



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.  
Website: [www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

E-mail: [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

## ALCA AGM Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

This year the ALCA AGM & Conference will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the Commodore Airport Hotel, 449 Memorial Ave. in Christchurch, New Zealand. A bus tour of some surrounding Lowline studs has been organized for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November, the day after the AGM.

All members, Australian, New Zealand & international, are cordially invited to attend what will be a really interesting event organized by the NZ South Island Promotion Group. This is a great opportunity to meet some of our New Zealand Lowline members & see how they operate their farms in a different climate zone. It will also be an opportunity to meet our New Zealand counterparts face-to-face.

**Registration Forms** for attending this event are available from Carole Johns at the ALCA Office [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

### Registrations close Sunday 30th September

Send completed registrations to:

[office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

*Late registrations will incur a \$20 pp admin fee.*

**ACCOMMODATION TO BE BOOKED DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMODORE AIRPORT HOTEL BY SEPTEMBER 30. ROOMS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AFTER THAT DATE.**

Please email [reservations@commodorehotel.co.nz](mailto:reservations@commodorehotel.co.nz) or call +64 (03) 358-8129

(Freephone NZ 0508 266 663 / Aust. 1800 628 357) and quote our conference booking reference: **389-9061-4312**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6773 3295.

Carole Johns  
ALCA Executive Officer

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## Membership renewal

The cut-off date for Membership renewal is coming soon. If your membership hasn't been renewed, you animals may be deactivated on the ALCA database so to avoid this, renew now.

Easy to do using the Lowline Shop – [www.lowlineshop.com](http://www.lowlineshop.com)

*Have you remembered to*  
**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**



*Do it Today  
Before Time Runs Out*



## Welcome to new Members

ALCA would like to welcome our latest new members from Australia, New Zealand & USA.

Mackay Christian College (School Membership)  
Mackay, Qld – Mackay College Lowlines

Justin Jagger (Commercial Membership)  
Glencoe, SA

Tom and Tenae Stentz (Full Membership)  
Spokane, Washington, USA – TRG Ranch

Paul Findlay (Full Membership)  
Merriwa, NSW – Braeside Lowlines

Pablo Gregorini (Full Membership)  
Darfield, South Island, NZ – Providence Farm

## Lowline Mugs

The Lowline Shop has limited edition Lowline Mugs available for purchase.

Incorporating the Lowline logo & our favorite slogan 'A little bull goes a long way', these mugs are perfect for your tea or coffee or as a gift.

Visit [www.lowlineshop.com](http://www.lowlineshop.com) to purchase one



## Late Registration Fee Amnesty is possibly ending soon.....

ALCA has had an amnesty on late registrations for the past 18 months so any cattle registered over 12 months of age would not be charged a LATE REGISTRATION FEE.


This ruling will be discussed at the next AGM in New Zealand in November & the late registration fee may be re-introduced SO.....

If you have any cattle older than 12 months of age that you intend to register, why not register them now & avoid a possible late registration fee!

Registration Forms can be found on the ALCA website => The Association => Forms & Downloads

Another way to avoid a late registration fee is to calf record your calves for \$5.50 each so they are entered on the database before they are 12 months of age.

Then you can register them at any age without paying a late registration fee.

PLEASE MAIL TO										REGISTRATION FORM										
 Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc. C/- ABRI, University of New England Armidale NSW 2351										STUD PREFIX    STUD NAME    NAME OF BREEDER (Black Letters)										
DETAILS OF DAM					DETAILS OF SIRE					DETAILS OF CALVES										
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## Genetics: The big cow myth - measuring the economic impact

By Beef Central, 21 August 2018

Prominent Angus seedstock breeder Harry Lawson shares his views on cow size and 'frame creep' in the seedstock industry. Despite the fact that eastern Australia is experiencing one of the worst droughts ever, beef producers are paying record prices for bulls with record Mature Cow Weight EBVs, and don't seem to be connecting the dots, he says....

