

# The Alpaca Breeder

A magazine produced for the members of  
the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association

Issue 1 June 2006

## Welcome to AABA

AABA is an Association dedicated to Alpaca Breeders' needs in Australia and its region. We believe in open, honest and transparent operation, bringing Breeders of Alpacas and Fibre Processors together, with maximum benefit and assistance to our members.

There is a place for all people interested in Alpacas at AABA and we welcome everyone and value your input.

## The Launch of a New Association

The Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association chose to inaugurate our new association on the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Charles Ledger's death.

A few of us gathered together at his graveside at Rookwood Cemetery on Friday 19th May 2006. In the party were 4 of the Foundation Members, some visitors and 3 alpacas; a Suri & 2 Huacaya—much to the delight of the staff and visitors to the cemetery that day.

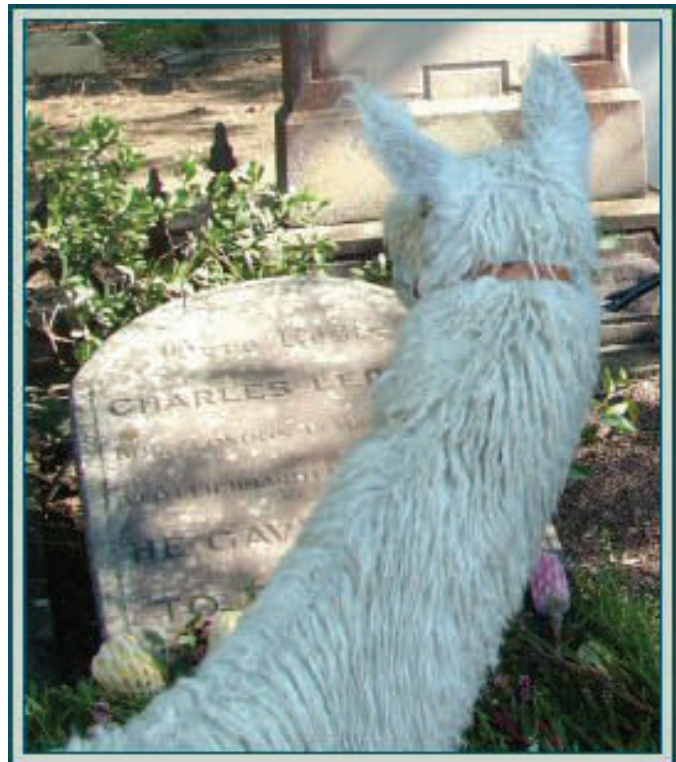
We salute the man who was the first to bring alpacas to Australia. He was a fighter, an adventurer, a trail-blazer, and an entrepreneur.

He displayed a spirit that we at AABA hope to emulate and foster in all our dealings. We celebrate his spirit and his life today and every day.

We pledge to take responsibility for the heritage that belongs to our industry, and we take pride in supporting the maintenance of Charles and Charlotte Ledgers' graves.

We'll be bringing you the stories of this amazing couple in the ensuing months. The tale is one that is worth waiting for.

Join us in our toast ... "To Charles Ledger's Dream."



The aptly named Atahualpa  
[last king of the Incas] views Charles Ledger's  
grave at Rookwood Cemetery

Charlotte is buried in Goulburn Old  
General Cemetery, NSW.

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A look at our new Farm Gate Signs



## Welcome from the AABA foundation members,

This association was started by 7 people vitally interested in furthering the position of alpacas and their fleece in Australia. We saw a need in the industry to have an association that is more member focussed than was available at the time; a place where small breeders and large could share ideas and give assistance in the spirit of cooperation.

So the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association came about, and was founded on the idea that there is still a place for an association of members whose main interest is alpacas, an association that should be made up of members helping each other and working towards the same stated goals.

We all thought that an Association of which we are members, should have the following traits.

Our Association should be fun and interesting. It should be ethical and have open communication. There should be no top heavy governing body, just a group of elected members who would help guide the industry and consult with its members, continually and on an on-going basis.

There should be a series of checks and balances - for that is what democracy is all about. Our association should be fiscally responsible and only garner enough money from its members to satisfy the requirements for the services provided.

Our Association should advance education, enhance awareness of Alpacas and other Camelids, and operate a register that is at the forefront of technology and that will be Internationally recognised as the world's best.

We are so happy to have you with us in this new alpaca venture.

Our meetings will be largely reserved for social and educational events. We will foster a feeling of camaraderie. Where possible our debates will be online and we hope that all our members will be respectful of each other & everyone's opinions. Our ability to share debate, without being purposefully rancorous is what can make us great.

There are many views of how the Alpaca Industry in Australia should proceed. All these views are valid, and have their place. Why don't you join us? And let us all hear what you have to say.

We all hope that AABA is successful for you.

*Download the AABA Membership form at [www.aaba.com.au](http://www.aaba.com.au)*

## The AABA Fibre Processing Directory

At the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association we are aware that around 80% of Alpaca Breeders in the region can be classed as small to medium sized breeders.

We all want to add value to the fleece that we produce and allow the rest of the world to experience what we already know - that Alpaca Fleece makes the most beautiful textile in the world.

To that end AABA is producing a Fibre Processors Directory that will be available to all members.

