CANEGROWERS Burdekin today farewells long term employee Gary Halliday.

Gary’s family history extends from Sugar into the dairy, sheep and cattle industries. He was educated in the Burdekin at Ayr State primary and secondary schools, followed by eighteen years in a diesel mechanical trade as a motor mechanic, specialising in diesel fuel injection repairs and LPG automotive gas installation. As a change of pace he worked several years for the Queensland Department of Education where Gary gained a Workplace Health and Safety Officer accreditation and moved back into the sugar industry on a farm in the Kalamia Mill area.

Gary’s passion has always been farming and in 2005 he moved away from producing, to farm safety training, with CANEGROWERS. His farming skills transferred well across into training and advisory capacities within the sugar industry (both local and state). Cane farming experiences and OHS Diploma competencies assisted with Gary’s role as a Safety Auditor, a Workplace Assessor Trainer with Ergon Energy, an AusChem Trainer with Farmsafe Queensland and the development of record booklets for compliance with Reef Regulations and heavy vehicle fatigue management. Many growers have benefitted from Gary’s vast knowledge over the years as well as enjoying a steak from the many BBQs held at the Home Hill Hall.

In September 2013 Gary took on the role of Smartcane Facilitator, a government funded program to reduce the “red tape” and prove that cane farmers can self regulate. Unfortunately a change in funding has determined that the Smartcane Facilitator role within CANEGROWERS Burdekin is no longer viable and this has resulted in Gary’s role with CANEGROWERS being made redundant.

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We wish Gary all the best for his future endeavours and thank him for his contribution not just to the Burdekin but to the whole cane farming community over the years.

As we sadly farewell Gary from the CANEGROWERS Centre at Home Hill we welcome a new resident... well-known local service company FARMACIST are moving in. Peter McDonnell said it is like returning home as he worked out of the building for many years in a passed life. FARMACIST’s six employees will occupy all of the front offices and the reception area whilst CANEGROWERS Burdekin will still utilise and control the use of the hall. We will continue to use the hall for our functions, with the next one scheduled on 13 March to celebrate International Women’s Day. Members, male and female are welcome to attend the lunch meeting and can bring along a friend. RSVP is required to Tiffany by Monday 9th March to arrange catering.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin invites members, friends and invited guests to attend a FREE lunch for International Women’s Day

Friday 13th March

Commencing at 11am

CANEGROWERS Hall, Home Hill

Guest Speaker: Ranee Crosby of Port of Townsville

Black Friday ... so wear black

RSVP to Tiffany on 4790 3600 or email bdk@canegrowers.com.au by Monday 9th March
Monitoring and tracking of pesticide run-off spikes in REAL TIME

BBiFMAC received funding from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) and the NQ Dry Tropics Reef Rescue Program, to carry out real-time water quality monitoring in a sub catchment of the Burdekin River Irrigation Area.

In the Burdekin Irrigation area, over the past few years, extensive water quality monitoring has taken place both on-farms, through the three-year BBiFMAC managed “Water Quality Pixel” project; and in-stream via several regional water quality monitoring programs conducted by various agencies (TropWater, EHP, QDAFF).

The missing link in this water quality monitoring was the connection between the farmer management practices to the water quality in the drainage systems. As a result, the REAL TIME project aims to make the direct connection (paddock to stream) by intensively monitoring in real time the runoff at the downstream end of the sub-catchment stream/drain, and tracking any spikes in concentration of nutrients and pesticides, back to the farm and paddocks. The “offending” management practices can then be quickly identified and modified or alternative practices discussed with the farmer.

Results are discussed by the sub-catchment group at regular project team meetings and documentation of results and management changes are reported within the group and to the wider industry (maintaining confidentiality). Through this process, the project contributes to Reef Plan objectives by:

- Identifying improved land management practices to maximise reef water quality improvements
- Providing coordinated education and extension services to landholders to assist with uptake of land management practices that maximise reef water quality improvement
- Reducing the pollutant load from non-point sources in water entering the reef
- Reducing nitrogen, phosphorus and pesticide loads at the end of catchments
- Assisting cane growers with the adoption of improved nutrient and pesticide management practices

Click here to watch a short video on the project.

