



ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

ISSUE 54 • SUMMER 2007



2007 National Show and Sale Results • Summer Checklist • Biosecurity • Husbandry

Inside this issue:

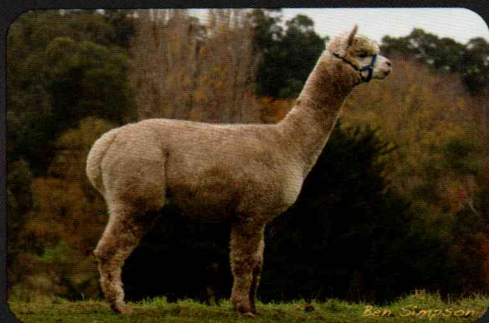
HALCYON

days for SRS®

Alpacas



Jolimont Giovanni
SRS® Recommended Wool Sire
SOLD \$50,000 – Halcyon Dispersal
Purchaser K & A Woodgate



Northfield Gully Accolade
SRS® Recommended Wool Sire
SOLD \$20,000 – Halcyon Dispersal
Purchaser J & S Northfield



Halcyon Alianza Alloro
SRS® Recommended Frame Sire
SOLD \$60,000 – Halcyon Dispersal
Purchaser A & M Van Der Drift



Halcyon Popover
SRS® Recommended Frame Sire
SOLD \$20,000 – Halcyon Dispersal
Purchaser P & W Newman

A long standing association with Dr Jim Watts and SRS® Alpacas was instrumental in the breeding advances achieved at Halcyon Alpaca Stud. SRS® is about breeding productive, more valuable alpaca that are producing a luxury fibre".

Carl Dowd,
Halcyon Alpaca Stud.



SRS® WOOL

For further information on how SRS® Alpacas can assist you, visit our website or contact.

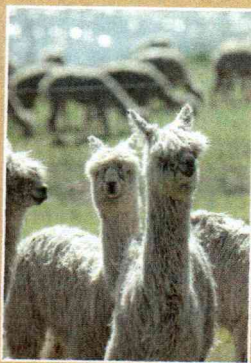
SRS® Alpacas Australia

Ph/Fax (03) 5474 8144

admin@srsalpacas.com

F: + 61 (0) 4862 2290

www.srsalpacas.com



COVER
Photograph by
Martin Bult for
Fiona and Ian
Vanderbeek of
Birrong Suri
Alpacas, NSW

PUBLISHER

Alpacas Australia is published by the
Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.
ABN 30 067 146 481 ACN 067 146 481
Unit 2, 613 Whitehorse Road
Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia

(PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132)

Telephone +61 (0)3 9873 7700 Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711

E-mail alpaca@alpaca.asn.au Internet www.alpaca.asn.au

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING

Sandra Wright, Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

Unit 2, 613 Whitehorse Road

Mitcham, Victoria 3132 Australia

(PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132)

Telephone +61 (0)3 9873 7700 Fax +61 (0)3 9873 7711

E-mail sandra@alpaca.asn.au Internet www.alpaca.asn.au

RATE (PER ISSUE)

AUD \$7.70 : Australia

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (3 ISSUES)

AUD \$29.00 : Australia

AUD \$45.00 : New Zealand

AUD \$60.00 : International

CIRCULATION

2,800 for current issue

DESIGNED AND PRODUCED

by Garner Graphics

'Riverside' Lot 4, Inverary Road, Paddys River NSW 2577

Telephone +61 (0)2 4884 1222 Fax +61 (0)2 4884 1233

E-mail garnering@bordnet.com.au

COPYRIGHT

All material appearing in *Alpacas Australia* is copyright.

Reproduction in whole or part is not permitted without the written permission of the publisher. It is the understanding of the AAA that any photographs submitted by contributors for use in any AAA publication will be free of copyright (unless otherwise stated) and therefore will be available for use by the AAA for industry promotion without the need for further permission.

LIABILITY

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

ISSN 1328-8318

ADVERTISERS

Australian Alpaca Barn	52
Baarrooka	17
Benleigh Alpaca Stud	3
Bungalook Alpaca Farm	18
Camelid Health Supplies (Aust)	23
Coolaroo and Illawarra Alpacas	7
Coricancha Alpaca Stud	inside back cover
Ertoel Wheels	48
Flowerdale Estate Alpacas	43
Grand Flowerdale Alpacas	15
Halcyon Alpaca Stud	inside front cover
International Fleece Show	29
Pacofino and Latah Creek Alpacas	outside back cover
Windsong Valley Alpacas	20

REGULAR FEATURES

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2 President's Message | 56 PacaPics | 59 Order Form |
| 3 Briefly Speaking | 58 Upcoming Events | 60 Advertising Details |
| 54 Business Card Directory | | |

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

21 Basic Introduction of Biosecurity Programs for Alpaca Farms

Ensuring we minimise the impact of disease, should it occur

25 Alpaca Owners' Beliefs about Alpacas

An insight into what alpaca owners and managers believe about their animals

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

6 Summer Manage your Herd

Checklist

14 Equine Influenza at Starwood

Alpaca and horse stud experience

16 Bushfire Preparedness

Keys to minimising the impact of fire on your property and livestock

19 Weed Strategies Following Drought, Fire and Flood

How to avoid importing weeds into denuded ground

34 Problems with Blue-green Algae Infestations

Identification, effects, treatment and prevention

36 Repairing a Serious Eye Injury

Treatment

46 Poisonous Plant Profile

Photosensitisation

53 A Happy Ending

A cria with dental pad infection

SHOWING AND JUDGING

8 14th AAA Ltd. National Show and Sale

Highlights

38 The Royals 2007

Highlights of the Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne and Perth Royal Shows

FLEECE

28 The Myths of Fleece and AAFL

The commercial reality of fleece

29 International Fleece Show 2008

Promote your farm and represent your country

44 14 Workshops in 14 Months

Teaching growers how to improve the handling of their fibre

FASHION

24 The Weaver and the Breeder

A partnership producing an exquisite range of products

INDUSTRY

4 A Gentle Giant of the Australian Alpaca Industry

Vale Richard Dixon

30 World Alpaca Conference Sponsors

AAA Ltd. gratefully acknowledges the support of sponsors

49 Sandjo Alpacas wins Business Award

Sandjo Alpacas wins award for home-based business

BREEDER PROFILES

32 Introducing the 2008 World Alpaca Conference Platinum Sponsors

Pacofino, Australia and Latah Creek Alpacas, USA

50 Committed to the Australian Alpaca Industry

Jacamar Alpacas and the Australian Alpaca Barn, NSW

A Message from the President

As we approach the end of 2007, it is reasonable that we contemplate what has been achieved by the Australian alpaca industry in its first twenty years, and how it is positioned for the next twenty.

Contrary to the advice of the sceptics, who heralded the advent of the Australian alpaca as just another fad in a procession of sunrise agricultural industries, all destined for oblivion in a predictable cycle of boom and bust, the Australian alpaca industry has seen steady and sustainable growth throughout its first two decades. With current membership of over 2,000 and registered alpacas rapidly approaching 100,000 – those who predicted a crash must feel a growing despondency.

The success of the Australian alpaca industry is not without good reasons: an animal ideally suited to our climate and culture, an excellent product, a proud history of setting world benchmarks for quality fleece, and an entrepreneurial spirit based on calculated risk and sound science, has seen Australia projected to the forefront of New World 'alpacanomics'. Continued growth over 20 years has seen the formation of a strong central Australia Alpaca Association (AAA), newly incorporated and embracing principles of strong governance, with substantial assets, infrastructure, intellectual property and corporate knowledge. The International Alpaca Registry (IAR) is a core asset, owned by the AAA, but administered and secured by the independent Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI), a world leader in livestock registries, serving 80 breed associations and recording 40 million animals worldwide. Linked to the IAR is the AAA's Across-herd Genetic Evaluation (AGE) programme, the first and largest of its kind in the alpaca industry.

The AAA holds a substantial interest in Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd (AAFL), and its individual members hold the overwhelming balance of shares. This company is successfully collecting and processing an increasing proportion of the Australian alpaca clip, and marketing product under the highly recognisable Australian AlpacaMark, both domestically and overseas. Its product and market development have been critical in raising the profile of the Australian industry. Uniquely Alpaca Pty Ltd and Australian Alpaca Research Pty Ltd are wholly owned subsidiaries of AAA Ltd, whose functions have been to protect intellectual property of AAA-sponsored research, and to maximise commercial opportunities for the AAA.

But there are other sound reasons contributing to the success of the industry. The now well-established show circuit, with its protocols, schedules, rules, regulations, and AAA trained and accredited judges, has become a core part of the AAA's intellectual property, progressively revised and refined over the years. We have attracted to the industry an eclectic mix of skills and experience in the membership which, when combined with the strong service culture of the association, is a rich resource. Being a new agribusiness, there is unlimited scope for research, enterprise and entrepreneurialism, with a strong offering to successful retirees, sea-changers and tree-changers. It is a livestock enterprise uniquely suited to women, whose natural affinity for the alpaca is reflected by the ease with which women can manage them.

We have in the alpaca an animal which is now widely recognised and warmly accepted by the public, acknowledged for its superior and highly sought-after fleece, and known for its designer green qualities of drought resistance and ecological sensitivity. That it remains a genetically underdeveloped animal gives to Australia an enormous opportunity in applying its science and experience to produce a new international standard in both animals and fleece, an expertise for which Australia is already widely recognised.

These developments, opportunities and sustained growth have seen Australia invited to take a seat at the table of Animal Health Australia, the expert body representing 25 different livestock industries, set up to advise government on policy development and biosecurity.

Against those strengths, we have a few weaknesses. The first is our ageing membership, a trend we must address if we are to grow. Current fleece prices, the slow rate of reproduction, and the limited opportunity for advanced reproductive techniques, conspire to make commercial profitability through genetic improvement a slow process. The very recent emergence of the New World alpaca industry means that there is a dearth of cultural knowledge and experience on which to base sound commercial practice, and a lack of established markets for animals and products. The limited size and novelty of the industry tends to see it labelled as a hobby farm activity by established agriculturalists.

In all of this, there emerge real opportunities, such as the promotion of alpacas as a form of environmentally sensitive agriculture. Organic farming is yet another, whilst there exists huge opportunities in the export of live animals and alpaca products, as well as our intellectual property, such as the IAR and AGE. With Australian research capabilities, we are likely to see opportunities for the export of frozen sperm and embryos, and the market for hides, pelts and meat has barely been touched.

Finally, we should consider our threats. Biosecurity, export barriers, global warming, and international competition are all significant global issues. Domestically, the ageing demographic of our membership, the costs of alpaca ownership and association membership, and the possibility of industry fragmentation need to be recognised. In all matters, indolence, indifference and complacency must be resisted.

In summary, we have achieved much, and stand to achieve much more if we can remain focussed, disciplined, innovative, imaginative, involved and informed. But above all, we need to enjoy the opportunity that this beguiling and enchanting creature has offered to us, and share the pleasure of breeding alpacas with one another. Whether alpacas be your goldmine or your golf, your passion or your pleasure, your vocation or your vice, there is enormous scope for enjoyment in the company of the animals and their owners.

Be sure to indulge yourself in registering for the World Alpaca Conference, presented for your information and delight in Sydney, 2008! ■

Dr Ian Davison, President

Briefly Speaking

News report out of London

September 2007

Two Peruvian alpacas have been recruited as woolly security for a UK egg farm.

The pair - William and Harry - keep predators away from speciality egg producer, Clarence Court's hens near Camborne, Cornwall. The two huacaya alpacas are fiercely defensive of their feathered brood.

Clarence Court director, Lisa Rowe said, *"Alpacas are extensively used in Australia and New Zealand to safeguard sheep because they will protect them with their lives."*

We know that happy hens lay the tastiest eggs, and for that reason we recruited the alpacas. They are great company for the birds and will not only ensure they feel safe and sound, but fully entertained too".

www.alpaca.asn.au

Visit the web site for booking forms and the latest information about:

- > **World Alpaca Conference** – don't forget to register!
- > **International Fleece Show** – to be held in conjunction with the World Alpaca Conference.
 - Australian exhibitors – entry forms must be lodged by 8 February 2008 and fleeces must be submitted by 28 February 2008.
 - International exhibitors – entry forms must be lodged by 14 December 2007 and fleeces must be submitted by 5 February 2008.

Have you moved?

Please remember to notify the AAA National Office of address changes, including telephone, fax and email address, if applicable.

Season's Greetings

The AAA Ltd National Office will be closing for the Christmas/New Year break on Friday 21 December 2007 and re-opening on Tuesday 15 January 2008. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from everyone at the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. and *Alpacas Australia* magazine.

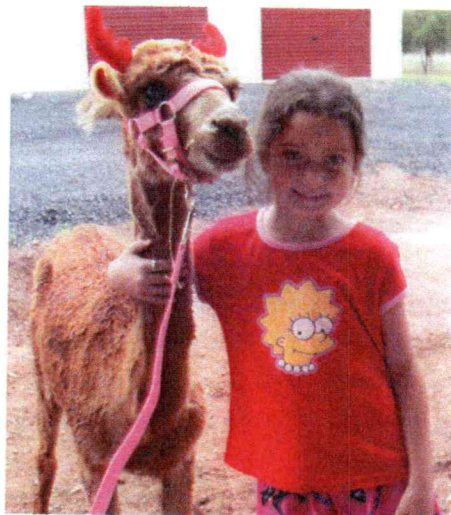
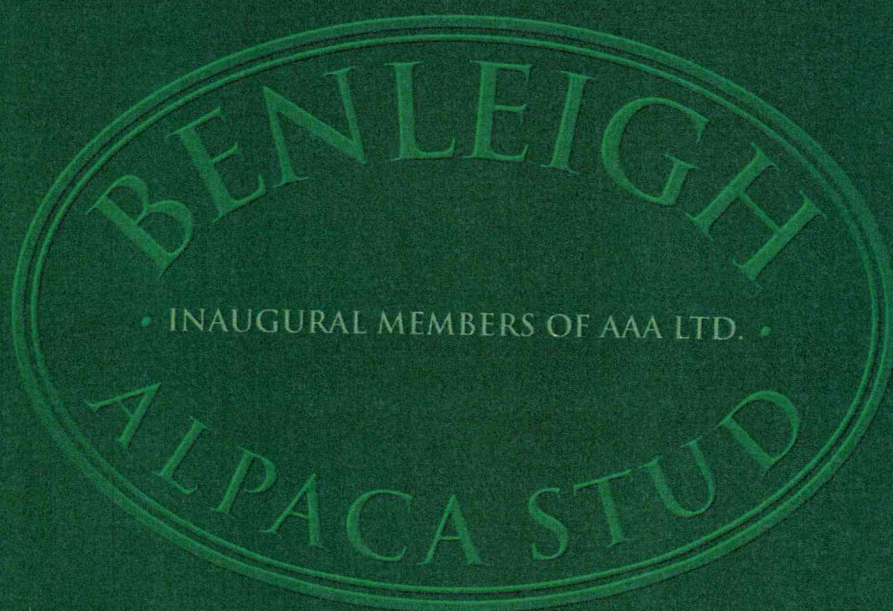
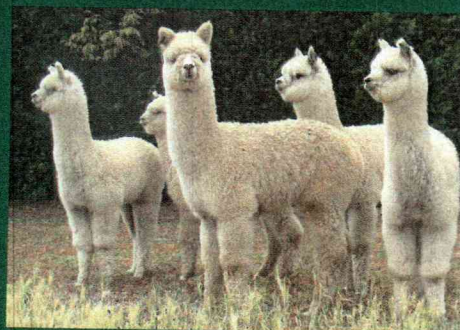


Photo by Lorraine Ivins, Glenoma Alpacas, NSW

EXPERIENCE · EXPERTISE · EXCELLENCE



**superior bloodlines
genetic improvement
sales**



contact Allan & Carolyn Jinks
Geelong, Victoria
03 5253 2870 / 0418 109 348
benleigh@benleigh.com.au
www.benleigh.com.au

A Gentle Giant of the Australian Alpaca Industry

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Ian Davison** > President, Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

Vale Richard Dixon (5 February 1937 - 9 November 2007)

It is my very sad duty, as President of the Australian Alpaca Association, to acknowledge the passing of one of the AAA's great soldiers in Dr Richard Dixon, B.V.Sc., a much loved and admired member of the Association for the past 11 years, but one whose legacy to the Australian alpaca industry will be as timeless as it is priceless.

There are few in the industry who would not recognise Richard, through his energetic commitment to matters related to alpaca health, through his numerous and frequently reprinted articles, or as the boyish grin and bright eyes which shone through his faintly old-fashioned grey beard, warmly greeting fellow members at shows and seminars.

On 9 November 2007 Richard lost his long-standing battle with cancer, which he had endured uncomplainingly and in good spirits for some two years, through periodic surgery and chemotherapy, which served only to punctuate his ongoing work for the alpaca industry.

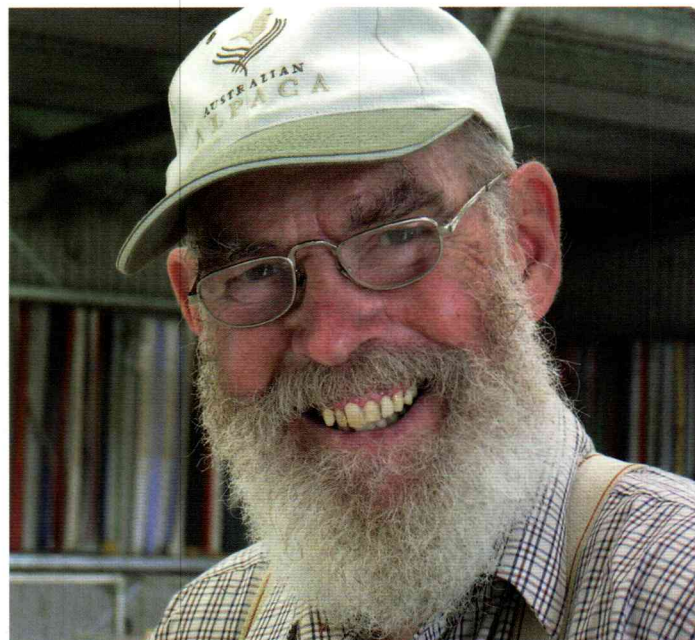
Who was this man, why was he so admired and loved, and what was the nature of his contribution to Australia's alpaca industry?

Richard's life as a vet began upon his graduation from the University of Sydney in 1959 as a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, to which he shortly added a Masters Degree in Radiation Biology from Colorado State University, becoming a foundation fellow of the American College of Veterinary Radiologists.

Returning to Australia, he accepted a series of lecturing positions in Sydney and Melbourne Universities, in which positions he became known and highly respected by most currently practising vets in the eastern states of Australia.

Between 1975 and 1997, he worked in private practice in Sydney, ultimately as a specialist Veterinary Radiologist.

But it was not until his retirement from private practice in 1997 that he became involved with alpacas, and the real work then began.



He and his much loved wife of 36 years, Judith, purchased a small property near Berridale, in the Australian Alps, where they began breeding alpacas. It was not long before he was called upon to share his knowledge in veterinary science, particularly in matters pertaining to nutrition, disease and husbandry, which he did willingly through regular articles in the Regional magazine, frequently reprinted in other periodicals across the country.

He was, from the start, a most willing contributor, and became quickly involved in the management of the first and only outbreak of Bovine Johnes Disease in Australian alpacas, which posed an early threat to the industry.

He worked with members of the AAA, the Australian Camelid Veterinary Association, and Animal Health Australia to design and implement the highly acclaimed AlpacaMAP, a market assurance programme which continues to this day, and which has effectively underwritten the present Johnes-free status of the Australian alpaca herd.

Richard's rising profile in the industry was underwritten by his commitment to educating growers in articles, lectures and presentations throughout this period, when he effectively took on the mantle of The Master of alpaca health.

In this role, and through his wide connections in the veterinary and animal health world, Richard continued to champion the interests of the alpaca industry in a wide range of agricultural fora. Two further contributions held profound implications for the future of the Australian alpaca industry.

The first was a **unique industry initiative to monitor the ongoing health status of subscribing herds in a programme called Q (for quality) Alpaca**. This programme was designed to improve alpaca herd health through improved biosecurity and health monitoring, and provides a unique and exemplary model for Australian agribusiness. Richard continued to manage and guide this programme to within a few days of his death, even dictating instructions over the phone when he was too weak to attend to his computer.

The second was **Richard's drive in having the alpaca industry recognised by Animal Health Australia**, the regulating authority which advises government on all matters pertaining to animal based industries in Australia. It was a seminal moment in the history of the Australian alpaca industry when the AAA took its seat at that table in June 2006, an occasion that will stand as a perpetual tribute to Richard Dixon.

Richard was also an active and enthusiastic member of the Australian Camelid Veterinary Association (now known as Australian Alpaca Veterinarians) which has been a vital contributor to AAA policy and breed development.

These contributions, and many more, were the basis for his being made a **life member of the Australian Alpaca Association** in June, 2006.

But all this ignores the fact that Richard was, in any event, a compassionate, intelligent, kind, gentle, visionary and hard-working member of our association, whose empathic nature has nurtured and consoled countless breeders in times of stress, and whose wisdom and example has been a source of inspiration to the many others he has mentored.

He was a truly gentle giant, whose quietly spoken manner, humility, and beguiling smile belied the impact he made on our industry and association.

The AAA extends deepest sympathy to Richard's wife, Judith and to his family, together with its thanks for sharing this treasure with the Australian Alpaca Association. ■

Vale Richard Dixon

Richard's Legacy

For the last two years I have had the undeniable privilege of working with Richard Dixon. It was never apparent at the time, perhaps because of his humble demeanour, or that we simply got on with the job, but it is crystal clear to me now that during this time, whether by design or destiny, it was for me a journey of apprenticeship.

Richard has left the alpaca industry with a legacy of immense proportions. Our industry is now recognised and has a voice on the national stage of animal health and we have an industry first and fully endorsed biosecurity model in Q-Alpaca. We are well prepared and committed to continue his work.

The incursion of Equine Influenza on our shores this year validated Richard's predictions that an Emergency Animal Disease would occur in Australia. In no way demeaning the enormous effect on the Equine Industry, which for so many has been financially catastrophic; how fortunate are we that on this particular occasion, the disease was not Foot and Mouth.

To quote Richard from his 2nd Q-Alpaca Annual Report earlier this year;

"When the next Emergency Animal Disease breaks out somewhere in the Commonwealth, it is not going to stop at State borders. Participation in the Programme is good insurance in the event of control measures that may include a regime of test and slaughter, or just slaughter."

It is appropriate that I repeat Richard's oft stated plea; *"Q-Alpaca is not just about Johne's Disease or alleviating the burden of movement requirements; it is a programme that covers the many diseases that can affect all alpaca, in all states of Australia."*

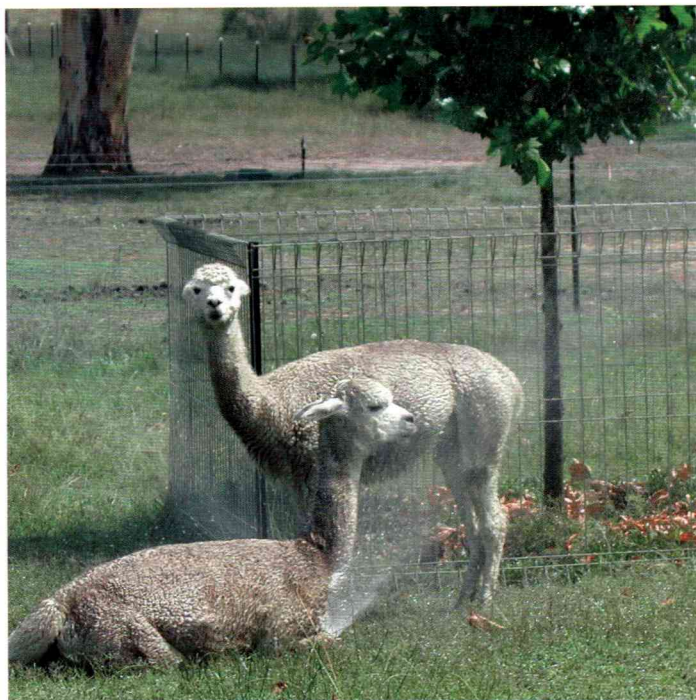
We live in a new age of Biosecurity and Richard dedicated himself to setting our house in order; for that and so much more we honour him and we will drive his legacy forward with resolve.

Elizabeth Garner-Paulin

AAA Ltd Director, Animal Health, Husbandry & Welfare Committee

Summer Manage your Herd

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE compiled by **Irene Garner** > Alpacapeña, NSW



Note: Normal body temperature 37.5⁰-38.6⁰C. Cria can be up to 1 degree higher and daytime body temperature for adults may also rise 1⁰C.

Shearing

Shearing animals at the appropriate time of year for your climatic region will minimise risk of heat stress in summer. The use of a 'snow' or 'camelid' comb can leave sufficient fleece on the animal to provide protection from sunburn and some insulation should the weather post-shearing turn cool. To avoid the risk of exposing alpacas to unexpected cold snaps after shearing, some breeders will shear only the number of alpacas they can shelter, with a new batch being shorn every two to three weeks.

