



Australian Alpaca Association Inc.

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Central Coast & Hunter Region

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Meeting Minutes

Central Coast Hunter Region Ordinary General Meeting

Sunday 21st August 2011

Venue: At the home of Paul and Deanne Thibbault
485 Luskintyre Road,
Luskintyre
2321

Meeting commenced at 10:30am

Welcome

Present: Lindy Brown, Michael Walsh, Judy Linder, Heather Vickery, Philip Vickery, Mal Perry, Alan Bicknell, Dawn Bicknell, Sue Just, Warren Atkinson, Sue Tiley, Emma Griffith, Tina Davidson. Rhiannon Lindley, Peter Tulip, Narelle Tulip, Evelyn Thrift, Deanne Thibbault, Paul Thibbault, Dennis Marks, Nigel Thompson, Sandra and Charlie Vella, Deb Smith

Guest: Ian Vanderbeek, AAA Company Secretary

Apologies: Peta Byers, Geoff Byers, Alasdair Smedley, Karen Smedley, Kevin Meade, Catherine Meade, Peter Feldman, Karine Raiz, Kathryn Connell, David Cooper, Lesley Russell, Gary Russell, Noel Reid, Cath Reid, Betty Whitten, David Emanuel, Mark Irving, Kim Irving, Wayne McCauley, Sue Roberts, Vince Henderson, Ann Henderson, Rhonda Perry, John Gilbert, Karen Gilbert, Carol Mamet, Rob Hey, Carol Hey, Helen Sorby.

1). Previous minutes from last OGM accepted by Dennis Marks, seconded Nigel Thomson.

Correspondence

In

Updated listing of members

New Members and Enquirers listing – 14 new enquirers since April and 4 New members.

LAN minutes

Show notices

National Office mail

New Breeders workshop

MNC show

Out

Agenda

Minutes of OGM 9th April

Responses to incoming mail:

New Member Welcome

New Breeders Workshop

MNC show

Responses to AAA requests.

Business arising from Correspondence - Nil

1. Committee Reports

a. President:

- Charlie thanked Cathy, Deb and Sandra for their work on the committee over the past year and who are all standing down at the AGM.
- Both the NE and MNC shows were successful and both made a profit. MNC profit lower than usual as exhibitor numbers were down this year.
- NAW – Tocal, Kendall, a display at the MNC show and various open farms across the region all went well and brought in a number of enquiries.
- Charlie reiterated the function of LAN groups and sought to bring clarity to their role. They are there to assist and advise the region but do not have voting or decision making rights.
- Charlie also made a request for helpers at the National show. Assistance is required for a number of activities over the weekend of the show, such as arranging rosters for meet and greet, breeder's booth and coordination of the shearing demonstrations. This year's National is hoped to be the biggest and best yet.

b. Vice President – no report tabled

c. Treasurer

- A glitch occurred in the accounting system and was found to be within the MYOB software but it is now amended. All regions now using MYOB.
- MNC and NE shows both made a profit
- New debtors indicated in Treasurers report are those that advertise on the web site and invoices being sent to those concerned. A few debtors also to pay for the NE show.
- Currently \$12, 838. 25 in the a/c. Sandra put forward a motion that we now reinvest some of the funds from the cheque a/c. Narelle asked what the interest rate on the investment a/c is.

Nigel suggested that we are in the business of supporting the region rather than investing money and the money could be utilised to do that for example through the purchase of another trailer and using some of the funds for marketing. Charlie mentioned a new logo is to be launched at the Nationals and we will need new booklets and banners. Dennis asked if investment a/c has to be with AAA – Sandra responded yes, there is no time limit and current interest is approx \$22/month. Nigel suggested that some rules & guidelines be established so that the Treasurer can move funds between the investment a/c and float.

Motion moved by Nigel that the Committee has the delegation to sanction the Treasurer to move funds between a/c's as required. Seconded Dennis.

Nigel also moved that the committee develop a proposal for investment in assets such as another trailer. Seconded Paul. Both motions carried.

