

Lama Glama Gazette

Welcome to the magazine of the New Zealand Llama Association. Along with our Facebook Groups and website we aim to keep you well informed regarding llamas. We are enthusiastic about promoting these wonderful animals and hope you will want to share news from any of the resources we provide.

Firstly, a very warm welcome to our new members:

Janet and Bill Belton

Toni Charteris

Richard and Sue Cheeseman

Joanne and Mark O'Regan

In this Winter issue we have a second article from Keith Payne in his wild llama series. The first was very well received and we're sure this will be just as interesting. Judy Webby and Ruth Bradwell went out with the Upper Hutt Tramping and Walking Club to Paekakariki. Judy will share the adventure with us and will no doubt inspire us to get out and about with our llamas. The Amuri Show Report always makes good reading even if we aren't active participants. I have been having discussions with Keith regarding the history of llamas in New Zealand. It's a bit of a puzzle. Do read the piece and we'll happily hear your thoughts. Finally, a few thoughts about why we have chosen to share our lives with llamas.

This is your gazette and we would love to receive articles, photos, ideas and feedback.

Walking with llamas by Judy Webby

Pre-covid, member Ruth Bradwell suggested to her Upper Hutt Walking Group that we bring along some llamas to carry their gear. Stephen Mullholland brought 2 llama and 2 alpaca and Judy took along her 2 boys complete with a pack. We all met at QE2 park in Paekakariki on a rather gloomy day, but they are a hardy bunch and we had a big range of age groups to work with. We had a pleasant walk around the perimeter of the model aircraft flying strip, then back through the sand dunes and along the beach. Llamas and people really enjoyed the outing and the walking group commented on how quiet the llamas were. I would encourage all members with a means to transport llamas to offer them out to any local walking groups, it is a great way of introducing people to what llamas can do.



Amuri Show report by Jacky Middleton

It was another glorious day of sunshine in the little township of Rotherham, in North Canterbury, for the annual Amuri Llama Show. We were very lucky that the Show was held in early March as many other rural Shows throughout NZ were cancelled due to the breakout of the Covid 19 virus.

This year the Llama area was doubled in size to accommodate the increased Llama entries. The extended perimeter also encouraged spectators to visit and watch our various events.

Llamas were casually munching on hay and nibbling at the pine tree shelter belt unaware that they would be expected to perform to their best in a matter of minutes. The humans bustled around organising, grooming, and locating the nearest coffee van.

Naomi Woodham and Raewyn Dent once again kindly officiated with much enthusiasm and were full of smiles throughout the busy day.

The days activities were listed under three main events Walking Fleece, Conformation, and Obstacles. This year the Walking Fleece was divided into four classes being Under 2 Female and Male, and Over 2 Female and Male. Conformation remained unchanged with Female, Male, and Gelding classes. With the increased interest in the Obstacles event, we decided to divide it into two classes, Novice and Open. This made for a full on and interesting day.

The competitors were encouraged to enter all three events, to accumulate scores, with the hope of winning the Best of Show trophy.

Prizes were abundant with all main events, Reserve Best in Show, and Best in Show rewarded for their efforts. There were also novelty prizes awarded for Most Beautiful or Handsome Llama, Funniest or Amusing Llama Moment, and Best Connected between Handler and Llama.

Prior to the Obstacle event, we joined the Grand Parade walking behind the horses and closely followed by the local farm contractor vehicles. A quick walk through the various food and variety stalls, we were back into the competitive mode.

Results were close during the day with everyone winning ribbons and seriously competing for the main trophies. The winner of the day was Charlotte, a stunning under two year old female guanaco, owned by Keith Payne of Big Ears Llama Ranch.

Assuming NZ continues to remain stable, I look forward to seeing you and more fellow Llama lovers next year.

