

Alpacas NSW

The official electronic magazine of the NSW Region of the AAA Ltd



In this issue:

- Redesigning Suri Fleece
- Performance Alpaca Shearing
- Australian Alpaca Youth Group
- Weeds
- Sydney Royal 2018

Volume 1 Issue 2 - Summer 2018

Publisher

NSW Alpaca Magazine is published by the NSW Region of the Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

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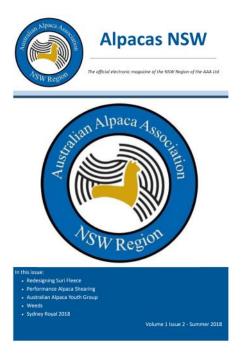
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Cover photo supplied by: Angela Smith. The new logo for the New South Wales Alpaca Region.



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Now that NSW is one large Region, it is important for us all to stay in contact with each other! So we are requesting that all members provide their correct contact details. (Especially if you have not been receiving correspondence.)

Please contact our NSW Secretary Jennie Menzies.

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Stay connected with the NSW Region:

- Visit our regional website: www.aaanswalpaca.com.au
- Follow the regional Facebook Page



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President's Report

Dale Brown

Since our last newsletter your regional committee has continued to work hard finalising and bedding down our regional procedures. In an effort to improve communication we have undertaken to send a monthly enews to our regional members, with some positive feedback received thus far. In the coming few weeks we hope to have our regional asset lists up on the website to enable members to see what assets we have available and the assets location which can be used for our events. Lionel is looking at obtaining quotes for new marketing banners.

The Show season is well and truly underway, and it is good to see so many familiar names and faces at these events. Remember attending your local show is one way to meet fellow breeders and benchmark your breeding against others. Judging by some of the photos and videos from Sydney Royal on facebook it must be said that these events are quite a social occasion for those in attendance. Special mention must go to Keryn Burns, whom I know has not only played a huge part in organising Sydney Royal, but has helped convenors and organisers of all events with our new approval procedure, also made a special effort to attend most events to support and assist the convenors of these events, clocking up many kilometres and many hours of her own time to support members organising events on our behalf so Thank you again Keryn.

Our first NSW regional Meeting took place at Windsor RSL on 24/3/2018, and whilst we didn't manage to obtain a speaker for the meeting it was well attended with around 30 members. Many were able to stay for lunch, and overall, I believe it was a good meeting. One item that needed clarification was the procedure in relation to members being reimbursed for expenses associated with events. I undertook to clarify this with Janette Law and Steve O'Keefe and have formulated a flow chart which I hope clarifies the process a bit. The flow chart will be attached to the minutes sent to all NSW members, and I will ask Erin to include it in this newsletter in an attempt to ensure all members have a chance to see it.

The AAA board representation to China in Jan / Feb this year was raised at the meeting, specifically in relation to the outcome of the trip. Feedback has been communicated to members via regional presidents at the 2018 council meeting, my enews in February 2018, and in the AAA Presidents report for February emailed on 22/2/18 under the sub heading "Fibre Export".

The AAA's acceptance of the invitation to attend the china wool and textile expo in April 2018, and the Directors attending on our associations behalf was further communicated in the March 2018 National Presidents report for March 2018 (emailed 27/3/18).

There is currently an opportunity for members to become involved in a research project. Nicole Hedley is a student researcher currently undertaking my PhD at Swinburne University of Technology in Hawthorn, Victoria. As part of her PhD thesis, she is conducting an online survey of people who request or perform FEC testing on animals. There are links to the survey on the AAA webpage under the "news" section https://www.alpaca.asn.au/news/563-research-participation-invitation. Nicole's contact details are also provided should you have any questions for her. In addition to this Rural Australians have the chance to influence the future of telecommunications in the bush, through a new survey being hosted by BIRRR (Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia). The link to the survey is found here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIRRRlandlines. Further information is available from the AAA website.

The next regional meeting will be held after judging concludes on the 26th May at the Carousel of Colour in Goulburn. Angela Smith and Carolyn Austin are finalising the schedule as we speak. A more definitive time will be communicated with members once we know how the entry numbers are going. Jennie will send out the notice of meeting, call for agenda items and email the agenda closer to the date.







Note from the Editor

Well I need to say it again! Welcome to your new Alpacas NSW newsletter!! How awe-

some is the new design! A huge shout out to Angela Smith for all her hard work in redesigning not only the newsletter but our new NWS Region Logo!

I hope that you all enjoy this issue there are some great articles which have all been provided by our wonderful members! And remember if there is something you would like to see in the newsletter please send it in!

Thank you also to those members who sent in pictures! I was going to try and thank you all but the list was to long!! But without our wonderful members sending in pictures the newsletter would be pretty boring.

With the show season well and truly in full swing, I wish you all the best and remember to send in details of your event and pictures to be included!

Remember any articles, pictures, stud sires, stories and advertising feel free to contact me!
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www.australianalpacayarn.com.au

See the "Fleece Prices" page for our requirements to buy your fleece and turn into top quality Australian alpaca yarn.

The current specifications and prices for fleeces are:

WHITE and LIGHT FAWN fleeces			
Micron	Comfort	Price	
	Factor	Inc. GST	
Under 20	97+%	\$22.00	
20 -21.99	95+%	\$22.00	
22 – 23.99	90+%	\$17.60	
24 – 25.99	85+%	\$13.20	
26 -28	75+%	\$8.80	

COLOURED fleeces				
Micron	Comfort	Price		
	Factor	Inc. GST		
Under 20	97+%	\$11.00		
20 -21.99	95+%	\$11.00		
22 – 23.99	90+%	\$8.80		
24 – 25.99	85+%	\$6.60		
26 -28	75+%	\$4.40		

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Redesigning Suri Fleece to suit Commercial Processing

"I had intended to write about processing suri and focussing on length, but the excellent report commissioned by the AAA from Bruce Mc Gregor says it all! He has really stolen my thunder."

I saw my first Peruvian suri alpacas at sunset 22 years ago, their silken locks ruffled by the soft wind, turned to liquid gold. I imagined a herd of these elegant animals roaming our farm, producing perfect bales of this glorious noble fibre from which the finest fabrics would be created; soft lustrous and caressing, woven from the fleece of this wondrous creature. I couldn't resist and paid a hideous amount for a light fawn female, Lady of Silk, with warm pink fawn locks. (Despite her illustrious name, Lady of Silk became universally known as "Moppie".) Thus began my long journey to "tame" suri fibre



so that it was/is commercially processable and delivered the promise of spun gold.

Picture 1 Suri fleece on older style animal, still low micron, but straight like hair and virtually impossible to spin as pure suri in a commercial yarn

But no one told me that suri fibre was considered impossible to process when it was finer than 25 microns which was a coating fabric weight! (International mills traditionally thought suri too slippery for their high-speed equipment which would

run hot, that it would be too light and long for the scour, that the tops wouldn't have hauteur, and so on....)

