MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2014/15 YEAR

At the February Board Meeting, the decision was made to set the Canegrowers Burdekin (CBL) Membership fees for 2014/15.

The CBL Membership fee consists of five components being the CBL Administration Fee, CBL Water Perils Crop Compensation Levy, CGU Fire Perils Crop Compensation Levy, CANEGROWERS Qld membership fee and the special 2010 Sucrogen Dispute Fighting Fund Levy.

CBL has control over setting the CBL Administration Fee and the CBL Water Perils Crop Compensation Levy. The Sucrogen Dispute Fighting Fund levy has been set at 20 cents per tonne for the past three seasons as agreed with impacted members. Whilst QCGO set the CANEGROWERS Qld membership fee and the Fire Perils Crop Compensation Levy is set by insurance company CGU, who provide this cover.

Your Board are very pleased to advise that the CBL Administration Fee will remain at 21 cents per tonne and the CBL Water Perils Crop Compensation Levy will remain at 2 cents per tonne for the coming year. These two fees combined have remained at 23 cents for five years running.

The CGU Fire Perils Crop Compensation Levy for the coming season should be announced by the end of April. Last year the CGU Fire Perils fee was 1.73 cents per tonne.

The CANEGROWERS Qld membership fee for the coming year should be determined by QCGO by the end of April, once this has been set we will advise you of the amount. Last year the CANEGROWERS Qld fee was 11.25 cents. For your membership fee you benefit by being a member of CANEGROWERS which has the collective strength in providing representation, leadership and services to its members at local, state, national and international level.

Being a member of Canegrowers Burdekin, the largest cane grower collective in the Burdekin, provides many benefits but an important one is that in the event of a future legal dispute the legal costs are shared over a larger base, meaning each member contributes less towards a fighting fund than they would if they were part of a smaller collective.

The CBL Water Perils Crop Compensation scheme is backed by $845,000, which includes a reserve of $650,000 plus an additional provision of $195,000. In addition you are benefited by a Board of experienced grower Directors and a quality Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) negotiated by an experienced negotiation team.

SPECIAL 50% DISCOUNT FOR NEW MEMBERS

A 50% discount on the total Membership Fee is on offer for new members. For the 2014/15 year, for any new member who joins or re-joins CANEGROWERS they will receive the full benefits of being a member of CANEGROWERS for half price.

As an example if the total of all of the levies remained exactly the same as last year at 36 cents then the new member would only pay 18 cents per tonne for the 2014/15 year and this would provide full membership of Canegrowers Burdekin and CANEGROWERS Qld plus crop compensation cover for both Water and Fire.

If you know any cane farmers who are not already members of CANEGROWERS we encourage you to let them know about this special offer and to encourage them to give us a call.

Terms and conditions apply. One condition being the special 50% discount applies to the full levy for new members/tonnage with up to and including 40,000 tonnes. For new members with tonnage over 40,000 a special discount will be negotiated.

For your membership fee you benefit by being a member of CANEGROWERS which has the collective strength in providing representation, leadership and services to its members at local, state, national and international level.

The CBL Water Perils Crop Compensation scheme is backed by $845,000, which includes a reserve of $650,000 plus an additional provision of $195,000. In addition you are benefited by a Board of experienced grower Directors and a quality Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) negotiated by an experienced negotiation team.
Membership Fees cont.

This three year rolling CSA provides many benefits to growers some of which include penalty payments for:

- mill non-performance;
- delayed crushing of burn cane; and
- stand over.

Plus our CSA includes absolutely no mention of the Raw Sugar Supply Agreement (RSSA) which provides some protection to growers from agreements reached between Millers and QSL in which growers have no say. We work tirelessly on your behalf in our efforts to reduce your key operating expenses. Our project F.I.R.E. relates to our efforts to reduce your costs associated with:

**Fertiliser**

our “Retain Ravensdown in the Burdekin” campaign is ongoing. We encourage every grower in the Burdekin to buy at least some fertiliser from Ravensdown to ensure Ravensdown does not exit this region and we return to the bad old day’s pre-Ravensdown when fertiliser was over $1,200 per tonne.

**Insurance**

the new CANEGROWERS Insurance Broker service has been introduced to ensure you get the best deal possible for your insurance. Already, many growers have saved thousands of dollars and we encourage you to obtain a quote from brokers Glyn and Martine prior to paying any insurance renewal...no matter what it is for. As a broker Glyn and Martine work for you and not an insurance company plus they have access to over one hundred different insurance companies and policies. Insurance is available for farms, trucks, harvesters, buildings, residential houses & cars, strata title ...in fact whatever you need to insure if there is a cover for it they will not only endeavour to find it for you but they will also work to find the best deal for you as well.

**Rates**

we have made representations to Council over the past 3 years. Our focus has been on obtaining a fair deal from Council in regards to the General Rates being charged to Category D Sugar Cane. We have consistently highlighted that the total valuation of cane land in the region is only 26% but the Council is unfairly allocating 46% of General Rates to cane land. We have pointed out that while cane farmers are paying close to double their fair share of general rates, Industry and Commercial land holders have had their “rate in the dollar” reduced from 3.128 in 2010-2011 to now the lowest “rate in the dollar” of 1.153 and pointed out that rate payers of commercial properties are now paying the lowest “rate in the dollar” of any category, even lower than the amount paid by residential rate payers. Previous efforts have resulted in the cane farm category not being allocated any increases that are substantially above the average (as happened prior to our lobbying) plus the discount process has been altered to be more friendly to the cane payment cycle. This year we initiated all 5 Burdekin collectives uniting and working together on this important topic. We await the results from this year’s lobbying as a united delegation.

