



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.  
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## AGM in Christchurch, NZ

The weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Christchurch, New Zealand, saw a very well supported ALCA AGM, Conference & Breed Dinner on the Saturday, followed by Farm Tours of Lowline studs in the Canterbury district on the Sunday.

This was the first time an ALCA AGM has been held outside Australia & the support shown by the New Zealand members proved it to be well worthwhile.

Participants travelled from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland & South Australia in Australia & from the North & South Islands of New Zealand.

Many new friendships were made 'across the ditch', taking the opportunity to share information & see how Lowlines have adapted to the southern climate of New Zealand. Valuable insight into the bull markets in NZ gave the Australians 'food for thought'. For those of us who are in drought, it was the opportunity to see some fabulous GREEN PASTURES!

A big Thank You to all who attended & especially the South Island Promotion Group who organised this fantastic weekend.



Edsal Lowlines, Ashburton, South Island

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## ALCA Council 2018/2019

President: Julie Knight (Vic)  
Vice President: Michele Molloy (Qld)  
Secretary: Phillip Worthington (NZ)  
Treasurer: Gordon Guthrie (NZ)  
Colin Schiller (Qld)  
Klaus Emmerich (SA)  
Sandra Price (NSW)  
Bill Brydon (NSW)



Left to right: Klaus Emmerich (SA), Gordon Guthrie (NZ), Julie Knight (Vic), Phillip Worthington (NZ), Bill Brydon NSW, Colin Schiller (Qld),

Absent: Michele Molloy (Qld), Sandra Price NSW, Carole Johns (Executive Officer)



## ALCA AGM

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

The AGM Meeting included a Special Resolution to approve the omnibus changes to the Constitution and By-Laws recommended by the ALCA Council.

A summary of the key changes that were accepted at the AGM are:

#### Constitution

- Updated to reflect the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 that now allows for electronic ballots.
- 6(d) – Limit the age of Junior membership to between 8 and 21 years of age inclusive.
- 11. – Remove reference to bankrupt and lunatic in membership termination rules.
- Schedule A. Weight and Size standards – remove reference to measurements and replace with generic statement of moderate frame size.

#### By-Laws

- 2.1.2. – Update to include Commercial Register
- 4.3. – Update to include CLB trade mark
- 7.5.2. – Increase period allowed to record flushes and register embryos.
- 11.2. – Limit restriction period for showing dual registered animals to 6 months

#### Fee Changes

- The Joining Fee for Commercial Members has been re-introduced.
- The Late Fee amnesty will continue for another year.  
Animals older than 12 months of age will not be charged a late fee when they are registered.

## 2019 Lowline Journal

Members voted to continue with the publication of the Lowline Journal this year. Council accepted the vote but have asked that members assist with the costs by advertising their studs and businesses in this publication.

Member contribution of articles and photos are also requested and are needed immediately.

The Journal is an advertising and marketing tool for the breed being available at many shows and cattle breed displays. Your advertisements will not only help you promote your own cattle but will also ensure the continuation of this publication.

We are urgently looking for people to assist with the Journal. This involves correspondence by emails so it is easy to do from your home.

Please contact Carole if you would like to help with the Journal.

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

## Lowline Registrar



Natalie Herd is the Lowline Registrar.

Please email your registrations, calf recordings and registration queries to Natalie

[lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au)

Monday – Thursday  
9am to 3pm  
Ph: 02 6773 5588



## South Island Farm Tours, New Zealand



Lowline bulls at Flat Hills stud, Dunsandel

All aboard. Attendees at the ALCA conference took to the roads of Canterbury on the Sunday to view some New Zealand Lowlines, farms and scenery.

The bus left Christchurch (early but not too early after an enjoyably social evening the night before) heading for Woolstone, the Rangiora property of ALCA councillor Phil Worthington and wife Kay. Phil provided a commentary on the 25-minute trip out of the city and again at the farm where the bus negotiated through farm gateways to do a loop tour through the 95 hectares (235 acres) of owned and leased family land being farmed. Some excellent driving skills from the driver, John – all gateways and the bus still intact.