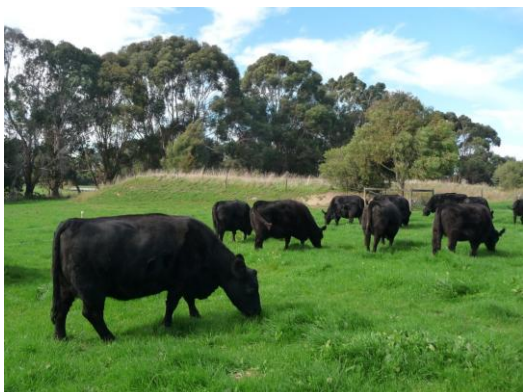
<https://www.beefcentral.com/genetics/genetics-the-big-cow-myth-measuring-the-economic-impact/>

This is a really interesting article & well worth reading. Harry Lawson discusses fertility, feed costs & other issues which become problems during drought years.

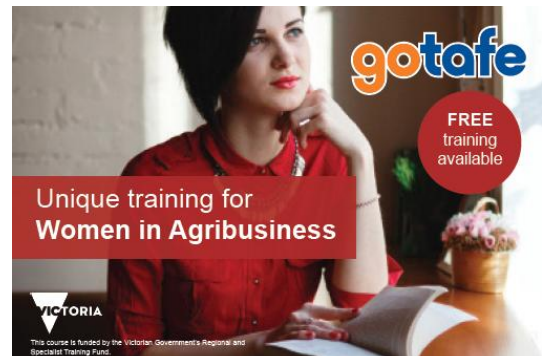
He says 'Fertility & cow efficiency will always be the backbone of any cow/calf operation. The big, lean, high milk cows are always the first to fall over when feed resources are limited.'

'The feed costs of running a 700kg cow versus a 500-550kg cow is \$100 per cow per year, so assuming cows are kept for 5 years on average, this is over \$500 per breeder additional cost. However the biggest cost is the risk of reproductive failure. Larger cows with high milk production that are lean increases the chance that they will fail to re-breed in time to have the 365 day calving interval.'

**\*These points are all benefits of our Lowline cattle**



## Women in Agribusiness - Vic



**Build confidence in technology as we help you boost the profitability of your business.**

- Designed for women based in rural and remote Victoria
- Build your skills in business management
- One on one sessions will set you up for distance education
- Supported learning through face to face workshops plus online training
- Learn how to boost your businesses productivity
- Become a technology ambassador and help us reduce the barriers to education

The GOTAFE Women in Agriculture AHC41016 Certificate IV in Agribusiness Traineeship commences September 2018, with a series of workshops and online learning provided over 18 months. Supported by Murray Dairy and Ag Biz Assist.

Register their interest before 31 August 2018. Contact Beate Barnes at [BBarnes@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:BBarnes@gotafe.vic.edu.au) or call 1300 GOTAFE for more details.



AgBiz Assist



Accelerating Change

[gotafe.vic.edu.au](http://gotafe.vic.edu.au) | 1300 GOTAFE (468 233) | [enquiry@gotafe.vic.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@gotafe.vic.edu.au)

GOTAFE is the trading name of Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (RTO 3084) (CRICOS 035540). This course is funded by the Victorian Government's Regional and Rural Skills Training Fund.

GOTAFE together with AgBiz assist and Murray Dairy are excited to be launching the Certificate IV in Agribusiness for woman.

The program will provide women from remote and rural areas the opportunity to study the Cert IV agribusiness course using an online platform and face to face networking opportunities in order to build business capabilities, grow their agribusinesses and further develop business and personal resilience that comes with living and working in remote communities.

AgBiz assist will be on board to support the women individually to set up their home computer and install the technology needed for the program delivery. They will also support the women to start using the online platform whilst Beate Barnes from GOTAFE will facilitate the delivery of the training and assessment.

The program runs over 18 months and will include topics like work health and safety, recruiting managing and retaining staff, quality assurance processes inside the farm gate, business accounting and developing risk management strategies to implement in their current businesses.

