



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
Website: www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

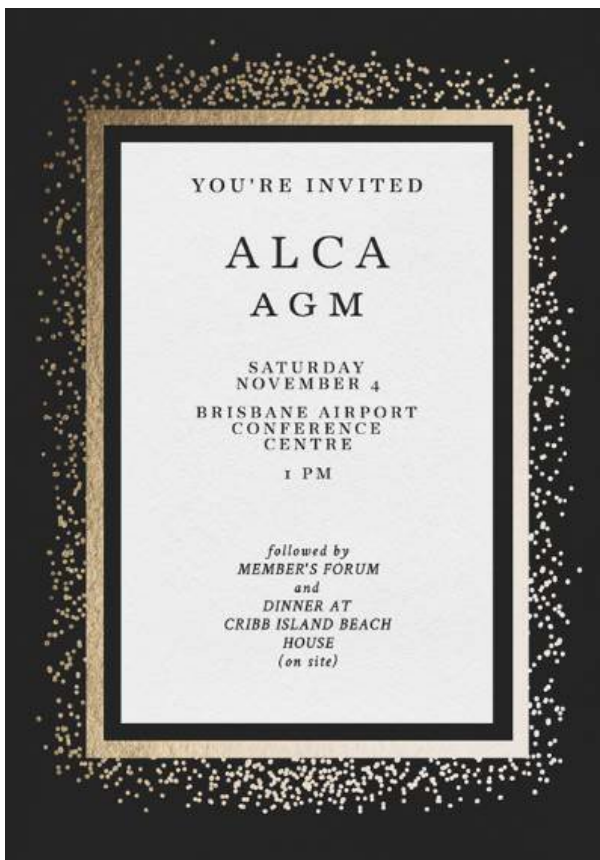
E-mail: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

ALCA AGM Saturday 4th November 2023

Dear ALCA members,
You are invited to join fellow members at our AGM in Brisbane, 4th November 2023. Spend some time sharing the company of Australian Lowline people, have your voice heard in the forum and enjoy a social evening with us.
You are all most welcome!!
Best wishes,
Michele Molloy
(ALCA President)

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If you require further information, please contact Jessica Zirkler at the ALCA office – office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Membership Renewals

The cut-off date for Membership renewals is 30th September 2023. If your membership hasn't been renewed, your animals will be deactivated on the ALCA database so to avoid this, renew now.

Easy to do using the email sent to you from the office or through the Lowline Shop – www.lowlineshop.com



Welcome to New Members

ALCA would like to welcome our latest new members from Australia and New Zealand.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Maryanne Bannon
Bobinawarra, Vic – **TOMINDOOLBRY**

Emma Smith
Dargaville, New Zealand – **SANDY HILL**

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Jay Buchan
Cowra NSW – **JJ LIVESTOCK**

Sloane Bridges
Bouldercombe, QLD – **VALWINZAR**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Raymond Whitmore
Blampied, VIC

Congratulations Leo Clarke!

8 August 2023
Leo Clarke (15), Junior Member of ALCA, received a highly commended for the stud judging at Brisbane EKKa today, in the 15–25 Years Junior Judging.



New Merchandise

Limited edition Lowline mugs in black or yellow with our favourite slogan 'A little bull goes a long way' are now available in the Lowline Shop.

Price: \$20 + GST + postage
A great gift idea.



LOWLINE CAPS

New style Lowline Trucker Caps are now available through the shop and are selling for \$25 + GST + Postage.

With material fronts & mesh backs they are ideal for hot weather.

All merchandise can be purchased through the Lowline Shop –



Vale Bill Belton AM

It was with great sadness that family, friends and past colleagues joined together to farewell Air Commodore William John (Bill) Belton AM on the 13th September 2023.

Bill had been in hospital for a minor procedure when he had a fall which led to his passing. He was 85 years old.

For those who don't know, Bill and Hilery ran Urila Lowline Stud at Merricks on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and were members of the very active "A Team", who were foundation members of the Southern Region Promotional Group, which met regularly at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds to talk Lowlines and plan promotional activities for the following months.

