Bundaberg Sugar Industry Dinner

2025 Season Awards

Friday, 27 March 2026
The Sails Function Room
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

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2025 Season, Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards as we come together to celebrate the achievements of our local growers, harvesting contractors, and industry representatives. These awards recognise the hard work, dedication, and contributions that drive the success and sustainability of our industry.

The 2025 season saw a total of 1.309 million tonnes of cane supplied to Millaquin, from an area of just over 16,000ha. This is up 8% from the previous year. We were fortunate to experience favorable weather conditions with wet weather accounting for 2.5 weeks over a 30.9 week crushing season.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bundaberg Sugar on the performance of Millaquin Mill this season. The mill continued to perform at above average crushing rates and the hard work and commitment of BSL employees does not go unnoticed.

Since the end of the harvesting season, we've seen lower than average summer rainfall in association with greater than average humidity which in combination with availability of irrigation resulted in some good crops. However as we all know since earlier this month we've seen significant rainfall and flooding in some areas and our thoughts go out to all those effected by the recent flooding. Apart from the recent flooding, the challenges associated with a low commodity price and the issues associated with potential fuel and fertiliser availability continue to confront our industry. Uncertainty in price, fertiliser and fuel has resulted in an even greater need for growers to critically review farming practice efficiencies and input costs in order to continue producing cane economically.

However despite all this, it's now time to focus on tonight. This evening would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Their contributions ensure the ongoing success of this event, and we encourage everyone to support those who support our industry.

I also want to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members and the staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS for their dedication in organising this special evening. Your efforts make this night one to remember.

To all of tonight's award nominees and winners – congratulations! Your achievements reflect the strength and resilience of our industry, and we celebrate your hard work and innovation.

Finally, I encourage you all to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that this evening brings. It is a time to reflect on our successes, share our stories, and look forward to a bright future for the sugar industry.

Ian Dart
Chairperson

2025 Statistics

- 140 district growers produced 1,309,470 tonnes of cane crushed at Millaquin Mill. This is up on 2024 season by 104,241 tonnes or an 8% increase.
- The total amount of standover cane crushed for the 2025 season was 15,843 tonnes.
- Area harvested in 2025 was 16,048 hectares, this is well up on the 2024 area of 14,159 hectares.
- 2025 crushing season length was 30.9 weeks for Millaquin and lost time through wet weather was 2.5 weeks.
- District tonnes cane per hectare in 2025 decreased to 81.0 tc/ha compared to 85.1 tc/ha in 2024 and Long-Term Average is 86.7 tc/ha.
- In 2025 the Bundaberg Sugar Company farms produced an average of 82 tc/ha
- Bundaberg cane growers averaged 87 tc/ha.
- In 2025 there were 50, or 34% of district growers that produced cane yields of 100 tc/ha or above, compared to 50 or 38% of district growers in 2024.

2025 Statistics

- The cane that was harvested green in 2025 season was 96.4% compared to the 2024 figure of 96.5%.
- Average CCS for the 2025 season was 13.73 compared with 13.59 in 2024 and 14.70 in 2023.
- Highest individual CCS for the season was 18.10 CCS recorded by one grower.
- In 2025, there were 5,413 tonnes of cane crushed with a CCS of 17.00 or greater, this is well up on 2,414 tonnes from the 2024 season.
- The major varieties harvested for the 2025 season were Q240* at 33.9%, KQ228* at 22.1%, Q208* at 13.1%, SRA varieties 11.8% and Q238* at 6.7%.
- These major varieties account for 87.6% of the cane harvested in the Bundaberg cane growing area.
- The top four best performing varieties for the 2025 season were, Q240*, Q232*, Q252* and KQ228*.
- For the 2025 crop, the percentage of smut resistant varieties harvested was 99.5%.
- One grower had the closest estimate to actual tonnes with an accuracy of 99.77%.

Proceedings

6:00 pm ~ Pre-Dinner Drinks

6:30 pm ~ Doors open

7:00 pm ~ Welcome by Chair of Awards Committee, Mr Ian Dart
~ Address by General Manager, Operations & Sustainability, Bundaberg Sugar Ltd, Mr Giuseppe Barazza
~ Presentation of Awards 1 - 9

7:45 pm ~ Dinner served

~ Address by Chairman, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd, Mr Mark Pressler
~ Presentation of High Achiever Awards and Awards 10 - 12

~ Dessert served
~ Address by Chairman, Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd, Mr Michael Cavallaro
~ Presentation of District Champion Award

~ Entertainment by Mark McConville

10:00 pm ~ Evening close

Platinum Sponsors

BUNDABERG SUGAR

FORMATT MACHINERY

Women in Sugar
BUNDABERG REGION

BOQ

SUGAR SERVICES

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Pre-Dinner Drinks

BOQ

Sponsors of tonight's Pre-Dinner Drinks

Menu

- MAIN -

Char grilled rib fillet steak with olive tapenade and beef jus

Alternating with

Herb and lemon pepper grilled chicken with acorn aioli sauce

- DESSERT -

Chocolate mud cake with chocolate sauce

Alternating with

Baked NY cheesecake

Entertainment

Bundaberg Sugar Presents...

