

## **President's Report for ORM – 5th December 2010**

The first few months have been very busy for Committee members. Apart from the tumultuous ARM and its aftermath, we have had Tesselaars, the Retirement Expo, the magazine, Lardner, Sale and Alexandra shows, work on the new website, AAA Council plus the National and Royal Melbourne shows. Others will speak on some of these issues and I'm sure you will have questions.

Additionally, we decided to publish minutes of our meetings, which in itself, generated a wide variety of responses. One thing we haven't done is to make progress with respect to the regional breeder groups; still something I am keen to do.

We did decide to defer the introduction of a colour show for VER. The reasons for this are many, but principally it was because the perceived financial risks were too high considering the manpower and skill resources we had immediately at hand to prepare for and operate an event of such magnitude. We are prepared to implement a colour show for VER members, but we have to find the right location, probably Lardner Park, and the right time of year.

I was recently at the National Show & Sale and the AAA Council meeting and it became very clear to me that we are in for some significant changes with respect to judging, breed standards and animal health criteria. These issues also impact on establishing a new show and I for one, do not want to rush into one with undue haste. Despite what may have been said elsewhere, your incoming Committee had no comfort that the region was ready to run a colour show at the Royal Melbourne .

Reflecting the expected changes in judging parameters to bring them more in line with fleece processor requirements, your Committee is planning a Fleece and Showing Forum (or some similar name). The idea of this is to bring together breeders, judges, vets and fleece processors to air their different perspectives on fleece in all its aspects; length, fineness, colour, crimp, locking etc. and to consider the animal health issues surrounding coverage on face and legs. Lesley Golding, John Spencer and Robin Daniel are working on the plan at present and we hope to report on date and venue in the near future.

There are significant changes afoot in the fleece market as you will have worked out from the AAA's recent publication of the various and competing fleece prices on offer. Historically, AAFL was the AAA's processor of choice but I believe that this is no longer the case and currently AAFL does not seem to be competitive.

All the changes currently in train in several areas of the alpaca industry, to me, bode well for the future. Whilst many of us are breeders because we just love the animals, there is an increasing number who expect to be participating in a vibrant and profitable industry. Those two perspectives are not mutually exclusive and I am confident that in the not too distant future they can both be reality.

I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas and New Year and trust that you will experience a rewarding and fulfilling 2011.

**Trevor Parry**