



# Central Region Newsletter

## September 2021

Your Monthly Central Region Newsletter From The Alpaca Association New Zealand



Happy and Curious Alpaca - Stephen Kellam

When Lewis Carroll wrote of the White Rabbit, "I'm late, I'm late..." he couldn't have imagined how he would inspire future generations of authors. So here I find myself using the same line blatantly as the excuse you haven't received your September newsletter until now.

For a while it looked like we would only be sending this out via email and online due to printing and postage issues through lockdown. I'm delighted the delay has allowed us to continue running a print version too. And with all membership data now migrated to the new AANZ membership system, Central Region members get a printed copy.

This month saw an increase in the number of AANZ members in the Central Region. It's a small increase but a very significant indicator that our industry continues to recognise high quality genetics. If you're not already, please consider becoming an AANZ member and supporting the efforts of the association throughout New Zealand.

We're coming into show season now with plenty of opportunities to have your alpacas professionally evaluated by experienced judges and to meet other like minded breeders.

This month we have an excellent article from Ros Scott to help you and your alpacas become show ready. I personally like the point Ros makes about enjoying yourself. It really is an exciting way to get closer to your alpaca in a safe and fun environment.

This new, larger newsletter, also has a section to help those breeders who are exiting the industry or need to rapidly downsize. If you're looking to increase your herd size and wish to benefit from some of the very best genetics in the industry, this is a great opportunity to do so. You may just find yourself picking up the next show winner.

Last month we promised an insight into our industry and the people that serve it. This research has turned up a rich and interconnected world of companies, large and small, along with many entrepreneurial people without whom our industry would struggle. Please check out our back page for paddock management and alpaca transport. Next month we're going to take a look at paddock health using a natural fertiliser and seek feedback from the most discerning of judges - the alpaca themselves.

**John Malsher, AANZ Central Region President**

john@alpacamanager.com

Contact Your AANZ Central Region Committee - [aanzcentralregion@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

## Showtime

By Ros Scott

Show season seems to roll around faster each year – maybe because I'm getting older. Showing your animals and fleeces is a great opportunity to showcase your herd, get feedback on your animals, hang out with your fellow alpaca breeders and of course it's always lovely coming home with a few ribbons in hand.

While showing isn't for everyone there are always things you can learn and it's a great opportunity to meet other breeders and have a look at their animals.



## Showing Animals

First timers – Assuming that you have done all of the basic handling and halter training with your alpaca I also like to take them through the drill of what happens at a show. This means that there are as few surprises as possible for them on the day.

It will be overwhelming enough for them being at their first show with all unfamiliar sights and sounds, so being as prepared as you can be helps their stress levels (and yours).

Lessons that I run through with the alpaca include:

- Getting them to walk comfortably next to you and stop when you stop
- Getting them to stand side-on, and then face forward with you. If you are in big classes you could be standing there a while before the judge gets to you, so you want your alpaca to feel comfortable just hanging out
- Practice showing their teeth
- Get a couple of friends to assist and get them to be the pretend judge and ring steward. The judge will want to feel their ears, check their eyes, check under their tail (to confirm the sex) and with the boys will want to have a feel of their testicles – so again – make sure show day isn't the first time that's happened. The judge will be wanting to have a good look through the fleece – so again make sure your alpaca is comfortable with being touched on his or her body. The ring steward is there just in case an alpaca is having a bit of an off-day and needs a firm hand on the alpacas back to steady things down a bit



Don't forget about those animals that have been at shows in previous seasons. Make sure you remind them what a halter is all about and take them through the show routine.

Whatever vehicle you are using to transport your animals to the show, make sure they are familiar with getting in and out. The last thing you want to be doing is struggling trying to get your animal onto your float the night before or morning of a show – just extra stress for you and your animals

Just prior to the show, make sure you do a final health check ensuring that they have good body condition and that you are confident that they are fighting fit. You certainly don't want to be taking an animal to a show that is feeling a bit off colour as extra stress could just exacerbate things.

Try and keep them out of paddocks that have a lot of potential vegetation. I think a judge coming across a thistle-head or getting a piece of box-thorn in their finger wouldn't be ideal. For those alpaca that you are really wanting to keep their fleeces in tip top condition before the show then invest in some covers. Keeping an eye on the weather is sensible and if you think the animals are going to get drenched the day before the show if possible pop them in a shed over-night

Give them a bit of a trim up (including toenails if needed).

