

Regional round-up: Finish line in sight for 2018 harvest as crushing ends in Proserpine

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**Mackay Sugar:**  
Proposed investment gives hope to growers



**Fears new levy**  
could lead to increase in illegal dumping



**Cane growers**  
amongst finalists for 2018 Reef Awards

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY



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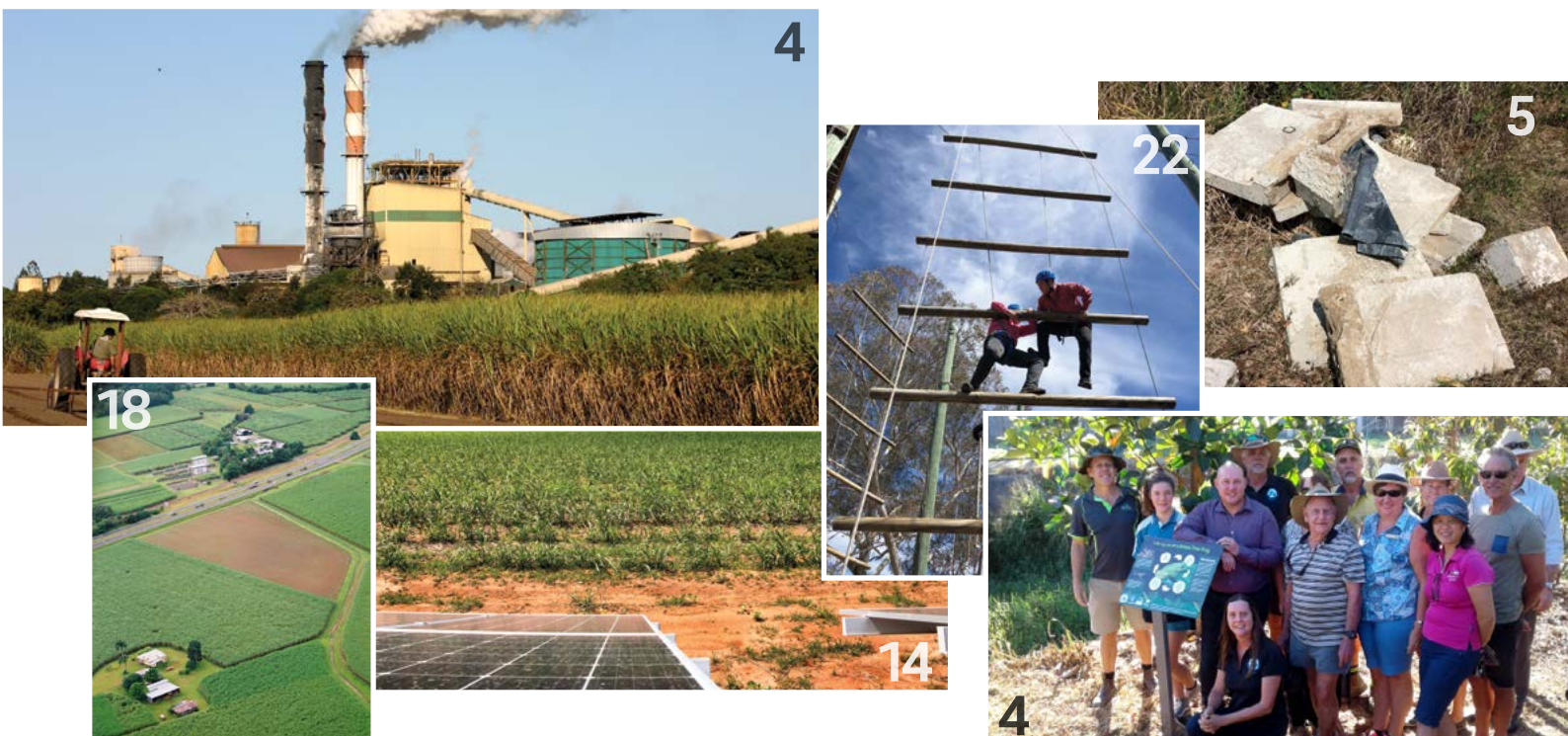
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COVER IMAGE: Bundaberg Sugar Services' Maurie Haines is managing a mixed grid-solar power irrigation trial at Josh Killer's cane farm.

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# Sugar price reloads - but WTO action still required!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

*"On the back of this news, it might be expected that our outrage over Indian export subsidies might be lessening – far from it. The need to activate a WTO application against India has not changed – it needs to be lodged immediately."*

If I have learnt one thing in my 35 years of representing cane growers, it's that the world sugar price can be as unpredictable as the weather.

Just when it looked like prices were set to remain at basement-low levels for the next two years, we've seen a sudden and unexpected rally on the global market.

Regardless of whether this price 'recovery' is a result of speculative activity rather than a shift in the production and consumption balance, the reality is that the price is improving.

In fact, market commentators are now pointing to a potential global deficit in the production to consumption ratio for 2019-2020. Six months ago, that seemed not just improbable, but almost unthinkable.

A combination of factors, particularly weather, has seen a downgrade of production levels in Europe, India, Brazil and Thailand.