Shearing cria from six weeks of age during the height of summer can be of immense benefit for the welfare of the cria, however, there is potential for the dam to reject her cria post shearing. To minimise this risk, never remove the cria from the dam's eyesight during shearing. In a quiet environment with few people, bring only the dam and her cria into the immediate shearing area and shear the cria in the presence of the dam. Never shear the head or tail area of the cria. Observe the dam's reaction whilst shearing; a dam that is watchful during the process is more likely to accept her cria post shearing. After shearing, place the dam and cria in a pen on their own until the cria is observed to be suckling.

Water

Clean drinking water is essential and additional water points can be extremely important with large numbers of animals. Alpaca are naturally attracted to water and will attempt to stand in water troughs, thus fouling the water. In hot weather, alpaca will benefit from an additional water supply containing electrolytes ('Vytrate', 'Lectade'). Ensure water containing electrolytes is removed and replaced every 24 hours.

Employing methods to provide cool ground temperatures by shade or water with the use of sprinklers, soaker hoses, dams and paddle pools is very effective. By wading into water or sitting down on wet or cool ground, alpacas reduce heat through the thermal window (the ventral area of the abdomen sparsely covered with hair). Green plastic soaker hoses available from supermarkets and garden centres are ideal for this purpose as they're inexpensive, use very little water and are easily moved around the paddock or yard.

Around dams, the potential for snakes must be kept in mind. Dams can also pose a risk to females due to give birth, as females have been known to deliver in or beside dams with disastrous results for the newborn.

Management practices

Activities likely to cause stress such as stud services, feeding, transporting and the like should all be carried out in the cool of the morning or evening. When transporting alpacas in floats, ensure adequate air movement and never park in the full sun. Sensibly manage moving animals from cool or temperate areas to hot locations.

The time of weaning is also important, as the cria and mother may continue to seek each other and therefore stand out in full sun or run along fence lines.

Summer birthing and newborns

In some areas of Australia, it is advisable to avoid birthing in peak summer. Mothers may spend a considerable proportion of the day cushed in the shade, thus making the 'milk bar' inaccessible to the cria. In this instance, breeders must ensure the cria is kept hydrated with electrolytes.

Crias' small bodies heat up extremely rapidly and with inefficient thermo-regulatory mechanisms during their first few days, cria will be at high risk of hyperthermia.

Fertility

Heat stress can affect fertility. In males it may take 6-8 weeks or more for their sperm count to recover and there is potential for prolonged or permanent damage. Females can be affected by premature labour, abortion and stillbirths.

Overweight alpacas

A large body mass loses heat more slowly. Consequently, overweight alpacas will be at increased risk during periods of continuing hot weather. Fat also acts as additional insulation to prevent effective heat loss. Males will deposit large amounts of fat in their scrotum that will severely affect their fertility in hot weather.

Pastures

In humid climates avoid slashing between November and March; the waste encourages the growth of a fungus called *Pithomyces chartarum* which contains a toxin called sporodesmin that can prove fatal to livestock and especially alpacas. Sporodesmin affects the liver and also manifests itself as facial eczema.

Heat stress

The potential for heat stress to occur is when the body temperature reaches 40 – 41°C and is further exacerbated with high humidity. To determine the degree of risk the following rule may be applied:

- > Temp deg C x 2 + 30 + % Humidity = risk index
- > Risk index < 150 indicates low risk
- 150-180 indicates hyperthermia is possible
- 180 is the danger zone

Signs of Heat Stress

The following signs may be indicative of heat stress:

- > Animals can be lethargic and depressed.
- > May be seen panting with their mouths open and nostrils flared.
- > May be recumbent and refuse to stand.
- > The central nervous system can be affected; causing depressed mental function and possible convulsions.

Management of hyperthermia

Any animal exhibiting the signs of heat stress requires urgent intervention.

- > Provide shade and through ventilation.
- > Gently spray with a hose the belly and under the legs.
- > Drench with cool fluids including electrolytes (e.g. 'Vytrate' or 'Lectade') to restore the electrolyte imbalance
- > Cool water enema under veterinary supervision. ■

THE COOLAROO & ILLAWARRA STUDS INVITE YOU TO OUR

coolawarra

EASTER CLASSIC AUCTION 2008
Monday 31st March



COOLAROO



The Classic offers you 50 unreserved alpacas drawn from the very top end of a combined herd of over 1200 alpacas, bred selectively and scientifically over generations.

Coolaroo's long history as the driving force of SRS®, Illawarra's commitment to the design and implementation of the nationwide programme of estimated breeding values (the AGE), ensures you of an exciting and educational future as part of their after sales service. Both studs' early broad scale utilisation of embryo transfer techniques with high performing show winning bloodlines can take your stud to the cutting edge of genetic improvement.

Join us at Coolaroo, Mittagong NSW for

9am Viewing & Inspections • Noon Stockman's lunch • 1.30pm The Coolawarra Classic • 6.00pm A Bush Bash

For all enquiries and private inspections contact:

Janie on: +61 2 4878 5266 or 041 999 5553 or 042 8771 264 email: coolaroo@hinet.net.au or explore website: www.coolarooalpacas.com.au
Harriet on: +61 2 4446 0096 or 040 2060 096 email: harriet@illawarraalpacas.com or explore website: www.illawarraalpacas.com

All stock offered will be either MM3 or Q Alpaca

Putting Pedigree into Practice • Old world genetics, new world technology

14th AAA Ltd. National Show and Sale

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

On the animals ...

This year's National Show saw the introduction of two parallel show rings on the Friday which proved to be a successful innovation making presentation of the judging program possible. As well, record numbers of Suri (154) and Huacaya (540) entries meant extended judging times were required and while Suri judge, Jude Anderson successfully completed her workload on the Friday, Huacaya judges, Lyn Dickson and Rick Hodgson worked over two days for a total of 18 hours.

Jude Anderson returned to Australia from the USA where she now lives to judge the Suris this year, and afterwards, enjoyed the rest of the weekend catching up with friends and colleagues. She said, *"I was honoured and privileged to judge the suri at this year's National. The quality of Australian suris is world class, especially in the whites and lighter colours. Congratulations to all of the breeders, the industry is certainly in good hands. I look forward to judging again in the future and to seeing more entries in the darker colours!"*

Huacaya judges, Lyn Dickson and Rick Hodgson were extremely impressed with the depth of quality that was presented for judging at the Show.

"We expected the standards to be very high in the juniors, and on the first day, these junior classes were outstanding. However the quality kept coming right through all the age groups over the whole two days. Particularly impressive were some large line-ups of senior and mature huacayas, which gave us some very difficult decisions", said Lyn.

Rick also commented on the obvious improvements in some of the coloured huacayas, not just the whites, *"There were some amazing presentations of quality alpacas in the colour classes. We particularly remember a huge class of blacks being quite a spectacle to see with them all parading at once".*

Both judges agreed that any award given at this year's Show was well-deserved, given the exceptional level of competition.

On the fleeces ...

On the Friday, Fleece judge, Cameron Holt worked for many hours assessing the fleece entries. He said, *"I would like to congratulate all the breeders who took the time to prepare and enter fleece for this prestigious show. Although the quantity of the entries was low, the quality certainly was not. The fleece of Marriglen Mars which was entered in the 30-48 month class received an incredible 91 points and took out the Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece. I have very seldom given over 90 points whilst judging alpaca fleece. Although not the finest in the class the fleece was very well prepared and very even for micron and length and showed a very good style and character throughout the entire fleece. The lock was very dense showing good brightness and received full points for fleece weight".*

This is the third consecutive year that *Marriglen Mars* has won this award. This fleece also went on to win the Bill Plunkett Perpetual Trophy which was presented by Isbel Plunkett in his memory.



Supreme Huacaya and Ch Adult Male
Serena Lodge Prince Artdale

Supreme Suri and Ch Junior Male
Surilana Mister B. ET



Bill Plunkett Perpetual Trophy presented by Isbel Plunkett (centre) to Harriet and Ian Davison.

Cameron was keen to add, *"I would also like to compliment two fleeces which received a commendation award. One of these was a roan fleece Wyterrica Propaganda which showed good evenness for micron and length as well as excellent character, style and density throughout the whole fleece. This was as good as any roan or grey that I have seen during my judging time. The other fleece was Rivergum Rise Temptation from the fawn class and although not the finest in the group, was very even for micron length and colour and exhibited excellent style, character and lock structure, and density. It was very bright throughout but unfortunately lacked in fleece weight, however it was an outstanding fleece"*.

The Champion Suri went to *Kurrawa Tari Q ET* which was from the 18-30 month entries. Of this fleece Cameron said, *"This was a very fine fleece showing reasonable lock style and good density. This fleece also received full marks for its fleece weight"*.

In summing up Cameron said, *"I would like to encourage breeders to support in particular, their National Show, along with their regional ones. To me, the two major rewards breeders will get from entering are firstly, the ability to benchmark their fleece against the best and look at the scorecards to see where they can improve, and secondly the opportunity, if they are successful, to use this success in their marketing strategies in a more competitive market"*. ➤



Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece
Marriglen Mars



Most Valuable Huacaya Fleece
Blackgate Lodge Niquito



Champion Suri Fleece
Kurrawa Tari Q ET



Reserve Champion Suri Fleece
Surilana Orion

On the craft entries ...

Also on the Friday, Craft judge, Jenn Worland delighted in the task of examining the variety of craft items entered this year. She was *impressed by the talents and imagination expressed in the pieces and determining the winners in each category was not easy. Congratulations to all exhibitors, category winners and especially to the winner of Most Successful Alpaca Craft Exhibitor, Marilyn Nicholls.*



Most Successful Alpaca Craft Exhibitor, Marilyn Nicholls (left) with Craft judge, Jenn Worland



Champion Hand Spun Yarn Exhibit by Marilyn Nicholls



Res Ch Hand Spun Yarn Exhibit by Sue Collins



Champion Hand Weaving Exhibit by Maureen McCutcheon



Res Ch Hand Weaving Exhibit by Stephen Gliese



Champion Knit/Crochet Exhibit by Janice Ward



Res Ch Knit/Crochet Exhibit by Marilyn Nicholls



Champion Felted Exhibit by Marilyn Nicholls



Res Ch Felted Exhibit by Clancy Morgan

On the photograph and art entries ...

Earlier in the week prior to the Show distinguished international photography judge, Dr Bert Hoveling, enjoyed a visit to the AAA National Office where he judged the Adult photography competition, asking many questions about alpacas and the alpaca industry. He was *impressed by the entries and the standard of many of the photographs.*

His judging criteria were reflected in his comments about the *sharpness of the images, composition, depth of field and light* as he chose the best photographs in each section. He considered the Champion and Reserve Champion photos outstanding and deserving of their awards.

Art, Craft and Photography Convenor, Geoff Hargreaves found the Junior art/photography entries *refreshing and imaginative*. He said the drawings were a delight to judge and that Jack Nicolas' photo, which was awarded Best Junior Exhibit, was *humorous as well as soundly executed*.



Champion Alpaca Photograph by Ben Simpson



Res. Champion Alpaca Photograph by Glenn Sutherland



Champion Junior Visual Artist Brittany Porter

Reserve Champion Junior Visual Artist Maia Nicolas





On the show ...

Show Convenor, Geoff Hargreaves was pleased with the 10,000 square metre Exhibition Pavilion, situated within the recently redeveloped Melbourne Showgrounds. He said, *"The real star was the venue with adequate room for the animals, 22 trade displays, the fleece, photography and*

craft displays and space to relax and chat. Air circulation problems that we experienced four weeks earlier at the Melbourne Royal Show when we used the facility for the first time were largely overcome by a different orientation of the pen blocks and leaving the doors open at night".



On the auction ...

A large crowd attended the auction conducted on Sunday 21 October at the Exhibition Pavilion, Melbourne Showgrounds following the Association's National Show.

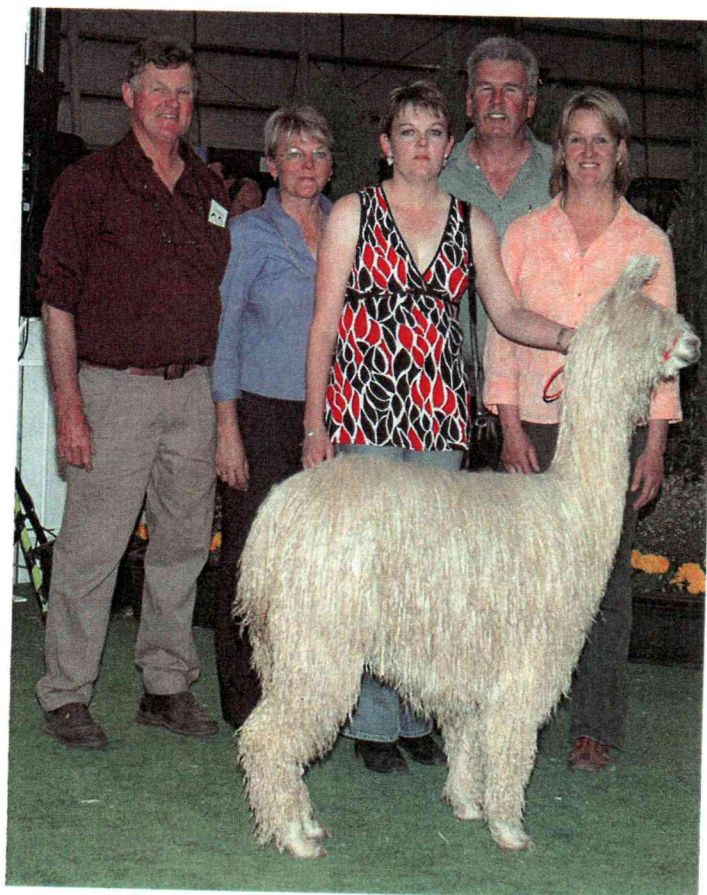
Several overseas breeders had come in search of Australian genetics and found what they were looking for with Kilnwood Alpacas and Houghton Hall Alpacas, both from the UK, snapping up eight of the sixteen lots offered.

Sales ranged from \$13,000 to \$42,000 for twelve lots with four lots being passed in. The total sales figure reached \$292,500 with an average price of \$24,375 per lot. The top priced female, *Surilana Quippi* was purchased by Traron Alpacas of NSW and the top priced male, *Kurrawa Just a Rumour ET* was bought by Serena Lodge Alpacas, Tasmania.

Two of the lots were donated by the event's Gold Sponsors, Ambersun Alpacas (SA) and Timbertop Alpacas (SA) and their generosity is greatly appreciated.

The auction was once again conducted by the experienced auctioneers from Landmark and their expertise is also greatly appreciated.

Full results of the National Auction can be viewed on the Association's web site www.alpaca.asn.au



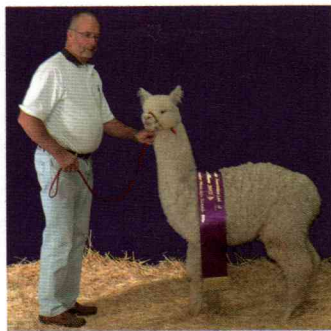
Top priced female, *Surilana Quippi* with (l-r) Bill, Annette & Tracy Robbins (Traron Alpacas) and Ian & Angela Preuss (Surilana)

The alpaca community looks forward to reconvening next year at Exhibition Park in Canberra, a little earlier than usual, on 29-31 August 2008. ➤

NATIONAL HUACAYA CHAMPIONS



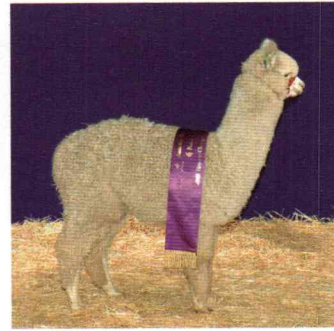
Champion Junior Female
Banksia Park MM Maid of the Mist



Res Champion Junior Female
Swan Valley Juanita



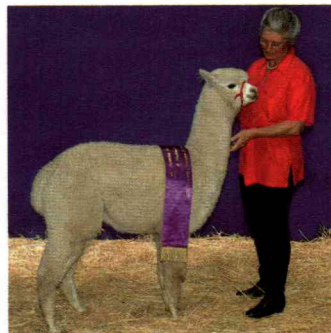
Champion Junior Male
Ambersun Bordeaux



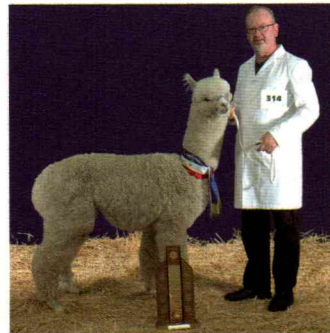
Res Champion Junior Male
EP Cambridge Fortitude



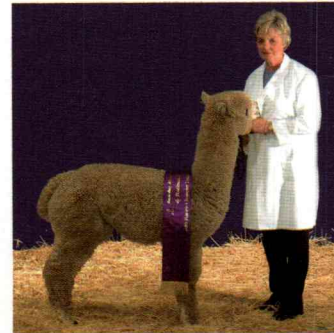
Champion Intermediate Female
Patagonia Celtic Magnolia ET



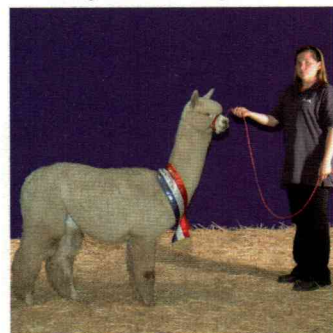
Res Champion Intermediate Female
Plantel Illawarra Bardot ET



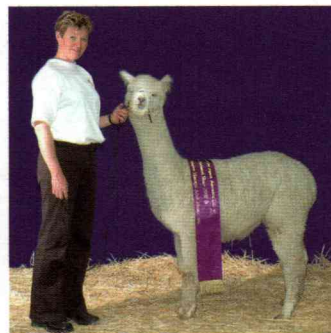
Champion Intermediate Male
Encantador Sir Lancelot



Res Champion Intermediate Male
Benleigh Sancho ET



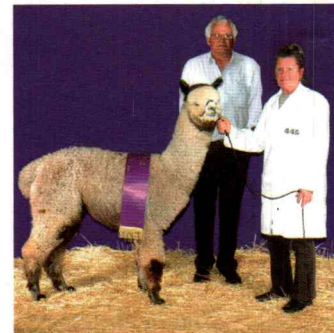
Champion Adult Female
EP Cambridge Illustrious



Res Champion Adult Female
Ambersun White Tulip



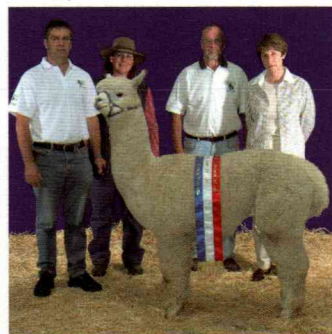
Champion Adult Male
Serena Lodge Prince Artdale



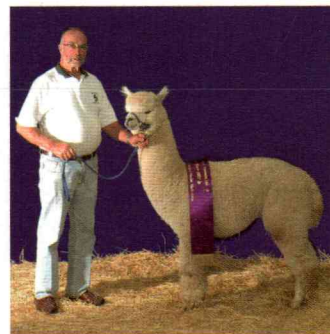
Res Champion Adult Male
Wyterrica Propaganda



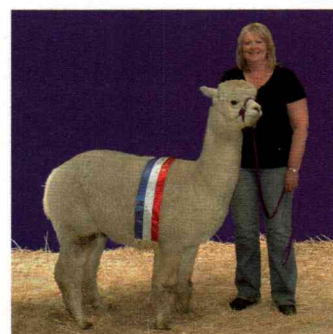
Champion Senior Female
Ambersun Prelude



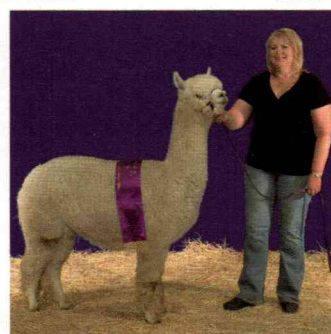
Champion Senior Male
Banksia Park Khan ET



Res Champion Senior Male
Swan Valley Lionheart



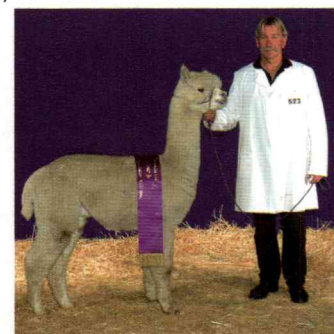
Champion Mature Female
Shanbrooke Accoyo Taquile



Res Champion Mature Female
Shanbrooke Star Attraction



Champion Mature Male
Camelot Tor



Res Champion Mature Male
Fine Choice Peruvian Ultimo

Res Champion Senior Female Banksia Park Zena ET was not available for photography

NATIONAL SURI CHAMPIONS



Champion Junior Female
Surilana Missimo ET



Res Champion Junior Female
Tahara Incandescence



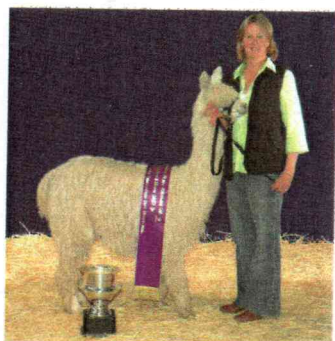
Champion Junior Male
Surilana Mister B. ET



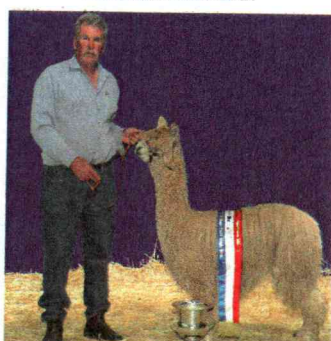
Res Champion Junior Male
Kurrawa Shavari ET



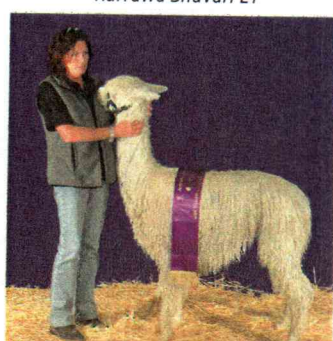
Champion Intermediate Female
Kurrawa Jianna ET



Res Champion Intermediate Female
Surilana Qechuan Glory ET



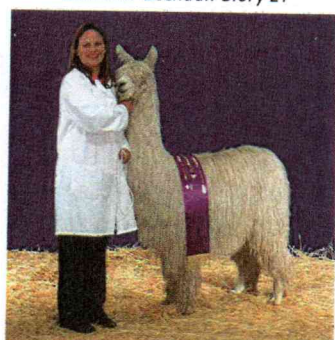
Champion Intermediate Male
Pinjarra Quachano



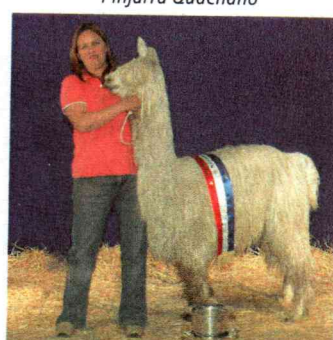
Res Champion Intermediate Male
Wesuri Myth



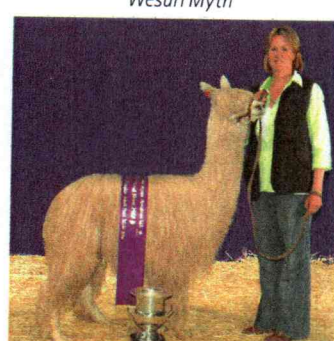
Champion Adult Female
Kurrawa Jewel ET



Res Champion Adult Female
Kurrawa Javana ET



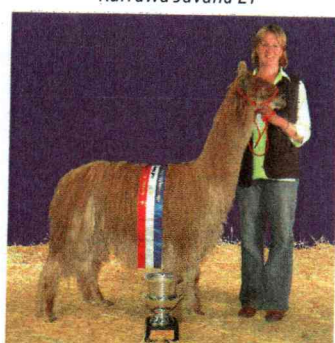
Champion Adult Male
Kurrawa Just A Rumour ET



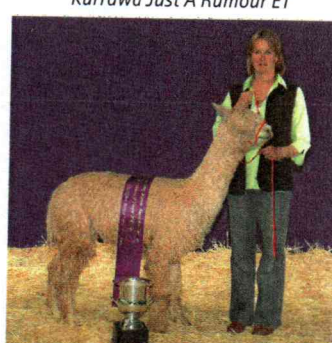
Res Champion Adult Male
Pinjarra El Nino



Champion Senior Female
Aviana Farms Radiant Charm



Champion Senior Male
Jolimont Kentor

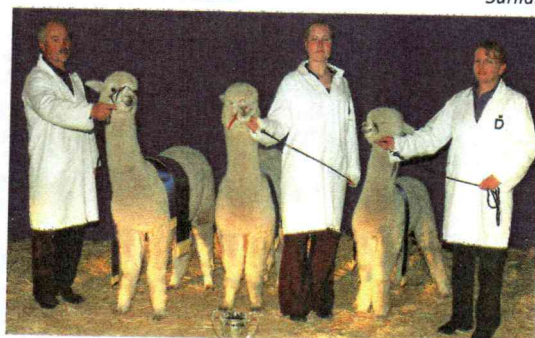


Res Champion Senior Male
Surilana Odin

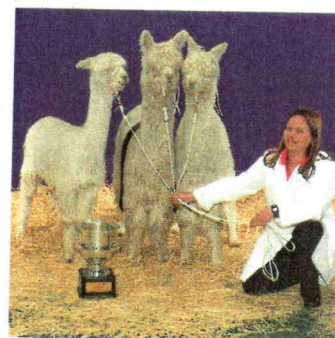


**FULL RESULTS
AVAILABLE ON THE
AAA LTD. WEB SITE
www.alpaca.asn.au**

SIRES PROGENY



Sires Progeny
Windsong Valley Kosiosko



Sires Progeny
Kurrawa Akira

Equine Influenza at Starwood

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Wendy Summerell** > Starwood Alpaca Farm/Starwood Pinto & Arabian Horse Stud, QLD



In late August 2007 the discovery of a case of Equine Influenza (EI) in Australia had the shocked attention of the equine industry and quarantine officials. Until then our island/continent home had been a fortress against EI and many other livestock diseases. With confirmed cases of EI in both NSW and Queensland the Department of Primary Industries in both states set into action containment policies.

