

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)

## A Land of Drought & Flooding Rain

Dorothea Mackellar's famed verse about droughts and flooding rains in her iconic poem 'My Country' has certainly come to life across the country.

We have seen vision of farmers striving to keep their cattle alive for months, even years, only to have recent monsoon conditions send torrents of water flowing through valleys and towns, washing away stock and belongings.

Farmers inland in drought stricken areas had so much water that starving stock perished from unusual wet and cold conditions.

Our thoughts go out to those farmers who have experienced these catastrophic conditions.

A farmer's life is never easy but just remember when you think you are in hard times, there is always someone doing it harder.



Photo: Northern Victoria

- ⇒ Lowlines are renowned for their ability to do well in poor conditions.
- ⇒ Lowline cows will rear good calves to the detriment of themselves in these conditions.

### Inside This Issue

A Land of Drought & Flooding Rain	1
ALCA Office Contact	1
2019 Royal Canberra Show Results	2
Important Information for Members using Neogen	3
Using Zoetis for DNA processing	4
Welcome to New Members	4
Membership Survey No.2	4
From the Archives	5
Lowline Junior Page	6
Allflex Tissue Sampling Unit – for DNA SNP testing	7
Let's Talk Membership	8
Southern Region Promotion Group (SRPG) Report	9
Wanamara Lowlines at Seymour Expo	10
2019 Toowoomba Royal Show dates	10
2019 Royal Sydney Show dates	10

## ALCA Office Contact

As Carole Johns is away for the next few weeks, the Lowline Registrar, Natalie Herd will be covering for Carole in the ALCA Office.

You can still contact the ALCA office –  
[office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

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

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

Monday – Thursday  
9am to 3pm

Ph: 02 6773 5588

All transactions for registrations, recordings, transfers, etc. can be made directly through the Lowline Shop – <https://lowlineshop.com/>

All services must be paid for before the paperwork is processed.

**PLEASE NOTE: Registrations for show entries will not be processed without payment.**



## 2019 Canberra Show Results

The Royal Canberra Show was held from 22nd – 24th February at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

Although exhibit numbers were down for all breeds, an impressive line-up of Australian Lowlines from New South Wales & Victoria were exhibited. Welcome to members, Jess Muscat & Darren Storace who are new to the show circuit. Congratulations to all who participated.

**Judge** – Kerry Sutherland

### BULLS

**Bull 14 – 16 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cann Valley Nutcracker – Matt Cooney
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Serena Downs Nikolai – Christine and Michael Noel

**Junior Champion** – Cann Valley Nutcracker

**Reserve Junior Champion** – Serena Downs Nikolai

**Bull 24–30 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Whitby Farm PT – Ken & Gill Lorains
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Whitby Farm Richard II – Ken & Gill Lorains

**Senior Champion** – Whitby Farm PT

**Reserve Champion** – Whitby Farm Richard II

### FEMALES

**Female 12 – 14 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cann Valley New Moon – Darren Storace

**Female 16 to 18 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Elle Kay Lady Gaga – Kuipers Family
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Muscateer Valley G Star – Jessica Muscat

**Female 18–20 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Whitby Farm Showgirl – Ken and Gill

Lorains

**Junior Champion** – Cann Valley New Moon

**Reserve Junior Champion** – Whitby Farm Showgirl

**Female 24–30 months**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tarrawarra Fantasia – Matt Cooney
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Serena Downs Nina – Christine & Michael Noel

**Female 30 months and over**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rotherwood Lady Madonna – Matt Cooney
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Serena Downs Holly – Christine & Michael Noel
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Daniels Little GG – Jessica Muscat

**Senior Champion Female** – Tarrawarra Fantasia

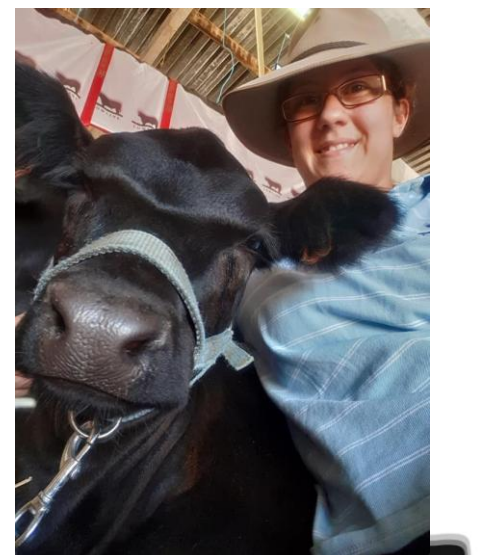
**Reserve Senior Champion Female** – Rotherwood Lady Madonna

**Supreme Exhibit** – Tarrawarra Fantasia



Lowlines on Parade – Canberra Show

Karina Britton taking a 'selfie' with a Serena Downs baby



## Important information for members using Neogen

For many years ALCA has had a contract with the University of Queensland Animal Genetics unit for processing member DNA samples for a reduced price.

