

Australian Alpaca Assoc. Ltd
South QLD & Northern NSW Regional Meeting held in Grafton
Sunday 8th November 2009.

Present: Bruce Porter, Barbara Ransby, Pauline Glasser, Colin Glasser, Sue Chalacombe, Jeremy Chalacombe, James Beeby, Sheryl Simper, Geoff Simper, Paul Lockwood, Denise Lockwood, Peter Fullard, Jenny Mackay, John Mackay, Charlie Reimer, Fiona Seward, Robin Witney, Peter Hurst, Liz Coles, Rosemary Eva, Suvi Paakonen, Myrelle Hurst, Wendy Summerell, Maxine Daley

Meeting Opened by Vice President Wendy Summerell at 12 noon.

Apologies: Michelle Malt, Bob & Jackie Coxon, Norma Taylor, Sheila Woolf, Steve Rowley, Peter & Cath Bishop, Gayle Dillon

Motion: That the minutes of the General Meeting of 26th April, 2009 held at Limestone Park, Ipswich, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Maxine Daley **Seconded:** Myrelle Hurst

Presidents Report: Vice President Wendy referred to Michelle's email with information on the Agenda items that were to be discussed at the President's Council Meeting Michelle was attending;

Agenda Item on Region Distribution: The reasoning/logic was unclear to the Committee on the proposed change/reductions of Regions. Our Region opposes the suggestion to reduce the number of regions in NSW by merging CCH & NNSW; and Qld Region with SQ. The size of these 'new' regions would restrict the ability of many members to attend events, due to the geographical distance & travelling time involved.

Show panels: The Region supports the proposal that NSW Regions be available & stored within other areas of NSW, subject to the transport costs being met by those Regions. Our Region has no need to utilise these panels at this time.

Hobby Farmer/Pet Wether Class: SQNNSW support creation of a new class of membership, however we believe one class to suit all purposes described would be sufficient.

National Alpaca Week: It is noted that NAW schedule for 2010 is going to coincide with the Grafton and Ipswich Shows. Michelle will report that SQNNSW agree that the dates selected will not suit all Regions or members. The Region will support National Alpaca Week in 2010, however promotion and activities may occur at a different time subject to the preference of members.

It was acknowledged that planning would need to start soon for NAW 2010.

Treasurers Reports: Maxine spoke to the meeting with a briefing of our latest financial statements. Members were informed that they may view the financial reports in detail if they so desire.

Maxine informed the meeting that the Investment Account with \$8,834 was earning interest, we have \$3,549 in the operating account, Raffle profit \$657, New Breeders Workshop in Grafton and the Gold Coast came out with a profit of \$426, Gold Coast show profit \$773 due to retention of the entry fees, Merchandise sold \$900, and the Newsletter profit \$512.

Member Geoff Simper asked why we needed to have so much in the bank account and that shouldn't the funds be spent?

Maxine explained that due to the reduction in our capitation fees and capital expenditure last year (gates for Grafton & Toowoomba Shows) that the Region needed to have some funds in hand as a precaution for future activities within the Region.

Myrelle spoke and did agree that the funding should be spent on promoting the Region and that having a large bank account was not desirable, though the Region would need to keep a "nest egg".

Secretary's Report: Correspondence In: Updated Membership List, New Members from August to October, Enquiries List.
Correspondence Out: Letters of thank you to Rosemary Eva & Liz Coles (Stewards), Sue & Dennis Boyle (Display), Helen Fritsch, (Judge) at the Gold Coast Show. Email thank you to Sponsors of the Gold Coast Show, sent by Michelle Malt.

Sub Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Peter Hurst explained the costs associated with the new printer and the toner usage. \$350 approx was the base cost of producing the Newsletter as compared to \$415 to be done commercially.

The advertising will determine the amount of colour that can be displayed in the publication. Printing in house allowed for adaptably re-spot colour.

8th December will be the cut off for the Summer Edition, with a aim to post around the 15th December. Members are encouraged to send in articles and adverts as their support will determine the quality of the Newsletter.

A Member noted that Myrelle was going to step down as Editor in the New Year. Myrelle asked if any Members would like to take over the Newsletter. Myrelle will continue with the Newsletter until a replacement Editor can be arranged.

Merchandise: James Beeby asked for a list of the merchandise available for sale. It was noted that the Committee had decided that the merchandise could be displayed on the website. Myrelle is to take photos at some stage and forward to Steve Rowley. Jenny Mackay asked about the novelty items. Myrelle suggested that we purchase more novelty type items, that is toys, knickknacks etc that were low cost. Jenny suggested looking into purchasing children's books for sale.

Geoff Simper, Peter Fullard and Peter Hurst suggested that all old stock be heavily discounted to free up funds for purchasing new stock such as items above.

Action: Committee to act on this due to general agreement from members present.

Marketing: Sue Challacombe spoke of trying to get a regular monthly column with information on "Whats Happening" with publications within the Region.

Education: Sue forwarded information from Peter & Cath Bishop on the Workshop scheduled for Saturday 15th November indicating that there were still a few vacancies. Confirmation to participate was needed by the 9th November.

Conference: The Conference has been moved to the 27/28 Feb 2010, now to be held at Riverlands, Indooroopilly. Costs: Details in the Newsletter December and now available on the Qld and SQNNSW Websites.

Equipment: In reference to updating the Regional Kit with more modern posters etc, Maxine informed the meeting that the new banners from AAA would not be ordered as they are too fragile. Maxine suggested a banner be made to clip onto the marquee and raised the possibility of a photo competition for posters that could be laminated.

Webmaster: Wendy noted that Steve had done updates to the Website.

Animal & Health Welfare: Liz Coles spoke to the meeting and announced a new reference group (AAA Head Office) would be established. Liz has handed the Chair back to Libby Garner.

Liz updated Members that the BJD diagnosed alpaca in NSW was from a non Member's herd of 10 animals with 1 diagnosed BJD.

Jeremy asked if BJD is the definite diagnosis – Liz reported that several samples had been sent for testing, including one to New Zealand and all with a positive test result. Cross sampling was still taking place as there was some doubt as to the sampling methods.

The Breeder in question was given the options of, slaughter the herd or close his gates. There is still investigation going on trying to track how the animal was infected.

Liz reminded Breeders that the tracking of animals is important if BJD arises.

Members were also reminded how important it was in regards to Farm Bio Security.

NLIS still coming, tags to be determined.

Liz spoke of the very poor response to the Health & Welfare Survey and how disappointing that was.

General Business:

The Photo competition with a view to making posters for the Regional Kit was discussed. Rosemary Eva suggested we look at catalogues re sections for photos

Maxine reported that Donate-a-Gate response was disappointing with only 3 participating so far. A Note in the next Newsletter was suggested.

Peter Hurst spoke of his concerns re signs on the gates – advertising other studs on your pens.

After some discussion it was generally thought that it would be better to have Catalogue Sponsorship at Shows, as the gates were already expensed and were an asset.

Jeremy Chalacombe asked about the trailer: It was explained that the existing trailer was Registered AAA and insured by AAA.

Members generally agreed to charge a Pen Fee, possibly when doing inspections with a \$10 per pen maximum, 3 animals per pen.

It was Agreed: Don't try to promote donate a gate any further.
Jeremy Chalacombe suggested the Committee confirm this on behalf of Members.

Date of Next Meeting: To be held in April 2010 at Rous Mill, Alstonville.

Meeting Closed at 1.30pm.

The Meeting was followed up with a "Discussion Session".

1. Regional Boundaries, Distances & Operation:

Peter Fullard asked Members to think about sub groups – not necessarily have to be members. Some Members indicated that as the Region grows that Northern NSW down to say Armidale could become a Region with sub groups within the Region. Grafton would be the centre of the Region.

2. Grafton Show:

Jeremy spoke re the Grafton Show, including a Fleece Display and that a working bee to pretty up the Show is being organized. Show dates for 2010 - 30th April fleece judging and 1st May animal judging.

Peter Fullard asked if it would be possible that the Grafton Show be a stand alone show. Jeremy replied that Grafton Show Society does want the alpacas to stay and that could help with negotiations with the Show Society.

Peter Fullard indicated he would like to see the Grafton Show become a Premier Show to which several Members agreed.

Action: Fleece Boxes – The Committee was asked to purchase more silk for lining boxes.

3. Members expectations of the AAA & The Region:

Sue mentioned an example of the lack of understanding from the AAA and the poor response to their problem with their stud name, that there was an inconsistency re the combinations available.

No other Members came forward with comments.