

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

COVER

Alpacas cooling down to avoid heat stress during a hot summer's day

> see Heat Stress feature page 8

Photograph Mark Short, Alpacas Chaparral, SA



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 7701 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

2,400 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 Alpaca's of Ladysmith Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd Benleigh Alpaca Stud Blue Grass Alpacas Bungalook Alpaca Farm Coolaroo Alpaca Stud EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud Legend Power Products 20 Pucara Alpaca Stud inside front cover Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud 7 Starline Alpacas inside back cover Talca Alpacas 38 12 Wesuri Alpacas Windsong Valley Alpacas back cover

REGULAR FEATURES

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

EDUCATION

4 An Important Step Forward

Protocols established to allow alpaca growers to achieve maximum returns for fleece

10 2002 National Conference

Themed the "The Finer Future"

30 What is a Pure Suri?

Discussing the standards of a pure suri

41 Handling Alpacas made easy/ier

Handy hints for alpaca house-keeping' functions

SHOWING AND JUDGING STANDARDS

14 2002 National Show and Sale

Highlights of show

18 The Ring Steward

What makes a good Ring Steward - points of view - Convenor, Judge and Steward

34 The Royals 2002

Overview of Perth, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart and Adelaide Royal Shows

ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE

8 Heat Stress in Alpacas in Australia

Factors for heat stress in alpacas and recommendations for management

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

22 Artificial Insemination in Alpacas

Researching AI - Collection of semen and AI technology

25 Selection of Early Maturing Males with Large Testes

Why size is important

27 Testicular Growth Survey

Guidelines for survey of testicular growth in male alpacas in Australia

INDUSTRY

21 Art, Alpacas and Auctions

Paintings donated to raise money for the AAA

39 Alpacaman is Go!

Mobile mating service

47 AACo-op Ltd and its Strategic Partners

Merino Gold, Creswick, Australian Carpet Makers, FibreLoft, Tasman, HySport

FASHION

36 Alpaca Gown at the Golden Gown Awards

Promoting alpaca garments

MARKETING

6 Reflecting on the Birth of an Alpaca Region at Mudgee

Field Days extend hands-on knowledge

13 Introducing the AAA's New Marketing Consultants

H20 Creative Communications

37 Successful Promotion for Queensland Region

Queensland's largest agricultural field day - Agshow at Toowoomba

BREEDER PROFILE

44 Sherryl Riley

Shelbory Park Alpacas, NSW

here have been some interesting developments in our industry since the end of August when your new National Committee took over the reins from our hardworking predecessors. Of course some of these developments have been in train for some time and did not occur merely because of a National Committee personnel change.

The work of our Strategic Development Task Force comprising six Regional Presidents and chaired by Phil Vickery of the

Sydney, Coast & Highlands, NSW Region, will be enhanced by a decision in our favour by the Victorian Government through the Department of Agriculture.

I was honoured to represent the Association together with Mike Nichols, Chairman of the Australian Alpaca Co-Operative Ltd (AACo-op), when the Hon. Keith Hamilton, MLA, Minister for Agriculture, announced the Victorian Government's assistance for the strategic development of our industry. The hard work to achieve this result was put in by Victorian breeder. Dr Carol Mathew and immediate Past President of the Association, Ian Watt. The package is valued at approximately \$50,000 and the Department, in consultation

with the industry, will

oversee the work. This development is a great recognition of the importance and future of our industry.

The 9th National Show and Sale at Tatura has recently concluded and was a most successful event evidencing a new high in animal standards going on the commentary of the judges, Dianne Condon and Jenny Jackson. We can all be satisfied with the

improving quality of the National herd even if individually we are yet to achieve the new standards with our own animals. The opportunities to access the better genetics are becoming more readily available.

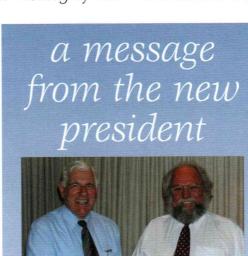
The Show Silent Stud Auction and the Saturday Night Fun Auction were very well supported and were a great credit to both the organisers and stalwart auctioneer, South Australian breeder, Chris Williams.

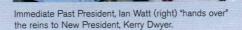
At the National Show dinner Mike Nichols announced that the AACo-op, through its

strategic partners, had in principle agreement for the retailing of Australian alpaca product through David Jones Ltd, a most exciting development. Of course they need to get the fleece in as soon as possible after shearing to meet their production targets and I urge you all to cooperate with the Regional Fleece Liaison Officers to meet the schedule.

If I am able to report to you in such terms on a regular basis then I will consider the industry is progressing satisfactorily. Naturally there are many other areas of activity being undertaken on your behalf by the National Committee subcommittees, which hopefully will all result in similar progress.

If there is a perception that I tend to blur the lines between sectors of our industry, let me assure you it is a deliberate policy on my part. Despite the reservations of a few of our members it is my firm conviction that we all need each other and that the more we can work together, rather than separately, the further the industry will advance.





(left to right) Kerry Dwyer, the Hon. Keith Hamilton, MLA, Dr Carol Mathew and Mike Nichols.



briefly speaking...

Hope's Dream

At the recent Australian National Field Days at Orange, the Central Western NSW region conducted a raffle offering two wethers as the prize. A little girl named Hope was so desperate for an alpaca that she "urged" friends to contribute so she could buy raffle tickets. Alas, Hope's name was not drawn out and many tears were shed.

When breeder, Al Charry heard the story he offered to give Hope a young alpaca. Hope was absolutely thrilled and "Alvaro" is now settling into his new role as guard and companion to the family's herd of boer goats.

Hope is now saving her pocket money to become an introductory member of AAA so she can learn how to properly care for her new friend.

Vale Sherryl Riley

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of Sherryl Riley on Sunday 10 November 2002. Much loved and highly respected within the Australian alpaca industry, Sherryl's story was recently penned by Janie Hicks and appears on Page 44 of this issue. The story now becomes a posthumous tribute to a lady who will be greatly missed by all those she met.

Do you have an interesting story to tell?

Alpacas Australia is always on the lookout for relevant topics of interest for publication. Please send articles to the Editor for consideration. When sending digital photos or scans for publication, please save them in the highest possible resolution for reproduction quality. Or you can send them at least twice the image size, so that the pixels will be enhanced when reduced.

Have you moved, or are you moving soon?

Please remember to notify the AAA Office of address changes. **Phone +61 3 9873 7700**

Fax +61 3 9873 7711 Email alpaca@alpaca.asn.au

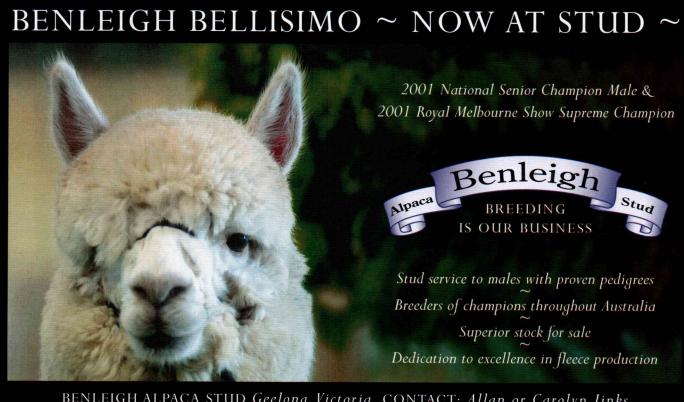
This will also update your *Alpacas Australia* Subscription address.

Next Issue

Owing to the abundance of editorial received for this issue the following articles have been held over until next issue:

- Are you the alpaca for me? Marty McGee Bennett
- Fibre testing methods
- Alpaca manure disposal methods (apologies to contributors)

Greetings for a Merry
Christmas and a safe, happy and
prosperous New Year from the
Australian Alpaca Association Inc.
National Committee members and
National Office staff and everyone
at Alpacas Australia Magazine.



BENLEIGH ALPACA STUD Geelong, Victoria CONTACT: Allan or Carolyn Jinks
PHONE: (03) 5250 2737 (03) 5253 2870 MOBILE: 0418 109 348 FAX: (03) 5253 2850
EMAIL: benleigh@magnet.com.au WEBSITE: www.benleigh.com.au

An important step

forward ➤

by MIKE NICHOLS, CHAIRMAN AUSTRALIAN ALPACA COOPERATIVE LTD

During the past several months the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA), together with the Australian Alpaca Cooperative Ltd (AACo-op) has been establishing the systems and protocols necessary to allow all alpaca growers to achieve maximum returns for fleece in the future.

and potential users of alpaca fleece were brought together with many interested parties including processors, knitters, garment manufacturers and representatives of the technical/scientific sector of the industry. When the fibre processors explained the difficulties encountered in scouring and spinning alpaca, primarily due to over length, vegetation contamination and variation in micron, it quickly became apparent that new classing lines would have to be established and much closer attention paid by growers to the presentation of their fleece prior to packing for delivery.

his process began when existing

During the pre-classing workshops held throughout the AAA Regions last season, the variation in shearing techniques was noted. This was due to a 'learn as you go' situation, because many breeders were forced to shear their own animals and experienced sheep shearers had to make it up as they went along.

Consequently 11 interested shearers were invited to take part in a weekend workshop where they demonstrated their techniques; some using tables, others preferring floor shearing. The various techniques were video taped on the first day and discussed that evening. The following day further shearing was done with some adaptation and techniques modified. It was envisaged that the footage taken during the weekend could be released to those attending.

However, after reviewing the tapes, Geoff Fysh, then Chairperson of the AAA Education & Training Committee, realised that to have any real effect a shearing protocol needed to be devised using best







practice principles and a professionally produced video was essential.

With Heiniger Australia Pty Ltd joining as co-sponsors, the video, 'An Introduction to Commercial Alpaca Shearing' was produced and officially launched at the AAA Conference at Noosa in August this year. An experienced sheep shearer who, interestingly, had not previously shorn alpaca, but had studied the video, also demonstrated the Shearing Protocol.

The next step in the process is to find shearers who are willing and able to spread the word by passing on the new protocol to other shearers, who will in turn hold practical workshops for less experienced shearers who are interested in alpaca. As skilled roustabouting is an essential part of the whole process, the proposed workshops will also be of great interest to all involved in the shearing process.

The first trainers' weekend was held at Graeme & Lyn Dickson's Warralinga Alpaca Stud in NSW. Kevin Gellatly from Heiniger Australia Ptd Ltd conducted this workshop with three shearers using the floor and another experienced shearing team using their own designed table. The shearer using the table found some adjustments to his shearing method were needed but soon became comfortable and was operating at the same speed. However, the job of his roustabout was obviously easier as guard hair, skirting etc. were easily separated.

One of the floor shearers had never previously shorn an alpaca so, having no pre-determined ideas, quickly adapted to the difference and by the end of the weekend was shearing at the rate of 10/12 alpacas per hour.

It was decided that the Sunday would be a full on shearing day with Lyn Dickson calling on a range of people, including some TAFE students, to assist with animal handling and roustabouting. Utilising three shearing stations and with Kevin Gellatly acting as a very busy overseer supervising shearers and helpers, the balance of the herd (approximately 70 animals) was successfully shorn by 2.30pm. A total of 90 animals were processed over the weekend with all shearers comfortable with the new method and most importantly, saddles coming off the animal in one piece, requiring little or no skirting.

Having proved the protocol, we now have to arrange further training workshops in other states so that as many shearers as possible have the opportunity to use it. The most important part of the process is to have saddles removed in one piece. Any Region wishing to hold a workshop in their area should contact their Regional Fibre Liaison Officer.

The AACo-op, together with their strategic partnerships involving manufacturers, has secured a major breakthrough with a national department store. This group has placed orders for a range of alpaca products including knitting yarns, men's and women's knitwear, throw rugs, doonas and homewares. All these products will be labelled 'Australian Alpaca' and will bear the AACo-op logo, and are due to be launched throughout their stores early in 2003.

To meet the fleece requirements necessary to fulfil these orders it is absolutely essential that the Co-op receives the bulk of this season's clip from growers no later then early December. Providing we can meet this challenge, there is no doubt that the prestige and resultant publicity will be of great benefit to the entire industry.

It is indeed heartening to have hard evidence of the progress that has been made since the establishment of closer cooperation between two facets of the same industry. Continuation along this path can only be of benefit to all involved.

A special thanks to Geoff and Kate Fysh for their expertise and energy, to Kevin Gellatly for his personal input and Heiniger Australia Pty Ltd. Their combined efforts are greatly appreciated.



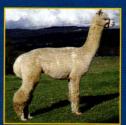
PURRUMBETE MINDEROO



NWA LTD SOLOMON



URRUMBETE DRIVING FORCE



STARLINE AUGUST MOON 2

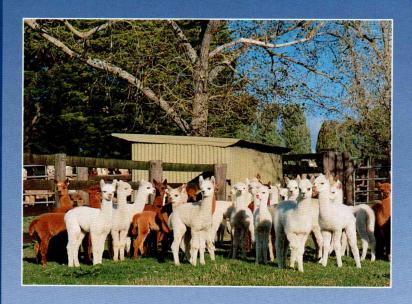


AARIAH HILI KHAN





Take your stud forward with males selected by proven research



Coolaroo's 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.

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

Special Stud Service Packages

Choice of 10 exceptional 'wool-type' & 'frame-type' sires. Now is your opportunity to breed quality at reasonable costs. Outstanding value for money sire packages from \$400.00 per service. Includes: ultrasound costs, drive-thru service and agistment facilities for various MAP herd status females.

www.alpacaaus.com.au

Reflecting on the birth of an alpaca region at Mudgee

by KATE & CHRIS BAILEY CENTRAL WESTERN REGION, NSW

2002 was the 25th anniversary of the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days which started in 1977 with just 16 exhibitors and 700 visitors. Last year there were over 500 exhibitors and 28,000 visitors.

erry Hennessey, a founding member of the Field Days has said, "the Field Days are about extending knowledge and for the farmers I think the easiest way to extend a message is to show them something – not a picture". Hands-on, from milking a cow, building a fence to animal husbandry, is much more successful. It is no different with alpacas.

A couple of founding members of the Region, John and Julie Lawrie (Bonnie Vale Alpacas, Wellington) purchased their first female alpaca in 1989. She was a multi, brown and white. Julie thought she did well, "get two colours for the price of one!!!". At that time there was a "picture display" of alpacas at the farmyard pavilion at the Field Days and John and Julie bought another two by looking at post cards, as the alpacas were still in quarantine in New Zealand. There were no fleece samples or details. At the same time another founding member, Judy Easten (East Station Alpacas, Mudgee) also bought her first alpaca, a brown female with male cria at foot, from the "picture post cards". Judy said, "we, John, Julie and I, were standing next to one another, never having met, we looked at one another and at the same time said, "we've just bought an alpaca". That is how the three met and I suppose one could say, "that's how it all started".

At the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days in 1990 there were alpaca fleeces on display as well as some products.



In 1991 Gerry Hennessey approached John Lawrie, who was at the field days in his capacity as a soil scientist with the Department of Soil Conservation, and asked if he would "like a free stand to talk about alpacas". A tent, gates and bales of hay were set up and lectures were given by John and Julie who had taken their animals to the Field Days in the back of their Starwagon. John says, "Julie and I were swamped with enquiries from people three deep around our pen during lectures".

Alpacas have been part of the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days ever since.

In 1993 the Australian Alpaca
Association approached alpaca breeders
to form three regional groups within
NSW. The Mudgee district was the first
region to be established. The first
meeting was held on 15 May 1993 at
the Mudgee CWA Hall. An executive
was formed consisting of David Gibson
(Dubbo) as President, Aloha Barnes
(Running Stream) as Secretary and
Judy Easten (Mudgee) as Treasurer.
The majority of those present at the
meeting were from the Mudgee area
but others came from as far as the
Central Coast and Forbes.

Each year, after the formation of the Region, there has been a tent at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days displaying alpacas, alpaca products and featuring lectures given on husbandry by the members of the Region.

In 2001 the Region held its annual show at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days with over 100 entries. We also had garments, supplied by Denise Burden (Alpaca Jewellery and Giftware) entered in the very popular fashion parade, which is attended by hundreds of people. Members of the Region set up pens displaying their animals and the public could see and feel the alpacas. A great improvement from the time John, Julie and Judy bought their alpacas from post card photos.

Not only did the Field Days grow but so did the alpaca numbers and interest in the animals. It was very interesting to observe the public this year at Mudgee. There were not so many "oohs" and "aahs". There was genuine interest in alpacas with intelligent questions being asked and alpaca sales achieved. As well as an increased interest in the animals themselves the sale of products had also increased, especially the knitting yarn, as was evident when speaking to Denise Burden (Alpaca Jewellery and Giftware) Christine Roffey (Quality Alpaca Supplies) and Margaret Thomas and Pam Tebbatt (Double T Partnership) who occupied our merchandise tent.

The Mudgee Small Farm Field Days Committee continue to give us every assistance as they say that the alpacas are a real drawcard, so much so that when members of the public ask directions around the Field Days, the starting point is always "the alpaca site" and all know where that is.

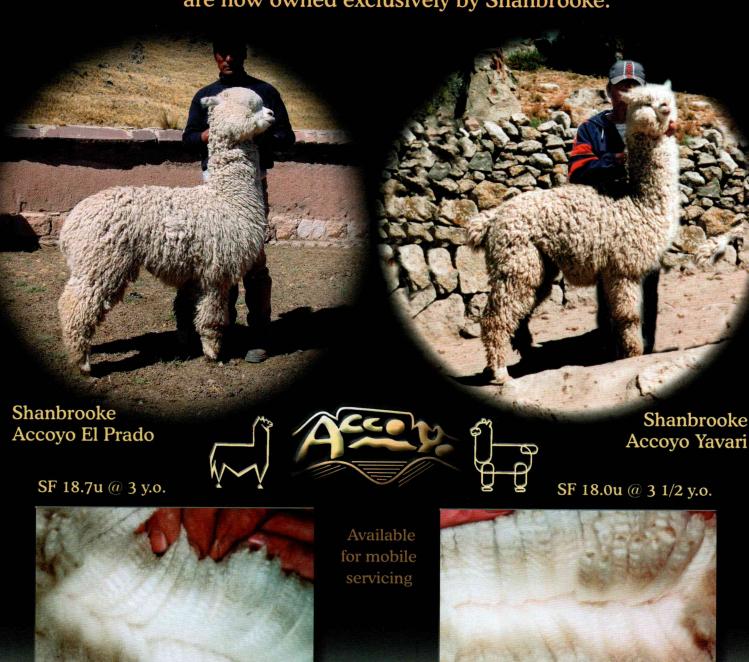
Like the Field Days the Region has grown over the years, not only in membership but also the number of alpacas owned and bred by members. We look forward to continued involvement in this popular annual event.

Shaubrooke 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.



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

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

Heat Stress

in alpacas in Australia

by DR GEORGE JACKSON BANKSIA PARK ALPACA STUD. WA

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

However, some effects of a period of heat stress are not so obvious. Infertility of male alpacas can be caused by relatively mild increases of body temperature. It may take 6-8 weeks for their sperm count to recover and more prolonged or permanent damage is possible. Some males definitely appear more fertile in the cooler weather.

Females can also be affected by infertility due to heat stress; premature labour, abortion and stillbirths have been reported that could be at least partly attributed to an episode of heat stress.