And I was enthralled by a far lower micron, in the range of 20 - 22 micron or even finer, which I was positive could be woven into something as exquisite as any pashmina or chantouche.

Our Ten Year Objective was a luxurious suri fibre dripping with lustre, an exquisite handle and uniformity of length and micron. Without the breed experience and no one to point out to me that the early suri imports into Australia were often broad micron, had poor density and comparatively primitive fleeces, it was soon apparent that my dream could take some time to achieve. But I felt sure with my wool and textiles background I could understand what high end processing would demand of this fibre and began to plan a breeding programme to refine the suri fibre produced by my herd.

"Rome wasn't build in a day" - it has taken Bumble Hill twenty years to engineer our suri fibre! The breeding programme behind the Bumble Hill suri herd is an amalgam of all the breeding and technical knowledge of the Australian wool industry, the processing skills of the top international mills and an understanding of luxury fibre end-users (what delights them and what they expect when they buy products manufactured from the noble fibres).

So what was wrong with suri fleece 20 years ago? The main problem was the style of lock and lack of curve. Even if the fibre was fine micron and appeared as tight locks twisted from tip to skin, it was very straight like human hair, which meant it would fall out of yarn when spun pure, or separate from a blend and often pill. The tight twisting locks caused problems – holding VM within the lock and bunching in the scour, tearing in the alignment stages of combing which created uneven lengths in the tops and excessive waste of fibre/low yields.

A further complication was the annual growth rate of suri fibre, often 20-50mm longer annually than other wool/rare fibres, particularly in the younger animals. Nearly all woollen mills worldwide are designed to process wool with machinery designed to accommodate sheep wool, shorn annually where the average staple length is 70-90mm. Huacaya can just slip into that specification and the machinery in the worsted process can accommodate fibre as long as 120mm, but suri even shorn annually is generally too long.

The challenge then was to find suri genetics where the stock exhibited different characteristics:

Open and flatten locks which were still well organized and had a higher curvature







Picture 2 Suri exhibiting extreme independence of lock and high curvature in fleece

Pictures 3 and 4 Highly developed suri fleece on an 14 month show suri - high follicle density, good curvature, beautiful handle but too long for a commercial mill to easily

Shorter annual length output lower, but higher follicle density to maintain good total fleece weight

AND whilst still maintaining the lustre and silky handle and fine primary fibres which would characterise the highest quality suri fibre that the top mills had admired, but deemed impossible process commercially.

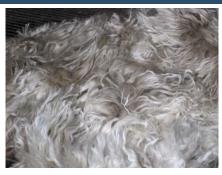
So I found the genetics, bred the animals with the changed fleece characteristics and proved that suri can be converted into divine fabric through a fabric trial in New Zealand. All went without a hitch and the European agents and esigners loved the resulting fabric.





Picture 5 100% Suri fabric produced in Bumble Hill Trial in NZ

Picture 6 High lustre apparent on spinning bobbins in NZ trial



Picture 7 22um suri , 120mm length used to produce the fabric in NZ trial

BUT despite efforts to initiate cross Tasman collections and encou rage Australasian studs to breed a more uniform fleece style, there still isn't enough suri of uniform style and micron classes to interest high end International mills. They talk in tonnes and we talk in 150kg bales (if we are lucky). There are many amazing suris in Aus tralia now – we have the best suri fleece in the world.

The luxury fabric market awaits, Australia. It can be done!



Picture 8 Rosemary Dress



Picture 9 Ambleside Gold Sovereign

Article written be Julienne Gelber of Bumble Hill Alpacas.



Echo Beach Alpacas

Fibre Processing Mill

Have your fleece processed into rovings, yarn, batts or felt

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please email for complete price list & order form

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Email: anne@echobeachalpacas.com.au Website: www.echobeachalpacas.com.au

Alpaca fleece length attributes for processing and the relationship with assessment in the show ring

New report on alpaca fleece length for processing by Dr B McGregor

A new report entitled "Alpaca fleece length attributes for processing and the relationship with assessment in the show ring" written by Dr Bruce McGregor, an Animal and Fibre scientist with extensive experience in the field of wool and rare natural fibres is available to download from the AAA website

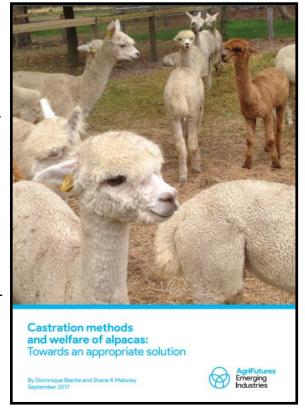
https://www.alpaca.asn.au/news/561-new-report-on

CASTRATION METHODS AND WELFARE OF ALPACAS

"Castration methods and welfare of Alpacas" is a new publication detailing a research project funded jointly by the AAA and AgriFutures Australia (previously RIRDC) released in September 2017.

The project aimed to validate a standard method of castration for alpacas that could be recommended to either veterinarians or trained alpacas producers, and would be acceptable in welfare terms. This research will be used to inform recommended amendments to the Veterinary Practice Acts in the States and Territories. For further information visit http://

www.agrifutures.com.au/publications/castration-



Performance Alpaca Shearing Competition Sydney Royal 2018

What a successful third year for the Performance Alpaca Shearing Competition.

This competition was started to enable an entry point for our up and coming young shearers, to entice new shearers into the industry and also to strengthen our pool of current shearers, whilst giving them all an opportunity to showcase their skills to breeders and members of the public at the Sydney Royal. The competition is growing and evolving rapidly with lots of support and interest for next year which looks to be heading into a Tri-Nations!! Very exciting!! With the addition of an American team.

Congratulations to our Competitors below, you all did amazing!!...it's not an easy thing to be on stage in front of huge crowds, you did yourselves, your sponsors and our Industry extremely proud!

Young Guns

1st: Sean Timmony Sponsored by Storybook Alpacas **2nd:** Laura Fletcher Sponsored by Fletchers Farm

Intermediates

1st: John Dawson Sponsored by Nurrenyen Alpacas

Opens

1st: Nigel WoodSponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas2nd: Glenn DawsonSponsored by Bringarum Alpaca Stud

Trans Tasman

1st: Nigel Wood NEW ZEALAND 2nd: Glenn Dawson AUSTRALIA

Roustabouts & fleece skirters

Bradley Dawson: Sponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas

Other helpers: Sponsored by Walkley Fields

A huge thank you to Peter Connelly from America who did an exceptional job of Judging and to Millpaca for sponsoring Peter and last but not least John Hay from Gunamatta Alpacas our MC extraordinaire!