Convenor Jacky Middleton

Class Results:**Walking Fleece Female under 2**

- 1st Avalon Llamas Christina – owner Jacky Middleton
- 2nd Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte – owner Keith Payne
- 3rd Llyndy Llamas Giselle – owner Lynn Barrett

Walking Fleece Male under 2

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Hank – owner Keith Payne

Walking Fleece Female over 2

- 1st Llama Lookout Contessa – owner Jacky Middleton
- 2nd Avalon Llamas Solstice – owner Jacky Middleton
- 3rd Big Ears Llama Ranch Holly – owner Lynn Barrett

Walking Fleece Male over 2

- 1st Llama Lookout Trump – owner Jacky Middleton
- 2nd Avalon Llamas Willie – owner Jacky Middleton
- 3rd Kirsonara Mercurius – owner Jacky Middleton

Avalon Llamas Champion Walking Fleece Trophy won by Llama Lookout Contessa - owner Jacky Middleton**Female Conformation**

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte – owner Keith Payne
- 2nd Avalon Llamas Christina – owner Jacky Middleton
- 3rd Llama Lookout Contessa – owner Jacky Middleton

Male Conformation

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Hank – owner Keith Payne
- 2nd Llama Lookout Legend – owner Kevin Cole
- 3rd Avalon Llamas Cortez – owner Jacky Middleton

Gelding Conformation

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Munro – owner Tony Pearce
- 2nd Big Ears Llama Ranch Hooch – owner Keith Payne
- 3rd Avalon Llamas Theodore – owner Jacky Middleton

NZLA Champion Conformation Trophy won by Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte - owner Keith Payne**Novice Obstacles**

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Holly – owner Lynn Barrett
- 2nd Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte – owner Keith Payne
- 3rd Llyndy Llamas Giselle – owner Lynn Barrett

Open Obstacles

- 1st Big Ears Llama Ranch Hooch – owner Keith Payne
- 2nd Llama Lookout Legend – owner Kevin Cole
- 3rd Big Ears Llama Ranch Hank – owner Keith Payne

Hanmer Llamas Champion Obstacles Trophy won by Big Ears Llama Ranch Holly - owner Lynn Barret

Reserve Best of Show won by Llama Lookout Contessa – owner Jacky Middleton

Big Ears Llama Ranch Best of Show won by Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte – owner Keith Payne

Winners in the Three Events:

Walking Fleece Champion and the Avalon Llamas Walking Fleece Trophy: Llama Lookout Contessa,
Second: Avalon Christina, Third: Llama Lookout Trump

Conformation Champion and the NZLA Conformation Trophy: Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte, Second:
Big Ears Llama Ranch Munro, Third: Big Ears Llama Ranch Hooch

Obstacles Novice Champion and Hanmer Llamas Obstacles Trophy: Big Ears Llama Ranch Holly, Second:
Big Ears Llama Ranch Charlotte, Third: Llyndy Llamas Giselle

Obstacles Open: Big Ears Llama Ranch Hooch, Second: Llama Lookout Legend, Third: Big Ears Llama
Ranch Hank

Novelty Winners:

Most Handsome/Beautiful Llama: Llama Lookout Legend - owner Kevin Cole

Best Connection between Llama and Lead: Big Ears Llama Ranch Holly – owner/lead Lynn Barrett

Most Memorable Moment: Llama Lookout Legend - owner Kevin Cole (Llama and Leader bowed to the
judge! A stunning moment)

Sponsorship:

With sincere thanks and much appreciation to our Sponsors: NZLA - \$100 petrol vouchers, Culverden
Farmlands - Barkers mixed jams, chutneys, and sauces pack and a 25 kg of alpaca pellets, Amuri Paint
and Building Services - various yummy picnic foods, Dulux – painting and promotional products,
Placemakers Kaiapoi – Chiller bags, Avalon Llamas – petrol vouchers, chocolates, confectionery, and
Llama inspired products, Llyndy Llamas – Llama inspired products.