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Latest pesticide monitoring results released

The State Department of Science issued a notification this week of an exceedances of pesticide water quality guidelines from the GBR catchment Loads Monitoring Program.

The results were from testing done in the Barratta Creek catchment after the first rainfall event for the 2014/15 wet season that occurred in December.

The notification advice can be viewed by clicking here.

Water quality monitoring of local waterways is continuing with a range of pesticides being detected.

Diuron and Atrazine are specifically mentioned because there have been instances when the levels detected have exceeded the irrigation water threshold.

Growers should always ensure that timing, rate and placement of all pesticide products follow label directions and be particularly mindful of irrigation losses post application of these products.

Grouping applications close soon

Proposals for changes to grouping for 2015 must be received by Wilmar by the end of next week. If you are planning on changing your harvesting group for 2015, do so as soon as possible.

Wilmar will meet with Grower representatives as soon as possible after the deadline to ensure all representatives are aware of all proposed changes and Wilmar’s attitude towards the individual proposals. Wilmar aim to have the list of proposed grouping changes posted on the growerweb the day after this meeting.

The grouping forms are available here.

If you would like some assistance contact Wayne Smith on 4790 3604 or 0428 834 802.

Click here to watch a short video on the project.
CANEGROWERS Senior Industry Manager visits the Burdekin

CANEGROWERS Senior Industry Manager Burn Ashburner visited the Burdekin region this week.

Burn is secretary to the Farm Inputs & Research Policy Committee and is managing the current RWUE program for the cane industry.

He also has transport in his portfolio and is currently dealing with issues such as the changes to arrangements for oversize vehicle movements under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulations.

Whilst in the Burdekin he discussed with growers and contractors the oversize issue and viewed first hand agricultural machinery and implements to gain a better understanding of the challenges and frustrations being experienced by operators and listen to their views on the trial for an industry permit that has been proposed as a solution to the current restrictions.

Accompanied by RWUE-if Project Officer Marian Davis and CANEGROWERS Burdekin Member Services Manager Wayne Smith, Burn also participated in an inspection of Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures completed projects and also took the opportunity whilst in the region to attend a Burdekin Water Futures Group monthly meeting to provide an update on program activities to the group and discuss the progress of BWF’s involvement and arrangements with the RWUE-IF program in the Burdekin.

PAUL’S YARD
CLEAN UP

ABN: 41 677 579 848

PULL DOWN THOSE OLD SHEDS
PULL OUT THOSE OLD TANK STANDS
CLEAN THE PLACE UP

FREE QUOTES
Phone 0416 952 932
Paul Felesina of PAUL’S YARD CLEAN UP
Greg Beashel in town to provide an update

Representatives from Canegrowers Burdekin meet with Greg Beashel, the CEO of QSL on Wednesday morning. Greg provided an update on QSL with the following key points:

**QSL Submission to the Senate Sugar Inquiry contained the following points**

- Mills should not be able to use their monopoly powers to link marketing and crushing services.
- Commercial resolution is QSL’s preferred option but this looks very unlikely.
- Growers should be given a choice of marketer – can be done by either federal or state legislative changes.
- QSL are concerned about the future operating model for sugar terminals. QSL runs terminals on an open-access and cost-recovery basis, treating all users and itself the same way.

**Grower Choice**

- Growers should have the choice to remain with QSL …this is not just about growers not being able to price with QSL …if growers do not have choice they would lose access to the work undertaken by QSL for:
  - Financing …QSL’s ability to obtain financing at low-cost interest rate
  - Pricing … QSL’s knowledge and expertise in managing futures market
  - Marketing … QSL expertise and relationships in selling to the international market
  - Logistics … QSL’s experience in safe and efficient storage and shipping of raw sugar…..delivering on time and in full reputation

**QSL’s goals for 2014/15**

- **Maximise returns to growers and millers**
  - Pool returns significantly outperform market
  - Effectively implement miller economic interest changes

- **Building capability for the future**
  - Implement changes to attract additional business in 2017 and beyond
  - Build an organisational culture that enables success in 2017 and beyond, and creates true competitive advantage

- **Improve operational excellence**
  - Continued improvement in safety and environmental performance
  - Excel at service delivery to refining customers
  - Effectively control costs across the organisation

**QSL’s Business Performance Update for 2014/15**

- On a weighted average basis QSL pools are $34/tonne ahead of the average market.
- QSL is using Ravensdown storage and early loading of shipments to maximise returns for QSL-marketed sugar.
- YTD On-Time In-Full Delivery 100%.
- YTD Other Origin sugar contribution $4.1M.
- Storage peak management has been complex with multiple shippers. QSL’s “Master Logistics Plan” system has worked and storage maximised without closing mills.

