

Industry Good funding: Action now to secure our future

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COVER IMAGE: Aerial shot of Doug Rankine's Tableland cane farm

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We must act to secure our future

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

Ever since the first commercial cane plots were planted in Mackay in the late-1860s, Queensland growers have drawn on their resilience, adaptability and innovation to overcome countless challenges and threats.

We have faced many trials during the intervening 150 years and, thankfully, had many successes. However, as old threats and challenges are overcome they are inevitably replaced with new ones, so we cannot afford to become complacent.

Perhaps the greatest social force that has emerged in the past three decades is the pressure on industries to maintain their social license to operate – the implied community support for an industry.

To dismiss the requirement for a social license would be foolish in the extreme. Australia is littered with once great industries that have lost or are losing their vote of community support.

Hence, two great challenges have emerged for the Queensland sugar industry – the health of the Great Barrier Reef and sugar's role in the diet of Australians.

The alleged impacts our farming operations have had on the Reef have been with us for decades.

We are proud of the enormous changes we have made to our farming and cultural practices over the last 30 years.

However, despite all of our environmental endeavours, the Queensland Government seems set to introduce more regulations on farmers and other industries.

On the other hand, the issue of sugar in the diets of Australians has grown over 10 years to now be the number one threat

The calls for a sugar tax are testament to the seriousness of this threat. However, we are not alone in facing this challenge - it is a major threat to the entire global sugar industry.

Industry action

We could choose to simply do nothing and hope that these threats will go away. But history has taught us that the industries who respond with a measured and structured approach to social license challenges are the ones that are likely to survive.

That is why CANEGROWERS, in conjunction with the Australian Sugar Milling Council, is currently in discussions with the other grower representative organisations with a view of creating an 'industry good' funding pool to take on these challenges.

Twenty years ago, the Australian cotton industry faced an uncertain future based on community concerns about its chemical use. The cotton industry rolled up its sleeves and, among other things, funded a cotton specific BMP program that has reinstated its environmental reputation.

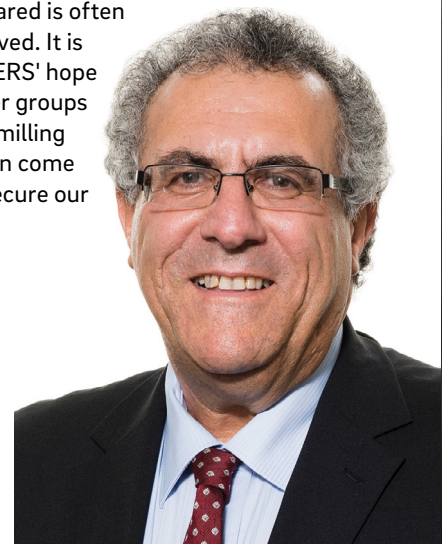
Industry good funding will give us a similar ability to have programs that will preserve and even enhance our reputation.

For completeness, our Trade and Market Access functions will also benefit from this industry good funding.

We export 80% of our production, so we need to maintain current markets whilst sourcing new ones. Front and centre of our current trade responsibility is to mount a challenge in the World Trade Organisation against export subsidies in India and Pakistan.

The Australian sugar industry is at its best when we come together and take on major threats.

A problem shared is often a problem solved. It is CANEGROWERS' hope that all grower groups and all sugar milling companies can come together to secure our future. ■



"The Australian sugar industry is at its best when we come together and take on major threats. A problem shared is often a problem solved."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Can you help a grazier in drought?

CANEGROWERS members have been asked to consider donating bales of cane tops and trash to help graziers struggling to feed stock in drought conditions.

Around 57% of Queensland and all of New South Wales is officially in drought, with some regions into a seventh year without meaningful rain.

The rural charity AUSSIE HELPERS has been collecting donated fodder and transporting and distributing it in inland and western regions of New South Wales and Queensland – some from as far afield as Tasmania.

AUSSIE HELPERS can be contacted at admin@aussiehelpers.org.au or by phoning 1300 665 232. Organisers say cane tops and trash can be fed to livestock if molasses is also provided.

Sunshine Sugar has already been working with AUSSIE HELPERS to collect and distribute bales of cane trash, grass and hay from cane growers in New South Wales. The milling company has also donated molasses which is a valuable feed supplement for cattle in dry conditions.

NFF fundraiser

With national attention now focussed on the drought, the National Farmers' Federation has launched a fundraising

drive after being inundated with enquiries from individuals and companies wanting to know how to assist.

"To direct the generosity of Australians to the farmers who need it most, the NFF is calling for donations to the 2018 Drought Relief Fund – a partnership between the NFF, Rotary Australia and Channel 9," NFF President Fiona Simson said.

As a registered charitable organisation, Rotary Australia will collect and administer the donations which will be tax deductible.

"We'll ensure 100% of funds collected are applied to the large gambit of needs currently being experienced by farmers, including fodder and water shortages; help with everyday living expenses and access to health and financial support services," Ms Simson said.

Do you need help or want to offer?

Queensland Farmers Federation has collated a list of other organisations which can provide assistance and accept offers of help at www.qff.org.au/blog/support-farmers-rural-communities/

"We'll ensure 100% of funds collected are applied to the large gambit of needs currently being experienced by farmers, including fodder and water shortages; help with everyday living expenses and access to health and financial support services."

CANE COMMUNITY IN MOURNING AFTER TRAGIC DEATH

CANEGROWERS members and staff have been saddened by the tragic death of a member in the Herbert River district.

59-year-old grower Trevor Reynolds was badly injured in a controlled burn of cane trash in a paddock at Coolbie near Crystal Creek and later died in the Townsville Hospital.

"Our condolences go to his family, friends and neighbours and CANEGROWERS will provide whatever support we can," CANEGROWERS Herbert River Chairman Michael Pisano said.

The circumstances surrounding how he became caught up in the flames are being investigated as a report is prepared for the coroner.

"This is a tremendously sad and devastating event, reminding us of some of the inherent risks we face in farming and that the safety and welfare of our people is the highest priority at all times," Mr Pisano said. ■



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Reef dialogue: growers and scientists meet

The CANEGROWERS Policy Council recently welcomed a panel of scientists to open a dialogue about Great Barrier Reef-related research.

Each scientist outlined, from their perspective, what was known and not known about the current health of the Reef and the impacts of land-based activities.

In small groups, the grower representatives put forward their questions around the science and the gaps that exist from their perspective.

The session was led by former Queensland Chief Scientist **Geoff Garrett**.

The two-way discussion was a stepping stone towards CANEGROWERS forming a panel of reef scientists to regularly review new scientific work and put it into a farming context.



Pictured: Back row L-: Geoff Garrett (former Queensland Chief Scientist), Glenn Clarke (Proserpine), Matt Kealley (CANEGROWERS), Drew Watson (Mossman), Stephen Lewis and Aaron Davis (James Cook University), John Pickering (Behaviour Innovation), Joe Marano (Innisfail). Front row L-R: Kevin Borg (Plane Creek), Frederieke Kroon and Renee Gruber (Australian Institute of Marine Science), Jane Waterhouse (C2O Consulting), Britta Schaffelke (Australian Institute of Marine Science), Paul Schembri (CANEGROWERS Chairman) and Allan Dingle (Bundaberg).



