

Australian agriculture had a record-breaking year - Regional round-up

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COVER IMAGE: Cairns Region growers Steve and Rose Destro helped push Smartcane BMP accreditations past the 200 mark.

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Sun still shining on Australia's sugar industry

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Australia's sugar industry has faced significant challenges in recent times. And we still have obstacles to overcome. But despite this, there is much to be positive about for our industry's future.

Headlines have abounded in relation to the raw sugar marketing dispute, the environmental accountability of the industry, and, more recently, endless publicity questioning the nutritional value of sugar.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Australia's sugar industry is in structural decline.

In fact, the truth of the matter is much more optimistic.

Australia's 2016 crop of around 37 million tonnes of cane marked the industry's sixth consecutive year of increased production.

We are also seeing strong investment confidence from both within and outside the industry.

Two major bio-futures announcements in recent weeks have put sugarcane at the heart of new and innovative projects destined to boost Queensland's economy.

US company Amyris plans to build a plant in regional Queensland that will use sugarcane to produce 23,000 tonnes of a product called farnesene, used in cosmetics, perfumes, polymers and lubricants.

Our proximity to Asia and the closeness of our cane production to ports were significant factors in Queensland securing this new industry.

Similarly, a new project in the Burdekin is looking at the feasibility of producing pellets from cane waste products.

The Burdekin Renewable Fuels project may provide an opportunity to capture value from the one million tonnes of cane tops and trash available in the region's cane fields.

Also, MSF Sugar has recently received funding to continue research into producing bioethanol and electricity from agave grown on non-irrigated land on the Atherton Tableland.

Importantly, this would enable MSF Sugar factories to process crops year-round and continue to produce bioethanol in the sugarcane off season.

This project is in addition to MSF Sugar's announcement late last year of renewable energy projects worth up to half-a-billion dollars.

Cynics abound. Some may say that these projects have been announced before.

Other will say that their cane pays won't thicken overnight on the basis of these announcements.

But the real importance of these projects is that the vote of confidence by internal and external investors in the cane industry does not go unnoticed.

It strengthens community and government support for our industry.

In a world where attitudes and perceptions can shape your future (or cost you any future at all), these investments are critical.

Advocacy with government can be difficult at the best of times. But it becomes less difficult when government views the our industry as the platform for sunrise industries — not as a sunset industry. ■

“Far from being a sunset industry, the Queensland sugar industry is attracting strong investment confidence from within and from outside the industry.”



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"I like the idea that by using ENTEC, the nitrogen stays in the soil for longer and whether the cane is cut early or late, I am giving the crop the best possible chance to make the most of the nitrogen.

"Cane growers can use ENTEC with confidence and they don't have to worry about where their fertiliser is going."

Robert Silvini Ingham

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sugar price freefall a worry for growers

Queensland cane growers are keeping a close eye on international markets as the world sugar price hits a three-year low.



The 2017 harvest is finally in full swing, but at a time when growers should be looking forward to reaping the rewards of the year's hard work, many are eyeing the international markets with growing consternation as the world sugar price continues to plummet.

The February 2017 raw sugar price of almost US22c/lb, which was delivering an Aussie dollar return of more than \$600 per tonne, is now a distant memory.

As this edition of *Australian Canegrower* went to print, prices had dropped below US13c/lb, slashing returns by AU\$230 per tonne.

The current raw sugar price of just \$370 per tonne (28 June) is dangerously close to the cost of production, CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

While many Queensland growers took advantage of high prices through their marketer's forward pricing option, there are worrying times ahead for others, especially those growers in mill areas, and in particular Wilmar areas, where drawn-out on-supply negotiations resulted in limited options to forward price.

"For many in the industry the ability to forward price will provide some buffer against these very low sugar prices," Mr Schembri said

"But we need to recognise that in some mill areas growers were given limited opportunity to capture these high prices due to the delay in finalising contractual agreements.

"This is a massive opportunity lost to those growers. Obviously, should the world sugar price stay at current levels for a long period of time, the lost opportunity will mean lower incomes in the 2017 season.

"More than anything else, aside from a smooth harvesting season, let's hope that the world price heads north and quickly."

Concerningly, the sell-off shows no sign of easing.

Triggered by the expected global surplus, a deteriorating technical picture, and a less than constructive world macroeconomic outlook, speculative selling is in full swing. ■

ABARES REPORT

Australian agriculture had a record-breaking year in 2016-17, with Aussie farm production totaling almost \$63 billion, an increase of 8.1%, according to the latest ABARES *Agricultural Commodities* report.

The rise was driven mainly by record winter crop production, particularly for wheat and barley, and ongoing high prices for livestock and livestock products.

The sugar industry also played its part, recording a sixth consecutive year of increased production.

The trend is unlikely to continue in 2017-18, however, with the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Debbie and falling commodity prices expected to see agricultural production dip by 4.6%, the report says.

Acting ABARES Executive Director, **Peter Gooday**, said that—despite the forecast decline—the outlook for this year is positive, up almost \$5 billion compared with the five year average.

"Export earnings from farm commodities are forecast to remain relatively unchanged at \$48 billion in 2017-18," Mr Gooday said.

The agricultural commodities for which export earnings are forecast to rise in 2017-18 are beef and veal (up 4 per cent), wool (6 per cent), dairy products (14 per cent), cotton (34 per cent), wine (5 per cent), lamb (4 per cent), live feeder/slaughter cattle (3 per cent) and rock lobster (2 per cent).

However, these increases will be partly offset by declines for wheat (down 3 per cent), sugar (7 per cent), coarse grains (23 per cent), canola (19 per cent), chickpeas (44 per cent) and mutton (5 per cent).

REEF WORTH \$56 BILLION

A new Deloitte Access Economics report has put a \$56 billion price tag on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, valuing the World Heritage natural wonder at more than 12 Sydney Opera Houses.

The report identifies the social, economic and iconic asset value of the Great Barrier Reef, which it says contributed \$6.4 billion to the economy and over 64,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2015-2016.

"As the report clearly recognises, protecting the Great Barrier Reef is not only an Australian or international priority – it is a human one," Minister for the Great Barrier Reef **Steven Miles** said. ■

Making more than sugar from cane

Two biofutures announcements over the past month have sugarcane at the centre of new projects for Queensland.

Cane to cosmetics

A US company, called Amyris, has announced it will build a plant in Queensland to produce 23,000 tonnes a year of a sugarcane-based ingredient called farnesene which is used in cosmetics, perfumes, polymers and lubricants.

Amyris President and CEO John Melo said growing demand in Asia supported a factory in Queensland.

"The funding from the Queensland Government along with the operating expertise and sugarcane base of our local partner makes this factory possible and enables savings from our current production in Brazil and the associated shipping costs.