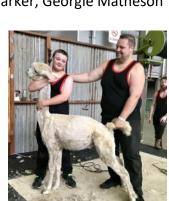
We would also like to thank the rest of our supporters, without your assistance there wouldn't be a competition:

Top Gun Shearing, Nigel Wood, Dairy Road Alpacas, Fletchers Ark Alpacas, Dear Enahs Alpacas, Storybook Alpacas, John Dawson, Glenn Dawson, Bradley Dawson, Kurtis Parker, Amanda Parker, Georgie Matheson -Gee, Issy Boyes, Sharon Dawson, Jennjoley Alpacas

If you would like to assist, support or enter next year, please contact Sharon Dawson on 0410 461 343, jennjoley@bigpond.com.







Article written by Sharon Dawson





Australian Alpaca Youth Group

The 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show was a great success for the Australian Alpaca Youth Group. Not only were the youth well represented across the show with schools exhibiting, many of our youth members were also showing animals for other exhibitors. There were also a number youth members competing in and skirting fleeces for the shearing competition.

The Good Friday grand parade attracted over 40 alpacas and handlers a majority of which were youth members and who represented the alpaca industry fantastically on the busiest day of the show!

On Easter Monday the youth group ran a Parader's event which was also a great success with a record number of 65 competitors across all divisions. Special congratulations go to Phoebe Allsop-Guest and Eden Roszkiewicz who won supreme in the preliminary and open sections.

We would also like to thank the paraders judges Jillian Holmes and Katie Thomas as well as the apprentice judge Hannah Doyle all of whom made it possible for us to run two rings on the day in order to get through the enormous numbers of competitors.

On Tuesday the RAS/ASC young judge's competition as well as the school's competition were run. Both events attracted many more competitors than usual with 11 in the junior judging all of whom displayed their growing ability to judge both alpacas and fleece in the competition with many competitors choosing to speak on the fleeces and not the animals showing their ability to recognize all aspects of the industry.

With five schools competing in the schools competition it was just as competitive as the junior judging. The two-time reigning champions Vincentia High School were given heavy competition placing in third behind Menai High School who claimed the Champion ribbon and Camden High School who placed in second.

The week ended with the re-election of the AAY committee with the new position holders to be announced on the Australian Alpaca Youth face book page shortly. The AAY would like to thank everyone from the RAS and AAA for putting on such a wonderful show where the youth members of our industry are able to showcase their ability to people from all walks of life and all Agricultural Industries.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/325132304190987/

Article written by Katy Armson-Graham







The Issue of Weeds



Welcome to my first weed article for ALPACAS NSW. For those who don't know me, I am a part owner of ROCKING HILL ALPACAS based at Molong in NSW. I am also employed as a Weeds Officer with Cabonne Council, having grown up on a sheep and cattle property in the Blue Mountains.

In this article I will rework a previous article I wrote about the Biosecurity Act 2015 last year. This Act came into force on July 1 last year. This Act replaced the Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991, Apiaries Act 1985, Deer Act 2006, Fertilisers Act 1985, Non-Indigenous Animals Act 1987, Noxious Weeds Act 1993, Plant Diseases Act 1924, Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975, Stock Diseases Act 1923, Stock Foods Act 1940, and parts of the Fisheries Management Act 1994, Local Land Services act 2013, Stock Medicines Act 1989 and the Wild Dog Destruction Act 1921. As far as Acts go, this is a 'mother' Act as it is a lot of Acts rolled into one.

As I said before, Australia has been operating under the Biosecurity Act 2015 from July 1 2017.

The Act:

- aims to promote a shared responsibility between government and industry
- provides a modern regulatory framework
- reduces duplication and regulatory impacts
- will allow for current and future trading environments.

In line with new Commonwealth biosecurity measures NSW has reformed its weed, pest and disease legislation. Together, the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021 and NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 provide a streamlined, clear framework for safeguarding primary industries, natural environments and communities from a range of pests, diseases and weeds. The LLS Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans are a direct response to this strategic and legislative reform. These plans were prepared by each Regional Weed Committee on behalf of their Local Land Services Board, with guidance from the State Weeds Committee and Local Land Services staff. Each LLS is tasked with the implementation of this Act at a Regional level for weed management. These plans should be available on Local Land Services websites for each region (Ils.nsw.gov.au).

The primary focus of these plans is to encourage and work with the community and landholders to achieve weed management objectives. Education, extension and use of biosecurity undertakings reinforce the concept of the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) and establish a cooperative approach to local and regional weed management. Monitoring and compliance for weed management in the regions will focus primarily on weeds listed in these plans. For these high risk weeds, prompt and responsible action is essential to avoid significant impacts on other landholders, industry and the environment.



The words like "noxious weed", "noxious weed notice" and "noxious weeds list" will no longer apply as the Noxious Weeds Act has been repealed. "Priority Weeds" is the new buzz words in the LLS Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans. Other new words in the Act and the plans are Biosecurity Matter, Prohibited Matter, Carriers, Dealings, Biosecurity Impact, Biosecurity Risk, General Biosecurity Duty (GBD), Biosecurity Events, Biosecurity Undertakings and many more that we will all have to get used to using and understanding.

What were "Noxious Weeds" are now known as "Prohibited Matter" (for all of NSW and listed in Schedule 2 of the Act), Biosecurity Matter (Schedule 3 of the Regulations) or "Priority Weeds" (listed in the LLS Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan).

The LLS Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans will detail expected outcomes and recommended measures for controlling the regional "Priority Weeds". If a problem weed is not listed on the "priority weeds" list, land owners and managers should still take appropriate action to reduce the impact of the weed as a "General Biosecurity Duty" applies to all problem weed regardless of whether are listed or not.

What is a "General Biosecurity Duty" (GBD), I suppose you are wondering? GBD is "Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised."

I guess you may be getting a little confused or lost by now.



While the LLS is tasked with the development of the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans, your local Council or County Council will still be responsible for conducting weed inspections (now called Biosecurity Dealings) and their staff are trained and authorised under the Biosecurity Act so that they can continue to exercise the functions of an 'authorised officer' under the Act. The staff conducting 'biosecurity dealings' on lands or waterways under your control, will expect to see weeds being prevented from spreading or becoming established on that land or waterway, eliminated completely if possible or the impact of the weeds minimised. Expected outcomes will be stipulated in the Act, Regulations and Local Land Services Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans.

Authorised Officers are employed by or on behalf of your local Council to conduct 'dealings' with you regarding weed management on lands and waters under your control. Authorised Officer have to comply with their Council's Code of Conduct policies and are expected to conduct any dealings with landholders in a respectful and professional manner. Unfortunately, that respect is not returned by all landholders. Usually the disrespect comes from landholders who are failing to meet THEIR obligations in regard to managing weeds and other livestock husbandry obligations. Smart landholders will take advantage of these dealings to upskill themselves in the Act, LLS plans and on the Authorised Officer experience.

