

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Quidding Alpaca
- Sydney Royal Alpaca Show
- The Suri Network
- Alpaca Trekking
- Lethality of the Grey Gene
- The Coat Route Novel

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Publisher

Camelid Connections is published by Oak Grove Graphics
ABN 84 171 413 342

PO Box 4059, Candelo NSW 2550
Telephone +61 (0)2 6493 2036
Email: info@camelidconnections.com.au
Web: www.camelidconnections.com.au

Editor

Esme Graham Telephone: 0457 304 868
Email: esme@camelidconnections.com.au

Designer

Julie McClen telephone 02 6493 2036
Email: julie@camelidconnections.com.au

Designed and Produced

By Oak Grove Graphics
PO Box 4059, Candelo NSW 2550
Telephone +61 (0)2 6493 2036
info@oakgrovegraphics.com.au
www.oakgrovegraphics.com.au

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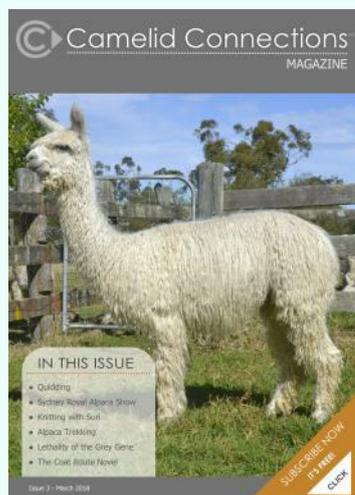
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Cover: Photo by Annalisa Tomich of a Suri at Bumble Hills Alpacas

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Welcome to Camelid Connections

Can't believe that this is already the 4th edition of Camelid Connections it doesn't seem 12 months since we started along this road. We hope you, the reader, have enjoyed the magazine as much as we have enjoyed producing it. Many thanks to the contributors who have given their time and expertise and to the advertisers who were brave enough to support a new venture.

A must read in this edition is "The Coat Route" – Can you believe a \$50,000 vicuna coat! This article is about a book written by Meg Lukens Noonan about an unthinkable expensive, entirely handcrafted overcoat. The book sounds fascinating and the author and publisher have given us three books to give away to subscribers. See page 9 for more information.

Other articles include the joys of knitting with Suri yarn, as well as an article written by Jarad Johnston from Alpaca Culture magazine who has shared an article with us on the Suri Network in the USA – Thanks Jared & Meyla. We catch you up with goings on at the Sydney Royal and Alpaca Weekend and many more stories.

Our subscriber giveaway this issue is from Sol Alpacas Australia, a beautiful alpaca shawl - see page 20 for details.

Don't forget to have a look at our new Services Directory you may find the services you are looking for in the one place. If you would like to add your information to the Directory we are offering this service for \$36 per advert or, if you take adverts in four magazines there is a 10% discount - A new avenue for attracting people to your websites? – all adverts will have a live link direct to your website, facebook page or email address.

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Meet The Team



Esme Graham - Editor

My husband and I have been breeding suri alpacas for the past 20 years, I have been heavily involved with both regional committees and the national board of the Australian Alpaca Association for a number of years.

My major interest has been in marketing and education and to this end I was editor of Alpacas Australia magazine for over six years.

I hope that the experience I have gained editing Alpacas Australia can be extended to educate and inform a wider range of alpaca and llama breeders who are not necessarily association members.



Julie McClen - Designer/Editor

A breeder of ultrafine Huacaya alpacas for over 17 years, I have a passion for fine fibre and the genetic connection to the most diminutive and finest of the camelids - the wild Vicuna.

I strongly believe that education in any industry is the key to success, so with Camelid Connections we hope to provide interesting and informative articles to assist all camelid owners in getting the most out of their animals and businesses.

I also own Oak Grove Graphics a web and graphic design agency which is producing this magazine, and also allows me to connect with many different people in the camelid related world through my design and web work.

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The Coat Route

Book Review

In today's world of fast fashion, is there a place for a handcrafted \$50,000 coat?

When journalist Meg Lukens Noonan learned of an unthinkable expensive, entirely handcrafted overcoat that a fourth-generation tailor had made for one of his longtime clients, she set off on an adventure to understand its provenance, and from that impulse unspooled rich and colorful stories about its components, the centuries-old bespoke industry and its traditions, and the master craftsmen whose trade is an art form.

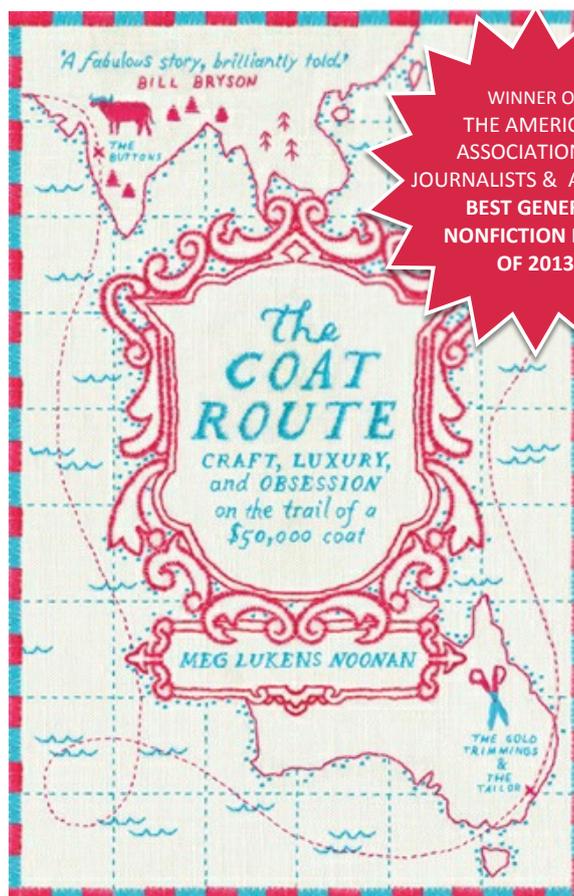
In *The Coat Route*, Noonan pieces together the creation of the coat in question, tracing its elements to their far-flung sources, from the remote mountains of Peru, where villagers shear vicunas—whose soft fleece is more coveted and rare than the finest cashmere—to the fabulous Florentine headquarters of Stefano Ricci, the world's greatest silk designer; from the family-owned French fabric house Dormeuil, founded in 1842, which drapes kings, presidents, and movie stars to the 150-year-old English button-making firm that creates the one plus ultra of fasteners out of Indian water-buffalo horn and the workshop of the master hand engraver who makes the eighteen-carat gold plaque that hangs inside the coat's collar. We meet the dapper son-in-law of an Australian wine baron who commissions the coat's creation, and we come to know John Cutler, one of the top bespoke tailors in the world, who works his magic with scissors and thread out of his Sydney shop, redolent of cedar and English wool.

Featuring a cast of offbeat, obsessed, and wildly entertaining characters, *The Coat Route* presents a rich tapestry of local masters, individual artisans, and family-owned companies that have stood against the tide of mass consumerism. As Noonan comes to realize, these craftsmen, some of whom find themselves on the brink of retirement with no obvious successors, have increasing reason to believe that their way is the best way - best for their customers, best for the environment, and best for the quality of life of all involved. *The Coat Route* is a love song to things of lasting value.

"A fabulous story, brilliantly told . . . I couldn't have enjoyed it more." - Bill Bryson

"[A] rich, entertaining read, paying tribute to craftspeople dedicated to timeless quality in a mass-produced, fast-fashion world."

- Daniel Herborn, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD



"Utterly beguiling account of ... the rarefied world of bespoke tailoring and centuries-old craftsmanship ... an inspiring, often sad, altogether illuminating David and Goliath story of small family businesses pitting their talents against the tide of history." - Bron Sibree, WEST AUSTRALIAN

*"I bought this on a whim (because I liked the cover!) and it has turned out to be my non-fiction find of the year. Everyone we recommend it too seems to enjoy it. Noonan is an American journalist who came upon the website of Australian bespoke tailor John Cutler and could not stop thinking about the \$50,000 coat he made for a particular client. In *The Coat Route* she traces the provenance of each part of the coat: fleece from Peruvian vicuna, buttons from the UK, silk from Italy and so on. Structured simply and*

elegantly, like the coat she is following, the book is a lovely example of journalism at its best, informative, accessible and great fun."

Barb Sampson Top 10 reads for 2013 - ABC PERTH, WA

"You don't have to be a fashionista; you don't need to be interested in vicuna, camelids or other sources of fibre, not even in the behaviour of the very wealthy. Just read and enjoy 'The Coat Route'. For anyone interested in fashion, textiles, luxury or, 'The Coat Route' is a great read. If you haven't already, get your hands on this book by any means you can."

Lauris Jephcott - Knit Alpaca

About the author

Meg Lukens Noonan spent ten years as a correspondent for Outside magazine and has written for The New York Times, National Geographic Adventure, Travel + Leisure, Esquire, Men's Journal, Vogue, and many other publications.

She is also the co-author, with sailor Deborah Scaling Kiley, of *Albatross: The True Story of a Woman's Survival at Sea*, which was translated into more than a dozen languages and was the basis of the ABC television movie, *Two Came Back*.

Her work has been anthologized in *Travelers' Tales Nepal: True Stories of Life on the Road*, *Travelers' Tales: A Woman's World* and *Rough Water: Stories of Survival from the Sea*.

She has two daughters, is a graduate of the University of Vermont and lives in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA.



Bespoke tailor John Cutler at work. (www.cutlerbespoke.com)

One of our Camelid Connections readers Lauris Jephcott suggested this book to us, so we contacted the Author Meg Lukens Noonan and she has generously provided copies of her book to give away to three lucky Camelid Connections subscribers.

Not a subscriber? - don't worry - you can still enter and we will automatically subscribe you* so you will be in the running for all future prize giveaways & discount offers!

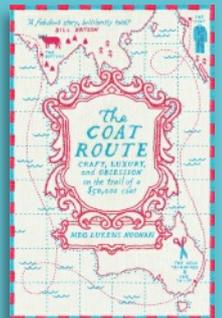
**Subscription is 100% FREE, we don't share your information with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.*

To buy a copy of *The Coat Route* in Australia visit <https://scribepublications.com.au/books-authors/books/the-coat-route> or go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

WIN

CLICK HERE NOW*

To enter the draw to win one of 3 copies of *The Coat Route*!



