



## **WELCOME TO JUNE 2024 ISSUE # 4 OF 'CANE NEWS'**



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## 2024 SHOW CANE EXHIBIT



We would like to take a moment to thank all participants of this year's event. It's not an easy task to find, cut and prepare the perfect stalks, and we applaud you for taking the time and putting in the effort to bring your best cane forward.

The first year of Kids Cane – Under 18s section was a great success. It was really nice to see so many entries and was a great opportunity for the kids, being the future of our industry, to get involved.

Again, we express gratitude to all the generous sponsors, SSP & Proserpine CANEGROWERS staff, Judges, volunteers and entrants for making this great event possible.

We congratulate all winners of this year's event and look forward to next year.



Section 11 1st Place: Dale Holcombe



Section 11 2nd Place: Valmadre Farming



Section 11 3rd Place: Moore Family Trust



Section 7 1st Place: Lethebrook Branch



Section 12 1st Place: Watts Farming



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## **2024 Show Cane Results**

### **1 - Intra-branch competition - six stalks of plant cane**

- A. Glenn Clarke
- B. AP & LJ Pini
- C. Valmadre Farming
- D. Watts Farming
- E. Scott Lee
- F. Russel Biggs
- G. Jeppesen Farming

### **2 - Intra-branch competition – six stalks of ratoon cane**

- A. Steve Cantamessa
- B. AP & LJ Pini
- C. Valmadre Farming
- D. Dale Holcombe
- E. Blair Brothers
- F. Russel Biggs
- G. Jeppesen Farming

### **3 – Champion six stalks of the show (plant or ratoon)**

Watts Farming

### **4 – Champion stool of plant cane (from single billet)**

Jeppesen Farming

### **5 – Champion stool of ratoon cane (from single billet)**

Watts Farming

### **6 – Heaviest stalk**

- A – Q183 John Casey
- B – Q208 Jeppesen Farming
- C – Q240 Watts Farming
- D – Any other approved variety P & K Quod
- Overall winner Watts Farming Q240 (4.6 Kg)

### **7 – District exhibit**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Lethebrook
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Kelsey Creek
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Town Branch

### **8 – Highest CCS test in two stalks**

- A – Q183 Dale Holcombe CCS: 13.8
- B – Q208 IE & BJ Cowan CCS: 14.7
- C – KQ228 Steve Cantamessa CCS: 15.4
- D – SRA9 Dale Holcombe CCS: 14.5
- E – Q240 Peter Formosa CCS: 14.4
- F – Q253 John Casey CCS: 14
- G – Any other approved variety Watts Farming CCS: 15.2

### **9 – Highest quantity of CCS in six stalks of plant cane**

Watts Farming                      Variety: Q240                      CCS: 13.4                      Weight: 21.9Kg                      Kg sugar: 4.91Kg

### **10 – Highest quantity of CCS in six stalks of ratoon cane**

Dale Holcombe                      Variety: KQ228                      CCS: 15.4                      Weight: 17.9 Kg                      Kg sugar: 4.42 kg

### **11 – CANEGROWERS Young Farmers Trophy**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Dale Holcombe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Valmadre Farming
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Moore Family Trust

### **12 – CANEGROWERS Proserpine Insurance Trophy**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Watts Farming
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jeppesen Farming

### **13 – Kids Cane – Under 18's**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Emily Holcombe
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Claire Holcombe
-



## A MESSAGE FROM QUEENSLAND CANEGROWERS (CQGO) CHAIRMAN



**Owen Menkens**  
Chairman, CQGO

Wilmar industrial action is something that I have been heavily involved in and is very concerning for growers across many districts.

At this stage the dispute is not resolved, and we are calling on both sides to come together to resolve the issue. If they can't, we would like the industrial relations commission to resolve it quickly.

I have just returned from the World Association of Beet and Cane growers conference in the US. It was very interesting to see how the US sugar system works so hopefully we can get more access there in the future. US access to sugar is probably our best chance for better returns for growers.

We are increasingly involved in discussions with many State politicians heading into the election in October.

