



MINUTES OF ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, 28th August 2011

TIME: 10am

AT: Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham 3810

The meeting opened at 10:40am and was chaired by President Trevor Parry

- 1.1 PRESENT:** Trevor Parry, Ann Parry, Alan Steele, Diane Hutchins, Rose Thorogood, Lezley Golding, Bob McLeod, Helen McLeod, Joanne Daniel, Robin Daniel, Hans Van Poppel, Christine Van Poppel, Wendy Lyons, Marie Fitz-Gerald, Michelle Simberg, Rob Evans, Robyn Callaghan, David Callaghan, Paul Gardner, Heather Gardner, Karyn McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, Chris Pendlebury, Russell Pendlebury, Lindy Smith, Daphne Gregory, Keith Gregory, Gwyn Morgan, Vivian Blacker, Romanie Blacker, Louise Lazarus, Pat Lazarus, Adrian Corkeron, Barbara Corkeron, David Daddo, Marilyn Fletcher, Colleen Long, John Spencer
- 1.2 APOLOGIES:** Steve Pate, Sue Pate, Steve Golding, Rhys Owen, Julie Parker, Richard Hermon, Deborah Jobson, Trish Munley, Sean Munley, Jen McDavitt, Jenny Miles, Jean Daddo, Angela Betheras, Alison Quagliani, Robert Beard, Denise Beard, Keate Woodgate, Annette Woodgate, Sandra Kop, Arthur Biri, Lindsay Watts, Joy Skinner, Carmel Byrne
- 2. Minutes from Previous ARM:**
The minutes of the previous ARM were taken as read.
Several issues were raised with the minutes –
- 2.1** The reference to “Business Arising from Previous Minutes ARM 30/8/08” should read “30/8/09”.
- 2.2** The section containing the President’s Report should be amended to include the following “ The President’s Report was discussed, and was considered to contain references that were considered divisive and somewhat inflammatory. Subsequent discussion at the meeting revealed that several of the points made were incorrect, viz that:
- (i) in relation to proxy gathering “ members had been coerced by a certain group to sign and give them proxy forms”; and
 - (ii) “ it has always been understood that proxy forms be returned direct to the Secretary by the person giving the proxy”.
- With respect to the President’s Report, Ann Parry made the observation that the secretary needs to clarify if she can change the President’s Report from last year.
- 2.3** In the section relating to the Treasurer’s Report, the query by David Daddo should be amended to read: “David Daddo noted that capitation income

for the year had significantly decreased on levels of previous years. He asked whether this was attributed to a downturn in regional membership levels or a change in AAA formula or a combination of both.

These amendments were then put:

Moved: David Daddo

Seconded: Michelle Simberg

For: Most members

Against: Hans Van Poppel

Carried

2.4 In the section relating to Election, the minute should be amended to read "Following the withdrawal of nomination by Rochelle Veitch for the position of Secretary, nominations were called for from the floor. Rose Thorogood offered to fill the vacancy and was elected unopposed.

Moved: Joanne Daniel

Seconded: Michelle Simberg

Carried

3. Correspondence:

3.1 IN:

Jenny Atkinson – Email address – 24 August 2011

Jenny Jones AAA – Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) for Regional Representatives – Expression of Interest – 23 August 2011

Daphne Gregory – Thanks for Show Report – 22 August 2011

Jo AAA – Financial Members List – 22 August 2011

Jo AAA – Voting List – 22 August 2011

Janetter Law AAA – Membership Renewal – 18 August 2011

Alison Brolsma – Advertising on VER Website – 10 August 2011

Sandra Wright AAA – Enquirers – 10 August 2011

Chris Pendlebury – Change of address – 9 August 2011

Victoria Govett – Information Kit – 12 August

Members – Acceptance/Apologies for ARM

Raelene Strong – Mike Nichols Passing

Angela Betheras – AAA members username and password

Angela Betheras – Thanks for AAA members username and password

Jo AAA – New Members

Rudy Balde – FLO position

Richard Herman – Alpaca of the Year

Karyn – Nomination

Alison Welch – Certification/Wethering Day

3.2 OUT:

Daphne Gregory – Copy of Show Report

Jo AAA – 2011 Financial Members List

Alison Brolsma – Advertising on VER Website

Enquirers – Upcoming Events

Chris Pendlebury – Sent through change of address

Members (from Steve) – Activities in Eastern Region

Victoria Govett – Information Kit – 28 August 2011

Sandra AAA – Victoria Govett – Information Kit – 28 August 2011

Members – Treasurers Reports and End of Year Financials

Members – Mix-Up of ARM Lunch Cost

Members – ARM Notice



Denise Beard – Information on ARM Details
Members – Workshops for Members
Angela Betheras – AAA members username and password
Members – Annual Regional Meeting and Call for Nominations
Members – Reminder of Nomination Deadline

