

Alpacas Come of Age

The alpaca industry in Australia turns 21, and you're invited to the party.



To celebrate its coming of age, members are holding a series of exciting and informative events throughout the country as part of the National Alpaca Week.



Organised by the Australian Alpaca Association, these events are seen as an ideal opportunity to celebrate not only the arrival of alpacas in Australia, but also the United Nations sponsored "International Year of Natural Fibres" which aims to promote the worldwide use of natural rather than synthetic fibres.

"Here in The Hills and Hawkesbury areas a range of exciting events will be occurring during National Alpaca Week", says Galston breeder Sue Maynard, Secretary of the AAA Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains Region.

"Some of the finest alpacas will be competing in the prestigious Hawkesbury Show on Saturday May 2nd at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon. This is a great way to see just how much the industry has progressed over the past two decades. After the show there will be plenty of time to meet with the exhibitors and get to know more about this industry."

Additionally a number of local breeders will be conducting "open days" in the week following the show. For further details, visit www.hbmalpaca.com.au and follow the links.

"For those that can't wait until May", advises Ms Maynard, "members of the public are encouraged to visit the alpacas at the Castle Hill Show on Sunday 22nd March. This show traditionally attracts more than 100 alpaca entries and it's a great opportunity to speak to breeders and get more information about alpacas and local events for the National Alpaca Week."



For more information on alpaca events in the Hills, Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas, contact Sue Maynard on 02 9653 2277 or alpacas@tpg.com.au