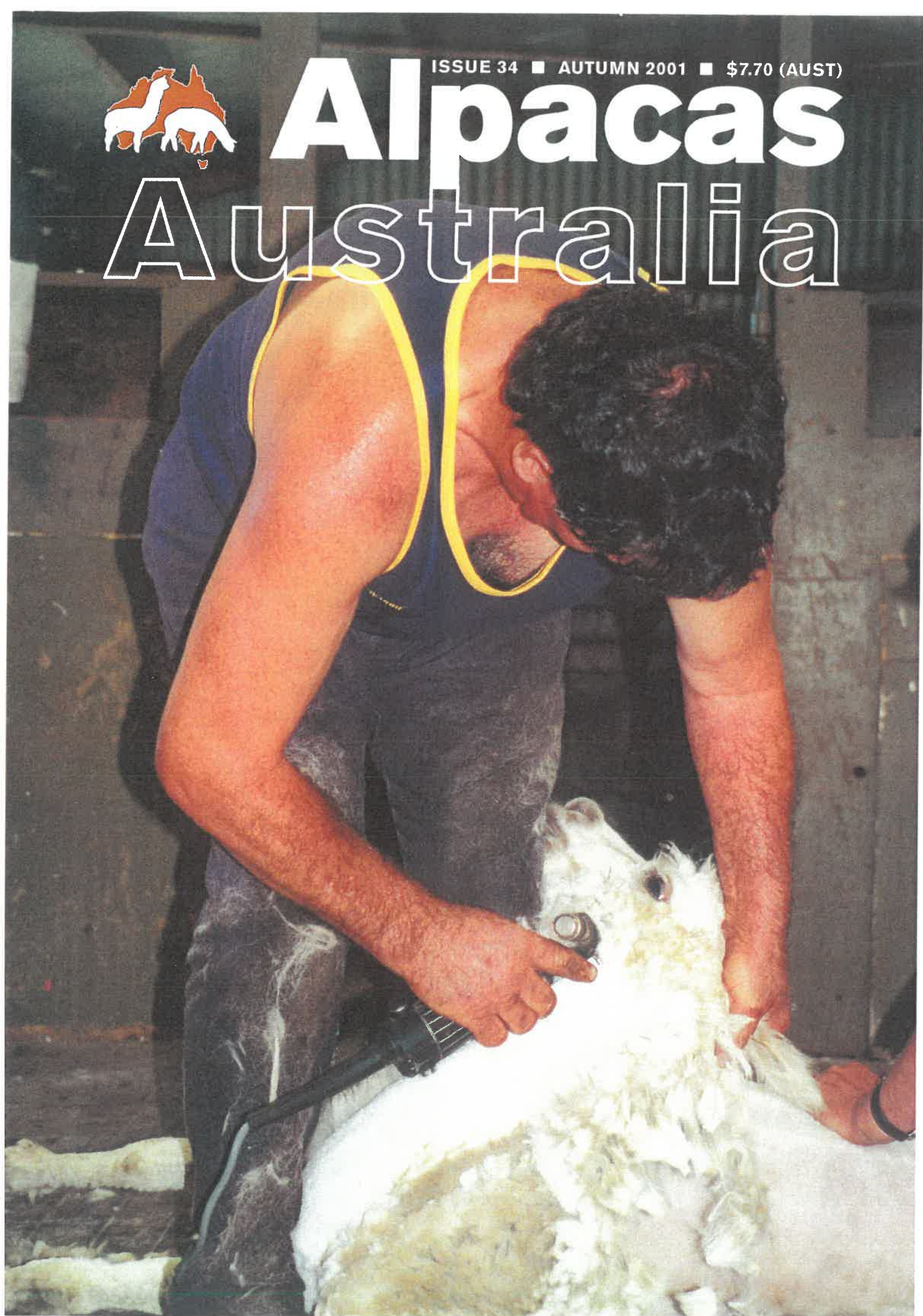




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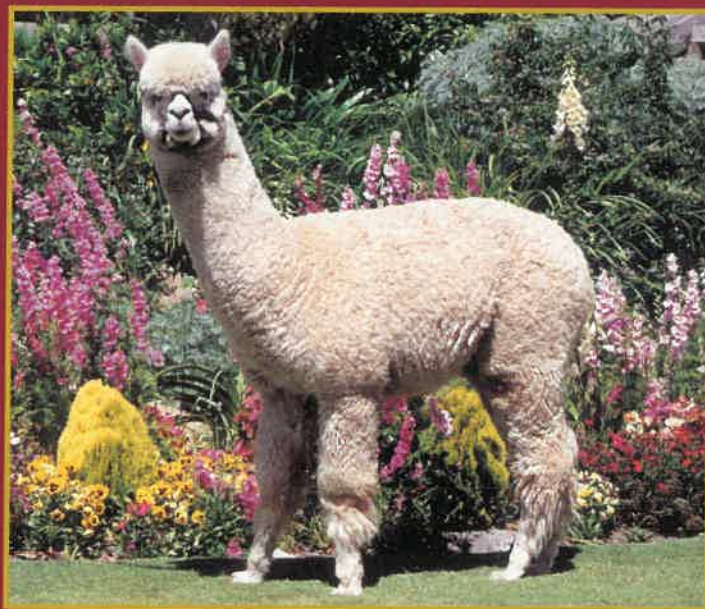
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**T**he Christmas season is over and we approach the first Easter of the new millennium – and we are already three months closer to next Christmas! Time flies without any input from us and so we march inexorably towards further change and development of our industry.

This year will see another step forward in the development of the Australian alpaca.

This year will see changes that we could not have foreseen five years ago. This year will require each and every one of us to re-appraise our level of involvement and our personal commitment to this new primary industry. This year will require more support and personal contribution from members in their regional activities.

This year will, I believe, be a watershed year in the development of our industry. We will have more alpacas than ever before to market. We will have more fibre than ever to shear and sell. We will have to find more people to join us as industry stakeholders. We will have to put in a lot more than ever before to enjoy success. We will succeed as the huge majority of alpaca owners recognise that to not move forward is effectively moving backwards.

The Association is poised to provide the ongoing leadership members have come to expect by devoting more resources to

management practices that will lead to greater production and efficiency. We will continue to support our very successful show circuit, provide enhanced member services through the regions and directly to members, accept the responsibilities being placed upon us by government in animal health issues, streamline and enhance our IT resources and extend our participation in research. Continuing financial management

of the highest order remains a focus as does education and training, registration, marketing and other National Committee functions and initiatives.

It will be a very exciting year for everyone BUT we need your support and involvement! If every member gave one more hour of his or her time to Association and industry activities we would garner the

equivalent of over 230 days of free work over the next year! We can use it – can you give it?

Please show your support and commitment by volunteering your skills and talents to your region this year and reap the benefits in this Year of the Volunteer.

Kindest regards and best wishes for a great 2001.

Ian Watt, President

## *a message from the president*



briefly speaking...

### National Alpaca Review

The Association's newest publication, the inaugural *National Alpaca Review* was launched recently at Canberra Royal Show. Crammed full of up to date information the newspaper is intended to target potential newcomers to the alpaca industry. Supplies of the glossy newspaper have been allocated to all AAA Regions for distribution at Shows and other promotional events and they are expected to be very popular free giveaways. Members are welcome to browse through the newspaper at their next Regional event but please, let those new people hungry for alpaca information take them home.

**This newspaper will deliver.**



### Jolimont Warrior Arrives in Style

Julie & Arthur Mavros of Blue Grass Alpacas were totally overwhelmed by the style in which Pat & Rosa Viceconte 'chauffeured' Jolimont Warrior to his new home. Warrior was very comfortable on the back seat of Pat and Rosa's Mercedes Benz when they pulled into Julie and Arthur's driveway at Goulburn. Pat and Rosa even brought the French Champagne to celebrate. Now that's service!

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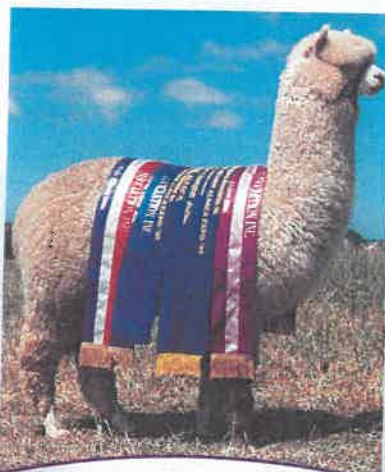
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### Next Issue

- Sydney Royal Show report and pictures
- Alpacas in schools
- More from Marty McGee Bennett
- Breeder Profiles ... and much more!

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# Let's do a fashion parade



by HELEN AUDSLEY, MANAGER  
ALPACA CENTRE AUSTRALIA, NSW

## **Firstly, what is a fashion parade?**

*It is the chance for fibre industry designers and manufacturers to show off their wares to an expectant audience.*

## **Secondly, why conduct a fashion parade?**

*The ultimate aim of this fledgling alpaca industry is the fibre from these wonderful animals. In order to take the time and effort to create the infrastructure necessary to create this industry we need to show that there is a market out there to make it all worthwhile. "Showing our wares" and "spreading the word" is one way of gauging the interest and response of the general public. Their education is important, especially at this stage of development.*

Helen Audsley  
conducting one of  
her fashion parades

**h**ow a fashion parade is put together depends to a great extent on the requirements of the function itself. The venues for fashion parades range from the lawn under an open sky to the foyer of New Parliament House and many variations in between. No matter where the parade is held there are three main things that are very important.

- What you are showing
- Who is showing it
- Who you are showing it to

Other considerations include

- Budget
- Venue
- Timing

To look at our main criteria first – of course we are showing alpaca garments you say. Yes, absolutely. But what kind of garments do we wish to

display to the audience? Of course, garments that show off this magnificent fibre and all its features; garments that show to your audience that they too can wear alpaca; garments that display its suitability for a variety of activities and times of day, from morning to evening. Choosing a select number of garments is difficult and time constraints limit the number of garments that can be shown to advantage. A wide cross section of styles needs to be shown to gain the maximum benefit from the short amount of time spent. A theme quite often needs to be employed so that the parade can run smoothly and the audience attention held for the entire duration. The spectators need to know it is different – they need to be educated in the qualities of alpaca.

So now we come to the selection of garments to be used in the parade. Ideally the length of the parade





Alpaca people presenting alpaca garments

should be around twenty minutes. If you are using 6 to 10 models and allow for three to four changes for each model, this gives a maximum of 40 outfits that can be used. It is my job as the parade co-ordinator to make the often difficult decision as to what is shown and what is not shown. As mentioned earlier, if a parade theme is used it does make the decision a little easier. Requests for the garments envisaged with the theme in mind always saves time during the decision making process, as well as requesting more garments than will often be used. Flexibility is the key.

So the garments have arrived for my perusal – this is when the list-making starts. Combinations of styles and colours need to be worked out so that all garments are shown to the best advantage – all those who have kindly supplied garments need to have theirs shown as often as each other. A logistical nightmare one would think, but no, just time consuming.

Then we come to our next major consideration – who is showing these wonderful garments? One can use professional models at great expense that will, of course, show off all the garments to their greatest advantage, but what was the aim of this parade at this point in time? To show to our audience that they too can wear these garments and that they too can afford

them. We are not into the realms of haute couture just yet. My criteria has always been to use people who are relaxed, positive and happy in presenting alpaca garments and I have found quite often that a number of our alpaca breeders have been more than happy to assist. After all, it is their industry we are trying to promote.

Because we are asking these wonderful people to give up their time and energies an important point to



A climax is always a good note to finish on



consider is that they are also happy in what they are wearing and that it fits. Back to the lists – they need changing – what has been put down on paper for one person now doesn't fit, or they hate it on themselves. This is the time when paper, clothes and sometimes tempers fly. The main rule at this time in the production is to keep your sense of humour.

Once the fittings are complete, it is back to the lists. Each model needs to know exactly what they are wearing, what accessories to wear, if any of their own garments need to be provided, in what order they are appearing and with whom, how long they stay there and what, if any, props are being used (an open bottle of champagne with glasses provided is usually a winner). This information is put in a list – each model receives their own list and is advised where he/she fits in the major scheme of things. Then there are the garments – these all need to be hung in order, labelled with name, order number, what is actually there and what needs to be added by the respective model. Familiarisation is the major need in this instance. Rehearsals have been difficult – venues, models are usually far flung and the logistics of getting it all together can be a nightmare. Quite often venues are unavailable for any type of rehearsal and one has to wing it and hope.

So now we have the garments and the models, hopefully well organised. Now for the audience. In my experience there are two different audiences; alpaca breeders (or those well enough associated with the industry to be aware of what they are seeing from a fibre point of view) and the general public (those people we are hoping to educate in the wonderful properties of the garments they are seeing, why the garments are different, better and why they should seek to purchase some for themselves). I quite often find that this audience is easier in the scheme of things – it gives me a chance to introduce the fibre, give some history on the animal, the industry in Australia and world-wide and our hopes for the future. Then I can describe the garments, explain the drape, softness, lightness and versatility of this unique fibre. Audiences who are already involved within the industry know all of that – it gives me much less to say!

The commentary therefore is written to an audience – anyone can say that so and so is wearing a green jumper – that's obvious – it is the qualities of this particular jumper (or cardigan, or skirt, or shawl, or coat) which need to be expounded upon.

Now we come to our secondary criteria – budget, venue and timing.

Budgets are notoriously small. Hence we need to make do as much as possible – with venues, models, music, lighting etc. One thing we

never have to make do with however, is our garments. We know we are showing wonderful stuff.

Venue, as mentioned previously, can range from an open lawn under the open sky to the wonderful foyer of New Parliament House. Space, changing facilities, area of parade and positioning of audience are all factors to be considered. However, as already mentioned, access and therefore rehearsals are not always possible at the venue. One must rely ultimately on the models to position themselves well and to show to the audience the garments they are wearing.

For me, timing has varied from five days notice to two months notice for preparation of a fashion parade. Whatever the time frame you have to work with, the clues to running a successful parade are organisation, knowing the garments as well as possible before the parade and having your models also aware of the garments they are showing.

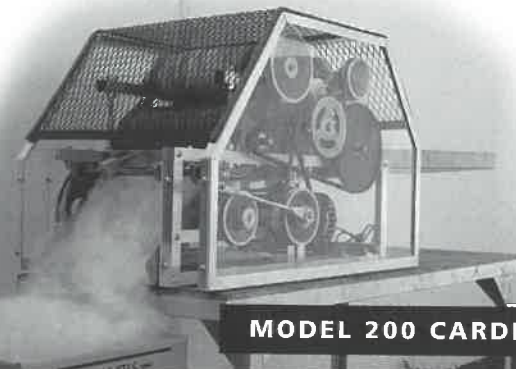
In planning and executing a fashion parade one must be as organised as possible before the event – yes, lots can go wrong – a lot of you have witnessed a number of hiccups over the years – we try to keep our sense of humour as much as possible. Unfortunately, I seemed to have stuck my hand up at the wrong time and have been in the hot seat a number of times. Bear with us – we may not be professionals but we are trying hard and there is always room for improvement. ■

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# 2001 Royal Canberra Show

by JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN  
SECRETARY - SOUTHERN NSW REGION

*Approximately 150 animals passed inspection and were paraded for ribbons and trophies before Judge, Dianne Condon, and Apprentice Judge, Wayne Clymo. There was an excellent presentation of huacayas and suris and some difficult decisions were required during the long arduous day under an unrelenting sun.*

**t**he build up of the hot weather in the weeks before the 2001 Royal Canberra Show gave the organisers some worries with regard to how exhibitors would succeed in keeping their alpacas in full fleece until the Show.

Due to the high temperatures and humidity on Judging day, the welfare of the animals became a prime concern and a number were subsequently withdrawn. Exhibitors swapped notes on the measures they took to beat the heat and helped each other at the Show to cope with the stress on their animals, particularly those with the densest and fullest fleeces. Perhaps the emphasis on future summer Shows should be placed on exhibiting our fleeces and the new classes for shorn alpaca and fleece.

The Supreme Champion Alpaca ribbon and trophy went to *Blue Grass Bollinger* shown by Julie and Arthur Mavros, of Blue Grass Alpacas, while *Elysion Oliver Twist* shown by Frances and Paul Haslin, of Elysion Alpacas, received the Champion Suri ribbon and trophy.

A special mention in despatches to the well supported shorn alpaca and fleece classes that quadrupled in numbers this year. This Show was used as a trial run for a new system

of scoring shorn exhibits. However, as the shortcomings in the proposed system became apparent, it is likely to be refined before inclusion in the new AAA Showing Rules for 'shorn' or 'composite' classes.

One hundred fleeces were entered and, in their silks, made an impressive sight during judging on the Friday as they stretched down the middle of the hoecker (large marquee) on the tables. The hoecker this year was ninety metres long! The majority of the fleeces were properly skirted and presented, however, the presentation of some fleeces highlighted the need for further education in this aspect of showing.

A comprehensive report of the Show results can be viewed on the AAA website and the Southern NSW Region's website and will be published in full in the forthcoming edition of the Southern NSW Region's newsletter, *The Yaca*.

Response to the silent auction of donated sire services was a little disappointing, particularly as the sires were all well above commercial quality. However, it proved to be a valuable fund raiser for the Region. The proceeds will be dedicated to purchasing equipment for future Shows.

