

Como Se Llama?

New Zealand Llama Association Inc



Autumn

2016 Newsletter

**NEW ZEALAND
LLAMA ASSOCIATION INC.**



Como se Llama Autumn 2016 Magazine

From The Editor

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter.

It felt like the clocks changed and so did the weather, much colder at night now so make sure you are ready for winter, hay in the barn, shelter for the animals and plenty of wood in the shed to keep yourself warm.

There are some interesting reads in here of people out and about with their llamas.

Judy, Ruth, Stephen and Tamara have put in a lot of hard work in for the AGM. We would love to see you there.

2016 AGM – North Island = 7th May 2016

See inside for more details

The next newsletter will be following shortly, and I'm looking for contributions. Please email photos, news etc to admin@llamatrekking.co.nz

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Front cover : by Keith Payne - Hope Valley trek 2013

Llamas in the news

Ollie the mind-reading Llama and his owner, Maggie Jee of Peak Hill Llamas. Ref shs 05-16AW 8657. Picture: Alex Walton



Ollantay (Olly) was one of my llamas that I sold to Maggie (Peak Hill Llamas) when I decided to emigrate to New Zealand. It is so lovely to see how he has developed, as when I sold him he was only two and only been out on a few walks. She has clicker trained him to recognise colours as well as other little tricks, but she noticed he was picking the correct colour before she asked him to. So she videoed an experiment to see if he could read her mind !!

“I decided I wouldn’t say the colour, just think it – and he still got every single one right.”

“He is the stand-out of the nine-strong herd, but I am also suspicious of Golly – who seems to have learned to recognise colours all by himself.”

Golly was the most amazing llama I have ever owned, and I nick named him “Santas Little Helper” because he would help me, no joke ! If another llama wasn’t cooperating with me he would bound on over and give them a telling off.

www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/video_ollie_the_mind_reading_llama_1_4416516

Lending Library

Books: available for loan to NZLA members....

Alpaca a Homeopathic and Natural Approach by Tineke Verkade

Alpacas A Basic Veterinary Reference by peter Aitken BVSc

The Waldo chronicles - A Training Log by Gwen Ingram

Medical and Surgery of Sth American Camelids by Dr Murry Fowler

The Camelid Companion by Marty McGee-Bennett

A Guide to Raising Llamas by Gale Birutta

Evaluating a llama pack by Gwen Ingram

Packing with llamas by Stanlynn Daugherty

Llama Driving by Ron Shinnick

Fundamentals of felt making by Patricia Spark

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas by Clare Hoffman

DVD - Click & Reward vol 2 :

Video: The Mallon Method; The ultimate llama groom.

Magazine - past Como Se llama

Contact: Jackie Middleton 03 3156152 avalonllamas@gmail.com

NZLA AGM

7th May 2016

Camelid Workshop hosted by NZLA

Saturday 7th May 2016

384 Takapu Road Tawa ,Wellington.Meet at 9.30. Programme runs from 10 to 4.30pm

Followed by the NZ Llama Association Inc AGM at 5pm

For anyone who has or is interested in getting, Alpaca, Llama or Guanaco

Topics will include

- Concepts of care, training, uses of the different breeds
- Practical training to halter, lead, load, handle new experiences
- Obstacle and PR training
- Fibre analysis, preparation, grading and use
- How to read a histogram and why do we want to?
- Demonstration of dying and spinning, including novelty yarns
- The llama and guanaco as a rare breed in NZ, how we can preserve them.
- Veterinary. How to avoid drench resistance, do a FEC, inject and general care.
- Breeding objectives, planning and achieving them.

All breeds will be present to you to see and assess

Cost free to members of the NZLA or \$20 per person and includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

Spaces are limited so prior booking is essential

Contact Ruth on 04 526 3304, e-mail secretary@llamas.org.nz

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About Facial Eczema

This report is from Gribbles Veterinary, for the sheep and dairy industry but is just as important for llamas.

Facial eczema (FE) affects most ruminants including camelids, but especially cattle and sheep throughout most North Island regions plus the northern end of the South Island. FE is responsible for serious production losses estimated to be around \$200m annually with affected stock suffering liver and skin damage, which together contribute to ill-thrift, reduced fertility, reduced milk and meat production and, if left unprotected, in worst cases death.

