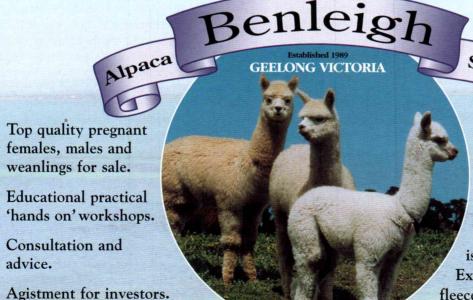
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Next Issue

- AAA Industry Conference highlights
- · National Show and Sale highlights
- More from Marty McGee Bennett - 'The Magic of the Four Point Approach'
- · Alpaca fashion spread
- More breeder profiles ... and much more!



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ALPACAS SPRING 2000

Alpacas

as a matter of course



Students learn to assess alpaca fibre characteristics - Alpaca Production Course Richmond TAFE (NSW)

by GEOFF FYSH AAA EDUCATION & TRAINING

Mention the word 'education' to alpaca breeders and most people share the opinion that it is (a) very worthwhile, (b) quite varied, and (c) an extremely boring topic to talk about. At the risk of falling into category (c) this article aims to highlight the (a) and the (b). Fortunately, new alpaca owners are generally enthusiastic participants when it comes to workshops and seminars.

ne of the easiest misconceptions with alpaca industry topics is: there's nothing more to learn. In an evolving primary industry which has barely even started to realise the enormity of its potential, education along with research and development are the cornerstones for future growth.

At a passive/minimal cost level, there are magazine and newsletter articles, the new 'Alpaca Notes' and seminar proceedings to read, providing we make time to read them.

Usually well promoted, every association member should be aware of regional seminars and workshops held throughout the year, not to mention the International Alpaca Industry Seminars. Likewise, small seminars on a wide variety of topics are run intermittently by some of the larger alpaca breeders. These too are usually heavily promoted within the local industry.

Workshops are popular with new breeders, but have you ever noticed when it comes to experienced breeders, it seems to be the same people attending each time? Often these people aren't so much slow learners as people hungry for knowledge and who realize they will always gain something from any information session, even if they have heard it before.

Living as adults in a 'free society' means that only we as individuals can decide how high we place our self-education on the priority list. The challenge, however, can be trying to find out what is being held where and how to get enrolled.

Fortunately, for the past 4 years, there have been a couple of courses available through NSW TAFE.
Unfortunately, only one, the very general 'Animal Production For Alpaca Breeders', is available externally.

However, if there was sufficient interest in another state or region, a group of interested people could approach their local training provider (TAFE or private) and ask them to run the main alpaca course entitled 'Alpaca Production'. Both are Statement of Attainment Courses and the details of both courses are set out below.

Due to changes within TAFE, 'Alpaca Production' is now only available through Richmond TAFE, NSW, and runs over one calendar year in two semesters. Utilising the expertise of experienced breeders and TAFE agricultural lecturers it has three hours (one night) per week at TAFE as formal lectures plus practical weekend sessions at alpaca farms.

'Alpaca Production' was originally designed as an introductory course for people without alpacas to learn more before getting involved. However, in the last couple of years the course has

Animal Production
For Alpaca Breeders

This is a more general hecourse and its main aim is

also attracted a number of existing breeders who have enrolled to brush up on their skills and keep up to date with the latest information.

This is a more general home study course and its main aim is to develop knowledge and management options for alpaca breeders.

In the last four years there have been approximately 120 students completing the course, most of whom have progressed to become fully fledged alpaca owners and breeders.

The course covers the main elements of ruminant livestock production and has been adapted from the Advanced Certificate in Sheep and Wool Production. The areas in which alpacas differ from sheep are addressed in the course notes but the focus is on general animal production.

Alpaca Production

People who complete the home study course will receive advanced standing in the Alpaca Production Course. To finish the course in one year would mean a nominal study load of five hours per week, and whilst there are no exams, results are based on assessment tasks.

This course centres on alpaca management with a mix of modules designed for home study plus some 60 hours of lectures and practical workshops. There are a total of nine modules:

The following modules can be studied individually and at the pace that suits the student:

1.	Alpaca Industry Perspectives	6 hours
2.	Alpaca Handling	32 hours
3.	Alpaca Husbandry	27 hours
4.	Alpaca Breeding & Selection	36 hours
5.	Alpaca Fibre	24 hours
6.	Alpaca Fleece Harvesting	24 hours
7.	Alpaca Show & Sale	24 hours
8.	Rural Insurance	10 hours
9.	Negotiating Legal Contracts	15 hours
To	tal	198 hours

1.	Ruminant nutrition	36 hours	\$40.00
2.	Fertility	18 hours	\$60.00
3.	Pasture Management	36 hours	\$60.00
4.	Ruminant Health	36 hours	\$40.00
5.	Breeding (genetics)	18 hours	\$30.00
6.	Fibre Production	18 hours	\$40.00
To	tal	162 hours	\$270.00

The cost is \$105 per semester plus course notes.



Currently, TAFE NSW also offers diploma courses such as 'Sheep, Wool and Fibre Studies Programme', 'Certificate of Farm Management' and 'Diploma in Agribusiness' that have elective alpaca modules within them, but they are essentially traditional farm courses.

When it comes to employee education, there are now generous incentives under the New Apprenticeship Scheme to employ farm apprentices and the first apprentice in alpaca farming has already started in Victoria.

Commonwealth Government incentives to farmers include:

- \$1,250 starting incentive (after completion of the probationary period).
- \$1,250 progression payment when the apprentice moves from level 2 to 3 in his or her training.
- \$1,000 for employing a female in a non-traditional trade.
- \$1,500 completion payment after apprentice has completed levels 3 or 4.
- \$1,000 rural and regional incentive for employers in particular postcodes and occupations.

As part of the new Agricultural Training Package Scheme the assessment procedure will come under what is known as National Industry Competency Standards. Vocational training (including farm traineeships) has changed from curriculum to a competency-based system. Participants are assessed on competencies in all aspects of alpaca farming and progress at their own rate through different levels.

This means that assessment will be on the practical ability of the course participant to complete set tasks rather than pass written tests. The competency standards for the alpaca industry are expected to be written towards the end of this year and to be in place for 2001.

In the meantime, the competency standards for a training package titled 'Certificate 3 in Alpaca Fibre Harvesting' (otherwise known as the 'owner-classer course'), have been drafted and are due for submission to the Rural Training Council for formal adoption.

A total of 218 participants around Australia attended the preliminary workshops as part of the initial process. This project has been funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), and so, indirectly, also funded by the AAA.

Owner-classer training will be piloted over the next twelve months resulting in the course being available to registered training providers throughout Australia by 2002.

As alpaca operations increase in size over the next few years there will be a corresponding demand for personnel, such as qualified farm managers. Consequently, you can expect to see a range of courses in alpaca being offered at TAFE colleges around Australia. These will be at Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma level.

Similarly, some universities will begin to offer undergraduate and post graduate degrees with majors in alpaca studies, but all these will rely on support and demand from the industry itself.

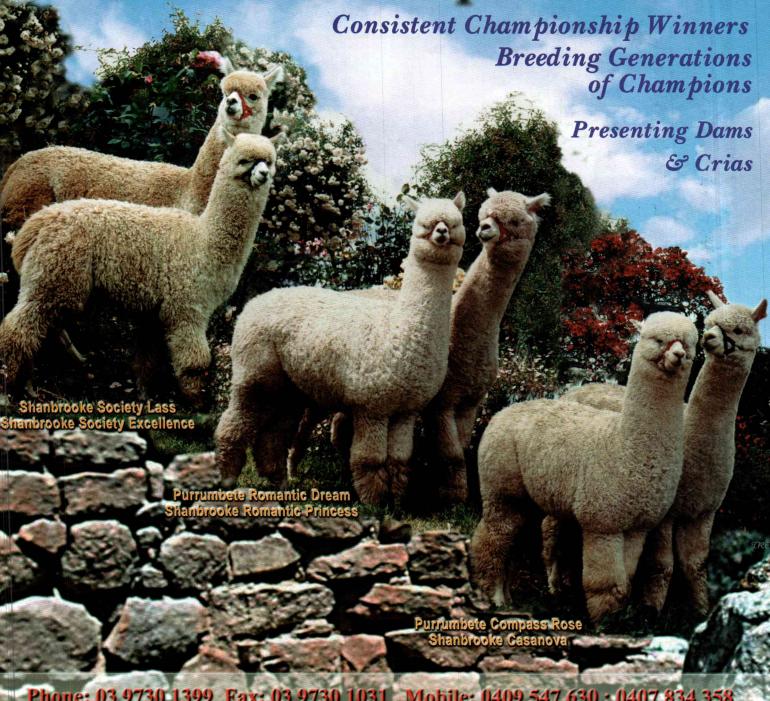
In the meantime, should you want more information on the existing TAFE courses, contact Kay Carter, Head Teacher Agriculture, Richmond TAFE on (02) 4570 9094.

If you are interested in exploring the farm apprenticeship scheme contact Rural Skills Australia on 1800 647 798 and they will direct you to your local coordinator. ■





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from Hembras to Hemlines

an interview with Maria Bravo

by STEPHANIE POPE THE AUSTRALIAN SURI COMPANY, SA

Maria Herlinda Bravo is the President of Quintessence & Co located in Callicoon, New York. She is a gifted fashion creator and an experienced alpaca breeder. Her creative abilities may have never been discovered if it were not for her unlikely initiation into the alpaca industry. Her story is one of destiny, determination, wonder and sheer courage.

aria's introduction to the alpaca world was a

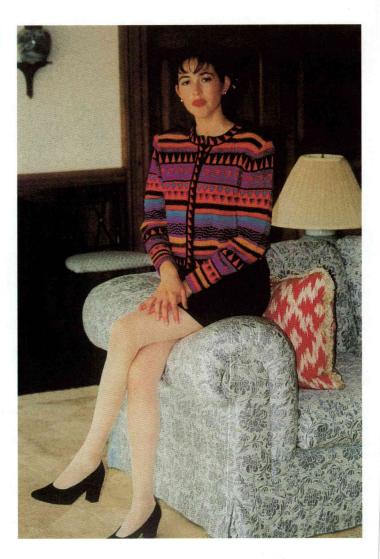
whirlwind of discovery. Commencing a career in the grocery industry Maria began as an Administrative Assistant for Charles Fitzmorris, Jr, the owner of Star Traders. Over the years, she climbed the corporate ladder to become the Vice President of his company. During her tenure, she learned (as everyone he knew did) that "Charlie" had a special place in his heart for the South American alpaca. His dream was to become the largest alpaca rancher in North America. In 1982, he purchased 12 alpacas in Chile and waited over ten years until the end of 1994 before the doors in the USA were opened to these magnificent creatures. Import permits were granted and other legalities were finalized. Maria enjoyed Charlie's utmost confidence and was specially

The serene and breathtaking beauty of the Andean mountains combined with the extreme conditions to which she subjected her body and mind changed Maria

selected to administrate the three-

month project of moving his beloved

alpacas into the northern hemisphere.



Elegant suit comprising dress and bolero

forever. Encountering the simplistic, yet rugged lifestyle of the Quechua and Aymara Indians, she learned that they were the keepers and owners of all the camelids inhabiting the altiplano. These elegant aristocrats carrying the "fibre of the gods" had been the foundation of their culture for over 5,000 years and they were an inspiration to Maria. Alone and in a foreign country, this solitary woman was forced to dig deep inside herself and draw from a well of inner strength to make an unlikely project succeed.

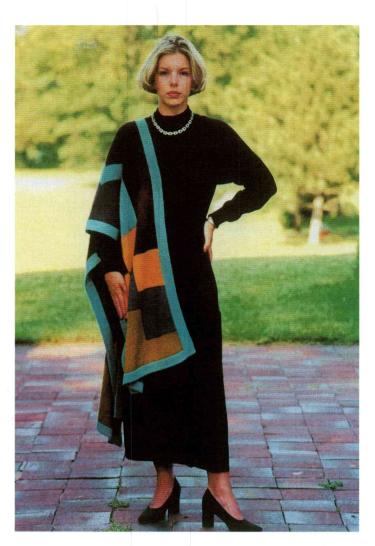
Plunging headlong into this imaginative adventure, she and her

team successfully imported 330 alpacas and their cria into the US. (His original 12 alpacas had certainly multiplied over the course of a decade!!) However, three months eventually became 13 months and problems plagued the project. Abortions, under nutrition, stress, pneumonia, and struggling cria amongst the strong, yet paradoxically fragile, alpacas had to be balanced with experts in every available field of information. Complicated legalities, cash-based transactions, and culture barriers were all components of a maze of inconsistencies that would confuse even the most skilled businessman. Maria's ignorance was combated with a steep learning curve. Ultimately, she fulfilled Charlie's wishes and found homes for each of his beloved alpacas in virtually every state of the US.

Unfortunately, Charlie did not live to see his dream become a reality. He was 85 at the time of his death. But his remarkable optimism and entrepreneurial gifts live on in Maria and her enduring dedication to the alpaca and the world surrounding these fascinating animals. To her credit, she has continued on and created her own dream where others would have retired.

