



the **ARCHIBULL** PRIZE

# CAREER SNAPSHOT

Tracey Gowen has been around cattle her whole life, growing up on properties in the New England area of NSW where she and her family run a self-replacing commercial Angus breeder and backgrounder herd. But when she left high school Tracey didn't feel a career on the farm was meant for her: "it still felt too male-dominated and labour-intensive."

She gained acceptance into university to study psychology and international relations but in a gap year worked not only on her family properties but on an enterprise in far western Queensland. To Tracey this was pivotal as she realised there could be a place for her on the land. Her university degree changed to one of veterinary science and after working as a mixed practice vet throughout Western Australia and Queensland she returned home to begin her family's succession transition.

Today Tracey is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Angus operation, which includes everything from fencing, to making decisions regarding genetic selections for the herd, through to animal husbandry procedures. She keeps her veterinarian skills up to date by consulting to clinics in the area providing reproductive services such as pregnancy testing and bull testing, as well as herd management and nutrition advice for both sheep and cattle, and ambulatory services where required.

Beyond the farm gate Tracey maintains an interest in agri-politics and holds positions on industry advisory groups, including the Cattle Council of Australia and NSW Farmers' Association, and in March 2020 she was ministerially appointed to the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Board.

All of which means Tracy rarely has a typical working week! She could be meeting with Angus stud owners to discuss animal purchases, assisting her stock agent assess and weigh steers, coordinating exclusion fencing with neighbours to control wild dogs, moving cattle between paddocks, fixing a faulty tank, sitting in on a board meeting or scheduling meetings with her various advisory groups.

"COVID-19 has, in some ways, helped because with the move to virtual meetings there is no need to schedule travel time, which frees up my schedule quite considerably. I can do a board meeting in the morning and check a fence-line in the afternoon!"

This is Tracey's career in agriculture. What will yours be?



## TRACEY GOWEN

CATTLE PRODUCER AND VETERINARIAN TRACEY GOWEN IS ALSO A MINISTERIAL APPOINTEE TO THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS LOCAL LAND SERVICES BOARD AND HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT.