

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

ISSUE 53 • WINTER 2007



Inside this issue:

Genetic Improvement • Winterproofing your Herd • Sydney Royal Show • Alpacas on TV

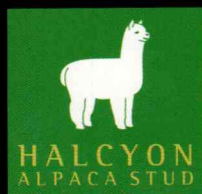
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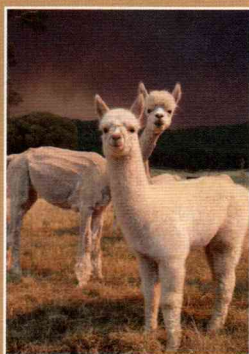


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A Message from the President

This edition of *Alpacas Australia* is a special one, published as it is after the historic decision of the membership to accept the advice of the National Committee and Council to vote (at the Ordinary General Meeting convened on June 3rd, 2007) 77.7% in favour of the conversion of AAA Inc. incorporated as an association under Victorian state legislation, to AAA Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, and incorporated under Commonwealth legislation. That process is now well in hand, and the considerable benefits will soon be apparent to the membership. Not least is that your elected officers may now focus their attention on progressing the affairs and interests of the membership and the industry, rather than engaging in a debate that has at times been bitter, recriminatory and vexatious.

It is no surprise, in this or any other organisation, to find that there are some whose expectations and ideals are not met by the existing governance and conduct of the organisation. Some may choose to reluctantly accept those variances, whilst others may choose to vigorously oppose them. Still others may renounce their membership, and turn to an alternative organisation that meets their expectations.

So it is with the AAA. We have a small number of critics whom we have not been able to satisfy, either in the regulation, conduct, or vision of our organisation. Some have abandoned the AAA to establish their own association, based on a lower fee structure and a reduced level of member services, and I personally have no problem with their decision. A considerable number have taken an each way bet and maintain membership of both organisations, either in their own name or through their partner's name or their business structure, in order that they may draw upon the resources of both. This would seem to be precisely contrary to the principal benefit advertised by the alternate association, which is reduced fees and overheads. Whilst there is no regulation that can (or should) forbid a person from being members of both, it is ethically derelict to use one platform to promote the other, and for the sake of harmony and the integrity of both associations, I would happily have that principle formally embraced by both organisations, and their officers.

As President, I genuinely seek to resolve the existing impasse between the two associations, which would seem to exist for different purposes. A low cost, low overhead organisation cannot expect to deliver the same range of services to its members as one that raises higher fees and charges from its members. (On membership renewals alone, the AAA raises something of the order of \$400,000; the alternate association, based on about 150 members at \$55 renewal, will raise \$8250). It would be ridiculous to superimpose upon the latter the service expectations of the former. Conversely, an organisation providing a high level of member services cannot expect to do so without the revenue to support those activities. It is my vision and hope

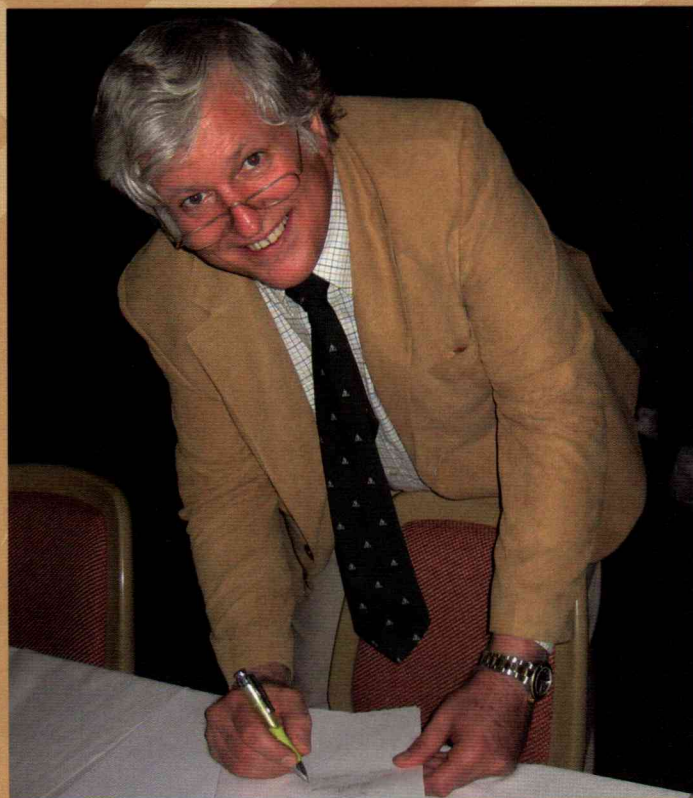
that, by changing the legal structure of the AAA, we will empower the AAA to raise money from outside the membership, thereby affording improved member services without imposing a commensurate increase in fees.

There is a simple choice offered to any breeder, without presuming what is right or wrong for any individual, as to which model best suits their purposes. We will continue to promote the Australian Alpaca Association as the peak body for alpaca breeders in Australia, proclaiming the scope of its vision, its achievements, its relationships with governments and agribusiness organisations, and its member services, but respecting the choices and alternatives offered by the other association. We ask that they and their members accord to us the same respect. It is not the right of any person to do otherwise which is in question, only the wisdom of so doing. The alternative is a very public stoush which, whilst attractive to the few combatants, remains a most unpleasant and unattractive one to most breeders of either persuasion, and for the public and the industry at large. The resulting rancour can only bring harm and disrepute to both associations and the industry, and the leadership of both organisations should resolve to stop it before it is too late.

As President of the AAA, I remain open and receptive to any discussions which aim to arrest that trend, or to establish a code of practice that embodies those principles. I openly invite the leaders of the alternate association to meet with me for that purpose.

I look forward to a better future for the industry. ■

Dr Ian Davison, President



Photograph by David Rouse, Daitida Alpacas, NSW

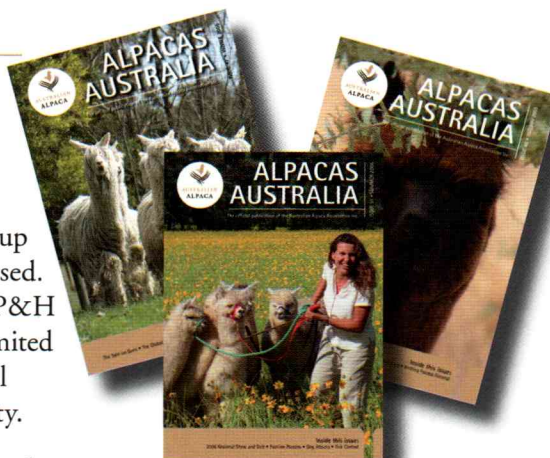
Briefly Speaking

Magazine back issues

The AAA National Office has back issues of *Alpacas Australia* available for purchase priced at \$4.40 per magazine (plus P&H). Here is your opportunity to read up on articles that you may have missed. (See Order Form on page 51 for P&H charges). As some issues are in limited supply please contact the National Office to enquire about availability.

Should you wish to source a particular article, *Alpacas Australia* has a catalogue of articles published since its inception in 1992 available on the AAA web site at www.alpaca.asn.au

Articles are listed in the catalogue under Education, Showing and Judging, Fleece, Fashion, Animal Health and Welfare, Research and Development, Suri, Marketing and Breeder Profiles, then further defined by issue number, page number, title of article, brief description and author.



www.alpaca.asn.au

We hope you like the new look AAA web site. It continues to be a work in progress with plans for new pages featuring Animal Health & Welfare topics, regular updates on World Alpaca Conference information and a general upgrade of the AAA Members' Section. We hope you will visit regularly to keep abreast of alpaca events, news and latest industry developments.

AAA Ltd.

The AAA Inc. has converted to AAA Ltd., a company limited by guarantee, and incorporated under Commonwealth legislation. Please refer to President's Message on opposite page.

Do you have an interesting story to tell?

Or are there any topics that you would like to read about in *Alpacas Australia*? Please send your ideas and articles to the editor... we'd love to hear from you

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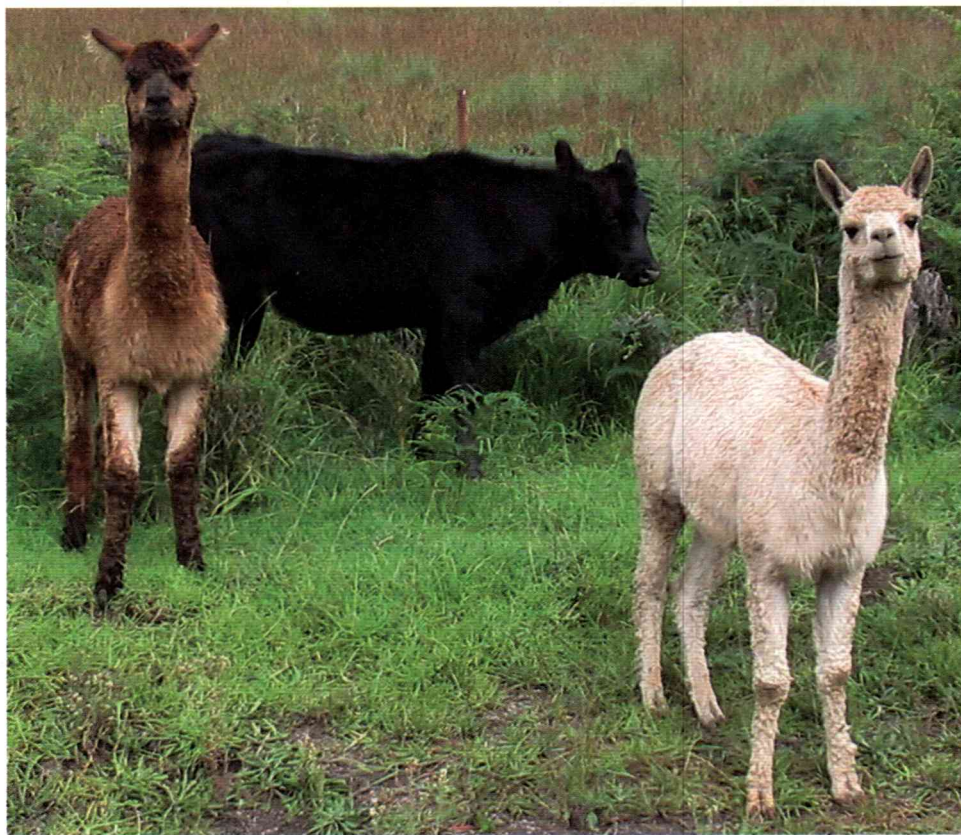
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The Three Amigos

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Gail Dean**, NSW



Barbie with Hercules and Franz on guard duty

The kids had left home and my husband and I were free at last to live our dream of a few acres and some animals in the country. So my husband, John, chose a donkey named Pharlap and I had always wanted alpacas – you know, cute, attractive creatures that you can cuddle and lead around.

So I purchased two alpacas, Hercules and Franz Xavier and life settled down in a reasonably quiet manner. The alpacas soon learnt that Pharlap was the leader of the pack and they were quite happy with that arrangement.

Soon we expanded our little clan and Nina, the Jersey house cow arrived with her two calves, Stewart and Barbie. *The Three Amigos* and the cattle quickly bonded; especially the alpacas and the calves.



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We were out in the paddock one day when we heard a great commotion. Hercules was on the ground and, I thought, having a fit of some kind. His lips were rolled back baring his teeth and he was making a tremendous growling noise. On closer inspection it was revealed that he was lying across the top of our smallest calf, completely covering her with his body. Meanwhile Franz was walking around in a very agitated state with teeth bared and also making a growling sound. Suddenly, a wedge-tailed eagle took off from a nearby tree swooping close to the group but not game enough to get too near. Once the eagle had disappeared Hercules allowed Barbie to get up and graze but he followed her very closely.

I have heard stories about alpacas protecting lambs and kids from dogs, foxes etc. but a wedge-tailed eagle is a formidable predator. My two alpacas protected their herd with great courage. Hercules really lived up to his heroic name.

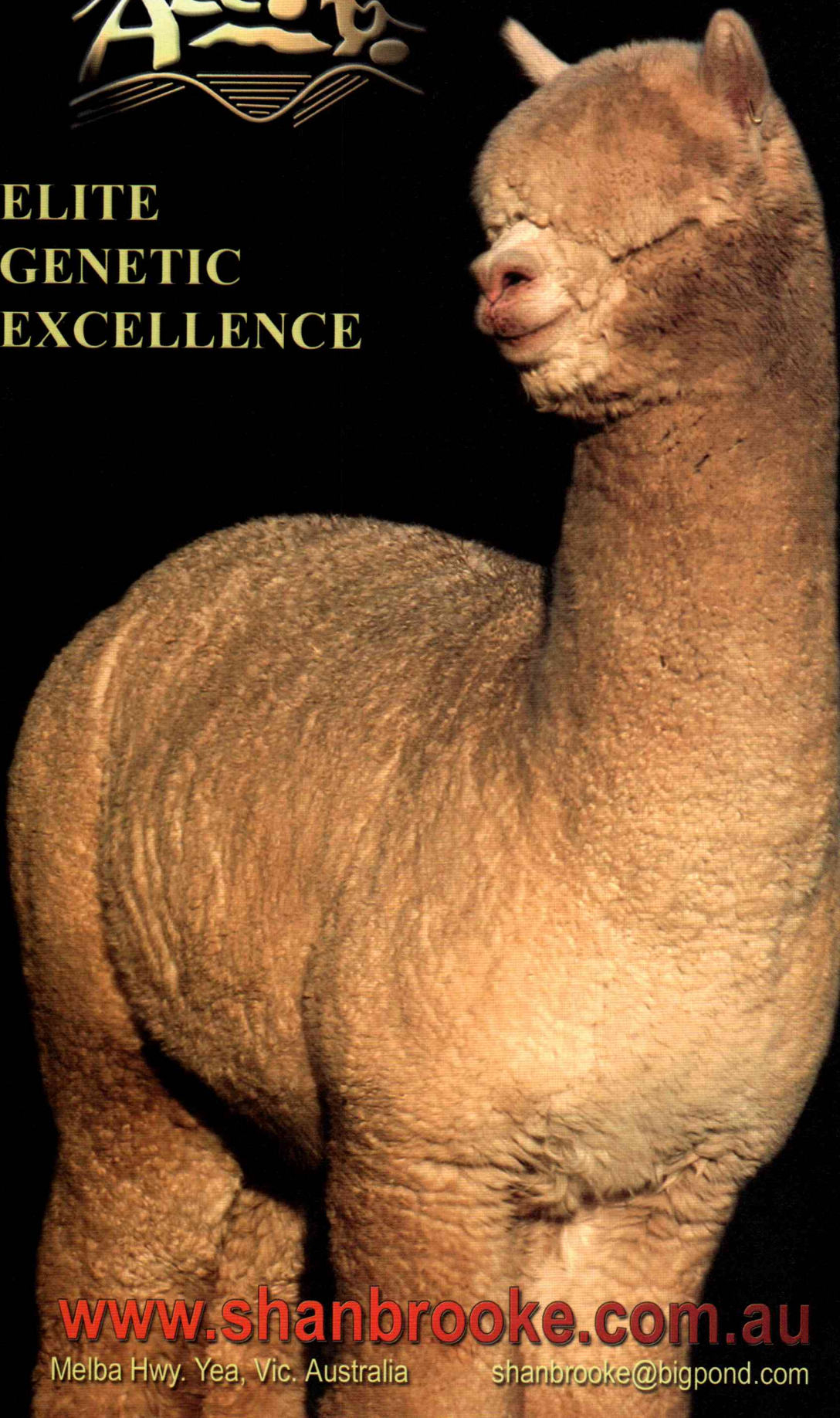
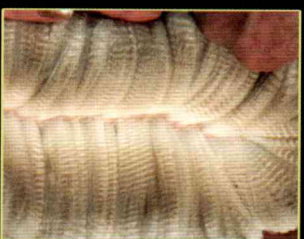
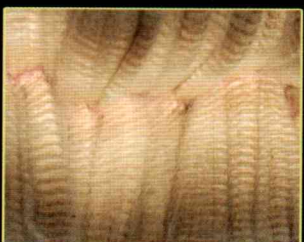
And where was their intrepid leader, Pharlap? In typical donkey fashion, he watched the whole scenario from afar. ■

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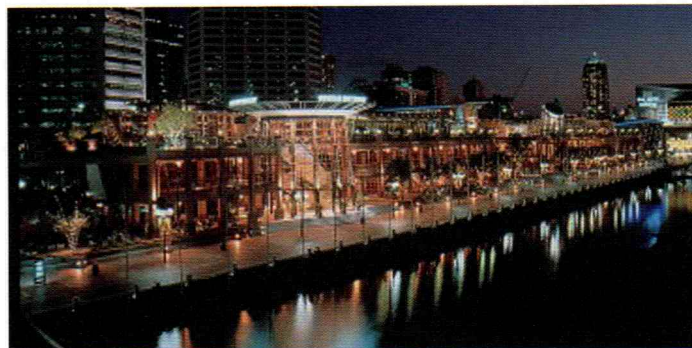
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World Alpaca Conference 2008

EDUCATION ARTICLE by **Heather Vickery** > Convenor, World Alpaca Conference 2008



Planning is now well under way for the World Alpaca Conference to be held in March next year. The venue, *Dockside*, centrally located at Cockle Bay in Darling Harbour overlooks the beautiful waterway of Sydney Harbour and is within walking distance of downtown Sydney, China Town and the various attractions on offer at Darling Harbour.

A programme has been put together for the week leading up to and including the Conference. We feel that this programme offers something for everyone, be they from overseas, interstate or local. These activities leading up to the Conference are optional.

The week's programme starts with the two day alpaca judging at the **Sydney Royal Agricultural Show** on 22 and 23 March. For those wishing to attend the judging buses will be available along with entry tickets to the Show. On Monday 24 March there will be a visit to the **Hunter Valley** to take in a vineyard or two and a display of Australian alpaca craft.

The following day will begin with a visit to the **Australian Wool Testing Authority** in Guildford in the morning. From there we will proceed to Illawarra Alpaca Stud for a typical 'Aussie' barbecue lunch and a tour around this famous, well-appointed stud. The tour will take in the beautiful sights of the South Coast including the amazing Seacliff Bridge. On Wednesday we are off again, this time to the Southern Highlands where we will visit Pacofino Stud in the morning for those interested in suris. This will be followed by lunch in the historic village of Berrima before continuing on to Coolaroo Alpaca Stud and then back to Sydney. Thursday will be at a leisurely pace as we enjoy lunch while **cruising around beautiful Sydney Harbour**.

On Friday the **Fleece Expo** will be held featuring speakers such as Cameron Holt, Dr Jim Watts (SRS® Breeding System), Robert Mortimer and Lyn Dickson to name a few. This will be followed by conference registration and a welcoming cocktail party.

On Saturday the **Conference** begins and over the next two days speakers such as Paul Taylor (Frozen Embryo), Dr Wayne Jarvis, Dr Pierre Baychelier, Dr Jane Wheeler and her husband Dr Raul Rosadio, to name a few. The Presidents attending from overseas will also be speaking. This evening the **Gala Dinner and Fashion Parade** will be held. The Fashion Parade will be preceded by a *Dreamtime* sequence which will be performed by a group of aboriginal dancers and musicians setting the mood for a truly magical evening.

Sunday will be the last day of the conference and among other sessions, will feature an international forum that will take us *'Around the World in 80 Minutes'*.

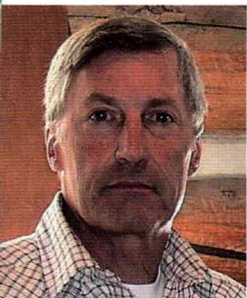
A travel agent, Allworld Travel has been appointed to arrange all accommodation requirements as well as help you plan a visit to other parts of Australia if you so desire. They can be contacted by clicking on the link on the AAA website www.alpaca.asn.au or through www.allworld.com.au

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If you would like to be part of this sponsorship team and reap the benefits, it is not too late. Please contact Phillip Vickery on 02 4885 2852 for details. ■

Introducing three of the Conference speakers...

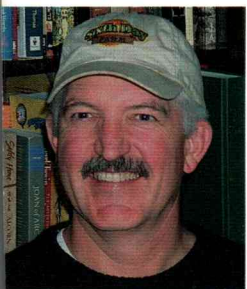


Paul Taylor – 'Advanced Reproduction in the South American Camelid'

Paul Taylor was born in San Francisco in 1942 and attended Stanford University before training as a dentist at the University of California. Paul and his wife, Sally became interested in llamas in 1975 and in 1983 Paul retired from dentistry to devote his attention full time to the llama project.

Paul's interest in embryo transfer (ET) began in 1992 and in 1994 they produced their first live babies by ET, and after a further 12 years of research and experimentation produced the first live babies from frozen embryos. Paul and other researchers around the world are currently working to perfect an embryo freezing protocol which will make international movement of frozen embryos of the South American Camelids (SAC) practical in the near future.

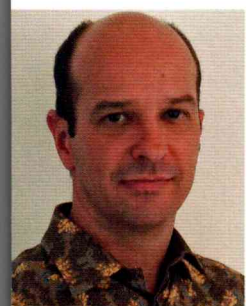
Paul and Sally performed the first commercial embryo transfer in SAC and produced the first alpaca babies carried and nursed by llama surrogate mothers. Under a cooperative agreement with Louisiana State University they were involved in projects that resulted in the first viable camelid embryos produced by sperm injection and by cloning. The Taylors have written many articles and papers about advanced reproduction in SAC. They teach camelid ET at their Montana ranch clinic and Paul has addressed seminars on ET in Peru, Argentina and Chile.



Dr Wayne Jarvis – 'Breeding a Prepotent Line of Alpacas'

Dr Wayne Jarvis lives with his wife, five daughters, son-in-law and four grandchildren at Sixth Day Farm in Holley, NY where they breed Saanen dairy goats, Cormo Sheep, Colored Corriedale Sheep and Huacaya Alpacas, as well as raising layer hens, broilers, many barn cats, a working Border Collie and a Great Pyrenees LGD dam.

Dr Jarvis studied chemical engineering, chemistry and biology, including genetics, as an undergraduate, and has been interested in genetics throughout his career as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon treating developmental deformities of the face and jaws. He has lectured frequently around the world on bone graft and implant reconstructive surgery for the jaws, implantology, the genetics of animal breeding and other scientific topics



Dr Pierre Baychelier – 'Pacing out the Right Angles to Alpaca Conformation'

Dr Pierre Baychelier is a French trained Veterinarian who graduated from the Toulouse Veterinary School. After two years spent in practice he started a career in the animal health pharmaceutical industry, and has been working in this field since 1989. He is currently employed as Research & Development Manager by ANCARE AUSTRALIA, a company which specialises

in parasite control in livestock. Pierre migrated to Australia in 1994. In 1999, together with Brenton Spehr, he started Alcazar Suri Stud, a suri-only alpaca breeding operation, whose motto is "Keeping the Suri Pure"®. Pierre has written several articles and frequently addresses the alpaca community on health and husbandry topics, genetics, and the suri breed. A recent article entitled *A New Angle on Alpaca Conformation*, published in Issue 52 of *Alpacas Australia*, forms the basis of his talk. ■



AUSTRALIAN ALPACA
CONNECTION

World Alpaca Conference 2008 Fashion Parade

ATTENTION ALL ALPACA DESIGNERS

In March 2008 Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd is sponsoring the Fashion Parade at the World Alpaca Conference. This parade will feature a number of international labels and we are also offering the opportunity for Australian designers to participate in this exciting event as well.

We are setting up a selection committee and are inviting all interested parties to submit their ideas or products. Whilst we cannot guarantee that you will be successful as it is vital to ensure that all products are complementary to the event, we welcome all submissions.

The parade will be professionally run in the manner of previous Sydney and Melbourne international fashion shows.

Criteria for designs

What we are looking for is innovative designs demonstrating the exceptional quality and versatility of Australian alpaca fleece, emphasising the use of drape and handle.

Selection process

All interested parties should submit their ideas and sketches in writing, no later than the end of September 2007 to the following address:

Michael Talbot, Managing Director
Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd
2/114 Fairbairn Road, Sunshine VIC 3020
Fax: 03 9311 0499
Email: info@aafll.com.au

Why Alpaca?

A COMMONLY ASKED QUESTION BY RETAILERS

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Ian Johnston** > National & Export Marketing Manager, Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd

This article briefly gives an insight into the receptiveness of alpaca by the retailers, who eventually are captivated by this luxury fibre and its unique natural attributes, ultimately purchasing and displaying alpaca products on their shelves.



The Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL) recently expanded its fleece division to include a professional wholesale product division, developing a multitude of alpaca products.

AAFL's mission was clearly defined – to add value to the ever increasing Australian alpaca fleece clip.

Over the last 11 months we have styled and introduced into the Australian and export markets, high end alpaca products branded under the ***Australian Alpaca Connection*** label. Products range from homewares, accessories, quality knitwear, stylish ladies and men's coats to even equestrian blankets.



AUSTRALIAN ALPACA
CONNECTION

Natural coloured fibre plays an important role in our designing and construction of product and will continue to be in demand as we expand our product range.

Our ***Natural Collection*** throw rug range is very popular, and with winter now here it has become a very saleable item, because the retailers prefer the soft fibre handle of alpaca over mohair, leading to AAFL intensifying the education of alpaca fibre and its properties over other textile fibres.

From a modest base of a few customers some 11 months ago, our customer base is now more than 100. Quite an achievement and increasing every month I might add.

We knit and loom products in Australia through our strategic partners, where feasible and practical. However at times customer demand for design and quality is not available in Australia, hence we have to manufacture offshore in New Zealand and Peru, with AAFL supplying the Australian alpaca fibre.

Notable customers purchasing AAFL products in Australia are Minimax, Henry Bucks, RM Williams, Country Road, Hedrena Textiles and Linen Avenue to mention a few, with discussions being conducted with the major department stores such as Myer and David Jones.

Of course our ever supporting alpaca breeders and accompanying alpaca product retail shops make up a large portion of our customer base, whose support we appreciate.

Export plays an important role in our growth, basically because the Australian market will not be able to absorb the quantity of products eventually developed and manufactured by AAFL. To this end we envisage within the next two years our export products will represent more than 70% of sales.

Currently we are exporting to China, blankets, throws and knitwear to department stores and for promotional purposes, with discussions in hand to stock our homeware products throughout the top department store in Beijing.



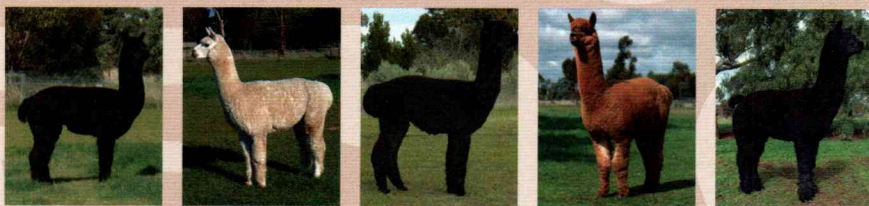
AAFL will have a stand at the forthcoming Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles Fair exhibiting all our new products and securing forward orders from our growing number of customers in that region.

Another export development, believe it or not, is horse blanket material made from 50% wool and 50% alpaca all destined for the USA market and made from Australian alpaca fibre.

We believe it is an exciting time for the Australian alpaca industry; its success and promotion both in fibre and product improvement are paramount in keeping ahead of other textile fibres. ■



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National Show and Sale Returns to Melbourne

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Geoff Hargreaves** > National Show & Sale Convenor



Exhibition Pavilion • Melbourne Showgrounds
Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October 2007

The National returns to Ascot Vale for the first time since 1996.

One of the reasons for the Victorian Government providing the funds for the redevelopment of the Melbourne Showgrounds was to bring agriculture to the city throughout the year and not just for the 10 days of the Royal Melbourne Show.

The excellent relationship between the Australian Alpaca Association and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, built up over 18 years of alpaca presence at the Royal Melbourne Show, has enabled hiring of the facility for the *2007 National Show and Sale* at a very favourable rate.

Invitations for AAA members' participation in this year's *National* through the events described in the Schedule have arrived at your homes together with opportunities for sponsorship and promotion of your business through trade displays and stud pens. Please take the time to consider the potential advantages gained from prominence during this key event in the alpaca calendar.

The venue presents wonderful opportunities to deliver a friendly, relaxed program which accommodates all of the events – the judging of show animals; the fleece competition; the art, craft and photography competition and display and the *National Auction*.

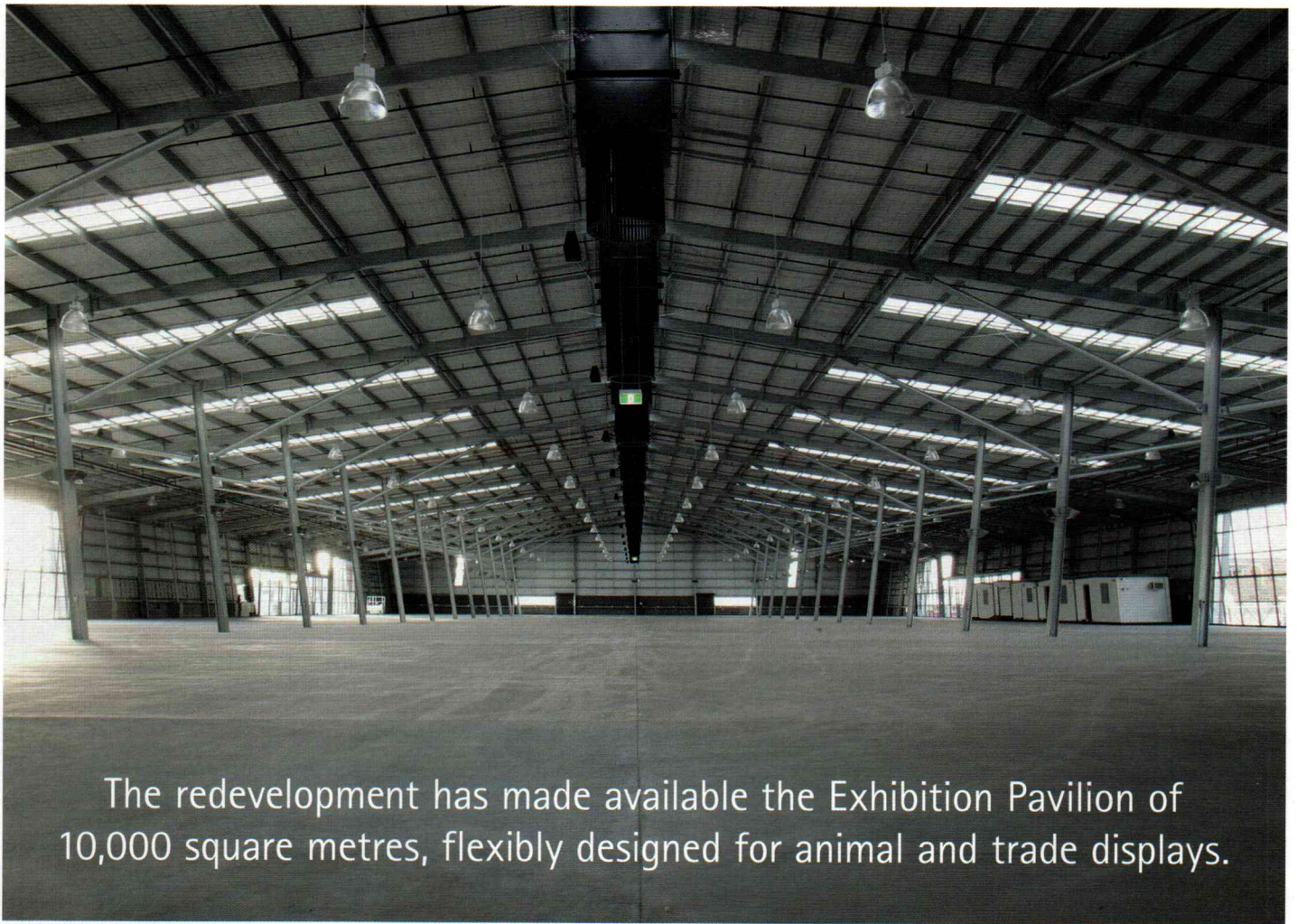
The eateries and coffee shops within the pavilion will comfortably provide for the conversation and networking that are such an important part of what the National gives to the industry.

The casual social opportunities will be enhanced by the 'drinks do' on the Friday night and the dinner and dance on Saturday.

It is hoped that this premier alpaca event will also be attractive to the public who will have a selection of the best animals in the country to view, as well as excellent alpaca products to purchase and displays of supporting enterprises.

The huge ring (50m x 20m) will be divided into two for the Friday judging of the Junior Huacayas and Suris in parallel. Staggered starts will maximize the display of both types of animals and judging will conclude with the awarding of the Suri Supreme Champion and the Suri Sires Progeny.

On the Saturday, the Huacaya judging will be completed and there will also be time for a parade of the Auction animals prior to pre-dinner drinks.



The redevelopment has made available the Exhibition Pavilion of 10,000 square metres, flexibly designed for animal and trade displays.

We are pleased that the following people have accepted invitations to judge:

Suri Jude Anderson
 Huacaya Lyn Dickson and Rick Hodgson
 Fleeces. Cameron Holt

A fine array of animals has been nominated for the Auction which promises to be of the same high standard as in recent years. Russell Holmes and inspector, AAA Judge, Peter Kennedy have commenced the difficult job of judging and ranking the nominated animals for selection. We expect to again present a selection of the best alpacas in the country to showcase the industry.

Ample free parking is available in the Showgrounds. The Melbourne Showgrounds are well serviced by public transport which enables exhibitors and visitors to stay in interesting centres like Kensington, North Melbourne, Carlton, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick and Ascot Vale. If you have time, you have ready access to some of the best eating strips in Greater Melbourne. And, why not stay over and enjoy the major races in the Spring Racing Carnival?

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Alpaca Fiesta 2007

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Renzo Morante** > Alpaca Fiesta, Peru

Alpaca Fiesta 2007 is being organized by the International Alpaca Association and will take place in Arequipa, Peru on 14-18 November 2007.

Arequipa is where 100% of Peru's alpaca fibre is processed into semi and/or fully finished textile articles which are then exported worldwide. The city of Arequipa is located 1,000 kilometres south of the country's capital, Lima, at an altitude of 2,325 metres above sea level. The city has been designated as one of World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. The historical centre of Arequipa is an example of ornamental architecture which represents a masterpiece of the creative combination of European and native characteristics. A colonial outpost challenged by the forces of nature, indigenous influences, the process of conquest and religious predominance encompassed by a spectacular natural scenario, the city stands at the foot of the snow-capped volcano El Misti. Arequipa has many fine colonial-era Spanish buildings built of sillar – a pearly white volcanic rock used extensively in the construction of the city and from which it gets its nickname, *La Ciudad Blanca* (the 'White City').

