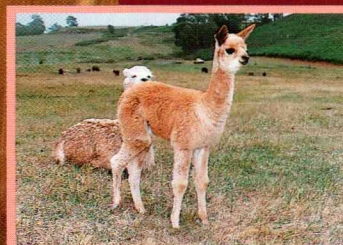


**\$5.00**  
(AUST.)

# Alpacas

A U S T R A L I A



WINTER 1992



# ALPACAS

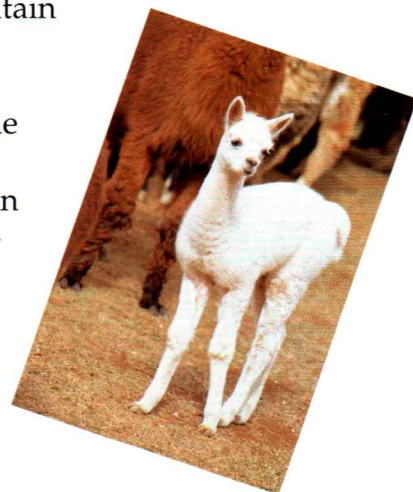
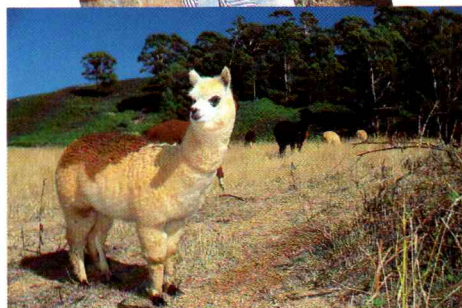


## FOR THE SMALL ACREAGE FARMER THERE IS NO FINER LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT

**A**lpacas are entrancing. Intelligent, friendly and gentle, with their curious ways they're winning friends all over Australia. Yet despite their foreign appearance they're even easier to maintain than sheep and so much more rewarding.

Interest in Alpacas is intense and animals available for sale are becoming scarce. One of Australia's first importers of these beautiful animals, Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud is able to offer limited numbers of these superb breeding males and females.

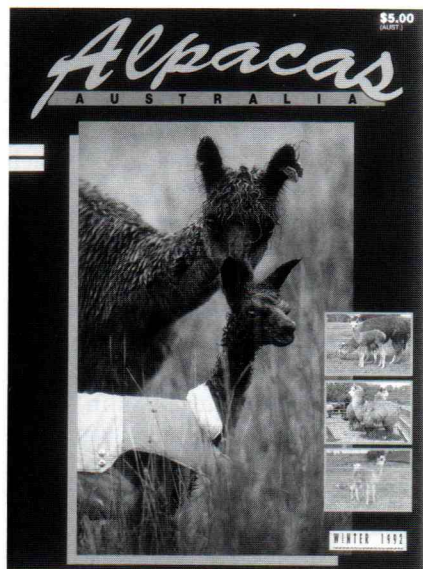
To find out more about the animals now recognised as the world's finest livestock investment ring Cherie or Jim on (054) 241 209 or fax us on (054) 241 608.



## Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud







**Cover: A newborn cria all dressed up and ready to go.**

Photograph: Ken Irwin

<b>Alpacas star in the Easter Parade</b> Alpacas' stunning debut at the Sydney Royal Show.	<b>5</b>
<b>That's not the ducks, it's my alpacas</b> A sheepish confession of the alpaca fun and games.	<b>7</b>
<b>Breeders tempt spinners into the alpaca 'web'</b> Prizes for spinners and weavers using alpaca fibre.	<b>8</b>
<b>Insure your herd is properly covered</b> A broker answers some common insurance questions.	<b>11</b>
<b>Classic auction will be on again this year</b> Top quality stock go under the hammer.	<b>12</b>
<b>Getting to know you ... alpaca research in NZ</b> Three New Zealand researchers share their findings.	<b>14</b>
<b>Registration: investing in a successful future</b> The new alpaca register offers benefits to breeders.	<b>18</b>
<b>Taking good care of your crias</b> Handy hints on newborn crias.	<b>20</b>
<b>Miracle Millie is back on her feet</b> A progress report on our favourite patient.	<b>24</b>
<b>Handy hints from the home of alpacas</b> Alpacas from the Peruvian viewpoint.	<b>26</b>
<b>AAA Notes</b> What's happening in the Australian Alpaca Association.	<b>27</b>
<b>Alpaca farming - the American way</b> An insight into alpaca farming in the United States.	<b>30</b>
<b>Investigating the future for alpaca fibre</b> The Australian industry supports a major research project.	<b>32</b>
<b>The grass isn't always greener</b> Soil mineral deficiencies can hold your alpacas back.	<b>34</b>
<b>Coming events</b> Mark these dates on your calendar.	<b>38</b>



# Across the Editor's Desk

## Alpacas' appeal is spreading

**W**elcome to the second issue of *Alpacas Australia*. All of us who were involved in the first issue have been excited by the response from both alpaca owners and enthusiasts.

It seems there has been a great thirst for more information about these wonderful new additions to the Australian rural scene.

As well as the emotional appeal of alpacas, there is a very strong and practical investment appeal. I am aware of several accountants who are recommending that their clients consider alpacas as a diversification in an investment portfolio.

The industry is new and strong, motivated and directional. Best of all, it is strongly protected from the boom and bust aspects of many previous agricultural ventures.

This issue, we take a peek at the United States' alpaca industry which is still on the up and up some years after establishment. Anthony Stachowski, one of the major marketers of alpacas in the US, will continue



**Alpacas Australia editor Cherie Bridges ... and friends.**

to keep us to date on the US industry in future issues.

We report on the results from the Royal Easter Show where alpacas created intense interest among NSW farmers and investors. Since the show, breeders around Australia have had many visits from people waning to learn more and looking for breeding animals, an increasingly scarce commodity.

We also cover neonatal care. Being prepared and knowing what to look for is all important in ensuring the highest survival rate among your precious stock.

This issue is being brought out to coincide with the Alpaca Associa-

tion's seminar at Tocal Agricultural College. More than 200 breeders and potential breeders will be learning more about nutrition, breeding, marketing and fibre and having the chance to exchange ideas with each other.

We'll report on the seminar in the next issue and publish papers presented by the speakers.

The charms and delights of having alpacas in your paddocks are brought to life by Trudi Barnett, a very active breeder running alpacas in traditional South Australian sheep country. If you don't already own alpacas, you'll certainly want to after reading Trudi's article.

The association is very aware of developing the end product of our industry now, while we're still a breeding industry, so that there will be a viable commercial industry in the longer term. Ken Allston, the association's vice president, discusses the latest plans on fibre research and marketing.

Finally, if you have anything you'd like to share with us as a breeder or if you have any questions about the animals or the industry, please write to me at *Alpacas Australia*. We're here as your resource.

**Cherie Bridges  
Editor**

**Alpacas**  
AUSTRALIA

Volume 1 No.2

**PUBLISHER** - *Alpacas Australia* is published quarterly by the Australian Alpaca Association Inc., GPO Box 202C, Melbourne 3001.

**EDITORIAL** - Cherie Bridges, Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud, 'Lyonbank', Back Glenlyon Road, Glenlyon, 3461 Victoria. Telephone: (053) 48 7744. Fax: (053) 48 7754.

**ADVERTISING** - David Fallick, Indigo Arch Pty Ltd, PO Box 114, Malvern 3144. Telephone: (03) 576 1275. Fax: (03) 576 1276.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE** - A\$28 a year for Australian addresses, A\$35 for New Zealand addresses, A\$45 for other addresses (airmail).

**CIRCULATION** - 3000 for current issue

#### **PRODUCTION**

Substitution Pty Ltd, 48 Canning St, North Melbourne 3051. Ph: (03) 329 7226.

Artwork: David Watson Design Pty Ltd

Film Separations - Reprocolour Pty Ltd

Printing - Hornet Press

**CONTRIBUTIONS** - Editorial contributions on industry matters are welcome and should be addressed to the editor.

**COPYRIGHT** - All material appearing in *Alpacas Australia* is copyright. Reproduction in whole or part is not permitted without written permission of the publisher.

**LIABILITY** - While it is our policy to check all material used in *Alpacas Australia* for accuracy, usefulness and suitability, no warranty, either expressed or implied is offered for any losses due to the use of any material in this magazine.



# Alpacas star in the Easter parade

Wendy Hill reports on the alpacas' debut at Sydney's Royal Easter Show.

*Wendy Hill is a freelance writer and alpaca fan.*

**T**he Royal Easter Show in Sydney proved a great promotional event for alpacas with 23 animals entered for the first competitive showing of alpacas at the Royal.

The animals arrived on Tuesday evening for judging Thursday morning. They had already been highlighted through a display stand which had been open since the show began and a street parade featuring alpacas whose handlers were dressed in typical South American clothing.

After the animals had been settled into the spacious pens, the blowers were unpacked. The animals were brushed and blowed till they reached perfection. It must have seemed to onlookers that the blowers were never turned off until after the judging.

Margaret Piccoli judged each animal on its merits and gave a brief summary of prize winners after each event.

Outside the ring there was an audible buzz of anticipation as each winning animal was sashed. The seating

## INCA ALPACAS

HAVE STANDING AT STUD

### SNOW SPIRIT

A pure white sire  
with black eyes



### BLACK MAGIC

Senior champion  
Royal Melb. Show  
our jet black sire

Both have superb fleeces, temperament and conformation

Irene & Ken Allston Telephone: (059) 67 3338 - Fax: (059) 67 3634



area was full to capacity, with many people standing to watch the judging.

Mrs Piccoli said she was impressed with the quality of the animals offered for judging.

The fibre on the winning animals was of excellent quality: the handle was good and density was uniform throughout.

All entries were well presented and handled well in the ring, a credit to the exhibitors.

Mrs Piccoli believed the interaction between exhibitors will greatly improve the standard of animals at future events.

The Royal Easter Show was a wonderful event for the alpaca industry. Many thousands of people wandered through the pavilion and stopped to watch the video which was constantly running.

### Public interest in display

Many items on display were bought and the magazine was in high demand from those who hadn't seen the animals before. Members of the public asked lots of questions, all patiently answered by the exhibitors.

All the breeders, owners and grooms who gave so much of their time to prepare their animals deserve acknowledgement. If some of our precious time can be spent in preparation for events such as this, the result will indeed be worthy of the effort and the rewards will go to those who took the time to earn them.

---

## The Winners

---

### Males:

6-12 months: Greater Southern Cross

12-24 months: Jolimont Harvey

Over 24 months: Jolleen Picasso

### Females:

6-12 months: Cedar House Angelique

12-24 months: Coolaroo Anna Katarina

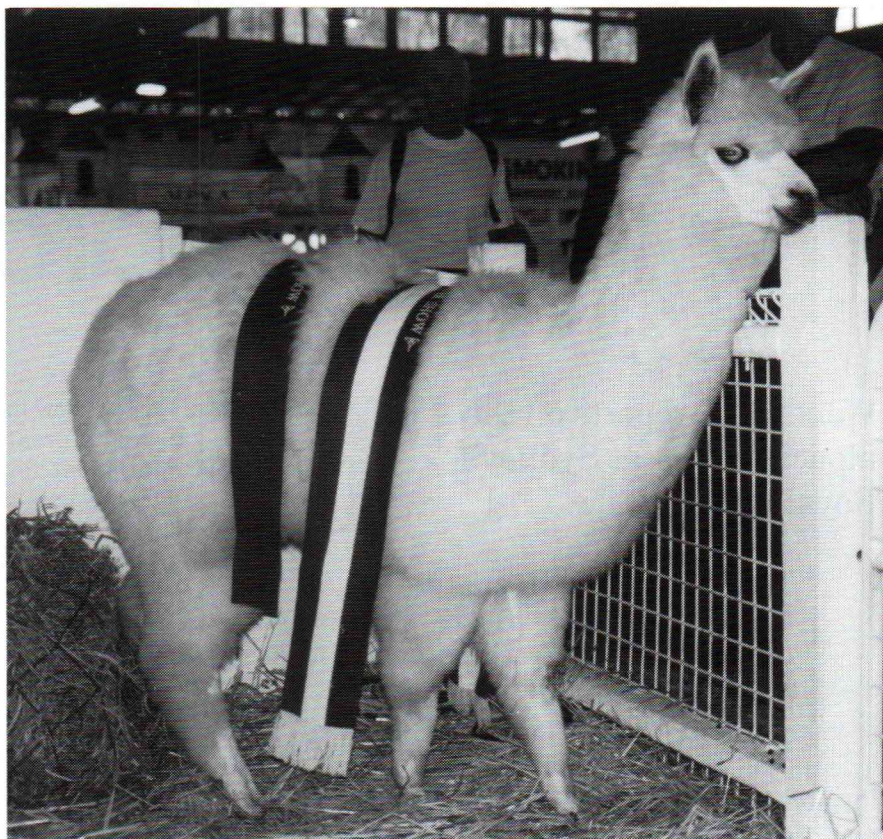
Over 24 months: Coolaroo SA Godiva

### Champion male:

Jolimont Harvey

### Champion female:

Coolaroo Anna Katarina



The champion female, Coolaroo Anna Katarina.



