



# ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

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## EDITORIAL

### 50 YEARS OF THE ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA EXTRAFINE WOOL TROPHY

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the "Ermenegildo Zegna Extrafine Wool Trophy", a prize that was first awarded in Tasmania in 1963 with the objective of recognising the best producer of high quality merino wool.

Australia is, in fact, the world leader of superfine merino wool production and every year celebrates the winner of the trophy in Sydney with a party and parade in the presence of fashion journalists from some 140 countries.

The Woolmark Company is also a partner in the competition. Part of its mission statement reads, "Many rural and regional communities rely on the farming of wool. Most are family-managed concerns with unique qualities and a great sense of pride passed down from generation to generation. 90% of the world's fine wool garments are made from Australian wool."

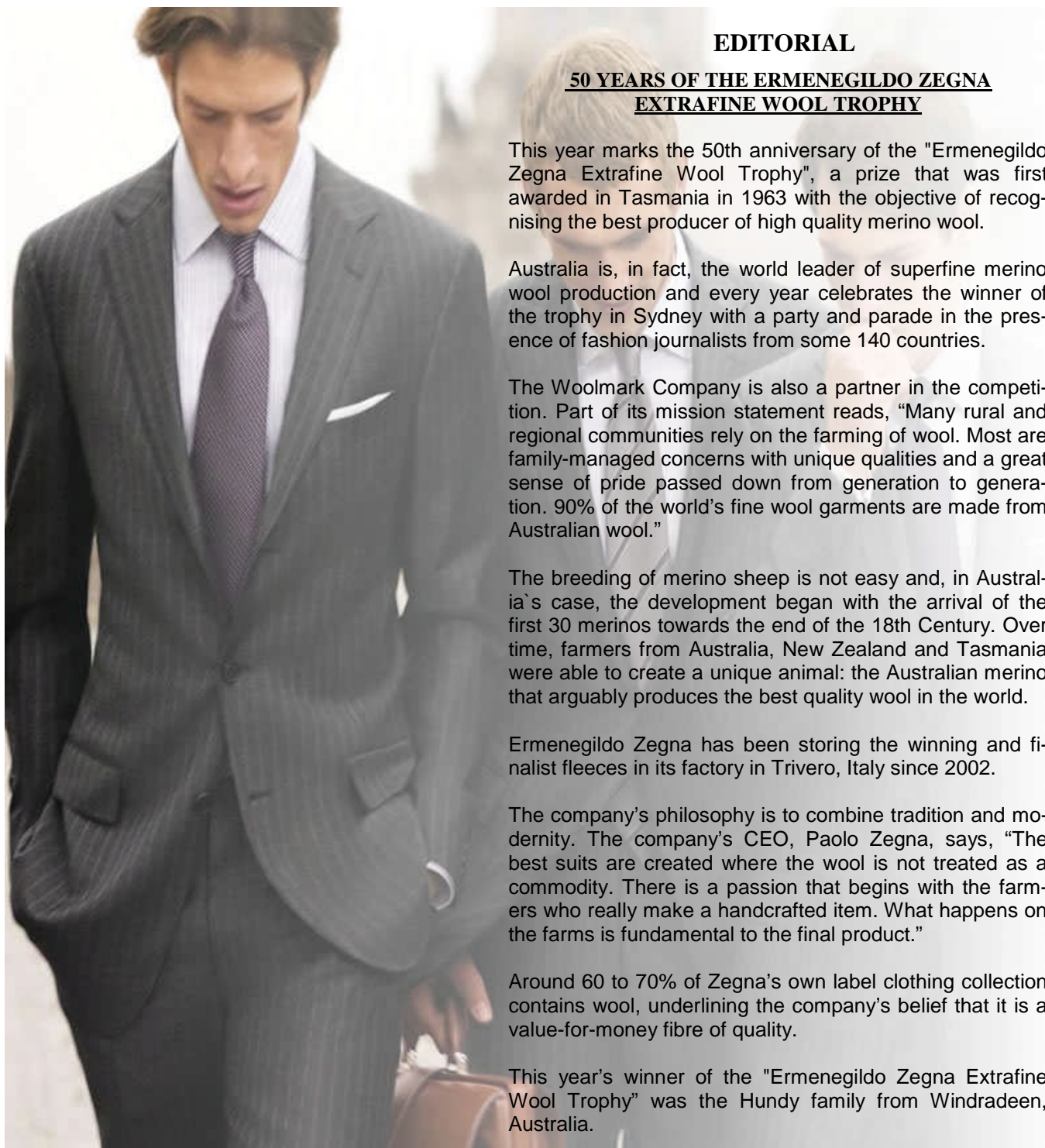
The breeding of merino sheep is not easy and, in Australia's case, the development began with the arrival of the first 30 merinos towards the end of the 18th Century. Over time, farmers from Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania were able to create a unique animal: the Australian merino that arguably produces the best quality wool in the world.

