

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Inc.

Inside this issue:

Taxing Tails • Pastures for Alpacas • Show Results • "MOET" • Geriatric Alpacas

Where are you now...?



If you are thinking about the Alpaca industry, you might feel a bit confused about where to start. Huacaya or Suri?
What do I need to look after them?
How do I care for them?
How should I set up my property?
What do I do with the fleece?
Which stud males to use?

At Elysion Alpacas, we've been full-time alpaca breeders since 1997. We know the questions and we enjoy assisting newcomers to find their answers.

Where do you want to go...?

...Suris...

...Huacayas...





Elysion Alpacas is a recognised leader in the development of the Suri breed. With five Champion Suri Males at stud and an impressive selection of female stock, we can assist both new starters and established breeders to achieve their breeding goals.

Elysion Alpacas has a commitment to breeding quality Huacayas with a selection of top quality stud males, including three exceptional greys and several whites from impeccable, exciting bloodlines.

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Elysion Alpacas

Canyonleigh Southern Highlands • NSW P: 02 4878 9429 E: elysion@ozemail.com.au

... Where there is a choice



"G'day mate!" Photograph Mary and Terry Silver Silver de arc Alpacas,

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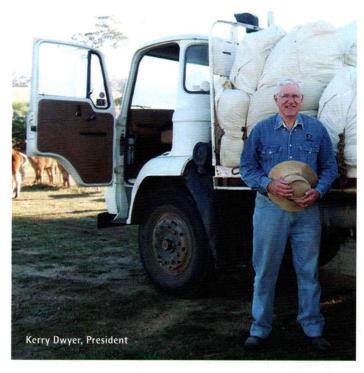
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A Message from the President



This issue of the magazine has been published in time for our National Conference in Hobart. Held every two years the National Conference gives our members in particular, as well as the general public, the opportunity to catch up with developments of interest to them.

Since our last Conference at Noosa in 2002 there have been many developments, not least in the marketing of our product and the increased awareness of alpaca in the broader populace.

Well prepared and presented fashion parades at Melbourne and Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains have attracted a lot of attention and much favourable comment about the seemingly never ending possibilities for the use of alpaca fleece.

Within recent weeks new homeware products wearing the generalised brand of Alpaca Light have been shown to retailers and are expected to generate more demand for the fleece. Some of these initiatives have been generated between Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited's Managing Director, Michael Talbot and our strategic partners in Kelly & Windsor and Creswick Woollen Mills.

Australian Alpaca finished product has also been gaining some export sales to Asia and Europe. Whilst still in small quantities the sales are as a result of good marketing which has been assisted in part by the Association in conjunction with McGregors International, our marketing team.

With the quality of alpaca breeding being presented for judging at our major shows this past year there is ample opportunity to breed alpacas of good fleece characteristics and commercial acceptability.

Many alpacas are now being marketed at quite reasonable prices both at auction and privately which offers the opportunity for new owners to use top genetics at prices they can afford.

The headline grabbing prices for stock at our elite auctions are paid by serious stud breeders who understand the quality being offered. Such prices should not deter new entrants to the industry from shopping around because there is good quality stock available and plenty of reputable owners to assist new entrants with advice.

A decision to purchase alpacas should be made with as much information as possible and it is readily available at regional events and displays. Prospective alpaca owners are encouraged to do their homework and get the best value for their money.

Letter to the Editor

Please address all letters to:

The Editor, Alpacas Australia, PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, VIC 3132

8 May 2004

Dear Alpacas Australia,

This soft and cuddly teddy bear is made from a woven-backed fabric manufactured in Germany and which is very hard to come by due to the shortage of alpaca fibre available worldwide. I was fortunate enough to obtain this fabric from Bartfeld Textiles in Caulfield, Victoria should anyone else be interested in making a bear or other soft toy. I would like to make a life-like alpaca, standing approximately 60cms high.

If anyone has a pattern or can design one I would like to hear from you.

Regards,

Adria Turner - newly bitten member of the alpaca bug (no known cure).
475 Garfield North Rd.,
Garfield North VIC 3814
Tel: 03 5629 2468



Briefly Speaking

Alpaca twins born in Western Australia

On Monday 21 June 2004 twin female alpacas were born at Pentland Alpaca Stud & Animal Farm, Denmark. Twins in alpacas are extremely rare and this is believed to be only the fifth live twin birth in Australia. Recognised Peruvian alpaca veterinarian, Dr Julio Sumar has estimated the incidence of twins at 1 in 50,000 live births.

The yet-to-be-named girls (one white, one fawn) weighed in at 3.4kg and 3.95kg - making their combined weight equal to the average newborn cria. First-time mother *Pentland Paramount* carried them nearly full term and is coping well with the twins and feeding them unaided. Owners Laurie and Margaret Binks have bred alpacas for 14 years and have delivered hundreds of crias however they had no idea that Paramount was carrying twins.

"Twin survival is very rare so we were not elated," said Margaret. "I am feeling more confident with them now, even though they are so tiny and fragile. They are still at risk, but they seem to have a real zest for life and are being mothered well," she added.

The twins are on view to the public at the Binks' tourist farm located just out of Denmark (west of Albany on the south coast of WA).



11th National Show and Sale

29-31 October 2004 Exhibition Park, Canberra

Australian Alpaca: Setting the Standard

We will follow the 2003 program, judging the junior huacayas on Friday, suris on Saturday morning and the remaining huacaya classes on Saturday afternoon. The handcraft competition will be back again, no doubt bigger and better than last year. A selection of top quality alpacas will be offered in the National Classic Auction on Sunday.

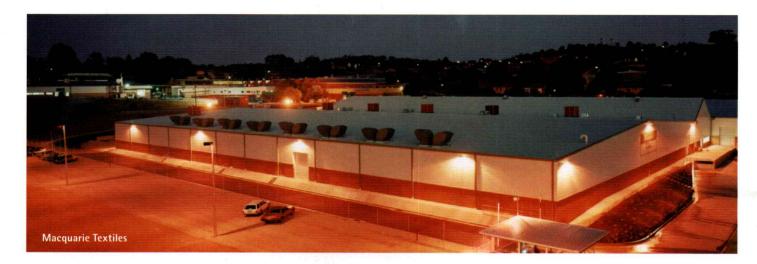
Our animal judges this year will be Amanda VandenBosch from the USA partnered by Jude Anderson. Kylie Martin will be judging the fleece entries and the craft judge is to be announced later.

Enquiries can be directed to Show Convenor, Paul Haslin 02 4878 9429 elysion@ozemail.com.au



Latest Strategic Partner for Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Michael Talbot > Managing Director, Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd.



ollowing on the success of the L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival earlier this year, Macquarie Textiles has started to produce a range of alpaca fabric that will be marketed both here in Australia and overseas.

Macquarie Textiles has a rich history and tradition dating back to 1869 in the manufacture of woollen and worsted textile products and is Australia's largest wool based manufacturer. The company has a clear focus on competitively producing products for the international and domestic markets in apparel, furnishing, yarn, homeware and industrial areas.

The company's mill in Albury is equipped with the most advanced textile production technology available, including extensive use of robotics and monitoring equipment to provide a high speed, high capacity, highly flexible mill, demanded by today's markets. Macquarie's business is designed for the new century's highly competitive customer demands. Quality assurance at every stage of processing ensures an outstanding and consistent product that matches Macquarie's commitment to producing excellence in customer service and delivery. Macquarie is at the forefront of its industry and is able to service all markets through its extensive worldwide network of agents and distributors. The main equipment features in operation at the mill are used for:

- Woollen spinning
- White worsted spinning
- Coloured worsted spinning
- Warping and weaving preparation
- Weaving
- Greige fabric, inspection and mending
- Dyeing
- Finishing

I am thrilled to be working with such a professional worldrenowned Australian company. I'm hoping our fabrics will feature in their international collection and be seen around the world.

We are in the process of making some alpaca tops out of our white superfine, which will be made into fine worsted men's suiting.

The current fabrics we are producing for the ladies are in a yarn dyed plaid in 70% fine merino wool / 30% fine alpaca; a piece dyed 70% fine merino wool / 30% fine alpaca in herring bone; and houndstooth lightweight twills, which are perfect for ladies lined skirts, pants and jackets.

Another addition is brushed coating for men's and ladies wear in piece dyed 70% fine merino wool / 30% fine alpaca.

This fabric will be available to AAA members in the near future, however we will need to sell it in minimum 10 metre lots as the fabrics normally come on a 60 metre roll and it is not practical to cut them into small amounts due to the wastage.

If you are interested in buying fabric please contact me and I will send you a small swatch with the relevant pricing.

Tel: 03 9311 0933

Fax: 03 9311 0499

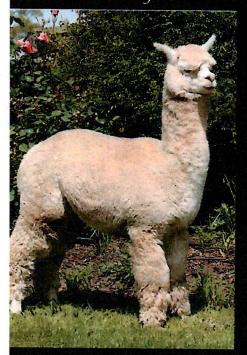
E-mail: alpacacoop@telstra.com

This is an exciting addition to our fashion range and hopefully we will see alpaca growers wearing Australian spun alpaca, woven and manufactured in Australia.

Shanbrooke

"Stud Sire Collection"

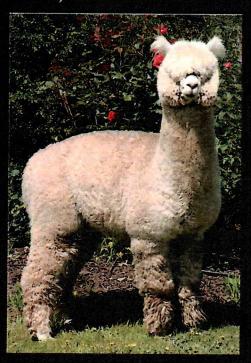
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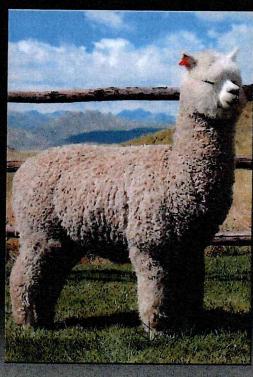
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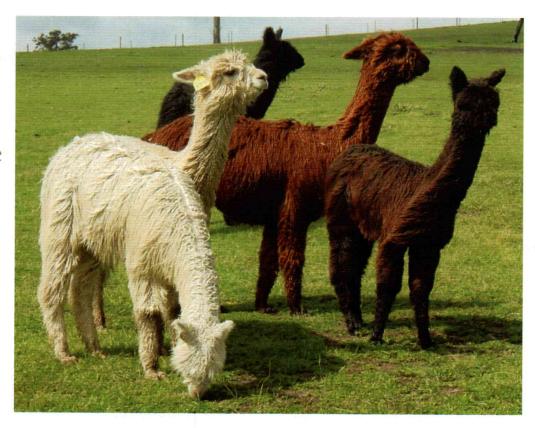
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AAA Creates Suri Sub-committee

SURI ARTICLE by Angela Preuss > Suri Sub-committee

Over the past few years there has been some concern that the specific issues of the suri alpaca and suri fibre required a targeted approach, not currently available.



eetings at the 2003 Melbourne Royal Show and the 2003 AAA National Show brought many suri breeders together to discuss how best to focus the issues. Though several organisational models for a Suri Breeders Network were proposed, there was broad support for the formation of a sub-committee of the AAA National Committee. As a result, the Suri Sub-committee was formed, with the following office bearers:

CHAIRPERSON:

Wendy Jones

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Angela Preuss (Promotions & Marketing)

Julienne Gelber (Fibre)

Natasha Clark (Showing, Judging & Breed Standards)

Roger Walters (Communications)

Julie Wilkinson (Research & Development)

The aim of the Suri Sub-committee is to provide a voice to the needs of suri breeders, recognising the significant and specific differences of the suri alpaca and suri fibre.

The following have been identified as priorities for immediate consideration:

- > To identify and order the most pressing problems confronting the commercialisation of Australian suri fibre now and in the future, and develop strategies to address them.
- To develop educational resources and promotional material for the enhancement of suri breeding, and formulate 'best practice' guidelines.
- To provide a communication network for suri breeders, which then serves as the conduit to the national alpaca body.

Fibre Working Party

Although only newly formed, the Suri Fibre Working Party, headed by Julienne Gelber and assisted by Angela Haas and Fiona Laughton, has made significant initial progress.

The Suri Fibre Working Party, in conjunction with Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd (AAFL), will look to address the existing suri fibre stockpile to find markets for the raw/unprocessed fibre. They also hope to identify possible strategic partners for the conversion of suri fleece into commercially viable products.

The working party will inform and (hopefully) enlist support from Australian suri breeders in upgrading the quality and quantity of the clip delivered to AAFL.

There are two very exciting projects involving suri fleece on the horizon.

1) The Rare Yarn Company (Matthew Benge and his wife, Ruth) of New Zealand is planning to introduce a knitting yarn into their summer range, which will incorporate suri. Negotiations are under way with AAFL to select the appropriate micron fibre, most probably medium (25-27 micron).

The proposed yarn will consist of three yarns plied together, being suri, silk and linen or cotton. The suri is being chosen particularly for its lustre and cool, slippery handle. If the summer weight yarn is a success, the Rare Yarn Company anticipates introducing suri into its winter yarns range in 2005/06. Again, the lustre of suri will be used to lift the yarn and add an element of luxury.

At present The Rare Yarn Company markets only in Australasia, but has plans for expansion into the huge North American market, where knitting is undergoing a renaissance. Annual consumption of suri in just the summer yarn could average 300kg of fibre and would triple if a winter yarn were introduced. Australian suri breeders may be hard pressed to meet demand when the company enters the U.S. market!

 Concurrently, planning of another product using Australian suri and huacaya fibre has been handed to Mike Talbot of AAFL to progress to end product.

A fabulous mill in New Zealand with strong contacts in the European and North American market will begin spinning trials on suri yarn within the next month.

They are reputed to be the best finishing mill in the Southern Hemisphere and 'polish' their woollen products until they gleam!

Their brief is to take fine micron suri and huacaya to yarn stage then, using a jacquard process, weave a luxury quality 100% Australian alpaca product aimed at the top end international market.

It is envisaged that the initial run will produce around 200 pieces, which should account for 300kg raw fibre each from suri and huacaya in the 21-23 micron range.

Communication

The Suri Sub-committee also plans to set up a communication network between all breeders with an interest in suris, and a 'suri information' web page.

Keep an eye out for the Suri Sub-committee's regular spot in each future issue of *Alpacas Australia*, to keep members informed of 'all things suri'.

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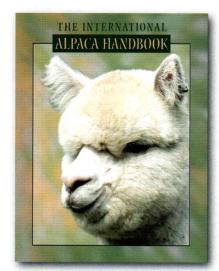
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The International Alpaca Handbook

A BOOK REVIEW by Elizabeth Garner > Tarraganda Lodge Alpacas, NSW

In a refreshing departure from the standard 'how to' text book. The International Alpaca Handbook has brought together an impressive group of highly respected professionals and dedicated alpaca breeders from throughout Australia and Overseas, who share with us their findings and techniques, significant to the production of luxurious alpaca fleece.



Edited by Ian Watt

Published in Australia by Alpaca Consulting Services of Australia

First Published 2004

200 pages

Illustrated

ISBN 0-958143 30-7

y way of a series of specialised papers, The International Alpaca Handbook works its way from genetics through to fleece processing. It includes valuable and practical information on nutrition, pasture management, health and reproduction to name but a few features. Suri and 'colour' breeders and those interested in the SRS® Breeding System will be thrilled to know that they haven't been left out in the cold either.

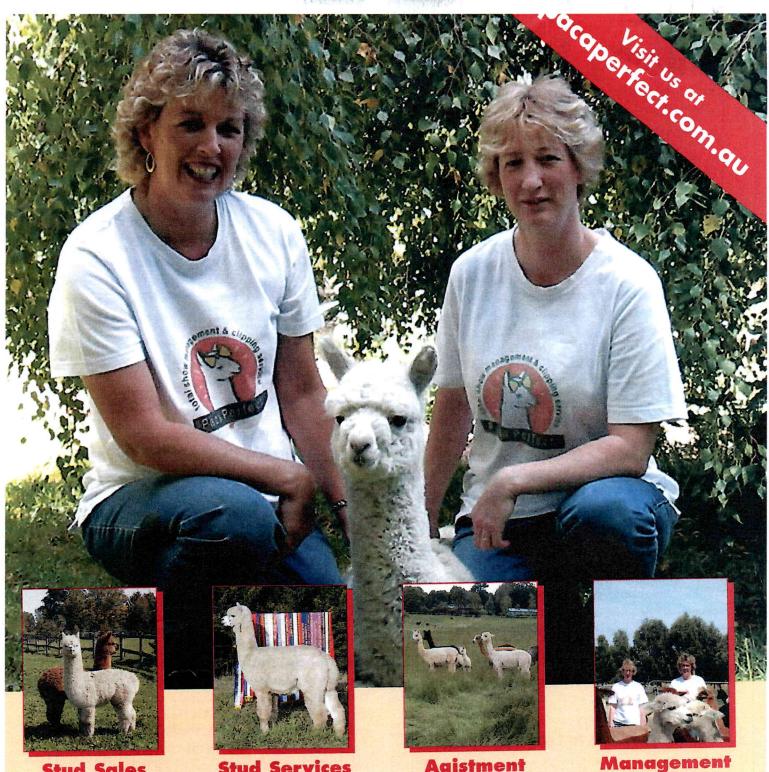
For this reader, the articles on genetics were of particular value. For someone whose eyes glaze over at the mention of a scientific term, I have finally been able to gain a grasp on the genome, as it were. Thank you Dr Jarvis, if only you were around when I did the HSC!

In its comprehensive and enlightening form, this publication serves as a terrific educational tool and is also quite frankly, a very interesting read. The well constructed layout, colour coded contents page and sub headings within each 'paper' make quick referencing a breeze; alternatively, each chapter is also a 'stand alone' article, all of which are well written and easy to digest.

Equally beneficial to both the experienced and the new breeder; this beautifully produced, hard cover book with a nifty inbuilt bookmark represents excellent value for money and is a must for all alpaca breeders (and struggling biology students). According to the handbook preface, there are already ideas and topics in place for another book in 2005 - I'm glad you put that in writing Mr Watt because I believe people are going to hold you to it.

Editor's Note: A copy of this book is held in the AAA Library facility and is available for borrowing by AAA members. The book is also available for purchase from the AAA National Office. Please see details on page 63.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALPACA HANDBOOK this 'must have' book is now available for immediate delivery A book for the industry by industry stakeholders with the express aim of positioning breeders to maximise their fibre production future. The emphasis is on production genetics, colour genetics, pasture management, animal physiology and objective measurement of fibre. There are supporting articles on vitamin and mineral deficiencies, some animal management issues and general material. \$50.00 (+ p&h) ORDER ONLINE BY VISITING www.alpacahandbook.com



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Taxing Tails

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **John Fisher** FCA, Tax Agent (and an assortment of other letters) > Fire Mountain Alpacas, NSW



Some gems of reflection that may save you a buck or two or at least keep you out of trouble.

was down the paddock recently gently holding on to one of our wethers, while the chairman of our agricultural conglomerate was valiantly trying to cut a toenail or two, when I decided that the pen is indeed mightier than the clippers, not to mention that it doesn't spit at you, stand on your feet or escape its well meaning master.

