



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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Happy New Year

Time has flown & we are already into February 2018. Things are looking very promising for ALCA & its membership –

- The Association is receiving applications for new members every month from within Australia & from overseas.
- 2018 will see Australian Lowlines participating again in the Rockhampton Beef Expo which will be held in May.
- Preparation of cattle is underway by those participating in the major shows in Canberra, Sydney & Toowoomba.
- The Australian Lowline Anniversary Book is in its final stages of production so orders for the book can be placed very soon. More information will follow shortly.
- The Lowline Shop is fully operational on the ALCA website. Orders for merchandise, clothing, registrations, memberships & anything 'Lowline' can be purchased or ordered via this site.

Don't forget to notify us of any events coming up so we can advertise it on the website, facebook page or in the newsletter.

We always like to hear of any stories about yourselves & your Lowlines that we can share with other members on our social media.

So with the beginning of the New Year, we hope you all enjoy many healthy calves, enough rain to produce excellent pasture & plenty of sales for your Lowline cattle.

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Year Letter for 2018 is P

The new year also brings the change of the Year letter identifier for our calves born this year.

This means all calves born from 1st January until 31 December 2018 will have 'P' in its Herd ID number. Eg. XYZ P013



Sad passing of two ALCA members

Dave Wooler
Merowen Lowlines, Yarraman, Qld.

Long time Queensland member, Dave Wooler of Merowen Lowline Stud sadly passed away early in January. Our sincere sympathies go to his wife, Jan and the Wooler family.

A couple of stories have been told about Dave that I think sum up the dedication & generosity of a man who will be greatly missed.

Dave and Jan Wooler were great enthusiasts of the Lowline breed and both showed cattle and donated cattle to schools and were always present at any major event or meeting. Dave in particular was free with his advice and happy to talk to anyone and everyone about the Lowline breed. As newbies, we bought 2 heifers from him and he was more than helpful and delivered them himself! Over a 1400 km round trip. Always happy to have a chat and a beer, he will be missed.

Michele Molloy, Timitch Hill Lowlines

Dave Wooler supported Dakabin State School with Lowline animals for many years. He and his wife Jan showed Lowlines for 12 years at both the Royal Brisbane Show and the Royal Toowoomba Show and were instrumental in helping many schools and youth members start their careers with cattle. Dave was one of the few members that regularly turned up at Shows and to meetings, he was a strong supporter of many ideas and while he never wanted a Committee position he was always supportive. Dave will be missed and leaves a huge gap in educating and showing Lowline cattle. There will always be a beer in the Esky for him.

Colin Schiller, Lik Lik Lowlines

James Graham
Cammall Farm Lowlines, Isle of Man, UK

James Graham and his partner, Jenny Foy, imported the first Lowline embryos (including the first sexed female embryos) to the Isle of Man in 2013.

Sadly, James passed away shortly after Christmas following ill health.

James Graham was a man with vision. Over the years, he had imported and exported cattle and other animals around the world.

James has established the first Lowline stud on the Isle of Man at Cammall Farm and he had great plans for his quality, handpicked, genetics from Australia which would be adding to the Lowline gene pool in the UK and Europe.

Now the Lowline herd at Cammall Farm is his legacy.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Jenny and James' family.

EDITOR'S NOTE - 'Our Lowline Angus Doddies' by James Graham, in the 2016 ALCA Journal, tells the story of how Lowlines came to the Isle of Man.



Cammall Farm Australian Lowlines 2017



Beef Marketing & Co-Operative Management Workshop

The South Queensland Promotion Group has been able to source Government funding through the 'Working Together Network' to run a Beef Marketing and Co-operative Management Workshop. This workshop will be held on the 7th April in Toowoomba, Queensland.

This is a great opportunity to work together and improve your cattle enterprise. All members of ALCA are invited to attend so make the most of this opportunity, no matter which state you are from.