On the final day, an auction of fourteen alpacas from the Show was conducted with nine animals going to new homes at an average price of \$3,500. There were some post-auction sales as well.

The Southern NSW Region Committee would like to thank the usual band of stalwarts - we know who they are and what they did - who modestly and unstintingly came forward to ensure the success of our premier Show. Special reference must be made to the families of Jim Chapman and Shane Read who helped them mastermind the operation and organise the logistics of the very successful 2001 Royal Canberra Show. ■

New classes for shorn alpaca and fleece





## The Champions of the 2001 Royal Canberra Show



**Junior Champion Female Huacaya**  
**Champion Female Alpaca**  
*Coolaroo Queen of the Desert*  
 with Neil Parker – Coolaroo Alpaca Stud



**Junior Champion Male Huacaya**  
**Champion Male Alpaca**  
**SUPREME CHAMPION HUACAYA**  
*Blue Grass Bollinger*  
 with Julie Mavros – Blue Grass Alpacas



**l'med. Champion Female Huacaya**  
**Reserve Champion Female Alpaca**  
*Bringarum Rosie G*  
 with Jessica Sachs – Bringarum Alpacas



**Senior Champion Female Huacaya**  
*Berridale Alice Rawson*  
 with Judith Dixon – Berridale Alpacas



**Senior Champion Male Huacaya**  
*Ambersun Montgomery* with Eddie Neeser (r) – Dandaloo Alpacas  
**Reserve Senior Champion Male Huacaya**  
*Ambersun Tegan* with Anita Neeser (l) – Dandaloo Alpacas  
**Huacaya Sire's Progeny**  
*ILR Ppervian Auzengate 6010*



**Champion Shorn Huacaya Plus Fleece (Light)**  
*Curabungla Aurita* with Penny Pittard – Curabungla Alpacas



**Champion Shorn Huacaya Plus Fleece (Dark)**  
*Orrapoor Cadenza* with Nestor Ellinopoulos – Orrapoor Alpacas



**Champion Female Suri**  
*Pacofino Capucine* with Linda Davies – Pacofino Alpacas



**Champion Male Suri**  
**SUPREME CHAMPION SURI**  
*Elysion Oliver Twist* with Paul and Frances Haslin – Elysion Alpacas



**Suri Sires Progeny**  
*Peruvian Senator G153*

**Champion Huacaya Fleece**  
*Bonnie Vale Golden Boy* – John and Julie Lawrie, Bonnie Vale Alpacas  
**Champion Suri Fleece**  
*Glen San Pedro Mishka* – Peter and Glenda Convery, Glen San Pedro Alpacas

For comprehensive results visit the AAA web site [www.alpaca.asn.au](http://www.alpaca.asn.au)  
 or the Southern NSW Region's web site [www.alpaca-s.com/](http://www.alpaca-s.com/)



# AAA Regional Spring Shows

## *around the country*

compiled by SANDRA WRIGHT  
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

*The 2000 Spring Show circuit saw alpaca breeders around Australia out in force, all keen to display their best animals and fleeces. Many months of work go into preparing for these shows by both organisers and exhibitors. For everyone involved it is extremely rewarding to see the fruits of their labours in both a vibrant Show day and an array of top quality alpacas in the show ring.*

*The AAA congratulates all those sometimes unheralded organisers on the important role they play in the promotion of the Australian alpaca industry. Equally instrumental in carrying the profile of the Australian alpaca are the exhibitors who sometimes travel great distances to compete in the show ring, endure varying weather and accommodation conditions and all in the name of presenting their best animals on the day.*

*The aim of the game is to score a ribbon of course, however the enjoyment of participation, the sheer experience of the show ring and the friendships that are rejuvenated each time alpaca owners come together for these events would not be missed by some, no matter what the circumstances.*

*We look forward to Spring 2001 with anticipation of more of the same success achieved at the events reported on here by some Regions.*

### Florafest Central Coast/Hunter NSW Region's Alpaca Showcase

by JULIENNE GELBER,  
CENTRAL COAST/HUNTER NSW REGION

Florafest is one of the largest gardening and horticultural expositions in N.S.W., held the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the first weekend in September. The alpacas mingle with hundreds of stalls laden with flowers, shrubs and all things to delight the urban gardener and horticulturalist. The location is quasi rural, being the grounds of the Correctional Centre at Mt. Penang, 10 minutes south of Gosford, which is only one hour's drive north of Sydney. Florafest attracts in excess of 60,000 people each year and the huge number of visitors to our Regional display tent has, at times, suggested that they are all interested in alpacas!

Early Spring is a wonderful time to show alpacas. The weather is cool and the alpacas are sporting close to full fleece in prime condition (before the hot weather 'flop'). Consequently, the five N.S.W. Regions have banded together to hold a Spring Points Score Shows Competition, culminating with the animal scoring the highest points across the five shows being awarded the Spring Points Score Winner.

Florafest is usually the first of the Spring Points Score Shows – everyone is full of anticipation and zest (particularly the newly haltered animals!). The animal and fleece show is held on the Saturday, and the Region mounts static and stud displays with a dozen or more animals on the Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Most competitors have a wonderful day of shopping – many an alpaca has shared its float with pots of herbs and shrubs on the return journey. AND of course the Region prides itself on a friendly and thoroughly professional show, too.

So keep the first Saturday in September free. Let the youngest members of your stud's show team make their debut in gentle Spring weather amidst the flowers of Florafest and enjoy the amiability of the members (human and alpaca) of the Central Coast/Hunter Region.

Following on from the success of 2000 this year will be the third time that the Central Coast Hunter Region of the AAA has held its Spring Points Score Alpaca Show in conjunction with the Central Coast's Florafest. Wait for the Spring Points Score Shows mail-out in early August, or for those less patient, contact our Regional Secretary, Marion Jack, for further details (Tel. 02 4938 5707).

Florafest





## Charles Ledger Show

by MATT RIDLEY,  
SYDNEY, COAST & HIGHLANDS NSW REGION

The 3rd Charles Ledger Alpaca Show held at Collingwood House, Liverpool on Saturday 14th October was a huge success attracting a record number of animal entries.

*Jolimont Cassius*, a 19-month old white son of the recently deceased *Jolimont Sculptor*, took out the Supreme Champion Alpaca title. Owned by Janet and Lyn Eykamp of Quirindi, and presented by Hunter Alpacas of East Maitland, Cassius won in one of the strongest line-ups of quality alpacas ever assembled in NSW.

Over 250 entries came before judges Keith Barnett of South Australia (huacaya) and Dr Carol Mathew from Melbourne (suris) and the Sydney, Coast and Highlands Spring Show lived up to its fast growing reputation. An overcast start became a brilliant spring day, and the quality of the alpacas matched both the weather and the spirits of a large crowd.

The show came just weeks after over 180 entries were judged at the Central Coast, an indication of the growing emphasis breeders are placing on the need to have their alpacas judged objectively against the best competition.

For Cassius, it continued a memorable streak in 2000, as the full Peruvian Accoyo had been Champion Intermediate Male and Reserve Champion Fleece at the Sydney RAS this year, Supreme Champion at the Armidale Wool Expo in May and the Central Coast Show in September, before taking out the Champion Senior Male title at the Melbourne RAS a fortnight earlier.

Alpacas of Ladysmith of Wagga Wagga had a successful outing, with plenty of blue ribbons and a quinella in the Junior Male category with *Ladysmith Density* and *Ladysmith Chosen One*, both sons of *Purrumbete Highlander*, taking out the top spots.

Local breeders Waluri Alpacas of Bringelly took out the honours in the suri classes, with *Waluri Raphael* and *Waluri Lochinvar* winning the Intermediate and Senior titles respectively.

Earlier, the striking light brown *Glen San Pedro Serena*, a seven-month old daughter of *Cedar House Senator*, had won the junior title. An offer of \$22,000 for Serena was later declined.

## Spring 2000 Shows in the Victorian Western Region

by WESTERN REGION (VIC)  
PUB/PROMO SUB COMMITTEE

Spring 2000 was a very busy time in the Victorian Western Region with three successive weekends of alpaca shows. Regional members and their animals fared well and enjoyed the show circuit immensely.

The inaugural **Geelong Show** kicked off on Sunday, 22nd October with Marg Hitchcock judging some 70 animals and 14 fleeces. Marg commented on the high quality of the animals competing. The Supreme Huacaya Award went to *Benleigh Olympic Dream*, with the top Suri Award going to *Surilana Silky Serena* and Champion Fleece to *Timbertop The Scud* from South Australia.

The following Sunday saw Keith Barnett judging the Huacaya classes and Carol Mathew the Suris at the **Warrnambool Show** on October 29th. Local breeders Des and Liz Williams won Supreme Huacaya, with *Wangoom Ridge Zorro*, and *Surilana Silky Serena*, owned by Bob and Ann Clark, took the Supreme Suri Award. Champion Fleece was awarded to *Blackgate Lodge Minka*, exhibited by Robbie and Kate Cuthill.

Keith Barnett was impressed with the fleece density and style of the animals exhibited, while Carol Mathew felt that, although there were only 6 Suris being shown, they were nevertheless of top quality.

Bill Robbins judged the **Colac Show** on Friday, 3rd November. Accompanying him in the ring was apprentice judge Wayne Clymo. This gave the Region the advantage of hearing comments from two judges who obviously enjoyed their assignment. Colac is building a reputation as the most comfortable show in the Victorian Western Region, with a sofa and arm chairs included in

Photo: Wayne Clymo, Nerida Aldred, Bill Robbins



the seating arrangements, something that was certainly appreciated by the judge, his apprentice and the Chief Steward after the judging.

*Surilana Silky Serena*, from Kurrawa Alpacas, was awarded Supreme Suri, and *Somerset Monte* received the Champion Fleece sash. Supreme Huacaya went to *Benleigh Olympic Dream*, owned by Carolyn and Allan Jinks, that a week later won Champion Intermediate Female at the 2000 National Show, and subsequently received the highest price for a female huacaya in the 2000 National Auction.

## Albany Agricultural Show

by JANICE DOW  
WA SOUTHERN REGION

While the main spotlight of the alpaca world may have been illuminating the National Show at Tatura, Victoria, on the weekend of 11-12 November 2000, a stalwart band of WA members enjoyed their own limelight at the Albany Agricultural Show.

This show, the only judging show organised by the WA Southern region, was a huge success even though numbers were down. We were very fortunate to welcome Roger Haldane as the judge and were privileged to listen to his talk about the early days of the Australian alpaca industry at the dinner on the Friday night preceding the Show.

Roger awarded Supreme Champion Huacaya to *Pentland Dylana* owned by Margaret and Laurie Binks, Pentland Alpacas and Supreme Champion Suri went to Tena and Terry Wheeler of Windsong Valley Alpacas for their Intermediate Male, *Windsong Valley Andean Crusader*.

Champion Huacaya Fleece was won by *Winterbrook Prince John* and the Champion Suri Fleece status went to *Windsong Valley Andean Skye*. ■

Some of the members at the Albany Agricultural Show



# Paca Picnic

by JILL WINTER  
BLUE TOR ALPACAS, TASMANIA

*"If you'd been there on Saturday last  
You'd have had a heap of fun  
for black and white and chocolate and fawn  
We gathered together there on the lawns  
for the Inaugural Paca Picnic."*

*(Adapted from the Teddy Bear's Picnic song)*

**i**t was our first regional event of 2001 and we wanted something different. A picnic on the lawn seemed the ideal way to spend a mild summer's day in Tassie. So ... on January 20th that's what we, and our alpacas, did. Ten totally people-friendly alpacas spent the day out and about on the lawns outside Parliament House in Hobart.

It is a perfectly beautiful location with huge old trees for shade and open grassed areas overlooking the wharf. It's also a thoroughfare for many people on their way to and from Salamanca Market. For those of you who don't know, Salamanca Market is very much a 'must do' on the list of any tourist but it is equally well frequented by 'locals' so the timing was perfect too.

The clouds threatened but cleared and rain held off. We did get rather blown about in the gusty wind at lunchtime. However, as so often happens down here, the sun came out later on and we were well on our way to a successful day.

"Relax, enjoy, cuddle and soak up a taste of the alpaca lifestyle" was the main theme. The crowds wandered across from the market, delighted to find alpacas quietly grazing on the greens and meandered peacefully from pen to stall to spinning wheel and back. Many tried their hand at spinning – the kids were especially keen on this and one blind boy now has a new hobby. The courageous sipped a sweet, green liquid aptly named 'paca punch' and most munched an alpaca or two – some head first, some took the legs one by one. Don't panic! It's chocolate or lemon flavoured alpaca *biscuits* I'm talking about. Some people had seen the preview article in the *Mercury Newspaper* earlier in the week and had brought their own picnic. So they joined us and talked alpaca between sandwiches. Plenty of people wanted to help walk the alpacas and everyone who tried it felt better after an alpaca cuddle. All the owners who came encouraged the children (big and small!) to come into the pens and feel the softness of the fleece. The inevitable "Ooh, isn't that soft" echoed around the park. Many times during the day you would see two alpacas out on a walkabout, suddenly surrounded by a crowd of people patting, stroking and photographing them. Amazingly, the alpacas took it all in their stride and as usual completely stole the show.

At midday the Tasmanian Deputy Premier, Paul Lennon, drew the winning ticket of our major fund

raising raffle. Two fawn wethers went to a new home and our region's bank balance had swelled considerably.

We also ran a charity effort over the whole day. Mini competitions, our region's usual commission on sales and donations went to the RSPCA. They were really grateful and it forged a new link for us. The region has now been invited to take part in their "Million Paws" (or in our case, Pads) walk. So we'll be out walking alpacas for charity again at Elwick Racecourse in May. It's a good feeling to know that we can combine high profile promotion with a significant contribution to a worthwhile cause.

Many breeders have serious enquiries to follow up as a result of the day. Much of the success is being attributed to a relaxed atmosphere conducive to long chats. Also the large physical space between activities and pens allowed the public to wander, observe, listen and ask questions if they wanted to, without feeling crowded or pressured in any way.

To crown the day, not 1, not 2 but 3 TV stations – Southern Cross(7), WIN(9), and ABC came down, took seemingly miles of video footage and reams of notes. Our Paca Picnic was prime time news on all three channels that night with ABC, especially, giving us good coverage and a slightly more in-depth report complete with an interview, which our Regional President handles better each time!

So what had started out as a Picnic in the Park ended up with us having a Ball!!! We'd recommend you try it. ■

Alpacas attracting attention in front of Parliament House, Hobart



Pearl Anderson and helper walking alpacas

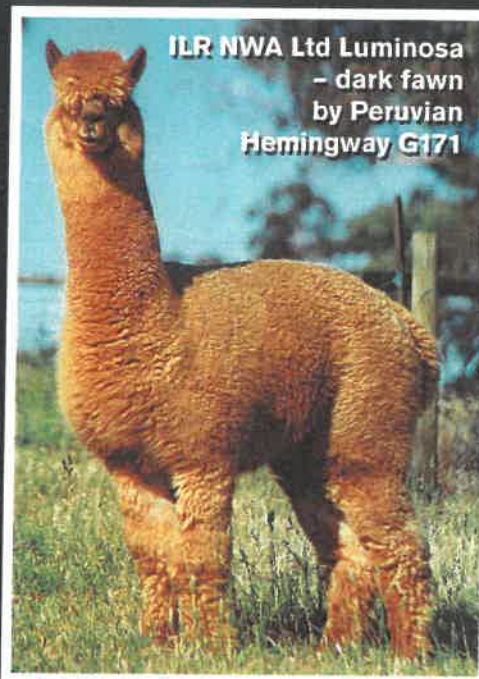
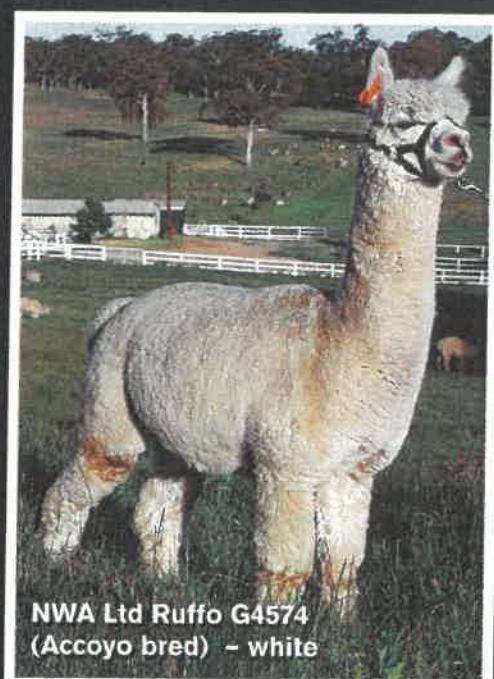
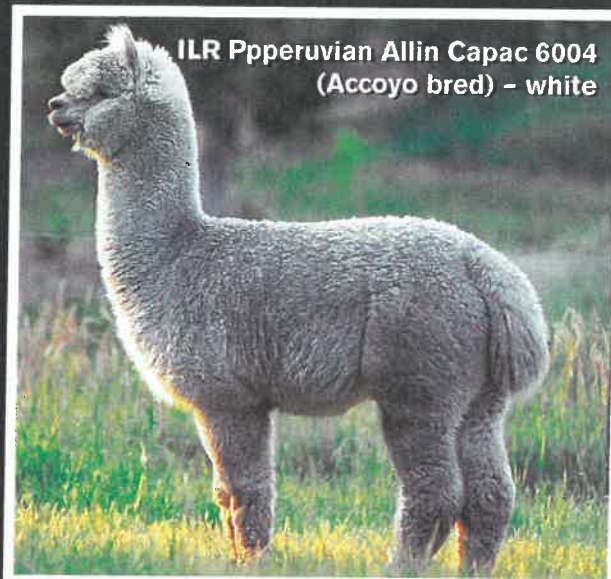


Photos by courtesy of Daryl Vernon



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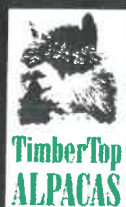


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Timbertop The Scud**

Reserve Senior Champion Male 2000 National Show

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# Paddock to Show Ring Course

compiled by SANDRA WRIGHT  
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

*Last October I attended the weekend course 'From Paddock to Show Ring', presented by Dianne Condon and Bill Robbins, and the 'Stewards and Convenors' course, presented by Bill Plunkett, and found them both to be excellent. I firmly believe that these courses would be invaluable not only to established breeders but also to newcomers to the industry. The atmosphere was casual and not at all intimidating, thus encouraging attendees to ask questions and 'have a go'. I considered all three presenters to be first class – eloquent, experienced and approachable. In addition a comprehensive set of notes, invaluable for later reference, supported both courses. The hosts for the weekend, Sue and Phil Mackenzie were amazingly hospitable and had gone to a lot of effort to prepare the venue and make animals available for two successful days at their Mirrabook Stud at Berry in NSW.*

*My congratulations to all involved, not only was the weekend educational, it also presented me with a terrific opportunity to mingle & swap experiences with other alpaca enthusiasts. I departed feeling very satisfied that the time and energy was well spent.*

IRENE GARNER, ALPACAPENA, NSW.



