



# ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Inc.

ISSUE 48 • SUMMER 2005



**Inside this issue:**

2005 National Show and Sale • Artificial Insemination • Rickets • My Alpaca Kicks



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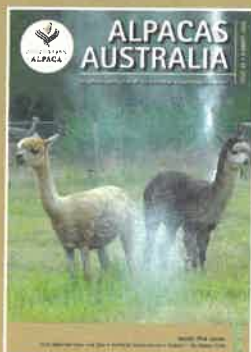


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Cooling off with the  
"alpaca sprinkler"  
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# A Message from the President

*The National Show & Sale for 2005, our 12th, was held for the first time at Bendigo in Victoria and was an eye opener for the future of our industry. It certainly lived up to its title, "Showcasing our Future". Over 530 animals were exhibited and the brand new facility was really stretched. We were very happy to welcome a big contingent from New Zealand including some of our members there plus representatives from Europe.*

*The future of alpaca fleece quality was given a tremendous boost with the standard of animals presented to our two judges, Julie Bird and Bill Plunkett. They were impressed and had to work hard to find winners as the standard of all animals was so high. For those of us who did not exhibit it was a sign of the times that the bar has been lifted yet again.*

Kerry Dwyer with National Supreme Champion Huacaya Exhibitor, Jenny Jackson (left) and Supreme Champion Suri Exhibitor, Annette Quilty (right)



*A full round up of the show results is included on the AAA web site in addition to the coverage in this issue of 'Alpacas Australia'.*

*The auction will be discussed for quite a while as the results exceeded anything achieved previously with 14 out of the 15 animals offered being sold for a total of \$516,000. The top priced animal was also the Supreme Champion Huacaya, 'Banksia Park Khan ET' which realised \$170,000, our National Auction record.*

*Convenor Glenn Sutherland and his team did a great job and we are thankful for their efforts ably supported by the AAA National Office staff. The Gold Sponsors made a big impact on the results for the AAA Inc. We are very grateful to Illawarra Alpacas and Traron Alpacas who gave us such tangible support and I commend them for it.*

*Our newly appointed ambassador for the alpaca industry, Lorena Laing and new designer, Hoshika each donated a fashion garment for auction and included them in the Fashion Show sponsored by Gary and Sandy Retallick of Softfoot Alpacas.*

*The Art and Photography exhibition was an innovation and together with the Craft Section made for a grand entrance to the pavilion.*

*The Friday and Saturday evening dinners were popular and tickets were hard to get for those who left it too late. The fun auction realised \$16,925 which helps offset the cost of staging such an enormous event.*

*Our thanks to all who contributed to such a memorable National Show & Sale.*

*Best wishes for the festive season and a safe and Happy New Year to all. ■*

Kerry Dwyer, President

# Briefly Speaking

## Alpaca Research at the University of Sydney

The University of Sydney's Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction (ReproGen) has received RIRDC funding to conduct research into the collection, preservation and freezing of alpaca semen, and artificial insemination in alpacas.

Professor Chris Maxwell is in charge and the project leader, post doctoral research fellow Dr Katherine Morton, will be assisted by Peruvian-born Ph.D. student, Jorge Reyna.

Read about this exciting project on pages 6 and 38 in articles written by Katherine and Jorge.

*Alpacas Australia* looks forward to publishing in future issues a series of articles written by Jorge.

## Seasons Greetings

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from everyone at the Australian Alpaca Association Inc. and *Alpacas Australia* Magazine.

Photograph courtesy Hazel Cantem, Lavender Hill Mob Alpacas, WA



## Have you moved?

Please remember to notify the AAA National Office of address changes, including telephone and fax numbers if applicable. Let us know by:

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

A vital source of information on alpaca events, alpacas for sale, latest industry developments and much more! The AAA web site is vibrant and dynamic and is an important communication link for AAA members and non-members alike.

**Do you have an interesting story to tell? Are there any topics that you would like to read about in *Alpacas Australia*? Please send your articles and ideas to the Editor. We'd love to hear from you.**

A photograph of a white alpaca standing in a green field. The alpaca is facing right and looking towards the camera. The background is a clear blue sky with a gradient from light blue to white.

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# Alpaca in Parliament

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Carol Mathew** > Jingana Alpacas, VIC > Chairperson, RIRDC Rare Natural Fibres Committee

On Tuesday 6 September 2005, alpaca was featured in Parliament House, Canberra. The event was the **World's Best Food and Fibre Forum and Dinner**, and all the fourteen agricultural R&D organisations were present to acknowledge research efforts, and give awards for innovation.

Alpaca was featured as raw fibre in huge bowls in the foyers as well as in a fashion parade at the evening dinner. During the afternoon, a forum discussed a number of rural issues. It was chaired by Adam Spencer of *Triple J* and *Quantum* fame. The keynote addresses were by Deborah Thomas, Editor of *The Australian Women's Weekly*, and Dr Jim Peacock, President of the Australian Academy of Science – some nice contrast here!

The forum issues included climate change, water, genetic modification, and the increasing divide between rural and urban Australia. The winner of the Innovations Award was cotton. This industry is using genetically modified seed that reduces the use of insecticides by 87% and uses less water.

Of course for alpaca the highlight of the evening was the fashion parade. The parade showcased Australian alpaca

in garments from designers, Lorena Laing, Ess Hoshika and Dom Bagnato, as well as garments in Australian wool and cotton. It was a really great promotion for alpaca. At my table, which included representatives from the sugar, grains, honey, fodder and cotton industries, as well as two politicians, there was a lot of discussion about this new industry. As we all know the world price for alpaca is slightly depressed, but they all knew this would pass. I suppose the overall message for agriculture is that there is no magic bullet but some remarkable things are being achieved. I think all the politicians were left with a message that alpaca was a successful new industry.

The highlights of the dinner were dining on the venison from Orange that Putin served to Bush in the Kremlin, and the dessert that was served at Princess Mary and Prince Fred's wedding! ■

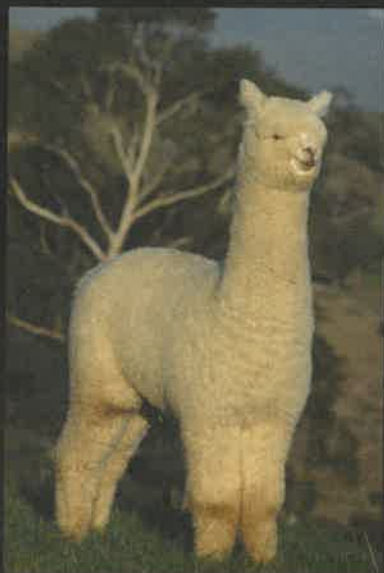


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# Epididymal Sperm Freezing in Alpacas

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Dr Katherine Morton** > Centre for Advanced Technology in Animal Genetics and Reproduction (ReproGen), Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

The recovery and freezing of viable sperm obtained from the epididymis of deceased (or castrated) animals is an important technique for obtaining genetic material from genetically valuable animals and endangered species.

Furthermore, it allows the preservation of male gametes, and establishment of germplasm banks. Epididymal sperm have been successfully recovered and frozen in a number of domestic and wildlife species including African buffalo, baboon, blesbok, chimpanzee, giant panda, giraffe, gorilla, hippopotamus, impala, kudu, lion, springbok, wildebeest, waterbuck, warthog, and zebra.

The testes and epididymis are removed, and transported to the laboratory for sperm harvesting. For transport, the testes and epididymides are wrapped in gauze (moistened with a salt solution to prevent them from drying out) and secured in plastic bags or containers. Testes are cooled slowly by placing ice-bricks (wrapped in a tea-towel) in the bottom of the esky and securing the lid.

Slow cooling during transport is important, as rapid cooling will kill the sperm but the slow cooling of sperm allows them to be placed in a state of quiescence, which reduces motility and metabolism thereby extending their lifespan. Upon arrival at the laboratory the sperm are recovered from the epididymis by 'flushing' (gently washing the sperm through the epididymis with extender) and frozen according to a species-specific protocol.

Studies have demonstrated that epididymal sperm are fertile even when stored in the epididymis for 60 hours after the death of the animal, and motile sperm have been recovered from epididymides of dogs stored at 4 degrees for 8 days after castration. In alpacas, motile sperm have been recovered 12 hours after castration and were successfully frozen using three different extenders.

Sperm from the epididymis are not as mature as ejaculated sperm but they are still capable of fertilising oocytes after artificial insemination (AI) and *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF). Artificial insemination with frozen epididymal sperm has been used to produce offspring in a number of domestic animals including cats, cattle, deer, dogs, goats, horses, sheep, rats and alpacas<sup>1</sup> demonstrating its fertility.



Epididymal sperm being flushed from the epididymis of giraffe.

Epididymal sperm freezing is particularly relevant after the death of high genetic value animals for the preservation of genetic material from rare or endangered species.

It is also important in many species where access to ejaculated sperm is limited (as the protocols for collecting ejaculated sperm are not as well developed) or in species where there are particular challenges associated with freezing ejaculated sperm.

Epididymal sperm could be particularly useful in alpacas, allowing us to conduct research into the freezing of alpaca sperm whilst avoiding the gelatinous seminal plasma produced by the accessory sex glands (which is one of the major obstacles to the freezing of alpaca semen).

While epididymal sperm have been successfully frozen, we are further refining our protocols to increase the efficiency of freezing and recovery of viable and fertile sperm.

We are asking breeders to donate the testes of castrated males for this purpose. The males can be any age, and the sperm will only be used to refine freezing protocols and not produce offspring.

If you think you could be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Katherine Morton:

Mobile: 0412 187 824

Office: 02 9351 5824

Fax: 02 9351 3957

Email: [kmorton@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:kmorton@vetsci.usyd.edu.au) ■

## Reference

- 1 Bravo, P.W., Alarcon, V. and Bondurant, R.H. (2000). "Epididymal spermatozoa characteristics and its use on artificial insemination of llamas and alpacas." Proceedings of the 14th International Congress on Animal Reproduction 2 92 (abstract).



# It's Snowtime in South Gippsland

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Mike Nichols** > Dynasty Alpacas, VIC

Living among the rolling hills of South Gippsland we are fortunate to enjoy a mild climate winter and summer - frosts in winter are a rarity. So on the morning of the 10th of August 2005, we were surprised to see small snowflakes wafting down at 7 am. Big deal ... or so we thought!

I had a volunteer driving assignment that morning to pick up a patient at Mirboo North (15 kms distance) and to take her to Korumburra, a journey of some 35 kms.

On approaching Mirboo North I was surprised to drive through quite thick but navigable snow on the road. The journey to Korumburra took us past the end of our road where the sun was shining but approaching Leongatha some snow was encountered. Conditions steadily deteriorated as we progressed until I was unable to negotiate the driveway of the hospital and had to assist my passenger into the hospital. At this stage the snow began falling in earnest, large solid flakes worthy of the Alps! The hospital staff had great fun cavorting with snow fights but I found myself trapped, unable to drive anywhere.

Some four hours later, with my passenger safely belted in, we made the return journey with only minor difficulty but I was relieved to deliver her safely and to head off home. On arrival I was staggered to find our own property completely



covered in a thick blanket of pure white snow with the alpaca herd wandering around looking for something green to eat. "Where had all the grass gone and what the hell was this white stuff?" they seemed to be asking.

Apart from this wonderment they were all in fine condition and responded very happily to the provision of fresh hay hastily offered. I found no sign of stress, even with a weanling female who had recently suffered a major illness from a rare virus.

We have been informed that snow has not fallen in our part of the world in living memory so presume we can relax back into our usual contented state. ■

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In 2006 the very popular Alpaca Workshop Weekends will be continuing. The program for next year has been finalized with the first workshop on January 21st and 22nd. During 2005 the Workshops attracted people from all over Australia.

#### **What Participants Say.**



Ian Wastle and his partner Cherie of Rockville Alpacas in NSW got their start at one of our workshops. Here's what they say, "Wow what a ride. We have gone from newcomers, attending the New Breeders' Workshop, to actually showing our own alpacas. Now, a few months later, with six show ribbons from our participation at shows including the Melbourne Royal and the National Alpaca Shows, we are really participating. We have also attended the Flowerdale Estate Fleece Workshop, helped in the shearing of nearly 300 alpacas and given advice to other potential new breeders. In the space of just 6 months we have gone from no knowledge, to being actively involved. An important part of this has been the help received from Flowerdale Estate Alpacas that has given us confidence. We have enjoyed our involvement immensely."

#### **The Program.**

Includes classroom learning and hands-on sessions in the barn working with the alpacas.

People learn the basics: halter training, chuckering, weighing, body condition scoring, nutrition, mating, spit-offs, birthing, cria care, weaning, shearing, fibre classing, vaccinations, drenching, toenail trimming, record keeping, and lots more that will be required to look after their alpacas.

There are also sessions on goal setting, farm planning, paddock and pasture improvement, herd development strategies, business plans and marketing your alpacas.

#### **The Venue.**

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning residential corporate retreat for up to 60 people. Stay in luxury accommodation and let the chefs tempt you with their award-winning menus. These workshops have also been a wonderful opportunity for alpaca breeders to network and socialize. Many lasting friendships have started at these special weekend events.



## WORKSHOPS FOR NEW BREEDERS.



*Workshop participants really love the hands-on sessions, having fun with the alpacas.*

couple is \$625. The package includes en-suite accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, workshop tuition and all course materials.

#### **Bookings.**

Attendance numbers are limited and will fill quickly. Complete details including directions and booking forms are on the website at [www.flowerdalealpacas.net](http://www.flowerdalealpacas.net)

Or phone Kim on 03 9728 7000.

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# Pitti Immagine Filati Revisited

FASHION ARTICLE by **Julienne Gelber** > Bumble Hill Alpacas, NSW

Autumn-Winter 2006/2007 Collection – Florence, Italy – 6-8 July, 2005

Two of the stated objectives of the Fibre Working Party of the Suri Sub-committee in 2005 were to clear existing stocks of suri fibre and promote quality superfine micron suri. A superfine suri fibre collection by Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL), resulting in a 'super bale'/'Golden Bale'/'Platinum Bale', was planned last year with the intention of offering the bale to the high quality spinning mills in Europe. Pitti Immagine Filati 2005 was the venue for this 'assault' and three suri studs (Pacofino, Birrong and Bumble Hill) initially planned to be part of the 'attack'.

Despite the very best of intentions and planning, by June 2005 the wheels were falling off the venture. Two of the studs had to withdraw from the trip to Italy and virtually no superfine micron had been consigned to AAFL. My husband, Frank and I had paid for our tickets to Italy, booked a 'Paca Chick' to farm sit, and so in desperation proposed to AAFL that we promote another suri fibre line, to at least make our trip worthwhile.

Much to our delight AAFL General Manager, Michael Talbot sent samples and test results of two fine suri lines:

- > A 190kg bale of white fleece which cored at 21.5µ and
- > A 95kg butt of light brown, coring at 22.5µ.

Both were extremely lustrous with wonderful handle, uniform length and excellent standard deviation. We were impressed and felt sure that the Europeans would be as enthusiastic with the quality and the deal AAFL offered.