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The Quidding Alpaca

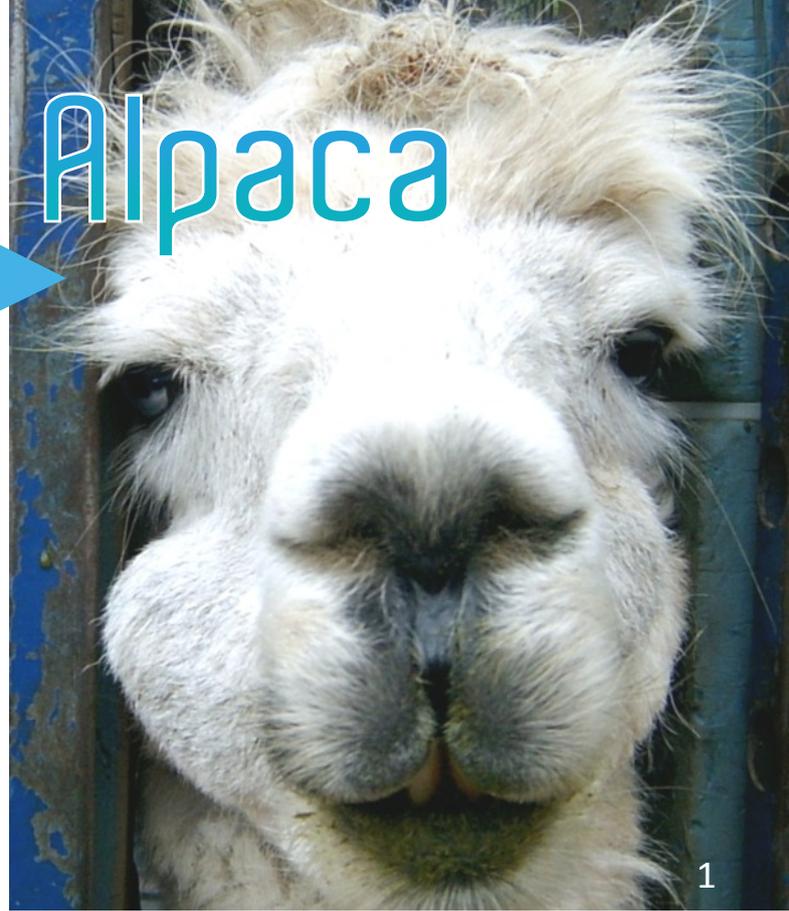
By Allison Quagliani

Quidding is the carrying of a cud, wad or quid of grass or hay in the mouth.

Alpacas with overgrown or very sharp molars use this ball of food to protect their cheeks and gums from the pain experienced while chewing their food. The quid is not swallowed but spat out periodically and replaced. If you are observant you may find them on the ground in the area where the alpacas live - often around the feeding areas.

From the outside an animal with this protective pad in its mouth looks like it has a swelling, often the size of a golf ball on the side of its jaw (Fig.1). Quidding is often accompanied by other symptoms that indicate dental problems and animals should be treated as soon as practical to resolve pain issues, restore correct mouth function and return the alpaca to good health.

In my work as an Alpaca Dentist I come across a variety of cases of varying severity. Below I will discuss three case studies of animals I have successfully attended. All three were found to have severe dental problems.



1

Petunia

Petunia was a nine-year-old female when I first met her. She was brought to my attention by a vet who had been called to treat a large swelling on the side of her face (Fig.2) and suspected a tooth problem. The 'swelling' turned out to be a small football-sized collection of food that was packed between her teeth and her cheeks!

At the time Petunia was in her ninth month of gestation. She presented with a very low body condition score, a generally unhappy demeanour and she had a constant stream of frothy green dribble running out of her mouth. I removed several large handfuls of partly chewed, matted grass from the inside of her mouth (Fig.3).

Petunia did have serious teeth problems. Her molars, often referred to as cheek teeth at the back of the mouth (Fig.4), were all wearing unevenly. Two of the lower molars had become so long the opposing upper teeth were worn down below gum level. Every time she chewed her teeth were digging into her gums and the outside edges of her upper molars were cutting her cheeks. Imagine the pain! Her only defence mechanism against this was to use the quid as a buffer between the sharp teeth and the sensitive parts of her gums and cheek.

Petunia sat patiently while I worked on her teeth to file down the longer molars and remove all the sharp edges.

In the following two and a half weeks Petunia gained an astonishing 5.6kg and went on to give birth and raise a healthy normal sized cria.



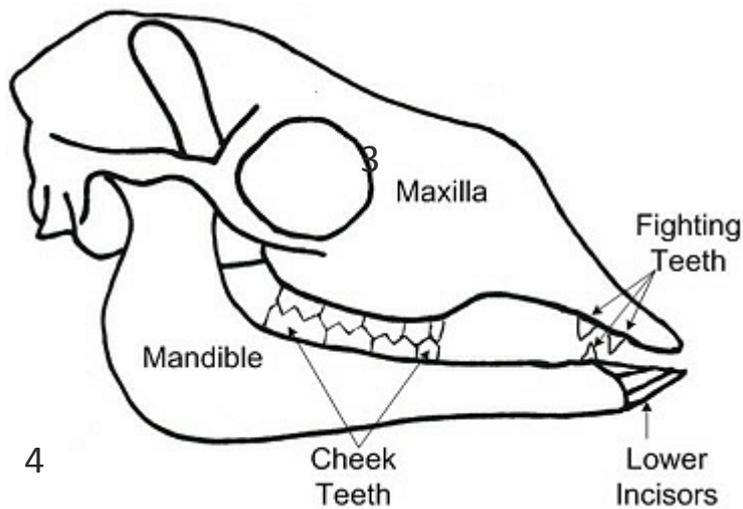
2

Prince

I met Prince, a rather special stud male, when he was twelve years old. He had a low body condition score, was storing wads of food at the back of his mouth on both sides and had dribbled so much he had dermatitis on his lips. He was spending too much time sitting around and had also lost interest in the girls.

Prince had overlong dagger- like rear lower molars (Fig.5). The 'daggers' were long enough to penetrate the opposing gum. The pain was preventing him from eating enough to maintain his weight and energy requirements.

I was able to reduce the height of the overlong teeth and he soon gained weight, stopped dribbling and stopped collecting food in his mouth. Importantly his love life improved and he went on to sire more cria.



Rocky

Rocky an 8yo wether had become very grumpy and started spitting. This was not his normal attitude. He was on good feed but not able to maintain body condition as well as his companions were. He also had a swelling slightly larger than a golf ball (Fig.1) on one side of his face. His owner had noticed these symptoms and gave me a call after attending one of my presentations.

Two of his lower molars were more than 12mls too long, digging into his gums. These teeth were trimmed removing any pain associated with chewing. He was back to his normal, happy, easygoing self within a few days.

Summary

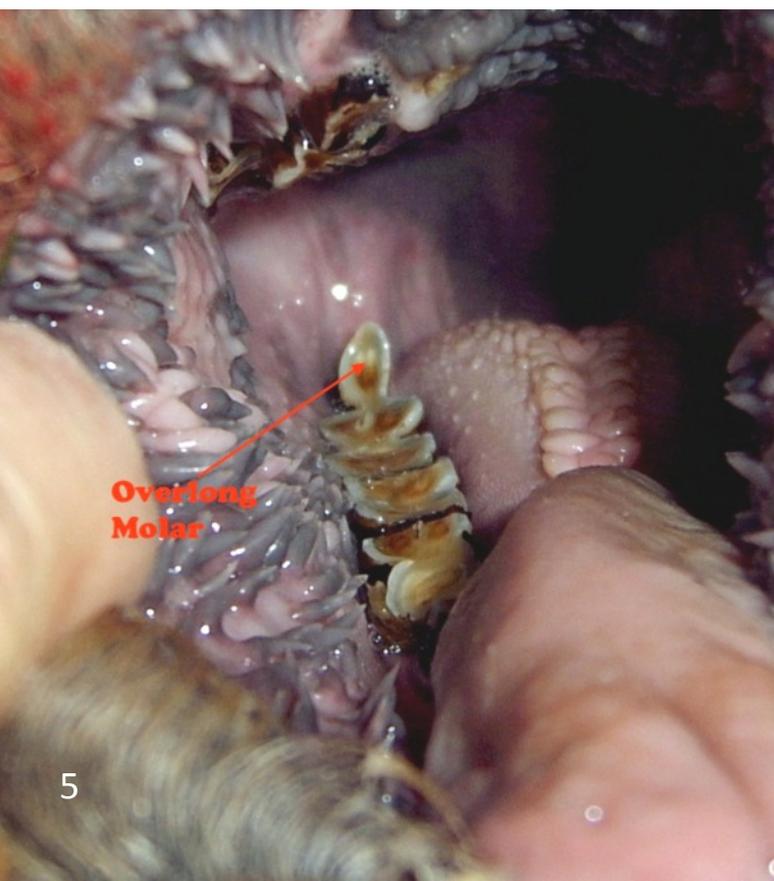
These three alpacas and many others that I have seen usually display some common symptoms:

- Struggling to maintain bodyweight
- Unhappy demeanor
- Dribbling
- A reluctance to eat
- Swelling around the jaw area
- Lack of energy

The majority of quidding alpacas tend to be in the 8+ years old age group. Females with problems are often identified when nutritional demands are high during later pregnancy and lactation.

Dental issues do not appear overnight and take years to develop to the advanced stage of the above case studies. Watch closely how your animals eat and monitor body condition regularly. As with all health issues, the earlier dental issues are attended to the easier it is to alleviate the problem and reduce the amount of stress and suffering the alpaca endures.

For more information you can follow Alpaca Dental Services on Facebook, Instagram and www.alpacadentist.com.au



Cut Care

Wound healing with a history...



A long forgotten recipe from a far away land, saved from fire, and locked away for 40 years, then becomes the basis for a modern day innovation in wound care.

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In 1944, at the age of 23 Rayham Francis worked as a ringer on "Abington Downs" North of Georgetown, Queensland.

During that time he met and worked with an Irish horse trainer (ex jockey) whom he refers to as the "Irish horse doctor". The 'doctor' made and used the ointments on racehorses and before he died gave the recipes to Rayham. These recipes were originally used on the pit ponies in the coal mines in Ireland.

Following his marriage to Ina, they experienced the heartache of the destruction of their home by fire. A wooden box containing the recipes was saved and then they remained in that box for the next 40 years.

Their daughter Joanne started to breed and show her own horses in 1986. As it happens, one of Jo's show horses scraped a back cannon bone severely two weeks before the Brisbane Exhibition. Rayham suddenly remembered the recipes and promptly made up a batch of the Cutcare. Two weeks later Joanne showed her mare at the Royal and won the Station Hack and Working Stockhorse Mare.

In 1986 the recipes were registered and Clovelly Horse Products was founded. This started the unheard of rehabilitation and healing of everything from severe lacerations, cracked and split hooves to other supposedly incurable ailments and conditions.

The Clovelly Cutcare and Hoofcare products are registered with the DPI and have been highly recommended by breeders, trainers and farriers.



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Jo says "Clovelly Cutcare products are made from all natural ingredients and it has been proven time and time again over the last 65 years."

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Clovelly Horsecare products have given us 2 jars of Cutcare to give away to two lucky subscribers.

So enter via the link on page 12 and you may be one of the winners.

For more information about this product visit www.clovellyhorsecare.com.au

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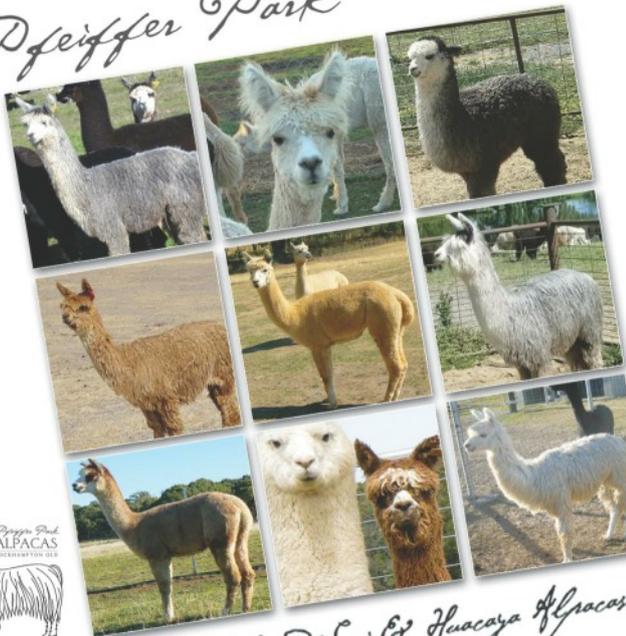
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Sydney Royal 2018

Alpaca Show

By Keryn Burns - Convenor



*Supreme Huacaya Fleece
Evokateur (Precision)*



*Supreme Suri Fleece
Bedrock Cryptic (Bedrock)*

What a wonderful year for the Sydney Royal show this has been, despite the horrendous humidity that seemed to affect the humans far worse than the animals. We saw halter numbers up, new exhibitors who have not shown at Sydney Royal in the past and the return of past exhibitors, who we welcome back to the Sydney Royal family.

