

¿Como Se Llaman?

New Zealand Llama Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Spring - Summer, 2016-2017

Classic and Woolly Studs available at Champenoise Llamas

Ricardo de Llanos

NZLA 20100045

Champion Sire at 2016 Canterbury Show

Stud fee \$750 with live cria guarantee



Rici is one of only ten DNA verified purebred llamas in NZ. He is standing in the North Island this season and bookings are being taken now.

He has the classic fine undercoat so much in demand by spinners and weavers, and an easily removed outer coat.

His progeny has all inherited his excellent conformation and strong immune system making them ideal working llamas.

Phoenix Montezuma NZLA 20070080

Runner-up in Sire's Progeny at the 2016 Canterbury Show.

Stud fee \$600 with live cria guarantee.

Monte is a large, heavy-fleeced llama who has thrown a wide variety of colours. He has gained his Level 2 pack certification.

His suri background has resulted in many silky fleeced progenies.

One daughter won Champion Walking Fleece & another was Best All-Round Llama at only 10 months old.



Contact Judy Webby for more information, to view progeny or to book a service.

8 Wi Tako Street, RD 31, Levin, Horowhenua.

judy@askjudy.co.nz

Phone 06 362 6745

Mobile 027 271 7192

Cover Photo: Clar Innis Oliver ('Ollie') chills out after celebrating his 15th birthday.

(Photo: Graeme Butterfield)



From the Guest Editor:

Last November our hearts went out to all members and llamas affected by the severe ‘Kaikoura’ earthquake. So, when Keith asked me to step in to produce the next Newsletter, I readily agreed. Now, four weeks on, I am in awe of the job that first Julie and then Lynn have done over the years in producing a regular Newsletter for members. I have had to learn a lot about desktop publishing (who ever knew that the total number of pages must be divisible by four!), so I hope that this effort gets close to their standards.

Huge thanks to all members who provided articles and photographs! Highlights include excellent, timely contributions on re-homing, preparing for emergencies, learning about fleece testing, Barber’s Pole worm and, of course, the Canterbury Show, supplemented by snippets of news about, and photos of, llamas doing llama things. Hopefully you will enjoy reading it.

Many thanks to Judy Webby for her assistance, and to Pat for her patience over the Christmas/New Year period. Best wishes for 2017!

Graeme Butterfield

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Advertisers: Champenoise Llamas
(Judy Webby)

NEW ZEALAND LLAMA ASSOCIATION INC
www.llamas.org.nz

Members out-and-about

Boxing Day Walk *Judy Webby*

The weather was magnificent for the traditional Camelid Companions Boxing Day walk. This year we tried a new venue, the formed tracks on the Otaki river bank. Options were a 2.5 hour return trip to the sea, or 1.5 hour for Chrystalls Bend with a pleasant picnic spot at the estuary. We chose Chrystalls Bend: because of heavy machinery working, this track is usually only walkable after 5pm on weekdays, from noon on Saturdays and all day Sunday. Boxing Day was an honorary Sunday.



Due to other commitments or lack of transport, none of the alpacas could join us but I persuaded three llamas to squeeze into my small float and we met as arranged at 10.30.

From the left. Gisela Parker, Fernando, Alex Jermunson, Francesca, Sierra O'Donnell, Fabio, Judy Webby.

From the left. Gisela Parker, Fernando, Alex Jermunson, Francesca, Sierra O'Donnell, Fabio, Judy Webby.

Gisela and John Parker joined us from Upper Hutt, and Alex Jermunson and Mike O'Donnell brought their daughter up from Ohariu. Mike had his mother visiting so they went off for a coffee while we were walking. The llamas were decorated with a Christmas theme, Mike took a group photo and we were off by 10.45. The 1st obstacle was a weave through a stone wall. After that there were a wide range of rockfalls and wire rope fences to practise negotiating.

All went smoothly until we came to a very narrow metal barrier, both the yearlings could squeeze through the straight channel or the weave, but it was impossible for Fabio. The wire fence was too high for him and the gaps in the rockfalls too dangerous. Just when it seemed that we were going to have to turn back we found an area of the wire rope fence that was loose enough to lift up so he could duck under. There are a lot of sponsored plantings and it will be a delight to see these grow up. We were all very careful to ensure that none of these were damaged by the llamas.

After a pleasant walk through a mix of open land and bush areas we stopped for a break in a clearing and allowed the llamas to graze on long leads, this was also an opportunity for yearling Fernando to learn to untangle himself from a rope around a leg without outside assistance. It is interesting to see them work this problem out for themselves, while being there to make sure it did not become a dangerous situation.



The return trip to the car park was a lot quicker as the llamas and handlers had the obstacles sussed out. We stopped by the riverbank to allow the llamas a welcomed drink and a splash in the pools.

This was the first time we had tried this particular trail and we will definitely be back to use it again.

JW



Llamas Out Fund-Raising

Uta Bleidistel

Once again some of my llamas have been out fund-raising in New Plymouth this Spring. In October it was for Pink Ribbon Day (breast cancer), and in November in aid of the SPCA. I always take Carlos (dark llama) and Juan (tall, spotted) as they are used to traffic. The only thing they don't like is motorbikes as they make a loud noise. They both love it when people come up to pet and talk to them, though I always tell people not to touch them when approaching from behind as this frightens them. They are both very well behaved and don't do 'business' on the sidewalk.



