

## New Zealand: North Island

The past year has been most progressive for our group especially being out and showing our Lowlines for the first time at local A&P Shows. Our first feature show was last March, at Kumeu, where we had our own classes with 21 entries and as a judge Tammy Breuer of Allambie Stud in NSW.

It was a great moral booster because our Lowlines also competed very well amongst the All Breeds with Judy and David Sainsbury's bull, Casablanca Barbary Coast, judged All Breeds Champion Bull. Being enthused by her attendance at Kumeu, Sandy Moore went home to Taranaki and arranged Lowline classes at the Stratford Show which were held in November.

For the first time Lowlines were shown at Morrinsville, Waikato and Rotorua shows, standing their ground in All Breeds classes and winning, or being placed, against traditional breeds. It was a bit nerve racking to be out amongst traditionalists for the first time but pleasing to see that our cattle are fundamentally sound and competitive against the well known beef breeds. A very pleasing aspect was being made very welcome by show committees and stewards.

In March 2009, Kumeu Show will have Lynda Senger-Whitehead of Colombo Park Stud, Victoria, as the Lowline section judge. From feedback, more breeders intend being there with their Lowlines and more people are coming to see the event.

Our next step will be steer classes, with a number of breeders planning to enter mainly Lowline cross animals into two competitions available to us in the North Island this year. Carcase competitions are very important for Lowlines to be recognised as a serious beef breed with a place in the commercial market in New Zealand.

In August I wrote an article for the national circulated 'Lifestyle Farmer' magazine, part of Rural Press. The theme was to get young people involved in farming through showing Lowlines with a brief outline of training a calf for showing. Both our group and individual breeders supported this article with their advertising. Editors welcome these articles, which are cost effective. There will be a similar article later this year.

Like most promotion groups, our members are many miles apart, and regular get together are not always feasible, so we have become "early adopters" of ALCA's new interactive website and will have our first 2009 promotion group meeting in its chat room. It will be a matter of "watch this space!"  
-Sally Yearbury, NILPG Publicity Officer



**Above: Sally Yearbury's Lowline calf Ploughbright Candibar beats the Hon Dr Lockwood Smith's Belgian Blues at Kumeu. Right: Lowlines parade for Princess Anne at the NZ Royal Show, Christchurch.**



## New Zealand: South Island

During 2008 our promotion group had a relatively quiet year. The first show to kick off was at Ellesmere where Araawa Lowline Stud had great success exhibiting Lowlines.

The Royal New Zealand Show was held in Christchurch 12th – 14th November 2008 with a turnout of 20 Lowline animals exhibited by four different studs. Lowlines were judged by Julie Pocock from Queensland and associate judge Tammy Riehl, also from Queensland.

Julie is a Simmental breeder who works for Margo Hayes as her fitter and is also a recognised judge. Favourable comments were received not only from Lowline breeders but from all the other breeds of cattle. Julie showed tremendous talent and professionalism in the judging ring and her complimentary comments towards our cattle were greatly appreciated. Tammy Riehl, the associate judge, won a funded trip from the Queensland breeders for winning a junior judging competition. Tammy was hosted by Phil & Kay Worthington.

Another highlight was Ben Drain of Queensland winning the Beef Junior Herdspersons Competition. Ben, who also works for Margo Hayes, was employed by Phil and Kay Worthington to fit their cattle for the show. This was a great achievement for Ben, but unfortunately since he was not a New Zealander, he couldn't accept the prize of competing in the Australasian Junior Judging Competition at the 2009 Royal Hobart Show which was passed down to the second place getter.

A newcomer to Lowlines is Henry Pinfold, a junior member, who helped with Penny Harmer's Lowlines. Henry also entered the Beef Junior Judging Competition where he was placed 3rd. Fifteen year old Jessie Hewletts, who had never been to an A & P Show before, let alone the Royal NZ Show, entered the Beef Junior Paraders Competition gaining a creditable 5th place.

In 2009 our group will continue showing our animals and will be looking forward to 2010 and the Australian Lowline Cattle Muster Down Under at Sydney Royal.

-Debbie Guthrie, SILPG Secretary

## Kiwi Lowline Breeders Directory

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