Bill and Hilery were great supporters of the breed, attending small regional shows and Royal Shows with their greatest achievement being their bull, Urila Claudius, winning Supreme Champion at Sydney Show in 2009.



Bill was an ALCA Councillor, taking on the position of ALCA President from 2012 to 2014.

Before retirement, Bill Belton attained the rank of Air Commodore with the Royal Australian Air Force and in 1985 the Queen's Birthday Honours List awarded Bill with the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the RAAF and RAN.

Bill was a true gentleman, very generous with thoughtful advice and always on hand to help if assistance was needed. He was a kind and generous man who was looked up to by many and will be deeply missed.

We send our deepest sympathies to Hilery and family.



Dairy Beef and the Australian Lowline Bull - NZ

Living in New Zealand surrounded by dairy farms and a national economy largely reliant on Agriculture, the use of a beef bull over dairy cows to produce a calf of value that can be raised for beef production is common practice here.

The Lowline breed is classed a beef production breed. However, Lowlines are not readily associated with mainstream beef production, probably because of the size of Lowlines compared to other breeds where 'bigger is better' when it comes to carcass weight.

Lowlines are regularly grown out for home kill, and in some cases, the high quality beef from the moderate frame animal is sought after by the discerning butcher.

The North Island Lowline Promotion Group members recognised the opportunities in front of them and successfully entered Lowline bull, Ploughbright Fennessy, in the B+LNZ Genetics Dairy Beef Trials.

Traits such as calving ease, birthweights and growth are just some of the data being collected.

Dairy cross progeny from the bull will be grown out and assessed over-the-hook when they are about 30 – 36 months old. This data can be used to promote the breed.

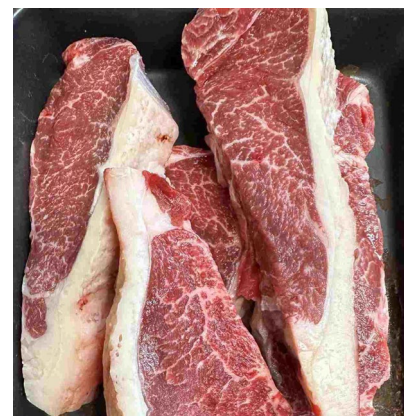


We continue to strive to breed superior growth Lowline bulls suitable for crossing with NZ dairy cows to produce early maturing, fast finishing high quality well marbled beef from grass.

For the New Zealand dairy farmer, Lowline bulls offer an easy calving, polled and solid coated identifiable calf that is easy to rear with the potential to grow into the most delicious beef.

The NILPG continue to promote Lowlines within the NZ beef production industry for the benefits of farmers and for the long-term viability of the Lowline breed.

Matt Wilkinson
Lowland Park, NZ



Why we should be Registering our Cattle

As owners and breeders of Australian Lowlines we should all know the heritage and history of this great breed.

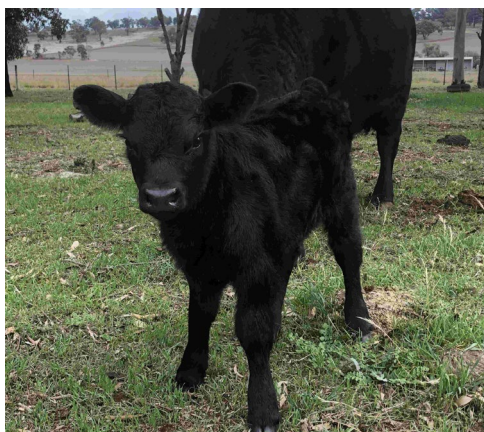
But have we forgotten just what it is we risk losing by not maintaining an actively growing registered herd?

With the proliferation of unregistered stock now being marketed, you could be forgiven for wondering if the baby has been thrown out with the bath water in the rush for a sale.

We all need and want sales. Time and again people are drawn to this breed whether it be for the size, the beef, the temperament, the calving ease, the fertility or the mothering ability. All these traits are highly desirable and are protected in part by the genetic purity of the breed and its heritage.