**Electricity**

has taken the most of our time and effort as it is such a critical issue for growers and is so complex. The huge increases that have already been implemented are pushing many growers to the wall. We have lobbied both State and Federal Government plus we have made representations to the QCA. We have a delegate (Arthur Woods) on the CANEGROWERS State Electricity Committee. This Committee regularly meets with the key decision makers in Government and ERGON. We work together with CANEGROWERS Qld, other irrigator cane regions and QFF. We work closely with media to communicate the impact the massive increases on electricity pricing is having on cane farmers and the impact this can have on the Burdekin region. Plus our Social Media program has allowed us to communicate this message nationally.

In addition, members of CBL receive a 50% discount on services provided by CBL for a fee, such as our Payroll Service. As an example, as a member of CBL, if you have two employees, for just $1 per day we will look after all of your payroll plus CANEGROWERS Qld negotiate special deals on your behalf such as a 6% discount on health fund cover provided by our own regionally based Qld Country Health Fund. Plus general legal advice is available to members for no charge from CANEGROWERS in-house solicitor Chris Cooper (07 3864 6442).

Our experienced management team of Wayne (0428 834 802) and Debra (0417 709 435) are available at any time to provide you with assistance as needed.
Harvest grouping applications for 2014 season to close in 7 days
Growers are reminded that under the terms of the Cane Supply Agreement proposed changes to harvesting groups for the forthcoming season are to be advised to all relevant stakeholders including Wilmar.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin and affected groups by 28th February 2014.

Guidelines and an approved form of application for grouping can be accessed here.

Please contact Wayne Smith 0428 834 802 if assistance is required to complete an application.

A reminder that the closing date for 2014 season pricing nominations is fast approaching
Growers have until close of business (5pm) Monday 24th February to have pricing nominations completed. Sugar not nominated for which no pricing nominations have been received will receive the QSL Harvest Pool price for the 2014 Season.

Just give Michelle or Tiffany a call on 4790 3600 to assist you with your nominations for pricing and pooling elections using the electronic online facility provided by Wilmar Sugar on the Grower Web portal.

* Please note that CANEGROWERS employees are not licensed to provide advice on pricing matters.

Advocate Correction
In today’s Advocate there is a short story quoting that CANEGROWERS has confirmed there will not be an early start to the crushing season. This is not correct.

The background is that we had been contacted by The Advocate in response to a rumour that the crush was going to start “a few weeks early” this season. We simply advised that this rumour was not correct as the process to come to the planned start date had not yet been completed.

We provided details of the process of how the planned season start date is reached with reference to the Cane Supply Agreement. We fully understand that there are different opinions from growers in regard to starting early or not.

We have also advised that the CSA requires Wilmar to consult and to use reasonable endeavours to nominate a planned start date by the end of April. As soon as we know the planned start date we will let you know.
Are you having difficulty paying your ERGON account?

Many Growers have advised us that contacting ERGON to discuss payment options is a straightforward process. Make sure to contact ERGON before the due date on 13 10 46.

CANEGROWERS handy tariff tool helping you to select the best Tariff

CANEGROWERS has developed a Tariff Selection Tool to help you understand which electricity tariff is optimal for your pump.

The tool can help you understand if you are on the right tariff, and also can help plan farm operating budgets for the next year. This tool is now available and free to use via the CANEGROWERS website, click here to download.

This tool can be used in several ways:

* Help plan farm operating budgets for the next 12 months.
* Understand if you are on the wrong tariff and paying too much.
* Examine the savings of moving energy from peak into off peak times.
* Examine the savings of using a lower capacity pump.

If you realise you are on the wrong electricity tariff, you should contact Ergon immediately on 1300 135 210 and review your tariff connection.

The latest CaneClips

Presented by
The Professional Extension and Communication Unit
CaneClips
Is solar a viable option for sugarcane farmers?

Which irrigation tariff should I be using?

This tool can help you determine which tariff is optimal for your pump.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insert inputs</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peak kWh use</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-peak kWh use</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pump capacity (kW)</th>
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<tr>
<th>2013/14 cost</th>
<th>T20</th>
<th>T21</th>
<th>T22</th>
<th>T44</th>
<th>T62</th>
<th>T65</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$17,897</td>
<td>$25,614</td>
<td>$15,419</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$12,903</td>
<td>$13,793</td>
<td>$14,918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optimal tariff: T62

NOTES:
Calculations are for yearly use and based on 2013/14 notified tariffs.
Pump capacity in kWh
Use is in kWh per billing quarter
THIS IS AN ESTIMATE ONLY
Getting soil tests to accurately assess the nutrient requirements of a block provides a host of benefits. Crop inputs, including fertiliser, which can account for up to a quarter of growers’ yearly spend, are expensive. Soil testing is one tool that can be used by growers to determine appropriate nutrients to maximise crop yields cost effectively.

Mark Whitten, RFA Account Manager – Burdekin / Herbert Region said “Soil testing assists growers to apply the right nutrients at the right time for the lowest cost”.

Soil samples sent to Ravensdown’s Analytical Research Laboratories (ARL) undergo rigorous assessment to ensure accuracy, compliance to Australian standards, and to ensure the fast turnaround that the company boasts. Growers have two options when taking soil tests the Sugarcane Analysis ($100), or the Comprehensive Sugarcane Analysis ($120).

Organising your soil testing is easy with the kits available at CANEGROWERS Burdekin - the kits come with detailed instructions. Soil Samplers are also available at CANEGROWERS Burdekin on a two-day loan basis at no charge to members. Once growers have their soil samples they can simply return with the accompanying documents/ courier bag and completed paperwork to CANEGROWERS Burdekin for dispatch.