Trophy and Prize table: from left Conformation, Fleece, Obstacle, and Best in Show Trophies

Conformation and Best of Show Winner - Charlotte
at home with her owner Keith Payne



Champion Walking Fleece Winner - Contessa
and Jacky Middleton



Champion Obstacles Winner – Holly
and Lynn Barrett



Winner of Handsome and Memorable
Moment – Legend and Kevin Cole

Our Judges Naomi and Raewyn



Munro, Tony, Lynn, and Keith prior to competition start



Llamas in New Zealand by Davina Keen

W.B. Rhodes owned a farm called Purau Estate by Diamond Harbour, Canterbury and imported llama and alpaca to New Zealand and Australia. In 1874 Rhodes sold the farm to Henry Dent Gardiner, my great-great grandfather. The llama and alpaca came with it - it sounded as if Rhodes wanted rid of them! The family stories described them as fearsome and accurate spitters, sly kickers and unreliable in harness.

The station was 6600 acres and has a beautiful stone house with a slate roof. The farm was divided into three blocks for Henry's sons - Fern Glen, Kaike and Purau. Frank had Purau Station and farmed English Leicester and Starborough Merino sheep. I believe he developed a cross breed of these animals. They had considered using the wool from the alpacas and llamas but found them unmanageable. I don't know what became of them – turned loose, sold or popped in the pot.

This is completely understandable as for many generations my ancestors farmed sheep and cattle using their beloved horses to assist them in their work. We have to learn how to work with camelids for the best results and as you all know it is very different to farming traditional stock.

I saw a photo years ago of the llamas in my parent's collection but it has been misplaced. I am determined to locate it but wondered if anyone else has a similar photo or can add to this little piece of history.

What Drives Us to Keep Llamas? By Davina Keen

It seems that everyone loves llamas. Right now, they're everywhere in the media and certainly presenting themselves at their very best. Groomed, impeccable manners, athletic and expressions that they appear to have perfected in a mirror. Merchandise is available worldwide and in near unlimited variety.

But actually deciding to keep a couple or more is when it starts to get a bit more serious – and yet it doesn't at the same time because they simply delight us. I am interested in why we choose to keep llamas. We don't hear folk saying that it's because they'll make big money or that it's an investment.

We hear warm, positive and often quite vague reasons. Here's a selection people have shared but please send me your own and we'll follow it up in our Spring Gazette.

- We want to support rare breeds in New Zealand.
- Llamas are just a bit different; like us!
- I really like the goofy expression and dreamy eyes.
- Hunting is great with a llama; easy on the environment and the hunter.
- They make me feel calmer and centred.
- I want to train my llamas to pull a cart and carry a pack – just have fun!
- Crafting, the wool is very soft and warm and they can be shorn standing up.

Interested in showing but don't have transport or a show close by?

Your committee is currently discussing the option of a "virtual llama show" This has recently been done in the US and there is no reason why it can't be done here.

All you would need to do is set up your video camera or smart phone, preferably on a tripod or stable post, walk your llama in a prescribed pattern and send us the film clip

It is expected that the llama and handler would be presented in show condition. That is llama brushed, handler in dark trousers and white top. We hope to have a panel of judges for a consensus of opinion.

Let us know if you would be interested!

Upcoming Events 2020

NZLA AGM

Amended date to be advised. At Hikurangi out of Whangarei
Hosted by Bruce and Davina Keen, go to their website for more
information and directions www.batesandkeenfamilyfarm.co.nz

Committee contacts

President	Judy Webby	president@llamas.org.nz	027 271 7192
Vice President	Kevin Collins	info@llamas.org.nz	021 341 749
Secretary	Davina Keen	secretary@llamas.org.nz	021 148 3998
Editor	Davina Keen	keen.family@xtra.co.nz	
Treasurer	John Davison	jad793@gmail.com	0221 306 508
Committee	Lynn Barrett	llyndyllama@yahoo.co.uk	021 142 7619
	Julie Insley	insleyjulie@gmail.com	09 407 7107
	Corey Regnerus-Kell	regnerusc@gmail.com	021 795 888



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