REPORTS:

5. President's Report – Trevor Parry

President's Report Victorian Eastern Region ARM, Sunday 28th August 2011

"Welcome to you all.

When this Committee was elected at last year's ARM, it was after a somewhat acrimonious meeting and I believed as your incoming President that it was the new Committee's responsibility to focus on performance and not personality in our endeavour to support the membership in their alpaca businesses.

I trust that we have done and are continuing to do this. I have been blessed with a wonderful Committee and I must take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions throughout the year.

Steve Pate our Vice President, who is unable to be here today as he and Sue are enjoying a well-earned holiday in Europe, has contributed immeasurably to the Region. He has overseen the redevelopment of our website and been the main catalyst in the improvement in communication within the Region; something we saw as a critical factor in turning around the general despondency that seemed to be prevalent 12 months ago.

Alan Steele has done a wonderful job as Treasurer but, to my mind, his major contribution has been in the wise council he has given the Committee in general and me and Rose in particular. Thank you Alan.

Rose Thorogood was nominated from the floor of last year's meeting. It was, in the words of Sir Humphrey Appleby, "a very brave decision" for her to allow herself to be nominated for this key position. For anyone to take on the position of Regional Secretary is a major commitment but for someone who knows very few people in the organization and very little of the processes by which the organization is managed, it is a monumental undertaking. With the help of Alan and Lezley in particular, Rose has fulfilled the task with diligence and patience.

Bob McLeod has again contributed in his usual hardworking and understated way. His contribution at Committee meetings exhibits his many years of involvement in the industry and if we are needing information on someone, Bob always seems to know who they are and something of them. His work with Helen on our shows and his work with the RAS on the Melbourne Royal are of countless value.

Rhys Owen, who is entering his 10th year on the Committee, is the custodian of our



physical assets and all our equipment is always in tip top condition, available when required and updated when necessary. Rhys fulfils his role as Chief Steward of most, if not all, of our shows. He is shortly to go on an extended holiday and we wish him and Jenny all the best for his trip and trust that he will return refreshed for the year ahead.

Lezley Golding, in her first year on the Committee, has also worked long and hard on your behalf. She is Chair of the task force managing the VER Spectacular and, if it's anything like this year's, it will be an outstanding success. Lezley has also been a major contributor in training and information functions, like the Fleece, Health and Judging Forum, Farm Walks, Felting and Shearing Workshops.

Each of us on the Committee has family and I want to take this opportunity to thank spouses and children who forego time with us when we are off at meetings, shows, workshops or the like.

I haven't been through this list in order to pat ourselves on the back but rather to remind each of us that organizations like the AAA, cannot function without volunteers who are continually devoting extraordinary amounts of time and resources to the benefit of us all.

This brings me to the planned Colour Show, scheduled for May next year. We have already expended funds on deposits and other items but I will have no compunction in recommending to the Committee that the show be cancelled if we cannot find a Convenor.

Bob and Helen already have enough on to do and it's time for someone new to step up to the plate. You can be assured of the support of others but we need a Member to come forward or it will be curtains for the Colour Show.

As you know by now, there will be no election this year as no position has been contested. I received this news with mixed feelings. It was satisfying to think that Members were happy with our performance and gratifying to see that Karyn McLaughlin has been prepared to be nominated to join our Committee, welcome Karyn.

It was disappointing that so few Members were prepared to put themselves forward to serve. I know many of you do work for us in other ways but this Region is one of the most dynamic parts of the AAA and if this is to continue to be the case, more must contribute.

Whenever I attend Council, which is every six months, I come away from those meetings re-energized by what is being done at Board level to develop the alpaca industry into a serious business for all those who wish to make it so.