An additional bonus was the support offered by Lyn and Graeme Dickson of Warralinga Alpaca Stud, NSW who changed their holiday itinerary to enable them to be in Florence during Pitti Immagine Filati.



Sample hanks of suri yarn to tempt the Italian mills

Rare and wool fibres have been having a tough time lately, especially at the top end of the market. Chinese mills have flooded the world with cheap and not always shoddy, woollen yarns and garments and the competition from second and third generation man made fibres is intense. So we expected a subdued trade fair with a fair amount of resistance to alpaca and probably still an ignorance of suri alpaca and its attributes.

If the European mills were in the middle of a downturn, it certainly wasn't apparent at Pitti Immagine Filati in July this year. The Italians worked their usual magic to enthuse and enliven an event that is pure theatre. Glitz, colour, glamour, razzamatazz and all in 40 degree heat outside and a struggling air conditioning system inside. But a policy of 'no photographs' was strictly enforced. Not to be deterred, I registered Lyn and Graeme as Australian dignitaries (i.e. official representatives of the Australian Alpaca Association Inc.), which enabled them to take their camera on site and they got in free (that was a bonus).

We had identified ten mills that we considered were likely targets (processing and manufacturing capacity to handle suri and quality image were top criteria) and spent the first day setting up appointments and seeing five of them.

Every contact was at least complimentary about the sample hanks of Australian suri yarn that we showed (which were gorgeous) and several were wildly enthusiastic. But by day's end we hadn't a mill even prepared to consider working with AAFL on suri fibre (let alone ready to buy) and I was quite depressed. I consoled myself with the thought that the Dicksons were coming the next day to take photos and meetings with the two best mills in the world were scheduled in the morning.



l-r Julienne Gelber, Lyn Dickson and Frank Gelber at Pitti Immagine Filati





By the time the Dicksons arrived at midday on the Thursday we were flushed with success! Both our main target mills were delighted with the suri hanks, wanted samples and were extremely interested in the AAFL proposal on the two suri bales. In fact we could have sold large quantities of suri yarn similar to our sample hanks to a customer of one of these mills had we been able to replicate the sample.

What else did we learn? In the five years since we were last at Pitti Immagine Filati the Peruvians have been busy educating the European mills about suri. Peru has doubled its suri production in the last three years, albeit from a small base, so they are not letting Australia have this market niche without a fight. All the designers/production personnel with whom we spoke knew what suri alpaca was, whereas five years ago they were ignorant. However, they also now know that suri is difficult to process and many mills either don't have the equipment to handle suri, or they aren't prepared to take the time to work with a complicated fibre for which they haven't the market. The designers could quickly see that the suri hanks and the AAFL bale samples were of a quality far superior to the Peruvian suri on offer, expressing delight in the lustre and lack of primary fibres. And once again there was an acute interest in buying quantities of superfine suri fibre from Australia.

Of course the closing of a deal will be up to Michael Talbot (we did the easy part), but his expertise at the negotiation end of these contacts will be invaluable.



We have demonstrated to the Europeans that Australian alpaca breeders can produce high quality suri alpaca; we have the samples to confirm that and now we have the consistent quality in quantities that are commercial.

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# Major Alpaca Show in Germany

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Heinz Kuhne-Pfaff** > Vice President, German Alpaca Breeders Association, (AZVD) and **Karin Rossman** > Member, AZVD

"See them, experience them"

This is the motto for the 3rd Alpaca Show in D-92286 Rieden-Kreuth at "Gut Matheshof" in the Upper Palatinate/Bavaria on 18-19 March 2006.

Central to the show will be the fleece competition on 18 March and the major awarding of prizes to the young alpacas as well as the auctioning off of stud fees on 19 March from 9am till 5pm. This is also intended to give a cross section of alpaca breeding on the European continent. Cathy Merkley from Canada will be judging the junior alpacas and fleeces.

The German Alpaca Breeders Association anticipates that up to 200 alpacas will be presented at the show next year. Thus, held right in the middle of Germany this show is on the way to becoming an exhibition centre for the alpaca world with a large market for alpaca products as well as a meeting place for an international public. Additional items on the agenda, such as a round table for alpaca topics on Saturday evening, alpaca trailing, and an alpaca fashion show on Sunday are intended to further emphasize this development for the visitors.



Hustle and bustle at the 2nd Alpaca Show by the German Alpaca Breeders Association in Rieden-Kreuth in March 2005

For the first time in the history of the Association, a new stud breeding quality assessment will be held by the Alpaca Breeders Association in a separate area and will for the time being be evaluated by international screeners.

For further details on this show please see the internet on [www.azvd.de](http://www.azvd.de)

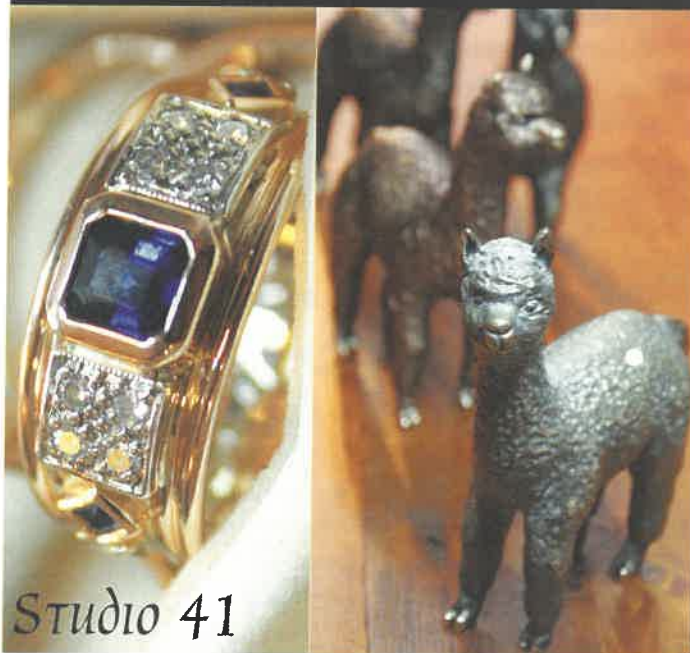
The deadline for registering alpacas and fleeces is 15 February 2006. ■

## Doesn't time fly?

Young Ryan Maddams pictured as *Paca Pics* 'Pic of the Pack' in the Winter 1993 issue, now all grown up and pictured here with *Pentland Melody*, one of Pentland Alpaca Stud's twins born in 2004.



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# Hypophosphatemic Rickets and Osteomalacia in Alpaca

ANIMAL HEALTH ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Garner-Paulin** > Chairperson, AAA Animal Health, Welfare & Husbandry Sub-committee > Tarraganda Lodge, NSW

In the last several months a rise in the occurrence of rickets type symptoms has been observed in alpacas in Australia. *Why?*

That's a good question, to which we can only hypothesise.

The drought is a perennial favourite for most that goes wrong and there is cause to suggest that depletion of minerals in soil and pasture could be a contributing factor. Data on UV levels and sunshine hours for the last 12 months have yet to be finalised at the time of writing this article.

With hypotheses aside, there would appear one constant with regard to this situation; an abundance of scattered information, sometimes confusing and sometimes available to only the most intrepid internet surfer. The following article is a summation of the information to date along with current Australian Veterinary advice.

## Calcium, Phosphorous and Vitamin D – How does it all work?

Calcium and phosphorous together are required for proper bone development and maintenance, they are the most abundant minerals in the body. Control of the levels of calcium and phosphorous in the body is the complex occupation of three hormones; calcitonin, parathyroid hormone and vitamin D. Whilst vitamin D has no hormone activity itself, it is converted in the body to a molecule which does. As the first two hormones are not readily available, vitamin D is considered the most important to influence calcium and phosphorous levels.

Vitamin D is responsible for the proper absorption of calcium and phosphorous consumed in the diet from the intestinal tract, ensuring proper mineralisation of bones and the prevention of excessive mineral loss through the kidneys. Of course, vitamin D in sufficient quantities would be hard pressed to perform its duties should there be inadequate intake of phosphorous as well as calcium. And thus the interdependent cycle continues.

In the presence of a deficiency, phosphorous and calcium together will be mobilised from the bones so calcium can maintain its critical functions within the body, whilst the extra phosphorous drawn from the bones will be excreted via the kidneys. This causes low phosphorous levels seen with hypophosphatemic rickets. Hypophosphatemic refers to low phosphorous.

If sufficient calcium and phosphorous is removed from the bone, the bone density will decrease and consequently bone strength. This condition, known in the young as 'rickets', is also referred to as 'osteomalacia' and 'osteoporosis' most usually in adult animals and indeed humans.

## Alpaca – The relationship with Vitamin D

From research we know that cria born from late summer in SE Australia are particularly vulnerable to vitamin D deficiency during their first winter.

This condition can also affect older alpaca in winter months, more particularly weaner, tui and pregnant/lactating hembra (osteomalacia), although the incidence is less common.

As a fat soluble vitamin, vitamin D does not cross the placenta and as a result cria are born with very low concentrations. Evidence suggests that vitamin D is transferred efficiently into colostrum assuming the dam has been adequately supplemented, however cria do not seem to derive sufficient vitamin D from the dam's milk beyond this stage.

Vitamin D is most commonly sourced by a chemical reaction that occurs from skin being exposed to UV light with studies in humans reporting that over 90% of vitamin D is produced via this method.

One aspect for consideration with UV absorption is skin pigmentation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that animals with darker fleece/skin would require additional sunlight hours to obtain the appropriate level of vitamin D required. Again, studies in humans have shown that the UV dose required for vitamin D synthesis increases substantially with increasing skin pigmentation, with a six fold increase in exposure time required for very black skin compared to pale skin.

Other sources of Vitamin D are cod liver oil, eggs, milk, forages and sun dried feed such as hay, however, hay alone may be insufficient to provide the necessary vitamin D alpaca require in particular stages of life cycle, at particular times of year. It is important to note too that lush green feed as often observed in early spring, can contain chemicals that effectively 'tie up' the vitamin D essentially making it unavailable to the animal via absorption through the intestine.



## Alpaca – The relationship with Phosphorous (phosphate)

Low serum phosphate (blood) levels have been reported in relation to a number of conditions - rickets/osteomalacia, 'fatty liver syndrome', significant worm burden and stress, for example. As to whether low phosphorous is a marker or a cause in some instances has yet to be established.

**The current preferred (blood) serum phosphate (P) level in alpaca is +2.0mmol/L \***

(Some pathology reports will use another reference measurement - mg/dl. To convert mg/dl to mmol/L, multiply the mg/dl level by 0.323)

mmol/L = millimoles/litre

mg/dl = milligrams/decilitre

**IMPORTANT:** This preferred normal phosphate (P) level of +2.0mmol/L can fluctuate due to a number of factors; the most common of these are listed below and should be taken into consideration:

- > Age (*higher when young*)
- > Pregnancy/Lactation (*higher requirement can lead to lower level*)
- > Season (*higher level can be seen in spring and summer*)
- > Digestive upsets such as diarrhoea (*can read lower*)
- > Kidney failure (*will read higher as kidneys cannot excrete excess phosphorous from the blood stream*)

In relation to the condition of rickets, alpaca on healthy, well fertilised soils and pastures are at low risk of being truly phosphorous deficient provided adequate vitamin D levels are met, as sufficient phosphorous will be absorbed from the intestine. The importance of healthy soil and pasture cannot be understated, as the visual presence of grass in a paddock will not indicate that all the nutritional requirements of an alpaca can be met through grazing that area. Pasture and soil testing by reputable testing facilities is a wise investment for the health of your herd.

Many commercial feed supplements will also contain phosphorous, however, the quantity of phosphorous in commercial feeds does differ.

In the case of true phosphorous deficiency, the following symptoms can be observed:

- > Anaemia
- > Rickets/osteomalacia symptoms
- > Weakness
- > Weight-loss
- > Pica (eating non-foodstuffs)

It is important to note that these symptoms can signify other deficiencies and diseases therefore veterinary advice should be sought before true phosphorous deficiency as a cause is assumed. ➤

### Clinical Signs Of Rickets In Young Alpaca:

- > Mildest form is 'quiet baby' – a cria who isn't as active as its buddies.
- > Crooked front and/or rear legs (x-rays will show abnormal growth plates or angular limb deformities)
- > Stiff gait (also, 'walking on eggshells', crab like walk)
- > Shifting lameness
- > Humped back or posture
- > Not growing well
- > Weight loss
- > Change in eating pattern

In its most extreme this condition has led to death.

*NB: The presence of a number of these symptoms is cause to suspect rickets. The presence of just any one or two of these symptoms may suggest other conditions.*



Rickets – 16 month male, Spring 2005, SE Australia

## Clinical Signs Of Osteomalacia In Adult Alpaca:

Osteomalacia in older alpaca is relatively uncommon however with research confirming reduced bone density in alpaca during winter months this condition should not be conclusively disregarded.

- > Shifting Lameness
- > General lameness
- > Stiff gait
- > Hunched posture
- > Thickening of joints
- > Fractures
- > Weight loss
- > Change in eating pattern
- > Anaemia

*NB: The presence of a number of these symptoms is cause to suspect osteomalacia. The presence of just any one or two of these symptoms may suggest other conditions.*

## Treatment for clinical symptoms/diagnosis

Diagnosis can be made via blood tests for vitamin D levels, or more commonly phosphorous levels, as the latter is far less expensive and easier to achieve. Some Veterinarians will be happy to advise immediate treatment with vitamin D in the presence of clinical symptoms without the benefit of blood tests, most particularly in cases involving cria.

Treatment will consist of vitamin D supplementation, often AD3E and in some cases also phosphorous supplementation such as *Coforta 100*. To describe specific treatment for this condition is not possible here, as the severity of symptoms and the age of alpaca will define each case and the different level of treatment required. At the onset of clinical symptoms, veterinary advice should be sought as soon as possible.

Response to treatment will vary with early recognised cases in cria often responding within a couple of weeks.

## Prevention

There are currently various types and methods for prevention of vitamin D deficiency including cod liver oil as a natural alternative, however the most commonly used and recommended product today for prevention of vitamin D deficiency is injectable AD3E.

Most AD3E products will contain 50,000 or 75,000 IU (*International Units*) of Cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) however, as there are many AD3E products on the market, it is advisable to read the label.

Research has shown that alpaca are very resistant to high levels of vitamin D supplementation, meaning there is no harm in supplementing alpaca with no clinical signs of disease even without blood test.

They are however not infallible and overdose is a possibility in the case of non prescribed excessive use and use of products containing exceptionally high levels of Cholecalciferol (D3). The symptoms of overdose will mimic those of a deficiency. Recent anecdotal reports of products being used containing over 1 million IU of Cholecalciferol (D3) is concerning and not recommended without Veterinarian advice.

Literature on dosage rates will often recommend an IU quantity of vitamin D3 on a weight ratio basis. This has presented quite a conundrum for many breeders for a number of reasons.

