

Lama Glama Gazette



Over \$300 raised for
SPCA



Llamas at Pak'nSave by Judy Webby

Committee member Lynn Barrett saw the Pak'nSave TV advert featuring a llama and thought we could hook into it. As the person with PR llamas within easy driving of a Pak'nSave I was delegated the task of following this up. Figuring that individual stores probably did not have too much say in promotions I contacted the PR dept of Foodstuffs. They were very excited and as the ads were only due to run another week, wanted to get things moving quickly. With-in a few days, a spot was booked on Seven Sharp for the Friday countdown, posters made for the shop, videographer booked, facebook ads arranged and a team of 10 delegated to organise the event.

Originally the plan was to have llamas carrying groceries to cars, but the logistics, plus health and safety issues were a sticking point, so it was changed to a gold coin donation for a selfie with a llama.

Ruth Bradwell was recruited to assist and I took my 2 llama boys down for a 1-5pm session. It was all beautifully organised with a rotating team of Pak'nSave staff available to take the money, give away lots of prizes, cut up an endless supply of carrots and take photos, leaving Ruth and I free to handle the llamas.

We had a steady stream of people though the booth, from little babies right through to a lady turning 90 the next day who was brought down by her daughter to meet and have photos with the llamas. It was a long session but having the 2 llamas meant we could rotate them as 1 got tired of all the attention, or full of carrots.

I debated about fund raising for the Llama rescue fund, but decided that SPCA was a wider appeal. About \$300 was raised for them

The video guy took lots of angles, including packing the saddle bags with groceries, taking them to the car, unpacking them into the boot, then the little girl paying Estefan with a piece of carrot, but it all got edited down to a few seconds. It can be viewed here <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/seven-sharp/clips/relive-the-top-moments-of-the-week-in-seven-sharp-s-friday-countdown> But the footage may turn up at some later stage

All in all a great PR opportunity, thanks Lynn for having the idea in the 1st place

Social Trek and Pack trial with Lynn Barrett

Join us for a social llama trek on the 26th of October at Puhi Puhi Valley Kaikoura.

We are lucky enough to be living in a stunning part of the country. Sandwiched between two rivers, beautiful regenerating native bush and stunning waterfalls. We live totally off grid and are as self-sufficient as possible.

The day will start off with morning tea at 10am for everybody to get to know each other, followed by a walk up to the top of our property (600m above sea level) where we have a small campsite. We will stop here and have some lunch. Great views of the Kaikoura landscape and mountains and on a really clear day you can see right to the peninsula. Then continue across the spur to the neighbour's land where we follow a four-wheel drive track back down to the river. We will tramp along the river through the woods and maybe a bit along the road and back to home where we will fire up the BBQ and pizza oven and have some tea. It is about a 5km trek but it is not a race!

We have a sleep out that will sleep four people, you're welcome to stay the night before and the night after if you'd like, especially if you are coming from far afield. This will be great training for llamas and if you'd like to also do your level 1 pack trial, the walk will have several obstacles which can be incorporated into the walk to complete a pack trial.

Bring a llama or two, but we cannot take any entire males, so geldings and females only please. We have plenty of spare paddocks to accommodate llamas. If you can't bring a llama, don't worry, we have spares 😊

This is a free social event but please bring a plate and drink. We hunt, so there is plenty of meat. There is a charge for the pack trial of \$15 per llama to cover certification and admin. If you want to do the pack trial, let me know and I'll email more information.

Please book in by 19 October.

For more information email Lynn, llyndyllama@yahoo.co.uk or phone 021 142 7619

View from the lunch stop



Tethering tips by Lynn Barrett

Three quarters of the way through winter and the grass is greener on the other side. So to try and get some good food into the llamas I started tethering them in the orchard for an hour or two every few days. the first time I tethered them I sat with him the whole time, watching and observing how they reacted to get to getting their legs tangled in the ropes. first of all I would have to help them if they got themselves to tangled up but after about half an hour they seem to work it out for themselves and didn't panic I still stayed with him the whole time but it was interesting to observe that they thought about it and worked out which way to have to go to untangle their legs. The most surprising llama was the cria, she is 6 months old and she was the one who seemed to work it out the quickest every time she felt the lead rope around her leg she would stop eating and untangle herself before continuing eating.

