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Tender Documents by [Crowin Smith](#)

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Tender Documents are now available from the Australian Alpaca Association inviting suitably qualified and experienced companies for the redesign, hosting and ongoing support for the Association website.

National Alpaca Week is upon us and according to the Australian Alpaca Association farms all over Australia will be opening their farm gates to the public. The association has a list of farms people can visit during this week until May 20 2012.

Alpacas are quite rare. There are approximately 3 million in their homeland of South America and they were not imported into the USA and Canada until 1984, followed soon after by Australia and New Zealand. These countries with their more temperate climates and more sophisticated animal husbandry techniques have been a big benefit to the alpaca species.

They are closely related to the Llama and throughout history have provided clothing, food and fuel to the human populations of (historically) the Incas for over 5000 years. Their numbers dipped dangerously low after the Spanish conquest of the Incas. That they survived at all is thanks to the Indians and the alpacas ability to survive harsh conditions.

Here in Australia the alpaca populations has been growing rapidly since last count in 2001 when there were 40,000. Again, from the Alpaca Association we have a great deal of information about these interesting creatures at our fingertips. They are sheared annually, like sheep, vaccinated twice a year and apart from that require very little care. Their wool combines softness with strength and comes in a beautiful range of natural colours including white, silver, black grey, fawn and brown. Environmentally alpacas are a bonus in farming as they have pads rather than hooves, so the degradation of the land is minimal. They also tend to graze gently, so allowing for faster pasture regrowth. Their dung makes excellent fertilizer and is conveniently dropped in areas other than where the animals graze.

Alpacas are quite at ease with people (yes; they do spit but generally not at people!). They can be moved around without a farm dog and they can be easily transported from place to place in anything from a horse float to a small van. They live for only around 15 to 20 years and weigh up to 70 kilos.

The Tender Documents for the website hosting tender for the Australia Alpaca Association can be found online or by contacting the Association.

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