

**South Qld & Northern NSW Region - Australian Alpaca Association
General Meeting Sunday May 29th 11.00am
Anawol Alpacas 16 Gibson Lane Bexhill NSW**

The President, Sue Challacombe opened the meeting at 11.15am

Attendance: Steve Rowley, Pauline Glasser, Colin Glasser, Bob Coxon, Leanne Tunny, Wendy Summerell, Maxine Daly, Suvi Paakkonen, Liz Coles, Sue Challacombe, Jeromy Challacombe, Rosemary Eva, Jenny Mackay, Barbara Ransby, Bruce Porter, Garry Poplin, Peta Thompson, Peter McCarthy

1. Apologies: John Mackay, Jacqui Coxon, Geoff & Sheryl Simper, Liz Shepherd, James Beeby, Sheila Wolf, Judith & Robin Witney, Fiona Saward, Ann Livermore, Myrelle Hurst

2. Presidents report: Sue Challacombe opened the meeting by discussing her recent attendance at the AAA Meeting (which was held over three days; Friday, Saturday, Sunday).

The meeting covered many topics:

- A new format for the next AGM; Proposed for AGM in October - Vote in President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President then the committee members. The Committee needs between 3 and 9 people.
- Increase in capitation (up by 6%) to 28.5%
- The AAA magazine has been out sourced to a company that prepare and distribute the magazine but it has encountered difficulties. The company has not met the deadlines and content required. Investigations are pending.
- NLIS will not come into effect until 2013
- Austrade talks in Japan.
- The AAA is reconfiguring the computer system in the administration office. It will have a mating predictor which will check for co-efficiency (inbreeding).
- Two tiered IAR structure: Some may register their animals just for showing, some for commercial requirements.
- Older females that do not produce enough fleece on a yearly basis; suggest that the older ones get shorn every two years (carpet producers want 100mm long fleece).
- DNA Requirements: 10 DNA markers are obtained from certified stud males (14 markers soon to be agreed upon). As of October 2011 DNA testing can be done without a vet.
- Nationals: Sydney – October 12th to 16th, Homebush; Joint committee; South – showing/Central & Hunter – Accommodation and fees/Blue Mountains – Logistics and Exposure, theme is fibre. Trade exhibitors at front of exhibition, shearing/spinning/knitting/animal nursery.
- Nationals in Adelaide 4th – 29th October 2012 (Run by SA & WA combined)
- Nationals *probably* in Bendigo Victoria in 2013
- Breed standards: Another person is required for the Showing and Judging Panel.
- Training & Education: Industry Liaison Officers (currently two in WA, one in TAS), the AAA want a total of 15 ILO's who would become the first point of contact. They are looking for people to apply for the role that would be in a position to go to an area to co-ordinate an

- outbreak if and when the need arises. They don't want people that cannot be "flexible". Animal Health Australia has an online course that allows you a brief overview before committing to this role. The role can be a very gruesome and is not for the feint hearted.
- New computer system; Centralized document storage ie: Record keeping of secretarial notes from different regions.
- Dropping of fees has shown an increase in membership and animal registration. 159 members joined in the last two months.
- Alpaca Directory; Most regions do their own directory - after careful deliberation, the verdict is that the AAA cease producing the "National Directory".
- It was suggested that we produce a booklet for our own region. (Bob Coxon advised that he and Pauline Glasser were already working on it). If we were to produce our own directory it was suggested that it incorporate alpaca information so that it could be used as a marketing brochure as well. If we do produce our own booklet, the AAA want 50 copies of it so that they can send anyone who makes enquiries in our region; a copy.
- Recognition and contribution of Life Members. A **criteria** will be set as to what a "life member" is. Recognition of 10, 20, and 30 years service will be acknowledged.
- Logo redevelopment: AAA agreed to develop a new logo and not buy the existing one of AAFL.
- Computer & Sales System; Show management system to be re-developed; AGE, QAlpaca, Transfers will all be done online in 12 months time.
- In discussions with the Australian Wool Exchange; one bale of fleece auction in WA.
- Licensed Wool Classers; A module is being developed that incorporates alpaca wool classing into TAFE Colleges. Owners will only be able to class their own fleece.
- New shearing and classing code of conduct is now online.
- Insight Peru; AAA members are asked to donate to the cause, \$5000 is required - details of how to donate will become available on the AAA website in coming weeks.
- Wish list for 2012: The wish list is \$100,000 over budget! This has been reduced, but committee passed a motion that in 2011 – 2012 a deficit budget can be run.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved – Sue Challacombe, Seconded – Bob Coxon, Result – Unanimous

