



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mackay Sugar showcases region's farming excellence

The Mackay region's farming excellence was showcased on Friday night (11 April), when Mackay Sugar held its annual Productivity Awards at Mackay's St Patrick's Hall.

Over 400 people attended the event, with more than 30 awards presented to farmers from within the Mackay Sugar cane supply network.

For more than 26 years, Mackay Sugar has held the awards which, according to Mackay Sugar Chairman Andrew Cappello, remain a popular annual event for the company and its growers.

"The Mackay Sugar Productivity Awards provide us the opportunity to formally acknowledge those that have achieved outstanding results in farm productivity within our region.

"Productivity is extremely important to our business as it facilitates growth and advances the prosperity of our stakeholders.

"Our 2014 award recipients exemplify the innovation and commitment that sustains our local sugar industry," Mr Cappello said.

This year's winners (for the 2013 season) include:

- > In Appreciation for on Farm Research Award: Anthony Bezzina
- > Harvesting Award – Under 30,000 tonnes Award: Ray Wichmann
- > Harvesting Award – 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes Award: David Burns
- > Harvesting Award – Over 50,000 tonnes Award: Tony Silvestri
- > Young Grower Award: Ross Jensen
- > Sustainable Management Practices Award: Lindsay Williams
- > Best Average Producer Over Five Years Award: GJ Galea
- > Cane Growing Excellence Award: AW & MY Barfield

A full list of award recipients (including 'Best Productivity' for zones 1 – 24) is available via the Mackay Sugar website: www.mkysugar.com.au (under Cane Supply).

Recipients of the awards received a trophy and a dining/travel voucher.

The evening included an address from Mackay Sugar Chairman Andrew Cappello and guest speaker – Dr Mary Harrington, Nutrition Communications Manager for Sugar Australia; a dinner; lucky-door prizes and children's entertainment.

Mackay Sugar also held its inaugural Mossman Region Productivity Awards in Mossman last Tuesday (8 April). Details on the Mossman Region award recipients can be found on the Mackay Sugar website: www.mkysugar.com.au (under Cane Supply).

* Photos available

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