Show regulations allow for us to trim our alpacas bonnets and briskets – and a great judge once told me – why wouldn't you. It means that you are presenting your animal in its best possible light. It does take a little bit of practice, so again if this is something you want to do practice first on a few non-show animals before you end up giving you're alpaca a crazy looking hair-cut.

Another good point to note is that all Huacaya must be shorn annually and not carry more than 15 months fleece and Suri must be shorn regularly so that no more than 36 months fleece is carried at time of showing.

## Fleeces





## Showing Fleeces

There are plenty of great resources out there on preparing your show fleeces. Central Region runs at least one workshop a year on this, so if you haven't already attended one of these sign up for the next one. Naturally I am sure that any breeder who has shown fleeces would be more than willing to spend some time with you going through the basics.

If you have shown fleeces for the previous show season, it always pays to go through them again if you are going to re-enter them and re-present them.

## A bit of admin

- Make sure your animals are all registered
- Check that they all have their ear-tags – as on the odd occasion they may have come out during the year
- Ensure you have a current TB Certificate
- Get your entries in on time
- You will need an armband for show day – these can be ordered via the alpaca association website. It's always good to have a few of these
- If you are unsure about anything talk to your show convenor. For example if you know that you have a male that needs to be in a pen by himself then let the convenor no early so they can plan pen allocations
- For those of you who love getting amongst the detail the Show Regulations can be found on the AANZ Website in the members section under Showing & Judging.



## What to take

- Feed that your alpacas have at home (i.e. don't introduce anything new on show day – as this could lead to an upset stomach)
- Cable ties, Scissors, string/baling twine (just handy to have in case you want to secure feed troughs or gates)
- Water buckets and bucket to get water in
- Feeders for your food (hay, chaff etc)
- Any promotional material you may have
- Fans – this will depend on the venue (i.e. if the show venue is inside and the animals are going to be there overnight they could get damp, so some shows allow fans – this is something that you can check with your convenor on)
- Armbands
- Poop bucket and something to pick the poop up (you will want to keep your pens poop free)
- Tidy attire and sensible shoes (no jandles). At our National Show the dress code is strictly black trousers/skirts, AANZ Polo shirts or plain white shirt, black AANZ jacket or plain black jacket (No logos) and black shoes. You will find at local A&P shows it might be a bit more relaxed, but use the above as a guide for any show
- Don't forget those halters and leads (and of course your alpacas)



### Show Time

- Packing in: I usually leave my animals on the float and get everything set up in the pens first. Just means you're not fussing around them while they are getting use to their new surroundings.
- On arrival you will receive the show catalogue and the numbers for your animals (which go into the arm-band). Check the details to ensure that everything is correct. If for whatever reason you need to scratch an animal let the convenor know.



- There will be an opportunity before the show starts through the Chief Steward to get a colour check on any of your animals that you are unsure of. A good guide is that the colour of any alpaca is the colour closest to the skin at the mid side on the day of the Show.
- If you have multiple animals in a class make sure you have the right number of handlers on the day. Your fellow alpaca breeders are always more than willing to lend a hand
- Don't be late – particularly at those larger shows where there are a lot of animals to get through. There is usually a waiting area where the Assembly Steward will get everyone in the right order before heading into the show ring
- Listen to the judges commentary! If you are lucky enough to get a placing and ribbon that's great! Even if you haven't won a ribbon (this time), listen to what the judge has to say about the animals in the ring (especially yours). Its invaluable feedback and a great opportunity to learn.

Finally and most importantly....Relax, Breathe and most of all have fun!!

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## Share your winning moment

Send up a proud photo of you and your alpaca at the national show so that we can share it here. You've earned it.



## And the votes are in...

### Remit 1 - Abolish AANZ TB Scheme



Yes - 86 votes (53.42%) No - 75 votes (46.58%)  
Did not reach the 55% threshold to be accepted.  
Includes 2 manual votes.

### Remit 2 - Show regulation D3 to be altered



Yes - 72 votes (46.75%) No - 83 votes (53.25%)  
Did not reach the 55% threshold to be accepted.  
Includes 2 manual votes.

### Remit 3 - Amendment to Voluntary AANZ Camelid Tb Control Scheme.



Yes - 110 votes (72.37%) No - 42 votes (27.63%)  
Reached the 55% threshold and is approved.  
Includes 2 manual votes

### Remit 4 - Amendment to show Regulation D3



Yes - 88 votes (58.67%) No - 62 votes (41.33%)  
Reached the 55% threshold and is approved.  
Includes 2 manual votes.