So having completed the task and been relieved of my duties, I have adjourned to the safety of my literary cave to contemplate the start of another financial year and to share with you some gems of reflection that may save you a buck or two or at least keep you out of trouble with that most unforgiving of gentlemen, the Commissioner of Taxation. At the very least you should be able to appear to be knowledgeable when you front up to your accountant for the annual search for deductions, substantiated expenses, and other claims that you seek to discover to keep your payment to Caesar below the level of the stratosphere.

Now what follows won't solve all your questions on the complexity of the universe, the meaning of life etc. (in any event we all know the answer is 42 anyway) but it is a quick check list of things to think about NOW, and things you need to know, even if you won't be lodging your tax return for a few months.

So here goes...

When do you have to Lodge your Return?

For most people the last date is 31 October 2004 unless you lodge through an accountant or tax agent when the date depends on how big a taxpayer you are, what your past record is like at lodging on time and how well your accountant manages his long client list. For most of us the date is somewhere between early January 2005 and 14 May 2005. The important thing is that if you want to take advantage of this extra time to lodge, you must sign up with an accountant prior to 31 October 2004.

Tax Rates for Resident Individuals

Tax rates these days seem to change at the drop of a hat, the whim of a treasurer or the advent of an election. If you are anything like me you probably have no idea where you are currently at, so to eliminate any confusion the rates for 2003/4 for a resident individual are:

Taxable Income	Tax Payable
\$0-\$6,000	Nil
\$6,001-\$21,600	Nil + 17% of the excess over \$6,000
\$21,601-\$52,000	\$2,652 + 30% of the excess over \$21,600
\$52,001-\$62,500	\$11,772 + 42% of the excess over \$52,000
\$62,501+	\$16,182 + 47% of the excess over \$62,500

Medicare Levy

The hospitals might be in disarray, you may not be able to find a GP (especially if you deign to live in rural Australia) but the tax system still inexorably collects the odd few hundred million for the revenue and you are expected to contribute your share by paying 1.5% of your taxable income. Low income earners can be exempt but if you are in the higher range over \$50,000 (couples and families \$100,000) then you pay a surcharge of 1% of taxable income unless you have private patient hospital insurance.

General Interest Charge

This rather quaint concept hits you in the hip pocket if you have been inattentive enough to pay your tax late or to make an underpayment of taxes. You also get caught if there is an amendment to your tax assessment that increases the amount of tax payable. The rate changes each quarter and for the January - March 2004 quarter was a scary 12.31% (of course if you overpay the taxman he will pay you interest at the princely rate of 4.82%).

Car Expenses

The per kilometre rates for claiming car expenses where the claim is limited to no more than 5,000 kilometres a year have recently been announced for 2003/4.

Non Rotary Engine	Rotary Engine	Rate per km
Up to 1600cc	Up to 800cc	51 cents
1601-2600cc	801-1300cc	61 cents
Over 2600cc	Over 1300cc	62 cents

There are of course three other methods of claiming car expenses: the actual cost method, the one third of actual expense method and the twelve percent of cost method. Confused? Me too. I will try to unravel this mystery for you if the editor ever invites me back to your pages again.

Protective Clothing

The cost of buying, renting, replacing and maintaining clothing is deductible provided it is:

- > protective clothing
- > occupation specific and not conventional
- > a uniform or item entered on the Register of Approved Occupational clothing.

(On reflection, this might be an idea for the AAA to add a service by getting some of our gear on this register. On further reflection, I wonder if someone can rent me a tax deductible raincoat - refer my opening para.).

This conventional clothing bit must have got around the school community as I was down the street yesterday for a coffee and I can tell you that my upbringing has been just too sheltered as most of the clothing I saw parading in the mall was anything but conventional. I intend to discuss this lack of education with my Mum next time I am over for a meal.

Sun Protection Products

This is one item of deduction where the taxpayer won one over the taxman before the courts to all our benefit in 2002. We salute you, oh game one! Outdoor workers can now claim for sunscreen, hats and sunglasses needed for sun protection while working. The Tax Office in a fit of generosity is allowing unsubstantiated claims (for further info on this little gem see below) of \$85 for 2001/2 plus a further \$340 for the prior 4 years. After 2002 you need the substantiation, Sooo...

Substantiation

The Tax Act, now several volumes long (and believe me you don't want to go there, just take my word for it), prescribes that even honest hardworking alpaca breeders like you need to substantiate your claims for deductions. What this really means is that you need to keep your records. That pile of papers that you shove under a desk, in the shoebox or in a folder somewhere, which includes invoices, receipts, statements, etc. - yes, that's them - substantiation. (As an aside I once had a client who ran a boarding house and she used to come to my office with all her records in a big suitcase, and I mean all her records, years and years worth, including the telephone to prevent the tenants from using it).

Of course first you have to show that the expenses were incurred in earning assessable income or in carrying on a business. Having got over this first hurdle of the steeplechase you have to be able to produce the records, and you have to keep them five years. There is a delightful little out here in that you only have to keep them for two years if you are a taxpayer with 'simple affairs'. Now I thought all my affairs were simple but I assure you that alpaca breeders probably do not fall into that category.

Black Hole Expenses

No, this is not a deduction for stargazers or budding astronomers. These expenses are those that in the past were neither a deduction nor considered to be an asset for tax purposes. They include the cost of establishing a company, partnership or trust, costs of restructuring your affairs, raising capital, liquidation costs. The law was changed so that from 1 July 2002 these expenses can be deducted over five years.

Use Contractors not Employees

If the thought of all the paperwork required in meeting your tax obligations bothers you, then by employing contractors you can escape the insurance, payroll tax, superannuation and record keeping that is required when you become an employer.

You can contract with companies, partnerships or trusts provided that you are supplied with an ABN (Australian Business Number). The same goes for an individual however be aware that there are rules for workers compensation purposes that may require you to cover individual contractors. My personal view is that while I grit my teeth at having to pay Workers Comp on my farm labourer while I know he has his own insurance, I pay Workers Comp on payments to him because I can sleep at night - the financial risk these days is far greater than the premium cost.

Borrowing Expenses

The costs of borrowing to fund your alpaca operation can be deductible provided the expenses are business related. Expenses include legal costs, stamp duty, mortgage document preparation, brokers' fees and valuers' fees. The deduction is spread over the life of the loan or a maximum of five years. If some of the funds are used for private purposes remember that the expense must be apportioned. You must also keep a record of how you calculated the apportionment.

Computer Software

You can claim the cost of software using an effective life of 2.5 years. This equates to a 40% prime cost or 60% diminishing value.

Cost of software	Dimi dedu	nishing value	Prime cost deduction
\$1,000	Yr 1	\$600	\$400
	Yr 2	\$240	\$400
	Yr 3	\$96	\$200
	Yr 4	\$38	
	Yr 5	\$15	
	Yr 6	\$7	
	Yr 7	\$4	

Well, my allocated space has been exceeded. I know, I will try to be more organised next time, if I get the chance, and will regale you with tales of how to claim untold deductions specifically related to alpaca breeders. Oh, and try my best to have you understand how to claim for your car. A tip to excite your fancy - the less horses the better.

Health Care of the Geriatric Alpaca

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by Murray E. Fowler DVM, Professor Emeritus, University of California

Owners should be perceptive and aware of changes that may be occurring in their animals.

Intense breeding of alpacas has been conducted in North America for over 15 years. Some older generation alpacas are entering their golden years. In other livestock enterprises, ageing, non-productive animals are usually culled from the herd, as they are non-profitable. Alpaca owners who are not willing to accept culling as an alternative now consult with veterinarians to deal with the special problems of ageing alpacas. Also, many owners desire to extend the productive (producing crias) life span of both males and females to capitalize on investments. Small animal practitioners deal with geriatric pets routinely, now those who deal with alpacas are often asked to provide such service.

Population Dynamics

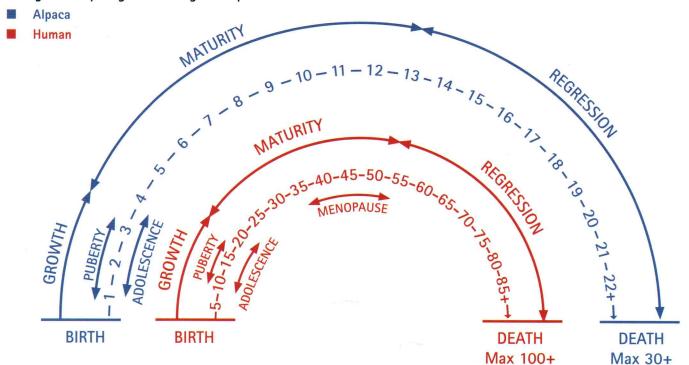
Population dynamics data is unavailable, either in North or South America, for alpacas. North American breeders are unable to call upon the experience of South American producers because there is no older population in South America. Non productive animals are eaten.

Concern about alpaca population dynamics, ageing or longevity are important for the following reasons:

- 1. Recognition of the changes associated with ageing helps to provide better care for aged animals.
- 2. Preventative husbandry and medical care given early in the life of an animal may slow the ageing process.
- 3. Such information assists in planning for the productive life of an individual.
- 4. In addition to planning for the individual, information will enhance herd management as older animals leave productive years.

What constitutes an old alpaca? That question has not been answered for alpacas, but the question was asked of a number of experienced llama breeders who have large herds. The response was surprisingly uniform, (15-18 years). It is the author's opinion that alpacas would fit that pattern as well. The diagram below compares the life stages of alpacas with humans. Alpaca data is only approximate. The description of characteristics of old alpacas is based on personal experience plus those of longtime breeders of alpacas. It is also possible to extrapolate from other animals that have been allowed to live out their lifespan and apply basic principles to augment meagre knowledge.





Age Changes of Medical Importance

All living organisms pass through a life cycle of genesis, growth, reproduction, maintenance, regression and death. Just as surely as there is birth and reproduction, organ systems eventually wear out and body shape and organ functions change.

All organ systems age, but changes in some are more dramatic than in others. This discussion is limited to a few systems, including dental, skeletal, reproductive, special senses and the immune system.

Dental

There are two stages in the life of an alpaca when dental problems are likely to occur. When the permanent cheek teeth erupt (3.5-5 years) and, after a lifetime of chewing and grinding that wear teeth. The precise age when teeth become worn varies, but is determined by the type of feed provided over the years, inherent dental quality and occlusion of teeth.

Malocclusion of teeth is a significant problem in alpacas. Breeders desiring and expecting longevity in their animals should be advised to select breeding stock with sound dental anatomy. Prepurchase examinations should include a thorough dental examination consisting of the following:

- > Procurement of a history of dental disease or surgery (trimming the incisors, disarming the canines);
- > Visual evaluation for malocclusion;
- > Palpation of the mandibles and maxilla for bony involvement or missing teeth;
- > As complete an oral examination as possible.

Alpaca teeth normally have sharp enamel points on the tongue side of the lower jaw and cheek side of the upper teeth. Dental flotation is not indicated unless evidence of lacerations of the cheek or tongue is substantiated by visual inspection or loss of a tooth results in overgrowth of the opposite tooth.

The dental conditions seen in older alpacas include excessive wear, uneven wear (wave mouth), loss of a tooth or teeth, gingival disease, abscesses, grass awn accumulation in the mouth and oral laceration.

Clinical signs of dental disease: Weight loss, abnormal chewing, abrupt cessation of chewing as if a sudden pain has struck, partially chewed fibres in faecal pellets, swellings on the jaw bones, odour or exudation from a nostril, apparent sensitivity to drinking cold water and visibly worn or deformed teeth.

Diagnosis: A thorough examination of the mouth may require sedation. Alpacas are unable to open the mouth widely and are reluctant to allow a thorough examination. Sedation may be necessary. Missing teeth may be detected by palpation through the cheek. Radiographs may be required for a definitive evaluation.

Management: Animal dentistry is now a recognised speciality, but most animal dentists know little about llama/

alpaca dentistry. However, an invitation for them to become involved is all that is usually required. The challenge is to make a diagnosis, provide a prognosis, correct specific diseases, or recommend that the owner make it easier for the animal to be nourished by providing more easily chewed feed. Heated water should be provided in the winter in cold climates. If weight loss is observed, increase the proportion of concentrates in the diet.

Skeletal System

Animals with basic conformational weakness are more prone to unsoundness in later life. Expect to see changes in conformation of older animals. A female that has produced numerous crias may develop sway back in her old age. Sway back may intensify as term nears, and may return to near normal following delivery. Likewise, the stretching of tendons and ligaments may cause an alpaca to be over at the knees (buck kneed) or down in the fetlock. It is important to evaluate such conformation defects in a proper light, related to circumstance. Such faults present in a young female, should raise concern in regard to breeding this female and perpetuating a fault. However, results of normal wear and tear are not usually of genetic origin.

Each skeletal condition should be evaluated as to impact on function, presence of pain and whether or not corrective measures are possible. Calcium:phosphorus imbalance may exacerbate the condition. Young animals with conformation faults are more prone to suffer degenerative changes and calcification of collateral ligaments as they age, because of asymmetrical wear on joint surfaces or tangential forces from improper angulation. Older llamas may move about more slowly or stiffly as a result of pain, but they may also prefer to conserve energy and be naturally more sedate.

There may be reluctance to roll in the dust bath or the head, neck or body may be held in peculiar positions. They may be stiff when first arising in the morning or after prolonged recumbency, have unnecessarily frequent and/or prolonged periods of recumbency, or resist turning one way or the other when being led. The head may not be held upright. Lameness, frequent resting of the head and neck on fences or feed bunks, constant shifting of weight from one leg to another may be observed. Affected llamas may graze while lying down.

Management: Attempt to identify specific conditions and deal with them, if treatable. However, in many cases there is little a veterinarian can do. Use caution in placing llamas on long-term anti-inflammatory or anti-arthritic drugs, which may produce significant untoward side effects (production of stomach ulcers). However, some llamas have been on long-term phenylbutazone therapy for years (L. Johnson, personal communication). I recommend that the animals be made comfortable. Bedding, sandy or grassy spots in cool, shaded spots may be provided.

From a preventative standpoint, select animals that are well conformed to begin with and keep feet trimmed properly. Animals that must compensate for mechanical instability are more prone to develop skeletal unsoundness.

Vision and Hearing

Vision and hearing may diminish. Senile cataracts occur in most species, but have not yet been reported in alpacas. Alpacas are both visual and auditory in their social communication, yet animals with impaired vision and/or hearing may function admirably in a familiar enclosure. Problems have been noted when such animals have been shifted to unfamiliar enclosures or grouped with strangers. Owners should be perceptive and aware of changes that may be occurring in their animals.

Immunity, Metabolism and Organ Function

Little is known about the immune system of alpacas and even less about the immunology of the ageing alpaca. In humans and other domestic animals, old individuals have shown diminished resistance to disease. What might be a mild, easily treated infection in a 5 year old alpaca may become a major battle for a 25 year old. In human medicine, old age may be the most common form of immune deficiency. Drugs may not be metabolized as readily, thus are either less effective or may become more toxic. Greater caution must be exercised with anaesthesia, because diminished liver and kidney function may slow metabolism of anaesthetic agents.

Elderly humans may have lost approximately 30% of kidney function without ever having experienced specific kidney disease. The cardiovascular system is not as efficient in old animals, nor is respiratory function.

Feeding and Nutrition

Aside from the feeding problems associated with dental disorders, older animals have lower requirements for energy and protein. Over-feeding is a risk for older animals. On the other hand, requirements for vitamins may be slightly higher. Periodic weighing and diet modification may help to keep older alpacas in optimum condition. A diet of equal parts alfalfa pellets, whole cottonseed and flaked corn with 1% molasses has proven to be an effective geriatric supplement when fed up to 50% of the dry matter intake plus free-choice forage, (L. Johnson, personal communication).

Reproductive Performance

Ideally, a healthy alpaca female could produce a cria every year from the time she is three until she is 20, but that is not likely to happen. A more realistic average would be 8-12. Many factors determine productivity, and the ageing process is one of them. Alpacas do not experience a menopause, so pregnancy may occur into old age. In old age, alpacas may die from some other cause with a foetus in the uterus.

However, ovarian function may wane or cease entirely. The age at which this occurs is highly variable and may be genetically influenced in alpacas, as it is in all other domestic animals.

Reproductive function is a fine-tuned balance of hormonal influences on healthy organs such as the ovaries and the uterus. The endocrine system may undergo diminished activity with ageing as do other organs. The ovaries may have a finite number of potential follicles present at birth. When those follicles have been expended or prevented from developing due to scarring there will be no more crias. In addition, a female may be receptive to a male, but insufficient luteinizing hormone is produced to cause ovulation. Or, if ovulation does take place, insufficient progesterone may be produced to maintain pregnancy.

Many old alpacas are able to carry the foetus to term without intervention, but in some instances the female must be supplemented with progesterone to bring the pregnancy to term. Successful reproduction in a female alpaca over 16-18 years of age may be a hit and miss affair.

Even less is known about the reproductive longevity of male alpacas than is known of females, however, there are males known to be successful breeders well into their 20's. Arthritis may have a dramatic negative effect on libido.

Evaluation of senile infertility: The signs of senile infertility are no different from signs of infertility encountered in younger animals. More time and effort may be necessary to evaluate an older animal to establish whether or not a specific health problem exists or if the reproductive tract is fully functional. Repeated, or even daily examination may be required to evaluate the function of the ovaries. Evaluation of hormone levels is now possible.

Crias from older females: Crias born to aged dams may be denied adequate milk, because mammary gland function may also diminish with age, due to scarring and inadequate hormonal balance. The quality and quantity of colostrum of aged animals may be suspect, because of diminished immune function.

Meeting the Challenge of the Older Alpaca

No one has found a magical elixir to maintain perpetual youth. The speed of development of dental problems may be slowed by proper feeding. Regular nail trimming may minimise the development of arthritis and conformational faults. Regular health examination may uncover diseases before they become chronic and debilitating. Diet should be re-evaluated periodically.

Alpaca owners want their charges to live a quality life. Crucial to maintaining that quality is astute observation that detects subtle changes and allows correction of specific diseases before they become major problems.

This article first appeared in the Spring 1999 issue of Alpacas Magazine, the official journal of the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association, USA and is reproduced with the permission of the Editor and the author, Prof. Murray Fowler.

Ed: Thanks to Carol Lucas (Zeus Alpacas, VIC) for requesting an article on this subject.

Sampling and testing variability

If repeat samples are taken from a fleece, differences in the reported test measurement will usually be found. These differences are related to two main causes.

Variation between samples

Each sample submitted for testing is different. These differences are related to the variation in animal fleeces discussed earlier but in this case are due to sampling variation. Samples are also frequently sub-sampled once or twice and variation also occurs during these processes.

Variation between tests

Variation occurs between tests. This variation can be related to preparation of the sample and the operation of the equipment. Each sample tested by the equipment is different, so some differences in the reported measurement are to be expected. Scientific test laboratories regularly monitor their testing procedures to ensure the reliability of the test results.

Interpreting test results

Alpaca growers need to be aware that each test has an inherent error related to the variability associated with sampling and testing procedures. This measurement error exists even if only one sample is taken and measured.

