



ISSUE 42 ■ SUMMER 2003 ■ \$7.70 (AUST)

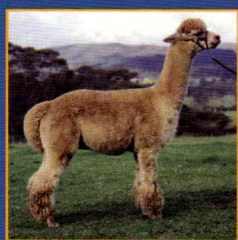
# Alpacas Australia

*National Alpaca Spring Show 2003*

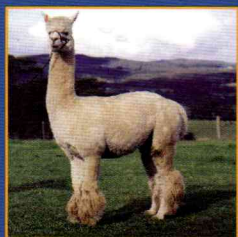




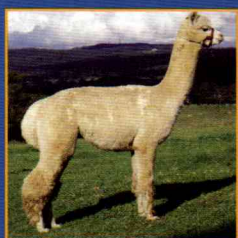
# COOLAROO



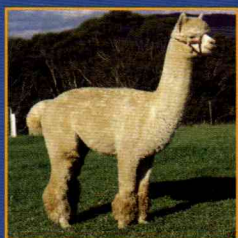
PURUMBETE MINDEROO



NWA LTD SOLOMON



STARLINE AUGUST MOON 2



MARIAH HILL KHAN



## *We succeed if our clients succeed*

*for: Access to powerful impact alpaca genetics bred according to the SRS® registered system (carrying major gene functions) through purchase of females, embryos or sire services*

*Planning a focussed breeding plan for your herd or prospective herd*

*Classing your females to maximise progeny improvement by qualified SRS® alpaca classers*

*Involvement with Embryo Transfer programmes.*

*Contact Coolaroo to fast track your herd improvement*

### *Special Stud Service Packages*

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

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

***www.alpacaus.com.au***

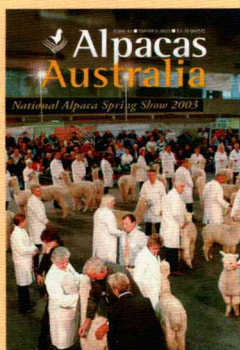
Woodlands Rd, Mittagong NSW 2575 PH 61 2 4878 5266  
FAX 61 2 4878 5233 EMAIL coolaroo@hinet.net.au



MIN2 001/02/007

**Introducing Andean Park**  
**Marco Polo**  
**CHAMPION SENIOR MALE**  
**SYDNEY ROYAL 2003**





**COVER**  
National Alpaca  
Spring Show 2003  
see page 4  
photographed by  
Cath Norman

#### PUBLISHER

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

#### EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

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

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATE (3 ISSUES)

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

#### CIRCULATION

2,700 for current issue

#### DESIGNED AND PRODUCED

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

#### COPYRIGHT

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

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

#### LIABILITY

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

ISSN 1328-8318

#### ADVERTISERS

Alpacandes Alpaca Stud	13
Ambersun Alpacas / Ichiban Alpacas	29
Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd	48
Benleigh Alpaca Stud	3
Bungalook Alpaca Farm	17
Coolaroo Alpaca Stud	inside front cover
EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud	inside back cover
Ertoel Wheels	39
Inca Stitches	17
Fine Choice Alpacas	28
Legend Power Products	8
Talca Alpacas	34
The Complete Alpaca Book	14
Windsong Valley Alpacas	back cover

## REGULAR FEATURES

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

## SHOWING AND JUDGING STANDARDS

### 4 2003 National Show and Sale

*What the judges had to say...*

### 36 The Royals 2003

*Royal Brisbane, Royal Perth, Royal Adelaide, Royal Hobart and Royal Melbourne Shows*

## MARKETING

### 20 A Different Spin

*The design and format of material promoting the industry undergoes a transformation*

## EDUCATION

### 23 Another Way to Promote Our Industry

*Students from the Faculty of Agriculture, Sydney University visit an alpaca farm*

### 24 Dung Beetles - Nature's Own Pooper Scoopers

*The advantages of using the dung beetle as valued environmental agents*

### 30 Homozygous Suris in Alpaca Breeding

*Identifying homozygous suris*

### 42 Your Alpaca Baby: The Two Personality Types

*Marty McGee Bennett examines cria personality types and how to handle them*

### 46 Tasmania: Venue for 2004 AAA National Conference

*Update*

### 47 Book Reviews

*Managing Alpacas In Australia, Alpaca Breeder's Birthing and Reproduction Handbooks*

## ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

### 16 Worms in Alpacas

*Important things to be aware of*

## INDUSTRY

### 9 2003 National Show and Sale Inaugural Craft Competition

*Another facet of a fantastic spectacle*

### 10 Centurion... Essence of a Champion

*Background on National Show Champion Huacaya 2003, Blue Grass Centurion*

### 13 ... and the Other Centurion?

*Background on Encantador Centurion*

### 15 Lights... Camera... Alpacas... Action!

*Uni film students use alpacas as subject for short film*

### 18 The Canadian National Alpaca Futurity

*Account of an event encompassing a Stud Service Auction, the Futurity and Sale*

### 27 Centre Of Attention in Central Victoria

*Elmore Field days 2003*

### 35 Alpacas in Two Different Kinds Of "Shows" in Queensland

*In business and TV*

### 40 "The Alpaca Sale of the Century"

*Benleigh Alpaca Stud auctions a significant portion of its elite herd*

### 49 Australian Alpaca Co-op Strategic Partners Update

*Merino Gold, Kelly & Windsor*



**T**he 10th National Show and Sale was staged at the Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) on 31 October through to 2 November and Southern NSW Region members can hold their heads up for a good effort ably led by Regional President, Paul Haslin.

The animal judging was the largest ever in Australia with over 500 entries, reduced on the day to approximately 450. A new order was introduced by judging the 200+ junior females and males on Friday afternoon, the Suris on Saturday morning and the remaining huacayas on Saturday afternoon.

There was a most relaxed atmosphere (well, you know how relaxed exhibitors are) with the on site sausage and steak BBQ on Friday night and the Saturday night dinner also on site. The reduction in time, which would otherwise have been spent rushing from venue to venue, allowed people to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones.

The major innovation this year, which I hope will be continued, was the alpaca craft show with 260 entries, a qualified judge and many beautiful creations. The display only served to remind us of the many beautiful qualities of alpaca. Thank you to Heather Dunn for her excellent co-ordination of this attraction.

The fun auction at the dinner was a huge success with over \$40,000 raised and a great deal of fun with Chris Williams doing his usual good job as the auctioneer. A special feature of the auction was the very generous donation of a female alpaca by the Lloyds of Eringa Park and Cambridge Alpacas that added some \$18,000 to the total. Thank you both.

A somewhat sobering end to the evening developed around the courageous offer by Association member, Kylie Hollingworth to have her hair shorn for the Leukaemia Foundation

of Australia if we could raise \$2,000. It is understood the final figure raised was over \$5,000 and off came the hair. We are all very proud of Kylie's effort.

The National Show Auction realised over \$280,000 with some good buys. The third Wild Card entry, "Ambersun Romanza" who had been awarded the Huacaya Champion Adult Male of the show, was the top priced animal. The Silent Stud auction was also a huge success and raised over \$14,000.

The trade show area was always busy and featured a major exhibit by some of the strategic partners of the Australian Alpaca Cooperative which attracted strong interest. Present were Australian Carpet Makers, Fibre

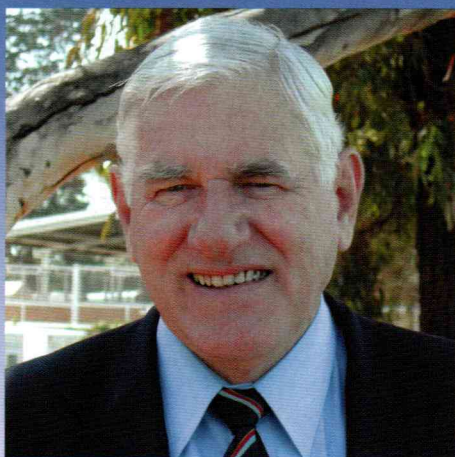
Loft and Creswick with some very nice product on display. There was also a wine tasting opportunity offered by Baarooka Wines who also supplied the wine for the Saturday pre-dinner cocktail party which was set around the craft and fleece champion awards.

I was pleased to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Martha Toledo-Ocampo, Ambassador of Peru together with her mother and the Minister-Counsellor, Mr. Manuel Soares and family to the National Show and Sale. Most of the Embassy staff are from Arequipa, Peru and were surprised at the presence of alpaca in Australia. The Peruvian

Government has invited me to visit the Fiesta in November and to have discussions with their officials about a breeder exchange scheme to share our knowledge etc. The Peruvians appear to be impressed with the progress of husbandry and health matters in Australia.

I take this opportunity to wish a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year to you all. I look forward to another exciting year for the Australian alpaca industry in 2004.

### *a message from the president*



... The animal judging  
in the 10th National Show  
was the largest ever in Australia ...  
... The National Show Auction realised  
over \$280,000...

KERRY DWYER, PRESIDENT



## briefly speaking...

### New address for Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd

(National Administration Office and Fibre Collection Centre)

Unit 2 / 114 Fairbairn Road

Sunshine Victoria 3220

Phone 03 9311 0933

Fax 03 9311 0499

Email [alpacacoop@telstra.com.au](mailto:alpacacoop@telstra.com.au)

Web site [www.alpacacoop.com.au](http://www.alpacacoop.com.au)

### Have you moved, or are you moving soon?

Please remember to notify the AAA Office of address changes.

Phone +61 (0)3 9873 7700

Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711

Email [alpaca@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:alpaca@alpaca.asn.au)

### [www.alpaca.asn.au](http://www.alpaca.asn.au)

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



AUSTRALIAN  
ALPACA

## New Year Special Offer on advertising in "Alpacas Australia" Magazine

FOR APRIL 2004 ISSUE ONLY

**1/2 page colour advert \$583**  
(usually \$737 - SAVING \$154!)

**1/4 page colour advert \$495**  
(usually \$638 - SAVING \$143!)

BOOKINGS MUST BE LODGED  
LATEST 2 FEBRUARY 2004.

Conditions apply. For further information  
contact the AAA National Office.

### Do you have an interesting story to tell?

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

### Are there any topics that you would like covered by future issues of "Alpacas Australia"

Please send your ideas to the Editor for research possibilities.

What topics do you most enjoy reading?

**Seasons Greetings** for a safe and happy holiday season from everyone at the Australian Alpaca Association and "Alpacas Australia" Magazine.