During summer and autumn months warm, humid conditions together with dead litter in pasture support the growth of a fungus (*Pithomyces chartarum*) in pasture.

Animals graze toxic pasture and once in the rumen the spores release a mycotoxin sporidesmin, which then enters the blood stream eventually finding its way into the liver. The toxin specifically attacks the cells of the bile duct resulting in the liver being unable to process and excrete waste products and phylloerythrin, a chlorophyll breakdown product. Infected animals display signs of photosensitisation and look distressed. The first signs are often reddening and swelling of skin exposed to the sun (i.e. around the eyes, ears, lips and nose) as well as restlessness, shaking and rubbing of the head and ears, and seeking shade.

Prevention of Facial Eczema

With careful planning and implementing a sound FE management plan, farmers can take control of the risk of facial eczema. Prevention is the only recognised method of avoiding FE. Ensure all staff are aware of the associated risks and dangers of FE but ensure the plan is implemented when spore counts are rising but before clinical signs are identified.

Predict Risk/Monitor management Programme

There are a variety of testing options that can assist determining if animals are at risk or to check that your management programme is working. It is recommended that 10 cows are selected to test for serum zinc and GGT 3-6 weeks after your management programme has started (Facial Eczema – Management for New Zealand dairy herds, Dairy NZ).

Essential to start FE control early.

Ideally start prevention with zinc treatment and Fungicidal sprays, two or three weeks before the spore growth danger period for maximum protection.

Out and about with llamas

Uta took her llamas Juan and Carlos to the SPCA Open Day on Sunday 14th Feb. It was very hot there.



Out and about with llamas

Keith and Diane have been exploring their back yard at The Hurunui river. They have done a few one night trips.



2016 Kaikohe Show.

Rangemore Royal Blue flying the NZLA flag at the 2016 Kaikohe Show. For a number of years the team from Rangemore have put on a display under the NZLA banner. Usually this consists of a fibre display with everything from raw fibre through to spun fibre and the finished products. This is along with laminated posters and examples of pack saddles. The NZLA display, along with other rare breed group displays, always attract a large section of the crowd and we use llama walks to draw them in.

This was the first time Roy has done the job on his own but there wasn't enough room in the van for a second llama, so he and we had no choice. Being on his own seems to have him more alert and watchful, and when he saw a large sheep being led around in a halter, he lost the plot a little, and wanted to flee. It was a little hard not to laugh at his overreaction, but then again he possibly has never seen a sheep up close on halter before. Hopefully he is over that now as we are grazing our neighbor's five pet sheep. No doubt we will be back at the Kaikohe show in 2017, so it will be good to see if he has learned that sheep don't eat llamas, in fact, barely acknowledge them



HANMER LLAMAS COAST TO COAST TREK

It's been four years since Tony and Keith attempted to find a viable route from the East coast to the West coast, over the Southern Alps. Tony had long pondered the idea as a product for our treks and so to test its viability the two set off and as previously reported had quite an adventure when that route proved virtually inaccessible.

Hence attempt number two. After much research including a route flyover it was decided to take another group of hardy trekkers to test out the viability of another possible route. So with March being the only weather friendly month in which to attempt the crossing, on March 8th the group assembled at our home ready to leave early the next morning. The success of this trek was to prove very much due to preparation rather than simply good luck.

The group consisted of Tony, Stuart and Amber Yuill Proctor, Bregje (Brekia), Miles Duncan and Tommy Parker. Tony, Stuart and Amber need no introduction, Bregje had joined us on previous multi day treks but Miles and Tommy were complete llama novices. Tommy, a writer/photographer from California had been approached by an adventure magazine to join the trek in order to write an article for the magazine while Miles has a connection with us through our business and was keen as mustard to join the trek. So two fit young men in their mid sixties, two fit, younger men in their mid thirties, a widowed mum of three incredible young ladies and our 'always up for a llama trek' Amber.

