

VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

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Welcome to the VER e-Newsletter

Hi, a call out to all to share your "Home on the Farm" photos.

I understand you are all busy but I would greatly value any feedback. I am happy to continue producing the eNewsletter if it is being enjoyed!

VER Best New Breeder Award



Congratulations

Talpacka!



On behalf of the Victorian Eastern Region Committee, we are pleased to announce the Victorian Eastern Region Best New Breeder Award 2019/20 award:-

**Best New Breeder and winner of the Dianne Condon Memorial Trophy is:-
Talpacka Alpacas**

– owned by Lynne, Tieran, Annalie and Tamaryn Kimber

Talpacka are based in the Yarra Ranges and have been an active participant with the Victorian Alpaca Youth and more recently commenced showing their alpacas. They are breeding both Suri and Huacaya and we look forward to their presence in the show ring in the future.

Dianne Condon Memorial Trophy – Best New Breeder

Inaugurated July 2012

Dianne loved alpacas and the Industry with a passion.

A long standing member of the Region, Dianne served extensively at both regional and national committee level.

In co-ownership with her husband Ron, their highly successful Shanbrooke Alpaca Stud gained early world-wide recognition.

A national and international Show judge, Dianne was accorded a AAA Life Membership for her service to the Industry. Dianne, who passed away on 12th January 2012, is remembered with great affection.

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Neogen announce new coat colour test for alpaca breeders



Belgian Huacaya breeder Laurence Varlet was the first commercial breeder to use the test to gain new insight into the genetics behind her alpaca's coats

A new genetic coat colour test has the potential to change the way the alpaca industry operates and make it easier to breed highly sought after 'classic grey' stock.

Neogen recently released its new Alpaca Coat Colour Test which will provide breeders with a new level of confidence in breeding progeny carrying coat colours desired by fleece mills and fashion designers.

With a few drops of the animal's blood Neogen's laboratory in Gatton, Queensland, can help identify the genetics behind the alpaca's coats.

Belgian Huacaya breeder Laurence Varlet was the first commercial breeder to use the test and said breeders could begin marketing animals with certain proven genetic values.

"Until now it's been impossible to know prior to breeding if our lighter coloured animals carry grey genetics," she said.

"Sometimes you can be 99 per cent sure an animal with a light coat will produce healthy grey offspring so you go ahead and breed them and then spring rolls around and you've got crias (juvenile alpacas) with different coloured coats.

"It can be disappointing because you're back to square one and you must wait at least another year to try again."

The genomic test was developed in collaboration with Dr Kylie Munyard from Curtin University in Western Australia.

**Source:- *The Land*, 14/7/2020.
To read more click [The Land](#).**



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AAA News

Following the resignation of Andrew Munn as AAA President, the AAA Board has elected Prue Walduck as the Interim President until the 2020 AGM.

Congratulations Prue and best wishes to Andrew on his adventures in France.

To read messages from both Andrew and Prue go to

[AAA NEWSROOM](#)



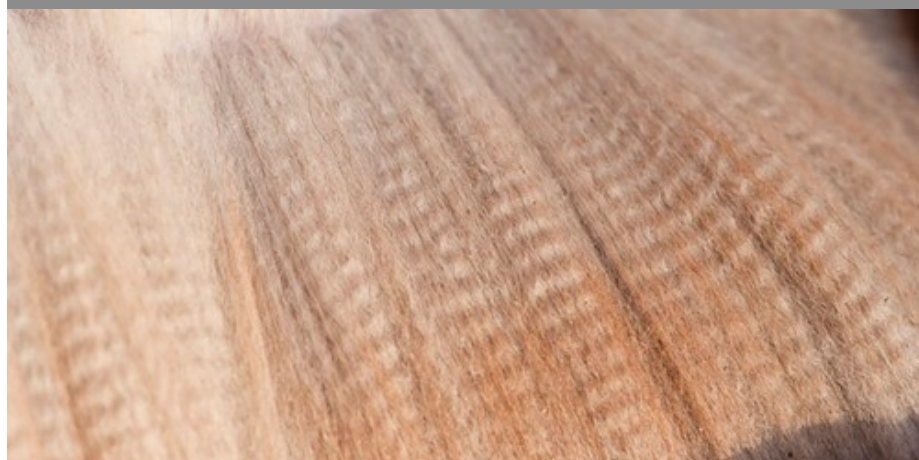
2020 AAA National Fleece Challenge

Scheduled for early December in NSW, entries plan to open in October 2020.