There is a lot of strong advocacy work being conducted on behalf of growers as we have a good relationship with both sides of parliament.

## PROSERPINE YOUNG FARMERS HOST A PRE-SEASON CATCH UP

Twenty-five young growers, more experienced growers and industry specialists caught up at Sugar Services Proserpine for a barbeque and a catch up before the crush started.

With special guests including, Cameron Turnbull (DAF), Rob Dwyer & Simon Cassidy (Incitec Pivot), Brett Hansen (ADAMA), Stacey Corrie (SSP) and George Cole (Pursehouse Rual) this was a great opportunity for everyone to share their knowledge and practices with each other.

This event was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees with the hopes of more “catch up’s” in the future.



Luke & Craig Valmadre, Christian Moore,  
Al de Nysschen, and Nathan Hadlow

Justin Blair and Cameron Turnbull

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(Forecast as at 31 May 2024, AUD \$/t Actual.  
Comparing Wilmar Call/Target Allocation Account with QSL Shared Pool)

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**SHIRLEY NORRIS**  
0437 803 019

**wilmar**

Sugar and Renewables

## MEMBER NOTICE

### BMC Transport - Mill Mud Contact Details

Please be advised of the new contact for Mill Mud for this Season.

BMC Transport - Mill Mud  
Indy Angus  
Contact number - 0436115787  
Email - [indy@bmctransport.net.au](mailto:indy@bmctransport.net.au)

### Sugar Services Proserpine - Soil Testing

A reminder that as a service to members, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) offer soil, plant tissue and water testing, as well as CCS, RSD and pachymetra testing. Detailed recommendations are provided, and nutrient management plans (NMP) are also available upon request.

The service offered is basic sugarcane soil testing, at a cost to the grower of \$125.00 per test including GST and postage.

Please contact Stacey or Frank if you would like any samples collected.

## CANEGROWERS MEMBERS PORTAL LAUNCHED



**Matt Kealley**  
**Membership Engagement & Innovation**

### **Have you ever counted the number of different ways you communicate with people?**

I was speaking with a friend on my mobile phone last week and in the space of 10 minutes, I had received several text messages, a message on Facebook messenger, a LinkedIn message, and a ping from a group chat I have on WhatsApp. Earlier that day, I had a video conference on Zoom and in-between all of this, I was keeping in touch with work colleagues using email and the chat function on the Microsoft Teams platform.

All of this got me to thinking – how many different platforms do you use to communicate?

### **So many choices!**

Don't get me wrong. I think we are in a fantastic age of technology. The internet, computers, mobile phone and the apps I use make communication quick and easy. But it can be distracting and overwhelming at times.

I'm sure in your business, there are multiple emails, text messages, newsletters and links to websites pushing updates, information and events happening in Proserpine, the district and the industry.

If you're looking for specific information on how CANEGROWERS can support your business – check out the CANEGROWERS website [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) and the new members portal.

### **CANEGROWERS members portal – exclusive to members**

CANEGROWERS is launching a new member portal that is exclusive to members. Once inside you will have access to specifically designed tools, such as a Cost of Production tool and Sugar Price Ready Reckoners. You will also have access material including legal advice articles, marketing information and updates, transport guides, and exclusive membership offers.

The new portal will make it easier for members to set up your own easy-to-remember login details. Invites to set up a CANEGROWERS member portal login will be rolled out via email over the next week, so keep an eye on your inbox.

## CHANGES TO THE RURAL FIRE SERVICE QUEENSLAND (RFSQ)

As part of the emergency services reform, there has been some changes to the RFSQ.

These changes will take effect on 1 July 2024 and will result in increased support for almost 1,400 Rural Fire Brigades and approximately 27,000 volunteer members across the state.

Please contact the office on (07) 4945 1844 or [prp@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:prp@canegrowers.com.au) to obtain the RFSQ Fact Sheet about the upcoming changes.