The champion male, Jolimont Harvey.



# That's not the ducks, it's my alpacas

Alpaca farming brings joys unknown to sheep and cattle breeders. Trudi Barnett takes time off from playing chasey with the crias to tell a few tales.

**H**ave you ever got out of bed at 2am to investigate a strange noise in your alpaca paddock?

One moonlit night we found one of our alpacas with an audience of seven kangaroos watching him very closely, as little as four feet away from where he stood quite bewildered.

He quacked so loudly I thought the wild ducks had returned until Keith reminded me it was the middle of summer.

We have three alarmists in total and I do love it when they quack at the kangaroos or, for that matter, anything which is slightly different in their daily lives.

I tumbled for my first alpaca just over a year ago now and it was a tumble that has sent me and my tradi-

tional wool-producer husband, rolling and snowballing quite happily into a new farming paradise.

We had never felt the urge to sit out in the paddock with the sheep or cattle but now quite often in the soft evening light we stroll though the alpacas and listen to their peaceful humming, a tonic to all at the end of a working day.

Our first task with our new alpacas was to handle and groom them before attempting a halter lesson. We started on the two younger girls and they patiently put up with our efforts. I have to admit that at this point there was a little more cuddling alpacas than grooming.

There must have been something in all that cuddling because these two girls are now angels to handle in all respects. We very soon found that the



*Trudi Barnett and her husband Keith run Murragamba Alpaca Stud at Avenue Range, South Australia.*

Keith and Trudi Barnett: alpaca converts spreading the message.

Photograph by Leon Mead courtesy of Stock Journal.





**Keith Barnett poses for the family album with Gabbie and Tilly.**

older Chilean girls were not to be bribed and most certainly not cuddled until they had got to know us much better.

Halter breaking was hilarious. We were so gentle, so persuasive and totally loving. They were stuck to the ground with necks thrust forward and feet and legs almost horizontal or else they played dead, slumped and completely floppy, lying in a heap. A very good time to check them all over.

Having said that, our first girl actually took four 10 minute sessions to halter train and she has remained perfect. She will leave her friends at shows and follow the vintage cars.

She even trots happily along with the horses and leaves her contribution to a dung pile on every single horse dropping.

Halter breaking boys, especially the younger boys, is slightly different as they tend to be airborne for most of the lesson.

I find their cross little faces irresistibly cute.

Again it doesn't seem to take any time at all before they happily lead.

We treat them as individuals as they all seem to have such different characters. We talk to the alpacas the entire time during handling. We even play them music and at the end

of each session we give them a feed reward which they love and deserve.

When it came time to investigate our young male and see if he was maturing he was not at all willing, so we thought we'd have a go at the South American 'chuckering'. As long as you don't tie your assistant's arm up with your alpaca, this method is a must for those boys that will be boys.

Our first mating with our young male was the funniest thing that had happened all year. He was dreadfully keen, but hopelessly uncoordinated. It really is a wonder these girls conceived at all. I certainly wouldn't give him marks for gallantry as his efforts at romance bordered on wrestling.

We both assisted him, one on either side, so you might say it was definitely a family effort. I'm still not sure who put in the most work but I think it was him.

The girls who are normally so horrid to him and will turn his face green - literally - if he so much as noticed them, suddenly become gentle, appealing and positively coy. I often think that when they look back at him, just a little nuzzle wouldn't go astray. But he's far too busy.

All of a sudden it was shearing time. We'd thought about it, talked about it and avidly watched the experts demonstrate. We went over and over the things we'd seen and heard.

We decided to pick our favourite and most willing girl as our first trial.

## Breeders tempt spinners into the alpaca 'web'

**A**llan and Carolyn Jinks, from Benleigh Alpaca Stud, Moolap, are tempting spinners and weavers to turn their talents to alpaca fibre.

They will be offering prizes at this year's Geelong (Victoria) show for garments made using alpaca or alpaca blends.

The Jinks had displayed alpacas at both the 1990 and 1991 Geelong shows, the second largest agricultural show in Victoria, but while interest in the animals themselves was enormous, the handweavers and spinners showed little interest in the fleece.

However, appealing to the spinners' competitive nature brought an immediate response.

Carolyn says they hosted a handweavers and spinners "mini field day" which began with a showing of the Alpaca Association of Australia video followed by a display of the animals, giving people a chance to handle the fleece, both raw and carded.

After lunch they gave the spinners free sample to let them try their hand at using alpaca fibre.

"All later bought some," Carolyn says.

After the day, the spinners' president wrote to the Jinks. In part, the

letter said: "After spinning alpaca I found I enjoyed the feel and that it was quite easy to spin. I have spun both raw and carded fibre and like both."

Anne Clark from Kurrawa Stud and the Moores from Ardcre, both in the Geelong region, have hosted similar days with the result that there should be a good number of items by showtime in October.

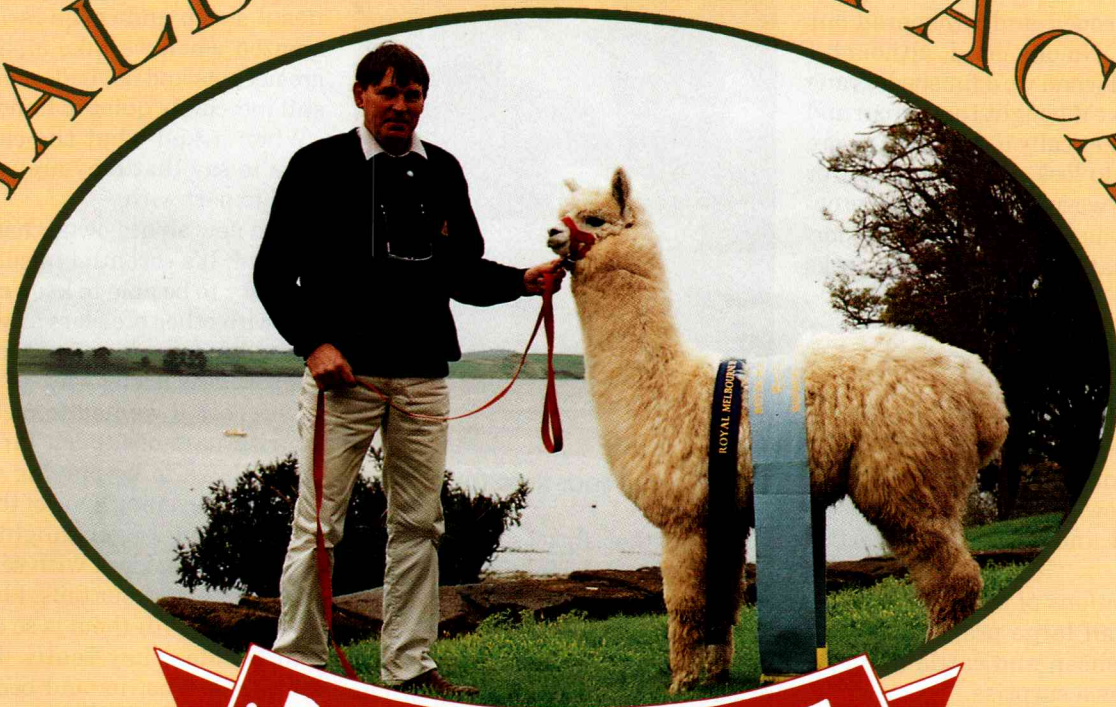
"This may be a worthwhile idea in other areas," Carolyn suggests.

"For a relatively small outlay or prizemoney, alpaca fleece is being promoted and sold.

"In fact, two fleeces have already been sold from the next shearing."



# HALDANE ALPACAS



**PURRUMBETE**

P.O. BOX 82 CAMPERDOWN VIC  
PH: (055) 947374





She was calm and very quiet, which surprised me as I had heard the demonstration animals cry in such a pitiful way.

One by one we gently tied up our animals, cooed and whispered our apologies. No-one cried, although I almost did when we'd finished. I rang the stud we'd bought them from and asked pathetically if they really were supposed to look so thin and tiny or whether I wasn't feeding them properly. All was well and now we've forgotten what a full fleece alpaca looks like.

### Neighbourly support

The wool, of course, is beautiful and even more so once it's off the animal's back. I didn't want to part with any of it but now, six months later, it's all been sold and we didn't advertise once.

The reactions of our neighbouring farmers, all large property owners running sheep and cattle like ourselves, was a surprise.

They were all very supportive of us embarking on something entirely different, especially for a heavily intensive Merino area. They were watching with increasing attention and all becoming very interested in those strange animals over the fence.

There is a distinct lack of foxes in the paddocks where we run alpacas and this in itself is keeping the interest up.



Trudi Barnett finds time for a chat.

The fact that alpacas don't require crutching and don't suffer flystrike make them almost too good to be true to the everyday livestock farmer.

I really enjoy the look on the faces of our fellow wool producers when they first touch alpaca wool.

We have both been involved in farming pursuits for the better part of our lives, Keith here in Australia and myself in Britain originally. Alpacas have enriched our lives and put smiles on our faces which are becoming very much permanent fixtures.

Some of our most enjoyable moments with the alpacas have been spent at field days promoting the

breed. It's a truly wonderful animal to promote, as most alpacas owners know. People are entranced by them and instantly fall for their beautiful soft looks and docile nature. Traditional sheep and cattle farmers are amazed when we take alpacas that are not pets and not halter broken but still incredibly quiet to handle.

When asked what the catch is, I have to say that they are very, very hard to part with.

Each new alpaca owner has become a friend. It's essential in such a new industry to be able to keep close contact with other breeders as we are all going through a learning process and support goes a long way.

I suppose if we had to pick our favourite part of alpaca farming, it would have to be playing with the cria in the evening. One of these days we are going to get caught tearing around the paddock with several agile babies hot on our tails. Playing cat and mouse with them is so addictive and besides they really do get to know and trust us and become our friends.

But, caught in the act by a prospective buyer, I might find it difficult to convince them of our long-term commitment to this fine new industry.

You, of course, will know better. For us, this is a beginning that has no end. There will always be alpacas in the paddocks, meekly disguising themselves as long-necked wild ducks.

## Tyrilly Alpacas

### NOW AT STUD! The Fabulous "Rocky"

Rocky was selected from more than 100 Stud males for his rich red fleece with its outstanding dense coverage and low micron rating.

Rocky's excellent conformation and even temperament will help produce offspring who will give you a herd to be proud of.

**Stud fee only \$1000.00**



### COMPREHENSIVE STUD SERVICE INCLUDES:

- Vet on call 24hrs
- Live cria guaranteed
- Free pick up and delivery service to most areas (Please ask for details).

### ALPACA SALES

Pregnant females, pairs and weanings available for sale now.

### AGISTMENT

Available at very competitive rates for long or short periods.

TELEPHONE: (048) 415 155

GOULBURN N.S.W.

FAX (048) 415 144



# Insure your herd is properly covered

David Rowntree answers some of the most common questions asked about insuring your animals.



*David Rowntree is principal of David Rowntree Livestock Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd.*

**W**hat should an alpaca owner expect of an insurance agent/broker and the insurance underwriter?

Check the credentials of both. Roland Burd is a representative of the Insurance Commission. He can advise you of the status of both intermediary and underwriter and whether they comply with the various Insurance Acts.

Mr Burd can be reached by telephone on (06) 267 6817.

