

Growers needed to prove power pricing problems through new agricultural tariff trials

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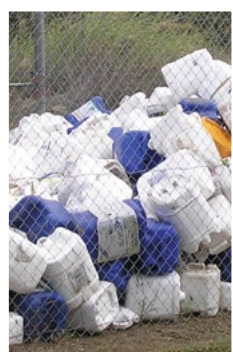
CANEGROWERS

19 December 2016 Price \$9.95

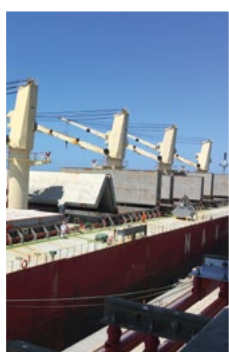


## BUTTERFLIES & BEST PRACTICE

ON A MOSSMAN FARM



**Sugar industry kicks drum collection goals**



**New operating agreement for sugar terminals**



**Bonsucro alignment: a big tick for Smartcane BMP**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY



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# CONTENTS

19 December 2016



## Features

- 4 Talking trade around the world
- 5 Bonsucro alignment: a big tick for Smartcane BMP
- 9 Trial will prove power pricing problems
- 10 Highlights of #ISSCT - Sugar Cane Technologists Congress
- 12 Mackay research farm achieves Smartcane BMP accreditation
- 16 Butterflies, biology and best practice on a Mossman farm
- 22 Growers kicking goals with drumMUSTER

COVER IMAGE: Mossman grower Clint Reynolds with Deklen (9) and Kaydee (6). Read about the butterfly study on his farm on page 16.

### Also inside:

- 2 CEO's comment
- 4 News in brief
- 6 Regional round-up
- 14 QSL report
- 23 Classifieds
- 24 Rainfall report

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# Sustainability, security, serenity and success

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

As we head into Christmas, it is time to reflect upon a year of tremendous industry change, adaptation and challenge.

While many of these columns have been devoted to the challenges, this time let's start with the positives.

Notwithstanding the difficulties being faced by several regions to get their crop off this year, it has been a record season and this has coincided with record prices - prices we could not have dreamed of this time last year. Hopefully through good management, timing and good advice many of our members are able to take advantage of this situation.

While these dynamics have been at play on a seasonal front, the industry has been toiling through the issues that should go towards longer term sustainability of our great sector.

The term sustainability has become a buzz word over the past decade. It means many different things to different people.

In Australia, the sugar cane industry has focused on environmental sustainability being demonstrated via the adoption of Smartcane BMP. The domestic pressures around facing up to the challenge of ensuring reef water quality has often been labelled as the most obvious demand side reason for the program.

But there are international demands as well. For the past two years, CANEGROWERS has been working with Bonsucro, the international standard and brand for sustainably produced sugar. The goal has been to have our BMP program benchmarked and aligned against the international criteria set by Bonsucro.

There are clear reasons for this. The big industrial buyers of sugar, the big food and beverage manufacturers, are increasingly demanding and setting targets for sustainably produced products. All products, not just sugar.

The most obvious demonstration for them that such sustainability measures are in place is via Bonsucro accreditation. Obviously, our objective is to ensure growers who do BMP gain as many benefits as possible in the most efficient way possible.

By aligning our program to Bonsucro we will provide the opportunity for a grower, working with their milling and marketing company, to present sugar to the market that can be assured as being sustainably produced - confidence for the buyer and consumer and supply chain recognition.

As we work through the alignment process with growers we should be in a position in which Smartcane BMP can deliver domestic regulatory recognition, international supply chain recognition and, most importantly, confidence to farmers that they are adopting best practices as identified by our research and development partners.

In the end, it is that third benefit that is the most important of all. It is all pointless unless there is something in it for the grower. Financial and productivity rewards are valuable, no doubt, but we are also striving to position our entire industry in the centre of a secure and stable market place in the future.

We want Australia to be the preferred origin of sugar purchases and with that we want our members and their successors to see a strong and prosperous future for their industry.

To the shorter term though, I wish you and all your family, friends and communities a happy, safe and fun-filled Christmas. Thank You for your support during 2016 and we look forward to providing services to you in even bigger and better ways next year. ■



*"I wish you and all your family, friends and communities a happy, safe and fun-filled Christmas."*



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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Talking trade around the world

CANEGROWERS, representing the Australian Sugar Alliance, has taken the voice of Australian farmers into trade meetings in Brussels, London and Jakarta.

### Europe:

Before the United Kingdom joined the European Union in 1974, around a third of Australian sugar exports were sold to Europe. Currently exports are limited to 9,925 tonnes.

With the objective of securing increased access, Australian sugar industry representatives met with the people responsible for EU sugar policy in the European Commission's Directorates of Agriculture and Trade, Australia's Ambassador to the EU **Mark Higgie** and representatives of the European Sugar Refiners Association.

An Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement would provide an opportunity to increase market access. EU refiners have indicated they want more Australian sugar.

### Britain:

In London discussions were held with senior officials of the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of International Trade, Australia's High Commissioner to the UK, **Alexander Downer**, and representatives of Tate & Lye Sugar to discuss the prospects of resuming Australia's sugar trade with the UK following Brexit.

### ASEAN:

CANEGROWERS met trade negotiators at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiating meeting in Indonesia.

RCEP is a proposed agreement between the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the six states with which ASEAN has FTAs (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

There was strong support for the messages delivered by CANEGROWERS Head-Economics **Warren Males**:

- Trade negotiators must include sugar in the final agreement,
- Tariff differentials are harming ASEAN importers and exporters while benefitting sugar traders,
- Higher tariffs and other restrictions on imports are encouraging smuggling to the detriment of legal sugar trade,
- Sampling, testing and certification procedures and protocols must be reliable and take account of recognised tolerances to facilitate trade, and
- Import licencing arrangements in some countries are creating trade uncertainty. ■

## MORE CANE TO NSW

More truckloads of Rocky Point sugarcane are heading to News South Wales for crushing after a fire seriously damaged the southern Queensland district's mill.

The Condong Mill has finished crushing its own Tweed Valley sugar cane and will keep operating to take the Rocky Point cane after a rapid and intensive consultation and negotiation process.

Chief Executive Officer for Sunshine Sugar, **Chris Connors** said the company was pleased to be able to assist.

"There were a lot of issues to overcome and I want to thank all of those involved in delivering the arrangement," he said.

"Whilst we are expecting to only crush a maximum of 40,000 tonnes, which is well short of the total crop available, it is still a positive outcome for both the growers and the community."

Sunshine Sugar has an ongoing relationship with Rocky Point growers and the mill, having crushed over 20,000 tonnes of Rocky Point standover cane already this year.



## POWER PRICE TRIAL

Growers are needed for an agricultural electricity tariff trial which CANEGROWERS has negotiated and developed with Ergon and the Queensland Government.

"The Agricultural Tariff Trial project is an opportunity for irrigators to help gather data to support fairer electricity prices," CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

The trial will collect information on the impact of existing tariffs, transitional tariffs and new demand tariffs on farm businesses.

It will also collect vital data on when growers are using electricity, and at what quantity, to build a clear picture of the electricity load profile of irrigators.

Read more on page 9. ■



*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Head - Economics Warren Males addressed a RCEP Stakeholder Forum hosted by the East Asia Business Council in Jakarta.*

# Bonsucro alignment: a big tick for Smartcane BMP

Queensland growers now have a pathway to prove to the world that their sugar is produced sustainably.

"In a major development for our industry, our locally-developed and industry-supported Smartcane BMP program has been recognised by Bonsucro as having full alignment to its criteria," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"Bonsucro is the preferred international certification for some of our key end-user sugar customers who have pledged to source sustainable sugar for their products by 2020."

**"This is a ticket to long-term access to the global sugar market."**

65% of Queensland's cane area is in the Smartcane BMP program and 160 farm businesses have achieved accreditation in the core modules covering drainage and irrigation, soil health, nutrients and weed and pest management.