In my home state of Queensland all property owners registered with the DPI were immediately informed via email of the situation and to this day continue to receive regular updates. An instant and complete lock down of horse movement left some horses and their owners stranded, many of whom were competing at interstate venues.

EI then swept through the Eastern States infecting horses at an alarming rate and with disastrous costs to the equine business. What was not envisaged was the flow-on effect to other livestock industries including our own alpaca industry. The cancellation of any event held at venues where horses were stabled was the first act. It was fortunate that my local Region (South Queensland & Northern NSW) was able to continue with our last judging show of the season at the Gold Coast. This was only possible as no horses were stabled on the grounds. As movement of horses was banned at the time, all exhibitors using horse trailers for transporting alpacas to this show were stopped and the cargo checked by police. In the following weeks alpaca events at the Hawkesbury Show and the Charles Ledger Show were cancelled.

Some agricultural shows have been able to continue despite the loss of equine participation, however those that relied heavily on the financial contribution from horse events have been forced to cancel or reduce the number of days the show could run. As agricultural shows provide important

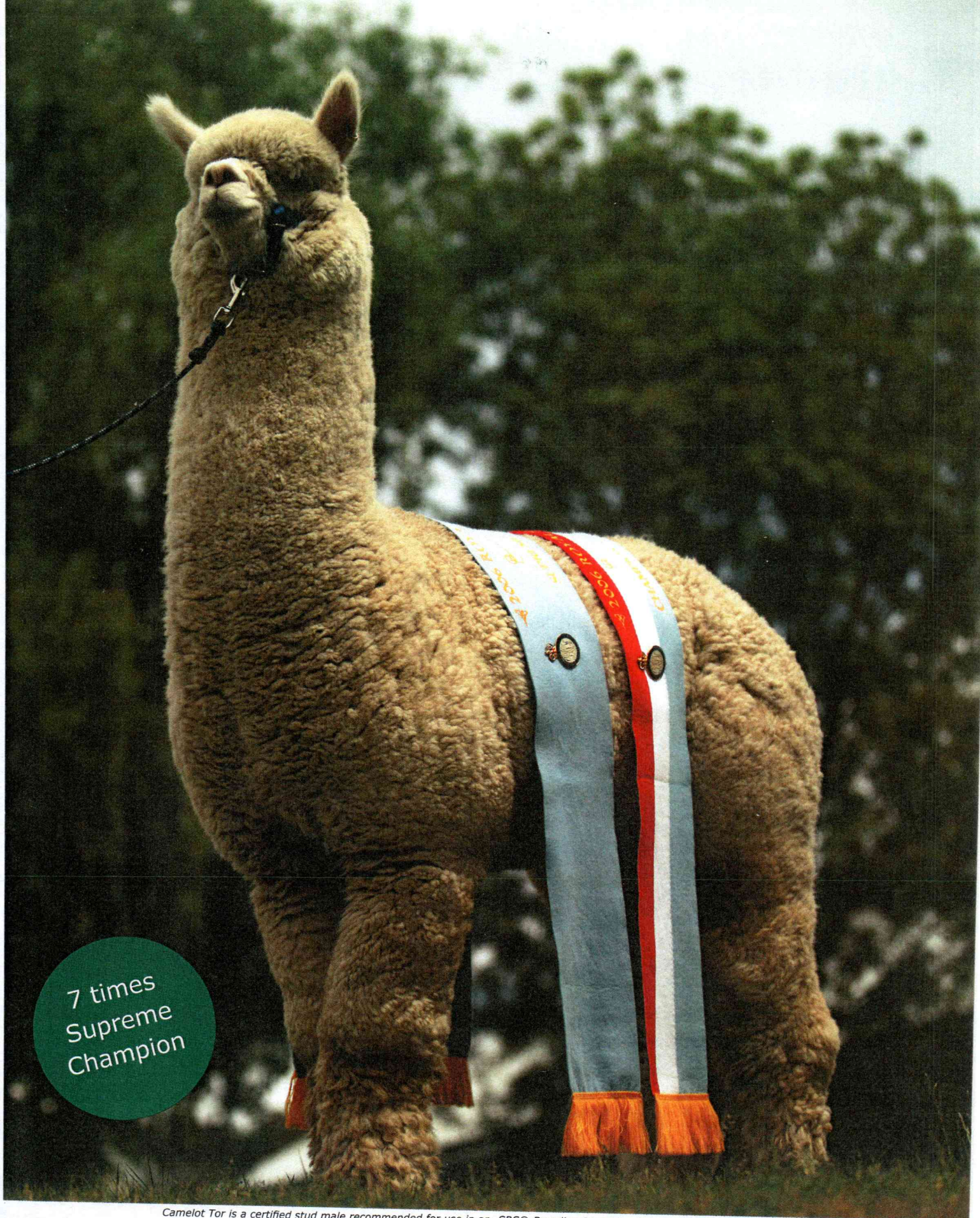
promotional venues for the alpaca industry this was a great loss. Cancellation of alpaca events was extended to include non horse venues when the virus reached several of our members' properties. Our volunteers decided not to participate to eliminate any risk of them spreading the virus.

Despite taking the precaution of having zero contact with any outside horses and not visiting any infected properties the virus still reached our farm. It came via the one method beyond our control – airborne transmission. Our stud has been breeding pleasure and performance horses since 1972, so the EI outbreak was to personally affect us on several fronts. Aside from the mental stress and physical workload it caused a serious interruption to the farm's cash flow. Occurring at the start of the equine breeding season it could not have come at a more disruptive time. The total ban on horse movement has meant that no mares have been able to travel to our stallion for service. The alpaca enterprise also suffered as we ceased mobile matings and participation in promotional events. Our twelfth annual alpaca sale was also postponed.

The necessary decontamination procedures prior to leaving the property were elaborate and time consuming, however the restriction on outside vehicles coming in also had consequences. Maintaining an adequate supply of fodder and water (we are still experiencing drought conditions) was extremely difficult. Transport vehicles were not permitted onto the property and were required to unload at the farm gate. Whilst this was not a problem with fodder (orders were reduced in quantity to enable easy transfer to the farm ute) this was not an option with a water tanker containing 10,000 litres of water. The lifting of quarantine status (30 days after the last horse exhibited symptoms) was eagerly awaited!

In a pilot study done on our farm our vet took blood samples and nasal swabs from alpacas that had been exposed to the virus through close contact with infected horses. The aim of the study was to identify if alpacas could be carriers of the virus. The results of the tests were 100% negative to EI. Although these tests were carried out on alpacas from one herd only and therefore not an extensive representation, it is a strong point that alpacas present no greater risk of spreading the virus than any other non equine species.

I am delighted to report that my own horses have recovered well. My old stallion (25 years) was the first to get EI and was quite ill, needing medication. The other horses, including a young foal had very few symptoms and were not unduly distressed by the virus. ■



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

Mature Male Champion, 2007 National Show, in the largest line up of Champions and Supreme Champions in the show's history.
His cria are stunningly beautiful. Selected females for sale, pregnant to Tor. Available for mating duties.

Details at www.flowerdalealpacas.net P 03 9593 2185.

GRAND FLOWERDALE ALPACAS

Bushfire Preparedness

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE compiled by **Irene Garner** > Alpacapeña, NSW

Fire is a problem in most summers in Australia, but particularly so after good seasons where spring rains have produced abundant growth and in very hot dry summers where the vegetation becomes tinder dry. Despite rainfall events which may occur sporadically over the bushfire season, short periods of hot, dry weather will lead to pastures drying off and becoming prone to bushfires.

Being prepared is a key to minimising the impacts of fire on your property and livestock. Take measures to reduce the fire hazard on and surrounding your property. Ensure that any firefighting equipment you intend to use is adequate and operational and that emergency plans are in place.

It may often be the case during a fire emergency that there is little or no warning with no time to consider anything other than human safety. However, at times when fires are not an immediate threat fire preparedness should be considered. Strategies and plans will be invaluable during a bushfire emergency.

Be prepared

- > Locate incinerators, rubbish dumps, fuel supplies and storage areas well away from other structures.
- > Where possible, prepare a firebreak around the home. Trim branches so that they are well clear of the house. Clear litter and flammable items away from gutters, buildings and other important infrastructure. Keep grassed areas (especially those around the house) short/green.
- > If engaged in firefighting operations, suitable non-flammable clothing should be worn including a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, suitable footwear, hat and eye protection.
- > Keep a ladder nearby for roof access (both inside and out).
- > Have water hoses available and ensure they will reach all parts of the house and garden. Where water is not connected, obtain a high pressure pump.
- > A list of essential telephone numbers should be kept near the telephone.
- > Contingencies should also be in place if the phone lines or power are affected by fire. This can include a back-up generator and other forms of communication including two-ways and mobile phones.
- > Fit wire screens to doors, windows and vents (to prevent burning embers from entering the house). Enclose any gaps, roof eaves and the under area of the house.
- > Keep a battery operated radio and spare batteries.

Firebreaks

Ensure that you observe the provisions of the Rural Fires Act 1997 (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)¹ with regard to obtaining permits for hazard reduction and concerning any fire bans that may be in place.

The correct location of firebreaks is the key to their effectiveness. There are laws regarding where and how firebreaks can be placed so it is important to contact your local RFS brigade before establishing a firebreak. Firebreaks can be considered for the following situations:

- > along boundaries of paddocks where a firebreak would help to isolate flammable crops such as wheat;
- > around wood lots or windrows where ground vegetation tends to accumulate;

- > along fencelines where a firebreak serves the dual purpose of reducing fuel and providing access for vehicles during bushfire emergencies;
- > around haystacks and outbuildings;
- > around the homestead;
- > beneath high-voltage powerlines; and
- > along road and railway boundaries.

There are various ways to construct adequate firebreaks on properties including spraying with herbicides, mowing, ploughing or burning off.

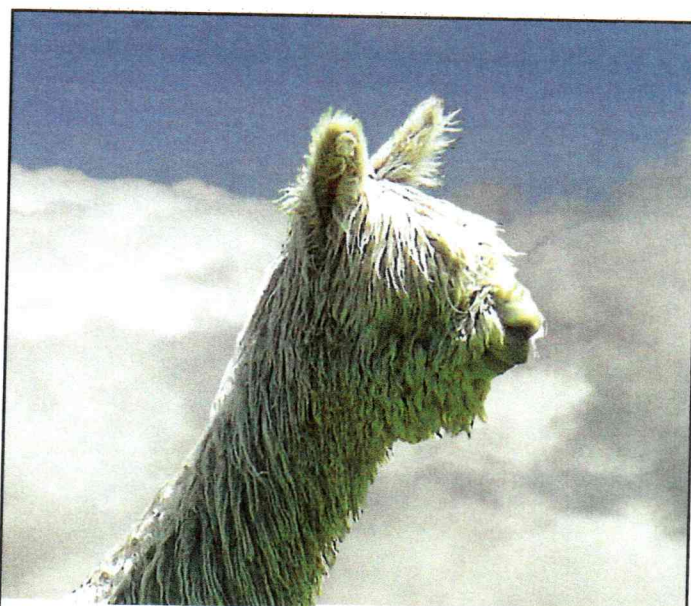
Note the following:

- > ensure that the construction of a firebreak by ploughing will not allow erosion to occur after rainfall as this can limit access to the fire as well as damage the environment;
- > an effective method of creating a firebreak around the homestead is to ensure that the home paddocks are grazed heavily in summer. Alternatively, plant lawn and mow it regularly;
- > a lucerne paddock will provide an effective firebreak and can be used to protect key improvements or provide safe refuge for livestock;
- > hazard reduction may be used to remove unwanted vegetation, reduce fuel or create firebreaks;
- > if burning off, ensure adequate mopping up is done to ensure that the fire does not flare up into a full-scale bushfire; and
- > property protection can often be improved through consultation with neighbours and local authorities.

If a bushfire approaches

- > Phone the bushfire brigade – do not assume they know about the fire.
- > Fill baths, sinks, buckets etc with reserve water and turn off any gas and power.
- > Remove curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- > Place pets in one room of the house that is easily accessible to evacuate the animals if required. Preferably have cats in cages.
- > Wear protective clothing that covers the body area, solid boots or shoes, a hat or woollen balaclava and gloves.
- > Plug downpipes with rags and fill all roof gutters with water. Hose down walls, garden etc. on the sides of the house facing the 'fire-front' and watch for spot fires.

- > Inside, close all windows, doors and block crevices and gaps. When the fire front arrives, bring hoses inside with you. Stay inside, away from windows, while it passes (usually 5-15 minutes).
- > Quickly extinguish any fires, which may have started in, on, or under the house and check inside the roof cavity as well.
- > If the house is alight and can't be extinguished, move away to safe burnt ground. Don't leave the area, wait for help. Listen to the battery radio for official information.
- > Damage to, or destruction of fences and stockyards is likely. This can limit your option in controlling and managing livestock and feral animals. However, in the short term the major single issue will be the nutritional requirements of your animals.
- > After a flood or fire event, government assistance is available under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA). This joint State/Federal assistance package provides a range of assistance measures for landholders, including emergency funding for replacement of household items, subsidies for the transport of fodder and livestock deemed necessary as a result of the disaster, and low-interest loans. Other assistance is available from local councils and other organisations. Full details and contacts for these programs are available from the NSW Treasury¹ and are usually published during or immediately after a disaster event. ➤



Get a headstart in suris



BAARROOKA

Coach Rd, Strathbogie, Vic | 03 5790 5288 | www.baarrooka.com.au

Protection of livestock

Stockowners must have in place a plan for protecting livestock. Some considerations include:

- > Know the best places where livestock can be moved to – aim to have yards, ploughed paddocks or other relatively safe areas available. The perimeter of the paddock should be either ploughed or graded to prevent the spread of fire into it. This area should be as close to the home as possible so that it can be monitored regularly and should have a dam and sprinkler system. Consider access to these ‘safe’ sites during a fire event and have an alternate access point to these if one is cut off. It has been demonstrated that lucerne paddocks are effective as a safe haven for livestock during fires.
- > Have equipment readily available for cutting fences to allow trapped livestock out in emergency situations.
- > If warning is given early enough, consideration to transporting stock to a safe place should be considered. Consider what impact this will have on any quality assurance program that you administer on your property. Wherever possible, make special arrangements to maintain your stock's status and market access.
- > It is important to have fodder reserves at hand or at least know where fodder can be accessed quickly. If all pasture is lost it is important that emergency reserves are available to maintain livestock.
- > Water will be vital for livestock and firefighting. When establishing waterpoints be wary of running poly pipe above ground as it will burn in fires and cut off valuable water supplies.

Nursing burnt livestock

Animals that are injured should be placed in a ‘hospital’ paddock or yard where they can be inspected regularly and nursed.

Points to consider and ensure are:

- > place stock on the softest, most level ground available, especially if their feet are burnt;
- > provide ready access to good-quality feed and water. Burnt animals are reluctant to move and usually do not feed for a few days. They should be given high-protein feeds such as good lucerne or meadow hay;
- > inspect animals often enough to ensure they are able to move to water and drink. Animals which are unable to drink should be euthanased;
- > try to provide access to good shade;
- > check all animals regularly for signs of flystrike, both on burnt areas of the body and on the feet, and treat if necessary;
- > remember to control worms especially after rain; and
- > some animals may benefit from long acting antibiotics to treat secondary infections - seek Veterinary advice.

Re-examine and reassess stock daily for at least a week after the fire and then 2-3 times weekly for a further 2-3 weeks. Particular attention should be given to mobility, inappetence and development of respiratory signs. ■


Useful web sites

- > The Rural Fire Service (RFS)
www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- > Department of Primary Industries
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts


Acknowledgements

- > Simon Oliver.
- > Graeme Eggleston, Director, Emergencies & Strategic Response, Orange
- > Luzia Rast, Senior Regional Animal Health Manager, Surveillance & Biosecurity Operations, Wagga Wagga
- > John Bowler, Former Senior Agricultural Protection Officer
- > State of New South Wales through NSW Department of Primary Industries 2006
- > Emergency Management Australia
- > Australasian Fire Authorities Council and Country Fire Authority - Victoria

¹ This article has been written with reference to NSW authorities. Check the corresponding legislation in your state.

**BUNGALOOK**
Alpaca Headstalls

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



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

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

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

Send your order with choice of colours and sizes to
Bungalook Alpaca Farm
P.O. Box 204 Lakes Entrance
Vic 3909 Australia
Ph/Fax: 03 51552464

E-mail: jakobi@bungalook.com
Web: www.bungalook.com

Weed Strategies Following Drought, Fire and Flood

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Bob Trounce** > Former Agronomist Weeds
James Dellow > Agronomist Weeds, Weeds Unit, Orange

Introduction

Because of their greater competitiveness, weed species readily invade bare areas of ground which have been denuded of vegetation. Drought, fire and even floods can create these conditions as they devastate existing ground cover, thereby removing all competition for light, nutrients, moisture and space. This devastation allows quick weed establishment when more favourable conditions arrive. Weeds already on the property may quickly spread to new areas, and weed densities increase.

The two classes of land most at risk of weed invasion are cropping and grazing land. Cropping land is most at risk through weed imports in contaminated seed at sowing time and weed seed being spread from contract machinery – especially harvesters. Grazing land is at risk of weed importation through contamination of fodder, and weed seed may be inadvertently spread around a property at the time of feeding, or in the animals' dung, days after the contaminated fodder has been eaten. Animals introduced onto a property, either in a restocking program or returning from agistment, can also introduce weeds.

The presence of livestock on a property will usually allow some weeds to establish to the detriment of desirable species as these weeds are unpalatable and are therefore not readily grazed.

Not only is it important to avoid importing new weeds generally, but also to avoid introducing strains of common weeds which are resistant to herbicides. Ryegrass is particularly dangerous, especially on land which is sown to crops.

It is important to have a strategy in place for combating potential weed problems before, not after, they occur.

Livestock owners

- > Obtain as much detail as possible about the source of the fodder or grain that is being brought onto the property.
- > Consider carefully where the grain and fodder are to be fed. In considering herbicide resistance, it is best to avoid cropping paddocks.

- > Restrict the feeding area as much as possible. A small 'sacrifice paddock' may be the best option, preferably located where regular checks can be made after each incident of rain. Flat, arable areas are the best selection as these usually allow easy access and the opportunity for many options for control (mechanical, chemical, biological or grazing management).
- > In areas where there is the basis of a good, strong perennial grass pasture, feed in this area as it will provide quicker competition against establishing weeds.
- > Livestock are excellent distributors of weed seeds, and for many weeds a livestock quarantine period of at least two weeks is recommended. This includes holding livestock returning from agistment.
- > Restrict the movement of livestock. Fortunately, annual ryegrass seed is normally digested by sheep, and very little viable seed passes through the digestive tract.
- > Keep a close watch for unknown plants and have them identified early. Don't let them establish and set seed. (See the section 'Information and plant identification' below.) ■

Information and plant identification

A list of potential weeds from the southern States of Australia can be obtained by referring to the following publications:

- > *Crop Weeds*, by JL Wilding, AG Barnett and RL Amor, Inkata Press, Melbourne and Sydney, 1986.
- > *Weeds – An illustrated botanical guide to the weeds of Australia*, by BA Auld and RW Medd, Inkata Press, Melbourne, 1987.
- > *Noxious Weeds of Australia*, by WT Parsons and EG Cuthbertson, Inkata Press, Melbourne and Sydney, revised edition November 2000.

For information on paddock management or weed control options, consult your district agronomist. These officers can also assist with identification of unknown plants. Alternatively, you can contact your local council weeds officer.

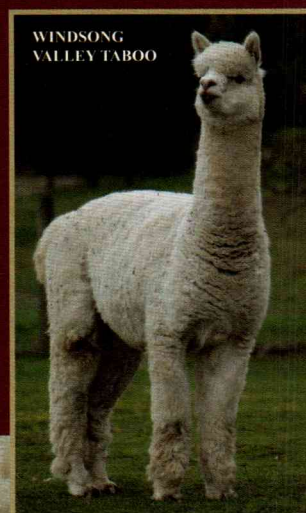
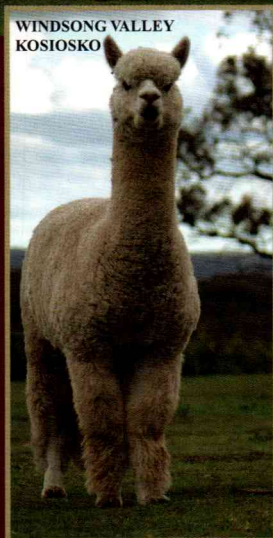
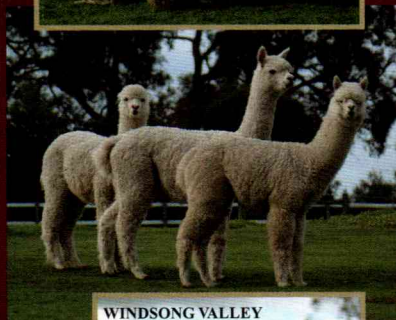
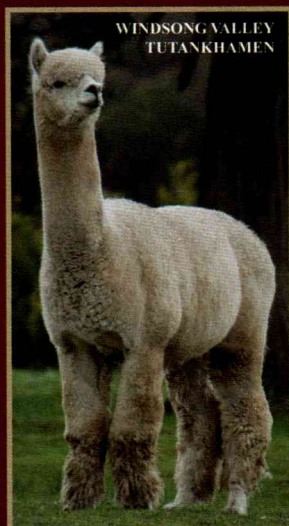
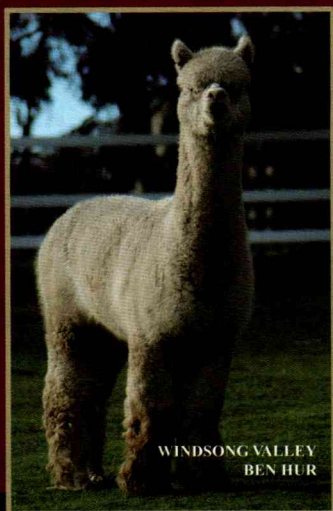
© State of New South Wales through NSW Department of Primary Industries 2007

The Discerning Alternatives

...

**ON FARM AND MOBILE
ATTRACTIVELY PRICED PACKAGES
DISCOUNT FOR MULTIPLES
SUPREME GENETICS
LIMITED BLOODLINES FOR SALE**

...



For all enquiries about Windsong Valley Alpaca Stud
phone 61(0)3 5342 0111 • Benoît 0419 420 110 • Philippa 0419 323 000
or visit us at "Ledgers Park" 325 Nine Mile Rd, Napoleons (Ballarat) Victoria 3325
Web www.infoalpaca.com • Email alpacas@infoalpaca.com

Basic Introduction of Biosecurity Programs for Alpaca Farms

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Iona McKinnon** > Chairperson, Australian Alpaca Research Pty Ltd. > Turrabunna Stud, VIC

Today, Australia's primary industries are highly competitive, globally and domestically. In global markets Australia has a valuable competitive edge, as it is clean from disease as a consequence of our relative isolation. Whilst Australian farm animals are not subject to many of the diseases experienced in other countries, there is potential for infectious diseases to destroy complete herds, and even an industry. To retain that competitive edge we should ensure that we minimise the impact of disease, should it occur.

Domestically, it is in the interests of farmers to devise strategies to minimise the risk of disease entering their farms, and to curtail its impact, should it enter.

Biosecurity should be an aspect of every farm's management. A program for a farm of low or medium risk is based on the very basic principles of creating and maintaining a boundary and of risk assessment. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate that biosecurity management is not complex by describing the facilities and management of a particular property.

'Turrabunna' is a 60 acre farm situated on the Kooweerup swamp, south-east of Melbourne, the home of approximately 40 steers and 40 alpaca, plus two dogs, four horses, two humans and countless wildlife.

The purpose of biosecurity is to minimise the opportunity for the animals on a property to be contaminated by disease. The aim is to adopt management practices that minimise the importation of infectious agents onto the farm, by establishing and maintaining a boundary around the property, by structure and procedures.

I predict that, at some time in the future, all farms will be encouraged, and may eventually be made to develop such a program. Those farms on the MAP and in Q-Alpaca should already have such in place. This is not difficult, and does not require any great expertise.

