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President's Report: *Richard Bowden*

The past year seems to have flown by. For me it has been extremely busy and I would like to thank June for humouring me from time to time.

In the Region there have been the usual shows, all of which continued to be well supported. Thanks to Bob McLeod they run smoothly, we turn up on the morning of the show and the pens are set up ready for our animals, Rhys is busy putting up the lights and PA system, those who came to the Lardner show a few weeks ago will have noticed the new lights, and then there are the animal inspection teams, the fleece stewards, the ring, gate and chief steward. All of these ensure the show runs smoothly. Thank you all for your commitment to the Region.

I will mention Rhys again not only is he a stalwart at shows, he looks after the Region's equipment, keeps the Region's float at his home and when we need new or replacement equipment he does a lot of research before recommending to Committee the best purchase.

Thanks Rhys and please get that shoulder fixed.

Last spring the Region was represented at the Caulfield Retirement Expo and the Tesselaar Tulip Festival. We were there because Hans v P. thought those events would provide a great opportunity to present our alpaca industry to a very diverse marketplace and he put a lot of time and effort getting us there. The Region will be at the Retirement Expo again this year and Tesselaar's invited us back as they thought our alpacas and alpaca product were a great success. The difficulty is Hans, once you have come up with such great ideas, what's next? I'm sure you're up to it.

Ian supported me well as vice president and he with help from Rochelle investigated the possibility of VER holding its own Colour Show. Blessing was received from AAA National Show & Judging committee, locations looked at and it was finally agreed that VER would hold an Autumn Colour Show at the Melbourne Showgrounds next year. I'm sure you will hear more about that later from Ian.

Pat's year was marred by injury and illness. At committee he could be relied on for his steady, commonsense approach.

It was great to see so many members at the Annual Dinner & Fleece Competition in April. Thanks go to the Sub-committee for an enjoyable evening.

As no-one put their hand up at last year's ARM the Region was without a treasurer until Lorena volunteered. Thanks Lorena you've done a great job. I don't want to embarrass Rochelle but without a doubt I and, I believe, the Region would be lost without her. Rochelle stepped into the Secretary's role a couple of years ago when Stella decided time was up. In the time I have been President I have been very lucky to have such good Secretaries as Stella & Rochelle.

There are a number of motions that Wendy Lyons has asked the meeting to consider. Before those motions are put to the meeting there are a few points that I believe you should be aware of. Some of these were put to the last Regional meeting held on June 6 without the requisite notice as required by the AAA Regulations. Under Reg. 23(e) only motions of which notice has been properly given can be voted on. The reason for this is to allow members who have a view on the motion to either attend the meeting or to appoint a proxy. The way in which Regions operate is governed by the company's Constitution and Regulations.

Unfortunately neither Rochelle nor myself were able to attend that meeting.

Motion 1: would require amendment to the AAA Regulations and as such would need to be put to the AAA AGM under clause 96 of the Constitution. At present Reg. 43 requires a Regional Committee to meet when required by the Directors of AAAL or otherwise meet as often as the Committee shall think fit.

Motion 2: This is really a question. Proceedings at meetings are governed by Reg. 23-27. Of course questions can be asked and dealt with.



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

Motion 3: This is a Committee matter. Reg.53 recites the powers & functions of the Regional Committee. Reg53(e) allows it to establish Regional sub-committees for specific tasks such as organising the Annual Dinner, but these sub-committees are answerable to the Regional Committee
Motion 4: This is a matter for the Regional Committee to consider after members have expressed their views.

Motion 5: This should be referred to the Regional Committee to consider. My own view is that minutes should not be sanitised . If meaningful minutes are to be published does the Region require a member only area on the web site accessed by a member password?

Whilst it is good to see the number of nominations received for Committee this year, it is a pity that the process has been marred. I have received many phone calls from members who were upset at being coerced by a certain group to sign and give them proxy forms.

It has always been understood and the intention of the AAA that proxy forms are returned to the Secretary direct by the person giving the proxy. That was the advice originally received by the Region's Secretary. However, Rochelle received a phone call on Saturday followed up by an email from the National Secretary saying that the regulations were imprecise and would need to be reviewed, As a result of that change in advice proxy forms delivered by an agent/third party are to be accepted.

And finally, a health warning on two articles in the latest edition of Australian Alpaca Magazine. Libby Garner-Paulin's article on 'Worms & Drench Resistance' was written over 4 years ago and is out of date. The article 'The Natural Alpaca Habitat' was not reviewed before publication and contains erroneous statements regarding water and feed requirements.

