

CANEGROWERS Mackay congratulates Productivity Awards winners

CANEGROWERS Mackay today congratulated growers in the Plane Creek district for their success in the Productivity Awards presented last night at a friendly, family gathering of 160 people at Carmila Hall.

Plane Creek Area Committee Chairman, Kevin Borg, said that CANEGROWERS Mackay was proud to be a sponsor of the Productivity Awards held by Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited each year.

He said the 2018 season saw 1.14 million tonnes crushed in Plane Creek with 162,132 tonnes of sugar produced from 17,311 hectares harvested.

"It was pleasing to see that CCS has pushed higher in the district than in the past few years, however, tonnes cane per hectare while similar to 2017 season was well below average for the previous 13 seasons. We hope that the extended dry period between May and November won't impact on ratoons and yields in 2019," Mr Borg said.

"Estimates for Plane Creek's crush which is due to start on Tuesday 18 June are for an average season of 1.3 million tonnes, compared with Mackay's three mills expected to process 5.1 million tonnes from next Tuesday 4 June. Early CCS results have been good with 12.1 CCS recorded in mid-May. We hope to see about 75 tonnes cane hectare harvested at 14.3 CCS or about 10.7 tonnes sugar hectare produced."

The Productivity Awards recognise growers leading productivity in the district or supporting research and adoption. While one person receives an Award it is often the whole farming family which has contributed to the results.

Mr Borg congratulated Phillip Borg on behalf of Borg MP & Mrs MM, who won the Arthur Gardner Shield for Best Producer for the Season Award (sponsored by QSL) with a return of 13.94 tonnes sugar hectare. The Award is given based on the highest relative tonnes of sugar per hectare for the entire mill area in 2018.

He also congratulated John Borg on behalf of Borg DM & AL F/T & JR & VM Borg F/T, who won the Best Producer over 5 years award (sponsored by CANEGROWERS Mackay) with a result of 14.39 tonnes sugar hectare. The Award is calculated based on the highest average TSH over 5 years.

Other outstanding results for the night were:

- Cane Growing Excellence Award (FarmHQ): Bourke CJ & Mrs LK (No 1) (143.4%) (Carmila) – based on the farm with the largest difference between their tonnes/sugar/ha produced and their zone average
- Best Harvesting Group Award (Wilmar Sugar): Perry Harvesting Group – based on a range of factors including consistency of supply/cane quality, care and attention to WHS, quality field operations & management/communication
- Highest Actual CCS Sample Award (Wilmar Sugar): Currie PJ & Mrs PM: 18.2 CCS (single sample, 7/10/18 Q252 plant)
- Next Generation Grower Award (CANEGROWERS Mackay): Chris Thompson
- Jim Pedersen Sustainable Management Practices Award (Whitson Dawson): Gary Loadsman – awarded for outstanding adoption of conservation farming practices
- Reef Catchments Practice Adoption Award (Reef Catchments): P & P Currie – awarded for outstanding implementation of farming principles or machinery to improve water quality.

More information: CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg, 0429 876 441

Photos available: please contact below.