Believe me, in these troubled times it's essential that you have your insurance properly placed.

**What's covered in Standard Livestock Insurance and what's not covered?**

I know it's difficult and time consuming but you should read the

wording of the policy. If it's not clear, than take the wording to your legal representative.

Insurance is a contract like any other. If you're confident with your broker/agent, he should be prepared to go over the wording with you.

The basic cover is death due to accident, sickness and disease, but there are exclusions and conditions.

Some people believe insurance is all the underwriter's way, but from my 15 years' experience, the exclusions and conditions are there for good reason and most relate to common sense or lack thereof.

If you are not happy with any wording in your insurance policy, you have the right to request a change.

Don't wait until you have a claim to voice your objection.



## AKHIRA Pty Ltd ALPACAS

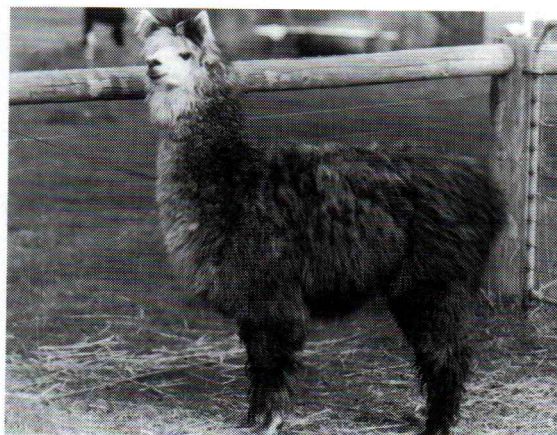
**FOR SALE:** Quality males and pregnant females, some with cria at foot.

**AT STUD:** Superb males standing at stud including the outstanding **Greystoke**.

**AGISTMENT:** Short or long term agistment and management services at very reasonable cost.

We offer a complete service to alpaca breeders and investors backed up by 25 years experience in the stud stock industry.

Videos, magazines, halters etc also available.



**Inquiries to Robert or Lyn Shepherd  
Springton Rd, Mt Crawford SA 5351**

**Phone : (085) 24 6150**

**Fax: (085) 24 6775**



### What optional extras are available?

At the moment, to my knowledge, cover can begin at three months of age. We're working on this aspect to perhaps take insurance on younger crias.

Also, to my knowledge, there are no infertility covers available on alpacas. This is because there is not enough reliable insurance information available on infertility in the species.

Therefore the only optional extras available are for transit, theft and loss of the female alpaca while pregnant.

My theft cover is dependent on positive permanent identification, i.e. microchip or tattoo.

### What is required by the insurance company to complete the insurance process?

All insurance on animals is for a maximum of 12 months plus limited extra time.

Therefore, a new proposal needs to be completed each year together with whatever health documentation the



**Don't jeopardise your insurance cover by hiding any information.**

respective insurance company requires.

I insist on veterinary certification at the inception of insurance on all alpacas as:

- a confidence boost for the purchaser; and
- an aid to insurance placement.

In summary, a proposal has to be fully completed with all questions answered.

This should be accompanied by the veterinary certification on the recommended form.

The payment of the premium is essential.

### In the event of a claim on your insurance, what procedure should be followed?

Insurance companies insist on be-

## Dalgety Classic auction will be on again this year

**D**algety will hold the Alpaca Classic auction again this year. The company hopes to have about 50 animals to offer for sale on Sunday, November 1, at Dalgety's magnificent bloodstock selling complex at Oaklands Junction, near Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne.

All Australian Alpaca Association members are eligible to enter registered stock for auction although, because only top quality stock will be offered, Dalgety's reserves the right to reject entries.

Details are available from Andrew Sloan on (03) 616 6700.



**Auctioneer John Sinclair calls for bids during last year's Classic.**



ing advised of any accident, illness or disease which might give rise to a claim.

My advice to all owners with insured animals is to advise your agent/broker of any irregularity at the earliest opportunity and make sure he advises the underwriter.

Don't hide a thing, even if you think it minor.

If you fail to advise and a claim eventually occurs, you might have broken the contract and jeopardised your insurance.

Apart from advising your insurer post haste, there are automatic steps you should take.

In the event of the animal dying, you should call your vet for an autopsy.

It is also useful to make notes or collect information on how the loss occurred.

If you want your claim to be settled promptly, the completed claim form should convey the whole picture.

Most insurance policies have clauses in them which allow for peracute operations and, if required, destruction on humane grounds.

I strongly urge you to read these conditions before an incident occurs and ask your agent/broker what is required.

There are some insurance companies which take a very hard line on such matters, so be prepared.



An investment worth protecting.

## Some timely advice

Post mortem of alpacas have shown a significant population of liver fluke.

It may not have caused the death, but the reason for the occurrence of liver fluke may be that your "clean" alpaca is grazing on "unclean" former sheep country.

We're aware of the toilet habits of alpaca, but its predecessor may not have had these standards.

Insurance is a two way exercise.

On the one hand the underwriter

offers you terms and conditions under which you may insure your animal. On the other hand, you have the right to question and/or reject those terms. But once each party agrees to insure and be insured, then the terms and conditions are locked in.

I know interpretation comes into all contracts but you must remember that an underwriter by nature of his role is sceptical.

My advice is to study the word "sceptical" and relate it to your actions in all dealings with insurance.

# Capalba Park

## FOR ALL YOUR ALPACA NEEDS



### BOOKS

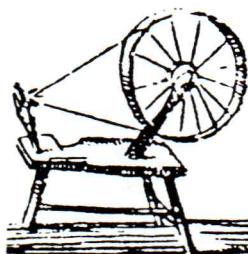
**Husbandry and veterinary**



## ELECTRIC AND AIR OPERATED SHEARING MACHINES

### HALTERS

- TINY
- WEANLING
- AVERAGE
- LARGE SIZES



## ALPACAS FOR SALE (MALE & FEMALE)

**LARGEST SUPPLIERS OF  
ALPACA YARNS & TOPS  
KNITWEAR IN MANY STYLES**

## SHOW EQUIPMENT MADE TO ORDER

**HUMOROUS TEE SHIRTS AND AUSTRALIAN  
ALPACA BUMPER STICKERS**

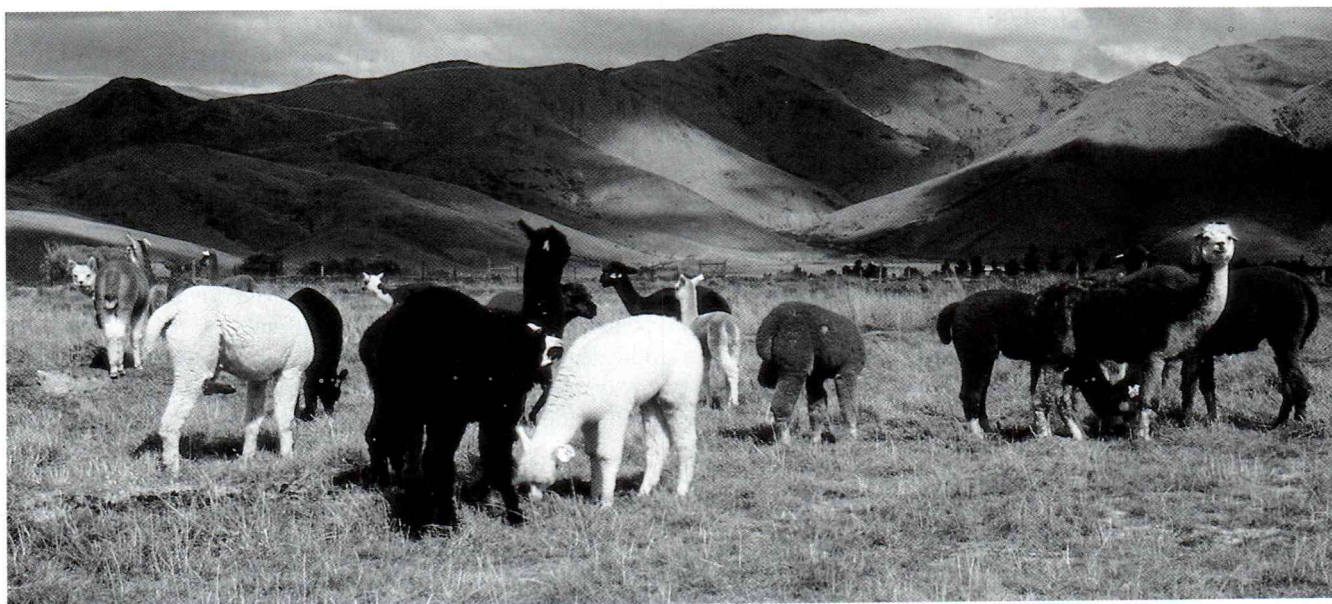
★ NOW AVAILABLE ★

**ENQUIRIES - GEOFF and NANCY HALPIN  
R.M.B. 4820 SEYMOUR 3660  
PH: (057) 969266 FAX: (057) 969330**



**WRITE NOW FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE**





MAF's alpacas settled in at Tara Hills in mid 1990

# Getting to know you ... alpaca research in NZ

George Davis, Tumen Wuliji and Jo Pollard discuss research on the reproductive, behavioural and fibre traits among farmed alpacas at the Tara Hills High Country Research Station on the South Island of New Zealand.

*The three authors are scientists at the Invermay Agricultural Centre in Mosgiel, New Zealand.*

**I**n September 1989, MAF Technology imported 100 2-4 year-old alpacas from Chile. Seventy-five were taken to the Tara Hills High Country Research Station near Omarama and the rest to a commercial farm in a similar environment.

The average annual rainfall at Tara Hills is 520mm with temperatures ranging from -11°C to 34°C and an average of 150 ground frosts a year.

The alpacas have been run on irrigated predominantly ryegrass and white clover pasture.

The research program has involved evaluating alpacas as fibre producers under NZ farming conditions.

Reproduction and fibre production have been of particular interest because these factors are of major importance if a long-term alpaca

industry is to be established.

The initial studies have involved the collection of basic production data and identifying factors which limit production.

## Mating behaviour

Where mating behaviour was compared between groups mated in paddocks and groups in pens, it was found that sexual activity was more variable in paddocks and more females were mated in pens.

The average duration of mating in pens (19 minutes) was longer than in paddocks (11 minutes). The first mating (28 minutes) took longer than subsequent matings (12 minutes).

The mating studies indicated two ways in which mating performance can be improved.



Firstly, the stimuli from mating couples, as occurs in the pen matings, can sexually arouse individuals which have been uninterested.

Secondly, because females became more receptive as a mating session progressed, it could be useful to use vasectomised males for the initial encounter when attempting to use a shy male who is easily put off by a female's aggressive behaviour.

The mating management has been aimed to have births concentrated in two periods, each of about six weeks.

The 'spring' period is in October and November and the 'autumn' period in January and February.

The spring period best matches feed requirements with pasture growth and the long-term objective is to have most births at that time of year. However, our experience at Tara Hills has been that autumn mating has been more successful, with 79% of all births being in the autumn.

Analysis of the records from the alpacas imported in spring 1979 show that from the 78 still present in the autumn of 1992 with apparently normal reproductive tracts:

- 28% have had cria in three consecutive years,
- 45% in two of three years,
- 18% in one of three years, and
- 9% have remained barren.

Thus, on average, 64% of females had a cria in any one year and if the barren females are excluded this increases to 70%.



MAF's alpacas on the Chilean antiplano in November 1988.

It is probable that higher percentages would have been achieved if matings had been allowed throughout the year.

Most NZ-born females have been first mated at about 10 months of age in an attempt to establish them in a spring birthing pattern.

A minimum weight of 40kg has been set for first mating and 21 of 24 (88%) achieved this target at about 10 months.

Sixteen of the 21 (76%) became pregnant.

An unexpected finding has been a large difference in gestation length between spring and autumn matings.

The spring pregnancies averaged 349 days whereas autumn pregnancies were a fortnight shorter at 335 days.

Within each season there was also a large variation in gestation length. Spring ranged from 332 to 368 days and autumn pregnancies from 323 to 355 days.