Steve Pate queried the regulations governing proxy votes. A discussion on proxy votes ensued. Jeffrey Farman moved that the President's Report be accepted. Seconded Annette Woodgate. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: *Lorena Hayes*

PROFIT AND LOSS

- The AAA office and the external accountant/auditor has recently completed their review of VER 2010 year end financials and has consolidated them with the other regions and the core AAA activities;
- VER recorded an operating surplus of \$2,693.21 for the year;
- AAA capitation payments received totalled \$14,313.03 and this was essential for VER to operate in the black;
- The VER's own show at Lardner had income of \$4,092 and expenses of \$6,669 - therefore a loss of \$2,577 which was within committee expectations;
- Other events and shows (apart from Lardner) brought in \$10,344 against expenses of \$12,630 which resulted in a loss of \$2,286. That includes VER's contribution to Royal Melbourne Show and also the cost of VER participation in a new marketing event the Caulfield Retirement Expo at a cost of \$1,100 in 2009 plus \$600 part payment for the 2010 Expo;
- The annual dinner bought in \$13,585 against costs of \$10,736 for a profit of \$2,849 although that is after \$2,615 in costs associated with the fleece competition;
- The Newsletter income was 12,536 compared to costs of \$12,673 which was virtually a break even result;
- Meeting expenses totalled \$4,039 which includes expenditure on last year's RGM and the other general meetings held during the year including the Christmas meeting/get together;



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

- During the year \$4,996 was spent on fixed assets including a new lighting system, pop up banners and a notebook computer for use by the treasurer in maintaining the MYOB accounts as required by AAA commencing from 1st July 2010. .

BALANCE SHEET

- Main balance sheet item as at 30-6-2010 was cash of \$33,022 and Newsletter debtors of \$1,507 plus fixed assets of \$3,587;
- VER pays all debts as they arise and there were no liabilities to record on the balance sheet.

Wendy Lyons queried the payment for banners. Answer: The report refers to the first set of banners purchased by the AAA Ltd. The replacement banners will be accounted for in the 2010-2011 Financial Year.

David Daddo queried why the \$4996 of Fixed Assets does not appear in the Balance Sheet. Answer: During the year the region puts all purchases down as expenses and at the end of the year the external accountant classifies all expenses, and determines which can be considered fixed assets to be expensed over future years.

David Daddo queried decrease in capitation. Answer: AAA Ltd. board decides capitation and is determined by AAA Ltd. Budget.

David Daddo asked if notice regarding change in capitation is given prior to the formation of the Regional Budget. Answer: No. It is expected that the rate will stay much the same for now but will probably decrease in the future.

David Daddo queried the cost of Regional meetings in light of the decrease in capitation. Answer: The Region tries to function near as possible to cost. For 2009-2010 the Region was in surplus not deficit. If capitation is decreased in the future it will be the responsibility of the future committee to decide how Regional funds are spent.

Steve Golding queried why the Region purchased a laptop. Answer: Requirement by the AAA Ltd. to facilitate handing over accounts to new treasurer.

Moved: Jeffry Farman

Seconded: Keate Woodgate

Portfolio Reports:

Animal Health & Welfare: *Pat Lazarus*

None

Education: *Robin Daniel*

None

Equipment: *Rhys Owen*

New Lights worked exceptionally well at Lardner Show.

Marketing & Publicity: *Hans Van Poppel*

Breeders are apathetic. Only 11 studs participating in the Tesselaar Tulip Festival, which is a very poor response. Participation is the key to marketing. It is up to each individual to market alpacas.



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

Member Services: *Wendy Lyons*

This year has seen some changes, hopefully for the better.

We had a dismal turnout to the Christmas meeting and lunch, which may see us unfortunately charging a nominal fee for the next one.

We have had some very good O.G.M's at various members' farms. They all need big thanks for the generosity shown in opening up their homes to us. Hopefully this will continue in the future.

With such a big Region it is hard to know just where the right spot to have these meetings is and we try and spread them in an equal proportion.

Of course the highlight of the year was the Fleece Competition and Alpaca of the Year and Dinner. This was mainly due to the hard working sub-committee commonly referred to as the Task Force. A good cross section of members who worked well together. We have already pinpointed where we can make improvements for next year's night and as the venue is already booked, we are all eager and full of enthusiasm to commence work on it again.

In all that we do for you, the Members, there is one thing we need and that is your support. Support your Region by attending the O.G.M.s, by having "A Say", by putting things on the agenda, write to the secretary, if you want something changed or clarified or you have suggestions on topics you want discussed then let us know.

O.G.M.'s are there for you to receive information, see what the committee is doing on your behalf. Also an overall look at what the A.A.A. is up to and where we make decisions on our future.