For the SPCA fund-raising (photo at left) I took Juan and Carlos, as always, to the Westpac Bank because the employees know

that I always bring them and I am allowed to bring them inside the Bank and we get a lot of donations. The photos in the collage below were taken on Pink Ribbon Day.



Llama Lives



*A dear friend remembered. From yearling to invalid: Matenga Amadeus.
(Photos: Graeme Butterfield)*

NZLA NOTICE BOARD

EVENTS, 2017

NZLA Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 6th May, 2017, Fernhill Llamas, Governors Bay, Lyttelton
Hosted by Sara Crane and Simon Gurnsey

Camelid Dynamics Course

22nd – 24th July 2017, in person with Marty McGee Bennett
Ipswich, Queensland

Canterbury A & P Show

15th – 17th November, 2017

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 Ingra

Medical and Surgery of Sth American Camelids, by Dr Murray 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

Also available: DVD's; Videos; Past 'Como se Llama' Newsletters

Contact: Jacky Middleton, 03 3156152 avalonllamas@gmail.com

LLAMAS in the NEWS

Special Forces Llamas

Stephen Mulholland

We all know that llamas are special, but did you know that, on occasion, they are used by Special Forces? When those elite troops go sneaking into the backcountry, far from any road, they often take pack animals so they can carry more gear. While mules and donkeys are more commonly used, when llamas are available they get high marks from the troops.

In Afghanistan in 2001 the US was sending forces into the mountains and they needed a pack animal solution, and llamas were the answer. They gathered four untrained llamas, and in three weeks put them through their paces and trained them as pack animals. Then they loaded them into crates, put them on a C-130 transport plane, and parachuted them into the back-blocks of Afghanistan! When the llamas and human troops hit the ground they simply



took the llamas from their crates, loaded them up with weapons and ammunition, and marched into the mountains. (And I wonder what level of pack certification that would qualify for?)

There is even an army manual for Special Forces pack animals (<http://fas.org/irp/doddir/army/fm3-05-213.pdf>), which rates the llama quite highly for its soft feet, sure footing, and willingness to work. Their ability to ignore the smell of blood and the sound of gunfire is also a bonus. They were also highly regarded for their natural quiet behavior (no braying like a donkey!), while being highly observant of their surroundings.



The Israeli army also put llamas to use for their reconnaissance units for a time, where they were well regarded: *"The llama is a quiet and disciplined animal that can carry huge loads," a military source said. "Vehicles make noise and need roads and fuel. We've tried donkeys and they*

are not suitable for such missions."

The sources said the army has been training special forces to conduct low-signature ground missions in enemy territory. In January, llamas were employed in a special forces exercise in the Golan Heights.

It appears that the Israeli army has since stopped using llamas in these roles, replacing them with a high-tech solution (GPS-guided gliders). I do notice that in the photos, all the llamas they are using are Blue Eyed Whites. I can see where deafness would be a huge advantage,

as the animals would be less likely to be started or frightened by the tremendous noise of combat.

Credits:

- <https://altiplanoinsulation.com/blogs/journal/117513027-afghan-llamas>
- <http://www.military.com/special-operations/2013/10/08/advanced-horsemanship-training-for-sof.html>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/04/AR2007020401111.html>
- http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2006/me_military_02_17.html



(The following extract appeared in "Business Day", Stuff, Fairfax Media, 26 November, 2016. For the full article, see credit below. Ed.)

Private public partnerships in tourism – nothing to spit at.

Mike O'Donnell

“While everyone agrees more tourism infrastructure is needed, there is less agreement on the best way to fund it, Mike O'Donnell says.



Two weeks ago the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association staged the 153rd Christchurch Show. Over 100,000 people attended the three-day event. Having not attended a show for 30 years I was struck by the scale and the professionalism of the event, not to mention the diversity.

From motocross aces flying through the air on KTM's, to solar heating demonstrations and show-hunter horses

clearing 1.8 metre fences. There were even a few camelids. It was the latter that drew my family down, with my two daughters competing in llama classes for fleece and agility.

I was loitering around the llamas trying to assure the kids trying to pat the animals that they were unlikely to be spat at, when I met Tony and Suzi Pearce.

What first started as an interest in getting a llama for a pet for Tony and Suzi has evolved into a full time tourism operation with a llama trekking business.

Overseas tourists get to load all their gear onto one of these regal 150 kilogram trekking machines and enjoy the splendour of the Southern Alps. They even do a nine day llama trans-alpine traverse.....

Mike "MOD" O'Donnell is an e-commerce manager, professional director and married to a llama wrangler. While this column is MOD's personal opinion, for full disclosure he is also a director of Tourism New Zealand and a former chairman of Positively Wellington Tourism.”

(Photo: Sierra and Tallulah O'Donnell with Champenoise llamas lent by Judy Webby. Ed.)

Credit: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/opinion-analysis/86875278/mike-odonnell-private-public-partnerships-in-tourism--nothing-to-spit-at>



(The following extract and photo appeared in nzherald.co.nz and independent.co.uk in July. For the full articles, see full credits below. Ed.)

Tour de France set to be infested by llamas

“Tour de France riders might come across another unexpected obstacle tomorrow morning...riders may now have to deal with a group of llamas. The Tour is set for one of its hardest stages, a famously difficult climb on the Col du Tourmalet in the Pyrenees, and according to photos taken last week, one of the climbs through the mountains is also a popular spot for llamas to gather on the roads.” (nzherald.co.nz)



On 2nd July a group of around 20 llamas was pictured sitting on a road that forms part of the Tour’s course. Apparently their owner lets them roam the hillsides freely in summer, and occasionally on cold or foggy mornings the llamas decide to wander down on mass and kush on the road to warm up (Joel Sagada/Facebook).

