

AUTUMN  
2026

# AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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



Johanna Lamb in the ring at Toowoomba 2026 - Photography by Wendy Caesar

## COUNCIL NEWS

### Welcome New Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome these new members to our Association and hope they enjoy being part of the Lowline family.

**George & Caroline Fitos** - Full Member  
HYL Hyland  
Crediton, QLD 4757

**Concordial Lutheran College** - School Member  
CLS Concordia  
Toowoomba, QLD 4350

**T & E Pip** - Full Member  
TEP Eifel  
Wallerode, Amel  
Belgium, 4770

**Geraldine Newall** - Lifestyle Member  
EFL Geraldine's Eureka  
Cracow, QLD 4719

**Rachel & Kara Patten** - Full Member  
KKL Crazy Kidz  
Wieambilla, QLD 4413

## Members Forum

A commitment was made by Council at the Members Forum after the Annual General Meeting to hold Members Forums throughout the year, Council would like to invite all members to attend the first of these forums on:

**Date:** Saturday, 9 May 2026

**Time:** 3:00pm (AEST)

**Location:** Online via ZOOM

The need for a forum was reinforced by the recent Member Survey results, which highlighted the importance of improving communication and engagement within the membership.

The period for members to submit topics to be included in the agenda closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

The Forum's agenda is currently being finalised and will be circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Council looks forward to positive, constructive discussion with the membership. We look forward to seeing you there!

*An Association  
is by definition  
a group of  
people organised  
for a joint  
purpose.*



LOWLINE

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## ALCA Council - Contact Details

*Councillor contact details and links are also available on the ALCA website. Go to the Association page and scroll down*

### Current ALCA Office Bearers

**PRESIDENT:** Matt Cooney (VIC) Mobile: 0409 388 435  
Email: [mattcooney98@gmail.com](mailto:mattcooney98@gmail.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Peter Long (NSW) Mobile: 0429 024 428  
Email: [peter@rurallawyer.com.au](mailto:peter@rurallawyer.com.au)

**TREASURER:** Danielle Wood (NSW) Mobile: 0447 198 860  
Email: [daniellemirvin@gmail.com](mailto:daniellemirvin@gmail.com)

**SECRETARY:** David Gardner (NSW) Mobile: 0401 034 766  
Email: [dg.lowline@outlook.com](mailto:dg.lowline@outlook.com)

### ALCA General Committee Members

**Jessica Muscat** (NSW) Mobile: 0422 265 879  
Email: [muscateervalley.auslowlines@hotmail.com](mailto:muscateervalley.auslowlines@hotmail.com)

**Mark Gray** (NSW) Mobile: 0412 728 299  
Email: [m.v.gray3003@gmail.com](mailto:m.v.gray3003@gmail.com)

**Ken Lorains** (VIC) Mobile: 0448 810 186  
Email: [kenlorains57@gmail.com.au](mailto:kenlorains57@gmail.com.au)

**Jacqui Feagan** (VIC) Mobile: 0409 384 077  
Email: [rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com](mailto:rfeagan.dbms@bigpond.com)

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

Council will be undertaking a review of the ALCA Constitution in 2026. The scope of the review is to resolve conflicts within the constitution itself, misalignment to the NSW legislation and a general need for modernisation in a digital world (i.e. voting practices). Council will be engaging a specialist consultant to support the review process.

Council is seeking member input into the review. Suggestions and comments can be submitted to Council via the Office and through contribution to the discussion at the member forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2026.

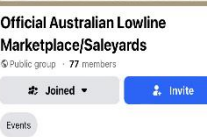
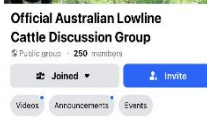
## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Australian Lowline Cattle Association has recently launched two new Official Australian Lowline Cattle pages that will enhance member and non-member participation and inclusion in a safe online Lowline community space.

### 1. The Official Australian Lowline Discussion Group &

### 2. The Official Australia Lowline Marketplace/Saleyard.

We look forward to hearing about member news and activities and seeing successful sales of Australian Lowline Cattle.



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## Website Redevelopment

Modernization and improving the user experience of the ALCA website was a key theme that came out of the recent member survey.