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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

By CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

During Week 9 (week ending 4/8) a total of 41,503 tonnes was crushed.

Coastal growers supplied 27,879 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.99 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 13,624 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.40 CCS.

To date, a total of 304,505 tonnes of cane have been crushed for a mill average of 12.50 CCS.

Favourable weather conditions have seen planting well underway around the district.

Tableland

After a rough first six weeks of the season, Mossman Mill has settled down and is now up to its expected crush rate.

Tableland Mill is also crushing well. The average CCS for Tableland farms at both mills is above average for this time of season and farms are generally cutting above average.

Following the signing of the Put and Call Option Document for the potential purchase of Mossman Mill, the Mossman and Tableland Bargaining Agent groups have now entered the final stage of due diligence, which includes working through the 17 Conditions Precedent requiring completion by the end of October.

Cairns region

Weather conditions remain favourable to harvesting and farming activities. Unfortunately for those supplying the Mulgrave Mill, performance has been quite unsatisfactory.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region continues to engage with MSF Sugar, but with no improvements achieved, the organisation is considering all options.

At the recent meeting of the Cushing Oversight Group (COG), 55,000 tonnes of cane have been transferred back to South Johnstone Mill partly due to a realignment in estimates, but mainly due to the inadequate performance of the Mulgrave factory.

Innisfail

Smooth operations at South Johnstone Mill have been hindered with a number of significant stoppages for reasons ranging from split conveyor belts to electrical black-outs.

168 hours of crushing had been lost as at the week ending 3 August. Fortunately planned maintenance has also been completed during these stoppages, which has saved a bit of lost time.

The South Johnstone Mill supply estimate has been reduced from 1,732,500 to 1,656,097.

As a result, the transfer of tonnes to be crushed at Mulgrave Mill has been also reduced from 245,000 to 190,000. As at 3 August, South Johnstone Mill had crushed 26% of the current estimate.

The average seasonal CCS is slowly rising and was just under 12.00 at the time of writing.

Tully

The harvest is progressing well with 794,958 tonnes crushed to date, and an average CCS of 12.95. Despite the brief setback of rainfall in June, it has been a pleasing start to the season.

The Tully Show weekend surprised all with the sun making an appearance. The cane exhibit, although smaller than previous years, showcased nice, straight, healthy looking cane.

Tully Cane Productivity Services held a historical cane display, where entrants plant and grow Badilla cane to be displayed in the competition.



Herbert River

Herbert River growers are mourning the sad passing of Trevor Reynolds who suffered severe burns from a controlled burn of a cane trash blanket from a harvested standover cane area.

The incident provides a solemn reminder of the perils that farmers face and must manage in their lives on the land. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Trevor's family and loved ones.

Weather conditions have been ideal for harvesting over the past fortnight.

Mill throughput has continued on a steady course. After the first eight weeks of the harvest, 30% of the crop has been processed.

CCS is nicely ahead of the five-year average at 12.98 for the season to date after an average of 13.62 for Week 8.

Ingham celebrated its annual Australian Italian Festival over the weekend of 4-5 August.

One of the highlights was the unveiling of bronze plaques to accompany the monument to the Cane Cutter which is situated in Lannercost Street in front of the Canegrowers Building.



Burdekin

With ideal conditions continuing, crushing in the Burdekin approached the three million tonne mark during Week 8, with around 37% of the forecast crop now processed.

CCS levels have continued to rise, with the season to date average now sitting at 14.21.

Best performing variety in Week 8 on a regional basis was Q183 with 17% of supply and 15.26 CCS; followed by KQ228 at 19% and 14.97, then Q240 at 36% and 14.8 CCS. There was also a small percentage of Q252 that registered an average of 14.98.

Just over 393,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the Burdekin's four mills in Week 8, which saw scheduled stops at both Inkerman and Invicta's A side.

Inkerman's scheduled stop was extended so crews could fabricate a new tail drum for the mud-ash conveyor belt, which failed shortly after start-up from a scheduled clean. Invicta Mill passed the one million tonnes of cane crushed milestone earlier in the week. In the coming week there will be scheduled stops at Pioneer and Kalamia.

The highest CCS sample for the week was 18.15 from a rake of KQ228 plant cane, recorded in the Pioneer area.

The Burdekin crop estimate has been revised down from 8.46 million tonnes to 8.04 million tonnes.

Plane Creek

Plane Creek Mill crushed 58,853 tonnes in the week ending August 4, similar to the previous week. This brings the season crushed to date tally to 413,758 tonnes. CCS for the week is at 14.60 units (half a unit up from previous week) with the season to date average 13.48 units. The major cause of lost time was a hole in the low-grade torrie leg, which resulted in 11.5 hours of downtime.

CCS continues to trend higher than forecast due to the cool dry conditions.

The Plane Creek crop estimate has been revised down from 1.23 million tonnes to 1.15 million tonnes.

Proserpine

It was another productive fortnight by Proserpine Mill with 186,289 tonnes passing through the rollers. The run of good weekly throughput means Proserpine is approximately 70% ahead of budget. The strong commitment and perseverance of the harvesting sector has contributed to this excellent result.

At the time of compiling this report a total of 609,136 tonnes had been crushed. Unfortunately, the prolonged dry period is having a detrimental impact on the crop and the season estimate has been revised down by 100,000 tonnes to 1.66 million tonnes.

Given the expected reduction in crop size, combined with the solid early performance of the mill, crushing is now expected to be completed by 22 October.

On the positive side, CCS continues to climb with the average season-to-date CCS now sitting at 13.94.

With a number of powerlines sagging as a result of last year's weather event, growers and contractors are urged to take extreme care – please, "Look up and Live".

Lui Mancuso (former cane cutter), Adam Douglas (Operations Manager, Wilmar's Herbert River Mills) Nick Dametto (Member for Hinchinbrook), Pat Lynch (Ingham Lions Club rep on Fund raising committee) Peter Sheedy (Manager, CANEGROWERS Herbert River), Fay Morris (Sculptor) Marguerita Torrisi (kneeling), Mario Torrisi (Project leader, former cane cutter and convenor of the unveiling ceremony), Pino Giandomenico (President, Australian Italian Festival Committee) and Ramon Jayo (Mayor Hinchinbrook Shire)



Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mills crushed a total of 210,045 tonnes in the week ending August 5. Individual mill throughput was Farleigh 69,658 tonnes, Marian 87,597 tonnes and Racecourse 52,790 tonnes. The year to date total throughput is 1,923,992 tonnes. PRS for the week came in at 14.51 with the PRS year to date at 12.70.

Maryborough

Maryborough district has stayed dry for the last few weeks and seen good gains in harvest supply to MSF mill.

As at 4 August we had reached 334,402 tonnes supplied, which is 36% of estimate.

CCS has been steadily improving with the last week averaging 13.23 to give a season average of 12.97 to date.

A summary of the history of the Herbert industry called *From the Kanakas to the 21st Century*, stands in tribute to the early industry founders.

The plaque was unveiled by CANEGROWERS Herbert River Manager, Peter Sheedy, and Wilmar's Herbert River Operations Manager, Adam Douglas (pictured right).

