

Media Release

AUSSIE BUNDABERG WINS NATIONAL MORTGAGE BROKING AWARDS

Wednesday 22nd October, 2014: The owner of the Bundaberg store of Australia's leading mortgage broker, Aussie, has been named 'Australian Young Gun of the Year' at the 2014 Australian Mortgage Awards (AMAs).

George Farmer, Franchisee of Aussie Bundaberg, took the much sought after national title after also winning 'Quality Young Gun of the Year – Franchise' at the gala awards dinner in Sydney on Friday evening. Aussie Bundaberg was also a finalist in the 'Franchise Brokerage of the Year' category.

Mr Farmer says: "The Young Gun awards recognise individuals with less than two years broking experience, so to be considered to have obtained excellence as a new mortgage broker is a massive honour. We strive to provide the best home loan service to the Bundaberg and Gladstone communities so these accolades are a tremendous testament to the ongoing hard work and dedication by the Aussie Bundaberg team.

"We've had our share of challenges since buying the Bundaberg franchise in December 2012; the January 2013 floods in particular coming just seven weeks after I took over the business, but by engaging with the local community and having an unwavering commitment to making sure our customer always comes first we've still been able to overcome these challenges and build a successful business," Mr Farmer continued.

"The challenging start enabled me to really become part of the community, for example offering assistance to flood victims on how to deal with their banks and retain their credit worthiness in what was a very difficult time. Almost two years on, the community has largely recovered and our business is now going from strength to strength. Despite the challenging start I wouldn't change a thing, I've recently been able to employ another staff member and the store continues to grow recording the highest loan volume growth in the country for Aussie last financial year."

Founder and Executive Chairman of Aussie, Mr John Symond AM, says "Aussie Bundaberg is doing exceptionally well under the leadership of George and his wife Sandy, and the team has worked tirelessly to support the community and achieve outstanding growth. It's always pleasing when our franchisees are recognised by the industry and these accolades are no exception."

With 20 years banking experience, George Farmer and the Aussie Bundaberg team provide expert advice to help customers through the process of finding and applying for mortgages from Aussie's panel of up to 19 lenders, including the big banks.

The Australian Mortgage Awards bring together the industry's finest, recognising brokers and brokerages for their outstanding achievements. Winning an AMA continues to be one of the most prestigious and recognised accolades for a mortgage and finance professional in Australia.

For more information about Aussie Bundaberg visit <u>www.aussie.com.au/bundaberg</u>.

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