



# LOWLINE NEWS

April, 1995

## EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first edition of the Lowline Newsletter. As you would probably be aware, I (Keith Smith) will be distributing the Newsletter in place of Peter Olorenshaw, who was forced to resign from the position due to private commitments. I will be distributing the Newsletter on a quarterly basis until the Association AGM in August 1995.

I see the Newsletter as a vehicle to facilitate communication between our widely dispersed but rapidly growing membership. To make the Newsletter a success I will need articles of interest from as many members as possible, right across Australia. Any reports on promotions, shows or field days you attend, with your cattle would be particularly welcomed. Any interesting stories relating to your cattle breeding activities, be they serious or humorous, would also be most welcome.

Here in Goulburn we are still in the grip of drought as is most of NSW. Moira and I have been kept busy feeding cattle, conducting ET programs and preparing cattle for the Easter Show. Our cattle preparation for the Show has been a real learning experience but gratefully we have received lots of good advice from "cattle people" both ALCA members and people who breed other types of cattle.

As advertised by our President, Mr Ian Pullar, preparations are well underway for the first exhibition of our cattle at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Judging will be Saturday 8th April, 1995 at 2pm. This will certainly be an exciting event for all members of our association and is sure to be a highlight of the beef cattle judging. I believe there

are about 27 entries in the Lowline section. Even if you're not exhibiting please come along to provide support and enjoy the spectacle.

If you're coming to Sydney to attend the show don't forget to make your reservation to attend our Association Dinner, to be held on the evening of judging day 8th April, 1995 commencing at 7.30pm. The venue is the Phillip Charley Room, within the Member's Grandstand at the showground. The cost is \$30.00 per head, which will include a selection of wine on the table. Pre dinner drinks and other drinks over and above the wine provided with the meal may be obtained at the bar for cash. The dinner will be a hot buffet. For reservations contact Miss Louise Petchell of the RAS on Ph: 02 331 9111 or Fax: 02 331 5709. This will be a great opportunity to get together with other association members to discuss the show and the future of our cattle. If you are a new member we would love to have the opportunity to meet you. Dress is jacket and tie.

My thanks to the people who contributed articles for this first newsletter. Lets hope from these humble beginnings the Newsletter. Let's hope from these humble beginnings the Newsletter can make a worthwhile contribution to the success of our Association.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the show in Sydney and "good luck" to all exhibitors.

Until the next newsletter.

Regards,

Keith Smith

**AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE  
ASSOCIATION INC. - SPECIAL  
GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY 9TH  
APRIL, 1995 IN THE COLE DUDGEON  
ROOM, SYDNEY SHOWGROUNDS,  
PADDINGTON, COMMENCING AT  
10.00 AM.**

All Association members please note the date, time and venue for this most important meeting. If you cannot attend in person, please make arrangements to lodge your proxy votes.

**MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT - Mr Ian Pullar**

According to most of the weather pundits, the Southern Oscillation Index has now returned to a positive reading for the first time in about 2 years. The SOI is considered to be the main indicator of the El Nino effect, and therefore according to the rules, we should see a break in the drought soon.

Some might say that for them, the drought has broken already, and perhaps it has, but nature has a funny way of playing tricks, and the time span from good growth to nothing seems to pass very quickly. Here in Mudgee, the drought did break just after Christmas, but with no rain since, pastures are drying up very quickly.

Notwithstanding, we can consider ourselves very lucky, because early last year we were able to make the equivalent of 4,500 bales from our pasture and that got us through the worst. As I write, we are putting another 1500 bales in the shed, taken from an opportune planting of 22 acres of millet.

Given the same luck as last year, and noting the SOI influence, plus continued optimism, we should be OK again this year. My hope is that most of our members are as lucky as we are.

**Royal Easter Show**

The Easter Show is almost upon us and well in hand. I do hope that as many members as are possible will try to attend for part if not all of the show. This will be a great opportunity for the newer members to meet with some of the originals and to see their stock on display.

Publicity should be superb and barely a day goes by without an enquiry of some kind from the media in its various forms. We seem to be featuring as the SPECIAL BREED for the show, even though,

in reality, that claim can be rightly held by the Red Angus Society.

**RNA Brisbane**

Some correspondence is already coming in, in regard to the RNA (EKKA) for which entries close in about mid May. If you intend to show at Brisbane this year, you should be well into the planning stage by now.

Sam Garrett has kindly offered to coordinate with the EKKA officials on our behalf, and if you have any queries I feel certain that Sam will do her best to find answers.