Council recognizes that no single aspect of marketing is more important than a quality website. The aim is to create a new website that offers exceptional user experience with functional, goal-oriented design. A website that turns website visitors into ALCA members.

To this end, Council is working with our website designer GOOP to get the structure and design of the new website to a stage where members will be able to try out the look, feel and functionality of the website in a test environment, such as sandbox. Members will be asked to give feedback and Council will provide regular updates to members on the progress of the new website development.

## BVDV (PI) Status of animals can now be recorded in the database

Acute infection with Pestivirus (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus BVDV) generally causes mild viral illness in cattle, with many affected animals showing no symptoms.

However, should that infection occur during the first 120 days of pregnancy the developing foetus goes on to be born persistently infected with BVDV as their immature immune system fails to recognize the virus as a pathogen. Consequently, the virus persists for life at a cellular level in affected calves.

It is important to understand that the BVDV virus is spread almost exclusively by these persistently infected animals (PI) with extreme amounts of virus excreted in all body fluids including semen. The only way to become a PI is to be born one.

In Australia, whilst PI calves may present as weak, be prone to infections and develop poorly some can be difficult to identify by observation alone. Testing for BVDV through tissue or tail hair samples is the only certain way of identifying a PI animal. Recently ALCA has upgraded to ALCA database to show the PI test status of animals in the register. If you have PI tested an animal that PI status can now be identified in the database record. Please submit a copy of your laboratory result to the ALCA Registrar and the animal's PI status will be recorded at no cost.

## SOCIAL MEDIA cont: Inclusion and Safety Policy

Council is also working on a draft Social Media Inclusion and Safety Policy that guides the conduct for users and administrators on Official ALCA Social Media pages.

## Update on New ALCA Banners

The new ALCA Banners designed by ALCA Councillor, Jess Muscat have been printed and recently distributed to each Promotion Group.

The large and striking banner design will promote brand recognition and provide a consistent message about the production values of the breed.



Toowoomba Royal 2026

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## NEW ALCA BRANDED CAPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

### CHECK OUT THE NEW COLOUR

New logo branded ALCA caps are here!

New styles include a Brown mesh-back trucker cap and a Grey low profile, full fabric cap.

With young members and cap collectors in mind these fresh additions to our merchandise range aims to reflect the pride and identity of the ALCA community, offering both functionality and style



for everyday wear, shows, and events.

The headwear apparel line is also expanding with the introduction of an ALCA beanie for next winter —perfect for cooler days on the farm or at winter gatherings.

We will let members know as soon as the beanies are available

We look forward to seeing ALCA members proudly wearing the new gear!

If you like last year's style, don't worry, there is still some available from the [Lowline Shop](#)



Jace Lamb in the ring at Toowoomba Royal Show 2026

**\*Congratulations to Clayton Muscat on his win in Junior Paraders Class, 12 yrs +, at the Hawkesbury Show April 2026 April\***



## YOUTH

### YIP Update

The Youth Incentive Program for 2025/2026 is coming to a close at the end of June. It has been wonderful to see these young ALCA members out and about at Shows presenting their animals so beautifully.

#### ALCA YOUTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

(As of April 8<sup>th</sup> 2026)

RANKINGS	
Leo Clarke	178
Jace Lamb	169
Johannah Lamb	107
Emily Maguire	83
Angus Murray-Gill	57
Matilda Murray-Gill	51
Will Van Zandbergen	45
Hayley McMath	33
Beau Magann	30

A very special keepsake will be presented to the winner of the 2026 YIP Competition. A beautiful leather embossed keyring donated by Peta & Justin Clarke.



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## Member News

### **The impact of the Victorian Bushfires** by Jacqui Feagan

In catastrophic weather conditions in early January this year widespread grassland fires impacted many farming regions across the state of Victoria. The fires burnt nearly half a million hectares and destroyed hundreds of homes and structures. Thousands of livestock and untold numbers of wildlife were killed.

Unsurprisingly, a number of ALCA members were either under threat or directly impacted as these fires raged from the Otways through to Central and Northeast Victoria. Some members were forced to evacuate their properties and others stayed and prepared to defend. The stress for those members is unimaginable unless you have experienced the trauma of a bushfire.

