GALLOWAYS AUSTRALIA INC.
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Galloways Australia Report to 2018 World Galloway Congress

As I sit down to write my report I ask myself is it really two years since our last world Galloway Congress. I must say I certainly look back with fondness on the memories of visiting the traditional home of Galloways and the wonderful time we had.

For those who don't know me I am Colin McNeil, and I have been President of Galloways Australia for about 3 years. My wife Helen and I had been looking at options for breeding cattle for about five or six years prior to our retirement. After considering several breeds, we decided on Galloways and purchased our current property some 10 years ago. Our focus has been on the original solid colour Galloways although we now have one well-bred, commercial, Belted Galloway cow which we use for display purposes when we represent Galloways Australia Inc at Field Days. We have 12 breeders along with their progeny on our small property on the mid north coast of New South Wales (NSW). We also have three bulls which we use and lease out to other breeders in our area. We concentrate on breeding seed stock original Galloway genetics, but we also provide our table with excellent meat which we enjoy sharing with family and friends.

Galloways Australia continues to maintain a strong focus on representing the three separate and distinct breeds within the Galloway family, Galloway, Belted Galloway and White Galloway, and strives to ensure the continuation of the original genetics of the Galloway breed. Our rules and roles continue to be based on indisputable genetic principles and the promotion of all three distinct and separate Galloway breeds.

The Market for beef in Australia is as interesting as it is complex and there is no way of understanding the price we receive for our cattle at the sale yards. Anecdotal evidence has indicated that no matter the quality of the animal if it is black then you can almost guarantee a higher price for the animal than you will get for any other colour. We tend to put this down to the assertive marketing of Angus branded beef in supermarkets and fast food outlets. In Australia there is not a consistent message about the Galloway's qualities or heritage. Our aim is to continue building on previous marketing achievements by championing and promoting the exceptional eating qualities of Galloway beef as well as their hardiness, calving efficiency, feed efficiency and marbling ability when fed only grass.

On the topic of beef quality, Galloway Cattle still achieve excellent results at major carcase competitions and the hoof and hook competitions at major shows. Last year Northholm Grammar School, a member of Galloways Australia, was awarded the Jim Wilson Memorial Shield as the result of the success they had in a carcase competition, The Shield is awarded to the Galloways Australia breeder of the highest

point scoring Galloway steer in a carcase competition. It is one of the Association's ways of encouraging breeders to test their breeding of excellent beef animals.

Galloways Australia continues to actively seek relationships with secondary school agriculture programs as a means of gaining greater recognition for the breed at the grass roots level. We are continuing to build on these relationships and it is extremely satisfying to see the results these schools are achieving both in the show arena as well as carcase competitions.

Galloways Australia is regularly looking at ways it can continue to pursue research activities that demonstrate the quality of Galloway beef and other characteristics unique to the Galloway breeds. Galloways Australia's research has shown that Galloways excel with regard to the eating quality of carcases slaughtered. Galloways Australia is preparing to have a Galloway eye fillet tested in its next round of nutritional testing of Galloway beef. The results will again be compared against Australian and international comparable standards i.e. USDA testing. Results will be posted on our website when available.

Previously we have reported on the Association's discussions with researchers at the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland in order to obtain a genome profile of the Galloway breed. In this regard we have provided them with the research results achieved from the White Galloway and Belted Galloway colour pattern genetic profiles and associated molecular genetic analysis. The Gatton campus researchers have also been provided with the paper on genetic distances between British and European cattle breeds as determined by the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh. Such a project may be useful in culling suspected Simmental and Angus genetics within Galloways. Presently, this project has stalled however we are optimistic that we will be able to move forward with it in the near future as costs associated with genetic testing continue to reduce. Any information gleaned from this process will be posted on our website as it comes to hand.

As always Galloways Australia members have been active at local and Royal Shows. Supreme Galloway exhibits were achieved at the Royal Shows of, Canberra and Bathurst. It was extremely disappointing this year when the Sydney Royal Show Cattle Committee increased the number of animals required for a breed to be exhibited in its own class from 11 to 20. A late concession made by that committee was to have the Galloways and Belted Galloway exhibited as one breed. We have noted that Galloways are not the only breed affected by such amalgamation decisions of the Sydney Royal Show Cattle Committee. The Galloways Committee considered this to be against our overall principles and decided that it would not support the show although individual members were welcome to exhibit animals should they wish. Our principle is that there are three distinct and separate breeds in

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the Galloway family and should be treated as such. You will note that in our latest magazine we have gone into great detail to highlight the proof behind this truth.

Galloways Australia's co-operation with the Slow Food Movement continues and last year one of our members provided the meat for a number of events during the Australian National Slow Food conference held in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales. Galloways Australia members have also hosted Galloway Sausage Making days for Slow Food Convivia in the Hunter and Canberra Regions. Furthermore, Galloway beef was again on the menu for a lunch put on by Slow Foods at an event with skilled blacksmiths & tradesmen from the Artist Blacksmiths Association NSW (ABA NSW) who were on hand to apply some of their practical skills to restore and repair items that were broken or damaged.

We are continuing with our regular promotional activities in our attendance at rural field days which is an excellent way of promoting the three separate Galloway breeds. Recent field days continue to result in increased enquiries for both Stud and commercial cattle from both small and larger farming enterprises. While this is good for the breeds' growth we often have difficulty in meeting the demand for animals. On the other side of the coin our members who direct market their beef regularly find they are unable to meet the demand for their product. The increased interest by consumers in ethically produced grass fed beef will only further increase the demand for the high quality, well marbled, tasty beef that the Galloways provide.

At Galloways Australia we strive to promote the uniqueness of the three different Galloway breeds and the characteristics that they present.

In closing I hope you have an enjoyable time at this conference and that you are able to enjoy some of the diversity of the Australian landscape, people and animals.

Colin McNeil

President, Galloways Australia