This is a great opportunity that is being offered at no cost (depending on eligibility) to help advance computer and business skills in rural women from within remote and regional communities.



## 2018 Royal Brisbane Show (EKKA) Results

CAT. NO.	EXHIBITOR	EXHIBIT	RESULT
<b>JUNIOR HEIFER</b>			
<b>21 Heifer - 16 months and under 20 months</b>			
16	Coomes, Sharon	Rotherwood Nova Girl	First
17	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Modesty	Second
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION HEIFER</b>			
16	Coomes, Sharon	Rotherwood Nova Girl	First
<b>RESERVE CHAMPION JUNIOR HEIFER</b>			
17	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Modesty	First



<b>JUNIOR BULL</b>			
<b>22 Bull - 8 months and under 12 months</b>			
20	Beck, Brandon	ROTHERWOOD NOTORIOUS (AI) (ET)	First
19	Coomes, Sharon	Crimson Park Nobleman	Second
<b>23 Bull - 12 months and under 16 months</b>			
21	Coomes, Sharon	Crimson Park Nortorious	First
<b>24 Bull - 16 months and under 20 months</b>			
24	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Norman	First
25	SMITH, Susan	Vern park nero	Second
22	K R & T L Falkenhagen	Tanview Nut Cracker	Third
<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>			
24	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Norman	First
<b>RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL</b>			
20	Beck, Brandon	ROTHERWOOD NOTORIOUS (AI) (ET)	First

## 2018 Royal Brisbane Show (EKKA) Results...cont.

SENIOR BULL			
27 Bull - 20 months and under 30 months			
32	K R & T L Falkenhagen	TANVIEW MASTER	First
33	Beck, Brandon	Langley Park Mr Mick Maverick	Second
28 Bull - 30 months and under 42 months			
35	SMITH, Susan	VERN PARK LEGACY	First
34	K R & T L Falkenhagen	TANVIEW LORD GUINNESS	Second
SENIOR CHAMPION BULL			
32	K R & T L Falkenhagen	TANVIEW MASTER	First
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL			
35	SMITH, Susan	VERN PARK LEGACY	First
GRAND CHAMPION BULL			
32	K R & T L Falkenhagen	TANVIEW MASTER	First



Loc-Hi Norman – Junior Champion Bull



Tanview Master – Senior & Grand Champion Bull



Lockyer District High School Team



Rotherwood Nova Girl – Junior Champion Heifer



## 2017 Royal Brisbane Show (EKKA) Results....cont

SENIOR COW OR HEIFER			
25 Cow or Heifer - 20 months and under 30 months			
28	K R & T L Falkenhagen	McIntosh Creek Red Medallion	First
27	Sarah & Nathan Falkenhagen	SARAH LEA MARVELOUS CREATION	Second
26 Cow - 30 months and under 48 months			
30	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Liberty	First
31	K R & T L Falkenhagen	Tanview Lorikeet	Second
SENIOR CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER			
30	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Liberty	First
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER			
28	K R & T L Falkenhagen	McIntosh Creek Red Medallion	First
GRAND CHAMPION COW OR HEIFER			
30	<a href="#">Lockyer District High School</a>	Loc-Hi Liberty	First

GROUP			
29 Pair of Bulls			
36	SMITH, Susan		First
37	Coome, Sharon		Second
30 Breeder's Group			
38	K R & T L Falkenhagen		First



Loc-Hi Liberty – Senior & Grand Champion Female

Congratulations to all exhibitors at the EKKA for another great showing of Australian Lowlines!



## Australian Lowline - recognized as a Heritage Breed

This is an excerpt from the Rare Breeds Trust of Australia. After recent correspondence with the Rare Breeds Trust, Lowlines are now recognized as a Heritage Breed descending from the Native Angus which are included on their Rare Breeds listing. Our breed is one of the very few that have a traceable heritage, with no introduced genetics from other breeds.