Bill Robbins in a practical demonstration

## Dianne Condon explains how the course came into being...

After continually being asked questions about showing alpacas and, as an AAA judge, understanding that many breeders were not confident in choosing what alpacas to show and how to prepare and exhibit them, I decided to put together a course to help educate the breeders on all aspects of breeding show stock and showmanship, how to choose the correct alpacas to show and have them perform to their full potential.

With the assistance of fellow AAA judge, Bill Robbins, we put together a basic course which we believe will help both beginners and experienced exhibitors who feel they need some extra guidance. This is a down to earth course that puts over many viewpoints, so, as exhibitors, you can choose what works best for you.

The course covers topics such as physical and fleece development from birth and the importance of correct nutrition, choosing a show team, show preparation, showmanship, show procedure and judging.

In October last year the first course was conducted and was found to be a winner!

## THE COURSE Showing

Participants were instructed on the importance of showing, as it is the showcase window to the alpaca industry. The importance of showmanship was explained in terms of preparing and presenting both alpacas and exhibitors. The showing component of the course progressed from these basic requirements through different topics such as; the selection methods of your show team; recognising the qualifying traits for your alpacas to be considered in 'show condition'; preparing the animals to perform to their full potential with correct nutrition and care; the do's and don'ts of showing and accepting the judge's decision.

Course participants were encouraged to discuss the many different ways in which owners prepare their animals for the show ring. Once again, it was emphasised that owners should choose the methods that work best for them whilst bearing in mind the ultimate 'show condition' expected in the show ring.



At the end of the course the students were shown how a judge assesses an alpaca in the show ring. The students were then invited to participate in a hands-on demonstration. Not all participants felt comfortable doing this, however some dared to have a go and were given a time limit to inspect an alpaca, give an oral assessment and then learn whether or not their decision agreed with that of the course instructors. Dianne felt sure that everyone was keen to return home to practise their new found assessment skills.

### Physical and fleece development

Bill Robbins talked on the importance of identifying fleece qualities from birth, realising how these qualities can be affected by nutrition and understanding the influence of nutrition in preparing an alpaca for the show ring.

Bill spoke on the development of the modern fleece bearing animals from the original two coated primitive alpacas. With this background information Bill illustrated how certain trace elements and minerals as well as protein and energy levels of nutrition, or the lack of them, can affect an alpaca's total lifetime fibre production.

Bill gave valuable advice on selecting alpacas for certain fleece qualities that are inheritable such as density fineness, crimp, handle and lack of medulation. Students were also advised on other fleece characteristics to consider such as evenness or uniformity, tensile strength, lustre, staple length and definition, and grease content and how all these traits have a bearing on how your alpaca will perform in the short and long term.

In summing up Bill emphasised that nutrition plays a large part in the physical and fleece development of your alpaca, from its conception in the womb and throughout its adult life. He highlighted that a large percentage of alpacas in Australia do not reach their true potential due to a lack of knowledge of how to feed them correctly. It would appear there



Bill Robbins and Dianne Condon instructing participants on the importance of showing

is an insatiable appetite (pardon the pun) in the alpaca industry for this type of knowledge from both new and experienced breeders as very few come from a farming background.

### Stewards and Convenors Course

The weekend proceedings came to a conclusion with the chance to participate in this extra component of the course. Approximately 30 people took the opportunity to learn from Bill Plunkett's expertise in this field earned over many years in and around the show ring.

Bill instructed participants on how to convene a show encompassing all the tasks required before, during and after the event.

The requirements for fleece exhibits, score cards and judging were also discussed. The duties of the show personnel required to perform these tasks were described at length and throughout his talk Bill highlighted the importance of understanding the Showing Rules relevant to all these aspects.

At the end of the theory session all students completed a revision test before progressing onto the practical hands-on afternoon session when a mock show ring was set up and students were invited to act out the roles discussed earlier. Students were presented with a set of written notes and a certificate acknowledging completion of the course. 📄

Practical hands-on afternoon session



# South Australian alpaca breeders win prestigious award

by ADRIENNE CLARKE  
AMBERSUN ALPACAS, SA

*Each year the South Australian government recognises the achievement of excellence in the state's food and fibre industries through the Premier's Food and Fibre Awards. Ambersun Alpacos was proudly the recipient of the 2000 Award as winners of the 'Wool and Other Fibres Industry Achievement Award'.*



Chris Williams and Adrienne Clarke – Ambersun Alpacos

**d**avid Michell, of GH Michell (Aust) Pty Ltd, South Australia's largest wool processor, presented the award to Chris Williams and Adrienne Clarke at a formal presentation evening. Following the presentation of the awards, correspondence was received from South Australia's Premier, Mr Rob Kerin, and Deputy Premier, Mr John Olsen, and the Chairman of the South Australian Wool Industry Development Board, Mr Andrew Thomas, congratulating them for their achievement.

Ambersun Alpacos received the award for its vertically integrated approach to the alpaca industry. As stated by the Chairman of the Wool Industry Development Board, "Ambersun Alpacos has demonstrated to the wool and natural fibre industries through innovation and drive, that achievement and success are attainable in a vertically integrated business from breeding through to the production and distribution of high quality, high fashion garments".

Ambersun Alpacos' company profile is one that encompasses the chain of process from the primary product through to the value-added product. Its business strategy incorporates:

- 1 Primary production – the breeding of alpacas and fibre production.
- 2 Harvesting of the primary product.
- 3 Service provision within the industry.
- 4 Manufacture of value-added products from yarn and cloth.

5 Wholesale and retail distribution of value-added products.  
6 General promotion and marketing (including tourism and education).  
The different stages of production have been incorporated into a single integrated strategy, with each stage of production found to complement each other, providing direction and reinforcement along the way. Each level of involvement in the industry has also provided Ambersun Alpacos with the opportunity to develop its profile, and market itself more effectively and to a wider audience than would be attainable within any specific component.

Starting with a small herd of six alpacas which were purchased through an interest in the industry stemming back to 1990, Chris Williams and Adrienne Clarke now run South Australia's largest privately owned herd of approximately 250 alpacas. Their farm is located south of Adelaide in Mount Compass, South Australia.

Their decision to become involved in the manufacture of alpaca garments was generated from a desire to create a niche market for their primary product and the need for the manufacture of Australian-made products to give credibility to the long term future of the breeding industry. Through their involvement in the manufacturing of quality alpaca garments with their label, *Alpaca Classica*, they are acutely aware of the importance of breeding fineness

into their herd. The handle and softness of garments made from alpaca are its greatest marketing assets, creating the challenge to breed finely fleeced alpacas (of less than 23 microns).

*Alpaca Classica*, which is manufactured in Kensington, South Australia, has achieved international repute. A range of *Classica* garments represented Australia on the catwalk of the International Camelid Festival in Arequipa, Peru, last October and made its debut at the inaugural festival in 1997. The collection includes men's and ladies' jumpers, ladies' tailored knitted suits and dresses, and men's and ladies' jackets. Several eye-catching gowns were specifically designed and manufactured by *Alpaca Classica* for the Festival's fashion parade.

Ambersun creates demand for its fibre and garments through its two retail stores. One is located in the quaint German tourist town in Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, approximately 20 minutes south of Adelaide. The second and higher profile store is located at the new seaside development at Holdfast Shores (near Glenelg). The locations of the stores were selected to cater for both tourists and the local market.

The stores have provided the opportunity for market research – to collect information to analyse the customer base (ie. the demographics of the purchasing market) and to trial and review new fashion styles and colours for market acceptability and demand.

Ambersun Alpacos has recognised the advantage of collecting information generated from within its own business framework (alpaca breeding, fibre harvesting, manufacture and distribution) which can be applied to assess and review subsequent or previous stages in its business strategy. In having the opportunity to work from the end product backwards, Ambersun Alpacos has been placed in the relatively unique position of being able to define its breeding objectives, and develop a primary product which is specifically tailored by the commercial demand for the end product. ■



# Only PRISTINE ALPACAS...



Left: Cedar House **Mozart**. Right: Cedar House **Woolmaker**.



Cedar House **Woolmaker**.

## *Dedicated to delivering the world's finest livestock investment.*

Pristine Alpacas are ideally positioned with a well established holding of improved pastures and a carefully selected herd of quality stock. Pristine Alpacas aims to supply markets with the highest quality and sought after progeny, the best fleece and attract record prices.

The company was established in 1995 by Sandy and Allen Mercier. Located 20 minutes from Canberra's CBD, the lush 100 acre property has been set up specifically to support the needs of Alpacas with quality infrastructure.

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Pristine Alpacas is building its stock using the best genetics in Australia. Now standing at stud is Cedar House **Mozart**, the first 100% Peruvian born in the Southern Region from the renowned Cedar House Peruvian Ayaviri (No. 14).

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# Alpaca Fiesta 2000

## Arequipa – Peru



Opening ceremony

composed by SANDRA WRIGHT  
FROM IAA PRESS RELEASES

*Almost trampling against each other a herd of Vicuñas run scared and apparently aimless in the middle of the Andes. They turn their head one way and the other and, even though they are pursued, they do not seem disposed to lose their posture. Later, however, they are to end up reclined and held by several pair of hands, while the noise of the motor shearer enters in open competition with their squeals.*

**a**s more than 500 years ago their ancestors used to make endless human chains to drive the graceful Vicuñas, so dozens of community breeders of Camelids were positioned among the hills of the Arequipa Highlands in Peru, to bring once more to life the traditional "Chaccu" or the ritual of Vicuña shearing, in the town of Toccra, following the call made for the occasion by the International Alpaca Association.

The acquisition of such prized product was only one episode of the Alpaca Festival held in October 2000. The festival included a series of other events, all closely related to the breeding of Alpacas and the industrial processing of their valued fibre.

The international celebration brought together 180 breeders and 77 entrepreneurs from 13 countries, all connected to the production of

alpaca textiles. The major part of the contingent came from the U.S.A. but they also came from Australia, Canada, U.K., Bolivia, Chile, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany and the Argentine.

The morning activities were conducted in the central fairgrounds that showed a truly festive scene. And in the middle of the comings and goings of people, attendants clad in rigorous white struggled to bring the alpacas from the stalls to the judging ring for the most difficult task at the Festival. Not all animals agreed willingly to be ushered along but finally they all came under the scrutiny of respected judges headed by the international expert, Julio Sumar.

In the splendid scenery of the International Alpaca Festival held in Arequipa, Peru, the numerous breeders who showed the proofs of their effective work, received their reward. The most





Halter Show



A human chain ready for the Vicuña roundup

outstanding were given cash incentives provided by the Government, and also trophies from personalities linked to the alpaca sector. Important names of the alpaca world, such as Frank Michell, Francis Pathey, Klaus Kothe and Julio Barreda, appeared on some of the trophies contested in the judging ring. The local universities also contributed their own, while the newspaper *El Comercio* gave the "Barbara D'Achille" prize, which was established in memory of the respected journalist and untiring defender of the ecology and environment.

Among the numerous stands set up in the ample fairgrounds there could be found not only delicate textiles made of camelid fibres, but also fine garments, original accessories, textile machinery and hand-crafted gold and silver jewellery.

Several experts in the fields of alpaca management, feeding and reproduction of the animals gave technical talks and visitors were also

treated to guided tours of the factories where the alpaca yarns are processed and where the best garments are manufactured.

A course on textile production was also given, to furnish elementary information about the industrial processing of the alpaca fibre. Attendance was good at this course as well as the so-called "sorting clinic", where the most efficient ways of sorting, scouring, carding and combing were outlined as the first stages of the industrial processes to obtain yarns suitable for the subsequent manufacturing of weaving and knitting.

A highlight of the Festival was the Alpaca Fashion Show organised by the International Alpaca Association and held in the old Jesuit cloister of the Compañía de Jesus of Arequipa, Peru.

Suddenly turned into an international fashion capital, Arequipa attracted fashion talents of recognized international fame, such as the Spaniard Adolfo Dominguez, the Inca

Group, the Michell Group, Beatriz Canedo and many others.

Alongside these international labels was the Australian 'Alpaca Classica' collection with Frank Spinelli and Chris Williams presenting a collection of night and casual wear in vibrant colours of red, black and purple.

The Alpaca Festival 2000 was not all training, exhibits of animals and fine cloth and garments. There were also opportunities for visitors to the city to enjoy South American cultural activities. The organisers of the Festival, the IAA, programmed a guided visit of the Museum of Andean Sanctuaries, where can be found the 'La Dama del Ampato', the Inca princess sacrificed 500 years ago, her body discovered in recent times, preserved in a frozen state.

Indeed, Alpaca Fiesta 2000 was more than just an alpaca show – it was an international celebration of South American culture, camelids and exquisite fibre. ■



*Alpaca Classica* at the Alpaca Fashion Show organised by the International Alpaca Association and held in the old Jesuit cloister of the Compañía de Jesus of Arequipa, Peru.

# The Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd goes on-line

by ALLEN MERCIER  
PRISTINE ALPACAS, NSW

*The Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd has long recognised the need to reach a wider market in promoting and marketing its range of alpaca products. In today's competitive marketplace having an on-line Internet presence is essential.*



The world wide e-commerce market offers opportunity on a grand scale. Still in its infancy, e-commerce is already the fastest growth area in the new Internet economy and carries potential beyond measure. The Gartner Consulting Group report estimates that Internet based electronic business, worldwide will account for \$2.8 trillion in sales by the year 2003.

With this in mind, the Co-operative needed more than just an on-line brochure. A complete e-commerce solution was required to allow the Co-operative to maximise its on-line business opportunities. Providing such a solution is eWest On-line Systems and alpaca breeder, Allen Mercier of Pristine Alpacas. The e-commerce system is being provided to the Co-operative at no cost to its membership and will take the Co-operative and its products to the new electronic global marketplace.

The e-commerce system will offer many facilities and will provide a complete member's resource and on-line retail service.

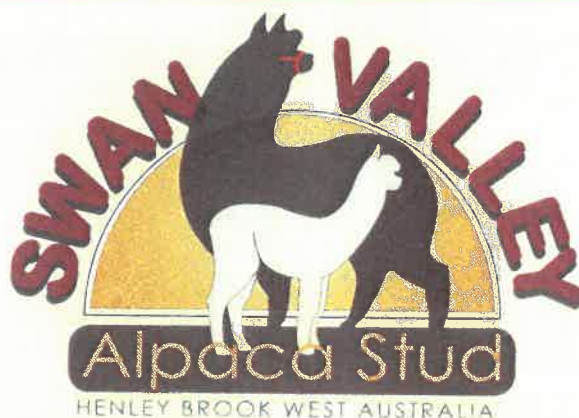
The Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd e-commerce site will boast many features, which include:

- Membership and Casual User registration.
- Membership information and resources.
- Subscription e-mail services.
- Shop front for all Co-operative products.
- Secure on-line purchasing.
- Freight & shipping charges for both domestic and international.
- Management analysis, accounting and reporting.
- And much more...

We look forward to what all this technology can do for the Co-operative and its members, so get to know the new website. Register your details or why not buy a product on-line and join the thousands of others who buy on-line everyday.

**Visit the website on  
www.alpacacoop.com.au or for  
further information contact Allen  
Mercier on 0418 292 650.**





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# 'Shear' hard work

by GILL AYNSLEY  
A.W. & G. AYNSLEY

*We have met some of the nicest people since we embarked on this crazy lifestyle called alpaca shearing. With very little exception, all the clients that we have (over 100, but I don't have time to count) look after us so well, treat us like friends, take us into their homes, and feed us almost too well.*

**i**n 1980 I migrated to Australia from England with my then husband and 11 year-old son to help my husband start his own refrigeration business at Moss Vale in the NSW Southern Highlands. Of course at that stage I had no idea that I would ultimately reach the dizzy heights of an alpaca rouseabout.