"Like all our new projects, this factory is expected to be sold out when it starts operating with agreements to supply our current partners in China and other Asian markets."

A location for the plant, which would create 70 jobs, has not been decided.

"We're working in partnership with Queensland's world-leading agriculture and waste industries and the research sector to ensure the actions we're undertaking in our Biofutures program grow the state's emerging industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector into a \$1 billion industry by 2026."

Queensland Department of State Development



Trash to fuel

A proposal to produce pellets from cane tops and trash has received \$125,000 in Advance Queensland funding to push the project towards reality.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk says the technology and economics of the Burdekin Renewable Fuels project will be tested and assessed.

"The Burdekin region has around one million tonnes per year of cane tops and trash," she said.

"Cane growers from the Burdekin region have long sought to avoid burning before harvest but have been constrained by the lack of alternative use for cane tops and trash.

"It is intended to produce pellets to be used as fuel for renewable electricity generation and as a source for renewable fuel."

Agave for Atherton

MSF Sugar has received State Government funding to continue research into producing bioethanol and electricity from agave grown on non-irrigated land on the Atherton Tableland.

Premier Palaszczuk announced the \$250,000 grant from the Advance Queensland \$5 million Biofutures Commercialisation Program.

"Importantly, this will use marginal cane land and aims to give sugarcane factories the opportunity to have year-round production, producing bioethanol in the sugarcane off-season," she said. "This means seasonal jobs could now become year-long jobs."

MSF Sugar has sent staff to Mexico to visit agave processing facilities and farms.

"The growing of agave needs to be validated for Australian conditions but initial indications are that it is low risk, with many opportunities for improvement," General Manager Business Development, Hywel Cook said.

*Pictured: An Agave grower in Tequila, Mexico examines his crop which is ready to harvest. Each plant weighs more than 100kg
Photographer: MSF Sugar General Manager Business Development, Hywel Cook*

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mossman

Mechanical issues and a scheduled maintenance day saw Week 2 throughput of 36,452 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.21CCS, with an average crushing rate of 328 t/hr.

Coastal growers supplied 24,511 tonnes with an average CCS of 10.94, while Mareeba growers supplied 11,940 tonnes with an average of 11.76CCS.

We are currently cutting slightly under estimate, which is something we will be keeping a close eye on over coming weeks to see if this trend continues.

At Week 2 MSF have toll crushed 13258 tonnes of Mossman cane supply.

Cairns region

Ideal weather conditions continue to prevail across the Mulgrave area and planting in the region has been undertaken in earnest.

Babinda area has not been as fortunate, with wet weather hampering efforts and also causing delays to harvest.

Milling issues in Week 1 have resulted in quite a bit of delayed cane. With these early hiccups over, suppliers are looking forward to some consistent crushing from both MSF factories.

South Johnstone Mill is commissioning the NIR system for fibre analysis for cane payment. It is anticipated that the unit will be in use this season.



Mulgrave grower John Piccolo demonstrates the dry conditions in the district by tossing a handful of soil into the breeze.

Innisfail

Harvesting in the South Johnstone Mill supply area has been interrupted by showers across the region in recent weeks.

Crushing operations commenced as scheduled on 13 June, but there were numerous stop-starts during the "tuning in" period. The crushing rate has now settled down.

The CCS level is not brilliant, with the mill average ending the first week's crush at just 10.67.

Project Cane Changer has entered another phase with a series of farm shed meetings conducted to extend the engagement of growers and to begin identifying specific changes that are happening as a result of the project.

This is not an easy task with many other activities currently under way. The project is complimentary to the Smartcane BMP program.

Tully

Crushing continues despite a few showers around the district and already 400,000 tonnes have been harvested and crushed from the 2017 crop.

Crop estimates have fallen significantly and a crop more in line with the longer-term average of 85 tonnes per ha is now likely.

The favourable conditions have facilitated a significant amount of early planting and preparation for planting.

There is less than a month to go before the Tully Show cane display, and given the erect nature of this year's crop, the exhibit should be great.

The project proposal for the Major Integrated Project in the Tully and Johnston catchments went to the Steering Committee for review before going to EHP in its final form on 30 June. Given the focus on the Reef, the project is important to assist with management of nitrogen in the Wet Tropics sugar districts.



Herbert River

It's been a good start for the Herbert's 2017 season, with 248,084 tonnes harvested and processed by the end of Week 2 and a Payment CCS of 11.79 for the period.

With the Collective CSA only finally resolved on Friday 9 June it was no mean feat for the CSA to be duly signed and harvest groups to be sufficiently organised for a controlled start on 14 June.

Weather conditions have been favourable for field operations generally.

Planting and land preparation for planting are also well under way.

It's been a busy time for the Herbert's sugar industry getting to know and understand the new cane payment arrangements for the vast majority of Herbert growers who have nominated QSL as marketer.

For the first time ever growers are being paid directly by their chosen marketer instead of by the mill they supply.

Mackay

A challenging week was experienced at Marian and Farleigh mills.

Marian Mill had significant down time due to issues with the transformer and maintenance crews took the opportunity to carry out maintenance work.

Farleigh Mill crushed steadily until Friday when superheater leaks were discovered during a routine maintenance stop.

Crush statistics for week ending 25 June are:

- Farleigh 49,811 tonnes
- Marian 29,723 tonnes
- Racecourse 56,940 tonnes

PRS for the week was 10.65 and total cane crushed to date is 375,862 tonnes. Current 2017 estimate is 5.3M tonnes.



Growers Frank Perna and Bill Benson put up a stand of Badilla cane in preparation for the Mackay show exhibition.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill crushed a total of 26,721 tonnes of cane in Week 1, ending 24 June (season commenced on Wednesday, 21 June).

Average bin weight was 3.65 tonnes, achieving an average CCS of 11.88 units.

Throughput was just below budget and considered by the mill as a good result considering general commissioning issues.

There was a significant issue with the shredder, which caused about 12 hours lost time.

Burdekin

All four Burdekin mills have now commenced crushing operations for the 2017 season.

Kalamia commenced crushing on 14 June while Invicta and Pioneer commenced on 19 June and Inkerman on 20 June.

Kalamia and Pioneer mills settled down well in the first week of crushing operations, however, there have been major stoppages at the Invicta and Inkerman factories.

By the end of Week 2 Burdekin mills had crushed a total of 232,866 tonnes with an average season to date CCS of 12.25.

Proserpine

Steam trials commenced at Proserpine Mill on 27 June and everything remains on track to commence crushing on 4 July.

The crop has rebounded somewhat from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, but the estimate remains at 1.37 million tonnes, significantly down on last year's 2 million tonnes. The dry and cold conditions have assisted growth in recent weeks.

Late cut cane was the most affected by the cyclone and side-shooting has added some bulk, however there is limited (if any) sugar evident.

