

Minutes of the meeting of the New England Alpaca Group held on Sunday 18th September 2011 at the Uralla Community Centre commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Ken Dobson (Chair), Peggy McClenaghan, Noel and Cathy Reid, Alan and Dawn Bicknell, Colin and Julie Rushton, John and Karen Gilbert, Barry Hambrook, Jacque McLeod, Fiona Pearson (Secretary)

1. APOLOGIES

Betty & Adrian Whitten, Vince and Ann Henderson, David and Bronwyn Mitchell, Marge Clarke, David Emanuel, Di Sanderson, Gail and Tony Spillane, Deb Smith, Derna Reid, Ann Harker, Kevin and Catherine Mead.

2. MINUTES

- 2.1. Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 10th July 2011
Accepted
- 2.2. Minutes of the special meeting held 31st July 2011
Accepted

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1.1.1. Update on Bill Ham Fleece Collection

Andrew had suggested that we hang on to the fleeces until we get a better offer. People on the coast received their payment last month but the fleece was sent before Christmas. Bill Ham has indicated that there is no guarantee when payment would be made. It might be worth-while to contact Cashmere Connections to see if they are interested in purchasing the existing bale. A further bale could also be prepared now that the majority have completed 2011 shearing. All bales would need to be transported to Moree which is the closest pick up point. Alan will contact Catherine Mead to obtain information about Cashmere Connections and their requirements and those interested will be contacted.

3.2. Any other business arising

3.2.2. Wool pressing day

It was agreed to find out what Cashmere Connection want first i.e. do they only want white, and how they want fleeces pressed. Catherine Mead is sending her fleeces to Cashmere Connection so we will check with her about the pressing requirements and notify those interested. A Pressing Day will be organised at Ken Dobson's and it was agreed that this would be better done sooner rather than later. The long weekend in October was suggested as a tentative date.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1.1.1. New England Expo 2012

Alan had a thought – rather than putting up the large tent that those interested take a gazebo and create a village of alpacas. If the weather turns bad we pack up and go home. The group agreed that this was a good concept and supported the idea. It was suggested that we could send a letter to organisers to indicate that we are interested in participating in a village format and to request timely advice on where the village will be located.

4.2. New England Alpaca Show 2012

Several items for consideration for the 2012 show include:

- changing the location of the announcer
- providing a couple of outdoor heaters and/or hire a couple from the fire brigade
- have a dinner and dance at the showground
- AAA show catalogue format changes
- 3 week closing for fleeces to be listed on forms
- no date on suri ribbons
- Provision of a port a loo
- Make parking between show ring and buildings

- Poultry open day same day and/or fossikers event in order to increase number of people at the showground
- Caterers to provide take away i.e. bacon and egg rolls.

The group noted that with Shirley gone we don't have a show convener. Cathy Reid was approached about taking on the role, which she accepted.

The group confirmed that the New England Alpaca Show would take place over the June long weekend.

4.3. CCH Region OGM & AGM Report

Highlights – new membership for hobby farmers i.e. not able to show or transfer animals. Changing rates for membership and changing website. The new General Manager resigned last week. The AAA is introducing a new logo and new catalogue and show procedures to register entries and pay online. Need to clarify if the funds go directly to the relevant region. Registering of study males – breeders will be able to take and send in blood sample ourselves for DNA.

Members elected Michael Walsh as Secretary (Michael is from Taree), Charlie Vella remains as President, Dennis Marks (Vice-President), the position of Treasurer is still vacant, Sandra Vella remains as web officer, Lindy Brown is Education Officer, Alan Bicknell is the LAN coordinator, Nigel remains as Marketing Officer and Leslie Russel remains as Health and Welfare Officer.

The Group noted that only one more edition of 'Hmmm' will be produced and we will then move to a regional newsletter.

4.4. Development of Event Protocols and Procedures

The Group noted that a Proposal form is to be submitted for AAA events and for insurance purposes. Everything needs to go through the Regional Committee for approval of the budget. The Group agreed to establish a Proposal Checklist for this group to follow for anything we want to do. The Secretary will draft a checklist for presentation to the next meeting. It was agreed that the Secretary be the only person from the group sending the

material to the Region for approval i.e. all event documentation must go through the Group Secretary.

4.5. Appointment of Replacement Secretary for NEAG

Nominee: Fiona Pearson. Elected.

4.6. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The proposal to change meeting dates to Saturday was revisited. The majority of members still prefer Sunday so the meetings will continue to be held on Sundays.

Shirley might be visiting on the October long weekend – possible dinner. Cathy will let everyone know.

Meeting to be held 4th December 10 for 10.30 a.m. Uralla Community Centre

4.7. Blurb for new breeders directory

Ken to re-write the blurb to remove the tourist information and promote the alpaca industry.

4.8. Short Course Program – Faecal Egg Count for Worms

Tabled at the meeting was a flyer promoting the NSW Department of Primary Industries/PROfarm short course to be held on 23 November in Tamworth. Registration closes 16 November. The cost is \$270 GST free. To register, phone Cassie Gardiner on (02) 67631276 or email: tamworth.profarm@industry.nsw.gov.au

The meeting closed at 11.29 a.m.