Last year, on the day of judging, there were some 19 head present at Brisbane. With the numbers of breeders now in the Brisbane hinterland, I would like to think that we could produce a few more this year. The Dexters will there this year, and they will be trying to out perform us, so we really must do our level best to ensure our supremacy.

There are a lot of other shows and expos in each state, throughout the year, and I am aware that quite a few members do go to the trouble to exhibit. It is important that this trend be maintained, but even though judging is never done at an EXPO/FIELD DAY, it is important that the cattle placed on show are of the highest standard in representing the breed.

**Publicity**

Publicity comes in bursts so it would seem, mainly timed with the shows, before, during and after, for Brisbane and Sydney, with a smattering from various sources in between. It can be said that all publicity is good publicity, but from my experience, this isn't necessarily so. From where I sit, I receive telephone calls very soon after good publicity, but the phone really does start to ring when the publicity is not so good.

I have to concede that it is a free world, and therefore to a large extent people are free to write what they like if it means getting editorial exposure, but we should also remember that there are now almost 80 members and I believe that whenever editorial is written, it should reflect the agreed policies of the Association, to the benefit of all members. A lot of what has been written in the past was put together very carefully, because in those formative years, and before the Association was formed, it was important to gain credibility as a breed, and to ensure that we didn't come into open conflict with other Societies.

Clearly this was achieved, because, quite simply, AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE is a breed in it's own right, and if it wasn't, we wouldn't have been

allowed to attend at Brisbane, and certainly not at Sydney. I would add that if we hadn't been accepted by Sydney, we wouldn't have had an international code for our semen, and we would have been breeding just SMALL cattle, without any commercial of Stud value.

Conservatism has been the approach and I can assure you all that this approach has been highly respected by the RAS, RNA and to a lesser degree, by some of the Associations who were critical of our endeavours in the first instance.

Notwithstanding, there are critics out there, who are only too anxious to find fault with our endeavours and it remains essential that we do not let them have any opportunity to slander us. These people are quick to read any articles or advertisements which appear misleading or out of step with cattle convention and policies and their word spreads very quickly, both here and overseas. They are also watching our breeding activities very carefully and it therefore follows that we must strive towards continued herd improvement. It is very important to increase numbers, but it is more important to ensure that the progeny is of top quality.

We should take note that some of the potential buyers who visit our properties or make telephone enquires have been involved in the cattle industry for a very long time and they can eye quality cattle very accurately and can soon determine in a phone conversation whether or not the claims being made by the breeder are real, or indeed whether or not the breeder actually knows what he/she is talking about.

All I can appeal for as your President, is that we all give a thought to what we write or tell people, to so enhance our future rather than jeopardise it.

Despite my caution, we have received some excellent press in the past few months and barely a week goes by without some form of enquiry. Articles have appeared in several magazines and newspapers in 3 state that I know of and there could well be more.

I have no doubts that the Royal Easter Show will bring us all an immense amount of publicity. Some of that pre-publicity is already underway, and I know that we will be intensely covered during the show. That publicity will, in turn lead to much follow up interest, particularly within Australia, but we can also be assured of overseas interest.

On a lesser note, but still an important one, each year in Mudgee. The Hospitality industry, supported by food producers and the Wine and Grape Growers, host what is known as a Celebrity Muster. The organisers, get together and from a levee imposed upon members, which may be in cash or kind, several of Australia's leading food and wine

writers are funded for a weekend in Mudgee. A dinner is held on both Friday and Saturday evening and during the days, tours are organised around the district, to let the journalists see, at first hand, what the people of Mudgee can produce.

This year, Erica and I were invited to donate a Lowline steer for the Friday dinner, which we did. The small beast, finished for 80 days in the small feed lot next door to our property, was slaughtered at the Mudgee abattoirs, hung for a week in the chiller then after a further week hanging at one of the better butchers, was put to the test.

The praise was enormous and resulting from that, feature articles regarding the qualities of our small cuts have regularly appeared. Those same writers will attend at the show at Easter. On the Saturday, we laid on a small barbecue for the jourmos. Eye fillet and rump steaks, 5% marbled, cooked for about 1 minute either side, then cut with a fork. A butterflied eye fillet weighed 450 grams which is almost exactly 1/2 the weight of the normal commercial equivalent for mature beef.

Our problem of course is that we simply do not have enough steers to meet a market which would welcome us with open arms, but we are not to far away from filling our niche role. I foreshadow that within a year or so, and the indications are here already, we will see Lowline cross steer carcasses in the butcher shops and the buyers will be prepared to pay a premium for it.