For assistance call Mark on 0437 748 856

Federal Health Minister’s comment on relationship of sugar and obesity

The Hon. Peter Dutton - Minister for Health & Minister for Sport stated at a dinner in Townsville on Wednesday night in response to a question on obesity “It is not the Federal Government’s role to tell people how many cups of sugar they can use in their kitchen. People have to accept responsibility for their own actions.”
BBIFMAC Energy Forum

In last week’s canenews we provided an overview of the BBIFMAC Energy Forum which was held on Wednesday 12 February at the Ayr Showgrounds.

Copies of the various presentations are now available. Click on each link below to access:

- **Lisa McDonald** (Manager Products & Partnerships - Ergon Energy) — Current electricity tariffs options and how pricing works
- **Phil Marano** (Canegrowers Burdekin Chairman) — Overview of Cangrowers lobbying relating to electricity pricing
- **Michael Scobie** (Research Engineer - National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture) — Benchmarking & Software for surface irrigation systems — web based software tools developed for on farm water & energy assessments
- **Pat Daley** (Manager Director - Daley’s Water Service) — Pump selection, drive controls (VSD,VFD & Mag coupling), Minimising pressure losses, irrigation design & scheduling
- **Steve Attard** (Irrigation Agronomist - AgriTech Solutions) — Reducing costs through improving surface irrigation
- **Fabian Gallo** (Director & Irrigation Advisor - HydroTech Monitoring) — Overview of the services to improve irrigation efficiency and energy savings
- **Ross Anderson** (Director & Founder of Aqua Gold Consulting - Contracted by BIEDO) — Key findings of energy audits for 14 ISIS/Bundaberg Growers
- **Paul Hobbs** (Account Manager - GRUNDFOS Pumps) — Pump audit equipment, setup, pump analysis & recommendations to enhance pump efficiencies and energy savings
- **Paul Horan** (Manager - Horan & Bird) — Solar options for irrigators - Energy efficiency, energy auditing & electrical management, ERGON applications for new supply

A program targeted at the Next Generation of farmers

The Next Generation program (Next Gen) has been developed in response to a major issue the sugar cane industry is facing regarding its main asset – its farmers.

The industry has identified a need to encourage and support young farmers into a career in agriculture, specifically in the sugar cane industry.

It is also important to ensure the more established farmer is encouraged to transfer the wealth of their knowledge to the incoming generation.

Next Generation is committed to providing cutting edge information to farmers via a number of communication mediums.

One of the ways that Next Gen is communicating this information to farmers is via a series of personalised seminars which are being held throughout sugar regions.

In order to hold these sessions, the Next Gen officer accesses a vast number of sugar regions across Queensland and Northern New South Wales. The officer does this by driving to each region in a branded 4WD known as the ‘Cane Captiva’.

To find out when the ‘Cane Captiva’ will be in your region, contact us on (07) 3839 1900 or follow Next Gen on [facebook](#) or [twitter](#).

Click [here](#) to go to the current Next Gen Farmer E-Newsletter
Get involved in Smartcane BMP Today: Pick up the phone and ask how. By Gary Halliday

Being told how to farm by government is something none of us want. Now sugarcane growers have a chance to do something about it.

The sugar industry has built its own system. Known as the Smartcane BMP, it was put together by industry scientists and growers. After rigorous verification by independent scientists, the government has put its mark of endorsement on the Smartcane BMP program. It has agreed that as sugarcane growers sign up to the program, they will wind back regulation.

Better still, given that it was built by sugarcane scientists and farmers, it is a system which really works for us. Importantly, we will also be able to use it to better market Australian sugar in the competitive world market. Our international customers are increasingly looking for verification that they are sourcing quality sugar that has been grown in a sustainable way. The Smartcane BMP will give them the proof they are looking for.

To achieve all this, the sugar industry must get involved. It is voluntary, but the more growers who are involved will ultimately lead to a more convincing argument with government at all levels, to allow us to manage our environmental affairs.

I’ve been employed locally to help growers get involved in the program. There are 18 people employed across Queensland as part of the Smartcane BMP team who have been put in place to help farmers every step of the way through the process. Funding for the program has been provided by the Queensland government through the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for all farming entities growing sugar cane in Queensland.

To find out more or to get involved with this free program, please pick up the phone or send me an email. My job is to make it as easy as possible for you to be part of the movement to take back industry control over how we farm. The Smartcane BMP is the system the industry has developed to do that.

While this wet weather is upon us, feel free to give me a call and register your interest. I’d love to talk to you about what it’s all about and give you an idea of how far through you are, given any programs you’ve been involved in in the past. You can register for group workshops or individual presentations, the choice is yours. Group workshops have been scheduled on each Tuesday morning in March.
Queensland and Western Australia can expect fewer, but more intense, cyclones in the near future, according to a recent study published by Nature.

Research out of James Cook University in Cairns shows tropical cyclone activity has reached an unprecedented low not seen in the past 550 to 1500 years. But the findings backup earlier studies that predict climate change will also result in stronger cyclones.

Environmental Sciences Professor and co-author of the study Jon Nott says the findings indicate that the last 40 to 100 years of cyclone activity in northern Australia represented a comparatively quiet period in the longer-term history of cyclones in the region.

Buildings and infrastructure on low-lying coastal land in northern Queensland face a higher storm-surge risk than our planners and development authorities have allowed for.

"These results confirm that Queensland’s coastal development guidelines are based on an unrepresentative period,” Professor Nott says.

"Buildings and infrastructure on low-lying coastal land in northern Queensland face a higher storm-surge risk than our planners and development authorities have allowed for.”