Credits: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=11671570
<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cycling/tour-de-france-2016-llamas-stage-eight-col-du-tourmalet-a7128461.html>

Five Steps to (Sunbathing) Heaven: Ollie’s Summer Routine



Each summer morning, after breakfast Ollie wanders to his favourite patch, nibbles to prepare his pillow, then subsides in slow motion from a kush to a belly-up sunbathing pose.
(Time-lapse photos: Graeme Butterfield)

LLAMA GALLERY I



Earthquake baby Mabel on the left, Trixi, babysitter supreme and mother of Holly (laying down) with Polly blowing in her ear. (Photo: Keith Payne)



Belvedere Moet poses with visitors from Hong Kong. (Photo: Brenda McLean)



These two fellows are just completing their training and will soon be joining the overnight llama packing team at Hammer Llamas. Left: Tango de Pampa Right: Flash de Patagonia. (Photo: Keith Payne)



Christmas cria, named Fernhill Leonard after Leonard Cohen. Born at Fernhill, Governor's Bay, Christmas Day. (Photo: Simon Garnsey)



Polly and Stewart McLean share a moment at Windermere Alpacas and Llamas. (Photo: Brenda McLean)

Llama Re-homing Update

Mara Davison

I thought NZLA members would appreciate an update on the re-homing of Penny Stevenson's llamas. Well, I ended up giving a home to five of them!

I have always wanted llamas since I visited a rare breeds centre in England thirty years ago and more recently fifteen years ago at the Sydney Easter Show. I arrived in NZ about five years ago and decided to buy a lifestyle block in the Marlborough Sounds. From day one I earmarked a section which I called the 'Llama Field' and here I would eventually put my llamas. With fifty acres and only previous experience with dogs, cats, chickens and horses, I decided I would try and give a permanent home to animals people didn't want or could no longer keep due to unforeseen circumstances. With this ideal in mind, I gave a home to five pigs, forty turkeys, numerous chickens, several goats, six emus, six cats and finally my lovely, lovely new llamas.



When I read Penny Stevenson's letter trying to find a permanent home for her much-loved llamas, I knew it was time to have llamas. I had been distracted for several years getting a mini horse, donkeys and Arapawa goats but now it was llama time. I informed my ever-patient husband that we would now need some sort of llama enclosure. So, we set about, over several weekends to get an enclosure established and a shelter. Penny was very understanding and gave us time to get things ready and right. She came and met my husband and I and it was quickly established that we were all animal lovers and had common sense to know what was required by the llama boys in their new home. Getting the right environment for the llamas is an ongoing project as we have to enclose a further area that will give them access to lots of rough grazing and a maze of tracks through the manuka and gorse.

The llama boys seem to have settled in well since they arrived about six weeks ago. They have met the six dogs, horses, goats and donkeys and have not been fazed by these new creatures at all. Within a week I had the boys eating out of my hand and allowing me to give them a cuddle! The vet is paying them a visit in the next few weeks to check them out and I was fortunate enough to be able to get the vet that has always looked after them.

There is still such a lot for me to learn about llamas and I hope I will have plenty of time to do that. I really do love my new llamas!

Canterbury A & P Show, November 2016: Convener's Report. *Keith Payne*

Several key changes to the llama compound, as well as to attendance rules, were important elements of this year's Canterbury show. The new, larger judging area was an important improvement, especially as the old judging area had been changed into an adjacent holding area, which permitted the classes to flow smoothly one into another. Entering the holding area from the compound itself through a new gate also facilitated llama movement.

Inside the compound, deer pens had been introduced to safeguard intact males and were available to exhibitors who wished to employ them. This certainly did contribute to a more relaxed show for a number of llama owners.

For the first time, llama owners could select which days their llamas would attend the Show. All exhibitors took advantage of this option. Another feature was that llamas were not required to be TB tested prior to attending.

Manuel de Patagonia was selected as Supreme Champion and went forward for Best of Show honours, being called forward in a shortlist of five and receiving complimentary comments from the MC.

Next year will enable us to build on this the success of this year. We are asking for a volunteer to become Convener for the 2017 Show. Our thoughts are that a small team to share the effort has advantages over an individual.



*Sara Crane's Fernhill Muse, Fernhill Echo and Fernhill Medoc, at Canterbury A&P Show
(Photo: Simon Gurnsey/Sara Crane)*

Canterbury A & P Show, November 2016: From a Judge's and a Visitor's Perspective

Janette Buckingham

It was my pleasure to be invited to judge the NZLA Walking Fleece and Craft sections at the Canterbury A & P Show in November. Most judges (of anything) say that their task was very, very hard, and my job of selecting the better entries in the walking fleece was no exception. In fact I would say it was one of the most challenging tasks I've ever undertaken – I did not expect to encounter such consistently fine fibre, and to select the best of what I considered to be the best was a tough call.

As a long time member of NZLA, and previously of ALANZ, I am proud to think that we have Llama fibre of such a high standard in New Zealand, and I think the owners of these llamas should be equally proud of what they have achieved with their animals. On this note, I was very happy to accept the invitation to judge at The Show, which acknowledges that our Llama fibre has significance - after so many years of having my llamas referred to as Alpacas, which, with all due respect to the Alpaca breeders and their animals, I have found rather tedious.