Today, Maria operates her own alpaca business, Quintessence & Co. It incorporates Quintessence Alpacas International, which breeds animals for fine fibre and advanced fleece types, with her design and manufacturing company that creates elegant and sophisticated finished products. The need for fibre instilled a desire to import alpacas into the United States. Using her own breeding program Maria is able to breed quality alpacas carrying fibre that meets the strict criteria for her fabulous fashions. Her philosophy is "to breed fine fibred alpacas for fashion design and production".

The North American breeding program is carefully orchestrated at her new ranch in Bethel, New York. Quintessence animals are chosen for their perfect conformation and advanced fleece types. A heavy bone is important for breeding solid, wellconformed alpacas. These types of animals are well equipped to carry a



Zig-zag shawl with long dress

tremendously dense fleece with superb coverage that extends from their nose to their toes. Their fine, heavy-cutting fleece full of character and definition will be the basis for producing Maria's magnificent garments. Each one of her 300 + suris and huacayas were chosen because they matched her high standard for breeding quality animals.

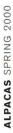


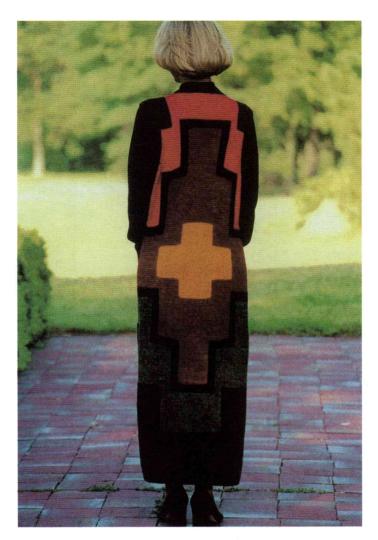
Sweater in 15% angora, 35% alpaca and 50% polyacry

Maria conducts a complimentary breeding program at her farm in Chile where her passion for the finest alpacas attracted the attention of Derek Michell of Michell & Cia in Arequipa, Peru. Michell & Cia is known for their fibre production and manufacturing. However, the constant stream of inquiries for animals prompted them to pursue the



Square plaid reversible coat, sweater, skirt and Nido De Abeia (Bee's nest) scarf





Inca Cross long sweater vest and long dress in solid colour

opportunities for exporting alpacas as well as their finished products. They have now formed an on-going joint venture with Maria to purchase and sell exceptional alpacas around the globe.

In an effort to construct an avenue for her creative abilities. Maria inaugurated her design and manufacturing company, Quintessence, International in the fall of 1997. Maria enthuses, "I love to design and it comes easily to me. Maybe it is because I love women's fashion and everything related to beauty and finesse". Memories of the soft, comfortable alpaca shawls common to her childhood in Mexico and the luxurious geometric pelts that adorned her home, instilled a hidden love for the fibre that was finally discovered when she embarked upon Charlie's project. The absence of alpaca yarn in the specialty and expensive yarn shops helped to convince Maria that something needed to be done to upgrade the recognition of alpaca in North America as a luxurious, rich, soft and durable fibre.

Ladies' fashion can be a fickle and volatile market. A woman's place is no longer just in the home. She has evolved into a multi-faceted, sophisticated vet familiar being with fashion needs for many plausible situations. Her wardrobe must reflect her diverse range of activities. Maria embraces this new versatile woman as a reflection of herself and it is clearly visible in her fantastic collections. She emphasizes her point, "It is important to me that a woman is able to wear a garment under different circumstances or places. I love to produce coordinates that we can travel, work and live in". The fabulous fashions in all her collections are simple, yet elegant and versatile.

However, design appears to be the simplest part of creating alpaca fashions. We have discovered that processing alpaca has caused many headaches and a lot of confusion both here in Australia and around the world. Currently, Maria's strategy is to have her designs manufactured in Peru and Bolivia. Having found a group of manufacturers in South

America who have been working with alpaca for over 25 years, she intends to avoid costly and time-consuming mistakes. As connoisseurs of alpaca fibre, their knowledge and understanding concerning the behaviour of the fibre provides significant advantages when designing special pieces.

Long-term plans are to expand the manufacturing process into North America. To this end, she is obtaining a mini-mill from Canada and will be able to produce her own yarns, felts, fabrics, etc. Like most other wool processing machinery, it will require modifications to be capable of processing alpaca, so it will not be operating until at least the spring of 2001. Even then, the processing must be a step-by-step process, so as not to squander valuable fibre on products that do not meet the high quality necessary to promote the luxury of alpaca properly.

Maria and I found common ground not only in our love of fashion, but also in our zest for the magnificent suri fleece. She believes it to be the most sensual and luxurious fibre in the world. I quite agree!! Her goal is to breed suris, suris, and more suris ... oh, and a few more suris. "The elegance and royalty in the walk of a suri, the way her fibre moves in a 'curtain of silk' is truly unique". They should never be compared with the cuddly, teddy bear appearance of a huacaya. Each breed has a beauty quite distinct from the other. The huacaya offers an emotional appeal while the rippling wheat field effect of a hundred suris running together is truly dazzling. Their regal stance and noble appearance draws pride from any suri breeder.

The scarcity of suri mandates that it be used in special heavy fabrics that will last forever. Maria observes that suri fibre is best used in the traditional way ... COATS! Long coats, capes and wraps are also the best way to emphasize the softness and richness of the natural colours and calls special attention to the unique draping quality of suri fibre. One only needs to slip into a suri coat to feel the transformation of beauty and elegance. However, the true

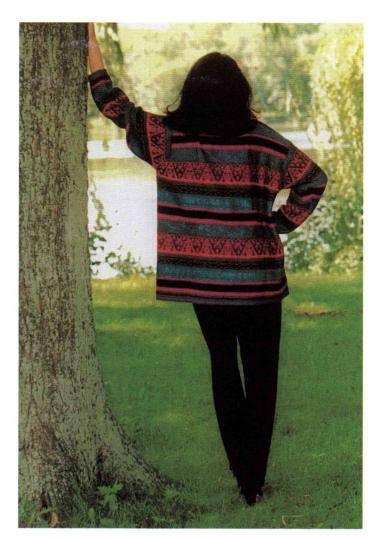
ALPACAS SPRING 2000

expression of suri luminosity is evident in hand-woven yarns and scarves where the feel of the cloth is magical, almost sinful.

Maria has two collections of alpaca fashion. Her original Quintessence collection of designs is for everyday wear. The coordinating outfits include a selection of five to seven pieces: a set of pants, short and long skirt, a tunic, blouse and a short coat or jacket. The "mix and match" effect adds versatility and functionality to an otherwise glamorous range of garments. For these designs, the colour palette moves from neutrals in ivory, tweed and ebony to softly elegant pastels such as arctic frost and dusty rose and is completed with vibrant shades of scarlet, tangerine and cobalt. We had the privilege of viewing this collection at our 1998 National Show and Sale.

The new Millennium collection is a daring and sophisticated initiative. Inspired by the antique textiles of the millenarium cultures, Maria is demonstrating to the world that our ancestors had impeccable taste for geometric design and could work wonders with colour! Her objective is to reproduce the antique textiles in each of the prominent cultures of our predecessors. The designs are carefully selected and moulded to capture the essence of the society they are derived from. These fashions are for those who would make a statement with their style and sophistication! Incan civilization has been commemorated with a geometric study of brilliant colours incorporating a variety of garments. Currently, "Africa in Colour" celebrates the tenacity of African wildlife in the warm, alluring summer tones of desert gold, oasis blue and palm green.

For Maria, her alpacas are elegant, aristocratic animals that produce the raw material for her luxury products that are in high demand. She summarizes, "I love the alpaca and everything we obtain from them; I consider them to be the animals of the future".









ALPACAS SPRING 2000

Australian Camelid Veterinary Association Conference

Perth, June 2000

by JANE VAUGHAN BVSc MACVSc

This year the Australian Camelid
Veterinary Association annual
conference was held in conjunction with
the Australian Veterinary Association
national conference in Perth from
28-30 June.

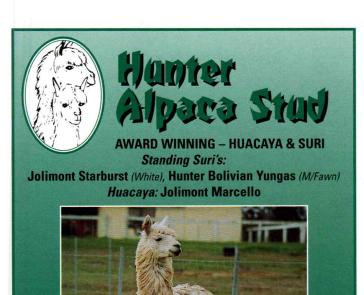
wo days of lectures were accompanied by a field trip to George and Jenny Jackson's property, Banksia Park Alpaca Stud, for some practical demonstrations by speakers and a

chance for members to get hands-on experience.

The lectures were held at Rendezvous Observation City Hotel in Scarborough. Dr Andrew Dart discussed surgeries performed in camelids at Sydney University and spoke very lucidly on management of premature and dysmature crias. Dr Geoff Judson, from the South Australian Research and Development Institute, presented results on feed tests performed on some of the commercially available alpaca feeds from various feed mills in Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. There was quite a bit of discrepancy between labels and contents in some of the rations and breeders would be well advised to discuss nutrition with their local veterinarian. Dr Andrew Paxton-Hall, from Queensland, talked about the very promising results in the desensitising program set up in alpacas suffering skin-related problems associated with environmental allergens such as grass pollens. Dr Ewen McMillan and I put together a useful list of items to assist practitioners with certification of male alpacas for the AAA. I gave an update on my PhD project; the bottom line to date being that 1mg 17ß-oestradiol I/M is not effective in inducing regression of the current dominant follicle on the ovary.

The field trip to Banksia Park was a great success. Dr Rebecca Lonsdale, from Diagnostic Veterinary Imaging in Perth, guided registrants through the abdominal and thoracic cavities via ultrasound and demonstrated liver biopsies to assist in disease diagnosis and nutritional advice. Dr Christina Dart, from Sydney University, demonstrated the art of intravenous and gas anaesthetics. Members had fruitful discussions on the topic of male certification and their recommendations for modifying the Application and Veterinary Report have been put to the AAA.

Thanks to George and Jenny Jackson for their generous hospitality on Friday.



Arrival – June 2000

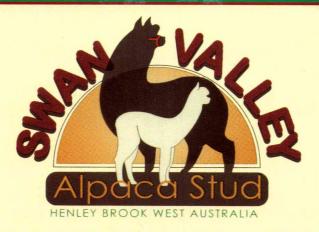
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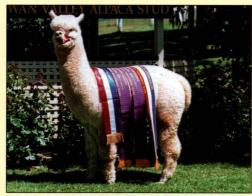


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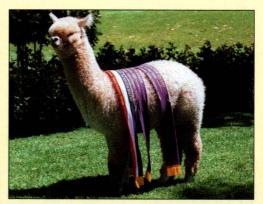
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L-R Swan Valley Calypso, Swan Valley Top Gun, Swan Valley Majestic. Champion Sires Progeny Group 1999 National Classic Tamworth Sire - Peruvian Sonoma (Deceased)



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in the Altiplano

REPORT ON THE INAUGURAL COURSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALPACA JUDGING SCHOOL, MAY 2000

by MAGGIE KRIEGER SALTSPRING IS. LLAMAS & ALPACAS, CANADA

The first course of the IAJS was no less than a resounding success. Participating students represented six countries including France, Germany, England, Canada, USA and Australia.

he school was attended by the following students:
Tracey Riopel, Jane Tellier,
Lorraine Guyn, Jill Macleod and
Cathy Merkely (from Canada);
Amanda VandenBosch (from USA);
Peter Nicolas (from France); Martin
Kottmann and Hartwig Kraft (from
Germany); Dianne Condon, Julie
Bird, Lyn Dickson, Kylie
Hollingworth, Bill Robbins, Jude
Anderson and Jenny Jackson (from
Australia).

Barring one minor mishap when one of the group walked into the



Group photo of participants and handlers, IAJS, Peru

wrong side of the airport and missed the pick up, the scheduled meet up in Lima went without a hitch. Very early on the morning of the 9th May we were summoned from our sleeping quarters to begin the journey to Arequipa - city of alpaca fibre processing, on the gentle slopes of the desert leading to the foothills to the Peruvian altiplano.

The first stage of the overall learning process was to begin with a few days in this amazing city, first settled by the Incas. It was primarily an acclimatization stop since Arequipa is situated approximately six to seven thousand feet above sea level. However we had decided that an important part of the background knowledge that would be required of International judges would be a full understanding of the commercial processing of alpaca fibre. So no time was wasted in Arequipa. While the subtle subliminal changes of acclimatising were beginning, the learning process was initiated. Knowledge of the alpaca fibre industry was taught to the students through a full day of visiting the sorting and processing facilities of both the Michell and Inca Tops

Judging school at Rural Alianza - against the backdrop of the facility's school



commercial alpaca fibre companies. Here everybody got a first hand idea of the full cycle of alpaca fibre processing — from unravelling raw fleeces for the sort and dehairing vicuna by hand, to the production of fine, high quality fabrics and sweaters.

After a few days in Arequipa and experiencing the lower levels of altitude it was time to move on up to the higher Altiplano itself. A ten hour bus drive took us all to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, where we were to spend the night prior to moving to our final destination at the Michell farm facility, an eco resort named Mallkini.