This year's CCS is predicted to be down by as much as two units, however, samples taken for the recent Show Cane Exhibit provided room for some optimism.

Congratulations to first-time exhibitors, A & M Gauci & Son, for their champion winning cane at Show Whitsunday.

Congratulations also to Jeppesen Farming who won the CANEGROWERS Perpetual Trophy for the second year in a row.



Continues page 8...

Shape the future of Queensland's agriculture and food research

The Queensland Government is seeking your feedback to identify the key research, development and extension challenges facing the state's agriculture and food sector.

We need your help to shape how industry and government will address these challenges over the next 10 years.

Together, we can design a roadmap to drive sustainability, innovation and growth in the agriculture and food sector.

Have your say on the Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension 10-Year Roadmap: Discussion paper by 5pm, Friday 28 July 2017.

 In person - Bowen, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald and Toowoomba. See Website for details

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Bundaberg

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd (BCL) and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd (BSL) have agreed to amend the Collective Supply Contract in a number of respects, primarily in relation to sugar marketing and approved variety lists. As with previous amendments to the Collective Supply Contract, these amendments have now been made.

Sugar Marketing

The pricing and marketing of sugar will remain substantially the same as it currently operates i.e. sugar will be marketed by Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) with growers having various forward pricing options.

However, should the Raw Sugar Supply Agreement between BSL and QSL (RSSA) terminate in accordance with its terms, QSL ceasing to carry out marketing functions as it currently does, or otherwise by agreement, then there is a process for BCL and BSL to agree on a new sugar marketing entity to take over the functions currently undertaken by QSL.

The process allows BCL to nominate an alternative sugar marketing entity, however before becoming the new sugar marketing entity, BSL would need to enter into an on-supply agreement with that entity.

If the RSSA terminates with immediate effect during a pricing season, BSL will step-in as the sugar marketing entity until a new sugar marketing entity can be agreed with BCL.

Approved Variety List

Given there is now no external process to determine and establish an approved variety list, this process has been incorporated into the Collective Supply Contract.

This will maintain the ability to react to pest and disease challenges should they occur in the future.



Maryborough

Growing conditions remain good with no frost occurrences so far. The expected commencement date remains 17 July, although this could still change.

Maryborough celebrated its popular Mary Poppins festival over the last two weeks in June, culminating in a street party on the 1 July.

Saturday 8 July is the Tiaro Field Day. With over 130 exhibitors this year, it will be bigger than ever!

Isis

Another harvest season is upon us, with Isis Central Sugar Mill commencing its crush on 26 June.

The current estimate for this year's crop recovered to 1,250,000 tonnes. This is higher than initially expected due to the incredibly challenging hot and dry conditions experienced in the region.

Prior to the crush, it was pleasing to see a number of growers and harvesting contractors actively involved in Rural R&D for Profit – a project aimed at reducing harvester losses through optimised efficiency. A number of harvesting contractors in the Isis Cane Supply Area have signed

up to take part in the trial and we look forward to viewing the results showing economic impacts from changing harvester treatments.

Several local growers have undertaken SmartCane BMP on-farm audits, as they work towards becoming accredited in the 3 core modules.

We also congratulate the three growing families who recently joined our growing group of accredited growers.

Growers are reminded to contact Isis Productivity Ltd regarding soil tests for those blocks that they are planning to use for spring plant.

Rocky Point

Rocky Point's season finally got under way on 27 June. Our season was delayed due to recent rainfall and the finalisation of mill repairs following last year's fire.

In excess of 62% of this year's crop is standover after the problems experienced last year. The estimate is currently 471,620 tonnes.

We are hoping for productive and uneventful season.

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www.facebook.com/CANEGROWERSAustralia

NSW

Up to 400mm of rain across all three mill areas in June delayed the start of this year's crush.

The season finally got under way two weeks behind schedule with all three mills starting the crush on 26 June.

Fields were already waterlogged from the heavy rainfall and flooding brought by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

This latest rain will ensure a difficult harvest with high levels of mud and bogged out cane.

The Condong Mill area will experience its most difficult harvest in living memory.

The disastrous record flooding has deposited massive amounts of debris in cane fields.

A recent drone survey revealed everything from cars, gas bottles, and fridges to fully grown trees

and dead horses and cattle strewn throughout the cane fields.

Large areas of cane have been buried under mud and extraneous matter and may not be harvestable.

It will be all hands on deck, with the debris to be dragged out as the harvesters progress across paddocks.

The crop estimate for NSW's three mill areas stands at 1.9 million tonnes of cane.

Since the estimate was completed, growth has continued due to a mild winter. However, the effects of the flood damage at Condong and the recent rains could counteract this late growth.

Our full track harvesting and hauling fleet is ready to go and will be required to work hard due to the ground conditions and poorly burnt cane.



Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

NEW FINANCIAL YEAR? 5 NEW FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS - PART 1

Feeling guilty after letting the odd financial resolution fall by the wayside? Don't worry we've all been there.

Over the next two issues, we'll highlight five new financial resolutions you may want to consider, to help get things back on track.

#1: Minimise fees

Having all your super in the one account is a great way of boosting your super. Only pay for what you need, keep your super in one place and avoid paying more than one set of fees.

If you have multiple funds, consider consolidating your super into one fund and when changing jobs, tell your employer who your preferred fund is.

Before closing your other super accounts, make sure you have considered any exit fees that may apply and how closing your other accounts might affect other benefits such as extra employer contributions or insurance.

#2: Make extra contributions

Making extra contributions to your super can add up over the long-term and make a real difference to your super savings.

You can make before-tax contributions in the form of salary sacrifice or after-tax contributions, either as a one-off payment or regularly.

For many, salary sacrifice is by far the most effective and tax efficient way to add to additional retirement savings.

For most people, contributions are taxed at 15%, which is more tax effective than having the same dollars paid into your pocket – which for some people may mean a tax rate of more than 30%.

If you have any questions about AustSafe Super, please call us on 1300 131 293 between 8am and 6pm (AEST) Monday to Friday.



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CAIRNS REGION TAKES SMARTCANE BMP TO NEW HIGH

By Neroli Roocke

Cane farmers in the Cairns region have lifted the Smartcane BMP program past the 200 accredited growers mark. Paul Gregory, Steve and Rose Destro and John Porta have recently been audited and have shown they are farming at or above industry best practice in the three core modules of Smartcane BMP.

Farming at Gordonvale on opposite sides of Mackeys Creek that flows to Trinity Inlet, brothers-in-law Paul Gregory and John Porta believe Smartcane BMP accreditation is the best way for cane growers to ensure a continuing right to farm along the Great Barrier Reef coast.

"Verifying our practices is the best defence we have, it's the only way we can secure the future of our livelihoods and show we are doing our best for reef water quality," Paul says.

