



LOWLINE

Edited by David Barnett
Production: Gary Hatcher

JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOC.

Newsletter 1, December 1995

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A message from the President...



The Association President - Ian Pullar of Mudgee

So far as I can gather, the format of this newsletter provides a basis for an ongoing, successful journal, and the opportunity it provides for communication between members, is really what the members have been wanting for a year or two, and hopefully, now that it is underway under qualified management, both editorial and production, it will be given guaranteed support by the membership at large.

Since our Council meeting, I have been speaking with a large number of members and I have also had the opportunity to speak with senior people from other, larger, and more established breed societies.

Speaking with the latter, I was extremely interested to learn that the apparent problems we are going through and doing our best to rectify are not unique to us.

I guess that it will come as a surprise to some to learn that the Angus Society are in the process of redrafting certain sections of their constitution and amending the standard for their herds. For them, even though they can afford it, it has become a long, drawn out and expensive exercise and it would appear that it still has a long way to go before it will be in a form acceptable to their council, let alone their members.

And the message I received, loud and clear, was that it all appeared to be a wasted exercise. Now before everyone jumps up and down and thinks that the President simply wants the status quo, let me assure you that I don't. I am delighted however, that we had the foresight to draw up a constitution before the Association was formed, because, quite simply, if we hadn't, then I suspect we would still be drafting it. Furthermore, without it, we certainly would not have been accepted as a recognised breed in our own right.

What I am leading up to is that when we do all agree to the changes being mooted, that we do so with much thought, if for no other reason than to reduce the risk of wanting changes every year. After all, a Constitution, properly written, is the doctrine for our management of both cattle and administration and by the very nature of the rules, it should be and is difficult to change, requiring large majority endorsement.

Finally on this subject, I would add that Corporate Affairs now charge about \$200 for EACH amendment, and I hear that it has been recommended that that fee be raised to \$500. Now, Corporate affairs don't monitor our Constitution, Business and Consumer Affairs do, but I beg the question, how long will it take before they increase their fees too?

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ALCA office bearers

The Australian Lowline Cattle Association held its annual general meeting at the Royal Agricultural Society offices at the New South Wales Showgrounds on September 2.

- The Association's office holders are:
Ian Pullar, President (re-elected) of Mudgee NSW,
David Barnett, Vice-President, of Jerangle NSW (re-elected),
and Des Owens, Treasurer, of the ACT (re-elected).
- The Council comprises:
Jeannette Stebbins of Victoria (re-elected),
Alan Beech of Victoria (re-elected),
Steven Atkinson of Queensland (new member)
and Gary Hatcher of Gosford, NSW (new member).

The new Association Council met at the RAS offices on October 21.

Cash Ads!

In the Lowline Journal

From the next issue, you will be able to place advertisements in this journal. This will cater for members only wanting to advertise their stud or any stock for sale.

As an indication, a 3cm x SINGLE column ad will cost \$10.00.

Display Ads will be costed at different rates on negotiation with the editor.

Blood-typing

It's expensive, but it's in the rules, and it is becoming increasingly important as the Association gets bigger, and as trading in stud stock and in embryos becomes grows. You need a veterinarian to take the samples. The typing is then carried out by the University of Queensland. Blood-typing is essential for determining parentage. It is a requirement for showing, and it is an obligation on members. Your Council has also taken steps to make identification easier during handling in the day to day management of stock. The Council has identified a green Canadian tattoo ink which is brighter than the ink which is available in Australia, and which looks as if it will persist when used on black cattle. The Council is importing the Ketchum ink, and it can be obtained at cost through the Secretary, Louise Petchell.

The Council was also given a presentation by Ron Smith of Animal Electronic ID Systems Pty Ltd of identification by micro-chip. These are injected into the cartilage on the skull behind the left ear. They are coated, so they don't migrate around the animal's body, and they can be read by instruments of varying sophistication, hitched up to automatic milkers, scales and so on. Each chip costs \$7. There are two sizes, the smaller being administered by a one-off syringe, and the larger by a gun which costs about \$120. The reader costs between \$300 and \$360, depending on the model. The chip's are inert, and the reader has to be held to within a 15 or so centimetres of the ear, so they don't work in the paddock. The larger chip works can be read at about 23 centimetres. Ron Smith's company also markets

an electronic ear-tag which looks less likely to be lost than the standard tag. The system is one of two available and under consideration by the Royal Agricultural Society. It's decision will establish the standard. When that happens, the Council will advise members. We are expecting a decision in February.

