

SPRING  
2025

# AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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



## 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.

**Matthew Busted: Lifestyle Membership**  
Herd ID: TLL Prefix: Topaz  
Location: Lockyer Waters, QLD 4311

**Cheryl & Stuart Jackson: Full Membership**  
Herd ID: FRL Prefix: Falcon Ridge  
Location: Dimbulah, QLD 4872

**Beau Magann: Junior Membership**  
Herd ID: BAM Prefix: Stone Cold Cattle  
Location: Narangba, QLD 4504

**Will Van Zandbergen: Junior Membership**  
Herd ID: WVZ Prefix: Bonnygums  
Location: Helidon Spa, QLD 4344

### Introducing ALCA Councillor Mark Gray - Tingaroo Lowlines



My wife Virginia and I have a small property Tingaroo Lowlines in Wildes Meadow, NSW, breeding stud Lowlines. The formation herd was established from ten heifers purchased from

Tarrawarra Lowlines in 2023.

My business career commenced as an architect and progressed to project and development management. I joined the Leighton Group in 1987 and retired at the end of 2014 following eight years as Managing Director of Leighton Properties. My experience has been in developing large commercial, residential and mixed-use projects around Australia as well as managing teams and businesses. After retiring I held several directorships and consultancy positions in both the private and government sectors.

I am a past president of the Property Council of Australia and an honorary life member of the Green Building Council.

Phone: 0412 728 299

<mailto:m.v.gray3003@gmail.com>

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### ALCA YOUTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM (YIP)

The points are starting to roll in for the Youth Incentive Program.

It is great to see our youth Lowline members showing cattle and attending clinics. We have a



number of Lowline members and Australian Lowline cattle attending the upcoming Biggenden Junior Cattle clinic in Qld and will have photos in the next newsletter to share.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to the Lamb family in North Queensland. Recently, junior member, Johanna was bitten by a brown snake on their property. She is now recovering, and we sincerely wish her the best.

Massive congratulations to Junior member, Beau Magann. Beau recently competed at the Brisbane Ekka and won the Champion of Champions Junior Judging so is headed to South Australia in 2026 to compete in at the Nationals.



## GENETIC HUB

### ALCA's New Breed Association Services Provider

We are pleased to announce that the Australian Lowline Cattle Association has engaged Genetic Hub to deliver member and registration services on behalf of the Association, effective September 1, 2025.

This is a significant and positive change for our Association. Members are encouraged to contact Genetic Hub directly for all matters related to registrations, performance data, and general association enquiries.

Key features of the Genetic Hub service include:

- **A dedicated team to support the Association's needs.**
- **Member support and education**
- **DNA processing**
- **Governance support**
- **Inventory and herd management.**

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Association President Matt Cooney

or

Genetic Hub CEO, Kate Brabin. Contact details are available via the ALCA website:

[👉https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/contact](https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/contact)

We look forward to this exciting new chapter for the Association and thank you for your continued support.

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If you have youth information and achievements that you would like to share for the newsletter, please email through to Justin Clarke - [justinandpeta@gmail.com](mailto:justinandpeta@gmail.com)

## NEW 'AUSTRALIAN' LOWLINE LOGO

Council wants to share an important update being made to our breed's logo - and explain the "why" behind it, with respect for the deep connection many of you have to our branding and breed history.

For many years, our logo has proudly represented the Australian Lowline breed - and it has served us well. However, we have never formally included the word "Australian" in our logo, despite it being an essential and official part of our breed's name: **Australian Lowline**.

We will be updating the logo to include this one word - **Australian** and adding a simple arch-while keeping the **original look and feel of the original logo exactly the same**.



## NEW ALCA BRANDED CAPS AVAILABLE SOON!

### CHECK OUT THE NEW COLOUR

New logo branded ALCA caps are on their way. 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](#)



New Brown ALCA Cap



Current ALCA caps pictured



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**Australian Lowline Cattle  
Licensed and Registered as  
"Australian Made" and  
recognised "Product of  
Australia"**



**AN AUSTRALIAN ORIGINAL, BORN  
AND BRED, WITH VERIFIED LINEAGE**

Australian Lowline cattle are a true product of Australian innovation and land. Their story begins in the early 1970s at the Trangie Agricultural Research Centre in New South Wales, where scientists set out to explore the impacts of cattle size on beef production. Through decades of careful, local selective breeding—focused on smaller stature, excellent health, and adaptability to Australian conditions—the Lowline emerged as a compact, efficient, and docile breed. By 1992, it was officially recognized as a new breed, wholly developed on Australian soil.