- Narelle queried the \$600 for NAW on financial statement circulated. Sandra explained these funds came in from AAA after NAW.

Paul put forward the motion that these funds be reserved for NAW next year and that the funds be equally distributed between LANS at the discretion of the Marketing Officer in consultation with all the committee and that the region would match the funding pending event proposals. Seconded Sandra.

- Narelle asked how the number of farms funded for was determined. Nigel responded he sent the numbers of farms to be opened into AAA oblivious that any funds were coming. The industry promotion committee advises as time comes nearer. Charlie suggested we make it practice that next year's NAW expenditure be based on this year's funds from AAA.
- Sandra advised that some of the figures in income are not paid as yet and that MYOB automatically allocates profit/loss. AAA purchased the programme for each region.

Narelle put forward that the Treasurers report be accepted, seconded Alan. Motion carried.

d. Newsletter

- Dot did not submit a report and Sandra spoke on her behalf. Dot is not going to continue in the Editor role and has suggested that the Hmmm cease to be published due to ongoing difficulties in obtaining content.
- Sandra also reported that the AAA is no longer going to be publishing the breeder directory and have suggested regions do this for their own regions. CC&H Committee have been discussing

a regional directory and obtaining quotes and classifieds that have been in Hmmm could go in an annual breeder directory. More discussion on this in general business.

- Vote put to the meeting that Hmmm be ceased. Carried.
! more issue to be published and all current advertisers' terms will then be met. Articles etc can be posted on the web site in future.

e. Website

- Web site is doing very well and being visited regularly, Sandra is monitoring via google analysis reports. Web site continues to pay for itself.
- Discussion had re having a classified section on the web site, do need to watch space size. Meeting generally agreed classifieds could go on the web site. Committee to further explore this and work out logistics.
Nigel requested that we don't allow classifieds to take over the web site.
- Sandra invited any comment and suggestions on the web site.

2. Guest speaker AAA Company Secretary Ian Vanderbeek

Ian gave a comprehensive and interesting report on developments instigated by the board at the National level over the past 12 months. In summary:

- Current National board structure now 9 members but only 7 members at present as 2 vacancies. Board meets quarterly with teleconferences in between.
- Appointment of Secretary Manager, Tony Wells, now helping with the workload of the board.
- Communication with the Board needs to be two way.
- Breeder's directory has ceased to be published as voted on by a majority of Regional Presidents.
- Past 12 months achievements have included development of a strategic plan in consultation with Regional Presidents,
- Appointment of Secretary Manager. Two key areas he is focusing on are enhancement to member services and the everyday management of the association, enabling the board to focus on strategic planning.
- Board currently investigating a 2 tier register, one being a commercial register and the other stud. For animals to be shown it is likely that they would need to be on the stud register and all animals on the stud register to be DNA tested. Board currently working through the mechanics of how DNA testing will be done

but aiming for a type of testing members can do themselves, negating the need to have vets do it. A foolproof system is being looked at. Current system for males only measures 10 markers, in the US it is 18 and new system will measure at least 18 and potentially up to 29 markers making it a more robust system.

- Discussions are occurring with AWEX in regard to establishing standardised system for fleece classing. Also looking at the development of an accredited classing course at certificate 4 level, people gaining this accreditation would also be able to class other people's fleeces. Trying to develop competitive options for fleece is an issue as there is no current quality standard; a uniform standard needs to be developed.
- A new logo to be launched at the Nationals and "marks" for various types of fleeces are also being developed similar to the sheep wool mark classifications system. Will be a cost in making the changeover and the extent of this is currently being ascertained. Priorities will need to be established and actioned over time. AAA remains a shareholder in AAFL.
- Successful judge's forum was held in June.
- A simple version of MYOB software now being used by regions so that it easy to use by Treasurers.
- Governance structure has been developed for the board.
- A surplus was achieved in the 2010/11 financial year so additional capitation was made available to the Regions. A special reserve fund has been established from which specific projects may be funded, subject to a business case being developed and approved by the Board.
- With marketing being an area of emphasis for the Board, the Association is seeking to appoint a Marketing and PR person to join National office staff; it is hoped this position will be filled by the time of the Nationals.
- An IT development strategy is in place. Perry Wheeler is leading this strategy and a new web site is expected by the end of the year. New electronic systems are also being developed so that members can pay for everything online using their cards. A new IT system is also being developed for use by office staff along with an electronic show system. Show & Display Reports.
- Work is also being done on the promotion of grower clusters for fleece.