"Industry and the government have negotiated that Smartcane BMP as the yardstick and it's incumbent on all of us to be involved in the process and take steps to gain accreditation - otherwise we'd be letting the industry down."

John says while he found the auditing of paperwork and records daunting, he understood there was no other way to authenticate practices being used on their farms.

"It's the only way we can show people around Australia who care about the reef that we can continue to operate here."

Paul and John say they're proud of their accreditation certificates showing they are doing their best for Reef water quality where it really counts, on the ground, every day.

Steve and Rose Destro's motivation for completing their Smartcane BMP accreditation was similar – wanting to show people who've criticised the industry in the past that they are doing the right thing by the Reef.

"We live here and we also enjoy the Reef for recreation," Rose said.

They found the most challenging part of benchmarking was to work out a system between themselves to coordinate their activities so information of a day's activities on the farm were recorded immediately.

"Auditing was like being back at school, but it really was just making sure that you had everything that they wanted at their fingertips." ▶





Pictured: (above) John Porta and Paul Gregory proudly display their Smartcane BMP accredited grower sign; (left) Steve Destro wanted to prove to critics that most cane growers are doing the right thing by the reef.

“Government compliance officers will not be targeting growers who are accredited. If we can show that you are actively participating in the Smartcane BMP program, you won’t be contacted again for 12 months.”

Steve and Rose are encouraging other growers to go through accreditation saying they now have the satisfaction of knowing that they can prove they are helping the environment while running a viable cane farming business.

Sandra Henrich, the Cairns Region Smartcane BMP facilitator, guided the three farm businesses through the benchmarking and accreditation processes.

“We know we are in one of the most important regions in relation to the reef – the spotlight definitely is on us in terms of water quality including the reef regulations,” she said.

“We have the Mulgrave and the Russell river catchments in our sugarcane area and flowing straight into the Great Barrier Reef.”

The Queensland Government recognises that BMP accredited growers have shown they are going beyond the regulatory requirements in managing their cane crops for productivity while reducing risk to water quality.

“Government compliance officers will not be targeting growers who are accredited,” Sandra said.

“If we can show that you are actively participating in the Smartcane BMP program, you won’t be contacted again for 12 months – and that gives you time to go through the process.”

Program manager Mick Quirk said accreditation in Smartcane BMP was all about acknowledging and verifying the improvements in farming practice that growers have made, and will continue to make.

“As more growers become accredited, industry can increasingly be on the front foot with issues around sustainability and stewardship,” he said.

Mick emphasised that the Smartcane BMP practices were good for both productivity and water quality, and that growers could expect their participation in the program to also highlight opportunities for further improvements in efficiency. ■

Securing the industry's reputation with BMP accreditation



ARE YOU SELF-ASSESSED IN SMARTCANE BMP? THEN CHECK YOUR EMAIL ...

Over the next couple of weeks, emails will be sent to those 1,400 growers who completed their BMP self-assessment more than 6 months ago. The email will encourage these growers to take the next steps to become accredited, and will also suggest they reassess their farming practice standards.

This reassessment will ensure that growers have information that is up to date and will highlight any practice changes and/or record keeping gaps that need to be addressed before accreditation. The email has a link that takes the grower to the modules on the BMP web site. These modules have been updated to ensure they cover all aspects of sustainable farming.

The email will come from the Smartcane BMP Administrator - please read the content and consider spending some time to review your earlier self-assessment. If you think you are ready to progress towards being accredited, then please get in contact with your local facilitator.

Accreditation is a highly regarded recognition of the stewardship of your farm, and growers who achieved this have found that:

- they are appreciated as positive land managers by the wider community,
- doing BMP can help improve their productivity and profits,
- BMP practices are based on solid industry research, and
- they are not the focus of government compliance checks for Reef Regulations.

The BMP program is open to all growers, so make the most of this opportunity.

Get ACTIVE in Smartcane BMP:

Capture, Celebrate and Communicate the way you farm

More information

Facilitator contact details:
www.smartcane.com.au/Facilitators.aspx
Telephone: 07 3864 6472

SRA welcomes

NEW ADOPTION OFFICERS TO MERINGA & MACKAY

Sugar Research Australia has announced the appointment of new Adoption Officers, Ms Tracy Hay, based at Meringa, and Ms Carol-Anne Norris, based at Mackay.



The SRA adoption team, which Tracy and Carol-Anne have joined, is an interface between sugarcane growers and millers and their industry-owned company, SRA.

The adoption team is a vital link in helping see research investment translated into practical and useful outcomes on-farm, and at the mill.

Tracy has experience in agriculture, including a recent role as a Technical Field Officer with Mossman Agricultural Services, where she has worked closely with growers from the Mossman and Tablelands regions.

She will be working as SRA's Adoption Officer for varieties, where she will assist with the appropriate uptake of new varieties by growers.

Carol-Anne has experience in stakeholder relationship management and project management through prior work with North Queensland Bulk Ports.

She will be working as an Adoption Officer for harvesting, alongside Mr Phil Patane,

who is leading a coordinated adoption program that is optimising the efficiency of sugarcane harvesting.

Both Adoption Officers will work closely with growers, millers, productivity services organisations, private sector extension providers, SRA staff, and others, to deliver profitability outcomes for growers and millers.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher welcomed Tracy and Carol-Anne to SRA, where they will be working on two crucial impact areas for the Australian sugarcane industry – varieties, and harvesting.

"Variety selection is a critical decision for sugarcane growers and millers, and this role is an opportunity to help deliver

positive outcomes for the Australian sugarcane industry," Mr Fisher said.

"Likewise, the industry has identified the opportunity of optimising the efficiency of sugarcane harvest, and this project is working closely with growers and operators in the field in their own conditions to improve harvesting efficiency."

The harvest optimisation project is funded with assistance from SRA and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Rural R&D for Profit Programme. ■

Photo: New SRA Adoption Officers Tracy Hay and Carol-Anna Norris.

Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

Spotted anything unusual? Fire ants in Rocky Point

Recently, I've been working with CANEGROWERS Rocky Point manager **Kate Armitage** on the spread fire ants in the region. This is proving to be a bigger problem than first thought, with over 300 nests discovered on cane properties.

The spread of fire ants in Rocky Point is linked to localised flooding caused when ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie passed through the region in March 2017.

Observations by the growers suggest that floodwaters disturbed existing nests and swept fire ants to new blocks in other parts of the district.

This creates some challenging issues for Biosecurity Queensland, as fire ants are one of the world's most invasive species and can cause serious health and environmental impacts.

Full credit must be given to Rocky Point's growers, Board and Manager

They are working with Biosecurity Queensland to tackle the problem and are keen to hasten the treatment of identified nests.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point has been working with growers to collect information on the location of nests to ensure Biosecurity Queensland can treat them efficiently.

They have even offered to help with treatment of nests, as growers are trained to use chemicals on their farms.

