

**AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD**

**Victorian Eastern Region**

**ORDINARY REGIONAL MEETING**

Date: 15 Sept 2023

Venue: Sale Alpaca Show, Sale Show Grounds, Sale Maffra Road, Sale

Commenced: 1pm

**Minutes - Unconfirmed**

Jacqueline Bishop chaired and opened the meeting, thanking and welcoming everyone.

**PRESENT:** Lynda Holdsworth-via phone, Nic Holdsworth – via phone, Kylie Taylor, Colin Taylor, Tim Blake, Julie Blake, Sue Hatfield, Jacqueline Bishop, Georgia Bishop, Jenny Miles, Jenny Bradshaw, Greg Bradshaw, Jodi Ramadge

**APOLOGIES:- Allison Quagliani**

Request for Declaration of Interest – None received.

***Minutes of previous meetings***

**Confirmation of previous minutes of Ordinary Regional Meeting held 10 th September 2023**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be accepted:

Moved: Colin Taylor, Seconded: Kylie Taylor. Minutes Carried.

Item No.	Minutes	Action being taken	Attachments
2.5	Treasurer's Report and acceptance of accounts.  <b>Current Membership - 85</b>	Follow up membership numbers and contact those not renewed.	
<b>Matters Arising</b>			
3.1	Events held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Berwick Show – 24 Feb 2024</b></li><li>● <b>Red Hill Show, include Fleece sales initiative - 9th March 2024</b></li><li>● <b>Farm World – 22-24<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b></li><li>● <b>National Alpaca Weekends – 4/5<sup>th</sup> May and 11/12<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b></li></ul>	Approx 70 Halter entries, 30 Fleece entries. Financial Surplus \$906.95  Extreme weather reduced numbers to around 90 halter entries. Financial Surplus \$1648.72  7 Breeders attended, both Suri and Huacaya and product. Financial Surplus \$750.91  7 studs participated throughout the VER	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lardner Show – included presentation of VER AOTY, BNB and Best of Colour Awards – 6 July 2024</b></li> <li>● <b>Castration day – 15 July 2024</b></li> <li>● <b>National Alpaca Show 18-20 August 2024 plus Youth Paraders</b></li> <li>● <b>Sale Alpaca Show – 15 September 2024</b></li> <li>● <b>Absolutely Everything Alpaca Workshops</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Breeding Genetics, Halter training - 21 April 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>Fibre Craft, Felting - 28 April 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>Farm Management/Fleece Preparation – 4 May 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>Beginners Farm Set up – 18 May 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>Parasites Sign and Symptoms and Identification – 20 July 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>Birthing Workshop – 8 September 2024</b></li> <li>○ <b>PROPOSED WORKSHOP – pasture management - TBC, shearing/farm set up – 27/10/2024</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>100 Halter entries 30 Fleece entries Financial Surplus \$1696.78</p> <p>No Cost to the VER</p> <p>Each workshop attracted between 3-10 participants and all participants seemed to enjoy the opportunity and knowledge shared. Thank you to Julie Blake, Lezley Golding, Jen Mc Davitt, Lynda Holdsworth for their time and sharing of their expertise</p> <p>6 workshops were cancelled due either to double ups or no interest including Beginners Halter Training, Website/eAlpaca review, Stewarding.</p> <p>Considerable effort has been put into trying to organise a workshop on Pasture Management etc but to date no success.</p> <p><b>AEA Pass holders extension until end 2025</b></p> <p><b>Thanks to the volunteers and those who support shows and events</b></p>	
3.2	<p>Events Planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Berwick Show- Feb 2025</li> <li>● Red Hill Show – March 2025</li> <li>● Farm World – March 2025</li> <li>● Sale Alpaca Show 2025</li> </ul>	<p>Due to high costs for Lardner Show we are looking to see if there is potentially another venue we can use for a new VER show and new convenors needed as well.</p>	
3.3	<p>Update on new equipment trailer and panel trailer policy</p>	<p>Trailer not quite finished yet, Logo needs to be put on. Potential need to place a notebook inside the trailer so people can record any issues/concerns with the trailer. Lynda will send out the new Trailer policy to members and also update VER website with new policy and forms.</p>	

3.4	<p>Social Media/Website/eNewsletter-</p> <p><b>Proposal to combine VCR and VER Website, LH to manage.</b></p>		
3.5	<p>Update New Member Liaison working Party and AEA Workshops</p>	<p>List of members non renewing and seeing why.</p> <p>Contact Julie or Kylie with any suggestions for workshops. Want to attract as many members as possible to these workshops.</p>	
3.6	<p>Award Winners</p> <p>Keith Turner Memorial Trophy, Suri Alpaca of the Year Awarded to <b>Dulce Lavender</b> – CONGRATULATIONS Jacqueline and Georgia Bishop from Dulce Alpacas</p> <p>Lyla Fisher Memorial Trophy, Huacaya Alpaca of the Year Awarded to <b>Kelowna Jasper</b> – CONGRATULATIONS to Greg and Jenny Bradshaw from Kelowna Alpacas.</p> <p>Dianne Condon Memorial Trophy, Best New Breeder Awarded to <b>Elm Park Alpacas</b> – CONGRATULATIONS Kylie and Colin Taylor.</p> <p>This year the committee decided to do VER Best of Colour of the year awards as well. Congratulations to the following alpacas and their owners. 🎉🎉🎉</p> <p>Best of Colour of the year for Huacaya: Roan – <b>Kelowna Jasper</b> White – <b>Chakana Gold Toruk</b> Grey – <b>Lemarli Wonder Blue</b> Black – <b>Whispering Gums Silhouette owned by Elm Park</b> Light Fawn – <b>Ripplefield Nicko Sukey</b></p> <p>Best of Colour of the year for Suri: Medium/Dark Fawn – <b>Dulce Lavender</b> Roan – <b>Nil Desperandum Mahogany Breeze</b> Black – <b>Tickenhall JJ Flash owned by Dulce Alpacas</b> <b>White</b> – Bedrock Chenara owned by Granjero Park Alpacas Brown – <b>Baarrooka Epic Adventure owned by Nil Desperandum</b></p>	<p>Continue on the Colour of the year awards. Well received by members.</p>	

