

ALPACAS AUSTRALIA

Issue 63/ Summer 2010



The official publication of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd

WORKSHOPS FOR NEW BREEDERS

Large numbers of people from all over Australia and New Zealand have attended these residential weekend workshops at Flowerdale Estate, to learn about breeding alpacas.



The Program.

Includes classroom and hands-on sessions in the barn, working with alpacas. Learning how to select quality alpacas, recognising good conformation and quality fleece. Reading pedigree certificates, fleece reports and histograms.

Learn how to look after your

alpaca's health, trim toe nails, administer vaccinations, drench, chucker, body condition score, weigh and shear your alpaca. Understand equipment needed and their nutritional needs.

Learn how to "breed to succeed." What animals should I start with? Do I need my own stud male? Matings, spit-offs, birthing, new cria care. Learn about farm set. What facilities will be needed? Farm plans and layouts. Fencing, laneways, shelter, pasture improvement.

Learn how to establish a successful alpaca business plan. Goal setting, sales and marketing. Train alpacas to walk on a lead. Show preparation.

The Venue.

Flowerdale Estate is an award-winning, residential, corporate retreat for up to 60 people. Stay in luxury accommodation and let the chefs tempt you with their fabulous food. These workshops provide a wonderful opportunity for new alpaca breeders to network and socialize.



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Relax in the heated pool. Play some tennis. Enjoy a sauna or challenge someone to a game of pool. At the end of the day, relax with a pre-dinner drink and a savoury or two.

The individual price is \$425 (\$625 couple). The package includes en-suite accommodation for Saturday night, Saturday and Sunday lunch, morning teas, Saturday night dinner, use of recreational facilities, workshop tuition and all course materials.

Bookings.

All details and booking forms are on the website at www.flowerdalealpacas.net
Or phone Jen on 03 9728 7070.



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FLOWERDALE

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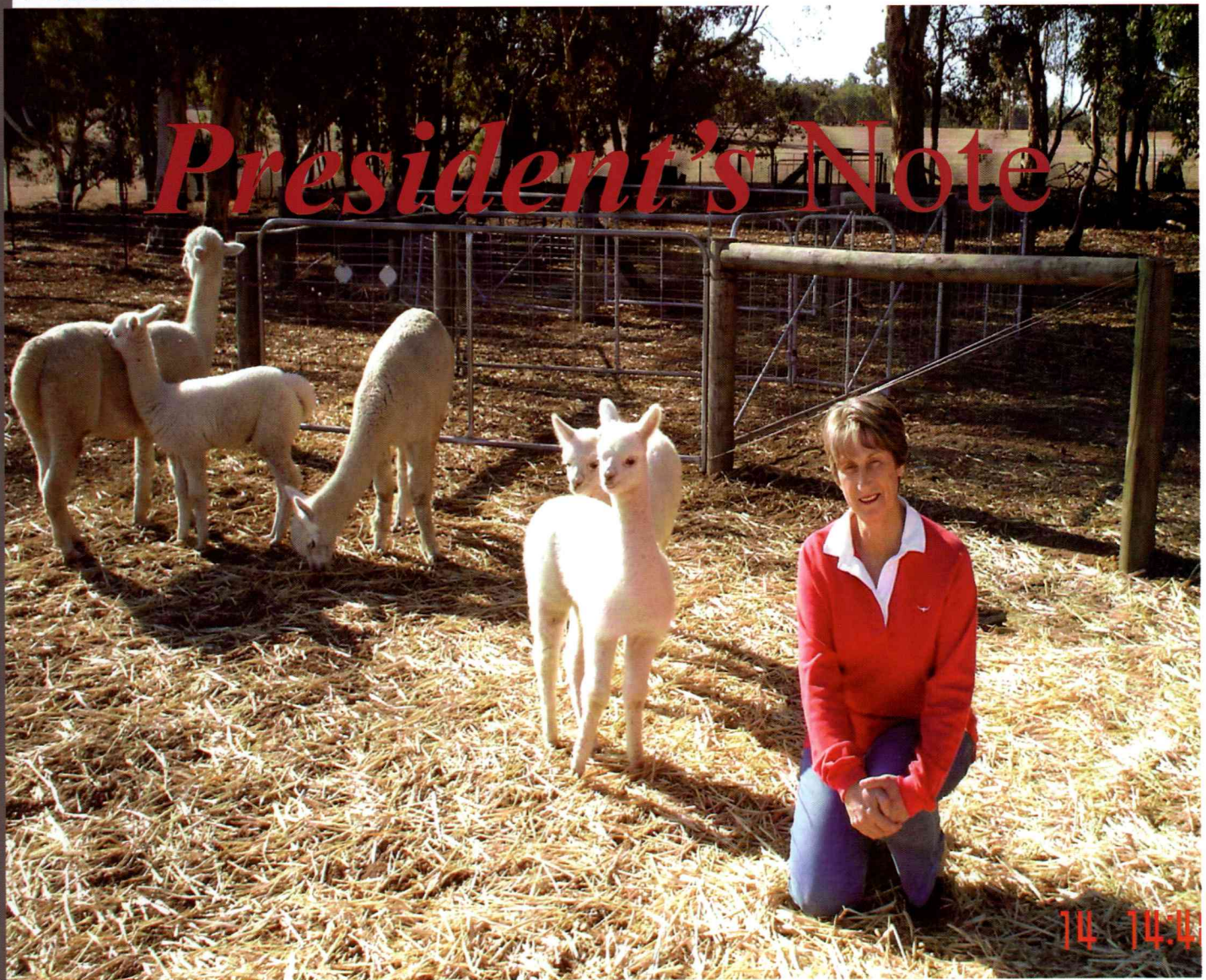
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Her name is ALCATRAZ
TIMEOUT (dam..
RIVERGUM HEIGHTS
CHOCOLATE KISSES sire..
BARRABINDA DESERT
STAR. Born 15 7 2010
This young girl is just so
pretty she really is elegant
either laying down or
standing up!
Such a Show Off!! Always
alert with ear's up, she would
catch anyone's attention.
I am looking out the window
at her now she is laying in the
sun with her legs stretched
out! She looks beautiful!!





Just a few weeks ago it was announced to the AAA membership that I was the new President. I humbly accept the position and look forward to leading our AAA into the future. I realise the enormity of the task ahead but am confident that with the support of the current directors and the membership at large we can collectively achieve some distinctive goals.

My belief in the long term viability of this industry has not wavered since I became a member in 1995. It is apparent to me that with alpacas now being bred in a number of countries around the world that others clearly have that same belief. Firmly establishing Australian Alpaca on the international scene will take time and energy. Growing our member numbers is another. These targets together with others are identified and listed in the AAA Strategic Plan which is currently being finalised. It is this document that will form the basis of all future directions your Association will be taking in the next five years.

Your outgoing Directors, President Dr Ian Davison, Vice President Chris Bailey, recently 'retired' Treasurer Russell Hayes and Animal Health exponent Kerry Dwyer, all contributed significantly to that plan.

One of Ian Davison's many achievements as President was that he forged strong links with our international counterparts. That is something which in the years to come will prove invaluable to our Association. Ian's dedication was a constant throughout his role of President and I congratulate him on the many successes the AAA has achieved during his term of office. It is with much pleasure that I announce the appointment by the AAA Board of Ian as an International Ambassador for the AAA (Details of this role will be published at a later date.)

Chris Bailey loyally and respectfully represented the AAA membership for a number of years at the National level. His commitment and contributions have been significant and as a fellow Director it has certainly been my pleasure to work alongside Chris.

Kerry Dwyer has served our industry at the National level from 2001 - 2010. His unquestionable commitment to a myriad of roles and tasks has been instrumental in the shaping of our AAA. I believe that no - one has served our industry better.

Russell Hayes has been involved in the financials and Audit and Risk areas of the AAA for some time. All of Russell's contributions and inputs were highly respected and valued.

I extend my thanks and best wishes to them all for a most enjoyable retirement away from AAA National duties and trust that their enjoyment with alpacas and the breeding of, will continue for many years to come.

I welcome Michelle Malt and Geoff Redelman as incoming AAA Directors and congratulate Ian Vanderbeek on his election to Vice President. Your current AAA Board is an excellent mix of expertise and skills. I have every faith that they will deliver outcomes which will continue to advance our industry further and as the Chair of the AAA Board look forward to working with them.

I am heartened by the number of AAA members who now fall into the 'younger' age category. Succession planning is something at both the Regional and National level we need to probably pay greater attention

to. Your Board has taken the first step in appointing shadow positions this year and perhaps a shadow role at regional levels is one way that we can assist the many volunteers who have, year after year served our Association so well and would probably wish for a slightly lesser workload.

Member-based organisations such as ours cannot survive without a myriad of volunteers most of who contribute actively and in a practical way to regional events. During the next year there will be times when your Board will be keenly seeking your thoughts and inputs on various matters. It is your industry. How any future plans are developed will be in your hands. I ask that when the time comes for your contribution that you do take the time to contribute.

Finally, as you personally look back on 2010, may it present you with an insight into some wonderful alpaca moments and provide you with a direction and belief that our Australian Alpaca industry will be one with a future of renown.

I wish one and all a very healthy and most prosperous 2011.

Jenny McAuliffe
AAA Ltd President

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..and New Zealand too

2010 Nat Show Champion Senior
Female Suri - Keiana Lodge Silhouette



2010 Nat Show Champion Mature
Female Huacaya - Banksia Park Zena
ET



2010 National Show and sale

2010 Nat Show Champion Adult Female
Suri - Kurrawa Jelena ET



2010 Nat Show Champion Adult Male
Suri - Kurrawa Red Hot So What ET



After twelve months of preparation the first day of set up arrived with a 7am start to lay the turf that had arrived overnight from Sydney.

As the turf went down, the four-hundred bales of straw arrived to be unloaded and distributed. By 10am morning tea was a welcome sight; the Event Office was set up, panels placed in stables and powerboards set up to provide electricity. As the corrugated tin alpacas were unloaded and placed strategically to complete the arena, things started to take shape. The trade sites started to fill and the air of excitement started to build. Full credit to the venue staff, no request large or small was too much trouble and they assisted whenever possible. Art, photography, craft and fleece displays took two days to complete and looked wonderful; it was a great credit to all the volunteers.

Wednesday started a little slower with a few exhibitors arriving early and by 4pm they were arriving in force and this continued into the night. As the exhibitors settled in and made sure the animals were comfortable, down in the main arena we sorted out the last minute programming problems for judge-cam and prepared for the first judging day.

Thursday the weather held for us, it was overcast but only a minor sprinkle in the early morning, the rest of the day was fine. A wonderful line up of Junior Female Huacayas was judged in the afternoon by Lyn Dickson and Jude Anderson. Champion Junior Female was awarded to Ambersun Amici and Reserve Champion to Banksia Park RXCK Radiance. Judge-cam was a real bonus and showed off all the beautiful fleeces.

On Friday judging continued with more beautiful animals being shown and the judges and ring stewards working tirelessly. Unfortunately the turf was showing some signs of wear from a little too much water that had dripped from the sprinkler overnight on Wednesday. During the lunch break the dedicated team of volunteers jumped in and removed the turf from the worst affected areas, replacing it with new turf from the edge of the arena. First award of the day for Junior Champion Male Huacaya was won by Ambersun Lithium with Reserve Champion going to Ambersun Ned Kelly.

Friday saw the Art and Photography sections being judged by Stephen Dobson. Stephen was delighted with some of the exhibits and said it was a joy to see the junior section do so well, overall he was very impressed.

Suri judging commenced on Friday and Champion Junior Female was taken out by Surilana Seraphim with Reserve Champion going to Surilana Queen Bee. Judging continued on with the gorgeous Junior Suri Males who again showed us some wonderful colours and whites while showcasing the future in stud males. Champion Junior Male was Kurrawa Man About Town ET and Reserve Champion Surilana Octane.

Friday also saw the completion of the fleece judging which had taken two days with Judge Bill Robbins putting in a great effort to judge 242 fleeces. Bill's support team just kept the Gatorade coming and finally the Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece was awarded to Forestglen Legacy and the Supreme Suri Fleece to Kurrawa Jax ET. It was a magnificent display of fleeces and a very well deserved win by these two studs.

Down in the ring the Champion Intermediate Suri Female was being awarded to Surilana Magnolia and the Reserve Champion to Kurrawa Hearts on Fire ET. The Intermediate Male Suri section saw Surilana take out the double with Champion Intermediate Male going to Surilana Pythagoras and Reserve Champion to Surilana Matrix.

The official photographer Steve Gonsalves stretched himself to try to be in as many places as he could, taking photos of the Champions and then rushing back to the ring to capture the next class in action. In between all this he raced upstairs to make sure he had shots of all the beautiful fleeces, craft and art/photography displays. He took some fabulous shots which will all be on his web site www.sgphoto.com.au for exhibitors to view and purchase. We hope you all find a photo that reminds you of the Tamworth 2010 show and brings fond memories.

The action continued in the ring with Champion Adult Female Suri going to Kurrawa Jelana ET and Reserve Champion to Kurrawa Just a Delight ET. Champion Adult Male Suri was awarded to Kurrawa Red Hot So What ET and the Reserve Champion to Elysion Heartbeat.

We had a great number of entries in the Craft Section this year with over 110 entries being judged by Darrel 'Beaver' Laughton from Queensland. It was a delight to have Beaver and his wife Fiona with their wealth of experience. On Friday and Saturday after the completion of judging it was wonderful to see Beaver take the time to share his experience and give helpful hints to visitors and anyone that stopped to admire the craft exhibits. There were some beautiful pieces full of colour and detail, lovingly made with imagination and flair that most of us can only dream of. Congratulations to all the exhibitors.

The last of the Suris were being judged with Champion Senior Female Suri being awarded to Keiana Lodge Silhouette and Reserve Champion to Bedrock Certina. Champion Senior Male Suri went to Surilana Mendoza and Reserve Champion to Baarrooka Dragon ET.

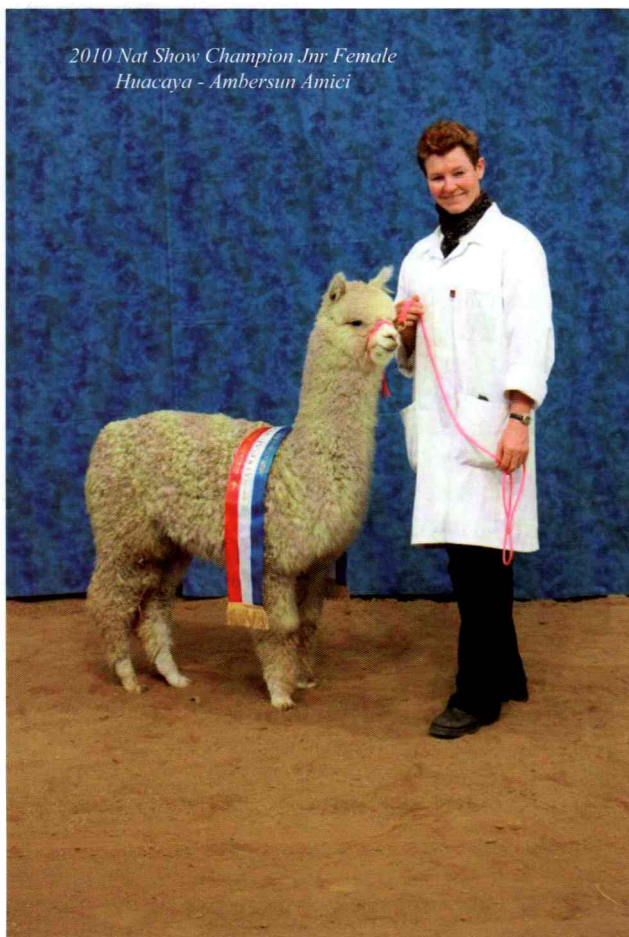
The show continued although by now the umbrellas were working overtime outside as the rain poured down.



2010 Nat Show Champion Senior
Male Huacaya - Banksia Park VCK
Colorado ET and Reserve Champion
Senior Male Huacaya - Banksia Park
TESK Centaur ET



2010 National Supreme Champion
Huacaya Fleece - Forestglen Legacy



2010 Nat Show Champion Jnr Female
Huacaya - Ambersun Amici



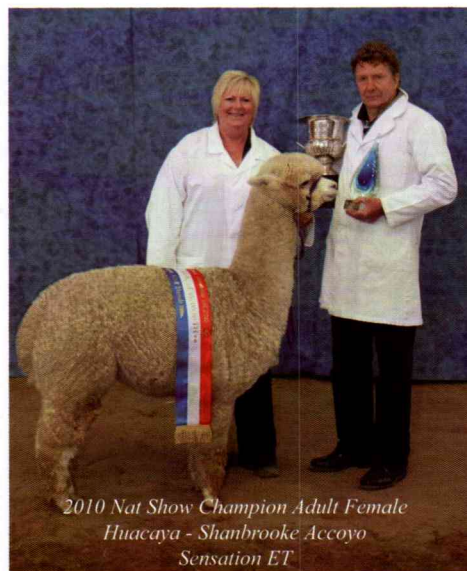
2010 Nat Show Champion Intermediate Female Huacaya - Banksia
Park MMIN Bonamisti ET



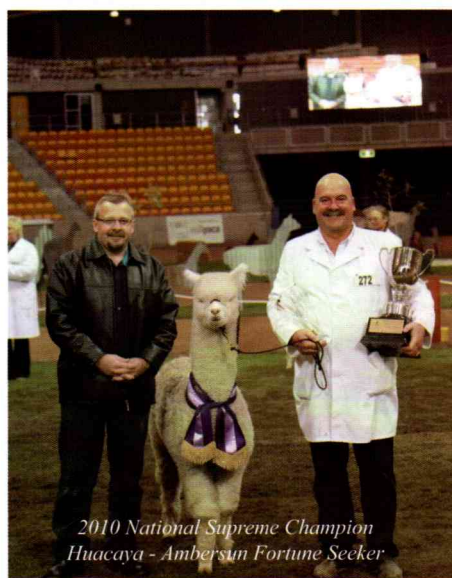
2010 Nat Show Champion Jnr Male Huacaya - Ambersun Lithium (L) and
Reserve Champion Jnr Huacaya Male - Ambersun Ned Kelly (R)



2010 National Supreme Champions



2010 Nat Show Champion Adult Female Huacaya - Shanbrooke Accoyo Sensation ET



2010 National Supreme Champion Huacaya - Ambersun Fortune Seeker



2010 National Supreme Champion Suri Fleece - Kurrawa Jax ET

Champion Intermediate Female Huacaya went to Banksia Park MMIN Bonamisti ET and Reserve Champion to Malakai Distinctionata ET. Champion Intermediate Male Huacaya was awarded to Ambersun Fortune Seeker and Reserve Champion to Millduck Maddox.