Alpaca Fiesta 2007 will be hosted in Arequipa's main Showground and Conference Centre, 'Cerro Juli', and will offer a wide range of events aimed at improving the understanding of animal breeding through to finished fashion wear on the catwalk.

Participants from all over the world: United States of America, Australia, Japan, China, Italy, United Kingdom, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina among others will be immersed in a number of activities which include:

- > **Alpaca Show:** more than 700 alpacas from the best ranches in Peru will be in competition.
- > **Opening Ceremony:** an Arequipanian way to launch the event in 'fiesta style' with a carnival procession, fireworks and a lot of fun.



- > **Vicuña Chaccu:** the traditional Inca method of rounding-up wild vicunas for shearing is still employed today up in the Altiplano.
- > **Horsemanship Show:** Peru's famous 'Caballos de Paso' will put on an entertaining demonstration to the accompaniment of Marinera Dancers.
- > **Factory Visits:** tours of Arequipa's main spinning, knitting and weaving installations to see the latest technology that maintains the quality of alpaca production.
- > **Conferences and Clinics:** papers and courses relating to the alpaca business will be presented to the participants by leading experts in their respective fields.
- > **Fashion Show:** designers utilising alpaca will put on an outstanding fashion show exclusively for Alpaca Fiesta 2007.
- > **Gourmet Festival:** throughout the whole Alpaca Fiesta 2007 you will be able to sample the best Peruvian foods.

The cost of the event is US\$680.00 per person and includes a one year complimentary membership of the International Alpaca Association.

For further information please contact: Renzo Morante
rdmorante@alpacafiestaperu.com ■



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If You're Not Aged, You're Not Serious

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Dr Ian Davison** > Illawarra Alpacas, NSW

Adapted from an article written for 'Alpaca World', June 2007

Uniquely amongst all alpaca producing nations, Australia has been quick to identify the critical need for the scientific progression of genetic improvement in the breed. Driven by 200 years of experience in the Merino sheep industry, the AAA in 2000 commissioned a Working Party to formulate and refine a genetic improvement programme for the Australian alpaca industry.



Before the AGE, prospective buyers had only show form, progeny inspection and advertisements on which to base their breeding decisions



Genetic improvement covers a whole range of traits related to fleece, fitness and fertility

The process was accelerated by the 2002 AAA Annual Conference in Noosa, when consultant, Allan Casey of Advanced Breeding Services (in Orange, NSW), proposed an 'Across-herd Genetic Evaluation programme' (AGE), based on a model already applied to a range of livestock breeding programmes around the world, including sheep, cattle, deer and pigs, and in countries including the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and NZ. The software driving the analysis (enigmatically called BLUP, for Best Linear Unbiased Prediction, but let's stick with just BLUP) was purpose-designed for trait-linked selective breeding, validated and proven across a range of breeding programmes, and ideally suited to a breed with extensively documented pedigree records.

Traditionally, the value of an alpaca, and hence its selection for use in a breeding programme, has been determined solely by show success, phenotypic values (fleece weight, micron, conformation, etc), advertisements (based largely on hype), or progeny inspection. Only the last has any scientific validity (it is, after all, the proof of the genetic pudding), but it is difficult for the human brain to compensate for the variations resulting from environmental differences between progeny, and draw conclusions that are statistically valid. The phenotype of the parent is even less likely than that of its progeny to predict the breeding outcomes.

What is needed is a system that can "put the micrometer onto the DNA", so to speak; that is, *to measure the likely outcome of breeding from any given alpaca, for any given trait.*

It has long been recognised that profitability in the sheep wool industry is driven overwhelmingly by just two parameters, those being fleece weight and fineness. For years, Australian Merino breeders practised selective breeding aimed at driving down micron, only to see their fleece weights fall away, and then turn to drive fleece weights up, only to see a gradual blow-out in micron.

The challenge was to develop a breeding system that could select simultaneously for more than one trait, and quantify the genetic value of an animal in pursuing a range of traits.

The AGE met that challenge. With a brief “to make commercial alpaca production viable, by maximising genetic progress across the industry for commercial traits,” the Working Party refined a list of traits.

Those traits reflected the concept that, for most breeders, commercial success will depend on an alpaca's ability to produce larger quantities of more valuable fleece, and more fertile, healthy and long-lived alpacas.

To that end, the traits selected focussed on fleece quantity and quality as a priority, but also on fertility, conformation and resistance to disease.

The output of the programme is twofold.

The first is the production of Alpaca Breeding Values (ABVs), the same as estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) used in other breed terminology. Let's take fleece weight as an example. A given sire has a derived ABV for fleece weight of, say, +0.4 kgs. This means that his progeny will, on average, produce fleece weights of 0.2 kgs more (*half* the ABV, as the male is responsible for just one half of the genetic make-up of the progeny) than a male of *average* quality, which has an ABV of (by definition) 0.0 kgs. The mathematical sign of the ABV – plus or minus – indicates

whether that sire will increase (+) or decrease (-) the value of that trait in his progeny. For fleece weight, we are looking for an increase, but for fibre diameter, we would prefer a decrease, reflecting increased fineness. So we would look for a sire with a negative ABV value for fibre diameter.

Which brings us to the second output. It is possible to combine an animal's ABVs for two or more traits, reflecting that animal's ability to drive improvement in those two traits simultaneously, and then rank it against other animals for its value in driving that particular breeding objective.

These derived values are, in fact, called Breeding Objective Values (BOVs). Three such BOVs are presently offered by the AGE, based on traditional and familiar breeding objectives identified in the sheep wool industry, and based on qualities of fineness and fleece weight.

Those BOVs, called enigmatically the 3.5%, 7% and 14% indices (don't ask why: let's just call them Colin, Eric, and Ralph) are based on the two traits of fleece weight and fineness. The first (Colin) aims to maximise improvement in fleece weight, whilst holding fineness steady; the second (Eric) aims for a more moderate improvement in both fleece weight *and* fineness; and the third (Ralph) aims to maximise fineness whilst holding fleece weight steady. Depending on how you rate your herd for fleece weight and fineness, depends on which BOV you would favour in sire selection. ➤



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Fleece samples are taken from all alpacas prior to shearing at two years (± 6 months) of age

The AGE was launched in 2003 and, after the last data submission (March 2007), the AGE has ABVs for over 3,000 alpacas. Of those, 2,000 alpacas from over 100 herds are enrolled on the AGE, and a further 1,000 alpacas have ABVs derived from data submitted on their close relatives.

The most recent data analysis from ABS reported ABV distributions in a range of formats, including the top 50 animals enrolled for each of the three BOVs, and separate distributions for colours and suris. It is planned to post some of this data on the AAA web site. With every successive data submission, the figures and the indices are getting more and more accurate.

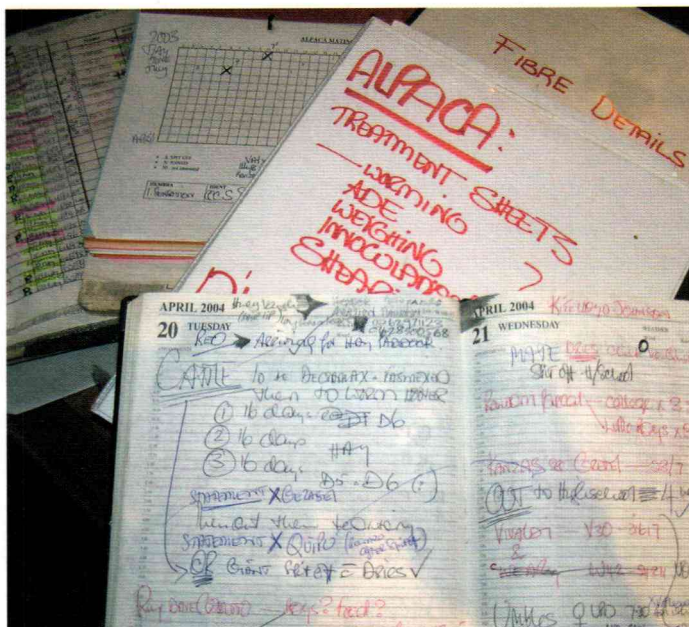
With a much simplified enrolment process, the scheme is set to explode over the next 12 months, and ABVs and BOVs are beginning to appear in advertisements for both sires and animals for sale.

At this point, it is important that breeders understand two fundamental and critical principles of the AGE.

The first is that it relies on the accurate recording of specific traits in individual animals, which then feed back onto all their relatives in a manner that is genetically and mathematically predetermined.

The incredible strength of the AGE when applied to the alpaca industry is the fact that alpacas, uniquely amongst all livestock species, have pedigrees that are invariably recorded through their registration on a breed register, the International Alpaca Register (IAR).

This means that any data entered on the AGE for any one alpaca results in values which can be derived for all its relatives, the impact lessening progressively as those relatives become more distant on the family tree.



Good records are important in preparing data for the AGE

It is like having an infinite system of branching pipes representing the family tree, all filled with water, and each branch opening upwards into a bowl. Pouring hot water into one bowl will alter the volume and temperature of the water in every other bowl to which it is connected, most obviously those in close proximity.

The combination of the BLUP computer program and the IAR makes the AGE an incredibly powerful tool for genetic improvement.

The second feature is the ability of the BLUP software to exclude environmental factors in measuring an animal's genetic potential. Effectively, it does so by measuring the performance of an animal in one environment, and then moving it to a different environment and measuring it again.

If the performance of the animal changes, it does so entirely due to the environment, since the genetic contribution does not change.

The variation from its previous performance is then calculated, and a correction applied, so that the first and second measurements are equal. That same correction is then applied to all other animals in the second environment, so that direct comparisons can then be made between any two animals in either population, the variance between them reflecting only their genetic differences.

An example would be comparing the skin colour of a population in the Antarctic with that of a population on the Riviera. By measuring the skin colour of a person in the Antarctic, and then measuring it again after twelve months living on the Riviera, the comparison between the two would yield a variation that is totally environmentally determined. If the two are then adjusted so that the second is made the equal of the first, and similar corrections applied to all others in the population,

direct quantitative comparisons can now be made between the skin colour of any two people in the combined populations. The variation between those individuals would now reflect only genetic differences.

Of course, such literal comparisons are not practical in livestock. But the equivalent comparisons can be made by measuring the influence of individual males across females in a variety of environments. If a sire is put over a range of females in one environment, and then put over a very similar range of females in another, variations in the phenotype of the progeny (averaged for each environment) will reflect a difference that is entirely environmental.

Put slightly differently, if the expected performance in the progeny of a particular sire, when raised in one environment, varies significantly from that which has already been well documented in the progeny raised in a different environment, then that variation can be accounted for only by environmental differences.

Of course, the other variable is the quality of the dam, but the computer program may already have independent data on the genetic contribution of the dam through similar comparisons, made through the pedigree tree. And where the numbers of matings are large, dam quality is less likely to vary widely from the average.

That's about as much as a breeder needs to understand about the computer programme. Just that it is very clever, very slick, and can arrive with mathematical certainty at the same conclusions which we may make intuitively when comparing progeny.

The programme will even take into account the statistical probability of an observed variation, given the number of progeny tested and the magnitude of the variation from the average or benchmark value.

For example, it will treat with some scepticism a result indicating that a male might have twice the ability to increase fleece weight in progeny compared to the average male, more especially so if he has very few recorded progeny.



Fleece weight and fineness are likely to be two of the major drivers for genetic improvement

It will place much greater trust in a result where the variance is less dramatic, and the number of progeny on which the figure is based is considerable.

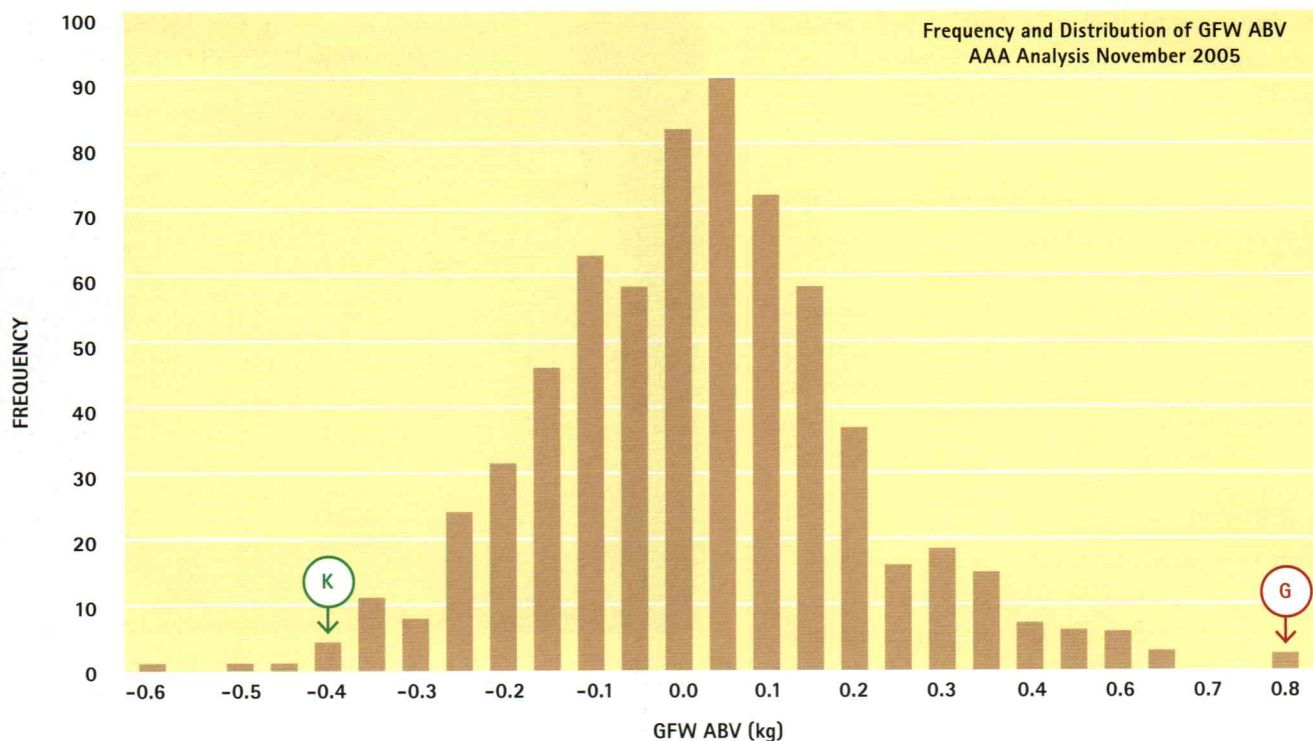
This 'statistical significance' is built into the software, so that variations from the average are reduced wherever there is not strong statistical evidence for the variation. It is an inbuilt counsel against 'rash decisions'.

Most data submitted to date has concentrated on fleece and fibre traits, but data is beginning to appear for body weight, testicular size, and SRS® skin traits. Those studs that have become involved early will be the first to receive their data, and will therefore be first to benefit from a marketing point of view, as well as making earlier progress in their breeding programme.

The rate of genetic improvement will naturally be higher in those studs which submit annual figures, and use the derived data for the selection of both donors for embryo transfer, and sires suited to their breeding objective. ➤

AAA AGE Report – Illawarra – CCC									
Alpaca name	Progeny number	Analysis		Index			Alpaca Breeding Values		
		Group	Linkage	3.5%	7%	14%	FW (kg)	FD (µm)	CV (%)
G	*	CCC.5.5	A	143.6	137.6	121.3	0.8	0.0	-1.1
K	8	Base	A	76.7	79.3	88.0	-0.4	0.3	1.2

Excerpt of AGE report showing the published outcomes for two potential sires. Sire K (in green) has 8 progeny, and will actually reduce fleece weight, increase micron and CV, and will have a negative effect (<100%) on all three breeding objectives. Sire G (in red) has no progeny, but is predicted to have a profoundly positive effect on fleece weight, to maintain micron at steady levels, and to reduce CV. He has strongly positive values for all three breeding objectives.



The histogram above shows the distribution of ABVs for fleece weight across all alpacas enrolled on the AGE. Sire K is predicted to profoundly diminish fleece weight in progeny, whilst Sire G has one of the highest ABVs for fleece weight in the AGE herd, and can be expected to profoundly increase fleece weight in progeny.

The AGE is one arm of the Holy Trinity which presently drives scientific breeding in Australia, the other two being the SRS® Breeding System, and Artificial Reproductive Technology. All three are linked. Decisions made in one arm will drive those made in the other two, and all three will drive the insistence on measured genetic improvement. Ultimately, as in many other livestock industries, alpacas will be sold, purchased and offered for service exclusively on the basis of ABVs.

The future is exciting. What took 200 years in the Merino industry may realistically be achieved in 20 years in the alpaca. And the work of Jane Wheeler and Jim Watts suggests that the alpaca is far from reaching its full genetic potential. For those serious about genetic improvement, there can be no way forward without the help of science.

