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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Women In Sugar Australia Conference**

Six ladies from Women In Sugar Burdekin (WISB) attended the Women In Sugar Australia (WISA) Conference 2018 held in Bundaberg on Monday April 30 and Tuesday May 1. They returned enthused and reinvigorated after two days of presentations by industry leaders, sharing of information and experiences, networking, and food and farm tours.

The theme of 'Past, Present, Future' saw conference delegates reflecting on changes in the agricultural industries, current methods and issues, and making decisions for the future. They were given insight as to how companies such as Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, Alloway Farms, Bundaginga and Macadamias Australia have grown, are structured, and are planning and facilitating their business growth.

Speakers from Canegrowers Isis, Sugar Research Australia, and Queensland Farmers Federation presented on topics such as personal growth, mental health in rural areas, the Smartcane BMP accreditation process, breeding of new cane varieties, and on-farm energy efficiencies. The women took the opportunity to ask lots of questions, and add to discussion.

The bus tour on the second day of the conference was both informative and a delight to the taste buds. Bundy Food Tours guided the visit to a variety of local food producers. Delegates spoke with farmers who have taken on various ventures, including growing, processing, exporting and selling directly to the public, products such as macadamias, ginger, avocados, figs, and vegetables. Explanations of production and marketing was accompanied by generous product sampling, which everyone enjoyed.

WISB Treasurer Paula Langdon kept the WISB Facebook page updated, with photos of conference activities posted on the group's page. Paula said, "The resilience of the Bundaberg community in their ability to adapt to the changing beast that is agriculture, and the fantastic hospitality provided to the WISA delegates truly made for a wonderful experience. Everyone should take the opportunity to join these conferences."

WISB President, Deanne Spina said that the conference made all of us think about our past, present and future practices within our industries. Deanne said, "Both days showed the delegates ways of value adding to our current business. The conference allowed our delegates to network

and share ideas about where to from now. The ladies of WIS Bundaberg must be commended on a successful conference with such a thought provoking topic."

The MC for the Conference, Angela Williams (Canegrowers Isis), used this message "Be Bold, Be Brave, Be Beautiful, Be Me."

The ladies are looking forward to the next WISA Conference to be held in Ingham in 2019. Women in Sugar Burdekin Inc meet regularly on the second Wednesday of the month.

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or find us on Facebook at Women In Sugar Burdekin.