



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)

## In times of uncertainty ....



It is only early in the year but 2020 is proving to be unsettling for everyone. The beginning of a new decade brings change and this year will make its mark in history.

Health, finances, employment and climate are all under fire. The world we know is changing so we have to listen to those in authority and follow direction. This is very tough, but will not last forever.

No matter what country you live in, we are all affected. There is no escape.

Country and state borders have been closed. The beef trade in New Zealand to their major client, China, has been halted. Similar agricultural exports in Australia have ceased temporarily. Public cattle sales have been cancelled in some Australian states. National cattle shows in Australia and the USA, prestigious events that showcase quality stud and carcass animals, have also been cancelled.

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The Covid-19 outbreak has caused major disruptions everywhere, including enforced 'social isolation' and limits of social interaction.

These are all temporary disruptions to life. We will cope and things will get back to normal soon. We just have to be patient.

But those of us on the land, farming is an essential service so life continues as normal. Cows need feeding, dairy cows will keep producing milk (despite all government regulations), fruit and vegetables need to be harvested, just to name a few farming 'activities' that have to continue.

On a much brighter and more positive note, RAIN has finally arrived in most areas of Australia and New Zealand. Drought affected properties are now growing pasture and our cattle are starting to improve in condition. A BIG POSITIVE!

People are turning to local produce, the clean and green alternative to supermarket products. Hopefully this will continue past the end of this pandemic so farmers can reap the benefits in the future.



## ALCA Office & Covid-19

Dear Members

Things have been developing very quickly with respect to the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Where possible, ABRI staff are now working from their home offices. This includes the ALCA office staff - Katrina McKemey, ALCA Executive Officer and Natalie Herd, Lowline Registrar.

ABRI has implemented systems to enable uninterrupted communications with members but request your patience and understanding if there are delays in receiving a response or if you need to use our voice mail service.

In order to maximise our ability to respond to member service requests we ask that where possible, you communicate by electronic means (eg via email) rather than by telephone or by faxing or posting work requests.

While the ABRI office is currently open with a limited number of staff in attendance we will continue to monitor the guidance issued by the relevant Government and medical authorities, and where necessary we will adjust our policies and plans as required.

It is possible that further regulations may be implemented in coming days/weeks such that we may eventually need to close the office.

We recognise that these are exceptional and unusual times and look forward to the support of members to manage through this challenge.

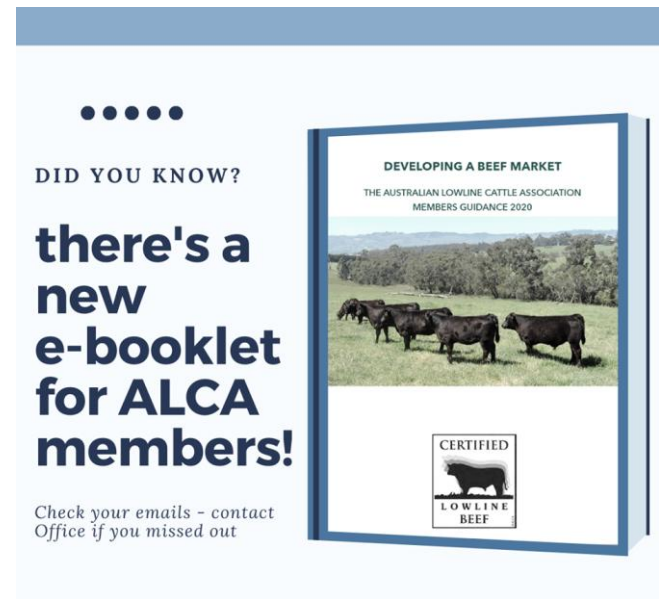
Please contact me if there is anything you need

**EASTER HOLIDAYS - ALCA OFFICE CLOSURE :**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Katrina McKemey,  
ALCA Executive Officer

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

## Developing a Beef Market - e-booklet



There was a great response to the 2020 January Newsletter which focused on Lowline Beef. There are many members who are interested in producing Lowline beef but didn't know where or how to start.

