



# Nose to Tail: MUVSA NEWS



Issue #2 April 2015

Hi Everyone,

Wow, what an exciting Semester it's shaping up to be. With BBGrog and Mr Vet under our belts we are well into the swing of the social side of Vet School. Coming up we have Slave Auction and Quiz Night, which are both sure to be great events. Read along for more info about the calendar sales too.

As always, if you would like to write an article to be presented in the newsletter then please email us. Our contact email is:  
[masseyvetnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:masseyvetnewsletter@gmail.com)

Thanks,

*Dani, Rachel and Olivia*

## Mr Vet 2015

And the most eligible Bachelor is.....

Mr Vet this year was another highly entertaining show of some of Vet School's finest male talent. The wardrobe for the show ranged from fishnets to elephant thongs and included talents ranging from pole dancing to painting and even some creative instrument playing.

This year's crowned winner was Ryan Collins (BVSc 3) with Kyle Jones (BVSc 3) in second and in third place Kevin Dalton (BVSc 5).

Good show boys!

**Photo Below:**  
The competitors lined up awaiting the announcement of the results.



# Alpaca Practical Experience

An interview with Huiyu Lu (BVSc 2) by Rachel Eden



Over the summer many of the current BVSc 2 and BVSc 3 students were busy getting their practical work requirements completed. Included in these fourteen weeks of practical work is two weeks of 'other', allowing students the opportunity to interact with some animals more unusual than the standard dairy cow.

## **Where did you complete your two weeks of 'other' practical work?**

I worked at an alpaca farm called Cuesta Alpacas located in Papakura, Auckland. The farm has about 100 alpacas and is owned by a couple, Martyn and Jenny, who wanted to have alpacas as part of their personal retirement plan and to receive extra income through the alpacas' fleece.

## **Why did you decide to choose alpacas?**

Being a student from Singapore who has never encountered alpacas before, I found alpacas really adorable, and thought it would be fun to work with them. I also personally love to strive for new experiences, and therefore wanted to spend my two weeks on animals that are not covered in the vet curriculum.

## **What did a typical day's work involve?**

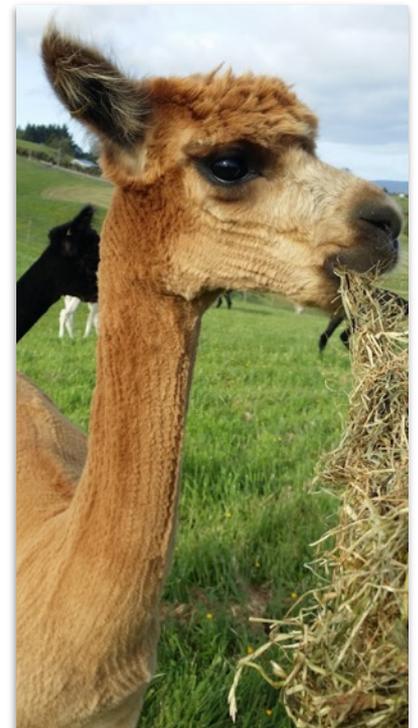
I had to feed and herd the alpacas from paddock to paddock depending on the weather conditions, train the young alpacas to be accustomed to human touch and check on the pregnant mums, as it was the birthing period when I was on the farm. I got to give antibiotic injections and trim the infected fleece off an alpaca called Alchemist, who had a skin problem. I also had to feed the six chickens on the farm and the dog named Tank. One day we attended the knitting club annual general meeting in Pukekohe, where all the members of the knitting club came together to sell their products to the public. I learnt a lot about how an alpaca's fleece can be made into many different things, like gloves, scarves, beanies and blankets. It can be used to make felted bags and necklaces too.

## **What was the most memorable experience from your time there?**

The most memorable experience would definitely be assisting the pregnant mums deliver their crias (babies). I got to witness the births of three crias and help two of them get on their feet to find milk from their mums. One of the crias was born underweight and was not able to feed off mum, so we had to hand feed him milk throughout the night. Being able to experience all of these events first hand was a pretty emotional experience.

## **What do you think you learnt the most about working with alpacas, and do you believe it has relevance to your future career as a vet?**

I have learnt the behaviour and handling of alpacas as well as some common problems and conditions that alpacas are more susceptible to and the regular procedures to counter such health implications. I also got to understand the birthing process and the nutritional demand of both the pregnant and non-pregnant alpacas. Most importantly I got to understand the farmer's viewpoint, which will aid me in communicating effectively with my clients as a veterinarian in the future.





## BVSc III "Barely There" Calendar

"I had always vowed that if I got into Vet I would do the Barely There Calendar, and at the time Third year seemed so far away. And then all of a sudden, there we were, on a chilly morning at 7 am posing naked with some horses, giggling nervously about all the nakedness. It dawned on me rather uncomfortably that we would soon be selling these calendars of us to our Aunties, friends and random strangers we had never meet before..."

Thats right, the Barely There Calendar is back. Stretching from July 2015 till June 2016, you can have our gorgeous naked selves on your wall every day for the small charge of \$15.

This year the charity for the Calendar is the Wanganui Bird Rescue. At least 10% of the proceeds from the calendar will be donated to this amazing cause and it is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your local community. At the Wanganui Bird Rescue our donation will make a tangible difference to the care of our injured native birds.

**Every Third Year Vet student will be selling them, and the numbers are limited, so be sure to get your hands on one.**

Calendars will be being sold from stalls on Concourse from 11 - 2 pm after semester break for \$15.



BIGGROG!