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The AABA Fibre Processors Directory will have all contacts available in Australia and New Zealand that will allow you to make decision about how and where you want to process your alpaca fleece.

Additionally AABA is considering providing fleece to industry in a pooled resource or perhaps an e-seller facility. Your input is appreciated. We need to know what you want.

Email the editor if you have any resources or contacts that you would like placed into the Directory at [pacagal@aaba.com.au](mailto:pacagal@aaba.com.au)

# Charles Ledger 1818 - 1905

So why does AABA identify with Charles Ledger?

Well that's easy. He was remarkable, he fought against all sorts of adversity, he was heroic! We consider him to be the father, or maybe, patron saint of the Australian Alpaca Industry.

Charles Ledger will become the masthead for AABA. He represents a forward thinking and flexible, proactive industry.

Next issue will see the start of a series of articles about this amazing adventurer and innovator.



## The Australasian Alpaca Registry

One of the important objectives of the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association is the development of the Australasian Alpaca Registry or AAR.

The AAR is an innovative database and Alpaca Register.

The AAR will record Alpaca traits along sound scientific lines and will have the added advantage of having two levels of Register.

The first tier will record alpacas who are either not DNA tested or Alpacas with less than 2 whole generations of DNA tested animals in their heritage.

The second tier will be the Verified Register. This tier will record alpacas with full DNA testing and have both verified parentage and testing for certain traits.

The AAR will be supported by a state of the art DNA testing system. The DNA markers are the most modern and complete of any DNA testing available in the world today.

Not only that - the markers used are compatible with most other registry systems internationally. The DNA information will be stored on your behalf, and the information stored on the AAR belongs to you, the members.

True - there is a little extra cost involved, but the key will be the ability, for the first time in the world, to make the decisions to optimise your breeding program using sound scientific evidence.

To enhance the depth of information on the AAR you will notice that our colour registration system and classes of fleece colour are different from other registries. We will even record eye colour.

The AAR is currently in development. Members will be invited to register their alpacas in the near future.

Members will also be able to register their whole herds for a minimal cost. This offer of a whole herd registration is limited, details will be released to members soon.

The systems used by the AAR will mean an end to expensive Vet visits just to register or certify your alpacas. The choice of Stud Male will be yours, and will be made easier by having so many males on a Verified DNA Tested Registry.

We will accept a variety of tags including NLIS, RFID, IAR and ARI.

Enhancements to the AAR will be scheduled over the next year or two. Members are encouraged to make suggestions to enhance this, or any other system or policy of AABA.

If we can do it, if it makes sound sense, then all suggestions will be scheduled for consideration and implementation.

## The AABA Online Forum

The AABA Forum is now open!

Join us for frank and open discussion about all alpaca related issues.

Our policy is for each person to sign in, using their whole names, not pseudos, and then to engage in earnest discussion.

On our forum we trust that each person will treat others with respect & courtesy, and still be able to express their opinion.

As the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association believes in open and transparent operation, you'll find almost all discussion between members is in the public area of our forum.

Please join us at [www.aaba.com.au](http://www.aaba.com.au)

*AABA is looking for fantastic Alpaca Photos for our front cover. Each front cover will be accompanied by a Breeder Profile—so get out those Paca happy snaps!*

*Your pikies might adorn the website too!*

# the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association

## Mission Statement

- to bring together people interested in alpacas and all other camelids [including Guanaco, Llama and Camel; from this point on referred to as lama), for the purpose of breeding, fleece production and uses of camelid fleece
- to foster and promote a viable alpaca and lama industry around the world
- to promote public awareness and appreciation of the alpacas and lama
- to liaise with Government, Statutory and Allied Industry bodies
- to educate the Membership on the care and breeding of the alpaca and lama
- to encourage husbandry and breeding practices based upon, but not limited to, herd health, overall soundness and fleece production
- to encourage innovation in the use of alpaca and lama fleece by industry and those with a craft interest
- to maintain a world standard Register via an online electronic database
- to represent our members with honesty and integrity
- to encourage and promote the manufacture and marketing of alpaca products, the industries associated with those activities, and members' interests generally
- to establish codes of ethics in respect of members' alpaca or lama-related activities
- to conduct (alone or in co-operation with other companies, agricultural societies or associations) field days, shows, exhibitions, competitions, sales and seminars dealing with alpacas and alpaca products
- to advance the association financially and in public esteem
- to encourage and promote ventures and research of benefit to the alpaca industry
- to encourage members to plant trees on their properties and to promote environmentally sustainable practice

If you want to know more about the prime tenets of the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association please go to our website [www.aaba.com.au](http://www.aaba.com.au) and read *The Alpaca Manifesto*.

The Alpaca Manifesto is a document written by one of the foundation members & brings together the prime ideas and reasons for a different type of association that the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association intends to be.

For more information regarding the Australasian Alpaca Breeders Association go to [www.aaba.com.au](http://www.aaba.com.au)

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Included in each full issue of **the Alpaca Breeder** is a complete craft project featuring Alpaca Fleece at its best.

Our craftiest members have contributed some fabulous projects for you to complete.

Please feel free to contribute some of your own craft projects.

Email the editor at [pacagal@aaba.com.au](mailto:pacagal@aaba.com.au)

We hope in future to be able to bring you Craft and Alpaca Fibre Hand Processing Workshops.

Please also email me with anything that you would like to see in your e-zine.