



## **WELCOME TO 2023 ISSUE # 5 OF 'CANE NEWS'**



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FACEBOOK?***

Be sure to 'like' our page to keep up to date with Proserpine cane industry news, events

### **2023/24 PAYROLL INFORMATION**

As we enter the 2023/24 FY, changes regarding paying employees have come into effect, as follows:

As of 1st July 2023, minimum wage rates have increased. Printed copies of our wages information sheet can be collected from the Proserpine office, or can be emailed at your request. If you employ or are considering employing someone aged 19 years or younger and need help calculating the relevant pay rate, please contact our office.

The ATO's preference for receiving Tax File Number Declaration forms is now by employees completing the process through their online (myGov) portal. Forms can still be submitted in the previous paper format and the Proserpine office has a small quantity of forms on hand, for any member that requires them.

Superannuation Guarantee for all payments made from 1st July onwards increases from 10.5% to 11%. Superannuation is paid to all employees, regardless of their employment status (i.e. permanent, casual, SCHR) and is calculated on their OTE (Ordinary Time Earnings). There is no longer a threshold for employees to earn before superannuation is paid.

Lastly, a reminder of the importance of using the CANEGROWERS employment template. Implementing contracts for all employees is the best way to ensure all parties have the same understanding of an individual's employment. Contracts clearly state the agreed pay rate, classification of employment and other agreed upon areas, potentially eliminating any 'grey areas' that may cause disruption during the season or at termination. CANEGROWERS provides an updated employment contract each year, and the file can be accessed by contacting the Proserpine office. ***Please note: no responsibility is taken for an employer who varies/amends the standard wording provided in the template. The only wording that can be removed is that which has a note to insert the required information or strikeout unnecessary information.***

## 2023 SHOW CANE COMPETITION



We'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone that entered this year's Show Cane competition, all of our very generous sponsors, and our team of staff, directors and volunteers for bring everything together. It was a tough competition again this year, which yielded some hard decisions for our judges. It was fantastic to see the exhibit stand looking so full this year, and it was a comment echoed by many. This year saw multiple branches enter the District Exhibit; something that we haven't see for a few years. It was so good to see the friendly rivalry between the groups as they displayed their entries on the Thursday afternoon and awaited the outcome at Friday's presentations.

This year's competition saw 2 changes, both of which were successful. After years of tight competition, the decision was made to expand on section 6 (highest stalk), by adding variety categories in addition to an overall winner. It was fantastic to see each of the variety winners receive acknowledgement.

2023 also saw the introduction of section 11 - CANEGROWERS Young Farmers Trophy, with members being awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place positions. We're looking forward 2024's competition and to adding another name to the trophy.

*(see next page for this year's results)*



## DRIVER SAFETY

As the season begins, we'd like to remind members to be mindful of WHS requirements for haul-out drivers. Sadly, one of the examples cited by Work Safe (see link below) relates to the cane industry and is the subject of ongoing investigations. The penalties for failing to abide by WHS laws can be significant.

<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news-and-events/newsletters/esafe-newsletters/esafe-editions/esafe-rural/may-2023/spate-of-serious-tractor-incidents-prompts-warning>

A reminder that Canegrowers has prepared a WHS Guide for Sugarcane Growers, which can be viewed by visiting [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au).

The Canerise logo features a stylized palm tree inside a circular frame with a sunset background. Below the logo, the text 'CANERISE' is written in large, bold, white letters, and 'Mackay Whitsunday' is written in a smaller, white font below it. The background of the entire section is a photograph of a sugarcane field with a dirt path leading through it.

Elevating cane farming  
through sustainable practices

[canerise.com.au](http://canerise.com.au)

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

*Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members.*

*CANEGROWERS Proserpine does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in, or associated with the newsletter.*

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

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

- A G. Clarke
- B S & B Orr
- C Valmadre Farming
- D D. Holcombe
- E LG & BT Simpson
- F BE & CL Penhallurick
- G Jeppesen Farming

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

- A D. Holcombe
- B DS & TL Botto
- C Valmadre Farming
- D P. Quod
- E LG & BT Simpson
- F BE & CL Penhallurick
- G Jeppesen Farming

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

G. Clarke

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

Jeppesen Farming

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

Jeppesen Farming

### 6 - Heaviest stalk

- A - Q183 BE & CL Penhallurick
  - B - Q208 Jeppesen Farming
  - C - SRA9 AR & JP Cowan
  - D - Any other approved variety Ross Rule
- Overall winner Ross Rule (4.35 Kg)