On the Friday night the Cocktail/ Presentation function was held. It was a great night and we would like to thank Ian Davison for awarding the trophies to all the Fleece, Craft, and Art/Photography winners.

On Saturday judging resumed with everyone eager to show off their best. Champion Adult Female Huacaya went to Shanbrooke Accoyo Sensation ET and Reserve Champion to Patagonia Celtic Flamingo. A large line up for Adult Male Huacaya created great interest with the Champion being awarded to Millduck Manhattan and the Reserve Champion to Ambersun Lord Chancellor.

The crowd of spectators was a little larger on Saturday but not as good as we had hoped-I guess the cold, wet weather had deterred some visitors. Champion Senior Female Huacaya went to Lee Carrow Seventh Heaven and Reserve Champion to Ambersun Pink Diamond. Champion Senior

Male Huacaya was awarded to Banksia Park VCK Colorado ET and Reserve Champion to Banksia Park TESK Centaur ET.

As we neared the end of judging the Champion Mature Female Huacaya was awarded to Banksia Park Zena ET and the Reserve Champion to Plantel Illawarra Bardot ET. Champion Mature Male Huacaya went to Banksia Park Mystic Challenge ET and Reserve Champion to Jolimont Warrior.

After a final line up came the moment that everyone waits for, Supreme Champion. The Supreme Champion Suri went to Surilana Mendoza and the Supreme Champion Huacaya was awarded to Ambersun Fortune Seeker.

On Saturday night we all celebrated with a fantastic dinner at Wests Leagues Club. Chris Williams was at his best conducting the dinner auction and we thank him for a great job. The auction went very well and we finished the night with some great dance music.

Sunday was Auction day and we prepared pens and animals as the Junior Judging was taking place in the main arena.

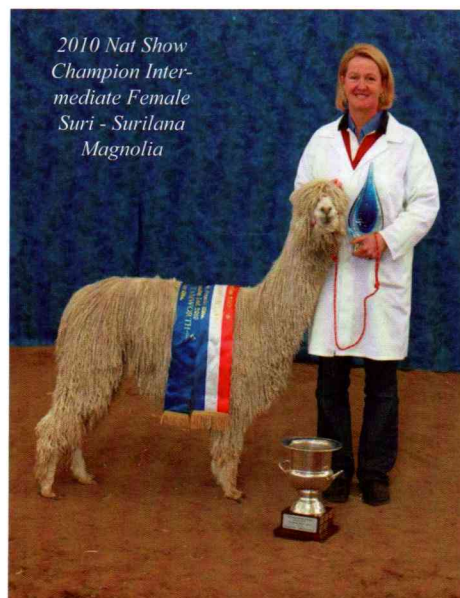
2010 Nat Show Champion Senior
Female Huacaya - Lee Carrow Seventh
Heaven



2010 National Supreme Champion Suri
- Surilana Mendoza



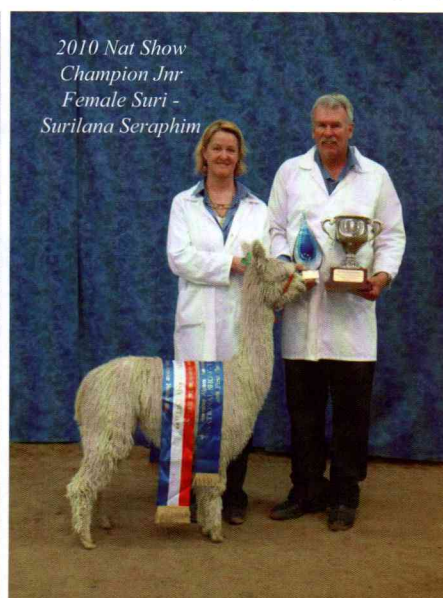
2010 Nat Show Reserve Champion Mature Male Huacaya - Jolimont Warrior and Cham-
pion Mature Male Huacaya - Banksia Park Mystic Challenge ET



2010 Nat Show
Champion Inter-
mediate Female
Suri - Surilana
Magnolia



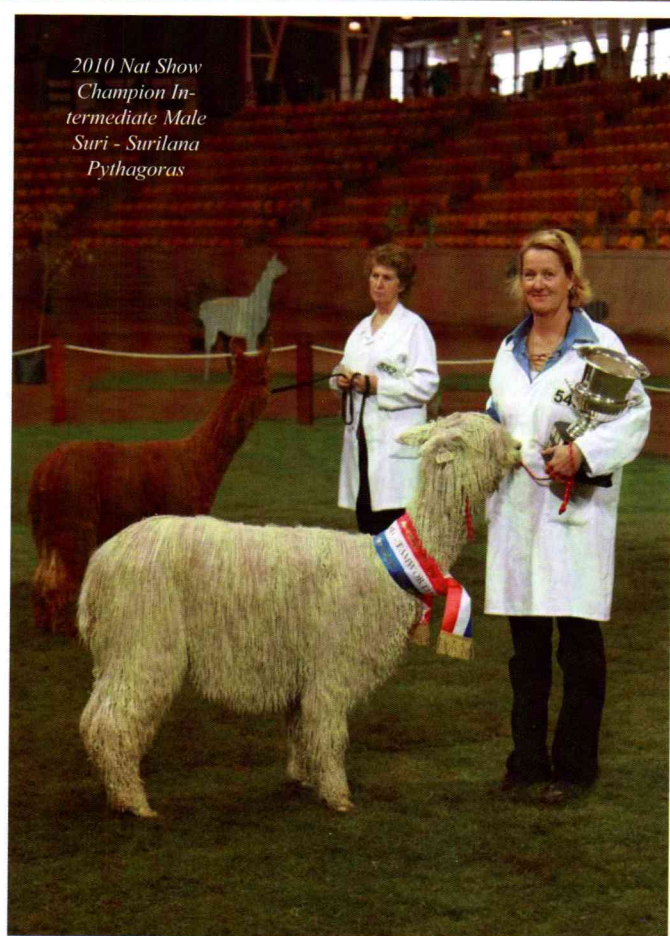
2010 Nat Show
Champion Jnr
Male Suri - Kur-
rawa Man About
Town ET



2010 Nat Show
Champion Jnr
Female Suri -
Surilana Seraphim



2010 Nat Show
Champion Adult
Male Huacaya -
Millduck
Manhattan



2010 Nat Show
Champion In-
termediate Male
Suri - Surilana
Pythagoras

The AAA Ltd. Annual General Meeting was held in the lecture building and a changing of the guard came about with the retirement of some Board members. We would like to congratulate Jennifer McAuliffe on being elected President of the AAA Ltd. and all the other new board members as they take on new challenges.

In the ring the auction animals were inspected by potential buyers and the auctioneer prepared his notes. One by one all the beautiful animals offered for auction were sold; they all reached their reserve price or better and bidding was strong from the audience and phone bidding.

The weather had not been particularly kind to us in Tamworth on that weekend. Thursday was overcast and it rained all day on the Friday-Saturday was so cold that we all thought it was going to snow, then finally Sunday and Monday when everyone was preparing to go home the sun came out. Unfortunately wherever the show had been held the weather conditions would probably have been the same or worse as there was terrible flooding in some parts of the southern states as the rain just kept coming. We hope everyone had a safe trip home and found their properties intact upon arrival.

Article written by Shirley Berry, Show Convenor.

Tax and primary production

Alan Cummine

Some practitioners in new rural industries will already have been primary producers for many years — either in one or more of the ‘new’ industries, or in ‘traditional’ industries but diversifying or changing their operations.

On the other hand, some may be newcomers to primary production.

This very brief introduction on tax and primary producers is aimed mainly at the latter group, but may still not be wasted on experienced producers.

Much tax law applying to primary producers is the same as for all Australian businesses. For example, paying tax on profits and on capital gains, claiming eligible business expenditure and depreciation of capital assets, employing staff and engaging contractors, managing pay-as-you-go tax, paying GST and claiming GST credits, keeping accurate and adequate records, and so on.

Many smaller primary producers (ie, with a business turnover of less than \$2 million a year) can also take advantage of the special tax concessions for small business — these include simplified trading stock and depreciation rules, immediate deductions for some prepaid expenses, and concessions on Capital Gains Tax liabilities.

If you are new to business, it is vital that you learn these basics about business taxation, whatever business structure you use (eg, sole trader, partnership, company, trust, etc), and that you understand the ‘self-assessment and random audit’ model of tax administration used in Australia.

You should also consider using the services (for a while, at least) of an experienced accountant who is used to dealing with primary production enterprises.

In addition to these basics, it is important to know that some or all primary producers also have access to a number of tax provisions unique to primary production. Some of these are described below.

All the basic information is available on the website of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) — www.ato.gov.au. Two good places to start are a downloadable 10-page booklet, *Information for primary producers 2010*, and the main relevant webpage, *Primary producer essentials*.

Carrying on a business of primary production

The most fundamental ‘condition’ of all is that you must actually be carrying on a business, not practising a hobby, regardless of whether your hobby makes money.

If you have any doubts, you should study the ATO’s *Taxation Ruling TR 97/11 – Income tax: am I carrying a business of primary production?* This very readable general public tax ruling gives a comprehensive explanation, with examples, of the relevant indicators of being a primary producer. You can ‘self-assess’ that you are a primary producer (as long as you’re willing to be subject to a future audit), or you can ask the ATO for a private binding ruling.

Non-commercial business losses

Non-commercial losses is one topic that has special relevance to certain producers in certain new industries, particularly part-time farmers. The essence of the non-commercial loss provisions are that, subject to certain conditions, if a sole trader’s or partnership’s (not a company’s) business activity fails to pass one of four arbitrary tests of ‘commerciality’, any business losses are deferred (not denied) until a future income year when one of the tests is passed or the business activity makes a tax profit.

For some primary production that has an inherent ‘lead time’ before it generates income (eg, plantation forestry and much tree-based horticulture), you can apply for the ‘Commissioner’s discretion’ to allow you to claim your losses in the intervening years. There are two general tax rulings (TR 2001/14 and TR 2007/6) that have very useful explanations and rural industry examples to help you.

Examples of special primary producer provisions

Here are some examples of special tax provisions available to primary producers. As usual, various conditions apply. All these and others are explained in the downloadable booklet and on the ATO website.



Landcare operations: Primary producers can claim as a deduction 100% of their capital expenditure on landcare operations in the year incurred, instead of depreciating the works over time.

Water facilities: Similarly, capital expenditure on facilities for conserving or conveying water can be written off over three years.

Valuing livestock: In most cases, producers may choose one of three nominated methods for valuing livestock (cost, market selling value, or replacement value), and may vary their choice by year and by type of livestock. ATO specifies the method for valuing natural increase and livestock taken for rations.

Abnormal receipts: Different tax-spreading provisions are available for (a) the proceeds of the sale of two wool clips in one income year because of drought, fire or flood; (b) profit from the forced disposal or death of livestock; and (c) insurance recoveries from the loss of livestock or the loss by fire of forestry trees.

Income tax averaging: This enables primary producers, as sole traders or in partnerships, to even out their income and tax payable over a maximum of five years, although if they choose to withdraw from this tax arrangement, it is an irrevocable decision.

Farm Management Deposits Scheme: Subject to a number of conditions, the FMD scheme provides special

tax treatment where non-company primary producers deal with uneven income flows by making bank deposits during prosperous years and withdrawals during less prosperous years.

Depreciation of living assets: New plant and equipment used in primary production is covered by the same 'effective life' tax ruling issued each July for all depreciating assets (although taxpayers can elect to self-assess, and must do so for used assets). Special provisions are made for capital expenditure on establishing living assets, such as grapevines and horticultural plants harvested for their products (eg, fruits and nuts, etc).

When seeking more detailed information on all these topics, readers not familiar with the ATO website and ATO documents should not be daunted. Tax rulings in particular, are, for the most part, quite readable and explanatory, and are a valuable resource, along with ATO's many fact sheets and guides.

Alan Cummine has been representing private forestry at the national level for sixteen years, and has been a member since its inception in 1999 of the ATO's Primary Production Industry Partnership consultative group.

Editors Note - This article is reproduced with consent from NRIA - Passion to Profit Magazine. More information can be obtained from www.nria.org.au or on web links to further taxation information.

FROM TREE CHANGE TO FELT ROLLING MACHINES

Add value to your farm

Fifteen years ago when Paul and Cristine Harrison became tired of the limitations of Melbourne's city life, they decided to close their business and make a tree change. After some research they found a vacant twelve-acre block alongside the Snowy Creek near Bright in Victoria.



This was in the early days of alpaca breeding and as their land was ideally suited to raising alpacas, Snowy Creek Alpacas was started in 1996 and their herd of alpacas has now stabilised at around forty.

Their next major project was to build a home plus a facility for their future manufacturing business. Snowy Creek Engineering is a facility for special purpose-built machines; the specialised engineering workshop is run by Paul and Cristine. As the son of an engineer Paul is fortunate to have married an engineer's daughter. Brought up on Meccano and then formally trained in the pre-computer era, Paul was an early adopter of Computer Assisted Design drafting and he has continued to keep abreast of the latest technological advances.

In 2006 their involvement in alpaca breeding brought them to the national alpaca show where they met Judy Craig, then the national craft judge. Judy's interest in developing a practical way of reducing the physical effort required to produce felt sparked an interest.

Given the mounting pile of alpaca fibre at Paul and Cristine's property and their inability to knit, they looked to felting as a potential and viable way to add value to the fibre. With their engineering background, they could see a great opportunity for the manufacture of a simple and cost-effective felting machine. In Paul's previous working life he was often faced with engineering challenges as well as designing for automated production in a variety of industries.

Before Paul built the first prototype he and Cristine had discussions with felters to determine what this machine should do, how it should be operated and what cost limitations there might be. Four years ago the Snowy Creek Roller Felting Machine entered the market. Construction is of painted steel, PVC and polycarbonate with some components outsourced to laser cutting and CNC production. Electrical components and control gear are locally sourced and are to international standards.

When the machine is demonstrated at trade and craft shows the reaction is always positive and many orders follow. There has been significant interest and demand across Australia and earlier this year from overseas.

How does it work? There are three machine-driven rollers that move apart when the machine is opened. As with hand felting the project (wrapped in bubble wrap or other similar material) is wrapped around a centre core. It is then placed between the rollers and closed to provide a constant pressure. When the rollers rotate the bundle has three points of contact and the changing shape of the bundle helps the fibre to felt. The machine fits comfortably on a solid kitchen table.

How fast is it? Firstly, the machine frees the artist's time to be artistic. Secondly, the machine takes the same time on big or small work which is not the case by hand. Most importantly this machine was prototyped using dirty alpaca (difficult to felt), so considerable effort went into the design of a flexible core. This gives the machine a very similar action to hand rolling, where the bundle is constantly changing shape. On the machine the pressure is along the

whole bundle not just where your hands are. Machine users measure rolling time in minutes as opposed to hours (even for bigger pieces). Six small merino scarves rolled at the same time takes around seven minutes.

Is it cheating? No. You still have to have the creative design and layout skills. The machine is providing you with physical assistance and sustainability to produce a large quantity of products consistently without suffering for your art with sore arms, shoulders, wrists etc. It allows you to continue with the creative task of laying out your next masterpiece.

Artisans it would appear, prefer to keep their many and varied unique techniques to themselves. This required a special design approach resulting in the machines capacity to cater for all styles of felting and we encourage experimentation by use of a variety of cores and carrying mediums. It is a new experience for us to work with people who so enjoy their machines that they name them-we know of two Rolleys and one Princess working happily with their owners

Paul and Cristine would like to take this opportunity to thank all the felters who willingly helped them understand their craft, ensuring the success and unique design characteristics of the Roller Felting Machine.

Snowy Creek
Engineering

Special Purpose Machinery
Design & Construction



- Variable pressure, speed and timer controls
- Easy to load, automatic height adjustment, safe to use
- Create a reliable product for extra on-farm income
- Praised by felted product and craft producers in Australia and now overseas

Roller Felting Machine

\$5,800 plus GST

Produces high quality felt every time up to 1 x 3 metre



Multi Needle

Only 17.5 grams

Needle Felting Tools

Natural \$25 - Anodised gold or red \$29
6 x 38g needles \$7.50

- Holds 1-6 felting needles in any configuration
- Easy, fast, safe needle insertion & removal
- Precision machined slots for secure needle seating
- Simple rubber rings for positive needle location
- Quick and easy needle changes
- Needles held parallel to reduce effort and needle breaks



Single Needle

• Working needle tip in exact centre for constant working position

• Automatic centering for easy, fast needle insertion & removal

Natural \$24 - Anodised gold \$28
needles \$1.50ea

PO Box 325 Bright 3741
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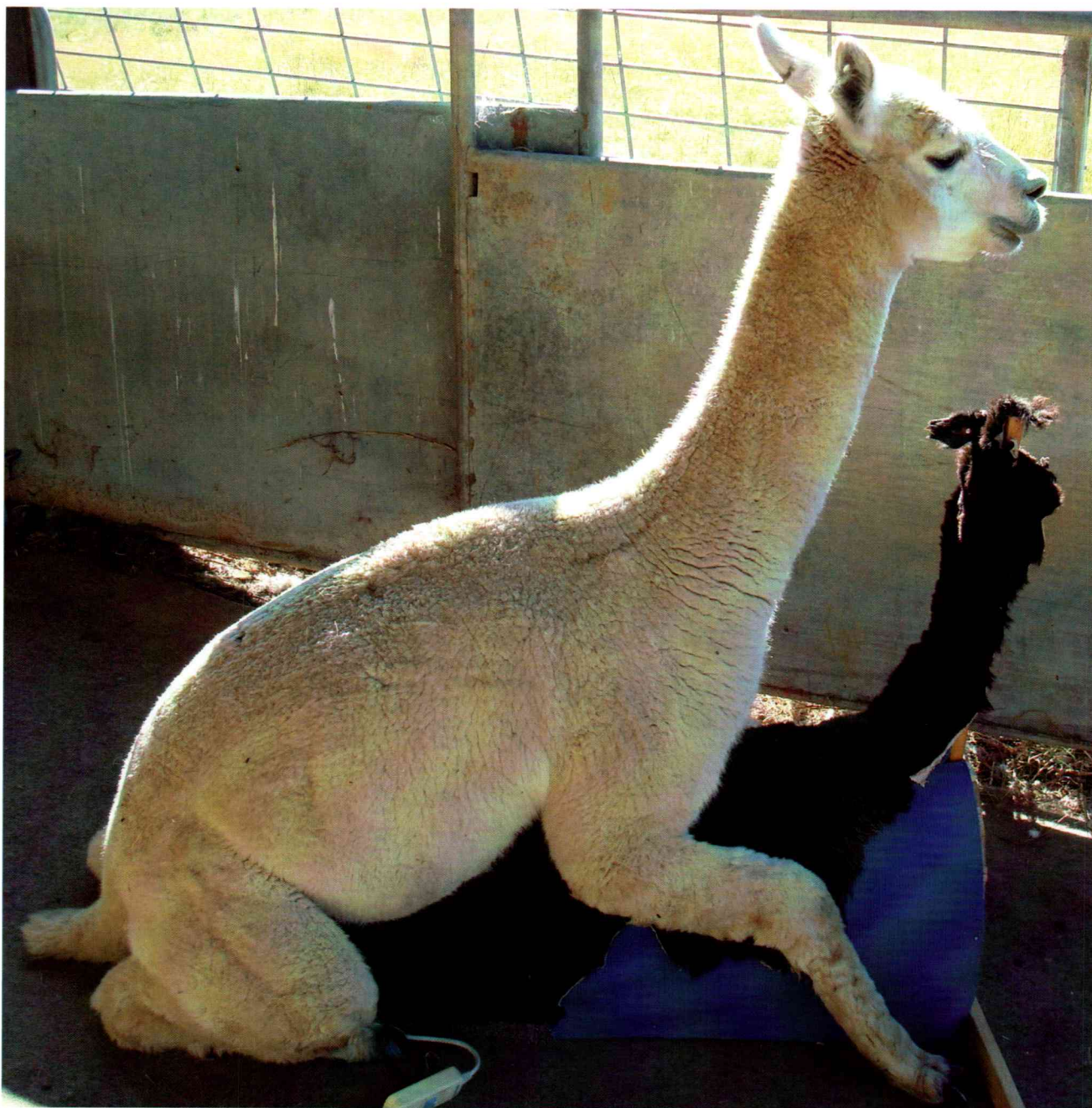
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RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (RIRDC)

Compiled by Fiona Vanderbeek, the AAA representative on Rare Natural Animal Fibres Advisory Committee

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) is a statutory authority established by the Australian government to work with industry to invest in Research and Development for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural sector.