The preparation by Tony was mind boggling. Safety first so emergency locator beacons, mountain radio, comprehensive first aid kits for both humans and llamas. Our usual vacuum packed fresh food was a no go for 6 trekkers for 8 days due to perishable and weight issues, the required fitness of both humans and llamas was a no brainer and equipment and appropriate clothing had to be considered against weight carried by each individual llama. Then there was the route planning; maps that had to be backed up with GPS and compass, camp sites, land owners and Doc, accounting for all weather conditions, transport to and from the departure and arrival points.



In fact there was a plan B for every eventuality so the check list was comprehensive and the shopping list was looong! Tony was running round like a chook without a head two days before departure so while he was setting out all the llama gear, double and triple checking such details as llama feed, sorting out camp gear etc Bregje was a godsend and did the grocery shopping in Christchurch with a checkout tab of \$1500 plus.

It was a huge job but eventually each pack had been weighed to each individual llama with some items including the camp chairs having to be discarded, the food was sorted into each day's supplies, the trekkers had arrived at home and everyone had headed off to bed ready for an early departure.

At 2am we were woken by a hammering on the front door. It was the police telling us we had to evacuate due to a fire down the road; being at the end of the road we were the last to go so by then there was some urgency. Everyone had a rude awakening and we stumbled out to the cars just as a police car pulled up to give us a hurry up telling us a neighbour's house had already gone, which proved to be wrong but a close call. However we reached the roadblock in a panic asking to go back and get our animals out. A police officer offered to escort us back to the llamas and our son was woken to be told he had minutes to get from Hanmer Springs to the roadblock so he could be accompanied back to get his dogs out. At that stage there were flashing lights, fire engines and police everywhere and we could see the raging fire but still had no idea of the situation so you can imagine how we were panicking about our animals.

The men departed and Amber and I were left sitting at the roadblock (Bregje had spent the night in Hanmer Springs) so off we went into Hanmer Springs to sit it out. To cut a long story short it was a long night without sleep with media reports exaggerating the situation and mobile coverage down although Stuart eventually managed to get through to say they were safely camped down at the river where they could see the fire. On a positive note the fire got nowhere near our house and Tommy got some amazing photos of the fire. While I was at the evacuation headquarters the next morning being told they had no idea when we could return home and someone had been sent out to look for Tony & co to supply them with food and drinks, I received a call from Tony to say they had snuck home some time ago (while actually still under evacuation orders) and were tucking into a hearty breakfast! Needless to say a few choice words were exchanged.

So albeit a day later than planned the next day the trek was finally on. It was a beautiful day and they set off in earnest from the Hope Valley departure point with some concern about the river being a little high but everyone crossed safely. This first day was to be the longest walking day of just over 14 km so it was a steady pace but with fresh legs and the sun on their backs it was pleasant. The average walking time was 3.5km per hour to this point with a stop for an hour at Poplars Hut for lunch. Through the gorge and then setting up camp on the first flat with a hot, nourishing meal Bregja prepared; excelling as camp cook for the entire trek. The first two days meals were prepared fresh and the home baking lasted exactly that long then it was backcountry packet meals from then on.

Day two wasn't a nice day weather wise so up early and away by 10am, planning to go past the first flat, to Top Hope hut. It was raining and a strong westerly, the llamas don't like it and would rather stay put.



There was a welcome break for lunch at St Jacobs hut for 1.5 hours and by the time they moved on the weather had set in. With rain pelting down and wind howling the morale was still high, even after several river crossings, and by the time they arrived at Top Hope hut the weather had cleared. The llamas were all secured on a long rope so it was much easier, saving weight and tethering gear. The hut had a good fire so all gear dried out overnight and everyone was well rested. The calculations were working out well - total distance to this point was 25.96 kms.



Day three: An easier day today. Miles was up early for a hunt while everyone else slept in until bacon and eggs were served. It was free time until midday so some went for a walk just to explore, the younger men went hunting while others went for a fish. The next destination was Clump Creek, approximately six kms so after everything was packed they set off only to find the track was pretty rough and needing some work. They arrived at Clump Creek at 5.30pm and camped on a beautiful flat with a plan to stay two nights in order to give the llamas a good rest. General consensus on the back country meals was that they're plentiful, tasty and nourishing. (Just not for seven days in a row though that was yet to be experienced)!

