

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury - Blue Mountains region
of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd



Spits & Pieces



Volume 15 : Issue 2

Winter 2009



Want to break the drought? Shear in September!



Alleena Alpaca Stud

MN3 # NA080063 Q-Alpaca # 05/0045

Warralinga-Gorge SAMURAI

IAR 82089 Solid White Male

Samurai's breeding is impeccable with Championship winners in the lines of both his Sire and Dam. He carries fine, lustrous dense fleece with well defined crimp and lock structure. Samurai has correct conformation, solid bone, and an excellent temperament.

Samurai offers an exciting opportunity to access this proven gene pool.

3rd fleece – September 2008
20.2µ, SD 4.3, CV 21.2%, CF 97.7%, SF19.75µ

Sire: Jolimont Warrior

Grandsire: Jolimont Conquistador

Service Fee: \$990 (inc GST)
Drive Thru

\$550 remate offer if male cria results

Discounts for multiple matings

Sixty days free agistment is offered for females travelling long distances, (conditions apply).

Non-assessed and Q-Alpaca paddocks.



Check our web site for more information www.alleenaalpaca.com.au

Contact: Jeanne Tel: (02) 4576 3333 Mobile: 043 854 2697 Email: alleena@zeta.org.au

Alleena DA VINCI

IAR 81388, DOB 18/04/2006
Solid Light Fawn

Service Fee: \$880 (inc GST)
Drive Thru

\$440 remate offer if male cria results
Discounts for multiple matings

Sixty days free agistment is offered to females travelling long distances, (conditions apply).

Non-assessed and Q-Alpaca paddocks.



Da Vinci has been selectively line-bred to capture the superior qualities of Purrumbete El Dorado (deceased). Da Vinci is a well conformed young male with super-fine, heavy cutting, dense, soft handling fleece, great substance of bone and an excellent temperament.

Da Vincis's first cria due Spring 2009.

3rd fleece – September 2008
17.5µ, SD 3.3µ, CV 18.7%, SF16.7µ CF 100%

Da Vinci's show record to date:

- 1st Junior Light Fawn Male - 2007 Castle Hill
- 1st Adult Light Fawn Male - 2008 Camden Show
- 2nd Adult Light Fawn Male - 2008 Hawkesbury Show
- 1st Adult Light Fawn Male – 2008 Central Western Spring Show
- 1st Adult Light Fawn Male – 2008 Hawkesbury Spring Show
- 1st Adult Light Fawn Male – 2008 Central Coast/Hunter Spring Show
- 3rd Fleece 18-30mths L Fawn - 2009 Sydney Royal
- 1st Senior Light Fawn Male - 2009 Hawkesbury Show
- Reserve Champion Senior Male - 2009 Hawkesbury Show
- 1st Fleece 18-30mths Fawn - 2009 Hawkesbury Show

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AGM

The 2009 annual general meeting will be conducted prior to the meeting at Panthers (Richmond) on 14th August at 7.30pm for 8pm.

**Elections will be conducted for a number of positions.
Nominate early to avoid disappointment.
Contact the Secretary (9653 2277)**

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A huge "thank you" to all those who have willingly given their time for the benefit of the region.
Now is the time to do your bit by nominating to fill some of the vacancies listed on Page 15.

DISCLAIMER

The Editor and the Committee of the Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains Region of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd assume no responsibility whatsoever for accuracy of material in this magazine. Liability is not expressed, nor is it implied. Interested parties should make their own enquiries.

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Spits & Pieces

From The President's Desk

This year has been difficult due to the global recession and the alpaca industry in Australia has not been immune to these problems.

The AAA itself is feeling the effects of the downturn. As we have seen in our region, there have been breeders leaving the industry, and not as many new faces coming in. There is less money coming in from registrations and subscriptions, and the return on investments is down. The AAA council has recommended that a balanced budget be drawn up, so there will be a number of budget cuts.

One area will be a reduction in the capitation paid to regions for this year. What this means is that we as a region may not be able to fund so many events and that any event that we do run, we run at break-even or at a profit.

The AAA magazine has also had to be cut back. There will only be two issues this year and not the usual three. Lack of content as well as lack of advertising is cited as reasons for this cutback.

Also feeling the pinch is the National Conference of 2010, which has been cancelled.

Less money is also available for research. The AAA has been sponsoring Rural Industries Research and Development Council for many years, and RIRDC has been running research programs in alpaca-related areas of study. This funding is to be cut in this budget.

I am sure that everyone will now have seen the communication from AAFL which was sent regarding the fact that the company would not be buying any more fleece in the financial year to June. Demand for luxury goods is down as people are cutting back on spending. Alpaca garments fall into this class and so there is less of a market for the goods.

This sort of response has happened before, in other fleece industries such as merino sheep. When there is no demand for the product, the buyer will not accept any more fleece until the stockpile is reduced.

However, the announcement has led to some resentment and speculation about the future of the fibre industry. AAFL have acknowledged that the issue was not handled well and the timing of the release and the media coverage it generated could have been better.

AAFL have restated their commitment to the Australian Alpaca Association and to the growers. The board of AAFL will issue a statement some time in July or August as to the market for fleece for the

2009 shearing season. In the meantime the AAFL website will be updated to list other potential purchasers of fleece.

A date for your calendar - the National Show & Sale will come back to NSW in 2010, and will be held in Tamworth at the new Equine Centre on October 7-10.

The move to the use of NLIS is continuing and 1st July 2010 is still set as the date for compulsory tagging.

On a brighter note, May saw the first National Alpaca Week. This was well received throughout Australia, and a report appears on Page 13.

At the council meeting in Melbourne, the regions all voted for the National Alpaca Week to be repeated next year, and it will go ahead in May 2010.

We had a bit of a panic when Alpaca Week approached, as the first weekend coincided with the Hawkesbury Show. We expected the numbers to be down and as the deadline for the show approached, we were not wrong. In fact we were wondering whether the show would go ahead at all! But thanks to the last minute efforts of convenors Cheryl Kosaras and Clive Read we did get a respectable number of animals and fleeces, and had a great show.

Our other show at Castle Hill, in March was also a successful venture. This is always a smaller show, but is always well attended and this year was a good lead up to Alpaca Week as we were able to get the message out to the public of the Hills district. Thanks again to convenor Sue Maynard for putting on this show.

Thanks too to all those, too many to name, who gave up their time to set up, run vet checks, perform the marshalling, and all of the other tasks at the shows.

Once again, we are approaching the AGM and a number of the present committee will not be nominating for the next year due to personal commitments. So as usual, the call goes out once again for nominations. We need a minimum of three to a maximum of nine committee members. This is a great chance to become involved in the future of the alpaca industry and get to meet a lot of the people involved in the industry.

This year we also need a representative on the RAS committee as Jeanne Brown and Giovanna Whittick are retiring. The committee thanks both of these members for their work in the running of the Royal Easter Show over the past years.

Chris Taylor

Spits & Pieces

IntroducingFrankie & Michaela

There are an estimated 22,000 children over the age of eight who are classed as homeless in Australia. These are children who have lived through life's most damaging experiences through sexual, emotional or physical abuse. How do we get from this message to alpacas you ask?

Well here is how!

The most important lesson a child can learn is responsibility and when caring for another there comes a sense of accomplishment through nurturing.

This experience leads to such badly needed emotional healing. So for many months we toyed with ideas of horses, chickens and an extra large vegetable patch.



Frankie and I have been working for sometime on a concept to help and care for those children by providing the warmth, love and guidance so badly needed. We bought a large house on 5 acres (and lots of rooms) with a plan to start caring for as many children as we could cope with.

Another very important lesson is how to make and keep money, to become self sustaining and to know the importance of working hard and getting rewarded. This means that anything we do must result in a pay off or trade off which the children will get to keep. This will teach the value of money and that when you work hard, you are proud and you get rewarded.

Spits & Pieces

(Continued from page 6)

After visiting Gunnamatta during National Alpaca Week (and now you know where I'm leading with this) we fell in love with alpacas. The gentle nature, beauty and relative ease of care means alpacas are a perfect way for young at risk children to learn these important lessons and grow into healthy young adults.