Then everyone alighted for a walk to see cows and calves, yearling bulls, the Woolstone show bulls, and two-year-old heifers ending up at the cattle yards. Here three members of the Rangiora High School cattle handling team, who lead for Woolstone, had on display the cattle which were to be shown at the NZ Agricultural Show, in Christchurch, 10 days later.

Kay and Phil answered questions as they walked, explaining their practice of selling bulls into the dairy industry as well as selling breeding stock and semen.

The rain held off for the walk although a cold wind whipping up had the Australians – green with envy at the grass in the paddocks – missing the warmer temperatures of home but not the drought.

From Rangiora the bus headed west on the Inland Scenic Route, through the Waikakariri River Gorge with more commentary from Philip and John the driver.

Arriving at Monique Koning and Ron Uitdewilligen's 10 hectare lifestyle block near Dunsandel, the tour group viewed the Flat Hills cattle, who with a little persuasion cruised up to the fence to greet the visitors. The three bulls and five cows with calves were in excellent condition.

Monique, a qualified vet who had been one of the conference speakers. She talked about her philosophy for farming and balancing numbers on a smaller property.

Then the group was hosted to a splendid lunch of salmon or beef rolls, sushi and cake in a building and patio which had been cleverly created from a shipping container by Ron.

Back on the bus heading for Methven, the town nearest the well-known Mt Hutt skifield, there was snow on the mountains which kept the air cool. This part of the trip crossed another scenic river gorge, the Rakaia, with its spectacular downhill twist to the narrow bridge above the river.



Visiting Woolstone Park at Rangiora - admiring the cattle & the pastures





## South Island Farm Tours, New Zealand cont



Visiting Ashmore stud with beautiful snow capped Alps in the background

The sun shone as the tour arrived at Debbie and Gordon Guthrie's Winchmore 30 hectare farm. Debbie played hostess with a yummy afternoon tea of cheeses, relishes and liquid refreshments while outgoing ALCA president Gordon showed people around the bulls and the paddock of recip cows and their embryo calves. He talked about keeping the numbers right at about 120 and the Ashmore stud's policy of quitting weaner heifers and selling bulls to dairy farmers.

There was time for a group photo on the lawn with the snow on the hills in the background before the bus trundled 10 minutes down the road to Harvey and Sally Rhodes' Edsal stud on the edge of the town of Ashburton. Here Harvey runs their small stud of seven or eight animals in leased paddocks beside urban neighbours.

He brought his show team up to view the visitors viewing them. A bucket of loaves of bread soon cemented the new friendship with the tour group feeding the happy cows.

Once more onto the bus for the run back to Christchurch via the Araawa stud of Kevin and Penny Harmer at Killinchy.

Here the Harmers showed the group around their stock, which largely go back to Murrumbong and Elandra Park lines from Australia.

The herd has recently been downsized to 27 breeding females farmed intensively on a small acreage.

Kevin talked about dealing with a rotavirus outbreak and the effect that had had on subsequent calvings and pointed out some Wagyu mothered-on calves.

From the tranquil countryside it was back to the city with more commentary from Philip as tired but happy "tourists" exchanged thoughts and comments. Which just goes to show a little bull does go a long way – over 300 kilometres in fact.

Philip Worthington

Bulls at Araawa stud,  
Killinchy



## 2018 Ballarat Show, Vic

2018 Ballarat Show was held on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> November. It is always a very well supported show with many different breeds from all over Victoria attending.

Ballarat Grammar had great success at the Ballarat Show over the weekend.

Our young bull, BG Nevett, won the Interbreed Bull Classic on Saturday.

BG Kate and her calf Priscilla won Interbreed Champion female and went on to win the Supreme Beef Exhibit.

The Group of 3 also won the interbreed with JD, Kate and calf and Nola, which clinched the Most Successful Exhibitor ribbon for the school.