At Mallkini the students were given some time to rest and get used to the altitude again. The excellent and comfortable facilities there soon became home to us all, a vital situation bearing in mind the learning-packed seven days we were to spend there.

The first day of the school was held in the old house at the Mallkini facility. This transformed comfortably into a classroom and complete with white sheet on the wall for a projection screen, the first day commenced with a full day of theory including computerized slide shows. Subject material on conformation, fibre, genetic problems and oral reasoning were reviewed and discussed with comprehensive work books being provided for detailed note taking. Both Dr Julio Sumar and Maggie Krieger conducted the sessions.

At the outset the participants were divided into two groups of eight and each group was assigned an ongoing project that they would work on in



Principles of IAJS, Peru, Dr. Julio Sumar (left) and Mrs. Maggie Krieger

their "spare time"! The two projects were the formulation of an alpaca standard that would be suitable for global adoption and a show format that would also be suitable for global adoption. Once drafts had been completed they were to be brought to the group as a whole for analysis and discussion. This was a major undertaking for us all, especially when the laptop decided to eat and swallow one of the files, never to cough it up again! The final work was completed in the last few days of the trip in Cuzco and, remarkably, consensus was reached amongst the whole group.

It was felt that the exercise of formulating both of these documents would be a good learning process —

bringing to the attention of the students the details that they would be required to be fully familiar with, if they were to be IAJS alpaca judges of International calibre. It would also stimulate deliberate thought and discussion on the finer details of alpaca standards and what really constitutes the correct alpaca, and the controversial debating of show ethics, management, conduct of judges, exhibitor rules, etc. Essentially this exercise provided an interactive selflearning experience for the whole group and, because it was ongoing throughout the course, there was plenty of time for meaningful debate and discussion with positive outcomes and conclusions.

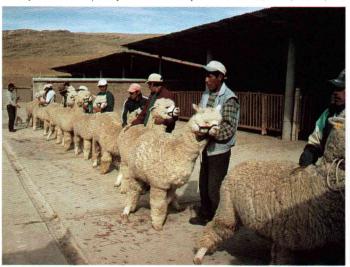
The remaining nine days of the course were spent working through the rest of the curriculum, which was based on practical hands-on work with both Huacaya and Suri alpacas. This was by no means a holiday. These were gruelling high-energy days that demanded the utmost in concentration from every participant. At Mallkini each student scrutinized a total of around 300 alpacas in the practical sessions sampling a good cross section of animals, from mediocre quality to good quality.

The daily routine commenced with a fifteen-minute bus ride to the part of the farm where the practical sessions were held. A former dairy facility was the locale for the practical sessions at Mallkini. The day's work would be prepared early in the morning, prior to the students arriving, by segregating groups of four, six, eight or ten alpacas to be judged, which were held waiting in pens. Each group of animals was assessed

Suri line-up at Rural Alianza, Peru, for assessment by IAJS students



Huacaya males lined up ready for assessment by students in IAJS School, Mallkini, Peru





Australian, Canadian and German participants undergoing assessment, IAJS, Peru

by Julio and Maggie and placed in order of best to worst according to a consensus on quality arrived at by the instructors. The students would then judge the groups and come up with their own placings. They were given time allotments to complete assessment of the groups and when time was up, the placings were handed in and recorded on a board so that everyone could scrutinize the results. Once the results were in, teaching commenced on the alpaca group that had just been judged. Each alpaca was discussed and studied in fine detail and reasons for the placings they had been given by the instructors were heavily debated. After all, there was continuous assessment going on here, and if minds could be changed with debate and discussion, then it could mean the difference between higher or lower total scores on the day of reckoning!

At around day three of the course the students were expected to start practicing their oral reasoning skills. With much fear and trepidation they underwent major scrutiny of their skills, as they had to practise in front of a video camera. At the end of the day their performances were played back to them and comment from instructors was given with peer review and scrutiny also invited. It was amazing to see how each individual improved their skills after seeing themselves on tape once and hearing the criticism of their performance.

On the last day at Mallkini the students were subjected to the theory examination. This consisted of twenty questions that dealt mainly with judging situations, ethics, conformation and fibre theory topics.

The seven days of learning passed with what seemed to be a blink of an eye at Mallkini. On our last night there we bore witness to a ceremony of blessing, performed by the local priest. This was a fascinating experience with the ceremony itself being a mix of Catholic blessing and ancient Indian ritual. It was somewhat heartening to know that we had all been blessed by Pacha Mama and our friends and relatives across the world with us, with the burning of an offering, which had been carefully constructed and packaged for dispatch in the wee hours of the morning. We felt that the IAJS was well on its way to success along with the blessing of the guesthouse facility, knowing that Pacha Mama had indeed accepted our requests. The force with which the fire consumed the offerings determined such acceptance. Of course the occasion did not pass without the careful dispensing of a

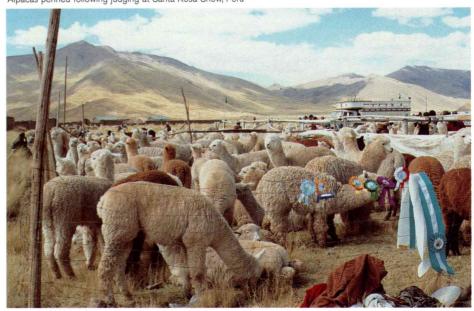
ceremonial swig of Pisco, Peru's national beverage, for each of the participants present.

By this time the group had become a very cohesive team of people.

Camaraderie and spirits were high and we seemed to be having a good time and getting on well. The occasional bout of sickness was experienced, but everybody was able to cope and there was no major difficulty with getting used to the altitude. It seemed that we could have encountered and experienced anything together and helped each other through it with no problem at all. But there were still adventures to come.

Seven days after our arrival at Mallkini, we once again set off in the bus to the Rural Alianza farm, where there was yet another three days of teaching to come. Here we had been promised the highest quality alpacas in Peru, so we waited with anticipation and baited breath to see the quality. No one had any idea what the facilities, which had been extensively prepared for us, would be like. So the instructors were concerned about the unknown. However, having been prepared for the worst, we were all extremely happy to find that the accommodation was much better than expected. Running cold water and flush toilets were the essentials that most people cared about and they were provided. The beds were comfortable and plenty of blankets were supplied as temperatures were extremely cold, particularly at night, and the mornings greeted us with heavy frost on the ground.











Shearing - Peru style

The drive in and out of the Alianza teaching situation for the students that farm was an adventure every time. As we approached the outskirts of the the world. Major debate over class farm the road ran closer and closer to the river, which thankfully was not very high at this time of the year. phase and the classes were getting However, about three miles away, the road actually ran along the river bed even more vital and harder to with the water meandering to and fro accumulate for the final score. across the way. This made for some exciting driving with the occasional

big dipper ride splashing through the water, instead of a bus. The teaching sessions were held out in the open under a clear sky and in blistering sun for the final three days of the school. The quality of the alpacas was indeed what we had been told to expect. The classes that were set up for the students to judge were full of excellent quality Huacaya and Suri alpacas. Sometimes the quality was so close it was difficult to tell the 390 point score on the category of Class animals apart. This was an excellent Placements. The written test carried a



Peruvian Huacaya male looks on as handlers prepare to pick up and store fleece just shorn

could not be matched anywhere else in placings ensued here since we were getting to the end of the assessment harder to judge, so the points became Julio and Maggie spent the evenings at the Alianza farm tabulating scores and coming up with the graduation list. The scoring that was used was based on a point system. It was felt the most important aspect of judging was the

ability of the individual to assess the alpacas accurately enough to place them correctly in order of quality. Thirty-nine classes were judged in the course of the school. As ten points were given if all four alpacas at the top of the class were placed in the right order, there was, therefore, a possible



De-hairing Vicuña by hand at Inca Group Sorting Centre, Arequipa, Peru



feeling that we were on a Disneyland



possible 68 points. Oral reasoning was split into Content - 20 points, and Conduct - 5 points, for a total of 25. Observation skills were allotted a possible 20 points. The total possible point awards were 503 points. Students were assessed solely on their skills and performance demonstrated at the school. However the status of International Alpaca Judging School Judge was awarded taking into account the performance score of the student and their background experience in training in their own countries and showring experience.

The closing celebrations and graduation and awards dinner were held in Cuzco on the 27th May and there was much celebration and excitement. We were royally entertained for the evening by our in house comedienne, Cathy Merkely, and her enthusiastic and out going example stimulated some other more retiring folk to come forward and perform as well!

The successful candidates were as follows: Jude Anderson, Dianne Condon, Bill Robbins, Kylie Hollingworth, Lyn Dickson, Julie Bird and Jenny Jackson (from Australia); Amanda VandenBosch (from USA), Jane Tellier and Tracey Riopel (from

Canada). All have active IAJS Judge status with the exception of Tracey Riopel who qualified under the point system for Judge status but is now building showring experience to work towards reaching active status. Active status means that the Instructors/ Directors of the IAJS recognise that the candidate is qualified to a high enough level of expertise to be able to judge in any country in the world and handle a show of at least 300-400 alpacas, including both Huacaya and Suri alpacas.

It must be recognized and stressed that all of the students performed extremely well in the school under intense scrutiny and stressful ongoing assessment. This was not a school for the faint of heart and the travel conditions were not first class with five star accommodation. Every one of them met the challenge of the school with great enthusiasm and learned a great deal. We have also had excellent complimentary feedback and suggestions for improvements from the students themselves.

The unsuccessful candidates will now proceed to work with the Instructors in their own countries to continue honing their skills with the goal of ultimately meeting the level of expertise required for qualification. All of them have expressed an interest in continuing to pursue their training. Consequently an ongoing custommade program is currently being set up for them. To that end the students in Europe will be attending a course in England where they will undergo further assessment and instruction. Those in Canada will be receiving more instruction at the Canadian Alpacafest in July and then some sessions will also be set up at private farms in the Fall. The most difficult requirement to fulfil will be the ring experience requirement and the solutions to this problem are being considered at this time.

As with every first time program there were areas that could be improved and changes that will be made for next year. However for the most part the course ran remarkably smoothly with no major crises occurring throughout the three week period. All in all the school has started on an excellent footing and we are confident that there will be another course offered in 2001 that will commence around the end of April.

For more information on IAJS visit the website at www.geocites.com/mkriegeralpaca/index.html ■

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Hawkesbury / Blue Mountains (NSW) 1999
Royal Adelaide Show (SA) 1999
Royal Melbourne Show (Vic) 1999
Strathalbyn Show (SA) 1999
Clare Show (SA) 1999
Mt Pleasant Show (SA) 2000
Royal Sydney Show (NSW) 2000

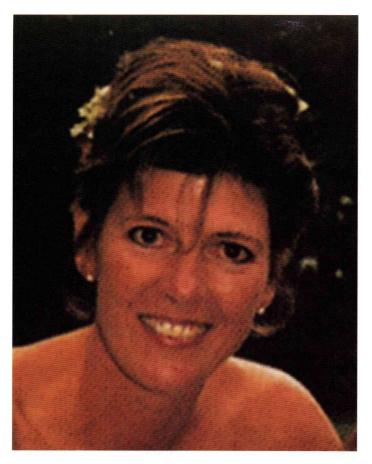
Strathalbyn Show (SA) 1999: Best Grey or Roan Fleece, GRAND CHAMPION FLEECE Melbourne Show 1999: Champion Junior Male Royal Adelaide Show 1999: Reserve Champion Junior Female, Reserve Champion Junior Male, Reserve Champion Intermediate Female, Reserve Champion Fleece, Best Fawn Alpaca, Best Brown Alpaca, Best Fawn Fleece - Hawkesbury / Blue Mountains Region Show 1999: Reserve Champion Junior Female, Champion Junior Male - Hamilton Sheepvention, 1999: Reserve Champion Junior Female, Reserve Champion Junior Male Melbourne Sheep and Wool Show, 1999: Reserve Champion Junior Female, Reserve Champion Fleece - Geelong Farmvision, 1999: Junior Champion Female – Kapunda Trade Fair, 1999: SUPREME CHAMPION FLEECE, Best Brown Fleece – Mt Pleasant Show (SA), 1999: SUPREME CHAMPION ALPACA, Junior Champion Male, Junior Champion Female, Bset Brown Alpaca, Best Fawn Alpaca

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Geelong Farmvision (Vic) 2000

Fine Choice Alpaca Sires



Marty McGee Bennett has been a fixture in the alpaca business almost since there was an alpaca business. After meeting Linda Tellington-Jones in 1987, Marty dedicated herself to bringing Linda's work, known as TTEAM, to the alpaca community. An accomplished author and teacher, Marty travels the world over to present hands-on training workshops to humans on how to handle their alpacas. When not on the road teaching, newlywed Marty lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with husband Brad Bennett and their dog, Rocky Raccoon.

by MARTY McGEE BENNETT

Alpaca person (al-PAK-e pur-sen) n. 1.

