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NEWS RELEASE

Wilmar welcomes 30 new apprentices

Australia's largest sugar milling company has welcomed the next generation of tradies to its ranks.

Wilmar Sugar Australia this week signed on 30 first-year apprentices, who will learn their trades at the company's eight Queensland sugar mills and bioethanol distillery.

Training Superintendent Daniel Shipard said the new recruits would join 93 apprentices already employed across Wilmar's Queensland operations.

"Wilmar is one of the largest providers of apprenticeship opportunities in Queensland, with about 120 apprentices working at our sites at any one time," Mr Shipard said.

"We're very proud of the quality of our trade training and the fact that we have a completion rate of 95 per cent – which is well above the industry average."

This year's intake includes apprentice electricians, boilermakers, fitter and turners, and diesel fitters.

Seventeen of the new apprentices will be based in the Burdekin where Wilmar owns and operates four sugar mills.

Five will work at Wilmar's Herbert mills, four at Proserpine Mill, three at Plane Creek and one at Wilmar's Sarina BioEthanol Distillery.

First-year Herbert fitting and turning apprentice Jayke Hawes said he was looking forward to the hands-on learning his new job would provide.

"I chose Wilmar because it's a good company to get into and you're not doing the same thing every day," he said.

“With fitting and turning, you’ve got pumps, turbines, roller grooving, grease lines... There are a lot of different aspects to the trade and you get to do a lot of different things.

“Working for Wilmar is exciting because you don’t know what’s going to come the next day.”

Mr Shipard said the new apprentices had completed two weeks of safety training in the Burdekin before starting work at their respective sites this week.

“An apprenticeship with Wilmar means you’ll be properly trained in safe work practices, you’ll be involved in multi-million dollar projects, and you’ll get to work closely with other trade disciplines to achieve results,” Mr Shipard said.

ENDS



Wilmar's 2020 first-year apprentices. Back, from left: Damon Marbelli, Lucas Sunderland, Ryan Rossington, Nathan Robke, Deklyn Brown, Brent Marshall, Thomas Grossi, Harold Baumgarten, Adam Betteridge, Jack Mellor, Jayke Hawes, Clay Ford, Brenton Fontaine, Braydon Cotter, Peter Walsh and Chris McKeough. Front, from left: Mitchell McLeod, Jaidyn McIntosh, Connor Hancock, James Shand, Liam Cannavan, Riley Elton, Christo Wessels, Shenikah Grabs, Brad Stevenson, Ben Brotto, Clay Smith, Morgan Chrzanowski, Jordan Siganto and Liam Bailey.



Wilmar Training Superintendent Daniel Shipard (left) with Herbert apprentice Jayke Hawes at one of the induction sessions.



Herbert apprentice Damon Marbelli and Burdekin apprentice Shenikah Grabs with Wilmar Training Superintendent Daniel Shipard.

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