This will be achieved in manner that is in direct opposition to present trends, where the serious meat producers are striving for high quality, hybrid vigour, resulting from first and second crosses of unrelated breeds. We will do the opposite, by crossing with small breeds, deliberately trying to avoid hybrid vigour and by so doing we will see calves born at about 30kg, versus our 20kg, and the commercial 40 to 45kg. These will enter the feedlots at about 11 months and be slaughtered at about 14 months, at weights of around 320kg.

I could be wrong, but I don't think so.

### **Administration**

All members will be aware that our administration is being conducted by the RAS of NSW, under the care of Miss Louise Petchell. I have gained a great deal of satisfaction from the cooperation we have received from the RAS and I have no doubts that our relationship will be an excellent one. I must however ask members to be patient for the next few weeks, simply because, as must be obvious, the RAS is entering the busiest period of it's calendar year. Louise is a charming and highly qualified young lady and I have no doubts



that as soon as the show is over, we will receive prompt and excellent service from her.

Whilst Louise is going to be our first point of contact, I would be remiss if I didn't also refer to the excellent cooperation given by Chris Arnott, General Manager Corporate Services, RAS and Alf Gates, General Manager Information Services. The Executive Director too, Colin Sanders has welcomed us with genuine sincerity and he deserves special thanks because of his influence in having us accepted as a breed in our own right.

I would like to thank all the members of the Association who have remained patient with me during this last 12 months. I enjoy my many telephone conversations with a large number of the membership and look forward to continuing some of those conversations at the show and perhaps over dinner on the Saturday night, 8 April.

Finally, don't forget our Special General Meeting on Sunday, 9 April in the Cole Dudgeon Room, commencing at 10am.

Ian Pullar.

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## **PROMOTIONS & FIELD DAYS** **by Keith Smith**

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On the 15th & 16th October, 1994 Des Owens, my wife Moira and I took some of our cattle to the Murrumbateman Field Day. Des took his bull James Bond and we took a cow, Black Saturn with her calf Black Apollo at foot. (Both the cow and calf are now entered in the Royal Easter Show). This is the second year in succession we have taken cattle to the Murrumbateman. For those not familiar with our area, Murrumbateman is located about 35 kilometres from Canberra. It is a rapidly expanding small farms area, as is most of the area around Canberra (a hobby farmers haven), and an ideal area to promote our breed.

The Field Day is a two day affair and as usual of late, the weather was not and dry. Des Owens constructed the pens for the cattle with portable cattle yard panels. We dressed the area up with our stud banners, a display of photographs and tables and chairs with umbrellas. The cattle were well received and created a lot of interest. People were impressed by the fact that although they were small cattle they were still good beef producers. The docility and the less intimidating size and nature of the Lowlines also appealed to a lot of people.

We received a good number of enquires from people after the Field Day and I believe the field day is an excellent vehicle for publicising the existence of our breed to both small and broadacre farmers.

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## **VICTORIAN SHOW** **PREPARATION FIELD DAY - by** **Geoff Martin**

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Jeanette and Peter Stebbins of Ardrossan organised a Lowline Show Preparation Field Day for Victorian members of ALCA.

The Field Day was held on Sunday 20 November and some eighteen members participated.

Jeanette had secured the services of Brian Alford, a seasoned expert with forty years of hands-on experience in handling, showing and judging major cattle breeds throughout Australia at major shows. Brian is also the Chair of Victorian Stud Beef Cattle Breeders Association and Victorian Beef Week.

The purpose of the field day was to help ALCA members acquire the necessary skills associated with exhibiting Lowline Cattle. Topics covered included; vaccination and drenching; grooming, clipping, washing and blow drying; ear tagging; halter training and leading; nose ringing; hoof care; conformation; feeding, preparation and obligations for showing.

The field day was a huge success with ample opportunities for participants to gain hands experience.

Another memorable activity was lunch, a spitroast, with a smorgasbord of infinite delight topped off with chilled Victorian wines.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we basked in what we had learned and the friendship shown by all ALCA members. We are already planning our next activity for the new year and hope that our friends from across the border will join us.

On behalf of all participants, our thanks and congratulations to Jeanette and Peter.

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## **NEWS FROM VICTORIA - by** **Jeanette Stebbins**

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On the weekend of the 11th & 12th February, Celia Weston and Jeanette and Peter Stebbins ventured down to the Mornington Peninsula to attend the Peninsula Country Fair, held in the grounds of the historic homestead, The Briars. This property is a working Angus stud as well as a restaurant and art gallery.