Coupled with an Australia/US exchange rate of around 70c, the price recovery has pushed Australian dollar returns to around \$450 a tonne.

By no stretch of the imagination are these current prices likely to translate into a profitable sugar industry – but they are certainly an improvement.

On the back of this news, it might be expected that our outrage over Indian export subsidies might be lessening. Far from it.

The recent rally in sugar prices is attributable to a unique set of circumstances. It does not represent a structural or enduring change in the global market.

The reality is that Indian export subsidies are set to pump up to an extra five million tonnes of sugar into the international market, sugar that may not have been produced without the subsidy in place.

The need to activate a WTO application against India has not changed – it needs to be lodged immediately.

On that front, CANEGROWERS is heartened by the stand taken by regional MPs and parliamentary leaders urging the Federal Minister for Trade, **Simon Birmingham**, to initiate the WTO action as soon as possible.

The chorus of condemnation against Indian export subsidies has been prominent, particularly from the LNP, the Katter Party and One Nation Party.

The State Government has also come out in support of Australia's cane growers in recent weeks, with Premier **Annastacia Palaszczuk** making representations about the issue to the Australian High Commissioner to India, **Harinder Sidhu**, during her visit to Brisbane in September.

While it is important to marshal international support, Australia is the key to the success of this WTO action.

Australia, over many decades, has had a credible history of driving for international trade reform and the need for international trade rules.

Australia played a leading role in the WTO outlawing export subsidies as recently as 2015. Clearly if Australia steps forward then other countries will follow. ■





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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Mackay growers see opportunity for a secure future

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** says the news that an investor is looking to secure the future of Mackay Sugar is encouraging to the company's 800 sugarcane growing suppliers.

Mackay Sugar has announced that it has received a non-binding indicative proposal from German company Nordzucker AG to subscribe for up to 70% of the share capital of the company.

"This investment proposal presents an opportunity for Mackay Sugar to stabilise its business and ensure a financially sustainable and secure future for the region," Mr Schembri said.

Nordzucker AG is one of Europe's largest sugar businesses producing 2.7 million tonnes of sugar each year.

"We welcome the interest of such a highly reputable and world class company in our industry and our region," Mr Schembri said.

"Growers have been to hell and back in the past few years, worried about the future of the company because without a viable mill there can be no Mackay sugar farming community.

"Morale has been low as we've battled problems with milling performance

and storm clouds over the company's viability.

"There is now light at the end of the tunnel, reminding us that we are an industry worth investing in and building."

CANEGROWERS welcomes the commitment from Mackay Sugar that it will be conducting grower information sessions over the coming months ahead of a final proposal being put to grower shareholders. Mackay Sugar says Mossman mill would not form part of the transaction.

Any deal would require Nordzucker supervisory board approval and the approval of 75% of Mackay Sugar grower and investment shareholders.

"The ball will soon be in our court as we, as growers, are asked to vote," Mr Schembri said.

"I urge everyone to consider the proposal carefully and vote when called upon. We have a unique opportunity to determine our own destiny and secure our future." ■

## GROWERS RECOGNISED FOR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

CANEGROWERS members have been named amongst the finalists for this year's Reef Alliance - Reef Champion Awards.

Mackay growers Gerrard Deguara and Philip Deguara and Tully's Ray Zamora (pictured below) have been recognised for their ongoing efforts in the areas of innovation and sustainability.

Gerrard is one of three finalists for the headline Price of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award, while Ray is one of two finalists vying for the Reef Nutrient Champion Award. Philip is up for the Reef Pesticides Champion Award.

Mulgrave's Rossi brothers are also up for an award as part of the Mulgrave Landcare Cathment Group, which is in the running for the Reef Community Champion gong.

Among other industry finalists are Burdekin grower Frank Mugica in the Reef Conservation category, while Sugar Research Australia's Gavin Rodman is in the Reef Youth Champion category.

The 2018 Reef Champion Award winners will be announced at a dinner in Yeppoon on National Agriculture Day, Wednesday 21 November 2018.

To learn more about the finalists and read their stories, visit: [www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2018-reef-champion-awards/](http://www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2018-reef-champion-awards/) ■





# Fears new levy could drive up illegal dumping

CANEGROWERS has joined Queensland Farmers' Federation in calling on the State Government to introduce tougher penalties and increase prosecutions for the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Proposed amendments to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act* are currently before parliament and, if passed, could see the introduction of a new levy for waste sent to landfill.

The levy of between \$70 and \$150 per tonne will apply to 38 local government areas covering Queensland's entire cane-growing industry.

"Illegal dumping is a huge problem for farmers right across the state, but especially those in close proximity to urban areas," CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"Our concern is that without increased policing and prosecution of illegal dumping activities, the introduction of any new levy on waste disposal will only serve to increase the incidences of this activity.

"While we acknowledge that the Bill seeks to exempt illegally dumped waste from the levy, this only applies when this waste is collected by the council. Unfortunately, as any farmer who has experience with issue will tell you, the great majority of the time it is left to farmers themselves to clean up and dispose of illegally dumped waste.

