

Runoff targets and nitrogen fertiliser in sugarcane - the case for research

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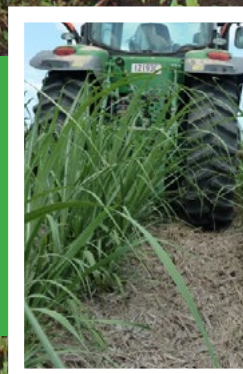
**THANK YOU
to all retiring
grower reps**



**Yellow
canopy
found in
Wide Bay**



**Sugar
women
gather in
Mackay**



**Yields grow
in controlled
traffic
system**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

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Cover picture:

Ted and Bernice Bussey on their Mackay district farm. Story pg 16.

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World sugar price building

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The Australian sugar industry operates along 2,000 km of coastline so it is always difficult to generalise about the condition of the cane crop. Whilst it is early days, most districts are reporting that the 2016 crop is showing potential.

“The market fundamentals of supply and demand are now driving the price. We are seeing Australian values for sugar at over \$450 a tonne.”

Rain has fallen very strongly in the Central and Herbert River areas but we need more. I am very mindful that in those regions that are experiencing dry conditions, farmers are relying on irrigation to grow cane and the cost of electricity is adding a heavy economic burden.

At this point in time, most in the industry are suggesting a crop similar in size to last year's outcome of 32.6 million tonnes of cane. However, from bitter experience, we are only at the end of March and anything can happen when it comes to weather.

We are all encouraged by the steady increase in the world price of sugar. Key economic data in mid-January suggested that the global economy was faltering and all commodities, including sugar, took a hit. The fallout caused the sugar price to move back to under 12 cents per pound. Then in mid-February we witnessed the largest single increase in sugar price in a 24-hour period in 28 years. This tells us that the market fundamentals of supply and demand are now driving the price. We are seeing Australian values for sugar at over \$450 a tonne. Commentators are talking about a global deficit of five to six million tonnes in 2015-16, so let's hope that the price continues to build.

Marketing remains the most significant issue in the industry. On 3 December 2015 an Act of the Queensland Parliament was passed giving growers choice of marketing avenue and, to their credit, a number of mills are getting on with talking to growers and making contracts for next year and beyond. I want to acknowledge MSF for negotiating and providing choice in marketing and I understand that Wilmar has indicated a willingness to talk with grower representatives. I recognise that a lot of decisions, particularly around planting, have been delayed because of the lack of certainty and I hope that the current discussions continue to be constructive and fruitful.

Recently I had the privilege of opening the Women in Sugar Australia conference in Mackay. One of the points that I made was to strongly suggest to the delegates that they were under-represented in the decision-making forums of the industry. In our current CANEGROWERS election round, only four of the 87 elected members are women. We celebrate the women on district boards but the level of representation is still, in my view, inadequate for a modern progressive organisation. If you look at governments at every level, there is a larger representation of women in those areas of community and political life.

In this magazine we are reflecting upon the people who've chosen to hang up their representative hats. The Policy Council has farewelled five people whose contribution represents 100 years of experience and there are many more decades of work to acknowledge by growers who are retiring from district boards.

The heartbeat of CANEGROWERS is the commitment of the growers who represent their colleagues. We wish all those elected representatives who are retiring the very best for the future and thank them for their advocacy in advancing the interests of growers. ■



Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



Look, be alert, call an expert

NEWS IN BRIEF

TABLELAND TOLL CRUSHING AGREEMENT EXTENDED

Mackay Sugar and MSF Sugar have entered into an agreement to toll crush up to 400,000 tonnes of Mackay Sugar contracted cane per season at the Tableland Mill in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 seasons.

The agreement, which is subject to satisfaction of a number of conditions, extends the arrangements made for the 2015 season and continues to provide for the Tablelands cane to be transported to MSF Sugar's Tableland Mill for crushing as opposed to Mackay Sugar's Mossman Mill.

Mackay Sugar CEO Jason Lowry said the tolling agreement was mutually beneficial and will enable MSF Sugar to utilise its current spare capacity at the Tableland Mill while providing a shorter

crushing season length for Mackay Sugar's Mossman and Tablelands growers.

"Mackay Sugar will continue to be responsible for the marketing of sugar and molasses toll crushed by MSF Sugar and will be responsible for cane payments to growers under the collective Cane Supply Agreement," he said.

MSF Sugar CEO Mike Barry said the arrangement was good news all round.

"Tableland Mill will continue to operate under a 7-day operation for the term of the new agreement," he said.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Tableland region growers and to mill their cane reliably and efficiently into the future."

Both the Mackay Sugar's Mossman Mill and the Tableland Mill is expected to handle a crop of approximately 820,000 tonnes in the 2016 season with both mills expected to commence the crushing season in late May. ■



"We look forward to continuing to work with the Tableland region growers and to mill their cane reliably and efficiently into the future."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRAZIL TO CHALLENGE THAILAND IN WTO

Brazil is preparing to challenge Thailand at the World Trade Organisation over subsidies for small producers.

In a statement, Brazil's Trade Ministry said the Thai government had given support to growers and sugar mills that is inconsistent with international trade agreements, allowing the country to win market share at the expense of Brazilian producers.

It said Thailand's share of the global market has risen from 12.1% to 15.8% over the past four years while Brazil's share had fallen from 50% to 44.7%.

Thailand has responded saying Brazil's claim was baseless.

"There is no government subsidy. Everything is consistent with trade agreements," **Worawan Chitaroon**, deputy secretary-general of the Cane and Sugar Industry Policy Bureau under Thailand's Industry Minister, told Reuters.

She said monetary support received by Thai sugar producers came from the country's Cane and Sugar Fund, which raised money itself and sought loans from a state-owned bank. She said the government played no role.

CANEGROWERS is working with Brazil's Sugar Cane Industry Union (UNICA) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to understand the basis of Brazil's claims.

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The message always contains a link to the daily indicative prices if you want more detail.

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The direct link is www.qsl.com.au/news-media/sms-registration-form ■

Backpacker tax plan under review

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT ITS PLANNED TAX CHANGES WHICH FARMERS WARNED COULD CUT OFF THEIR ACCESS TO VITAL BACKPACKER LABOUR.

Minister for Tourism Richard Colbeck said the review would be cross-departmental and seek to provide a more detailed discussion of the tax and its impacts on Australian agriculture.

The proposal was that from 1 July 2016 all working holiday makers would be taxed as non-residents at a rate of 32.5% on all income.

There was a strong backlash from the farm sector which feared the high tax rate would put young travellers off working.

A petition opposing the tax and promoted by the National Farmers' Federation and its member organisations attracted almost 30,000 signatures.

NFF President, Brent Finlay, said he was heartened by the government's acknowledgement of concern surrounding the tax, originally announced in last year's Federal Budget, and its willingness to examine viable alternatives.

"We welcome this commitment to review the proposed tax which, if left unaddressed, will stifle agricultural productivity at a time when we should be looking to build upon the significant growth potential of our global markets," Mr Finlay said.

"Since the announcement of this tax we have heard from primary producers from across the country who say this will damage both their businesses and their communities."

"At the core of this issue is the threat the tax poses to the ability of farmers to access a secure and reliable workforce – something which underpins our capacity to produce premium quality food and fibre at increasing volumes as dictated by surging demand for Australian product.

"The government has committed to finding an alternative, revenue neutral proposal to the backpacker tax, in consultation with affected stakeholders and the Ministers for Employment, Immigration and Agriculture, and we most certainly welcome this development.

"We now look forward to continuing to play a key role in the review process and finding a workable solution that supports our primary producers in operating productive and profitable businesses that are a driver of the broader economy." ■



Time to vote!

Two CANEGROWERS districts are in the process of running elections to determine board positions for the next three years.

Mackay: Ballot papers have been posted to the nominated voter for all CANEGROWERS members. These ballot papers must be returned to the Returning Officer by 5pm Wednesday 13 April. Election results will be declared on 18 April.

Innisfail: The ballot will be conducted at a Members' Meeting 7pm at the Australian Sugar Heritage Centre on Thursday 7 April. If you are unable to attend, you are urged to appoint another member as your proxy.