Because spring pregnancies are longer, with some exceeding 12

## ALPACA PARKAS

AS FEATURED ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE



PET DEPARTMENT STORE

- *We stock warm, waterproof alpaca parkas*
- *Designed for Zoo Products*
- *Full range of colours available*
- *Four sizes, or made to measure*

**MALVERN** 1B/1C Winter Street  
MALVERN 3144  
Tel: 509 7943  
Contact: Jo Butler

**BRIGHTON** Shop 2/52 Church Street  
BRIGHTON 3186  
Tel: 593 1205  
Contact: Mal Butler

**FAX: MALVERN & BRIGHTON 509 5503**



---

## Autumn mating has been more successful than spring mating, with 79% of all births being in the autumn.

---

months, it may be difficult to maintain females in a regular spring parturition pattern.

The range in gestation length implies that where two females are mated on the same date, their cria may be born up to one month apart.

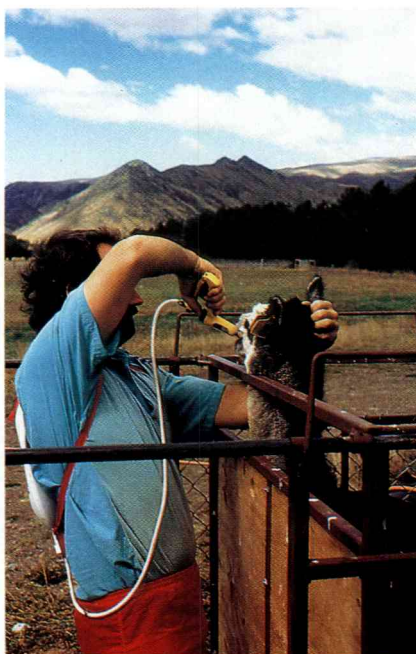
Although it might have been expected that cria from the longer gestations would be heavier at birth, no such relationship was found.

A laproscope has been successfully used to diagnose infertile female alpacas.

Eighteen months after importation eight of the 87 females had failed to conceive despite repeated matings. These were laproscoped and three were found to be sterile.

One was a hermaphrodite, one had very small non-functional ovaries and one had a blind vagina.

A further two showing signs of infection were treated with antibiotics



### Drenching and weighing alpacas at Tara Hills.

and both these females have subsequently conceived.

### Parturition and cria survival

The pattern of no normal births occurring in the late afternoon and night which was observed in the imported females, has continued in their NZ-born daughters.

Eleven of the 167 births (6.6%) re-

quired some assistance.

Nine of these were due to malpresentation of the cria; usually with one or both front legs turned back.

One female was assisted because she was weak from grass staggers and another was weak from a severe jaw infection. Two of the assisted cria were stillborn.

Cria survival has been high, with 159 of the 167 (95.2%) survived the first 24 hours.

Five of the neonatal deaths were small cria weighing 2.7-5.0kg. A further four died before weaning, resulting in 92.8% live cria weaned per pregnant female.

### Weaning

Cria weaned in June 1990 at an average age of five months weighed 35kg.

Immediately before weaning they were gaining weight at 78gm per day, but during the week after weaning they lost 32gm per day.

Behavioural studies showed that over the three days following weaning, the grazing and sitting activity of cria and their dams were replaced by standing and walking along the paddock fencelines.

Grazing activity returning to preweaning levels by the third day after weaning.

The cria gained weight at 114gm a day during the second week after weaning, indicating that the weaning check lasted only a few days.

### Fibre production

Fleece measurements taken annually over two years from 83 adult females and 13 adult males imported from Chile have shown that although females (68kg) and males (69kg) were similar liveweights at shearing, the females clipped a kilogram less fibre (females = 1.7kg, males = 2.7kg).

There was a large variation in fleece weight from females (0.9-3.3kg) but less



**Machos (males) on the Tara Hills High Country Research Station.**



**RIGHT: The cria survival rate at Tara Hills has been high.**

in males (1.8-2.9kg). The fibre diameter from females averaged 1.8 microns less than males (29.7 and 30.9 microns respectively).

Fourteen two-year-old females which had clipped 1.7kg as cria at nine months of age in October 1990 were shorn again 12 months later in October 1991.

They weighed 73kg at shearing and their two-year-old fleece weights averaged 2.9kg.

Fibre diameter increased from 23.4 microns as cria to 27.3 microns as two year olds.

These early results suggest that females born in NZ are genetically better fibre producers than their Chilean-born dams, an encouraging result for the industry's future.

Cria were shorn in October 1991 at an average age of 8.5 months.

---

**An unexpected finding has been a large difference in gestation lengths between spring and autumn matings.**

---

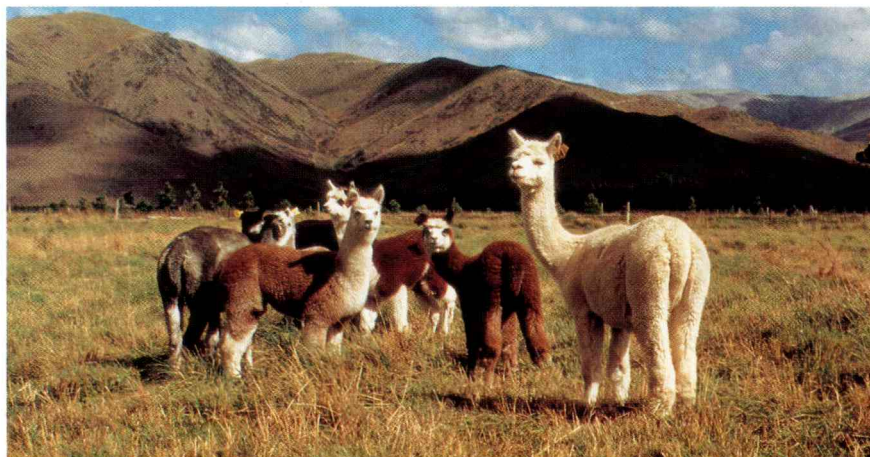
The 24 female cria weighed 34kg and clipped 1.7kg (range 1.0-2.3kg). The 18 males weighed 39kg and clipped 1.8kg (range 1.0-2.4kg).

However, this difference in fleece weight between the sexes can be explained by the fact that the males were 16 days older at shearing.

The average fibre diameter of the females' fleeces (24.0 microns) was 0.9 microns finer than males' fleeces.

These results are similar to those from the first crop of NZ cria which were shorn the previous year.

• George Davis is to be one of the speakers at the Alpaca Association of Australia's seminar at Tocal. The next issue of 'Alpacas Australia' will carry reports from the seminar.



At **Stock Air Export**, we make moving your animals around the world as easy for you as picking up the phone.

Our no-fuss complete service from home base to your animals' final destination will guarantee the safety and care of your livestock.

**Stock Air Export's** experience has taken **alpacas** to Alaska and America; **camels** to America and Taiwan; **goats** to America; cattle to Singapore; **pigs** to Malaysia; and **horses** to London, New York, Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Auckland, Jakarta and Frankfurt.

Your stock will be given the best of care.

- Quarantine and veterinary testing
- Documentation, clearances and transit permits
- Airline attendance

Phone **Miss Carolyn Young** for competitive prices.

**24A Lascelles Ave, Toorak 3142.**

**Ph: (03) 826 3080. Fax: (03) 826 3092. Mobile: (018) 170 114.**



# Registration: investing in a successful future

Carol Watson discusses the philosophy behind the new alpaca registration scheme.

**T**he alpaca industry, at present, is a breeding industry. Animals are limited in numbers and are changing hands at high prices. In this situation it is of fundamental importance that animals which are offered for sale have a Registration Certificate issued by the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA).

This tells the buyer what is known about the animal i.e. its tag identification, age, breeding and ownership.

It's a bit like paying a good price for an old violin. You wouldn't do it unless the dealer was prepared to give you authentication of the instrument's background - its "pedigree".

## Genetic improvement

The current population of alpacas is small and so the selection decisions that are made now will have a profound influence on the future productivity of the national flock and the profitability of alpaca farming.

Knowledge of the pedigree is the first step in implementing a genetic improvement program. Then it is important to record the performance of your alpacas in terms of fertility and fleece characteristics.

Genetics is a very powerful force in achieving efficient livestock production.

For example, from a small shipment of 18 Brahman cattle in 1933, there has been an infusion of *Bos indicus* genes through almost half Australia's \$4 billion beef cattle industry.

The pedigrees of the early introductions have been preserved. Today there are more than 1000 pedigreed Brahman breeders. By maintaining pedigrees and collecting and analys-

ing performance, the Brahman of the 1990s is a much better animal genetically than the original cattle. Australian Brahman genetics now enjoys a buoyant export market to the Asian countries.

## The commercial industry

Of course, the alpaca industry is heading towards being a commercial production industry. At that stage, there will be a significant number of commercial farms producing alpacas of high performance characteristics. These commercial breeders will want to go back to the industry's pedigree breeders and obtain multi-generation pedigree certificates and performance information on the alpacas they buy.

Alpaca breeders who start to document their animals' breeding now will be the successful studs of the future.

You can register your alpacas by completing the Form H for Herd Registration available from the AAA. Your investment in the register is just \$15 per animal. That's a very small percentage of the animal's value.

Being involved right at the start of the race to produce the best alpaca genes is the only way you will be there at the finish. You can contribute to the success of your breeding operation and the industry at large by registering your alpacas.

The good violin makers of the 18th Century followed the same principle of identification of their product. Their instruments are worth a lot of money today. Those who took a short cut and mass produced without identification have given their products no enduring value.

The same principles apply to pedigree livestock breeding.

*Carol Watson is Registrar of the International Alpaca Registrar at the Agricultural Business Research Institute, University of New England, Armidale. She can be contacted by phone on (067) 73 3357 or fax on (067) 72 5376.*



# CEDAR HOUSE ALPACAS

## WINNER

1st. place at Sydney  
Royal with  
'Angelique'

ADVICE  
on setting up in  
alpacas



BREEDING STOCK  
available

BROKERAGE  
we have many  
interested buyers

## ♦ STANDING AT STUD ♦

- ♦ Fine and dense fleece ♦ Soft handling ♦ No dark fibres ♦
- ♦ Pregnancy guaranteed ♦ Sydney's No.1 breeder ♦

Phone or Fax me, Wendy Billington, at Cedar House Alpacas, on (02) 656 1551.



Farm visits are welcome at 67 Cobah Road, Arcadia (Sydney), NSW  
Breeding stock available



# Taking good care of your crias

Those of you who have yet to watch your first alpaca cria struggle to its feet have a treat in store.

Cherie Bridges - veteran of more than 100 alpaca 'labour wards' - discusses birthing and neonatal care.

**T**wo years as an alpaca breeder is not enough experience to know all of what can and can't happen, and I'm not a vet, so this article is purely anecdotal. At the same time, I hope it will help new owners feel prepared for this wonderful experience.

Our gestation range has been 318 to 355 days and we have had a 98% survival rate. All our births have been during the day and more than 80 of them between 11am and 2pm.

To avoid potential prematurity problems, we keep the handling and moving or changes of routine among females in late pregnancy to an absolute minimum. Transport, change of environment or over-handling can induce premature births.

The biggest trick is managing to

actually catch your females giving birth. No matter how many times you check her, short of camping in the paddock for a month, you will have a good chance of ducking inside for a short time and returning to find two alpacas where there had been one.

This is not a problem, as most alpacas give birth with no human intervention, but it's nice to have the camera around and see the whole thing.

## Minimise stress

Unless it is a very cold, wet or windy day or there is a specific problem, we leave the mother and baby in the paddock and keep change and stress to an absolute minimum.

Our mild weather routine is:

Dry the cria off with a towel. We do



Most alpacas give birth without any human intervention.

*'Alpacas Australia' editor Cherie Bridges owns and runs Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud at Glenlyon, Victoria.*





**Dip the umbilical cord in an iodine solution (no stronger than 7%).**

this in cool to mild weather, not on hot, sunny days when the cria dry very quickly. On a hot day we move the cria into the shade.

Iodine the umbilical cord. We use the small canister that 35mm film comes in filled with Betadine (an iodine solution available from your vet)

and dip the cord into the container. The iodine solution should not be stronger than 7%.

Next, catch Mum.

Generally a female is fairly quiet immediately after giving birth and it's easy to slip an arm around her neck in the paddock.