In the meantime, Ron Smith's address is...

P.O. Box 189,
Kiama NSW 2533.

His telephone numbers are...

042 32 3333 and
018 426 156.

His fax number is...

042 32 3350

and his after hours number is...

042 37 7526.



How we have grown

The Association now has 131 members. Lowline will publish a full membership list in the first issue of each year. We will publish a list of members in the next issue. Please write back immediately, setting out the form in which you wish to be described.

Two examples are:

David Barnett
Tainui Lowline Stud
PO Box 3540
Manuka ACT 2603.
Tel and Fax: 06 273 1633

Gary and Babette Hatcher
Glenfiddich Lowline Stud
RMB 2418 George Downes Drive
Kulnura NSW 2250
Tel: (02) 9958 2599 Fax: (02) 9958 2664

Send your preferred description of your stud to Louise Petchell, Secretariat, ALCA Inc, RAS of NSW GPO Box 4317 Sydney NSW 2001. These descriptions will make up the list which will be published in the next newsletter. Questions have been raised about confidentiality and for this reason we will not draw this list from ALCA records.

There were a number of contributions to the newsletter, for which the editors are grateful. Please keep them coming. They should be clearly marked: Attention David Barnett and Gary Hatcher for the newsletter. Use the RAS format, on page 8, for results. We need all the results, not just your own.

The Judge for the Royal

The Royal Agricultural Society has chosen Rob Hart of the University of New England to judge the Lowlines at the Royal Sydney Show. The Royal this year will be from March 29 to April 9. Entries are required by February 3. The Lowlines will be judged on the afternoon of Saturday March 30.

There is a requirement in Sydney that when a cow and calf are shown the calf belong to that cow, and be suckling from her. That isn't spelled out quite so definitively in Brisbane, but it is nevertheless a requirement of the Association. The calf must be registered, or the process of registration must be underway, with the cow being shown as its dam. The Association is establishing a list of inspectors for the breed, and of judges for the breed.

Promoting The Breed

The Association's brochure is being revised. Promotion groups have been formed in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. Get in touch with Steven Atkinson in Queensland, Jeannette Stebbins in Victoria, and Charlie Gardiner in the West.

Jeannette's telephone number is (054) 395 555

Steven's telephone number is (074) 949 696

Charlie's telephone number is (09) 537 7105

Please send photographs of yourselves at shows, with each other, and with entries which have won awards. Lowlines which have won champion bull or female are particularly welcome.

Small Is Beautiful

The Association's breed standard is being reviewed in the light of experience at Sydney and Brisbane Royals. Your President, Ian Pullar has undertaken this responsibility. The breed standard will advise judges that when structure and conformation are equal, the smaller animal should be preferred.

The Herd Book

The new herd book is in preparation. It will incorporate the second herd book, which contains full genealogies of the foundation stock. Subsequent herd books will contain only the name of the registered animal and date of birth, together with the names of its sire and dam. That means the second and third herd books should be kept, so that genealogies can be traced back. The herd book will be printed and bound in the A-5 format which the RAS prefers, and which is used by other breed societies.



Message from the President continued...

THEREFORE, if you have any recommendations for change, then PLEASE send them into our Secretariat as soon as possible.

The systems of voting preferred by other associations are under scrutiny too, and despite the messages being sent out before our AGM, it is clear therefore that we are not alone. Representation of the power base and how that power base is elected is also open to question, and I can only say that when the majority of us do determine what we consider to be the best procedure for us, that we get it right. If we don't then we will simply be transferring a problem from one direction to another.

At the Council Meeting, I volunteered to put together a brief paper which I hope would, when presented to the members, be accepted as a supplement to the RULES FOR SHOWING published each year by the Royal Agricultural Societies. I believe that this is necessary, even if only to highlight the correct protocols and procedures, and to give our inspectors and shed captains more confirmed and written authority, without putting them into the position of appearing to be stand-over merchants, which they aren't.

The paper will highlight the need for proper animal identification, which although clear in the instructions for Brisbane and Sydney, seem to be ignored by some members. This will include the need to identify a calf at foot, not only by tattoo but, by also having records of the calf placed before the Association and the

Lowlines on show in Bendigo

G and K Martin won Champion Bull at the Bendigo Show in October with Beau Lad. P and J Stebbins won the Reserve with Ardrossan Peter. R and E Atherton won Champion Cow with Brambletye Patience. Bev Crowley won the Reserve with Brackengrae Joy.

