

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD

Victorian Eastern Region

ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING

Date: 29 June 2023,

Venue: Zoom

Commenced: 7.30 am

Minutes - Unconfirmed

Jacqueline Bishop chaired and opened the meeting, thanking and welcoming everyone.

Attendees: Heather Gardner, Paul Gardner, Jean Daddo, David Daddo, Lynda Holdsworth, Nic Holdsworth, Jacqueline Bishop, Georgia Bishop, Julie Blake, Tim Blake, John Price, Emmaly Gridley- left at 8.45pm, Louise Charman

Apologies: Robyn Von Strokirch, Wendy Talbot, Suzanne Lockhart, Kath Borrow, Kylie Taylor, Colin Taylor

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

Minutes of previous meetings

Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 18th September 2022

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 18/9/2022 be accepted:

Moved: Tim Blake, Seconded: Lynda Holdsworth. Minutes Carried.

| Item No. | Minutes | Action being taken | Attachments |
|------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| 2.5 | Treasurer's Report and acceptance of accounts. Refer Profit and Loss Statement. | Nic to follow up Youth Account to be followed up. Nic to follow up with AAA Treasurer to gain access to MYOB. | |
| Matters Arising | | | |
| 3.1 | Update on Committee positions: Nic Holdsworth and Kylie Taylor stepped down, Jacqueline Bishop stepped up to position of President, Nic stepped up to position of Treasurer. Thank you to both these committee members for taking over these responsibilities and to Kylie and Nic for their efforts in their roles over the last several months. | | |
| 3.2 | Events Held See attached reports for Berwick Show, Red Hill Show, Birthing Workshop, Parasite Workshop, Paddock to Product Workshop, Sale Show, Christmas Party. Thank you to the convenors of these event: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Julie Blake - Parasite Workshop and Christmas Party● Jen Mc Davitt – Sale Show and Farm World● Jenny Miles - Sale Show | | A |

| | | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David and Jean Daddo – Red Hill Show ● Lynda and Nic Holdsworth – Berwick Show, Paddock to Product Workshop, Birthing Workshop <p>Youth Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whittlesea Jan 2023 – Paraders Competition ● FarmWorld - Meet and Greet ● Red Hill – Paraders Competition ● Lilydale Show - Meet and Greet Nov 2022 ● Colourbration - Paraders Competition ● Thanks to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rachel Burnett, ○ Em Gridley, ○ Megan Gridley, ○ John Price, ○ Louise Charman | | |
| 3.3 | <p>Events Planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lardner Colour Show - 6 August 2023 - convenor had to step down and Jacqueline and Georgia Bishop stepped in to convene this show. ● National Show - 18th August ● Sale Show - 15th October 2023 ● ARM/ORM - Date to be confirmed <p>Youth Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lardner - Paraders Competition ● National Show - Paraders Competition ● Training day | | |
| 3.4 | <p>Social Media/Website/eNewsletter updates - planned updates to the website to make it more useful for our regional members.</p> | <p>Members are welcome to forward any information and feedback.</p> | |
| 3.5 | <p>Update New Members Liaison: team has contacted all new members and from the feedback received are hoping to plan a workshop on basic husbandry.</p> | <p>Lynda to forward email to members requesting interest in becoming a mentor in different VER locations.</p> <p>Kylie, Julie and Lynda to look at adding more local information to the new members pack supplied by AAA.</p> <p>John to look into people seeing fleece at the Lardner Show.</p> <p>Emmaly and John to look at Youth Activities during the school holiday. May need support from other youth members.</p> | |
| 3.6 | <p>Proposed update to AOTY: proposed new scoring options</p> | <p>See Attachment B for proposed scoring updates.</p> | <p>B</p> |

