

Celebration of four decades

Employees hit a major career milestone



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IT'S a milestone that not many see during work life but a handful of Bundaberg Sugar workers can say that they have gone four decades strong at their place of employment.

Gary Nixon, Ross Baxter, Greg Green and David Glass have together clocked up more than 160 years of service at the local company and were awarded for their efforts with inauguration into the 40 Year Club at a special ceremony on Thursday.

Media officer Maria McMahon said the men received a traditional pewter stein as part of the ceremony.

"Bundaberg Sugar has held this event for many years to acknowledge the company's long-serving employees who have reached 40 years of service,"



LONG SERVICE: Ross Baxter, Gary Nixon and Greg Green join the 40 Year Club with Bundaberg Sugar at Millaquin Mill.

PHOTO: PAUL DONALDSON BUN081216SUG4

she said.

"People enter the 40 Year Club at 40 years of service, however many of the 33 current members have done between 40 and 60 years of service.

"Our two highest are currently at 57 years and 60 years. A great achievement."

Refinery Services

superintendent Ross Baxter said he felt honoured to have been part of Bundaberg Sugar for so long, a company that had given him many experiences including travel to Zambia and Mexico.

"The advantage of working for a big company is the opportunity to try a variety of new things," he

said.

"I started with my electrical apprenticeship and worked my way into various roles. I think it is an honour to have been able to work 40 years with the one employer. It is a testament to the employer that it can happen."

Farm leader at Elliott

Farms, Greg Green, said he was 25 when he started at Bundaberg Sugar and was employed at Fairymead Mill.

The now 65-year-old said it was family that had kept him in a good career.

"I always thought I would be with the company for that long. My father actually worked for Fairymead. It

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— Ross Baxter

used to be like a little community back then," he said.

"The mill had their own houses and mum and dad lived there.

"Planting was done totally different when I was first there. It was all done by whole stick planters and now billet planters. It has become easier, it is a lot more cost efficient."

Mr Green said he was surprised to see many other people recognised for their long contribution to Bundaberg Sugar at the ceremony.

"It was great to receive an award and I was a bit surprised to see how many other fellas have achieved that," he said.

"These days you won't ever see people have a job for so long. It is definitely something of an achievement."