To read about some of the hard working grower representatives who have decided not to continue in their district and state positions, turn to page 8. ■

YCS arrives in the Wide Bay

Sugar Research Australia says it is disappointing but not unexpected that yellow canopy syndrome has been observed in the Maryborough district.

Yellow canopy syndrome was first officially observed in 2012 and has now been observed in cane growing regions from Maryborough to north of Cairns.

SRA Executive Manager for Strategic Initiatives, Dr Frikkie Botha says a \$7 million of research is going into YCS.

"We are focussed on both determining the cause of YCS and also investigating management options for it," he said.

"SRA continues to keep the entire sugarcane industry informed about research activities about YCS through various publications, newsletters, and the SRA website.

"If growers have individual concerns, they should contact their productivity services organisation.

There is no need for growers to change anything regarding their farm operations."

"The severity varies between regions and within regions, but with no obvious link with soil type or weather."

The Queensland Government has confirmed its \$4.15 million contribution to the research effort this year with Agriculture Minister **Leanne Donaldson** saying it was a concern that it appeared that no current commercial variety of sugarcane was immune to the syndrome.

"The severity varies between regions and within regions, but with no obvious link with soil type or weather," she said.

"The estimated impact on yield is generally no more than 15%; however in severe, localised, cases it can reduce yield by up to 40% or more which represents significant dollar losses."

SRA says a number of possible causes of YCS have been eliminated from further consideration. These include herbicides, linear bugs, a nutrient deficiency or toxicity, and known viral, bacterial or fungal diseases.

Works is being undertaken to understand the effect YCS has on key plant processes such as photosynthesis and sugar transport.■



Sugar tax would not solve Australia's expanding waistlines

CANEGROWERS has joined the chorus of Australians saying a tax on sugary drinks just doesn't make sense here.

In two years Britain will impose a levy on drinks with more than five grams of sugar per 100 millilitres in response to data showing 61.9% of adults and 28% of children were overweight or obese.

Cane growers are pleased the Federal Government has been quick to play down the prospects of Australia following Britain's lead.

Rural Health Minister **Fiona Nash** told the media the Turnbull Government was not considering a sugary drinks tax.

"I certainly accept that obesity is a very significant issue for this nation but in dealing with obesity this government's view is that we empower people with the information to make healthy food choices and we respect that they have a responsibility to make those health food choices," Senator Nash said.

The Australian Beverages Council was also quick to outline its firm view that a sugar tax wouldn't do anything to address obesity and would only impact on industry.

CANEGROWERS is vehemently opposed to Australia considering this move and is pleased that there doesn't seem to be the political climate in Australia for such a tax to be introduced.

"Singling out just one component of our diet - is unhelpful and will not solve the problem and that view is backed by research, says CANEGROWERS Chairman, **Paul Schembri**.

"Sugar consumption is on the decline, yet our waistlines are not. According to a recent Australian Health Survey, 63% of Australian adults are overweight or obese, but since 1980, sugar consumption has dropped by 23. The increase in obesity can be attributed to our modern lifestyle of eating more and moving less.

"Demonising sugar by singling it out as the root of all dietary issues is not a reasonable proposition. Using this then as a basis for public health policy and taxation in Australia would be calamitous."

CANEGROWERS remains a strong supporter of the work done by government in Australia to provide information to Australians about a healthy, balanced diet and exercise regime.

"It is only by tackling the complexity of the issue head on that we can expect to see any real change towards a healthier Australia," says Mr Schembri.

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY ACTIVE IN NUTRITION SPACE

The Australian sugar industry has invested some \$1.2 million over the last two years into nutrition research.

This funding is being used to understand the complexities of this issue and push back against nutritional and marketing myths.

Amongst a range of direct work with doctors and nutritionists around Australia, the nutrition team has

put together two excellent web resources which are being used by a range of people in the community for good information on the subject of sugars – from health practitioners to schools to government.

We encourage every grower and stakeholder to go to these sites and inform themselves so that they too can be part of the conversation:

www.srasanz.org

www.allaboutsugars.com





TAKE A BOW...growers are grateful for a job well done

By Neroli Roocke

A number of long-serving and well-known grower representatives have chosen not to continue on CANEGROWERS district boards and will finish their terms at the end of April. CANEGROWERS thanks them all for their services.

"I was the youngest person on the committee in the Herbert River, now I have the privilege of being the oldest person, so that is a good reason to hang up my boots and let the next brigade take it on."

Among those deciding to hang up his hat is current CANEGROWERS Vice Chairman and CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman **Steve Guazzo**. He first became involved in 1982.

"I was 29 years old – the youngest person on the committee then in the Herbert River," Steve recalls.

"Now I have the privilege of being the oldest person so that is a good reason to hang up my boots and let the next brigade take it on."

Steve says the strength of the CANEGROWERS model is that the people making decisions at all levels are growers.

"Everyone on our boards has skin in the game, understands the issues and seeks

to do their very best by all growers. If you can do well for everybody then you do well for yourself too because you're a cane farmer."

Steve says his business has benefitted by the personal growth and education he's had while serving on the boards but also possibly suffered because he's not been around 100% of the time. ►



“We faced so many big issues like deregulation and marketing and it was important to always work together. When we’re cohesive, we’re strong and have the best chance of achieving our aims.”

He’s grateful for the support of his family and especially wife, Rosalind, and says he’ll remain an active member of CANEGROWERS and also remain a director of Sugar Research Australia.

Along with Steve, **Brian Tabone** is retiring from the Herbert River Board.

Another CANEGROWERS Board member to be stepping down is **Joe Russo** as both he and **Geoffrey McCarthy** have decided not to contest the 2016 election for the CANEGROWERS Isis board.

Joe Russo has been Chairman of CANEGROWERS Isis since 2001.

After his final CANEGROWERS Policy Council meeting Joe said the time was right after 25 years of involvement to move on and give other growers the opportunity.

“We faced so many big issues and changes like deregulation and marketing and it was important to always work together,” he said.



“When we are cohesive, we are strong and have the best chance of achieving our aims.

“I am also a big believer in looking for positives and if you do that, you will focus on the right outcome.”

Going forward he urged the new Policy Council and Board, which will be formed in May, to support its leadership and work collectively for the good of all growers, even when there are differences between districts.

Both **David Lando** and **Russell Jordan** of the Burdekin are also stepping down from CANEGROWERS Policy Council and their local board.

David was a foundation director of CANEGROWERS Burdekin and was Chairman from 2007 to 2013.

In the Cairns Region, **Jim Dillon** is stepping down after holding representative roles since 1974.

He began on the Hambledon Mill Suppliers Committee and after that closed was elected to the Mulgrave Mill Suppliers Committee which in 2004 became Mulgrave CANEGROWERS Ltd and then CANEGROWERS Cairns Region.

In his 40 years on the various committees and boards, Jim Dillon has remained committed to providing good representation to his fellow growers through a lot of changes in the sugar industry.

Another board member stepping down in the Cairns Region is **Jeff Day** who has taken the issues and views of his region’s growers to the CANEGROWERS Board and also Policy Council.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is farewelling **Ted Bussey** and **Wayne Vickers** from its board. (Read more about Ted on Pg 16.)

Another long-service representative deciding not to stand again is **Darryl Cronau** who is stepping down from the CANEGROWERS Maryborough board after service since 1998.

In the Proserpine district, **Gary Simpson** is stepping down from the local board after serving for three terms while on the Tableland, **Enrico Cabassi** is stepping down after more than a decade.

CANEGROWERS Mossman is farewelling its Vice Chairman with **Doug Crees** deciding not to stand again. He has been a director since 2004 and Vice Chairman since 2007.

CANEGROWERS Tully Vice Chairman **Sid Musumeci** is retiring after serving on the board since 2010.

CANEGROWERS thanks all of these representatives for their services to growers and the organisation. Their term of office ends officially at the end of April.

Elections are being held for Mackay and Innisfail district board positions and the new statewide team of directors will be announced after 18 April 2016. ■

Pictured (clockwise from top pg 8): Russell Jordan, Steve Guazzo, Paul Schembri and Joe Russo at the March Policy Council meeting; Jim Dillon (Cairns Region); David Lando (Burdekin) and Darryl Cronau (Maryborough).





Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Manager -
Environment & Sustainability

“It is the responsibility of all industries, communities and stakeholders along the Reef catchment to contribute to the water quality target.”

Runoff targets and nitrogen in sugarcane farming **THE AGENDA, THE OPTIONS & THE FUTURE**

A significant amount of research is being conducted into the role of nitrogen in the crop cycle and the environment. Work is being done on enhanced efficiency and slow release fertilisers, climate forecasting, application technologies, precision agriculture and also looking at options for more targeted rates based on yield and management zones in blocks.

CANEGROWERS is supportive of this research as it will lead to continuous improvement which is the foundation of Smartcane BMP and the industry's best management practices.

The validation, review and acceptance of proven science on nitrogen will lead to better nitrogen use efficiency – better crop growth leading to higher productivity and profitability for growers.

The Six Easy Steps program already provides a methodology for growers across the Australian cane industry to calculate an appropriate rate of nitrogen for their cane production situation. CANEGROWERS supports Six Easy Steps and the 15 years of research science and data that validates its methodology.

This is currently industry best practice and Smartcane BMP requires the use of Six Easy Steps for a farm to be 'at industry standard'.

Since 2010, the Queensland Government, through its Reef Regulations, has set a regulated method for nitrogen and phosphorus rates for growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay-Whitsundays regions.

Enforcing the regulated method is part of the compliance activities that the Queensland Government will be undertaking from March 2016 onwards.

Growers who complete Smartcane BMP, take soil tests, calculate their fertiliser rates using Six Easy Steps and keep records will easily meet the regulatory requirements.

However, will Six Easy Steps, the regulated method or the body of nitrogen research

provide the outcome that is needed for the Great Barrier Reef and meet runoff targets fast enough?

Future policy and regulation options are being discussed by government and the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce. Whether industry agrees with this or not – nitrogen and water targets are driving the agenda.

So given all this, where are we headed with nitrogen?

TARGETS

A Queensland Government election commitment is to, “By 2025 reduce nitrogen run-off by up to 80% in key catchments such as the Wet Tropics and the Burdekin”.

The Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 LTSP) outlines a goal of “By 2018, at least a 50% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads in priority areas, on the way to achieving up to an 80% reduction in nitrogen by 2025”.

As stated in the recent Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Interim Report, the reef water quality targets are ambitions, but important.

The challenge that the Taskforce and government need to resolve is the achievability of the targets.

CANEGROWERS has questioned whether these targets are firm or aspirational and what specifically is expected from the cane industry?

This is important as it influences grower buy-in and government response to future actions around the targets. ►



CANEGROWERS advocates that it is not just the responsibility of the cane industry to single-handedly meet these water quality targets under *Reef Plan 2013* or the *Reef 2050 LTSP*.

CANEGROWERS believes the 80% reduction in nitrogen target is unachievable and likely to be incompatible for a productive and sustainable cane industry.

CANEGROWERS is not alone in this view. Thorburn, Wilkinson and Silburn (2013)^[i] and Thorburn et al. (2013)^[ii] have also cast doubt in the achievability of the current targets.

CANEGROWERS doesn't argue against the need for a target. Targets are an important part of any goal and there must be something to measure success against. However, how do the nitrogen research and the targets relate?

The science around the targets is unclear. Scientific studies by Wooldridge et al. (2006, 2015)^[iii] and Brodie et al. (2014)^[iv] recommended a 50-90% reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen in Burdekin and Wet Tropic catchments to meet the *GBR Water Quality Guidelines* (2010).

As outlined in the *Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Current Situation Analysis-July 2015*, (DEHP,2015)^[v] recent

assessments and catchment modelling scenarios revealed that even with full adoption of best practices across the grazing and cane industries, some *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* targets are still unlikely to be met.

The report goes on to say that it is clear that the dissolved inorganic nitrogen targets remain ambitious in all regions and that even with widespread adoption of 'cutting edge' practices, the reductions are likely to be around 34%.

It is predicted that widespread adoption of best practice at the time will achieve a 27% reduction across the reef.

CANEGROWERS considers a 27% reduction towards the target an excellent outcome and contribution from a single industry.

The industry best practices in the Smartcane BMP modules address nutrients, chemicals and sedimentation. These were reviewed in 2014 by the Queensland Government-sponsored independent science panel (ISP)^[vi] to ensure the standards delivered the reef water quality outcomes sought by government.

The ISP report indicated that full adoption of current Smartcane BMP industry standard (Six Easy Steps with district

yield potential) will deliver reductions in dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) of 15-30%.

The cane industry is not responsible for delivering the entire DIN/nitrogen target.

It is the responsibility of all industries, communities and stakeholders along the Reef catchment to contribute to the water quality target.

The research, innovation and science around nitrogen must continue, however it needs time to be completed, understood and then, if applicable, adopted.

The cane industry continues to play its part to improve water quality and reduce nitrogen runoff to the reef through practice change actions in programs including Smartcane BMP, Reef Rescue, Reef Programme, Reef Trust and via industry extension.

When the science around nitrogen is validated, it will form part of the continuous improvement process which will be incorporated into Smartcane BMP.

The validation, review and acceptance of proven science on nitrogen will lead to better nitrogen use efficiency, improved water quality and importantly, improve productivity.■

[i] Thorburn, P.J., S.N. Wilkinson, and D.M. Silburn. 2013. Water quality in agricultural lands draining to the Great Barrier Reef: a review of causes, management and priorities. *Agriculture, Ecosystem and Environment* 180:4-20.

[ii] Thorburn, P., J. Rolfe, S. Wilkinson, M. Silburn, J. Blake, M. Gongora, J. Windle, M. VanderGragt, C. Wegscheidl, M. Ronan, and C. Carroll. 2013. Chapter 5: The water quality and economic benefits of agricultural management practices. In: 2013 Scientific Consensus Statement. Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Secretariat, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

[iii] Wooldridge, S., J. Brodie, and M. Furnas. 2006. Exposure of inner-shelf reefs to nutrient enriched run-off entering the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon: Post-European changes and the design of water quality targets. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 52:1467-1479. Wooldridge, S.A., J.E. Brodie, F.J. Kroon,

R.D.R Turner. 2015 (in press). Ecologically based targets for bioavailable (reactive) nitrogen discharge from the drainage basins of the Wet Tropics region, Great Barrier Reef. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

[iv] Brodie, J., S. Lewis, S. Wooldridge, Z. Bainbridge, and J. Waterhouse. 2014. Ecologically relevant targets for pollutant discharge from the drainage basins of the Wet Tropics Region, Great Barrier Reef. *TropWATER Report No. 14/33*, Centre for Tropical Water and Aquatic Ecosystem Research (TropWATER), James Cook University, Townsville.

[v] DEHP, Queensland Government 2015, *Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Current Situation Analysis – July 2015*, The Great Barrier Reef Taskforce, Office of the Great Barrier Reef and Department of Environment & Heritage Protection.

[vi] Review of Cane and Grazing BMP modules by the Independent Science Panel, 2013.

Market Update

By Shaun Tupou, Treasury Analyst

Current as of 21 March 2016

Sugar

Raw sugar futures have climbed steadily over the past fortnight, as flat prices have posted noteworthy gains across the board. Prompt May16 recently broke through the major 15.85c/lb resistance level to make fresh highs at 16.10c/lb, a move largely led by weather risks in Brazil, India and Thailand. We also do not discount the recent political struggles in Brazil and a speculative position which could easily tip the barrel one way or another.

Interestingly, the fortnight saw raw sugar futures rally with little or no interest seen in spread activity. Front spread May/July covered a shy 12-point range (+2 to +14) despite flat prices rallying 100+ points. This lack of interest would suggest that the physical trade flows are tight, with more interest in the nearby contracts.

With raw sugar futures continuing to strengthen, fundamental keys have returned to the forefront. Weather patterns in Brazil, Thailand and India have become more pronounced as the market shifts its focus to a production shortfall in Asia. Production estimates for Thailand have recently been reduced rather aggressively as the pressure on Brazil and India to fill the gap mounts.