On Friday afternoon, I was honoured to be invited to a very special afternoon tea, which saw our very own Shane Read (Dear Enahs Alpacas) presented with the Royal Agricultural Society's Champion of Champions Award. Shane has been supporting us at Sydney Royal for many years and to be quite honest, I couldn't do it without him. As well as Sydney Royal, I don't think any of us could name all the shows and events which Shane has played a huge role in helping the convenors to run a successful show. Congratulations Shane on a well-earned award and thank you very much for all your support and help over the years.

Also, on Friday we made an impressive impact on the Grand Parade as 40 Alpacas and handlers took to the parade ground. What a vision it was, certainly outshone all the other exhibitors - thank you to all who took part, it looked truly spectacular.

Two weeks prior to the Show, Kylie Martin judged our fleeces for us on what was a wonderful day of teamwork and friendship. The team worked well together and despite having over 140 fleeces we pushed on and managed to get them all done in the one day. What a trouper Kylie is as it

certainly made it much easier on the volunteers. A big thank you to Wayne McCauley, Julienne Gelber, Sue Maynard, Jennie Menzies, Jess Sacks, Jennie Staples, Sue Maynard and Sean Timmony (the new kid on the block who was such a wonderful help).

A huge thank you to Karen Caldwell who not only judged our Halter classes but was Over Judge for the Young Judges Competition and stayed right through to the end to judge our Schools competition on Tuesday afternoon. Karen had only just returned a few days prior from Judging in the UK, so a huge effort on her part and definitely a rest is earned now.

Our Young Judges Competition was held on Tuesday morning with 11 competitors vying for the honour of representing the alpaca industry at next year's National Competition in Perth. Congratulations Tara Arduin, the Alpaca Young Judge Champion 2018. This year's Schools Competition saw 6 teams take to the show ring with Menai High coming away with the trophy for 2018. Congratulations to all the teams especially those students who are new to alpacas and took the opportunity to try out competing at Sydney Royal. Well done all of you and I hope we will see you back next year.

The kids from Vincentia High were once again on hand, not only to run the "Walk an Alpaca" for the public, but also to help breeders with showing their animals, cleaning pens, feeding and walking the alpacas am and pm. This service they offer to breeders is not only a great help but a fantastic educational experience for the kids, I know I certainly

couldn't have done without them this year and the little fruit loop I arrived with now walks beautifully thanks to their loving determination with her.

Thank you, team Vincentia, we love having you at Sydney Royal and hope to see you at the Nationals.

Congratulations to all our winners and exhibitors with a special mention to:

Bedrock Cryptic (Bedrock)
Supreme Champion Suri Fleece

Yenaminut Evokateur (Precision)
Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece

Alabaster Destiny (Surilana)
Grand Champion Female Suri

Bedrock Cosmin (Bedrock)
Grand Champion Male Suri

Bedrock Cosmin (Bedrock)
Best in Show Suri 2018

Alpha Centauri Dominika (Alpha Centauri)
Grand Champion Female Huacaya

Yenaminut Candido (Precision)
Grand Champion Male Huacaya

Alpha Centauri Dominika (Alpha Centauri)
Best in Show Huacaya 2018

Surilana - Most Successful Suri Exhibitor in show

Precision - Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor in show

This year we held an Exhibitor competition for Most Successful Small Breeder and Most Successful NSW Breeder. (These competitions will definitely be here to stay)

Dunbars Run - Most Successful Small Exhibitor
Walkley Fields - Most Successful NSW Exhibitor

I would like to thank everyone for joining us again this year and encourage anyone who missed out to add Sydney Royal to your calendar for 2019 (We bump in on the 18th April 2019).



Most successful Huacaya Exhibitor - Precision Alpacas



Best in Show Huacaya 2018 - Alpha Centauri Dominika (Alpha Centauri)



Best in Show Suri 2018 - Bedrock Cosmin (Bedrock)

The Performance Alpaca Shearing Competition

By Sharon Dawson



Sydney Royal 2018

What a successful third year for the Performance Alpaca Shearing Competition.

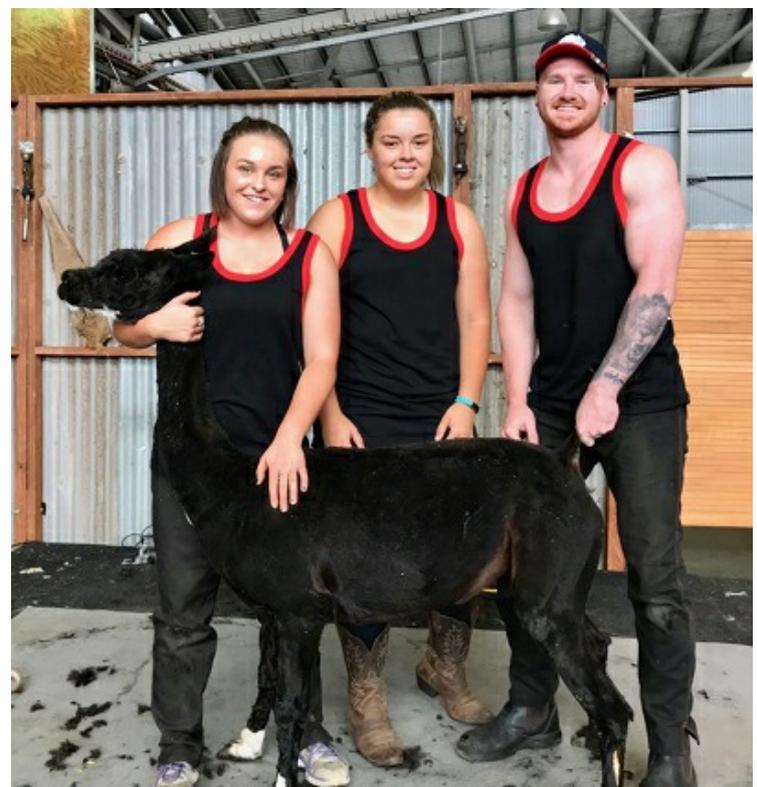
This competition was started to enable an entry point for our up and coming young shearers, to entice new shearers into the industry and also to strengthen our pool of current shearers, whilst giving them all an opportunity to showcase their skills to breeders and members of the public at the SydneyRoyal Easter Show. It also gives shearers the opportunity to network with breeders all over Australia and with other shearers.

The shearing teams consist of three, a shearer, a handler and a roustabout, they are scored by the Judge on lack of second cuts, smoothness of shearing style, cleanness of the finished job and overall team work. There is no speed limit as a lot of the competitors are young and learning and we didn't want the added stress of cutting an animal, the older shearers coach, support and assist the younger shearers, there are four shear offs a day in front of a crowd of hundreds for a total of four days, all the shearers stay onsite, they are a really great group of men and woman, they have loads of fun and work really well together.

The competition is growing and evolving rapidly with lots of support and interest for next year which looks to be heading

into a Tri-Nations, with the addition of an American team. Very exciting!!

Congratulations to our Competitors below, you all did amazing!!...it's not an easy thing to be on stage in front of huge crowds, you did yourselves, your sponsors and our Industry extremely proud!



Young Guns

1st: Sean Timmony Sponsored by Storybook Alpacas

2nd: Laura Fletcher Sponsored by Fletchers Farm Intermediates

1st: John Dawson Sponsored by Nurrenyen Alpacas Opens

1st: Nigel Wood Sponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas

2nd: Glenn Dawson Sponsored by Bringarum Alpaca Stud Trans Tasman

1st: Nigel Wood NEW ZEALAND

2nd: Glenn Dawson AUSTRALIA

Roustabouts & fleece skirters - Bradley Dawson: Sponsored by Broadmeadows Alpacas

Other helpers: Sponsored by Walkley Fields

A huge thank you to Peter Connelly from America who did an exceptional job of Judging and to Millpaca for sponsoring Peter and last but not least John Hay from Gunamatta Alpacas our MC extraordinaire!

We would also like to thank the rest of our supporters, without your assistance there wouldn't be a competition: Top Gun Shearing, Nigel Wood, Dairy Road Alpacas, Fletchers Ark Alpacas, Dear Enahs Alpacas, Storybook Alpacas, John Dawson, Glenn Dawson, Bradley Dawson, Kurtis Parker, Amanda Parker, Georgie Matheson-Gee, Issy Boyes, Sharon Dawson, Jennjoley Alpacas

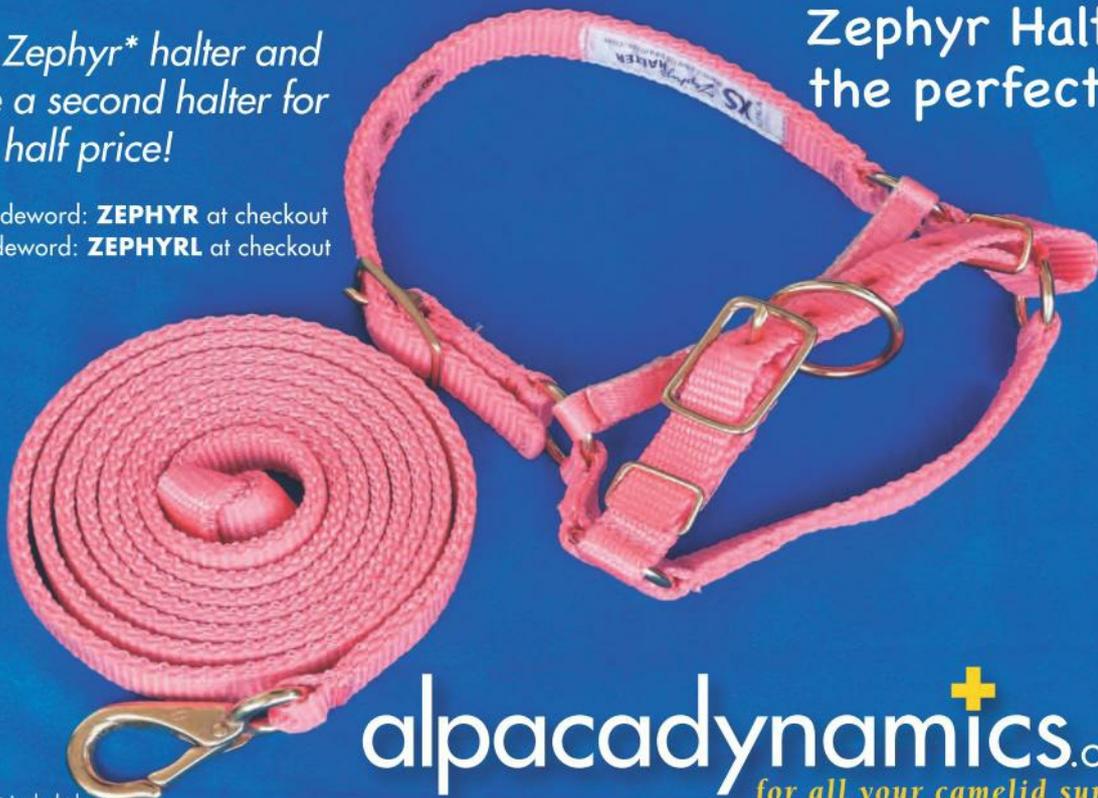
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WIN

This beautiful Shawl which is part of an exclusive line within the Sol Alpaca collection.