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Bundaberg

The Bundaberg Sugar Mills processed 91,728.94 tonnes with a CCS average of 14.64 units during week ending 6 August. This brings the total tonnes processed for the season to date to 485,488.40 and a CCS average of 13.67 units for the season to date.

The highest individual CCS for the week was 17.10 units for KQ228 1R & OR cane in Millaquin.

The four major varieties supplied during the week were Q240 accounting for 31.1% of supply with a CCS average of 15.03 units, followed by KQ228A at 28.2% - 14.78 CCS, Q208A at 15.7% - 14.12 CCS and Q242A at 7.8% - 14.64 CCS.

We are in need of some good rain so spring planting can start or alternatively watering will need to commence straight after planting.

Rocky Point

The Rocky Point Mill has had a reasonable start, now that it's up and running.

At the end of Week 4 (5/8/18), 44,040 tonnes of cane had been crushed at an average CCS of 12.93.

Rocky Point is experiencing excellent harvesting conditions, although it is very dry.

The area lost a cane harvester over the first weekend in August when it caught and burnt a small area of cane (pictured below).



Isis

Growers are watching the weather closely as they start ground preparation for spring planting. Rainfall has been sparse over the last few months, with rain gauges mainly collecting dust. The official recording for Childers South for the month of July was 12.2mm

These same dry conditions are excellent for harvesting with a total of 456,548 processed as at 6 August.

Throughput at the Isis Central Sugar Mill for Week 6 was the best for the 2018 season, with 71,521 tonnes processed in the 168 hours to 7am on Friday 27 July. CCS continues to rise with an average so far of 13.67. A CCS of 14.90 was recorded for a South Isis grower on KQ228, first ratoon.

Each day the risk of fire increases as the region is impacted by frost and dry weather. Growers should take steps now to ensure they have suitable fire breaks in place. The dry conditions and the frost damaged cane are now affecting harvesting decisions and rotations. Growers should seek advice about frost damage and adjust their individual harvesting plans to address these impacts.

Timely irrigation of standing cane that is yet to be harvested should be considered and attention should also be given to blocks that have already been harvested. Please communicate with your Field Officer or with the team at Isis Productivity Limited.

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CHLOROTIC STREAK DISEASE

New discovery to lead to better management

Scientists at Sugar Research Australia have named the organism responsible for chlorotic streak disease (CSD), bringing to an end the scientific mystery that has baffled the sugarcane research community for almost 90 years.

Phytocercomonas venanatanas, a type of single-celled organism known as a Cercozoa, has been found to cause the disease, which was first discovered on cane farms in Australia, Indonesia and Hawaii in 1929.

Most importantly, the discovery is being applied to research that will lead to productivity, profitability, and sustainability outcomes for sugarcane growers and millers.

Dr Kathy Braithwaite, SRA Senior Researcher, is leading a new project aimed at developing a variety resistance screening method for CSD and working to incorporate this into the SRA plant breeding program, so that the industry is provided with more useful data on CSD susceptibility as new varieties are considered for approval.

The project is also working on further developing a diagnostic test and service, which could be integrated with SRA's current diagnostic service for ratoon stunting disease (RSD).

The CSD test already exists as a research tool and is hoped to be extended beyond the research phase and used to assist productivity services organisations in delivering clean plant source material.

"Now that techniques are available to visualise, isolate and quantify the CSD organism experimentally, we can begin to address questions such as how the



organism infects naturally through the roots, how it lives within the plant and causes disease, how cells are released back into the soil, and how the organism survives for extended periods outside the plant," SRA Researcher, Dr Chuong Ngo, said.

Tully grower, Tom Harney, welcomed the news.

"Now that SRA has identified the cause of CSD, there should be better management practices for it: how to prevent it, and how not to get it in the first place," he said.

"There is also an information gap with varieties, and I hope that this discovery improves that."

SRA researchers have just published two papers on CSD and its cause in the journal *Phytopathology*, which is considered one of the premier international journals for plant diseases. In these papers, researchers including Dr Braithwaite and Dr Ngo identified the single-celled organism as a type of Cercozoa.

The Cercozoa responsible for CSD is new to science and was given the name *Phytocercomonas venanatanas*.

The name means 'swims in the veins' and refers to its method of movement and its specific home in sugarcane xylem vessels.

It is about 10 micrometres in length, which is about 0.01 millimetres.

The search for the culprit behind CSD dates back to 1929 when the disease was first identified, almost simultaneously in Australia, Indonesia, and Hawaii.

Previous research in the Australian industry has shown yield losses from CSD as high as 40% of sugar yield in susceptible varieties, with an estimated cost to industry of \$8-\$10 million annually, making it one of the most costly diseases facing the industry. ■

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- SRA acknowledges the funding contribution from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries towards this research activity.

"Now that SRA has identified the cause of CSD, there should be better management practices for it: how to prevent it and how not to get it in the first place."

Pictured: Tully grower Tom Harney inspects cane for CSD earlier this year.

Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Two new chemicals for the cane industry

Did you know it takes around 10 years and \$250 million to bring a new pesticide to the market?

From finding something new, to testing if it works on the problem weed, to checking that it's safe to handle and doesn't affect the environment, it's a very involved process.

Once all the information is gathered, the Australian Pest and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) reviews the information for approval which then forms the use and safety conditions as shown on the label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

CANEGROWERS monitors the APVMA's chemical product registration list for chemical products that are used in the sugarcane industry. We are aware of two new applications.

One is Nimitz 480 EC Nematicide for nematode control in sugarcane and rotation crops.

The sugarcane industry has very limited options for controlling nematodes. This product contains the active ingredient fluensulfone and it appears to have a very low risk to trade, as shown by the low MRL*. It will be a welcome addition to nematode management tools in sugarcane.

The other product is Amitron, which is a residual herbicide that seems 'softer' than diuron or atrazine.

Amitron 700WG provides another option for the management of weeds and appears to have good efficacy against grasses and broad leaf weeds.

It also appears to have a low toxicity risk to people, a low toxicity risk to birds, mammals and bees, very low risk to trade (MRL level) and an acceptable risk to the environment supported by the application conditions on the label.

Hopefully these products will be available for use in the industry very soon. ■



* Maximum Residue Level (MRL) is the highest amount of a chemical residue that is legally allowed in a food product sold in Australia

Progress on national rules for ag vehicles

The development of a harmonised Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle National Notice is a complicated process which the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is managing.

There are five state road authorities such as the Queensland Department of Main Roads which must agree on the principles of the notice (e.g. dimensions). Then road managers (the five state bodies and all Local Government Areas of which there are about 400) need to provide approval and impose conditions based on their roads.

These conditions mostly cover safety and protection of infrastructure.

Added to this are the needs of the agricultural industry which is in itself very diverse and operates across any different regions.

CANEGROWERS is part of a National Farmers' Federation (NFF) transport subcommittee specifically tasked with representing members as this Notice is developed and a consolidated position has been presented to the NHVR.

The subcommittee agreed that there is benefit from harmonisation but that no industry should be worse off than they are now.

The Notice should also cover 80% of agricultural vehicles so that individual permits are not required.

For the agricultural industry, this is an opportunity to adapt the regulations to allow for the fact that farming machinery is generally getting bigger.

NHVR has the task of getting consensus between all the parties and there does seem to be a move towards agreement on the principles.

CANEGROWERS is and will remain part of the process to ensure that the sugarcane industry at least maintains its current road access options.



It is also hoped that in the harmonisation process some of the other states will provide evidence that the level of regulation in Queensland does not provide a significant benefit in terms of safety or protection infrastructure and the regulation could be eased. ■

CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service

With new Cane Supply Agreements (CSAs) in place in most districts, the 2017 season saw competition introduced into a part of the raw sugar supply chain where competition did not previously exist. This represents the final step in the deregulation of the industry.

The new system has been in operation for just one season and growers are making choices around marketing services. The benefits of this new era of competition are already apparent.

Mill marketers and QSL have reviewed and sharpened their offerings to growers. For example, the range of pools and selection of advance payment options has been expanded.

Growers in Queensland now have more control over marketing and pricing decisions than they have ever had.

The ability to manage sugar price exposure up to three years forward is a farm business tool that is only available in Australia.

Once again Australian innovation is leading the sugar world!

In short, the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service aims to improve grower profitability through education and information for members which can assist with their sugar marketing choices.

There are several key points to note about the proposed CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service.

- It will be an independent Service which will not favour one marketer over another
- The Service will offer education and information. It will not offer financial advice.
- The Service aims to assist growers make informed decisions to reap the benefits of competition in sugar marketing services
- It will provide neutral commentary reviewing sugar market conditions and trends and provide insights into the pricing options that may work best in a given set of circumstances.

CANEGROWERS is working with district offices to schedule a series of information and education sessions and also meetings with marketers.

Taking a train-the-trainer approach, we will be looking to build capability in the cane growing districts and, where appropriate, involve accountants

and financial advisors.

More information will be available to members as the service develops. ■

"CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service aims to improve grower profitability through education and information for members which can assist with their sugar marketing choices."

With new systems, there are things to learn. CANEGROWERS has been consulting with districts around the development of a new fact-based information service to help members work through the options and make decisions around marketer and pool selection.

CANEGROWERS is now consulting with marketing companies about their involvement.



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QSL's 2017-Season pool results finalised

The 2017 Season has officially come to an end, with QSL recently finalising its pool results for the season.

Unlike past years, due to the introduction of Marketing Choice and the differing costs and allocations associated with the Raw Sugar Supply Agreement and various On-Supply Agreements now in place, final results varied between milling districts, depending on the Shared Pool applied and the pricing products available.

For a full breakdown of the QSL Shared Pool applicable to your area, please visit our website at www.qsl.com.au.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite a significant global sugar surplus and a belated start to much pricing due to the protracted Wilmar On-Supply Agreement negotiations, QSL's weighted average net pool price for its ICE 11 managed pools exceeded the performance benchmark by \$29.25/tonne IPS to finish the season at \$414.56/t IPS net. (Note:

The performance benchmark is the estimated return for sugar that could be achieved using a predefined routine sales and pricing pattern adjusted for known constraints, such as available storage and the 1:2:2:1 pricing profile for committed sugar).

The weighted averaged ICE 11 Shared Pool allocation also outperformed the performance benchmark by \$7.70/tonne IPS, finishing at \$1.54/tonne IPS (including the Loyalty Bonus). Final QSL 2017-Season pool results were:

2017-SEASON QSL POOLS MSF SUGAR GROWERS	Gross AUD/Tonne IPS	Shared Pool allocation	Net AUD/Tonne IPS	Net AUD/Tonne with Loyalty Bonus *
QSL Harvest Pool	\$417.22	+\$0.23	\$418.45	\$419.95
QSL Actively Managed Pool	\$445.98	+\$0.23	\$446.21	\$447.71
QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$517.07	+\$0.23	\$517.30	\$518.80
QSL US Quota Pool	\$717.40	-\$139.78	\$577.62	\$579.12

2017-SEASON QSL POOLS WILMAR GROWERS	Gross AUD/Tonne IPS	Shared Pool allocation	Net AUD/Tonne IPS	Net AUD/Tonne with Loyalty Bonus *
QSL Harvest Pool	\$417.22	+\$0.19	\$417.41	\$418.91
QSL Actively Managed Pool	\$400.07	+\$0.19	\$400.26	\$401.76
QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$368.58	+\$0.19	\$368.77	\$370.27
QSL US Quota Pool	\$717.40	-\$139.81	\$577.59	\$579.09

2017-SEASON QSL POOLS TULLY SUGAR GROWERS	Gross AUD/Tonne IPS	Shared Pool allocation	Net AUD/Tonne IPS	Net AUD/Tonne with Loyalty Bonus*
QSL Harvest Pool	\$417.22	+\$0.22	\$417.44	\$418.94
QSL Actively Managed Pool	\$445.98	+\$0.22	\$446.20	\$447.70
QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool	N/A			
QSL US Quota Pool	\$717.40	-\$139.79	\$577.61	\$579.11

2017-SEASON QSL POOLS BUNDABERG, ISIS & MACKAY SUGAR GROWERS	Gross AUD/Tonne IPS	Shared Pool allocation	Net AUD/Tonne IPS
QSL Harvest Pool	\$417.22	+\$1.35	\$418.57
QSL Actively Managed Pool	\$445.98	+\$1.35	\$447.33
QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool	\$517.07	+\$1.35	\$518.42
QSL 2-Season Forward Pool	\$505.79	+\$1.35	\$507.14
QSL US Quota Pool	\$717.40	-\$138.66	\$578.74

*The Loyalty Bonus applied for the 2017 Season is \$1.50.



2017 Market in Review



By Mark Hampson, QSL Executive Manager Marketing and Risk

SUGAR FUTURES

During the 2017 Season the ICE No. 11 contract largely retreated to three-year lows of 10.86c/lb under the weight of an oversupplied global sugar market.

Record crops and sugar exports from many countries combined with large white sugar stockpiles and sluggish demand to result in a significant and sustained sell-off across the second half of the financial year.

Prices began the year well, trending up to yearly highs prior to Christmas, before retracting more than 4c/lb from 15.45c/lb in late November 2017. Much of this contraction was driven by a dramatic increase in production out of Thailand and India between January and June 2018, with both countries recording

crops well above initial estimates, increasing global oversupply forecasts to above 11.5 million tonnes.

QSL's pricing team maximised the use of discretion, forward selling heavily and implementing several actively traded option strategies, with the aim of enhancing pool returns above the performance benchmark.

THE DOLLAR

For the first time since the Sydney Olympics, the Australian Dollar (AUD) forward curve was inverted (i.e. future rates are lower than today). The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) continues to watch and wait (22 months and counting at 1.5%) while the US Federal Reserve pushed ahead on their rate rise pathway to maintain their steady return to 'normal' growth and inflation levels.

This resulted in a broad scale sell-off of the AUD from January 2018 highs above 0.8100 to June 2018 lows of below 0.7400. With no movement from the RBA likely until 2019 and the expectation of further rate rises in the US, this differential is likely to weigh on the AUD/USD further.

Additionally, the rise of populism and protectionism in world politics continues to weigh on risk sentiment and trade, which will provide additional headwinds for the AUD.

PHYSICAL PREMIUMS

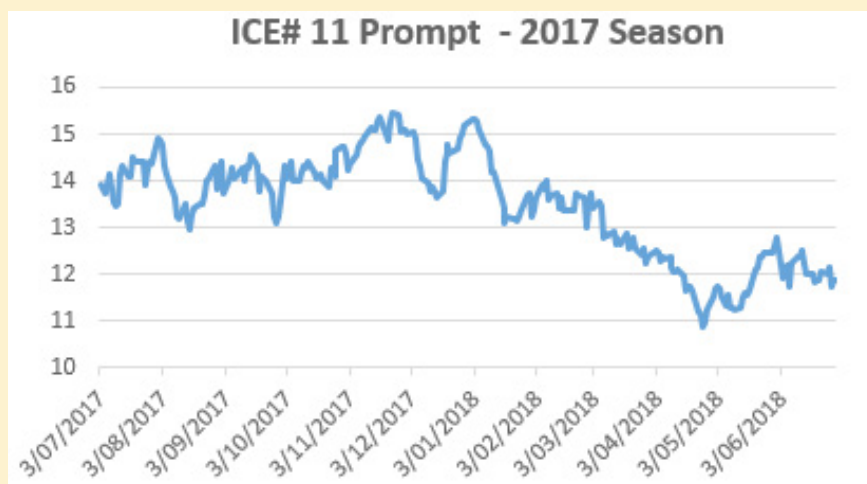
Following a similar pattern to the futures market, physical sugar premiums for the Far East market reacted negatively in the second half of the financial year, largely due to an oversupply of Thai sugar, and contracted by ~1c/lb during the period. Unfortunately this contraction occurred during a relatively bullish sea freight market which further impinged on Queensland raw sugar values. While the freight market has now stabilised, the wash up of the Thai crop has not yet been completed and premiums remain soft year-on-year.

Insulating Queensland growers from the onslaught of the excess supply in the sugar market was a key focus for the QSL marketing team during the 2017 Season. Investing further in key destination relationships and markets, aggressively forward selling and covering freight in advance of market declines, and maximising returns via our supply chain all delivered above-market returns to the QSL Shared Pool. The successful renegotiation of the Korean Long-Term Contract in a new competitive marketing environment also underpinned the QSL marketing program and reaffirmed the QSL brand as both a trusted and reliable marketer of Qld raw sugar.

SUMMARY

The decline in the AUD has somewhat softened the heavy blow felt by the falling ICE 11 futures price, however little can be done to completely buffer Australian sugar producers from the fundamental forces of supply and demand.

After the first full year of a competitive marketing environment, the QSL pools have yielded results not only above benchmark but above that of many of our competitors. This performance not only underpins our value offering to the industry and our suppliers, but further enhances the stoic and trusted QSL brand within the global sugar trade.



DISCLAIMER: These articles contain information of a general or summary nature only and should not be relied on to make any pricing or pool selection decisions. This information does not constitute financial or investment advice, and growers should seek their own independent advice before making any such decisions, in addition to reading the full Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should anything in relation to these articles be taken to include representations as to future matters.

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

GROWERS MUST INVEST IN EFFICIENCIES TO SEE THE FULL BENEFITS OF IRRIGATION

By Wayne Griffin

If you've seen a news bulletin in recent weeks you'll know that water, or rather lack of it, is one of the biggest challenges facing the Australian agriculture sector at the moment. Even where water is available through irrigation schemes, it can be a double-edged sword. Crops may flourish, but growers are seeing their profits eaten up by ever increasing electricity prices.

That's why some growers, like CANEGROWERS Tableland Director Doug Rankine, have invested heavily in water and energy saving technologies, such as low pressure irrigation, variable frequency drives and even solar power in an effort to keep costs down.

A heavy equipment fitter by trade, Doug is a relative newcomer to the industry - in cane growing terms, anyway.

He planted his first cane crop in 1995, almost 30 years after his family acquired

a 1200 hectare Tableland property, 15 minutes south of Mareeba.

Today he grows around 320 ha of cane, averaging about 130 tonnes per ha and even boasts an 11th ratoon block that cut out at 109 t/ha in 2017.

"My family was originally in the timber business," Doug said when *Australian Canegrower* visited his farm recently.

"We had the biggest saw milling operation in north Queensland in the



early-1980s, employing over 450 people, but when World Heritage listing came in for Queensland's rainforests in 1986 it took away our resources and the sawmill business disappeared pretty quickly."

After clearing the land at Mareeba, Doug's family dry-land farmed peanuts, maize, sorghum and lablab, and also ran cattle. But in 1994, Doug decided it was time for a change and convinced his father and uncles to install eight centre pivot irrigators and make the move into the cane-growing business.

"Right from the very beginning we looked at the energy we were burning and how much water we were using and did whatever we could to try to keep those inefficiencies to a minimum," Doug said.

As well as investing in water and power-saving low pressure pivots, Doug also installed a variable frequency drive on the main irrigation pump, raising a few eyebrows in the process.

"When we installed the VF drive in '95 our irrigation people at the time told us we were mad and that we were wasting





our money. It was \$15,000 for the drive, which was a lot of money back then, but it ended up paying for itself in two years.

"I've only replaced it once in nearly 25 years. The first one did 53,000 hours."

More recently Doug has invested in solar as a way to keep his sky-rocketing power bills under control.

"Even with the low pressure pivots and the VF drive, we were still facing electricity bills of over \$60,000 a year," he said.

"When the interim tariff that I'm on at the minute is scrapped in a couple of years, I'm going to end up on a high tariff, like a mining-type tariff, so that's why I decided to put the solar in.

"I've got two 5kw systems that feed power into the grid when I'm not using that power. I've also got a 25kw system which doesn't feed back into the grid, it just subsidises my power.

"It wasn't a cheap exercise, but we're only looking at a four to five year payoff period."

It's not just in the areas of water and power saving technologies that Doug has been an early adopter. He has also embraced many of the practices encouraged by the industry's best management practices program, Smartcane BMP.

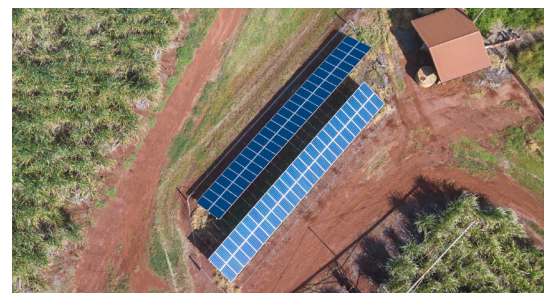
"We moved to a 1.8m row system about 10 years ago, maybe more, and we've been fully GPS controlled traffic for even longer, maybe about 15 years," Doug said.

Doug is also a strict adherent to the industry's SIX EASY STEPS nutrient management system, although he says it's the water that is the single most important ingredient in his impressive tonnage.

"I put up to about 7.5 M/L of water on some of those paddocks every year. It adds up to 11-12 M/L with the rainfall.

"That's a fair amount of water, but that's why we're averaging 130 t/ha.

"Water is the single most important thing in growing cane," Doug said.



Pictured: Tableland grower Doug Rankine is using a combination of low pressure overhead irrigation, variable frequency pump drives and solar power to keep his power bills manageable without sacrificing his above average tonnage.

Continues on page 16 ►

"But we don't just pour it on, we use EnviroSCAN probes to monitor the moisture levels in the paddock to ensure we're not under or over watering and we also work closely with our local extension officer to schedule irrigation events to maximise the benefit to the crop.

"I don't use any more nitrogen over what SIX EASY STEPS allows me although some of it we put on through the irrigators in fertigation," he said.

Doug dissolves urea or ammonium sulphate in tanks and uses a small dosing pump to pump it in with the irrigation water.

"I also put a lot of trace elements on during the year through the irrigator," he said. "I put zinc and magnesium on. I just chuck a few bags into the dissolver and pump it on."

Unsurprisingly, water and solar play a big part in Doug's future plans, especially as he contemplates retirement.

In 1995 the family doubled their allocation from Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation scheme, at a time when water was cheap. Today, it's a valuable commodity and is likely to become even more valuable as the years pass.

Doug is also in negotiations to lease out part of his property to a solar farm enterprise.

"I have an agreement with a solar farm developer to develop 162 ha of non-arable land into a solar farm project that will generate 60 megawatts when it's fully operational," Doug said, "They've chosen here is because there is an existing power line running through that they can hook up to, so the infrastructure to feed into the grid is there.

"I'm just leasing the land to them. It's all part of the retirement plan."




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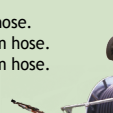
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T200-2	up to 300m run, 63 - 76mm hose.
T250-2	up to 400m run, 63 - 76mm hose.
T300-2	up to 400m run, 76 - 89mm hose.
T300 TURBO	up to 400m run, 76 - 89mm hose.
T400	up to 400m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
T400-2	up to 600m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
T450-2	up to 600m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
T400 TURBO	up to 600m run, 89 - 114mm hose.
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Survey work guides projects

Soil and topographic work is underway at sites for bioreactors and constructed wetlands on cane and banana farms in the Cassowary Coast region.

Contractors are undertaking surveys and soil samples at first stage sites in the Johnstone and Tully catchments to help guide the design and construction stages of systems repair technologies.

The Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP) initiatives aim to reduce nutrient and sediment loads entering the Great Barrier Reef, and serve as a pilot program for other catchment areas.

MIP Catchment Repair Officer **Suzette Argent** said 40 on-farm sites have been assessed over the past three months and detailed investigations were now happening on 'first-stage' sites.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to work with banana and cane farmers to trial these technologies," Ms Argent said.



Members of the industry-based MIP project panel recently visited catchment repair sites. Sam Pagano (Johnstone River Catchment Management Association), Cr Jeff Baines, Wayne Thomas (CANELOWERS Innisfail), with Rae Schlecht (Office of the Great Barrier Reef).

"There has been a lot of work to get to this point, and it's valuable for stakeholders and panel members to see sites in the flesh, and hear more about the challenges (and successes!) of getting ideas off the table and on the ground."

James Cook University's Dr Alex Cheesman said soil samples had been sent off for laboratory analysis.

"The topographic surveys identify key landform heights, and help determine how the water moves in the landscape," he said.

"With them we can ensure whatever is designed doesn't impact drainage and does a good job at treating water."

"We also take core soil samples to learn about the underlying soil."

"The designs for the catchment repair technologies need to work with the underlying soil materials – understanding what we've got helps manage earth movement and on-ground works appropriately." ■

Main Engineering 4945 3300

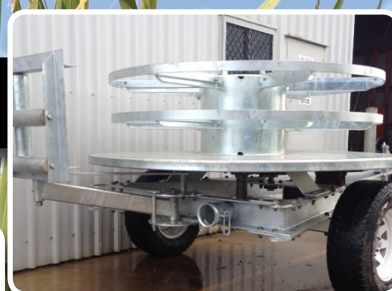
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AMITRON

NEW HERBICIDE RELEASED IN SUGARCANE

Supplied by Arysta LifeScience Australia

AmiTron® (700g amicarbazone) is a new broad-spectrum herbicide registered for use in sugarcane.

With both pre- and post-emergent activity against grasses, broadleaf weeds (particularly vines) and some sedges, AmiTron is a versatile herbicide set to become a staple in the fight against weeds.

Whilst a newly registered active in Australia, amicarbazone has proven to be an effective weed control tool in major sugarcane growing countries such as Brazil for the past decade.

Arysta LifeScience, a top ten global agrochemical company, announced the new registration in July.

"Trials have shown AmiTron to be particularly effective on vines. In several scientific trials from Childers to Gordonvale undertaken for the product registration process, AmiTron provided an average of 94.6% control of vines six to eight weeks after pre-emergent application."



"AmiTron is a good fit for Australia," said Michael Caldwell, Arysta Australia Country Head. "It's UV stable and has excellent ability to pass through trash, providing a good fit for some application timings not available to many herbicides in cane."

Minimal rainfall is required for activation of AmiTron – as little as 2-5mm – and short or long-term residual efficacy can be achieved depending on the rate applied. Extended residual control is possible on applications to soil.

Early application soon after harvest in ratoon, and also in plant cane, allows for pre-emergent weed control in the cane row. AmiTron can also serve as a later high clearance application to control vines after canopy closure.

"Our initial research in Australia identified 60% of cane growers viewing vines and climbing vines as the most important broadleaf weeds to control," Mr Caldwell said. "Vines were also identified by growers as the hardest broadleaf weed to control."

Trials have shown AmiTron to be particularly effective on vines. In several scientific trials from Childers to Gordonvale undertaken for the product registration process, AmiTron provided an average of 94.6% control of vines



six to eight weeks after pre-emergent application.

Whilst AmiTron fills the need for a UV stable broadleaf herbicide in cane, it's effectiveness on grasses will see it well positioned for use against problematic grasses such as guinea grass.

"We found very good grass weed control up to four weeks was possible with AmiTron if applied at the right time," Mr Caldwell said. "But mixing AmiTron with other UV stable grass herbicides extended grass weed control, giving excellent results over a longer period of time."

Pat English from freelance consultancy Gaje Agriculture conducted independent trials with AmiTron on behalf of Arysta in 2017. ►

He believes tank-mixing herbicide products with similar UV stability and with complementary activity spectra to AmiTron provides a UV stable mix that can be applied without the worry about following rain or irrigation to incorporate the product.

"We've had UV stable grass specialist products for a while with isoxaflutole and imazapic. Now a UV product with really strong broadleaf and vine weed performance is also available, and ideal for tank mixes," Mr English said.

"The particular strengths in grass weed control of UV stable tank mix partners such as isoxaflutole and imazapic complement the excellent dicot spectrum of AmiTron."

"AmiTron has been shown to be up to ten fold less of a risk to seagrasses and corals than other PSII herbicides such as diuron."

A wider weed spectrum, longer periods of efficacy and reduced risk of crop effects can all be achieved with smart tank mix choices for AmiTron.

With tougher restrictions on herbicide use and applications in the Great Barrier Reef catchment area, new herbicides need to comply with strict environmental standards.

Recent studies by the Australian Institute of Marine Science show AmiTron has a low relative toxicity to important marine species compared to herbicides such as diuron.