After getting very excited, we booked ourselves into the New Breeders Seminar held in June. This was the best thing that we ever did as it gave us valuable lessons from experienced people who really know what they're doing. It also confirmed that alpaca farmers are really from all walks of life and you can do it. I am in IT and Frankie owns Next Generation for Hair at Castle Mall in Castle Hill (mention this article and receive \$10 off any service 9899 5988.)

We thoroughly enjoyed the two days. We found it enlightening and a really fantastic way to determine what direction we should go in and if alpacas are right for us.

WE ALSO GOT TO PLAY WITH THEM !

I am pleased to say it has strengthened our resolve and we are now determined to move forward into the industry. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have not stopped talking about it since, we are alpaca converts.

So ladies and gentlemen let me introduce -



Alpaca Industries

Here at  **Alpaca Industries** we aim to deliver the best quality services in animal husbandry, using the best quality products.

Our company will focus on becoming one of the leading shearers of choice in the Hawkesbury region, specialising in niche breeding and offering high quality agistment.

If you would like to know more or if you would like to lend a much needed hand, we'd be happy to hear from you. We can be contacted on alpacaindustries@hotmail.com

Remember, mention this article and receive \$10 off your next service at:

*Next Generation for Hair
Shop 120 Castle Mall,
Castle Hill NSW
(02) 9899 5988*

It's really handy to have not only a local new breeder willing to learn the art of shearing, but to have someone with a hairdressing background.

Boy, are the HBM members going to have well presented alpacas next year! Arrangements are being made to introduce Frankie to as many different styles of shearer as possible.

Delighted to have Frankie & Michaela onboard, and we wish them well with their quest to make life just a wee bit better for others.

In the Spring issue of this humble tome, we'll be introduced to "The Burns Mob."

Ed



Complete Herd Dispersal

Everything must go! A huge range:

- ◆ wethers
- ◆ five potential stud males
- ◆ 28 females – pregnant and open – from \$1,750

Some of Australia's best bloodlines

Whites and coloureds

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Males by Conquistador, Warrior, Mr Darcy & Yavari etc. Lease deals OK

Females by Conquistador, Warrior, El Dorado, Forestglen Maestro, Brigantine, Rasputin, Valentino, Inti, Ayaviri, Massimo, Escobar & Schubert Maestro etc

Covering sires include Warrior, WV Iceman, Schubert Maestro, Centurion, WV Samurai & Celtic Triumph etc

Close relatives of Forestglen Cavalier, Jolimont Warrior, Purrumbete Minty, Prestige Valentino, Regal House Mr Darcy, Purrumbete True Perfection, Cedar House Brave Heart, Benleigh Highland Lass, Purrumbete Sweet Freedom, Forestglen Pendragon, Blackgate Lodge Minka etc etc

- ◆ *Individual and package sales*
- ◆ *Substantial discounts for multiple/package purchases*
 - ◆ *All genuine offers considered*
 - ◆ *All males guaranteed certifiable*
- ◆ *All females offered with replacement guarantee*

All are MN2 or MN3 status.

MasterCard & Visa accepted (no fees)

Call Matt Ridley on 0427 498 497 for inspections (agisted in Hawkesbury, NSW region) or go to www:blaydonalpacas.com.au

Spits & Pieces

From The Editor

By all accounts the National Alpaca Week activities proved to be a great success with a number of new or prospective breeders taking the time to visit some of the 19 participating studs within the HBM region.

Reports from individual groups of studs appear on Page 13. The general consensus is that, even where visitors were perhaps fewer than anticipated, the “quality” made this a worthwhile exercise.

This has been reflected in the number of new members listed on Page 32 and the very successful New Breeders Seminar, reported on Page 30.

The question of whether the NAW becomes an annual event is largely in our hands.

All members are encouraged to provide feedback by completing the e-mail survey sent out by the AAA.

The 2009 Good Timing Award has to go to the board of AAFL.

You really have to hand it to them, waiting until the eve of the Royal Easter Show and a week out from National Alpaca Week to release the news relating to the current state of the alpaca fibre industry.

Your humble scribe spent a number of hours on the Information Stand at the RES dreading the anticipated grilling from either members of the public or, worse still, representatives of the Fourth Estate. Nice one!

Given that their television advert has basically “extracted the urine” from alpaca breeders, would it be timely for the AAA to invite CGU to sponsor a class in the National Show?

A recent visit to the barbers turned out to be an auspicious occasion for your humble scribe.

That the clippings appeared to be lighter in colour than on previous occasions I could put down to the effects of sunlight resulting from too many hours spent in the paddocks.

That the task took far less time than usual I could put down to the efficiency and skill of the man with the clippers.

But when I went to pay and was asked if I had a Seniors Card, the truth hit home.

With this in mind I’ve decided that it’s time to hand over the reins to a younger and more energetic editor before the need arises to increase the font size due to failing eyesight.

I’m delighted to announce that Fiona Maxwell has agreed to take up the challenge and will be taking over the helm immediately.

For me it’s been an enjoyable ten year stint, made all the more so by my interactions with the HBM membership and wider alpaca community.

To those that have willingly provided the much needed advertising dollars - thank you, we both know who you are.

To those that have willingly provided the much needed articles - thank you, we know who you both are.

To Sue for all her help with errant apostrophes - thank you, you can now look forward to reading Spits & Pieces without knowing what’s coming up on the next page.

To Fiona for enthusiastically taking on the challenge - thank you, I hope you enjoy the journey.

Spits & Pieces

National Council Meeting - May 2009

by
Chris Taylor

AAFL:

Response to AAFL announcement - AAFL admit that the e-blast sent was badly handled. This is a *temporary* suspension of purchase, something that has occurred many times in the merino industry. AAFL is committed by its constitution to supporting the Australian Alpaca industry and will issue statement in July.
AAA put links on the website for fleece purchasers.

Budget:

The council voted to recommend that the budget for the financial year 2009-2010 be drawn up as a balanced budget and not a deficit budget. This can only be done with cuts in a number of areas.
Capitation fees paid to the regions will be cut for 2009-2010 by 20%. This is a reduction of \$25K.
The payment made to RIRDC will be cut by 75% from \$40k to \$10k. RIRDC have stated that there are no new alpaca research projects in the short term. Existing projects are nearing completion so this money is cut.
Budget for IPC initiatives cut.
Reduce council meetings to 1 per year/1 day only. Potential saving of \$20k.

Council Meetings:

Council meetings to be reduced to one per year or to one day only.
New president's/council forum to be used to allow discussion of issues prior to any meeting.
Agenda items for council will only be allowed if accompanied by documentation and recommendations (Forum to be used to formulate this if required.)

Magazine:

Magazine has been reduced to 2 issues this year. A new management/editorial structure will be in place. The outsourcing of the advertising discussed in November was found not to be worthwhile. Lack of content is big problem.

National Show & Sale 2009:

Judges Wendy Billington and Amanda van den Bosch, fleece judges Kylie Martin and Ron Reid.
AGM to be held Sunday.

National Show & Sale 2010:

Will be at the new equine centre at Tamworth on 9th-10th October. Animal health and welfare committee feel there is no issue with weather based on long term averages.

National Conference 2010:

Cancelled.

NAW 2009:

All regions felt that this was good time except VER (October)
H/BM seems to have spent most on publicity - reached other regions too!
Best publicity seems to be from local papers.
Tas, QLD and H/BM all had clashes with other events. SNSW ran EPIC weekend as part of NAW - can't guarantee availability of EPIC during week.
Questionnaires to be circulated to studs. IPC will collate and circulate findings.
Follow-up ad in Farming Small Areas magazine (free ad) to go ahead. Remainder of budget for 2009 will be spent on reprinting the handouts which will be available to regions at a cost (TBA).
Council recommended that members joining AAA as a result of animal sales during NAW should be given an incentive eg 6 months free membership, to help recruitment and retention.

(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 10)

NAW 2010:

NAW will be run again in 2010 sometime in May.

Enquirers List:

There was discussion around the Privacy Act and the enquirer's list. This was previously offered for sale to any stud, which caused stringent measures under the Act. The council thought that this was not appropriate as other studs can take advantage of the work done by volunteers. Resolved that the list will no longer be sold, this helps to reduce the privacy issues.