The ALCA CLB committee has put together much of this information in a PDF e-booklet which has now been emailed to the membership.

**If you have not received your copy of the e-booklet via email, please contact Katrina at the ALCA office to make sure your email is correct.**

This booklet has been collated as an educational tool – something you can keep handy and use as needed.

There are people in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia who are looking to purchase Lowline steers for beef.

These people have made contact with the Lowline community through the Australian Lowline Discussion Group on Facebook.

So, to keep up with the latest news, join the Discussion Group.

And don't forget to steer your bull calves.



## Taranaki Field Day, North Island, NZ

The North Island Lowline Promotion Group (NILPG) ran its inaugural Summer Field Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020 in Taranaki, located in the North Island of NZ.

It was a moody, cool, rainy day where special guests, Peter and Jeanette Stebbins from Ardrossan stud, Victoria, Australia, would have felt right at home.

The locals had received a drought breaking 64 mm of rain the previous night, which continued on and off during our field day. No one seemed to mind. There were over 20 attendees representing studs from South Auckland in the north to Wellington in the South.

The topic for this year was 'Structure and Soundness in Cattle', and this was presented to us in an easy-to-understand way by Cedric Lander, owner of Wairere Angus, a second generation Angus stud in South Taranaki.

Cedric Lander is a wealth of knowledge which he generously shared with us on the day. Below, I have noted some of the more important points that we should use when assessing our own cattle for breeding and beef production.

We learned that the greater the depth from the spine over the top of the paunch, the greater potential to grow a larger eye muscle. The paunch is described as the triangle area on the side of the beast that is hollow when the animal is hungry, or blows out with bloat.

Fat is a great disguiser of faults.

It is not uncommon to get young bulls fat before sale so they look good and hide faults. This will also be the case for cattle in 'show condition'. However, there is a muscle above the front knee that never accumulates fat. It is a good indicator of how much meat the carcass is capable of carrying.



Cedric did mention a couple of times not to try to breed bulls that are over muscled. We didn't see over muscled bulls but in other breeds it can be seen (Belgian Blue for example).

Cedric described the correct pastern set in feet to keep the front of the hooves aiming into the ground at 45 degrees.

We saw good examples of this which leads to long term correct hoof wearing. It was quite important to check a bull's feet at 18 months to two years of age when they are starting to carry their mature weight. Any foot faults would get worse as the bull got heavier.

One thing to look out for in front feet is that some bulls walk with a roll. They twist their feet as they walk, causing abrasion on the sole and long term, will not be good for them.

Older bulls carry a lot of their weight on the front legs so the line from the top of the shoulders to the feet needs to be straight when standing at rest.

The front and back legs, when viewed from behind, should not swing out.

Interestingly, those bulls that develop a rounded rear end making it look like a hog, are actually carrying a lot of useless fat in the lower part of that region above the hock.

This trait is not necessary for producing meat.

## Taranaki Field Day - North Island NZ cont.

Tail set was discussed as many NZ Lowlines have a high tail set. It was not a serious fault, but it is worth taking note of because it is passed on readily to the next generation.

Correct tail set and a straight top line does look better.

The view of the animal over the top from the rear should be wide and flat. This gives the animal plenty of capacity to grow meat.

Head should be able to be naturally held high. A bull that carries his head low will develop shoulder problems as he gets older.

Testicles should not swing and hit the bulls legs as he walks. This will lead to bruising and short term infertility.

NZ Lowlines look quite different to the Lowlines I have seen in Australia, which reflects the animals first imported to NZ and not a lot of new genetics introduced into the country since they started here in the early 1990's.

If we keep breeding with what we have, nothing really changes. There is now plenty of opportunity for breeders to use AI with imported Australian semen, and take advantage of many years of the Australian breeders selecting animals that produce beef. There are breeders in NZ using Australian Lowline semen with instant and obvious results.



A well balanced bull with correct conformation

Breeding good cattle is a journey, and a long one at that. Cedric said for every success where everything looks great, there will be ten that don't.