The study comes as Queensland dodged its third cyclone scare for the year after former-cyclone Fletcher was downgraded to a tropical low.

But North Queenslanders haven’t forgotten the devastating impact severe tropical storms can have.

Three years on from category five Cyclone Yasi, the region is still recovering from the $3.6 billion disaster (Australia’s most costly cyclone to date).
ASA MEDIA RELEASE 21/02/14
Sugar sweetens Australia-Korea free trade agreement

The Australian Sugar Industry Alliance (ASA) says that the important Australia-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is a step closer today as the text of the proposed agreement has been posted on the government websites in both Australia and Korea.

For those who have been following the FTA process, it is somewhat of an unusual step to post an agreement publicly before it is signed by both countries, but ASA supports the additional layer of transparency that the move brings.

ASA welcomes the agreement posted for public access today, saying it would eliminate tariffs for raw sugar in the trade agreement with Korea. South Korea is the largest export market for Australia’s raw sugar, with sales exceeding 1 million tonnes annually, valued at some $500 million, making the Korea-Australia FTA an important one for Australia’s sugarcane industry. The improved terms of trade flowing from the FTA will make Korea an even more attractive market for Australian raw sugar.

“The FTA will provide a significant boost to Australia’s raw sugar exports by removing the raw sugar tariff as soon as the agreement enters into force and will increase access for white sugar over 18 years, when the 35% tariff will be eliminated” says Chairman of the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance, John Pratt.

“The Australian sugar industry welcomes the announcement that tariffs will be eliminated. The announcement will boost the sugar trading relationship between our two countries,” Chairman of the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance, John Pratt said today.

“The Korea-Australia FTA confirms that trade agreements can be reached that include the so called sensitive products such as sugar and will ensure the longstanding trade relationship between the two countries can continue to grow and prosper,” he says.

All eyes will now be on world trade negotiations to follow suit and include full access for sugar. According to ASA the forthcoming Australia-Japan FTA and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations provide an opportunity for the Japanese government to stop a recent decline in sugar trade between the two countries and to improve the opportunity for Japanese sugar importers to source Australian sugar, reinvigorating the sugar trade between our two countries.

Trade reform talks continue next week in Singapore as the TPP, a proposed trade agreement involving 12 nations, nears completion. The Australian sugar industry is working at full speed to counter calls by some countries for sugar to be excluded from the TPP.

“Our agreement with Korea is the strong signal the TPP needs that high quality modern agreements should have no exclusions. Sugar can and must be included,” says John Pratt.

The Australian sugar industry has been an active presence at TPP negotiations from the outset and is committed to seeing commercially meaningful outcomes delivered for the industry. Warren Males, Australian Sugar Industry Alliance trade committee representative, will be on the ground in Singapore when Australia’s TPP trade negotiations continue later this week.
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Taskforce meeting

This week, the NFF AgVet Chemicals taskforce held their inaugural meeting in Canberra, led by new Taskforce Chair, Reg Kidd. The meeting included discussions with Minister Joyce's senior advisers, AgStewardship, CropLife, Animal Health Alliance and the Department of Agriculture. Already, the taskforce has a busy work agenda underway, looking at regulatory reforms for registration of Agvet chemicals, and effectively addressing minor-use issues and stewardship programs.

For further information on AgVet Chemical policy, please contact NFF Manager, Rural Affairs David McKeon 02 6269 5666 or at dmckeon@nff.org.au

EPBC - Proliferation of Artificial Watering Points as a Key Threatening Process

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee is currently assessing a nomination to list “the proliferation, placement and management of artificial watering points” as a key threatening process under the EPBC Act. Consultation documents are available here on the Department of the Environment Website. Submissions are due by 28 February, 2014.

NFF will be making a submission, and we welcome any final feedback from members. Please respond to Jack Knowles by COB Tuesday 25th February jknowles@nff.org.au

CANEGROWERS Directors have an intimate knowledge of local and regional needs.

CANEGROWERS Directors are growers, just like you, doing demanding work for little monetary return. They understand your needs.
SRA membership

- SRA reports an increase of over 100% in membership applications in past two weeks thanks to CANEGROWERS assistance. The number of applications awaiting processing has climbed to around 1500.

NDRRA assistance Tropical Cyclone Dylan

- Further representations have been made on behalf of members with farms and crops devastated by tidal surges from Cyclone Dylan including one Mackay member with approx. 58 hectares potentially lost and 22 Herbert River members with losses affecting from 10% to 45% of their area for harvest in 2014.
- CANEGROWERS has requested the Queensland Government consider individual disaster stricken property status for farms.

Trade

- CANEGROWERS Warren Males, Head of Economics, participated in the National Farmers Federation trade presentation at Parliament House in Canberra briefing members of parliament, journalists and other key stakeholders on the importance of not selling either sugar or Australian agriculture short in trade negotiations.
- CANEGROWERS Chairman, Paul Schembri and Warren Males met with Trade Minister Andrew Robb to reinforce the point that sugar must not be excluded from the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) or other trade agreements.
- CANEGROWERS continues to take the lead in presenting the industry’s trade agenda and Warren will be at the TPP negotiating round and Ministerial meeting in Singapore from Wednesday this week.
- The Australian Sugar Industry Alliance (ASA) Board strongly supports CANEGROWERS activity in this area and recommended to QSL its continued financial support of this activity.

Indian Export Subsidies

- CANEGROWERS has briefed the Australian Government (DFAT and Minister Robb’s office) on the Indian export subsidy issue, encouraging them to work with Brazil and Thailand to pressure India for change. The Australian and Brazil governments have expressed their concerns with India, both in New Delhi and at the WTO in Geneva, making it clear that in their view the Indian government does not have WTO coverage for the export subsidies.
- We are pressing the Australian Government to raise the issue more formally in the WTO at the next available opportunity. The WTO article that the Indian government is using to justify its decision has been defunct for some years.