At 16 years of age Allan first learned to shear, a career which he pursued for a few years until he married and started a family. Because shearing in those days meant a lot of travelling, Allan with his then young family decided that dairy farming seemed to be a much more settled option. So he ran dairy cattle for some 25 years only to seriously resume shearing afterwards.

Allan and I married in 1983 and began a farming business, running approximately 100-150 cows and calves, on agisted country in the Moss Vale district. Later in 1989 we acquired 200 acres at Fullerton and commenced developing our own farm from scratch. In the meantime Allan retained his position as property manager of a 1,000-acre cattle property at Canyonleigh, also in the Southern Highlands. Of course starting one's own property and managing another meant that Allan was extremely busy, so shearing could only be fitted in on a part time basis during the season.



At that stage Allan's shearing commitments were limited to sheep and goats. Then, some years ago, he decided to fit alpacas into his repertoire.

Ultimately the Canyonleigh property was partly sold and considerably scaled down, so we made a further commitment to put more of our time into the alpaca side of the shearing business. Of course this meant that we had to make a substantial commitment to purchasing suitable equipment. Whilst we are still loyal to our sheep and goat clients the major part of our shearing season is biased towards alpacas.

When I married Allan my only experience of livestock was a long-time love of horses. Since then I have learnt so much about all aspects of farming. I know I will never have that same level of skill as Allan so I describe myself simply as 'a farmer's wife'. That means that you have to be a Jack (or Gill) of all trades but a master of none.

Allan Aynsley emphasises that shearing at the right time means a cleaner fleece.

We started shearing alpacas when a friend of ours, connected to us through Stock Horses, was working for Heathray at Mittagong. They had three animals to shear. We knew nothing about alpacas but agreed to give it a go.

We tried the first one standing up – the animal was jumping everywhere and the fleece just fell in a heap on the ground. For the remaining two we tried various methods, with a big strong farrier helping by either holding or sitting on them. We knew there had to be a better way.

The next people we encountered were Ian and Harriet Davison and Harriet's sister, Celia Cook, of Illawarra Alpaca Stud at Cambewarra. Ian had made a harness – a great device – and we started the long and arduous process of establishing how we could follow sheep shearing procedures and where we would have to deviate from these to accommodate a system of picking up the fleece with as little contamination as possible.

When we left the Davison's, Ian very kindly gave us the harness. As we continued to use the harness we saw the need for changes to the original concept. Over the years the harness has evolved through many modifications into the version we currently use to restrain animals for safe and efficient shearing.

Whilst at Illawarra, we heard about a video from AAA on shearing techniques. We ultimately located it and were very amused to see that it showed an animal restrained in the harness, its belly shorn off and then the fleece thrown on a table – a great help!

After this we started to get enquiries from all over. And so now our area spreads from Bega on the South Coast, out to Canberra, Yass, Young, Forbes, and as far North as Yarramalong.

We often look back and laugh at the early days, when we took nearly half a day to travel to shear six alpacas.

News was travelling fast and we continued to make more contacts and many more friends, many of whom now have between 60 and 300 animals. We now stay in one district for a couple of days and shear approximately 60 alpacas per day.

Now that the shearing business has developed it has become my function to be the driver, secretary, cook and rouseabout etc.; we seem to complement one another quite well that way. Allan can often be heard in the car, as I struggle my way in traffic, refusing to look at a map or directions that someone has carefully given me because "it is not part of his job" – I am supposed to do all that – he just shears.

Like Allan, I love to work in a sheep-shearing shed, because of the routine and facilities that have been established over the years. Shearers can be quite demanding at times and a lot of traditions have evolved over the years to the benefit of the modern day shearer. This is still to come in the alpaca industry.

When we are not shearing we love to spend time with our ever-growing family – Allan has five terrific daughters, and my son is the pride of my life. We love our stock horses (that we still breed), our working dogs (for which we might get more time as retirement approaches) and our farm that we spend all our spare time developing. We are also active members of our local Crookwell Uniting Church and are currently the Ringmaster and his assistant of both Moss Vale and Crookwell Shows.

Our lives seem to be either feast or famine – there is more work than we can cope with in October-November-December, but in June and July the

phone hardly rings. That is when we work on our own farm, or go contract-fencing etc. to pay the bills. I see our future scaling down somewhat over the next five to ten years – we aren't getting any younger, and I don't want to see Allan wearing himself out trying to keep up with the pressure. If we could spread the workload over more months of the year it would help to relieve that pressure.

We have had a lot of experiences with alpacas and their owners over the last ten years, both good and bad. For years Allan has talked about writing a book, but we only ever get time to talk. However, there are a few humorous experiences we could share with you, some will recognise the stories, others might have lived them.

Early in our shearing career, one alpaca was spitting and screaming. The owner was heard to say "Never mind, darling, the nasty man will be gone soon". Maybe he should have gone sooner and left the fleece on.

More recently, one spat directly into Allan's mouth as he let it go. The owner's response was to explain that the animal "really didn't mean it".

Whilst working on an alpaca, Allan often calls it "Toby" (it saves remembering a thousand or so names). On one occasion the owner became upset because 'Toby' was not his name. We do shear one, however, whose name is Tobias.

Shearing demonstration during Australian National Field Days at Orange





## Things a shearer likes and needs

Quite often, we find 'shearing sheds' described as a grassy area, on the side of a hill or under a tree. Dare I say we are finding this less and less satisfactory.

- Ideally a flat surface like a solid timber floor on which to shear (not a concrete floor with straw or portable pens). If possible, a slatted floor area for a catching pen with easy access (such as swing doors).
- Protection from the elements.
- Clean, with good ventilation.
- A good, easy means of animal flow through the shed.
- Shearers are trained to work two-hour shifts – they need to be able to flow in this time without the interruptions that break a shearer's concentration, and makes a hard job harder.
- Alpacas may be easy to muster normally with clapping of hands or a feed bucket, but try this on shearing day and you will find it doesn't work. They need to be treated like sheep or goats; have easy access pens with as little fuss and dragging of animals as possible.
- Understand the routine of a shearing shed – this is the shearer's place of work every day of the season. Concentrate on what is

required during the shearing – don't try to do more than is required (you will be hindering someone else) or forget your part of the operation (it will stop the easy flow that everyone else is working for).

- Remember the shearer tries his best and in most cases has a lot of patience. Alpacas to him are not pets, they are fleece-producing animals. They are big and strong, and have some very dirty habits. They may not be soft, cuddly, beautiful animals on shearing day. Work with him – alpaca shearers are few and far between. It is hard and dirty work, so have plenty of old towels, mops and good quality brooms handy.

## Timing

Because of the large area our business encompasses, the last few years have found me having to organise our schedule mainly into two to three day trips to certain districts, incorporating as many breeders as possible. Three days is the most we feel we can be away from the farm (even though we have particularly obliging neighbours who keep a good eye on things), and especially our working dogs. We plan our other farm activities to ensure that there is minimum maintenance during the shearing season(s), for example, lambing and calving must be finished and crops sown.

During the shearing trips we never cease to be impressed by the hospitality of virtually all alpaca owners – they go out of their way to feed us and look after us, many putting us up overnight like long lost friends. Thank you for that.

I usually try to leave a day between these trips for necessary work at home, but as many of you know, these are luxuries that don't always work out, with wet weather or just pressure of demand.

When commencing a trip, we will usually rise at around 4-4.30am, and it takes at least an hour to get combs sharpened and packed up. Often we will travel about four hours to the first stop. Whilst it doesn't often happen, it is not particularly encouraging when we arrive at somebody's place and they say, "did you sleep in?" They weren't with us the night before when we drove home, fighting to stay awake, arriving usually about midnight. It is not uncommon for us to arrive at a client's later than anticipated. This is always due to pressure of workload, not because we have been having a picnic in the park. It is surprising how time consuming it is travelling from one place to another and it is time I learnt not to book so much in a day.

My biggest problem (apart from finding my way) is finding the time to fit everyone in. I don't like letting anyone down and therefore we find ourselves trying to meet unrealistic schedules. Please know how many animals you will want to shear before booking, our elastic sided days can only stretch so far.

Because our business is burgeoning we have reached a point where we will have to re-organise our booking system. We will try to start a little earlier and attempt to co-ordinate all the large bookings in the period up to the end of November. Unfortunately the smaller numbers will have to be scheduled after the busy period. To help achieve this people will need to book at least three months, and some as much as twelve months, in advance.

We feel a sense of loyalty to all those good clients that have been loyal to us. We certainly do not want

A slatted floor area for a catching pen with easy access



to let anyone down, but when booking I have to be careful not to try to fit in more than we can manage. The next five to ten years will see us slowing our programme down, this is so that we can maintain a good level of service to a core of loyal clients who continually work towards improving their facilities to make an otherwise difficult job a little easier.

Our season commences on 30th August and is full on until Christmas. At the moment we need to shear goats in February and August and sheep in December. After Christmas it seems to be nearly as busy (in January) and a lot of the larger breeders will do an Autumn shearing in late February to March, culminating with the shearing of show animals at Sydney Royal Show.

We do several demonstrations throughout the year. We see this as supporting an industry that has supported us over the years.

Some tips which will help you and us:-

- Shearing alpacas at the right time of year (before there is too much heat and dirt in the fleeces) is a pleasure, and so much less costly on the shearer's equipment, so ultimately this will affect the shearer's costs and yours.
- Be aware of what type of fleece suits your particular area and climate – be careful about how

much density, fleece weight etc. your animals can be happy producing. Not enough time is spent on fleece production, which is a shame in a fleece industry.

- We encourage most of our clients to shear in the Spring or Autumn, with great results. The animals in our experience cope better during these seasons because the change in temperature is not as dramatic as say a cold snap in the middle of November or December. If you are not sure, ask those that do it every year.
- Don't leave your shearing until the weather has already turned hot. Prepare for the Summer heat and shear in Spring.
- Make sure you have ample facilities to house your animals before and after shearing to accommodate for inclement weather. If you have shorn early your animal will have enough cover on him to protect him from the harsh Summer sun – helping against rain scald and burning problems.

## Preparation

From my perspective as a rouseabout, I look for clean facilities – I want to get the fleece from the board to the owner (and ultimately the producer) in the best condition possible. This means that you need a fleece table to put the fleece onto to class and clean

properly before it is bagged. It just isn't good enough to put it into a bag from the floor and go back to it later, or worse still not at all. I do a quick skirt on the floor, but there will always be some contamination still in it.

Be careful with your planning for bringing like colours through – this can take some planning beforehand. Most of all keep as much dirt, straw and hay as possible out of the fleece before it ever gets to the shearing board. At very little expense find a suitable board to shear on i.e. wood, lino, or rubber.

The earlier you shear your animals, the cleaner your fleece will be. As the season gets hotter and drier, the alpacas find it necessary to roll more and there is more dust and vegetation for them to pick up. Much to everyone's relief we have found blowing of little help – if you shear early enough you don't need it, and once the temperature starts to rise (especially the denser animals) the fleece will tend to "cott" and this traps the dirt on the shearing surface. For vegetable matter, a piece of bent wire works well. It has been hard at times to convince some people of the futility of blowing – if they end up filthy dirty they are convinced that they must have removed all the dirt from the animal. In reality, they have removed some dirt and embedded the rest on the skin.

Make sure that the fleece is a commercially acceptable length – I can only think in inches and I work on three to four inches, but talk to the producers on what they want and how they want it presented. Some of your older animals won't need shearing every 12 months – 18 to 24 months will be quite sufficient.

We take the same care for all animals shorn. There is nothing in our handling or shearing system that would cause a pregnant female any harm. Over the years we have shorn them at all stages of pregnancy right up to giving birth immediately after leaving the shearing board. For animals that are particularly prone to stress, I would think the first trimester would be the most crucial time, but only for the stress factor.



Handlers laying alpaca down on the right side to start



Pregnant females or especially stressful animals can upset the whole shed. It may be worth working into your plan a way to bring them into the shearing shed a little quicker than the rest of the herd – by that I mean don't leave them penned as long as the other animals. Normally, we have found they are best penned for up to 12 hours before shearing, with no food and minimal water. This is for their own comfort during shearing as well as everyone else's – when they are full of feed and water, they are bound to feel more uncomfortable laying on the ground and will be far more inclined to spit etc.

One of the most important things to do is to make sure you have facilities to keep your animals dry on the day you are booked for shearing. This facility, of course, is vital after shearing. Any animal off shears is vulnerable at ANY time of year. You never know what weather changes to expect – be prepared.

A couple of things guaranteed to annoy Allan:-

- Seeing good fibre wasted by shearing it off too late in the season.
- Excuses about bad shearing facilities ... "We don't care about the fleeces – which is down the track, we only want to sell animals". We have been going down this track for a long time.

Classer puts fleece onto fleece table for classing and cleaning properly before it is bagged



## Shearing process

Before we arrive at a job, we have had to clean and sharpen all the combs and cutters used on the previous day, and done any repair work necessary (out of three machines, there is quite often one away getting some repair carried out). Allan usually does this while I pack the equipment and the necessary clothes (yes, between shearing I do have the usual washing, ironing, housework and paying the

Allan shears while I do a quick skirt on the floor

bills, not to mention extra book/computer work with the GST).

When we arrive it usually takes a short while to organise where we will shear, the power source, the flow of the animals etc. So give all this plenty of thought before, and have the necessary area clean and ready, with the animals penned next to the shearing area (off feed).

Weighing the fleece as you go to record how much each animal cuts



We have our own method of laying the animals down (on the right side to start) and this normally requires one other handler to assist. Allan's method of shearing is now as regular and uniform as if he were shearing a sheep – the blows don't vary – if they do I soon remind him. We have devised this system for speed, with minimal handling, and to facilitate what I think is an efficient way of separating and picking up the fleece.

The standard cut (if there is such a thing) is to shear clean over the whole body and trim the head and tail. In some areas a clean head is preferable where grass seeds might be a problem – Allan calls this a 'kangaroo cut', in contrast to leaving all the head cover on, which he calls 'some kind of mop'.

Over the years he has accommodated a lot of weird and wonderful variations, but would much rather turn an animal off looking clean and neat. Neatness is important to Allan, whether he is shearing a sheep, goat or an alpaca.

We like to work for a two-hour run and would hope (in a shed) to

shear approximately 15 animals in that time. Any hold-ups getting animals to or from the board will slow this down, as will dirt in the fleece, which means that the combs and cutters will go blunt and need to be changed. While on the subject of dirt, some people have managed in their planning to leave a green paddock area close to the shed, just for use a week or two before shearing – this works quite well. The reverse of this is when animals are penned next to the board on dirt, and you guessed it, they roll.

When picking up the fleece, I start by skirting around the back leg to leave any good fleece in the saddle, but getting any contamination out of the way. Then I pick up the belly and the front leg and apron. The floor should then be clean for the saddle, which I lightly skirt on the floor and preferably put onto a classing table for the owner to check over and class. Once on the table the locks and dirt will fall out, any hairy areas can be identified and removed, and it can be put either into a bag or into a line with other similar fleeces.

The animal is then turned over and the process is repeated on the other side. Finally the neck is taken off and bagged separately. The leg and belly hair can either be bagged in individual bags, or put together in a light or dark line.

Have a good broom available between similar colours and maybe a blower or vacuum cleaner between different colours, but don't make this a long operation – speed is the name of the game in shearing. This is the culmination of 12 months work for the producer – make the best effort to produce a good, saleable end product.

I never mind taking mid-side samples while I am picking up the fleece – it seems the most consistently accurate method. Some people like to put elastic bands on before shearing, but either way it is a matter of judgement to evaluate a consistent site – I prefer to do it when the animal is still and restrained as the fleece comes off. ■

You can contact Gill or Allan Aynsley on (02) 4834 2196



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# Haldane's influence

## undiminished

by MATT RIDLEY  
BLAYDON ALPACAS, NSW

*When you study the female families in Australia, one of the first things you are told is to look out for the foundation families which started with IAR numbers 2407 to 2428. These were the females imported by Roger Haldane, and are sometimes referred to as the "Cheruvians".*

**t**here is little doubt that these females were the precursors of many show winners, and a little research soon reveals some outstanding names. Names like:

### Purrumbete True Perfection

*(Purrumbete Minty, Forestglen Maestro, Prestige Rudolph, Prestige Valentino, Prestige Arabesque etc)*

### Purrumbete Showpiece

*(Purrumbete Bright Star, Swan Valley Top Gun, Swan Valley Stockman, Summerhill Sundance, Summerhill Flamingo Edition, Shanbrooke Elite, Shanbrooke Society Lass, Shanbrooke Society Excellence, Shanbrooke Society Attraction etc)*

### Purrumbete Sun Dial

*(Purrumbete Wedding Bells, Purrumbete Minderoo, Shanbrooke High Society, Purrumbete Compass Rose, Purrumbete Monarch, Shanbrooke Casanova, Shanbrooke Rose Perfection, Cedar House Legacy, Cedar House Ringmaster etc)*

### Purrumbete Reflection

*(Purrumbete Moonshine, Purrumbete Legacy, Swan Valley Melody, Summerhill Liberty Belle, Swan Valley Supreme, Swan Valley Sabrina etc)*

### Purrumbete Pandora

*(Ladysmith Absolute, Ladysmith High Five, Ladysmith Density, Highclere Menzies etc)*

### Purrumbete Ice Star

*(Benleigh Flame, Purrumbete Commandor, Purrumbete Ledgers Boy, Windsong Valley Ice Lord, Windsong Valley Iceman, Windsong Valley Ice Maiden etc)*

### Purrumbete Angel Face

*(Purrumbete Portia, Swan Valley Majestic, Messmate Whitie Mahogany etc)*

But, if we rank the success of a family by the show results achieved at the highest levels, we must rate the family of *Purrumbete Sweet Freedom* as the most outstanding of them all.