Day four: Free day so Miles and Tommy went hunting and came back with venison for dinner making them the heroes of the night when everyone tucked into venison casserole. Tony took Stuart and Amber for a walk upstream and Amber had a shot out of his 243 and enjoyed learning some hunting tips while Bregje had enjoyed some quiet time.

Day five: An early start heading for the pass. Going down the other side proved to be the most challenging of the entire trip and for Tony the revelation that this route wouldn't be a possibility as a product. While he had considered walking the route prior to the trek he'd concluded that that would take away the anticipation and excitement of trail blazing so he'd contented himself with a flyover, research and maps. As it turned out the track was too dangerous to take anyone other than experienced and fit trekkers and certainly not paying clients. There were steep descents, huge boulders and log jams to be conquered and the total kms travelled today was 4.5kms. Tony considered that they may need a free day to rest the llamas at Trent Junction.

Day six: Today was another hard day; they walked 8.5kms of hard riverbed to arrive at the Tutaekiri hut. It was slow going, starting out at 9.54am and arriving at the hut at 6pm. Everyone has been amazed at the resilience and capabilities of the llamas, not least the possum trappers they encountered halfway down. They were astounded that any animal could have traversed that route. Even though the trek is proving to be harder with each new day the mood and camaraderie amongst the group is very strong with each feeling a great sense of achievement. Tomorrow is to be a free day to rest up and then an early departure heading for home.



Day seven: The day started with a porridge breakfast then while the others set off fishing Bregje and Tony stayed back and tended to the llamas. To get the trekkers and llamas back home Tony and I had previously taken a float over to the end point and left it there. On the last day Elizabeth Yuill Proctor and I were to take a car over, meeting up with Keith Payne with another float, and all head over to Kopara on the West Coast. We were to meet up with the trekkers when they came out of the bush with an expected sighting of them between 2pm -4pm.

Day eight: It had started to rain the night before and it was steady all night. The trekkers got up early to make a good start only to find the river was up and too dangerous to cross. It had rained all night at the head of the valleys so I got a call at home from mountain radio to say Tony had asked them to advise me that they'd have to stay put and be out the next day instead. Well Elizabeth had texted to say she was already at Amberley and Keith had already left home an hour away and didn't have a mobile phone. I tossed up whether to sit at the West Coast highway/Hanmer Springs turnoff to try to flag him down or drive towards him in an attempt to save him driving all that way. I decided on the latter and what ensued was me flashing lights and tooting the horn all to no avail until we were well past the West Coast turnoff anyway. Meanwhile the trekkers had had to settle down on a cold and and rainy West Coast day and simply wait for the rain to stop. By 3pm it eased up and the river went down dramatically. The llamas had rested and had a good feed and there was still enough food

for the trekkers for another day or so. All are now proficient in packing up their own llamas so it's a team effort getting away in the mornings.



Day nine: So a day late getting out and the trekkers were up early knowing that myself, Elizabeth and Keith, would be at the end point waiting from 2pm. Thanks to Tony's planning the mileage and camp points had worked out exactly and at precisely 2.35pm we sighted them walking down the track. The total distance they walked that day was 8.5kms.

Unfortunately being delayed meant Miles and Tommy couldn't stay the night at Nelson Creek Hotel with the rest of us so they departed with Keith who took four llamas home in his float. That first beer barely hit the sides and the pub meal, comfy beds and hospitality was a great way to end the trek. In the morning we all went for a walk around the goldfields site across from the pub and then made a leisurely trip back home.

It has to be said that as the trekkers made their way out of the bush and arrived at the meeting point it was very emotional for them. As a group they'd made strong bonds over the last nine days, relying on each other, developing teamwork, overcoming both physical and mental obstacles and there were confessions of a strong sense of loss with the team breaking up. There was an undeniable sense of satisfaction and every single one of them would go again in a heartbeat. Meanwhile the search for a viable route suitable as a product goes on.



We wrote this story for Selena's kindy portfolio book. They keep a book for each kid and the teachers write stories for the kids and the parents also write their own stories.

We try to write a story each time we get up to something significant etc

Thought we would share it with you and you can tell Robyn and Sara their Llamas are now famous in Upper Hutt.