Information about the day is below so if you are interested in attending please e-mail Christina Schiller at christina.schiller@uqconnect.edu.au

If you have any questions please e-mail Colin Schiller at colin.schiller@bigpond.com

The agenda is as follows:

9am	Introduction to attendees and expectations	15 mins
*	Aims of the workshop	
*	Create an action plan to establish a branded beef business around Lowline cattle	
9.15am	Working together collaboratively	60 mins
	Case studies from some other supply groups & direct marketing businesses	
*	What 'potholes in the road' can we identify?	
*	How can we avoid them?	
*	What are the success factors?	
*	Legal structures & options (present Farming Together information)	
	ACTIONS: What needs to be done, by whom, & when?	
10.15am	Morning Tea Break	15 mins
10.30am	Marketing: Customers	60 mins
*	Who are your customers?	
*	Who are your competitors?	
*	Who are your consumers?	
*	Where are they located? (geographic)	
*	Why would they buy your product?	
*	How much of your product do they need?	
*	In what format?	
*	When do they need it? (across the year)	

Marketing: Branding & Position

- How will you position your product?
- What are your brand values?
- Do you have a name in mind?

ACTIONS: What needs to be done, when, & by whom?

Beef Marketing Workshop Agenda....cont

12.30 pm	Lunch	
1 pm	Supply chain & logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply (animal numbers) • Where located? • Continuity in supply (does it match customer demands?) • Abattoirs • Butchers • Freight (to abattoirs, to butchers, to customers) ACTIONS: What needs to be done, when, & by whom?	90 mins
2.30 pm	Certification of Lowline Beef (CLB) * Breeding programs * Certification trademarks versus provenance brand * Fraud detection & brand management ACTIONS: What needs to be done, when, & by whom?	60 mins
3.30 pm	Where to next? * Future needs & workshops	30 mins
4 pm	Close	

The cost per attendee will be \$75 each.

Please **RSVP** to Christina Schiller by **Saturday the 24th February**,
 on email: christina.schiller@uqconnect.edu.au

Transfer the payment to the SQLPG bank account –
 Account name: Lowline Plus
 BSB number: 638 060
 Account Number: 8424918

We hope that ALCA members will take up this great opportunity to learn more about forming a co-operative and building a beef supply chain to support a Certified Lowline Beef business.

Colin Schiller
 President
 Southern Queensland Lowline Promotion Group



Welcome to New Members

Our membership continues to grow. A warm welcome to our latest new members.

Ruby, Jade & Isabelle Blair (Youth Membership)
Holbrook, NSW – Fable Lowlines

John E Carroll (Full Membership)
Laggan, NSW – Carroll's Lowlines

Darren Storace (Commercial Membership)
Bullengarook, Vic. – Jedame Lowlines

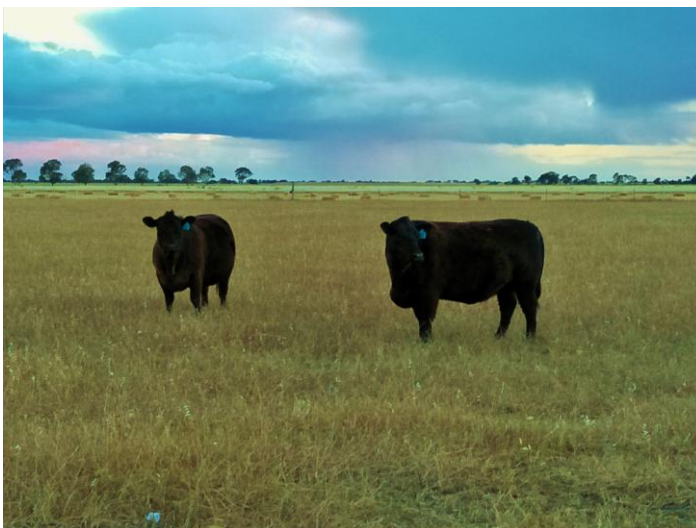
Fiona Henschman (Full Membership)
New Plymouth, Taranaki, North Island, NZ
– Kaitake Lowlines

John Wing & Nicole Johnston (Full Membership)
Fernmount, NSW – Maydwell Valley Lowlines

Peter Shearim (Full Membership)
Kobble Creek, Qld – Francis Lowlines

Elizabeth Karsakis & Andrew Blay (Full Membership)
Pingelly, WA – Ohwata Lowlines

Emily Mann (Youth Membership)
Dubbo, NSW – Hillside Lowlines



Lowlines in the path of the storm - Helen & John Pearce,
Echuca, Vic

Rockhampton Beef Expo 2018 - Sponsorship for Lowline Classes

Rockhampton Beef will include Australian Lowline cattle classes at the show.

Advertise your stud by sponsoring a class or a major winner at Rocky Beef. Acknowledgments for all sponsorship will be made on ALCA social media.