Ultimately, the fires spared the properties most of our Victorian members. Sadly however, Vicki Gilbert of Rotherwood Lowline Stud in Terip Terip, near Ruffy, was not so lucky. Under imminent threat from the Longwood/Ruffy fire, Vicki made the difficult decision to evacuate with her elderly mother, friend Paul, her four dogs, two cats and her pet Galah. There was no time to move her beloved cattle and horses or her chooks. Before leaving the farm Vicki opened all the gates between paddocks to allow the cattle and horses the best chance of finding shelter from the flames.



Photo courtesy of Stock and Land

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Endlessly monitoring the VicEmergency fire app, Vicki recounts watching as the fires gradually enveloped Terip Terip. The first pass of the fire was low intensity, but the wind change that evening brought the fire back through the property with a vengeance. Not knowing what the fate of her animals was, Vicki was relying on a few neighbours who stayed to find out whether her animals had survived and whether or not the baby calves on their mothers had perished.

The wait to return to Terip Terip to assess the situation, check her animals and provide them with water and feed was intolerable. Finally, after days Vicki was allowed to return and somehow all the cattle, the horses and all but one chook had survived unscathed. Cattle on agistment across the road belonging to Vicki's nephew, Matt Cooney of Cann Valley Lowline Stud were also safe.

Vicki's house survived but the loss of pasture, fencing, hay, tractor, shed and water infrastructure has made running the farm hard and tiring plus the added stress of having to deal with insurance matters. Luckily another ALCA member, Gary Smith, Glenholme Lowlines, kindly offered agistment for some of the cattle to reduce the load and Vicki is now in the process of rebuilding.

I know I speak for all members when I say our thoughts are with Vicki as she recovers from the fire and puts her farm and life back together.

**Meat & Livestock Australia (mla) have wonderful online resources available in their BUSHFIRE HUB to support Livestock Producers to prepare and to recover from Bushfire.**



### Bushfire preparation and recovery:

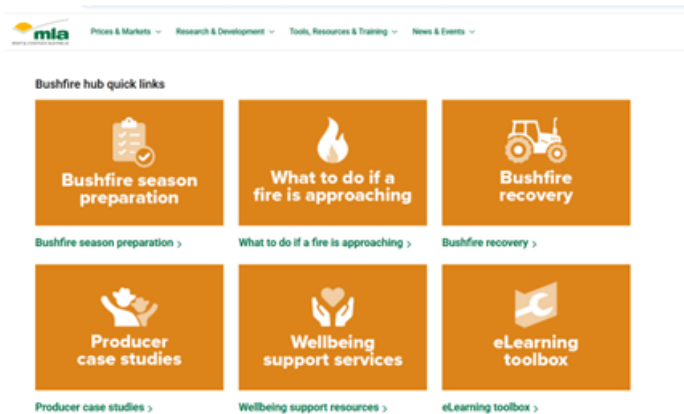
A manual for livestock producers



#### Authors

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The University of Melbourne  
© Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)  
The University of Melbourne  
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The University of Melbourne

<https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/dealing-with-natural-disasters/bushfire-recovery/bushfire-hub/>



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## Lowline Breeder Embraces New Technology

ALCA Members Peter Long and Sarah Ferguson run a herd of around 150 Lowlines on their 629-acre property, Ngiyaani, located 10 kms west of Gunnedah, NSW. Peter and Sarah follow a regenerative approach to agriculture which involves adaptive grazing where animals are moved frequently, allowing extended rest and recovery periods for pasture growth.

Until recently, Peter and Sarah have subdivided paddocks using temporary electric braid and tread-in posts to shorten rotations. Setting up and taking down the temporary electric fencing is a time consuming and sometimes difficult task depending on soil conditions.

One month ago, Peter and Sarah began using Halter Virtual Fencing Collars on their breeders and steers. The collars use GPS and wireless technology to control livestock without physical fences. The Halter mobile app allows the user to create a digital farm map which includes all watering points, gates and no-go areas so that virtual fences can be created and moved with just a few taps.

Peter and Sarah decided on the Halter system because of animal welfare considerations. According to Halter, the solar powered collar guides the cow using two primary cues: sound and vibration.

- **Sound cues** give animals left and right guidance if they cross a virtual boundary, or turn them towards a new area, or exit point.
- **Vibration cues** encourage animals to walk towards a destination.