CANEGROWERS Queensland has been supporting CANEGROWERS Rocky Point to hasten the response by Biosecurity Queensland to treat nests found on cane farms.

Hopefully the coordinated effort will put a dent in the further spreads of this invasive pest. ■



Increasing mobile network competition

The National Farmers Federation (NFF) has made a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) inquiry into a Domestic Mobile Roaming Declaration – Draft Decision.

This inquiry is investigating whether there should be regulations in place to effectively force the major Mobile Network Operators (MNO) to share their infrastructure.

In rural regions, where mobile infrastructure is often owned by a single MNO, it would mean more competition.

However, one possible consequence of such regulation is that it may actually stop investment in infrastructure in regional areas, as the MNO may not get the return on their investment if they cannot capture the whole market.

In their initial submission, NFF contended that the ideal outcome would be a determination that creates the appropriate competition settings for an increase in the number of MNOs within the existing mobile coverage footprint, while at the same time creating the incentives for expanded coverage.

There is no simple solution here.

However there does need to be continued government support and the NFF supports the current Mobile Black Spot Program, administered by the Australian Government, as a measure for increasing mobile coverage and competition in rural and remote areas.

The outcome of the ACCC inquiry is not decided, but cane growers can only benefit from increased mobile competition. Advocating for this is again an example of the benefits provided through CANEGROWERS, albeit indirectly through membership of NFF and a range of networks. ■



The complex business of exporting sugar

With 80% of the industry's production exported, the terms of access to overseas markets affects the profitability of sugarcane and sugar production in Australia.

In simple terms, the familiar cane production input and supply chain involves variety development, farm layout to manage flow of water onto farm in irrigation areas and off-farm in all areas, field preparation, planting, fertiliser selection, chemical use, weed control, harvesting and transport of cane to the mill delivery point.

The mill completes the cane transport task, produces the raw sugar, along with molasses, electricity and other bi-products.

The mill also takes the raw sugar to an agreed delivery point, generally the nearby bulk sugar terminal.

Different contractual arrangements cover different parts of the supply chain.

The obvious ones are for planting, harvesting, cane supply, processing and related agreements, grower pricing agreements, an on-supply agreement between the mill and QSL (the GEI marketer) and for storage and handling.

Then there are the separate agreements that growers and mills have with their banks to finance the activity.

For example, growers may use their farm as security for a loan to purchase capital equipment or to support a line of credit to cover operations ahead of receiving advance payments.

All of this and the raw sugar is sitting in the bulk sugar terminal, awaiting export.

The GEI marketer in turn enters agreements with growers to acquire their GEI sugar, ►



with customers in export markets to sell it, and with ship owners to move the sugar.

Export sales are usually made in accordance with the rules and contractual conditions of the Sugar Association of London.

It doesn't stop there. Marketers enter futures market contracts to manage the price and currency risks associated with the sale and to finance their own activities.

Strong financial structures are required to support the sales process, including margins on futures market accounts, receiving US dollar payments from customers and converting these to Aussie dollars, along with a range of other activities.

Importantly, from a grower perspective, marketers must be able to finance advance payments on the production of GEI sugar, many of which are made before the sugar is sold.

CANEGROWERS is involved in the development of many of the legal and commercial structures for the benefit of members.

Added to this, returns from the sale depend on there being favourable access conditions in each of our export markets.

CANEGROWERS plays an active role working with government to support the maintenance of existing market access structures, where they are favourable, and seeking improvements via trade reforms, through bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements.

For example, once implemented, the recent agreement between Indonesian President Widodo and Prime Minister Turnbull for Indonesia to reduce the tariff on Australian raw sugar exports will improve the competitiveness of Australian sugar entering Indonesia and deliver significant commercial benefits. ■



Power price pain continues to grow

The recent announcement by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) that electricity prices for irrigated agriculture will increase by up to 5.1% will do nothing to allay the fears of farmers who are seeing their livelihoods slowly eaten away by rising power prices, says CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan.

While the 5.1% increase is better than the 10.3% rise recommended in the QCA's original determination, Mr Galligan said any rise to electricity prices for regional Queensland is indefensible.

"The revised determination comes after an intervention by the State Government and in doing so the Government has shown it can do something about power prices and it needs to do more."

"Let's be clear, this is not a price cut by the QCA," Mr Galligan said. "It is merely a smaller increase to power prices that are already horrendously high."

"The revised determination comes after an intervention by the State Government

and in doing so the Government has shown it can do something about power prices and it needs to do more.

"These unsustainably and unnecessarily high power prices will continue to strangle economic activity and destroy jobs across regional Queensland if unchecked."

Electricity prices for farmers who grow food and fibre for Australians and export markets have gone up more than 130% since the pricing system changed nine years ago. Over the same period CPI has increased by just 21%.

"The QCA announcement merely reduces the size of the pain and for some producers it delays the inevitable," Mr Galligan said.

"Without a change, farmers will have to either get off the grid or go out of business!" ■

QSL Grower Rep Member nominations now open



By QSL CEO and Managing Director
Greg Beashel

WILMAR GROWER PAYMENT STATEMENTS

Wilmar Growers who have elected QSL as their GEI Sugar marketer are reminded that they must log onto their QSL Direct account in order to access their new **QSL Grower Cane Payment Statements** which detail their Advances Payments from QSL. Hardcopy statements will not be issued.

To access your QSL Direct account the first time, please click on the link in the activation email you should have received from QSL Direct and follow the instructions provided. Your account username is also featured in this same email – please note this for future use.

You can find a link to the QSL Direct portal via the QSL homepage (www.qsl.com.au) or by typing <http://qsldirect.qsl.com.au> directly into your search engine.

Only Wilmar Growers who have chosen QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer and finalised their Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) with QSL can access their QSL Direct account.

For further details, contact your local QSL Grower Services Team member or call the QSL Direct Helpline on 1800 870 756.

Nominations are now open for candidates interested in serving their local growing communities as a QSL Grower Representative Member.

QSL's 23 Grower Representative Members are the voice of Queensland's 4000+ cane growers, with one elected representative for each of the 21 mills in Queensland as well as two additional appointments representing CANEGROWERS and the Australian Cane Farmers Association.

The 21 elected grower representatives hold their positions for a three-year period and during this time are expected to attend QSL Annual General Meetings and other special members' meetings as required in order to vote on matters of significance to the Queensland sugar industry.

"I encourage you to nominate a representative from your mill area who is connected to their fellow growers..."

In addition to this they also act as a vital communication link between QSL and growers throughout Queensland, providing direct feedback to QSL on behalf of the growers they serve while also keeping them abreast of QSL activities and important information.

I encourage you to nominate a representative from your mill area who is connected to their fellow growers, understands the needs of growers in your region and has the enthusiasm and desire to be your voice. You may even feel this is a role you'd like to take on yourself.