I firmly believe that we are at the cusp of a special time, with fleece marketing being more productive for anyone who wants to participate, animal numbers on the rise and Show numbers on the increase.



In the coming year, I am keen to facilitate the development of our regional breeder groups which was an objective for this year but, again, it's up to you as to whether this eventuates.

I see these groups as an integral part of our organization and possibly the nuclei for future fleece collection, classing and marketing.

We plan an integrated education programme with various modules starting with new or potential breeders right through to programs for those of you who have been breeding (that is alpacas!) for many years. We are never too old to learn and the development of our industry and the welfare of our animals demand it.

Thankyou for the support you have given me and my Committee over the past year and for the trust you have invested in us for the forthcoming one."

– Trevor Parry

Moved: Rose Thorogood
Carried

Seconded: Robin Daniel

6. Vice-President's Report – Steve Pate

ARM VP/Marketing Report - 28 August 2011 - Steve Pate

"Existing activities were reviewed early in the year. Surveys after the the Lifestyle & Retirement Expo and Tesselaars were conducted, the results indicating a poor return on member efforts, so these have been discontinued to be supported by the region in the future.

However, significant new marketing, member communication and member education activities have been implemented during the year. These include:

Web-Site

An expanded web-site was developed that also encompassed all the information previously transmitted to members via the printed newsletter.

The new web-site provided a facility for members to advertise alpacas for sale and stud services and it also provided several mechanisms for members and external companies to advertise. This not only generated revenue for the region, over \$4,000 to-date, but provided a capability for members to advertise beyond our region.

Alpaca Week

Most reports indicated that this month long event was poorly attended at most participating properties in our region. Bad weather and limited promotion support by the AAA seemed to be the main contributing factors.

Workshops

A series of Workshops on several topics have been organised with many more in the pipeline.



These include -

- *Farm Setup / Farm Walks* - these are for new and existing breeders who are interested in seeing what has been done and tried at participating members properties. Over 12 have been conducted with more scheduled, but the attendances have been quite poor. We look for a more active interest in the future.
- *Felting for Beginners* - One workshop was fully booked and conducted in July with another scheduled for September.
- *Shearing* - two have been scheduled for November - one in the NE and one in Gippsland.

Others in the pipeline are -

- *Huacaya Fleece Assessment Workshops*
- *Suri Fleece Assessment Workshops*
- *A-Z of Showing Workshops*

The coming year has a busy schedule already of events for members, but we encourage the input of ideas so more can be planned and implemented."

– **Steve Pate**

6.1 Issues Arising:

The Vice-President's report was read by Rose Thorogood with issues arising with the wording.

6.1.1 *"Surveys after the the Lifestyle & Retirement Expo and Tesselaars were conducted, the results indicating a poor return on member efforts, so these have been discontinued to be supported by the region in the future."*

A discussion was held about Tesselaars and the Retirement Expo and Louise Lazarus asked that the members move for the committee to reconsider VER involvement.

Moved: Hans van Poppel

Seconded: Louise Lazarus

Carried

7. Treasurer's Report – Alan Steele

AAA Ltd Victorian Eastern Region Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting August 28, 2011

The accounts for the last financial year have been sent to the AAA, and we have received back the finalized accounts for the year, which are attached. These accounts show a Surplus for the year of \$3460.42.

To give a more accurate picture of the relevant show costs, I have shown the AAA Judging re-imbursement of \$1,200.00 p.a. as income, and listed the expenses against the relevant shows. Obviously the quantum of judge costs per show varies according to whether flights and accommodation costs are incurred.

Our cash position at year's end shows a balance of \$4174.18 in our operating account, and \$32,808.64 in the A.A.A. Investment Account.

