

**AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD**

**Victorian Eastern Region**

**ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING**

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, 10.30am**

**Venue: via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86819965470?pwd=aEZ3aXpMaWwwTXBFZWYxanRiblJvUT09>

**Commenced: 10. 35 am**

**Minutes - Unconfirmed**

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

**Attendees:** Angela Betheras, Heather Gardner, Paul Gardner, Lynda Holdsworth, Nic Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, Colin Taylor, Gwyn Morgan, Vivian Blacker, Tim Blake, Julie Blake, Leanne Mastin, Carl Mastin, Tammy Attenborough, Sue Hatfield

**Apologies:** Lindy Smith, Jack and Rosalie Boer, Suzanne Lockhart, Jean and David Daddo, Georgia Bishop, Jacqueline Bishop, Trish and Sean Munley, Rachel Burnet, Kath Borrow, Wendy Talbot, Jenny Miles, Allison Quagliani, John Price, Amanda Baillie

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

***Minutes of previous meetings***

**Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 3/10/2021 be accepted:

Moved: kylie Taylor, Seconded: Tammy Attenborough. Minutes Carried.

***Matters Arising***

- 3.1 Cancellation of 2022 Berwick Show Agricultural Shows and Red Hill Alpacas Show
- 3.2 Current membership 126 members – 129 in total but three have multiple listings
- 3.3 Youth Activities conducted during 2022 - Red Hill Agricultural Show – VER/VAY present with youth engagement and education activities and Farm World both crowd engagement and youth competition were held.  
Farm World - 4 days of product and animal promotion 11stalls from independent AAA member exhibitors of product and alpacas plus youth competition on Sat and VER education on Sunday all promoting the industry.

- Celebration Show – smaller than 2021 but enjoyed by all whom attended. Halter entries 84 attendees Fleece entries 34.
- 3.4 Events planned – Sale Show Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 2022, convenors Jenny Miles and Jen McDavit.  
National Show 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Melbourne Royal 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Berwick and Red Hill Agricultural Shows - likely to go ahead in 2023  
Farm World March 2023 – Rotunda offered to VER FOC for Sat and Sun – plan to include alpacas, education and youth activities.  
Original Lardner Lakeside alpaca Pavilion is being upgraded and is available if convenor can be identified by September 2022 for promotion of product. If you are interested in convening the Lakeside Pavilion please contact the committee prior to early September 2022.
- 3.5 Social Media/Website/eNewsletter – Facebook could be improved (811 people reached in June, Post engagements 256) - enlisted the help of two relatively new members Jacqueline Bishop and Georgia Bishop from Dulce Alpacas – who will assist in providing more interesting content for the VER FaceBook page.  
eNewsletter – some complimentary feedback – current editor happy to continue this newsletter quarterly but also welcomes member input/ideas etc.  
Website- no real change – AAA website now has more content available to non members which is useful.
- 3.6 Update on promotion of Australian Alpaca Fibre – no change to this initiative, likely it has been cancelled by AAA citing complications with the AWEX labelling.
- 3.7 Committee approved and actioned purchase of Defibrillator and case- cost of \$2504.95. Located VER equipment trailer. Ongoing associated costs – pads, battery. Further details will be provided in next eNewsletter.
- 3.8 Gazebos 3 x 3 m donated by Bunnings - located Youth Trailer  
Gazebo 3 x 3 m donated by N & L Holdsworth – to be located VER Trailer
- 3.9 AAA Castration policy – refer AAA animal welfare statement.  
<https://alpaca.asn.au/animal-welfare/>
- 3.10 Alpaca of the Year and Best New Breeders  
With the ongoing disruptions of the VER Alpaca show calendar, and in the interest of getting things back on track, the committee have made the decision to revise the Alpaca of the Year and Best New Breeder Awards dates and eligible shows for 2022-23 season. The revised dates have been designated as May 1st 2022 through to end April 2023.