Lastly, thank you to all who helped me. Those that gave me advice, answered my questions, helped me understand how things work in committee. I have enjoyed my time and have learnt heaps and hope that I can continue being an active member of this region.

Show Committee: *Bob McLeod*

For the 2009-2010 show season we had animal entries totalling 822 and fleece entries of 145 over the five Alpaca Of The Year shows. Animal entries increased by just over 10% and fleece entries had an increase of 30% compared to 2008-2009.

Lardner and Sale shows had similar numbers to previous year with increases at Alexandra (40%), Berwick (5%) and Red Hill (9%).

The annual fleece competition was held in conjunction with the annual dinner at Cardinia Cultural Centre in April. The competition was judged by Bill Robbins. The winners of the VER Fleece Competition:

Huacaya: Chiverton Nureyev (D & K Gregory)

Suri: Tarahill Erin (Fletcher & Byrne)

The Alpaca Of The Year 2009-2010 winners announced at the Fleece Competition dinner were:

Huacaya: Huntley Park Breanna (J Skinner)

Suri: Bedford Park Azzaro (M & L Bedford)



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

Congratulations to all the animals, their fleeces and owners.

At all the shows there are teams that prepare schedules, catalogues, penning layout and set up pens for the shows. During the shows there are animal and fleece stewards, MC and results recorders. At the completion of each show there is the clean up by all exhibitors, if everyone helps it does speed it up and everyone gets home at a reasonable hour. To all those included pre show, during set up, during the show and post show thank you from the show committee.

For all VER shows schedules (in PDF) and entry forms (in Word) are available online at the VER website and in the region newsletter. Entries close 3 weeks before the show. As most of the shows are reaching the limit with animal entries **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED**. The 2010-2011 show season has already begun with the Lardner Show on August 14th 2010. With the 4 remaining shows still to come and the closing dates and show dates are:

Show	Entries Close	Show Date
Sale Ag Show	8th October 2010	30th October 2010
Alexandra Ag Show	22nd October 2010	13th November 2010
Berwick Ag Show	4th February 2011	26th February 2011
Red Hill Ag Show	4th March 2011	26th March 2011

Trophies & Sponsorship: *Ian Earle*

Thanks to all sponsors who have donated this year. It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain sponsorship.

Colour Show: VER Autumn Colour Challenge. Not in competition with Colourbration and has the full support of Deborah Patti, convenor of Colourbration. Concept supported by AAA Ltd. Showing and Judging Committee. Most members support colour championships. Encourages small breeders to participate.

Business:

Richard Bowden moved that Motion 1 to 5 not be voted on at the ARM but considered by the next committee. Seconded Keate Woodgate. Carried.

Wendy Lyons withdrew her Motion 1 to 5.

Motion 1: That no Regional Committee meeting be convened within at least 21 days after a Ordinary General Meeting or Annual Regional Meeting.

Moved: Wendy Lyons Seconded:

Motion 2. Could the President please explain how members get the regional committee to agree to discuss motions and answer questions put to them from an O.G.M.? What regulation covers it and why do we have O.G.M.'s if the members are not allowed to make recommendation in general business to the committee.

Moved: Wendy Lyons Seconded:

Motion 3: That a sub committee be formed at the A.R.M. to run the Fleece show and Dinner for 2011, and those who organised the 2010 event have offered their services to be part of that sub committee to organise the 2011 event.

Moved: Wendy Lyons Seconded:



AUSTRALIAN
ALPACA

Motion 4: The members in attendance at the O.G.M held in June, 2010 recommend that the V.E.R. committee reconsider its decision to base the Alpaca of the Year results on all 5 nominated shows and that they revert to the recommendation of the show committee of the 17th May 2010.

Moved: Wendy Lyons Seconded:

Motion 5: Minutes of the Ordinary Regional Meeting and Committee meetings are put on the web site. The Committee meeting minutes to be sanitised to accommodate privacy and confidentiality.

Moved: Wendy Lyons Seconded:

ELECTION OF 2010/2011 COMMITTEE

President: Trevor Parry.

After the election of the President, the following people decided to withdraw their nomination for committee: Ian Earle Lorena Hayes, Fiona Martin, Hans Van Poppel, Rochelle Veitch, Fiona Ward, Keate Woodgate.

Vice President: Steve Pate, elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Alan Steele, elected unopposed.

Secretary: Rose Thorogood, elected unopposed.

Committee Members (elected unopposed): Lezley Golding, Wendy Lyons, Bob McLeod, Rhys Owen.

ARM CLOSE: 1.50PM