One of RIRDC's wide range of advisory committees is that for Rare Natural Animal Fibres, with representation from alpaca, mohair and cashmere industries. RIRDC has been able to leverage significant funding from the Australian government to add to the R and D contributions made by the AAA, mohair and cashmere industries, providing funding for a wide range of research projects.

As the newly appointed representative for the alpaca industry, I recently attended my first advisory committee meeting where current projects were reviewed and new proposals for research funding considered. I am looking forward to my continued involvement with RIRDC and will keep AAA members informed as to the progress of current and new research projects.

The Rare Natural Fibres program within RIRDC is managed by Senior Research Manager Julie Bird, who has recently taken over the program from Peter McInnes following his retirement from RIRDC. She is assisted by June Murphy, the Program Coordinator. Chair of the Advisory Committee is Dr Carol Mathew who many will remember from her days in the alpaca industry with Jingana Alpacas.

There are currently four alpaca-related research projects underway, and a progress report from each research team is outlined below.

1. Advancing artificial insemination in camelids, particularly the alpaca

Claire Kershaw-Young and Chis Maxwell, Sydney University

The Spring 2010 edition of Alpacas Australia included a summary of Dr Kershaw-Young's work; here is a further update on this ground-breaking research.

The main reason that artificial insemination (AI) in alpacas has to date not been feasible is the viscosity of the seminal fluid (plasma), which has made the separation and storage of viable sperm impossible to achieve.

For the alpaca industry to achieve the practical application of liquid and frozen sperm storage, and a viable system of artificial insemination (AI), the following basic questions must be answered.

- What are the sources and constituents of the viscous seminal plasma?
- What is the basic protein content, structure and

function of camelid seminal plasma?

Analysing the source and constituents responsible for semen viscosity is critical to developing methods to overcome or circumvent the deleterious effects of the viscous seminal plasma. This has been achieved in other species with problematic seminal plasma, for example the goat, but has either been ignored or considered too difficult in camelids.

In addition to answering these questions, the research team has also been investigating:

- the effects of seminal plasma on the viability and integrity of ejaculated and epididymal sperm
- various methods to overcome/circumvent the deleterious effects of seminal plasma on the integrity and longevity of sperm
- refinement of the techniques for liquid and frozen storage of alpaca sperm, so that rapid progress in the development of AI technology can occur.

The effect of seminal plasma on epididymal and ejaculated sperm has been determined. In the absence of seminal plasma, sperm rapidly lose motility and die. In the presence of 100% seminal plasma, sperm also become non-motile. Sperm remain functional in the presence of 10% seminal plasma. These results suggest that 10% seminal plasma is beneficial to alpaca sperm, but that a high concentration is toxic. It may be necessary to add seminal plasma proteins to alpaca sperm following cryopreservation.

identified a gel-forming protein that is five to eight times more abundant in viscous compared to non-viscous semen. Investigations are in progress to confirm this finding and to identify the source of this protein.

It has been determined that the most effective means of reducing seminal plasma viscosity is by the use of the protease “papain”. The optimal method for papain treatment of alpaca semen to eliminate viscosity, whilst maintaining sperm function, has now been identified and the researchers are currently investigating methods to inhibit or remove the papain following treatment. Investigations are in progress to identify enzymes that specifically degrade the identified viscosity-causing protein, whilst maintaining sperm function and integrity.

2. Inheritance of white colour in alpacas: identifying the genes involved

Kylie Munyard, Curtin University

Whether the breeder is aiming for white or colour, understanding more about the inheritance of colour in alpacas is critical for us all.

The aims of this project are to

- develop a model that explains the inheritance of colour
- identify normal alpaca variations in the three key genes that control colour in mammals
- determine if these variations cause or contribute to colour variation in alpacas.

Although the inheritance model is not yet complete, the research team now have many of the pieces of the puzzle. They know that both the extension (“E”) locus and the agouti (“A”) locus contribute significantly to the basic colours in alpacas.

The “E” locus has at least two alternative forms in alpacas; one is the wild type variant (“E”), while the other is a non-functional variant (“e”). Animals that are “EE” or “Ee” will express colour normally. Animals which are “ee” are not able to express black. Therefore, “ee” animals are usually pink-skinned, and have fibre colour ranging from white to dark brown.

The researchers hypothesise that there are four variants at the “A”

locus. Depending on the combination of these four variants, you get the full range of colour (with dark skin) from white to black. It is also known that there must be dilution genes acting in the population. What is not yet clear is how many different genes are involved. Not including the “grey” dilution (that turns black animals into silver-grey and brown animals into rose-grey) there are probably two different



It had been hypothesised that substances called glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), which are abundant in alpaca seminal plasma, were the cause of its viscosity; the project has shown that they are not the cause. Analysis of the semen from males used in the research project had shown a variation in the viscosity of the seminal plasma. Using mass spectrometry and iTRAQ analysis the researchers have

dilution genes in the population, one that affects yellow pigment and one that affects black pigment.

The three key genes under investigation at the DNA level are MC1R at the extension locus, Agouti at the agouti locus and TYRP1 at the brown locus. The research team has identified variants at MC1R that have been shown to be non-functional and are therefore “ee”. They have also identified three separate variants in the agouti gene that are all non-functional. An animal with two copies of any of these variants will be black (unless dilution genes are also acting and/or they are also “ee” and/or they are BEW or silver-grey). Although these alternative versions of the genes do not explain all colour variation, they do explain how and why some animals “breed true” and others produce surprises. If your two white animals have produced a black cria, then chances are that each parent has one copy of the non-functional agouti variants. To date we have not found any variants at the TYRP1 locus that correlate with colour variation in alpacas.

One fact which became very clear during the course of this research was the large variety of colours in alpacas - making it difficult to objectively assess colour. Therefore, the research team adapted a well established chemical analysis method, and are now able to objectively measure not only the amount of pigment in a fibre sample, but also make assessments about the relative proportions of black versus yellow pigment in the fibre.

The final report from this project should be available early in the New Year.

3. Improving production efficiency, quality and value-adding of rare natural fibres

Bruce McGregor and Xungai Wang, Deakin University

This project, based at the Centre for Material and Fibre Innovation, has various objectives:

Organic pathways for rare natural animal fibre

The review of organic pathways for rare natural animal fibre found that many local alpaca producers were not satisfied with current organic certifying requirements in Australia. While there was demand for organic alpaca fibre, the supply was very limited, but some trial marketing has occurred. The following issues were identified which need to be considered by the alpaca industry and supply chain partners if they are to develop organically certified alpaca products:

- Development and adoption of a simplified and low-cost “organic” or “eco-friendly” certification system.
- Investigation of critical production issues including: animal health (especially internal parasitism); animal welfare; castration; critical mass of fibre; record keeping.
- Increasing the flow of information to producers.
- Working with larger alpaca producers to develop successful case studies.
- Clear identification of market opportunities and supply chains for organic alpaca.
- Development of direct marketing pathways to enable higher income to overcome the high costs for compliance.

Review of improving the quality and processing of Australian rare natural fibres

This is a complete revision and expansion of a review first written for RIRDC in 1992, which focussed on mohair and cashmere. A draft one-hundred page review has incorporated a significant amount of new information on alpaca fibre, and updated sections on animal fibre properties, testing, quality and processing. Results from RIRDC funded alpaca research since 1994 have been included, along with the findings of relevant overseas scientific studies. It is expected that this review will be completed in the coming months.

New research on animal fibre properties

- Measurement of fibre length is of prime concern to textile processors, as its importance is second behind mean fibre diameter in determining fibre value. Length measurement of fibres is difficult as there are a vast number of fibres in any sample, and the process of measurement is slow and expensive. New fibre length measurement technology is being assessed to determine if it is appropriate for alpaca and other rare natural animal fibres produced in Australia. The technology is being assessed using both processed and raw fibres.
- Collaborative research is in progress with Peruvian scientists to determine the variation in mean fibre diameter across the fleeces of Peruvian alpacas.
- Whiteness of wool is a very important quality aspect of fibre enabling the fibre to be dyed to any required shade. Unfortunately much animal fibre is yellowish in colour, which prevents its use in light and pastel shades of textiles. An associated study using Australian cashmere may have relevance to Australian alpaca. This work found that the measured whiteness of cashmere was affected by the amount of feed consumed by the animals, and their origin. There was also variation in colour between the coarser guard hairs and the finer secondary fibres within the same fleece.

4. Feeding alpacas to enhance both reproduction and fleece quality

Dominique Blache, University of Western Australia

This project aims to develop feeding strategies to improve wool production and reproductive performance of alpacas. Alpacas produce glucose from the degradation of amino acids, which may limit the use of strategies developed for other ruminants, but enables the design of specific and low-cost feeding strategies.

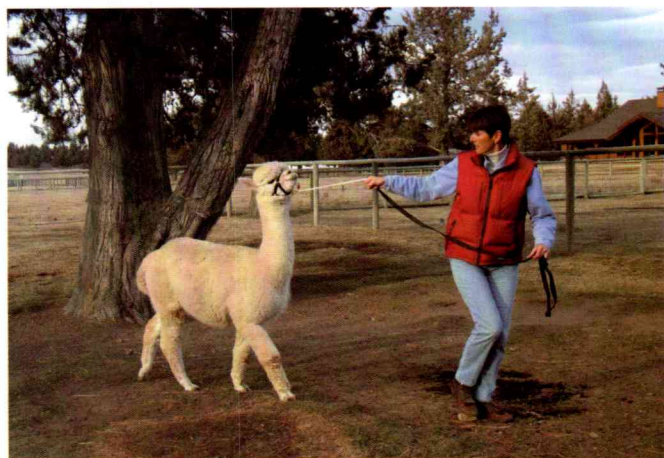
The project comprises two parts:

- Investigation into the use of un-degradable dietary protein (UDP) and specific amino acids, as well as energy sources, to boost wool production and optimise body condition. This will be conducted under controlled conditions using castrated male alpacas to avoid interference with sex steroids.
- Once the optimal balance between UDP and energy in the diet is identified, this diet will be used to improve the libido of males and the ability of females to conceive during peak lactation.

In addition, using data from alpaca breeders, the project will investigate possible sources of variability in gestation length.

2010 Royal Perth Show

Story and photographs by Bob Garnant, Countryman Newspaper, WA



Supreme Champion Huacaya, Futura Humdinger pictured with Greg and Judy Smith of Futura Alpacas and their daughter Alison Venrooy.

The alpacas were regular visitors to the main arena throughout the Perth Royal Show during the grand parades, but on the last day they had a special mission. When Dr. George Jackson and his wife Jenny and daughter Sophie, of Banksia Park Alpaca Stud were presented the Governor's Cup for gaining the most points of any exhibitor at the Show, a band of alpacas marched by to help celebrate the joyous occasion.

The Jacksons' road to the Cup began when their Banksia Park Queen of Hearts huacaya was sashed champion intermediate female which was followed by five other champions and many reserves. But while Banksia Park produced the older champions, the supreme exhibit of the huacaya came from the junior male section.

Futura Humdinger, exhibited by the Smith family of Albany, stole the show on a rare moment when the judges said it takes a very special alpaca to become supreme at such a young age. The nine-month old huacaya had earlier competed against 36 other entries to be sashed junior champion male.

Both judges said the alpaca caught their eye from the start. "The alpaca has a sharp and very bright fleece, which is very dense," Judge Rick Hodgson said.

Greg and Judy Smith, of Futura Stud said the sire of Humdinger was Rosedeane Sayonara, which had won six supreme awards since 2008.

The highly rated sire also produced the junior champion female Futura Dynasty for the Smith family. "Winning the junior classes made the trip to Perth so worthwhile," Mr Smith said. "It was extra special to watch



Supreme Champion Suri, Wesuri Bernardita pictured with Natasha James of Wesuri Alpacas

our daughter Alison Venrooy parade Humdinger to a supreme win."

Banksia Park Khan produced the winning huacaya sires progeny group.

In the huacaya fleece judging, Paradise Alpaca Stud won the supreme fleece shorn from Paradise Xaverian Prince.

The suri alpacas were judged on the previous day and Wesuri Alpacas were back in a big way at the show after having last year off. The supreme exhibit was won by Wesuri Bernardita, a 22-month old female from the adult white class.

Judge Angela Preuss said the alpaca was a good example of the breed saying "The suri had a very lustrous fleece with a lovely soft handle and excellent independence of lock, plus showing great density."

Again the bigger numbers were in the junior classes and Lawithick Lady Tito Rose won champion female while Margamon Monarch took out the junior champion male. Both juniors were sired by Surilana Tito Man which is owned by Wendy Lawn's Lawithick Alpacas.

Ms Lawn won her seventh supreme fleece at the show shorn from Surilana Tito Man. The sire also was sashed senior champion male suri.

Wesuri Alpacas won the sire's progeny group with Wesuri Heritage Prince Allianza capping off a successful show for owner Lorraine James.

INCISORS

By Alison Quagliani

A alpaca has six incisors at the front of its mouth. These teeth are used during grazing to cut the grass, to nip leaves from shrubs and occasionally to scratch parts of their body.

An alpaca will have two sets of incisors during its lifetime—a deciduous (or temporary) set and a permanent set. A full term cria is usually born with its two front deciduous incisors already showing through the gum.

These deciduous teeth are replaced by permanent teeth at specific times during the alpaca's life. This process should be complete by the time the alpaca is around four years old. If you look in your alpaca's mouth at certain ages you will be able to see the changes that occur.

At around two years of age the two central deciduous incisors are shed and are replaced with permanent teeth. Sometimes

teeth do not fall out as they should and can affect the occlusion and health of the permanent teeth.

As always I recommend you to take a few moments when you are handling your animals to have a look at their teeth. This way you will become familiar with what is normal and able to recognise any abnormalities.



By the time the cria is six months old it will have all six of its deciduous incisors.



This alpaca is two years old. It has lost one of its deciduous teeth and will soon lose the other. The discoloured tooth is actually the new tooth. The new, permanent teeth always erupt behind the deciduous teeth.

the deciduous teeth are shed before the new teeth erupt through the gums. Often the new teeth erupt before the old teeth are lost and the mouth appears crowded for a month or so.

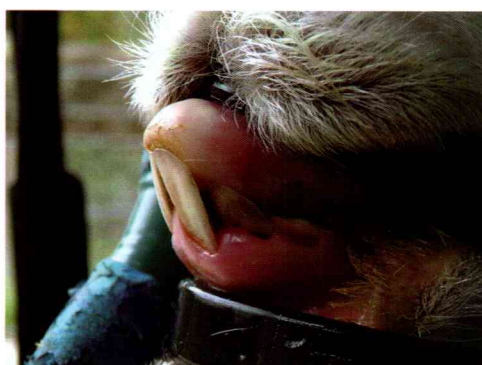
The new teeth grow quite quickly without any noticeable disruption to the alpaca's lives. Occasionally the deciduous



At two-and-a-half years old this alpaca lost its two deciduous teeth moments before this picture was taken. The new teeth are already half grown.



This alpaca is also two-and-a-half years old. You can clearly see the two new teeth (discoloured). They are in a perfect position!



At three-years old the next two incisors are replaced and within the next few months all six will have all been replaced. This is a three-and-a-half year old alpaca that has lost his corner incisors.

NEWSFLASH

New Marketplaces opening for Alpacas

Mariah Hill has now successfully completed an alternative route to the EU, delivering directly to Heathrow instead of Luxemburg, which has been the previous UK/EU destination point when alpacas were exported through New Zealand. From Luxemburg there was a long land transport journey to the destination farms in various countries.

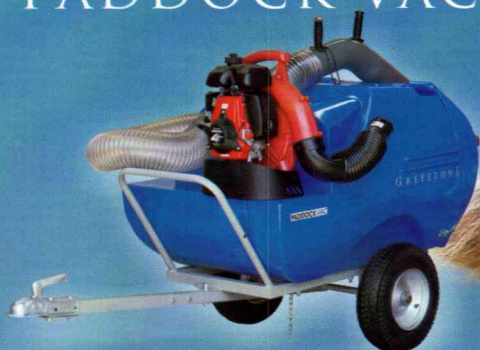
Now with this alternative route, we can deliver to Glasgow, Paris, Frankfurt, Zurich, Luxemburg, Heathrow and Geneva. Although it still takes the same amount of time as before, it is slightly cheaper and less stressful, with only an eight-hour final flight journey.

We are also about to export the first alpacas to three new destinations- Thailand, Sabah, (Indonesia) and Malaysia, the main end -use being Tourism and breeding.



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Greystone Paddock Vacs

What makes Greystone Paddock Vacs so different?