Eighteen months ago, the University of Queensland sold their business to American company, Geenseek, who run their animal genetics laboratory as Neogen in Australia.

Over this eighteen month period, ALCA has noticed many changes in the way Neogen run their business when comparing them to the services UQ provided. Some of these changes are not to the benefit of ALCA members.

ALCA's contract with Neogen is about to expire, and after much discussion, Council has decided not to renew the ALCA contract with Neogen.

### What does this mean to me as an ALCA Member?

#### PRICE

In the previous UQ contract with ALCA, DNA prices for ALCA members were reduced. This is no longer the case with Neogen.

If you continue to use Neogen for your DNA processing, you should submit your sample directly to Neogen with your payment to Neogen also.

**The price for your DNA tests will be cheaper by going direct to Neogen than going through ALCA.**

Currently the ALCA DNA fees include administration costs. By ALCA stepping out of the loop, members DNA fees will decrease.

By using the generic online Neogen form – Public Cattle Genotyping Application – you will be able to make your payment when you submit the form online or have them invoice you.

<https://genomics.neogen.com/au/submission-forms>

This link also has instructions for filling out the form.

**This is an interactive online form so please fill out ONLINE. No handwritten forms will be accepted.**

### CONTACT WITH NEOGEN

At the moment, all DNA samples submitted by ALCA members which are invoiced to & paid by ALCA are recognized by Neogen as being the property of ALCA. Therefore any correspondence about any of these samples must be made through the ALCA office rather than from the member.

This has caused a lot of problems for members trying to find out information about the DNA of their animals, as Neogen will not speak to the member directly.

**By members sending their samples directly to Neogen, the samples will be deemed as being owned by the member rather than ALCA so the member can contact Neogen directly for further information.**



### OLD SAMPLES STORED AT NEOGEN

At the moment all samples are under the ownership of ALCA, as far as Neogen is concerned.

There will be options for members as to what they want done with old DNA samples being held at Neogen once the ALCA contract runs out at the end of May 2019.

Council is looking into these options & will notify members before anything is done with samples.

Any storage of samples with Neogen may involve an annual cost of \$2 per sample from Neogen.

**Further details soon.**

## Using Zoetis for your DNA processing

Zoetis Genetics Australia is another company available for cattle genetic testing, offering DNA (SNP & MiP), Parent Verification (SireTrace) & Coat Color testing.

At this stage Zoetis has no plans to phase out MiP (Microsatellite) testing. So if your bulls & cows have only been MiP tested & you don't want to change to SNP testing yet, the MiP testing can be used to Parent Verify your calves.

Zoetis also has a contract with ALCA but they are happy to speak to all ALCA clients with regard to DNA queries about their animals. Zoetis is a very pleasant company to deal with.

Zoetis is also available for New Zealand members to use in New Zealand.

DNA test kits are free & can be ordered through Zoetis.

Zoetis says 'Some of the most crucial communication regarding testing and results between you and us takes place with our Customer Service team. That's why we have knowledgeable and friendly people to assist you.'

### **Customer Service Hours**

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Queensland Time Zone)

Toll Free 1300 768 400

Zoetis Australia

P.O. Box 75

Banyo QLD 4014 Australia

<https://genetics.zoetis.com/australia/index.aspx>

**The Zoetis order form is available from the ALCA website => The Association => Forms & Downloads**

## Welcome to New Members

We send a big welcome to our new members for this month.

It is great to see more New Zealanders joining us.

Darcy & Erin Graham                      Junior Membership  
Memerambi, QLD – Kioma Lowlines

Gary & Judi Martin                      Commercial Membership  
Manawatu, North Island, New Zealand

Ross & Susan Bryant                      Full Membership  
Canterbury, South Island, NZ – Pipi Downs

Garry & Penny Venman                      Full Membership  
Tauranga, North Island, NZ – Tui Ridge

Paul Phillips                      Full Membership  
Bungonia, NSW – Phoenix

## Membership Survey No.2

**Hello Members.**

**Membership Survey No.2  
is awaiting in your  
inboxes!**

The second of our Membership Surveys has been sent to all ALCA members.

These surveys are to help with improvements to the Association that will benefit both the members & the Lowline breed.

The Survey is short & simple to fill out online.  
Do your Survey today!

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who has already completed one.





