

**AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD**

**Victorian Eastern Region**

**ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022,**

**Venue: Pine Grove Hotel – Upper Beaconsfield**

**Commenced: 11.15am**

**Minutes - Unconfirmed**

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

**Attendees: Heather Gardner, Paul Gardner, Lynda Holdsworth, Nic Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, Colin Taylor, Wendy Talbot, Joy Skinner, Gwyn Morgan, Vivian Blacker; Romanie Blacker, Lezley Golding, Helen McLeod, Sue Hatfield, Jacqueline Bishop, Geogia Bishop, Kath Borrow, Julie Blake, Tim Blake, John Price, Meg Price, Emmaly Gridley, Megan Gridley, Rache Burnet, Peter Jones, Gayle, Herring, Jamie Lee Herring. Special Guest: Trevor Parry**

**Apologies Lindy Smith, Jenny Miles, Allison Quagliani, Tammy Attenborough, Suzanne Lockhart, Michelle Semberg, Brigitte, Kat, Keith Kat, Sean Munley, Daphne Gregory, Angela Betheras, David Daddo, Jean Daddo**

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

***Minutes of previous meetings***

**Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 3/7/2022 be accepted:

Moved: Colin Taylor, Seconded: John Price. Minutes Carried.

***Matters Arising***

- 3.1 Youth Activities – training workshop was held 27<sup>th</sup> August at Chakana Blue attendance was good and all children enjoyed the day.
- 3.2 Events planned include Sale 2022 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022 – Jenny Miles and Jen McDavit Convenors, Paddock to Product Fleece Workshop 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Geelong Youth Activities 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022, Whittlesea Youth Competition Nov 2022 – Rachel Burnet, Berwick February 2023 – Lynda and Nic Convenors, Red Hill March 2023 – David Daddo Convenor, Farm World 2023 – Jen McDavit Convenor for Lakeside Pavilion, VER Committee for Farm World Rotunda educational activities .
- 3.3 Social Media/Website/eNewsletter – successfully taken on by Jacqueline Bishop and Georgia Bishop from Dulce Alpacas.

Providing interesting, informative posts on both Instagram and Facebook. Instagram address ver\_australian\_alpaca.

3.4 Fixed dates for AAA events: AAA have advised they aim to notify all members of the venue and date of the 2023 National Show prior to the end of the year.

3.5 Current membership 110 members – 16 less than last meeting in July.

### 3.6 Client Liaison Group

“The working party which currently consists of Julie Blake, Tammy Attenborough and Kylie Taylor will contact new members via phone to welcome them to the VER and ask them if they have any questions that they need answered in relation to Alpaca management and husbandry.

We feel that there is a need for this group to stay in touch and to support new members and owners of Alpacas that may have questions or need advice.

This as well as information related to the AAA will also be posted onto the VER Facebook and Instagram page to try to reach as many people as possible that need questions answered.

As we move down the track and we find that there are other things that we can offer to help the industry we will aim to introduce these.

Limited access to the AAA website is provided but new alpacas owners will be advised of how much more information is available to them if they were to join as an Associate Member.

If anyone is interested in supporting this working party please contact the Secretary” Kylie Taylor

### 3.7 Initiatives to encourage AAA memberships

The AAA has been approached to see if they will sponsor Associate Memberships for all people purchasing registered alpacas. This will be taken up at the next AAA Board meeting and advice on the outcome will be communicated when it comes to hand.

In the meantime, if all members can do their best to encourage all new alpaca owners to join the AAA. Associate Membership is \$50/annum. EG wethers can now be registered on IAR database FOC, this will greatly assist in keeping track of alpacas in the future and provide more accurate numbers of how many alpacas are actually present in Australia. When you sell males, females or wethers they all can be transferred to their new owners if a minimum Associate Membership is taken up.

## ***Committee Issues***

4.1 Lack of volunteers – it was noted Australia wide volunteer numbers have significantly decreased during the last two years. This is not something being experienced by VER alone. SA,

Tasmania and WA regions do not currently have allocated Presidents.

**General business with notice:**

- 5.1 VCR Report - Trevor Parry (Trevor Parry, as President of the VCR, was invited to the meeting to share an overview of the central region and in moving forward identify areas where we may be able to co-ordinate activities and resources.)

VCR overview

- 8800 alpacas, 128 memberships, currently a full committee, the VCR ARM is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Wangaratta Show.

VCR have approached the AAA to remove the Regional Treasurers role, as the majority of this function is now performed centrally at the AAA.

Upcoming shows in 2022 Seymour, Wangaratta, Bendigo. Ballarat cancelled, hope to reinstate in 2023.

VCR formulating a proposal to hold the National Show in Bendigo in mid August 2023.

Proposed Fleece workshop to help educate members on how to sort, skirt and prepare fleece for sale.

Trevor suggested a more proactive approach in gaining volunteers may help, such as Stewards workshop

Thank you to Trevor for making the effort to come to the VCR meetings and sharing the above information. The new committee looks forward to working more closely with the VCR in the future.

**General Business without notice:**

- 6.1 Concerns raised by member re the present absence of infrastructure in Victoria for the collection of fleece that is produced by our many small producers.

“In the past, our locality group has organised collection days and then we have transported the fleece to AAFL, but as AAFL is now under administration we are looking for an alternative, and are currently talking with Waratah Fibre Co-op management who in turn are seeking volunteers to act as collection points in Victoria and South Australia.” David & Jean Daddo.

Questions posed were:

where do most VCR breeders send their fleece?

what are the transport arrangements?

Again the issue of lack of volunteers and space for collection was discussed. Disappointment at the delay with payments and changes in conditions of sale was also raised

Before moving forward, it was decided each of the three major collection groups (Scotch Group, Alpaca Fibre and Waratah) be contacted to discuss what their collection requirements are, prices lists, any arrangements currently in place for collection, etc.

An idea put forward was to hold a Collection Day for buyers to come and view/buy fleeces. EG all members be invited to bring their fleece along to a central collection venue to be held over 1-2 days only. Invite buyers to view fleece, class and buy on the day. The committee will action this by firstly contacting collectors to see if this would interest them?

6.2 Alpaca CheQA – query from members who have completed the Alpaca CheQA program but have heard nothing back re their applications. AAA office will be contacted to provide advice on expectations n when members will be notified.

6.2 NLIS – AAA implementing.  
Further information on this AAA initiative announced recently is requested by members.

EG Will each tag be for individual animals or for property identification?

What will be the likely lead time and implementation duration?

Who was involved in the trial so feedback can be sought?

***Meeting closed:***

***12.05***