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General Alpaca Experience

1993

First acquisition of alpacas.

Travelled extensively throughout Australia investigating the few alpaca establishments around at the time. Purchased our first group of females and a couple of stud males.

Established our stud, Eringa Park Alpaca Stud.

1994

Acted as agents for an interstate Stud.

Attended the sale of the first import of Peruvians into the USA in Michigan where I noticed the official number one pick male 'Ruffo'.

Selection of groups for sale in South Australia.

Slowly acquired more alpacas for our herd depending on their attributes, ie, phenotype, breeding, fineness and colour uniformity.

Initiated the purchase and import of our top US male, Ruffo.

Selection of show team.

Participated successfully on the local show circuit.

Holding open days and introducing and educating the general public on the virtues of alpaca breeding.

1995

Managed quarantine of our United States imports.

After selection of a group of top males and females from America they were imported to Australia and quarantined for 12 months on farm at Eringa Park.

Offered a selection of services to the males for females with the correct selection criteria. These females remained on farm under quarantine conditions for the 12 month duration

Participated successfully on the local show circuit.

1996-2000

Breeding.

Averaging 10 shows a year as exhibitors.

Spent these years concentrating on our breeding practices.

Managing herd growth and development.

Continued success in National show circuit.

2001-2003

Herd expansion and Peruvian imports.

Trip to New Zealand to expand knowledge of the industry and breeding quality, as well as cement relationships between agents and clients.

Selection and subsequent purchase of a large Australian herd.

Spending long periods of time on the altiplano forming relationships with Peruvian breeders and selecting stock for a large shipment to our farm in Australia.

Negotiating a large purchase of Accoyo males and females enabling us to now own the largest herd of 'Pure Accoyos' outside of Accoyo itself.

Two year period as a director of the Australian Alpaca Co-operative.

2004 - today

Expansion of our alpaca interest

Instigating and carrying out a further import of Peruvian animals to our farm in Australia, spending a lot of time travelling and selecting stock in the mountains.

In control of over 3000 alpacas worldwide.

Assessment and subsequent purchase of half of the Arunvale herd.

Trips to the UK and Europe to enhance both knowledge of the alpaca industry there and the quality of breeding stock.

Initiation and successful merger of the Arunvale and Atlantic herds (two of the larger and well recognised UK-based studs).

Show team selections in Australia and the UK.

Advice to clients on their breeding programmes and help in selecting the right genetics for their herd.

Continued success in the Australian National show circuit.

Continued success on the UK show circuit.

Continual herd evaluation and breeding both in Australia and the UK.

Education

2005 Completed the BAS Judging levels 1, 2 and 3.

2008 Successfully completed BAS Judge's recertification

JUDGING EXPERIENCE:

2007 Bath and West

Halter Judge Suri

2010 SWAG

Halter Judge over 2 days, Suri and Huacaya.

North Somerset Halter Judge Suri and Huacaya

Alpaka Show Ost, Germany Halter and Fleece Judge. Suri and Huacaya