Kyle Park, Timaru | 18–19 September 2027

A great opportunity to showcase our alpacas, connect with fellow breeders and promote our industry to the public.

We are pleased to announce that preparations are well underway for the **2027 Alpaca Association National Show**, which will be held at Kyle Park in Timaru on **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September 2027**.

We are looking forward to bringing the National Show to South Canterbury and are working hard to make this a great event for exhibitors, sponsors, trade exhibitors and the general public.

Our Show Team

We are delighted to confirm the following for the 2027 National Show:

- **Judge:** Rubey Williams (Australia)
- **Assembly Steward:** Shirley Grant
- **Recording Stewards:** Kate Beckwith and Caroline Newcombe
- **Ring Steward:** Simon Newcombe
- **Fleece Stewards:** Pete and Lynley Young
- **MC:** Barry Bishop
- **Working Group:** Simon and Caroline Newcombe and Rachel Marshall

We are particularly grateful to Rubey for agreeing to judge our National Show. Many members will already be familiar with Rubey, having had the opportunity to see her judge at shows in both the North and South Islands. We are delighted to welcome her back to New Zealand for this important event.

You can read more about Rubey and her background in the alpaca industry in the attached judge profile.

Introducing Our Venue – Kyle Park, Timaru

We are excited to be holding the 2027 National Show at Kyle Park, situated at Seadown, just north of Timaru and conveniently located off State Highway 1.

Kyle Park is home to the South Canterbury Traction Engine and Transport Club and its impressive transport museum. The club has a long history, having been established in the early

1960s by a group of steam enthusiasts with a shared interest in preserving historic machinery and passing those skills and knowledge on to future generations.

Over the years, the collection has grown into an impressive display of transport history, featuring traction engines, steam-powered machinery, vintage tractors, agricultural equipment and classic trucks. It is a unique venue with plenty of character and an interesting attraction for visitors of all ages.

You can find out more about Kyle Park and its collection here: **Kyle Park**.

We are extremely grateful to the Kyle Park team for accommodating our National Show. As part of making the venue work for us, **one of the large sheds will be cleared of its exhibits to allow us to host the majority of the show and penning within one large indoor area.** This is a significant undertaking by the venue, and we genuinely appreciate their willingness to make this space available to us.

We anticipate that some overflow penning will be required in a marquee immediately adjacent to the building.

Penning arrangements

Pens within the main building will be prioritised for sponsors, with the remaining pens allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The pen sizes will be:

- **Main building:** 2.4m x 2.4m
- **Marquee:** 2m x 2m

Power supply has already been arranged for pens requiring power within the main building. We will also arrange power to the marquee if there is sufficient demand.

We will provide further details on pen bookings and allocations as arrangements progress.

Getting to Timaru – We Will Help

We appreciate that moving the National Show further south will mean additional travel for some members, particularly those travelling from the North Island. However, the working group is committed to doing whatever we reasonably can to make participation as easy and affordable as possible.

Brenda and Ivor Gainsford have once again generously offered to provide competitive transport rates for North Island animals and fleeces travelling south to the show. We can also arrange safe agistment for animals arriving ahead of the event.

This means that members can consider flying into Timaru rather than undertaking the entire journey by road. We can then work with you to arrange suitable transport solutions between your motel accommodation and the venue.

We have also managed to secure a discounted accommodation rate with **Panorama Motor Lodge**, conveniently situated in central Timaru.

To receive the discount, simply book directly with the motel by phone and quote **ALPACA 2027**. They will then apply the discounted rate to the advertised accommodation price.

Supporting Your National Show

It is no secret that hosting our National Show is becoming increasingly expensive, and 2027 is no exception. Venue hire, infrastructure, equipment, services and the many other costs associated with staging an event of this size continue to increase.

While we work hard to keep costs under control, **the National Show cannot proceed successfully without the support and commitment of our membership.**

There are several ways members can help, but one of the most important is through sponsorship.

This year we have given our sponsorship prospectus a revamp, with a particular focus on increasing the promotion and visibility of alpacas and the businesses involved in our industry.

Livestream Sponsorship – An Opportunity to Promote Your Stud

One of the key sponsorship opportunities this year is the livestream of the National Show.