**In cool weather, towel the cria dry.**

We clear the waxy plug off the end of her teats and check to see that she has milk (be careful not to waste any).

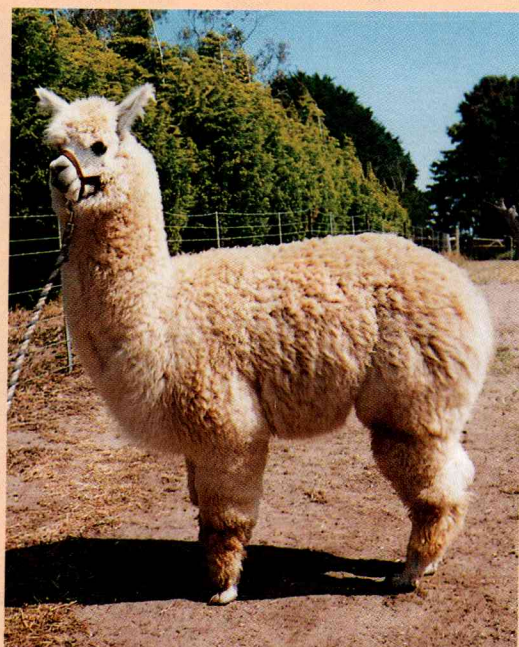
## BENLEIGH ALPACA STUD

**GEELONG, VICTORIA**

**Breeding for excellence with a variety of males standing at stud, including Benleigh Champagne (pictured)**

- ❖ Quality alpacas for sale:  
adult males, females and yearlings
- ❖ Limited number of white males, dark eyes, for sale
- ❖ Import and export facilities
- ❖ Agistment with total care
- ❖ Experienced alpaca vet on call round-the-clock

**Contact: Allan and Carolyn Jinks  
Ph: (052) 50 2737 fax: (052) 50 3447**



*Let us share with you a lifetime of farming and animal husbandry experience*



It is important that the milk is thick and creamy rather than watery as this colostrum is essential for the cria.

It is rare for an alpaca not to have milk, but I have had females who have been slow to let their milk down. This has usually been remedied by a 1ml injection of oxytocin, which can work within 15 minutes but occasionally has needed a repeat 3-4 hours later.

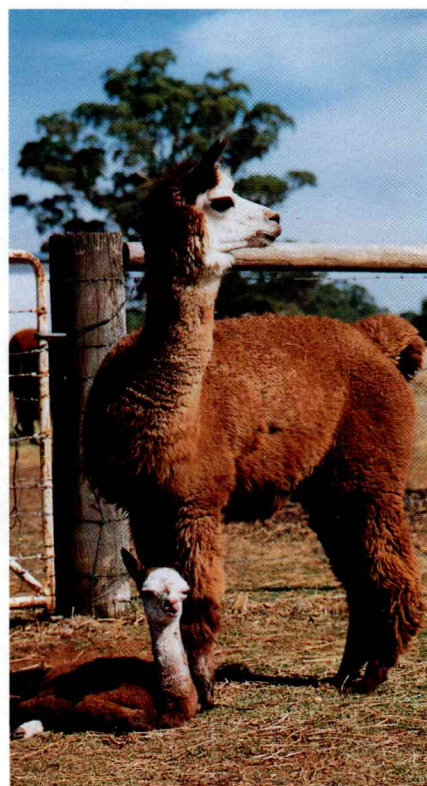
With particularly protective mums who aren't happy about you handling their baby, I find it best to avoid eye

contact, keep talking in a quiet voice and allow them to see at all times what you are doing rather than block the cria from their view.

We do all this as calmly and quickly as possible and then leave the two alone and watch from a distance so that the bonding process is not interfered with.

If we are satisfied that the cria is not premature or weak, we leave them be and come back in an hour to watch its progress at standing and attempting to drink.

I did more harm than good with our



After a drink, a contented cria will usually sit down next to its mother.

first few animals by trying to push the cria under the female and upsetting both.

The temptation to assist is strong, but generally if the cria is healthy it is much better to allow nature to take its course.

It will often take longer for the cria to find the milk if the female has a lot of fleece on her.

In some cases I have clipped an unshorn mother around the flank area to create an easier path in for the cria and lessen the chance of it sucking on wool.

### Watch the tail!

When watching to see if the cria is drinking successfully, I find the tail an excellent guide.

The cria will curl its tail up when "seeking".

Once it latches onto the nipple and is getting milk its tail will curl back down.

After it has finished drinking it will usually plop down contentedly in the sitting position beside its mother.

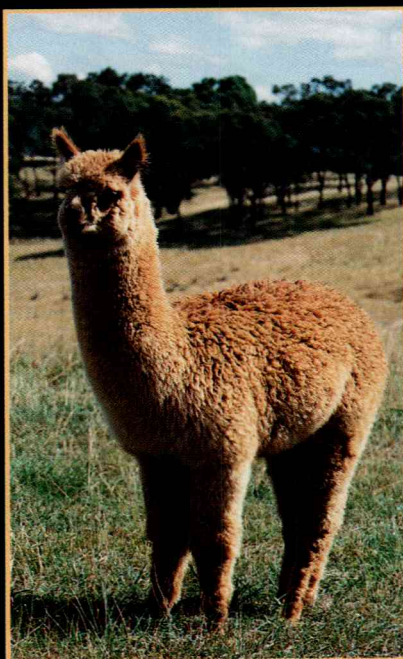
If a cria keeps seeking with the tail

# SHANBROOKE ALPACAS

## "Breeding for Excellence"



Quality  
alpaca  
breed  
quality  
crias



Inquires welcome  
Ron & Dianne Condon  
Yarra Glen  
Ph (03) 730 1399



up after finishing its drink, this can be a sign that it is not getting enough milk. Perhaps the female has not fully let her milk down.

As in all animals, the importance of the cria getting the female's first milk (colostrum) cannot be over emphasised.

It is from this first milk that the cria gains the antibodies its immune system will need to get it through the first months of life.

The cria's ability to absorb those antibodies decreases during the first day of life and 24 hours after birth it can no longer absorb them.

As a standby for the occasional female who may not have colostrum, I keep frozen goat's colostrum.

It is not as good as the real thing but may mean the difference between life and death for a weak cria. It should be thawed gently in warm water and never microwaved.

## Intervening

The time it takes for a cria to "latch on" varies greatly, depending on its tenacity and strength.

If a cria is not showing signs of getting close to having a drink after four hours I intervene.

The intervention will depend on the situation and the nature of the female and cria.

If the mother is quiet, directing the cria onto the nipple and giving it a steadying hand may be enough. If the mother won't stand still to allow this, we have one person gently hold her around the neck while another concentrates on the cria.

If the cria is weak and the female unco-operative, then I will milk the mother and give the milk to the cria in a syringe.

I have milked females who are standing by using thumb and forefinger and a squeezing, pulling down action.

Don't be surprised at the small amounts of milk produced, alpacas are not like goats or cows in the milk department.

---

**A 'Cria cocktail' for crias who are born on a cold, wet day or who are a little weak and slow: 20ml of yogurt (I use Jalna brand - a natural cultured yogurt); 20ml of water and 4ml of Vytrate (an electrolyte liquid).**

---

I have also milked females laying on their sides. This should never be attempted by one person.

Two people can gently lay an alpaca down and hold her with a third person doing the milking.

If you put the alpaca in this position, it is worth trying the cria directly on the nipple from this more easily accessible angle. This may save you having to milk her.

Also, a cria which is too weak to

stand and nurse may be able to cope from this position.

To feed the cria, I use a 20ml syringe which has a small piece of plastic tube about two inches long on the end of it.

It is much better to have the tubing because the cria's mouth then doesn't have to be opened very wide, it can just be slipped in at one side.

I automatically give a "cria cocktail" to any crias who are born on a cold, wet day or who are a little weak and slow.

I do this before they have a drink from the female and I've really found it helpful in motivating and energising them to persist with the milk search.

I don't give them enough to fill them up so it gives them a taste of what they're after.

The "cria cocktail" is made up of:

- 20ml of yogurt (I use Jalna brand as it is a natural cultured yogurt available at most supermarkets);
- 20ml of water and
- 4ml of Vytrate (an electrolyte liquid which is very useful to have on

standby - it's available from vets and produce stores).

I mix and gently warm this combination to blood temperature.

To feed the cria, I fold it to a sitting position and kneel astride it.

Tilt its head back a little and point the syringe in the side of the mouth pointing towards the left side (and therefore my left) of the cria's throat.

I squeeze the syringe slowly, never flooding and only going at the speed at which the cria will swallow.

If the weather is very severe, we bring mother and cria into a shed. It's important to give the female some feed and water, as she will be thirsty.

Generally females don't like being away from the others so if it's not too high a chill factor and they are in a sheltered paddock, I put a waterproof, lightweight dog coat on the cria for the first day or two.

I always towel the cria dry before putting the coat on.



**Bonding between mother and cria is important.**



# Our Miracle Millie is back on her feet

**Carolyn Jinks, from Benleigh Alpaca Stud, Moolap, reports on Miracle Millie's progress after a shaky entry into the world.**

**T**he first issue of 'Alpacas Australia' included a photograph and story about Miracle Millie, a cria whose leg was broken when she was born.

In an operation when the cria was just 24 hours old, Dr Ewen McMillan from the Bellarine Veterinary Practice inserted a pin in her leg.

When Millie was about four weeks old, the pin worked its way through the skin and had to be removed. Unfortunately, a severe infection set in.

Antibiotics and cleansing were insufficient and again Millie had surgery to place a drain in her thigh.

The youngster became extremely

weak and required tubal feeding. She lost all muscle tone in her legs and lay on a mini trampoline loaned by our excellent vet to counteract pressure points.

As she was deteriorating, we decided on a program of "alpaca physiotherapy".

Millie was suspended from a tree in a sling/hammock for up to two hours at a time to bring the circulation to her feet and legs.

After laying her on the ground I spent time circling her floppy legs as if she was running. The joy when I first felt resistance and pressure against me can hardly be explained.

Gradually muscle tone has improved and although further surgery may be needed for a loose knee cap caused by excess pressure on her good leg, she is now able to walk well and even tries to run.

As a result of so much handling Millie is convinced humans are wonderful and "kisses" all who bend to touch her.

Our little Miracle Millie is a great ambassador for alpacas.



**Millie in her makeshift sling.**

## Premature cria

Premature cria come into a totally different category of care and veterinary assistance should be called in.

It is not possible to judge prematurity purely by the gestation period as there is at least a 30 day variance in individual animals' gestation times.

A premature cria is usually slow, listless and weak and unable to stand within an hour or to hold its head up to nurse.

It will be small and light and tend to look under-developed.

Other signs to look for are:

- Bottom teeth: In most cria the teeth are just erupting through the gums at birth. Premature cria will have no teeth through; and

- Floppy ears, although on its own (as with any other symptom) this does not necessarily mean prematurity.

The cria must be evaluated according to its overall demeanour and attitude. A healthy cria will be alert and attempt (although not necessarily succeed) to stand pretty soon after birth.

If a cria is just a little premature, as long as it is kept warm and given its mother's milk until it can drink itself, it will usually be fine.

An alpaca cria has a lot of surface area and can lose body heat quickly. To keep a premature cria warm on a cold day, we put mother and baby in a shed.

Put a dog coat on the cria and a thick, woollen sock with the toe cut off on its neck then wrap it in a small electric blanket.

It is important to monitor a premature cria's body temperature. It should range between 37.5 and 38.9°C (99.5-102°F).

A premature cria's breathing can sometimes sound wheezy. Holding it by the back legs and gently but firmly swing it in a pendulum can clear its lungs.

A severely premature cria may need oxygen to get its breathing started. Again this is a vet's job.

Severe prematurity can be very serious. The cria may need help breathing and may need to be tube fed. There are differing opinions on tube feeding a cria. Some people attempt





To syringe feed, fold the cria into a sitting position and straddle it. Squeeze the syringe slowly, making sure the cria is swallowing comfortably.

it themselves, but I have known of grave problems caused by inexperienced people attempting to stomach tube a cria.

Personally I would give the job to a vet, or at least have the vet teach you what to do.

### Small amounts, often

Small amounts and often are the key if you are feeding a cria.

