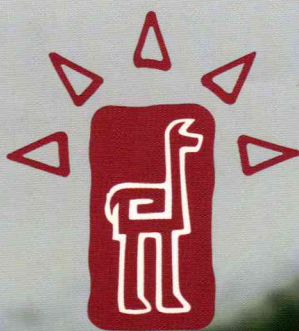




ISSUE 38 ■ WINTER 2002 ■ \$7.70 (AUST)

Alpacas Australia





wesuri alpacas

Presents

Somerset Peruvian Black Impact

(Co-owned Somerset Alpacas)

After searching Peru for 18 months, we've finally found the new pride of our herd, a unique Black Male Suri.

This rare Peruvian Blue/Black Male has well defined locking formation, lustre, fineness and excellent coverage.

We run the largest Suri herd in WA and are also proud to announce the purchase of a large herd of elite female Suris. This acquisition will complement and extend our award winning breeding program.

Our award winning studs:

- ▷ Somerset Peruvian Black Impact (SB)
- ▷ Wesuri Heritage Prince Allianza (SW)
- ▷ Wesuri Heritage Prince Russet (SLB)
- ▷ Wesuri Heritage Inca Ice (SW)

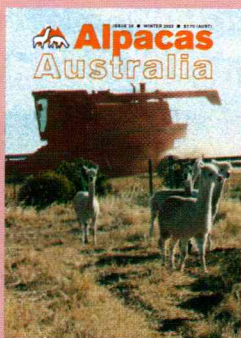
Western Australia is a JD free zone.

Enquire about our interstate mobile service.



Find out more about us, log on to -
wesuri.com.au

Enquiries: Lorraine James - Tel/Fax: (08) 9574 6857 ▷ Mobile: 0414 295 445 ▷ Email: wesuri@iprimus.com.au



COVER

Alpacas accompanied by a header taking in a wheat crop

Photograph
Stansbury Alpacas

PUBLISHER

Alpacas Australia is published by the
Australian Alpaca Association Inc.,
Unit 2, 613 Whitehorse Road
Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia
(PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132)
Telephone +61 (0)3 9873 7700
Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711
E-mail alpaca@alpaca.asn.au
Internet www.alpaca.asn.au

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

Sandra Wright, Australian Alpaca Association Inc.
Unit 2, 613 Whitehorse Road
Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia
(PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132)
Telephone +61 (0)3 9873 7700
Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711
E-mail sandra@alpaca.asn.au
Internet www.alpaca.asn.au

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (3 ISSUES)

AUD \$28.05 : Australia
AUD \$40.00 : New Zealand
AUD \$50.00 : International

CIRCULATION

2,200 for current issue

DESIGNED AND PRODUCED

by Garner Graphics
'Riverside' Lot 4, Inverary Road
Paddys River NSW 2577
Telephone +61 (0)2 4884 1222
Fax +61 (0)2 4884 1233
E-mail garnering@bigpond.com.au

COPYRIGHT

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

It is the understanding of the AAA that any photographs
submitted by contributors for use in any AAA publication
will be free of copyright (unless otherwise stated) and
therefore will be available for use by the AAA for industry
promotion without the need for further permission.

LIABILITY

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

ISSN 1328-8318

ADVERTISERS

Alpacandes Alpaca Stud	43
Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd	44
Benleigh Alpaca Stud	3
Blue Grass Alpacas	28 + 29
Bungalook Alpaca Farm	32
Coolaroo Alpaca Stud	5
Coricancha Alpaca Stud	35
EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud	38 + 39
Pucara Alpaca Stud	23
Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud	7
Starline Alpacas	19
Talca Alpacas	inside back cover
Timbertop Alpacas	13
Wesuri Alpacas	inside front cover
Windsong Valley Alpacas	back cover

REGULAR FEATURES

- 2 A Message from the President
- 3 Briefly Speaking
- 48 Marketplace
- 50 Business Directory
- 52 Paca Pics
- 54 Upcoming Events Calendar
- 55 Order Form
- 56 Advertising Details

EDUCATION

14 What Happened to Charles Ledger's Alpacas?

An account of the dispersal of alpacas taken from reports in the "Goulburn Herald"

30 Make a Note of That!

Research and record keeping

32 Raising Respectful Alpacas

Marty McGee Bennett looks at raising pleasant, polite, interested, confident alpacas

36 On Your Selection

What matters to consider when purchasing an alpaca

SHOWING AND JUDGING STANDARDS

16 2002 Royal Sydney Show

Role of the Alpaca Breed Captain and the industry's involvement therein

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

8 Embryo Transfer

Australia's first alpaca cria born as a result of embryo transfer

INDUSTRY

4 AGFEST 2002

Alpacas at Tasmania's biggest agricultural event

18 Love at First Sight

Falling in love with a brown alpaca

24 The Sollocota Story

Researching fibre types in the sierra of Peru

43 AAA Prize for Alpaca Studies

Katherine Morton wins inaugural prize for alpaca studies

45 Alpaca Fibre on the Move!

AACo-op progresses toward long-term profits

MARKETING

6 The Story of the Jersey

Promoting alpacas by sponsoring a football team

20 The Sailing Fraternity and the Alpaca Industry Join Forces

Promoting alpacas at the National Flying Fifteen Sailing Titles

BREEDER PROFILE

40 Bumble Hill Alpacas

Yarramalong, NSW

AGFEST 2002



photography Phil Austen

Stud displays
AGFEST 2002

by DOMINIC LANE
VIRACOCCHA ALPACAS, TASMANIA

AGFEST was attended this year by 73,487 people smashing last year's record by more than 5,000.

Tasmania's biggest agricultural event, AGFEST, was once again an excellent opportunity for the Tasmanian region to promote the Alpaca Industry. Public interest was first-rate with large numbers of people visiting the AAA site during the three days. This was a perfect occasion for attending members to further educate, promote and generally discuss alpaca with the general public. It is apparent that more and more people are becoming genuinely attracted towards investing in alpaca in Tasmania, which is a positive outlook for the Tasmanian industry.

On display in the AAA tent was a superb range of alpaca garments, which was admired by all and purchased by most that took the opportunity to feel this exquisite fibre. The Australian Alpaca Co-op Ltd was in attendance with the region's representative displaying an impressive range of merchandise including the wonderful new colour ranges that are available. A fashion

parade showcased the end product and generated plenty of positive interest giving the public the opportunity to really experience what alpaca has to offer.

Local studs were enthusiastic this year with eight breeders coming along to further contribute to the AAA display. A range of alpaca were presented to the public including Suri which generated a lot of interest, and the Supreme Champion from last year's Launceston and Hobart Royals was also on show.

The weather was heaven sent with three perfect days, which would have been a contributing factor to the number of gate entries this year. Let's hope that it is as favourable next year and I am sure that the alpaca industry in Tasmania will continue to prosper. ■

Erin Greenwell selling
alpaca garments in the
AAA tent

photography Phil Austen

COOLAROO INVITES YOU TO

Australia's Coolaroo Classic Auction 2002 & Alpaca Centre Fashion Preview 2003

WITH AN OUTSTANDING LINEUP OF 25 FEMALES & SIRES ON RARE OFFER
29 SEPTEMBER

Inspections 10am
Parade & Auction 12 noon
Luncheon, shearing &
educational demonstrations,
wine tasting & other treats.

Breeding Champions for
markets worldwide with
Coolaroo progeny winning
Supreme Alpaca 2002
United Kingdom
British Alpaca Society
National Show

All enquiries
& catalogues
contact **JANIE HICKS**
(see details below)



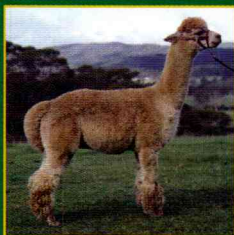
COOLAROO
ALPACA STUD



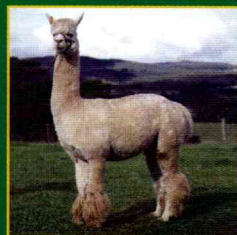
alpaca
CENTRE
AUSTRALIA

Don't miss out on this
calendar event for your chance
to win a young female alpaca

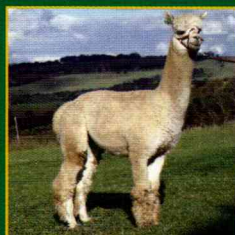
"OUTSTANDING VALUE FOR MONEY" SIRE PACKAGES FROM \$400.00 PER SERVICE
Choice of 10 exceptional 'wool-type' & 'frame-type' sires



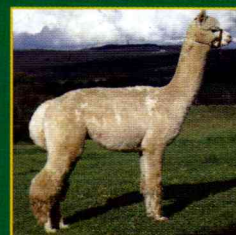
PURRUMBETE MINDEROO



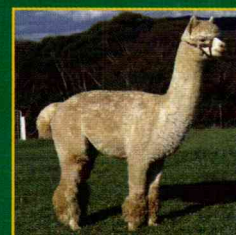
NWA LTD SOLOMON



PURRUMBETE DRIVING FORCE



STARLINE AUGUST MOON 2



MARIAH HILL KHAN

This exceptional stable of sires are selected from amongst the world's highest follicle density populations, with highest secondary to primary ratios*. Each has a depth of genetic history to cement in true density, high fibre qualities and strong frames and constitution in their progeny. Includes: ultrasound costs, drive-thru service and agistment facilities for various MAP herd status females.

*Fleece characteristics and follicular density study in Peruvian alpaca population, Peru 2001 Watts & Hicks.

Woodlands Rd, Mittagong NSW 2575 PH 61 2 4878 5266 FAX 61 2 4878 5233 EMAIL coolaroo@binct.net.au

The story of the Jersey

(or, how to knock Pepsi over!)



Lyn & Terry Sahyoun, present the jersey to AAA President, Ian Watt.

by LYN SAHYOUN
VALPARAISO ALPACAS, NSW

My husband, Terry, is a football referee (when he isn't having a knee reconstruction). Terry and I had a discussion one night on how we could promote alpacas in a unique way in our region, Sutherland Shire in Sydney. This led to a discussion with the Secretary of the Cronulla District Referees Association at a Ladies Night in 2000. After much talking (and drinking, what else do referees do???) the Association tentatively agreed to our sponsorship proposal. We learned that what we were offering was TWICE what Pepsi was offering so they declined to renew their sleeve sponsorship.

Enter the alpacas.....

Why, people ask, did we choose to sponsor and advertise with football referees? Well, if you think about it, it is a fairly logical choice. Think junior football early morning starts, think winter, think COLD, COLD, COLD. What an opportunity to promote this industry to cold people!

Furthermore there are approximately 40 active referees in this area who also assist in Junior Rep sides at the Shark's Home games – hence the potential for exposure at Toyota Park, the Shark's Home Ground. The referees officiate at 15 grounds during each weekend of the season and the more senior matches also have two touch judges as well. With both sleeves of each referee's jersey bearing "Valparaiso Alpacas" emblems, the exposure is great and at the right time of year. The geography of the region is also great and, with the show season and various auctions also happening around that time, it is an ideal opportunity for promotion. So if people are really interested, we can provide them with the information that they need.

Now, the problem is, Terry is also a Cronulla Sharks fan, I mean, REALLY! And has been since they started. Now he is threatening that if we win

Powerball, we will sponsor the First Grade Side... OK Terry, I think this might be a bit excessive. He is even threatening to call our first black male alpaca *Preston Campbell* after his favourite player. (I don't follow the Sharks, I am a *Melbourne Storm* supporter).

This football season promises much excitement as we look forward to seeing our emblem on the referee's jersey sleeves and our banner up at Toyota Park on Junior League Grand Final day... not to mention the birth of our alpacas, especially the birth of our first cria from our stud male, due, ironically, just as the winter gets colder – right at the start of the football season.

We encourage all alpaca breeders to 'think outside the square' when it comes to promoting your stud and our industry. It is people who take risks and promote where other people haven't thought of, that are going to move this industry along and take it beyond the boundaries.

So if you're in our district during the football season, look for the ref with long, graying hair (blonded at the ends), earrings, and a beard, and you'll find someone who doesn't think with the 'normal' people, and you'll understand what I have to put up with.....

Have fun looking up the unusual. ■

Shanbrooke

Alpaca Stud

Take pleasure and feel privileged to offer the alpaca industry,
the use of '5' Don Julio Barreda Accoyo Males

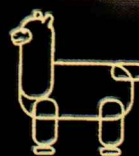
"The Elite Collection"

The 1st. choice of the select group of males
are now owned exclusively by Shanbrooke.



Shanbrooke
Accoyo El Prado

SF 18.7u @ 3 y.o.



Shanbrooke
Accoyo Yavari

SF 18.0u @ 3 1/2 y.o.



Available
for mobile
servicing



TAKING US INTO THE FUTURE

Ron & Dianne Condon Phone: 03 9730 1399 Mobile: 0409 547 630
Email: shanbrooke@bigpond.com Web site: www.shanbrooke.com.au

Embryo Transfer

the new kids on the block



Dr David Hopkins,
Dr Jane Vaughan and
Carolyn Jinks with
three ET cria

Earlier this year Australia's first alpaca cria to be born as a result of embryo transfer were born at Benleigh Alpaca Stud in Geelong, Victoria. The arrival of four healthy cria was the culmination of work pioneered by Dr David Hopkins of Bellarine Veterinary Practice and Dr Jane Vaughan and is a major milestone for the Australian alpaca industry.

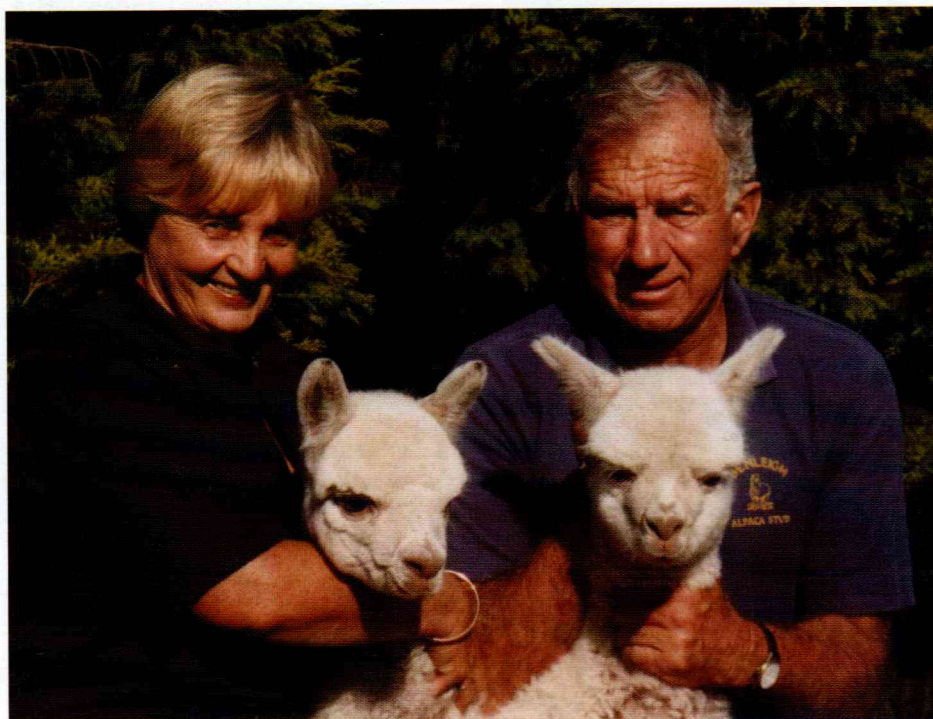
by SANDRA WRIGHT
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

Dr Hopkins has been a partner in the Bellarine Veterinary Practice for the last 25 years and during this time has developed expertise in artificial breeding in a variety of species. David first started working in embryo transfer (ET) in 1986 when he was employed in the largest cattle ET program ever undertaken in the

Southern Hemisphere. Following this David became involved in canine semen freezing and artificial insemination and now runs the AI program for the Australian Customs Detector Dogs, as well as programs for hundreds of dog breeders. In 1990 David was the first vet in Australia to produce foals by embryo transfer and is now freezing stallion semen and inseminating mares with imported semen. The alpaca's unique

reproductive system became a further challenge for David and it has taken five years of research to develop suitable embryo transfer techniques.

Dr Jane Vaughan needs little introduction to most Australian alpaca breeders. After graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1988, Jane first started working with alpacas in 1991. In 1996 she worked with more than 600 Peruvian alpacas on Cocos Island quarantine station during their importation into Australia. She has been a regular speaker at the Association's National Conferences in recent years and completed a Ph.D. in reproduction in the female alpaca in 2001.



