

SYDNEY COAST & HIGHLANDS REGION OF AAA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006 & 2007

It was another busy year for the Sydney Coast and Highlands region. Every year it seems to increase in intensity and with our expanding herds alpaca show numbers are increasing rapidly.

Since our last AGM and my President's Report we held the following events.

NSW NEW ALPACA BREEDERS' SEMINAR

On 11th - 13th August 2006 we held our annual NSW New Alpaca Breeders' Seminar in the village of Robertson with over 30 new breeders in attendance. Over the past 5 years some 150+ people have attended this seminar and the Seminar has proved to be a great marketing tool. It is great to attend alpaca functions and shows and see that those who began as 'new breeders' are now 'old breeders' and successful ones at that.

This was the 5th year that this event has been held. Many thanks to the speakers who gave of their time to enlighten our new breeders and a very special 'thank you' to those helpers who helped lighten the load.

CHARLES LEDGER SHOW

On 16th and 17th September 2006 our Charles Ledger Show was held at a new venue, "Wivenhoe", Camden which resulted in entries of over 360 alpacas. Our judge, Rick Hodgson, was superb in judging both days - quite an effort with so many animals.

We would like to thank all the sponsors who gave so generously making this show the success that it was. Many thanks to all committee members who helped over the weekend and worked tirelessly to have the event run like clockwork.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

My thanks to Ian and Leonie Winlaw who opened up their beautiful home to us for the last event of 2006. The food was terrific, the company great and Santa Claus was unusual to say the least with a very doubtful looking elf in tow. Our AAA President, Ian Davison and his wife Harriet as well as the Southern Region President Mark Garner and his wife Irene, were welcome guests. A relaxed and happy time was had by all.

THE CHARLES LEDGER FLEECE SHOW

The Charles Ledger Fleece Show, competently organized by Kevin and Maree Watson kicked off 2007 at Berry on 22nd January and was judged by Wendy Billington. Many thanks to Kevin and Maree Watson and all their helpers who worked tirelessly to put this great fleece show together.

COLOURBRATION

For the first time in NSW, Colourbration Show was held at the Robertson Show in March. Held over two days, 170 animals were entered and our judge was Natasha Clark. We also had 40 fleece entries. The concept was well received and plans are underway for another one to be held as a stand-alone show in May in 2008. Thanks again to everyone who pitched to make this 'first' such a success.

CAMDEN SHOW

Another first for the Region was a new Alpaca Section at the Camden Agricultural Show held in mid-March. Ray Seymour was the convenor and did a terrific job. Entries numbered 170 and the judge was Kylie Martin. This show will be on again next year. Many thanks to everyone who, once again, worked tirelessly to make the show the success it was.

MARKETING WORKSHOP

Many of us attended a Marketing Workshop held at Mark and Irene Garner's stud and presented by Robert Gane. Everyone came away feeling very positive and with a sense of direction. Not only an informative day but a lot of fun. We are hoping to hold one in our region - date and venue to be advised.

NSW NEW ALPACA BREEDERS' SEMINAR 2007

Looking into the future after the AGM, the first event is the 6th NSW New Alpaca Breeders' Seminar with the usual 30 or so new breeders attending at Ranelagh House. Thanks to Heather Vickery for putting her great efforts. The Seminar is on 10th to 12th August 2007.

CHARLES LEDGER SHOW 2007

Following on from this is the 10th Charles Ledger Show to be held at 'Wivenhoe' on 15th and 16th September and featuring Brown as this year's colour. This year David Izard is our convenor and we thank him for taking on this task. Our judge for this event is Natasha Clark from Victoria. Once again accommodation will be available. Once again we are expecting good entries.

WORLD ALPACA CONFERENCE 2008

Convenor for the World Alpaca Conference, reports that the event is well underway with much interest shown abroad and great enthusiasm to assist from Australian Breeders.

A great breakthrough is the decision by AQIS and BioSecurity Australia, to allow overseas fleeces to enter the country, thereby ensuring the success of the International Fleece Show. Overseas interest in this event is great.

The Gala Fashion Parade arranged by Michael Talbot and organized by Pamela Darragh and Darien Sticklen of Arts Events, Melbourne is well into the planning stage.

Speakers are in place and the programme is exciting, informative and looking very much into the future of the alpaca industry.

Again I wish to thank all of our members for the many hours of work that they voluntarily give of their time in the pursuit of the wonderful world of the alpaca. No need to name them as almost all our entire members of our small and friendly region band together to get things done. Some take a much deserved breather from time to time but are always available in some form or another to keep our region one of the most respected in Australia and always one of AAA's proudest.

No Association can do without a great Treasurer and we are indeed fortunate in having Elaine Buckman at the helm. My thanks to you Elaine, for doing a wonderful job keeping us on the straight and narrow. Can't have been easy!

Thanks too, must go to Glenda Salmon who has been our hard-working secretary over the past couple of years and we thank her for tremendous support. One can only do so much and it was with great relief that Rachel Condous agreed to take on the role. Thank you Rachel, welcome aboard!

Keep on keeping on!

Phillip Vickery

President

Sydney Coast & Highlands Region of AAA

2006 - 2007

31 July 2007