Ermenegildo Zegna has been storing the winning and finalist fleeces in its factory in Trivero, Italy since 2002.

The company's philosophy is to combine tradition and modernity. The company's CEO, Paolo Zegna, says, "The best suits are created where the wool is not treated as a commodity. There is a passion that begins with the farmers who really make a handcrafted item. What happens on the farms is fundamental to the final product."

Around 60 to 70% of Zegna's own label clothing collection contains wool, underlining the company's belief that it is a value-for-money fibre of quality.

This year's winner of the "Ermenegildo Zegna Extrafine Wool Trophy" was the Hundy family from Windradeen, Australia.



## CAMELID CLIPS

A South American plant with a 10 feet (3 metre) tall flower spike bloomed recently in a Surrey, United Kingdom glasshouse for the first time since it was planted 15 years ago.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) at Wisley said the *Puya chilensis*, a native of Chile, bloomed and lasted for about a week.

In the Andes it uses its sharp spines to snare and trap sheep and other animals (camelids ?), which slowly starve to death. The animals then decay at the base of the plant, acting as fertiliser.

The RHS reported that it fed its specimen on liquid fertilizer and grew it in the arid section of one of its glasshouse with its deadly spines well out of reach of both children (and sheep !) alike.

*The Puya chilensis was in bloom in a glasshouse in Surrey for about a week* =>



*Members of SPAR with a select group of alpacas*

In May, Peru's Sociedad Peruana de Criadores de Alpacas y Llamas (SPAR) exported a third shipment of 7,100 kgs of alpaca fibre valued at US\$ 125,000.00 to Italian fabric manufacturing company, Fratelli Piacanza.

The export deal was agreed by the Peruvian government's trading programme, *Sierra Exportadora*, SPAR and Fratelli Piacanza in a deal designed to eliminate the role of middlemen and is seen as a step towards creating a direct link between Peruvian alpaca producers and the global market.

The three organisations, together with representatives of "Agronomists and Veterinarians without Borders (AVSF)", offered technical support to the alpaca fibre producers in the use of advanced shearing methods where mechanised shearing systems enabled the producers to yield high-quality and clean fibre.

Fratelli Piacanza is a manufacturer of fine woollen fabrics which supplies fabrics to many of the world's leading apparel manufacturers.

At the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) Congress held in Biella, Italy in June, Chris Wilcox, Chairman of the IWTO Market Intelligence Committee, gave the conference delegates his views on the most recent figures released on world wool production.

Main wool producing countries including Australia, China, New Zealand and Argentina are all expected to produce less wool. Only India is expected to see a real rise in wool production.

Italy is predicted to show a 1% drop in volume to 1.1 million kgs(clean) for 2013-14.

Uruguay and Mongolia will see a small increase in production and, with India's bigger clip, this will balance out the falls in other countries.