Allan and Carolyn Jinks with two white ET cria

The beginning

Preparing a recipient



Two years ago ET was trialed at Benleigh without success and further study of the physiology of camelids, and particularly the alpaca, was undertaken by David and Jane.

Their search for greater insight into improving the technique and timing of their ET endeavours incorporated a visit to Dubai in February 2001 to observe the progress of ET techniques in the highly lucrative camel racing industry.

The information gathered during this visit, added to that gained after years of extensive research using super-ovulation methodology (the usual process in other livestock ET programs), convinced David and Jane that, as alpacas are induced ovulators, success could be achieved by simply mating the animals naturally and then harvesting the eggs.

Upon their return from overseas David asked Allan and Carolyn Jinks, owners of Benleigh Alpaca Stud, to work with both he and Jane once again in pioneering this ground-breaking research.

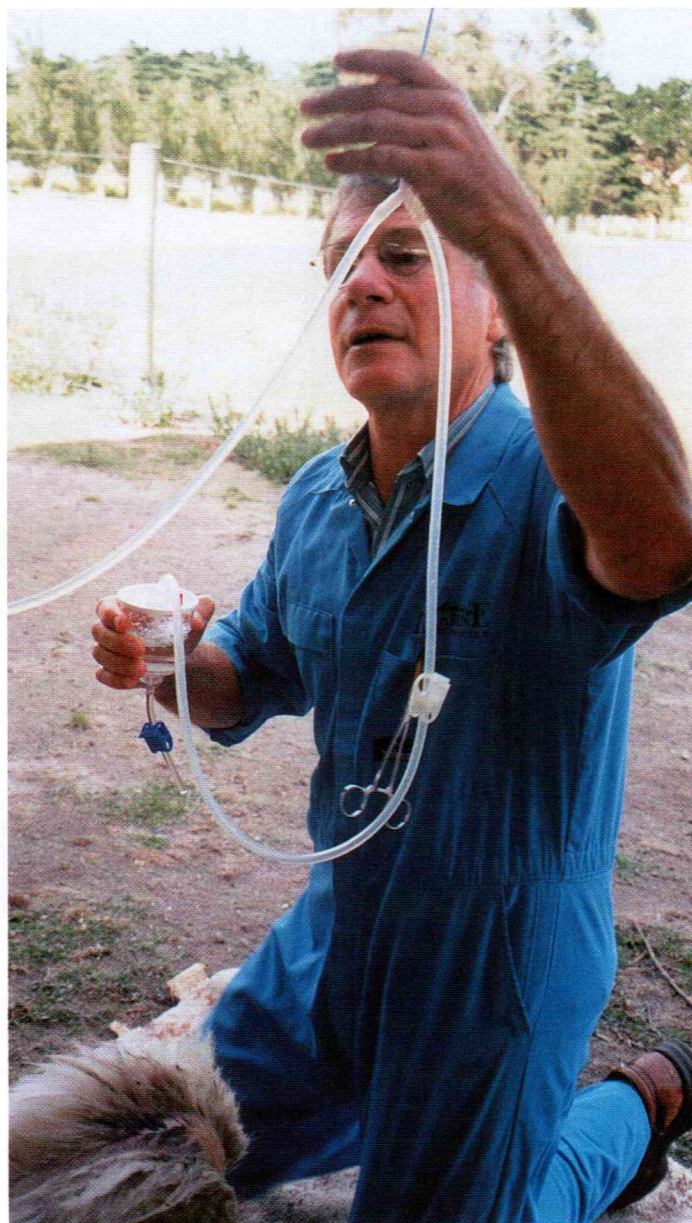
Benleigh's consistently successful performance in the showring is testament to its breeding regimen and participation in the ET program presented an ideal opportunity for the stud to produce a greater number of superior animals per year thus advancing its breeding program by a quantum leap.

However, whilst the Jinks' were eager to assist, understandably they were not prepared at that stage to put their top line of females into the program but instead selected good quality stock that had produced average cria.

Recipient females were chosen by referring to breeding records to identify those animals that had consistently conceived easily but were no longer considered to be of good breeding standard due to inferior fleece quality.

Carolyn explains, "They're animals that you would now class as superseded, they're a bit like cars, they're the older style model, and their fleece is not the quality that we now want to breed. There is nothing wrong with their reproductive systems and so, by transplanting genetically superior embryos into these lesser quality animals it gives them great value in our herd. In turn we are going to get more higher quality animals per annum that we would not get by breeding from them naturally or just leaving them in the paddock."

Under the watchful eye of Allan and Carolyn three high quality females that had been selected to become the 'donors', were mated to Benleigh's top stud males, *Purrrumbete Brigantine* and *Purrrumbete Inti*. It is essential to synchronise the ovulation of both donor females and recipients to ensure that the embryos that are taken out of a female that ovulated a week ago are put into a uterus that is in the same hormonal state, and so, on the day following the matings, the recipient females were injected with hormones to induce ovulation and prepare the uterus for implantation.



Dr David Hopkins
preparing for the embryo
transfer procedure

The next stage of the program saw David and Jane arrive at Benleigh one morning bearing an impressive quantity of high tech equipment. Cleanliness and climate in the 'lab' area (normally known as the office and tea room) were important as the microscope, saline solution, syringes etc. were prepared. Jane's state of the art scanner was set up in the shearing shed where the two groups of animals waited expectantly.

All females involved in this procedure had been 'spat off' prior to the vets' arrival thus indicating that the recipients were ready and donors had indeed ovulated.

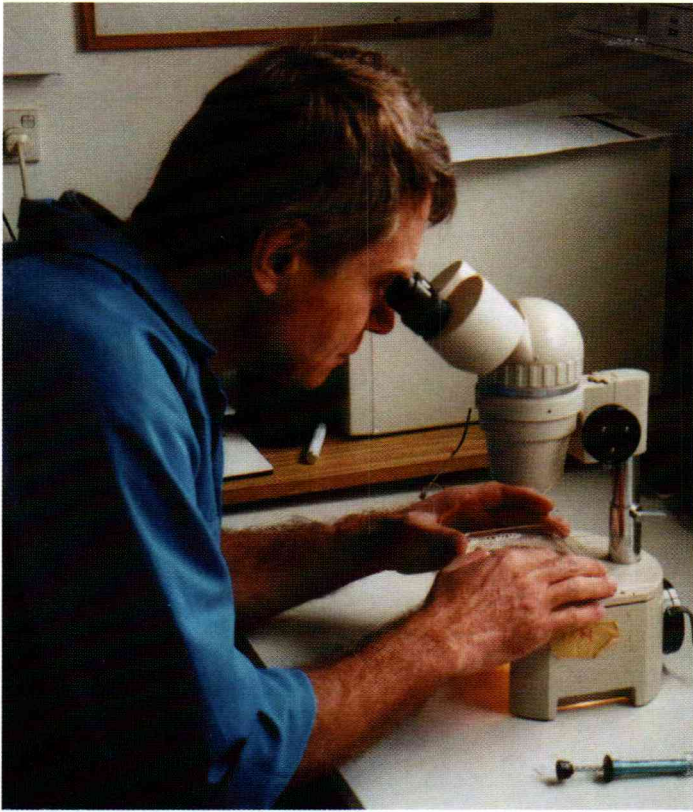
Each donor female was given a mild tranquiliser, then scanned and finally flushed by the vet by passing a catheter through the cervix into the uterus enabling fluid to be recycled inside a tubing system.

The fluid runs out through a fine mesh filter into a container where the embryos are trapped on top of that filter and then placed in a Petri dish and under the microscope for identification and recovery.

The timing of the flushing is crucial, as it must be done prior to implantation of the embryo in the uterus of the mated female. The recipient females were also treated with a mild sedation in preparation for the delicate procedure of implantation.



Flushing procedure



Dr David Hopkins checking results under microscope



Petri dish

Carolyn described the team's excitement upon viewing the successful result of the first donor flushing.

"It was the most amazing sight. The embryo could actually be seen by the naked eye but under a microscope it appeared as an opaque circle with a tiny black mark in it".

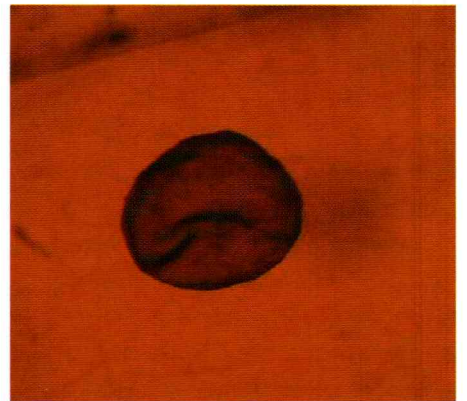
David remarked that the embryo looked like "a little basketball rolling around in the dish". "Half a millimetre diameter basketball!" added Jane.

Final scrutiny under microscope revealed that from the three matings, four embryos were actually harvested. The ET team was delighted with the unexpected bonus of one female offering up two embryos.

According to Dr Hopkins at least 10% of alpacas have two ovulations naturally but in the normal situation, even though the two conceptions may occur, one of them will regress and only one will go on to become a pregnancy.

David commented, "It seems alpacas have a mechanism for naturally selecting against twins but if we can get the embryos out before she starts to select against one of them we can get two pregnancies from her."

So, the extra embryo was a welcome addition to the program and it was decided to implant one of the donors with the 'bonus' embryo.



ET egg

Embryo



"Supermum"
Benleigh Morena with
naturally conceived cria
and two ET cria

All procedures and results were documented and the excitement continued for the ET team throughout the ensuing 11 1/2 months as the pregnancies were regularly monitored using Benleigh's own ultrasound equipment, and culminated in the successful natural delivery of all four cria, one female and three males.

Furthermore, as all donor females had been mated again in the conventional fashion a few weeks after the flushing of the embryos, the impending births of these naturally conceived babies were also eagerly awaited. This was an important step in the whole exercise for Allan and Carolyn who care about their animals tremendously. The natural conceptions and deliveries proved that there had been no detrimental trauma to the donor females.

"Every one of them became pregnant the next time they were mated in a natural circumstance. One of them has already delivered her baby and the others are due to give birth shortly so to us that's very exciting because we don't want to damage any female by harvesting her embryos. It would be a pointless exercise if she could no longer breed," emphasised Carolyn.

To highlight the significance of the donor female that had produced two embryos and then conceived naturally as well, effectively producing three offspring of the same parentage in one year, Carolyn remarked, "The point of all this is not just that we're dying to do experiments, although we are very excited about it all, but we do want to increase the quality of alpaca and have more of the better quality. This is a commercial situation where it can happen but still not compromise the value of the older, or perhaps not necessarily older, but less gorgeous animals." To this Jane added, "They are reproductively sound females but ... well, some of them, the looks are just not there, are they?"

Meanwhile out in the nursery can be found those "less gorgeous" recipient females contentedly rearing their ET offspring, blissfully unaware of their special service to the Australian alpaca industry.



Recipient female with
ET offspring

The development of embryo transfer has opened a new era in alpaca breeding, and with financial grants now in place to work on AI (artificial insemination) the potential opportunities for genetic gain will be taken a step further. With ET, a broader base of better quality stock is being created and in turn, as AI becomes a reality, the harvested sperm from superior males will be able to be used in this higher quality stock, thus giving the Australian herd a remarkable lift in quality.

For Allan and Carolyn the birth of their first ET babies was definitely one of the most memorable times since they included alpacas as part of their agricultural enterprise in 1989.

As the ET work at Benleigh has advanced and become more refined, and all donors that participated in the early programs have since successfully become pregnant naturally and produced further cria without incident, Allan and Carolyn have now incorporated their top bloodlines into the ET program.

There are already more ET babies on the way at Benleigh that will help realise Carolyn and Allan's goal to improve and enhance fleece quality in their herd as quickly as possible.

Their involvement in the ET program is summed up by Allan, "We are seriously committed to achievement and improvement". ■

Timbertop Alpacas

Networking across Australia



visit our new website

www.timbertopalpacas.com.au

for the latest on our

Unique Bloodlines • Intelligent Breeding

New
Peruvian
stud male
on mobile
service

Superfine
Timbertop
yearlings
for
sale

Top Male
genetics
available
to suit
your herd

Contact Andrew Brown for more details on
PH: 0409 549 547 / 08 8355 1284
email: andrewbrown@timbertopalpacas.com.au

2002 Royal Sydney Show

Alpaca Breed Captain's Diary

by JULIENNE GELBER
EXHIBITOR & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The purpose of this article was to give a snapshot perspective on the role of the Breed Captain at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and the Alpaca Industry's involvement therein. It quickly became apparent that the two weeks of animal and product displays, Fleece and Animal shows, was the culmination of nearly 12 months of planning and hard work prior to the event, and the unsung hero through it all was the Breed Captain.



he Breed Captain acts as the liaison conduit with the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS). The clash of cultures – a strong, traditional RAS vs an ambitious, erratic 'emerging' livestock sector – calls for adroit negotiation and diplomatic skills. A strong knowledge of the structure and function vs regulations of both camps is essential for a good working relationship with the RAS and an effective representation of the alpaca fraternity.

Sure there is a RAS Support Committee and the Breed Captain works within the well-established structure of the RAS, but consider this daunting program. Within weeks of the close of the previous show, planning for the next show commences. Assessing strengths and weaknesses of the previous show identifies opportunities for the next.

By September, the NSW Regions' wish list for the forthcoming show is translated by the RAS Support Committee into negotiation issues for resolution with the RAS – displays, merchandising and accommodation space varies annually, as does the duration of the stay for show animals. Pavilion equipment, show judging dates, the show schedule, sharing with other livestock breeds, all need the involvement of the Breed Captain and many concessions are hard won.



Helen Fritsch, Alpaca Breed Captain
– 2002 Sydney Royal Easter Show

At this time raising of sponsorship monies commences. Who initiates it? The Breed Captain.

By December responsibility for most of the alpaca show related activities has been allocated to RAS Committee and support volunteers. Some tasks are underway or completed, schedules have been posted, publicity material and signage inspected, special show themes are

Judge Wendy Billington with Alana Tyler
and RAS Supreme Champion, Senior Female
Morton Park Monique



incorporated into the program and advertising with special features is booked.

January and February involve substantial administrative issues around entries, JD MAP planning, withdrawals, accommodation, manning of the AAA stand, encouraging stud display participation, organising shearers etc.

A couple of days before the show, the physical work begins – AAA display stand to erect, banners to hang, signage to print and post. Provision for fleece judging area, fleece storage prior to judging and winners' display are further considerations.

The 24 hours prior to the judging of show animals are frantic – breeder meet and greets, animal penning, hut and key allocation, feed and water point directions, parking, vet inspections – the list goes on, and the Breed Captain is always there. The day of the show is in fact a rest day by comparison! And so it goes on until the day after the show, and complete exhaustion.

What do you need to be a Breed Captain apart from alpaca showing experience? To start with...

- Plenty of time.
- A wonderful partner and an independent and supportive family.
- The constitution of an ox.
- The patience of an angel.
- Strong impartiality.
- Good management and delegation skills.
- A strong vision of the occasion.
- An adaptive, mediating personality and a passion to use the show ring as a medium for promoting the alpaca industry.

Of course showing needs to be a joint industry effort, too. As this year's Breed Captain modestly claimed, "without the RAS, the support committee, the many untiring volunteers, the exhibitors and the animals, a successful show wouldn't be possible". But the author observes, "you are too modest Helen, without a good Breed Captain a good show wouldn't be possible, and this has been a great show. So thank you from all of us". ■

Photograph © Cath Norman

Photograph © The Land

The Champions of the 2002 Royal Sydney Show



Champion Junior Suri
Pacofino Classic Ice



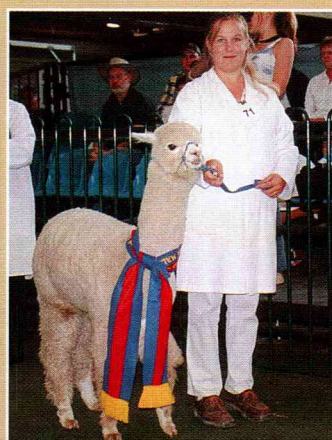
Champion Intermediate Suri *Elyision Carousel*
SUPREME CHAMPION SURI



Champion Senior Suri
Mirrabook Tequila Sunrise



Junior Champion Female Huacaya
Talamasca Gypsy Rose



Junior Champion Male Huacaya
Starline Orbiting Star



Intermediate Champion Female Huacaya
Hunter Scully



l'med. Champion Male Huacaya *Benleigh Kanzas*
MALE GRAND CHAMPION



Senior Champion Male Huacaya
River Ridge Ripper

Suri Sires Progeny
Peruvian
Boyne Lad



Huacaya Sires Progeny
Purrumbete
El Dorado



Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece
Benleigh Kanzas

Supreme Champion Suri Fleece
Elyision Oliver Twist

Love at first sight

by JOY SKELLERN
DOREEN, VIC

It was a late winter's afternoon as I was walking across the field snuggled up in a coat and very focused on where I was headed. The grass was long and difficult to walk through due to the previous owner's neglect, but I did not mind. I had a goal and that was to reach the boundary fence between the unknown neighbour and us. There were exotic animals in that unknown neighbour's field and if I hurried I would get the opportunity to view them up close. Usually these animals could only be spotted in a distant field, but today they were standing right at the fence line. I had to be quick before they left.