It was the first occasion in Victoria on which Lowlines were shown and judged. There were 17 entries at the Bendigo Show which was held on October 26, 27 and 28. Public interest was keen from opening day when Jeannette Stebbins and Celia Weston set up a display for the alternative farming section. Jeannette also provided a cow and calf for the animal nursery. The judge told us: "If this was the standard at which the Lowline breeders were aiming, then the Lowline breed is here to stay." The judge invited the Lowline exhibitors to show at the Echuca Agricultural Show, as well as proposing a weekend cattle handling workshop for early next year. There was general acceptance.

Jeannette writes: "Our shed was a hive of activity as cattle were washed and blowdried. Some of us had dryers which we had not used before, and there was dust, straw and cow hair flying in all directions. The cattle were not used to the noise, and to the blasts of air aimed at them, and there was fun and games chasing pirouetting cattle. Once washed, groomed, fed and settled for the night, the fine display of Lowlines tied against their white wall beneath banners and bunting was a very pleasing sight."

Members who were not showing arrived on Friday evening to attend a beef cattle show preparation clinic, and to support the exhibitors, some of them after journeys of hundreds of kilometres. The clinic dealt with procedures for ringing bulls, preparing coats, breaking cattle in for the showing, gearing up for shows, feeding and show rations, and animal health. Jeannette says the clinic was well worth while.

Some of the bulls dug their way through their straw and into the soil beneath their pens during the night, and then tossed mud over their competitors, and over tables, grooming equipment, and feed and water troughs. All exhibitors were thus given the opportunity to practice washing and blowdrying, all over again, in time for the 9.30am start. There was also an opportunity to practice standing the Lowlines up under distracting circumstances for the photographer who was engaged to record the first Victorian show. The circus was quite close to the cattle area. John Page and Piki Broadbent were appointed shed steward to assemble contestants in order.

Show Society. Perhaps micro-chip identification, which can be done to one-day old calves, will solve this problem to a very large extent, but whichever way, it must be done.

It will also highlight the very strict rule that a calf at foot, although haltered, must be free to suckle from its dam at all times, and fences or railings that would prevent the



Bendigo Show Results ...continued

Bull over 30 months	1st Ardrossan Peter	P & J Stebbins
	2nd Samson	Allen Beech
Bull 24-30 months	1st Eliza Park Anson	D Millott
Bull 16-20 months	1st Beag Ni Asher	Beag Ni Lowline Stud
	2nd Beag Ni Ben Nevis	Beag Ni Lowline Stud
Bull 12-16 months	1st Beau Lad	G & K Martin
	2nd Brambletye Pancho	G & L Webster & R & E Atherton
	3rd Brambletye Pedro	G & L Webster & R & E Atherton
Heifer 24-30 months	1st Brambletye Patience	G & L Webster & R & E Atherton
Heifer 12-16 months	1st Brackengrae Joi	Bev Crowley
	2nd Ardrossan Sylvia	P & J Stebbins
	3rd Maid Marion	G & K Martin
Special Group of three comprising one male and two females	1st	P & J Stebbins
Pair of bulls	1st	G & L Webster & R & E Atherton
Champion Bull	Beau Lad	
Reserve	Ardrossan Peter	
Champion Female	Brambletye Patience	
Reserve	Brackengrae Joy	

Message from the President continued...

calf from reaching the teat, are not permitted. It follows that fences between animals to supposedly prevent one animal from kicking or damaging another, are also not allowed. If an animal is so intractable that it cannot be managed and or controlled at a show, or should it perform so badly as to disturb other animals, then it should not be brought to the show, and if it is, then the inspector, in consultation with the show society, must have the power to have that animal removed.

There are a lot of other areas that I will cover, and they will include the unwritten, but established protocols of displays, advertising and promotion of the breed, by the Association and the individual. The simple message here will be to NOT OVERDO it. The word soon spreads

and with time, I get feed back that we as an Association, do tend to go a bit overboard and certain members in particular, probably without realising it, do go beyond what are normal, acceptable show procedures.

Lastly, but on a different subject, many of us are now aware that several judges who have officiated at both major and minor shows, when questioned, have pointed out that the animals on display have possessed some structural problems, and the sad fact is that they are right.