BENLEIGH BELLISIMO  
~ the ultimate in supreme quality ~



SUPREME QUALITY

~~~ in every way ~~~

BELLISIMO STUD SERVICE • ELITE STOCK SALES  
CONSULTATION • QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Allan & Carolyn Jinks ~ Benleigh Alpaca Stud: Geelong, Victoria

PH: (03) 5250 2737 / (03) 5253 2870 MOBILE: 0418 109 348 FAX: (03) 5253 2850

EMAIL: [benleigh@magnet.com.au](mailto:benleigh@magnet.com.au) WEB: [www.benleigh.com.au](http://www.benleigh.com.au)



**Purrumbete Exquisite** (SLF) 2087  
(Imp Chile). Dam of:

**Satimer Chloe** (Blk/W) A1039  
(F by unknown sire) 9/9/90.

**Purrumbete Summer  
Sunshine** A2252 (F by  
*Purrumbete La-Mancha* (SLBr))  
1/1/94. Dam of:

**Purrumbete Son of the Sun**  
(MF) A2291 (M by *Purrumbete  
Inti* (SLF)) 19/3/95. 2<sup>nd</sup> M6-12F  
St Ives 1996; Champion Junior  
Male Sydney Royal 1996; 1<sup>st</sup>  
M6-18F Sydney Royal 1996;  
2<sup>nd</sup> M18+F Sydney Royal 1997;  
2<sup>nd</sup> M18+W/F Adelaide Royal  
1997; 2<sup>nd</sup> HF<18All Adelaide  
Royal 1997; Supreme Champion  
Kangaroo Valley 1997;  
Champion Senior Male Castle  
Hill 1997; Champion Senior  
Male Kangaroo Valley 1997; 2<sup>nd</sup>  
M12-24All Canberra Royal 1997

**Purrumbete Vanilla** (LF) A2488  
(F by *Purrumbete Ledgers  
Dream* (SW)) 21/3/96. 2<sup>nd</sup> F6-  
12L Canberra Royal 1997; 3<sup>rd</sup>  
F12-18W Sydney Royal 1997.  
Dam of:

**Purrumbete Juvena** (W/MBr)  
A17421 (F by *Purrumbete  
Highlander* (SW)) 12/11/97.

**The Gorge La Minti** (LF) 10047 (W by *Purrumbete Inti* (SLF)) 12/10/95. 2<sup>nd</sup> M12-18W Sydney Royal 1997; Champion Senior Male Hawkesbury 1997; 1<sup>st</sup> M18-24W/F/BI Hawkesbury 1997; 2<sup>nd</sup> M12-18F St Ives 1997

**Blue Grass Leading Lady** (SLF) A22070 (F by  
*Purrumbete El Dorado* (SMF)) 11/4/98. 2<sup>nd</sup> F6-12F  
C-N (NSW) Reg 1998; Reserve Champion Junior  
Female C-N (NSW) Reg 1998; Champion Charles  
Ledger (NSW) 1998; Reserve Champion Junior  
Female National Spring Classic 1998; 1<sup>st</sup> F6-12F  
National Spring Classic 1998; Supreme Champion  
Canberra Royal 1999; Supreme Champion Sydney  
Royal 1999; Champion Intermediate Female Sthn  
(NSW) Reg 1999; 1<sup>st</sup> F18+F Sthn (NSW) Reg 1999;  
Champion Junior Female Sydney Royal 1999; 1<sup>st</sup>  
F6-12F Sydney Royal 1999. Dam of:

**Blue Grass Leading Lady 2** (F) A38760  
(F by *Shanbrooke High Society* (SMF)) 4/5/  
00. 3<sup>rd</sup> F6-12F National 2000; Champion  
Senior Female National 2001; 1<sup>st</sup> F18-30F  
National 2001; Champion Fleece Goulburn  
Fleece Show 2002; 1<sup>st</sup> HF18-30D Goulburn  
Fleece Show 2002; 3<sup>rd</sup> F30-48W National  
2003. Dam of:

**Blue Grass Leading Lady 3** (SLF)  
A69606 (F by *Jolimont Warrior* (SW))  
26/3/03. 6<sup>th</sup> F6-12F National 2003

**Blue Grass Queen of the Night** (SMF)  
A54131 (F by *Shanbrooke High Society*  
(SMF)) 6/5/01. 2<sup>nd</sup> F6-12F Canberra Royal  
2002; 1<sup>st</sup> F12-18F Sthn (NSW) Reg 2002

**Blue Grass Amazing Grace** (SLF) A54121  
(F by *Jolimont Warrior* (SW)) 12/5/02. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
F6-12F Canberra Royal 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> F6-12F  
Sydney Royal 2003

**Blue Grass Winter Princess** (SW) A54137  
(F by *ILR Peruvian Drambaie G220* (SLF))  
27/7/01. Champion Junior Female Canberra  
Royal 2002; 1<sup>st</sup> F6-12W Canberra Royal  
2002; 3<sup>rd</sup> F12-18W Sthn (NSW) Reg 2002

**Blue Grass Warrior Princess** (SLF)  
A54148 (F by *Jolimont Warrior* (SW))  
17/7/02.

**Blue Grass Cushla** (SLF) A30874 (F by *Purrumbete  
El Dorado* (SMF)) 7/4/99. 3<sup>rd</sup> F6-12F Sthn (NSW)  
Reg 1999. Dam of:

**Blue Grass Bollinger** (LF) A38765 (M by *Benleigh  
Ringleader* (SW)) 20/5/00. Supreme Champion  
Berry 2001; Champion Junior Male Berry 2001; 1<sup>st</sup>  
M6-12F Berry 2001; Supreme Champion Canberra  
Royal 2001; Champion Junior Male Canberra Royal  
2001; 1<sup>st</sup> M6-12F Canberra Royal 2001; 3<sup>rd</sup> M12-  
18F Charles Ledger (NSW) 2001; 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Valuable  
Light Fleece National 2001; 1<sup>st</sup> M12-18F National  
2001; 4<sup>th</sup> HF18-30F National 2001; Champion  
Senior Male Canberra Royal 2002; 1<sup>st</sup> M18-30F  
Canberra Royal 2002; 2<sup>nd</sup> M12-18F Aust Sheep &  
Wool Show 2003

**Blue Grass Elle Dorado** (SMF) A54111 (F by  
*Purrumbete El Dorado* (SMF)) 31/5/01. Dam of:

**Blue Grass Southern Warrior** (SLF)  
A69601 (M by *Jolimont Warrior* (SW))  
18/3/03.

**Blue Grass Centurion** (LF) A54110 (M by *Jolimont  
Warrior*) 31/5/02. Champion Junior Male Canberra  
Royal 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M6-12F Canberra Royal 2003;  
Supreme Champion Sydney Royal 2003; Champion  
Junior Male Sydney Royal 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M6-12F Sydney  
Royal 2003; Supreme Champion Perth Royal 2003;  
Champion Intermediate Male Perth Royal 2003;  
Best Fawn Perth Royal 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M12-18F Perth  
Royal 2003; Supreme Champion National 2003;  
Champion Intermediate Male National 2003; 1<sup>st</sup>  
M12-18F National 2003



# ... and the other Centurion?

by MATT RIDLEY  
Blaydon Alpacas, NSW

*Encantador Centurion had given his former owners an opportunity, and now gave his new owners a major title.*

O

n his arrival in NSW, he took out the Supreme Champion title at Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains Regional Show and starred in major shows all the way up to the National, where he had been so close a year earlier to taking

out the top award. Less than an hour before his namesake took out National honours in 2003, *Encantador Centurion* won the broad ribbon for Champion Senior Male defeating a star-studded field. He also attracted plenty of interest at the Alpacandes pen, and there is sure to be plenty of stud work ahead of him in Eastern Australia.

He is a son of *Windsong Valley Royal Inca* (SW) and brings with him strong and proven Peruvian bloodlines as well as a promising start, for his first crop sons *Encantador Faberge* and *Kalgan River Panocha* were ribbon winners at the Perth Royal Show in late September. ■

**Encantador Centurion** (F) A37582 (M by *Windsong Valley Royal Inca* (SW)) 3/1/00. Champion Junior Male Kelmscott 2000; 1<sup>st</sup> M6-12F Kelmscott 2000; Reserve Champion Junior Male National 2000; 2<sup>nd</sup> M6-12F National 2000; 1<sup>st</sup> HF9-18W/LF Perth Royal 2001; 2<sup>nd</sup> M18-30W Perth Royal 2001; 2<sup>nd</sup> M18-30F National 2001; 2<sup>nd</sup> HF9-18F National 2001; Reserve Champion Senior Male Perth Royal 2002; 1<sup>st</sup> M30+C Perth Royal 2002; 2<sup>nd</sup> HF9-18W/LF Perth Royal 2002; Champion Senior Male National 2002; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F National 2002; 4<sup>th</sup> HF18-30W National 2002; 3<sup>rd</sup> HF30+W/LF WA Autumn Classic 2003; Supreme Champion H-BM (NSW) Reg 2003; Champion Senior Male H-BM (NSW) Reg 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F H-BM (NSW) Reg 2003; Champion Senior Male Sthn (NSW) Reg 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F Sthn (NSW) Reg 2003; Champion Senior Male Aust Sheep & Wool Show 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F Aust Sheep & Wool Show 2003; Champion Senior Male Charles Ledger 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F Charles Ledger 2003; Reserve Champion Senior Male Melbourne Royal 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F Melbourne Royal 2003; Champion Senior Male National 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> M30-48F National 2003



## ALPACANDES ALPACA STUD

MN-3  
Cert. No  
A010/2002/05

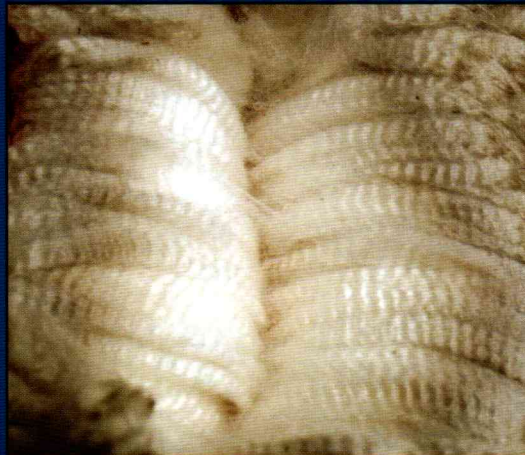
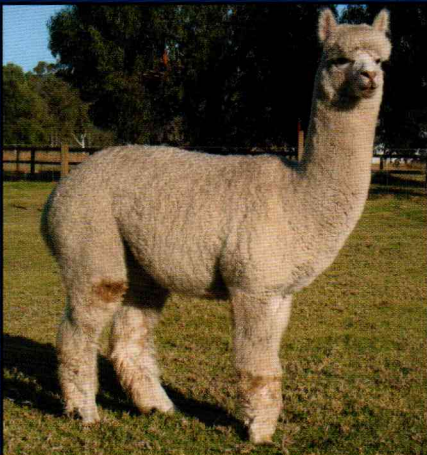
76 Arcadia Rd, GALSTON, NSW 2159  
Keith & Jeanette Hollingworth  
Ph: 02 9653 1696 Fax: (02) 9653 1040  
Email: [alpacandes@ozemail.com.au](mailto:alpacandes@ozemail.com.au)

"Dorroughby" Kenyu Rd, BOOROWA, NSW 2586  
Kylie, Keith & Jeanette Hollingworth  
Ph & Fax: 02 6385 8305  
Email: [dorroughby@bigpond.com.au](mailto:dorroughby@bigpond.com.au)

Now proud owners of  
**ENCANTADOR**

# CENTURION

Multi broad ribbon  
winning son of Windsong  
Valley ROYAL INCA



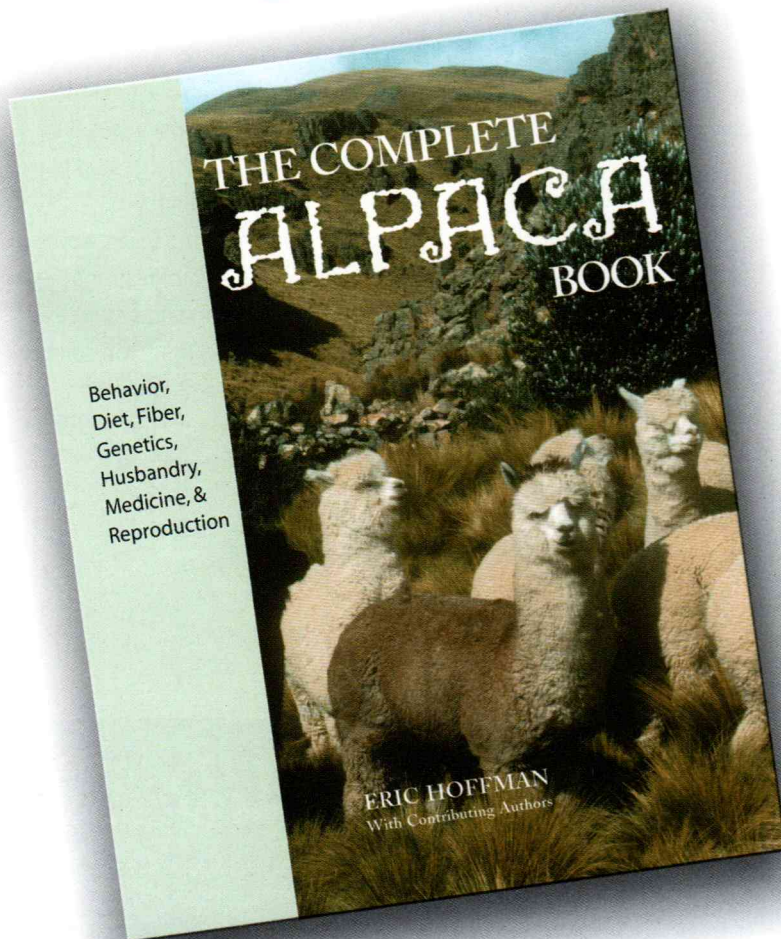
SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM BOTH PROPERTIES • ON FARM (MN2/3, also non-assessed facilities available)  
• DRIVE BYS • MOBILE SERVICING CAN BE ARRANGED • MULTIPLE MATING DISCOUNTS APPLY



**NOW AVAILABLE!**

The most comprehensive book on alpacas ever written,

# **THE COMPLETE ALPACA BOOK**



by Eric Hoffman, co-author of  
*The Alpaca Book*, and 12  
contributing authors.

Over 600 pages including 1350  
references, 500+ photographs and  
3 color sections!

**Extensive information covering:**

- ✓ Natural History & Ecology
- ✓ Classification
- ✓ Prehistory & History
- ✓ Behavior & Communication
- ✓ Anatomy & Conformation
- ✓ Husbandry
- ✓ Restraint
- ✓ Taming & Training
- ✓ Showing
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Fiber Processing
- ✓ Characteristics & Nomenclature
- ✓ Fleece Preparation & Shearing
- ✓ Noninfectious Diseases
- ✓ Fatty Liver Disease
- ✓ Geriatric Alpacas
- ✓ Poisons
- ✓ Maintaining a DNA Registry  
for the Good of the Breed

*I highly recommend "The Complete Alpaca Book" as the bible for all alpaca owners and breeders, and as a fountain of knowledge for alpaca aficionados of the world.*

- Derek Michell, CEO Michell & CIA, Arequipa, Peru

Cost is \$129.95 (\$US) + S/H

**ORDER ONLINE BY VISITING:**

**WWW.BONNYDOONALPACAS.ORG/ALPACABOOK.HTM**

**OR CALL (831) 426-8649 (U.S.)**





# Lights... Camera... Alpacas... Action!

by KELLY WARD  
Bryn-Aitken Alpacas, VIC

*The request came via the AAA's new marketing consultants, McGregors... Did we know anybody who could 'lend' a couple of alpacas to a group of uni film students for a short film? The catch? The 'couple of alpacas' needed to be prepared to spend the day cavorting with actors and crew in a pocket-handkerchief sized front garden in South Caulfield, smack bang in the middle of inner-suburbia, Melbourne!*

**1**ogistically it was the stuff nightmares are made of. But, the kids seemed incredibly professional, the script was a bit of fun – and it seemed a great final test for our PR-duo as the countdown to their first promotional show appearance began in earnest. Pandora and Jolley clinched their first 'starring' role. And behave like stars they did!

By the time we off-loaded the float in a little Caulfield street, Pandora had well and truly established herself as a leading lady not to be toyed with. Jolley was coated with spit and humming in confusion. The director loved it. What a great sound. It simply had to be recorded just in case it could be used in the film.

Director's orders – but the sound operator took some coercion. *"These llamas, will they bite or kick?"* After a lesson on the difference between llamas and alpacas

and an assurance that an occasional spit was all there was to be concerned about, he approached with caution. On went the earphones, the boom mic was extended directly in front of Pandora's face – and true to form she responded with a well-placed spit! Mr Cautious Soundman, threw caution to wind, abandoning professionalism and recording sounds we simply can't even write here (\*\*!@#%!\*!)

Thankfully, our spit-fire seemed to run out of spit as the filming progressed and happily turned her attention to the endless supply of hay that was constantly replenished as a means of ensuring she stayed in shot.

The film, 'SOB' ('Son of a Bum'), explores the mid-life crisis of a suburban father – through the exasperated eyes of his 17-year-old son. The purchase of the massive new home cinema system is one thing, but as Dad wrestles with yoga, the alarm bells start to ring... what next?

*"Al-pacas, son. There's a lucrative niche market in their fibres... we're gonna be rich!",* announces Dad. And, true to his word, there are the alpacas – grazing in the tiny, front yard! Tensions mount until son takes a cricket bat to Dad, finally dumping the body in seemingly deserted paddock! Which brings us to the follow-up scene, to be shot 'on location' at Bryn-Aitken.

The script called for the alpaca herd to mill around the body of Dad as he regains consciousness, only to find himself dumped in an alpaca paddock! Another logistical challenge. Would the supporting cast play its part? There were a few tense moments as actors and crew kept fingers crossed that the alpacas would adhere to the script, but

they needn't have worried. That natural alpaca curiosity meant that they were only too happy to circle the strange body on the ground, trying to work out what on earth was going on – and the hay scattered around the body provided an attractive lure.

The film is the work of students, Tania Allen, Anne Ireton, Andrew Joy, Marc Weinstein and Romy Weizman, and will form a major part of the assessment for their media course at Deakin University. It is also destined to be an entrant in the next round of short film festivals, including the renowned St Kilda Festival.

According to one of the team, Tania Allen, the film is a celebration of that life stage when some dads find themselves freed up from a lot of responsibilities, finally getting the chance to pay a bit more attention to their own desires. "It's like a second adolescence, where they can misbehave and experiment with what they really want out of life under the guise of the "mid-life crisis", she said.

## *But, why alpacas?*

*"We were looking for ways for our character to make a living and escape the soul-crushing 9 to 5 syndrome. We were throwing around ideas about investments that were a bit more creative and quirky and alpacas seemed so bizarre and exotic against the quintessential rural backdrop of sheep, cows and horses,"* she said.

'SOB' is tongue-in-check and highly farcical, but Dad's mid-life alpaca adventure might well ring a few bells for some alpaca breeders – present company included! ■



# Worms in Alpacas

*This article is reproduced with the kind permission of NSW Department of Agriculture and the author, Anne Oakenful, Technical Officer from the Diagnostic Parasitology Department of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Department of Agriculture.*



NSW Agriculture

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE AWARE OF:

### ■ Variety of worms

Alpacas can carry sheep, cattle and goat parasites. This is important when introducing new animals into the herd (importing parasites) or when grazing alpacas on pasture previously, or currently, used for farming sheep, cattle or goats. Infective worm larvae are very resilient and can survive on the pasture for quite a few months in favourable (cool and moist) weather conditions. Alpacas used as guardians to lambing-ewe flocks can be exposed to heavily contaminated pastures.

### ■ Quarantine drenching

When introducing new alpacas to the herd, administer a quarantine drench and then hold in a separate yard for 48 hrs before releasing the animal into the herd to allow all worm eggs to be expelled. This can reduce the risk of importing parasites onto your property.

### ■ Watch younger animals and older animals under stress

Younger animals (<2 years) are more susceptible to worm burdens. Older animals will develop natural resistance over time. Hembras are more susceptible to parasites when pregnant. They can be placed under stress by birthing, mating and lactating. Nutrition, disease, overcrowding or social stress can also reduce natural immunity in older animals leading to outbreaks.

### ■ Beware of stock handling yards

Bringing animals into yards where they are in a confined area, such as for shearing or birthing of hembras, can lead to increased risk of infection. If there is some grass/vegetation present, these areas can quickly become havens for large numbers of infective larvae. Once yards are contaminated they can remain so for months.

### ■ Be aware of stocking rates

Grazing habits can increase the risk of worm pick up. Alpacas tend to graze in set areas and will continue to graze on regrowth leading to grazing on very low pasture. If stocking rate is too high, this grazing habit can prove to be a problem that leads to increased infection. This is also true if rotational grazing is used with insufficient resting time between rotations.

### ■ Latrines – good and bad

Alpacas' toiletry habits of using a set latrine usually reduces the risk of infection, however, if over-stocked these latrines can be a source of massive concentrations of infective larvae. This is especially true if run off is towards favoured grazing areas.

### ■ Control Methods

Currently there are no drenches registered for use in alpacas in Australia. Owners should consult their veterinarian or animal health advisor on control options.

### ■ Drench Resistance

Because alpacas can carry sheep, goat and cattle parasites, drench use should be an important management decision. Sheep worm resistance has been well documented with many properties resistant to white (*benzimidazole*) and clear (*levamisole*) drench groups. In recent studies it has been found that there is emerging resistance to the ML (*macrocyclic lactone*) group in certain areas of NSW. Resistance in cattle worms is not well documented and status of resistance is unclear. Owners should be aware of not over drenching and treating only when necessary. Monitoring worm burdens by faecal egg counts can give a useful insight into when drenching is required. Conducting a faecal egg count 10-14 days after drench administration can determine how effective the drench was.

### ■ Monitor Worm Burdens

It is important to monitor worm burdens using faecal egg counts at strategic times throughout the year. By doing this you may be able to reduce the number of drenchings required, or only drench those animals with higher worm burdens. Monitoring also allows you to check what species of worms are present on your property so "danger times" can be identified and controlled.



## PROBLEM WORMS

When animals are grazing naturally, most internal parasite worm burdens are made up of mixed infections. Some of the more common/problematic parasites are listed below:

### Black Scour Worm

- *Trichostrongylus spp*

### Brown Stomach Worm

- *Ostertagia spp*

### Cattle Bankrupt Worm

- *Cooperia oncophora*

### Barber's Pole Worm

- *Haemonchus contortus*

### Liver Fluke

- *Fasciola hepatica*

## ■ Barber's Pole Worm

Care must be taken when Barber's Pole is suspected as this parasite is capable of producing large volumes of eggs in a short period of time which can lead to massive infection. Signs of infection can include anaemia and fluid retention (oedema). This parasite is usually a problem in summer rainfall areas however sporadic outbreaks occur in many regions of NSW.

## ■ Liver Fluke

Liver fluke is also a parasite that can be a problem in certain areas. Owners should be aware of regions where liver fluke is a problem in sheep and cattle. In NSW fluke infection is widespread across south-eastern NSW, the Tablelands and their northern, western and eastern slopes, south-eastern coastal areas and also in some irrigated areas. The two primary requirements for liver fluke are a suitable aquatic snail (as the intermediate host) and an environment such as springs, slow-moving streams with marshy banks, irrigation channels and seepages. Care should be taken when introducing alpacas into an area known to be "flukey". Alpacas have little immune response to liver fluke and their liver size is small, so damage can rapidly occur if infected.

## ■ Tapeworm (*Monezia*)

This parasite has not been proven to have adverse effects in alpacas. Tapeworm segments are often found in the faeces as white flat band like segments (a few centimetres in length).

## ■ Whipworm (*Trichuris*)

Whipworm eggs have been found in animals of all ages, but as yet has not been recognised as a disease causing parasite in alpacas. It has proven to be a problem in humped camels in Australia causing diarrhoea and can be hard to treat in these animals. ■

For further information please contact  
Anne Oakenful 02 4640 6366.



**BUNGALOOK**

## Alpaca Headstalls

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



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

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

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

Send your order with choice of colours and sizes to  
**Bungalook Alpaca Farm**  
P.O. Box 204 Lakes Entrance  
Vic 3909 Australia  
Ph/Fax: 03 51552464  
E-mail: [bungalook@b150.aone.net.au](mailto:bungalook@b150.aone.net.au)  
Web site:  
<http://www.gippsnet.com.au/bungalook/halter.htm>

**inca**  
stitches

*Fine Alpaca Imports*  
*Wholesale-Retail Business*

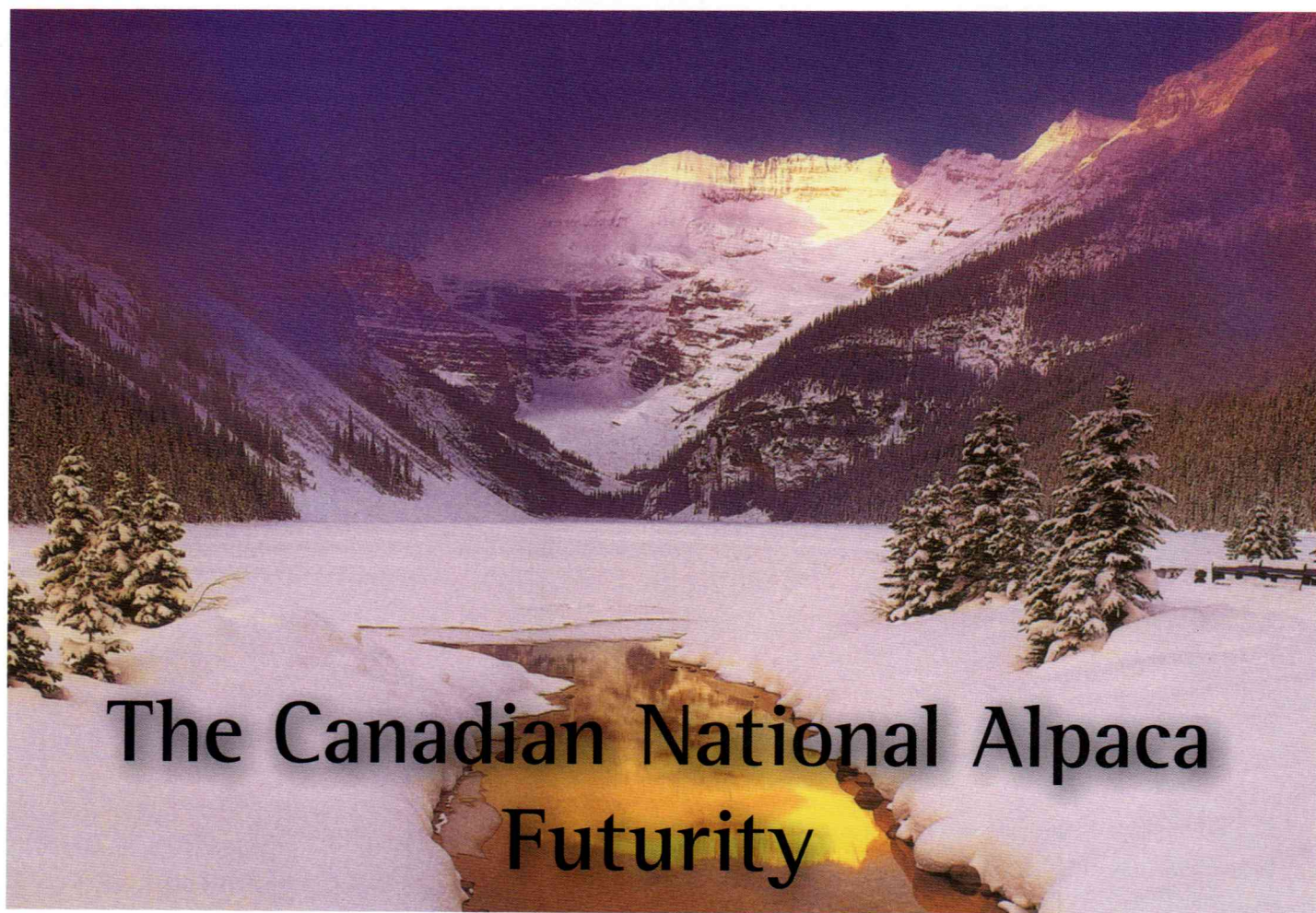
**For Sale**

*Mailing list, worldwide domain name,  
supplier contacts, reliable agent in Lima*

62 Barkly St, St Kilda 3182  
Tel: (03) 9525 5768; 0418 330 568  
[incastitches@bigpond.com](mailto:incastitches@bigpond.com)  
[www.alpacaknits.com](http://www.alpacaknits.com)







photograph © The Postcard Factory, British Columbia

# The Canadian National Alpaca Futurity

by BILL ROBBINS  
Traron Alpacas, VIC

*Easter 2003, Amanda VandenBosch from the USA and I judged the Canadian National Futurity in Red Deer, located approximately halfway between Edmonton and Calgary in the province of Alberta. I was most impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the organisers and exhibitors and I felt Australians might be interested in the concept of the Futurity and how it began. To this end I asked the Canadians to put the concept on paper and the following summary was provided by John Macleod, a leading alpaca breeder from Alberta.*

**t**he event started in the fall of 2001 with the first Stud Service Auction and the Futurity in March of 2002. Twelve farms committed in July 2001 to support the establishment of this event both financially and with volunteer time.

Basically there are three components, the Stud Service Auction, the Futurity and the Sale. The Stud Service Auction is in November and the Futurity and Sale are in April of the following year.

## THE STUD SERVICE AUCTION

Stud owners agree to donate a breeding to their stud(s), which will be auctioned off in November with the proceeds going as prize money to the Futurity. It is agreed by the stud owners that they will supply the service in the following year, and that a minimum bid of \$1000 must be received on the service agreement to be finalized. Only offspring (juveniles and yearlings)

of these studs are eligible for the Futurity. The studs and farms are listed on the [www.cnalpaca.com](http://www.cnalpaca.com) web site and the auction is open for the whole month of November. Bids are updated regularly and may be made by email, telephone or regular mail. The 2001 auction generated approximately \$44,000 and the 2002 auction raised over \$64,000 for prize money.

Stud owners receive a free farm display stall at the event, their farm and stud is listed on the web site and they are included in some advertising.

## THE FUTURITY

Minimum class size of four, maximum class size of 16. Entries are split by colour, (White, Light, Medium and Dark). Dark includes greys; colour is the major colour of the blanket. Next split is by age (juvenile/yearling), then by sex. If a further split is required it would again be by age (older/younger).



First and second class winners of a colour come back for colour champions and reserve. The four colour champions return for Supreme Champion.

Futurity entry fees in 2003 were \$100/entry, which included stalls. Entry fees covered all show expenses, so that all the stud auction money could go for prize money.

We paid prize money to half the class plus one, meaning that in a class of nine, five receive prize money. First place money depends on class size. This year first place ranged from \$600 to \$900 in the largest class. The final pay position (half the class plus one) received \$300, so that the minimum prize was \$300. Colour Champions received an additional \$1000, Reserve \$500. The Supreme Champion received an additional \$1500. The owners of the stud that produced the Supreme Champion also receive a large perpetual trophy for a year. This year's Supreme Champion had total winnings of \$3400 (\$900 plus \$1000, plus \$1500).

The objective was to have an exciting event, with a large cash payout spread to many breeders. We also wanted to bring in top quality judges, judging by consensus. This has been well received so far. Judges in 2002 were Jude Anderson (Australia) and Mike Safley (USA), 2003 were Amanda VandenBosch and Bill Robbins.

## THE AUCTION SALE

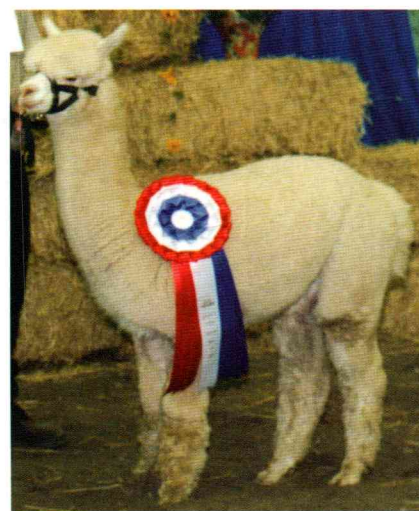
The auction sale is held on the Saturday night. We are trying to develop a quality sale with service to buyers second to none. A Sale Committee selects the sale entries from applications, and alpacas are veterinary inspected prior to sale. In future we will also have the selection committee check the alpacas for conformation and movement.

The event also has seminars by leading industry experts, vendor stalls, demonstrations and a banquet.

Bill Robbins continues...

*The show is judged over two days with the finale being the sashing of the Supreme Champion. This year it had quite an Australian flavour with some 35 of the entries being by Australian sourced males. Jolimont Alpamayo, better known to us in Australia as Jolimont Bravo has sired the Supreme Champion in both 2002 and 2003. Bravo is owned by a former Tasmanian, Daniel Eslake, now living in British Colombia. The conformation and growth of most of the alpacas was outstanding, even more so when you consider Canada has just come through a drought similar to our own. The fleece quality of the best whites and fawns was of a comparable quality to Australia without the depth in each class. The coloured alpacas in general have some way to go and there were very few suris shown.*

*The whole show was an outstanding success and I recommend it to any Australians who may be in Canada during April. After the Futurity, my wife, Annette and I visited a few studs in Alberta and then did a little sight seeing. The country is stunning with the scenery in the Rockies being the most spectacular we have ever seen. The Canadians are very friendly people, going out of their way to show us around. It was a wonderful experience for us both and a complete contrast to the drought we left behind in Australia and unfortunately came back to here. Now, writing this in October, we are lucky that the weather has turned around and we should have a reasonably good season. ■*



**Mikah (sired by Jolimont Alpamayo)  
Supreme Champion Huacaya,  
2003 Canadian National Alpaca Futurity.**





# A different spin

**Marketing Report**  
by MICHAEL VAN DEN BOS  
McGregors International, NSW

*Since winter 2003, the design and format of material promoting the Australian alpaca industry has been undergoing a transformation. Just as the alpaca industry continues to burgeon, the marketing collateral being produced has also been evolving into a 'new look' that communicates the industry's attributes.*

**a** large part of this has been the introduction of the Alpacamark, which has been selected to embody the spirit of the alpaca industry, and the establishment of a Marketing Team. The Marketing Team includes the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA) Marketing Sub-committee; McGregor's International, a marketing communications agency; and in the near future, a marketing representative from each AAA region.

McGregors' role is to assist in building Australian Alpaca into a leading luxury brand in order to maintain and ensure the high price of animals and products in both Australian and International markets.

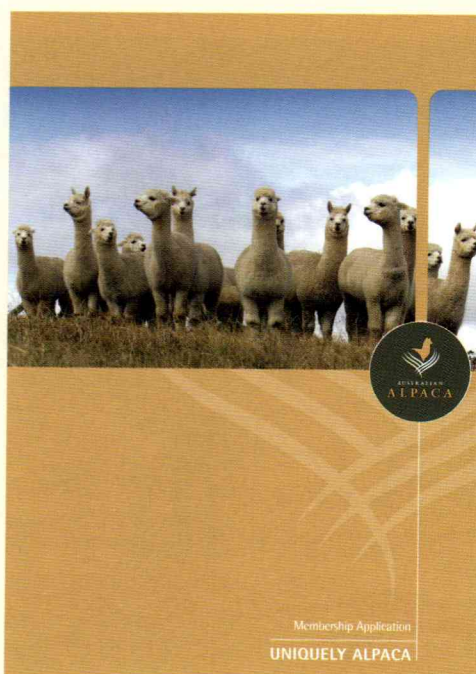
Since commencing work with the AAA in July 2003, McGregor's has been busy implementing the Strategic Marketing Plan (SMP), which has included:

- rolling-out the Alpacamark to all AAA Regions;
- ongoing media relations;
- developing a comprehensive and co-ordinated Style Guide;
- developing a Regional Marketing Guide;
- undertaking the Strategic Development Taskforce report survey;
- developing the concept and design of a number of AAA materials incorporating the new 'look' and Alpacamark - including banners, new membership application form, print ads, TV commercials, etc.;
- supporting the National Show and Sale Sub-committee, and,
- assisting AAA Regions in their local marketing activities.

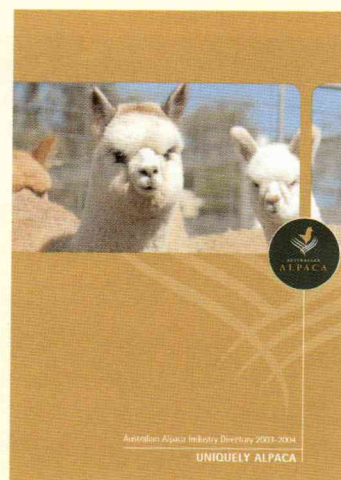
The Marketing Team's overriding approach has been to support gradual, sustainable and long-term growth of the Australian alpaca industry for all those involved - be it breeding, fleece production, spinning or whatever! A major component of this is creating a sense of identity and cohesion amongst growers and the promotional activities that surround the industry, at both a regional and national level.

By consistently and frequently spruiking Australian Alpaca brand benefits, in a manner that reflects a 'high-end' quality product, and by aligning what the industry communicates with what it does, all those involved in the industry will be in good stead to enjoy the results.

## The brand



Membership Application Brochure



Australian Alpaca Industry Directory  
2003-2004



## In the news

# Guardian alpaca angels

By **BRADEN QUARTERMAINE**

alpacas will notice a threat like a dog, fox or dingo immediately and move towards it.

"They alert the rest of the mob by emitting high pitched sounds, not unlike that of a monkey when

FARMERS are beginning to use alpacas as

Guardian alpaca angels, 'Great Southern Herald', July 2003

## Alpacas leading the genetic development

Alpacas leading the genetic development, 'Stock Journal', August 2003

## Don't miss the magic of Australian Alpacas

'Alpacas now woven into the fabric of the South Australian countryside'

The South Australian Region of the Australian Alpaca Association welcomes all visitors to the Strathalbyn Field Days to

Don't miss the magic of Australian Alpacas, 'Southern Argus', September 2003

## The making of...

A number of TV commercials promoting the industry have been filmed over the past few months.

The advertisements, which include both a 30 and 15 second format,

contain general alpaca footage and allow AAA Regions to promote field days, shows and seminars in their area.

Below is a picture taken during the filming of one of the AAA commercials.



### The next six months

Over the next six months, the Marketing Team will be vigorously supporting regional efforts and undertaking the following activities:

- develop national advertising and media campaign;
- instigate AAA internal communication programs;
- facilitate major sponsorship relationships and strategic alliances;
- investigate loyalty programs for members;
- support the education initiatives
  - for breeders and schools;
- begin stakeholder campaign:
  - related industry bodies,
  - influencers,
  - government;
- explore the idea of an annual Major Event such as – The Australian Alpaca Awards – awards to represent all areas of industry, Breeders, Ag Schools, Youth Alpaca Award, Broadacre Farmer, Fleece Production, Designer, etc.



## 'HOME SPUN' – DIY MARKETING

### Planning your own marketing activities

Before you decide how you are going to promote your business, consider where you are now and what you want to achieve with your activities.

A description covering the following points should form an integral part of your plan for a marketing activity:

- background information relating to your business;
- what your customers need;
- how you can meet these needs;
- the features and benefits of your business – unique selling points;
- who your target audiences are and should be;
- how you plan on positioning yourself – how you want to be perceived;
- strategies and plans for reaching new and existing customers.

#### *How do I know who my target audiences are and how do I segment them?*

Target audiences could be potential buyers, current buyers, those who make the buying decision or those who influence it.

Answers to the questions below form the framework for dividing your audiences into target groups. By dividing customers into groups you will be able to tailor communication and activities, maximising the effectiveness of your marketing.

- What type of people are interested in alpaca?
- Those who own alpaca, what made them decide to breed alpacas over other livestock options?
- How old are they?
- Where do they live?
- What about their income and lifestyles?
- What type of products or services do they need or use?
- Did someone encourage them to breed alpaca?

### Setting objectives

Marketing objectives are what you want to achieve as a result of the marketing plan. They need to be simple, measurable, achievable and realistic.

For example, your objective could be to increase the number of animal sales by 10% over the next 12 months. (This depends on whether you want to grow your herd or sell as many as you breed every year).

Your strategy to achieve this may include making sure that your target audiences are aware of your farm, and the fact that you have quality animals for sale, through local public relations stories and/or advertising.

Your target audiences should have a certain amount of information about your business, they need to have the right perception and your marketing should attract a response. By implementing your marketing objectives you are guiding your target audiences through the following stages: Ignorance – Awareness – Knowledge – Conviction – Action – Advocacy.

### Developing strategies

The strategy is the bridge between the objectives of the marketing program and the means of achieving them through a planned sequence of marketing activities.

You should use the strategy as a guideline when planning and selecting marketing activities so that only methods that fit the strategy are chosen. Evaluating the marketing activities against the strategy ensures a cost-effective and integrated program delivering a 'bigger bang for buck' for your business.

Put simply, the strategy should answer and coordinate the following questions without losing sight of the objectives already formulated.

- **Who** – Your chosen target audience.
- **What** – What messages do you want your target audience to understand? What do they need/want to hear?
- **How** – The most suitable marketing methods to reach the target audiences, for example: advertising, letters, events, sponsorships.
- **Where** – The area your business could potentially cover.
- **When** – The best time to conduct marketing activities.
- **How much** – what funds are available.

## MARKETING UNCOVERED – UNDERSTANDING THE TWISTS IN SPINNING...

**Advertising:** A paid form of promotion.

**Advertorial:** An advertisement that has the appearance of a news article or editorial, in a print publication.

**Brand:** The intangible sum of a product's attributes, which identifies and differentiates it from its competitors.

For example, everything connected to the essence of the Australian Alpaca industry. The people, the animals, the products, the AlpacaMark, its reputation, its endorsements, how it is perceived and the sum total of the Australian Alpaca industry's communication.

**Demographic:** Descriptive classifications of the market, such as their age, sex, income, education, size of household, ownership of home, etc.

**Editorial:** Unpaid information submitted to media, which is used by journalists to publish/broadcast stories.

**Influencer:** A person whose views or advice carries weight in making a buying decision.

**Public Relations:** Building good relations with an organisation's public by obtaining favourable publicity and building a good company 'image'.

**Strategic Marketing Plan:** A total marketing plan that outlines how a business can best compete in the markets it elects to serve.

**Target Audience:** A specified audience or demographic group for which marketing activities are designed.

**Unique Selling Point:** Unique product benefit that competition cannot claim.

*Happy marketing!* ■



# Another way to promote our Industry

by MARK GARNER  
Alpacapeña, NSW

*Early in September we were contacted by Robert Caldwell, a Principle of the Faculty of Agriculture, Sydney University, enquiring as to whether or not we would be prepared to have some of his faculty's students visit our farm with a view to understanding a little more about the alpaca.*

**n**aturally we jumped at the notion of being able to spread the word about this wonderful animal.

Having originally come from the City and now running our little enterprise as one of a lifestyle nature, one can only imagine our anxiety and trepidation when, in a later e-mail, we were advised that there would be two groups of students. One group, comprising Agricultural Economics students, would have an interest in marketing, farm management, infrastructure costs etc. The second group, Agricultural Science students, would, logically, be interested in genetics, nutrition, breeding, and pasture considerations etc.

So thinking that we would be required to deliver two structured lectures on these subjects, and since we do not consider ourselves experts, we drew straws on who would speak on what subject and hastily recovered all of the Proceedings Notes

from the five AAA Industry Conferences that we have attended. Naturally this was to refresh our, now fading, memories and to get into some formal order that, which to date and in the main, seemed to simply come naturally but not necessarily correctly.

Early on the appointed day, September 29, having brought into the pens a good cross section of our alpacas, we waited, somewhat nervously, for the arrival of the bus, spending the time rehearsing our little lectures.

Arrival time came and around the corner appeared what seemed to be a bus of gargantuan proportions, from which alighted no less than 50 students and to our absolute horror, three of their lecturers. "No fudging here," I thought.

At the end of the day no rehearsal was necessary for all students, many of whom originally came from the land, were so interested in this curious and unique animal that any formal lecture was completely unnecessary. The questions came thick and fast and they covered, in no particular order, most of the subjects on which we were asked to speak.

I can only hope that we were half way reasonable ambassadors for the alpaca.

From the comments of the Faculty head and lecturers it would seem that many Universities with similar Faculties might wish to make this an annual event visiting a variety of studs around Australia.

So it would seem that our fledgling industry is gaining some legitimacy, at least in the eyes of educators. ■





# DUNG BEETLES

## Nature's own pooper scoopers

by MARK GARNER  
Alpacapeña, NSW

*Following our article on Dung collection (Autumn edition, Issue # 40) we considered that it would be appropriate to explore the advantages of the Dung Beetle. To this end we contacted Mr John Feehan whose Company, SOILCAM, provides specialist support in spreading dung beetles across Australia. Mr Feehan kindly gave us permission to re-publish extracts of the following article. The article was originally published in 1994 by The Grassland Society of NSW Inc. and was written by Michael Hindmarsh, formerly of NSW Agriculture, Orange.*



Dung beetles with dung ball.

### DUNG BEETLES – INTEGRAL IN A REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The CSIRO Dung Beetle Project (1969-1993) introduced to Australia about 50 species of beetles from Africa, Turkey and Spain. It is now dependent on farmers and LandCare groups to spread these beetles throughout Australia.

These beetles fly to fresh dung pads in the afternoon and feed only on juices in the dung. They then dig tunnels, roll up dung in balls and stack them below in brood chambers. The female then lays eggs within them. The larvae have a handy food source, finally emerging with favourable environmental conditions as adults.

### Dung beetles are valued agents for the following activities:

- **Recycling nutrients in dung.** One elephant pad in Tsavo National Park had 48,000 beetles, and in two hours the dung was totally removed. Dr. Bornemissza (*the lead scientist of the CSIRO project*) found in Australia that 30 pairs of introduced African beetles can bury a cattle pad in two days.
- **Improving soil aeration.** The tunnels to the brood chambers produce excellent aeration throughout the soil profile.
- **Elevating soil.** The beetles elevate soil for the brood chamber construction. This process then recycles sub-surface soil to the surface. Studies with elephant dung have found that for every kilogram buried, 4 kg of soil had been transported to the surface. The top 300mm of African soil is replaced every 5 years by dung beetle activity.
- **Supplying dung to specific root zones.** The depth of dung burial varies from 50mm to 300mm, supplying the nutrients directly to the root zone of specific plants by different species of dung beetles.
- **Removing problem dung.** Dung beetles can be selected to remove problem dung eg. some species of dung beetle will remove dog dung, lessening the hydatid human health problem.



- **Starving blue-green algae.** The introduction of dung beetles to catchment areas will bury nitrate and phosphates in the dung, denying food for toxic algae. The extensive tunnel systems are storm water traps in heavy rainfall; the beetle tunnels will allow other nutrients being washed from a paddock to enter the grass root zone.
- **Reducing pest flies and pink eye.** The prompt burying of dung by dung beetles removes the breeding sites for buffalo flies and reduces bush fly numbers by 90% stopping the spread of pink eye infection amongst cattle and sheep.
- **Eliminating harrowing.** A saving of \$30/ha/yr (1994 figures) can be made by eliminating harrowing with year round dung beetle activity.

A recent survey of dung beetles in the Orange area, of Central Western NSW, found one dominant type, a native dung beetle, and only one farm with three species. It is important to have at least 4–10 different species, one being a winter active type for year round dung removal.

John (Feehan) has recently found seven species on one farm, which he suggests is an optimal situation for farmers to aim towards.

These results indicate a major failure of the Dung Beetle Project in this area of NSW. The persistence of the native species is important especially since they are efficient in burying sheep and goat dung.

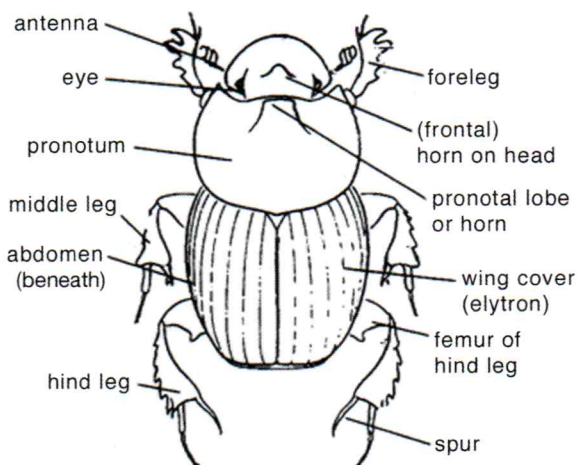


Figure 1: Anatomy of a dung beetle

## Harm to dung beetles

### 1. Drenches

In some parts of the world, scientists have established a connection between livestock drenches and dung beetle death. It is important that producers check with their local supplier on the suitability of drenches for use in areas where dung beetle activity is being encouraged. Drench label directions should also indicate the environmental safety for dung beetles.

### 2. Foxes

John Feehan has seen foxes eating the large Spanish winter-active dung beetles. This is another reason for instigating fox control programs across Land Care areas.

## Conclusion

Dung beetles offer a low-cost method of recycling the half million tonne of cow dung dropped each day, which can have many benefits for regenerative agriculture. The proliferation of many species of these beetles across catchment areas will have beneficial effects against the threat of blue-green algae.

## FURTHER BACKGROUND RESEARCH BASED UPON INTERNET FINDINGS AND BREEDER COMMUNICATIONS

### The life cycle of a dung beetle

Most dung beetle species reproduce in the warmer months of spring, summer and autumn.

A pair of dung beetles (a male and a female) may work together, digging a nest to create a burrow beneath the dung pad. The dung is taken into the burrow in either a ball or an irregular mass. The female lays her eggs in the burrow. The eggs hatch into larvae that feed on the dung surrounding it.

The larvae will go through three skin changes to reach the non-feeding pupae stage. Male larvae develop into major or minor males depending on how much dung is available to them during their larval phases. By stopping development and remaining inactive for several months, some dung beetle larvae are able to survive unfavourable conditions such as droughts. The pupae turn into adult dung beetles, which break out of the dung ball and dig their way to the surface. These newly formed adults will fly to a new dung pad and the whole process starts over.

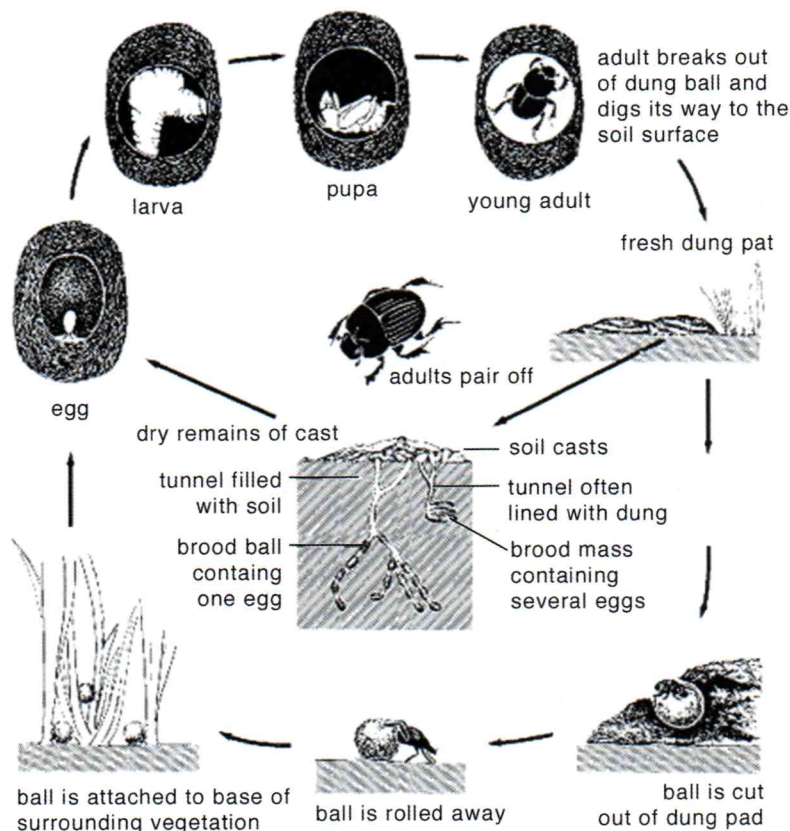


Figure 2: The life cycle of a dung beetle



## Feeding

Dung beetles feed on the dung of vertebrates. Adult dung beetles feed on the fluid part of the dung, which they extract by squeezing the dung in their mouths. The beetle's larvae also feed on the whole dung (fluid and fibre) which they cut and chew with their mouths. Dung beetles do not require any other food source, not even water. *"Dung beetles just love fresh dung. They shove the dung into their mouths, squeeze it, and drink the juices that come streaming out! The solid parts of the dung are squeezed for a second time in their jaws, and then swallowed. If there are any eggs that flies might have laid inside the dung, this squeezing action kills them. Dung, along with everything else that lives in it, is the major food source of the dung beetle."*

Dr. Karl S. Kruszelnicki

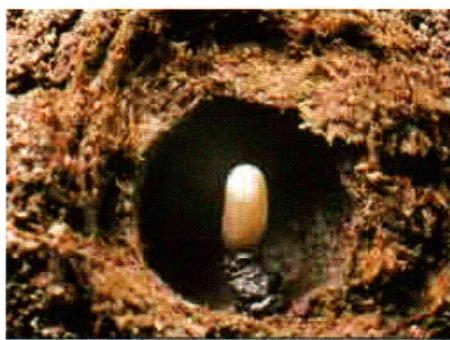
## Flight

Dung beetles are strong fliers and can fly several kilometres in one flight. Species fly either during daylight hours (day fliers) or at dusk and dawn (night fliers). They can detect dung from a considerable distance by its smell, and fly upwind along an odour plume to the dung. They fly to fresh dung once they have depleted their current pad. When stocking rates are low or cattle, or other livestock, are regularly moved, dung beetles may need to fly considerable distances to find fresh dung.

## Breeding

Adult dung beetles make an underground nest at the end of their tunnels. Most species mould dung into individual brood balls in which one egg is laid. Other species make a longer sausage of dung in which two or three eggs may be laid. Larvae hatch from the eggs and feed on the dung in the brood balls. When larval growth is completed the larva pupates and a new adult emerges and digs up to the soil surface. The time between egg laying and adult emergence can vary from one month to a year or more depending on species.

There are two main types of breeding behaviour in dung beetles. Most species are tunnellers that make tunnels under the dung pad and carry the dung down into an underground nest. The male collects



Egg inside brood ball

the dung and passes it down to the female who constructs the nest and makes brood balls (figure 2). A pair may work together in one (dung) pad for several days or even a couple of weeks, as long as dung is available. The beetles then fly off separately in search of fresh dung.

The other groups of species, the "rollers", make a ball of dung at the dung pad and then roll it away (figure 2). Most species (such as *Sisyphus rubrus*) bury the ball before laying an egg in it, however *Sisyphus spinipes* lays an egg in the ball and leaves it propped up in a tussock of grass or other vegetation.

## ALPACAS and the Dung Beetle

During our conversation with John Feehan he commented that owing to the pelletising of sheep and alpaca dung, it is inclined to dry out more quickly than that of cattle, thus limiting the success of the beetles' activity.

Furthermore, John Lawrie, a soil scientist and an alpaca breeder from the NSW Central Western Region, says *"...Dung beetles that have been introduced for cattle dung may not be suitable for getting rid of alpaca dung. This is because alpacas urinate on their dung piles and the nitrate levels would be much higher than the dung of other ruminants grazing in Australia"*.

On the other hand, there are several alpaca breeders, particularly in New South Wales, who have reported excellent beetle activity in the alpaca dung on their properties and that it appears to be particularly effective, though slower than any mechanical means of removing the dung. It may well be that these particular beetles are native, the problem being, however, is that to date, none of these beetles have been collected for identification.

So before we can have an effective dung beetle program, John Feehan recommends determining the types of dung beetles present on a property by using the following strategy:

- Select the beetle affected dung pads with a margin of fresh soil;
- Walk up quietly because they quickly crash dive down their tunnels;
- Use a long handled shovel to scoop up the dung and about 2 cm of soil underneath the dung pad;
- Place the soil, grass and dung into a bucket;
- Tip the soil and dung into a bucket of cold water and stir gently;
- Collect beetles as they float to the surface;
- Kill the beetles in hot water;
- Dry the beetles for two days on newspaper. Place into a match box without cotton wool and without sticky tape;
- Include date, location and address with telephone number;
- Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of information.

## Your dung beetle program

John Feehan, a former technician with the Dung Beetle Project now provides specialist support in spreading dung beetles across Australia. His service includes:

- Identifying dung beetles present on farms, and
- Supplying summer and winter active species of dung beetles. ■

---

John Feehan operates as SOILCAM, his address is:

3 Prell Place, Hackett, ACT 2602.  
Telephone number: 02 6248 0376



# Centre of Attention in Central Victoria – Elmore Field Days 2003

by freelance journalist,  
AILEEN ENGLISH-REES  
– a visitor to the Field Days

*The small central Victorian town of Elmore – population 900 – this year celebrated the 40th Annual Elmore and District Machinery Field Days. From humble beginnings the Field Days have grown to become one of the premier rural events in Victoria and the perfect vehicle for the Victorian Central Region to promote the alpaca industry.*



photography Aileen English-Rees

**t**he Field Days run for three days each year in October. With recent Field Days visitor numbers up to 50,000 – some travelling distances by light aircraft using the on-site airstrip – visitors far beyond their region boundary appreciated the education given by the breeders who contributed to the AAA display.

Contributors consisted of breeders who have been in the industry for many years and newcomers of just a few months – giving the

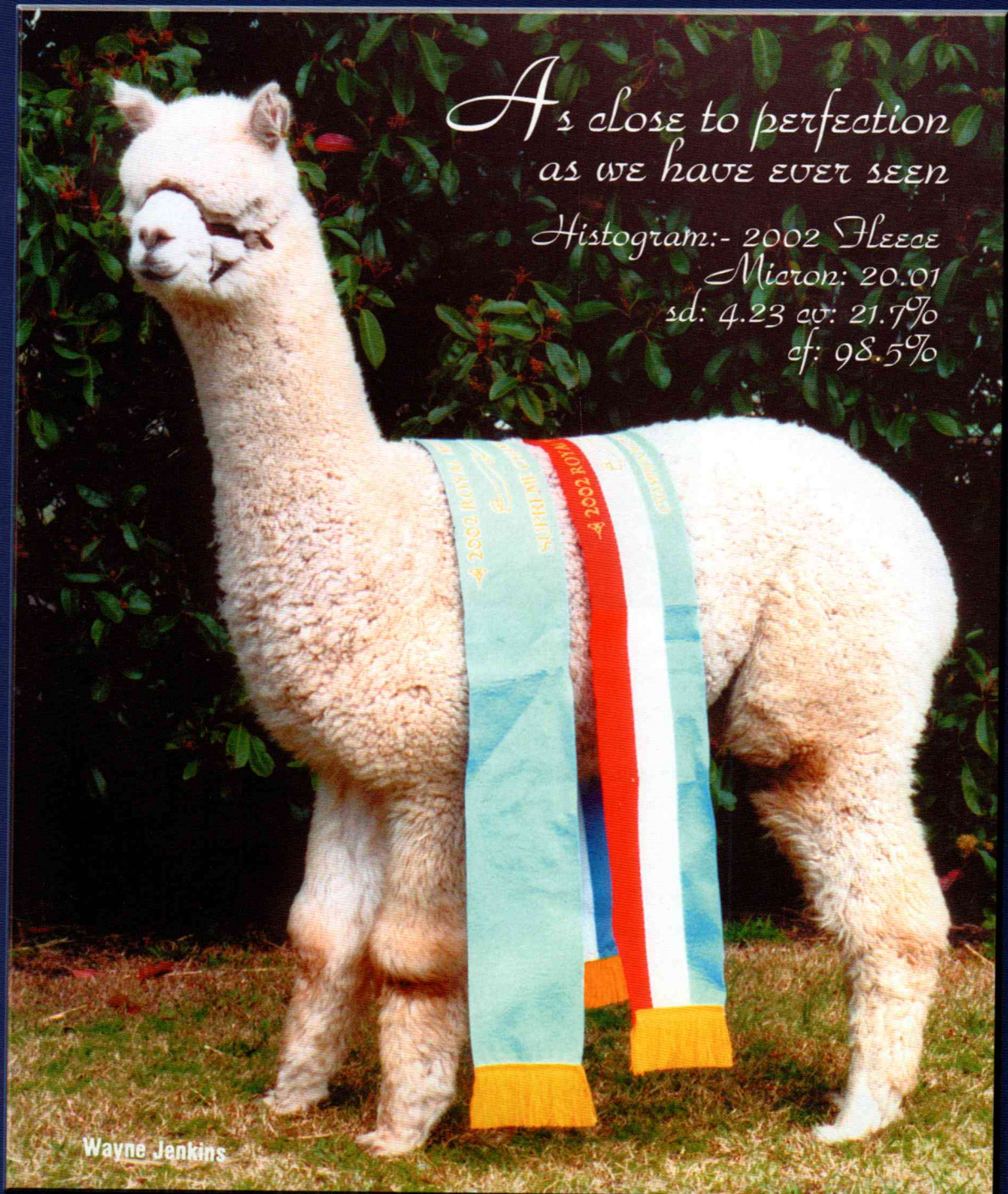
general public a good overall picture of the industry. An impressive range of natural fibre and hand-knitted garments complemented the site display and the general Field Days fashion parade included alpaca garments.

The AAA site drew a lot of attention from visitors and was partly due to the enthusiasm and friendliness of the contributors. Knowing that few can resist the desire to pat the big-eyed, alert and captivating alpaca the breeders welcomed and encouraged visitors to get up close and personal – including me. ■





# *Fine Choice* PERUVIAN ULTIMO



## SUPREME CHAMPION

Ultimo is unique as a mature male  
He holds a remarkable and even fleece  
~ density, fineness, crimp, and lustre ~  
with an eye-catching aristocratic presence

Adelaide Royal Show, 2002  
Melbourne Royal Show, 2002  
Ballarat Sheep and Wool Show, 2002  
Strathalbyn, 2002  
Clare, 2002  
Adelaide Royal Show, 2003  
Hamilton Show, 2003

Available for mobile service at your farm  
throughout SA, Vic and NSW

[www.finechoicealpacos.com](http://www.finechoicealpacos.com) or phone **Chris Williams 0417 826 762**



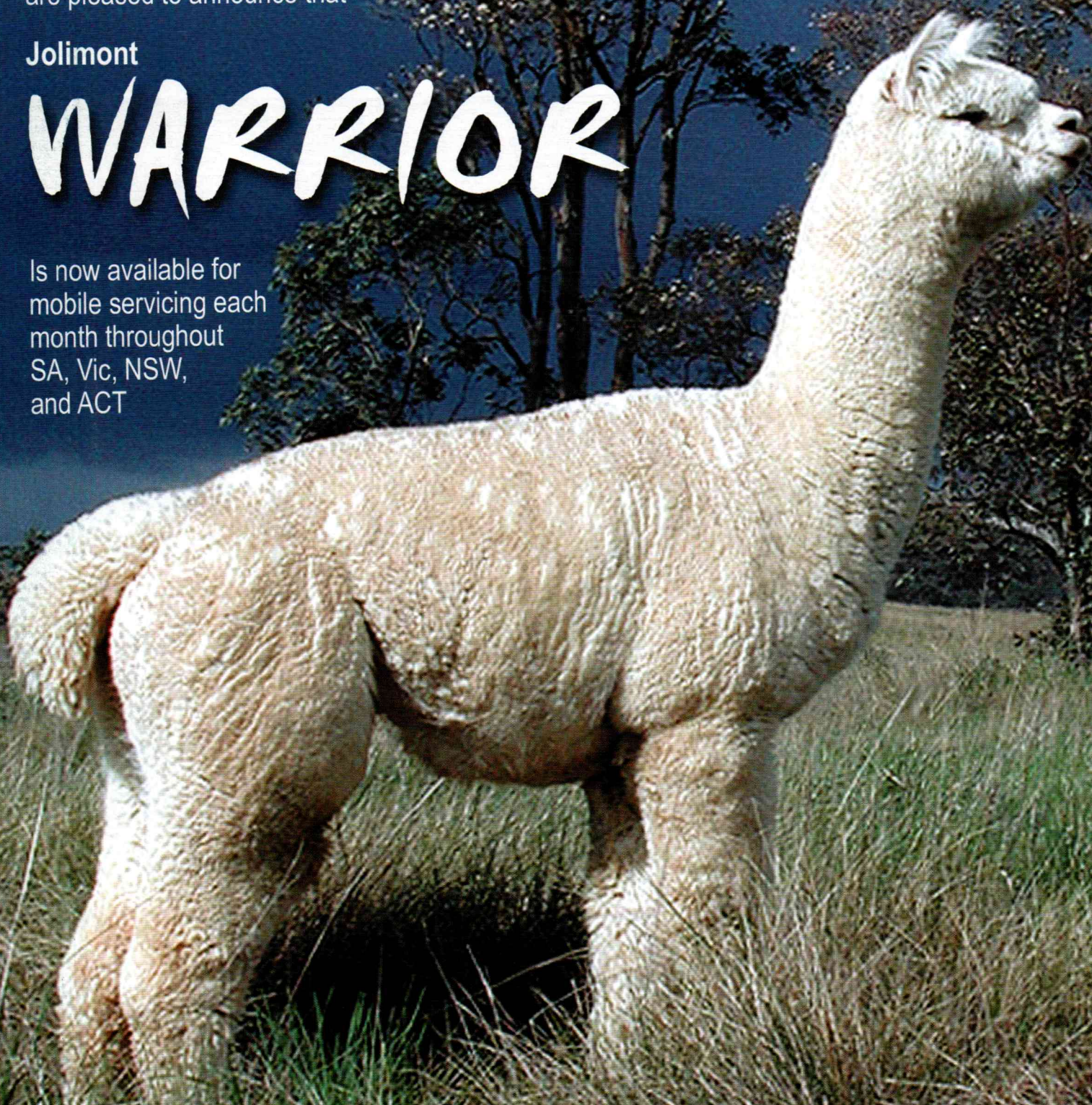
*Ambersun Alpacas &  
Ichiban Alpacas*

are pleased to announce that

Jolimont

# WARRIOR

Is now available for  
mobile servicing each  
month throughout  
SA, Vic, NSW,  
and ACT



**The Sire of the AAA National Show 2003  
Supreme Champion Huacaya**

Photo: J. Mavros

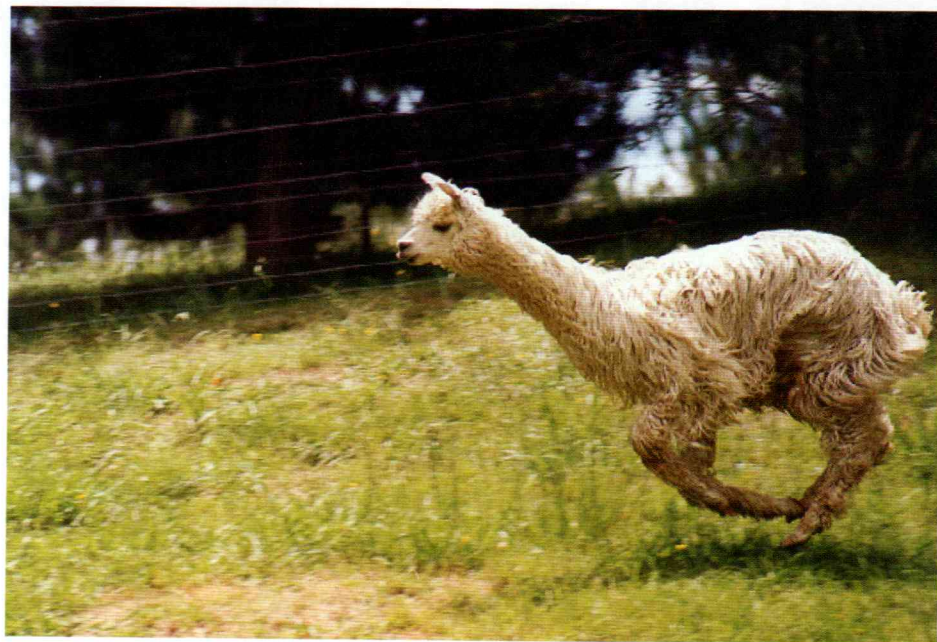
Contact: [www.ambersunalpacas.com/warrior](http://www.ambersunalpacas.com/warrior)  
Chris: 0417 826 762



# Homozygous suris in alpaca breeding

by Dr PIERRE BAYCHELIER  
Alcazar Suri Stud, NSW

*Breeding suris can be achieved using different paths: crossing with huacayas, grading up or breeding pure suris. Whatever the approach, it is extremely important to try to only use homozygous males for mating. This paper briefly reviews the advantages and disadvantages of crossing. It then concentrates on the issue of identifying homozygous suris, either by test mating or by study of their pedigree.*



## INTRODUCTION

It would appear that, almost since the very first introduction of suris into Australia, alpaca breeders have experimented by crossing them with huacayas<sup>8</sup>. From these very early experiments, it gradually became clear that the huacaya and suri phenotypes are more than likely governed by a single gene, with two alleles: S and s<sup>2,3</sup>. The S allele is supposedly completely dominant over the s allele and the three possible combinations result in the three following phenotypes:

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

## CROSSING SURIS AND HUACAYAS: WHY AND WHY NOT?

There are advantages and disadvantages in crossing suris and huacayas. These have already been discussed in a previous paper (What is a pure suri? *Alpacas Australia* Issue 39) but are repeated below for the reader's convenience.

### Advantages of crossing

#### Cost

Using cheaper female huacayas and crossing them with male suris, you will produce low cost suris. If the male suri you are using is homozygous [SS], you will get 100% suri progeny; if the male you are using is heterozygous [Ss], you will get 50% suri progeny and 50% huacaya progeny.

#### Hybrid vigour

Hybrid vigour is maximal in the F1 generation. Hybrid vigour translates into concrete advantages for the breeder:

- F1's are quite robust and need little attention; therefore they make ideal commercial animals for fleece production.

- F1's develop well and often have an advantage on the show scene. As only the phenotype is judged, a good F1 should receive a ribbon when competing against poorer pure suris.
- F1's usually have excellent fertility and mothering ability.

#### Import suri genes in the huacaya population

- Lustre genes
- Low-medullation genes

#### Import huacaya genes in the suri population

- Density genes
- Colour genes

### Disadvantages of crossing

#### Time consuming

See section: **Grading up** (next page).

#### Hybrid vigour is not heritable

- Two inbred animals can give a vigorous hybrid. Example: an inbred Peruvian x an inbred Chilean = a vigorous hybrid
- Two vigorous hybrids can give an inbred animal. Example: 2 F1's (vigorous hybrids) from the same parents, mated together, give an inbred F2.



Hybrid vigour is maximal in F1 then 50% is lost in F2

If breeding for hybrid vigour is your aim, you should make sure that the F1's are your finished product.

Independent segregation of characters in F2 (Mendel's second law)

- Do not cross F1's together! This will result in unwanted surprises.
- What to do with male F1's? They are heterozygous, not only for the S gene but also for all the other genes that make a suri a good suri. Keep them for fleece production or for showing but do not breed from them.

Crossing may diminish suri hardness and other typical characteristics

The suri is suspected to be stronger and more robust than the huacaya and to live longer<sup>5, 7</sup>. The males are more virile and the females breed more readily<sup>5</sup>. Its fleece is much more lustrous and softer, exhibits a lower degree of medullation, is more even for micron over the body<sup>6</sup> and grows 1 to 2 cm longer in a given year<sup>7</sup>. Will all these commercially important characteristics be maintained in hybrids? What we know about such traits in other species, especially sheep, suggests that they are governed by polygenes and are therefore inherited in a quantitative additive manner. This suggests that they would be halved in hybrids.

Note, however, that this last issue comes from a suri breeding point of view only. If you take the huacaya point of view, then it may be a good idea to mate F1's back to the huacaya type, in an effort to obtain improved huacaya fleece.

Grading up

Now that many of the first generation F1's are reaching reproductive age, we are starting to see the second generation on the ground. Many advertising articles refer to the progeny of F1's as F2's. This is not always correct.

An F2 is the product of two F1's mated together:

F1 x F1 = F2

The product of an F1 mated back to a suri (or to a huacaya for that matter) is called a **backcross** in short BC, or more precisely **BC1** for first generation backcross:

suri x F1 = BC1

A BC1 mated again to a suri, gives a backcross 2 or BC2... etc

suri x BC1 = BC2

suri x BC2 = BC3

Typically, when you reach the BC3 stage, you have more than 93% suri blood (15 pure suri great great grand parents, for one huacaya great great grand parent) and can consider that you are back to a pure suri stage. This is called **grading up**<sup>1, 4</sup>. See Figure 1 below.

The importance of using homozygous suris

Whether you are breeding pure suris, grading up to the suri type or rather interested in producing F1's for fleece production or for showing, **it is of the utmost importance that you use pure suri males, or at least homozygous males [SS], in your breeding programme.** This is easily understood by studying Figure 1 again. Pure suris have a higher probability of being homozygous<sup>4</sup>.

The remaining part of this article will discuss how homozygous suris can be identified.

TEST MATING SURIS

Testing suris by mating with huacayas

The best method to check if an animal is homozygous or heterozygous is to mate this animal to the recessive homozygous type. This is a Mendelian "recipe" that never fails. In the case of alpacas, the best method is therefore to mate the suri you want to test to a huacaya. In practice, it is easier and quicker to test a suri male by mating him to huacaya females than to test a suri female by mating her to huacaya males, although the principle of testing would essentially be the same in both situations. So test mating is usually only used for males. There are other ways to "test" females (see below).

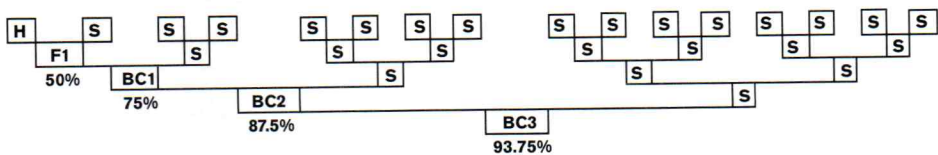
Table 1 below returns the probability that a suri is homozygous after a given number of matings with huacayas, all producing suri offspring. Of course, as soon as you obtain a huacaya in such test matings, you can be 100% sure that the suri tested is heterozygous [Ss].

Table 1 – Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS], after a given number of matings to huacayas [ss], all producing suri offspring

| Number of suri offspring from matings to huacayas | Probability |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1                                                 | 50.0%       |
| 2                                                 | 75.0%       |
| 3                                                 | 87.5%       |
| 4                                                 | 93.8%       |
| 5                                                 | 96.9%       |
| 6                                                 | 98.4%       |
| 7                                                 | 99.2%       |
| 8                                                 | 99.6%       |
| 9                                                 | 99.8%       |
| 10                                                | 99.9%       |
| 11                                                | 100.0% *    |
| 12                                                | 100.0% **   |

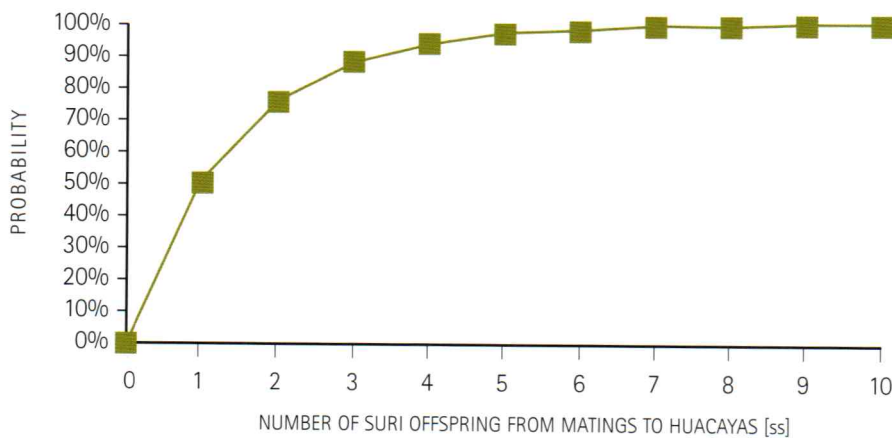
\* The exact figure is 99.9512%  
\*\* The exact figure is 99.9756%

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





**Figure 2 – Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS], after a given number of matings to huacayas [ss], all producing suri offspring**



This is also presented graphically on Figure 2.

This means that, in practice, you only need to mate an "untested" suri male to 5 huacaya females to be more than 95% sure that the male is homozygous.

### Testing suris by mating with suris?

It is easy to understand that it would require more matings to suri females in order to prove that a male suri is homozygous. If you mate the untested suri male to homozygous females, you cannot draw any conclusion. However, if you mate the male to proven heterozygous females then you can still test this male for homozygosity.

The equation used to return the probability is<sup>9</sup>:

$$P = 1 - \Pi(P_{Bbi} + \frac{3}{4} P_{Bbi} + \frac{1}{2} P_{bbi})^{n_i}$$

This equation is complex and I have simplified it, as follows:

$$P = 1 - (0.5 + \frac{3}{4} \times 0.5)^{n_1} \times (\frac{3}{4})^{n_2} \times (\frac{1}{2})^{n_3} \\ = 1 - (0.875)^{n_1} \times (0.75)^{n_2} \times (0.5)^{n_3}$$

where **P** is the probability of the male being homozygous, **n<sub>1</sub>** is the number of suri offspring out of randomly chosen suri females, **n<sub>2</sub>** is the number of suri offspring out of known heterozygous suri females, and **n<sub>3</sub>** is the number of suri offspring out of huacaya females.

Note that, if only matings to huacayas are taken into account, then **n<sub>1</sub>**=0 and **n<sub>2</sub>**=0 and the equation becomes:

$$P = 1 - (0.5)^{n_3}$$

which is the equation used to return the probabilities presented above in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Note also that, in the equation, it is assumed that "randomly chosen" suri females are defined as having a 50% chance of being homozygous ( $P_{BB}=0.5$ ) and a 50% chance of being heterozygous ( $P_{Bb}=0.5$ ). This is probably conservative, knowing that the suri population in Australia in year 2000 was made up of approximately 50% F1's<sup>2</sup>. Therefore the proportion of heterozygous females in the Australian suri population is probably higher than 50%.

Example: A suri was mated to 1 huacaya, 2 known heterozygous suris and 5 randomly chosen suris and produced suri offspring only. What is the probability that this animal is homozygous?

The answer is:

$$P = 1 - (0.875)^5 \times (0.75)^2 \times (0.5)^1 = \\ 0.8557 \text{ or } 85.6\%.$$

This probability, obtained after 8 matings, is still low compared to mating to 5 huacayas.

More theoretical results are presented in Figure 3, where it becomes immediately apparent that the most powerful test to use is to mate the unproven suri male to huacayas, as described previously. However, information from other matings, collected for example on the International Alpaca Registry (IAR) database or herd book, can be very useful too.

### USING SURI PEDIGREES

Pedigrees can also be used to return a probability of homozygosity and it is sometimes the only method available. This is certainly the case for young animals that do not have any progeny on the ground ("unproven males") or for females, who typically have fewer progeny than males.

### Calculation principle

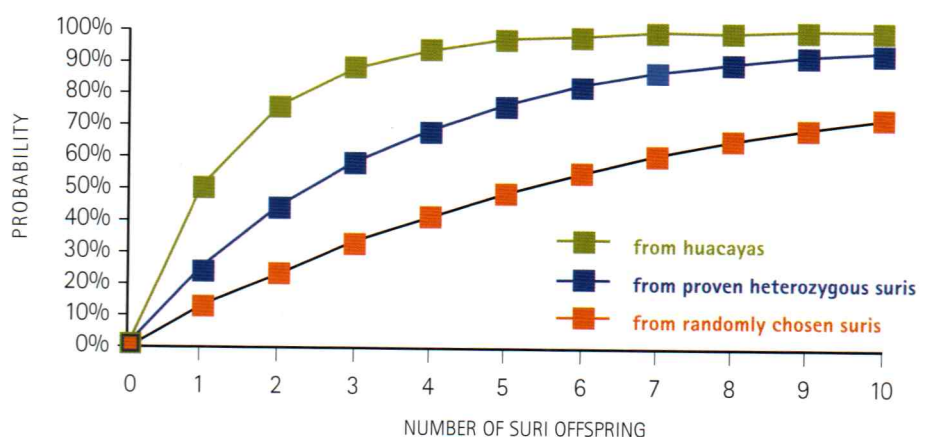
The calculation principle is very simple and has been explained in a previous article<sup>4</sup>. An example will illustrate the concept. Let us imagine the mating of two F1's. By definition, these two animals are heterozygous [Ss].

The mating will produce:

- a homozygous suri [SS] with a 25% probability or 0.25;
- a heterozygous suri [Ss] with a 50% probability or 0.5;
- a huacaya [ss] with a 25% probability or 0.25.

This means that, if you consider the suri progeny only, the probability that the offspring is homozygous is  $0.25 / (0.25 + 0.5) = 0.33$  or 33% and the probability that the offspring is heterozygous is  $0.5 / (0.25 + 0.5) = 0.67$  or 67% (or  $1 - 0.33 = 0.67$ ).

**Figure 3 – Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS], after a given number of matings, all producing suri offspring**





Results

Table 2 (right) returns the probability according to the status of the sire, the maternal grand-sire and the maternal grand-dam. Again, an animal defined as "untested suri" means that there is a 50% probability it is homozygous and a 50% probability it is heterozygous.

Out of these results, two graphs are presented below. Figure 4 illustrates that the maternal grand-sire and the maternal grand-dam have a similar influence on the outcome. Figure 5 represents the most usual situation, where the maternal grand-dam is of unknown status.

Table 2 only takes into account three of the ancestors. Of course, if you have access to a more detailed pedigree, as we will in the future, you can apply the same calculation principle to the whole series of ancestors and return an even more accurate probability.

Table 2 - Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS] according to ancestry

| MATERNAL GRAND-SIRE |                        |                 |                          |              | MATERNAL GRAND-DAM       |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| SIRE                | proven homozygous [SS] | untested suri * | proven heterozygous [Ss] | huacaya [ss] |                          |
| proven              | 100%                   | 88%             | 75%                      | 50%          | proven homozygous [SS]   |
| homozygous          | 88%                    | 80%             | 71%                      | 50%          | untested suri*           |
| [SS] #              | 75%                    | 71%             | 67%                      | 50%          | proven heterozygous [Ss] |
|                     | 50%                    | 50%             | 50%                      | 0%           | huacaya [ss]             |
| untested suri *     | 75%                    | 68%             | 60%                      | 43%          | proven homozygous [SS]   |
|                     | 68%                    | 63%             | 58%                      | 43%          | untested suri *          |
|                     | 60%                    | 58%             | 55%                      | 43%          | proven heterozygous [Ss] |
|                     | 43%                    | 43%             | 43%                      | 0%           | huacaya [ss]             |
| proven              | 50%                    | 47%             | 43%                      | 33%          | proven homozygous [SS]   |
| heterozygous        | 47%                    | 44%             | 42%                      | 33%          | untested suri *          |
| [Ss]                | 43%                    | 42%             | 40%                      | 33%          | proven heterozygous [Ss] |
|                     | 33%                    | 33%             | 33%                      | 0%           | huacaya [ss]             |

\* 50% probability of being homozygous and 50% probability of being heterozygous  
# To be perfectly correct, from a statistical point of view, a suri can be proven heterozygous, whereas it can never be proven homozygous. As soon as a suri has one huacaya in its progeny, one can be absolutely sure that the suri is heterozygous – as long as this is not a registration mistake. However, a suri cannot be proven homozygous. It is only possible to return a probability of being homozygous, and this probability never reaches 100%, although it can be very close.

Figure 4 - Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS] according to ancestry, given that the sire is homozygous

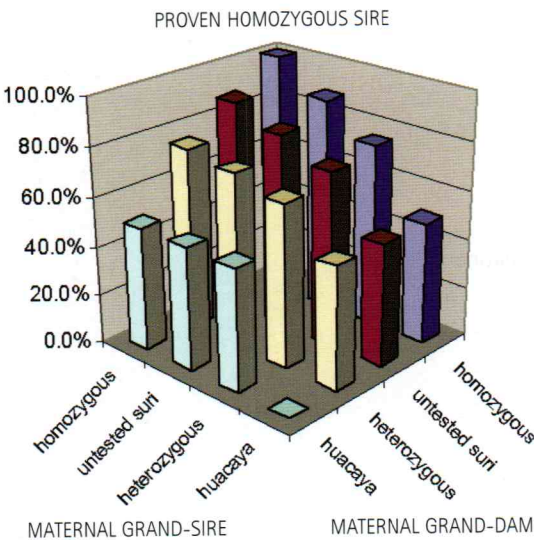
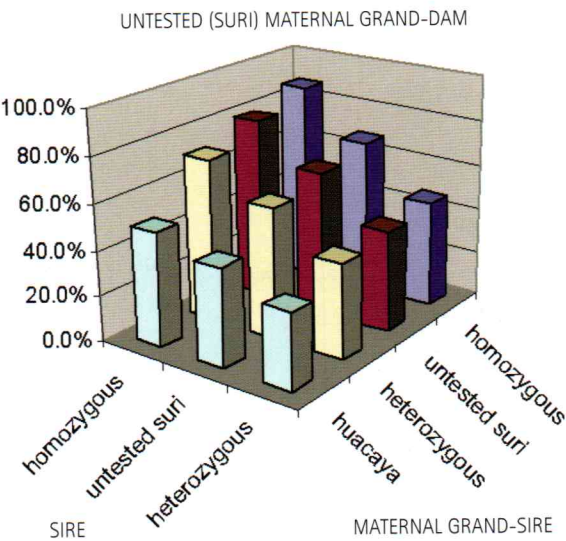


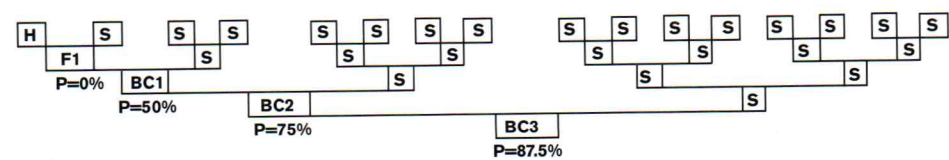
Figure 5 - Probability that a suri is homozygous [SS] according to ancestry, given that the maternal grand-dam is an untested suri



GRADING UP REVISITED

The reader may have noticed that, in Figure 1, the figures in % represent the % of suri blood, not the probability of being homozygous. However, if we assume that all pure suris are indeed homozygous, then this BC3 pedigree can be redrawn and the probability for each backcross being homozygous can be calculated. See Figure 6 (right). ■

Figure 6 - Pedigree of a backcross 3 – The figures in % represent the PROBABILITY OF BEING HOMOZYGOUS [SS] (H huacaya, S HOMOZYGOUS suri, F1 first filial generation, BC1 backcross 1, BC2 backcross 2, BC3 backcross 3) – F1, BC1, BC2 and BC3 exhibit the suri phenotype





## CONCLUSION

When breeding suris, because the S allele is dominant over the s allele, it is of the utmost importance to use homozygous suri males. The same applies to females but it is not always possible to ensure that the female used is homozygous.

The best way to check that a suri is homozygous is to mate it with at least 5 huacayas (test mating). The results of suri to suri matings can also be used but are not as powerful a tool in returning a meaningful conclusion. Moreover, for young males and females, the use of pedigree can also be of great assistance. This is particularly important when selecting a young animal for purchase. ■

## Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Mr Brenton Spehr and Mr Glen Riley for their assistance in the writing of this article.

## References

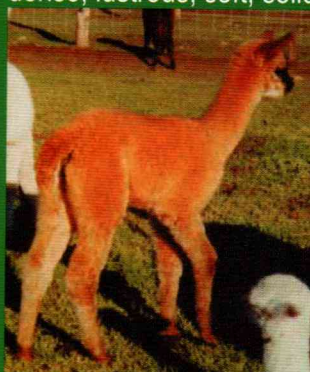
1. BAYCHELIER P. – *Crossing huacayas and suris* – Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Blue Mountains Region of the AAA, Volume 8, Issue 3, pp 10-11, July 2002.
2. BAYCHELIER P. – *Suri and huacaya: two alleles or two genes?* – Proceedings of the 2000 Australian Alpaca Association National Conference, Canberra, pp 79 to 85, 2000.
3. PONZONI R.W. et al. – *Phenotypes resulting from huacaya by huacaya, suri by huacaya and suri by suri alpaca crossings* – Proceedings of the International Alpaca Industry Seminar, Sydney, pp 11-13, 1997
4. BAYCHELIER P. – *What is a pure suri?* – *Alpacas Australia*, issue 39, pp 30-33, Summer 2002
5. BILLINGTON W. – *Suri Education Day* – Cedar House Alpaca Stud, Yass, 16th July 2000
6. HOLT C. – *Alpaca Fibre Production Course Notes* – International School of Fibres, 2000
7. BARREDA J. – *Let's save the Suri* – Alpaca International News, pp 7-12, 1994
8. KEANE S. – *A pot of gold at the end of the Chilean rainbow?* – *Alpacas Australia*, Issue 28, pp 30-37, 1999
9. BOURDON R.M. – *Understanding animal breeding* – Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1997

This article is © Alcazar Suri Stud and cannot be reproduced without Pierre Baychelier's authorisation.

Correspondence to be addressed to [pierre@alcazar.com.au](mailto:pierre@alcazar.com.au) or to PO Box 254, Lithgow NSW 2790 AUSTRALIA.



their first cria are here  
black, white, fawn, grey  
dense, lustrous, soft, solid



**Talca Alpacas**  
Christine and Nick  
Veltjens  
03 5978 8666

[alpaca@talca-alpacas.com.au](mailto:alpaca@talca-alpacas.com.au)  
[www.talca-alpacas.com.au](http://www.talca-alpacas.com.au)

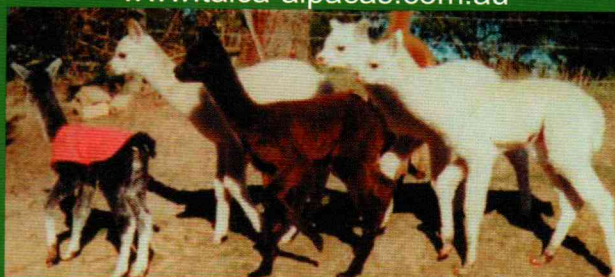
Our Sires:

Talca Black Onyx  
solid black Suri, so far  
producing only Suri

Talca Zamora of Peru  
Solid black

Talca Charango of Peru  
Solid white

**Miralana Alpacas**  
Jocelyn Cairns  
03 5978 8414





# Alpacas in two different kinds of "shows" in Queensland

## In business

**e**arlier this year, the Helensvale State High School in Queensland participated in the "International Small Business Show" held at Parklands, on the beautiful Gold Coast.

The Business Education Department of the school had secured sponsorship from local businesses and enlisted the support of local alpaca breeders to enable the young entrepreneurs to mount an alpaca industry display at the exhibition.

The Show offers students the opportunity to forge links with many businesses in a broad range of industries. Most of the participating students had not handled an alpaca before and were delighted to be part of the promotion of the burgeoning alpaca industry.



Helensvale State High School Young Entrepreneurs International Small Business Show – Gold Coast 2003.



These students had never handled alpacas before this day.

## On TV

**a** new program, aimed at the late primary school age to mid teen market, airing each weekday and recorded at Channel 9's Brisbane studios, recently put out a call for two alpacas to appear in a show. Ann Henderson of Barkala Alpacas and Rachael McKay of Jalminca Alpacas answered the call to pre-record the segment of "(HOT) Source" and their two well-behaved young males charmed viewers and the show's presenters, Miranda and Asha. Both boys chose to remain aloof, allowing Ann and Rachael to explain the advantages and enjoyment of being involved with alpacas.

The alpacas handled the bright lights and the conditions extremely well and were great ambassadors for the alpaca industry in Queensland. ■



(L-R) Show presenter, Miranda, with Ann Henderson and Rachael McKay.



# The Royals 2003

## ROYAL BRISBANE SHOW

by CAMILLA SMITH, Show Convenor

The Royal Brisbane Show proved once again to be an excellent opportunity for participating breeders to promote their stud and advance interest in our Industry.

This year my job was made easier because of the co-operation and help of a dedicated handful of volunteers. The cheerful atmosphere apparent amongst our members and the ease of operations can certainly be attributed to their input.

Our new Australian Alpacamark made the appropriate statement in the wool pavilion and heralded our first time for fleece classes. Twenty fleeces were entered in the inaugural show and breeders were encouraged to consider selecting a 'show fleece' at their next shearing so that we can look forward to increased exhibits in 2004.

With a large crowd surrounding the ring to witness the judging it seemed an appropriate time to highlight the importance of our fleece. During morning tea break for the judge and stewards the fleece results were announced. The Champion Huacaya Fleece went to *Grindon Jobangles* exhibited by Sunline Alpacas, Tanawha, Qld and the Champion Suri Fleece was awarded to *Beavona Lodge Shake-N-Shimmer* exhibited by Beavona Lodge Suri Alpaca Stud, Wonbah, Qld.

The "Camelid Country" display provided a focal point to educate show patrons on the merits of our animals. Bob and Sylva Barns actually move in for the 10 days of the show and create a wonderful display that includes alpacas and llamas that have been educated to 'handle people' well, so it seems when in Bob's hands. This base also provided a centre for the distribution of a basic information flier entitled, "Alpacas! Feel the Fleece of the Future!" This flier proved to be very popular and provided visitors with 'food for thought' (or was that fleece?), with 120 of these visitors recording their desire to have further information provided. The volunteers who assisted on this stand this year agree that there is the potential to create an even more educational atmosphere, and plan to combine their efforts in this direction for future years.

Friday was judging day, and if we can overlook the disappointment of missing TV coverage due to the RNA's incorrect location details we must be inspired by the large crowd that filled the seats around the ring. Our judge, Allan Jinks, took up the challenge to assess the quality of those animals presented before him and awarded ribbons accordingly.

His years of experience were often reflected in his comments and it is hoped that this was rewarding for exhibitors and observers alike. From his comments it seems we can achieve a fine fleece, but the challenge of a fine dense fleece remains.

Major placings were awarded as follows:

### Champion Junior Female Huacaya:

*Waitui Aravis*

### Champion Junior Male Huacaya:

*Adori Swagman*

### Champion Intermediate Female Huacaya:

*Glenhope Annie Nova*

### Champion Intermediate Male Huacaya:

*Eleebana Statesman*

### Champion Senior Female:

*Starwood Gazali*

### Champion Senior Male:

*Illawarra Wenoim*

### Champion Junior Suri:

*Paltarra Mikado*

### Champion Intermediate Suri:

*Paltarra Breeze*

### Champion Senior Suri:

*Paltarra Kazaly*

Full details of the show results are available on the AAA web site [www.alpaca.asn.au](http://www.alpaca.asn.au)



Supreme Champion Huacaya  
*Illawarra Wenoim*



Supreme Champion Suri  
*Paltarra Kazaly*

Judging over, it was time to attend afternoon tea, hosted by our Council Steward, Mrs Joan Scott. Joan welcomed our National President, Mr Kerry Dwyer and acknowledged the generosity of our sponsors and support of all who had contributed to the success of this Royal.

An informal function in the evening provided attending members some time to relax and ask those questions they had always been meaning to ask the National President. We enjoyed good food, good wine and of course good company that evening, and talked of how we can do it better in 2004.



## ROYAL PERTH SHOW

by LEN ROSE, WA Central Region Publicity Officer

The 2003 Royal Perth Show, held from Saturday 27 September through to Saturday 4 October, was an outstanding success. Its success was testimony to the tremendous pre-show organisational efforts of the show committee, ably assisted by numerous breeder volunteers.

The Tom Wilder Pavilion at the Claremont Showgrounds, the traditional exhibition venue for the Western Australian Alpaca Association, was transformed into a visual spectacle with an abundance of potted and flowering shrubs, topiary flowering azaleas and capped off with a pair of structured shrubs in the form of single alpacas.

Visitors and exhibitors of other animals at the show were treated to an interesting and comprehensive product display of the alpaca industry ranging from live animals, both Huacaya and Suri, providing the raw fleece; exceptional static displays of alpaca craft, hand knitted garments, alpaca fleece felting and spinning; to the finished products of superior quality garments including shawls, dresses, coats, hats and other items.

One of the highlights of the 8-day event was the "Shearing to Garment" competition, which attracted a huge audience. This competition, commencing with several exhibition animals being shorn on site, their fleeces immediately skirted, carded and spun by competitor teams and knitted within a given period of time enabled the competitive nature (*read devious strategies*) of some team participants to come to the fore.

In excess of 5,000 visitors attended the Alpaca Exhibition during the Show that resulted in a substantial number of enquiries for Information Kits from the Australian Alpaca Association.

The 2003 Royal Show once again set a new record for the number of alpaca entries, with 53 exhibitors showing a total of 192 animals, including 30 Suri and 162 Huacaya.

The quality of animals on display was highly complimented by the Judge, Ms Jude Anderson from Torquay, Victoria. In her summary of the animals, Jude was heard to mention that any of the various ribbon winners would be more than welcome at her stud. (*Not surprisingly, she was not rushed with offers of blue ribbon donations*).

Jude's judging style was very well received by all breeders and exhibitors, with numerous complimentary comments having been heard on her flair, thoroughness, speed and consistency. Personally, I was impressed by her stamina in being able to get through a large program on a fairly muggy day and maintain a beaming smile while doing an extremely difficult job. Congratulations and thank you Jude, from the WA members.

The President of the Western Australia Central Region, Ron Reid expressed his appreciation of the extraordinary efforts of the organising committee for their work in making the 2003 Royal Show a great success, with a special mention to Pearl Urquhart and her volunteers for their efforts in creating and setting up the static displays.

In the Championship classes, Huacayas from six different breeders won the nine championship ribbons on offer, with Encantador, Banksia Park and Swan Valley each winning two, Peppermint Pool, Windsong Valley and Port Arlington winning one each.



Supreme Champion Huacaya  
*Blue Grass Centurion*

Wesuri Alpacas made a clean sweep of all the championship ribbons for the Suri classes, which is testament to the exceptional quality Suri alpacas in the Wesuri herd.

The Supreme Champion Huacaya for 2003 Perth Royal Show was *Blue Grass Centurion*, a recently purchased addition to the strong Encantador Stud of Murray and Judy Stannard.

The Supreme Champion Suri for 2003 Perth Royal Show was *Wesuri Heritage Andean Moon*, bred and shown by Lorraine James of Wesuri Alpacas.

Despite the extreme length of the Perth Royal Show (8 days for exhibitors), a cooperative and friendly atmosphere was evident from early on the first Saturday right through to 5pm the following Saturday.

The spirit of enthusiasm shown by all exhibitors/breeders towards the huge number of visitors in answering a myriad of questions while managing to maintain a positive and cooperative attitude was once again evident. This must reflect extremely positively on the way members of the public view the Alpaca Industry and can only result in them harbouring good vibes from their experience.

It is hoped that the large number of visitors, relatively high number of enquiries for AAA Information Kits and overall success of the show, is reflected in a continuation of growth for the Alpaca Industry in Western Australia.



Supreme Champion Suri  
*Wesuri Heritage Andean Moon*



## ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

by LEA RICHENS, Show Convenor,  
RAS Liaison Officer

The 2003 Royal Adelaide Show held from 29 August to 6 September again hosted the alpaca competitive section during the first half of the Show, an alpaca display section for the second half with the fleece section on display throughout the duration of the Show.

From a Convenor's viewpoint this year saw both highlights and disappointments. On the positive side were record entries - accommodating the 186 alpaca entries presented a few hiccups but did present magnificent competition and an impressive display of many of the best alpacas in the nation. There was also an increase in the number of fleece entries and Vaughan Wilson's dedication and creativity again presented a feature display which attracted the attention of many.

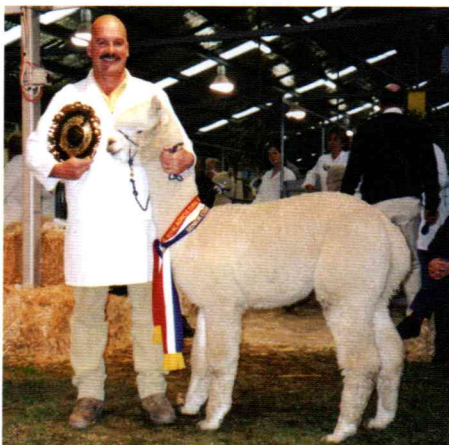
Excellent shed facilities, dedicated RAS shed attendants, an enclosed arena area that added comfort for spectators and

the addition of some lockers all earned positive feedback. Judging went smoothly under the expertise of Lyn Dickson and her constructive commentary was most helpful to exhibitors and onlookers. Congratulations to all ribbon winners in both the Alpaca and Fleece Sections and thank you to all participants.

The challenge of poor air circulation and the unpopular, but necessary, decision to restrict movement for the 2003 Show were

the main areas of concern. Unfortunately many of those who were most vocal in their criticisms chose not to contribute through the requested feedback channels.

I would like to recognise and thank the many helpers who assisted in all tasks leading up to the Show itself and throughout the duration of the Show. To those who volunteered as stewards and marshals - a special thank you. Your support is valued and appreciated.



**Supreme Champion Huacaya**  
*Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo*



**Supreme Champion Suri**  
*Pinjarra Gold Rush*

## ROYAL HOBART SHOW

by ALAN FROOME, Tasmania Region

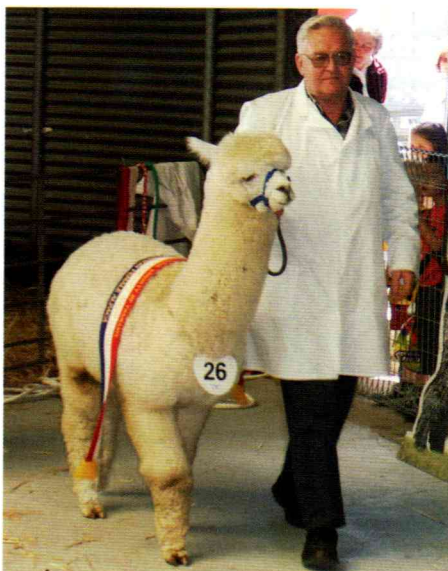
The 2003 Royal Hobart Agricultural Show wound up on Saturday, October 25 after four days of judging and displays. Exhibitors were lucky that they could take their alpacas home at the end of each day to relieve their stress of being in a pen situation.

45 Huacaya and Suri Alpacas were exhibited in a smaller venue than previously allocated which made for an interesting and somewhat more compact environment.

Breeders came together from northern and southern Tasmania to have their animals displayed and judged. Judge Dianne Condon carried out the official duties and gave informative comments after each class was judged. She also gave of her time to talk to the attending breeders at an informative get-together with a light supper offered at the end of the judging day. The discussions held and questions asked by those present were very constructive. Dianne stated that this region would benefit if members and non-members entered wethers in the Show, which would greatly increase the animals on display to the public

and encourage alpaca owners to become members of the AAA and be actively involved in the Tasmanian Region.

The Supreme Champion Fleece, from *Clarence Point Mr Top Notch*, a black alpaca, and exhibited by Glenn and Jean Bruce of Clarence Point Alpacas, was described as being of a high quality. Reserve Champion Fleece, from *Terrabarb Awling*, a fawn animal, was exhibited by Terry and Barbara Hanlon of Terrabarb Alpacas.



**Supreme Champion Huacaya**  
*Clarence Point Bayden*

Supreme Champion Huacaya was awarded to *Clarence Point Bayden*, exhibited by Glenn and Jean Bruce of Clarence Point Alpacas, who also won at the Royal Launceston Show and recently the Seymour Show in Victoria.

Suri numbers this year increased to 14 and as a result of the increased numbers the Supreme Champion Suri award went to *Pinjarra Alice*, a pure white suri, exhibited by Alan and Coleen Froome of Chakaya Alpacas. Alice also was the best white at the Royal Launceston Show.



**Supreme Champion Suri**  
*Pinjarra Alice*



## ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

by GEOFF HARGREAVES, Show Convenor

The alpaca event at the Melbourne Royal continues to be a huge attraction to the public, breeders of other livestock and alpaca breeders who visit from other states. Several innovations were introduced this year that will become the foundation of even better shows in the future. All three days were used for major events in the magnificent show ring.

Dividing the Huacaya judging between the junior classes on the Friday afternoon and the remainder on the Saturday presented the public with interesting and informative spectacles and better opportunity for them to discuss alpacas and the industry with exhibitors. Importantly, the more relaxed schedule encouraged greater social and business interaction between exhibitors, building on the main social event – the dinner in the ring on Friday night.

Sunday became "Suri Sunday"!

### Suris, Suris Everywhere!

The RAS committee had agreed that the Suri alpaca would be the feature breed for the Sheep, Goat and Alpaca Section for 2003. Suri breeders responded magnificently with the number of entries increasing from 44 in 2002 to 89 in 2003, making this the biggest national Suri show to date. Seventy-six Suris presented in the ring with classes of 8 to 12 being common. Most remarkably, the sire progeny event displayed five teams of three to the delight of judge, Julianne Gelber.

On Sunday afternoon, the Suri breeders continued with demonstrations and an exposé of the Suri type in the ring that attracted both breeder and public interest.

### Huacaya Quality

The Huacaya competition was very strong with an increase in the number of exhibitors from other states. Several junior classes attracted greater than 20 entries, which fired the enthusiasm of judge, Jenny Jackson. There were 284 entries with 239 presenting in the ring.

### Winnie the Pattable Alpaca

Exhibitors are often irritated by the many little (and big) hands thrust into the fleece of their exhibits standing innocently in the pens, particularly before judging. The small pens at Melbourne (*to be replaced as*

*part of the showgrounds redevelopment*) do not assist avoidance. This year, Winnie the pattable alpaca was present at the Information Table for cuddling and photo opportunities and enjoyed the attention. All exhibitors owe a debt to Jillian and Russell Holmes and Gloria Davis for this initiative. Winnie was awarded a blue ribbon as the best in his class.

### Thank You...

To the Victorian Regions' Show Committee which organised a great public and alpaca event; our judges – Jenny, Julianne and, particularly, Nerida Aldred, who stepped in at short notice to judge the fleeces; the stewards, recorders and other volunteers who continue to give their time and expertise so generously and the exhibitors who support this excellent show. ■



photograph Geoff Hargreaves

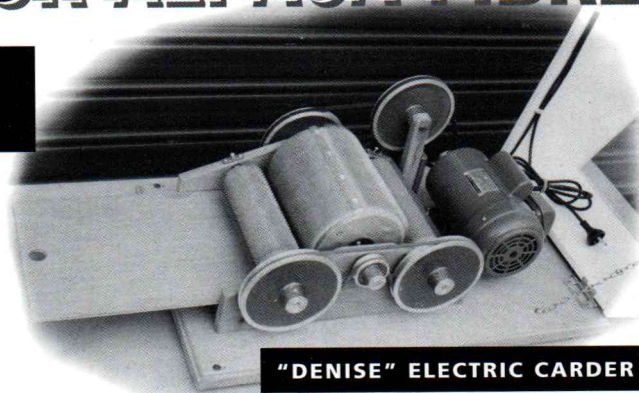
Hands-on at "Suri Sunday"

# ADD VALUE TO YOUR ALPACA FIBRE

**Enquire about equipment  
suitable for your needs**

- Electric Drum Carders (3 Drum Machines)
- Hand Drum Carders
- Electronic Hand Spinners

**PHONE OR FAX NOW  
(03) 9725 6253**



**"DENISE" ELECTRIC CARDER**

**ERTOEL WHEELS** Specialists in: Electronic Spinners and Carding Machines (Hand & Electric)  
FACTORY 7/45 VINTER AVE, CROYDON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3136 PH/FAX 61 3 9725 6253



# 'The Alpaca Sale of the Century'

by MARK GARNER  
Alpacapeña, NSW

*Australian alpaca breeders can learn a lot from the professionalism, preparation and presentation that Allan & Carolyn Jinks, of Benleigh Alpaca Stud, put into the auction of a significant portion of their elite herd, held on their farm on the beautiful Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria, on the weekend of 11 & 12 October 2003.*



## The auction:

Conducted by Wesfarmers Landmark, many months of preparation went into the event that Allan commented... "Was conceived about two years ago".

But no amount of preparation can account for the weather that varied from cold with intermittent rain, to warm and sunny. Not that this was a problem, because the auction, conducted for several hours from twilight on Saturday and then most of Sunday, was held in a magnificent marquee large enough to provide seating for about 400 attendees in addition to penning the majority of the animals on offer each day.

There were 22 lots of 29 alpacas presented and sold on Saturday, whilst on Sunday there were 69 lots of 119 alpacas. All lots were sold because 'no reserves' meant that a fair opportunity was available to all bidders.

The sale was made more notable for the four records that were set:

- **An Australian auction record for an alpaca female** – *Purrumbete Sweet Freedom* bought by Russell and Carolyn Nelson of New Zealand for \$66,000. Sweet Freedom is to remain in the care of Allan and Carolyn, to be mated to Benleigh Bellissimo and used for embryo transfers.

- **Second Australian record price for an alpaca male at auction** – *Purrumbete Brigantine*, who was the foundation of Benleigh's breeding programme. John, Penny and Matthew Pittard bought Brigantine for \$145,000. Brigantine will now stand at stud at the Pittard's property, Currabungla Alpacas, Laggan in the Southern Region of NSW.
- **First auction of an alpaca born by Embryo Transfer** – *Benleigh Benito*, bought by Steve and Joanne Marshall from South Australia.
- **First auction of a recipient female** carrying the embryo of two of Benleigh's elite animals, *Benleigh Flame* and *Benleigh Bellissimo*, both of whom will be retained by Benleigh. David Goulden of New Zealand bought this female for \$24,000.



*Purrumbete Sweet Freedom with (L-R) Carolyn Nelson, Carolyn and Allan Jinks, Russell Nelson.*

As most alpaca breeders in Australia are aware, Benleigh has arguably had, for many years, some of the best alpaca genetics in Australia. Also, through their tireless efforts, Allan, as a foundation member of the Australian Alpaca Association and a notable judge and Carolyn, as a co-author of two books on alpaca care, have raised Benleigh's image to be one of this country's highest profile studs.

Benleigh was instrumental in making it possible for Veterinarians, Dr David Hopkins and Dr Jane Vaughan, of the Bellarine Veterinary Practice, to achieve the first commercial embryo transfer in the world. Many of the animals that were donors, recipients and offspring of this innovative and groundbreaking technique were presented for purchase on the weekend. In addition Allan and Carolyn, over the years, have made their stud available to many veterinary students to gain practical experience, this practice now being adopted by other studs in this country.



But perhaps most impressive was that this sale set a record turnover of \$1,000,000 plus for an alpaca auction in Australia.

Other notable sales were:

- *Benleigh Petule* with her male cria at foot - bought by Frank and Julianne Gelber of Bumble Hill Alpacas in NSW for \$60,000. Petule is the daughter of *Purrumbete Brigantine* and *Purrumbete Sweet Freedom*. Petule's male cria was sired by *Benleigh Bellissimo*.
- *Benleigh Lorimer* - bought by a NSW and Victorian syndicate for \$85,000. Lorimer is the son of *Purrumbete Brigantine* and *Benleigh Lima*. Lima will remain a part of Benleigh's elite herd. Once working, Lorimer will stand at stud at Pinjarra Alpacas in Victorian Eastern Region and Alpacapeña in the Southern Region of NSW.

Subsequent to Saturday's twilight auction, Carolyn and Allan kindly provided drinks and canapés for 200 of the buyers at the nearby Bellarine Estate Winery, "where everybody could socialise and enjoy being part of this great industry" (Carolyn). It was a marvellous evening and it was clear that the excitement generated by the auction was made no less evident by the amount of fine wine that was consumed, or so one must assume by many 'somewhat seedy' customers at the following day's proceedings!

## Now what about the future?

Allan and Carolyn will continue to be a vital part of the Australian alpaca industry by maintaining an elite herd of breeding females with *Benleigh Bellissimo* standing at stud.

But it is not time for stopping, says Carolyn ... "Dr Ewen McMillan and I have plans for a third alpaca book next year and I have accepted nomination on the Regional Committee as well as being a part of the National Education and Training Subcommittee".

Carolyn went on to say, "Quarantine will continue to be a busy part of our lives and as for Allan, well he will continue with his interest in judging and the Australian Alpaca Co-operative, as well as fitting in some fishing (now that he can afford to buy a boat)".

"We will also continue to follow, with interest, the much-loved stock that has been sold and look forward to seeing many of those younger animals in shows throughout Australia" said Carolyn.

## And from across the Tasman...

"What a boon the Benleigh alpaca auction was to the Australian alpaca industry. The professionalism, marketing, preparation and presentation of the event were a credit to our industry. Genetics such as those put under the hammer were some of the best in Australia and rarely obtainable. Months of planning went into this sale, and I know that nothing was left to chance. No wonder then that the auction was hugely successful and

our industry owes Allan and Carolyn Jinks a hearty vote of thanks for a project very well done. As well as a quieter life, Allan deserves a 'big boat' and Carolyn her trip to Alaska.

We Kiwis were fortunate enough to obtain some of the top genetics on offer. Alpaca purchased at the sale include:

- *Purrumbete Sweet Freedom* ... Matriarch of one of Australia's top alpaca families.
- *Benleigh Commander* ... Line bred cria of *Purrumbete Sweet Freedom* by *Benleigh Bellissimo*.
- (Recipient containing) embryo of *Benleigh Flame/Benleigh Bellissimo* ... Flame is from a top family that includes *Windsong Valley Iceman*.
- (Recipient containing) embryo of *Benleigh Lima Lass/Benleigh Bellissimo* ... *Benleigh Lima Lass* is a full sister to *Benleigh Lorimer* who sold at the auction for \$85,000.
- A Fine Choice Ultimo cria and his *Purrumbete Brigantine* dam.
- And a *Purrumbete Inti* female mated to *Purrumbete Brigantine*.

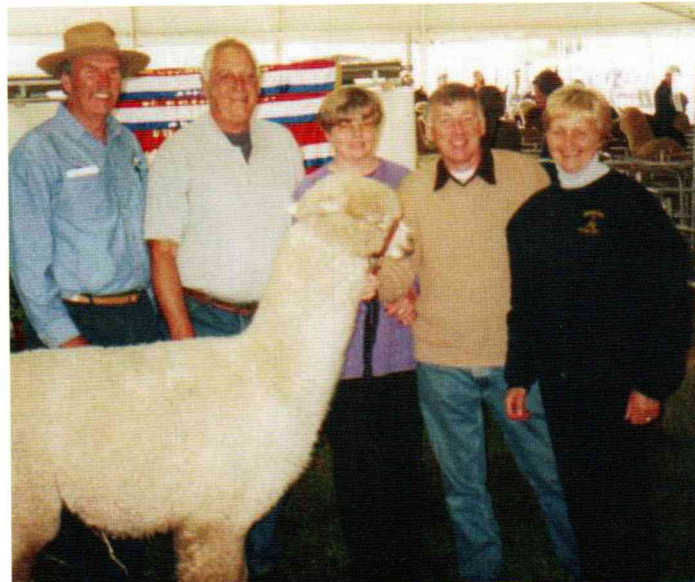
Increasingly we will all look at the genetics of our animals. The Benleigh prefix will, I am sure, be sought after in alpaca pedigrees for many generations to come".

**Russell Nelson, Homestead Farm, Ashburton, NZ**

Carolyn and Allan wish to thank all of those people who helped make this, the largest ever private alpaca auction ... 'The Alpaca Sale of the Century'. ■



*Purrumbete Brigantine* with (L-R) Matthew and John Pittard, Carolyn Jinks.



*Benleigh Lorimer* with (L-R) Ian Preuss, Mark Garner, Frances and Paul Haslin, Carolyn Jinks.



# Your Alpaca Baby: The Two Personality Types and How to Raise 'Em Up

*There are only two kinds of alpaca babies.*

*Type A babies that for one reason or another can't get enough of human beings and the rest of them...*

by MARTY MCGEE BENNETT  
TTEAM

*In the last column, I wrote about herd management issues from my point of view as both a trainer of animals and a teacher of people. I offered some ideas and my thoughts about breeding, keeping stud males, and birthing. I left you with some cautionary advice about babies and promised to pick up from there in this article. Throughout this column, I refer to babies as he, this is less awkward than using combinations of he and she. This is only a writing convenience; the advice in this article applies equally to both male and female babies.*

*To quote an old adage: there are three kinds of people in the world....*

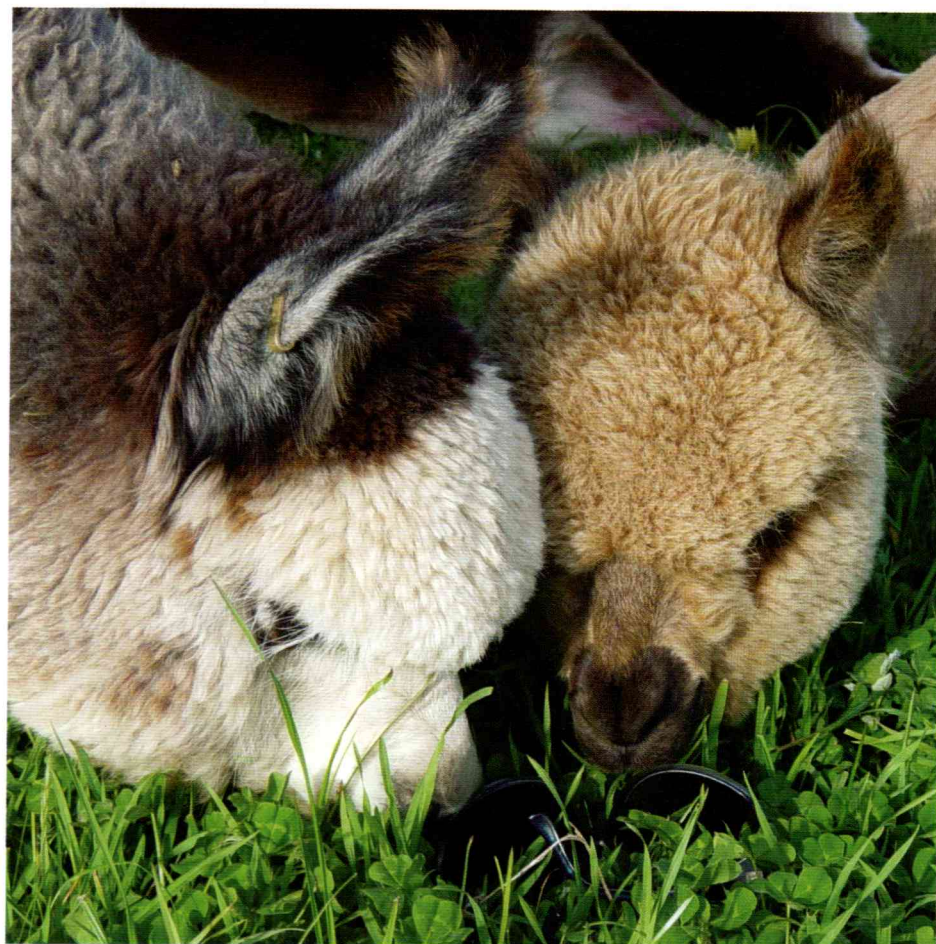
*Those who make things happen,*

*Those who watch what happens,*

*And those who wonder what happened.*

At the risk of oversimplification, there are only two kinds of alpaca babies. Type A babies that for one reason or another can't get enough of human beings and the rest of them – Type B.

A Type A baby may pop right out of the uterus as a fearless little imp, or he can be created by circumstances such as medical intervention, bottle-feeding, or very early



photograph Denise Moysey, Arcadian Alpacas, SA

over-handling of an inappropriate nature. Regardless of how a Type A baby originates, he must learn respect for human beings, boundaries, and to view human beings as leaders, not playthings, peers, or mommies.

The second type of baby, Type B, is shy but curious, interested in humans but not overly so. A Type B baby must learn to have confidence. These babies need to know that human beings are safe to be around and that we two-leggeds can be trusted to

behave responsibly. Type B babies are by far in the majority. I would guess that for every Type A baby there are fifty or more Type B babies.

Ironically, with only a few differences, the same handling techniques are appropriate for both kinds of babies. Treat baby alpacas respectfully and EXPECT the same in return and it is easy to raise a baby of either type that is both confident and well mannered.



## TYPE A BABIES

We use physics to describe the way the world works.

*What goes up must come down.*

*For every action, there must be an equal and opposite reaction.*

I invented the word Camelidynamics to describe the way that the world works when it comes to alpacas and llamas.

## LAW OF CAMELIDYNAMICS:

Behaviors you encourage in a young alpaca will persist and become more pronounced as he grows up.

Type A babies are intensely interested in humans. They follow humans around, sniff, nibble, and pull on clothing or rub their necks and heads on a human. They almost always display a preoccupation with feet sniffing and nibbling shoes. They will often run over to humans with the tail over the back with the neck low – the submissive crouch. Often these behaviors are misinterpreted as love and affection. Far from it, these behaviors are the very beginnings of what will often become controlling, disrespectful, and possibly aggressive behavior.

As a Type A baby matures, his conduct is made more problematic because of his increasing size. The behaviors also are likely to intensify. Encourage a baby alpaca to race up to you from across the pasture, follow you around for food treats, or wrestle playfully with you and there is no reason to expect that these behaviors will magically disappear as your "friendly" young alpaca reaches 150 pounds. Running up can become charging, nibbling can become biting, and rubbing can become chest butting. What used to be a gentle nuzzling for food treats becomes something more like a police search. What used to be adorable becomes annoying, if not dangerous.

Type A babies are in to everything. Any new item in their surroundings must be examined. They have an intense desire to control their environment. Type A's that are born that way often grow up to be the

female herd leaders or dominant males. While it is fine for Type A's to be the leaders of the herd it is important for them to view humans as something else altogether. Humans lead the dance; we are in charge of the barn and make the decisions. I don't believe that we must behave in a dominant fashion in order to be respected, but we must be very clear about boundaries and discourage disrespectful behavior. Disrespectful conduct is much easier to alter when it first occurs. Ignoring the behavior WILL NOT WORK.

## BARN DEPARTMENT AROUND TYPE A BABIES

Be aware of your personal space. We can touch babies, we can share a mutual nose sniff but babies should not touch us. This simple rule can save you a lot of heartache. A baby that touches you is corrected. A flick with a finger on the nose and a firm "STAY BACK" is usually enough. Babies that don't pay attention to a finger correction can be corrected humanely with a firm bop on the nose with a Frisbee. The correction outlines the edge of your personal space and is not a punishment. Think of the contact as defining your force field. The nose meets the Frisbee at the edge of your personal space with enough oomph to startle the baby but not enough to hurt him. On the other hand, it is important to make your point. Use the Frisbee too tentatively and it will only become a game.

It is a good idea to wait as long as possible to wean a naturally occurring Type A baby. A Type A baby often becomes impertinent with other members of the herd as he gets older. Herd females will jump right in this youngster's business and put him in his proper place. Wean him to a peer group too soon and a Type A will never get the benefit of learning from his elders.

When you must bottle raise a young alpaca, leave him in the barn with the herd. Minimize time spent feeding him and any other unstructured time – that is time not in the catch pen. As much as you would like to, do not snuggle or fondle the baby while feeding him. Wait until a more appropriate,

less confusing time to touch him. Distance yourself from the bottle in some way. Stretch a blanket along a fence, stick your arm through a hole in the blanket and stay on the other side of the fence from the baby. This prevents the baby from learning undesirable behaviors such as nibbling on your clothes and keeps your behavior in check too.

## HANDLING/TRAINING TYPE A BABIES:

Some people advise leaving all babies, particularly the "pushy" ones, alone until they are weaned. I think just the opposite is a safer course of action. It is important to get Type A's in a catch pen ASAP and demonstrate your leadership (more later on what exactly to do in the catch pen). Don't be surprised when Type A's go crazy when you confine them. Type A's want to control things and they are afraid when they can't leave the scene whenever they want. Getting your Type A comfortable with confinement is a key to his training.

## BARN DEPARTMENT AROUND TYPE B BABIES

When an alpaca baby is born, there is no reason he should be any more frightened of you than another herd member or a fence post. In fact, most people notice that young alpaca babies will allow a human to approach and touch them with little fear. What happens in those first days of life to make baby alpacas change their minds about humans?

## LAW OF CAMELIDYNAMICS

*Do things that your alpacas find frightening and they will become frightened of you!*  
*Corollary: When alpacas are frightened of something, they avoid it.*

The neighbor comes over and wants to see the new baby. At only a few days of age, it is easy to chase him down or sneak up and grab him really quickly to show him off. Every time we weigh the baby, we pick him up and carry him over to the scale. When it is time for initial shots... what the heck, the baby is so little, let's just pick him up and



hold him still to give those shots. Chasing a baby, sneaking up on him, grabbing him, picking him up, or holding him against his will could have something to do with his change of heart! Perhaps his mother doesn't like or trust humans for some of the same reasons. Mom is the LAW! If every time the baby wanders over to visit with us, his mother stomps her foot as if to say, "I told you don't go near those things, they are dangerous!" it is going to have an effect on how your young alpaca feels about humans.

Minimize your HUMAN behaviors that are bound to scare alpacas, whether they are adults or babies. Handle your animals in a way that demonstrates to them that you are both safe to be around and trustworthy. When a baby is born, there are management tasks that must be done to ensure the health of the baby and the mother. I also believe that with a bit of barn organization and a commitment, we can eliminate the need to chase, grab, pick up, or hold alpaca babies.

Appropriately placed aisle ways, catch pens, and scale with a ramp and box around it are all ways to avoid picking a baby up off the ground. When you need to deal with the baby, he should be with or very near his mother. If necessary, bring a group of animals into the barn or catch pen to avoid chasing a mother and her new baby. Bring the baby and his

mom into a catch pen to show him off to the neighbors. Learn to give shots while the baby is standing on his own four feet. Always work in a catch pen so that you can work to bring your animal into balance rather than restraining him. The time you take to teach your babies to have confidence in you will come back to you over and over as your baby grows up.

## WORKING IN A CATCH PEN WITH A BABY OF EITHER TYPE

Your goal is to teach a baby to override his flight response and accept your touch all over his body. Work with a baby in a catch pen (approximately 10 feet by 10 feet) with his mother present. Older babies can be worked in a peer group. If mom is present, it is a good idea to work a bit with her first. She will have a better sense of what you intend to do with her baby and will be more relaxed.

Approach the baby from behind his eye and drop a soft rope over the top of the head so the baby is inside a loop of rope. I can now use the rope to maintain contact with the baby when I choose to lose contact with my hands. I use my hands on the midline of the neck or use the rope to balance the baby. If the baby wants to move, that is perfectly fine. I move with him.

The most important beginning lesson to teach a baby is to override

his instinctive desire to run. I want the baby to stand his ground. To help teach this behavior, I use the rope to bring him into balance. A baby that is standing in balance is standing with his head and neck naturally in line with the body. The body is carried over the feet; the feet are all carrying weight evenly. Anticipate when and in which direction the baby intends to move and preempt his movement by shifting the balance back to neutral over the feet. Remember to look at the baby's feet and keep a light contact with the rope or your hands. If the baby is leaning to the outside with his weight on the feet away from you, readying to take a step away, use his neck or the rope around his neck to bring him back to center with weight equally on all four feet. If your Type A baby tries to lean on you or push against you put him in neutral over his feet using your hand on the midline of the neck to shift the weight away from you. If you are having trouble, make your pen smaller by stacking bales of hay inside the pen.

What I have just described is a very different procedure than using your superior strength to HOLD a baby still. The former teaches the baby he can stand on his own and be touched; the latter teaches the baby you are strong enough to hold him still. Balancing your baby teaches self-control; holding him still teaches submission and or escape and evasion.



The baby is standing in balance – weight evenly borne on all four feet, nose pointed forward, neck in line with the body – as the handler works with the baby's legs.



The baby is standing in balance – weight evenly borne on all four feet, nose pointed forward, neck in line with the body – as the handler works with the baby's mouth.



In this photo the baby is being "swallowed" by the handler. This baby is probably not able to think and is not standing in balance.



Babies are much smaller and lighter than adults are. It requires personal vigilance to balance rather than hold. You must use your hands very lightly and check the feet often.

Once the baby is standing in balance I use the Clouded Leopard TTouch or the Abalone TTouch\* to encourage the baby to focus on our interaction. I work with the head initially. Work the mouth, bridge of the nose, and ears. Work only as long as you are able to keep your cria's attention. Better to stop too soon than to work too long. I want to direct the interaction, and I want our time together to be pleasant so that I do not create resistance to future lessons. I think it's important to make the time for frequent short lessons in the first few weeks of your baby's life. On the other hand, if your baby is already several months old, these lessons make a good beginning whenever you decide to start. Five minutes every other day is ideal for very young babies, ten to fifteen minutes two to three times a week is good for older babies. A lesson plan might be:

**Lesson 1:** Getting the baby to stand still for a second or two next to you.

**Lesson 2:** Touching the head and neck

**Lesson 3:** Handling the legs and the tail.

I am not so much interested in teaching a baby to pick up his feet as I am in teaching him to keep the feet on the ground as I handle them.

Other lessons can involve touching the head for longer periods of time, leading to initial haltering or touching the legs, and picking up the feet, leading to toenail trimming as the baby approaches 4-5 months of age.

After the first few weeks, lessons can taper off to once or twice a week. You have set the tone for the relationship. Try a body wrap\* on a baby. It works wonders. Babies are very tied to their instincts and a body wrap really helps a baby to stay focused. I usually tie the two ends of the body wrap together with a knot and place it right over the head, twist it twice and pop it around the rear quarters. If you have a peer group bring them all into the catch pen together and work with each one in turn.

### FINAL TIPS FOR A'S

I don't recommend participating in a dominance contest with alpacas, particularly Type A's. You have an opposable thumb! You are in charge; you don't have to prove it. Don't give away your place of preeminence by encouraging young alpacas to behave disrespectfully towards you. Be aware of your personal space, set consistent limits, be respectful of your alpacas, and be careful about asking too much too soon. Use training and handling methods like the ones I've presented that do not rely on force or intimidation.

### FINAL TIPS FOR B'S

Don't ever sneak up and grab a baby alpaca. Grabbing and chasing teaches your alpacas to be wary and afraid. Resist the urge to reach out and touch your alpacas as you move amongst them. You will not teach your alpacas to be less afraid of you by continuing to do what scares them. ■

---

*This article is reproduced with the kind permission of Marty McGee Bennett and "Alpacas Magazine", the official journal of the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA), USA. Visit the AOBA web site at: [www.aoba.org](http://www.aoba.org)*

*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 hand-on training workshops to humans on how to handle their alpacas.*

*\*For more information about training babies, the TTouch, the bodywrap, and other elements of Camelidynamics, read "The Camelid Companion" or visit Marty's web site at: [www.camelidynamics.com](http://www.camelidynamics.com)*



The legs of this baby let the handler know that the baby is not standing in balance.



The baby is standing in balance. Notice also that the handler is standing at some distance from the baby – this makes it more likely that the baby will be able to focus and pay attention.



The handler has dropped a rope over the baby's head so that the handler can help to balance the baby and stay connected from a distance.



# Tasmania – venue for the 2004 AAA National Conference

by RAYMOND HAYNES  
2004 Conference Convenor

*The Tasmanian Region of the AAA is looking forward to hosting the next AAA National Conference between 20-22 August 2004 in a superb location at Wrest Point Conference Centre on the banks of the Derwent River in Hobart, Tasmania.*



Wrest Point Conference Centre in late afternoon sunshine.

Be welcomed by the new Governor of Tasmania, Mr Richard Butler and his partner, Dr Jennifer Gray at a Reception at the beautiful Government House.



Government House in Hobart.

While you're attending the Conference your partner and/or children will be able to take advantage of the sightseeing program that is planned. After the Conference we hope many of you will take the opportunity to stay on and explore Tasmania – a unique wilderness and historic area of Australia. Did you know that nearly 40% of Tasmania is set aside as national parks and world heritage areas, and that Tasmania has approximately 90% of all the historic buildings in Australia?



The Hobart market on a Saturday.

And why not explore arguably the best market of fine foods and craft work anywhere in Australia?

This will be a Conference that focuses on the future of the Australian alpaca industry while simultaneously also providing fascinating insights and information for new and experienced alpaca owners alike.

The Conference is also open to people thinking of entering the industry who are not yet members of the Australian Alpaca Association.

Wrest Point Hotel and Conference centre is an ideal location right on the foreshore of the Derwent River.

Visit <http://www2.wrestpoint.com.au/>

The venue could not be better. It has multiple meeting and conference rooms, an exhibition centre able to hold up to 80 exhibitors and a promenade walk straight from the exhibition hall to beautiful lawns surrounding the convention centre. Both the exhibition space and the animal displays will be open to the public throughout the weekend. Eating space is varied and attractive.

Travel to Tasmania from Melbourne is frequent and cheap. *Spirit of Tasmania I* and *II* travel in smooth comfort overnight taking your **car for free** between Melbourne and Devonport. There is also a Ferry available from Sydney to Devonport.

Visit <http://www.spiritoftasmania.com.au/index0.htm>

Don't forget ... if you arrive in Devonport on the morning of Thursday 19 August 2004 a group of Tasmanian alpaca breeders will meet you for a guided tour to scenic areas while undertaking a leisurely drive to Hobart arriving about 4.00pm. If you would rather fly, there are 14 flights a day into and out of Tasmania.

Before you come, research the enormous range of tourist opportunities and decide on whether you want to go into the wilderness, explore the history of Tasmania or taste our fabulous wines or all three. Visit <http://www.discovertasmania.com/home/index.cfm>



Cradle Mountain on the shores of Lake Dove.

There will be a range of accommodation options and prices so that a lot more AAA members can afford to come to this Conference. You will be able to stay at the Wrest Point complex or in one of many other facilities that are within easy walking distance of the Conference venue.

In the Conference we are planning parallel sessions addressing the varied interests of participants and their development as part of the industry.

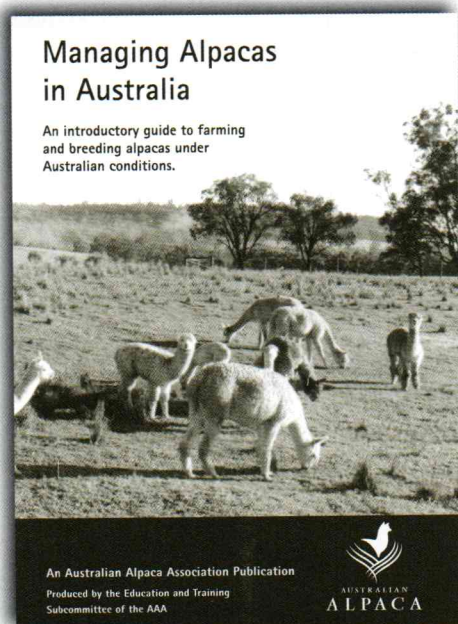
Further details about the Conference can be obtained from Raymond Haynes at [rhaynes@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rhaynes@bigpond.net.au) or phone (03) 6225 5306 or 0402 428 044.

Full details to help you plan your trip to Tasmania and your accommodation will be sent to you in a special mail-out to all AAA Members in late January or early February 2004.

AND, DON'T FORGET, if you know non-AAA members please ask them to contact me for details since they can also come to the Conference. If you have never attended a National AAA Conference in Australia, this is your opportunity. ■



# Book reviews



## Managing Alpacas in Australia

*An introductory guide to farming and breeding alpacas under Australian conditions.*

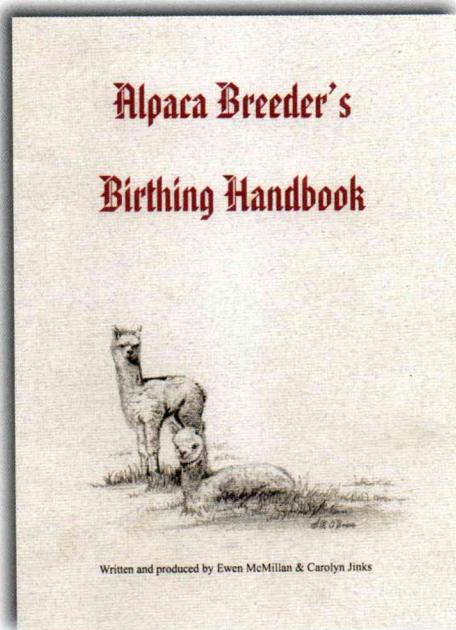
Reviewed by Sandra Wright  
Alpacas Australia Magazine

This is an Australian Alpaca Association publication produced by the Education & Training Sub-committee in collaboration with experienced breeders and veterinarians.

This 40 page compact size paperback book is a concise collection of basic information on the care and handling of alpacas. A detailed Contents list is provided to allow quick and easy reference to the required topic and simple drawings are used to illustrate husbandry tasks like toenail trimming, administration of injections and shearing. An excellent chapter on Births and Cria Care certainly delivers the goods (pardon the pun)! The book offers sound advice for new alpaca owners and will inspire the reader to gather greater knowledge from the recommended Further Reading list that is included.

The book is highly recommended to established breeders also as a valuable marketing tool. Responsible breeders who care about after-sales support for new alpaca owners would be wise to have a supply of these books to give one away with every alpaca sold. At the very reasonable price of \$3.00 per copy (discounted to \$2.50 each for orders in excess of 10 copies) *Managing Alpacas in Australia* is a boon for alpaca breeders at all levels of experience.

Turn to page 55 for details on how to obtain this new title.



## Alpaca Breeder's Birthing Handbook

by Ewen McMillan and Carolyn Jinks  
Published by Alpaca Publications Australia  
First published 1997  
Second edition 1997  
Third edition 2001

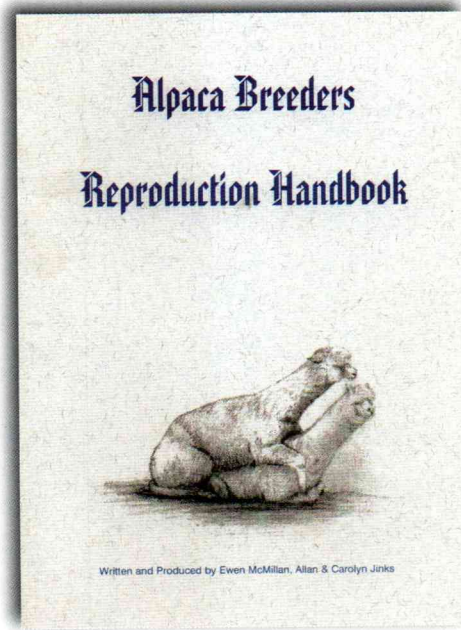
## Alpaca Breeder's Reproduction Handbook

by Ewen McMillan and Carolyn and Allan Jinks  
Published by Alpaca Publications Australia, 1998

Reviewed by Anne Smith,  
Chairperson, Education and Training  
Sub-committee

Two books, which if found in an alpaca breeder's barn would no doubt be tatty and dog-eared as a result of much use, are the *Alpaca Breeder's Birthing Handbook* and *Alpaca Breeder's Reproduction Handbook*, both written by Ewen McMillan and Carolyn and Allan Jinks. It seems timely to review these books, to bring them to the attention of new breeders entering our industry.

Both books were written from a 'broad brush' perspective, intended as "an introduction and ready reference for new and inexperienced alpaca breeders". It is acknowledged that both subjects are far more complex than can be presented with the above aim in mind. However a glossary in both books and a Suggested Readings section in the *Reproduction Handbook* are provided, to lead readers to a deeper knowledge of the subjects once they are ready to pursue it.



The *Alpaca Breeder's Reproduction Handbook* is written in a well organised manner with clarity of expression, enabling understanding by the layman - particularly if the detailed glossary on page 23 is used as a backup for those unfamiliar with medical terminology.

As well as a description of female and male reproductive anatomy, mating behaviours and reproductive problems that may be encountered in both males and females are delineated. These can be of great help to those handling alpacas for the first time.

The *Alpaca Breeder's Birthing Handbook* begins with sections on 'Preparation for birth' and 'Equipping the nursery'. Breeders waiting for the birth of their first cria will ignore these at their peril! Even after 11 years of breeding, I still leave my copy of this particular book open at page 7 if I have to leave a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on pregnant females whilst I'm away. It contains an excellent description of the birthing process in three stages.

I recommend these books as valuable additions to your home reference library. They are very reasonably priced and are available for purchase from the Australian Alpaca Association National Office. Please see page 55 of this magazine for an order form. ■



# for all



Men's Fine Link Stitch Polo Jumper  
85% alpaca, 15% 18.5 micron fine merino wool, RRP \$325.00



| Item                  | Colour (please circle your selection)               | Size (please circle) | Members Price | Quantity | Total Price |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| MEN'S JUMPERS         |                                                     |                      |               |          |             |
| Heavy Cable Crew      | Navy, Burgundy                                      | M L XL               | \$339.15      |          |             |
| Fine Link Stitch Polo | Olive, Navy, Natural, Lemon, Green, Camel, Burgundy | S M L<br>XL XXL      | \$276.25      |          |             |
| Moss Stitch V-Neck    | Burgundy, Camel, Navy, Olive                        | S M L XL XXL         | \$288.15      |          |             |
| LADIES' JUMPERS       |                                                     |                      |               |          |             |
| Moss Stitch Tunic     | Navy                                                | S M L                | \$271.15      |          |             |
| Moss Stitch Cardigan  | Navy, Indigo, Cherry Red                            | S M L                | \$279.65      |          |             |
| Cable Turtle Neck     | Navy, Indigo, Cherry Red                            | S M L XL             | \$271.15      |          |             |

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ORDER FORM ABOVE AND FAX, OR ENCLOSE PAYMENT AND MAIL:

[www.alpacacoop.com.au](http://www.alpacacoop.com.au)

Card Holder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Postage will be added. This is subject to destination, size and weight, and is charged at Australia Post's most economical rate.*



# Australian Alpaca Co-op Strategic Partners update

by MICHAEL TALBOT, General Manager  
Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd

## A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MERINO GOLD AND THE AUSTRALIAN ALPACA INDUSTRY

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

Originally owned by Ansett Knitting Mills, *Merino Gold* began operating in regional Victoria in 1989 with a firm commitment to local manufacture, and in that same year was bought by a consortium that included Victorian ex-Premier Jeff Kennett. In 1993, *Merino Gold Limited* was incorporated, and soon after, the firm's equipment (mainly fine gauge fully fashion machines) was transferred from country Victoria to Melbourne. The company was restructured in 1995 after some difficulties and was purchased in 1999 by partners Adrian Bressan and Fred Seligmann. The new owners brought a fresh perspective, based on two lifetimes of textile experience (a large part of which was with fine wool knitwear) and it was a combination that was to breathe new life into the label.

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

With a strong future ahead, *Merino Gold* has recently completed a re-equipment program, replacing the plant purchased at the time of take over, with state of the art, totally automated, fully computerized, *Shima Seiki*, Japanese manufactured knitting machinery, facilitating manufacture of knitwear in really heavy weight 5 gauge up to extremely sophisticated fine 18 gauge.



Strategic Partners trade display site at the National Show and Sale

With an excellent reputation in the industry and expertise in fine wool, *Merino Gold* is an important partner for the development of lightweight fine alpaca products. This year, in partnership with the Australian Alpaca Co-operative, a fine range of alpaca men's and women's knitwear was launched and marketed through David Jones stores and generally sold throughout Australia. In addition to our fine knitwear range, and due to the success of these products, we are now introducing various blends of alpaca products to be sold not only in mainstream retail stores but in areas such as duty free shops and export as there is a huge world-wide demand for Australian Alpaca.

## KELLY & WINDSOR EXPORT AUSTRALIAN ALPACA QUILTS TO HONG KONG

Trevor Beuth, Managing Director of Melbourne based company, Kelly & Windsor, has just announced the first export of quilts made from Australian alpaca.

The quilts have been stocked in over 60 Australian stores this year and were featured at the Strategic Partners trade display site at the National Show and Sale held recently in Canberra, where visitors to the trade site were overwhelming in their praise of the range of quilts, underblankets and pillows on display.

Such is the demand for Australian alpaca bedding products overseas that, in order to arrive in time for the northern hemisphere winter, the quilts were air freighted to Hong Kong, rather than by normal sea passage.

The export to the upmarket Hong Kong department store has been an exciting bonus for Kelly & Windsor and, buoyed by this success, other overseas markets in Europe, Japan and Canada are being targeted. ■



Shima Seiki, Japanese manufactured knitting machine



# Business Card Directory

Transport to the Airport  
City Tours  
Tours out of Lima  
Emergencies at Night

**MIGUEL QUIROS**  
English speaking Driver & Guide  
Highly recommended by Rae Mathew, Inca Stitches

Phone (Lima) 264 3728; Mob. 947 2418  
email: mq\_pe@yahoo.com www.wowebs.com/quiros/

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



Buyers: search for your next alpaca on:

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

Sellers: webvertise your animals and  
increase your sales

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

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



**ARCADIAN**



**ARCADIAN**



**ARCADIAN**

**ALPACAS**

"DEDICATED TO BREEDING, PROMOTING AND  
SERVICING **QUALITY GREY ALPACAS**"

**Denise Moysey and Tom Gouldie**  
Ph: (08) 8391 3270 Fax: (08) 8391 5239  
Mt Barker SA  
email: info@arcadian-alpacas.com.au



**WILDWOOD  
ALPACAS**

**MIKE & JAN SALTER**

Solid Colours  
Especially Black

'Wildwood' Ardlethan  
New South Wales 2665  
PH/F (02) 6978 3821

## TRULEEN DOWNS



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

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



For more information about the **Australian Alpaca Association** visit

**www.alpaca.asn.au**



# Business Card Directory

## HAVE YOUR ALPACA FIBRE MADE INTO MACHINE OR HANDKNITTING YARN

For a pricelist and details contact  
LONGTOPS on  
(03) 5278 2502 or  
[longtops@pipeline.com.au](mailto:longtops@pipeline.com.au)

## Supa Soft Alpaca Carding Services

"Small Lots Catered For"

**Jenny & Aldis Stucers**

 (03) 5996 7085

[www.supasoft.com.au](http://www.supasoft.com.au)



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

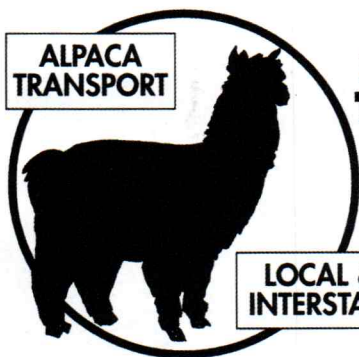
## THE HIGHCROFT TEETH TRIMMER

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

Available from  
Highet Engineering  
PO Box 255  
Torrens Park SA 5062

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

ALPACA  
TRANSPORT



LOCAL &  
INTERSTATE

## LEY BLAKE STUDSTOCK TRANSPORT

PHONE  
LEY BLAKE  
(03) 5627 6475  
Mobile:  
0403 405 131

## QUALITY ALPACA SUPPLIES

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

**Retail/Wholesale**

**ph/fax (02) 4572 5812 Christine Roffey**  
**Email: [hembra@bigpond.com](mailto:hembra@bigpond.com)**

Place your business card advertisement in the BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

FOR ONLY \$110 PER ISSUE or \$88 PER ISSUE FOR 3-ISSUE BOOKINGS

FOR BOOKINGS contact Sandra Wright at the Australian Alpaca Association Inc.

Phone: +61 (0)3 9873 7700 Fax: +61 (0)3 9873 7711 E-mail: [sandra@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:sandra@alpaca.asn.au)



# pacapics

★ WINNER ★



< Hey mum...let me back in >

Helen Sorby & Wayne McCauley  
Farthingwood Alpacas, NSW



< Leg up >

Julie Mavros  
Blue Grass Alpaca Stud, NSW



< Who turned out the lights >

Maureen Foss  
Rock View Alpacas, WA



< Toilet training >

Geoff Pearson & Marilyn Mathews  
Daisy Bank Alpacas, NSW

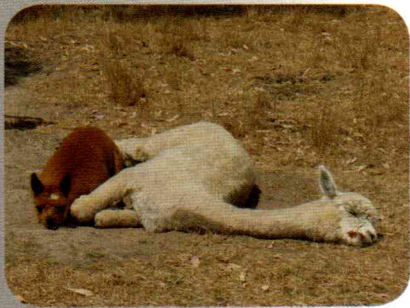
## EVERY PICTURE *does* TELL A STORY!

'Alpacas Australia' is always on the lookout for photos to publish. Serious or humorous, send us your favourite alpaca snaps and let your photos tell us about your stud in either the popular Paca Pics pages or the prestigious position of magazine front cover.

The winner in the Paca Pics feature will receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next magazine. Front cover photo winner will also be awarded the same advertising opportunity as well as five complimentary copies of the magazine bearing their winning photo. The magazines will prove to be excellent promotional tools for your stud.

Send your photos to The Editor, *Alpacas Australia*, PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, VIC 3132. Email [sandra@alpaca.asn.au](mailto:sandra@alpaca.asn.au)





< Aaah...Motherhood.  
Exhausting. Blissful >

Denise Moysey  
Arcadian Alpacas, SA



< Welcoming committee >

Odette Mayne  
Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



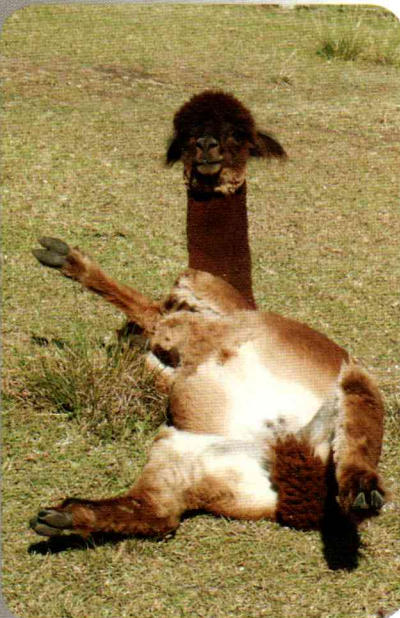
< Retirement? Now it's mow that lawn,  
trim that bush! >

Carol Lucas  
Zeus Alpacas, VIC



< Look dear ...  
Your father's brought take-away! >

Christine & Laurie Talbot  
Cullengatty Alpacas, NSW



< Modesty prevails >

Helen Sorby & Wayne McCauley  
Farthingwood Alpacas, NSW



< In line dancing, this step is called  
the grapevine >

Diane & Rudy Baldé  
Jannarie Alpacas, VIC



< May spoil my coat >

Odette Mayne  
Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



< There will be none left >

Odette Mayne  
Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



< Cedar House Sophie (standing)  
meets Wykeham Park Zara (sitting) >

Gayle Lindeman  
Wykeham Park Alpacas, NSW



## Upcoming Events

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

### January

17 APOLLO BAY FLEECE SHOW - VIC

Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Lynn Jacoby (03) 5283 1081

17 PACA PICNIC - TAS

Venue: Salamanca Square, Hobart  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Alan Froome (03) 6266 6092

25 BUNGENDORE SHOW - NSW

Venue: Bungendore Showgrounds  
Highlights: Animal and fleece promotional display  
Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

30 - 31 BERRY SHOW - NSW

Venue: Berry Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging (30 Jan); Alpaca judging (31 Jan)  
Fashion parades - 3.00pm & 5.30pm (31 Jan)  
Contact: Kevin Watson (02) 4448 6267

### February

7 - 8 GUNNING SHOW - NSW

Venue: Gunning Showgrounds  
Highlights: Animal and fleece promotional display  
Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

13 - 15 SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO - VIC

Venue: Seymour Showgrounds (King's Park)  
Highlights: Alpaca judging - 14 February; product display & sales  
Contact: Ian Earle (03) 5772 3339; Pam Baxter (03) 5360 8210

14 KORUMBURRA SHOW - VIC

Venue: Korumburra Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Alan Neicho (03) 5655 1011

14 TYRENDARRA FLEECE SHOW - VIC

Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Lynn Jacoby (03) 5283 1081

14 - 15 CROOKWELL SHOW - NSW

Venue: Crookwell Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging; Alpaca promotional display  
Contact: Penny Pittard (02) 4837 3394

14 - 15 ALPACA WORKSHOP - WA

Venue: Sanctuary Golf Resort, Bunbury  
Guest Speakers: Dr Jane Vaughan, Dr Ewen McMillan  
Contact: Janice Dow (08) 9727 2599

20 - 22 FAR SOUTH COAST NATIONAL SHOW - NSW

Venue: Bega Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Susan Nielson (02) 6493 2602

27 - 29 ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW - ACT

Venue: EPIC, (Showgrounds)  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging; Promotional display  
Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

29 BERWICK SHOW - VIC

Venue: Berwick Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Bill Plunkett (03) 9439 7772

### March

5 - 6 ROBERTSON SHOW - NSW

Venue: Robertson Showground  
Highlights: Fleece & handcraft judging (5 Mar); Alpaca judging (6 Mar)  
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 1040 (BH)

6 BOOROWA SHOW - NSW

Venue: Boorowa Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Kylie Martin (02) 6385 8305

6 DELEGATE SHOW - NSW

Venue: Delegate Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Richard Dixon (02) 6456 3676

6 WARRAGUL SHOW - VIC

Venue: Warragul Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

12 - 13 BRAIDWOOD SHOW - NSW

Venue: Braidwood Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Kerry Dwyer (02) 4847 5020

13 COOMA SHOW - NSW

Venue: Cooma Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Richard Dixon (02) 6456 3676

14 MOSS VALE SHOW - NSW

Venue: Moss Vale Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Peter Bishop (02) 4829 5144

19 - 21 CASTLE HILL SHOW - NSW

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 4578 2657

20 MT PLEASANT SHOW - SA

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

20 - 21 YASS SHOW - NSW

Venue: Yass Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Geoff McGowan-Lay (02) 6227 6224

24 - 27 TOOWOOMBA ROYAL SHOW - QLD

Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds  
Highlights: Promotional display, handcrafts; Alpaca judging (27 Mar)  
Contact: Ann Henderson (07) 4630 9418

22 - 28 LARDNER PARK FARM WORLD - VIC

Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul  
Highlights: Promotional and product display & sales; Fashion parades  
Contact: Nick Veltjens (03) 5978 8666

27 RED HILL SHOW - VIC

Venue: Red Hill Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Bill Plunkett (03) 9439 7772

27 WODONGA SHOW - VIC

Venue: Wodonga Showgrounds  
Contact: Pam Baxter (03) 5360 8210

27 - 28 GOULBURN SHOW - NSW

Venue: Goulburn Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Jacki Waugh (02) 4829 8157

28 ALPACA FIESTA - VIC

Venue: Kyneton  
Contact: Pam Baxter (03) 5360 8210

### April

2 - 15 ROYAL SYDNEY SHOW - NSW

Venue: Showgrounds, Homebush  
Highlights: Alpacas (2-9 Apr) Fleece judging (TBA); Alpaca judging (12 Apr)  
Contact: Helen Fritsch (02) 8824 4969

23 - 25 HAWKESBURY SHOW - NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca judging  
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 4578 2657

23 - 25 BATHURST ROYAL SHOW - NSW

Venue: Bathurst Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233

25 - 26 ALPACA AUTUMN SHOW - WA

Venue: Whiteman Park  
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging  
Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

30 - 1 May EAST GIPPSLAND FIELD DAYS - VIC

Venue: Bairnsdale Aerodrome  
Highlights: Promotional display, product sales  
Contact: Jen McDavitt (03) 5147 2444

30 - 2 May TOTAL FIELD DAYS & TOTAL FLEECE SHOW - NSW

Venue: Paterson  
Highlights: Fleece Show  
Contact: Frances Carleton (02) 4998 8460



# Order Form

TOTAL \$AUD

## Free Kit

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

\$0.00

### Subscription

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

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

\$

## Publications

**\$AUD WITHIN AUSTRALIA**  
Incl. GST  
Incl. P&H  
within Aust only

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                           |          |          |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <i>Alpaca Breeders Birthing Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks                                                                                                                                                                        | 24.20                                     | 20.00    | \$       |           |
| <i>Alpaca Breeders Reproduction Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks                                                                                                                                                                    | 29.70                                     | 25.00    | \$       |           |
| <i>The Camelid Companion</i> by McGee Bennett                                                                                                                                                                                       | price on application                      |          | \$       |           |
| <i>The Complete Alpaca Book</i> by Eric Hoffman, with Contributing Authors                                                                                                                                                          | price on application                      |          | \$       |           |
| <i>The Life of Charles Ledger (1818-1905)</i> by Gramiccia                                                                                                                                                                          | 50.60                                     | 40.00    | \$       |           |
| <i>Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care</i> by Smith B, Timm K & Long P                                                                                                                                                                   | 64.50                                     | 53.75    | \$       |           |
| <i>Managing Alpacas in Australia</i> , AAA - Education Et Training Publication                                                                                                                                                      | 4.00 ea                                   | 2.70 ea  | \$       |           |
| For orders in excess of 10 copies** within Aust. only \$2.50 per copy (plus P&H)                                                                                                                                                    | **                                        | 2.20 ea  | \$       |           |
| <i>Medicine &amp; Surgery of South American Camelids</i> by Fowler M (2nd edition)                                                                                                                                                  | price on application                      |          | \$       |           |
| <i>Alpacas Australia</i> Magazine – 3 back issues                                                                                                                                                                                   | 18.90                                     | 9.00     | \$       |           |
| Herd Book <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 4 (per volume)                                                                                  | 19.80 ea                                  | 15.00 ea | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 31.90                                     | 23.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 34.10                                     | 23.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 38.50                                     | 27.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 45.10                                     | 32.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 45.10                                     | 32.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book Vol 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 46.20                                     | 32.00    | \$       |           |
| Herd Book <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 10 | diskettes in ASCII<br>format (per volume) | 20.90 ea | 15.00 ea | \$        |
| Conference Proceedings                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Glenelg, SA 1999                          | 28.60    | 23.00    | \$        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Canberra, ACT 2000                        | 28.60    | 23.00    | \$        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Noosa, QLD 2002                           | 42.90    | 30.00    | \$        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                           |          |          | <b>\$</b> |

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

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

Address

State

Postcode

Country

☐ I enclose my cheque /money order for \$AUD\_\_\_\_\_

(required in Australian dollars drawn on an Australian bank and made payable to 'Australian Alpaca Association Inc')

☐ Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$AUD \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa

Please note: Minimum transaction amount for credit card payment is \$AUD 15.00

[illegible]

Name on Credit Card

Signature

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

ARBN 067 146 481 ABN 33 710 945 160

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



# Advertising

## Rates

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

|                 | Casual Rate               |                | x 2 issues                |                | x 3 issues                |                | Production*               |                |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
|                 | \$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA | \$AUD OVERSEAS | \$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA | \$AUD OVERSEAS | \$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA | \$AUD OVERSEAS | \$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA | \$AUD OVERSEAS |
| <b>4 colour</b> |                           |                |                           |                |                           |                |                           |                |
| Full Page       | 1,045.00                  | 950.00         | 973.50                    | 885.00         | 825.00                    | 750.00         | 308.00                    | 280.00         |
| 1/2 Page        | 737.00                    | 670.00         | 682.00                    | 620.00         | 583.00                    | 530.00         | 231.00                    | 210.00         |
| 1/4 Page        | 638.00                    | 580.00         | 583.00                    | 530.00         | 495.00                    | 450.00         | 154.00                    | 140.00         |
| <b>Mono</b>     |                           |                |                           |                |                           |                |                           |                |
| Full Page       | 737.00                    | 670.00         | 682.00                    | 620.00         | 583.00                    | 530.00         | 220.00                    | 200.00         |
| 1/2 Page        | 517.00                    | 470.00         | 484.00                    | 440.00         | 418.00                    | 380.00         | 154.00                    | 140.00         |
| 1/4 Page        | 297.00                    | 270.00         | 275.00                    | 250.00         | 242.00                    | 220.00         | 88.00                     | 80.00          |
| Bus. cards      | 110.00                    | 100.00         | 99.00                     | 90.00          | 88.00                     | 80.00          | N/A                       | N/A            |

### Loading for Specified Positions

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Outside Back Cover | + 25%                |
| Inside Front Cover | + 20%                |
| Inside Back Cover  | + 15%                |
| Right Hand Page    | + 10%                |
| Specific Positions | + 10%                |
| Double Page Spread | price on application |

### \*Production costs include

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

### Additional Costs

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

### Space and Sizes (mm)



Full Page  
Image: 188 x 275  
Trim: A4 (210 x 297)  
allow 5mm bleed all sides



1/2 Page  
188 x 123



1/4 page  
91 x 123



Business Card  
90 x 55

## Material

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

**Advertising Material:** Please supply electronic artwork on disc to correct size. Preferred Macintosh programs InDesign, Quark Xpress, Illustrator or Photoshop. Alternatively save your adverts in high resolution pdf, jpg, tif or eps. Include all screen and printer typefaces, high resolution pictures, logos etc associated with the adverts. For full page adverts please allow 5 mm for bleed.

Colour adverts to be supplied in CMYK (not PMS or RGB). Please supply hard copy proof in colour or mono (as applicable) for printing reference. We cannot guarantee inclusion of late adverts.

Further advertising material enquiries can be directed to:

Irene Garner, Garner Graphics

Phone +61 (0)2 4884 1222 Fax +61 (0)2 4884 1233 Email [garnering@bigpond.com.au](mailto:garnering@bigpond.com.au)

## Deadlines

### Issue 43: Autumn

Due: April 2004

Deadline: Friday 13 February

### Issue 44: Winter

Due: August 2004

Deadline: Friday 4 June

### Issue 45: Summer

Due: December 2004

Deadline: Friday 8 October

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



# EP Cambridge Alpaca Stud

Est. 1993

*"Where breeding is everything"*

No need to look any further



We've got it all in the  
**BAG**

## Meet our Sires:

### HUACAYA:

- EP Cambridge Peruvian Caesar SW
- EP Cambridge Peruvian Maximus SW
- EP Cambridge Peruvian Malkinni SW
- EP Cambridge Peruvian Titantic SW
- NWA Ltd. Ruffo SW
- Jolimont Conquistador SW
- Jolimont Commissionario SW
- Jolimont Encantador SW
- Jolimont Gianmarco SW
- Jolimont Sculptor 2 SW
- Jolimont Sergio SW
- Jolimont Gladiator SW
- Jolimont Amazing SW
- Jolimont The Judge SW
- Jolimont Constantino SW
- Jolimont Enrico RG
- Somerset Peruvian Accoyo Valverde SW
- EP Cambridge Peruvian Spartacus SW  
(Co-owned with Kinedana Alpaca Stud)

### SURI:

- EP Cambridge Peruvian Accoyo Armadeus SW
- Jolimont Santino SW
- Jolimont Ventura SLF

**BACK TO BACK  
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR  
ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW 02 & 03**

For further information  
on the SUPERIOR genetics  
offered at EP Cambridge contact:

Office: 08 8389 7199

AH: 08 8389 7899

Mobile 0409 944 972 (Trevis)

0417 834 178 (Cathy)

[www.alpacastud.com.au](http://www.alpacastud.com.au)

[alpacas@alpacastud.com.au](mailto:alpacas@alpacastud.com.au)

OAKBANK, South Australia





# WINDSONG VALLEY ALPACAS

LONG ESTABLISHED WEST AUSTRALIAN ALPACA BREEDERS

Tena & Terry Wheeler

Barn Phone/Fax  
(08) 9399 8762

Phone A/H  
(08) 9399 2737



From a stable of Champion  
Sires over a herd of Top  
Quality Peruvian Females  
producing Uniform Superfine  
Progeny

Australian NATIONAL BACK  
TO BACK CHAMPIONS in  
SHOW & FLEECE

Experience the pleasure and  
excitement of breeding  
Outstanding Alpacas

Explore our website  
[www.windsongvalley.com.au](http://www.windsongvalley.com.au)

