



GALLOWAYS AUSTRALIA – HISTORY & HIGHLIGHTS

An address to the 2018 World Galloway Congress, Melbourne, Australia
Greg Stuart, Registrar, Galloways Australia

People often ask why there are three Galloway associations in Australia. I won't go into detail but will detail the aims of Galloways Australia and the reasons for its existence.

The initial name for Galloways Australia was the Galloway Cattle and Beef Marketing Association (GCBMA) but was later shortened to a more manageable, Galloways Australia

The aims of Galloways Australia are:

- To ensure the preservation of Fullblood Galloway (solid colour Galloway) cattle.

Galloways Australia is unique in Australia in that it only admits 100% Galloway cattle into its Galloway Stud Register. Animals with any known non-Galloway genetics are not accepted. In Australia the term for 100% cattle of a breed is Fullblood. Confusingly, the term "pure or purebred cattle" indicates an animal of less than 100% of that breed; an animal can be termed "pure" at 93.75%

- To ensure recognition and continuation of Belted Galloway cattle.

In Australia many animals that look like Belted Galloways are percentage animals. For this reason, Galloways Australia accepts animals having 93.75%, or greater, Belted Galloway genetics into its totally separate Belted Galloway Stud Register. Every animal in the Belted Galloway Register has its percentage Belted Galloway clearly marked on its Registration Certificate. The benchmark for calculating percentages is the United Kingdom (UK) Belted Galloway Society. Displaying percentages is to highlight and protect 100% animals and to encourage breeding of preferably 100% or high percentage Belted Galloways.

- To ensure the preservation of White Galloways.

Galloways Australia has generally adopted the registration requirements of the Canadian Galloway Association which have also generally been adopted by the UK, USA and New Zealand (NZ). Animals in the totally separate Galloways Australia White Galloway Stud Register or their progeny regardless of colour pattern can never enter the Galloway Register.

- Maintenance of a Miniature Galloway Register.

Galloways Australia maintains a Miniature Galloway Register having the same separate sections as the Galloways' Registers. All animals descended from the "Foundation Miniature Galloways" automatically go into the Miniature Register, this is to protect the solid colour Galloway gene pool as "Foundation Miniature Galloways" had varying levels of Galloway genetics. There were no Belted Galloways or White Galloways in the "Foundation Miniature Galloways". For animals being bred for small size from the Galloway, Belted Galloway or White Galloway Stud Registers, five generations of breeding achieving miniature height requirements are required before an animal can be admitted to the Miniature Register. This prevents runts or energy/protein deprived animals from being miniature registered. Five generations are the minimum number of generations required by genetic science to "fix" a characteristic e.g. height, with any degree of certainty. This is to give both breeder and buyer confidence in sales and integrity in showing. Galloways Australia is unique in that if an animal exceeds the miniature height requirement at any point through life it is removed from the Miniature Register and is not eligible for any other Register.

Galloways Australia believes the Galloway breeds and especially the Galloway have many proven, commercially important, genetic traits that must be protected by the continued maintenance of a full blood only i.e. 100% Galloway Register. The above registration requirements are founded on the protection the Galloway genepool. The scientific testing that Galloways Australia undertakes is



GALLOWAYS AUSTRALIA – HISTORY & HIGHLIGHTS

An address to the 2018 World Galloway Congress, Melbourne, Australia
Greg Stuart, Registrar, Galloways Australia

designed to highlight those important commercial genetic traits that include a double hair coat, calving ease and high calf weaning percentage, feed efficiency, naturally marbled high-quality meat, non-selective grazing ability and hardiness. I have directly observed how Galloways exhibit these characteristics; during this current drought, the ability of the Galloways to “hang on” has been amazing; the meat I’ve been marketing has, at times, been very lean had just 1mm of rump fat but is still marbled and eats well. Confirmation that the Galloways lay down marbling fat before external fat.

The Galloway Cattle and Beef Marketing Association was founded in December 1999 by a group of breeders concerned for the integrity of the Galloway breeds and the unconstitutional actions of the Federal Council of the Galloway Cattle Society of Australia (GCSofA). These actions led to a Supreme Court case. Details of the Supreme Court’s finding are on the Galloways Australia website.

Highlights of Galloways Australia include:

- Achieving a genetically based, ethical Galloway breeds’ registration system based on totally separate Registers for Galloways, Belted Galloways, White Galloways and Miniature Galloways.
- Achieving yearly publicity in national publications, delegates have been provided with recent copy of Galloways Australia’s published articles
- Achieving exports to Canada, New Zealand and the UK including live export to New Zealand.
- Achieving a constant weekly marketing supply of Galloway/Belted Galloway meat
- Undertaking scientific testing of meat and recently milk highlighting genetically driven characteristics of the Galloway breeds
- Commencing discussions to establish the Galloway genome to understand the Galloways genetic characteristics better
- Working with the German association to produce the exceptional full colour brochure Galloways – The Genuine Alternative, now in 3 languages
- Highlighting the Galloway breeds at over 10 Field Days/Shows a year
- Achieving the following Carcase Competition success at Royal Sydney Show

2001 Grand Champion Carcase

2002 Taste Test Grand Champion

2003 Taste Test Grand Champion

2004 Reserve Grand Champion Carcase

2005 First or Second in 5 of `12 Taste Test Classes

2006 Middleweight Champion Carcase

2007 Lightweight Champion Carcase

After this date the judging criteria was changed to reflect Euro breeds i.e. more points for butt shape and less for eye muscle area.

Finally

It would be great to reduce the number of Galloway associations in Australia for the huge benefit to the promotion and marketing of the Galloway breeds but that can’t be allowed to compromise ethics or the Galloway’s genetics.