## From the Archives

Recently a few of the old newsletters from 1995 & 1996 were scanned & are now available on the ALCA website. You might be interested to read about the early days of our Association.

Have a look => The Association => Newsletters => From the ALCA Archives

### JOURNAL OF THE **AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE** CATTLE ASSOC.



Newsletter 2, April 1996



## How promotional groups work

The objects of promotional groups are:

- To uphold and promote the objects of the Association in the area in which the group operates.
- To cooperate with the Association, the Council and with other promotional groups generally in the interests of breeders of Australian Lowline cattle.

Promotional groups should adhere to the above objects, for the ultimate benefit of the Association. The full support of the Council, and of the Secretariat, will be given to the promotional groups in the legitimate pursuit of their objectives, including financial support if appropriate. Promotional material is available from the Secretariat.

### NSW Promotion Group

A promotion group headed by Keith Smith has been formed in southern New South Wales with its main aim as acceptance by the Royal Canberra Show in 1997. The group was formed at Keith and Moira Smith's Keimoi Lowline Stud at Goulburn on February 24. A dozen members attended from as far afield as Sydney, with seven apologies. The southern NSW-Australian Capital Territory promotion group agreed to function informally, in terms of section 35 of the Association constitution. Keith Smith was chosen to be chairman, and Moira to be secretary. Keith Smith writes: The meeting was an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas, with some health, lively debate taking place. New members Peter Keith from Goulburn and Russell and Joan Betters from Mittagong were present, and it was an opportunity for them to meet other Association members. The group is to meet every three months at different studs, and it is planned that there should be guest speakers. We agreed to compile a register of shows and field days where our cattle can be promoted. The absolute priority is to assist the Council to gain admission to the Royal Canberra Show, which is held in February each year, and which is rapidly gaining in stature in the beef industry. It lasts for three days only, which is easier on the cattle and on their owners, and provides an excellent lead up to the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. To gain entry we need to give an assurance that we will enter 30 head. We will be telephoning around, but anyone interest should contact us on 048 29 2121. The next meeting will be at Peter and Greg Rhodes Broken Arrow Stud at Binalong.

### WA Promotion Group

Western Australian members of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association met at Alice and Charlie Gardner's stud at Mandurah in October. Those present were foundation members Barry and Lola Doust, who travelled 500 kilometres from Northampton, foundation members Norman and Melanie Hugh, from Brigadoon, David and Stacey Collins from Toodyay and the Gardners. They inspected the Gardner's Lowline herd and exchanged experiences. It was great to talk Lowlines, writes Stacey Collins. We hadn't met each other before, and it was particularly rewarding to discuss the hopes and disappointments of embryo transfer, and plans for the future. The outcomes were positive. We decided to start exhibiting animals at small farmers field days, and perhaps at the Perth Royal Show. We resolved to meet twice yearly.

Glenfiddich Lowline Stud is dedicated to excellence in breeding Lowline cattle for long term commercial viability. Lowline cattle are very much a beef breed with some very clear advantages over other breeds of cattle.

Our genetic base has been sourced Australia wide and is now available on the Central Coast ... one hour north of Sydney. We are offering several "Exclusive" bloodlines (including the premier LOWLINE BULL COMMODORE III - winner, senior and champion BULL RAS - 1995) available in the following forms.



- Frozen embryos
- Embryo recipients PTIC.
- Bull calves
- Quality foundation cows
- Share semen/embryo programs

You can take advantage of our managed agistment facilities for the investor, or investigate the profit advantage of your own flushing program through our managed embryo transfer programs.

Please direct further enquiries to:  
Gary Hatcher:

(02) 9958 2599  
(02) 44 3380

Fax: (02) 9958 2664  
Dennis and Christine Fisher:  
(043) 76 1353

Inspections invited, strictly by appointment



## Lowline Junior Page

Hello to all Junior Members. This is my First Newsletter. My name is Riley Jensen and I'm 11 years of age and the owner of Adelaide Park Lowlines. I have 8 Lowline's and looking to grow my herd. And I'm very passionate about breeding lowlines. This page is about trying to interact with all the Junior members—talking to each other, sharing new stories and photos. As a Junior Member myself I like to talk to breeders around my age bracket, to get information and ideas or even share ideas. For example, say if you go to a show, you can text a Junior friend and tell them how you went, or if your cow has a calf and has a problem. Or just to have a chat with your Junior friends.

To start this off, you can send me stories and photos to [garryj@y7mail.com](mailto:garryj@y7mail.com) and I'll put it in the next Junior newsletter. Lets share what we are doing!

