

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ALPACA BREEDERS' SOCIETY

August 2014

Volume 1, Issue 6

A.G.M. AT QUENTI MILL ON 9TH AUGUST



Our Annual General Meeting two weeks ago was generously hosted by Linda and Stephen Nessworthy of Quenti Mill who live in the farming district close to Wellington in the Western Cape. The weather was kind to us and the ambience was just as one would have wanted. We met shortly after 8.30 in the morning, conferred all morning and broke for a delightful lunch of home made soups, breads and cheeses during which time participants could chat, enjoy the sunshine and discuss others' products. We resumed the meeting at 2.00 pm. When the meeting closed Linda and Stephen showed us round the mill explaining not only the mini-mill but the far more sophisticated industrial spinning machinery they brought into the country earlier this year which produces a huge variety of yarns of differing weights (too complicated for me to be able to talk with confidence) but which will enable them to advance their product ranges considerably.

This newsletter highlights some items which came under the spotlight. It does not record the minutes. I would never deny Di the privilege of doing that!



Don't talk to me while I'm working ...



New member Sally Weighill discusses her hand made nuno scarf with Tanya Mudge (L) and Debbie Braunlich (R)

- ♣ Firstly the sad news of the retirement from presidency of Peter-John Garbutt
- ♣ Secondly the dubious news that I have been voted in to take his place
- ♣ Membership fees – to be raised to a more realistic figure
- ♣ A précis of Council's monthly Skype meetings to be circulated to members
- ♣ The branding of "Alpaca SA" as a name under which alpaca products could be marketed
- ♣ Performance testing
- ♣ Alpaca showing shows
- ♣ National Alpaca Day
- ♣ Guidelines to pricing alpacas – herdsires, wethers, females, young alpacas
- ♣ Guidelines for the buying and selling of alpaca fibre
- ♣ The need for provincial, or regional, representatives in the Society - who could help put together ...
- ♣ ... an annual Calender of Events (to assist with planning)
- ♣ Alpaca health issues, with particular emphasis on parasitic problems
- ♣ The possibility of working together with the SA Veterinary Council to share costs of bringing in foreign veterinarians to talk on health issues
- ♣ Di will no doubt include in her minutes those items I have left out.

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER !!

FREE advertising for SAABS members and only R100.00 per insertion for non-members!

Send me your ad in whatever size you require. If I have space you will get that size.

Otherwise I may have to reduce it slightly.

Ads should be sent to me at alpacas@helderstroom.co.za

Once confirmed, payment should be made by eft and sent to:

First National Bank
Branch code: 200-607
Account No.: 621 242 00 990
Account name: SAABS
Reference: Your surname

EVENTS CALENDAR

It is proposed to build up a calendar of events in the Newsletter so that members may be informed of what is coming up, which events they would wish to use to promote their products and, given sufficient notice, where SAABS may be able to assist. Please let us know what is going on in your area. People are sometimes quite prepared to travel quite long distances in order to sell their products.



MUKUTI STUD ALPACAS

Welcome to the world of exquisite, **PURE ALPACA YARNS**,
'home grown' in South Africa

During the past few years **MUKUTI STUD ALPACAS** has, amongst other, been in the fortunate position to present high quality pure alpaca yarns for sale.

Through maintaining a consistent excellent quality yarn as well as prompt and efficient service, our clientele is growing and re-visiting our online shop as well as coming around to our home-shop to view, feel and buy.

Most of our yarns are mill/machine spun, which means that they are evenly spun and of outstan-

ding quality. All our colours are natural – and alpaca dyes well and easily:

Pure Alpaca Yarn - Your natural choice

Perhaps one of the most confusing things for new knitters (and some not-so-new knitters!) to grasp is the concept of yarn weights. Herewith a few guidelines on our yarns, keeping in mind that alpaca is softer, more light weight and silkier than lamb's wool.

Lace weight yarn is particularly troublesome to categorise. It isn't the yarn weight that is difficult to identify (any yarn finer than fingering weight

can qualify as lace weight), but rather the gauge. Lace weight yarn is very fine and is best for creating delicate, web-like items such as openwork shawls and scarves. Exact measurements aren't necessary with many lace garments so one is free to experiment and enjoy making the type of fabric that suits one's preference.

Fingering weight yarn is often used for baby items, socks, and awe inspiring Fair Isle patterns. Fingering weight is sometimes listed as "baby yarn" and is about 1.5 the weight of lace yarn. It also works well if you would like to knit a lace shawl with a bit of substance.



Sport weight yarn and DK weight yarn (double knitting) are often viewed as interchangeable, but they do have a slight difference. Sport weight yarn is slightly lighter or finer than DK weight. Use these weights for socks, accessories, shawls, wraps, and heirloom sweaters like those inspired by Norwegian ski clothing.

Excerpt © Knit Picks



Please ask for a catalogue of our latest colours / quality yarns available. When deciding on a certain yarn let us know how much you need – some yarns are small quantities from the previous season.

Once you send your order, we will send you an official invoice with banking details. This will include the postage costs. We usually send our parcels via Econo Post*, tracking number will be supplied. Currently packaging & postage is *R24.00 for up to a kilogram in South Africa. Overseas / inter Africa relevant to country Our yarns are also available via the following website: www.woolhogs.co.za – price wise all the same.

MUKUTI STUD alpacas
Verena & Manfred Hinsch
16 Compacta Street
7130 Somerset West, R.S.A.
Tel: +27 (0)21 855 1441
Verena: +27 (0)83 456 2545
Manfred: +27 (0)83 456 2546
kambihi@deunet.co.za
www.alpacasa.co.za

CSIR MIDDELBERG, EC MILL – PROCESSING OF ALPACA FIBRE Eva has recently heard from Dr Anton Botha who reports as follows:

Dr Anton Botha reports from the CSIR that their cashmere project is on the run nicely at Middelburg EC where washing, dehairing and batt making is taking place. They have processed about 300kg of alpaca fibre already. Some of this alpaca required only washing and some was dehaired as well. Processing the alpaca into sliver is still something they are working on. Washing cost at this plant is R34.50 per kilogram and dehairing is R28.50 per kg/washed alpaca. It would appear that Dr Botha is still running trials. Those interested in utilizing this CSIR project should keep an eye on progress.

Three videos to watch:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHGJYGuuMpE>
<http://youtu.be/Zile3eVdITQ>
<http://youtu.be/gcREDkBccU8>