



Central Region Newsletter

July 2021

Your Monthly Central Region Newsletter From The Alpaca Association New Zealand



Baby cria - Stephen Kellam

Last month we broke through the goal of reaching over **1,000 readers** of the Central Region newsletter. This includes the combination of both printed and online copies. We know how much readers enjoy getting a physical copy in their hands each month and the feedback has been encouraging.

I'd like to thank the Central Region Committee for making this possible and for creating fresh content that is both timely and relevant. Achieving this each month is no small task so we appreciate all the feedback. Advertising helps to fund this, so please do consider how you can support your own business by supporting us too.

New Zealand was an early pioneer of alpaca breeding and products which has led to exceptional genetics that are highly desirable in Europe and around the world. Many exported animals reach eye watering high prices for their bloodline values which have taken considerable time and effort to evolve. As a country, New Zealand can be proud of its place in the global alpaca market.

The size of our national herd is also increasing. However, the average quality of the national fleece pool is in decline, with many fleeces sitting unused or unprocessed because the demand for our fleece isn't there. With fleece revenue being essential for many alpaca owners, we need to understand and respond to this issue..

This month we report on the AANZ AGM held in Christchurch, including the workshop that followed, where attendees and the national committee discussed the overall alpaca industry and its future.

New Zealand has found itself in the position of having a multi-tier alpaca industry. With over 90% of our readers being non-members of the alpaca association, we're in the fortunate position that we can reach many alpaca owners across all tiers. And with the support of the Alpaca Association, we are looking into how we can all benefit from a healthier, more sustainable alpaca industry that serves and benefits us all.

We also have a review of the June cluster group in the Wairarapa. If you've not been to a cluster group, we would love to see you. It's a great way to learn more about alpaca and to meet like minded people in your area.

John Malsher, AANZ Central Region President

john@alpacamanager.com

Contact Your AANZ Central Region Committee - aanzcentralregion@gmail.com

Printed on sustainably sourced paper to protect the environment we love.

When you're finished reading this newsletter, please consider passing it on to another alpaca owner.

AANZ Annual General Meeting

By Cheryl Hunter

The AANZ Annual General Meeting was held at Russley Golf Course in Christchurch on the 26th of June 2021. There were 27 people attending and 22 attended via Zoom

The National Council all arrived at Christchurch on the Friday to help with the setup at Russley Golf Course and stayed at the Airport Gateway Motor Lodge. Very nice rooms for a very reasonable price.

We all got together for tea at Joe's Garage and discussion on the various topics that we knew were to be brought up the next day.

A National Council meeting was held before the AGM lasting 1 & half hours. The AGM lasted nearly 2 hours and a new National Council was welcomed in.

President is Bob Phillips. The new secretary is Cheryl Hunter. Treasurer remains Jakki Guilford and Vice President is Kees Reitveld.

We welcome on board for Northern Region, Bruce Taplin. Central Region is Cheryl Wheatley. And Southern Region is Kevin Burgess.

There was no need for a vote as there was only one nomination for each position up for election.

Two members are leaving National Council. Kit Johnson who has held just about every position on National Council and is greatly valued for his insight and wisdom. We are also losing Leonie Walker from Northern Region. She was always softly spoken but brought a great deal to the table.

TB Testing

Four remits have been put forward for voting on. All centred around TB testing.

The voting papers and remits will be sent out as soon as possible. Please read each remit carefully before voting.

Workshop

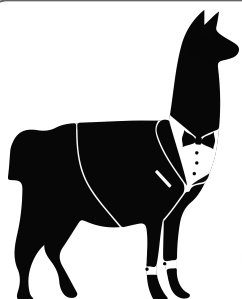
The idea of the workshop was for the members to put forward ideas on where do we go from here? What do members need?

Jakki had us form small groups and brainstorm for 15 minutes and then present our ideas to the rest of the groups. Reoccurring themes would put those ideas as priority. National Council is going to collate the ideas and also have a series of meetings in the regions to give as many people a chance to air their ideas.