Continues page 4
Greg Beashel in town to provide an update continued

Market Update - Sugar

- Thai crush is progressing well, while rains in Brazil CS bode well for next crush.
- Export subsidy in India still likely but will have less impact the more it is delayed.
- Indonesian import licences clarified in short term, leading to a firming of physical premiums and a squeeze on front spread.
- The current sugar price level is uneconomic for many Brazilian sugar producers. The Real remains weak and the Brazilian Govt. has increased the CIDE tax on gasoline and raised the mandatory ethanol mix from 25% to 27%.
- Global crop reduction has been hampered by policy initiatives in India and China.
- High stock levels and current crop forecasts suggest only a weather event will move us into deficit quickly.
- European exports loom as a longer-term negative. Also negative macro picture as US$ strengthens and broad-based commodity weakness weigh on sugar prices.
- But lower domestic sugar prices in Mexico, China and other developing markets may stimulate sugar demand and encourage consumption away from HFCS.
- Recent Kingsman conference predicted 5 million tonne DEFICIT in Q3 2015/16.

Market update – dollar

- Aussie dollar continues to weaken, driven by a stronger $US, weaker commodity prices and a weak domestic outlook.
- This sharp depreciation in the A$ has supported returns for exporters, with the RBA easing the cash rate to 2.25% in search of bringing the exchange rate closer to 75 cents.
- It was a quiet session for the currencies while the US was closed for the Presidents Holiday.
- Sentiment turned as Greece & EU officials could not come to an agreement on the shape of the bailout extension.
- The Aussie traded up to 0.7795 and fell back to 0.7751 before settling around 0.7770.

FREE course on economics of agriculture, natural resources and the environment

The University of WA School of Agricultural and Resource Economics is presenting a FREE online 6 week course on the economics of agriculture, natural resources and the environment.

This course is about agriculture, including agricultural production and the interaction between agriculture and the environment. It looks at these issues from a general perspective, and from an economic perspective. You will see that the economic perspective can often really enrich our understanding of what is happening and how we might respond.

The 6 week course outline is:
Week 1 Agricultural production and prices and agriculture’s reliance on natural resources
Week 2 Resource and environmental challenges facing agriculture
Week 3 Economics of agricultural inputs
Week 4 The economics of land conservation
Week 5 The economics of agri-environmental projects
Week 6 Agricultural policies

Local Next Gen Shannan Marano has already enrolled in the course and had this to say:

"On Tuesday I enrolled in the free online course offered by the University of WA, School of Agricultural and Resources in a program of Agricultural, Economics and Nature. The online enrolment process was easy and I have finished the first week program already. It’s fantastic. The first week delves into the nature of farming in Australia and offers a broad outline of the current economic climate globally and its effects on the industry. I’m really looking forward to completing the remaining 5 weeks of the course and learning more about an industry so vital to people worldwide. “

If you would like more information or to enroll [click here. Enrollments close at the end of February so get in quick.}
Wilmar 4Q 2014 net earnings up 9% to US$401 million

Wilmar international have reported that their fourth quarter net earnings are up 9% to US$401 million

⇒ Core net profit up 17% to US$412 million in 4Q2014.
⇒ Palm & Laurics supported by margin enhancement from downstream products
⇒ Improved performance in Sugar and Consumer Products
⇒ Oilseeds & Grains contributed positively
⇒ Plantations & Palm Oil Mills down on lower price and volume
⇒ Total dividend of S$0.075, representing a dividend payout of over 30% for FY2014

Sugar Milling results can be seen below:

**Business segment results: Sugar Milling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4Q14</th>
<th>4Q13</th>
<th>Δ</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>Δ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue (US$ million)</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>-12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales volume (100 MT)</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>3,089</td>
<td>3,080</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit before tax (US$ million)</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>1(1)</td>
<td>n.m.</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>n.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operating statistics:**
- Commercial cane sugar (CCS) (%): 15.0
- Cane crushed (m MT): 5.4

More than 230 farms are involved in the project. Feedback from growers who have already participated in the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive, with many stating that the really big eye-opener for them was the session on electricity tariffs.