The latest Commitment of Traders report showed non-index funds net long 142,000 lots. It is since assumed that specs have added an additional 25,000 to 30,000 longs. The upside risk for sugar remains as we bear in mind that the specs have plenty of room to increase their long position near historical levels (230,000).

The Brazilian Real has chopped and turned lower then moved higher since the last bi-weekly, with the most recent 2% jump last Thursday. News of former President Lula's acceptance of the Chief of Staff position (to diminish any further corruption investigations) was halted by a Brazilian Judge, and this news subsequently saw the Real propelled to a top of 3.60 against the USD.

The constructive backdrop for sugar sees the near-term risk remain on the upside, for now. The real test will be if the market can settle above 16 cents and maintain that as a handle.

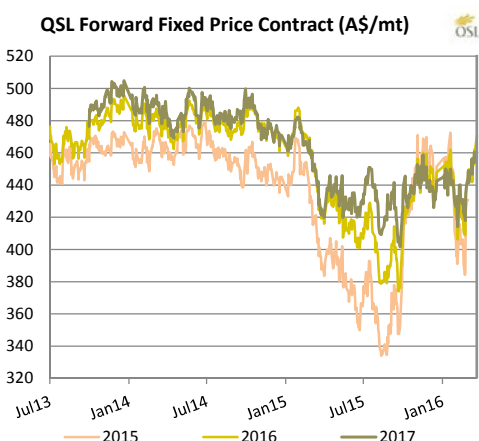
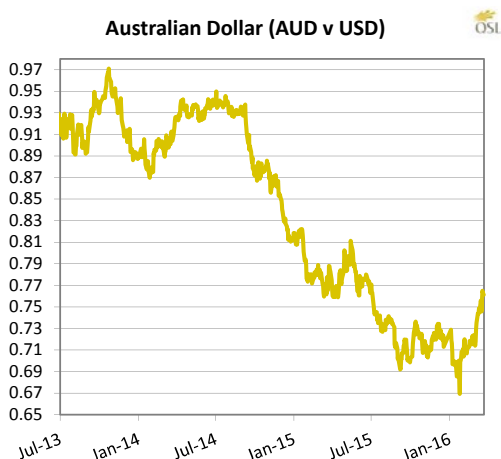
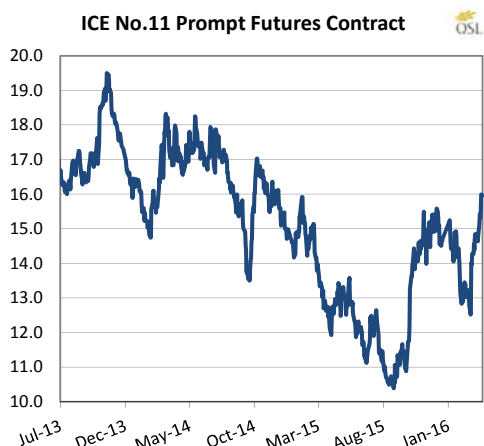
Currency

Just when market watchers thought the Australian dollar had had enough of a push higher, it again drove forward. Over the last week we have seen the AUD rise over 200 points to a staggering 76 cents. Credited to a mixture of local and overseas drivers, the AUD has made fresh 9-month highs.

The US has dominated our key economic drivers recently with some local data helping to push the AUD higher. The Federal Open Market Committee headlined last week, choosing to keep rates on hold. However they took the opportunity to express their updated view on their monetary normalisation process (ie. interest rate increases). The Fed reserve downgraded their forecasts from four rate hikes this year to two, mentioning that the ease in their policy was prompted by a better outlook on the economy.

An upbeat tone in local employment data and an overall upbeat tone for commodities has ensured the AUD remains well supported above 76 cents. The risk of a rate cut by the RBA (sooner rather than later) has increased and market watchers are expecting a rate cut in May, allowing time for commodities to slow down.

While all care is taken in the preparation of this report the reliability or accuracy of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.



Data source: QSL Daily Market Report (Futures and Currency) & QSL Daily Indicative Prices



2016 Season Declarations Finalised

By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations

Nominations for QSL's 2016 pricing pools have now been finalised, following this year's Pricing Declaration Date on 29 February.

This year QSL will manage 1.34 million tonnes of raw sugar in its 2016 season pools, with an increased amount of sugar allocated to our Committed Sugar Pools.

QSL manages the pricing and selling of sugar in Committed Sugar Pools and Uncommitted Sugar Pools differently, as discussed below.

Managing Committed Pools

Committed Pools require you to nominate a set tonnage that you must deliver.

Your commitment to deliver these tonnes allows the QSL pricing team to know exactly how much sugar they have to price and sell, and as a result, they can map out a plan for this reflecting each pool's pricing discretion levels, financial instruments and pricing window (as outlined in each pool's *Product Description Statement*).

QSL's pricing team has already started pricing our Committed Pools for the coming season.

The team bases its pricing decisions each day on its interpretation of the market and the wider pricing strategy discussed with QSL's Financial Risk Committee each week.

The Committed Pools that QSL is managing the pricing for during the 2016 season are:

- *QSL 2016 2- Season Forward Pool (nominated at the start of the 2015 season)*
- *QSL 2017 2-Season Forward Pool (nominated at the start of the 2016 season for contracted Suppliers)*
- *QSL Actively Managed Pool*
- *QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool*

QSL also facilitates a number of Supplier Pricing Pools, which enable growers to undertake individual forward pricing across the season.

More information about these pools can be found in our *2016 RSSA Marketing Guide* available on our website: <http://bit.ly/22ACsrl>

Managing Uncommitted Pools: The QSL Harvest Pool

QSL's only Uncommitted Pool is the Harvest Pool.

The primary purpose of this pool is to help manage in-season crop fluctuations, and as such, a portion of this pool cannot be priced or sold until all the sugar in all the other QSL-managed pools has been received by QSL.

This portion of the pool is known as the Production Buffer.

This restriction is in place to help absorb possible in-season crop fluctuations and helps to ensure we have a reserve of sugar to meet pricing and sales commitments in such an event.

However, this system also means that the Production Buffer tonnage cannot usually be priced or sold until well into the season.

As a result, the pricing and sales strategy for this buffer tonnage is heavily weighted against the March and May contracts each year.

In order to expand the pricing window and increase pricing opportunities for the QSL Harvest Pool, QSL does have the ability to start pricing the Storage Tranche (those tonnes in the Harvest Pool that must be moved earlier in the season in order to manage storage requirements at the bulk sugar terminals) prior to the annual Pricing Declaration Date.

This means QSL started pricing a portion of our Harvest Pool in December last year. ■



GROWER DEMONSTRATES COMPACTION

By Sebastian Garcia-Cuenca, SRA Adoption Officer
Condong, NSW

Controlled traffic is separating the traffic from the cropping zone by matching machinery wheel spacings to crop row width. The most important benefit is reducing compaction in the cultivated zone.

Decreasing compaction in the crop zone improves soil health. Decreasing compaction improves:

- Soil structure
- Root penetration
- Infiltration, water holding capacity in dry conditions and drainage in wet
- Plant available water, nutrients and oxygen
- Biological activity
- Crop health and resilience to pests and diseases
- Productivity

The practical story and farm observation

Bundaberg grower and passionate soil health advocate, **Tony Chapman**, recently moved one of his irrigation tow paths before planting a soybean crop.

The old path used for the last 15 years was heavily compacted, while the rest of the paddock had been farmed by Mr Chapman using controlled traffic/ minimum till along with trash retention and legume fallow.

In future rotations, composts will be added.

As a result, Mr Chapman discovered a substantial difference in the soybean crop planted on the old track (cultivated before planting and fertilised at the same rate) and the rest of the improved paddock.

While he says that his farming system as a whole is responsible for the improved soil and resulting crop health and appearance, he believes that soil compaction and lower organic matter are reasons for poorer growth on the old tow path.