Authorised Officer are entitled to enter premises (farms, sheds etc) at reasonable hours or in the case of an emergency, at any time. They are not entitled to enter your home, unless they are invited or have a warrant. You may be committing an offence by refusing to answer questions, if you obstruct or fail to follow directions given by an officer. They can seize, destroy, take photographs, and many other things under this Act, all actions taken are in the interest in protecting the local and National community and

environment. Remember that this biosecurity work protects the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds in Australia.

The intent of this Act is that it is land tenure neutral so that all land whether public or private are expected to be managed the same. The other major change is that whereas a weeds notice was served upon a parcel of land, now a Biosecurity Direction (formerly a Notice) is served upon a person or persons named as owning or managing effected lands.

In the past following a property inspection (now a Biosecurity Dealing), the Council Weeds Officer would have come to an arrangement with a land manager or owner either in the form of a weed management plan, issued an on the spot fine or issued a notice for weed control work to be carried out. Now, after the Council Officer has conducted a 'Biosecurity Dealing' (formerly an inspection), that Officer can get a 'Biosecurity Undertaking' (either verbal or written) from the land owner or manager or issue a 'Biosecurity Direction' (formerly a notice). As with the previous Noxious Weeds Act 1993, a person who fails to comply with a 'Biosecurity Direction' (formerly a weed notice) is guilty of an offence under the new Act. Penalties have been increased under the new Act for non-compliance.

"Great" I hear you say. The thing to keep in mind is that this Act is being imposed upon us all equally and we will all be on the back foot for a while until we get ours head around this new Act. So I would suggest to you all to embrace this new Biosecurity Act which is designed to protect all of Australia including the agricultural industry from everything including Foot & Mouth Disease and Yellow Crazy Ants. It is a large document and I believe there is an educational component to go with the rollout of this new Act so if you hear of a workshop or anything to do with this Act, it would be a good idea to go along.

Article written by Neil Boyb.

Photos: Department of Agriculture and Water Resources







Happy Birthday to us, we are now 3!



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Enabling you to value add to your fleece
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Advertise Here!!

Colour back page: \$80 per issue

Full page: \$45 per issue or \$145 for 4

Half page: \$30 per issue or \$90 for 4

Quarter page: \$25 per issue or \$75 for 4

Business card ads: \$10 per issue or \$30 for 4

Stud sire listings \$15 for 4 issues

All prices are GST inclusive.

Sydney Royal 2018







What a wonderful year for the Sydney Royal show this has been. Despite the horrendous humidity that seemed to affect the humans far worse than the animals. We saw halter numbers up, new exhibitors who have not shown at Sydney Royal in the past and the return of past exhibitors, who we welcome back to the Sydney Royal family.

On Friday afternoon, I was honoured to be invited to a very special afternoon tea, which saw our very own *Shane Read* (Dear Enahs Alpacas) presented with the Royal Agricultural Society's Champion of Champions Award. Shane has been supporting us at Sydney Royal for many years and to be quite honest, I couldn't do it without him. As well as Sydney Royal, I don't think any of us could name all the shows and events which Shane has played a huge role in helping the convenors to run a successful show. Congratulations Shane on a well-earned award and thank you very much for all your support and help over the

years.

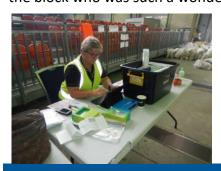






Also, on Friday we made an impressive impact on the Grand Parade as 40 Alpacas and handlers took to the parade ground. What a vision it was, certainly outshone all the other exhibitors – Thank you to all who took part it looked truly spectacular.

Two weeks prior to the Show, Kylie Martin judged our Fleeces for us on what was a wonderful day of teamwork and friendship. The team worked well together and despite having over 140 fleeces we pushed on and managed to get them all done in the one day. What a trouper Kylie is as it certainly made it much easier on the volunteers. A big thank you to Wayne McCauley, Julienne Gelber, Sue Maynard, Jennie Menzies, Jess Sacks, Jennie Staples Jess Sacks, Sue Maynard and Sean Timmony (the new kid on the block who was such a wonderful help).







A huge thank you to Karen Caldwell who not only judged our Halter classes but was Over Judge for the Young Judges Competition and stayed right through to the end to judge our Schools competition on Tuesday afternoon. Karen had only just returned a few days prior from Judging in the UK, so a huge effort on her part and definitely a rest is earned now.







Our Young Judges Completion was held on Tuesday Morning with 11 competitors vying it out for the honour of representing the Alpaca industry at next year's National Competition in Perth. Congratulations *Tara Arduin*, the Alpaca Young Judge Champion 2018.

This year's Schools Competition saw 6 teams take to the show ring with Menai High coming away with the trophy for 2018. Congratulations to all the teams especially those students who are new to alpacas and took the opportunity to try out competing at Sydney Royal. Well done all of you and I hope we will see you back next year.

The kids from Vincentia High were once again on hand not only to run the "Walk an Alpaca" for the public but also to help breeders with showing their animals, cleaning pens, feeding and walking the alpacas am & pm. This service they are offering to breeders is not only a great help but a fantastic educational experience for the kids, I know I certainly would have done without them this year and the little fruit loop I arrived with now walks beautifully thanks to their loving determination with her. Thank you, team Vincentia, we love having you at Sydney Royal and hope to see you at the Nationals.













Congratulations to all our winners and exhibitors with a special mention to:

Bedrock Cryptic (Bedrock) - Supreme Champion Suri Fleece

Yenaminut Evokateur (Precision) - Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece





Alabaster Destiny (Surilana) - Grand Champion Female Suri

Bedrock Cosmin (Bedrock) - Grand Champion Male Suri

Bedrock Cosmin (Bedrock) - Best in Show Suri 2018

Alpha Centauri Dominika (Alpha Centauri) -

Alpha Centauri Dominika (Alpha Centauri)

Yenaminut Candido (Precision) - Grand Champion Male Huacaya





Grand Champion Female Huacaya

Best in Show Huacaya 2018



Surilana

Most Successful Suri Exhibitor in show

Precision - Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor in show

This year we held an Exhibitor competition for Most Successful Small Breeder and

Most Successful NSW Breeder. (These competitions will definitely be here to stay)

Dunbars Run - Most Successful Small Exhibitor

Walkley Fields - Most Successful NSW Exhibitor

I would like to thank everyone for joining us again this year and encourage anyone who missed out to add

Sydney Royal to your calendar for 2019 (We bump in on the 18th April 19).

Article written by Keryn Burns.