Selena's has been drawing pictures of Llama's with her teachers at Kindy so it must have made quite an impression on her

Easter Holiday in Christchurch



Selena. With llamas Muse and Lily

We went to stay with uncle Shaune in Christchurch. we went to a big Easter egg hunt with our cousins in the bush in Governors Bay. we also got to go and move Robyn and Sara's llamas from one paddock back to their own paddocks. There were about 40 of them. Dad and I were at the back of the group of people so we got to call them by yelling out "llama, llama, llama". That made them all come running. When you wanted to stop them from going one way you had to put your hands above your head to be taller than them so you were seen as the boss.

IN SEARCH OF THE ORIGINAL LLAMA by Keith Payne

I purchased my first llamas in 2004, ostensibly for their fleece which my wife would utilise in her spinning/knitting, felting activities and I would train them to carry saddles and disappear from time to time into the wilderness with them.

As it turned out, the crafty types would line up for a llama's first shear, and second cut, the interest started to drop for the third cut and vanished for any cuts after that. I thought that was odd.

My llama boys all came to accept the carrying of a pack saddle, but complained bitterly when I attached loaded saddlebags and protested further by laying down part way up each hill we attempted. I thought, this was odd behavior for an animal reputed to be the 'pick up truck of the Andes'

And so commenced my education about llamas. What I was to learn over the years which followed was that most llamas in New Zealand are actually hybrids, that is to say they have been crossed with alpaca at some point, some recent, others less recent. These hybrids may have a very llama phenotype and it takes a trained eye to identify the slight differences in movement, proportion, temperament, etc. But one very distinctive sign is the deterioration in fleece quality as an animal ages. Of course there will always be a movement of .5 – 1.5 micron from birth to a 2 year old, but after that a pureblood llama will maintain fleece quality well into its teens. A continued deterioration in fineness after year two is only evident in hybrids.

And the inability of my llamas to perform on the trail was simply due to their lack of strength, stamina and structural integrity. This seems to be in part due to hybridisation but also attributable to poor breeding decisions, early gelding practices, and lack of a varied diet.

And so I started to lose interest in llamas – they were not capable of achieving the goals we had set for them.

And then I heard about new scientific reports which determined from DNA analysis that the llama is in fact a domesticated guanaco. This re kindled my interest but also seemed to raise a lot of new questions.



These two are both from guanaco father, boy on left has a llama mother, girl on right a guanaco/llama mother

WHEN DID DOMESTICATION TAKE PLACE? – Based on archeological findings and the aging of mummified llama remains, the best estimate is that this occurred some 4,500 years ago.

HOW DID IT FIT HUMAN LIFESTYLE – the native South Americans soon adapted their lifestyles around the llama, not totally different from how North American native people adapted their lifestyles around the buffalo. They used llama dung as fuel to cook over and fertilizer for their crops, fleece for their clothing, bones for utensils and hides for their bedding. Llama transported crops and craft products to market and other essential items back again. In short, the llama became an integrated and essential part of everyday life in the Andes.

WHERE DID THE LLAMA COLOURS COME FROM? – Like most wild animals, guanaco all have very similar markings and colouration. The southern guanaco does have a darker and more reddish tinge to its coat whereas the more northern guanaco are lighter tending towards more brown than red. But in a guanaco's coat there are blacks, whites, browns, reds, etc. As the population of the Andes increased with the years and community groups prospered, so also cultivated beliefs in gods and their role in the well being of the people. So also developed the need to satisfy these gods to ensure success with crops, weather, war, etc and with it the need to sacrifice valued possessions. Llamas and alpacas were accordingly bred, over hundreds of years, for colour and so to be used for sacrifice. Purity of colour became significant, white and black becoming the colours which were considered to have the greatest value. And that is why we see llamas today with so many colour variations and also why breeders may experience a new born having throw back guanaco type of colouration from time to time



This 2 year old female guanaco has the more reddish southern colouring

BUT LLAMAS ARE NOT ALL LIKE GUANACO – the first domesticated guanaco would naturally have the fleece characteristics of guanaco. They would be naturally shedding animals with a low percentage of guard hair (5 – 15%) and a fine inner down averaging 14 – 16 micron. Like guanaco they would not have long hair on their legs, their faces, their ears or between their ears. The Aymara called them Qaara and Quechua called them Lama (ee'aama), today they are known as ccara, cara, kara qara, etc to differentiate them from the chac'u llama, which we know as a woolly llama. The chak'u llama was bred over hundreds of years by selectively seeking to breed out the animal's guard hair which allowed the fine inner down to become more course and the two to effectively become one resulting in the single coat.

