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## President's Review 2018

Let's reflect on the 2017/18 season by the numbers –

220 people attended the 2017 Central Highlands Annual Awards Evening on the 25th August, where we locally launched the DAF CHDC Central Highlands Agriculture – More than you expect video. Since then it's had;

- 37, 388 views on facebook, you tube and twitter
- Reaching more than 67 000 facebook accounts.

90000 Macadamia trees planted in the Emerald Irrigation Area this year so far, Hinkler Park Plantation Macadamia Nursery holding 460000 seedlings being the largest in the world

163 000ML of Water delivered across the river and channel systems in the Nogoa Mackenzie region.

\$3M in federal funding approved through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund project to fund channel lining projects in the distribution system.

1567 times Ross Burnett was thanked at the last years dinner...

44.3 degrees on February 13th 2018 was the highest temperature at the Emerald Airport

-1.9 degrees at 6:40 am at Will's Road weather station on Wednesday 22nd August 2018 was the coldest temperature.

75 adults and 'a whole lot' of children attended the Cotton growers Christmas party plus 1 electrical storm that gifted hail as well.

18 people attended the industry golf day on the 22nd June 2018. Numbers were down due to cotton picking and pre-watering? That's weird.....

11.87 b/ha was the highest average yield awarded at last year's dinner - what will it be this year?

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CHCG&IA members supported The CHDC AgTech Build It, Use it, Profit event that was originally planned for 80 and sold out with 241 attendees.

3 Ports in 3 Days Paddock to Port Tour – Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone. 18 people including Irrigators, Councillors and Industry Representatives from CH attended.

68% of all produce from the Central Highlands is Exported

11 cotton and irrigation trials are being conducted in the Central Highlands region ranging from benchmarking trials, IPM and boll weight trials. These trials are made possible through the CRDC, Cotton Info and industry.

4/5 CQ growers reported they selected pesticide to conserve beneficial insects and made use of industry recommended thresholds and resistance management strategy.

16 600 h/a irrigated cotton planted and checked by consultants and resellers across Central Highlands and Belyando.

5100 h/a of of raingrown cotton planted across the Central Highlands, Belyando and Mackenzie region.

14 242 bags of cotton seed sold into the Central Highlands.

1 successful female scholarship student at the Emerald Agricultural College – Congratulations Britany Schofield

1 female recipient of the Australian Future Cotton Leader program – Congratulations Sharna Holman

1 female Young Farming Champ – Congratulations Alexandria Galea

50% females on the CHCG&IA executive.

80% of growers are registered for myBMP, the industry tool to support best practice across the farm.

1005 ha of citrus and 1310 ha of table grapes in the Central Highlands.

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23 growers representing 23 000ha of farming land engaging in projects to improve water use efficiency, nutrient use efficiency and other management practices that result in water quality improvements.

2 seasons in 19 years that there hasn't been 100% Medium Priority water allocation.

Let's hope that this means 6% allocation this year will be 100% before too long.

7 delegates represented the region with the State Minister for Agriculture the Hon Mark Furner.

520 followers on the CHCG&IA Face Book page

2460 attendees at the Biannual Australian Cotton Conference Pushing Boundaries with a great representation from the Central Highlands.

What story do the numbers tell us? It is a story of innovation, sustainability, Education, gender diversity, community engagement, commitment, volunteers and production.

Our region has been leaders in sustainability through our water use efficiency, area wide pest management practices and adoption of technology to support improved production practices. The future looks bright and as a local region we need to remain responsive and positive about agriculture.

I would like to thank the current executive;

- Vice President - Emma McCullagh
- Secretary – Sam Elsdon
- Treasurer – Danni Ingram
- Fifth Member – Chris Brummel
- Previous Past President – Ross Burnett
- Cotton Australia regional manager-Renee Anderson

It also needs to be noted, that people who commit to these roles take time away from their families and their businesses so we must recognise and thank those people who support them to achieve outcomes for the region.

I encourage everyone to get involved in the industry in any way possible. A strong industry is built from the bottom up and the best results are achieved when driven from a grassroots level.

**President, Aaron Kiely**