We recognise that this is a significant sponsorship commitment, so we are offering the opportunity for up to **three members' studs to combine their sponsorship** to share the cost.

The benefits include:

- Your stud logo or logos displayed on screen throughout the livestream.
- The opportunity to have interviews recorded about your stud or studs.
- Interviews broadcast to viewers during intervals between judging sessions.
- Exposure to an audience well beyond those physically attending the show.
- A permanent online recording of the event, providing an ongoing promotional opportunity.

This is a fantastic opportunity to promote your stud, your animals and your business to a much wider audience.

However, due to the cost of providing the livestream service, **the livestream will not proceed unless we secure this sponsorship package to cover its cost.**

We would love to see members get behind this initiative and help us make it happen.

The full sponsorship prospectus has been released alongside this newsletter. Once applications open, sponsorship packages will be allocated in the order applications are received.

An important point to remember is that the earlier you secure your sponsorship, the longer your business will benefit from advertising and exposure on the National Show website and social media.

We are also offering instalment payment arrangements to help spread the financial commitment over several months.

Trade Exhibitors – An Opportunity to Reach the Public

There will be a dedicated, albeit small, area within the main building for trade sites, together with plenty of additional space outside for businesses wishing to promote their products and services.

We intend to put considerable effort into advertising the event to the general public in the lead-up to the show.

An added advantage of our venue is that the Kyle Park museum is open to visitors on Saturdays. This provides an additional attraction for people visiting the site and an opportunity for us to introduce even more members of the public to alpacas.

We want to make the most of this opportunity to showcase not only our animals but also the many products, services and businesses associated with the alpaca industry.

Saturday Night Dinner

We have arranged a dinner for Saturday evening, which will be held at a venue in Timaru rather than at Kyle Park. This will be conveniently located close to the motel accommodation, making it easy for members to enjoy a relaxed evening together.

Auctions

We are also looking for donations to support two fundraising initiatives:

- A **Stud Services Auction**
- A **Product Auction**

Both auctions will be conducted as silent auctions rather than being held during the dinner itself. We have decided to take this approach so that the evening can remain a relaxed and enjoyable opportunity for members to socialise.

We will provide further information about how these auctions will operate and how members can contribute as arrangements are finalised.

Investing in the Next Generation of Judges

We are shortly commencing our training programme for apprentice judges. Provided the programme progresses according to the current timetable, we hope to have some newly qualified apprentice judges by the time of the National Show.

Rubey has very kindly offered to arrive a day early and spend some valuable time with our apprentices.

This is an excellent opportunity for those undertaking their training to learn directly from one of Australia's rapidly rising alpaca judges and gain practical insights from her experience in the show ring.

Rubey's own judging career continues to go from strength to strength, and she has recently been selected as one of the judges for the **2027 British Alpaca Society National Show**.

We are extremely appreciative of her willingness to share her knowledge and experience with our future judges. Opportunities such as this are invaluable in helping develop the next generation of judging talent within New Zealand.

Let's Make 2027 a Great National Show!

A significant amount of work has already gone into organising the 2027 National Show, securing the venue, arranging facilities, sourcing services and developing opportunities to make this a major event for the Alpaca Association.

However, **all of this effort will count for very little if we do not have the support of our members.**

We need members to get involved, enter their animals and fleeces and help promote the event.

Please consider entering **both the Breed and Fleece competitions**. Whether you have a small or large alpaca stud, your participation helps make the National Show a success.

We also encourage you to consider taking up a sponsorship package. Not only does this provide essential financial support for the event, but it also gives your business valuable exposure to fellow members and the wider public.

Remember, the sooner you secure a sponsorship package, the longer your advertising will appear on the National Show website and social media.

We have a wonderful opportunity to showcase our industry, introduce more people to these amazing animals and demonstrate what our members and breeders have to offer.

Let's all get behind the 2027 National Show, make the journey to Timaru and put on an event that the Alpaca Association can be proud of.

We look forward to seeing you all in Timaru on 18–19 September 2027!

Further updates will follow as the remaining arrangements are finalised.

Simon, Caroline & Rachel

2027 National Show Working Group
Alpaca Association New Zealand