*Purrumbete Sweet Freedom* (IAR A2410) has produced high quality males and females through three generations so far, and there is every indication that there is no end to this.



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Her immediate progeny included *Purumbete Flamingo Mist*, *Purumbete White Cockade*, *Benleigh Highland Lass*, *Benleigh Ringleader* and *Benleigh Highland Belle*. Even now, her latest progeny continue to impress: *Benleigh Bravo* was placed first in the Junior White Male class at Melbourne in 1999 and his younger sister *Benleigh Petuele* was Supreme Champion at Hamilton last year.

*Purumbete Flamingo Mist* is the dam of *Purumbete Warrior*, an outstanding show performer in Queensland and Reserve Champion Fleece at the 1996 National. Her next cria became *Adelyn Alpine Mist*, placed at the National and dam of *Alpacandes Bond*, Champion Senior Male at Sydney last year and now standing at stud.

*Adelyn Inca Mist* included a first at Melbourne in 1999 amongst her honours, while *Adelyn Highland Mist* went even better in being named Supreme Champion at the 1998 Melbourne and Adelaide Royals and taking out the Champion Senior Male trophy a year later. His honours, in animal and fleece classes, including Champion Fleece at Melbourne and Adelaide last year, place him amongst the most awarded alpacas ever in this country.

*Purumbete Sweet Freedom's* 1995 cria was named *Benleigh Highland Lass* and, as a show winner herself and dam of show winners, she must rank in the highest level. This daughter of *Purumbete Highlander* became Supreme Champion at the 1996 National (and her fleece was the Supreme Champion exhibit the next year) and the Sydney Royal of 1997, beating the best the industry could offer over her two years at show.

Not content with this, she then produced two outstanding males as her first cria. *Cedar House Brave Heart*, a son of *Purumbete Inti*, was Supreme Champion at several NSW regional shows in 1998 and 1999, and probably capped his show efforts at the 1998 National Spring Classic when taking out the Champion Junior Male title in 1998. He was later sold at a reported \$240,000 valuation.

*Cedar House Woolmaker*, his younger half-brother by Peruvian

Champion, *Cedar House Peruvian Ayaviri*, attracted even more interest in the market place, being sold for a \$300,000 equivalent after being named Supreme Champion at the 1999 Charles Ledger and Central-Northern Regional Spring Shows.

*Benleigh Ringleader*, *Sweet Freedom's* 1996 cria, closely related to both *Alpacandes Bond* and *Cedar House Brave Heart* through his sire, *Purumbete Inti*, won the Champion Fleece title at the Sydney Royal in 1998 on his way to a stud career.

The line was to the fore at the most recent National Show in Tatura. *Benleigh Bellisimo* (again by *Purumbete Inti*, a cross which seems to work well with this family) won the Champion Junior Male ribbon. Unusually, *Benleigh Bellisimo* is a fawn: most of the family are whites.

*Benleigh Bellisimo* is a son of *Benleigh Highland Belle*, which was *Purumbete Sweet Freedom's* fifth cria, so the legend continues.

Buying into this family could be an expensive business. To start with, there is a predominance of males in the line. And then there are the prices paid to date.

No matter what the market conditions, quality is quality. Stud names like *Purumbete*, *Benleigh*, *Alpacandes*, *Cedar House* and *Adelyn* evidence the value placed on it by some of the industry's leading players.

So, if you get the chance, have a close look at *Purumbete Sweet Freedom's* family – you'll be in good company.

## Editor's note

Allan and Carolyn Jinks of Benleigh Alpaca Stud, Victoria, are currently the proud owners of *Purumbete Sweet Freedom*. In response to the request by *Alpacas Australia* for comment on this article, Carolyn was eager to pay tribute to the Haldanes and the choices made so long ago that continue to benefit the Australian national alpaca herd.

## The Haldanes

by CAROLYN JINKS

For those who have been in the alpaca industry since early days, Roger Haldane needs no introduction. With his wife Sue and his brother Clyde, the family is seen by many as the corner stone of the Australian industry.

We first met Roger in New Zealand in 1989 while researching the potential of alpacas, and discovered that Roger's practical animal experience equated with our sheep background. Since then, like many others, we are proud to have become friends and colleagues. Clyde, who was not as well known, travelled South America acquiring the animals that were imported under the name of their property, 'Purumbete'.

The documentation by Matt Ridley says it all, with recognition of quality imported then, and particularly the '2400 series' which has yet to be superseded.

In NSW some years ago, Roger, Sue and Clyde were among the breeders awarded medallions for their early contribution in pioneering the alpaca industry in Australia.

Roger's unassuming manner, foresight and wisdom are greatly respected. A former National Committee member and a qualified alpaca judge, Roger, with three other breeders, ran the inaugural Alpaca Auction in Australia in 1991, and this event is continued today by the AAA.

Since his venture into milking buffalo, Roger's time with alpacas has been depleted, and last year the name of 'Purumbete' was sold, but the legend will not end, as the information collated by Matt has shown. The progeny of some of the outstanding choices he made, will see Roger continue to be an icon in Australia's alpaca industry.

Congratulations to Matt on his research and giving us all the opportunity to salute the Haldanes.



## Purrumbete Flamingo Mist

(SW) A2301 (F by Chilean sire).

**D A M O F :**

## Purrumbete White Cockade

(W) A12512 (M by *Purrumbete Ledgers Dream* (SW)) 27/9/94.

Reserve Champion Senior Male Sydney Royal 1996; 2nd M18 + W Sydney Royal 1996

## Purrumbete Warrior

(SW) A12507 (M by *Purrumbete Snowman* (SW)). 2/10/94.

Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece National 1996; 2nd HF6-18L National 1996; Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece National 1996; Supreme Champion Brisbane Royal 1997; Supreme Champion Qld Eastern Region 1995; Fleece of the Year Qld Eastern Region 1996; Supreme Champion Lilydale 1995; Supreme Champion Sunshine Coast 1997; Supreme Champion Gold Coast 1997

## Adelyn Alpine Mist

(W) A13421 (F by *Purrumbete Ledgers Dream* (SW)) 20/10/95.

3rd F12-18W National 1996; 1st HF18-30All H-BM RSS 1998.

**D A M O F :**

## Alpacandes Bond

(W) A28844 (M by *Purrumbete Inti* (SMF)) 12/5/98.

Champion Senior Male Sydney Royal 2000; 1st M18 + W Sydney Royal 2000; Reserve Champion Junior Male Hawkesbury 1999; Reserve Champion Junior Male Castle Hill 1999; Reserve Champion Senior Male Berry 2000

## Adelyn Inca Mist

(SW) A17896 (F by *Purrumbete Inti* (SMF)). 6/10/96.

1st F12-18W Melbourne Royal 1999; 3rd F12-18W National 1999; 3rd HF18-30 Melbourne Royal 1999; 3rd HF18-30 Adelaide Royal 1999; Reserve Champion Female Ballarat Sheep Show 1998; Warrnambool 1999; Reserve Champion Junior Female Geelong 1999; Reserve Champion Intermediate Female Vic Sheep & Wool Show 1999; Champion Intermediate Female Ballarat 1999.

**D A M O F :**

## Alpacandes Millenium

(SW) A36312 (M by *Cedar House Lucifer* (MF)) 24/08/99. 2nd M6-12W Hawkesbury 2000

## Alpacandes Q

(SW) A41315 (M by *Cedar House Lucifer*) 14/8/00

## Adelyn White Ochre

(SW) A30794 (M by *Benleigh Peruvian Cotopaxi*) 20/1/00.

## Adelyn Highland Mist

(SW) 21353 (M by *Purrumbete Highlander* (SW)) 13/10/97.

Supreme Champion Melbourne Royal 1998; Champion Huacaya Fleece Melbourne Royal 2000; Champion Senior Male National 1999; Reserve Champion Fleece Melbourne Royal 2000; Champion Junior Male Melbourne Royal 1998; 1st M18-30W National 1999; 1st HF18-30 Melbourne Royal 2000; 1st M18 + W Melbourne Royal 1999; 1st HF9-18 Melbourne Royal 1999; 1st M6-12W Melbourne Royal 1998; 1st HF9-18 Melbourne Royal 2000; 2nd HF18-30L National 2000; 4th HF9-18L National 2000; Supreme Champion Adelaide Royal 1998; Champion Junior Male Adelaide Royal 1998; Champion Senior Male Adelaide Royal 1999; Champion Huacaya Fleece Adelaide Royal 1999; Best White Adelaide Royal 1998; 1st M18 + W Adelaide Royal 1999; BHFV Adelaide Royal 1999; 1st HF9-18 Adelaide Royal 1999; Champion Fleece Adelaide Royal 2000; Best White Fleece Adelaide Royal 2000; 1st HF9-18All Adelaide Royal 2000; Champion Fleece Aust Sheep & Wool Show 2000; Reserve Champion Fleece Aust Sheep & Wool Show 2000; Champion Junior Male Shepparton 1998; Supreme Champion Shepparton 1998; Champion Senior Male Farm Vision (Vic) 1999; 1st M12-18W Warrnambool 1998; Champion Intermediate Male Warrnambool 1998; Supreme Champion Warrnambool 1998; 1st M18-24W Whittlesea 1998; Champion Intermediate Male Whittlesea 1998; Supreme Champion Whittlesea 1998; 1st M12-24W Dandenong 1998; Champion Intermediate Male Dandenong 1998; Best White Dandenong 1998; Supreme Champion Dandenong 1998; Supreme Champion Melbourne Sheep & Wool Show 1998; Champion Junior Male Ballarat Sheep Show 1998; Supreme Champion Ballarat Sheep Show 1998; Supreme Champion Melbourne Royal 1999; Supreme Champion Farm Vision (Vic) 1999; Champion Huacaya Fleece Farm Vision (Vic) 1999; Champion Fleece Farm Vision (Vic) 2000; 1st M18 + W Farm Vision (Vic) 1999; 1st HF18-30 Farm Vision (Vic) 2000; 2nd HF 9-18 Farm Vision (Vic) 2000

## Adelyn Scottish Mist

(SW) A30790 (M by *Purrumbete Brigantine* (W)) 31/10/98.

## Adelyn Silky Mist

(SW) A37039 (F by *Purrumbete Highlander* (SW)) 31/10/99. 3rd F6-12W Adelaide Royal 2000

# Sweet Freedom Family

(SW) A2410 (F Imp Chile(Haldane)). DAM OF:

## Benleigh Highland Lass

(SW) A14004 (F by *Purumbete Highlander* (SW)) 27/10/95.  
Supreme Champion National 1996; Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece National 1997; Champion Intermediate Female National 1996; Supreme Champion Sydney Royal 1997; Grand Champion Female Sydney Royal 1997; Grand Champion Female Sydney Royal 1998; Champion Intermediate Female Sydney Royal 1997; Reserve Champion Fleece Sydney Royal 1998; Champion Senior Female Sydney Royal 1998; Reserve Champion HF9-18 Sydney Royal 1998; 1st F12-18W National 1996; 1st HF9-18W Sydney Royal 1998; 1st F12-18W Sydney Royal 1997; 1st F18+W Sydney Royal 1998; 1st HF9-18W Sydney Royal 1998; Supreme Champion Canberra Royal 1998; Best White Canberra Royal 1998; Champion Female Canberra Royal 1998; 1st F12-24W Canberra Royal 1998; Supreme Champion Canberra Royal 1997; Champion Female Canberra Royal 1997; 1st F12-24All Canberra Royal 1997; Supreme Champion Camden 1997; Champion Female Camden 1997; Supreme Champion St Ives 1997; Best White St Ives 1997.

DAM OF:

## Cedar House Brave Heart

(SW) A28123 (M by *Purumbete Inti* (SMF)) 30/11/97.

Champion Junior Male National Spring Classic 1998; Reserve Champion Senior Mature Male National 2000; Reserve Champion Mature Senior Male Melbourne Royal 2000; 1st M6-12W National Spring Classic 1998; 2nd M18-30W National 1999; 1st M30+L National 2000; Supreme Champion H-BM RSS 1998; Supreme Champion C-N RSS 1998; Supreme Champion C-N RSS 1999; Champion Junior Male H-BM RSS 1998; Champion Senior Male C-N RSS 1999; Champion Junior Male C-N RSS 1998; Champion Junior Male Sthn NSW RSS 1998; Champion Senior Male Charles Ledger 1999; Champion Senior Male Sthn NSW RSS 1999; Supreme Champion Hawkesbury 1998; Champion Junior Male Hawkesbury 1998; 1st M6-12W Hawkesbury 1998.

## Cedar House Woolmaker

(W) 37658 (M by *Cedar House Peruvian Ayaviri* (SW)) 8/1/99.

4th M18-30W National 2000; 4th M18+W Melbourne Royal 2000; Supreme Champion Charles Ledger 1999; Champion Junior Male Charles Ledger 1999; Supreme Champion C-N RSS 1999; Champion Junior Male C-N RSS 1999; Reserve Champion Junior Male Sthn NSW RSS 1999; 1st M6-12W Charles Ledger 1999; 1st M6-12W 12F C-N RSS 1999; 1st M6-12W Sthn NSW RSS 1999.

## Cedar House Highland Star

(SW) A38881 (F by *Cedar House Peruvian Ayaviri* (SW)) 9/1/00.

## Benleigh Ringleader

(SW) A21888 (M by *Purumbete Inti* (SMF)) 16/10/96.  
Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece Sydney Royal 1998; Champion HF9-18 Sydney Royal 1998; Champion Huacaya Fleece Canberra Royal 1998; Champion Senior Male C-N RSS 1998; 1st M24+L C-N RSS 1998.

## Benleigh Highland Belle

(SW) A28490 (F by *Purumbete Highlander* (SW)) 5/10/97.  
2nd F12-18W National Spring Classic 1998; Champion Huacaya Fleece Warrnambool 1999.

DAM OF:

## Benleigh Bravo

(SW) A28523 (M by *Purumbete Brigantine* (W)) 1/10/98.  
1st M6-12W Melbourne Royal 1999; Champion Junior Male Ballarat 1999; Supreme Champion Ballarat 1999; Champion Junior Male Melbourne Sheep & Wool Show 1999; Supreme Champion Melbourne Sheep & Wool Show 1999; Champion Junior Male Farm Vision (Vic) 1999; 1st M6-12W Farm Vision (Vic) 1999.

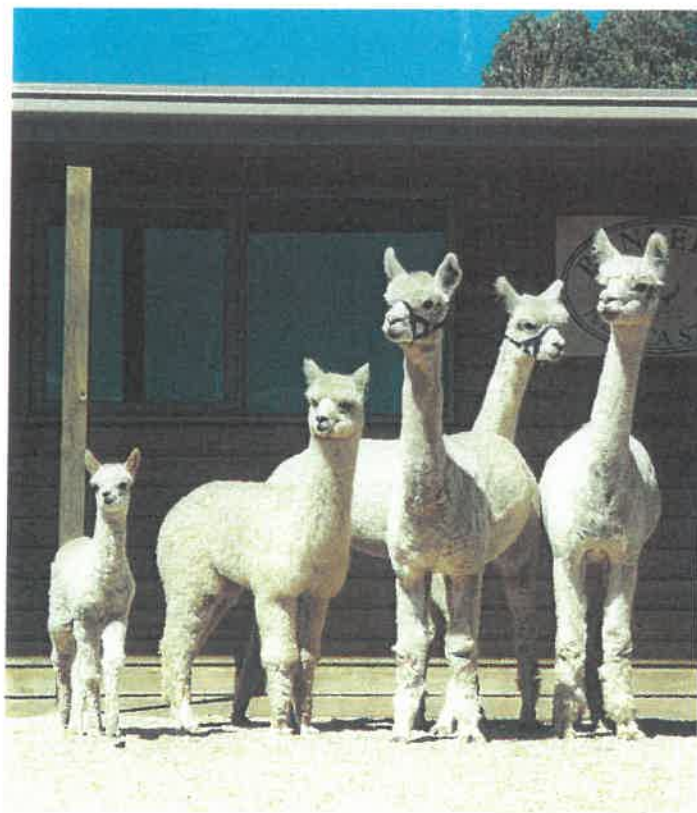
## Benleigh Sweet Petuele

(W) A36465 (F by *Purumbete Brigantine*) 14/9/99.  
Supreme Champion Hamilton 2000; Champion Junior Female Hamilton 2000; Reserve Champion Junior Female Ballarat 2000.

## Benleigh Bellisimo

(F) A36469 (M by *Purumbete Inti*) 5/12/99.  
Champion Junior Male National 2000; 1st M6-12F National 2000; Champion Junior Male Melbourne Royal 2000; 1st M6-12F Melbourne Royal 2000; Supreme Champion Ballarat 2000; Champion Junior Male Ballarat 2000; Champion Junior Male Hamilton 2000; Champion Junior Male Geelong 2000; Champion Junior Male Reserve Champion Junior Male Colac 2000.