"AmiTron has been shown to be up to ten fold less of a risk to seagrasses and corals than other PSII herbicides such as diuron," Mr Caldwell said. "But as a soluble product, sensible practices need to be followed regarding application timing and use to reduce risk of any contamination off-target."

AmiTron will be available in August from select rural retail distributors.

For more information on using AmiTron, including environmental guidelines, suggested use and best practice, visit amitron.com.au ■

Suggested use patterns for AmiTron

- Broadcast or banded sprays in early plant cane (to 5 leaf)
- Broadcast or banded sprays in ratoons post-harvest
- Banded sprays (row mound) in furrow irrigated cane
- Directed sprays in plant cane (up to canopy closure)
- Directed sprays in ratoon cane (up to canopy closure)
- Late sprays for vines in advanced cane (after canopy closure)

Pictured: Untreated versus AmiTron @ 1 kg/ha, 57 days after broadcast pre-emergent application over trash soon after harvest. Innisfail, 2018.

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"The Sibelco Aglime seemed to work well. It was available for the next crop as well giving us a double benefit."

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Jack Russo, Farnsfield, QLD.

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REMEDIES FOR OVERCHARGING FOR REPAIRS

Part 2

By Chris Cooper
CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor



In the previous issue of *Australian Canegrower* I outlined some of the non-legal options available to growers who believe they've been overcharged for mechanical repairs. Unfortunately not all disputes can be resolved through non-legal avenues and consumers are entitled to take their dispute to final determination through legal action in the relevant court or tribunal. Outlined below are some of the legal rights that a grower might seek to have enforced in cases of overcharging.

Legal Options

CONTRACT

The engagement of a repairer to carry out mechanical repairs is really a contract for services between the customer and the repairer.

Normal rules around contracts and contract law will apply and the terms and conditions of the contract are really what is agreed between the customer and the repairer.

QUOTE OR ESTIMATE

Whilst in some cases there may be no written contract, in many cases an estimate or quote will be given.

It is very important to understand the difference between these two terms.

A quote generally is fixed and binding. If a quote is accepted then the repairer is bound to carry out the repairs for the quoted price and the customer is required to pay the quoted price.

If only an estimate is provided then usually the repairer is not bound by the estimate and may change the price depending on the terms of the estimate.

QUANTUM MERUIT

Even if there is no formal or written contract, or additional work is done outside the contract or the contract itself is not valid for some reason, in many situations a repairer will be able to make a claim for cost of repairs based on a quantum meruit claim.

This is a latin term which essentially means 'the amount he deserves' or 'what the job is worth'.

A quantum meruit claim is based on what is a reasonable charge. What is reasonable will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.

MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE CONDUCT

In some cases a dissatisfied customer can object to the charges claimed by the repairer on the basis of misleading and deceptive conduct.

If the repairer made certain representations, such as the likely cost of the repairs, or the time to do the job, or the repairer's ability to do the job properly, and these turn out to be grossly

incorrect, then it may be that the charges can be challenged because of this misleading and deceptive statement or conduct on the part of the repairer.

NEGLIGENCE

In some cases, if an estimate is given but the final charges are substantially in excess of the estimate, then it might be argued that the initial estimate was given negligently and the customer might be able to challenge the charge.

It might be arguable that the repairer failed in the repairer's duty to give a reasonable estimate and/or failed to discuss the options when it became apparent that the estimate was wrong.

Consumer Guarantees and Consumer Rights

Under the Australian Consumer Law, where a customer buys certain services, such as mechanical repair services, those services are often required to be supported by consumer guarantees. ►

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Next deadline is **20 August 2018**.

All businesses must guarantee their services, including repair services that are:

- under \$40,000 in value; or
- over \$40,000 that are usually bought for personal or household use.

These guarantees are automatic and apply regardless of any other warranties or contract terms the repairer might offer.

If these consumer guarantees are not met, the consumer has in most cases the right to:

- a refund, repair or replacement;
- cancelling a service;
- compensation for loss or damage.

THE THREE CONSUMER GUARANTEES FOR SERVICES ARE:

1. The business must provide the service with care and skill. The business must take care to avoid loss and damage and meet a reasonable level of skill or knowledge.
2. The business must provide the service that is fit for purpose. That is, the service must achieve the results you want and request.
3. The business must provide the service within a reasonable time.

If consumer guarantees apply then a consumer can enforce them by legal action.

Often a better approach though in these circumstances, before embarking on legal proceedings, will be to complain to the Office of Fair Trading which can investigate consumer complaints and assist in resolving them.

As can be seen there are a wide variety of options available for resolving disputes about repair costs. However, growers should first try to resolve the issue directly with the repairer.

If unsuccessful, consider the non-legal options before embarking on the legal options which can be stressful, expensive and uncertain in outcome. ■

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Whole Toppers 2 x CASE
as new one is complete.

OMNITRAC Full Track walking gear
complete with 24" rubber belts.

Hi-Track drive
5 roller suit Case or JD.

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

IN STOCK NOW — 12, 10, 8 & 6 blade
DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS
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Tungsten hard faced on wear areas.
New seal plates, clamping bars &
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JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All bath bearings
\$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other
size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m,
3m & 3.4metres.
3 point linkage offsets available also



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

Johnny Farming Company

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



Conversion Track System
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- Increase field access
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Contact > Marney Strachan
0408-162-085



www.neils.com.au

Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

Wanted to buy: Tractors and all types farm and earthmoving equipment. Any condition. Ph: 32015099

John Deere 6630, 3,720hrs, 18.4.38 Rears, Quick hitch & Hyd. Third arm - \$79k. 10 x 25mm Spring Coil Tyne Tool Bar - \$400. 10 x 25mm Spring Tyne Toolbar - \$400. ALL O.N.O Plus GST. Ph. 0419 988 158

7 TYNE RIPPER with hard faced legs and hydraulic crumble roller. Good condition. \$8,500 + GST. Ph: 0408 728 072 (Tully)

Herbert River-Burdekin

International 786 100HP 3468 hrs gc \$6,600 inc gst; 5-leg ripper with crumble roller \$2,800; L&R crop divider saws, including motors \$600; Hodge 5-furrow reversible plough \$2000. Ph. 0447 183 182

1 x Hydraulic HBM Wholestalk Plant Cutter (Options: Fitted with hydraulic butt roller, hydraulic delivery tray & hydraulic adjustable top) \$6,000 + GST and 1x Twin Fan Trash Extractor \$2,000 + GST Ph: 040877959

Mackay-Proserpine

Whole stick planter for sale \$1,000 in good working condition. Ph: 0409644896

FOR LEASE: 228 ML Kinchant Dam water at cost PH: 0418 882 342



TAPER SPLINE LOCK

This is a patented device for eliminating free play in a splined cauliflower of a harvester chopper box.

The lock consists of a cauliflower hub with a large, tapered internal spline. Three splined segments lock into the tapered internal spline and also lock onto the splined, chopper shaft.

- ✓ Locks the spline, simulating an interference press fit.
- ✓ No waiting time is needed before use - tighten the lock and GO!
- ✓ Detailed fitting instructions provided.
- ✓ 13th year of proven service in the field.