Microorganisms do not make their way onto a property on their own. They are carried on by something, or someone. They are carried by faeces, saliva and other body fluids, on the skin and hair, on clothing, on vehicles and equipment, on the wind and in water.

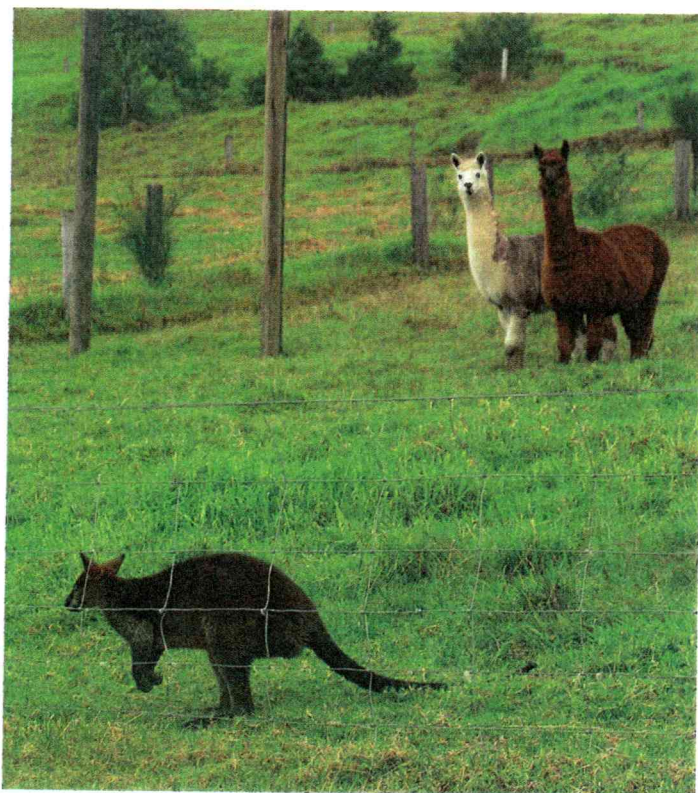
It could be said that the ideal is a program that either denies access or fully decontaminates all these. However, depending on the circumstances, the benefits may not be worthy of the effort nor the expense, and not be practical. Furthermore, some strategies may be detrimental to the business.

Another aspect of management is assessment of risk:

- > What contaminants exist in the environment?
- > How dangerous are they to the animals on the property?
- > What strategies are required to keep them off the property? Do these justify the possible consequences?
- > Also, does the denial of exposure reduce the natural resistance of the farm animals, and thus expose them to greater risk when they are exposed on their departure from the property?

There are two programs that can be established:

- > a permanent program to which all must adhere at all times; and
- > a program that can be quickly activated should the need arise. ➤



The following is the way by which the program for 'Turrabunna' was established and is being upheld. The following account describes the strategies undertaken.

Two types of barriers were established – passive and active. Passive barriers include fencing and water-flow prevention. Once they are in place they must be regularly inspected and maintained.

Animals outside the property can contaminate through a fence by faeces and saliva being windblown, and by direct contact with our stock. The solution is to double fence to all roads and neighbours, with a gap between the fences of several metres between the two. The planting of trees and shrubs in the gap between the two fences will further lessen the chances of contamination.

Another external carrier of contaminants is water. There are several strategies that can be used to prevent water from flowing from outside onto the property. It can be captured in closed drains; channelled away from the property by levy banks; filtered through several metres of sand; or soaked up by thick vegetation. The total catchment area of all dams must be within the property perimeters.

'Turrabunna' has no gates on the property boundary that cannot be monitored. All gates onto the farm are from the house area. Each gate carries a sign that states that behind the gate is a quarantine area and all entry must be supervised.

These are the passive strategies. The active strategies are designed to prevent the people, machinery, equipment, and animals that have legitimate access, from bringing contaminants onto the property.

Complete decontamination of all personnel coming onto the property would involve full wash-down showers and change of clothing. During times of which there is no emergency animal disease outbreak the risk of our and most visitors' clothing carrying contaminants that are dangerous is judged to be low. Therefore the decontamination of ourselves and most visitors is confined to footwear. Either boots that are only used on the property are supplied, or visitors' are asked to walk through a footbath containing the phenol-based solution.

The most effective disinfectants are formaldehyde and aldehyde-based products (*Wolfgang, date unknown*), but we found that the solution we were using caused our visitors' footwear to fall apart. Furthermore, these products can be very severe on animals – they are used for embalming. Therefore, as the phenols have been found to be good disinfectants against bacteria and have some impact against fungi and virus (*Wolfgang, date unknown*) we believe that this is adequate for our current requirements.

Vets and others who work with farm animals either wear clean overalls or they are supplied.

Access to the property of machinery and equipment is minimised. That which must go through the gates is decontaminated by a phenol-based solution, following the full wash-down of that which has been on other farm property. The decontamination is the spraying of wheels and undercarriage of vehicles, and of those parts of equipment that may have been in touch with the ground or other animals.

The general policy is that animals that come onto the property are held in quarantine yards, once cleaned for any possible faeces. They are thoroughly checked for skin diseases, drenched against internal parasites, and their general demeanour and health monitored until their cleanliness and good health has been established. This may take several days or could be two to three weeks if a disease is suspected. During this time these animals use separate feed and water containers, and prior to and after all feeding, husbandry and handling we decontaminate by changing overalls, changing or dipping boots, and washing hands. Animals exempt of being subject to this complete regime are those that are taken off the property temporarily for shows, displays, and matings. Their facilities when off-farm are kept separate from those of other animals, and as clean as possible, and on their return these animals are cleaned for any possible faeces prior to being taken through to the farm area.

A further consideration is the vulnerability of the farm's animals themselves to disease. Animals that are completely isolated from disease are more vulnerable as their immune systems are not given the opportunity to develop. Therefore, if these animals are taken off the property and exposed to disease they are much more likely to succumb. The ideal is to prevent disease from being brought onto the property, yet enable our animals to develop their own innate resistance.

Furthermore, those animals that are in good health, are well maintained, kept in sound farming conditions, and are not stressed will be less likely to succumb to disease. Maintenance includes regular vaccinations, strategies such as adequate drenching, and a balanced diet that is appropriate for each animal's individual needs. Sound farming conditions include facilities that allow for adequate exercise, grazing on well-maintained pastures that are not over-stocked, adequate shelter, are cross-grazed with other species that do not carry the same parasites, are frequently rotated through fresh paddocks, and are kept with other animals with which they are compatible and thus are not pushed off feed or bullied. As psychological stress increases susceptibility to disease, appropriate handling facilities and methods are also imperative. This includes general handling and training. Cleanliness is also important. Troughs and feed containers should be kept clean and in good order.

Some industries are known to regularly administer antibiotics to all animals as a tool to enhance resistance (as opposed to specific use to fight infection). It is our opinion

that this use of antibiotics and some other chemicals is irresponsible. It is now evident that bacteria that threaten both farm animals and humans are developing resistance to many antibiotics.

Risk management is also relevant when an animal becomes ill. Unless the problem is known to not be infectious the infected animal(s) should be immediately separated from the others. However, if only one animal is involved separation may induce further stress which could inhibit its recovery. Therefore, assessment of the options' consequences has to be made.

Early detection, diagnosis and treatment are other important factors. This involves knowledge of animals' 'normal' behaviour and demeanour, and general condition, frequent and regular monitoring, and the keeping of a farm diary, into which all observations as well as regular husbandry activity such as vaccinations are entered.

We have two methods of disposal of dead bodies. Firstly, a knackery is close by. Secondly, as there are several strips of granitic sand, and we have the equipment to dig deep pits, burial is the other option. On-farm burial is only possible when the cause of death has been clearly established and was not infectious.

There are several weaknesses of this program. For example, no strategy exists for decontamination of the farm's dogs, who come and go. However, their sole access is through the gates, all of which face onto the house area, that could be said to be a 'neutral' area, as no farm animals are housed there, and any faeces that may spill from animal transports, the occurrence of which is rare, are immediately picked up. Should the dogs come from the road they travel through this neutral area before entering the farm. Furthermore, all vehicles that travel on the road have travelled in excess of 1 km following any possible contamination caused by

driving through animal faeces from another farm, therefore the contaminants on the road are minimal. Whilst this is not ideal, it is believed to be adequate in the current environment.

'Turrabunna' is also the home of wildlife, such as bandicoots, possums, wombats and prolific birds including water birds, as well as foxes. All these break the current biosecurity as they go about their lives between properties. Whilst this risk could be reduced by very expensive measures, it is not considered a worthwhile investment and would be very difficult to establish and maintain.

Whilst it is recognised that our biosecurity management could be tighter, it is important that the strategies in use are sufficiently straightforward that there is no temptation to take shortcuts. They should be sufficiently easy to undertake that they become immersed in the everyday farming activities.

This is the bio-security program for 'Turrabunna'. It is low-key, designed for the environment of south-east Victoria, in times of no known infectious disease outbreak. It has not been complicated to set up, nor to manage.

As stated above, an important aspect of a biosecurity program is risk assessment. The current program is assessed as suited to the present environment, but it is recognised that in the event of an infectious disease outbreak additional measures would need to be introduced. ■

References

- > Wolfgang, DR date unknown. 'Biosecurity' Veterinary Science Information, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, USA. <http://vetextension.psu.edu/resources/pdf/biosecurity/BiosecurityIRS.pdf>

Paper originally presented at the 2006 AAA National Conference, Adelaide, SA

Camelid Health Supplies (Aust)



Cria Care & Birthing Supplies

Cria Coats

Husbandry Supplies

Vitamins & Health Support

ET Supplies

Grooming & Show Supplies

Reference Books

Dedicated suppliers to the alpaca industry

Prompt and efficient service

Delivery anywhere

Order online or by phone or fax

www.camelidsupplies.com.au

Phone: (02) 4841 0544 ■ Mobile: 0438 298 361 ■ Fax: (02) 4841 0533

The Weaver and the Breeder

FASHION ARTICLE by **Dianne Marshall** > Tahara Suri Alpacas, VIC



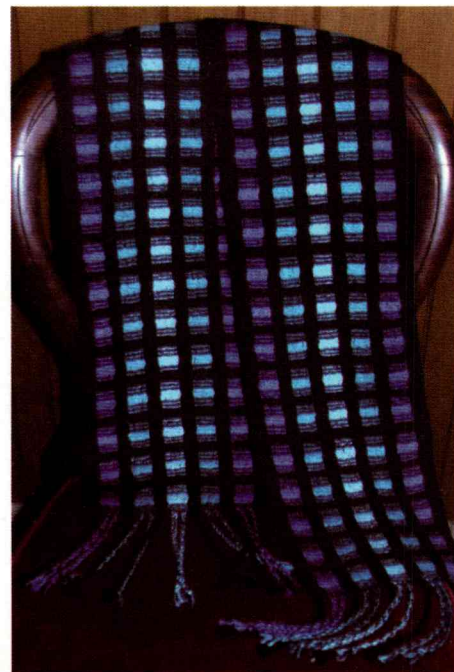
Dianne Marshall, of Tahara Suri Alpacas, the suri breeder and Ingrid Wass, the weaver, first met in about 1994 when Dianne joined the Berry (NSW) Spinners and Weavers Association. Ingrid was a member of long standing and Dianne was a newbie, interested in learning the art of spinning as she was breeding alpacas and wanted to do something with their fleece.

Ingrid, originally from Sweden, had a reputation as a beautiful weaver, and had moved to the South Coast in NSW when she retired from her job in Sydney. While in Sydney she had studied weaving, which had at that time been a course available at some of the then Technical Colleges. (Unfortunately these courses are no longer in existence, government cuts presumably).

Dianne, having managed to spin a reasonable quantity of fleece, approached Ingrid with the idea of using it to weave some scarves. Ingrid tried different combinations of suri, merino, silk and mohair with encouraging results. Her preferred combination was the suri and silk.

Dianne relocated her herd of suris from Goulburn, New South Wales to Fern Hill in Victoria and as time went on a stockpile of fleece accumulated, so a decision was made to have some fibre commercially spun. This resulted in the most beautiful silken yarn. Ingrid was excited by the beautiful handle of this yarn and couldn't wait to try it. The result of combining the natural black and brown of the suri with the yarn that had been hand dyed by Ingrid exceeded expectations. Apart from her exceptional talent for weaving Ingrid also has a talent for combining colour and has created an exquisite range of products.

For more information contact Dianne Marshall at chantlan.park@bigpond.com ■



Alpaca Owners' Beliefs about Alpacas

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE by **Pauleen Bennett** > Hevnlee Alpacas, VIC

Have you ever wondered exactly what you need to do to ensure your alpacas are optimally healthy? When we bought our first alpacas I spent many hours reading books and scientific reports but soon found that experienced breeders, familiar with Australian conditions, provided the best source of information. After asking hundreds of questions at shows, conferences and AAA events I realised that there was a pressing need to collate this information so that it would be available for others.

With a team of colleagues from the Animal Welfare Science Centre in Victoria and with funding from the AAA, I developed a survey which was distributed to over 2,000 AAA members in mid 2006. The questionnaire asked respondents about their experiences with alpacas, their beliefs about alpaca husbandry requirements, their feeding and management practices, their breeding practices and the welfare of their animals. A preliminary description of the data was presented at the AAA conference in Adelaide in 2006 and the full report can be obtained in electronic form from the AAA. In this article and in additional articles to be published in future issues of *Alpacas Australia*, I describe some of the more interesting findings.

Demographic information

Over 400 (426) completed surveys were returned by persons actively engaged in caring for alpacas in Australia. Just over two thirds of these persons were female and 50% were aged over 55 years (range 18-89 years). All states were represented although Victorians made up over 48% of the sample. Most respondents kept their alpacas on relatively small rural properties: 29% on 3 hectares or less; 39% on 3-10 hectares; and only 7% on properties larger than 50 hectares. Participant experience with alpacas ranged from 1 month to 20 years: 6% had cared for alpacas for 1 year or less; 41% for 1-5 years; 35% for 5-10 years; and 18% for over 10 years. Just over 20% of participants had cared for 10 animals or fewer; 50% had cared for 10-50 animals; 16% had cared for 50-100, with the remaining 14% having cared for over 100 animals.

Almost all participants (98%) owned at least some of the animals they cared for. Many people also cared for alpacas that were jointly owned (26%) or agisted on their property (25%). Only a small number (4%) were employed specifically to care for alpacas owned by somebody else. Most (54%) described their involvement as a small business or as a major (26%) or minor (15%) hobby.

Few were involved in medium (5%) or large (1%) alpaca businesses although most indicated that they were planning to increase (40%) or maintain (32%) their current level of involvement in the industry. Nearly all respondents listed breeding as either the primary (85%) or secondary (9%) reason for keeping alpacas. Fleece production was most often the secondary reason (46%), although 15% of respondents ranked this ahead of breeding.

When respondents were asked to indicate how well informed about alpaca care and husbandry they considered themselves to be, most reported that they were moderately (57%) or extremely (25%) well informed. Very few respondents (0.5%) felt that they were not at all well informed about alpaca care. Importantly, the degree to which participants considered themselves to be well informed was strongly and significantly positively associated with the number of years they had spent caring for alpacas (0.38) and the scale of their alpaca enterprise (0.31) and also moderately positively associated with the total number of alpacas cared for (0.23). This suggested to us that this variable was likely to provide a reasonably valid indicator of how well informed people *actually* were, as well as how informed they *felt* they were.

Most respondents reported relying on common sense and personal experience to inform their husbandry practices most of the time, with other alpaca owners/breeders also being a common source of additional information. Other potential sources of information were accessed less frequently, although most were used by most respondents at least sometimes. Perhaps surprisingly, quite a substantial percentage of the participants never accessed information about alpaca care from local or specialist alpaca veterinarians, or from alpaca shows, AAA Regional events, the AAA web site or the AAA conference. Private internet sites were utilized by approximately 40% of the participants but generally only infrequently. ►

Beliefs about alpacas

The second section of the questionnaire asked respondents to rate the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with 41 statements about alpacas. Table 1 lists each of these statements and shows the percentage of respondents who selected each response and the degree to which the responses to each statement were associated with three measures of experience:

- > how well informed the person believed themselves to be about alpaca care and husbandry;
- > how many years they had been involved in the industry; and
- > the total number of alpacas cared for over that time.

As an example of how to interpret this table, begin by looking down the left hand column to find beliefs about specific health issues. As can be seen from this section, respondents were generally in agreement that rye grass staggers is a health issue in alpacas in some parts of Australia and that alpacas can be susceptible to a deficiency in Vitamin D. Fewer people agreed that liver fluke or paralysis ticks represented a potential problem; although approximately 50-60% of respondents agreed with these statements many others were unsure about these issues – neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the relevant

statements. In general, respondents agreed that alpacas can be susceptible to selenium deficiency in some parts of Australia and they also agreed that Vitamin D deficiency can lead to developmental problems in young alpacas. While very few people disagreed with the statements that alpacas can suffer from cobalt deficiency or from Vitamin K deficiency, the level of active agreement with these statements was relatively low, with most respondents indicating that they neither agreed nor disagreed with the relevant statement.

When beliefs about specific health issues were correlated with measures of experience a number of interesting associations were revealed. All of the experience variables were positively associated with the belief that Vitamin D deficiency can specifically affect cria development and two of the three experience variables were also positively associated with the belief that alpacas can be affected by paralysis ticks, and the beliefs that Vitamin D and selenium deficiencies can be problematic. This indicates that respondents with more experience were more likely to agree with these statements. People who believe themselves to be well informed about alpaca care also were more likely to believe that alpacas can suffer from liver fluke and be susceptible to cobalt deficiency, although these specific beliefs were not strongly associated with the number of years a person had been caring for alpacas or the total number of alpacas cared for.

Table 1. Respondents' beliefs about alpacas and relationships between these beliefs and measure of experience

	% of respondents who selected each response option					Correlations with 'experience' variables		
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	How well informed person felt	Years involvement in industry	Total number of alpacas cared for
General beliefs about alpacas								
Alpacas are very resilient animals	1.0	8.1	13.8	58.5	18.6	.120	.053	-.004
Alpacas are more docile than other agricultural animals	1.2	14.8	30.0	47.9	6.2	-.060	.006	-.079
Alpacas are more timid than most agricultural animals	5.6	48.1	22.5	19.0	4.7	-.152*	-.181	-.084
Alpacas are more easily managed than most agricultural animals	0.9	7.3	15.9	52.4	23.5	.064	.019	-.003
Alpacas are more prone to stress than most agricultural animals	2.4	25.6	36.5	27.7	7.8	.007	-.072	-.019
Alpacas are social animals that should be kept in pairs or groups	0.2	0.7	0.5	33.9	64.7	.002	-.011	-.014
Alpacas are generally able to defend themselves against dog attacks	13.6	37.1	19.0	27.1	3.1	-.154*	-.140*	-.081
Alpacas have a strong herd instinct	0.0	0.2	0.0	27.8	72.0	.139*	.117	.056
Beliefs about monitoring and maintenance								
It is easy to tell when an alpaca is injured or unwell	4.3	36.1	18.1	36.6	5.0	-.022	-.106	-.070
Alpacas are susceptible to cold conditions after shearing	0.7	0.2	4.2	36.8	58.0	.074	.090	.060
Alpacas are susceptible to heat stress in hot climates	0.7	5.9	20.8	47.0	25.5	.042	.042	.011
Alpacas require daily observation to ensure their health and wellbeing	0.7	20.4	11.7	47.7	19.5	.026	.013	-.010
All alpacas should be checked regularly by a veterinarian	9.5	55.9	25.6	7.6	1.4	-.251*	-.197*	-.114
Alpacas should be shorn annually	0.0	1.9	2.1	38.6	57.4	.027	.031	.000
Most alpacas should have their teeth trimmed regularly	5.2	33.2	26.3	31.5	3.8	-.177*	-.097	-.080
Alpacas' toenails should be trimmed regularly	0.7	1.7	6.7	50.6	40.4	.122	-.033	.014

Table 1 continued

	% of respondents who selected each response option					Correlations with 'experience' variables		
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	How well informed person felt	Years involvement in industry	Total number of alpacas cared for
Beliefs about nutrition and health needs								
Alpacas can generally live on pasture alone	5.7	28.5	21.8	37.6	6.5	.047	-.006	.004
Alpacas should always have access to drinking water	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	88.2	.098	.020	.004
Alpacas generally eat less than other agricultural animals of comparable size	0.7	12.6	26.1	53.1	7.5	.077	-.055	.013
Pregnant alpacas require supplementary feeding at all times	2.4	19.6	14.4	44.0	19.6	.040	-.052	-.079
Alpacas have higher mineral needs than many animals	0.2	18.3	43.0	30.4	8.1	.058	.079	.062
Intestinal worms in alpacas should be monitored or treated regularly if the alpacas are run with other livestock	0.0	0.9	6.2	47.4	45.5	.207*	.038	.036
Intestinal worms in alpacas should be monitored or treated regularly even if they are not run with other livestock	0.2	11.0	13.1	55.4	20.2	.132*	.040	.046
Alpacas should be vaccinated against common diseases on a regular basis	0.0	4.9	8.0	46.9	40.1	.075	-.041	-.073
Beliefs about specific health issues								
Rye grass staggers is a health issue in alpacas in some areas of Australia	0.5	0.9	13.5	46.3	38.8	.119	.073	.076
In some parts of Australia, liver fluke is a health problem for alpacas	0.0	1.0	35.7	48.2	15.2	.197*	.114	.067
In some parts of Australia, paralysis ticks are a health problem for alpacas	0.0	0.7	39.0	41.7	18.5	.206*	.214*	.122
In some parts of Australia, alpacas are susceptible to Vitamin D deficiency	0.0	0.5	10.2	50.9	38.4	.169*	.131*	.119
In some parts of Australia, alpacas are susceptible to Vitamin K deficiency	1.2	3.4	70.7	20.4	4.2	-.041	-.063	-.099
In some parts of Australia, alpacas are susceptible to selenium deficiency	0.0	0.2	15.6	53.9	30.3	.214*	.157*	.110
In some parts of Australia, alpacas are susceptible to cobalt deficiency	0.0	0.7	59.0	32.6	7.7	.138*	.113	-.006
Vitamin D deficiency can lead to crias that fail to thrive, are stunted or develop angular limb deformities	0.2	0.5	16.7	51.0	31.7	.261*	.202*	.139*
Beliefs about accommodation and training								
Farm design is an important consideration when deciding whether or not to keep alpacas	2.8	20.5	20.3	45.8	10.6	.093	.019	.038
Relative to other livestock, alpacas need good fences to keep them contained	11.6	55.	12.8	18.0	2.4	-.009	.063	-.034
Alpacas benefit from access to shelter from the sun and/or wind	0.7	2.3	7.3	43.2	46.5	.117	.041	-.044
Alpacas tend not to seek shelter during storms	11.6	34.7	13.2	34.4	6.2	.051	.012	.000
Alpacas need to know that humans are the 'boss'	4.5	21.8	26.3	37.2	10.2	-.037	-.009	-.076
Handling alpacas when they are young makes them easier to handle as adults	0.9	4.2	3.5	56.6	34.7	-.012	-.087	-.101
People need training to know how to handle alpacas	0.0	6.8	13.4	58.5	21.2	.024	-.017	.015
Alpacas don't like to be handled by people	4.0	32.8	28.4	31.0	3.8	.001	-.024	.061
Spoiling alpacas when they are young can make them difficult to handle as adults	3.1	20.1	21.6	39.6	15.6	.211*	.156*	.045

* p < 0.01

Conclusion

Many beliefs about alpacas varied widely among participants and quite a few were either positively or negatively associated with experience variables. This provides all breeders with insight into what other alpaca owners and managers believe about their animals and also may identify areas where further education of breeders is required. In the next issue of *Alpacas Australia* I will report on alpaca breeders' feeding and management practices. ■

The Myths of Fleece and AAFL

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Michael Jack** > AAA Ltd. Central Coast & Hunter NSW Region Fleece Liaison Officer

Firstly, it appears that the myth of using a mid-side sample as a guide to the commercial value of alpaca fleece is still considered by some breeders to be a good guide to the value of their fleece. Let us be quite clear about this; the mid-side sample is useful as a breeding guide, provided samples are always taken from the same place and used in comparisons between animals. However, the mid-side sample is of no use whatsoever as a guide to the commercial value of a fleece.

By careful selection of breeding stock during many years of development of Merino sheep, the current amount of medulated fibre in good quality Merino wool is non-existent, the micron is surprisingly consistent and the fibre length is constant over the whole fleece. The alpaca, on the other hand, is in the very early stages of development and although this development is now being fast tracked, the medulated fibre present in nearly all alpacas is significant. Until selective breeding has eradicated this hair problem, we must be very vigilant in removing these fibres or suffer lower fleece prices. Additionally, the difference in average micron, fleece length and fleece character over each individual alpaca fleece, varies widely. Careful classing is necessary to make the fleece useable for high quality products and to maximise the yield.