Purumbete Sweet Freedom with daughters





# Food for thought

by DOUGAL MACDONALD  
ROSKHILL ALPACAS, NSW

A review of 'Guns, Germs and Steel: A Short History of Everybody for the last 13000 Years', Diamond J., published by Vintage 1997. ISBN 09 930278 0



In 1998, Jared Diamond, Professor of Physiology at University of California Medical School, won the Rhone-Poulenc Science Book Prize for his book *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

What led Diamond to write the book was a question which Yali, a local politician in Papua New Guinea, asked – "Why is it that you white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people had so little cargo of our own?"

Diamond's answer to Yali's question is a cracker of a book, global in scope, scholarly in its analysis yet wonderfully readable. His enquiries encompass and analyse a huge range of intellectual disciplines and the results of scientific enquiry from every inhabited continent. As well, and the reason for this appearing in a magazine devoted to an emerging animal industry in Australia, he notes a small number of observations that connect alpacas with a fundamental question that goes to the heart of the social and economic differences between First World countries of European origin and Third World countries which were mostly colonised by Europeans (only Ethiopia wasn't).

In the chapter dealing with domesticable animals, he draws a parallel between the difficulty of breeding cheetahs in captivity (Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo NSW has successfully done so) and the reason why the vicuña has never been domesticated. Both species usually refuse to carry out their elaborate courtship rituals unless the environmental conditions are right.

Despite strong incentives of money and prestige, all attempts to breed

vicuñas for wool production in captivity have failed, for reasons that include the vicuña's long and elaborate courtship ritual before mating, a ritual inhibited in captivity; male vicuñas' fierce intolerance of each other; and their requirement for both a year-round feeding territory and a year-round sleeping territory.

The accepted wisdom is that alpacas originated as a hybrid of llamas and vicuñas. Did the hybridisation happen in nature or was there human intervention that put the two species in a situation where they would mate and the progeny became available for domestication? Diamond is not concerned to enquire into that question, but it is of interest to us as alpaca breeders. We need to know all we can discover about our animals.

We know that the most recent archaeological investigations of Inca burial sites propose that alpacas were domesticated as long ago as 7,000 years. We also believe that the alpaca has never existed in the wild, that it has always been domesticated. This makes sense, for unshorn alpacas are at risk of growing such a wool burden that in perhaps three or four years, the fleece weight and the stress resulting from the associated thermal factors would cause the animals to die. That would certainly be the case in Australia today and probably was the case with the remnant population from Charles Ledger's flock.

Another point in relation to the mating habits of the vicuña is that a breeder anxious to test the effect of vicuña/alpaca matings on alpaca fibre diameter would face obstacles close to insurmountable, of which not the least would be to get permission to export vicuña from South America and import them into Australia.

In a later chapter, Diamond looks at the origins of the diseases to which humans are susceptible. All of them are the results of evolutionary development of microbes to which farm animals were the original hosts, transmitted to humans when the hunter-gatherer mode of winning a living changed into food production. This is a fascinating subject and

Diamond's treatment of it is detailed, comprehensive and wonderfully readable. Transmission of zoonoses across species is facilitated by originating and recipient species living in close physical proximity, a process beginning from the first domestications. AIDS is one of the most recent emergences of such diseases.

Initially, most surprising is the absence of any human disease derived from llamas (alpacas) which it's tempting to consider the Andean equivalent of Eurasian livestock. However, llamas had four strikes against them as a source of human pathogens: they were kept in smaller herds than were sheep and goats and pigs; their total numbers were never remotely as large as those of the Eurasian populations of domestic livestock, since llamas never spread beyond the Andes; people don't drink (and get infected by) llama milk; and llamas aren't kept indoors, in close association with people.

This should be comforting advice to alpaca breeders, although people who get too close to their animals in the affectionate sense might be tempting fate. We get a great feeling when one of our alpacas comes up and nuzzles us. But such behaviour could contain the seeds of a potential human health hazard about which science has not yet discovered anything. Caution has something to commend it here.

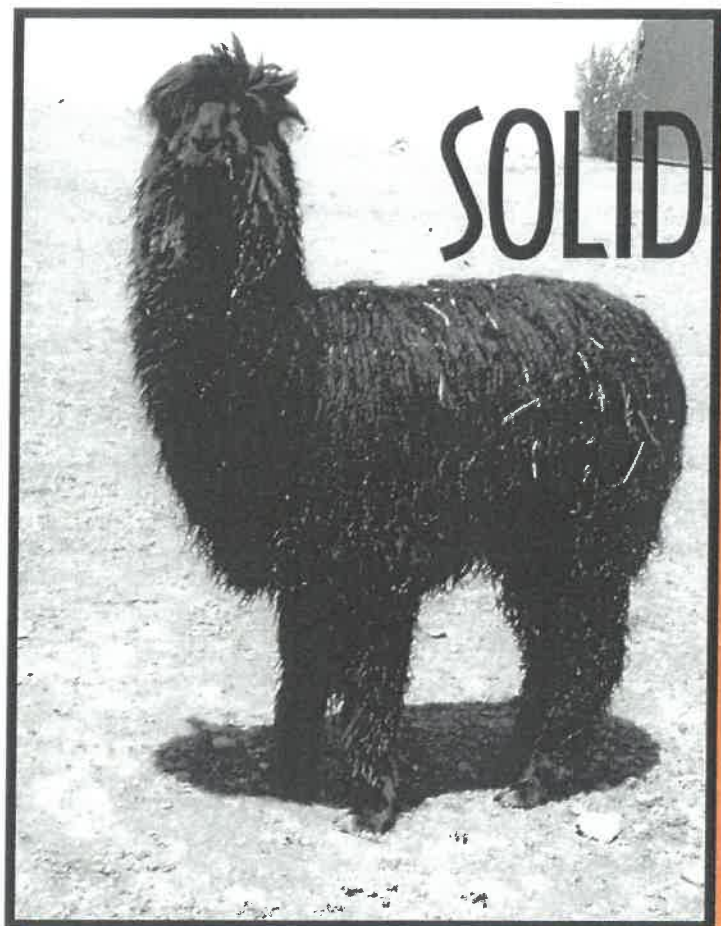
The book makes other references to llamas and alpacas, which when the first humans arrived on the American continent were the only native animals that might have been capable of utilisation as draught animals. It is worth reading for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the challenges it defines for humankind's long-term survival on this planet. In it, Diamond does not come across as a doomsayer or a tree-hugger but rather as a scientist who from a global historical perspective has analysed a wealth of scientific information and drawn some illuminating conclusions, in some of which South American Camelids play a role. ■

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# Cutting the Chase

## or getting your alpaca to the catch pen

by MARTY MCGEE BENNETT  
TEAM

*In the last column, we discussed the importance of using my "Four Point" approach to move your alpaca at will within the confines of the catch pen. Being able to move your alpaca around a catch pen using body position alone makes you a non-threatening and safe leader. Using a catch pen saves you time and effort, and makes training lessons go much faster. However, there is the business of getting alpaca from recess to the classroom. Your alpacas are grazing peacefully in the field and your new veterinarian shows up – the one that charges by the hour! You need to bring the alpacas into the barn for their herd health.*

**Plan A:** You call them in like always. Alpacas, being very keen observers of human behavior, notice the new truck and the person with the gum boots standing in the barn driveway... and besides feeding time isn't for another 2 hours. They look up at you, bat those long eyelashes, and continue to graze. **Alpaca Rule #1:** Be suspicious of any changes in routine.

**Plan B.** You go out to the pasture to bring them in. You decide there is no point going all the way out to the far end of the pasture in order to get behind the one who is way out in the corner. Old Irma will come along when the rest begin to move into the barn. **WRONG!** The alpacas begin to

move in different directions until they are all basically grouped up in the corner. **Alpaca rule #2:** Stick together. If there is one herd member way out in the field, nobody goes in the barn until that herd member is with the group. Well @#%&! you say, but at least they are in a group now. You begin to move them into the barn and just as the group gets to the gate, the lead alpaca notices that she is moving directly toward the gum boot person who has walked into the barn to see what is happening. They stop forward movement and split into twenty directions. **Alpaca Rule #3:** Never be an alpaca sandwich! Never move directly toward a person if there is a person in the back.

**Plan C** turns into a chase and 15 sweaty, frustrating minutes later, the alpacas are finally in the barn. By now you are you so angry you'd like to give the shots yourself with a dull needle!

Herding effectively is a combination of understanding alpaca behavior as well as setting up your facilities to support your efforts. Thankfully, alpacas like to stick together and herd naturally. However, a big tree in the wrong place can turn the potentially simple process of getting a few alpacas into the barn into an hour-long nightmare. As a trainer, I have an interest in herding from two perspectives. It is very difficult to work with an alpaca unless it is confined. So we must get the alpacas from the field to a catch pen. Secondly, from a pure training point of view, herding is deceptively important. Herding effectively is one of the first and most important ways that you demonstrate your leadership. If the way you herd your alpacas allows them to run the show, ignore your directions and frustrate your efforts,

then you are teaching them to manipulate you and subvert your authority. If, on the other hand, herding your alpacas is a calm and orderly event, you come off as the safe, trusted leader that makes being with you pleasant.

### Call Your Alpacas

Obviously the best of all possible worlds is to call your alpacas "PAKAS" and have them come charging willingly into the barn, lining up by height or alphabetically. I recommend teaching your alpacas to come to a specific word that you associate with food and then give them food when they come. You may be able to get away with calling and not producing food occasionally, however putting out even a token amount of food will make points with the less trusting members of your herd. I also recommend that you *avoid* creating a calling pattern. Call the alpacas in at two in the afternoon and ten at night and give them food when you do it. Then you won't be faced with a group of alpacas looking at their watches and shaking their little heads when you holler the magic "PAKAS" at the wrong time of day.

Regardless of how much your alpacas like you or like food, there are those times when for some reason your alpacas won't come when called. In this case, good herding techniques will serve you well. A single handler alone should be able to move animals decisively from place to place in a calm, orderly manner without making three trips around the pasture. A good herder can keep the animals together without provoking movement faster than a trot. So how do you get from horrendous herding to harmonious herding?

## Getting Ready to Herd

First of all, design or change your facility to support organized herding. Use lane ways, funnels, and "airlocks" – holding areas with two gates. Gates are best placed in corners. You can use the adjacent fence line as one boundary as you herd the group to the gate. In general, it is easier to herd a group of animals along a fence line to a gate, even if it isn't the shortest route. A piece of flat 1-2 inch wide nylon webbing tied to a corner post creates an easy and effective funnel to help move animals without putting up permanent fencing. Pick up the loose end of the webbing, walk out into the pasture, and wrap the webbing around the group, herding them into the desired opening as you go (pay attention to herding angles mentioned later as you do this).

Avoid building unnecessarily narrow openings or placing gates near a single big tree or other obstacle. Alpacas can get very cagey about using an obstacle such as this to foil all efforts at herding them through a gate. Each and every door should have a way of being closed.

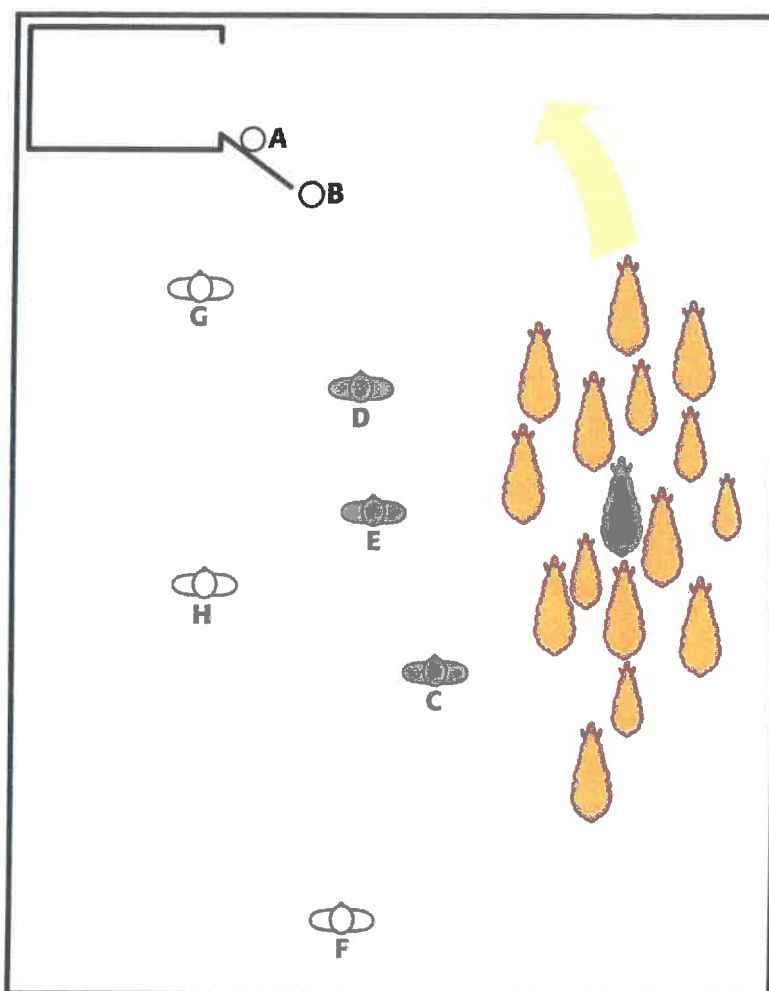
There is nothing more frustrating than getting all the alpacas in the desired spot and not being able to keep them there. I can remember visiting one ranch that had several small doors into the barn rather than one big door. This feature was designed to cut down on drafts to the barn – which, in a cold climate was a very good idea. The problem was these small openings had no closure. It was impossible to herd the animals into the barn, even though they were in a very small pasture. We would herd the animals in one door only to have them cut across the barn and run gleefully out another. It took three people to herd the animals into the barn!

## Body Language

In order to herd alpacas effectively, it is very important to understand the effect of your body position on a single alpaca or group of alpacas. Alpacas will instinctively orient themselves so that they have a forward escape route relative to any perceived threat. Remember Rule #3?

Alpacas hate to be sandwiched between two herders. If you are working with a gate tender, encourage that person to stay as far out of the way as possible. You would be surprised at the difference one giant step backwards will make. In general, your alpacas will pass by a human much more easily if the human is more than an arm's length away from the path the alpacas must take (see illustration points A and B).

is to be cornered. The following predictable movements will not hold if you move in to grab an animal around the neck. When you corner an alpaca and cut off all avenues of escape, a sufficiently frightened alpaca will move any and all ways including jumping over fences and ploughing over humans. Using a catch pen consistently, rather than the corner grab method will help you avoid these scary and dangerous scenarios.



**KEY:**  = Alpacas  = Humans

Points in gray are herding points for single gray animal. Outlined points are herding points for the entire herd.

When you first approach a group of alpacas with the intention to herd them, they will raise their heads and look at you. Once an individual animal or the group has made the decision to move (based on your distance from them) they will orient their bodies to keep you behind them. Like it or not, when you walk out to the pasture intending to herd your alpacas, you become a bit of a threat and the alpacas will follow predictable patterns based on instinctive responses. Prey or predator, human or alpaca, the last thing any body wants

The following herding techniques are based on herding an individual animal or group of animals to a barn or pen. As you read this description, refer to the illustration. In general, if you place yourself at a point behind an alpaca's eye he will move forward and away (point C). Place yourself at a point in front of the eye and he will turn away from you (point D) and look for a new escape route in the opposite direction. Place yourself even with the eye and the alpaca will probably stop (point E).



When it comes to herding groups of animals, you must envisage the group as a unit. To push the group forward, get behind the last alpaca in the group (*point F*) – remember Alpaca Rule #2, stick together. To stop or turn the group, get even with or in front of the lead alpaca (*point G*). If you have ever almost had your alpacas through the gate or into the barn and been frustrated when the group turned and ran, you may have been too far forward of the group or too close. If you drift too far forward as the group moves you will first stop them and then turn them – even if you don't mean to. The farther away you are from the group of alpacas, the more ground you must cover to change position relative to the eye, which can be a disadvantage.

On the other hand if you move too close to the group, you will cause the group to run away from you instead of herding them in the desired direction. The best strategy is to begin further away than you think you need to be and move only close enough to get the group to walk. How close you can get to a group of alpacas depends on how comfortable your animals are

with you and with humans in general on that particular day.

As you begin herding, visualize the path you will use back to your destination. Pick a point well behind the alpaca that is at the far edge of the group. Position yourself behind his eye to begin the herding process. People often think they will save time by walking to the middle of the alpaca group and hoping the alpacas further out will join in as the group is herded (*point H*). But remember Rule #2 – stick together. Nine times out of ten, just the reverse will happen. The ones closest to the destination will run to join the others further out. Now everyone is running and “alpacomonium” ensues. Better to take the extra few minutes to get yourself well behind the group and herd in an orderly manner from the beginning.

