2002 Muster Down Under – Report from Scotland

A trip of a lifetime. A very well organised event and a great warm welcome to all visitors from our hosts the Australian Galloway Association Inc.

Arriving at Canberra on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon in February at around 30°, it was quite a contrast to our dismal wet weather at home. I was soon ushered to the shade of the Galloway lines for a radio interview. Just as well it wasn't TV. I must have looked awful!

It was great to met up with some well kent faces and also make a lot of new friends.

The weighing and measuring was taking place that afternoon and proved very interesting. The cattle in the lines looked very well and I was already looking forward to judging day. Jim & Selina Ross also arrived in Canberra on 20th and that was the Scottish delegation.

But before that the visitors had a chance to judge the steers. I think I got them in the right order but wasn't too sure about the scoring?? One of the big highlights of the Royal Show was the Galloway steer coming Res Supreme in the Carcass Competition. Well done the Bradley family, "Globex".

The official judge Mr Terry Nolan had quite a task in front of him. However with his constructive comments made it very interesting to watch. Speaking to him afterwards I think he might be giving the Galloways more consideration next time!!

Show Day.

The Galloway classes were judged by Mr David Bondfield from Dalveen, QLD. He had a marathon task before him with very good entries in all the classes. I would like to congratulate all the exhibitors on the way they presented their cattle. It all added to a great day for the breed.

I was most impressed with the cow-calf class, what a credit to their owners, headed by the eventual Champion, Southern Cross Topaz, a great cow. The heifer classes were also very strong and this gives you a great future with the breed in Australia.

The Belted Galloways were a very exciting spectacle and very uniform throughout. The numbers of Miniatures was amazing and a great credit to their exhibitors. As the feature breed of the show the Galloways must have pleased a lot of people as well as the overseas visitors.

Well done Galloway breeders down under.

The International Dinner on Friday evening was one of the highlights – superb meal, good speakers and great entertainment. A great way to round off a wonderful day.

Conference Day.

Reports from Associations around the world were very well presented and received by a large audience of breeders and interested people.

The reports received, we then had Mr Michael Pointer speak to us about "Marketing Quality Beef". Most interesting and he very kindly invited a delegation to visit Cargills Meat Plant at Wagga Wagga – another very interesting day.

After lunch Don Burke spoke to us about colour genes, then an international panel was formed for questions & answers.

This day was very ably chaired by Mr Roger Rankin – well done Roger on a good job.

World Galloway Council Meeting.
The World Galloway Council Meeting took place on the Sunday morning. A good discussion took place on marketing quality Galloway beef – could/should be of interest to all of us – IT IS TOPS!! The office bearers were appointed and we will meet in Milwaukee in September 2004.

After the Interbreed on Sunday afternoon (I thought the Galloway cow should have been up 2 places to 3rd) it was off to Wodonga.

Wodonga
Monday was another great day visiting the Research farm at Rutherglen. A lot of good ideas here – I am not so sure about spaining calves as young though – why keep a suckler cow? After a full day's discussion it was good to visit one of the oldest winery's in the district and sample some lovely wines and port. I for one didn't know they have as many wine shows as we have cattle shows.

The visit to the Wodonga Saleyards was very interesting and with cattle prices firming everyone seemed quite happy.

A few relaxing days were spent looking at some great herds of cattle with a number of parties in between.

Before I close I would just like to say a big thank you to all the wonderful friendly folk we met and made us feel so welcome. Hast ye back to Bonnie Scotland so we may return the hospitality.

To all fellow breeders of Galloways – you have a great future on the evidence we saw. You are headed in the right direction.

Jane & Merlin Bradley – well done on a great Muster Down Under 2002 – will live long in our memory.

God bless.

Best wishes to all

Jim & Selina Ross
Robert McIntosh
Scotland.