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TOOLS | HOME & CONTENTS | BOAT | PRIVATE MOTOR | COMMERCIAL MOTOR**

### ↘ FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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E: [brad\\_hancock@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:brad_hancock@canegrowers.com.au)



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## MEET CAMERON TURNBULL: NEWEST MEMBER OF THE SUSTAINABLE FARMING TEAM IN MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY

Cameron Turnbull is the newest addition to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) team in the Mackay-Whitsunday region, stepping into the role of Development Extension Officer and Agronomist. With a passion for supporting farmers and a keen interest in sustainable agriculture, Cameron's journey into the world of agronomy has been both fulfilling and inspiring.



Before joining DAF, Cameron worked as an Extension Agronomist with Farmacist, a private agronomy service in the Mackay area. There, he honed his skills and built strong relationships with local growers, gaining invaluable experience in the field.

Reflecting on his time at Farmacist, Cameron says, "I really enjoyed my time working with growers. Farming is a diverse and challenging line of work; it adapts and changes constantly. It's critical to society – no farming, no food."

Cameron studied at the University of the Sunshine Coast graduating with a degree in environmental science which laid the foundation for his career in agriculture.

"Farming requires an incredibly diverse skillset," he notes. "I want to support farmers to achieve a more profitable, productive, and sustainable farming systems."

Now at DAF, Cameron's role is multifaceted. He is committed to assisting growers in the Mackay-Whitsunday region with adopting innovative and sustainable farming techniques.

"I've been surprised and delighted to find how keen growers are to learn about the latest in Ag-tech and sustainable practices," he said.

His enthusiasm for advancing agricultural technology is matched by his dedication to on-the-ground engagement with farmers.

Cameron made great connections in his previous role in this region and this has placed him in good standing with local growers.

"What I enjoy most about my job is getting out and talking to people on their land, hearing the stories of changes in the landscape and farm through generations," he says. "There's something special about hearing of the challenges and success over time."

Cameron's commitment to supporting the farming community and promoting sustainable practices makes him a valuable asset to the Mackay-Whitsunday region. As he continues his work with DAF, local growers can look forward to getting to meet him and learning more about innovative agriculture. To contact Cameron, ring 0488 171 050 or email [Cameron.Turnbull@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:Cameron.Turnbull@daf.qld.gov.au)



## ELECTRICITY TARIFFS - CHANGES AND CHOICES

*With changes in Ergon Tariffs for the 2024-25 season, growers should weigh up their options as the most cost-effective choice for irrigation use could now be different.*

At the recent QCGO Economics and Trade Committee meeting, representatives from both Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) and QCGO spoke to changes in the cost of electricity tariffs for the upcoming season.

It was striking to note that the increase in cost of Tariff 22C was significantly higher when compared to the rest, which is disappointing considering that the initial intent of the tariff was to “create a larger differentiation (than Tariff 22B) between peak and daytime energy rates, to set clearer signals to consumers as when is the most cost-effective time to charge an EV”, as noted by Minister de Brenni in his delegation to QCA for 2023/24.

Below is a graphical representation provided by QCGO on the changes in each tariff. All tariffs had increases in their fixed portion charge. The usage (variable) charges had both increases and decreases that were different between tariffs and across usage times.

2024/25 Final determination - tariff movements (annual change)

% change	Fixed Service	Peak / Block1 Usage	Shoulder / Block2 Usage	All Other Times Usage	Demand
T20	5.4%			-3.1%	
T34	6.2%			-2.9%	
T22B	2.7%	-4.9%	12.7%	-2.2%	
T22C	2.7%	-16.4%	43.0%	32.5%	
T24A	5.5%			-4.9%	15.0%
T24B	5.5%			-4.8%	4.5%
T44	4.4%			2.9%	5.4%
T60A	2.9%			0.9%	
T62A	12.3%	6.3%	5.7%	-0.1%	
T65A	12.3%	5.4%		1.8%	
T66A	12.1%	0.0%		0.0%	1.4%

With these changes, it is important to understand whether the tariff you are on still makes sense for your farming operation. QCGO have developed a very useful tool for members that compares electricity costs per Tariff depending on your time of use. This tool can be downloaded directly from the QCGO Members Resources area or you can select Resources > Members Resources > Electricity Tariff Selection Tool > CANEGROWERS Electricity Tariff Selection Tool spreadsheet. The current available version has recently been updated with the new tariffs for 2024-25.

