

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD

Victorian Eastern Region

ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING

Date: 10 Sept 2023

Venue: Pine Grove Hotel

Commenced: 12.45pm

Minutes - Unconfirmed

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

PRESENT: Heather Gardner, Paul Gardner, Lynda Holdsworth, Nic Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, Colin Taylor, Tim Blake, Julie Blake, John Price, Sue Hatfield, Joy Skinner, Louise Charman, Jack Boer, Rosalie Boer, Jacqueline Bishop, Georgia Bishop, Lezley Golding, David Daddo

APOLOGIES:-Lindy Smith, Daphne Gregory, Allison Quagliani, Wendy Talbot, Jenny Miles, Jenny Bradshaw, Greg Bradshaw, Rachel Burnett, Jean Daddo, Suzanne Lockhart, Gayle Herring, Lynne Kimber, Tieran Kimber, Ron Condon, Alison Williams, Megan Gridley, Vivian Blacker, Romanie Blacker,

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

Minutes of previous meetings

Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 29th June 2023

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 29/6/2023 be accepted:

Correction to item 3.5 from “seeing to selling” noted

Moved: Kylie Taylor Seconded: John Price. Minutes Carried.

Item No.	Minutes	Action being taken	Attachments
2.5	Treasurer's Report and acceptance of accounts. Refer Financial reports as attached to the ARM 10/9/2023 and Attachment A Noted the importance of sponsorship: \$6500 funds came from sponsorship in 2022/23 Concerns re possible inaccuracies in Youth account	Treasurer to follow up and report on: Kyneton Show allocations – eg not a VER Youth event and Whittlesea not recorded. In moving forward all youth events must provide a budget to the committee for approval pre event and complete the AAA Reimbursement form post show – to be copied to treasurer. This will ensure sufficient information is received by the VER treasurer to be able to reconcile the VYTEC account	NH NH

Matters Arising			
3.1	<p>Events held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lardner Colour Show- see attached report Attachment A • National Alpaca Show – VER was well represented at the show taking out many awards both for youth, young judges and halter shows 		
3.2	<p>Events Planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sale Alpaca Show 16th Oct 2023 • Berwick Show- Feb 2024 • Red Hill Show – March 2024 • Farm World – March 2024 		
3.3	<p>Social Media/Website/eNewsletter- Facebook page positive feedback – to be approved by three members of committee before published.</p> <p>Website being updated with local information Once updated share VER website address with Alpacas Victoria</p> <p>Facebook/Instagram links on website – has been requested and followed up with AAA. Needs to be updated by programmers and hence there has been no action to date.</p>	<p>Communicate to members they are able to promote alpaca related activities by sending to Facebook administrator</p> <p>Facebook Page for members only to be developed. WIP</p>	<p>GB/JB/ LH.</p> <p>LH JB/GB</p> <p>JB</p> <p>LH</p>
3.4	<p>New member liaison working party(NMLWP), see Attachment A for full report</p> <p>A concern was raised that we were not being notified of new members and hence they were being missed.</p> <p>Of the 24 members who have not renewed this year, 17 were new members since 2020. All were contacted via email and NMLWP made phone calls to each.</p>	<p>Request AAA to notify region of all new members</p> <p>Request AAA to provide additional communication to members re prorata fees and renewal fees and access.</p>	<p>LH</p> <p>JB</p>