How alpacas lose heat

Evaporation

Heat is taken out of the body during the process of water evaporation from body surfaces (phase change from water to water vapour requires energy). The alpaca loses heat through the respiratory tract during respiration by evaporation from the mucous membranes and also through exchange of air. The efficiency of these methods of heat loss is dependent on ambient temperature and humidity.

Radiation

Heat is lost from the body by direct radiation into the surrounding atmosphere. The alpaca has a ventral area of its abdomen that is sparsely covered with hair. This area is called the thermal window because it allows heat transfer, very important to a heavily fleeced animal.

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

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

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

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

Severe

Normal

seeking shade seeking cool water low activity

panting, nasal flaring obsessively seeking water sweating

Mild

Open mouth breathing Collapse Inco-ordination Convulsions Shock and weak pulse

■ Conduction

Heat is transferred directly by close contact between bodies of different temperatures.

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

Risk factors for heat stress in alpacas

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

Humidity

Heat loss becomes difficult with high humidity because evaporative cooling (panting and sweating) becomes very ineffective. LaRue Johnson (USA) proposes an index for the calculation of possible occurrence of heat stress. The index is the sum of the ambient temperature in degrees Fahrenheit and the relative humidity. For example, an ambient temperature of 80°F and 80% relative humidity gives an index of 160. An ambient temperature of 90°F and 25% relative humidity gives an index of 115. So you can see the relative humidity plays an important part in the likelihood of heat stress.

Index of less than 120

→ heat stress is unlikely

Index of between 120 and 180

→ heat stress is possible

Index of more than 180

→ heat stress is likely

■ Poor ventilation

Ventilation assists more effective cooling by evaporation and the removal of radiated heat.

It is especially important when transporting alpacas in enclosed floats to have adequate air movement and don't park in the full sun.

■ Full dense fleece

Full dense fleece does not allow effective heat loss by radiation because of its insulating effect.

Full fleece also severely affects heat loss by sweating due to lack of air flow across the skin. In this case, heat can only be effectively lost through the thermal window.

■ No fleece

Without fleece, the alpaca's body is directly heated and this can cause a rapid rise in body temperature. Recent studies performed during a period of heatwave conditions have shown that the core temperatures of full fleeced and minimally fleeced animals were

significantly higher than the core body temperature of animals with a few inches of fleece. The time of shearing has a dramatic effect on the levels of heat stress experienced over summer. Plan your shearing to have the animals go through summer with a few inches of fleece. Sunburn is a possible complication when alpacas are shorn at inappropriate times of the year.

■ Physical activity and stress
All management, which involves some stress or activity, will add to the risk of developing heat stress. Consider this when taking alpacas to Shows over the warmer humid months.

The time of weaning is important in this regard. Cria and mother may continue to seek each other – standing out in full sun and running (along a fence) – and fail to take normal measures to reduce heat stress.

Overweight alpacas

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

Advanced pregnancy
Additional metabolism and body
weight increase the risk of heat stress.
In some areas of Australia, it may be
advisable to manage herds to avoid
birthing in peak summer. Some studs
already manage their herds to avoid
births in the coldest part of the year. I
am currently managing my herd to
have two birthing seasons, in spring to

Shade and cool water
Shade prevents direct heating of the alpaca and provides a cooler ambient temperature. Cool water to drink is extremely important. Beware of dominant animals who may tend to defend their drinking places.

early summer and in May.

There are a number of useful water sources for cooling: dams, sprinklers, soaker hoses and paddle pools.

Cool ground or grass allows efficient heat loss by conduction, even if ambient temperature is greater than body temperature. The secret is to have cool ground temperatures by shade or water. Be aware that the use of sprinklers and soaker hoses can dramatically increase the relative humidity and add to heat stress.

Newborn and old animals
These animals have impaired or
inefficient thermo-regulatory
mechanisms and are at increased risk.
Crias' small bodies heat up extremely
rapidly and, with inefficient thermoregulatory mechanisms during their
first few days, will be at high risk.

■ Feeding

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

■ Unacclimatised animals

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

■ Veterinary treatment

It is extremely important to check rectal temperature regularly and work to reduce the core body temperature slowly. FOR MILD HEAT STRESS: Provide shade. Cool down with hose sprinklers or water bath. Shear back to two inch fleece. FOR SEVERE HEAT STRESS: Provide cold bath; cool intravenous fluids and drugs for shock. Beware of the use of cold enemas as suggested by some American Vets as you will lose the only method of assessing core body temperatures.

Recommendations for management

Shearing

Shear animals at an appropriate time of year (September) to minimise risk of heat stress in summer but still provide some insulation. This also means shearing cria as young as 6 weeks of age. To avoid the risk of exposing alpacas to unusually cold weather after shearing, some owners are shearing at one time only the number of alpacas they can shelter, with a new batch being shorn every two to three weeks.

Water

Provide plenty of it at numerous points. Watch for dominant animals.

■ *Plenty of shade*

Employ methods to provide cool ground – effective if ambient temperature and humidity are high.

■ Management practices

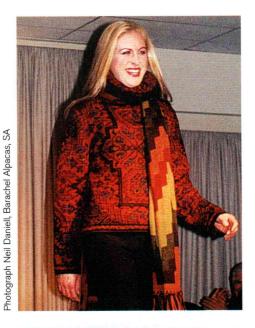
Activities likely to cause stress, stud services, feeding, transporting and the like should all be carried out in the cool of the morning or evening.

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

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

2002 National Conference

The Finer Future



by CAMILLA SMITH
CONFERENCE CONVENOR

Unexpected but very welcome rainfall throughout the weekend dashed the expectations of the weather that most conference delegates held for their visit to Noosaville. However the responses of most of the conference delegates to our evaluation questionnaire suggest that our 2002 National Conference, themed "the finer future", certainly fulfilled all other aims.

w

ith conferences like ours the focus must be on our future and to quote

Julienne Gelber: "To ensure the continuance and growth of the Australian alpaca industry, there needs to be healthy demand for alpaca products both domestically and overseas and these products must have a price structure that will deliver a reasonable price for good quality alpaca fibre to Australian alpaca growers".

This conference was designed to equip delegates with knowledge from the Wool and Cotton Industries, and to understand the potential of genetic advancements.

Thought provoking sessions from Allan Casey and Jim Watts on breeding systems to improve the quality of Australian alpaca fibre were well received by delegates. Speakers David Williams, John Blood, David Mattingly, Carol Mathew, Cameron Holt and Charlie Massy shared news and expert opinions on the future of alpaca fibre processing and marketing; while specialists in the areas of animal production gave advice on the latest research and development in breeding to this end.

David Hopkins and Jane Vaughan updated delegates on the progress of Embryo Transfer and Artificial Insemination methods, Ewen McMillan and Carolyn Jinks reinforced the importance of thorough veterinary care, Kevin Broady reported on the development of a paralysis tick vaccine and Bruce Chick spoke on the control of internal parasites.

To those unable to attend I recommend the Conference Proceedings which are available for purchase from the AAA National Office.

The Saturday night dinner brought the opportunity to relax and enjoy good food, good wine and good entertainment provided in the form of South American music throughout dinner and the fabulous fashion parade and fun auction which followed.

The success of this year's conference would not have been possible without the huge efforts of our volunteers. THANK YOU seems so insignificant when I reflect on the many hours so generously given. To each and every person who contributed to this great conference please take pride in the knowledge that the industry is stronger for your efforts.



Queensland can justifiably lay claim to being one of Australia's most desirable meeting destinations with conference facilities, infrastructure and climate combining to ensure that both delegates and organizers have efficient, successful, and highly enjoyable meetings.



Carol Mathew



Cameron Holt



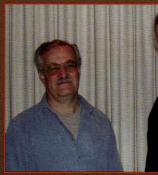
David Hopkins and Jane Vaughan



David Williams



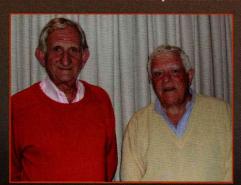
Jim Watts, Janie Hicks and Charlie Massy



Kevin Broady and Bruce Chick



Carolyn Jinks and Ewen McMillan



David Mattingly and John Blood



Allan Casey





wesuri alpacas

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.



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

introducing the AAA's new

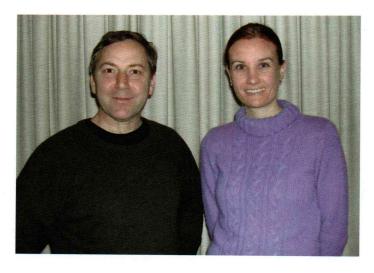
Marketing Consultants

Background

Early in 2002 the Marketing
Sub-committee of the AAA National
Committee engaged professional
consultant, Robyn McMahon and
Associates to prepare a well considered
brief for the task of engaging a Marketing
Consultant.

Robyn interviewed many people in the AAA as well as the Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Her resultant report was a comprehensive outline of the alpaca industry and included recommendations of the possible steps to be taken in the future. This brief, with minor amendments, became part of the tender documents together with a project specification, a marketing budget and a time schedule. Using a pre-qualification process four companies were short listed (out of 13 contenders), and H2o Creative Communications from Sydney was ultimately selected.

Their initial task will be the preparation of a detailed Marketing Strategy Plan to be presented to the AAA National Committee Meeting in February 2003. This Plan will identify our markets, and develop a new image for the AAA and the alpaca industry with a clearly identifiable brand that will determine the industry's positioning in the market place. Once the Plan is approved, they will be engaged as project managers and implementation will begin.



lan Lisser-Sproule and Jane White

H2o Creative Communications

H2o is an integrated marketing. advertising and design firm located in Sydney. We assist clients in all aspects of planning media schedules, concept design, public relations, and many other marketing and advertising activities. We pride ourselves on being focussed on what the client needs, and working within their budget to achieve the maximum results possible. Ian Lisser-Sproule has been in the advertising and marketing industry for over 15 years and works with many non-profit, membership based organisations. I, Jane White, have a strong rural marketing background and have worked with numerous rural associations in promoting their breed and/or branded product. I have also worked with regional television through NBN Television and maintain ongoing relationships with many rural clients.

H2o have come on board to assist the AAA in marketing and promoting both the alpaca breed and its products. We are developing a strategy to be implemented over the coming year, which will position the alpaca industry as an attractive and viable industry. This strategy will take into consideration all elements of the industry, for example, the Australian Alpaca Co-op Ltd, demand for alpaca fibre, overseas markets, potential investors, comparisons to the mohair and wool industry, plus many other studies.

Ian and I recently attended the Association's National Conference held in Noosa, which was extremely well organised and allowed us to ask as many questions as possible. We both took in so much information over the three days that we attended which is assisting us in developing our strategy for the alpaca industry. The SRS® technology, genetic developments, overseas fibre market studies, and many more hot topics were debated.

Both Ian and myself were impressed by the amount of research and development that has been undertaken to this point, all of which we are utilising to assist in our strategy development.

The Conference also allowed us to speak openly with members to get a general feeling of where they believed the industry should be heading in the next 5 years. We were keen to find out the motivation behind people investing in the alpaca industry as opposed to other investment opportunities. Our main aim was to pick up as much useful information as time permitted and I know we have achieved that goal. The alpaca industry is a unique and emerging industry that has enormous growth opportunities for the future - we look forward to being part of that process.

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

2002 National Show & Sale



compiled by SANDRA WRIGHT AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

The Australian Alpaca Association's
9th National Show and Sale held at the
Tatura Exhibition & Events Complex,
Victoria on 11-13 October 2002 attracted
320 animal entries as well as 67 fleece
entries. Following the official opening of
the proceedings by The Honorable
Jeanette Powell, MLC, Member for North
Eastern Province of Victoria, the nation's
most prestigious huacayas and suris
were presented to two of Australia's most
experienced and respected judges,
Dianne Condon from Victoria and Jenny
Jackson from Western Australia.



The Honorable Jeanette Powell, MLC, officially opening the proceedings with AAA President Kerry Dwyer

f their choice for the title of Supreme Champion Huacaya, Adelyn Omague, exhibited by Joyce and Jeffery Hill of Victoria,

Joyce and Jeffery Hill of Victoria,
Dianne said, "The Supreme Champion
Huacaya Alpaca was exceptional. This
young white alpaca was a well-balanced
stylish female with a defined, highly
aligned, high frequency crimp. She
carried great density for her fineness and
had an even uniform fleece with
brightness and softness running over the
entire body" with Jenny Jackson
adding: "and a superfine, dense and
lustrous fleece displaying highly aligned
uniform crimp from head to toe".

Dianne Condon commented "I feel honoured and privileged to have been given the opportunity to judge some of the best animals bred in Australia at the National Show this weekend. The quality of both Huacaya and Suris was of the highest standard and it was a pleasure to be given the opportunity to judge them.



Champion Huacaya Fleece
Adelyn Iquito

The fineness of the animals in the show was exceptional and the improvement in the last few years in the quality of alpacas being shown is incredible. I have no doubt at all that the top animals in the show would compete favourably with any alpacas in the world."

Jenny Jackson reinforced this opinion by saying, "since judging the National Classic in 2000, there has been an overall increase in quality throughout the classes. I was particularly impressed by the improvement in fineness, uniformity and density of alpacas in the junior classes."

The line-up in the suri classes also impressed the judges, with Supreme Champion being awarded to *Pucara Tahiti*, a stunning intermediate white male owned by Alan Cousill and Jude Anderson of Victoria.

"An upstanding intermediate male with a fine silky handling fleece. His fleece qualities were excellent with extremely high lustre and tight locking. The architecture and solidity of lock running evenly through the entire fleece took this male into Supreme Champion position", commented Dianne Condon.

Joyce and Jeffery Hill were also the proud winners of the Champion Huacaya Fleece title awarded to white Adelyn Iquito. The dual titles for the Hills' Adelyn Alpacas stud acknowledged the credibility of their breeding program as Adelyn Iquito is also the full brother to Adelyn Omague. The Champion Suri Fleece, light fawn in colour, was awarded to Adsail Golden Argonaut exhibited by Paul Carney of South Australia.

Cameron Holt, senior consultant to alpaca and specialty fibres, judged the fleeces. He commented that "the fleece entries demonstrated the rapid increase we are still making in the excellence of alpaca fibre. The majority of fleeces showed excellent style through their good definition of crimp, brightness/lustre. To think that the fleeces exhibited averaged 21 micron shows incredible advancement



Champion Suri Fleece Adsail Golden Argonaut

that the industry has made. There were a number of fleeces that could easily have been awarded Supreme Champion Fleece – the result boiled down to the extra care in preparation."

Underscoring the focus on breeding alpaca to produce quality fibre for commercial purposes, a 'Most Valuable Commercial Fleece Class' was repeated this year and was awarded to dark fawn *Narraburra Lucky Sprite* exhibited by Lynn & Lutz Jacoby of Victoria.

The huge number of entries in the progeny classes in both the huacaya and suri categories reflected the consistency and predictable results that breeders are now achieving toward commercial success in the Australian alpaca industry. Huacaya Sires Progeny was awarded to Windsong Valley Royal Inca and Suri Sires Progeny was awarded, for the second year in a row, to ILR Helado S170 ALOA.

During the weekend's proceedings, alpaca owners once again dug deep for the Peruvian Disaster Appeal. Mary and Russell Terracall of Wyuna Park Alpacas, Victoria generously donated an 8 month old white female, *Wyuna Park Phoebe*, for silent auction. The successful bidder was Tarrant Ridge Pty Ltd, offering \$6,000 which was added to the amount of \$20,170 already collected by the AAA for the appeal to date.

Other opportunities to dig deep into pockets presented themselves during the weekend as alpaca owners entered into the spirit of the silent stud service auction, and the fun auction that was conducted by Chris Williams in his usual inimitable style at the Saturday night dinner. These traditional fundraisers go some way towards the cost of running such a gala event and the generous donations by alpaca owners of goods and services are greatly appreciated.



Most Valuable Commercial Fleece Narraburra Lucky Sprite

Bidding of a more serious nature took place on the Sunday as 11 pre-selected Lots were paraded. After spirited bidding, the earlier judged National Supreme Champion Huacaya, Adelyn Omague became the highest priced female when sold under the hammer for the excellent price of \$46,200 to Harriet and Ian Davison and Celia Cook of Illawarra Alpacas, NSW. The highest priced Suri alpaca, Pucara Josephine, was sold for \$31,900 to Jill Short and Alan Hamilton of Surilana Alpacas, Victoria.

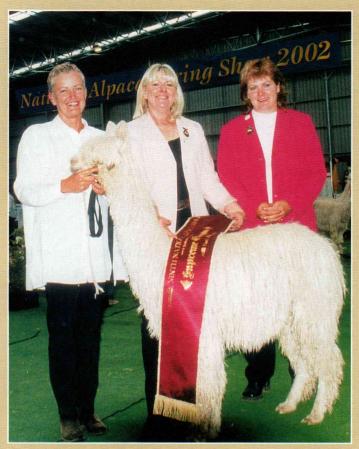
"The 2002 Auction was a resounding vote of confidence in our industry", said AAA President, Kerry Dwyer at the conclusion of the 100% clearance. "Particularly pleasing was the interest and purchases by new entrants to the industry".

For a comprehensive list of all Show and Auction results visit the AAA website at: www.alpaca.asn.au



Adelyn Omague, the highest priced female sold under the hammer during the Auction

2002 National Show



SUPREME CHAMPION SURI Champion Intermediate Male Suri Pucara Tahiti



SUPREME CHAMPION HUACAYA
Champion Junior Female Huacaya Adelyn Omague



Champion Junior Female Suri Surilana Lady Godiva



Champion Junior Male Suri Surilana Accoyo Adonis



Champion Intermediate Female Suri Pacofino SFU Claudine



Champion Adult Female Suri Pucara Josephine



Champion Adult Male Suri Elysion Peppermint Twist



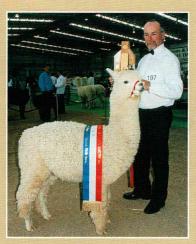
Suri Sires Progeny
ILR Helado S170 ALOA



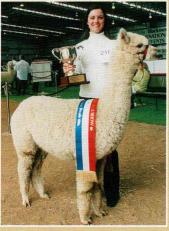
Champion Junior Male Huacaya Running Creek Missouri



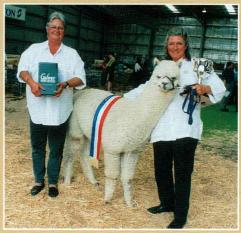
Champion Intermediate Female Huacaya Windsong Valley Raingirl



Champion Intermediate Male Huacaya Swan Valley Achiever



Champion Adult Female Huacaya Eringa Park Showtime



Champion Adult Male Huacaya Benleigh Kanzas



Champion Senior Female Huacaya Greenvale Pia



Champion Senior Male Huacaya Encantador Centurion



Champion Mature Female Huacaya Ambersun Gold



Champion Mature Male Huacaya Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo



Huacaya Sires Progeny Windsong Valley Royal Inca



Best Fancy Huacaya Daer Enahs Joseph



Best Wether Buster

The Ring Steward

THREE DIFFERENT STORIES ALL BROUGHT TOGETHER

(... and they all lived happily ever after?)

THE CONVENOR'S LAMENT (where to find a good ring steward?)

by PAUL HASLIN ELYSION ALPACAS, NSW

when preparing for a show is the position of Ring Steward. This job has the unique problem that, once the judging starts, they are on their own. No one can tell them if they are doing the job right - unless it's a withering glance from the judge after an alpaca breaks away and jumps out of the ring!

he most difficult job to fill

We have to find someone who will work all day, paying full attention to the judge, the handlers, the alpacas and be aware of what class or classes are in the ring and what's coming in next. Add to this the ability to deal

gently but firmly with the alpacas (and the handlers). The Ring Steward needs to know how the particular judge of the day likes animals presented - some judges prefer to do their own handling, but this is possibly a result of experiencing ineffective Ring Stewards who can be more of a hindrance than a help.

The best Ring Stewards make sure they understand how the judge wants the alpacas paraded and lined up. They will ensure that each handler and alpaca has sufficient space to minimise the animals stirring one another up. They will familiarise themselves with the vagaries of the lighting to ensure that animals are all being examined to the best advantage but under equal

conditions. They will be prepared to restrain alpacas for examination where necessary and will remember the 'special' cases when they return to the ring for championship rounds. They will constantly watch the judge for instructions to move alpacas forward, backward or along the line. They will communicate with the marshalling stewards to be able to advise the judge which class is entering the ring, how many in the class and whether more than one class is parading. They will watch for the odd pile of paca poo, gently guiding the judge around it whilst ensuring it is promptly removed. They are very special people and are much revered by exhibitors, organisers, judges and the viewing public!

THE JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE (a wish list)

by LYN DICKSON <u>Wa</u>rral<mark>i</mark>nga alpaca Stud, NSW

rom a judge's perspective, the Ring Steward can make or break the smooth running of the show. A good Ring Steward makes the judge's task so much easier and helps the ring proceedings to flow. In my opinion, an excellent Ring Steward actually enhances the judge's ability to concentrate on the all-important decision-making process - makes the judge "look good". Conversely an inexperienced Ring Steward can make the judge's job more difficult, and actually hinder the process, because the judge has to spend time doing the Ring Steward's job which may detract from the focus on the job at hand, particularly in a show with a large number of entries.

I am always surprised that we don't have more people putting themselves forward to learn the ins and outs of being a Ring Steward, because the Ring Steward, alongside the judge, is in the privileged position of being able to see

the quality of the fleeces on the animals in the ring (something that mere spectators never get to see). They don't always get 'hands on' the fleeces, but they certainly gain a very good understanding of the quality on offer at a particular show, and more than anyone else at any given show, are in a position to understand just how difficult the judge's job can be.

The qualities that I like to see in my Ring Stewards are:

- Courtesy and respect towards handlers and alpacas.
- Understanding of how the showing 'system' works.
- Knowledge eg. How many alpacas in this class? Is this a combined class? Do we have three classes in the ring at once to be judged separately, and if so, how many in each class?
- **Ringcraft** an ability to organise large numbers of alpacas into areas which are often too small, in a manner which still affords the judge some space to actually 'see' the animals to be judged.

- Brain not Braun an intuitive approach to thinking ahead and anticipating an animal's reaction to being examined by the judge, being on hand to intervene with a difficult animal, but not intervening too early thus becoming part of the problem.
- **Stamina** (and comfortable boots).

If you aspire to become a judge, or if you want to learn more about showing and show quality alpacas, or if you are just passionate about alpacas, I can think of no more useful apprenticeship than serving some time as a Ring Steward.

The pay is lousy, the hours are long and arduous, the food is often marginal, the workplace conditions dirty, plus all the kicks and scrapes on the shin bones require massage and remedial treatment afterwards. However the negatives are far outweighed by the fabulous opportunity to see the total showing of quality animals up close and personal!

THE ROLE OF THE RING STEWARD (a self confession)

by ALICIA ANDERSON
REGAL HOUSE ALPACAS, NSW



number of years ago when we decided to start showing there seemed to be a bit of

apprehension amongst 'show goers' about Ring Stewards. It seemed most people were not happy with their animals being 'manhandled', causing them to jump around after they had spent so much time working with them so they would stand in the show ring.

My first real show experience was a large show and my animal was grabbed from behind by two Ring Stewards which caused her to leap in the air, AND she took me with her! On the other hand, at some other shows when you, or the judge, needed some help – the Ring Steward was nowhere to be found! There had to be a better way – a method that would be pleasing for the exhibitors as well as easy for the judge AND as stress-free for the animals as possible.

Speaking with exhibitors and judges was important to find out what they thought would be helpful. Upon completion of the AAA Stewards' course I volunteered to be Ring Steward for my first show – the annual Charles Ledger Show. It was a large show and certainly an initiation as I found myself working with two judges – an accredited judge and an apprentice! It was a great day, and yes, I was exhausted at the end, but I knew I had found a method that worked for all participants when so many exhibitors came up to me after the show and thanked me

I believe that ring stewarding has been successful for me because *I care*:

- I care about the animals and so I try to make the experience as stress-free as possible for them;
- I care about the exhibitors so they will be confident in knowing that I am there if they need help; and
- I care about the judge it's important that the conditions in the show ring allow them to confidently assess the animals that are presented to them, to enable them to make a true and fair decision.

It isn't always necessary to 'manhandle' the animals and if they are a bit jumpy it isn't necessary to restrain them by grabbing their fleece (which is just like pulling your hair).

I find that a firm grip over the rear leg with my own leg positioned firmly against their side is often all that is needed. It is vital to keep your eye on the judge at all times (as should exhibitors) and to be there when needed - in a way, to 'mirror' the judge's movements - and be close enough so the judge can give you instructions to move animals around without getting in his/her way. Also, the Ring Steward should move smoothly and quietly amongst the animals and approach them slowly to prevent startling them. To me, these are important things to remember.

Quite often the handler is not sure how to hold their animals when the judge approaches. My tip is: when standing on the left side of the animal, turn and face it, hold the head in your left arm with your right hand firmly on the withers, place your left leg in front of the alpaca to give you balance. Be prepared, even the best mannered alpacas will get fed up and move around. Don't move forward of the alpaca and just hold the lead, the judge cannot hold the animal for you and the Ring Steward needs your assistance as well.

I consider it an honour to be asked to be Ring Steward – at all shows, large or small. To date I have been a Ring Steward at three National Shows and twice at Sydney Royal Shows, not to mention various other shows in NSW over the last couple of years – and every time has been fabulous.

A lot of exhibitors know me now and will tell me if they have an animal they need help with or if they have a 'kicker' – and believe me, I certainly appreciate any information like that! I sometimes finish a show with some amazing bruises over my legs!

The only dilemma when asked to be a Ring Steward is – I then can't show. Sometimes it can be a difficult decision but being a Ring Steward puts you in a prime position – you have the next best view besides the judge. You get to see the fleece on all the animals that are being shown and you have the opportunity to learn so much from the judges – I think it's the best seat in the house!

Now, for that next step... hmmm. ■

A mock demonstration with Ring Steward Alicia Anderson and Judge Lyn Dickson



When exhibiting – placing one leg in front of the alpaca and the other on the wither helps you keep control.



Be prepared to keep the animal steady – regardless of how quiet he is.





Gently placing your thigh and knee in front of the rear leg and against the body of the alpaca is often all that is needed to keep the animal steady.

TERRA-VAC

SUCTION CLEANERS



THE ANSWER TO MANURE COLLECTION IN THE ALPACA INDUSTRY

Designed and manufactured by Vulcan Engineers Ltd in Suffolk, England since 1982, the Terra-Vac range of suction machines were originally designed for use in the equine industry. Since that date, the Terra-Vac range has been successfully applied to the poultry, timber and council clean-up industries. After successful testing, the Terra-Vac has proved to be the answer to effortless and hygenic collection of manure in the Alpaca industry.

Available in a range of capacities, the size of the machine required is dependant upon the number of animals owned. With capacities ranging from 1m3 to 10m3, there is a machine to suit most applications.

The 1m³ and 2m³ models are available in either PTO or independant engine drive, and can therefore be towed by mower, quad bike, 4WD etc. The larger machines, 3m3 to 10m3, are PTO driven only, and require a 20hp to 60hp tractor.

FEATURING:

- Simple Suction Mulching System Steel mulching fan powered by PTO or Briggs and Stratton 9hp (1m3) or 13hp (2m3) petrol engine.
- Twin Modes: The hover plate allows the operator to clean large areas without leaving the towing vehicle, while the wander-hose is employed in hard to reach areas.
- Simple to Use: Just hook the machine to the towing vehicle, start the engine, select pick-up mode with the flick of a lever and you're away.
- Easy to Empty and Clean After collection, the Terra-Vac is emptied using the hydraulic tipping system, then hosed out, while the mulch produced is perfect for the garden.
- The 200mm diameter hose collects manure in a fraction of - Drastically Reduces Clear the time compared to shovel and wheelbarrow.
- Tough and Reliable The steel fan is able to pick up general rubbish, small sticks and stones, straw, leaves and bark (ask us for specific applications), making it perfect for general clean-up, and comes with a 12 month warranty and further one year extension on the engine.



HOVER-PLATE PICK-UP

WANDER-HOSI



For Further information, please contact Australian and New Zealand Distributers:



A.B.N. 60095448016

LEGEND POWER PRODUCTS PTY LTD

P.O. BOX 895, RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

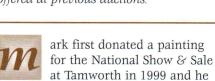
Phone: 1300 556 444 Fax: 1300 558 666

INT: Ph: 612 4964 8955 Fax: 612 4964 8977 Mobile: 0409 560 880 Email: legendpp@bigpond.com

Art, Alpacas & Auctions

MARK SHORT ALPACAS CHAPARRAL, SA

Fast and furious bidding and a lucky
South Australian alpaca breeder takes
home a painting of three alpacas by
Mark Short entitled "A Collection of
Colours". Jane Wray was delighted to be
the successful bidder for the painting as
she had missed out on other paintings
offered at previous auctions.



has since donated a painting each year, raising more than \$6,000 for the AAA. In addition he has donated a painting for the Geelong Alpaca Fest and a drawing of the Supreme Champion Alpaca at the Mount Pleasant Show in South Australia.

Mark's passion for painting began at an early age when he excelled at art in school. Shortly after he applied to the Adelaide School of Art, but then was offered a position working on the "John Martin's Christmas Pageant" – a dream come true for any young artist! In later years he attended pastel art classes at night and since that time has worked in both pastels and gouache.

Mark has held several successful exhibitions in South Australia at Port Vincent and in Adelaide. One such exhibition, held at the Kensington Gallery, coincided with the publication of a book entitled *New Art Seven* which includes some of his work.

Interstate and overseas collectors have purchased many of his paintings.

Last year, Mark's talent was acknowledged when he won Best Local Artist in the "Encounter 2000 Exhibition", competing against other artists from Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. The winning painting was of green pygmy geese, a native bird of Australia.

Since becoming an alpaca breeder, Mark has enjoyed painting and drawing alpacas and manages to capture the expressions and character of these wonderful animals. Many of his paintings are also of South Australian



Mark Short and Jane Wray with "A Collection of Colours"

seascapes and marine life, which reflects Mark's lifestyle and active involvement in ocean aquatics.

Mark is manager of the Port Vincent Aquatic Centre. This centre is the base for an Education Department program that teaches school students how to snorkel, sail, kayak, surf and windsurf with a strong emphasis on water safety. Not surprisingly, in his 'spare time', Mark enjoys scuba diving for crayfish and snorkeling for crabs and scallops and is often accompanied by alpaca breeder and scuba diving enthusiast, Chris Williams from Ambersun Alpacas.

It was when Mark was attending an Aquatic conference that his partner Dee Finlay attended one of the first Ambersun Alpacas open days back in 1993. This introduction was enough to stimulate their interest in alpacas, and Mark and Dee bought their first animals soon after. Initially they agisted the alpacas at Ambersun in the Adelaide Hills until they built their dream home on a property at Minlaton on the Yorke Peninsula. To provide a perfect home for their alpacas, Mark and Dee have fenced extensively, planted fifteen hundred trees, built shelters and also dug a dam which the alpacas regularly use during the hot

With nearly ten years' experience behind them, they now have twenty females and intend to build that number higher. In addition to their own herd, Alpacas Chaparral, Mark and Dee are also significant shareholders in Fine Choice Alpaca Sires, a company which represents a syndicate of alpaca breeders who have purchased and imported some of Australia's highest

profile Peruvian males, including *ILR Ppperuvian Auzengate 6010*, *Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo* and *Fine Choice Peruvian Poncho*. They believe that their access to these males has been instrumental in improving the quality and fineness of their cria.

Mark and Dee enjoy showing their alpacas, and commute to alpaca shows both locally and interstate. They are regular faces at many of the shows in Victoria, and enjoy the opportunities that shows offer for networking and socialising with other alpaca breeders. Their recent shows have offered good opportunities for celebration, with *Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo* winning five Supreme Championships in eight showings (including the 2002 Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows).

The shows and the social events which accompany the shows have also offered Mark the opportunity to sell his paintings, and he has received numerous commissions for paintings from alpaca breeders who wanted to have their favourite alpacas immortalised on canvas. It is one way that other alpaca breeders can share their passion with this talented artist.

"The Winning Circle" by Mark Short.



Artificial Insemination in Alpacas

by JANE VAUGHAN BVSc PhD MACVSc

Artificial insemination (AI) in alpacas is the subject of research in several countries. First attempts at AI occurred in the 1960s in South American camelids (SAC) in Peru (Fernandez-Baca et al. 1966, Calderon et al. 1968). Since then, studies in semen collection and AI have been performed in SAC in Australia (Gunn 1999), North and South America (Bravo et al. 1997, Ratto et al. 1999, Huanca et al. 2001b), Britain (McEvoy et al. 1992) and Germany (Burgel et al. 1999). Concentrated efforts at commercialising AI in camels have occurred in the last 20 years in an attempt to improve quality and production of milk and meat, in response to higher stakes in camel racing and increased interest in breed conservation (Purohit 1999a) and will directly assist developing similar technologies in alpacas.

Development of AI is aimed at increasing the use of superior alpaca males as multiple doses of semen will theoretically be derived from each ejaculate. Artificial insemination will reduce the need for 'mobile matings' and therefore reduce the risk of injury and transport-associated diseases in elite males and significantly reduce the risk of transmission of Johne's disease, lice and other infectious agents among alpaca farms. Artificial insemination will also allow more humane and economic international movement of superior genotypes and increase the efficiency of dissemination of superior alpaca genotypes within Australia. It will also allow storage of genetics prior to disease or death of elite males. In other fibre industries, such as Merino sheep and Angora goat production, assisted breeding is being used to improve fibre quality more rapidly than would otherwise be possible by natural mating.



There are no established AI services for alpacas and llamas world-wide. The reasons include:

- the difficulties of funding and sustaining research in Latin America in the past
- the difficulty in semen collection
- the mucoid characteristic of alpaca semen which precludes the easy adaptation of AI technology from other species
- the characteristic of induced ovulation in female alpacas

- the lack of techniques to define reproductive excellence in male alpacas
- the lack of proven techniques to store alpaca semen in chilled or frozen form
- the difficulty of transcervical pipette passage of some females

Research is currently aimed at developing the collection, processing and preservation of alpaca semen and improving the technology for insemination of semen.

COLLECTION OF SEMEN

It is difficult to collect semen from camelids because of the mating posture, duration of copulation, intrauterine deposition of semen and the viscous nature of the ejaculate (Bravo et al. 1994b, 2000a). The use of an artificial vagina (AV) in combination with either a receptive female (Gauly et al. 1996, Huanca et al. 2001b), a dummy (FIG 1; Garnica et al. 1993, Bravo et al. 1997a,b, Davalos et al. 1999) or halfdummy mount (Lichtenwalner et al. 1996b) in South American camelids has yielded the most representative copulation times and mating behaviour in camelids. There is no urine contamination of semen and assessment of sexual behaviour is possible (Lichtenwalner et al. 1996b). Therefore, the AV method of semen collection presumably provides semen samples most representative of natural mating.



FIGURE 1. Male alpaca mating dummy.

The AV may be constructed of PVC pipe or reinforced rubber tube (25-30 cm long, 5-7 cm diameter) and lined with a latex liner (FIG 2; Lichtenwalner et al. 1996b, Bravo et al. 1997a). Various workers have noted the importance of placing a stricture around the latex liner of the AV to simulate the presence of a cervix (Garnica et al. 1993, Bravo 1995, Bravo et al. 1997a, Fowler et al. 1998). Warm water is placed between the inner latex liner and the outer tube (Garnica et al. 1993, Lichtenwalner et al. 1996b, Bravo et al. 1997a).



FIGURE 2. An artificial vagina used to collect semen from alpacas.

The AV is wrapped in a heating pad (Bravo 1995, Bravo et al. 1997a, Fowler et al. 1998) or warm water is continuously pumped through it (Lichtenwalner et al. 1996b) to maintain temperature.

Males are trained to mount a dummy by first exposing them to receptive females and mating pairs of alpacas as a stimulus (Garnica et al. 1993, 1995, Bravo et al. 1997a,b).

Characteristics of Semen

Ejaculates are not fractionated in alpacas and llamas so semen is uniform in quality from start to end of copulation (Sumar 1983, Moscoso et al. 1999, Bravo et al. 2002). There is considerable variation in semen characteristics among different alpaca and llama males, which may pose a problem in obtaining acceptable quality ejaculates from some males (Gauly et al. 1996, Von Baer et al. 1999, Raymundo et al. 2000).

The volume of each ejaculate in alpacas averages 1-2 mL (range < 1-7 mL; von Kubicek 1974, Garnica et al. 1995, Fowler et al. 1998). Semen is usually described as milky- or creamy-white in colour (FIG 3; Garnica et al. 1993, Bravo et al. 1997a,b) depending on sperm concentration (Tibary et al. 1999b). Alpaca semen is very viscous (Garnica et al. 1993, Bravo et al. 1997a,b), making it difficult to handle (e.g. pipetting, smearing on a slide), difficult to determine parameters such as sperm concentration and sperm motility, and difficult to dilute (Garnica et al. 1993, Tibary et al. 1999b). The degree of viscosity varies between males (Tibary et al. 1999b) and decreases with increasing number of ejaculates on any day (Bravo et al. 1997b).

Sperm concentration varies from approximately 30,000 up to 150 million per mL in alpacas (*Bravo 1995*, *Garnica et al. 1995*, *Gauly et al. 1996*).



FIGURE 3. Semen collected from an alpaca.

Such wide variations are attributed to differences in males, semen collection methods and ejaculate number (*Tibary et al. 1999b*).

The movement of camelid sperm in undiluted semen is best described as oscillatory as most sperm move back and forth on the spot and only 5 to 10% of individual sperm actively progress forwards (*Neely 1993, Bravo et al. 1997a*). Sperm increase their progressive motility as the ejaculate becomes more liquid (*Tibary et al. 1999b*).

Sperm transport in the female reproductive tract

Few studies are available on the transport of sperm in the female reproductive tract following intrauterine deposition of semen in camelids (Bravo et al. 1996b). There appears to be no difference in sperm numbers travelling up the left and right uterine horns (Bravo et al. 1996b). Even though 98% of pregnancies are carried in the left uterine horn, ovulations occur with equal frequency from both ovaries (Fernandez-Baca et al. 1973). A high percentage of sperm (77%) is found at the uterotubal junctions or in the oviducts 6 hours after mating in the alpaca. The uterotubal junctions are the sites of sperm storage 24-30 hours postmating. Little is known about camelid sperm longevity, however, ovulation occurs approximately 30 hours after the mating stimulus in alpacas (Huanca et al. 2001a), so sperm survival is certainly longer than this.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION TECHNOLOGY

Liquefaction, dilution, extension and freezing of semen

Various methods have been used to liquefy, dilute, extend and freeze camelid semen, with limited success. The first difficulty in handling alpaca semen, due to high viscosity (FIG. 4), is removing it from the AV and liquefying the ejaculate. Semen liquefies naturally 23 hours (range 8-30 hours) after collection (Bravo et al. 1994b). Various methods of liquefaction of semen, such as the use of enzymes (Callo et al. 1999, Bravo et al. 2000a, b) and mechanical stirring (A Niasari-Naslaji, personal communication), have been trialled with some success to simplify handling and allow dilution, extension and freezing of semen.



FIGURE 4. Viscous alpaca semen.

Two major systems of sperm conservation have been developed in domestic species to maintain sperm viability but reduce/arrest metabolism in sperm: cooled or chilled, liquid semen and frozen semen. The main advantage of using liquid semen is that fertility is maintained in most species with low numbers of sperm per AI dose, however, fertility of sperm is only maintained for 3 to 5 days when cooled (10-21°C) or chilled (4-5°C; Yoshida 2000, Simson 2001). Freezing sperm in liquid nitrogen, on the other hand, allows indefinite storage but requires many more sperm per inseminate (e.g. 1 million bull sperm per dose using liquid semen, compared with 15 million bull sperm per dose using frozen semen; Yoshida 2000). Rates of cooling and length of storage of sperm affect sperm longevity.

Solutions that are added to semen to assist with sperm preservation are known as 'extenders'. They contain compounds that protect sperm outside the reproductive tract during chilling and freezing, as seminal plasma alone provides limited protection for sperm (Salamon et al. 1995, Simson 2001). Lipoproteins, such as those found in egg yolk and milk, protect sperm against cold shock by stabilising cellular membranes during chilling. Glycerol, the most widely used protective agent for freezing, enters sperm cells and impedes formation of intracellular ice crystals and regulates osmotic balance. Energy is provided to sperm by addition of metabolisable substrates such as glucose, fructose or lactose. Antibiotics may be added to semen extenders to control bacterial growth (Salamon et al. 1995, Simson 2001).

Numerous workers have attempted chilling and then freezing camelid semen using a 2-step dilution with glycerol, and slow freezing in liquid nitrogen vapour (Bravo et al. 1996c, Valdivia et al. 1999, Bravo et al. 2000a). Bravo (2002) claims that Tris buffer combined with egg yolk and glycerol is the most promising combination to maintain sperm viability during dilution, refrigeration, freezing and thawing of camelid semen. Unfortunately, efficient preservation of sperm with good fertilising ability following freezing and thawing has yet to be achieved in alpacas. Freezing may damage sperm by altering membrane structure or inducing osmotic shock, dehydration, salt toxicity, intracellular ice formation, fluctuation in cellular volume/surface area or metabolic imbalance (Simson 2001). Any alteration to progressive motility, cellular metabolism, cell membranes, acrosomal enzymes or nucleoproteins during freezing will render sperm incapable of fertilising ova (Simson

Time of insemination in relation to induction of ovulation

Synchronous ovulation and insemination is required to achieve high conception rates. In some species, high conception rates occur when sperm are in the oviduct just before ovulation (Hafez 1993). If sperm are placed into the tract too early, they will lose viability prior to ovulation, and if sperm are placed into the tract after ovulation, the ovum may lose viability before fertilisation can occur (Hafez 1993). Artificial insemination 24-36 hours after induction of ovulation has resulted in acceptable conception rates in alpacas and llamas (Pacheco 1996, Quispe 1996, Apaza et al. 1999).

Numbers of sperm required per Al dose

The sperm concentration required for successful fertilisation and pregnancy is not known in camelids (Brown 2000). Ewes require 120-125 million fresh sperm using transcervical AI for acceptable conception rates, but only 20 million frozen/thawed sperm when intrauterine AI is used (Brown 2000). Pregnancies have resulted in alpacas and llamas by inseminating 8-26 million sperm transcervically (Quispe 1996, Aller et al. 1999b). Intrauterine semen deposition of semen during copulation in camelids may be an adaptation to overcome the relatively low sperm concentrations (Brown 2000).

Method of delivering sperm into the uterus

Bravo et al. (1997a) compared the techniques of transcervical and laparoscopic AI in alpacas using fresh, undiluted semen and achieved similar conception rates. Transcervical AI would appear to be a simpler, less-invasive procedure, however has limitations of rectal/pelvic capacity to allow transrectal manual stabilisation of the cervix when passing the AI pipette through the cervix, and the difficulty of locating the external os of the cervix during this procedure. Laparoscopic AI requires restraint of the female in a crate, sedation with or without a general anaesthetic, and expensive laparoscopic equipment.

Conclusion

The development and application of reproductive technologies has been instrumental in the genetic improvement of other domestic species, and this will also be essential for the multiplication and dispersal of genetically superior alpacas within the Australian alpaca industry. Before reproductive technologies become practical in alpacas, however, considerable research is required to better understand their unique reproductive physiology and to improve the techniques of collection, processing and preservation of semen.

References:

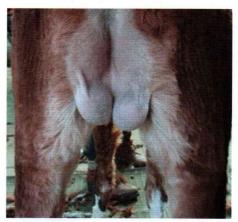
A list of references is available on request.

Selection of early maturing males with large testes

(why size IS important)

by JANE VAUGHAN BVSc PhD MACVSc

Many alpaca breeders have a justified fixation on body conformation and fibre characteristics of males during the difficult process of selection of suitable stud sires. Breeders should also include testicular size in their selection process to ensure that males of high fertility. that are able to minimise generation intervals, are selected. This article is aimed at giving breeders some background in male reproductive physiology to assist with objective selection of males for breeding.



Oh my!

Male alpacas are usually born with descended testes that are small, soft and difficult to palpate (Sumar 1983, Bravo 1995, Fowler et al. 1998). Plasma testosterone levels are basal (Bravo 1995) and adhesions exist between the penis and prepuce at birth (Sumar 1983, Johnson 1989, Fernandez-Baca 1993). As males mature, the testes enlarge and plasma testosterone levels increase (at approximately 20 months of age in the

majority of alpacas; *Bravo 1995*). Rising concentrations of testosterone allow the animal to grow and put on body condition, develop secondary sexual characteristics and apparently breakdown peno-preputial adhesions (Sumar 1983, Fernandez-Baca 1993, Bravo et al. 1994b, Bravo 1995, Fowler et al. 1998, Brown 2000).

The onset of sexual maturity is often determined by the age at which the penile adhesions disappear and males become capable of a full erection, rather than the time at which viable sperm are produced (Smith 1999c). It has been observed in alpacas that at 1 year of age 8-12% of males, at 2 years of age 60-78% of males and at 3 years of age 94-100% of males have lost peno-preputial adhesions (Sumar 1983, Fernandez-Baca 1993, Fowler et al. 1998, Smith 1999c, Bravo et al. 2000). The variation in age at which peno-preputial adhesions are lost may be partially explained by plane of nutrition (Fernandez-Baca 1993) as there is a correlation between body size and mean testicular length (Galloway 2000). The wide variation in testicular size at any one age or body size suggests that other factors, probably genetic, are also important (Galloway 2000). Alpacas are considered to have reached full sexual development at 5 years of age, at approximately 63 kg body weight (Sumar 1983).

Seasonality

Spermatogenesis occurs throughout the year in all camelids (Arthur 1992, ElWishy 1988) and therefore mature males should be fertile all year. Seasonal variations in sperm production are based on geographical origin (hence nutrition, climate and other environmental factors), herd management, extent of domestication and social structure of the group of camelids (Novoa 1970, ElWishy 1988, McEvoy et al. 1994).

Fertility

Under conditions of natural mating, pregnancy and subsequent parturition rates following a single mating have been reported as low (Sumar 1985) and less efficient than other farm species (Wiepz et al. 1985). However, there have been reports of 21 out of 28 (75%) female llamas pregnant after two matings 4-8 hours apart (Adams et al. 1990), a 46% parturition rate in single-mated llamas (Condorena et al. 1988) and 34 out of 70 (49%) females pregnant 60 days after a single random natural mating (Vaughan et al. 2002). These rates compare favourably with conception rates in other domestic livestock and suggest that unsuitable reproductive management, nutritional deficiencies and inbreeding contribute to low fertility (Parraguez et al. 1997). The sperm concentration required for successful fertilisation and pregnancy is not known, but intracornual semen deposition of semen during copulation may be an adaptation to overcome relatively low sperm concentrations in ejaculates (Brown 2000).

To maximise the number of sperm per ejaculate and matings per day, it has been recommended to select males with large testicular size on the assumption that the direct relationship between testis size and sperm production in other domestic livestock also occurs in camelids (Sumar 1983, Smith 1999c. Brown 2000, Galloway 2000). Mean testicular length (the average length of left and right testes) is correlated with testicular weight (Galloway 2000) and may be used as a simple means of assessing testicular size in alpacas. Mean testicular length may be used to estimate the likelihood of

Mean testicular length (cm)	Proportion of males (%)	% testicular tissue producing elongated spermatids*	
<3	100	0	
3-4	68	<10	
	31	30-60	
>4	36	<10	
	31	10-60	
	31	>60	

^{*} Elongated spermatids are the last step in the cellular production line before spermatozoa are produced in the seminiferous tubules of the testes.

sperm production in alpacas (TABLE 1; Galloway 2000). Differences in sperm output are largely due to testicular size in bulls. Testicular size is highly inherited in bulls. These two observations indicate that testicular size is important in selection and evaluation of sires. For example, Bravo et al. (1995) describe a trial in which male llamas with small testes (3.0 x 1.9 cm) achieved a 45% pregnancy rate, while males with larger testes (4.8 x 3.2 cm) achieved a 75% pregnancy rate. Pugh (1999) observed male llamas with testes 3.5 x 2.9 cm achieved 21/30 (70%) pregnancies, while males with smaller testes (2.5 x 2.2 cm) only achieved 12/30 (40%) pregnancies. Body size has also been correlated with mean testicular length and suggests that nutrition is one important factor in

determining testicular size (Galloway 2000). Precocious behaviour, mating ability (no peno-preputial adhesions) and sperm production in yearlings are also desirable traits in selection programs (Sumar 1983, Galloway 2000).

The number of matings performed in one day by a male influences fertility. Bravo et al. (1997d) observed that male alpacas bred two or four times per day achieved a 77% pregnancy rate, while those bred six times per day achieved a 59% pregnancy rate. It was proposed that rates declined in response to exhaustion of sperm reserves (Bravo et al. 1997d). The number of consecutive days that matings occur on also influences fertility (Bravo et al. 1997d). Copulation time decreased over consecutive breeding days and the

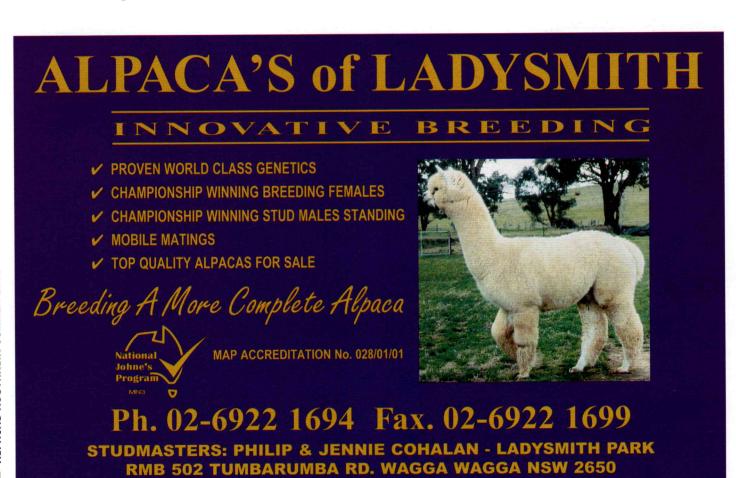
percent pregnant decreased from 71% on Day 1 of breeding, to 0% on Day 9 (*Bravo et al. 1997d*). Studies by Bravo (1995) indicate that three to four matings per day for 4 to 5 days may not compromise fertility in male alpacas however further studies under Australian conditions are needed to confirm these findings.

Conclusions

When selecting males for breeding, breeders need to select early maturing males with large testicular size, in conjunction with appropriate body conformation and fibre characteristics. Aim to select males with more sperm, sooner! Minimise generation intervals by minimising time at which puberty is reached through genetic selection of early maturing males and good nutrition of lactating females, crias and tuis. Breeders are encouraged to measure testicular length and body weight/body size index every 6 months from 12 to 36 months of age to assist with selection of potential stud sires (see separate article on measurements and recording). Record your findings and select males accordingly.

References:

A list of references is available on request.



Testicular growth survey

(size DOES matter)

by JANE VAUGHAN BVSc PhD MACVSc & DAVID GALLOWAY BVSc FRVCS VMD

Following the eager response of people attending the 2002 AAA National Conference, here are the guidelines for breeders wishing to participate in the survey of testicular growth in male alpacas in Australia.

Data to collect when males are approximately 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months of age:

■ Testicular length. Measure the longest axis of both left and right testes to the nearest 0.1 cm (FIGURE 1). Use plastic calipers (FIGURE 2) which are available from your local hardware store (consider filing off the sharp points to avoid damage to males and operators).



FIGURE 1. Measuring testicular length in an alpaca.



FIGURE 2. Plastic calipers for measuring testicular length.



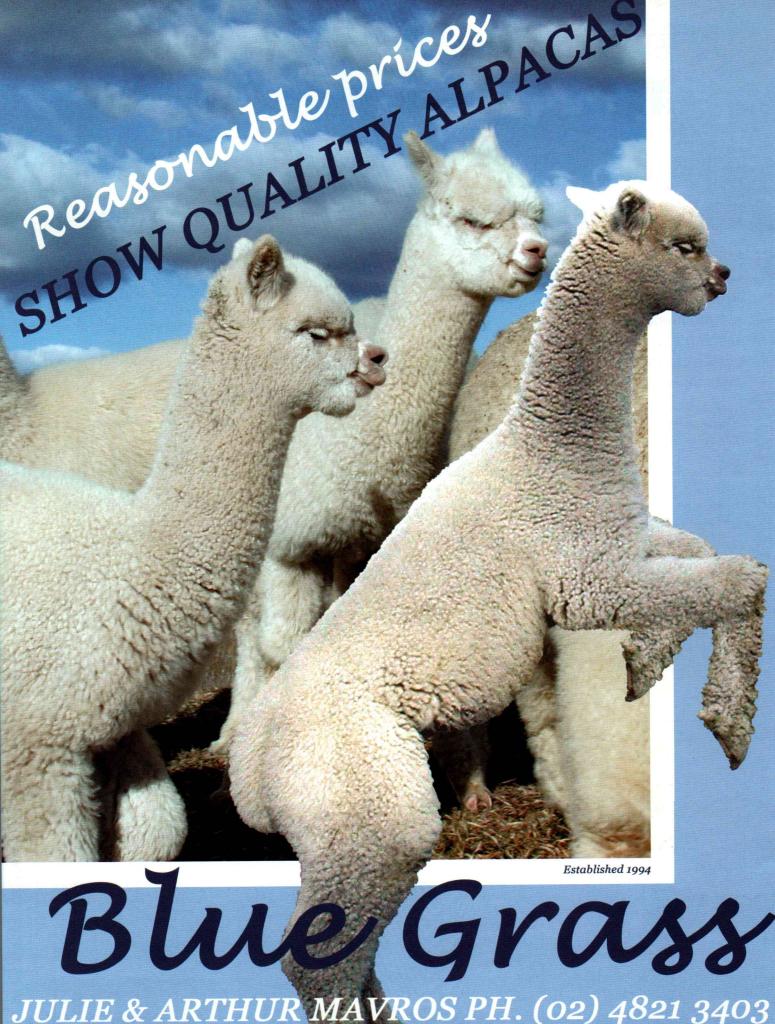
FIGURE 3. Body size index - anterior thorax cross section.

- Body weight (in kilograms) OR body size index (= height at wither in cm + circumference of chest in cm) (FIGURE 3).
- Male identity (for our purposes, males need only to be labeled 1, 2, 3 etc. We do NOT want to know IAR numbers or names but if possible would appreciate information of each male over time ie code your males 1, 2, 3 etc and use this list as reference when submitting future measurements).
- Confirmed pregnancy(ies) by ultrasound.

Data will be collated and published in Alpacas Australia Magazine to provide benchmarks for testicular growth at different ages. All information submitted from individuals will remain strictly confidential.

Testicular Growth Survey: Please submit data to the authors to: PO Box 406, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226.

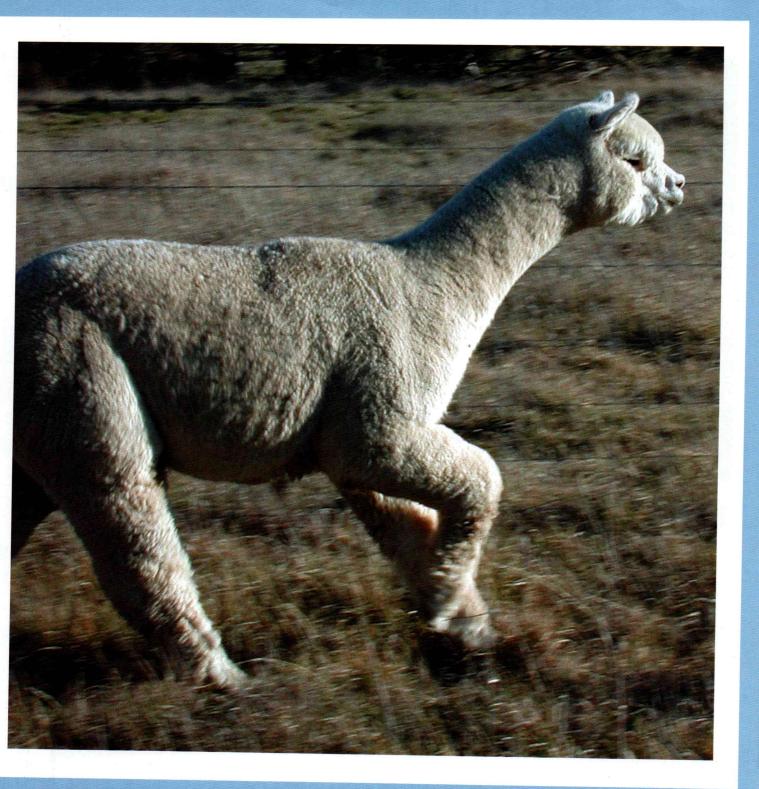
Male identity	Age (months)	Body weight (kg)	OR Body size index (height at shoulder + girth in cm)	Length of left testis (cm)	Length of right testis (cm)	Has confirmed pregnancy/ pregnancies by ultrasound
1						Yes/No
2		_				Yes/No
3	F to				2.00	Yes/No
4						Yes/No
5						Yes/No
6		e:		-		Yes/No
7						Yes/No
8		-				Yes/No
9						Yes/No
10	-					Yes/No
etc		-				-



LIE & AKIHUK MAVKOS FII. (02) 4021 3403

www.bluegrassalpacastud.com

JOLIMONT WARRIOR



IF YOU WANT OUTSTANDING CRIA Warrior is the Male for You FINENESS, INCREDIBLE DENSITY, CRIMP, LUSTRE, COVERAGE & PERFECT CONFORMATION Phone Blue Grass (02) 4821 3403

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

What is a pure suri?



by DR PIERRE BAYCHELIER ALCAZAR SURI STUD, NSW

When I was approached to write an article to discuss the question "what is a pure suri", I thought the issue could be dealt with in a few words. After reflection, I realise this question cannot be answered without first answering another question: What is a suri?

What is a suri?

There is a great deal of confusion about the use of the word suri. In effect it can have at least three different meanings. In the alpaca breeding industry, it can refer to (i) a fleece type, (ii) an animal type or (iii) an animal breed. The limits of each meaning are quite blurred and actually overlap as will be shown below. The confusion is reinforced by the existence of llamas with coats, which resemble the alpaca suri fleece type, and are called "suri llamas". Similarly, the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA) made the decision to accept for registration as a suri (type) any alpaca that exhibits fleece with

some kind of locking. This also contributes to the confusion about the meaning of the word suri.

Suri as a fleece type

Suri as a fleece type is actually well defined and a concept easy to understand. The word "type", that the AAA has decided to use, is well chosen indeed. It is an abbreviation for phenotype. Suri type fleece can be succinctly described as a fleece that hangs down in locks. The AAA standard (revised in June 2002) describes it in great length and the reader is referred to the official text for a complete detailed description [1].

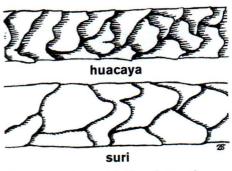
Whether the expression of this fleece phenotype is governed by only one gene, with two alleles (S and s) or by several genes or by more than two alleles has been discussed separately [2, 3]. This is beyond the scope and the point of this article. From now on, for ease of discussion, it will be assumed that only one gene governs fleece type in alpacas: [SS] and [Ss] give a suri type and [ss] gives a huacaya type. S is therefore completely dominant over s. This model fits very nicely with the vast majority of pedigree records [2].

Suri as an alpaca type

Some suri breeders are of the opinion that any alpaca exhibiting the suri fleece (pheno)type referred to above is, by definition, a suri. In that respect, they are fully in line with the AAA approach.

On the other hand, other breeders consider that suri alpacas differ from huacaya alpacas in more characteristics, including physiology, morphology and even behaviour. For example:

- Suris are stronger and generally more robust than the huacayas. They are the last to lose weight in tough times, do well on the poorer pastures and need less medical attention [4].
- The males are more virile and the females breed more readily [4].
- They have a longer life span [5].
- Suri hair grows one to two centimetres per year more than huacaya [1, 5].
- Annual fleece growth for suri is 20 cm and for huacaya 15 cm [6].
- The ideal suri exhibits little medullation, resulting in uniformity throughout the fleece [1, 7].
- Site sampling and testing on suris indicated the fleece to be more even for micron over the body [8].
- Suri fleece is much more lustrous and softer [many references].
- Compared to huacaya, the scales on suri fibre are thinner, one-directional and smooth-edged, and the only fibre softer than suri is vicuña (see illustration below). The uniform direction and tight edges of the scales account for its slippery feel. Suri fleece is cleaner than huacaya fleece [6].



Microscopic scale structure of huacaya fibre compared to suri fibre [6]

These two very different opinions perfectly illustrate the confusion about the word suri. Is it simply a fleece type or is it an animal breed?

It is also quite obvious that a simple gene with just two alleles (S and s) cannot possibly be responsible for all the differences between suris and huacayas, listed above.

Suri as an alpaca breed

A breed is an entity within a species. Individuals of the same breed resemble each other and, when mated together, produce animals which also exhibit the same phenotypes, characteristic of the breed to which they belong. This is often characterised by saying that these animals "breed true". In the present state of the AAA register, suri is certainly not considered an alpaca breed, as will be discussed further below. Suffice to say that the mating of two suri phenotypes does not always deliver a suri: two heterozygous suris [Ss] mated together can produce a huacaya [ss] with a 25% probability. Therefore they do not "breed true". The AAA register is not a breed register. It is the repository of the genealogy for the majority of Australian born alpacas, and a few alpacas born overseas. Most of the time, a breed is an artificial concept created and perpetuated by humans. How well a given breed is defined is up to the breeders. These breed definitions are called breed standards.

At present the official AAA standard for the suri, as an animal, relies mainly on fleece characteristics. The only suri characteristic not related to fleece in the AAA standard is a recent addition (June 2002): "Suri ears can be up to 2 cm longer than huacaya ears" [1]. Basically, the AAA standard defines (i) what an alpaca should look like morphologically, (ii) what the huacaya fleece type should look like and (iii) what the suri fleece type should look like. In its present state, it mainly asserts that alpacas (both suri and huacaya) should be, well, alpacas, with not too much evidence of the presence of llama genes. It then defines two fleece types in great detail: the huacaya and the suri. This approach falls very short of a proper standard for a breed. It is simply a species monograph, which allows for variation in fleece phenotype.

Breeders who believe that suris are a breed and exhibit many characteristics that are not only different from those of huacayas but also well worth preserving and perpetuating, would not be happy with such an unrefined standard.

Paradox in the present situation

It is very paradoxical that the AAA standard defines fleece types in such great detail, whereas it is very vague indeed as far as morphological characteristics are concerned.

Why bother about morphology? After all, alpacas are essentially bred for fleece production and therefore it should not matter whether they have long or short ears, a long or a short face, are compact and round or slim and elongated...

It actually matters, for two reasons. First it matters that our animals are well balanced and built in a way that they will be able to live a healthy life. This aspect is somewhat covered by the present standard, which lists a series of faults and disqualifying defects. The list is not perfect but it is a start and it is a good thing that the AAA made provision for such faults and defects to be listed in the standard. It is surprising however that these standards are only enforced during male certification. Any other alpaca (female, wether, male not destined to produce progeny to be registered but which can still be used to produce commercial animals) can be registered by the simple fact that they are born from registered parents another paradox.

The second reason why it is important to consider morphological traits in a standard is due to what we call "genetic linkage". What does this mean? Let us take a completely hypothetical example, where suris with the finest fleece tend to have longer ears. I do not know if this is true or not but this is just to illustrate the point. The reason would be that genes that are responsible for fineness are inherited together with the ones responsible for long ears, either because they are actually the same (unlikely in our example) or are located on the same chromosome, particularly if they are close to each other on the same chromosome. The presence of long ears is then said to be genetically linked with fineness. We could almost say that long ears are a marker for fineness. So why not use these indirect markers as part of the standard? This will help breeders select for animals that are indeed "true to type", as some of these markers (long ears in our example) are much easier to observe than the characters they are linked with (fineness in our example).

To finish this part about the paradoxical situation we are in, I must mention how surprising it is that the AAA standard was very carefully drafted so that the presence of llama

genes in our alpacas would not be accepted (Roman nose, banana ears, straight back line, oversize are all negative characteristics), whereas it failed to take into account the obvious morphological differences between huacayas and suris.

Let us summarise the discussion:

- The AAA seems to have decided that suri is simply a fleece type.
- The AAA standard is not a breed standard.
- The AAA register simply records the ancestry of Australian-born alpacas.
- Suri as a breed is not clearly defined in any readily available publication.

What is a pure suri?

Let us now try to answer the initial question: what is a pure suri?

If, like the AAA, you believe that suri is a fleece type, it is very tempting to say that a pure suri is an alpaca homozygous for the S gene [SS]. Some breeders have told me that this was their definition of a pure suri, no matter how this alpaca has been produced and no matter how many suris or huacayas there are in its ancestry.

I will now try and explain why I believe this is very shortsighted indeed.

The S gene and the suri fleece

If an alpaca is [SS] or [Ss], it exhibits the suri fleece type. If it is [ss], it's the huacaya type. However, one single gene cannot, by any means, be responsible for all the characteristics that make a suri fleece a (good) suri fleece. The low level of medullation, the high lustre, the higher fibre growth rate, the uniformity of micron over the whole body, all these characteristics that are clearly identified in the AAA standard as suri hallmarks, compared to huacayas, cannot be governed by one single little gene with just two alleles. It is highly likely that the S gene only governs the presence of locks.

Therefore it is not sufficient for an alpaca to be homozygous for the S gene in order to be a pure suri. Let us take an example. A homozygous suri [SS], mated to a huacaya [ss], will give an F1 [Ss], of the suri phenotype. If you mate this F1 to another F1, you will get an F2. In 25% of the cases, this F2 would be [SS] homozygous for the S gene and exhibiting locks. Does that make it a suri? With two huacaya grandparents, this animal has 50% huacaya blood. How can it be labeled "suri"? Let alone "pure suri".

This brings us to the AAA register. In the present state, the AAA register will accept this F2 for registration and it will be classified as suri. It does not matter if its fleece is not in line with the suri standard but just exhibits locks. I do not believe this will help suri breeders achieve very much.

The use of pedigrees or how breeders can change genotypes

If it is not enough for an alpaca to be homozygous for the S gene in order to be a pure suri, what does it take? It takes a long pedigree of suri ancestors, and this can readily be demonstrated by simple statistics.

We have just seen that all the suri characteristics cannot be governed by one single gene. However, we certainly can use the S allele as a typical example of the kind of genes we want to select for in the suri population.

The explanations, which follow, have already been published elsewhere [9] in September 2001 and are repeated here for the reader's convenience.

It was decided to accept the model, where S is completely dominant over s and where the following combinations result in the following phenotypes:

- [SS] suri (homozygous);
- [Ss] suri (heterozygous);
- [ss] huacaya (homozygous recessive).

In population genetics, two concepts are used:

- **gene frequency:** the relative frequency of a particular form of the gene (e.g. S) in the population;
- **genotypic frequency:** the relative frequency of a particular genotype (e.g. [Ss]) in the population.

The present Australian alpaca population consists of 94% huacayas and 6% suris. This is the phenotypic frequency. As huacayas are the homozygous recessive type, it is easy to deduce that the genotypic frequency for [ss] is also 0.94 (or 94%). Therefore the other two genotypes, [SS] and [Ss], all suris, share 6% of the population. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to determine the proportion of [SS] and [Ss] just by looking at these suris.

If you make the assumption that all the suris in the present Australian population are heterozygous [Ss] - we know this is wrong but it is a handy "worse case scenario" to consider - then, we have a genotypic frequency of 0.94 for [ss] and of 0.06 for [Ss] (and 0 for [SS]). Imagine a group of 500 such alpacas. 470 are huacayas and 30 are heterozygous suris. These animals harbour 1,000 genes, of which $470 \times 2 + 30 = 970$ are s and 30 are S. Therefore the gene frequency of s is 970/1,000 = 0.97or 97% and the gene frequency for S is 30/1,000 = 0.03 or 3%.

Imagine a very simple selection method, where only suris are mated to suris and huacayas are not allowed to reproduce. I hope that my fellow huacaya breeders will not be offended; this is just to illustrate a point. Using this very simple method, the changes in genotypic and gene frequencies can be calculated generation after generation. This is illustrated in the two graphs below.

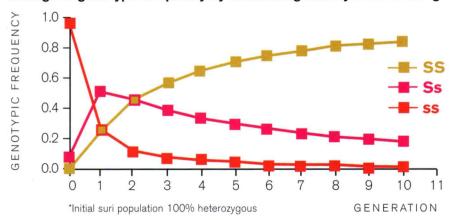
As you can see, selection changes both genotypic and gene frequencies quite dramatically. This is actually the whole point of artificial selection. The changes are quite dramatic initially, even when starting with an entirely heterozygous suri population, then the curve tapers and the rate of change rapidly slows down. In fact it is almost impossible to eliminate a recessive allele from a population. So I am quite prepared to see a few huacayas "crop up" in my suri herd from time to time.

More specifically, using the assumption mentioned above, that the initial suri population was 100% heterozygous, it would take:

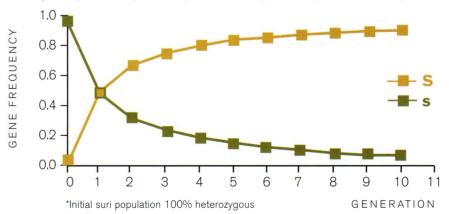
- 2 generations to obtain as many homozygous suris [SS] as heterozygous suris [Ss];
- 9 generations to obtain at least 80% homozygous suris [SS];
- 10 generations to get less than 1% huacayas;
- 19 generations to obtain at least 90% homozygous suris [SS].

What is true for one gene, is true for the whole set of genes that make a suri a good suri. The S gene was just taken as an example of how whole genotypes can be manipulated by selection. Using pedigrees recording long lineages of animals exhibiting the desired characteristics helps us select relevant populations and progress towards developing homozygous lines and eventually establishing fixed breeds (a fixed breed is a breed where all the relevant genes are homozygous in all the individuals of that breed).

Change in genotypic frequency by eliminating huacaya from mating*



Change in gene frequency by eliminating huacaya from mating*



Let us summarise the discussion:

- The presence of the S allele is not sufficient to obtain a good suri.
- The presence of the S allele in a homozygous combination [SS] is not sufficient to obtain a good suri.
- You need to carefully study an animal's pedigree to convince yourself of the purity of the animal you are interested in.

Conclusion

To conclude a rather long discussion, I would like to give my definition of what a pure suri is. It is an alpaca with at least 93% suri blood. Why 93%? Because this corresponds to 15/16 or:

- 2 suri parents
- 4 suri grand parents
- 8 suri great grand parents
- 15 pure suri great great grand parents
- and only 1 huacaya great great grand parent.

One huacaya out of 16 great great grand parents: this is 15/16 suri blood or 93.75%. Such an animal is also called a backcross 3.

As pedigrees stop at the great grand parent level, you therefore need to study the pedigrees of the parents to make sure that there is only a maximum of ONE huacaya "up there". See figure below.

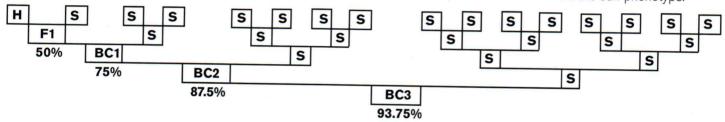
This definition is not different from what the majority of breed societies accept in other species, such as cattle for example [10].

About the Author: Dr Pierre Baychelier is a French born and French trained veterinarian. After graduating in 1987, he spent two years in clinical practice in France, and then joined the pharmaceutical industry to begin a career in Animal Health, specialising in research and development of new products. He presently works for ANCARE AUSTRALIA, subsidiary of a New Zealand animal health company, where he manages Development and Regulatory affairs.

Pierre became an Australian citizen in 1996. He started breeding suri alpacas in 1999, establishing ALCAZAR SURI STUD. His strong interest in genetics led him to write technical articles and to give lectures at various alpaca seminars.

Pierre can be contacted at pierre@alcazar.com.au or at PO Box 178, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782 AUSTRALIA.

Pedigree of a backcross 3 - The figures in % represent the % of suri blood (H huacaya, S pure suri, F1 first filial generation, BC1 backcross 1, BC2 backcross 2, BC3 backcross 3) - F1, BC1, BC2 and BC3 exhibit the suri phenotype.



References

- [1] Australian Alpaca Association Administration Bulletin Number 20, Revision number 1, 14 June 2002
- [2] BAYCHELIER P. Suri and huacaya: two alleles or two genes? Proceedings of the 2000 Australian Alpaca Association National Conference, Canberra, pp 79-85, 2000.
- [3] PONZONI R.W. et al. *Phenotypes resulting from huacaya by huacaya, suri by huacaya and suri by suri alpaca crossings* Proceedings of the International Alpaca Industry Seminar, Sydney, pp 11-13, 1997
- [4] BILLINGTON W. Suri Education Day Cedar House Alpaca Stud, Yass, 16th July 2000
- [5] BARREDA J. *Let's save the Suri* Alpaca International News, pp 7-12
- [6] HOFFMAN E. and FOWLER M.E. *The Alpaca Book* Clay Press Inc., Herald, California, 1995
- [7] HOLT C. Statistically Speaking Alpacas Australia, 35, pp 14-19, 2001
- [8] HOLT C. Alpaca Fibre Production Course Notes -International School of Fibres, 2000
- [9] BAYCHELIER P. How breeders can change genotypes Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Blue Mountains Region of the AAA – Volume 7, Issue 4, pp 19-23, September 2001.
- [10] BOURDON R.M. Understanding animal breeding Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1997



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

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

The Royals 2002

Royal Perth Show

by RON REID, SHOW CONVENOR

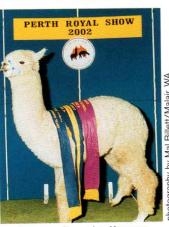
Perth Royal Show visitors took a keen interest in the record number of alpacas on display at this year's event. Alpacas are going through a real boom in the West – there is a lot of interest in breeding alpacas as well as using them as fox guards.

This year's Royal saw a record 178 nominations from 52 breeders, along with 44 huacaya fleeces being entered for the show. Mr Bill Plunkett, who judged at this year's show, said the final line-up of champion huacayas was as good a quality as he had seen anywhere in Australia. Bill commented that

there had been a big improvement in the overall quality of animals since he had last judged in Perth at Whiteman Park Show a couple of years ago. "These alpacas would perform well in eastern states' competitions," he said.

West Australian breeders attending the Royal make a big commitment as the show is held over 9 days, although there are concessions given by the Royal Agricultural Society of WA. One that certainly works very well is that pregnant females entered for the show are allowed to depart after judging. This has seen a marked increase in the number of older females being entered for the show. Another is that alpacas can be walked at any time during the show and this proves very popular with show visitors who are continually seeking information from breeders. Activities which occur during show week include twice daily shearing demonstrations, daily grand parades, a "clip to clothing" competition and social events for breeders - show dinner/ presentation night and a champagne sausage sizzle breakfast. Overall, a very enjoyable show congratulations to ribbon winners and those breeders who participated.

The full results of the 2002 Royal Perth Show are available on the AAA website and the WA Central Region website (www.alpaca.asn.au/wa_cent)



Supreme Champion Huacaya Encantador Artisan



Supreme Champion Suri Wesuri Heritage First Star



Champion Huacaya Fleece & Most Valuable Huacaya Fleece Suncloud Montgomery

Royal Melbourne Show

by GEOFF HARGREAVES, SHOW CONVENOR

On reflection, the appropriate adjective for the alpaca event at the Royal Melbourne Show is **BIG!** BIG on numbers; BIG on quality; BIG on general enjoyment and (I suggest) BIG on new and ongoing business.

An increase in animal entries over previous years of around 22% initially appeared daunting for penning. By penning day we were down to 320 which were comfortably arranged between the three available areas. When all animals arrived and inspections completed there were 240 huacayas and 44 suri alpacas to present to judge, Lyn Dickson, over the two days of the weekend.

Rob Cuthill's decorations and Sandy Sheahan's "Roast Dinner in the Ring" gave the show a relaxed and friendly start, which is part of the RMS tradition. Lyn Dickson had judged the fleeces on the Friday and our innovative fleece stewards, Diane Fraser and Julie Parker, created a superb glass cabinet display.

Junior huacaya classes of up to 30 animals of uniformly high standard presented great spectacles and an enormous challenge for judging. Lyn commented repeatedly on the excellent animals, the quality and evenness of fibre and the length of staple, which is pointing towards twice-yearly shearing for some animals.

The strength of competition and quality continued through the intermediate and senior classes with differentiation often depending on close examination of apron and leg fleece which would not have been required just a couple of years ago.

The day ended with 10 very even teams competing for the Sires Progeny competition – quite a sight together in the ring!

The Suri judging on Sunday morning again presented competition of depth and high standard. Lyn had volunteered for this task and looked forward eagerly to "getting my hands on those Victorian Suris". Her comments showed that she was not disappointed and exhibitors appreciated her decisions.

In addition to our usual ribbons and trophies, we were pleased to be able to present beautiful rugs purchased from the Co-op to the owners of the two Supreme Champions.

Following the Junior Handler competition, Jill Short organised a "Suri Expose" in the ring. This involved several judges and breeders discussing and demonstrating suri features and gave other exhibitors an opportunity to experience these features on selected animals. The beneficial practical experience is something that we should make available at future shows for both suri and huacaya alpacas.

The exhibitors review meeting at 5.00pm on Sunday prompted some excellent discussion and suggestions which could point the way for managing large numbers of animals at our longer (three day) shows.

I would like to recognise the work of Lyn Dickson, the Committee members, stewards and the other workers who always seem to be available to help and without whom "No-one would win anything!"

Royal Brisbane Show

by CAMILLA SMITH, SHOW CONVENOR

After experiencing the highs and lows of our Royal Brisbane Show I sometimes question its real value. It's an ever-evolving challenge over a three-day period.

I was particularly pleased this year with the show society's invitation to display alpaca fleeces in the Sheep and Wool pavilion. Our display of 40 fleeces created a lot of interest and it is hoped that we can convert this interest to fleece judging in the future.

Congratulations must go to each and every exhibitor at this year's Royal. We had 31 breeders presenting 73 animals to our judge, Mr Bill Plunkett. We are grateful for Bill's expertise and willingness to converse with exhibitors for their individual benefit and in turn the benefit of our industry.

It was very rewarding to observe the improved quality of animals, with this year's line up being the best ever.

Another first this vear was the inclusion of alpacas in the livestock Grand Parade. A great way to attract prospective new members, judging by the congregation of people around the alpaca area after the parade. This was also reflected in the recording of over 90 names requesting further information about our industry.

And while the vision of a valuable fleece industry grows I hope that we will all continue to accept the challenge of improving the quality of our animals and bring to the show ring the results of your commitment in 2003.



Supreme Champion Suri Beavona Lodge Reign Maker



Supreme Champion Huacaya Waitui Wirraway

Royal Hobart Show

by GLENN BRUCE, TASMANIAN REGION

The Royal Hobart Show was held from the 23rd to the 26th of October. Regional Secretary Helen Dowd, with the help of other members, set up pens and displays with the judging area laid out with green outdoor carpet recently purchased by the Tasmanian Region. The carpet was a great success, eliminating the slipping and sliding by animals that has been the case at previous shows.

Studs from South Australia and Melbourne venturing across the water boosted the numbers this year. It was great to see them all and, on leaving with lots of well-deserved ribbons, they spoke highly of it being a friendly show and that they would return next year. Locals also performed well with new members, showing for the first time, taking home blue ribbons.

Judge Bill Robbins chose 7 month old Tasmanian bred Clarence Point Bayden as Supreme Champion. Bayden's sire is local lad Somerset Peruvian Highlander. Bill said Bayden was

extremely well covered with well-defined fine crimp and staple definition, with extreme lustre and softness. Bayden was also selected as Supreme Champion at the Launceston Show twelve days earlier by judge Geoff Halpin who commented that he would be a top competitor at any mainland show.



Supreme Champion Clarence Point Bayden

There was a lot of public interest while judging took place and comments from Bill Robbins after each ribbon presentation together with our local M.C. Mike Goodwin giving his usual interesting commentary, made for an enjoyable couple of hours.

Top amusement of the show was probably on Saturday morning when the Supreme Champion's owner was seen washing spit from the neck of his champion not knowing that persons unknown had switched animals. The real champion was in the next pen looking on when it became too much for one female who could not retain her composure and let the cat out of the bag. In defence of the champion's owner, who was subjected to a wide variety of liquid intake the previous night by the perpetrators of this prank, the stand-in champ was the same colour, age, size and sex as the champion. Thank God for the ear tags!

Royal Adelaide Show

by LEA RICHENS, SHOW CONVENOR, RAS LIAISON OFFICER

After three successive years of cold, wet and wintry conditions this year saw warmth and sunshine for most of the Show – a major factor in attracting around 63,000 people to South Australia's biggest annual event.

Judging of the alpacas went very smoothly with judge, Jude Anderson at the helm. She admitted to experiencing some difficulty in splitting the winners in some very high quality, competitive classes so it was especially pleasing to see South Australian studs taking out the majority of broad ribbons. Exhibitors and onlookers alike appreciated Jude's constructive commentary.

An increase in fleece entries was pleasing with the new rules ensuring a number of new, fresh exhibits. After judging, the eye-catching display of fleeces attracted a steady stream of onlookers throughout the Show with many stopping to talk to breeders about the fibre and alpaca products.

On four days, shearing demonstrations in the show ring attracted huge crowds. As an interactive, educational opportunity, the audience was invited to ask questions; the newly shorn alpaca became the centre of attention as people studied the feet, tail and teeth and the fleece was passed around for that all important opportunity to feel the luxurious alpaca fibre. The demonstrations were indeed highlights.

Successful alpaca shows are the result of months of preparation and the assistance and support of many dedicated alpaca owners.

To all those involved in this year's Royal Adelaide – sincere thanks and congratulations.

Alpaca Gown

at the Golden Gown Awards

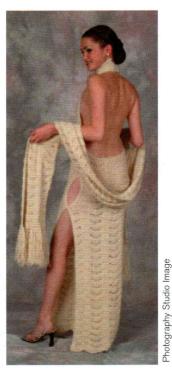


RRY WARD EAGLE ALPACA STUD, NSW

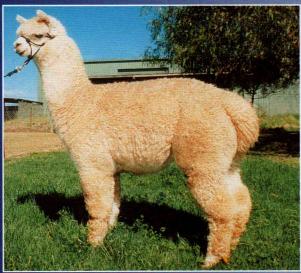
his elegant and eyecatching gown and matching stole was designed by Garry Ward of Monteagle Alpaca Stud, Young, NSW, as a way of promoting alpaca garments to hundreds of people attending the Golden Gown Awards at Wagga recently. It was selected to be paraded on the catwalk and was also featured on TV advertising the event.

It was handknitted from cream natural undyed Australian alpaca fibre by his wife Janice "on hourly rates" so it took a long time. The softness of the fibre allows it to be worn next to the skin with the model commenting that it was lovely to wear.





Profile of Designer: Garry Ward is a retired broadacre farmer and grazier. Since retirement he and his wife run alpacas and welcome guests to enjoy the history and country way of life at their bed and breakfast, "Marina Homestead", near Young. Garry's main passion is restoring cars, engines and tractors to add to his collection, but fashion designing came naturally to him as his grandfather manufactured ladies' clothing from the 1880s to 1924.





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 Purrumbete El Dorado, his Grandsire Purrumbete Inti and great Grandsire Purrumbete Ledgers Dream.

Histogram, 2nd fleece: Micron: 18.2

4.1 SD: 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

Successful promotion

for Queensland Region

by ANN HENDERSON PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, AAA QLD

The potential of Queensland's Darling Downs for alpaca breeding has made attendance at Toowoomba's Heritage Agshow a useful marketing exercise for the Queensland Region.

agricultural field days
Agshow is held annually
over three days in early September at
the magnificent Toowoomba
Showgrounds. Since its inception the
event has averaged 50,000 visitors each
year, and research has consistently
shown that these are rural people who

laimed as the state's largest

snown that these are rural people who are interested in rural products, goods and services.

This is the second year that Queensland Region members have organised a display at Agshow, and their efforts were rewarded with much

interest from visitors.

A permanent pavilion, used at other events by sheep or goats, made an excellent location for the display – albeit it with some modification. Low sheep pens were dismantled to make way for alpaca stalls and the whole area was then backed with bright fabric drapes suspended from the rafters.

Greeting visitors as they entered was the Queensland Region's updated display board with its eye-catching photographs and information on alpacas.

Five studs – Applegum, Barkala, Grindon, Jalminca and Paltarra – had animals on show, while Double H Alpacas presented a large display of fleece and distinctive products made from hand spun fleece.

A display cabinet was set up for Australian Alpaca Co-Operative merchandise, and the Co-Op supplied current catalogues that were handed out to those visitors who made inquiries about the Co-Op's products. The AAA's promotional kit of individual alpaca products – scarves, fabric, and that delightful teddy bear – made a feature that also attracted much appreciative comment.

The audio/visual side was not forgotten with the region's video unit constantly playing alpaca information tapes, while on the other side of the pavilion a PowerPoint presentation highlighted a series of commonly asked questions on alpacas, and simple answers to those questions. To add the final touch of atmosphere, music from the Andes provided an enjoyable background.

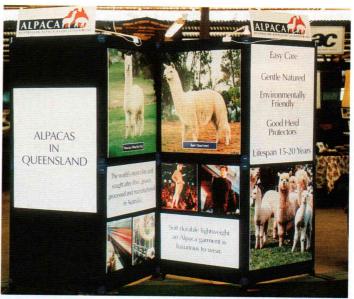
Particularly on the second and third day of Agshow, the breeders present were kept busy talking to people and discussing alpacas. Making use of the relaxed atmosphere of Agshow, two breeders – Dennis Mycock (Grindon) and Pippa Smith (Applegum) on separate occasions took their animals for a stroll through the grounds and around the other exhibits. This created great interest, as did John Graham's Paltarra Suris which often featured in a portable pen John had set up on the grassed area outside the pavilion.

As well as visitors from many parts of eastern Australia Agshow attracts rural people from a wide area of the Darling Downs and the Granite Belt, a logical environment for future commercial growth which will benefit our region's members. This was born out by the profile of the people who stopped and talked to stud representatives; many lived on small acreages close to major towns, others had larger properties and were looking for diversification.

Involvement in Agshow means a big commitment in time and effort for those taking part, but is sure to pay dividends for future expansion of the Queensland Region breeder numbers.



A big drawcard were the suris displayed in the portable yard John Graham set up.



The Queensland Region's attractive display board greeted visitors at the entrance.

The Lustre of Black Silk

Introducing our Suri Male

New from Peru



24.4 micron Incredibly lustrous



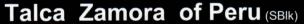
Talca Black Onyx

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



 $23.9~\mu$ at 5 years of age dense, lustrous, crimpy fleece strong frame proudly co-owned with Miralana Alpacas





Talca Shimon (SW)

 $18.9~\mu$ 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





Alpacaman is go!

SA, it's not the end of the world but you can see it from there. This must mean that we South Aussies live on the edge and are prepared to go where no other alpaca breeders are prepared to go...

by CATH NORMAN TIMBERTOP ALPACAS, SA

wo years ago Andrew Brown decided to undertake the mammoth task of setting up a mobile mating service that encompassed the eastern states in a bid to generate business for his unique stud male Timbertop The Scud, and two boys he co-owned, ILR NWA Ltd Luminosa and ILR Ppperuvian Allin Capac 6004. Andrew's decision was driven by the desire to share top genetics with other smaller studs Australia wide and to create a network of like-minded breeders who could complement each other's breeding objectives and business ideals; and ultimately generate income for all involved through raising the standard of alpacas and providing opportunities which they otherwise would not have access to, physically and financially.

He began his venture in an old '85 Range Rover towing a float over 5,000 kms every month visiting studs throughout NSW, ACT and Victoria. It was definitely hard work as each trip was completed in 7-10 days to minimise time spent in transit for the alpaca boys in the back of the van. As well, sleeping for 3 hours at a time, driving through the night and eating roadhouse food was not exactly a glamorous lifestyle for Andrew.

Little by little it began to pay off and Andrew had started to make contacts everywhere with good clients who would offer a bed, a beautiful home cooked meal and space for the boys to stretch their legs and munch on fresh grass. By having such close personal contact with so many breeders Andrew was beginning to really understand exactly what was happening out there in alpaca land and another opportunity had presented itself to him. He found that clients would be looking for specific alpacas to purchase or to sell and he was in a position that enabled him to know what was on offer and to match up clients to suit their individual needs.

After one year on the road the Timbertop Mobile Servicing Network had grown (as had Andrew's waistline with too many good clients' home cooked meals!), and Andrew felt confident enough to invest in a new van. He chose a Mercedes Benz Sprinter 413, long wheelbase, high roof version allowing more than enough space for the boys to really travel in style. The Scud was very impressed with this purchase and every time the van pulls up to the barn he is ready and waiting without fail (he actually gets quite 'put out' if he gets left behind and has been known to sulk for days!).

Yet another business opportunity has evolved for Andrew and he is now running a male for Fine Choice Alpaca Sires – *Fine Choice Peruvian Poncho*, a solid white 7 year-old male, hot off the plane from Peru. The prospect of running other stud's males, as part of creating complementary business opportunities for clients in his network, was always in the back of Andrew's mind.

Andrew knows the realities of being on the road well and truly by now - driving for hundreds of kilometres just to do a spit off: running around paddocks in the dark trying to fetch girls for matings; never having un-creased clothes to wear; smelling like an alpaca and sharing every single wee, poo and spitting duel with the boys are all just part of the fun of being on the road. Mobile servicing on this scale is not for the faint hearted and it takes dedication, stamina, patience and extreme physical endurance. Apart from Andrew, there are only three other alpaca boys out there, taking on the mobile challenge - Chris Williams, Rick Hodgson and Ron Condon.

With all this in mind a very important factor that is essential for breeders to consider to maximise the benefits of using mobile servicing is to choose your girls carefully, as troublesome conceivers end up costing everyone time and money.

The realities of Artificial Insemination as a financially viable option for all breeders are still a long way off and the importance of this service to continue the diversification of elite genetics in Australia is paramount in helping to contribute to the survival of this industry.

The advantages of using a mobile service network are endless and the boys on the road are working incredibly hard to deliver the goods to your door. Spare a thought the next time you book a mobile mating, have your girls ready, the kettle on, the spare bed made up (just in case). Don't worry about how they look (the human boys) – you never know just what you might learn from the mobile men on the road.

Andrew Brown's Timbertop Mobile Servicing Network travels through the eastern states every month.

For all enquiries phone Andrew on 0409 549 547.

PS: If you ever see any of these boys on the road out having too much fun (snow skiing or at the football finals), you can phone the Mobile servicing widow's hotline...





EP Cambridge
Peruvian Maximus

6 Year Old Male
22.9u

EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud

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

Handling alpacas made easy/ier

by HARRIET DAVISON ILLAWARRA ALPACAS, NSW

Most people have their own methods for handling alpacas, but many people are 'at sea' when it comes to quiet. confident handling of these intelligent animals. Here are a few pointers to remember that will settle everybody's nerves, and hopefully make those necessary 'house-keeping' functions more pleasant for all parties involved.

BE COOL; BE CALM; AND BE CLOSE!

Using the following techniques it will become clear to you that even, dare I say, a WOMAN can perform all of these tasks with help, and in a further article in the next magazine issue I will show that SHE can even do them ON HER OWN! This is extremely important as this particular agricultural industry stands out for the prominent role women play.

Not all of these revelations are original, but they do all work, as long as the handler recognises that what she/he is about to handle has a brain, possible fear, a lot of speed, great unknown strength and in a lot of cases, a basic desire to comply.

REMEMBER:

- if the alpaca is frightened, only a calming attitude will settle him;
- there is no point in trying to outrun him...he's faster:
- use your brain to outsmart him especially so that he does not discover how strong he really is, and
- finally, gain his trust ... lose that and it's a long battle, for a memory is something alpacas do seem to have.

REMEMBER TOO, THESE HANDY HINTS TO ASSIST WITH ALL SORTS OF TASKS:

sock for spitters

You will usually know the animals that are likely to do so! Only the absolutely desperate animals actually fill the sock but it can happen. Have plenty of socks prepared just in case.



Thick socks are best - men's for adult animals and women's for younger ones. Put your hand inside the sock, pinch the heel and then pull the top over until you get to your pinched fingers.



Holding the alpaca firmly and confidently (NEVER GRAB HIM), slide the sock over the nose, nice and snugly.

the magic "wand"

I use a simple grass rake but whatever you choose to use, it must be light for easy and quick manoeuvrability, fairly solid in appearance and not used to actually hit the alpaca on the head. A wand is used to block the progress, or to guide the alpaca that you wish to move. It does so by blocking the vision, not by physically blocking him.

In most instances, he will remain calm. Do not approach (and then only at a 45° angle) until he has stopped, otherwise he will make a dive for freedom and you will be forced to GRAB HIM. Mostly, for women, grabbing is unsatisfactory as the speed and strength at that point is too much to restrain. Practice makes perfect; the important thing to do is THINK. The other tip here is to keep eye contact with the alpaca you wish to restrain.



Use the rake to balance him ie. as he jostles to be free of your threat, swiftly block him at every whim, until he stops, balances, accepts your presence.



When directing the alpaca around the yard. hold the rake in front of the head, not the body or feet, and do not touch the head.



Hold the head of the rake still until he stands still, then gently place your hand on

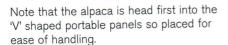
his wither and neck.

injection techniques



Normal:

Here we have the syringe and needle with the normal needle cover, the jig for the subcutaneous injection and the jig for the intramuscular injection, using 1 inch, 21 gauge needles. The jig allows only as much needle as you want to enter the alpaca. It is a guide or a measure.



Swing the elbow closest to the alpaca's head over the neck, so that you are holding him under your armpit.

Now apply pressure down so that the head lowers. If he wriggles, push down with that shoulder and squeeze your upper arm to hold the head firmly.



Intra-muscular:

This picture shows the needle with the intra-muscular jig fitted.



Subcutaneous:

Here is the needle wearing the longer subcutaneous jig. Longer because we do not want too much needle penetration. You should be able to clearly see the eye of the needle, and a bit more.

INTRA-MUSCULAR



With the left, or forward hand, wrap the fingers over the lump of muscle at the base of the neck just forward of the actual wither. This should be a large lump of unencumbered muscle, wonderful for injecting, about 5 inches wide and 4 inches deep (on the average adult).

If he continues to wriggle, lift your forward leg and place your foot on the first or second wrung of the panel. This gives even more of a 'crush' effect and helps prevent him moving forward. Your armpit and shoulder prevents him from moving backwards.

SUBCUTANEOUS



Left hand is demonstrating the groove where the neck meets the shoulder. The skin is loose and can be easily lifted away from the underlying muscle. The middle finger is roughly the point to make a subcutaneous injection.