For more information on using the Tool, please contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine Manager, Brendon Nothard, or for any technical questions you can email Chris Gillitt (QCGO) at [chris\\_gillitt@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:chris_gillitt@canegrowers.com.au).

# PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE



## New-look QSL Direct site

The QSL Direct portal has a fresh new look, with an update released recently. This update includes a personalised homepage as well as a range of handy new features, including the ability to download a summary of your pricing orders, filter and export your payment information, and access the popular conversion tools available on the QSL App. The portal sign-in process, passwords and the site location all remain unchanged. Take some time to explore the new site and its features, and please don't hesitate to reach out to QSL Grower Relationship Officer Karen Vloedmans or QSL Direct (1800 870 756) should you need assistance.

## Key Dates 2024

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30 June - Last day to qualify for the 2023 Loyalty Bonus. See your local QSL team for details.

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20 September - Any unpriced tonnage allocated to the October 2024 contract through the Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract that is not rolled by this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.

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20 September - Any 2024-Season Target Price Contract tonnage not priced by this date will automatically have its pricing window extended and roll costs may apply.

## Education | Why is a positive view on the market referred to as 'bullish'?

Bullish refers to an optimistic outlook on and the rising value of the underlying asset, such as raw sugar. Characteristics of a bullish market are an increase in price and an upward trend. The term 'bullish' stems from the bull who strikes upwards with its horns, metaphorically relating to the movement of the market.



## QSL Grow | Show Whitsunday

QSL were proud sponsors of the Proserpine Show Cane Awards for another year. Congratulations to all the winners.



QSLs Karen Vloedmans presenting Luke Valmadre 2nd place prize in the District Exhibit on behalf of the Kelsey Creek branch



Lucky Door prize winner, Scott Lee. Drawn by Federal MP for Dawson, Mr Andrew Willcox prize presented by Karen Vloedmans

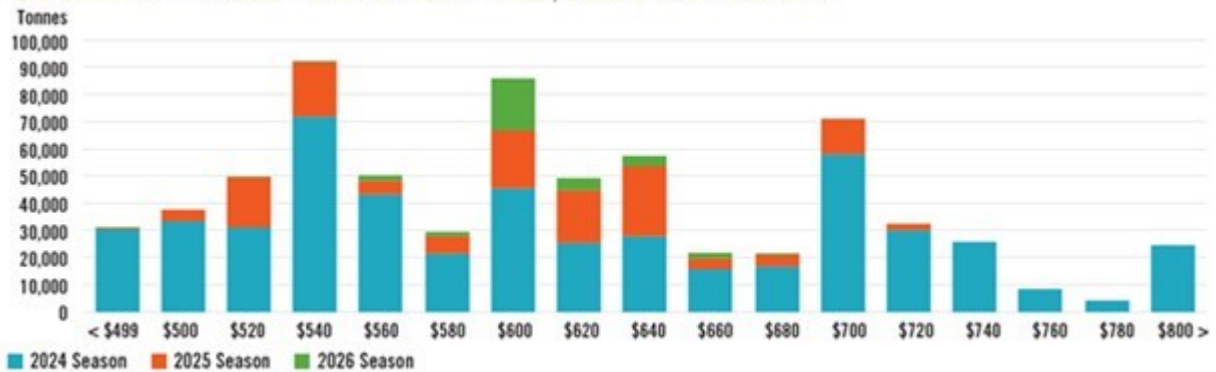


QSL Proserpine Grower Member Representative Peter Quod with QSL's Karen Vloedmans.

## Grower Pricing Update

Catch up on the latest raw sugar market and currency news, along with the current grower pricing fills for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 Seasons in this month's Grower Pricing Update.

### QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2024, 2025 & 2026 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 18.06.24 by growers from across all sugarcane growing regions using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## QSL App | Converting USc/lb to AUD per tonne sugar

Want to see how the changing USD/AUD exchange rate impacts the sugar price in Australian dollars?

