

NSW Committee Teleconference
Thursday 5th March, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Maureen Bates, Keryn Burns, Ros Davis, Rob Harborne, Fran Haslin, Cathi McMullen, Helen Phillips, Emma Timmony, Rubey Williams

Apologies: Erin Marsden.

Skype:

Keryn had planned to investigate using Skype for our Teleconferences as the dial in one was costing \$170-\$180 per call. The office has changed to another provider at a much cheaper rate so Skype idea put on hold for now.

Dropbox:

Cathi said she is unable to access the AAA documents on Dropbox. Keryn will look at the problem. Most of us are getting messages to say our Dropbox is full even though less than half the available storage has been used. Let Keryn know if you are still getting those messages.

Keryn has created a second Dropbox to store old Newsletters.

Presidents' Teleconference:

Keryn was able to tell us that there will be no capitation this Financial year to the Regions. Most Regions have enough in their accounts to cover expenses, if any are short of funds for an event it will be looked at on an individual basis. The increase of the S&J levy from \$2 to \$4 (Halter) and \$1 to \$2 (Fleeces) has been deferred until 1/7/20. The increased levy was a decision made by the previous S&J Committee but no record can be found of it being communicated to the members. Cathi was not happy with the way it was mentioned in a recent Newsletter. Keryn replied it was assumed when the Update went out that all members had already been notified and this was just a reminder. Carolyn Austin is the new Treasurer on the Board. She is going to sort out financials for the regions. We will be given access to look at our own bank

account and to MYOB. Rob asked if we still plan to have our own regional treasurer? Keryn replied yes, we most likely will appoint one soon.

Portfolio Reports:

Assets:

Maureen is gradually getting things organised. Sue Tiley had asked the question as to whether Maureen is utilizing the work that Lionel put into listing the assets. Short answer is yes, Maureen is using them as a starting point but needs more information to fill in the gaps. She will be asking people for specific information such as brand, model number etc to add to her spreadsheets.

Maureen is making up an email form to send out to people requesting to borrow trailers, it will make it easier than downloading the existing form.

Maureen is now able to approve the payment for pink slips.

Permission was sought to get a new tarp for the old SCH equipment trailer.

Action: Maureen will get 3 quotes for a new tarp.

Events: Covered in show sections.

Newsletter:

Apologies from Erin for the next Newsletter being delayed, she will be doing it as soon as she returns home.

Erin asked for permission to take the Newsletter laptop to a computer shop to be cleaned up and updated. Approved.

Member Liaison:

Cathi is intending to follow up with new members a little while after they have been given their initial welcome pack from the office. She would like to set up a mentoring program for both new members and old members. Considering such initiatives as invitations to shows where they can be shown around and introduced to other members.

Updates of Shows:

Sydney Royal

Keryn gave an update on Sydney Royal. All under control. Everyone nervous about entry numbers, are expected to be down due to drought, fires, floods. Tried to get some concession on parking costs to no avail.

RAS has instigated a new requirement for those staying on-site. Once Keryn has the names of everyone who will be staying in huts she will be sending out a request to supply a passport style photo. The RAS will produce an ID which has to be worn at all times on site (hopefully not while you are asleep)! This applies to everyone even if only staying for one night. There is no charge to the exhibitor or volunteer.

Vincentia High kids will once again run the activities at the front gate for the duration of the show. The Walk an Alpaca segment will move to Munro when we bump in. Last year we provided \$2,000 to pay for their accommodation and meal vouchers. Keryn asked for approval to do the same this year. Approved. Cathi asked if a blog could be set up to report on these activities, Rubey said there is a Facebook page where pictures etc are put up.

Cathi agreed to organise a roster for people to man the AAA Information Desk. Note: Unfortunately Cathi realized she had a prior engagement so is no longer able to do this.

Royal Bathurst Show:

Cathi reported she is well underway with organisation for Bathurst. Alpacas are now back in the sheep pavilion so no need for pens, marquees or hoeckers. Only restriction is for an hour out on the Sunday for the sheep people to hold an auction. Some concern that if there was rain it could wash sheep droppings into the alpaca section. If anyone is still MN this could pose a problem.

Ian Frith will be taking Illawarra Prime meat Fri to Sun.

We have been invited to participate in the Grand Parade for the first time.

Cathi has organised a gold coin opportunity for the public to have a photo taken with an alpaca, proceeds to go to the local RFS,

Trevor Pavlovich (World of Alpacas magazine) has agreed to sponsor entries for bushfire victims up to a total of \$500.

Cathi is talking to local suppliers looking for different items as prizes.

Most Commercial Fleece class will be offered.

Carousel of Colour:

A decision was made to drop Carousel of Colour from the calendar.

