

5/8/2018

Thank you all for coming and welcome to our guest speakers that we have today.

Farm World was a great success again this year with VER members being represented in the Lakeside Pavillion as well as the Food and Fibre pavilion. It was one of the worst weekends weather wise but still had a lot of foot traffic through both sheds. Congratulations go to the breeders in the Lakeside pavilion who took out the award for The Best General Interest Exhibit at Farm world 2018. The VER brochures were ready in time to be handed out in both sheds and the VER display had both suri and Huacaya fleeces available to touch. Lots of questions were answered by the volunteers. The brochures were also handed out at the Bendigo Fleece and Wool Show. Thanks go to Nic Holdsworth for doing a great job on them.

I would also like to congratulate Andrew and Felicia Hyde who entered Alpaca Kabana at the recent Australian Food Awards and took out the Bronze medal. Well done in promoting Tallarook Meat and one of the many sides of our industry.

Unfortunately the annual Fleece Show and awards night was not supported so had to be cancelled. The committee propose to have the awards at the ARM or Christmas breakup.

I would like to thank Helen, Bob and Joy for the time they put in preparing for the show. Discussions will need to be had about the future of the fleece show and awards. If members have any ideas and would like to help could you let the committee know pls.

Nic has organised for the trailer to be housed at Berwick Show grounds with a key safe. If anyone needs the trailer contact Nic.

VER members were well represented at Royal Melbourne show this year with 192 alpacas entered. I saw more than a few champion ribbons going home.

Good luck to any members who are attending The National Show in Bendigo. High entries again this year with 556 halter entries and 275 fleeces. We have 6 youth all from this region competing in Young Paraders.

We have Alexandra Show next weekend and by the sounds of it a good number of entries in fleece and animals. High numbers of suri too.

VYTEC were approached by Lilydale show society to have a Young Paraders show on Sunday ??? November. I brought this to the committee as there is a large shed available that I felt could be filled by VER as well.

Lynda, Lynne and I have had several meetings with the show secretary and the committee feels this is another great opportunity to show case our region.

The web page has been updated and revamped thanks to Lynda Holdsworth. I think it is user friendly and if you get stuck with anything Lynda is happy to take a call and walk you through. Advertising, Stud Males and Alpacas for sale are available to promote your stud.

The next shows on our Calendar will be Lardner 23<sup>rd</sup> September and Sale on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. Our ARM will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> venue to be confirmed.

We are working on having contact with all members in the near future to see what the region can do more for the members and to find out what the members want. We would like to run some more educational days too. If members would like to forward ideas we would be happy to hear from you. Shearing, Fleece ??? any other ideas??

At a quick count last night I believe we have around 170 members in our region and there are 920 AAA members with more to still to renew. The Alpaca industry is still strong as shown by the number of entries at the National.