Although the Canterbury A & P Show is a mammoth event, I had no trouble finding the NZLA site, and that was before I had studied the official guide - to find the site highlighted with a yellow panel, along with other significant displays!

Naturally I was sorry that there weren't very many entries in the craft section, but I was truly delighted by the overall display of lovely handcrafted items. I hope visitors to the NZLA site were as suitably impressed, as I felt the standard of these items would have been worthy of any craft exhibition at national level, and a wonderful advertisement for Llama fibre. I went back to get a photo later on the Thursday, only to discover that everything was packed up. I do hope that someone managed to get photos of this display, because it was not to be missed.

Congratulations to our NZLA show committee on a job very well done. I was so happy to be part of it, and thank you all for being such wonderful hosts.



Champenoise Farah, Champion Walking Fleece, also shown as a cria. (Photo Judy Webby)

RESULTS: Canterbury A & P Show, November 2016

LLAMA SECTION 2016 Canterbury Show

- AW 8849 Supreme Champion Conformation:** Keith Payne, *Manuel de Patagonia*
AW 8881 Best Overall All Round Llama: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*
AW 8864 Champion Walking Fleece: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Farah*
AW 8865 Reserve Champion Walking Fleece: Jacky Middleton, *Pippi Longstocking*
AW 8814 Champion Female: Keith Payne, *Sophie*
AW 8815 Reserve: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Hillary*
AW 8830 Champion Male: Keith Payne, *Manuel de Patagonia*
AW 8831 Reserve: Keith Payne, *Archie*
AW 8837 Champion Gelded Llama: Tony Pearce, *Joey*
AW 8838 Reserve Champion Gelded Llama: Tony Pearce, *Josh*
AW8845 Champion Dam Progeny: Keith Payne, *Manuella*
AW 8847 Champion Sire Progeny: Keith Payne, *Ricardo*
AW 8868 Champion PR: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Alpha Fields Greystone*
AW 8869 Reserve Champion: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*
AW 8872 Champion Obstacles: Tony Pearce, *Joey*
AW 8873 Reserve Champion Obstacles: Tony Pearce, *Inca*
AW 8878 Champion Packing: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Kirsonara Theo*
AW 8879 Reserve Champion Packing: Tony Pearce, *Inca*
AW 8880 Supreme Champion Performance Llama: Stuart Yuill-Proctor, *Kirsonara Theo*
AW 8852 Champion Craft: Sara Crane



Manuel de Patagonia, Supreme Champion Conformation, moves forward with Keith Payne to represent llama for 'Best of Show'. At left, Alistair MacDonal, Judge.



Champenoise Francesca, Best Overall All Round Llama (Judy Webby)

Suri

8798 Senior Suri Female over 3 years

- 1st : Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Morning Glory*
- 2nd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Karousel*
- 3rd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Paulette*

8802 Junior Suri Male less than 16 months

- 1st: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Blizzard*
- 2nd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Medoc*
- 3rd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Wylie*

Single/Double

8809 Junior Female Llama less than 16 months old

- 1st: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Hillary*
- 2nd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*

8810 Intermediate Female Llama over 16 months and less than 3 years

- 1st: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Lilly*
- 2nd: Keith Payne, *Dolores*
- 3rd: Keith Payne, *Sophia*

8811 Senior Female over 3 years

- 1st: Keith Payne, *Sophie*
- 2nd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Echo*
- 3rd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Muse*

8824 Junior Male under 16 months

- 1st: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Stephano*
- 2nd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Fernando*
- 3rd: Keith Payne, *Harry*

8827 Intermediate Male over 16 months and less than 3 years

8828 Senior Male over 36 months

1st: Keith Payne, *Manuel*

2nd: Keith Payne, *Archie*

3rd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Estefan*

Gelding

8835 Junior Gelded Llama

8834 Senior Gelded Llama over 3 years

8835 Senior Gelded Llama over 7 years

1st: Tony Pearce, *Joey*

2nd: Tony Pearce, *Josh*

3rd: Keith Payne, *Chico*

4th: Tony Pearce, *Bandit*

Progeny

8842 Dam Progeny

1st: Keith Payne, *Manuella*

2nd: Judy Webby, *Kainga Conchita*

8846 Sire Progeny

1st: Keith Payne, *Ricardo*

2nd: Judy Webby, *Phoenix Montezuma*

3rd: Keith Payne, *Amigo*

Craft

8850 Junior Craft (under 16 years)

1st: Judy Webby, *Tallulah O'Donnell*

2nd: Judy Webby, *Sierra O'Donnell*

8851 Adult Craft

1st: Sara Crane, *Craft Entry*

2nd: Jacky Middleton, *Jacky Middleton*

Walking Fleece

8858 Suri Fleece less than 24 months.

1st: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Knightengale*

2nd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout*

Trump

3rd: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Blizzard*

8859 Suri Fleece over 24 months

1st: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Karousel*

2nd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Paulette*

3rd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Morning Glory*

8860 Single Coat less than 24 months.

1st: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Farah*

2nd: Robyn Robinson, *Llama Lookout Hillary*

3rd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Epernay*



Tallulah O'Donnell & Champenoise Farah in the Parade



8861 Single Coat over 24 months

- 1st: Kevin & Lynn Cole, *Fernhill Noisette*
2nd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Muse*
3rd: Sara Crane, *Fernhill Echo*