Matt Dickinson



Henry Dickinson with BG Nevett



Winning team with Judge: (BR) Bridget Callahan, Annabelle Fox, Emma Dickinson, Mason Johns. (FR) Henry Dickinson, Ethan Johns. BG Kate, with her calf BG Priscilla, took out Grand Champion Interbreed Female and Supreme Beef Exhibit of the show. She then combined with BG JD and BG Nola to win the Open Group of Three.

Ballarat Grammar was awarded the A.E.Wemyss Cup for the Most Successful Exhibitor.

Fantastic results Ballarat Grammar  
Congratulations!

## ALCA Member Survey

One of the roles of Council is to review both the services and the effectiveness of those services which are offered by the Association to its members.

Utilising the information gathered in a survey is a very quick, easy and efficient way of doing this. Over the next few months Council hopes to be able to survey the members on their views on a range of topics. It will take just a few minutes to complete each survey.

The first of these surveys has already been sent out to our members who are CLB producers.

This is your chance to contribute to the future direction of the breed and Association as a whole!

Your views are important!

We ask that you **complete your survey by Friday the 7th of December 2018** allowing us time to collate the data before the next Council meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**A link for the survey has been emailed to all members. If you haven't received your survey please contact Carole**  
**[office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)**



## DNA Options - Frequently Asked Questions

**The following information has been emailed to members. We hope you find this helpful when you are deciding how to DNA & Parent Verify your calves. If you require further information please contact Carole at the ALCA office [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)**

As a requirement for the registration of animals with ALCA it is necessary to have the cattle DNA typed and Parent Verified. With the changing of formats from MiP to the new SNP format there are many questions that need to be answered.

New Zealand & other overseas countries use the SNP format for DNA & Parent Verification.

If you purchase Lowline cattle, it is suggested you ask for a copy of the DNA results with other cattle information from the breeder/owner at purchase. You will then know which laboratory & the format (MiP or SNP) the DNA & PV was done. You will have the DNA Case number if further information is required.

N.B – In Australia, Neogen will be phasing out the MiP testing over the next 2 years. At this present time, Zoetis has no plans to change from MiP testing. Zoetis will also do SNP testing.

### **What is MiP testing?**

Microsatellite (MiP) DNA testing has been the method used for DNA & Parent Verification up until recently. This is usually done using DNA from tail hair samples.

### **What is SNP testing?**

Single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) is the latest and more accurate form of DNA testing as it identifies many more genetic markers.

Improvements in technology have meant that most DNA laboratories are now phasing out the older MiP testing in preference to the latest SNP testing method.

### **How do I DNA my animals using the new SNP method?**

SNP testing can be done using tail hairs (as with MiP) or with a tissue sample.

Allflex Tissue Sampling Units (TSU) take an ear punch sample, which can be used for DNA, Pestivirus or other serology testing, at the same time as applying the NLIS or NAIT ear tag.

### **Do I need to re-test my whole herd for SNP?**

Eventually you will have to re-test your breeding bulls and females so all the herd is SNP tested.

You can apply to have the previous DNA samples re-tested using the SNP method. Some old samples might not be successful with re-testing so then a new sample (hair or tissue) should be submitted.

With bulls that may be dead, a semen sample from an AI straw can be submitted for testing.

### **What DNA Laboratory should I use?**

Neogen Australasia, now situated at the University of Queensland Animal Genetics laboratory, or Zoetis Genetics Australia can be used for SNP testing. It is a matter of preference.

Your previous samples can be re-tested for SNP results at whichever facility they are being held – either Neogen (formerly UQ) or Zoetis.

### **How do I change from using one DNA Laboratory to another?**

Transfer of results/samples from Neogen (formerly UQ) to Zoetis - there will be an hourly charge of \$100 ex GST (billed in 15 min increments) for the time taken. Note that any postage fees are passed on in full if samples need posting.

