

Narrabri to host 2005 Australian Cotton Industry Awards

By Brooke Summers

Narrabri has been chosen to host the 2005 Australian Cotton Industry Awards, an event to honour and recognise the industry's highest achievers.

The awards will be held at Narrabri's Crossing Theatre as part of an exciting new initiative that will see cotton industry groups, researchers and growers gather for the first "Cotton Collective", held over three days.

"Bringing the awards to the Namoi Valley, one of the modern Australian cotton industry's first irrigation areas, also gives us the opportunity to look back at the achievements of the past 50 years," Chairman of the Australian Cotton Industry Awards Taskforce, Geoff Hewitt said.

"We are looking to build on the success of the first industry-wide awards competition held last year, an event only made possible by our fantastic sponsors: Bayer CropScience, Cotton Seed Distributors, Elders and Queensland Cotton.

"All of these companies are committed to

the Awards for a second year, and are active members of the Taskforce, giving their time as well as funding to this event," he said.

Geoff has also called for entries in the 2005 Awards, across five categories.

"Awards are all about the people involved and this is your opportunity to recognise the achievements of peers, workmates, employees and neighbours, by making a nomination and getting entries in by March 18," Geoff said.

"Last year's winners and finalists showcased the world leading research and farming methods keeping us ahead of the pack in the world cotton industry," Geoff says.

"The quality of winners Buddah Pty Ltd, the Geldards of Condamine, Stu Higgins on the Darling Downs, Chaseley Ross of Cotton Australia, consultant Iain MacPherson and world class researchers Dr David Nehl and Dr Peter Gregg, show the breadth of talent in the modern Australian cotton industry.

"The first Cotton Industry Awards on

the Gold Coast last year were an outstanding success and we're looking to build on that success this year," Geoff said.

Five winners will be announced at a special Awards dinner and ceremony in the categories of:

- Cotton Industry Bayer CropScience Grower of the Year;
- Cotton Industry Queensland Cotton High Achiever of the Year;
- Cotton Industry Elders Young Achiever of the Year;
- Cotton Industry Service to Industry Award; and,
- Cotton Industry ACGRA Researcher of the Year Award, sponsored by CSD.

Entries close on Friday March 18 and are sought from all industry organisations, service providers, individuals and Cotton Grower Associations. For more information please go to www.cottonaustralia.com.au or call Brooke Summers on 02 9358 6984 or 0418 962 942.



The 2004 Cotton Industry Award winners and sponsors at the presentation dinner at the Gold Coast.