Agronomic details:

- Both the original paddock and old tow path have been treated with this same fertiliser rate before soybeans. N – 5.2, P – 5.5, K – 29.1, S – 13.2 at 200kg/HA banded.
- Old tow path and permanent beds on old paddock cultivated to the same depth but with an extra two passes on the old tow path.
- Cane rows are 1.83m wheel centres with a single wide row.
- Soybeans are four rows per 1.83m bed which are 280mm apart.

MSF have the numbers

Supporting field observations like Mr Chapman, **Chris Coutts-Smith** and **Andrew Dougal** from MSF Sugar recently completed a yield comparison between controlled traffic and no controlled traffic in the Maryborough district.

The 2013 and 2015 data presented in the tables (page 15) spoke for itself.

Controlled traffic or reduced compaction in the cultivated zone resulted in consistently higher average yields across a farm.

Of note is that Mr Coutts-Smith and Mr Dougal think the lower yield advantage on controlled traffic farms in 2015 was due to more standover cane on non-controlled traffic farms as a result of the 2014 drought.

In other words, there were more two-year old crops on the non-controlled traffic farms, which boosted their yields.

More analysis will be done to confirm this assumption. ►

Pictured: Tony Chapman showing the difference between soybeans planted on old compacted tow track (2 centre beds) and the rest of the paddock – BMP Soil Health Workshop Feb 2016



Cane cleaning options could reduce the need for fires in NSW

New research is hoping to provide solutions that could greatly reduce the need for sugarcane burning in New South Wales.

Currently, the high-yielding sugarcane crops in the NSW region are burnt because of their size, the two-year crop cycle and because the soils and climate do not allow the trash to break-down into the soil. Also, sending the trash to the mill can greatly reduce sugar quality.

Sunshine Sugar CEO, Chris Connors, says the industry is looking for proactive solutions.

"We don't want to burn, the growers don't want to burn and we know that the community does not want us to burn. But at the moment we have no choice," Mr Connors said.

Research being conducted by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and funded by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is looking at ways that the whole crop could be brought to the mill where a new method of cleaning would remove the trash and other impurities from the cane after harvest.

The ideal method would use less energy, have less cane loss than separating the material in the field, and could work in wet or dry conditions. The research is working to scale up a concept previously developed at QUT.

There was also the important step of harnessing the best value from the trash.

"Sunshine Sugar has a keen interest in that side of it, because we are still of the view that we want to take all of the crop in. There is this crop sitting out there where we are throwing so much away and only taking the stalk in the middle," Mr Connors said.

"There is another 25% of material there that we can do something with."

SRA CEO Neil Fisher said that this research formed part of SRA's strategic plan.

"This research has useful implications for both growers and millers. It has positive implications for the farming system and its efficiency, and also for product diversification and value-adding," Mr Fisher said.

"It has strong collaborations between QUT and Sunshine Sugar in NSW, and it also will deliver practical and useful outcomes for the entire Australian sugarcane industry." ■

2013 YIELDS

Farming Practice	Tonnes Cane/Ha	CCS	Tonnes Sugar/Ha	Number of farms
Dryland not controlled traffic	54.1	15.1	8.1	56
Dryland controlled traffic	67.4	15.1	10.2	12
Dryland controlled traffic for 2 or more crop cycles	67.4	15.1	10.2	12
Irrigated not controlled traffic	61.1	14.7	9.0	65
Irrigated controlled traffic	74.7	14.7	10.9	21
Irrigated controlled traffic for 2 or more crop cycles	74.1	14.6	10.7	17

2015 YIELDS

Farming Practice	Tonnes Cane/Ha	CCS	Tonnes Sugar/Ha	Number of farms
Dryland not controlled traffic	67.6	13.5	9.1	42
Dryland controlled traffic	69.5	14.2	9.9	15
Dryland controlled traffic for 2 or more crop cycles	69.4	14.4	10.1	12
Irrigated not controlled traffic	78.8	13.8	10.8	84
Irrigated controlled traffic	83.2	13.5	11.2	25
Irrigated controlled traffic for 2 or more crop cycles	84.2	13.4	11.2	14

GROWER PASSES BOARD BATON ON

Ted's Shed has been the go to venue for farmer and community meetings in the Marian sugarcane region for decades, almost as long as the 48 years its owner, **Ted Bussey**, has been representing his fellow growers.

The biggest of its kind in the district at that time and the first one to have a complete concrete floor, the shed was built by Ted himself with locally milled timber.



By Neroli Roocke

Ted's Shed was broadcast on local Mackay region radio as the venue for cane grower meetings, information and education sessions held by researchers, productivity groups and the mill owners - even the local fire brigade meet at the shed.

A self-confessed shy country kid who left school at 14 to farm, Ted Bussey married Bernice 52 years ago.

He joined his local Mt Martin Branch of Marian Canegrowers committee in 1967 as Secretary, starting a representative

career which has now spanned 48 years.

"He's been on this farm his whole life and has helped so many farmers over the years," **Bernice Bussey** says of her husband.

"There were times when as Chairman of the harvesting equity committee that I'd cut his food up for him so he could eat while he talked on the phone for hours to solve grower's problems!"

The original farm cut 807 tonnes in 1959 and provided a living for Ted and his father. ►

Pictured: Ted Bussey in his shed which has hosted decades of grower meetings.

“Take marketing, without CANEGROWERS we’d be back to the sorts of arrangements that were around in my grandfathers’ days.”



Over the years Ted and Bernice have bought five other small farms to now cut around 11,500 tonnes a year which they supply to Marian Mill.

It was a dispute over transport arrangements for two cane assignments that ended up in court which inspired Ted to accept a position on the Marian CANEGROWERS committee in 1988.

“During that court case I was under huge personal pressure, called a liar and was grilled in the witness box,” Ted recalls.

“Without the CANEGROWERS organisation and the legal support, we would’ve lost everything.

“We eventually won the case on appeal to the Cane Prices Board. It proved what a strong organisation can do for you.

“I owed CANEGROWERS a debt so I agreed to stand for the board and growers gave me encouragement.”

The Marian role led him to be elected to the CANEGROWERS Mackay Executive in 1991 and to serve on the CANEGROWERS Board from 1992 to 2005.

“It took me out of my comfort zone, taught me a lot and I made a lot of good friends,” Ted says.

He believes CANEGROWERS has lived up to high opinion he had of it back in 1988.

“We elected members often get a lot of criticism for the things we agree to but if growers only knew what they would’ve had to live and farm by if CANEGROWERS hadn’t been in there arguing for them,” he says.

Ted believes the compromise position has always been a better prospect for growers than what government or mills originally put forward.

“Take marketing, without CANEGROWERS we’d be back to the sorts of arrangements that were around in my grandfathers’ days,” he says.

Now aged 72, Ted is stepping down from CANEGROWERS for health reasons and to open the way for the next generation to step up.

“Farmers have said to me how much they are going to miss his help and understanding,” Bernice says. “It’s been so much a part of his life.”

“I’ll still be part of it and interested in where the organisation is going,” Ted says. “And there’ll be a few emotional moments when my term ends in April.”

Ted is definitely not stepping away from farming or some of the community

service roles he holds such as organising the Anglican Pioneer Valley Debutante Ball and Tagalong Horse Ride that raises money for cancer and heart research.

With three grandsons learning a trade and all very keen to take on farming, Ted says he now hopefully will lead a quiet life as a cane grower. He and Bernice are benchmarking their farm in the Smartcane BMP program.

Bernice grins at her husband and chuckles. “He still drives the harvester. He’ll never stop,” she says.

“I couldn’t live with myself if I made him retire or leave this farm. He loves it too much.”

And Ted’s Shed is still open for business whenever a venue for a meeting is needed. ■

Pictured above: Ted and Bernice Bussey on their Mt Martin cane farm.



WISA GATHERS IN MACKAY

By Neroli Roocke

The 2016 Women in Sugar Australia conference put the role of women in the industry in the spotlight.

Committee members of this year's host, Canegrowers Network Mackay District, were kept busy with radio, newspaper and television interviews, taking turns to explain why the event was going strong into its 15th year.

"From my point of view the support that we gain from each other, the information and knowledge that we gain and share is very crucial and beneficial to the industry," Network member Rita Neilson explained on ABC Radio.