Walking down into the natural valley of our land I momentarily lost sight of the unknown neighbour's field and I had to walk carefully through a swamp so I would not fall into the babbling water and mud. As I came up the other side of the bank I quickened my pace but saw to my dismay that the animals had started to walk away. Running through the long grass was not an option, so I continued to walk briskly, praying fervently that they would not leave before I reached them. After what seemed an eternity I had just about reached the fence, so I slowed my pace. To my delight the animals had not moved away, but instead they had come even closer.

I slowly walked up to the fence and stood there in awe of these beautiful alpacas. All eighteen of them were standing there quietly, some munching and others looking right at me. They came in many different colours, ranging from black, to several shades of brown and white. Their



Joy and Lincoln – Love at first sight

faces serene but curious. Some came up even closer to observe me and I was overwhelmed with their charm, angelic faces and captivating beauty. We continued to study one another when suddenly a small brown baby popped out from behind its mother and came forward. I was instantly taken aback with his extraordinary beauty. He was much smaller than all the others, with big brown eyes and long eyelashes. He just stood there and looked straight at me. His eyes never left mine and I was enchanted. As the minutes passed I realised I had fallen in love with this gorgeous creature and named him Oliver. In my heart he was mine.

Every weekend I walked up to the fence line in the hope that the alpacas and Oliver would return. Sometimes they were there, but mostly I could only view them from a frustrating distance. I knew what I had to do. A few days later we drove into the alpaca property to meet the

unknown neighbours. They greeted us somewhat apprehensively at first, but they became warm and friendly. The family led us down to the paddock to meet the alpacas and there he was – my little Oliver. I learned he was only three months old, very much loved and his name was Lincoln.

My husband had cautioned me not to show any favouritism towards Lincoln, but my love for him flowed naturally from my heart and wouldn't be suppressed. I was incapable of keeping it to myself. It was obvious to all I loved this lovely little brown alpaca. Over the next few weeks we became firm friends with both the humans and the alpacas on this farm, but I continued to visit Lincoln at the fence when he was available. I knew the owner would never let Lincoln go, as she clearly loved him. I took photos of my Lincoln, talked about him, but in my heart I started to let him go. We continued to visit the farm frequently, but instead I found myself more interested in his owners. I became aware of how fortunate we were to find such true friendship and affection in this family. I felt truly blessed.

A few months after our eyes had first met across the wire fence I sat on the sofa waiting to open my birthday presents. The first one I opened astounded me, as it was a picture of Lincoln. I could not comprehend why my husband would torture me with a picture of something I could not have. My youngest son spoke up and said, "why would his father do such a thing to someone he loved so much". I agreed and regretted my hasty conclusion. I opened the next beautifully wrapped gift and amongst all the tissue paper lay a halter especially designed for an alpaca. I looked at my son and husband who were both smiling and I knew. Lincoln was mine. ■



STARLINE ALPACAS



WILL HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR HERD WITH
Our excellent SOLID WHITE stud males (Service Fee \$1100)
whose progeny are showing wonderful potential

Starline STARBUCK (70)

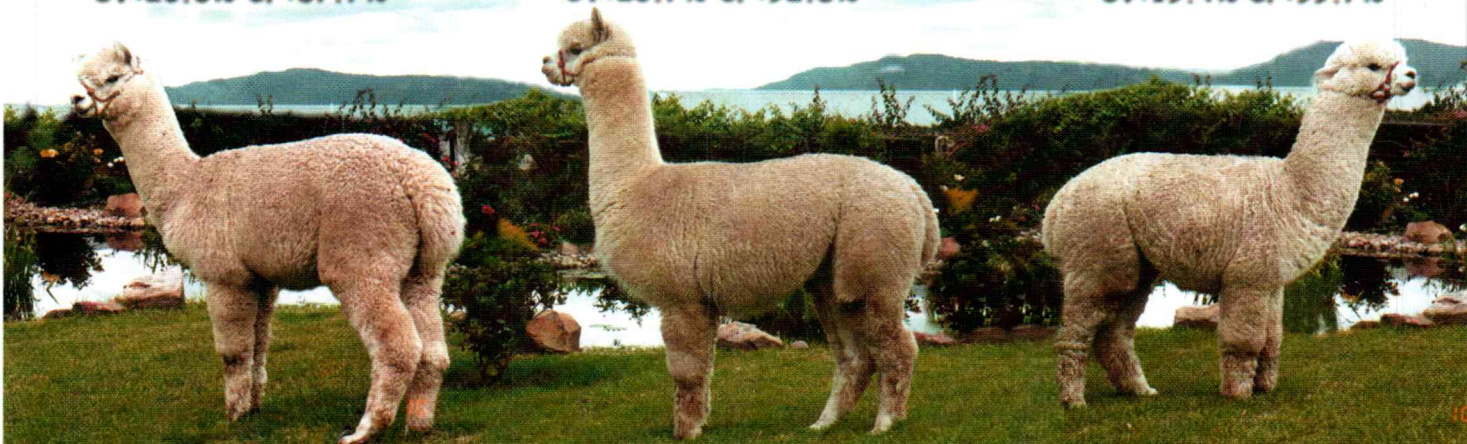
Sire - Peruvian
Mic:24.9 SD:4.9
CV:20.0% CF:87.7%

Starline MR. UNIVERSE (40)

Sire - Somerset Atahualpa
Mic:23.1 SD:4.7
CV:20.7% CF:92.8%

Starline SPUTNIK (08)

Sire - Purumbete Highlander
Mic:16.5 SD:3.2
CV:19.4% CF:99.7%



ALSO Starline BRIGHT MOON
Sire - Jolimont Antares
Mic:20.5 SD:4.4 CV:21.7% CF:99.6%

WHY NOT CHECK IT OUT YOURSELVES?

Please contact us for further information:
Stirling Keayes (Farm Manager) Ph: 0438 791 081
FARM: 1100 Milbrodale Road
BROKE NSW 2330 (Hunter Valley)
email: starlinealpacas@bigpond.com

Come & visit us & stay at our well appointed self-contained sandstone cabins, have a game of tennis, enjoy a swim in our pool, or just relax in the spa or sauna watching the peaceful alpacas graze in front of your cabin - & enjoy the wonderful vineyards surrounding our property.
Website: www.starlinealpacas.com



The sailing fraternity and the alpaca industry join forces

by DENISE BEARD
RUSTIQUE ALPACAS, VIC

The National Flying Fifteen Sailing Titles were held at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club, Paynesville, Victoria, over 2001-2002 Christmas/New Year period and as a member of the organising committee I volunteered to hold a Chicken and Champagne Luncheon for the companions of the sailors.

Having said that I thought what a fantastic opportunity to promote the alpaca industry. Hence the Chicken and Champagne, Fashion Parade and Alpaca Promotion was born.

Under the leadership of our Regional President, Alan Fraser, the event was held on Friday 4th January 2002.

The breeders who participated in the promotion, sponsored by the AAA Victorian Eastern Region, have supplied their profiles and thoughts on the outcome of the day.



Robert Beard (and crew hidden) in *Georgie Girl III* with alpaca advertising

A Touch of Alpaca

by Sheila Hansen

The principles of *A Touch of Alpaca* started farming alpacas in 1995, always with the idea of value adding.

Bodil Nielsen and her husband of Dannaroo Alpaca Stud, and my husband, Graeme and myself of Birks Alpaca Stud, are near each other in Central Gippsland.

In conversation when we met, we found we wanted to do the same thing and so together we started the long road to producing fine knit garments from Australian alpaca fibre, and *A Touch of Alpaca* label was founded.

In 1996 this was very much pioneering stuff as, until that time,

garments available in Australia were either imported or made from imported fibre. As with any new industry, an infrastructure for all the ongoing aspects had not yet been set in place and so we had to learn as we went.

Bodil and I wanted to produce garments that were well finished and would not stretch or shrink and would have a long life. Our designs are classic, elegant and easy to wear, all things the discerning Australian looks for. It is with pleasure we have found that the overseas visitor also goes for this in a big way. *A Touch of Alpaca* sells to retail outlets or direct, is currently working on its third brochure and is about to launch a web site.

The Alpaca Promotion was a great opportunity to show the end product to a group of people, the majority of whom had nothing to do with alpacas or the industry and therefore an ideal place to promote both animals and the end product. Since comments from the guests were extremely complimentary, we felt this was great publicity for the industry in Australia.

As a promotion this was excellent, the feedback was many fold encompassing comments like, "I did not know we had alpacas in Australia", and expressions of surprise that we could produce such lovely stylish garments. S. HANSEN

Ellersley Alpacas

by Heather & Neil Hand

Ellersley Alpacas is situated 6kms out of Bairnsdale on 14 acres with a view of the Gippsland Lakes. In the six years since Neil and I purchased our first alpaca (a pregnant white Chilean import, with female cria at foot), we have seen our herd grow to 22 animals. Having female crias in the early years gave us great encouragement.

In 1998 twins were born into our herd. The dam achieved delivery unobserved and unaided and a busy time ensued. Both crias lived and they are still with us. *Lockie* has since been wethered and *Lucy* turned out to be sterile. These two alpacas have a special place in our herd, nevertheless.

Neil and I are both from dairy farming backgrounds and alpacas have opened up the World of Fibre, especially for me, in particular using fibre for felting. Again, from simple beginnings of a bath mat, I have been able to achieve fine, luxurious felted garments. This year's highlight has been a group effort that resulted in a felted alpaca wedding gown (fleece supplied by Ellersley Alpacas and Tambo Downs Alpaca Stud) and accessories ie: veil, bouquet and tiara.

Along with other local alpaca breeders and felters we have been able to promote the use of alpaca fibre for this wonderful art. Recently "The Fabulous Felters" of East Gippsland held an inaugural exhibition at the Nicholson Street Gallery, Bairnsdale, and a lot of interest was shown in the wedding outfit and other alpaca garments. H. HAND



The bride, Melanie Tarling, modelling the felted wedding outfit – lustre of Suri fleece on the veil evident

Bungalook Alpaca Farm

by Rick & Josephine Jakobi

Bungalook Alpaca Farm was invited to participate in the Alpaca Promotion Day and we were glad of the opportunity to show off the progress we have made.

We first joined the industry in 1991 and, being the first in our East Gippland area, learned to be self sufficient in the skills of shearing, teeth and toe trimming, training and breeding. Teaching our alpacas to lead made us aware of the shortcomings of the conventional headstalls and prompted the development of the Bungalook 'Y' front headstall, which has proved to be very popular, here and in the USA.

Rick has also built his own portable shearing table, making his task of shearing, teeth and toe trimming for local breeders, much easier.

Our current herd of 25 is a big improvement on the three Chileans that we began with. We have concentrated on breeding for fineness, density and conformation and are especially pleased with the results so far from our new sire *Mitchell Park Providence*. He has three fine, female cria on the ground and they look promising.

"The Alpaca Promotion Day brought us into contact with local people who had plenty of questions about the industry and our role in it. It also brought breeders from further afield, allowing good exchange of information and ideas.

One can never accurately judge the outcomes of events such as this, but the general feeling of goodwill between participants and onlookers can only enhance our industry. Many thanks and congratulations to Denise for her willingness to organise us all into taking part. J. JAKOBI

Kalpara Park Alpaca Stud

by Helen McLeod

We have been running alpacas since 1990 and bought our property of 40 acres at Tynong in 1994 and then moved the alpacas we already had on site. My husband, Bob, and I have 54 alpacas, our three children have nine and four grandchildren, one, and there are 16 agisted. We mainly sell weaners for breeding and have a variety of bloodlines of very good quality with winners in the showing.

We are having trouble keeping up with the demand for wethered alpacas, due to their proven success as guards (fox deterrents) on sheep properties.

In January I went along to the luncheon fashion parade and Alpaca Promotion Day with two shorn alpacas that were being returned to a miniature farm on Raymond Island (close to Bairnsdale) and set up a pen and umbrella for the alpacas. There were many "oohs" and "aahs" from the ladies of the Yacht Club and local people who, as it turned out, knew the alpacas from the miniature farm.

Late in the afternoon I packed up and safely delivered the alpacas back to Raymond Island, then home feeling tired and a little sunburnt. A truly wonderful day.

H. McLEOD

Truleen Downs

by Colleen Long

Truleen Downs was established in May 1991 with the purchase of a pregnant female, female cria and two young males.

Today, we run around 60 head and with improved breeding have enjoyed a successful show record. Truleen Downs offers a range of services from agistment – stud services – alpaca sales – workshops and spinning courses. 1993 saw the start of tourism involvement with group farm tours and the opening of the Paca Shack Gift Shop supporting both Australian and imported alpaca products.

In 2001 Truleen Downs was nominated for the Cardinia Business Awards and won an award for Tourism. 2002 saw the birth of Truleen Downs B & B.

Truleen Downs' aim is to be supportive of the alpaca industry and remain the quiet achievers.

Supporting the Alpaca Promotion at Bairnsdale on 4 January 2002 was an interesting outing with a good crowd in attendance. Truleen Downs will continue to support the promotion of alpaca at every opportunity.

C. LONG

Rustique Alpacas

by Denise & Robert Beard

Robert and I are both retired from our professional careers and live on 10 acres, 8kms north of Bairnsdale.

In September 1999 we began creating our herd with the purchase of one pregnant female and one male weanling. With the intention of building our herd we purchased another female nine months later. Our male has since been wethered and is a fantastic guard for our herd of now eight animals. We often see foxes taking a wide berth of our property.

When commencing in the industry our plan was to promote alpaca in the best way we could with the resources at hand. We did this by:

- Starting farm visits when we had just two animals.
- Placing a business card advertisement in the *Yacht Club Newsletter* with local and Melbourne distribution.
- Advertising our business with a silhouette of an alpaca on the sails of Robert's yacht. At National and State and Club races this creates immense discussion about the wonderful animal and the industry.
- Co-ordinating the Alpaca Promotion in conjunction with the National Sailing Titles.

- Involvement with articles (through the Fabulous Felters' group) on alpaca in newspapers, including *The Weekly Times*.
- At the East Gippsland Wool Awards "The Wedding Dress" (mentioned previously) was highly commended, providing ongoing promotion of the industry
- Exhibiting felted alpaca end products at a local Gallery.

Over the past three years we have achieved many of our goals and have met many interesting people willing to impart their knowledge onto new breeders.

Summing up The Alpaca Promotion Day – How does one measure outcome?

Is it publicity for the industry? Is it enticing people into alpaca farming? Is it financial gain from sales of alpaca end product?

All of the above were achieved at the Alpaca Promotion and, with a holistic view, I would have to say the day was very successful and gave participants the thirst for more information on the industry, particularly those who would not normally have attended such a promotion.

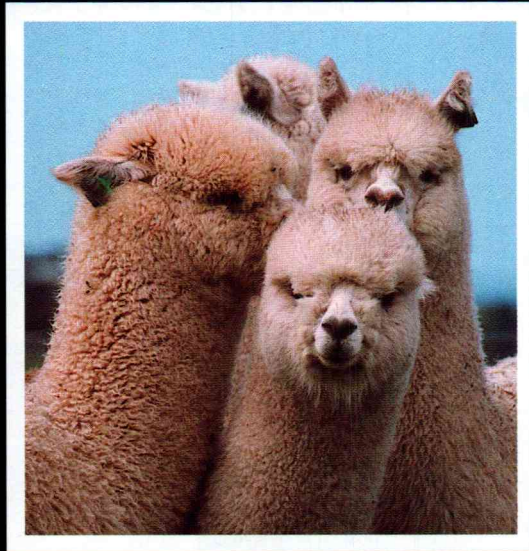
Finally I would like to thank everyone involved on the day and to the breeders for taking the time in supplying their profiles for this story.

D. BEARD



Fabulous Felters (left to right): Kaye McNeill (Tambo Downs Alpaca Stud), Cookie Holmbach, Judith Reid and grandson Thomas Hyatt, Melanie Tarling, Heather Hand (Ellersley Alpacas), Zita Veldhuizen, Vivienne Young, Denise Beard (Rustique Alpacas)

PUCARA ALPACA STUD



Which ever way, we're worth getting to know.



