

Alpacas + Youth = Future

Youth & Alpacas

Shaping the Future of the Alpaca Industry



Quarterly Newsletter

The Victorian alpaca Youth Training and Education Committee would like to thank you for your continued support of youth activities within the alpaca and agricultural sectors in Victoria! Since 2017, more events have been added to our portfolio, while our work with Paraders competitions, youth camps and workshops have been recognised as the Gold Standard of Youth work within alpacas Nation-wide! This has led to exciting times within the alpaca industry and is hoped to lead to growth, not only of the Victorian Alpaca Youth Group (VAY), but of youth groups across Australia.

So let's take you through some of the exciting events that have happened this year so far!

The youth group set up a display at Farm World in Lardner Park. With 55,000 people through the gate, the group braved freezing conditions and received high praise from the Farm World CEO, who asked us back next year!

Only a few days prior to Farm World, we ran another of our highly successful annual Youth Camps. This was run from April 5 to April 8 and incorporated a huge number of guest

speakers and activities. These included workshops in general alpaca health, alpaca dentistry, alpaca fibre, felting, halter training, shearing, show

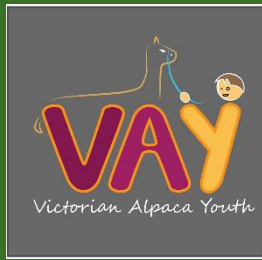


etiquette, and Showmanship and Stockmanship training. On top of these wonderful alpaca-specific speakers and experiences, we incorporated public speaking, first aid, mental health, and so much more! Participants left the action-packed four days with a more rounded alpaca understanding, they left with skills to further their personal development, while having made new friends in an inclusive and vibrant environment.

In addition to these amazing chances to speak with guest speakers from across Australia, a visit from the Peruvian Honorary Consul, Ms Erica Gay Woods and her partner Mr John Woods put the icing on the cake! After speaking about the history of alpacas in Peru and their native cousins the vicuña, the kids were left with a burning desire to experience Peru first-hand. Furthermore, this phenomenal visit ended with an excited call, informing the youth group of how impressed Ms and Mr Woods both were of the outstanding work we are doing and encouraging us to continue.



Of course, on top of these awesome events, we have already run the highly successful and fun-filled Young Paraders events at Berwick and Red Hill Agricultural Shows, and AlpacaFest. Both events ran with the enthusiasm and energy the industry has



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The Future Doesn't Just Happen.... It is Created



come to expect from Victorian Young Paraders events.

Finally, as of this year, VYTEC has taken on the Young Judges and Young Handlers portfolios in Victoria as well! With this being the case, a Young Judges clinic was held at Jigaru Alpaca Stud, run by Level 1 judge and youth enthusiast, Karen Caldwell. This was highly successful and encouraged participants from all age groups to get up, learn about fleece and conformation, and finally speak about what they had learnt by placing four animals and giving their oral reasoning. To see participants under the age of 15 successfully and enthusiastically doing something that so many adults struggle to do was truly exceptional to watch. This workshop led to VYTEC holding the first Agricultural Young Judges event at Red Hill. As many breeders will be all too aware, this is a huge step forward in Youth development in Alpacas within Victoria.

We have many more exciting events coming up throughout the year, with Young Paraders being run at ten shows throughout 2018, and Young Judges and Young Handler competitions being held alongside many of those as well!

Keep on the lookout for our wonderful youth at these shows as they continue to be exemplary ambassadors for the Australian Alpaca Industry and for youth in agriculture!

Warm regards and thank you for reading,
The VYTEC team



If you would like to help sponsor the fantastic activities offered by VYTEC, please contact Taryan Kotsiakos on 0419386068, or by email at taryan.kotsiakos@gmail.com.
You could have your name in this space!