Pictures thanks to Keryn Burns and Jennie Menzies

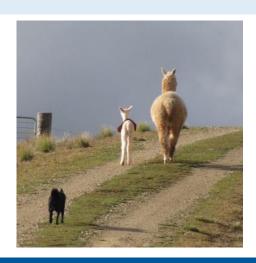
Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location	Contact
Hawkesbury Show	April 20 -21	Clarendon	Sean Timmony - 0471 272 937
Grafton Colourbration	April 20 -21	Grafton Showgrounds	Colin Glasser - 02 6647 6454
Better Breeding Workshop	April 22	Grafton Showgrounds	Andrew Munn - 0408 410 281
Tocal Field Days	May 4-5	Tocal	Narelle Tulip - 02 4934 1799
Alpaca Open Weekend	May 5-6	Nationally	AAA
VCR Workshop	May 5	Elphinstone, Vic	Joe Eaton - 0404 008 473
Carousel of Colour	May 26 - 27	Goulburn Showgrounds	Angela Smith - 0403 991 612
Ordinary Regional Meeting	May 26	Goulburn Showgrounds	Jennie Menzies - 02 6337 7288
Pre Shearing Workshop	June 3	Orange	Jennie Menzies - 02 6337 7288
Mudgee Sml Farm Field Days	13-14 July	Mudgee	Louise Manwaring 0417069951
Birthing Workshop	21-22 July	Bathurst	Jennie Menzies - 02 6337 7288
Winter Wonderland Show	4 August	Mudgee	Judy Kain - 02 6372 1714
Aust Alpaca Spectacular	23-26 August	Bendigo	www.australianalpacaspectacul
			ar.com.au
Charles Ledger Show	8-9 Sept	Goulburn Showgrounds	Deb Trostian - 0417 689 197
Aust National Field Days	25-27 Oct	Orange	Kylie Streatfeild - 0428 665 067

To those who cannot attend these workshops, similar events can be arranged in your zones. All you need is a suitable venue and some volunteers from your zone to assist. You will also need potential suitable numbers of attendees to contribute to costs. Facilitators are willing to travel however their costs must be covered by the event. Your zones AAA NSW committee members will be happy to assist in arranging events. Remember, keep up to date with shows and events. Visit: www.aaanswalpaca.com.au/calendar

Please remember to register ALL events with Keryn Burns 0400 780 722 aaanswevents@gmail.com





Australian Alpaca Association NSW Regional Reimbursement Procedures

Regional Expense claim form can be found at ww.alpaca.asn.au/member -forms



Appropriate application forms received and proposed Budget approved by whole of NSW committee. Copy of Budget sent to Janette Law. Event placed on AAA Website Calendar of events **Expense Occurred or Invoice** received by Member. Expense / Invoice relates to other approved regional expenditure. Expense / Invoice relates to Expense / Invoice relates to Or Keryn and Lionel not available approved event. asset management. Or Expense / Invoice occurred by Keryn or Lionel Complete Regional expense claim Complete Regional expense claim for, and return to for, and return to Complete Regional expense **Events coordinator (Keryn Burns) Assets manager (Lionel Tomich)** claim for, and return to **NSW President (Dale Brown)** Committee member checks expense received against Budget and or Approval. Then forwards to Janette Law, who also double checks expense relates to approved budget. Invoices and reimbursements are then sent in a spreadsheet to the national treasurer for approval by Janette usually on a weekly basis. Janette then enters payments into nab connect (online banking system) National treasurer (Steve) then authorises the payments in nab connect

Estimating Fleece Density

How often have you heard comments such as 'this alpaca has the finest micron but does not have the density of the first alpaca'?

What is being referred to here? Does the fleece feel less dense because the fibres of the previous alpaca are thicker or can the observer actually see or feel the number of fibres?

Maybe the observer is comparing the extent of open skin when the fleece is parted. Based on data from alpaca skin samples, there does appears to be a strong correlation between density and the extent of open skin between the staples¹. Estimating the difference in density by looking for open skin however is not reliable since it will be influenced by the size differences of the alpacas and can also be influenced by the size of surrounding fibre diameters.

MICRON

A coarse fleece can feel denser than a fine fleece even though the fine fleece has more fibres than the other simply because the fibres are thicker. Therefore if two alpacas actually have similar densities but one is coarser than the other then the coarse fleece will usually feel denser than the fine fleece. The only way that an observer can begin to compare two alpacas for density is if they have similar microns.

The micron also influences fleece weight in proportion to the increase in volume of the fibres. This means that the increase in weight will be proportional to the square of the diameters. An 18 micron fleece will therefore be about 27% heavier than a 16 micron fleece and a 20 micron fleece will be about 23% heavier than an 18 micron fleece, all other factors being equal.

WEIGHT

Another way of comparing densities is by using skirted fleece weights. The microns must be similar, fleece lengths must be standardised and the extent of skirting required must be similar. This is because skirting influences the micron as well as the volume of fleece. When coarse fibres along the lower edge of the saddle are removed after the midside micron has been measured, the micron of the remaining fleece will be overestimated. Similarly, if fine fleece along the midline is removed due to excessive vegetable matter the micron of the remaining fleece will be underestimated.

SIZE

Fleece density, or rather follicle density, can be reliably measured by counting under a microscope the number of follicles within a given area of a skin sample. However, when comparing follicle densities, the alpacas must be of a similar size and weight. This is because the number of follicles and therefore fibres will be at their maximum by the time an alpaca is about 9 months old and as it continues to age and its size and weight increases, its skin area will also increase. The total number of follicles/fibres however remain about the same. Generally, for a 10% increase in body weight, the density will decrease by about 6%¹. If two alpacas at 9 months of age are of the same density and one grows faster than the other than, as the alpacas age, the smaller of the two will have a denser fleece than the other. If however the micron of the faster growing alpaca blows out compared to the other then its fleece will probably feel the densest.

OTHER FACTORS

The depth of amplitude and the crimp frequency will also influence the feel of density since a deep crimp with a high frequency will feel denser than a fleece with a shallow crimp and low frequency.

Another factor that needs to be considered is the extent of dust embedded within the fleece. A dusty fleece of the same actual density will usually feel denser than a clean fleece.

CONCLUSIONS

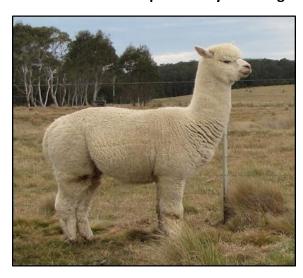
Estimating the difference in densities in the show ring is likely to be influenced more by differences in micron and the size of the alpacas than any of the other issues mentioned above. For fleece shows however, because the micron and fleece weight is already known, it will be the fleece character and the extent of dust in the fleece that influences the perception of density.

The success of a fleece breeding program can be measured by results at these shows. At the end of the day however for a given micron, it is the weight of the skirted fleece that is important. Whether this weight is high because the fleece is dense or because very little skirting was required is really irrelevant in determining the value of a fleece. In a breeding program however, the fleece should be heavy because it is both dense and required minimal skirting.

REFERENCES

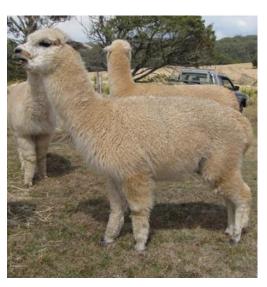
Kingwell, R., 2010. Can Guard Hair Be Bred Out Of Alpaca Fleece? Alpacas Australia Issue 60: Winter 2010.

Article written and pictures by Bob Kingwell, Monga Alpacas



A good looking male that has blown out but showing no visible guard hair

2nd FD 16.0μ, SD 3.1μ, CEM 6.6μ 5th FD 24.4μ, SD 4.5μ, CEM 8.8μ



A not so good looking male that has not blown out but is showing a lot of visible guard hair

2nd FD 14.5μ, SD 3.0μ, CEM 6.3μ 5th FD 14.9μ, SD 3.2μ, CEM 7.0μ **Support for Creative Businesses**

Recently I attended a workshop in Yass, called Top Ten Tips of Creative Businesses, that was run by Creative Plus Business, in conjunction with Southern Tablelands Arts.



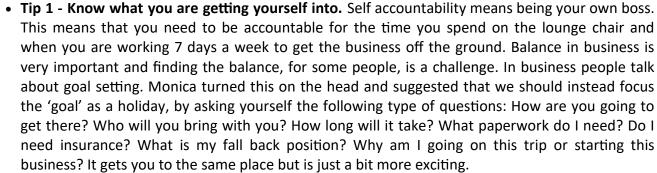
The presenter, Monica Davison was wonderful and very engaging on what is sometimes boring and dry topics such as ABN, business names, account keeping, business plans, tax and legal matters, and marketing.

Monica Davidson is the doyenne of Creative Plus Business. Monica has never had a so-called 'proper' job - she made a living as a freelance writer and filmmaker for over twenty-five years, and is now an expert on creative business and arts entrepreneurship.

The workshop covered ten tips:

- 1. Know what you are getting yourself into
- 2. Be business-like about your creative work
- 3. Learn to be the boss of your our time
- 4. Money control
- 5. Understand your unicorns and your workhorses
- 6. Learn the basics about our tax situation and the ATO
- 7. Learn to protect yourself regarding law
- 8. Find your cheer leaders
- 9. Marketing is a journey not a destination
- 10. Hang in there

From the workshop I took the most away from the following tips:



• Tip 3 - Learn to be the boss of your own time. There are two types of work: principal and non -principal work. Principal work is work you directly get paid for such as per hour work, contract work, fixed fee work. Non-principal work is all the other stuff - work that you do not get paid for such as: updating your website, marketing, social media, paying invoices etc. Non-principal work is the most important part of the business and most people, as a general rule, only spend 20% of their time on the this when they should be spending over 80% of their time working' on their business'.



- The biggest hurdle for creative people in a business sense is the boring 80% of the work stuff especially money matters. Not the earning bit (we all like that bit) but the bit were we need to keep track of the money side of the business. Monica's tip was to plan a Money Day, at least once per month or more per month if needed. Close the office door and focus on paying invoices, completing tax stuff, planning your stocks etc. Your business will never prosper if you do not spend at least 80% of your time working on your business.
- Tip 5 Understand your unicorns and your workhorses This one had me scratching my head until she explained. Your unicorns are the things you do in your business that don't make you much money, in fact they might cost you money, but you LOVE doing them, and the workhorses are the things in business that make you money but aren't as exciting (yawn the boring things). She explained by using George Clooney (whom she stated was her boyfriend, but he just did not know that he was lol!) as an example. George does coffee commercials in Australia (his work horse) so he can direct movies in the USA (his unicorns). It made sense when she explained it like that. Does George like doing coffee adverts? Most likely not but those coffee adverts allow him to pursue and enjoy his unicorns. Understand and work on the core of your business!
- Tips 6 and 7 Understand and learn about business, your tax situation, the ATO and the law.
 Monica agreed that yes these two tips could be a bit boring, like Tip 3, but as a business owner you need to understand your rights and obligations. Undertake training session, attend workshops, find a business mentor, etc.
- **Tip 10 Hang in there.** Sometimes business is tough, sometimes business chews you up and spits you out and sometimes it makes you feel very small, but hang in there. Business is made up of peaks and troughs (good and bad). Monica said the most important thing to understand it not to make rash decisions when you are in a bad time of your business. Sometimes, in these situations, you might make a wrong decision. Talk to a business advisor, a peer or your business mentor before marking any large and very important business decisions.



Monica has lots of free resources on her website, and did I mention they are free?

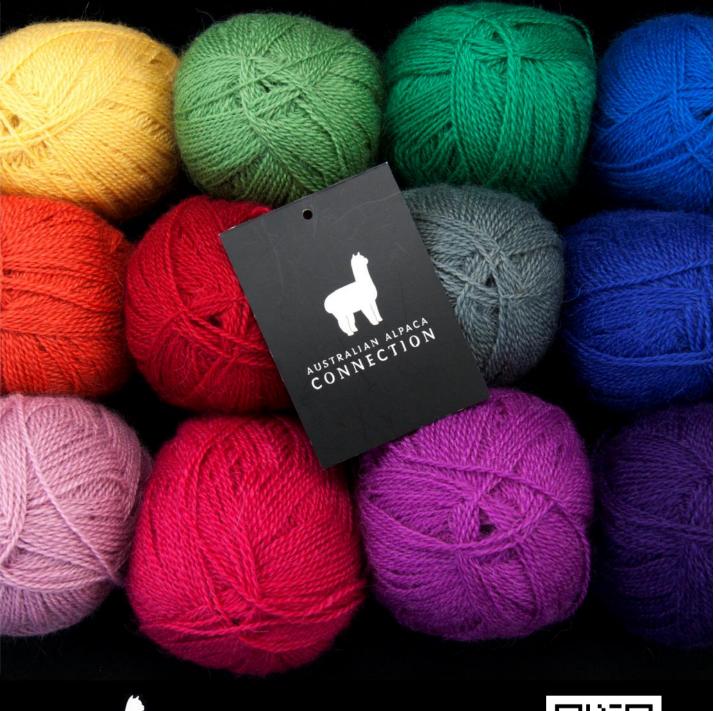
You access the free business support stuff via her website: https://www.creativeplusbusiness.com/freestuff/

A really good resource for business related matters and worth considering in your business journey.