A person around whom alpacas feel comfortable and safe. A person that understands alpaca motivation and body language. A person who seems to have a magic connection with an alpaca.

m

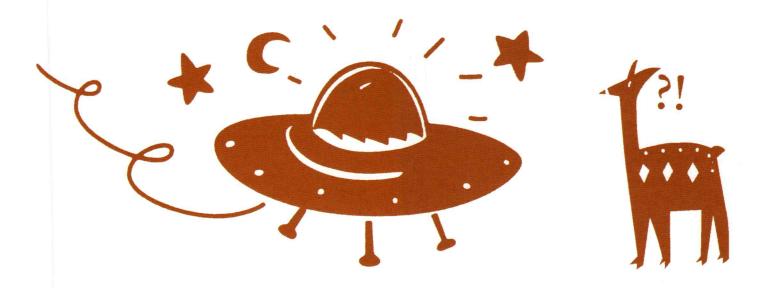
ostly, there are people who own alpacas, and then ... there are *alpaca people*.

You walk into the training pen with your alpaca. What do you want him to do? What do you want your alpaca to do as you put the halter on, trim toenails, prepare him for a show, look at his teeth, or give a shot? These are all trick questions because you really don't want your alpacas to DO anything. Think about it. You are the one that puts the halter on, picks up the feet, gives the shot. How much easier it would be if your alpaca did nothing but stand quietly while you did your work!

Teaching your Alpaca to do Absolutely Nothing!*

So why won't alpacas stand still? When we do so many nice things for them, why do they insist on running away from us unless we lure them with food? Why do we have to chase them, hold them, wrestle them, and build chutes for them? Perhaps... it is because we chase them, hold them, wrestle them, and put them in chutes! Most of the management and training that we do to alpacas is really not hurtful. Even the occasional shot is really nothing compared to the process of being cornered, grabbed, and wrestled into submission - all of which happens before the needle ever touches the skin.

Perhaps the best way to understand an alpaca's behavior is to play a bit of a mind game. Imagine that you are driving down a road late at night. You see a blinding flash of light, get out of the car, walk toward the light, and all of a sudden, strange looking creatures appear. The first thing you do without even giving it a moment's thought is to run. You are so completely panicked that you run right past your car. The aliens having six legs, compared to your two, are



faster. These strange beings chase you down and grab you. You fight like crazy but they are too strong. They drag you aboard their space ship. Once on the space ship, these alien things wrestle you into a tiny little box, you continue to struggle, but there is no use. Next, one of them puts his slimy hand thing on your leg and slowly slides your pants leg up... you freeze, holding your breath, and then finally scream. Wouldn't it be funny, after all that, if the aliens did nothing more than look at your feet and then let you go?

I think, to an alpaca we must seem very much like the aliens I just described. We really don't do anything all that bad once we have them, but the process of getting them is horrendous. An alpaca's first line of defence, just like ours, is the fight-orflight response. When running is no longer an option, alpacas resort to other defensive manoeuvres. Exactly like a frightened human, an alpaca will usually fight and then freeze usually accompanied by kushing. At the same time, scared alpacas also resort to some combination of breath holding, spitting, screaming or urinating. I didn't want to get too graphic in my spaceship example, but most humans would probably resort to some of these same responses!

What would have to be true for an alpaca to abandon these defensive manoeuvres and maybe even visit with us? Well, let's go back to the

alien example. Fear of the unknown is perhaps the most potent of all fears. An inability to communicate intention is what makes the aliens frightening. Learning the language and ultimately the culture is what bridges the gap and makes an alien environment understandable and safe.

If we use our superior reasoning ability to figure out how to behave in a way that does not feel so alien to an alpaca, we will become a safer presence.

There are those who believe that alpacas are strictly creatures of instinct. That is not my experience. I don't fully understand the limits of alpaca thought but I do know, as surely as I sit here typing, that they think - when given the chance. However, just like us, alpacas don't think very well when they are frightened. I am sure we can all remember doing something completely nonsensical in the throes of panic. How about people with test anxiety. They know the information or the skill, but apply the least bit of pressure, and they can't perform. Understanding how you affect the behavior of the animal and knowing when and how to change your behavior is the secret to being an alpaca person.

Learning to behave in a way that allows your alpaca to stay calm enough to think is the path to enhanced communication and understanding. Your alpaca will be able to overcome the instinct to run from you and will become available for learning. Then the magic happens ... they stay still and they hang around. You become an alpaca person!

Life is full of irony, and so is alpaca training, as it turns out. The key to disengaging the flight response is in giving the alpaca the freedom to use it. I have written many articles over the years about setting up your training facilities [Editor's Note: see, for example, "Harmonious Herding...Herding Strategies That Work," Alpacas Magazine, Summer 1998]. I will be revisiting this topic again as I continue these columns. For now, let me just say that it is crucial that you have your facilities organized so that you can herd your animals quietly and calmly into a training area. You must have a training pen that is somewhere between 9' x 9' and 12' x 12.' Square is better than either round or rectangular. A small square pen organizes the movement in a way in which you, as the handler, can capitalize. A round pen encourages the alpaca to keep moving, a rectangular pen encourages the alpaca to race back and forth along the long side, a pen that is too large allows the animal to break into a run and necessitates grabbing and holding. The corners of a square pen interrupt movement and its equal sides and small size encourage the animal to move about in a slower, more organized manner.

A number of people tell me that the process of catching their alpacas has devolved into an elaborate ritual. The handler chases the alpacas around a large barn or pasture area pen five times, and eventually the alpacas decide to quit and "corner up" to be caught. What begins as instinctive flight behavior quite often becomes ritualized habit. Why teach your alpacas needless time-wasting rituals? Why get the alpacas all excited and get yourself frustrated? It is much more time efficient to work with your alpacas in a way that forms habits you like - not habits you don't like. Don't waste your time chasing your alpacas. Spend the time you used to spend chasing them building some lane ways, gates and holding areas. Time spent organizing your facilities will come back to you twenty fold in your training efforts.

It is stressful and often impossible to separate two or three animals from a large group. Herd or call the whole gang of alpacas into the training area and then let the extra ones go. Work with your alpacas in small groups and they will feel much safer and your alpacas will think more clearly. It might not be exactly what you want to do, but following five or ten other humans into a space ship is highly preferable to being dragged into one ALONE!

In a sturdy training pen of the correct size, you can allow the alpaca to use his flight response. Sure, he can walk around the pen, but he is not going anywhere. The pen limits the expression of the flight response to a workable level. Give your alpacas the opportunity to move around as you stay out of their way within the pen and you will find they calm down and begin to think. Always give your alpaca the illusion of an escape route within the pen. You are probably accustomed to approaching with your arms outstretched. Try approaching your alpaca from behind the eye with only one arm out - the arm closest to the alpaca. When you make contact with the alpaca, place your hand on the mid-line of the neck, about half way up the neck. Avoid sliding the hand around the far side of the neck - that says: "I am getting ready to

grab you!" Stay close to the alpaca in front of the back legs; out of the kicking zone. You are in a very small pen, so allow your alpaca to walk and stay glued to him until he stops. I find this approach is much less frightening than the standard cornering approach. I have a lot more to say in future columns about catching alpacas, but this will get you started.

Once your animals are in the pen, you'll need to know where to stand and what to do. Next time, I will describe the Four Point System for directing animal movement. We are now on the way to teaching your alpaca to do NOTHING. Let go of the limits we humans place on all animals, specifically alpacas, and join me in a place full of new possibilities. Practice and be patient with yourself, and I will teach you to become that thing most rare — a genuine ALPACA PERSON.

To find out more about Marty visit her website at www.martymcgeebennett.com

This article is reproduced with the kind permisssion of Marty McGee Bennett and *Alpacas Magazine*, the official journal of the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA), USA.



South Australia's High Profile Alpaca Shop



by ADRIENNE CLARKE

Providing an ideal opportunity for the general promotion of the alpaca industry, South Australia's newest Alpaca Shop has recently opened at Adelaide's seaside tourist destination, the Marina Pier at Holdfast Shores.

his tourist development is still in its early stages, and on completion will offer a range of specialty shops, an entertainment centre, tavern and hotel facilities. Within the next 12 to 18 months, the precinct will become a major tourist attraction, with the alpaca industry having a permanent presence.

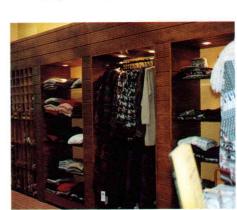
As encountered by the crowds that gathered in Glenelg for the opening of the National Conference in July 1999, and the success of Alpaca Open Days staged on-farm or other prominent locations in South Australia throughout the year, the public still welcome any chance to interact with alpacas. While there is the inclination for breeders to assume the alpaca is now a well-known livestock, it is quite surprising that even in their second

decade in Australia, that so many people have never met an alpaca or discovered the beauty of products made from their luxuriously soft fibre. The Alpaca Shop, being located in such a high profile area, will offer to many locals and tourists their first touch, and hopefully a lasting impression.

The shop is the second for proprietors Adrienne Clarke and Chris Williams, who have a full-time commitment to the alpaca industry. Their involvement includes the breeding of alpacas (with 250 alpacas in their herd), alpaca shearing, mobile servicing in South Australia and the







Adrienne and Chris are very optimistic for the future of alpaca fibre, with good demand for alpaca products, especially those made in Australia. The main limiting factor for the local industry at this stage is the shortage in volume of fine fleeces (under 23 microns) in any colour.

While the fibre is amenable to the process of dyeing, the public is drawn to the vast array of natural alpaca colours, not only by the inherent beauty of these colours, but also that clothes made from naturally coloured fibre are more environmentally friendly. Clothing made from the

natural colours requires less processing to bring the clothing to a finished state than dyed clothing, and avoids the need for wearing chemically dyed fibre next to the skin. More than ever before, people are searching for the more natural alternatives.

Mainly Australian made products are being offered through the new retail store, which draws attention to recent developments in local fibre processing and manufacturing. Displayed within the store is the Adelaide made Alpaca Classica label, which will once again be representing the Australian Alpaca Fashion Industry at the International Alpaca Conference in Peru later this year. Other lines include the Australian Alpaca Co-operative's range of products, quilts from Australian Alpaca Bed Quilts, and a variety of handspun and knitted products, recognising the significant contribution of the cottage industry to the retailing of alpaca products.

Supplementing the Australian made range of products are those imported from South America. The advantage of offering both Australian and imported lines is that the public

is made aware of the capabilities and diversity of alpaca fibre. Not only is alpaca fibre soft and silky and able to be worn directly next to the skin, it also has remarkable thermal properties, so is ideal for quilts, blankets and overcoats. Even the most lightweight clothing offers good warmth.

The new shop has a rustic feel, designed with plenty of exposed timbers, a terracotta tiled floor and warm lighting. The walls are adorned with tapestries and posters of the alpacas. The shop colours reflect a South American landscape with hues of brown, pink and yellow.

To ensure a link between the alpacas and the finished products made from their fibre, a young bottle fed alpaca has been a frequent visitor to the store. In a protected corner of the complex, an alpaca pen has been built to accommodate the alpacas. And while many visitors indulge in a meal at the restaurants or a stroll through the specialty shops provided by the tourist precinct, their children have enjoyed the chance to become acquainted with a new four-legged friend, which they now know is called an alpaca.

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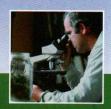








