

## Australian Galloway Association Report 2009



L – R Castle Douglas Blanchette (calf), Castle Douglas Princess, Ashleigh Chantal (MF) (POIS), Torcroft Charlotte (Miniature) and calf. Ashleigh Chantal was judged the Galloway Family Feature Show Supreme Champion.

Royal Melbourne Show - Galloway Family Feature Interbreed – The Supreme Exhibits from the Galloway, Belted Galloway and Miniature Galloway classes

The Australian Galloway Association continues to grow, with many new members joining throughout the year, and with a great deal of interest shown in the breed being expressed at Agricultural Shows and Field Days.

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held in May 2009, in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, in conjunction with Tocal Field Days. This was a very successful event, as it gave members the opportunity to visit the Field Day prior to the meeting. There are also many new members in the district and surrounding area, so it was great to be able to meet new members and put faces to names. There was a great deal of input into the members' forum, and lucky door prizes and raffles enhanced the dinner, which wrapped up the weekend.

Several other field days around Australia were supported enthusiastically by Association members, and it has been found these are a valuable marketing tool for the breed. The format of the field days allow members of the public close access to the cattle and the opportunity to speak to their owners in a relaxed environment, as well as gather information about the breed. Agricultural Shows also provided many opportunities for the public to view Galloway cattle close up and speak to their breeders.

This year the Galloway Family was the feature breed at the Royal Melbourne Show, Victoria. Held in September 2009, the Show attracted 91 entries in total, from Belted Galloway, Galloway and Miniature Galloway breeders. The committee worked hard to ensure a great show. The judge was Keith Jones, from Driftwood Plantation, South Carolina, USA, who was faced with 95 exhibits from

31 exhibitors. Judging commenced at 9.30am and continued through to 6.30 pm – a very long day for all involved - the judge, stewards, exhibitors and the audience! Once the formalities were out of the way and the cattle had been fed and watered, it was time for drinks and nibbles for the people. Galloway breeders mingled with some overseas visitors, as well as show sponsors, stewards, the judge and cattle handlers in a relaxing atmosphere to relieve the highs and lows of the days.

Galloway cattle have been very successful in carcase competitions this year, with two taking out Grand Champion carcase awards at their breeders local Agricultural Shows. Malcolm Cock, from Amberley Park, in Victoria, exhibited a fullblood Galloway heifer to achieve Grand Champion carcase at the Gippsland Beef Challenge, and Denys Peters from Glascar Galloways in Tasmania, exhibited a fullblood steer to achieve Grand Champion carcase at the Circular Head Trade and Export Carcase Competition. This was a particularly strong competition, with the steer placing first from 74 entries.

In conclusion, 2009 has been a particularly good year for Galloways in Australia, and it is hoped we can build on that in 2010.

If anyone would like an Australian 2009 annual, please contact Sallie Wadley, Executive Officer, at the Australian Galloway Association office.



**AUSTRALIAN  
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