



President's Report AGM 2009

May 2nd 2009

Welcome everybody to our sixth AGM. Firstly thank you to our generous hosts Robyn and Mike and Sara and Simon for organising this lovely weekend. Also, a big thanks to Justine Campbell and helpers for the wonderful dinner.

Great to see so many new members, there has been quite an influx recently.

To begin with a little revision on last year. We increased the advertising budget again this past year to \$1500, placing regular classified adverts in Lifestyle Farmer, Growing Today and Pet New Zealand. We also put in quarter page colour advertisements supporting llama articles about NZLA members in three issues.

In our own magazine on the "Llamas in the News" page there were 27 entries this past year compared to 18 the previous year, this surely is a sign of more llama activities leading to more public awareness. After three years our printer was near the end of it's life so we have purchased a new printer which the Autumn Magazine was printed on.

We produced the largest print run of calendars to date with 300 printed this past year. Our thanks to Graeme and Pat Butterfield for the beautiful job in it's production and also for the fact that they have volunteered to do the same again this coming year.

Our rescue fund has grown to a healthy \$1853 over the previous four years of earmarking the profits from the annual calendars and donations. This year's only call on that fund was \$100 petrol vouchers to go pick up a spitting llama from a petting zoo, this was reimbursed with a \$100 adoption donation from his new owner.

This past year's annual calendar profits of around \$1300 were put towards sponsoring Joanne Shook's performance clinics. What a wonderful treat to meet such an inspirational lady and to re-spark our interest in obstacle training. It would be great to see more of these sponsored events in the coming years. Just reminding members, there is funding available to help set up events, and that all NZLA events are covered by our public liability insurance, so contact your committee with your ideas.

The Birthday calendars are doing as intended, that is provide a contact point via Trade Me plus great gifts for members to give to relatives. Of the 100 complimentary copies, 79 have been given away and of the 200 for sale 79 have sold. The 121 remaining are with Justine and I and are for sale, just ask.

As for the registry, I had hoped to have a printed copy of the database available online by now but found glitches in it and can't bring myself to publish something I knew not be correct. This will be completed over the coming week or two.

A big part of the year has been taken up with the Code of Welfare. Thank you to Stephen Mulholland who has recently put many hours into the draft Version 2 which is before you tonight for your consideration.

The Lending Library has now gone into the care of Justine Campbell, this will make it more accessible to all of those new members in the Canterbury area. Thank you to Justine, for taking this off my hands.

Another thank you, this time to Anne Thompson. This is for her initiative in pooling the fibre for testing and organising the samples and the returned results. There were three farms participating this time, and I would sure like to see this continue and grow. I personally found it very worthwhile and I have heard the same from Janette Buckingham.

Now that was a summary of last year and now for this coming year.

You would have heard from Keith Payne on his vision for NZ Pack Trials, I hope you gave encouragement and your support for his endeavours. This is something close to my heart so I am looking forward to this coming year and the opportunity to participate.

Being the International Year of Natural Fibres I am really hoping someone will take up the challenge and get the walking and shorn fleece classes introduced at both shows (Christchurch November and Melvin March) this coming year. Come on Canterbury folks, get together and organise it. That way even out-of-towners can participate by sending in a fleece.

Obviously I'm also hoping we get strong support for the 2010 calendar so that we can put the profits to good use again. In the theme of the International Year of Natural Fibres, one of the ideas I would like to put forward is that we get 10% to 20% of members' registered llamas tested to provide data for future development of llama fibre use.

With the growing membership we really must remember to get back to cover some of the basic information required for new owners. With the increased membership there is increased workload so I am hoping to palm off more jobs to other members.

So lots of work to do, remember to help each other, especially the new owners. New members, just ask, whatever, about the Association, llama care or management questions, we are here to help.

One last thank you to the old committee for the work and support put in to running this association over the last year and thank you for the pledge of doing it again this year.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Insley', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Julie Insley.

NZLA President