"Smartcane BMP demonstrates the sustainability of sugarcane production in local Queensland conditions, recognising and documenting grower efforts to minimise any impact their farms could have on the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon," Mr Galligan said.

"Smartcane BMP is also, importantly, a practice improvement program with a clear focus on lifting the productivity and profitability of our farms to deliver solid business outcomes."

As a global platform, Bonsucro has criteria designed to establish market access across a wide range of production systems.

"Aligning Smartcane BMP with Bonsucro is a big and important stamp of approval for our industry and for every single grower within the Smartcane BMP program," Mr Galligan said.

"It is another reason for Queensland growers to register, benchmark their farm practices and move to accreditation."



*Pictured are CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan (L) and Manager - Environment & Sustainability Matt Kealley (R) with Bonsucro CEO Simon Usher (centre) in London.*

## What does alignment mean for growers?

Sustainability requirements are emerging as an issue for both domestic Australian and international markets.

End-users and manufactures, including the Coca-Cola Company, Unilever and PepsiCo, have developed their own corporate social responsibility policies to source sustainable sugar for their products by 2020. The preferred international certification in most of these situations is through Bonsucro.

Bonsucro's preference is that where a local program, such as Smartcane BMP, exists within a country, growers use that local program as a pathway towards Bonsucro certification.

Full alignment means sugar produced here under Smartcane BMP accreditation will be seen to meet Bonsucro's requirements.

The Smartcane BMP program has been modified to cover the Bonsucro indicators, and provide two pathways, or options, for meeting Bonsucro requirements.

1. *Growers accredited in the three core modules of Smartcane BMP* can access a new module (Module 8 – Managing People and the Environment) to cover Bonsucro requirements.

2. *Growers not yet Smartcane BMP accredited* have two options:

- Achieve certification in each of the seven modules of Smartcane BMP, or
- Achieve certification in the core modules (modules 1-3) and in Module 8.

The modified Smartcane modules, including the new Module 8, area available in PDF format on the Smartcane BMP web site.

Smartcane BMP is the most relevant and practical program for sustainability, profitability and productivity available to sugarcane growers in Queensland.

It is designed to be directly relevant to Australian conditions, farming practices and laws and is recognised by the Queensland and Australian governments as meeting Great Barrier Reef stewardship requirements linking into programs such as Reef Trust.

These points are all recognised by Bonsucro. ■

# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district companies

## Tully

Rain has fallen in the Tully region and while it may cause problems for wrapping up the 2016 harvest, it has been welcome.

The November rainfall was only 20mm however the second week of December saw 40mm recorded and more is predicted.

The rain will help along next year's crop and to give relief to the rural firefighters who have been busy.

There is still 250,000 tonnes of cane yet to be harvested.

The estimated season completion is 31 December.

Tully growers have been buoyed by positive indications in both the Cane Supply Agreement negotiations with Tully Sugar and in the On-Supply Agreement negotiations between the milling company and QSL.

A resolution to both is expected before Christmas.

The CANEGROWERS Tully AGM was well-attended with CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan as guest speaker.

## Burdekin

Burdekin grower leaders marked the first anniversary of the Grower Choice amendments to the *Sugar Industry Act* with a meeting with Queensland Opposition leader Tim Nicholls MP.

He affirmed the LNP's continued support for the legislation which protects growers' rights to choose the marketer of the raw sugar that impacts on their incomes.

"We will not be changing this legislation ... Wilmar is the author of this situation and Wilmar needs to solve it and they need to solve it promptly," Mr Nicholls told the meeting in response to the Queensland Government's continued opposition to the amendments.

As at 9 December the Burdekin mills had crushed 15.44 million tonnes of cane representing 92% of the total estimate. Weekly throughput has been around 345,000 tonnes with average CCS levels tracking at around 14.75.

Invicta Mill is expected to finish Saturday 17 December. Invicta, Pioneer and Kalamia are expected to finish the week before Christmas and Inkerman just prior to New Year.



*Pictured: Robert Malaponte, Chairman Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation, Mario Barbagallo, Chairman Invicta Cane Growers Organisation, Tim Nicholls MP, Dale Last MP and Phil Marano Chairman CANEGROWERS Burdekin.*

## Herbert River

Harvest and crushing continued in generally favourable conditions up to Saturday 10 December. During that week the CCS held at an overall average of 12.9. The crop estimate continues to exceed expectations and could be as high as 4.83 million tonnes.

Rain then arrived and as at Tuesday 13 December cumulative totals exceeding 120 mm had been recorded in many parts creating multiple issues for the harvest of the remaining crop.

More than 200 growers attended a report back and information meeting at the Noorla Bowls Club on Wednesday 7 December to hear the latest on the negotiations with Wilmar on a Cane Supply Agreement.

The meeting also heard from QSL's Managing Director Greg Beashel on its progress towards an On-Supply Agreement with Wilmar.

Growers expressed anger and frustration at Wilmar's stalling tactics that have denied growers access to the best available forward prices for 2017 season. A motion was carried unanimously condemning Wilmar's behaviour.

It was noted that with good progress having been made by QSL and Tully Sugar that Wilmar is presenting the most difficulty in removing the barriers to implementing Grower Choice in marketing.



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AND PHOTOS?

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## Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill throughput for the week ending December 10 was 68,588 tonnes bringing the season to date total to 1,278,351 tonnes – around 91% of the crop estimate.

Heavy falls of rain, some in excess of 200mm in the Carmila area, caused significant delays to harvesting.

Cane supply challenges were expected to continue to the following week.

Average CCS levels and tonnes crushed for the season to date again exceeded budget. CCS for week 26 was 13.28 units with the season to date average at 13.00.

## Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mill crushed a total of 205,604 tonnes of cane with a PRS of 13.61 for the week ending December 11.

Marian Mill lost substantial time due to high liquor levels caused by fugal downtime. Crushing opportunities were lost at Racecourse Mill due to a boiler grate failure.

Season to date processed is now at 5,083,924 tonnes or 85.45% of the current forecast.

The mills last week processed: Farleigh 67,731 tonnes, Marian 80,156 and Racecourse 57,717 tonnes.

## Rocky Point

After lengthy negotiations, farmers have signed a Cane Supply and Processing Agreement with Sunshine Sugar in New South Wales.

Growers and Heck Farms will send 38,000-40,000 tonnes of cane to NSW before 21 December using a combination of WH Heck & Sons and NSW trucks and containers.

There are currently 26 trucks transporting cane over the border.

The whole district has pulled together since a fire put the Rocky Point mill out of action and old fashioned farmer camaraderie is alive and well in Rocky Point.

## Bundaberg

Bingera mill ceased crushing for the 2016 season in the early hours of the morning on December 8 after processing 19,326 tonnes of cane for the week.

This brings the total tonnes crushed by Bingera to 818,200 tonnes.

The total for Bundaberg Sugar's mills this season has been 1,825,357 tonnes - the highest throughput in the past five years.

The week's average CCS for Bingera was 13.20 units, a decrease of 0.66 units. The Bundaberg mills achieved a season average CCS of 14.093 units.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 16.20 units for Q238A plant cane. Q238A was also the variety with the highest average CCS at 14.15 units.

The major varieties supplied for week 26 were Q232A with 31% of supply and a CCS average of 12.88 units, followed by Q208A at 25% of supply and a CCS average of 13.80 units. Averages were recorded for Q183A (13% of supply) at 13.83 units and Q242A (7% of supply) at 11.13 units.

Recent storms have been of great benefit to next year's crop. We hope that the rain will continue during the growing period.



## New South Wales

Following another solid growing season, all three Sunshine Sugar Mills have reported a successful crush and wrapped up their 2016 season.

More than 2.1m tonnes of cane cut and crushed across the Condong, Broadwater and Harwood mill areas.