The alternative & cheaper option is to send new samples to Zoetis to be processed for SNP.

Transfer of results/samples from Zoetis to Neogen - usually does not involve a fee unless it is a labour intensive exercise to collect the samples – then it will be a per hour cost but a quote will be given before any action is taken.



## DNA Options - FAQ cont

### **How do I know if an animal is MiP or SNP tested?**

Look for the animal on the ALCA database. Details for each animal will show if it is MiP or SNP tested.

Some will have numbers beside both DNA MiP # & DNA SNP # meaning it has been DNA tested by both methods.

### **How do I use the new SNP testing on a calf if one or both parents have MiP DNA?**

<b>MiPs + MiPs</b>	✓
<b>SNPs + SNPs</b>	✓
<b>SNPs + MiPs</b>	✗

MiP results cannot be compared to SNP DNA results for Parent Verification.

This means that if both parents are MiP tested, the progeny also needs to be MiP tested for Parent Verification to be analysed and confirmed. If both parents have been SNP tested, the progeny can be SNP tested and Parent verification can be analysed.

### **What can I do if I want to SNP test a calf and one parent is MiP tested but SNP re-testing cannot be done?**

The way to overcome this problem is to have MiP testing done for the calf so Parent Verification can be confirmed. Also apply for the calf to have SNP testing results so any progeny in the future can be SNP tested.

### **If I have a calf resulting from an old embryo, what DNA test should I use?**

You should MiP test your calf for Parent Verification & also have it SNP tested for future progeny

### **If I have a calf resulting from an AI but the AI sire is only MiP tested what should I do?**

You should MiP test your calf for Parent Verification & also have it SNP tested for future progeny.

### **Are all AI Sires SNP tested?**

No. ALCA paid for the re-testing of AI Sires on the ALCA AI Sires List belonging to current ALCA members but not all re-testing was successful. Many samples were old & sufficient DNA could not be recovered.

If you are going to purchase semen, check the ALCA database to see if the bull has a SNP DNA number. If it hasn't, you will have to use MiP testing on any resulting calves.

### **If I have semen in storage & the bull is now dead, how can I get the bull SNP tested?**

Send a straw of semen to either Neogen or Zoetis to be SNP tested.

It can be posted in the mail directly to the laboratory for testing. Put the straws into individual ziplock bags and wrap in cardboard or put inside an old pen tube or other method to protect it from Australia Post process.

### **I have very old embryos in storage that I want to use in the future, what should I do?**

It is suggested to use any old embryos as soon as you can because MiP testing will not be available forever. It is going to be phased out eventually & progeny from these old embryos will need MiP testing for Parent Verification if they are to be registered.





## DNA Options - FAQ cont

### **What is the most cost-effective way to change to SNP testing?**

This will depend on your herd size and the number of breeding animals. It is suggested that you start by applying for re-testing of your original samples for the bull/s that you are using for breeding in your herd. Or send a new tissue/tail hair sample for SNP testing (if you have the bull).

Select your best breeding females and/or those who have produced heifer calves or any bull calves you will be wanting to register and apply for them to be re-tested or send another sample for testing.

Don't worry about any cows that have steers at foot. They can be done later when they produce a calf you want to register.

### **NEOGEN DNA Application Form – what tests do I ask for?**

**MiP** => For the normal Microsatellite testing only. (Cost \$35 + GST)

**MiP & PV** => the normal Microsatellite DNA & Parent Verification testing (use if parents aren't SNP tested) (Cost \$35 + GST)

**SeekSire – SNP only** => SNP DNA testing only (can be used if Parent Verification has been done using MiP test & calf is to be SNP tested for future progeny) (Cost \$35 + GST)

**SeekSire & PV – SNP & Parentage** => SNP testing and Parent Verification (only use if both parents have SNP) (Cost \$35+ GST)