The collar also uses a secondary cue - a **low-energy electric pulse** - that is used to reinforce the two primary cues if they are ignored. The pulse is usually only required during the training period.

Currently, Halter has a minimum 100 collar entry point, and Peter says there have been no teething problems with their 115 collars (calves don't get them until they are around 10 months old), but it did take a few days for the cattle to get used to the system. However, Peter also reports that there has been no noticeable difference in the demeanor of the animals and Peter says their cattle look really well.

At \$96.00 per collar per year (rental) the jury is still out on the cost effectiveness of the system, but Peter believes the time and labour savings plus improved weight gain through enhanced utilization of forage and, in turn, improved forage quality will result in significant cost benefits as an annual increase in weight gain of 20kg per head each year over and above what currently happens will cover that rental.

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## CANBERRA ROYAL SHOW 2026 RESULTS

### AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE

#### Female Classes

##### Junior Champion Australian Lowline Female

1056	Cooney, Matt	CANN VALLEY VIRTIGO, CVSV087	First
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##### Reserve Junior Champion Australian Lowline Female

1055	Kawala view	KAWALA VIEW VOODOO, KFIV023	First
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##### Senior Champion Australian Lowline Female

1060	Lorains, K & G	WHITBY FARM CIA, WHFU296	First
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##### Reserve Senior Champion Australian Lowline Female

1063	Cooney, Matt	BALLARAT GRAMMAR TRACEY, BGLT212	First
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##### Grand Champion Australian Lowline Female

1060	Lorains, K & G	WHITBY FARM CIA, WHFU296	First
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#### Bull Classes

##### Junior Champion Australian Lowline Bull

1065	Cooney, Matt	CANN VALLEY WIZARD (AI) (ET), CVSW104	First
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##### Reserve Junior Champion Australian Lowline Bull

1064	Gilbert, Vicki	ROTHERWOOD LORD WHIPLASH (AI), GEEW165	First
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##### Senior Champion Australian Lowline Bull

1066	Lorains, K & G	WHITBY FARM BELLAMY, WHFV237	First
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### CANBERRA ROYAL SHOW 2026 RESULTS *continued*

#### Reserve Senior Champion Australian Lowline Bull

1067	Applegarth Heritage Farm	APPLEGARTH UTOPIA , APPU004	First
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#### Grand Champion Australian Lowline Bull

1066	Lorains, K & G	WHITBY FARM BELLAMY, WHFV237	First
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#### Supreme Australian Lowline Exhibit

1060	Lorains, K & G	WHITBY FARM CIA, WHFU296	First
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Grand Champion Female & Supreme - Whitby Farm Cia (K & G Lorains)



Grand Champion Bull - Whitby Farm Bellamy (K & G Lorains)

### AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE FEATURE SHOW TOOWOOMBA ROYAL SHOW 2026

#### RESULTS

CALF CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE BULL Jacqui Schiller - Lik Lik Warrior

RESERVE CALF CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE Lamb Family - N Bar Western

JUNIOR CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE BULL P Pittsworth state high school - Pittsworth Vader

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE Lockyer District High School - Loc-Hi Valentino

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## AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE FEATURE SHOW TOOWOOMBA ROYAL SHOW 2026 RESULTS *continued*

SENIOR CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE BULL K & G Lorains - Whitby Farm Bellamy

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE BULL Jacqui Schiller - Lik Lik Vroom Vroom

GRAND CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE BULL K & G Lorains - Whitby Farm Bellamy

CALF CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE Jacqui Schiller - Lik Lik Wonderful

RESERVE CALF CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN Lamb Family - N Bar WinWin

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE P Pittsworth state high school - Pittsworth Valkyrie

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN Lockyer District High School - Loc-Hi Violet

SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE Lamb Family - Adelaide Park Saylor

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN Jacqui Schiller - Lik Lik Urika

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE Lamb Family - Adelaide Park Saylor

SUPREME CHAMPION AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION K & G Lorains - Whitby Farm Bellamy



Grand Champion Female Adelaide Park Saylor (Johanna & Jace Lamb) & Grand Champion Bull/Supreme Champion Whitby Farm Bellamy (K & G Lorains)