Nomination forms and other information about the election process are available from QSL offices, your local collective, mill and the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au).

To nominate as a representative for a mill area, you must be a sugar cane grower who supplies sugar cane under contract to a mill in your relevant mill area. Nominations close on Friday 5pm QLD time Friday 28 July 2017.

If QSL receives more nominations than the designated number of Grower Representative Member positions available in a particular milling district, growers in that district will be advised that a vote is to take place and voting papers will be made available.

It should be noted that there is no remuneration paid for this position. It will be up to the individual Grower Representative Member as to how active they want to be in their role, but we encourage them to participate to ensure QSL's ongoing success.

In return for taking on this task, QSL commits to listening to their feedback and keeping them updated on our efforts as we work to maximise the value we deliver to the Queensland sugar industry.

For more information about the QSL Grower Representative Member election process, please visit www.qsl.com.au or contact your local QSL Industry Relationship Manager Carla Keith on 0409 372 305 or via email at carla.keith@qsl.com.au ■

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Nominations are now open for the election of QSL Grower Representative Members

Nomination forms are available at www.qsl.com.au or from your local mill office, CANEGROWERS office, grower organisation or ACFA representative.

To nominate as a grower representative for a mill area, you must be a sugar cane grower who supplies sugar cane under contract to a mill in your mill area. Signed nomination forms must be lodged with QSL 5pm (QLD time) on Friday 28 July 2017. Voting will be held if there is more than one nomination for each vacancy.

For more information:

www.qsl.com.au

QSL Industry Relationship Managers

- Cathy Kelly (0409 285 074 / cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au)
- Carla Keith (0409 372 305 / carla.keith@qsl.com.au)

Queensland Sugar Ltd ACN – 090 152 211

BURDEKIN GROWERS GET THE LOWDOWN ON AUTOMATED IRRIGATION AND WATER QUALITY

Almost two dozen Burdekin growers took part in a Farmers Teaching Farmers information day recently, visiting an automated furrow irrigation trial site in Ayr, before heading north to the Australian Institute of Marine Science centre at Cape Cleveland where they got to meet with some of the brains behind Australia's water quality science.



FARMERS TEACHING FARMERS

First stop on the group's itinerary was Russell Jordan's cane farm at Upper Haughton, 30 minutes west of Ayr, where the visitors were given an update on a SRA-funded trial of automated furrow irrigation systems.

Mr Jordan explained his experience with the trial and the grower-benefits of the system in terms of efficiency and time management.

AgriTech Solutions' Steve Attard then walked the inquisitive growers through the mechanics of the system.

"The growers were very interested in how the system worked and what the potential benefits were," said CANEGROWERS Burdekin Manager Wayne Smith, who also attended the information day.

"It's still early days and the economics of the system have to be worked out, but in terms of efficiency, there is definitely benefit from a grower's point of view."

The recently completed trials investigated technology to automate furrow irrigation.

Led by the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, the project worked with three Burdekin growers to

ground-truth the technology, with input from AgriTech Solutions, BPS and SRA.

The farmers in the project will feature a series of videos soon to be available from SRA, with case studies to feature in the SRA magazine, *CaneConnection*.

Following their visit to Jordan Farming, the group travelled to the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) centre at Cape Cleveland, 40 minutes north of Ayr, where they were given a tour of the newly renovated facilities.

They also got to speak to some of the people behind Australia's water quality science and inspect the National Sea Simulator (SeaSim), a world-class marine research aquarium facility in which scientists can conduct cutting-edge research not previously possible in Australia.

"It was a pretty good tour, definitely very informative," CANEGROWERS Burdekin Chairman Phil Marano said.

"We got a good overview of the research they're doing on water quality and crown-of-thorns starfish and the Reef.

"The people there definitely weren't anti-agriculture. They want to see a reduction in nutrients going into waterways ►



AIMS describes the Sea Simulator as the world's smartest aquarium



Australian Government

This article is brought to you by the Australian Government Reef Programme



AgriTech Solutions consultant Steve Attard (right) explains the automated furrow irrigation system to grower - from left: Shaun Betteridge, CBL GM Harvey Coe, Kevin Mann, Jim Steven, Joe Sibson with his son and daughter, Malcolm Gudge, Geoff Tait, Roger Piva, Steve Pilla, Russell Jordan and Steve Attard.

"The impression I came away with was the major challenge ahead is climate change, which is something the whole community needs to address."

but the impression I came away with was the major challenge ahead is climate change, which is something the whole community needs to address."

The Farmers Teaching Farmers activities, promoted through CANEGROWERS and supported by the Australian Government Reef Programme, allows growers to share their ideas and knowledge.

This can then be applied, tested and adapted to their own farms, CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager Matt Kealley said.

"Farmers are natural problem solvers," Mr Kealley said.

"They are observant and can identify opportunity for improvement.

"They are creative and innovative in the way they can adapt, modify and apply their thinking to make the farm more productive, efficient, profitable and sustainable." ■



QUAD BIKE RECALL

All-terrain vehicle manufacturer Polaris has announced a nationwide recall of 13,000 ATVs following the discovery of asbestos-laden components in 12 of its youth quad models.

An Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) investigation, prompted by recent testing in the US, uncovered asbestos in brake pads, brake shoes, gaskets and other components.

Models affected by the recall include the Scrambler, Predator, Outlaw, Sportsman, Phoenix, Sawtooth and Ace 150 produced between 2001 to 2017.

"Fortunately, the advice we have currently received indicates that the presence of asbestos in the quad bike parts is unlikely to present a safety risk while riding the quad bike," ACCC acting chairwoman **Delia Rickard** said.



"Nonetheless we are treating this issue extremely seriously and working closely with Polaris to gather all relevant information that enables a fast, efficient remediation of any bikes that contain these parts."

Owners of recalled models are being urged to contact their nearest Polaris dealer to arrange the replacement of affected parts.

Small Business Minister **Michael McCormack** issued a Safety Warning Notice for owners and repairers of Polaris vehicles.

"As a country MP, I know how important quad bikes can be for work on the farm and how many young people ride youth bikes too, so I wanted to ensure as many consumers as possible are made aware of the recall," he said.

Mr McCormack said owners and users should not attempt any repair or maintenance work themselves.

"If you encounter any issues having an affected quad bike fixed by Polaris without charge, please contact the ACCC immediately." ■

Prohibited Matter, **Restricted Matter**, Biosecurity Carriers & Notifiable Incidents



By Frank Fox, Biosecurity Queensland

"Growers who become aware of the presence of prohibited matter must report it to a DAF inspector immediately."

Discharging your General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) under the new Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014.

While the new Biosecurity Act 2014 requires everyone discharge their GBO, it also accepts that people need to be in a position to form a reasonable judgement that a biosecurity risk exists.