"We are shocked at how much we didn’t know about the differences in tariffs and the impact on how much we pay.”

"It brought about some awareness about tariffs - I will now ask some questions of Ergon about the tariffs that we are on”.

"The workshop was very informative. It answered a lot of our questions. This will be great because we can do it at home now any time we want into the future and continue to monitor our energy usage and make sure we are doing the correct thing”.

Contact the BBIFMAC office on 4783 4344 or email arwen@bbifmac.org.au.

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry

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Time is running out to register for the popular BBIFMAC electricity project

Growers have until the end of February to sign up for BBIFMAC’s understand irrigation electricity tariffs workshops. BBIFMAC’s workshops to be held during February, March and April, work with growers to reduce their irrigation power bills through its Energy Efficiency for Australian Irrigators project.

Wilmar exiting QSL: In these uncertain times you need CANEGROWERS.
Healthy eating week
As this week is healthy eating week we approached nutritionist Marisa Pilla to shed some light on the subject.

Getting it right  by Marisa Pilla

Much has been said about weight loss and healthy eating. We have the diets, ‘fads’ and some replacement meals. Do not get me wrong, at times and in certain conditions some of these have their place for a specific timeframe. However long-term healthy eating is what the general ‘run-of-the-mill’ person should be aiming for. Though, if a person is on medication, has allergies or intolerances or has certain conditions they need to see a health professional first.

There are multiple reasons why at times weight loss may also not occur, these are complex and require input on a professional level. Some general tips that aid health and wellbeing and help with weight loss include:

- Eating fresh
- Eating what vegetables and fruits are in season
- Eating wholemeal instead of white
- Watching what is eaten, portion size and how often-when snacking
- Increase fibre rich foods in eating plan
- Keeping up water intake
- Watching protein intake and quantity
- Exercise (if possible, at least, 150 mins per week)
- Have chopped up veggie sticks in the fridge to snack on
- Avoiding artificial colours , flavours and preservatives
- Avoid hidden sugars, fructose
- Avoiding corn syrup
- Watch content of fats especially saturated fats
- Avoiding soft drinks and alcohol
- Watch quantity of dry fruit eaten
- Chew food properly, slowly and thoroughly
- Try to get in the habit of drinking water in high amounts away from main meals; 20 mins before and 1 hour after eating.
- Be aware of quantity of nuts eaten as energy dense (best in the raw state)
- Limit sitting time e.g. computer games, TV, videos
- Sleep is very important
- Careful with screen time before bed as may be disruptive
- Eat ‘rainbow colour’ of foods daily
- Best to adhere to 2 fruit and 5 serves of vegetables daily not vice versa
- Remember all adults are role models!
- Avoiding highly processed, refined products
- Try to purchase organic foods especially kale, lettuce, brassica family (if can)

In all healthy eating aids wellness, cellular function, energy and vitality, skin, digestion, weight maintenance, cardiovascular function, brain health and immunity.

Wellness and healthy ageing is a balancing act. It’s about bringing together all the elements of your life into harmony. To optimise health and longevity one must consider exercise, diet, relaxation, social activities, personal connections and mental stimulation.

Marisa Pilla

(Pharmacist, Accredited Pharmacist, nutritionist, herbalist, sports trainer level 1, smoking cessation)

Health and Wellbeing, acute and chronic conditions clinic. By appointment phone: 0408 769 655
The NEXT GENeration of Northern Queensland cane farmers return in March to Step UP!

More than 150 cane farmers, cane professionals and industry stakeholders will once again meet at the Case IH Step UP! Conference at Palm Cove in far North Queensland from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 March to discuss the future of Mackay’s sugar industry.

The conference will further build on the Next Gen program’s bourgeoning network of young and established cane farmers and professionals across Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Gerard Puglisi, Next Gen Officer and leading sugar and cocoa farmer visited the region this week to encourage young farmers and cane professionals to attend the event and have their say.

