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Alpacas Australia





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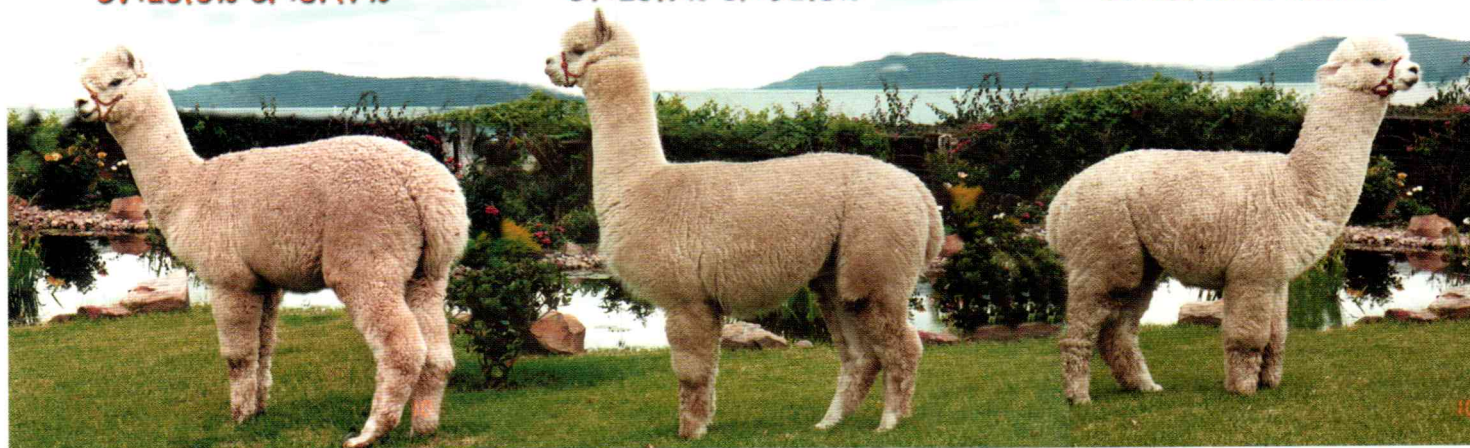


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Mic:16.5 SD:3.2
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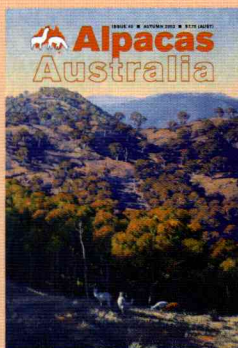
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"Morning Light"©
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see
Breeder Profile
feature page 44

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Moonlight Alpacas, NSW

You may recall reading in 'Alpacas Australia' that in August 2002 the Association commissioned the preparation of a Marketing Strategy Plan from a company in Sydney called H2o Creative Communications.

H2o Principal, Ian Lisser-Sproule and his associate, Jane White, presented the draft of the plan at our National Committee meeting in February and by the time you read this we will have the final document.

"Why did we need to do this?" and "Who will benefit from the production of such a plan?" are the type of questions that have typically been put to me by members who are naturally concerned about the way we use the Association resources.

The "Here to stay" advertisement with its depiction of "The Rock" was an innovative idea which told everyone who might have been interested that we were a stable industry with a future and not to be confused with some others which had not lasted the distance.

We now have to move on and **be proactive in our marketing, recognising that parts of our industry have different marketing targets.** Most alpaca breeders know what they want to do and that is to sell animals. We must continue to target those who are seeking lifestyle improvement through farming alpacas to inform them and **demonstrate the long-term viability of this exciting industry.**

The Marketing Strategy Plan also allows for development of other markets in the future, some of which need attention now in order to make them acquainted with the possibilities of breeding alpacas or running alpaca wethers for fleece production.

Previously I advised of the contribution by the Victorian Government to our industry in the form of a study to assist our strategic development and to assist Victorian farmers to diversify and stay in regional Victoria. Of course the principle is the same all over Australia and the study will have much value for the whole of our industry.

Our task force of Regional Presidents (the Strategic Development Task Force) has discussed a range of marketing possibilities and they will be included in the consultation process to develop the implementation of the Marketing Strategy. This team is doing a remarkable job on behalf of all of us and I am very grateful to them. The implementation of our **Marketing Strategy Plan will encompass every region** and it is hoped it will be put before the Association Council and National Committee in May 2003. It will form the basis of all our advertising as an umbrella concept, which will be inclusive of all local and regional advertising.

Of great interest at the moment is the activity of the Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd (AACo-op)

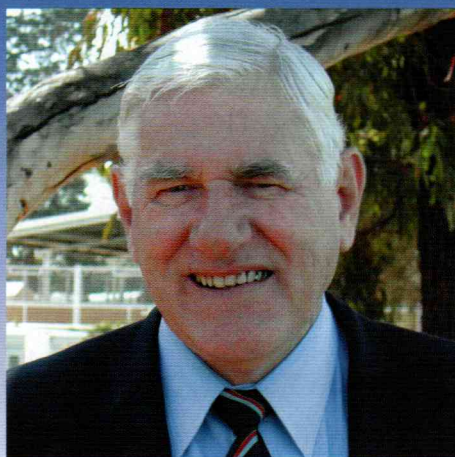
and its six strategic manufacturing partners, with their **new venture with David Jones Limited.** The homewares catalogue is out now and shortly we can expect the fashion catalogue – both preview a selection of homeware and fashion items that will be located in numerous David Jones stores. It was reassuring to see how Sealy, the bedding manufacturer, has adopted alpaca in their new mattresses included in the David Jones catalogue.

The AACo-op and Tasman Designer Yarns have produced the new knitting pattern book titled "The Tasman Designer Yarns - **Homeground Collection** - hand knitting designs". Tasman Designer

Yarns is working closely with the AACo-op in the promotion of this exciting initiative. So, take up those needles and knit a garment, then take it and the pattern book along to your next field days and wait for the response. People love the handle of alpaca.

I can foreshadow significant developments for our future in this industry which your National Committee will commence considering at its May meeting. Provided we all keep the big picture up front and cooperate as closely as possible to present a united industry approach I am convinced we have a brilliant prospect for alpaca in Australia.

a message from the president



... keep the big picture up front and cooperate as closely as possible to present a united industry ...

KERRY DWYER, PRESIDENT

briefly speaking...

University Veterinary Student Essay Prize for 2002

REVIEW OF WINNING ESSAY BY ANNE SMITH, CHAIRPERSON, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr. Nina Bray, who at the time of entering the competition was a Final Year Veterinary student at Murdoch University in Western Australia, has won the \$500 University Veterinary Student Essay Prize for 2002, sponsored by the Australian Alpaca Association. The essay was entitled, "Alpaca Reproduction: A Basic Guide For First Time Breeders."

Having bred alpacas for ten years now, I was still able to learn something new from the facts outlined in the essay, which was divided into the following areas: Female and male anatomy, Mating, Pregnancy detection, Parturition (with reasons for concern) and Re-breeding.

Of particular interest to me was the diagram and accompanying explanation of "Hormones of Female Reproduction", the correct working of which are crucial to achieving

pregnancy. Mating open females every 14 days is recommended, with "repeat breeding at 24 hours after the initial mating" being acceptable. Another recommendation is that maidens are not first mated until 15 months of age, or after having attained 50 kgs of body weight. Also noteworthy were checklists to follow after both a normal and/or a problem birth which would certainly be of help to first time breeders, as would the information on colostrum and birth weight.

A bibliography of mostly Australian work done in this area opens up the possibility of more detailed reading to both 'new' and 'old' breeders. As mentioned in Dr. Bray's opening paragraph, "a great deal of research is still being conducted to investigate the reproductive parameters of the alpaca". This essay has generated my thirst for a more detailed knowledge of the research that has been conducted. I encourage other breeders to access it from the AAA Library.

www.alpaca.asn.au

- a vital source of information on alpaca events, alpacas for sale, latest industry developments and much more!

Vibrant, dynamic and up to the minute the Association website is also an important communication link for AAA members.

A recent addition to the website is a gallery of alpaca photographs that can be downloaded for media purposes, school projects or simply viewed for the joy of it!

Please visit our website and take the time to browse - you will be pleased with its time efficiency and ease of navigation.

Have you moved, or are you moving soon?

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New England Alpaca Show 2003

by CATHERINE MEAD
CENTRAL COAST & HUNTER REGION, NSW

It's on again, the third New England Alpaca Show during Wool Vision 2003, May 9, 10 & 11 on the beautiful Armidale Creeklands, Armidale NSW.

Wool Vision, previously Wool Expo, has been staged in Armidale for over twenty years and is designed to be the major showcase for the fine wool and other natural fibre industries. Primarily focused on the superfine merino industry the vision has expanded to include the alpaca industry as an emerging major contributing player. The New England Alpaca Show is now seen as a major drawcard to the Wool Vision Showcase.

The New England area is a major superfine region and a centre of excellence in terms of sheep and wool research and development.

Between the CSIRO, the Sheep CRC (Co-operative Research Centre) and the University of New England, the region boasts access to the foremost knowledge in sheep genetics, wool technology and marketing.

The commercial future of the alpaca industry can only be imagined to thrive in similar environments as fine wool merinos. Therefore Wool Vision is an excellent opportunity to promote the alpaca industry.

Alpaca breeders also will have a great opportunity to catch up with the ever-evolving techniques within the fine wool merino industry and the focus on market driven commercial viability.

The major components of Wool Vision include:

- An extensive industry seminar program
- Fleece spectacular (merino)
- New England Yard Dog Championship
- New England Alpaca Show and Fleece Show
- The Australian Wool Fashion Awards Parade
- Agricultural products and services exhibitors
- Wool / Natural Fibre garment exhibitors

Our Program for the alpaca exhibit will include:

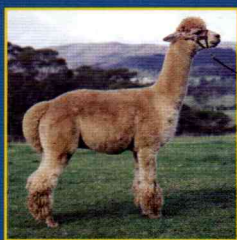
- Alpaca display over three days 9, 10 & 11 May
- Alpaca fleece judging on Friday 9 May
- Alpaca judging on Saturday 10 May
- Alpaca fashions on parade within the Australian Wool Fashion Awards Parade
- Alpaca garments and products for sale

In order to build on our previous success and increase the profile of the alpaca industry further, we invite your participation in this most important alpaca promotion event.

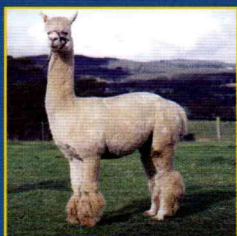
For further information and entry forms please contact the Convenor: Catherine Mead on phone/fax 02 6775 5571 or email koorana@bigpond.com ■



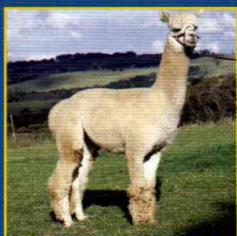
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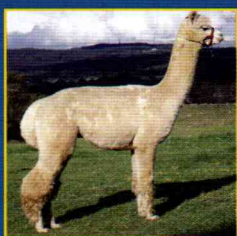
PURRUMBETE MINDEROO



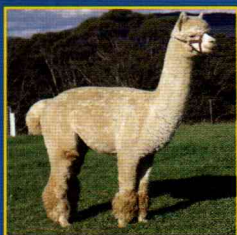
NWA LTD SOLOMON



PURRUMBETE DRIVING FORCE



STARLINE AUGUST MOON 2

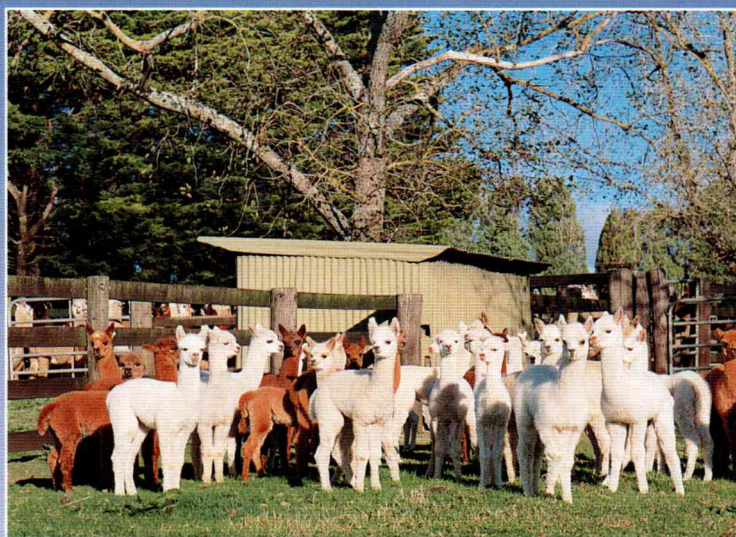


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*Fleece characteristics and follicular density study in Peruvian alpaca population, Peru 2001 Watts & Hicks.

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Umbilical hernias in crias

one person's perspective

by Dr RICHARD T DIXON B.V.Sc.
BERRIDALE ALPACAS, NSW

What is an umbilical hernia?

It is a defect in the muscles and fibrous tissue of the body wall, immediately adjacent to the umbilical cord. The inside of the hernial sac is lined with peritoneum continuous with the lining of the abdominal cavity; the outside of the sac is the skin. All the hernias that I've seen have been immediately in front of the navel.

The defect in the abdominal wall can be felt as a 'ring' about the diameter of one of your fingers ie. 15-20mm. The hernial sac usually contains a loop of intestine which can easily be pushed back into the abdomen.