For once, it's great to feel AGEd. ■

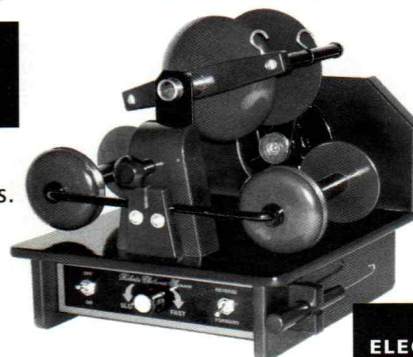
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S: Purrumbete Highlander
 S: Windsong Valley Iceman
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Coricancha Guamani on farm \$600....mobile \$660
 S: Purrumbete Ledgers Dream
 D: Coricancha Nikita
 D: Jolimont Brujeria

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Jolimont Alessio on farm \$800....mobile \$880
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Sydney Royal Show 2007

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Lyn Dickson** > Warralinga Alpaca Stud, NSW

Sydney Royal Show 2007 had a truly national flavour with exhibitors coming from as far away as Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria, in addition to the usual array of NSW home-state entries. This surely demonstrates the enthusiasm and sheer staying power of many alpaca breeders who travelled huge distances to participate. A number of the interstate exhibitors were rewarded with championship awards, which certainly helps to make the long trip worthwhile.

This year alpacas were exhibited and judged over the Easter weekend and at times during the three days of judging, a curious, passing crowd of mainly city-dwellers crammed the front aisles to watch the alpacas and handlers receive their awards.

The judge, Rick Hodgson worked his way through some top quality line-ups in both the huacaya and suri rings, with a number of close decisions encountered along the way, evidenced by the very thorough examinations he undertook in many classes.

Rick commented that there were three of the huacaya champions in contention for the **Supreme Champion Huacaya** award but that the ultimate winner, *Illawarra Yucatan*, who also won the Champion Senior Male, 30-48 months, was chosen for the exceptional fleece qualities he was holding as a senior, displaying lustre, density and superior staple length.

Illawarra Yucatan was exhibited by Illawarra Alpacas of Cambewarra, NSW and is owned by Ian and Harriet Davison, Celia Cook and Christine Davey. He was also the winner of the Supreme Champion Fleece Award at Sydney Royal in 2006. Illawarra Alpacas topped off their Supreme Huacaya sash by winning the prize for the **Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor**, an award they have now won for four consecutive years.

In the suri competition, the award for **Supreme Champion Suri** was won by the Intermediate Champion male, *Pinjarra El Niño*, a white male exhibited by Paul and Fran Haslin of Elysion Alpacas, Canyonleigh, NSW. *Pinjarra El Niño* is co-owned with Ian and Angela Preuss of Surilana Alpacas in Trentham, Victoria. Rick Hodgson said he was impressed with the high standard of the suris entered, even though the numbers were limited, and that the Supreme Champion male was a stand-out exhibit. **Most Successful Exhibitor** in the Suri Section was awarded to Linda Davies and Paul Cramley of Pacofino Alpacas, Wingello, NSW.



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Supreme Huacaya: *Illawarra Yucatan*

There were 100 fleeces entered in the fleece competition and the **Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece** was won by *Forestglen Seth*, exhibited by Maureen Carey of Forestglen Alpaca Stud, Millthorpe, NSW. This superfine, medium fawn fleece (tested at 15.8 micron) was also Champion Junior Fleece and displayed superb character, excellent lustre and highly organised fleece bundles.

The **Champion Suri Fleece** was awarded to *Surilana Orion*, exhibited by Graeme and Cristin Smith of Samakien Alpacas, Tanawha, QLD. The judge commented that this particular fleece had beautiful locking and handle, with superior density.

Behind the scenes the organization ran smoothly thanks to the efforts of a tireless band of volunteers, led by Paul and Fran Haslin, whose efforts for many months in the lead



Supreme Suri: *Pinjarra El Niño*

up to the show ensured the professional showcasing of our industry to the public at all times.

The general public, together with alpaca breeders, were treated to a series of fashion parades mounted sometimes twice a day over the Easter period, and organised with great style by Robin Fullerton of PCK Designs. The parades featured Australian made and imported alpaca garments and proved to be a huge crowd pleaser, with the stands filling with spectators as soon as the music started, often with standing room only at both ends of the catwalk.

Congratulations to the organisers, to those who participated in this prestigious show, and of course the winners. We all look forward to a bigger and better event for 2008, as the curtain-raiser for the World Alpaca Conference. See you there! ■

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Fashion Parades at Sydney Royal Show

FASHION ARTICLE by **Robin Fullerton** > PCK Designs, NSW

PHOTOS by Michael Kery



The third annual Alpaca Fashion Parades at this year's Sydney Royal Show had an air of excitement about them. The number of parades conducted this year had grown in size from just two on one day in 2006 to a whopping seven parades held over the Easter long weekend, with three parades featuring 90 garments being staged on Good Friday alone.

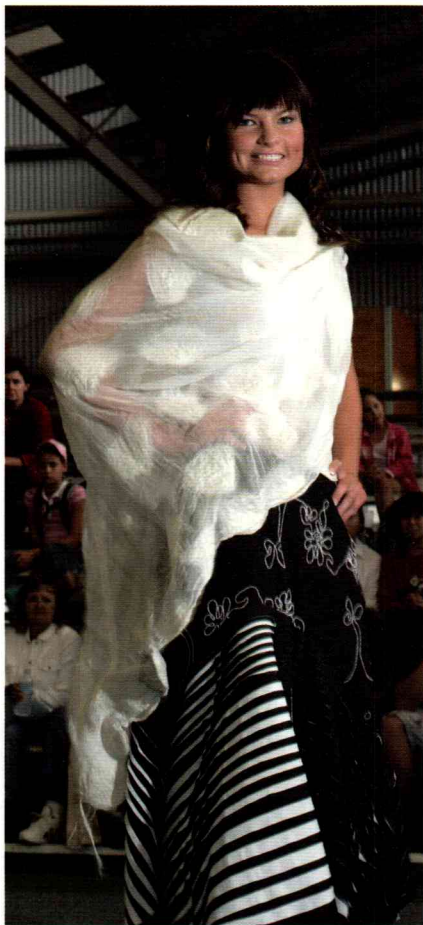
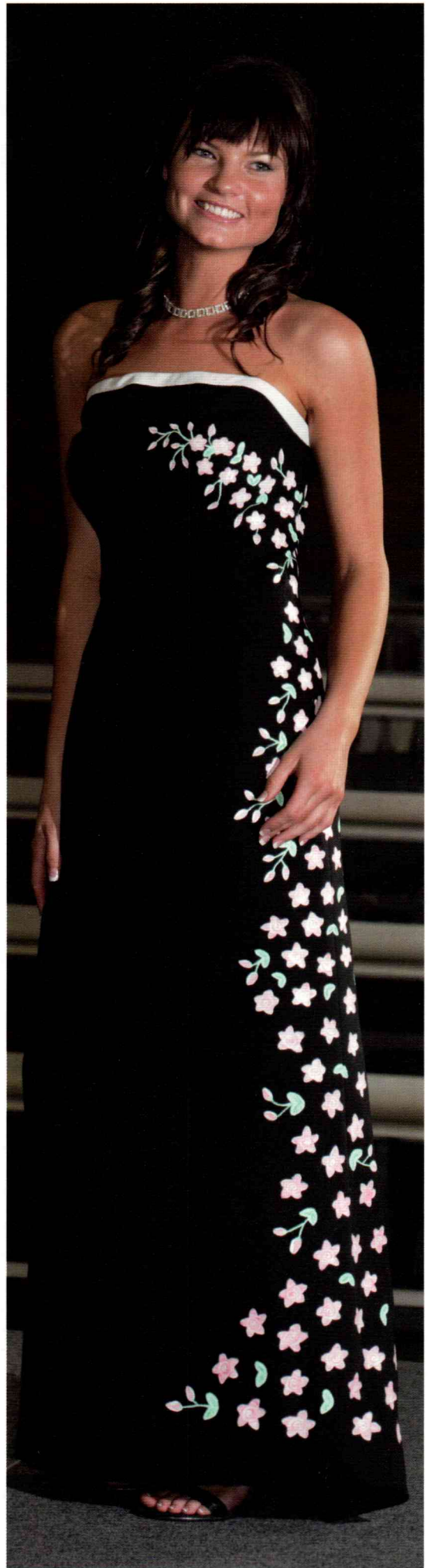
This year we saw designers from as far away as Victoria displaying their creations on the catwalk. PCK Designs paraded some of the most exquisite pieces, including a black hand-painted evening gown and a fawn and white houndstooth race day outfit.

We had an information stand for the general public to make enquiries after each show. This proved to be a success, enabling us to direct many of the general public to the shops located on the grounds, as well as sell garments directly from the shows. The shops were inundated with customers and owners said that the fashion parades have created new interest in alpaca fashion. New this year was the parading of alpaca homewares supplied by Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd – these pieces were featured at last year's Shanghai Fashion Week.

A huge thank you goes out to all the financial sponsors who dug deep into their pockets to make this event happen. This event is not held to promote one individual designer. The parades are staged to get the public interested in our end product and, with the number of people stopping to watch the shows estimated at between 300 and 400 per show, they are proving to be an excellent way of drawing non-alpaca people's attention to the possibilities that exist with alpaca fibre and the high quality fabric from which the garments were made.

I would also like to personally thank all the volunteers who gave their time to help put this event together. A special thank you goes to Bill and Jan Crosby who have been there since day one, helping in any way they could.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all budding designers and suppliers who I may not be aware of to contact me (Tel: 0400 264 943) so that you might be included in next year's parades. The planning for these is already well under way, so now (not later!) is the time to contact me. ■



Australian Made and Kelly & Windsor alpaca bedding

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Trevor Beuth** > Managing Director, Kelly & Windsor Australia Pty Ltd, VIC

Kelly & Windsor Australia Pty Ltd manufactures and sells a premium range of quilts, underblankets and pillows made with Australian grown alpaca fleece, under a license agreement with the Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. Originally launched in 2003, the Kelly & Windsor alpaca bedding collections are highly original and are today sold in over one hundred stores throughout Australia, and internationally with exports to Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong.



While Kelly & Windsor have been using the *Australian Made* logo for several years as a licence holder with the *Australian Made Campaign*, the main story of their marketing message was using alpaca fleece in their bedding products. Last year they conducted a review of their tactical marketing profile and decided to realign its marketing campaign to place more emphasis upon its Australian made profile.

Kelly & Windsor sells its alpaca bedding collections to three distinct markets: domestic retailers/consumers, tourist shopping in duty free shops and selected export markets.

For Kelly & Windsor, the *Australian Made* logo works differently in each of these markets; Australian consumers want to buy products made in Australia rather than imported products, tourists want to buy products that are genuinely made in Australia to take home as gifts and in export markets, the *Australian Made* logo has a very high brand recognition and quality perception.

Trevor Beuth, the Managing Director of Kelly & Windsor Australia Pty Ltd, was invited to address several *Australian Made* network meetings last year to further explain how he was promoting his Australian alpaca bedding ranges with the *Australian Made Campaign*.

"This provided an ideal opportunity to not only promote the Australian alpaca industry and of course our unique alpaca bedding collections, but also to work with the Australian Made Campaign, who have greatly assisted in increasing our profile through their media campaigns."

One of the major challenges facing the Australian alpaca industry is increasing consumer awareness of the industry and particularly the quality and range of Australian made alpaca products.

Of key interest to Kelly & Windsor is the potential of several key exports including Japan and China, where there is a significant export market. In this regard, Kelly & Windsor will again be exhibiting overseas in this year's Home Textile Fair in Shanghai in August 2007. This fair is regarded as being a showcase of local and imported homewares. Trevor is confident that, by exhibiting the Kelly & Windsor Australia alpaca bedding collections in August, there will be increased export opportunities into one of the fastest growing luxury consumer markets in the world. ■

A new "His & Hers" alpaca quilt from Kelly & Windsor

Since the release of the first *Alpaca Classic* winter weight quilt in 2003, Kelly & Windsor have continually invested in the development of its alpaca bedding range with product variations, new items and extensions to their unique bedding collections.

Now in their fifth year in the Australian bedding market, the Kelly & Windsor alpaca bedding collections have been well recognized for their quality and their amazingly lightweight warmth and softness. Kelly & Windsor have now added to their alpaca quilt range, a *His & Hers* version of the *Alpaca Classic* and *Alpaca Gold* collections.

It is really not that surprising that the optimal sleeping condition for each individual will differ from their partner. Sleep is the body's way of resting and rejuvenating and it is often quoted that one spends a third of your life sleeping. While this may be true, it is the quality of sleep that is much more important than simply the time spent lying on a bed. Each person has a natural sleep cycle and it is important that this sleep cycle be as uninterrupted as possible; be it from noise, vibration or commonly from getting too hot or becoming cold. Where people sleep together the possibility of sleep cycle interruption increases significantly and the most common difference is for one person to be significantly warmer or cooler than the other partner. Temperature variance is in fact one of the main causes of sleeping disorders and disruption to natural sleeping cycles.

To address this simple problem, Kelly & Windsor have created a *His & Hers* alpaca quilt with one side warmer than the other. The idea is to have a quilt with different filling weights on each side to suit each partner. Simple!

Kelly & Windsor have now released their new *His & Hers* quilt in two of their range...

Alpaca Gold

100% pure natural alpaca filling

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Popular 60% alpaca / 40% wool blend filling

warmer side: 450 grams per square metre

cooler side: 300 grams per square metre

Since their release in 2007 there has been significant interest in the Kelly & Windsor alpaca *His & Hers* quilts which are manufactured in queen and king sizes and are available from authorized retailers or direct from the *Australian Alpaca Connection* mail order catalogue. Enquiries can be directed to jennw@aafl.com.au or www.aafl.com.au ■



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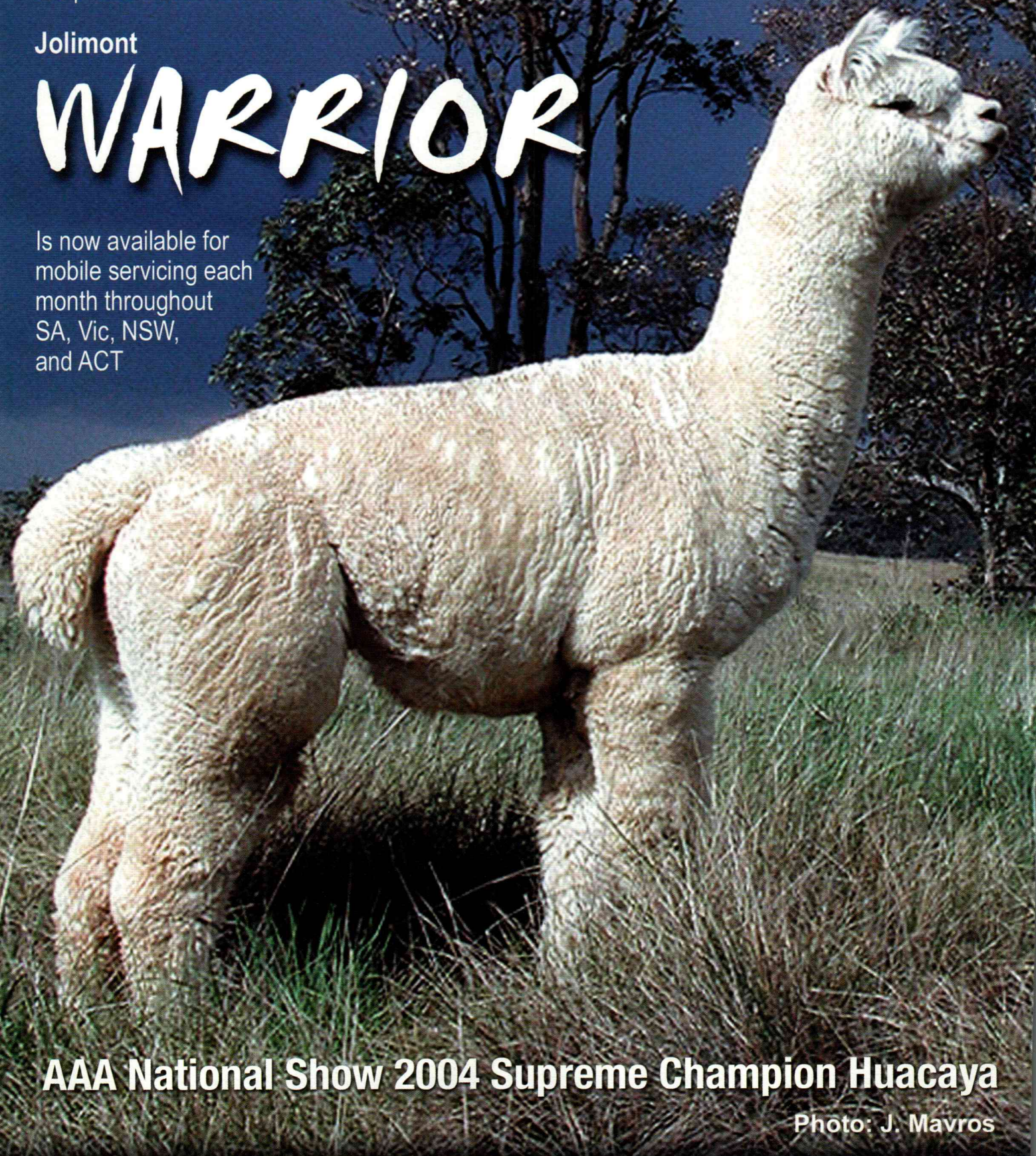
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Fine Choice Myra	IAR 66449	SDF	mated to Flame	Due Jan 07
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* Package price available, price may change after cria are born

Covering Sires:

Fine Choice Peruvian Travolta - solid white, imported Peru.