Simply head to the 'Tools' section of the QSL App and click on the 'AUD per tonne actual' button. Enter the USc/lb figure and the USD/AUD exchange rate to see the AUD per tonne result.

### Central Region



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Grower Relationship Officer  
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0429 804 876  
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Grower Relationship Officer  
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Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this document.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: RTO PILOT ESCORT COURSE

We are seeking expressions of interest for an RTO Pilot Escort Course to be held here in Proserpine.

The course will run for the full day on Thursday 1st August at CANEGROWERS Proserpine Office.

There is funding from Smart Ag Queensland that will cover 75% of the course cost.

Total out of pocket cost for the course will be **\$170 per person**.

If this is something you are interested in, please email [prp@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:prp@canegrowers.com.au) or call the office on (07) 4945 1844.







## Chemical use training: Which units do you need?

Some high-risk agricultural chemicals require the user to have specific training on their safe handling and use. The training required can differ, depending on the type of chemical, and the situation you are using it in.

### S7 Poisons

Commonly used S7 poisons include:

- Diquat – if over 20% concentration of active (herbicide)
- Paraquat (herbicide)
- MSMA products (herbicide)
- Flumioxazin (herbicide) - UNLESS sold as pre-measured water soluble, sealed bags.
- Zinc Phosphide (some mouse and rat baits).

Training required for use of S7 poisons are those below (or substantially equivalent):

- AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds, and diseases, and
- AHCCHM304 - Transport and store chemicals.

To identify an S7 poison, check the Label for the words “**DANGEROUS POISON**” at the top.



[daf.qld.gov.au](http://daf.qld.gov.au)

### ERA products

*ERA (or environmentally relevant activity) products* are those products containing:

- Ametryn
- Atrazine
- Diuron
- Hexazinone
- Tebuthiuron

Training required for the use of ERA products are those below (or substantially equivalent):

- AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds, and diseases, and
- AHCCHM304 - Transport and store chemicals, and
- AHCPMG301 – Control weeds.

OR a current, unrestricted commercial operator's license.

NOTE: These ERA requirements currently only apply to use of these products within the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, and Mackay Whitsunday Great Barrier Reef Catchments.

### Commercial Op's License

A commercial operator's license is required when applying agricultural chemicals on land that you or a close relative don't own or occupy. However, if you carry out ground distribution on land owned or occupied by your employer, but this is not your primary contracted role for that employer, an exemption is applied.

Training units required to obtain a commercial operators license:

- AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds, and diseases.
- AHCCHM304 - Transport and store chemicals.



Scan here for more information



Queensland  
Government

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. Current as of March 2024.



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## **AUSTRALIAN SUGAR PREMIUMS STAY STRONG FOR THE 2024 SEASON**

**Simon Hood**  
**Wilmar Manager Grower Marketing**

The initial 2024 season sugar price forecasts from marketing companies indicate that the high physical premiums received by Australian sugar in the 2023 season, are likely to be repeated for this production season.

For Wilmar growers who use Target Pricing, the initial forecast is for \$38.43/t Actual to be added to the AUD #11 swap price fixed by the grower. This is in comparison to QSL's forecast of \$21.12/t Actual.

While the initial forecast is below the 2023 season estimate of \$53.22/t Actual (QSL \$33.91/t) it is important to remember that not long ago this premium was negligible to negative. This is good news for growers, and underscores the strong demand for the quality sugar that is consistently produced out of Australia.

An expected bounce back in the Thai crop, which is the main competitor in Asia for our sugar, may keep a lid on upside revisions from here.

As far as the broader market is concerned, the focus remains on the progress of the Brazilian crop. The ICE #11 continues to languish sub US 20c/lb as the market awaits data on the volume, ATR, and production mix from the early Brazilian crush.

The May 24 UNICA fortnightly reports indicate that all three sugar production key variables are trailing behind market expectation: tonnes are down, sucrose yield is lower and the sugar make is below 50 per cent.