For the first day I milk the female every two hours during the day and give it to the cria. A cria should consume 10% of its bodyweight daily for the first couple of months. This means about 500-600ml a day for the first few days.

Starting early and finishing late, we give about eight feeds a day of about 70ml each. This may not always be fully supplied by the female so sometimes I have to supplement it with three parts goat's milk and one part yogurt.

If you have to supplementary feed the cria, goat's milk is more compatible to their natural milk than cow's milk. Be sure that your supply is clean and has been collected hygienically.

Also, boil the feeding syringes regularly.

If the supplementary feeding is going to be short term, I use a syringe rather than a bottle. I find that once a cria is bottle fed, it is very difficult to get it to suck from its mother.

A syringe is much more impersonal and does not discourage the cria from seeking to suckle its mother when strong enough.

It is also important to resist the temptation to overpet and handle the cria at this young age.

You may be the milk supplier, but if you let the cria bond to you instead

of its mother, you have created a long term problem and have lessened its chances of a normal healthy life with its mother.

If you are ever in any doubt about birthing or care of a cria, consult your vet and experienced breeders for advice.

Like all animals, alpacas can have health problems but in comparison to other farm animals, they are tough, hardy and marvellous at making their way into the world and surviving the initial growth phase.



## PUCARA ALPACA STUD

Introducing part of our foundation stock with many thanks to:-

- Alan and Carolyn Jinks - Benleigh
- Roger and Clyde Haldane - Purumbete
- Cherie Bridges - Coliban Valley

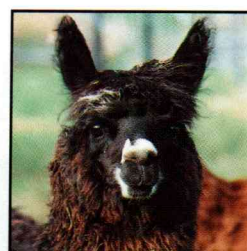
We are dedicated to quality and because we are small, we are committed to detail. Pregnant females for sale.

All enquiries or visits by appointment are welcome.

**Jude Anderson**  
**Alan Cousill**  
**Phone (052)613058**  
**Fax (052)615133**  
**Mobile (018)522231**



"Watson"



"Spiros"

"Roxy"





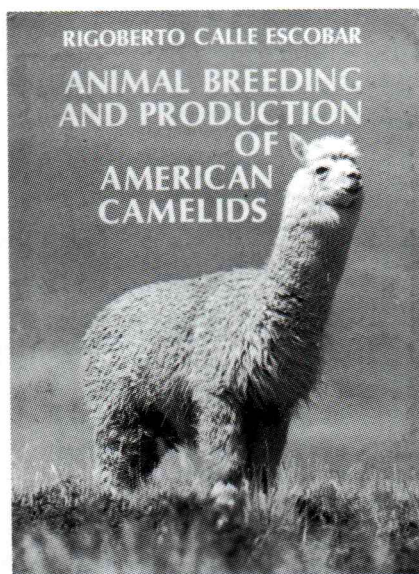
## Book Review

By Alan Hamilton

# Handy hints from the home of alpacas

## Animal Breeding and Production of American Camelids

By Rigoberto Calle Escobar



This is a comprehensive, easy-to-read book covering most aspects of commercial alpaca farming and management from a

Peruvian perspective. The author was professor of sheep husbandry at the Peruvian National Agricultural University and has had practical experience with alpacas on the Peruvian altiplano since the 1960s.

Escobar covers the history of alpacas from ancient times to their being forced higher into the Andean altiplano regions during the Spanish conquest to make way for European livestock. His comments on the reduced fleece weights and density under these conditions augers well for improvement under Australian conditions. He cites research findings that show fleece weights can be more than doubled with better nutrition and a higher level of management.

In Peru, 85% of the farmed alpacas are owned by peasant farmers who use few, if any, modern management skills. In most cases the alpacas are shorn with a piece of broken glass, a lid from a sardine can or at best a knife. A set of shears is a rare luxury.

Little or no parasite control is practised and in most cases breeding is uncontrolled. It is the poor management of the bulk of the Peruvian herd that Escobar was trying to improve by writing this book. In doing so he has provided alpaca breeders worldwide with a practical and understandable book that, with a few exceptions, can be applied to Australian conditions.

The one obvious exception is made during comments under the heading 'Attempts to climatise Aquiendox (camelids) in foreign countries'. Escobar suggests that prior attempts to acclimatise alpacas overseas have failed due to their unsuitability.

He mentions an attempt to establish alpacas in Australia during the 1850s. It is not known why this attempt failed but obviously alpacas are well established here today.

In suggesting that alpacas will not thrive except under South American conditions, I believe Escobar is merely being patriotic. Both the Peruvians and Bolivians have always jealously guarded their industries.

Evidence shows that alpacas actually improve under better management in North America, Australia and New Zealand. However, this is a small diversion and in no way detracts from this excellent book.

'Animal Breeding and Production of American Camelids' covers all major areas of breeding and management, including mating, parturition (birthing), fleece characteristics and an excellent illustrated section on telling the age of alpacas by their teeth.

A large section on genetics covers many interesting points such as heritability and selection of white alpacas.

It is said that up until 1970 white alpaca wool commanded three to four times the price of a coloured fleece. More recently, with the emergence of a strong world-wide market for natural fibres, preferably undyed, this gap has closed to the extent that black and fawn coloured alpaca wools actually command higher prices than white. Up to 90% of all 'vicuna' fibre sold in the world is actually fawn coloured alpaca.

## Feed requirements

A chapter on feeding discusses the alpaca's ability to make better use of roughage than other livestock due to their greater digestive capacity.

A series of charts sets out the native pasture species of the altiplano and their protein and mineral levels. Pasture protein levels average only 4% in the winter and 7% in the summer which is low when compared to Australian improved pasture.

While the alpacas' protein requirements may be low, they have a high requirement for some minerals. Breeders should make inquiries in their local area as to the likely need for mineral supplements.

Escobar's book is full of facts to help the alpaca breeder with day to day management. This book can be read two or three times and the reader will absorb new information with each reading. It is a must for all alpaca breeders and those with an interest in the industry.

Copies are available from the association secretary, Dianne Condon. Telephone: (03) 730 1399.



---

## AAA notes

### From Dianne Condon

---

#### Pedigree registration

The final stage of the implementation of pedigree registration for alpacas has been completed.

The International Alpaca Register, Armidale, NSW, has mailed the following package to all AAA members who have registered their herd prefix. The package includes:

- Colour chart
- Registration tags
- Improved tag clincher
- Forms for registering each alpaca

There has been an unfortunate delay in this last stage due to technical difficulties in producing an accurate colour chart. Finally this was carried out in a photographic laboratory.

Due to this delay, the cut-off date for Foundation Stock registrations has been extended to September 1.

After this date, no alpacas born in Australia can be registered unless they are the progeny of registered parents (either Foundation Stock or full pedigree).

The tags which each member will receive are numbered according to a reference to that member and cannot be used by anyone else.

If not used immediately the tags can be saved for future use.

The Member's Guide gives the contact numbers for the registrar, Carol Watson, or AAA vice president, Ken Allston, if any guidance is needed.

#### Gee-Pacas

Fifty-three enthusiastic owners from the Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula area got together in late May for an orientation day.

The group was interested in getting to know each other, swapping their knowledge and generating ideas to develop the industry.

The day included a spinning demonstration, plans to promote alpacas through the Geelong Show and ultrasound demonstrations from Dr Ewan McMillan from the Bellarine Animal Hospital. Dr McMillan had just returned from a US trip which included

*Dianne Condon is secretary of the Australian Alpaca Association and runs Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud at Yarra Glen, Victoria.*

*A touch of heaven in the Yarra Valley*



## Amberdale Alpacas



Skye Road, Coldstream, Victoria 3770

- ☐ Only 55km east of the centre of Melbourne, in one of the most picturesque valleys in Australia.
- ☐ We aim to produce speciality fibre from high quality breeding stock.
- ☐ Outstanding stud males available.

*"I may be small - but I  
have a great future."*

Jenny and Gray Morgan (059) 62 5352. Fax (03) 720 7110.



# Introduction to alpaca fibre

The Alpaca Association of Australia, in conjunction with the Melbourne College of Textiles, is willing to conduct a number of training course as an introduction to alpaca fibre.

To help us design the course content and conduct the courses in the most suitable locations, please take a few minutes to answer the following questionnaire and return it to: Gray Morgan, PO Box 25, Coldstream, Victoria 3770.

## Location (tick one)

- |   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Adelaide                                 | 2. Brisbane | 3. Canberra |
| 4. Melbourne                                | 5. Perth    | 6. Sydney   |
| 7. Other district location (please specify) |             |             |
- .....

## Fibre knowledge

On the scale of 1 to 10, please mark your fibre knowledge

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Low									High
Alpacas first			Have spun fibre			Have attended			
fibre animal			Have owned other			formal fibre			
owned			fibre producing animals			courses or classed			
						other protein fibres			

## Course duration

The course will consist of theory and practice.

Would you prefer:

1. Friday evening/Saturday with a 4pm finish
2. Saturday and Sunday

## Course timing

We will probably run courses late in the year.

Would you prefer:

1. October
2. November
3. December (early)

## Any other comments:

.....  
.....

**Thank you for your time.**

three days' work with well-known camelid vet LaRue Johnson.

The group decided to make the meetings a regular event. Anyone interested in attending can contact Alan Cousell on (052) 61 3058, fax (052) 61 5133.

## Armistide Wool Expo

Alpacas attracted a huge crowd at a recent three-day wool expo held at Armistide, NSW.

In what is basically a wool-oriented area, the farmers were intrigued by the alpacas and showed serious interest in breeding them.

## Royal Sydney Show

As reported elsewhere in the magazine (pages 5-6), alpacas were shown for the first time at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney this year and proved to be a great success.

Our appreciation must go to Wendy Billington and Phillip Steet for their grand efforts in organising this successful event.

The judge, Margaret Piccolli, was particularly impressed with the animals' quality.

Next year, we hope for an even bigger and better turnout and encourage all breeders to have a go at showing.

## Fibre school

The Melbourne College of Textiles and the AAA are planning a two-day fibre training course.

This will be most beneficial for those who own alpacas but have had little experience with fibre.

We ask all breeders to answer the questionnaire on this page and return it as soon as possible to enable the college to arrange the courses. We suggest that if you would prefer not to cut anything out of your magazine, a photocopy of the questionnaire would enable you to keep a complete copy of this edition.

The committee has also agreed to help fund a post-graduate course with the Textile Fibre and Research Institute for three years.

Dr Leeder, the research institute's chief scientist, spoke to the committee with great enthusiasm. He said



he believed this study would be the first in the world. The research will look at the fibre's properties and the second part of the study would look at processing and fibre development e.g. wringable properties, shrinkage and what ratio to use for blends.

See page 32 for more details on this research.

We are very fortunate to have these top scientists in their field to do research for us on this precious fibre.

### Melbourne Sheep Show

Alpacas will be judged for the first time at the Melbourne Sheep Show this year.

Kelvin Maude has been asked to judge the classes and it is hoped all members will support the exhibitors on judging day, Sunday, July 19, at 10.30am.

Our promotional stand will be operation from Saturday, July 18, to Monday, July 20.

For details, phone Dianne Condon on (03) 730 1399.

### Melbourne Royal Show

Alpacas will be shown again in September at the Melbourne Royal. This year a fleece class has been added for those who are interested in entering their fibre.

Catalogues for the Royal are now out and can be obtained by phoning the Melbourne Showgrounds on (03) 376 3733.



The AAA is supporting research on alpaca fibre.

### Stud Services - Exceptional White Sire

#### Coliban Valley Umberto



**U**mberto has a rare and much sought after combination of white fleece with dark eyes. He is exceptional as a dark-eyed white in that he has a complete absence of dark hairs. His coverage is uniformly dense and his fleece superbly fine and soft handling. His conformation is true and compact. His nature is quiet and gentle. He is not alone: also standing at stud are five other superb males - light fawn, black, brown, silver grey and rose grey.

Service fee \$1000 with live birth guarantee

**Contact: Cherie Bridges,  
Coliban Valley Alpaca Stud  
Phone: (053) 48 7744 Fax (053) 48 7754**

## ALPACA INSURANCE SO RING ROWNTREE

Toll free: (008) 251 900  
Business: (02) 363 5814  
Home: (02) 363 4762  
Fax: (02) 362 4039



**David Rowntree  
Livestock Insurance  
Brokers Pty Ltd**

Member: NIBA



# Alpaca farming - the American way

Alpaca breeder Anthony Stachowski talks with 'Alpacas Australia' about the industry in the United States.