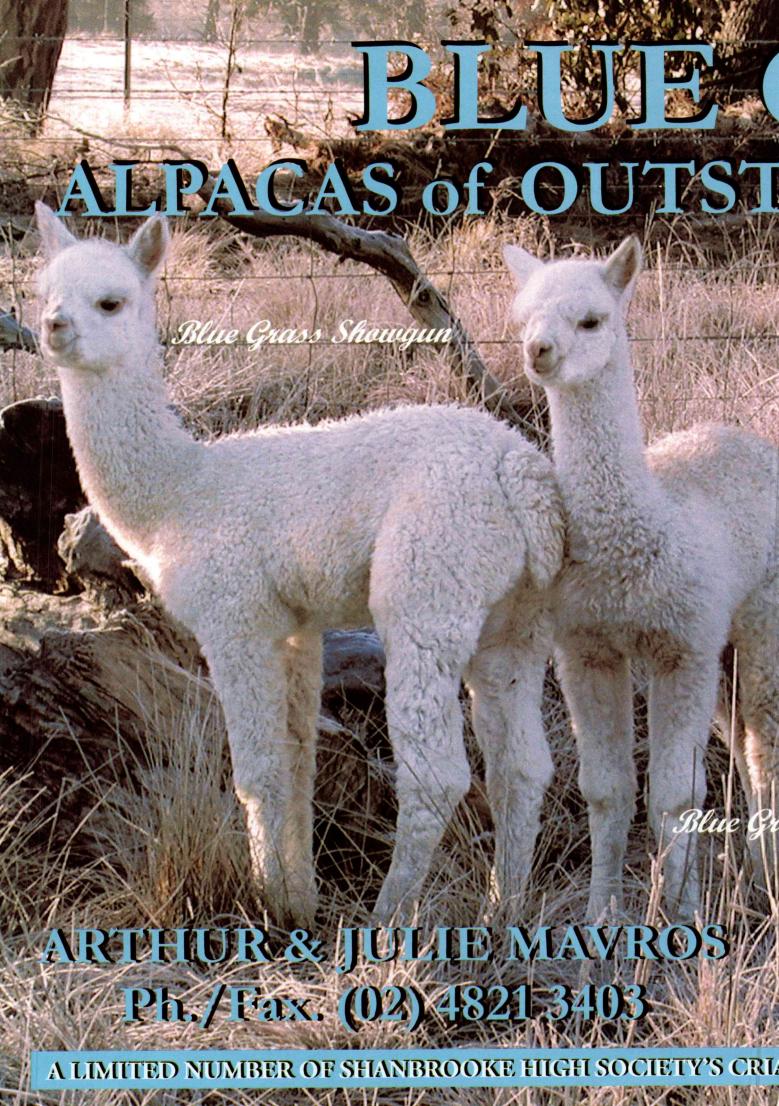


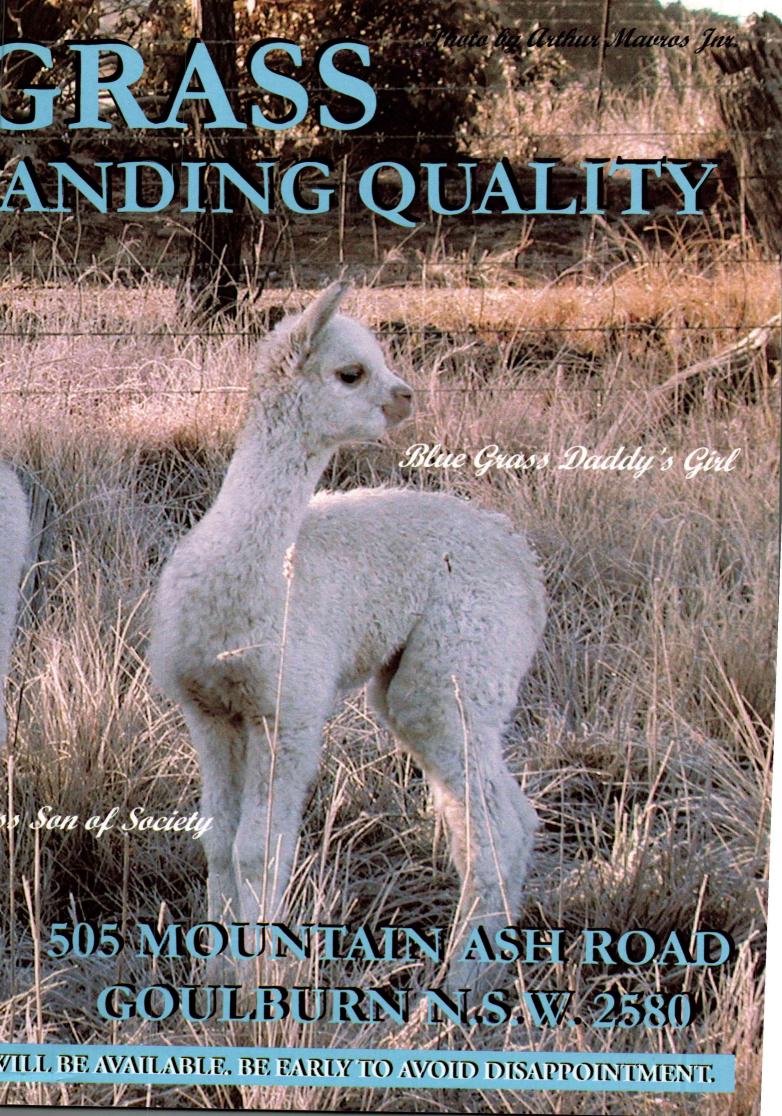


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ALPACAS SPRING 2000

42 fleeces.

Alpaca Autumn Show



Champion Huacaya Fleece - The Pines Queen of Sheba, Windsong Valley Alpacas



Champion Suri Fleece - Windsong Valley Andean Star, Windsong Valley Alpacas

by CHRISTINE EYRES MOONDYNE VALLEY ALPACAS, WA

The Alpaca Autumn Show, held by the WA Central Region, this year attracted a record crowd of over 6,000 people to the Whiteman Park venue. The Show ran for two days, with judging on Saturday 13 May and a fun day on Mother's Day, Sunday 14 May.

the Show has been run, and coordinator of the Show,
Ron Reid, was particularly pleased with the increase in numbers of entries in both animal and fleece classes. He reported that this year 46 breeders had entered 124 animals and

his is the second year that

Whiteman Park is located on 2,500 hectares of rural land, close enough to the city to be an ideal location to showcase the growing alpaca industry to the people of Western Australia. Along with Scarborough Toyota, the Park was a major sponsor of the event and afforded barbecue and playground facilities as well as many other features that complemented the Show.

Both animals and fleeces were judged by AAA Judge, Kevin Rubie of Forbes, NSW, who was particularly impressed by the consistent good quality of the fleeces. He awarded the Champion Huacaya Fleece to The Pines Queen of Sheba from Windsong Valley Alpacas, with the Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece going to Pentland Valerosa of Pentland Alpaca Stud. The Champion Suri Fleece was won by Windsong Valley Andean Star of Windsong Valley Alpacas.

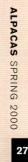
Supreme Champion Huacaya was judged to be Jolimont Albano, a three year old male owned by Judy and Murray Stannard of Encantador Alpaca Stud, Armadale, WA. The Judge commented not only on the good lock formation and the well defined crimp that continued right down to the belly, but also on the extreme density of fleece of Jolimont Albano, saving it would be interesting to see the results of a follicle skin test of this animal. Another feature that contributed to Jolimont Albano being judged Supreme Champion was his conformation, being large and 'deep in the barrel' ensuring excellent coverage of fleece.

Supreme Champion Suri was awarded to Windsong Valley Andean War Lord bred by Tena and Terry Wheeler of Windsong Valley Alpacas. Most Successful Exhibitor at the Show was Swan Valley Alpaca Stud owned by Rose and Ron Reid, who had two champions and five reserve champions, including Champion Sires Progeny won by Shanbrooke Elite.

Breeders of coloured animals were thrilled to see **Senior Champion Male Huacaya** being awarded to *Aviana Farms Tezado*, a pure black, owned by Taylor's Alpacas. The Judge commented that *Aviana Farms Tezado* compared very favourably to the best of the white animals with excellent conformation and fleece.

A popular event at the Show was the Junior Handlers Competition. As alpaca breeders of the future, the Judge praised the young contestants on their skills in handling the animals. He particularly liked to see the contestants talking to their animals and putting them at ease by attending to such things as making sure gates were opened wide for the animals to pass through comfortably. Championship ribbons were awarded to Nathan Ridout, 7, of Wildflower Estate Alpacas and Peta Fysh, 14, of Ronneby Park Alpacas.

As well as celebrating the exciting growth and advancements in the alpaca industry for existing members, the Show attracted many prospective new members who were able to talk to breeders, view the Association video, see alpaca products as well as demonstrations of shearing, carding and spinning alpaca fibre. Most members present agreed that the Show provided wonderful exposure for the industry and are looking forward to an even bigger and better event next year.





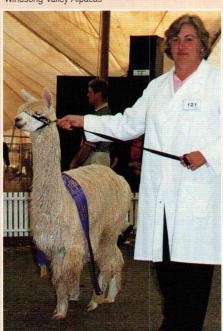
Murray Stannard with Supreme Champion Huacaya – *Jolimont Albano*, Encantador Alpaca Stud



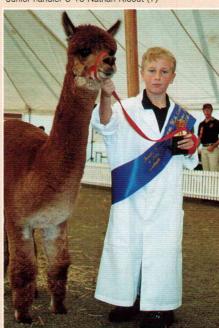
Peta Taylor with Senior Champion Male Huacaya – *Aviana Farms Tezado*, Taylor's Alpacas

Four generations of one family celebrating Mother's Day with the alpacas

Tena Wheeler with Supreme Champion Suri – *Windsong Valley Andean War Lord*, Windsong Valley Alpacas



Junior handler 6-10 Nathan Ridout (7)



Spinning demonstration by Carol Gadson

Spot the difference



by ADRIENNE CLARKE Ambersun Alpacas, Sa

The purists for alpaca colour would probably identify her as a breeding disaster. Yet to a market of hand-spinners her fleece is probably the most highly valued of all the alpacas in our herd.

n a herd of predominantly solid coloured animals, one alpaca is easier to spot.

A 'multi' is probably not a reflective description of her colour, as this label usually describes those alpacas with inconsistency in colour. Her colouration is extremely consistent from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail - she is covered in spots. Every centimetre of her body consists of a pattern of white, fawn and brown spots. The perfect blanket appaloosa, if one is to borrow a term usually reserved to describe horses.

Julie Koenig delivered a paper on the Inheritance of Fleece Colour in Camelids at the International Alpaca Industry Conference in Fremantle in 1998, and briefly introduced the gene controlling spots. It was suggested that the 'S' gene was made up of two alleles, with the allele for spots 's' being recessive to the allele for no spots 'S'. Only camelids with the genetic make-up of 'ss' would display spots, which Koenig defined as the

pattern when a "white or cream sheet with holes is laid over a coloured animal"

Koenig differentiated between the gene controlling spots and the gene responsible for a 'multi' fleece, which she described as a paint or piebald. The display of a multi-coloured fleece was controlled by a separate gene (the 'P' gene), with patches in fleece colour also being recessive to solid colour.

Koenig described the gene for spots as being extremely rare to the point that she stated that the "'s' allele may not exist in alpacas". As spotted alpacas appear so infrequently, almost all of the population of alpacas must carry the 'SS' alleles.

Llamas often display this remarkable pattern of colouration. One very spotty alpaca in South Australia, aptly named Ambersun Sprinkles, would provide evidence that the gene does also exist in alpacas.

Despite her uniqueness, Ambersun Sprinkles is the second appaloosa coloured alpaca born within our herd. Her full sister Ambersun Cheetah was born two years earlier to the same parents. Her fleece is made up of white and dark fawn spots. Their dam is solid brown and their sire is solid white. Each parent must carry the rare recessive gene, with a one-in-four probability of producing a spotted offspring.

The genotypic ratio of the mating: Ss (solid white) x Ss (solid brown) 1/4 SS (no spots), 1/2 Ss (no spots), 1/4 ss (spotted)

If the appaloosa gene is as rare as Koenig suggests, we would expect these two spotted females to give birth to solid coloured offspring, unless other sires carrying the appaloosa gene can be identified. Ambersun Cheetah's first cria, born only weeks ago, was solid white in colour. Theoretically, this male cria should be carrying the gene for spots even though it is not displayed in his fleece colour.

It is unlikely that alpaca breeders will even be aware of the gene in their herd of alpacas. Solid coloured alpacas which carry the gene (and do not manifest the trait, ie. 'Ss') will only be identified if the trait appears in their offspring after being mated to another alpaca with the appropriate genetic make-up ('Ss' or 'ss').

It is virtually impossible to estimate the prevalence of this gene for spots within the Australian population. The current colour classification system of the ABRI data base makes it impossible to identify which alpacas are spotted, as their colour classification will be absorbed within the classification for multi or roan coloured alpacas.

But while this alpaca's identity may be concealed within the ABRI data base, her presence in the herd is very easy to spot!

Goodbye and good luck

There's a saying: 'a change is as good as a holiday'. I am not quite sure whether painting and wallpapering a couple of rooms at my home over the last few weeks could be said to be a holiday. Nevertheless, it is certainly a change.

For various reasons, the long association between kage group and the AAA has come to an end and, with it, my association with both organisations.

Because this has all happened since the publication of the previous issue of Alpacas Australia, I was unable to say goodbye to all the readers, contributors and advertisers who have supported the magazine over my years as editor. Thank you all for your support.

I have had the privilege of watching (and, I hope, assisting) the development of an industry that has experienced steady growth. There have been ups and downs along the way. Who will forget the effect of the importations of large numbers of Peruvian alpacas? On the one hand we had predictions of gloom and doom and on the other, pie in the sky predictions of Peruvian dominance. Curiously, the Chileans have survived the onslaught and many breeders are quietly confident about the overall quality of the mix of animals presently in Australia. The truly 'Australian' alpaca is slowly emerging and I think it will be a very good animal: well conformed, hardy and the producer of dense fibre of world class quality.

Hopefully, Australian alpacas will also produce world class quality fibre in a range of colours. While there are many 'white only' advocates among industry members,

there is also a solid 'opposition' – the champions of colour. For what it's worth – I'm with the latter.

The small, but growing band of suri alpaca breeders continues to work on increasing the numbers of these alpacas in Australia – a long and difficult project. But if they succeed, Australia will certainly benefit. Australian suri, Australian fashion creativity and Australian niche marketing will be an unbeatable combination.

As I see it, the strength of the industry lies in the commonsense attitude of the majority of alpaca breeders and the setting of realistic goals both by individual breeders and by the industry as a whole. Consequently, a 'steady as she goes' philosophy has guided the alpaca industry around the many pitfalls that other emerging rural enterprises have been less capable of avoiding.

