



CAMERON HOLT

Born in the mid 1940's to a farming father and a mother who was the daughter of a wool buyer, Cameron seemed destined to join the fibre industries.

He attended school in Melbourne with many visits back to the family farm. This involved not only sheep work but many hours on the tractor turning the soil etc.

When he left Haileybury College at the age of 16 he attended the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (now RMIT University) where he studied the wool classing course for skills not only in classing but selling and buying wool. Cameron spent six months at a wool classing facility then joined a woolbroking firm where he had a six month cadetship and then moved to the wool store to become a "junior wool valuer". This also meant being chauffer to the boss on numerous occasions along with his wool duties.

A couple of years later Cameron met the love of his life - Joy, on a blind date and they have been together ever since (some 45 years). Joy and Cameron married in 1966 and moved to the Western District of Victoria where Cameron took up the position of "Wool Valuer" in the Australian Estates Portland wool store.



Cameron was responsible for the preparation of the wool sale and also spent time in the local area advising clients on wool and classing sheep for them. Although learning to judge wool in Melbourne his main judging adventures started here at Portland.

A few years later Cameron and Joy moved back to Melbourne where Cameron returned as a Senior Wool Technical Officer, still with Australian Estates. He travelled around many parts of Eastern Australia and gained knowledge of how the various pastoral regions affected wool, particular in micron, yield and processing.



Joy and Cameron have three sons, Andrew, Jonathan and Tim, and the Melbourne suburb of Beaumaris was to be their family home. They were close to the beach and in the area of the well known sand-belt golf courses.

Australian Estates had requests from wool clients (who also had angora goats) to start a rehandling centre for mohair. This was done with Cameron being given the job to make it work. The fibre was received in containers ranging from wool bales to shopping bags (just like the start of the alpaca classing.) It was during this time that wool and mohair buyer, David Williams and Cameron developed a working relationship and they have maintained this in the alpaca classing area today. Cameron continued with his studies, particularly in fibre measurement and Mohair production.



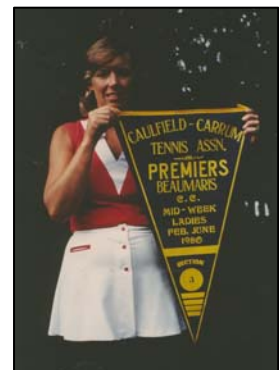
His talents were quite broad, from breeding and flock management of sheep and goats (in latter years Alpacas), to classifying and valuing wool in the company stores, as well as on the wool production farms for the

international wool markets. He advised wool growers on fibre preparation, flock improvement, animal classing, purchasing of stud stock and also arranging farm finance. His experience also included management (Mohair department of this Company).

In the early 1970's, Cameron was responsible for fieldwork where fibre sampling of animals was required so enabling classing by fibre measurement to take place.



Joy from a tennis family had a love of this game as did Cameron. This saw them travelling with their boys to many country tournaments, as well as playing in local competitions in Melbourne.



After some 20 years with "Estates" Cameron was approached to join the education side of wool and allied fibres. After teacher training and receiving his Teaching Diploma, the family moved for a year to a country secondary school (agricultural studies) before returning to Melbourne to conduct training in wool, mohair and cashmere classing. He then completed his degree (B. Ed). Cameron also lectured in Organisational Management and HRM, areas he had studied when doing his degree. Cameron has gained extensive experience in vocational education, by means of teaching in a variety of situations including College based courses through to lecturing at various Universities. He has also been involved in workplace training and assessing in various shearing sheds where he has instructed shed hands in their duties.

Cameron was the project manager for the development of the two wool Associate Diploma's of Applied Science and one Advanced Certificate in Shearing Shed Management. He jointly wrote the curriculum for the Mohair Certificate and developed the original curriculum for the Cashmere Production Certificate.

In 1990 Cameron was approached to develop an education program for the Australian Alpaca Association. This required research (This project set out to establish the validity of sampling techniques for alpaca fleeces) and the construction of an alpaca training syllabus and led to the first alpaca educational program in Australia being conducted. As a result of this research project he developed a sampling procedure for alpaca fleece to be tested.

Cameron has published 5 Animal fibre research papers (3 jointly), as well as Course Manuals for Alpaca Production, Mohair Production and Cashmere Production.

Over his teaching career Cameron continued updating his own studies, particularly in the Certificates of: Business Sales & Marketing, Total Quality Management (TQM), Quality System Auditing, Workplace Training, Health and Safety and Occupational First Aid Level 3. Along with his teaching and department duties he then took on the role of Quality Assurance auditor, Health and Safety representative and Medical Officer for the campus.

Cameron became Head of the Wool and Fibre studies department of R.M.I.T. University School of Textiles (formally the Melbourne Institute of Textiles), where he was responsible for the delivery of the training for the Wool and allied fibres Industries.

He has been a Competition Judge for the Wool, Cashmere, Mohair and Alpaca industries. He is currently judging and training Judges for the Australian Alpaca Association and in his role as Senior Fleece Judge and trainer for AOBA, has been involved in the training of AOBA judges as well as judging in the USA. Cameron has also travelled to Britain, Canada and New Zealand where he delivered educational programs in alpaca fibre production for Breeders and has been instrumental in the development and training for Judges. He also has judged in these countries.

Cameron has now had over 45 years in the fibre industries. He is still conducting training programs on a global basis in alpaca fibre preparation and selection and continues to consult internationally with various alpaca organisations, as well as writing articles for various magazines. Cameron continues with his research into Alpaca fibre.



In his semi retirement of grandchildren, golf, fishing and community support, still manages to find time to continue with his commitment to the Alpaca industry.

- **William McClelland
2011**