"So not only could this levy drive up illegal dumping, it could also leave farmers, who are the victim of this crime, significantly out of pocket. That is something the government needs to be cognisant of when considering this Bill."

Mackay grower Darrill McLennan is one of the thousands of farmers across Queensland regularly impacted by illegal dumping.

"We've had everything from green waste and regular household waste to bricks, concrete, tyres and cars. We've even had dead animals, cow offal, fish heads – you name it, we've had it dumped here," Mr McLennan said.

"It started the day that Mackay Regional Council started charging people to go to the dump and it hasn't stopped since. The grubs just drive up and dump it on the headlands and then we have to shift it.

"We've gone to the council countless times, but they've taken the attitude that it's on our land so it's our responsibility, so we're left cleaning it up."

QFF President Stuart Armitage said the new tax would make waste disposal more expensive for all businesses including Queensland's agricultural sector.

"There is a lack of awareness of the impacts this new tax will have on waste generators and businesses, particularly farmers who are unable to pass on the increased operating costs," Mr Armitage said.

"These impacts need to be properly costed and addressed by decision-makers, and the gaps in the proposed regulation of illegally dumped waste closed."

In a statement, the Queensland Government said it takes illegally dumped waste very seriously.

"The proposed levy legislation currently before Queensland Parliament will increase the penalties for illegal dumping to ensure there is a deterrent to dumping to evade the waste levy.

"The department has dedicated teams that work closely with local governments and the community to deliver programs to address illegal dumping issues across the state. The department will be on alert for any increase in these activities when the levy commences.

"Additionally, litter and illegally dumped waste collected by government and councils will be exempt from the levy." ■



*Pictured: Just some of the waste dumped on Darrill McLennan's Walkerston farm during the month of October*

# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## Mossman

During Week 21 (ending 27/10) Mossman Mill crushed 36,294 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 14.56 CCS. Coastal growers supplied 22,789 tonnes for a mill average of 14.78 CCS, while Mareeba growers supplied 13,505 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 15.39 CCS.

To-date the Mill has crushed a total of 782,279 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 13.75 CCS. Mossman crush is quickly drawing to a close with the expected finish date being 5-6 November. CANEGROWERS Mossman will hold its AGM at 1pm on 28/11 at Mossman Bowls Club.

## Tableland

Tableland CANEGROWERS' AGM will be held on Wednesday 28 November from 6.30pm at the Mareeba Soccer Club. Please RSVP to Bronny on 4092 6065 by Friday 23 November

The State Government has announced that the Queensland Competition Authority will review the Irrigation Price Path in order to set prices for 2020 – 2024. Tableland CANEGROWERS, through the MDIA Council, will be involved in the review consultation process.

## Cairns Region

Weather remains fine with no rain experienced in the last few weeks. CCS trends are holding with some extremely high CCS in certain pockets. Unfortunately, mill stoppages are still being experienced. The estimated finish date, pending weather, is 20 November. CANEGROWERS Cairns Region's AGM is set for 28 November with some interesting guest speakers organised.

## Innisfail

Dry weather has allowed harvesting operations to continue smoothly in recent weeks. CCS remains high, with MSF Sugar advising that the continuing CCS levels (around 15 units) are the most significant experienced in the past 30 years.

The high sugar content has resulted in a slowing down of crushing operations as the 'back-end' of the mill at South Johnstone hasn't been able to process the high levels quickly enough.

The South Johnstone Mill Supply estimate has fallen slightly to 94.5% of pre-season estimate, much less than had been previously forecast. However, late cuts in 2017 coupled with the continuing dry weather may result

in a fall to the pre-season estimates. The current finish date for crushing is 20 November, which includes three days allocated for lost time due to wet weather, which may not eventuate, so crushing could be finished by 17 November.

Two local trials have been established to compare use of an inter-row tiller implement and other conventional inter-row tillage methods. Trials will also be conducted in other districts in the Wet Tropics region. The new implement has been funded through Wet Tropic Sugar Industry Partnership – Reef Trust Phase III Innovation Grant and will be administered by CANEGROWERS Innisfail.



## Tully

As we work towards the end of the 2018 harvest, rainfall for July-October is the lowest since 1946 at 72 mm. While the lack of rain is impacting next year's crop, it is a positive for sugar content with a mill average CCS above 16 recorded for the first time. The year-to-date average is 14.3 with 25% of the crop to be cut.

The season will still deliver result of 2.6 million tonnes. The sugar content is challenging the back end of the mill and

record daily sugar makes are happening. This has resulted in a reduction in crushing capacity and harvesters are having an easy time filling reduced quotas. Bin weights are surprisingly high. The end on the season should be in the second week of December. Members attending the CANEGROWERS Tully AGM heard a focused presentation from CEO Dan Galligan on the challenges facing the industry and the role of

the state and local organisations. Dan reminded the meeting that elections will be early next year and explained the role of the Policy Council and boards. SRA, QSL and STL have also held AGMs. One thing that came to light was that there were fewer than 50 grower members of SRA in Tully, and less than 200 across the state voted. All growers pay levies to SRA, but membership is needed to be eligible to have a say.