8862 Double coat less than 24 months

- 1st: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*
2nd: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Stephano*
3rd: Keith Payne, *Dolores*
4th: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Fernando*

8863 Double Coat over 24 months

- 1st: Jacky Middleton, *Avalon Pippi Longstockings*
2nd: Keith Payne, *Sophia*
3rd: Keith Payne, *Chico*
4th: Keith Payne, *Manuel*

8882 Junior Handler under 16 years

- 1st: Judy Webby, *Tallulah O'Donnell*
2nd: Judy Webby, *Sierra O'Donnell*

Performance

8866 PR Novice (first time)

- 1st: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*
2nd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Fernando*
3rd : Kevin & Lynn Cole, *Fernhill Noisette*
4th: Keith Payne, *Harry*

8867 PR Open

- 1st: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Alpha Fields Greystone*
2nd: Keith Payne, *Sophia*
3rd: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Kirsonara Theo*
4th: Keith Payne, *Sophie*

8870 Obstacles Novice

- 1st: Tony Pearce, *Inca*
2nd: Tony Pearce, *Bandit*
3rd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Francesca*
4th: Keith Payne, *Harry*

8871 Open

- 1st: Tony Pearce, *Joey*
2nd: Keith Payne, *Sophie*
3rd: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Kirsonara Theo*
4th: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor, *Alpha Fields Greystone*

8874 Packing Novice (first time)

- 1st: Tony Pearce, *Inca*
2nd: Judy Webby, *Champenoise Estefan*
3rd: Kevin & Lynn Cole, *Fernhill Noisette*

8876 Open

1st: Tony Pearce, *Josh*

2nd: Keith Payne, *Chico*

3rd: Stuart & Elizabeth Yuill-Proctor,
Kirsonara Theo

4th: Keith Payne, *Manuel*



Right:

*Champion Female Sophie and others
from 'Big Ears Llama Ranch'
at the Canterbury A&P Show*



Shearing: Model Llama Behaviour? *Graeme Butterfield*

Llamas display a variety of behavioural responses to shearing, ranging from total nonchalance to hysteria. This year the behavior of our Julius was exemplary and worthy of report. Upon sighting the shears, he kushed and remained so until all but his legs and belly were trimmed whereupon, without instruction, he stood to allow easy access to the remaining areas. Bliss! No hassle, no bribes, no constraint and over in no time. His smug demeanour in the paddock afterwards was fully justified. Unfortunately, some others failed to follow his example, remaining steadfastly kushed, and still have ragged belly fleece as testament to their lack of co-operation!



Anaemia Alert- The danger of *Haemonchus*

Stephen Mulholland

This article might be “old news” to North Island llama owners, but for those on the South Island you need to know that threats are shifting, and your llamas are at risk.

Haemonchus contortus (also known as the Barber's Pole Worm) is a blood-drinking intestinal parasite. Traditionally it was considered a threat of the warm north, as the larvae could not over-winter successfully if hit with repeated heavy frosts. In the last few years, because of climate change and weirding weather, that threat profile has changed. *Haemonchus* is now everywhere. Unless you have definite proof it is not on your farm (from larval cultures done by your vet), then assume you do. And if you don't have it today, that is no guarantee you won't have it next year. There have now been reported *haemonchus* cases (and deaths) in alpaca as far south as Otago and possibly Southland. So it is definitely moving south and settling in.

Where most worms simply compete for food and cause a slow wasting away, as a blood drinker *Haemonchus* has a different mode of action and requires a different treatment approach.

Camelids evolved to survive at high altitude where the air is thin and oxygen is scarce. Their red blood cells are very efficient. This means a llama can lose a great deal of blood before it shows any signs of distress. Blood loss sufficient to kill a dog or cat may produce no easily visible symptoms in a llama.

Whenever you have a crook llama (or alpaca), checking for anaemia (blood loss) should always be done (“crook” in this case also includes animals that just aborted, or that are showing signs of un-coordination which might otherwise be confused with rye grass staggers). This check is a simple matter, as an anaemic animal has pale membranes. Some people check the tongue or gums for paleness, which can be effective but also sometimes can produce muddled results if the animal has pigmented gums. I prefer to pull back the corner of the eyelid and make sure it is nice and pink. I have seen animals that were so anaemic that these membranes appeared white, and they were still walking around the paddock. If you check multiple animals you'll quickly see the colour difference between a “pale” and “normal” membrane.

It is also important that you check a crook looking animal as soon as is practical. If you say “I'll wait a day or two and see how it goes” I can tell you how it will go if the animal has *haemonchus* – you'll be digging a hole. A large load of *haemonchus* in the gut will be sucking out a large volume of blood every day. In another 24 to 48 hours your llama may well be recumbent, crashing, or dead. (It is also possible for an animal to have a deadly load of *haemonchus* but no fecal eggs. This is because juvenile worms can build up which are drinking blood but not yet reproducing.)

It is possible for a *haemonchus*-afflicted animal to be both dangerously anaemic and hugely fat (BCS 5), so don't think that fatness means safely worm-free.

What do you do if you think your llama has a *haemonchus* infestation?

