



President's Report AGM 2008

April 26th 2008

I would like to start by thanking everyone for their encouragement, help, and support of the Association throughout the last year.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the magazine over the past year. My thanks to the members who have contributed articles; it makes the editor's job so much easier. Thanks also to Alex Robinson, of Dalex Farm, and Robyn Robinson, of Llama Lookout, for running workshops and get-togethers over the last year. It would be great to see more of these in the coming year. Just a reminder to members, there is funding available to help set up events, and that all NZLA events are covered by our public liability insurance.

This year has seen the Draft Camelid Code of Welfare developed and distributed to camelid owners. This is to establish minimum standards of care, and promotes best practice of people owning or looking after camelids. This is a work in progress, a developing document. Please take the time to read it, and to consider how it affects you and your llamas. Feedback on this document is encouraged.

Work has continued on the registry with new registrations, deaths noted, and corrections made. Thanks to Anne Thompson for the design and formatting work on the updated forms. The database of 1852 llama names, past and present, is with the International Lama Registry. We know they are working on it as they keep coming back with questions, and we are looking forward to seeing some results from them soon. There were 81 llamas registered in 2007, and 26 so far in 2008. It has been good to see new genetics entering New Zealand, with last year's importation of 9 male and 3 female llamas from America, courtesy of Robyn, Anne and Naomi and Craig Woodham. I look forward to seeing the resulting offspring mingling with the herds of New Zealand.

One of our Association aims is to promote llamas, and throughout the years this is done in numerous ways. We increased our advertising spending this year, with regular advertising in the Lifestyle Block and NZ Pet magazines, plus three in the Lifestyle Farmer. I would like to see this increased again this coming year so that we have regular adverts in the Lifestyle Farmer magazine and also supporting adverts in magazines like Growing Today when they are printing llama related articles.

There were something like 18 media reports of llamas last year; this is through members' efforts in 'getting out there' and doing noteworthy things. Special thanks to Penny for giving the Association a great plug on the Breakfast Show recently.

The A & P shows are another way llamas are promoted. My thanks go to all of those involved in the organisation and staging of the shows: to the organisers, judges, stewards and participants for their contribution of time and energy put into the Canterbury Royal Show and the Malvern Show. Thanks also to Anne Thompson and Terry

Spekreijse, for their contributions to the show liaison committee, which saw the addition of new fibre, progeny, and suri classes.

The limited edition NZLA calendars have proved to be a very successful promotional tool. The 2008 edition sold out in record time, marketed to members, and also to the general public through the NZLA website and Trademe. I am pleased to report that our 2008 calendar is now gracing walls on homes in Canada, Japan, the USA, and the UK.

The 2007 appreciation awards went to Betty Rae, for her passion and enthusiasm in using llama fleeces for knitting and felting, to Jill Allan, for her work in organising a llama section at the McKenzie Highland A&P show two years running, to Anne Thompson, for organising 'Llama Ladies Lunches', and to myself, for the work on producing the quarterly magazine. If you would like to nominate someone for the 2008 awards please do drop me a line.

As we fast approach 2009, the International Year of Natural Fibre, I would like to encourage you all to think of ways you can contribute to the promotion of llamas and their fibre.

We have much to look forward to over the next year. Keith Payne is organising a 4 day trek through the Valley of the Living Dead in January, and I know that there is a good deal of interest from members keen to join him. Good luck to those of you off to Peru in May 2009. We look forward to seeing your photos and hearing all of your stories.

I end with more thanks to the outgoing committee, and a warm welcome to the incoming committee, many of you being the same people. Thank you for working with and for us, it is certainly appreciated. Special thanks to Emma, who has been our Treasurer since the formation of the NZLA five years ago, and who does a great job of keeping us in line with receipts and paperwork.

I hope very much to see you all at a llama event this coming year:

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie Insley', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Julie Insley.