## Herbert River

Harvest and crushing is approaching 80% of the Herbert's current crop estimate, which has been officially downgraded to the original estimate of 4.77 million tonnes.

Harvesting has had a very disappointing slowdown during the peak CCS period owing to milling issues at both Victoria and Macknade mills over the past fortnight. This unfortunately adds more days to the harvest and crushing season, taking it to the end of November or early December depending on how everything performs and of course the weather.

The generally dry conditions have been ideal for harvesting and CCS, which is tracking well above the five-yearly average.

A further increase in the estimated pool averages for the season is set to be implemented in early November.

Fires have occurred in various parts of the district, some of which have resulted in claims being notified under the Crop Insurance Scheme which provides a valuable indemnity for members within the membership levy.

Nevertheless, these incidences of fire remind us of the strict liability attaching to any fire that escapes and causes damage. This, in turn, drives the culture of vigilance around the trash blanketing regime that has been the Herbert's trademark for many decades. But for the tremendous response by our local bush firefighting teams supported by growers, the damage could well have been catastrophic for some neighbours.

### Pilot Marketing Information and Education Workshop

A small group of growers marketing group reps, and professional accountants gave favourable feedback for a pilot workshop on 29 October. Facilitated by Dougall Lodge, on behalf of CANEGROWERS, the initiative seeks to develop an information and education service for members. Based on the feedback from the Herbert's first Pilot there are likely to be more small group workshops in the future with content appropriate to developing needs as well as occasional 'masterclasses'.

## Burdekin

The Burdekin copped a storm event that came through parts of the Inkerman, Kalamia and Millaroo areas on the evening of Wednesday 17 October, registering falls of up to 70mm in some parts.

The wet field conditions that followed provided challenges for several harvesting groups, however, the co-operative effort of all involved saw the majority of the burnt cane harvested by the allotted time.

The Burdekin cane crush passed the seven million tonne mark during Week 20 (w/e 27 October) and is up to almost 92% of the revised estimate, which appears to be holding up around the eight million tonnes.

Wilmar has revised the season finish dates due to the weather event and some lengthy mill stops and, as at 29 October, is forecasting a 7 November finish for Kalamia with Invicta following on 10 November, then Pioneer a day later and

Inkerman on 14 November. There may be a day either side of the indicative forecast and the usual caveats of weather, mill performance and crop estimate apply.

Season-to-date throughput for the Burdekin mills is ahead of forecast and CCS continues to trend above budget. Invicta Mill had the highest weekly CCS of all the Burdekin Mills in Week 20 with 15.91. The Burdekin season to date average is now sitting at 14.96. Just over 365,000 tonnes of cane were crushed across the Burdekin's four mills in Week 20, which takes the total crushed to 7,315,277 tonnes.

The highest CCS samples were 18.65 for a rake of Q183 third ratoon cane recorded at Invicta Mill.

The best performing varieties on a regional basis were Q183 at 15.94 with 37% of supply and Q208 at 23% of supply and 15.85 CCS. KQ228 and Q240 have dropped down to 15% and 13% of supply respectively.

## Proserpine

Proserpine's 2018 harvest was completed on the evening of Saturday 20 October with the last bin tipped just after 3:20am the following morning.

This has been the district's shortest crushing season since 2007 and while the mill deserves credit for its performance, the crop fell well short of initial expectations. The final total of 1,560,820 tonnes was slightly up on the previous year's cyclone-affected crop but the sustained dry conditions limited any potential growth during Autumn and Winter.

On the bright side, CCS improved on the previous year – the season average CCS of 14.95 helped in some way to

compensate for the lower tonnage. Most of the district recorded exceptionally high CCS levels over the final month of crushing. Bragging rights for the year were awarded to a rake of sixth ratoon Q208 from the Elaroo Productivity District with a CCS sample of 18.55.

Special mention must be made of the harvesting contractors who worked exceptionally hard over the last month to ensure the crop was safely removed.

Some parts of the district received some storm rain in mid-October but more rain is desperately needed to sustain the ratooning crop.

Continues page 8 ►



# Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

## MEET OUR NEWEST REGIONAL MANAGER

AustSafe Super has welcomed Anna Geddes to the team as Regional Manager for South West Queensland and Far North New South Wales. We caught up with Anna to see what she's been getting up to in her first few months on the team.

### What's the most rewarding part of your role and region?

It's genuinely nice to be helping hardworking people – even the complicated super-related questions are really rewarding for me. My region has a great deal of diversification across industries, which means I get to meet people from all walks of life.

### What does your typical day look like?

So far it's been a lot of time getting out on the road meeting members and employers. I'm sure this will be what most of my days look like from here and that's great.

### What's the best advice you've ever been given around money?

Think of a budget as telling money where to go, not where it went. That way you stay in control and don't have to look at your bank account and think 'what happened this month?'

### What do you get up to in your spare time?

I'm currently doing house renos, which is taking up almost all of my spare time, and in amongst that I'm planning trips. I love travel – there's something about the food and culture that has me hooked.