The current recommended preventative dose of AD3E in Australia, based on products containing 50,000-75,000 IU Cholecalciferol (D3): \*\*

- Cria: 0.5ml\*\* > To all cria, 2 injections in total, 12 weeks apart. 1st shot in April/May
- > For those in our far southern climes, supplementation every 8 weeks would be appropriate with a 3rd injection if required.
  - > Cria born after April/May can receive AD3E injection at 4 weeks of age.

- Adults:\*\* > 1ml to 1.5ml for larger animals in midwinter.

*(For AD3E products containing more than the above recommended IU, veterinary advice should be sought before administration)*

These guidelines are a base reference, so if in doubt consult your local Veterinarian for dosage recommendations in your particular area. As instances can still arise in individual animals that require additional supplementation, it is advisable to consult your Veterinarian and only treat those animals with clinical symptoms. Regular observation of all stock for the onset of clinical symptoms throughout winter and early spring is highly recommended. ■

\* Per Veterinary Surgeons - W.R. Beresford B.V.Sc(NSW) & J McNeil B.V.Sc(Vic)<sup>12</sup>

\*\* Per Veterinary Surgeon - W.R. Beresford B.V.Sc (NSW)

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# My Shed ...

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Ian Davison** > Illawarra Alpacas, NSW

It was in 1992 that Illawarra Alpacas was established on the green, green grass of home at Cambewarra, on the South Coast of New South Wales. Then, it referred literally to just four alpacas, the toast and pride of owners Ian and Harriet Davison, and Celia Cook.

Thirteen years later, the name remains unchanged, but it refers now to a herd of over 400 alpacas. The owners, meanwhile, remain unchanged in fact, if not so convincingly in appearance. The boundless energy with which we marshaled and managed our tiny herd 13 years ago has long since tempered, as much by experience as by arthralgia, and we have had to find better and more efficient ways of managing our now substantial herd.

**The most demanding task in the alpaca calendar is that of shearing several hundred animals over a few days.**

The cost of shearing, the scarcity of experienced shearers, the uncertainty of the weather, and the prices paid for alpaca fleece, all demand that shearing be conducted efficiently and expeditiously. The days of shearing animals on a tarpaulin stretched out on the lawn or in a yard are long gone.

Fortunately for Illawarra Alpacas, we have found ourselves an exceptional shearer in Chris Power, a knockabout bushie from Bombala, whose cv includes farming, sheep shearing, shed-building, fire-fighting, and fencing, just for starters. Chris was happy to accommodate our protocols for the first couple of shearings, but he eventually took pity on the aging army that followed in his wake at shearing time, gathering, skirting and sorting the fleeces as they were shorn off the alpacas' backs.



Shearing time: the Power platform in action

Chris' lumbar spine was still accommodating of his preferred method of shearing, standing above the outstretched alpaca, but he saw that the spines of his handlers – the owners – were less forgiving. So it was that he went about designing, and then building, the prototype of his alpaca shearing shed for Illawarra Alpacas.

**The design was fundamentally about an easy flow of alpacas across the shearing table with a minimum of man-handling, and sparing the backs of those collecting the shorn fleece and delivering it to the skirting table. The centerpiece of the shed is a raised shearing platform – the Power Platform, as we call it – built above a sloping concrete floor.**



Holding pen and Power platform under construction



Sloping concrete floor with transverse gutter under slatted platform of holding pen; Power platform under construction



## Principles of design

- > Alpacas are delivered from the main shed, where they cannot see alpacas being shorn, to the holding pen on slatted boards in the shearing shed.
- > The floor of the shearing shed falls gently away from the main shed, so that alpacas entering the holding pen do so on the same level as the main shed, but the slatted boards are high enough above the floor to allow urine and droppings to fall through.
- > Alpacas are man-handled from the holding pen onto the shearing platform through full length solid swinging saloon doors, which conceal the process from waiting alpacas in the pen. The shearing surface is smooth and hardened form ply, on which alpacas will slide without friction, whether on their feet or on their side. Once on the platform, the alpaca is immediately laid on its side by two handlers, whilst a third attaches the front and back leggings. A block of pulleys with an attached cleat (familiar to any sailor) makes the restraint almost instantly secure. The electrically powered shearing plant is suspended from the ceiling immediately above the shearing table.

So far, pretty standard fare. But it is at this point that Chris' ingenious adaptation comes into play.

That part of the platform to either side of the restrained alpaca is on hinges, and can be opened backwards (away from the alpaca) to allow fleece handlers access to the shearing table from either side to collect and gather the fleece at waist level.

The platform is opened initially at the alpaca's back (opposite the shearer), then closed as the animal is turned for the second half of the shearing. Shearer and fleece handler then change sides, and the other side of the platform is opened and the fleece then gathered from the other side of the alpaca.



Chris Power standing beside the completed Power platform

This saves the handler having to drop down to his/her knees several times each shearing to gather the fleece and later clean off the shearing boards, and transfer of fleece to the skirting table is quick, efficient, and effortless.

When shearing is completed, the platform is closed, the alpaca released from the restraints and helped to its feet, and then easily guided along the slippery boards to a rubber mat which leads the animal securely down the exit corridor and outside to sunshine and freedom. The shearing boards are cleaned using a long duster made from a piece of carpet nailed to a long piece of wood, used much like a windscreen wiper: a few quick sweeps over the slippery boards, and the platform is ready for the next alpaca.

The shed has good and variable ventilation through eastern windows, a south facing sliding door, and stable doors on north and south walls at the western end of the shed, where it joins the main shed. Less than half the shed is dedicated to alpaca traffic: the remainder accommodates the skirting table, shelving for the storage of show fleeces, table and chairs for smoko, and free floor space for the collection of skirted fleeces in plastic bags.

Animal access to the shed is from temporary pens in the main shed, or from one of three separate yards constructed around the shed. Construction is from corrugated Colorbond on a steel frame; the sloping floor is of gently roughened concrete. Shallow gutters have been fashioned in the concrete to collect urine from the holding pen, and direct it away from the shed, draining into the outside yard.

*Does it work?* You bet it does! And without breaking the backs of the quietly ageing owners! This system can comfortably turn around one alpaca every five minutes, and keep everybody smiling. Now that's shear-Power!

Enquiries about the shed design should be directed to Chris Power on mobile number 0438 653 782 ■



David delivers another alpaca from the holding shed, while Chris looks on, and Yoshi sweeps the platform clean

# Creswick Woollen Mills open the largest retail stores in Australia

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Boaz Herszfeld** > Executive Director, Creswick Woollen Mills, Victoria

Within the past 6 Months Creswick Woollen Mills has established two retail concepts:

## **Factory Outlet Superstore**

6 Roche Street

Hawthorn, Victoria 3122

Opening hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Saturday

## **Mill Shop**

Railway Parade

Creswick, Victoria 3363

Huge factory open days: Thursday-Sunday once per month

Small shop opening hours: 9am-3pm Monday-Thursday

## **Alpaca Products Available**

Available for sale is the biggest range of Alpaca blankets, throws, scarves and accessories outside of South America. The two shops are a treasure trove of new designs, colours and textures. You are invited to visit as an activity, to see "What's New in Alpaca".

In recent years Creswick Woollen Mills has received thousands of requests to open its doors to the public. In recent years several factors have changed in Australia, creating this demand:

- > **Rarity of local manufacturing.** Closure of local manufacturing has increased the public's hunger to visualise iconic products being made. The fascination of "watching something being made" is untapped,
- > **Success of "Buy Locally Made".** The concept of Market Gardens, or Buy Regional is catching on with a variety of concepts springing up around Australia, such as Market Gardens, Artist Colonies and Craft Collectives.
- > **Success of Australian Alpaca.** Australia is a world leader in animal husbandry. Over the last 15 years the Australian alpaca industry has utilised this knowledge to transform an initial herd of approximately 5,000 cute, but genetically 'unsophisticated' animals into an amazing herd of 50,000+ genetically superior animals, whose fleece is the largest source of coloured and fine micron alpaca outside South America.

This success is twofold. Firstly the fleece can be used to manufacture world class 'unparalleled consumer products'. Secondly it has brought together a group of Australian citizens who now call themselves Australian Alpaca Breeders. These breeders are fanatical in their love for their industry and animals, and will go to significant lengths to promote and assist entities in the supply chain.



## **Limited retail choice for consumers from large retailers**

Globalisation of local Australian retail has eliminated the possibility of purchasing a variety of Made in Australia textiles including blankets and throws. The general public is disappointed with the offering of the large chains. At the same time small retailers are being forced out of business, as they can't compete on price and maintain margins whilst maintaining flexible opening hours and good service.

## **Creswick Open Days**

Creswick Woollen Mills has experienced significant attention since a recent ABC LandLine program was aired documenting the simple flexible approach the company has taken to 'surviving' in the Australian Textile Industry. Since the viewing, Creswick has decided to open the Mill doors on two separate 'open days' giving the public a chance to visit the Mill. Over the seven Mill Open Days, over 4,000 visitors entered the site, well exceeding expectations.





Open day activities included:

- > Viewing of large carding machine running
- > Meeting local alpacas on display
- > Creswick staff on hand to discuss traditional textile processing
- > Opportunity to buy Creswick Woollen Mills products
- > Opportunity to purchase other locally manufactured products

## Future potential for Creswick Open Days

A future open to the public facility should be supported by regular events aligned to the Cultural/Economic/Demographic/Social changes such as:

- > Alpaca fleece judging competitions, sponsored by the Woollen Mill
- > Melbourne and Sydney based competitions offering a chance to win a trip to the Woollen Mill
- > Craft events, exhibitions, lessons linked to fibres and products made at the Mill

## Creswick and alpaca

The Incas called alpaca the 'Fibre of The Gods'. Creswick's alpaca products have been in production for just five years and there is only one other mill in the world outside South America making woven homewares from 100 percent alpaca fibre.

Australian-grown alpaca fleece is utilised from the largest alpaca herd in the world outside South America. Creswick has been innovative in the marketing of these luxury products.

Staff members walk into stores with a couple of live alpacas and let the buyers and the retail staff feel the exquisite softness of the alpaca's fleece for themselves. This tactic has worked wonders in gaining an appreciation by the store salespeople of the luxurious qualities of alpaca fibre such as softness, comfort and warmth.

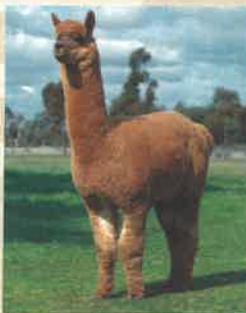
After years of development, Creswick Woollen Mills is extremely proud to spin a yarn on a woollen spinning system from Australian alpaca; something the experts stated could never be done. Due to the improvement of the classing system and significant modifications and investment in machinery, a quality yarn is produced efficiently, enabling the weaving department to manufacture world class blankets and throws to customer specifications.

The classification of Creswick Woollen Mills as a coloured spinning mill is a perfect fit with the alpaca fibre. The spinning mill is able to utilise the alpaca's natural colours, and spin them in 200kg to 600kg lots, ranging from blacks to whites to light fawns.

In the recent past Creswick has then been able to blend alpaca into colours to maximise the satisfaction of customers such as David Jones and Country Road. This is impossible to do in the 'white only' spinning mills which exist around the world. ■



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Peruvian Hemingway son



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# 2005 National Show and Sale – Showcasing our Future!

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Glenn Sutherland** > Show Convenor  
PHOTOGRAPHY by **Lance Trigg**



*Record number of animals for a National Show.*

*\$170,000 paid for one alpaca!*

*City of gold... city of majesty and city of grace...  
What more fitting place than the provincial capital  
of Bendigo to showcase our remarkable animals?*



## The background

After the staging of the AAA National Show and Sale in Canberra last year for the second successive year it was decided that in 2005 it would be Victoria's turn to host the Association's premier event, and so the search for a suitable venue began. It was agreed that the Tatura Dairy Complex used in 2000 and 2002 was not satisfactory for various reasons however the new Bendigo Exhibition Centre had real potential to showcase our alpacas to Australia and New Zealand. There were a number of positive factors to consider:

- > Purpose-built livestock exhibition centre - the largest in regional Australia
- > The complex has superb ventilation
- > Easy access for exhibitors and overseas visitors flying into Melbourne
- > Plenty of good quality accommodation and restaurants
- > And in the heart of a solid and growing rural area

## The organisation

The Presidents of the three Victorian Regions (Ken Haines, Ian Earle and Robbie Cuthill) plus myself as Convenor made up the Steering Committee, whose purpose it was to give a unified Victorian and national oversight for the various Show and Sale Managers.





Fashion parade



Auction



Supreme Champion Photography Exhibit  
by Mena Schnizler



Supreme Champion Alpaca Craft Exhibit  
by Darrel Laughton



Supreme Champion Art Exhibit  
by Michelle Duff

## Some key features

### Entries

- > 584 animals
- > 103 fleeces
- > 170 art/photography exhibits
- > 143 craft exhibits

### Innovations

- > An Art/Photography section that quickly captured many people's imagination
- > Trolleys for arriving exhibitors
- > Licensed bar facilities
- > Use of hired labour for penning
- > A 7th Place ribbon
- > A stunning Fashion Show!

### Gold Sponsors

The generosity of the Gold Sponsors, **Illawarra Alpaca Stud** and **Traron Alpaca Stud** who each donated an animal for the Auction... the wonderful support by these two studs again endorses their status as key players in our industry.

### "NZedders"

It was great to see the huge number of overseas visitors, particularly from New Zealand, some of whom were in an organised tour which also visited the AAFL and various alpaca studs around Bendigo.

## Highlights:

### Record auction price

Clearly the record price of \$170,000 paid for *Banksia Park Khan ET*, the National Show's Supreme Huacaya Champion, will be remembered for many years to come. The amazing amount of media publicity that followed, including page one of the *Weekly Times*, the major rural press outlet in Victoria and Southern NSW, is of inestimable value to our industry's future. The total Auction raised over \$516,000, over \$200,000 more than the previous year.

### Record number of animals

The huge number of animal entries was 100 more than the previous highest number. Not only that, there was a large number of exhibitors for whom this was their first National. (And wasn't the sheer delight on the faces of new exhibitors when they won a ribbon a Show highlight in itself!) ➤

Congratulations and thank you to:

- > The Judges: Animal section: **Julie Bird & Bill Plunkett**  
Fleece section: **Jenny Jackson**  
Craft section: **Judy Craig**  
Art/Photography section: **Mark Short**

- > Each and every one of the **Exhibitors and Placegetters**
- > The **Supreme Champion Exhibitors** in each of the Sections
- > All our **Sponsors**
- > The **Trade stall holders**
- > The **AAA Office staff**

And Supreme Congratulations to each and every **Volunteer** who so energetically, capably and willingly contributed!