When can an umbilical hernia be detected?

I have spoken to veterinarians who have delivered cria by caesarean section and none can recall seeing a hernia in any of these newborn. Although the defect in the body wall is present at birth, the hernial sac will not develop until the intestines push the lining outwards to form the sac. This gives three possibilities:

- (1) As soon as the cria stands – this is probably associated with the strain on abdominal muscles as well as limbs.
- (2) Within 24-48 hours of birth, presumably brought on by the effort of expelling the first plug of meconium from the rectum.
- (3) A rare type that can develop in the first three months, and is associated with prolonged straining due to chronic constipation or some other form of partial intestinal obstruction.

What to do?

In most instances the type (1) and (2) hernias reduce uneventfully within 4 weeks to 6 months without any treatment. There is, however, a very small chance that a loop of intestine may become trapped in the hernial sac, especially if the sac is large compared to the diameter of the ring. This trapped loop is now the site of a partial or complete intestinal obstruction that requires immediate surgical correction.

For this reason there is a school of thought based on the dictum that "prevention is better than cure" which says that hernias should be reduced before possible problems arise.

The reduction does not necessarily involve surgery. Neil Parker, of Coolaroo Alpaca Stud in NSW, uses a 10cm diameter circle cut from a plastic ice cream or drench container, coated on one side with Kamar adhesive (this is the adhesive used to 'glue' oestrus detectors onto the rumps of cattle). Push the sac contents back into the abdomen – this should be easy to do – and apply the circle with adhesive to the skin. The adhesive gradually decays, and as the cria grows and the abdomen increases in size, the circle will drop off.

I would not use this method until the umbilical stump is quite dry and any cord remnant has dropped off. This usually takes 4 to 7 days after birth.

The alternative approach is to "wait and see". I have done this with any hernias our cria have developed, and all have regressed completely. My current example is in a female cria that did not have a hernia at initial examination after standing, or when being weighed at 24 hours, but did have a hernial sac with a 20mm ring when examined at 5 days of age. At day 10 the sac had not increased in size, and the ring diameter was 17mm.

Is an umbilical hernia a heritable condition?

In my view, NO. Our first female cria, purchased at foot 6 years ago, had one that had disappeared without treatment by the time she was 6 months old. None of her offspring have shown any evidence of umbilical defect, let alone hernia.

Murray Fowler (ACVA Conference Prodeedings, 1997) does not list umbilical hernia among his list of heritable defects, and Brad Smith (Camelid Medicine and Surgery, Post Graduate Foundation Proceedings 278, 1996) points out that umbilical hernia are common on llama, but close without intervention by 6 to 8 weeks.

But what if?

If you are uncertain as to whether to treat or wait and see, ask your veterinarian to examine the hernia and advise you. Practitioners I have contacted tell me that they are doing fewer surgical repairs, and only consider the possibility when the sac is very large and the ring is narrow.

In the one type (3) hernia that I know of, the surgical repair was successful but the cria is still straining, possibly due to a neurogenic dysfunction of the large bowel. Be aware in these cases that surgery may obliterate the hernia, but the cause of the straining has to be identified and successfully treated if a completely satisfactory outcome is to be achieved. ■

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Ron and Dianne with Don Julio Barreda

2003 Royal Canberra Show

by JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN
CONVENOR

Against a background of the long dry in New South Wales and the disastrous bushfires in and around Canberra that kept most breeders on-farm all summer, the 2003 Royal Canberra Show attracted 180 alpaca entries and 100 fleeces.



huacayas and suris came from throughout NSW and the Show even attracted exhibitors from South Australia, southern Victoria and Queensland. Although it was rewarding to have so many entries, regrettably, the time might be coming when the lack of covered pen-space could preclude the acceptance of all entries to this Show in future.

The trial to have huacayas in short fleece, pioneered in 2002, again ensured that they were not heat-stressed. However, with a slightly later date for the Show and 30mm of rain falling on the day before the Show to herald the autumn break, the first frost on Saturday morning made for a brisk start to the judging and a comfortable climate for the succeeding two days.

The judge, Bill Robbins, tirelessly examined fleeces all throughout Friday and was pleased with the quality of most fleeces, particularly those in the younger classes. Their ratings augur well for the future of our fleece industry.

Some fleeces were considered to be inadequately skirted and Bill's remarks have prompted the Southern NSW Region to organise more fleece workshops this coming winter. The high standard of the champion and ribbon fleeces, both huacaya and suri, displayed later served as an encouragement for future fleece exhibitors.

The large junior and intermediate huacaya classes provided a challenge for Bill on Saturday who again noted the good presentation of all alpacas, despite the difficult conditions this season. The ribbon winners were judged to Bill's high standard and the awards reflected the strength of the competition and the quality in the classes. Illawarra Alpacas' *Benleigh Kansas* and Tahara Suri Alpacas' *Tahara Illumini* were worthy Supreme Champion Huacaya and Supreme Champion Suri respectively.

Sunday was 'activity day'. The ebullient Wayne Clymo smoothly orchestrated the Junior Handlers competition and, with skill and tact, ensured that the Senior Handlers also earned their ribbons. Displays and demonstrations of spinning, knitting, felting and alpaca management software attracted the attention of exhibitors, members and visitors. The finale for the alpaca section at the Show was the strong contingent represented in the livestock Grand Parade.

The success of the 2003 Royal Canberra Show was due to the clear judgements of Bill Robbins, the hard work of the stewards and a 'coalition-of-dependables', and to the generosity of members who sponsored the many classes. I offer my sincere thanks to them all. ■

The complete results of the 2003 Royal Canberra Show are available on the web-sites for the AAA (www.alpaca.asn.au) and the Southern NSW Region.

A selection of photographs is available on the latter web-site (www.alpaca-s.com).



Ch Junior Female Huacaya *Illawarra Xenoa* (l)
Res Ch Junior Female Huacaya *Shogun Yoko* (r)



Ch Junior Male Huacaya *Blue Grass Centurion* (r)
Res Ch Junior Male Huacaya *Illawarra Xtatic* (l)



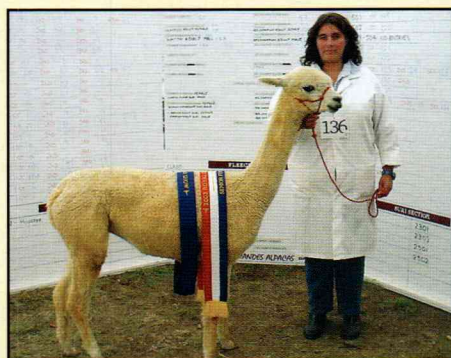
Ch Intermediate Female Huacaya *Belbourie Juniper* (r)
Res Ch Intermediate Female Huacaya *Adelyn Omague* (l)



Ch Adult Female Huacaya *Alpacapartners Tinkebell* (l)
Res Ch Adult Female Huacaya *Ambersun Solitaire* (r)



SUPREME + Ch Adult Male *Benleigh Kanzas* (l)
Res Ch Adult Male Huacaya *Illawarra Walter* (r)



Ch Senior Female Huacaya *Alpacapartners Skye*



Ch Senior Male Huacaya *Burnigula Hugo* (l)
Res Ch Senior Male Huacaya *Kincardine Maverick* (r)



Ch Mature Male Huacaya *Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo* (l)
Res Ch Mature Male Huacaya *Fine Choice Peruvian Poncho* (r)



Ch Junior Female Suri *Jurustalle Ginger* (r)
Res Ch Junior Female Suri *Surilana Milady Lenore* (l)



Ch Junior Male Suri *Elyson Harry Potter* (l)
Res Ch Junior Male Suri *Alpacapartners Dahl* (r)



Ch Intermediate Female Suri *Surilana Lady Godiva* (r)
Res Ch Intermediate Female Suri *Keiana Lodge Silhouette* (l)



SUPREME + Ch Intermediate Male *Tahara Illumini* (l)
Res Ch Intermediate Male Suri *Elyson Rossini* (r)



Ch Adult Male Suri *Cedar House Liberache* (l)
Res Ch Adult Male Suri *Beavona Lodge Special FX* (r)

Ch Intermediate Male Huacaya
New Haven Valentino
Res Ch Intermediate Male Huacaya
Forestglen Glancy

Huacaya Sires Progeny
Prestige Valentino
Suri Sires Progeny
ILR Helado S170 ALOA

Champion Huacaya Fleece
Alleena Talisman
Champion Suri Fleece
Ambleside Andean Silk

The Lustre of Black Silk

**Introducing our
Suri Male**

New from Peru

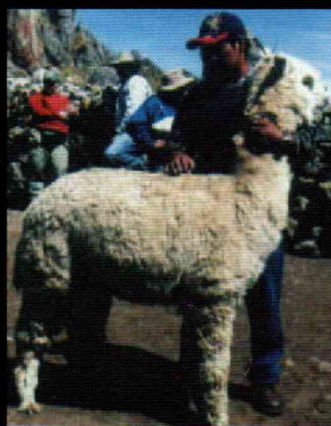


24.4 micron
Incredibly lustrous



Talca Black Onyx

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Talca Charango of Peru (SW)

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

Talca Zamora of Peru (SBik)

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



Talca Shimon (SW)

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

Talca Bhakti (MG)

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



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An introduction to Evaluating alpaca fleece attributes and interpreting alpaca fibre tests

by Dr BRUCE MCGREGOR
SPECIALITY FIBRE SCIENTIST, VICTORIAN
INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE, ATTWOOD, VIC

Assessing the attributes of alpaca fleeces subjectively by eye is frequently very unreliable as alpaca fleeces show large variations in quality attributes across the body. In addition, our eyes are limited in their ability to discern fibre diameter, the mean of other fibre attributes and the extent of naturally occurring contaminants.

Alpaca fleeces are also affected by environmental conditions, in particular humidity, but also by storage conditions. The same limitations that affect alpaca fibre apply equally to wool, mohair and cashmere.

To assist in the commercial trading of fibre for textile processing, a range of testing procedures have been developed to help reduce the errors associated with subjective assessment. However, associated with objective tests are a range of errors related to the sampling and testing procedures. With objective testing it is possible to quantify the likely extent of the errors associated with the testing procedures employed.

To help breeders obtain reliable fleece test results the starting point is understanding the types of variation found in fleeces. This article discusses:

- the sources and extent of variation within the alpaca fleece;
- the most appropriate method of sampling alpaca fleeces; and
- the application of this information for evaluating fibre test results.

This article is based on research conducted with Australian alpacas.



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Variation within animal fleeces

The variation in the attributes within the fleece of animals is related to the following components:

Within a staple

Most of the variation in fibre diameter occurs between fibres within a staple. The difference between the fibre diameter of fibres growing from primary and secondary skin follicles in an alpaca may be more than 20 μm . Many medullated fibres in alpaca fleeces are more than 10 μm coarser than the mean fibre diameter (McGregor 1999a).

Along the fibre

Changes occur in the fibre diameter, dust, grease and vegetable matter content as the fleece grows during the year (McGregor 1999b). Nutritional changes, the affects of disease and reproduction all influence fibre diameter along the fibre.

Different positions within the fleece.

Fibre diameter, incidence of medullated fibres, grease, dust and vegetable matter contaminants vary with the position in the fleece (Aylan-Parker and McGregor 2002).

Differences between animals.

Within a herd of animals and between herds, animals, especially from different properties, will differ in their mean fibre diameter and level of grease and other contaminants (McGregor 1999a, McGregor and Butler 2000).

Variation between components of the fleece

Components of the alpaca fleece

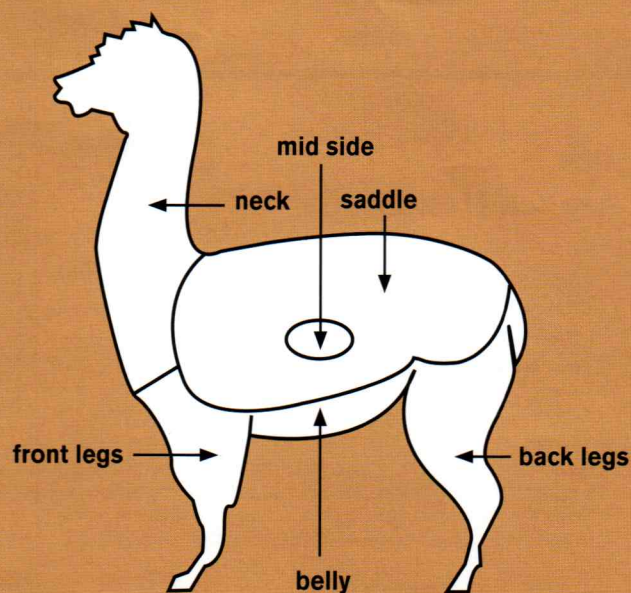
The physical attributes of alpaca fleeces vary considerably over the body. During the preparation of alpaca for sale, the fleece is commonly divided into three components:

1. Saddle;
2. Neck;
3. Skirtings.

According to standard industry practice, the skirtings consist of the fibre shorn from the belly, the top of the back legs, the top of the front legs and apron (area between front legs and neck) providing it is free of guard hair (Figure 1).

The site used for taking mid side samples, which is discussed in the next section, is part of the saddle component of the fleece (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location of the saddle, neck and fleece components that form the skirtings (front legs including apron, belly and back legs) in alpacas and the site for mid side sampling.



Range in experimental animals

The range of measurements obtained from animals used in this study varied as followed: age at shearing, 0.3 to 7.9 years; live weight at shearing, 30 to 110 kg; mean mid side fibre diameter, 19.9 to 41.0 μm ; fleece weight, 0.47 to 9.25 kg. These alpaca were typical of the Australian alpaca herd.

Variation in fleece attributes

Australian alpaca fleeces show large differences between the attributes of fibre from the mid side, saddle, neck, and the remainder of the fleece (skirtings) and the mean for the entire fleece (Tables 1 and 2, Aylan-Parker and McGregor 2002). The mean for the entire fleece was calculated to include the skirtings and was calculated using the weight of the fleece components.

Table 1. Variation in attributes of alpaca fleece measured from mid side samples and fleece component grid samples including mean fibre diameter (MFD) and coefficient of variation of MFD (CVD).

Sampling Site	MFD [#] µm	CVD %	Clean washing yield %
Mid side site	27.5 ^a	24.3 ^a	90.2 ^a
Saddle	28.8 ^b	27.0 ^b	91.4 ^b
Neck	28.7 ^b	28.6 ^b	88.9 ^a
Skirtings	37.6 ^d	30.6 ^d	92.8 ^b
Mean entire fleece	31.2 ^c	28.1 ^c	

[#] Within attributes, sampling site values with a different superscript are significantly different.

Mean fibre diameter

In these alpacas there was significant variation in the mean fibre diameter (MFD) over the body and this variation was associated with high variation in the coefficient of variation of the mean fibre diameter (CVD).

The fibre from the mid side site was 1.2 µm finer than fibre from the saddle and neck, 3.7 µm finer than the mean for the entire fleece and 10.1 µm finer than fibre from the skirtings. Fibre from the saddle was 2.4 µm finer than the mean for the entire fleece and 8.8 µm finer than fibre from the skirtings.

There was a large variation in CVD over the body. The CVD of mid side fibre was 2.7% lower than fibre from the saddle, 3.8% lower than the mean for the entire fleece and 4.3% lower than for neck fibre.

Clean washing yield

The significantly lower clean washing yield of the mid side and neck compared with that of the saddle and skirtings shows that the distribution of dust, dirt and grease content are not equally distributed over the body of alpacas.

Medullated fibre

The incidence of medullated fibres at the mid side site was 8.7% less than in the saddle, 10.8% less than the mean of the entire fleece and 20.1% less than in the skirtings. Similar differences were seen in the diameter of medullated fibres (Table 2).

Table 2. Variation in medullated fibre attributes of white alpaca fleece measured from mid side samples and fleece component grid samples.

Sampling Site	Incidence by number [#] %	Medullated fibre diameter µm
Mid side site	24.4 ^a	32.7 ^a
Saddle	33.1 ^b	34.4 ^b
Skirtings	44.5 ^d	41.1 ^d
Mean entire fleece	35.2 ^c	36.0 ^c

[#] Within attributes, sampling site values with a different superscript are significantly different.

In summary, for each fleece attribute, fibre at the mid side site had lower values than the mean of fibre from the saddle and the mean of the total fleece. For each fleece attribute, except for clean washing yield, the saddle had lower values than fibre from the pieces and the mean of the total fleece.

Sampling methods

There are two main methods of fleece sampling available for alpaca breeders: the mid side and the grid sampling methods. Each method has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Mid side sample method

Since 1947, the accepted method for testing sheep wool has been to take a mid side sample (Turner et al. 1953). The mid side sample has been used to test characteristics of importance such as fibre diameter, fibre population, staple length, density of fibres per unit area and staple crimp.

In sheep, the theory behind using a mid side sample is that a mid side sample test result is close to the mean of both the top to underside and the front to rear variation found in a fleece. For this to be true the mid side sample has to be either mini-cored or testing after carding.

If a mid side sample is tested after butt cutting, as is common in the United States of America, then this assumption is not correct. A butt cut is a fibre sample taken only at the end of the fibre closest to the skin. A butt cut sample does not include any of the along the fibre variation or differences due to position within the fleece.

Location of mid side sample

The site for taking the mid side sample in sheep is located over the third last rib, halfway between the mid-line of the belly and the mid-line of the back (Figure 1).

The mid side site is convenient to use for sampling because it can be easily located during shearing and can even be shorn without removing the entire fleece.

Problems with mid side sampling

In alpacas, if the mid side sample is taken too low, it may include fibre that is really part of the pieces component. If this happens the test results for mean fibre diameter and other fibre attributes will be seriously over estimated.

The mid side sample mean fibre diameter has been reported in Merinos and Alpacas to actually test finer than the average for the whole fleece. In the study of the Merino wool, this was particularly so for the finer sheep in the population. It was suggested that in Merino sheep this was due to intense selection over the years for finer fleece based on the mid side sample rather than selection for a finer entire fleece (Stadler and Gillies 1994).

While the mid side sample is highly correlated with the mean fibre diameter of wool top (wool processed up to the spinning stage), the mid side sample can be finer and the differences may not be consistent (Fleet et al. 1993). This suggests that the mid side sample may not be a reliable predictive tool for the diameter of top.

Some of these differences may be due to the effect of fibre breakage and subsequent loss during carding and noil removal (combing).

Grid sample method

Grid sampling has been used for more than 20 years. The grid sample includes differences due to position within the fleece and so can detect variations in the fleece that the mid side sample does not detect. For example, Butler et al. (1991) found

that processed wool top produced from Merino wool was better predicted by grid sampling than by mid side samples.

Grid sampling is the best method for taking samples from cashmere goats as the mid side sample overestimates the commercial yield of cashmere and underestimates cashmere fibre diameter (McGregor 1994).

Method used for grid sampling

The grid sampling technique involves:

1. laying out the shorn fleece to be tested on a flat surface, ideally on a table measuring about 3 m². The fleece needs to be laid out evenly.
 2. take 16 to 32 random grab samples from the surface of entire fleece.
- To help this process it is common for breeders to lay a physical grid over the fleece and to take a sample from each grid. A suitable grid can be made from plastic garden trellis mesh with a mesh size of approximately 10 cm x 10 cm. The idea is to take unbiased samples by pulling a tuft of sample from each square in the grid.

Potential benefits of using grid sampling

Grid sampling can be completed while the next alpaca is being shorn or can be undertaken after a fleece has been stored.

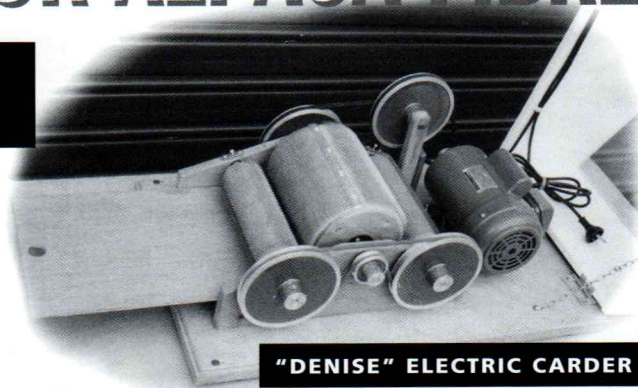
Grid sampling avoids the problems found with core sampling of entire fleeces. Core sampling is time consuming but does include variation due to position within the fleece. However core sampling cuts staples in the fleece thus reducing the fibre length.

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Ideas for group activities

Touchy/feelly

- Fleece, alpaca books and/or magazines to look at and discuss, fabric, garments, felt, spinning and end results.
- Try to hand spin some fleece.
- Stick fleece on outline of alpaca.

Drawing/sketching

- Students sitting on rugs outside yards encouraged to draw alpacas and/or write comments on alpaca behaviour.

Walking an alpaca

- Students lined up with their backs to a fence, supervising adult in control, in turn each student able to walk an alpaca on a lead around a designated area.

Husbandry demonstration

- Students stand at pen fence and watch toenails cut, teeth trimmed, injection given.

Explosion chart

- Led by breeder, students 'brainstorm' a mind map or explosion chart on eg. "What is involved in being an alpaca breeder?"
"All the things one has to do to run a farm". etc.

Murphy's Law

Something unexpected is always sure to happen! On the day mentioned previously, when the local Pre-primary were due to be greeted 100 metres from the farm gate by myself leading an alpaca, 'Rosie' decided to give birth. 'Rosie' was a maiden and not dilating normally.

A quick phone call to the vet ensured that by 8.30am the cria was on the ground but very flat. At 9.00 am with the cria a little stronger and trying to sit, I had to leave with my 'lead alpaca' for the pre-arranged greeting of the children who were walking from the school.

On our arrival back at the farm, we found that 'Rosie' had passed her placenta ... so everyone lined the fence and we had a very simple discussion about the new birth and how the baby

had lived, warm and protected in the placenta, for almost a year. I then opened up the placenta and showed the children where the cria had been and how it had been attached to mum. Although one child did remark, "Yuk, how gross," the others were not phased at all by the situation, stating facts such as, "I was inside my mummy's tummy" and "My cat had kittens."

A rewarding effort

I continue to have enormous enjoyment from similar days with students of all age groups ... from the sheer pleasure on children's faces at seeing the animals to hearing the open, honest and often unexpected comments, and getting the feedback from parents that I meet 'down town' from time to time. I strongly suggest that other breeders could benefit our industry as a whole with this added exposure, whilst enjoying themselves thoroughly at the same time.

Tomorrow's industry is the children of today. ■

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Now, ready for the drop

Note my two feet on the ground with wide and firm stance, with my left shoulder under and a little to the animal's off (right) side of his jaw, my left arm under and back over his wither from his off (right) side, I begin to pull the tab, or sliding end of the strap. With my shoulder thus, I am able to guide his head to his near (left) side as I shorten the side-strap, so that his body commences to bend, or curl, in that direction, helped by the side pressure from my left arm and left shoulder. (The body length shortens by 'banana-ing', rather than arching at head and heel.)



He starts to teeter and, feeling unsteady, he puts himself into cush. Everything is very tight now. Push his head to the ground. From here, he must be rolled onto his side.



He will resist. It is very difficult, dare I say, *bloody hard*, to roll him if his head is NOT down. As you will tighten the strap even further when he is finally on his side, it is better to roll him onto his off (right) side. With his head held down (although even if he struggles to get up, he cannot), change sides, and with his head still down, heave-ho, and pull him over towards you. It is not as hard as it might seem. With your right hand on his jugular, take the end of the strap. Tighten it further.



At this point, you will probably be at the end of your strap. If you are using a rope or one that is too small, or whatever, be careful that the back strap does not slide off the hocks as they are pulled forward towards his head.

Now that he is down, and immobilized, (yippee), lift his head up high. Whilst it is up, he will not stress and thrash. If you have to go and get your bits and pieces, you can. He's going nowhere! You can even do the teeth with the head restrained between your thighs ... (this is a women's article, isn't it?)



Still with the head up, bend over and do the feet, inoculate, paint the nails, and pluck the eyebrows.



When finished, merely push the sides of the clip together, and stand back. Recatch and slip the DOHNT HARNESS back over the head. Ready for the next?!

I fully recognize that people may have their own way of doing things. But if one doesn't, it's useful to have tips from those that have tried different things.

I hope these tips work for you as they do for me, and, amongst other things, they lessen the stress and dread these animals sometimes feel.

They really are smart!

Handling alpacas made easy/ier

[PART 2]

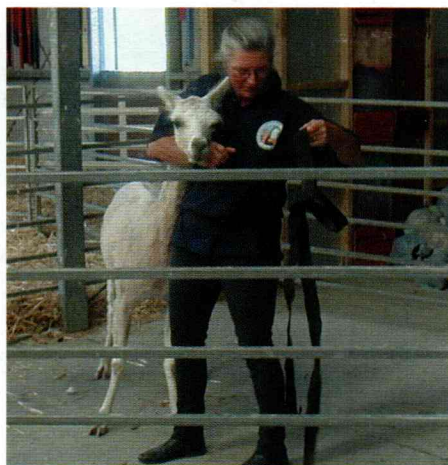
by HARRIET DAVISON
ILLAWARRA ALPACAS, NSW

In Part 1 of my article, which appeared in "Alpacas Australia" Issue no. 39, I noted that ease of handling is important in an industry where we women (the weaker sex) find ourselves in a position where we are the ones that often do the day-to-day alpaca chores. What I am about to describe should hopefully only be needed if you *have to*, or *want to*, do all of those things on your own. It is not that difficult, but maybe not the sort of undertaking you would embark upon if you have 50 or more animals to handle.

RESTRAINING YOUR ALPACA

– obviously the first important step in administering any procedure but not always easy to accomplish. But, I've done it, both with the DOHNT harness, and just with a rope ... it's certainly possible. It's an especially useful skill if you find yourself in a position where help is simply not available, and something has to be done NOW!

What I find particularly useful, is a corner, or even better, a corner with an angle less than 45°. I have used this method (both outdoors and in the shed where these photographs were taken) on several different animals, all wethers of different ages and sizes. None of them had been handled any more than for the usual worming, toenail trimming etc, and most had spent their lifetime in a group of 30 to 60 alpacas, knowing who I was, but not caring, except when it was time for a paddock change.



1 To restrain your alpaca without harassment, slip the breastplate over the head; let him look at it first and sniff it if he is nervous.



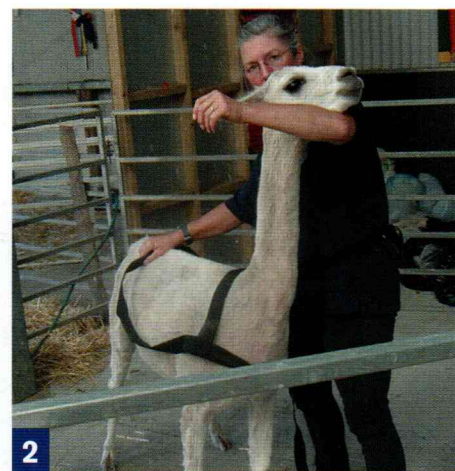
3 Here the panels, or the corner, come into their own! Put your foot up on the second or third rung, thereby creating a chest restraint (the alpaca has a head restraint with the corner) and then stretch, or flick - whatever works for you. Another spot where I thought they might 'cut-loose', but they didn't. In this photograph, I flicked a longer strap (made longer by being un-done), and then did it up when in position.

Here I plan to take hold of the alpaca close to the waiting DOHNT HARNESS, in my catching pen of **five portable panels**.

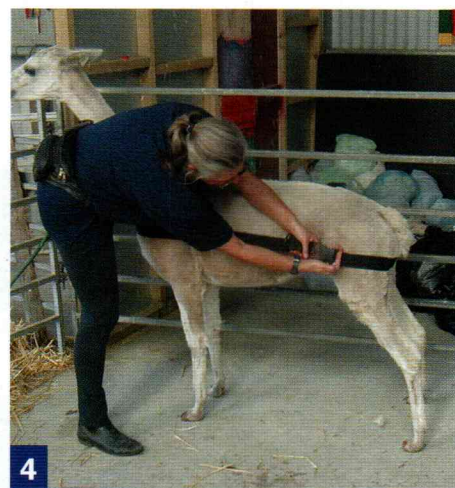
(These I find absolutely indispensable with alpacas, unless you have an unlimited bank account and an army of helpers!)

At first I thought the animals might 'cut loose' as I tightened the back strap. How would I handle that? Then I remembered my own advice – be cool; be calm; and be close!

Also, **be sure** ... before starting ensure that you have put your harness out on the ground and had a good look and a good think about it ... how does this work? And why does this work?

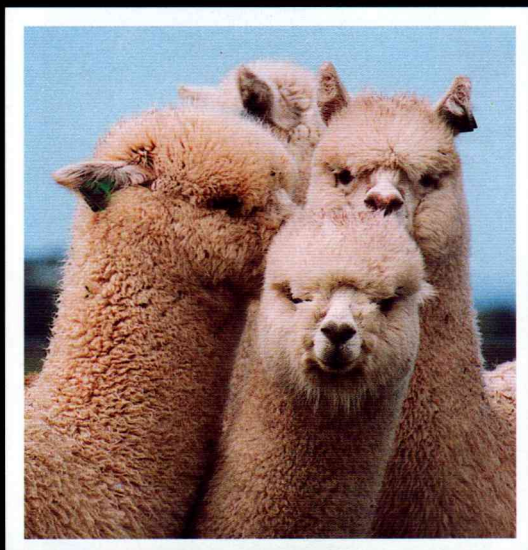


2 In an unthreatening way (no clutching in a death grip), raise his head well up, and back a little, resting on your elbow. (It is difficult now for the animal to rush off in a powerful hurry). Note my proximity to the panel. Have the back strap 'done-up' but on its loosest setting, to give yourself maximum manoeuvrability. You may find it is too big, or too small. The harness actually has three different sizes with an inset that can give you that little extra leeway. I have found that it needs to slip over the rump fairly 'snugly' in order to be effective. *This is the hard part; stretching one hand over the rump while you somehow restrain the animal.*



4 With the leg (mine) still in position, here I connect up the back strap. On the DOHNT HARNESS, it has the simple plastic slide-in clip.

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Poo Collection ...

... a dung deal?

compiled by IRENE GARNER
"ALPACAS AUSTRALIA"

To many alpaca breeders, and particularly those on small acreage, alpaca dung collection and distribution is an important part of breeders' management, consequently many members, experienced and inexperienced, are constantly seeking advice as to what methods of collection are most effective and affordable.

In order to 'road test' the different methods currently in use, 'Alpacas Australia' contacted nationally a sample of breeders, from large and small holdings, seeking their views and experiences. This report is based on respondents' contributions and should not be considered conclusive.

Manually

Equipment

This includes a good, solid garden rake, for gathering scattered droppings into piles, in conjunction with a lightweight 'D' handled, aluminium grain shovel or a flat spade (better than a rounded one), particularly one with turned up sides. A garden trolley, wheelbarrow or a trailer behind the ride-on mower all proved to be popular for collecting the resulting piles. The cheapest and most basic method is using a dustpan as a shovel and a strong glove on the scooping hand.

Advantages

Whilst many members of the sample group collect dung manually, this was not necessarily the preferred or recommended method. Most respondents reported that this method was inexpensive whilst some even commented that it was effective in getting fit and losing weight!

Disadvantages

Of course the technique is labour-intensive and therefore time-consuming and tiring. Additionally a lot of the small pellets also get left behind.

Breeders' Comments

ANDREA GLEW (HILL FARRANCE ALPACAS):

"I tend to leave it until after I've moved the herd to a new paddock. There are few things more frustrating than cleaning up a pile of dung only to have several alpacas stroll up, inspect the clean spot with interest then, before your very eyes, present their bums to you, flick up their tails and deposit a luxuriant stream of 'odure'."

Timing of this chore does not depend on animal husbandry scheduling. It is entirely related to when I can spare time from the many other urgent tasks on hand".

SUE COLLINS (WYNTAISSA ALPACAS):

"By shovel and wheel barrel to a central point. Here it is broken down to a suitable level to be used in our garden. A shredder/mulcher has been tested and this breaks down old dung to powder form. This can then be spread out on our natural pastures to try and return nutrients. However this is a slow process."

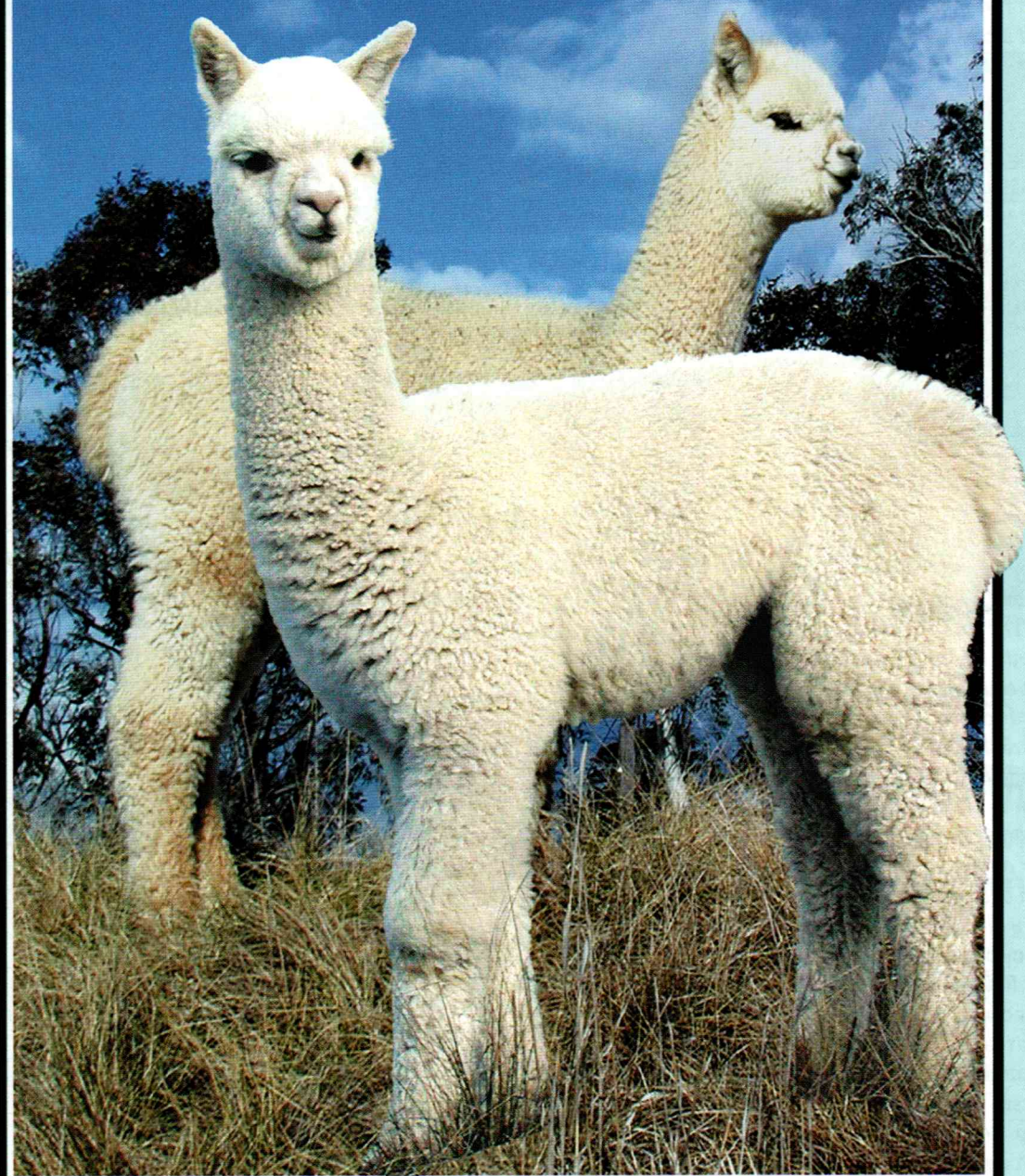
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Children's farm visit



by WENDY LAWN
LAWITHICK ALPACAS, WA

Living in a farming community and being close to the local Primary School has provided the perfect conditions for educating children in the ways of alpacas.

A recent visit to our farm by the local Pre-primary has produced a format that we can recommend to other breeders who may choose to use the plan as is or adapt for their own area. With the help of a class teacher this format is suitable for use with students of all age groups, if creative ideas are utilised and differing expectations are applied to the varying abilities/ages of the students.

Initial approach to school/teacher

- Check liability, insurance requirements, etc.
- Arrange date, time, place, specific class needs, be aware of the possibility of students with special needs.
- Provide teacher with information about alpacas eg. notes, picture outline of an alpaca, books, fleece samples.
- Liaise with teacher on activities to suit groups of students (each group should be accompanied by a responsible adult) to be completed on farm.
- Advise of imminent births so that parents may be informed in case of awkward questions from children.
- Permission notes detailing all of the above information are the responsibility of the school.
- Check list for teacher eg. morning tea, drinks, clipboards, note paper and pencils, picnic blankets, First Aid kit.

Preparation on farm

- Set up seating, tables for displays, photo boards, fleeces, spinning equipment, alpaca product, spare pens and pencils, requirements for morning or afternoon tea or lunches.
- Towels, soap, washing and drinking water available.
- Organise toilet facilities (consider the need to hire portable loos).
- Think about greeting students at the farm gate with an alpaca on a lead.

Farm visit day

- Greet students, lead to assembly area (preferably covered).
 - Explain rules, house keeping, toilet facilities.
 - With an alpaca on a lead, ask questions of the students, discuss or affirm answers.
- Split up into groups for 20-30 minute rotations taking in different activities ... a refreshment break should be scheduled between rotations.
- Come together for final wrap up of activities.
 - In activity groups, each student to explain to group leader three things that they have learnt.
 - In whole class grouping, one member of each activity group to explain to all, three of the most important things that their group has learnt.

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Why breed coloured alpacas?



by ANNE SMITH
HOBSON'S CHOICE ALPACAS, WA

*Seven to ten years ago (evidenced by flipping through old copies of "Alpacas Australia"), as there were very few white or light fawn animals about, the answer to "Why breed coloured alpacas?" was the same as "Why breed alpacas? The answer is still the same ... because the majority of animals in the Australian herd **are** coloured and even the progeny of white to white matings are 28.1% coloured. (According to Herd Book statistics.)*



The greatest advantage that the alpaca has over and above all fibre animals is colour, as other animal fibre breeders have largely bred out the colours.

There seems to be a far wider range of colours occurring in the alpaca genome than in other coloured fibre animals.

There are more deeper coloured alpacas than white or light fawn, in Australia.

The progeny of white to white matings are 28.1% coloured.

The progeny of colour to colour produces 5.8% white.

Each year, the number of coloured animals increases by about 20% more than white.

the Peruvians, in order to improve the quality of their fibre, bred out colour in some of their bloodlines, as Australia did with the merino sheep.

The Peruvian economy is such that farmers are able to run their alpacas in large herds, some of which have very reputable bloodlines built up over the past 50 years or so. In Chile, however, small breeders, often extremely poor, run mainly coloured animals in small flocks. It has been much easier for importers to select large numbers of good quality animals, albeit white, and bring them in to Australia, than to spend the time and money searching out large numbers of good quality coloured animals. This has been left to devotees of colour who have suffered privation, travelling long distances in the mountains in order to select a limited number of animals with genetics that they believe will be of value to the Australian industry. It is now well established that white and light fawn suris and huacayas, on the whole, have much finer, denser fleeces than the bulk of deeper coloured alpacas.

Most Australian processors don't want to process coloured fibre. It does not take dye as well if they wish to

breeding program can be gained from Ken Hart, Elizabeth Paul and Julie Koenig.

American geneticist Julie Koenig emphasises, in her information, the necessity for paying attention to health, reproductive excellence and sound conformation above all else. But for the serious breeder of colour, there is the interesting extra dimension. Most of us have the health and conformation right as a result of good nutrition and husbandry practices – the challenge is to keep the colour whilst improving the fleeces, so that they become as good as and better than the present white fleeces. Ken Hart emphasises very strongly that, in order to achieve this objective, breeders should decide on a particular colour and breed specifically for it. Julie Koenig's articles in the Proceedings of the 1998 AAA Fremantle Conference, are excellent guides and contain an evaluation plan which could be used as is, or adapted to your needs (see objective evaluation plan, p.12)

It is well worthwhile obtaining a copy of Julie Koenig's article "Inheritance of Fleece colour in

Camelids" and sitting down with pencil and paper to genotype each of your animals for colour. It is one tool for learning about each animal in your herd but requires time and patience.

However Elizabeth Paul's articles in various issues of *Alpacas Australia* are very readable, I found. She has used the statistics contained in the AAA Herd books to create Tables that can give breeders the greatest chance of success in breeding for a particular colour. Although these Tables have been created as a result of the information contained in the Herd Books, that is, the details of every registered animal in Australia and New Zealand, they can only be used as a guide. We must be aware that not every animal is registered (it's now thought that about 20% aren't) and that the colours are those quoted by the owners when they register the animal. Many people disagree on the colour of a particular animal or register it as a solid colour when it actually has spots below the knee, etc.

The conclusions reached over three studies written up, show quite

conclusively that if you want a particular colour, you will have the greatest chance of getting a cria of that colour if you mate a male and a female of the same colour. However in order to breed to the colour on which you are concentrating, but collect some other important characteristic(s) along the way, Elizabeth Paul's Tables could be of great help.

Another interesting part of her findings is the complexity of the genes in 'white' alpacas. No wonder that at present approximately 28% of all white to white matings produce a coloured cria. Obviously there is much work to be done on researching coloured genetics in alpacas.

An Honours thesis based on the genetics of white alpacas, written by Ken Hart, has some good advice for all breeders in the General Discussion, chapter 5. His comments include,

"The AAA Coat Colour Code's use as a tool for identifying phenotype is counter-productive to the establishment of pure breeding lines of alpaca."

ALPACA'S of LADYSMITH

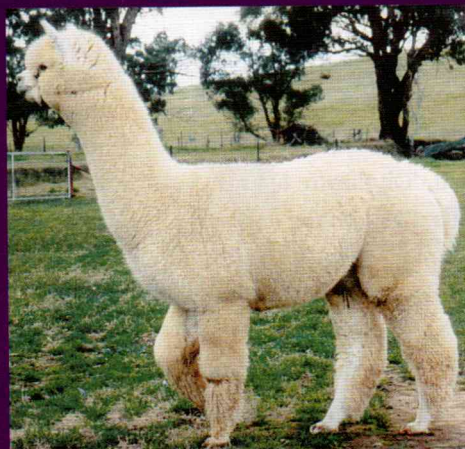
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(He believes, however, that it is a good marketing tool despite the fact that it is nowhere near comprehensive enough to encompass all colours and does not allow for 'red' which some geneticists believe is a separate gene to brown).

"There is a critical need for the industry to understand the inheritance of colour genes to enable producers to meet processors requirements for a homogenous product ... so ... producers need to refine their breeding objectives such that they focus on producing a particular breed of alpaca."

(As cattle producers do, eg Murray Grey or Black Angus or Red Poll or Belted Galloway.)

With the knowledge that is now available to us, breeding for a particular colour, to create an huacaya or suri herd with dense, fine, lustrous fleeces which will provide recognized bloodlines for the future, is challenging, interesting, exciting – those who persevere with the challenge will be well rewarded. ■

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Merlin magic

by JANE SZIGETHY-GYULA
MOUNTAIN ALPACAS, VIC

I first met the spinner of angel's hair at the 2001 National Show in Canberra, when Beaver appeared, a bearded figure, staff in hand. A Merlin figure was my first impression. When speaking later about his spinning he pulled from his tweedy jacket an oversized and somewhat crumpled spider's web. Shaking it loose it billowed into life, unfolding itself and shimmering in the sunlight like a butterfly breaking free of its chrysalis. This web was in fact a staggeringly beautiful suri lace mantilla, the thread a mere three or four fibres in thickness and crocheted into this ethereal form by his wife Fiona. Despite casual treatment it was not tangled, tagged or misshapen.

This is indeed Merlin, I thought, for he makes magic with his fleece. So intense is the concentration required to spin so finely that 15 minutes at a stretch is all Beaver can manage. The delicacy of his work is at odds with the figure of the man who is rough-hewn and a man of the land with hands as big and hard as dinner plates, and totally lacking the rose-petal skin one would have expected from such a magician's hands. A back injury and a herd of suris were the catalysts for Beaver's mastery of the spinner's craft. Pushing the parameters of expectation and excellence to the extreme is what carries Beaver and Fiona beyond craftsmen and to the status of artists. Together they have taken dying crafts and with great artistry have given them back to us in an alpaca medium. Here is their story...



The ethereal suri shawl

Working with angel's hair

by FIONA LAUGHTON
BEAVONA LODGE SURI ALPACAS, QLD

getting into spinning suri fleece was a bit like getting into breeding suris – completely out of left field. A common catchcry we heard within the industry was “wearing alpaca is the best advertising”. However when suri fibre is touted as being best suited to heavier coat fabrics, it didn't leave us many options up here in sunny Queensland (T-shirt and shorts country).

There had been no prior indication of a talent for spinning. Nevertheless after talking to a gentleman at Nambour Show in 1998 and pestering him to demonstrate ‘how to’ on a drop spindle, Beaver went home the proud owner of his very own drop spindle.

After experiencing our own fleeces (we breed suris exclusively), Darrel (better known to all as Beaver) decided that he would learn to spin with suri

rather than sheep's wool, as this was the fibre he would be working with in the future.

After much experimentation and lots of colourful language, mastery of the drop spindle was achieved and we produced samplers and other bits and pieces. However it also created a longing for a wheel. “Imagine how much easier it would be”, he would dream.

An old friend with an even older wheel sitting idle came to the rescue and passed on to us a wonderful little traveller's wheel. Of course, this meant that Beaver had to learn how to drive this machine. So, after much experimentation and lots of colourful language, mastery of the little wheel was achieved. This produced rugs and shawls for our Mums as well as some jumpers and other garments.

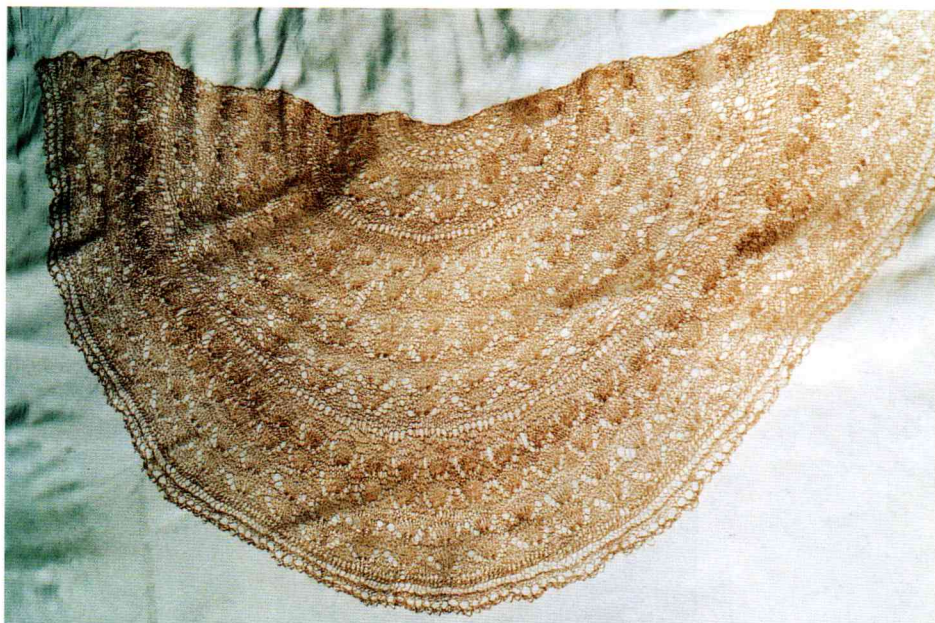
Soon however the challenge to spin finer was held up by the limitations of the little wheel. “If only I had a



Yarns 5 & 1 ply



Square shawl – "So fine it can be drawn through a wedding ring"



½ moon gossamer shawl – 22gm

smoother wheel", he would dream, "then I could spin finer".

To the rescue came a lovely lady who had been to our open days and had a spare wheel she wanted to see being used and gave it to us as an indefinite loan. After experimentation and some colourful language, mastery of the 'smoother wheel' was achieved. From this we produced tops, skirts and hats, which felt so much softer and finer than before. However Beaver longed for, "a wheel of my own".

Lo and behold! There appeared in the window of the local second hand shop, none other than 'The Wheel'. After much umming and ahing we finally went in and added to our collection, 'the fine wheel'. Again, after some experimentation and a bit of colourful language, mastery of The Wheel has been achieved (although I still hear the occasional burst of colourful language).

A desire to wear these beautiful

yarns presented us with an obvious solution to Queensland weather – suri lace. Beaver started producing superfine and gossamer suri yarns for lacework under the **Superb Stunning Suri Creations** label.

We were deciding what to do with Beavona Lodge Carina's fleece (Champion Suri Fleece – 1999 National Show), when one of our daughters announced that she and her partner were going to be married! In a rush of enthusiasm we offered to make her wedding dress, completely oblivious to what we were letting ourselves in for.

After pouring over old pattern books (showing prices of 3/- !!) to find basic stitch patterns which I could alter to fit our ideas of a wedding gown, a start was made.

We tried a 60% suri / 40% huacaya mix for the dress (to give it 'body') and 100% suri for the veil. In hindsight we did not need to mix the fibres. Suri used in lacework has lustre and

drape that are unequalled. We vowed to make the next dress 100% suri, and it lived up to all expectations even though a 27 micron fleece was used (the lowest CV ensures a smooth lustrous yarn).

By the way, the wedding has been postponed till a later date. However after 519.5 hours creating 2013 metres of yarn weighing only 440 grams, the wedding dress and veil were completed in time for the Beta Phi fundraising fashion parade at the Ivory Palms Resort at Noosa.

Our chance meeting with Branka Medlock (our lace knitter, who describes suri as like 'working with angel's hair') at Bundaberg Show, has resulted in all three of us trying to surpass our previous efforts. For Branka, more intricate needlework; Beaver, finer spinning; and myself, more open crochet lace; all resulting in some truly glorious pure suri shawls, wraps and dresses.



Wedding dress
- "look at the lustre"

We say, "to wear a *Superb Stunning Suri Creation* is to be caressed by a spring zephyr".

You can feel the sensual touch, but you are sure there is nothing there.

The next challenge Beaver has set himself is to spin suri fibre with golden orb spiderweb. Trouble is, I know who will be doing the collecting!

So, if you ask Beaver what he's been doing and he tells you he has been "spinning a yarn" you will know what he is talking about.

Along the way we have found a few tricks that work for us:

Suri spinning / processing tips

- Hand flicked (with a dog's slicker brush) suri – with the fibres aligned – gives a superior finish for fine work. There is more lustre and the yarn is more slippery.
- Choose fibre with a low CV for fine work. You will have a cleaner (less fuzz), stronger yarn.
- Beaver's wheel works at a rate of 8:1 and he still spins fast while working.
- Break your lock down to a workable size or you will find it tangling and bunching in your hand.
- Suri fibre must be spun fast, or it will continually slide apart in your hands.
- Don't even try to do fine work with a tender fleece! It constantly breaks and will only frustrate you.
- For superfine single ply – try separating a lock into 4-6+ different locks. Fold each sub lock in half to spin from the fold end. This seems to ply the fibre on itself, which we have found to give the single ply more strength.

- Have little (just short of nil) tension on your wheel.
- For superfine or gossamer yarns, use a backdrop (sheet on the ground, apron over the knee) to contrast the yarn. Don't forget a good light.
- When spinning gossamer yarns, try spinning from the base (root end).
- Don't worry about over spinning as the plying is done nearly as quick and seems to take any overspin out. Beaver has found that any less than 18 twists / inch is not sufficient in plying – it will be too loose and you will be disappointed with your result.
- When skeined (after resting at least 24hr minimum on the bobbin), we soak overnight in Napisan and rinse out in the morning. The second rinse has a couple of drops of eucalyptus oil in the water. When completed, wash the garment the same way as for wool, lay flat and in shape to dry.
- Iron the garment on the wrong side with a hot steam iron (cotton / linen), without a cloth. Iron lightly and quickly – you must shape each section before you iron it – this seems to help 'set' the fibre in the garment as well as show the lustre to full advantage. We haven't had any of the lace damaged by the iron.
- When knitting or crocheting try using larger needles than the pattern calls for – work looser rather than tighter.
- Often the effect of a pattern in the work is not really evident until the item is completed and opened out. Don't give up a few rows in because you can't see the pattern emerging.

The key tips are patience and relax to enjoy your spinning! Find what works for you. ■

Postscript: *The mastery in Fiona and Beaver's creations were displayed and modelled at the National Conference in Noosa, Qld last year. Since then their creativity has been rewarded when taking first and second places for the wedding dress and short dress and shawl respectively at the 2002 Bundaberg Style Spectacular.*

Jane Szigethy-Gyula



Are *you* the alpaca for me?

by MARTY McGEE BENNETT
TEAM

Whether or not you have two alpacas or two hundred, temperament is important. It is difficult to prove, but most breeders will propose that temperament seems to be very heritable. Given that alpacas are a traditional wool and meat animal in their native land, wool and conformation are very important. In the United States, however, another legitimate and important end use is companionship.

When it comes to companionship, temperament as well as training and handling methods become very important marketing considerations. Many people have no desire to raise alpacas in large numbers and want nothing more than a small number of companionable alpacas that enjoy their association with humans. Even if you are breeding large numbers of animals, you will be selling animals to people in search of companions. In the years ahead, alpaca sales will only become more competitive, so it is to both buyers and sellers of companion alpacas that I address this column.

Finding an alpaca is easy; selecting a companion alpaca can be tricky. I have met many new owners that have purchased animals and then found out later that they made a big mistake. It is pretty easy to find an alpaca simply because there are more animals around and about. On the other hand, finding an animal of the correct temperament that will happily serve is still tricky business. Many articles have been written about the importance of a pre-purchase exam. Buying an alpaca without one is risky. As a new buyer, you have the right to evaluate the health and conformation of your future charge.

Try Before You Buy

I would say as a trainer, that a pre-purchase training exam or temperament test is also a reasonable request.

Alpacas live for up to 20 years or more. Hopefully, you are making an investment in a friend that will give you many years of companionship and service. Buy in haste without doing your homework and you may find that you will repent at leisure. Before I go any further, let me reiterate the universal advice: don't buy one alpaca, buy two or more. You will have more fun and less hassles with two. Alpacas are social beings that need the company *of their own kind*. In my opinion, it is not enough to have a dog or a goat or a horse for company — get two alpacas.

This column is not about the virtue of any particular fiber type, alpaca conformation, or how much to pay. Rather, let's look at how to evaluate an alpaca's temperament and his or her likely suitability as a companion. Perhaps the biggest heartbreak is falling in love with a fuzzy young baby alpaca, then realizing that love is not enough.

First off let me offer some general advice. Take an honest look at yourself. Are you assertive, or timid? Old or young? Are you in good shape, or are you a couch potato? Have you had experience with other types of barnyard livestock, or does a poodle that won't stay off the couch represent your animal training experience? How much time and energy do you have to devote to your new charges? Do you have kids? Is the alpaca going to be a family animal or your personal project? The way you answer these questions will determine the age, gender, and desired temperament of your new friend.

Consider An Older Model

If you are brand new at alpacas, and especially if you are brand new at barnyard buddies or if you are buying an alpaca for your children, buy one that is older. Three or four years old is good; five or six is better. Alpacas are very cute when they are little, however they are also very impressionable and mistakes that you make training youngsters are often magnified as the "little nipper" becomes the "BIG nipper!" Regardless of how much reading you do or how many training clinics you attend, you still have to interact on a daily basis and shape the manners of your young

alpaca. This requires an understanding of alpaca nature that doesn't come from reading books. Buying an older animal offers several advantages. A four-year-old alpaca is basically formed — physically, mentally, and emotionally. He is full grown, and has been around long enough to form his basic opinion about people (not that this aspect of an alpaca can't be improved, but we are shopping, remember? No need to buy a problem.) He is old enough that if he has peculiarities, they will be apparent.

From a physical standpoint, you don't have to be a whiz at predicting how big or small your alpaca will grow up to be or whether or not he tends to be a fatty. Older animals are more tolerant of mistakes. They have been vetted a few times, had their toenails trimmed a few times, been shorn, and are in general less reactive and have a longer attention span. Buy a baby alpaca and you are taking a chance on the nature half of the nature/nurture question and relying on a novice (you) for the other half. Difficult animals are usually born difficult and then often get more difficult unless they luck into a training program that helps them work through their difficulties.

Having just said all this, I know that at least some of you are going to ignore this wonderful advice and go out and buy a baby alpaca. For those of you that fall into this category I offer this ... Since you are going to buy two alpacas, at least get ONE older animal! An older "Dutch Uncle" will help you raise your baby. An older alpaca will discipline the baby and keep him or her line. Harden your heart when your little alpaca wonder takes a headful of green stuff. It is not a good idea for a baby of any species to grow up thinking they rule the roost. For the same reason, it may be better to buy a baby that has been raised in a peer group rather than an only baby. I would urge you not to bring your bouncing baby home any younger than seven to eight months of age. I would question the integrity of any breeder that would allow you to take a baby home to a single alpaca household or one that allowed a baby to leave its mother earlier than five months of age.

Field Testing

So there you are, visiting the farm, and you want to have a way of learning about your potential new alpaca. Paying a bit more for an animal entitles you to more latitude when it comes to shopping.

If you are opting for a bargain, you may run into some resistance with these suggestions. First, I would suggest that you walk out into the field and visit with the alpaca. How does he act in the field? Does he have appropriate interest in humans? Does he act any differently than the rest of the group? If he or she acts more timid or fearful than the rest of the herd when you visit out in the pasture, he is probably that way as a general rule. If you are looking for an outgoing, confident alpaca, look for one that acts that way in the field. An outgoing alpaca will be interested in humans for a few minutes and will politely solicit a nose to nose greeting as you lean forward to sniff noses and then wander off.

While there will be subtle differences between animals in a group, your alpaca should act similarly to all the rest. Don't expect to touch every alpaca you meet in the field, but do expect to see them without benefit of binoculars! Watch the way your prospective alpaca acts with the breeder, as well as how he relates to you. Alpacas discriminate between people they know and people they don't know when it comes to scratching and petting. So don't expect that you will be able to relate to the alpaca exactly the way the owner does right away. You will grow into the relationship.

I have written volumes about how to handle aggressive animals when you accidentally raise one or buy one. For the purposes of this column, I am going to help you avoid them. If you are out in the field and your prospective alpaca — regardless of its gender or age — marches up to you and nuzzles you all over your face, sniffs you all over, or follows you around and won't shoo away, opt for another alpaca. If you are hanging out at the fence and your prospective alpaca hangs around the fence and leans over the fence, sniffs you and stays there, and doesn't wander off after about 10 minutes, opt for another alpaca. If he runs up, skids to a stop, makes a clucking noise, and flips his ears backwards and forwards, definitely opt for another alpaca.

Many breeders may think I am being overly dogmatic here. I want new buyers to avoid buying a heartache, as all of these behaviors may be indications of a future problem. As a brand new owner, you are by definition unconsciously incompetent! You don't even know what you don't know! The alpacas I have just described have boundary issues that can

lead to aggression if they are not dealt with through consistency and discipline. In most cases, new owners don't know they have a problem until they have a **real** problem. I get a call a week from new owners who bought an alpaca that was considered "friendly," only to find that he began to charge, bump, and spit as he got older, or a few weeks after getting him home. These animals may not be a problem under different circumstances, but with a new owner they are a recipe for disaster.

You can also gather valuable information by watching as the animal is herded into the barn and caught. Is the animal in which you are interested the first one in the barn, or the last one? Does he move more slowly or quickly than the rest of the group? The slow one might be good with kids, the fast one a good hiking companion. Does he seem particularly spooky? If so, he may not be a good bet for the kids or the public relations/nursing home/school circuit.

Training Wheels

Provided the animal is over six months of age and regardless of its gender, I would expect to observe the breeders or current owners halter the animal. Beware of animals that are haltered before you

arrive. Haltering problems can be a nightmare. If you are buying an alpaca with behavioral problems, you should know it in advance. I would also ask the owner to pick up the feet. Be advised that it is very common to use some sort of container or chute to accomplish this. I would not be put off by the use of a chute, however animals that scramble around wildly or buck and fight in the chute will be a training challenge or a management problem. Again, you should know that before you get your animal home.

If you are a rank beginner, I would expect that as part of my purchase support, I would get some lessons in haltering and managing the alpaca in the way it is accustomed to being haltered. If you don't feel comfortable with the way the animal has been trained, it might be better to keep shopping. I wouldn't necessarily look for the alpaca that is described as the cleverest one in the group. Obedience and intelligence are not the same thing. Give me a moderately intelligent, obedient alpaca any day over the one that is always working the system. If the alpaca seems to be thinking ahead of the handler (i.e. figuring out how not to be herded into the catch pen or creatively avoiding the halter), it might be best to leave this guy to someone with more experience.

Forewarned is forearmed and it only makes sense to buy an animal that is the best you can afford in every way including his or her temperament. If you have already purchased an alpaca and are having difficulties, don't despair. There are lots of things to do from a training perspective ... keep an eye on this column for more ideas once you get your alpaca home. ■

About the Author: *Marty McGee Bennett has been a fixture in the alpaca business almost since there was an alpaca business. After meeting Linda Tellington-Jones in 1987, Marty dedicated herself to bringing Linda's work, known as TTEAM, to the alpaca community. An accomplished author and teacher, Marty travels the world over to present hands-on training workshops to humans on how to handle their alpacas. When not on the road teaching, Marty lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband Brad. To find out more about Marty visit her website at www.camelidynamics.com*

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Fuller's Earth

by WARWICK FULLER, FRAS
MOONLIGHT ALPACAS, NSW

In 1978 I was 29 years old and made what to many was an unwise decision. I quit my real job to paint pictures full time. I loved to paint and draw and was selling a few paintings. Looking back it was more like irresponsible than unwise considering Wendy (a full time mum) and I had two young children and a mortgage. It would be a very precarious way to support a family even if I could paint well! I knew that if I was ever going to improve I would have to paint full time.

To compound the difficulties, if I was ever going to paint anything really worthwhile, I must paint what was best for my work, not my bank balance. Painting "pot-boilers" and "chocolate box" pictures might make a few easy sales, but would do me more harm than good in the long run. My belief in myself (not to mention my naivety), after many years of struggle, has carried the day, so far.

It was hardest in the early years, particularly on Wendy who had to worry for both of us because, selfishly I had to stay focussed on my painting. There were times when I would have to ring around all the galleries to see if I had had any sales and would drive into the city to pick up a \$40 or \$50 cheque so we could buy our groceries!

Twenty five years later I'm standing in my studio looking south to the Wild Dog Ranges in the distance behind Mt Sandy and Marsdens Rock. Below me on steep slopes, alpacas graze unaware of the exotic image they create.

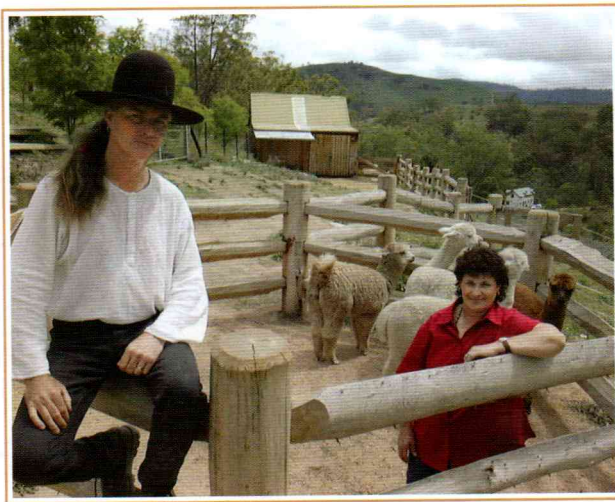
I think back to when I first saw alpacas (probably in 1994) and considered them just another beast to damage our fragile continent. But my true introduction to alpacas was in 1995 when delivering paintings to the Boyd Gallery at Narellan. A breeder had four alpacas penned at her alpaca products shop adjacent to the gallery. As we all know the first time you see an alpaca you just want to touch it and ask questions. "Sure they are beautiful animals but what

Wendy was a suburban girl through and through. Apprehension was written all over her, and it didn't start to go away until we bought our first 'girl'. Call me conniving, but I knew Wendy would fall in love with these beautiful animals as soon as she saw them and, if anything would ease her into country life alpacas would be it. She did and they did!

I saw alpacas as a serious enterprise, not conflicting too much with my painting, which Wendy and I could be involved in together.

On good advice we didn't rush in. We visited many breeders, went to open days, regional shows, seminars, read anything connected with alpacas to learn all we could before committing ourselves. We learned so much from many knowledgeable, friendly and helpful breeders and after about two years we were ready to purchase. Our initial herd of one (pregnant of course) was bought and agisted at Coolaroo Alpaca Stud in Mittagong, NSW.

These days there is a good deal of expert and scientific debate on the style and quality of fleece, but back then it was not as high on the agenda at most alpaca studs we talked to. Then Jim Watts at Coolaroo Alpaca Stud gave us a breeding goal to strive for with his "soft rolling skin" or SRS® philosophy of fleece improvement. Although there is still the luck factor, that is, champions from unknown parents and chumps from champions, our first sales and some excellent breeding results are keeping our goals and hopes alive.



Warwick & Wendy Fuller

about bla bla bla?" In an hour I was sold on alpacas.

Just prior to this life-changing encounter, I had convinced Wendy that we should buy 25 acres at Little Hartley in NSW, a rugged, unmanicured area I have been painting in for many years. Not much more than an oversize building block by farming standards, but it didn't have to support us. There is elbow room, the air is sweet, where there is a more peaceful, harmonious rhythm to living. I knew all these things, the bush was part of me, but

We take a lot of notice of Pat Coleby's philosophies on animal nutrition and land care. "Moonlight Alpacas" is in marginal and fragile country. The granite soil erodes easily. It leeches minerals and nutrients easily, requiring careful stock and land management. Of course it will never sustain a large herd and from the outset the plan was to produce the best breeding stock for sale, using only the best sires available and keeping the herd size down to about ten to twenty animals according to eventual carrying capacity.

By 1998 our son and daughter had both spread their wings, and I spent the whole year building a studio with attached cabin perched lightly amongst giant granite boulders. We brought our agisted herd of two females and two males home as soon as we moved to our new "farm". We have been here for over three years now and Wendy wouldn't go back to suburbia for quids.

My art was, is and will be my driving force in life. It is what and

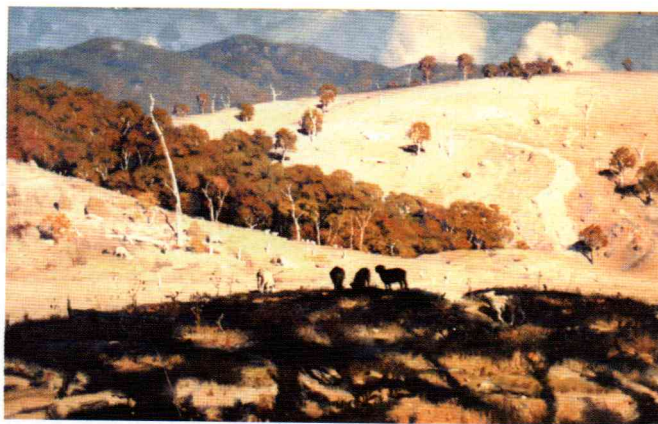
who I am. This added dimension adds spice and flavour to our lives. We, like many others, are working on a micro scale, and think there is still room to achieve something worthwhile at this level, whether that means breeding a champion, or building a lifestyle that most can only dream of. ■

Editor's Note

Alpacas Australia Magazine is proud to feature Warwick's painting, "Morning Light" on the front cover of this issue.

Breeder Profiles

Would you like to share your particular alpaca 'story'? Tell us about how you came to enter the alpaca industry, your experiences since and what makes your stud tick. Stories should be no more than 1,000 words and should be accompanied by two or three photographs. Profiles for consideration should be typed and preferably submitted electronically or by floppy disc in Word format. E-mail your entry to: sandra@alpaca.asn.au or by snail-mail to: The Editor, *Alpacas Australia Magazine*, PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Vic 3132

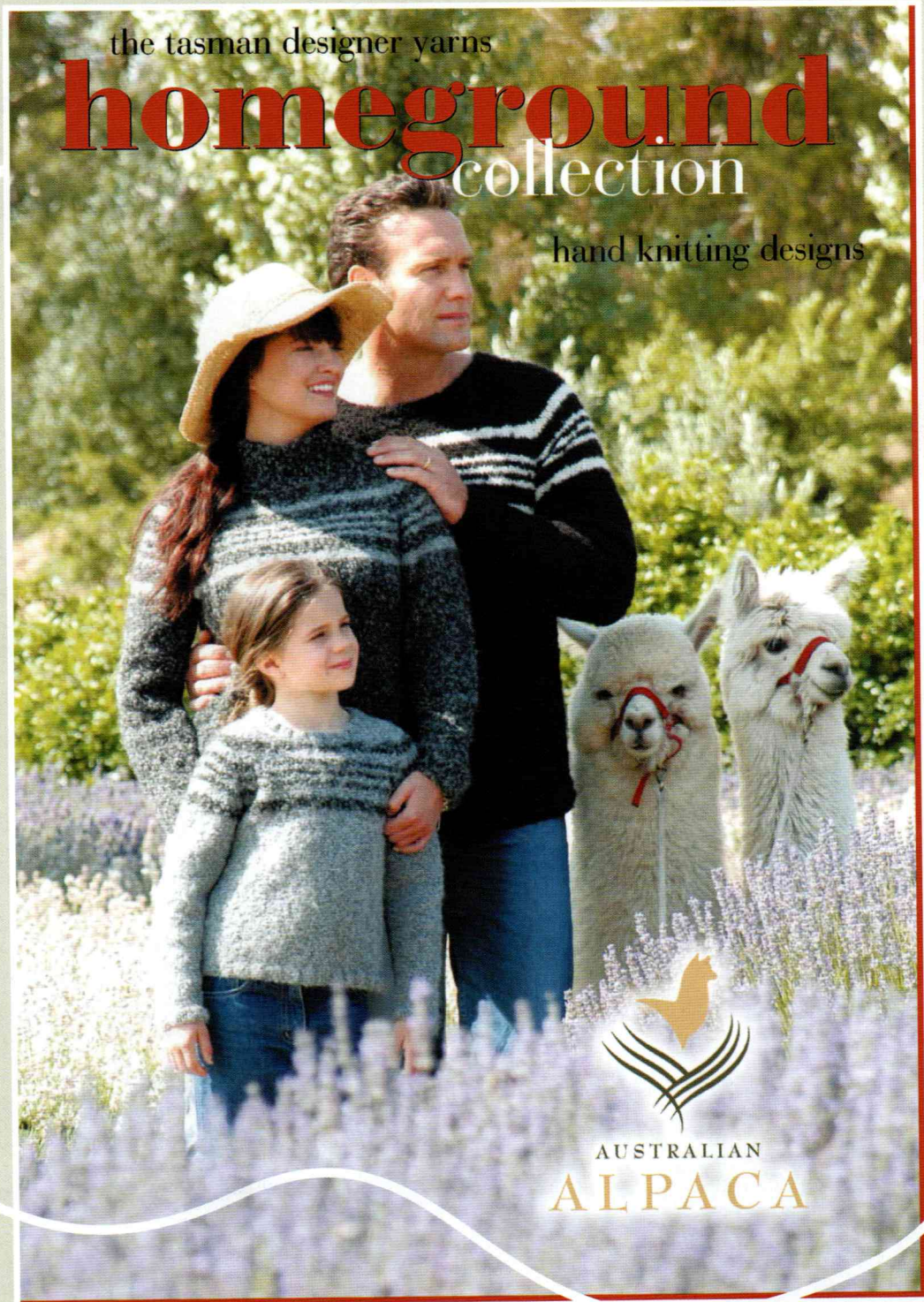
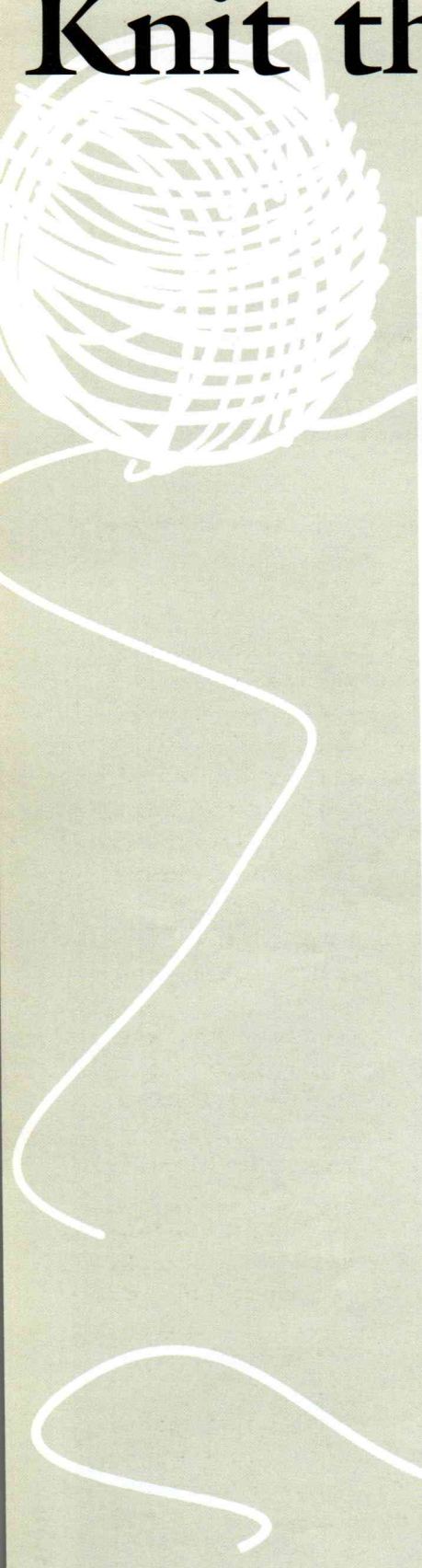


"Summer Light, Wee Jasper" ©



"Winter Light, Mt Bray" ©

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Australian Alpaca

moves into

mainstream retail stores

by MICHAEL J TALBOT
GENERAL MANAGER, AACO-OP LTD

The Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd is proud to announce the launch of Australian Alpaca products into two major retail stores early in 2003. Breaking new ground the AACo-op has sold fashion and homeware lines to David Jones and hand knitting yarns to Lincraft.

The products are all manufactured in Australia and New Zealand from Australian Alpaca supplied by the AACo-op.

Our strategic partners are responsible for the design, sales and supply to David Jones and the AACo-op has put the concept together, managed the negotiations with both David Jones and Lincraft and generally ensured the program is delivered on time. This development, if successful in selling to major Australian retailers, enables the alpaca industry to really promote and establish a quality name and image around Australia.

Selected homeware items – doonas, throw rugs, blankets – will be appearing in David Jones stores early in the year and will be closely followed up by men's and women's knitwear in the Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide stores initially.

To complement the hand knitting yarns supplied to Lincraft (which are also available to buy directly from the Co-op) is a beautiful and up to the minute knitting pattern book (see ad shown opposite).



Snake Gully: Luxurious scarf and matching hat in brushed yarns, easy to knit in stripes or plain. Patterns available in our new all Australian alpaca knitting book (see ad opposite).

The AACo-op together with the Tasman Yarns *Homeground Collection* have launched a 40-page book featuring 13 designs with wonderful colour photographs of hand knit garments and home-ware made from alpaca yarns. Photographs featuring both a Huacaya and a Suri alpaca are on the front and inside back covers and there is also an article on the history of the Australian alpaca. There are designs for men, women and children and vary in difficulty. For the beginner knitter there are scarf, wrap and jumper patterns; for the more experienced knitter we have a traditional Aran jersey pattern or a brushed throw and cushion cover pattern.

Having such a pattern book will take Australian alpaca yarns into mainstream wool shops in Australia and beyond – where they deserve to be. In 1999 over 4 million Americans started knitting. Last year Australian yarn retailers had the best year they had encountered for a long time. The ancient craft of knitting is experiencing a revival and the alpaca industry now has the tools and products to take full advantage of this.

The *Homeground Collection* yarns are boucle and brushed in 80% dye free alpaca and 20% sheep wool. There is also a range of 8 ply yarns both 100% alpaca and 80/20 as above.

The demand we are creating for alpaca in Australia is really growing. What is needed to continue the demand is a steady quantity of fleece.

This striking book will also be a great marketing tool for the animals themselves as will a beautiful alpaca garment created by your hands. So, support the Australian alpaca industry and get knitting.

We look forward to your order. ■



◀ **'Glenlyon'** A woman's random striped jumper for the intermediate knitter with the option of 3/4 length sleeves, or one colour throughout. Patterns available in our new all Australian alpaca knitting book [see ad page 46]



▶ **'Arabella'** A classic woman's Aran jumper in 8 ply for the experienced knitter. Patterns available in our new all Australian alpaca knitting book [see ad page 46]



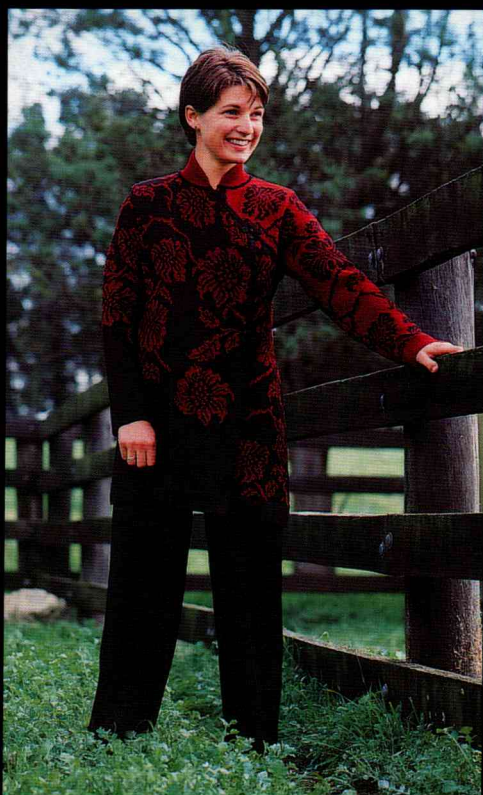
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© Barachel Alpacas

◀ **Fairisle sweater**
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[s, m, l] \$295.00
The Alpaca Centre,
Australia 02 4877 1399

Entries in MARKETPLACE are FREE to alpaca retailers.
Please contact Sandra Wright for details at the
Australian Alpaca Association Inc.
Phone +61 (0)3 9873 7700 Fax: +61 (0)3 9873 7711
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© Creature Comforts



'Mollendo' (left)
Unisex crew neck
geometric design
in 5 colours
[s to xl] \$255.00
'Suliana' (centre)
Ladies fine cable
handknit V neck
vest [fawn blend]
[s to xl] \$255.00
'Juliaca' (right)
Ladies handknit
crew neck
V patterned
jumper
[fawn blend]
[s to xl] \$245.00
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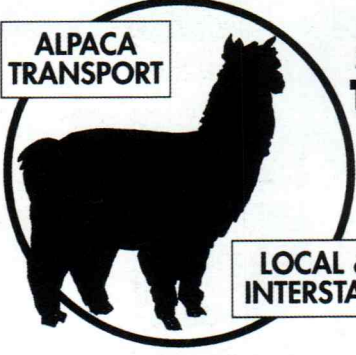
Photography Annette Ringrose



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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.



< Alpacas on guard >

Richard & Annette Inwood
La Serena Alpacas, SA



< Cat & Camelids >

Cora Zyp
Coraz Alpacas, QLD



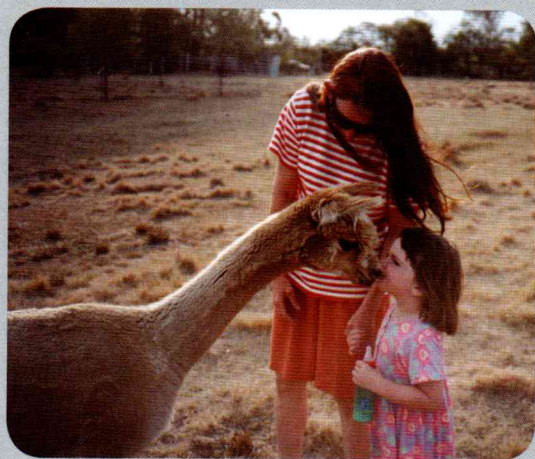
< Airborne >

Bob & Judy Richardson
Clearview Alpacas, NSW



< What fleece contamination? >

Darrel & Fiona Laughton
Beavona Lodge Suri Alpacas, QLD



< Right kid!... It's you or the bottle >

Marina Pitsonis
Ambelli Alpacas, NSW



< Paca-pussy >

Fran & Paul Haslin
Elyson Alpacas, NSW



< Yes... What do you two want? >

Joy Allenby-Acuna
La Granja Alpacas, NSW



< I've got a secret >

Fiona Henderson
Cooredulla Alpacas, NSW



< The eyes have it! >

Ken Parsons
Kashelda Alpacas, NSW

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alpacas on show at the following venues - All welcome -

2003

April

- 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) 8824 4969
-
- 26 BALINGUP SMALL FARM FIELD DAY, WA
 Venue: Ballingup Oval
 Highlights: Alpaca display & information
 Contact: Diny Monaghan (08) 9764 1061
-
- 26 - 27 ALPACA AUTUMN SHOW & FIESTA, WA
 Venue: Whiteman Park
 Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging; Fiesta including fashion parade, craft display (27 April)
 Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

May

- 2 - 3 HAWKESBURY SHOW, NSW
 Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds
 Highlights: Fleece judging (2 May); Alpaca judging (3 May)
 Contact: Sylvia Haverley (02) 4576 5608
-
- 2 - 4 BATHURST ROYAL SHOW, NSW
 Venue: Bathurst Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca & fleece show & expo; Alpaca judging (4 May)
 Contact: David Owen (02) 6337 5836
-
- 2 - 4 Tocal FIELD DAYS & Tocal FLEECE SHOW, NSW
 Venue: Tocal Agricultural College, Paterson
 Highlights: Tocal Fleece Show
 Contact: Evelyn Thrift (02) 4938 1513
-
- 8 - 10 IPSWICH SHOW, QLD
 Venue: Ipswich Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207
-
- 9 - 11 NEW ENGLAND ALPACA SHOW, NSW
 Venue: Wool Vision 2003, Armidale
 Highlights: Fleece judging (9 May); Alpaca judging (10 May)
 Fashion parades; displays
 Contact: Catherine Mead (02) 6775 5571
-
- 15 - 17 GYMPIE SHOW, QLD
 Highlights: Promotional event
 Contact: Dawn Perryman (07) 5485 0890
-
- 17 - 18 STAWELL SHOW, VIC
 Venue: "The Stawell Good Life Festival", Laidlaw Park, Stawell
 Highlights: Alpaca judging; displays; entertainment
 Contact: Tracy Krupa (03) 5359 2388
-
- 17 - 18 ALPACA FIESTA, NSW
 Venue: Hawkesbury Racecourse, Richmond (opp RAAF base)
 Highlights: Alpaca auction; demonstrations; raffle; fashion parade
 Contact: Clive Read (02) 4566 4352

- 28 - 30 BUNDABERG SHOW, QLD
 Highlights: Promotional event
 Contact: Fiona Laughton (07) 4156 3364

June

- 1 BEAUDESERT COUNTRY & HORSE FESTIVAL, QLD
 Highlights: Promotional event
 Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207
-
- 12 - 14 SUNSHINE COAST SHOW, QLD
 Venue: Nambour Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (14 June)
 Contact: Graeme Smith (07) 5445 9492

July

- 5 - 6 MUDGEERABA AGRICULTURAL SHOW, QLD
 Highlights: Promotional event
 Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207
-
- 18 - 19 MUDGEE SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS, NSW
 Venue: Field Day Site
 Highlights: Alpaca show & expo; Alpaca judging (19 July)
 Contact: Judy Easten (02) 6372 1714
-
- 18 - 20 AUSTRALIAN SHEEP & WOOL SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Bendigo Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging (19 July); fashion parade; trade display; demonstrations
 Contact: Glenn Sutherland (03) 5826 2455
-
- 27 BALLARAT SHEEP & WOOL SHOW, VIC
 Venue: Ballarat Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
 Contact: Pam Baxter (03) 5360 8210

August

- 1 - 3 NEW BREEDERS SEMINAR, NSW
 Venue: Ranelagh House, Robertson, NSW
 Highlights: Lectures, demonstrations, hands-on sessions
 Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852
-
- 7 - 16 ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW, QLD
 Venue: Brisbane Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (15 August)
 Contact: Camilla Smith (07) 3266 9822
-
- 28 - 30 GOLD COAST SHOW, QLD
 Highlights: Alpaca judging
 Contact: Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207
-
- 29 - SEPT 6 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW, SA
 Venue: Adelaide Showgrounds
 Highlights: Alpaca judging (29 August 10.30am)
 Fleece judging (30 August 10.00am)
 Contact: Lea Richens (08) 8842 2344

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1/4 Page	297.00	270.00	275.00	250.00	242.00	220.00	88.00	80.00
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1/2 Page
188 x 123



1/4 page
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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 InDesign, 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:

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Deadlines

Issue 41: Winter

Due: August 2003

Deadline: Friday 6 June

Issue 42: Summer

Due: December 2003

Deadline: Friday 10 October

Issue 43: Autumn

Due: April 2004

Deadline: Friday 13 February

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<i>Alpaca Breeders Reproduction Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks	29.70	25.00	\$
<i>The Camelid Companion</i> by McGee Bennett	price on application		\$
<i>The Life of Charles Ledger</i> by Gramiccia	50.60	40.00	\$
<i>Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care</i> by Smith, Timm & Long	60.50	50.00	\$
<i>Medicine & Surgery of Sth American Camelids</i> by Fowler (2nd edition)	price on application		\$
<i>Alpacas Australia Magazine</i> - 3 back issues	18.90	9.00	\$
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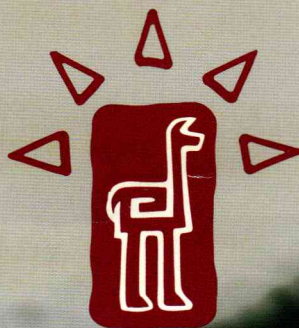
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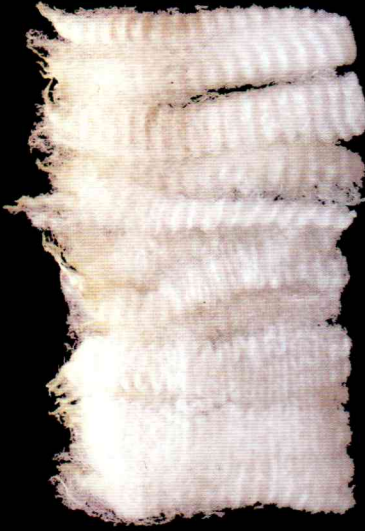
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2002 Perth Royal Show
1998 NATIONAL Supreme Fleece



Windsong Valley Starbright
41 Months - 18.8 micron, 18.1cv
Sired by Purumbete HIGHLANDER



Windsong Valley Sensei
19 Months - 15.1 micron, 18.5cv
Sired by Windsong Valley ROYAL INCA



Windsong Valley Kosiosko
19 Months - 17.9 micron, 16.5cv
Sired by Purumbete HIGHLANDER

Windsong Valley ICEMAN



Champion 30+ Fleece at the
2002 NATIONAL Show
Back to Back Supreme Champion
& Supreme Champion Fleece at
2001 & 2000 NATIONAL Shows



Windsong Valley Taboo
6 Months - 15.6 micron, 25.1cv
Sired by Windsong Valley ROYAL INCA
Dam by Purumbete HIGHLANDER



Windsong Valley Nightingale
7 Months - 17.2 micron, 24.8cv
Sired by Windsong Valley ICEMAN



Windsong Valley Lotus Blossom
6 Months - 14.6 micron, 22.9cv
Sired by Windsong Valley ICEMAN

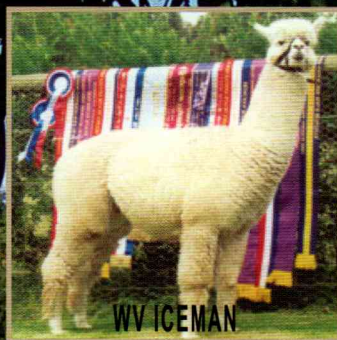
Tena & Terry Wheeler

WindsongValley.com.au

(08) 9399 8762

WINDSONG VALLEY ICEMAN

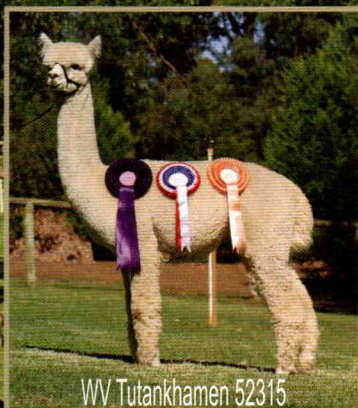
Standing at Stud
in Western Australia
From September 2004



Back to Back State &
National Championships
in both show and fleece

PROGENY OF DISTINCTION

Progeny Class
Championships
2003 & 2004

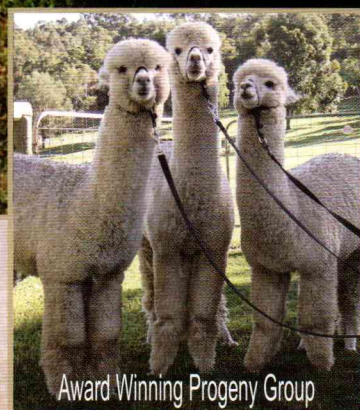


WV Tutankhamen 52315

WV Tutankhamen - 1st Fleece 2003
at 8 Months - 17.1u 3.9sd 22.7cv 100%cf



WV Lotus Blossom 52268 - 2nd Fleece 2003
at 18 Months - 16.1u 3.8sd 23.3cv 100%cf



Award Winning Progeny Group

Crimp Bundles Fineness Density Brightness



WV Sweet Teesha 52311 - 2nd Fleece 2003 at 12 Months - 17.7u 3.7sd 20.8cv

WINDSONG VALLEY ALPACAS

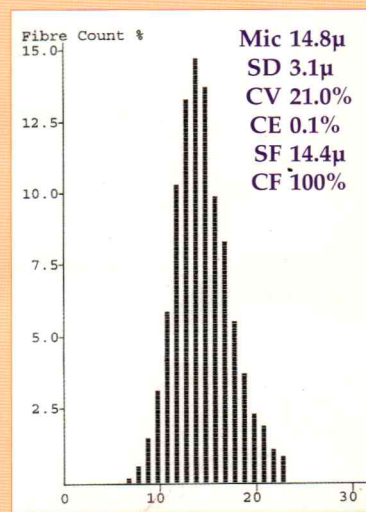
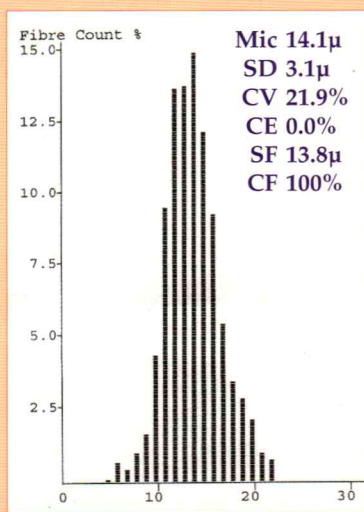
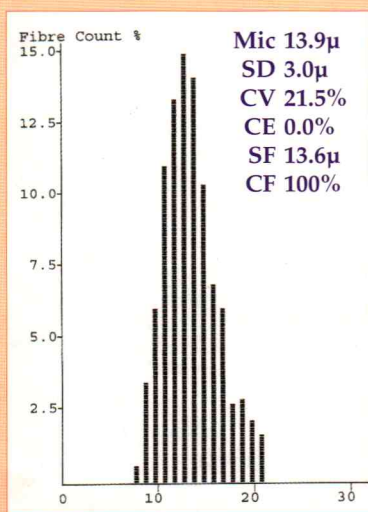
Barn Ph/Fx: (08) 9399 8762 www.windsongvalley.com.au



BANKSIA PARK

ALPACA STUD

"Quietly breeding a superfine alpaca herd"



Comments: Wayne Marshall (Micron Man)...

"The fineness and uniformity along the staple of this herd is outstanding. I have only previously measured this consistency in shedded superfine merinos."

Photograph of Jenny Jackson © Cath Norman



Dr George and Jenny Jackson (alpaca judge)
Serpentine, Western Australia

Email: banksiaparkalpacas@bigpond.com.au
Website: banksiaparkalpacas.com.au