

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD

Victorian Eastern Region

ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING

Date: 28th February 2021, 10am

Venue: via Zoom

Commenced: 10.05am

Minutes - Unconfirmed

Nic Holdsworth chaired and opened the meeting, thanking and welcoming everyone.

Attendees: Nic and Lynda Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, Jean Daddo, Lezley Golding, Heather and Paul Gardner, Vivian Blacker, Angela Betheras, Allison Quagliani, Gwyn Morgan, Julie and Tim Blake.

Apologies: Kath Borrow, Lindy Smith, Bhavani Rooks, Daphne Gregory, Steve Golding, Wendy Lyons. Marie Fitz-Gerald, Wendy Talbot, Jenny Miles, David Daddo, Jenny Bradshaw.

Request for Declaration of Interest – Non received.

Minutes of previous meetings

Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 30th August 2020

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 30/9/2020 be accepted:

Moved: Gwyn Morgan, Seconded: Heather Gardner, Minutes Carried.

- 2.1 Lardner Trophy in honour of departed member – previous committee member was organising this and was not present at the meeting. To be followed up by committee with the convenor of Lardner Show.
- 2.2 Trophies and awards were able to be delivered to recipients once covid restrictions eased in Nov/Dec 2020.
- 2.3 Discrepancies in show reporting were resolved by providing detailed financial reports to convenors.
- 2.4 VER Historical data now included on VER Website – so important memories and details will not be lost for future generations of VER members. If anyone has any further historical information they wish to share please forward to the Secretary.

Matters Arising

- 3.1 President referred all to the new AAA National Covid 19 Plan for shows and Events, available on AAA website.

- 3.2 AAA implemented routine AAA Council Meetings, including the entire board and all Regional Presidents. This is a forum for regional issues to be discussed. Members wishing to raise any issues to be discussed at these meetings to contact the VER President.
- 3.3 The Region has received income from Alpaca 101 workshop and WFI since the last ORM.
- 3.4 The VER Q & A Brochure insert is currently being updated to include current regional members.
- 3.5 Currently 130 studs registered to the VER.
- 3.6 VER have been asked to identify champions within the VER to foster youth interest in Young Judge training programmes - this is with a view to open up networks, competitions, scholarship opportunities and funding offered by state Agricultural Societies. If anyone is interested in being involved please contact the Secretary/President for further information. Committee to be followed up with those members previously involved in AYE.
- 3.7 Events:
 - Red Hill and Berwick Shows cancelled. Lardner and Sale 2021 pending.
 - One off VER Celebration Show planned for May 22nd at the Red Hill Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds- planning underway.
 - Alpaca 101 Workshop was a success for new owners, a second similar workshop planned for April. To be held at Chakana Blue Alpaca Stud. Discussions were had on ensuring the workshops allowed attendees hands on experience. More advanced workshops to be researched and proposed by the committee.
 - Farm World: 12 out of 14 sites have now been filled. Please contact the convenor if you are interested in having a product or animal stand at Farm World.
- 3.8 It was suggested we should have an Instagram account as well as Facebook. This is being looked into by Social Media Editor.
- 3.9 A new Red Cross First Aid Kit has been sourced for the VER Trailer.

Committee Issues

- 4.1 Formal policies have been written for the VER Service Recognition and VER Annual Awards and can be accessed by all members on the VER Members Portal.
- 4.2 Plans for the VER Trailers to move the panels now stored at Berwick Showgrounds is well underway, with significant research being done by the committee, led by Tim Blake to ensure the best possible design and value for money is achieved. Pakenham Trailers was suggested as another option for manufacturer.
- 4.3 Promotion of Australian Alpaca Fibre being led by committee member Angela Betheras, liaising with AAA. WIP.
- 4.4 Discussion on broadening the eAlpaca database, led by Gwyn Morgan to include all alpacas- active or inactive – with a view that the database be used for research and information and not just a

breed registry. President had raised this with AAA – response to date is that the changes required are cost prohibitive at this stage. Committee to follow this up further.

Regional Reports:

Presidents Report – Nic Holdsworth

My last report was amid the lock down in August 2020, at that time we had curfews and many of us were stuck at home. Today on the last day of summer we are in a much better place, not out of the woods but in a much better place. We are in that Covid normal place with outbreaks being squashed when they occur. Fingers crossed this will continue as the vaccine is rolled out across the country.

Events

Farm World “The Alpaca Pavilion” Lardner Park, March 26 is off and running with 12 of the 14 sites taken. If any member has alpaca product, produce or animals to sell and display please contact the convenor Jenny Miles 0417 392670 for the last couple of available places. Those that have attended in the past say it has always been a very successful event.

Shows, so as things move forward, we can confirm the VER Berwick and Red Hill Alpaca Shows have been cancelled in 2021. To fill this void we have a one-off substitute show the “Celebration Alpaca Show” at the Red Hill Show grounds on Saturday May 22nd. So put this date in your calendar. Details to follow.

AAA NEWS

In the background of the Covid shutdowns the VER committee and the AAA committee have been working on different projects. The AAA has had the National Fleece show, thank you for all those who submitted fleeces, currently there is the AAA National, art, product and photography show (Entries close 5th of March). So there is still time to enter go to the AAA website to enter.