	<p>A personal invitation re ARM/ORM/Lunch with a copy of the Q & A brochure was posted to all new members from 2020 to current.</p> <p>It was noted that there are some breeders/studs that do not provide support or advice to those they sell to not supporting people they sell to.</p> <p>Need for more workshops throughout regional locations. ? First Aid Course</p> <p>Advise members AAA Insurance covers approved AAA events held on farms.</p> <p>Alpaca Open days – Mornington Peninsula Breeders Group implementing open days. Maybe choose a month for all those that wish to be included and gain publicity through media outlets.</p> <p>Suggestions for Guest speakers/workshops/farm tours, First Aid courses</p>	<p>Update of website with local information and an information sheet which can be printed and handed out by members</p> <p>To be discussed with committee</p> <p>Email to all members requesting those that may be interested in hosting a AAA workshop, advise covered by AAA Insurance</p> <p>To be raised with committee</p>	<p>LH</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p>
3.5	<p>Introduction of new AOTY scoring and best of colour, took affect prior to Lardner show for 2023/24 show season.</p>	<p>Implemented for 2023/24 show season, to be reviewed and altered as required at end of season</p>	<p>JB/TB/LH</p>
3.6	<p>Acknowledgement of Volunteers: Formally conducted at the Lardner Show and today during ORM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For 5 years of service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Julie Blake ○ Tim Blake ○ Lynda Holdsworth ○ Nic Holdsworth ○ Jenny McDavid ● For 10 years of service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Louise Charman ○ Hans Van Poppel ○ Christine Van Poppel ○ Angela Betheras (Posthumously) ● For 20 years of service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenny Miles ● Bob McLeod award – A BOB- presented to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jean and David Daddo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convening the Red Hill show since 2001 – over 20 years 		<p>JB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee/Taskforce member for over 10 years President 2004 - David 		
3.7	<p>Update of current regional mentors includes at least one stud per regions as follows:</p> <p>Mornington Peninsula Dandenong Ranges Gippsland West Gippsland East Gippsland Victorian High Country</p> <p>Thank you to those who volunteered to be mentors</p> <p>Listed on VER website under Alpaca Resources</p>	Communicate this list via Facebook page	JB/GB
	<p>Carried Forward from previous meeting:</p> <p>Review of Q & A Brochure to ensure up to current standards</p> <p>Update VER Website with more information of value to our members – source further information to meet this need. Current information being collated and assessed.</p> <p>Add Facebook Instagram to webpages – request placed on AAA – awaiting response, followed up twice but needs to be actioned by programmer.</p> <p>AAA Social Media rules and guidelines to be reviewed before making updates. Suggestions breeder spotlights, stud male availability, etc.</p> <p>Listing of new members on social media</p> <p>What to do with fleeces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lardner Colour Show fleece sales although it was not hugely successful much valuable information was gained and it was deemed very worthwhile. 	<p>WIP</p> <p>WIP</p> <p>WIP</p> <p>Completed to be implemented</p> <p>WIP</p> <p>Future fleece sale events to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved position within event to aid foot traffic Increase pre event advertising through different avenues ie, spinners, knitters, felters and weavers groups etc Provide guidelines to those contributing as to what type of fleece is sought eg skirted, all colours, good quality. 	<p>NH</p> <p>LH</p> <p>LH</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JB/GB</p> <p>Committee</p>

	<p>Regional approach to improved fleece sales</p> <p>Improve education on Alpaca biosecurity programs</p> <p>Proposed Vic Youth Training Education Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number participating to 30 fleeces • Provide additional interest for the public ie felting, spinning, carding exhibitions • Provide completed garments/crafts etc for sale • Action promotional banners specifically for fleece education • Committee to work with John Price to incorporate fleece sales at upcoming events <p>Collaboration between VCR/VER being discussed: WIP</p> <p>WIP</p> <p>Deferred</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>JB</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.	NOTED	
4.3	<p>Ageing equipment: VER Equipment float requires replacement.</p> <p>Loss of VER pen panel pins</p>	<p>WIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A likely suitable trailer has been identified • query option for sponsorship advertising to provide further funds for changeover. • Cost after selling existing trailer expected to be approx. \$4000 <p>AAA agreed to fund 200 pins, these have been purchased and are currently being manufactured</p>	<p>TB</p> <p>NH</p> <p>EG</p> <p>JB</p> <p>NH</p>