Mark McConville

Mark McConville is an Australian stand-up comedian known for his witty humour and charismatic stage presence. Mark's performances are characterised by his engaging storytelling and his ability to connect with the crowd. He has made appearances on popular comedy shows and podcasts, further cementing his reputation as a rising star in the Australian comedy scene.

BUNDABERG Sugar

J. & R. McCracken QLD. PTY. LTD
IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

Highest Actual CCS Sample

Awarded to the Grower who has returned the highest actual CCS sample for the 2025 Season.

Awarded to

DC & SD Svensson and KL & KP Bishop

18.10 CCS

CHESHIRE MACHINERY

Harvesting Contractor Award for Best Harvesting Efficiency and Most Reliable Performance

The JZ Harvesting group harvested a total of 164,072 tonnes of cane on the rail system for Bundaberg Company farms.

- 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
- Consistent good bin weights
- Minimum stool damage
- Good quality and well-maintained machinery
- Care and attention to Workplace Health and Safety requirements

Awarded to

JZ Harvesting

WILSON'S
INDUSTRIAL SALES

Best Farm Presentation for Harvesting

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

Awarded to

Kinkuna Agricultural Pty Ltd

SUGAR SERVICES

Contribution to Productivity

Established in 1988 Sunfam is a collaboration built on three generations with years of hands-on experience operating some of the largest privately owned farms in the Bundaberg area. Ian and Alan were directors of Sunfam until recently.

Sunfam know what farmers require for various farming identities and know what they require on farm. They advise and supply on crop protection, fertilisers, pumping equipment, Irrigation, farming implements, agronomy and specialist advice. This is why they stock a wide range of rural supplies from leading suppliers to accommodate farmers and with their professional team they carry out all farming installations. Their leadership and practical knowledge of sugar cane growing helped with the success of Sunfam.

This makes Ian & Alan worthy recipients of the Contribution to Productivity Award.

Awarded to

Ian and Alan Loeskow

nufarm

Service to Industry

Roy relocated from South Africa to join BSES in May 2010 as Plant Breeder for the Smut Buster Program. Roy worked on the breeding program in South Africa.

The Smut Buster program was a five year research project in response to the smut outbreak in 2006 and was successful in releasing a number of varieties to the smut infected regions. In 2013 BSES had a name change to SRA and Roy became the breeder for NSW and Southern Regions of Queensland. During Roy's time as plant breeder for the Southern Region, nine varieties were released all being SRA varieties.

Roy has also been involved in the QUT program on the processing of soft cane varieties. During Roy's 12 years at SRA there has been many changes, most significantly was the sale of Bundaberg Research Station and developing the new research station at Welcome Creek.

Roy has been very passionate in his plant breeding programs over the years to ensure new varieties are available for growers to grow on their farms.

Roy Parfitt is a very worthy recipient of the Service to Industry Award.

Awarded to

Roy Parfitt

sunwater

Young Industry Achiever

Robert finished Grade 12 and went and worked on the gas pipeline at Miles for a few months. He then came back and completed an 18 month traineeship at the Bundaberg Regional Council.

In 2015 he started to work on his father's farm and also hauled out for the Rehbein harvesting group for a few seasons. Robert also worked planting cane for various growers.

In 2020 he purchased a 33.00 ha cane farm and in 2024 he purchased an additional parcel of land and completed major land preparation before going on to plant cane on this land.

He also operates the harvester for the Canino Groups in the crushing.

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

Awarded to

Robert Canino

ERGON ENERGY NETWORK

Part of Energy Queensland

Inspiring Female Leader

Desley was part of the sugar industry in her early years as her father was a harvesting contractor at the Elliott Heads area. In 1981 Desley first met her husband on the school bus and they were married in 1984.

In 1985 Michael decided to become a harvesting contractor and this is when Desley started her sugar industry partnership with Michael.

Over the past 40 plus years Desley has been an integral part of keeping the business operating. This has ranged from farm work, bookkeeping, spare parts collection all whilst raising five children, four of whom are involved in the local sugar industry.

Desley is a worthy recipient of the Inspiring Female Leader Award.

Awarded to

Desley Ford

Cane Growing Excellence

Division 1 - Farms up to and including 60 ha

High standards of farm efficiency and implementation of practices to ensure the long-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 seasons
- Consistently high production over the past two years
- Production above the zone and district averages
- Effective water use
- Excellent farm husbandry

Awarded to

WR & AJ Baldry

Cane Growing Excellence
Division 2 - Farms Larger than 60 ha

High standards of farm efficiency and implementation of practices to ensure the long-term sustainablity 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 seasons
- Consistently high production over the past two years.
- Production above the zone and district averages
- Effective water use
- Excellent farm husbandry

Awarded to

Mr SA Algeo

Closest Percentage Estimate to Actual Tonnage

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

Awarded to

JM & Mrs LG Steemson (No 5)

99.77% accuracy

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Highest Tonnes Sugar per Harvested Hectare

- 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.

Awarded to

Redtrail Pty Ltd (No 2)

18.56 ts/ha

High Sugar Achievers

In recognition for high sugar yields per harvested hectare

Awarded to

MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 1)	***17.87 ts/ha***
RM Dingle	***17.64 ts/ha***
DR & JL Zielke	***16.77 ts/ha***
P & GM Bonaventura (No 2)	***15.85 ts/ha***
MB & Mrs DG Ford (No 5)	***15.73 ts/ha***

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.

BUNDABERG SUGAR

Most Sustainable Yield for the Past 3 Seasons

Awarded to

MRB Farms Pty Ltd

120.2 tc/ha

60 Years of Excellence in Sugarcane Farming

Awarded to

Evelyn Taske

FORMATT MACHINERY

District Champion

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

Awarded to

MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 4)

17.09 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	2008	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.04 ts/ha
1990	ND Cayley	15.23 ts/ha	2009	Redtrail Pty Ltd	15.54 ts/ha
1991	RJ Toft	14.11 ts/ha	2010	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.59 ts/ha
1992	G Lemura	14.30 ts/ha	2011	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.48 ts/ha
1993	LH See	15.31 ts/ha	2012	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.74 ts/ha
1994	MS Kingston	16.09 ts/ha	2013	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.05 ts/ha
1995	JS Maughan	16.97 ts/ha	2014	SR & AB Jacobsen	17.78 ts/ha
1996	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.64 ts/ha	2015	MG & JM Greaves	20.22 ts/ha
1997	BJ & RS Nixon	17.64 ts/ha	2016	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	17.82 ts/ha
1998	BJ & RS Nixon	17.30 ts/ha	2017	Niyab Holdings Pty Ltd	17.60 ts/ha
1999	SW & LE Tincknell	18.63 ts/ha	2018	WR & AJ Baldry	17.60 ts/ha
2000	F & AK Attard	18.15 ts/ha	2019	TM Dahl & JS Weston	16.70 ts/ha
2001	Redtrail Pty Ltd	17.63 ts/ha	2020	TM Dahl & JS Weston	16.05 ts/ha
2002	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.39 ts/ha	2021	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	16.86 ts/ha
2003	Redtrail Pty Ltd	15.94 ts/ha	2022	WR & AJ Baldry (No. 1)	16.83 ts/ha
2004	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.11 ts/ha	2023	Akers Farms Pty Ltd (No. 3)	15.51 ts/ha
2005	G & M Formosa Pty Ltd	14.99 ts/ha	2024	MGBJP Pty Ltd	15.55 ts/ha
2006	MP Richter	16.82 ts/ha	2025	MGBJP Pty Ltd (No 4)	17.09 ts/ha
2007	Redtrail Pty Ltd	16.29 ts/ha			

Sponsors

Platinum

Bank of Queensland	Tina Adams	4151 9650
Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd	Tanya Howard	4151 2555
Bundaberg Sugar Ltd	Guy Basile	4150 8500
Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited	Tanya Howard	4151 2555
Formatt Machinery	Nathan Attard	4151 2381
Women in Sugar	Anna Attard	0409 594 541

Gold

Bundaberg Distilling Co	Duncan Littler	4131 2999
Cheshire Machinery	Ross Cheshire	4153 6933
Ergon Energy	Paige Ridgewell	13 10 46
Incitec Pivot Fertilisers	Simon Cassidy	0409 936 291
J & R McCracken	Graham McCracken	4152 6611
Nufarm	Leo Boden	0428 850 570
RDO Equipment Pty Ltd	Paul Walters	4152 2144
SunWater	Darren Large	131 589
Wilson's Industrial Sales	Wayne Smith	4151 2533

Silver

Elders Insurance	Michelle Orange	4199 7100
NAB Agribusiness	Michael Clerke	0418 887 425
NQAS Powershed	Robert Henricksen	4153 1113
Nutrien Ag Solutions	Leroy Manskie	4152 2088
QSL	Russell Campbell	1800 870 756
Sugar Research Australia	Lisa Devereaux	0456 590 497
The Bolt Place	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 & 2025 Season Awards

Thank - You

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd
Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd
Bundaberg Sugar Ltd
Women in Sugar
Department of Recourses

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.