For example, sales of high quality Australian Alpaca jumpers have significantly risen recently, due mainly to improvements in fleece shearing, classing and handling. By keeping the length of individual fibres consistent, the spun yarn has much greater strength and consequently yarn breakages, costly to manufacturers, are now rare. This had a direct result on price, dropping from around \$350 for a good quality jumper a few years ago to less than \$200 today. A secondary benefit of ensuring that the fibre length is consistent is that pilling of the material is greatly reduced.

Breeders outside Victoria seem to be far more vocal in their disrespect for AAFL than their counterparts in Victoria; Why? Maybe it is because a large number of Victorian breeders, upset by the second myth that they were being duped in their fleece returns, took the opportunity to visit AAFL, to find out why.

Most visitors to the classing facility at Sunshine are totally unprepared for the dedication shown by the classing team. Visitors are shown how each fleece is carefully assessed and then shown how and why each fleece is broken down into several different classes before each part is carefully weighed and recorded. The effects of avoidable contamination, which can totally destroy an otherwise useful fleece, are clearly demonstrated. Just one black hair in a sample white jumper shows the problem with absolute clarity.

At AAFL the classed fleece is placed into one of the 141 different classing bins (95 huacaya; 46 suri), from which the manufacturers select the fleece they wish to purchase. When the bale is pressed for transport, several core samples

are taken and analysed for micron against National Wool Standards. This is the true test of classing accuracy and it is used by AAFL to assess the performance of their classers. These records are available on request. If there was a significant discrepancy, the breeders could be losing out, however when presented with this evidence the visiting breeders are usually more than satisfied.

Commercial sheep breeders are well aware of the true value of a fleece, but some alpaca breeders seem to live in cloud cuckoo land carefully nurturing the third myth; that their alpaca fleece has a high value. Currently, on the world market, alpaca fibre is worth about twice the value of sheep fleece and, on average, we get less than half the quantity from an alpaca compared to sheep. Therefore the income from one sheep roughly equates to one very good alpaca. If a farmer requires 3,000+ sheep to make a reasonable living from fleece and meat, then it follows that an alpaca farmer requires more than 3,000 alpaca to make a living from alpaca fleece alone. What then is the point of trying to maximise the return from fleece when you only have (say) a few hundred alpaca?

The qualities of alpaca are rapidly becoming appreciated worldwide, and sales demand is accelerating, however, the price paid to farmers will only start to increase when the worldwide demand for alpaca fleece outstrips the world supply of fleece. At this time in the evolution of our industry we need to stabilise the alpaca fleece industry and support the manufacturers in their efforts to supply around 300 alpaca retailers in Australia. This is the principle reason that several breeders (my wife and I at Jacamar Alpacas included) have agreed to donate all our fleece to AAFL for the next few years.

Maybe you are one of several breeders who believe myth number four; that it is too early to gear up the fleece industry. Well, you would do well to bear this in mind; one large Victorian breeder wanted to build a new shearing shed and approached his Bank Manager for a loan. He got his loan, but the Bank Manager candidly told him that the only reason that he did so, was because he had clearly stated that the end product was in the shops and that there was a proven demand for it. Try it for yourself, ask your Bank Manager for a farm loan without mentioning AAFL or the end product. Alternatively, you could reflect on the likely change in the value of your animals, should AAFL or the Strategic Partners cease to exist. ■

International Fleece Show 2008

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Lyn Dickson & Julie Bird** > International Fleece Show Co-Convenors

PROMOTE YOUR FARM AND REPRESENT YOUR COUNTRY AT THE SAME TIME!

In March 2008 the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd, in conjunction with the World Alpaca Conference in Sydney, is running an International Fleece Show and invites all AAA members to enter.

This will be a prestigious international event and will showcase the best alpaca fleeces from around the world.

The Show will be conducted under AAA rules and will be judged by two international judges, Cameron Holt from Australia and Jill MacLeod from Canada. Judging will take place at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on 20 March 2008. All fleeces entered will be sampled and micron tested by an internationally accredited and independent agency, the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA).

The show will have classes for skirted saddles of huacaya and suri fleeces by age and colour groups, culminating in

Supreme Champion awards and there will be additional championship awards for the best fleeces in each colour category, plus a full range of suri colour classes. In addition to the normal classes there will be an **International Fleece Challenge** with awards for the best groups of fleeces judged by country and by colour, the ultimate in international fleece competitions. Winners will be announced and trophies presented during the World Alpaca Conference on 28-30 March 2008.

For Australian exhibitors, entries will close on 8 February 2008 and fleeces will need to be received by 28 February 2008. So now is the time to select and set aside your special fleeces in readiness for the International Fleece Show. After the show, fleeces can either be returned to each exhibitor at their expense or they will be sold and the income will be donated to the Quechua Benefit Fund, Peru.

The schedule of classes, entry forms and all other details are available on the AAA web site www.alpaca.asn.au - just follow the links. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

International Judges

Colour and Age Classes
for Huacaya & Suri

Supreme Champion
Huacaya & Suri Awards

Champion Awards by Colour

International
Fleece Challenge Trophy



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

For details see the AAA web site
www.alpaca.asn.au



Announcing... INTERNATIONAL FLEECE SHOW

*being conducted by the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.
to celebrate 20 years of Alpaca breeding in Australia
and held in conjunction with the World Alpaca Conference*

Darling Harbour • Sydney • Australia • 28-30 March 2008



Select your fleeces now to be in Sydney
by February 2008 for this prestigious event

World Alpaca Conference Sponsors

INDUSTRY ARTICLE compiled by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.



The 2008 World Alpaca Conference is a unique opportunity to bring together alpaca breeders from around the world, providing an international platform for all of us to gain knowledge, network with one another and form strong bonds with our overseas neighbours for the continuing development and improvement of the alpaca industry worldwide. Of course, this all comes at a price and if it was not for the generosity of the sponsors, the World Alpaca Conference would only be a dream, not the exciting reality that it has become.

Platinum sponsors



**Pacofino, NSW and
Latah Creek Alpacas, USA**

(please read their story on page 32)



Gold sponsors



The Australian Alpaca Centre, NSW

The Australian Alpaca Centre opened its doors 14 years ago to support Coolaroo Alpaca Stud showcase alpaca and develop an Australian retail market for alpaca products. We are very pleased to be closely associated with the development of the Australian industry and have recently established a working relationship with

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd to further develop the range of Australian product available to the market. We are also moving into the wholesale market to further promote Australian Alpaca in fashion and gift stores around Australia with our new innovative concept idea.

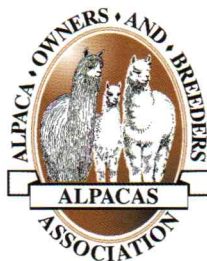
Canchones
fine black alpaca

Canchones, VIC

Canchones is owned and managed by Peter Kennedy and Robert Gane and is located on

400 acres at Taggerty in North East Victoria. When we entered the industry in 1998 we committed to specialising in breeding black huacaya and by 2000 we had decided to focus on breeding black suri as well. In 2005 we recognised that there was still a great need to improve on our breeding program and so we imported 30 black huacaya and 5 black suri from Peru. We are now seeing substantial improvement in fleece density and structure and our cria carry bright, lustrous fleeces that are very fine to handle. We have the widest selection of black genetics available in Australia and are committed to strengthening that selection.

Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA), USA



The first alpacas were imported into the United States in 1984 and in June 1988, at Shanty Creek Lodge in Bellaire, Michigan, 38 people gathered in a 'special meeting' to discuss the formation (including by-laws and articles of incorporation) of what is now known as the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association, Inc. (AOBA).

The association became 'official' in September 1990 and has since grown to over 4,400 members including members outside the United States, such as Australia.

Almost simultaneously AOBA members began blood typing alpacas and set up a registration system. This registration system has grown into an independent association, the Alpaca Registry, Inc (ARI) housing the genetic database for the national herd. Another independent organization, Alpaca Research Foundation was also formed to allocate scarce resources to alpaca research and has facilitated a wide variety of investigations both medical and fiber related. There is also the Alpaca Fiber Cooperative of North America (AFCNA) collecting the national clip and selling alpaca finished products.

AOBA has its own Show Division managing the entire process from show rules, judge training to event certification. We also publish an award winning quarterly publication *Alpacas Magazine*.

AOBA holds two national conferences each year, one in January devoted to education, fiber and fashion. The second larger event, the summer national conference, is held each May alternating between an eastern location and a western location. The 22-25 May 2008 event will be held in Sandy, Utah. The May 2009 event will be special as AOBA will be sponsoring the second World Alpaca Conference in conjunction with our national halter, fleece and performance event. We will also be promoting the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009. This exciting and multifaceted event will be held in early June 2009 in Cleveland, Ohio. Please plan to join us and enter fleece in the national fleece show.

Silver sponsors



Ambleside Alpacas, VIC

Barbara and David Linley together with Anne Bean, established Ambleside Alpacas in 1998. Using their backgrounds in dog, horse and sheep breeding combined with zoology, genetics and business experience, they are determined to develop and improve the alpaca breed. Located at Berrybank, in the well-known Western District of Victoria, on 1800 acres, Ambleside Alpacas have room to roam in an eco-friendly, sustainable farming environment. Ambleside Alpacas prides itself on producing and maintaining healthy, high quality huacaya and suri alpacas and their breeding program utilises both natural and embryo transfer (ET) methods. Detailed planning has consistently gone into Ambleside Alpacas' breeding program and the quality of the animals is reflected in both fleece results and major show successes.



Belbourie Alpacas, NSW

Belbourie is a purpose designed 40 acre alpaca farm, nestled in the foothills of the Southern Highlands in NSW. Over the past 6 years the huacaya herd, maintained at around 70 animals, has improved according to a program of selecting genetic excellence for fibre, frame and fertility. The SRS® breeding system has been adopted and the enhanced benchmarks of fleece and frame have secured multiple broad ribbons for an array of Belbourie Alpacas. The owners, Daryl and Glenda Salmon are dedicated to herd improvement and to the future of the alpaca industry. Advice on all aspects of alpaca management is freely available.



LaViande Pty Ltd, VIC

The alpaca meat industry is the next step in alpaca evolution in Australia. The success of LaViande, the product and the company, is reliant upon grower support.

LaViande will in turn support the bottom end of the market and ensure the stud stock and fleece aspects of the industry remain profitable. We are aiming the product at selected outlets and want it to be a high end, quality meat that is known as LaViande throughout Australia and hopefully the world, just as Cervena is to Venison. We now have wholesalers keen to distribute the product and restaurants already requesting LaViande to be on the menu. Export markets are currently being investigated. LaViande, the meat, has been laboratory tested and extensive research has been performed over the last 12-18 months. It has a very high moisture content, is low in fat and is very high in protein and lends itself to many dishes.



SRS WOOL

The key objective of the SRS® alpaca breeding system is to select and breed animals for low primary fibre diameter and high levels of fibre density and length. The expected fleece outcomes over time are to eliminate 'guard hair' whilst increasing fleece weight, reducing fibre diameter and improving fibre quality. The relationship between the SRS® breeding system and the alpaca industry has come a long way in a short time. This relationship took a bold step forward three years ago, when a group of committed breeders, working with Dr Jim Watts, the founder of the technology, formed an organisation to take the breeding system to the broader Australian and International communities. In 2006, SRS® Alpacas International was formed to provide services to subscribers. Today, there are over 100 subscribers from five countries and the interest in this new technology is growing rapidly.



Town and Country Farmer Magazine, VIC

Town and Country Farmer Magazine is widely acknowledged as the most informative, independently owned rural national publication in Australia. Over the past 25 years the magazine has provided readers with a diverse range of technical articles and in 1988 it introduced alpacas to the Australian rural scene, and from then on has regularly promoted and sponsored the industry.

The nature of the magazine's target audience is landholders of all ages, who are prepared to learn. There are also those moving from the city to lifestyle properties. This readership is eager for technical advice on property management, animal health issues and the diverse range of on-farm challenges. Town and Country Farmer Magazine has consistently delivered!



World of Alpacas Magazine, SA

World of Alpacas is now in its eighth year thanks to the support of the Australian alpaca industry. We have seen the growth in its genetic and fibre programme and acknowledge that Australia is at the forefront in both areas.

World of Alpacas mission has been to produce a magazine that is 'your' publication. 'You' have the knowledge and the work ethic and we thank all who have supported us by sharing this with us. ■

The AAA Ltd gratefully acknowledges the support of the conference sponsors.

Introducing the 2008 World Alpaca Conference Platinum Sponsors, Pacofino & Latah Creek Alpacas

BREEDER PROFILES by **Paul Cramley and Linda Davies** > Pacofino, Wingello, NSW, Australia
Jack and Kelly Armstrong > Latah Creek Alpacas, Mica, Washington State, USA

Pacofino

Pacofino has been committed to raising suris since 1999, a goal achieved after Paul first saw alpacas when working in Chile in the early 1980s.

Although we breed both suris and huacayas, we were particularly attracted to suris because of their rarity and majestic presence; hence they have become our passion.

Our foremost objective when entering the alpaca industry was to improve the genetic lines of the initial group of pregnant suri and huacaya females that we had purchased at auctions and from different breeders. By early 2001 it was time to think about future sires. So we set out to use or purchase some of the highest quality huacaya and suri stud males in Australia, as well as importing champion males from the USA. As a result of this selection of sires over the ensuing 6 years we have been fortunate enough to breed many show winners and have undoubtedly improved the quality of our herd. While we recognise the commercial value of white fleeces we also breed colours, especially in the suri line where we are now breeding some lovely golds, greys and blacks.

When we are not at our farm (1½ hours south of Sydney) working busy, hands-on three day weekends, we are attending to our demanding computer software business in Sydney. Juggling the two businesses has proved exhausting on many occasions but is a necessary factor in our lives and, after 8 years, we are well and truly used to it! However, during our absence from the farm, our herd of 300 alpacas is very ably looked after by Phillip and Kim Pisaruk of Earthwise Alpacas.

Pacofino's principle goal has been the wish to preserve the rare suri species and to attempt to improve their phenotypic characteristics, *'Back to the Future'*. We use this term as a description of our efforts to recreate the wonderful fleece the ancient Incan empire had achieved prior to its decimation by the new world conquerors.

In ancient Inca mythology "... *Pachamama (mother earth) loaned alpacas and llamas to the people of the Puna in South America so they could survive. Since the animals belonged to Pachamama, they were to be well fed and never treated cruelly, and, if they were not cared for properly, she would recall them and consequently the people would disappear ...*"¹



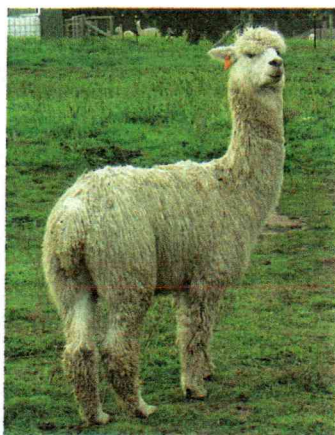
Jack and Kelly Armstrong, (centre couple) of Latah Creek Alpacas with Paul Cramley and Linda Davies of Pacofino

According to archaeological research performed in recent times, it has become evident that the ancient Indians of South America took very much to heart their Pachamama historical beliefs and achieved exceptional phenotypic qualities in the herds the 'Gods' had entrusted to them.

In our search for new suri genetics we were fortunate to meet Jack and Kelly Armstrong from Latah Creek Alpacas and to discover that we both had a common synergy in our goals and objectives when it came to suris. This has resulted in a strong friendship and trusted business relationship. Recently, both suri breeding studs have made a common commitment to work together across the Pacific to improve and share suri genetics. Our joint aim is to share quality suri males on a rotation basis between the USA and Australia, thus giving both herds in both continents the ability to get an infusion of new genetics not available in our respective countries.

With the World Alpaca Conference being held in our beautiful city of Sydney in March 2008, it was important for us to contribute in a small part towards the running of it by taking up some form of sponsorship. The conference is generating so much interest that we hope its success will eventuate into an annual event to be held in a different country each year. If that happens then it will be a great achievement by all attending alpaca breeders, speakers, sponsors and organisers of our conference, and something we can all look forward to in future years.

¹ Taken from Eric Hoffman's "The Complete Alpaca Book"



SNOWMASS ILLUMINATION
This outstanding and imposing sire is co-owned by Latah Creek Alpacas and Pacofino. He carries a high follicular density fleece, which is combined with exceptional lustre and fineness. Illumination is currently at Pacofino contributing to his next generation of crias before returning to Latah Creek Alpacas in early 2008.

ILLUMINATION CRIAS
A few of Illumination's outstanding crias, who exhibit their sire's proud conformation and great fleece statistics.



Latah Creek Alpacas

Since the purchase of our first suri alpaca over 13 years ago, we have been continuously striving to build upon and further advance the genetic potential of our suri herd. Our objective at Latah Creek is to breed sound, fertile, well conformed suris with exceptional fleece qualities, similar to the suri of the pre-conquest cultures of South America.

We use objective measurements and a scientific approach to further advance the genetic potential of our elite suri herd.

We view the alpaca business as an industry founded on fundamental livestock improvement concepts. Alpaca breeding programs founded on the basic principles of genetic herd improvement will prove to be financially sound and enduring businesses over the years. Quality and continuous improvement are enduring traits that will always be valued, in any industry.

Over the years we have been working to identify bloodlines for superior fleece production, while striving to improve the overall genetic predictability within our herd. Fineness and lustre are the foremost of our fleece improvement goals.

Our experience leads us to believe that selecting for high lustre is of the utmost importance, especially when accompanied by exceptional fineness. Superior fineness coupled with extreme lustre results in the exquisite feel – called handle – and lightweight fibre demanded by consumers of luxury textiles.

While our passion for producing elite white and light suris is unrelenting our breeding goals include infusing the higher quality fleece traits found in white and fawn suris into the diverse range of natural alpaca colours, especially black.

The genetic improvement of the alpaca is not confined to the national borders of the various alpaca producing nations, but is truly an international opportunity for all alpaca breeders.

The World Alpaca Conference is a unique and important opportunity to bring international alpaca experts together to share information and knowledge with alpaca breeders around the globe. Latah Creek Alpacas is honoured to have the opportunity to participate in the sponsorship of the first World Alpaca Conference. ■



Jack, Kelly, Dylan and Brian Armstrong shown with their award winning, white colour Champion and white Reserve Champion suris at the Pacific Northwest Alpaca Association Show 2007

Problems with Blue-green Algae Infestations

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

“John”, a breeder in south eastern Victoria, reported having this problem in April 2007, in one of his small dams. He has supplied much of the information and the photographs presented here.

While he prefers to remain anonymous here, he is happy to help other breeders with a similar problem. If anyone wishes to discuss these issues with “John”, could they please contact me by email erehwonalpacas@gmail.com and I will put them in touch with him.

What are Blue-green Algae?

In biological terms, blue-green algae are microscopic cells, without a true nucleus, which contain photosynthetic pigments. They are called the *Cyanophyta*, or primitive algae, i.e. non-flowering water plants. They may also be referred to as the *Cyanobacteria*.

They are rather unusual for plants, in that they may contain a gas vacuole, which allows them to move up and down within the water body. They can also produce a resting body, called an *akinetete*, similar to a spore, which can survive without growing, until conditions become more favourable.

Where are they found?

They are present in various situations. Many blue-green algae are soil algae, or colonise hot springs; others are found in symbiotic relationships, particularly with fungi to make up the plants called lichens, but also with higher plants. A few species form blue-green algae infestations, or ‘blooms’. These are mostly associated with high nutrient levels, such as phosphate and nitrogen, and high organic matter, in small bodies of warm, stagnant water such as dams. Sometimes they form a mass of only one species, but often more than one species is involved.

How is the problem caused?

Run-off from heavily fertilised agricultural land, or from sewage treatment areas, can put large concentrations of phosphates and nitrogen into small, stagnant wet areas. A build up of organic matter also contributes large amounts of carbon, as carbon dioxide. This process is called *eutrophication*. Irrigated areas are also at risk, by diverting natural water flows and creating shallow, stagnant areas. The problems become worse in summer and autumn, with higher temperatures and lower rainfall, if these areas are not regularly flushed out by rain or floodwater.

The combination of high nutrient levels, with the warmer temperatures and extra sunlight, can lead to massive growth of blue-green algal colonies. The water often becomes a livid, sickly, ‘pea soupy’ green, although it can be other colours. Often there is a dirty whitish or brownish scum near the edge of the dam, caused by dead cells rising to the surface.



1 February 2007 – Note the very shallow depth, the sickly green colour, and the scummy edges.

“John’s” dam turned green overnight, and the scummy surface is apparent around the edges. As the problem continues, the smell becomes very bad, like rotting garbage or sewage, although “John” reports his dam did not smell.

How do they cause poisoning?

The cells themselves are not poisonous, but they produce toxins, called *cyclic polypeptides*, which can be lethal to humans and all classes of livestock if ingested. The toxins are released as the cells die. Actually killing the algae e.g. with an algicide like copper sulphate, releases large amounts of toxin and makes the problem worse. The toxins are not destroyed by boiling, and can take as long as three or more weeks to be degraded to safe levels. The first recorded case was probably at Lake Alexandrina in South Australia, in 1878, where horses, sheep, dogs and pigs died. Other reports in Australia list deaths of honeybees, lambs, cattle, birds and fish. It should be noted that fish and molluscs may absorb and retain the toxins in their gut, so eating fish/shellfish from a contaminated water source is also likely to produce illness at least in humans as well.

Swimming and other water sports in bloom areas are not recommended, as there may be irritation of eyes and skin as well as the risk of accidental drinking.

Symptoms of Poisoning

According to Everist, there are 'fast death' and 'slow death' factors, and often the problem is first noticed with sudden deaths of stock at waterholes. In most cases of algal poisoning, symptoms appear rapidly, within 15 to 45 minutes of ingestion. Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, tremors/staggers, convulsions, respiratory difficulties and general paralysis before death. Animals that do not die immediately often show blood in the faeces, and jaundice or photosensitisation. Autopsy results show haemorrhage in lining of gastrointestinal tract, heart muscles, sometimes skeletal muscles, and usually mild to severe liver damage.

Losses will be higher when stock are forced by circumstances to drink from contaminated sources e.g. during drought, yarding etc. In some cases, the scum has been blown in from across a body of water, to where the animals are drinking.

Dogs are particularly susceptible because they swim in the water, then lick themselves off, taking in cells and scum as well as toxin in water drops.

"John" also made the point that his vegetables, grown or washed with contaminated water, had to be thrown away as well, as boiling this water will not degrade the toxin.

Treatment of Stock

There is no effective treatment known for animals affected by algal toxins. Most of the remaining herd can be saved by immediate removal from the contaminated water source. It may take as long as a month or more, before the source is again safe.

Treating the Water Source

Poisoning the algae is probably not advisable, as cell deaths release more toxin into the water. Also the algicide is toxic to just about everything else. Flushing the dam with fresh water is one solution, but not an option in the current drought. A very simple solution recommended to "John" was to aerate the water, by creating a fountain effect, using a fireman's pump and a piece of PVC pipe elevated to at least 30cm or higher to get a good splashing effect. "John" has put three fountains around his dam. Note the clarity of the water now coming out of the pipe.

Increasing the amount of oxygen in the water speeds up the recycling of organic matter and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide. Making the water physically move also helps to reduce the temperature. "John" was also told to add lime and hay to the dam, which presumably helps to counter the amount of phosphate. Covering a small dam may help to reduce the amount of UV light available. "John" has noticed that his dam now has brown duckweed on it. This is probably *Azolla*, a small water fern. As it covers the water it will help reduce the amount of light below it (although *Azolla* has its own symbiotic blue green alga).



About April 2007 - Note the height of the pipes creating the aerating 'fountain' effect, and the clarity of the water.

All of the above measures will help to control the bloom.

Other treatments suggested to "John" included treating the dam with alum and gypsum before summer; using "Phoslock" (expensive); filtration (also expensive) or waiting for winter. ■

Prevention

Water storage areas should be regularly inspected during late summer and autumn, especially in drought conditions. Livestock should be removed at the first sign of bloom or smell coming from the water source.

Dams should not be sited where they will collect heavily fertilised run-off, either from cropping, septic tank run-off or animal waste. This applies particularly to alpacas, as poo piles are very concentrated in both phosphate and nitrogen. Camelids happily go into water, and may urinate while in the water as well, so clean alternative sources may be necessary in severe drought conditions. Planting a couple of vegetation strips on the upside of the dam can help create a nutrient trap to filter the run-off problem. However, heavy organic matter such as heavy leaf drop should not be allowed to build up in the dam.

References:

- > Chapman, VJ and DJ *"The Algae"* 2nd Ed, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1973
- > Everist, SL *"Poisonous Plants of Australia"*, Angus & Robertson Publishers, Australia, 1974
- > Odum, EP *"Fundamentals of Ecology"*, W.B.Saunders Co., Philadelphia, USA, 1971
- > Contact your local Dept of Primary Industries for agnotes, or Google *"Bluegreen algae"* for thousands of items.

