

July 2016

Dear Presidents and Committee Chairs

AAA PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2016

All membership renewals were due for payment by 30 June. Members who did not pay by the due date will now need to contact the office to have their renewal payment processed. Please remember to confirm voting and committee nomination eligibility when holding either an Ordinary or Annual Regional Meeting. The office can assist by providing your Regional Secretary with a listing of financial members and voting entitlements – please ensure requests are submitted to the office no later than midday on the business day prior to your meeting to allow the staff time to confirm this information and provide a response.

Financial situation/Budget review

The Board has approved the proposed budget for the 2016-17 financial year, accommodating the majority of submissions from the various portfolios areas and achieving a balanced budget, with allowance for a modest surplus.

Thank you to those regions who have finalised their accounts for the 2015-16 financial year and submitted their files to Janette. She will work in conjunction with our accounting firm to finalise the results for the year so that the audit can commence in early August. As a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee it is a requirement that the audited financial statements be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Preliminary information has already been provided to the Auditors to ensure the audit is completed in a timely and efficient manner.

2016 AAA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

As advised in the May update, the 2016 AGM will be held at the Charles Ledger Show (Moss Vale, NSW) on Saturday 17 September.

A number of members have expressed disappointment that the AGM will not be held in conjunction with the National Show and Sale. At the 2015 AGM when the timing of the National Show was raised, it was noted that holding the show during the preferred timing of August (when animals were in prime show condition), would not provide sufficient time to finalise the financial accounts and have them audited in order to hold the AGM. The key business to be conducted at an AGM includes the presentation of the audited company accounts, appointment of the auditor and the election of Directors, and the AGM must be held no later than the 30th November.

In determining the timing and venue for the 2016 AGM, the Board considered the larger, high profile events scheduled for September, October and November, and Charles Ledger Show was selected as being the most suitable in terms of location with members from across NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland having previously exhibited at the show. As a standalone show there is no admission fee for non-exhibitors, and the show convenor was willing to accommodate the AGM within their weekend program. Regardless of timing and location, we acknowledge that not all members are able to attend the AGM in person, however all members who are eligible to vote are able to be represented by the appointment of a proxy, or through a postal vote (voting papers available on request from the AAA Office, after nominations for Director positions have closed and the formal notice of meeting is issued).

There are several Director positions to be filled this year, so we ask you to consider approaching potential candidates to encourage them to nominate, as the role of Director provides an opportunity to actively participate in the future direction of your Association. Any of the current Directors would be happy to discuss the requirements of the role with interested members, and Information regarding the responsibilities and commitment required of an AAA Director is available from Kris in the AAA Office.

National Show and Sale 2016

The Convening Team for this years event are working hard on the final details for the event, and the final schedule has been released on the National Show and Sale website - www.nationalshow.com.au

Entries for the show have closed, with over 760 exhibits, including 441 elite livestock and 246 showgrade fleeces, in addition to the Art, Photography and Craft exhibits. The final showing event will be the National Auction, with the parade of auction animals to commence at 4pm on Saturday. Details of the auction animals are available on the National Show and Sale website and the AAA website.

Other highlights include the Stud Service Auction (Friday night). There will be trade stands to browse throughout the event and the World of Alpaca Show Lounge will be open throughout the Show. World of Alpaca's Trevor & Adella will be ready to welcome you to this comfortable space where you can grab a coffee or a drink, meet, work or just have a chat and relax. On Saturday you'll also find the interactive Simplify Solutions display there, where you can trial "live" the proposed new online registry interface, and provide feedback on the functionality and usability.

Tickets are still available for the Saturday night dinner with Ana Marina providing 'Haunting' entertainment in an especially fitting finale to what we hope is a successful weekend for all.

The event will conclude after the dinner on Saturday night. Security will be provided onsite & exhibitor departures cannot commence until 6am Sunday, & must be concluded by 11am.

2016's Show sponsor supporters include Presenting Partners Millpaca & Prime Alpaca, Media Partner World of Alpacas, and supporting sponsors Bumble Hill Alpacas and Shahrizai. We thank them all for their keen support of the Australian alpaca industry's key national annual event, and we wish all involved in the event great success.

Farm Safety Week 2016

July 18-22 is Farm Safety Week, an annual promotion by Farmsafe to raise awareness of farm safety issues across Australia. Health and safety risks are very real on farms, at shows and other AAA events, and AAA are committed to encouraging our members to consider the health and safety of themselves, their workers, and visitors on their farms.

The AAA Health and Safety Policy has recently been comprehensively updated thanks to the knowledge and expertise of one of our members, and the policy and relevant checklists will shortly be distributed to regional committees, the Showing and Judging Committee and the Marketing and Promotions Committee as the main committees responsible for the organisation of AAA events. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations apply not just to paid employees, but to volunteers, and as a member services organisation AAA must comply with the relevant regulations. Members should also be aware of their obligations to employees and visitors to their farm – a good starting point is your state or territory SafeWork or WorkSafe website, or the Farmsafe website – www.farmsafe.org.au

Animal Movements – new Biosecurity Regulations from 1 July 2016

A number of states have enacted new Biosecurity Regulations with effect from 1 July 2016. This may effect the movement of animals within and between states. The National South American Camelid (SAC) Declaration and Waybill is recognised nationally and should be used to record all movements of alpacas, although some states may still require completion of specific forms.

A Property Identification Code (“PIC”) number is required for any property where livestock – including alpacas – are kept, and is available from your state Department of Agriculture (the name of the department will vary by state). The emphasis of the regulations is that of shared responsibility for managing biosecurity risks, meaning owners must take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under their control and ensure their actions do not spread pests or diseases.

The Farm Biosecurity website - www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/industry/alpaca/ - contains information and resources to assist producers with implementing good biosecurity practices, including the National SAC Waybill and a farm biosecurity action planner.

I'd like to remind you that much of what is achieved by AAA is through the efforts of volunteers - our office staff are a great support to the activities of AAA, however with only one full-time & two part-time staff there is a limit to how much they can do. Often it seems much of the criticism about “AAA” overlooks the important fact that as a member organisation each member is in fact, the AAA, & that we need to work together & be supportive of the association, our fellow members & the alpaca industry.

On that note, and with Annual Meetings taking place in regions during the coming months I'd like to thank each of you who have undertaken committee responsibilities in regions or portfolio areas for the contribution you have made over the past twelve months. Many others have volunteered as convenors of shows, organisers of educational and promotional events, and coordinators of displays and Australian Alpaca Week open days. Your efforts help us to achieve a considerably amount on behalf of our members as a membership organisation, and for the benefit of the wider alpaca community as the peak industry body.

Kind regards



Michelle Malt
AAA President

On behalf of AAA Directors Christine Cronshaw, Nick DeBruyn, Greg Scarlett, Annette Woodgate, Dinah Fisher, Fiona Vanderbeek and Jeff Willis