

Presidents Report (Stephen Kellam - Acting President) Central Region AANZ – May 2024

Happily, Covid-19 is now only a faint memory for most and normality in the alpaca world has resumed. This includes regular face-to-face meetings for the committee. We have had a couple of changes to the membership over the last year. Mid 2023, Marion Burgess joined the committee bringing with her many years of alpaca experience and after a couple of years heading it, Ros Scott stepped down as President at the end of 2023. My thanks go to both for their commitment to the committee and events over this time. I took over as Acting President at the start of 2024.

The shows held in Central Region during the year were:

- Central Region Colourbration Show, Feilding. 2nd - 4th November, 2023,
- Horowhenua A&P Show, Levin - Fleece only. 21st January 2024,
- Egmont Show, Hawera - Breed only. 24th - 25th February 2024.

A massive vote of thanks is due to all of the show convenors, participants, judges and volunteers. Without their considerable efforts, these enjoyable events would simply not be possible.

The Committee is now producing a quarterly Central Region Newsletter. This is being distributed only to CR members and contains updates on past and future events plus articles written by individual members. Given the depth of alpaca knowledge amongst our members, we welcome submissions to spread this experience.

The Wairarapa "cluster group" continues strongly and caters for all alpacas owners in the province, none of them however are AANZ members. The group is producing their own newsletter which goes out to 25 recipients and hold speaking events with up to 15 people attending.

Central Region is still the smallest region in the AANZ. As of March 31st, we had 29 members, down from 35 this time last year as more members have retired from alpacas or decided that the Association fails to meet their needs. Our low numbers dispersed over a large area of the country continues to put pressure on finding volunteers to assist with events, which does put a significant work-load on the hand-full that put their hands up. Despite this, the decision was made to remain separate from the Northern Region as we are still an active and enthusiastic community.

Examples of the events held have been:

- Health and husbandry workshop, Ros Scott, McKenzie Fields Alpacas, Bulls.
Topics included proper handling of alpacas, correct fitting of halters and other alpaca health and welfare related topics. Twelve local people attended, all already alpaca owners.

- Open day at Monarca stud, Feilding. This Mother's Day event attracted over 200 people to view and learn more about alpacas.
- Open Farm/Training course at Thief of Hearts stud, Pahiatua. Eric Lister presented a training course in the identification of correct conformation/qualities and a variety of other topics. This all-day event attracted around 20 members and non-members.

I can only encourage everyone to get involved in any capacity to keep the CR thriving. Moreover, if you have an idea for an activity you would like to happen, do let us know.

As a final note, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the committee for their time and conscientious efforts over the last year.

Stephen Kellam.
Acting President, Central Region AANZ.