Now, again, please don't jump up and down. In our herds, mine included, there are some excellent animals, some that stand the test in an inter-breed judging competition, but there are also some shockers. Our breed isn't the only one to have such problems either, both

phenotype and genotype. Although not so common at Royal Shows where the nation's best cattle are on display, the problem does exist and I have seen many cattle, both male and female, from other breeds, which really should have been left at home on the farm and some bulls should have been castrated at day one.

The problem we have, is our apparent inability through inexperience, to identify the faults that are so easily identified by an experienced judge. It follows therefore, that we really should listen to the criticism by our judges and if possible, get the judges to show us the problem on the day. This will help us all to identify our problem areas and help us all to take remedial action with our breeding programs.

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Out & About... Lowlines on Show!

The Whittlesea Show

G & K Martin won champion bull at the Whittlesea's Agricultural Society Show, which is Victoria's biggest after the Melbourne Royal. P & J Stebbins took the Reserve with Ardrossan Peter. P & J Stebbins won Champion Female with Ardrossan Sylvia, with G & K Martin's Maid Marion as Reserve champion. Lowline classes are included in the schedule, in the expectation by the Society that support will be there from Lowline breeders at future shows. Whittlesea is within easy commuting distance from Melbourne, and is known for its small farms. There was keen interest, with inquiries from prospective buyers which was spurred by the judge's favourable comments, and his invitation to those at the judging to inspect the excellently presented Lowlines in their stalls. There was a deluge during the judging of the Interbreed classes. Jeannette Stebbins reports: "The oval turned into a quagmire. We were thankful that we were not showing white or cream cattle. Black cattle certainly have many advantages."

Whittlesea Show Results

Bull under 24 months	1st Beau Lad	G & K Martin
Bull over 24 months	1st Ardrossan Peter	P & J Stebbins
Heifer under 12 months	1st Cassandra	G & K Martin
Heifer 12 to 18 months	1st Ardrossan Sylvia	P & J Stebbins
	2nd Maid Marion	G & K Martin
Champion bull	Beau Lad	
Reserve	Ardrossan Peter	
Champion female	Ardrossan Sylvia	
Reserve	Maid Marion	

Queensland Promotional Group formed

Queensland members met at Turney Valley on October 14 and formed the Queensland Lowline Cattle Promotional Group. Members present comprised Cameron and Shelly Wilson, Gary and Chris Turney, Rosemary Hunwick, Tim Simpson, Jenny Kelly, Bill and Sue Gosewich, Jenny Fraser, Steve and Patrician Atkinson, Maureen and Mitch O'Brien, with apologies from Fran Anderson and from John and Ann Cambridge. The group decided would like people making inquiries about stock to be given a promotional kit which includes a full members list.

The Alexandra Show

Allen Beech and David Millott took Lowlines to the Alexandra Show on November 11. David Millott's bull won the 24 months and over ribbon and Allen Beech's bull won the 12 to 24 months section.

The Dandenong Show

Allen Beech's heifer Avonsleigh Jessica won the heifer under 18 months ribbon at Dandenong show on November 12, and then went on to win reserve champion female. Allen's bull Samson won the 24th months and over ribbon. The Dandenong judge made a point of praising the Lowlines, which aroused general interest.

Ararat Alternative Farming Expo

Laura Templeton of the Jaldara Lowline Stud exhibited a Lowline borrowed from Peter and Jeannette Stebbins to the Ararat Alternative Farming Expo on November 5. The Templetons, who expect to be exhibiting their own cattle next year, report tremendous interest in Josie, a four year old cow, who stood up well to being handled by interested visitors. The Lowline pamphlets all went quickly.

Your Vote

The Council has decided that each stud should have one vote at the annual general meeting.



Singleton Show

Lowline cattle have made an inaugural appearance at the Singleton show, promoting the breed in the Hunter. Elizabeth and Michael Harvey of Bungaree Lowline Cattle Stud, Tamworth, report that six Lowline studs exhibited stock at the Singleton Show on October 6. The Lowlines were judged by Peter Greeves of the Toolooby Angus Stud, who made his awards on the basis of conformation and structural soundness.

"We must concentrate on the basics," he told the Lowline exhibitors.

