

5 June 2017

Air Ag Awards for Excellence



The Aerial Application Association of Australia has presented its top award to **Lindsay Keenan of Rural Air Work Moree** in recognition of his lifelong contribution to improvement of the aerial agricultural and application industry.

The award was presented at the Association's Annual National Convention in Adelaide in front of 170 industry members, trade and supporters.

In presenting the award and its heartfelt thanks for his contribution, the Association noted that Mr Keenan was also celebrating his 40th year in the aviation industry.

In addition to always being willing to host industry, community and government leaders to demonstrate the capabilities and accountability of the industry, Mr Keenan has been a lifelong supporter of the Association and its stewardship programs, including Spraysafe and the comprehensive Aerial Improvement Management System - or AIMS.

From learning to fly in New Zealand to managing significant aerial application companies in Wee Waa and then Moree, Lindsay and his partner Susan established Rural Air Work in 2001 to service clients in the Moree area.

The Ray Mackay Award Lindsay received is named after a stalwart of the industry who played a key role in the development of the Association and its members and the very early adoption - in 1985 - of the best practice program 'Spraysafe'.

AAAA (*four As*) also recognised pilot **Mick East** with the Professional Pilot Award for 2017. Mick flies from Finley with Field Air and lives at Tocumwal. As a long term ag pilot, Mick is dedicated to getting the best for clients - but always with safety first. In a challenging, hazard-rich low-level environment - applying crop protection products at about 3 metres above the ground - focus and professionalism are non-negotiable.

AAAA also recognized the significant contribution of **Essential Energy** in NSW and Southern Qld through their powerline marking and mapping programs developed with AAAA. The Leland Snow Innovation Award recognizes world-leading Australian initiatives that make a real difference and Essential's program is world leading.

Essential Energy, **Ergon Energy** and **QBE Aviation Insurance** also announced they were Foundation Safety Partners in the AAAA Powerline Safety Program launched at the Convention to facilitate aerial application operators and landholders marking powerlines to make them safer for pilots.

Congratulations - and thanks - to all our very deserving award recipients.

M
E
D
I
A

Media Contact:

Phil Hurst - CEO – AAAA

E: phil@aerialag.com.au

02 6241 2100 or 0427 622430