Approximately 582,500 tonnes of cane has been processed in the Tweed Valley, with some 20,000 tonnes of this coming from Rocky Point.

Richmond River produced approximately 850,000 tonnes and the Clarence River growers cut almost 700,000 tonnes.

All three growing areas reported minimal disruption to operations throughout the season and CCS was up on both forecast and the previous several years' performance.

Sunshine Sugar has reported that the majority of this season's crop was harvested with dry ground conditions allowing the ratoon crop to establish well. These same dry conditions have however presented some challenges getting the new plant crop established.

Condong Mill is continuing to operate, crushing cane from Rocky Point.

## NEW OPERATING AGREEMENT FOR SUGAR TERMINALS

The boards of Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) and Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) have agreed a term-sheet for an Operating Agreement that will underpin a new bulk sugar terminal operating model.

The Agreement would begin on 1 July 2017 and have an initial five-year term with a three-year rolling term following that, providing the sugar industry with confidence and certainty.

STL Chairman **Stuart Gregory** said that all stakeholders will benefit from the agreement, which will be confirmed as soon as detailed legal binding documentation is finalised, executed and approved by the boards of STL and QSL.

"The benefits of the existing arrangement with QSL are largely preserved and concerns about potential conflicts of interest have been addressed. Importantly, STL intends to continue to provide open access to its terminals for all market participants while gaining increased oversight and control over its assets and strategic risks through the revised model," Mr Gregory said.

QSL Chairman **Guy Cowan** said the collaborative approach to negotiating the new arrangements was a credit to both parties and a terrific outcome for the industry.

"Our experience perfectly positions us to continue operating the terminals for the benefit of the entire Queensland sugar industry as we enter a new era of marketing competition," Mr Cowan said.

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the confirmation that QSL will continue to operate the state's world-class bulk sugar terminals.

"The six bulk storage and port facilities, owned by industry through Sugar Terminals Limited (STL), are a crucial point of difference as we compete with other sugar-producing countries to get the best returns from the market," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"The new arrangement includes assurances of structural transparency within QSL through a separation of the marketing and logistics operations within the company. This should give confidence to all marketers who will access the six terminals.

"It means that whichever marketing pathway our growers choose for their economic interest sugar, their miller or QSL, they can have confidence that their sugar will be treated fairly. This is a tremendous outcome for growers, millers, marketers and therefore the industry as a whole." ■



## Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

### WHAT DOES A 30-YEAR-OLD MAN NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUPER?

Super gets a bit more complicated as you get older and the questions you need to ask yourself get a little bit tougher to answer.

However, 30 is a good age to stop, think and take a look at your retirement goals, and make any adjustments necessary.

At 30, you may already have a family, or be thinking about it. If your spouse has taken maternity leave, is raising the kids or is working part time, her super will have taken a big hit. Check out the comparison's at [www.industrysuperaustralia.com](http://www.industrysuperaustralia.com) to find out just how big the gender gap in super is.

There are a number of things you can do to close this gap. Firstly, you can make additional contributions into your spouse's super account. To do this, complete the Spouse contribution form on our website.

By now, the average 30 year old has probably had a couple of jobs – ensure you've got all your super in one place by using our handy search and combine tool at [austsafe.com.au/findmysuper](http://austsafe.com.au/findmysuper)

You should also think about insurance. What will happen if you get sick or injured, or are unable to work? It's worthwhile knowing what you're entitlements are, and how to change them. As a rule, these should be re-evaluated every time you have a major life change.

Another thing to think about when you're 30 is what's going to happen to your super when you die. We know it's not pleasant to consider, but the reality is, it's going to happen at some stage.

Who will receive your superannuation, insurance benefits and any other entitlements are all things you need to think about – especially if you have kids! Make your wishes known by filling out a binding death benefit nomination. You can find the Binding Death Benefit Nomination form at [austsafe.com.au/forms](http://austsafe.com.au/forms).

The final thing every 30 year old bloke should consider about their super is investment strategy. Are your super savings working in the way you wish them to? If you're unsure about any of this, you could visit a financial planner to find the strategy that's right for you. AustSafe Super's Financial Planners can help with this, as well as any other financial questions. Call them on 1300 131 293.

Now, relax! Your super is in good hands with AustSafe Super.

For more information, please visit [austsafe.com.au](http://austsafe.com.au)





# TRIAL WILL PROVE POWER PRICING PROBLEMS

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the Queensland Government's announcement of a \$10 million Regional Business Support Package which includes funding for a series of farm electricity pricing trials.

"CANEGROWERS has been advocating for over five years for assistance measures for farmers and reform in power tariff structures to drive down electricity prices," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said after the Queensland Government released its response to the Queensland Productivity Commission's Electricity Pricing Inquiry Final Report.

"This support package will not lower prices immediately but it is an important positive intervention by the Government to finally acknowledge and fund the many problems skyrocketing electricity prices have caused to farming businesses."

Of most relevance to CANEGROWERS members, the package includes:

- a tariff trial for small agricultural customers;
- a campaign to better explain the bill impacts of different tariff options and to promote energy audit services;
- enhancements to Ergon's online EnergyCheck platform to better serve customers on transitional and obsolete tariffs; and
- deployment of digital meters to large customers.

Cane growers are now needed for the tariff trial which CANEGROWERS has negotiated and developed with Ergon and the Queensland Government.

"The Agricultural Tariff Trial project is an opportunity for irrigators to help gather data to support fairer electricity prices," Mr Galligan said.

**"This is an important step in our long-running campaign and should lay the foundation for future changes"**

The trial will collect information on the impact of existing tariffs, transitional tariffs and new demand tariffs on farm businesses. It will also collect vital data on when growers are using electricity, and at what quantity, to build a clear picture of the electricity load profile of irrigators.

"While this does not fix the artificially high costs of supplying electricity in regional Queensland and is not the price cut that CANEGROWERS has been seeking, this trial project is welcome," Mr Galligan said.

"We believe the data that is gathered will confirm irrigators' electricity use patterns, verify the size of the load they place on

Ergon's network and demonstrate what value proposed tariff structures will have for irrigators.

"We know our members are facing huge and crippling electricity bills and that current structures are not working to reduce this impact. No sector of the economy can continue under a regime that has pushed its electricity costs up 120% since 1 July 2007."

Three groups of Ergon customers are needed for trial:

- **Growers on existing transitional tariffs (T62, T65, T66) who are willing to have smart meters fitted to measure their electricity use patterns;**
- **Growers on existing transitional tariffs who are willing to trial a new time of use tariff option (T24) with a safety net to ensure they are not financially disadvantaged compared with current tariffs); and**
- **Growers on existing transitional tariffs who are willing to move to a control load tariff (T33) which will deliver lower prices, but could mean power is not available for up to 6 hours a day. This may not suit irrigators in drought declared areas, who are already eligible to use Tariff 66 with the associated fixed charges waived until the drought declarations are lifted.**

All participants will have smart meters installed free of charge. Growers seeking more information should contact their local CANEGROWERS office. ■





**Matt Kealley**

CANEGROWERS

Manager - Environment and Sustainability

*“The issues that I heard over the four days of the Congress were the same issues that I hear in the Australian sugarcane industry.”*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF #ISSCT29

29th International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) Congress

The 29th International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) Congress was held in Chiang Mai Thailand from 5 to 8 December 2016.

ISSCT is an association of scientists, technologists, managers, institutions and companies/corporations concerned with the technical advancement of the cane sugar industry and its co-products. Now in its 89th year, ISSCT has had 28 Congresses with Australia last hosting it in 2001.

290 papers and posters were accepted for the 29th Congress which focused the themes of agriculture, biology, factory, co-products and management. There were more than 800 delegates from 30 cane growing nations.

