

# SUGAR INDUSTRY DINNER

2023 Season Awards

Friday, 8 March 2024

The Sails Function Room at The Waves Sports Club

Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards Committee introduces the

# Bundaberg Sugar Industry's "Hall of Fame"



In 2014 the Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards Committee initiated the Bundaberg Sugar Industry's Hall of Fame.

A grower is inducted into the Bundaberg Sugar Industry's "Hall of Fame" as an acknowledgement of "consistent and sustained achievements in productivity at the highest level".

In order to meet the above criteria, a grower must have won the District Champion Award for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years.

**Members of the Bundaberg Sugar Industry Hall of Fame**

## Redtrail Pty Ltd

District Champions from 2007 Season to 2013 Season.



*Inductees into the Bundaberg Sugar Industry's Hall of Fame are not eligible for awards relating to Highest Tonnes Sugar per CPA - Average Past Three Seasons, (ie District Champion) for nine (9) seasons after their induction into the Hall of Fame.*

*They will however, be eligible for all other awards.*

*Membership of the Bundaberg Sugar Industry's Hall of Fame is ongoing.*

# ~ Welcome ~

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome you to the 2023 Season Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards to celebrate the achievements of local growers, harvesting contractors and industry representatives.

These awards are presented to acknowledge the work and contributions to our local industry's success and sustainability.

2023 saw a total of 989,298 tonnes of cane supplied to the Millaquin Sugar Mill with growers contributing 513,489 tonnes and Bundaberg Sugar company farms supplying 475,810 tonnes.

With such a dry harvest, we saw CCS achieve some extraordinary highs with a season average of 14.74 units, such a contrast to the previous season.

This being said, we saw the final tonnes processed for the season come in well below the original estimate. On the other hand, the dry weather contributed substantially to the smooth operation of Millaquin Mill.

Since the end of the harvesting season, we have seen reasonable rainfall across the whole district which has allowed the crop to catch up somewhat from the dry harvest period.

Prices are still strong even though they have come off some record highs, with access to the QSL Direct app, growers still have some fantastic options for forward pricing.

I would like to congratulate Bundaberg Sugar on the performance of Millaquin and the extraordinary effort surrounding the reinstating of No.1 Mill during the latter half of the season.

We would like to thank and acknowledge our many sponsors for their contributions to making this night of awards the ongoing success that it is. We encourage and hope that you will all continue to support our sponsor businesses in the coming year and beyond. Let's support those that support the industry.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members and staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS for all the work that has gone into organizing this special event.

**We hope you enjoy the fellowship for rest of the evening.**

*Mark Pressler*  
**Chairperson**  
**Awards Organising**  
**Committee**

# ~ 2023 Statistics ~

- ◆ 143 district growers produced 989,298 tonnes of cane crushed at Millaquin mill. This is down on 2022 season by 96,188 tonnes or 9%.
- ◆ The total amount of STANDOVER cane crushed for the 2023 season was 86,066 tonnes
- ◆ Area harvested in 2023 was 12,411 ha's, this is up on the 2022 area of 11,640 ha's.
- ◆ 2023 crushing season length was 23.0 weeks for Millaquin. Lost time through wet weather was 0.19 Weeks.
- ◆ District tonnes cane per hectare in 2023 decreased to 80.0 tc/ha compared to 93.0 tc/ha in 2022 and a long term average of 83.6 tc/ha.
- ◆ In 2023 the Bundaberg Sugar Company farms produced an average of 79.8 tc/ha.
- ◆ Bundaberg cane growers averaged 79.6 tc/ha for the 2023 season.
- ◆ In 2023 there were 32 or 23% of district growers that produced cane yields of 100 tc/ha or above, compared to 55 or 42% of district growers in 2022.
- ◆ The cane that was harvested green in 2023 season was 94%; this is the same as 2022 figure of 94%.