ALCA is very pleased to advise The Lowline Breed has been accepted and is now uniquely a licensee for both trademarks "Australian Made" and "Product of Australia".

We will officially launch the Australian Made Campaign to all members at the Annual General meeting together with the strict criteria for use by those who can opt to be involved.

## You are Invited

### ALCA AGM

The ALCA Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, and Council would love to see you there either in person or online.

The AGM is being held at **Agripark, Darnell Smith Drive, Carpark 5, Building 21, Industry Hub, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga NSW.**

For those members who are unable to attend in person a **ZOOM** link will be made available to enable you to join.

If you are attending in person, please RSVP by November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 so we can organise catering and facilities for those in attendance.

Please click on the campus map link below to assist you in locating the venue.

[GH CSU Campus Map 2025.pdf](#)

A Breeders Forum will be held 30 minutes after the conclusion of the AGM for all those wishing to attend. The Breeders Forum offers the opportunity for members to ask questions and identify any topics for further discussion.

Those attending the AGM in person are also invited to attend a dinner. The dinner will be held in Wagga Wagga at a time and venue to be confirmed and is dependent upon the number of RSVP's

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office on (02) 6933 1214 or email [office@genetichub.com.au](mailto:office@genetichub.com.au) RSVP's can be sent to the same email address, please indicate number of persons, attending the AGM, the Breeders Forum and the Dinner afterwards

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## MEMBER NEWS

### Youth Spotlight – Will Van Zandbergen

Will has been a dedicated member of the Centenary Heights State High School Show Team for the past two years. The team currently manages a small Lowline herd, which Will has successfully shown at various shows across the Darling Downs region.



Eager to expand his skills and knowledge, Will has also attended numerous cattle camps, deepening his understanding of the skill. A Year 11 student, he is currently undertaking a school-based apprenticeship in Engineering with the goal of becoming a qualified Boilermaker.



Having grown up helping his family with cattle on their properties, Will has developed a strong passion for the agricultural lifestyle. Looking ahead, he hopes to head to the Northern Territory upon completing his trade to experience life and work on a large cattle station.

Australian Lowline Cattle Association  
**YOUTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM (YIP)**  
Dates 01/07/2025 - 31/06/2026  
\$1500 IN CASH PRIZES  
WIN A REGISTERED HEIFER!  
Gain points for Junior Handlers, Junior Judging, Steer Classes and MORE!  
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS BECOME A YOUTH MEMBER OF ALCA AND START GAINING POINTS!  
For enquires contact - Justin Clarke (ALCA Council Member for Youth) 0417070530



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### Tough Times on French Island

Drought is tough for any beef cattle producer but when your farm is on an island, overcoming feed and water issues in dry conditions present unique challenges.

Sam Dickinson's family have a Lowline Stud, Kawala View, on French Island off the coast of Victoria. Access is via ferry for anything that needs to come on or off the island. Transport for fodder supplies, water infrastructure can be cost prohibitive.

However, the Dickinson family are resilient and innovative. They also pay particular attention to stocking rates as seasons can be fickle on the island at the best of times.

A picture tells a thousand words, so they say, and the pictures Sam sent through show how dire the situation was for the Dickinson's and their Lowline herd. The main dam nearly dry, the other two dams dried up, with one tank of water left, little feed in the paddocks and no hay available on the island. The Dickinson's took to feeding out weekly amounts of coastal wattle branches to their cattle over winter. Their resilient Lowline cows, first time mums feeding calves at the time, coped well with this novel feeding regime.

Water, however, is another story. With no possibility of carting in stock water the Dickinson's had the main dam fenced off and cleaned out.

Troughs were installed, water line laid, a stockwater tank and pump put in. This water infrastructure was partially paid for by the Victorian Landcare Program. Sam says the work they have done sets Kawala Views up for a more water resilient future.





