

# Find they are very gentle and calm

John and Eliza Borg are probably living a lot of other people's dream. The couple own and operate Maltmany Farm, a registered Lowline cattle stud located at Waterloo, which is situated between Ballarat and Bendigo in Victoria.

The couple bought their 28 hectare property in 2008 and converted a disused shearing shed into a residence. They are not connected to the power grid, but use a hybrid system of solar panels and a wind turbine to generate electricity. They planted trees around the property, created a vegie patch, improved the pastures and upgraded the fences.

'We installed the infrastructure ourselves,' says John.

'When we first arrived here the place was basically just dirt. We are trying to be as self-sufficient as possible. After about a year, we were able to create our first meal from produce we had grown on our property, that included vegetables, meat and fruit.

'We decided to stock the property with Lowline cattle due to their easy handling reputation and their ability to produce quality beef. We have both commercial and

stud Lowlines and find they are a very gentle and calm breed. They are a perfect fit for our enterprise. We don't use dogs or quad bikes to muster them, we just call them and they follow us. We don't even have to yard them to drench them. We just throw some hay on the ground and back line them while they eat the hay. They are also very fertile and easy on fences. We don't have electric fences.

'We have now increased our cattle numbers to the point that we have cattle for sale. They are all very quiet and easy to handle. Both Eliza and I would be happy to talk to anyone about the benefits of owning Lowlines.' ■

**Rod and Karen McNeil have been running two Lowline cattle studs in Victoria for nine years. The Astralgus Lowline Stud in Gisborne and the Fiddleleaf Stud in Berwick.**

At Gisborne, in addition to breeding traditional black Lowlines for both commercial and stud customers, Rod has put his Lowline bulls over Murray Grey heifers for five years, producing gorgeous looking calves which have the full benefits of hybrid vigour and incredible



**Lowline cattle are easy to handle and produce quality beef.**

ease of calving. The Murray Grey/Lowline cross calves can be black, grey or silver.

At Berwick, Rod and Karen have a special interest in breeding red Lowlines.

'The Australian Lowline Cattle Association has at last this year agreed to register red Lowlines, which will greatly enhance the breed. The red coat results from the recessive wild red allele expressing itself in a small number of cattle. Through our breeding program, we have been able, to date, to produce three red Lowlines, namely two bulls (Fiddleleaf Red Ivan and Fiddleleaf Red Leonardo), as well as a lovely red heifer (Fiddle Leaf Red

Honey).' Rod says.

'We are very excited about the future of red Lowlines, as they have all the benefits of traditional Lowlines as well as the benefits of red cattle. They also look great in the paddock.

'We normally sell all our available cattle by Christmas, and any that are left are usually purchased by customers at Beef Week at the end of January. We still have a few lovely steers and heifers available for this year. Most of our customers also like to have a look at our operations, and go for a wander around the farm... it seems we can talk endlessly about Lowlines.' ■



# Beef feedback has been fantastic

Located in Victoria's picturesque Yarra Valley, Jo Jackson and husband Darren established their Australian Lowline cattle stud in 2004 and are committed to breeding quality Lowline cattle.

'For many years we've sold our cattle to local property owners, with our registered heifers and cows sold mainly to new studs for breeding,' says Jo.

'With the growing popularity of lifestyle properties, we've also found there's a strong market for this breed amongst people who simply want cattle that are quiet, will keep the grass down and happily co-exist with their horses and children. This has proven to be a great match due to the Lowline's extremely quiet temperament.

'Paddock to plate is another area we keenly pursue, offering premium quality, grass fed beef, directly from our Yarra Valley farm gate. Steers are grass fed and finished at around 350 kilograms, processed at a quality accredited facility, then prepared by a local Yarra Valley butcher, where they're packed into meal sized portions, labelled and are ready for pick up.'

'The feedback we've received on the eating quality

of our beef has been fantastic.

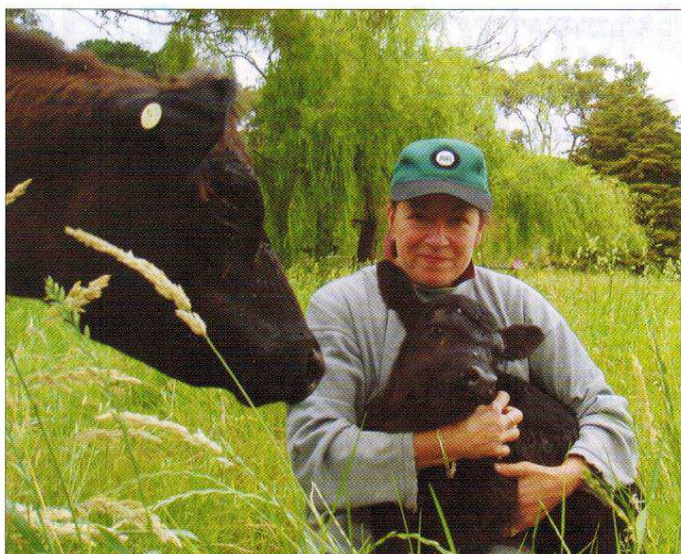
'Buying directly from the farm ensures people know exactly where the food comes from and how it's been treated along the way. Our cattle are raised with care in a stress-free environment, and only registered Australian Lowline bulls are used, guaranteeing the quality and traceability of our beef.' ■

**Aire River Lowline cattle stud, owned by Helen and Piet Ellnor is located on a 54 hectare property, in the Hordern Vale area, on the south coast of Victoria.**

Having grown up on a farm at Tabulum in NSW where his family owned cattle, and having worked in the offshore oil and gas construction business since then, Piet is what you might call a 'returnee' to farming. Helen has had no prior experience with cattle.

'The property is quite hilly and I was concerned that large cattle could damage the hilly terrain,' says Piet. 'I was also concerned by the fact that the property was relatively small and thus not conducive to owning a breed with a big frame.

'I discussed it with my fa-



**Jo Jackson of Yarra Valley Lowline stud with an Australian Lowline cow and calf.**

ther who grew up in Northern Ireland and was aware of the advantages of small cattle. Our research led us quickly to the Lowlines due to their size and quiet nature,' says Piet.

The foundation herd con-

sisted of seven heifers and one bull and Piet and Helen have purchased more stud Lowlines since then in a move to build the herd up to the carrying capacity of the land, estimated to be around 50 – 55 head. ■