The first day of the Congress saw an elaborate opening ceremony followed by a plenary session on sustainability of cane growers and their environment. **Tim Murray**, Chairman of the Executive Committee, welcomed the delegates. His address prompted me to take to social media (Facebook and Twitter) to document the highlights I felt were interesting. #ISSCT29 was the Twitter hashtag that I used to start my conversation.

Matt Kealley @MattKealley · Dec 5  
#ISSCT29 Chairman ISSCT Executive Committee Tim Murray asks delegates to start the conversation on productivity @CANEGROWERS



The Technical Program of the Congress consisted of paper and poster presentations under the themes Agriculture, Biology, Factory, Co-Products and Management.

An important set of papers was delivered by researchers from Sugar Research Australia on chlorotic streak disease – new understandings and the development of diagnostic tests.

Matt Kealley @MattKealley · Dec 5  
#ISSCT29 Kathy Braithwaite @sugarresearch presented a well received paper on chlorotic streak - a major disease in #sugarcane @CANEGROWERS

Day one was concluded with a welcoming function in the exhibition hall where delegates could network with the 40 plus exhibitors.

Day two's plenary session had speakers on the theme of producing sugarcane under challenging environmental conditions. Papers included one presented by **Dr Bernard Schroeder** called *Balancing profitability and environmental considerations in best practice cane growing* and it included some discussion on Smartcane BMP.

The plenary on day four had the theme of producing sugarcane under changing policy and management regimes and **Dr Frikki Botha** from SRA presented on the value of allowing creative blue sky research and minimising manager involvement in the science process. He talked about allowing space for researchers to be creative and innovative.

Matt Kealley @MattKealley · Dec 8  
#ISSCT29 Frikki Botha asks his audience "how many Bright Young Things do you have in your business?" @CANEGROWERS @sugarresearch

From my perspective, the issues that I heard over the four days of the Congress were the same issues that I hear in the Australian sugarcane Industry. These being adoption of science, the increase in productivity, the management of pests





and diseases, variety development and selection, processing challenges in the mill and environmental issues around sustainability, water quality and land management.

It was interesting to hear about the challenges some counties face in adoption of new practices, particularly with small landholders who farm areas as small as a hectare. Technology such as mobile phones are making a big difference with adoption of best practices and extension of information.

Another challenge in countries such as Thailand and India is labour shortages and increasing costs of production especially around harvesting. Mechanical harvesting is starting to be used and innovation in machinery to meet the smaller landholding and processing challenges are being developed.



Matt Kealley @MattKealley · Dec 8

Second last talk in the #ISSCT29 Congress. I presented a top 10 lessons for building momentum in SmartcaneBMP. @CANELOWERS



Nicolas Viart @nicoviart

@MattKealley explains how to build momentum with Australian @CANELOWERS - adapt, take time, lead to change, promote and engage #ISSCT29

2 3

I had the opportunity to present a paper I co-authored with Smartcane BMP program manager Mick Quirk on understanding drivers and building momentum for best management practice uptake in the Queensland sugarcane industry. The paper was well received and Smartcane BMP created some good discussion on practice change, engagement and adoption in the workshop that followed.

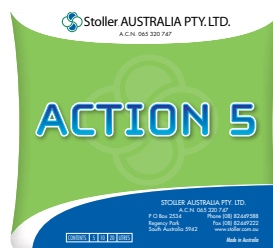
I also performed Councillor duties at the Congress representing Australia through CANEGROWERS affiliation of ASSCT on the ISSCT Council. This involved election of new Executive Committee members, election of three Honorary Life Members one of which included Rod Steindl who has provided services to the ISSCT as the Factory Commissioner for three congresses and Chair of Factory Processing for four congresses; and the selection of the host for the 30th ISSCT Congress in three years' time.

Argentina won the vote and will be hosting the Congress in 2019. I can only hope that it will be as well organised, welcoming and engaging as this year's. ■

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## Mackay research farm achieves **SMARTCANE ACCREDITATION**

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has gained Smartcane BMP accreditation for its Mackay research station at Te Kowai. The farm is managed by Annette Corcoran, who drove the accreditation process for the 28 hectares site (with 25ha under sugarcane). In this article, we ask Annette about what it takes to manage the research station.

### What does a typical day involve for you at this time of the year?

Like all sugar cane growers, this is our busiest time of the year. A typical day involves good planning and allocation of resources such as machinery and a pool of hardworking and reliable casual field hands.

I have two permanent farm technicians and approximately 15 casuals, who are employed on a seasonal basis.

I need to provide all these resources between plant breeding, agronomy, entomology and other projects as required.

As well as providing these for the experiment station there are trials off site from Koumala to Proserpine where gear needs to be floated for operation in planting and harvesting of our trials

### Why did SRA decide to voluntarily undertake Smartcane BMP?

Smartcane BMP is gaining momentum and is recognised as a valuable tool for the industry to improve practice on-farm and acknowledge the hard work that is already occurring on many farms.

Smartcane BMP is also an opportunity to continue to measure and improve. SRA also collaborates with Smartcane BMP on projects such as training, so it was logical to ensure SRA started down the path of BMP accreditation.

SRA strives to manage its research farms according to best management practises and as such BMP is a natural fit to its operational activities.

### Are other SRA-owned farms also undertaking, or have achieved BMP accreditation?

SRA is undertaking the process across its other research farms. Mackay is the first.



### What did SRA think of the registration and self-assessment process?

As Farm Manager of a research station, good record keeping is paramount.

I found this a great opportunity to formalise my records to confirm SRA Mackay practices are consistent with industry best practice.

### What does BMP accreditation mean to SRA?

SRA is committed to providing valued solutions for a growing sugarcane industry. Gaining BMP accreditation is a practical way of demonstrating that commitment.

SRA is also committed to undertaking sustainable and efficient farm operational practises to the benefit of the broader community.

### If you had any advice to give growers thinking about registering for the program, what would that be?

It's not too late to become involved and be part of Smartcane BMP.

Start where you have your best records and work from there. If your records are sketchy, it's not too late to start collecting records.

Your local Smartcane BMP facilitator will be very helpful here to provide you with the best guidance.

You cannot fail, but only improve. ■

*Photo: Mackay Farm Manager, Annette Corcoran, and SRA Leader, Resources, Jerome Gumley. – Picture courtesy Sonia Ball, CANEGROWERS Mackay.*



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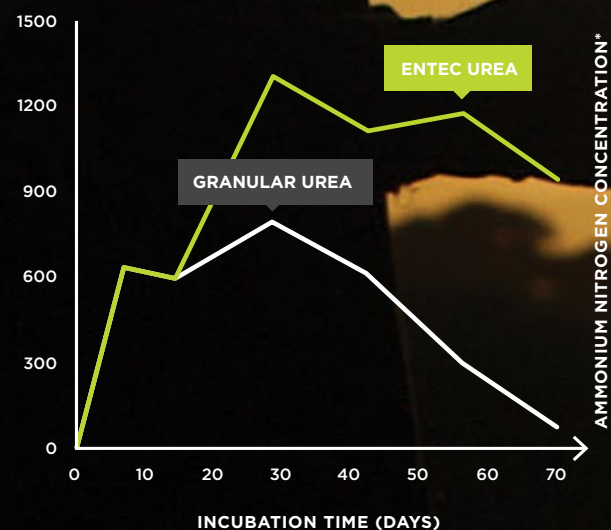
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This experiment was conducted with urea in a moist acidic chromosol (Pin Gin) soil at 25 °C (pHw 4.5) (60% water filled pore space). Source: Suter et al. (2008)  
\*Unit of Measure is micrograms (µg NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> N/g soil)