I had the opportunity of talking with David Oberhofer, the Managing Director of Greystone Vacuums about the Greystone Paddock Vacs. The story that unfolded was one that as a proud Australian I am happy to share with our readers.

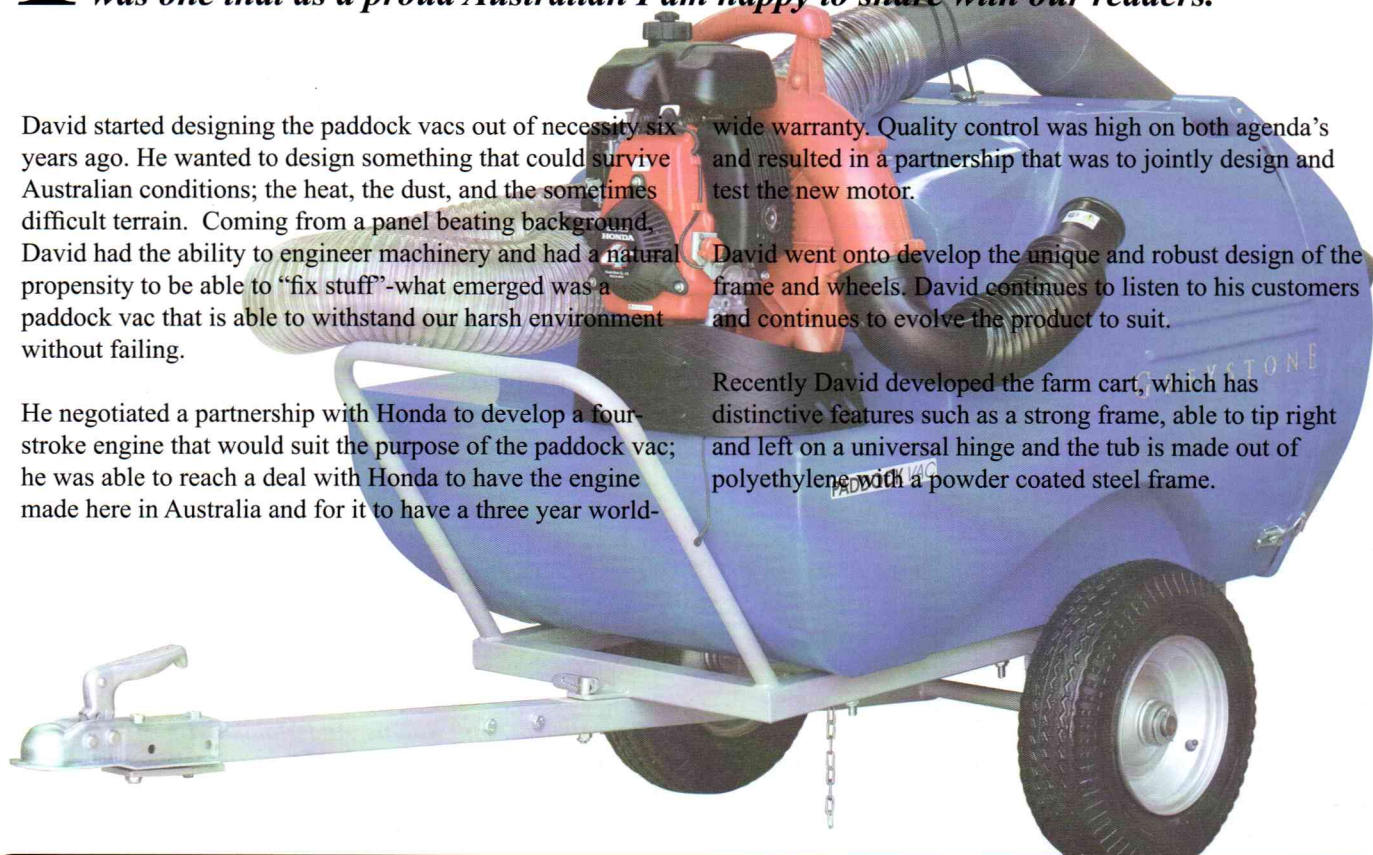
David started designing the paddock vacs out of necessity six years ago. He wanted to design something that could survive Australian conditions; the heat, the dust, and the sometimes difficult terrain. Coming from a panel beating background, David had the ability to engineer machinery and had a natural propensity to be able to "fix stuff"-what emerged was a paddock vac that is able to withstand our harsh environment without failing.

He negotiated a partnership with Honda to develop a four-stroke engine that would suit the purpose of the paddock vac; he was able to reach a deal with Honda to have the engine made here in Australia and for it to have a three year world-

wide warranty. Quality control was high on both agenda's and resulted in a partnership that was to jointly design and test the new motor.

David went onto develop the unique and robust design of the frame and wheels. David continues to listen to his customers and continues to evolve the product to suit.

Recently David developed the farm cart, which has distinctive features such as a strong frame, able to tip right and left on a universal hinge and the tub is made out of polyethylene with a powder coated steel frame.



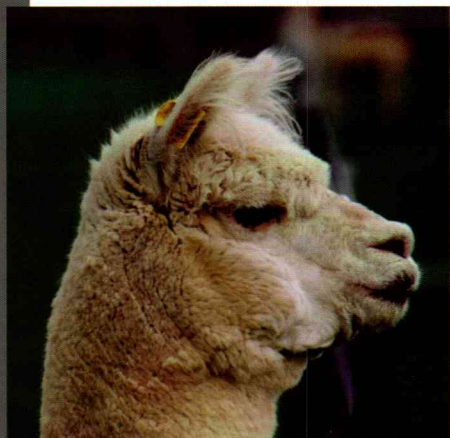
Enter to WIN!



You can go into the draw to **WIN** a Greystone Farm Cart valued at **\$699.00** (includes free delivery to any capital city). Simply email liz@alpacasaustralia.com.au (put "Greystone competition" in the subject line) with a request for information on either the paddock vacs or farm carts and you will automatically be entered into the draw.

IS THIS THE WORLD'S LARGEST ALPACA AUCTION/DISPERSAL?

The year is 1989-Pat and Rosa from Jolimont Alpaca are responsible for the first one-hundred alpaca importation into Australia.



From that time to date, Jolimont Alpaca have run up a list of achievements and successes that demonstrate clearly the quality of the stock created by an intelligent breeding program. So much so that other breeders have begun their alpaca farms with stock from Jolimont.

Awards, of course, are a crucial part of the measurement

of success in many fields and the breeding of alpaca isn't any different. Many breeders enter their animals into competitions for personal satisfaction and sometimes to prove the name of their stud and the quality of the



animal and therefore product such as fleece; Jolimont Alpaca have achieved a consistent stream of awards and continue to

do so right up to and including the 2010 AAA National Show.



A second herd is imported into Australia in 1997, this time from

Peru and are Accoyo stock setting the standard in alpaca in the market place. With wins (see below) in 1999, 2000 and 2001; the 2000 results also caused a record sale price at the

time for Jolimont Warrior of \$125,000 AUD. In 2001 the herd is sold; Jolimont stopped showing and began planning for a new herd.

"ACCOYO a major force in quality breeding"

The importation of a herd of females and off-spring in 2005 saw Jolimont begin the construction of a new genetically superior herd with outstanding attributes such as fiber quality, density and conformation. To compliment this in 2008 the new sires were imported, and according to Australian, German and New Zealand breeders, Australian Alpaca judges, and an International judge the animals were amongst the best males in Australia. The auction of the Jolimont herd will be held March 5th and 6th on site. Don't worry if you can't get there as there will be a live video feed via the internet and you can bid by phone. See the end of this story for contact information.

The House of Alpaca, Bill Ham Testament

"We received many Thousands of fleeces over the last Twelve months, the Jolimont fleeces were substantially the heaviest, with very little contamination, likely due to the density. Considering the quality of the feed, rich soil types and conditions generally, the micron range of the fleece is acceptable."

Traron Alpacas, Bill Robins And Malakai Alpaca Stud, Shane Carey; Testament

"We attended the Jolimont Auction on 24th October 2010 and in our opinion the alpacas presented were the equal or better (particularly for numbers of animals on sale) that we have seen presented at any other reduction or production sale in Australia. Particularly pleasing was the quality for age of the older females in fleece quality, and density as well as conformation. The males presented for inspection (all females were to), were outstanding and the best group of males we have seen in this country, (at one breeders property).

Bill Robbins; I was very impressed with the 3 young males, we purchased. Two of the males are sired by Jolimont Shere Khan and one sired by Jolimont Galan. These males ranged in age from 6 to 10 months in age and when shorn by us, each male cut the equivalent of 4 kilos for 12 months. (1st shearing) of 18 micron or less fleece. We are looking forward to the contribution they make to our breeding programme."

Accoyo; THE Influence in Breeding consistency, Fibre and Type.

Don Julio Barreda started "Accoyo" in 1940. The Accoyo "Royal Family line" has created a group of Alpaca that are Superior Fleece Producers. Don Julio's formula? Shearing in Puno every 18 Months - 18 lbs (8.2Kilos) of Fleece - 24

Micron.

South America/Peru Alpaca Fibre Classification : Baby Fleece is 22-23.5 micron, Fine fleece is 24 - 26.5 micron.

To name and thank some Alpaca Enthusiasts that started with us;

Mariah Hill Alpaca Stud, Coricancha Alpaca Stud , Cherry Hill Alpaca Stud, Akhira Alpacas, Windsong Valley Alpaca Stud, E P Cambridge, Hunter Alpacas, Encantador Alpaca Stud, Pengally Alpaca Stud, Shane Carey Malakai Alpaca Stud, and many others.

We must thank all of our valued clients that supported us since 1989. Pat hopes that the new owners will continue on with the legacy started in 1940 and a simple formula.

Rosa and Pat sadly leave the Alpaca industry due to health, a growing family, to return and live in Melbourne.

Jolimont Alpaca 21st Anniversary Dispersal Auction: Romsey Victoria, March 5th and 6th 2011. Prior viewing available by appointment. Can't make it? Live Internet Viewing with telephone bidding on days of Auction. Catalogue and DVD shall be sent to all AAA and AANZ members in February 2011. Contacts:

Landmark, Wilson Beer 0428505520, Andrew Sloan 0428 522 204, Ray Attwell 0428 836 136, Landmark Echuca (03) 5482 1588 Fax (03) 5482 2750.

Timeline:

1989: Rosa and Pat were responsible for the importation of the first 100 Alpaca into Australia.

1992: The first Victorian breeder to win Champion Male in Sydney Royal Easter Show with Jolimont Harvey.

1997 the First Peruvian shipment of 800+ alpaca arrived in Melbourne, spearheaded by Jolimont "Accoyo" Conquistador.

1998: Sydney Royal Grand Champion Jolimont Conquistador - First Alpaca inducted into the "Hall of Fame" Portrait will reside their forever.

1999: In this first Group "of the Accoyo influence ", Jolimont Warrior was born at Romsey, in August.

1999: Sydney Royal Jolimont Columbus - Junior Male Champion and Grand Champion - National AAA Male Grand Champion - Jolimont Columbus Jolimont Conquistador - Mature Male Champion.

2000: Melbourne Royal- 1st Female Royal Show Winner-Jolimont Densey; Supreme Champion. Jolimont Warrior 12-18 Months; Intermediate Male Champion Jolimont Cassius 18 months and Senior Male Champion.

Sydney Royal - Jolimont Cassius - Intermediate Male Champion. National AAA Show and Sale - Jolimont Warrior - Intermediate Male Champion.

2000 November. National AAA Show and Sale - Jolimont Warrior was sold at the AAA Tatura for an Australian Record price of \$125,000.

2001 Jolimont sells the herd to E P Cambridge. National AAA Show and Sale - Jolimont Anna Laura Intermediate Champion Junior Female.

Jolimont Roxana - Reserve Champion Junior Female.

Champion Progeny Class 1st and 2nd - Jolimont Sculptor.

Melbourne Royal - Mature Male Champion - Jolimont Trovarello.

Champion Progeny - Jolimont Sculptor. Reserve Champion Junior Female-Jolimont Roxana.

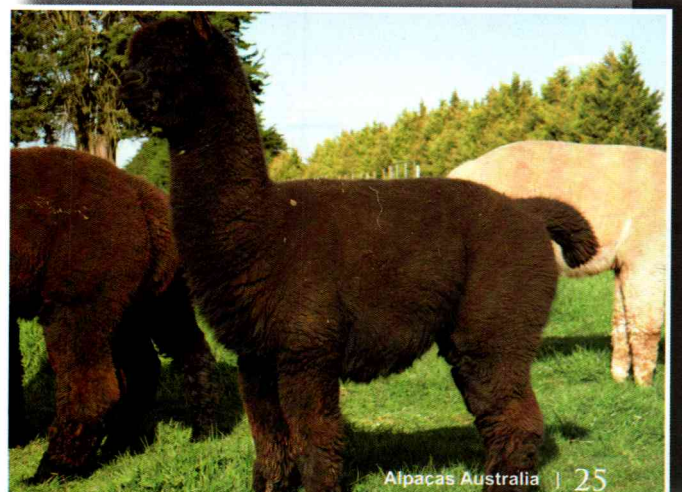
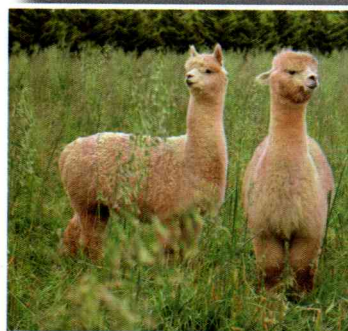
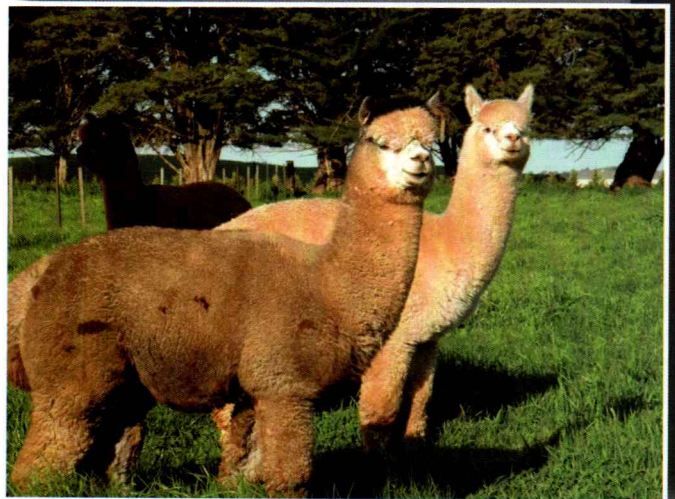
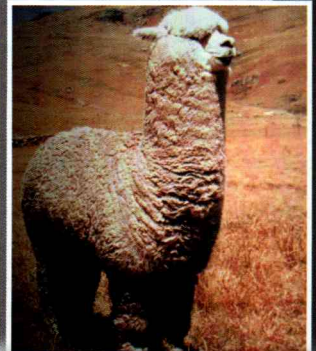
2005 October - National AAA Show and Sale - Banksia Park Khan E T, sold for \$170,000. Grand Sire Jolimont Conquistador - Sire Jolimont Warrior.

2005 Jolimont Reagan arrived in October.

2006 Charles Ledger - Champion Mature Male-Jolimont Reagan.

Central Hunter Region Show, Mature Champion Male and Supreme Champion-Jolimont Reagan.

2010 September. Dispersal Auction; Windsong Valley Firedragon sold for \$150,000. Grand Sire Jolimont Conquistador - Sire Jolimont Warrior.



A Creatif Collaboration

When Judy Craig of Becreatif and Mary Ann Drysdale of Freshfield Alpacas joined forces a few years back and a new venture was born.

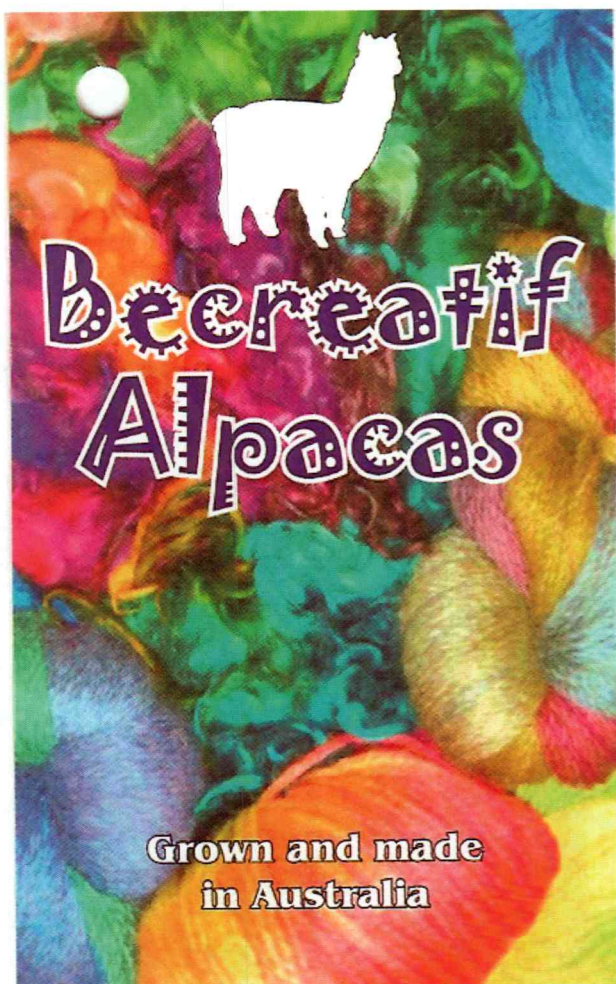
Judy started in 1997 by breeding alpacas then selling their fleece, yarn and a range of nuno felted garments produced on the farm from her alpaca fibre. The yarn was spun by a local mill and sold in a range of natural and hand-dyed colours. Mary Ann was introduced to alpacas in 1999 and started out by offering farm visits and alpaca sales.

The popularity of Judy's yarns and garments meant that she had to start searching for more raw fibres in order to keep her alpaca numbers sustainable and her business venture viable; Judy now sources fibre from over twenty different farms and offers her products wholesale as well as retail through the

farm gate and at various shows and fairs throughout the year.

Judy and Mary Ann met approximately six years ago when Mary Ann held an Open Farm Day at Freshfield Alpaca Farm with the purpose of promoting Alpacas and product; Judy was invited to do Felting Demonstrations using alpaca fibre. They had such a wonderful response and were asked if they could teach felting – so hence the collaboration into Workshops started.