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### **Tough Times on French Island** continued **New EU regulations for Hide Industry**

On a happier note, Sam and his sister Ashlee had their most successful show season yet. Reserve Champion Senior bull against strong competition at Canberra Royal 2025 and Reserve Champion Junior heifer at Melbourne Royal in October with Kawala View Voodoo winning against a strong field of heifers. Congratulations Sam and Ashlee you and your Lowlines are amazing.



**Jeanette Stebbins wrote:** I just read about the new EUDR and how to fill out a NVD.

I thought it might be a good subject for your newsletter to enlighten members as to the importance of our cattle's hides when selling cattle to the yards or abattoirs. It enlightened me as to where our hides end up and the value and uses put on them.

**EUDR compliance: A concern for all cattle producers**

07 September 2025

<https://www.integritysystems.com.au/about/news--events/news/2025/september/eudr-compliance-a-concern-for-all-cattle-producers/>

New European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) are set to deliver a potential crisis for Australia's hide industry, with significant implications for all Australian cattle producers and processors.

Micaela Topper, Executive Manager at AI Topper (a major processor and exporter of Australian hides, skins and finished leather) said she was concerned many hides would be ineligible for export when the EUDR commences on 31 December.

"The EU is our industry's highest-value market but, at the moment, it's likely that many of the hides we are now purchasing from processors will be ineligible for EU export in 2026.

"This is because the majority of Australia's cattle producers still don't fully understand why they need to opt-in and share their data via the new LPA Geolocation tool, even if they aren't EUCAS-accredited."

**Impact extends well beyond the EU**

Micaela said that more than half of Australia's premium (wetblue) hides are exported to the Italian market, making us Italy's fifth largest source of leather.

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## It's That Time of Year

It is that time of year again, **Spring Calving**. Most breeders will probably be at the tail end of calving by October, but it is worth reflecting on how things went and what you might do differently.

We calve across two properties and always have our calving backpack in the car or ute.

We also have a calf resuscitation pack that is ready when needed.

There is nothing worse than having a problem and having to scramble to find the gear and supplies required or, as in our case, having to drive the 12 kms home and then back to get stuff 😞.

Basic equipment and supplies we include in our backpack are pictured below.

Figure 1 Calving Backpack



## EUDR Compliance **continued**

Europe is a large and profitable market for Australian leather and hides, but many producers wouldn't know that it's not the only one impacted by the EUDR requirements.

Australia sells a lot of semi-processed (salted) hides into the Chinese and wider Asian market, much of which could potentially be tanned and then resold into the European market as finished leather.

"The supply chain for that finished leather will then also need to demonstrate compliance with the new regulations, so the full impact won't just be felt in our direct EU exports – it could also affect the viability of our exports to other markets.

### Impact on producers and processors

"I think many people believe that if they aren't one of Australia's EUCAS-accredited producers, then the new EUDR requirements won't affect them but that's simply not the case," Micaela said.

All cattle processed in Australia needs to be EU-compliant and accompanied by the lifetime geolocations required by EU importers, otherwise these hides will potentially be worthless.

While this is a critical issue for the leather and hides industry, it was also essential to ensuring processors can maintain a commercial market for their hides as by-product of processing.

"If we reach a point where the value of our hides market becomes so depleted that processors can't sell their hides, they'll need to find another way to dispose of them," she said. "Most likely, they'd have to bury them which then presents a different sustainability issue for industry."

Potentially, this could also lead to processors charging disposal fees or paying producers slightly less per head to mitigate that disposal cost.

### The solution

Micaela said it was critical that all Australian cattle producers understand the importance of EU-compliance in securing the supply chain for hides and other cattle by-products.



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## Calving Backpack Contents



- a) Straw (always be sure to have something like a piece of hay handy to stimulate cough by gently putting up the nostril of a newborn calf – cough clears the airway)
- b) Minbal 4 in 1
- c) Calving Chains & Handles
- d) Towel (for drying off weak calf)
- e) Paper Towel
- f) Obstetric Lubricant
- g) Tomato Sauce Bottle for lubricant
- h) Betadine
- i) Shoulder length examination gloves
- j) Protective 'milking' gloves
- k) Bucket with lid for betadine solution & store chains & Handles

## EUDR Compliance *continued*

Many countries are facing the same challenge of complying with the EUDR and we're fortunate that Australia now has the LPA Geolocation tool which makes it easy for producers to share their geolocation data.