Electricity

- CANEGROWERS is working to build support for the introduction of a suite of electricity tariffs for use in food and fibre production. CANEGROWER representatives met with Tom Cheeson, National Irrigators Council, and are continuing dialogue with Ergon.

Drought Policy Reform

- CANEGROWERS was involved in the National Farmers Federation Drought Policy teleconference. The emphasis of the policy is geared towards currently impacted broadacre and grazing operations.

Transport

- CANEGROWERS and the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) attended a public hearing at the parliamentary inquiry into the increased use of rail freight in agriculture. An ASA submission has been prepared for the inquiry.
- The development of the Agricultural Transport Industry Council (ATIC) is currently pending approval from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. More details on the development of the ATIC will be provided as they are made publicly available.
Skills Training

CANEGROWERS Ron Mullins, Chief Operating Officer, held meetings with officers of the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) last week to renegotiate the Strategic Investment Fund grant due to low uptake on the Diploma of Agriculture (RPL). The opportunity to transfer funding to haul-out operator training is being pursued with district offices, indicating demand for (circa) 150 places for training prior to the start of the 2014 harvest.

Cane Nitrogen Forum

110 people attended the cane Nitrogen forum in Townsville. Overall feedback from the participants on the event was that it was useful, generated some good discussion, brought a group of people with different views together in a positive manner and came away with some outcomes, including:

- There is agreement that the reef is important as is grower profitability.
- The approach is improving nitrogen use efficiency which will reduce loss to the environment and improve uptake by the crop.
- A list of 21 research ideas and questions were identified with the clear favourite being research on control release fertilisers.
- The next step is to further unpick the ideas so these can be evaluated for research projects. Funding needs to be coordinated and aligned. There are a several buckets of dollars available from the Queensland Government and Australian Government. How these can be leveraged through SRA needs to be explored.

Environment

Paul Schembri and Warren Males met with Environment Minister Greg Hunt to provide an overview of the SmartCane BMP program, the benefits that will flow from it and to describe the way in which it fits into the federal government’s own programs, particularly Reef 2050 Plan.

- The Reef 2050 Plan and Reef Trust acknowledge the significant role of farmers in reducing run-off and adopting new techniques and funding is available to provide farmers the support they need to continue that work, targeted in the high risk areas.
- The federal government is looking to work with industry to achieve real outcomes – measurable, achievable and verifiable. Key areas of interest include carbon reduction and pesticide, herbicide and nutrient (particularly nitrogen) management.
- Minister Hunt acknowledged the work CANEGROWERS is doing in this area, particularly through the SmartCane BMP program and made it clear that there will be opportunity for CANEGROWERS to work with the federal government in the context of the Reef 2050 Plan and Reef Trust.

Vegetation management

The Queensland Government has introduced legislation to the Parliament to develop a single environmental offers framework for Queensland. The current design of the single offsets framework is currently not adequately developed to accommodate the needs of the sugarcane industry. CANEGROWERS will be working with the Queensland Government in the coming weeks to resolve these issues.

**CANEGROWERS’ leadership has earned the respect of community, industry and government for its persistence and professionalism. The Burdekin’s local and regional leadership is complemented by CANEGROWERS’ leadership at national and international levels.**
QSL update
By Carla Keith, QSL Industry Relationship Manager
for week ending 21 February 2014

Time is almost up to nominate tonnes into QSL’s 2014 pools. If you have any questions regarding our pool offerings for 2014, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us. But remember, the nomination deadlines vary from miller to miller, so see your local mill representative if you’re unsure of the dates applicable to you.

Guaranteed Floor Pool
As mentioned previously, QSL is publishing the daily indicative price for the 2014 Guaranteed Floor Pool on our website in order to provide growers with some insight into potential floor levels. The current prices are:

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<th>2014 Floor Strike Achieved</th>
<th>433.00 AUD/MT</th>
<th>417.50 AUD/MT IPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute Floor</td>
<td>423.00 AUD/MT</td>
<td>407.50 AUD/MT IPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation rate</td>
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Indicative Floor Prices as at 20.02.14
Please note that the above prices are indicative only and will change each day until February 28th, after which we will go to the market and “lock-in” the absolute floor price for the 2014 season. If the Absolute Floor Price secured is $10 less than the last indicative Absolute Floor Price published before declaration close, then growers will have the option of moving their sugar out of the Guaranteed Floor Pool and into another pool. Please see your mill for further details regarding this. For more information about the Guaranteed Floor Pool or any other QSL-managed pools please read the Pool Description Sheets available from our website at www.qsl.com.au.

New Appointment
QSL has welcomed a new addition to the Board. Mr Chris Leon has been appointed to the role of Non-Executive Director for a three-year term and will chair the People, Safety and Environment Board Committee. Mr Leon has extensive experience in international business and driving the strategic direction of companies across a range of industries, including logistics, agribusiness, manufacturing and mining. He is a Non-Executive Director and member of the Audit and Risk Committee at Tassal Group Ltd and has held various Board positions during the past 20 years, including at Cement Australia and its associated companies. Mr Leon replaces Mark Sage, who stood down from the QSL Board late last year after five years in the role.

Marketing
QSL Marketing Manager Peter Breguet attended the annual Kingsman Sugar Conference held in Dubai last week. He reports the key points were:
Most talk out of Dubai was bearish, with numbers as low as 13.5c/lb bandied about. A lot of interest was centred on the Indian Government’s export subsidies (see below for details) and dry conditions in Brazil, with both issues being factors on the market at spot and long-term levels.
Most pundits are predicting a 1-2 million tonne deficit for the 14/15 season, but no real market impact due to heavy stocks in the larger consuming countries.