IPC Enquirers postcard approved

Country & Regional Living Expo 2009:

As expected there is no budget for this or similar promotions

Showing & Judging:

Showing of wethers - rule change.

Fleece score cards changing from 1 July.

New forms for non-member volunteers.

New form for injury reporting.

Animal Health & Welfare:

There is a BJD positive animal in NSW, but it has no symptoms, was never off the farm and there has been no contact with any other animals. The stud is in quarantine, and there is more follow-up happening.

NLIS:

NLIS tags unlikely to be approved in time for the July 2009 voluntary agreement.

The date for compulsory tagging will still be July 2010. This will be by RFID and visual tag. Hope to link this to IAR database.

There are a number of issues still to be determined eg tagging of cria if vet visit required.

International Year of Natural Fibres:

Question asked if we could do anything more with this.

IPC have contacted other producers and got no answers - seems like total ignorance or indifference on other parties.

Charitable Status:

Council discussed the possibility of AAA gaining charitable status to raise money for events such as the Vic fires. The recommendation of council is that this not be pursued as it was felt that it was not appropriate for the association.

Open Letter to Council:

Council did not discuss this letter as many presidents felt that this should not have been raised as it did not go through the proper channels.

La Viande:

Steve Ridout presented the latest from La Viande. Council recommended that AAA back the development of a meat industry - whether or not we actively promote this is still to be discussed.

Outside of Council there were discussions relating to regional reorganisation, for which there was some support within NSW.

Looking for impeccable white genetics?



SWAN VALLEY ACHIEVER

Solid White Male IAR A30969 DOB 2/05/2001

Achiever has it all. His parents and all four grandparents have contributed undiluted white genetics from the 'Haldane Heritage' shipment. Like his legendary lineage (Ledgers Dream, Highlander, Showpiece and High Priestess) his superb conformation, super-dense lustrous and deep-crimping fleece and beautiful handle have been rewarded - seven broad ribbons including Intermediate Champion Male at the National and Royal Perth 2002.

Achiever has 59 registered progeny, 34 of which were born at Ngullaminya, with 12 females retained as the nucleus of our ongoing breeding program. As well his

handsome young son Almond is a rising star in our male lineup. Achiever throws predominantly female cria, notably to the dam's colour, resulting in 5 grey or roan females. Above all, he is a gentleman – a strong persistent worker but with a placid temperament, all evident in his progeny.

NGULLAMINYA SHROPSHIRE LAD

Solid White Male IAR 66391 DOB 8/04/2003

Shropshire Lad is the solid white son of Prestige Valentino, grandson of Purumbete Sir Titus Salt and Purumbete True Perfection (both 'Haldane Heritage' animals) and Peruvian El Jefe in his distaff line. Well-grown with a strong frame, his fleece is extremely dense, soft handling and silky throughout, recognized by 1st 18-30 months White Fleece 2005 Royal Canberra Show, Highly Commended Award 2005 Sydney Royal.

In the led class he was awarded best in class above his half-sibling Illawarra Yucatan, and Reserve Champion Intermediate Male, Charles Ledger 2004 (to Forestglen Pendragon), 1st Intermediate White Male Charles Ledger 2004, 1st Adult White Male Royal Bathurst 2005, 2nd Adult White Male Sydney Royal 2005 (pipped by Yucatan, 3rd Inter White Male Royal Bathurst 2004, 3rd Adult White Male Hawkesbury Ag. Show 2005. Not as extensively used as Achiever, he has nevertheless produced females at the rate of 2:1.



Both of these commendable white sires are now offered for sale – with so many of their progeny in our herd, we must make way for the 'new kids on the block', providing an opportunity for others to capture Shanbrooke Elite and Prestige Valentino genetics.

Priced to Sell - Ring Tom @ Ngullaminya on 63552393

Spits & Pieces

National Alpaca Week

A total of 19 studs within the HBM region took part in National Alpaca Week, celebrating the “coming of age” of alpacas in Australia. With few exceptions the studs involved formed themselves into geographical entities in order to maximize their impact and display a united front to new and potential breeders and the public in general.

Camden - Blackwattle Alpacas were the only breeders in the Liverpool/Camden area to hold an open day. Making full use of the materials provided by the AAA resulted in a story and photo on pg 2 of the local newspaper along with an advert on pg 3.

This publicity along with a large banner attached to a float parked in a paddock beside busy Denham Court Road and the flyers distributed to the local produce stores resulted in approximately 75 people visiting on the day.

Most of the visitors were interested in finding out more about alpacas, some serious potential breeders, some looking for pets, and others who were just curious and came for a look.

Sydney Alpaca Alliance - On behalf of the Sydney Alpaca Alliance, let us say the one thing that really matters:

THIS IS THE BEST PROMOTION THE AAA HAS EVER THOUGHT UP, SUPPORTED, ACTIONED OR OFFERED TO BREEDERS

It is a great pity that this year the AAA has decided to slash marketing budgets in preference to preserving administration budgets, we all know how many new breeders will enter the industry due to all that astonishingly impressive administrative activity!

HOWEVER

This promotion was a huge success! Animals were sold, new breeders have applied for membership and many, many people have become a lot more aware of the alpaca industry. Let's hope the board of the AAA was paying attention.

Hills/Hawkesbury - With a number of the group committed to supporting the Hawkesbury Show, the main emphasis was on the 2nd weekend. Some of the studs enjoyed a steady stream of visitors, recording approximately fifty visitors a day, whilst others had a quieter time of things.



The “Alpaca Passport” was very successful with the eventual winner of the \$800 basket of alpaca goods being Barbara Turner of Valley Heights.

Hartley - A collective of 10 studs was formed to participate in NAW, encompassing a radius of some 50kms from the foot of the Blue Mountains to 30kms west of Lithgow.

On farm visitation and sales varied, consistent with the days each stud was open but calculated on the basis of car movements, 133 visitations were recorded, some 37 animals were to sold to 15 buyers from six studs and excellent sales were reported from the on farm shops.

Above all, many promising new contacts were made - it is estimated that at least six will take out AAA membership with another ten prospective new entrants to the industry.

Service Directory



**HAWKESBURY EQUINE
VETERINARY CENTRE**
formerly Parbery & Robson

Veterinary Surgeons in Equine & Alpaca Practice

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FAX (02) 4587 7279
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(PO Box 769 Moss Vale)
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GARDEN MAKERS
ABN 24 123 228 944



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Farm : Ph/Fax: 02 4938 5707
sales@australionalpaca.com
www.australionalpaca.com

Room for one more!

Spits & Pieces

Website Link

The annual subscription for links from the HBM site to the sites of individual members is due for payment by 31st July 2009.

If you are an existing subscriber and would like to continue for another year, please forward your cheque for \$25 (payable to “Australian Alpaca Association Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains Region”) to the webmaster, Mark Newman 8 Mid Dural Road Galston NSW 2159. Where payment has not been received by the due date, links will be deactivated.

This facility is available only to members of the region. If you would like to have your site linked, please forward your cheque by mail to the above address and e-mail your site address and a .jpg of your logo to Mark at redgumstudios@ozemail.com.au.

Please note that all sites **MUST** have an active link back to the HBM website.

AGM Nominations

The Annual General Meeting of the HBM Region of the AAA will be held on 14th August 2009 at the Panthers Club, North Richmond. Please assemble by 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

A number of positions, executive, committee & auxiliary, will be vacated due to the retirement of the incumbent.

These include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Marketing Officer
- ◆ RAS Representative
- ◆ Health, Husbandry & Welfare Officer

Hazel Tutty has already nominated to take on one of the two available RAS roles. Nominations for any of the posts listed above would be welcomed, and both new and long-time members are encouraged to take the plunge.

Lack of experience within the industry poses no barrier that cannot be overcome by enthusiasm. Help and advice will be only a telephone call or e-mail away.

If you're an “old hand” now is the time to reflect on the contribution you have made, or have been meaning to make, over the past few years.

In order to remain a viable region, we need to have a willing and active group at the helm.

Spits & Pieces

Familiarity Breeds Contempt - ABS

by
Scoop

Until recently I thought the term ABS referred to a device designed to prevent the wheels on your car from locking-up when the brakes are applied.