### Find out more

Anna can help AustSafe Super's employers and members in the South West Queensland and Far North New South Wales region with any of their super requirements. To organise a chat, call Anna on 0429 220 117 or email [ageddes@austsafe.com.au](mailto:ageddes@austsafe.com.au) ■



## CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

### Mackay

Mackay Sugar's three mills processed a total of 195,093 tonnes in the week ending 28 October bringing the year to date total to 4,375,916 tonnes.

Individually the mills processed: Farleigh 50,375 tonnes, Marian 92,504 and Racecourse 52,214 tonnes. PRS for the week was 15.51 with the year to date average at 14.24.

### Plane Creek

Wilmar Sugar's Plane Creek Mill crushed just over 62,000 tonnes (62,196 tonnes) for the week ending 27 October, bringing the year to date tally to 1,107,951 tonnes.

The finis date is estimated (at current factory performance with no further rain disruption) to be on Thursday, 1 November. The mill is expected to crush out overnight on this date.

Crushing was still below budget but increased throughout the week as liquor stocks improved.

CCS for the week was 15.26 units with the year to date average sitting on 14.71. The highest CCS recorded was 17.30 units from a rake of Q208 fourth ratoon from the Turnor's Paddock Productivity District. Bin weights were averaging 3.89 tonnes with the average bin weight season to date at 4.00 tonnes.

### Bundaberg

Bundaberg Sugar Ltd processed 8,997.06 tonnes of cane with an average CCS of 15.32 units during the week ending 21 October. Total tonnes processed for the season to date total 1,315,895.31 with a CCS average of 14.81 units. The highest individual CCS for the week was 17.70 units for Q242 1R cane in Millaquin.

The four major varieties supplied for the week were Q208, accounting for 51.63% of supply with CCS average

of 14.75 units, followed by Q240A at 19.48% - 15.86 CCS, Q242A at 17.14% - 16.14 CCS, and KQ228A at 10.52% - 15.63 CCS.

The wet field conditions during the week provided challenges for several groups, however the cooperative effort of all involved saw the majority of the crop harvested.

Millaquin mill completed crushing operations for 2018 season on Sunday 21 October 2018.

### Isis

Field conditions went from dust to mud after rain across the entire region. Recordings above 100mm were common. The wet weather meant the mill was out of cane from late Friday 12 October Wednesday night 17 October.

Throughput for Week 18 was just 19,203 tonnes of cane. Week 19 saw 64,023 tonnes processed. The

estimate has increased slightly, and we are expecting 1.2 million tonnes to be harvested before the season ends at the end of October. The year to date CCS was 14.64 in Week 19. The highest individual CCS for Week 18 was 16.83 from both a Q183 4th ratoon and Q240 1st ratoon from a Farnsfield supplier. Week 19 saw a CCS of 16.76 from a Bundaberg grower's Q208 6th ratoon.

Continues page 9 ►



## Maryborough

A return to harvesting and crushing was achieved on 22 October, on a limited basis, as the region gradually dried out following the damaging storms experienced earlier in the month. With ten days of no activity it was nice to see some action again. The weather pattern has started to mirror 2017, with storms hanging around after a few days of hot weather, and after decent storms again on 28 October we are back to limited supply in places.

The mill has now reaching 712,183 tonnes supplied, or 82% of the season estimate. CCS is holding well after the wet conditions with the weekly average holding to 14.57 and the season average now reaching 13.5.

There is plenty of recovery work now happening out in the Mungar and Yengarie areas to harvest hail-damaged cane, and Sunshine coast growers are developing webbed feet at the moment.

Members affected by the hail are currently able to claim against crop insurance and affected farms have been contacted to arrange paperwork.

Just under 20% of the crop remains to be harvested, which will see us through most of November without rain delays or breakdowns.



*Pictured: hail damaged cane on John Atkinson's farm.*

## Rocky Point

Rocky Point was unfortunately unable to crush any cane from 12-24 October, due largely to the recent rainfall and wet ground conditions. Up to 200mm of rain fell during this time.

Crushing re-commenced on 25 October. As at 28 October 2018, the total cane crushed at Rocky Point is now 254,230 tonnes at an average CCS of 13.7. With almost 150,000 tonnes of cane still to

crush, our season will likely push out until just before Christmas, weather permitting. At this stage, we could have significant stand-over if the wet weather continues. ■

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# VARIETY GUIDES

to help growers make informed variety decisions

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has produced new online publications that provide the latest detailed information on sugarcane varieties for growers and millers.

The 2018/2019 Variety Guides have been produced for the New South Wales, Southern, Central, Burdekin, Herbert, and Northern regions of the Australian sugar industry.

SRA Adoption Officer, Ms Tracy Hay, said the guides contained information on new, recent and existing sugarcane varieties within each region.

"This information includes updated yield and CCS (commercial cane sugar) data on the new sugarcane varieties from trials undertaken as part of the SRA breeding program," Ms Hay said. "This information allows growers to compare these new varieties against various standard varieties grown in each region."

"The Variety Guides also provide updated information on the disease resistance of the commercially grown varieties."

Of particular importance within the 2018/2019 Variety Guides is the changes that have been made to the Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) ratings.