An interesting perspective from a long term respected bull breeder.

In conclusion, the NILPG Summer Field Day was a success and will become an annual event with a different topical focus each year to be held 6 months after our AGM.

Both events are designed to keep members engaged and learning with a visit to studs to see Lowlines and their breeders.

Matt Wilkinson

Lowland Park Lowlines, NZ

### Feedback from Judy Sainsbury, Casablanca Lowlines

Dear Matt, Tania, Maurice & everyone,

I thought the day was a great success and that there was plenty of variety despite the bad luck with the weather.

Three farm visits, of quite different types, plus having Jeanette and Peter Stebbins and Angus expert Cedric Lander to discuss what we were seeing was really good value.

The Henschman bulls were particularly interesting to me, having sold so many bulls to dairy farmers over the years.

To see someone in NZ actually using a number of them for the purpose I'd talked about so often was very rewarding.

It would be really good to get Fiona as a speaker, with some sort of visual aids, to a dairy farmers' gathering.

I think it would be a great idea to do a Field day again next January, maybe in your area Matt, and, as you suggest, about six months from the AGM.

Thanks for your efforts Moores, Henschmans and Beardmores. It was well worth attending.

Judy Sainsbury





## Welcome to New Members

Even though times are tough, ALCA is still receiving many enquiries from the public about Lowline cattle and our Association.

We would like to welcome new members from Australia, USA and Scotland to our Association.

Andrew and Helen Crouch      Full Membership  
Addington, VIC – Gumbuya Lowlines

Nate and Ariel Margrie      Junior Membership  
Strathbogie, VIC – Eloura Park Lowlines

Tina Pettigrow      Associate Membership  
Waterloo, VIC

Joe and Fiona Grima      Lifestyle Membership  
Maroondan, QLD – Grima's Hideaway Lowlines

Rosemarie Watts & Gavin Bridgeman  
Full Membership  
Mount Fox, QLD – Coolindown Lowlines

James Moris      Associate Membership  
Cassville, Wisconsin, USA

Michael Walker      Full Membership  
Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, SCOTLAND – Drumbuie Lowlines



## Landholders Expo 2020 - Rockhampton, Qld.



Crimson Park Lowlines secured a stall at Landholders Expo 2020 previously known as Small Landholders Day in Rockhampton.

Sharon invited all local Lowline studs to be part of this stall. Crimson Park supplied a cow and calf on display and a young bull. These were a hit with all that attended.

Sharon gave a presentation on the benefits of the Lowline Breed and we demonstrated this with the cattle.

Shakeeta Yates, Riley Jensen, Gracie Walker and Leonie assisted with leading the cattle during the presentation.

A big 'Thank You' to these wonderful Junior Members who are very keen and willing to be involved.

Michelle Molloy brought journals and pamphlets and we had some stickers for the kids. Days like this not only give us that opportunity to showcase our cattle, and hopefully some sales, but gives our junior and adult members alike the opportunity to talk to people about our cattle and the benefits of Lowlines.

With having some recent rain, the grass is starting to grow and there were quite a few people interested in our cattle breed and how they would fit in with their properties.



## Cattle Registrations & Transfers

As the ALCA office setup has changed due to Government regulations and is now mainly home based, it is very important that the correct procedure is followed in order for your registrations and transfers to be processed efficiently and easily.

All registration, DNA and transfer documentation is to be sent by email directly to the Lowline Registrar, Natalie Herd – [lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au)

If they are sent to the ALCA office email, these processes could be delayed indefinitely.

There are two ways to register or record your animals

1. Online via the ALCA database
2. Using the ALCA Registration Form available on the ALCA website – <https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/the-association/forms-downloads>

DNA/SNP and Parent Verification Results are to be sent with any other documentation to the Lowline Registrar at the same time as you apply for the registrations.

Payment must also be made when you apply for any Registrations, Recordings or Transfers. This can be done via The Lowline Shop – <https://lowlineshop.com/>

If no payment is made at the time of your application, these processes will not proceed.