It now seems that ABS also stands for Aberrant Behavior Syndrome. In alpacas this generally presents itself in the form of an animal showing little or no “respect” for humans. (*I use the term “respect for” rather than “fear of” as I believe that if we have to resort to frightening our animals into submission then we have already lost the battle.*)

Until recently I believed such undesirable traits were inherited rather than taught - indeed with certain bloodlines I still believe this to be the case.

However in an article written by John Mallon (*Alpaca Advocate, Winter 2009*) it is argued that we are responsible for ABS in our alpacas by providing unnaturally high human contact.

Upon reading the article by this American based animal trainer, your humble scribe had but one response - mea culpa!

Be honest, who amongst us doesn't willingly seek out interaction with our “favourites”? The cute one who clucks or the one requiring bottle-feeding. How many of us have been brought up to the idea that hand feeding is a good idea? How many of us walk around an alpaca rather than getting it to move out of our way?

All of the above are, it's suggested, amongst the many reasons for ABS. In its mild form, this can become a nuisance. A severe case can be downright dangerous.

I would encourage breeders to take the time to visit the website www.mallonmethod.com or borrow a copy of the mentioned newsletter from the HBM Library.

Calendar

July 2009

25th-26th: Southern NSW Region Show
EPIC, Canberra

August 2009

1st: Central Western NSW Region Show
Bathurst

7th-9th: Country & Regional Living Expo
Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney

14th: HBM AGM

Panthers, North Richmond (*Bev, please note!*)

October 2009

8th-11th: National Show & Sale
Royal Adelaide Show Grounds

November 2009

13th-14th: Farming Small Areas Expo
Hawkesbury Showground



TeePee - Winter 2009



Blackwattle John Hawthorn		(02) 9829 5555			
Blackwattle Sharon (F) (SMB)	A91374	11/3/07	Burning Gold Blackjack	Kalinda Raine	\$1,500
Mated to Blackwattle Owen March 09.					
Blackwattle Barbie (F) (SLF)	A91366	2/01/05	The Pines Deerhunter	Blue Grass Chasca	\$2,500
Barbie has a male cria at foot. Remated to Blackwattle Owen 3/09.					
Blackwattle Lucy (F) (SLF)	A30011	14/4/98	Peruvian Heritage	Hawthorn Cottage Duchess	\$2,500
Lucy has a male cria at foot. Remated to Blackwattle Owen 6/09.					
Also available a number of young pregnant females at realistic prices. More info & pics @ www.blackwattle.net.au					
Blaydon Matt & Carol Ridley		02 6355 2372 blaydon@bigpond.net.au			
Blaydon Queen of Hearts (F) (SW)	111371	20/4/06	Schubert Maestro (SW)	Almaray Valentina (SW)	\$5,500
Terrific potential; from show-winning family. 2nd fleece: 17.3 mic 3.4 mic SD 19.5% CV. Mated to Warralinga-Gorge Samurai 8/8/08.					
Blaydon Arielle Rose (F) (MF)	111339	5/4/06	Jolimont Massimo (SW)	Willows Ro Cloud (SW)	\$5,500
Female of unlimited breeding potential: stunning fleece and from female family of multiple show winners. 2nd fleece: 16.7 mic 4.1 mic SD 24.7% CV. Mated to Schubert Maestro 7/7/08.					
Blaydon Diva Belle (F) (SW)	111367	21/12/05	Prestige Valentino	Blaydon Pebbles	\$1,650
By outstanding sire in Valentine. Proven breeder. 2nd Fleece 19.4µm 3.7µm S.D. 19% C.V. Fine & Even.					
Blaydon Lady Stardust (F) (SW)	111374	24/11/06	Swan Valley Achiever	Orrapoorra Vibrato	\$1,650
Great potential and excellent genetics. First fleece 21.1 mic, 4.5 SD, 21.5 CV. Mated to Warralinga-Gorge Samurai (SW) August 2008.					
Blaydon Vivere (F) (SW)	111370	9/4/06	Ambersun Romanza	Orrapoorra Soprano	\$1,100
By a Jolimont Conquistador grandson. Currently open. Breed or use as ET recipient. 2nd fleece 25.9µm 4.7µm S.D. 18.1% C.V.					
Bonny Belle Diana & Ralph Fairbairn		02 6355 2372 info@bonnybelle.com.au			
Bonny Belle Olivia (F) (MF)	A50577	15/1/02	Bellawood Hercules	Biella Onieda	\$1,850
24.4µm Nov 06. Includes a SW male cria sired by Bonny Belle Variance.					
Bonny Belle Etna (F) (MF)	A50580	27/2/02	Bonny Vale Oxley	Purrumbete Erubus	\$1,650
Excellent breeding female. With SW male cria at foot DOB 13/1/08 sired by Bonny Belle Variance.					
Bonny Belle Madeline (F) (SLF)	A71487	7/4/03	Golden Gates Julius	Bonny Vale Mon Cherie	\$1,200
Nice natured female. With male cria DOB 3/1/08 sired by Hawthorn Cottage Iam, price includes remating to Iam.					
Wether quality males for guards or pets from \$330 including gst. All colours.					

Spits & Pieces

Boongala Jill & Peter Derrin		02 4567 2208			
Boongala Diamond Tina (F) (SB)	32333	1/4/98	Falconstoop Zeus	Royal Canadian Royal Diamonds	\$990
Dam Of Multiple Ribbon Winner Diamontina Tu Soks.					
Boongala Paladin (M) (SW)	108906	1/5/05	Boongala Ensignia	Boongala Picabo	\$2,200
Very gentle temperament ready to certify. 2nd Fleece 19.4µm, SD 4.3µm, CV 22.1%, CF 98%.					
*JD MN3 status.					
Follyfoot Farm Linda Moore		0407 469 177 linda@follyfoot.com.au			
Belgrave Park Michelangelo (M) (SDF)	86352	4/11/04	Schubert Maestro	Belgrave Park Kasey	\$5,500
With excellent show record see website for further details. 4th fleece 24.4u / 4.3 SD / 18.38 CV / 93.5 CF.					
Kyimba Natalie Darcy (F) (SW)	146182	31/3/08	Eringa Park Trinidad	Kyimba Portia	\$1,375
Mated to ILR NWA LTD Peruvian Baltazar (Imp USA) LMD 20/2/09. 2nd fleece 19.4 u / 3.4 SD / 17/5 CV.					
Follyfoot Halle Berry (F) (SLB)	128770	30/12/08	Peruvian Baltazar	Kyimba Emily	\$1,100
1st fleece 19.5 u / 3.7 SD / 18.9 CV.					
Kyimba Kaylie Cheree (F) (SWB)	146183	7/4/08	Eringa Park Trinidad	Kyimba Tabbatha	\$1,100
2nd fleece 24.7 u / 4.0 SD / 16.1 CV.					
Gunnamatta Sue Maynard		02 9653 2277 alpacas@tpg.com.au			
Gunnamatta Pumpkin (F) (LF)	88016	4/12/04	Jiliby Lodge Celtic Mist	Coolaroo Parasole	\$1,650
A soft handling stylish fleece. Highlander genetics. 4th fleece 24.2µm. Includes remating to Gunnamatta sire of your choice.					
Gunnamatta Jemima (F) (SW)	88020	4/2/05	Purrumbete Fair Leader	Gunnamatta Jessica	\$2,750
With SLF female cria at foot, sired by Sup. Ch. Gunnamatta Iceman, this is an excellent 3 in 1 package.					
Gunnamatta Napoleon (W) (MG)	136256	29/4/07	Gunnamatta Glenrowan	Gunnamatta Veronique	\$550
Napoleon is halter trained and easy to handle with a stylish fleece. He would be suitable as a pet or companion animal.					
A range of MN3 alpacas for sale. Photos and further details available @ www.gunnamattastud.com.au					