If this trend continues through June, it's likely the speculative community will lighten their short position and upside resistance will depend on how the rest of the world crop is developing.

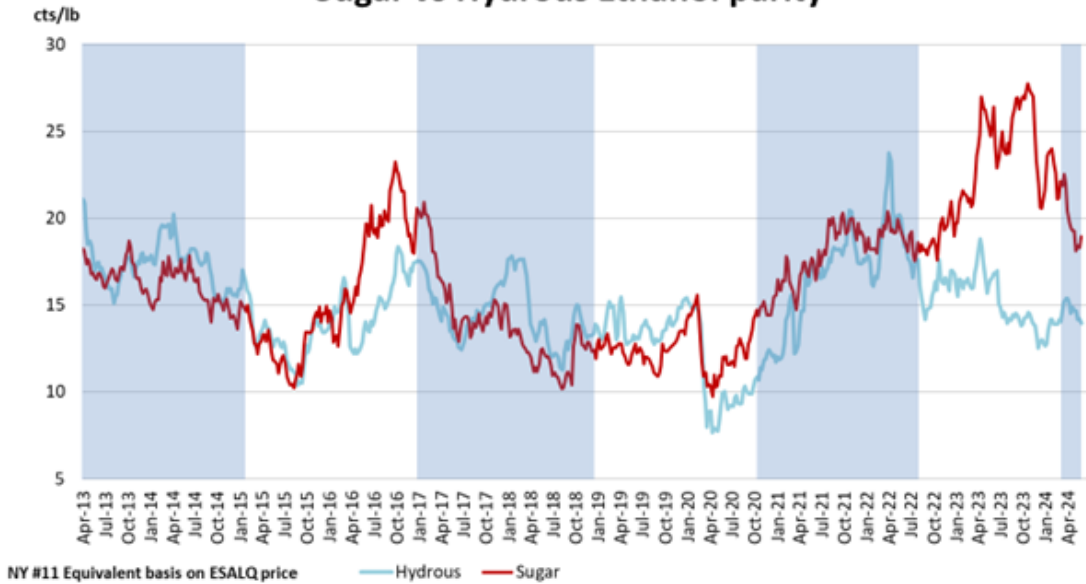
As previously noted, the Thai crop is expected to be recovering well this year and the monsoon in India appears to be on track for a normal season. Even if the Indian crop comes in higher, the increased production is expected to be absorbed into ethanol production and therefore, global sugar stocks will not be affected.

Wilmar's Senior Sugar Trader Peter Bingham will be touring Queensland in the second week of July. He will be presenting in each of our regions, providing an update on Wilmar's supply and demand forecasts, as well as an insight into the key destination countries for Australian sugar.

This is always a popular event, so make sure you contact your local consultant for further information.



### Sugar vs Hydrous Ethanol parity



Brazilian sugar versus ethanol parity from 2013 to 2024

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Bill and William, Proserpine

Contact Jess to find out more.

## CLASSIFIEDS & NOTICES

### DO YOU HAVE ANY HISTORIC ITEMS THAT RELATE TO THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY?

Hotel Metropole have contacted CANEGROWERS Proserpine in search for historic or even recent sugar cane farming items that can be put up for display following renovations. This can include objects such as, cane knives and other smaller pieces of equipment.

If you have any unwanted items or would like anything on display in the Hotel, please contact the office on (07) 4945 1844.



We'd love to share how our members are filling their days, new technologies or methods being used, photos of our beautiful area and any feel good or funny situations that you find yourselves in, but we need your help!



If you have something to share on the CANEGROWERS Proserpine facebook page – Proserpine Director, Bessie Orr, wants to hear from you!

Need a little help taking some photos to share or putting together your story – no trouble – we'd love to help.

Email your stories, photos etc to Bessie at: [proscgmedia@gmail.com](mailto:proscgmedia@gmail.com) or phone Bessie: 0437 538 044.

*Closing date for classified advertisements is the close of business of the second week of each month.*

*Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members.*

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*Articles appearing in 'Cane News' do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS .*