



VER ARM Meeting Minutes UNCONFIRMED

Date and Time: 30th August 2020 at 11am

PRESENT: Wendy Lyons, Marie Fitz-Gerald, Angela Betheras, Heather Gardner, Paul Gardner, Lynda Holdsworth, Nic Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, Jean Daddo, David Daddo, Chris Pendlebury, Wendy Talbot, Joy Skinner, Gwyn Morgan, Vivian Blacker; Lezley Golding.

APOLOGIES:-Lindy Smith, Margit Rossi, Daphne Gregory, Trish Munley, Sean Munley, Julie Blake, Tim Blake, Kath Borrow, Carmel Byrne, Marilyn Fletcher, Melissa Tebb, Hans van Poppel, Christine van Poppel, Fleur Baker, Bev Baker, Russell Pendlebury, Jenny Miles, Colleen Long

Venue: Zoom Teleconference

Chair – Nicholas Holdsworth. Meeting opened at 11.05

	Action	Responsibility
<p>Welcome from President.</p> <p>Apologies – see above</p> <p>Register of Declaration read out.</p>		
<p>Confirmation of 8th Sept 2019 ARM minutes:-</p> <p>Confirmed - Chris Pendlebury. Seconded - Joy Skinner</p>		
<p>Presidents report - see Attachment A</p>		
<p>Treasurers Report - see Attachment A</p>		
<p>Secretary Report - see Attachment A</p>		
<p>Newsletter, Social Media Report - see Attachment A</p>		
<p>Show convenors report – All 5 shows were run. Alexandra, Lardner and Sale were run as stand alone shows. Berwick and Red Hill were run in conjunction with regional agricultural shows. All attracting good numbers and either made money or cost neutral to the region.</p>		
<p>Notification of decisions made affecting members of the Region.</p>		



<p>Adoption of regional accounts for the year.</p> <p>Adoption of accounts moved by Gwyn Morgan, seconded by Wendy Talbot. Adopted subject to review of the discrepancies raised for the Lardner and Red Hill Shows. Nic Holdsworth/Vivian Blacker to review accounts and provide transaction listings to the show convenors to be reviewed and corrected if required.</p>	<p>Review accounts and provide transaction listings to be reviewed by Lardner and Red Hill Show convenors.</p>	<p>Nic Holdsworth/ Vivian Blacker</p>
<p>Business Arising:-</p> <p>Questions raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is VER going to be charged ongoing Audit Fees from the AAA, answer is no as VER no longer use a stand alone MYOB program. 2. WFI revenue – what is the current arrangement? Discussed WFI are a supporter of VER. VER receives commissions from WFI for all new and renewed local insurance policies. Discussed the need to find out exactly the conditions of this arrangement for 2020/21 with the view to more fully understanding the possible revenue. 	<p>Contact WFI</p>	<p>Nic Holdsworth</p>
<p>Election of Regional President, Regional Vice President, Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer. Positions are filled as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nicholas Holdsworth – President -Lynda Holdsworth – Vice President -Vivian Blacker – Treasurer -Wendy Talbot - Secretary 		
<p>Election of Regional Committee. Positions are filled as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tim Blake -Heather Gardner -Kylie Taylor 		



Australian Alpaca Association Ltd.

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Angela Betheras		
Gwyn Morgan		
No agenda items were received.		
Meeting closed 11.45am		



Attachment A

VER Reports August 2020

Includes: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Media/Newsletter, Equipment/Merchandise

Presidents Report

Nic Holdsworth

2019-2020

A lot has happened in the past 12 months.

12 months ago our President was Maddy Bissels and we were all sitting side by side, without face masks, at the Bunyip Community Hall.

Today I am your President; Maddy has moved to the Central region with her fiancé Jonathan Provis-Vincent and we are meeting on Zoom. Did anybody know what Zoom was 12 months ago? As you are all too aware we here in Victoria are currently in a State of Disaster with Stage 3 and Stage 4 lockdowns and night time curfews affecting our region.

Fortunately we managed to get most of our events complete in the year with the exception of Farm World. So all things considered we have been quite lucky. The first half of 2020 will see us not having an Alexander Show, Lardner Show or Sale Show, unless there are some massive changes in government policy. 2021 does not look all that promising for Berwick or Red Hill however it's probably a bit far out to predict, given the fluid Covid 19 situation. The Berwick Show society is assuming there will not be a publically attended show.

Our Committee is also having a major change with four of our long standing committee members standing down after many years of service to our region. Thank you Joy Skinner, Lezley Golding, Chris and Russell Pendlebury. Their departure will see some new faces and blood join our committee.

Things have also changed at a National level with the resignation of our elected President Andrew Munn who has taken a job in France. This sees the appointment of an Acting President Prue Walduck. The financial structure and procedures of the region have also changed dramatically with all the accounting, bill paying and reporting coming from our head office in Canberra. This will see a new way of managing and organising events, there will be different processes and procedures being put in place from Head office. So all event convenors will need to change some of their existing processes to meet the new head office requirements.



The new acting President has put in place monthly regional president zoom meetings so we now have a regular forum to discuss issues arising. So if anybody has any concerns please let me know with an email and I will raise your concerns.