# Market Update

Current as of 12 December 2016

## Sugar

### WHAT HAPPENED?

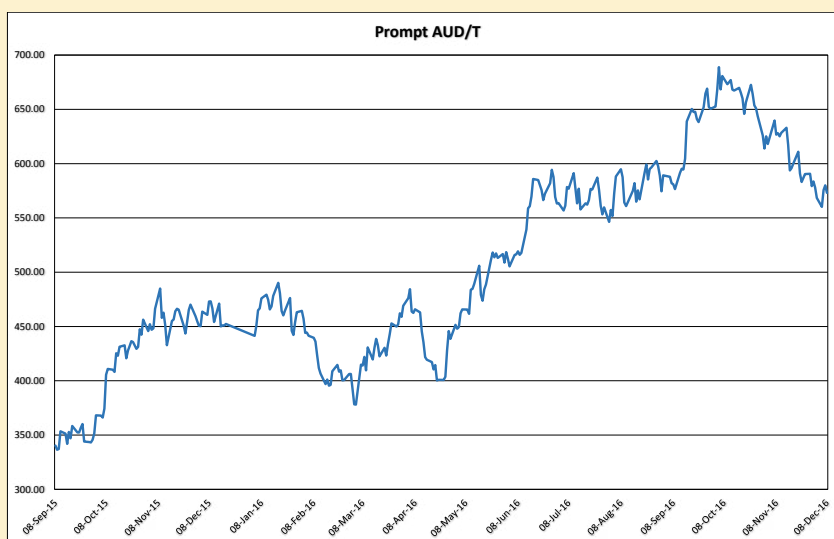
It's been another volatile month, where the sugar market continued to give back the gains of the past few months. With continued speculator selling pressure, the market pushed down through the 100-Day Moving Average levels at around US21 c/lb and only started to find some stability below the 200-Day Moving Average levels at just below US19 c/lb. The speculators have reduced their bought position from its peak level of around 17.5 million metric ton (mt) back to the current level of around 9 million mt – meaning they have sold around 8.5 million mt of futures contracts in the last couple of months. Pressure to sell out their bought positions has increased as more news emerged that the deficit is likely to be slightly smaller than earlier expected and most of the technical drivers in the market have turned negative.

Part of the stability found late in the month came from some positive developments involving oil producers, with OPEC and non-OPEC countries agreeing to some production cuts. The oil prices increased dramatically by around 10% and there has been a knock-on effect for sugar prices after Brazilian petroleum entity, Petrobras, increased their local gasoline prices and announced a new pricing methodology where their future local gasoline prices will be linked to US Dollar based oil prices.

Most analysts have been reducing their expectations of a deficit for 2016/17 on the back of lower import requirements from India and China however some positive information has also been emerging which may offset this in the future.

Brazil's 16/17 Centre South crop is still winding up and is expected to come in

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
Mar-2017	19.24	-2.39	21.63	18.84
May-2017	18.78	-2.18	21.12	18.42
Jul-2017	18.22	-1.89	20.27	18.01
Oct-2017	18.03	-1.48	19.66	17.83
Mar-2018	18.05	-1.15	19.36	17.83
May-2018	17.52	-1.00	18.70	17.32
BRL/USD	3.3802	0.38%	3.4823	3.3323
Ethanol Parity	17.27			



around 35 million mt as forecast. The 17/18 crop is not looking as positive due to the dry weather.

Chinese local sugar prices went on a major increase on the back of a lower import quota announcement and the Thai sugar harvest has been delayed by wet weather.

The local US sugar market has also been well supported based on uncertainty around supply continuing under the ongoing Mexico sugar agreement.

The election of Donald Trump and consequent strength of the US Dollar has had a major impact on financial

markets in the last month, with the stock market and certain commodity markets related to infrastructure development receiving support.

### GOING FORWARD

After dropping to the lowest levels in around three months, there is some positive news emerging in the market that should potentially help AUD/mt levels to find some support in the coming month.

Importantly, following recent oil price increases in Brazil and changes to the domestic gasoline – ethanol pricing methodology together with moves by non-OPEC countries to also





reduce production, further gasoline (and ethanol) price increases seem likely in early 2017.

Brazil's 2017/18 crop outlook is also now coming in lower than some earlier expectations. So, this lower crop outlook coupled with better returns for ethanol, will come home to roost in analyst supply-and-demand forecasts at some point.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

While it seems like most of the bad news has been priced into the market already, any new government announcements out of India or China related to curbing their import programs will potentially be negative for the supply-and-demand and, consequently, short-term prices. The 2017/18 European beet crop is expected to be large and any focus on this could also be negative for prices.

The market's strong endorsement of Donald Trump's election will be an area to see if any signs of flagging.

## Currency

### WHAT HAPPENED?

The last couple of months has seen the US Dollar index continue to increase to its highest levels in around 14 years. The AUD/USD gave way only a little during the month, based on continued strength of infrastructure commodities. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) again kept rates on hold, but the lower than expected GDP growth in early December indicates that the economy still remains vulnerable despite their concern of high real estate prices.

## QSL Market Cost Drivers

MARKET COST DRIVERS	PROMPT (Mar17) A\$/mt	2017 Season A\$/mt
Current Market	\$631.71	\$568.08
Sugar Fundamentals - Global exc. Brazil	●	●
Sugar Fundamentals - Brazil	●	●
Macro Issues/Specs	●	●
AUD/USD	●	●

● Trend is more favourable to positive \$A/mt returns.

● Trend is neutral to \$A/mt returns.

● Trend is less favourable to \$A/mt returns.

	Settlement	Range	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7457	192 pts	0.7505	0.7313

Source: Bloomberg (Current as of 12 December 2016)

### GOING FORWARD

The indicators are still pointing to more support of the USD and we expect to see potential for further pressure on the AUD/USD during the next couple of months. The next RBA meeting will be in February where potential for a rate cut will be once again on the table for review. The risk for any moves back up towards 0.80c now seems a little more limited.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

An expected interest rate rise in the USA at the next Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on 14th December is already largely priced in, so any changes to this could lead to some strengthening of the AUD/USD.

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# BUTTERFLIES, BIOLOGY AND BEST PRACTICE

A group of far north Queensland cane growers is taking part in a unique study aimed at proving that cane growers are the custodians of a thriving and diverse eco-system — not the environmental vandals they are sometimes accused of being.

When **Clint Reynolds** was first approached about trapping butterflies on his cane farm, the Mossman grower thought someone was pulling his leg.

Backing onto the Dagmar Range on the eastern edge of the Daintree National Park, the Reynolds' 526-hectare family farm is nestled in the heart of

Queensland's World Heritage Wet Tropics, one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet.

The Daintree River snakes along the property's northern border, while from the front door of his family home on the hillside, Clint can look out across the farm to the Wonga wetlands and Great Barrier Reef lagoon beyond.

However, despite its magnificent location, Clint rarely saw butterflies on the farm.

"At first I probably pictured the same thing everyone else does when you mention catching butterflies on the farm - someone out skipping around the paddock with a butterfly net," Clint said.

"I said yes, because I was interested to see what the study turned up, but to be honest I didn't really think we'd catch many butterflies. I'd just never really seen many around."

Clint's skepticism came as little surprise to environmental scientist **Hemchandranauth Sambhu**. He'd encountered the same doubt when conducting a similar study into the environmental impact of cane production in his home country of Guyana.

The aim of the Guyana study was to monitor butterfly numbers and species in a range of locations and land uses to determine the effect those land uses were having on the environment.







*"There are many, many studies that have documented butterflies as being very good biological indicators. They tell you a lot about the health of the environment."*

"There are many, many studies that have documented butterflies as being very good biological indicators. They tell you a lot about the health of the environment," Sambhu said.

"The number and types of species will tell you about the health of the environment. With people, we live in an area if conditions are good, but if conditions are not good, we move on. It's the same thing with butterflies.

"What we found back home in Guyana was that we caught about 77 species, of which 50% were found in the cane fields.

"Within those found in the cane there were 12 species that were more dominant in the cane than in the forest.

"Naturally you would think that the forest is pristine and so should have higher numbers and greater diversity, but we found that the cane was actually supporting high diversity."