RSD can cause yield losses of up to 60 percent. While individual varieties respond differently to RSD and are given a rating from SRA, varieties alone should not be relied upon for controlling the disease. Farm hygiene and management practices are also critical to managing the impact of RSD within a farm and district.

In response to industry requests for better information, varieties are now rated on a scale that extends from "Susceptible" to "Intermediate-Resistant", reflecting the commercial reality that this level of resistance still requires attention to farm hygiene and clean seed cane to control RSD. No varieties are now considered "Resistant" to RSD.

The guides also provide useful information on the uptake of new varieties in different mill areas within regions, biosecurity protocols in relation to movement of machinery and sugarcane and information for ordering sugarcane tissue culture for planting.



"Growers and millers are always keen for more information on variety performance," Ms Hay said. "There is already tremendous work occurring in many regions to provide information on local performance, and these SRA guides are an important part of that mix. We will be producing new guides earlier in the year in 2019, and these will be available in hard-copy format for growers and millers, so that they are of maximum value to the industry ahead of spring planting."

Tully grower Mr David Singh is involved in the variety release process through participation in the Tully Variety Management Group and the Far North Queensland Regional Variety Committee, which makes decisions about the release of new varieties.

"Planting a new variety is a big commitment for growers, so we are always looking for more information about how varieties perform such as through the SRA guides or the local group," Mr Singh said.

"There are a number of varieties that come through the system, and also unique conditions across different parts of the district, so we are looking for a guide on what would work for our situation."

The guides can be viewed at <https://sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/publications/> ■







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## QSL AGM outlines successful transition



Guy Cowan  
QSL Chairman

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) has reported a successful first year under the industry's new Marketing Choice arrangements, sharing key achievements at the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Brisbane on 25 October.

QSL Chairman Guy Cowan told the gathering that despite a protracted On-Supply Agreement negotiation process, the industry-owned organisation had retained the mantle of the largest marketer of Queensland sugar during the past financial year, while also starting a new operating agreement to manage the state's bulk sugar terminals for Sugar Terminals Limited (STL).

Mr Cowan said that while the not-for-profit appreciated the ongoing custom of growers, millers, STL and international refining clients, this support was never a given.

"We're off to a promising start, but this pivotal first year of new marketing and operations arrangements has only reinforced our commitment to working harder, working smarter and working creatively to maximise the value delivered by all aspects of our business," Mr Cowan said.

Key QSL highlights for the 2018 Financial Year included:

### QSL MARKETING

- QSL remained the largest marketer of Australian sugar in both the 2017 and 2018 seasons;
- The business made its first direct payments to growers and cemented its presence in regional Queensland with permanent offices in Ingham, Ayr, Proserpine and Sarina;
- It revised its finance facility to deliver both increased flexibility and savings;
- It successfully negotiated its 15th Korean Long-Term supply contract;
- In the pricing space, QSL's 2017-Season managed ICE 11 pools outperformed the market average by \$29.95/tonne IPS Net;

- The 2017 QSL Shared Pool was + \$1.54/tonne IPS Net, outperforming the weighted average benchmark by \$8.39/tonne IPS; and
- QSL's 2-Season Forward Pool was the highest returning QSL-managed ICE 11 pool during the 2017 Season, finishing at \$507/tonne IPS Net.

### QSL OPERATIONS

- The QSL Operations team handled just under 3.8 million tonnes of sugar during the 2017 Season across the six Queensland bulk sugar terminals;
- 100% of shipments were made in full and on time
- There was 100% compliance with Japan's rigid import restrictions;
- QSL Operations received certifications for AS 4801 (Safety) and ISO 14001 (Environment);
- Phytosanitary accreditation was expanded to all six Queensland bulk sugar terminals, enabling all to export to China;
- The business successfully renegotiated the Enterprise Agreement for its bulk sugar terminal employees; and
- QSL also rolled out a new time and attendance system across all six bulk sugar terminal worksites.

Mr Cowan's full AGM address as well as a copy of the QSL Chief Executive Officer's 2018 AGM presentation are available on the QSL website at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)

*Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. In addition, nothing in this report constitutes financial product or investment advice. Growers should read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au) before participating in any QSL pricing pool or product.*



## 2017 SEASON POOL PRICES (AFTER SHARED POOL ALLOCATION)

17/18 FINANCIAL YEAR



\*After Shared Pool allocation

**This graph presents the net pool performance above the benchmark for the QSL-Managed Pools for the 2017 Season. The Performance Benchmark represents the price achieved if no market view was taken by following an evenly spread sales pattern, adjusted for applicable constraints such as infrastructure, storage, production risk constraints (Harvest Pool) and time available to price. This performance above the benchmark highlights the dollar value per QSL-managed pool that QSL provides to suppliers (millers) and growers. In the 2017 Season, QSL outperformed the Performance Benchmark on a weighted average basis by \$29.95 per tonne IPS. A weighted average shared pool was utilised in the calculation of the above results, and as such, actual prices may vary as a result of regional-specific costs. The Guaranteed Floor Pool has not been benchmarked as the price was locked-in at the start of the season. The Guaranteed Floor Pool achieved a net price of \$370.12 per tonne IPS for growers in Wilmar milling districts, and \$518.61 per tonne IPS for all other growers. The US Quota Pool, which was priced on the ICE 16, achieved a weighted average net price of \$578.91 per tonne IPS.**

## PRE-CRUSH PAYMENT AVAILABLE IN 2019

Growers marketing with QSL can receive a Pre-Crush Advance Payment for up to half of their estimated Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) before the start of the harvest.