After the arrival of the Spanish, the Inca were basically wiped out, huge llama herds were decimated and displaced by European domestic animals - strict breeding discipline vanished.

Interbreeding between the ccara and chak'u types commenced and continues to this day – accordingly we see quite a variety of llama fleece types in the paddocks around New Zealand and all over the world. About 50 years ago intentional crossing of llama with alpaca became common, the objective being a larger animal with greater fleece coverage, fleece of course being sold by weight. You will find that today this crossing of the two breeds is shunned by both alpaca and llama breeders



This girl has no guanaco in her pedigree back to grandparents but has guanaco markings

WHAT ABOUT MORPHOLOGY? – certainly once a breed is domesticated it will experience changes to its phenotype. It is a tough life being a wild guanaco. Only 70% of young will survive their first year. Starvation, bitter weather, puma, poachers, encroaching farm and loggers, etc all take a massive toll. Guanaco population has reduced from over 30 million to less than 500,000 today. Now when you take that wild animal and domesticate it, it means the animal no longer needs to fear puma attack, or poachers, it is provided with sufficient food to eat, protected from the weather and its illnesses seen to. Over the years its teeth will change due to diet, it will become larger and its fleece will not retain its fineness as it no longer requires the protection from weather extremes. And its instincts will also lose their edge.

WHAT ABOUT GUANACO AND LLAMA IN NZ ? – There are few guanaco left in NZ. The ones which are here are descendents from zoos in Australia and Europe. Auckland Zoo did have a large population of guanaco up to the 1980's. Once the guanaco became a protected species and limitations on its international transport were introduced, it became too difficult to source new bloodlines. There was a large shipment of llamas (and alpacas) which arrived in NZ in 1989 and since then a number of private importations from Australia, the UK, the USA and South America. The present llama herd in NZ is estimated at 1600 – 2000 and guanaco about 25 – 30. (guanaco/llama are considered to be llama and included in that number) In fact due to the recent DNA findings, the term guanaco is now correctly used to refer to the wild animal, not the domesticated



*This young lady has a
purebred guanaco
father and a classic
ccara llama type
mother*

BIG EARS LLAMA RANCH, North Canterbury – this is my farm just south of Cheviot where a herd of guanaco are maintained, most of them having their origins in zoos. These guanaco have been DNA tested for breed quality, (that is free of vicuna/alpaca), but there is no way (yet) to determine if they may have been back bred to llama at some point. Breeding objectives are to maintain the pure guanaco lines as well as selectively putting guanaco males over quality ccara type llama girls. To date the progeny are very encouraging. They are well conformed with a tall slim body type, they are all naturally self shedding with a low percentage of guard hair and a fine inner down. We have 15 animals with fleece of 16 – 20 micron and another 20 in the 20 – 24 range. Fleece plays an important part in our mating decisions and we will continue to breed for finer fleece, always striving to get closer to that original llama!

Guanaco have a very unfair repute for being wild and unmanageable. Of course, they are not for everyone and in my view both llama and guanaco should only be kept by people with suitable facilities and perhaps more importantly by people who understand animal husbandry.

Any visit to the farm here is welcomed to allow people to experience first hand these wonderful animals, reluctantly domesticated but quite respectful and prepared to allow handling. Guanaco and guanaco llama progeny make great packers, their strength, agility and stamina is second to none. Their fleece is superb. Like the domesticated llama, their curiosity and intelligence combine to make them very enjoyable.

2016 committee

You can't get yesterday back.

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DEADLINES for the NEWSLETTER, published quarterly are

SUMMER Dec 15, **AUTUMN** March 15, **WINTER** June 15, **SPRING** Sept 15

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Kaikoura Llama trekking - Sylvester