



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.
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MINUTES ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, December 13th, 2015

At: Almora Alpacas, Tooradin Station Rd, Cardinia

Meeting opened: 11.05 am

Present: Grace Couchman (Affiliate), Joy Skinner (Almora), Annette & Keate Woodgate (Annkea), Peter Kelly (Ary Bryn), Daphne & Keith Gregory (Chiverton), Lindy & Bill Smith (Clifden), Madelayne Bissels (Esperance), Gayle Herring (Glenavon), Christine & Hans van Poppel (Joma), Bob & Helen McLeod (Kalpara), Christine & Russell Pendelbury (Kellbury Park), Robyn & David Callaghan (Langi-Dorn), Michelle Bissels (Moresby Farm), Pat, Louise & Mikhaila Lazarus (Nil Desperandum), Gwyn Morgan (Pacarina), Wendy Talbot (Ralwental), Sue Hatfield (Ripplefield), Heather Scott & John Spencer (Surinti).

Apologies: Tammy & Kim Attenborough (Boolaroo), Julie & Tim Blake (Chakana Blue), Trish & Sean Munley (Langsyne), Marty Bissels (Moresby Farm), Jean & David Daddo (Pitchingga Ridge), Denise & Robert Beard (Rustique), Russell & Lorena Hayes (Sante Fe), Michelle Simberg (Serenity), Steve & Lezley Golding (Steveley Park), Paul & Heather Gardner (Tarcoola), Alison Quagliani (Toomuc Ridge), Colleen Long (Truleen Downs), Wendy Lyons & Marie Fitzgerald (Wenmara), Robin & Joanne Daniel (White Cloud).

Welcome: The President, Michelle Bissels, welcomed those in attendance.

Minutes of previous ORM held on August 30th, 2015: (distributed to be read)

Confirmation of Minutes of Previous ORM, August 30th, 2015

Confirmed: Keith Gregory;

Seconded: Daphne Gregory;

Carried

Business Arising from Minutes of Previous ORM:

- 1. NILS:** Annette Woodgate - in the final stages of process
- 2. AFN:** Keate Woodgate – 10 fleece collections booked in for December but still need more coloured fleeces for shipment to New Zealand. Collection will be followed by several weeks of bookwork and finalising before shipment exported in January. It must be in New Zealand by late January because scourer is only available for alpaca fleece for a couple of weeks. They are looking for another shipment of 24-26 mc and want to trial a shipment of 16-18 mc of white hucaya ie 150-200 kg needed and to be purchased at \$30 per kg. If acceptable, price for further shipments would be increased. Several other orders are in progress and buyers are very impressed by the AFN method of skirting, classing and processing of alpaca fleece. However, AAA do not support the AFN. Motion: That VER write to AAA requesting that AAA support the AFN, mentioning the successful fleece sales and the promotion of Australian fleece to the world. Response would be required by the March ORM.

Moved: Keith Gregory;

Seconded: Hans van Poppel; Carried

Michelle Bissels with the aid of Annette Woodgate would create a flyer to be presented at the Regional Presidents' Meeting in February.

Hans also suggested that VER support the AFN financially to help with expenses. Annette Woodgate thanked him for suggestion but declined the offer.

- 3. AAA Survey:** Annette Woodgate - data has been fed into computer and collated. Some small changes will occur but very slowly. Date for National Show has already been changed. The website is being updated and improved. There may be some reductions in animal transfer fees and some offers to VER members are forthcoming.
- 4. VER Website:** Some discussion re linking VER website to AAA website.
Joanne Lincoln will be contacted re linking animals for sale on VER website to IAR database.
- 5. Annual Dinner and Fleece Competition:** Lezley Golding has taken up the challenge and with a small band of helpers has initiated its organisation. See report in portfolio section.

Correspondence: Wendy Talbot (distributed to be read)

Accepted: Gwyn Morgan;

Seconded: Joy Skinner

Carried

Business arising from correspondence:

Show Committee to forward 2016 Show information to AAA inclusion on AAA website.

President's Report: Michelle Bissels (as read)

Treasurer's Report: Russell Hayes (distributed to be read)

Accepted: Keate Woodgate;

Seconded: Russell Pendlebury;

Carried

Motion: That we congratulate Russell Hayes on his presentation of his Treasurer's report and his summaries in such an easy to read and understandable format.

Moved: Keate Woodgate;

Seconded: Hans van Poppel;

Carried

Business arising from Treasurer's report:

- Show losses were highlighted in report. Shows depends on members showing their animals and at present only 23-28 studs out of 100, show animals. Nationals have only 110 studs participating and make huge losses ie at great cost to all members. Fewer animals by fewer members will mean fewer shows. Shows must become more cost effective ie income must balance outgoings.

General discussion on increasing participation and increasing show income:

- higher entry fees (animal entry fees usually go to Ag Society that hosts the show so maybe higher admin fees)
 - monetary prizes for champions
 - more sponsorship – outside sponsors to be sought by individual show convenors/committees
 - raffle tickets sold at shows with convenors soliciting local businesses for prizes
 - somehow limiting big breeders to encourage more smaller ones to show animals
 - publicity/advertising to increase to encourage more participation by public
- Reduction in capitation and retention of interest from investment account by AAA has decreased VER cash flow. Some Melbourne members with studs in Eastern Region have been allocated to Central Region – to be investigated and contacted re changing regions.
 - Letter of protest to be written to AAA re reduction in capitation percentage and retention of interest because it is severely inhibiting VER services to members.
 - Michelle to talk to other Regional Presidents at Presidents' Meeting in February.
 - Russell to be asked to prepare a 5 year projection plan about the expected profit and loss over the next 5 years.

Portfolio Reports:

Show Committee: Present convenors doing great job.

Convenors reports: Alexandra (Hans van Poppel) – verbal report
Sale (Bob Beard) – written report as attached

General discussion re shows.

- judges names need to be on websites with other show info – Show Committee to follow up
- request local judges to help control show expenditure.
- more judges required
- younger people need to be encouraged into showing and judging
- show info/followup needs to be sent to AAA and VER website editors

General Business:

More general discussion re income.

Motion: That show animals can be advertised for sale at VER shows with sale fees being charged and retained by VER.

Moved: Louise Lazarus; Seconded: Hans van Poppel; Carried with following provisos

that

1. All such animals must be nominated on/with entry forms, entered and judged at show.
2. They will be listed in Show Catalogue and identified at show by VER 'for sale' tag.
3. The sale fee will be \$30 per animal to be by direct deposit to VER.
4. The system will be trialled at the Berwick Show in February.
5. The Show Committee will formalise details re entry forms and collection of fees

Michelle Bissels thanked all for attendance and closed the meeting.

ORM closed 12.51 pm