Some growers have submitted fleece samples to different fibre testing services and expressed criticism at the "difference in results" they receive. Such an outcome is to be expected. But do these "different results" really differ?

Sampling variance in Australian alpaca

By determining the sampling variance, the 95% confidence limits can be calculated for a particular sampling and testing procedure. The sampling variance and confidence limits for mid side and saddle grid samples has been measured in Australian alpacas (Tables 3 and 4, Aylan-Parker and McGregor 2002).

The sampling variance for the alpaca fibre mean diameter attributes shown in Table 3 are similar to values reported for Merino wool.

Table 3. Sampling variance for fibre attributes measured from mid side or saddle grid samples in Australian alpacas.

Attribute	Mid side	Saddle
Mean fibre diameter, µm	0.7	3.6
Mean fibre diameter CV, %	1.4	3.4
Incidence medullated fibre, % weigh	nt 8.3	95.0
Medullated fibre diameter, µm	1.1	3.8
Clean washing yield, %	4.4	6.0

Except for clean washing yield, the sampling variance for saddle grid samples was generally 2 to 4 times greater than the sampling variance for mid side samples. As a consequence, for most fleece attributes, the 95% confidence limits for the saddle grid sample were about double those of mid side samples (Table 4).

Table 4. The 95% confidence limits for fibre attributes measured from mid side or saddle grid samples in Australian alpacas.

Attribute	Mid side	Saddle
Mean fibre diameter, µm	1.6	3.7
Mean fibre diameter CV, %	2.3	3.6
Incidence medullated fibre, % weigh	t 5.7	19.1
Medullated fibre diameter, µm	2.0	3.8
Clean washing yield, %	4.1	4.8

Sampling variance for the incidence of medullated fibres in saddle grid samples was very high, possibly due to the difficulty in sampling and measuring these fibres. Contamination of saddle fleece samples with fibres from the pieces and by coloured fibres will also increase the sampling variance of medullated fibres.

Evaluating and undertaking alpaca fibre testing

Use of mid side sample

The mid side sample was found to be an appropriate sample from which to predict the mean fibre diameter and the clean washing yield.

The mid side sample does not measure a large enough area of the fleece to detect sufficient variation in mean fibre diameter coefficient of variation (CVD) or in the incidence of medullated fibres.

Use of the saddle grid sample

Breeders wishing to improve CVD and/ or spinning fineness (McGregor 1998) measurements of the alpaca saddle, in the most efficient way, should use the saddle grid sample, since the mid side sample is not as accurate for use in the selection of stock for breeding programs.

Breeders using either mid side samples or saddle grid samples to improve total fleece CVD, will improve neck CVD at the same time with similar effectiveness.

The saddle grid sample was found to be the appropriate sample to predict the incidence of medullated fibres in the entire fleece.

Sampling procedure

The large 95% confidence limits for all the tested fibre attributes indicate that alpaca breeders and advisers need to consider taking suitable duplicate measurements and other precautions during breeding and animal selling programs.

Using the confidence limits

The 95% confidence limits for mean fibre diameter (\pm 1.6 μ m) show that alpaca breeders and advisers need to exercise caution when interpreting absolute fibre test results. This data indicates that breeders cannot confidently distinguish between animal test results where the mean fibre diameter differs by less than 1.6 μ m.

See examples below.

There is only a 5% chance that two alpacas with the following mid side test results are different:

- a) 19.7 µm compared with 21.2 µm
- b) 25.9 μm compared with 27.4 μm

Small differences in MFD are unlikely to be valid grounds upon which to discriminate against animals.

This interpretation has even greater weight when using saddle grid samples to select animals, as the sampling variance for these samples is at least twice that of mid side test results.

Differences between years and properties

It is not valid to compare the fibre testing results obtained among properties or between years unless special precautions are taken during the collection and analysis of data. Large between year differences in the environment will affect alpaca fibre attributes (McGregor 2002) and property and year affects can interact (McGregor and Butler 2000). Thus during the design of genetic improvement programs, arrangements must be made to account for these influences if serious attempts are to be made at identifying real genetic differences.

Conclusions

If alpacas are to be selected for characteristics such as low mean fibre diameter and high fleece weight then the mid side sampling site is recommended.

If alpacas are to be selected for low mean fibre diameter coefficient of variation, low incidence of medullated fibres and other characteristics of medullated fibre, then the saddle grid sampling technique is recommended.

Alpaca breeders and advisers need to exercise caution when interpreting absolute fibre test results. Evaluation of fibre attributes among alpacas should take into account the 95% confidence limits of the sampling procedure.

Acknowledgments

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A more formal definition of PR is that it is about communicating the right messages to appropriate audiences for your business via the best 'independent' channels.

Examples of independent channels include:

- > Educational programs visit schools, agricultural colleges, etc.
- > Events, shows, information sessions, farm open days, etc.
- > Newsletters
- > Media relations and the placement of articles in industry publications
- > Workshops
- > Speeches

A major component of PR is media relations. If a person was to read about your business in a newspaper article for example, the publicity would carry more weight than if that same person read an advertisement. This is because the article is perceived as being from an independent source, thus more credible.

The fact is, much of what you read and see in the media is sourced from PR or corporate communications professionals. PR is a powerful and cost effective communication tool as it can:

- > Mould perceptions of a company/brand/product
- > Attract customers
- > Increase demand
- > Gain an edge over other competitor businesses
- > Enhance credibility and prestige
- > Gets messages across without buying advertising space

The AAA Marketing Team regularly conducts media activities by writing media releases, supporting events and contributing to relevant features. Including key messages about the Australian Alpaca industry in media material and generating media coverage across TV, print and radio mediums helps establish a better marketing environment for all alpaca owners.

How to Conduct your own PR

One of the best ways to generate positive 'word-of-mouth' about your business is through publicity. Publicity is about getting free editorial coverage in magazines or newspapers, or being talked about on radio and TV.

You can generate your own publicity by writing media releases and sending them to publications, and contacting media with newsworthy stories. This is how you can attract interest in your farm and what you are offering.

Some examples of stories you may be able to generate about your farm include:

- > Participation at local shows subsequent results
- > Interesting ways in which you are using alpacas
- > Developments in the industry that are being implemented at your farm
- > Case study about your farm

Tips on Writing your own Media Release

The first paragraph is the most important part of the release as a journalist must decide if it is newsworthy very quickly as they will receive up to 80 stories a day. A media release should contain the key messages in less than 25 words and also most of the 5 W's and one H.

WHO is doing it or having it done to them (your business)?

WHAT is happening?

WHY is it happening?

WHEN is it happening?

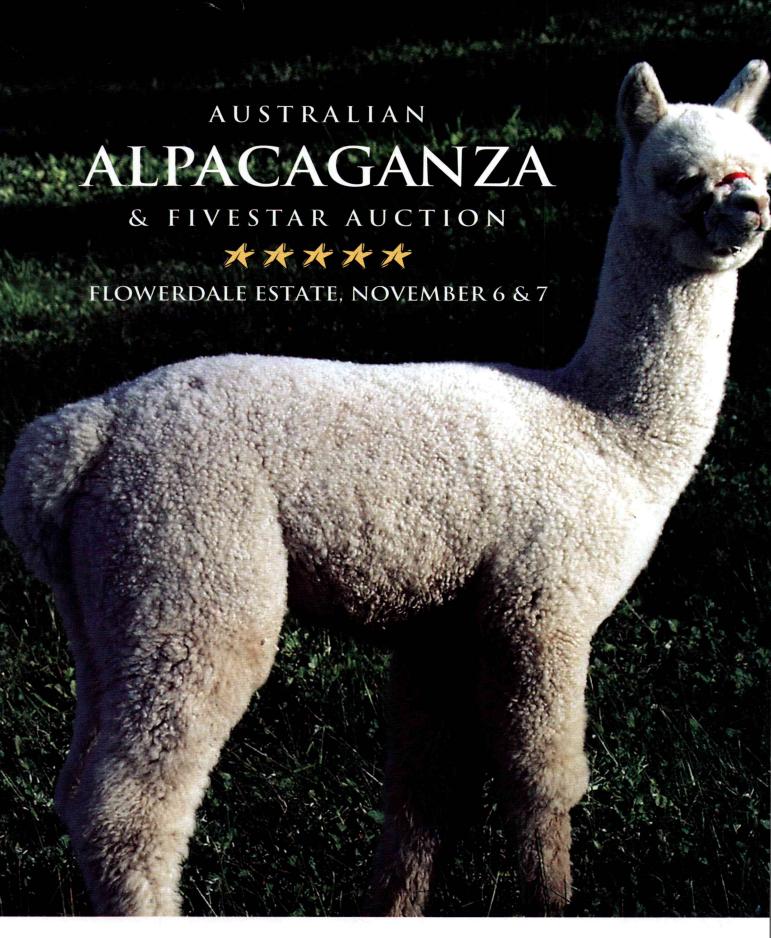
WHERE is it happening?

HOW are you doing it?

Listed below are some points that will assist you with writing your release. These are basic principles to follow regardless of the situation or topic that you are writing about.

- > The first step to a greater understanding of what makes 'news' is studying the media in your area.
- > Your style should be simple and direct.
- > Have something important to say.
- > Write a catchy headline.
- > Try to keep the editor in mind when writing they are likely to know little about the alpaca industry.
- > If you discover that one reporter covers farming issues regularly, send the release directly to them.
- > Always include a contact name, address and phone number on the media release for further information or comment.
- > Community newspapers like to use photographs of people/animals to accompany articles, so where possible attach a photograph with a caption identifying the photograph.
- > Follow up the story with the journalist you sent the media release to. Make a phone call and see if they have any questions and if your topic interests them. It is a good relationship building exercise so if there are any further stories they might come to you for comment.

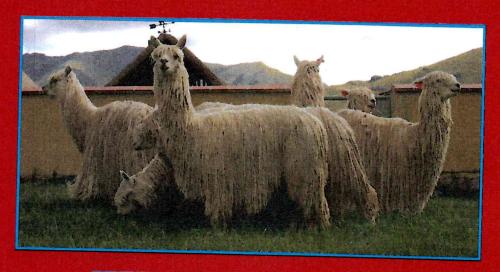
To obtain the best results from conducting marketing activities like PR, ensure you use a coordinated approach. Your key messages, information and branding should be consistent and integrated. This way you will have people walking up to you in the street and say: 'You are a great catch'.



Here's an alpaca event you cannot afford to miss. The Australian Five Star Alpacaganza at Flowerdale Estate in November. There's Dr Jane Vaughan's seminar on the progress of her Embryo Transfer work. The Five Star Dinner and Male Sale. The Gourmet Aussie Barbecue & entertainment. Luxury overnight accommodation. The Five Star Female Auction. Twenty elite alpacas have been chosen by Ambersun, Flowerdale Estate, Illawarra, Shanbrooke, Surilana and Windsong Valley Alpacas, to make this one of the best ever buying opportunities for breeders.

For more information visit www.aussiealpaca.com

Peruvian Plantel Collection



Shanbrooke

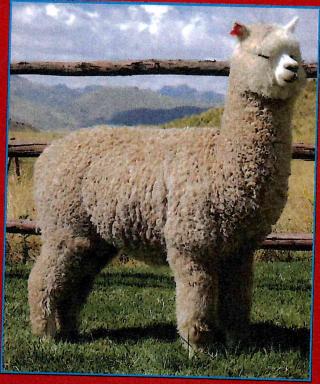
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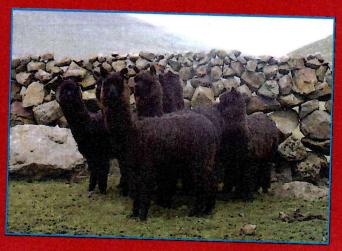
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Home Spun - DIY Marketing

MARKETING ARTICLE by Michael van den Bos > McGregors International, NSW

Public Relations for your business.

any AAA members know a lot about public relations (PR) and are successful using the marketing tool for their business. For others, this article may shed some light on the world of PR.

What is PR? Is it about standing in front of a nightclub greeting guests as they enter or is it trawling the streets touting products? Not exactly.

One particular analogy helps put PR and other elements of the marketing mix in context.

"You see someone good looking and walk up and say: 'I'm a great catch'

- That's DIRECT MARKETING.

You are at a party with friends and you see someone good looking. One of your friends walks up to that person, points at you and says: 'They're a great catch' – That's ADVERTISING.

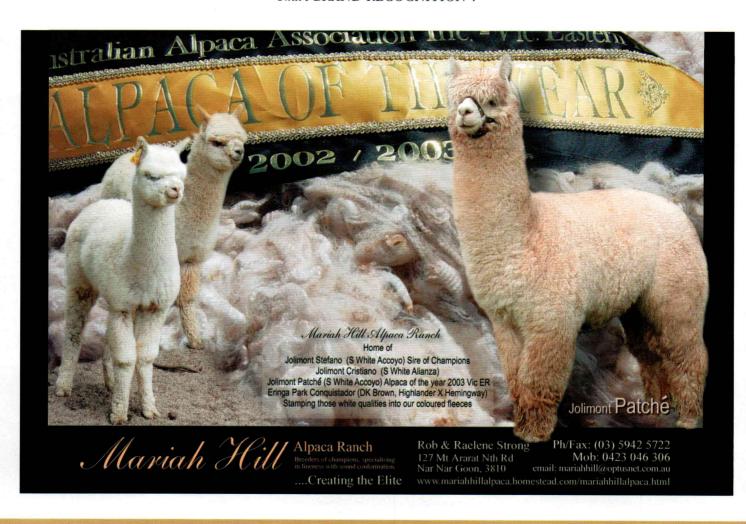
You see someone good looking at a party. You go up and get their phone number. The next day, you give that person a call and say: 'I'm a great catch'

— That's TELE-MARKETING.

You are at a party and you see someone good looking. You get up, fix your clothes, walk up to the person and get them a drink. You offer the person a lift home, remind them of your name when they forget it, tell the person they are good looking and then say: 'By the way, I am a great catch'

— That's PUBLIC RELATIONS.

You are at a party and you see a good looking person – that person walks up to you and says: 'I hear you are a great catch' – That's BRAND RECOGNITION".



Early Detection of an Aborted Foetus

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by Helen Ellinopoullos > Orrapoora Alpacas, NSW

How often does this happen but isn't picked up, as these stoic animals go through a 'premature labour', abort and not tell us?

n a recent late afternoon routine paddock check I noticed one of the girls in the 'Preg Mob', one of last year's maidens, was suspiciously cushed on her own a little way from the rest of the mob. She rose somewhat unsteadily to her feet and walked slowly towards the others with her head to the ground and I realised that she wasn't looking to graze, just walking 'hang dog'. She then stopped over a poo pile and took position, but nothing eventuated. She then cushed awkwardly once more as alarm bells rang for me.

The maiden was separated from the herd and checked - she appeared to have liquid staining down her back legs and on lifting her tail, a slight vaginal discharge. She was given antibiotics and put in the shed for the night and observed for some hours. She was in obvious discomfort and stayed in cush, not showing any interest in the chaff and hay offered.

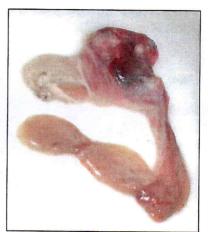
Next morning she seemed brighter, but was kept in until late morning, re-dosed with antibiotics and then taken back to her paddock, where she immediately ran off to join the others grazing on the hill. We then proceeded to clean up the poo piles in the shed and yard area when I found the foetus, complete, still in sac - a female of 12 weeks gestation, perfectly formed. Something very much amiss with it though and it had died and been expelled.

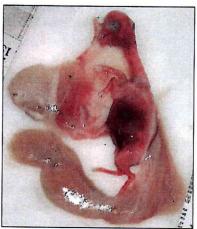
We consider ourselves fortunate to have found the foetus and the opportunity to treat the maiden early before the infection became worse. (We continued treatment for 5 days.)

If I hadn't noticed the maiden's strange behaviour in the paddock, her abortion would probably have gone unnoticed - only at her next scan would we have found that she suddenly wasn't pregnant any more, and with an infection more deep seated, making another pregnancy difficult to achieve. This maiden had 'taken' at her first mating, had spat off many times and had scanned positive at 8 weeks. Now she will be re-mated before winter with hopefully no further problems.

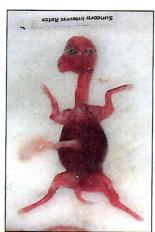
Since then while doing spit offs/matings with the maternity group we have found another female with similar (old) staining down her back legs, and sure enough she sat at spit off. She had been mated in mid-February and had spat off on numerous occasions and scanned positive. So now I walk around the paddocks checking back legs! The maiden is solid medium brown and the second female (with cria at foot) is solid white, but the staining was clear to see on both females. So how often does this happen but isn't picked up, as these stoic animals go through a 'premature labour', abort and not tell us?

We took the opportunity to photograph the foetus. It is very interesting to note how clear and defined the foetus was at 12 weeks with all body parts clearly well developed and distinguishable. Looking closely at the photographs would indicate that the cause of the female aborting was a massive haemorrhage in the foetus.









Alpacas in Italy - a Personal View

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by René Steiger > Alpacas Poggio Piero, Italy

Here in Italy we stand at the beginning of what we all hope will be an exciting future.

hat are these?"; "Do they thrive here?"; "How much do you get paid for the wool?"; "Can you eat them?" – some of the FAQs by people stopping to observe the strange creatures on our pasture. The rather hesitant answer to the second last and not very affirmative one to the last question very often puts an end to their curiosity and interest.

But, where do we, the alpaca community, really stand in Italy?

(The following reflects the author's personal experience, views and assessment and may or may not reflect those of the majority of his fellow keepers and breeders of alpacas).

The first South American camelids in Italy were probably kept in zoos. The first serious efforts at importing and breeding alpacas, and first attempts at creating a market for these animals, occurred as recently as the late 1990s. In 2001 two Italian associations were founded independently of each other. One, with an already operational registry, and with membership predominantly in northern Italy for both llamas and alpacas, and one with members throughout the country, with a current concentration in central Italy, with emphasis on alpacas. The latter, Italpaca (www.italpaca.com), at present has a membership of 31 breeders/keepers and four associates (vets, researchers, etc.). It is estimated that there are about 40 keepers/breeders of alpacas distributed throughout the country, with a total of around 350-400 alpacas, predominantly huacayas, the vast majority coloured.

From the foundation date of Italpaca it was clear that amongst the first tasks to complete was the setting up of







In Tuscany alpacas enjoy warm summers and the occasional snowfall in winter

a national registry. Due mainly to changes affecting the presidency of the association, this took much longer than anticipated. It is now hoped that a registry, as accepted by the AGM of March 6, 2004 will allow the registration of animals as from this summer.

In 2002 the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Camerino, experienced in SA camelids through its involvement since 1997 in a camelid orientated, European Commission sponsored research project in the Andean countries (SUPREME), undertook a survey of the main physical characteristics of a large percentage of the then 'national' alpaca herd. The results, not unexpectedly, as the founder animals had been imported from Chile and a variety of European countries, did not reveal any particular characteristics distinguishing an Italian alpaca from any other. According to the authors of the survey the results also indicated the average quality of the animals was not exceptional.