Finance
The QSL Board reviewed the current indicative Advances program at their meeting earlier this week and has adjusted it as follows:

Risk - 2013 Pool Performance

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<th>Current indicative prices for QSL’s 2013 Pools are:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2013 Gross</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
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<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2013 Season Forward Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: The prices given are in Gross $A dollars/IPS tonnes and do not include a Shared Pool allocation.

CHAIRS FOR HIRE
CANEGROWERS Project and Training Centre
$10 plus $0.50 per Chair
Plus GST
75 Available
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4782 1922
QSL market update
By Ginette Barrett, QSL Liquidity Manager
as at 21 February 2014

Sugar
The market traded a volatile week, with the sugar price rising from a low of 15.31 c/lb for the MAR14 position to a high of 15.93 c/lb and settling at 15.63 c/lb. The main reason behind this movement was confirmation of an export subsidy in India for raw sugar and subsequent terms around this subsidy. The Indian Government confirmed the approval of the export subsidy at 3,300 Rupees/tonne (around $53.50/tonne) earlier in the week, which saw the market initially lose ground. However, mid-week it was announced that the subsidy would only last through to 31 March, leading the market to rally as it realised how unfeasible it would be to move the initially-predicted 4 million tonnes in such a small window. This estimate is now down to around 1 million tonnes.

All eyes continue to watch the weather in Brazil. There was some rain experienced over the weekend however it is believed it will not be sufficient and that dry weather conditions will prevail. This may impact on forecast yields for this season’s crop as well as the next.

The market will continue to eagerly watch the outcomes of the above events in Brazil and India (for a potential extension of the subsidy) for any potential movements on the sugar price. Discussion at the recent major sugar conference in Dubai resulted in the conclusion that 2014 will continue to be a year of surplus, however the market is looking to move into a deficit position in 2015. With all this in mind, QSL’s view is that the sugar price will remain between 15.50-16.50c/lb over the upcoming months before it is likely to start to consolidate in the second half of 2014.

Currency
The Australian dollar followed the volatile theme last week, trading to a high of 90.96 cents to the US dollar and settling at 90.34 cents. Weak US data and weak Australian retail sales and employments figures all had a small impact.

The outlook for the Australian dollar is positive for the sugar industry locally and we expect it to range between 85 and 90 cents to $US in the short-term, with bias still to trend down in the medium-term.

While all care is taken in the preparation of this report the reliability or accuracy of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. 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 report.

CANEGROWERS weather update
The forecast rain outlook for the next 12 months for Home Hill is represented below. To see the latest forecast for your postcode click here.
DATES TO REMEMBER

Forward pricing nominations close Monday 24 February

Harvesting grouping applications close Friday 28 February

LBLCA (Landcare) Meeting, Tuesday 4 March at John Hy Peake room, Burdekin Shire Council

GIVE (Grower Innovation Virtual Expo) is to be held Monday 17 March to Thursday 20 March in Innisfail

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CASUAL FARM WORK?

Put your name down at CANEGROWERS Burdekin by emailing bdk@canegrowers.com.au with your name and work experience.

Classifieds are free for members email your ad to bdk@canegrowers.com.au

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Previous experience, located in Ayr
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Farm Work Wanted
Located in Ayr
Ph: 0456 046 052

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GET INVOLVED

LANDCARE MEETS:
1st Tuesday each month
5.00—6.30pm
John Hy Peake Room,
Burdekin Shire Council
Young Street, Ayr

PROPAGATION MORNINGS:
1st Saturday of each month
& every Wednesday
8.30—11.30am
Landcare Nursery
Kennedy Street, Ayr

CONTACT:
Ross Gelling Nursery Manager
Ph: 0402 377 306
Tom McShane Chairman
Ph: 0429 834 344
Linda Kirk Secretary
Ph: 0415 367 364
More information:
**Pricing information**

**2013 Season Advances & Payments**

* as at 17 February 2014 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$219</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 August 13*</td>
<td>$235</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 September 13*</td>
<td>$256</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October 13*</td>
<td>$262</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 November 13*</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 December 13*</td>
<td>$284</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 January 14</td>
<td>$305</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 February 14</td>
<td>$317</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March 14</td>
<td>$327</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April 14</td>
<td>$336</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 May 14</td>
<td>$346</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June 14</td>
<td>$365</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$384</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* paid

The Advance Program is a guide only. CANEGROWERS Burdekin takes no responsibility for its accuracy. It only applies to growers who did not forward price for 2013 (the default method). Growers who have forward priced for 2013 will be paid the same percentage of their final expected proceeds. For individual advance rates check your grower forecast on the Wilmar website.

**Wilmar Indicative Future Sugar Prices**

* as at 20 February 2014 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Season</td>
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<td>$370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
<td>$434</td>
<td>$416</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$461</td>
<td>$441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$481</td>
<td>$461</td>
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</table>

**Estimated QSL Pool Prices**

* As at 31 January 2014 *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
<td>$386</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
<td>$395</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
<td>$406</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
<td>$392</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
<td>$483</td>
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<tr>
<td>QSL 2013 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
<td>$414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Growners can monitor QSL pool performance via the Price Pool Matrices published on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au). This information is updated regularly and provides a sense of how the QSL-managed pools are performing over the current season.

**Change to cane pay advance rate**

Wilmar have had notice from QSL of a change to the planned advance program, starting with their February payment being increased from the previously advised 80% to 82.5% (of expected final prices).