3. Treasurer's report: As at April 29th 2011 the cheque account has a balance of \$3149.78.

Income for the period 02.02.11 – 29.04.11 was \$1959.64

Expenses for the period 02.02.11 – 29.04.11 were \$4828.72

Cheques issued since 29.04.11 totalled \$2040.65 leaving a balance of \$1109.13

As the bank balance was so low, the Treasurer transferred \$2000 from the investment account into the general cheque account on 26.05.11 leaving a balance of \$3109.13

A detailed treasurer's report was handed out to all in attendance.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved – Maxine Daley, Seconded – Steve Rowley, Result – Unanimous

4. Secretary's report;

Correspondence in: A large number of requests to forward information onto members about about how to obtain information about forthcoming shows, show timetables, general information etc was received from members which was subsequently forwarded on to all members for their information.

A letter of resignation was received from Myrelle Hurst advising that she no longer wished to be the AH&WO.

Correspondence out: Outgoing correspondence was forwarded to members from other regions and members as and when requested. Outgoing letters were sent to new members welcoming them to region. Notification of forthcoming Fleece workshop was sent out.

Motion: That the Secretary's report be accepted.

Moved – Leanne Tunny, Seconded – Pauline Glasser, Result – Unanimous

5. Sub Committee Reports:

Marketing report: 13 studs opened their properties to National Alpaca Month – as at May 29th a total of 1095 visitors had been recorded in our region (the count will increase as other properties had opened their doors on the weekend of the meeting). Three shows had been held in the period since the last meeting; McLean, Grafton and Ipswich.

Due to such a large number of visitors to the properties, it was suggested that next year we look closely at assisting other studs with their open days. It is very hard to obtain names and addresses of interested visitors when you are inundated with people! We want the open days to convert into sales, by pooling resources it is more likely to happen. A large number of properties managed to get AAA cards filled out by interested parties and then send them into the AAA themselves (thus allowing them the opportunity to gather names and addresses for follow up at a later date. Others gave the AAA cards directly to the interested parties for their completion and posting (which meant that they didn't gather the names and contact details of the interested parties). It was noted that some of the open days were not as successful as others; ones opened by "appointment" only were not quite as successful as ones opened on certain days and certain times. Some studs had gone to a lot of trouble and had managed to get radio and TV advertising and magazine editorials too.

The AAA had a budget for NAW; the budget has been divided into regions and then each stud got a part of the budget – each participating property will receive \$60.00 from the AAA. Each property is requested to submit a report to the Treasurer to obtain the \$60.00 (although this suggestion was met with some dispute).

\$800 has been raised from the raffle so far.

Motion: That the Marketing report be accepted.

Moved – Bob Coxon, Seconded – Steve Rowley, Result – Unanimous

Merchandising: James Beeby was not at the meeting and sent his apologies. Sue Challamcombe had received some information from James to pass onto members; James had sent an email asking for clarification on;

The policy on handling and purchasing of merchandise for our region:

Should members be buying goods at “our cost” or should we be adding a 10% administration fee?
It was agreed that a 10% administration fee should be added to our buy price. (To be put on agenda for next meeting for approval).

If we advertise on the region’s website do we advertise at the retailers recommended retail price?
It was agreed that we advertise at the recommended retail price. But offer specials towards the end of the financial year (To be put on agenda for next meeting for approval).

Sue Challacombe asked whether all members knew that we could buy products through James from the House of Alpaca at 10% on top of our buy price?

Motion: That the Merchandising report be accepted.

Moved – Sue Challacombe, Seconded – Pauline Glasser, Result – Unanimous

Newsletters: Pauline Glasser advised all members that the deadline for the next newsletter is June 30th 011. Pauline has quite a bit of information but still needed more. Pauline said that she would follow up advertisers that had not paid for previous advertisements to date.

Outside enquiries about advertising and subscriptions to the magazine from people in different regions was very good.

Fleece Liaison Officer: Pauline Glasser advised that she listened with interest to the President’s report in regard to all of the AAA discussions and ideas.