(1) First: Drench the affected animal. You have to use a fast-acting drench that will kill the worms ASAP. Dextomax can take up to 10 days to kill the worms, a fatal delay. Genesis (abamectin) can deliver a 100% kill in 24 hours. Talk to your vet to find out what they recommend and what is available (though not all vets are aware of potency time for various drench products). Make sure you give the correct dose – about 2 times the sheep dose rate by weight for “-mectin” drenches.

(2) Second: Get the animal into an area where you can care for it over the next week or two. Remember to bring along some buddies, as a sick animal does not need the extra stress of social isolation.

(3) Third: Provide Iron and Vit-B supplementation. It needs the iron to make more red blood cells, and the B-Vitamins to efficiently uptake and utilize the iron.

If all goes well the animal should be fully recovered within a few weeks.

If your animal gets too anaemic, it may need a blood transfusion from a donor llama. Obviously you will need your vets assistance for that. When provided in time, a blood transfusion can be a lifesaver.

Note, there are other possible causes of anaemia: Internal bleeding, liver failure, various cancers, etc. In this case drenching will not help (and may make matters worse), so keeping your vet in the loop when you have a sick llama is always a good idea.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Stephen@alpacasrampant.co.nz.
(See also article on Barber's Pole Worm in 'Como Se Llama', Autumn 2015, pp5-8. Ed.)



Sign in Rocky Mountain National Park, USA (Photo by Stephen Mulholland)



Emergency ready: Preparing for an Emergency

Brenda McLean (Windermere Alpacas & Llamas)

Emergencies don't happen to me – they happen to someone else. But what if they did happen to you? What sort of emergencies are we talking about? It could be anything from illness, a family emergency to a natural disaster.

Perhaps you have a family emergency plan - but what about the farm animals? Do you have an emergency plan for your property? Our neighbour recently had a serious accident and ended up in hospital. He is a farmer so even though he was in hospital, animals still had to be looked after. Fortunately he had a network of support that immediately sprang into action.

Is there someone available, near you, who knows about camelids and could step in if you needed help?

And then there are the natural disasters. Some happen so quickly you have little time to react, while with others you get some notice. Some areas of New Zealand are more likely to experience disasters such as droughts and fires, while others are more likely to have floods. Most areas of New Zealand have the potential to be affected by earthquakes. And then there are the weather events such as cyclones, tornadoes, snow events etc.

What is an emergency plan, and how do I make one? An emergency plan is a plan to cope with situations you hope will never happen.

Firstly, have a good look at your property and the area you live in. Does your area suffer from droughts, fires or floods or other natural 'events'?

Secondly, have a look at your livestock. Do you have stored feed available for them (hay or other stored feed). What about water? If you had to move your animals in an emergency, which ones would you take first? Where would you move them to and how would you move them? A few years ago Canterbury was very dry, and there were a number of fires – some affecting quite large areas & some close to properties. One alpaca owner realised she wouldn't be able to transport all of her alpacas from the danger zone in time, so decided she would, if necessary, put the remainder of her animals in her house. Her rationale was that the firemen would try to save homes and hence her alpacas. Fortunately she didn't have to put this to the test as the fire stopped just short of her property. Not necessarily the best plan, but certainly a creative one that may just have worked.

Thirdly, where do you go if you need help, for example with transport – for livestock, for food and water supplements. Are there alternative routes to your property if there are road

closures? Do you know your neighbours? What will you do if you are away from your property in the event of an emergency?

Lots of questions, some easy to answer, others not so easy, and many others I'm sure you'll have. Being emergency-ready is not just having a plan for the immediate situation – look at long-term options as well. In areas where there are recurring droughts, planting trees and hedges of edible forage plants makes sense. In hilly areas where soils are unstable, consider planting trees to help prevent erosion.

Where does your water come from?

Is your supply reliant on an electric pump, or do you rely on rainwater?

Do you have any alternatives?

Do you have a float to transport animals, or is there someone nearby who is able to help?

In emergency situations, other people are also trying to get their animals to safety, so normal transport options may not be available.

Once you have your plan, leave a copy where people can find it so if you are away from home, your plan can still be actioned.

Remember, in an emergency the accepted practice is 'people first, then animals'.

BM



Emergency! Do you have a plan to take care of your herd in an emergency?

(Photo: Brenda McLean)



Post-Earthquake Camelid Birthing Effects

Linda Blake (Southern Alpacas)

(Linda is an alpaca neo-natal specialist at Southern Alpacas, West Melton, Christchurch. Following the November 14th Kaikoura earthquakes, Linda wrote the following helpful note to affected NZLA members. Ed.)

“I have got your contacts from the NZLA list as living in the area which recently had the big earthquake. I am sending this as helpful information and hope you can pass it on to other llamas owners in the area. I have emailed alpaca breeders from the AANZ list.

Hi to llama owners in the Nelson/Marlborough/Kaikoura area.

First, I hope where you are reasonably stable and secure, if that is possible in the shaky isles of NZ.

I have been prompted to email you after the MPI official said animals were not affected by the quakes. And then a Christchurch alpaca breeder suggested that I tell you that after the Christchurch quake in September 2010, there was a greater incidence of alpaca birthing difficulties encountered. She feels that being aware and wary may save you, your dams and your cria some stress in this coming birthing season. It is likely llamas may be affected in the same way.

This may not affect you, as your quake was different in its forces; Christchurch had a huge upward force, which presumably twisted cria in the womb. We saw alpacas literally levitate from sitting positions during the later daytime quakes.