	Youth trailer requires cleaning and minor repairs.	To be followed up and actioned as required	EG
	Updated branding of both VER and youth trailers	Youth Logo requires formatting. Quote to be sought for this action. Branding of both trailers to be action be costed and actioned once new VER trailer is secured and clean up of youth trailer is completed.	EG committee
General Business with Notice:			
General Business without Notice:			
6.1	NLIS – not required in Vic		
6.2	Colour Show? Will Lardner go ahead?	To be discussed at committee. Need for convenor to be identified, scheduling important to ensure increased number of exhibitors.	JB
6.3	eAlpaca to include judge of shows asap – likely to be actioned through AAA?	To be raised at Presidents meeting	JB
	AAA National Show to be communicated in advance	To be raised at President meeting	JB
6.4	Youth fund raising to be investigated and continued	Seek Youth supporters/sponsors	
		Determine youth email address	EG
		Communicate to membership the need for youth supporters and volunteers.	EG/GB /LH
		Request to AAA why youth is rarely mentioned in the AAA Member Updates, request a greater representation of youth events	JB
		Raise with AAA what plans are for AYE going forward	JB

Meeting closed: 1.30pm

Attachment A

Presidents Report

President Report by Jacqueline Bishop (3 September, 2023)

2023 has seen the VER region have a changing of the guard. Nic Holdsworth stepped down from VER President into the position of VER Treasurer, Kylie Taylor stepped down from VER Treasurer to VER committee member and myself stepping into the role as VER president from a VER committee member. I would like to take this moment to thank Nic for all his hard work in maintaining and driving the VER region during his presidency. I wish to thank the VER members for their warm welcome and support in my appointment, and I look forward to working for our region in making our industry better for both small and large breeders alike.

The VER region has successfully hosted 3 shows thus far (Berwick, Red Hill and Lardner), interactions with the public (Farm World), a Youth Event, and birthing and parasite workshops. It was great to see the return of the Lardner Show, after 4 years, it was a huge success with 74 alpacas on display, 19 exhibitors and 7 stall holders. This event, in conjunction with a craft market, saw a consistent stream of general public coming and viewing the youth and halter events. It is wonderful to see our VER region halter showing calendar once again at full capacity with 4 shows - let's hope we can continue this.

The next VER event to mark in your diaries is the Sale Show on the 15th of October, 2023. There is also the Melbourne Royal Show on our calendar which will be a fleece and halter showing, as well as Youth Paraders events. Both these events will hopefully be a huge success and I send well wishes to our convenors and all our members attending. Youth is another big aspect within any industry as it is the future; as seen at Lardner Show with 17 participants and 16 participants at the National Show. With the recent introduction from the AAA of new school resources that promote the alpaca industry and what can be done with the fibre (see example flyers); it would be great to see breeders promoting and supporting these types of initiatives in order to attract public interest. For those with children of their own - why not mention it to your school for inclusion in your school newsletter? We have many mentors and individuals who are willing to support our youth in getting engaged and involved with alpacas.

Volunteers are the backbone of our region, for without them we could not achieve all these amazing events. At Lardner Show a number of volunteers were acknowledged for their dedication and service to the VER region. I personally would like to thank them as follows:

- For 5 years of service:

- Julie Blake
- Tim Blake
- Lynda Holdsworth
- Nic Holdsworth
- Jenny McDavit

- For 10 years of service:

- Louise Charman
- Hans Van Poppel
- Christine Van Poppel
- Angela Batheras (Posthumously)

- For 20 years of service:

- Jenny Miles

As previously stated, volunteers are the drivers of our region and the Committee would love to see more members putting their hand up to run (or support) events and shows that further and highlight our region and industry.

After the July VER ARM meeting and August AAA Council Meeting (both via Zoom), discussions have begun between myself, the VCR President, and the AAA President on how we can all better support smaller breeders within Victoria in the selling of their fleeces. This is in the initial phase of development and I look forward to working with both Presidents

in coming to a solution for small breeders (and big breeders) in order for our industry to become a more fleece driven industry. Collaboration between small breeders will be key. Watch this space.

I look forward to continuing on as VER President and working with our members in promoting our wonderful industry and shared passion in alpacas. Thank you.

Brochure from the AAA about the School Educational Resources



Treasurer Report

Firstly, I would like to explain the difference in reports given at the ARM this year compared to previous years. Since the AAA has amalgamated all regions activities into one central accounting system, we are no longer able to pull out a regional profit and loss and balance sheet. Instead, we now can extract a job profit and loss report, which is in effect a profit and loss on each of the events within our region including a “General Allocation” that cover non-event income and expenses such as WFI insurance commission and trailer registrations and other general expenses.

In the past the VER and VYTEC bank accounts included all transactions that occurred, this to has changed; now the only transactions that now occur within the account are general expenses and revenue and event net effect transactions. For example, the Red Hill show made a surplus from all its activities of \$155.89. This is expressed in the regional account as a single transaction.

At the conclusion of any event, it will be important for convenors to ask for a “Job Profit and Loss” so they can reconcile the income and expenses are correct.

2022 – 2023

I am happy to report that all but one event in that financial year made surpluses as can be seen from the Job profit and loss reports. I encourage for all event organisers to aim to make a 20% surplus on their event to ensure we have enough income to come the general expenses of the region. I have also included listings of both the VER and VYTEC bank accounts listings including opening and closing balances. Both accounts show increases (Note Berwick surplus \$1074 entered the account in July so is note shown.)

I would like to thank all the convenors for their efforts in protecting our finite resources and most importantly to thank all the volunteers and the sponsors (and WFI rebate) as without these the financial position we find our self in would be very different.

The AAA reports the investment account for VER is \$30,750.00

Regards

Nic Holdsworth

Secretary Report

1. Communications received around caring for alpacas, request for resources, interstate sharing of information and planned events, AAA communications
2. Communications forwarded includes welcome letters to new members, notification on events, responses to specific questions
3. 102 current members, 2022- 110, 2021 – 115.
4. Thank you to current committee members – Jacqueline Bishop, Nic Holdsworth, Kylie Taylor, John Price, Tim Blake, Emmaly Gridley. Our committee has a very good rapport and have worked through many agenda items during the last year including:
 - Shows/Events
 - Purchase of promotional and educational banners, biosecurity mats
 - Acknowledgement of volunteers
 - Maintaining/repair of assets and research as to options of equipment trailer replacement
 - Investigations in to fleece collection options
 - Promotion of VER needs/requirements/wishes to AAA
 - Providing support /local resources/guidance to members

NewsLetter, Website and Social Media Reports

1. VER eNewsletter has continued with issues been published in December 2022, April 2023 and planned for De 2023August 2022. All copies can be found on VER website under News
2. Plans are underway to update the VER website with information more specific to our local members.
3. Social media has been very successfully administered by Georgia and Jacqueline Bishop – they have done a great job of regularly forwarding current and interesting information for members and wider alpaca community.

Lardner Colour Alpaca Show report

Wow what a success! After a four year hiatus with a rough start seeing Tammy having to make a last minute baton toss to Georgia & Jacqueline Bishop to be convenors instead, it was great to see the Lardner Colour Alpaca Show get the green light.

The show was a huge success with 74 alpacas on display (53 Huacaya and 21 Suri), 19 exhibitors and 7 stall holders. Thank you to Natasha Clarke and Jonathan Provis-Vincent for judging, your comments and feedback to each of our exhibitors was extremely valuable. Thank you to our fabulous sponsors (see below) who made this show possible and for providing relevant industry rewards for our Supreme Champions.

We also had 17 participants partake in the Youth Paraders competition. To each of the participants we say: well done and we look forward to seeing you competing in future events! Thank you to Rachel Burnett for judging this youth event.