I have enjoyed the alpaca's progress thus far - and I will certainly be a subscriber to future issues of Alpacas Australia. It's a bit like a TV sitcom - you need to keep watching to see what happens. Especially now when the industry is very much on the brink of turning numbers into quality. The transition into commercial feasibility will not be easy, but I am confident that it will be achieved - so I'll keep watching!

For now, thank you for the opportunity of sharing a large part of your industry's history. I wish you all the very best of luck – although I suspect that luck will be a minor factor in your success.

Carol Hosking

If you like what you see on page 31 Perhaps we can assist you achieve your goals...

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Quality progeny, pregnant females, weanlings, young stud males for sale

Following the success of the 6th National Show and Sale held in regional NSW last year, it was decided to continue the pattern this year and search for a suitable venue in rural Victoria.

Venue

After travelling many kilometres our Show Convenor, Bill Plunkett and his committee settled on the brand new Exhibition and Events Centre at Tatura, which is close to the bustling city of Shepparton in Central Victoria. South Australian and Southern NSW members especially will find the venue conveniently located.

The Exhibition Centre is spacious with good natural light and airflow. There is ample room for the anticipated 300 entries with provision for the isolation of animals from MN status studs. As a further service to exhibitors Dr. Richard Dixon will be on hand if any veterinary problems arise.

Trade Displays

The area set aside for Trade Displays will allow plenty of room for visitors to browse and buy the goods and services that will be available.

Top Judges

This year, judging will be undertaken by Australian Judges who, we believe, represent the world's best. Jenny Jackson from Western Australia will judge the alpaca classes with Ian Knox scrutinising the fleece entries. We are fortunate to have the services of these experienced people.

Excellent viewing for spectators of the judging has also been organised.

Whilst there will doubtless be considerable tension in the show ring with some of the country's best animals vying for ribbons, we intend that the atmosphere outside will be relaxed.

The Seventh National Alpaca Spring Show & Sale 11-12 November 2000 -**Exhibition and Events Centre.**

Tatura, Victoria



Ample Free Parking

There is ample free parking in the grounds of the Centre.

Refreshments

Meals will be available in the new Convention Centre that is currently under construction. It is hoped that the building will be completed in time however, if that is not the case, meals will be available at the Football Club which is also located in the grounds.

Show Dinner & Fun Auction

The social side will be very well catered for with the Show Dinner set for the Saturday evening.

S A member, Chris Williams, has once again consented to act as auctioneer for the "fun" auction and you are assured of the opportunity to secure some very interesting items.

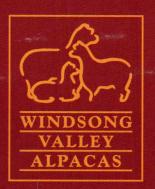
Junior Judging

Sunday morning will see the final of the Junior Judging competition with competitors from all states lining up to demonstrate their skills.

Elite Auction

Finally the climax of the weekend - the chance to inspect and bid on the carefully selected auction animals. All animals will be subjected to rigorous inspection for fleece quality and conformation and will represent a fair example of quality Australian alpacas.

If you have not received a copy of the schedule or if you require any further information contact the National Office. Looking forward to seeing you at Tatura.











TERRY & TENA WHEELER 08 9399 2737

The International

Alpaca Fleece Show 2000

by MAGGIE KRIEGER
SALTSPRING IS. LLAMAS & ALPACAS, CANADA

Dark skies accompanied by thunderclaps and a spectacular light show of violent lightning greeted me as I neared the barns at the show grounds in Red Deer, Alberta. It was the night before the judging of the second Canadian International Fleece Show and there were very few people about. However I knew that somewhere in this facility there was a mound of fleeces waiting to be sorted and categorised for entry into the fleece show. I was not going to find out where until the morrow!

he next day dawned brilliantly clear and an early arrival enabled me to find the whereabouts of the fleeces. Many of them had been shipped from other countries and these were the ones that had already arrived. Canadian fleeces would be delivered in dribs and drabs over the course of the morning until midday – the cut off time for entries.

As noon approached it was very evident that the number of entries for this year's show had far exceeded that of last year. The total count was 216 fleeces, of which, disappointingly, there was only one Suri entry.

Participating countries included Australia, England, Peru, the USA and of course the host country, Canada. The show organisers were delighted to have the sponsorship support of the Canadian Alpaca Breeders Association who, for the second year, took on the key position of primary sponsorship of the event. Other sponsorships came in two categories, corporate and farm sponsorship. Many thanks go to the sponsors and incredible foundation of volunteers who spend many thankless

hours on staging the show and without whose contributions this international event would never take place.

Our esteemed international alpaca fleece judge, Mr Cameron Holt from Australia, was very impressed with the overall quality of the fleeces in the show. He had his work cut out in accomplishing his job in the space of two days. The organisers are most grateful for his expertise and feel privileged to have such an experienced fleece judge agree to judge this event.

The prize premiums this year were once again very generous with the Supreme Grand Champion winning \$1000.00. There were three colour championships awarded at \$500.00 each and they included white, fawn and other colours. Awards for a first placing in a class were \$100.00 each, second was \$50.00 and third was \$25.00. A new award was added this year – The Judges Choice, which gained \$500.00 for its owner.

While there were many logistical and organisational hurdles to overcome with the tremendous increase of fleece entries for this year's international show, we are happy to report it was once again an overwhelming success. Our thanks go out to all those that contributed in any way be it through sponsorship, volunteer help, entering fleeces etc. The show could not go on without you and we will be back again next year. Stay tuned, 2001 is not too far off!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Congratulations to AAA members, Marg and Geoff
Gregory (Golden Gates Alpacas) on achieving Third
place in Huacaya Fleece – White 18-29 months Class
and to Maureen Carey (Forestglen Alpacas) and Jennifer
Carey (Anduin Alpacas) on winning First place in
Huacaya Fleece – White 41 months and over Class.

Victorian Sire

moves north

by DOT WARE

Family members, Rick Hodgson of Adori Alpacas, Port Macquarie and Dot and Phil Ware of Alani Alpacas, Canberra, recently joined together to purchase Shanbrooke Casanova from Ron and Dianne Condon of Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, Victoria. He is a stunning two year old white male from their Shanbrooke group of elite males.

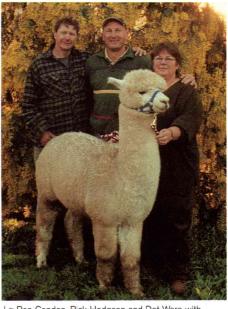
hanbrooke Casanova is the progeny of the outstanding Purrumbete Compass Rose and Jolimont Galliano. Purrumbete Compass Rose has consistently

produced champions, including Shanbrooke Rose Perfection who recently won Junior Champion Female and went on to be Supreme Champion at the Melbourne 2000 Wool and Sheep Show.

Joining the winning tradition, Shanbrooke Casanova's recent show results include Reserve Champion Male at the 1999 Royal Melbourne Show and Champion Senior Male 1999 Dandenong Show.

Opening any part of his fleece reveals a lustrous fine fleece that has excellent crimp definition and a soft handle. *Shanbrooke Casanova* has the presence of a champion with excellent conformation and temperament.

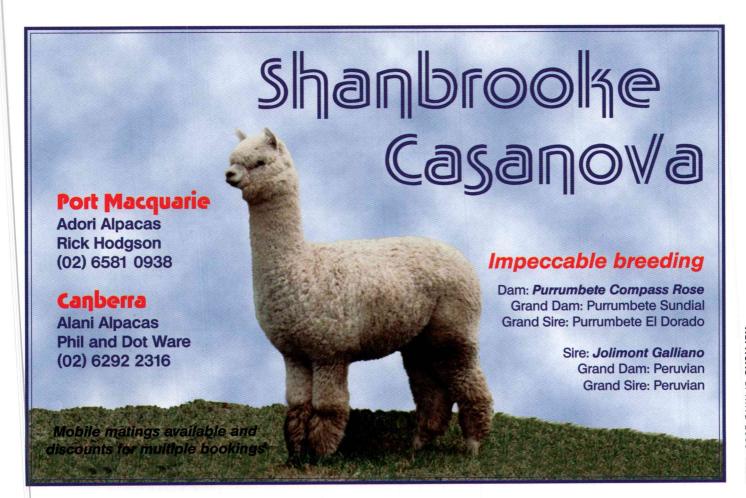
Rick's policy from the very start has been to purchase high quality females and mate them to elite sires. This has been rewarded with consistent placings at major shows.



I-r: Ron Condon, Rick Hodgson and Dot Ware with Shanbrooke Casanova

The purchase of *Shanbrooke Casanova* will further complement this policy. Although he is a young male he has certainly lived up to his name with a number of confirmed pregnancies in Victoria.

Shanbrooke Casanova brings with him a new line of quality genetics and is now available for work in New South Wales and Queensland. ■



meet Amanda & the Americans

by LYN HENRY Halcyon Alpaca Stud, Victoria

The arrival of "The Americans," twelve alpacas imported from the US in June 2000, is the closing of a chapter and the beginning of a new era for owners Carl and Wendy Dowd and their involvement in the alpaca industry.



Amanda

he Americans, will be introduced to alpaca breeders by prominent alpaca breeder and IAJS International Alpaca Judge, Amanda VandenBosch, at Halcyon Alpaca Stud's Open Day and Production Sale in October. Amanda has managed the herd with her husband Vince at their stud, Flying Dutchman Alpacas in California since 1998.

Amanda has a swag of experience and credits to her name commencing with her win in 1988 of the Top Student Scholarship to Lindsay Park Thoroughbred Stud, Australia, from The National Stud, Newmarket, England. At Lindsay Park she assisted Dr Campbell Baker and researched alpacas as an alternative for the sheep farmer in Australia.

Her involvement with alpacas developed further in 1991 when she worked as veterinary assistant at Meadow Lane Farm, Kentucky, USA, working with thoroughbreds and in the areas of camelid health, birthing and pregnancy testing of llamas and alpacas. Amanda also assisted with the Bluegrass Classic Llama Sale, Kentucky.

Since then she has managed alpaca ranches and established Flying Dutchman Alpacas, with her husband Vince, in 1994. She has a high profile in the US alpaca

industry as an ALSA Alpaca Halter Judge, National Chairperson AOBA 2001 Conference, member of numerous organisations and committees and Instructor of British Alpaca Society (Show and Judge Training).

Carl and Wendy met Amanda and Vince VandenBosch at Arequipa in 1997. With the closure of the USA Register, the timing was opportune to set up a US herd using excellent genetics that were not available in Australia.

"We had difficulty buying 'elite' alpacas in Australia, as the people who owned them did not have them on the market. This was a major factor in setting up a genetic pool in America," Carl explained.

At the AOBA Conference, New Mexico, in 1998, Carl and Wendy again met Amanda and with the advice of Ron and Di Condon they bought the nucleus of their herd, two females. They were also introduced to Mike and Mia Jampolsky, Jampolsky Alpacas, one of California's largest and most successful breeders and purchased a third female.

Carl and Wendy were later introduced to Julie and Don Skinner of Snowmass Alpacas, recognised as one of the top studs in the US. This meeting culminated in the purchase of three alpacas, two females and the young herd-sire, now known as

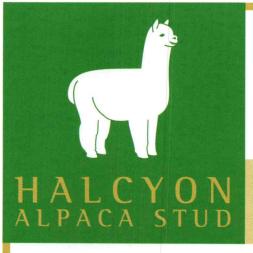
ILR Peruvian Hemingway Protégé.

"As part of the concept of developing a diverse genetic pool we purchased the best females we could find in the US and mated them with the best sires. After their crias were born we then re-mated them to other top males to broaden the genetic pool further, as the decision to close the Australian Alpaca Association Register in June 2000 had been made," Carl emphasised.

In the meantime Carl and Wendy's daughter and son in law were living in the US which gave the Dowds the chance to mix business with pleasure on their regular visits. During this time they also became close friends with Amanda and Vince who looked after their interests.

"We followed their excellent advice on the management of the herd, especially the marketing of ILR Peruvian Hemingway Protégé who commanded US\$2,500 per mating and was bred to a select number of females prior to export. According to Amanda his first crias are quite spectacular," Carl said proudly.

The journey to Australia began with two months in quarantine at Picket Fence Quarantine Station, USA. A flight to Tullamarine followed, where they were met by AQIS staff, and then on to Spotswood Quarantine Station where they remained for the next four weeks until delivery to Halcyon at the end of June.



Garl & Wendy Dowd Invite you to . . .

OPEN DAY & PRODUCTION SALE

Sunday 29 October 2000 at 10.30am

On Offer

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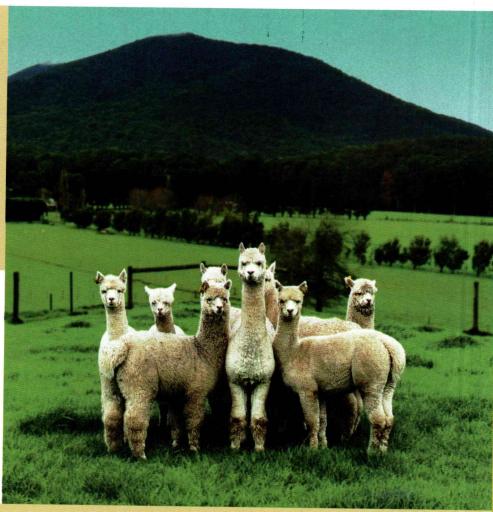
Our team of newly imported alpacas from the USA for your inspection. Led by *ILR*Peruvian Hemingway

Protégé with six magnificent females and weanlings.