Looking for a good name for this new newsletter. Send in all your suggestions to [garryj@y7mail.com](mailto:garryj@y7mail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Riley Jensen



Pippa & Me



Mac, my stud bull

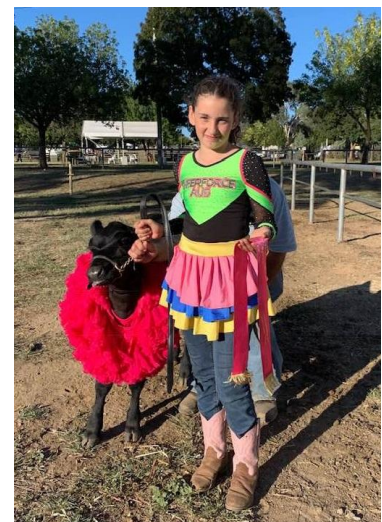
For the next edition of the newsletter –

Send a photo of yourself with your favorite Lowline.

Tell me a bit about yourself and your Lowlines.



Karina Britton with  
Serena Downs at  
2019 Royal  
Canberra Show



Sienna Smith, Red Lily Lowlines –  
competing in Calf Capers at the  
2019 Royal Canberra Show

## Allflex Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU) - for DNA SNP testing

If you decide to change to SNP DNA testing, this Allflex Ear Tagger is designed to take a tissue sample when the NLIS or NAIT tag is applied to the ear of your cow.

The following information can be found on the Allflex website –

<https://www.allflex.com.au/our-products/tissue-sampling/product/tissue-sampling-unit-tsu>

Are you looking for a quick and easy DNA sampling method that is reliable, easy to transport, user-friendly and efficient to process at the lab?

Allflex Tissue Sampling Units (TSU) provide all of this and much more. These units take an ear punch which can replace tail hair, blood, semen or other sample types used for DNA, Pestivirus or other serology testing.



TSU Applicator

**Fast, high performance sample collection.** Samples can be collected in seconds with minimal animal restraint. A single-squeeze motion collects a sample with minimum distress to the animal.

**Clean, uncontaminated sampling.** The genetic material is sealed in a specially designed preservative.

**Minimise retesting.** Tissue samples contain a large quantity of high quality DNA for genetic analysis, yielding excellent lab results.

**Sample integrity.** The TSU is fully sealed and positively identified with both a 2D barcode and ID panel. The TSU can be paired to matching NLIS and Management tags, creating an absolute sample-to-animal linkage.



Tube loading apparatus & cutter



TSU with a sample

**The following laboratories are currently accepting TSU for animal health diagnostics and genomic testing.**

NSW DPI Diagnostic & Analytical Services

Swans Veterinary Services

Geneseek Australasia (NEOGEN) / UQ Gatton

Zoetis Genetics Australia



## Let's Talk Membership

### Full Membership

Without our Full Members no one would be able to purchase DNA verified Lowlines. In no time at all you would have no way of knowing whether or not the animal you have just purchased is in fact an Australian Lowline.

If our Association only had limited numbers of Full Memberships, or none at all, close behind would be the loss of the breed purity and all the other attributes that make our chosen breed so appealing.

Did you know that the cost of Full Membership equates to as little as \$18.34 per month or \$4.24 per week? Most people spend more on coffee in a week! But buying coffee doesn't give you access to the opportunities that having a Full Membership can.

As a Full Member the direction your breeding program takes is entirely up to you. You can follow your passion whether that be to produce the best steak money can buy, the most structurally correct beef machine on legs, gather a bevy of broad ribbons at each and every Royal Show or all of the preceding.

If your passion is to simply breed good cattle, watch your herd multiply, make some sales to recoup your costs and introduce others to this wonderful heritage breed then what better way to do it than by being a Full Member and thus ensuring through the registration of your cattle that this breed continues to thrive.

We have all sold cattle to people who love to have registered stock yet say – "I don't want to be a full member, I'm not interested in stud breeding, I just want to have Lowlines."

As an Association we have sold the idea that being a Full Member equates to Stud breeding. But that is not always the case. There is a gap in our membership categories just waiting to be filled.

The **Lifestyle Membership** will do this.

### Lifestyle Membership

This Lifestyle Membership has some restrictions when comparing to a Full Membership.

It will only be available for a member who has a limited number of animals. Once the herd numbers increase above the quota, a Full Membership will be required.

Becoming a Lifestyle Member allows the following:

- Retain the animals registered status on the database
- Calf recording
- Option for the animal to be upgraded to registered status when sold to a Full, Junior or School Membership (subject to DNA & PV & fees being paid)
- Transfer herd/animals ownership on database to another Lifestyle Member (subject to all animals being DNA & PV & fees being paid).
- Can sell steers/stock to CLB producer (subject to usual rules)
- Become part of Promotion Groups
- Receive Newsletters and the Journal

### Benefits to Full Members

Your registered stock retains its market value.