If you have enquiries about registering or transferring cattle, please contact Natalie Herd via email – [lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au](mailto:lowline.registrar@abri.une.edu.au)

For all other enquiries you should contact Katrina McKemey, ALCA Executive Officer, via the office email – [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

Phone calls and messages on the ALCA office phone may have a delayed response.

## Junior Members shine in QLD



The Bell Show was held on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

Results:

Junior Champion & Grand Champion Female – Pittsworth PC owned by Remy Barron, Merowen Lowlines

Reserve Junior Champion Female - Lik Lik Prada owned by Erin Graham, Kioma Lowlines

Erin Graham is five years old and helps her older brother, Darcy, with their Lowlines at Kingaroy in Queensland.

Erin also led her heifer at the Cooyar Show, where she was featured in the local newspaper (below)



SOUTHBURNETT TIMES.COM.AU

**PHOTOS: Little Erin leads the way at Cooyar**

She may only be five-years-old but this little show le...



## 2020 Royal Canberra Show Results

The Royal Canberra Show was held on the weekend of 28th – 30th March, just before the Government restrictions began for Covid-19.

The show was well attended by Lowline breeders from Victoria and New South Wales, with Victoria winning the State Challenge which is held at all the National Shows.

### **FEMALES:**

Female 8–12 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Cann Valley Quill – Matt Cooney

Female 12–16 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Cann Valley Lady Pamela Brown – Matt Cooney

2<sup>nd</sup>. Elle Kay Luna – Kuipers Family

3<sup>rd</sup>. Cann Valley Pandoras Box – Matt Cooney

Female 16–20 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Muscateer Valley Bree – Jess Muscat

2<sup>nd</sup>. Whitby Farm Ava – K & G Lorains

3<sup>rd</sup>. Muscateer Valley Gina – Jess Muscat

4<sup>th</sup>. Tarrawarra Hermione – Matt Cooney

**Junior Champion** – Muscateer Valley Bree

**Reserve Junior Champion** – Cann Valley Quill

Female 20–24 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Whitby Farm Libby – Paul Phillips

Female 30 months and over

1<sup>st</sup>. Whitby Farm L.C – K & G Lorains

2<sup>nd</sup>. Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse – Matt Cooney

3<sup>rd</sup>. Cann Valley Nefertiti Girl – Matt Cooney

4<sup>th</sup>. Blue Gem Scarlett – Lily and Ella Falkenberg

**Senior Champion & Grand Champion Female** –  
Whitby Farm L.C

**Reserve Senior Champion Female** –  
Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse



Grand  
Champion  
Female –  
Whitby Farm  
L.C.

Pair of Heifers

1<sup>st</sup>. Cann Valley Lowlines

2<sup>nd</sup>. Elle Kay Lowline Stud

### **BULLS**

Bull 12–16 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Tarrawarra Hufnstuff – Matt Cooney

2<sup>nd</sup>. Ardeen Phantom – Steve & Alexie O'Brien

3<sup>rd</sup>. Ardeen Primus – Steve & Alexie O'Brien

Bull 16–20 months

1<sup>st</sup>. Tarrawarra Harry – Jacquelynn Feagan

2<sup>nd</sup>. Tarrawarra Hughsie – Jacquelynn Feagan

3<sup>rd</sup>. Phoenix Pearl Harbour – Paul Phillips

**Junior Champion bull** – Tarrawarra Harry

**Reserve Junior Champion** – Tarrawarra Hughsie



Junior Champion Female – Muscateer Valley Bree

## 2020 Royal Canberra Show Results cont

### Bull 24–30 months

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Cann Valley Nut Cracker – Matt Cooney  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Whitby Farm Best Man – K & G Lorains  
3<sup>rd</sup>. Whitby Farm Boy George – K&L Lorains

**Senior Champion Bull** – Cann Valley Nut Cracker

**Reserve Senior Champion Bull** – Whitby Farm Best Man

**Grand Champion Bull** – Cann Valley Nut Cracker

### Pair of Bulls

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Tarrawarra Lowline Stud  
2<sup>nd</sup>. Ardeen Lowline Stud