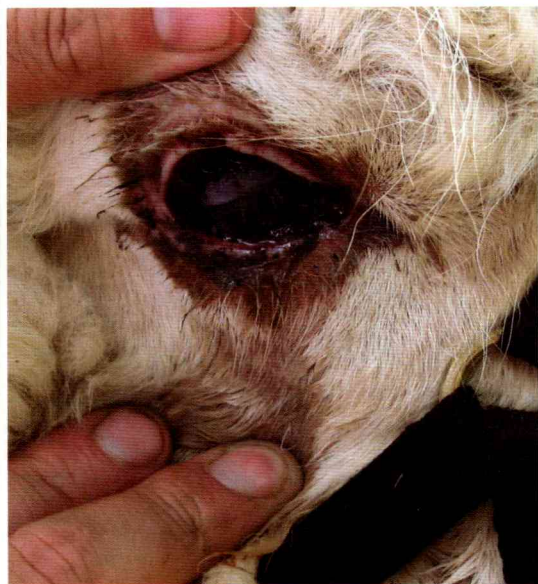
Repairing a Serious Eye Injury

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Susan Buser** > Abbondanza Alpacas, USA

Photos by Zac Buser

Most of us are very protective of our alpacas' big beautiful eyes. Some of us are almost obsessive about looking for any protruding wire or other potentially dangerous objects on fences or barns that could cause injury. We also carefully manage our males to prevent fighting as much as possible. But sometimes accidents do happen. The good news is that with the help of a good vet, even if the injury is serious, the eye can often be saved. If we're lucky, the vision may be saved as well.

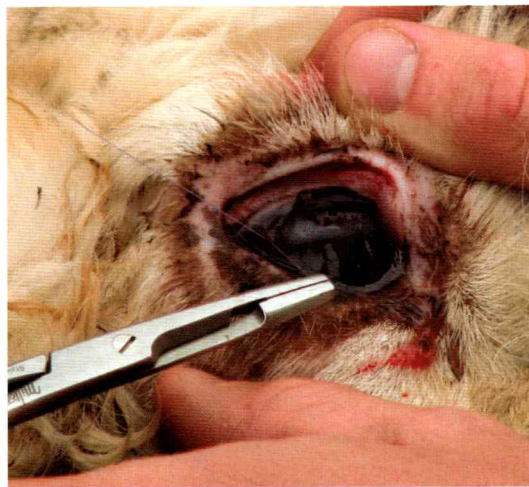
In this particular incident, the caretaker was nearby when the injury happened, and immediately noticed a stream of red, watery liquid coming from the eye. Not a good sign! Examination of the animal was difficult, since he was nervous and the eye was filled with fluids. The eye did appear to be damaged, so the vet was called immediately.



Initial examination of the injury

In the case of a serious eye injury, an antibiotic may be appropriate. Baytril is the best choice, since it penetrates eye tissues, while many others do not.

Upon examination of this animal, the vet determined that the cornea had been punctured, in the upper area of the eye at the joining of the sclera and pupil. Fortunately the vitreous fluid had not been released; it was bulging out, but was contained by a layer of epithelial tissue.



Note the large rip in the cornea

If you find yourself in this situation, attempt to examine the eye to determine the extent of the injury. Administer pain relief if you have it (Banamine is fine). Call the vet! Give him/her as much information as you can. If you see a laceration in the cornea or the eye bulging out, let him know that it is an emergency and you need help right away. The sooner you can get treatment for a serious eye injury the better. Isolate the animal and attempt to keep it as calm as possible until the vet arrives.

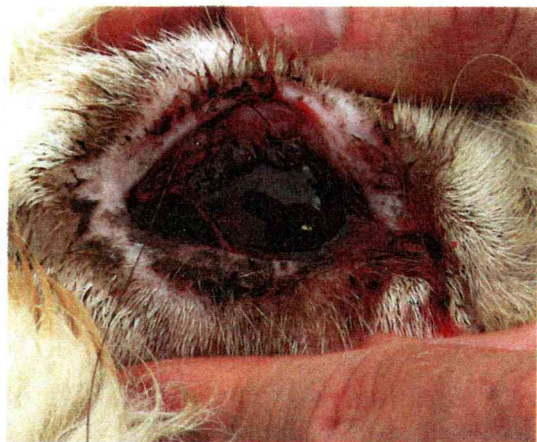
Do not administer eye ointment or drops with any eye injury – even if not serious – without consulting your vet. The eye may need to be stained and examined for lesions or lacerations before an ointment is administered. Some drops and ointments can exacerbate the problem, especially those with steroidal elements. Consult your vet first.

The vet sedated the male and began further examination and surgery. He began the very delicate process of stitching the torn edges of the cornea back together, one stitch at a time. Slowly the rip in the cornea was repaired. It was amazing to see.



Dr Bryant Phillips works to carefully repair the cornea, with the help of vet student, Will McDavid

Next the vet pulled the conjunctiva down to the area of the repair and stitched it very lightly to the eye. The purpose of this was to bring a good blood supply to the area of injury to aid in healing. The vet also pulled the 'third eyelid' up and stitched it over most of the eye (leaving an opening for application of medications). This would serve as somewhat of a natural bandage and protection for the eye as it began healing.



Stitching the conjunctiva to the cornea

We were unsure at this point of the overall damage to the eye and whether or not the alpaca would regain his vision, but we had the best possible chance for a positive outcome since the injury had been repaired quickly and skillfully. Hopefully, with aggressive treatment to prevent infection, we could at least save the eye, and at best, restore some vision.

The vet informed us that the eye was very swollen and would look bad for a while. We might see a bright red collection of blood cells in the lower portion of the eye until the body could re-absorb them. The eye might also turn blue due to the refraction of light through the swollen layers of corneal tissue.

Follow-up treatment

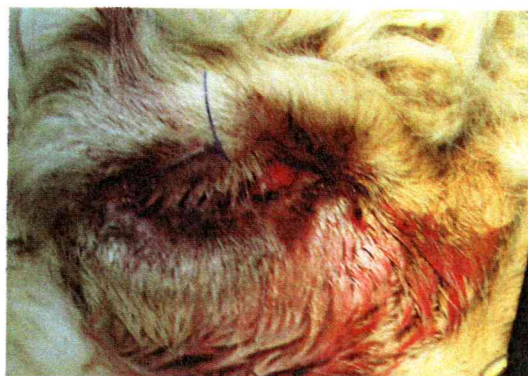
Blood was drawn to be spun down into serum, which could be administered dropwise into the eye. The proteins in the serum should help in the healing of the eye.

The alpaca was treated several times that evening with Tobramycin Ophthalmic Solution at 1-2 drops per administration. That was followed about 10 minutes later with Neo-Poly-Bac ointment (Neomycin, Polymixin B Sulfates, Bacitracin Zinc Ophthalmic Ointment) administered along the bottom eyelid and worked into the eye. Once the serum was available, that was added to the treatment regimen.

For the next seven days, during daylight hours, the three treatments were rotated (Tobramycin, serum, and ointment), administering one about every hour. Baytril was continued at 3cc once daily (SQ) for seven days. Banamine was continued at 1.5cc daily (SQ) for four days.



For the first few days, the third eyelid remained in place and the alpaca kept his eye nearly closed much of the time. Some swelling and release of fluids was evident.



After surgery: note the third eyelid (pink in the corner of the eye) and plastic tube on the eyelid used to stabilize the stitching of the cornea to the conjunctiva

After seven days, no more serum was administered, but the drops and ointment were continued roughly every hour during the day for two more weeks. Ointment was then administered a couple of times per day. The alpaca was kept isolated and quiet (but within view of other alpacas) until the eye was fully healed.

Follow-up visits showed good progress in healing, although restoration of sight was still questionable. At least the eye had definitely been saved and the animal had been spared any secondary infections or other threats to life from the injury. ■



About the Author: Susan is an alpaca farm owner who is strongly committed to the education and success of new breeders in the industry. She was the founding President of the AOPA affiliate, the Alpaca Small Farm Network, where she dedicated three years toward the establishment of educational programs and networks of support for the farmers in the region. She and her husband, Zac are personally committed to helping farms in their area in any way they can – from education to hands-on help in an emergency. Susan and Zac enjoy raising their own huacaya herd plus a number of boarders on their farm, Abbondanza Alpacas, in Greenville, South Carolina, USA. Susan may be contacted at susanbuser@earthlink.net

This article, which was first carried in the September 2007 issue of the International Camelid Quarterly, has been reproduced with the permission of the author and CQ magazine.

The Royals 2007

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

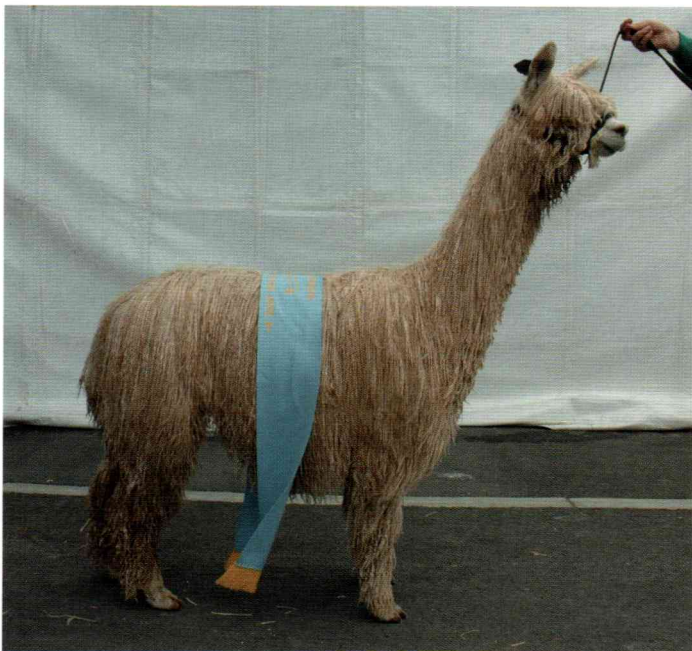
Royal Melbourne Show

by **Geoff Hargreaves** (Convenor) > Pachacuti Alpacas, VIC

The 2007 Melbourne Royal saw the final implementation of the Showgrounds redevelopment with the housing of all livestock in the 10,000 square metres Exhibition Pavilion throughout the duration of the show. The implications for alpacas were the reduction of our stay to two days and an increase in entries to a record 470 animals.

The venue worked well with the AAA pens, which were transported from Canberra, and the new Royal Agricultural Society pens providing more than adequate space. Air movement was again a problem with many junior huacayas losing fleece condition overnight. (This gave pointers for the operation of the pavilion for the AAA Ltd. National Show during which this problem was largely solved).

Fleece judge, Julie Bird had good facilities to focus on the fleece competition during the Saturday. Also on the Saturday judging of the large junior classes was highlighted in the main ring (40m x 17m) with the smaller ring (20m x 16m) adequately providing for the remaining classes and a large number of spectators on the Sunday. Judges Bill Robbins and Richard Watson worked well together and, while impressed by the fleece standard and presentation of the two types, their most frequent criticisms related to points of conformation.

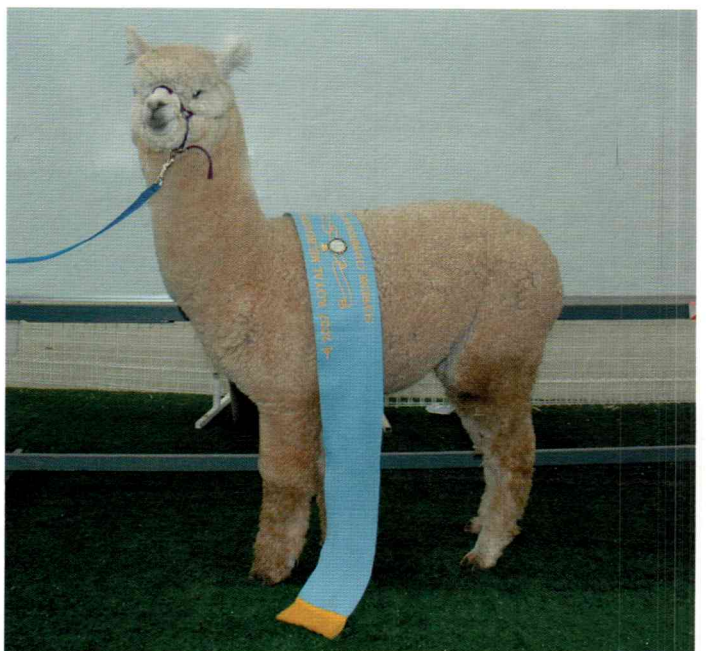


Supreme Champion Huacaya
Surilana Quo Vadis ET

The Suri competition at this show continues to strengthen with entries again topping the 100 mark and four ribbons being awarded in the two junior white classes. *Surilana Quo Vadis ET* was awarded the Supreme Championship. Most Successful Suri Exhibitor was a close-run competition going to consideration of championships for the final decision. Serena Lodge narrowly defeated Canchones, both studs having been well-placed in several classes.

Even with splitting the junior Huacaya classes and the introduction of the separate light fawn classes, the presentation of the numbers in white, fawn and black was spectacular. Entry numbers have also risen in the Mature and older white male classes with strengthening of the competition. Four ribbons were awarded in the Mature White Male class from which the Supreme Champion Huacaya, *Serena Lodge Prince Artdale* emerged. Most successful Huacaya Exhibitor was Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud.

The strength and standard of the alpaca section at the Melbourne Royal was complimented on by both the President of the RASV, Mr John Fox, and the Chief Executive, Mr Mark O'Sullivan who visited the judging on Saturday and Sunday to speak to exhibitors and present trophies. The Melbourne Royal alpaca competition continues to be a premier event much to the credit of the organisers, officials, exhibitors and their animals.



Supreme Champion Huacaya
Serena Lodge Prince Artdale

Royal Brisbane Show

by **Barbara Mills** >Pepperina Alpacas, QLD

The Royal Brisbane Show was held at the RNA Showgrounds with fine weather for all three days of the alpaca display and good public numbers. The judging was well attended by interested onlookers with all seats filled for the duration.

There was a very pleasing increase in entry numbers for this year's show with 119 animals (90 huacaya and 29 suri) entered from a total of 33 exhibitors. Exhibitors travelled from a number of regions, some came from as far south as Braidwood, NSW and from the Central Western NSW town of Gulgong to attend the judging.

The long trips made by NSW Judge, Lyn Dickson and co-judge, Ron Reid from WA were worthwhile, with southern competitors dominating in the Junior and some Senior broad ribbons. It was pleasing to see Queensland competitors featuring in the Intermediate and Senior classes as well as taking out the Supreme Huacaya with *Sunline Elvis*, exhibited by Jeff and Jill Willis of Sunline Alpacas.

There was an impressive increase in suri numbers at this show, with the majority from the state of Queensland. Animals on show were of excellent quality and the Supreme Suri, *Kurrawa Sherpa ET* exhibited by Darrel and Fiona Laughton of Beavona Lodge Suri Alpacas was a popular win.

There was also a pleasing increase in entry numbers for the Fleece section of the show, with 47 fleeces entered. We have advised the RNA that we will require more space next year for another expected increase. This year more emphasis was placed on improving the display appearance of fleeces. Large print labels bearing the stud names were applied to the fleece boxes after judging which allowed viewers to identify the winning studs and provided exposure for the exhibitor's studs.

Thanks to Mary O'Shea and Deb Freeman for the professional looking display board – not only were the photographs educational but they also covered a wide range of alpaca handling. The individual alpaca pictures with fleece samples were also very popular with the public. Bob Barns manned the animal display along with volunteers for the duration of the show with a small group of huacaya and suri alpacas featuring alongside his llamas. This year it was situated in the "Animal Boulevard" (children's petting area) and was very popular with the public.

At the conclusion of the judging on Tuesday evening, the breeders took the opportunity to enjoy a meal with the judges at the RNA Dining Room, a welcome time to swap ideas and foster friendships.

The exit of the animals went smoothly with everyone pitching in to help each other load up for the return journey home. There was excellent interest from the public, with a steady flow of people asking questions from helpful breeders on hand. ➤



Supreme Champion Huacaya
Sunline Elvis



Supreme Champion Huacaya
Kurrawa Sherpa ET

Royal Hobart Show

by **Helen Dowd** (Convenor) > Dowpaca Holdings, TAS

The Royal Hobart Show 2007 was considered a great success. Initially there were 94 animal entries and 45 fleece entries however on the day we were down to 62 alpacas and 19 fleeces following withdrawals and no show by some exhibitors. It was very disappointing to see the numbers drop so dramatically. Numbers in the suri classes and suri fleece classes were low.

Judge, Allan Jinks awarded Supreme Champion Suri to *Chakaya Allesandra* (White Junior Female), bred and exhibited by Alan Froome from Chakaya Alpacas. Supreme Champion Huacaya was awarded to *Wharncliffe Casanova* (Black Adult Male), bred and exhibited by Alison Brolsma from Wharncliffe Alpacas.

Champion Fleece, *Arcady Harvest Moon* was entered by Sarah Priest of Leaenna Alpacas.

Reserve Champion Fleece, *Dowpaca Prince* was entered by Helen and Mike Dowd from Dowpaca Holdings.

Every exhibitor enjoyed the show with the ribbons being distributed amongst the exhibitors, who displayed a friendly, competitive spirit.

It was sad to see that some exhibitors could not fulfil their commitment to a two day show, by not returning with alpacas on Day 2. This meant leaving empty pens for the show patrons to see – a sorry sight and not a good image for the industry.

There is always great interest by the general public in the Alpaca Pavilion at the Show and this year was no exception. There was a constant stream of people, looking at and asking questions about our beautiful animals.

This year we introduced a little fun for the exhibitors to relieve any tension felt whilst parading their alpacas in the ring during judging. Some exhibitors joined in the fun, watched by those not game enough to 'get up and go' into the unknown. In teams of three, the challenges were:

- > Reconstruct a halter that had been pulled to pieces.
- > Wind a length of alpaca yarn onto a Niddy Noddy and form it into a skein.
- > Cast on 20 stitches, knit 2 rows each and cast off without dropping any stitches.

Each participant received a certificate after having fun and providing entertainment for one and all.



Champion Huacaya Fleece
Arcady Harvest Moon



Supreme Champion Huacaya
Wharncliffe Casanova

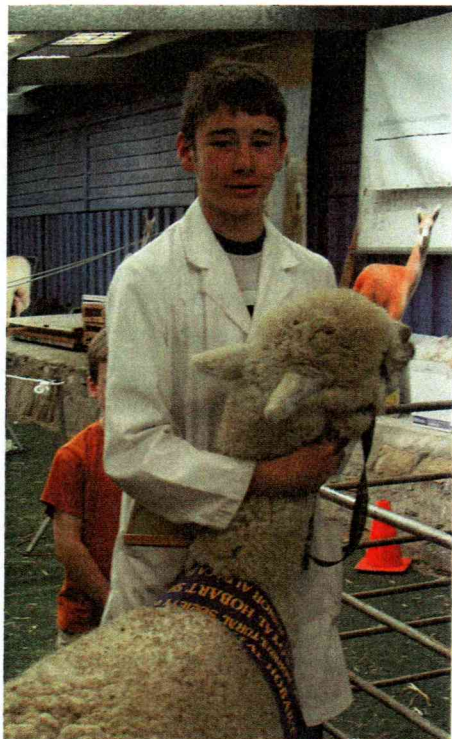


Supreme Champion Suri
Chakaya Allesandra

Day 2 of the Show was an exciting and anxious one for our Junior Handlers. There were eight entrants in the three age groups. In the Junior Section there was a challenge between brother and sister, Daniel and Elizabeth Green. Five Junior Handlers, Callum Forbes, Ashley Pears, Kelsey Wells, Sam Green and Sarah Burn competed in the Intermediate Section, presenting themselves before our Judge, Allan Jinks who put them through their paces.

Only one entrant, Lauren Burn competed in the older age group. The overall winner of the Junior Handlers was Callum Forbes in the Intermediate Group.

Many thanks to all the wonderful assistants who helped with the setting up at 6am on the Friday, and to the Marshalls and Stewards who all made the show a great success. ➤



Overall winner of the Junior Handlers, Callum Forbes



Allan Jinks with Junior Handler, Elizabeth Green

Royal Perth Show



Supreme Champion Huacaya,
Encantador Sir Lancelot



Supreme Champion Suri
Wesuri Myth

Royal Adelaide Show

by **Jolyon Porter** > Yacka Ridge Alpacas, SA

The 7th of September saw the first day of the Royal Adelaide Show, and also the judging of the alpaca animal section by AAA Judge, Julie Bird.

In the lead up to the show, the AAA South Australian Region Committee requested the Show Society give serious consideration to allowing membership of the Q-Alpaca Program as the minimum health level for this year's entries, and this motion was supported by the PIRSA Veterinary Officer. After deliberation, the RAS Committee acceded to this request for 2007, with a review to be carried out at the show's completion in respect of following years.

This decision removed the costly, and arguably pointless, JD testing that exhibitors have been required to carry out in recent years. No doubt, this had a positive effect on exhibit numbers this year, with over 160 entries.

We had a number of interstate breeders make the journey across the border and a successful raid on the trophy stores was made by Barbara Linley and Anne Bean of Ambleside Alpacas, Victoria who carried off the Grand Champion Suri trophy with *Ambleside Andean Maestro*. The trophy for Best Opposite Sex Suri remained in SA, taken by *Saxon Farm Cozima*, of Saxonsuri Alpaca Stud (Beth and Dan Males, SA).

The Huacaya section saw some hard fought classes in most age groups, with the Grand Champion Huacaya eventually going to *Cambridge Escalabar ET*, exhibited by Cambridge Alpacas (Matthew and Cathy Lloyd, SA),

and the Best Opposite Sex Huacaya going to *Ambersun Peruvian Impression*, exhibited by Ambersun Alpacas (Chris Williams, SA).

Results for the Champion Colour awards were spread through the field with Champion White going to *Cambridge Escalabar ET*; Champion Fawn to *Ambersun Mena* of Ambersun Alpacas; Champion Brown to *Chaparral Altazar* of Alpacas Chaparral (Dee Finlay and Mark Short, SA); Champion Grey/Roan to *Fleur De Lys Mystique* of Fleur De Lys Alpacas (Lee Sadler and Greg Scarlett, SA), and Champion Black to Anfield Park Keegan of Anfield Park Alpacas (Alan and Edna Chadwick, SA).

In the fleece sections the awards were again shared around with Mundawora Alpacas (Jan and John Bentley, SA) taking home the Champion Suri award with *Mundawora Beryllium* whilst the Grand Champion Huacaya trophy went to *Softfoot Corroboree*, exhibited by Softfoot Alpacas (Sandy and Gary Retallick, SA). *Softfoot Corroboree* also took out the Champion White Fleece award, with *Chaparral Charape* capturing the Champion Fawn trophy, and *Chaparral Dimple* taking the Champion Brown award. These two fleeces were exhibited by Alpacas Chaparral. Fleur De Lys Alpacas carried away the Champion Grey/Roan trophy with *Fleur De Lys Mystique* making it a double header (animal and fleece), with *Yacka Ridge Yannak* of Yacka Ridge Alpacas (Jolyon and Kerry Porter, SA) taking out the Champion Black fleece award.

The Royal Adelaide Show remains one of the best-visited shows (per capita) in Australia, and is always doing its best to be innovative and exciting, so why not mark it on your calendar for 2008? ■



Supreme Champion Huacaya,
Cambridge Escalabar ET



Supreme Champion Suri
Ambleside Andean Maestro

Learn

Learn how to select quality alpacas.

Recognise good conformation and quality fleece. Read pedigree certificates, fleece reports and histograms. Learn how to identify an advanced alpaca.

Learn how to look after your alpaca's health. Trim toe nails, administer vaccinations, chucker, body condition score, dental care, weigh, shear. What special equipment is needed?

Learn how to breed to succeed. What animals should I start with? Do I need a stud male? Matings, spit-offs, birthing, new cria care, weaning.

Learn how to understand the alpaca market. Future industry prospects. Income and expenses. Market segmentation and opportunities.

Learn how to set up a farm. Facilities needed, plans and layouts. Fencing, laneways, shelter, watering systems. Pasture improvement.

Learn how to understand their nutritional needs. Digestion, vitamins, grasses and supplementary feeding.

Learn how to establish a successful alpaca business. Goal setting, business plans and marketing. Numbers needed to be viable?

Learn how to succeed in the show ring. Train alpacas to walk on a lead. Show preparation. Transport.

Learn why alpacas are so popular. Compare them to other livestock. Low maintenance, easy to handle, environmentally friendly, peaceful, curious. See how with patience and respect they learn to trust us.