**COLOR** => Coat Color testing for red &/or black genes (included in the DNA/PV test for \$35 + GST)

**Sample re-testing – Upgrade to SNP** => Cost \$35 + GST

**Semen testing for SNP** => Cost \$ 35+ GST

### **ZOETIS DNA Application Form – what do I ask for?**

**SireTRACE DNA profile & Parent Verification** => the normal Microsatellite DNA & Parent Verification testing (use if both parents are MiP tested) (Cost \$30 + GST)

**SireTRACE Zoetis AU SNP Parentage Profile** => SNP DNA testing including parent verification (Cost \$30 + GST)

**Coat Color Testing** => Coat Color testing for red &/or black genes (Cost \$25 + GST)

**SireTRACE + Coat Color** => DNA + PV + Coat Color (Cost \$50 + GST)

**Sample re-testing – Upgrade to SNP** => Cost \$30 + GST

**Semen testing for SNP** => Cost \$30 + GST

**DNA Forms & instructions on how to take tail hair samples can be found on the ALCA website**

**=>FORMS & DOWNLOADS or in the MEMBERS AREA**

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





## How to use the ALCA database

For those who haven't used or have trouble using the ALCA database to find animals, there are a few basic tips to use which will make your search easier.

**Lowline Animal Enquiry**

[ALCA Website](#) [Animal Enquiry](#) [Member Enquiry](#) [Online Transactions](#)

**Enter Selection Criteria**

Clear Search

Animals Name:	<input type="text"/>	Stud name & animals name here eg Wanamara Cavalier
Animal Identifier/Tattoo:	<input type="text"/>	enter 3 letter ID/ Tattoo ie WAN for wanamara
Current Owner Identifier:	<input type="text"/>	Enter Stud Prefix/Tattoo to view Herd Inventory
Calving Year(s):	<input type="text"/>	Enter one or more calving years separated by commas
Select if:	<input type="button" value="v"/>	
Select if:	<input type="button" value="v"/>	
Select if:	<input type="button" value="v"/>	
Colour:	All <input type="button" value="v"/>	
Type:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Herdbook <input type="radio"/> Commercial <input type="radio"/> Any	
Active Status:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> All <input type="radio"/> Active <input type="radio"/> Inactive	
Genetic Tests (Marbling):	<input type="button" value="v"/>	
Genetic Tests (Tenderness):	<input type="button" value="v"/>	
Genetic Tests (Feed Efficiency):	<input type="button" value="v"/>	Enter sire name to view his progeny
Breeder Region:	<input type="button" value="v"/>	Enter dam name to view her progeny
Sire Name:	<input type="text"/>	or you can fill in these boxes instead if you know the name & a full list of all their progeny will come up
Dam Name:	<input type="text"/>	
Sort By:	Animal Name <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ascending <input type="radio"/> Descending	

Clear Search

You can use as many or as few of these available fields to search for an animal on the database.

**Animals Name** – If you know the name of the animal you are searching for, type the full name or stud name  
– Use a wildcard entry % if you only use the first few letters of the stud name

**Animal Identifier/Tattoo** – If you know the animal's ID & number put this in the field – eg. ABCZ003

**Current Owner Identifier** – This is the Stud Prefix, eg. ABC

–You can find a breeder's stud prefix by searching MEMBER ENQUIRY at the top of page

**Calving Year(s)** – if you know the year an animal was born

There are 3 dropdown boxes 'Select if'. You can use one or any combination of available options from these 3 boxes – Animal is Female, Male, Steer, Active, AI Approved, Donor Dam, Registered, Recorded, Deemed, Unregistered

**Color** – All, Black or Red

**Type** – Tick whichever register you want to look in – Herdbook (default type), Commercial, Any

**Active Status** – All (default), Active, Inactive (An animal owned by a non-member of ALCA is Inactive)

**Breeder Region** – select the state or country in which you are searching for the animal

**Sire Name** – add if you know the name of the sire

**Dam Name** – add if you know the name of the dam

Don't be frightened to 'play' with the database to see how it works.

The more you use it, the easier it will become.