"In 2013 we had the first hugely successful Case IH Step UP! Conference which ended up being a gathering of more than 150 people.

"Of the group, around 80 younger farmers were able to identify and address issues of succession planning and the flow of information from mills to the younger generation as common across all mill areas.

"The main themes of the conference focused on sustainability, profitability and innovation and speakers from London to Singapore were able to talk to farmers about the real issues which weigh heavily on them.

Mr Puglisi says the second Case IH Step UP! program has been designed to build on the previous conference outcomes and aims to give a voice to young farmers, many of whom work with their parents or off the farm in the mining industry to supplement their incomes.

"We want to encourage younger people to step up and take more of an industry role.

"Decisions are being made about our industry that’s not going to necessarily affect the people that are making the decisions for as long as it’s going to affect us young people.

Eric D’Urso, a young Northern Queensland cane professional, has attended various Next Gen leadership events, including Case IH Step UP! 2013 and said that he would like to attend this year’s event to catch up with industry peers and leaders over the three day conference.

"I’ve been attending Next Gen events since 2013, it’s a great way for young local farmers to get together and share knowledge.

"It has support across the industry from organisations such as Sugar Research Australia, CANEGROWERS, Australian Cane Farmers’ Association and various Mills.

"The good thing about the Case IH Step UP! Conference is it formalizes the Next Gen program and it means we will be able to meet up and share knowledge across all of our key milling regions.

“The conference is a chance for us to talk about what’s changed, what’s worked and what hasn’t.

"It’s great to be able to meet business leaders face-to-face and tell them about the things that matter to us, the farmer, in our words."

For updates on the conference program, or to book tickets to the event please visit nextgenstepup.com.

For more information, or for an interview with Gerard Puglisi or Gavin Lerch please contact Jane Hammond on 0400 993 090 or Amanda Sheppard on 0429 459 497
Nitrogen Use Efficiency

Did you know that studies show that only 33% of nitrogen applied as fertiliser is taken up?

This interesting short 6 minute clip ([click here](#)) is all about if nitrogen use efficiency can be improved both productivity and environmental management will be enhanced.

It covers SRA’s work with varieties that make better use of nitrogen. The feedback on controlled release trials in the Burdekin are covered. The review of the six easy steps of determining nitrogen use in the Burdekin is mentioned and is recommended to be used. David Calcino examines some of the research that has been conducted to reach this goal.

Would you know what to do in an emergency situation?

**Learn First Aid today!**

CANEGROWERS Burdekin members register now to attend a **free** workshop to receive a senior first aid certificate.

Choose from either

- **9.30am Wednesday 25th February**
- **9.30 am Wednesday 4th March**

Phone Tiffany on 4790 3600 to register your interest today.

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Whether in the field or in the lab, YCS is given high priority

Sampling is a very important part of the work that is carried out during a research project, particularly one as important as YCS. It is crucial that the samples collected in the field are not compromised in any way to ensure the researcher has full confidence in the quality of material to be processed and analysed. If sample integrity is undermined then subsequent results and conclusions may be misleading or false. Therefore, the quality of samples is one of the key aspects integral to the success of a project.

Several weeks ago a team of SRA researchers travelled to the Herbert, Burdekin and Mackay to collect samples as part of the project (led by Dr Frikkie Botha) that is looking at the biological factors that cause or drive the development of YCS. Certain varieties were targeted in each region: Q200 in the Herbert; KQ228 in the Burdekin; and Q208 in Mackay.

The SRA team took samples from Ian Shepherdson’s farm in Home Hill. From left to right: Shiromi Basnayake, Kate Wathen-Dunn, Gerard Scalia, Ian Shepherdson, Angela Zeilstra, Annelie Marquardt.

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CANEGROWERS Queensland … taking up the fight
on all issues affecting cane farmers
For the week ending 16 February 2015

Trade

✓ The Thai and Australian sugar industries have called on the Indian government to resist the introduction of export subsidies, describing the practice as the most disruptive of government policies.

✓ Warren Males, a panellist at the Kingsman Dubai sugar conference, discussed the marketing reviews underway by the federal and state governments.