We all know the only guarantee that you are buying the genuine article is if you buy an animal that has been DNA verified as tracing back to the Foundation Herd. In short, a registered animal.

The argument often presented by a prospective purchaser is "I don't want stud cattle, I only want a few head for myself".



As the breeder and seller of the animal have you stopped to consider where the logic lies in selling an animal as unregistered for less money than the registered version?

Realistically it costs the same to breed, feed and grow out each animal regardless of its registration status.

Your costs to maintain your property infrastructure, pasture management and animal husbandry does not change.

The State and Federal governance and stock identification requirements, etc, do not offer a different pricing structure for registered or non registered animals – the cost of a NLIS or NAIT tag, etc, remains the same.

So why are breeders content to accept the false belief that the value of the animal for sale is derived largely by its registration status?

What is stopping you from registering your cattle?

Is it simply the cost of a DNA test or is it because you, as the breeder, have forgotten the value offered by genetic purity and a breed of cattle with a closed herd, limited numbers and a traceable heritage?

Perhaps we have forgotten somewhere along the line the importance and value of registration.....

This breed cannot be recreated.

It is unique in the cattle world of today.



Why we should be Registering our Cattle cont.

Then there is the big scary question of membership to an Association.

Let's be frank – without ALCA there would be no breed. Without the member, the work of ALCA cannot continue.

ALCA's primary role is to preserve and protect the purity of this amazing breed, whilst continuing to keep it relevant in today's cattle industry. It all takes time and money.

Have you stopped to consider that all the sales to non-members, and then all their subsequent sales, are riding off the back of the hard work undertaken by members and the Association in the promotion of the breed to keep the breed profile visible. The years of dedication by previous generations of members, continued by the current members in protecting, promoting and improving the breed – your hard work!

Then there is the argument that it costs too much to be a member.

Really?

The cost of a new full membership equates to just over \$6 a week or \$0.90 day!

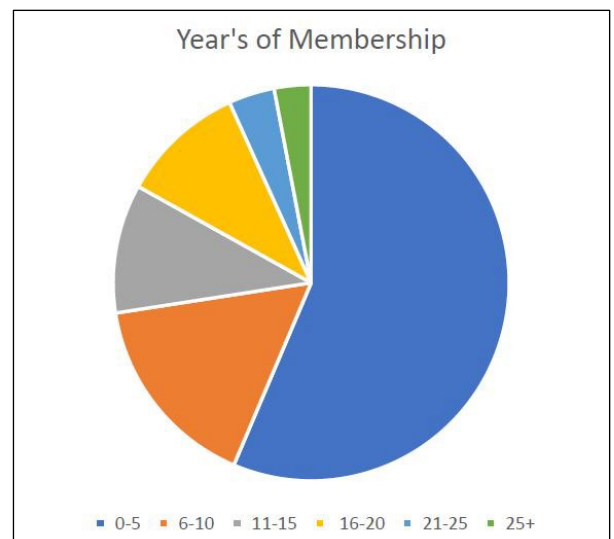
The cost of renewing that membership is \$4.23 a week (less than a cup of coffee!) or just \$0.60 a day.



As an individual breeder there's no way you could achieve the marketplace recognition and benefits that being the member of an Association will achieve. It's simply not possible.

Who has the time to write and produce a book, or create website content and keep it relevant or create and produce marketing materials and a Journal?

Yet together, as an Association, these things are all achievable and each of us benefits from the presence of the collective.



Signs to look for at calving

Newcomers to cattle might be wondering what to look for when it is time for their cows to calve.

Below are a few major signs to look for but not all cows react the same.

You will find heifers begin udder

development a lot earlier than cows.

Keeping track of the gestation days, if you have seen the heifer/cow joined by the bull, will also help with predicting the onset of calving.