<http://rarebreedstrust.com.au/public/pages/species>

## ANGUS (NATIVE ANGUS)

**Country of origin:** Aberdeen, Scotland (UK)

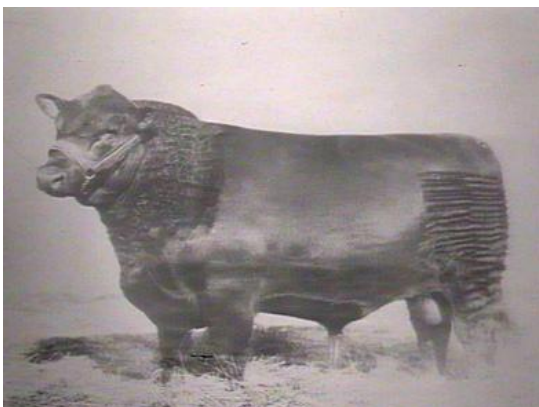
**Number in Australia:** unknown (being researched) more than 50 females

**Background:** Also known as Native Aberdeen Angus, it is the original breed from Scotland kept alive through several lines in Scotland, NZ and Australia. Shorter in height, beefier, and more robust than the modern Angus which stems from long legged, larger framed but less solid American lines. In Scotland the breed goes back some 1,000 years.

Angus polled beef cattle arrived in Tasmania in the 1820's and mainland Australia in the 1840's. Breed has been modernised with the import of larger, longer legged American genetics through the years and there are not many studs left of traditional Aberdeen Angus without these modern genetics. In New Zealand there are only 3 Studs left unadulterated, American companies recently purchased 10,000 Semen straws from these studs.

An ancient breed that is naturally polled – for as far back as records go – with Galloways, the oldest known polled breeds. Angus cattle are mostly all black in their native country, however red Angus became part of the breed and are popular these days. Red English Longhorns were put into the black polled Scottish breed to make them stronger during the late middle ages; this gave the red gene which cropped out as one in four births. A prominent breeder decided the breed should be black so reds took a nosedive for some time. Red Angus have their own studbook in Australia after a 1970 decision of Angus Australia not to have a separate register. This decision has been overturned in recent times.

Lowline Angus were developed in Australia from 1929 at the Trangie Research Centre which retained valuable heritage lines, closing their Angus stud to outside blood in 1964. As the names denotes, a somewhat smaller beast than the commercial one in stature. Trangie Research Centre is at Trangie, NSW, and is run by the NSW Dept. of Agriculture; they research sheep and cattle genetics. Lowlines are a very pure breed of Angus going back to 1920's imports, regarded now as an Australian heritage breed, all being descended from the Trangie lines and do not use upgrades. The Trangie herd of Lowlines was dispersed in 1993.



*Photo : Aberdeen Angus bull, April 1929, Government Printer, NSW.*

Read more about our Lowline heritage & history in the 'Australian Lowline' book available from

The Lowline Shop [www.lowlineshop.com](http://www.lowlineshop.com)

or through the ALCA website

[www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)





## MSA Requirements for Handling Cattle

### How you handle your cattle effects their eating quality

An important element contributing to predictable eating quality performance is the management of cattle on-farm or feedlot prior to slaughter. For this reason MSA has produced guidelines to optimise the eating quality potential of the animal.

The long period of care and investment in producing an animal with high eating quality potential is most at risk in the two weeks pre-slaughter and the first few hours post slaughter. The best carcass can be reduced to a low quality, unacceptable product by inappropriate action in this period.

The damage is caused by changes in muscle glycogen (blood sugar) levels. Glycogen is in essence the energy reserve of the muscle. The glycogen level in muscle is increased by feeding (a process taking days) and rapidly reduced by stress (which may only take minutes) or activity in the live animal. After stunning, the glycogen in muscle is converted to lactic acid that steadily decreases the pH of the muscle.

### Mustering and good feed is important

The production of MSA graded product is consequently a partnership between the producer and the abattoir. An abattoir cannot rectify poor cattle handling practices or nutritional problems. Cattle should be mustered as quietly as possible, as it takes at least 4-5 days for the muscle glycogen levels to be restored, once they have been used. For this reason it is recommended that cattle are supplementary fed good quality feed for at least one month prior to dispatch, to maximise the eating quality potential of the animal.



### MSA REQUIREMENTS

Cattle dispatched for slaughter must meet with the following requirements.

- ✓ Be continually grazed or fed rations to a level that is adequate for growth for a minimum period of one month prior to dispatch.
- ✓ Be handled and mustered quietly to reduce stress.
- ✓ Have free access to water until dispatch.
- ✓ Have free access to feed until dispatch, other than a minimum period required for preparation through cattle yards.
- ✓ Do not consign any cattle of poor temperament or with signs of severe stress.
- ✓ Do not consign sick cattle or cattle within a withholding period for any treatment.
- ✓ Do not mix cattle from different mobs or pens on the property within two weeks of dispatch.
- ✓ Do not dispatch cattle purchased or moved from another property/sale yard within one month of arrival.
- ✓ Load cattle quietly, preferably with no use of goads and electric prodders.
- ✓ Load cattle at the recommended densities set out in the Trucking Industry Code of Practice.



### Temperament is also important

Temperament is also an important issue, with work in the USA by Temple Grandin showing that calm cattle show a reduced incidence of dark cutters. Cattle with poor temperament can lose more glycogen during the period leading up to slaughter. These cattle also have the tendency to stir up other cattle in the pen, which can lead to a higher overall incidence in dark cutting and high pH carcasses. Temperament is even more important for heifers since they are inherently more 'fearful' than steers resulting in a greater risk of dark cutting.

This is the reason for the MSA producer requirement that the cattle handling guidelines on the previous page be observed.

Recommended sound practices however are much broader and deserve inclusion in professional property and herd management.

### Other stress factors

Other stress factors including weather should also be taken into account with mustering and truck timing adjusted to minimise the animal welfare and eating quality risk, as dramatic changes in temperature (such as a cold snap or heavy rain whilst trucking) can cause undue stress to animals.

### Damage is irreversible

In carcasses the pH fall is irreversible and continues post rigor mortis to an ultimate value, generally within 24 hours of slaughter, depending on the conditions. The optimum pH range is between 5.30 and 5.70. MSA consumer eating quality tests show lower scores as ultimate pH rises above 5.7. Where initial animal glycogen levels are very low at slaughter a higher ultimate pH results, which may be accompanied by a dark, undesirable meat colour. This is referred to as dark cutting and is a major industry problem. Dark cutting carcasses tend to be an indicator of stress to the animal pre-slaughter, but can be a result of other factors such as the chilling process and the age of the animal (meat colour gets darker as the animal ages).

### Abattoirs have an important role

In addition to ultimate pH, the rate of pH decline (from around 7.1 at slaughter) in relation to muscle temperature, is of critical importance to eating quality. If the temperature fall is rapid and the pH fall slow, carcasses will cold shorten, resulting in extremely tough meat. If the pH fall is rapid and the temperature fall slow, heat shortening results. This also creates slightly tougher and less juicy beef with eating quality problems relating to colour changes, excessive drip loss and lack of improvement with ageing. The ageing damage is a result of the enzymes involved being denatured by low pH/high temperature conditions.

The rate of pH decline is also a function of the size of the carcass and the fat cover over the major primals. There are also abattoir conditions affecting this process, such as the time from knocking to the chiller, the temperature of the slaughter floor and the chilling environment, including packing density and the cycle itself.

All electrical inputs (including electrical stimulation units, restrainers and hide puller rigidity probes) have an impact on the rate of pH decline and resultant eating quality, and are thus often varied by MSA licensed processors to optimise this. Processors are required to maintain conditions that meet the MSA 'pH / temperature window' that describes the optimum rate of pH and temperature decline.

### Research under way

Research in this area is being conducted in a number of important research projects. Key research participants are VIAS (Victorian Institute of Animal Science), Food Science Australia, Murdoch University and Agriculture Western Australia. Research findings have been integrated into the MSA grading system.