Australia remains the world's biggest wool producer with a predicted 245 million kgs (clean) in 2013-14, down 1.4% from this year's production of 249 million kgs.

China's production is expected to fall 1% to 167 million kgs, while New Zealand's current drought means its production could slip 5% to 121 million kgs.

Mr Wilcox said that tough seasonal conditions from spring to autumn in Australia and New Zealand along with seasonal woes in China would push production down. However, the drop in production in Argentina is due to a move away from farming wool to growing crops.



*The world's overall wool production is not expected to increase in 2013-14*





*A scan of Choanal Atresia*

Alpaca breeders, Dr. Andrew Merriwether and his wife, Ann, own a farm in Vestal, New York with a difference because Andrew Merriweather is also a Geneticist.

He is looking for the gene for a fatal disease that affects both humans and alpacas, Choanal Atresia, a disease that renders babies unable to breathe through their noses as well as being a serious disease in alpacas.

He says, "By studying the genetics of alpacas, we can gain insight into the genetics of humans. For hu-

mans, if we understand what the causes is and we find the gene, we can understand why the gene makes it happen and, maybe, we can make that gene not happen."

Dr. Merriwether works in his laboratory at Binghamton University. When he finds an alpaca affected by Choanal Atresia, he takes a blood sample, separates the blood from the DNA and then analyses it.

"If we're really lucky, it might lead to a treatment or a cure," he notes.

He estimates that he needs 50 families, each with one affected offspring. So far he has 30 families in his study.

Looking further into the future, Dr. Merriwether has plans to start looking for genes for other diseases that are more common in humans, such as cataracts and heart murmurs.

He muses, "You hope to be able to do things that help other people."