# National Supreme Champions



**Supreme Champion Huacaya & Champion Intermediate Male**  
*Banksia Park Khan ET*



**Supreme Champion Suri & Champion Adult Female**  
*Summerhill Silk Sensation*

## Champion Fleeces



**Champion Huacaya Fleece**  
*Marriglen Mars*



**Most Valuable Huacaya Commercial Fleece**  
*Blackgate Lodge Sonnette*



**Champion Suri Fleece**  
*Traron Maxima*

## Sires Progeny



**Sires Progeny Huacaya**  
*Jolimont Warrior*



**Sires Progeny Suri**  
*Cedar House Sensational*





# ILLAWARRA ALPACAS

Where the  
**Fine Detail**  
**Creates The Big Picture**

Member of the  
SRS® Alpaca Focus Group

Herd Fineness Built on  
Superfine Stud Selection  
& SRS® Breeding Principles

## The Illawarra Studs:

SRS® Approved Wool & Frame SIREs

### The ORIGINAL ....

Illawarra **SIR FRANK**: W 23 Solid White. 19.9µ @ 18mths & Solid White. CHILEAN. Our foundation Sire. The first Australian alpaca to be tested "superfine". Retired.

### The FRAME BOYS ....

Jolimont **THE DON**: F 23 Solid White. 19.9µ @ 4.5 Years & Solid White. FULL PERUVIAN, Alianza Huarapina. Retired from Illawarra Alpacas.

Illawarra **WARLORD**: F 21 Solid White. 2nd Fleece 19.3µ, 3.5µ SD, 18% CV, 99.3%CF. 4th Fleece 21.2µ, 4.5µ SD, 21.6% CV, 97%CF. Full brother to Illawarra YUCATAN. Big roomy FRAME boy, with his own heavy cutting, extremely soft, prizewinning fleece. Reserve Champ Fleece TOCAL & CANBERRA Royal 2002, and SUPREME Fleece CHARLES LEDGER 2002. By Prestige VALENTINO, out of Peruvian, Jolimont AREQUIPA. 2005, still 23µ, & cut 5kgs with 2.6kgs of saddle.

Illawarra **XTATIC**: F 21 Solid white. 2nd fleece. First to be tested 20.6µ, 3.8µ SD, 18.8% CV, 98.7% CF. A stunningly stylish, and typey male, large boned, & full of his own importance!! Impressive. Bred and maintained for stud duties by Illawarra, to perpetuate the Prestige VALENTINO stamp, incorporating with it, excellent Jolimont Alianza blood in Illawarra UPHORIA, who is by Jolimont THE DON. Impressive show record, with 3rd 2004 NATIONAL, and Champion Senior male CANBERRA Royal 2005, amongst other accolades. 2005, cut 6.1kgs with 3.3kgs of saddle.

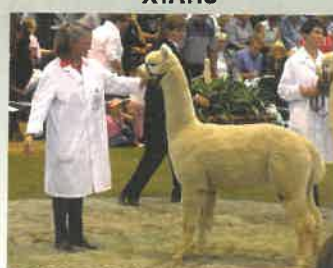
THE DON



WARLORD



XTATIC



### The WOOL BOYS ....

Prestige **VALENTINO**: W 11 White (CO-OWNED with Fire Mountain Alpacas, Cambewarra, NSW.) Exquisitely handling fleece. 1st fleece 17.4µ, 4.1µ SD, 23% CV, 99.2% CF; 6th fleece 23µ, 3.6µ SD, 15.5% CV, 95.8% CF. Used almost exclusively by Illawarra Alpacas for 4 years creating a well conformed, tidy alpaca with a light coloured, soft, dense & uniform fibre base on which to build THE ILLAWARRA ALPACAS ALPACA. PERUNOID in bloodline .. i.e. full Peruvian & Haldane 2400 descendant. 2005, at 8yrs, cut 4.9kgs with 3kgs of saddle.

Illawarra **XENON**: W 11 White. 4 fleeces to date are 19, 18, 18, & 20µ !!!! Full brother to Illawarra YUCATAN. Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece Adelaide Royal 2004, BEST WHITE Adelaide Royal 2004, and Champion junior fleece Armidale 2003. Classed by Dr Jim Watts as WOOL SIRE for his extreme softness, and obvious ability to hold micron. Large framey boy.

Illawarra **XPLORER**: W 11 Light Fawn. 2nd fleece @ 16 mths: 20.8µ, 19%CV, 4.04µ SD. 3rd fleece @ 28 mths: 22µ, 21% CV, & 4.7µ SD. Sire is Prestige VALENTINO, with Grandsire Jolimont THE DON. Great grandsire is Illawarra SIR FRANK. Classed as a wool sire, Dr Jim Watts remarked on his excellent ratio of fibre length to staple length, a reflection of high amplitude. His show results have all been in fleece (not shown in-hand), the most impressive being Reserve Champion Huacaya Fleece 2004 ROYAL CANBERRA (to Wizard, by ½ point.), & 3rd 18-30 mths fleece 2004 NATIONAL.

Illawarra **YUCATAN**: W 11 White. (CO-OWNED with Wyndarra Alpacas, Bungendore, NSW.) 2nd fleece: 19.9µ, 3.6 SD, 18.3%CV, 99.3%CF. @ 17 months! To date, Sept 2005 at 2.5 years, Show results have been impressive, with 3 Supremes, including ROYAL CANBERRA 2005, & TOCAL Fleece show (\$1,000 to the winner) 2005. He has been classed as a wool sire by Dr Jim Watts, for his incredibly soft, dense, lustrous, and bundling fleece. "Well on the way!" The consistency across his body is outstanding. His 2nd fleece was 19µ, cutting 4kgs with 2.5kg of saddle. Fabulous. By Prestige Valentino, high hopes are riding on this full Peruvian young male, already working in our embryo transfer programme. 2005, 22.8µ, & cut 5.4kgs, with 3.3kgs saddle.

Illawarra **YOHIMBENE**: W 21 White 2nd Fleece @ 15 mths: 21µ, 20%CV, 4.3µ SD. Big framey boy with "exceptional staple length, soft & silky, with a beautiful soft clean face, carrying soft wool to the points". His skin test results shifted him from a Frame sire, to a Wool sire! Full Peruvian bloodlines, with Jolimont THE DON as Grandfather. He is by Prestige VALENTINO. YOHIMBENE's dam, Illawarra TITILLATE, was Int Champion Female at both Berry & Kangaroo Valley shows in 2000, and 2nd at the 1999 NATIONAL as a junior female. 2005, 22µ, & cut 5.7kgs with 3.8kgs saddle.

Illawarra **YO YO**: W 11 Solid Medium Fawn. 2nd fleece @ 16 mths: 18.1µ, 21.5%CV, 3.9µ SD. His skin test in May 2005 showed skin that is extremely thin, at 1.11 mm, and only 58% of primary fibres are medullated. His other skin results are equally enviable. He is for sale, as Illawarra's aim is to breed white and very Light. His dam, Illawarra VERTIGO, was still 20µ when tested 2004. She is by Jolimont THE DON, while his Grand dam, Illawarra SENSATION, is by Illawarra SIR FRANK. 2005, 19.5µ, & cut 3.2kgs, with 1.7kgs saddle.

VALENTINO

XENON

XPLORER

YUCATAN

YOHIMBENE

YO YO



Email: [harriet@illawarraalpacas.com](mailto:harriet@illawarraalpacas.com)

CAMBEWARRA, NSW, SOUTHERN REGION.



# National Huacaya Champions



**Champion Junior Female**  
*EP Cambridge Tote Bell*



**Res Champion Junior Female**  
*Banksia Park Pure Enchantment ET*



**Champion Junior Male**  
*Ambersun Corazon*



**Res Champion Junior Male**  
*Coricancha Aureliano*



**Champion Intermediate Female**  
*Banksia Park Olympia ET*



**Res Champion Intermediate Female**  
*Banksia Park Zena ET*



**Champion Intermediate Male**  
*Banksia Park Khan ET*



**Res Champion Intermediate Male**  
*Shanbrooke Navaho Gold*



**Champion Adult Female**  
*Encantador Little Miss Muffett*



**Res Champion Adult Female**  
*Shanbrooke Star Attraction*



**Champion Adult Male**  
*Patagonia Celtic Triumph*



**Res Champion Adult Male**  
*Illawarra Yucatan*



**Champion Senior Female**  
*Shanbrooke Alianza Conchita*



**Res Champion Senior Female**  
*Shanbrooke Churra Coati*



**Champion Senior Male**  
*Shanbrooke Accoyo Tradition*



**Res Champion Senior Male**  
*Ambersun Soprano*



**Champion Mature Female**  
*Shanbrooke Accoyo Taquile*



**Res Champion Mature Female**  
*Shanbrooke Accoyo Juanita*



**Champion Mature Male**  
*Jolimont Warrior*



**Res Champion Mature Male**  
*Jolimont Gianmarco*



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TAHARA MIDAS (SLF SURI) ♦ TAMBO DOWNS TITAN (SW SURI) ♦ TRARON MASTERPIECE (SMF) ♦ JOLIMONT TROVATELLO (SW)



**Tahara Illumini**  
Supreme Champion Suri 2003 National Show.  
Micron: 18.3 SD: 3.7 CV: 20.4 CF: 99.6

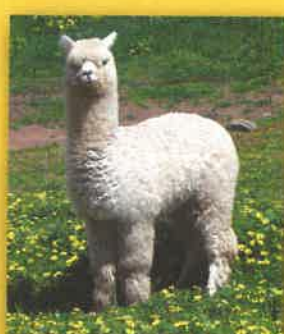


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White & Coloured



**Jolimont Diodoro**  
Micron: 20.0 CF: 98.9 (10 yrs old)



**Traron Everest** son of Trovattello  
Micron: 16.45 SD: 3.21 CF: 99.8

JOLIMONT ANTONIO (SW) ♦ WINTON NEMISIS (SBLK) ♦ PURRUMBETE ARICA GOLD (SMF)

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# GOLD SPONSOR

2005 National Show & Sale



# National Suri Champions



**Champion Junior Female**  
*Tahara Zahira*



**Res Champion Junior Female**  
*Purrumbete Diamante*



**Champion Junior Male**  
*Kurrawa Tari Q*



**Res Champion Junior Male**  
*Kurrawa Statement*



**Champion Intermediate Female**  
*Baarrooka Morilene*



**Res Champion Intermediate Female**  
*Traron Satina*



**Champion Intermediate Male**  
*Surtierra Arequipa Quervo*



**Res Champion Intermediate Male**  
*Ambleside Ice Breaker*



**Champion Adult Female**  
*Summerhill Silk Sensation*



**Res Champion Adult Female**  
*Traron Spice*



**Champion Adult Male**  
*Margamon Prince Regent*



**Res Champion Adult Male**  
*Surtierra Cognac*



**Champion Senior Male**  
*Tahara Illumini*



**Res Champion Senior Male**  
*Cedar House Liberache*

For a comprehensive list of all  
show results visit the AAA web site  
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# Statistical Snapshot of Suris in Australia

SURI ARTICLE compiled by **Roger Walters** > AAA Suri sub-committee

Australian suris<sup>1</sup> and their owners are spread across the country (and New Zealand) in broadly the same proportion as all alpacas. It is still relatively early days in the adoption of suris with most (53%) owners only having one or two suris.

This is similar to the early stages of the growth of alpaca ownership in prior decades in this country; however it is noted that the one in four alpaca owners who own the suri type also tend to be the owners of larger herds. Given that it is the larger breeders of alpaca (huacaya and suri types) who are also breeding suris this may be explained:

- > As a natural evolution of their stud's growth,
- > Their ability to commit funds (to the generally more valuable suri type) or,
- > Having wider networks giving them better access to relatively scarce suri genetics.

Statistics quoted are of alpacas registered to financial AAA members. There are some registered suris owned by breeders who have not yet joined the Association and very few owned by non financial (retiring) members.

There are some 559 financial members of the AAA who are suri breeders and these have some 5,287 suris throughout Australia and, increasingly, New Zealand.

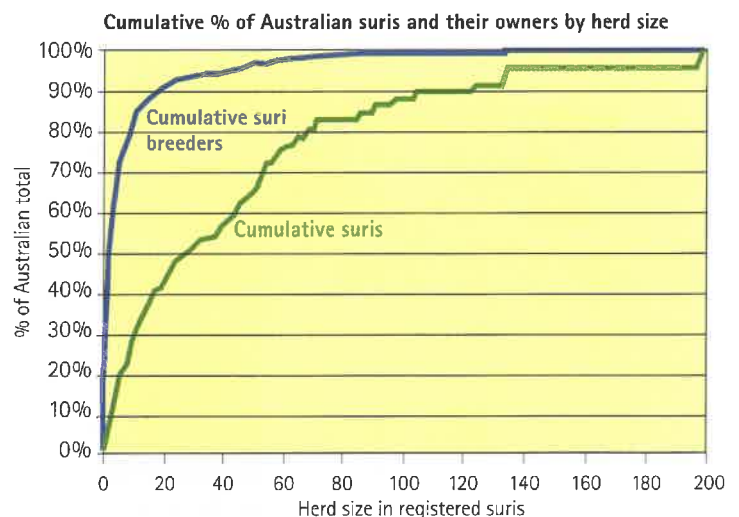
Of the total of all 715 suri breeders<sup>2</sup> with 5,669 suris, only 214 of these own more suris than huacayas, which is not surprising given the relative rarity of the suri both globally (believed to be about 5%) and to a lesser extent in Australia (believed to be about 8%).

The Australian (and New Zealand's) alpaca herd contains both a higher proportion of suris than is the case in South America, as well as a higher proportion of coloured suris. A substantial but unknown proportion of Australia's suris, (especially coloured suris) have some huacaya in their background. The incidence of coloured suris is fairly rare in Latin America and some Australian breeders have accessed colour genetics (from coloured huacayas) in crossbreeding programs to achieve coloured suri crosses which are then bred back to suris.

Approximately one in four financial AAA members owns suris. The suri owners generally have larger than average alpaca herds (average herd size for suri owners is 36 alpacas with only 8 of these being suri, while the average herd size for non suri owners is about half this size). The following profile includes all registered suris. It is noteworthy that many suris are in small groups within much larger alpaca herds.

## Profile of Suri Breeders

- > 37% own one with a further 16% owning two.
- > 75% of suri owners have 6 or fewer suris with their average herd being 2 suris and 20 huacayas.
- > A further 10% (76% to 85% percentiles) of suri owners own 7 to 11 suris with their average being 9 suris and 41 huacayas.
- > A further 10% (86% to 95% percentiles) of suri owners have 12 to 40 suris with an average herd of 20 suris and 35 huacayas.
- > 5% of suri owners have more than 40 suris with an average herd of 71 suris and 101 huacayas.
- > The 10 largest suri herds contain 20% of Australia's suri herd (the 16 largest contain 25% of the national suri herd).



## The suri herd distribution by herd size

- > 20% in small herds (6 or less)
- > 11% in herds of 7 to 11 suris
- > 25% in herds of 12 to 40 suris
- > 44% in herds of more than 40 suris with 20% in the ten largest herds.

## References

1. Suris registered to financial AAA members as at 17 June 2005.
2. There are a further 382 suris registered to 156 other owners (which includes non financial members, newcomers to the industry who have not yet joined the AAA and herd codes which are no longer used) although some of these animals may no longer be with us.