Spits & Pieces

Ironbark Ridge Andrew & Fiona Maxwell		02 4576 1622 ironbarkridge@optusnet.com.au			
Ironbark Ridge Sweet Sherry (F) (MBr)	A108994	25/9/06	River Ridge Ripper	Bonnie Vale Twinkle	\$2,000
Her sire carries a 24.6 µm (6th fleece) and her dam a 24.8 µm fleece at 13 yrs. Fleece results 19.9 µm, 4.52µm S.D. 22.71 cv. MN3 status					
Ironbark Ridge Eureka (F) (SDBr)	A108991	26/1/06	Prestige Alexander the Great	Ironbark Ridge Finlandia	\$2,000
Eureka is a soft natured maiden. Her fleece is a very dark brown with good density and coverage. Fleece results 21.9µm SD 5.09µ, CV 23.24.					
Moonlight Wendy & Warwick Fuller		02 6355 2475 or 0419 546 563 warwickfuller@cirruscomms.com.au			
Moonlight Sonata (F) (SW)	57618	10/5/03	Windsong Valley Braveheart	Coolaroo Solo Flight	\$2,300
Grandsires Purumbete Highlander & Peruvian Hemmingway. 2007 clip 4kg.					
Moonlight Serenade (F) (SMF)	86686	24/5/04	Windsong Valley Braveheart	Moonlight Pallas Athena	\$1,500
Gdsires Purumbete El Dorado & Purumbete Highlander. W male cria at foot. 23.6µm CV: 17.8% @ 4kg					
Loose Beare Didgeridoo	31392	1/10/99	Purumbete Minderoo	Coolaroo Cadence	\$1,000
Ready to be mated, Didgeridoo is a proven easy no fuss breeder and excellent mother.					
Moonlight Fly Boy (M) (DF)	86688	29/9/05	Swan Valley Achiever	Coolaroo Solo Flight	\$3,500
Flyboy has a temperament and nature you dream of! Great bloodlines: Ledgers Dream, Highlander, Hemingway. Excellent stud male potential.					
Opotiki Cathy Sutherland		02 9653 1890 bnectv@ozemail.com.au			
Opotiki Coppertop (W) (MF)	A40488	12/7/01	Alpacandes Peruvian Dictator	Opotiki Miss Mocha	\$440
Opotiki Bailey (W) (LF)	N/R 60493	28/4/04	Alpacandes Peruvian Dictator	Cedar House Toffee	\$440
Opotiki Boomerang (W) (MB/W)	N/R 64495	21/5/05	Summerhill Sundance	Cedar House Toffee	\$500
JD MN3 status					

Spits & Pieces

Pinnacle Noelene Bearns		0407 200 533 noelene@siteservices.net.au			
Pinnacle Primula (F) (SLF)	100532	30/4/07	Forestglen Plutach	Pinnacle Juliet	\$3,300
Third prize Bathurst Royal. Grandsire: Prestige Valentino 2nd fleece 22.7 mic 4.83 SD 21.28 CV cut 4.0kg					
Pinnacle Clematis (F) (SW)	100535	11/5/07	Regal House Mr Darcy	Pinnacle Ophelia	\$3,300
Grandsire: Prestige Valentino 2nd fleece 24.4 mic 4.95 SD 20.29 CV cut 3.8kg					
Pinnacle Erica (F) (SW)	100534	15/5/07	Regal House Mr Darcy	Bonnie Vale Roseley	\$3,300
2nd fleece 21.9 mic 4.58 SD 20.91 CV cut 5.1kg					
Pinnacle Magnolia (F) (SW)	100536	15/5/07	Regal House Mr Darcy	Pinnacle Donner	\$3,300
2nd fleece 22.1 mic 4.22 SD 19.1 CV Cut 4.83 kg					
JD Unassessed. Other animals and packages available. Kept at Orange.					
Rocky Hall Don Culey & Bronwyn Davey		02 4576 4576 alpacas@lanscape.net.au			
High Ridge Shannon (F) (SMF)	82709	8/12/04	Prestige Valentino	High Ridge Bella	\$770
Small framed female with fine fleece. Not pregnant.					
Rocky Hall Mahalia (F) (SLB)	124877	10/5/08	Acheron Armani	Acheron Masquerade	\$770
A young coloured female with a fine soft handling fleece. Fleece 17.2µm 4.1µm S.D. 23.8% C.V.					
Forestglen Louisiana (F) (MF)	55408	18/4/02	Forestglen Maestro	Forestglen Lulu	\$1,210
Grandsires Purrumbete El Dorado. Fleece 21.4µm 4.6µm S.D. 21.5% C.V. (8th fleece)					
Rocky Hall Madeline (F) (W)	71774	8/12/03	Jolimont Oscar 2	Acheron Masquerade	\$1,210
Grandsires Jolimont Sculptor & Rosemount Xanadu, Madeline has a good frame and confirmation. Mated to Ross Creek Achilles 18/5/09					
Acheron Armani (M) (SMF)	49645	8/1/02	Peruvian Primero	Acheron Chiquita	\$3,850
A strong & willing stud that would be good for use in a coloured herd. Fleece 25.7µm S.D. 5.4µm C.V 21. (7th fleece)					
JD MN2 Status.					

This listing is a free service for members of the Hawkesbury-Blue Mountains region. If you wish to have your animals included, forward details to Bronwyn Davey on 02 4576 4576 or alpacas@lanscape.net.au

Submissions are taken in good faith. Neither the H-BM region nor the Committee accept responsibility for details given or claims made regarding the animals listed for sale. Interested parties should liaise directly with the vendor.

***GST not applicable where marked.**

Listing will be maintained for 2 issues of S&P only unless otherwise notified. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to ensure that details are current.

Spits & Pieces

Glass Half Full

by
Scoop

With all the doom and gloom of the current world economy, wars and general discourse, it's sometimes all too easy to let the negative vibes take over our own thoughts relating to the alpaca industry.

Sure, matters are not helped when the fleece side of our industry takes a beating, but we need to think of the good aspects of our current situation.

So, just what are the “positives”?

- ◆ The people with whom we deal on a regular basis are, by and large, a friendly and helpful crowd. Most are willing to muck-in when required and the vast majority work well within the regional framework.
- ◆ Despite the current “glitch” in the system, there is still a ready market for our end product - raw fleece. There are a number of mills willing to take whatever they can get their hands on if we as breeders can arrange for its transportation. Certainly the prices offered are not going to make us rich overnight, but it could be argued that the more quality Australian fleece is processed, the more garments are produced and, hopefully, the more the demand expands. How often have you been asked where the general public can buy alpaca clothing and goods?
- ◆ There is, and I suspect always will be, a demand for raw or carded fleece from home spinners. With an aging population and more people with time on their hands, this demand is likely to continue to grow. If we leave our fleece in our sheds, the only ones to benefit will be the moths.
- ◆ Perhaps the halcyon days when any animal with the correct plumbing sold for \$20,000 are long since past, but there is still a good market for quality alpacas. Indeed for many breeders this is a positive feature when negotiating with a prospective client. New entrants into our industry are benefiting from the good work and husbandry done by the longstanding breeders. Today we are castrating males that even a few years ago would have been regarded as having stud potential.
- ◆ There is a ready market for females who formed the establishment herds of longtime breeders. These girls still carry the genetics that made them attractive a number of years ago and should be attractive to serious breeders with limited financial resources - provided they are priced realistically.
- ◆ The “green” credentials of alpacas still make these animals a natural choice for breeders wanting to leave the land in a better condition for their children. Once the drama over the economy has been forgotten, the climate change problems will again be at the top of the agenda and no livestock is better suited to fight soil degradation than the alpaca.
- ◆ With urban sprawl foxes are going to grow as a menace for sheep and goat farmers. As more and more stories come out about the effectiveness of wethers as protectors, even the more sceptical are starting to come around.

Our industry is still in its infancy, and problems will occur from time to time. Remember, it's not what happens to you that's important, it's how you react to what happens that matters.

Hawkesbury Ag Show - 2009



**Supreme Champion Huacaya
Wyndarra Designer**



**Supreme Champion Suri
Kirrala Calypso**

Given that all the regional media editorials had touted the event as being the starting point for the Hawkesbury's celebration of the National Alpaca Week, it was imperative that the show was a success. It was somewhat disappointing, therefore, that with a couple of weeks to go it seemed likely that the show would have to be cancelled due to insufficient entries.