PUCARA ALPACA STUD

Jude Anderson & Alan Cousill

Mail: PO Box 669
Torquay Vic 3228
Fax: (03) 5263 3364
Phone: (03) 5263 3436
E-Mail: pucara@bigpond.com

400 Alpacas on farm
80 on sale list

- Honesty
- Service
- Energy
- Integrity

The Sollocota Story

A commune-al effort

Janie and Aldous Hicks, moved with their three children to Arequipa, Peru last year to carry out an alpaca fibre research project in conjunction with Dr Jim Watts. Janie spent 16 weeks in the sierra and covered an area of investigation from as far north as Amcash, north of Lima, to the most southern boundary of Peru, assessing stock on basis of fibre types in association with Coolaroo's research with Jim since 1996. Specimens collected are now under analysis at his laboratory in Mittagong and preliminary results and interpretation of this ground breaking new research will be presented in Noosa, Queensland, at the Australian National Conference in August.



(left to right)
Janie Hicks,
President Nazario,
Justino Aquino Cabrera

by JANIE HICKS
SRS® BREEDING CONSULTANT (ALPACAS)

Azangaro, Peru October 2001

The alpaca herds we seek are at Sollocota in southern Peru, nestled deep and high in the Altiplano in the venerated ancient ranges of the Carabaya. The road levels at last onto the fertile Pampa of Sollocota.

There is a thud on the cabin roof. We stop and the first of our hitchhikers, from the village 4 hours earlier, signals the end of her journey. She asks to pay her way and our refusal wins a shy smile. The woman is Quechuan or *Runi*, as it is in her language. She is lean, despite her bulky clothing and looks strong. She gathers up her peacefully sleeping baby (*waa waa*), wrapping it in her brightly coloured blanket (*manta*), hitches it onto her back, and strides off.

Her two children jump down lithely and follow her. They hurry out across the pampa, she, in her voluminous skirt and cheekily perched black bowler hat. Such dress is a comic portrayal of naïve modernity, the bowler hat, a distorted inheritance left by male railway workers from Great Britain 150 years ago, and the multi layered skirt, a Spanish influence, increasingly worn since the 1700's.

Despite an unkempt appearance, Peruvian children from the earliest age know their responsibilities. Whether it is care of a small animal or herd or a sibling they toil good-naturedly and stoic. Opportunities are limited for them, for whilst they attend school of sorts, that satisfies the government's façade of education under a socialist banner, under scrutiny there are often no books or pencils whilst classrooms are cement shells with no heating or facilities.

Half an hour later we are halted by a drop bar attended by a khaki clad guard, complete with an AK47 slung casually over his shoulder, and a holstered pistol. He scrutinizes our papers, and waves us through. This is a customary welcome to Sollocota, a remnant of terrorism 10 years ago. It is unlikely either weapon is loaded for whilst the weapons exist no bullets are supplied.

We enter what can best be described as a one horse town, featuring its own dilapidated church with its worn steps and flaking white paint and its original hacienda left to rot after the land reforms. Across the dusty square stands a corrugated iron cantina where local tales are told with pride and where the single daily repast is devoured with the ferociousness of hunger. To these people there are no modern indulgences like three meals or tea breaks.

From the largest building a lone Justino Aquino Cabrera emerges. He is short and appears luckier than most for he wears leather shoes, suggesting a man of some means and possibly education. His demeanor is unsmiling but not unfriendly. Few words are spoken as associates (*socios*) of the community emerge from the shadows.

Senor Cabrera is tired. He is the Secretary (*Secretario*) of administration for the agricultural community of SAIS Sollocota and it is the end of the month. He has calculated the Government's stake that he must pay this month, 18% of earnings plus a further 2% for rent. He has also calculated the amount to pay the administration staff, of which there are seven, and each of the 180 socios that make up the society (*comunidad or ayllus*). "Lima (the Government) has enough already and there are many mouths to feed". Taxes, considered high and unfair, are seen simply as revenue for the politicians.

We are causing much curiosity, for not only am I white, I am also a woman! But our presence signals the

possibility of selling some alpacas and hence there is much excitement. Government legislation means that animals for export gain higher prices, so breeders are always excited when gringos visit.

Soon we are invited into the President's office to meet President (*Varoyoc*) Nazario and various office bearers. After a three-minute presentation all but the President and the co-operative's Treasurer (*Tesoro*), Telefilo, have nodded off.

Then Nazario, long past pretending any real understanding but always polite, nods a grave thank you for the presentation. No questions are asked, but obligingly permission is granted for us to carry out our research following shearing in October. In exchange we offer the research results and photographs and publicity about their alpacas in the Australian Alpaca Magazine.

Blinking to ward off the return to new brittle light, we emerge to see about 50 men, red eyed and slow moving, wrapped in hand-woven alpaca mantas (blankets) some red

died in cochineal, and most wearing a triumph of modern utilisation, the tyre rubber sandals (*ojotas*).

An unexpected hint of opulence strikes me as I examine the ornate black and white design in the cobblestones of the old home's courtyard and the unexpected existence of four large pot-like structures containing enormous quenoales trees. Quenoales are native to the Altiplano and usually grow above 3,000 metres. They stand as a legacy of the days when servants tended these gardens until, in 1969 Senor Carlos Ardonde, a fourth generation owner, was driven from his land leaving his life's work and a heritage he and his family believed was theirs. Telefilo shows no emotion as he relates this story and I get the impression he cares little for the plight of the former colonial masters of the Altiplano.

In 1968, General Velasco, reviled by many, led a left wing movement in a coup d'état. The agrarian reform he imposed was intended to curb the oligarchic abuses of the oppressed



Skin testing at Amilcar's farm

majority, the *Runa* or peasantry, the Quechuan and the Aymaran Indians. Tragically, much of the agricultural land has never really recovered, and the massive migration of people to the shanty towns surrounding Arequipa, Lima and the coastal plain, is still a desperate one-way flow. But possibly Sollocota is one of the few communities well organized enough to make a go of it.

But when landowners like Carlos Ardonde fled, the wealthy and the educated also fled. They took their belongings, their farm machinery, often even destroyed their homes so as to not benefit the 'communist thieves', and worse still, they took their agricultural and technical expertise. Those who remained, demoralised and defeated, contributed little to the new order. Nazario may well have worked for the *Cabellero* (gentleman) and from him we learnt that the Ardonde family lives in virtual exile in Venezuela farming cattle.

Some months have passed, it is October 2001 and the Puna enters an unusual time of year. Not summer, nor winter, a strange climate influenced extraordinarily by the proximity of the Amazon. At this time heavy snowfalls can close the access to the high mountains when heavily pregnant nimbus clouds from warmer Brazil hit the Cordillera Oriental and dump onto the Peruvian sierra.

In such conditions our '92 Nissan 4 wheel drive slithers and heaves its way up at snail's pace through deep snow over a hard rocky base high above Sollocota. I am relieved that the forward party, who had departed much earlier, left their tracks as a clear guide over the vastness of white before us. Looking far downwards, we see glimpses of the vivid green of the Pampa indicating cultivated pastures of Lucerne and Fescue. President Nazario has sheep and cattle foraging on these pastures. He tells me that alpacas teeth grow too long on it so are never offered other than natural pastures. These areas are wire fenced and irrigated by flood irrigation from ancient channels through the Pampa and bofedales.

At last we reach the mountain god (*Apu*) Mt Vilasisuya. The terrain is breathtaking. High plains and puna dissected by sheer cliffs with river chasms feeding down into the Amazon basin to the east and Lake Titicaca to the South. Up here, 5,500

metres altitude, impenetrable except by barely discernable dirt roads, Mt Vilasisuya remains one of the most undeveloped and one of the most remote parts of Peru.

President Nazario, who has kindly accompanied us, then relates an extraordinary saga. Here only a dozen years ago a young, well-educated Arequipean fanatic nicknamed "The Gringo" because of his fair colouring, led a group of terrified men, women and children to their deaths. Following many attacks on the community and aimless butchering and slaughter of 90% of Sollocota's fine herds of alpaca, sheep and cattle, police and locals pursued the intruders up the gorges and onto the ridges. Many members of the small community died. History tells us that finally in 1992 the Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*), as this cruel band of idealists called themselves, was finally disbanded after the capture of its leaders under the new president of the day, Fujimori. The 10-year reign of terror, during which over 30,000 died, caused another enormous exodus from the mountains to the cities, further decimating the dwindling mountain tribes and their rich cultural heritage.

A cross marks the site and no traveler passes without paying respects for the dead and the customary asking for a blessing for a safe trip onwards. Nearby a cairn (*apacita*) standing about 6 feet high is made of rocks hauled from the lowlands as an act of faith or contrition or for luck.

Later President Nazario explains the structure of the comunidad. The 20,000 hectares are owned or rented by the Co-operative, however each of the associates runs his own land of about 20 to 30 hectares. After a certain amount of sheep or cattle, i.e. 6 cows, the associate has to pay a fee to the Co-operative. Each associate employs shepherds (*pastors*) who are keepers of the animals out on the Pampa or grazing lands. Technical people within the comunidad do all the vaccinations of the animals.

Sollocota runs 7,800 huacaya and 200 suris, 90% of which are white. As well as a General (*Mahada*) herd Sollocota also run a Stud (*Plantel*) group of 300 hembras and 40 Machos. Both Plantel males and females are selected by a wing of the Ministry of Agriculture specializing in camelids called 'Conacs'.

Approximately 300 machos are annually joined to 3,000 working hembras and shearing occurs early October, then again in March and May. The mating of suri machos to huacaya hembras is being carried out in an attempt to capture the price of the suri fibre, which, at the moment, fetches double that of huacaya. Nazario says this practice is sierra wide and is causing considerable concern to purist breeders and geneticists.

The Comunidad also run cattle, sheep and 7 domesticated, delightfully curious vicuñas with a further 60 running in the high mountains (*altura*).

Sollocota has many huts (*cabanas*) for shepherds, unobtrusively nestled near the large bofedales (*occo*) where they practice rotational grazing. Chullio is a cabana at 4,800 metres and is one of the most accessible at Sollocota. "The animals will be brought down here for groups of 'Gringos' when they come to buy," says Nazario.

After some 5 hours we arrive at the Unidad de Production of Viluyo (4,800 metres altitude). Viluyo has about 20 men working shifts. They descend to their families at various stages during the week on a rotational basis. The animals are ready for us, newly shorn with long welts of the hand shears making them resemble mobile wall hangings, such is the unevenness of the shearer's strokes. Males shorn last May looked more presentable, but they are oddly elongated and out of proportion by the sculptured effect of years of unshorn tails, legs and chests.

We started work quickly, interrupted only by the odd guffaw, question or expression as I, that strange gringa, and Gino, my driver, examined corrals of animals in sodden, icy conditions. A wizened hand of inexhaustible humour and patience called Alejandro Chocano ran the herd through the first drafting race that we had seen in use in the sierra. Of the 300 males, five animals ranging from 5 to 12 years of age were selected. Samples from various sites of the fleece and skin were taken causing comments and enthusiastic discussion. We questioned, noted and photographed copiously, working fast to beat nightfall owing to the treacherous conditions of the roads.

As we slither back to our truck freshly spilled blood signals a recent



A cairn (apacita) standing about 6 feet high made of rocks hauled from the lowlands as an act of faith or contrition or for luck – Apu (mountain god) Mt Vilasisuya 5,500 metres altitude.

slaughter. Giving a lift to several of the herdsmen I discover the whereabouts of the unfortunate animal, bagged in hessian sacks on the laps of our passengers!

Even though the road is quite new, previous access being only by foot or horseback, the journey back is tediously slow, for the snow is thawing and the roads treacherous.

On the lee side of the mountains the jagged steep slopes expose a wonderful variety of soil colours. This beckons more questions of Nazario. "Yes, mining did occur in the district". Soroconi once produced gold, silver, copper and sulphur but has since been abandoned. Continual changes of government policy, local environment hardship, and exhausted resource have contributed to mines all over Peru being strangled. Most are begun by foreign investment, but not too many have weathered the uncertainty of survival.

Down on the lower slopes, I comment on the rows of ploughed earth etched like enormous clawmarks over miles of virgin and bare hillsides. One of the passengers, the only one awake, explains that it was a failed reforestation of the sierra project, commenced in the days of

Fujimori but now discontinued. This is the risk of so many good projects in Peru, the capital and resolve fail to continue past the initial good idea.

Back in Sollocota we gratefully accept a delicious brew of their traditional broth, the local spicy ricotto or hot chili enhances its flavour. We dash down plates of rice, an alpaca chop and sweetened tea. As night falls we prepare to depart thanking Nazario and his colleagues with gifts of beer, photographs of our previous visit, and other western paraphernalia.

A sense of sadness pervades my departure from these lands and these peoples, but inevitably the miles of gravel, give way to modernity, a tarmac road and by midnight we are showering with an electrically heated water system in Juliaca. As I unpack my sack, I feel an unexpected weight. Fossicking I find a hard yellow-skinned round of Sollocota cheese, a gift from the Runi woman, and I am touched again by their amazing generosity in the face of so little. I place it next to the precious specimen bottles already labeled, plugged and sealed for export to the lab and exhausted, collapse into bed. Such great rewards bring on easy sleep. ■

To start to acknowledge the enormous generosity of spirit of the Peruvians both in the mountains and elsewhere would fill volumes.

However it would be remiss not to mention communities and farms like Sollocota, individuals like Dr Rito Huata, Monserrat, Gino and Eng. Edmundo Apaza in Juliaca and of course, the amazingly innovative and hardworking fibre companies, International de Comercio, Grupo Inca and Michell Group.

In Australia, the family runs Coolaroo Alpaca Stud in Mittagong, NSW, and the Alpaca Centre Australia, a successful alpaca fashion outlet in nearby Berrima, NSW.

Have you moved, or are you moving soon?

Please remember to notify the AAA Office of address changes.

Phone +61 3 9873 7700

or fax +61 3 9873 7711

This will also update your 'Alpacas Australia' Subscription address.

BLUE GRASS



Alpacas of Outstanding Quality

Honest, reliable, friendly advice & service



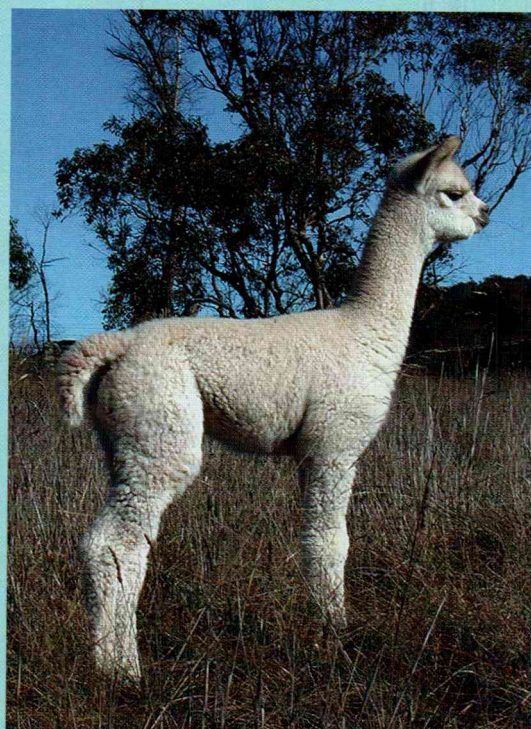
Blue Grass Amazing Grace at 3 weeks old

Julie & Arthur Mavros Ph. (02) 4821 3403

JOLIMONT WARRIOR

Truly Outstanding

*His cria have surpassed all our expectations
Your inspection is welcomed*



*"Like Father, Like Daughter"
Blue Grass Mercedes at 3 weeks*

www.bluegrassalpacaacademy.com

...make a note of that!

by Dr IAN DAVISON
ILLAWARRA ALPACAS, NSW

When first we, at Illawarra Alpacas, examined the alpaca industry in 1991, there were several features that drew us towards this particular rural enterprise. Not the least was the fact that, outside of South America, so little was known about this extraordinary and enchanting animal. Should we decide upon Hereford cattle, we mused, we would be competing with generations of accumulated wisdom and experience that we could never hope to embrace within our own lifetime, and we could therefore never aspire to be expert within our chosen endeavour. In alpacas, however, and disregarding a host of other appealing virtues, we saw a sunrise industry in which our contribution could be significant, and in which our experience could count in the future development and direction of the breed. Coming, as we did, with a combination of livestock and scientific experience in our previous lives, we saw an opportunity for enquiry and research that could break new ground, and answer questions previously not addressed in the alpaca's native habitat of South America.