This group represents a truly diverse range of new genetics for the alpaca industry.

Special Guest Speaker

Amanda VandenBosch, USA Alpaca Breeder & IAJS International Alpaca Judge, ALSA Judge, USA; Instructor of British Alpaca Society (Show & Judge Training); National Chair AOBA 2001 Conference

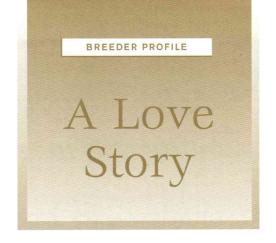


Catalogue & Enquiries Nick Henry: Halcyon Alpaca Stud 464 Maroondah Hwy Healesville Vic 3777 (Opposite Maroondah Reservoir)

Ph 03 5962 1319 Fax 03 5962 1046 Email halcyonalpacas@bigpond.com if you are attending.

All proceedings to be held under cover.

For catering, please advise if you are attending.



by JULIE ANNE MAVROS BLUE GRASS ALPACA STUD, NSW

n the Easter weekend in 1992, my husband Arthur took a rare day off from his hectic business of running a private hotel on Coogee beachfront in Sydney, to take me for a day out, to the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Having been a passionate animal lover since birth, I naturally dragged him to all the livestock exhibits.

And then it happened. We strolled

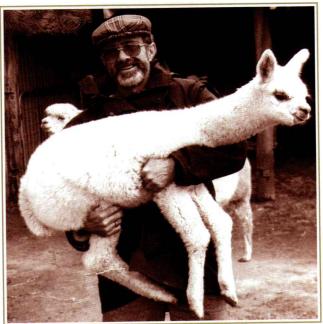
into the Paddington pavilion and I saw the alpacas. I was instantly in love. I touched an alpaca and I was obsessed. Arthur asked the price and I was hopelessly depressed.

"Well you can forget about that", he said. I didn't. I couldn't.

In 1994 we sold our business and our home and moved to the country about ten years earlier than we had planned. It had always been our long-term dream. Arthur generously agreed to let me buy two female alpacas to get started, not because he thought that it was such a good investment, but just because he has always done whatever he could to see me happy. Two females became five - three pregnant and two weanlings. But then I couldn't bear to send them away for re-mating so we had to buy them a stud male and a wether to keep him company.

Our first property, "Tulangi", was 3,340 acres in Boorowa, N.S.W. the birthplace of Ian Armstrong and a once famous sheep stud.

So Arthur had thousands of sheep and about one hundred head of Murray Grey cattle and I had my alpacas. I was content to say the least, until I fell in love again. She was stepping out of her float at the National Show at Randwick and she was a dream. Naturally she was not for sale but that was a lesson I learned early. Ask anyway, and maybe they will change their mind in the future. Two months later I received a phone call from her breeder. "Do you still want her? " Is the Pope still Catholic? It took me two days to get up the



Arthur Mavros with Blue Grass Leading Lady at 6 weeks

courage to plead my case with Arthur. Fortunately it was our anniversary and what a beautiful gift she was.

By now I had a dream - to win Supreme Champion Alpaca at the Sydney Royal. I have never wanted to have the biggest herd of alpacas in Australia but my dream is to breed the best alpaca possible with a small herd of the best quality.

After sending a semi-trailer load of lambs to market and being paid less than I had received for one of my weanling alpacas, Arthur finally

became an alpaca breeder too.

I was always searching for the best breeding female. And then I found her - Purrumbete Vanilla. I begged and cajoled but she was not for sale. But a few weeks later after giving up hope, the phone call came. "Do you still want Purrumbete Vanilla?" Did I still want Purrumbete Vanilla? Did I still want to continue breathing? We knew her bloodlines and we mated

> her to the best male that we could find, Purrumbete El Dorado. I was confident that my show winner was conceived. First mating too!

Nearly twelve months later. Arthur and I drove out of the gate on our way to the Sydney Royal leaving Purrumbete Vanilla three weeks overdue. I was a nervous wreck. We had left her in the care of our workman and his wife - two more nervous wrecks. We had a very successful show, winning Junior Champion Female, Intermediate Champion Female and Reserve Junior Champion Male, but my heart was with Purrumbete Vanilla.

And then the phone call came. With great difficulty they had delivered an 8 kg. baby girl. From that day on our workman Richard was known as Dr. Dick.

I didn't see my Blue Grass Leading Lady for three days, but when we arrived home from the show it was nearly midnight. After unloading and settling the show kids for the night I rushed to see her. It was a full moon and I didn't even need a torch to tell how special she was. Blue Grass Leading Lady was on her way.

For some time we had been looking for a top stud male without much progress. Even though we had purchased a number of Peruvian females, we were reluctant to spend a large amount of money on a male of unknown parentage. Then we heard about a little male in Victoria called Shanbrooke High Society. Naturally he was not for sale, at any price. We decided to go to Melbourne and watch the judging of the Melbourne Royal. When I saw him enter the ring and prance around on his toes with the most perfect conformation I have ever seen I was in love all over again. And the fleece was magic.

We made the biggest offer we could and it was appreciated, but refused. But I didn't give up hope.

He was perfect! And then the phone call came. Did we still want him?

Three weeks after we purchased Shanbrooke High Society he won Supreme National Champion, not that I ever doubted him.

Our stud was complete even though he was only ten months old.

Then in 1999 Blue Grass Leading Lady shared my dream with me. She won Supreme Champion Alpaca at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

A traditional sheep farm is very hard work for little financial reward and Arthur's health had not been good for some time (a legacy of city life) so

Arthur and Julie Mavros with Shanbrooke High Society





that same year we sold "Tulangi" and moved to a property of only 72 acres at Goulburn to concentrate all our energy and time on our alpacas.

We have spent the last nine months renovating the house and building a large barn, which I designed specifically for our needs, including closed circuit television for those cold nights when heavily pregnant females are confined for the night. We fenced off all dams and incorporated a laneway for troublefree movement of animals, then built large shelter sheds in every paddock. It works like a dream. We are just nearing completion of major works with the area for housing show

Then I hope to spend more time on the gardens, that is when I'm not watching the rear end of my girls.

Earlier this year Shanbrooke High Society's first cria arrived and they were everything we had expected.



Verandah to the purpose-built maternity ward.

Then on the 4th May our joy reached new heights with the birth of *Blue Grass Leading Lady 2*. His best ever.

But our joy was shortlived. On 21st June after only two days of being

An exception to the rule!

unwell and despite veterinary attention, we had to take *Shanbrooke High Society* to the University Veterinary Hospital at Camden. It was the first time that we had ever been separated from him, but I felt assured that he was in the best hands in the country and all would be well.

We had just arrived home when the phone call came. *Shanbrooke High Society* was dead.

Our grief was immeasurable. We loved him dearly and always will for what he was – a very special alpaca.

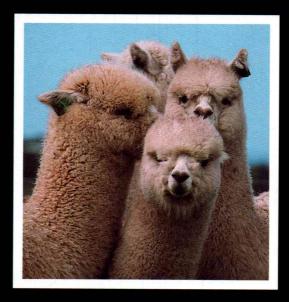
The love and support from our fellow breeders has been like sunshine on a winter's day and we are deeply grateful, but we miss him terribly. So when I feel that the loss is too great to bear, I go to the maternity paddock and look at the beautiful cria that he has given us and I know that he still lives, because we will never forget him.

The girls miss him too so *Purrumbete El Dorado* and our dear friends Lyn and Graham Dickson have come to the rescue.

Now we look forward to November when more of *Shanbrooke High Society's* cria will start to arrive. The best is yet to come, and Yes! *Blue Grass Leading Lady* is carrying a special legacy.



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by DR IAN DAVISON
ILLAWARRA ALPACA STUD, NSW

eorge Orwell had promised that 1984 would be a turbulent year, and he was right. And it was as a result of a major national 'medicopolitical' row that Illawarra Alpacas came to be.

Harriet and I lived, at that time, in Sydney, as did Harriet's sister, Celia Cook. Harriet and Celia had grown up with horses and dairy cattle on their parents' farm, where they would spend every weekend, whilst I had

spent much of my boyhood holidays on my Aunt's mixed farming operation in Trundle, western NSW.

But 1984 saw Harriet marketing sports apparel for *Le Coq Sportif*, following several years as a high school teacher, and many more in the thoroughbred racing industry. Celia was a qualified Karitani nurse, in private practice, whilst I was completing the last of a 15 year undergraduate and postgraduate study to qualify as an orthopaedic surgeon. None of us contemplating rural life.

It was in this context that us three found ourselves in what was to

become historically the nation's worst 'medicopolitical' dispute, between the Wran government and the NSW medical profession. I was expecting to apply for an orthopaedic appointment at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where I had done much of my training, when suddenly Neville Wran was threatening doctors who had been my mentors and teachers with \$10,000 fines and imprisonment for refusing to comply with his new health bureaucracy. The result was massive resignations from public hospitals, and total upheaval of the health system.

It was at this point that Harriet and I decided to look instead for a new lifestyle in the country, abandoning the traditional ambition of a teaching hospital appointment. A few enquiries quickly identified Nowra, 100 miles from Sydney on the South Coast, as an ideal place to set up a rural country practice, and we moved south in early 1986 after I completed a post-fellowship year in knee surgery.

USSANDA

Harriet raking in the joy from our investment

It had always been our intention to buy a farm, but we spent our first two years living in Nowra, with jaunts into the surrounding countryside every weekend looking for a suitable property. An offer on a Berry property was accepted, only to see us gazumped by another surgeon. "We were devastated," said Harriet, "but quickly recovered when another colleague showed us 150 acres for sale next door to him in Cambewarra, between Nowra and Kangaroo Valley. We saw it and bought it within a few days" she recalls "and called it

Consolation Creek to record the history of the occasion."

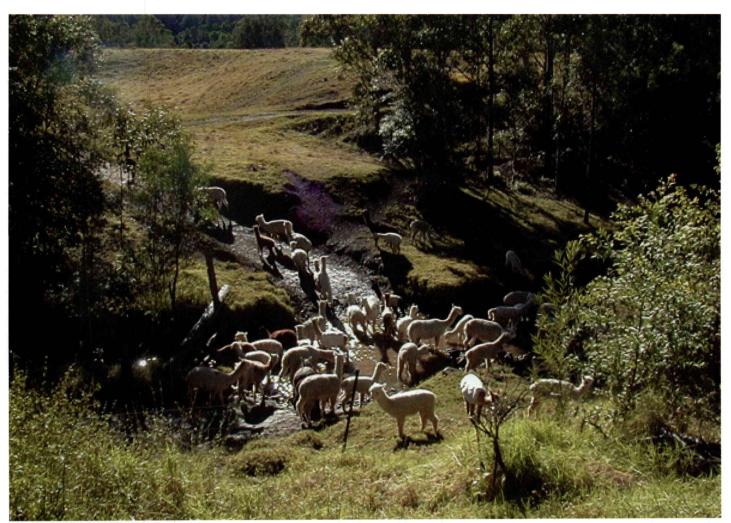
Thereafter came the question of what to do with the farm, then surrounded by three dairy farms (all since disappeared with impending dairy deregulation). We bought in cattle, and Harriet retired her old racehorse, *Jaks*, to the farm. All the time, we examined the possibilities of different farming enterprises: cattle, timber, deer, ostriches and horses, but

none seemed suited to our experience and lifestyle expectations.

"We had seen alpacas advertised at breathtaking prices in The Land long before we saw one," Harriet explained. "Then we made a point of checking them at the 1992 Sydney Royal Easter Show, where there were a few on display. As soon as we saw them, we were totally captivated by them, and our subsequent reading seemed only to reinforce our enthusiasm." We had three very small children and their safety on the farm was one reason we decided on alpacas. Another was the fact that, from our

reading, these animals appeared to have a very low impact on the environment. In fact, our subsequent experience has caused us to label them designer green animals.

We bought our first three alpacas from a Victorian herd dispersal – sight unseen – selecting three females from three colour photographs. Celia, still living in Sydney, made the decision to join the adventure, and bought a white male. It was amidst huge excitement that the four alpacas arrived at Consolation Creek, Cambewarra, in August 1992. We



Illawarra alpacas at home

decided on the herd code "CCC" to denote our property and village, but called the stud "Illawarra Alpacas" to reflect the fact that these were the first alpacas to arrive in the Illawarra region. Our very young children quickly dubbed the animals "paca's", and so we chose the names Sir Frank, Kerry, Ros and Gretel, all then prominent members of the Packer family. When we purchased a handful of wethers in the next few months to expand our alpaca experience, they were all named after failed entrepreneurs of that era, including Bondie, Skasie and Connolly. We next purchased ten pregnant Purrumbete females, continuing the Packer theme with the naming of their progeny, like Florence, Bullmore, Kate, James and Clyde.