The Alpaca Association New Zealand asked members to vote on four remits that would help to define the future direction of the industry.

The remits that passed the 55% threshold will now be put forward to the Royal Agricultural Society for voting by their members.

Thank you to all of those members that voted. It is interesting to see how engaged you were and how close the results.

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## August Cluster Group

By Rachel Norman

The August Wairarapa Cluster Group was held just before the nation went into lockdown so it was wonderful to see so many new faces and catch up with others.

This month it was held at Lisa and Derek's. Herd name Radharc Na Rí. More details at [awesomealpacos.co.nz](http://awesomealpacos.co.nz) or follow them on Instagram, [awesomealpacosnz2021](https://www.instagram.com/awesomealpacosnz2021).

As we often do, we went out to see our hosts alpacas. The gorgeous weanlings were so friendly and gorgeous! The girls were curious to say hello and the stud boys considered our presence.

Anthony had brought his microscope to do Fecal Egg Counts but sadly had forgotten the batteries, so this will happen next time - with batteries!

As always it was a lovely fun day with fantastic food and company. If you are in the Wairarapa region and would like to be added to the mailing list please email [purelyalpacos.nz@gmail.com](mailto:purelyalpacos.nz@gmail.com)



## Host your own cluster group

By John Malsher

The Wairarapa Cluster group is independent of the AANZ although many of those who attend are members or have registered animals. Often, the conversation is entirely around alpaca and it is a great opportunity to learn or share in ideas and good practices.

However there is so much more to the cluster groups. It is a place to make friends, see how other lifestyle owners manage their land, or find other topics of interest.

I would encourage you to join a nearby cluster group or start your own. There's very little to it, other than to build an email list of likely attendees to invite and pick both a date and location every two months. You may find you wish to meet more often, or to switch between different venues.

Here in the Wairarapa we've also hosted AANZ farm days and this has brought in new people who have become members of our cluster group.

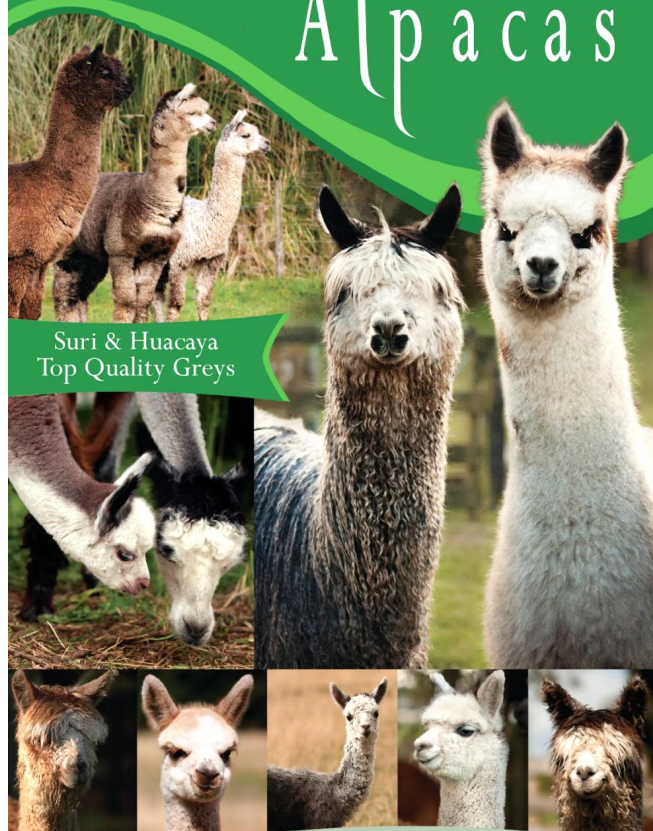
Buying and selling alpaca between cluster group attendees is quite common and we each take the time to show off our cria when they arrive. There's truly no better way to get up close and personal to alpaca in your local area.

Why not come and join us and see for yourself.

**Ros & Andy Scott**  
1306 Tangimoana Road  
RD3, Palmerston North  
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## Alpaca Marketplace

This month we're dedicating a few pages to those breeders and owners looking to make a quick sale of alpaca, either for rapid downsizing or to exit the industry.

There are many reasons that alpaca need to be rehomed quickly and we'd like to ensure those alpaca find good homes. If you're looking to expand your herd, or maybe you're just starting out, this could be the opportunity to find excellent genetics and fine breeding animals. Many are registered and have a strong pedigree.