Entry will be via eAlpaca. There will be two shows:

- National Fleece Challenge 2019-2020 will be for fleeces shorn between June 2019 and May 2020
- National Fleece Challenge 2020 will be for fleeces shorn after May 2020

The entries for these two shows will be merged and judged within the one competition. Click [here](#) to read more



Q Alpaca Annual Returns are due

Returns to be completed via [eAlpaca](#)



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AAA TREASURERS REPORT TO REGIONS

Content moved to
Members Zone

eAlpaca Sales Page Helpful Hint!

Did you know that you can narrow your search to within the Victorian Eastern Region?

Search criteria includes Breed, Colour, Colour type, Sex, Owner location.

Go to [eAlpaca Search Sales Listing](#)

The screenshot shows the 'SEARCH SALE LISTINGS' page on the eAlpaca LISTINGS website. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Search for an animal'. Below the search bar, there are navigation links for 'Representing: AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD (AAA)', 'View member's profile', and 'Admin dashboard'. The main content area is titled 'SEARCH SALE LISTINGS' and features a search form with the following fields:

- Breed: [input field]
- Colour: [input field]
- Colour type: [input field]
- Sex: [input field]
- Owner location: [input field]

Each field has a corresponding 'is:' dropdown menu and an 'Any' dropdown menu. The 'Owner location' dropdown menu is currently open, showing a list of regions:

- Any
- NEW SOUTH WALES
- CENTRAL REGION VIC
- EASTERN REGION VIC
- WESTERN REGION VIC
- QUEENSLAND
- SOUTH AUSTRALIA
- SOUTH QUEENSLAND AND NORTHERN NSW
- TASMANIA
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

At the bottom of the search form, there is a 'Search' button. Below the search form, there is a message that says 'No results for this search'. At the very bottom of the page, there is a footer that reads: 'Alpaca sales and the alpaca sales listing service is provided by Simplify Solutions. You can search listings and list your alpacas for sale.'



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VER Local News

The VER ARM will be held on Sunday 30th August 2020. Further information on the meeting will be forwarded shortly.

The VER elections for the new committee will also be held at this time. All Committee positions are declared vacant at the ARM so nominations are open for all positions.

Nominations for new committee members have been received by the VER Secretary and will be announced in due course.

Home on the Farm



Above: Tess, Joel and Ryan with Hope nailing the isolation selfies



Left:

It was pretty cold for the first week of August in the VER.

Olinda along with many others had snow!!



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Shearing & Processing

Shearing has been declared an **essential agricultural service** during Covid 19 Restrictions.

For everything you need to know go to

[VER Website Shearing & Processing](#)

It is time to book your shearer for 2020.

A listing of shearers is available on the [AAA website](#)

For those new to alpacas:-

Alpacas need to be shorn annually. This is usually done in spring or early summer so that the alpacas have grown enough fleece back before the weather cools again and so they have their fleece removed before the weather gets too hot. Depending where you live and what facilities you have also has some influence on the window for shearing, Talk to an experienced breeder in your area to find out when alpacas are typically shorn in your area. Local breeders may also be able to advise you on alpaca shearers that are in or visit your area. When breeders only have a small number of Alpaca It may be beneficial to liaise with other breeders locally to organise shearing simultaneously in order to secure the shearers services.

Alpacas are generally tied down or restrained for shearing, this may sound unpleasant but it is the safest way for both the alpacas and the shearer and is the standard practice in the alpaca industry. If done correctly with the right equipment, it causes no harm to the alpaca. Alpacas can be shorn on a specially built table designed for shearing or on the ground (you will need something placed on the ground to shear on, your shearer can advise you of their preferred options).