Also, the AAA has put together a National Covid 19 plan and Covid 19 safety protocol that will need to be applied to all AAA events. This is available on the AAA website as this is a constantly evolving document and the final version is still being finalised, you can contribute, if you have positive input please contact the AAA and put forward your thoughts. All event convenors will need to make themselves familiar with these documents.

The new president, Brett Fallon, has instituted AAA council meetings that involve the entire AAA board and all regional presidents this forum is giving regions the chance to hear directly from the board and the ability to express regional issues whilst learning of initiatives being adopted by other regions to solve their own local problems. This is a great forum! If you have any things you would like to put forward, please contact me and I will put forward your position at the next meeting.

At a regional level since our last ORM we have had an “Alpaca 101” training day at Auravale Alpacas five groups of eight people for a 2-hour session over the weekend learning many of the basics of alpaca husbandry, many of them newbies. The new transport trailers for the AAA alpaca panels are getting closer with quotes being sought. And planning for Farm World and the Celebration show are well underway.

The following identities are partners of the AAA and offer benefits to members: WFI Insurance, ANZ, Beaufort Animal Supplies, Camelid Connections and World of Alpaca.

Secretary's Report – Lynda Holdsworth

1. Currently have 130 studs registered in VER, including a handful of new members since our last ORM
2. Incoming Correspondence:
 - a. Notifications from AAA:
 - i. re new members
 - ii. Request for regional show updates
 - iii. Request for VER content for World of Alpaca and Camild Connections magazines
 - b. Members/General public:
 - i. Request for shearers
 - ii. Request for alpacas
 - iii. Follow up on previous stud auctions
 - iv. Cancellation of Red Hill and Berwick Shows
 - v. Notification of Breeders Choice Auction
 - vi. Secretary's resignation in October
 - c. Request to identify champions within VER to foster youth interest in Young Judge training programmes. With a view to open up networks and competitions, scholarships opportunities and funding offered by state Agricultural Societies.
3. Outgoing Correspondence:
 - a. Responses to AAA re Australian Alpaca logo, upcoming shows, VER inventory, change in committee positions, code of conduct, content for industry magazines
 - b. Welcome emails to new members
 - c. Committee meeting agendas, minutes etc
4. Formal policies written for:
 - a. VER Service Recognition and VER Annual Awards
 - b. Access via the VER Website Member Portal
5. Historical documents and summaries now included on the VER Website. Official documents can be found in the VER Member Portal section, other articles of interest can be found in the About the Victorian Eastern Region section
6. 10 year VER Service Awards presented to Lezley Golding and Chris Pendlebury

7. 20 Year Service Award presented to Joy Skinner
8. Trophies for the Best New Breeder and Alpaca of the Year were finally engraved and presented in late in 2020
9. Promotion of Australian Alpaca Fibre. Use of the Australian Alpaca Logo – Angela Betheras co-ordinated feedback from VER members and presented to AAA on 10/11/2020. WIP
10. VER owned trailers to transport panels currently stored at Berwick Show Grounds. It was accepted that the cost of outside transport was cost prohibitive and the region would benefit from having its own method of transporting the panels to all events. WIP
11. Discussion on a proposed broadening of the eAlpaca database to include all alpacas whether active or inactive – with the view that the database be used for research and information and not just a breed registry. Further input required prior to presenting to AAA. WIP

Treasurer's Reports – Vivian Blacker

The following finance reports are attached:

1. Income and expenditure statement
2. Job Activity Statement

Current cash bank balance is \$23,921.34

VER Investment account is \$30,750.00

YTD Profit and Loss Statement – end Jan 2021 and YTD Job Activity Report – end Jan, see attached

Regional Events/Website/Social Media reports – Lynda Holdsworth

1. Red Hill and Berwick Agricultural Shows cancelled for 2021, Sale and Lardner pending for September and October 2021
2. Review of Alpaca 101 Workshop held on December 5/6th

Held over two days

5 x 2 hour workshops each with up to 8 participants each

3 trainers

Topics covered included – halter training, fitting and catching alpacas, toenail trimming, ear tagging, body condition scoring, oral and injectable medicines, conformation.

Cost \$20 single \$35 double.

Well attended – many questions asked, other topics covered included feed types, faecal testing, float loading. Time for questions at end of each session

Recommendations for future workshops

- Increase cost to \$30 members, \$40 for non members.
- Short sessions 2 or 2 1/2 hours, no food, small numbers
- One day is enough otherwise too time consuming for host stud
- 3 trainers helps spread the load
- Have equipment laid out on tables for participants to view and ask questions
- Allow 30 minutes for additional questions at end

3. Farm World scheduled for 26-28th March. Lardner Park

Planning is well underway, Jenny Miles is the convenor

4. VER Celebration scheduled for May 22nd 2021, Red Hill Recreation Reserve and Showground

Planning well underway, Nic Holdsworth is convenor

5. A Basic Introduction to Alpacas Workshop - Saturday 17th April 2021

Aimed at potential, new and existing owners.

Second workshop – hosted by Chakana Blue Alpacas. Announcement pending.

6. eNewsletters

Distributed monthly during 2020, reduced to quarterly in 2021.

Back issues can be found on the VER website.

Little feedback on whether these eNewsletters are interesting to our members.

Will continue in 2021 to be reviewed thereafter.

7. Facebook/Website

Facebook people reached (721) and post engagements (269) are both up.

Website up to date with news and events

General business with notice:

General Business without notice.

Meeting closed:

11.05am