**PERUVIAN ALPACA EXPORT STATISTICS**  
**1ST JANUARY TO 30TH JUN 2013**  
**VALUE US\$ FOB - QTY IN KGS - UNIT - M2**

COUNTRY	YARN		TOPS		KNITWEAR		ACCESSORIES		WOVEN CLOTH		WOVEN GARMENTS		NOILS	
	VALUE	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT
ITALY	5,002,822	175,405	5,099,088	396,742	108,711	6,637	-	-	285,705	13,934	-	-	74,828	40,670
CHINA	1,030,805	59,038	7,920,247	638,757	6,763	190	-	-	-	-	411	16	26,123	8,064
USA	2,345,053	73,173	19,776	725	1,802,470	126,808	801,339	42,404	396,218	14,275	439,663	10,714	-	-
NORWAY	4,510,216	182,568	-	-	150,383	5,566	4,414	105	220	11	-	-	-	-
JAPAN	599,576	25,350	1,000,996	64,266	663,265	20,551	928	233	5,161	138	2,637	109	2,809	734
UNITED KINGDOM	323,054	11,063	492,952	47,301	688,600	21,646	228,719	16,178	10,873	389	25,275	562	12,248	9,166
GERMANY	809,430	23,348	122,899	13,822	664,988	51,082	86,974	1,659	241	3,411	42,212	916	-	-
BOLIVIA	1,569,066	147,389	-	-	67,983	1,653	-	-	35,522	1,669	26,087	239	-	-
AUSTRALIA	26,723	643	209,788	17,906	663,060	21,401	80,864	1,359	331,586	2,503	224,669	6,262	-	-
SOUTH KOREA	1,289,208	44,836	232,254	14,127	75	3	-	-	1,127	39	-	-	-	-
HONG KONG	1,327,126	46,571	-	-	-	-	52,492	10,459	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRANCE	103,756	3,331	7,399	300	381,707	15,493	106,898	2,490	120	1	11,799	563	-	-
TAIWAN	69,614	2,839	534,435	61,416	-	-	-	-	2,507	62	-	-	-	-
SWITZERLAND	194,986	5,871	217,106	17,496	104,621	3,497	22,134	538	3,229	84	5,022	170	30,866	9,055
CHILE	117,135	5,417	13,899	1,039	188,692	4,924	51,203	1,811	3,239	139	177,099	5,186	-	-
FINLAND	101,545	2,970	-	-	25,442	3,066	412,815	23,725	5,680	212	-	-	-	-
CANADA	233,440	7,371	39,681	2,412	99,550	7,962	54,952	2,001	10,682	87	16,230	514	-	-
LITHUANIA	22,742	1,252	31,047	3,074	-	-	383,706	12,181	4,711	326	4,023	500	-	-
DENMARK	137,594	4,389	-	-	121,744	10,630	71,371	2,085	-	-	11,386	1,018	-	-
NEW ZEALAND	133,892	3,126	61,288	6,124	99,490	5,812	-	-	18,500	50	10,917	133	-	-
JORDAN	302,271	10,542	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDONESIA	237,043	9,418	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPAIN	16,373	614	-	-	2,994	123	614	210	102,648	5,655	92,812	1,910	-	-
BRAZIL	67,870	4,669	-	-	43,642	1,281	100,984	1,939	-	-	-	-	-	-
BELGIUM	154,015	5,402	-	-	22,557	1,079	5,496	212	25,373	912	472	28	-	-
VIET NAM	173,252	5,931	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ECUADOR	121,140	6,863	12,715	1,010	17,257	2,396	1,036	22	-	-	18,531	728	-	-
RUSSIA	-	-	-	-	19,005	1,821	81,683	4,000	-	-	66,069	1,798	-	-
URUGUAY	132,746	5,632	-	-	1,412	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
KUWAIT	126,016	3,034	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARGENTINA	8,221	254	-	-	63,701	1,742	2,195	52	14,383	1,161	31,050	2,267	-	-
COLOMBIA	47,607	4,516	-	-	50,759	3,549	1,998	42	7,604	481	7,593	183	-	-
LATVIA	100,289	2,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRELAND	40,690	1,097	-	-	23,968	582	20,909	590	-	-	780	60	-	-
MEXICO	-	-	-	-	79,691	7,447	4,750	60	-	-	302	14	-	-
EGYPT	77,183	21,261	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SYRIA	74,454	4,585	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWEDEN	23,004	716	-	-	-	-	30,516	566	-	-	2,022	78	-	-
NETHERLANDS	24,294	805	-	-	9,782	1,051	-	-	-	-	1,184	12	-	-
UNITED ARAB EMIR- ATES	-	-	-	-	30,000	300	1,440	80	150	1	-	-	-	-
INDIA	21,665	713	3,841	251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ESTONIA	600	8	-	-	-	-	14,164	366	2,427	26	-	-	-	-
PHILIPPINES	14,195	441	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HONDURAS	-	-	-	-	12,205	655	1,500	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
PORTUGAL	10,096	326	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ICELAND	-	-	-	-	8,405	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAURITIUS	8,081	240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PANAMA	-	-	-	-	5,317	78	-	-	196	14	2,339	29	-	-
HUNGARY	-	-	-	-	5,290	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALAWI	4,884	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GUYANA	-	-	-	-	4,750	334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COSTA RICA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,740	145	-	-	-	-
POLAND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,498	43	-	-	-	-
CUBA	-	-	-	-	775	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AUSTRIA	-	-	-	-	574	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ISRAEL	-	-	-	-	566	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	2	-	-	-	-
THAILAND	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
KAZAKHSTAN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	202	7	-	-
BAHRAIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	2	-	-
LUXEMBOURG	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,733,803</b>	<b>915,502</b>	<b>16,019,412</b>	<b>1,286,768</b>	<b>6,240,192</b>	<b>330,155</b>	<b>2,626,494</b>	<b>125,567</b>	<b>1,271,841</b>	<b>45,770</b>	<b>1,220,924</b>	<b>34,018</b>	<b>146,873</b>	<b>67,690</b>

SOURCE: SUNAT/COMEXPERU

## IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

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