



Robyn Harrison

I grew up on a few acres in Brisbane where we had dogs, horses, chooks etc, so having some space and being surrounded by animals was a big part of my childhood. During the mid-1990's, I was happily living in a neat suburban house when I met a friendly alpaca at the Ekka in Brisbane and was immediately hooked. I told everybody that "one day" I would own alpacas. Every year I would seek out the alpacas at the Ekka to get my annual "fix". But they were well out of my price range at that time.

My dream came true in 2004 when I purchased my first alpacas. Rather than going the traditional way of getting land, then maybe a couple of wethers... I bought 5 pregnant females whilst still living in suburbia! I was quite lucky that an old family friend was willing to let me and my alpacas invade his place at Samford for a little while! That is how the Samsuri herd came into being (Samford Suris)!!

I moved to 40 acres on the east side of Gympie in 2008, and we (my dogs, my alpacas and I) are loving it. I have an old farm house with views down a valley out to the mountains, a spring fed creek, more grass than the alpacas can eat, and fresh country air!

I now have around 50 alpacas, and am breeding mostly coloured suri, with a focus on black suri.

My fawn, brown and black suri alpacas have done reasonably well in the show ring over the past few years, and some of my fleeces have even done OK. I'm looking forward to the day when a black suri takes out the supreme champion suri, and of course I hope that it will be one of mine!!

I'm just learning to use their awesome fleece and hope one day to be able to spin, though I doubt I'll ever compete with Beaver as a spinner! I believe that alpacas have a bright future and we are well placed to take advantage of their "green" credentials in a changing world.

I'm the convenor of the Gympie Show and have now joined the Queensland Region committee as the Show/Events Coordinator. I will be helping the convenors to manage the shows, and helping to coordinate any other alpaca related events throughout the region. If anybody has bright ideas for any new or existing shows and events, I'd love to hear from you. You can email me at samsuri@tpg.com.au.