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| | | Lynda, Jacqueline and Tim to look at including awards for Best of Colours. | |
| 3.7 | <p>Carried Forward from previous meeting:</p> <p>Review of Q & A Brochure to ensure up to current standards</p> <p>Use Q & A Brochure – to send out to all members with an invitation to ARM.</p> <p>Update VER Website with more information of value to our members – source further information to meet this need. Mentor List to be updated. Add Facebook Instagram to webpages.</p> <p>AAA Social Media rules and guidelines to be reviewed before making updates. Suggestions breeder spotlights, stud male availability, etc.</p> <p>Regional social groups – DRAG, MPABG, NAG</p> <p>Alpacas Victoria Facebook page notes their new members each month and members are able to post questions – query implement these options.</p> | <p>VER Committee to review Q & A Brochure.</p> <p>Lynda to send out Q & A Brochure and an invitation to ARM to all VER Members.</p> <p>Lynda to update the VER Website.</p> <p>Jacqueline to review Social Media Policies and what we can and cannot post on our pages.</p> | |
| Committee Issues | | | |
| 4.1 | Lack of Volunteers: Remains an Issue | | |
| 4.2 | Loss of Angela Betheras: Angela's significant contribution to the industry was acknowledged, she will be greatly missed. | | |
| 4.3 | Ageing equipment: VER Equipment float requires replacement. | Tim is currently looking into options and will inform the committee if anything becomes available. | |
| General Business with Notice: | | | |
| | | | |
| General Business without Notice: | | | |
| 6.1 | <p>Fleece: what to do with fleece?</p> <p>Requirement to educate members to class and skirt fleece.</p> | Jacqueline to invite AAA President – Brett Fallon to attend our next meeting to discuss fleece options. Jacqueline to also invite Alpaca Fibre and Waratah, Isabel Renter also to this meeting. | |

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|-----|---|--|--|
| | | <p>Query promotion of options to sell to hand spinners, weavers, felters etc</p> <p>John to look into people selling fleece at the Lardner Show.</p> | |
| 6.2 | Q Alpaca, Alpaca CheQA – improve education on biosecurity | Jacqueline to invite AAA President Brett Fallon to our next meeting to provide an update and explain current biosecurity options. | |
| 6.3 | Proposal to start Vic Youth Training Education Committee. | John and Emmaly to contact potential youth supporters to gain support | |

**Meeting closed:
10.00**

Attachment A

Sale Show 9th October 2022

Successful Fleece and Halter show convened by Jenny Miles and Jen McDavitt

Paddock to Product Fleece Workshop

Held on 28/10/2022, attended by 14 members, held at Omaru Alpacas, topics covered included, fleece and animal preparation, skirting, demonstrations, carding, dyeing, spinning, felting. Feedback from two attendees very favourable.

Christmas Party 3rd December 2022

Held at Cardinia Park Hotel, attended by many members, a very festive atmosphere was created by Julie Blake and time socialising was enjoyed by all who attended.

Berwick Show 25th Feb 2023 Report – Lynda and Nic Holdsworth

84 Halter Entries – most entries coming in in last 24-48 hours

37 Fleece entries

- Set up Friday 24th
 - took all day with 5 volunteers (Jodi, Julie, Leah, Jenny, Nic) all setting up.
 - Lynda, Heather and Paul together with Adrienne - fleece show set up and judging 9 am -5.30pm.
- Show
 - Judging went well, good atmosphere,
 - great feedback on judge.
 - A few complaints of air conditioning being too cold!
 - Shed set up seemed to work
 - Issue with photography – try and place outside of arena in future.
 - Catalogue numbering – need to ensure Suri/Huacaya catalogue order is correct in future.
 - Scoring happened live – thanks to Colin Taylor
 - Social Media photographs of Champions posted during the day on both Facebook and Instagram
 - Still waiting on eAlpaca IT issues to finalise results.
 - 15 sponsors – Scotch Group -\$300, Discount Animal Supplies, Fibre Naturally, Emphyrean, Avonsleigh Vet, Greg Pickering, Shear Success, Precision – all \$150 each. Vircon S and Balnarring Produce subsidised the foot mats, Whispering Gums provided Olive oil gifts, City of Casey subsidised the ribbons.
 - Stalls x 4 (Fibre Naturally, Granjero Park, Elissa, Maylands) had little traffic and takings were low
- Overall Berwick public numbers seemed down on previous years waiting on official numbers through gate.
- Financial results:

Birthing Workshop 26th Feb 2023 Report – Lynda Holdsworth

- 25 attendees paid \$25 each total income \$625
- Adrienne Clarke provided an excellent workshop with real dead cria providing a very authentic experience which was valued by all attending.
- Held at Narre Warren Hall 9am-4pm - cost \$150. Great facility.
- Adrienne's fee \$400, most other costs covered by Berwick Show, eg travel
- Supplies/equipment costs \$121.61

- Total outgoing \$671.61, incoming \$625. Loss \$46.61
- Attendees from VER and VCR

Red Hill Show Report – David Daddo

SHOW REPORT - ALPACA SECTION

Show Day 2023 dawned bright and clear and with the promise of perfect sunny weather, the Showgrounds were soon abuzz with crowds at record levels.