# ~ 2023 Statistics ~

- ◆ Average CCS for the 2023 season was 14.74 compared with 13.15 in 2022 and 14.21 in 2021.
- ◆ Highest individual CCS recorded for the season was 19.50 CCS and was achieved by one grower.
- ◆ In 2023, there were 106,886 tonnes of cane crushed with a CCS of 17.00 or greater, this is well up on 385 tonnes from the 2022 season.
- ◆ The major varieties harvested for the 2023 season were Q240<sup>Ⓢ</sup> at 37.0%, KQ228<sup>Ⓢ</sup> at 17.8%, Q208<sup>Ⓢ</sup> at 14.9% and SRA varieties at 7.8%. These 4 major varieties account for 78% of the cane harvested in the Bundaberg cane growing area.
- ◆ The four best performing varieties for the 2023 season were, Q240<sup>Ⓢ</sup>, Q232<sup>Ⓢ</sup>, Q252<sup>Ⓢ</sup> and KQ228<sup>Ⓢ</sup>.
- ◆ For the 2023 crop, the percentage of smut resistant varieties harvested was 99.2%.
- ◆ One grower had the closest estimate to actual tonnes with an accuracy of 99.96% on their estimate.

# Platinum Sponsors



# Proceedings

- 6:00 pm ~ Pre-Dinner Drinks
- 6:30 pm ~ Doors open
- 7:00 pm ~ Welcome and address by Chair of the Awards Committee and Chairman,  
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd, Mr Mark Pressler  
~ Presentation of Awards 1 - 9
- 7:30 pm ~ Dinner served
- 8:00 pm ~ Entertainment by Matthew Barker
- 8:30 pm ~ Dessert served
- 8:40 pm ~ Address by General Manager, Bundaberg Walkers Engineering Ltd, Mr  
Matthew Curtis  
~ Presentation of High Achiever Awards and Awards 10 - 12  
  
~ Address by Chairman, Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd, Mr Michael Cavallaro  
~ Presentation of grower 50+ Years and District Champion Award
- 9:30 pm ~ Entertainment by Matthew Barker
- 10:30 pm ~ Evening close

# Menu

## - MAIN -

*Eye fillet sliced with asparagus and carrot  
compote with beef and bacon jus*

*Wrapped pork fillet with three pepper sauce*

## - DESSERT -

*High Tea Style Sweet Platter*

*Served on a high tea stand with a selection of sweet treats and  
fresh fruits, profiteroles, eclairs, flans, tarts and slices.*



# Entertainment



BUNDABERG  
Sugar



*Bundaberg Sugar presents...*

## Matthew Barker

Born in regional Victoria, after travelling around Australia, Matthew's family settled in Bundaberg where he completed his high schooling and continued his education at the Central Queensland University completing a Bachelor of Music specialising in Saxophone. He has also completed a Bachelor of Primary Education and now works as a local primary school teacher.

As well as being a multi-instrumentalist and enchanting audiences with his original music, Matthew is also a talented children's author.



# Highest Actual CCS Sample

*Awarded to*

***NK & Mrs KM Armstrong (No.1)***



**19.50 CCS**

Awarded to the Grower who has returned the highest actual CCS sample for the 2023 Season.



# Harvesting Contractor Award for Best Harvesting Efficiency & Most Reliable Performance

*Awarded to*  
**W & K Golchert Harvesting**

The Golchert harvesting group harvests cane on Bundaberg Sugar farms from Fairymead plantation to Avondale. This group harvested a total of 147,645 tonnes on multi-lift and rail systems for the 2023 season.

- Reliability of supply – consistently filled allotments
- Willing to do extra bins when the mill requires them to do so
- Good quality of harvest, ground job, topping and low soil content in bins
- Constant good bin weights
- Minimum stool damage
- Good quality and well maintained machinery
- Care and attention to Workplace Health and Safety requirements.





