



ABN 65 169 855 060

2025 WGC REPORT

I would first like to thank the New Zealand Galloway Association, for hosting this wonderful event, the WGC committee for their many hours of hard work to organise the WGC, and what a beautiful country to hold it.

The Australian Belted Galloway Association Inc have seen a change of the Council in August 2024, and have farewelled some long standing committee members from Council. Several new faces have joined Council, and we have had two of our previous Councillors, return to serve. Since the new Council have been elected, the team have hit the ground running. I am delighted to work with the team who have so far implemented, and delivered several items on our “to do” list. This includes a refreshed newsletter, the Beltie Banter, as well as the production and distribution of an ABGA calendar. Distributed to all members, and featuring Belted Galloway cattle from settings across Australia, from almost every state, and wide in range of climates, demonstrating how versatile this breed really is. Additional copies have been made available for purchase for other Beltie lovers in Australia, along with some copies for those attending the WGC to grab, if they wish to do so.

On the 30th of August 2025, the ABGA will be 50 years old. Established in 1975 at the Royal Adelaide Show, it is only fitting that our 2025 AGM will also be held on the 30th of August in South Australia, aligning with the first day of the Royal Adelaide Show. The Council are currently planning, both the AGM and a 50th birthday celebration weekend, in and around the world-renowned wine region, the Barossa Valley. Along with being known for their amazing wines, the Barossa Valley supplies some of Australia’s best produce and artisan products. Meaning, attendees will have plenty to look forward to in terms of excellent food and locally produced award-winning beer, wine and spirits! Beltie enthusiasts are welcome to come along for some quality fellowship, with details available soon. Please contact ABGA, if you are interested in attending.

In Australia, it would be rare to find a person that had not read or studied the Dorothea Mackellar poem, “Our Country.” The second verse reads:

*I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror –
The wide brown land for me!*

Australians have continued to experience the highs and lows, perfectly captured in this verse – many of our breeders in the southern states, South Australia in particular, are continuing to experience a prolonged period of drought and are truly looking out over a “sunburnt country.” This has been particularly hard on those impacted, and with feed availability low and cost high, many have resorted to destocking. With feed costs tripling from last year in some areas, selling stock has not been an easy



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task. Victoria has also seen significant danger from bushfires over the past months, and below average rainfall in many areas.

On the other spectrum, many of the more northern breeders, some who have experienced severe droughts in recent years, having to truck feed and water for their cattle are now seeing “flooding rains” For some regions, they have been all but swept away. While most farmers take precautions to prepare for these harsh tantrums that mother nature throws from time to time, stockpiling hay and silage in good seasons for difficult times with no rain, or flood proofing and planning for times with too much rain. Sometimes despite the best efforts, there is still a significant impact upon the viability of a farm business. Additionally, we have observed that these times tend to impact member numbers, forcing sometimes the most well-established studs, to shut up shop for good.

The Council team have also been undertaking very necessary, but less visible and “attractive” work, which includes gradually reworking the Strategic Plan, prepared several years ago. Progress in this space hasn’t been without its challenges, including another change to our paid secretariat, with the retirement of our previous secretariat, Keryn Hutton and Maddie Brockhoff taking over the reins, in mid-November 2024. We have been delighted with Maddie’s ‘fit’ with the organisation. Sudden changes in both the operational cost and our secretarial services by our provider, have highlighted the importance of changing how the ABGA conducts business, including embracing technology where possible, to deliver better service cost effectively for members. There has also been a focus on revamping presentation, templates, streamlining processes and making good use of technology to make things more efficient. Whilst members see little of this, the time spent is significant and contributes to maintaining the ongoing viability of the association. This is just a small slice of what work is to take place, with the by-laws, constitution and policies to strengthen corporate governance, also on the council’s hit list.

In closing, despite the obstacles and work ahead, we are looking forward to what the future will bring the ABGA and Belted Galloway cattle in Australia. Thank you to the breeders and members who have supported the ABGA the breed over the last 50 years through the highs and lows. Here’s to another 50 years to come!

Cheers,



Scott Carter

President

Australian Belted Galloway Association Inc

The Australian Belted Galloway Association Inc mission:

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