As the pay files for the 80% payment have been completed & loaded ready for EFT by Wilmar to growers on Thursday 20 February, Wilmar Sugar will be doing a second payment run to increase the effective payment to 82.5%. This means growers will see 2 deposits to cover the February advance, dated 20th & 21st February.

At this time, Wilmar are aiming at having the second payment made on Thursday as well, but this will be dependent on getting the necessary internal checks and approvals done in time, otherwise the second payment may be dated Friday 21 February.

A new schedule of advances has been issued indicating the revised program for remaining advances.

**QSL daily market reports**

QSL daily market reports are available via their website www.qsl.com.au. To view the daily report click [here](#).

The Green Pool weekly sugar reports which were available to growers via the grower web are now available through the CANEGROWERS Burdekin website.

**Raw sugar** couldn’t maintain the prior two weeks of gains, and fell quite heavily as Indian politicians surprised the market by finally announcing export subsidies (sops) of greater quantum than expected ($54, not $32/mt).

CS Brazil also finally got some rain – not yet enough, but as a result of a massive high finally moving, finally some rain.

To view the full reports click [here](#).
**QFF & NFF Updates**

CANEGROWERS is an active member of National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) and Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), a partnership through which we have been able to concentrate and leverage influence in areas of importance to the cane industry. As part of a range of services, NFF & QFF provides a range of information, including weekly cross-commodity updates.

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**Drought Policy Update**

Over the past month, NFF staff and members have been hard at work on a comprehensive drought relief package policy. The package was formally released this week. The package is a suite of new and updated existing measures to address the current drought ravaging much of Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and South Australia. A great deal of consultation has gone into this, ensuring the package reflects farmer concerns, and addresses these concerns with practical and relevant measures. Behind the scenes, Chair of the NFF Drought Task Force, NFF policy staff, and other advocates have had back-to-back briefings with members of parliament.

From a media standpoint, there has been much coverage on drought right across Australia over the past two weeks. The NFF and members have been featured across national and regional TV (including a segment on ABC’s 7.30 program), radio stations and are regulars on the print scene, both on a local, regional and national level. Further to this, the NFF Board and Executive delivered a press brief at APH, formally announcing the NFF’s package details. In conjunction with yesterday’s press brief, the NFF sent informative letters to all Federal MPs and Senators, detailing the NFF’s call for action.

The NFF is currently working on details for President Brent Finlay to travel with the Prime Minister to drought affected regions this weekend. The pressure will continue to build on calling Federal Government action, specifically calling on the Government to respond to NFF’s proposed drought relief package.

For further information, please contact NFF Rural Affairs Manager, Dave McKeon (dmckeon@nff.org.au).

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**NFF Trade Committee Update**

The NFF Trade Committee met at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday 12 February to discuss the trade agenda for the coming year. Minister for Trade and Investment, Andrew Robb, attended the meeting and provided an insight into the progression of the trade agenda—reiterating his strong support for industry engagement and continued advocacy on achieving good outcomes for the farm and agribusiness sector. Key outcomes from the meeting included: strong support to continually engage in priority trade agreements that are being negotiated by the government, particularly the Japan bilateral; the Trans Pacific Partnership; and the China bilateral. Discussion also focused on the development of an overarching trade strategy for ongoing advocacy work, with a specific focus on technical barriers to trade. The NFF has received commendations for its unified approach to representing trade issues from the variety of commodities.

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**NFF Competitiveness Committee Update**

The NFF Competitiveness Committee met in Canberra this week on Monday 10 February 2014. The Committee received briefings from the Prime Minister’s Department on the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper and the Northern Australia White Paper. As such, the NFF will establish a series of small working groups to progress input into these Papers, providing support to the established working group focused on the Competition Legislation review.

The Committee’s agenda also covered a range of other issues, including: a presentation on the proposal to establish a rural reconstruction and redevelopment board of the Reserve Bank; the NFF’s approach to the review of competition legislation; and the proposed review of taxation scheduled to commence later in 2014.

For more information, please contact NFF General Manager of Policy, Tony Mahar, on 02 6269 5666 or tmahar@nff.org.au
Emissions Reduction Fund Green Paper: comments required

The Government has released the Emissions Reduction Fund Green Paper outlining its preferred design operations for the
Emissions Reduction Fund. The Government invites public comment and written submissions on the Green Paper by 5pm on
Friday 21 February 2014. The Emissions Reduction Fund will work with other measures under the Direct Action Plan, and the
Carbon Farming Initiative, to help meet Australia’s target of reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by five per cent below 2000
levels by 2020.

The Emissions Reduction Fund will provide a strong incentive for Australian businesses to reduce their emissions. As such, the
Government has allocated $300 million, $500 million and $750 million over the next three financial years to abate through the
fund via a competitive process. The Green Paper and details of the submission process is available at the Environment website
here.

NFF will be making a submission, and we welcome any final feedback from members. Please respond to Jack Knowles by COB
Monday 17th February jknowles@nff.org.au

Local Management Arrangements explained in QFF video

QFF has prepared an online video providing an update on the progress of investigating Local Management Arrangements (LMA)
for the transition of SunWater irrigation schemes from management by SunWater to local communities. The video interviews
independent LMA chair, Leith Bouly, and interim LMA Bundaberg board members Maurie Maughan and Jim Carney. QFF
members are encouraged to use this video in their promotion of the consultation phase of the process, which will be increasing in
coming weeks. More information on the LMA process can be found here. Comment from QFF President Joanne Grainger can be
found here.