I'd urge all producers to opt-in to use the tool as soon as possible to ensure our hides export market remains secure in 2026.

The required geolocation data is shared securely with feedlots and processors via the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), enabling industry to maintain EU access.

## Future value of geolocation sharing

Beyond the EUDR, Micaela said it was becoming a wider issue in the leathersgoods market with many large international brands already putting a focus on deforestation credentials in their supply chains.

"With this growing demand and the expansion of greenwashing laws globally, I think industry will eventually understand the value of being able to easily share those lifetime traceability credentials can extend far beyond compliance with the EUDR requirements."

To find out more about EUDR requirements go to:

<https://www.integritysystems.com.au/livestock-production-assurance/lpa-requirements/voluntary-modules/european-union-deforestation-regulation/>

## What makes a champion steer?

**ALCA is sponsoring Royal Show Carcase competitions throughout the country. The generous prize of \$2000 will hopefully encourage members to enter their Lowline steers. The next article explains how to feed and prepare your steer for Hoof and Hook Competitions and what the judges look for.**

**Source: Integrity Systems**

**31 March 2025**

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is just around the corner and with show season heating up, some producers will now be thinking about the led steer and carcase

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## Calf Resuscitation Pack

Our calf resuscitation pack includes.

- 2 x Soft Plastic containers for colostrum storage
- Feed bottle with teat valve
- McGrath Tube Feeder
- Dried Bovine Colostrum (Kwik Start shown)
- Electrolyte Replacement (Vytrate shown)
- Whisk
- Plastic Jug



## What makes a champion steer cont.

competitions set to happen across the country throughout the year.

Jeff House is a livestock consultant with more than a decade's experience judging led steer and carcass competitions for many of Australia's major metropolitan and regional shows. Here, he shares his thoughts on what many judges look for in a champion steer.

### Striking a balance

To begin with, Jeff always approaches any led steer competition with the knowledge that those animals are set to be processed within a day or two of judging.

"I'm far less concerned with the animal's structural soundness at that stage – they've been entered for a reason and as long they're fit and healthy in the ring, they've done their job," he said.

"I'm effectively trying to look under that animal's hide and assess whether it's got the right balance of fat cover and muscularity to deliver a really high-yielding carcass that meets the specifications for the class,"

### Fat coverage

"As a starting point, most competitions will set fat specifications depending on the live weight of the cattle or the target carcass specifications for each class, so it's really important for both exhibitors and judges to be aware of these," Jeff said.

"My first assessment happens as they walk into the ring, when I try to get a broad overview of their fat coverage before giving each animal a fat score."

He'll start by looking at the animal from the front to see what sort of fat development there is in the brisket, before moving along the underline to the flank.

"I'll then look at the animal from behind to observe fat coverage over the pin bones and around the tailhead," he said. "These areas don't tend to have a lot of muscle development, which makes it easier to assess the animal's fat coverage."

### Muscularity

Once the fat coverage has been assessed, Jeff looks for the right amount of muscling.

"I'll consider things like the width through the hind quarter and whether it's flat or if there's some visible bulging there," he said. "I'll then look down through the stifle joint



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## Going to a show? Here's what you need to know



When transporting livestock to and from an agricultural show or exhibition, you must ensure you meet your integrity requirements.

These requirements differ according to the legislation in your state or territory and must be adhered to in order to ensure the livestock you produce is safe to eat, fully traceable and in demand.

Particularly, ensuring you have met your requirements around recording livestock movements in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and completing an LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) is essential to guaranteeing the integrity of the Australian red meat we produce.

**Livestock producers must ensure all livestock transfers off their Property Identification Code (PIC) have been completed in the NLIS database and should request the upload ID if another party is completing the transfer. All LPA-accredited producers, must complete an LPA NVD every time livestock are moved off their PIC, including to shows and events. Movement records, transported stock statements and NT waybills do not meet the requirements of the LPA program and cannot be used in place of an LPA NVD (but can be used in addition, if required).**

## What makes a champion steer **cont.**

to assess its thickness because that will also indicate muscling.