3.7	<b>Carried forward from previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of Q &amp; A Brochure</li> <li>● Add Facebook and Instagram links to VER website</li> <li>● Review of Social Media Rules with view to introducing a Members only Facebook group</li> <li>● Listing of new members each month on social media</li> <li>● What to do with fleece</li> </ul>	<b>ALL DEFERRED</b>	
<b>Committee Issues</b>			
4.1	Lack of Volunteers: Remains an Issue		
4.2	Updated branding of both VER and what is happening with youth/youth trailers	Branding of trailers to be cost and actioned once the new VER trailer is completed.	
<b>General Business with Notice:</b>			
<b>General Business without Notice:</b>			
	30 Years of Alpaca - What are we doing?	Discuss at next meeting once AAA has been contacted about it.	

**Meeting closed: 1:15pm**

## **VER Presidents Report 2024**

Thank you for another year of alpaca fun and learning. I wish to give my thanks to the committee for their dedication and work in promoting not only our region but also the wider alpaca community. It has been a pleasure to be VER president for the last 12 plus months and am grateful for the learning opportunity it has given me.

This year we once again had a full show catalogue with Berwick, Red Hill, Lardner and Sale all being held. Thank you to each convenor for taking on this responsibility, it isn't easy to run a show. Along with our shows we have had a number of workshops, linked to the Absolutely Everything Alpaca PASS, held such as parasite, halter training, felting, farm set up and more. We have also had one castration day and with the positive response given, we hope to host more in order to reduce entire male numbers in pet animals.

With the introduction of the AYE Committee for youth, the VER have been working with our Victorian Youth Chair representative, Sarah Vaughan, to promote youth within Victoria. Although numbers have been low in youth events this year, opportunities have still been given to promote alpacas in youth with the Red Hill youth display and Youth Competition at Colourbration and Nationals. We will continue to work in this space in promoting alpacas to young people.

On a national level, there are many projects in the pipelines in order to promote the alpaca industry. As these come to light we will continue to share what is being done for our industry. One such initiative was the introduction of National Alpaca Week. Thank you to all our VER members that opened up their farms for the public and promoted the wonderful animal that is alpaca. Although this time it was a small response we hope to grow this into something bigger next year.

Thank you everyone for all your hard work in promoting all things alpaca. I look forward to continuing on as a VER committee member but have decided to step down as President.

Thank You, Jacqueline Bishop.

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## **Treasurers Report**

The AAA has amalgamated all regions activities into one central accounting system, we are no longer able to pull out a regional profit and loss and balance sheet. They have now also turn off our access to MYOB so we now need to rely on Head Office supplying MYOB data.

At the conclusion of any event, it is important for convenors to ask for a "Job Profit and Loss" so they can reconcile the income, and expenses are correct.

2023 – 2024

I am happy to report that all events in last financial year made surpluses as can be seen from the Job profit and loss reports. And the summary below.

Notes to the accounts :

1. Investment account has reduced by \$9000.00 for new equipment trailer and the sale of the old trailer is yet to take place. This revenue will be returned to the investment account.
2. General Expense \$777.36 for panel transfer has been refunded.

I encourage for all event organisers to budget a 20% surplus on their event to ensure we have enough income to cover the general expenses of the region.

Regards

Nic Holdsworth

VER Financials		
	<b>Event Summary 2023 - 2024</b>	
	General Expense	-\$ 835.10
	Berwick Show	\$ 906.95
	Everything Alpaca	\$ 1,363.63
	Farm World	\$ 750.91
	Intro Workshop	\$ 227.27
	Lardner Show	\$ 1,696.78
	Red Hill Show	\$ 1,648.72
	Sale Show	\$ 25.71
	Surplus	\$ 5,784.87
30/06/2024	Investment Account	\$21,750.00
30/06/2024	Trading Account	\$15,057.04

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### **Report on Birthing Workshop**

Held Sunday 8th September 10-12.30 at Auravale Alpacas

9 attendees - 4 new to alpacas, 3 more seasoned breeders, 2 vet students.

3 x \$50, 2 x AEA Pass Holders, 2 x vet students FOC

Powerpoint presentation with discussions and input from all. Notes sent to all.

Feedback very positive:

- Thank you very much for sending through the notes. I found the morning very valuable.
- Thank you so much for your informative workshop, Lynda. I picked up lots of useful tips, and it confirmed that I am doing some things right too 😊
- Two verbal responses: stating they found the workshop very valuable, especially having the opportunity to talk to other breeders

### **Report on Parasite Workshops**

Morning 10am to 12pm

Parasite Signs and Symptoms.

BYO Lunch

Farm walk

Afternoon 1pm to 4pm

Parasite Identification.

Hands on with microscopes.

A miserable cold & very wet July day.

Everyone came rugged up & we were a cozy group sitting around the gas heater for the morning session.

Lots of interesting discussion & input.

Unfortunately, the weather did not let up and we were unable to do the Farm walk at lunchtime.

The afternoon was a flurry of activity with everybody committed to learning faecal testing techniques with their own microscopes.

As the day closed we managed a quick scoot around the farm in the electric buggy.

I believe everyone gained education & info from the day.