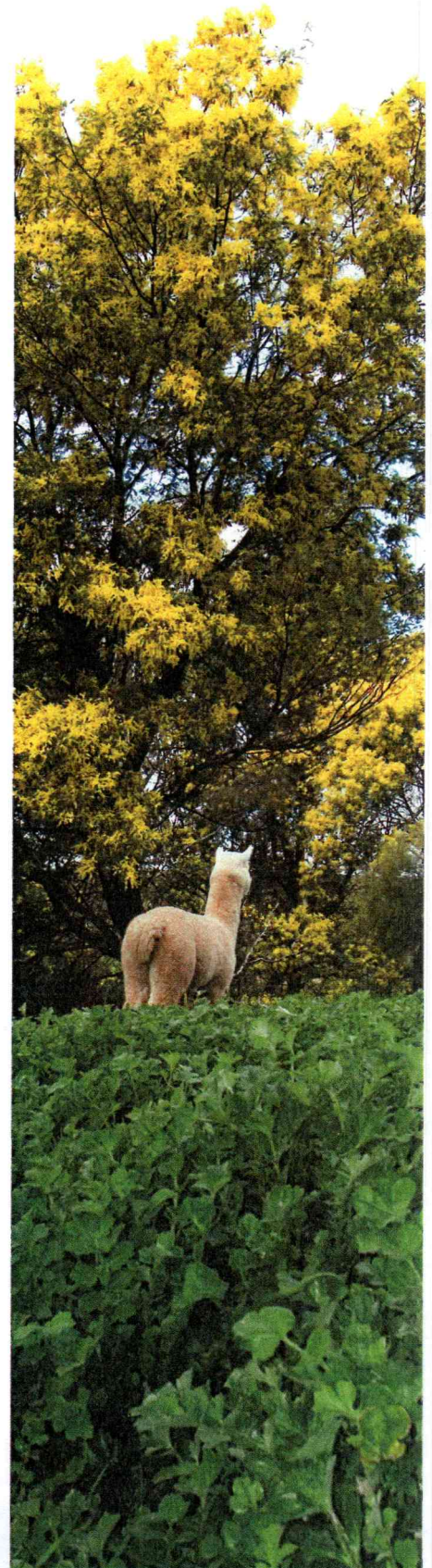
Learn at our on-farm, 2 day residential weekend workshops, "An Introduction to Alpacas." These workshops are very popular. People come from all over Australia and New Zealand. Learning is both theoretical and practical with sessions in the shed working with alpacas. The course answers all of the important questions that new breeders ask.

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning retreat. You will stay in luxury accommodation and the chefs will tempt you with their delicious meals. These weekends provide a wonderful opportunity for intending alpaca breeders to network and socialize. Many lasting friendships have started.

Make it a special weekend. Learning and leisure. The package includes en-suite accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, workshop tuition and all course materials. The price per couple is \$625. The single price is \$425.

Attendance numbers are limited and always fill quickly. Complete details including the program, directions and booking forms are on the website at www.flowerdalealpacas.net. Or phone Jen on 03 9728 7000.

FLOWERDALE ESTATE
ALPACAS



14 Workshops in 14 Months

FLEECE ARTICLE by **Matthew McAninly** > Fleece Division Manager, Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd.

Over the past 12 months AAFL has put considerable effort in to making all aspects of fleece handling and transport simpler and more cost effective for growers of alpacas. We are aware that there are a range of issues that growers face, depending on where they are in the country, that affect how they consign their fleece to AAFL in Melbourne. Some of the issues that growers face regardless of their location include transport costs for small lots of fleece, knowledge of how to correctly handle and package the fleece and knowing what fleece types AAFL actually want.

In some AAA Regions we have, with the cooperation of Regional Fleece Liaison Officers (FLOs) and collection points, been able to significantly reduce the transport cost of getting bales of fleece to Melbourne. We are continually looking for cheaper options for all Regions and welcome suggestions from individual growers or grower groups.

Wool packs and clear plastic bags are now more accessible and cheaper for all Regions, with 11 of the 14 Regions receiving \$250 worth of packs and bags after supplying more fleece in the 2006/07 year than the previous year. AAFL has recently purchased clear plastic bags printed with the AlpacaMark in bulk which growers can purchase, and new or second hand wool packs are always available as well.

In October 2006 a new fleece handling manual was put together and made available to growers in a working draft format (available from the AAFL web site – www.aafl.com.au – or by contacting the AAFL office – Telephone: 03 9311 0933). With the help of grower feedback this manual has been updated a number of times in order to make the information as practical and helpful as possible for breeders regardless of the number of animals being shorn. Some of the information from the manual was also included on 'The 3Cs of Fleece'¹ poster, designed to be placed in the shearing shed and which provides brief information on fleece types and packaging during shearing.

There is however only so much that can be explained through manuals and AAFL realises that it is important that growers are able to get hands-on education in handling fleece.

The main way of improving grower knowledge on fleece identification, handling and packaging has been in the form of fleece handling workshops held at various venues across the country.

Since September 2006 AAFL has run or been involved in 14 fleece handling workshops, with workshops having been held in every mainland state at least once.

Workshops are mainly focused on giving growers hands-on experience in handling and sorting fleece however during the workshops we also cover a range of issues including:

- > Discussions on what commercial manufacturers require when purchasing fleece to turn into products.
- > What AAFL does with the fleece once received at the classing facility.
- > The limitations we have with alpaca currently such as relatively small quantities by commercial standards and the lack of processing facilities available in Australia and what AAFL is doing to overcome this.
- > The major faults with alpaca, such as the presence of guard hair or coarse primary fibres and coloured fibres in white fleece, and how to identify these faults.
- > Identifying positive traits within their own herd and how to select for these traits.
- > Ways of implementing the efficient handling of fleece during shearing to make the shearing of your alpacas easier and more cost effective regardless of the number of alpacas owned.
- > Hands-on identification of the various parts of an alpaca's fleece, with an emphasis on learning to correctly 'skirt' the saddle to remove any coarser fibre from the edges.
- > Correct packaging of fleeces and how to reduce the transport costs associated with sending your fleece to Melbourne.

1 'The 3Cs of Fleece' poster can be collected from AAFL, Unit 2/114 Fairbairn Rd., Sunshine, Victoria 3020 or your local FLO.



Workshop organised by
Derrick Hall, South Australia
Region FLO

Peter and Adrienne Taylor,
Jireh Springs Alpacas
get some tips from Matt
McAninly, AAFL (right) at
the workshop held at the
property of Pam and Len
Brown, Paradise Alpacas, WA

The aim of these workshops is not only to improve the handling of alpaca fibre on-farm before being sent to the AAFL classing facility but also to teach growers about what they are producing and how to identify faults and positive traits within their own herd when selecting animals to purchase or for stud service use.

We hope that being able to identify these issues will help growers continue to produce better fleece year after year resulting in higher returns to growers for fleece as well as continued improvement in the quality of finished products made from Australian alpaca.



AUSTRALIAN ALPACA
CONNECTION

The workshops also give us the opportunity of explaining the considerable changes that have happened at AAFL over the last 12 months, including the introduction of our own label *Australian Alpaca Connection* which sees AAFL now making an exciting and ever growing range of products. *Australian Alpaca Connection* products are now sold in around 300 shops nationwide as well as being exported to stores in Asia and North America.



Many thanks must go to the Regional FLOs or Regional members who request to have a workshop in their area, as well as their work in finding suitable venues and making other growers in their Region aware of the workshop. Without these growers AAFL would not be able to run the workshops to the level they have been.

Finally AAFL is identifying and applying for any available subsidies from Federal and State organisations that would allow more workshops to be run at a reduced cost to the Regions and AAFL. If there are any Regions who are interested in holding a workshop, they are encouraged to contact the AAFL office to discuss the options available. ■

Poisonous Plant Profile

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

Photosensitisation

Photosensitisation is the process by which certain chemicals absorbed by an animal, can become toxic if not removed by the liver, especially when skin is exposed to sunlight. Bare, unwoolled skin blisters and starts peeling, and may turn black as it dies and sloughs off. There may be swelling of the throat and jaw, the animal will be off its feed, and paw or scratch at the affected parts. Light coloured animals or lighter parts are more affected. The animals have to be moved to non green areas, fed non-green hays and protected from sunlight i.e. shedded until they recover, if they do. Severe cases may die from liver failure, or need to be put down due to liver damage.

These plants are known to cause photosensitisation in stock.

Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Other name: Fam Apiaceae

Also known as the cartwheel flower, wild parsnip or wild rhubarb, this is a giant member of the parsnip family. It grows in damp places, along rivers and creeks in sunny protected positions, flowering Dec-Feb. Originated SW Asia.

Plant description

A very large biennial herb (i.e. not woody) with green stems, sometimes red spotted, growing to 3m or over in the right conditions. The leaves are dull green, deeply dissected, and toothed along the margins. They have a strong resinous smell. The small white to pink tinged flowers appear in large, umbrella shaped clusters at the top of the plant, with each umbrella shape having a spread of 50cm or more. The fruits are pale brown, flattened and oval in shape with prominent resin canals



Photo 1: Giant hogweed plant



Photo 2: Detail of flowers

Poison parts

All parts very poisonous. The sap is a skin irritant and causes reddening and blistering of skin, severe dermatitis to humans, poultry and other livestock. A deep purple pigmentation develops that persists for some time and may become permanent. The toxins are furocoumarins, which are photosensitisers.

Status

Garden ornamental, curiosity plant, that has escaped in Tasmania and other cool temperate areas, to become a weed of moist areas.

Ragwort, *Senecio jacobea*

Other name: Fam Asteraceae

This is a major agricultural weed, poisonous to stock, and a particular contaminant of hay.

It is associated with disturbed ground, and dense infestations can completely smother an area. Native to Europe.

Plant description

Ragwort is a biennial or short lived perennial herb, to 1.5m height, with small bright yellow daisy type flowers, and deeply divided leaves. The stems are green, ribbed, and reddish at the lower ends. The daisy like flowers are produced in terminal clusters. See Photo 3. They produce rosettes in their first year then assume a more cabbage

like appearance in the second. The young plant looks very similar to tansy, (same family) except that the ragwort flowers have ray florets and look more like a miniature sunflower, while the tansy flowers are more like billy buttons. See Photo 4.

Poison parts

All parts are poisonous, especially to horses and cattle, causing poor appetite, constipation and jaundice, photosensitisation and death by liver damage. Symptoms can be latent, appearing up to several months after ingestion. Ragwort is poisonous when dried in hay as well as fresh, most poisonings appear to come from hay. It is most likely poisonous to humans as well.

Status

Noxious weed in cooler high rainfall areas, particularly in southern Victoria, Tasmania, parts of SE NSW and South Australia.



Photo 3: Ragwort



Photo 4: Tansy, a close relative of ragwort

Tutsan, *Hypericum androsaemium*

Other name: Fam Clusiaceae

Tutsan is a semi woody, small shrub, grown as a garden ornamental, and found as a weed in damp shaded areas on disturbed soil. Native to Europe.

Plant description

Semi evergreen shrub to 1m height, with woody reddish stems. The leaves are opposite and stem clasping, pale to bright lime green, oval, turning red in the autumn. They smell of curry. The flowers are in clusters and have five bright yellow petals with rounded ends, and a boss of yellow stamens. The single berry appears in the centre of the calyx, which is persistent, and turns from green to red to black as it ripens.



Photo 5: Tutsan bush



Photo 6: Ripe and unripe tutsan berries

Poison parts

All parts of the plant are poisonous, the berries particularly so for children, causing vomiting and diarrhoea. Suspected of being toxic to stock, causing dermatitis on cattle and sheep. The plant contains the photosensitiser hypericin.

Tutsan is in the same genus as another poisonous weed, St John's Wort, (*H. perforatum*) which has the same toxin, causing a blistering dermatitis on nonpigmented, exposed skin. Both have been used for herbal medicine. There are a number of other *Hypericum* sp.

Status

Noxious weed in Victoria and WA, prohibited entry to Australia.

Heliotropes

Common Heliotrope, *Heliotropium europaeum*

Southern Europe, western Asia

Blue Heliotrope, *H. amplexicaule*

South America

Cherry Pie, *H. arborescens*

South America

Both common and blue heliotropes may grow quickly on fallow ground after summer rains or breaking drought, and are well known to cause photosensitisation in livestock.

Plant description

Common heliotrope is a small annual branched herb with oval, oblong dark green leaves, deeply textured, with a rough or felty feel. The whole plant is covered in very short hairs. ➤



Photo 7: Cherry Pie bush



Photo 8: Close up of cherry pie leaves and flowers

The flower head is characteristically curved, with many small tubular flowers, white (common heliotrope), or blue with a yellow centre. Both heliotropes have a strong, unpleasant odour during the main growing and flowering periods. They are found on disturbed ground, roadsides and invade open paddocks. Ploughing affected ground spreads the weed further.

However, heliotropes do not like shade, and can be outcompeted by taller pasture plants.

Cherry pie is an old fashioned, cottage garden ornamental. It is a rather scrubby, woody plant to 1.5m in height. See Photo 7. It has dark green, felted textured leaves similar to the weed species, and tiny blue to purple flowers with a paler centre, giving a multi shaded effect. See Photo 8. It has a strongly aromatic, musky scent, and no doubt has similar toxic properties to the weed species.

Poison Parts

The toxins of heliotropes cause retention of excess amounts of copper in the animal, damaging the liver, causing jaundice and photosensitisation, bloated abdomen and sometimes affecting the central nervous system (staggering, circling). Sheep, horses and cattle are affected, and young stock in new paddocks are particularly susceptible. Other livestock susceptible are pigs and poultry.

Status

Blue and common heliotropes are noxious weeds. ■

References

- > *Field Guide to Weeds of Australia*. Charles Lamp and Frank Collett. First published 1976, reprinted 1984. Inkata Press, Melbourne
- > *Bush Invaders of South East Australia*. Adam Muylt. Published by RG and FJ Richardson. Meredith, Victoria. 2001
- > *Pretty But Poisonous*. RCH Shepherd 2004, RG & FJ Richardson, 2001.
- > *Environmental Weeds - A Field Guide for SE Australia*. Kate Blood, 2001. CH Jerram & Associates – Science Publishers Victoria, 2001, reprinted 2003.

Information notes

- > *Heliotrope Toxicity in Sheep and Cattle*. Doug Harris, Swan Hill, May 1998.

For more information on heliotrope poisoning see www.dpi.vic.gov.au

ADD VALUE TO YOUR ALPACA FIBRE

**Enquire about equipment
suitable for your needs**

The Roberta electronic spinner is easy to use.
Great for a beginner, as well as for production purposes.
Also electric and hand drum carders available.

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



**THE ROBERTA
ELECTRONIC SPINNER**

ERTOEL WHEELS Specialists in: Electronic Spinners and Carding Machines (Hand & Electric)
FACTORY 7/45 VINTER AVE, CROYDON VICTORIA AUSTRALIA 3136 PH/FAX 61 3 9725 6253
E-MAIL: ertoel_info@connexus.net.au WEB SITE: www.ertoel.com

Sandjo Alpacas wins Business Award

INDUSTRY ARTICLE by **Sandra Wright** > Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.



Sandjo Alpacas of Bayles, Victoria has won the award for the Cardinia Shire Council's top home-based business for 2007 and was runner up for the Department of Primary Industry Agricultural Award.

Sandra Kop owns and operates Sandjo Alpacas on a 16 hectare property where she runs 150 white and coloured huacaya alpacas and it will be close to 200 when this year's crias have all dropped.

The ambitious mother of two adults and two teenage children has been breeding alpacas for 11 years and runs the family, farm and business on her own with the occasional help of family and friends.

It was three years after first seeing alpacas on a morning television program that Sandra bought her first alpacas, two pregnant females.

Of her journey since then Sandra says, *"As soon as I started working with alpacas, I knew what I wanted to breed and I knew where I wanted to go with it. I always followed my instincts and was lucky to have quite a few females born. I became very involved with showing. I knew that once I was in the industry I had to make a name, have a profile and have my stud out there. I wanted to get to a point where I had show quality animals."*

"I have made it a point in my life and in my business to do as well as I possibly can. At shows, I would always look at the animals that beat me and I would look at the sires and dams as well so that I would have a clear vision of what I wanted to breed and now, I am finally there", she added.

Sandra is highly focused on the breeding of quality alpacas and the results have been very rewarding, particularly in the show ring. As well, in recent years she has exported alpacas throughout New Zealand, Germany, Scotland, Switzerland and England.

Sandra is also kept busy providing a mobile stud service, taking animals to alpaca breeders all over Victoria and neighbouring states and for the last 18 months, has run an embryo transfer program to accelerate the improvement in her herd.

The complexity of the range of activities conducted at Sandjo Alpacas impressed the judges and Sandra was delighted to accept the award in recognition of her hard work and belief in the industry.

She said, *"I hate blowing my own trumpet but if I don't, no one else will. I put a lot into breeding alpacas. Fortunately, I love doing what I do and it helps to support my family, the farm and me"*.

Congratulations Sandra! ■

Sandra Kop with granddaughter, Chloe Coomer



Committed to the Australian Alpaca Industry

BREEDER PROFILE by **Marion Jack** > Jacamar Alpacas and Australian Alpaca Barn, NSW

In 1996 Michael and Marion Jack moved from the city to live in the beautiful, peaceful rural setting of Lambs Valley; establishing Jacamar Alpacas in 1998 with a small herd of 10 alpaca on 150 bush acres. We joined the Australian Alpaca Association, attended the Regional meetings and soon became involved at the executive level. I was Regional Secretary for two years then Michael became President for two years. Michael was asked to join the Board of the Australian Alpaca Co-operative and it is from this association that we first became involved in the product side of the alpaca industry.



Michael is currently the Central Coast and Hunter NSW Regional Fleece Liaison Officer (FLO), collecting fleece from the Queensland border down to Ourimbah on the Central NSW Coast. The fleeces are pressed into bales on our farm and shipped to the Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL) in Sunshine, Victoria, where they are classed and sold to manufacturers for processing into products.

When we first started breeding, I intended to have our fleeces spun or sold to a spinner. However, this proved to be too difficult and three years later our fleece was still in the shed. Today, with over 70 alpacas, it is very simple – we shear, pre-class and donate our fleece to the industry.

It is our belief that as the qualities of alpaca become appreciated, sales demand will accelerate and secondly, that fleece growing will be viable only when worldwide demand for alpaca fleece outstrips the world supply of fleece. Only then will the price paid to farmers start to increase. At this stage in the commercialisation of the Australian alpaca industry, stabilising the fleece supply chain and support for the manufacturers are the principle reasons several breeders donate their fleece to AAFL.

We are very focused on the long term viability of the alpaca industry and in our opinion we are incredibly lucky to have a company that is prepared to commercially handle small quantities of fleece.



Marion was born in West Wyalong and my formative years were spent on a sheep station outside the country township of Carinda in western NSW. First, studying as an Interior Decorator then a Librarian at Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education, travelling to Europe to work for several large multinational companies, before returning to Australia with my husband, Michael.

Michael was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in UK and spent his early years in North London. After Graduating as an Electrical Engineer, he moved to Hertford and commuted 70km to Central London where he worked on factory control systems for a large multinational. On one of his trips to Australia we met and then moved to the UK for several years. In 1989 we emigrated to Australia and formed a small consultancy in Sydney which we successfully ran for 10 years. Michael retired from engineering in 2000 and has since been involved in the farm and more recently, administration of the Australian Alpaca Barn.

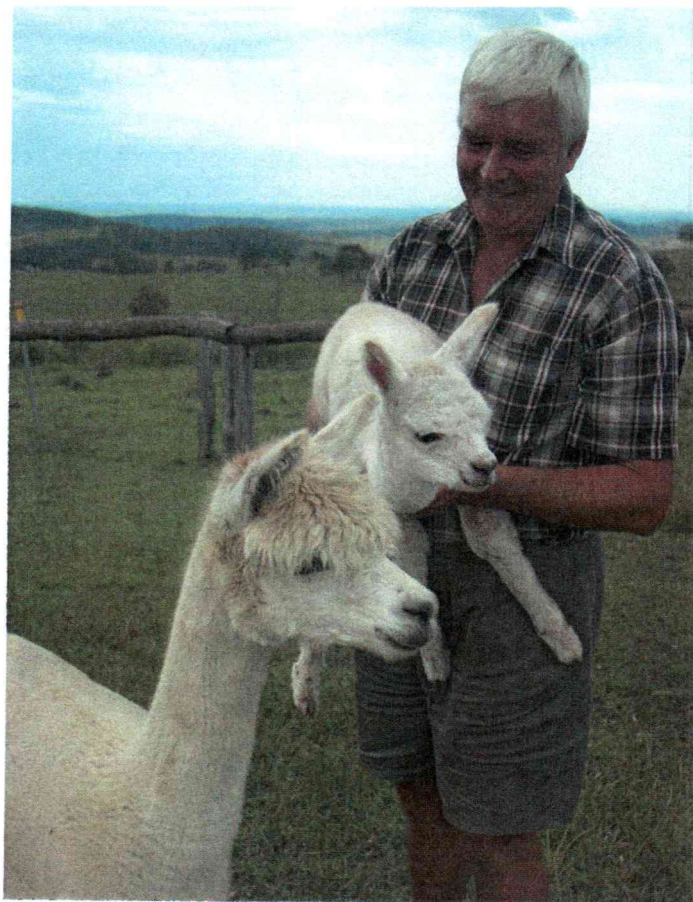
Jacamar Alpacas

The property is situated in the Moonabung mountain range at Lambs Valley in the heart of the Hunter Valley wine country, about 2½ hours from Sydney. The property is about 300m above sea level and has a range of vistas. It is about 60 acres of natural pasture surrounded by some picturesque grassy areas with large shade trees, behind these are naturally wooded areas with a spring fed dam hidden in the woodland. At the other end of the property is a gorge forming a natural rain forest.

Michael was dubious at first about the possibility of establishing a farm due to its remoteness and difficult access. The access route is about 4km of rough terrain which needs regular maintenance, particularly after heavy rain. The recent floods brought their own problems; the deluge washed 1 metre deep gouges in the road and lifted our bridge, which consisted of eight large, 18m long turpentine logs, swinging it through 90 degrees.

Initially we had to establish all the services: communications, water, sewerage and power, each of which had its own problems. As a retired electrical engineer, power should have been the most straightforward. In fact it proved the most troublesome. A neighbour about 2km away had power and we negotiated a very good deal with the power company; then the neighbour refused to allow us to connect to it. We could have forced the issue through the courts however solar power quickly became our preferred option. Our first installation had just four solar panels which usually went down each morning when I was using my hairdryer! We bought a generator – one of those silent, fully insulated diesel units from Germany – but it caught fire three times while under guarantee and, despite visits from the Sydney based engineer, no reason was ever established. We changed it for a larger, conventional Australian-built petrol driven unit and resolved all the problems.

We now have 18 solar panels and can automatically changeover to generator during persistent cloudy periods. The system drives all the normal household implements: large fridge, washing machine, microwave, two computers and a vacuum cleaner as well as the workshop tools including welder, lathe and woodworking machines... and needless to say, my favourite hairdryer.



We spent a couple of years researching the best use of the land and in the meantime we agreed to run a few head of steers to keep the pasture down. As Michael was working in Sydney, I went to the saleyards to buy the steers – but came home with 11 pregnant cows! Soon we had 20 cows and had to build yards and learn to castrate the bullocks, etc. – not particularly exciting for a retired English electrical engineer! We looked for a more relaxing lifestyle.

Our original intention was to have a farm stay and I had been researching alpacas, but we had a lot of fireweed. Sheep eat fireweed, don't they? We bought a dozen sheep, but they went straight through the barbed wire and they have never been seen since. We looked at grapes, olives, nuts, even free range chickens and goats but kept coming back to alpacas. So we started eradicating fireweed from the pastures by hand. We now have about 15 acres in four large paddocks and several smaller paddocks. All our paddocks are fenced for wild dogs with hinge lock and electric fencing.

We bought our first animals as a small herd of two wethers, one macho, two tuis, three hembras and two weanling ►

females, with a colour range including black, brown, grey, fawn and white. Although we have since concentrated on white and light fawn we still breed the full colour range and have had some success in breeding greys.

Using heavy timber from the back of the property Michael built a large alpaca shed which can hold around 70 alpacas in three sections. One quarter of the shed has a timber floor and is used annually for shearing. Michael developed our own hinged shearing table which does not swing against the animals' ankles but lifts the animal vertically before it swings.



Australian Alpaca Barn

In 2004 Jacamar Alpacas diversified with the purchase of the remainder of the Australian Alpaca Co-operative stock, forging a special relationship with the newly formed Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited (AAFL). We spent the first two years promoting and selling Australian alpaca products at agricultural shows and field days and with the help and advice of AAFL became involved in the manufacture of products. To enable us to plan ahead we attend regular product development discussions with AAFL.

With gentle family pressure (they had seen the burgeoning stock in our store room!) we opened a small shop in the back room of the Art Studio in Morpeth. Six months later a double shop became available and we re-opened in the front half on 1 Jan 2006 intending to sublet the back half – which never happened. Now in our third year of business we are happy with the results although the summer months still prove to be a challenge.

Morpeth was Australia's first inland port, it was established in the 1820's and is the birthplace of Australian icons such as Arnott's biscuits, Bonds Stores, Soul's Pharmacy and Brambles. Over the centuries, the township had deteriorated to a group of run down buildings, but the

historic importance was recognised and over the past 10 years or so the old buildings have found a new lease of life as a tourist attraction. Once derelict buildings have been renovated in keeping with Morpeth's historic beginnings and with the help of the Maitland Council even further attractions are planned.

The Mews in which the Alpaca Barn is located is an old Coaching Inn and the walls at the front of the shop have a part of the rendering removed showing the original stone blocks used in its construction. The view from the front of the Mews has the Hunter River in the foreground and the Moonabung mountains in the background. Although Morpeth is about 40km from the farm, a bright light on our house veranda, can be clearly seen in the early evening.

