

Beneath a Gum Tree...Foundation of a Breed

When making decisions about buying Lowline cattle, you probably would have done some research about the breed and the animals you were thinking of purchasing. But how many people know how and when our association was formed. This is an important part of the breed history that shouldn't be forgotten.

It is twenty three years since the formation of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association. Originally known as 'Boutique cattle' this unique group of Aberdeen Angus were given the name 'Australian Lowline' in 1992. Through much promotion and dedication by members of the Association, these cattle have grown in popularity to become well known throughout Australia and countries overseas.

The following is an extract from the official 'History of the Breed' written by David Barnett, OBE, Foundation Member, and is published in the ALCA Foundation Herd Book.

'The 'Low Line' cattle were sold by Trangie and Glen Innes (NSW Department of Agriculture Research Centres) over the period from 6 August 1990 to 30 October 1993 when the complete dispersal sale took place at Trangie.

At the Trangie sale on 8 August 1992, nine bulls, twenty three heifers and seven cows were sold. Seven purchasers – Ian Pullar, David Barnett, Des Owens, Don Burke, Carolyn Tebbutt, Kevin Everson and Bob Pringle – met beneath a gum tree at the Trangie Centre auction site to form the Australian Lowline Cattle Association, adopting the name LOWLINE.

The complete dispersal sale occurred on October 30 in 1993, when twenty bulls, forty four cows and fifty one heifers were sold, on lively bidding, from all mainland states.'

Purchasers of cattle from these sales, the first 25 members, became the Foundation Members of our Association and the stud names can still be found in many pedigrees today.

Boab Run - Stephen & Patricia Atkinson, Qld
Tanui - David Barnett OBE, ACT
Binnowee - Don Burke, NSW
Warrington - Peter Clare, Qld
Ridgeview - Ross & Jan Cullen, NSW
Quambi - Kevin & Virgia Darley, Qld
Appertarra - Barry & Lola Doust, ACT, later WA
Spinifex - Kevin & Linda Everson, NSW
Tyrilly - Neil & Chris Fletcher, NSW
Melman Ridge - Norman & Melanie Haugh, WA
The Glebe - Paul & Jennifer Kelly, Qld
 John McAllery, NSW
Eliza Park - David & Betty Millott, Vic

Shareabro - Maureen O'Brien, Qld
Mugga - Des Owens, ACT
Casaurina - Robert Pringle, NSW
Brambletye - Ian & Erica Pullar, NSW
 Lyle Robb, Qld
Burra - Des & Phyl Rodgers, NSW
Langdale - Tim & Jenny Simpson, Qld
Hazelmere - Pat Smith, SA
Kemoi - Keith & Moira Smith, NSW
Ardrossan - Peter & Jeanette Stebbins, Vic
Palmdale - Carolyn Tebbutt, NSW
Kintyre - Innes & Mary Wheeler, NSW

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c1951 Cattle at the Trangie Research Farm

Peter & Jeanette Stebbins, **Ardrossan Lowline Stud** at Princetown, in Victoria are the only remaining Foundation Members, who are still breeding Lowline cattle and are active members of the Association.

Two other ALCA members who purchased cattle from the original sales are Bob Smith, **Windsor Park Stud** at Uranquinty, NSW & Margaret Wood (formerly Nettle), **Goan Stud** in Trangie, NSW.

These people have supported the Association and the breed for over 20 years and continue to fly the flag of the Australian Lowline.

So from small beginnings, with a group of hard working and dedicated people, the Australian Lowline Cattle Association has gained recognition and acceptance in the cattle industry.

The main goal of the Association has always been, and always will be, the preservation of the unique genetics of these animals and to assure the purity of the Lowline breed for the future.

For further reading the complete 'History of the Breed' written by David Barnett, OBE, Foundation Member, can be found as the preface in the ALCA Foundation Herd Book.

Or alternatively, on the ALCA website - <http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/TheBreed/History>

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