The Peninsula was overflowing with visitors for the long weekend and the Red Hill Show was ready to present a true agricultural and horticultural experience.

Although Alpaca numbers entered in the Halter Class competition were slightly below those that we have become used to at Red Hill over the years, the quality was up in all colours. A total of 23 breeders entered 69 alpacas (23 suris & 46 huacaya).

We were privileged to have Peter Kennedy-Gane as our Judge with Lee Sadler from South Australia, as apprentice judge. Their informative comments in support of their decisions, were delivered in a relaxed style, putting exhibitors at ease and setting the tone for the day. Our thanks also to Robert Kennedy-Gane for his day long assistance as Ring Steward and photographer.

How good was it to see local Peninsula breeders, Jack and Rosalie Boer of Granjero Park, win their first Supreme Suri Championship with their Intermediate fawn male, Sir Lancelot, while the Supreme Champion Huacaya went to Auravale Goldleaf Salvatore, an Adult white male, exhibited by Nic and Lynda Holdsworth. Heartiest congratulations to both Granjero and Auravale!

We welcomed first-time exhibitors, including several Alpaca Youth group members who, while participating in the Halter class programme in the Alpaca Pavilion, were also competing in the Showmanship and Stockmanship events, on an adjacent outdoor site. Later in the day, the Youth group assembled in the central show ring in the Alpaca Pavilion for the presentation of awards by their Judge - the ever enthusiastic Jillian Elwers.

Our congratulations to Jillian, all Youth group exhibitors and their convening team - thank you for being part of Red hill 2023.

A Special Note to the Youth Group : Please know that the constraints experienced with your outdoor site this year, have been made known to the Ag Society and steps taken to ensure that a more suitable site will be made available to you in the future.

History will show that alpacas first appeared at Red Hill in 1995, and while it is true to record that the alpaca show has continued to evolve in the years since, twenty eight years on, at this year's show, we experienced a further set of "firsts" for Red Hill.

- the use of the Region's recently acquired show-pen trailer sets, ensuring pen panel portability from venue to venue, a uniform look and layout and a consistency with other alpaca shows at National and Regional level. The Pavilion has never looked better!
- the introduction of cheQa, an additional tier in the structure of the assessed status of alpaca livestock. For the statistically minded

| | No of Exhibitors | No of Alpacas |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Assessed - Q Alpaca | 6 | 22 |
| - cheQa | 5 | 16 |
| Total - Assessed | 11 | 38 |
| Total - Non Assessed | 12 | 31 |
| Total - all groups | 23 | 69 |
| % Assessed | 47.8% | 55.1% |

- the support of the already existing Biosecurity measures within the Alpaca Pavilion, secured through the generosity of sponsorships from Alltech Lienert and Balnarring Produce, which enabled the acquisition and positioning of disinfectant mats across all entrances of the Pavilion - a move that impressed our

Compliance Auditor, and the Veterinary Officers from Agriculture Victoria, who are endeavouring to raise the biosecurity awareness of all livestock owners across the State. Ahead of our afternoon show session, the Department's programme was kick-started with a short, informative talk on issues associated with Foot and Mouth (FMD) and Lumpy Skin (LSD) disease. Our thanks to Dr Nikki Chadee and her departmental team for the presentation.

- The final "first" and one certainly well worthy of note, was that the Halter Show concluded at 3.00pm. Never, in our alpaca show experience at Red Hill has this been achieved before. Invariably, our show runs on to 4.30pm or so, with clean-up to follow. It says much for the skill of the judging panel and the co-operation of exhibitors throughout the day, while not forgetting the slightly lower exhibit numbers.

In closing, a word of thanks.

- to our Show hosts, Red Hill A & H Society. Congratulations on a most successful 95th Annual Show and a special thanks for all your support of the Alpaca section, this includes the Alpaca Youth group.
- to AAA Victorian Eastern Region, in particular:
 - Nic and Lynda Holdsworth, for your collective efforts and support for the Alpaca Show at Red Hill. Although fully involved in the convening and follow-on from the Berwick Show, to say nothing of the management of the Region itself, your time was readily given to troubleshooting on matters relevant to eAlpaca entries for Red Hill; the pick-up of the biosecurity matting; assistance with pen set-up etc etc. A great contribution - very much appreciated.
 - Georgia and Jacqueline Bishop, for the support so readily given in the promotion and representation of the Alpaca Show on social media. We welcomed you as a first time exhibitor at Red Hill and as a sponsor of the Stud Service Silent Auction conducted on the day. Thank you for your much valued input.
- to each and every one of our fabulous sponsors, a sincere "thank you". Without your support, we just could not run a show. Your willingness to say "Yes" when approached was so very much appreciated.