**Supreme Exhibit** – Cann Valley Nut Cracker



Grand Champion Bull – Cann Valley Nutcracker



Winners: Jess Muscat (Muscateer Valley),  
Matt Cooney (Cann Valley), Gill Lorains (Whitby Farm),  
Jacqui Feagan (Tarrawarra) & Ken Lorains holding the State  
Challenge Trophy won by Victoria

## ALCA Journal – Do you want a Journal?

As the 2019 Journal was published later than normal in the 2019 year, Council is asking Members if they really do want a published Journal .

Council would like to know members thoughts on the following questions –

Do you want a Journal published in 2020?

Would you prefer an e-Journal?

Would you advertise in a Journal to help cover costs?

What content would you like to see?

- The same format as usual
- Something new (please make suggestions)

Would you supply articles for a Journal?

Would you like to assist with the Journal if we decide to continue?

Printing costs have increased to the point where ALCA needs member advertising to cover these costs which would mean a majority of the Journal would be advertising.

You should have received an e-booklet put together by the CLB Committee. This would be a cheaper way to present the Journal to the membership. But there is still a cost involved to employ someone to put the publication together and to produce advertisements for member advertising.

The format for the current Journal has been the same for a long time. Do you have any ideas regarding what you would like to see in the Journal?

The current restrictions for businesses at the moment and in the unforeseen future may also be a limitation for the production of a Journal this year so it may have to be taken into consideration too.

Please email the ALCA office with your answers because we would like to hear your thoughts.  
[office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

The Journal will be discussed at the next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April.





# CANCELLED

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the following events have been cancelled.

## 2020 Toowoomba Royal Show

## 2020 Royal Sydney Easter Show

## 2020 Royal Brisbane Show (EKKA)

## 2020 NSW Promotion Group AGM

Usually held at the Royal Sydney Show, the NSW PG AGM will be postponed. Members will be advised of a new date soon

## 2020 Tocal Field Days

## Seymour Alternative Farming Expo, Victoria

This was a three day event held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Kings Park in Seymour.

Lowline cattle were on display in the Cattle Pavilion by Wanamara Farm (Julie & Greg Knight, Wanamara Lowlines) & the Southern Region Promotion Group.

A steady flow of visitors kept us very busy over the three days. As this is an event focusing on smaller land holdings and lifestyle farms, it is a great place for those new to the land to find out what they can do on their farm. Lowline cattle fit into this criteria very easily.



## Online Cattle Shows



## **ONLINE SHOW UPDATE**

**\$10,000 prize pool  
plus many more products**

**We have listened to feedback from our readership and as a result entries are now open to all Australian beef cattle.**

Online nominations must be completed by 10pm this Friday (April 3). Once you have submitted your nomination online, entrants have until **April 17** to supply a standup photo and at least 30 seconds of video footage showing the animal walking parallel to the camera.

## **Entries open now!**

Visit [www.theland.com.au/cattle/beef-battle/](http://www.theland.com.au/cattle/beef-battle/)

**FIVE STAR** *Creative Promotions*  
**Covid-19-2020 Virtual Online Show**

**Stud Entry Requirements:**

- NO ENTRY FEE
- Open to Australian animals only
- Animals to be purebred only
- 1 BULL and 1 FEMALE entry per exhibitor (per breed)
- Bulls are to be no older than 36mths as of 1st May 2020
- Females no older than 36mths as of 1st May 2020
- BULLS & FEMALES DO NOT NEED TO BE LED SO ANY EXHIBITOR CAN ENTER SOMETHING!!!
- Photo entry only, photoshopped animal images WILL BE REJECTED.
- Entries to be submitted no later than 5pm 8th April
- Judging to commence 11th/12th April with Interbreed Judging 18th/19th April
- Breed classes for Angus, Braford, Brahman, Brangus, Charbray, Charolais, Droughtmaster, Hereford/Poll Hereford, Limousin, Murray Grey, Red Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Shorthorn, Speckle Park, Simmental/Fleckvieh, Any Other Breed and Small Breeds.
- Dependant on numbers there will be 1 x open class for each Bull and Female per breed (if required a Junior and Senior class will be implemented for the required breed)