- Members will be asked to vote on a new membership classification at the AGM. Motion will be put forward that a hobby class be created. This will have a much lower membership fee but those members would not be able to register and show animals. The board wants to ensure much better traceability of alpacas. Hobby member animals will be able to be upgraded or sold to a full member and the animal can be identified by the IAR.
- NLIS is still a significant way off but still need to occur.
- AAA magazine was outsourced last year and has not been a happy experience. An electronic version is coming out next month. Still trying to get a printed version happening but is very expensive.
- 2 vacancies currently exist on the board as well as 2 Board members coming up for re-election at the next AGM. Ian invited anyone who may be considering such a role to please come forward and nominate.
- Nigel asked about meat and hides. Ian responded that the working party responsible for this has been anything but active due to time constraints'.
- Dennis queried what is happening in the area of research. Ian responded that RIDC obtain funds from AAA for this. Great progress is currently happening in regard to artificial insemination research. A research study has recently been completed on the inheritance of colour genetics and is available to read on the AAA web site. A number of other projects are also underway.
- Narelle asked if the proposed new DNA system will keep records on file as they are not presently for stud males. Females along with their cria will also need to be tested under the new system.
- Q alpaca was set up for JD. The vets want room to move regarding post mortems; however it is the remit of animal Health Australia to make such decisions. There should be no need to be part of both Q alpaca and MAP, breeder can choose.

3). Show and display reports

- All events have done well

4) Trailer Purchase update

- New trailer is now in place and registered, the region now has 3 trailers.

5). NAW

Discussed earlier in meeting.

6). LAN reports.

- Secretary has received several sets of minutes from the NE and MNC Groups and notice for an upcoming Taree LAN meeting.
- Nigel said a Hunter LAN meeting will be organised before the end of the year.

7). Marketing

- Major event has been NAW. Good materials were received by AAA office but arrived late. There is some leftover which can be distributed equitably across the region.
- Banners are going to be updated once the new logo is available.
- Nigel would like to see the region doing more promotional work and fill the gap between individual breeders and what is done nationally, working toward attracting new members. Nigel is interested in hearing feedback from members.

8) General Business

- Locale information for regional pamphlet. Narelle suggested we should not advertise LANS but as a region as a whole, varied opinion on this. Discussion also had on how much detail each member should have in their listing in regions booklet i.e. full addresses or not. Nigel proposed that the discussion goes out to full membership via a survey to gain consensus. Motion put forward on this and all agreed.
 - Hmmm future – discussed elsewhere in meeting
 - Regional directory – discussed elsewhere in meeting
 - Appointment of Education Officer. Introduction to Lindy Brown, the regions new Education Officer and committee member. Lindy would like to know what interest members have in running the stewards course in the region again.
 - New Regional Procedures for submission of education and training days. All educational event proposals to be sent in writing to Lindy. All marketing event proposals to be sent to Nigel, they will then put to whole committee for decision making.
 - Nominations for Regional RAS representatives. Wayne McCauley requested via the Secretary for 3 members to nominate to be the regions representatives on the RAS committee. Charlie called for anyone interested to nominate. Narelle gave an overview of what's involved – approximately 2 to 3 meetings per year and some work at the Sydney royal when on. Wayne and Narelle have been in these roles for some years now and feeling a bit tired. If anyone can please help, to contact Narelle.
3. Next OGM – Central Coast. Will be the Christmas meeting and probably held in late November. Emma Griffith kindly offered to host at her home.

Deborah Smith - Secretary NSW Central Coast/Hunter Region