National financial reports, the secretary distributed the current National financial situation and we can see that the National body did not have a good year. The major problem they have is lack of revenue, so it's up to us to encourage new members to join the association, for us to register all our animals. When we sell animals to new breeders, we need to encourage them to join the association so you can transfer your animals across to their new stud. All these little events create small streams of revenue that all help the bottom line of the association and our region. Our new committee will be working on this in the year to come. Any event that we are lucky enough to organise needs to make a positive financial contribution to the region.

I hope the remainder of 2020 is good to you and we look forward to a more positive 2021.

2019/20 Treasurers Report

Vivian Blacker

Please refer to the 2019/20 Profit and Loss Statement and Balance sheet for details of year results. They show another good result this year with an operating profit of \$3359.93 and maintaining a reasonably healthy Balance sheet. The VER were able to run 5 Regional shows over the year, before the pandemic restrictions came into play. All of the shows returned a profit - congratulations to the Convenors for their diligent work. The cost of transport of pens to and from the Lardner Show incurred a significant cost (\$2420) for the Lardner Show, but great work by the Convenors enabled that cost to be covered. The Judges expenses for shows were not allocated to each show and is shown as a separate item.

The VER payments to Farm World were refunded and deposits paid by stall holders to VER were returned. It is important to note that VER Committee agreed to forgo half the Regions Capitation payments for 2019/20 from AAA to assist their financial position.

The future

From 1st of July 2020, the main bookkeeping / accounting function will be centralised in Canberra and a centralised Online MYOB system will be used. Processes for authorisation of payments and generation of invoices will still rest with the Region. The VER will still manage and monitor their own finances through the MYOB system. As part of many changes with the financial systems at AAA from 1 July we will be charging GST on all Goods & Services (Shows, Events, Training,



Merchandise, Advertising etc), it follows that the GST paid on purchase will now be claimed back in the Quarterly BAS process.

In addition, as of 1 July the deferred Judges Levy Increase (from January 2020) comes into effect and the Judges Levy is now \$4.00 for animal & \$2.00 for Fleece Entries. VER activity Plans for the 2020/21 year is still uncertain, but hopefully the Covid-19 cloud hanging over us will be clearer over the next couple of months!

Secretary's Report

Lynda Holdsworth on behalf of Wendy Talbot

Overall a quiet year with the following events having to be cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions:-

- Alexandra, Sale and Lardner Shows
- Farm World
- ORM and Dental Information Day
- Alpaca 101 on farm workshop
- VER Spectacular and Annual Fleece Show

We are hoping the show season will recommence in 2021!

The workshops will be rescheduled as soon as gathering in small numbers allow.

We currently have approx. 110 members, 18 new members were sent welcome packs from the AAA and more recently welcome emails from the VER, advising of various ways of staying in touch.

We would like to wish our retiring members all the best for the future. We acknowledge that a number of our members are suffering from the effects of the Covid 19 restrictions and we look forward to the time they are ready to renew their membership.

Although the VER Spectacular was unable to go ahead we were very pleased to be able to go ahead and announce the Alpaca of the Year and Best New Breeders awards. Unfortunately the official presentation of the trophies have had to be delayed.

We nominated 3 of our long time committee members for AAA Certificates of Appreciation and are delighted to have been advised all three have been approved, presentation will take place at the ORM.



NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

Lynda Holdsworth

Newsletter Editor Report

In April 2020 it was decided to reintroduce the VER eNewsletter, Victoria was in the midst of Covid 19 restrictions and all shows, training and social events had been cancelled.

The eNewsletter has been produced monthly with publications being emailed and also included on the VER website for the months of April, May, June, July and August.

It is always difficult to ascertain the success or otherwise of this type of communication, to date there have been approx. 10 people who have communicated that they were enjoying the newsletter

With minimal input from members, content has been sourced from social media, AgriFutures, AAA, VER Website, local product producers and other articles that may be deemed to be of interest to our members

I feel the newsletter has been beneficial during Covid 19 but expect to reduce the frequency to quarterly once other methods of getting together are back on the agenda.

Website and Social Media Report

Late in 2019 following advice from the AAA we were asked to move our website across to the AAA format. By early in the New Year the majority of historical data, meeting minutes etc were transferred over to the new format and the new website was launched.

Over the remainder of the year the website has been extended to include further local contact such as sections on Annual Awards, New to Alpacas, Alpaca Health, Open Farms, Alpaca Product and local content on the News and Events pages.

More recently the colour of the website pages have been changed to green to more clearly distinguish us from the central region.

We are always keen to receive feedback or further content for the website. The website address is <https://ver.alpaca.asn.au/>

The Facebook page continues to bubble along with approx. 500 followers. 64% are women. 40% are in the age group of 45-64 years and just under 40% in the 18-44 years group. Not surprisingly most of our followers are from Australia but we also have approx. 45 from Peru, 10 from NZ and approx. another 35 from USA, Germany, UK, Chile, Italy, Norway and Austria. The Facebook page address is <https://www.facebook.com/VER-Australian-Alpaca-1406697262966263>



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Equipment Merchandise Report

Tim Blake

VER trailer, I have been through the trailer inventory and checked against the equipment in the trailer,

The main problem I found was the first aid kit. Is extremely inadequate, nearly all the contents had a use by date of 2009 and is not of the type recommended for large group situations.

I would also suggest a discussion of a portable defibrillator particularly for our stand alone shows. The trailer itself is in a good towable condition.