*Pictured: Cane grower Clint Reynolds on his Mossman farm with environmental scientist Hemchandranauth Sambhu; (above) two of the species trapped on Clint's farm - the scrub darter (Arrhenes dschilus) and the evening brown (Melanitis leda)*

*Continues page 18 ►*





*"It might just help dispel some of the myths around what we're doing and how we're impacting the environment ... It's a very positive story for the industry"*

These findings, Sambhu believes, turn on its head the traditional view of cane as being something of an ecological dead zone, capable of sustaining only pest species.

"Cane, being a mono-crop activity, you would think that there's not much life that it can support, but these butterflies are not pests to the cane.

"There are lots of other plants that are growing there, tiny plants that you or I might not necessarily notice at first glance, like the wild flowers or grasses on the headlands, for example. That is what the butterflies are feeding on."

Upon arriving in Australia earlier this year to complete his PhD at James Cook University, Sambhu was encouraged to conduct a similar study in Queensland's cane growing regions.

He set about establishing nine trap sites in three different localities between Gordonvale and Mossman.

Each trap site is in a locality covered by a different land use - national park, cane cultivation or urban development.

It wasn't all smooth sailing, however, with Sambhu and his research partner/ wife, Alliea, encountering some opposition to the project, particularly in the urban areas.

"We did have a couple of traps destroyed," Sambhu explained.

"In the cane areas, we obviously had to get permission from the land owners to place the traps.

"But even in the urban areas, if we were putting the traps up on public street instead of on private property, we would always call to the homes on the street and let people know what we were doing out of courtesy.

"Still, we had some traps pulled down and destroyed. There was even one time when we placed a trap in the garden of a home with the owner's permission, but when we went back to check the trap it had been destroyed.

"It turned out the wife of the household had given us permission, but when the husband came home he didn't want it in the garden and destroyed the trap."

Luckily for Sambhu, cane growers proved very supportive of the project, despite some initial skepticism about the outcome.

Four growers agreed to take part in the study - William Thomas and George Wah Day (Gordonvale area), Mark Savina (Redlynch/Freshwater/Smithfield area) and Clint Reynolds (Lower Daintree/ Mossman area).

"All the growers have been great, but I must say that I've particularly loved Clint's spirit all the way through this," Sambhu said.

"And not just him but his entire family. Even his kids have been out on the farm collecting butterflies and they're so excited about it. His son Deklen has even done a school report on butterflies.

"I was also invited to give a talk about butterflies to Deklen's class at nearby Wonga Beach State School."

As for Clint, his skepticism soon turned to amazement as the traps, baited with an irresistible mixture of beer and mashed banana, began filling up with a variety of colourful butterflies species.

"The first thing I said to Sambhu was you won't find any butterflies here," Clint said.

"But ever since we first spoke about it I'm seeing butterflies everywhere. When you're driving the harvester, you see them flying out of the end of the row, it's amazing."



Sambhu is also impressed with the results from his Lower Daintree cane site.

"From what we've seen so far, this site seemingly has a greater butterfly diversity than cane sites in other locations," he said.

"Actually, only last month we found a species of butterfly on Clint's farm that was not documented, or we haven't been able to find any documentation to tell us what it is. We've sent a photograph of that specimen out to butterfly experts to try to discover what it is, but to date we haven't been able to identify it.

"It could have something to do with the proximity of this site to the Daintree, but it's too early to tell.

"At the minute we're just going on what we're physically collecting, but we haven't done the analyses as yet. That will come May of next year, when we finish the collecting.

"We're doing the study over a 12-month period because we're also looking at the seasonal trends."

For Clint, a fourth-generation cane grower with family farms in the Daintree and Mowbray Valley near Port Douglas, the project is an opportunity to push back against the perception of cane growers as environmental boogymen.

"I was happy to participate. It isn't affecting my routine, but it might just help dispel some of the myths around what we're doing and how we're impacting the environment," he said.

"It's a very positive story for the industry and if I can be part of that, great.

"We're constantly getting hit on the head with the green stick, so it's good to be able to stand up and say 'look, we're not as bad as we're portrayed, we're not the grim reaper or anything like that'."

Clint says farmers who work hard day after day to do their best for the environment get frustrated by negative media coverage and want more good news stories about the hard work and money growers are sinking into improving their practices.

"You're out there every day, working your guts out. You're saying good night to your kids on the two-way," he said. "

"You're doing your best and then you finally come home at night and turn on the news to see that the media is



once again portraying that farmers are destroying the reef - it's so frustrating.

"The demographic in the industry is pretty old, so at 43 I'm a young farmer and it's hard to keep your motivation and momentum up when you get kicks in the guts like that.

"That's why I said yes to being part of this study. There's no point whinging if you're not willing to be part of the solution."

When he's not working the farm or running his harvest contracting business, Clint is working towards his Smartcane BMP accreditation.

A Diploma of Agriculture graduate, he understands the importance on implementing best on-farm practices and believes most growers, whether consciously or not, are working towards this goal.

"We're constantly changing our practices. We were one of the first ones to take up green cane trash blanketing years ago. We went to minimum till, then to zonal tillage, which is saving us thousands in diesel and time.

"You're just constantly trying to change things for three reasons - your time, your costs and the environment. Whether you're doing it unconsciously or not, you're working towards improving things for the environment and the Reef.



"After all, it's our backyard as well and we want to protect it. Almost every farmer I know owns a boat - not that many them would have time to use it. Mine has got hornets' nests on it instead of barnacles."



# Irrigators Energy Savers Program

targets significant energy savings for a  
Queensland sugar cane farm

PROPOSED  
SOLUTION 

Potential  
energy  
savings 

## Key facts

### Farm / Industry

Sugar cane

### Location

Mackay

### Irrigation

Travelling gun

### Pumps

Centrifugal

### Solution

#### Proposed:

Piping modification and  
install variable speed drive

## Farm profile

The 138 hectare farm, north of Mackay, cultivates sugar cane and uses travelling overhead irrigator guns. The farm is reliant on a submersible pump supplying bore water into a dam and then a high-pressure centrifugal electric pump supplying the travelling overhead irrigator.

### Current irrigation

The irrigation system comprises:

- One submersible pump that draws water from a bore to supply the on-site dam.
- One 45kW centrifugal pump that supplies water from the dam to the travelling overhead irrigator.

### Action

An energy audit of the pumping systems evaluated:

- pump discharge piping modification
- installation of variable speed control
- pump replacements.

### Results

Of the energy saving opportunities evaluated, one initiative was identified, with potential savings of 10% and a payback period of 3.4 years (approx).

The energy audit report identified the potential for modifying the discharge piping on the 45kW centrifugal pump to reduce pressure losses. It was recommended that the discharge piping be replaced with a full radius bend and a non-return valve to reduce backpressure in the line.

Other opportunities that were assessed included replacing the existing pumps with more energy efficient options (paybacks greater than 5 years) and the installation of variable speed control to the irrigator (payback 4.6 years).

The Irrigators Energy Savers Program is funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

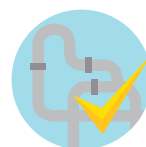




# Recommendations

The energy audit recommendations are summarised below:

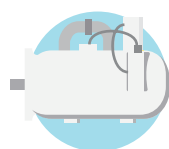
## Solution



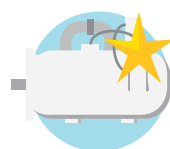
**Piping modification and  
install variable speed drive**

Est. energy savings (kWh/annum)	3,360
Est. operating cost saving	\$875
Est. cost to implement	\$3000
Payback period (years)	3.4
Est. demand reduction (kW)	2.1
Est. energy savings	10%

## Forecast savings in pump operating costs



**Existing system**



**Upgraded system**



**Reduction in  
operating costs**

Annual pump operating cost	\$7,222	\$6,347	-
Cost to implement	-	\$3,000	-
Operating costs for first 4 years	\$28,888	\$28,388	\$500
Annual pump operating cost for years 5 to 10	\$7,222	\$6,347	\$875
<b>Total pumping costs for 10 years</b>	<b>\$72,220</b>	<b>\$66,470</b>	<b>\$5,750</b>

## Farmer feedback

While the recommendations of the energy audit report would provide potential energy and cost savings, the owner's focus is to implement a capital improvement program that delivers increased farm productivity.