This led to lengthy, at times heated discussions amongst the council members, regarding the best way forward in terms of a registry that might assist the improvement of the national herd. Options discussed ranged from a simple registry of all animals regardless of quality, to a registry from which all animals not regarded as 'improvers' of the national herd would be eliminated. In the end a compromise was agreed.

In principle the registry is a two tier one, divided into

- a) males and females of Italian or foreign provenance, free of defects considered to be major ones (extreme brachygnathism, uni-/bilateral cryptorchidism, and blue eyes), and
- b) males and females born in Italy, with parents registered in a), and fulfilling certain criteria at around one year of age, i.e. at the time of the first shearing.

These criteria comprise aspects of conformity and quality and quantity of wool, which are combined into a single factor. Each year a committee will decide the minimum number of points required for an animal to be considered an 'improver' and to be registered in b). The remainder of the animals will be registered in a). The system has an inbuilt flexibility. At present the bias favours e.g. white over coloured, wool quality/quantity over conformity, etc. Animals registered will be identified by microchip, those registered in b) additionally by DNA, with the intention to also DNA test the parents of the so registered animal. The registry will be owned by Italpaca and administered by the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Camerino. The latter will also take on an advisory role. It is hoped that this type of registry will assist in improving the overall quality of the national herd. In view of the small size of this herd much will depend on the willingness of the keepers/breeders of alpacas to participate in the scheme. After some time we hopefully will also be in a position to put more weight on genotype rather than solely on phenotype as planned for the initial stages.

Why do I use the term keeper/breeder rather than simply talking about breeders? This is based on my own experience over the past four years. At the beginning one is more than happy to own a small group of these wonderful animals, and even happier to see the first crias being born and survive. Without any doubt one's own animals are the most beautiful in the world. There is nothing wrong with this. With time, having read many books and magazines, visited numerous web pages and possibly a few shows and other farms, one nevertheless begins to look at animals in a more critical fashion. From a keeper one slowly turns into a breeder. It is probably true to say that here in Italy many keepers are now approaching, or have reached, the beginning of this transition. It may also be that this process takes a bit longer here than in other countries because of a language problem, people finding it more difficult to access the relevant, predominantly English literature that is available in many other countries.

What else is happening? Italpaca has a number of committees. One of the so far really successful ones is the wool committee, which has succeeded in organising a wool collection and industrial type processing system which now offers members the opportunity to have their wool processed, and to obtain cones of 100% Italian alpaca wool in a number of colours; without any doubt a major step forward in the right direction. Through another channel (Consorzio Arianne) members have a second possibility, and can obtain a product of alpaca mixed with sheep wool, of a single colour mix. Amongst Italian keepers/breeders the desire to do something with the wool of their animals is strong. This is particularly true for people running what is called an 'agriturismo', comparable to what in other countries may be referred to as a B&B in the countryside, or farmhouse holiday. These places have the clear opportunity to sell the products to their guests, who also have the opportunity to admire them for their unusual and often new animals. The future could show these establishments to also be an important lower tier market for companion animals.

This is the situation today. What about the future? Within Italpaca we have identified a number of problem areas and intend to work towards the alleviation of some of these problems. The most important areas are:

- > Expansion of the presently very limited market through various means, including TV programs, appearances at agricultural and craft shows, magazine articles, etc. A very important aspect will be the establishment of a vigorous show circuit, with Italian breeders participating/competing both in local shows and those organised in other European countries.
- Continued efforts to improve the services offered to members regarding maximising the value of wool produced.
- > Continued organisation of courses to improve the general standard of husbandry, shearing, wool handling, training of animals, etc.
- > Working towards improved camelid orientated veterinary services through the establishment of a contact network. Owners of camelids in Italy face the same initial problems with regard to lack of relevant knowhow amongst veterinarians as those in other countries following the introduction of these animals. It is intended to form a working group amongst vets to assist the faster dissemination of the accumulating knowhow. In this context attempts will be made to better understand what are believed to be above average numbers of deaths of both crias and adult animals. At present most deaths go both unrecorded and unexplained.
- Partly within the context of the above, it is intended to initiate studies into the nutritional aspects in different regions of the country, and to raise the awareness of keepers/breeders as to the importance of a properly balanced nutrition.

As one can see, a lot lies ahead to be achieved.

To round off this account of the Italian situation, following are a few experiences and observations of a personal nature.

Esther, a retired craft and textile teacher, and René, a retired geologist, moved from Switzerland to their small farm in southern Tuscany in the spring of 2000. Their starter herd of eight females purchased from breeders/importers in Italy and Switzerland has grown to 32 animals, 10 suris and the remainder huacayas. Esther produces handspun wool, sweaters, cushions, textile sculptures, etc. Both play an active role in the budding association, Italpaca, of which they are founder members. As total beginners they faced and continue to face all the problems associated with keeping alpacas, and enjoy all the pleasures these animals can give.

"As this was the first time we had owned any animals larger and more exotic than a cat or medium sized dog, the first few weeks were nerve-racking. Knowing that out there in the dark,

the rain, the burning sun we had something comparable in value to a decent secondhand Ferrari also was a new feeling. But then there were the moments of absolute delight watching them exploring their new pasture, seemingly content with what they saw and found to eat.



The sweater by Esther that looks like their father

And not too long afterwards the ultimate glory of the first cria being born on our farm. We were lucky to find a local vet experienced with sheep in the area, who, perhaps more importantly than anything else, immediately took to these animals the moment he saw one for the first time on our pasture. From our experience it is of utmost importance that the vet is not only called in moments of utter, in most cases final, crisis, but that he and his experience develop and grow in unison with the herd. Together with him we went, and continue to go, through a learning curve that is probably not much different from that experienced by many fledgling breeders throughout the world. This learning curve unfortunately does not always point upwards. Moments of utter glory and satisfaction, successful births and treatments of minor injuries and ailments, the relief when a bottle-fed male shows not the slightest sign of male



I look like my father who looks

berserk syndrome, are followed by sad incidents, for both breeder and vet, like stillbirths and the often unsatisfactorily explained deaths of crias. Time allowing in between those spent on general chores around the herd, weaving and knitting, hand-processing the wool of particular animals, tending the vineyard and olive grove, etc., we also attempt to halter train our animals. This quite often turns us into a mixture of Marty McGee and Buffalo Bill, in particular with animals that have spent their formative years

on the altiplano. There is hope after all, that Buffalo Bill will be a person of the past. What are our breeding goals? Both from the viewpoints of hand-weaver/knitter and lovers of alpacas, there is no choice other than to go for colour, naturally not forgetting about fineness, crimp, density, etc."

In brief: Here in Italy we stand at the beginning of what we all hope will be an exciting future, no matter where exactly we will end up. Let's not forget that our national herd is only the size of many an individual herd in other countries. We certainly hope that alpacas will be appreciated for their beauty, their character, their individuality, and that fewer and fewer people will lose interest when the answer to a certain question is not very affirmative.

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RLPB/AAA Introduction to Alpacas Day

EDUCATION ARTICLE by Nestor & Helen Ellinopoullos > Orrapoora Alpacas, NSW

It was very gratifying to see such strong support given to the Australian alpaca industry by a purely rural-oriented government body such as the RLPB.



n early May this year, the Goulburn Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) conducted a Basic Information/Introduction to Alpacas day at Orrapoora Alpacas in Goulburn, NSW.

We've been involved with the RLPB since we first came to Goulburn some 6½ years ago. Being former city slickers, we've attended just about every field day organised by the RLPB (which are generally always run in conjunction with Ag Dept) covering all the basic farming requirements (pastures / nutrition / trees / weeds / water / fencing / poisons / farm safety, etc.) as well as attending more lengthy courses over a year or so both 'on the farm' as well as at TAFE.

RLPB field days are usually held on a different property each time. With our developing relationship and regular participation, it was only a matter of time before we were approached to make our farm facilities available to the RLPB to conduct their ongoing educational programme. Our property has now been used three years in a row for the RLPB Small Landholder Days.

The "Introduction to Alpacas Day" came about as a result of general discussions with the RLPB people at one of the above days. Field day feedback sheets have generally requested that the RLPB hold a day on alpacas. The RLPB, conscious that the Goulburn district is becoming 'alpaca alley' thought it would be a good idea if they firstly educated themselves on alpacas and then had an on-farm day for locals and newcomers to the area who were contemplating alpacas for their small to medium landholdings.

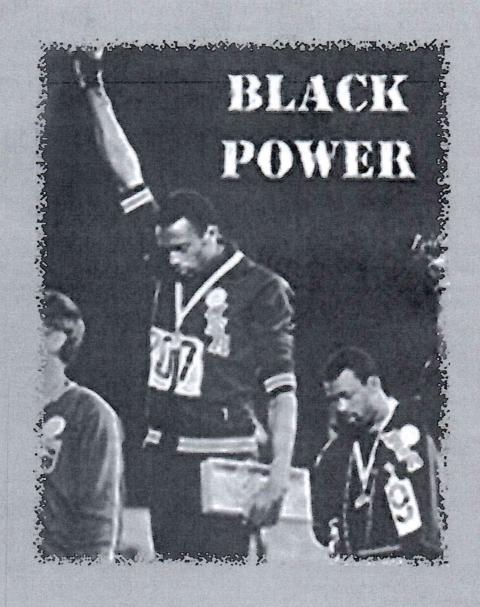




Southern NSW Region enthusiastically supported the RLPB in its sponsorship of the information day and promoted the event through the Region's newsletter and by placing advertisements in regional newspapers. The RLPB similarly promoted the field day through its quarterly newsletter, which goes to over 3,000 ratepayers. All costs, including excellent catering but excluding the Region's advertisements, were met by the RLPB.

The actual day itself attracted 59 participants, which was very pleasing to the RLPB as the average field day attendance is usually around 30 or so. The nine speakers were all AAA Southern NSW Region members. Feedback after the event was very favourable and there was a call for similar events to be held in the future. It was very gratifying to see such strong support given to the Australian alpaca industry by a purely rural-oriented government body such as the RLPB. On behalf of the AAA we extend our thanks for this support and look forward to an ongoing working relationship.





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Saving Sasha

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by Dominic Lane and Erin Greenwell > Viracocha Alpacas, TAS

It was certainly an experience that I would not wish upon any alpaca breeder, but the outcome was well worth the time and money spent.

as the cria had presented itself with the head and both forelimbs retained. After trying to free the legs without success we decided to call Dr. Roger Blackwell from the Deloraine Veterinary Clinic, a very experienced veterinarian who has been working closely with us for the last three years and who also has a passion for horses. When Roger arrived weary eyed at 6.00 am the dam was becoming distressed but she politely accepted his help.

We were not confident that the cria would be born alive due to the complications, but to our surprise it was. We had a solid black female that we named Sasha but she was very weak and flat and barely alive. Despite rubbing her many times with a towel along her spine to try and stimulate her she still remained flat on the ground. We dried her off, put a cria-coat on her to help keep her warm, and put her and the dam in the barn. However, she was so weak she could not even hold her own head up.

We observed her constantly and decided to give some glucose in warm water, which she drank. It was obvious to us at this stage that she was not going to be able to feed from her mother so we gave her Wombaroo colostrum replacement as directed for the first 24 hours and then put her on Di-Vetelact.

We then rang good friends Irene Allston and Carolyn and Allan Jinks for advice. Sasha was placed in a cardboard box with the front cut out and lined with alpaca fleece, and was given a warm hot water bottle. She was supported on each side by pillows and another pillow in the front of the box to support her head. She received physiotherapy three times a day, with massage of her spine, legs and feet. Sasha started to lift her head on day three but only halfway and only for short periods of time.

By day five she was starting to try to stand and with help she was up on her little feet for the first time by late afternoon. We were now starting to feel some relief and becoming confident that she was going to get stronger every day. However, her mother was starting to show signs of rejecting her, as, so far she had not tried to feed or interact with her. This was, of course, a concern. Nevertheless, we hoped that this would change now that Sasha was trying to stand.

It was during Sasha's last feed of the evening that we discovered one of an alpaca breeder's worst nightmares. Sasha appeared to have broken her right back leg. We couldn't believe it. How did it happen? We still don't know: we can only guess. Did she slip? Did her mother stand on her? We will never know.

Anyway, on further inspection we realised the worst. We immediately rang Dr. Kendall Crocker from the Sheffield Veterinary Clinic who in our opinion is the most experienced alpaca vet in Tasmania. Kendall was the first vet to treat alpacas in Tasmania when approached by Samarkand Alpaca Stud. He has been practising veterinary science for nearly fifteen years and was awarded his degree at the University of Melbourne.

Sasha was rushed to Kendall's home in Deloraine, a short 15 minute drive away. Upon arrival the break was confirmed. Kendall's first thought was that it was going to be a real challenge but he wanted to operate, although such a highly unstable fracture had to be dealt with as soon as possible. We, of course, agreed. All our alpacas are special to us so there was not even a second thought. Apart from that Sasha was sired by our multiple champion male Wyterrica Patrick, owned in partnership, and her dam was a blue ribbon winner at the 2000 Royal Sydney Show.

Sasha was operated on the next morning. X-rays were taken before the operation that revealed an oblique fracture of the proximal femoral shaft (shown below).



Kendall had to decide on his best option. He considered a plate but decided that intra-medullary pinning with circlage wires would be the best option (shown right). This was due to the break being so high, resulting in very little bone at the top to work with and because plating would be a much longer operation. Kendall was also concerned to be operating on such a young animal, just 6 days old, not yet completely adjusted to life outside the womb and with an immune system so immature that anaesthesia was a concern. Sasha was the youngest animal that he had attempted this procedure on and, being an alpaca, even more of a challenge. Kendall has found that most of the proven anaesthetics work extremely well with alpacas however, it is the amount given which is important. Sasha was given an injection of Xylazine-Ketamine as an induction agent. She was then fitted with an Isoflurane gas mask during the two hour operation.

I was invited to watch the operation, an offer that I accepted. It was an interesting experience to watch the procedure and being able to help and comfort Sasha was greatly appreciated. It was a major concern to all of us that Sasha would not survive the operation. But she did. I couldn't help thinking that as she had come through everything so far, then she might be strong enough to survive the operation.

Sasha was given antibiotics, pain killers and an antiinflammatory before finally, it was time to take her home to face the next few weeks which could lead to gradual recovery or further complications. At home she was brought into the lounge room where she lived for the next 8 weeks and became a part of the family.

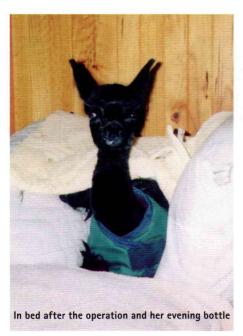
The procedure that Sasha underwent usually results in successful healing in 85% of cases. The problems that can arise include the bones not knitting, the leg rotating while healing, infections in the bone or the pin loosening and moving into the knee joint or coming out completely. So, we were obviously worried and had to keep Sasha as still as possible. As you can imagine this was not an easy task, especially with a young cria.



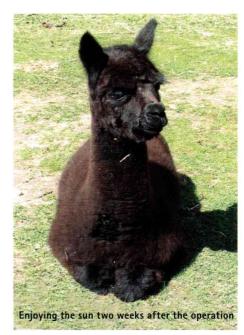
Sasha was put on antibiotics (Noroclav) for 10 days to help with any infections. She was not impressed with that at all: after suffering so much, 10 days of injections was the last thing she wanted. Bathing her leg was also done twice a day, as the pin was exposed above the hip bone.

It was now my job to sleep next to her every night and make sure that she didn't try to stand up suddenly and, of course, to feed her.

We were amazed that she was trying to stand on the third day, but she was not really confident enough for about a week. With lots of help and care she began putting her weight on her leg and taking a few steps in the second week. Unfortunately, she then got the scours from the antibiotics and so she was given yoghurt twice a day, which helped with this further problem.







During the healing process she was taken out into the paddock twice a day under our supervision. She socialized with her mother who had not forgotten her, and the other young crias who were very curious about her leg.

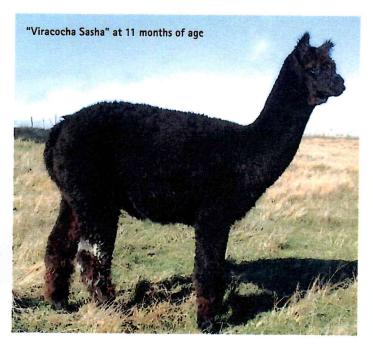
This precious little girl was now on her way to a normal life when her pin was removed at six weeks. Kendall was pleased with the way that the bones had healed and was confident enough to remove the pin. He explained that when an animal is so young the bones heal at an incredible rate. Even so, this was the moment we feared most. Was the leg going to stand up to the pressure? If anything was going to go wrong it was going to be now.

We let her recover from the anaesthetic before taking her out to the paddock for some sunshine and company with the others. The first thing she did was go to her mother to have some reassurance. It was a wonderful moment to see that all this hard work had paid off.

Sasha was left more and more in the paddock as the days went on until she spent her first night with the herd. The astonishing thing was that after eight weeks she managed to stimulate her mother's milk supply, resulting in her being slowly taken off Di-Vetelact. It is amazing how alpacas never forget, and to see mother and daughter bonding after so long was something special.

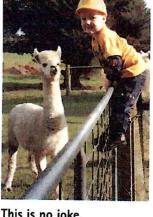
Sasha had a limp for a few months but her leg has healed perfectly. She is almost ready to be mated now and eventually become a mother to her own cria, which will hopefully be healthy and trouble free.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Roger Blackwell for bringing Sasha into the world, Dr. Kendall Crocker and Terrie for all their help and encouragement, Irene Allston and Carolyn Jinks for their knowledge and support. Without these people so willing to help, Sasha would not be here today.





Off my gate boy!



This is no joke.

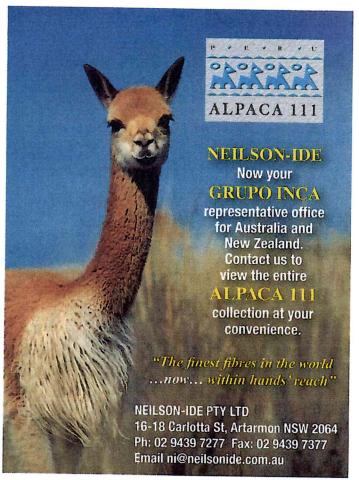


I need to get this kid's attention

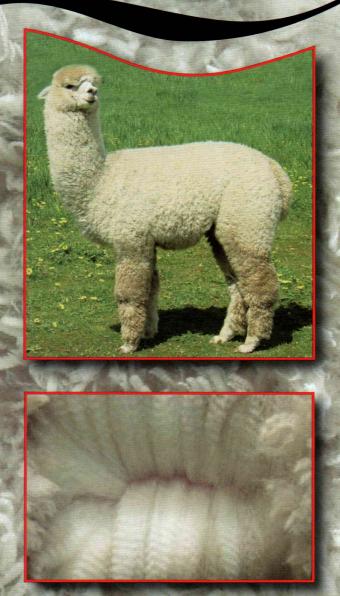


I hate yellow!