The weeks leading up to the show were pretty frantic. A stream of phone calls and emails finally had the desired result - we ended up with about 127 animals and over 60 fleeces. The show was on!

The usual crew managed to find the time during their own preparation for the NAW to help set up shop and all was ready for the weekend activities. A full day of judging on the Friday culminated with the award of Champion Fleece to Belgrave Park Kamillo, exhibited by Belgrave Park.

Saturday started on a low note with the withdrawal of nearly 10% of the field when one breeder called in sick. Hopefully they have now recovered from their illness. Despite this setback the show proceeded without further hitch and concluded before the threatened late change arrived.

Sunday was a great marketing success with a number of studs taking the opportunity to talk the talk with a pleasingly large number of show goers.

Many thanks to Clive Reid, Alicia Anderson & Cheryl Kosaras and their team of anonymous helpers who made the show possible. *Ed*

Spits & Pieces

(Continued from page 22)

HUACAYA CLASSES

Junior Female Classes (6-12 Months)

White	1	Illawarra Diva ET	Illawarra
	2	Bova Mrs Peel	Bova
	3	Warralinga-Gorge Star Sapphire ET	Warralinga-Gorge
Fawn (L)	1	Illawarra Diamond ET	Illawarra
	2	Bova Bea Diva	Bova
Fawn (M/D)	2	Alleena Sweet Rossalyn	Alleena
Brown	1	Redgum Lealani	Redgum
Black	1	Wildefell Black Grace	Wildefell

Junior Female Champion
Junior Female Reserve Champion

Illawarra Diamond ET
Bova Bea Diva

Illawarra
Bova

Junior Male Classes (6-12 Months)

White	1	Chachani Talisman	Chachani
	2	Illawarra Dynasty ET	Illawarra
	3	Warralinga-Gorge Superstar ET	Warralinga-Gorge
Fawn (L)	1	Warralinga-Gorge Rockstar ET	Warralinga-Gorge
	2	Ironbark Ridge Bossa Nova	Ironbark Ridge
Fawn (M/D)	3	Warralinga-Gorge Star Magician ET	Warralinga-Gorge
	1	Redgum Napoleon	Redgum
	2	RegalAlleena Lachlan	RegalAlleena
Brown	1	Tanglin Lodge Champ	Tanglin Lodge
Grey/Roan	1	Woolumbin Apache	Woolumbin
Black	1	Tarraganda Lodge Equadorn	Tarraganda Lodge

Junior Male Champion
Junior Male Reserve Champion

Chachani Talisman
Warralinga-Gorge Rockstar ET

Chachani
Warralinga-Gorge

Intermediate Female Classes (12-18 Months)

White	1	Chachani Impala	Chachani
	2	Ambrosia Dimatina Louise	Ambrosia
	3	Regal House Shian	Regal House
Fawn (M/D)	1	Ambrosia Daltoon House Rosalinda	Ambrosia
	2	Warralinga Recital	Warralinga
Brown	1	Regal House Oprah	Regal House
	2	Greendale Park Fortuna	Greendale Park
Grey/Roan	1	Ambrosia Daluzia's Love	Ambrosia
Black	1	Wildefell Pippi Longstocking	Wildefell

Intermediate Female Champion
Intermediate Female Reserve Champion

Chachani Impala
Ambrosia Dimatina Louise

Chachani
Ambrosia

(Continued on page 24)

Spits & Pieces

(Continued from page 23)

Intermediate Male Classes (12-18 Months)

White	1	Wyndarra Designer	Wyndarra
	2	Wyntaissa Tavaris	Wyntaissa
	3	Chachani Mochica	Chachani
Fawn (L)	1	Blaydon Bold Prospect	Blaydon
	2	Codan Pluto	Codan
	3	Alpacandes Just A Drop	Alpacandes
Fawn (M/D)	1	Codan Boston	Codan
	2	Gunnamatta Catalyst	Gunnamatta
	3	Rocky Hall Jazzman	Rocky Hall
Brown	1	Tanglin Lodge John Brown	Tanglin Lodge
	2	Goddess Merlin's Spirit	Goddess
	3	Manyana Tomaso	Goddess
Grey/Roan	1	Tarraganda Lodge Ekeko	Tarraganda
Black	1	Belgrave Park Alvaro	Belgrave Park

Intermediate Male Champion
Intermediate Male Reserve Champion

Wyndarra Designer
Blaydon Bold Prospect

Wyndarra
Blaydon

Adult Female Classes (18-30 Months)

White	1	Rocky Hall Arctic Jewel	Rocky Hall
	2	Ironbark Ridge Jamaica	Ironbark Ridge
	3	Warralinga-Gorge Chalice ET	Warralinga-Gorge
Fawn (L)	1	Alpacandes L'Oreal	Alpacandes
	2	Gunnamatta Angeline	Gunnamatta
	3	Alpacandes Senorita ET	Alpacandes
Fawn (M/D)	1	Gunnamatta Rochelle	Gunnamatta
	2	Wyntaissa Cheyna	Wyntaissa
	3	Hyatt Felicity	Hyatt
Brown	1	Blaydon Benazir	Blaydon
	2	Hyatt Gretel	Hyatt
Grey/Roan	1	Rocky Hall Lucille	Rocky Hall
	2	Ambrosia Coco Classic	Ambrosia
Black	1	Wyntaissa Lucrezia	Wyntaissa

Adult Female Champion
Adult Female Reserve Champion

Rocky Hall Arctic Jewel
Ironbark Ridge Jamaica

Rocky Hall
Ironbark Ridge

Adult Male Classes (18-30 Months)

White	1	Plantel Illawarra Champion ET	Illawarra
	2	Gunnamatta Marrakech	Gunnamatta
	3	Codan Ice Nemesis	Codan
Fawn (L)	1	Alpacandes Ace High ET	Alpacandes
	2	Kurralea Valkryss	Kurralea
	3	Tanglin Lodge San Miguel	Tanglin Lodge
Fawn (M/D)	1	Willow Glen Sir Bastian	Willow Glen
	2	Warralinga Celtic Lad	Warralinga
Brown	1	Hyatt Elliott	Hyatt
Grey/Roan	1	Alvaston Burnt Sienna	Alvaston
	2	Alvaston He's True Blue	Alvaston

Adult Male Champion
Adult Male Reserve Champion

Plantel Illawarra Champion ET
Gunnamatta Marrakech

Illawarra
Gunnamatta

(Continued on page 25)

Spits & Pieces

(Continued from page 24)

Senior Female Classes (30-48 Months)

White	1	Plantel Illawarra Bardot ET	Illawarra
	2	Alpacandes Yasabelle ET	Alpacandes
	3	Ross Creek Eclipse	Rocky Hall

Senior Female Champion
Senior Female Reserve Champion

Plantel Illawarra Bardot ET
Alpacandes Yasabelle ET

Illawarra
Alpacandes

Senior Male Classes (30-48 Months)

White	1	Plantel Illawarra Bentley ET	Illawarra
	2	Willow Glen Storm Cloud	Willow Glen
	3	Gunnamatta Volare	Gunnamatta
Fawn (L)	1	Alleena Da Vinci	Alleena
	2	Alpacandes Pharoah	Tanglin Lodge
Fawn (M/D)	1	Ambrosia Beauregard	Ambrosia
	2	Belgrave Park Kamillo	Belgrave Park
Brown	1	Ambrosia Bartolmeo	Ambrosia
Grey/Roan	1	Jentez Park Grey Lad	Jentez Park
	2	Tanglin Lodge Holgate	Tanglin Lodge
Black	1	Woolumbin Illusion's Prince	Woolumbin

Senior Male Champion
Senior Male Reserve Champion

Plantel Illawarra Bentley ET
Alleena Da Vinci

Illawarra
Alleena

Mature Female Class (48+ Months)

Fawn (L)	1	Alpacandes Tulafina	Alpacandes
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Mature Female Champion
Mature Female Reserve Champion

Alpacandes Tulafina
N/A

Alpacandes

Mature Male Class (48+ Months)

White	1	Alvaston Avanti	Alvaston
Fawn (L)	1	Tanglin Lodge San Miguel	Tanglin Lodge
Brown	1	Wyona Mr Brown	Woolumbin