Genetic retention – the genetic pool for our breed is limited, so it is important we keep as much genetic material available as possible.

Increased source of stock for our CLB producers to keep up with the demand for beef that is DNA traceable.

New memberships into the Association from people who don't want to be 'stud breeders' or commercial producers & just want to enjoy their Lowlines.

There are many people who want to have a small acreage farm & be self sufficient. We know Lowlines are so suitable for this situation & a Lifestyle Membership would suit them too





## Southern Region Promotion Group (SRPG) Report

### 2019 Seymour Alternative Farming Expo

Established in 1991, the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo has grown into the most successful alternative farming expo in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Southern Region Promotion Group (SRPG) of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association (ALCA) established a stand at the most recent Seymour Expo which was held on 15–17 February.

More than 22,000 visitors passed through the Expo entrance gates during the three days. The SRPG Lowline exhibit which included a Lowline bull, cow and calf, attracted a steady stream of genuine visitors, many of whom were novice people considering cattle ownership for the first time and looking for small, tractable cattle to keep on small acreage.

A common thread was that visitors came to chat with us because they had already heard that Lowlines had excellent temperaments. Regional maps indicating the location of Victorian and Tasmanian ALCA members were displayed and created considerable interest as visitors to the stand looked for studs located near to where they lived. Other enquiries covered availability of carcasses, steers, commercial cattle, purebred heifers and cows (and prices), semen straws and bulls. This is the second year SRPG has exhibited at the Seymour Expo and once again it proved to be a key platform for the promotion of Lowlines.



### SRPG Cattle Structural Assessment Field Day 24 March 2019

SRPG is hosting a Cattle Structural Assessment Field Day on **Sunday 24 March 2019** at the Steels Creek Community Centre, 699 Steels Creek Road, Steels Creek from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Well known cattle woman and Angus breeder, **Fiona Glover** will give an electronic presentation of what she looks for in an animal, starting from the ground up. Fiona's talk will be followed up by an on-farm visit to assess individual animal structure and develop participant assessment skills.

For further details contact Jacqui Feagan 0409 384 077 Email:

[rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com](mailto:rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com)

Cost: \$10 per participant. BBQ lunch provided. Please RSVP to Jacqui by 10 March 2019 to assist with catering.



### Wodonga 2018 Annual Show

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

### CATTLE SCHEDULE

Introducing for the first time in 2019:

- Small Breed Feature Classes
- Commercial Steer and Heifer Competition

Look for updates at [www.wodongashow.org.au](http://www.wodongashow.org.au)

Contact steward Ruth Nicholls - 0411 260 568

ALL EXHIBITORS TO ENTER THE SHOWGROUNDS VIA RICHARDSON STREET GATE.

ENTRY FEE: \$ 10.00 per Exhibit. LATE FEE: \$15.00

Late entries will only be accepted with an increased fee of \$15.00

To avoid paying late fees - Entries close on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 5.00 pm**

A Small Breed Feature Show will be held at Wodonga in Victoria on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Contact SRPG Chairman, Ken Lorains for further details [whitbyfarm235@bigpond.com](mailto:whitbyfarm235@bigpond.com)



## Wanamara Lowlines at Seymour Expo



For many years now Wanamara Lowlines has had Australian Lowlines on display at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in Victoria.

This was actually where we saw our first Lowlines when Jeanette & Peter Stebbins had cattle on display in 1995. I was really impressed with the butt of the bull I saw (Ardrossan Peter) & we purchased our first heifer from Ardrossan a few months later.

Back in those days, heifers were very hard to come by so you had to wait for something to become available for sale. But to us, it was worth the wait.

We continue to promote this wonderful breed to others. At this expo we have many people visiting us who are looking for an alternative lifestyle where they can be self sufficient & provide their families with a healthy way of life.



## 2019 Toowoomba Royal Show

Australian Lowlines will be the Feature Breed at this year's Toowoomba Royal Show to be held from 28 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Toowoomba Showgrounds, Qld.

Judging of the Lowlines will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Also at this show we will hold a Youth Judging competition with the major prize being \$500 to support travel to the Canterbury A & P Show in the Christchurch, New Zealand.

ALCA Youth are invited to enter. The Youth event will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Come along & support your breed.



## 2019 Royal Sydney Easter Show

The Sydney Royal Easter show will be held at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, NSW from 12 – 23 April 2019.

Australian Lowline cattle will be on display from 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Cattle Pavillions

At this stage, Lowline judging will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