The Lowline exhibitors had a barbecue lunch of Lowline beef provided by Margaret Nettle who brought them from Trangie. For many of the exhibitors, it was the first taste of Lowline beef.

Message from the President continued...

After all, the *raison d'être* for showing is to obtain the best judgement possible, from recognised and experienced experts, and to give us the opportunity to see the best and second best in comparison.

Following from that, it seems that we are also open to some criticism for the standard of the animals both male and female, that are being used for AI, ET and in some cases, normal paddock breeding. Not all cows are good ones, nor are some bulls, and in some cases, when a perhaps rare, but nevertheless major problem is identified, such as distocia, or heritable lameness, then such animals and even perhaps their offspring, should be culled.

Senior Bull	Spinifex Twister	Michael & Elizabeth Harvey
Reserve	Spinifex Miles	Michael & Elizabeth Harvey
Grand Champion	Spinifex Twister	
Senior Female	Broken Arrow Topaz	Tracey & Mark Carter
Reserve	Keimoi Lady Venus	R & R Taylor
Grand Champion	Broken Arrow Topaz	
Junior Champion Bull	Goan Wandoo	Margaret Nettle
Reserve	Murrong Pharaoh	Steve & Sue Colditz
Junior Female	Wanna-Willa Dawn	Mark & Tracey Carter
Reserve	Goan Black Opal	
	3rd	Margaret Nettle



I know it seems a very drastic step for cattle that are apparently so valuable, but we must be ruthlessly honest with ourselves if we are to not only maintain standards, but improve them. Over the last 5 1/2 years, we have culled several cows from our herd, and now with more experience, we are very careful to cull out inferior bulls, so I am very aware that we all have problems of some sort.

The good news is of course, that the number of good stock far outweigh the bad.

In the future, and now rapidly becoming urgent, is the need to appoint unbiased inspectors. I wouldn't like the job, and I guess that the role of inspector is not an enviable one, but his/her job is a vital one for our industry.

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1995 Royal Easter Show Results...

Female, 12 and not over 20 months	1st Binnowie Kate	D & Mrs M Burke
	2nd Langdale Stacy	P S & J M & S A & S L Kellie
	3rd Goan Black Opal	Ms M F Nettle
	4th Lombardy Lucy	L & N Hooper
	5th Mugga Narcissus	D T Owens
	6th Mugga Nadia	D T Owens
Female, over 20 and not over 30 months	1st Keimoi Carina	K L & Mrs M Smith
	2nd Mugga Nellie	D T Owens
Female, over 30 months	1st Brambletye Agness II	I & Mrs E Pullar
	2nd Brambletye Amicable II	I & Mrs E Pullar
	3rd Mugga Black Saturn	K L & Mrs M K Smith
	4th Binnowie Denise	D & Mrs M Burke
Bull, 12 and not over 20 months	1st Binnowie Ullyses	D & Mrs M Burke
	2nd Brambletye Admiral Fitzroy	I & Mrs E Pullar
	3rd Palmdale Horatio	S & S DiCandilo
	4th Goan Belah	Ms M F Nettle
	5th Keimoi Hercules	K L & Mrs M K Smith
Bull, over 20 and not over 30 months	1st Palmdale Viscount	L & N Hooper
Bull, over 30 months	1st Brambletye Commodore III	G & Mrs B Hatcher
	2nd Mugga Majura	D T Owens
	3rd The Glebe Immanual	P S & J M & S A & S L Kellie
	4th Binnowie Sampson	D & Mrs M Burke
	5th Brambletye Commander II	I & Mrs E Pullar
	6th Brambletye Midshipman	I & Mrs E Pullar
	7th Brambletye Captain	M & Mrs V Fagan
Champion Female	Brambletye Agness II	I & Mrs E Pullar
Champion Bull	Brambletye Commodore III	G & Mrs B Hatcher
Best Exhibit	Brambletye Agness II	I & Mrs E Pullar

Message from the President continued...

The inspector should be able to inspect all herds and make recommendations on merit or otherwise, and certainly, with the endorsement of Council, have the power to prevent an animal from being used in a stud breeding program

Some Associations charge an up front, non refundable fee for a pre-breeding inspection, particularly where ET is concerned, and if that animal is considered unsuitable at inspection, the Association will NOT register any calves resulting from that program. A tough policy perhaps, but one that works with most Associations and sooner rather than later, we must face up to the reality of following suit.

Happy Christmas to all.

Ian Pullar