All subscribers to camelid Connections magazine as of 30th June 2018 will be automatically included in the prize draw.

Shawl Details:

Amano Museum Collection
by Sol Alpaca

*(Joint project of Michell y Cia and Amano Museum, the best Peruvian museum of pre-Columbian textiles. A portion of the sales of this line goes to support the museum's operations)
Inspired in Chancay textiles (Chancay culture, Peru, 1200 - 1470 AC)*

Name of style: El Equilibrio Shawl
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Valued at: \$180.00
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Fariba Heydari

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Australian Alpaca
ASSOCIATION

KNITTING

with the 'other' alpaca

In my early days as an alpaca farmer I wondered why some breeders got excited by suri alpacas. To me they were slightly odd-looking animals – definitely not your 'fluffy Bambi' – and their fleece looked stringy.

'What is this stuff?'

Conventional wisdom of knitters and hand spinners at the time was that 'alpaca generally is hairy and awful and can't be spun without another fibre; suri is worse, and shouldn't be spun at all'.

'Suri? – They're the ones with the dreadlocks aren't they?' How much damage has that word done to the perception of suri fibre! Thankfully things have improved since then.

After a couple of years spent just admiring my expensive alpacas' lovely eyelashes I felt I needed to do something 'useful' with them. It was a puzzle: our animals were not fine, white or numerous enough for large scale processing; there is a limited market for long lived alpaca herd guards and the alpaca meat market was not even a twinkle in the eye in this part of the world.

Eventually, I was able to have a couple of fleeces spun into knitting yarn. Now these fleeces were not very fine, nor were they white, but the resulting yarn was lustrous and very soft. It felt good. My love of knitting was rekindled after I received that first alpaca knitting yarn, and since then alpaca has been my yarn of choice. In recent years I began using suri yarns – not very successfully at first, but doing better as time went by and the yarns available improved in quality.

To make it easier for us to knit with alpaca a number of new spinning mills (often the so-called 'mini mills') have popped up in Australia over the past decade or so which are able to process relatively small batches of fibre into woollen or semi worsted yarns for hand knitting and some of their suri yarns are delicious. (That being said, possibly the loveliest yarn I have seen (and handled) is a blend: 60% suri with 20% each huacaya alpaca and kid mohair – yum!)



Suri Yarn

How is suri yarn different? The tiny scales on each fibre are slightly smaller in alpaca than in sheep fibre, which is why alpaca often feels softer and less prickly, and these scales are smaller and fewer in suri alpaca than in huacaya. Suri yarn often shows a lovely lustre and can feel cooler to the touch than huacaya. Both yarns however knit up to form light, warm fabric with lovely drape.

Suri yarn knits up well, just as huacaya and other natural fibres. The yarn may feel different from huacaya: slightly smoother, heavier and cooler to the touch. There may also be a slight 'halo' on some yarns similar to mohair.

Suri – and alpaca generally - won't be springy and elastic (like sheep's wool) so it is wise to choose a design or pattern which makes the most of its smoothness and drape, without relying on firm bands or hems.

If you are about to knit with suri for the first time, think about these qualities:

- The soft drape, and feeling of luxurious softness
- Lustre – there is often good lustre in suri alpaca yarn (especially the darker colours), which makes for really lovely garments
- Weight – suri is usually heavier than huacaya, so consider using a finer yarn

Get Knitting

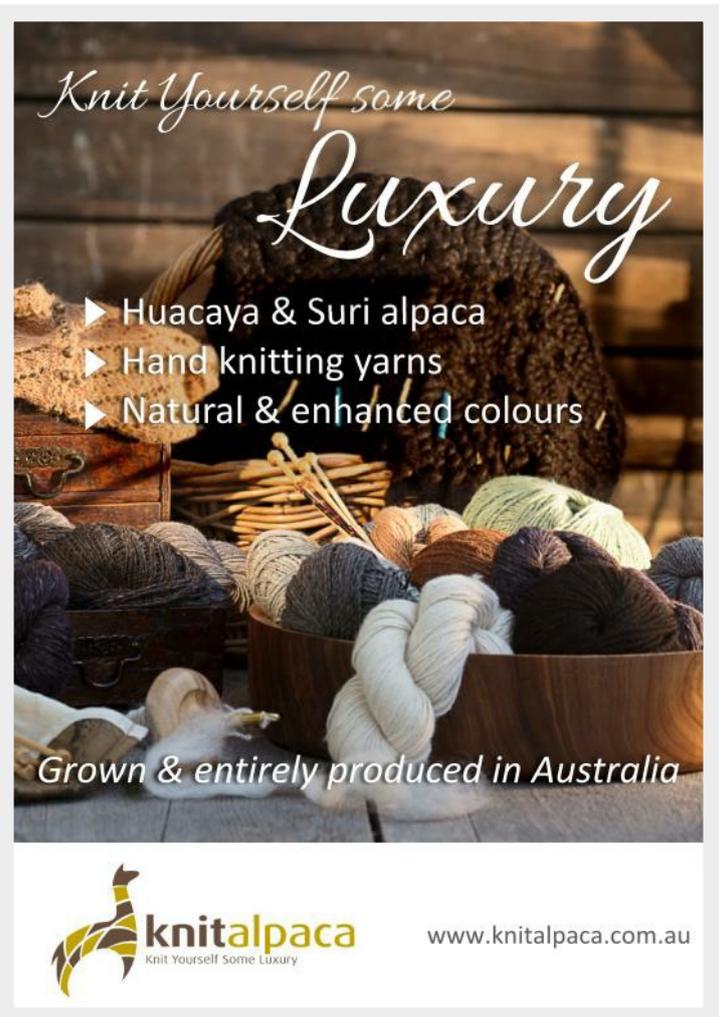
Surprisingly, not all alpaca owners are knitters. Many never have the pleasure of running a soft, smooth thread through the fingers and creating something with it.

For me, alpaca (of both types) is about the handle: the feel of the yarns and the finished garments, so the process of hand knitting provides a lovely, calming feedback for the whole challenging process of raising alpacas. Knitting in company also provides the ideal opportunity to promote the qualities of the camelids we farm, as other knitters are fascinated by the products, and simply love the feel of alpaca.

There it is – why I love knitting with suri. Now it's time to get your hands working and knit with gorgeous yarns. It's a great activity. And if you are a camelid owner, get some yarns from your own animals – that's even better!



Lauris Jephcott is an alpaca farmer in southern Victoria, Australia. Her herd of both types of alpaca provides fibre for locally produced alpaca knitting yarns.



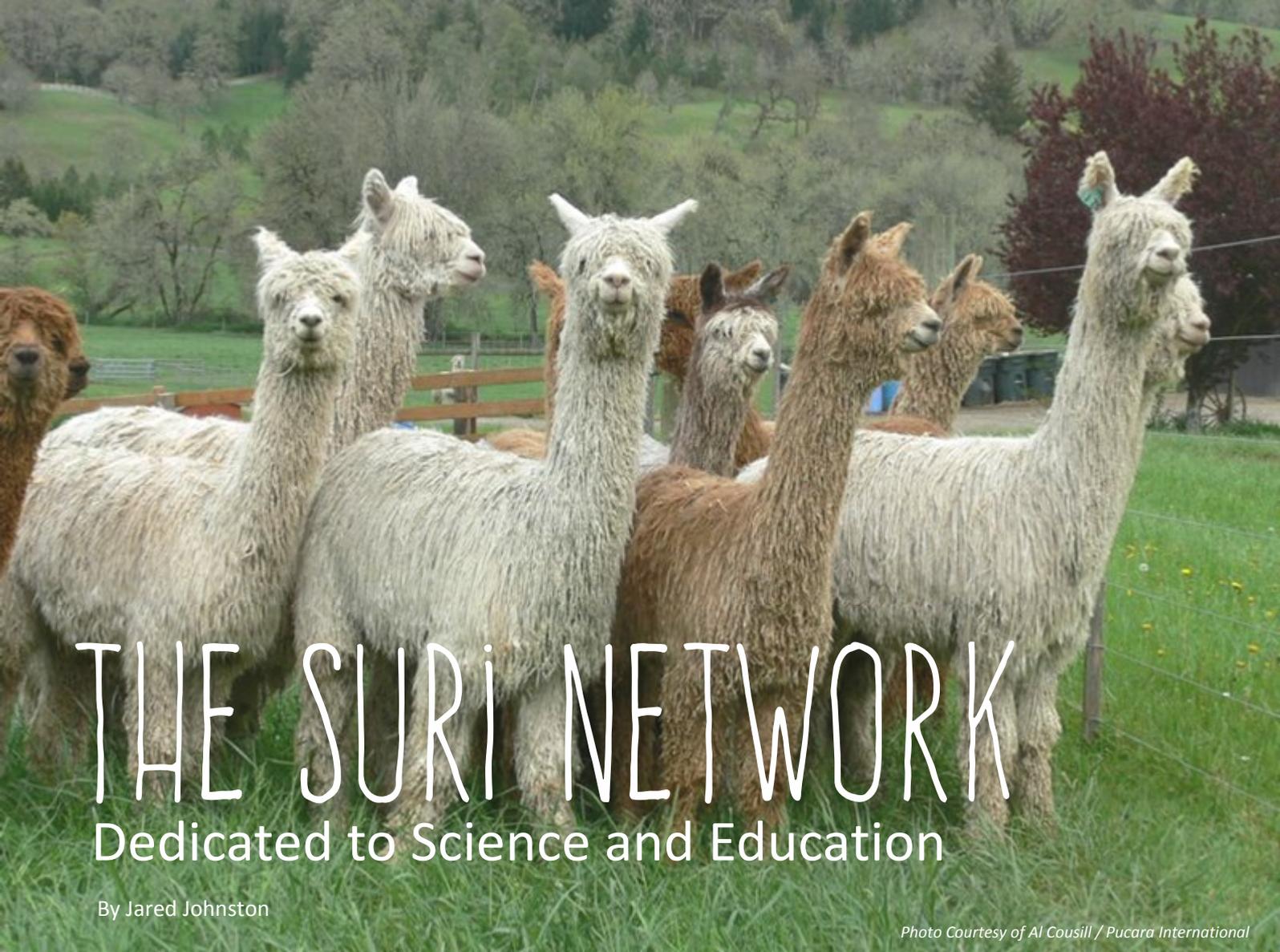
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THE SURI NETWORK

Dedicated to Science and Education

By Jared Johnston

Photo Courtesy of Al Cousill / Pucara International



Since the first importation of alpacas into the United States in 1984, many elements of infrastructure have been developed to support the fledgling alpaca industry. Some of these endeavours have been accomplished by the national organisations over time, but many alpaca breeders and others have splintered off to form special interest groups to accomplish specific goals that apply to their own interests.

THE SURI NETWORK, ONE SUCH GROUP, IS DEDICATED SOLELY TO FURTHER PROMOTING, DEVELOPING AND EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT THE SURI BREED OF ALPACA.

Statistically a minority of the alpaca population, this incredible breed possesses unique characteristics, among them, one of the lowest fibre scale reliefs in natural fibre.

The low scale relief not only makes for a very smooth hand, it reflects light in a uniform manner that produces a bright or lustrous appearance. Suri fibre is known for its lustre, silky feel and drape when produced into finished products. The

animals themselves are wonderful to behold. Their fibre falls from their bodies in distinct and separate locks.

