

**AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD**

**Victorian Eastern Region**

**ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING**

**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, 11am**

**Venue: via Zoom**

**Commenced: 10.55am**

**Minutes - Confirmed**

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, Jean Daddo, David Daddo, Gwyn Morgan, Vivian Blacker, Tim Blake, Julie Blake, John Price.**

**Apologies: Lindy Smith, Daphne Gregory, Chris Pendlebury, Russel Pendlebury Kath Borrow, Allison Quagliani, Wendy Talbot, Lezley Golding, Jenny Miles, Louise Chapman, Jenny Bradshaw, Greg Bradshaw.**

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

***Minutes of previous meetings***

**Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

Moved: Nic Holdsworth , Seconded: Gwyn Morgan, Minutes Carried.

- 2.1 Defibrillators – Further to Member query, President proposed we purchase a defibrillator. **NH to check with AAA re any current policies and any need for training.** Portable - To be available at all meetings, gatherings, events.

***Matters Arising***

- 3.1 Cancellation of 2021 shows/events – refer Attachment A  
3.2 Current membership 115 members  
3.3 Upcoming events – refer Attachment A  
3.4 Social Media/Website/eNewsletter – refer Attachment A  
3.5 Update on promotion of Australian Alpaca Fibre – we have been advised this initiative from the AAA is currently on hold, citing complications with the AWEX labelling. General discussion on the importance of promoting the end product. **AB to follow up with AAA.**

- 3.6 Update on eAlpaca – general discussion resulted in the request to ask the AAA for an explanation of ownership and structure of eAlpaca. **NH to action**
- 3.7 Regional Reports- refer to Attachment A

**Committee Issues**

- 4.1 New trailer purchase, complete.
- 4.2 Recommencement of youth activities: workshops, shows, basic husbandry workshops for youth. Introduction of youth helping breeders onsite on farms.
- 4.3 Trophy/Award in recognition of Bob McLeod’s dedication to the VER. Suggestions were:
  - ongoing catalogue recognition.
  - participation award, stewards, helpers, exhibitors not necessarily awarded each year.
  - Brownlow Medal type of voting - point allocation
  - Action: to be discussed further by committee.
- 4.4 Lardner Show – previous convenors retired. AB has negotiated with Lardner Park for improved conditions, ie longer allocation times, cheaper rent.
- 4.5 Red Hill Agricultural Show, 12<sup>th</sup> march 2022: planning to go ahead pending covid restrictions. Noted Mornington Pen Shire restrictions override agricultural societies.
- 4.6 Berwick Agricultural Show, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022: planning to go ahead pending covid restrictions, may proceed as exhibitor only event.

**General business with notice: None raised**

**General Business without notice:**

5.2 Clarification of AAA Alpaca Castration Policy and how this will be monitored/regulated.  
<https://alpaca.asn.au/animal-welfare/> **NH to action**

**Meeting closed:**

**11.56 am**

# Attachment A

## VER Reports August 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021

**Includes: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Regional Events/Social Media/Newsletter**

### Presidents Report

Nic Holdsworth

#### **Annual Presidents Report**

Again I start an annual report with that word “Lockdown”, as we all know most of us have just spent too much of the last couple of years locked down with the odd exception here and there. Hopefully you are all travelling OK, at least we have our alpacas to talk to. On the bright side we do have a vaccination that appears to be working and each day more and more of the population is being vaccinated, so I am assuming 2022 will be better than the last couple of years.

#### **Events**

As you would expect and would probably already know all the regular shows in the past 12 months have been cancelled. Also planned Christmas and Spring events for 2021 have also been tentatively cancelled due to Covid. However, we did manage to get three events in during the year, being “Introduction to Alpaca 101”, “Farm World Alpaca Promotion” and “The Celebration Show” (The name was probably premature in hindsight) All three events just managed to pick some of the gaps between the lockdowns. All three events were successful from an educational, public awareness and financial perspective.

#### **Other News**

Last Financial year saw us purchasing two tandem trailers to transport the AAA alpaca panels. We now have 160 panels on wheels that can be used at Alpaca Events anywhere in the region.

#### **Looking Forward**

2022 shows are scheduled with the Berwick and Red Hill shows pencilled in for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February and the 12<sup>th</sup> of March respectively, watch this space. Farm World is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> through to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March now being a 3-day event. So please put these dates in your diary.

#### **AAA NEWS**

In the background of the Covid shutdowns the VER committee and the AAA committee have been working on different projects. Topics Being Covered Include:

- AAA Working Parties
- Editorial for World of Alpaca and Camelid Connections
- Lapsed Members - New member Welcome packs
- Webinars & Virtual Education
  
- AAA and VER finances

- Alpaca Labelling
- E-Alpaca Improvements
- Covid Assistance opportunities
- Youth Alpaca -VYTEC and VER collaboration

Hopefully 2022 brings us some better times than 2020 and 2021. See you all in person next year.

## 2019/20 Treasurers Report

Vivian Blacker

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

This year the AAA has for the first time taken over all the bookkeeping for all regions and have combined all business activities into one MYOB package, as a result there is no longer a VER Balance Sheet, or Profit and Loss. Now we are provided a Job Activity Statement which lists all transactions that have been made in the region over the financial year, a Job Profit and Loss that list all the income and expenses as sub totals by Event/Job and a bank transactions report for the financial year.

I have summarised the key VER financial information for 2020/21 year.

### **1. VER Bank Balances**

VER Trading Account

1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	\$19,270.66
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	14,865.61

VER Investment Amount in AAA Investment Account

1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020	\$30,750.00
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	\$30,750.00

Total VER amount in Bank at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021     \$45,615.61

### **2. VER Income and Expenditure Report 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Total Income	\$16,287.36
Total Expenses ( <i>including depreciation cost of \$1005.90</i> )	\$10,768.35
Surplus/Deficit	\$5519.01

Refer to "VER Job Profit and Loss Statement" for details

### **3. Capital Expenses**

Purchase of two trailers **\$11, 540**

*Note: these were paid from funds in the VER trading Account.*

#### 4. Asset Register

VER Asset Register at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Please refer to attachment for details.

### Secretary's Report

Lynda Holdsworth

1. Communications received from AAA re events and requests for information, from members requesting advice on shearers, purchasing alpacas, stud services, etc, from interstate AAA members advising on events, ie. Breeders Choice Auction. Local Agricultural Show organisers
2. Communications forwarded include: new members welcome letter, notification on upcoming events, response to specific members questions
3. We currently have 115 members, higher than this time last year but down on end June 2021. We wish those retiring all the best for their futures and welcome the many new members – don't hesitate to contact anyone on the committee should you require assistance.
4. Thank you to the 2020/21 committee of Nic Holdsworth, Heather Gardner, Vivian Blacker, Lynda Holdsworth, Angela Betheras, Tim Blake, Gwyn Morgan and Kylie Taylor – it has been a fabulous committee – all members providing positive and constructive inputs to what has been a challenging 12 months. Achievements of this committee include:
  - a. Regular committee meetings
  - b. Celebration Show, Introduction to Alpaca workshops X 6
  - c. Research, planning and acquisition of two trailers to carry the pen panels.
  - d. Planning of Paddock to Product workshops
  - e. Planning for Farm World activities 2022
  - f. Inclusion of youth activities back to VER planned for 2022
  - g. Promotion of VER needs/requirements/wishes to AAA
  - h. Providing local resource/guidance for members

### REGIONAL EVENTS, NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

Lynda Holdsworth

1. Berwick, Red Hill, Alexandra, Sale and Lardner Shows 2021 were cancelled
2. VER Annual Awards cancelled for 2020 21
3. Fleece workshops – Paddock to Product scheduled for Aug/Sept were cancelled but we hope to reschedule when covid restrictions allow.
4. Events that were held include:
  - a. **Farm World 26-28<sup>th</sup> March:** 10 exhibitors, 400people/hour through the shed. 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. 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 enquirers 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. Jenny Miles after 20 years has decided to retire from convening this event – our thanks to Jenny and her team for their tireless efforts in running successful Farm World alpaca exhibits. Farm World will continue in

2022 under the very capable leadership of Angela Betheras. We would love to hear from all members who would like to be involved.

- b. **Celebration Show 22<sup>nd</sup> May**, stand alone alpaca show attracted over 130 halter entries and 59 fleece entries. Held in the sunshine at Red Hill, full results available on eAlpaca. In collaboration with the Mornington Shire and the VER the Red Hill Agricultural & Horticultural Society initiated filming during the event. The film was made to teach all what the AAA judges look for at an alpaca show. Links to the video can be found on the VER website News section.
  - c. **Introduction to Alpaca Workshop**- No 1 held at Auravale Alpacas in **5/6<sup>th</sup> December** (40 attendees) and No 2 was held at Chakana Blue on **17<sup>th</sup> April** (25 attendees) – feedback on all workshops was positive with attendees learning about halter training, float loading, health checks, toe nail clipping, administration of supplements and medications. We would like to thank all the people who gave their time and shared their knowledge at these events. All funds raised went to the VER.
  - d. Shows/events proposed for next year include:-
    - i. Berwick Agricultural Show 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022
    - ii. Red Holl Agricultural Show 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022
    - iii. Farm World 25-27<sup>th</sup> March 2022
    - iv. Paddock to Product (fleece workshop) workshops – TBA
    - v. Youth activities - TBA
5. The VER eNewsletter has continued monthly in 2020 and quarterly during 2021. We hope this publication has helped keep our members informed and connected during the covid lockdowns. All issues of the eNewsletter can be found in date order on the VER website under News.
  6. The VER website is available to access by all with information on the region, news and events, resources, alpaca product and regional meeting minutes, policies etc.  
<https://ver.alpaca.asn.au/>
  7. Social Media – the VER Social Media Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/VER-Australian-Alpaca-1406697262966263> continues to be a source of local information. Most posts reach between 100-200 people but there is little activity in Likes. Overall engagement with the Facebook page is down on same time last year. We would welcome input from members as to the type of content they wish to see on the Facebook page. accepted.