What do you need? In what direction would you like to see the alpaca industry head? What ideas have you got that may help the industry to grow?

Some of the ideas that were put forward were around the health and wellbeing of the alpacas. Videos on caring for alpacas. Greater communication, promotion and encouragement into and within the industry.

Members keep an eye out for an email with the minutes of the AGM and when the workshops will be happening in your region.



*A Healthy Alpaca
is a Happy Alpaca*
www.alpacamanager.com

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Wairarapa Cluster Group

By Cheryl Hunter

The Wairarapa Cluster Group was held on the 20th of June at Sue McAuley's Farm outside Masterton. The weather was not kind to us but there was still a good turnout and plenty of discussion. Eleven people braved the wet and possible road closures.

Liz updated us on Cheryl Hughson's condition, it was not great. Please see the obituary in this newsletter.

John Malsher gave us an update of the AANZ Central Region AGM held at FMG (thank you Ros for allowing us to use the facilities.) It was looking very bleak for the Central Regions as membership had been falling and no one seemed to want to put their hand up to go on committees. This has seen a turnaround with a full committee and good ideas put forward,

Central Region is reviving, newsletters out every month with a readership of over 1,000 after only two newsletters. Advertising is available, please email aanzcentralregion@gmail.com for more info

The committee is committed to having Zoom meetings every month with the third month being in person.

Bob Phillips (AANZ president) also attended to update us on some of the things that the AANZ National Committee are working hard on. Over the past twelve months the NC has updated the registry, and run workshops on how to use it. Working with ABRI as they add new sections to the new registry that is already being used and transferring or linking sections from the old registry.

The old Alpaca Website is close to crashing and we urgently need a more user friendly modern website. Jakki, Cheryl W and Lesley have been looking at various platforms and we hope to have a new AANZ website in the near future.

There are four remits submitted to the AGM concerning Tb testing, the first remit is about abolishing Tb testing altogether, the second is an amendment to rule D3. The third is a modification of the Tb rule extending the time between Tb testing and the fourth is also amending rule D3.

There was discussion about the Judge Levy which is a user pays system to help support the training and retaining of judges in New Zealand.

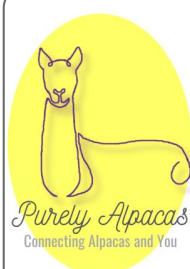
Ideas about how to grow and promote the Region and AANZ in general were talked about, a series of how to promote, to sell, to get micron tested, etc.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive notification of when the next Wairarapa Cluster Group is please email purelyalpacas.nz@gmail.com

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Purely Alpacas is a mother daughter partnership of the two herds Acapella and Koroki. We have animals available for purchase and males available for stud. You can email us on purelyalpacas.nz@gmail.com for more information.

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Cheryl Hughson - The Alpaca Place

Cheryl passed away in June. At her request, she was privately cremated.

Many of us started our alpaca journey with a cria raised by Cheryl. She was always happy to make a positive contribution at our cluster groups. Cheryl was a part of many of our lives and will be remembered fondly.

There will be a memorial held for her on the 17th of July.

Place: Salvation Army Hall, 210 High St South, Carterton

Time: 2.30pm

Messages of condolence can be sent to
Radius Peppertree Private Hospital,
107 Roberts Line,
Palmerston North.



Upcoming Events

24th, 25th and 26th September 2021 - National Show

- Entries Close 20th August, forms are on the alpaca.org.nz website
- Judges are fleece- Dean Ford with Lisa Charteris doing micron testing.
- Breed - Natasha Clark
- Fleeces to be delivered by the 13th September to Bob and Jenny Phillips, 153 Halcombe Rd, R.D.5, Feilding. 4775.

22nd October 2021 - Hawkes Bay Show

- Entries Close 10th October, entry forms are on the alpaca website and it is a breed and fleece show.
- Fleeces to be delivered by the 15th of October to Cheryl Hunter, 7/11 Symon St, Parkvale, Hastings.
- Judge for Breed and Fleece - Lisa Charteris

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