Watching one walk or run in the pasture, with its locks swaying back and forth to the rhythm of its stride, gives it a fluid presence. It is no surprise Suri breeders are particularly proud of their animals.

It is little wonder that a group of dedicated people decided to create a support and educational organization to help advance the Suri breed. What is outstanding is that the leaders of the Suri Network really outdid themselves. From the onset, they focused on the science of advancing the breed and many of their achievements were ahead of the national curve.

SCIENCE

Breed Standard

One of the earliest achievements of the Suri Network was to create a breed standard to help guide breeders towards a uniform phenotype. From the onset, drafting of the breed standard included input from all Suri breeders in the United

States who wished to participate. Surveys were sent out and attempts were made at many conferences and other events to gather input from Suri breeders. Information was also collected from fibre processors, designers, other fibre industry experts, veterinarians and judges. In 2005, a rough draft was completed and presented for review and the final draft was accepted in 2006.

Since its inception, the Suri Network's Suri breed standard has been generally accepted by Suri breeders in the United States as the definitive for phenotype. By using an inclusive approach, the breed standard was well planned and executed and remained unchanged until it was revised in 2016.

SURI HERD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S.H.I.P.)

According to the Suri Network website, the primary goal of S.H.I.P. "is to provide a variety of tools for herd improvement and management of Suri phenotype and fibre qualities for Suri Network members."

This program was developed to give breeders scientific measurements that can be analysed to help improve their efforts. It employs 16 traits, 8 conformation and 8 fibre traits all based on the Suri Network Suri breed standard. Certified Suri classifiers perform a hands-on evaluation and assign a value of 1 to 5 for each of these traits. The certified classifiers are judges that have examined Suris around the world and use this knowledge as a comparison tool when evaluating.

Differing from a show evaluation, S.H.I.P. is not a subjective comparison of animals in the ring on a particular day. The intent of S.H.I.P. is to give a breeder an overall assessment of the animals in their herd in respect to the Suri breed.



Wini Labrecque teaches students attending the 2017 Suri Symposium the finer points of alpaca fibre at her seminar "Practicality and Benefits of Sorting and Grading Suri Fibre."

PHOTO BY Jared Johnston / Alpaca Culture

Owners who employ S.H.I.P. receive a herd report and have access to an online database that helps identify strengths and weaknesses of animals in their breeding program. The evaluation of this data helps breeders make more informed decisions in animal husbandry.

IN THE S.H.I.P. PROGRAM, ALL HERD ANIMALS ARE EVALUATED TO MAXIMIZE THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA COLLECTED.

If only a select group of animals are evaluated, the outlying "exceptional" animals, as well as the "not so good" animals, will not be represented in their true light.

Accuracy of data is the key to this program.



Apprentice Judge Hope Bittner and Judge Jude Anderson examine Suri fibre during the 2017 All Suri Fleece Show.

PHOTO BY Jared Johnston / Alpaca Culture

EDUCATION

Online, in Print and Video

The Suri Network's website is well organized and includes further information on the programs discussed above as well as more information about Suri alpacas, a breeder directory, ongoing education and a portal to become a member.

The website also has a link to their association publication Purely Suri magazine, produced annually. It includes information for seasoned breeders and newcomers alike.



The main room at the Suri Symposium 2017, where Dave Scott delivers a seminar on understanding soil at a microscopic level and its relevance to livestock breeders. PHOTOS BY Jared Johnston / Alpaca Culture

The Suri Network has also developed a valuable video titled “Pasture to Process, Product to Profit: Getting the Most Out of Your Suri Alpaca Fibre.” This video features four hours of educational material dealing with fibre, shearing, nutrition, market analysis, breeding programs and more. It is an essential learning tool for all breeders and is available on their website store.

Suri Symposium and Fleece Show

The Suri Network holds an annual symposium and fleece show each summer. I attended last year’s Suri Symposium and was impressed by a well-organized and thoughtfully planned event. The speaking topics ranged from soil analysis to marketing to animal health and maintenance and much more. If you can attend, I highly recommend visiting with the leading experts this event hosts. It is also a great place to get to know many of the Suri breeders that are working so hard to improve the breed in the United States.

This year’s Symposium and Fleece Show, entitled “The Science of Suris,” will take place August 3 – 4, 2018 in Loveland, Colorado.

Visit www.surinetwork.org to learn more.

SOURCE:

Suri Network, Suri Network, www.surinetwork.org.

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Feeding Guide

Kwik Start should be fed as soon as possible after birth, and preferably before milk is fed. Kwik Start can be absorbed for up to 48 hours after birth, depending on the species.

Weigh the animal and select the appropriate weight range from the Animal Feed Chart.

Mix the correct amount of Kwik Start powder with warm pre-boiled water to make the daily Kwik Start requirement. Refrigerate prepared Kwik Start for one day only or store frozen in ice cube trays for up to 1 month.

Do not mix or feed Kwik Start powder with milk.

Kwik Start – Animal Feed Chart

Animal Body Weight (kg)	Kwik Start Powder (g)	+	Warm Water (ml)	=	Total Mixed Qty (ml)
1-2	15		48		60
2-3	20		64		80
3-4	25		80		100
4-5	30		96		120
5-10	60		190		240
10-20	100		320		400
20-30	130		420		520
30-40	160		510		640
40-50	200		650		800

This applies to all new born domestic animals including horses, cows, sheep, goats, alpacas, pigs & deer.



Newborns that have not received maternal colostrum or milk.

First 12 hours: Do not feed milk during this time. Prepare a daily dose of Kwik Start as shown in the Animal Feed Chart and feed 1/4 of the amount every 2 hours.

Calves & Foals – 200g in 650ml warm water (daily dose)

Lambs & Kids – 25g in 80ml warm water (Feed 4 times in the first 24 hours).

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WILD LLAMA

By Keith Payne



He didn't have a name, but if a name had been appropriate he would be called Pacha Kuyuy, the Quechua word for earthquake. An hour after he was born, a mighty quake had rattled through the Andes.

That was 8 years ago.

Today he had been awake, on alert, for most of the night. It would begin to get light in an hour and the girls would start to rise in 30 minutes. He stood up, shook the stiffness from his body and silently made his way to the dung heap. He completed his morning toilet and silently navigated to a raised section of rock which afforded him a vantage point from which to observe the girls while also keeping watch.

There were seven adult females in his group, each with a chullengo born the previous week. The mothers lay in a partially offset position, allowing the babies contact with their tummies and acting as a barrier to the cold night wind. He was very pleased to have a 100% birthing success, it was rare in the Andes. He marvelled at how the girls could manage their pregnancies such that all babies would be born within a

few days of each other, he knew the matings had taken place over two weeks. But for reasons of safety, having them all born closely together was a blessing.

The area he had selected for the group was over 100 acres in size, with a small creek running down one side, a gentle slope the other, rocky outcrops at the top and leg high bush at the bottom. It would be difficult for a predator to approach the area unseen. There also was a natural corridor which allowed him to move the group to a more elevated temporary area if warranted for reasons of safety. He had designated three sleeping areas, each determined by the wind direction and close to quality day time grazing. His dung heaps were established not far from the sleeping areas but also in a direct line with any passing mobile family or male groups and where from strategic vantage points he could observe any approaching solo males who would challenge for his herd.

He watched now as the girls all stood up and wandered to the dung heap, mindful of their position in the herd hierarchy, each followed closely by their chullengo. After each girl had in turn freshened the dung heap, she would wander to the



grazing area to begin her morning feed as the youngster followed and commenced to suckle. He strictly enforced the herd requirement that all defecation took place on established dung heaps and he purposely freshened them regularly as a constant reminder to the girls. The communal dung heaps kept the grazing areas free of parasites and also served to attract wandering or low hierarchy herd girls, permitting Pacha Kuyuy to allow them to remain, or conversely drive them away. Any outside male crossing the line of the dung heaps was an open declaration for combat which needed to be answered quickly and with intent.

Pacha Kuyuy had joined a bachelor herd himself at age 15 months, wandering with them in constant search for grazing and browsing. The days were filled with play fighting, building strength, stamina and prowess for the day when he himself might challenge an alpha male. At the age of 6 he had left the herd, striking out on his own. He challenged and fought for several herds before successfully bettering a much older male who tragically limped off into the gathering darkness.

He scarcely had time to heal his fighting wounds before having to deal with the herd females. Two older girls slipped away during the first night and he had to physically restrain two others from leaving. Gradually he had become accepted and the girls soon began to look to him for guidance, protection and a regular supply of grazing.

He instinctively knew that in a few weeks they would come to him for matings. He had learned there were certain matters which the girls took to heart! They seemed to know everything related to having babies. There was nothing else more important to them. They could sense gestation period dependent upon the weather and other factors - it could be from 10.5 to 11.5 months and all chullengos needed to be born within days of each other. They knew exactly when they had to be mated, and that task could not be completed by anyone except him.

When he took over the herd, it was not a sedentary group and he had led them on a wandering tour for months before selecting this area where they established themselves as a permanent territorial family group. Above them, he had found an area fed by natural springs but it was well over 4,000 meters as well as being too steep and rocky to suit his needs. It had since been taken by a family of vicuna who preferred the natural water supply and rugged terrain, such an area was often called a bofedale or mojadale in the Andes. The adult male responsible was very aggressive towards passing vicuna and Pacha Kuyuy noted with interest how he drove all male and female crias permanently from the herd when they were 8-10 months of age whereas himself, he allowed the chullengos to return once the new season's babies were born. He allowed them to stay with their mothers once again until they reached the age of about 15 months whereupon he drove them once more from the herd, this time not to return.

The greatest threat to his family was from the puma. Seeking to prey upon the young, old or infirm but equally willing to accept a careless healthy adult. Pacha Kuyuy knew their habits well and was constantly on alert for their sign. Like all guanaco, he alerted the family to the puma's presence and then practiced a strategy to keep the large cat within sight while maintaining a safe distance, only fleeing when an actual assault occurred.

It is the way of the wild llama that only the strongest males with the sharpest instincts are able to dominate and support a group of females forming them into a family group. It is the system known as Natural Selection which dictates that only the finest males get to pass on their genetics, it is how the species has survived. Pacha Kuyuy mated his first female at the age of 6 and by the age of 10-12 he would be vanquished by a younger male who still had to endure the years of combat that would take a toll on his body. It would be very rare for a female to be mated before she reached the age of 3, and she would normally bear a chullengo every other year until she reached the age of 12-14.

Instinctively adapting to climate change, drought and the unceasing reduction in natural habitat caused by the encroachment of humans with their fences, railroads, domestic herds, hunting and poaching. Pacha Kuyuy did not understand it, but he knew it was happening, and it was a worry to him.

Author's Note : Many thanks to Dr William Franklin for his years of studying the wild vicuna and guanaco, and my friend in Canada Brian Pinkerton for sending me copies of the resulting report studies. All photos were taken by myself from my herd of wild llamas in New Zealand

ALPACA TREKS & EXPERIENCES

By Debra and Andrew Borg | Redbank Alpacas 'Blue Gum Rise'

'Blue Gum Rise' was established as a result of a 'tree-change' for us, moving from Melbourne to Redbank in 2014. Our property, located in Victoria on the Sunraysia Highway between Redbank and Stuart Mill, is approximately 40 acres, and borders the Kara Kara National Park. Realising that we needed animals of some kind on our property, we set about considering our options: by chance, we stumbled across the Ballarat Alpaca Show, walked into the pavilion and fell in love with the first animals we saw!!