This payment will be made in late March 2019 and will be based on a rate of \$50/tonne IPS sugar, less associated administration and finance costs of approximately \$1/tonne IPS sugar.

Once the participating grower starts delivering sugar, their QSL Standard Advance payments will not commence until the Advances amount due for the season exceeds the Pre-Season Advance Payment already made.

### FOR EXAMPLE:

- A grower has a supply estimate of 400 tonnes IPS of GEI Sugar nominated to QSL for the 2019 Season.
- They are eligible to receive a Pre-Crush Advance Payment on 50% of this = 200 tonnes of IPS sugar.
- 200 tonnes of IPS sugar x \$50/tonne = \$10,000, which they are paid on 29 March 2019.

- Once they start delivering their 2019-Season GEI Sugar, their seasonal Advance payments will only start when the overall amount due for the season exceeds the \$10,000 already paid by QSL.
- The \$1/tonne of additional finance costs will be reflected in the grower's final net pool prices via an allocation from their QSL Shared Pool element.

### NOMINATION DATE AND PROCESS

Nominations to receive the QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment for the 2019 Season are open from 1 February 2019 to 15 March 2019, with the payment to be made on 29 March 2019.

Before electing this payment option, please read the QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme Terms available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)

For further information or to nominate to receive this payment, please contact your local QSL Grower Services representative or call the QSL Direct team on 1800 870 756. ■



# GRID-SOLAR MIX MAY OFFER BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

## BUNDABERG TRIAL HAS POSITIVE IMPACT ON PRODUCTIVITY, PROFITABILITY AND GROWER WORK-LIFE BALANCE

By Cindy Benjamin

When growers try to reduce pumping costs by irrigating at night, there can be significant impacts not just on productivity, but on the grower's health and well-being as well.

Feeling constrained to night irrigation times to reduce electricity costs means growers often delay irrigation and frequently do not apply the quantity of water required to maximise productivity in a supplementary growing region such as Bundaberg – also, chasing water winches at night disrupts sleep and can be dangerous.

To overcome these problems many growers have looked for and implemented alternative irrigation systems.

While solar energy has significant advantages and potential cost savings, stand-alone solar systems can have operational limitations.

A new three-year renewable energy project in Bundaberg, which is funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and administered by the Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group (BRIG), is investigating the feasibility of using a unique hybrid solar and grid energy system to provide all the convenience of grid electricity and the savings offered by solar.

Maurie Haines, Special Projects Officer, Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd, says the solar array at the demonstration irrigation site has been living up to expectations ever since it was commissioned in mid-January this year.

"This system is designed to be a hybrid irrigation system that blends solar and grid power to maintain seamless operation between clear or cloudy daytime conditions or night time operation," he said.

"Unlike most solar farms, this system does not feed solar energy into the grid. All the decisions the grower makes are based on whether the crop needs water, and not how much will it cost."







*"This year we have irrigated ratoons much earlier than we usually would and we are confident that looking after them during the dry winter and early spring will pay off in higher yields at harvest next year."*

During peak solar radiation conditions the solar panels can power the pump without drawing on the grid supply.

In the early morning and late afternoon the system draws as much solar energy as is available and draws the rest from the grid. In the evening, the cheaper night tariffs are used if required.

The demonstration site is located on the Killer family farm at Sharon, west of Bundaberg.

Rodney and his son Josh have 58 hectares of cane on this block and use high-pressure water cannons to irrigate.

Other options such as low-pressure lateral booms are not a feasible option for the undulating and oddly shaped farm.

Josh said the new pump system has given them much greater incentive to water when they know it will be beneficial, without worrying about the cost of electricity.



*Pictured: (main) Maurie Haines from Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd, (above) Josh Killer is impressed with the ease of operation, time savings and extra flexibility the new irrigation system gives him.*

Continues on page 16 ►





*"Now I can turn the pump on and off remotely, knowing that there is a safety mechanism to shut everything down if there is a problem. I can really manage my time a lot better between our two farms and can get the most out of every day."*

"This year we have irrigated ratoons much earlier than we usually would and we are confident that looking after them during the dry winter and early spring will pay off in higher yields at harvest next year," he said.

The other big benefit for Josh has been the reduced work stress surrounding irrigation. Josh lives about 45 minutes from the farm with the solar demonstration so starting and stopping pumps and checking water winches is time consuming.

"Before the solar system was operating I would need to get to the farm early to shut the pumps off and stay late in the afternoon before starting the pumps so that we only watered on the night tariff," he said.

"Now I can turn the pump on and off remotely, knowing that there is a safety mechanism to shut everything down if there is a problem. I can really manage my time a lot better between our two farms and can get the most out of every day."