# Best Farm Presentation for Harvesting

*Awarded to*  
**Redtrail Pty Ltd (No.2)**



- Effective block and farm layout
- Row length and width
- Wide well maintained headlands
- Crop quality
- Good drill profile in plant & ratoon
- Good farm drainage
- Good weed control
- General farm maintenance



# Contribution to Productivity

*Awarded to*  
**Matthew Leighton**

Matt joined Bundaberg CANEGROWERS in 2004 as a specialist grains agronomist to lead the pilot project "Grain in Cane" to establish soybeans as a rotation crop for the sugar industry in Bundaberg. The project was highly successful and Matt now co-ordinates the growing, harvesting, transporting and marketing of soybeans for growers and manages the operations of the Grain in Cane Co-operative's silo complex since its establishment in 2008 so that every load in and out is recorded and identifiable, with grain dispatched on quality to maximise returns to members.

In his time with Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Matt has been an observer on the BSES / SRA sugarcane variety committee, has taken soil tests and interpreted results to optimise growers' nutrient management plans, provides agronomic advice on growing sorghum, rice, barley and wheat for grain as part of their rotation with cane as well as agronomic advice for growing sugarcane including nutrient application, pesticides and irrigation scheduling and provides cost of production figures to existing and new growers to encourage expansion of the industry. Matt has also assisted over 100 growers to access personal and financial assistance to re-establish their farming business and recover from losses following a series of declared natural disaster weather events.

Matt is passionate about the local sugar industry and continues to provide members of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS with advice on the many aspects of their farming businesses in his role as Membership Services Extension Officer.

**This makes Matt Leighton a worthy recipient of the Contribution to Productivity award.**





# Service to Industry

*Awarded to*  
**Michael Turner**



In 1974 Michael accepted a 6-month contract to join a Fiji disease surveillance gang, at the time he had no idea it would launch a career spanning five decades.

In his 50 years working in the sugar industry Michael has made some valuable contributions. He has assisted with the eradication of Fiji Disease, establishment of the 'kilogram cane' plots, building industry resilience following the detection of orange rust, smut and more recently Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS), as well as the continued monitoring of soldier fly, canegrubs, pink earth pearl, RSD and other pests and diseases that affect the industry.

More recently, Michael established germination and nursery facilities and protocols to ensure growers can access disease-free planting material and new varieties through the introduction of one-eye sett seedlings.

**50 years of history in the industry makes Michael Turner a worthy recipient of the Service to Industry Award.**

# sunwater

## Young Industry Achiever

*Awarded to*  
**Hayden Attard**

After finishing school Hayden obtained an apprenticeship as a Diesel Fitter.

When he finished his time at Bundy Star in 2016 Hayden returned to the family farms to work in 2017.

Hayden performs general farm maintenance and repairs and all planting of cane on the farms.

Hayden does all of the harvesting on the family farms along with the contract harvesting on neighbours farms.

**This makes Hayden a worthy recipient of the Young Industry Achiever Award.**



# Inspiring Female Leader



Part of Energy Queensland

## *Awarded to* **Krystal Golchert**



Krystal married Wayne in 2006. They formed a strong partnership and went on to have 2 children together.

Krystal is involved in all aspects of the farm, harvesting and planting businesses in addition to all the administrative duties required for the day-to-day running of the business.

Krystal has also been involved with Women in sugar for the past 9 Years.

Having been a hairdresser for 23 years, Krystal has also run her own hairdressing business for the past 3 years in addition to all that she does for the farm & harvesting business.

This makes Krystal a worthy recipient of the Inspiring Female Leader Award.



The logo for Incitec Pivot Fertilisers, featuring a stylized yellow and red swoosh above the text "Incitec Pivot Fertilisers" in white on a black background.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

# Cane Growing Excellence

Division 1  
Farms up to & including 60 ha

*Awarded to*  
**MGBJP Pty Ltd (No.4)**



High standards of farm efficiency and implementation of practices to ensure the longer-term sustainability of cane growing.

Criteria for granting this award include:

- Cane Production of 20 hectares or more and must have harvested 70% of cane production area in the last two (2) seasons
- Consistently high production over the past two years
- Production above the zone and district averages
- Effective management of varieties
- Efficient water use
- Excellent farm husbandry .

The logo for Incitec Pivot Fertilisers features a stylized 'P' shape formed by a yellow arc at the top and a red arc at the bottom, set against a black background. The text 'Incitec Pivot Fertilisers' is written in white to the right of the 'P' shape.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers

# Cane Growing Excellence

Division 2  
Farms larger than 60ha

*Awarded to*  
**Milworth Pty Ltd**



High standards of farm efficiency and implementation of practices to ensure the longer-term sustainability of cane growing.

Criteria for granting this award include:

- Cane Production of 20 hectares or more and must have harvested 70% of cane production area in the last two (2) seasons
- Consistently high production over the past two years
- Production above the zone and district averages
- Effective management of varieties
- Efficient water use
- Excellent farm husbandry .



# Closest Percentage Estimate to Actual Tonnage

*Awarded to*

**AR, PA & AJ Slean (No.3)**  
**99.96% accuracy**



Awarded to the cane grower who most closely assesses the potential estimate of their seasons crop to the final actual tonnage for their individual cane production area.

- At least 70% of the cane production area must be harvested in the current year to be eligible for an Award;
- Farm should have no greater than 30% in either plant cane or standover;
- Cane production area must be at least 20 hectares.



**WIDE BAY  
DRONES**

# Highest Tonnes Sugar per Harvested Hectare

*Awarded to*

**Redtrail Pty Ltd (No.3)**



**18.47 ts/ha**

- Cane production area names and areas will be as recorded in the Cane Production Area Register at the time of establishing the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement;
- Cane production area must be at least 20 hectares;
- At least 70% of the cane production area must be harvested in the current year to be eligible for an Award.



# High Sugar Achievers

In recognition for high sugar yields per harvested hectare

*Awarded to*

<b>RJ &amp; Mrs JE Zunker (No.2)</b>	<b>16.21 ts/ha</b>
<b>SA Algeo</b>	<b>16.16 ts/ha</b>
<b>MGBJP Pty Ltd</b>	<b>16.13 ts/ha</b>
<b>Milworth Pty Ltd</b>	<b>15.33 ts/ha</b>
<b>G Wesche</b>	<b>14.42 ts/ha</b>

At least 70% of the cane production area must be harvested in the current year to be eligible for an Award.  
Farm should have no greater than 30% in either plant cane or standover.



# Most Sustainable Yield for the Past Three Seasons

*Awarded to*



**WR & AJ Baldry (No.1)**

**109.16 tc/ha**

# 50 Plus Years

*In recognition of  
growers who have supplied  
Bundaberg mills for 50 years or more.*

*Awarded to*

**Ross Rehbein**





**FORMATT MACHINERY**

**Farming - Family - Future**

# District Champion

**Award for Highest Tonnes Sugar per Cane Production Area (Hectares) –  
Average of Past Three Seasons**

*Awarded to*

***Akers Farms Pty Ltd (No 3)***

**15.51 ts/ha**

The District Champion will be calculated from the highest tonnes sugar per cane production area (hectare) average of past three seasons. The three year average will be the sum of the past three years' farm yields divided by three. It will not be a weighted average of total tonnes grown over past three years divided by total area.



# Past District Champions

*In recognition of our Past District Champions recipients*

1989	G Lemura	14.33 ts/ha	2006	MP Richter	16.82 ts/ha
1990	ND Cayley	15.23 ts/ha	2007	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.29 ts/ha
1991	RJ Toft	14.11 ts/ha	2008	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.04 ts/ha
1992	G Lemura	14.30 ts/ha	2009	Redtrail Pty Ltd	15.54 ts/ha
1993	LH See	15.31 ts/ha	2010	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.59 ts/ha
1994	MS Kingston	16.09 ts/ha	2011	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.48 ts/ha
1995	JS Maughan	16.97 ts/ha	2012	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.74 ts/ha
1996	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.64 ts/ha	2013	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.05 ts/ha
1997	BJ & RS Nixon	17.64 ts/ha	2014	SR & AB Jacobsen	17.78 ts/ha
1998	BJ & RS Nixon	17.30 ts/ha	2015	MG & JM Greaves	20.22 ts/ha
1999	SW & LE Tincknell	18.63 ts/ha	2016	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	17.82 ts/ha
2000	F & AK Attard	18.15 ts/ha	2017	Niyab Holdings Pty Ltd	17.60 ts/ha
2001	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.63 ts/ha	2018	WR & AJ Baldry	17.60 ts/ha
2002	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.39 ts/ha	2019	TM Dahl & JS Weston	16.70 ts/ha
2003	Redtrail Pty Ltd	15.94 ts/ha	2020	TM Dahl & JS Weston	16.05 ts/ha
2004	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.11 ts/ha	2021	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	16.86 ts/ha
2005	G & M Formosa Pty Ltd	14.99 ts/ha	2022	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	16.83 ts/ha

# Sponsors

## PLATINUM

Bundaberg Sugar Ltd  
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd  
Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd  
Formatt Machinery  
Women in Sugar

Guy Basile 4150 8500  
Tanya Howard 4151 2555  
Dale Holliss 4151 2555  
Nathan Attard 4151 2381  
Krystal Golchert 0427 594 267

## GOLD

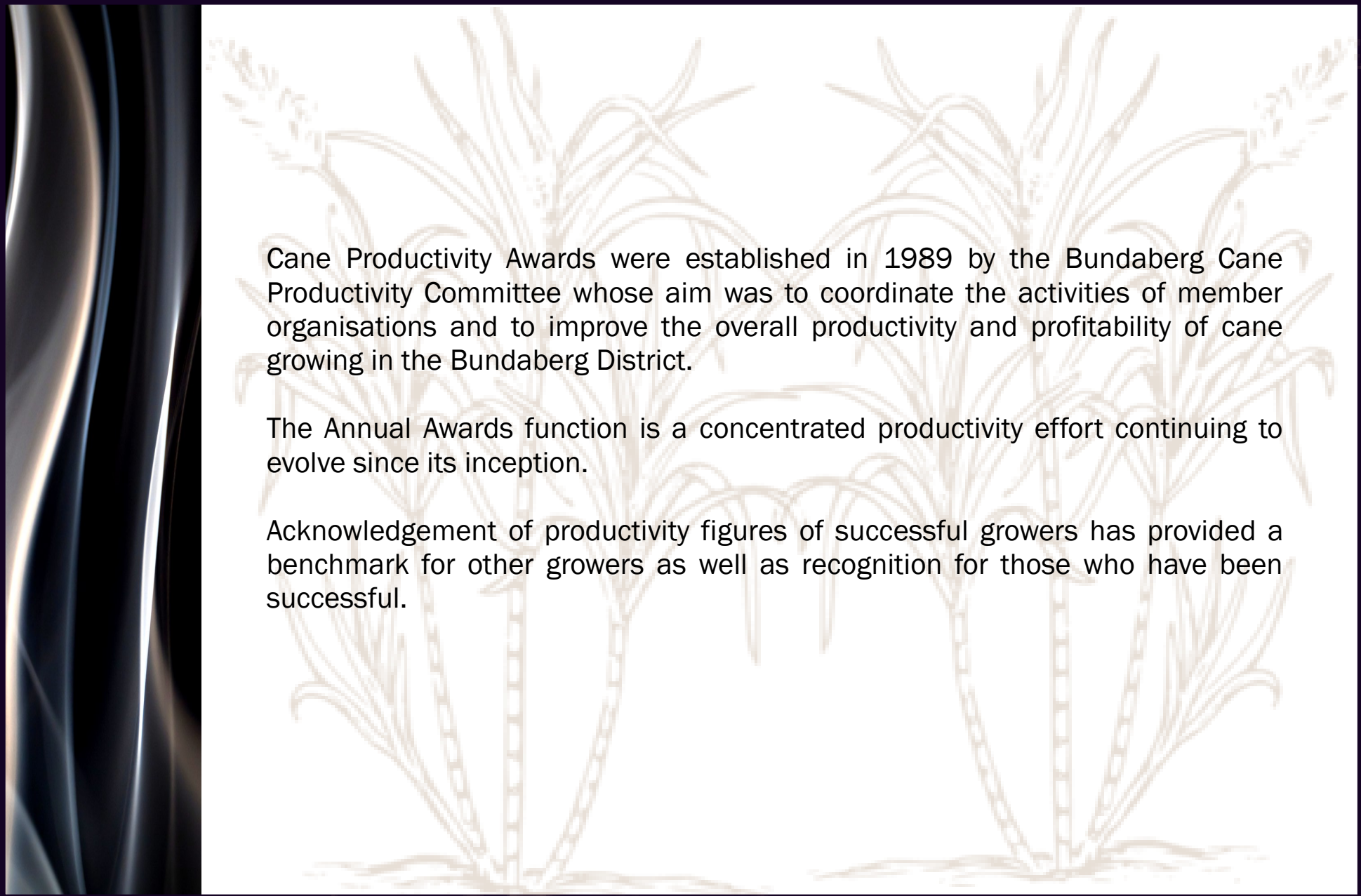
Bundaberg Distilling Co  
Cheshire Machinery  
Ergon Energy  
Incitec Pivot Fertilisers  
J & R McCracken  
Nufarm  
QSL  
RDO Equipment Pty Ltd  
SunWater  
Waterfind  
Wide Bay Drones  
Wilson's Industrial Sales