Pauline Glasser met up with Bill Ham from the House of Alpaca at the Grafton Show; Bill is going to write an article on fleece for the newsletter.

Motion: That the Newsletter report and the Fleece Liaison Officer’s report be accepted.

Moved – Pauline Glasser, Seconded – Bob Coxon, Result – Unanimous

Education Officer: Liz Coles advised that the whole of the East Coast had been affected by a variety of different issues due to weather conditions. Resistance to Barber’s Pole is building up. Methods of diagnosing Barber’s Pole worm are contentious. A new drug has been released but is not for discussion in this forum.

Dog attacks on the increase. Some breeders are offloading their old animals as “guards”. Alpacas cannot guard against *dog attacks* – please remind breeders not to sell animals to people telling them they can!

Melioidosis; Insidious disease with no hopeful results.

QAlpaca; Increase in program.

Best form of Barber’s Pole detection is to do an FEC every three months and then drench accordingly.

Liz noted that further to an email requesting “topics of conversation” for future training and workshops; a large response was received.

Reminder about the Fleece Workshop on July 3rd.

New Breeders Workshop to be held by Suvi Paakkonen (invitations to be sent out)

Motion: That the Education Officer’s report be accepted.

Moved – Liz Coles, Seconded – Rosemary Eva, Result – Unanimous

Website Officer: Steve Rowley advised that there had been a spike of visitors to the website during NAW.

Over the last year the website had; 8000 page views, 1575 people looked at the website (324 in the last month)

Advertising banners are available

Changes can be made to website easily, many suggestions of improvement were offered. Steve advised that he was happy to make changes but he needed the information in order to do it. The site has a certain style to be maintained in accordance with AAA regulations.

Steve asked; From a marketing point of view - What do visitors want to see when they visit our website, are we fulfilling their criteria?

Should we add the regional directory to the website?

Should we have a Facebook page for NAW?

Should we add pdf files to the website to make it more interesting?

Please bring the answers to these questions back to the next meeting for discussion.

Printouts of website traffic were offered for perusal.

Motion: That the Website Editor's report be accepted.

Moved – Steve Rowley, Seconded – Pauline Glasser, Result – Unanimous

7. Animal Health & Welfare Officer: Myrelle Hurst tendered her resignation as the AH&WO.

8. General Business:

Toowoomba Show was great; there were no complaints and no problems. The Show Convenors appeared to have done a very good job although they advised they will not be doing it in 2012.

New Convenors will be sought for the Toowoomba Show in 2012.

Ipswich Show: Not many animals there (about 25). The lack of numbers was thought to be because of recent Barber's Pole breakouts and the weather. Judging was quick and over by about 1.30pm. The judge; Wendy Billington used the early finish to discuss many topics of interest with breeders.

Grafton Show: The show was great (although Jeremy Challacombe advised that it had many headaches that came with it). There were 35 fleeces and 110 animals entries. It was noted that if changes were to be made to the judging format, the Convenor needs to be advised accordingly. Some animals were disqualified for lice (but it turned out they did not have lice). Neither the Convenor or Chief Steward were advised of this problem. The draw card for the Grafton show is the Alpacas; 110 entries. It was suggested by a member that the cost of entry fees into the show should be reduced if at all possible. Feed was donated by Pullens and CVAG to the winners – they have been a wonderful sponsor.

Pavilion at Grafton; House of Alpaca, Grand Verge and Pullens had trade stalls in the pavilion. The members were very proud of what was produced; 35 fleeces, quilts, plenty of scarves for sale, spinners, it took six days of work before the show to get it up and running. Congratulations to everyone that participated.

9. Other business:

The position of AAFL is not clear. This raised a number of question from members “What about the shareholders?”. Sue Challacombe said she would find out the answers for them and report at the next meeting.

Creswick Mills: Their products are made mainly from imported alpaca fleece – the question was raised whether we should support them as their products were imported.

PRIMEX is on in Casino on June 16, 17th and 18th. Suggested that scarf kits be made up (2 balls of wool with pattern). \$20 scarves, Quilt raffle. Plenty of people to help, plenty of animals to display. \$950 for site, \$480 for advertising. Suggested that income from the raffle be offset against Primex costs.

AGM to be held on July 17th – Venue to be confirmed (we have since secured Esther Sander’s property at Yatala for the meeting).

Meeting closed at 1.30pm