Over the past 10 years, and with a herd that has grown to about 300 alpacas, we have made a point of recording as much data as possible, hoping that our experience will eventually translate into some useful research. When people talk of research, they are often inclined to think of hi-tech projects such as gene sequencing, or of large field projects such as wether trials. But research can take a much simpler form, and every breeder can make a contribution through the simple recording of basic data.

Nothing can be more basic than recording the weight of alpacas at various times throughout the year. These figures can be examined retrospectively, and analysed according to age, season, stage of gestation, and whether a male is working or not. From such figures, conclusions may be drawn about seasonal variations in weight according to availability and quality of feed; of expected weight gain during pregnancy; of weight changes with progressive age; and whether sexually active males can be expected to drop in weight. Our own recordings some years ago of weight gain in crias, when plotted against their age, led us to an observation that has become a handy rule of thumb in mentally assessing the growth rate in crias: simply take the birth weight, and for each successive month add (in kilograms)

6, 6, 5, 5, 4, 4, 3, and 3. Hence, an average eight month old cria born at 7 kgs might be expected to weigh $7+6+6+5+5+4+4+3+3 = 43$ kgs. Whilst not necessarily reflecting the experience of all breeders, it has given us a useful yardstick for a quick assessment of any cria within our own herd.

Whilst on weighing, what can be more fundamental in a fleece industry than weighing the fleeces of each alpaca at shearing? Do the best fleece weights run in related families of alpaca? What is the ratio of skirted saddle to neck and skirtings? What happens to fleece weight with pregnancy? Age? Season? Do some colours shear higher weights than others? Again, our recordings show that an average animal has a fleece weight composed roughly of 50% saddle, 33% skirts, and 17% neck (3/6, 2/6, and 1/6 of total fleece weight respectively). Alpacas that shear high fleece weights, or whose skirted saddle comprises more than 50% of total fleece weight, are deserving of special attention.

At Illawarra Alpacas, we have tested almost all our fleeces at every shearing for the past 8 years. Lurking in that data, yet to be critically analysed, is important information on micron blowout with age, heritability of fleece characteristics, relationships between micron, standard deviation and comfort factor, and relationship of

micron to colour. If correlated with body weights, the data may indicate relationships between level of nutrition and fibre micron; correlated with fleece weights, they will distinguish between commercially valuable alpacas, and those which should be culled. Do all alpacas blow out with age? If so, is the blowout progressive, or does it flatten out at some particular age? At what age is fleece weight at its peak? What *rate* of fall off in fleece weights can be expected with age? Does CV always fall as micron increases? The answers to these and other questions are before your very eyes.

Another very simple recording is fleece length. We measure this at the midside using a standard and reproducible technique that employs a 6 inch plastic ruler. There is amazing variation in the rate of fleece growth between animals and, I suspect, in the same animal between seasons. We expect an average of 1cm per month of fleece growth, which should yield an average fleece length of 12cms at shearing, but the variation is extraordinary.

Body score is another simple and easily recordable observation. Again, and especially if weights are unavailable, it is an important indicator of animal health and nutrition (undernourished or ill animals can look notoriously well and healthy in a

full fleece, and still feel like bones in a blanket to the examining hand). Constant practice of Brailing backbones will soon make your hands your eyes in assessing alpaca nutrition.

Countless other opportunities exist for basic alpaca research. In the mating yard, what is the average time taken for a male's first mating of the day? The second? The third, or subsequent? What is the strike rate for matings producing pregnancies? Does it correlate with length of service? Does the strike rate for males deteriorate with their advancing age? What is the period postpartum when a female is most likely to fall pregnant to a single mating? How does length of gestation vary with season of mating? What is average gestation, and what is the range? Even the most obscure, or seemingly absurd, questions can be addressed: does the strike rate vary with the time of day? Can any correlation be made between the sex of the cria and the length of service?

So many questions can be answered simply by recording raw data for later analysis, and then comparing trends between two parameters. Sometimes, the variables may prove independent of each other (eg. fleece colour and strike rate), and in others they may seem very closely correlated (eg. fleece length and fleece

weight). In some, the relationships may seem implicit and logical, but with lots of exceptions (eg. micron and fleece weight). These last may be very useful in making selection decisions for future breeding, distinguishing between commercially valuable and regressive animals.

The International Alpaca Register and the AAA's Fleece Sampling Project are examples of data collection that provide us with critically useful information. But they, like on-farm projects, are only as good as the quality of the data entry. However simple the data you choose to collect, it should be measured and recorded obsessively and meticulously, and to a defined standard. The midside sampling procedure is a classic example: the point to be sampled is defined as the midpoint of a line drawn between the skin folds where the front and back legs meet the body of the alpaca, not simply a hands breadth below the wither; the fibres to be sampled are those taking origin at this point, not those hanging down over it. Poor sampling techniques produce poor statistics and unreliable results; they are at best worthless, and at worst, misleading.

Whether your herd is of 3 alpacas or 300, your observations can help to write the book on alpacas for future generations of alpaca breeders. Get out there... *and make a note of that!* ■



Raising Respectful Alpacas

by MARTY McGEE BENNETT
TEAM

Alpacas are wonderful – no doubt about it. You get to experience all the fun stuff about barnyard life without the smell, mounds of poop, noise, and physical danger that often go along with other species of livestock. Sometimes we forget that the cute, cuddly, fifteen-pound baby alpaca that looks like a long-necked teddy bear is a barn animal that will grow up to weigh 100 to 180 pounds or more when he is full grown.

it is in everyone's best interest (especially the alpaca's) to raise a pleasant, polite, tractable, interested, confident alpaca. Alpacas that are a joy to be around add fun to your life. Bratty, obnoxious, spoiled alpacas, on the other hand, are no fun and can grow up to be a real problem. There is more to raising alpacas than putting a male and female in the same pasture. How to do it?

I think that in order to encourage appropriate behavior in adult male alpacas, we first need to decide what appropriate behavior actually is. Surprisingly, many people haven't thought this one out. If you don't know what it is you want, you are probably not going to get it – at least on a consistent basis. The answer to this question is not going to be the same for everyone. Just as with raising children, different parents expect different standards of behavior. When you are shopping for companion or breeding males, it would be a good idea to both watch the breeder interact with his or her animals and compare notes with the breeder.

It is important to understand the nature of your chosen animal companion. Unless we make a conscious effort to shift our perspective, we humans see everything from a human point of view. When interpreting your alpaca's behavior, it is helpful to think about the world from an alpaca's point of view. From *your* point of view, the alpaca baby may be: the object of your affection; the most wonderfully perfect baby in the entire world; a cute, cuddly teddy bear you would love to bring in the house; and an animal in whom you have a heavy emotional and perhaps a significant financial investment. Who are you to your alpaca? From a baby alpaca's point of view you may be an interesting, potentially dangerous and odd combination of feed bin, playground, and predator. The point is the way you behave and the kind of interaction you allow determines what your young alpacas will think about you. We humans often allow behavior from baby animals that we cannot and will not tolerate from adults of that same species. This double standard is not only unfair, but it creates great confusion.



BUNGALOOK

Alpaca Headstalls

..... are designed to fit alpacas. They come with leads attached and are **ideal** for training Cria.



The Bungalook Headstall holds the lead rope in the best position for controlling the alpaca. The animal is not discomforted by the irritation of a nose strap pulling across the soft tissue of the nose and is able to give its attention to your leading lesson.

Available in Large & Small sizes in
Black, Brown, Blue, Gold & Red

Credit card orders welcome
\$27.50 each (inc. GST)
plus postage (\$5 for up to 6 headstalls)

Send your order with choice of colours and sizes to
Bungalook Alpaca Farm
P.O. Box 204 Lakes Entrance
Vic 3909 Australia
Ph/Fax: 03 51552464
E-mail: bungalook@b150.aone.net.au
Web site:

<http://www.gippsnet.com.au/alpaca/001/halter.htm>



Your baby alpaca is asking you very important questions...

What are you?

Will you play with me?

Are you to be respected?

What am I allowed to do with you?

How strong are you?

Can I control you?

Is it okay to climb on you like a hill?

Can I eat you like grass?

Will you shock me like that funny wire stuff?

It is completely natural for a young animal to explore his environment. Alpacas are born with different personalities and tendencies, some are much more precocious than others. An alpaca's innate behavior has been shaped by his historically natural environment. Young alpacas usually grow up with other adult alpacas, as well as lots of other same-gender and opposite-gender youngsters with which to play. His instincts tell him to play, wrestle, bite, and bump. In South America, there would be lots of companions around, eager to do the same.

Many alpaca breeders in the United States (and Australia) have very small groups of animals, and therefore are unlikely to have large groups of babies or sometimes even more than one. A single young male living with two adult females in a small pasture is going to have some instincts that will be frustrated. Adult animals in his environment will not want to play and in fact they are probably saying something like, "Get away from me, kid, you bother me." A young alpaca who grows up without other youngsters around will tend to find us two-legged's much more interesting than if he had five other babies with which to play. There are a number of

circumstances that may create overly-interested male youngsters. You are more likely to meet one if:

- you have a small herd group
- your baby does not have another male baby with which to play
- you have a small property
- you have small children that spend large amounts of time in the barn
- you have to bottle feed, supplement, or medically treat a cria for some reason.

In addition to the circumstances described above, some babies arrive in the world with an unusual interest in humans. You may raise five, ten, or twenty alpaca crias before you meet one – but when you have one, you can't miss him. These babies hit the ground with a desire to be right in your pocket. This may sound like Heaven to you if you have not had much experience raising alpacas. Beware: these youngsters require some extra effort and a bit of vigilance in their upbringing. Regardless of the reasons for it, if you have a young male that is interacting with you, it is very important for you to be clear about what you say, backed by your behavior.

Young crias that rub, lean, stand closely, walk right up and put their nose in your face or crotch, and fail to yield space when you move toward them are often referred to as friendly. In my opinion, these behaviors are not friendly in our sense of the word. Your baby alpaca is exploring his environment and checking out the boundaries of what is allowed.

The conventional wisdom of ignoring youngsters until it is time to train them, in my experience, is not the answer. Like it or not, you are training your alpacas all the time, so is every one else who comes in contact with them. If you do nothing to discourage this seemingly 'friendly' behavior, it may grow into behavior that is a problem later on. These early questions signal that it is time for you to set clear boundaries.

Let's look at a specific situation. Your cria runs up to you as soon as you appear in the field, bounces to a stop and picks at whatever is in your pocket as you walk around the barnyard. At 30 pounds, this behavior is cute. Everyone that visits loves this little guy, pets him, hand feeds him, and in general thinks he is the cutest alpaca baby in the entire world. This little guy wants to play and wrestle and do all the things alpacas do with

each other – BUT *with humans*. Unless you correct this impression, why wouldn't he assume that it is okay to continue on in the same vein.... chest-butting, leg-biting, spitting, and other behaviors normally reserved for other alpacas?

It is truly not a big deal to stop this behavior before it gets going. Take care of your personal space. Insist that alpacas approach and greet you respectfully. I consider a foot and a half around me from head to toe is my personal space. A human need only stop an alpaca from barging into this space; we do not need to chase him away. I use my finger and flick the nose (like flicking a piece of lint off my sleeve) and say firmly STAY BACK. "Stay back" is a much better command than NO. "No" is usually said with anger. It is also dreadfully over used and non-specific. We use "No" for everything. How is an alpaca supposed to figure out what NO means when it seems to mean ten different things. In my opinion, it would be a big mistake (and a very common one) to push this young guy away when he approaches. This indicates you are going to participate with him physically, just like another alpaca male would. From your alpaca's point of view, you have just put on the alpaca sparring uniform and entered the fray. I would also discourage yelling as a correction. Yelling gets everybody's blood going, escalates the situation, and indicates that you are afraid.

I don't want to create the impression that you need to whack a little alpaca baby that walks up with his neck and nose extended for a greeting. There is certainly nothing wrong with a young alpaca soliciting a nose greeting with neck and nose extended and then waiting politely for you to lean forward to participate in the greeting. Sticking his nose in your face or other body parts any time he feels like it is crossing the line of allowable behavior.

If you are currently dealing with a young alpaca who has headed down this road and is already at the point of rubbing and pushing, you may need more than your fingers to back these little guys up. A lightweight plastic Frisbee or pie tin is a good tool. The large area makes it easy to connect with the nose and if it makes a bit of a noise so much the better. Remember, when you use one of these tools – no follow-through – use a very short, staccato bop on the nose, along with a firm "STAY BACK."

You are creating a force field around you. The alpaca is running into the force field, not the other way around. It is important that every human in your young alpaca's life behaves consistently. If you have children, keep them away from this young alpaca until he understands how to behave. Don't expect farm visitors to train your alpaca for you. If you have farm visitors, put this guy on a halter, or if he is not halter trained, put him away. It is not a bad idea to geld this kind of male alpaca, however gelding uncomplicates the problem, but doesn't solve it. You must still learn to behave differently and set limits.

Female alpacas can become disrespectful, too. My policy is to treat males and females no differently. I insist on respectful behavior from both genders. Crias do best if they have other crias to play with. With other babies around, in many cases, the whole issue of inappropriate contact becomes a non-issue. If you are going to have a single baby, however, think about forming a baby alpaca play group. Contact other breeders that are going to have single babies. Make arrangements to board your female and baby at their farm for a month or two and then move both mothers and babies to your place for two months. The hassle is well worth it and you and the other breeder will both benefit from the enjoyment of watching the babies play together.

Beware of over-compensation – you know the old adage: "show-them-who's-boss." I prefer to think of myself as the teacher, rather than the boss. If you prefer the boss analogy, that's fine – how about being a boss of the 21st Century, instead of a boss of the 1940s? Enlightened managers, teachers, and bosses know that coming on like *Attila the Hun* creates major difficulties. Many trainers use the word 'dominance' to describe how to behave around an animal. The issue of dominance is a tricky one. Humans come into an animal's life as being entirely different from them and very powerful – omnipotent, actually. We control everything about an alpaca's environment – no question. I don't think it is a good idea to participate in dominance contests with animals. Assume you are in charge, don't feel like you have to prove it. By all means, don't give away your place of pre-eminence by encouraging animals to behave disrespectfully toward you. Setting consistent limits, being

respectful of the animal, and being careful about asking too much too soon are all good ways of avoiding confrontation. Using training methods that do not rely on force or intimidation are important when training alpacas, particularly the ones I have described that are prone to test the water. Tying an alpaca and forcing him to submit to excessive grooming, dragging him to teach him to lead, and wrestling to halter or trim toenails will all provoke the young alpaca that has decided to be physical with humans.

If you are brand new to the joys of alpacas, I don't want to scare you, but I do want to get your attention. I get many calls and e-mails from people who are surprised when their young male camelids cross the lines of good behavior and become belligerent. The truth is, these youngsters had been acting badly for months and months but the owners didn't notice or didn't see the behavior for what it was. Enjoy your young males, squat down and invite them to sniff you. Begin working with them as youngsters. Teach them that it is safe to allow you to handle their faces, their legs, and their bodies. Build a creep feeder that will encourage your babies to become comfortable with your presence. Work with your older females so that they will transmit their confidence in you to each baby. Remember to pay attention to your young male alpacas as they ask questions, set limits right away, and you will be blessed with confident, as well as polite and respectful, alpaca boys. ■

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 husband Brad. To find out more about Marty visit her website at www.camelidynamics.com*

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

www.infoalpaca.com

EP Cambridge
Peruvian Caesar

6 Year Old Male
18.7u



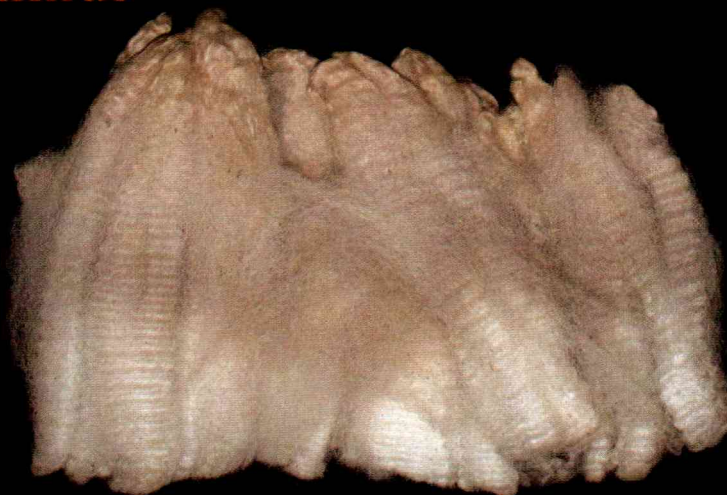
EP Cambridge
Peruvian Electra

6 Year Old Female
19.2u



EP Cambridge
Peruvian Maximus

6 Year Old Male
22.9u



Sires available at our new New South Wales
property - Spring 2002

150 Elite Peruvians arriving May 2002
Selection of Herd FOR SALE
AAA tested herd average 19.2u



EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud

Phone (08) 8389 7899 Fax (08) 8389 7098
OAKBANK, South Australia
epcambridge@ozemail.com.au

Bumble Hill Alpacas

JULIENNE & FRANK GELBER

by CANDY LAWRENCE
CENTRAL COAST / HUNTER REGION, NSW

Julienne Gelber, of Bumble Hill Alpacas at Yarramalong in NSW, is well-known to many of us in the AAA as a "guru" of value-adding, after her initiative in the production and export of a high-quality alpaca blanket product. This jet-setting corporate image is worlds apart from the reality of the down-to-earth alpaca farmer we know and love in the NSW Central Coast / Hunter Region, who didn't really fancy the idea of this article being written at all! But Julienne's knowledge and experience are a valuable resource, and so, in her usual generous way, she has shared a brief history of her involvement with alpacas, in the hope that it will benefit other alpaca farmers.



