



## AUSTRALIAN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION INC.

Hello and welcome to all of our extended Galloway Family.

First of all, I would like to thank Switzerland for hosting the 2023 World Galloway Congress and taking on this monumental task. As the last country to host the WGC, we understand just how much hard work and dedication it takes to pull together such an event.

One of the most exciting things to happen this year for the ABGA is the Strategy Planning Workshop which is set to bring in a whole herd of positive changes of growth and improvement, working with like-minded individuals, dedicated to preserving and promoting this wonderful breed. It is a community of passionate, dedicated breeders who only want to see their breed achieve their full potential and make those outside the breed ask "well, why not get involved?".

Unfortunately, over the last few years we have lost many great, dedicated long standing members. Members who gave it their all for the ABGA to survive and thrive. In the last 2 years, we have lost members such as Ian Marjason, who was our President for many years and the Chairperson for the 2018 WGC committee. Glen Preen, who also served on Council. Their herds continue to thrive however under the guardianship of their families.

We have also seen our membership numbers stay stable; however, membership growth is the pinnacle of success for any breed association and one of the factors contributing to the ABGA 5 year plan strategy plan. Our aspiration is "To increase ABGA member numbers and the association's financial viability by being the first choice for Belted Galloway registration." Which is an aspiration we can achieve with the help of our volunteers both on Council and those who are not.

For several years, livestock producers have had to battle disaster after disaster. Floods, fires, droughts have tested the endurance of producers, not to mention the added strain that Covid-19 added to the everyday operation, such as trading or operating across state borders and the inability to promote in the way of showing or displaying livestock. However, the passion of Belted Galloway custodianship has never been stronger. Covid-19 has also brought along some positive changes, including the adaption of a more technological way of management, as well as the many people making the move from the city to a country lifestyle, fuelling the sales of cattle breeds suitable for smaller landholdings, such as Galloway and Belted Galloway.

We have just seen 50 years of Belted Galloways in Australia, and we are also approaching the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ABGA and already ideas are flowing about what the best way is to celebrate this wonderful milestone. Once plans start falling into place, you are all welcome to come join us to celebrate this fantastic achievement.

Thank you once again to the 2023 WGC committee for putting together this wonderful event, bringing such passionate breeders together for a time of fellowship and celebration of the Galloway Family.

Scott Carter  
ABGA President

Our Mission: "To promote and register distinctive heritage Belted Galloway cattle, through accurate genetics, education and fellowship for past, present and future generations."