The media attention meant that when delegates hit the road for a bus trip on the second day of the event, everyone knew why this group was in the region.

Around 80 delegates from most of Queensland's cane growing regions and as speakers were introduced by

members of the Network, they outlined what they loved about the industry and what they believed were the key issues facing the industry.

As they spoke about the beauty of their home landscapes and the independence of being their own bosses and farming with their families, they received understanding nods from the audience.

The common themes raised by the Mackay women as their concerns can be summarised as red tape and environmental scrutiny; productivity of their varieties and farmland and profitability given rising costs; and the need to counteract bad press for both their farming techniques and sugar as a natural and safe product to eat.

Opening the conference CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri congratulated the various Women in Sugar groups from across the industry for their advocacy and support.

He then issued a challenge.

"The time has come and you now need to step up to the next level," he said.

"There is an under-representation of women in the decision-making

platforms of our industry and we need diversity."

Network member Jill Fox agreed women do have a lot more to offer the industry and she's optimistic about the future.

"It is something we are aware of in the industry, but I am reasonably hopeful that there is a new generation of women coming through the schools and with a farming background that can do it," Jill said.

Penny McGuinness, agribusiness accountant with Flor Hanly, said in her role she most often found herself speaking to the wife of a farming couple about financial matters and business planning.

"A woman's place in the business world has truly transformed over the last 40 years and that rings particularly true in the agricultural industry," she said.

"Now a vital part of the business success, these women – you – generally prove to be superior multi taskers, passionate, determined, business-minded and great progressive thinkers." ►



As business managers, delegates were intrigued the presentation by **Patricia Doobay** of QSL who explained the behind-the-scenes work that ensured ships were booked, filled and despatched full of Australian sugar and, importantly the paperwork required to ensure the money arrived to be distributed back to growers and millers.

John Agnew of Mackay Area Productivity Services took the conference's attention back to the paddock with a presentation detailing some of the changes the industry had seen to, among other things, soil and chemical loss because of changes to farming practices.

He struck a chord expressing concern about environmental targets being based on modelling and not real data and went on to describe a pilot project monitoring water quality along Sandy Creek being run with grower cooperation.

The conference dinner heard from Vanderfield representatives who explained the process and benefits of electromagnetic soil mapping in precision agriculture.

They outlined how the company could help growers meet industry standards under Smartcane BMP with matching wheel and row spacing, GPS, minimum tillage and variable rate application of herbicides and fertilisers.

The second day of WISA conferences is traditionally a bus tour – this one took the delegates around the district to various points of interest including a newly-completed mural along River Street which tells the story of the city



and the sugar industry from its earliest days and the boutique Goanna Brewery before finishing at the CANEGROWERS Mackay office for a sip of fresh sugarcane juice prepared by **Sonia Ball**.

Organisers and delegates alike agreed the event was a success and all are looking forward to next year's gathering in the Burdekin with the aim of making sure even more of Australia's sugarcane growing regions are represented. ■

“A woman's place in the business world has truly transformed over the last 40 years and that rings particularly true in the agricultural industry.”

Pictured: Women in Sugar from most cane regions in Mackay including the youngest delegate (above) Olivia Borg with Mum Zoe. The conference wrapped up with a refreshing sugarcane juice drink (below).



Drought recovery: plan for better times ahead

Supplied by QRAA

It is an unfortunate reality that large areas of Queensland continue to be affected by drought.

Regional and rural communities throughout Queensland have grown accustomed to overcoming challenging conditions. It is a resilience that has seen our agricultural sector not just survive, but thrive for generations.

As a long term financial partner of Queensland agriculture, QRAA proudly stands beside producers in good and bad times.

Under the Australian Government's Drought and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Schemes, QRAA is providing loans of up to \$1 million to help producers manage drought and recovery.

With interest rates starting at 2.71%, these loans can help farm businesses free up money to support their resilience efforts and ongoing recovery.

Drought Concessional Loans up to \$1 million can assist farm businesses survive through drought, recover when the drought breaks and prepare for future droughts.

Drought Recovery Concessional Loans offer a unique pre-approval process. This allows producers to apply for loans of up to \$1 million whilst still in drought. Approved applicants can then access funds to undertake planting and/or restocking when seasonal conditions have improved.

Recent rainfall in some parts of Queensland has lifted confidence in the agricultural sector, prompting a spike in applications from producers seeking to secure their share of the government backed drought loans.

Over \$98.9 million has been approved since the schemes opened.

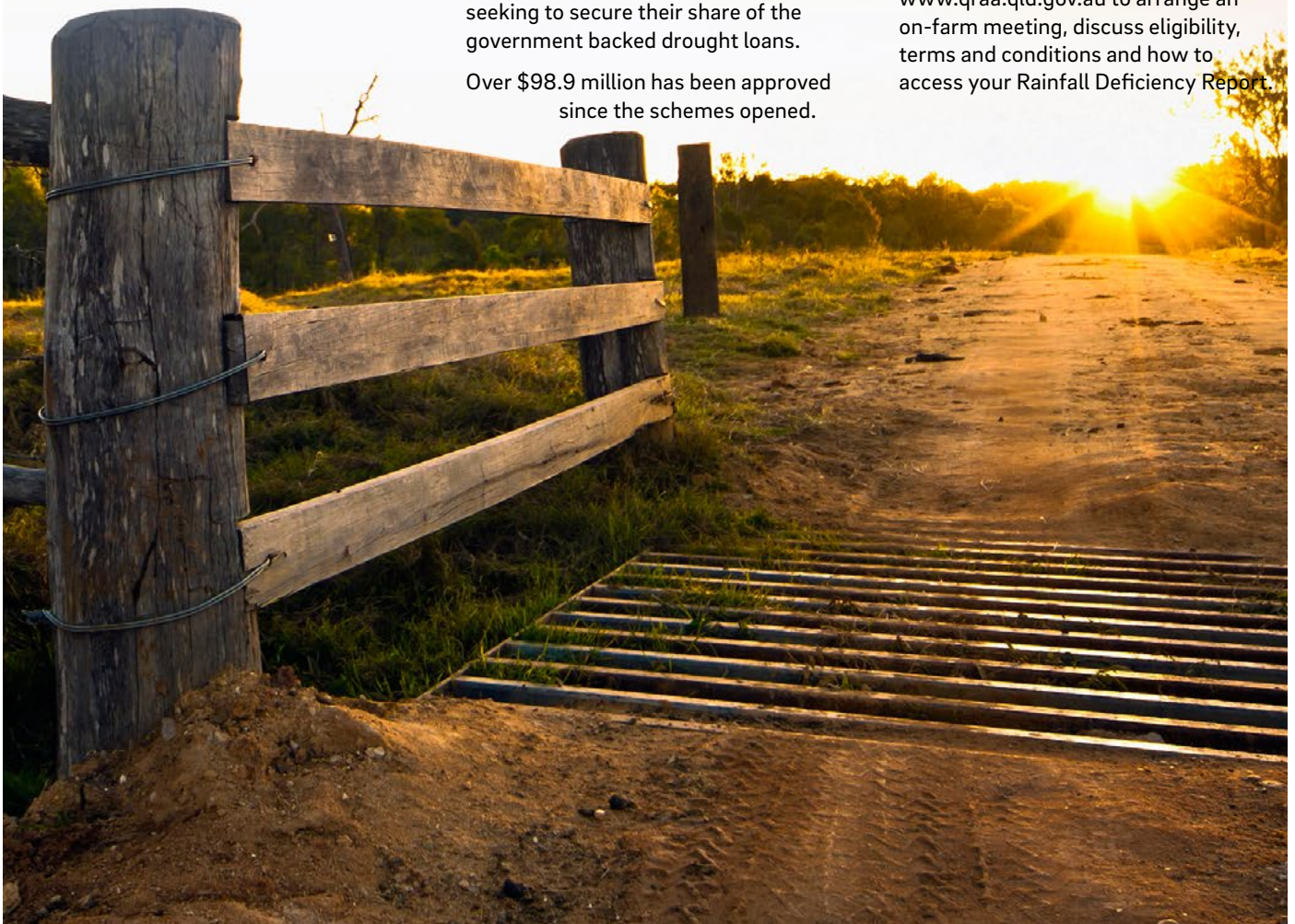
With 16 loans worth \$8.3 million under assessment, even more farm businesses are set to benefit from the low interest rate loans.