Total Available funds : \$36,982.82



Accounts Main Points

- The AAA office and the external accountant/auditor have recently completed their review of VER 2011 year end financials and we have received back the finalized accounts for the year, which are attached.
- This is the first time we have had annual accounts which remove asset acquisitions from the Profit & Loss and instead include Depreciation as an expense.
- The region recorded an operating surplus of \$3460.42 for the year;
- AAA capitation payments were increased this year to 22% of region memberships received, and totalled \$17,740.35 which is our main income stream;
- The Newsletter produced a net income of \$207 for the one edition, and the Website has shown a surplus of \$1,408 **after** set-up costs of \$2,174.
- Events/Promotions show a combined deficit of \$722. However, this is after including \$1,380 received from the AAA on the eve of National Alpaca Month, which has been earmarked for promotions in the current year.
- The VER's own show at Lardner 2010 had income of \$3734.80 and expenses of \$5,901.58 - a loss of \$2166.78 which was slightly less than the previous year;
- Other shows (apart from Lardner) as listed in the Profit and Loss show a net deficit of \$3,478.80 ;
- Meetings cost a net \$3,012 which includes expenditure on last year's AGM and the other general meetings held during the year including the Christmas meeting/get together;
- The VER Spectacular brought in \$12,540 against costs of \$12,390 for a surplus of \$150.
- Courses/workshops cost a net \$2,938.
- During the year \$5,264.80 was spent on fixed assets including a second show lighting system, and pop up banners. The accounts show depreciation on all assets of \$3269.91 .
- As we now have a substantial amount of equipment in the float, we arranged full all-risks cover on the float and contents at a cost of \$684.00

BALANCE SHEET

- Main balance sheet item as at 30-6-2010 were cash of \$36,982.82, debtors of \$850.00 plus fixed assets of \$6362.63;
- VER pays all debts as they arise and there were no liabilities to record on the balance sheet.

7.1 Issues Arising:

7.1.1 A discussion was held about the capitation given to VER from the AAA:

- VER received an extra 6% capitation, representing 22 ½ % of member fees

7.1.2 A discussion was held about apportionment of costings between the dinner and the fleece competition at the VER Spectacular.

Moved: Alan Steele
Carried

Seconded: Lindy Smith



8.1 Declaration of Election

The members nominated for the committee were declared elected unopposed by the chair, Trevor Parry.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Show Report

SHOW REPORT FOR ARM 2011

Show season 2010-2011 had five shows. Entries were similar to 2009-2010.

Show	Animal Entries	Fleece Entries
Lardner Alpaca Show	173	22
Sale Ag Show	149	13
Alexandra Ag Show	200	31
Berwick Ag Show	147	57
Red Hill Ag Show	131	40
Total	800	163

The 1st show of 2011-2012 season has been completed - Lardner 165 animals and 22 fleeces.

Closing dates for the upcoming shows:

Sale Ag Show	30th September 2011
Alexandra Ag Show	14th October 2011
Berwick Ag Show	27th January 2012
Red Hill Ag Show	24th February 2012

All shows are at capacity for animal entries. If entries are above the available space limit on the closing date, exhibitors with the highest numbers will be asked to reduce their entries. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

On behalf of the region I thank everyone who helped with schedules, entries, catalogues, show set up and stewarding.

CHANGES TO SHOWING RULES

1. From Lardner 2012 Best of Colour classes for Suri's will be included
2. Grey/Roan classes are to be judged together, except at national and colour shows. If numbers warrant the Grey/Roan class can be split into Grey class and Roan class
3. Definition of a Fancy alpaca has been updated. We don't know what updates occurred - not on website
4. Changes have been made to the criteria for both sire's and dam's progeny classes

Royal Melbourne Show - Saturday 01/10/11 to Tuesday 04/10/11.

Arrival times - Saturday 01/10/11 4.30 to 9.00 pm or Sunday 02/10/11 6.30 to 9.00 am



Departure - Tuesday 04/10/11 after 4.30 pm or before 8.00 am Wednesday 05/10/11

Venue - Centenary Hall (same as 2010)

Entries closed on July 29 2011.

Animal entries: 282 Fleece entries: 78 (71 Huacaya & 7 Suri fleeces)

Prize money for champion fleece: Huacaya \$500-00 & Suri \$70-00

Judging:

Sunday: Huacaya juniors and all fancies

Monday: junior Suri, intermediate & adult Huacaya

Tuesday: senior & mature Huacaya, intermediate, adult & senior Suri.

Supreme Suri & Huacaya, best colour Huacaya, best colour Suri, Royal colour best male v best female in each colour Huacaya & Suri

Judges:

Fleeces - Julie Bird

Animals - Kristen Berman (Canada) & Angela Preuss

Questions Arising:

8.1.1 Hans van Poppel asked if our shows got to capacity entries or more, should we put a limit on the number of animals like the Victoria Central Region.