Think of your alpacas like water and creating a path to your destination as building an imaginary sluice. If you pour the water into your sluice too fast the water will spill over the edges. If you block the sluice, the water will spill over the edges. In alpaca terms, this means if

you attempt to herd a group through a narrow opening or past a scary spot with too much pressure, they will stop and bolt in all directions. Narrow gates are not ideal – not impossible, but you must slow down and allow the alpacas to proceed at what they feel is a safe rate. From a practical standpoint, if you hurry the process you will be starting over with alpacas that are experiencing an adrenaline rush – not good.

Remember that alpacas don't have anything else to do and don't mind spending an hour doing something that you find to be a frustrating waste of time ... such as running around in a field while the vet taps his foot. It is an exercise in futility to try to herd a portion or one alpaca away from the group. It is much easier to herd the whole group to a confined area. Cut out the alpacas with which you want to work and let the rest go. Alpacas are very resistant to being split up. If you are letting each animal go as you do a procedure, don't leave one single animal at the end. You will have a terrible time giving a shot to one single animal if the rest have wandered off out to the



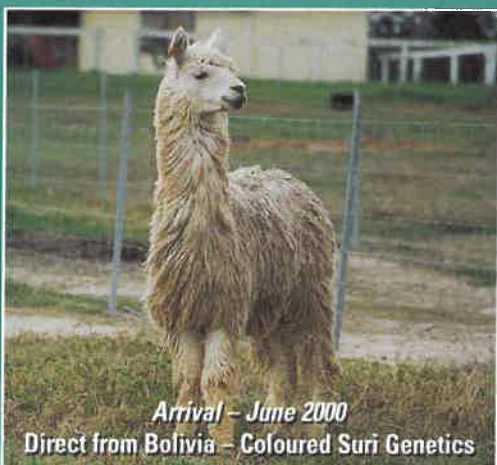
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field. Better to keep a few or the whole herd nearby in a holding pen until the whole group is finished and you can let them all go together.

Using something that serves as an extension of your arms can be very helpful. With two, four-foot wands or PVC pipes, you can triple your reach and simultaneously your effectiveness. As a caution, it doesn't help to use these extensions of your arms unless you are prepared to make them meaningful. Allowing your alpacas to run through your wands or pipes or your arms for that matter is the same as saying disregard my authority and go your own way. Set yourself up for success by using the wands only when you can make them work. Do not put a flimsy piece of PVC pipe or a fiber glass wand in front of an alpaca that is running willy-nilly at 30 miles an hour and expect him to stop – he can't.

Use a tool that can be seen. In general white is the most visible (unless you live in the Arctic!). Use your wands with clarity and don't wave them around. Every movement you make with the wands should

have some meaning. I have on occasion given an alpaca determined to ignore my wands a good crack on the bridge of the nose in order to get his attention and teach him not to ignore me or my directions.

However, if you begin teaching babies to herd with wands in the first few weeks, you will never have to make this kind of emphatic point.

### Herding harmoniously

Quite often, we herd animals with another person, very often a spouse. This is dangerous business ... and can lead to *DIVORCE*! Seriously, it is critical to communicate with your herding partner about where the imaginary sluice is. If your sluice is up to the left and down by the tree and your spouse's is up to the right and down by the pond ... I shudder to think. Actually, talk out loud (as opposed to muttering under your breath) and be specific about the exact route you intend to take.

"Honey, I want 'em to go up there and over there" is not good enough. Stop and take the time to plan the route "Let's take them up in back of

the fence line toward the oak tree and out the northern corner gate." If the alpacas provoke a change in plans stop and plan again, you won't be wasting your time and you will be helping your alpacas and your training program.

**Next time** ... the magic of bringing your alpaca into balance. ■

### About the author

*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, Marty lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband Brad.*

*To find out more about Marty visit her website at [www.martymcgeeennett.com](http://www.martymcgeeennett.com)*

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# Halcyon off and running

by MARIL STOUT  
MOUNT PEERLESS ALPACA STUD, NSW

Carl & Wendy Dowd of Halcyon Alpaca Stud are celebrating the success of their Open Day and Inaugural Production Sale held on 29 October 2000.

**S**ituated in the picturesque Healesville district of Victoria, Halcyon Alpaca Stud was founded with the aim of building a top class herd of white huacayas. To this end, in 1998 the Dowds acquired a small herd of "elite" females, hand-picked from the best breeding stock of top US producers, which were then mated to a selection of top males including Peruvian Accoyo Legacy, Peruvian Hemingway G171 and Peruvian Snowmaster. They were also fortunate enough to secure the magnificent sire ILR Peruvian Hemingway's Protegé who, together with the females and their offspring, arrived at Halcyon in June 2000 to join other Peruvian females sourced from local studs. These animals were on public display for the first time, with some of the offspring being offered in the Production Sale.

A dedicated team of assistants spent the days before the sale preparing the alpacas in very adverse weather conditions, though fortunately the rain held off on the day itself. Following inspection of the sale animals, visitors were treated to a talk by special guest speaker Amanda VandenBosch. Amanda, a prominent alpaca breeder and IAJS International Alpaca Judge based at Flying Dutchman Alpacas in California, amazed the crowd with tales of the very high prices achieved recently for alpacas in the USA.

A sumptuous lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by the sale conducted by experienced alpaca auctioneer Andrew Sloan, ably assisted by Amanda. On offer were nine young males and females, seven of which were sired by renowned local males including Purrumbete Highlander, Purrumbete Ledger's Dream, Peruvian Primero G216 and Purrumbete Brigantine. Some



Halcyon Farm

spirited bidding saw seven of the nine lots sold under the hammer. However, the high sellers and undoubted stars of the sale were the "American" boys – two eye-catching young imported males sired by the legendary Peruvian Hemingway G171 and the outstanding 4Peruvian Pachacuti 6011.

The proud new owners of Halcyon Nettarepacka (sired by 4Peruvian Pachacuti 6011) are Vic & Joan Dohnt of Ailahtan Alpacas, Nathalia, Victoria while Des & Gwen Eicke of Oakbank Alpacas, Warragul, Victoria, are delighted with their purchase of Halcyon Harrison Boningway (sired by Peruvian Hemingway G171). These two superb young males should be commencing stud duties in 2002, affording an opportunity for local breeders to access their highly desirable genetics.

Making his debut to an admiring audience was Halcyon's newest stud acquisition, ILR Peruvian Hemingway's Protegé, a stunning 4 year old solid white macho described by his breeders, Snowmass Alpacas, as having the most uniform fine fleece they have seen in a male. ILR Peruvian Hemingway's Protegé will be available for limited outside breedings.

Carl Dowd is probably best known as one of the "talking heads" on the AAA promotional video and also as a director of the Alpaca Co-operative, so he was delighted to be able to confirm his real connection with alpacas via the Halcyon Stud. He plans to make the Production Sale an annual event to share some of the results of his genetic program with other breeders.

"We are committed to the alpaca industry and look forward to the contribution Halcyon will make using proven diversified genetics combined with best breeding practice to develop alpacas that produce large amounts of commercially valuable fibre" said Carl. ■



Amanda VandenBosch, Carl Dowd, Victor and Joan Dohnt after the purchase of Halcyon Nettarepacka

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# Giving it your best shot

## *more useful tips for photographing your alpacas*

by CATH NORMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHER

*The last issue of 'Alpacas Australia' magazine gave some helpful hints on photographing your alpacas in the article entitled, 'Look at the Big Picture'.*

*Professional photographer, Cath Norman of South Australia, contacted 'Alpacas Australia' in response to the article to offer more valuable tips that she has picked up in the past two years photographing alpacas. Although a relative newcomer to alpacas, she is no stranger to photography.*

*Cath has been involved in commercial/industrial photography for the last ten years and has for the last four years been working as a freelance photographer. Training in commercial and advertising studio work (still lifes of wine, food, product, people and sometimes animals) she now works in the field of portraiture of families and children – and more recently alpacas – since giving birth to her son two years ago.*

*'Alpacas Australia' is pleased to publish Cath's letter to further assist all those aspiring shutterbugs out there in the paddocks all over Australia.*

**C**ongratulations on the new look *Alpacas Australia*. I thoroughly enjoyed the new level of visual imagery that you are achieving and I find it encouraging to see such a powerful marketing tool for the alpaca industry at what I consider to be an international standard.

I was particularly interested in your article on photographing alpacas – 'Look at the Big Picture' – it was accurate and informative, offering good practical tips for shooting (taking pictures of) the dear little things!?!

These days marketing is becoming more and more of an intrinsic factor in running any business effectively and eventually successfully. You can have the most amazing animals in the world but if your ads have average photographs of your animals then no one else will ever find out. Image is everything these days and you can be losing potential clients and business if your advertising imagery is not up to scratch.

I have spoken to a few livestock photographers (cattle and horses) and they offered me a few practical tips, which I would like to share with your readers:

### 1 First of all – Exposure

If you don't get it right on film then you are wasting your time. If I have to photograph an animal I will use at least three rolls of film covering different exposures, poses and lighting conditions and at the end I may only have one useable shot. It may sound like a waste of film and money, but remember – the right photo can unlock thousands of dollars worth of business for you, so in the end it's worth it.



Morning and afternoon light is the most beautiful to use for ambience, but if it's detail in your animals that you want, I suggest 9.30am to 11.30 am – put the animal in shade and **use your flash**. Whenever you shoot during the day when the sun is high, flash will eliminate harsh shadows and it helps to balance the background against the animal.

## 2 Posing

Always have the camera **level with the animal**. It is also recommended to have them standing facing uphill (front legs higher than the back legs). Having the camera at a higher level can sometimes make the animal appear 'stumpy' in the legs and of course the opposite if the camera is lower than the animal. Getting their attention is probably the most difficult task. I have found running a dog past them works well and if you are shooting boys, bring some girls over - that works every time!

## 3 The black animals



The problem with the black ones is if the animal is perfectly exposed and there is detail in the face and fleece, the background is usually over-exposed and 'washed out', then, if the background is perfectly exposed, the animal looks like a black blob. For resolve **always use flash with black animals**. Black fleeces absorb light and the light meter in your camera will always be 1-1.5 F-stops out.

**Always vary your exposure** by 2 F-stops either side of what your camera tells you. If the camera says F16 @ 125 shoot one at F8.5 then F11, then F11.5, then F16, then F16.5, then F22. That way at least one will be perfect. I still find black animals a challenge sometimes, so just keep shooting until you get there!

## 4 The white animals

White animals are opposite to black. White reflects light and tricks your light meter as well. White animals perfectly exposed will have under-exposed backgrounds. This works in

your favour as under-exposing blue sky always makes the blue richer in colour. Again, keep shooting till you get it.

One tip to remember with today's cameras with auto this and auto that – it is perfectly okay to use the auto functions **but** the little rectangle  in the middle of the viewfinder that you see when taking a shot is the auto epicentre for everything. Whatever falls inside that  is what the camera focuses on and takes light readings from. So make sure you are not focusing on the tree next to, or the fence behind, the animal.

Hopefully I have helped someone somewhere in their pursuit of the perfect shot. I am happy to offer my services to the alpaca industry, whether it be photographing your animals or talking you through it on the phone. You can reach me on telephone 08 8355 1248 or mobile 0417 846 634.

*So, good luck and happy shooting.*  
Cath ■



# Working with nature

## *the finest fibres in the world*

## *in the best hands in the world*

by FERNANDO PASTOR  
INCA TOPS

*Since long ago, the Peruvians have elaborated the finest alpaca fibre that exists. Using top technology, INCA TOPS has been offering it to the world for 25 years. Fernando Pastor, INCA TOPS, shares an insight into the Peruvian textile industry.*

INCA TOPS is part of GRUPO INCA, one of the most important industrial consortiums in Peru which, amongst its varied objectives, offers textile products for export.

INCA TOPS S.A. is the largest textile industry in Peru that produces and markets alpaca tops, yarns and alpaca blends. In 1965 it began with the washing and combing plant, working with the different qualities and natural colours of the fibre. In 1974 it broadened its operations to include dyeing and the production of yarn, becoming the world's largest producer of woven alpaca, renowned for its high quality and variety of alpaca fibre products.

At the moment, the company's textile facility handles a washing capacity of 3,600 tons of fibre per year, 2,600 tons of combing, 1,300 tons of weaving and 1,200 tons of dyeing.

Part of the success of INCA TOPS is due to its complete control of the quality of raw materials used and the processes employed in the production of their tops and yarns

The yarn of INCA TOPS, presented in thick threads from NM 0.5 to the finest threads NM 60, satisfies the needs of the weaving industry, flat fabric and industrial applications. Regular threads can be elaborated as fantasies, these last ones from Boucle to Flamed. The strand of yarn is presented in the variety of combed and carded and in the following qualities:

- Baby Alpaca (22 micron)
- Superfine Alpaca (26 micron)
- Alpaca Huarizo (29 micron)
- Adult Alpaca (32 micron)

Besides the rich variety of natural colours that alpaca offers, from white and fawn through to brown and black, INCA TOPS has created a wide range of artificially dyed yarns in both solid colours and melanges. The yarn is available in skeins, cones and hanks.

INCA TOPS specialises in a variety of products with blended alpaca such as: Alpaca/Silk – Alpaca/Pima Cotton – Alpaca/Tencel – Alpaca/Linen – Alpaca/Viscose – Alpaca/Angora – Alpaca/Mohair, among others.

### From the Andes to the World ... The Gold of the Andes.

INCA TOPS has been serving the demanding markets of Japan, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany and the United States for more than 25 years. Working with prestigious brand names such as Fuji Keori from Japan; Polo Ralph Lauren and Anne Klein from the United States; Ermenegildo Zegna from Italy and Adolfo Dominguez from Spain as well as other famous collections, it continues to provide high quality products to the discerning haute couture industry. ■

For more information about INCA TOPS contact directly by e-mail at: [sales@incatops.com](mailto:sales@incatops.com) or visit the website at: [www.incatops.com](http://www.incatops.com)

Alternatively contact the Australian agent for INCA TOPS, Andes Imports & Marketing Pty Ltd, by telephone: 61 (0)7 3208 8444 or by e-mail: [andescraft@hotmail.com](mailto:andescraft@hotmail.com)





A photograph of two bird nests built on a tree branch. The nest in the foreground is made of thick, brown, fibrous material and contains three white eggs. The nest in the background is made of thinner, more intricate twigs. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage.

*"Closest to Nature"*

Special Yarns  
are our specialty...  
*...naturally.*



INCA TOPS  
GRUPO INCA

[sales@incatops.com](mailto:sales@incatops.com)



# Annie the amazing alpaca

by FINN & MERRIL HENRIKSEN  
BELLABIMBI ALPACAS, NSW

For us, the year 2000 was a very exciting time as, although we had owned alpacas since 1992, ours was a herd of wethers and we had recently purchased our first two females. Priscilla, who had a lovely male cria before she arrived and Annie, who was due to have our first baby born on the property.

Two year old Annie gave birth to her first cria in June, a beautiful light fawn female, we called "Giselle." Annie was a wonderful mother and her cria thrived.

In early September, we were given the opportunity to purchase a little orphaned four month old female. When we introduced her to the herd, Annie was so excited, nuzzling her and making her very welcome. Within hours Annie was relaxing with her two babies snuggled up beside her. Priscilla was totally indifferent to the new arrival!

Life was good, the babies were thriving and the mothers seemed very content. On 30 September, we received an offer of another orphaned female. This one, a newborn. Being a "baby" person, I jumped at the chance! Bottle feeding two little ones was double the enjoyment.

Once again Priscilla was indifferent to the new arrival and Annie was beside herself with joy, nuzzling the baby and following her around. It seemed that Annie now had three babies!

All went well for a couple of days, but then we became concerned as Kara, the new arrival, refused to have

her bottles. It didn't take long to discover the reason! There was Annie happily feeding two of "her" babies. Although this was great for Kara, we were concerned Annie might not have enough milk for both babies, and that it would take too much out of her. Our only option was to separate them.

This however, was not very

successful, as Annie seemed to fret, spending her time calling Kara and pacing the fence line (while still taking very good care of her own cria). After a few days, things had settled down and we returned Kara to the paddock, only to find Annie immediately started mothering her again. We decided to leave

them all together and gave Kara bottles (forcibly) to reduce the demand on Annie.

For two months Annie fed them both, (thank goodness the other cria did not try to drink off her as well!) When Annie decided to wean her own baby, we took Kara off her as well. Annie has remained in top condition and both babies are extremely well grown.

