**AANZ Central Region President’s Report.**

As another year draws to a close, it’s a good time to reflect on the achievements, challenges and opportunities within the Central Region. While we remain the smallest of the three regions, our members continue to show great dedication and enthusiasm for the care, promotion and wellbeing of all alpacas.

Central Region has just 23 membership addresses as of 31st March. While we have many active and enthusiastic members involved in owner education and industry development, all of the AANZ regions are struggling to retain membership numbers. The Central Region committee recognises that significant changes are needed to make the Association relevant and accessible to the large number of member and non-member alpaca owners. To address this, we have submitted a remit to the National AGM to establish a new low cost ‘Lifestyle’ class of membership. If this remit is accepted, this new category will offer a number of appealing benefits designed to attract and engage a far greater number of alpaca owners. Our hope is this initiative will help build growing membership numbers and create a stronger regional network.

We were very pleased to welcome Lynette and Stephen Gopperth to the CR committee this year. Their addition means our committee now spans the full width of the North Island. The great distance between our members means that our monthly meetings are mostly held via video link. It is an effective tool, saving everyone a massive amount of time, despite the variable quality of internet connections!

During the year, Eric Lister stepped down as the CR representative on National Council to be replaced by the very able Rachel Norman. I wish her continued success in this demanding role.

Despite the small size of our region, we’ve managed to hold some valuable and enjoyable events over the past year including:

* **Stewards and Convenors Training**. Run by Mark and Mary-Ann Pruden and hosted by Ros Scott at McKenzie Fields Alpacas, Bulls.
* An enjoyable **Christmas lunch** for all members, held at the Woolshed in Sanson.
* **Faecal egg counting course**. Run by Lisa Whitfield at Monarca Alpacas.
My thanks go to everyone for opening their farms and offering their time and experience

In addition, we had three shows in the region:

* **Manawatu A&P Show, Feilding** - Breed only – Eric Lister as Convenor.
* **Horowhenua A&P Show, Levin** - Fleece only – Marion Burgess as Convenor.
* **Egmont A&P Show, Hawera** - Breed only – Lynette Gopperth as Convenor.

My sincere thanks go to the Convenors, Judges and the many volunteers who gave up many hours of their time to make these shows viable for all Central Region owners.

The CR quarterly newsletter continues to be issued and seems to have wide enjoyment. It has really benefitted from some excellent contributions of articles and photographs from our members which can only be encouraged, given the wealth of experience in the CR. I would be very pleased if these newsletters could reach a much wider audience to help more owners and animals. This will hopefully happen if the remit above passes.

Looking ahead, our committee and I remain committed to building a more inclusive and engaged community of alpaca owners in the Central Region. With the support of our members, we believe positive change is not only possible but already underway.

Stephen Kellam.

April 2025.