PHOTOS TO BE SENT TO - [FSCREATIVEPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FSCREATIVEPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM) no later than 5pm 8th April - Email to include in the subject line as per below

BREED- Name of Exhibitor - Animals name and ID - Age as of 1st May 2020  
Eg Subject: SPECKLE PARK - Lannah Sowden- Sowdens Everlong Q113 - 14mths

**FIVE STAR** *Creative Promotions*  
**Covid-19-2020 Virtual Online Show**

**Steer Entry Requirements:**

- NO ENTRY FEE
- Open to Australian animals only
- Animals can be crossbred or purebred
- 1 x entry per exhibitor
- Steers or Heifers are to have been destined to be exhibited in the 2020 show year
- Steers/Heifers DO NOT NEED TO BE LED FOR THE PHOTO!!!
- Photo entry only, photoshopped animal images WILL BE REJECTED.
- Entries to be submitted no later than 5pm 8th April
- Judging to commence 11th/12th April with Champions to be announced on the 19th April at 6pm
- Dependant on numbers there will be 1 x open class (if required a Junior/School class will also be implemented)

PHOTOS TO BE SENT TO - [FSCREATIVEPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FSCREATIVEPROMOTIONS@GMAIL.COM) no later than 5pm 8th April - Email to include in the subject line as per below

STEER- Exhibitors name, Open/School or Junior, Name of Animal, Approx Weight  
Eg Subject: STEER, Carmen Sowden/Open - Bob - 450kg



## Around the Show Rings

Luckily for some of our members who exhibit cattle, there were a few shows that were held prior to the restrictions taking place.



### 2020 Pittsworth Show

Pittsworth PC - Junior Champion Female & Grand Champion Female. Exhibited by Remy Barron - Merowen Lowline Stud. Paraded by Shay Barron.



Lik Lik Platinum - Reserve Junior Champion Female. Exhibited and paraded by Remy Barron - Merowen Lowline Stud.



Shay & Remy Barron with their heifers.  
No more shows for the girls now

### 2020 Goulburn Valley Beef Expo

Lowlines at Goulburn Valley Beef Expo on Saturday held in Numurkah Vic. Lowlines placed well in strong interbreed classes. WhitbyFarm LC award best Lowline exhibit. 1<sup>st</sup> class at the show had 19 head with 10 different breeds, one of ALCA's newest Junior members was placed 4<sup>th</sup> with his heifer Poppy Rose. A great day



### 2020 Blayney Show

All of the Shadow Park Lowlines were prepared by Hailey, Andrew and Yasmin including halter training and clipping and they should be proud of their work.





## Just Add Water

After the long dry spell, most areas have finally had rain. It is amazing the difference a bit of rain makes to the farm.



McIntosh Creek Lowlines, Qld

**BEFORE**



Wanamara Lowlines, Vic.

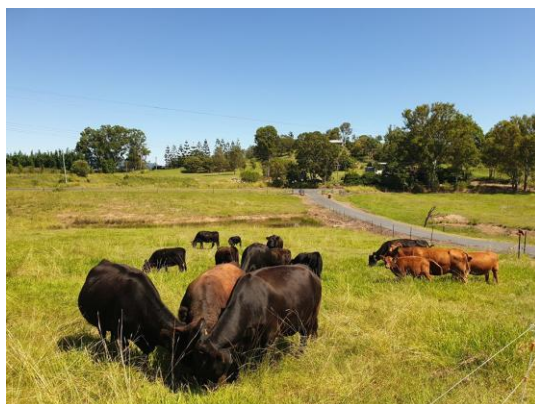


McIntosh Creek, Qld  
(above & below)

**AFTER**



Elaman Creek Lowlines, Qld



Mimburi Lowlines, Qld  
(left)



Ebony River Lowlines, Qld