A wide back is also a good sign the animal has a big eye muscle area, indicating plenty of meat along the backline and running in behind the shoulder of that animal.

### Judging a carcass

In general, points are awarded for carcass attributes in line with the set market specifications of the competition.

How this is assessed can vary from one competition to another, but Jeff would usually allocate points based on meeting market specifications, saleable meat yield and meat quality. Traits assessed include:

- **Fat depth:** This is measured at the P8 (rump) site, as well as the rib fat thickness at the carcass quartering site. Points are allocated based on the fat depth specifications set for the class.
- **Fat colour:** This should be on the whiter side, rather than yellowing, and judges often use the AUS-MEAT chips from 0 (white) to 9 (yellow).
- **Meat colour:** Meat colour is assessed using the AUS-MEAT meat colour standards (1a to 7), with bright pink to cherry red (1B or 1C) likely to score higher.
- **Muscle Score:** This is an assessment of the overall thickness and volume of meat in the carcass.
- **Rib Eye Area:** Measured using a grid to determine the area of the eye muscle at the quartering site of the carcass. Points are allocated based on rib eye area relative to the weight of the carcass.
- **Meat quality:** In some competitions, points are awarded based on the MSA Index, while other competitions allocate points to traits that contribute to the MSA Index such as pH, weight for maturity, marbling and fat distribution.
- **Marbling:** The optimum marbling score will vary depending on the target market specifications set for the competition.
- **Fat distribution:** Judges will assess the evenness

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### Going to a show cont.

Read on to find out the specific requirements for your state or territory when transporting livestock to and from an agricultural show or exhibition.

#### Your state or territory requirements when moving livestock to and from a show or exhibition

Click on your state or territory below to find out your requirements.

- [Queensland](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

#### Livestock consigned to slaughter after the event

To ensure carcass competition cattle can remain MSA eligible producers need to meet the below requirements that are part of the [MSA standards](#).

MSA Led Steer Pathway - In addition to the on-farm responsibilities (as outlined in the [MSA Standards Manual for livestock supply](#)):

- All animals are to be on full feed and water prior to dispatch from the showground
- All animals to be slaughtered within 24 hours of dispatch from the showground
- MSA vendor declaration must accompany cattle to the showground and be submitted to the organising committee
- The showground or other venue must have a MSA producer registration number and provide an MSA vendor declaration for the entire consignment to the abattoir
- Unled cattle associated with competitions are ineligible for this pathway.

#### Returning home

When livestock return home from the agricultural show or exhibition, keep in mind that they should be segregated from other animals for a time so they can be monitored for disease, parasites, or an associated spread of weeds. The quarantine period should reflect the potential risk associated with the returning livestock. At a minimum, allow sufficient time for emptying out (24–48 hours) including time off feed before turning out

**Source: Integrity Systems**  
<https://www.integritysystems.com.au/about/news-events/news/2022/going-to-a-show-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>

### What makes a champion steer cont.

of fat coverage over the carcass, and whether all the primal cuts are adequately covered.

#### Breeding a champion

Producers breeding steers for the carcass competitions, the focus will tend to be on producing heavier muscled animals with the ability to lay down the correct amount of fat.

We tend to see a lot of Limousin cattle in the steer competitions, relative to the commercial industry, because they're a more muscled breed.

However, Jeff said it comes down to understanding the requirements of the market you're targeting and breeding to meet those demands.

If you're looking at those lighter classes that don't require as much fat coverage, you're going to be breeding a different type of animal from the heavyweight classes.

#### Feeding a champion

Many competitions will require steers to retain their milk teeth, so it's often young cattle that are being judged.

Many of the animals I see will have been on high-energy rations to ensure they are growing well throughout their life and are able to quickly reach that optimum carcass and eating quality.

They'll then be finished well – often on high quality pastures or with some grain in their diet to get the energy density needed to reach the weight, fat and eating quality specifications demanded at such a young age.”



2011 Borthwick Trophy - Team 3 Lowline Steers



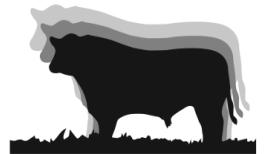
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