Article written by Angela Smith - Committee Member - Commercialisation and Industry Liaison Role

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Photos of the Season































For all the show results, they are available thru eAlpaca. Just go to the Shows tab and select New Show Results, you can then select the show you are looking for.

SURI



Alabaster Sinbad White IAR 202233

Stud name: Fern Tree Alpacas DOB: 02.02.2014 Area: Central Coast NSW

Sire: Surilana Mascusani Lavish ET Dam: Surilana Panama

Fleece Stats: 2016 Mean 19.1µ 4.1SD 21.5CV 98.8% CF

2017 Mean 19.5μ 4.3SD 21.9CV 98.3% CF

Sinbad has excellent genetics, as demonstrated by his beautiful soft handling fleece, lustrous flat locks, retaining fineness through his fourth fleece, hanging from a solid, well-conformed frame. He is a well-mannered sire, keen to work, with a number of solid white cria on the ground. He has won multiple broad ribbons, including Supreme in halter and fleece.

Stud service fee: \$600 (GST not applicable) Live cria guarantee, Drive-by or mobile

matings by arrangement

Enquiries contact name: Sue Tiley Phone and/ or mobile numbers: 0417 462 827

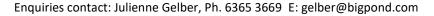
Email Address: ferntreealpacas@gmail.com

BUMBLE HILL KAISSO MF IAR 181407

Stud name: Bumble Hill DOB: 03.06.2012 Area: Orange

Sire: Bumble Hill Picasso (NZ) Dam: Jolimont Kaimi

Fleece Stats 2015 Shearing 22.6 micron mean, 4.86 micron SD, 21.60% CV (6 point blanket sample). Kaisso is a multi broad ribbon winning suri sire. He is a Surilana Piccolo grandson and his sire had 60 + follicle density. Despite only being a B2, he has amazing presence and lustre and still exhibits an even locking silky fleece across his entire blanket. His first progeny arrived in December 2016 and is a fabulous light fawn very suri female out of a white suri female. Stud service fee: \$550 including GST, drive through mating in Orange.







Wallaby Ridge Empire Brown IAR88840

Stud name: Hyghclere Alpacas DOB: 25/04/2005 Area: Orange

Sire: Wesuri Heritage Prince Russet Dam: Oz Eve

Fleece Stats: 2016 Mean 19.1µ 4.1SD 21.5CV 98.8% CF

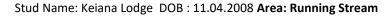
Wallaby Ridge Empire is a beautiful upstanding male, extremely lustrous and consistent throughout. Empire has proven this quality through his cria's along with his well-structured consistent return of fleece. Empire was a consistent show winner in the ring and still carries all attributes from his first fleece. Empire has produced consistent and outstanding cria's who have also done well in the show ring. Empire would be an asset to anyone wanting to breed quality coloured suri's.

Stud service \$550 inc GST. On farm mating's preferred mobile mating's also by negotiation. Enquiries: Erin & Scott Marsden Ph. 02 6365 9115 Mob. 0408 553 157

E. hyghclerealpacas@hotmail.com

Suri





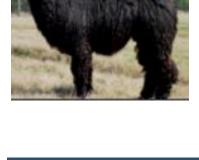
Sire: Somerset Stirling Moss LG Dam: EP Cambridge Silvery Moon MG

Fleece Stats:2011 Mean: 24.1µ SD 5.1 CF 86.4%

Macho is what you get with this stunning looking suri male. Black Sabbath has great presence, a fabulous, chunky suri head and has consistently been commented on at shows for his frame, strong bone and great lock coverage that is soft handling and lustrous. Both Black Sabbath's parents are grey. He has produced blacks and greys making him a worthy choice for coloured suri breeders. (co-owned with Tanglewood Alpacas).

Stud service fee: \$770 inc GST Live cria guarantee. Enquiries contact: Keith & Diana Rutter Ph:02 6358 8275 Mob 0428 663 161 E: keianalodge@yahoo.com.au W:

www.keianalodge.com.au



Advertise your stud males here! Only \$15 for 4 editions







Huacaya



Bonnie Vale Fatal Attraction SW IAR 157271

Stud Name: Tirrikee Alpacas DOB: 06.05.2009 Area: Bathurst Sire: Arcady Augustus SW Dam: Bonnie Vale Attraction SLF

Fleece Stats: 2012 Mean: 24.3µ FLC WT 7.5kgs - 2013 Mean: 25µ FLC WT 8.5kgs

Fatal Attraction is an SRS male. We bought him earlier this year to give increased length, density and decrease primary fibres. "Good density, exceptional fleece length, silky softness and fine primary fibres, I expect his progeny to excel for both wool and frame" Dr Jim Watts

For more information regarding Fatal Attraction and his fibre density and fibre length test results see http://www.srsalpacas.com/au.directory.alpaca.php?id=341&show=male

Enquiries contact: Jennie and Roy Menzies 63377388 and we will discuss your requirements.

Stud Service Fee: by negotiation. Live cria guarantee.

Bonnie Vale Ringo Star SW IAR 177926

Stud Name: Rocking Hill DOB: 3..52011 Area: Molong

Sire: Windsong Valley Voodoo SW Dam: Bonnie Vale Ring of Joy SLF

Fleece Stats: 2016 Mean: 28.0µ SD 4.5 TFW 6.2kg

2017 Mean: 28.4μ SD 4.9 TFW 6.0kg

Ringo is a good sized CERTIFIED macho with a wide frame who grows award winning fleeces. His 2012 fleece was awarded 83.5 points and RESERVE CHAMPION fleece at Royal Bathurst Show 2013. Ringo was awarded RESERVE CHAMPION in his halter class at the Royal Bathurst Show 2012. Ringo's 2014 fleece was awarded 81 points at the Royal Bathurst Show 2015 and was described by the judge as "a good commercial fleece".

Stud service fee: By Negotiation. Enquiries contact: Neil & Jeanette Boyd 02 63 668 117 or







Warralinga - Gorge Star Glacier ET SW IAR 124703

Stud Name: Keiana Lodge DOB: 22.10.2002 Area: Running Stream

Sire: Shanbrooke Accoyo Yavari SW Dam: Blue Grass Star of Tulangi SLF

Fleece Stats: year 2012 Mean: 26.2μ SD 4 CF 86.2%

Stud service fee: \$440 inc GST Live cria guarantee.

Enquiries contact: Keith & Diana Rutter Ph:02 6358 8275 Mob 0428 663 161

E: keianalodge@yahoo.com.au W: www.keianalodge.com.au

Huacaya

Shanbrooke Pure Evolution

SW

IAR 187274



Stud Janella Alpacas (Co owned with Regal House Alpacas) DOB: 08.07.2012

Area: Bathurst Sire: Shanbrooke Plantel Haynacho SW Dam: Shanbrooke Accoyo Pride

Fleece Stats: year 2017

Mean: 19.6µ SD 4.5

CV: 19.6

CF 94.1%

'Evo' is an outstanding young male with dense, even, soft handling fleece with crimp all over his body and down into his legs and belly on a compact, well balanced frame. In his short career so far, he has produced show winners and certified males - all with excellent temperaments.

