

## Central Coast Hunter NSW Region- President's Report AGM 2006

The past year will probably be best described as the year that heralded in major changes in the alpaca industry. There was significant debate on a national level about the change in operating structure of the AAA to a Company Limited By Guarantee. These changes are yet to be implemented due to difficulties in finding a Constitution that has the support of members and at the same time complies with the Corporation Act. The sometimes heated debate about these changes has filtered down to the regional level, and no doubt has contributed to some of the conflicts seen within our own region.

Regionally, some changes were made to our activities with the holding of the second Alpacas on Parade consolidating the event as the major promotional event in the Southern part of the region; and the transformation of Tocal into a display only with the Fleece Show being incorporated into the New England Fleece Show, which was held one week later. The Tocal display was more manageable without the added complexity of running the Fleece Show and has the potential to be further developed in the future as a more comprehensive display.

Further changes will occur next month with the Spring Show becoming a "stand-alone" event to be held at Wyong Racecourse on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August. Wayne McCauley is the Convenor. The Flora-Fest event will be retained as a display only and as such should be a more effective marketing event.

As breeders we should be continuously striving to improve the breed standard, and the best way to do this is to be actively involved in the industry. This means enthusiastic participation at a level that you can cope with. All regional activities increase public awareness of the alpaca industry and allow breeders to exchange information, which assists all. It is important that we have committed volunteers to help out with these events and for breeders to become involved by entering their quality alpacas in the shows and providing animals for the displays. Similarly, the region needs enthusiastic new blood to share the responsibilities on the regional committee. I would encourage all members to consider contributing some of their time to these voluntary positions. The old saying, many hands make light work certainly applies in this situation.

One of the major problems in keeping the region functioning at its optimal level is the geographic distances and terrain separating members. Our current Vice President, Kevin Mead has developed a plan for the region to function more effectively in the future. Kevin will detail this plan in his report and I fully support the thrust of this new regional structure.

Finally, I wish to thank all those members that have contributed to the running of the various events held throughout the past year and in particular Rick Hodgson, Helen Sorby and Wayne McCauley (Flora Fest Spring Show), Peter Tulip (Tocal), Shirley Berry and Betty Whitten (New England Show) and Narelle Tulip (Alpacas on Parade). Also many thanks to Frances Carlton for her work with the Newsletter and Website, she has indeed put many long hours into producing these quality communications.

Paul Thibault