The brat pack learning about shearing time

I wonder how many of you know that alpaca fibre was the first choice for the upholstery fabric used in the Sydney Opera House? Or that Julienne Gelber was the Product Manager at the Australian Wool Corporation who helped write the specification, long before she had any involvement with alpacas herself?

Unfortunately, at that stage politics dictated an Australian wool fabric be used, and the Australian alpaca industry didn't exist. But alpaca fabric's durability and class made an indelible impression on Julienne. A few years

later, on a trip to England with her children, she visited a zoo and fell in love with the alpacas on exhibition. Her instant sense of connection with their beauty and intelligence, compounded with her fifth generation farming background and her professional knowledge of fibre issues, made the creation of Bumble Hill Alpacas inevitable. *One day.*

It took a trip to the alpaca enclosure at the Royal Easter Show fourteen years ago to rekindle the flame first lit in England. It took a further seven years to 'gently

persuade' her husband, Frank, that she was serious about moving to the country and raising alpacas. And it took a mere two weeks to clinch the arrangement after Frank discovered that "Bumble Hill", a former artists' colony at Yarramalong which boasts some of the most extraordinary and beautiful buildings in natural materials in Australia, was on the market. Which just goes to show that persistence pays off, but a nice juicy carrot also helps!

Here starts our first cautionary tale. Bumble Hill may have had beautiful

buildings, but as a farm it was, well, *challenging*. Of 40 acres, only 12 could be deemed 'pasture' (Council soon slapped a nature preservation order on the rest), which meant intensive, small-scale farming in an already fragile environment. In the midst of a severe drought, it took 12 months to find suitable water on the property; the first bore's excessive iron levels and the salinity of the second ensured that machinery repairs scored a high place in the 'expenses' column. There was no infrastructure whatever, and the site, on a steep hillside with numerous tall shady trees, provided instant difficulties.

The fine, sandy loam was leached of nutrients and eroded at the drop of a hat; topsoil seemed to have a magnetic connection with the bottom of the hill. A small 4WD tractor had to be purchased to create swales (terraces) and spoon drains, and to build fences without the dangers of constantly slipping or rolling on the steep gradient. Young grass seedlings were simply pulled out of the ground by the stock as they fed. Mind you, this had its advantages too, as between the clumps of grass grew a full roll-call of noxious and nuisance weeds which had to be removed by hand – bracken, bladey grass, gorse, deadly nightshade, tobacco weed, crofton weed and the ubiquitous fireweed. Who needs Jenny Craig when you can lose 2 inches from your waist undertaking weed reduction to improve your pastures and protect your stock?

Bumble Hill was to be run as an organic farm, which meant an endless round of minerals (such as Alroc and dolomite) and natural fertilizers (organic chook/horse and alpaca poo) were needed to improve the soil. Fortunately, Julianne had enough agricultural knowledge to address these problems, and equally fortunately, Frank hadn't given up his day job and could help keep the local produce store in business as the Bumble Hill account mounted.

The upside was the purchase of Bumble Hill's first alpacas, in September 1995 – two Chilean females. Six more Chileans were purchased at the National Auction two months later (Peruvians still being unavailable at this stage). Great excitement!! Wisely, Julianne enlisted an experienced breeder to help her make her selections; despite this, she discovered over time that not all the information provided to her from

various sources was accurate, whether through the vendors' inexperience and optimism or through a certain carefree attitude to the truth. One female, for example, was sold accompanied by a glowing fleece test report; later reports on the same animal indicated that somewhere along the way she'd had a change of overcoat, or *perhaps* this was a different alpaca all along? The expression 'fleeced' gained a whole new set of overtones. Cautionary tale no. 2! However, take heart – four of these original animals are still happily grazing under the Bumble Hill name seven years later, and one alpaca purchaser will not be taken for *that* particular ride again.

Unlike many new breeders, Julianne had a 'Five Year Plan': a small, elite commercial herd of 22 light coloured females, cutting a 2.2kg saddle of 22 micron fleece with a 22% CV. It soon became clear to her that, given the restrictions of the

An early achiever from Julianne's suri herd



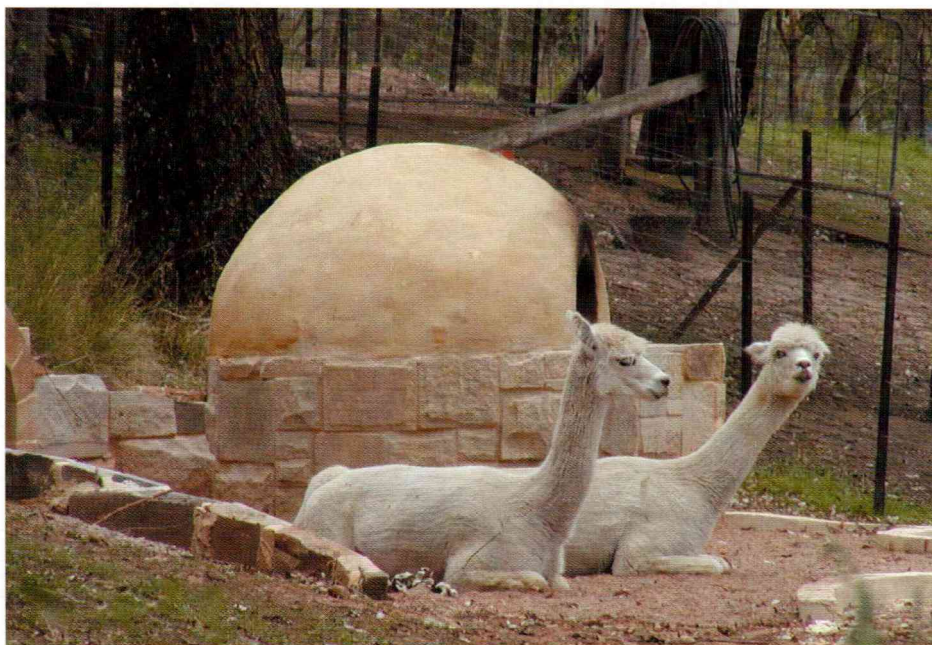
Mowing the lawn on the steep site was not a problem

Bumble Hill environment, this would constitute overstocking. It was time to go shopping for a more alpaca-friendly environment. In 1997, the Gelbers were able to purchase "Treetops", a disused horse stud at nearby Mangrove Mountain, and in 2001 added the adjacent farm as well.

The difference was stunning. Dams, bores, extensive post-and-rail fencing, sheds, shelters, and 200 gently sloping acres, of which nearly 120 were under pasture – though, of course, our old friend fireweed was



Julianne getting down and dirty with the fireweed



Some of Julianne's huacayas supervising the building of the Bumble Hill pizza oven

waiting to greet Julianne, along with its mates cudweed and capeweed (there goes another 2 inches!). At 1000 feet above sea level, Treetops' overnight temperature was about 2.5 degrees colder than Bumble Hill's, which promoted better fleece growth in winter and discouraged the potentially fatal fungus sporidesmin in autumn pasture. In a less humid climate, her heavier-fleeced animals were less stressed (and thus grazed more effectively and were less prone to loss of fleece quality near the skin due to sweating). Eventually only the 'brat pack' (the weanlings, along with their wether guards Cecil and Angus) were left at Bumble Hill, while the pregnant females, lactating females and crias, intermediate males, wethers, senior males and stud males that were taken to Treetops wondered if they'd died and gone to Grazing Heaven. Pasture improvement was, and is, an ongoing process at both Bumble Hill and Treetops; Julianne's knowledge on this subject is worthy of a separate article – and so in these continually improved conditions, the breeding program went from strength to strength.

Julianne and Frank's herd is now in the region of 140 animals, of which they have bred about 100 and bought the remaining 40. About half of the flock is suri.

Julianne had seen her first suri in 1995, falling instantly in love with the beautifully delineated silhouette and the curtains of silky fleece rippling in the breeze, and soon afterwards had crossed one of her fawn huacaya females with a suri sire. She felt that

the suri may be better suited to the warmer, more humid coastal climate. More importantly, whilst she had been impressed with alpaca fibre back in the Wool Corporation days, she was even more excited by the untapped potential of suri as a luxury fine-micron fibre. She believed that Australia could be amongst the first countries in the world to provide low-micron suri fibre, which would surely command a premium price with its unrivalled lustre and handle; maximising future Bumble Hill profits through fine suri fibre was an attractive option. Her investigations into the Italian market and the needs of elite yarn designers supported her enthusiasm for such a product, and her value-adding research today leans heavily in this direction.

Now a 'big' breeder, Julianne employs best practice, forward-looking policies in her farm management practices, such as retiring any of her females who continually produce crias with unacceptable levels of guard hair; supporting new breeders with comprehensive after-sales service; and being extremely generous with mating fees for smaller-scale breeders to discourage them from breeding with inferior males – this helps to improve the local clip and to provide Australian mills with a continuous supply of quality fleece.

Julianne was happy to provide the following tips for new breeders.

1 Decide what sort of herd you want – a breeding herd or a commercial fleece herd. For a fleece herd, buy the best wethers – ten to twenty animals (same colour/micron/fleece character) is a good start – and put a lot of your energy into keeping your paddocks free of anything which might contaminate the fleece. Weeds with burrs or 'sticky' seeds, any type of wire, access to dams and so forth must be eliminated so that each shorn fleece is sound and can be fully pre-classed in under 15 minutes.

2 If you want a breeding herd, buy fewer and better females to start with – the best you can afford. Two unrelated females, either pregnant or with crias at foot to unrelated males, will provide four bloodlines in your foundation herd and avoid instant inbreeding problems; two mature wethers complete your 'startup kit'.

3 Don't buy a stud male until you have at least 10 to 12 females in your breeding herd. Their 'genetic life span' in a small herd is little more than two years, whether or not you've got your money's worth out of them. Budget for high-quality outside services instead. Negotiate for significant discounts on multiple matings.

4 Try to purchase from a reputable breeder nearby, make sure that they offer extensive after-sales service and USE IT. Half an hour with an experienced breeder will teach you many times more than the same time spent reading up (but read up as well!).

Julianne and Frank are now busily renovating the house at Treetops and making plans for the big move. At last report, Julianne was waxing almost as lyrical about her wardrobes, pantry and linen cupboard as she was about suri fleece (apparently, artists have no need for storage??). Their beloved Bumble Hill is on the market, in amazingly improved condition compared to when the Gelbers purchased it; maintaining the same standard, of course, is up to the new owner. So if there's anyone out there who'd like to start an organic health farm at Yarramalong, the exercise routines come as part of the package... and bend, and tug, and stand, and stretch, and dig, and spread, and ouch... ■

AAA Prize for alpaca studies

by GEOFF FYSH, AAA EDUCATION & TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE

Fate and a dedication to studying alpacas appear to have played a major role in Katherine Morton's win of the inaugural \$500 AAA Prize for Alpaca Studies.

thanks to Katherine's parents' investment in about ten alpacas in the early 1990s, her interest in matters alpaca have seen her progress from runner-up Junior Champion Judge at the Sydney Show in 1996 to a PhD student studying advanced reproductive technology in 2002.

Last year, as a student in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, majoring in

Animal Production, at Sydney University, Katherine found out about the competition from students in the veterinary faculty.

Ignoring pressures from a fast approaching deadline for her honours thesis, Katherine was able to submit her paper entitled, "The use of Artificial Insemination in Alpacas", to the AAA assessment panel.

Chairperson of the judging team Dr George Jackson said, "It was clearly the best article out of all the submissions entered, being well researched, well presented and highly relevant to the industry."

Katherine believes that, "the importance of AI in other industries has been well demonstrated, and once it is established within the alpaca industry, it can lead to the development of other reproductive

technologies such as *in vitro* embryo production, semen sexing, frozen semen, and embryo import/export."

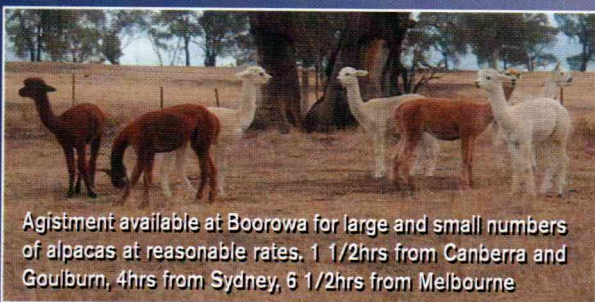
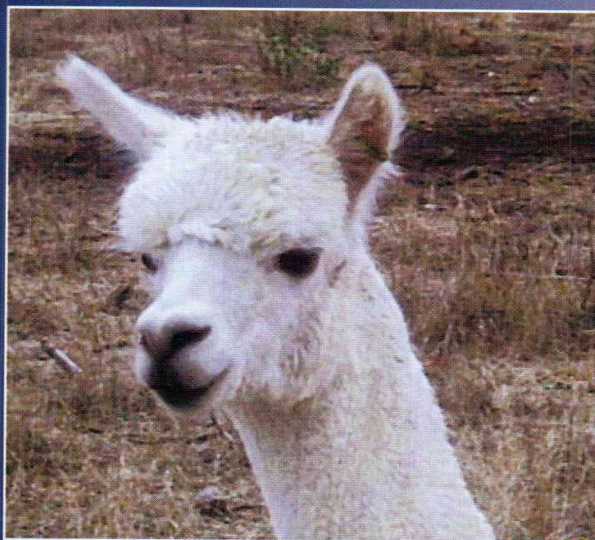
Katherine is currently working on her PhD thesis, which is focusing on semen sexing and *in vitro* embryo production in sheep, and is hoping to include a chapter on reproductive technologies in alpacas.

She also hopes to study in Canada and, if time permits, do some work at the Camel Reproduction Centre in Dubai, all with an aim to be able to apply the knowledge to alpacas in Australia.

Her paper, along with another submission by Fiona Duggan, also from University of Sydney, entitled, "Vitamin D Deficiency in Alpacas" which was highly commended by the judging panel, can be borrowed from the AAA library. ■

Alpacandes

AVAILANCHE



Agistment available at Boorowa for large and small numbers of alpacas at reasonable rates. 1 1/2hrs from Canberra and Goulburn, 4hrs from Sydney, 6 1/2hrs from Melbourne

Now standing at stud, Alpacandes Avalanche has a super soft handling fleece with excellent lustre, uniformity and crimp definition. His Sire is the well respected Purumbete El Dorado, his Grandsire Purumbete Inti and great Grandsire Purumbete Ledgers Dream.

Histogram, 2nd fleece: Micron: 18.2
SD: 4.1
CV: 22.5

Introductory Stud Fee: \$800

Mobiles Available (Conditions apply)

Also at Stud: Summerhill Sundance
Cedar House Lucifer.