Duncan Littler 4131 2999  
Ross Cheshire 4153 6933  
Michael Dart 13 77 66  
Simon Cassidy 0409 936 291  
Graham McCracken 4152 6611  
Reannan Schultz 0455 279 529  
Glenn Harris 0409 601 349  
Paul Walters 4152 2144  
Darren Large 4132 6226  
Sean Warren 1800 890 285  
Nathan Newport 4131 0000  
Wayne Smith 4151 2533

## SILVER

Agritrading  
Elders Insurance  
Nutrien Ag Solutions  
Ross Gray Motors  
Symbio Laboratories  
The Bolt Place

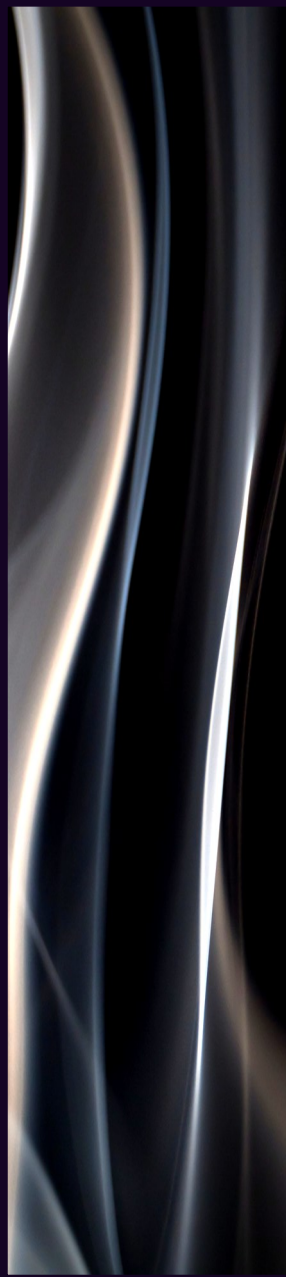
Richard Focken 0447 253 070  
Michelle Orange 4199 7100  
Leroy Manskie 4152 2088  
John Blain 4150 1333  
Kristian Just 0439 311 375  
Tom Hosking 4151 1733



Cane Productivity Awards were established in 1989 by the Bundaberg Cane Productivity Committee whose aim was to coordinate the activities of member organisations and to improve the overall productivity and profitability of cane growing in the Bundaberg District.

The Annual Awards function is a concentrated productivity effort continuing to evolve since its inception.

Acknowledgement of productivity figures of successful growers has provided a benchmark for other growers as well as recognition for those who have been successful.



The Bundaberg Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards Committee comprises local representatives of sugar industry organisations combining to bring you the Sugar Industry Dinner & 2023 Season Awards

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd

Bundaberg Sugar Ltd

Women in Sugar

Department of Resources

*Thank - You*

The Bundaberg Sugar Industry wishes to thank you for your attendance tonight. This event has been funded by our Sponsors whose generous support is gratefully acknowledged.