### For more information

For a complete copy of the guidelines *Preventing Dark Cutting in Livestock: On farm Guide 2000* call 1800 023 100

Visit the Meat and Livestock Australia website at [www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au)

**Meat Standards Australia is a project funded by cattle producers and the government and managed by Meat & Livestock Australia.**

### Contact

**Meat Standards Australia**

**Brisbane:** telephone 07 3842 3114

**Wagga:** telephone 02 6931 0371

**Bunbury:** telephone 08 9725 7638



165 Walker Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

Tel: (02) 9463 9333 Fax: (02) 9463 9393 [www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au)

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## 2018 Royal Melbourne Show

Preparations are underway for the Royal Melbourne Show.

Australian Lowlines will be on display from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September until midday Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in the Livestock Pavilion

**Judging will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 9am.**

Come along & see the great cattle Victorian Lowline breeders have to offer. Join exhibitors after judging for a chat & nibbles.

We hope to see you there.....



## Farmstyle .... online



Farmstyle is an online community for small and hobby farmers to learn everything about farming and country living.

Free online forums with many topics to interest cattle enthusiasts, including Farmer's Workshop, Getting started, Farming ideas, Planning/Management, Farms for sale, Livestock, Crops/Pastures, Self/Sustainability, and many more topics.

<https://farmstyle.com.au>

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## How do I find other ALCA members in my state?

Networking is one of the benefits of being an ALCA member & there are times when we need to contact other Lowline breeders.

The ALCA website provides easy access to member details from each state & country.

[www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

- ⇒ Membership => Members Directory => click on the relevant area in Australia, New Zealand & Overseas to find the listings

There are Promotion Groups in each state & country. ALCA encourages members to become actively involved with the Promotion Groups to help with networking & promotion of cattle.

- ⇒ Membership => Promotion Groups => select the Promotion Group for your state for contact details



## A busy year for Cloudbreak Lowlines

Cloudbreak Lowlines, located in Eungella, Central Queensland, Australia, has had a very busy, successful year.

Since attending the last AGM in Brisbane, where our two farm-girls helped Jeanette blow out the candles on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake, our registered cattle have been sold around the state, including to Malanda and Yeppoon and have gone on to win ribbons at their local shows.



Cloudbreak had our most successful show season yet, supported by the wonderful students at Mackay Christian College, at the Marlborough, Finch Hatton, Mackay, Proserpine, and for the first time, Townsville and Sarina shows, where our animals won several blue, and broad ribbons.

In our area of Northern Queensland, we have no compact breed competitions, just 'all breeds' and are up against the iconic NQ Braham breed & are finally gaining acceptance and grudging respect by 'traditional' cattle producers. Our Lowline x led steer surprised us by winning at most shows in the lightweight competition against all-breeds.

We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to purchase new stock (thanks to Beef Australia) from South-East Queensland, and Victoria, to further improve and expand our bloodlines.

Cloudbreak hosted a James Cook University veterinary work experience student, and of course attended Beef Australia, where we showed with MCC assistance, and helped on the ALCA stand during the week. It was an amazing week, and a great opportunity to catch up with other ALCA members from across the East Coast of Australia.



Cloudbreak has hosted several 'Helloworld' catered, group farm tours during the year, attended monthly markets to sell our branded Eungella Lowline beef, continued to sell our bulk Eungella Lowline Beef by the side to great reviews, and supply the local Eungella General Store.

We were asked to present a talk at an inaugural Soil Health Symposium, and were very excited to host and cater for the 'Greater Whitsunday Food Network Annual Farm to Plate Bus Tour', including serving lunch to Celebrity Chef Matt Golinsky (no pressure!). Cloudbreak had numerous TV, radio & print media coverages, including our 'Frost' photos that went all around the country, and even the world!

Cloudbreak even made an appearance a few times in the wonderful ALCA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary book.

We will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year as ALCA members next year, so planning even bigger and better things!

Mandy, Kell, Imogen & Cassidy Tennent



Eungella Lowline Beef  
— from paddock to plate