If you plan on taking your llamas out for walks, picnic, maybe overnight trekking it's very important that they learn to be tethered. Here I have used a long rope with carabiners set 3 meters apart. The carabiners are attached so as they can't slide up and down the rope and are far enough apart that the llamas cannot get tangled up with each other. the llamas lead ropes are tied with a quick release knot to the carabiner. You now have two options of quickly releasing them, by the pulling the knot or releasing the carabiner. In my years of working with llamas I have found it easier to un-clip the lead rope at the halter to untangle them, they seem to relax more. Keep a spare lead rope with you to attach to the halter while you un-clip the tangled one. There is a wide selection of ropes and tethers out there, I particularly like the ones that have a built in bungee



Part 2 “Mummy’s Little Helper – Golly.” By Lynn Barrett

Crazy llama lady started training Venus, Mac and Ben. When they arrived, Mac had panicked and ran off before crazy llama lady could take his halter off. The next day she got us all in the catch pen and was trying to catch Mac to take the halter off. Mac was having none of it, every time she got close, he spun on his hocks and ran the other way. She tried to convince him that he'd get some nuts if he'd just let her take off the halter. She gave the rest of us some nuts to show him that there is nothing to worry about, but he wasn't going to give in. I was getting bored standing around watching and wanted to go back out and eat some grass, so I marched up to Mac and spat in his face and said "if you'd just let her catch you we can all go back out and carry on grazing, she only wants to take your halter off"

To which Mac replied "I Don't trust her, she might hurt me, I'm scared"

Crazy llama lady approached Mac again, he went to run but I blocked him and said "one more step in this direction and I'll spit at you again, step in that direction and she will catch you.... Your choice!"

Mac shifted his weight from left to right, left to right and then made the step left, towards llama lady. She gently put her hand on his neck and told him he was a good boy and slowly moved her hand up to his halter. Mac stood frozen to the spot, eyes wide. Crazy llama lady gently took the halter off and said "there, that's all I wanted to do" and walked away. Mac relaxed and said "wow, that was actually ok, perhaps I'll be a bit more submissive next time" which he was. Crazy llama lady opened the gate and we all went back out to continue our breakfast.

MAKING LIQUID FERTILISER By Ruth Bradwell FOR THE GARDEN & PADDOCK, FROM CAMELID POO



Maureen and Wayne Petterson hosted an educational event at their home on September 14th, held under the auspices of the Dexter Cattle Society. Maureen and Wayne have owned and bred Dexter cattle since 2003 but they have also had alpacas for many years.

Thirteen guests were greeted, after a deluge overnight and a downpour in the morning. There was an especially warm welcome from Wilson their Labrador. We started with hot drinks, cake and a good chance to meet everyone, by which time the rain had stopped. Maureen first showed us "The Years Project", by John Wicks. It is a video lasting about 5 minutes and providing convincing evidence that applying compost to pastureland results in long lasting benefits, including bountiful grass and sequestration of carbon in the soil.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z91QsZAI1_w

Maureen gave us a wide-ranging talk, regarding animal manure generally. Here are some extracts of her talk, which are specific to camelids, mixed in with my 10 cents worth. They have been making alpaca and chicken liquid manure for about 12 years, after seeing the grass growth around the alpaca toilet areas, become greener, with denser and deeper root systems and growing higher. The grass that the cattle gravitate to first when they go into these paddocks, convincing them that they should treat all their land to paca



poo magic.

Camelids are tylopods with three stomach compartments, the rumen, the omasum and the abomasum. They convert grass and hay into energy quickly and eat far less, as a percentage of their body weight, than other farm animals. Their dung is lower in organic matter but has enough to improve soil texture and water holding capacity. Llama poo aided the Incas civilisation and powered Manchu Picchu's crops.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-secret-to-machu-picchu-success-llama-poop-178734335/>

Camelid poo is relatively high in Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium but it can be used directly on the garden, without burning plants. However, I prefer to compost my alpaca and llama poo because it can sometimes contain weed seeds. Piling it under black plastic for 6 months allows the worms to do their job and create a dark friable soil, which plants thrive in. One of the great things about Alpaca poo is that they have toilet areas, so it's easier to pick up, plus like humans they pee and poo in the same area.

Making liquid manure is very simple, you need a large bucket or container, with a lid. Put the poo into the bucket, to about 1/4 full and fill with water. For those of you with access to tank stream or bore water, use this. I will have to use chlorinated tap water. Stir well and secure the lid. If the container is white, keep it out of direct sunlight.

Stir daily, with a large implement for the first week and then twice weekly until ready, about three weeks or more. (If you want to get as much out of this as possible put some gloves on and get in there to break up what is floating on the surface.) Then sieve. Put the liquid fertiliser into containers and the slurry into the compost bin or directly on the garden. When using the fertiliser Maureen recommends a ratio of 1 fertiliser to 10 water, for the garden and 1 fertiliser to 4 of water for paddocks. We had a look at all the equipment they use, of special interest to me was the spraying system, Wayne uses a trash pump, which can handle some solid matter, without blocking.

After an interesting and stimulating morning we enjoyed a potluck lunch, with Dexter sausages on the menu. People were pleased to meet up, it was a relaxed and friendly gathering with a variety of people. Over lunch I heard how to make and use biochar but that's another topic.

Editor's note: If anyone would like to have a copy of the handout for the meeting, I will be happy to email it to you.



Upcoming Events

Puhi Puhi Valley Trek and Pack Trial	Oct 26th
Amuri Show	March
NZLA AGM Venue TBA	May 2nd



New Zealand Llama Association Inc

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