Deputy Premier addresses farmer concerns on planning bill

THE Queensland Farmers’ Federation told a State Parliament committee last week that the Government must continue to strive
for a framework of coexistence between the resources sector and the agricultural sector, in developing its Regional Planning
Interests Bill. QFF CEO Dan Galligan, who presented at the State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Committee, said
that QFF, in a collaborative effort with Cotton Australia and AgForce, had consistently welcomed the Bill’s policy intent of
prioritising agricultural activity in prescribed areas. “Yet farmers have still had concerns about matching the rhetoric around the
Bill to what they see in black and white in terms of regulation and proposed legislation,” Mr Galligan said. “Farmers are generally
supportive of the intent of the Bill, but have been concerned by gaps in detail.

“So it was a welcome opportunity to hear from the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, who took the unique and welcome initiative of
presenting to the Committee, where he explained how this policy intent would be realised. He clarified several points that were
high on QFF’s agenda.”

This includes clarifying that regulation to underpin the Bill will be tabled when it is debated in the Parliament. In addition, the
government intends to take a limited role only in delving into landholder and resource company agreements by providing an
exemption under the Bill when an agreement is made, and only getting involved when agreement cannot be reached. In so doing
the Deputy Premier was very clear: landholders must be consulted on how developments take place on their property and on this
QFF wholeheartedly agrees.

“Finally we have welcomed the decision of the Parliamentary Committee to allow for subsequent submissions to be made within
one week following the release of the transcripts of the evidence provided to date,” Mr Galligan said.

QFF now awaits further detail to explain how farmers’ rights are maintained under these laws. Central to that will be the
recognition that within identified Priority Agricultural Areas (PAA), landholders must be allowed a say on how coexistence would
occur. It is this “implementation step” that has been missing so far and this is the solution that agricultural industry bodies have
provided for in their suggested coexistence framework. We now just need to see the Government pick that framework up and
make it a reality.

Drought announcement expected this week

WITH Prime Minister Tony Abbott this week visiting drought affected regions of the country, it is expected that the Federal
Government will soon announce its measures for drought support for the current event, as well as a longer term strategy for
drought preparedness. QFF will be issuing a statement when confirmation of new measures is made.
Groundwater purchase tender in the central Condamine Alluvium

THE Federal Government has announced a budget of up to $5 million to buy groundwater in the Condamine Alluvium via a tender process. The tender is open and closes on March 7. In this tender, the Australian Government is only seeking sell offers for water licences held in the Central Condamine Alluvium Groundwater Management Area. At this time sell offers in the Upper Condamine Alluvium Tributaries will not be accepted. For more information, visit the Department’s website here.

Funding for emergency drought water infrastructure

PART of the State Government’s Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) has received a funding increase of $7 million from the Commonwealth. The funding will go to eligible water infrastructure activities to cover up to 75 percent of costs for farmers. This program is geared toward ensuring farmers can meet the animal welfare needs of stock during drought to supply them with water. It covers activities such as troughs and pipes for emergency animal welfare needs. For more information on the Queensland Government’s Drought Relief Assistance Scheme click here.

Government to speed up Gulf water review

THE State Government will bring forward a review of the Gulf Water Resource Plan from 2018, following the recent review of a CSIRO report detailing the potential for irrigation from the region. It will be complete by the end of the year. “The early review of the Gulf Water Resource Plan will determine how much more we can release, while protecting existing entitlement holders, local communities, the environment and commercial fisheries,” Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps, said.

ENSO expected to remain neutral at least through autumn

THE Bureau of Meteorology has reported that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) state is neutral, with climate models suggesting neutral conditions will persist at least until the end of autumn. However, some warming of the Pacific Ocean is likely in the coming months. Most international climate models surveyed by the Bureau suggest the tropical Pacific Ocean will warm through the austral autumn and winter. Some, but not all, models indicate central Pacific Ocean temperatures may approach El Niño levels by early winter.

BPS Shed Meetings

Burdekin Productivity Services will be hosting a round of shed meetings in the Burdekin to discuss topics including nutrition, new nitrogen products, Yellow Canopy syndrome, insecticides, Reef Rescue and seed cane plots.

* Note some date changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Leichhardt</td>
<td>L Brotto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Upper Haughton/Stockham Rd</td>
<td>M Mio (Shadforth)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Feb</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Jardine/Barratta</td>
<td>L Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Feb</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Mulgrave/Clare</td>
<td>Clare Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Mar</td>
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<td>Selkirk/Bartlett</td>
<td>T Pontarelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Mar</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Giru/Shirbourne</td>
<td>D Poletto</td>
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<td>Mon 10 Mar</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Osborne/Causeway/Marshalls</td>
<td>L Michelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Mar</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Inkerman/Kookuna/Iona/Fredericksfield</td>
<td>G Mackelroy</td>
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<td>Thur 13 Mar</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Down River/Ramsdens</td>
<td>N Pitris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 13 Mar</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Darveneizia/Groper Creek</td>
<td>B Santarossa</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Mar</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Airdmillan/Burstalls</td>
<td>N Formilan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Mar</td>
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<td>Dicks Bank/McDesme/Airville</td>
<td>BPS Whitson's Plot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 25 Mar</td>
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<td>Waterview/Sextons/Aerodrome</td>
<td>E Pearce</td>
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<td>Thur 27 Mar</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Rita Island</td>
<td>SES Shed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 27 Mar</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Jarvisfield/Klinie</td>
<td>Quartermaine</td>
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canenews is read by the majority of Burdekin cane farmers and their families in the Burdekin. Copies are also circulated to all CANEGROWERS Offices, businesses, industry, politicians, Government Agencies and members of the community.

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CANEGROWERS Burdekin Limited

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Email: bdk@canegrowres.com.au

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