Fee: \$880 (Inc GST) on farm and mobile matings (conditions apply). Live cria guarantee.

Contact: Jane Merison 0419 484 589 E: kahibah@activ8.net.au W: www.janella.com.au

Windsong Valley Kenjiro SW IAR 52348

Stud Name: Bumble Hill Alpacas & Kyona Alpacas (Jointly owned) DOB: 21.06.2003

Area: Orange

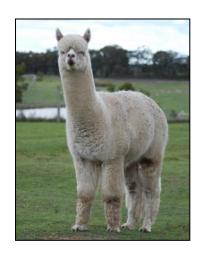
Sire: Windsong Valley Iceman Dam: Kaloma Tamika

Fleece Stats: 2010* Mean: 25.3μ, SD 5.49, CV 21.7%

Important stud sire - a broad ribbon winner in the ring and fleece shows, with impressive progeny. Exhibits a correct conformation and wonderfully lustrous, silky fleece for an 10 year old stud male. Stud Service Fee: \$750.00 inc GST drive through.

Enquiries contacts: Kyona Alpacas Ph 02: 6366 5067, 02 6366 3142 or

Bumble Hill Alpacas Ph: 02 6365 3669 E: gelber@bigpond.com W: www.bumblehill.com





FUTURA ESCOBAR SW IAR 192776

Stud names: Bumble Hill/Merungle/Walkley Fields DOB 16.03.2013A Area: Orange

Sire: Rosedean Sayonara Dam : Futura Flirtation

Fleece Stats 2015 Shearing 20.0 micron mean, 4.72micron SD, 23.60% CV (6 point blanket sample) His follicle density was 64.5 at maturity.

Escobar was 2013 National Junior Champion Male and his first fleece was awarded Champion 6 to under 12 months Huacaya at the 2014 National Show.

He is a compact, masculine male with Challenger and Warrior grandsires passing on a beautifully structured fleece, good looks and a good disposition. His first progeny are due in Autumn 2017.

Stud service fee: \$550 including GST, drive through mating in Orange Enquiries contact: Julienne Gelber, Ph. 6365 3669 E: gelber@bigpond.com

Huacaya

EP Cambridge Cappacino SLBR IAR 78659

Stud Name: Keiana Lodge DOB: 19.02.2004 Area: Running Stream

Sire: EP Cambridge Peruvian Caesar (SW) Dam: EP Cambridge Peruvian Nanoa (SW)

Fleece Stats: year 2012 Mean: 22.5µ SD 3.8 CF 96.3%

At 9 years of age has remarkable fleece stats. This light brown macho is a great asset to our breeding program by introducing great fleece qualities to our black herd, thus improving our blacks which is our ultimate aim. (co-owned with Jurustalle Alpacas)

Stud service fee: \$550 inc GST Live cria guarantee.

Enquiries contact: Keith & Diana Rutter Ph:02 6358 8275 Mob 0428 663 161

E: keianalodge@yahoo.com.au W: www.keianalodge.com.au





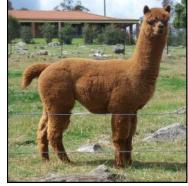
Stud Name: Rocking Hill DOB: 3.10.2010 Area: Molong

Sire: Currumbong Flash SWDam: Morning Star Columbine DF

Fleece Stats:2016 Mean: 25.1μ SD 4.4 TFW 5kg

> 2017 Mean: 28.9µ SD 5.0 TFW 4.7kg

Jareth has been awarded Champion ADULT Male Huacaya - Central Western (NSW) Region 2012, 1st Place 18-30 months BROWN Fleece - Bathurst Royal 2013, Champion SENIOR Male Huacaya - Bathurst Royal 2013. Sydney Royal 2014 - 2nd place BROWN fleece 30-48 months. Bathurst Royal 2014 - 1st place 30-48 months BROWN FLEECE& RESERVE CHAMPION MATURE MALE. Central Western (NSW) Region 2014 - 1st place BROWN Mature Male. Jareth 2014 fleece was awarded 73 points and 1st place at Royal Bathurst Show 2015. Stud service fee By Negotiation. Enquiries contact: Neil & Jeanette Boyd 02 63 668 117 or 0455 272 126



Alpha Centauri Pemberton BRN/RN IAR 184040

DOB: 08/02/2013 Stud Name: Hyghclere Area: Orange

Sire: Bedrock Sentinal Dam: Flying Colours Miss Penelope

Fleece Stats: 2016 Mean: 22.8µ 4.1 SD 18 CV 95% CF

> 2017 Mean: 22.3μ 4.1 SD 18.5CV 96.2% CF

Pemberton is a well grown male with great conformation and presence. His pedigree includes Blue Grass Centurion and double Jolimont Warrior. He exhibits a dense, very bright, fine fleece with a well aligned, high frequency crimp on a long staple with exceptional handle. It is this brightness, fineness and character in his fleece that makes him an outstanding male. Pemberton has been successfully shown achieving Supreme, Champion and Res Championships. Pemberton's progeny is now also winning Championships and Supreme awards passing down his great characteristics. Stud service \$550 inc GST. On farm mating's preferred mobile mating's also by negotiation. Enquiries: Erin & Scott Marsden Ph. 02 6365 9115 Mob. 0408 553 157



E. hyghclerealpacas@hotmail.com

Huacaya



Ambersun Quicksilver Medium Grey IAR 213862

Stud Name: Keiana Lodge DOB: 14.02.2013 Area: Running Stream

Sire: Jolimont Tiberio MG Dam: Ambersun Katrina (MF) - an Auzengate female

Fleece Stats: TBA

The new Grey boy on the block at Keiana Lodge. More details to follow....

Enquiries contact: Keith & Diana Rutter Ph:02 6358 8275 Mob 0428 663 161

Yaringa Pharoah Black IAR 201998

Stud Name: Dunbars Run & Yaringa Alpacas DOB: 08/02/2013 Area: North Richmond

Sire: Classic Darkness Before Dawn Dam: Yaringa Czarina ET Fleece Stats: 2015 Mean: 21.5µ 4.3 SD 20 CV 95.7% CF

2016 Mean: 22.1μ 4.8 SD 21.9CV 93.5% CF

A stunning black male with highly regarded genetics. This male has a beautiful handing fleece with amazing style. Pharoah has a commanding presence and is an animal that should be considered in any serious black breeding program.

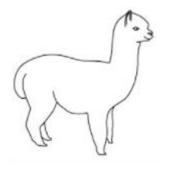
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