The Alpaca Show is also heavily dependent on the huge amount of work done by our locally-based volunteers. Ahead of Show Day, arrangements were put in hand to pick-up the pen and equipment trailers from the Berwick Showgrounds, set-up the shed penning, banners/murals, and lighting.

Then followed the pre-show set-up on Sunday 5th March and the transformation of the Pavilion into a fully fledged show setting. Job done by an enthusiastic team of Arthur Biri, Jack & Josh Boer, Peter Collett, Meg Price, Cal Daddo and fellow sparky, Jacko. Their reward - a most welcome morning tea provided by Larissa - cake, cookies, Tim Tams and wait for it - icy poles!! Thanks Larissa, for looking after us - just what was needed. In the week that then followed, the days were filled with finalising details on Judge's accommodation, Trophies, Catalogues, Sponsor acknowledgements, Silent auction set-ups etc etc.

Then it was "Fine tune Friday."

Exhibitor names on each pen.

Penning straw spread - thanks to the Boer family, Rosalie, Jack and Alecia.

Three product stalls erected: Pero, Grangero Park, and Pitching Ridge.

We welcomed exhibitors who had booked in their alpacas for the Friday overnight stay, and met with Dr Belle Mann from Main Ridge Vet Clinic, who approved and signed off the Alpaca Show's Certificate of Compliance. On an outdoor site, John Price, too, was busy finalising the Alpaca Youth Group display and competition event. Thanks John for all your work in co-ordinating and bringing the Youth Group to Red Hill.

While all this alpaca-ing was progressing, Arthur Biri, ably assisted by Peter Collett, was absented from alpaca duty and in full flight setting-up Vintage Corner on the top oval. A big thank you to Arthur for his time, endeavour and enthusiasm in bringing his vintage machine collection to Red Hill - a king-size logistics exercise, carried out with his usual "no problems, all's good" approach. Thank you Peter, for your invaluable help with the whole process.

All was in readiness. Show Day was upon us, which in itself, brought some special mentions:

To our Inspection Stewards: Jack Boer, Alexis Daddo, Arthur Biri, Wendy Lyons, Marie FitzGerald, John Price, and Sarah Vaughan. Thank you for your involvement, for your attention to detail and for delivering on this most important element of the Show. Timed to perfection.

To Meg Price: For her last minute launch into the role of Results and Record Steward - all undertaken with that "I'll give it a go" attitude, which seems very much part of her DNA. Meg's all-day keyboarding effort was significant and greatly appreciated.

To Lisa Chiminello: For your multi-tasking as Judges' Chaperone, Registration, Ribbons and Awards Steward. For your enthusiasm which knows no bounds. For your fantastic contribution to the day.

To Warwick Robertson - The Voice: For yet another masterly, all-day display of your microphone technique, that surely should be copyright.

To our End of Show Day Clean-up Team: With pen panels loaded onto trailers by exhibitors and with the pavilion vacated of people and livestock - the clean-up team of Larissa & Tim, Alexis & Trent finalised packing of the equipment trailer, tables & chairs to storage, ferried trailers, floats etc away from the Showgrounds, and finally pushed the massive pile of penning straw to the doorway for the planned despatch per a masterstroke arrangement initiated by Arthur. We are indebted to Neil Farnsworth, who with large truck and significant operator skills, manoeuvred his bobcat, in and out and around, until every wisp of bedding straw was loaded and away. All done with that spirit of community and "happy to help" attitude that is Neil Farnsworth.

To Brian Price and Arthur Biri: For your above and beyond collective efforts at Sunday's post show clean-up. Well done on getting the large mural banner down ahead of the hose-out by local CFA. A thoroughly well timed exercise.

To our Product Stall Holders: Granjero Park, Pero Alpacas, Pitchingga Ridge - thank you for creating "Alpaca Avenue" within the Pavilion. Stocked with a smorgasbord of alpaca product, the Farm to Fashion centre was abuzz with customer support throughout the day providing that synergy between the alpacas on show and their fleece product.

To All: who exhibited, displayed product, officiated and/or assisted with stewarding roles, were there when needed - before, during and after. A BIG, BIG THANK YOU.

We do hope that you enjoyed your day! We look forward to Red Hill 2024. Keep Saturday of the Labour Day weekend - free!