In 2015, we commenced Redbank Alpacas by acquiring our first four alpacas, and embarked on a very enjoyable learning curve in terms of alpaca management and husbandry. Through additional purchases and the start of a breeding program we now have a small herd of 25 animals!

Working closely with these gorgeous animals, we came to realise that most people's beliefs and assumptions about these creatures (such as 'they like to deliberately spit at people') are often misguided or just plain incorrect. Alpacas are intelligent, curious, beautiful animals that have a real affinity for humans. While each animal displays its own personality, they are adaptable and most readily take to halter and lead with a bit of practice.

It was these factors, along with taking phone-calls and visits from people wanting to see an alpaca up close, which led us to the idea of holding alpaca experiences and treks at our property, which we started in September 2017.





Alpaca trekkers leading some of our animals on a walk around our property.

Alpaca experiences allow small groups of visitors to observe, pat and feed an alpaca; learn a bit about the origins and history of alpacas in Australia and the uses of alpaca fleece. Most people (including us as we began our research) were very surprised to find that the first alpacas arrived in Australia in 1859! Visitors can get hands-on with both animals and fleece, and we have storyboards showing the shearing and milling processes, which culminate in the woollen products we have for sale.



Visitors have come from Melbourne to spend time with our alpacas

Alpaca treks incorporate an alpaca experience which is then followed by a halter and lead walk with some of our alpacas. The walk is conducted on a small route around our farm, bordering the National Park. Apart from introducing visitors to alpacas, we also discuss aspects of the flora and fauna of the National Park, as well as the mining activities that occurred in the area during the gold rush in the 1860s. The treks are conducted on established tracks around our property. The animals we purchased, specifically for this purpose, are very well trained and the entire activity is conducted under our supervision.

By conducting these treks, we hope to raise interest in these animals by educating the public on all things 'alpaca'. Additionally, our aim is to impart a little bit of knowledge about the local area we live in; hopefully attracting more visitors to the area.

The response to our little agri-tourism venture has been overwhelming. We have really enjoyed hosting visitors from around the State, as well as International visitors from Japan, Scotland, England, Spain and Malta. Recently, we have had several Planned Activity Groups visiting to spend time with our animals. These groups allow a fully supervised outing for the elderly and disabled in the region, who have simply loved meeting one of our gentlest animals – Wellington, as well as our cria. Some of our animals have also joined in on visitor birthday celebrations at our property – the most recent being for a lovely 80-year old lady who declared that sharing it with the animals was the best birthday of her life.

We are very fortunate to live alongside the Kara Kara National Park, which represents one of the last remaining intact Box-Ironbark forests in Victoria. The local flora and fauna provide us with endless happy surprises throughout each year – there always seems to be something new to observe and identify for our trekking visitors!





St.Arnaud PAG enjoyed their time with Wellington, a visitor favourite!

However, parts of our property still show the scars of the 1860s gold rush and subsequent logging, so we have commenced a regeneration effort to create a 'green corridor' from the National Park down to Cherry Tree Creek which defines our property's northern boundary. We are doing so with the help of our visitors, who are helping us to achieve our goal without even getting their hands dirty! At the end of each visit, our guests choose a free plant (appropriate to the original Box-Ironbark Forest) from those we have available, and we plant it on their behalf.

Our time in this industry has been wonderful so far, and the advice and assistance from those experienced breeders has been invaluable. Hopefully, as we gain further knowledge, we can in turn share that with other people who are curious to know what alpacas are all about!

For further information visit www.alpacatrek.com.au



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Gentle Training for Gentle Giants

By Tara Lea - AustralianCamels.com

Photo by Louise Sedgman Photography: www.Giddyupfoto.com

Whats the first thing that pops into your head when you think “camels”? Big, large, maybe even intimidating?

Camels were almost unknown in Australia until the government decided to use camels to open up the outback. We love the story about a mob of aboriginals who on seeing a camel for the first time thought they were seeing a spirit and a very bad one for that matter. This animal like “thing” was like a horse with four legs but it had some sort of growth on its back - maybe another head, they thought? It had a kangaroo like head, but it’s feet were like nothing else. The aborigines were scared which was not surprising! Although this story has been told over and over, and the story varies depending on who you speak to, the message was clear - the camel was a creature to be feared. In Bedouin tribes they are bought up to fear the camel as they are powerful creatures.

In Australia today camels are officially classed as a pest by the Government, so it’s no wonder the poor camel has a bad wrap! The reason anything is feared nine times out of ten, is because it is misunderstood and therefore something to be feared. Why doesn’t everyone own a dog? Because not everyone understands dogs, but those of us that have a dog know they are one of the greatest companions you will ever have.

Most people can’t understand why we live and breathe camels. The look on their face shows signs of disbelief that anyone can love such a cantankerous or temperamental animal. If you are a Camelid owner you may be able to relate

to this. What is the first question you get from those who don’t know camelids? “Oh don’t they spit on you all the time”. People will often ask you this while standing directly in front of the animal in question! We are sure you can relate to this. So why do camels have such a bad reputation? A saying comes to mind - “there’s no such thing as a naughty child only naughty parents” - usually said by those who don’t have children! Anyhow, the point being that camels will only display their spitting, biting, growling and the like when they are scared.

After many years of working with a variety of different camels, from Dromedary (one hump) to Bactrian (two hump), from camels straight out of the wild to hand raised camels, they all have one thing in common, they are all on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Well, not quite, they have this natural instinct of not being able to regulate fear like a human would. When fear arrives so to do all the external ways of showing it , like vomiting, biting and sitting down without any intention of ever getting up. Camels are one of the most sensitive creatures I have ever met.



CAMEL SIDE NOTE

Camels don’t actually spit with their saliva, they involuntary vomit when they are scared, nervous or unsure about a situation (each camel varies of course). You probably know or have heard of someone who starts to feel sick and involuntarily vomits when they feel nervous? Well a camel is no different.

I left school early to become a horse trainer and I created my own take on natural horsemanship. Horses also have a ton of fear, they will see something that scares them and run for the hills, camels are different in the respect that it is often hard to pin point that they are fearful as they are very aloof, but it will get to the point where they feel like their fear has frozen them and it's time to defend themselves by kicking, vomiting or sitting down.

I'll let you into a little secret, the more gentle you are with a camel the better they will respond and the faster the results will be. Now this isn't something we (my partner and I) found on Google, this is our tried, tested and proven method that works! Even if a camel is steamily aggressive, they are only doing it in defence. So our job, with the owner/handler - (as a rule we don't train the camels we train the owner/handlers) is to breakdown all the fears and barriers and have a good heart to heart - like in a good therapy session, without the couch.

What does training a gentle giant, like a camel, look like? It looks like two best friends who have just had a misunderstanding. They want to try to understand what has happened between them because of the love they have for one another. When we run our camel clinics the goal is to get the owner/handler to love the camel like a good friend. This is not a hard thing to do but we do get people who just want to handle and train the camels then end up in love with their camels.

So love is first (the easy part). Then there is connection. Love and connection are two different things as connection comes with different personality traits. The idea of connection is building trust and understanding between two beings, the camel and the human. We have worked with camels for a long time and there is no camel we ever skip this step with - no matter how experienced with humans the camel is. This is the make or break point, because without trust and understanding with a camel, what's left? Fear. Camels crave connections. You have only to observe their herd behaviour to understand that they truly value connection, a strong bond and trust within their herd. The goal when handling and training a camel is to be a well trusted, bonded and connected herd leader with a leader mentality.

That's another thing you always see with a herd of camels - leaders. A mentor, someone the camel can look up to which is usually an older camel. As a camel owner and handler your goal is to become this leader as soon as a halter is put on or you are nearby giving instructions. Sure, they'll test the relationship - just like they do with their own herd, but it's mostly just bluff which leads us to the next point.

Camels are not aggressive by nature. Most of their outward expressions like vomiting, biting and kicking is mostly bluff and they simply do not want to hurt you unless you are



scaring them or they feel they can't trust you - we've met some camels like this, it's really sad, but some camels just can't get over their past issues. Camels are incredibly patient creatures but like elephants they never forget. Before a camel shows its displeasure there are always warning signs and it's often in their eyes and it takes time and intuition to pick up on these warning signs before the camel shows a more physical demonstration, hence the importance of connection.

After a solid connection has been formed and trust has been built only then do we ask the camel to do things. We use the word 'ask' for good reason. If at this point we used 'force' we would be back at square one in an instant, a camel filled with fear.

In our three day clinics a big chunk of that time is forming a connection and building trust, almost two days of it, but on the second half of day two and day three they are putty in our hands, like (really) big puppy dogs! In three days, using our Camel Connection Trust Based Camel Training™ method, we'll have a camel sitting on command and walking on lead out in the bush, 100% looking to their new handler for comfort and trust. The process always seems like a miracle to us, even though we've seen it time and time again. Camels are incredible animals and we believe that everyone should





have the chance to experience their magic, even just once in their lifetime, and that's exactly why we share our camels and knowledge as much as we can through our different camel offerings and services.

So you can see the advantage of gentle training & handling – it's working with the camel's natural instincts and abilities to be able to have a large animal manageable and as a great, long-term companion animal - don't tell our dogs that!

Australian Camels run regular camel training courses (3 days) and camel training camps (5 + days) at their farm in Victoria, all around Australia and internationally too. You can get more info on them, their training and other services at AustralianCamels.com.



CORAZ ALPACAS

Coraz & Tallo Alpacas was formed by Cora Zyp and Tracy Pratt joining herds in 2010, having both had alpaca breeding experience since the early 2000's.

We have been concentrating on coloured suris, especially greys, since the purchase of a half share in Tularosa Leonardo in 2012.

Some of Leonardo's 2015/6 progeny were shown and placed at the National Show in Adelaide 2016, and are now offered for sale. We are limiting our breeding and numbers to suit our property, but are keen to see these animals realise their potential.

WE OFFER:

- Negotiable packages and ongoing support to purchasers.
- Older wethers and females for sale as companions and guards.
- Fine coloured suri yarn from our herd processed by Echo Beach Alpaca Mill.



Cora Zyp and Tracy Pratt
1519 Dog Trap Rd, Murrumbateman NSW 2582
For details contact Cora 0418771635 or Tracy 0438298361
www.corazalpacas.com.au



Alpaca Fiesta is the most important Alpaca festival worldwide. It's objective is to spread and promote Alpaca in the global textile market.

Alpaca Fiesta takes place in the Arequipa - Peru, and brings together breeders, researchers, companies and institutions linked to the world of alpaca in a festive and highly competitive environment.

to give all assistants a renewed atmosphere and new business opportunities, as well as offering visitors innovative experiences that allow them to live and enjoy the Alpaca Fiesta.

Alpaca Fiesta takes place every 4 years. This year Alpaca Fiesta's 6th edition will go from the 22nd to 27th of October 2018, and it has been reinvented once again,

Alpaca Fiesta includes activities for the entire alpaca value chain; from the aging stage, going through the stages of industrial transformation, to the processes of clothing and fashion.



Stellar night
Alpaca del Peru



Alpaca National Contest



Chaccu Vicuña



Business roundtable



Fleece National Contest

For more information in Australia contact Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL) at:



Phone: 03 9311 0933
Email: alpaca fiesta2018@aafl.com.au
www.alpaca fiesta peru.com/en
www.aafl.com.au

The Fibre Trail



Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL) is the largest Australian Alpaca fibre trader and Alpaca clothing wholesaler in Australia. During the past 20 years, since its origins in the Australian Alpaca Cooperative in 1995, AAFL has evolved from only trading raw alpaca fibre to a fully integrated solution for the Australian Alpaca Industry, from fibre trading to retailing the finest alpaca garments.

