AUSTRALIAN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION INC.

• Australian Belted Galloway Association

Established in 1975 in South Australia, the Australian Belted Galloway Association (ABGA) is the largest and oldest body registering Belted Galloway beef cattle in Australia. The Association maintains the largest actively-registered herd book of Belted Galloways in Australia, with 1047 currently in the electronic herd-book. The ABGA has also steadily increased its member numbers over recent years, with 142 members spread right across Australia.

The ABGA is actively engaged in promoting and encouraging the breeding of Belted Galloways. It ensures 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.

The Belted Galloway is 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. Australian breeders breed cattle of all colours although black and white is by far the most dominant colour.

Membership is represented by a national council made up of state representatives. The number of Councillors depends on the number of active cattle registered in each State. However, no State can have more than 3 Councillors. 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. The local communities are 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.

Australia is a vast country with often hundreds or thousands of kilometres between breeders. This however does 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 both at Royal and local shows as well as field days.

ABGA SECRETARY

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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

• 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. Only those who have shown cattle know of the tremendous commitment in getting their animals ready for the show ring.

• Carcase Results & Direct Marketing

Australian Belted Galloways continue to demonstrate quality carcase characteristics, producing high yielding carcases for the butcher and the meat that 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. A great achievement for the breed.

Over recent years, Australia has increased its numbers of producers who are direct marketing Belted Galloway branded beef. This is done both on farm and through various farmers markets. 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. It is at these days that many future breeders see their first belties and have their interest in the breed stirred.

• World Galloway Congress 2018 Australia

Finally, on behalf of the ABGA a big welcome to the World Galloway Congress here in Melbourne.

It is wonderful to see so many overseas visitors as well as our local breeders.

The program has a wonderful display of activities and farm visits for you to enjoy. We look forward to returning the gracious hospitality that other countries have provided at previous congresses.

Whilst you are here, if time permits, take the opportunity to see as much as you can of Australia, the Great Southern Land.

Ian Marjason, President

Australian Belted Galloway Association