The Drought and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Schemes are only available until 30 June 2016, so producers should avoid self-assessing and contact QRAA without delay.

Producers are also reminded that applications for drought loans are not determined by state declarations, but that a Rainfall Deficiency Report is required as part of their application.

QRAA's Client Liaison Officers can provide specific advice to producers about eligibility for these schemes and which approach may be best for each individual farm business.

Contact your local client liaison officer today on 1800 623 946 or visit www.qraa.qld.gov.au to arrange an on-farm meeting, discuss eligibility, terms and conditions and how to access your Rainfall Deficiency Report.



The latest in sugar science will be revealed next month

The 38th annual Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference is 27-29 April in Mackay.

Organised by ASSCT and Mackay Sugar, the three-day event at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre will attract more than 300 visitors and is billed as a feast of information for farmers and millers.

The conference, themed *Emerging Technologies in a Global Industry*, will feature 60 research paper and poster

presentations, 50 trade displays, industry tours and evening networking functions.

There are two keynote speakers:

Bonsucro CEO **Simon Usher** who will provide a look into how Bonsucro was radically repositioned through knowledge sharing, performance improvement, technology transfer and new resources; and

Praj Industries Executive Chairman **Pramod Chaudhari** who will discuss how diversification will shape the future of the sugar industry and the various useful industry technologies that will reduce effluent and energy consumption, and increase yield and quality.

The conference will also include an Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) Knowledge Sharing Workshop, which will explore emerging renewable energy technologies relevant to the sugarcane industry. The workshop will also cover bioremediation of fertiliser run-off and include an industry feedback session.

The technical paper and poster presentation topics include the provision of nitrogen for cane, the effect of pachymetra root rot and nematodes on sugarcane clones, optimising productivity and variety recommendations through analysis of mill data and precision agriculture.

For info and bookings, phone 07 4954 3956 or visit www.assct.com.au.

Getting to know you

This column is about putting faces to the people you may hear from or talk to in the CANEGROWERS office. This edition, meet Warren Males.

What's your role in CANEGROWERS?

I manage CANEGROWERS activities in marketing, electricity, water, trade and a range of other areas which keep me fully occupied.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

Securing some very significant outcomes in each of these areas for the benefit of the industry and growers. The Real Choice in Marketing legislation will modernise the industry's marketing structure and enable growers to more effectively manage their farm businesses.

We all know electricity prices are too high, rising by more than 33% in the past three years. Without CANEGROWERS work they would have risen by almost 74%.

As important as these achievements are, there are eclipsed by the elimination of sugar export subsidies and the recent inclusion of sugar in trade agreements with Korea and Japan and also in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Imagine what the sugar price would be if the European Union was continuing to export six million tonnes of heavily subsidised sugar each year!

What do you see are the challenges?

Perhaps the most immediate challenge for us all is the implementation of the Real Choice in Marketing legislation.

There are clear frustrations in some parts of the industry as others, embracing new structures, are making contracts and getting on with business. I am confident that with patience and by working together, growers will have the marketing and pricing choices we are all seeking.

The structures will evolve and the system improve, but the underlying ability for growers and millers to make the fundamental marketing and pricing decisions that reflect the

different risks they face independently of each other will strengthen the industry for the long term.

Where and what was your first paid job and what did that lead to?

The first paid job I held when I left school was that of a junior rent collector with the Housing Department in a small industrial Northern Tasmanian town.

That was an interesting experience. Needless to say, encouraging some tenants, who clearly had other spending priorities, to pay their rent was character building. It paid the bills while I studied economics.

After spending some time working for the Federal Government in Canberra, including with ABARE, my wife Kathy and I decided to move to Brisbane. I accepted an opportunity to join the Sugar Board and worked with Queensland Sugar Corporation, QSL and ASMC before joining CANEGROWERS.

What do you like to do on your days off and on weekends?

As an almost empty nester, weekends spent attending school sporting events and running Dad's taxi service are mostly done. This leaves more time for golf and Kathy and I to play bridge. Although I suspect this weekend you'll find me wielding a paint brush at the beach house.



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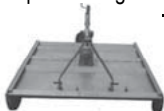
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Two galvanize mag rims and tyres 31x10.50R15LT 50% rubber to suit Landrover. One painted mag rim and tyre 31x10.50R15LT 30% rubber to suit Landrover. Two hubs to fit Landrover wheels and bearings to suit falcon axle. \$150.00 the lot Ph 4068 1868

GENERATORS - 2 x Kohler KD 110 KVA Diesel Generators \$22,000 EACH Inc GST. Ph: 0428 681 869

Toyota Landcruiser Ute HZJ75 280,000kms. Bullbar, Towbar, UHF Radio, CD Player, Canopy, Water Tank, Undertray Tool Boxes. Good Condition. \$16,950. Ph. 0418 772 782

JCB 2135 New 190HP Engine, coupled to 6T HBM Tipper. JCB 155-65 New 190HP

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm) Jan - Mar
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	29.02.16	07.03.16		
Mossman	47	159	533	1371
Mareeba AP	17	48	189	633
Cairns	117	92	373	1260
Mt Sophia	156	128	558	1824
Babinda	148	173	345	2173
Innisfail	33	262	600	1763
Tully	36	320	672	2088
Cardwell	22	250	480	1302
Lucinda	6	396	560	1258
Ingham	8	328	605	1195
Abergowrie	20	257	421	1079
Townsville	8	227	454	747
Ayr DPI	4	113	263	594
Proserpine	27	246	714	787
Mirani	29	413	782	902
Mackay	46	368	900	849
Sarina (Plane Ck)	59	408	1046	1028
Bundaberg	0.6	8	425	431
Childers South	2	29	398	330
Maryborough	0.8	8	379	494
Tewantin	4	42	370	691
Eumundi	4	55	294	709
Nambour	3	86	254	715
Woongoolba	4	32	76	491
Murwillumbah	9	173	340	641
Ballina	13	100	315	591
Woodburn	0	33	81	491



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. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.



The industry super fund for rural and regional Australia.

Engine & Tyres, coupled to 6T HBM Tipper. (Willing to separate) \$55,000 for each inc GST. PH: 0427 337 601

Herbert River – Burdekin

2012 Case IH 8000 has 2070 hours on the clock. Steering wheel fitted at dealers work shop, original spare front & rear tyres to go with machine. Phone 0429 840 117

1 set 8 Blade x 15" Chopper Drums, 1 set 6 Blade x 12" Chopper Drums, 1 set half tracks for TOFT 7000. Ph: 0418 738 641

TOFT 6000 Series 4 Harvester, CAT engine. Rubberised for planting, swing knife. Ph: 0418 738 641

28 Plate Drag Offset, GC, \$4500 plus GST;

Bulk Fertiliser Bin (approx. 7t), make an offer; Plant Cutter & Blower, \$1500 plus GST ONO. Ph: 0409 778 647

Deutz DX160 4WD tractor, 160HP, Good condition \$8600+GST or ONO. Ph 0407131726

Farmliner spray unit, runs well, legs with flat boom. Ph 07 4784 9151

Mackay – Proserpine

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)

Continues page 24...

Classifieds

6500 TOFT cane harvester, Good Condition, \$60,000. Ph: 0458 525 310

Fiat 130-90 coupled to 9 tonne newton elevating bin. 40KLM transmission, rear camera, 2 way, murphy gauges with alarm, tractor painted in 2 pac. VGC \$45000.00 + GST

6500 TOFT cane harvester, good condition, \$60,000. Ph: 0458 525 310

HODGE OFFSET. 24 plate 28" disc. All new discs and bearings, heavy duty, VGC - \$13,000+. John shearer offset. 24 plate 26" disc. Front discs and bearings new, rear discs and bearings 80%, heavy duty, VGC. \$10,000+. 2" Southern Cross travelling irrigator and hose, \$2,000+. Ph: 0418 189 033

Whole stick plant cutter on a fiat 880 tractor, easily converted into a high clearance spray rig, located Mia Mia Mirani. (fair offers considered) After hours ph: 074959 1008 or mob: 0429 069 282

1 M/F 102 Plant Cutter \$6,000. 1 Bonnel B100 Billet Planter \$3,500. Both good working order. Ph: 0447 561 984.

BUCKET (NEW) suit Backhoe or 5T Excavator: 650mm GP bucket, \$590+GST. Ph: 0419700761.