**H**ow long has the US alpaca market been established?  
Before 1984 there were only a handful of alpacas in the US, so the industry's been going eight years. Two importations started the alpaca "market" in 1984. There were subsequent importations in 1987 and 1989.

**How many alpacas are there in the US?**

At the moment, there are about 3000 alpacas here.

**What type of people own alpacas?**

The typical alpaca owner is a "gentleman farmer". By this I mean that he/she usually has some other full-

time employment from which he/she makes a primary living.

Alpaca owners typically keep their animals on property surrounding their residence, generally smaller acreages in more suburban than rural locations.

They have usually owned other types of livestock but find alpacas are easier to handle and maintain.

People are buying alpacas both as an investment and as livestock that can be enjoyed by all members of their family.

**What is the average herd size?**

I would guess that the average herd is around 12-15 animals. The "typical herd" is smaller, probably less than eight animals.

**Is there a American alpaca fibre industry?**

There are 4-5 wool mills presently processing alpaca fibre for resale. This resale is primarily to "cottage" industries such as home spinners who are looking for fibre with high lustre, long staple length and nice handle and who are demanding a variety of natural colours.

**Do many people show there animals?**

No, but the shows are gaining popularity.

The AOBA alpaca show committee established guidelines to judge and show animals in conjunction with ALSA about two years ago. Since then there has been a steady growth of regional shows, normally in conjunction with llama shows, displaying alpacas in halter.

The classes are divided into



Anthony Stachowski and Mary Reid on a recent Australian visit.

*Anthony Stachowski is a breeder and marketer of alpacas in the US. He holds the US\$70,000 record for the top-selling female alpaca, SA China Doll.*

*Anthony is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and runs a vet practice specialising in camelids. He also owns alpacas in Australia and was a speaker at the AAA's first seminar.*



eight basic colours. Classes are combined into light and dark colours when entries are limited in number.

This allows the spectator and exhibitor to appreciate the "blue ribbon" colours.

#### **How do you promote and sell your alpacas?**

We sell our alpacas by private treaty. Sales are off the farm, selling weanling and yearling pairs. This allows the buyer, because the sale is negotiated at the farm, to see the sire and dam of the animal they are buying and to become familiar with different genealogical lines of alpacas.

My sales promotion, up until the past 18 months, has been through word of mouth. I promoted my animals by buying and breeding top quality alpacas.

The animals sell themselves.

Recently, I've extended my promotion to advertising in llama publications and 'Alpacas' magazine.

Before advertising in the magazines, I promoted my animals at camelid conferences by exhibiting the animals themselves or their photographs in a farm display.

#### **Do you halter train all your animals?**

No. We sell breeding stock and as a rule these animals are not halter trained. But, we find that in a matter of 2-3 lessons, most alpacas can be halter trained.

We certainly enjoy doing this and do train our animals that are used in farm displays at camelid conferences and shows.

#### **How often do you shear your animals?**

We shear our production (breeding) stock every year to year-and-a-half. We find alpacas to be healthier animals when routinely shorn. We have less stress and fewer neonatal problems.

We also shear them to sell the fibre to offset our feed and maintenance costs.

Young stock may be left unshorn for as long as 2-2 1/2 years because they are being promoted or shown.

#### **What qualities do you aim for in your breeding program?**

We judge our alpacas 50% on fibre quality, 40% on conformation and 10% on alpaca Huacaya type.

We are looking for fine micron, evenly placed fibre on the head, neck, body and legs. We are also looking for density - such that the fibre grows out from the body rather than hanging straight down - and crimp.

#### **Are any colours more popular than others?**

No. In the US the colours are equal in popularity. This is because all colours are shown in separate halter classes and fibre is sought in a variety of natural colours for handspun garments.

#### **Why do you also run alpacas in Australia?**

I own alpacas in Australia and the US because of the excellent investment potential in both countries. The land and climate in Australia is conducive to breeding and raising alpacas.

## **Are you serious about alpaca breeding?**

Alpaca buyers will demand a standard:

- ✓ Proof of age
- ✓ Positive identification
- ✓ Pedigree Registration Certificates of reliable breeding records
- ✓ Commitment to your breeding business

### **Don't miss out**

Until **September 1, 1992**, Foundation Period open to all alpacas. All breeders have the opportunity NOW to register their animals.

After **September 1**, only new born progeny of Foundation alpacas can be registered

**Registration adds value to your whole breeding operation**

Your investment in registration of your alpacas is just \$15 per animal

**For details of registration see your AAA Regulations or phone today: Carol Watson (067) 73 3357  
Australian Alpaca Association**

## **Standing at stud 1992**

### **Carwidya Silver Power**

(formerly Benleigh Silver Power)

- |   |                                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| ❖ | <b>Superb conformation</b>          | ❖ |
| ❖ | <b>Beautiful silver-grey fleece</b> | ❖ |
| ❖ | <b>Inspection invited</b>           | ❖ |
| ❖ | <b>Sired cria in New Zealand</b>    | ❖ |

**Age: 5 years**

**Tag: 159**

**Born: Chile**

**Service fee: \$1000  
Live cria or free return**

**Inquiries: Pauline Cowell  
Carwidya Alpaca Stud  
Four Mile Road  
Caramut, 3274 Vic  
Phone: (055) 99 8285 Fax: (055) 99 8309**



# Investigating the future for alpaca fibre

Ken Allston, chairman of the association's fibre sub-committee, reports on the projects which will help ensure that we can make the most of market opportunities for alpaca fibre.



*Ken Allston is vice president of the Australian Alpaca Association. His Inca Alpaca Stud is at Launching Place, Victoria.*

After the successful design and implementation of pedigree registration with the Agricultural Business Research Institute at the University of New England, the AAA's next technical project is a wide-ranging study of alpaca fleece from growth on the animal to its eventual market.

The fibre sub-committee is undertaking this task and will report to the executive committee.

A varied range of talents, including research and managerial skills, have been recruited to the committee. The members include:

- a major breeder with a reputation for quality breeding;
- a major breeder already associated with alpaca garment manufacture;
- a breeder with a long association with a variety of animal fibre products;
- an international marketer of fibre and fashion garment products; and

- a 'hands-on' spinner and weaver.

Much has been written about the amazing qualities of alpaca fibre, which is said to be the second most superior fibre in the world after vicuna. However, in the hard world of business, it is vital to separate myth from reality.

The immediate task ahead, therefore, is to determine scientifically the true qualities of alpaca fibre and so determine its technical 'edge' over competing luxury fibres.

## Defining the market

Once this 'edge' is known, it should be clearer as to which final product and market alpaca fibre should be aimed.

The first major breakthrough has been to attract the interest of Dr John Leeder, chief scientist at the Textile and Fibre Research Institute. This institute has been set up as a joint organisation of the Melbourne College of Textiles and La Trobe Uni-

*'Australia's Finest'*



Australia's Finest

- ☆ Premium quality stud animals available for purchase
- ☆ Breeding exclusively for low micron, correct conformation and maximum coverage
- ☆ 2 dual registered stud males open for service, both exhibiting outstanding conformation coupled with phenomenal fleece density.

### STONEWALL

Pure Black  
Reg ILR & IAR  
Stud fee: \$1500  
Gtd PPT

### SAN ANTONIO

Steel Grey  
Reg ILR & IAR  
Stud Fee \$1500  
Gtd PPT

**Contact: Andrew & Karen Caldwell,**

**Wyona Alpaca Stud, Thuddungra, NSW 2594. Ph/fax (063) 83 3531**



versity to carry out high technology research to benefit the Australian textile, clothing and footwear industries. In its field, the institute is a world leader.

The growth, production and marketing of alpaca fibre is seen by the institute as an exciting possibility for the development of a new industry to benefit Australia.

Dr Leeder has enlisted Dr Ian Stapleton, who has recently completed some 35 years of service with the CSIRO, to carry out the first AAA alpaca fibre study.

Initially this study will review every item of professional research that has been carried out in the world on alpaca fibre. This will be the basis for determining the fibre's true qualities.

A second project which the institute is expected to undertake is the actual means of conversion of the raw fleece to a usable commodity.

## Other projects

Side by side with this mainstream research by the institute are individual investigations and actions by committee members.

These include:

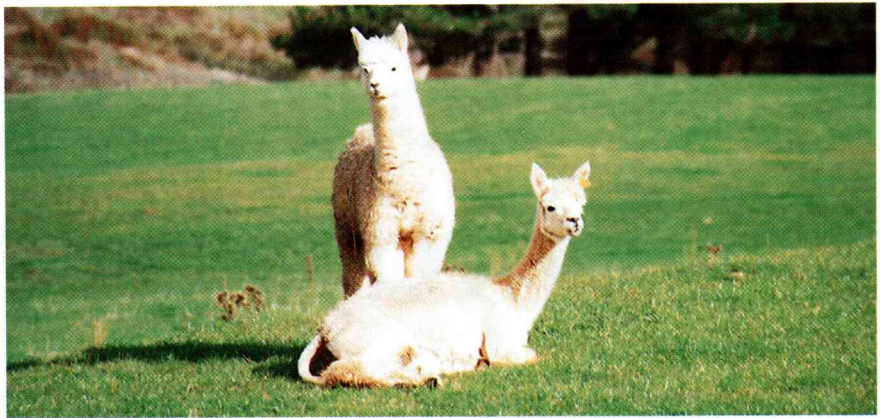
- Setting up training courses in conjunction with the Melbourne College of Textiles for members who are not knowledgeable in fibre, fibre measurement and appraisal, fleece preparation, shearing and associated procedures;
- Developing the spinners and weavers market as an initial outlet for alpaca fleeces;
- Studying the technical requirements of overseas and Australian mills where alpaca fibre is already being processed; and
- Processing codes of practice.

Ultimately, it is almost certain that attention will need to be given to genetic control to ensure the production of quality fleeces.

Initial investigations overseas already show that mills are having problems obtaining a consistent quality of alpaca fibre.

The whole is a substantial study which requires very thorough step-by-step progress.

There is no quick fix, but we're getting there.



Australian researchers are turning their attention to alpaca fibre.

# *The Second* ALPACA CLASSIC *Auction*

*The Alpaca Classic is an auction of top animals selected from the herds of Australia's leading breeders. On offer are adult males and females and weanling cria of both sexes. It is rare to find on sale, a collection of animals of this quality. Entry to the Classic has been strictly limited to Alpacas meeting the most rigorous specifications. Consolidation of the breed demands nothing less. For the buyer intent on introducing quality bloodlines, lifting herd quality or entering the Alpaca industry at the top level the Classic is a sale not to be missed.*

Send \$5.00 for full colour souvenir sale catalogue.



For further information and catalogues please contact:

Andrew Sloan on (03) 616 6700 or send completed application form with cheque or money order payable to Dalgety Farmers for \$5.00 to: Andrew Sloan, Dalgety Farmers, G.P.O. Box 260C, Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

Name .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Phone ..... Facsimile .....

**Dalgety Farmers**  **GN STUD STOCK**  
GIPPSLAND & NORTHERN



# The grass isn't always greener

To raise healthy alpacas you need to keep a weather eye out for mineral deficiencies. Pat Coleby looks at what's involved and how to give nature a helping hand to provide the right balance of essential nutrients.

*Pat Coleby, from Thoona in northern Victoria, has spent many years consulting on natural animal care and organic farming methods across Australia and overseas. She has written a number of books on these topics.*

**A**lpacas are tough and hardy in their native countries. So are feral goats. The latter die with disconcerting swiftness when brought into the farm situation where they have to eat what we supply rather than what they know they need.

Neither goats nor alpacas will bear out their reputation for hardiness if they are starved of essential nutrients in their diet.

## Analysing soils

I hope alpaca farmers have taken the trouble to have their soils analysed. If so, they will have a document showing the amounts of lime minerals (calcium and magnesium) and the levels of trace minerals, except selenium which is rather expensive to monitor.

The important ones are zinc, copper, cobalt, boron, iron, sodium and sulphur.

Iodine is not a mineral and cannot be shown by analysis, but it is largely lacking throughout Australia.