Cash prizes will be given to major prizewinners in the Lowline show.

If you would like to become involved & show your support contact Michele Molloy

Email: mitchmay@bigpond.com



Proposal to hold the 2018 ALCA AGM in New Zealand

As Council tries to accommodate members in most states in Australia by sharing the venues for each AGM, it has been suggested that a NZ AGM might be appropriate if enough people would like to participate.

We are asking for expressions of interest from members to attend the ALCA AGM this year if it was to be held in New Zealand.

If this was to go ahead, farm visits to local Lowline studs would be organized to coincide with the meeting.

Australian, USA & NZ members – If you would attend the AGM if held in New Zealand, please contact Philip Worthington at woolstone@scorch.co.nz



Mycoplasma Bovis in NZ

In July 2017, the bacterial infection *Mycoplasma bovis* was found in cattle in the Oamaru area of the South Island. With the support of farmers, industry bodies and local communities, MPI is working hard to control the spread of the disease and, if possible, eradicate it from New Zealand.

What is Mycoplasma bovis?

Mycoplasma bovis is a bacteria that can cause a range of quite serious conditions in cattle including mastitis that don't respond to treatment – pneumonia, arthritis and late-term abortions.

The disease may lie dormant in an animal causing no disease at all but may, in times of stress, (for eg, calving, drying-off, transporting, or being exposed to extreme weather) shed the bacteria in milk and nasal secretions. As a result, other animals may be infected and these may become ill or become carriers themselves.

It does not infect humans and presents no food safety risk. It is an animal welfare and productivity issue.

This is the first time it has been found in New Zealand.

Mycoplasma bovis has been recognised as a significant problem in Australian dairy herds since 2006 and has been found in all dairy regions.

How is it spread?

On farm: *Mycoplasma bovis* is spread from animal to animal through close contact and bodily fluids, for example, mucus and also milking equipment. Calves can be infected through drinking milk from infected cows. Urine and faeces are not regarded as significant transmitters of the disease, but the bacterium does survive for longer in a moist environment such as in piles of moist faeces or wet bedding material.

Off farm: The disease is mostly spread through movement of cattle from farm to farm. Movement restrictions on infected properties are therefore the most appropriate measures to contain this disease.

Farm equipment may play a role in the spread of the disease, especially equipment that comes into direct contact with infected animals such as AI instruments.

Vehicles pose a negligible biosecurity risk. It is absolutely safe for trucks to move from infected farms to other properties. All infected farms are under strict legal controls under the Biosecurity Act which require comprehensive cleaning and disinfection,

What farmers can do

Look out for signs of the disease:

- unusual mastitis in cattle that doesn't respond to treatment
- arthritis in cows and calves
- late-term abortion
- high numbers of calf deaths.

Not all animals get sick but they can pass on the disease to other animals.

Mycoplasma bovis is spread between animals by close contact.

If you see any signs in your animals, contact your cattle veterinarian.

Practice good on-farm biosecurity – further information can be found on this link <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/mycoplasma-bovis/>

Keep your NAIT/NLIS and other cattle movement documentation up to date.

New Zealand North Island - Promotion Group Report



Triple M Lowlines - Supreme Lifestyle Champion Animal at the Horowhenua Show, NZ

The New Zealand North Island Promotion Group held their AGM with Maurice Butler being Elected as Chairperson and Katherine Moore was elected as Secretary.

It was a very good meeting with educational topics being discussed –

Update on John Burrills Lowline x Meat:

The Update was read out by Judy Sainsbury and was well received by all those present. The discussion around this was – This may possibly be the why Lowlines are becoming more popular and why the group is becoming bigger because of the meat market we have for lowlines

BVD:

The discussion around this was that it is more of a serious problem than we knew and that we all need to be aware of how easily this can be caught, and spread to other animals. Each animal can be easily tested by ear punch DNA testing for a small extra fee. We all need to be aware and bulls should be tested before they are sold on.

Different DNA bases:

The discussion around this topic was that there are a huge range and that most of the members are on different ones. There is no "right" company to be with and Maurice, David and Judy very kindly offered to look into this further to see what information they could find around this problem and come back with what they find.