It is recommended that those new to alpacas talk with experienced breeders about the shearing process, equipment, set ups and resources needed, or better still find one willing to have you go and watch their shearing first, many breeders will be open to this. For those yet to purchase their first alpacas, put finding out about shearing on your list of questions to ask the breeder you do purchase from.

It is also recommended that experienced alpaca shearers are used as they have learned the techniques for shearing and handling alpacas and can also give advice on the requirements for shearing. Discussions should be had with the shearer prior to the first shearing to agree what the service will include as it can vary. You will also need to ask if they place the alpaca on the table or floor and tie them down or if you will need to make arrangements for someone else to do this or decide if you are going to do these tasks; also inquire if they bring any of the equipment or if you need to have it.

Try to book in a shearer as far in advance of your shearing time as possible, some alpaca shearers already have bookings 12 months in advance and it can be very hard to secure an alpaca shearer in some areas if left until peak shearing time.

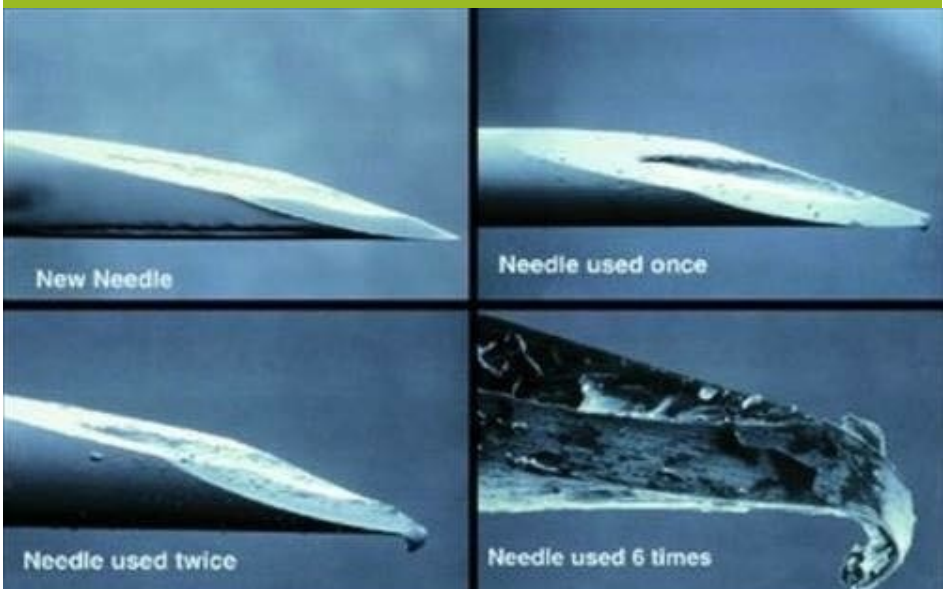
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Alpacas require vaccinations in addition to vitamins/minerals and occasionally medical treatments via injections.

Some helpful information regarding injecting:-

- ◆ When giving injections always get veterinary advice to make sure the injections are appropriate and you know the correct procedure. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ◆ There are 3 types of injections: Subcutaneous, Intramuscular & Intravenous. Intravenous injections should only be administered by a veterinarian. It is important to learn the correct technique for administering Subcutaneous or Intramuscular injections.
- ◆ Use good quality equipment and choose appropriate needle length and gauge in accordance with animal size/age and vaccine/medication type.
- ◆ Selecting the smallest possible needle diameter (gauge) will minimize tissue damage.
- ◆ Inject into dry clean skin using clean, sharp needles. Always avoid injecting wet livestock where possible.
- ◆ Use sharp needles. All needles go blunt so replace needles frequently and avoid contact with dirt.
- ◆ Ensure equipment is cleaned, disinfected and sterilized where required after use.
- ◆ Single use and worn-out needles must be disposed of in an appropriate safety container.
- ◆ Store re-usable equipment in adequate clean and dry location to prevent risk of corrosion.
- ◆ All vaccines diluents and any other biological sensitive materials must be stored in cool and dark place, refer to manufacturers guidelines.



View of the needle bevel, showing how the point of the needle begins to blunt after first use.