Transport

✓ Kevin Borg Chair of Mackay CANEGROWERS and QCGO Director and Burn Ashburner Senior Manager – Industry QCGO met with Transport and Main Roads to further the issue around changing the conditions of the trial in particular signage conditions, extending the trial to include over 4.0m width ag vehicles and weekend and holiday travel time restriction. TMR have undertaken to respond. They will approach the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to adjust the trial notice if changes are agreed and convert the existing class permit 507-TH-14am3 to a notice.

✓ A further meeting was held with the CEO of the NHVR who explained the current situation around NHVR role and the issuing of permits. NHVR and TMR will meet to discuss the trial conditions.

✓ A meeting of the NHVR Agricultural Industry Operations Group was attended. This included agricultural representatives from all States participating the NHVR.

Red Witchweed

✓ CANEGROWERS participated in a several red witchweed teleconferences with affected industry parties and Plant Health Australian to resolve the issues around budget and industry participation.

✓ CANEGROWERS participated in a red witchweed meeting in Canberra on 9 February 2015. The meeting resolved to review the eradication budget for Red Witchweed, develop the contractual arrangements to bind the affected industries and government departments to pay for the eradication, review the interim response plan and develop an agreed way to manage the issue by the end of February 2015. A follow up meeting is scheduled on 19 February 2015 in Canberra.

✓ CANEGROWERS met with Biosecurity Queensland to review the budget for the eradication of Red Witchweed.

✓ Click here to view a clip from Biosecurity Queensland on How to identify Red Witchweed.

Biosecurity

✓ CANEGROWERS attended the Sugar Industry Biosecurity Plan meeting at SRA on 10 February 2015.

✓ The meeting discussed the progress of the plan as well as risk assessment for biosecurity threats to the industry.

✓ The draft plan is anticipated for review in early May 2015.
QSL Advances Payments Update

This month the QSL Board approved an advance rate increase for March 2015.

The increase to 87.5% will be paid based on the estimated QSL Pool Prices as at the end of February 2015, while the April, May and June advance rates will be considered again at the March 2015 board meeting when the April rate increase will be approved. Table 1 below provides an overview of the indicative advances rates for these months.

A key factor that will influence the quantity of these payments is the current sales program and the timing of the associated shipments. QSL is currently holding sugar for June and July shipment so as to produce higher returns than those available for shipping in April and May.

As always, QSL is seeking to maximise returns and the subsequent advances rate increases may need to be adjusted in line with this objective.

US Quota: Recap

Each year QSL, on behalf of our RSSA members, sells sugar into the United States of America (USA) under what’s referred to as the US Quota Pool system.

The QSL US Quota Pool always gets a lot of interest from growers, as it has historically returned strong prices for Australian producers. But what is the US Quota Pool and how does it work?

The US Quota Pool prices sugar sold by QSL under Australia’s allocation of Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) under the USA sugar program. Unlike the majority of QSL’s pools, which are priced using the ICE 11 futures market, the QSL US Quota Pool is priced using the ICE 16 futures market. The ICE 16 market reflects the value of the raw sugar within the USA only and serves the hedging needs of USA sugar producers, end users and merchants under the domestic sugar program.

The USA sugar program uses price supports, domestic marketing allotments, and restrictions on the amount of imports under the TRQ system to influence the amount of sugar available within the USA market. The program supports prices for sugar within the USA to be generally above comparable levels in the world market.

The amount of TRQ imports an individual country has is reflected in the quantity Certificates of Quota Eligibility (CQEs) allocated to it by the USA government. The Australian government allocates the CQEs each year to all Australian mills. Mills contracted to QSL under the RSSA generally pool CQEs for QSL to market. Individual mills determine the percentage their growers will allocate to this pool as part of their overall Committed Sugar allocation.

Generally speaking, growers have between two and five per cent of their total sugar production allocated to the QSL US Quota Pool, but this amount does vary from mill area to mill area, so it’s always best to confirm your individual allocation with your mill.

QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool Indicative Price

The Guaranteed Floor Pool (GFP) should be familiar to many growers and guarantees pool participants a minimum $A/IPS price (an absolute floor) at the start of the season through the use of insurance.