We are now looking forward to early November when our next cria are due and we are sure Annie is too! ■



Annie feeding Kara (left), Giselle (right)

Our friend Joy with Kara, Annie, Menage and Giselle watching







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AF88689



# MARKET PLACE

Photography James Pipino



**'Bellavista' (left)**  
Unisex V neck tuck stitch jumper  
[black, brown, dark brown, grey,  
fawn] [s, m, l, xl] \$250.00  
**'Callao' (right)**  
Ladies Lace V neck cardigan, set  
in sleeve [grey black, brown, dark  
brown, fawn] [s, m, l, xl] \$230.00  
**Creature Comforts**  
02 4573 6681  
02 6355 2477



**'Lima' (right)**  
Mens 2 colour button up vest -  
diamond pattern [grey/black,  
fawn/brown] [s, m, l, xl] \$195.00  
**Creature Comforts**  
02 4573 6681  
02 6355 2477

© Creature Comforts

## Doona

Warm, fleecy quilt. 70% alpaca  
combined with the loft of a  
30% specialist wool, covered in  
100% cotton cover [king \$320.00,  
queen \$280.00, double \$250.00,  
single \$199.00]

## Pillow

50% alpaca combined with  
50% specialist wool \$59.00

## Underblanket

50% alpaca combined with  
50% specialist wool [king \$375.00,  
queen \$325.00, double \$280.00,  
single \$225.00]

## 8 ply Knitting Yarns

100% alpaca fibre [black, camel,  
charcoal, rose grey, silver grey, grey,  
fawn, cream] \$7.50

**Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd**  
03 5229 5100



**Ladies plain knit tunic jumper**  
100% alpaca knit, available in  
polo, crew neck, small roll at neck  
& bands [black, navy, dark grey,  
charcoal, winter white]  
[s, m, l, xl] \$176.00  
**Alpaca Granja** 03 5259 3630

© Alpaca Granja

Photography Tom Dimac



**Mens baby alpaca  
cable jumper**  
Available in a range of  
cables [cream, butter,  
red, navy, bottle, wine]  
[s to xxl] \$319.00  
**The Alpaca Centre,**  
**Australia**  
02 4877 1399

© Creature Comforts



▶ **Cape with scarf attached**

100% alpaca brushed fabric, charcoal featured with extra cerise scarf [black, charcoal, navy, light grey, beige, white, emerald green, dark purple, light purple, cerise, brown, red]

[one size fits all] \$290.00

**Alpaca Granja**

03 5259 3630



© Alpaca Granja

▶ **'Tarra'**

100% alpaca lightweight jumper in any natural colour [s, m, l] \$240.00

**Skirt**

made to measure and fully lined \$185.00 long, \$175.00 short

**A Touch of Alpaca**

03 5149 2428

03 5199 2599



Photography Chris Gillham

**Brushed baby alpaca scarf**  
various colours depending on availability \$63.00  
**The Alpaca Centre, Australia**  
02 4877 1399



Photography Bob Hughes



Photography Chris Gillham

▶ **'Aztec jackets'**

in any natural colour combination of the alpacas, also available as a sleeveless vest, made to measure \$250.00

**Skirt**

made to measure and fully lined \$185.00 long, \$175.00 short

**A Touch of Alpaca**

03 5149 2428 / 03 5199 2599



Photography James Pipino

▶ **Ladies' and men's V neck cable knit vest**

90% alpaca, 10% fine merino wool [red, navy, natural] [s, m, l, xl] \$159.00

**Ladies' and men's V neck cable knit jumper**

90% alpaca, 10% fine merino wool [red, navy, natural] [s, m, l, xl] \$220.00

**Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd**

03 5229 5100



# Alpacas ... here to stay!



by SANDRA WRIGHT  
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

*While the National Office staff enjoyed a period of annual leave during the Christmas/New Year season the tradesmen continued the modification works on the newly acquired building which would become the home of the Australian Alpaca Association in mid February. Under the watchful eyes of National Committee members, Project Manager Nick Veltjens (qualified architect, alpaca breeder and chairperson of Registration and Marketing sub-committees) and Bill Plunkett (qualified builder, alpaca breeder and chairperson of 2000 National Show and Sale) steady progress was made.*

**W**ith the assurance from the builder that the new office of the AAA would be completed on time we began preparations many weeks in advance. Now, we're no newcomers to this business of moving. In fact, having relocated in late 1993 from a small back office to a larger area in the same building in East Hawthorn, to larger office space in Forest Hill in 1994, to an even larger office in Box Hill in 1998 and now to

Mitcham in 2001, we've become better at it each time.

Anyone who has moved house will know that there is a plethora of things to be considered. It is always wise to put someone in charge and, because she is the best organiser we've ever seen, Jenny got the job (again). Besides she earns more money than the rest of us!

The disconnection of services, the connection of services, the redirection of services, booking this, booking that, and all the while ensuring that staff morale remained high by locating the essential services in the new area. You know, post office, bank, office suppliers, printing and copying facilities, take-away food outlets – Jenny did it all with aplomb. Then we all crossed our fingers and waited for the big day.

The removalist company had been in the previous day and two very capable young men (always nice to have around) had packed up around us while we continued to turn the wheels of the alpaca world.

The big day dawned and it started to happen. Furniture, filing cabinets and lots of boxes were loaded into two trucks by an army of capable young men (an army – even better to have around) and the convoy began travelling east along Whitehorse Road to Mitcham.

The removalists had the furniture unloaded and positioned by the

middle of the day and the massive task of unpacking boxes was completed by late afternoon.

Telephones were made operational and computers were reconnected by mid afternoon and some of us were able to attend to urgent office duties. Dell took control of another high priority, the kitchen, and much to the surprise and delight of the male removalists, set about organising the cupboards and shelves just the way we like them to be. After all, how would you cope without a cup of coffee during all this turmoil?

After a couple of days settling in, Bill Plunkett made a very welcome visit to install other essential items such as mirrors in the smallest rooms of the office and framed prints on the walls.

Set in a light industrial area the new office is light and spacious and as soon as possible we will be installing the sign out front to signify that the AAA is indeed, here to stay. If you are planning to visit the new office please refer to your Melways Map 49 ref B8. We look forward to receiving visitors but please, no library borrowers just yet. If you are wishing to borrow please telephone ahead so that we may locate the book. Unfortunately the removalists have invented a new library filing system which does not work at all well! That's for another day when we're not busy – we say that a lot around here! ■

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WINNER



*< Well ... What's YOUR problem? >*

Janice Dow  
Peppertree Alpaca Stud, WA



*< Come on ... tell me straight to my face >*

Amanda Hawthorn  
Blackwattle Alpacas, NSW



*< I tawt I taw a putty tatt >*

Jude Anderson & Alan Cousill  
Pucara Alpaca Stud, VIC



*< It's so hard to get an all over tan! >*

Tena & Terry Wheeler  
Windsong Valley Alpacas, WA

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 last issue, payments for winning photographs were no longer made but replaced with alternative incentives for you to continue submitting your delightful photographs.

'Pick of the Pack' winners will now 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.





*< Why stand up to drink? >*

Carolyn Jinks  
Benleigh Alpaca Stud, VIC



*< We musn't let him come between us >*

Joy Allenby-Acuna  
La Granja Alpacas, NSW



*< Just checking! >*

Jill Winter  
Blue Tor Alpacas, TAS



*< I'll help so that we can  
get the job done quicker! >*

Kevin & Heather Austin  
Nyroca Park Alpacas, SA



*< I'm all tuckered out, eat around me >*

P & J Sutherland  
Somersby Alpacas, NSW



*< You lead, I'll follow >*

Sandy Mercier  
Pristine Alpacas, NSW



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Alpacas on show at the  
following venues  
- All welcome -*

### May

3 - 5 AGFEST - TAS

Contact: Glenn Bruce (03) 6383 4175

4 - 5 KAPUNDA FARM FAIR - SA

Highlights: Alpaca display

Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254,  
Trudy Stanley (08) 8388 0887

4 - 6 TOCAL FIELD DAYS - NSW

Highlights: Fleece judging

Contact: Marion Jack (02) 4938 5707

10 - 12 IPSWICH SHOW - QLD

Venue: Ipswich Showgrounds

Highlights: Regional display - Thursday 10th May

Fleece judging - Friday 11th May

Alpaca judging - Saturday 12th May

Contact: Julie MacGregor (07) 3202 3113

12 - 13 ALPACA FIESTA AND AUCTION - NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Racecourse

Highlights: Raffle and Auction of Elite Alpacas

Contact: Anita Neeser (02) 4575 5360

12 - 13 AUTUMN CLASSIC SHOW - WA

Venue: Whiteman Park

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Ron Raynor (08) 9296 0442

### July

21 VICTORIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW - VIC

Venue: Bendigo

Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece judging, Shearing  
display, education & information sessions

Contact: Glenn Sutherland (03) 5826 2455

20 - 21 MUDGEE SMALL FARM FIELD DAY/MUDGEE  
SHOW - NSW

Venue: Mudgee

Highlights: Alpaca Judging - Saturday 21st July  
Alpaca Promotional Display

Contact: Julie Lawrie (02) 6846 7292

27 - 29 FARMING THE FUTURE EXPO

Venue: Cooroy

Highlights: Fleece judging

Contact: Mick Walsh (07) 5494 4740

29 BALLARAT SHEEP & WOOL SHOW - VIC

Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece judging

Contact: Gordon & Noel Jones (03) 5344 8387

### August

6 - 7 HAMILTON SHEEPVENTION - VIC

Venue: Hamilton Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece judging

- Monday 6th August

Contact: Rob Johnstone (03) 5529 2592

9 - 18 ROYAL BRISBANE SHOW - QLD

Venue: Exhibition Grounds, Fortitude Valley  
- to be confirmed.

Highlights: Alpaca judging - details to be  
confirmed. Major roadworks in progress

Contact: Camilla Smith (07) 3266 9822  
or Show Director (07) 3852 1831

25 - 26 AGCRAFT SPRING SHOW - NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Showground

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 4578 2657

or Jeanne Brown (02) 4576 3333

30 - Sept 1 GOLD COAST SHOW - QLD

Venue: Parklands Showground, Southport

Highlights: Regional display -

Thursday 30th August to Friday 31st August

Alpaca judging - Saturday 1st September

Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207

31 - Sept 8 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

Contact: Trudy Stanley (08) 8388 0887

### June

14 - 16 SUNSHINE COAST SHOW - QLD

Venue: Nambour

Highlights: Alpaca judging - Friday 15th June

Contact: Ros Evans (07) 5446 8084

16 - 17 FIBRE PROCESSING WORKSHOPS - TAS

Contact: Helen Dowd (03) 6239 6223

29 - July 1 CANADIAN ALPACA BREEDERS ASSOC.

INTERNATIONAL FLEECE SHOW

Contact: Tracy Riopel (CABA)

at: tracyriogrand@hotmail.com

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<i>Alpacas Australia Magazine</i> - 3 back issues		16.50	9.00	\$
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	Fremantle, WA 1998	28.60	23.00	\$
	Glenelg, SA 1999	28.60	23.00	\$
	Canberra, ACT 2000	28.60	23.00	\$
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Video - <i>An Introduction to Alpacas - Fibre, Fashion &amp; Industry</i>		33.00	25.00	\$
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<b>Mono</b>								
Full Page	737.00	670.00	682.00	620.00	583.00	530.00	220.00	200.00
1/2 Page	517.00	470.00	484.00	440.00	418.00	380.00	154.00	140.00
1/4 Page	297.00	270.00	275.00	250.00	242.00	220.00	88.00	80.00
Bus. cards	110.00	100.00	99.00	90.00	88.00	80.00	N/A	N/A

### Loading for Specified Positions

Outside Back Cover	+ 25%
Inside Front Cover	+ 20%
Inside Back Cover	+ 15%
Right Hand Page	+ 10%
Specific Positions	+ 10%

### \*Production costs include

Layout, typesetting and electronic finished artwork and low resolution proofs (high resolution extra)

### Additional Costs

Colour scanning	\$40.00 per photograph
Mono scanning	\$30.00 per photograph

### Space and Sizes (mm)



Full Page  
Image: 188 x 275  
Trim: A4 (210 x 297)  
allow 3mm bleed all sides



1/2 Page  
188 x 123



1/4 page  
91 x 123



Business Card  
90 x 55

## Material

**Editorial Material.** If possible, all editorial contributions should be typed and preferably submitted electronically or by floppy disc in Word format. Visual material preferably supplied as colour photographs or transparencies. If supplying digital photography ensure that it is in high resolution of at least 250 dpi. We will endeavour to return all photos and slides.

**Advertising Material.** Please supply electronic artwork on disc to correct size. Include all screen and printer typefaces, high resolution pictures, logos etc associated with the advertisement. Colour adverts to be supplied in CMYK (not PMS or RGB). Please supply hard copy proof in colour or mono (as applicable). We cannot guarantee inclusion of late advertisements.

Further advertising material enquiries can be directed to:

Irene Garner

Garner Graphics

Phone +61 (0)2 4884 1222 Fax +61 (0)2 4884 1233

Email [garnering@bigpond.com.au](mailto:garnering@bigpond.com.au)

## Deadlines

### Issue 35

Due: August 2001

Deadline: Friday 15 June

### Issue 36

Due: December 2001

Deadline: Friday 12 October

### Issue 37

Due: April 2002

Deadline: Friday 15 February

Please book and send all editorial and advertising material to Sandra Wright  
Australian Alpaca Association Inc, PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132  
PHONE +61 (0)3 9873 7700 FAX +61 (0)3 9873 7711 EMAIL [sandra@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:sandra@alpaca.asn.au)

Now...



Realistic Stud Fee  
 Multiples Discount  
 Mobiles / Drive Thru  
 JD MAP Status MN 1  
 Cert: A010/99/05 & A010/99/03  
 Discuss your  
 requirements  
 with us – we listen !



Gorge  
 Alpacas



Richard & Julie Bird

Let

# Monarch

Purumbete

Set the Royal Tradition for your girls

Royal in every way...

Sire: Purumbete Ledgers Dream,  
 Dam: Purumbete Compass Rose\*

(\*by Purumbete El Dorado from Purumbete Sundial)

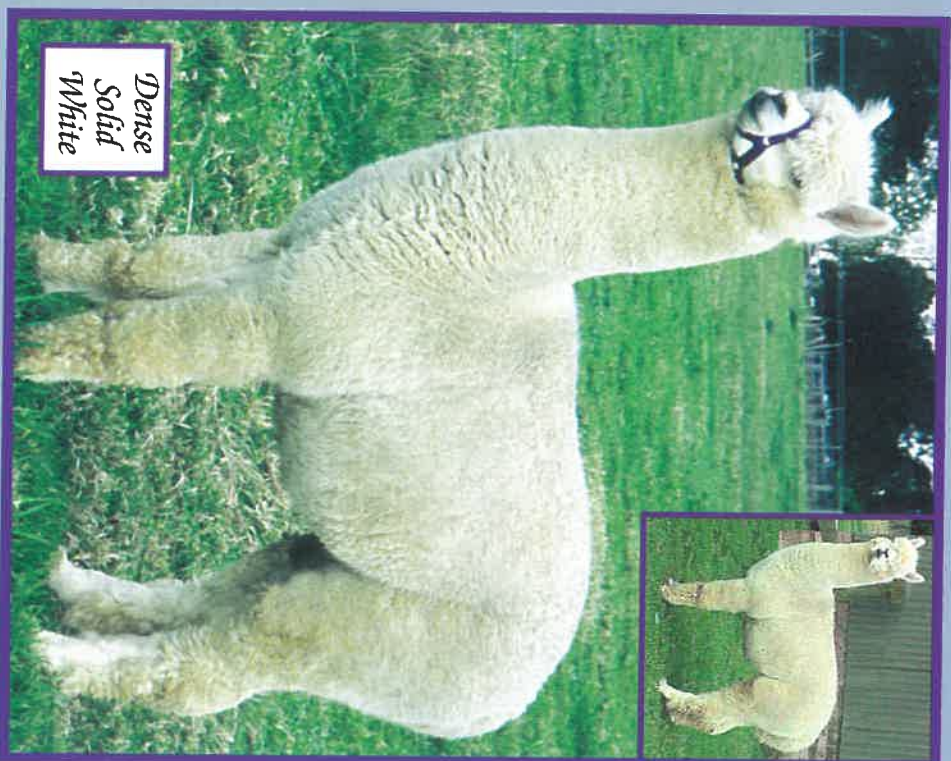
Genetics & Fleece – Conformation & Presence

And check that HEAD!

Now you can see for yourself ...

His Progeny consistently bear the Royal Stamp!

*Jewels from the Crown!*



Lorraine Cooper  
 & Roger Porter

Arcadia, NSW

Ph: (02) 9655 1122

Mob: 015 226 470

Glenorie, NSW

Ph: (02) 9652 2119

Fax: (02) 9652 2157

LIFESTYLE  
 Alpacas



Alpacas



# PUCARA FOR SURIS

**ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW**  
**CHAMPION**

2000  
MS J ANDERSON & MR A COUSILL  
PUCARA PIPELINE (A36771)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, PRIZES AND RULES APPLICABLE TO  
ALPACAS SURI SECTION 13 - INTERMEDIATE 12 TO  
UNDER 18 MONTHS - MALE INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION SURI  
265  
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

**ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW**  
**SUPREME CHAMPION**

2000  
MS J ANDERSON & MR A COUSILL  
PUCARA PIPELINE (A36771)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, PRIZES AND RULES APPLICABLE TO  
ALPACAS SURI SECTION SUPREME CHAMPION SURI  
265  
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

**ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW**  
**JUNIOR CHAMPION**

2000  
MS J ANDERSON & MR A COUSILL  
PUCARA OTIS (A40844)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, PRIZES AND RULES APPLICABLE TO  
ALPACAS SURI SECTION 11 - JUNIOR 6 TO UNDER 12  
MONTHS - MALE JUNIOR CHAMPION SURI (taken from Sections 10  
251  
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

**ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW**  
**CHAMPION**

2000  
MS J ANDERSON & MR A COUSILL  
BARNETT SUSIE

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, PRIZES AND RULES APPLICABLE TO  
ALPACAS FLEECE SECTION 19 - SURI FLEECES  
CHAMPION SURI FLEECE (taken from Section 19)  
313  
EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Ph: (03) 5263 3436

email: [pucara@bigpond.com](mailto:pucara@bigpond.com)