



Paula Leeson – Secretary

I grew up in Brisbane with my parents and 4 siblings on a half acre suburban block. We always had a dog and, at times, also had ducks and chooks. For as long as I can recall, I have wanted to run animals – not necessarily alpacas, but definitely something I could handle by myself. That meant cattle and horses were out but for a long time I toyed with the idea of having goats.

All dreams remained on-hold until Peter and I moved to Gympie and settled on our 25 acre block. Even then, the dream had to wait until the kids grew up a bit, the fences were strung and the grass encouraged to grow.

I started seriously gathering information in 2002 and bought my first animals in 2003 – 2 pregnant huacaya, one with cria at foot. But my heart was taken by the beautiful Suri alpaca and in 2007, Peter and I left our eldest girl in charge of the farm and headed off down south to source a new female.

From this foundation, I am slowly building a Suri herd with the aim of breeding for better. Whether the animal is white or coloured is irrelevant to me, as long as the next generation is better than the one before. Recent Show-ring successes would suggest I'm doing OK.

And where on earth did the name 'Kiambram' come from? It's an Aboriginal word meaning 'dense forest', appropriate since most of my 25 acres is still under trees.

I have served on the committee for 4 years as equipment officer. This year, I have taken on the Secretarial portfolio, a huge step from my comfort zone. My aim is to ensure the membership stays well informed of the decisions being made, driving the Alpaca Industry forward.