*For further information contact the manufacturer

Glenella Engineering

16 Blue Gum Drive, MACKAY, QLD 4740
07 4942 4081 || admin@gleneng.com.au
www.gleneng.com.au

Monsoon hard hose irrigator 5" x 350m \$30,000 inc GST. Will trade soft hose outfit or 8 or 12t bogie trailers. Ph: 4950 2166 A/H Fiat 411R H/C tractor on 42" tyres, Bonnell planter, 3-row stool splitter. Make an offer. Ph: 0428 180 492

Side dress fertilizer box only. Off Hodge 2 ton drag box. Stainless steel worm and tube. Rest of box powder coated. V.G.C. \$1300.00 ono. Phone 0428768533

Howard Crumble Roller, 4m long (bolts together at centre), brand new still in crate, fits rear tool bar of Howard CH2365DT Rotaryhoe, \$4,422 GST inc. Ph. 0428236165 Holland AER-WAY to suit 1.6m centres. GC. \$2,500 inc GST. Ph: 0427 164 901

Hodge 1.5 tonne stool splitter fertilizer applicator. Double disc openers, galvanised

fertilizer box and confidor applicator. Phone 0435550737 or 0427597356.

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. Howard rotary hoe HR40, 255cm wide - GC. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay) Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph 49595883 or 0407643441

AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6600.00. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph 49595883 or 0407643441

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm) January–August
	7 days to 9am 30.07.18	Year to date 06.08.18	
Mossman	0	0	1795
Mareeba AP	0.2	0	731
Cairns	0	0	1655
Mt Sophia	0	0	2725
Babinda	0	0	3517
Innisfail	5	0.2	2967
Tully	5	0	3433
Cardwell	12	0	1716
Lucinda	0	0	1753
Ingham	4	0	1631
Abergowrie	3	0	1488
Townsville	0.2	0	898
Ayr DPI	0.2	0	743
Proserpine	0	0	1077
Mirani	0	0.2	1183
Mackay	0.8	0.4	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	1344
Bundaberg	0.6	0.2	686
Childers South	0.2	0.6	585
Maryborough	0.2	0.4	822
Tewantin	0.4	0	1270
Eumundi	0	0	1231
Nambour	0.6	0.2	1222
Woongoolba	5	0.2	960
Murwillumbah	3	0	1154
Ballina	0.4	0	1350
Woodburn	0	0	1035



**AustSafe
Super**



The industry super
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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.

Monsoon Low Pressure Fan Spray Boom to fit hard hose irrigator. 56m wide. \$4,950 inc GST. Ph 0423 388 572

Bonell plant cutter in good working condition. \$900 + GST. Ph: 0428 566 280

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

David Brown 990 with loader \$7,700. International Tractor 766 with 2 Planter Bins (complete unit) \$14,300 (all GST inclusive) Phone 0419 577 110

4-tonne tipper Newton Goose neck powered by 3380 Chamberlain, 90HP. \$8,000. Contact Ron around 12pm 5448 5632

John Deere 6430 Premium FWD Cab Suspension 1138 hours; Lely Tulip Multi Disc 3m as new; Howard 3 furrow square plow; Silvan 800l firefighting unit, 5hp Honda motor, 30m of 1" hose on reel, all on Galv. sled frame. POA. Ph. 0427 155 364

Hydraulic 3-point linkage wire rope winder. Excellent for disposing of old irrigation ropes; Hodge stand up whole stalk cane planter with Suscon box; Oxy Acetylene kit, new hoses, bottle trolley, suit class G bottles; Toft loader on 4DM Nuffield Tractor, complete, great project, AIWI. POA. Ph. 0427 155 364

Millar Nitro 5240 SP spray unit elevated purchased 2016 to spray wattle used 77 hours (sold property now) 24m boom, 3 nozzles, auto grease, quick release, air blowout boom, garaged in shed \$360,000 + GST Ph. Robin 0407 155 524 or Marian 0428 155 524

1994 Bonell - Pupulin Style Billet Planter \$4,000 + GST Ph: 0432635857

Clearing Sale: All used but working. 7 and 5 tonne Tippers and full track TOFT 6000 with 7000 roller train and 6 blade rotary chop. Trailed 1200 liter 12 mete boom spray. Napier Ripper, min till fert spreader frame with bag crane, etc all smaller implements. Ph or text 0403012501 ask for Tiny or email randumdudesfarming@hotmail.com

New Holland 317 baler, in working order \$5,000 + GST. NH bale loader (attaches to a truck) for small square bales. \$700 + GST Phone Ron 0428 788 131

Single row Bonell Billet Planter. \$15,500 incl. GST; 8m hooded sprayer boom (not complete unit) \$1,500 incl. GST; Weed rake/bed renovator \$1,100 incl. GST Ph: 0407767535.

Wanted

Wanted STL Shares. Ph. 0419 717 006

Tractors and all types farm and earthmoving equipment. Any condition. Ph: 3201 5099

Wanted: 125/400 or 140/400 or bigger hard hose. Ph: 0419 771 504 (Mackay-Proserpine)

Wanted: International 1066 trike row crop tractor or similar. Ph 0428283454

3 Row Stool splitter in good condition. Ph: 0419 641 518

Work Wanted

Harvesting contractor wanted to cut 4800 tonnes of cane in the Farleigh Mill area. Siding

suitable for elevator, tipper bin or roll-on / roll-off haulout. Ph: 0417 612 883

Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx 334.82 acres in 8 titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Queenslander style home. Motivated vendors looking to retire. Please ph. Gary Johns 0427 241 250

HOME BUSH/OAKENDEN 57 ha Cane Farm for sale 100t/ha 5 year average. Fully laser levelled with large bore & underground water mains. 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre can be sold separately. 2018 crop, Machinery shed 3 phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump all included. Siding on boundary, great soil and no rocks. Ph. Andrew 0428597324

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses main house is fully aircon & pool. 0400794857

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls phone 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy to maintain. Call 0408 880 724 - Mandy

Nominate a cane grower!

The outstanding achievements of farmers, extension officers and community members working to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef will be recognised in the 2018 Reef Champion Awards.

Run by the Reef Alliance with support from the Australian and Queensland governments, the awards will accept nominations until Friday 14 September.

"Farmers continue to improve farming and environmental management practices and upgrade on-farm infrastructure, often supported by their communities and extension officers, to reduce run-off," QFF CEO Travis Tobin said.

"These important actions are making huge improvements to the quality of the water leaving the farm and significantly contributing to the health of the Reef."

The Award categories include:

- Reef Nutrient Champion
- Reef Sediment Champion
- Reef Pesticide Champion
- Reef Conservation Champion
- Reef Extension Officer Champion
- Reef Community Champion
- Reef Youth Champion

Mr Tobin said the Reef Alliance of agricultural and natural resource management groups had again partnered with The Prince's Trust Australia to offer the coveted Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award.

"This recognises the exemplary efforts of an individual farmer or group of farmers, to raise awareness, foster knowledge-

sharing and engage local communities in sustainable natural resource management, particularly efforts to reduce water pollution, to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

In 2017, the sugarcane industry and CANEGROWERS members were well represented among the winners, with Isis grower Chris Russo, Burdekin growers Gary and Angela Spotswood and Innisfail Smartcane BMP facilitator Deb Telford all picking up awards.

To nominate a grower or another person for a 2018 Reef Champion Award, visit www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/awards



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