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For further information contact:

Chris Williams 0417 826 762 email: chris@ambersunalpacas.com

Overseas enquiries welcome

Talking Alpacas on TV

MARKETING ARTICLE by **Jeffry Farman** > Flowerdale Estate Alpacas, VIC

On June 16th, alpacas were featured on the popular national TV show "Talk to the Animals," hosted by Nicky Buckley. The filming took place at Flowerdale Estate Alpacas in Victoria.



Nicky Buckley and Jeffry walking a group of alpacas on what turned out to be a perfect day

It took no time at all for us to agree to the filming on our property, when approached by the producers of *Talk to the Animals*. They were keen to do a story about the workshops we run for new breeders and they also showed interest in the plasma bank we maintain to assist other breeders having difficulties with newborn cria. We believe that all breeders have a responsibility to promote the concept of alpacas to potential new breeders and this seemed like a wonderful opportunity to contribute towards that goal, in a significant way.

The program has a huge national, family audience of animal lovers. It is a very positive program that is an ideal environment for the promotion of alpacas.

Planning for filming day

There was a lot of planning and discussion before filming day, April 22nd, to make sure the content of the story would be of interest to viewers. The program co-ordinator had done quite a lot of research on the internet and with some help from us, put together an outline of the story and a shooting schedule for the day.

It was like planning for any other big and important day.

Everything had to be right. You don't get a second chance to make the right impression. The shed was cleaned and tidied with fresh straw in all the pens. Portable pens were set out on the lawns for a male group and a female group. We wanted to show as many of the colours as possible so we prepared black, white, grey, dark fawn and chocolate brown in a group for the cameras. Fleeces were sorted out for display. Garments from our farm fashion shop were gathered up.

Our main concern was rain (somewhat crazy, still being in drought). The autumn break was upon us and the few days prior had been quite wet. Filming wet alpacas would not have the desirable appearance as we all know. And it was not just a case of keeping a few dry in the shed as the crew wanted to film lots of alpacas. The day was beautiful. Someone was smiling upon us.

The crew arrives

It was early morning and Nicky was the first there, allowing time to read up on the research and sort through her notes. The camera man, sound man and producer arrived next.

No time was wasted getting the show on the road. We had a lot to cover in one day, filming our workshop participants learning about alpacas.

We advised the crew that if they were very lucky, a cria would be born that day as the last of the autumn drop babies were due. We could only hope that for once, the girls would produce a baby on time.

Filming started in the shearing shed showing some of the activities covered in our workshops. We body scored and weighed alpacas, did some toe nail trimming and a range of other activities with the workshop group.

Fascination with poo piles

We had spent weeks vacuuming up alpaca poo across the farm, so generally things were nice and tidy. On filming day there were still a couple of paddocks to be cleaned and the crew found it hard to believe that alpacas were so cooperative as to arrange their droppings in neat piles. This made a great shot that the camera man could not resist.

Surprise, surprise

Around mid afternoon we wandered over to the maternity paddock to find a cria had been born a few minutes earlier.

Everything was just as it should be with the cria on its feet within 20 minutes and feeding from mum soon after. Great camera pictures. Nicky had a quick cuddle and everyone was thrilled.

There was at first, a temptation to call the cria Nicky, but being a Collingwood supporter (and the fact that it was another boy) I will probably call him Buckley.

More information and pictures from the filming day can be seen on the Flowerdale Estate Alpacas web site at www.flowerdalealpacas.net ■



Participants in the workshop group learning how to fit halters, with Nicky looking on.

We compared fleeces on animals with those shorn last year. Nicky was very impressed with the softness and handle of the fleeces. We had a display of alpaca product alongside the fleeces, on the classing table to show the "fleece to fashion" story. Again Nicky was very impressed.

The workshop group then went through an exercise to fit halters to the animals before going for a walk with the alpacas. Nicky was a natural, having had lots of experience with animals on her show.

A bright future for alpacas

Nicky was keen to hear about the prospects for this relatively new industry. So, I was able to explain how alpacas are ideal for people making a start in farming, often people with small acreage farms such as hobby farmers. I also drew her attention to some of the initiatives our association has been fostering, that have made really significant advances placing Australia at the forefront of world best practice in the production of commercial fleece. She was fascinated to hear that with Embryo Transfer and the SRS® Breeding System, Australian breeders are showing the way to a bright new future that will involve the sale of seed-stock for export.



Nicky was keen to learn about the prospects for the industry.

Winterproof your Herd

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Garner-Paulin** > AAA Animal Health, Husbandry & Welfare > Tarraganda Lodge Alpaca Stud, Tallong, NSW

Much has been said about the perils of Australian summer heat and alpaca but what about winter?

There's no doubt that a healthy alpaca is tough but they're not infallible. In their native land alpaca are quite accustomed to temperatures of -1.5°C and can withstand temperatures of -10°C . These low temperatures aren't necessarily the problem; it's when heavy rain and especially wind are added to the equation that a breeder could have a sizeable problem on their hands.

Hands up who hasn't had a broken night's sleep during a storm, worrying if all their animals will be standing in the morning?

Hands up who hasn't had a moment of pure envy at the suburbanites curled up under their doonas, as you don grubby coats to trudge out on a cold wet night, with apprehension and a robust dose of attitude towards country life and whoever forgot to recharge the torch?

As they say, it's all in the planning, and with some forethought you and your animals can navigate winter safely and with a little less misery when the hard weather hits.

Pre-Winter Planning

Autumn can be a fantastic time of year for many of us. Cria are dropping, autumn rains have provided some feed (hopefully) and most animals are in good nick and quite cheerful. We all often take this time to attend to vaccinations, worm testing and drenching if required and other husbandry procedures.

This period of heightened activity is the ideal opportunity to identify the animals that will need extra TLC during the winter months and you can plan your groups accordingly.

Logically, special groups will include new mums and cria, late term girls and weaners but also consider the elderly and infirm and those just coming out of ill health.

The latter group are often easy to overlook as by and large they appear to be in good condition coming into winter, however, these animals may be just teetering on the edge and a hard winter can put them back several steps.

Fleece Length

Fleece length is crucial to how well an alpaca can handle the rigours of winter.

Healthy huacaya adults with a minimum of 7cm fleece length can cope with some very nasty weather, so timing your shearing to ensure these animals arrive in the depths of winter with this fleece length will alleviate a lot of pressure from you and them. Breeders with suris and young huacayas – sorry folks, you've still got a workload ahead of you when the weather turns bad.

On the other side of the coin, a huacaya that is overfleeched coming into winter could still be at risk. Heavy rain will weigh an excessive fleece down, thus creating an impressive part along the spine. It is this part down the spine that will allow moisture to penetrate the fleece and chill the skin which can be a recipe for disaster when you add a serious wind chill factor.

Shelter

For all but the truly large studs, the concept of access to shelter for our animals is feasible and in many cases the location of the stud can dictate that shelter in winter is a real necessity.



It is highly recommended that all potential alpaca owners entering this industry factor the cost of shelters into their infrastructure budget, because at the end of the day it can save considerable heartache and money in production and stock losses.



Apart from that, who needs the stress of trying to shove wet and shivering alpacas into the house in a fit of desperation, as some breeders have been forced to do?

You don't need to build the Taj Mahal to provide shelter for your animals, as long as it's dry and protects them from the wind.



A very old, remodelled chook shed was an instant success

When first starting out we had no barn or shelters on our property (nor much fencing for that matter) and one of our newly arrived girls was due to unpack as winter was closing in. By building a 6x3 metre paddock shelter and installing gates within the shelter, we were able to confine the animals during a bad weather event and thus ensured that our animals, including the newborn cria, weren't exposed to driving rain and a strong wind chill. In those conditions and without the shelter, we could well have lost our first cria.

These days, with a main shed and paddock shelters in full operation, a system used by most breeders, we're well placed for winter. Mothers and cria and those with special needs are assigned to the main shed and nursery area during bad weather, with no complaints recorded, and healthy adults with good fleece length are left in the paddocks to use the shelters as they will – and they do.

Our lives are less stressed and the animals come through winter in great condition.

It is usually the wind chill that is the killer in bad weather, as it can chill a wet alpaca to the bone.

Windbreaks and access to gullies can provide crucial shelter for animals and healthy adults in full fleece can come through a bad snap although some loss of condition could be expected.

Coats

Cria coats have become *du rigour* and with good reason – they work. There are all manner of styles of coats available from colourful dog coats to purpose made cria coats.

For cria that are exposed to the elements, an oilskin coat with fleecy lining will provide high assurance that they will stay dry. If you are using coats made from polyester or plain cotton, these are great too but if the cria is going to be mostly outside in the elements, ensure you purchase the highest grade coat available and keep a watch on the lining for dampness as they may need changing, drying out and re-waterproofing on a regular basis. Ski and camping shops often sell good quality waterproofing sprays for this purpose.

Some adults can also benefit from wearing a coat, temperament permitting. For older animals that are not producing the fleece length and those coming out of ➤



ill health, foal rugs are excellent for keeping them dry and warm and in many instances will enable the animal to run with the main herd. This can alleviate crowding in the shed and allows an animal greater mobility, ensuring them quality of life without losing condition.

With the exception of young cria who don't know better, when rugging an animal for the first time some may be prone to panic and could injure themselves or worse. Extreme care must be taken.

Start by placing the rug on the animal when in a small pen, observe closely its behaviour and be prepared to intervene quickly. If the animal continues to stand in a frozen state it could explode in panic when released from the pen; removing the coat in this circumstance before the explosion is highly advisable. If the animal starts to move around the pen quietly and will accept feed, then moving the animal to a larger area for further behaviour monitoring before release into the paddock is warranted.

Winter Birthing

For some breeders their local climate and personal circumstance means that winter births are not too much of a problem although it does create extra work. However, the unexpected bitterly cold and wet snap in SE states throughout June this year really caught a number of breeders out and newborn losses were sustained by some.

If you are expecting a winter birth, being well prepared is crucial. Have on hand a straw laden shed for shelter, a hairdryer, plenty of bubble wrap, cria coats and if you or your vet don't have plasma in the freezer, know where you can get some quickly.

Newborns do not dry off well in winter and they will be cold, which means they are disinclined to want to rise and feed from Mum thereby missing out on vital colostrum. Drying your newborn completely with the hairdryer takes ages and will have them resembling a fluffy chicken, but it will warm them up and they will be more interested in feeding.

If you suspect they have had insufficient colostrum, go straight for the plasma transfusion. A partial failure of immune transfer can see a cria kicking along OK for a while but they quite easily crash a little further down the track and often by then it is too late to bring them back.

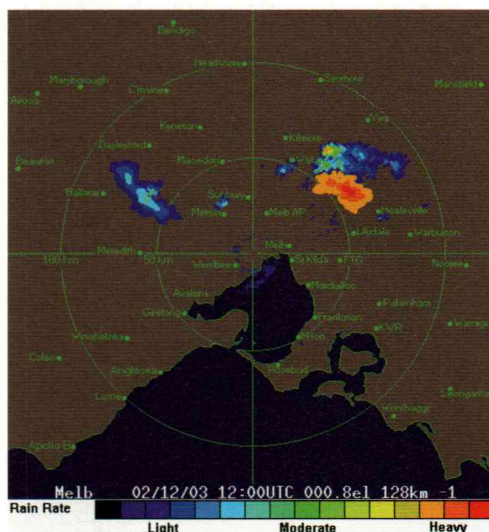
Feeding

With the digestion of food directly related to the conversion of energy to thermoregulate body temperature, feed time takes on a whole new meaning during winter. Increasing rations as winter deepens is important to ensure the alpaca maintain condition. In addition, when serious weather hits, feeding out liberal amounts of high quality lucerne hay will positively benefit the chances of the adult alpaca coming through OK.

Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au

The value of modern technology to farmers cannot be overestimated and there is no surprise that the Bureau of Meteorology web site is the most highly visited web site in Australia.

By routinely checking BOM you can give yourself valuable time to prepare for a weather event.



At our stud the issue of a graziers' warning by the Bureau of Meteorology puts three simple events in motion. Pens in the main shed are readied for crias and Mums, the "special reserve lucerne" is cracked for the animals in paddocks, and dry towels are brought out for the leak in the bedroom that we still can't figure out. Sure, there's a mess to clean up afterwards but that's farming life for you.

Winter weather can be annoying and uncomfortable but it doesn't have to be impossible. With some forward planning we can make the lives of our animals safer and keep production levels on an even keel; leaving us more time to hang out by the fire, maybe with a smooth red but definitely with fewer worries.

Winter hint for breeders themselves: Packing some fleece into the toes of your boots will keep your feet warm. ■

First Commercial Auction of Alpacas in Western Australia

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Darryl Sherman** > Rivergum Rise Alpaca Stud, Corrigin, WA
PHOTOS by **Terry Allen** > Peppermint Pool Alpacas, Albany, WA



In August 2006, Anne and Darryl Sherman of Rivergum Rise Alpaca Stud in the WA Central Region were asked to assist with classing, pricing and marketing Suncloud Farm alpacas by owners, Carolyn and Peter Richards in Merredin, WA. After selling two males locally the following day, it was decided to organise WA's first commercial alpaca auction. Rivergum Rise and Suncloud Farm jointly engaged the services of Elders Stud Stock auctioneer, Mr Dennis Roberts who readily agreed to conduct the auction for the two studs saying that he'd been watching developments in the alpaca industry for some time, and that Elders were very keen to get in on the ground floor of this new and developing stud stock industry. The auction was scheduled for May, 2007.

Some innovative ideas were required to promote the day and get people to make the journey to the centre of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Brochures were designed and distributed through events such as the Wagin Woolorama, Whiteman Park Alpaca Show, the Elders network of stores, Australia Post to WA breeders, through email and the Rivergum Rise web site. Interest was widespread and many breeders viewed the online Auction Catalogue which showed all alpaca details, including fleece analysis and photographs. Approximately 80 people attended, including people from NZ, NSW, SA and WA.

Dr Jim Watts of SRS® Technologies was the keynote speaker for the field day discussing the scientific selection and breeding of alpacas for fleece production.

Jim used a slide show to explain the science and to display microscopic photos of skin and fibre samples and then took people out for hands-on practical experience in identifying fleece properties. Darryl delivered a presentation on business strategies for alpaca farming and the importance of having a business strategy to focus your resources and efforts. Many breeders and prospective breeders left with the intention of rethinking their alpaca business plans and breeding strategies.

The auction grossed nearly \$60,000 in sales which was a very pleasing result considering it was a first for WA and the location was quite remote. Attendees were very pleased with the quality of stock offered and agreed that the day was a huge step forward for the alpaca industry and that a benchmark was set for future auctions.

From the vendors' perspective, having Elders conduct the auction made the whole event very professional and meant that they could concentrate on hosting the event knowing that the agents were taking care of registrations, credit checks, contracts and payments. Elders were also very happy with the professional nature of the whole event and will be conducting our future auctions.

Helen and Terry Allen attended the field day and auction in May. Terry died suddenly in June. Alpaca breeders were shocked and very sad at Terry's passing and many attended the funeral in Albany to say goodbye to Terry who will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. All the best to Helen, our thoughts are with you. ■

Most Valuable Commercial Fleece

Hints on selection and preparation

SHOWING AND JUDGING ARTICLE by **Robbie Cuthill** > Blackgate Lodge Alpaca Stud, VIC

As ours is a fleece industry, the most prestigious award is surely the AAA National Show's Most Valuable Commercial Fleece but regrettably, its importance is often overlooked.

The criteria

The Most Valuable Commercial Fleece is judged on a commercial basis for overall dollar value of each fleece, based on current prices that can be obtained on local and international markets.

The valuation is calculated taking into consideration fineness, length, overall excellence (style), faults, yield (impurities) and fleece weight.

No fleece weight annualisation is taken into consideration as the fleece is judged solely on how it presents for commercial processing.

The calculation of points to determine the Most Valuable Commercial Fleece

Firstly, the value per kg of fleece is identified by using the price scale set by Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd., which is based on colour, micron (using grid sampling here) and length. A deduction in that price is then made for vegetable matter, tenderness and style to give a net price per kg.

Secondly, the weight is discounted for vegetable matter and dirt/yolk. There is no alteration for the age of the fleece or the alpaca.

Finally the net price per kg is multiplied by the discounted weight to determine the commercial value of the fleece.

To date, the following alpacas have won this prestigious award:

- 2001 > *Blackgate Lodge Sollinca*
- 2002 > *Narraburra Lucky Sprite*
- 2003 > *Primavera Jacinta*
- 2004 > *Arcady Augustus*
- 2005 > *Blackgate Lodge Sonnette*
- 2006 > *Blackgate Lodge Sonnette...*

Yes again, with her next fleece, making a third Most Valuable Commercial Fleece from Blackgate Lodge Alpaca Stud!

Selection of the alpaca

Contrary to the thoughts of many who put density as a first requirement, at Blackgate Lodge we believe that fineness is more important than density in selection. Both must be taken into account and we are now able to find fine, dense alpacas to put over our superfine girls and are having great success with our breeding program.

A fine heritage

Back in 1996 at the Jolimont shipment selection process, we ended up with our third selection of those offered to us – a white, 18 month old female huacaya who was sitting on the ground and wouldn't stand up for us but who had a beautiful, soft fleece. Sure enough, we found a book of histograms and hers was 18.1µ, SD 4.3, CV 23.8, and the graph was really pointed. She was from the Sollocotta Herd which had a reputation for breeding for fineness in Peru. As we were able to nominate a name, she became *Jolimont Sollocotta Girl* but as we think she only understood Spanish, we lovingly called her *Solly*. As soon as she arrived home, I sheared her and her intermediate fleece was first at the 1997 Warrnambool Show. Her 9th fleece, entered in the over 60 months class at the 2004 AAA National Show (grid tested by the AAA and still found to be only 23.8µ) was awarded Reserve Champion. (Regrettably it was now much shorter and less crimp so these must be included in selecting matings).