We took a cow and a bull and set up our site under some century old oak trees. We were sited with Highland Cattle on one side and Dexter Cattle on the other. It was a very hot weekend but our cattle came to the fore and the response we received was very encouraging. The number of people who were looking for an alternative to large cattle to put their small acreages, but had not heard of Australian Lowline Cattle, was enormous, and we have left a lot of people rethinking their future.

On the following Thursday, Geoff & Kenneil Martin and the Stebbins' again, set off for Seymour Alternative Farming Expo which runs for three days. This year we had a double site, but were again situated next to the Three Springs Dexter Stud. This actually works in our favour!!! On the Friday over 11,000 people came through the gates, on the Saturday, over 18,000 visitors and we do not know Sunday's figures. The weather was mild, thank goodness, as the following weeks weather was over 35 degrees every day and we were in a tin shed.

We took five animals - Ardrossan Peter for his third attendance at Seymour. He is a great crowd puller! Also attending was a yearling bull - Ardrossan Peter's son, a cow, a heifer in calf and a 7 month weaned heifer. They all performed perfectly, especially as it was the first outing for a couple of them and they all came out of the paddock Thursday lunchtime. They were also having their first trip in a horse float - our only means of transport.

Among the many people to pass favourable comments on our cattle were Angus and Murray Grey breeders. We also had a gentleman from Victorian Artificial Breeders come up to us and ask to see Ardrossan Peter stood up. After much umming and aahing and walking from one side of the bull to the other, he came up with the most admirable comments, which left us all with big heads for the rest of the day. The general comments from the Angus breeders were that they could not see what all the adverse fuss was about.

The Lowlines were selected for a demonstration of an ultrasound pregnancy tester. The public address system announced that the demonstration was to be held at our site at 11am but by 10.45 we had such a large crowd waiting that we had to bring the demonstration forward. For the operation the cow was put in a calf stall showing that no big equipment was necessary for Lowlines. Many onlookers thought there was no way she would fit, but Amy walked in like a lamb without being squashed. The examination showed that she was pregnant, with an estimate at 30 days. On checking our records we found she was actually 29 days, so the machines are very accurate.

The interest was so great in our cattle that between the four of us, one was always talking to

interested onlookers or potential buyers. It was a very tiring but satisfying three days and a lot of people have gone home now knowing there is an Australian breed of cattle called Lowline. Orders have already come in and we look forward to a busy time ahead fulfilling them.

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## ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

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### OFFICE BEARERS

#### President

Mr Ian Pullar

Brambletye Lowline Stud  
PO Box 789 Mudgee NSW 2850

#### Vice Presidents

Mr David Barnett OBE

Tainui Lowline Stud  
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Mr Kevin Darley

Quambi Lowline Stud  
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#### Secretary/Treasurer

Mr Des Owens

Mugga Lowline Stud  
PO Box 4234 Kingston ACT 2602

#### Publicity Officer

(Ex Officio)