We have 10 Alpacas that we really need to rehome before weather gets too hot to transport.

Our situation has changed so we can no longer care for them.

We are happy to split the herd, and we are happy to rehome them after shearing which is booked mid October.

We are located in Takahue which is near Kaitia.

1 adult male, 1 teenage male, 1 male cria, 4 adult females, 2 teenage females and one 6 month cria who is the same size as the teenagers.

These are free to a good home.

Please contact Adele on 027 233 4654

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# Alpaca Marketplace

## Acapella Magic Mike (Mikey)

IAR 1016423

Certified Huacaya Stud Male

2019 fleece stats: micron 29.4; SD 5.1

Price \$1500

Mikey is a solid well built boy with a great posture and a dense fleece that once shorn leaves beautiful ripples across his body showing the strength of his crimp.

Mikey has 2 cria on the ground, both came out the colour of their dams. If you are looking for a male who will give you colours but has a fleece colour that is nearly white then this would be the stud for you.

Email [purelyalpacas.nz@gmail.com](mailto:purelyalpacas.nz@gmail.com)



## NZ Southern Lennon

IAR 58899.

He is a white huacaya, who has been known to throw colour,

DOB 8/11/2003.

He is a lovely male, with a fabulous temperament, and very easy to manage.

Sire: ILR Alpine Fibre's Brutus

Dam: NZ Southern Loretta

Marilyn Smethurst  
[mareca456@gmail.com](mailto:mareca456@gmail.com)



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6 female alpacas, 2 x white suri females aged 9yrs and 11years, 4 huacaya females, 1 x black aged 14 yrs, 2 x fawn girls aged 13yrs and 11 yrs, and 1x white aged 11yrs.

They have all had cria, but not been mated for the last 6 years. All but one have been halter trained, and some have been shown with good results in the past.

They would make a good starter herd for someone or just enjoy grazing through their retirement.

They are all registered with AANZ.

Marilyn Smethurst.  
mareca456@gmail.com

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- » All inputs are New Zealand wild caught fish.

**Typical NPK 8-1-2**

**pH Range:** 2-4

**Mix application ratio:**

100:1

**Volume available:** 1000 L

### Typical Analysis

#### MACRO ELEMENTS

Nitrogen	4.20%
Phosphorus	0.55%
Potassium	1.10%
Calcium	0.80%
Sulphur	2.00%
Magnesium	0.89%

#### TRACE ELEMENTS

Iron	<10mg/kg (ppm)
Boron	1.9mg/kg (ppm)
Cobalt	<0.2mg/kg (ppm)
Copper	1.58mg/kg (ppm)
Manganese	0.44mg/kg (ppm)
Molybdenum	0.04mg/kg (ppm)
Selenium	0.7mg/kg (ppm)
Zinc	4.7mg/kg (ppm)

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## Alpaca Industry Spotlight

Each month we shine a light on the wonderful people who serve our industry. If you have a service you would like to share, please get in touch with us. This is your moment.

### Paddock Management

Tired of mucking out and trying to keep your paddocks in great condition? Then give us a call. We have the equipment and skills to clean it up and make it fresh again.

Manure Solutions - For Alpaca, Horse, Donkey, Sheep and Goat.

Email [ncwhitebait@outlook.com](mailto:ncwhitebait@outlook.com)

Contact Steve on 027 354 7194



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Phone 021 469 364 (prefer text)



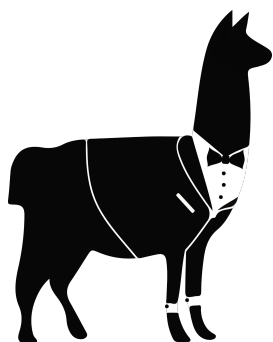
## Upcoming Events

The limitations on movement and number of people allowed to gather both indoors and outdoors during anything other than COVID Level 1, has had a significant impact on the ability for the AANZ to host shows within our region.

The Showing and Judging Subcommittee has been creative in addressing this and turned the National Show which was due to be hosted in our region into a Fleece Show. While this is a huge blow to those breeders who wanted to show their animals, the actions of the subcommittee means that all is not lost.

We're not out of the woods yet and the AANZ continues to monitor the situation closely.

Unfortunately the Hawkes Bay show has been cancelled and won't be offering a Fleece Show. However there are plans in place to bring you something very soon. We hope to bring you good news next month.



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