Action: Maureen to cancel booking for Goulburn Showground.

Charles Ledger:

Charles Ledger will go ahead as a colour show on 12th-13th September.

Concern was expressed by Rob that the tradition of Supreme Huacaya and Supreme Suri would be lost if it became a colour show. Fran said all the colour Supremes can be run off to come up with an overall Supreme. Note: I have checked the rules on this, it would technically be called "Best in Show Huacaya or Suri", it is the same as supreme so no reason the same Perpetual Trophies can't carry on. As to the bollards, if they are still be produced they just have the name, breed and year on so no problem with them either.

Note: The other perpetual trophy is the David Izzard trophy for Best Grey so that would still apply.

Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains:

A committee has been formed headed by Sue Maynard. They are well underway with planning.

Winter Wonderland:

The Mudgee venue has been booked for 1st-2nd August. Keryn has volunteered to convene the show.

Other show related items:

Best in colour at shows.

Point raised that if there are huacaya colour champs then they should run it for suri as well. Agreement in principal, both are optional at all shows. Running suri may be dependent on entry numbers.

Judge allocation process.

Emma queried how this is done.

Note: Rather than go through what was speculated in our Meeting I asked Lyn Dickson, who has taken over judge allocation, for a copy of the latest procedure. I'll send that out to committee when I send final minutes.

Show approval process:

Emma asked that committee members reply a definite yes or no when asked if they approve a show.

Ribbons:

Emma is doing a full audit of all shows to make a list of what ribbons they require. Some Ag shows provide ribbons, we supply them for other shows. Rob raised the issue of the disparity of price for ribbons between shows. He pointed out the number ordered and overall cost for some of the high profile shows. Keryn stated the RAS dictates the quality of ribbons for Sydney Royal. Other prestigious shows like the Charles Ledger have a tradition of quality ribbons, Maureen said she wants to maintain that standard. Committee agreed it is worth investigating suppliers and investigating buying generic ribbons in bulk. Action: I think Emma said she would do a proposal?? Is that right, could you clarify please.

Show badge pack:

Fran was sent a pack of badges from the office. It contains 1 Show Convenor, 1 Chief Steward and 2 Show Steward badges. Questions were raised about who made the decision to have these made, whether it was practical to pass them on from show to show (not really) or whether show convenors should be told they are available to purchase from the office for \$15 each (set of 4 for \$60). Action: Fran will take a photo of them, Emma could send to convenors so they can purchase from the office if they wish.

Transport of Fleeces between Shows:

Cathi brought up the possibility of setting up something more structured for moving fleeces from one show to the next. Sorry Cathi, I lost the plot here and didn't take any notes that make sense, can you fill in what was discussed.

I have only written "Send a note to members"

Action: ??

Most Commercial Fleece:

Cathi would like to see the Most Commercial Fleece included in shows as a matter of course. At the moment it has to be entered as a separate class via eAlpaca at an additional cost even if it is already entered in an age/colour class. Cathi has written up a proposal about MCF which would need to be submitted to the S&J Committee for consideration. She also asked if at this late stage it could be included in 2020 Sydney Royal. Keryn replied she was not prepared to change the schedule at this late stage as entries close in a few days. Keryn will put it in the program for 2021.

Pen charges:

Cathi asked the question “Should an AAA member be charged more for their pens if they are not a member of the Royal Society?” Exhibitors at Royal Canberra were charged double for their pens (\$20 v \$10). (Does anyone know how CBR works these days, exhibitors enter via eAlpaca but what happens after that. Does that money then go to RNCAS then some is given back to AAA? That might explain the difference in fees. Might be worth asking someone, Cath or Sharon or Jess Sachs, she might be best?? I’m happy to send an email to Jess) There is no difference in pen costs at Sydney Royal.

Promotional Material:

Fran received a sample of handouts which are available free from the office to be given out at Shows and other events such as field Days. There is a promotional brochure with Information about AAA and the alpaca Industry. There are also two 10x14.5 cm “Education Bite” cards. One describes the attributes of suris and huacayas, the second one details the steps involved in processing of fleece. Action: Fran to contact Tanya and work out the best way to get these out to convenors.

Field days:

A couple of stands have been booked for Mudgee Field Days. Murrumbateman? Rob secured a special rate last year, can he get the same again? (I’m not if I have this correct, anything anyone wants to add in or take out?)

Other Business:

Cathi asked if we could have a forward calendar of meetings. We agreed to have Teleconferences on the first Thursday of the month up to July (except for April when some of us will be at Sydney Royal). Dates for your calendar are 7th May (booked), 4th June & 2nd July.

Meeting closed at 10.30.