You can find the latest indicative floor price at our website: here. Participation condition: Participation is on a daily basis when the market trades above the strike price. Absolute Floor: This represents the strike price less the A$10 per tonne cost to insure the minimum price for the season. The GFP Gross $A per Tonne Actual price cannot go below the absolute floor. Note: The above prices are Gross $A per Tonne Actual. These prices may need to be converted to $A per Tonne IPS before they can be applied in cane price formulas.
**Market Update**

By Ginette Barrett, QSL Liquidity Manager
Current as of 16 February 2015

**Market Commentary**

**Sugar**

It was an interesting week for the Raw Sugar market, with trading fairly subdued after last fortnight’s flurry of activity. The front of the curve has made more gains than the back of the curve as the market focuses on the upcoming expiry. The MAR15 traded inside the range to a high of 15.05c/lb and then to low of 14.50c/lb before closing the week at 14.88c/lb, up 37 points for the week. The Brazilian Real moved around but continued to weaken, closing the week at 2.8345 – levels not seen since November 2004 and a fall of about 26% since last summer.

The rain has continued to fall in CS Brazil with more forecast for the coming weeks. Even though Brazil is receiving good rainfall the analysts are still apprehensive for the crop as the rainfall is still below average for the period between November and March. People are starting to accept that the damage of last year’s drought will have a negative effect on the cane through lower yields. There is also a chance farmers will start their harvest early, cutting immature cane in order to access cash flow. This young cane is better suited to ethanol production which may start a larger swing towards ethanol over sugar production.

The Indian crop continues to go from strength to strength. In considering the export subsidy the food minister has suggested that the subsidy will only be granted to mills who are providing ethanol as fuel. This will definitely further delay any decision made on the subsidy and with the crop already under way there is much speculation as to how much can be shipped under the subsidy now.

**Currency**

The Australian Dollar continues to fluctuate, testing the topside of 0.7800 and making new lows of 0.7644 as the US dollar moves forward. The volatility remains due to USD strength on the back of positive data. The US reporting season is coming to an end, showing many businesses are beating expectations and reporting better-than-expected earnings. China has also released a weak trade report, suggesting continued softness in the economy. Exports have slumped into negative territory and imports have also fallen, suggesting weaker growth.

The employment report out of the US further highlights the large upward revisions in employment. The non-farm payrolls for 2014 moved up 3.116 million, which has not been seen since 1999. Long-term unemployment has fallen while part-time employment continues to reduce, with employment to population ratios ticking upwards.

The Aussie underperformed over the week. The RBA’s Governor Stevens’ report on the rate cut dragged the AUD down with talk of further rate cuts expected with the slowing domestic economy. Australia’s unemployment rate continues to rise despite a rise in job creations.

This week is extremely light on data with the US out on Monday for the Presidents’ Holiday and then Chinese New Year on Thursday and Friday. The AUD will remain under pressure as the focus moves back to the EU and Greece debt talks as well as the cease fire in the Ukraine.

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**2015 Season pricing nomination closes Monday**

The nomination close date for 2015 season pricing is Monday 23rd February. Any growers that are wishing to Forward Price must have their orders (i.e. tonnes of sugar they wish to nominate into committed tonnage pools) into the system by 5pm on the 23rd February. Growers may elect to commit up to a maximum of 60 per cent of the production they estimate.

At the pricing information sessions held by Wilmar and Queensland Sugar Limited, QSL Finance Manager - Supplier Relations Bryce Wenham stated, "Choosing not to do anything with your sugar is actually a decision to put all of your production in the QSL Harvest Pool, which is the QSL pool with the highest level of price risk due to its exposure to the market."

CANEGROWERS Burdekin offers assistance to its members with using the grower web to forward price. We cannot recommend how you choose to price your cane, this is an individual decision made by the grower.

If you would like assistance please don’t wait until the last minute, drop into the office with your username and password or phone 4790 3600 to arrange a time for Tiffany or Michelle to assist you with using the grower web to enter your forward pricing commitments.

**How to identify Siam Weed – one of the world’s most invasive weeds**

Siam weed is considered one of the world’s most invasive weed as it is known to invade and smother native vegetation and poison stock.