By the end of 1993, Illawarra Alpacas had expanded to around 25 head, and *Illawarra Sir Frank* had won a blue ribbon at our first alpaca show experience, the 1993 Melbourne Royal Show. The excitement was intense, especially when we discovered that *Illawarra Sir Frank* was an unusually fine white male, measuring only 19.9 micron on his second fleece. This fortuitous finding has had a dramatic

impact, as *Illawarra Sir Frank* was used almost exclusively as a sire over the herd for the first two years. At a time when all the judges were stressing density and almost ignoring fineness, we were using a very fine male with low fleece density. As a result, we were producing a herd of very fine animals, but with the low density typical of many early Chilean fleeces. Those fine fleeces, since put to fine Peruvian males, have become the basis of our reputation for producing fine and superfine stock.

Involvement in a failed Peruvian importation demanded much of our time and resources between 1994 and 1997, and its failure was a bitter personal and financial blow to us. We had invested much faith, time, money, energy and passion to this enterprise, which was the basis of our ongoing breeding program. Its failure left us 18 months behind schedule with our breeding, considerably poorer, and bitter at having been so badly stung. But we then bought into the Jolimont Peruvian shipment, from which we selected some excellent stock, including another superfine male which has given our herd tremendous impetus over the

past two years. *Jolimont The Don* was a Rural Alianza male, which we selected over Barreda males because of his fineness. Coincidentally, he also measured 19.9 microns on testing, but this on his fourth fleece. His progeny have been the basis of our very successful show team through 1999 and 2000.

A highlight of 1999 was the birth of twin female alpacas to the oldest and finest of our Peruvian females, sired by *Jolimont The Don*. The twins, since called *Illawarra Ursa Major* and *Illawarra Ursa Minor*, received wide publicity throughout Australia and North America, and were featured on the front page of *The Land* newspaper in April, 1999.

This year, Illawarra Alpacas has secured a two year lease on yet another superfine white male, *Prestige Valentino*, from Prestige Alpacas. *Jolimont The Don*, meantime, has moved on to another major NSW breeder, Coolaroo Alpaca Stud. *Prestige Valentino*, still 18 microns on his third fleece, and shearing around 4 kgs, has powerful genetic credentials, and will be put over *Jolimont The Don's* progeny through 2000. The forecast for 2001 is ... fine!



Dr. Ian Davison - "Next patient please".

Harriet, Celia and I are confident of the long-term future of alpacas. "With Australia's 200 year experience with fibred animals, our excellent veterinary and husbandry practices, our stable political and economic climate, and our relatively disease-free status, we are poised to do with alpacas what Macarthur did with Merinos before us", espouses Harriet with obvious enthusiasm. I, who am a founding director of the Australian Alpaca Fibre Marketing Organisation, share her

confidence. AAFMO was conceived in 1997 to collect, class and sell alpaca fibre for Australian alpaca breeders, and has so far returned \$45,000 to Australian growers, while establishing international product recognition for Australian alpaca. We may not be able to compete with Peru on price of raw fibre. But we can certainly produce a better product that will justify higher returns on the basis of higher quality, achieved through improved breeding, higher yields and meticulous classing.

1992 was a watershed in our family life. Our life has never been the same since the arrival of 'The Paca Family'. Celia has since moved down from Sydney and into the old farmhouse on Consolation Creek, and spends her time between her Sydney home and friends, and Cambewarra, where she helps Harriet with the animals, and drives horses. Harriet and I have built a new family home and acquired a further 100 acres from an adjoining property. Harriet is now a full-time stud manager to some 200 alpacas, 70 cattle, 20 chooks, 4 horses, 2 dogs, 2 rabbits, 4 goldfish, 1 budgie, and 40 or so finches. Oh ... and three children. I am in full-time orthopaedic practice in Nowra, specialising in joint replacements by day, and alpacas on nights and weekends. I see a connection between the two activities: - a man is lucky if his job is also his hobby: I would do orthopaedics as a hobby if I didn't need it to make a living. But my hobby is looking more and more like a job, in that alpacas are starting to make returns on the time and money we have invested. That is a job that I hope to be able to pass on to my children, and an industry that we can claim to be building for all Australians. Now, isn't that better than bridge?



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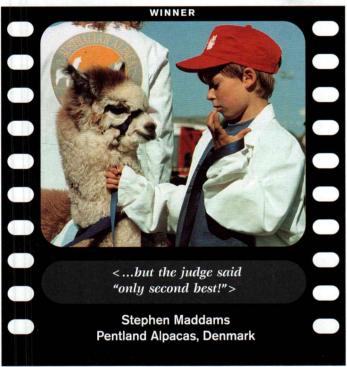
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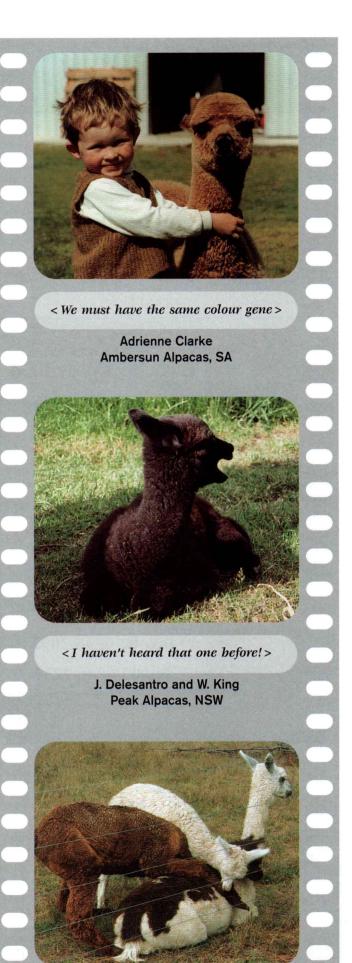


Since Issue no. 5, Winter 1993, we have enjoyed the charming photographs appearing as Paca Pics and, in recent times, senders of photographs chosen as 'Pick of the Pack', and any photographs judged good enough to be used on magazine front covers, have received a monetary reward.

From Issue 33 payments for winning photographs will no longer be made but will be replaced with alternative incentives for you to continue submitting your delightful photographs.

'Pick of the Pack' winners will in future receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next issue of the magazine. The winners of front cover status will likewise receive a business card advertisement insertion in the next magazine as well as five complimentary copies of the magazine bearing their winning front cover photograph. The magazines will prove to be excellent promotional tools for your stud.

We look forward to your continued support of this popular section of our magazine.



< Get your own mum!>

Joy Allenby-Acuna

La Granja Alpacas, NSW



< Now it's my turn >

Doreen Jinks Murray River Alpacas, VIC



< Ooh Nathan ... I love that haircut>

Judy Richardson Clearview Alpacas, NSW



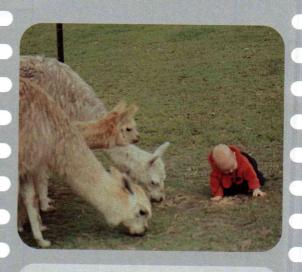
< C'mon luv, just one more drink>

Susie Clark Chachani Alpacas, NSW



< Have you got a headache? >

Maree Trigg Hazel Grove Alpacas, VIC



< Just don't eat any of our tucker! >

Fiona Laughton Beavona Lodge Suri Alpacas, QLD



< What's that you said?>

Hannah Mason Lawithick Alpacas, WA

ALPACAS SPRING 2000

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alpacas on show at the following venues
- All welcome -

September

- 21 24 ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW VIC Venue: Showgrounds, Epsom Rd., Ascot Vale Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging – 22 Sept Contact: Geoff Hargreaves (03) 9719 7248
- 30 7 Oct ROYAL PERTH SHOW WA

 Venue: Wilding Pavilion, Claremont Showgrounds

 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging 1 Oct

 Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

October

- 2 STRATHALBYN FIELD DAYS SA Venue: Strathalbyn Showground Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Wendy Jones (08) 8537 0346
- 3 5 ELMORE FIELD DAYS VIC

 Venue: Elmore

 Highlights: Display of Alpacas and Alpaca Product

 Contact: Sue Simpson (03) 5825 2895
- 12 14 ROYAL LAUNCESTON SHOW TAS

 Venue: Livestock Pavilion, Railyards, Launceston

 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging 14 Oct

 Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007
- 13 15 CHARLES LEDGER SHOW & AUCTION NSW Venue: "Collingwood", cnr Hume Highway & Congressional Drive, Liverpool Highlights: Fleece Judging 13 Oct; Alpaca Judging 14 Oct Contact: Phillip Vickery (02) 4885 2852 Auction 15 Oct Contact: Matt Ridley (02) 4448 7817
 - 14 SHEPPARTON SHOW VIC Venue: Shepparton Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Myra Crosbie (03) 5831 3076
- 14 15 CLARE SHOW SA

 Venue: Clare Showground

 Highlights: Fleece Judging 13 Oct (pm);

 Alpaca Judging 14 Oct

 Contact: Danni Freeman (08) 8846 6043
 - 15 MURRUMBATEMAN SMALL FARMS FIELD DAYS NSW Venue: Murrumbateman Showgrounds
 Highlights: Display of Alpacas, Merchandise & Equipment
 Contact: Bob Richardson (02) 6227 6147
- 19 21 PRIME TV ALPACA SPRING SHOW NSW

 Venue: ANFD Site, Borenore Rd., Orange

 Highlights: Expo and trade displays; fashion
 parade, shearing; spinning and husbandry
 demonstrations; investment lectures;
 alpaca raffle and silent stud auction;
 Fleece Judging 20 Oct; Alpaca Show Day 21 Oct
 Contact: Mark Hornery (02) 6862 5176

- 19 22 GEELONG SHOW VIC

 Venue: Geelong Showgrounds

 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging 22 Oct

 Contact: Bob Clark (03) 5261 3714
 - 21 KELMSCOTT SHOW WA Venue: Kelmscott Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca Judging Contact: Greg Smith (08) 9525 2084
- 21 22 "ALPACAS IN FOCUS" AT THE STRINGYBARK BUSH FESTIVAL – VIC Venue: Rowville Community Centre, Melways Map 81 Ref K1 Highlights: Alpaca Judging – 21 Oct; Fleece Judging – 22 Oct Contact: David Daddo (03) 5989 2866
- 25 28 ROYAL HOBART SHOW TAS

 Venue: Hobart Showgrounds, Elwick Rd., Glenorchy

 Highlights: Fleece Judging 25 Oct;

 Alpaca Judging 26 Oct;

 Contact: Terry Hanlon (03) 6261 2763
 - 28 BENDIGO SHOW VIC Venue: Bendigo Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Geoffrey Cook (03) 5439 5966
 - 28 SOUTHERN NSW REGION SPRING SHOW NSW Venue: Goulburn Showgrounds
 Highlights: Fleece Judging 27 Oct;
 Alpaca Judging 28 Oct
 Contact: Bob Lee (02) 4841 0286
 - 29 WARRNAMBOOL SHOW VIC Venue: Warrnambool Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Bob Clark (03) 5261 3714

November

- 3 COLAC SHOW VIC Venue: Colac Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Bob Clark (03) 5261 3714
- 4 WHITTLESEA SHOW VIC Venue: Whittlesea Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging Contact: Andrew Wilson (03) 9714 8656
- 11 WINDELLAMA SMALL FARMS FIELD DAY Venue: Windellama Highlights: Display of Alpacas & Merchandise Contact: Jackie Waugh (02) 4829 8157
- 11 12 7TH NATIONAL ALPACA SPRING SHOW VIC

 Venue: The Tatura Exhibition & Events Complex,
 Showgrounds, Hastie Street, Tatura

 Highlights: Alpaca Judging 11 Nov;
 Alpaca Auction 12 Nov; Trade displays

 Contacts: AAA National Office (03) 9899 1099

 Bill Plunkett (03) 9437 1534

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1/2 Page 188 x 123



1/4 page 91 x 123



Business Card 90 x 55

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Issue 34

Due: April, 2001

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Issue 35

Due: August, 2001

Deadline: Friday 15 June

ALPACAS SPRING 2000

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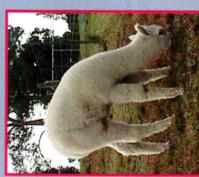
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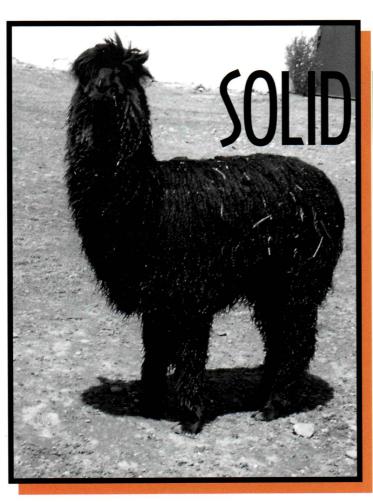
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Also available at affordable service fees ... from \$500 ... to improve any herd

- Somerset Peruvian Perfection SW

 One of only three Barreda's show
 winning males ever to leave Peru.

 At 11 years of age 26 micron.
- Starline Morning Star (No. 5) SW
- * Starline Moonbeam (No. 10) LF
- * Starline Sputnik (No. 8) SW
- * Starline Starbuck (No. 70) SW

For Sale * Excellent, solid white Peruvian, black and fawn huacaya males from \$800