Mature Male Champion
Mature Male Reserve Champion

Alvaston Avanti
Wyona Mr Brown

Alvaston
Woolumbin

Wether Class

18+ months

1	Alvaston Tartufo	Alvaston
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Best Wether

Alvaston Tartufo

Alvaston

Supreme Champion Huacaya

Wyndarra Designer

Wyndarra

(Continued on page 26)

Spits & Pieces

(Continued from page 25)

SURI CLASSES

Junior Classes (6-12 Months)

Female	White	1	Tanglewood Rhiannon	Tanglewood
Female	Fawn	2	Tanglewood Phoebe	Tanglewood
Female	Colours	1	Bova Total Eclipse	Bova
Male	Colours	1	Centurian Mud Pie	Centurian

Junior Champion Suri
Junior Reserve Champion Suri

Bova Total Eclipse
Tanglewood Rhiannon

Bova
Tanglewood

Intermediate Classes (12-18 Months)

Female	White	1	Belgrave Park Serenity	Belgrave Park
		2	Belgrave Park Snow Maiden	Belgrave Park
Female	Fawn	1	Belgrave Park Tamara	Belgrave Park
Female	Colours	1	Centurian Midnight	Centurian
Male	Fawn	1	Belgrave Park Hernando	Belgrave Park
		2	Alvaston Tandoori	Alvaston
Male	Colours	1	Manyana Gengis Khan	Manyana

Champion Intermediate Suri
Reserve Champion Intermediate Suri

Belgrave Park Hernando
Belgrave Park Serenity

Belgrave Park
Belgrave Park

Champion Adult Suri
Reserve Champion Adult Suri

N/A

Senior Classes (24+ Months)

Male	Fawn	1	Kirrala Calypso	Belgrave Park
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Champion Senior Suri
Reserve Champion Senior Suri

Kirrala Calypso
N/A

Belgrave Park

Supreme Champion Suri

Kirrala Calypso

Belgrave Park



Judge: Wendy Billington
Apprentice Judge: Pam Baxter

Congratulations to all our Champions, place getters & exhibitors and to Tanglewood for winning the Grand Parade ribbon.

For fleece results, please visit the regional website www.hbmalpaca.com.au

IntroducingFiona Maxwell

Forget what I wrote in my editorial, I was secretly hoping that no one would willingly take up the challenge of replacing me as editor of this humble tome. It's been my baby for the last decade and, at the very least, I wanted the new editor to make a complete hash of things!

I was therefore gutted to hear that Fiona Maxwell has put her hand up. With all her vitality, youthful exuberance and positive attitude to life, my fears are well grounded - the future of "Spits & Pieces" is in very capable hands. Bah humbug!

For those of you who are new to the region, here follows a brief biography of your new editor. Ed

G'day, I am the new editor of Spits & Pieces - so believe me when I say the training wheels are on...and fancy taking on such a position after the epic reign of "Scoop."

So a little about me.....

My name is Fiona Maxwell and my husband Andrew and I operate Ironbark Ridge Alpacas in Kurrajong, along with our 29 month old daughter Charlotte and 9 month old son Bradley. We currently run 34 alpacas and produce the alpaca fencing panels. I work as the Data Manager for the alcoholic beverage company Diageo Australia (covering brands such as Bundaberg Rum, Johnnie Walker, Baileys, Smirnoff, to name a few) though am currently on my second "bout" of maternity leave. I am due to return to work in September this year, about the same time as my first attempt as editor of Spits.

So where did the love affair start?

I grew up in Curl Curl on the Northern Beaches so my first glimpse of an alpaca was at the Royal Easter Show back in the early 90's. You know, back when it was held at the old showgrounds at Moore Park, back when it was more about the animals and when you could buy an armful of showbags for about \$20 - or so my brother proved each year. Also prior to all the public liability issues we face these days as the alpacas were paraded into the main arena which for a period of time was open to the

general public to come onto the arena and "greet" a range of animals. Having been captivated by the uniqueness of these animals, I turned to my mother Di and said "I'm going to have them one day" and, as later revealed by my mother, she had thought "oh dear, I bet you will."

Despite my very fortunate position of being brought up living across the road from the beach, with a keen love of animals and a horsey influence from my mother, my goal was to "end up" living on acreage...and it was to be as a result of my love of alpacas that would see this happen sooner than expected. Having done some research (though nowhere near enough), in 1999 I bought 3 wethers to commence my alpaca education, armed with the knowledge that they are a herd animal and as such you need more than one, and more importantly they can be agisted thus my living at Curl Curl was not a blocker to becoming an alpaca owner. I joined the AAA that year.

In 2000 I enrolled in the Alpaca Production course run at Richmond TAFE, to learn more about these fascinating animals...after all I was now an alpaca owner. Little did I know of the chain of events that would come from enrolling in that year with that particular group of like-minded people. With Lyn Dickson as our teacher and the odd "guest appearance" from husband Graeme and Julie Bird I sat in class with the likes of Sandra &

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Charlie Vella, Cheryl & Geoff Uren, Noel & Rob Waller to name a few. We were encouraged to attend as many shows, sales, auctions, open days as possible to widen out networks and increase our knowledge. As a member of the Hawkesbury Blue Mountains region the 2000 Alpaca Fiesta was a must.

At the 2000 HBM Fiesta I purchased a grey male alpaca named Kujeda from Kurralea Alpacas. Kujeda gave me the opportunity to put some of my classroom learnings into action

involved with alpacas through his parents (Kurralea Alpacas) since they got into alpacas in 1994, including the construction of the alpaca panels that Alan actually designed, you know the ones you see at all the shows. So Andrew was far more knowledgeable in the handling and management of alpacas - and still is to this day though he believes it is in his best interest to pretend not to be.

Much to the delight of the conspirators, in 2001 Andrew proposed and we married in 2002. In



and get into showing alpacas. Little did I know that this purchase would lead to some serious plotting, scheming and match making by certain fellow classmates (well Cheryl Uren to be exact), teacher (Lyn Dickson) and Kujeda's owners Lesley & Alan Maxwell (well I think it is safe to say it was more Lesley than Alan). The mission it seemed, was to set me up with the Maxwell's son, Andrew. Andrew had been

2003 Lesley & Alan subdivided their 52 acres in Kurrajong and we purchased a vacant ten acre parcel of that land. From that time on Andrew took me, my mum and dad, Di & David, and brother Mark on a whole new learning curve as we spent weekends digging trenches, clearing dead trees, planning paddocks, building fences, doing irrigation and so on.

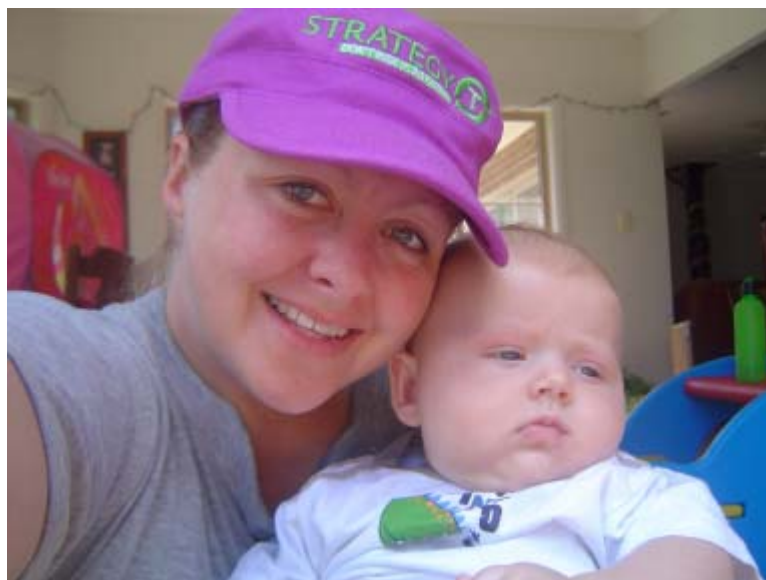
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In early 2004 we commenced construction on our house, and on the long weekend in October that year we had our animals shorn, moved into the house, and moved our alpacas into the paddocks - oh the days when we were time efficient!!

appointment, only to be called back just 6 hours later as we were off to hospital due to my going into labour 4 weeks early. But shearing was done - so I could rest easy right??