The new legislation recognises this by specifically prescribing serious pests and diseases known as Prohibited Matter and Restricted Matter.

The legislation also includes the concept of Carriers that are things capable of moving biosecurity matter.

The new Act also requires people to report Notifiable Incidents such as unexplained deaths or morbidity in herds and crops.

PROHIBITED MATTER: These are listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. They represent serious pests and diseases not known to occur in Queensland and they include many of direct relevance to Queensland's sugarcane industry.

Growers who become aware of the presence of prohibited matter must report it to a DAF inspector immediately.

It is important to realise that people must not deal with prohibited matter. This includes activities such as keeping, breeding, growing, experimenting, moving, selling and the like.

However, they must take any reasonable steps to contain prohibited matter when they become aware of it on their property.



RESTRICTED MATTER: This is biosecurity matter that is known to be present in Queensland but under active control. Panama disease tropical race 4 of bananas is a good example, because movement controls on machinery and other risk items may affect cane growers.

Restricted matter is listed in Schedule 2 of the Act and there are a number of categories depending on the biosecurity risk that they present.

People who become aware of the presence of restricted matter must advise an authorised officer as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 24 hours.

BIOSECURITY CARRIERS: A carrier is defined in the Act as anything capable of moving biosecurity matter. Some examples include soil and agricultural equipment and insects capable of harbouring pests and diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS: It would be unreasonable to expect the agricultural community to be fully conversant with the range of pests and diseases of concern to Queensland.

For this reason, the Act includes a provision whereby people must also notify an inspector immediately if they become aware of a notifiable incident.

These incidents include events such as abnormally high death rates or disease symptoms in crops or herds; as well as the presence of contaminants at unacceptable levels in carriers.

The key point here is that the legislation supports the imperative to act swiftly with respect to biosecurity risks, even when their cause is unknown.

Call 13 25 23 to report Prohibited Matter, Restricted Matter and Notifiable Incidents. For further information on the Act, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au ■



The MSF Sugar Tableland farms have exciting opportunities for the following full time, salaried positions:

Senior Hand - Harvesting Operations

This person will be a key member of the Harvesting team & will assist with management of Harvesting Operations to achieve harvesting quality, safety & efficiently, by implementing harvest best practices & developing a high capacity team.

The successful applicant should have proven experience in

- Staff organisation, development and supervision
- Strong ability to build relationships & networks for management & maintenance of harvesting operations
- Knowledge and experience in implementation and use of Safety Procedures & Systems
- Use of technology, including GPS (desirable) & analysis for operational improvements
- Minimum 3 years' experience in sugar cane harvesting (desirable)

Senior Hand - Crop Establishment

This person will be a key member of the Agriculture team & will assist with continuous improvement to the farming system. This will include optimising layout & drainage, controlled traffic, reducing tillage, variety selection, legume break crops.

The successful applicant should have

- Ability to lead, direct & develop other employees
- Experience in land preparation, including levelling for optimal drainage
- Capability to use computers & technology, including GPS (desirable)
- Knowledge of Billet Planting Sugar Cane (desirable)

For more information please call Rik Maatman 0437 168 167

For full details regarding these current vacancies including position descriptions please visit:

<http://www.msfsugar.com.au/careers/employment-opportunities/>

Applications close Wednesday 12 July 2017



MSF Sugar which is Australia's third largest raw sugar producer, owns and operates four sugar mills and farms in excess of 11,000 hectares.

www.msfsugar.com.au

Diet for diabetes

By the Australian Sugar Industry Alliance Nutrition Team



July brings National Diabetes Week with a spotlight on how to prevent and manage Australia's fastest growing chronic disease. A healthy diet is critical.

What is diabetes?

Diabetes is a condition in which the body is unable to control the level of glucose in the blood. Prolonged high levels of glucose can cause damage to large and small blood vessels in the heart, eyes, kidneys and nerves. The cause of Type 1 diabetes is poorly understood and insulin injections are required for life. Type 2 diabetes is the most common form and while it can be managed with effort, there is no cure so prevention is paramount.

Who is at risk?

If you have a history of diabetes in your family, are over 55, overweight, with high blood pressure or cholesterol or have unhealthy lifestyle habits, you are at higher risk. Some ethnic groups are also at higher risk, such as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, Chinese, or people from the Indian sub-continent, Melanesia or Polynesia. You can't feel high blood glucose levels so have your blood glucose levels checked with your doctor.

Can diabetes be prevented?

A healthy lifestyle can dramatically reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Even if you discover your blood glucose levels are a little high, you can keep diabetes at bay by exercising more and improving your eating habits. Aim for at least 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity, such as walking. And try to move more generally throughout the day, such as limiting time you spend sitting.

What's the right diet?

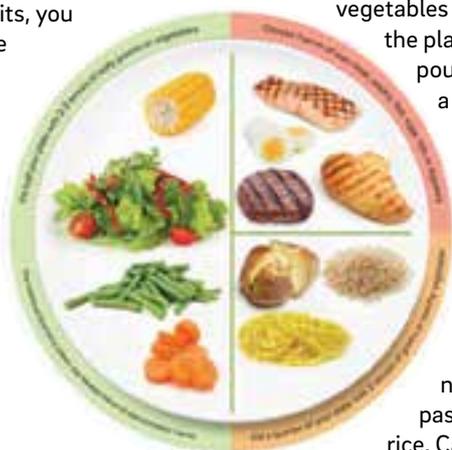
A healthy diet for people with diabetes is the same as a healthy diet for the rest of us, only they have even greater reason to follow it (and the same diet is best for diabetes prevention too). Plenty of plant foods like vegetables, legumes, wholegrains, fruit and nuts; moderate amounts of lean meat and low fat dairy foods; and small amounts of 'sometimes' foods and drinks like cakes, biscuits, confectionery and alcohol. If medication is required, closer attention is needed to eating regular meals and even spacing of carbohydrate through the day.

- Balanced meals – fill half the plate with vegetables or salad, a quarter of the plate with lean meat/poultry/fish/eggs, and a quarter with grains or starchy vegetable (e.g. potato).
 - Lower GI choices – Porridge, muesli or high bran content cereal for breakfast; dense grainy bread or noodles for lunch; pasta, quinoa, Basmati rice, Carisma or Nicola potatoes for dinner; fruit, yoghurt or milk for snacks.
- Low saturated fat – People with diabetes are at greater risk of heart disease so a low proportion of unhealthy saturated fats and more healthy fats will help keep cholesterol levels in check. Choose lean meats and light milk; eat fish, nuts and seeds regularly; and use healthy oils like olive, canola or sunflower for cooking and dressing.

- Limit salt – too much salt increases blood pressure and this is harmful. Avoid adding salt to food, choose reduced salt packaged foods, and limit food prepared out of home as these tend to be high in salt.

