



Proserpine Mill's Jamie Bell, Corey O'Shea, Sebastian Foti and Jed Page getting into the Christmas spirit.

Proserpine team feeling festive

The Proserpine Mill team is looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break after completing not one but two crushing seasons this year.

Proserpine wrapped up its 2022 season on 12 January and crushed its last cane of the 2023 season on 9 December.

It's been a big year for the team, with an extensive capital and maintenance program undertaken ahead of the 2023 season, which contributed to improved factory performance this year.

Operations Superintendent Jamie Bell said the team would enjoy some downtime over Christmas before ramping up for another busy maintenance season.



Marathon man Alan goes the distance

For someone who prefers to run half marathons, New Zealand Sugar's Alan Shrimpton has proved he's got the endurance to go double the distance.

Alan, an electrician, set a personal best time to take out first place in his age group at the 2023 Run the City Auckland Marathon.

The race was Alan's 6th full marathon, which he ran in three hours and five minutes. The time saw him win his male 60-65 years age group and was also two minutes faster than the winner of the male 55-59 years age group.

[Read more](#)



Take 5 with Ann Roberts

Ann Roberts has joined the Sugar Australia team as Sustainability Manager ANZ.

She "took five" to talk about her key sustainability focus areas, early impressions of Sugar Australia, and her love of the outdoors.

[Read more](#)

Charity bags record support

Wilmar Sugar and Renewables employees donated a record number of bags filled with personal care items to support Share the Dignity's 2023 It's in the Bag campaign.

The Burdekin team, co-ordinated by Group Manager Asset Management Systems Sharon La Spina, donated an impressive 52 bags to help women, girls and new or expectant mums who need a helping hand this Christmas. A further 10 bags were donated by employees at Wilmar Sugar and Renewables' Townsville office.



Sharon (pictured delivering the Burdekin bags to Bunnings) said the response to this year's campaign was overwhelming, with strong support received from within Wilmar and from several Burdekin businesses and community groups.

"A big thank you to those kind hearts who contributed this year. We well and truly exceeded our target."



John Calligaro, Anthony Bombardieri, Sarah Harding (second from right) and Allan Cross with Home Hill Hospital staff.

Christmas cupcakes bring cheer

Cupcakes and other sweet treats are, once again, being delivered to North Queensland hospitals to spread Christmas cheer. Wilmar Sugar and Renewables employees have already visited the Ingham, Home Hill and Proserpine hospitals and will deliver to the Ayr and Sarina hospitals next week.

Macknade Mill turns 150

Preparations are under way to celebrate Macknade Mill's 150th birthday.

Although the site achieved its 150 years milestone in August this year, birthday festivities will be held in May 2024 and will include a golf day and community night.

Macknade Mill Manager Operations Trevor Forde said it was long thought that Macknade commenced crushing in 1874 - the date featured on a plaque unveiled at the mill in 1964 to mark the Herbert River District centenary.

However, historical records, that were previously not readily available, clearly show that crushing commenced for the first time in 1873.



Kevin Beatts, Michael Carr, Trevor Forde, Paul Britton and Trish Gilbey from the Macknade Mill 150-year celebrations committee.



To help celebrate 150 years of Macknade Mill, a [virtual tour](#) of the site has been produced and is available on the Wilmar Sugar ANZ website.



Green thumb Frank enjoys outdoor office

On a recent trip to the Burdekin, Gabi Boccalatte and Natasha Nicopoulos from the Corporate Relations Team interrupted Frank Connors' mowing schedule to ask him about his job at Inkerman Mill.

A self-professed green thumb, Frank loves spending his days outdoors, looking after Inkerman's sizeable mill estate and surrounding grounds. Frank said he enjoyed working in the fresh air, and home is just down the road.

[Read more](#)



Casting skills for the next generation

Peter Murray's life-long love of fishing was fostered by his grandfather, Ronald James McFarlane.

It was Ronald who taught Peter, a Project Engineer Senior at Pioneer Mill, how to hand make and mend cast nets.

Ronald began making cast nets from the age of 12 and continued to make them for more than 70 years.

It is no surprise, then, that Peter has dedicated his first book, *Making and Mending Cast Nets: Sharing a Family Tradition*, to his grandfather.

[Read more](#)

In the Mix

Check out pics of people from across our business. [See more.](#)



Kellie Martin and William Mayer with Racecourse Refinery's Christmas tree.



Gabi Boccalatte (back, from left), Jessica Weir, Brigette Tucker, Liana Lillford, Olivia Penman, (front) David Parker, Jacob Snyman and Benjamin Flynn getting into the Christmas spirit at Wilmar BioEthanol's Sarina office.

Service Awards

Congratulations to all Wilmar Sugar ANZ employees who achieved service milestones in November and December.



[Read more](#)

Issue 13 – December 2023

Editorial by Kylie Newman, Gabi Boccalatte, Natasha Nicopoulos, Leanne Oliveri and Sian Kilgour.

Photography by the Corporate Relations team and supplied.

Story ideas and photographs can be sent to info@au.wilmar-intl.com.