AGM date and location:

As a group we decided that the location was pretty central to everyone and that the location would not change. However the discussion around the date may be a good idea to change as some of our members are dairy farmers and this is not a good time for them as they are calving. Also it is in the winter/spring months so there are typically a lot of slips and landslides blocking roads. The idea was an email/ Questionnaire would be sent out to everyone in the group asking about the time of year they would like the meeting to be held in hope that would suit more people come to the meeting.

Other Business:

An idea was suggested that maybe we should have a field day along with the meeting so that we could have a big information sharing day. This is something that has happened before and was a success. The best way to see if people would like this to happen again is to add the question to the Email (about the location) and see what people thought about this idea.

Katherine Moore



12 year old James Rhodes wins the Novice Junior Handlers at the Canterbury Show NZ in November 2017

NSW Promotion Group - Informative Learning Day

The NSW Promotion Group is going to hold an Informative Learning Day in late May at Elle Kay Stud, Tuena, between Bathurst and Crookwell, in the central west NSW region.

For those that would be interested, what topics would you like covered?

Please contact Lucy Kuipers with your ideas & expressions of interest –
lucykuipers@gmail.com

Australian Lowline Muster

Following the success of the inaugural Australian Lowline Muster held in January 2017, it has been suggested we organize a Muster in both Queensland & New South Wales to accommodate the growing number of Youth & School members in those states.

The NSW Muster will probably be held in January 2019, while the Qld Muster may be later this year.

Further information will be sent out as soon as dates & venues have been finalized.

Early expressions of interest for attending can be sent to –

NSW – Lucy Kuipers lucykuipers@gmail.com
QLD – Michele Molly mitchmay@bigpond.com



Locarno Lowlines, NSW



After attending the Lowline Muster run by Lucy Kuipers last year I bought my first Lowline heifer from Blue Jem Lowline stud.

Yesterday (30th January) I received a message from Robyn Kuipers to say my heifer had a calf on the ground.

So mum and I visited "The Junction" today to see the new arrival and find out if it was a bull or heifer. To my delight it was a heifer calf.

I'd like to thank Robyn and John Kuipers for allowing me to agist my cattle at their wonderful property at Tuena.

Thank you, Lucy Kuipers, for continuing to teach me and put up with my crazy questions.

I'd like to introduce everyone to Locarno Clarabelle.

Rohan Monk, Locarno Lowlines



2018 Royal Canberra Show

Royal Canberra Show will be held from
23th – 25th February, 2018
at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

Our NSW members welcome anyone in Canberra during that time to visit them at the show. Come & see some beautiful Lowline cattle & meet the owners.

If you would like information about the event, please contact the NSW Promotion Group
nswalcpq@gmail.com



Lowline Events for 2018

The Calendar of EVENTS on the ALCA website needs to be updated for 2018.

We are asking State Promotion Groups and ALCA members in Australia, New Zealand & the USA to notify us of any events, shows, expos or anywhere else that Lowline cattle will be on display during the next 12 months.

The EVENTS on the website is where the public can find places to see Lowlines on display and talk to people about the breed.

Please send information about new events

- Name of event & dates
- address where event will take place
- brief summary of what event is

Email to Michele Molloy mitchmay@bigpond.com

2018 ALCA Journal

Preparations are underway for the next ALCA Journal which will be available in time for the Rockhampton Beef Expo in May 2018.

Advertising your stud –

Members have the opportunity to publicise their studs internationally by advertising in this publication which will be handed out at Rocky Beef.

It is great publicity for your stud as the Journals are freely available to all who visit the Australian Lowline stand at the Expo.

So start practicing your photography skills & get some impressive photos of your stock for your advertisement in the 2018 ALCA Journal.

Contact Carole Johns with your information –
office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Show Photos needed –

One of the features in the journal is photos of the major broad ribbon winners from the national shows in Australia & New Zealand.

If your cow or bull won a broad ribbon, please send your winner photos to Michele Molloy as soon as possible so you don't miss the deadline –
mitchmay@bigpond.com

Website Advertising - Saleyards

As we have a limitation of 3 months for advertising on the ALCA website in our SALEYARDS, members are encouraged to re-submit their advertisement at the end of the 3 month period if they still have stock, semen or embryos available for sale.

Advertising in the SALEYARDS on the ALCA website is FREE for members & is a great way to advertise what you have for sale.

If you make a SALE before the 3 month cut-off period, please contact us so your advertisement can be marked as 'SOLD' –

saleyards@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