The initial phase of the capital investment has been to purchase a new hard hose travelling irrigator to increase the area of irrigation on the farm. Plans to implement further recommendations are affected by ongoing financial constraints.

The audit has provided the farmer with a list of recommended pumps and drives should the existing ones fail in the meantime.



**Case studies**

To see how other agriculture businesses are saving energy and costs,  
go to [www.qff.org.au/energysavers](http://www.qff.org.au/energysavers)

# Growers kicking goals with drumMUSTER

End of financial year data has shown a significant increase in the number of drums returned from cane growing areas. The value of the drumMUSTER program has again been demonstrated in more drums than ever before being returned for recycling.



The 2015-16 year saw a total of 173,151 drums returned which was over 40,000 more than the previous year. Client numbers are also at an all time high with over 2,500 growers taking advantage of responsible drum disposal. The areas with the largest increases are Mossman, Herbert River, Burdekin and Mackay.

"The response is terrific and the challenge is for all growers to participate this year," said Colin Hoey, drumMUSTER Consultant for Queensland.

"I would ask all industry participants to encourage neighbours and anyone who might have a drum pile at the farm to get involved and get them back for recycling."

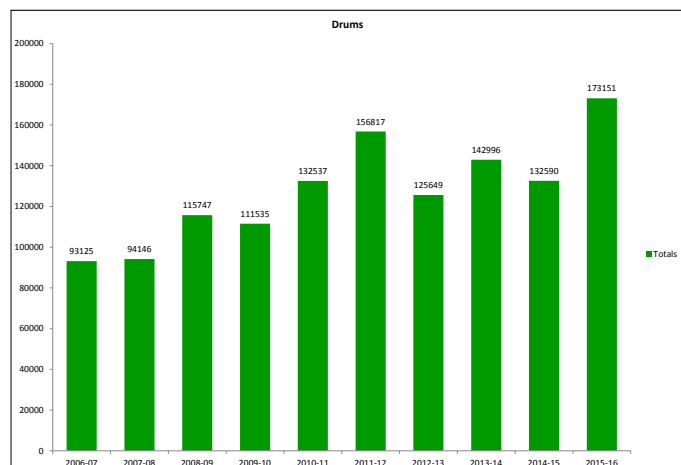
There is very good geographic spread of sites in the growing areas and almost all accept drums without the need for an

appointment. The recycling standard requires drums to be free of residue and have their lids removed for a quicker delivery.

Growers delivering drums will receive a receipt which helps with Smartcane BMP participation. No doubt the industry-driven Smartcane BMP initiative is making growers more aware of environmental issues and drumMUSTER plays its part.

The sister program to drumMUSTER is ChemClear and there will be a collection of out of date and unwanted chemicals in 2017 for Queensland. Further information is available on the ChemClear website or by discussing any inventory with Colin Hoey. Colin can be contacted on 0428 964 576. ■

*Pictured (above): Delivering drums for recycling.  
Left: Number of drums recycled 2006 to 2016.  
Right: Seaforth drumMUSTER collection centre.*





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Next deadline is **9 January 2017**.

\*As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, Australian Canegrower will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

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TRANSPORTER 14 TONNE FRONT  
UNLOADING ELEV to 4.2 metre  
delivery.** CAT 325HP Engine. 9 roller  
track frames, two speed track drive  
motors, New 50-1 ratio track drive  
hubs. SAI piston elevator drive motors,  
24" curved grouser plates.

Full moving floor. S.A.L.T chains.  
**PROVEN DESIGN ENQUIRE NOW!!**

**ENQUIRE NOW on late model  
machines arriving in the new year.**

#### REDUCED TO SELL!!

2011 MASSEY FERGUSON 5465  
4 WD Tractor 120 HP. 1,967 Hrs. Front  
suspension, Linkage & D/Bar fitted.

**NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500**  
Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

**NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS**  
Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps  
Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

**WRECKING CAMECO 1996 Track  
Harvester.** No engine, walking gear or  
topper available. Other parts available  
L&S track hubs, 8 Blade, Diff chopper  
drums, base cutter box, various  
hydraulic valves & Hydraulic motors.

**NEW! Chopper Drums to suit JD 570**  
available. Enquire NOW!

**IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE  
DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS**  
Suit '05 to current 3520 CAMECO/JD.  
Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas.  
New seal plates, Clamping Bars &  
Dowels with kit.

#### Graham Twyford

48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay

Mobile: 0418 742 696

[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)

[www.gtmachinersales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinersales.com.au)

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## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

International ACCO 1800 flat top tip truck, turbo Perkins motor, brakes need attention, good farm truck. \$5000+gst neg. Also beavertail rock body to suit at extra cost. Ph. 0409 912 062

Cane harvester Toft 6000 3306 engine swinging knife. Ph. 0412 976 051

FOR SALE Articulated 2003 John Deere 7710 with 14t Carta Bin. Ph. 0418 782 815.

FORD 8240 A/Cab, 4.5T Side Tipper \$22,000 Neg+GST. Can separate. Used Firestone 520/70R38 Tyre \$500 +GST. New Olympic Gripster 23.1x26 12 Ply \$2,000+GST. Ph. 0459 632 042

Inter Row Cane Stripper MF Multi Power 178 2 double sided fans \$8,000. Ph. 4068 5168 after hours

JD 3520, 2012 model, adjustable powerfeed roller, elevator extension, GPS, well maintained, selling at end of 2016 crush. Ph. 0427 667 964 (correction)

Harvester contractor with spare capacity seeking farmers for 2017 cane season. Contact Ian 0418 183 584

Case IH (Hesston) 8545 Small Square Baler with 15 Bale Accumulator 2002 model, centre feed, fitted with Freeman 15 bale accumulator (2006 model). One owner. Good working condition. Always stored undercover. Only ever baled Rhodes Hay. Ph. 0414 604 974

2 x Freeman 15 Bale Hay Grabs 2006 model. Fitted with Euro hitch quick-attach system & third function hydraulic hoses. Complete package would suit a small square production. The Lot \$30,000 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Vicon Silage Wrapper – BW 2400J 2014 model. Demo model - only wrapped 1800 bales. Would suit a new buyer. Joystick control. \$22,000 inc GST, Ph. 0414 604 974

Round Baler – Vicon RV2160R 2008 model, variable bale chamber 0.8m-1.5m bale sizes, adjustable density control with 3 adjustable zones, 2m pickup. Great machine, very good condition, always stored undercover. \$18,000 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

MF 35 Loader 4x4, 4 cylinder Perkins engine. 700 hours since a full chassis rebuild. Well maintained. Reliable machine. Includes: hay bale extension, hydro shift pallet forks. \$15,000 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

KMC 4 Row Peanut / Corn Planter Fertiliser boxes 1 tonne capacity, 2 x gandy boxes, peanut & corn plates & hoppers. New style press wheels. Very good condition. \$7,700 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–November
	5.12.16	12.12.16		
Mossman	0	7	1707	2249
Mareeba AP	17	0	453	911
Cairns	3	17	1214	2001
Mt Sophia	2	21	2232	3346
Babinda	0	20	2904	4236
Innisfail	0	44	2942	3559
Tully	0	0	3035	4082
Cardwell	0	18	1902	2116
Lucinda	0	39	1892	2101
Ingham	0.4	79	1820	2032
Abergowrie	0	6	1153	1790
Townsville	0	6	971	1117
Ayr DPI	0	14	591	932
Proserpine	0	28	1356	1379
Mirani	0	30	1349	1493
Mackay	0	6	1536	1562
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	119	1833	1725
Bundaberg	3	0	855	1007
Childers South	12	3	934	875
Maryborough	6	12	806	1153
Tewantin	7	6	1068	1697
Eumundi	11	4	994	1668
Nambour	39	4	992	1694
Woongoolba	7	37	547	1342
Murwillumbah	12	76	1444	1573
Ballina	9	31	1221	1770
Woodburn	18	72	841	1358

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
All bath bearings  
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)  
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.  
3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

#### Johnny Farming Company

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

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AND PHOTOS?