ALPACANDES ALPACA STUD

Kylie, Keith & Jeanette Hollingworth
"Dorroughby" Kenyu Rd, Boorowa, 2586

Email: dorroughby@bigpond.com.au

Phone: 02 6385 8305 or 02 9653 1696



1. Beanies. 60% Alpaca-40% Fine Merino Wool. Sun* ☐ Red Ochre* ☐ Burnt Orange ☐ Teal ☐ Fawn ☐ Navy ☐ Black ☐ Rust ☐ Retail \$29.00 (Ribbed scarves to match).
 2. Sleeveless Alpaca jacket, fully lined. Rose Grey* ☐ Brown ☐ Black ☐ Sizes M-L-XL-XXL Retail \$350.00 (Available July). Green Crew Neck Rib Jumper ☐ Great range of colors Retail \$195.00
 3. Fine Zip Neck Jumper with Shawl Collar. 85% Alpaca-15% Merino Wool. Sizes M-L-XL-XXL Black ☐ Navy* ☐ Charcoal ☐ Cherry Red ☐ Fawn ☐ Natural ☐ Retail \$325.00 (Available end of June)
 4. Mens Cable Knit Jumper. Sizes S-M-L-XL Navy ☐ Fawn* ☐ Burgundy ☐ Olive ☐ (Cherry Red available end of June) Retail \$275.00
 5. Fringed Throw Rugs. 100% Alpaca. Natural ☐ Camel ☐ Grey ☐ Black ☐ Watermelon ☐ Tangerine ☐ Lime* ☐ Lilac ☐ Crocus ☐ Fuchsia ☐ Sky ☐ Rose Grey ☐ Retail \$189.00
 6. Mens Fine Link Stitch Polo Jumper. 85% Alpaca-15% Merino Wool. Lemon* ☐ Natural ☐ Navy ☐ Forest Green ☐ Retail \$325.00 (Available from July)
 7. Alpaca Carpet. Natural Colors. Rose Grey, Fawn*, Brown, Black \$190.00 per Broadloom Metre. Enquiries welcome
- * Colors pictured **NB Co-op Members receive 15% discount on retail prices**

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ORDER FORM BELOW AND ENCLOSE PAYMENT AND MAIL:

ALPACA CO-OPERATIVE
LIMITED, 7 EDOLS PLACE,
NORTH GEELONG, VIC.
AUSTRALIA 3215
PH: (613) 5278 6655
FAX: (613) 5278 8655
EMAIL: alpacoop@telstra.com
www.alpacoop.com.au

Name: _____ Member No: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone No. _____

Please debit my: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Credit Card Details: Expiry Date: _____

Payment Amount: \$ _____ *Postage and handling is subject to destination, size and weight*

Card Holder's Signature: _____

Alpaca Fibre on the move!

by AUSTRALIAN ALPACA CO-OPERATIVE LTD

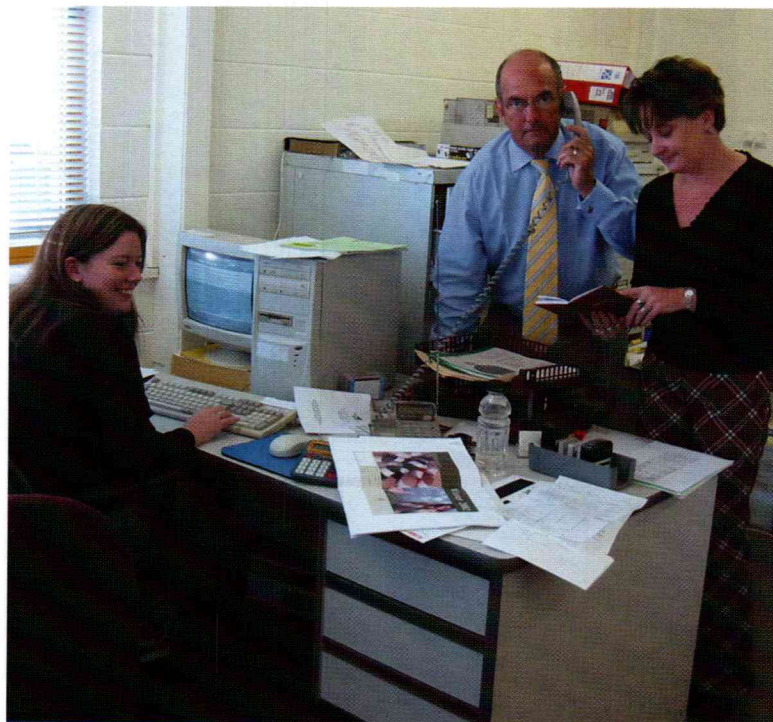
The following report from Michael Talbot, General Manager of the Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd, highlights many exciting areas of progress in our journey towards long-term profits from the rewarding pursuit of alpaca farming.

AACo-op Move is Good News

in late November 2001, the Australian Alpaca Co-operative moved from our old premises at Elite Fibre to a much larger new premises (about 600sq m) at 7 Edols Place, North Geelong, Victoria. This is good news for all in the alpaca industry, for a number of reasons.

The move has allowed us to set up a sorting and classing area, a fibre handling centre, a stock room and a small administration area under the one roof. This has obvious advantages for our efficiency, as well as enabling us to be constantly aware of stock levels in both fleece and finished product.

David Williams, our classer, also operates his mohair business from this area; the building is large enough, at approximately 600 square metres, to be shared in a 60%-40% split between alpaca and mohair fibre. Hence, the expenses and overheads are split between David and the AACo-op (and that is certainly good news!).



AACo-op office administration – Louise McKenzie, Michael Talbot and Annie Seach.

David has efficiently and effectively organised our Fibre Handling Centre into sixty bins, carrying the whole range of colours, microns and lengths of alpaca fleece. The process is fairly simple; the fleece arrives from all around Australia (most collection now being co-ordinated through our Fibre Liaison Officers). It is then booked in, weighed, allocated to the growers concerned, then classed by David into its various colours and classifications.

This exercise is interesting to watch, highly informative and (most importantly) vital to our future as an industry. It is starting to provide

invaluable information about what we can expect to receive in the future – in colours, in micron and in fleece length. It is a huge asset having everything under one roof for the information and education of both the growers and the processors.

Better pre-classing is imperative to provide a superior handle and consistency in the finished product; add this to a steady flow of fleece coming in, and at the end of the day we all have a top-line product to sell. The new AACo-op site provides a much-needed link in our production chain.

AACo-op office – North Geelong



75 bales on truck going to the scourer





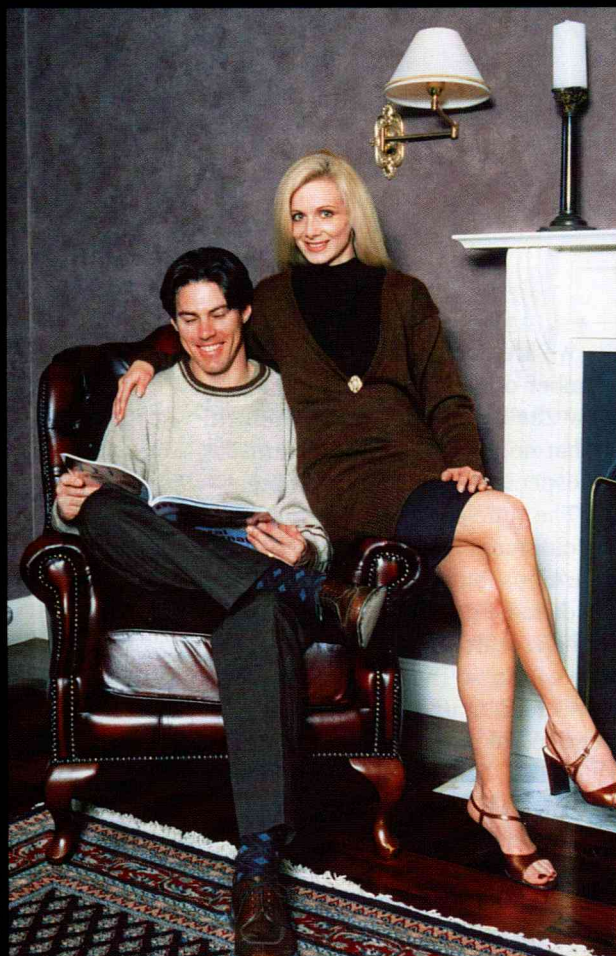
▲ **Cropped jumper in natural shades of alpaca**
Available in 4 natural colours [s,m,l] \$325.00
The Alpaca Centre, Australia 02 4877 1399

▶ **"Dr Zhivago" hat with ear flaps** \$95.00
Skirt and matching poncho
[various colours] \$255 set
Inca Stitches
03 9525 5768



Photography Annette Ringrose

© Creature Comforts



▲ **'Cuzco' (left)** Unisex crew neck stripe and fairisle bordered jumper
[grey/black, fawn/brown] [s to xl] \$255.00
'Pisco' (right) Ladies long-line, deep V neck tunic with pockets
[black, brown, dark brown, fawn, grey] [s to xl] \$245.00
Creature Comforts 02 4573 6681 / 02 6355 2477

Photography Annette Ringrose

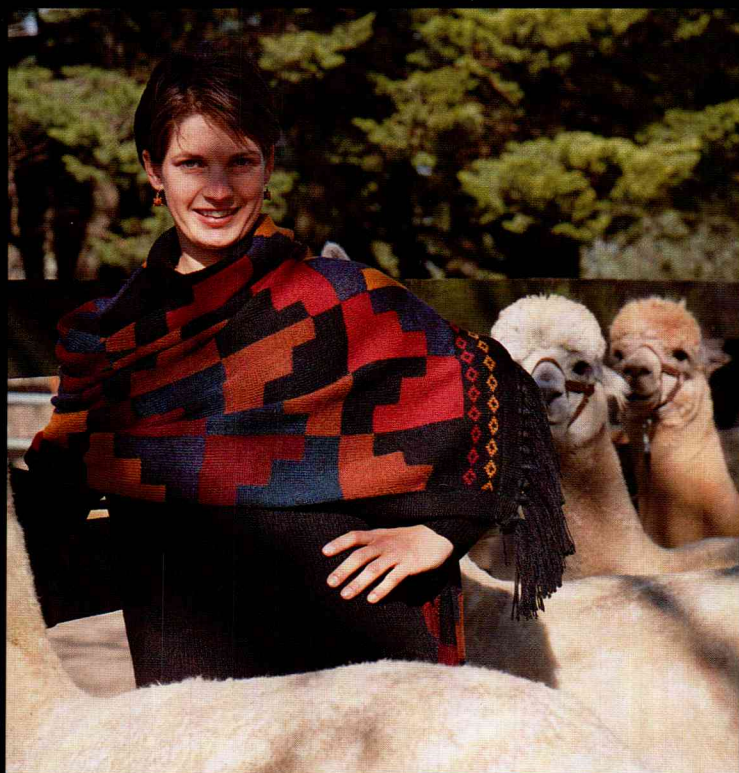


© Alpaca Granja

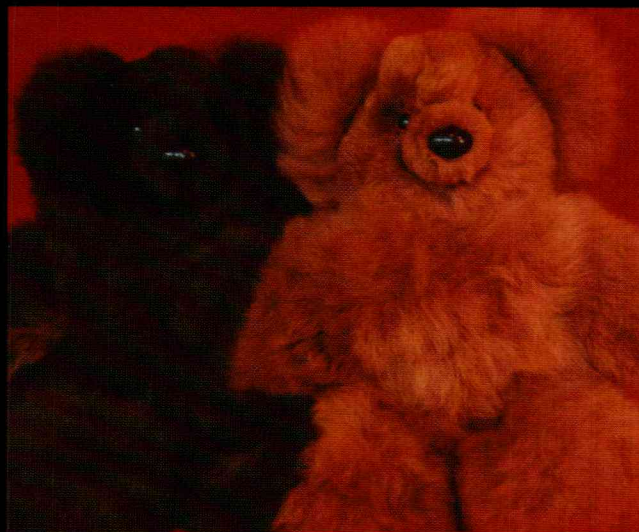


▲ **100% Michell**
hand-knit multi-
coloured with
flower pattern
along base.
[\$395.00]
Inca Stitches
03 9525 5768

▲ **100% Alpaca**
mens jumper in
crew or V neck.
[various colours
and designs]
[m & l] \$176.00
[xl] \$187.00
Alpaca Granja
03 5259 3630



- ▲ **Fabulous knitted, hand finished wraps in 100% alpaca incorporating Inca designs. Each wrap is unique** From \$650.00
The Alpaca Centre, Australia 02 4877 1399

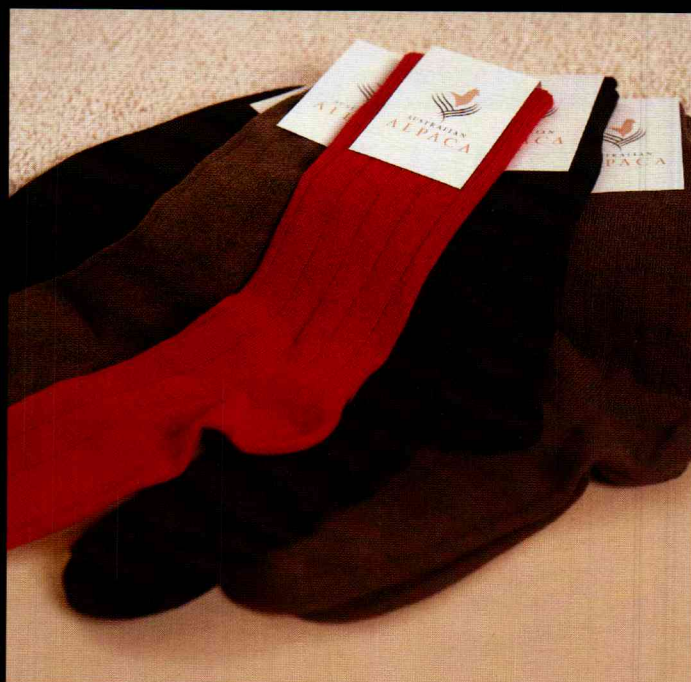


- ▲ **Alpaca teddy bears** [\$69.00]
Inca Stitches 03 9525 5768



- ▲ **Ladies and mens crew neck rib jumper** 60% alpaca 40% merino wool [red, teal, green, lavender, plum, ochre, black, charcoal, light grey, navy, dark grey, brown, camel, sand tan, natural] [s to xl] \$195.00
Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd 03 5278 6655

- ▼ **Mens socks** 80% alpaca 10% pure wool 10% nylon [navy, black, fawn, red, olive, burgundy] [sizes king or regular] \$25.00
Ladies self patterend socks [navy, black, fawn, red, olive, burgundy] \$25.00
Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd 03 5278 6655



MARKET
PLACE

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

Have you visited *The Alpaca Finder* at
www.alpacamarketplace.com



Buyers: search for your next alpaca on:

- fleece characters
- colour
- parentage
- ...and more

Sellers: webvertise your animals and
increase your sales

• reasonable rates • instant ads • females • wethers • stud males • web pages • business cards • events

*The Alpaca Marketplace: Australia's premier
web site for alpaca sales and services*

LONG TOPS

WOOL & ALPACA FIBRE PROCESSING

Washing, Carding, Combing, Spinning & Twisting
of quality fibres Australia wide. Enquires welcome
Stock Sliver, Tops & Yarn available.

67 Roseneath Street, North Geelong Victoria 3215
Phone/Fax: (03) 52 782 502 AH: 0407 837 387

inca
stitches

*Fine Alpaca Knitwear
Wholesale-Retail*

62 Barkly St, St Kilda 3182
Tel: (03) 9525 5768; 0418 330 568
Fax: (03) 9537 2109
raemathew@bigpond.com
www.alpacaknits.com



TIMBERTOP
a l p a c a s

Andrew Brown

PO Box 500,
Mount Compass, SA 5210

Mobile 0409 549 547
andrewbrown@timbertopalpacas.com.au

www.timbertopalpacas.com.au



ALPACA 
AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION INC.

www.alpaca.asn.au

 **Cameo**
Alpacas


Phone / Fax: (03) 6267 4553
Pearl ANDERSON
P.O. Box 128
WOODBIDGE TAS 7162

See us at the
Salamanca Markets,
Hobart for Alpaca hand
knits, weaves, fleece,
curios & Alpaca Co-Op
products.

or

Visit our stud for
Information & sales or
just to cuddle an
alpaca

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



**ALPACA
TRANSPORT**

**LEY BLAKE
STUDSTOCK
TRANSPORT**

PHONE
LEY BLAKE
(03) 5627 6475

Mobile:
0403 405 131

Supa Soft
Alpaca Carding Services
 "Small Lots Catered For"
Jenny & Aldis Stucers

☎ (03) 5996 7085
www.supasoft.com.au

TRULEEN DOWNS




- Mobile or on-farm mating
- Agistment: short & long term
- Group tours and workshops
– spinning lessons
- Alpaca sales – ribbon winning stock
- Gift Shop "PACA SHACK"
– garments, halters, leads etc

940 Toomuc Valley Rd,
Pakenham 3810
Phone: 5942 7417
Fax: 5942 7201
 Email: truleen@net2000.com.au
www.truleendownsalpaca.aussie.com.au



181643-NIC-1



Chris Highet & Alan Hamilton
Trimming an Alpaca's teeth.

THE HIGHCROFT TEETH TRIMMER

Used by leading breeders and vets
here and in the U.S.A. and Peru.