The myth about sugar

Contrary to popular belief, eating sugar doesn't cause type 2 diabetes directly, but eating too many highly – sweetened 'sometimes foods' and drinks can encourage weight gain, and being overweight increases the risk. ■



CHECKLIST TO AVOID DIABETES

- ▶ Don't smoke
- ▶ Avoid weight gain
- ▶ Actively manage your cholesterol levels and blood pressure
- ▶ Be as active as you can every day – walk for at least 30 minutes most days
- ▶ Reduce saturated fat and enjoy healthy fats in moderation
- ▶ Choose high fibre foods such as wholegrains, legumes, vegetables, fruits and nuts
- ▶ Include low GI foods at every meal

- For more information about diet for diabetes go to diabetesaustralia.com.au/eating-well
- For further information on the portion plate shown, visit www.srasanz.org/say-when

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Next deadline is **10 July 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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Rainfall Report

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Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January-June
	7 days to 9am 19/06/17	26/06/17		
Mossman	0	0	1624	1724
Mareeba AP	4	0.8	592	717
Cairns	0	8	1258	1598
Mt Sophia	2	29	2344	2577
Babinda	0	0	1250	3261
Innisfail	5	50	2422	2714
Tully	0.4	42	1695	3154
Cardwell	0	2	1345	1655
Lucinda	0	0.4	1409	1653
Ingham	Tce	2	1088	1555
Abergowrie	0	0	716	1429
Townsville	0	0	639	868
Ayr DPI	0	0	768	712
Proserpine	0.2	0	1262	1027
Mirani	0.4	2	1095	1118
Mackay	0.8	0.8	1812	1169
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	2433	1282
Bundaberg	6	0	446	610
Childers South	1	0	586	513
Maryborough	16	0	404	728
Tewantin	40	0	868	1131
Eumundi	23	0	736	1095
Nambour	30	0	649	1085
Woongoolba	59	0	656	834
Murwillumbah	74	0.4	1164	1035
Ballina	114	64	1356	1146
Woodburn	124	17	1332	878



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

WESTCOTT ENGINEERING

HARVESTER BLADE RESHARPENING

Various sized resharpened harvester blades for sale

Tungsten Hardfacing

- EXCAVATOR TEETH
- BUCKET TEETH
- RIPPER POINTS
- BASECUTTER BLADES
- BASECUTTER DISKS (BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- HARVESTER SHOES (BUILT-UP, REPAIRED AND HARD FACED)
- FAN HARD FACING & BALANCING

Phone Brendon 0428 220 789
20 Westcott Rd, Homebush, QLD 4737

1983 Toft 6500, as new walking gear, 3306DI engine, 4 foot primary extractor with ceiling fan, Toft rotary chop, vg aircon, new elevator chains and flights, ready to cut, \$28000 plus GST Ono. Ph. 0407 176 828

Tractor drawn tumble scoop one yard \$1320. Single axle trailer aluminium tray \$330. Ph. 0408 984 560

Tractor Tyres & Wheels x 2, Olympic 18.4 x 42 Gripstar, Including Wheels & Hubs, came off Case Magnum 7140. \$2,000 inc. GST. Ph. 0428 236 165

DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 4959 2260

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)

1 x 14.9-24 8ply Starmaxx; 80% tread; \$380 GST inc. 2 x 14.9-38 Starmaxx radials on rims & centres to fit Case; \$4,500 GST inc. Ph. 0488 598 447

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

J I Case 1194 49hp 12 forward & 4 Reverse power steering TPL drawbar rear tyres 95% 3000 hrs approx \$7700, Howard 5 tyne Para Plow gc \$3250, 3 tyre Napier Ripper \$900, Single Bar Light 5 tyne rippers International Rippers \$500. Ph. 0409 866 760

Toft 6500 Full-track cane harvester. Sell as is condition or for spare parts. Ph. 4159 3323 after 6pm

Case 7700, 98 model, Komatsu 125, Good Condition. Ph. 0408 292 210

Massey 205 Harvester hydraulic drive as is, hydraulics in good condition. V8 Perkins engine. Ph. 4159 3323 after 6pm

Case IH 8000 Cane Harvester. 5800 hours. \$195,000 plus GST and Quinco 1ton Fertilizer Incorporator with plastic bin and stainless worm. \$8000 plus GST. Both in good condition. Ph. 4156 1409 or 0431 044 022

Quinco Fertiliser Distributor - discs, coulter, rippers rollers stainless steel drive \$8,500+GST. Ph 4159 8340 or 0403 598 345

Hodge/moller style billet planter for sale. Full rebuild done 2 seasons ago. Has liquid fert and fungicide tanks with separate pumps that turn on automatically with feed chains. Nice simple planter that works very well. Ph. Brent 0417 003 988

Moorooka MST1700, g.c. 250hp Cummins engine, 1900 hrs, a/c cab, new tracks, fitted with 6-tonne high lift cane tipper bin + original tipping body. \$37,000 inc GST. Ph. 0417 750 925

Wanted

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph. 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227

Wanted to buy: 1.5 tonne subsurface fertiliser applicator. Ph. 0427403833

Wanted to buy: 6-tonne/4-tonne roll-on roll-off cane haulout trailer. Please phone 0428 541 197

CANE WANTED for 2017 and subsequent seasons. Tully area. Shawn Ph. 0418 782 815

Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

Work Wanted

MC license, LG grader ticket, UD license, Two years' experience with sugar bush harvester. Final trim grader operator. Ingham or Tully area I am seeking work. Excavator, bobcat, backhoe, trucks plant cane. Farm hand. 0458 854 475. Colin.

2 Italian boys seeking farm work to extend working holiday visa. Visa expires 31 October. We are good workers and have a car. Call Francesco on 0481 284 360, or Danilo on 0431 095 974

Looking for a tractor, harvester, construction, machinery or livestock job. Anything based on machines. Prefer driving tractors or harvesters. Farm experience. Call Florian on 0416 376 907

24-year-old Chinese girl looking for farm work. Hard working and responsible, in Australia on a one-year working holiday. Outgoing and friendly. Have work experience in orange and papaya picking. Email Judy (Bihong Chen) 1148814816qq@gmail.com

Property

WALKERSTON area: Cane farm for sale, fully irrigated. 42.5ha cane 3.6ha grazing. Ph. 0418 185 663

Cane farm at OAKENDEN: 6brm home, sheds and machinery. Irrigated, flat, no rocks, good soil, close to town, close cart. Ph. 4958 5224 or 0428 575 787

BELLENDE KER: Cane farm for sale, 80ha. Can be converted to cattle if required. 40 mins south of Cairns. Call 0427 142 102



WANT MORE NEWS, VIEWS AND PHOTOS?

Find *CANEGROWERS* on Facebook!

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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