This year the event was also held in conjunction with a craft market which saw a consistent stream of general public coming and viewing the youth and halter events.

Whilst we received mixed thoughts about this show being a Colour Show, the overall feedback was that it was fantastic to see “colour” celebrated in the eastern region and encouraging small breeders to come out and show. We hope to see more breeders and hobbyists join in on the fun next year.

A huge thank you and shout out to the following people:

- For assisting with setting up the show:
 - Glenn & Bernie Bishop

- Greg Bradshaw
- Nic Holdsworth
- John Price
- Charlotte & Dean Wood
- Jodie Ramadge
- Louise Charman & Pat
- For assisting on the day:
 - Kylie & Collin Taylor
 - Maddy Bissels
 - Louise Charman
 - Jodi & Tess Ramadge
 - Numerous youth paraders who helped
 - Nic Holdsworth
 - Bernie & Glenn Bishop
 - And all those who assisted with packing up their own pens.
- Our sponsors
 - Westrock Insurance Brokers & The Gay Farmer Candle
 - Barastoc, Propharma Australia, Green Valley, Complete Hay Supplies, Marylands Alpacas, & Thorpdale Bakery
 - Auravale Alpacas, Chakana Blue, Buckland Alpacas, Nil Desperandum, Kelowna Alpacas, Ripplefield, Alpacas on the Hill, & Dulce Alpacas
- Pam & Andrew - the Lardner Park team

To summarise, a fantastic day out with friends, family, and fellow like minded individuals. By Georgia & Jacqueline, 2023 Lardner Show Convenor

New Members Liaison Group Report

31/08/2023

This group was established with the aim of welcoming new members to our organization and ensuring their smooth integration into our community.

Julie Blake & Kylie Taylor are currently seeking a third person to join this group. Innovation and inspiration are continually sought.

Today's report provides a brief overview of the group's activities and its impact on new members.

Personal Approach: The personal approach adopted by this group has proven to be highly effective.

We have been reaching out to new members individually, welcoming them and addressing any initial questions or concerns they may have had.

This personal touch has created welcoming atmosphere, giving new members a sense of belonging and allowing them to feel valued and appreciated.

Phone Communication and Feedback: Personal phone calls have been met with a positive response. Members outwardly expressing their satisfaction with this method as it provides them with a direct and personal connection. This approach has encouraged new members to provide valuable feedback, enabling us to address their needs and concerns effectively.

A key discussion remains the worth of fleece and where to sell it. The prospect of workshops and their frequency is also mentioned often.

Most times they are guided to our website for future dates and key events & encouraged to keep an eye on social media platforms for updates.

Anticipation for Future Events: Members have expressed eagerness for a list of future events. This anticipation demonstrates their enthusiasm for becoming active participants in the region. Providing a clear and comprehensive list of upcoming events will help new members plan their involvement and foster a sense of belonging.

Both Kylie and myself have debated the possibility of getting a calendar going once again. As no fixed dates of events are available this is posing to be a very broad concept.

As no fixed dates

However, it could pose beneficial in supporting all our regional members through advertising eg: stud services/shearers/vets available. Alpaca accolades & such.

Conclusion: This Group's personal approach to welcoming new members and its effective use of phone communication has already produced positive results.

Some members asking for the link to renew and/or discover mentors/shows in their area. Interest has been shown in navigating eAlpaca and furthering their understanding of our systems in place. Members appear content but also eager to engage further with the region through upcoming events. This success confirms the importance of fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for new members.

Recommendations:

- Continue the personal approach to welcoming new members.
- Maintain regular phone communication to engage and gather feedback.
- Publish a comprehensive list of future events to keep members informed and excited
- A desirable method of updating this group should be priority moving forward.

We feel encouraged to continue these practices to ensure the ongoing satisfaction and engagement of new members within our Victorian Eastern Region.

Julie Blake & Kylie Taylor