A POST SCRIPT

To those who conspired to bring together the MPAB group and others for that post-lunch acknowledgement of our time with the alpacas at the Red Hill Show, to say we were lost for words, is an understatement! Don't know as to whether one can ever trust you again - so unexpected, so humbling and yes, so very, very thoughtful.

To Warwick for your kind words, to Meg and other suspects - thank you. Jean and I will long remember the gesture - to say nothing of the Chockies and Champers which we cracked open that night in celebratory afters.

Jean & David Daddo
Convenors

Alpaca Section, Red Hill Show 2023. 17th April 2023.

FarmWorld March 24-26th 2023 – VER Secretary

The VER would like to thank all of our members who participated at Farm World during March 2023. Members shared their alpacas, knowledge and expertise; offered garments and other products made from alpacas and for alpacas; conducted youth activities; plenty of written flyers, magazines and other alpaca information sheets were handed out.

This combined effort ensured thousands more people have been educated on the care of alpacas and the joy they bring.

Well Done Jen McDavitt and all who participated, including family and friends who pitched in to help individual studs over this three day event.

The Merungle team

The Maylands team

The Serenity team

The Ripplefield team

The Westwind team

The Stevley Park team

The Milestead team

Rachel and Leah Burnett together with students from Donvale Christian College.

Lynda and Nic Holdsworth

Kylie Taylor

Julie and Tim Blake


Lakeside Pavillion proudly sponsored by Drouin Veterinary Clinic

Parasite Workshop 16th April Report – Julie Blake

On April 16th 2023, a successful Parasite workshop was held at Chakana Blue in Seville East.

Despite a cria being born at 8am, the show went on with newborn all cozy in the shed next to Mum out of the pouring rain.

14 attendees made for a full shed on a cool rainy day (60 mls in 24 hrs) heaters ablaze. Originally 18 registered to attend.

14 was plenty.... 

The workshop was led by qualified veterinarian Andrea Redgewell who shared her expertise and valuable insights on various topics related to animal health and welfare.

The workshop provided vibrant discussions among the breeders, resulting in knowledge exchange and practical learning.

Vet Andrea expressed her experience in the field of veterinary medicine and shared her valuable insights on various aspects of animal health and welfare. She discussed the importance of preventive healthcare measures, including vaccinations, parasite control, and proper nutrition. She also emphasized the need for regular health check-ups, veterinary intervention and early detection of parasite burdens to ensure the overall well-being of the animals.

The importance of biosecurity was highlighted which included measures to prevent the spread of diseases/parasites in the herd and shared practical tips for implementing effective biosecurity protocols on the farm. Her expertise and practical advice was well-received by the attendees and deemed invaluable for improving the health and productivity of their livestock.

Extremely grateful to Andrea Redgewell for donating her time and knowledge voluntarily.

The workshop was abuzz with discussions among the breeders who actively participated in the knowledge-sharing sessions. Breeders shared their experiences, challenges and best practices, creating a collaborative environment for learning. There were discussions on all topics with much appreciated real life circumstances and their outcomes. These success stories and failures created great learning outcomes from one another. The exchange of ideas and practical tips resulted in valuable insights that could be implemented on farms to improve breeding programs and animal welfare practices.

The topics covered during the workshop made for lots of Questions and note taking. The emphasis was ultimately on practical skills using a microscope, that will hopefully be useful for on-farm applications.

We concluded overtime at 4.15pm despite a few stragglers staying on till after 5pm. There are a number of things I've learnt from facilitating this type of workshop and hope to improve workshops as we go in to the future. All around it appeared very well liked.

Attachment B

Proposed updates to the Alpaca of the Year Awards point allocation. Scaling will be removed.

| Age Championship Awards | Current Point Allocation | Proposed Point Allocated |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Supreme Champion | 3 | 7 |
| Age Champion | 6 | 6 |
| Age Reserve Champion | 5 | 5 |
| Best of Colour | 6 | 4 |
| 1st | 3 | 3 |
| 2nd | 2 | 2 |
| 3rd | 1 | 1 |

| Colour Championship Awards | Current Point Allocation | Proposed Point Allocated |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Supreme Colour | 6 | 7 |
| Colour Champion (Male or Female) | 6 | 6 |
| Colour Reserve Champion (Male or Female) | 5 | 5 |
| 1st | 3 | 3 |
| 2nd | 2 | 2 |
| 3rd | 1 | 1 |