What we found was that alpacas that birthed between 3 to 4 months after the quake had a higher mal-presentation rate. It appeared to be to do with the stage of gestation and the way our quake shook the womb around. It may also affect alpacas that are due closer to the quake occurrence; ours were due 3 months after the quake and we had a month or two of trauma. The later birthers were OK. We were not the only breeders affected by this and one of the main alpaca vets also noted the trend.

The dystocia that affected us most, which we had never seen pre-quake, was cria seeming to present normally with head and two legs out, alive and breathing with eyes open, but it was impossible to birth them vaginally. Strange as this sounds, the dam could not get the cria out, brute strength did not budge them, vet expertise could not, and several of these resulted in caesareans. We learnt not to wait but to go quickly to a C section and that with the cria being drawn back through the birthing passage, one had to work quickly to get it back and then out and stimulated to keep breathing. We lost the first one like this but improved with practice for later cria. It appeared that the rear legs had been pushed way up towards the ovaries and hence could not birth normally from the womb.

I hope you do not need this information, but it just may help. If a cria appears ‘stuck’ and all the usual things do not work, consider a dystocia that requires more technical intervention.

The other losses that occurred were alpacas dying from adrenal stress. They acted weird, circling, staring skyward, walking drunkenly, and sitting with their faces in towards corners (rather than outward). This happened within the first week after the first big quake. Hopefully that timeframe means all yours will be OK by now.

Please feel free to circulate this information widely to others.

Linda Blake”



Cria Navel Treatment

Judy Webby

In preparation for the birthing season I was searching the web and came across a number of articles saying that Chlorohexidine was better for navel treatment on a newborn cria than iodine or Betodine/Vetodine because it did not dry the navel as fast, so was more effective at blocking the transfer of infections from the soil.

A lot of the information on the web is outdated and hard to verify, so I asked my vet Stef Knaak for her interpretation. She very kindly searched international vet websites for best practice and came up with the following.

Sprays are recommended rather than a solution for dipping, to reduce the chance of the same solution being used repeatedly and so losing its effectiveness.

Chlorohexidine does have a slightly longer action than iodine or povidone iodine (Betadine) but this has not been found to be clinically relevant. Strong solutions of iodine (7-10%) dry the navel out too quickly which can result in bacteria being “locked in” the umbilicus and can also irritate the skin. Chlorohexidine is not readily available over the counter and needs to be dispensed.

Iodine is alcohol-based, povidone iodine (Betadine) is not. I have heard Betadine referred to as “tamed iodine” and less likely to sting.

In her opinion either iodine or betadine is safe to use on navels at a concentration of 2.5%. And in all cases a spray is more hygienic than dipping. It would be nice if our llamas could birth naturally in a nice dry clean environment, but as most of our llamas are intensively farmed, navel treatment is a recommended practice.

LLAMA GALLERY II



Llama Christmas 2016. Clar Innis Argyie selects his present. (Photo: Graeme Butterfield)



Clar Innis Montrose. (Photo: Graeme Butterfield)



Clar Innis Maclary. (Photo: Graeme Butterfield)



Molly, 3 weeks old, and a little stunner? (Photo: Keith Payne)



Mother & daughter: Palmdale Comosa & Palmdale Cherry (Photo: Brenda McLean)



Some of the girls check out the pet lambs and Storm, the donkey. (Photo: Brenda McLean)



Beach walk, New Plymouth. Juan and Carlos with Uta. (Photo: Uta Bleidistel)

Learning About the Fleece of Your Llama

Keith Payne

Five NZLA members took advantage of the recent opportunity to have fleece lab tested', and we sent away 39 samples in total. There is so much to be learned about our llamas from their fleece, and the first thing is to properly understand the meaning of the lab results.

Of course there are many different considerations of fleece features depending upon what purpose it will be put to. For example, a spinner and knitter of children's clothes will have different considerations than someone intending to weave a poncho for winter wear.

However, by far the most important value for your fleece comes from the '*average micron*' result, followed by the almost similar '*spin fineness*' figure. A micron (μm) is 1,000th of a millimeter, and it follows that the lower the micron average, the higher the value placed upon your llama's fleece. Of our 39 samples, the average micron count was $23.52\mu\text{m}$, quite a good result considering that llama fleece generally is considered to be inferior to alpaca fleece, a totally incorrect misconception which we will be doing our best to correct over the coming period. An important test result for the spinners amongst us is the '*Spin Fineness*' figure, and again the 39 samples averaged 23.94 – a quality result! Spin Fineness is the combined result of average micron and a figure that represents the spread of individual fibres around the average.

Which takes us to a calculation called '*Standard Deviation*' (SD). The closer the bulk of fibres are grouped around the average micron figure, the lower this number will be and the higher the quality of the fleece. When this figure is expressed as a percentage (which it often is), it is called the '*Coefficient of Variation*' (CV). As a general rule any SD result under 5 is considered to be quite good – the average of our results was 5.6, so we are not far away. Also any CV under 20% is considered as quality and our average result was 23.0%, again not far away. Certainly a large percentage of our fleeces were in the 'high quality' range!

The final figure provided to us by the lab is the '*Comfort Factor*' (CF). This figure represents the percentage of fibres in the fleece that are less than 30 micron. Any result over 90% is considered to be very good and it was very encouraging to see a large percentage of our llamas over 90%, although our average was well below that at 73.9%.