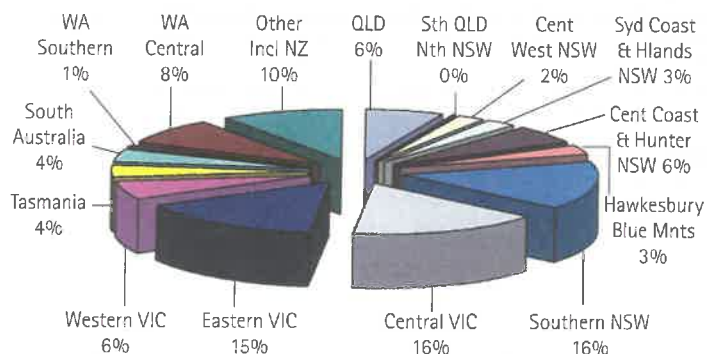


## The suri herd distribution by Region

The suri herd is concentrated in the south-east of mainland Australia with the southernmost NSW Regions (south of Sydney) plus Victoria having some 61% of the national herd. These same Regions have some 56% of the total alpaca herd.

It should be noted that a further 10% of both suris and alpacas generally registered to AAA financial members are based in New Zealand. Therefore only 29% of the registered suri herd is based in Australia outside of the south-eastern mainland regions. ■

Distribution of the suri herd by Region



| Location of suris and their owners by AAA Region | Suri owners | Suris        | % Suri herds | Alpaca owners | All alpacas   | % Alpaca herds |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Queensland                                       | 42          | 343          | 6%           | 107           | 1894          | 4%             |
| South Queensland & Northern NSW                  | 9           | 10           | 0%           | 59            | 890           | 2%             |
| Central Western NSW                              | 15          | 112          | 2%           | 60            | 1341          | 3%             |
| Sydney, Coast & Highlands NSW                    | 16          | 143          | 3%           | 72            | 2231          | 4%             |
| Central Coast & Hunter NSW                       | 33          | 309          | 6%           | 115           | 2585          | 5%             |
| Hawkesbury / Blue Mountains NSW                  | 26          | 159          | 3%           | 138           | 3210          | 6%             |
| Southern NSW                                     | 69          | 825          | 16%          | 227           | 7267          | 14%            |
| Central Victoria                                 | 61          | 825          | 16%          | 251           | 5732          | 11%            |
| Eastern Victoria                                 | 87          | 813          | 15%          | 323           | 7220          | 14%            |
| Western Victoria                                 | 21          | 311          | 6%           | 86            | 2486          | 5%             |
| Tasmania                                         | 13          | 198          | 4%           | 60            | 1020          | 2%             |
| South Australia                                  | 34          | 220          | 4%           | 187           | 5675          | 11%            |
| WA Southern                                      | 13          | 46           | 1%           | 37            | 497           | 1%             |
| WA Central                                       | 44          | 439          | 8%           | 170           | 3828          | 8%             |
| Other (primarily New Zealand)                    | 76          | 534          | 10%          | 306           | 5097          | 10%            |
| <b>Total with Financial Members</b>              | <b>559</b>  | <b>5,287</b> |              | <b>2,198</b>  | <b>50,973</b> |                |

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# BAARROOKA

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Congratulations to Jenny and George Jackson and their family

SOLD National Auction \$170,000

National Champion Huacaya, 2004

**JOLIMONT WARRIOR**

National Champion Huacaya, 2003 'Blue Grass Centurion'

Sire: **JOLIMONT WARRIOR**



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## So what is the process I go through when judging an animal as it is led into the ring?

Firstly, I have each alpaca parade in front of me to check for conformation which is 35% of the judging process. I check its conformation from the side view and again as the alpaca walks away from me. If I am unable to check conformation correctly on an alpaca that is not walking properly due to being nervous or on a surface that it is not comfortable walking upon, I will ask the handler to parade their alpaca again until I am satisfied. I always respect the fact that the handler has gone to the trouble to present their alpaca in front of me and therefore they deserve the chance to have their alpaca judged. Once all the alpacas in the class are lined up I check them all once more from behind to check for conformation, the slope of the rump and length of the tail. I then take the opportunity to look at the line-up from the front and side checking again for conformation, coverage and presence. I must also add that I am always looking out for my Supreme Champion.

I then approach the first alpaca from the front and check the bite, eyes and ears and feel the muzzle for softness. I then check for the body score and check the tail. On males I check the testicles but I am not as tough on Junior Males for testicle size as I am for the older classes. However, I certainly take this into consideration when I am presented with junior males that are extremely close in their fibre qualities. I then open the fleece in three spots, the shoulder, mid side and hip.

## The quality of the fleece accounts for 60% of the judge's decision. So, what do I want to see when I open a huacaya fleece?

I love to open that first fleece in the line-up not only because I enjoy judging immensely but it also helps to settle the nerves. I want to see a fleece that opens cleanly showing a highly aligned staple formation, a high frequency, high amplitude crimp style that is uniform from the skin to the tip of the staple. It must have excellent brightness, density, fineness and handle; this is the feel of the fleece, a judging skill which comes with practise. Two equally good fleeces may handle quite differently.

When I judge a suri I am looking for lustre and fine, tight twisting locks that must be independent and uniform throughout the saddle, neck, forelock and legs. Fineness, density and a yolky handle to the fleece are also highly desirable fleece traits.

I also check for lack of medullation and any coloured fibre within the fleece. I will pull out any alpacas from the line-up that I consider are worthy of a ribbon and by the time I have reached the end of the line-up I usually have placed the alpacas in order. ➤

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I will again check the alpacas I have pulled out to make sure that my places are correct. When the situation arises that I have alpacas that are very close in fibre qualities, which I must say is now happening more often, I will inspect the fleece to see how far the character travels down the legs, belly, the brisket and tail and if it is present up the neck, bonnet/forelock and cheek. I am also looking for uniformity of micron, crimp style or lock during this process, as the higher the quality of fleece in these areas the more valuable it is to the grower and the manufacturer.

Fineness, which relates to the alpaca's micron reading, is a prime requirement. I also take coverage into consideration as the first placed alpacas will be in the Championship line-up and therefore must look like a Champion, with the above fleece traits and good head and leg coverage.

Naturally of course, other factors play an important part. Never underestimate the effect on a judge of a beautifully presented animal (5% of the judge's decision), handled skillfully and professionally by its owner. If that well-presented and well-handled animal finds itself in the final line-up, the judge will be at the very least, well disposed toward it. In the end though, I repeat, it is the fleece quality which counts the most.

It is the judge's most challenging task to balance the good qualities and failings of one animal against those of another and to decide which is better. I believe that the essential thing is to be consistent and make quite clear in my comments after judging a class, why I came to my decision. In this way breeders can be educated and assured they are on the right track or take steps to include in their breeding programme alpacas that will improve deficits in their herds.

### What do we make of the instances when an alpaca is placed first in its class at one show and not even placed at another?

Assuming that the quality of alpacas was the same at both shows, which could be the case, one should bear in mind that the same alpaca can present quite differently on two occasions. It may be unwell or upset, or the weather or show venue may have affected it adversely. Serious breeders should always be prepared with electric fans to cool their alpacas in hot or humid conditions. A beautiful looking fleece with high density can collapse and look quite ordinary unless steps are taken to counter this problem. This comes under show preparation and is another topic altogether.

### What I love to see in the show ring are well presented alpacas and handlers.

This sets the standard of professionalism for the industry. I also present myself to the public and the alpaca handlers in a smart professional manner at all times. I am always aware of good handlers; they never take their eye off the judge, never get in the way of their alpaca to spoil my view and are always ready to listen to any instructions given by the judge or ring steward.



Photograph by Dennis Cape

A well presented front line up of alpacas and handlers

I always look forward to the line-up of black alpacas, I find them a spectacular sight and consider all the coloured alpacas something we breeders should cherish; they are unique to the breed. The older classes such as Mature are one of my favourites, as you are hoping to see what we all aspire to breed – an older alpaca that is still producing high quality, fine fibre, as this is what the industry requires.

I also enjoy judging the sire's progeny class as this shows us what each sire is capable of producing; this is when I am looking for peas in a pod, so to speak. I recently had the honour of judging the largest alpaca show in New Zealand where they had a get of dam class in which the progeny of the dam are judged. I found this very rewarding and would love to see this class introduced into other shows around the world. We must not forget that the dam has just as much influence in the result we get from a mating to a particular male.

### I take great pride in awarding ribbons and there is nothing more rewarding for the breeder than when they are placed in the show ring.

The biggest moment is of course the Supreme Champion. I have all the Champions parade in front of me to take the opportunity to see them walking once more and to let the public see the Champions of the show day paraded before them. The awarding of the Supreme Champion is a very proud moment for the breeder or owner and I love the moment when I approach the owner of the alpaca and see the sense of achievement and joy on their faces.

When I step into the show ring, I try to clear my mind of everything else and judge what I see – not what I expect to see, or hope to see.

I am convinced that alpaca garments, either in pure alpaca or combined with other natural or man made fibres, have a very bright future and that is why I enjoy the privilege of judging. The more the industry is encouraged to compete in a fair and friendly manner, the higher the quality of a country's herd will become. In that way we all benefit. ■



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In the case of these species, due to the short ejaculatory pattern the sperm hardly ever come in contact with the latex, so it is not a problem. In alpacas, due to the long ejaculatory process, the sperm will be in contact with the latex for more than 20 minutes, and this will cause death of the sperm or reduced quality.

The alternative product that seems to be safe for the sperm is liquid silicone medical grade (Prosil 8). This product comes in two parts, A and B, which are necessary to mix by weight 100:50 respectively. The consistency is very liquid and it is necessary to paint the moulds with the mix, but it takes too long to dry and we found that it is necessary to put it in an oven at 120°C to accelerate the curing process. Ten to twelve layers to obtain the desirable thickness is required. The texture of the liner made by silicone is very smooth, extremely elastic and sticky and feels like real skin.

In summary, several techniques to collect sperm from alpacas have been tested in the past and the use of a mannequin fitted with the AART seems to be the best technique so far. There are still a few modifications to work on to find the best design that will be as close as possible to the real female. Given these conditions and proper training, we are expecting to have consistency in the ejaculates obtained from our experimental animals.

## Liquid storage of sperm

Liquid storage of sperm is a technique that reduces sperm death and degeneration, can be considered as a reversible inactivation of the sperm, and has been successfully developed in other domestic species like bulls, rams and boars. This could be achieved using low temperatures in conjunction with extenders that reduce or arrest the metabolism of the sperm and thereby prolong their fertile life. In comparison with frozen-thawed sperm, liquid storage sperm requires lower sperm numbers per AI dose [Vaughan 2003].

Irrespective of diluent, dilution rate, temperature or other conditions of storage the sperm deteriorate as the duration of the storage increases [Maxwell and Salamon 1993]. Changes occurred during the storage of sperm, including reduction of motility, reduction of DNA integrity, and morphological and biochemical changes which affect fertility and may cause embryo mortality.

Several extenders used in camelids and other domestic species were examined in an attempt to prolong the storage-life of alpaca semen at 4°C, but the best results indicate that motility was 50% at 24 hours and then declined to 45% at 48 hours [Bravo 2001; Vaughan 2002]. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area, taking into account dilution, temperature of storage and length of storage.

Liquid storage of alpaca sperm will be an interesting practical approach, reducing mobile matings and stress for the animals, and giving the possibility of maximizing the use of one ejaculate according to the sperm concentration and motility of the sample.

## Freezing of sperm

Freezing sperm offers the many advantages of long term storage and flexibility of use [Vaughan 2003]. Genetic evaluation and selection programmes make possible progeny testing and is thus a powerful tool to achieve better production and productivity performance of the national herd. However, one of the main problems of the use of frozen semen is that during the freezing and thawing procedures a high percentage of cells die as a result of damage to the membrane structure [Quinn and White, 1966]. The rest of the sperm, which survived the freezing process, lost viability and showed impairment of function [Watson 2000]. The injury during freezing procedures is due to the formation of intracellular ice crystals, which disrupt intracellular organelles [Watson 2000]. As a consequence, fertility after AI with frozen-thawed sperm is poorer than with fresh sperm, and this can be compensated for by using a greater number of sperm in the insemination dose [Watson 1995]. In alpacas, as we mentioned before, low sperm concentration and low motility in their ejaculate make it harder to achieve commercial fertility rates upon insemination with frozen-thawed sperm. Unfortunately, we may find in the future that there are excellent males which will not be suitable for sperm freezing due to low concentration and low motility of the ejaculate. These animals can be potentially used for *in vitro* production of embryos as a reduced amount of live sperm is required to fertilise a large group of oocytes.

Upon sperm collection in alpacas, due to the viscous nature of the samples it is necessary to use hydrolytic enzymes like Trypsin or Collagenase [Bravo *et al.* 2000] or to use mechanical stirring [Vaughan 2003] in order to liquefy the sperm and to facilitate mixing with the extender. The extender is required to protect sperm against cold shock during freezing procedures. A good extender has the following functions:

- > provides nutrients as a source of energy.
- > protects against the harmful effect of rapid cooling.
- > ensures the pH will be maintained (buffer).
- > maintains osmotic pressure and electrolyte balance.
- > inhibits bacterial growth.
- > increases the volume of the ejaculate.
- > protects sperm cells during freezing.

There are different types of cryoprotectant compounds like glycerol, ethylene glycol and methanol. These compounds are able to penetrate the cytoplasm of the cell. The mechanism of action of these compounds is described by a depression of the freezing point. Most of the sperm preservation protocols used glycerol, which was used for the first time in 1949 by Polge *et al.* To protect the sperm against cold shock, egg yolk and a surfactant is used, and it has been demonstrated that the addition of surfactant improves post-thaw fertility in other domestic species.



At the moment, a successful protocol for freezing and thawing alpaca sperm has not yet been described and motility after thawing goes down to 20-40% [Bravo et al. 2002; Valdivia et al. 2003; Vaughan 2003]. Probably one of the main problems will be the viscous nature of alpaca sperm, making it hard to achieve a homogeneous mix. Biochemical studies of the sperm would be desirable, in order to develop an extender that will give a better motility after thawing and thereby better fertility rates for AI. It would be desirable to freeze epididymal sperm from alpacas, as it contains no seminal plasma to study if survival rates are better. If survival rates are better using epididymal sperm it could indicate that the problem is the seminal plasma which makes it hard to obtain a homogeneous mix with the extender and exposes the sperm to cold shock.