Place the needle parallel to the skin and then rock the needle point up and therefore into the skin. With the other finger take a pinch of skin adjacent, and pull it away from the body, whilst still keeping some pressure on the syringe towards the body.



Now, inject. The needle is through the layer of skin, but not into the muscle, and you are administering a subcutaneous injection, easily. They seem to wriggle less with this method. Keep all your movements smooth and never jerky or sudden, or you may have to start again!

trimming toenails (with second handler)

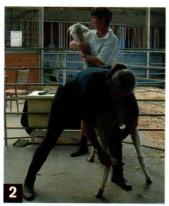
Usually this job is best done with a helper who will closely monitor the alpaca's mood and responses. For best results:

- The helper will hold the alpaca, and once he is standing still, will raise his/her elbow high under the alpaca's throat so that the neck is fully extended vertically and with that hand then resting on the back of the alpaca's neck.
- Whilst practicable, the helper will keep the other hand on the alpaca's wither and ready to restrain upward leaps if necessary.
- Outsmart the alpaca by facing him towards some sort of barricade and do not have him facing other alpacas and the vast open spaces.
- Always have the alpaca's head slightly turned towards the 'doer'. This ensures that if he does break loose, that he does so away from the 'doer' and not over the top of the 'doer'.

The helper must always be aware of the state of balance of the alpaca. He/she must not apply a death grip at all times. This causes the alpaca to fear what may be coming next, to lean away from this source of discomfort and to become unbalanced and anxious. Maintain the high elbow, but let him rest on it. Keep your hand on his neck, but gently. Reward him when he stands still by lessening the pressure, which will allow him to stand on his own feet. He will be more comfortable and more apt to comply.



Let your presence be no surprise! Approach from the side at a 45° angle. Move right up to the side so that you are touching him with your hip and you can run your hand down his back. Position your foot adjacent to him between his two back feet so that your hand slides down the rump and your knee wedges inside the stifle at the base of the flank.



Keep your feet apart for balance. Slide your hand confidently and gently down the leg. As you do so, your inside shoulder goes over the rump and your weight transfers to that foot under him. At the same time, if he is wont to move forward the helper must restrain with the elbow, arm, hip at the chest and adopt a broad and firm stance.



Slide your hand down onto his foot. If he is balanced then he should not resist or panic as long as the foot is not pulled to a position that makes him feel unbalanced or uncomfortable. Get on with the job quickly and confidently. Close your cutters using the pad of the foot as your guide – the toenail should touch the ground when the foot is down.



Similarly for the front feet, facing the rear, inside hand on the wither, inside foot between the front feet, alpaca balanced, and slide that hand confidently down the leg.



Your shoulder should be up against his, and giving him a bit of a nudge. With this action he will allow that foot to be raised more easily.

weighing fleeces

Shearing is not a one man (or woman) job however an important part of the process is WEIGHING FLEECES: It is vitally important to record your observations so that you can compare results from year to year. For example, are the fleece weights rising? What is the proportion of saddle to total fleece? Is the neck weighing more? (And don't forget to have your mid-side samples tested so you know what your alpaca's micron is doing!) Firstly, note the portable panels. All alpaca breeders should have at least 6 -10 of these for all uses.

Place two panels at a greater angle than 45°. Place a firm flat plank across this to bridge the two sides. Place your kitchen scales (digital are best) on top and centred. Across these scales, place a smaller plank, not too heavy, with a nail protruding out of each end to a height of about 3/4 inch. Using a light and roomy basket, attach two equal lengths of binder twine to the ends, hooking these just over the nail heads so that the twine rests on the shorter plank. Suspend the basket ensuring it is level.



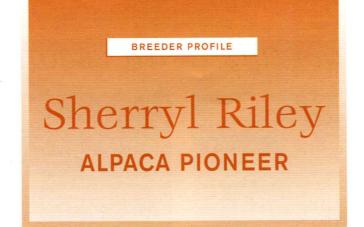


Weigh each portion of the fleece separately.

The new recommended gradings are: saddle, neck, upper leg, skirt and No Commercial Value.

- Add them all up for the total.
- ANNUALISE your fleece i.e. make its weight correspond to one year's growth.
- Finally, record your findings.

Now, go and try some of these techniques on your own. ■



by JANIE HICKS COOLAROO ALPACA STUD, NSW

Shelbory Park Alpacas, Arcadia, NSW was founded in 1994 and is renowned for specializing in white huacayas. The farm has been run by Sherryl Riley, a highly successful breeder, exhibitor and educator.

In 1994 I chanced to meet one of those extra-ordinary people with whom one rarely crosses paths. In seeking to write her alpaca story, I discovered many others who had been brushed by her rare magic. Owing to illness this powerhouse has had to slow her pace to care for those she always shared with us generously, but who were always her primary concern, her daughters Paige and Ashleigh, and husband Bob.

hat year Michael Bullen, head steward, Cattle Section, Sydney Royal Easter Show (RAS), lined us up like naughty children and gave us a dressing down few of us will forget. "Disorganised rabble"! Green horns of the first degree, we alpaca breeders were unfamiliar with the expansive rules of this 'steeped in tradition' RAS show protocol. Yes, it stung but what could we do about it?

Of the time, long experienced goat, and more recently alpaca breeder and exhibitor, Darrell Bishop recalls, "This strawberry blond redhead with that wicked grin walked into the Pavilion dressed straight out of Vogue (alpaca) and right there, just lifted our spirits and image for all time." The stress in that 100°F NSW heat began to dissipate. Within hours Sherryl Riley had opened the tightly locked passageways and draught-ways... and not just the animals began to cool off.

From that day Sherryl inadvertently formed the first RAS AAA Show committee when, with her rare motivational ability, she turned the team's differences to positive use by coercing with her insatiable humour and enviable negotiation skills. With her considerable charm, Philip Street's job to nurture support from a rather disinterested and conservative group of heavies of the RAS was made easier. Karen Caldwell sculpted the Cattle Rules into the first AAA Show regulations, and soon alpacas were to become the most popular exhibit on the grounds. To this day those who have worked with Sherryl, fellow stewards, judges, RAS councilors



Ready for work at Niue Island Quarantine

and countless committee members recall her passionate and professional approach to conducting an exemplary event. Darrell added, "When we were all frenetic at a show she maintained a grace about her, a respect and joy for her children and everyone else's with her, her animals, a great example to us all."

At the inaugural breeder's dinner the following year, shrouded in mystery (surprises and humour are her forte), she set about uniting the industry. It was the most hilariously funny, bordering on outrageous dinner I'm sure the AAA and RAS have ever hosted. In those days, the big alpaca barons were not too palsy, prices were very high and competition hot. Yet here we were witnessing arch rivals parading on stage in alpaca costumes!

Was Jinksie the bikie? Andrew Forrest the cricketer? Laurie Harrison the polo player? Haldane? Hamilton? Darrell Bishop in disguise to his embarrassment! And who was it who sported the alpaca bikini? Davo! How did you do that Sherryl? And of course, when those magnificent models of Heather Callagan loped onto the stage and took the fellows on arm, all rose to the occasion and paraded with magnificent aplomb whilst the members from everywhere rocked with laughter.

How did our fledgling industry attract or afford such modeling expertise? When I asked Heather Callagan, the parade coordinator, she laughed and replied, "Over the years I have watched Sherryl put her heart and soul into her chosen activity, at teaching, golf, art, politics, her family, the alpacas and what's more she gives them all, 2000%. How can one say no to Sherryl Riley? I had watched her immerse herself totally, giving all to the success of the alpaca industry. We had been paid thousands of dollars to do the Cotton Foundation Parade and I found myself on stage with alpaca garments, not Cotton. Here we were, all for the joy of Sherryl's enthusiasm, sharing a few bottles of bubbly and many laughs,

doing the alpaca."

It was Sherryl who procured Maggie Kreiger for our 1995 National Classic Show and Sale at the William Inglis Auction complex in Sydney and ran the night's entertainment. Maggie became an "honorary Aussie' with her energetic didgeridoo obbligato. Now Maggie is quite a shy person - how was she persuaded to perform in front of all of us? Do you recall the spectacular entertainment pre-Auction and its opening by Tim Fischer, Leader of the National Party, the performances of "The Dream Machines" and school children and that unforgettable parade culminating in Marg and Kelly Hitchcock's alpaca and silk bridal gown entry?

"She is a visionary," says Helen Walton. "We did the research and Sherryl just saw the historic importance of Ledger's extraordinary story in the 1850's. We then created, with all our energy behind her, what has now become "The Charles Ledger Show", commemorating him on the very same grounds those first pioneering camelids grazed on over 100 years ago at Collingwood Estate in the S-W suburbs of Sydney".

Another of Sherryl's passions is to seek knowledge and then teach it. This drew her to the United States, where generous funding into research was proving beneficial to the industry worldwide, to AOBA, the US industry calendar highlight and the Michigan Sale, where the first Peruvian alpacas outside their homeland were ever seen. There she met with many whose names are now legendary, names like Don Julio Barreda and Mike Safley. Typically, with visions for her own industry, she sought out experienced veterinarians and authors Dr Murray Fowler, Dr Gregg Adams, David Pugh, Dr Walter Bravo and Julie Koenig. Thanks to 'Shez', Australia was to gain much from these learned folk over the ensuing years at our local conferences.

In her third year of breeding Sherryl began following the controversial colour genetics theory of Julie Koenig Ph.D. Realising that her white alpaca may well be brown, she threw her heart and soul into her breeding and consequently excelled in it. She carefully pursued parentage of all and has never bred a 'multi' in her Shelbory Park Stud progeny. Quite a feat in those days!

There were countless activities and accomplishments to her credit, which can't be included here, but if you speak to one of our finest young judges, Kylie Hollingworth, you will hear how Sherryl's notes gave her that edge, years ago. Ian Knox could tell you where the first shearing guidelines came from that evolved today to be those of the Co-op. Adrian Saines of the RAS, would be able to explain the Junior Judging guidelines presented by Sherryl and refined by Philip Street. Elected onto the National Committee in 1996, Sherryl was the Chairperson of the National Conference organising committee in Sydney in 1997. Later as Chairperson of the Education and Training sub-committee she floated the concept of the alpaca notes that Geoff Fysh has brought into reality.

chemotherapy, said to me;

<u>"Always promote the industry before</u>
your own stud. What goes round,
comes round" and "with new chums,
teach them to know the ropes so they can
enjoy the industry. It's not about selling
an animal so much as teaching the love of
them by teaching your client the skills."

Recently Sherryl, with that lovely

sparkle of humour still quick to surface

despite the atrocious intrusion of

To quote Peter and Helen Walton, whom Sherryl introduced to our industry, "Sherryl's enthusiasm with alpacas (and life) and the future of the breed was impressive. She shared her enormous knowledge willingly, and although she needed to sell her huacayas, her enthusiasm was no less dampened when we chose suris. In fact Sherryl acted as our agent in selecting our animals on Nuie and she chose well".

Being quick to recognise achievement, Easter 1998 saw Sherryl organising a Pioneers Dinner at the RAS to celebrate ten years of alpaca breeding in Australia. Amongst them were carefully researched contributors to the industry's growth, the Halpins, Jinks, Caldwells, Condons, Streets, Wendy Billington and Roger Haldane to name a few. Each came forward and accepted the honour and so their names went down in history. Hey Kid, where were you in that line up???

But this is only a small part of the alpaca story of this extraordinary Australian who has won so much love and respect during her involvement with our industry. If you look to her other roles, teaching, politics, golf, art, in which Sherryl has given the same huge generosity of heart and soul, Heather Callaghan says so well...

"You are one of the true super women of our generation". ■



Signing "The Alpaca Book" with Eric Hoffman.



Dr Walter Bravo, Sherryl and Don Julio Barreda, Michigan.

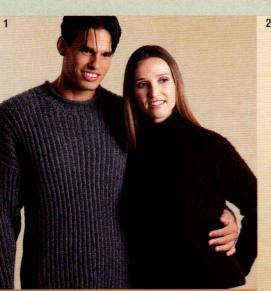
Sherryl was an exceptional teacher. Her students recognised this at Hawkesbury TAFE, where she pioneered the first registered TAFE course for alpacas. Barry Thomas recalls that her ability to effectively communicate on the most complex topics brought great admiration from her students. "She is a truly wonderful person who has put service to others, in respect of alpacas, above herself" says Barry. Do you recall those extraordinary neo-natal classes conducted by Drs Brad Smith and Karen Timm and being cheerfully hounded by Sherryl for months to retain our dead crias? These were later placed in artificial uteruses for participants to practice the art of successful midwifery. No class of Sherryl's was ever boring whether she took it herself or organised it!



Niue Island Quarantine - Dressed for the night

Written by Janie Hicks with grateful assistance from Barry and Pam Thomas, Heather Callaghan and Peter & Helen Walton and the RAS of NSW Heritage Centre plus many others with apologies, for space prohibits their mention.















- 1. ADAM'S RIB, a casual & stylish man's sweater knitted in Mid Grey 8 ply Alpaca. RAGTIME, Knitted in boucle yarn. A fashionable & quick to knit sweater.
- 2. TASSELED WOMEN'S SWEATER. Knitted in Silver Grey Alpaca 8ply.
- 3. Alpaca Yarn available in a complete collection of Boucle, Brushed and Doubleknit yarns, blended with mohair and llama combinations. Tradewinds Brushed \$8.40 ☐ Silverstone Doubleknit \$9.00 ☐

Silverstone Brushed \$9.00 ☐ Humus Doubleknit \$10.00 ☐ Nightshade Boucle \$11.60 ☐ Nightshade Brushed \$11.60 ☐

Below are \$10.60 per ball

Humus Boucle ☐ Silverslate Boucle ☐ Old snow Boucle ☐ Drift Tide Boucle ☐ Pacificweave Boucle

Moonshadow Boucle

Mochaccino Doubleknit

Drift Tide Brushed ☐ All 50 gram balls

- 4. 100% ALPACA KNITTING YARNS. 8 ply Alpaca, \$7.50 per 50 gram ball Cream ☐ Fawn ☐ Charcoal ☐ Black ☐ Olive ☐ Red ☐ Silver ☐ Grey ☐ Mid Grey ☐ Rose Grey ☐ Brown/Black/White Twist ☐ Fawn and White Twist ☐
- 5. UNIWAYS, a unisex sweater knitted in Mid Grey and Olive Alpaca 8 ply. Great for the ski fields.
- 6. CINDY JACKET, knitted in boucle yarn, easy to knit & wear.

6

NB Co-op Members receive 15% discount on retail prices

* Note: These are examples of available patterns in the 2002 collection; all patterns can be downloaded from www.tasmandesigneryarns.com.au

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

TELMSETTEL OUT THE OR	DER TORM DELOW	MILD ENCEOSE MINERAL MILE.
ALPACA CO-OPERATIVE	Name:	Member N α
LIMITED, 7 EDOLS PLACE,	Postal Address:	
NORTH GEELONG, VIC.	Telephone No:	
AUSTRALIA 3215	Please debit my: B	ankcard Visa Mastercard
PH: (613) 5278 6655	Credit Card Details:	Expiry Date:
FAX: (613) 5278 8655	Payment Amount: \$	Postage and handling is subject to destination, size and weight
EMAIL: alpacacoop@telstra.com	_ ,	
www.alpacacoop.com.au	Card Holder's Signature	ov ·

AACo-op Ltd

and its strategic partners



As the alpaca industry moves forward from its initial vital focus on quality raw fibre production, it is time to address the finer points of achievable and rewarding goals within the traditional retail market. In order to do this effectively, the Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd has formed alliances with a range of manufacture and distribution experts as strategic partners. This will ensure that, when our luxury fibre is presented in the marketplace, our fashion and homeware products have the colours, styling, quality and (most importantly) handle which will guarantee our position in the top bracket of upmarket merchandise.

by MICHAEL TALBOT & CANDY LAWRENCE

hese strategic partners cover many different segments of the retail market, and have both the existing infrastructure and the experience and expertise to guide our design, manufacture, distribution and sales processes effectively and proficiently. The companies we have selected have the required commitment and dedication to producing quality merchandise with superior handle, which will assist us to set an appropriately high standard for alpaca products in this country.

As we gather further data on the types, colours and microns of fibre that our Australian alpaca growers are producing, markets need to be established to ensure that we are maximising the use of this fibre. To date, our alpaca products have been sold very successfully and supported extremely well by the alpaca growers around Australia, and this exercise will always continue; but to increase our sales volume, we now need the assistance of these strategic partners to develop strategies and marketing plans to sell to traditional retailers and major department stores.

The importance of the success of this exercise cannot be overstated. It is vital to our future and requires a great deal of commitment from a number of people. Happily, we can report that we are well under way in this area, and at the time of writing this article we have received some exciting sales information that Australia's premier department store will be launching Australian Alpaca products in their major stores in each state. Breakthroughs like this will enable the Australian Alpaca industry to create a high profile with the Australian public, set benchmarks regarding where our industry is heading in the future and, most importantly of all, increase our sales volume of both animals and

Australian Alpaca products.

The AACo-operative has had several meetings with our strategic partners, both here and interstate.

All strategic partners have agreed to use our **Australian Alpaca** brand for this promotion, which will ensure the maximum impact to our consumers at store level.

As a result of these exciting developments, we must stress the overwhelming importance of your support as a grower in providing a consistent supply of raw fleece as early as possible after shearing. In order to meet production deadlines for February and March deliveries, our partners must begin processing before Christmas. It is essential that we provide a reliable supply of raw materials in plenty of time for completion of the extensive processes involved in the production of merchandise with the highest quality, customer appeal and handle.

For your information, a profile of each of our strategic partners is provided on the following pages.

Footnote: The quality and handle of the AACo-op's products manufactured by the strategic partners is now beginning to improve dramatically due to the new classing lines introduced last year. The initiative of the new shearing protocol and the pre-classing workshops conducted around Australia will also ensure that Australian Alpaca develops a reputation worldwide of not only being the best alpaca fleece, but also the most consistent. The AACo-op thanks its many supporters and members for the important part they are playing in assisting us to build an exciting sustainable future for Australian Alpaca.

Merino Gold

In 1987, Australian fine woolgrower John O'Sullivan had the foresight to ask himself, "Why is my superfine wool leaving Australia without being value added?" Fourteen years later, the brand he registered to address the question, Merino Gold, would be presenting ultra-fine wool to the world as locally made high quality knitwear.

Merino Gold, a fibre company with a firm commitment to local manufacture throughout its history, began operating in 1989 in regional



Victoria, and was originally owned by Ansett Knitting Mills. In that same year it was bought by a consortium that included Victorian ex-Premier, Jeff Kennett. In 1993, Merino Gold Limited was incorporated, and soon after, the firm's equipment (mainly fine-gauge fully fashioned machines) was transferred from country Victoria to Melbourne. The company was restructured in 1995 after some difficulties, and was purchased in 1999 by partners Adrian Bressan and Fred Seligmann. The new owners brought a fresh perspective, based on two lifetimes of textile experience (a large part of which was with fine wool knitwear). It was a combination that was to breathe new life into the label.

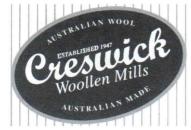
"The difference between the old and new management of Merino Gold," says director and chief executive officer Fred Seligmann, "is that Adrian and I are long-time knitting people, and probably look at the business from a different perspective to the previous owners, who mainly came to it from the wool growing side."