Mrs Carolyn Tebbutt  
Palmdale Lowline Stud  
P O Box 36 Ourimbah NSW 2258

#### Members

Mr Don Burke

Binnowee Lowline Stud  
P O Box 38 Kenthurst NSW 2156

Mr Robert Pringle

Casuarina Lowline Stud  
Burridgerie Road Turrill NSW 2850

NAME	STATE STUD PREFIX	TATTOO
Anderson, Michael & Fran	QLD BOOMAJARRIL	FAM
Arnold, Margaret	QLD KARINGAH	DEB
Arthur, J & G	VIC BURNT CREEK	ABC
Atkinson, Stephen & Patricia	QLD BOAB RUN	SPV
Baker, Jean	VIC BRACKENGRAE	BRK
Baird, Ian & Sandra	NSW	
Barnett, David F S	ACT TAINUI	TLS
Beech, Allen & Phyliss	VIC AVONSLEIGH	ALS
Black Gold Management	NSW BLACK GOLD	BGG
Blainey, Ellis & Faye	VIC BELVOIR PARK	BMM
Bowden, Patricia	NSW DUNMOVIN	PUB
Burke, Don	NSW BINNOWEE	BIN
Butler, Peter & Jill	VIC KIMCOLTON PARK	
Butler, J G & R I	SA WIPRAKINITA	JIM
Cartbridge, John & Anne	QLD CAMBCORP	CAM
Carter & Farnham, Mark & Tracey	NSW WANNAWILLA	WWL
Clare, Peter	QLD WARRINGTON	WAR
Colditz, Stephen & Susan	NSW	
Collins, David & Stacey	WA HARCOURT	HAR
Cook, Thomas & Beverley	QLD POSSUM BEND	
Cottee, Steele & Carter	NSW WARATAH	CSC
Cullen, Ross & Jan	NSW RIDGEVIEW	RLS
Darley, Kevin & Virginia	QLD QUAMBI	DAR
Della Bosca, Tony	VIC HEYTESBURY	
Di Candilio, Silvano & Sue	NSW DI CANDILLO	
Doust, Barry & Lola	WA APPERTARRA	BLD
Erlington, Richard & Glenda	NSW ALDAVALE	ALD
Evans, Michael & Jennifer	QLD MAXANDY	MAE
Everson, Kevin & Linda	NSW SPINIFEX	SLS
Fagan, Michael & Vanessa	NSW KITTABAH	MVF
Fletcher, Neil & Chris	NSW TYRILLY	TLS
Freebairn, Bruce & Adrienne	SA TIRRE	TIR
Gardner, Charlie & Alice	WA YEALERINGA	GX6
Garrett, Suzanne	QLD SANS	SAN
Harvey, Michael & Elizabeth	NSW BUNGAREE	NEL
Hatcher, Gary	NSW GLENFIDDICH	LOW
Haugh, Norman & Melanie	WA MELMAN RIDGE	MRS
Herd, Tony	VIC DUNEIRA	DLS
Herrrod, Karen	QLD BRUMBY RIDGE	
Hill, Wayne & Maree	QLD WOWMAN	WLS
Holzknicht, Philip & Rhonda	QLD MIRISA	MSR

NAME	STATE STUD PREFIX	TATTOO
Hooper, Lyle & Nola	NSW LOMBARDY	LOM
Hunwick, Roger & Rosemary	QLD BLOODWOOD	RBW
Kellie, Paul & Jennifer	QLD THE GLEBE	JEN
King, Graham & Robin	NSW TURILL	GRK
Lydarley Pastoral Co	QLD	LDP
Martin, Geoff & Kennell	VIC LONGBOW	GKM
McAlley, John	NSW	
Millott, David & Betty	VIC ELIZA PARK	EPM
Nettle, Margaret	NSW GOAN	GOA
O'Brien, Maureen	QLD SHAREABRO	SLS
Olorenshaw, Peter & Kathy	VIC BRAMLEIGH PARK	BPS
Owens, Des	ACT MUGGA	MLS
Poole, Andrew & Pamela	VIC PANDELLA PARK	PPS
Pringle, Robert	NSW CASUARINA	CAS
Pullar, Ian & Erica	NSW BRAMBLETYPE	ABF
Rhodes, Peter & Janet	ACT BROKEN ARROW	BAS
Rhodes, Greg	NSW	
Riley, Fr Chris/YOTS Farm Project	NSW	
Robb, Lyle	QLD YARRAMALONG	YLS
Robinson, David & Tori	ACT BURRA	BLS
Rodgers, Des & Phyl	NSW ROSELLA RETREAT	BSS
Schmierer, Bruce & Shirley	NSW LANGDALE	LAN
Simpson, Tim & Jenny	QLD KEIMOI	KLS
Smith, Keith & Moira	NSW HAZELMERE PARK	HLS
Smith, Pat	SA WINDSOR PARK	RCS
Smith, Bob	NSW RIDGEVIEW	RLS
Stapleton, Wayne	NSW ARDROSSAN	ARD
Stebbins, Peter & Jeannette	VIC GUNNADOO	GLS
Stewart, Shirley	NSW SKYE-MIST	NET
Taylor, Norma	QLD JALDARA	JAL
Templeton, Jeff & Audrey	VIC PALMDALE	PLS
Tebbutt, Carolyn	NSW CARDONIA	CAD
Tilbrook, Geoff & Anne	NSW RAMOURNIE	FBI
Tomkins, Bob & Fran	ACT TURNER VALLEY	TV
Turner, Gary & Chriss	QLD BEAGNI	BEA
Weston & Ovenden, Celia & Jenny	VIC KINTYRE	KLC
Wheeler, Innes & Mary	NSW EDINA	
Wilson, Keith & Peg	QLD FERRINDALE	FDS
Wolfe, Edgar	QLD WULFRIC	
Wooldridge Partnership	NSW	

**ALCA MEMBERSHIP LIST - as at 27 March 1995**