Blackgate Lodge Sollinca – Champion Fleece 2001 Royal Melbourne Show, Most Valuable Commercial Fleece 2001 AAA National Show

Solly's daughter, *Blackgate Lodge Sollinca* (sired by *Windsong Valley Royal Inca* - winner of the Champion Fleece at the 1998 National Show in Melbourne) was the AAA's Most Valuable Commercial Fleece in 2001, with her 2nd fleece measuring 19.3µ. This fleece had been judged Champion Fleece at the Royal Melbourne Show the month before. (Interestingly her 8th fleece was recorded at 24.9µ).

Sollinca's daughter, *Blackgate Lodge Sonnette* (sired by *Shanbrooke Accoyo Tulaco*) won a 1st place in the 12-18 month fleece class (with her fleece measuring 17.4µ) at the 2005 Royal Melbourne Show and then went on to win the 2005 AAA National Show Most Valuable Commercial Fleece in Bendigo. *Sonnette* then *very quietly* won the prestigious award again, in Canberra in 2006, with her next fleece measuring 18.1µ, SD 3.0µ, CV16.8%, CF 99.8.

We have found that our female line has kept the fineness going. We are adding density and length through selecting the best males to breed with, looking also at the 'blow out factor'.

Selection of the fleece

We test every mid-side sample which is taken as the fleece is shorn. We are in the AAA's AGE program with most of our alpacas and our charts going back 12 years show clearly the 'blow out factor'. This is rarely mentioned, but my research indicates that, to be a good alpaca, at 5 years of age the micron should not exceed 25µ and the SD should be below 5µ which will put the comfort factor above 90%. Of course, the starting points will be about 17µ, 3.5µ, and above 99.5%.

At shearing time, the best looking, good weight, roughly skirted fleeces are put aside until the tests come in. A chart is drawn up, showing age at shearing, age of fleece, weight, length of fleece and the histogram statistics. A corrected weight is calculated and from this and a visual inspection, the best fleeces are allocated to the top shows. These fleeces are not shown elsewhere until then however we do select other fleeces to show at the dozen shows that we enter.



Blackgate Lodge Sonnette - Most Valuable Commercial Fleece 2005 AAA National Show

Preparation for showing

The fleece is laid on the table and roughly skirted again. Then a careful, fine skirting takes place, each edge being lifted to ensure that the entire edge all way around has virtually identical crimp. To remove small quantities of fleece carefully, we remove it from the recently shorn end, thus retaining a good crimp. Any hairy bits must go.

Next, all VM, seeds and bugs are carefully removed. The sticky ones are lifted and nipped off with scissors. Both sides of the fleece are inspected for second cuts and contamination, which must also be removed.

For general showing, the corners (legs) may be folded in and the fleece folded in two and slid into a clear plastic fleece bag, best looking part first, so that the best part will end up on top when emptied out into a box at the show.

However, if the fleece has to be grid tested, as in the National Show, I present it flat in its plastic bag so it is not disturbed by the fleece stewards trying to get samples.

Remember, a fleece usually only lasts in a good condition for about three shows. Therefore, after a show, try to revive it by removing the bits that were collected by the judge and put back.

In a nutshell

- > Breed for fineness and include density
- > Test, weigh and measure all fleeces
- > Make a chart, select the fleece with the best figures
- > Do a rough calculation for most valuable fleeces
- > Skirt more than once, and present it at its best for the show you want it to win! ■



Blackgate Lodge Sonnette - Most Valuable Commercial Fleece 2006 AAA National Show

Poisonous Plant Profile

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Paul** > AAA Animal Health, Husbandry & Welfare > Erehwon Alpacas, VIC

Solanaceae – the Potato family

The family Solanaceae is huge, and contains some of our most important food plants, as well as many mildly to extremely poisonous plants. There are hundreds of garden ornamentals as well as many weed species.

Members of this family often have either star type flowers, like potatoes and tomatoes, or long tubular flowers like Cestrums, Tobacco and Angel's Trumpets. Flower colours are usually white, blue-purple or yellow, with occasional pink, red or darker purple forms.

In this series, I have described some of the most common rural weed species as well as a number of popular garden ornamentals, which might be found on or near small farms in semi-rural areas.

Green Cestrum *Cestrum parqui*

Other names: Chilean Cestrum, green poison berry

This is an invasive weed of bushland, around farm buildings, factory yards and waste areas. It is quite common in gardens as an individual shrub, growing to about 3m and tending to hang over at this height.

One plant tends to be kept under control by competition with taller plants, but as it suckers, it is very quick to spread out over disturbed or cleared areas. Also, removing mature plants will initiate rapid growth of seedlings. *See photo 1*, where a young stand of Cestrum has covered some cleared ground in a suburban park. Native to South America.



Photo 1: Stand of Green Cestrum in park



Photo 2: Detail of Cestrum flowers

Plant description

Green Cestrum has plain green leaves, slightly broader before the base and pointed at the end, growing alternately up the stems. The leaves have a strong unpleasant odour when crushed.

The tubular flowers are greenish to yellow when fully out, in clusters at the end of the stems. *See photo 2*. The berries are small, round and black when ripe, and stain the fingers brown if crushed.

Poison parts

All parts of the plant, especially the unripe berries, are poisonous, especially to children. It is known to be toxic particularly to cattle, and also sheep, pigs, horses and poultry. Some people are allergic to the sap as well, and gloves and long sleeved shirts are recommended when clearing a stand.

Symptoms for humans include hallucinations and high temperatures, followed by abdominal pain, liver damage and occasionally death.

Status

Green Cestrum is a declared noxious weed in NSW and Victoria. Removal of a stand of Cestrum will activate rapid germination of seeds, but the seedlings will be dominated, and hopefully out competed, if a strong ground cover can

be established. Other *Cestrums* include white flowered and red flowered garden varieties, also night flowering forms (lady of the night, night-scented Jessamine), and all should be regarded as being potentially poisonous weeds in farmland situations.

Kangaroo Apple *Solanum aviculare*

Kangaroo apples are native to Australia and the Pacific region. They sprout easily in bushland, along fencelines and on waste ground.

Plant description

This is a soft wooded, sprawling shrub which can grow to about 4m in height and the same across. It has long, pointed deep green leaves, rather similar to Oleander leaves at a glance. However, the lower leaves of Kangaroo Apple are three lobed, like a kangaroo's hind foot, and they are brighter or deeper green, and more succulent than Oleander leaves. The pretty, blue-purple flowers have five petals arranged in a joined star shape, with bright yellow anthers pointing up in the centre. *See photo 3.* Main flowering time is spring and summer, but an occasional blue flower is present most of the time. The fruit is a shiny, oval berry, shading from bright green to orange or red when ripe, hanging down on a single stalk. The seeds are spread by birds and animals.



Photo 3: Kangaroo Apple flowers



Photo 4: Unripe berries

Poison Parts

The green berries and leaves are poisonous, especially to children, and are reported to be toxic to cattle. The red berries are edible. The yellow berries are not yet ripe. *See photo 4.*

Symptoms for humans include burning of mouth, abdominal pain and vomiting, followed by drowsiness, and respiratory difficulties.

Status

They are considered a weed by some authors, and as part of the native flora by others. Unless they are in the paddock or encroaching on fencelines where they might be nibbled, they are probably best left alone as part of the bushland flora to provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Jerusalem Cherry *Solanum pseudocapsicum*

Other Names: Winter Cherry, Madeira Cherry, although it is native to South America.

Plant description

This is a small perennial shrub, often seen in gardens, growing up to 2m in height and about 1m across, but this would be a large one. It can be a weed of disturbed areas, along bushland edges and waste ground in damp, protected positions. The leaves are long and dark green, slightly curved with wavy margins.

The flowers are typical white potato flowers, with central, upstanding yellow stamens. The berries turn from green to bright orange-red, and stay on the plant for long periods, hence its attraction as an ornamental pot plant. *See photo 5.*



Photo 5: Flowers and berries of Jerusalem Cherry

Poison parts

The leaves and green berries are poisonous, especially to children and domestic pets. According to one author, the plants are sometimes sold incorrectly labelled as having edible fruits.

Symptoms include nausea, abdominal pain and vomiting, dry mouth, dilated pupils, breathing difficulties and very occasionally convulsions, coma and death.

Status

A garden or pot plant ornamental and minor weed. Poisoning of livestock is most likely to occur from garden clippings or access over a garden fenceline.

Black Nightshade, Blackberry Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*

A native of Europe, this small weed is very common around the farm, on disturbed ground and in garden beds, as birds spread the seed. They readily germinate in cracks or breaks in concrete, alongside buildings, rubbish heaps and fencelines. ➤

Plant description

Black Nightshade can grow to perhaps 1m in height, but often only to 20-30cm, before they get pulled out. The leaves are rather triangular shaped, darker green on top and lighter underneath. The flowers are typical white potato star flowers with central, upstanding yellow stamens. The berries ripen from green to black, and hang down in little clusters.



Photo 6: Black Nightshade by footpath



Photo 7: Leaves and green fruit

Poison parts

The leaves and green berries are poisonous, especially to children. Symptoms include abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, dry mouth, dilated pupils, incoordination and convulsions.

Status

An extremely common weed around cultivated areas, garden beds, farm buildings, yard fencelines, etc. Probably most adult animals ignore them, but poisoning is most likely to occur in confined areas if there is no other green feed around, particularly with crias. Pulled plants should be binned firstly to reduce seed spread, and secondly to prevent curious alpacas nibbling wilted plants, which might be more poisonous than standing ones.

Similar Species

Deadly Nightshade, *Atropa belladonna*, which has tubular purple flowers and glossy, purple black berries. The fruit of this nightshade is sweet tasting and is especially toxic for children, domestic pets and livestock.

Angel's Trumpets *Brugmansia sp*

Other Names: Tree Datura

Angel's Trumpets have been popular garden ornamentals for many years. They are grown for their stunning huge, trumpet shaped flowers and lovely scent. However, a quick trawl through Melbourne's gardens recently looking for one to photograph, brought me to the conclusion that either they have fallen out of favour, or the drought has taken its toll, as they prefer summer watering. They may well be more numerous in warmer or higher rainfall areas (if there are any left) or in rural and cottage style gardens.

Plant Description

Angel's Trumpets grow to be large, woody stemmed shrubs, or much branched, small trees, up to about 3m in height, with large, soft, pale green tapered leaves. *See Photo 8.* The flowers range from a pure white double trumpet, through pink and peach shades to orange/red varieties, up to 25-30cm in length. *See Photo 9.* Many have a delicious fragrance, especially noticeable on a warm summer evening. The fruit is a berry, up to 5cm long with numerous seeds.



Photo 8: Angel's Trumpet, Tree Datura



Photo 9: Angel's Trumpet flowers

Poison parts

All species in the genus are poisonous. All parts of the plant, especially the flowers, seeds and nectar, are very poisonous, and contain hallucinogenic toxins. Children have died from eating the flowers or attempting to smoke the leaves.

Toxins include atropine, hyoscyamine and scopolamine. Human symptoms include gastro-enteritis, intense thirst, dilated pupils, abnormal or violent behaviour, followed by delirium, convulsions, hallucinations and death.

Note: It is advisable not to burn Angel's Trumpets if removing the shrub, but to bag and bin cuttings. The plants strike easily from cuttings, so all pieces should be gathered up.

Status

Garden ornamental.

Common Thornapple, Jimson Weed

Datura stramonium

This is a stout, annual, many branched herb, growing to about 1.5m, with a spread up to 1m. There are several species of thornapples. The leaves are deeply toothed, and the large white flowers are very similar in appearance to Angel's Trumpets, to which they are closely related. The fruit is a round capsule with many spines. Rarely recorded as causing stock losses in Australia, possibly due to its repulsive odour. Sheep are recorded as being more resistant to its toxins. Death from respiratory failure can occur between 12 hours to several days after ingestion.

Status

A declared noxious weed.

Tobacco *Nicotiana tabacum*

A leggy, rather oldfashioned cottage garden plant, Nicotianas are grown as background fillers and for their evening scent. Native to South America

Plant description

Erect annual or shortlived perennial herbs, with large, soft, pale green leaves sometimes covered with sticky hairs. They may grow up to 3m in height and spread to 1m, with drooping clusters of trumpet shaped, white to pale pink flowers in summer. *See Photo 10.* Newer bedding varieties may have larger, more colourful flowers, including lime green, pink and red.



Photo 10: *Nicotiana tabacum*

Poison parts

All parts of the plant, especially the leaves, are poisonous, also a skin irritant. Nicotianas are also toxic to domestic pets and livestock. Toxins include many nicotine like substances. Human symptoms if eaten include salivation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, clammy cold skin and palpitations.

Status

Garden ornamental, crop.

Woolly Tobacco *Solanum mauritianum*

Other Names: Woolly Nightshade, Tree Tobacco

This downy, large tree-like shrub is occasionally grown as a garden ornamental, for its attractive terminal flower stems. However, it grows quickly and its height then obscures this feature. As the lower leaves drop off, it becomes leggy and unattractive. It has become a weed of forest clearings and rough pasture in high rainfall areas and coastal regions. Native to South America.

Plant description

A soft wooded shrub to small tree 3-4m in height, often with a single stem. The leaves are large and pale green, very similar to the Tree Datura, but thicker and more felt-like. *See Photo 11.* The purple-blue, star like flowers are displayed in dense terminal clusters on erect stems at the crown of the plant. The round berries look like an upside down bunch of grapes on a stalk, and turn from green to dull yellow when ripe. *See Photo 12.*



Photo 11. Woolly Tobacco Tree Photo 12: Unripe berries of Woolly Tobacco

Poison parts

The leaves and green berries are poisonous. Human symptoms include nausea, dizziness, swollen eyes and weakness. All parts may irritate the skin and cause a blistering dermatitis. This plant has occasionally been recorded as being toxic to livestock, including cattle and pigs.

Status

A declared noxious weed throughout NT, Tasmania, Victoria and WA.

Similar Species

Tree Tobacco *Nicotiana glauca*. A straggly shrub growing to 4m in height, with ovate leaves on long, slender stalks and downy, tubular yellow flowers. Nicotine poisoning, causing muscular tremors, staggering gait, inability to rise from the ground, and death, has occurred with stock.

Status

A declared noxious weed throughout NT, Tasmania, Victoria and WA. ➤

Other common garden ornamentals



Solanum rantonetti: a large rounded shrub 3-4m in height, 2-3m across, with long arching canes, covered in dark blue or purple flowers spring/summer. See Photo 13. From the way it appears to be thriving in drought stricken Melbourne gardens recently, this shrub has potential weed species status.

Photo 13: *Solanum rantonetti*

Potato vine *S. jasminoides*: White or rarely blue flowers, will be covered in a future issue of *Alpacas Australia* featuring climbers.



Iochroma sp: tall straggly shrubs with striking, long tubular, deep purple flowers, hanging down singly or in clusters from twiggy stems. They are probably more common in warmer areas. The species has a number of tall, upright stems with large, flat, downy leaves similar to the leaves of woolly tobacco, and clusters of flowers standing out almost at the top of the stem. See photo 14.

Photo 14: *Iochroma* sp

Streptosolen jamesonii: (syn *Browallia jamesonii*) a common small, twiggy shrub to 2m with small, dark green leaves and showy, orange-yellow, trumpet shaped flowers. The plant is usually a blaze of colour in summer. See photo 15.




Photo 15:
Streptosolen jamesonii

Brunfelsia sp: "Yesterday, today and tomorrow" shrub which has flowers opening blue and turning to white in one day. Some forms have scented white flowers turning cream. The berries and leaves are poisonous.


Note: All *Solanums* should be considered potentially poisonous to lethal for stock. Care should be taken in placing some of the above ornamentals which were, of course, photographed in urban gardens. Given room in a rural garden they may rapidly increase in size and encroach into laneways and over fences. Gloves should be considered when handling, especially the felty leaved ones. As always, garden clippings should never be thrown over the fence to stock. ■

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Dog Attack Victim Now Back at Work

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Dianne and Ron Condon** > Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud, VIC

WARNING: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS GRAPHIC IMAGES ON PAGE 42

When we shifted from our Yarra Glen farm last year into the more rural area of Yea we never thought we would have a problem with dogs. We were always conscious of something like this happening in Yarra Glen, which is now on the edge of suburbia, but not in a rural area where farmers are more aware of not allowing their dogs to be on the loose. We found out the hard way, the farmers are more conscious of them being loose, but their younger sons seem to enjoy the thrill of having hunting dogs which have been trained to kill.

This story will hopefully help others who might have the same thing happen and also show you the strength and hardiness of the alpaca.

On 2 September last year a knock on the back door completely changed my pleasant Saturday afternoon being spent baking. A man driving past witnessed two dogs attacking our alpacas; he pointed to where they were and at once I knew this was the stud male paddock. My heart sank and I think my brain stopped, as I ran out the door with no shoes on, and with nothing to defend myself. Without thinking, I jumped on the bike minus my shoes, phone and camera, which were all sitting in the kitchen. All I could think of was getting to the alpacas as quickly as possible. I asked the passer-by if he could help me.