### 7 - District exhibit

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Lethebrook Branch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Town Branch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Gregory/Strathdickie Branch

### 8 - Highest CCS test in two stalks

- A - Q183 D. Holcombe
- B - Q208 AR & JP Cowan
- C - KQ228 P. Formosa
- D - Q232 No entries
- E - Q240 AR & JP Cowan
- F - Q253 J. Casey
- G - Any other approved variety AR & JP Cowan

### 9 - Highest quantity of CCS in six stalks of plant cane

J. Casey	Variety: Q240	CCS: 17.8	Weight: 21.1 Kg	Kg sugar: 5.064 Kg
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### 10 - Highest quantity of CCS in six stalks of ratoon cane

Jeppesen Farming	Variety: Q228	CCS: 18.6	Weight: 16 Kg	Kg sugar: 4 kg
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### 11 - CANEGROWERS Young Farmers Trophy

- 1<sup>st</sup> place - Valmadre Farming
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Moore Family Trust
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place - S & B Orr

### 12 - CANEGROWERS Proserpine Insurance Trophy

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





# CANEGROWERS

MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

## Info, new video & new PDFs to download & read

Members can access current and previous updates by logging into the member services section at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au), using your CANEGROWERS membership number.

If you do not have your member number, please contact the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office on 4945 1844.

## CANEGROWERS PROSERPINE JUNE INSURANCE UPDATE

Under insurance is when the sum insured value isn't enough to cover the cost of repairing, replacing or rebuilding the items listed on your policy.

Sometimes a policyholder may decide to

purposely underinsure their assets with the aim of getting a lower premium. This is because the sum insured often impacts what you pay for your policy – the higher it is, the higher the premium and vice versa. However, this can have serious implications when it comes to claim time and find that you are not covered for the amount you need.

*Example: you choose the Sum Insured of \$40,000 for your tractor. The tractor is damaged and a quote for the repairs totals \$22,000, resulting in the tractor being deemed a total loss by the insurer. The actual market value for the Tractor at the time was \$60,000. Current premium pricing for this scenario shows that the approximate annual premium saving by underinsuring is \$247, but you now need to replace your tractor and only have \$40,000 to do so.*

Remember to regularly review the sums insured and consider the value of each item listed on your policy.

Proserpine Insurance Admin, Jess Harrison is in the office Monday to Thursday, 8.45am to 2.45pm. She's contactable by phone (4945 1844) or email:

[jess\\_harrison@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:jess_harrison@canegrowers.com.au)).



## Take control of your pricing

2026 season opens soon

Want more control over your final sugar price? Talk to me about forward pricing.

- > Our forward pricing tools are easy to understand and easy to use.
- > You can lock in sugar prices you like, as far as three-and-a-half years out.
- > Build some certainty into your income from your 2026 crop.



Get in touch

**SHIRLEY NORRIS**  
OFFICE Proserpine Mill  
PHONE 0437 803 019

**wilmar**

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## **WILMAR SUGAR OFFERS 43 NEW APPRENTICESHIPS**

Australia's leading sugar manufacturer has opened applications for its 2024 apprenticeship intake, with 43 positions available across Wilmar Sugar's Queensland mills and bioethanol distillery. The first-year apprenticeships are in the electrical, boilermaking, fitting and turning, and diesel fitting trades. There are 19 positions at Wilmar's Burdekin factories, eight in the Herbert region, nine in Proserpine and seven at Sarina.

Training Superintendent Daniel Shipard said the large intake was driven by the need to build and retain skills across key trades as Wilmar continued to bring manufacturing back to North Queensland.

"This is the second consecutive year where we've offered more than 40 apprenticeship places, which is well above our traditional intake of around 30," Mr Shipard said. Wilmar Sugar's apprenticeship program is one of the most successful in Australia. Over the past five years, we've achieved an average apprenticeship completion rate of 98 per cent, which is well above the national average," Mr Shipard said. "Our apprentices are well supported throughout the program, which is a key factor in our high completion rate. They learn from some of the best tradespeople in the industry, work in a safe environment, and they get to work on multi-million-dollar manufacturing projects, like new locos, new pan vessels and new motor control centres," Mr Shipard said.

Wilmar has brought forward its application process this year so successful applicants can start their apprenticeships in early December, rather than January 2024.

"This will give them the earliest possible start to their apprenticeships, so they start learning new skills and earning money before Christmas."

Successful applicants are provided with uniforms, PPE and a fully-kitted trade specific toolkit. Wilmar Sugar covers all training expenses. The positions are open to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

**Applications close on 23 July. To find out more, Google 'Wilmar Sugar apprenticeships'.**





## CANE BURNING NOTIFICATION : A REMINDER OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Burning cane, tops and trash comes with very serious obligations for growers. In general, growers must apply for a permit from their local fire warden and follow all requirements and conditions of the permit. This includes notifying your neighbour and Firecom before lighting a fire. However, cane farmers do have a special dispensation when it comes to burning cane. Under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the 'Cane Burning Notification' gives cane growers the authority to burn their cane without a permit - provided that minimum conditions are met.

BUT remember, if you can't or don't think you can meet the conditions, **YOU MUST APPLY FOR A PERMIT** from your local Fire Warden!

Some of the conditions that would fall outside of the 'Notification' include burning adjacent to urban areas or a main road. There are also other laws or by-laws that growers need to consider. These are local government provisions of the EPA or Powerlink Queensland guidelines when burning near powerlines.

If you are considering burning under the 'Cane Burning Notification' further conditions can be found on the QFES website, please follow them carefully!

Remember to consider your impact on residential areas. Our local population is growing and in order to maintain our 'Cane Burning Notification', we need to ensure our activities have as low an impact as possible! Lastly, ensure you are covered by comprehensive liability insurance for your own protection and always notify your neighbours and Firecom before lighting that fire!



# FJDynamics

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**JACOB SNYMAN**  
Agribusiness Agronomist  
0419 174 616





# PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE



## **Tap into the power of the QSL App**

As we commence the 2023 Season, the QSL App offers more handy tools to support your business than ever before.

Watch this short video for a quick tour of some of its most popular features. The QSL App is available free via the Apple and Google Play stores or see your local QSL team for assistance.

Bringing the global sugar market to you <https://vimeo.com/824936401>

## **QSL Daily Price updates**

The QSL daily price SMS will be switched off after 30 June 2023. To continue to receive daily price updates direct to your mobile phone, simply subscribe to the Daily Prices Tracker in the QSL App.

Don't have the QSL App?

Simply download the QSL App and head to the 'Tools' section of the App, select 'Daily Prices Tracker' and hit the 'Subscribe' button at the bottom of the screen. Just make sure you have notifications switched on in your phone's settings. For assistance, contact your local QSL team.

## **2023-Season indicative Advances schedule**

QSL's 2023 Indicative Advances Program is now available on the QSL website.

The initial default payment is \$533/tonne sugar IPS net, based on an estimated combined QSL Harvest and US Quota pool indicative value of \$820/tonne sugar IPS net as of 12 May 2023. QSL's 2023-Season full indicative Advances Schedule is available at: <https://www.qsl.com.au/content/indicative-advances-2023>

## **Show Whitsunday Cane Awards**

QSL is a proud sponsor of the Show Whitsunday cane competition and awards.

Congratulations to all involved in organising the awards along with the growers who contribute to make this a great display and industry occasion.

Pictured are some of the winners of the awards sponsored by QSL and presented by QSL Grower Relationship Officer Karen Vloedmans.

Pictured: Peter Quod.



Pictured: John Casey.



Pictured: Dale Holcombe.



QSL proudly on display at the Show Cane exhibition.



## **2023 Harvest Pool Opt Out**

The 2023-Season Harvest Pool Opt Out is available to QSL Direct growers.

No minimum tonnage is required – simply choose to Opt Out and any of your Harvest Pool tonnage, which has not already been priced by QSL, will be transferred to the Self-Managed Harvest Contract so you can price it yourself.

Just click the Harvest Pool Opt Out button available within your QSL Direct account to view the current value of your priced Harvest Pool tonnage, how much remains unpriced, and the ICE 11 contracts you'll need to price it against if you decide to opt out and start pricing it yourself.

## **Selling or leasing your farm?**

It's important for QSL Direct growers who are planning changes to their farm's operating structure (such as a farm sale, new lease or subdivision) to inform their local QSL team as soon as possible. For further information or to commence the process, please contact your local QSL office or the QSL Direct team on 1800 870 756.

## **Key Dates 2023**

20 September 2023:

- Last day to price 2023-Season Target Price Contract tonnage before the pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
- Last day to achieve or roll pricing allocated to the October 2023 ICE 11 contract through the Individual Futures Contract or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.

### **Central Region**



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*Grower Relationship Officer*  
**Sonia Ball**  
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**For more information  
please contact your local  
representative:**

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.



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.