"Kenny" (the alpaca) and Lachlan, grandson of Gerry and Anita Maas, Gerita Alpacas, VIC







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Royal Auckland Show 2004

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by Carolyn Jinks > Benleigh Alpaca Stud, VIC

In Australia at Easter many eyes are on the Royal Sydney Show, but across the Tasman, the enthusiasm of convenors and effort by exhibitors at the Royal Auckland Easter Show certainly matched anything I have seen in Australia.



Supreme Champion Huacaya, "Hadstock N.Z. Fitzroy"



Supreme Champion Suri, "Surico Monet"

llan Jinks was invited to judge this prestigious show and the care and hospitality that was provided to judges of all breed societies by the A&P Society was incredible. The show was the largest yet held in New Zealand and for the first time breeders from the South Island traveled the long distance to attend.

A long distance it is indeed, as described by Carolyn Nelson from Ashburton in the South Island. She said that the animals were in the float for 26 hours as they left home at 4am to reach the ferry crossing at 11am, for a further three and a half hour trip. Following an overnight stay in the North Island, they reached Auckland at 6.30pm in time for judging the next day, after which they departed immediately for the long drive home and another show two days later. That is dedication!

Fleece from four studs in the south was sent for judging, making a total of 22 fleece entries, and together with 73 alpacas shown by 32 exhibitors it was a real national event.

As the Junior suri classes were small, three groups entered the ring together to commence the show. In New Zealand, a blue ribbon denotes second place and the red ribbon is first, and some onlookers were surprised when, in the 6-12 months suri classes, only blue ribbons were awarded and onlookers wondered if the judge thought he was still in Australia!

Following Allan's comments that once a first place is awarded, then a championship is imminent and as the standard on the day was insufficiently high for this, the confusion was resolved.

The Intermediate and Senior classes were of a much higher quality and Intermediate Champion Female *Surico Monet* owned by Sue and Brooke Richards was awarded the Supreme Champion Suri.

The Huacaya classes were strongly contested, and reading the program revealed some well known Australian names in the pedigrees of winners. Hadstock N.Z. Fitzroy, by Ambersun Sebastian, owned by Russell and Carolyn Nelson was awarded Junior Champion. Blue Grass Southern Warrior owned by Kit and Sheryl Johnson won Intermediate Champion, and Senior Champion was won by Hadstock N.Z. Classique, sired by Purrumbete Brigantine and out of the dam Kilpanie Romy, again both Australian bloodlines and now owned by Eric Lister.

Supreme Champion Huacaya was won by a beautiful brown male, *Hadstock N.Z. Fitzroy*, proving that a quality animal of any colour can become a Supreme Champion.

Anna Hasket, a promising junior, who clearly outperformed the adults, won a novelty class called 'Pet Performance'. A new addition to the program, 'Best Presented Alpaca and Handler' trophy, which was donated by the A&P Society of Auckland was awarded to Michele Tyrell. (The dress code was owners' choice).

A workshop was held the following day, with Allan Jinks presenting a lecture on 'The Ideal Alpaca', then a 'hands-on' fleece experience completed a very full and exciting Easter alpaca event in New Zealand.

Congratulations to all involved.

Australian Alpaca Fleece Comes in from the Cold ... Really Cold!

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Michael van den Bos > McGregors International, NSW

ith the cold tentacles of winter taking a firm grasp of the seasonal merry-go-round, it is time once again to pull out the jumpers from the bottom drawer. To make sure you stay extra warm this winter, Australian Alpaca could be just the ticket, as new ways of exploiting the qualities inherent in the fleece are continually being developed - including ensuring survival in one of the world's coldest climates.

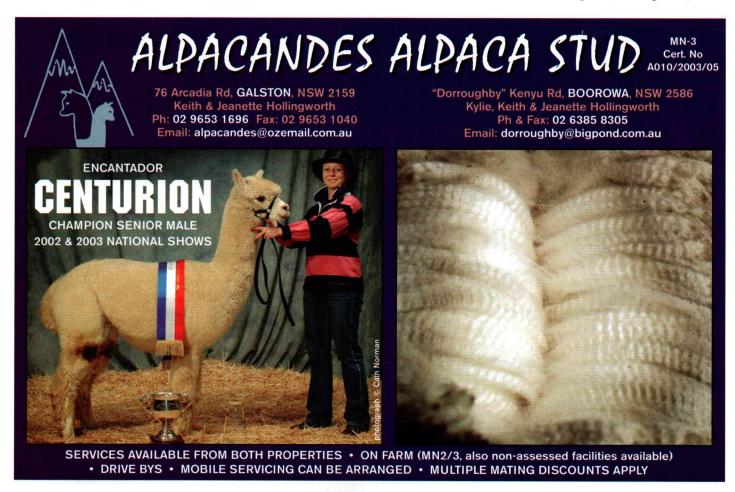
Initially considered impossible, an Australian drilling company faced the challenge of insulating emergency communication equipment that would continue to work in temperatures that drop to minus 60°C; the solution was alpaca fleece.

Major Drilling, a diamond core drilling company, needed a reliable means of providing emergency communication to employees that would withstand the harsh conditions of the Mongolian winter.

Tony Brennan, Logistics Manager, Major Drilling, outlines just what they are up against. "We operate drill rigs in harsh and isolated environments where emergency navigational and communication equipment is priceless," he said.

"Our first reaction was that someone would have already developed a solution that would meet our needs. However, there was nothing remotely suitable on the market so sourcing components and materials was a very demanding process, especially when the required products were nonexistent and had to be developed from scratch," he said.

An Emergency Equipment Electronic Support System (EEESS) was conceived and developed by George Meyer





of RJM AutoElectrics in Mount Isa, ironically one of the hottest places in Australia.

The EEESS (shown above) is a sealed and controlled environment containing a satellite telephone, Global Positioning System (GPS) and an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). The use of alpaca fleece as insulation made the system unique and able to operate in conditions where other equipment had failed.

Meyer, who has extensive experience and knowledge of arctic conditions and materials suitable for use in extreme environments, explained that the thermal qualities of the insulation material were the biggest concern. It also needed to be transportable and be able to take punishment that modern insulating foams would not be able to handle.

"Our solution was to use alpaca fleece to insulate the emergency communication equipment as the fibre is lightweight, robust and has tremendous thermal qualities. There is only one other natural material that rivals alpaca fleece for its warmth, but it is very hard to get hold of, polar bear fur," said Mr Meyer.

The self-contained unit, which houses a small heater but has no power supply, was tested at minus 60°C. The system maintained a temperature of plus 16°C, a remarkable 76°C difference.

"There is nothing like this product in the world and we now have both Australian and New Zealand arctic teams looking at using the system. Previously, arctic teams' navigational and communication systems would stop operating when temperatures hit minus 20°C," said Mr Brennan.



Queensland based textile designer, Ana Pantelic LDAD, was responsible for producing the alpaca fleece blankets that were used to insulate the EEESS.

"Alpaca fleece is great to work with, from developing highly thermal material to creating luxury suits and garments," said Ms Pantelic. "The fleece provides excellent insulating properties whilst remaining lightweight, making it perfect for the job".

As pure alpaca fleece was required for the insulation of the EEESS, the fibre was hand spun. A lofty yarn was produced to maximize the entrapment of air and it was woven in a way so that it packed in very closely to create a very thick blanket.

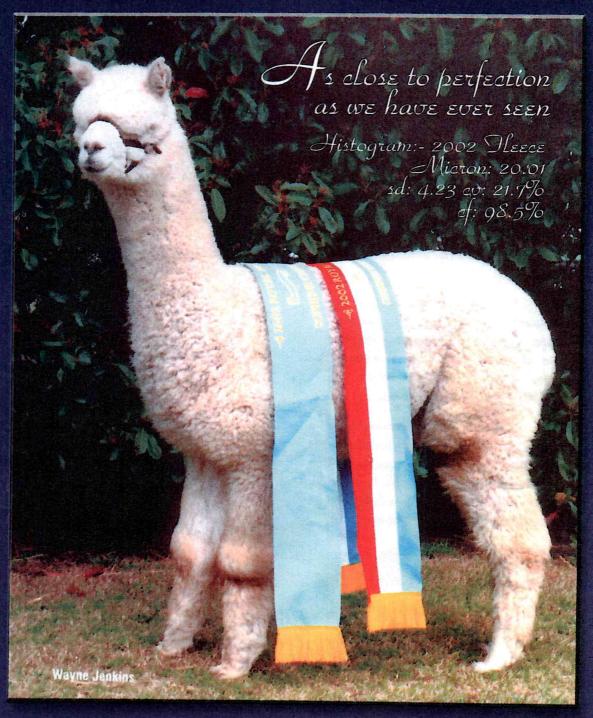
"The last thing we did was wash the blanket so it filled out, and as it doesn't have scales like wool, it didn't shrink. After a quick moth proofing, the end result was an amazing fabric and a much needed product," she said.

From the Gobi Desert to premier catwalks, Australian Alpaca fleece is enjoying increasing demand and acceptance both in Australia and overseas.

In Australia, large department stores such as David Jones have increased their orders from last season and Australian Alpaca products will also be exported to China, South Korea and the UK.

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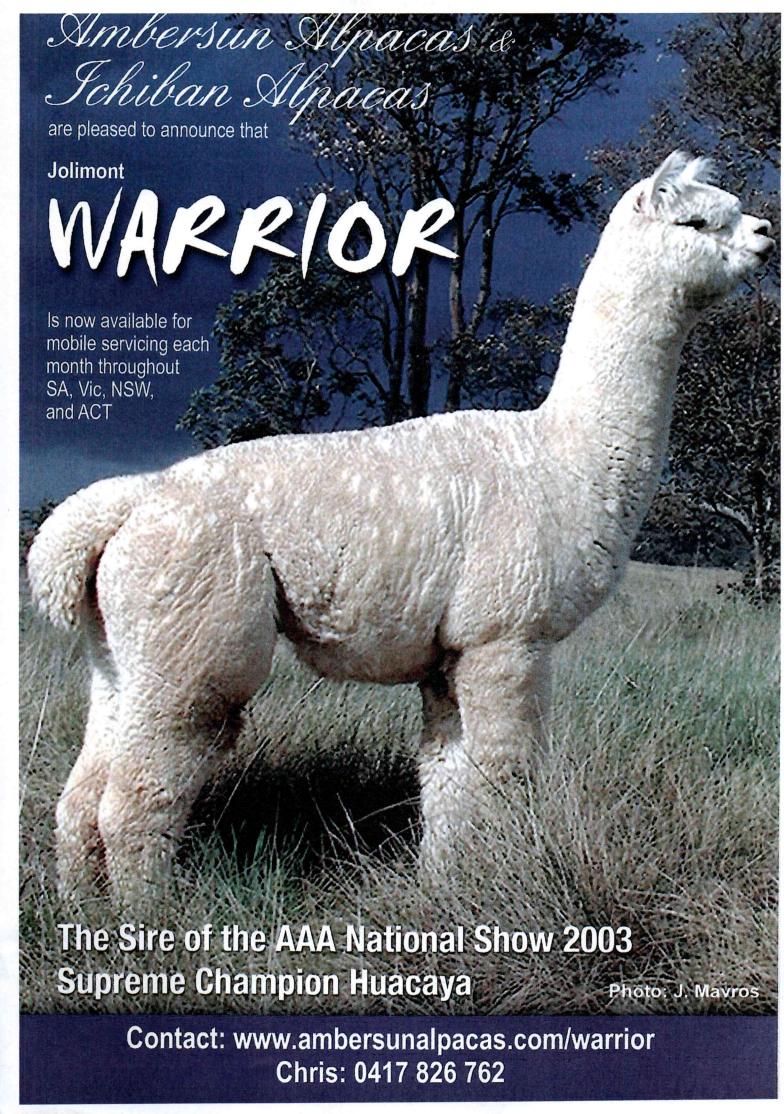
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Pastures for Alpacas in Southern Australia

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **John Lawrie** > Bonnie Vale Alpaca, NSW

For healthy alpacas you first need to protect them from worms and diseases with the appropriate drenches and inoculations and you need healthy soils with no mineral deficiencies.

Introduction

Most alpacas in South America are now grazing on the Altiplano which is over 3,800m above sea level. It has a short growing season and 75% of precipitation falls between December and March, with a long dry period from May to October. However before the Spaniards invaded in the 16th century alpacas were found grazing over vast tracts of lowlands very similar to country of inland Australia. They only survived in the high altitudes because the air at these heights was too rare for sheep and cattle.

Alpacas live mainly on grasses in South America but they also graze sedges and rushes. Alpacas mainly eat the tall grasses in the wet season and short grasses during the dry weather.

Nutrient Requirements of Alpacas

The amount of food an alpaca needs is similar to a sheep i.e. one dry sheep equivalent (1 dse). Australian females average about 60-80kg body weight compared with a merino ewe at 45-50kg. So 65 divided by 47.5 = 1.37 but alpacas are 37% more efficient at extracting energy and protein from low quality feed. This is because the digestion process takes longer in an alpaca. It takes 63 hours for food to pass through the alimentary canal compared with 41 hours for sheep. (50% longer than sheep and twice as long as cattle).

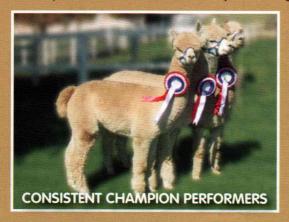
A dry female or wether weighing 65kg needs about 7MJ (megajoules) of ME (metabolic energy) per/day. This could be fed entirely with about 1.3kg of hay/day that is one small square bale every two weeks. Jane Vaughan and Nick Costa (1998) say that better quality WA straws would meet this criterion for energy. Have any of you got any fat wethers?

Protein is provided by microflora activity in the rumen so make sure your alpacas have the right micro-organisms in their stomachs. Alpacas are very good at maintaining a nitrogen balance because they can recycle urea in their saliva, they extract more urea from their stomachs than other ruminants and they excrete less nitrogen in their urine.



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Mature alpacas can survive on 7.5% crude protein, while sheep and cattle require at least 12% protein in their diet. Females in late pregnancy need one and a half amount times the energy (dse = 1.5) and lactating females twice (dse = 2) with 12-14% protein, while weaned crias also need twice as much energy and 16% protein.

Alpacas eat **grasses and forbs** (rushes and sedges in Peru) rather than legumes. Pure lucerne hay with 20-25% protein is much too rich for them. For example, on improved pastures, sheep will eat at least 2.5 times more legumes than alpacas.

Fibre fineness can blow out even more for alpacas than merinos, up to 5-10 microns on nutritious pastures. But the density of a cria's fleece is strongly related to the nutrition of its mother in the last trimester of pregnancy and during the first three months after birth.

Nutritional deficiencies are similar to sheep and cattle. Selenium deficiencies cause white muscle disease and abortions. However the alpaca in South America can eat bushes with very high selenium levels in the dry season. But be careful injecting selenium and vitamin E preparations with your inoculation as this has resulted in sudden death. Copper levels in alpaca livers are similar to sheep and they are sensitive to copper toxicity like sheep. Also if selenium and molybdenum are high, copper will be low. Zinc levels in alpacas are lower than sheep. Alpacas need phosphorus and calcium in the same proportions as other animals for bone development, i.e. ratio of Ca:P = 1.3:1 is ideal.

Ask your local vet for advice about local soils and their deficiencies if any.

Remember that for healthy alpacas you first need to protect them from worms and diseases with the appropriate drenches and inoculations and you need healthy soils with no mineral deficiencies. Fertiliser applications may be necessary and this is the best way to apply trace elements. The alpaca's tongue very rarely comes out of its mouth so mineral licks are not very useful.

Pastures for Alpacas

All grasses change in palatability and digestibility as they grow and set seed, i.e. when they are actively growing the digestibility of grasses is about 80% and a wether would only need to eat 1-2kg of dry matter/day, but if the digestibility is down to 40% for dry weather damaged stalks of grass then 12-15kg dry matter/day is needed. So, to provide the most nutritious pastures for your alpacas, try to encourage a wide variety of grasses and forbs growing in healthy soils. Different grasses grow to different stages at different times of the year. For example:

- > Summer perennial grasses paspalum, kikuyu, couch, tall fescue
- > Winter perennial grasses phalaris, cocksfoot, perennial rye
- > All year perennials several natives including wallaby grass all native grasses are perennials
- > Annuals barley grass

Pasture Weeds for Alpacas

Weeds are "plants growing out of place". Even phalaris can be a weed if it completely dominates the pasture and prevents other plants from growing and can cause phalaris staggers.

Poisonous plants - deadly nightshade, rock fern, bracken, fire weed, sorrel, (with oxalates), lantana, blue green algae, St Barnabys thistle, yellow burr, variegated thistle (nitrate poisoning), heliotrope, caltrop, thornapple, green cestrum, oleander, white cedar can all be poisonous and many more which would frighten you to know. Even lush stands of kikuyu in autumn have been implicated. Snakes often get the blame. At Bonnie Vale we are in brown snake territory with two creeks and grain and hay storage to attract mice and therefore snakes but we have yet to have a snake fatality with over 2,000 alpaca years of exposure. The secret is not to let your alpacas get too hungry and to provide them with a wide choice of suitable pasture plants.

Alpacas do not bloat, we have grazed them on pure lucerne stands in the spring. They do get bellyaches though and will die of pulpy kidney on lush pastures in autumn and spring if they are not inoculated with 5 in 1 vaccine (this lasts for about 3 months in cattle).

Weeds which out compete more useful plants - silver grass (Vulpia spp) and phalaris both produce a toxin which poison other grasses.

Weeds that contaminate or damage the fibre - Bathurst burr, medic burrs, barley grass, horehound, Paterson's curse, lesser joy weed, pitch forks and grasses which produce shives from seed awns. These are a nuisance for fibre processors because they are long and thin and they align themselves with alpaca fibre in the weave and they become obvious when they don't take up the dye.

Weed Control

First, know your weeds and your useful plants. Unfortunately most people know their weeds better than their useful native plants. For good pasture management it is more important to encourage the plants you want to grow than to concentrate on killing the plants that you don't want. Quite often when you kill the plants you don't want, a worse weed will come in and take its place. Especially when you use a broad spectrum knock down herbicide like Roundup (glyphosate).

Pasture topping is used to help reduce your weed burden. Roundup (glysophate) at low rates, i.e. 240-360mls/ha or Sprayseed 250 (paraquat + diquat) which is less severe on legumes can be used to prevent seed heads developing on barley grass, annual ryegrass, silver grass, brome and capeweed. You must apply the herbicide before the weeds hay off. Read the label carefully.

Spray grazing can be used to control broad leaf weeds in clover pasture, i.e. Paterson's curse, capeweed, mustards and turnips and thistles in winter with low sub lethal rates of

hormonal herbicides like MCPA (the softest on legumes), 2-4D (for subclovers) or 2-4DB (with medics and lucerne) when the weeds are small. Better to use wether sheep or dry ewes as there is a risk of poisoning stock with the increasing quantity of poisonous plants that can be eaten e.g. caltrops capeweed and variegated thistle. Read the label very carefully.

Tigrex and Jaguar remove brassica weeds.

Silver grass (Vulpia sp) can be removed with simazine in winter at about 1-1.6l/ha 6-10 weeks after emergence (usually about May). If you add paraquat (200ml/ha) this will help to control barley grass, brome and rye grasses or Fusillade® (softer on clovers). Again, read the label carefully.

Dicamba (Banvel) controls many weeds in grass dominated pasture, ie. caltrop, horehound, docks, thistles, sorrel, wireweed, brassicas, deadnettle, thornapple, Bathurst burr, khaki weed at varying rates from 700mls to 1.4litres/ha but will also remove useful legumes.

Goats and wethers can be used to remove some weeds, especially thistles and Paterson's curse.

Fertiliser - Phosphorus, potassium and molybdenum all encourage legumes, while nitrogen fertilisers encourage grasses and some nitrophilous weeds like thistles and stinging nettles.

Making Hay and Silage can also be good weed control.

Competitive pastures like phalaris and consul love grass out compete weeds.

Alpacas are reputed to be good at controlling some weeds ie. wireweed caltrop, Paterson's curse, marshmallows and boxthorn.

Pasture Establishment

This can easily cost \$180/ha or more so plan it well in advance, ie. at least 12 months.

1. Select suitable species

Legumes should make up 20-40% of the cover with white clover, lucerne, red clover, balansa clover, sub clover, (many varieties) and/or chicory.

Grasses should make up 60-80% with - phalaris, cocksfoot, tall fescue, perennial rye (guard variety which does not cause staggers) and native grasses like wallaby, weeping grass (Microleana sp), Warrego summer grass, wheat grass, red grass, or blue grass. Ask at your local merchandise store for local advice and a suitable mix.

2. Seed bed preparation

It is important to have good tilth for your pasture seeds and poor tilth for your weed seeds. This is best done now with minimum tillage methods. Deep tillage may be necessary if the soil has a plowpan or compacted layer caused by livestock. Otherwise seed is best sown using sowing equipment with tynes and points or discs which provide



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adequate tilth for the pasture seeds and as little as possible disturbance to the ground surface. Presswheels should be used to provide the best soil seed contact if the soil moisture is marginal.

3. Sowing time

Spring for summer grasses and autumn for winter legumes and grasses but the timing will depend on your climate, soil type and position in the landscape so speak to your local agronomist.

4. Method of sowing

For minimum tillage methods you need to spray weeds in the winter for sowing in early spring. Alternatively you can establish your pasture under a cover crop or establish your new pasture with a full disturbance of soil. See your local agronomist for advice. Be sure to control pests like red legged earthmites or you may be wasting your time and money.

5. Rates of sowing seed and fertiliser

Also check with your local rural merchandise agent, agronomist and neighbouring farmers.

6. Fertilisers

Severe deficiencies of sulphur and phosphorus occur across the entire Central West of NSW. Sulphur deficiencies are even more widespread and severe than phosphorus. Molybdenum is often lacking on light acid soils. This can be cured with an application of lime or molybdenum added to the superphosphate but watch out for copper deficiency if you use excessive amounts of molybdenum. Young growing animals are most susceptible to trace element deficiencies. Selenium deficiencies cause white muscle disease (lameness) often found on acid soils recently fertilised with super.

Even modest rates of fertiliser application e.g. 125kg/ha of single superphosphate can double pasture and animal production.

Do not graze nitrogenous fertilised paddocks for at least 4-6 weeks after application. The longer period if pasture growth is slow to prevent nitrate poisoning. This is why alpacas usually don't graze dung piles unless they are very hungry.

7. Accurate seed placing

Seed should not be exposed or buried too deep. Most pasture seeds are very small and need to be very close to the surface for successful establishment.

8. Weed control

Inspect regularly to determine whether post emergent weed control is necessary.

9. First grazing

Be sure to graze lightly because alpacas with their split lips can be very selective in removing valuable pastures.

Pasture Management

First find out what you have, what you want and what you need to encourage before you apply fertiliser or spray your pastures with herbicides.

Stock management. Only actively growing pastures greater than 10cms high (Phase II pastures) should be grazed for maximum productivity. Alpacas are hard on pastures with their split lips, even more selective than sheep. Rest phalaris after establishment and graze it heavily in the winter and then spell it again around mid September to October. With annual legumes graze heavily in the late summer and early autumn and then allow for germination, usually about 6 weeks after the autumn break. Spell native grasses when they are flowering and seeding down and graze when weeds are doing the same thing.

Pasture supply and demand requirements:

- > Autumn quality deficit often when weaning crias need quality pastures.
- > Winter **quantity deficit** when pregnant females need energy for warmth.
- > Spring pasture **surplus quality** shear to avoid contamination of wool and or make silage or hay to preserve the surplus quality feed.
- > Summer surplus or deficit birthing, mating and lactating females need higher plane of nutrition.

Remember the cheapest, easiest and safest conserved feed is fat on the alpacas back.



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Supplementary Feeding

Feed lucerne hay has twice as much calcium as white clover, 5 times more than ryegrass, cocksfoot and couch and 10 times more than oats. So if you use lucerne hay use a ratio of 3:1 oaten: lucerne hay.

Desirable Condition of Alpacas

- Mating males and females score III
- Unpacking III- IV

It takes about two months to gain one score when pasture quality and quantity is unlimited for alpaca growth. See Vaughan and Costa (1998) for body score conditions.

Food Supply

late pregnancy

3kg/day green feed

lactating

4kg/day green feed

maximum growth 5-6kg/day green feed

Will our pastures provide adequate nutrition throughout the year?

Probably not for actively growing cria and pregnant and lactating females.

If not how do we best supplement alpacas cheaply?

Use an oat/lupin mix (about 50% each) at about 500g/day for pregnant females and 1kg for lactating females for the cheapest supplement with free access to oaten/lucerne hay 75%:25%.

Feeding Supplements to Crias

Cria stomach reaches adult proportions by about 8 weeks and by about 12 weeks reaches full adult activity for breaking down fibre.

Feeding Cereals

Saliva flow in alpaca is much greater than sheep and this allows buffering against acids in the stomach. Also they have no gall bladder so bile is continuously flowing from the liver. This increases efficiency of the stomachs and also protects against acidosis during rapid fermentations which can occur with cereal diets.

Water requirements

Crias need clean fresh water from 1 week of age. Allow 100ml/kg of weight or 5-7 litres daily for adults. Higher rates may be needed under extreme heat stress conditions.

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Beauty Lies Within

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by George & Jenny Jackson > Banksia Park Alpacas, WA

MOET will allow us to supply alpaca breeders with a quality of animal which is not normally available to the market.

f a prospective purchaser were to take a glance at our herd of heavily pregnant alpacas they may well wonder what has happened to our breeding program over the past twelve

There is no doubt it is the most 'hotchpotch' group of hembras you are likely to see. There are alpacas with fused ears, banana ears, blue eyes, white

faces, wry faces, undershot jaws, roach backs, crooked tails, no tails, fused toes and even extra toes. There are multicoloured huacaya, first cross suris and alpacas with fleece on them like steel wool!

With the introduction of embryo transfer and, more recently, multiple ovulation (MOET) in alpacas, these girls have become a valuable asset to our herd. They all have a few important things in common and they all have a history of being excellent mothers who conceive and give birth easily. Each of them carries a precious embryo from the females in the top 10% of our herd.

These girls are testament to the saying that "beauty lies within". If we move into the next paddock with the offspring from the last few months, we see these same style of females with healthy, vigorous cria at foot that look nothing like their recipient mothers but very much like each other.

What is Embryo Transfer?

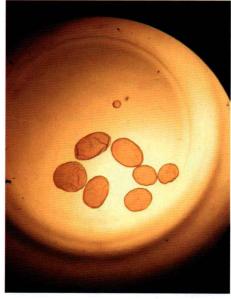
Embryo transfer entails the natural mating of the donor. A week later, the donor is sedated and flushed non-surgically using a catheter inserted through the cervix into the uterus. If an embryo is retrieved it is transferred into the sedated recipient by means of a pipette through the cervix into the uterus.

What is MOET?

MOET (multiple ovulation and embryo transfer) or superovulation involves the same procedure but includes the use of various drugs to enhance the number of follicles ovulating at the same time. If multiple embryos are retrieved they are placed individually into a number of recipients.



Looking for embryos



8 embryos

History

Multiple ovulation and embryo transfer is common practice in many livestock industries. Alpacas, it seemed, were not as straightforward. In 2002 Dr David Hopkins and Dr Jane Vaughan achieved Australia's first alpaca birth by embryo transfer at Allan and Carolyn Jinks' Benleigh Alpaca Stud in Victoria. News of their early success prompted us to make contact with Jane as we realised that this technology held marvellous opportunities for the rapid improvement of our herd. All who have met Jane would agree she carries a passion for alpacas, which is only normally seen with besotted alpaca owners. Take care though, she does not see alpacas in the same light as we fibre lovers. Truth be known, if she told you that you had the best alpacas she had seen it would more likely be related to the size of their pelvis or reproductive organs than the fineness and lustre within the fleece! Jane agreed to make the journey across the Nullabor with her mobile laboratory to start our first attempts at ET.

Full Steam Ahead

We flushed 30 females in our first program. We re-mated these females a few days after flushing and flushed them again a week later. Jane left her mobile lab over here and flew back to Victoria. She flew back repeatedly over the next few months to flush our females until all our spare recipients were full.

'Secret WA Business'

Jane had talked about the progress she and David Hopkins were making with their research into super-ovulation. We felt that if we could condense the flushings into a shorter

EP CAMBRIDGE ALPACA STUD Where Breeding is Everything est. 1993



Conquistador's offspring have continually dominated showrings around Australia over the past 4 years and have consistently gained the top prices at Auctions throughout the country.

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BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! Conquistador will be in residence at "Luvere" YASS

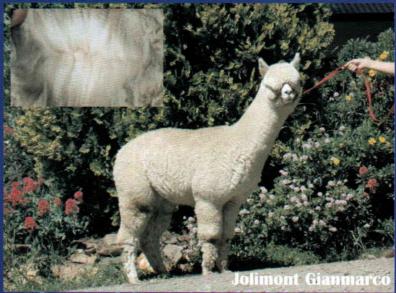
NSW, August and October

EP CAMBRIDGE'S NSW PROPERTY NOW AVAILABLE

- EP Cambridge has pleasure to announce the appointment of Helen and Peter Brown as new members of their team to be based at "Luvere" NSW.
- A number of our top 10 males will be available for service from 1st
 - August 2004 including the Champion of Champions Jolimont Conquistador for the months of August and October.
- Reverse mobiles are preferred, agistment by appointment.
- Discounts apply for multiples.
- Elite Females will be available on farm in Spring 2004.

For Further Details and all Bookings: Contact: "LUVERE" Helen and Peter Brown (02) 6227 3277 or 0414 734 519 "EP Cambridge" Trevis & Tammy Bird 0409 944 972 Catherine Lloyd (08) 8389 7199 or 0417 834 178 alpacas@alpacastud.com.au

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- Wodonga 2003 Champion Adult Male & Supreme Champion
- Stawall 2003 Champion Adult Male
- Bendigo 2003 Champion Adult Male
- **Royal Adelaide 2003 Champion Adult Male**
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Sydney Royal Easter Show 2004

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by Julienne Gelber > Bumble Hill Alpacas, NSW PHOTOGRAPHY by **Diana Stewart-Koster** > Resurgam Alpacas, QLD



he 2004 Sydney Royal Easter Show hosted the biggest alpaca and fleece show to date at a Sydney Royal. A strong South Australian contingent (understatement of the century!) and Victorian and Queensland studs supported the show with some wonderful animals and provided strong competition for NSW breeders. Total animal entries numbered 243 and 91 fleece entries were received.

Whilst some trepidation surrounded the move in 2004 from the traditional home of the alpaca show, the Paddington Pavilion, to the 'cattle domain' of the Munro Pavilion, the promise of a bigger show ring and display areas and more spacious penning sweetened the shift.

Although the larger display areas for studs and product didn't eventuate, the bigger show ring and animal pen arrangements were great and the structure of the Munro Pavilion allowed far better air circulation than the old site.

The new show ring was turfed and easily accommodated the larger class sizes - 26 entries in the Junior White Female and 21 in the Junior White Male classes. Access and egress for the assessed and non-assessed areas worked well with roomier marshalling areas and the Junior Judging and Junior Handlers utilized the bigger ring to its fullest.

The Supreme Champion Huacaya of the Show was Jolimont Warrior, exhibited by Ms. A Clarke and A&M Cohen, a 'wonderful mature male' in the words of the judge, Bill Plunkett. However, the 'girls' were triumphant in the Suris with an intermediate female, EP Cambridge Intergaze exhibited by F&P Haslin, taking out Supreme Champion Suri Alpaca.

J&R Bird exhibited the Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece, The Gorge Major and F&J Gelber took out the Champion Suri Fleece prize with Bumble Hill Hallie's Comet. Fleece judge, Ms. Lyn Dickson, complimented exhibitors on the quality of their entries' fleece.

Once again the Breed Captain, Helen Fritsch and her charming, helpful family, smoothed the entry/showing/ exit stages magnificently and Alicia Anderson displayed her usual professionalism as the Ring Steward with the 'mostest'. The other half of the Regal House partnership, Cheryl Kosaras worked untiringly for the duration of the Show, as did all the members of the RAS Alpaca Support Committee. Thank you, thank you.

There is plenty of space in the Munro Pavilion for our industry to grow. Roll on the day when it will be called The Alpaca Pavilion, full of the bounty of the wonderful alpaca - animals, fleece, educational displays and products. Now that is a challenge... ■



Ch. Jnr. Suri Hunter Banjo



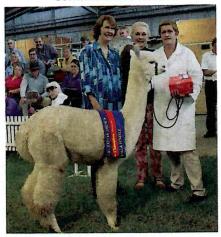
Ch. Int. Suri EP Cambridge Intergaze SUPREME CHAMPION SURI



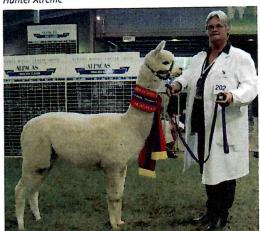
Ch. Snr. Suri Hunter Xtreme



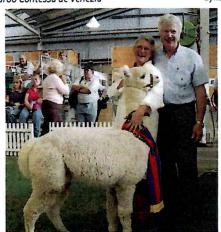
Ch. Jnr. Fem. Huacaya Coolaroo Contessa de Venezia



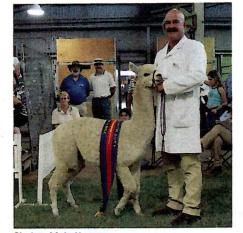
Ch. Int. Female Huacaya Eykamp Kikuyu Co Radiance



Ch. Adult, Senior & Mature Female Huacaya Benleigh Evina



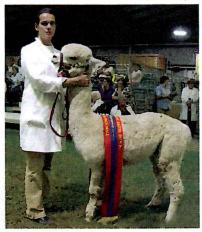
Ch. Jnr. Male Huacaya Illawarra Yucatan



Ch. Int. Male Huacaya Ambersun Soprano



Ch. Adult Male Huacaya Illawarra Xenophanes



Ch. Senior Male Jolimont Gianmarco



Ch. Mature Male Jolimont Warrior SUPREME CHAMPION HUACAYA

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Keith, Mirboo
Chris, Mt Macedon
Sharon, Pearcedale

David, Tarago
Hugo, Harden
Barbara, Berrybank
Jolyon, Birdwood
Kye, Birdwood
Terry, Lobethal
Loretta, Springton
Geoff, Skye
Carol, Bargo
Alan, Hobart
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Alpacas and Designers at Armidale Wool Expo 2004

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by Bronwyn Mitchell > Central Coast & Hunter NSW Region

Demonstrations were noted to be the main focus areas of interest by the visitors.



A wonderful sight to behold

ool Expo was once again a huge success with over 90 animal entries and 60 fleece entries. The Supreme Champion fleeces were won by Bumble Hill Generic (Suri) and Eykamp Kikuyu Co Impact (Huacaya). Fleeces were displayed at the entry of the marquee with a wall of merino fleeces on one side of the walkway and alpaca on the other.

Supreme Champion Huacaya was *Illawarra Wenoim* exhibited by Glenhope Alpacas with *Hunter Xtreme* exhibited by Hunter Alpacas taking the Suri Supreme. Much interest was shown by the general public in both the fleece display and the animal judging.

A wonderful social time was enjoyed by all with exhibitors attending a cocktail evening sponsored by Wesfarmers on the Friday evening followed by alpaca breeders enjoying a

relaxed meal together talking 'alpaca'.

The merchandise exhibitors also reported a successful few days for their efforts.

Felting workshops conducted by Judy Craig from "Becreatif' were extremely popular with many wonderful creations paraded at the end of the day





Rowena Beard and Matilda Pamment from Armidale High School with Mrs Julienne Gelber, representing the Australian Alpaca Association at Wool Expo

At Wool Expo this year for the first time, an Alpaca Young Designer Award Competition was conducted for secondary school students. Organizers distributed information including design brief and samples of alpaca fabric to over 60 secondary schools in the Hunter and North West regions of NSW.

The Australian Alpaca Co-Operative provided prizes for the design competition to the value of \$200 for first and \$100 for second prize. All the design entries will be sent to the Australian Alpaca Association to be assessed on their suitability for the fashion industry.

Organizer, Bronwyn Mitchell hopes the competition can become a National event with the designs judged in Armidale each year at Wool Expo. In the future it would be great to see some of the student's designs on the catwalk and entered in The Australian Wool and Fashion Awards (TAWFA) held in Armidale each year.

For the future we plan to build on our success and have a practical focus with shearing demonstrations, fleece preparation and animal handling techniques. Such demonstrations were noted to be the main focus areas of interest by the visitors this year.

Alpaca Products Captivate Craft Devotees

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Ann Henderson > Barkala Alpacas, QLD > Queensland Region Marketing Rep.

The Brisbane Stitches and Craft Show provided a very successful awareness and marketing opportunity

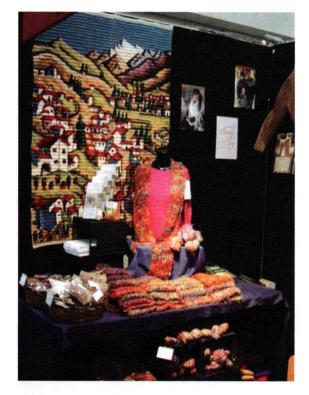
he popular Stitches and Craft Show in Brisbane had a new drawcard this year when Montville Alpaca Shop participated for the first time in this annual event. Held from 28 April to 2 May in the huge Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Show drew big crowds of enthusiastic visitors from south-east Queensland who came to see what's new and interesting in the world of craft supplies.

Established in November 2002 Montville Alpaca Shop is the initiative of Queensland Region member, Gemma Pilcher and her husband, Darren. They recognised an opportunity to market alpaca products in a compatible environment when a charming shop became available among the established art and craft retailers of Montville in Queensland's Sunshine Coast hinterland.

Gemma was delighted with the response to the merchandise she chose for the Stitches and Craft Show. "We had wonderful support from AAFL Managing Director, Michael Talbot and were able to offer visitors a full range of Australian Alpaca Co-operative yarns as well as Australian grown carded alpaca, and beautiful 4 ply baby alpaca," Gemma said. "There didn't seem to be much other natural fibre available at the show and we saw no other carded fibre for spinners and weavers. Most of the yarn was sold for scarves, wraps and beanies, with people also buying for sweaters and other projects. "The reaction of craftspeople to the alpaca fleece products was most encouraging." Gemma went on to say that not only had many people heard of alpaca yarn but also they had actually knitted with it. The demand for alpaca knitting yarn was strong and hundreds of visitors took mail order forms away with them.

Both Suri and Huacaya fleece in rugs and teddies gave show visitors the opportunity to sample the two varieties of alpaca fleeces. As well, the ability of alpaca fleece to combine with other natural fibres was much admired in a brilliant pink top, made from superfine alpaca blended with silk.

There is a strong emphasis on Australian alpaca products at Montville Alpaca Shop but Peruvian artefacts distinct from the Australian style are also included in the collection. "Creating a lot of interest at our stand at the show was a beautiful wall hanging in 100% alpaca, dyed with natural plant dyes," Gemma said. "We have an exclusive



arrangement with a Peruvian group of craftspeople who produce these wall hangings and we import them for the local market."

For five days Gemma and fellow Queensland Region member, Jenai Hooke, were kept busy explaining the unique qualities of alpaca to the discerning crafts enthusiasts who thronged their display. They talked, and talked - and talked until they felt they could talk no more, but were encouraged by the favourable reaction to the products they offered. "We will be back next year with a bigger range and new alpaca marketing concepts. We are currently working on accessing some new markets for alpaca, both Suri and Huacaya, with lines not available in Australia," Gemma said. "The Brisbane Stitches and Craft Show provided a very successful awareness and marketing opportunity."



'Pacas Sold at Pakenham

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Rudy Baldé PHD FLO ARGF > Jannarie Alpacas, VIC

Trade displays, stud displays, stud auction.

The Third Annual Alpaca Sale conducted by the VER (Victorian Eastern Region for those that haven't heard of us) was held on Sunday 30 May. The day is held for the benefit of financial VER members and only registered animals can be entered if better than wether quality males. Vet checks have to be supplied for the more expensive entrants (animals that is).

The penning was arranged over six price points, those points being minimum acceptable price. Penning commenced at 8.30 am, viewing at 10 am and the free-for-all at 11 am. By that time we had of course all had a good sticky-nose as to what other breeders were selling, after having an egg-and-bacon with caffeine charge from the caterers' stand. The usual trade displays, stud displays, stud auction, parking hassles, directions to the tap or the toilets, exuberant machos testing the stability of the pens etc., all added to the colour on the day. One condition of sale not stipulated was that owners had to be good at talking ... no point wasting paper on that one.

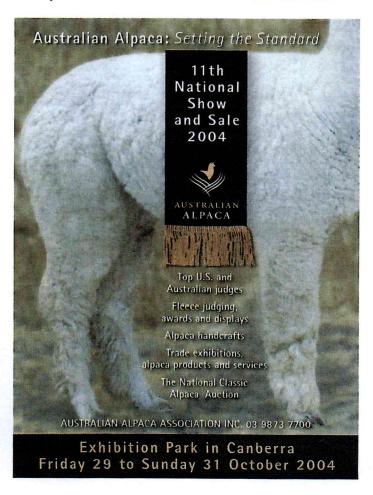
The enquiry desk was kept busy handing out sale catalogues, AAA and AAFL promo material and a VER activity calendar, of which the sale is but one of a whole

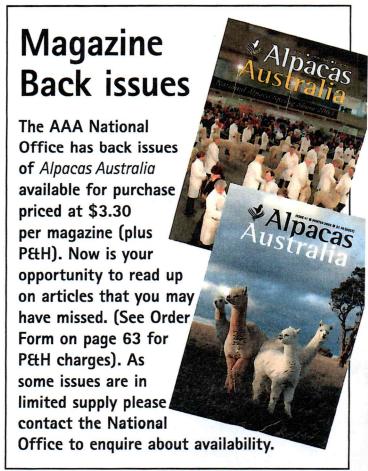
series of integrated events. Best of all they kept the record of sales (private treaty), the result being 40% clearance on the day. From past experience additional sales will result over the following weeks.

Crowd numbers were down this year and no doubt our hard-working committee will conduct a post-mortem. There was some difficulty in co-ordinating other crowd-pulling groups, a clash with other animal based family days in the district, and of course the weather bureau hadn't been sent a large enough cheque.

Nothing left to do at the end of the day but to tidy away the animals, tip your water bucket onto someone else's foot, chuck your poopa-scoopa contents into the pen next door and then play chicken with the forklift loading the semi with pens. Finally the straw was swept into manageable piles in readiness to be shipped to our hard working secretary's garden ... ah the perks.

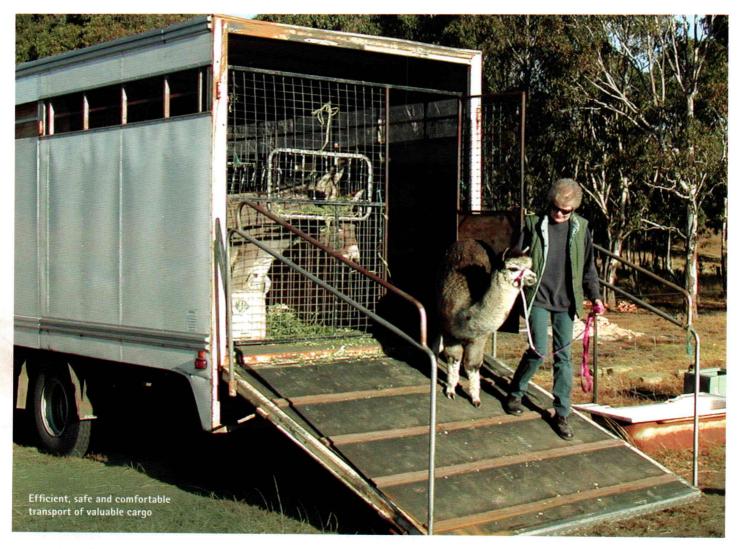
Cannot close without once again heaping lots of accolades onto the super industrious volunteers (organisers, setterupperers and penpullerdownerers) who made it all happen. Well done VER!





Ley's Ark

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Sandra Wright > Australian Alpaca Association



ey Blake, the 'diminutive dynamo' operator of Ley Blake Stud Stock Transport has been transporting livestock for over 20 years. Her previous occupations were diverse and included caring for residents of a retirement village and working at a biscuit factory where she operated the machine that adds the chocolate coating (mmm ... yum); but it was her experience working at a racing stable as a strapper and track-work rider that stood her in good stead for the career that she now pursues.

Her foray into livestock transportation was a natural progression from the days when she was travelling the show circuit with a mare of her own and she was often asked to take other people's horses along in her small truck too. It was on such a trip that Ley was first approached to transport alpacas.

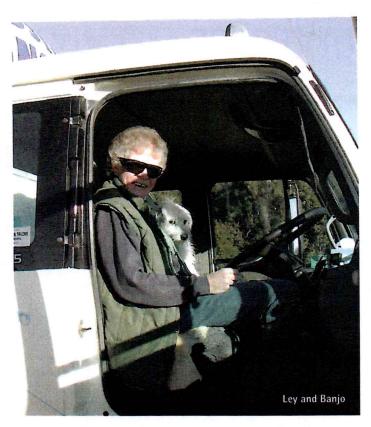
Nowadays the bulk of Ley's work is transporting alpacas but she also transports llamas, miniature ponies and donkeys and a few ponies and horses. Ley's truck has often been dubbed "Ley's Ark" because of the various animals

on board however all animals are penned or partitioned separately for their journey so none can come to any harm.

Ley mainly services the eastern states of Australia with an occasional visit to South Australia. Her longest trip was 11 days duration travelling through Victoria, NSW and ending in Queensland at Miriam Vale, which is about 200kms south of Rockhampton.

When on the road Ley's little dog, Banjo travels with her and they both like to stretch their legs about every 21/2-3 hours. While Banjo checks out all the bushes around Ley checks the animals on board and makes sure that they too stand and stretch their legs and that babies, especially, have a drink.

Ley has recently acquired a new truck and she says, "it is kept up to the mark always". However she is well prepared for emergencies and is associated with an Australia-wide network of truck mechanics that are on 24 hour call. Her emergency network extends also to a number of other reliable people that she can call on to pick up the load and deliver in case of an emergency.



Ley has offered the following suggestions for all parties involved to achieve efficient, safe and comfortable transport of the valuable cargo on board.

- > For pick up of animals a mutually agreed time should be arranged.
- > Ensure safe and easy access is available.
 - keep foliage on each side of the driveway trimmed to avoid causing damage to bodywork and windows of the truck as well as to ensure that animals and handlers are not injured by protruding branches.
 - keep the animals that are to be picked up in a conveniently located yard (i.e. not in a yard in the middle of a paddock that cannot be accessed by a truck).
 - allow plenty of room for loading livestock into the truck. The loading ramp on Ley's truck has adaptable sides so the animals can be easily herded on board. Even animals that are not halter trained can be loaded with a minimum of fuss.

- > In the colder months it is recommended that animals be dry (e.g. shedded for the night prior to pick up) before loading on to the truck.
- > Make sure the animals have eaten and had water before being transported.
- > Provide details of any 'special' needs pertaining to any particular animal/s.
- > If animals are to be taken to Queensland or South Australia the correct paperwork should be completed and be available to accompany the animals.
- > It is recommended that owners arrange transit cover insurance for the stock to be transported.
- > For drop off of animals, ensure that someone will be there to take delivery of stock. Provide contact details of the person taking delivery.
- > Upon arrival ensure that animals will be immediately put into a yard within sight of other animals, which will alleviate any potential stress and help them settle into their new surroundings.

Once on the road all animals have access to lucerne hay whilst on the truck. They are given water in the morning and the evening and also around midday on hot days.

In the event of overnight stops horses and ponies are off-loaded and yarded or stabled for the night. However all other animals stay on the truck during the night for health and safety reasons.

Ley has become a familiar face in the alpaca world and her friendly, easy-going manner has earned her a regular clientele. She has gathered many interesting anecdotes on her travels and was eager to share the story of a lady with a yearling Arab colt that she needed to have transported. When Ley arrived with another 'tourist' already on board the woman remarked, "Oh, my horse can't travel with an alpaca because they look like camels". Tongue in cheek Ley quickly responded with, "Don't worry, they come from the same country so they'll be fine".

Indeed, everyone is made comfortable and welcome aboard Ley's Ark. ■





Holistic Breeding of Alpacas

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by Joy Allenby-Acuna > La Granja Alpacas, NSW

y husband, Heroides and I have been breeding alpacas since 1995 and we are often asked for advice about our holistic approach. We are both very interested in alternative medicine and organic farming and we believe in compassionate treatment of creatures.

In 1997 we moved, together with our herd of 10 alpacas, from a two acre property to our current property of 64 acres. We considered ourselves very fortunate as the land had been vacant for about three years and there had been no chemical sprays or superphosphate used in that time. It is native pasture, with lots of wild flowers, a few native trees, pines and rocks, so much like the alpacas' native haunts it is amazing. They love it and it is the best grazing for them, also the rocks wear their nails down.

We continue to keep our land free of chemicals and sprays with Heroides preferring to dig out weeds. Lime and dolomite have been added following the results of a soil test and we did seed two front paddocks with clover, fescue and rye, so that we have some alternate pasture. We have put in tagasaste hedges that the crias love to chew on. Various trees are in the main garden and the animals love the poplar leaves, willow leaves, some photinia and robinia. It is wise to get a list of poisonous plants and ensure that you rid your property of any toxic plants.

Nowadays our herd has grown to 46 alpacas and we have divided the property into about nine paddocks to hold the various sexes and ages. The maternity paddock is within view of the house, so that I can be there when one of my girls gives birth.

Following a birth we like to wait at least a month to re-mate our females and we do not wean crias until at least 7 or 8 months of age or sometimes even later. Heroides finds that he can tell whether or not they are pregnant by pressing on their backs and orgling and it is even possible to tell by the older girls' behaviour towards him. This saves our studs from a lot of frustration and avoids a lot of fuss or spitting.

We find that our alpacas are very friendly as we handle them such a lot. Crias are haltered at a few days old and rubbed on the neck a lot and then haltered again when they are weaned.

Apart from the native pasture their diet consists of a mixture that over time we have developed based on advice, extensive reading, and our own training in natural nutrition. It consists of lucerne chaff, oaten chaff, livermol, seaweed meal, garlic powder, dolomite, yellow sulphur, bran, alpaca pellets (must be Castlereagh, no urea) and barley (pre-soaked in apple cider vinegar), sometimes cracked lupin seeds and cracked corn added if it is cold weather. Our alpacas also like to eat most fruits, vegies, and a little bread. We have recycled baths as water troughs that contain pieces of copper pipe and bolts to provide copper and zinc.

All our animals are treated with ADE vitamins and Cod Liver Oil year round but mostly in winter, especially the crias and mothers after birth or any animal that is a bit off colour. Other treatments that have been used by us are Vitamin C, Vitamins B12 and B15, Mylantin or Slippery Elm powder, Honey and Witch Hazel, Arnica Pills, Bach Flower Rescue Remedy, Glucose, Noni, Yogurt or Yakult, salty water for eyes and olive oil for seeds in ears and I also make up a false colostrum when needed. Recently I have very successfully used Macuvision pills on two creatures with eye problems. I also find that my healing powers come in very handy. I am trained in Reiki, aromatherapy and several sorts of massage.

No vaccinations are given here or drenching for worms because we find with our regime they all stay very healthy and not a sign of a worm!

Most things we can deal with ourselves, and most births have been normal, the apple cider vinegar keeps their uterine muscles flexible. However we have had the odd leg stuck back and I always have the gloves and lubricant at the ready. The worst things we have experienced have been a caesarean and a few intestinal blockages, which I know how to treat now, with masses of paraffin oil by mouth and then later build the alpaca up with loads of Vitamin C etc.

Unlike a lot of other people we do not show our animals in the show ring as we feel this puts them through too much stress; this has been proved and they can become ill.

Shearing is done at the end of November so that it is not too hot or too cold.

Alpacas often bond very strongly with each other, and by this I don't only mean their mother. Often they bond with another animal of similar character or age or when weaned they will bond with an alpaca of similar temperament to their mother. Alpaca mothers kiss and nuzzle their babies a lot and besides affection the crias obtain extra immunity from their saliva.

To conclude I really believe that alpacas are highly intelligent, sensitive souls and if we look after them they will do the same for us, and not only in a monetary sense. I have had at least two alpacas cry when in distress. We hate to sell our alpacas that are like members of our family, but we realise we have to or else we would run out of land and feed and no one would benefit. However we do check out the new owners to the best of our ability and would not sell one alpaca on its own. Something must be working with our breeding methods because we have not lost an alpaca or a cria in a long while.

Happy alpaca farming.

Namaste.

Cria Growth Rate and Vitamin Intake

HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by Phillip Austen > Concongella Alpacas, TAS

wing to my scientific background and training (I am a Metallurgist in the Aluminium Industry), it has become natural for me to collect data in order to measure the progress of cria development. So it was that a winter birth cria's decline in growth rate was arrested.

The cria was born 20 May and weighed 7kgs. Whilst the birth was more difficult than we had previously encountered, with the cria becoming stuck and subsequently requiring assistance both during and after the birth, early growth rates were normal at about 160gms per day or just over 1kg per week.

After about seven weeks, a pending holiday in Victoria required us to agist mother and cria for a period of two weeks, along with our other females. Despite continuation of the mother's normal supplementation feeding regime at her new location, a resumption of cria weighing on their return revealed a significantly reduced cria growth rate to a mere 30gms per day.

Prior to their 'holiday', mother had been sitting around a lot, so a dose of Dolomite as a drench was given (as was advised by the animal's previous owner). As well ADE and 5-in-1 were administered.

Close observations of all animals revealed the cria to be feeding off mum regularly. The mother's milk supply was not tested. It was also observed that in general, all animals were off their tucker, with some sitting around more than normal. In addition, there was evidence of scouring at the dung piles. Animals were drenched with Cydectin and the cria was checked for any signs of infection. Its temperature was normal. In exasperation, the cria was given ADE (three doses fortnightly and then one dose per month).

The cria's growth rate picked up immediately - refer graph below showing weight gain from birth to six months.

Whilst it is impossible to be scientifically certain that the administration of ADE arrested the decline in growth rate the following questions arise. Did the mother get appropriate nutrition? Did the location change (food source) upset the mother and the others in the herd? Did the cria get cold? Did the mother pick up an infection? Did the relocation stress the mother, which affected her milk supply? etc. etc. The sudden increase in measured weight gain immediately following ADE injections makes a strong case.

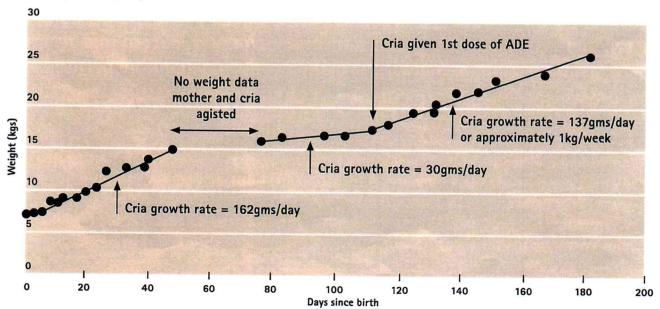
I certainly do not know the role that such vitamins play in metabolising food intake, or whether in fact there is one. We do know that vitamin D deficiency in winter months can result in animals feeling unwell and sitting around more than normal. Perhaps they get emotionally down (like depression) as humans can in winter? Whatever the explanation, I will continue to monitor cria weight (it seems so basic) and give ADE to winter babies. Better still, I will in future try to get my animals to have their crias in spring to early autumn. Not so easy, I hear you say!!!

This article is reproduced with the permission of Phillip Austen and "Spitting Image" (AAA Tasmanian Region Newsletter).

Excerpt: "Vet Topics" (Southern NSW Region Newsletter). Richard Dixon B.V.Sc.

"April-May is the right time to give your animals an injection of ADE because in cria born in November to March, several researchers have reported the development of the condition called rickets in the following winter and early spring. Affected animals show poor growth rates, bent legs, and a sore, stilted gait. The condition is associated with low levels of vitamin D and serum phosphorus. An injection of vitamin D has been shown to elevate the blood levels and correct clinical signs."

Graph showing cria weight gain





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The core business of Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd is the collection, scouring and marketing of fleece. In addition, management works closely with current and potential customers to expand the use of the fleece that will ultimately be mutually beneficial to the AAFL, its shareholders, fleece growers and the end product customers. Research and development will continue in areas such as scouring, cloth manufacture, blending, dyeing and fibre performance to ensure we continue to expand the use of all fleece lines.

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Fleece Handling Roles Made Easy

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by Lynne Moynihan > AAA Member Services Fleece Officer

The Role of the AAA Member Services Fleece Officer, Fleece Liaison Officers (FLOs) and Transportation.

Being appointed as the new Member Services Fleece Officer at the AAA is giving me the opportunity to liaise with Fleece Liaison Officers (FLOs) and alpaca owners on fleece related subjects and this is not restricted to AAA members only. We aim to encourage Australian growers of alpaca fleece to send their fleeces to the Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited handling centre in Sunshine, Victoria and to install an easy system for suppliers to follow.

Arranging the transportation for consignments of alpaca fleece from all Australian States to the handling centre is a challenging task. Currently there is a map of each State of Australia on my office wall and after establishing the locations of all known growers by herd size (those growers owning in excess of five alpacas), I have pinned their locations onto the maps to provide a visual appreciation of spatial distribution. Collection points and FLO locations have also been marked. Collection points are available in each state and may comprise of transport depots, wool handling depots or alpaca farms.

Whichever avenue of collection an alpaca fleece supplier may take they need to first of all, prepare the fleece. The Alpaca Fleece Harvesting Manual created in 2003 by the Australian Alpaca Co-operative Ltd is very informative about skirting and preparing fleeces prior to sale to help maximise the dollar return for the supplier. Additionally, like any product, packaging is important. When a bale is being prepared for delivery to the handling centre it is most important that the content of the bale is pressed down as much as possible. Even without a wool press you can do a pretty good job just by standing on top of the fleece bags in the bale, holding a flap of the bale either side of you and stomping down the fleece. (This worked for me). Of course a wool press is the ideal tool to use if you can source one. Pressing as much into one bale as you possibly can has several practical purposes. The transport company, or you (if you are transporting it yourself) will find it much easier to handle a firmly packed bale. They will take up less room than loose and floppy butts and will be much more stable for the journey, easier to tie down if necessary and easier to store when arriving at the destination. They can be safely stacked on each other and most importantly for you it will cost you less per kilogram of fleece for transport as most freight companies charge per bale. It is also important that your consignments are clearly labelled for identification in order that your report and payment can be forwarded to you.



Some alpaca owners may still be undecided about what to do with their fleece once it is shorn but two things are for certain:

- > you will not get any return for your fleece until you send it to a purchaser
- > there will be absolutely no return on that fleece as long as it sits in your shed.

Shearing is an unavoidable responsibility of owning alpacas. If you have alpacas for pleasure, as herd guards, for breeding or commercial production, shearing should be regarded as a part of the normal yearly animal husbandry maintenance of your alpacas. The added bonus is that you could receive a return for something that has to be attended to regardless of the purpose of your alpacas.

For advice and assistance with all stages of alpaca fleece production please don't hesitate to contact me at the AAA National Office. FLOs are also there to help all alpaca fleece producers. Clear plastic bags and bales for the packaging of fleece are obtainable from the FLOs and they can inform you of the steps required to properly prepare your fleece for delivery and give you instructions on how to get your supply of fleece to the handling centre.

Workshops in shearing and the preparation of fleeces after shearing may be arranged by contacting any FLO or myself at the AAA National Office. I am looking forward to hearing from you and establishing contact with those I have not yet met within the alpaca industry.

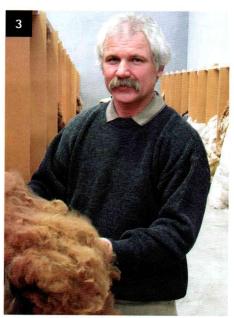
Lynne Moynihan AAA Member Services Fleece Officer PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, VIC 3132 Tel: 03 9873 7700 ext. 6 E-mail: lynne@alpaca.asn.au

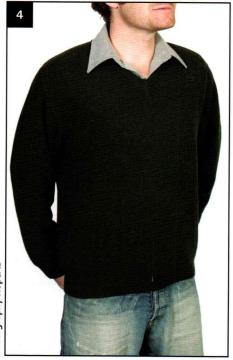
Marketplace

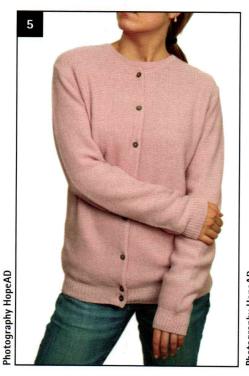
1: Zip Collar Jumpers (black, red, navy, natural) M-XXL (not all colours available in all sizes) \$162.00 Australian Alpaca Co-operative. 2: Lightweight Crew Jumper (black, green, pink, navy, light blue) XS-XL (not all colours available in all sizes) \$120.00 Australian Alpaca Co-operative. 3: Workwear Crew Jumper (black, charcoal, dark grey, green, lavender, navy, olive, plum, red, tan, teal) XS-L (not all colours available in all sizes) \$97.00 Australian Alpaca Co-operative. **4: Mens Moss Stitch Vee Jumper** (navy, camel, alpaca gold, olive, burgundy, black) S-XXL \$286.00 *Merino Gold.* **5: Ladies Moss Stitch Crew Cardigan** (ruby, navy, camel, alpaca gold, blossom, sky, black) S-XL \$264.00 Merino Gold. 6: Mens 5GG Cable Crew Jumper (navy, camel, alpaca gold, olive, burgundy) S-XXL \$319.00 Merino Gold.













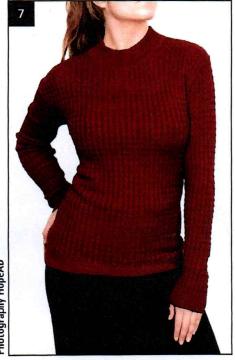
7: Ladies LS Cable Turtle Jumper (ruby, navy, camel, alpaca gold, blossom, sky, black) S-XL \$270.00 Merino Gold. 8: 100% Baby Alpaca, Cream Swish Jumper (cream with fawn) made in Peru \$265.00 Montville Alpaca Shop. 9: 100% Baby Alpaca, Tassles Jumper (camel) made in Peru \$265.00 Montville Alpaca Shop. 10: "The Florists" 100% alpaca wallhanging (1.2m x 1m) introductory price \$399.00. Wide variety of wallhangings available Montville Alpaca Shop. 11: 100% Alpaca Cardigan in a fine knit (available with cream background) S-XL \$365.00 Quality Alpaca Supplies. 12: 100% Alpaca Geometric Cardigan in a fine knit S-XL \$365.00 Quality Alpaca Supplies.

Entries in Marketplace are free to alpaca retailers.













Australian Alpaca Co-operative: 03 9311 0933

Merino Gold: 03 9380 1817

Montville Alpaca Shop: 07 5478 5577 www.alpacashop.biz

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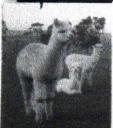
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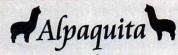
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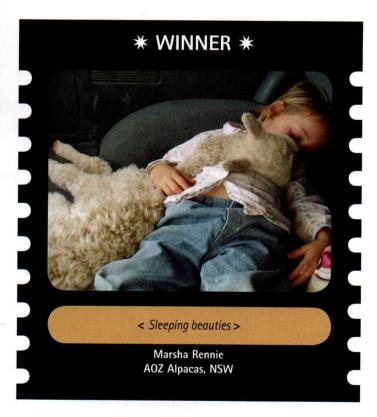
PacaPics

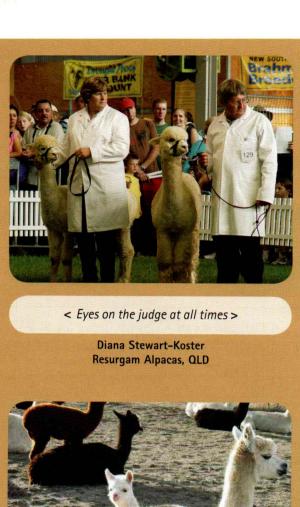
Every picture does tell a story!

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 PacaPics pages or the prestigious position of magazine front cover.

The winner in the PacaPics 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







< This is a great windbreak >

Odette Mayne Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



< Wake up! The best is yet to come >

Jan Sutherland Somersby Alpacas, NSW



< Where did the old man leave the razor?>

Terry & Barbara Hanlon Terrabarb Alpacas, TAS



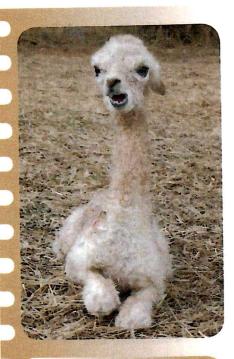
< We drove 6 hours to be here does it show? >

Fiona Laughton Beavona Lodge Suri Alpacas, QLD



< No toenails to clip!>

Penny Pearce Homespun Handknits, NSW



< Honestly, I am trying to smile ... but I'm only one hour old >

Monique & James Doherty Destiny Alpacas, NSW



< Don't I look cool?>

Melissa Semmler Lyndoch, SA



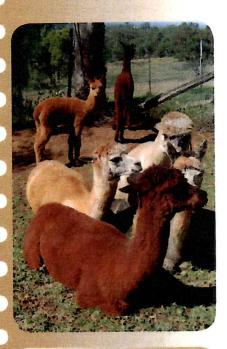
< The grass isn't always this green >

Cora Zyp Coraz Alpacas, QLD



< Are you my mum?>

Kathryn Connell Glenshiel Alpacas, NSW



< Up close and personal >

Lesley & Alan Maxwell Kurralea Alpacas, NSW



< OK, one more story, but then your Mum wants you back >

Geoff Pearson & Merilyn Mathews Daisy Bank Alpacas, NSW

Upcoming Events

August

15 Hawkesbury Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds,

Clarendon

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 4578 2657

20-22 National Alpaca Industry Conference: TAS

Venue: Wrest Point Conference Centre,

Hobart

Highlights: Lectures on latest industry

developments

Contact: Raymond Haynes (03) 6225 5306

26-28 Gold Coast Show: QLD

Venue: Gold Coast Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca judging (28 Aug) Contact: Bob Chessor (07) 5527 3948

28-29 Southern Nsw Spring Show & Field Day: NSW

Venue: Peden Pavilion,

Goulburn Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging; promotional display;

husbandry and educational talks; selected quality animal auction Contact: Nestor Ellinopoullos (02) 4821 5678

31-Sept 2 Toowoomba Agshow: QLD

Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Ann Henderson (07) 4630 9418

September

3-4 Beaudesert Agricultural Show: QLD

Venue: Beaudesert Showgrounds

Highlights: AgEd display (3 Sept) Promo (4 Sept) Contact: Peter Robinson (07) 5544 2161

Wendy Summerell (07) 5543 0207

3-11 Royal Adelaide Show: SA

Venue: Adelaide Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging (3 Sept);

Fleece judging (4 Sep)

Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

4-5 "Colourbration": VIC

Venue: Lancefield or Kilmore (TBC)

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Meddwyn Coleman (03) 5448 8032

11 Springtime Flora Festival Alpaca Show: NSW

Venue: Mt Penang Parklands

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Helen Sorby (02) 4353 3007

24-26 Royal Melbourne Show: VIC

Venue: Melbourne Showgrounds Highlights: Fleece judging (10am 24 Sept);

Alpaca judging (10am 24 Sept);
Alpaca judging – Junior Huacaya
(11am 24 Sept); Remaining Huacaya
(11am 25 Sept); Suri (11am 26 Sept)

Contact: Geoff Hargreaves (03) 5773 2494

25-26 Charles Ledger Show: NSW

Venue: Collingwood House, Liverpool Highlights: Alpaca judging - Suri & Brown

Huacaya (25 Sep); Remaining

Huacaya (26 Sep)

Contact: David Izard (02) 4841 0026

October

1-2 Burnie Show: TAS

Venue: Burnie Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca judging (2 Oct)

Contact: Alan Froome (03) 6266 6092

2 Seymour Show: VIC

Venue: Seymour Showgrounds, Kings Park

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Rod & Ann Sales (03) 5433 3789

2-9 Royal Perth Show: WA

Venue: RAS Showgrounds, Claremont

Highlights: Alpaca judging (3 Oct)
Fleece judging (4 Oct)

Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

4 Strathalbyn Show: SA

Venue: Strathalbyn Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Trudy Stanley (08) 8534 4204

5-7 Elmore Field Days: VIC

Venue: Elmore Field Days Site Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sue Simpson (03) 5825 2895

7-9 Royal Launceston Show: TAS

Venue: Launceston Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging (9 Oct)

Contact: Alan Froome (03) 6266 6092

9 Sunbury Show: VIC

Venue: Sunbury Showgrounds Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Meddwyn Coleman (03) 5448 8032

14-17 Geelong Show: VIC

Venue: Geelong Showgrounds Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Lynn Jacoby (03) 5283 1081

16 Clare Show: SA

Venue: Clare Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Trudy Stanley (08) 8534 4204

16-17 Murrumbateman Field Days: NSW

Venue: Murrumbateman Showgrounds

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Geoff McGowan-Lay (02) 6227 6224

21 Australian National 6

19-21 Australian National Field Days - Alpaca Expo: NSW

Venue: ANFD Site, Borenore via Orange Highlights: Alpaca display and expo

Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233

20-23 Royal Hobart Show: TAS

Venue: Hobart Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging (21 Oct)
Contact: Alan Froome (03) 6266 6092

22–23 Bendigo Show: VICVenue: Bendigo Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Geoff Cook (03) 5439 2588

22-24 Fairbridge Village & Peel Districts Show: WA

Venue: Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging Contact: Betty Zani (08) 9296 0043

23-24 Stringybark Bush Festival: VIC

Venue: Stud Park Shopping Centre, Rowville

Highlights: Alpaca judging (23 Oct); Fleece judging (24 Oct)

Contact: Rhys Owen (03) 9769 5062

29-31 National Show & Sale: ACT

Venue: EPIC, Canberra

Highlights: Alpaca Craft Competition on display all weekend; Fleece judging (29 Oct);

Alpaca judging: Jnr Huacaya (29 Oct);

Remaining Huacaya, Suri (30 Oct); Alpaca Auction (31 Oct);

Judges: Jude Anderson & Amanda VandenBosch

Contact: AAA National Office (03) 9873 7700

31 Warrnambool Show: VIC

Venue: Warrnambool Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Lynn Jacoby (03) 5283 1081

November

5 Colac Show: VIC

Venue: Colac Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Lynn Jacoby (03) 5283 1081

6 Sale Show: VIC

Venue: Sale Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Sue Northfield (03) 9754 5152

6 Whittlesea Show: VIC

Venue: Whittlesea Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Jeanette Williams (03) 5780 1555

12-13 Albany Show: WA

Venue: Albany Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Diny Monaghan (08) 9764 1061

12-13 Bangalow Agricultural Show: NSW

Venue: Bangalow Showgrounds Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sue Christian (02) 6687 2308

13 Huon Show: TAS

Venue: Ranelagh

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Alan Froome (03) 6266 6092

13 Alexandra Show: VIC

Venue: Alexandra Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Ian Earle (03) 5772 3339

27 Traralgon Show: VIC

Venue: Traralgon Showgrounds Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Helen McLeod (03) 5629 1140

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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, 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

Deadlines

Issue 45: Summer Due: December 2004 Deadline: Friday 8 October

Issue 46: Autumn Due: April 2005

Deadline: Friday 11 February

Issue 47: Winter

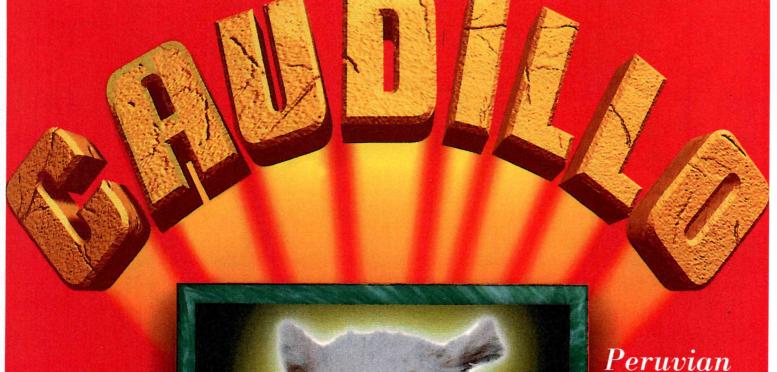
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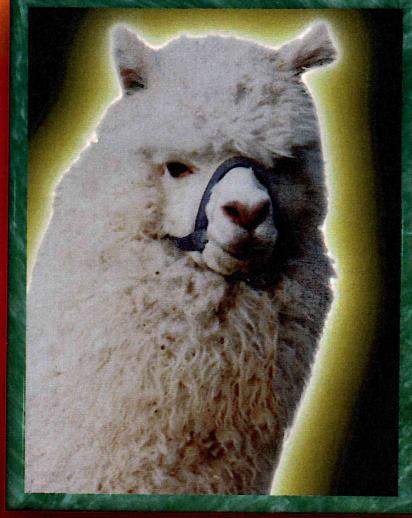
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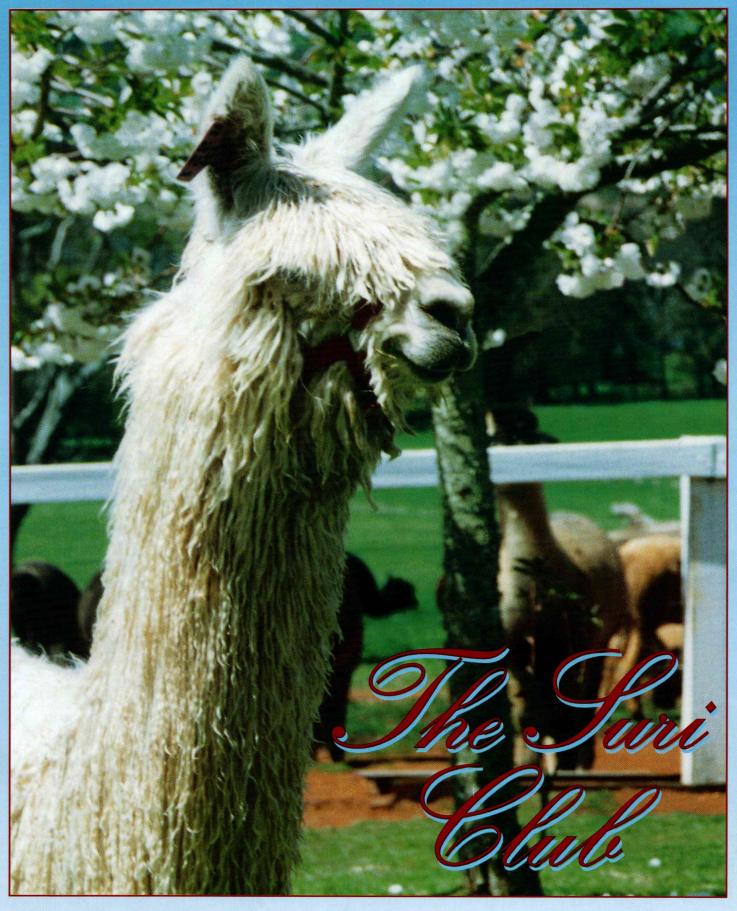
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