## Guest Speakers at the ALCA Conference, NZ

We were extremely lucky to have three very interesting speakers make presentations at the ALCA Conference following the AGM.

**Monique Koning** is a practising veterinarian as well as a Lowline stud breeder. She runs her own business, Mobile Vetcare Ltd. Her subject was very topical, due to the Government deciding that New Zealand would become the only country in the world to try to eradicate *mycoplasma bovis*. It has been identified on 46 farms in NZ and is expected to cost the country some \$886 million and the slaughter of some 152,000 cattle.

**Dr Pablo Gregorini** is Professor of Livestock Production at Lincoln University & a Lowline owner. Argentinian by birth he was working as a research assistant on alternative grazing systems even before getting his Ba Ag Sc at the National University of La Plata in 1998. Pablo spoke about the findings of his international project on nutrition and foraging behaviour of cattle which gave everyone 'food for thought' about how they should be grazing their cattle to take advantage of the optimal times for feed conversion in the daily grazing cycle.

**Johanna Scott** is the National Technical Services Manager for Zoetis Genetics in NZ. As well as the comprehensive technical knowledge of genomics that this entails, Johanna also has a deep understanding of the agricultural industry. Johanna explained the differences between the different DNA techniques (MiP & SNP), answering many questions about the pros & cons of SNP DNA testing & the best ways of proceeding with the changeover.

The presentation of each speaker was available to the public via a LIVE video link on the ALCA Facebook page.

A big THANK YOU to all the presenters for sharing their expertise in their fields.



## Certified Lowline Beef Producers - have you answered your CLB Survey?

Council is always looking for ways to improve the service we offer to our members, better ways to promote the breed and your beef production.

In light of this, we are currently reviewing the CLB programme, promotional material and overall effectiveness of it for our members.

As producers of Certified Lowline Beef we value your input.

We are considering adding new tools for you to use to promote CLB to your customers, simply to improve your outcomes and opportunities. We want to keep innovating and enhancing the recognition of our beef because we all know how good it is!

This is your chance to contribute to the future direction of the breed and association as a whole!

We ask that you **complete your survey by Monday the 3rd of December 2018** allowing us time to collate the data before the next Council meeting.



## 2018 Canterbury A & P Show - New Zealand

The Canterbury A&P Show is New Zealand's largest agricultural show and runs over three days in November, incorporating the province's anniversary holiday as a public day.

This year the show association rebranded as the NZ Agricultural Show (or the NZAg Show). On the public day on the Friday, the cattle section is for the Youth with paraders competitions across the age groups, stock judging (this year featured four Lowline heifers as one of the groups to be judged), and points for general contribution to the show – all tallying up for the overall Herdsperson competitions.

This year the competition was judged by Leonie and Greg Ball of New South Wales. Leonie also judged the Lowline breed classes.

The Lowline youth took out three of the four major youth prizes.

Rana Kumeroa (18) won the Senior Herdsperson and Lady Isaac Scholarship to compete at the Canberra Royal Show in February.

Caitlin Rhodes (16) won the Intermediate Herdsperson and the Woolstone Park Lowline Scholarship to attend the Royal Queensland Show in Brisbane in August.

Abbie Walls (14) won the AgriSea Scholarship to attend Future Beef in Masterton (North Island, NZ) in May.

All three girls are Rangiora High students or ex-students and led with Woolstone Park Lowlines.

Another class is a Schools Parade where school teams of three or four students with cattle, parade representing their schools.

Rangiora High teams took second, third and fourth places this year.



The Rangiora High School team with mentors, Philip & Kay Worthington, Woolstone Park



## New Zealand Local Heroes

Kay and Philip Worthington, who own Woolstone Park Lowline cattle stud near Rangiora, are recipients of this year's Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero Medal.

They have been acknowledged for their work teaching high school students how to handle animals safely.

The reward acknowledges everyday people are doing extraordinary things in their local communities.



Congratulations Kay & Phil !