My transition from Surf to Turf was complete In January 2007, about a week before I was due to give birth to our first child we decided to get to work and do the half yearly "vaccinations, worming and toes" of our herd. Within a few hours of completing the task we were on our way to hospital for the birth of our first child Charlotte...but worming, vaccinations, ear tags and toes were done so I could rest easy right??

In 2008 we were expecting our second child in mid October so in preparation we had our shearing booked for mid September. Given I was "well rounded" my Mum and Dad again had come up to assist us, as they had each year for the last few years. None the less I helped out down in the shed for the few hours required to do our relatively small herd, we then went on to do some other tasks around the property taking advantage of the extra help at hand. We bid them farewell back to Curl Curl some 12 hours after they had left home in order to meet our early morning

Although many projects on the farm and some of our alpaca breeding plans have been put on a temporary hold we still try to attend as many HBM meetings as possible, assist with HBM shows, pack up the tribe to attend as many shows as possible and of course we still make the alpaca panels.

Upon reflection are we missing some key marketing opportunities ??

For those searching for love??

Bought grey alpaca - gained a wonderful husband.

For those pregnant women madly eating curries??

Did half yearly vaccinations - had a baby girl one week early. Assisted with annual shearing - had a baby boy four weeks early

Hmm perhaps thoughts for another time.....

So wish us well as we embark on this new alpaca chapter...but more so send in tonnes of articles, place lots of ads and support your region through Spits & Pieces.

New Breeders Seminar



As the winter sun tried desperately to raise the temperature above Kelvin, a dozen new breeders attended the workshop at The Shed, organized by Alicia & Cheryl.

Over the weekend a number of topics were covered by means of a series of half hour lectures given by nine experienced members of the region. The topics ranged from “Reproduction 101” through to farm layout and animal selection.

A quick survey confirmed that this workshop is great value and pitched at a level suitable to the needs of new breeders. A number of participants were there as a result of information received during National Alpaca Week and one had seen an article in an old copy of Spits & Pieces she had picked up at last year’s Farming Small Areas Expo.

Sunday saw the traditional “breeders brekkie” with a number of members taking the time to introduce themselves to the participants.

Many thanks to the Regal House crew and the guest presenters for all their efforts.



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From the Secretary's Desk

After having done my best in the role of HBM Secretary for the past two years, I have decided not to nominate for Committee for the coming year.

The Secretary's job is not as onerous as it may appear and is a great opportunity for someone to get more involved with the Association and get to know alpaca people from our own as well as other regions. It can be split into two or more parts if necessary. For example, there can be one person in charge of taking the minutes and another who looks after general correspondence. All you need are some very basic computer skills in word processing and/or emailing. You don't need to know shorthand or have any special secretarial skills. I have managed to get by for two years with no secretarial knowledge at all, so if I can do it, anyone can! I would be very happy to pass on any information that I can. The Secretary's role should be viewed not as a chore, but as an opportunity to inject new life into the administration of the region.

Taking on a job on the Committee is the best way to have a say on how the region operates, what events and shows we organize and how the region's finances are handled. I would like to encourage all members, including the newer ones, to put their hand up for a position on the new Committee or volunteer for an auxiliary role.

The committee has to have at least 3 members (i.e. President, Treasurer and Secretary) for the region to be viable. The maximum number permitted is 9 and committee members need to be members of our region. The committee should ideally have four members forming the Executive - President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Other members of the committee can take on a specific role, e.g. Education, Marketing, FLO etc.

The committee should ideally meet before each regional meeting to discuss any matters before they address the coming meeting. In practice due to members' busy lives, this can be problematic, so the committee tends to meet when possible and discuss other matters via e-mail or phone.

Other jobs include Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Health Officer, Property Officer etc and these can be performed by members or non-members in an "auxiliary" role. The region would perform at its best to have someone who can take charge of each of these areas and give a short report to the members at each of the regional meetings.

So get involved, volunteer for a position either on the committee or as an "auxiliary" and get more out of your membership.

I'll be sending out nomination forms by e-mail when I send the minutes of last year's AGM. Don't be put off by the details on the form, just let me know if you're interested and I'll talk you through it.

If you don't receive an e-mail, please contact me so that I can update the e-mail list.

May all your cria be healthy and happy.

Soon to be ex-Secretary
Sue Maynard

Spits & Pieces

Shearers

The following list is provided in good faith however neither the AAA nor the H-BM region assumes responsibility for the quality of work provided.

Stephen Auld	0428 491 963	Jim Murray	0427 460 007
Jamie Dixon	0403 402 114	Mike O'Shea	(02) 6372 4453
Peter Downey	0428 261 566	Chris Power	0438 653 782
Bernie McInerney	0429 668 240	Glenn Reynolds *	0404 470 924

* Glenn Reynolds has advised that he will only be shearing for a limited number of existing clients in future, but that he is willing to train anyone wishing to learn how to shear. Contact Glenn for more information.

If you know of another shearer willing to travel within the H-BM region, please let me know. *Ed*

New Members



Spits & Pieces

International Fleece Show - Cleveland, USA

by
Lyn Dickson

We have just arrived home from Cleveland where I was one of the judges for the International Fleece Show. This is just a quick synopsis of the events in order to meet the deadline for Spits & Pieces.

There were 935 fleeces entered and anyone who has organised a fleece show of any kind will understand the logistical nightmare involved. However it was done in true American style with tremendous panache and professionalism.

Australian fleeces fared extremely well and of the 44 entries from Down Under there were 37 rosettes awarded, plus a Colour Champion (suri) and two Reserve Colour Champions (also suri). Among the 37 prizes were 11 first places.



Lyn Dickson with her fellow judges.
(Sorry, I don't know the collective noun)

The final display featuring all 935 fleeces with their rosettes was a sight to behold, to the enormous credit of the convenor (Fleece Show Superintendent in American parlance) and the large army of volunteers. I have included a photo of the display, but it may not do it justice in black and white.

Without wishing in any way to detract from the great success of the Aussie exhibits, I would like to add that it is much easier to receive an award in an American show under AOBA rules than it is here. And that is because in a show of this size, the classes are split by colour, age, sex, and size of class.

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So if you enter a junior white fleece, it is in a separate class for male and female and then once the class size reaches 15 entries, it is split in half, and the ribbons go up to 6 places irrespective of the number of exhibits in the class. So in a class of say 16 entries, which is split into two classes of 8, 12 out of 16 entries will receive awards! Makes for very happy exhibitors and I guess that's a big positive.

For the first time in my judging career I awarded a fleece over 90 points, and thinking that the brain had succumbed to the jet-lag factor, I requested one of the other judges to come and second-score it. Without seeing my score sheet, he scored it half a point up on my total! The AOBA score card is identical to our current Australian card, so you now have an idea of the quality of the fleeces I'm talking about.



However it does detract from the show awards being a benchmarking exercise, certainly for the minor placings, depending of course on the overall quality in the class.

Notwithstanding any of that, the quality was extremely high in the whites and light colours. Also the top fleeces in the colours were of an excellent standard. I had the privilege of judging the (Huacaya) Beige, Light Fawn and Brown Males, plus the Grey Females. Also the dubious honour of judging the Multi and Indefinite (don't ask) Male classes.

The White Colour Champion scored 95.5 points! Very exciting to see alpaca fleeces reaching this level of excellence.

Because of my judging commitments over three days, I saw very little of the rest of the AOBA National Show and World Alpaca Conference, but Graeme was able to participate more in that side of things. Hopefully we can put an article together from the total perspective perhaps for the next AAA magazine.



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John Hay

“Oakleigh” New Olivers Road
Running Stream, NSW (02) 6358 8210

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Sue Maynard

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 - Central Western Region 2005
- Reserve Champion Senior Male
 - Central Western Region 2006
- Best Senior Grey
 - Charles Ledger Grey Show 2006
- Reserve Champion Senior Male
 - Central Coast Region 2007
- Champion Mature Male
 - Central Western Region 2008
- Champion Mature Male
 - Central Coast Region 2008

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