We had quite a mix of llamas in our group samples, including guanaco, suri and just about everything in between. One of the guanaco boys sparkled with an average micron of 16.2, a CF of 100% and an SD of 3.8 but we also had a few llamas with fleece blown out to over

30 micron.

These results are very encouraging as they prove that our llamas are not totally deserving of their reputation of having inferior fleece to alpacas. We can all do a lot to help correct this sentiment towards our llamas by being more selective when choosing mates for our breeding programs. *ALWAYS seek to improve the fleece of your llamas when mating and the key to this will ALWAYS be the selection of the male.* Irrespective of the fleece type you are breeding for, make sure the chosen male has superior fleece to your female, insist upon seeing a fleece histogram dated within the past 12 months and compare it to the histogram of your female.

My personal view is that we should strive to improve our national llama herd and trumpet them as having fleece of quality, not quantity. We should concede the quantity competition to the alpacas: goodness knows they have damaged our national herd enough with their cross-breeding with our valued girls, and we should strive to outdo them in regard to quality fleece, breed back to purer llama bloodlines and demonstrate to the market that our 'personality plus' llamas also have wonderful fleece qualities.

I strongly recommend that owners have their llama's fleece tested each year until age 5, after which a test every 3 – 4 years will be sufficient. All camelid fleece will be at its finest as a cria and often lose 1 – 2 micron to year 2 and a bit more to year 3. After that, a purebred llama will maintain its fleece fineness into its late teens, whereas a hybrid llama will continue to evidence micron loss through the years. Fleece testing is, therefore, one of the markers able to tell us about the extent of hybridisation in our llamas.

KP



An example of high quality llama fleece: Champenoise Farah (owner Judy Webby), Champion Walking Fleece, Canterbury A&P Show, 2016.

“Relay” llamas, keeping herd together

Stephen Mulholland

Camelids are intelligent, highly social animals that evolved grazing on the plains and mountains of the high Andes in South America. As such they have a set of individual and collective behaviours to maintain their social structures in extensive grazing conditions.

Life in a paddock in New Zealand is a far cry from their natural conditions, but we still try to provide circumstances so that our animals can act out “naturalistic behaviour” and by doing so achieve a higher state of welfare.

One great advantage of llamas (and alpacas) is that they come in a huge range of colors, and often animals can be individually identified easily at a great distance. This allows for a diligent observer to pick out differences in the way various animals react and interact.

As those of you have visited our property know, we have hills: a lot of hills. Quite steep ones, too. This affects how the herd moves and behaves, and has allowed us to spot a behavior that you might not see in a flatter paddock where all the animals can always see all their herd mates.

As the herd moves along grazing it can become split by a hill or ridge, such that the line of sight and line of contact between the animals is broken. We have noticed that a few animals will, when this situation arises, often move to a position where they can “bridge” or “relay” keeping the disparate sections of the herd linked.

This is clearly a deliberate action by the “relay” animals, and often when in position they will cease (or decrease) grazing, and focus more of their attention on monitoring the different parts of the split herd. These same animals will often hang back if there is a lagging animal (sick or lame, or with cria and foot) to ensure they don't get lost as the herd moves on.

Not all animals will act as relays, but the ones that do can be reliably counted upon to do so.

So, do you have any “relay” animals in your herd? Or have you noticed any other interesting behavioural quirks that have come along from life in the open country and high mountains? Let me know!

Contact: Stephen@alpacasrampant.co.nz

2016/17 Committee

President: Brenda McLean, 03 417 7460,
b.smclean@unifone.net.nz
Windermere Alpacas and Llamas, 759 Adams Flat
Rd, RD2 Milton, Otago 9292

Vice President: Peter Webster, 09 407 7107, Rangemore Llama Farm,
38 Shirley Road, RD2 Kerikeri 0295

Secretary/Treasurer: Judy Webby, 06 362 6745, info@llamas.org.nz
8 Wi Tako St, RD31 Levin

Committee:

Simon Gurnsey, 03 329 9115 simon@simongurnsey.net
Zephyr Terrace, Governors Bay, Christchurch

Julie Insley, 09 407 7107, julie@llamas.co.nz
38 Shirley Rd, RD2, Kerikeri 0295

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Cole, 03 319 5033, cushchincottage@xtra.co.nz
12 Kowhai Ford Road, RD1 Kaikoura 7371

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of the editor.

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Halter orders being taken now don't delay!

I will be placing an order at the end of January for Mt Sopris llama halters and leads. Delivery will be within 3 weeks.

All halters are Amish-sewn with solid brass fittings, they have a stand-up noseband for easy haltering, and automatically adjust to a range of nose sizes.

Unlike other brands the smaller sized halters are made in narrower webbing so are delicate enough for little faces.

Size 2 Newborn and up to 6 months \$30

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Size 7 Extra large \$35

Matching polypro spiral lead 2.4metre \$22



Full payment is required with the order, please add \$6 per order (not per halter) for freight. State colour preference at the time of ordering. Colours available are Black; Brown; Burgundy; Green; Lime Green; Navy Blue; Orange; Pink; Purple; Raspberry; Red; Royal Blue; Silver; Tan; Turquoise



Champenoise Llamas 8 Wl Tako Street, RD 31 Levin. 5573

judy@askjudy.co.nz

Phone 06 362 6745

Mobile 027 271 7192

[Facebook](#)



Phoenix Montezuma (*Photo: Judy Webby*)