Judy diversified a bit further by teaching felting and dyeing workshops. They proved so popular that Judy and Mary Ann





combined forces to purpose-build a Farmgate Alpaca Shop offering classes, equipment, a studio, finished products and all things alpaca. During workshops larger items can be put through the Felting Machine. There are also open days where you can come and hand spin your own yarn, learn about shibori dyeing or utilise the studio space. Felting and dying workshops are held every second Saturday of the month or we can arrange a special felting class for your group. For further information on Open Workshop Days and Classes look on the website www.freshfieldalpacas.com.au

Alpacas Australia magazine asked a few questions of the ladies.

1. AA asks - Judy, what made you decide to diversify your Alpaca business into wearable art using alpaca fleece?

We had alpacas of our own and found the fibre lighter and very comfortable to wear and thought it would make a brilliant wearable product.

2. AA asks - How long have you been doing/teaching wearable art using alpaca fleece?

I have been teaching felting with alpaca fibre for at least ten years but have done wearable art many years prior to that.

3. AA asks - How long does it take someone from beginner to be able to design and make a piece of wearable art?

If the person does a beginners class and an intermediate to allow them to learn the basics of felting, they can then go on to do a class which is generally held over two days where they can design and make a wearable art piece.

4. AA asks - Where do you hold your workshops and how long do they each last?

Workshops are held at Freshfield Alpaca Farm in Somerville on the Mornington Peninsula starting at 10am through to 3 or 4pm. Dates can be found on our website www.freshfieldalpacas.com.au

Prior arrangements can be made to hold workshops at other locations. Contact us for class sizes and costs.

5. AA asks - when using Alpaca yarn do you use it in the same way you would use usual wool?

Yes you would use Alpaca Yarn the same way you would use wool. Keep in mind that Alpaca is lighter and you could use less

6. AA asks - for people that want to buy your finished garments where can they purchase these from?

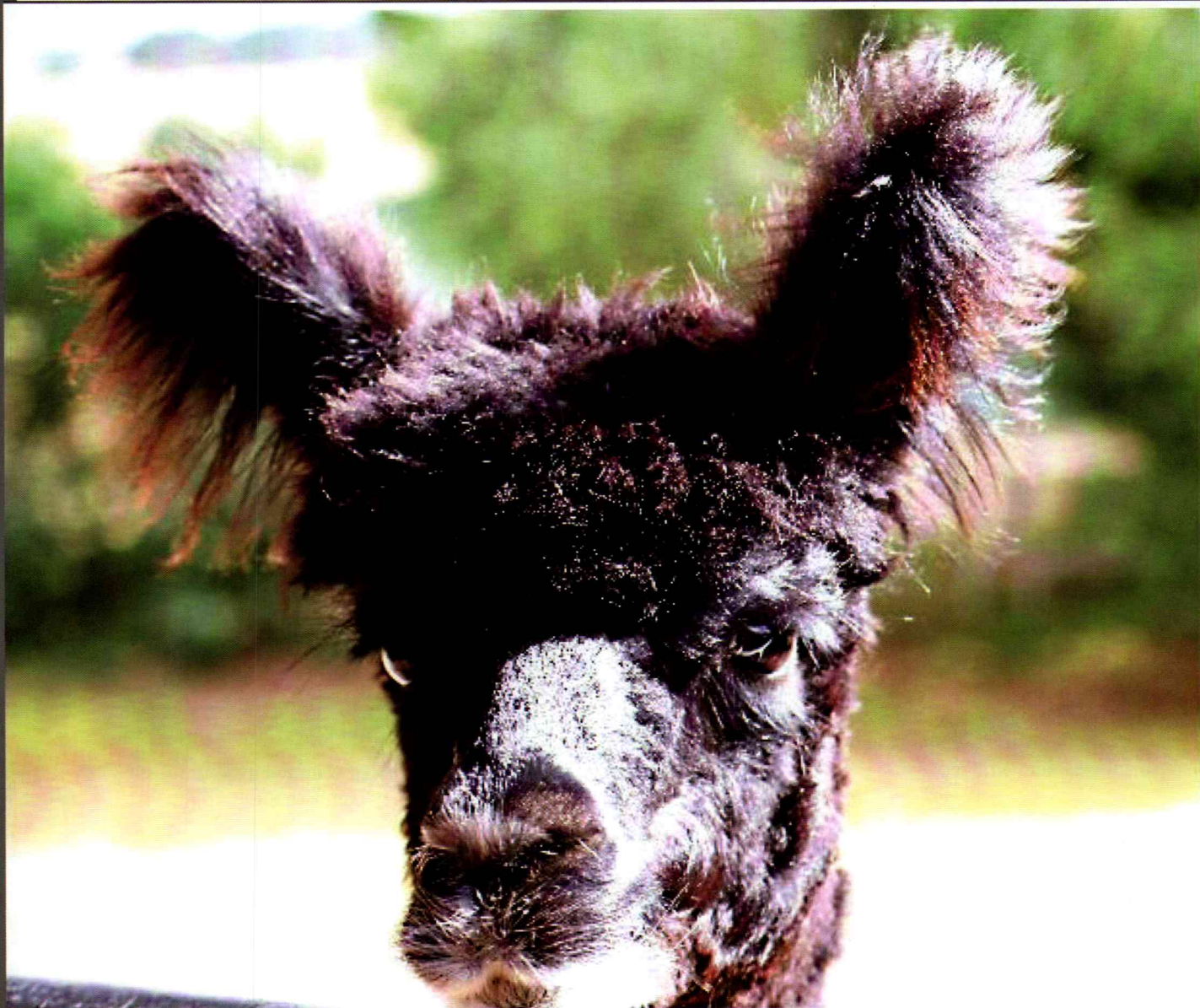
Please see stockists on page 57 of this issue.

Raw materials such as alpaca/wool tops, raw fleece, needle felted bats, mohair, silk and dyes are at hand, as are spinning wheels, yarns and finished items.

Freshfield Alpaca Farm is located at 895 Frankston-Flinders Road, Somerville (on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria).

You can book into a Becreatif at Freshfield workshop by contacting either Mary Ann (03) 59779334 johnndry@bigpond.com or Judy 0412 775090 sales@becreatif.com





Alpacas Wellbeing

Part II

By Joy Allenby-Acuna

In issue 62 we printed *Herbs and the Alpacas Wellbeing Part 1*. Following on from this is part II for your enjoyment.

Dried herbs I use all the time:

Chamomile, *Anthemis nobilis Compositae*. Feathery leaves and small daisy-like flowers. Blood cleanser and pain reliever, deters flies.

Uses: Blood and skin disorders. Aches and pains, inflammation, constipation, calming. Soothing eye lotion.

Echinacea, *Purpurea Asteraceae*. Pink and purple flowers,

antiseptic, aphrodisiac, tonic, antibiotic, antibacterial, immune stimulant, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant; I give this for two weeks and then take a break of a week.

Rose Hip, *Rosaceae*. Pale pink flowers, red hips, tonic and astringent, aperient, rich in Vitamin C.

Uses: Diarrhoea, eyes, nervous system, heart and brain tonic. Tonic for ovaries and uterus, but can stimulate uterus too.

Raspberry Leaf *Rubus Idacus Rosaceae*
Female reproductive organs. Foliage contains fragile, muscles of pelvic girdle.
Uses: Tonic and cleansing and during pregnancy (I only use it in the last two months). It causes a strong and speedy expulsion of the baby. Cure for sterility and retained afterbirth.

Fennel, *Foeniculum_Vulgare_*

Umbellifere. Highly antiseptic and tonic. Gypsies say this plant protects creatures from evil forces.

Uses: Gastric, colic and inflammation, worms, eyes and to bring milk down.

Fenugreek, *Trigonella foerum*

Graecum Legumosea. Disinfectant and emollient, fattening, very tonic, chemical composition resembles Cod Liver Oil. High in Vitamin E, fertility. Nitrates, calcium and phosphorus.

Uses: Gastric, nerves, to bring milk down.

Garlic, *Allium* species. *Lillaceae*, Volatile oil and sulphur. Gypsies believe it has magic properties. Antiseptic, it cures the majority of ailments. Gorillas often plant areas of garlic. Ailments of the bloodstream, lungs and digestion. Contains crotonaldehyde, nose, throat and intestine, febrifuge and vermifuge and for fertility. Uses: Worms, mange, liver-fluke, ringworm and lice and ticks.

I also use: Devils Claw-good for arthritis. Slippery Elm and Pomegranate lines the stomach and eye bright for the eyes. For a spritzer for flies, ticks and lice etc., you can use Witch hazel and Tea tree oil (Topi Topi) or Yellow Sulphur down their back bone.

Trees That They Can Browse On

Willow, *Sallow Salix caprea*. Alpacas love these. The whole tree is highly tonic and medicinal, iron rich and blood cooling, calming a hot temper. Astringent, diuretic, digestive and antiseptic, anti inflammatory and antioxidant.

Eucalypt, *Myrtaceae*. Essential oil, antiseptic, deodorant, stimulant, expectorant, germicidal, antibacterial, tonic, and astringent. Alpacas occasionally like the odd leaf to eat after spitting.

Fruit trees: Cherry, pear, peach. Love all these leaves, we let them into the orchard but only in the autumn, otherwise too much is eaten.

Poplar: Contain salicin and an essential oil, chrysin. Debility, failing appetite, diabetes, indigestion and rheumatism. Buds are a wound remedy.

Robinia: Supposed to be poisonous but they take quite a few nibbles. My theory is if they are well fed they will know best.

Pine, *Pinaceae*. They love the young shoots. They are medicinal, good for a cough, asthma and urinary. Love to eat this after spitting. As a tar for diseased feet.

Tagasaste: Tree Lucerne, the Alpacas love this, we have ours between two rows of wire so that they do not eat too much.

Photinia: They love this so much that we have had to grow it behind a double fence.

I have only mentioned here the trees our Alpacas have access to.



References

Holistic Herbs by David Hoffmann

The Complete Herbal Handbook for Farm and Stable by Juliette de Bairacli Levy

How can I use herbs in my daily life by Isabell Shipard.

Namaste Joy Allenby- Acuna.

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WETHERS AS SHEEP GUARDS

by Lesley Maxwell, Kurralea Alpacas and Absolutely Alpaca



One of the more recent opportunities available to us as breeders of alpacas is our being able to sell wethers as guards for mobs of sheep. This is yet another avenue for the promotion of these gorgeous animals and in so doing we are tapping into a very different market.

Where previously sheep farmers may have regarded the alpaca with a little cynicism, they are now able to see just how wonderful these animals are at protecting their precious lambs during the lambing season. With the ever-increasing price of lamb, this is even more important.

However with this new market come new responsibilities for us as alpaca breeders. To enable our livestock and our breeders to be held in high esteem, we need to make sure that our marketing practices are both ethical and well informed. My husband Alan and I have been breeding alpacas for almost seventeen years and three years ago I have, in partnership with another local alpaca breeder in Moruya, opened a retail outlet called Absolutely Alpaca in Mogo.

Many of the visitors we have in our shop are sheep farmers who have wonderful tales to tell of the alpacas they have bought for the purpose of guarding their sheep.

One fellow from Coonabarabran has three alpacas—one with each of three mobs called Huey, Dewey and Louie! He tells a tale of observing Huey one evening, herding the eight-hundred sheep in his mob onto a slight rise in the paddock which is where he designated that they should spend the night. Suddenly Huey went charging into the centre of the mob, scattering the sheep and there in the middle of the mob were two foxes which were very quickly sent on their way. Needless to say, this farmer was very impressed.



During my three years in our shop, I have heard several great stories like this one where farmers are delighted with the wonderful job that their herd guards are doing. Unfortunately though, I have also heard some negative stories.

The farmer who was sold three alpacas by a well known breeder to guard one mob; not surprisingly, the alpacas bonded with one another and the sheep were left to their own resources. This farmer had a very negative view of the worth of alpacas to guard sheep. Another anecdote was the farmer who was sold an entire male to guard his sheep resulting in the male attempting to mate with one of the sheep and actually killing it.

Most alpaca breeders love their animals and are very keen for other people to love them as well. This is only going to happen if alpaca breeders maintain high ethical standards when selling their alpacas for whatever purpose be it guards, pets or breeding stock.

In the case of guard wethers, we are generally selling to sheep farmers (although I was told what a wonderful job an alpaca was doing of guarding some small Murray Grey cattle!) and as such, we want them to make a good impression. The word will then spread and everyone will benefit.

Some suggestions for selling guard wethers

1. Ensure that the temperament of the alpaca to be sold is suitable for guard work. I have wethers that I would never sell as guards because they are just too timid. Similarly, there are those which would not be suitable as pets because of their more dominating and less personable nature.
2. Only sell de-sexed males as guards so that they do not cause any problems due to testosterone coursing through their veins as they get older.
3. Make sure that the farmer purchasing the wether


is aware that there should only be one alpaca in with each mob. Alpacas are herd animals and need to bond with other animals. Obviously, their first preference would be another alpaca and if one is available, that is what they will do. However, they are perfectly happy to bond with sheep or cattle if that is the only alternative. Only under these circumstances are they able to fulfil their purpose of guarding the herd or flock.

4. Ideally the alpaca should stay with the mob permanently. One farmer told me he took the alpaca out after lambing. This is not necessary nor to be encouraged, as the alpaca will have a greater bond with the mob if he is in with them on a permanent basis.

In a nutshell, it is our responsibility as alpaca breeders to inform our purchasers and to give them as much information as possible for their knowledge base as well as the wellbeing of their new alpaca/s. In this way, we are going to raise the positive profile of our gorgeous animals so that everyone derives as much joy from them in the future as we as breeders currently do. One practice I have as a breeder is to present each new purchaser of my alpacas, be they guards, pets or breeding stock, with one of the booklets produced by AAA – Management of Alpacas in Australia. This is relatively inexpensive and new alpaca owners really appreciate it as it helps to give them a degree of confidence in dealing with their new arrival.

I hope that I hear many more positive stories about the brilliant job that alpaca guard wethers' are doing across the country. (Remember, a wether isn't a wether until it is wethered!) Fortunately, the positive far outweigh the negative but it would be wonderful if there were no negative anecdotes at all.

2010 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW REPORT



Despite drenching rains and ferocious winds, power black-outs and the cancellation of some Show features, the Royal Adelaide Show Alpaca Section enjoyed one of its best Shows to date. Due to the weather, alpacas were not shorn this year which meant some hasty changes to the judging of the Production Classes and disappointed crowds eager to see the shearing demonstrations.

Increased exhibit numbers in both the animal and fleece sections were most pleasing. Enthusiasm, cooperation and continued support from exhibitors, stewards and officials alike ensured a high standard of competition throughout. New Zealand judge Paul Garland did an outstanding job. His professional, fair, consistent judging and discerning feedback was appreciated by exhibitors and onlookers. His enthusiasm and willingness to educate and share his knowledge and experience had the juniors, their entourage of parents and teachers and onlooking exhibitors spell bound. Not even a major earthquake in his home town of Christchurch and the knowledge of damage to his house could dampen the energy and professionalism of this judge.

As expected, the fleece judging went very smoothly. The new scoring system was used and coloured fleeces encouraged and recognised by awarding Champion of each colour, from which the Grand Champion Fleece was awarded.

The concept of holding the SA Alpaca Breed and Fleece Championships in conjunction with the Royal Adelaide Show again worked well and it is hoped to build upon and

better recognise this initiative in the future.

The Society stands firm in recognising the progression of awards with First Place ribbon winners competing against each other for Champion, Champions competing against other Champions for Grand Champion, and Grand Champions competing for Supreme Champion. From an impressive line up of age Champions, the Grand Champion Female was selected. Similarly the Grand Champion Male was awarded, with these two Grand Champions vying for Supreme Champion.

Congratulations to all 2010 ribbon and trophy winners and special thanks to the judge, officials and all the dedicated, hard-working volunteers who ensured that all went as planned. To all 2010 exhibitors and supporters, a big thank you for your valued participation and loyalty.

Lea Richens
Councillor

Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc



1. *Supreme Champion Huacaya Ambersun Fortune Seeker with Grand Champion Female Huacaya, Ambersun Salvation, Owners Chris Williams and Adrienne Clarke with Judge Paul Garland*
2. *Judge Paul Garland in action with Ring Steward Derrick Hall and owner Claire Peters*
3. *The Championship winning photo from the National Show Titled 'Bad Hair Day'.*
4. *Judge Paul Garland assessing female suris*
5. *Supreme Champion Suri - Ondit Lodge Endeavour with owner Fiona Buckland, Judge Paul Garland and a representative from Stock Journal, who were sponsors for the trophy*





2010 ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

Russell Dawe, Chair, RASV Alpaca Committee

T*he 2010 Royal Melbourne Show saw substantial changes from recent years so it was something of a learning experience for the RASV as well as the organising committee and the exhibitors.*



Most obvious changes in the 2010 show were the change of show dates overall, and the consequential impact on the alpaca competition dates, and the move to a new venue. The move to 'Centenary Hall' offered a greatly improved facility even if not a great increase in penning space for the alpacas. The light and airy pavilion that was shared with the poultry competition, which occurred over the first week of the show, allowed for wider aisles and generally easier access, as well as expanded display space.

The new venue provided the opportunity to initiate a show focussed on the alpaca industry rather than simply a breeder-focussed show.

Fiona Martin organised a display of alpaca product to demonstrate to the visiting public what the alpaca industry was about. This display was complemented by displays of alpacas and literature organised by Michelle Simberg and the display of winning fleeces. These displays generated a great deal of interest over the whole ten days of the show. It is envisaged that these displays will continue to be developed and enhanced for forthcoming shows as a great opportunity to communicate to the visiting general public the range of alpaca product available and the quality it provides.

As in recent years, fleeces were judged pre-show to ensure they could be displayed throughout the ten days of public access. Joanne Ham ably undertook the role and while she was unable to offer her comments during the show 'proper' due to a bad case of laryngitis, she did comment on a significant improvement in the standard of fleeces submitted to the show.

Champion fleece winners for 2010 were Kurrawa Tariq ET

(suri) and Reserve Champion Tahara Zabar and Camelot Avalon (huacaya) and Reserve Champion Malakai Fire N Ice.

The new venue proved extremely popular with the show public; the vast crowds of people entering the pavilion provided a new and unexpected challenge and will lead to changes in layout and access to the penning area in future.

Judges Ron Reid and Peter Kennedy commented on the excellent quality of animals presented at the show and awarded Supreme Champion Huacaya to Ambersun Fortune Seeker and the Supreme Champion Suri to Surilana Mendoza.

Pam Baxter complemented Emma Goodall on her judging and oral presentation skills in the Junior Judging competition conducted on Sunday. Most successful exhibitor awards were won by C. Williams and A. Clarke (Huacaya) and R.A. & N. Clark (Suri).

Sires Progeny awards were (Huacaya) Jolimont Warrior and (Suri) Kurrawa Tari Q ET.

The Best Prepared and Maintained Team award was won by Classic Alpacas.

The Junior Handler competition was conducted on the Tuesday with Judge Pam Baxter with Rhys Owen assisting and saw a large number of entries in the different age categories. It was particularly pleasing to have a group of students from the Donvale Christian College participate in this competition. The Junior Handler competition is a real crowd pleaser. Thanks to Ambersun for their trophy support for this competition again this year.

Central Western Region

The idea and initiative of this wonderful display belongs to Dale and Melanie Brown of Ravenswood Alpacas. Having come up with the idea they then sought the assistance for design ideas from Dinah and Alan Fisher of Grey Leaves Alpacas.



Dale, being the Mudgee Small Farm Field Day Co-ordinator, decided that this year the focal point of the alpaca pavilion would be a display of products manufactured from alpaca fleece. This would demonstrate that there are now many commercial applications and therefore markets for alpaca fleece in all colours and micron. The emphasis in the products on display was on the natural colours of alpaca fleece and the display showcased the suitability of these colours for the fashion, home wares and textile industries generally.

The display, apparently a first for AAA Ltd regions anywhere, had as its centre piece a magnificent Balinese daybed. The bed was a very eye-catching piece of furniture and as anticipated drew the attention of lots of visitors to the

beautiful alpaca products. The bed mattress and bolsters were wrapped in upholstery weight, charcoal grey alpaca velvet from Mokum Textiles. The bed stood on a piece of Velieris dark grey alpaca carpet. Samples of the complete range of colours and textures of the carpet and swatches of all the colours of the velvet were also displayed. Visitors could not resist the soft, light handle of both the carpet and the velvet and there were many inquiries regarding the cost and availability of these products.

AAFL loaned us a beautiful black "Alpaca Connection" overcoat in the "Sarah" design.

Denise and Dennis Burden of Alpaca Jewellery and Giftware loaned us an alpaca blanket and fabric samples from

Creswick Woollen Mills along with a Kelly and Windsor doona and under blanket. These were deliberately displayed in their packaging to add emphasis to the "commercial" nature of most of the products on display.

Printed panels on each side of the stand identified the manufacturers and suppliers of the commercial products (right hand side) and on the left hand side, the various mini mills and other services that support the well-established craft industry that has developed since alpacas were (re) introduced to Australia in 1988.

The highlight of this section of the display was a delicate and elaborate evening coat beautifully hand-knitted by Alice Dryburgh of Sayantsi Alpacas. Alice also hand-spun the rose-grey huacaya alpaca fleece from which she knitted the coat, so all-in-all this garment was two months in the creation and very much admired.

Other items included were knitting yarns in a variety of natural colours from the Australian Alpaca Centre, a St Alban's throw rug in rose-grey and white plaid 100% alpaca and a basket of lustrous white suri fleece loaned by Marilyn Nichols of Woodward Farm Alpacas.

The AAA Ltd DVD "Fibre, fashion and industry" was projected onto the rear wall of the display. The information it offers on huacaya and suri alpacas, shearing, husbandry and processing and manufacturing fleece into fashion attracted attentive audiences. The level of detail in the DVD show appeared to be satisfying audience curiosity about alpacas as a rural enterprise. As well as the AAA Ltd. DVD, Dale had put together a DVD of photographs of member's farms and their alpacas. This was very novel and enjoyed by the audience.

Thanks are extended to Dale and Melanie Brown for the wonderful idea and to Dinah and Alan Fisher for making it all come together.

Kate Bailey
Secretary
Central
Western (NSW) Region



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This Region was previously called the Central Northern Region; the name was changed to the present one in May 2000.

The Region is large in area extending as far west as the South Australian border, north to Gunnedah, east to Lithgow and as far south as

Grenfell. We are relatively small in membership, but we all pull together to make this a great Region.

It has a few "firsts":

First Region to be formed as part of the Australian Alpaca Association Inc. in 1993.

First Region to have an alpaca auction in 1994.

First Region to have a Commercial Fleece Competition in 2006.

And now:

First Region to have a 'commercial' display of alpaca products in 2010.

Permaculture Principles and Alpaca Farming

By Jen Frederick

Permaculture was developed by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the late 1970s as a designed system of permanent agriculture (as opposed to seasonal tilling, planting, maintenance and harvesting)

It is based on the underlying principles of:

- Care of the earth – all life on planet Earth is interdependent and in developing our farms, that we have regard to the living ecosystems that already live there (including soil biota) as well as creating an agroecology to support ourselves and other imported animals and plants, and that we do no harm and restore damaged environments where we are the stewards of the land.
- Care of the people – whilst the humans who live in a place need to develop and maintain an ecosystem that supports them (as opposed to only caring for the natural environment), we need to support and help each other in developing ways of living that do not harm ourselves or the planet, and that we work together to restore and develop a healthy society.
- Return of the surplus to the system – limiting our own consumption of resources, ensuring that we use Planet Earth's resources in an equitable and wise manner, that abundant production is shared and that we use our land and community resources to be self-sufficient, wherever possible.

Permaculture principles of agriculture can embody many other techniques including biodynamic, organic, natural sequence farming, holistic management, rotational and cell grazing, the many living soils/compost tea approaches, Yeomanns ploughing, and key-line dams to name just a few. Permaculture design mimics natural systems by using all of our scientific and technological skills to design a system for a particular site that mixes different types of animals and plants, in multiple layers that support each other including human life. Developing a permaculture farm (or cultivated ecosystem) involves site planning, system establishment and

system maintenance. In this article, some of the principles of permaculture design and site planning will be introduced. The site planning issues in permaculture farm design include:

- The context of resources available at the particular site eg climate (macro and micro), location, soil, water, existing vegetation, fauna and land use – every permaculture design is unique to its site.
- The needs of the inhabitants of the property eg living, social, economic, and global arrangements – every permaculture design is unique to its human inhabitants.
- Understanding and applying permaculture concepts to the site to develop a permanent agriculture system that mimics a natural ecosystem (eg patterning - the patterns in wind movement, water movement, multiple beneficial relationships – siting, choice of species etc). This includes the principles of zoning ie putting most visited sites closest to the house eg sites visited on a daily basis at our farm include poultry, kitchen garden, alpaca birthing paddocks (visited more than once daily, although for only a few weeks in a year) – these are all closest to the house, whilst the wether paddocks (except for immediately after shearing) and timber trees are furthest away. It also includes design of fencing and laneways, water reticulation systems, pasture species (including grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees, mix of perennial and annual species and winter active and summer active species), earthworks (chains of ponds, dams, swales, berms, diversion channels, gabions, chinampas), windbreaks and shelter belts, planning for droughts and floods and other extreme weather events, choice



and use of livestock and poultry in the system (eg mobile chicken or pig tractors used in paddocks clean up and spread alpaca poo piles, fertilise the soil and produce food as eggs or meat); alpacas produce meat and fibre, their grazing habit reduces the risk of fire, their feet are soft on the landscape (less than a kangaroo) and so won't damage the soil structure, and their manure fertilises the soil.

- Multiple beneficial relationships – everything in a permaculture design should have at least 3 uses or links to other components in the design eg the use of tagasaste (tree lucerne) as wind breaks also provides fodder for alpacas and other large animals as well as poultry, and fixes air-borne nitrogen in the soil thus improving soil fertility; a pasture seed mix including native (microlena and danthonia) and exotic grass species (phalaris, cocksfoot, fescue, bromes) as well as herbs (parsley, chives, comfrey, yarrow, fennel) and other plants (plantain, medic, vetch, nasturtiums, chicory) will provide the trace elements, protein, and total nutritional requirements for alpacas over all seasons of the year.

Whilst we have developed a whole farm permaculture plan, we have been working on its implementation over the last 6 years. Key dependencies in the plan have affected the timing of some of the elements of the plan too eg we rebuilt 2 dams that were leaking at the same time as we were burning off approximately 25 huge piles of cleared timber (that were rabbit and blackberry colonies), and those tasks had to be completed before we could fence more paddocks and the laneway system, which had to be completed before planting out all of the windbreak/shelter belt trees, and so on. The next article will talk in more detail about how these principles have been applied at our farm.

About the author: Jen Frederick and Peter Bell have Permaculture Design qualifications and experience, and have 61 alpacas on a 250 acre permaculture farm at Galifrey Alpacas, near Braidwood NSW. They also run Galifrey Alpaca Textiles, a yarn and fleece products retail business, online at www.galifrey.com.au. For further information, please contact Jen at jfrederick@galifrey.com.au

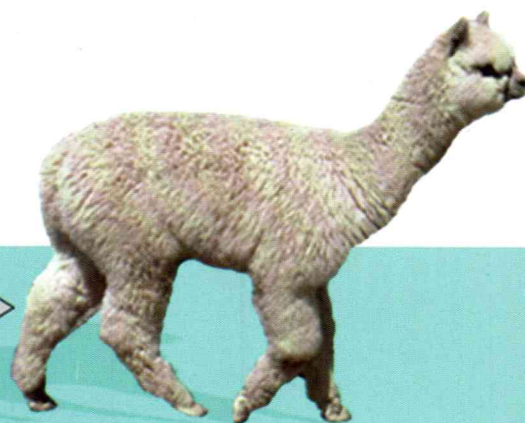
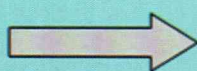
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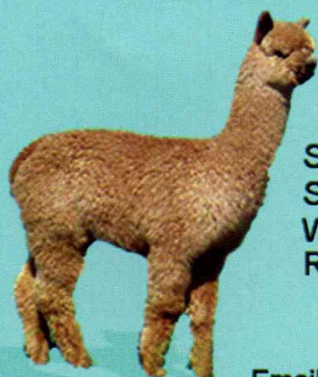
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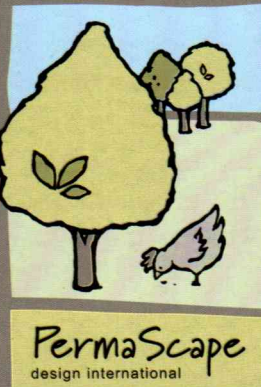
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A snapshot of your President

Where do you live?

In Bakers Hill, WA. Bakers Hill is a small rural community about 1 ½ hours from Perth CBD. It has about 1500 residents most of whom live on acreage. The Great Eastern Highway runs between Perth and Kalgoorlie and our property has that road as its Northern boundary. Northam is our nearest town [population 7000], is approx 25 kms away, is situated in the heart of the Avon Valley and is gateway to the WA Wheat belt area.

How long have you been in the industry?

Since 1995.

How many alpacas do you own?

About 60.

What are your beliefs in the Alpaca Industry?

Personally, I believe the role of the AAA is to promote the industry as a whole. That means all of its aspects, all of its end products, including all types of fleeces, both white and coloured. It is up to each individual member to promote their own enterprise.

What do you hope to achieve during your time as AAA President?

I see the next few years as some of the hardest we will face in the whole evolution of the industry itself. These will be the years when the fleece should become a viable part of every member's enterprise. For that to eventuate, we will all need to position ourselves so that we know what our buyers want [and there are buyers out there] and make sure that we all can meet the buyer needs in terms of length, micron, SD, colour etc.

I am very aware that a greater proportion of our members own less than 50 animals and live on smaller acreages. Whilst the larger breeders may be our industry leaders it is the smaller members who in the long term may be integral in sustaining the membership. So the challenge is to make sure that all members see value not only in their membership with the AAA but see value in remaining in the industry because each has identified their own personal niche and is on the way to succeeding.

Do you attend Shows?

I haven't missed a National Show and Sale since Bendigo in 2005. I attend pretty much all of our WA shows, very rarely enter animals but usually enter fleeces.

Do you wear alpaca products?

Yes I do. As members I believe we should all wear alpaca products. Otherwise why are we in the industry?

Alpaca is considered by some to be an 'elite' fibre. I personally don't like the use of the word elite but prefer to refer to it

as a fibre of choice because elite gives the connotation to me that only a very few

people can afford it whereas fibre of choice means it is very high quality, first class and available to those who have an eye for classy goods. As a breeder I don't ever wish to see alpaca as something that can be bought cheaply. Alpaca is unique, has special qualities and as such we should be promoting it as that.

Your Favourite Alpaca Moment?

The birth of our very first cria way back in 1995 because it signalled that we were on our way to being a part of an industry which we believed in at the time and still do; that we were in it for the 'long haul' and that it would take many years before it literally came of age.

Your Favourite Movie?

Hard to pick between, 'Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner?' and 'Shawshank Redemption.'

Your Favourite Food?

Rack of Lamb and Asian Coleslaw but I have to say that the chef at a certain motel close to Melbourne airport does a very nice chicken dish with a special sauce that has a secret ingredient and that would have to come a very close second.

Your Favourite Book?

'The Lord God Made Them All' by James Herriot.

Your Best Overseas trip?

Christchurch, New Zealand in 1974. Those who know me very well will know that in my younger days I was a very fit person.

Your Favourite saying?

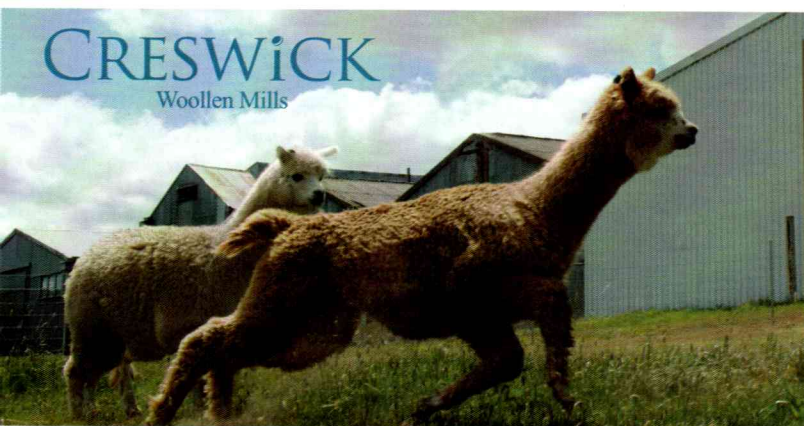
The sun is shining what more could you want.

What have you done in your life which was out of your comfort zone?

Two years ago I went for a helicopter ride over Perth and the suburbs with my 90 year old Mum.

What are you currently doing that is something you have never done before?

One of the good things about being President is that you get to read all of the Regional magazines and also speak to members who you never knew before. I have opened up the Atlas and now I find where everyone who I read about and talk to, lives. It has been a real eye opener so far. I am discovering all sorts of things about Australia I didn't know. I have a suspicion that this 'Presidential journey' is going to reward me in more ways than one.



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Anita Norris Wildlife & Animal Photographer

Animals have been my passion all my life and I love trying to capture their spirit and essence through my photography. I love photographing all wildlife and animals, pets, farm animals and birds. I feel their eyes and expressions are incredible as you can understand what they are thinking and feeling.

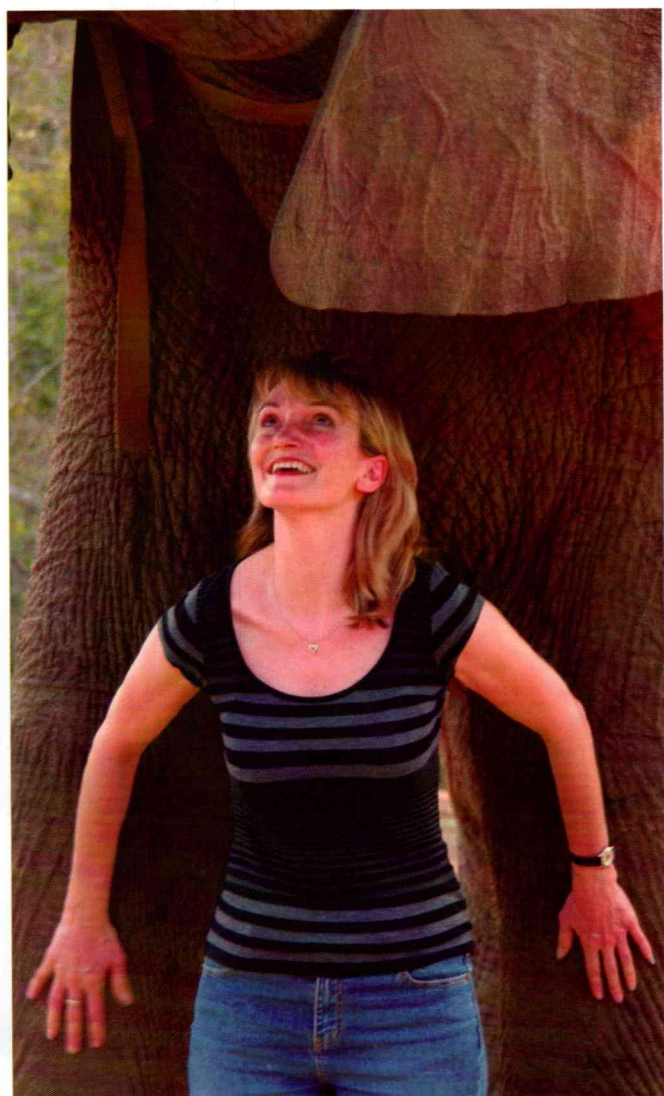
I am happiest when I'm out with animals and my camera. A safari to South Africa in 2008 changed my life when I realised being amongst animals and portraying their character through photographs was what I most wanted to achieve. Black Saturday 2009 also changed my life direction and I realised that I must pursue my love of photography of animals.

Currently I have a range of over one-hundred quality animal photo cards in various shops and these are extremely popular as the card contains one of my actual photos. I also have a range of simple children's books, and new for 2011, a horse

diary. I do many stud visits and photograph mainly horses and alpacas on these shoots for magazines and/or personal use and also pet photography gift vouchers. People love seeing their own animals on a card and I can personalise the photo with stud names, themes, forthcoming sale details, etc.

Hopefully you can feel my intense love and appreciation of all animals and the happiness they bring through my photographs. Please contact me for any animal photography requirements or card orders you have.

www.anitanorris.com



Anita Norris Alpaca Photography Cards
10 images, February 2010

Cards: \$4.50 each or \$12.00 for 3.
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Contact Anita on 03 97148855 or email anitanorris@bigpond.com www.anitanorris.com

DIY CATALOGUE

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Philip and Kristi Prohm, Optimate Group Pty Ltd



Are you wanting to produce your own alpaca sale or auction catalogue but baulking at the cost (several thousand dollars to have a catalogue laid out, printed, bound and posted to two thousand breeders Australia-wide)?

What if you could produce a catalogue on your computer in PDF format ready for emailing, publishing on your website, faxing or posting by snail mail?

What if you had some computer software that did all of the layout, imported your photos, drew your pedigree trees for you, and saved you hours of work on the animal Lots and on the catalogue as a whole?

And what if it also provided a Buyer Information page, an About Us page, a Location page and a Notes page for you to modify as you saw fit?

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Roberta Electronic Spinner

The Difference Between *Electric* and *Electronic* Spinning

The primary difference between electric and electronic spinning is the durability of the motor.

Electric means power goes straight to the motor and is adjusted with a speed control. This is a resistor that controls the voltage going to the motor, making it go slower or faster. Electric (sewing-machine-type) motors are not designed for spinning machines, which demand high torque (twisting effort of the shaft) at slow speeds. Electric motors are designed to run at high speeds under load, with AC (alternating current) power. If the voltage is restricted to slow the motor down, it stresses the motor core and damages the armature (the middle core). Such stress and damage can cause the motors to fail. They're not likely to last more than five years with constant use.

Electronic means power is being modified to the motor and is controlled according to the demands of the person using it. The disadvantages of the electric motor are eliminated. Voltage is reduced and changed to DC (direct current) power which provides strong torque to the motor at slow speeds, and the direct current motor is not harmed because of the reduced voltage delivered from the electronics. In addition, the current is automatically adjusted between amperage and voltage as the load and speed factors change. Electronic components in the circuit i.e. transistor, transformer, bridge

rectifier, potentiometer, capacitor, diodes – accomplish this. Motorised spinners come in two designs; bobbin-driven machines are the Irish brake design, and the flyer-driven machines are the Scotch tension design. The Roberta electronic spinner is bobbin-driven, giving better control of the drafting rate. Flyer-driven machines have a disadvantage; the speed must be altered continually to suit the drafting speed from the fingers, being the spinning speed. Failure to handle this correctly, affects the quality of the yarn produced. The Roberta electronic spinner avoids this deficiency, because the motor speed affects the bobbin, not the flyer. The motor (bobbin speed) affects only the twist rate, not the pull-in rate for drafting. The result is a smoother start up and a more consistent yarn.

The Roberta is based on the same design found in modern spinning mills today. Of course, mills run at 6000 revolutions per minute, just a little faster than the Roberta!

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How do your fleeces measure up to the test?

By Paul Vallely, Australian Alpaca Fibre Testing

In recent years, Australian alpaca breeders have recognised the benefits of using objective fibre measurements in the selection of breeding stock, the classing of fleeces and to monitor herd performance.

In fact without fibre measurement, it is difficult to see how any genetic improvement towards fleece quality could take place.

Monitoring objective fibre traits therefore, makes a lot of sense. The following is a short guide to help breeders obtain a fibre sample and to interpret the test results.

How to Take a Fibre Sample

The main points to note regarding fibre sampling are as follows:

1. Use the same sample site on all your alpacas each time you carry out fibre testing. This will enable you to effectively compare results. The preferred and most commonly used site is the mid-side which is located half way between the fore and hind leg and half way down the body mass.
2. For OFDA2000 testing, the fibre sample needs to be only the width of two fingers.
3. Ensure the sample is taken as close to the skin as possible so that a complete test analysis can be conducted on the whole length of fibres. Surgical scissors are perfect for the task.
4. Place the sample in a paper bag. If a plastic bag is used, the bag should not be sealed as condensation build-up can distort the fibre measurements. Record the alpaca's name and/or tag/IAR number and sample site if applicable on the sample bag. (AAFT provides samples bags free of charge).

Interpreting Test Results

Now that you have the results of a fleece test what does it all mean? The following is a list of the most commonly used terms for fibre testing:

Micron: Unit of measurement. 1,000 microns = one millimetre. Fibre diameter is the single most important fibre trait with regard to commercial processing. It is also one of the most heritable fibre traits.

SD: Standard Deviation Measurement reflecting the degree of variation in fibre diameter; the lower the SD, the lower the variation. The average SD for alpacas is about 4.5 microns. Clearly SD is one of the most important fibre traits to select for.

CVD: Coefficient of Variation of Diameter is the standard deviation expressed as a % of the

sample's average. For example, if the average diameter is 20.0 microns with a SD of 5.0 microns, the CVD is 25.0%. ($5/20 \times 100$)

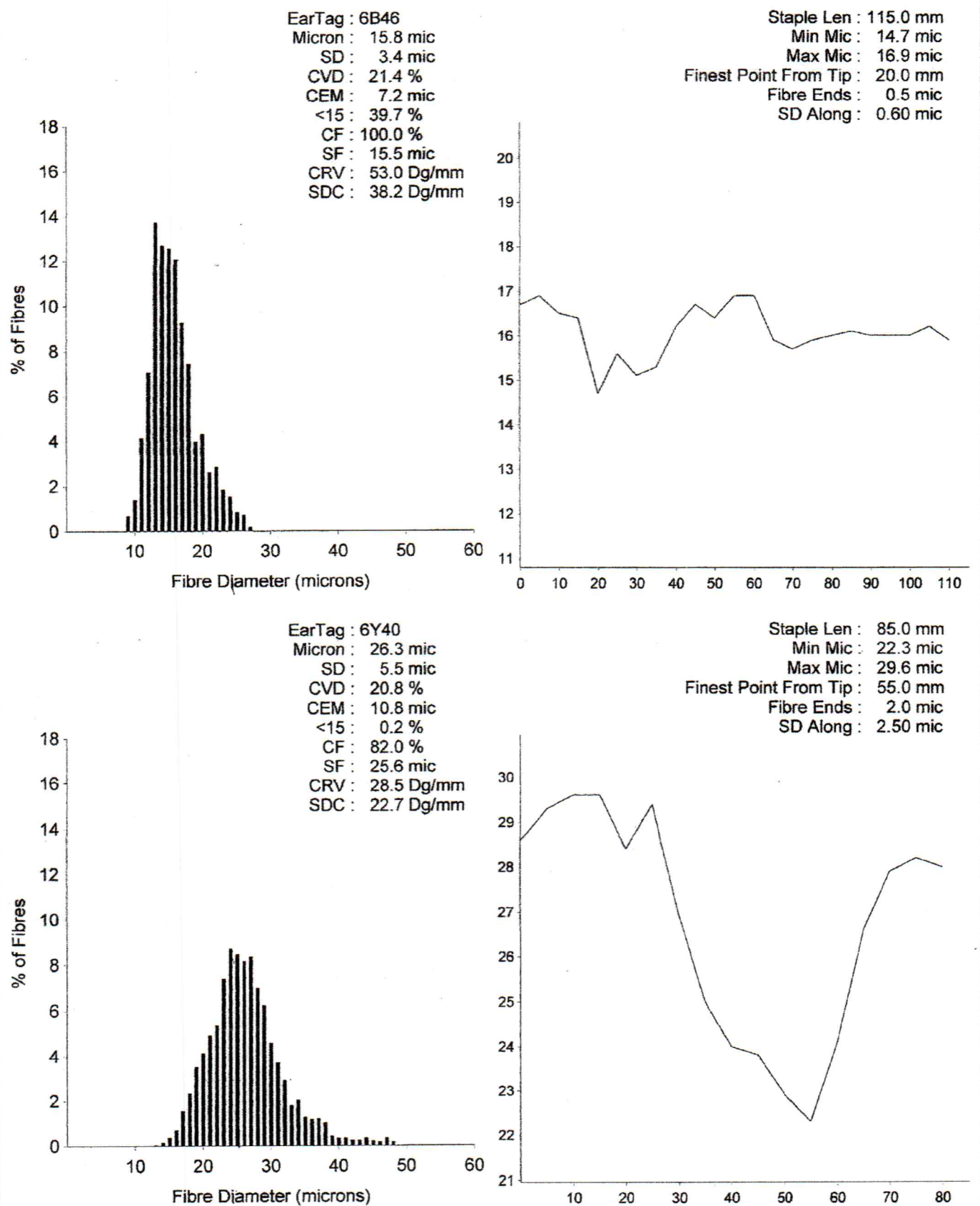
CF: Comfort Factor. Percent of fibres in a sample that are equal to or less than 30 microns. Fibres greater than 30 microns are generally responsible for the prickle sensation when worn next to the skin.

CRV: Fibre curvature expressed in degrees/millimetre. Generally, higher curvature is associated with higher crimp frequency.

Micron Profile: A graph showing the variation of fibre diameter along the staple. Can be used for analysing the nutritional intake over the growing



Example of two sets of results including data, histograms and micron profiles.



season. To follow the growth pattern, start from the left point of the profile.

Histogram: A bar graph depicting the distribution of fibre diameter for the sample. On the vertical (y) axis of the graph is the micron of the fibre counts. On the horizontal (x) axis are a series of numbers that represent the frequency of distribution of those fibres counted.

SL: Staple (or fibre) length expressed in millimetres.

FPFT: Finest Point From the Tip. Distance in millimetres from the tip to the finest point in the staple, an indicator for the 'point of break'.

Analysis of above reports

Top Example (6B46)

The average fibre diameter is 15.8 micron. As can be seen with the histogram, most of the fibres are centred close to the mean diameter. Almost all fibres are between 9 microns and 28 microns, (range of 19 microns). This alpaca has very low variation of fibre diameter and consequently has a low SD of 3.4 microns (2/3 of fibres are between 12.4 microns and 19.2 microns). As all fibres are below 30 microns, the Comfort Factor is 100%.

The micron profile shows a relatively flat profile indicating stable level of nutrition passing to the fibre follicles. The profile shows the average diameter of the fibre staple starting at almost 17 microns at last shearing (left side of profile), then finishing at about 16 microns when the sample was taken.

The results indicate this sample is from a superior animal

capable of producing premium fibre.

Bottom Example (6Y40)

The average fibre diameter is 26.3 microns. The histogram shows high variation of diameter of individual fibres ranging from 13 microns to 48 microns, giving a range of 35 microns. For this reason the SD is 5.5 microns, (2/3 of the fibres are between 20.8 microns and 31.8 microns). Note that the CV is 20.8%, which is lower than the above alpaca (6B46) at 21.4%. The reason for this is the difference in fibre diameter.

The comfort factor is 82%, meaning 18% of fibres are greater than 30 microns. The fibre from this alpaca would likely have a prickly feel if worn next to the skin.

The micron profile shows the level of nutrition falling dramatically about half way through the growing season, before rebounding to almost its initial diameter. This might be a result of worm infestation, dry conditions or ill health followed by a return to lush or healthy conditions.

This alpaca would be regarded as producing inferior fleece by commercial standards.

The importance of being curious

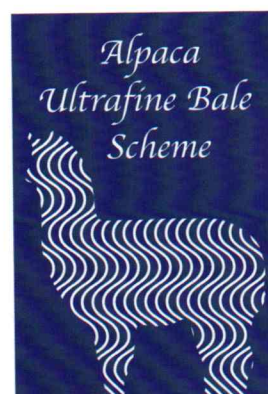
The above information is meant to be a quick outline of fibre testing. With any fibre test report, there is a wealth of information that will benefit breeders irrespective of their objectives. Consulting with those who have professional experience in the field shall yield substantial dividends.

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MAKE THE DECISION TO LEAD WITH PRECISION!

Marty McGee Bennett



*T*eaching an alpaca to step out proudly on his own in the show ring is a little bit like teaching a Great Dane to retrieve ducks; it can be done but the animal is not exactly suited to it.

Alpacas are herd animals. Safety is all about sticking with the group and in having the freedom to run. Leaving the rest of the herd tied to a human is a huge leap of faith. Trusting in the leadership of the handler has a lot to do with the kind of leader the handler is! Lead with precision and the alpaca is more likely to understand what is being asked; the more the alpaca understands the more likely he is to cooperate.

Most people teach an alpaca to lead by pulling on the head. Using the head to pull the rest of the body where you want it to go seems logical. This “technique” works with a dog often the only other animal with which many alpaca owners have experience. Dog owners will pull a puppy around using a collar around the neck. After a few sessions of dragging the pup figures out he is supposed to go with the human. Ironically the problem then becomes how to stop the dog from dragging the owner around. This problem is unfortunately often addressed with prong and choke collars. When it comes to alpacas, pulling an animal to teach him lead comes with a price. The law of unintended consequences often produces an alpaca that cushes as soon as he feels any pressure on the head. There are better ways to teach both dogs and alpacas how to walk on a lead/leash but teaching an alpaca to lead is not the topic for this issue, but the related subject of “speaking” clearly through the lead once your animal knows enough to follow you on the lead.

Pulling on the head to direct the movement of the body might work for getting from point A to point B; the technique breaks down rapidly when you begin to ask for more specific behaviours. The problem with using the alpaca’s head to boss the body around is that darn three-foot neck. With the exception of the llama, there are few if any animals that are routinely led and shown that have such a long neck; you can lead the head quite nicely and the body can be doing something entirely different! If you are in the habit of using the head to make your animal go where you go and do what you do, your technique may leave you stranded when you arrive in the show ring. In the show ring our goal is to exhibit an animal’s balance, carriage and grace. This requires that the animal carry himself in balance and listen and respond to signals from the handler. To show well an alpaca’s head must be lined up and balanced over the neck, the neck must be in line with the body and the body must be over his feet (see photo). Using gross motor movement and big forceful signals will topple this house of cards in a New York minute! Judges must judge what they see and if your alpaca is all over the place in the show ring like he is just coming out of anesthesia, well that is what you are showing the judge. If you missed the part about teaching your alpaca to lead without pulling on his head so that you don’t create leading problems and are now having some trouble with style, gait, balance, poise, and grace on the lead this article will help bridge the gap.

Just can’t say another thing without a few reminders:

- The way you do anything with your alpaca—from oral worming to toenail trimming— affects the way he will behave in the show ring. I could write a book about this, but suffice it to say use a catch pen! Specifically, move your animal in line with a panel to catch him instead of



In this photo I am pulling on the lead. You can see the result is that the alpaca pulls back, throwing the weight to the rear, dropping the back and raising the head. It would be very difficult for a judge to see much of anything about an animal led this way.

grabbing and holding him around the neck. Holding on to the neck as the body flails around creates the habitual response to throw the weight around to escape. This behaviour will come back to haunt you as you prepare for the show ring.

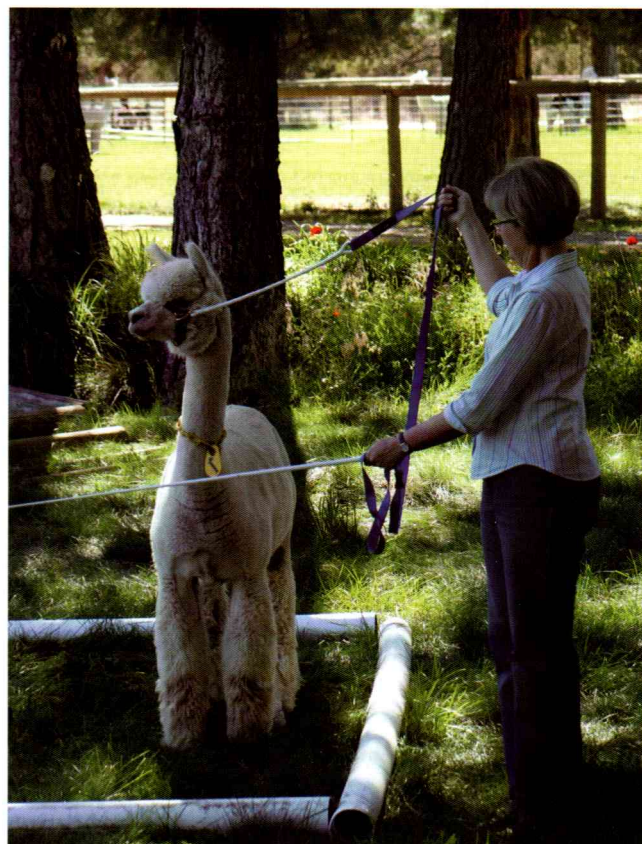
- Make sure that your halter fits safely and comfortably. This means well up on the nose bone, tight enough in the crown piece to keep it there and with enough room in the nose band to allow for unencumbered rumination. Without a properly fitting halter your attempts to truly communicate with your alpaca will be impossible. The halter will not work to communicate your signals. Additionally, the ill-fitting halter will distract the alpaca.
- Use a longer lead rope for your training sessions (six to seven feet). Alpacas are frightened when they leave their pals and head out with you. Handlers mistakenly think that bringing the alpaca up close helps! I have news for you; you are part of what they are frightened



This alpaca is standing in balance. Her head is lined up with her neck her neck is lined up with body and her body is over her feet.



The handler has steady pressure in the lead and the alpaca is using the lead for balance and is leaning to the side.

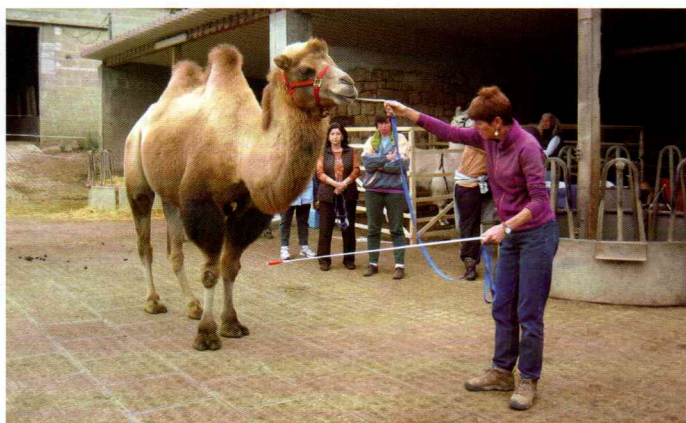


The handler has just asked for a balanced halt. Note the nice light connection through the line and the use of the wand as a secondary signal.

of! A longer lead gives your alpaca room to think and get far enough away from you to ease the pressure your presence creates. Getting away from your alpaca also gives him a chance to learn to carry himself without your interference.

- If your halter has a ring on the nose band you can try leading from this ring. See the illustration. Leading from the side ring is like having power steering, makes it easier to understand the signals you give and it is much easier to maintain contact (discussed below). You must use this technique as described with the kind of halter that supports the technique; leading from the cheek ring will not work! Once your alpaca is performing well you can switch back to the standard leading ring under the chin.

Now that you are out and about connected to your alpaca with a properly fitting halter and a longer lead, head out to the “playground for higher learning.” I have borrowed this wonderful phrase from my teacher and mentor Linda Tellington-Jones. Yep. Set up a few very simple obstacles in your leading area—I like poles. I use a combination of wooden fence posts, drain-pipe (six inches in diameter) and PVC pipe of various lengths. The obstacles I use are illustrated in the accompanying photos and captions. You should have some easy obstacles and some that are more complicated. The main thing is that these obstacles are used as an excuse for you to give very precise signals not as a punch list. Dragging your alpaca over all of the obstacles does not constitute success. I like to stop before each obstacle use that moment to ask my alpaca to stand in balance then proceed slowly and deliberately one-step at a time. This teaches the alpaca to



Okay okay I know these are not alpacas but camels are so expressive and the photos speak volumes. In the first photo I am using light contact with this camel to teach him to take one step at a time an exercise that we call The Dance. Look at his face. He is interested and engaged. In the other photo a student is trying the same exercise with the same camel. Consistent with being a beginner the handler is heavy and a bit clunky. Look at the camels face!



This photo illustrates the proper placement of the lead for side leading. Notice that the lead is on the ring that divides the upper and lower parts of the noseband. Please note that many halters do not offer this feature and if your halter does not have a ring on the nose band this style of leading is not an option. Also notice that the snap is placed on the leading edge of the ring with the opening facing out.



Poles propped up on a log or cinder block make a nice obstacle we call this the Star. It helps an alpaca who doesn't seem to have much awareness around his feet and stumbles or drags his feet.



This handler is enjoying a session on our obstacle course at the Camelidynamics Training Center. He is using a leading technique that involves two leads one on each side. In the back ground you can see many of the obstacles we use.

wait and listen instead of anticipating you.

The essence of leading with precision is to be connected to your alpaca through the lead rope and using it to have a

conversation. Speaking to your alpaca with the lead rope is very much like talking on the telephone, once the connection is established through the lead line the process involves speaking and then waiting and listening. People who stop talking and listen to feedback from other people end up being ignored. A lead that is too tight or too loose will compromise the connection. A loose lead does not transmit signals leaving the alpaca to make up his own agenda and a lead that is too tight encourages the alpaca to use the lead for balance. The trick is to be able to move around and maintain this light connection at the same time. You will notice in most of the photos the handler is carrying a white wand. This tool is very helpful for helping to maintain contact by helping you keep the alpaca slightly away from you as well as helping to slow an animal down and teach a balanced halt. Stopping together in balance with your alpaca is key to beautiful leading and successful showing. A balanced halt means that the handler and animal slow down and stop in unison. Too often the handler thinks halt and stops immediately before the animal "hears" the command and processes its meaning. This sets the stage for circling which is distracting for the animal and the judge. A balanced halt is achieved by giving an up-and-back signal to halt and slowing down but continuing to walk until the animal slows and stops with you.

Refined leading with precision is about imparting information through the lead but it is also about using your body and body position to communicate as well. Your alpaca is highly aware of your body language. Your alpaca knows when you hold your breath and interprets this as danger-this explains why your alpaca might be standing quietly and rears up just as the judge lifts his head from the animal next to you but before he takes even one step toward you. Your alpaca knows when you lose focus and are not paying attention-this explains why he picks this exact moment to sniff his neighbour or becomes distracted in the line up. Your alpaca also mirrors your posture and attitude. I was doing some demonstrations and helping exhibitors at a show recently when a tall beautiful woman brought her alpaca to me for help in the ring. She told me, "This alpaca does brilliantly in the show ring for the person I bought him from. He is clumsy and slow and he won't hold his head up for me." I asked this woman to lead the alpaca for me in the aisle way of the arena. What I noticed as she led him, was that she was kind of clumsy and slow and didn't hold her head up! I asked her to pick her feet up, stand up straight and become more animated. Lo and behold so did the alpaca! She brought him back by later proudly holding her first place ribbon and I hardly recognised either one of them as the down-trodden pair that asked for help earlier in the day!

Leading with precision shows off our animals to the judge and shows off our industry to the public. Leading with precision in the show ring looks more interesting and professional to those observing you interact with your animals possibly leading to farm visits and sales. Leading with precision increases your chances of success in the show ring, your animal looks better, more balanced and feels safer and is therefore more likely to stand well for inspection. And even if you don't win you will have had more fun.

WA's First Premium Alpaca Fibre Group Export

A network of Western Australian alpaca breeders, The WA Premium Alpaca Group, are set to carve a niche into the world's luxury fibre market following shipment of their first consignment of 'Premium Alpaca' bales.

Five bales of premium alpaca fibre were tested by Australian Alpaca Fibre Testing (AAFT) and classed in conjunction with Alpaca Ultimate and the Alpaca Ultrafine Bale Scheme in Corrigin last week. The top price paid was \$70/kg with a total weight of 511kg averaging \$20/kg. According to the buyers, this first consignment from WA matches the best quality fleeces they have seen produced in Australia.

The alpaca fibre was produced by three WA alpaca studs who between them have won six supreme championship awards in 2010 for their animals and fleece. The stud principals are Lisa and Paul Robb from Amphora Park in Coolup, Judy and Murray Stannard from Encantador in Armadale and Anne and Darryl Sherman from Rivergum Rise in Corrigin. The stud principals



have taken the initiative to work together to market their premium alpaca fibre realising a significant financial return for the genetic development they have put into their alpaca herds in recent years.

The top line of white fibre was successful in meeting all criteria to be included in the Alpaca Ultrafine Bale Scheme and will be consigned to Michell and Co in Peru. Michells

have more than 75 years experience in processing premium alpaca fibre for the world textile market. For fleeces to qualify for the Ultrafine Bale Scheme, they needed to grid test below 19 microns, have staple length between 70mm and 110mm, have less than 1% of fibres over 30 microns, have high tensile strength and be pure white. Fibre consigned through the Ultrafine Bale Scheme is destined for the luxury apparel market, with previous

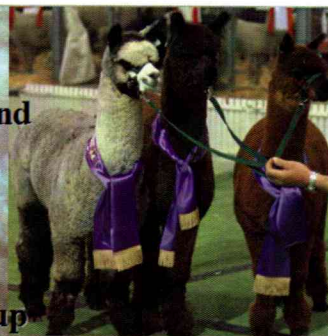


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2010 Highlights

4 Supreme Championships and
Most Valuable Huacaya Fleece – Perth Royal
Foundation member of WA Premium Alpaca Group



2010 Fleece Analysis by AAFT

	Count	Avg Mic	Avg SD	Avg CF
Ultrafine	125	17.5	3.7	99.6
Superfine	38	19.5	4.0	98.5
Fine	106	21.4	4.1	96.6
Medium	75	24.3	4.6	90.7
Strong	27	27.7	5.2	74.2



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consignments being sold under fashion labels in America and Europe as well as Australia.

White fibre grid tested at higher than 19 microns was classed into lines for Alpaca Ultimate who continues to be on the cutting edge of innovation for the use of alpaca fibre and are currently buying white and fawn huacaya up to 28 microns on a grid test. Fibre length must be 80-120mm. Alpaca Ultimate is focussed on making fleece production in alpacas the mainstay of the industry and have projects that utilise not only the ultrafine, but also white and light and medium-fawn fine fibre to produce an exquisite new line of fabric for high quality garments. Top quality knitting yarns are also being produced with fine knitwear in the planning stages.


Paul Vallely, owner and manager of



AAFT travelled from Goulbourn in NSW to Corrigin with AAFT's portable fibre measurement equipment. The equipment, known as OFDA2000, was used to grid test a record number of fleeces in one and a half days. Mr Vallely said that AAFT normally tested and classed about 200 fleeces per day. On this occasion however, they were able to complete about 400 fleeces in one day owing to the very high standard of skirting previously carried out by the breeders during shearing. The high standard of skirting also meant that contamination from coarse fibres was dramatically reduced, thereby maximising the clips' income potential. Mr Vallely also stated that Western Australian breeders might be interested to know that the OFDA technology used by AAFT, which is one of the most popular fibre measurement

systems used throughout the world, was developed in Western Australia.

Shearing and Husbandry Services, operated in WA by Mr Lyndon Hill and Rashell Strawbridge have worked with alpaca shearer Mr Kevin Gellatly and professional fibre handler Amanda Davis to maximise premium alpaca fleece values through expert shearing and skirting. Alpacas are shorn with the fibre handler skirting lower quality fibre away from the premium fibre during shearing on the floor. The premium quality saddle is then expertly thrown onto a fleece table where any second cuts drop away and final skirting is performed to leave a premium fleece ready for grid testing, grading and despatch to the market. Lyndon Hill has been shearing alpacas for over three years at Rivergum Rise Alpaca Stud



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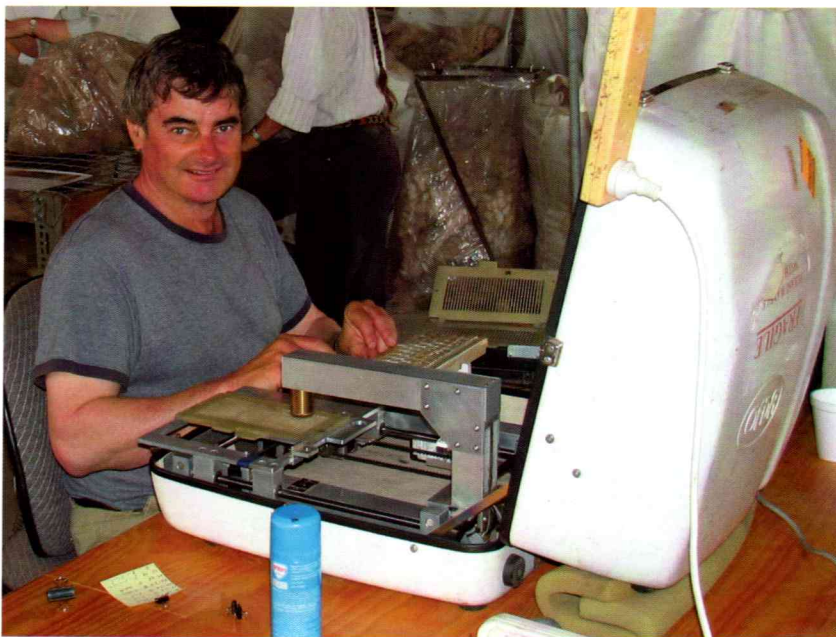
Judy & Murray Stannard

and is now available with fibre handler Rashell to provide comprehensive shearing and husbandry services for alpaca, sheep and goats throughout southern WA. Contact Lyndon on 0427 947 371.

Merilyn Mathews from Big Hill in NSW, a Director of Alpaca Ultimate, worked with the Stud principals in the shearing shed to class fibre into twelve separate lines of premium alpaca. Merilyn found the organisation and fleece preparation to be outstanding and enjoyed classing such high-quality fleeces. She also appreciated the warm hospitality extended by all involved with the venture. For information about Alpaca Ultimate the website is www.alpacaultimate.com.au.

This project is an example of two independent fleece buyers working together to assist the alpaca industry to market their fleece. We all look forward to further cooperative ventures in the future.

For further information about The WA Premium Alpaca Group, contact Darryl Sherman on 90629027 or email rivergum@rivergumrise.com.au.



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1



2



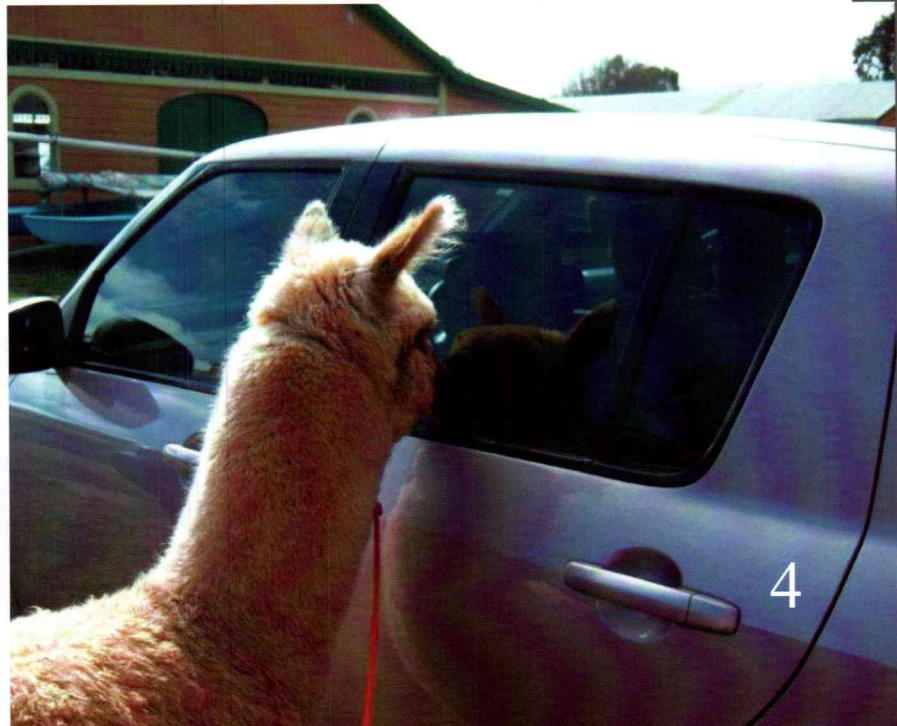
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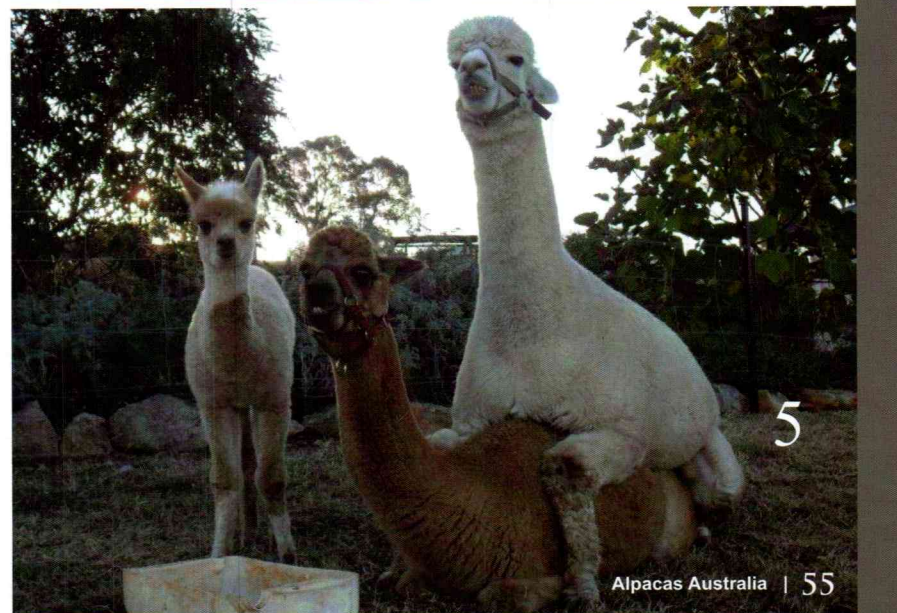
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6



4



5

1. Peek-a Boo - Rocking Hills Alpacas
2. Where's the toilet paper? Rocking Hills Alpacas
3. Who's idea was this? Rocking Hills Alpacas
4. Do I know you? Rocking Hills Alpacas
5. Smile for the camera! Rocking Hills Alpacas
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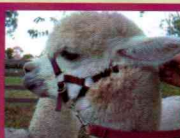
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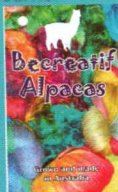
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Upcoming Events

February

11 - 13

CROOKWELL SHOW - NSW
Venue: Crookwell Showgrounds
Highlights: Fleece judging, promotional display
Contact: Penny Pittard 02 4837 3394

18 - 20

SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO - VIC
Venue: Seymour Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Rod & Ann Sales 03 5433 3789

19

BEGA SHOW - NSW
Venue: Bega Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Karen Nemec 02 6494 9492

25 - 27

ROYAL CANBERRA SHOW - ACT
Venue: EPIC Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Susan Nielson 02 6493 2602 / 0418 684 688

March

5

BOOROWA SHOW - NSW
Venue: Boorowa Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Carolyn Austin and Geoff McGowan-Lay 02 6227 6224

5 - 6

GREENBANK SHOW - QLD
Venue: Greenbank Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Steve Rowley 07 5546 3971

19

WODONGA SHOW - VIC
Venue: Wodonga Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Wendy Hart 03 5872 2050 or Joe Hofer 02 6026 3835

20

MOSS VALE SHOW - NSW
Venue: Moss Vale Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Pat Bova 0427 433 625

26

GOULBURN SHOW - NSW
Venue: Goulburn Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Alpaca section: Pauline Nugent 02 4844 7023
Or Jim Styles 02 4821 0974
Fleece section: Penny Pearce 02 4829 5252

31 - 2 April

TOOWOOMBA ROYAL SHOW - QLD
Venue: Toowoomba Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Peter Fullard 0488 465 211

April

1 - 3

CASTLE HILL SHOW - NSW
Venue: Castle Hill Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Linda Moore 02 9679 0702 / 0407 469 177

9

CAMDEN SHOW - NSW
Venue: Camden Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Ray Seymour 02 4636 6909

21 - 26

ROYAL SYDNEY SHOW - NSW
Venue: Showgrounds, Homebush
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Paul Haslin 02 4878 9429

23 - 24

AUTUMN SHOW and ALPACA AUCTION - WA
Venue: Whiteman Park
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Ron Reid 08 9296 4888

29 - 5 May

TOTAL FIELD DAYS - NSW
Venue: Tocal Agricultural Centre, Tocal
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Deb Smith 02 6723 3080

May

Date TBA

NATIONAL ALPACA WEEKS
Various dates at venues around the country during May.
Highlights: Open farms, promotional displays. Contact: AAA Ltd. Regional Secretary near you for more information. Please see <http://www.alpaca.asn.au/pub/AAA/contact/regsec.shtml>

Date TBA

GIDGEGANNUP FIELD DAY - WA
Venue: Gidgegannup
Highlights: Alpaca sales
Contact: Angela Bartels 08 9574 4144

Date TBA

INFORMATION DAY - WA
Venue: North Metro area - Contact: Laurie Dow 08 9571 2150
Venue: Bridgetown - Contact: Paul Murphy 08 9761 2542

6 - 8

BATHURST ROYAL SHOW - NSW
Venue: Bathurst Showgrounds
Highlights: Fleece judging 28 April; Alpaca judging 8 May
Contact: Kate Bailey 02 6887 1233

10 - 11

MACLEAN SHOW - NSW
Venue: Maclean Showgrounds
Highlights: Promotional display
Contact: Bob Coxon 02 6645 9092

13 - 14

GRAFTON SHOW - NSW
Venue: Grafton Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Jeremy Challacombe 0421 224 464

13 - 15

HAWKESBURY SHOW - NSW
Venue: Hawkesbury Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca judging
Contact: Don Culey 02 4576 4576 / 0418 208 376

13 - 15

IPSWICH SHOW - QLD
Venue: Ipswich Showgrounds
Highlights: Alpaca and fleece judging
Contact: Julie MacGregor 07 3202 3113

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