TRALER - TIPPER TRI-AXLE SUPA DOG, 1998, g.c, bisalloy, spring suspension, air operated dolly lock, 2-way tail gate, tare 5520kg. \$15,000+GST. Ph: 0419700761.

1998 Case 7700 cane harvester \$70,000 + GST assort. new parts to go with it. Massy Ferg 6170 115HP, 8340 Ford 135HP & Renault tractors. Ph: 0428 756 992

4080 Chamberlain turbo charged tractor, service trailer four compartments with Dick Johnson toolbox, Honda air compressor 100 C/F unregistered Ph: 0428 756 992

Hodge -1 ton fertilizer box, fitted to heavy duty double row Hodge grubber with 10 x 1 1/4 legs \$3200.00 + GST or near offer. Ph 0407643441 or 49595883.

1989 International Truck 1850D, 15 ton GVM, tipper, recon motor 300hrs ago, new drive tyres, steers 90%, VGC. Open to offers. Ph 0407643441 or 49595883

Howard AH 90" Rotary Hoe fully rebuilt, sand blasted, painted, new galvanised panels & new blades. \$10500.00 + GST. Ph 49595883 or 0407643441.

2004 FM12 420 HP Volvo with 2015, 14 ton Carta Bin, grease system, live drive pto, current machinery cert, good condition PH 0422260880.

Bonel Plant Cane Blower \$350. Case 580E Backhoe, 4 in 1 Bucket, extender hoe and 3 buckets \$15 000.00. Phone 49 585775, 0448 525 022.

Valtra 6400 4WD Tractor - 100HP, Air-Con Cab, 2004 Model. 3700 Hours. Good Condition. \$30 000. (incl GST) ONO. Phone: 0418710958 / 49503048.

Toft 6500 cane harvester good condition or for wrecking \$60,000 inc GST. 0458 525 310

M135 Ritchie Bin Single Six Sidetipper @ 8,500 Hrs in good condition \$40,000+ GST. Chopper boxes to suit a 2500 Cameco, \$2,500+ GST. Ph: 0409 271 446

Massey Ferguson 65, new ROPS, good condition, no rust \$3900 plus GST. Blade saver (trailBro brand) to suit toft with 12"choppers.\$450 plus GST. Track chains fitted with hard faced grouzers in VGC to suit toft 7700. \$3500 plus GST. Ph: 0419 601 959

Rear tipper, 5 tonne, electric over hydraulic lift. 23.1x30 tyres, good cond. always kept in shed. \$6000. Ph. 0412 164 647

Bundaberg - Rocky Point

DROP-DECK, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

K LINE SPEEDTILLERS for hire, efficient tillage implement, phone AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869

Acco 1910/A tandem body truck. Mechanically OK needs rust repair to chassis, \$4400 (inc GST). 2 WD 766 International tractor GC no rops - \$4400 (in GST). Ph 0409 632 656

RIMS AND TYRES x 2 to suit Austoft 7000, size 14x17.5 - \$500 plus GST. Ph:0408 062 830.

Toft 7000 harvester, early model, 240hp Komatsu, leg base cutter, two-blade chop. Ph: 0413 584 728

New and unused 4in Bandama Irrigator Hose \$4250 inc. Hodge 2 Tonne fertiliser bin 2 rows with Coulters \$5250 inc. 1/2 Tonne Fertilizer bin on 2 inch toolbar with 10 x 1 1/4inch tynes \$1750 inc. 0418 874 615

NSW

2012 Case IH 8000 has 2070 hours on the clock. Steering wheel fitted at dealers work shop, original spare front & rear tyres to go with machine. Phone 0429840117.

Wanted

FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

354 Perkins Motor for Massey Ferguson 102 cane harvester. Ph: 0412 292 055

Set of half tracks to suit TOFT 7000 Harvester. Please call 0418 710 958

Tractor, 4WD, preferably 80-100hp, in good condition. Childers region. Ph: 0417 712 066

Positions Vacant

Burdekin: Harvester drivers wanted. 140,000+ tonne group, one grower, experience essential, modern gear / good farm layout. All season work available. Ph: 0408 454 239

Work Wanted

TULLY/ INNISFAIL AREA - Harvester contractor available for 2016 cane season - Tully/ Innisfail/ surrounding district. Looking for farmers interested in smaller Group (80,000 tonne max). 0418 183 584

TULLY - Owner Operator with spare harvesting capacity 2016 onwards. Top 10 harvest contract, operating to Harvest BMP, high quality outcomes. Growers seeking high quality harvesting, call Michael 0400 062 889.

Seeking in the cane industry. Have extensive experience in grain and cotton harvest and silo work. Have a MR licence, front-end loader, bobcat, bunker work and D.O.H Stacker / Slinger operator. Ph: 0456 878 366

MACKAY - Seeking hallout work in the Mackay and Valley areas. I have 4 years experience hallout - roll on roll off - and elevator tipper. Also have front-end loader and bobcat tickets, and Mc licence. Ph: 0439 459 480

MACKAY - Seeking position on cane farm for the upcoming crush as a chaser bin operator or truck driver in the Marian area, but willing to travel. Extensive tractor/ machinery experience, involving all ground prep, planting spraying and harvesting of many types of crops. MC open, forklift loader, excavator and bobcat tickets. Honest, reliable and don't mind doing the hard yards. Full time position if possible. Ph: 0407 933 522

NSW/SEQ region: Seeking work for 2016 cane season. Current MC, forklift, bus and coach, heavy vehicle driving instructor licenses. Grain tipper, fertiliser sand and quarry experience. Tautliner and rear loader experience. Ph: 0428 129 807

Ex-Queensland Nickel workers looking for haulout jobs. Keen to work. Contact Angie 0422 510 128.

NSW-Harwood - Experienced and licenced heavy rigid plant operator and driver seeking work in NSW. Has farming experience Available immediately Stephen 0403 143 980 swlamph@gmail.com

Experienced farm worker looking for position for 2016 cane harvest season Bundaberg-Cairns Available immediately Michael 0439 874774

Property

MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay supplying Mackay Sugar. High rainfall area and endless potential for diversification. House and garage, equipped irrigation system, shed, machinery and equipment. Ph: 0407 157 792

MACKAY: 422 hectares, cattle and cane. Huge supply of water, absolutely drought-proof property, 120 mega-litre water license, right on the coast. Ph: 0407 157 792

HERBERT RIVER: Cane farm 60.73ha with machinery and 4 bedroom dwelling at 194 Lannercost Ext Rd, Ingham Ph. 040454321

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

BUNDABERG: 186 acre cane farm on the Burnett river, 2 x 3 phase irrigation pumps, house and machinery shed with some machinery, 275ml allocation beautiful rich alluvial soil, only 20min to Bundaberg. Ph 0423 040 111

BUNDABERG: 1 option -366ha house/cattle&cane-option 2-522.4ha cane/peanuts/soyabean-huge water allot total 888.6ha 7lots freehold. Ph: 0411 105 558

WALKERSTON AREA: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated, 42.7 ha cane land, 3.6 ha grazing. Ph: 0418 185 663



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OPEN FOR INSPECTION - SUNDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2016, 10-11 A.M.

LOT 2 & 143 BRUCE HIGHWAY, INGHAM

- Cane Farm & Cattle Property combined - best of both worlds !
- Bruce Highway frontage
- Over 94 ha. (232 acres)
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- Rainwater tank, equipped bore, large shed & quantity of fencing
- Property is on 2 titles

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Further details & photos :- reitano.com.au ID 365290

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