Available from
 Highet Engineering
 PO Box 255
 Torrens Park SA 5062

Ph/Fax: (08) 8538 7115
Email: higheten@lm.net.au

QUALITY ALPACA SUPPLIES

- BOOKS
- HALTERS & LEADS
- FLOOR RUGS,
MAGNETS, BLANKETS
- TEDDY BEARS

*For a catalogue
 please phone or fax
 Christine Roffey on
(02) 4572 5812*

Place your business card advertisement in the BUSINESS DIRECTORY
 FOR ONLY \$110 PER ISSUE or \$88 PER ISSUE FOR 3-ISSUE BOOKINGS
 FOR BOOKINGS contact Sandra Wright at the Australian Alpaca Association Inc.
 Phone: (03) 9873 7700 Fax: (03) 9873 7711 E-mail: sandra@alpaca.asn.au

pacapics pacapics pacapics pacapics

WINNER



< I think he's nodded off >

Joy Allenby-Acuna
La Granja Alpacas, NSW

Every picture *does* tell a story!

Alpacas at work, at play, at rest, alpacas at their very best. Send us your favourite snaps of your alpacas and let your photographs tell us about your stud.

'Paca Pics' feature offers you the opportunity to charm our readers with your delightful photos and, as a bonus, the 'Pick of the Pack' winner will receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next magazine.

'Alpacas Australia' Magazine front cover is, most importantly, the place where we would like to illustrate the adage, 'Every picture tells a story'. The new look magazine has a truly Australian flavour that we hope will continue to be proudly displayed on the front cover of each issue. We are looking for photographs that have that special 'Australian' feel for our future front covers, so check your albums to see if you have any that fit the bill. (Humor does not go astray!)

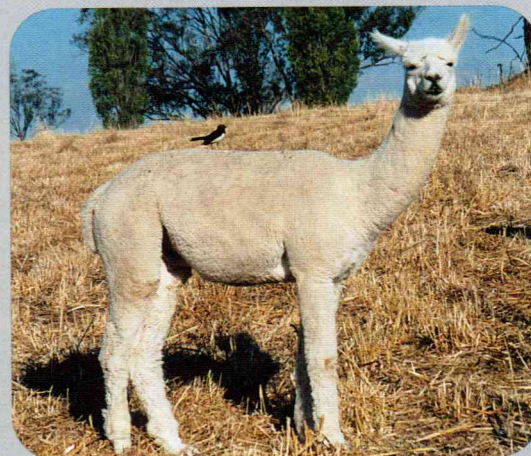
The winners of magazine front cover status will likewise receive a business card advertisement insertion in the next magazine as well as five complimentary copies of the magazine bearing their winning front cover photograph. The magazines will prove to be excellent promotional tools for your stud.

We look forward to your continued support of 'Alpacas Australia' Magazine.



< ... And it's a 5.9
for artistic impression! >

Jenny Froud
Kingdale Alpacas, NSW



< They used to say we rode on the
sheep's back... now we're onto alpacas! >

Janice Ward
Monteagle Alpaca Stud, NSW



< Won't you save the last dance for me? >

Randall Lieschke
Riverina Alpacas, NSW



< I'm not YOUR mum! >

J&A Thompson
Samarjim Alpacas, SA



< Hard work! This showing business >

Pearl Anderson
Cameo Alpacas, TAS



*< The grass is always greener
on the other side of the fence >*

Steve Marshall
Stansbury Alpacas, SA



< Umm... 16? >

Geoff Pearson & Marilyn Mathews
Daisy Bank Alpacas, NSW



< All for one, and one for all! >

Pauline Nugent
Paddington Alpacas, NSW



*< I'm giving you a kiss
just in case you're my dad >*

Venetia Somerset & Maery Gabriel
Morningswood Alpacas, VIC

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alpacas on show at the following venues - All welcome -

August

- 23 - 25 AAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, QLD
 Venue: Australis Noosa Lakes Resort, Noosaville, Qld
 Highlights: Lectures on latest industry developments
 Contact: AAA National Office (03) 9873 7700
- 29 - 31 GOLD COAST SHOW, QLD
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (31 Aug); Alpaca display
 Contact: Bob Chessor (07) 5527 3948
- 30 - SEPT 7 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW, SA
 Venue: Adelaide Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (30 Aug); Fleece judging (31 Aug)
 Contact: Ann Ruckert (08) 8388 0888
- 31 - SEPT 1 SOUTHERN NSW REGION SHOW & TOTALLY ALPACA FIELD DAY, NSW
 Venue: Peden Pavilion, Goulburn Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging; Fleece judging (31 Aug); Field Day - display; demonstrations (1 Sept)
 Contact: Show: Paul Haslin (02) 4878 9429; Field Day: Nestor Ellinopoulos (02) 4821 5678

September

- 3 - 5 TOOWOOMBA AGSHOW, QLD
 Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds
 Highlights: Fleece judging; Promotional event
 Contact: Pippa Smith (07) 4630 9777
- 5 - 8 SPRINGTIME FLORA FESTIVAL & SHOW, NSW
 Venue: Mt Penang, Kariong
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (7 Sept); Alpaca display
 Contact: Narelle Tulip (02) 4934 1799
- 6 - 7 BEAUDESERT SHOW, QLD
 Venue: Beaudesert Showgrounds
 Highlights: Educational display; Promotional events
 Contact: Peter Robinson (07) 5544 2161; Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207
- 14 - 15 HAWKESBURY/BLEU MOUNTAINS SPRING SHOW 'AGFEST', NSW
 Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds, Clarendon
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Allan Dollison (02) 4572 5232
- 15 INFORMATION & ALPACA SALE DAY, WA
 Venue: Gidgegannup Showground
 Highlights: Craft display; Information talks; Alpaca sales
 Contact: Corinne Gurry (08) 9572 1205
- 21 - 22 CHARLES LEDGER SHOW, NSW
 Venue: "Collingwood", Liverpool Regional Museum
 Highlights: Fleece judging (21 Sept)
 Alpaca show (black only) 2.30pm (21 Sept)
 Alpaca show (all colours) 10.30am (22 Sept)
 Contact: David Izard (02) 4841 0026
- 19 - 29 ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Meaklim Pavilion, RAS Showgrounds, Ascot Vale
 Highlights: Fleece judging - 12 noon (27 Sept)
 Alpaca judging: Huacaya - 12 noon (28 Sept)
 Suri - 10am (29 September)
 Alpacas on display at show (27 - 29 Sept)
 Contact: Geoff Hargreaves (03) 5773 2494
- 27 - OCT 5 ROYAL PERTH SHOW, WA
 Venue: RAS Showgrounds, Claremont
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (29 Sept) Fleece judging (30 Sept)
 Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

October

- 2 - 4 ELMORE FIELD DAYS, VIC
 Venue: Elmore
 Highlights: Promotional event
 Contact: Sue Simpson (03) 5825 2895

- 5 SEYMOUR SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Seymour Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Geoff Brennan (03) 5782 1800
- 10 - 12 ROYAL LAUNCESTON SHOW, TAS
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (12 October)
 Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007
- 11 - 13 NATIONAL SHOW & SALE, TATURA, VIC
 Venue: The Tatura Exhibition & Events Complex, Showgrounds, Hastie St., Tatura
 Highlights: Fleece judging (11 Oct); Alpaca judging (12 Oct); Alpaca auction (13 October); Display - all weekend
 Contact: AAA National Office (03) 9873 7700; Bill Plunkett (03) 9437 1534
- 13 SUNBURY PROMOTIONAL EVENT, VIC
 Highlights: Promotional display
 Contact: Meddwyn Coleman (03) 5448 8032
- 15 - 17 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FIELD DAYS, NSW
 Venue: ANFD Site, Borenore via Orange
 Highlights: Alpaca display and Expo
 Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233
- 19 KELMSCOTT SHOW, WA
 Venue: Kelmscott Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Show
 Contact: Greg Smith (08) 9525 2084
- 20 GEELONG SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Geelong Showgrounds, Breakwater Rd., Breakwater
 Highlights: Alpaca Judging
 Contact: Robbie Cuthill (03) 5264 5165
- 20 - 21 MURRUMBATEMAN FIELD DAYS, NSW
 Venue: Murrumbateman Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca display, alpaca products, information
 Contact: Geoff McGowan-Lay (02) 6227 6224
- 23 - 26 ROYAL HOBART SHOW, TAS
 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece judging
 Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007
- 26 BENDIGO SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Bendigo Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Geoff Cook (03) 5439 2588
- 26 ALPACA SPRING AUCTION, NSW
 Contact: John Hagedoorn (02) 4632 7607
- 27 WARRNAMBOOL SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Warrnambool Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Allan Waterson (03) 5565 8462

November

- 1 COLAC SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Colac Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Andrea Glew (03) 5342 2391
- 2 - 3 WHITTLESEA SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Whittlesea Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (3 November)
 Contact: Geoff Brennan (03) 5782 1800; Max Kinnersley (03) 5786 5344
- 2 - 3 NEW BREEDERS SEMINAR - "ALPACAS & YOU", NSW
 Venue: Masonic Club, South Windsor, NSW
 Contact: Anita Neeser (02) 4575 5360
- 8 - 9 ALBANY SHOW, WA
 Venue: Albany Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece Judging
 Contact: Diny Monaghan (08) 9764 1061

Order Form

TOTAL \$AUD

\$0.00

\$

Free Kit

☐ I am not a member of the Australian Alpaca Association but am interested in learning more about alpacas. ***Please send me a FREE alpaca information kit.***

Subscription

I would like to subscribe to three issues of *Alpacas Australia* Magazine

☐ Australia \$AUD 28.05 ☐ New Zealand \$AUD 40.00 ☐ Overseas \$AUD 50.00

Publications

**\$AUD OVERSEAS
PLUS P&H**
Please contact
AAA for specific
P&H charges

<i>Alpaca Breeders Birthing Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks	24.20	20.00	\$
<i>Alpaca Breeders Reproduction Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks	29.70	25.00	\$
<i>The Camelid Companion</i> by McGee Bennett	price on application		\$
<i>The Life of Charles Ledger</i> by Gramiccia	105.60	90.00	\$
<i>Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care</i> by Smith, Timm & Long	60.50	50.00	\$
<i>Medicine & Surgery of Sth American Camelids</i> by Fowler (2nd edition)	price on application		\$
<i>Yacca the Alpaca</i> by Jakaitis (children's picture story book)	18.70	15.00	\$
<i>Alpacas Australia Magazine</i> – 3 back issues	18.90	9.00	\$
Herd Book ☐ Vol 1 ☐ Vol 2 ☐ Vol 3 ☐ Vol 4 (per volume)	19.80 ea	15.00 ea	\$
Herd Book Vol 5	31.90	23.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 6	34.10	23.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 7	38.50	27.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 8	45.10	32.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 9	45.10	32.00	\$
Herb Book ☐ Vol 4 ☐ Vol 5 ☐ Vol 6 ☐ Vol 7 ☐ Vol 8 ☐ Vol 9 diskettes in ASCII format (per volume)	20.90 ea	15.00 ea	\$
Conference Proceedings Glenelg, SA 1999	28.60	23.00	\$
Canberra, ACT 2000	28.60	23.00	\$
Video – <i>An Introduction to Alpacas – Fibre, Fashion & Industry</i>	33.00	25.00	\$
TOTAL			\$

PLEASE NOTE: All prices are Australian dollars and are inclusive of postage and handling within Australia only. For overseas orders, please contact the Association for specific postage charges.

Name (PLEASE PRINT) MR / MRS / MS/ MISS / DR

Address _____

Postcode

- ☐ I enclose my cheque /money order for \$AUD
(required in Australian dollars drawn on an Australian bank and made payable to 'Australian Alpaca Association Inc')
- ☐ Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$AUD ☐ Mastercard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa

Credit Card No																	Expiry Date	/	/
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---	---

Name on Credit Card _____ Signature _____

Signature _____

Please photocopy or cut out this form and send to Australian Alpaca Association Inc

ARBN 067 146 481 ABN 33 710 945 160

PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132 PHONE + 61 (0)3 9873 7700 FAX + 61 (0)3 9873 7711

Rates

If not paid within 14 days of invoice, a 5% surcharge will apply

	Casual Rate		x 2 issues		x 3 issues		Production*	
	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS
4 colour								
Full Page	1,045.00	950.00	973.50	885.00	825.00	750.00	308.00	280.00
1/2 Page	737.00	670.00	682.00	620.00	583.00	530.00	231.00	210.00
1/4 Page	638.00	580.00	583.00	530.00	495.00	450.00	154.00	140.00
Mono								
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%
Double Page Spread	price on application

*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

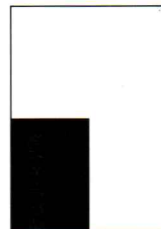
Space and Sizes (mm)



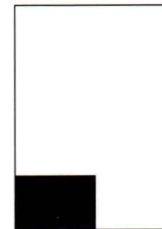
Full Page
Image: 188 x 275
Trim: A4 (210 x 297)
allow 3mm bleed all sides



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. Preferred Macintosh programs Quark Xpress, Illustrator or Photoshop. Include all screen and printer typefaces, high resolution pictures, logos etc associated with the advertisement. For full page ads please allow for bleed. 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

Deadlines

Issue 39: Summer

Due: December 2002

Deadline: Friday 11 October

Issue 40: Autumn

Due: April 2003

Deadline: Friday 14 February

Issue 41: Winter

Due: August 2003

Deadline: Friday 6 June

*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*

The Lustre of Black Silk

**Introducing our
Suri Male**

New from Peru



24.4 micron
Incredibly lustrous



Talca Black Onyx

From a breeder specialising in Suris for 15 years
Proudly co-owned with Miralana Alpacas



Talca Charango of Peru (SW)

22.2 μ at 5 years of age
very dense and fast growing fleece
proudly co-owned with Miralana Alpacas

Talca Zamora of Peru (SBlk)

23.9 μ at 5 years of age
dense, lustrous, crimply fleece
strong frame
proudly co-owned with Miralana Alpacas



Talca Shimon (SW)

18.9 μ at 6 years of age
Superfine and cuts 3.3 kg p.a.
very soft, lustrous, bundling fleece
with bold deep crimp

Talca Bhakti (MG)

MFD 21.4 μ and SpF 21.6 μ at 5 years of age
Superior fineness, very soft, fine crimp,
his fleece won his class everytime it was entered as junior
and intermediate



Inquire about our very fine black and grey studmales

Talca Alpacas

Christine and Nick Veltjens

Miralana Alpacas

Jocelyn Cairns

quality animals for luxury fibre



monitored negative 2 - VA2500

Mornington Peninsula Victoria Phone: 03 59 788666

Email: alpaca@hotkey.net.au • www.hotkey.net.au/~alpaca

Mornington Peninsula Victoria
Phone: 03 59 788414

Windsong Valley Alpacas

ANNOUNCES THE ACQUISITION OF

Two Don Julio Barreda Accoyo Plantel Males

SELECTED FROM THE ACCOYO "ELITE COLLECTION"
FROM BARREDA'S SUPERIOR SELECT GROUP

Windsong Valley Accoyo Inheritance Windsong Valley Accoyo Ben-Hur

NOW STANDING AT STUD AT OUR EXCLUSIVE AGENTS IN VICTORIA
CONTACT CORICANCHA ALPACA STUD P/L FOR BOOKINGS (03) 5342 0111



WINDSONG
VALLEY
ALPACAS

Tena & Terry Wheeler
Windsong Valley Alpacas
Bedfordale WA

PHONE/FAX BARN
(08) 9399 8762

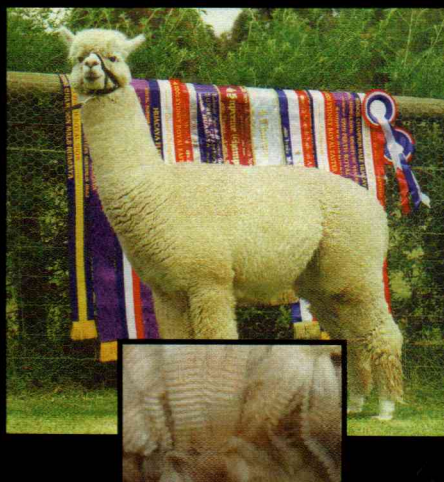
EMAIL
mail@windsongvalley.com.au

WEBSITE
www.windsongvalley.com.au

Standing at stud in WA

FROM 1st SEPTEMBER 2002

Windsong Valley Iceman



BACK TO BACK AAA NATIONAL
SUPREME CHAMPION
SON OF PURRUMBETE HIGHLANDER
BOOKINGS REQUIRED