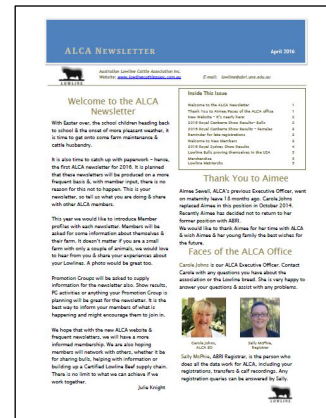
Australian Lowlines usually have a 270 +/- day gestation so observation at joining is helpful.

Look for these signs when observing springers:

- isolated from herd and reduced appetite.
- pelvic ligaments relaxed – vulva looks swollen and flabby.
- dip between tailhead and pin-bones.
- tummy less full as calf moves into birth canal/birthing position.
- mothering other cows' calves.
- Long stringy mucus might be seen stuck to the flank or tail of the cow a few days before calving.



New Editor needed for Newsletter



Do you enjoy reading the Newsletter?

Can you help?

I have been writing the ALCA newsletter for 8 years now and I hope members have enjoyed hearing what other members are doing and learning things about the breed.

During that time, I was also involved with the writing of the Australian Lowline Book, the ALCA website and the current promotional flyers.

It is now time for me to step down and let someone take on the Newsletter with a new approach and new ideas.

If you would like a challenge, an enjoyable one, please contact Jess at the office or you can contact me directly. I will be very happy to help you get started.

My last Newsletter will be in December, so please let us know if you would like to help.

Julie Knight
Wanamara Farm



2023 EKKA photos

Congratulations to all the Australian Lowline exhibitors at this year's EKKA. Well done to everyone who competed, keeping the breed in the forefront of the public eye.

Apologies for not having results, as they have not been supplied. Photos have been taken from an Australian Lowline Cattle Discussion Group post on Facebook (Kellie Barron, Merowen).



2023 Royal Melbourne Show

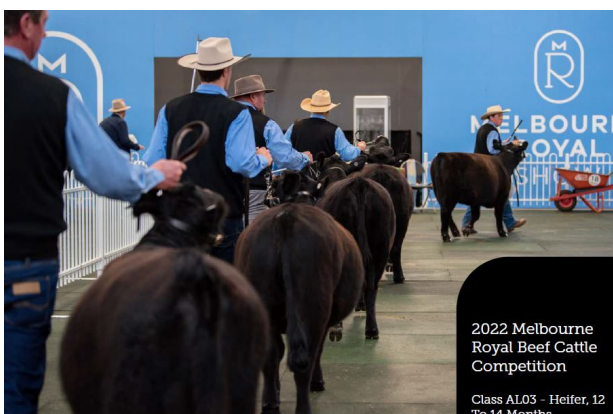
Preparations are underway for the Royal Melbourne Show.

ALCA members and the public are welcome to come and see an exceptional line-up of cattle at the show being held at the Melbourne Showgrounds.

Judging – Saturday 30th September at 10am.

ALCA is sponsoring the live-streaming of the Australian Lowline judging by the Stock and Land which can be watched online using this link –

<https://www.stockandland.com.au/melbourne-royal-show/>



If you have any problems or questions about Calf Recording, please contact the ALCA office – office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Calf Recording on the Database

Did you realize that you can Calf Record your calves on the database?

This can be done before you have the SNP & Parent Verification results & will only cost you \$5 (+GST) per calf.

By Calf Recording your animal it will be visible on the ALCA database with its stud name, identification number and full pedigree with the parents nominated by you. For anyone looking at the database, it will show a record of what animals you have bred and the genetics you are using in your herd. It is a good way to advertise yourself and get recognition as an Australian Lowline stud.

At a later date, when you decide to REGISTER your calf, you can UPGRADE this animal to 'registered' once you provide the ALCA office with the SNP & Parent Verification results & pay the upgrade fee (Females \$30 + GST/Males \$95 + GST) through The Lowline Shop.

To Calf Record your animals, you can use the Registration Form to Calf Record or do so directly on the ALCA Database. Instructions for both procedures are on the ALCA Website => Forms & Downloads <https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/the-association/forms-downloads>

Payment for Calf Recordings can be made via The Lowline Shop & once payment is made, an email with the Registration Form attached will be sent to you.