As I drove through the paddocks I saw several dead bodies and in the distance I could see the two big hunting type dogs still attacking one of the stud males. I quickly drove to where they had him down. One was at his neck and the other was attacking his legs and testicles. I revved the bike at them but they just stood there and kept having another go at the alpaca. Without a gun, shoes or something to defend myself with there was not much I could do. The man lent me his mobile phone and I rang my husband, Ron who was miles away visiting his Dad in hospital. Ron immediately rang the police but by the time the police arrived both dogs had run off.

With the help of Crime Stoppers and all the local farmers we found out where the dogs lived. The other witness and I have identified one of the dogs but the other one has gone missing. At time of writing the matter is in the hands of the police who are charging the owners.

The result of the attack was four dead stud males and three stud males badly injured. But this story is not so much about the attack but about the strength of the alpaca and no matter how sick they are you should never give up.



The talented vets from the Healesville Veterinary Surgery were called, and worked all night and into the morning stitching up the alpacas' wounds. One had his face ripped open right back onto his skull and through into the topknot; another had his stomach area and testicles mauled. (Since that night they have both recovered well). The third victim, *Shanbrooke Plantel Haynacho*, who was still being attacked when I found him, was the most seriously injured.

The vet felt that the extent of the wounds was so serious that he may never walk again and he felt that the infection alone would be likely to kill him. The flesh inside his legs was like mince meat and there were bits and pieces hanging out everywhere. His testicles and anus had been bitten into and his throat was ripped open. The vet felt there was little hope of saving him but we had to give it a try.

The vet scrubbed his wounds out and stitched up his neck and anus. The gaping wounds on his legs actually started at his anus and continued to his hock on one leg. Both testicles had been bitten into and the upper leg on the other side. The leg wounds were also stitched and in the morning he was able to stand. His testicles swelled to the size of large oranges and bulged from behind his tail, they stayed like this for months. He was placed on penicillin but within a few days the skin started to go black as it was dying. ➤

As the skin died the vet came and removed it, which left an open wound with a gaping hole in his leg that you could fit your whole fist in. Each day we removed any dead flesh and dying skin by using a rough gauze and spray and scrubbing the wound. The smell was unbelievable; it was literally rotting flesh and you could smell it from a long distance away. Over the next few weeks the skin continued to die and the deterioration worked its way up to the testicle sack. We returned him to the surgery as it looked like he was going to lose one testicle.

Our brilliant vet was able to save the testicles but had to remove the skin around one. Throughout the summer we cleaned the flesh daily and welcomed the help of maggots, which were deliberately left there to help clean the wound out.

In our own minds we could not see how this gaping hole in his leg could heal and return to normal however eventually the flesh became pink and smooth and was starting to fill the gap in the leg. After 6 months of continued treatment, his leg had almost returned to normal with a small area about the size of a golf ball still to heal over.

The testicles were still stretched and out of shape but he was beginning to sniff the girls as they passed by.

With the damage done to both testicles we really felt that he would not be fertile but the vet seemed to think that if he was showing interest in the girls they might be OK.

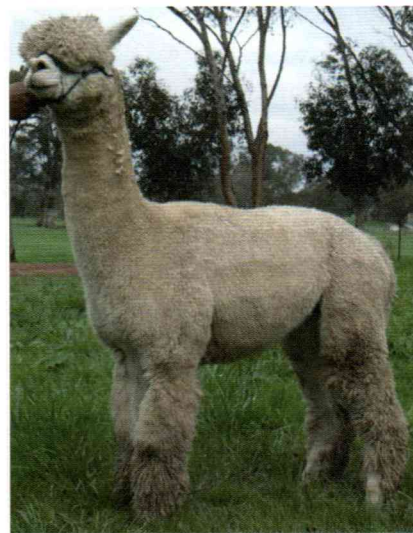
It's now almost 12 months since the attack and his wounds have fully healed; he walks with a slight limp but he can run and get around without any problems. His testicles are still a strange shape but have now gone down to normal size.

A few months ago we decided it was time to give him some girls as he seemed keen to mate. With his first few matings he had a bit of difficulty climbing up the female but three of the five females we gave him spat off on the first mating. One month later he was used in our ET programme with successful embryos collected from the females he mated.

When you look back at those graphic photos it's hard to believe that he would have even survived let alone still be fertile after it all. It just shows you how tough alpacas can be and that you should never give up trying to save them.



The night of the attack after Haynacho had been stitched up.



Fully recovered Haynacho as he is today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the kind well-wishers for their phone calls and e-mails when the attack happened, and our fantastic vets, Brett Chester and Elis De Bont from the Healesville Veterinary Surgery, whose talents and expertise helped save the alpacas. ■



The vet had to cut all the dead skin away leaving a huge cavity in his leg that had to be scrubbed daily to allow new skin and flesh to grow back.



Swelling of the testicles and injuries on both sides. The flesh has started to heal and become pink.



The legs and testicles that were mauled. The skin has fully grown over the legs and the testicles have totally healed.

Dog Attack DNA Kits

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Elizabeth Garner-Paulin** > AAA Animal Health, Husbandry & Welfare > Tarraganda Lodge Alpaca Stud, Tallong, NSW

One of the common problems alpaca breeders have faced in the aftermath of a dog attack is being able to prove that particular domesticated dogs were responsible. In too many cases, no proof equals no action and breeders are left with nothing more than to bury the dead and repair the injured.

Genetic Technologies, a Melbourne based laboratory, claim that they have the ability to change this galling situation. Welcome to the new age; where CSI meets real life.

According to Ian Smith, head of DNA Profiling at Genetic Technologies, there is usually ample canine DNA left at the attack scene that may be analysed, such as;

- > Dog saliva found on the skin, fleece or wounds of the alpaca
- > Dog hairs
- > Dog faeces
- > Dog blood, if injured
- > Dog saliva on fence palings and other objects.

In the case of an attack a DNA cheek swab, hair sample, or blood sample from dogs suspected of being involved is analysed against the canine DNA evidence collected from the victim, or scene, with reported incredible accuracy.

In the instance of multiple dogs involved in an attack, Genetic Technologies advise they recently analysed dog DNA from a human victim's clothing and by taking samples from both dogs present at the attack, they were able to conclusively show the dog directly responsible for the attack.

As Genetic Technologies are the only laboratory in Australia that is accredited for canine DNA testing and with testing done under accredited forensic conditions, the results from testing can be used in criminal and civil court action.

DNA Kit and Cost

The DNA kit costs in the order of \$22 and contains;

- > Collection gloves
- > DNA collection swabs
- > Ethanol wipes
- > Evidence jars
- > Tamper proof evidence bags
- > Collection process form
- > Reply paid envelope

DNA Testing

The cost for analysing the DNA from a dog attack can cost in the order of \$500-\$1000.

In the event of an attack, breeders who choose to travel the DNA route **MUST** bear in mind the following;

- > Once the deceased alpaca is buried, the opportunity to gain DNA evidence from the victim is lost.
- > Whilst DNA evidence may be irrefutable, in a criminal case or civil action the defence will attempt to undermine the chain of custody of the DNA evidence and thereby have it ruled inadmissible.
- > To ensure the integrity of chain of custody of the evidence, under no circumstance should a breeder take the DNA samples themselves or handle the completed kits.
- > The samples must be taken by an independent third party, preferably the veterinarian who is trained in collecting the samples. The veterinarian will then seal the evidence bags and send them to the laboratory themselves.
- > Do not approach the owners of the suspected dog/s requesting DNA samples and definitely do not take samples from the suspected dog/s yourself; leave it to the Ranger and the police to deal with the dog/s and their owners.

Such is the seriousness and regularity of dog attacks on humans and other animal species in some areas, some local councils have already commenced a dangerous dog database where dogs who may have been involved in an aggressive act, where no harm is done, have their DNA recorded as a precautionary measure and stored indefinitely for cross referencing against canine DNA collected from future attack scenes.

With this new technology, we can hope beyond all else that there will be a deterrent aspect as far as irresponsible dog owners are concerned in future.

With dog control coming under the auspices of local councils, the best course of action is for breeders to lobby their local councils to hold the Dog Attack DNA kits, provide training for Rangers to collect DNA post attack and to establish a dangerous dog database. The Genetic Technologies Dog Attack Hotline is 1800 822 999 ■

Yes sir, Yes sir, Three Bales Full

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Alison Brolsma** > Tasmania Region Vice President and FLO > Wharncliffe Alpaca Stud, Tasmania

Tasmania hasn't had a Fleece Liaison Officer (FLO) before, so without a model for Fleece Collection days, I looked at what other Regions had done successfully.

First, we needed the means to press bales, so I started looking for an old woolpress at clearing sales. I really could make clearing sales a lifestyle, they are such good entertainment value. With a limited budget from the Region, I was restricted to basics and unlikely to find an affordable electric or hydraulic press. After a couple of near misses, an AJAX press turned up not too far away.

A farmer friend checked it over, advised on the bid and helped me load the heavy creature onto our ute to trundle home. It's old and ugly with automatic nothing and looks as if it pre-dates the industrial revolution; however a Google search indicates that it is circa 1950. After a liberal spray with WD 40 and a scrub to remove the sheeps' wool, we were ready to go.

We set the Fingerbiter up in the barn, with the wool table just outside the doorway in good light. My scales are an inexpensive hanging fish balance, very easy to hook plastic bags onto and they were set up beside the 'recording desk', a pile of wine boxes. My husband, Henk rigged up some pulleys from the rafters so that the heavy lid was easier to manhandle.

The barbecue was put out the front, ready with some of our Wharncliffe wine to reward ourselves once the work had been done.

The word had gone out to members to contact people they had sold wethers to, hoping to pull in those small fleece lots. I drove quite a few kilometres to collect fleece from owners who'd had it stashed for years and re-packed it into something more acceptable than the feed bags in which it had been stored. On the day, although we didn't have the mass turn up I'd hoped for, we still collected over 300kg and rather inexpertly pressed it into three bales. Just as the three bears found, one was overstuffed, one was a bit soft but the third was just right.

Because Tasmanians are inescapably disadvantaged by the high cost of transporting goods across Bass Strait, there is a Freight Equalisation Scheme in place, whereby a portion of the freight cost is refunded. The net cost is equivalent to road transport over a similar distance on the mainland. I will apply on behalf of the contributors and then divide the net cost between us, based on the weight of fleece contributed.

After the event, I heard from several members who hadn't been able to attend, or who lacked confidence in preparing their fleeces. At time of writing a follow-up session is planned for July when we will focus on helping members skirt their fleeces, before bagging, labelling and pressing.

I am urging everyone to join in, learn to skirt without feeling like a goose and support the invaluable work the AAFL does in value-adding to, and marketing our clip.

Thanks to my husband, Henk and Raymond Haynes for wrestling the Fingerbiter, Terry Brophy for helping with weighing and recording and all breeders who contributed fleece. Special thanks also to Matt McAninly at AAFL for help with contacts in the transport area. ■



AANZ Alpaca Expo 07

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Rob Crawford** > Member of the Expo Working Group, NZ

Alpaca Association New Zealand's Alpaca Expo 07 will be held on 10-11 November 2007 and is planned to be bigger and brighter than ever before, as it builds upon the success of previous Expos. The venue for Expo 07 is once again the internationally renowned Mystery Creek Events Centre, 5km south of Hamilton. Since its inception in 2004 the AANZ National Show at the Expo has become the biggest and most prestigious event on the AANZ Show Calendar. This year the breed judge will be Australian, Jude Anderson and New Zealand's, Paul Garland will judge the fleeces. We are privileged to have two such highly qualified and internationally recognized judges. The innovative 'judge cam' first introduced in 2005 will again be a feature of the Alpaca Show giving close-up views on the big screen combined with an informative narration. This technology allows the spectator to see what the judge sees.

In addition Expo 07 will feature trade stands and displays of all things alpaca, and a full two day program of informative activities encouraging public participation. Pet Handling and Performance classes will be of interest to both breeders and the public as will seminars, some of which will be hands-on, that will be presented by well-known guest speakers, vets and other authorities in the alpaca industry.

Another highlight will be the fashion parade which, in line with the 'Go Global' theme, will present garments from the USA, Peru and Australia alongside our fashion garments from New Zealand. Top New Zealand designer, Liz Mitchell, is once again producing the feature garment, which will be auctioned at the Expo Gala Dinner on the Saturday night.

New to Alpaca Expo 07 will be a shearing competition, judged primarily on the quality of the job performed and designed to demonstrate safe, stress-free and effective shearing practices. Also new this year will be several activities for children aimed at bringing more visitors to the Expo.

The social side of the weekend will start with the President's Barbeque on Friday night where you can catch up with old friends and meet new ones. On Saturday night look forward to good food and wine, more good company and dancing at the Gala Dinner Dance and Auction. 'Big ticket' items including two alpacas – a suri and a huacaya – will be offered.

For information and sponsorship opportunities or a trade stand at Alpaca Expo 07, please contact Chris Leach info@nzalpacas.com ■

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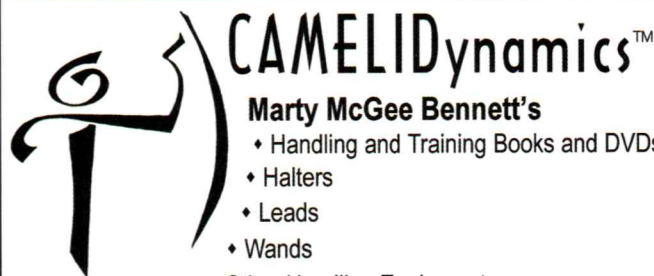
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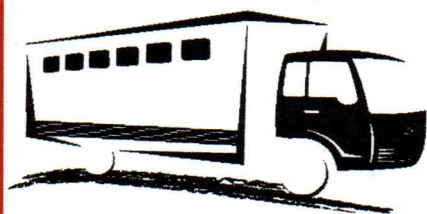
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The winner in the PacaPics feature will receive a complimentary business card size advertisement insertion in the next magazine. Front cover photo winner will also be awarded the same advertising opportunity as well as five complimentary copies of 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

★ WINNER ★



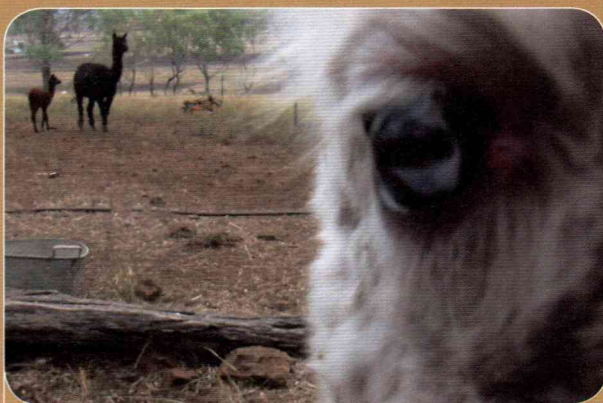
< Strictly no class: rubbish >

Ian Davison • Illawarra Alpacas, NSW



< Never miss an opportunity for a drink! >

Christine & Laurie Talbot • Cullengatty Alpacas, NSW



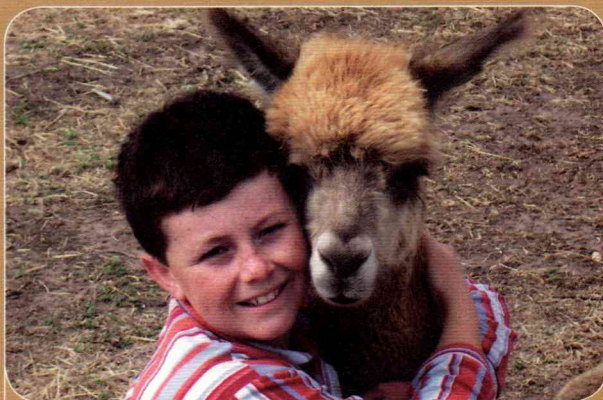
< Is this close enough? >

Jan & Glenn Knight • Headline Alpacas, QLD



< Alpaca on Board! >

Estelle Bamman • Kindilan Alpacas, NSW



< Friends forever >

Tania Shepherd • Westphal Alpacas, VIC



< Chilling out >

Karen Angel • Malaika Alpacas, QLD



< Great restaurant, we always eat here! >

Glen & Terry George • Parrindi Alpacas, VIC



< My three girls >

Hans van Poppel • Joma Alpacas, VIC



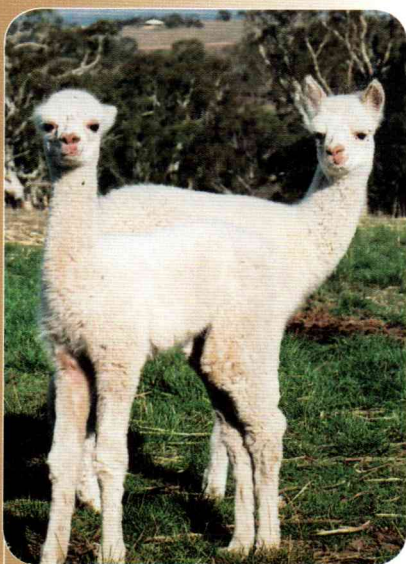
< Do you want to hear the latest gossip? >