## Artificial insemination

Before artificial insemination (AI) it is necessary to synchronise ovulation in the females. It is important to mention that alpacas are induced ovulators, which means that the copula stimulus is necessary to produce the luteinising hormone (LH) responsible for ovulation. Female alpacas and llamas present periods of receptivity of up to 36 days with short periods of non-receptivity that may last two days [Hafez 2000]. The variability of sexual receptivity may be attributable to the degree of follicular maturity and the production of oestradiol, as observed in other domestic species. When the female is receptive, the copula will cause the release of LH and ovulation will take place 30 hours later [Bourke et al. 1995; Bravo et al. 1996]. Sexual receptivity in the female is not always indicative of the presence of an ovulatory follicle containing an oocyte with high fertilisation potential and normal embryo developmental competency [Bravo et al. 1991]. This is very important to take into account in insemination programs where females are induced to ovulate with GnRH [Bourke et al. 1995], hCG [Adam et al. 1989], LH [Taylor et al. 2000] or seminal plasma [Sapana et al. 2002]. It is possible that we are inducing ovulation in a follicle that has not yet completed its development or has possibly started to regress, and the results can be low viability of the oocyte and thereby low fertility rates.

There was no significant relationship between follicle diameter and time of ovulation post mating [Adams et al. 1990], which indicates that even immature follicles can ovulate at the same time as mature follicles in natural mating and probably upon hormonal application. It seems that there is a need to determine the optimal time for mating alpacas according to follicle diameter. Probably treatment with progesterone or progestogens will be necessary to inhibit follicular growth and then at the time of withdrawal of progestogens all the animals will have a synchronised follicular wave and it will be possible to predict the time when a mature follicle will be present. This means that with the induction of ovulation by exogenous hormones the oocytes released will be more competitive and this may increase fertility rates upon natural mating or artificial insemination.

Artificial insemination in South American camelids has been described before via rectum or laparoscopy [Calderon et al. 1968; Fernandez-Baca 1993; Bravo et al. 1996; Perez 1997; Aller 1998; Huanca et al. 2004]. Artificial insemination via rectum is performed introducing the left hand side and, upon finding and stabilising the cervix, a pipette is introduced into the vagina and through the cervix. Then, when the uterus is reached, a syringe containing the sperm is connected into the end tip of the pipette and the sperm is deposited into both uterine horns [Bravo et al. 1996]. This is a simple technique, but it requires practice and patience to be developed. The second technique uses laparoscopy and the animals need to be sedated. The animals are placed on a cradle with the head down at 60° angle. Then two skin incisions are made cranial to the udder at 2cm from the linea alba. A pyramidal trocar cannula is inserted on the left which will be replaced by the telescope and a second trocar cannula is inserted through the right incision which is replaced by a grasping forceps. Upon finding the dominant follicle (ovulatory follicle), the grasping forceps are replaced with an insemination pipette that contains the sperm in a syringe at the other end. Finally, sperm is deposited in the uterine horn ipsilateral to the ovary that contains the ovulatory follicle [Bravo et al. 1996].

Fertility rates in alpacas upon transcervical artificial insemination using fresh sperm vary from 40-67% [Bravo et al. 1996; Bravo et al. 1999; Huanca et al. 2004], and in the case of frozen-thawed sperm fertility rates vary from 26-37% [Apaza et al. 2000; Bravo et al. 2000]. More research needs to be conducted to find the optimal dose and time of insemination to yield better pregnancy rates, but it is also important to consider the synchronisation protocol and hormones used to induce ovulation as these could affect sperm transport and oocyte competence.

## The future

There is still a lot of research to be conducted in order to develop artificial insemination in alpacas. First it will be necessary to test the new mannequin that has been built to make sure that it maintains the temperature of the AART and gives the male the opportunity to express in full his mating behaviour and thereby to obtain a good quality ejaculate. To this end the design of the AART is crucial, as it is the way the penis will be stimulated to produce a good quality ejaculate. Ensuring the collection of a good ejaculate in terms of sperm concentration and motility is the starting point to develop a protocol to chill/freeze alpaca sperm. It is important to test extenders, times and temperatures of sperm processing, as well as packaging and the addition of novel supplements like enzymes and antioxidants which will improve viability of the sperm upon thawing. Protocols for synchronisation of the follicular wave and induction of ovulation need to be revised with the objective of finding the best ovarian response, as represented by the number of viable oocytes to be fertilised upon artificial insemination. Finally, techniques to deposit the sperm into the uterine horn and dose of sperm need to be studied further to get higher fertility rates. ➤

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# ABC For Alpaca Owners

## - Antenatal Birthing and Cria Care

BOOK REVIEW by **Sandra Wright** > *Alpacas Australia Magazine*

Dr Ewen McMillan and Carolyn Jinks need very little introduction in the alpaca world. The success of their first book, *Alpaca Breeders Birthing Handbook* saw it revised in three editions and ultimately now be replaced by *ABC For Alpaca Owners*.

This book is a progression to encompass all aspects of Antenatal Care of the Female Alpaca, the Birthing process and Cria Care, all in the one handy, lightweight guide that's suitable for taking into the paddock or the barn.

The Antenatal Care section explains the importance of preparation of the female prior to mating and steps through all aspects of general husbandry and health management during pregnancy, record keeping and monitoring of the pregnancy, and preparing for birth.

The Birthing section starts with a list of what you'll need in your cria care kit and gives the strong message that being well prepared in advance of cria delivery is essential. The three stages of the Birthing process are described in easy to read language. A concise list under the heading, **When to call for help** is a ready reference in times of uncertainty.

What to look for and what to do for both mother and babe immediately following the birth are comprehensively covered. Problem births and complications following delivery are also discussed in this section.

The Cria care section discusses what's normal and what's not; reasons for human intervention and tips on how to go about it; bottle feeding and hand rearing; prematurity; and problems and disorders of the newborn cria.

The book features colour photographs throughout and concludes with a useful glossary and sample charts for recording data in the event of special care being needed.

This book would be a valuable addition to your home reference library and should be a part of every breeder's birthing kit. It is available to purchase from the Australian Alpaca Association National Office.

*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.*

### ANTENATAL BIRTHING & CRIA CARE

A

B

C



### FOR ALPACA OWNERS

By Dr Ewen Mc Millan B.V. Sc. (Hons) M.V.St. M.A.C.V.Sc. M.R.C.V.S.  
& Carolyn Jinks, Benleigh Alpaca Stud, Victoria Australia

ABC For Alpaca Owners

- Antenatal Birthing & Cria Care

by Dr Ewen McMillan and Carolyn Jinks

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56 pages  
Illustrated



# Alpaca Fibre

## - An Introduction

BOOK REVIEW by **Graeme Dickson** > Warralinga Alpaca Stud, NSW

After a request to review this new booklet produced by Ian Watt, I am pleased to say that I found it to be a most informative collation of basic information on alpaca fibre.

Ian acknowledges a number of people from whom he has drawn the information, who have either published papers, conducted seminars or have been instrumental in pursuing the advances of scientific study of alpaca fibre in Australia.

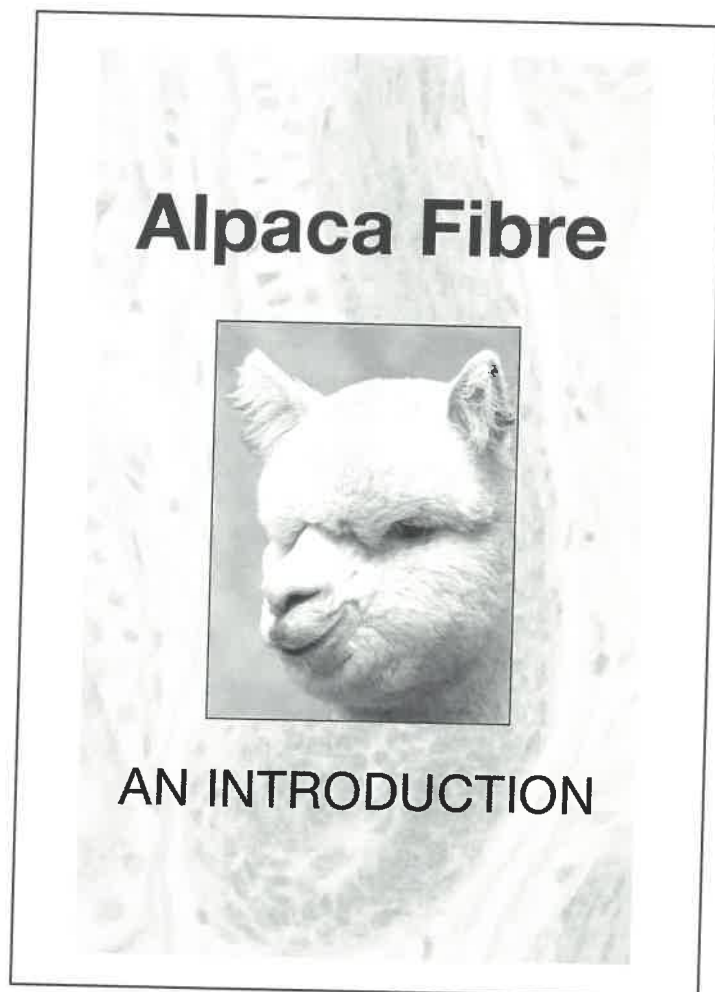
The information is presented in an easy-to-read format and takes the reader through the various aspects of alpaca fibre from Composition of Fibre, descriptions of Primary and Secondary Fibre growth through to the basic concepts of Follicle Development in the skin of the animal. The author introduces some of the technical terms used in the formation of the various fibre cells and their structure, enabling the newcomer to gain an understanding of the importance of this stage in the scientific evaluation of fleece growing, prior to progressing their information-gathering to the next level.

The booklet also gives a fundamental description of understanding the measurements shown on a histogram, the bar graph representing the frequency distribution of the various microns in a test sample. As others have done before, Ian encourages breeders to use the objective measurement tools available to them to assist in making better breeding decisions.

Ian writes a very interesting Preface in which he recognises that people's opinions about alpaca fleece are often quite diverse, at the same time stating his aim in writing the booklet for "readers to become better informed, learn something new, and become more successful as a result of reading this book". He also believes there is a need to accept some baseline information and move forward.

Irrespective of your point of view, "Alpaca Fibre - An Introduction" will assist those without a fibre background to gain an elementary knowledge of fibre in general, and alpaca fibre in particular.

*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.*



Alpaca Fibre  
- An Introduction

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Alpaca Consulting Services of Australia

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Illustrated

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# The Royals 2005

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE compiled by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Inc.

## Royal Melbourne Show

by **Geoff Hargreaves** > Convenor

The 'usual suspects' trotted out again to do the preliminary work and to conduct another hassle free, smooth-running show. The cooperative relationship between our Victorian Show Committee and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria continues to present a friendly, relaxed event notable for showcasing the alpaca and its industry to the public. Perhaps it was the grounds redevelopment which reduced the total public space available that seemed to make our judging and other events even more popular than ever. The audience certainly was interested and receptive to comment and advice.

Publicity and advertising specials supported our "Feature Show" extremely well with the notable benefit being \$4,000 sponsorship for trophies from *The Stock and Land Newspaper*.

**We did well to be a feature breed in the 150th Royal on the occasion of the 15th year of judging alpacas – and they said we wouldn't last!**

Our huacaya and suri judge, Dianne Condon, had been to all previous shows and has a great deal of experience as a very successful exhibitor. Dianne's skills were certainly needed to sort out the keen competition in quality classes over the three days.

Amongst the plethora of white and fawn huacayas in the championship line-up, it was good to see two very fine greys (*Almora Nomad* - Intermediate Male Reserve Champion exhibited by Joy Skinner and *Greenvale Valencia* - Senior Female Champion exhibited by Melanie Tardivel) rise to the top.

In many ways, the huacaya competition was another notable 'Jolimont Warrior Year'. Eyes were on *Banksia Park Khan ET* after he became Intermediate Male Champion and his sire, *Jolimont Warrior*, again won the Mature Male Championship. Jenny and George Jackson took out the Supreme Champion award with *Banksia Park Khan ET* and the first two places in the Sires Progeny were groups from *Jolimont Warrior*. EP Cambridge was the Most Successful Huacaya exhibitor.

Jill Short's fine, heavy-locked white suris again featured in many championships with *Surilana Oedipus* (Adult Male Champion) taking out the Supreme Champion award. Peter Kennedy and Robert Gane (Canchones) were narrowly beaten by *Surilana* for Most Successful Suri exhibitor.

The RASV sausage sizzle on Friday; spit roast dinner in the ring on Saturday, Rhys Owen's inimitable Junior Handler Competition, Robbie Cuthill's shearing demo, Bill Plunkett's skirting demo and *Dante*, the pat-able alpaca all added to a wonderful event. I agree with fleece judge, Richard Watson that we need to pay more attention to the fleece competition!

Next year, the new facilities... which we will endeavour to have ventilated!! ■

Supreme  
Champion Suri  
*Surilana Oedipus*



Supreme  
Champion Huacaya  
*Banksia Park Khan ET*





## Royal Adelaide Show

by **Jolyon Porter** > Convenor

The Alpaca and Goat shed at the Adelaide showgrounds again saw a display of excellent alpacas for Judge, Bill Robbins to peruse and mull over.

The number of alpacas has remained static since the RAHS decision to increase the level of biosecurity requirements for livestock attending the showgrounds, and whilst the Region feels it is a bit 'over the top', we will continue to support what is the state's largest window on our industry. No other show here can boast anywhere near the 600,000 people through the gate for an average show attendance.

The weather was somewhat varied over the nine days, with a very wet first Saturday making a number of the animals look damp and flat, despite the installation of numerous fans to keep the air moving. Fortunately, the animal judging took place the day prior, so it had no effect in that regard. However, this is a situation the Society will continue to investigate in an effort to reduce, or eliminate if possible.

The day of animal judging was clear and sunny, and a strong field of suri and huacaya animals made their way through the ring as the classes progressed, starting with the suri.

Congratulations must go to Jan and John Bentley of Mundawora Alpacas who managed to take home all the suri major awards, including Grand Champion Suri, with *Mundawora Zephyr*. The only award they missed was Junior Reserve Champion, which was awarded to *Arequipa Montana* owned by Bob Ramsay of Arequipa Alpacas.

Some very high quality animals from various studs hotly contested the huacaya classes, with Cathy and Matthew Lloyd picking up the bulk of the Championships under their banners of Cambridge and EP Cambridge.



Supreme  
Champion Suri  
*Mundawora Zephyr*

They managed a total of seven Champions and five Reserves, including Grand Champion Huacaya with *Cambridge Galaxia*, an imposing feat in the face of some very stiff opposition.

The other Champion and Reserve Championships were taken home by Lee Sadler and Greg Scarlett of Fleur De Lys Alpacas, Mark Short and Dee Finlay of Alpacas Chaparral, Chris and Adrienne Clarke of Ambersun Alpacas (with Ichiban Alpacas), and Denise Moysey and Tom Gouldie of Arcadian Alpacas.

Arcadian Alpacas also picked up Champion Huacaya Fleece, for the second year running, with a fleece from *Arcady Zegna*. Meanwhile, Mundawora continued their suri dominance with Best Suri Fleece from *Mundawora Zacary*.

The Region display in the 'Farm Expo' marquee was a focus for those seeking information on the industry, and indications continue to point to a steady level of interest.

Whilst there are always large numbers of general interest inquiries, I know there have been sales and new memberships as a direct result of our substantial presence at the Royal.