- Bob replied that if capacity was reached and over, studs with bigger entries would be asked to reduce their number of entries.

8.1.2 David Daddo asked about the number of suri fleeces in the Royal Melbourne Show and what was the number of fleeces required to attain maximum prize money.

- Bob replied that the RASV allowed \$10 per entry.

8.1.3 Gwyn Morgan asked what was involved with being the convener of the Colour Show.

- Bob gave details of what is involved and Gwyn said that she would be interested in nominating for the position of convener for the 2012 VER Colour Show.

Several members were interested in being on the committee for the Colour Show.

Moved: Bob McLeod

Seconded: John Spencer

Carried

8.2 Training and Workshops Report

Workshops

A reminder for upcoming workshops.

The first Beginners Felting workshop held on July 30th was so popular that an additional workshop has been scheduled for 17 September. Also fully booked.



Secretary: Rose Thorogood | **Address:** 40 Winstanley Road, Avalon 3212
Phone: 0447 602 309 | **E-mail:** ver.secretary@gmail.com | **Website:** www.ver.org.au

In 2012 Lezley will organize an intermediate felting workshop for anyone who has attended the beginners workshop and wants to take felting to the next level.

Two Shearing Workshops have been scheduled in November for anyone wanting to learn how to shear and taking care shearing equipment in a more relaxed atmosphere away from the pandemonium of our usual shearing days.

Time 10am - 3pm, bring your own lunch, no charge for the workshop.

Participants are encouraged to bring along pad and pen and video cameras.

Anyone wanting to attend, please contact myself.

November 13th

Oasis alpacas, with Mike Snow.

As Snowy will be shearing his Show Team, he has asked that anyone who wants 'hands on' shearing, can you BYO alpaca. Also, as he does not have Suri, if you are a suri breeder, can you BYO suri. Oasis Alpacas is un assessed but they do have provision for assessed animals onsite for the day.

November 27th

Stevley Park, with Steve Golding and Rhys Owen.

Will have both Suri and Huacayas for hands-on shearing.

Upcoming workshops that are not schedule at this date.

- Showing from A-Z
- Farm Safety
- Camelidynamics Workshop with Nerida Aldred

Because these are popular and numbers are limited for each workshop we will be scheduling several through the year. The first one being early March at Pitchingga Ridge, Red Hill. When a date is set, a flyer will be sent out, notification will be on the website. Rose (Secretary) is taking bookings for these workshops.

Questions Arising:

8.2.1 Wendy Lyons asked what was involved in the Camelidynamics Workshop.

- Rose Thorogood passed this on to David Daddo to answer as he has hosted these workshops in the past. David replied that it involves a calming manner in animal handling techniques – the teachings of Marty McGee with Nerida Aldred taking the workshop.

8.2.2 Colleen Long asked if at the Shearing Workshop the shearer could show members how to stitch a bad cut on an animal.

- Lezley said this was a good idea and was hoping to include First-Aid on the day.

8.2.3 Louise Lazarus mentioned that she has a contact for a spinning workshop.

- Lezley will discuss this with Louise.

Moved: Lezley Golding
Carried

Seconded: Ann Parry



8.3 VER Spectacular 2012 Report

V.E.R. Spectacular 2012

The Task Force has had their inaugural meeting for the 2012 V.E.R. Spectacular. The Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham has been booked for the 21st April, 2012. Next year you will be pleasantly surprised with some of the changes we are making to the evening, so get 21st April into your diary now and you won't miss it. In addition to the Handcraft Competition, which has become very popular, for all of you who don't spin, knit, crochet or felt, we have something for you. Next year we are adding a photography competition. This will be run down similar lines to the National Show photography competition and of course each photo will have to include, you guessed it, alpacas!!! You will be notified of the rules and the different sections, in an upcoming V.E.R. Spectacular Press Release. OK, so all you budding handcrafters and camera buffs, you need to start thinking about your entries, and also there will be a Junior section in the Photography Competition, so let's encourage the kids to get out there with cameras and start clicking for that winning shot. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st April 2012.

