



Presidents Report January 2017

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017, I hope everyone has had a good break with family and friends over the Christmas period but I know farm work goes on just the same.

2017 is an exciting year for Galloway breeders as it marks 70 years since the first Galloway cattle arrived in New Zealand. This is the theme for the 2017 AGM and herd tour which will be in Martinborough on the weekend 22nd -23rd April. The AGM Dinner and Virtual Show will be from 3.30pm on Sunday 23rd at Murdoch James Vineyard. With ANZAC day on Tuesday 25th April this makes for a great extended weekend away with a road trip to the AGM or to explore the Martinborough area, there will be some tours arranged for those who would like to take part.

Bull sales to the Dairy Industry have been strong again for the mating season and I am sure this is partly due to the promotion that has been done in past years at Fielday and Shows all around the country. Unfortunately the Society has not been able to promote the breed at the National Fieldays at Mystery Creek for the last two years due to high costs for our own site and the lack of a company to partner with. Also while over the past few years the Fielday Society has tried to help get more Breed Society's to display animals with the formation of a Breeds Arena the Galloway Cattle Society is the only one that has supported them each time. In 2015 we were the only ones wanting to take part in the Breeds Arena and it was cancelled a couple of weeks before the event, last year we had a verbal arrangement with a company to display on their site which also fell through when they decided to cut back the size of their site. This year I intend to look for someone to partner with or see what the Feildays Society can do for us. Another challenge for having large cattle at an event like this is the new H&S laws so here's hoping we can show our breed to the public again.

I have been on the Galloway Society Council for the last 6 years and President for the last 3 years, I feel that the role of President should not be held by anyone for too long so new people can have the opportunity to put their views forward so therefore will not be seeking re-election as President this year. We have had some great new people come onto council in the last couple of years and I would like to thank everyone who has been on the Council with me over the years for their support. All the Breeder members have a vested interest in the Society's future for the recording of their cattle and the promotion of the breed so encourage anyone who has not been a Councillor to think about becoming more involved with the running of the Galloway Cattle Society.

I look forward to see everyone again in Martinborough in April.

Regards

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