The requirement for JD testing still remains a bugbear, but we are hopeful we can arrange acceptance of pooled faecal testing to reduce costs in the future, as well as an acceptance of Q-Alpaca as a suitable status for entry.

Once again, I will finish off with a BIG THANKYOU to all those volunteers who put in the effort to make these events such a success; without you they just would not happen! ■



Supreme  
Champion Huacaya  
*Cambridge Galaxia*

## Royal Perth Show

by **Ron Raynor** > Regional Marketing Representative  
Photos courtesy > **Bob Garnant**, Countryman Newspaper

The opportunity to opt to stay at the Royal Perth Show for only four days instead of the usual eight days proved popular for many breeders in Western Australia this year. With 189 alpacas fronting the Judge, the numbers were back to where they had been a few years ago as breeders responded positively to the change. Most took the opportunity to take their alpacas home on the Tuesday night while the small number of 'stayers' either kept their show animals at the show or brought in replacement animals. This ensured there was a good display of 80 alpacas in the pavilion until the show ended on the following Saturday.

Judge, Allan Jinks of Victoria commented on many occasions during the day that he was pleasantly surprised at the exceptionally high standard of the exhibits and the depth of the high quality in most of the sections.

Allan's two Supreme Champion decisions proved to be very popular with local breeders. The suri award went to *Marmagon Prince Regent*, owned by Margaret Cowan, for the fourth consecutive Show in WA and the huacaya award went to *Jardee Braveheart* who is owned by Betty and Phil Zani. They tasted their first Supreme success after being close runners-up with their Senior Male *Jardee Braveheart* at two earlier shows in WA during 2005. Betty has been the popular Royal Show Secretary for more years than she cares to remember and her winning the Supreme award was warmly acclaimed by all the breeders who appreciate all the work she does to ensure the Show runs smoothly.

The Supreme Huacaya Fleece was won by *Blue Grass Centurion* owned by Encantador Alpacas with *Windsong Valley Feathers* winning the Most Valuable Fleece award.

The Supreme Suri Fleece was shorn from *Lawithick Cabalero* who is owned by Wendy and Kevin Lawn of Lawithick Alpacas. They also agist the Supreme Suri, *Marmagon Prince Regent*, at their property in Busselton for Wendy's sister, Margaret which made the success all the more sweet for them.

In the Huacaya section, the dominance of Banksia Park in the Junior sections and their sire *Somerset Accoyo Challenger* continued with two ET progeny of *Somerset Accoyo Challenger* winning Championship ribbons in both the Junior Female and Junior Male sections. The dam of both animals was their *Banksia Park Peruvian Destiny*. Two other championship ribbons went the way of Banksia Park when they were successful with *Banksia Park Zena ET* in the Intermediate Female section and *Somerset Accoyo Challenger* in the Mature Male section.

Windsong Valley Alpacas picked up two championship ribbons with their *Windsong Valley Hypnotist* (Intermediate Male) and *Windsong Valley Kenjiro* (Adult Male) while Swan Valley Alpacas also collected two Championship awards with *Swan Valley Magic* (Senior Female) and *Swan Valley Elegance* (Mature Female). Encantador Alpacas added the Adult Female championship award for their *Encantador Marionette* to their Supreme Fleece award.

Record numbers were entered in the Suri section of the show which saw Marmagon Alpacas collect the Senior Male championship with their *Margamon Inca Prince* along with their Supreme title for *Margamon Prince Regent*. Wesuri Alpacas took out Champion Junior Female Suri with *Wesuri Carlisa* and Champion Intermediate Female with *Wesuri Estralita* while one of their clients, Southdown Park was successful with their *Southdown Park Jezah* as Champion Junior Male. Taylors Alpacas had one of their most successful shows, capped off with their Intermediate Male Championship ribbon for *Taylors Caza*. Katydid Alpacas were delighted when their *Katydid Midnight* won the Adult Female Championship. As the name suggests,

Supreme  
Champion  
Huacaya  
*Jardee  
Braveheart*



Supreme Champion Suri  
*Marmagon Prince Regent*





Midnight is a black Suri and the Judge paid her the high compliment of commenting that there are not many black suris as good as her in Australia.

The Sires Progeny awards were won by *Somerset Accoyo Challenger* in the Huacaya section and *Katydid Amador Legend* in the Suri Section.

The Judge commented that it was good to see so many good quality wethers competing at the Show as he gave the Best Wether award to *Brookwood Monarch* exhibited by Brookwood Alpacas and followed up with the Best Fancy award to *Banksia Park Passion Pop*.

The Best Colour awards in the Huacaya section were spread among five exhibitors with the winners being White - *Jardee Braveheart*; Fawn - *Banksia Park Zena ET*; Brown - *Bedrock Mocha*; Grey - *Rivergum Rise Viking*; and Black - *Mossvale Digger*.

Once again this year there was a great deal of interest in the large display of alpaca craft items that were gathered from many 'crafty' breeders and brought together into a magnificent display by Peta Irving and her band of helpers. The admiring looks and compliments paid by the many thousands of visitors to the display help to make the alpaca presence at our Royal Shows one of the highlights for many visitors. The constant stream of people wanting information about alpacas has demonstrated once again that the industry is still capturing the imagination of the public and the increase in the number of new breeders is set to continue.

The full results of the Perth Royal Show can be found on the national website at: [www.alpaca.asn.au](http://www.alpaca.asn.au) ■

## Royal Hobart Show

by **Alan Froome** > Convenor

The Tasmanian Region has again held a successful Royal Hobart Show from Wednesday October 19 to Saturday October 22. It was held under varying spring weather conditions with warm spring days for the first two days and then showery for the last two.

As in 2004 we had to be content with displaying and judging our animals in the 40m x 10m marquee.

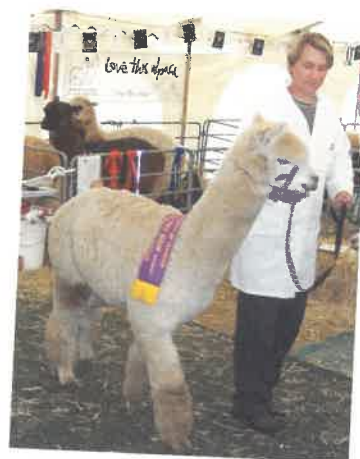
For the past two years our Region has been trying to reduce the alpaca section from four days to two days. This year we agreed to try two days of suris and then two days of huacayas. The judging of both types was achieved very well. The only downside of having just 30 or so suris in this large tent for two days was comments received from the public that this indicated that the alpaca industry is not doing too well. With this in mind we have put forward our ideas that only two days in total be considered for alpacas for next year. There is the possibility that alpacas may be accommodated in the sheep pavilion for the two days of showing following the two days of sheep judging. The sheep pavilion is a permanent structure with concrete floor and could potentially house up to 200 animals, along with an area for displays and possible sleeping quarters.

The Supreme Champion Suri for 2005, exhibited by Alan and Coleen Froome of Chakaya Alpacas, was *Chakaya Tazzie Snow*, a 17-month-old white female, who has just returned from the National Show in Bendigo where she was awarded a 2nd in class.

She was also Supreme Champion Suri at the 2005 Royal Launceston Show.

Supreme Champion Huacaya was once again awarded to *Lyra Appia*, exhibited by Dominic Lane of Viracocha Alpacas. This animal was successful in 2004 and is still proving to be a winner.

Serena Lodge Alpacas took out both the Supreme Suri Fleece and Supreme Huacaya Fleece awards. ■



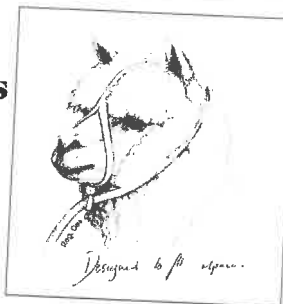
**Supreme Champion Huacaya**  
*Lyra Appia*



**Supreme Champion Suri**  
*Chakaya Tazzie Snow*

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# My Alpaca Kicks

## An Exercise in Deductive Reasoning

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **Marty McGee Bennett** > CAMELIDynamics

Many people having difficulty with their camelids want me to offer them a step-by-step method cast in stone that they can apply to every animal. For instance: "My alpaca kicks... what do I do?"

If animals were entirely creatures of instinct and reacted exactly the same under the same circumstances, I would be able to answer that question and it would be wonderfully easy. However, while animals are creatures of instinct, I believe they can also think and they are in my experience highly individualized in their responses – rather like snowflakes... they look pretty much the same when you don't look closely.

Alpacas appear to be born with innate differences in temperament and are also the sum total of their life experiences. I believe that factors such as herd size, whether or not a youngster had other babies to play with, whether these babies were of the same sex or a different sex, the age at weaning, how many times they have been relocated, how old they were when they were introduced to human handling (just a small part of the list) will greatly determine their reactions to humans in training situations. People who use a rigid approach will often label the animals that don't graduate

from their approach as difficult. Somehow, it becomes the alpaca's fault that he or she didn't "get it." If the animal continues to react inappropriately, often he is punished. The animal ends up hurt and confused and the situation escalates.

I am not suggesting that you need to psychoanalyse every alpaca you train and excuse unacceptable behavior because an alpaca's mother didn't understand him. What I am suggesting is that knowing about your alpaca's life will give you insight into his behavior. When it comes to preventing behavioral difficulties or dealing with existing behavioral problems, understanding the motivation for the behavior by interpreting the context of behavior or by investigating an animal's history will help you tailor your approach. Learning to think creatively and knowing what questions to ask are two indispensable skills when it comes to working with difficult animals. After a while, it will become automatic to think along a particular line when confronted with a specific problem. I find it helpful to have a mental flow chart that helps me trouble shoot (*see flow chart below*). Answers to the 'yes' or 'no' questions determine the flow of the logic and the path to a solution.

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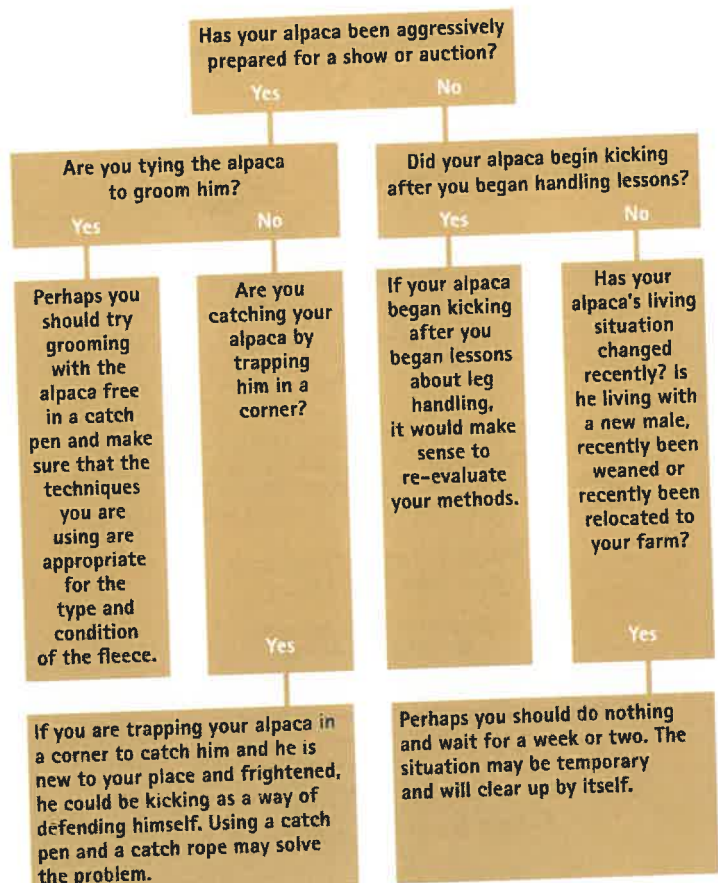
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This flow chart demonstrates some problem solving logic that can help you sort through a behavioral problem.



## Two Examples

Let's look at two different alpacas that kick and how your approach might be different, based on the circumstances presented. These stories are not based on any one alpaca or owner but are a composite of many I have met.

As you read through the stories, imagine that you are offering advice to these handlers. What questions would you ask? What would you recommend? You be the trainer!

- > Maurice just got his first alpaca last month and called you up in a panic. Every time Maurice tries to catch Shishkabob, he sticks his head in the corner and kicks like crazy. Maurice can't get near his head to get a halter on him. Maurice has tried whacking him hard on the hip and yelling "NO!" Maurice thought about luring him out of the corner for food, but thought he would be giving him goodies for being a bad alpaca. The breeder swears that this alpaca never acted this way before. Maurice thinks he got ripped off and the breeder is a crook. This is the Alpaca From Hell. What should he do?
- > Doris just bought Boynton. Boynton is wonderful – easy to catch, easy to halter – a real dream-boat. When Doris began preparing him for his first show by picking debris out of his fleece – even though she didn't get anywhere near his legs – he kicked her really hard on her hand. Doris thought it would be a mistake to let Boynton "get away" with this behavior, so she tied him up tightly and picked debris off him until he stopped kicking. The next day when she went out to work with him again, he spat at her when she tried to catch him. What should she do now?

### Shishkabob, or "The Alpaca from..."

What about Maurice's so-called "Alpaca From Hell"... what other information would you like to know? I would want to know: How old is Shish? What was the size of the farm where Shish was raised? Did the alpaca have any training? What kind? Did Maurice get some "training" when he picked up the alpaca? What is the physical layout of the barn? Does Maurice have any other animal experience? How many alpacas does Maurice have?

The plot thickens... Maurice decided to get some alpacas and went to a local breeder. "Shish" is 10 months old, has never been off the farm where he was born, and grew up in a big group of young males. The breeder told Maurice he had some trained males for an extra \$200, or he could do most of his own training and save money on the purchase price.

Maurice had some horse experience and decided he didn't need the half-day alpaca orientation the breeder offered and could do the training himself. Maurice only wanted to buy one alpaca and even though the breeder offered to make a "deal" on the second one, he insisted that things would be fine. After all, Maurice had a goat. So now Shish lives in a 60 x 60 foot pen with the goat.

Maurice needs to take some responsibility for the situation he now finds himself in. This is not the alpaca's nor the breeder's fault. Shish is kicking from a place of self-defence. Shish is now alone for the first time in his life with another animal that he doesn't understand (I mean the goat – although Maurice also falls into this category!). The goat keeps trying to steal his food and kicking the goat keeps him away. Maurice chases Shish in this 60 x 60 foot pen, corners him to catch him, and based on his experience with horses, touches Shish on the leg to warn him that he is coming up from behind. Maurice doesn't know that he is provoking Shish with this behavior, because he has not done his alpaca homework. Lead with your hands and you will probably get kicked. Whether or not you are moving amongst thirty alpacas or walking past one never reach out with your hands (see photo below). Unlike horses, alpacas can see 360 degrees with a slight movement of their head. They know exactly where you are. There is no need to touch an alpaca to warn him. Reaching out is aggressive and you may be kicked.