The Australian Alpaca Barn is strategically committed to the establishment of an alpaca industry in Australia that value adds. We have a standing commitment upfront to the purchase of all AAFL products; specialising in the Australian Alpaca Connection label and labels from the strategic partners of AAFL. We also market our own range of brushed and boucle throws and scarves, along with a small range of yarn and work wear socks. Alpaca is one of the most luxurious products you can wear: the fibre is semi-hollow making it lightweight while possessing thermal warmth unlike any other natural fibre. The comfort factor is amazing. Alpaca on your bed is superb and under foot is delightful. Discerning customers frequently express their amazement and delight at the quality and wide range of the Australian Alpaca products currently displayed for sale.

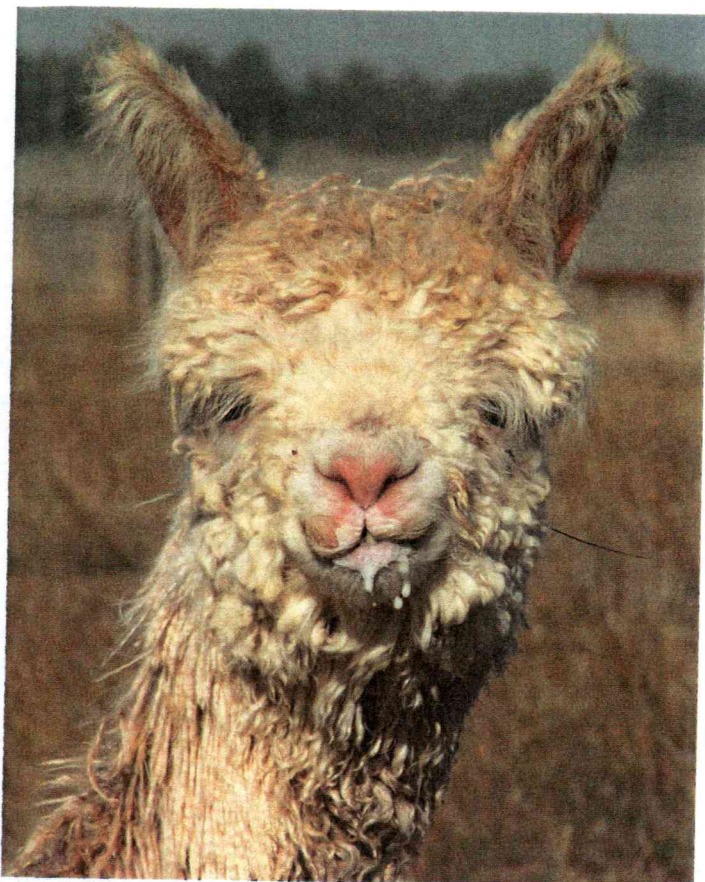
The Australian Alpaca Barn (AAB) represents AAFL and the strategic partners promoting Australian Alpaca products at shows and field days. In April, the Sydney Royal Easter Show; in May, Tocal Field Days; in July, Mudgee Field Days and in August, Agquipp in Gunnedah. We also work closely with our local Tourist Information Centre and Hunter Tourism promoting Alpaca in the Vineyards and down on the Harbour foreshore in Newcastle. In February 2006 AAB travelled to Germany to promote Australian Alpaca.

Open seven days a week 10am-5pm, Australian Alpaca Barn is situated behind Tea Lovers in the Central Inn and Mews complex at 135 A/B Swan Street. You can phone or fax us at the shop: 02 4933 5787 or at the farm: 02 4938 5707; email: sales@australionalpaca.com or shop on-line at our web site: www.australionalpaca.com Wholesale enquiries welcome. ■



A Happy Ending

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ARTICLE by **Dianne Marshall** > Tahara Suri Alpacas, VIC



Young *Resurgam Silk Prince*, together with his mother, arrived at his new home when he was two weeks old. He had been here for about a fortnight when I noticed that he was not looking nearly as energetic as the other crias. My immediate thought was that mum didn't have enough milk.

I tried unsuccessfully to give him a bottle and over the next couple of days I checked him regularly. He appeared to be suckling from his mother but he spent a lot of time sitting, looking very forlorn. I was looking at him trying to work out what the problem could be when I noticed a gooey substance on one side of his mouth. On close inspection it was evident that he had an infection of some sort in his top dental pad. It was putrid with about two centimetres of dead skin coming away on the lower side of the pad. On a cria whose mouth is small this was not good. It was possible to see right to the bone. I couldn't work out how he could get this sort of infection. Had he been kicked? There was no evidence of damage to his lips.

This of course was happening late on a Friday afternoon. I immediately rang the vet and explained the situation. He was about to leave for the day so he left me some antibiotics and suggested that I ease the pain before each feed with some Bonjela (commonly used for teething babies). After applying the Bonjela, I was able to use a long marsupial teat to squirt milk into the side of his mouth. This was to be the feeding routine for some considerable time.

The next morning he was extremely weak and not in good shape at all. It was obvious that I had to get him to another vet, as the infection was poisoning his system. Luckily I was able to find someone else to treat him at short notice. He was given numerous injections which took effect over the next few days. Week by week he gradually became stronger and I was eventually able to use a flutter teat to feed him.

Over the following few months his mouth slowly healed. He may always have a small amount of residual damage in the form of a dent in the pad. This initially affected his ability to graze and in turn his growth rate. Although he has been much slower to develop than crias of his own age he has continued to progress well.

The good news is that he has the most beautiful fleece and that on his first showing was awarded Champion Junior Suri Male. ■

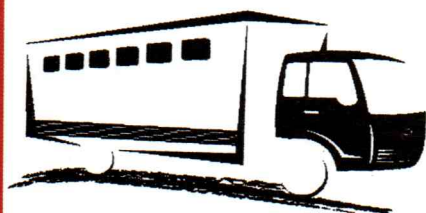


Business Card Directory

BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISEMENTS **MONO:** \$112 PER ISSUE OR \$90 PER ISSUE FOR 3-ISSUE BOOKINGS
COLOUR: \$133 PER ISSUE OR \$110 PER ISSUE FOR 3-ISSUE BOOKINGS

S & A Ruffell

STUDSTOCK TRANSPORT



*All enquiries welcome
Contact Steve*

0403 405 131
03 5424 8441
ruffs4@bigpond.com



OLYMPIC TRAILERS FLOAT MANUFACTURERS

**SPECIALISING IN THE
"ALPACA" FLOAT**

6 Carsten Road • Gepps Cross SA 5094
Phone (08) 8349 5400 • Fax (08) 8349 5463

Supa Soft Alpaca Carding Services

**"Small Lots Catered For"
Jenny & Aldis Stucers**

 **(03) 5996 7085**

www.supasoft.com.au



DR. IAN & HARRIET DAVISON

268 Main Road, Cambewarra NSW 2540


Phone/Fax: 02 • 4446 0096


Mobile: 0402 060 096 (Harriet)

0411 407 890 (Ian)

Email: harriet@illawarraalpacas.com

& CELIA COOK

 Phone/Fax: 02 • 4446 0083
Mobile: 0402 098 570


MEMBER SRS® ALPACA FOCUS GROUP
MEMBER AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION

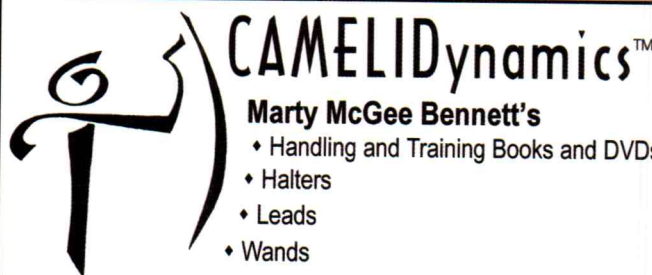


Australian Alpaca Fleece Limited

*Urgently needs your fibre
in all colours*

For all enquiries regarding fleece collection
P (03) 9311 0933
E info@aafl.com.au

www.aafl.com.au



Marty McGee Bennett's

- Handling and Training Books and DVDs
- Halters
- Leads
- Wands
- Other Handling Equipment

phone (02) 4841 5025, mobile 0403 195 349

www.daisybankalpacas.com.au

**AVAILABLE
ONLINE!**

QUALITY ALPACA SUPPLIES

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

Retail/Wholesale

ph/fax (02) 4572 5812 Christine Roffey

Email: hembra@bigpond.com

Alpaca Manager

Herd management software for Windows:

- Record animal details
- Schedule up-coming tasks
- Track the progress of Matings
- Print A1 and A4 Form details
- Create AGE Trait Recording Forms
- NEW - Version 5.0.0 now available



\$(NZ)250.00

Use it free for up to 5 animals

Visit www.epsilon.net.nz/alpacamanager.mv for more details

Epsilon Computer Services Ltd

PO Box 39, Martinborough, NZ

Phone +64 27 247 7584 or eMail info@epsilon.net.nz



Chris Hight & Alan Hamilton
Trimming an Alpaca's teeth.

THE HIGHCROFT TEETH TRIMMER

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

Available from

Highcroft

Mail Road

Harrogate SA 5244

Ph/Fax: (08) 8538 7115

Email: highten@lm.net.au

Inka Imports

Specialising in Alpaca Knitwear

SINCE 1993

Jumpers, Cardigans, Vests and Accessories

Wholesale Enquiries

www.inkaimp.com.au Email: info@inkaimp.com.au

Phone/Fax: (02) 9457 6231 MOB: 0418 660 198



Breeding the Champions
of Tomorrow

Jeff & Jill Willis

Phone: 07 5445 0882

Mobile: 0412 061 911

Email: info@sunlinealpacas.com.au

95 Jubilee Drive, Palmwoods QLD 4555

ABN 63 059 740 178

Truleen Downs

EST 1991



- ALPACA SALES
- PACA SHACK GIFTS
- BED & BREAKFAST
- SILK-PHOTO & ART GALLERY

Open daily Noon - 5.30pm

Coach Tours Welcome

Visit outside these hours
can be arranged.

Enquiries please phone

5942 7417

940 Toomuc Valley Rd.

Pakenham 3814

www.truleendownsalpaca.com.au

MICRON MAN

FIBRE ANALYSIS

SPECIALIZING IN MICRON PROFILE REPORTS

For the Alpaca Breeder who puts fibre quality as top priority

Established 1988 - Prompt service Australia wide

Contact: Wayne or Jo Marshall

Email: micronman@iinet.net.au

Ph: (08) 9418 1733

Fax: (08) 9494 2931



For more information about the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. visit

www.alpaca.asn.au

PacaPics

Every picture **does** tell a story!

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

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

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

★ WINNER ★



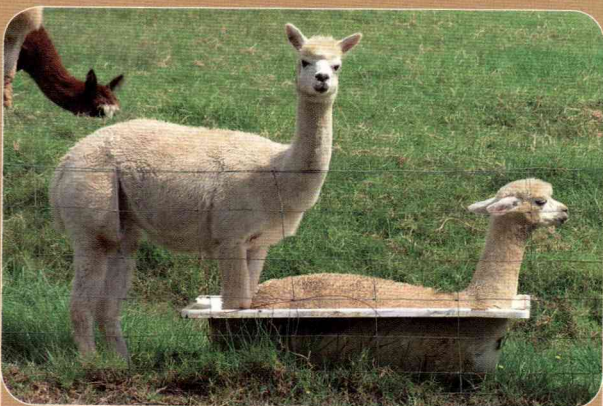
< Lunchtime >

Barbara Ransby • Mangowood Farm Alpacas, NSW



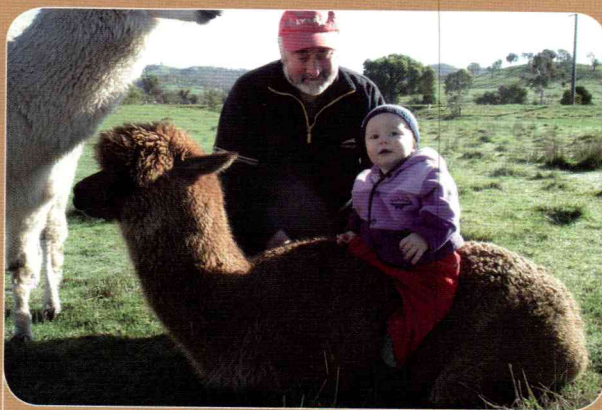
< Who needs a pillow, when you've got your mum? >

Geoff & Jenni Smith • Aingeal Ridge Alpacas, NSW



< I'll just give your back a bit of a scrub >

Christine & Laurie Talbot • Cullengatty Alpacas, NSW



< But you said it was a camel >

Geoff Hargreaves • Pachacuti Alpacas, VIC



< I'll tell you a secret >

Sarah Frampton • Bellarose Alpacas, NZ



< What's this cold, wet stuff? >

Sue Roberts • Tinonee Alpacas, NSW



< Group photo >

Karen Angel • Trinity Park Alpacas, QLD



< I REALLY won these! >

Dawn Perryman • Banyandah Alpacas, QLD



< We share everything >

Andrea Cliff • Coopers Gully Alpacas, NSW



< Junior handler in training >

Lesley Maxwell • Kurralea Alpacas, NSW



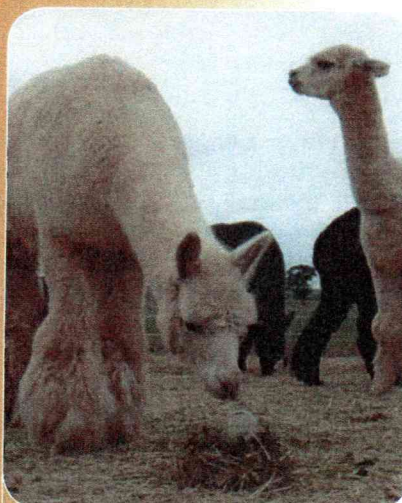
< Can I be a suri when I grow up? >

Christine & Graeme Purkiss • Bimbi Alpacas, NSW



< Guess who got Ugg Boots for his birthday >

Irene Wooster • Muntham, VIC



< How many 'pacas does it take to change a light bulb? >

Jan Salter • Wildwood Alpacas, NSW



< I know you're in there >

Nina Frampton • Samaria Valley Alpacas, VIC



< Oh baby, one last kiss! >

Bob & Jackie Coxon • Nattameri Alpacas, NSW



< I'd love a belly rub >

Adrian Jarvis • Blackwood Alpacas, VIC



< Ooh, I love that winter sun on my back >

Ian Winlaw • Jaspers Brush Alpacas, NSW

Upcoming Events

January

25-26 Eurobodalla Show: NSW

Venue: Bega

Highlights: Animal & fleece promotional display

Contact: Lesley Maxwell (02) 4474 3170

27 Bungendore Show: NSW

Venue: Bungendore Showgrounds

Highlights: Animal & fleece promotional display

Contact: John van der Straaten
(02) 6238 3590

February

TBA Breeders' Workshop: WA

Contact: Lorraine Naylor 0438 412 691

2 Nimmitabel Show: NSW

Venue: Nimmitabel Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Lynne Dominish (02) 6454 6180

8 Crookwell Show: NSW

Venue: Crookwell Showgrounds

Highlights: Fleece judging; promotional display

Contact: Penny Pittard (02) 4837 3394

16 Bega Show: NSW

Venue: Bega Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Marina Pitsonis (02) 6494 0178

22-24 Royal Canberra Show: ACT

Venue: EPIC (Showgrounds)

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Carolyn Austin (02) 6227 6224

23 Biosecurity Workshop: WA

Venue: TBA

Contact: Jenny McAuliffe (08) 9574 0012

24 Berwick Show: VIC

Venue: Berwick Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

29-2/3 Royal Bathurst Show: NSW

Venue: Bathurst Showgrounds

Highlights: Fleece judging (22 February);
Alpaca judging (2 March)

Contact: Kylie Streatfeild (02) 6366 5067 or
Kate Bailey (02) 6887 1233

29-2/3 Castle Hill Show: NSW

Venue: Castle Hill Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging; promotional display

Contact: Sue Maynard (02) 9653 2277

March

1 Boorowa Show: NSW

Venue: Boorowa Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Kylie Martin (02) 6385 8305

8 Biosecurity Workshop: WA

Venue: TBA

Contact: Jenny McAuliffe (08) 9574 0012

8 Camden Show: NSW

Venue: Camden Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Ray Seymour (02) 4636 6909

8-9 Wauchope Lasiandra Festival

Venue: Taree

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

9 New Breeders' Information Day: WA

Venue: Bullsbrook

Contact: Laurie Dow (08) 9571 2150

15 Wynyard Show: TAS

Highlights: "Colourbration" Show

Contact: Alison Brolsma (03) 6229 7147

15 Wodonga Show: VIC

Venue: Wodonga Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Joe Hofer (02) 6026 3835

15 Mt Pleasant Show: SA

Venue: Mt Pleasant Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Jolyon Porter (08) 8568 5254

20-2/4 Sydney Royal Show: NSW

Venue: Sydney Showgrounds, Homebush

Highlights: Alpaca judging (22-23 March);
Fleece judging

Contact: Jeanne Brown (02) 4576 3333

22 Red Hill Show: VIC

Venue: Red Hill Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

28-30 World Alpaca Conference: NSW

Venue: 'Dockside', Darling Harbour, Sydney

Highlights: International Fleece Show & Expo
2 day conference program

Gala dinner and fashion parade

Contact: AAA Ltd. National Office
(03) 9873 7700

April

3-6 Lardner Park Field Days - Farmworld 2008: VIC

Venue: Lardner Park, Warragul

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Bob McLeod (03) 5629 1140

5-6 Goulburn Show: NSW

Venue: Goulburn Showgrounds

Highlights: Fleece judging; promotional display

Contact: Jacki Waugh (02) 4829 8157

8-9 Kempsey Show: NSW

Venue: Kempsey

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

11-12 Macksville Show: NSW

Venue: Macksville

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

11-13 Hawkesbury Show: NSW

Venue: Showgrounds, Clarendon

Highlights: Fleece judging (11 April);
Alpaca judging (12 April)

Contact: Alicia Anderson & Cheryl Kosaras
(02) 4573 1177

12 Williams Expo Fleece Show: WA

Venue: Williams

Highlights: Fleece judging

Contact: Sue Locke (08) 9571 2150

26-27 Autumn Alpaca Show: WA

Venue: Whiteman Park

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Ron Reid (08) 9296 4888

May

TBA Field / Sale Day: WA

Venue: TBA

Contact: Lorraine Naylor 0438 412 691

1-3 Agfest: TAS

Venue: Oaks Rd., Carrick

Highlights: Promotional display;
alpaca product sales

Contact: Alison Brolsma (03) 6229 7147

2-4 Tocal Field Days: NSW

Venue: CB Alexander Agricultural College,
Tocal, Patterson

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

3-4 NSW Colourbration Show: NSW

Venue: Robertson Showgrounds

Highlights: Alpaca judging

Contact: Heather Vickery (02) 4885 2852

9-11 New England Wool Expo: NSW

Venue: Armidale

Highlights: Alpaca & fleece judging

Contact: Sandra Vella (02) 6564 2046

24-25 EPIC Alpaca Weekend: NSW

Venue: Exhibition Park in Canberra

Highlights: Pen sales, trade display

Contact: Geoff Shephard (02) 6227 6202

31-1/6 Campbell Town Show: TAS

Venue: Campbell Town

Highlights: Promotional display

Contact: Alison Brolsma (03) 6229 7147

Order Form

Free Information Kit

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

TOTAL \$AUD
\$0.00

Subscription

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

☐ Australia \$AUD 29.00 ☐ New Zealand \$AUD 45.00 ☐ Overseas \$AUD 60.00

\$

Publications

\$AUD WITHIN AUSTRALIA	\$AUD OVERSEAS PLUS P&H
Incl. GST - Incl. P&H within Aust only	Please contact AAA for specific P&H charges

Managing <i>Alpacas in Australia</i> , AAA - Education & Training Publication	4.00 ea	2.70 ea	\$
For orders in excess of 10 copies ** within Aust. only \$2.50 per copy (plus P&H)	**	2.20 ea	\$
<i>Alpacas Australia</i> Magazine – 3 back issues	20.00	12.00	\$
Herd Book <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 4 (per volume)	19.80 ea	15.00 ea	\$
Herd Book Vol 5	26.90	18.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 6	29.10	18.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 7	33.50	22.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 8	40.10	27.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 9	40.10	27.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 10	46.20	32.00	\$
Herd Book Vol 11	48.50	34.10	\$
Herd Book Vol 12	48.50	34.10	\$
Herd Book Vol 13	63.60	46.00	\$
Herd Book - CD Format <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Vol 14	15.40	10.00	\$
Conference Proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Glenelg, SA 1999 <input type="checkbox"/> Canberra, ACT 2000 <input type="checkbox"/> Hobart, TAS 2004	28.60	23.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adelaide, SA 2006	35.00	22.70	\$
TOTAL			\$

NOTE: With the exception of ** (shown above) all prices are \$AUD inclusive of P&H within Australia only. Overseas orders, contact the Association for specific postage charges.

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

Address

State

Postcode

Country

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

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

☐ Please debit my credit card for the amount of \$AUD

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

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

Credit Card No																Expiry Date	/	/
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---	---

CCV No. (Credit Card Verification (CCV) - the last 3 numbers on the signature strip on the back of your Credit Card)

Name on Credit Card

Signature

Copy or cut out this form and send to Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. ABN 30 067 146 481 ACN 067 146 481
PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132 Australia • PHONE +61 (0)3 9873 7700 • FAX +61 (0)3 9873 7711

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

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@bournet.com.au

Deadlines

Issue 55: Autumn

Due: April 2008

Deadline: Friday 8 February 2008

Issue 56: Winter

Due: August 2008

Deadline: Friday 6 June 2008

Issue 57: Summer

Due: December 2008

Deadline: Friday 3 October 2008

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

Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. ABN 30 067 146 481 ACN 067 146 481

PO Box 1076, Mitcham North, Victoria 3132 Australia

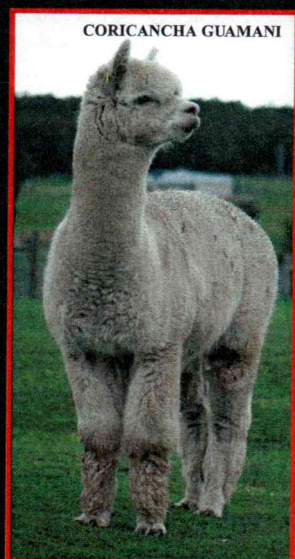
PHONE +61 (0)3 9873 7700 • FAX +61 (0)3 9873 7711 • EMAIL sandra@alpaca.asn.au

The Discerning Alternatives

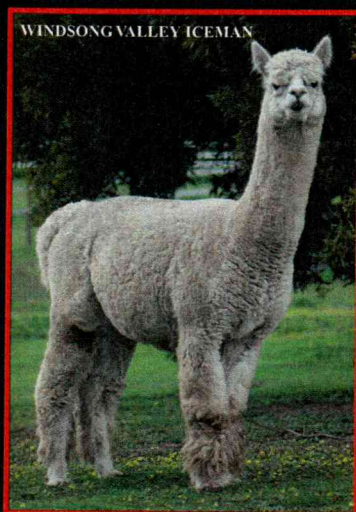
• • •

**ON FARM AND MOBILE
ATTRACTIVELY PRICED PACKAGES
DISCOUNT FOR MULTIPLES
SUPREME GENETICS
LIMITED BLOODLINES FOR SALE**

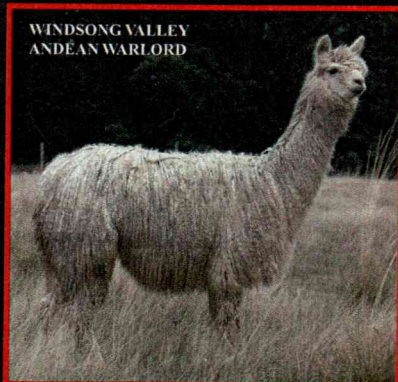
• • •



CORICANCHA GUAMANI



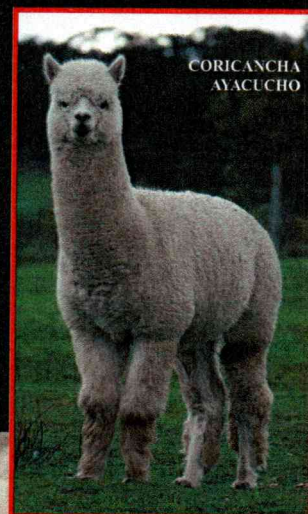
WINDSONG VALLEY ICEMAN



WINDSONG VALLEY
ANDEAN WARLORD



JOLIMONT ALESSIO



CORICANCHA
AYACUCHO



For all enquiries about Coricancha Alpaca Stud

phone 61(0)3 5342 0111 • Benoît 0419 420 110 • Philippa 0419 323 000

or visit us at "Ledgers Park" 325 Nine Mile Road, Napoleons (Ballarat) Victoria 3325

Web www.infoalpaca.com • Email alpacas@infoalpaca.com



Suris Across the Pacific

BREEDING OUTSTANDING SURI GENETICS

*Pacofino and
Latah Creek Alpacas
are delighted
to be the
major sponsor
of the first
World Alpaca
Conference*



Paul Cramley and Linda Davies
"Coorumbene" Murrumba Road
Wingello NSW 2579
Australia
(61) 0407 913 950
pacofino@bigpond.com
www.pacofino.com.au



Jack and Kelly Armstrong
S. 10612 Forney Road
Mica WA 99023
USA
(1) 509-927-0432
info@alpaca.info.com
www.latahcreekalpacas.com