Today Merino Gold employs 40 people and is one of Australia's leading suppliers of classic and contemporary styled men's and women's extra-fine merino knitwear to retailers, wholesalers and designers.

With an excellent reputation in the industry and expertise in fine wool, they are an important partner for the development of lightweight fine alpaca products.

Creswick Woollen Mills

Creswick Woollen Mills, located northeast of Ballarat in Creswick (a small township approximately 120km from Melbourne), is a privately owned spinning and weaving mill which has operated at the same site since 1947. During this time, Creswick Woollen Mills has grown to represent the largest private employer in the region, currently employing over 50 local staff.



Through its contractors and suppliers, it also indirectly employs a further 140 people throughout Victoria.

Creswick Woollen Mills is the last coloured woollen spinning mill of its type remaining in Australia. Its ongoing success can be attributed to its continued investment in plant and machinery, dedicated work force and flexible customer service. To maintain a high profile in the Australian textile industry, Creswick Woollen Mills has continued to service a variety of local markets, which in recent times have been dominated by imports.

This spinning mill has the unique ability to process a range of different fibre types, including some of Australia's finest merino wool, quality crossbred fleece and state-of-the-art synthetics with high tensile strength, as well as our unique "Australian Alpaca" fibre.

Creswick Woollen Mills markets an exclusive range of luxury alpaca and wool products throughout Australia. An example of one of its most successful products is the fringed travel rug and blanket made from 100% alpaca fibre. Other products include:

- Merino woollen blankets
- Luxury alpaca blankets
- Merino woollen throws
- Luxury natural alpaca throws
- Tartan woollen throws
- Luxury alpaca fashion colour throws The Creswick organisation has been a major supporter of marketing, research and development of Australian Alpaca over the last two years.

Australian Carpet Makers

Australian Carpet Mills commenced business over 100 years ago, with a vision to manufacture a range of luxurious woollen carpets at an affordable price without compromising quality.

Australian Carpet Makers (ACM) is the retail arm of Australian Carpet Mills and part of the ACM Group. They are able to achieve quality at an affordable price by manufacturing and supplying direct to the public, thus cutting out the middleman. Their 21st Century showroom warehouse is located at Bulleen in Victoria, where customers are able to choose from the entire range of hundreds of rolls on display.

Confidence in the quality and durability of their products enables them to provide some of the most comprehensive guarantees in the industry. For customers' peace of mind, all woollen and other natural fibre carpets are tested by the AWTA, then graded by the ACCS (the carpet manufacturing industry's independent testing body). These carpets carry ratings labels of 'Domestic Extra Heavy Duty Including Stairs' to 'Heavy Duty Commercial Including Stairs'.

As part of ACM's commitment to total customer satisfaction and aftersales service, they have set up an Owner's Hotline, whereby customers have access to approved, highly trained carpet technicians. These technicians are available to clean and care for their new carpet and provide expert help in the event of a mishap. They have an intricate knowledge of fibres and construction, and are also experienced experts in carpet rejuvenation.

ACM has committed itself to an ongoing and highly innovative research and development programme. Their technical team is currently working with a very exciting range of fibres such as cashmere, hemp, mohair and alpaca, as well as creating new non-dyed wool lines to cater for the trend to more natural products. These products will be a world-first, and combined with their commitment to provide uncompromising quality, will create a benchmark for the industry.

ACM is one of a select few companies in Australia able to manufacture carpet to exact customer specifications. Whether it be a unique colour, weight, style or blend of fibres, the customer can rest assured that their order will be crafted to the highest standards of quality available. ACM can manufacture to as little as five broadloom metres.

FibreLoft has established an integrated fibre processing and manufacturing facility in Campbellfield, approximately 12km north of the city of Melbourne.



FibreLoft can process a wide variety of natural and synthetic fibres, can manufacture a wide variety of enduse products, and has the capability to create speciality fibre-based products for specific end-use applications.

FibreLoft's product range is orientated towards two markets:-

- 1) Specialty bedding and home textile products, and
- 2) Furniture cushion and fibre filling.

FibreLoft Australia has the capacity and expertise to manufacture a wide variety of fibre-based products, customised to each customer's needs and specifications, while offering a competitive price. They provide superior customer service, quick response and a unique range of alpaca fibre-bedding products for domestic and export sales.

- Quilts Manufactured with a premium quality soft cotton, and using highest quality alpaca and wool fibre grown in Australia, the alpaca/wool quilt is unique. It is warm, light, soft and very comfortable. Available in a full range of standard sizes in distinctive packaging, it offers discerning customers an outstanding specialty product.
- FibreLoft is currently developing a complementary range of pillows and underblankets made from premium quality alpaca and wool. These products are expected to be released commercially in the fourth quarter 2002 and will be available to industry members for delivery in time for next Winter. FibreLoft's commitment to supply the luxury bedding market with high quality products and its marketing and sales structure were vital factors in our choice to work with them.

Tasman Designer Yarns

Tasman is a partnership between Ruth and Matthew Benge (who have been producing yarns in New Zealand since the late 1980's, making dye-free yarns from alpaca, sheep and goat fleeces) and Susan and Peter Lloyd. The business is now based at the Lloyd's Prospect Stud at Kyneton, in Central Victoria.

Australia has a large base of natural fibres available, including thirty to forty thousand alpacas. This number is growing, with the trend of people



moving to "lifestyle" blocks. Initially, Tasman set up collection and buying points so that they could be certain of supply and volumes. This brought them into initial contact with the AACo-op, and led to a strategic alliance that gives Tasman access to our annual clip of coloured fibre and sees Tasman providing the manufactured yarns for the AACo-op.

In addition to knitting yarns,
Tasman produces a homewares range
of throws, blankets, wraps and scarves.
Having established secure lines of
supply and processing, they set about
updating their patterns, with the help
of Stella Serratore. They are now ready
to launch "The Homeground
Collection", which uses dye-free

natural yarn with emphasis on the diverse colours available, and uses mostly alpaca rated organic by BioFach. The Homeground Collection is made up of a range of hand knitting yarn including eight Boucles, five double-knits and four brushed yarns. These yarns are well constructed and can also be used in both home and commercial knitting machines.

With the knowledge Tasman has acquired over the last 15 years, they have created blends, textures and colours in their merchandise, which give a handle and effect unique in the local market. The Tasman strategic alliance fulfils a vital role in maximising the viability of our natural range of coloured fibre.

HySport

HySport, with the brand label Emaroo, has been in business since 1971, paving the way in innovative knitwear design. The 'Australian flavour' of colour is inherent in all its designs, promoting "Australian design – Australian made" to a rapidly expanding worldwide and local market. HySport is a second generation, wholly family-owned and operated Australian company. Using the finest natural fibres and the most advanced,

BY HYSPORT

sophisticated machinery, its fine quality knitwear puts it in the forefront of manufacturing.

Being a quality-focussed manufacturing company, HySport utilizes all in-house manufacturing, from CAD/CAM design right through to the finished product, and incorporating WholeGarment technology. A key policy is a commitment to customers to use the best quality fibres available, and to develop and maintain ongoing technical expertise to realise the full potential of the raw fibre.

The HySport organisation has been working with the Australian Alpaca Cooperative from the beginning, and as one of our earliest partners, has contributed heavily through research and development time, styling and knitting techniques and input into the production of alpaca garments with the desired handle. They produce many of our fashion products and accessories, and as an important strategic partner, intend to produce their own alpaca range for the export market.

They are the only company utilising WholeGarment technology in Australia, which means they can produce fully-fashioned garments without any seams – hence wastage is at a minimum. We are using this technology to develop a whole new range of exciting new fashion products for the retail market, both in Australia and offshore.

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY



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

La Granja Alpacas

COMPASSIONATE BREEDING

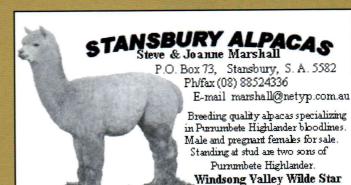
Joy E. Allenby-Acuna Heroides Açuna

698 Taylors Creek Rd Tarago NSW 2580

Ph: 02 4849 4439

Mob: 0428 933 589

Fax: 02 4849 4504





www.alpaca.asn.au

RULEEN DOWNS



- · Mobile or on-farm mating
- · Agistment: short & long term
- · Group tours and workshops - spinning lessons
- Alpaca sales ribbon winning stock

Purrumbete Saxon King

· 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



www.alpacamarketplace.com



Buyers: search for your next alpaca on:

• fleece characters • colour

parentage ...and more

Sellers: webvertise your animals and increase your sales

oreasonable ratesoinstant adsofemalesowethersostud malesoweb pagesobusiness cardsoeventso

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

Supa Soft Alpaca Carding Services

" Small Lots Catered For"
Jenny & Aldis Stucers

(03) 5996 7085

www.supasoft.com.au

QUALITY ALPACA SUPPLIES

- BOOKS ADJUSTABLE HALTERS LEADS
- TOENAIL CLIPPERS LARGE VARIETY OF GARMENTS
 & SKIN PRODUCTS INCLUDING
- TEDDY BEARS FLOOR RUGS HATS SLIPPERS
 JACKETS & LONG COATS GIFT ITEMS

Retail/Wholesale
ph/fax (02) 4572 5812 Christine Roffey
Email: hembra@bigpond.com



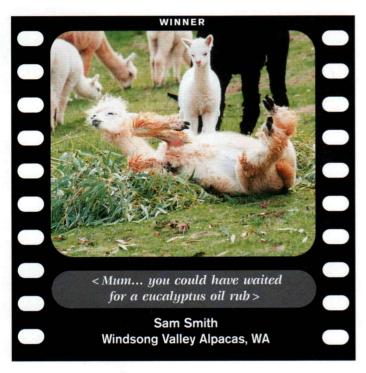


Fine Alpaca Knitwear Wholesale-Retail

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



pacapics pacapics pacapics pacapics



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.





< Back to QLD for me!>

John & Esme Graham Paltarra Alpacas, QLD



< Come on Charcoal, hurry up and grow me some clothes >

Lorraine Ivins Glenoma Alpacas, NSW



< Honest! We were just playing around and then something went 'click' >

Geoff Pearson & Merilyn Mathews Daisy Bank Alpacas, NSW



< Let's join the girls >

Brian & Estelle Ancell Treegoodwill Alpaca Stud, SA



<I've got my eye on you!>

Robert Liddle Yarravel, NSW



< I've certainly hit the heights!>

Frances Carleton Kurraki Alpacas, NSW

Alpacas on show at the following venues - All welcome

2003

January

18 PACA PICNIC, TAS

Venue: Salamanca Square, Hobart

Highlights: Alpaca display

Contact: Helen & Michael Dowd (03) 6239 6223

18 APOLLO BAY SHOW, VIC

Highlights: Fleece judging

Contact: Chris Day (03) 5368 7094

26 BUNGENDORE SHOW, NSW Venue: Bungendore Showgrounds

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

31 - Feb 1 BERRY SHOW, NSW Venue: Berry Showgrounds

Highlights: Fleece judging - 10.00am (31 January);

Alpaca judging - 10.00am (1 February)

Contact: Kevin Watson (02) 4448 6267

February

8 TYRENDARRA SHOW, VIC

Highlights: Fleece judging

Contact: Chris Day (03) 5368 7094

8 KORUMBURRA SHOW - VIC

Venue: Korumburra Showgrounds Highlights: Huacaya & Suri fleece judging

& alpaca judging from 9.00am

Contact: Sue Northfield (03) 9754 5152

8 - 9 CROOKWELL SHOW, NSW

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Penny Pittard (02) 4837 3394

14 - 16 BEGA SHOW, NSW

Venue: Bega Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging; Promotional display

Contact: Susan Nielson (02) 6493 2602

15 SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO, VIC

Venue: Seymour Showgrounds (King's Park)

Highlights: Alpaca judging; Fashion parade;

Trade & stud displays

Contact: Glenn Sutherland (03) 5826 2455

Ian Earle (03) 5772 3339

23 DALGETY SHOW, NSW

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Richard Dixon (02) 6456 3676

23 BERWICK SHOW, VIC

Venue: Akoonah Park, Berwick

Highlights: Huacaya & Suri fleece judging

& alpaca judging from 9.00am

Contact: Berwick Show Secretary (03) 9707 0399

28 - Mar 2 ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW, ACT

Venue: EPIC (Showgrounds)

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging; Promotional display;

Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

March

1 WARRAGUL SHOW, VIC

Venue: Warragul Showgrounds

Highlights: Huacaya fleece judging & alpaca judging

from 9.00am

Contact: Sue Northfield (03) 9754 5152

7 - 8 WAGIN WOOLARAMA, WA

Venue: Wagin

Highlights: Fleece judging & promotional display

Contact: Peter Richards (08) 9041 4020

8 COOMA SHOW, NSW

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Richard Dixon (02) 6456 3676

15 BRAIDWOOD SHOW, NSW

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Margaret Dwyer (02) 4847 5020

15 MT PLEASANT SHOW, S A

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

20 - 23 LARDNER PARK - FARM WORLD, VIC

Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul

Highlights: Promotional display; Fashion parade

Contact: Nick Veltjens (03) 5978 8666

22 RED HILL SHOW, VIC

Venue: Red Hill Showgrounds

Highlights: Huacaya & Suri fleece judging

& alpaca judging from 9.00am

Contact: Sue Northfield (03) 9754 5152

22 - 23 GOULBURN SHOW, NSW

Venue: Goulburn Showgrounds

Highlights: Fleece judging; Promotional display

Contact: Jacki Waugh (02) 4829 8157

29 - 30 YASS SHOW, NSW

Venue: Yass Showgrounds

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Geoff McGowan-Lay (02) 6227 6224

April

Date TBA: ALPACA SALE DAY, WA

Contact: WA Southern Region President,

Janice Dow (08) 9727 2599

11 - 24 ROYAL SYDNEY SHOW, NSW

Venue: Showgrounds, Homebush

Highlights: Fleece judging (8 April);

Alpaca judging (22 April) commencing with

suris at 8.30am;

Contact: Helen Fritsch (02) 9651 3029

26 BALINGUP SMALL FARM FIELD DAY, WA

Venue: Ballingup Oval

Highlights: Alpaca display and information Contact: Diny Monaghan (08) 9764 1061

26 - 27 ALPACA AUTUMN SHOW & FIESTA, WA

Venue: Whiteman Park

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging;

Fiesta incl. fashion parade, craft display (27 April)

Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

D
ALPACAS
7
×
=
9
₽
S
AUSTRALIA
\subseteq
S
-
Z
D
_
_
P
S
\subset
\leq
7
_
ER
0
2
0
0
2

Order Form	n		_				
			TOTAL \$A				
Free Kit	ciation but am int	erested					
in learning more about alpacas. <i>Please send me a FREE alpaca information kit</i> .							
Subscription I would like to subscribe to three issues of Alpacas A □ Australia \$AUD 28.05 □ New Zealand \$AUD 40.00		\$					
Publications	\$AUD WITHIN AUSTRALIA Incl. GST Incl. P&H within Aust only	\$AUD OVERSEAS PLUS P&H Please contact AAA for specific P&H charges					
Alpaca Breeders Birthing Handbook by McMillan & Jinks	24.20	20.00	\$				
Alpaca Breeders Reproduction Handbook by McMillan & Jinks	29.70	25.00	\$				
The Camelid Companion by McGee Bennett	price on	application	\$				
The Life of Charles Ledger by Gramiccia	50.60	40.00	\$				
Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care by Smith, Timm & Long	60.50	50.00	\$				
Medicine & Surgery of Sth American Camelids by Fowler (2nd edition)	price on	application	\$				
Alpacas Australia Magazine – 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 (per volume)	mat 20.90 ea	15.00 ea	\$				
Conference Proceedings Glenelg, SA 1999	28.60	23.00	\$				
Canberra, ACT 2000	28.60	23.00	\$				
Noosa, QLD 2002	42.90	30.00	\$				
Video – An Introduction to Alpacas – Fibre, Fashion & Industry	33.50	25.00	\$				
Video – An Introduction to Commercial Alpaca Shearing	33.50	25.00	\$				
TOTAL			\$				
PLEASE NOTE: All prices are Australian dollars and are inclusive of posta For overseas orders, please contact the Association for specific postage cha		within Australia (only.				
Address							
State Postcode	Country						
I enclose my cheque /money order for \$AUD	yable to 'Australiar	eard 🗌 Bankcard 🗆	Visa				
Credit Card No		Expiry Date	/ /				

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						
4 colour							5	
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 adverts. For full page adverts 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 adverts.

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 40: Autumn

Issue 41: Winter

Issue 42: Summer

Due: April 2003

Due: August 2003

Due: December 2003

Deadline: Friday 14 February

Deadline: Friday 6 June

Deadline: Friday 10 October

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA SUMMER 2002

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



STARLINE ALPACAS

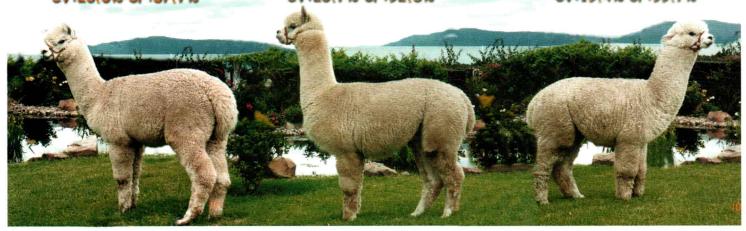


WILL HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR HERD WITH
Our excellent SOLID WHITE stud males (Service Fee \$1100)
whose progeny are showing wonderful potential

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 (03)
Sire - Purrumbete 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

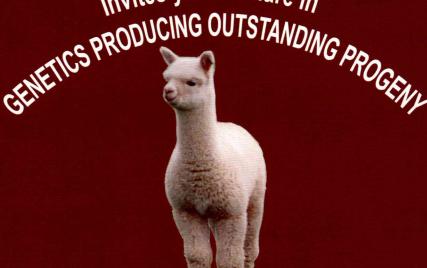
Come & visit us & stay at our well appointed self-contained sandstone cabins, have a game of tennis, enjoy a swim in our pool, or just relax in the spa or sauna watching the peaceful alpacas graze in front of your cabin - & enjoy the wonderful vineyards surrounding our property.

Website: www.starlinealpacas.com



WINDSONG VALLEY ALPACAS

Invites you to share in



SIRES STANDING AT STUD IN WA AT WINDSONG & VIC AT CORICANCHA

- Windsong Valley Iceman 2000 & 2001 National Supreme Champion
- Windsong Valley Royal Inca 1998 National Supreme Fleece Winner
- Windsong Valley Clansman Solid white Son of Purrumbete Highlander
- Windsong Valley Nevada Solid light fawn Son of Purrumbete Highlander
- Purrumbete Ledgers Dream Sire & Grandsire of over 55 Aust Champs
- Windsong Valley Accoyo Inheritance Barreda Accoyo Plantel Male
- Windsong Valley Accoyo Ben-Hur Barreda Accoyo Plantel Male

FEMALES FOR SALE MATED TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



Tena & Terry Wheeler

Barn Ph/Fx: (08) 9399 8762 A/h Phone: (08) 9399 2737

Email : mail@windsongvalley.com.au Website : www.windsongvalley.com.au