From the early days of the Australian Alpaca Cooperative, we understood that selling alpaca raw fibre domestically and overseas was not enough to sustainably grow and promote an Australian Alpaca industry; the path was clear, it was necessary to add value to our alpaca, hence Australian Alpaca Connection was born.

Australian Alpaca Connection is an innovative brand that supports and promotes Australian Alpaca Industry manufacturing premium quality garments using Australian alpaca fibre where available.

At Australian Alpaca Connection we are dedicated to developing unique collections of apparel, accessories, home products and hand knitting yarns, designed to showcase the finest qualities of alpaca fleece. Our women's and men's apparel ranges capture both classic styling and current world trends, with an emphasis on casual comfort suited to the Australian lifestyle. We incorporate both natural fleece and fashion colours to produce a luxurious range of home wares.

From raw fibre to premium clothing





AAC - Evaluating the fleece



AAC - Bales loaded on truck for transport



Scouring the fleece



Alpaca fibre manufacturing



From raw fibre to premium clothing

When spring arrives, alpacas are shorn, and this noble fibre initiates its 12 to 18-month journey to become a garment, traveling thousands of kilometres to find specialized hands to become a textile wonder.

Alpaca fleeces are collected and sent to AAFL, where the fibre is valued or classed and pressed into bales to be sent to manufacturers.

At the mill alpaca fibre would go through a classing process where expert hands separate alpaca fibre in different categories, according to micron ranges; after classing, the transformation process starts, the alpaca fibre will be washed, and later carded and spun into yarn to either be woven or knitted to become a garment, and then returned to AAFL as an Australian Alpaca Connection product.

Australian Alpaca Connection is Premium Luxury Australian Alpaca.

Web: aaconnection.com.au
 Facebook: [/australionalpacaconnection](https://www.facebook.com/australionalpacaconnection)
 Instagram: [@australionalpacaconnection](https://www.instagram.com/australionalpacaconnection)

Alpaca Week



Celebrating ALPACA AWARENESS WEEKEND in the Clarence Valley NSW

By Pauline Glasser - Wahgunurry Alpacas

Once again Alpaca Awareness Weekend in South Queensland Northern NSW AAA Ltd Region was extremely successful with Clarence Valley Alpaca Studs participated in our seventh traditional Mothers Day Event.

The Clarence Valley Alpaca Group (CVAG) find that the group event has been popular with the Clarence Community with many people attending yearly. Wahgunurry Alpaca Stud was the host this year along with Alpaca Studs Kiawanah, Kaneek, Peaview, AranAr Farms and Smart Enterprises.

The weather was very kind presenting a glorious day with over 200 people attending. The group find that the joint venture is a positive one for all as “many hands make light work”, especially when participating numbers have been as high as 300 in previous years.

Guests enjoy free Devonshire Tea and a very relaxed atmosphere. The Regions Merchandise display offers many ideas for Mothers Day gifts. Feeding the alpacas was a highlight and being up close to an alpaca was a first for many.

The opportunity to talk about the Australian Alpaca Industry to interested community members was a highlight for the Alpaca owners.





Madison's Mountain Retreat in Kurrajong Heights just outside of Sydney opened for an Alpaca Weekend

By Debbie Redelman - Madisons Retreat Alpacas

On the lead up to our Open Farm, we exhibited at the Hawkesbury Show and distributed flyers. We also notified local Tourism groups of our event, ran a paid ad on Facebook and a couple of ads on events websites. A local lady had moved to the city for health reasons and had asked us to take her llamas a few months prior.

We are an easy daytrip from Sydney which works in our favour for our Open Farm - and the Alpaca Industry.

Armed with my two property managers, my relief manager, my son, my husband, a couple of new volunteers, a volunteer spinner, her knitting mother, and her tag-along husband (meet and greet), and a regular volunteer whose paid work is performing and with kids - we were ready.

We skipped the usual feed on Thursday afternoon in the hope that the alpacas would be hungry and would be willing to feed from the strangers. We had planned to walk alpacas with two leads (one for us and one for the visitor). We had sign in sheets for Biosecurity purposes (and to keep track of numbers). We offered free tea and coffee and picnic spaces.

Friday was VERY windy, but warm. 30km/hr gusts - we were eating dirt! The day had a steady stream of people including three mini bus loads of disabled adults. It was wonderful to see the dedicated carers who understood their clients so well - which ones they could encourage to interact and which they understood would be happy to watch. By the end of the day, we had over 50 people attend and were looking forward to the challenge of the coming days.

Our Open days started at 10am, so 9.30am on Saturday morning, a person arrived to buy 2 alpacas. What a great start to the weekend! He wanted to surprise his girlfriend and had driven 2 hours to get to us (without calling first...). A very proud owner of 2 weaners left with them a couple of hours later. We had two other families pick their alpacas but no immediate sale.

Saturday had over 100 people attend who were generally well behaved but even though I have two 1m wide Biosecurity signs along the driveway on the way in, people get out of their car and go straight into the paddocks!

On Sunday, my relief manager decided to greet every car and direct them to areas for parking and signing in! 150 people later...she was clearly effective (sign-in police!).

All in all, we had over 300 people, two sales, and more on the way! Plenty of people looked through our accommodation and pledged to return. Many learnt about alpacas and llamas and their love of our beautiful creatures was enhanced. Most common question? What is the difference between an alpaca and a llama? This time, as well as feeling the soft luxurious fleece of a cria, I could show them with our new llamas - which were happy to keep eating all day too!

The following week, people came with their picnic lunch assuming that our farm was still open, didn't sign in and were unwilling to pay a fee for the pleasure. Oh well, the weekend itself was worthwhile.

Crias on the way?

Think hygiene, hygiene, hygiene

By Jane Vaughan BVSc Phd MACVSc - Criagenisis

If you spot an alpaca having trouble giving birth:

Observe the female quietly from a distance for 5-10 minutes to see if she is progressing and more of the cria appears. If so, let her give birth without assistance.

If the female appears to be in difficulty, call your veterinarian for assistance and bring the female into a clean, dry, grassy yard.

In the event you think you can assist the female, get a bucket of warm water with added disinfectant like iodine or chlorhexidine, a clean litre jug with a hook handle to hang on side of bucket, and some clean, water-based, obstetrical lubricant (not the stuff that has been lying around in the shed with the lid off and is now full of flies and dust). Move the female to a confined, clean area. Use the jug to dip into the bucket and pour over the back end of the female to remove dirt from around the perineum and cria. Use the jug to dip into the bucket and wash your hands and arms in the jug, then tip out remaining water.

Repeat washing hands in jug until hands are clean. Use of long gloves is a good option. Apply clean lubricant to your hand and arm/glove and assist cria delivery. Good hygiene will minimise post-partum infections and maximise fertility at subsequent matings. Wash hands and arms well again after delivery.

If you cannot deliver the cria within 5 minutes, call your veterinarian. The longer you intervene without success, the more likely the cria will die and/or you will traumatise and introduce infection into the reproductive tract and cause long term damage to the uterus, cervix and/or vagina (think infection, scarring and fibrosis and permanent infertility).

Never let the sun set on an alpaca trying to give birth.

Alpacas usually give birth in the morning. If in difficulty in the late afternoon/evening, intervene and call your vet.



“ Never let the sun set on an alpaca trying to give birth.”



Unpacking time

Developing the maternal bond

It has been found in sheep studies, that good bonding between dam and offspring leads to better lamb survival. The same is likely true for alpacas.

Make sure during the 2-hour (up to 24 hours) window after birth, the dam and cria are not disturbed. Do not push them off the birth site (make sure females are in a clean, grassy paddock to unpack) and that there is adequate shelter, feed and water.

Optimising the maternal-neonatal bond will ensure better colostrum uptake by the cria, thereby setting up the cria's future.

Visit www.criagenesis.cc



Located in the beautiful south coast dairy farming region of NSW, we are focused on high end quality with a good natured herd of carefully selected and bred genetically fine breeding stock.

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Lethality of the grey gene in alpacas

By Elizabeth Paul - Erewhon Alpacas



In alpacas, the gene which produces grey is a dominant gene, but it is not a colour gene. It is a pattern and diluting gene. It overlays the base colour to produce the typical white face, neck and legs of a grey, but it needs a dark colour base to clearly express the diluting effect. The base colours are black, which produces silvergrey, and dark brown or mahogany bay, which produces rosegrey.

Lighter fawns with white faces can also be rosegrey, but the diluting effect on the lighter base colour is lost. Most typical greys therefore, should be considered as part of the dark colour herd.

Colour Chart:

In the Australian colour registry, only the colour of the blanket or saddle is considered when determining a grey. No mention is made of looking for white faces or legs. The colour classifications are Light Grey, Medium Grey, Dark Grey to encompass all shades of silver grey; plus Rose Grey and Roan which are now separate on the chart.

It must be clearly understood that grey progeny can only be produced, when at least one of the parents is carrying the dominant gene. If two non-grey parents produce a grey pattern cria, then at least one of them must be carrying for the gene, however unlikely that seems.

A lethal gene is a dominant gene which is lethal in the homozygous condition, meaning that an embryo with the homozygous condition will either not be born, or will die at birth. An example of this is roan in horses, where the roan pattern is controlled by a dominant allele R. Roan horses have the genotype Rr, and in a mating between two roans, the expected normal Mendelian ratio of 3 roans to one non-roan does not occur. The ratio is two roans to one non-roan, ie only 66% roan instead of the expected 75%. In studying breeding results, the 66% ratio is taken as an indicator that the gene in question could be a homozygous lethal.

AAA Database:

Grey in alpacas is the rarest colour recorded for the entire Australian and New Zealand national herds in the AAA database. Progeny results are recorded in the database .

All alpacas registered in the database are not necessarily all the alpacas born during that year. A cria can only be registered in the database, if both of its parents are also registered, and if the sire is also DNA certified. DNA certification is not required for dams, unless there happens to be a dispute over a cria's parentage, or nowadays for ET records.

Only about 11% of all matings recorded involve at least one grey parent, which produce about 30% grey progeny overall. Grey x grey matings are only about 2.5% of all matings recorded. They produce about 65% grey progeny, with about 15% each of black and dark brown (bay) as the non-grey components. Being essentially dark alpacas, greys produce only very few lighter fawns and whites, and this is consistent with the results of Dark x Dark matings in the non-grey herd.

'Hidden' Greys:

I am fairly confident that most alpacas listed as grey, actually do conform to the most typical appearance of grey. Australia appears to have very few black headed roans. The ones that I know of, (less than 10) were born and registered as black, and turned grey over more than 12 months. The colour registration can be changed by the owner, but few people

probably bother to do this. I would be almost certain that there are no black headed roan males registered as stud sires in the AAA database. There are also a number of greys, which do not have the white face, but which have grey fibre running through the fleece, at birth. These would probably be mistaken for blacks, or named as roans, if so they would be listed as RG/Roan

There would be a few more whitefaced fawns which are possible rosegreys. These would really only be discovered, if they were mated to dark colour and threw eg a silvergrey. Up to now, most Australian breeders would have registered a white faced fawn as Fawn or W/Fawn, or Fancy, because of the emphasis placed on solid colours. The sire of my own silvergrey sire, is a streaky fawn, most probably a fawn rosegrey. The dam of my sire is solid dark mahogany, and could not have passed on the grey pattern.

Production of grey crias from the non-grey herd, is extremely low, less than 5% of progeny, except for matings between White, and Black or dark brown, which give up to 7% grey progeny. The whites in these matings are almost certainly blue-eyed whites, as there is a very strong connection between blue-eyed whites and greys.