It's coming up to shearing time again and we need to start thinking now about what fleeces we can enter into the Annual Fleece Competition. Let's make it bigger and better than this year. Go out into your paddocks and select your excellent fleeces, then at shearing time put aside those fleeces you have just shorn, that have density, lustre, definition and crimp and enter them in this competition. Best of Colour will be awarded again next year, so Colour Breeders, please get ready with your excellent coloured fleeces.

We will have the announcements of the Alpacas of the Year. This will be a new and improved format.

Next year's Spectacular will be fun for all, so start organising your tables, if you have some non-alpaca friends who love to party, bring them along. Start thinking about your Fleeces, Craft items, your special photographs and your attire and don't forget to watch out for our V.E.R. Spectacular Press Releases and keep an eye on the V.E.R. Web site for updates.

On behalf of everyone on the task force we will be looking forward to seeing you all on 21st April 2012, where you will of course receive the customary '*free drink on arrival*' and a ticket for the '*lucky door prize*.'

Questions Arising:

8.3.1 Heather Gardner mentioned that a lot of people paint alpacas and she asked if these could be included in the Spectacular next year along with the new photography section.

- Lezley replied that she would bring it up with the Task Force at their next meeting.



8.3.2 Louise asked if pelts were back on the agenda for the night.

- Lezley replied yes.

Moved: Lezley Golding
Carried

Seconded: Robin Daniel

The president asked if members were interested in having a double event like last year – the Spectacular on Saturday night and a forum on Sunday.

- Most replied that they thought it was a good idea as the previous one had been a great weekend.
- David Daddo warned that the two events need to compliment each other as they may compete for numbers, so perhaps have them on different weekends.

8.4 FLO Position

The FLO position will be vacated by Rudy Balde due to health reasons and the committee would like to see fleece clusters organized with breeders groups and others.

8.5 Acknowledgements

The committee would like to thank the efforts of both Jeff Gittus and Rudy Balde. Both men will be presented a Certificate of Appreciation as a token of their efforts on behalf of the VER.

8.6 Other Matters

8.6.1 AAFL Report

There was an enquiry about the fact that members used to receive a report from AAFL and no longer get it.

- Members received the AAFL report where the president of the VER was also chairman of AAFL.

8.6.2 eBlast Report

There was a query about the eBlast Report from John Bell where members had been asked to join the Meat and Hides Sub-Committee. It was passed along to another person to organise and then proceeded to fall apart. At least one of our members volunteered for this sub-committee and they were concerned that it was thought that a name for the meat industry and organising putting together of new meat industry be left up to local breeders.

- There was concern that the AAA should promote a united front for this new industry so as to give a first class impression about the industry.
- There had been an incident at a local show where an animal had been dissected prior to the show and the butcher could not (and would not) touch the animal due to health regulations. This showed the alpaca industry in a poor light and we have no wish to have this happen again.
- Members would like something formal from the region at the next Council meeting and possibly the next AGM as well.



8.6.3 Alpaca Week

There was a discussion about National Alpaca Week being at the wrong time of the year and how as a region can we do a similar event at a better time for our region. There was a possibility suggested of bringing alpacas together to one place.

- Members would like a motion up forward at the next Council meeting, as it is too late to put one forward for the AGM.

8.6.4 Newsletter

There was a discussion about the region's newsletter.

- The committee is happy to go ahead with a hard copy if a person can be found to commit to 2 years of publishing the newsletter, and it needs to break even.
- There has been talk of doing a joint venture with the VCR. It will be looked at again.
- Trevor will talk to the other Victorian presidents about shows, directory and newsletter.

8.6.5 Alexandra Show

There was a discussion about how last year there was a problem at Alexandra where people were bringing extra people into the show and not paying.

- Entry for participants are 2 people per stud free and any others have to pay the entry fee.

8.6.6 Mansfield Agricultural Society

There was a discussion about how the Mansfield Ag Society would like to put on a show around 13th-19th November.

- Members expressed the opinion that at the date it was too late in the year as shearing would have started and there would not be enough fleece on some animals to judge.

8.6.4 Shearing At Shows

There was a discussion about how shearing at a show did not put the industry in the best light as the animal can get stressed and members of the public find the table stressful to watch.

Meeting closed: 12:40pm