These dates will incorporate the:

- Celebrations Show - 21 May 2022,
- Sale Show - October 9th 2022
- Berwick Show - February 2023 TBC
- Red Hill Show - March 2023 TBC

All VER members are eligible to participate in these prestigious awards, details of which can be found on the [VER website](#).

Please note this update is for the 2022-23 show season only and the above shows replace the previously designated Qualifying Shows listed in the VER Alpaca of The Year Competition Rules and the Best New Breeder Competition Rules.

- 3.11 Job Profit and Loss Statement only available until end May 2022. As some information was missing, the Profit and Loss Statement end June 2022 will be forwarded to members when available. President advised no capitation payments from AAA were being paid at present.

#### ***Committee Issues***

- 4.1 ARM and committee elections scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> September, all committee position will be vacated. If you are interested in learning more about being a committee member please contact the current VER Committee

#### ***General business with notice:***

- 5.1 Lardner Show – Angela bethras reported costs and availability of Lardner in August 2022 plus 2023. If run with Crafts Victoria in 2023 fixed cost of \$2600. Tammy Attenborough and Louise Charman have offered to convene show in 2023 in conjunction with Crafts Australia.
- 5.2 Request from attendees of meeting that VER advise AAA of our request for a fixed date for National Show in next 5 years to aid planning and create stability for all regions and members.
- 5.3 Provide all members with listing of current members for advice and sales leads – President suggested using our Q & A Brochures. Update brochure contacts and include type of alpaca breed. It was suggested to attach this list to Facebook page – to be investigated.
- 5.4 Creation of a “new member liaison working party” was raised to support new members and broader alpaca community. – Julie Blake, Tammy Attenborough and Kylie Taylor agreed to start this group – this is not to be seen as a platform to sell alpacas. It is specifically to support alpaca husbandry. If anyone else is interested in being apart on this working party please contact the secretary.

5.5 Discussions were held on initiatives to increase membership. Topics covered were:

- VER members selling animals to increase their price to include Associate Membership (\$50) and sign all new purchasers up for 12 months
- AAA taking up the cost of all new buyers Associate Membership. Benefits to the AAA is the capture of all animal transfers

5.6.1 As of 1 July 2022 all wethers can be registered on eApaca FOC – all breeders are encouraged to register all stock as this has many benefits not only for your own records but also for the AAA and their ongoing decision making.

***General Business without notice: NIL***

***Meeting closed:***

**11.59 am**

## **Attachment A**

### **Presidents Report July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 – Nicholas Holdsworth**

2022 has started better than 2021, to date we have had no lockdowns, sadly the Berwick and Red Hill Alpaca show were again cancelled,

However, we have still had a few events this year including Farm World which went ahead with both livestock and alpaca product on display and for sale, youth alpaca was also represented on two of the days. From all accounts a successful event.

With the Berwick and Red Hill shows being cancelled due to the hangover of Covid the committee decided to go ahead with a youth alpaca event and product display at the Red Hill show on the Labour Day long weekend and to hold a second edition of the Celebration show at Red Hill on May the 21<sup>st</sup>. The show was a bit smaller than last year's event however the weather was just as good, one of those perfect windless sunny autumn days. Like last year the show was well attended and a great success with good numbers of Suri and Huacaya in both Fleece and Halter categories.

The Celebration show was also the first outing for the new VER Alpaca panel trailers, purchased last year. With the trailers on full display in the many members from VCR and VER commented on how well made they were and how efficiently they packed at the end of the show. Talking of assets the celebration show was also the first outing for our new defibrillator, an asset we hopefully will never need to use.

The next event on the VER calendar is the Sale show on the 9th October. Other alpaca events include the Nationals commencing on the 3rd of September in Adelaide and the Melbourne Royal commencing on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. The VER is happily providing much of the equipment for the Melbourne Royal.

With the ARM only a few months away it would be good to see some other members to join the Committee, I will be standing down as President so we need somebody to put their hand up for that position, I will be still around and will be happy to take on a position on the committee.

Hopefully the remainder of 2022 brings us some better times and 2023 will see us be back to a new Normal.