Grey Mating Results:

Progeny Results of All G X G Matings = 1825

Grey	Brown	Black	Fawn	White
1169	272	286	55	43
64%	15%	15.6%	3%	2.3%

However, because of perceived errors with rosegreys in the database, I have also included the mating results for only silver greys (listed in our database as LG, MG and DG). Most silvergrey alpacas in Australia/NZ would be classified as MG.

Progeny Results of SG x SG Matings only = 527

Grey	Brown	Black	Fawn	White
342	43	127	7	9
64.8%	8%	24%	1.3%	1.7%

If both greys are true silver grey, ie black based, then we would not expect brown crias. However, some of these silvergreys could be very pale lavender rosegreys, and some are no doubt grey on black bay, giving a silver grey with dark brown underbelly, rather than a silver grey based on blue black. These could account for some of the brown progeny. Greys produce very few fawn cria, because they are essentially dark. From the herd book results, darks are very unlikely to produce lighter fawns or whites. However, some of the lighter or fawn rosegreys, could produce solid fawn because their colour base is fawn rather than dark. I have not been positively told of two typical greys producing a bew cria.

These results indicate that something must be affecting the production of greys from grey x grey matings, and the most likely reason is that grey is in fact a homozygous lethal. Grey mated away from grey, generally produces less than 50% grey, indicating that greys are heterozygous.

I have included the sex bias on progeny results, to illustrate that breeders are more likely to register males in equal numbers, from grey x grey matings, than from other colours.

Sex Bias	Males	Females
All X All	35%	65%
Grey X Grey	47%	53%

ALPACA EVENTS

Primex Agricultural Industries Expo Casino

14-Jun-2018 - 16-Jun-2018

Contact: Lorraine Binskin - Mobile: 0402 943 763

Alpacafest

16-Jun-2018 - 17-Jun-2018 Hamilton Showgrounds

Convenor: Glen Sharp 03 5565 9267

glendenise@aussiebb.com.au

Maleny Alpaca Fleece and Halter Show

29-Jun-2018 10:00 am - 30-Jun-2018 4:00 pm

Showgrounds

Murwillumbah Alpaca Show

30-Jun-2018

Contact: Rosemary Eva - Phone (02) 6677 7500

Colourbration Halter Show

14-Jul-2018 Maleny Equestrian Centre

Contact: Jeff Willis - 07 5445 0882

The Wonderful World of Alpacas Workshop

29-Jul-2018

McLaren Vale Alpacas - QLD

Contact: Leanne Tunny - Phone (07) 554 38988

Fleece Workshop

05-Aug-2018

Contact: Julie Hocking

Royal Queensland Show - Ekka

10-Aug-2018 - 19-Aug-2018

Judging Animal: Di Baker

Fleece: Pauline Glasser (02) 6647 6454

Alexandra Alpaca Show

11-Aug-2018 Alexandra Showgrounds

Stand alone halter and fleece show

Convenor: Hans Van Poppel

The Wonderful World of Alpacas Workshop

12-Aug-2018 Wahgunurry Alpaca Stud - NSW

Contact: Pauline Glasser - Phone (02) 6647 7454

National Spectacular (National Show & Sale)

23-Aug-2018 - 26-Aug-2018 Bendigo Showgrounds

Contact AAA National Office

Phone: 03 9873 7700

info@alpaca.asn.au

Canungra Show

25-Aug-2018

Contact: Leanne Tunny - Phone (07) 5543 8988

LLAMA EVENTS

We are wanting to share with all Llama owners what the year ahead looks like for the Queensland Branch. We have several events coming up in the next few months and we want to share these dates with people who are interested in attending.

We always have Llamas on display at all these event and it's a great time for people to see a Llama up close and personal and ask any questions they would like to know about owning a Llama. The events we have coming up this year are:

The Nambour Show which is on the 15th, 16th & 17th of June, 2018

The Dayboro Show which is on the 7th & 8th of July, 2018

The RNA Show which goes from the 10th of August to the 19th of August, 2018

The LAA Queensland Branch Open Day which we are looking at having in September 2018, after the RNA Show

We would love to see you there, so please come along if you can and meet a Llama or two.

Kind Regards

Tanya Brind | Secretary of the LAA QLD Branch

Contact: secretary@llamas.org.nz

Australian Alpaca Association NEWS

The AAA has announced that it is moving it's office to Canberra. The new office will be in the Animal Health Australia building opening on Monday 18th June. Contact and staff details to be announced.

Long serving Melbourne office staff Joanne Rothque, who has been with the Association for 25 years and Janette Law, a staff member for 15 years, will be leaving the Association on 14th June and on behalf of all members we should like to thank them for their years of service to members. Their knowledge of the industry and the many 'quirks' of members will be missed by all of us who have had dealings with them over many years.

We wish you both a happy and successful future whether you choose to retire or continue in the workforce and hope you have some happy memories of your time with AAA.

Esme Graham/Julie McClen

Services Directory

FLEECE BUYERS

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd.

Unit 2, 114 Fairbairn Road,
Sunshine West Vic 3020
Phone: 03 9311 0933
Website: www.aafl.com.au

We are the oldest and largest Australian Alpaca Fibre buyer. AAFL buys Huacaya and Suri in all qualities, quantities, colours and grades. Contact us for our free freight program. AAFL receives your fleece every business day of the year from 9am to 5 pm.

FLEECE PROCESSORS

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd.

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Website: www.aafl.com.au

We are the largest supplier of Alpaca materials in Australia. Scoured Alpaca, Alpaca Tops and Yarns, in all qualities and a large variety of colour from naturals to fashion colours.

Boston Fine Fibres

Contact: Tanya Boston
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Website: www.bostonfinefibres.com.au

Your fleece will be processed with the utmost care to produce top quality products in our Eco friendly facility. We process elite fleece into rovings, batts, felt or yarn in your choice of 2,4,8,10 ply. Bulky and rug yarn also available. Yarn is available in skeins, cones, balls.

DENTAL SERVICES

Alpaca Dental Services

Contact: Allison Quagliani
Ph. 0427 654 330
Email: allison@alpacadentist.com.au
Website: www.alpacadentist.com.au
Dental care for the specific needs of alpacas. Check my website for further information.

PRODUCT FOR SALE

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd.

Unit 2, 114 Fairbairn Road,
Sunshine West Vic 3020
Phone: 03 9311 0933
Website: www.aafl.com.au

Australian Alpaca Fleece Ltd. (AAFL) Distributes in Australian a complete variety of Alpaca made garments under its Australian brand, Australian Alpaca Connection and also is the exclusive distributor in Australia and New Zealand of the internationally recognised Alpaca fashion brand, KUNA.

Coraz Alpacas

Contact: Cora on 0418 771 635
Email: cora@corazalpacas.com.au
Website: www.corazalpacas.com.au
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One Tree Hill Alpaca Stud

Ph: 0403 991 612
Email: angela@onetreehillalpacas.com.au
Website: www.onetreehillalpacas.com.au
Looking for coloured alpaca yarn? Visit our online shop to see our large range of beautiful

FLEECE TESTING

AAFT

Contact: Paul Vallely
Ph: 61 2 4834 2132
Email: info@aaft.com.au
Website: www.aaft.com.au
Australia's only fibre testing laboratory dedicated to alpaca breeders.

Micronman

Contact: Wayne Marshall
Ph: 08 9418 1733
Email: micronman3@gmail.com
Website: www.micronman.com.au
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Camelid Capers

This issue's winner combines a very unexpected moment with a very clever caption!



Alpacas can have pets to!

Photo by Rob Hartill - Riverport Alpacas

Send us your camelid photos depicting fun, unusual and unexpected moments along with a clever caption.

Each issue the winner will receive a free business card size advertisement in our next issue.



Are you sure the girls are coming today?

Photo by Russell Mulroyan



Look what I made!

Photo by Judy Webby - Champenoise Llamas NZ

Morning Yoga

Photo by Jenny Button - Tandarra Alpacas >



Please send your photos as .jpg images to julie@camelidconnections.com.au

Not all photos submitted will be used for the current issue, however they may be used in a later edition of Camelid Connections Magazine. By submitting a photo you are giving Camelid Connections permission to reproduce this image in any of its publications and you confirm you have permission to use the image which is free of any copyright.



Don't mess with me - alpaca punch!
Photo by Kayla Thomas - Aeronwen Alpacas



Welcome little one
Photo by Keith Payne - Big Ears Llama Ranch NZ



Mum has a friend over for lunch
Photo by Russell Mulroyan - Merrack Alpacas



New Zealand llama love rugby, except one here who apparently prefers netball
Photo by Graeme Butterfield - Okataina Llamas NZ



Boots are in fashion this season
Photo by Rob Hartill - Riverport Alpacas

CAMELID CONNECTIONS

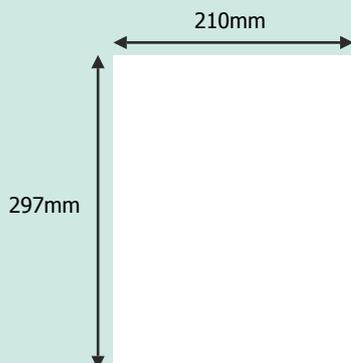
ADVERTISING RATES

Camelid Connections magazine offers you affordable advertising for your camelid related business, event or stud. Contact us to secure your advertising space in future publications.

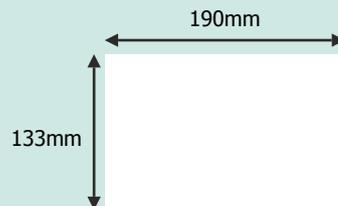
- The affordable alternative for all your camelid related advertising
- All adverts have a hyperlink directly to your website or email - one click & potential customers can connect with you
- Camelid Connections magazine is a **FREE** online publication available as a subscription or download from our website
- Back issues will always be available online so your advert has a long 'shelf life'
- Camelid Connections offers readers a wide variety of quality articles of interest to attract a broad audience

Advertising Rates*

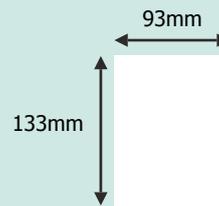
Full A4 Page \$360
(210mm x 297mm)
No bleed required)



Half Page \$185
(190mm x 133mm)



Quarter Page \$95
(93mm x 133mm)



Business Card \$55
(93mm x 65mm)



Classified Listing \$36
Max - 50 words + contact details

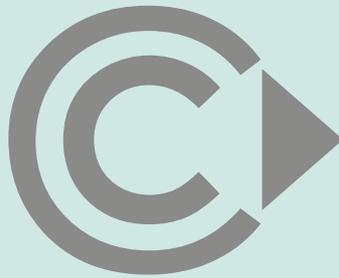
- Package rates for prepaid advertisements in 3 issues of Camelid Connections receive a 10% discount.
- Double page spread receives a 25% discount (no additional discounts apply)
- Inside front cover and opposite page attract a 10% loading.
- Camelid Connections magazine will be a quarterly publication commencing in September 2017*
- Advertising needs to be provided as a PDF or JPG to specifications listed above.
- Other advert configurations considered - ask us for a quote

To book advertising or for further details contact either:

- Julie McClen - Graphic Designer Ph: 02 6493 2036
Email: julie@camelidconnections.com.au
- Esmé Graham Editor Ph: 0457 304 868
Email: esme@camelidconnections.com.au

www.camelidconnections.com.au

* We reserve the right to alter advertising specifications and publications rates and dates at any time.



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