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**AustSafe  
Super**



The industry super  
fund for rural and  
regional Australia.

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.



International Acco 1800 1972 model, 8cyl petrol, Allison auto tipping hoist. Twin steer tandem drive. 17m body. In working condition. Not registered. As is. \$10,000 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

International 574 Tractor Fitted with High lift Dalmore forklift. Starts & runs well. ROPS canopy. Row crop tyres 13 x 38's. As is. \$7,700 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Vicon Rotaflow – RS-XL 3200lt Spreader 2008 model, 3200lt hopper, fitted with HYD tilt control option, HYD LH/RH shutter control option. 3 tonne capacity. Fitted with folding canvas hopper cover. \$5,500 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Kvernland Potato Planter 1996 model, 2 row. 100 Lt chemical tank. Extended fertiliser & potato hopper. Hilling boards. \$8,800 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Struik 3ZF Potato Hiller 2007 model, 2 row. 1 owner. Used in clean ground. \$10,000 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

Hilder Potato Harvester Single row, set up for bags. ½ tonne bunker included. Bag elevator. Tilt, steering, side shift. New tyres. Canopy. Always stored undercover. \$16,500 inc GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

## Herbert River – Burdekin

Three row inter-row spray unit attached to 4WD tractor which also has three-point linkage. Width of tractor 39 inches. \$4500. Ph. 4776 5114

Howard Rotary Hoe 90" Heavy Duty with steel wheels. GC. \$6,500 Inc GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

3000L Fire Fighting Cart. Galvanised tank Davey fire fighter Pump 6.5 HP Honda on an old single bin trailer with dual wheels. Good wheels. GC. \$6,000 INC GST Negotiable Ph. 0458 776 187

New Holland M100 1996 model 4007 hours. Tyres 60% Front 50% Rear. GC. \$24,000 INC GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

Fiat 880. GC. 5000 plus hours. Motor just rebuilt \$10, 000 INC GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

Howard 6 Foot Slasher. Reasonable Condition. \$2,000 INC GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

24 Plate John Shearer Offset. Reasonable Condition. Front dishes 90% back dishes 50%. \$3,000 INC GST Negotiable. Ph. 0458 776 187

Back Blade \$500, Bag Lifter \$2,500, MIG 200 AMP Welder \$300, Single Row Billy Roller on 3 point linkage \$250. Ph. 0458 776 187

200L Silvan Spray Tank with electric pump 14ltr/min on trailer or standalone \$300. Ph. 0458 776 187

## Mackay – Proserpine

Massey Ferguson 5460, 2010 605 hrs, 115 hp turbo 4cyl Perkins, Dyna 4 transmission, Duel remotes, Air cab two way flashing lights, Reverse camera, Near new excellent cond. mostly slashing tractor. TYPE D25D22GF613A, Serial U133009, Engine U048699T, Front tyres 420/70 R 28, Rear tyres 520/20 R 38, \$60,000 + GST ono. Ph. 0428 340 685

FERTILISER BIN: 2 T hydraulic-lift trailerable side-dresser, 4 coulters and legs. can be fitted with dbl disc-opener, in exc cond. Suitable for 1.5m to 1.8m row spacings. \$9900 inc gst or open to offers. Ph. 0409 221 601 Koumala Hodge cutaway \$1,500; grubber with pillion boards for plant cane \$1,500; Fiat 600, fair cond, \$6,000; Bolarus 90hp 4wd tractor, \$5,000. Ph. 4954 5249/0428 580 438

Brand new 14.00 R 25 tyres for sale under half of new price. Ph. 0488 300 361.

For sale Greaves articulated 10 tonne side tipper (6 and 4 tonne bins). Good working condition. \$11000 plus GST Ono. Ph. 0407 176 828

3 point harrow bar & harrows; \$350 + GST. 1 set 24 plate John Shearer offsets; \$2800 + GST. Quantity 4" aluminium irrigation pipes with IBC fittings; \$60 p/length. Ph. 4954 5249 or 0428 580 438

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

1997 Cameco 2500 harvester, full track, Cat 3306 engine completely overhauled at start of 2016 season, hydraulic pumps in good condition, 15' choppers with Westhill adjuster. Machine is in VGC. POA. Ph. (07) 4958 8264 after 7PM

## Bundaberg – Rocky Point

Janke 4 Row precession planter, with fertilizer boxes, could easily be fitted with coulters and converted to minimal tillage. Comes with good selection of sprockets and chain, as well as a selection of seed plates. There are plates for soybeans, lab lab, peanuts, mung beans etc. J I Case 1194 tractor 49hp 2 speed PTO 12 forward 4 reverse approx 3000hrs. \$8000. Ph. 0418 874 615

Ellis Dual Purpose shielded sprayer, 4 yrs old. \$16,000 + GST ONO. Ph: 0427 559 095

## New South Wales

Harwood Mill area – 2006 Case 7700 full track Cane Harvester. Approx 13000 hours. Standard topper - \$120,000 plus GST negotiable. Ph. 0419 635 033 or 0408 660 110

## Wanted

TRACTOR TYRES OF ALL SIZES. Ph. 0418 775 698 all hours.

Tip Truck, 7-9 Tonnes or similar. Ph. 0428 761 549

Cane to harvest in the 2017 season and beyond in Marian/Mirani district. Photo 0427 593 883

Deutz or similar Air Cooled Irrigation Booster Pump around 50HP set up on trailer. Ph. 07 4959 6197

Late model 6000 or early 7000 wheel harvester. Ph. 0438 592 165

## Positions Vacant

Looking for a permanent employee to assist with daily operations on our cane farm near Mt Ossa. Person must be obliging and well attended, capable of maintaining farm machinery and possess basic knowledge on electrical and mechanical issues. Experience elevator tipper Toft 6000 wheelie for planting purposes would be an advantage, however applicant should have prior learning with regard to paddock preparation and spraying etc... Person can expect a friendly working environment along with a wage package to enjoy. Ph 49588044

OAKENDEN – Contractor wanted to harvest small cane farm. Flat farm, close cart. Ph. (07) 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.


## Property

FOR SALE - Lot 190 Old Tully Road - 31.8323 ha (78.6 acres) freehold - 21.04 ha-Good cane-plant to 4th - 3.46ha fallow - .69 ha with 40 – Tahitian Limes - Zinc shed 5bays - 2 lockable - Case 5150 & John Deere 3140 + implements- 2016 cane crop is excl. Call Lyn 0407627942

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale. Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407635175.

OAKENDEN: Cane farm for sale. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good soil, close siding for carting, close to town. Call (07) 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787.





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Owned by growers**

In recent years how we farm has been dictated by others. As Australian farmers, we would much rather have a system which works for us. A system which is about improving our bottom line and one we can use to market our sugar to the world.

The Australian sugarcane industry has worked together and built just such a system. Smartcane BMP.

Smartcane BMP will help Australia maintain its competitive edge in the increasingly competitive world market. Being able to show we are productive and sustainable producers of quality sugar is becoming increasingly important to our customers, and the Smartcane BMP system is the way we are going to show just that.

**Become part of the movement:  
Sign up to Smartcane BMP**

Contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator. Get recognised for what you are already doing.



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