Sue Roberts • Tinonee Alpacas, NSW



< Let's be friends, even though our Mums don't want us to be! >

Richard & Kate Sheffield • Glenmore Alpacas, NZ



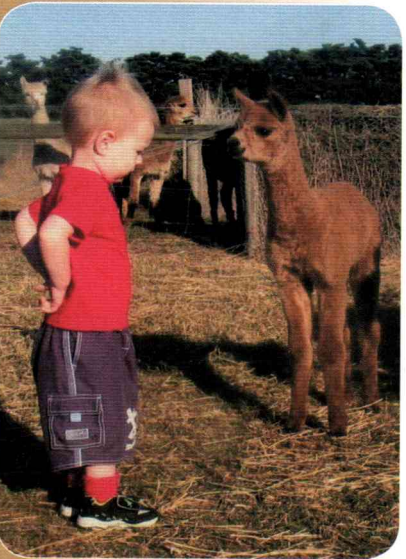
< Two heads are better than one >

Jack Eskenazi • Tujays Alpacas, SA



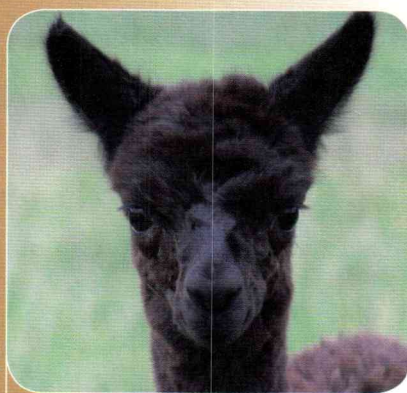
< I wonder what's in the bucket >

Bob & Jackie Coxon • Nattameri Alpacas, NSW



< Don't look at me like that, I know I've only got two legs >

Carolyn Jinks • Benleigh Alpaca Stud, VIC



< Take me to your leader >

Dinah Fisher • Greyleaves Alpacas, NSW



< Our first cria, Nyree >

Robert & Anne Stinson • Robanne Farm Alpacas, VIC



< Let's get ready to rumble >

Christine & Graeme Purkiss • Bimbi Alpacas, NSW



< Who blinks first – wins! >

Maureen Foss • Rock View Alpacas, WA

Upcoming Events

August

9-18 Royal Brisbane Show: QLD

Venue: Brisbane Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Camilla Smith (07) 3408 7639

11-12 Lardner Show: VIC

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

11-12 New Alpaca Breeders' Seminar: NSW

Venue: Robertson
Highlights: Lectures; demonstrations
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852

18 Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Wyong Racecourse
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Wayne McCauley (02) 4353 3007

18-19 EPIC Alpaca Weekend: NSW

Venue: Fitzroy Pavilion,
Exhibition Park in Canberra
Highlights: Pen sales; fleece competition;
trade stands
Contact: Geoff Shephard (02) 6227 6202

24-26 Rotary Indoor Craft Fair: TAS

Venue: Derwent Entertainment Centre,
Hobart
Highlights: Animal and craft displays
Contact: Jenny Wilson (03) 6239 0152

30-1/9 Gold Coast Show: QLD

Venue: Dalgety Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging (1 Sept)
Contact: Shayne Barnett (07) 3200 0585

September

1-2 Spring Alpaca Show: WA

Venue: Fairbridge
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Pamela Brown (08) 9574 6050

6-9 Florafest: NSW

Venue: Mt Penang Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

7-8 Murrumburrah Show: NSW

Venue: Murrumburrah Showgrounds
Highlights: Animal display
Contact: Hugo Sachs (02) 6386 3713

7-8 Royal Adelaide Show: SA

Venue: Adelaide Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging (7 Sept)
Fleece judging (8 Sept)
Contact: Sharon Warland (08) 8532 3029

9 Hawkesbury Spring Show: NSW

Venue: Clarendon
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Murray Spriggs (02) 4572 2204
or Don Culey (02) 4576 4576

15-16 Spring Colourbration Carnival: VIC

Venue: Bendigo
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Meddwyn Coleman (03) 5448 8032

15-16 Charles Ledger Show: NSW

Venue: Wivenhoe, Camden
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852

16 Alpaca Sale Day and Craft Display: WA

Venue: Gidgegannup Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & craft sales
Contact: Deborah Mulroney (08) 9574 6105

20-30 Royal Melbourne Show: VIC

Venue: Melbourne Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging (22 & 23 Sept)
Fleece judging
Contact: Geoff Hargreaves (03) 5773 2494

29-6/10 Royal Perth Show: WA

Venue: Perth Showgrounds
Highlights: Fleece judging (29 Sept)
Alpaca judging (30 Sept)
Contact: Chris Ravenhill (08) 9399 8981

October

1 Strathalbyn Show: SA

Venue: Strathalbyn Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sharon Warland (08) 8532 3029

2-4 Elmore Field Days: VIC

Venue: Elmore Field Days Site
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Meddwyn Coleman (03) 5448 8032

6 Burnie Show: TAS

Venue: Wivenhoe Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Therese Badcock (03) 6432 3613
or Robyn Summers (03) 6445 0870

6 Seymour Show: VIC

Venue: Seymour Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Rod & Ann Sales (03) 5433 3789

11-13 Royal Launceston Show: TAS

Venue: Inveresk Rail Yards, Launceston
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Andy Wells (03) 6343 1878

13 Clare Show: SA

Venue: Clare Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Sharon Warland (08) 8532 3029

16-18 Australian National Field Days: NSW

Venue: ANFD Site, Borenore via Orange
Highlights: Fleece judging; promotional display
Contact: John Lawrie (02) 6846 7292

19-21 AAA National Show & Sale: VIC

Venue: Exhibition Pavilion,
Melbourne Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & Fleece judging;
Alpaca auction
Alpaca craft competition;
Photography/Art competition;
Contact: AAA National Office (03) 9873 7700

20 Longford Show: TAS

Venue: Longford Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display;
alpaca product sales
Contact: Glen Boyd (03) 6397 3007

20 Sunbury Show: VIC

Venue: Sunbury Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Vivienne Grigg (03) 5428 6712

24-27 Royal Hobart Show: TAS

Venue: Hobart Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Helen Dowd (03) 6239 6223

27 Gidgegannup Show: WA

Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Pamela Brown (08) 9574 6050

28 Warrnambool Show: VIC

Venue: Warrnambool Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Andrew McCosh (03) 5565 9413

28 Bendigo Show: VIC

Venue: Bendigo Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Gayle & Michael Heafield
(03) 5435 3837

November

3 Whittlesea Show: VIC

Venue: Whittlesea Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Vivienne Grigg (03) 5428 6712

4 Colac Show: VIC

Venue: Colac Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Lauris Jephcott (03) 5237 7783

9-10 Albany Show: WA

Venue: Albany Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Lorraine Naylor (08) 9845 2316

11 Brighton Show: TAS

Venue: Pontville Showgrounds, Brighton
Highlights: Promotional display;
alpaca product sales
Contact: Sarah Priest (03) 6261 4000

12-18 Alpaca Fiesta: Peru

Venue: Arequipa, Peru
Highlights: Alpaca judging, fashion show,
seminars, workshops,
Chaccu (vicuña round-up),
factory visits, alpaca product sales,
gourmet food and more
Contact: www.alpacafiestaperu.com

17 Huon Show: TAS

Venue: Ranelagh Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging
Contact: Briony Cairns (03) 6292 1134
or Bryan Gunn (03) 6264 1154

17-18 Queanbeyan Show: NSW

Venue: Queanbeyan Showgrounds
Highlights: Animal display
Contact: John van der Straaten (02) 6238 3590

Alpacas Australia > No. 53 Winter 2007 ■ 51

Advertising

Rates

	Casual Rate		x 2 issues		x 3 issues		Production*	
	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS	\$AUD Incl. GST AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS
4 colour								
Full Page	1,070.00	973.00	996.50	906.00	845.00	768.00	315.00	287.00
1/2 Page	755.00	686.00	698.00	635.00	597.00	543.00	237.00	215.00
1/3 Page	704.00	640.00	648.00	589.00	552.00	502.00	193.00	179.00
1/4 Page	653.00	594.00	597.00	543.00	507.00	461.00	158.00	143.00
Business cards	133.00	123.00	122.00	112.00	110.00	102.00	N/A	N/A
Mono								
Full Page	755.00	686.00	698.00	635.00	597.00	543.00	225.00	205.00
1/2 Page	529.00	481.00	496.00	450.00	428.00	389.00	158.00	143.00
1/3 Page	417.00	379.00	389.00	353.00	338.00	307.00	124.00	112.00
1/4 Page	304.00	276.00	282.00	256.00	248.00	225.00	90.00	82.00
Business cards	112.00	102.00	101.00	92.00	90.00	82.00	N/A	N/A

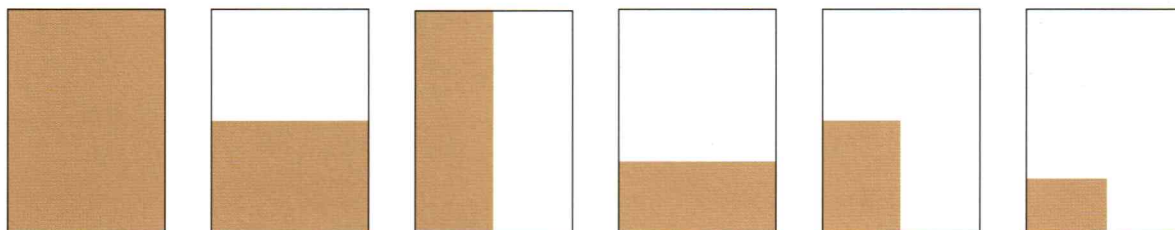
Loading for Specified Positions

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

*Production costs include

Layout, typesetting and electronic finished artwork with low resolution email proofs and allow for up to 3 scans

Space and Sizes (mm)



Full Page Image: 188 x 275 Trim: A4 (210 x 297) allow 5mm bleed all sides	1/2 Page horizontal 188 x 123	1/2 page vertical 91 x 269	1/3 page 188 x 83	1/4 page 91 x 123	Business Card 90 x 55
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Material

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

Advertising Material: Please supply electronic artwork on disc to correct size. Preferred Macintosh programs InDesign, Illustrator or Photoshop. Alternatively save your adverts in high resolution pdf, jpg, tif or eps. Include all screen and printer typefaces, high resolution pictures, logos etc associated with the adverts. For full page adverts please allow 5 mm for bleed. Colour adverts to be supplied in CMYK (not PMS or RGB). Please supply hard copy proof in colour or mono (as applicable) for printing reference. We cannot guarantee inclusion of late adverts.

Further advertising material enquiries can be directed to:

Irene Garner, Garner Graphics: Phone +61 (0)2 4884 1222 Fax +61 (0)2 4884 1233 Email garnering@bordnet.com.au

Deadlines

Issue 54: Summer

Due: December 2007
Deadline: Friday 5 October 2007

Issue 55: Autumn

Due: April 2008
Deadline: Friday 8 February 2008

Issue 56: Winter

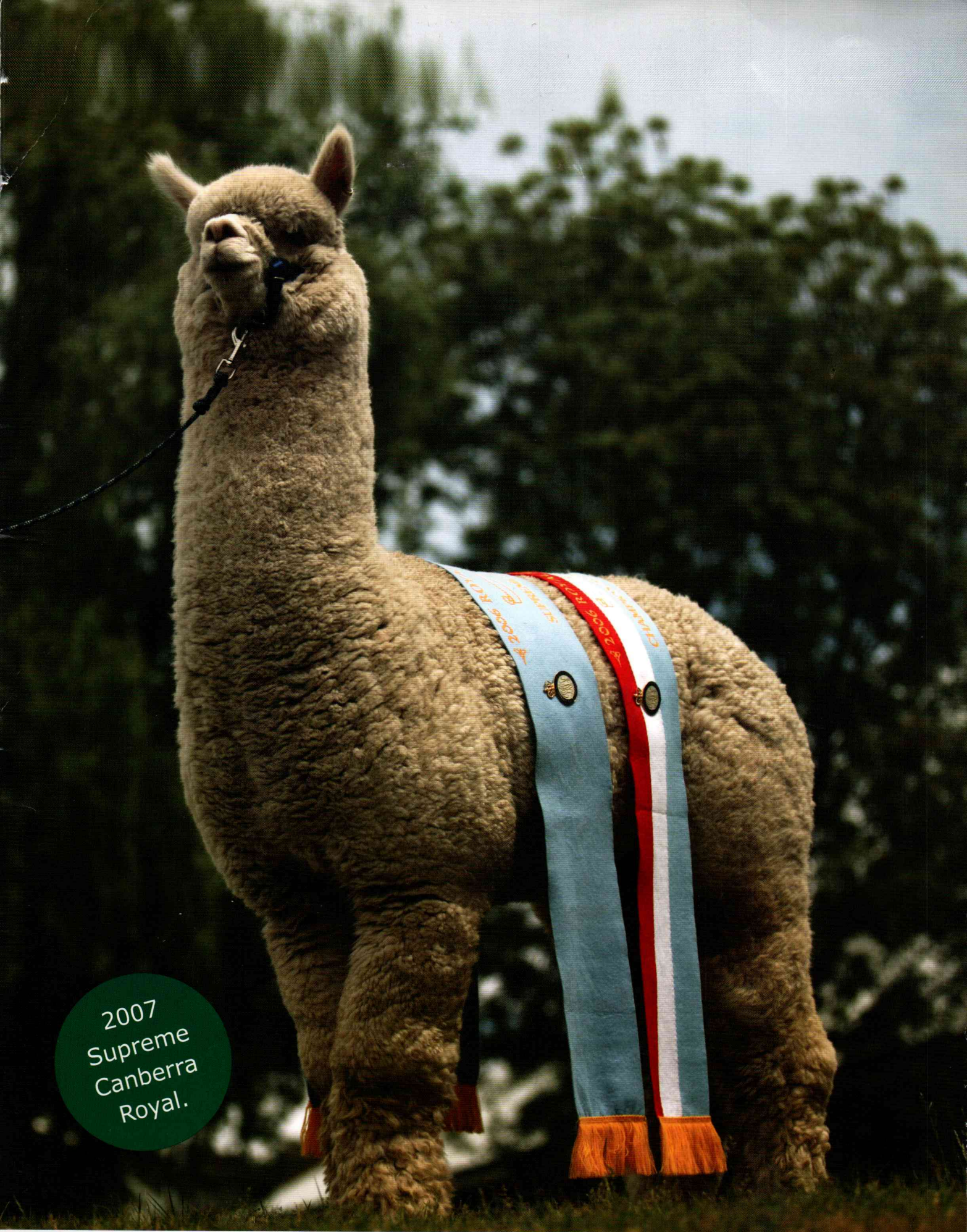
Due: August 2008
Deadline: Friday 6 June 2008

Please book and send all editorial and advertising material to Sandra Wright

Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. (ACN 067 146 481)

PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132 Australia

PHONE +61 (0)3 9873 7700 • FAX +61 (0)3 9873 7711 • EMAIL sandra@alpaca.asn.au

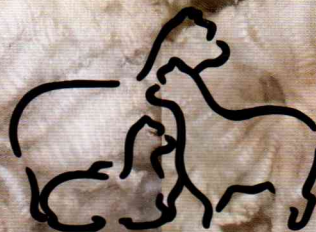


2007
Supreme
Canberra
Royal.

Camelot Tor is a certified stud male recommended for use in an SRS® Breeding Program. See www.srsalpaca.com

Camelot Tor. Six major shows. Six times Supreme Champion.
Selected females, pregnant to Tor, now available.
Details at www.flowerdalealpaca.net P 03 9593 2185.

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52397 - 6 Months

52385 - 7 Months

52392 - 7 Months

52395 - 7 Months

MOBILE

52361 - 15 Months

52387 - 8 Months

22562 - 48 Months

52334 - 17 Months

52389 - 8 Months

52265 - 30 Months

52394 - 7 Months

52348 - 17 Months

52323 - 19 Months

52282 - 30 Months

52364 - 14 Months

40583 - 44 Months

52370 - 13 Months

52292 - 28 Months

S: Peruvian
Windsong Valley Accoyo Ben-Hur on farm \$1,200
 S: Peruvian mobile \$1,310

S: Purrumbete Highlander
Windsong Valley Kosiosko on farm \$1,200
 S: Jolimont Goliath mobile \$1,310
 D: Windsong Valley Stardust
 D: Jolimont Mariella

S: Purrumbete Highlander
 S: Windsong Valley Iceman
 D: Purrumbete Ice Star
Windsong Valley Kenjiro on farm only \$1,650
 S: Purrumbete Highlander
 D: Kaloma Tamika
 D: Jolimont Giorgetta

S: Peruvian
Windsong Valley Royal Inca on farm \$1,400
 D: Peruvian mobile \$1,500

S: Windsong Valley Royal Inca
Windsong Valley Taboo on farm \$1,200
 S: Purrumbete Highlander mobile \$1,310
 D: Primavera Anushka
 D: Jolimont Gessica

S: Purrumbete Highlander
 S: Windsong Valley Iceman
 D: Purrumbete Icestar
Windsong Valley Tutankhamen on farm \$1,200
 S: Purrumbete El Dorado mobile \$1,310
 S: Cedar House Bannister
 D: Suricaya Sumbay
 D: The Pines Queen Of Sheba
 S: Purrumbete Lucky Strike
 D: The Pines Phoebe
 D: Peppimenarti Renee

The Windsong Valley herd now resides in Ballarat, Victoria.

MORE INFO on MOBILE MATINGS or WINDSONG VALLEY ALPACAS or ALPACA AUSTRALIA p/l,
 phone (03) 5342 0111 or Benoît on 0419 420 110

NO ET MATING SERVICE AVAILABLE

52284 - 29 Months

52281 - 29 Months

52341 - 17 Months

52311 - 24 Months