

2017 New England Alpaca Show - Convenor's Report – Paul Thibault

Judge: Adrienne Clarke

Fleece Judging Date: Saturday 10 June 2017

Halter Judging Date: Sunday 11 June 2017

Results:

Supreme Champion Huacaya Fleece: **Green Gully Fleur** by Green Gully Alpacas

Supreme Champion Suri Fleece: **Humminghills Elija** Exhibited by Humminghills Alpacas

Supreme Champion Huacaya: **Hilldale Park Demarco** Exhibited by Hilldale Park Alpacas

Supreme Champion Suri: **Humminghills Rashmi** Exhibited by Humminghills Alpacas

The 2017 New England Alpaca Show was a successful show and was well supported by members of the Central Coast/Hunter regions along with interest from the surrounding regions.

Entry numbers for halter classes were slightly higher than in 2016, setting a new record of 148 in total, including 27 suris.

However, fleece entry numbers were down 9 from last year with a total of 31 fleeces being judged on the day. The reduced number was due to only 4 suri fleeces being shown in contrast to 21 in 2016. The only disappointment of the show was that many of the region's suri breeders did not enter fleeces in the NEAS Fleece Show.

The Show made a net loss of \$237 (Income \$6562, Expenses \$6325). This small loss can mainly be attributed to an un-expected Security expense of \$715, which was necessary to provide night-time security for the penned animals for the Saturday and Sunday nights. In previous shows the security had been provided by member volunteers willing to sleep at the showground overnight. Stoic volunteers willing to sleep out in sub-zero temperatures were not available this year.

Fleece judging was completed on Saturday and we thank Adrienne Clarke for making this an enjoyable afternoon for the fleece stewards.

Saturday was also set up day – many thanks to the willing volunteers, who made this happen!

Show Day was a wonderful culmination of the team's hard work.

Due to the poor weather forecast for Show Day the ring was set up under cover and this turned out to be a wise decision, as sure enough, rain commenced mid-morning and continued through-out the show day. Never-the-less a rewarding day of friendly competition was completed well before dark, thanks to the proficiency of the judge and stewards and the earlier starting time of 8.30am. The judge's performance was rated highly by the exhibitors with a strong consensus that she was thorough, methodical, consistent, and with very helpful commentaries. Fortunately, this year the microphone problem of previous shows was not an issue as the newly purchased PA system worked flawlessly.

Similar to 2016, a Sire Stud Service Auction was included as part of the day. Thanks once again to Nigel Thompson for coordinating this successful event which contributed \$625 to the income for the show. Hopefully this event can continue in future as part of the NEAS.

As usual, socialising was a key feature of the weekend with dinners held both Saturday and Sunday evening - both nights were well attended with approx. 50 diners on both evenings. The food was good and the company excellent.

The show is an ongoing success because of the hard work and enthusiasm of a small group of New England Breeders. Following the stepping down of several key-members of the organising team after 2016, there has been some new-blood entering the team and this has helped to maintain this important annual event for alpaca breeders in Northern NSW. We look forward to the NEAS continuing in 2018.

The team are already planning another great weekend of showing and networking!