AUSTRALIAN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 65 169 855 060

Please visit our web page or contact our office at www.beltedgalloway.org.au

2016 Galloway World Congress, Gretna Green, Scotland

Australian Belted Galloway Association Report

- **Australian Belted Galloway Association**

Established in 1975, the Australian Belted Galloway Association (ABGA) is the largest and oldest continuing herd book for Belted Galloway beef cattle in Australia. The association maintains the largest actively-registered number of Belted Galloways in Australia, with 1422 currently in the electronic herd-book. The ABGA has also steadily increased its member numbers over recent years, with 148 members. In 2015 ABGA celebrated its 40th anniversary, this represents many years of cattle registration, breed promotion and member teamwork.

The ABGA is chartered to promote and encourage the breeding of Belted Galloways, and to ensure that the purity of the breed is maintained. ABGA administrates a herd book to register and supply the pedigrees of full-blood and graded animals. The association also registers miniature Belted Galloways.

Belted Galloways are a breed that attracts many for very different reasons. Membership is diverse, ranging from commercial beef producers, studs who develop and supply seed-stock beef genetics, direct beef marketers, as well as 'lifestyle' breeders on smaller acreages who enjoy breeding registered or commercial stock. The ABGA welcomes all, various types of memberships are available to suit.

Membership is represented by a national council made up of state representatives. The ABGA employs the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI) at the University of New England (UNE) in Armidale, NSW as its secretariat, herd book registrar and front-desk reception. Kate McDonald is the Executive Officer and Sally McPhie is the Registrar.

ABGA is a national administration body and a broad umbrella for numerous localized Belted Galloway communities around Australia, all busy promoting the breed within their respective communities and industries. While the ultimate focus is on the Belted Galloway, the ABGA is, in practice, a hands-on people network, all trying to help each other to grow and support the continuing success of the breed.

ABGA SECRETARY
ABRI, UNE ARMIDALE NSW 2351
TELEPHONE: (02) 6773 3243 FACSIMILE: (02) 6772 5376
EMAIL: beltedgalloway@abri.une.edu.au

Australia is quite a vast country with often hundreds of kilometres between breeders. This however does not seem to deter the committed team work between breeders and they always seem to find a way to group together to show and display their cattle across Australia.

ABGA is aware of the importance of succession planning in terms of continuously encouraging new breeders into the show and carcass competition world. ABGA has learnt that it is important for established breeders to nurture their replacements, which is imperative for the breed to grow.

For information, a copy of our annual publication or to research pedigrees you can visit us at www.beltedgalloway.org.au

- **Royal Adelaide Show 2015 – ABGA 40th Anniversary**

In 2015 ABGA celebrated its 40th anniversary, congratulations. Formally this was celebrated in conjunction with Royal Adelaide Show in August 2015. Members from across Australia presented a strong line-up of cattle to the judge Mr Jim Ross of Romesbeoch Galloways in Scotland. A large contingent of members celebrated the anniversary with a dinner at the time of the show. New achievement awards were introduced in 2015 in a range of categories, which were presented at the dinner. These awards have proved to be a great way to acknowledge the outstanding work our members do to promote the breed, thankyou to you all.

- **Shows**

The breed is represented at Royal shows across the country each year, with members attending the following Royal shows – Canberra, Toowoomba, Sydney, Bathurst, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Launceston and Geelong. Our members also attend many local shows to promote the breed. We thank all our members for the great work they have done over many years to get quality cattle out in the public where people can see them.

- **Carcase Results & Direct Marketing**

Australian Belted Galloways continue to demonstrate quality carcase characteristics, producing high yielding carcases for the butcher and meat people enjoy eating. The diligent work over many years by members, has achieved great success in carcase competitions at Royal and major shows across Australia. Some breeders regularly partner and donate steers to agricultural schools to encourage the youth to prepare steers for carcase competitions, the youth is where the future lies.

A silver medal was won by a Belted Galloway Steer entered in the 2016 Sydney Royal Purebred Steer and carcase competition. The steer scored 86.5 points and was rated a B-muscle score. It weighed 432kgs live and yielded at 56.71% to produce a 245kg carcase. Which is a great achievement for the breed.

AUSTRALIAN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 65 169 855 060

Over recent years, Australia has increased its numbers of producers who are direct marketing Belted Galloway branded beef. These professionally presented producers are hard workers, and very successful. Besides producing a growing market opportunity for other Beltie beef breeders, they have shown themselves to be great ambassadors for our beef. The ABGA is very grateful for their continued initiative and enterprise.

- **Field days**

Our members actively promote the breed at field days across the country. Field days always draw an enormous number of people and they create a lot of interest in the breed.

- **World Galloway Congress 2018 Australia**

We encourage and welcome you to attend the next **World Galloway Congress** in Adelaide South Australia in August **2018**.

ABGA will be hosting this event and working in partnership with the Australian Galloway Association and Galloways Australia to plan and deliver the congress. The Royal Adelaide show will have classes for Belted Galloways, Galloways, miniature Belted Galloways and miniature Galloways.

The program will be a wonderful display of activities and farm visits which is sure to please enthusiasts from around the globe. We look forward to returning the gracious hospitality that other countries have provided at previous congresses. We hope to see you "down-under" in Australia for the 2018 congress.

Thankyou from **Ashleigh Michael and Kerry Heazlewood, Council members**

Australian Belted Galloway Association

ABGA SECRETARY
ABRI, UNE ARMIDALE NSW 2351
TELEPHONE: (02) 6773 3243 FACSIMILE: (02) 6772 5376
EMAIL: beltedgalloway@abri.une.edu.au