Maurice needs to get another alpaca, he needs to get some training about alpacas, and he needs to get a smaller catch area within his larger pen. As far as using food goes... this is not a bad alpaca, this is a frightened alpaca, kicking out of fear. Yelling at him and hitting him only reinforces his fear. Offering food at the beginning and periodically during the training sessions will help build a more positive relationship and will give Shish a reason to allow a frontal approach. Using a rope attached to a wand (see photo below) without cornering him will go a long way towards defusing the situation. ➤



## Boynton, Good Alpaca Gone Bad

And what about Doris? Would I advise her to use these same techniques?

Doris has had alpacas for three years, but has never before bought one at an auction. Boynton is her new herd sire and she purchased him at a sale.

Regardless of the rules, many alpacas sold at auction get a very heavy dose of intense fiber preparation. Bathing can also teach an alpaca to be very defensive about his body and fleece. Often, the fiber preparation happens in a chute and all at one time a day or two before the sale. It would appear that Boynton is one of these alpacas.

Doris made the comment that she didn't want him to get away with kicking. And what is it that Boynton is actually trying to "get away with" (his skin perhaps!). His initial kicking began when he couldn't get away from something uncomfortable. Forcing him to endure more of what he was kicking for is probably not going to help matters in the long run.

By tying Boynton and teaching him that he couldn't "get away" with kicking, Doris has now taught him to spit as well. I would wager that his kicking days are not over. Unless I miss my guess, the next time she works with him the kicking will be back, unless she changes her approach.

Boynton is protecting himself against something that he knows to be uncomfortable and annoying and depending on his skin sensitivity, maybe even painful. Given the description of the rest of his behavior it sounds as if he has had some sound initial training and is generally a pretty cooperative guy when humans are reasonable. He knows what fiber picking is, doesn't like it and is defending himself.

I would recommend that Doris abandon the idea of cleaning his fleece for a week or two at least and hopefully permanently. Picking bits of chaff and debris out of an alpaca's fleece is a sure-fire way to annoy him. Doris would be well served to limit her interaction with Boynton to some "fun" walks.

When she does resume working with his fleece, I would make sure that it CAN'T possibly be hurtful OR annoying. Use a really non-invasive technique – using your hand as a brush and concentrating on only the very outside of the fleece is a good way to reintroduce the idea to an alpaca who has been picked into a bad mood. I would tell Doris not to tie Boynton up but leave him free in a catch pen. Give him some grain or a very nice flake of hay to nibble on and work on him for only a few minutes and then go for a walk.

And what about the issue of preparing him for a show or a sale? Boynton has fleece, not fur, so Doris has three choices. She can restrain him and pick him thoroughly and sacrifice what seems to be a very agreeable temperament, she can limit her picking to what he can tolerate, or she can wait until his annual shearing and clean the fiber once it is no longer attached to his body.

When you first begin re-thinking your approach to training and handling, it can seem like a lot of work to understand each alpaca as an individual. Once you work in this way for a while, you begin to see patterns that will help you quickly figure out what is going on in any given situation.

There is another important part of the training/handling "dance," and that is you as the trainer. Animals in general and alpacas in particular tend to bring up our personal issues.

If you are impatient, if you tend to drag your feet and leave things to the last minute, if you are too timid or too aggressive, your alpacas will surely point these things out to you. As you play detective, remember that you are a big part of the equation – at the very least fifty percent of the problem and the good news – the solution, too.


Let your alpacas help you understand your responsibilities and how you need to change and you will not only improve as a trainer but as a human being. ■

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*For over 20 years, Marty McGee Bennett (B.S. Animal Behavior, University of Georgia) has traveled the world teaching camelid enthusiasts how to better understand and more successfully relate to these wonderful animals. The author of three books, including the best-selling *Camelid Companion*, and the star of seven instructional videos, Marty's work has transformed the way owners, breeders, and veterinarians handle and train alpacas. Marty can be reached at [www.camelidynamics.com](http://www.camelidynamics.com) or [marty@camelidynamics.com](mailto:marty@camelidynamics.com).*

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Reaching out is aggressive and you may be kicked.



# 2006 National Conference

## "From Here, To Wear"

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **Jolyon Porter** > Conference Convenor

The 2006 Australian Alpaca Association Inc. National Conference, set for Adelaide on 18-20 August, is starting to take shape, so mark your calendars now. We will be aiming to have a varied and comprehensive agenda, whilst keeping an eye on cost reduction, so that it is as interesting and affordable as possible.



Adelaide Convention Centre



National Wine Centre

It will be held in one of the nation's best conference facilities, the Adelaide Convention Centre, located on North Terrace in the city. It literally has dozens of accommodation choices within minutes of the centre, from backpacker's rooms through to five star luxury. It is perched in an idyllic setting on the banks of the Torrens Lake, with views over the city's famous parklands and the historic Adelaide Oval. A number of Adelaide's most popular shopping, historical, entertainment, educational and general interest sites are within easy walk distance of the centre. There is also a free bus service, which runs through the city giving easy access to those spots that are a bit too far to walk.

We have arranged for the Friday night welcoming reception to be held at the National Wine Centre, which is only a short distance from the Convention Centre. This will be a semi-formal event, with food and drinks, as well as a tour of the interactive wine interpretative museum. I am sure even the non-imbibers will find it very interesting.

Whilst the Conference agenda is still being formulated, I can reveal that we intend to have some of the most interesting and informative topics and speakers available. We will be running streams to cater for basic as well as advanced breeders, and there will be some repeats to give the maximum opportunity for delegates to catch all the talks they are interested in.

If you are interested in presenting a paper, or have a suggestion for a speaker(s), then you should contact Mark Gishen, (08) 8388 1264, or [shingleback@esc.net.au](mailto:shingleback@esc.net.au) as soon as possible. ■

*Further details, such as accommodation and travel suggestions, along with booking forms etc. will be available soon. In the meantime, all other enquiries can be directed to Jolyon Porter, (08) 8568 5254, [yackaridgealpaca@bigpond.com](mailto:yackaridgealpaca@bigpond.com)*

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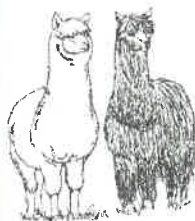
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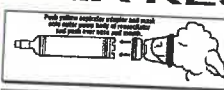
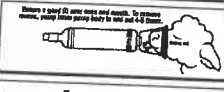




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The winner in the PacaPics feature will receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next magazine. Front cover photo winner will also be awarded the same advertising opportunity as well as five complimentary copies of 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](mailto:sandra@alpaca.asn.au)

★ WINNER ★



< Mum... you're just so rigid at times! >

Linda Boyd-Lind • Thistledo Alpacas, QLD



< Once upon a time... >

Cora Zyp • Coraz Alpacas, QLD



< Roll up, Roll up >

Wendy Billington • Cedar House Alpaca Stud, NSW



< I'm always getting pushed around >

Merlyn Brown • Ronlyn Park, VIC



< Mmm, crimp might be OK but what about the density? >

Mike Nichols • Dynasty Alpacas, VIC





*< C'mon, on your feet or I'll give you something to help you on your way >*

Peter Eades • Agonis Alpacas, WA



*< Please feel free to take over >*

Lesley Maxwell • Kurralea Alpacas, NSW



*< Where am I? >*

Phillipa Sandercock • Ashburton Alpacas, WA



*< What happened to you? >*

Peter Feldman • Surilox Alpacas, NSW



*< Are you my mummy? >*

Ian Winlaw • Jaspers Brush Alpacas, NSW



*< Being at a show is very tiring >*

Ian Et Angela Preuss • Pinjarra Alpacas, VIC



*< These days are so boring >*

Darren McLeod • Ashfield Alpacas, VIC



*< Let me clean that dirty face >*

Julia Waller • Graceville Downs Alpacas, NSW



*< Love my mum >*

Anita Et Gerry Maas • Gerita Alpacas, VIC



*< It must be love >*

Kay Arnott • Kabil Heights Alpacas, WA



*< Love me, love my 'paca >*

Lesley Maxwell • Kurralea Alpacas, NSW



*< Two cuties together >*

Geoff Et Sheryl Simper • Blu Haven Lodge Alpacas, NSW



*< C'mon, let's go >*

Odette Mayne • Currumbong Alpacas, ACT



*< Just let me rest my weary head >*

Dianne Et Kevin King • Wynwood Alpacas, NSW

# Upcoming Events

## January

### 21 Apollo Bay Fleece Show: VIC

Venue: Apollo Bay Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Chris Bayley (03) 5264 1739

### 23 Charles Ledger Alpaca Fleece Show: NSW

Venue: Berry Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Kevin Watson (02) 4448 6267

### 28 Tarago Show: NSW

Venue: Tarago Showgrounds  
Highlights: Animal and fleece  
promotional display  
Contact: Lynne Dominish (02) 6454 6180

### 29 Bungendore Show: NSW

Venue: Bungendore Showgrounds  
Highlights: Animal and fleece  
promotional display  
Contact: Lynne Dominish (02) 6454 6180

## February

### 4 Nimmitabel Show: NSW

Venue: Nimmitabel Showgrounds  
Highlights: Animal and fleece  
promotional display  
Contact: Lynne Dominish (02) 6454 6180

### 10-12 Crookwell Show: NSW

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

### 11 Tyrendarra Fleece Show: VIC

Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Chris Bayley (03) 5264 1739

### 17-19 Seymour Alternative Farming Expo: VIC

Venue: King's Park, Seymour  
Highlights: Alpaca judging; Promotional display  
Contact: Vivienne Grigg (03) 5428 6712

### 18 Far South Coast National Show: NSW

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

### 24-25 Royal Canberra Show: ACT

Venue: EPIC (Showgrounds)  
Highlights: Fleece judging (24 February);  
Alpaca judging (25 February)  
Contact: Carolyn Austin (02) 6227 6224

### 26 Berwick Show: Vic

Venue: Berwick Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging  
Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

## March

### 4 Boorowa Show: NSW

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

### 4 Delegate Show: NSW

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

### 10-11 Robertson Show: NSW

Venue: Robertson Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca judging; Craft competition  
Contact: Heather Vickery 0411 118 780

### 10-11 Wagin Woolarama Fleece Show: WA

Venue: Wagin  
Highlights: Fleece judging  
Contact: Pamela Brown (08) 9574 6050

### 11 Cooma Show: NSW

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

### 18 Mt Pleasant Show: SA

Venue: Mt Pleasant Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging  
Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

### 25 Red Hill Show: VIC

Venue: Red Hill Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging  
Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

### 25-26 Goulburn Show: NSW

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

### 26 Castle Hill Show: NSW

Venue: Castle Hill Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca judging  
Contact: Brian Woodhouse-Young  
(02) 4571 2362

### 29-1/4 Toowoomba Royal Show: Qld

Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca judging;  
Promotional display  
Contact: Julie MacGregor (07) 3202 3113

### 30-2/4 Lardner Park - Farmworld: VIC

Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul  
Highlights: Promotional display  
Contact: Jenny Miles (03) 5623 6654

## April

### 2 Yass Show: NSW

Venue: Yass Showgrounds  
Highlights: Alpaca judging  
Contact: Carolyn Austin (02) 6227 6224

### 7-11 Royal Sydney Show: NSW

Venue: Showgrounds, Homebush  
Highlights: Fleece judging prior to show and  
on display throughout show;  
Huacaya judging (9.30am - 9 April);  
Suri judging (10.00am - 10 April);  
Contact: Jeanne Brown, Breed Captain  
(02) 4576 3333

### 22-23 Alpaca Autumn Show: WA

Venue: Whiteman Park  
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging  
Contact: Pamela Brown (08) 9574 6050

### 22-23 2nd Alpaca Extravaganza: SA

Venue: Oakbank Racecourse  
Highlights: Promotional display;  
Demonstrations;  
Alpaca products for sale  
Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

### 28-30 Hawkesbury Show: NSW

Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds,  
Clarendon  
Highlights: Alpaca judging (29 April)  
Contact: Cheryl Kosaras (02) 4573 1177

### 28-30 Bathurst Royal Show: NSW

Venue: Bathurst Showgrounds  
Highlights: Fleece judging (27 April);  
Alpaca judging (30 April)  
Contact: Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233



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| <i>Alpaca Breeders Reproduction Handbook</i> by McMillan & Jinks                                                                                   | 27.20                                                               | 22.70                                                                     | \$ |
| <i>Alpaca Fibre - An Introduction</i> by Watt I                                                                                                    | 9.80                                                                | 8.00                                                                      | \$ |
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| <i>The International Alpaca Handbook</i> by Alpaca Consulting Services of Australia                                                                | 61.00                                                               | 45.50                                                                     | \$ |
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| <i>Medicine &amp; Surgery of South American Camelids</i> by Fowler M (2nd edition)                                                                 | price on application                                                |                                                                           | \$ |
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## Deadlines

### Issue 49: Autumn

Due: April 2006  
Deadline: Friday 10 February

### Issue 50: Winter

Due: August 2006  
Deadline: Friday 2 June

### Issue 51: Summer

Due: December 2006  
Deadline: Friday 6 October

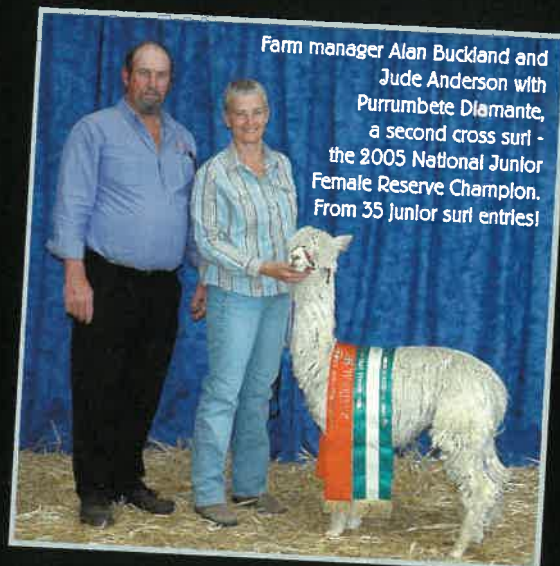
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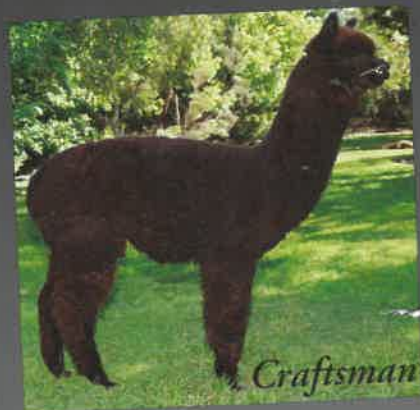
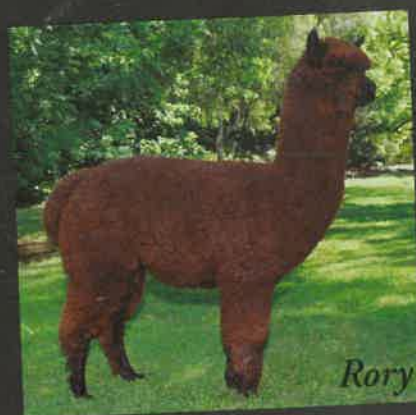
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