



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

In this issue:

- Jenny Miles
- Farm World
- Introduction to Alpacas Workshop
- VER Celebration Show
- Upcoming Shows
- New Trailers
- Quad Bikes

Welcome to the VER e-Newsletter

Welcome to the June 2021 eNewsletter!

As we find ourselves again in lockdown, we hope you enjoy reading this edition. If you have a story you would like to share with others please contact the [eNewsletter Officer](#)

Thank you to Jenny Miles



VER Farm World. Thank you **Jenny Miles** for your dedication of being part of the organizing party since 1998, and in 2005, co-convener with Bob McLeod, then as sole co-convener since 2016.

Victorian Eastern Region has represented alpacas at Farm World, Lardner, Victoria for over 25 years. Every year VER breeders who are very passionate about alpacas, purchase a site in the Lakeside Pavilion to showcase alpacas (both huacaya and suri) and alpaca products. All the while availing themselves to answer the many questions from thousands of visitors who pass through the 'Alpaca Shed'. Just do the maths – 25 years, 4 days per show, regularly 55-60 thousand visitors per show. That is an enormous amount of information, exposure, promotion and cross-promotion of alpacas in general, and, more particularly, of all members' alpacas and related services in the Eastern Region. Every member of the VER has benefited from this in innumerable ways. Jenny and her team can be justifiably proud of their contribution to the industry.

Jenny began on the Farm World Working Party in 1998 at the encouragement of Brian Worcester with the then Convener Nic Veltjens. Bob McLeod was also a contributor to this group. Jenny's role was seeking local sponsorship as well as minute taker etc and set up. She then became an exhibitor herself in 1999.

VER. began holding Fashion Parades in 2000 which ran until 2009, with two per day. It began with Sheila Hanson & Bodil Neilsen from A Touch of Alpaca, who co-ordinated the Fashion Parades until they sold the business. Adrian & Barbara Corkoran then co-ordinated it from there on. Jenny became a model along with most of her family as well as an exhibitor in this time.

Bob McLeod and Jenny took over as joint conveners in 2005 as Nic Veltjens retired. Bob was happy to be front man for the Committee while Jenny did all of the administrative side. (meetings, minutes, sponsorship, bookings etc)



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Thank you to Jenny Miles cont'd

VER made the successful move to Lakeside Pavilion in 2008 after two previous locations in marquees.

2016 was Bob McLeod's final year as co-convener, leaving Jenny as the sole convener.



Under Jenny's reign, in 2018, the Farm World committee awarded VER:
Best General Exhibitor

Sadly, 2021 sees Jenny's last year as convener. On behalf of the VER we would like to sincerely thank Jenny for her dedication and very hard working involvement as the master co-ordinator and Convener of this event over the past 23 years. She has achieved so much with grace and diplomacy, and always a smile! A big thank you also goes to her hardworking family who have supported her for many years.

Lezley Golding - Stevley Park Suris



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

Farm World 2021

Considering the Covid restrictions in place the 2021 AAA VER exhibit was a great success for all of those who participated. Ten exhibitors over 13 sites located in Lakeside Pavilion in a slightly different layout saw an average of 400 people/hour pass through the shed based on the statistics from Farm World Committee. Sunday alone saw over 3,000 people pass through.

There was some resistance from the public due to having to scan the QR code or write their name down before entering and one way traffic through the pavilion and random sheep shearing demonstrations being held, still drew people in. Online ticket sales restricted the attendance to only 7,500 / day but each day was sold out.

For 2021 it was only a three day event with Saturday being a twilight event closing at 7pm. Farm World was true to its history with Saturday being wet and cold but as usual the Lakeside Pavilion was a great shelter for all at this time.



On further discussion with exhibitors, general enquiries came in the form of questions about pets, the use of guards and with what animals, breeding stock, shearing, craft classes and fibre enquiries. The locations of some of these enquires came from Bellarine Peninsula, East Gippsland, Ballarat, Buxton, outer metropolitan Melbourne, Gippsland in general, Lakes Entrance, Yarra Valley and Gembrook just to name a few.

VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

Farm World cont'd

Sales over the three days was not just limited to alpaca products (knitwear, throw rugs, scarves, toys, halters, craft items) but raw and spun fleeces and animals.

Already I have had notification of animal sales generated from discussions at Farm World from non-exhibitors, they were listed in the VER breeders updated listing enclosed in the AAA VER Q & A handout, many of which were distributed during the three days. When we had enquiries for animals or help with their existing animals, we ask where they are located and then put them in touch with someone in their area.

I urge VER to ensure this event is supported in future as “Alpacas at Farm World provide a great service to the alpaca industry and should be supported by the AAA.”

After being involved in this event (from part of the working party in 1998, to minute taker, co-convenor, sole convenor) for over twenty years I feel I can no longer commit to being the convenor any longer and feel that 2021 was the last for me.

I am willing to assist anyone wishing to take over this role.
Jenny Miles



FREE Plastic Fleece Bags

Short on fleece plastic bags for next shearing season?

2 bale bags filled with plastic fleece bags from Scotch Group have ended up at StevleyPark.

These are used and **FREE** to anyone who wants them.

Contact — Lezley Golding 0417 506 855.
stevleypark@bigpond.com



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

Introduction to Alpacas Workshop

A fabulous day on Sat 17th April was spent at Chakana Blue/ Chakana Gold alpacas at the VER Introduction to Alpacas Workshop, with over 25 people attending two sessions.

The small groups allowed for a hands on approach and both facilitators and participants found the day most enjoyable.

The VER would like to thank our hosts and volunteers who gave their time and shared their expertise at this workshops:



Julie and Tim Blake from Chakana Blue and Chakana Gold for hosting the event and providing an excellent environment for sharing and learning.

Rachel Burnett from Katura Farm for sharing her expertise and experience particularly with animal handling and halter training.



Louise Charman from Nil Desperandum Alpacas showed all how to load alpacas onto a float with a ramp and also where they had to jump up - although the alpacas were all just "too good", Louise was able to provide very useful and valuable tips on float loading and the reasons why float training is helpful.



Nic and Lynda Holdsworth from Auravale Alpacas shared their experience in routine health checks including toe nail clipping, body scoring and supplement and medication administration.

All money raised from these events goes entirely to the Australian Alpaca Association, Victorian Eastern Region. Our volunteers freely share their time, experience and knowledge and the workshops could not be run without their generous support of the alpaca industry. THANK YOU.

We would also like to thank Emmaly Gridley from Maylands Alpacas who attended the workshop with a small pop up shop with halters, mineral lick and other related alpaca products. Emmaly was able to explain the importance of a good halter fit to the participants.





VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

Celebration Show

The show was held in brilliant sunshine on Saturday 22nd May, 2021 just before Victoria again went into lockdown — so timing was PERFECT.

There are many volunteers and sponsors that help make a show great and Nic and Lynda sincerely thank each of you for your contribution, support and expertise in running the Celebration Show.

A HUGE special thanks needs to go to an incredibly hard working team of 4 amazing men:
Arthur Biri, Nic Holdsworth, Hans Van Poppel and David Daddo.

These guys worked tirelessly on Friday getting the shed ready and again on Saturday night/Sunday Morning cleaning everything up. You are all truly amazing and thank you from us all.





VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

Celebration Show cont'd

With over 135 halter and 59 fleece entries this show was certainly well attended and welcomed by all after such an absence from showing in our region.

Congratulations to all the halter and fleece exhibitors, we do hope you had an enjoyable day and thank you for supporting this "back from covid" show.



**Champion Suri Fleece
Baarooka Orange 32**



**Champion Huacaya Fleece
Auravale Questro**



**Supreme Champion Huacaya
Precision Ascendancy**



**Supreme Champion Suri
Kurrawa Man of the Moment**

Full results available on eAlpaca

VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

VER News

New trailers for the VER!!

Late in May, the VER took possession of two new trailers which were purpose built by Pakenham Trailers to move the pen panels around Victoria.

This has been on the agenda in the VER for many years. The rising cost of moving the panels around the state for various shows and events was proving very expensive.

Under Tim Blake's guidance the current committee approved the trailer proposal and the order went ahead.

The trailers loaded with their panels and pins will be stored at the Berwick Showgrounds ready when needed by AAA members.





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VER e-Newsletter

Royal Melbourne Show

Alpaca Competition Dates:

Sun 26 – Mon 27 Sept '21

Fleece Show: 10 Sept '21

Entries Open: 28 May '21

Entries Close: 29 Aug '21

[Click here for further information](#)



National Alpaca Show

Held in Bendigo this year!

Thurs 19 - Sun 22 Aug '21

Entries Open: 18 June '21

Entries Close; 16 July '21

[Click here for further information](#)



Virtual Book Launch - Alpaca Teeth with Allison Quaglianai

Join the AAA as we chat to Allison Quaglianai the “alpaca dentist” as she talks to us about her new book “Alpaca Teeth: The Owner’s Guide to Alpaca Dental Health and Wellbeing”

Tuesday July 13 at 7pm AEST

Free for members
\$15 for non-members

Tickets can be booked through the AAA Website in the shop or by clicking the link below:

[Alpaca Teeth](#)



Did you know?

AAA has opened a Facebook page for AAA members. Another place to find AAA information and updates and find educational tips.

Only open to AAA members. Go to Facebook and search for : **Australian Alpaca Association Member Group**



AAA Annual General Meeting

28 August 2021, 4pm



VICTORIAN EASTERN REGION

VER e-Newsletter

Quad bikes and side-by-sides under the spotlight in wrap up of 2020 farm safety stats

A familiar tale sees quad bikes and tractors continue as the leading cause of death and injury on Australian farms, according to annual statistics released by AgriFutures Australia. Despite the increased safety attention on quad bikes last year, the number of deaths continues to rise.

Figures collated by AgHealth Australia's National Farm Injury Coronial Database revealed 58 on-farm deaths were reported in 2020*, the same number of cases reported in 2019. Quad bikes and tractors again reported as the leading causes of injury.

AgriFutures Australia funds research to enhance farm health and safety as part of its National Rural Issues Program, working alongside the Rural Safety and Health Alliance (RSHA).

The 2020 report Non-intentional Farm Related Incidents in Australia highlights the total on-farm deaths, causes of injury, fatalities by age and gender, as well as the estimated economic impact of fatal injuries.

Using data collated by AgHealth Australia's National Farm Injury Coronial Database based at the University of Sydney, the report aims to provide comprehensive evidence to build preventative approaches for the safety and wellbeing of people in Australian agriculture.

AgriFutures Australia Senior Manager, Rural Futures, Jennifer Medway says that while the statistics show progress is being made in some areas, it's alarming to see the increase in deaths from quad bikes and side by sides.

"Side by sides have long been considered a safer option to quads, but the numbers don't back that up. They are only now increasing in popularity and are already making a sizable contribution to the death toll," said Ms Medway.

"In fact, well over a third of on-farm deaths in 2020 are directly attributable to quad bikes and side by sides alone. If you add tractors into the mix, these three vehicles shockingly account for over half of all on-farm deaths."

This is a challenge not lost on the rural Research Development Corporations (RDC) which fund research through the RSHA to review the data and use an evidence-based approach to improve safety across our agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries.

RSHA Executive Officer, Andrew Barrett said the figures are another sobering reminder that the cost of human life incurred in the production of our food and fibre is still too high.

As a sector so proud of innovation and progress, we must be equally concerned and focused on why so little has changed in our health and safety record over time," said Mr Barrett.

"The commitment to change has already begun with leadership from the Minister, government, National Farmers' Federation, RDCs, and some of our peak bodies."

"Other non-agricultural industries have accepted that 'inherently dangerous' is not a condition of work but a call to action. Actions that target known and persistent risks, using risk controls proven to reduce the potential for death and serious injury need to be enforced if we are going to see any noticeable change in these statistics."

[Sourced from AgriFutures Australia](#)

