

President's Report ORM Sunday 6th March 2011

Acheron Alpacas, Buxton

Welcome all and a special thank you to Jenny and Brian Worcester who have made their property available a relatively short notice.

Since the last meeting, the weather, as well as Christmas, shearing and the recommencement of showing have probably been at the forefront of most people's minds; not forgetting the terrible earthquake in Christchurch.

Some breeders were unfortunate to be severely affected by the heavy rain and some properties are still partially under water. As far as we know, no one in the Region actually had their house flooded or lost any stock; we can be grateful for that. It is most peculiar seeing green paddocks in February!

I trust that you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and that there were no difficult cria deliveries in the middle of Christmas lunch!

The Berwick Show went very well with animal numbers up although breeder numbers were down. Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the Show. No doubt Bob McLeod will expand on show matters in his report.

In response to your request at the December ORM, the Committee has considered the proposal for an Eastern Region Colour Show and the matter is an Agenda item for later this morning.

Preparations are well underway for the Spectacular and for the Fleece, Health and Judging Forum and there will be more information on those events later also.

The Committee is still looking to fill the Member Services position vacated by Wendy Lyons and I have been vested with the task of developing a Position Description, which, with Wendy's help, I am doing. In the meantime, if any member is willing to put their hand up, please see me after the meeting. It is a very broad job and one that is key in us offering the services to you that you seek but one that requires the rounding up of additional helpers for those many tasks.

There are a few AAA items to report.

There is a number of reviews underway:

The Strategic Plan for the organization together with Policy and Objectives documents are in draft form at this stage with the latter two due to be issued to Regional Presidents for review, in April. The target is for the documents to be endorsed by Council in May

The Budgeting process is also under review, again with the May Council meeting as the target for implementation.

The AAA IT systems and practices are under intensive investigation, again, May will be decision time!

Another item worth reporting on is the fact that the Board has made a decision to investigate the possibility of developing a new Association image which would include a logo and other possible branding concepts.

The Board has decided to fill a Secretary/Manager position at the Mitcham office with a targeted completion of May/June.

There are many other items but you don't want to hear from me all morning, so I'll stop shortly. I'll put Jenny McAuliffe's report to Presidents here for you to peruse if you so desire at the end of the meeting.

One final item gives me great pleasure to announce. RIRDC has an annual award for its Rural Woman of the Year and at a ceremony at Parliament House in Melbourne on Thursday, the Victorian winner was announced to be our own Angela Betheras. Her \$10,000 award will be spent on working with other female textile artists who are alpaca breeders to look at producing wearable art that can be exported to China. The money is for her to get everyone together and to investigate the possibility. It might not work but then again it just might!

She already has a few speaking engagements lined up so alpacas will be taken to the masses but the good part is for the next two years she will sit on the board of WIPIAP which is the Women In Primary Industries Advisory Panel which advises the minister so again alpaca will get a look in at a govt level via this award.

Trevor Parry