Watch [this video](#) to identity this invasive weed.
Pricing information

2014 Season Advances & Payments
as at 10 February 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$/tonne IPS</th>
<th>% estimated return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial *</td>
<td>$249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 14*</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 October 14*</td>
<td>$290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 14*</td>
<td>$310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January 15*</td>
<td>$323</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February 15</td>
<td>$337</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March 15</td>
<td>$357</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April 15</td>
<td>$378</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 May 15</td>
<td>$388</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June 15</td>
<td>$398</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Payment</td>
<td>$408</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 19 February 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>$/Tonne IPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Season</td>
<td>$397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 Season</td>
<td>$453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Season</td>
<td>$471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Season</td>
<td>$466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated QSL 2014 Pool Prices
As at 30 January 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$/Tonne IPS GROSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QSL Harvest Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Discretionary Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Actively Managed Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Growth Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL US Quota Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2014 Season Forward Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 2-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSL 3-season Forward Pool 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waterfind Burdekin Haughton WSS Water Market Summary

REMINDER: 2015 Pricing Nominations close date, Monday 23 February

Home Hill seed cane plot
The Home Hill seed cane plot will be open from Monday the 16th March for seed cane purchases.

The dates for the other plots are yet to be advised.

Waterfind

Growers 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.
DATES TO REMEMBER

2015 Pricing Nominations close date, Monday 23 February

Sugar Nutrition Education Workshop, Tuesday 3 March, 2pm-4pm @ CANEGROWERS Hall

Women In Sugar Australia Conference, 10-11 March @ Ingham

International Women’s Day Lunch, Friday 13 March @ CANEGROWERS Hall

Next Gen Step up conference, 16-18 March, @ Palm Cove

ACDC Chemical Application Course
Wednesday 25 February & Thursday 26 February

Click here for more information.

Quad Bike & side-by-side Course
Thursday 12 March & Friday 13 March

Click here for more information.

Volunteer Your Time with Landcare in the Burdekin
Saturday, 28th February 2015, 8.30am to Midday
Juru Walk, Plantation Park, Ayr

Lower Burdekin Landcare are hosting a tree planting day in Juru Walk Plantation Park Saturday, 28th February 2015. We will be clearing the area and tree planting from 8.30am to Midday followed by a free sausage sizzle. If you are looking to get involved in your local environment this day is for you.

Landcare will be holding regular community conservation and revegetation activities in Juru Walk on the last Saturday of each month throughout 2015. If you cannot join us this Saturday, we will be in the park again in March.

Depending on your interest, you can participate in tree planting, weed control, watering, general site maintenance activities. You can gain some practical skills in conversation and learn to identify some of our local plants. Come and learn new skills, make new friends and help improve our local environment. Everyone is welcome and you can do as much or as little as you like! Remember L.I.F.E. Landcare is For Everyone.

For further information check out our website www.lowerburdekinlandcare.org.au
https://www.facebook.com/LowerBurdekinLandcare or contact Lower Burdekin Landcare Ross Gelling 0407 377 306, Linda Kirk 0415 307 364, email secretary@lowerburdekinlandcare.org.au

Join our nrl tipping comp by clicking here.

www.canegrowersburdekin.com.au

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Ltd
BPS/SRA Grower Research Update

Details
Date: Tuesday 10th March 2015
Time: 8.30 am – 1.00 pm
Location: Ayr Showgrounds
Lunch: Will be provided
Cost: Free
RSVP: Bookings are essential for catering purposes. RSVP to BPS on 07 4783 1101 by Monday 2 March 2015.

Speakers
- Ryan Turner
  Principal Scientist, Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA)
  Water quality results from the Burdekin catchment
- Rob Magarey
  SRA
  Biosecurity research – Protecting our future
- Julian Connellan
  SRA
  Refining nitrogen rates in the Burdekin
- George Piperidis
  SRA
  Introgression research – Underpinning our next generation of new varieties
- Barry Salter
  SRA
  Break cropping – What’s it worth?

This event is sponsored by: Sugar Research Australia
**Contact Us**

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4790 3603

Wayne Smith  
Manager: Member Services  
0428 834 802  
4790 3604

Gary Halliday  
JP (Qual)  
SmartCane BMP Facilitator  
0438 747 596

Michelle Andrews  
JP (Qual)  
Manager: Finance & Admin  
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Tiffany Giardina  
Payroll & Administration  
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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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Please direct all advertising enquiries and materials to the above.

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* Two employees paid fortnightly with membership discount applied.