There are several other levels shown, but for the average farmer the pH (acid/alkaline balance) and organic matter are the two most important figures.

Neutral pH is 7 and the range goes from 1.0 (totally acidic) to 14.0 (totally alkaline). Between 6.0 and 6.5 is ideal; more usual is anything from 4.0 to 7.5-8. (The latter range is very rare in this country but common in the United States).

Applications of lime minerals will raise the pH according to the soil structure and health.

Moving from a level of 4.0 to 5.0

takes a year or so if the top-dressing is adequate; going from 5.0 to 6.0-6.5 takes two to three years.

## Organic matter

A farm with good organic matter (between 7.0 and 11.0%) will be much healthier than a farm with organic matter in the range of about 2.

Analyses from two alpaca farms, one with 6.5 and the other with 2.2 organic matter and exactly the same range of other mineral deficiencies, showed animals with widely divergent health status.

The higher organic matter farm had no problems - yet (they would take a couple of years to show up).

The lower organic matter property was having problems right from the start.

## Trace minerals and low pH

When the soil is acidic it is a waste of time and money to top-dress with missing trace minerals. They will be sulphated and washed out with the next rainstorm.

No-one told us this originally and I could not understand why the stock were still showing deficiency signs when the appropriate minerals had been spread.

The interesting part comes two or three years down the track when the pH is rising, due to the top-dressing with lime minerals. One finds that some of the trace minerals are becoming available again.

## Dolomite

Dolomite is composed of calcium and magnesium in varying ratios,



according to the mine of origin. Calcium is always slightly higher than magnesium. If the reverse is true, the product is called magnesite.

These two minerals must be kept in balance with the calcium lightly higher.

An excess of one will lower the other and the range of diseases caused by the lack of either or both minerals covers a very wide field.

A deficiency also affects the quantity and quality of the pasture. Coarse hairy grasses of little nutritive value abound when they - and the pH - are low.

As the soil's health is brought up, the better, hard-stemmed and more nutritious grasses reappear, as do legumes such as lotus major and different clovers.

This may sound far fetched but I have seen it happen on a number of farms besides my own. The reason is obviously that these better plants will only grow if the soil is good enough.

## Gypsum

Gypsum (calcium sulphate) is another very important mineral that seems to be low in most farms.

A lack of sulphur affects the growth as well as the alpaca's ability to utilise feed. It will also show up with

outbreaks of lice and other external parasites. Gypsum can be mixed with dolomite or lime for top-dressing by most contractors.

## Lime

When magnesium levels are very high, as happens occasionally just north of the Victorian-NSW border, agricultural lime (calcium carbonate) will be used for top-dressing.

This helps bring the magnesium back to the correct ratio.

## Supplementary feeding

Feeding alpacas while these important lime minerals are low is a matter of putting dolomite (usually) through the feed.

Some people tell me alpacas take licks, other says they do not. I guess it comes back to how desperate the animals are for the minerals.

Hand feeding, even if only once or twice a week is an excellent way of ensuring that the alpacas are receiving everything they need.

Ordinary dolomite that has been screened so that there are no lumps can be added to feed quite effectively. The feed will need some sort of dampening so that the dolomite is not left at the bottom of the feeder.

A teaspoon of dolomite per head per day will make up for shortfalls in the pasture and the feed.

These days all feed, whether supplements are added or not, should be dampened. The dust factor, a result of modern farming practices, is a fact of life and must be dealt with.

Cattle herds in the US have suffered irreparable lung damage from dust in feed and the principle applies to any stock.

If feed is excessively dusty, it may have been mouldy and is best sent back to the supplier.

Mouldy feed can cause serious vitamin B1 (thiamine) deficiencies, resulting in illness and death.

## Sulphur

Sulphur can be added to the diet as suggested above. A dessertspoon per week per head should be enough unless there is a lice problem, in which case the does should be doubled.

Ordinary yellow sulphur is best used. These days it's called atomic sulphur. It used to be named flowers of sulphur.

## Seaweed products

Seaweed products in some form, either liquid or powder, will supply most of the other trace minerals, including selenium and iodine. Make sure the brand you use does not contain urea which is not suitable for feeding to stock.

Maxicrop's large containers (20 litres), Natrakelp and Kelp Commodities seaweed meal are all suitable. Five or six millilitres or a tablespoon of the powder per head per week would be a fairly good maintenance ration.

## Iron

Australia is largely volcanic in origin and high iron is often the norm. In spite of this, debilitating anaemia, which can be caused - but not always - by bloodsucking worms, is a very common complaint.

One farm we lived on had 1600 times more iron than required but virtually no copper.


The dairy herd of goats was trying



**No animal will be completely healthy if starved of essential nutrients.**



# Alpaca Business Directory



**ALPACOS**  
**A R K**  
**Young**

P/L

Peter and Leni  
van Bruinessen  
Bourkes Lane  
Ph: (063) 82 3421

Breeding for fine,  
lighter coloured  
alpacas

Visitors welcome

PO Box 654,  
Young, 2594 NSW

## Are you sure you're buying the right alpaca?



We give you totally impartial advice and recommendations to help you buy the right animal.

Contact: Jill & Kelvin Maude

RMB 2305, Tatura

Victoria, 3616, Australia

Telephone & Facsimile (058) 29 0133

● BREEDING ● MANAGEMENT ● SHEARING ● CONSULTING ●

*Victorian breeders note !*

*We have U.S. buyers  
interested in purchas-  
ing quality weanlings  
and breeding females*



LIVESTOCK AGENTS

Enq: Ph/Fax (03) 690 2785

## Alawah Alpacas

**Breeding for excellence**



Chris & Graham Greig  
Sutton, NSW

Ph : (06) 230 3459

Fax: (06) 230 3567

## LONE TREE ALPACA STUD

Now standing Royal Show Reserve Champion

**RED BARON**

Service Fee: \$1500

Also **GREY MIST**

at \$1000

Gus & Susan Kacinskas

Rockbank

Phone: (03) 747 1328



Truleen Downs  
**ALPACA FARM**



- SALES & STUD SERVICE
- LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT
- MANAGEMENT
- AGISTMENT

Enq: Colleen or Trudy

Phone: (03) 796 8816

Fax: (03) 794 6828

Narre Warren North  
Victoria 3804



*Call* **Logans**

**for Alpaca insurance**

Ph: (02) 909 1499 Fax: (02) 909 8057

## Pure white male standing at stud

**Frosty** has dark eyes, no coloured fibres,  
quiet nature, dense fine fleece and very  
good confirmation.

Contact: Bill & Annette Robbins

Traron Alpacas

RMB 7062, Wodonga Vic 3691

Phone: (060) 725224

## THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU!

Only \$100, including production

-or-

as little as \$80 (per issue)  
for regular advertisers.

CONTACT: DAVID FALICK, INDIGO ARCH

PH: (03) 576 1275

FAX: (03) 576 1276



hard to die of anaemia after the first three months. This is because iron cannot be utilised in the absence of copper. I had to implement an on-going program copper supplementation to keep them alive.

### Other deficiencies

If there are serious shortfalls of any or some of the minerals I mentioned at the start, they may have to be fed on their own.

The suggestions in this article are broadly based and apply in most situations but great care must be taken in feeding minerals.

The saying that if a little is good, more must be better, does not apply. More could be lethal.

Iodine is one such substance. Dandruff, scurf and general below par ill health are the symptoms of a deficiency - but also of an excess.

If you buy an alpaca showing bad scurf, ask whether the previous owner was feeding iodine in some form, and if so how much.



Take great care with supplements. Overdosing could be lethal.

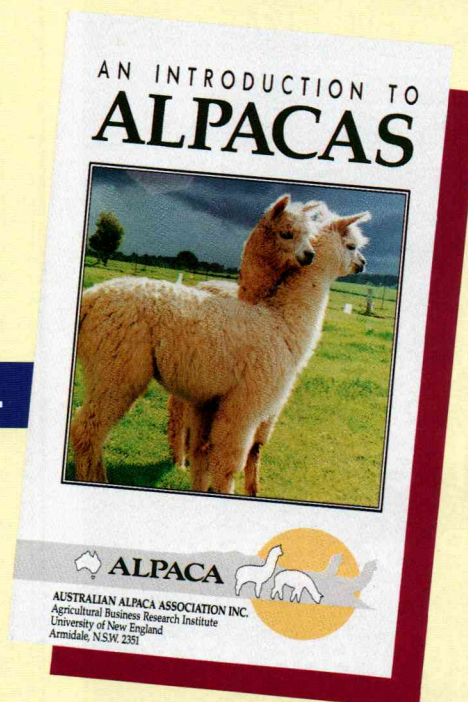
## ALPACAS IN YOUR LIVINGROOM

**'An Introduction to Alpacas' is an Australian-produced video which provides an attractive and concise overview of the history, management and pleasures of these delightful animals.**

**It's a video you'll play again and again.**

To order, send a cheque for \$39.95 + \$5 postage and packaging (total of \$44.95) made out to Australian Alpaca Association Inc. to:

**Australian Alpaca Association Inc.  
Australian Business Research Institute  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351**





# EVERY PICTURE SELLS A STORY

The secret to superb animal portraits lies in long experience, great patience and a thorough knowledge of your subject.

Ken Irwin has many years experience photographing livestock.

No photographer in Australia has had greater experience among alpacas. Ken's work is published around the world.

When you want photographs to tell the full story contact:

**Ken Irwin**  
**Photographer**  
**(03) 866 4396**

## Coming Events

**July 17-18:**

**Field days**

**Mudgee Small Farm Field Days.** Several alpaca breeders will have displays and the NSW Department of Agriculture will run demonstrations on basic management. Contact: Aloha Barnes (063) 58 8212.

**July 18-22:**

**Show**

**Melbourne Sheep Show.** Alpaca judging will be on Sunday, July 19, at 10am. Please come and support the exhibitors. The association will be operating a stand for the three days of the show. Contact: Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399.

**July 26:**

**Open Day**

**Open day at Cedar House Alpacas,** Sydney's only alpaca stud. Come along and see demonstration of handling and husbandry. Bring a barbecue lunch and have a picnic. Contact: Wendy Billington (02) 656 1551.

**August 8-9:**

**Craft**

**Woolly weekend** at Mt Pleasant Showgrounds, SA. Craft dyeing and designer knitwear. Contact: Lyn Shepherd (085) 24 6150.

**August 9:**

**AAA Meeting**

**Australian Alpaca Association** annual general meeting at the Commercial Club in Albury. Contact: Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399.

**September 4-12:**

**Show**

**Royal Adelaide Show:** Alpaca display and promotional stand in operation. Contact: Lyn Shepherd (085) 24 6150 or Sally McKye (082) 80 7036.

**September 18-25:**

**Show**

**Royal Melbourne Show.** Alpacas will be judged under lights on the Saturday evening, September 19, in the Federation Insurance Ring in the Meaklim Sheep Pavilion. Fleeces and promotional material on display. Contact: Dianne Condon (03) 730 1399. Entry forms are now out and can be obtained from the Melbourne Showgrounds (03) 376 3733.



# GLENWOOD.

## ALPACA STUD



Phone  
(054) 27-0500

Fax  
(054) 27-0685

Laurie & Sandra  
Harrison  
3 Chain Rd,  
Cobaw  
Victoria 3442

★ **RUFUS YOUNGBLOOD** ★  
*SERVICE FEE \$1000*

**RUFUS YOUNGBLOOD**  
has now established himself as a  
sire of the future. At the 1992 Royal Easter Show  
(Sydney) his first female Cria won her class  
(i.e female 6-12 months).

• *Please phone or fax for appointment* •

**THE WORLD'S FINEST LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT**



# **SURICAYA ALPACAS**

**EST. 1988**

**BREEDERS OF FINE AND SUPERFINE ALPACAS**

**SURICAYA  
PERUVIAN GOLD**



**SURICAYA  
SIMON BOLIVAR**



**SURICAYA  
BLACK PRINCE**



**SURICAYA FARMS A HERD OF MORE THAN 250 ALPACAS**

**Inquiries to: ALAN or PETER HAMILTON, PINE LODGE, TOCUMWAL, NSW. 2714**

**PH: (058) 832247**

**FAX: (058) 832137**