The Killers are now able to irrigate all day and all night if necessary during peak water use periods, to keep their crops growing and make the most of the available sunshine and warmth in spring and early summer particularly.



They are also using the extra flexibility with irrigation to water in fertiliser so they eliminate volatilisation losses and get the full benefit of the applied nutrients. Josh has found that the solar system has changed their whole mindset when it comes to the application of water.

The equipment installed at the site includes a 240-panel solar array (81.6 kW), 45 kW electric motor and centrifugal pump designed to operate at varying speeds, and a VSD Ecodrives controller to manage both solar energy (DC power) input as the priority energy source with grid supplied (AC power) as a supplementary source. The Ecodrives controller also manages the input water pressure to maximise pump efficiency.

A new pump was installed as part of the demonstration project but it has the same capacity as the one it replaced.

The changes have centred on improving pump efficiency. The before-and-after energy usage comparison show that the solar/grid pumping demo system uses approximately 78% less energy than the grid-only system it has replaced.

The VSD Ecodrives power blending system monitors the water inflow pressure and manages the motor speed to maintain a constant pressure to the winch irrigator.



This means the pump is always operating at maximum efficiency and not wasting power, unlike the previous system, which relied on a check valve to control pressure to the winch while continuing to operate the motor at maximum speed and energy use.

"Unlike some solar systems, this one never cuts out and does not simply switch to the grid if the solar input drops below the threshold required to run the pump," said Maurie. "The priority-solar with grid back-up system maximises the benefits of solar electricity."

"Given that many growers in the Bundaberg area only use 50% of their water allocation, due in part to concerns over pumping costs, there is plenty of room for additional productivity from the current crop area," he said.

"Avoiding crop stress in July and August and taking advantage of longer days in summer will both pay off in extra yield. The more the grower uses a system like this the better off they will be."

The modular design of this demonstration solar farm is one of the key features that makes it a viable option for other growers. It is possible to start small, installing the Ecodrive system to initiate greater pump efficiencies and then add extra solar panels as funds

permit, until the array has the capacity to run the pump on solar energy alone during clear daytime conditions.

Over and over again, Maurie has seen the effect of growers making a change to their irrigation practice and reaping the double benefit of better productivity and reduced costs.

"It is so often the case that the productivity gains even out-weigh the savings in energy costs," he said.

To assist with irrigation scheduling, there are soil moisture probes and an automated weather station installed on the Killer's property. These also contribute data to the area-wide weather monitoring system in Bundaberg, providing growers with more localised weather information.

This demonstration project aims to provide growers and their lending institutions with reliable and field-tested data to support investment in similar systems.

"These systems involve large capital outlay and growers need to be confident that they will deliver productivity gains and cost savings," said Maurie. "Another component of this project is to collect local information about how much solar energy is available throughout the year

and how that might vary across the district. This will help growers determine if they can expect the same outcomes or better than what we are achieving at the demonstration site."

All the data collected through the three-year project will be available on the BRIG website ([www.brig.org.au](http://www.brig.org.au)), including how much solar and grid energy is consumed for each ML of water pumped and all operational costs.

"This information will be of enormous benefit to growers if they get Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd to conduct a Farm Energy and Irrigation Information Audit for their farm," said Maurie. "This will create a powerful decision-making tool for farm energy and farm water use planning in the lead up to the 2020 tariff changes and beyond." ■

*Pictured: Maurie Haines, Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd is managing the Adapting renewable energy concepts to irrigated sugarcane production at Bundaberg project on behalf of the Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group.*



# Dividing fences - growers' obligation to contribute

I am regularly asked by growers whether they are obliged to contribute to the cost of establishing or maintaining a dividing fence with a neighbour who may be a grazier or other primary producer, or even an urban dweller or property developer.

Under Government legislation, Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act, a tribunal has the power, where the property owners cannot agree amongst themselves, to decide the respective contributions to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence.

The general rule is that neighbours should pay equal amounts. However, the tribunal has a wide discretion to determine the relative contributions.



By Chris Cooper  
CANEGROWERS legal adviser

CANEGROWERS has been successful in a large number of dividing fence cases concerning cane land adjoining grazing and residential blocks or commercial users.

The decisions in these cases have consistently established that a cane grower should not have to contribute at all to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence.

Among the arguments used by CANEGROWERS were that a dividing fence does not benefit cane growers and, indeed, acts as a detriment.

To my knowledge, based on over 30 years' experience of representing CANEGROWERS, there has never been a decision made to require a cane grower to contribute to the cost of a dividing fence.

Whilst each case will always be considered on its own particular facts and circumstances, growers have very strong grounds for arguing that they do not have to contribute to the cost of erecting or maintaining a dividing fence, unless they voluntarily agree to do so.

It is highly unlikely a cane grower would be forced or ordered to contribute to the cost of a dividing fence.

Please do not hesitate to contact CANEGROWERS legal advisor, Chris Cooper, on freecall number 1800 177 159 should you wish to discuss this or any other legal topic of interest to you. ■

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# Board Appointments

Two annual general meetings in recent weeks have seen two CANEGROWERS members take on the responsibility of representing their colleagues on the boards of important industry companies.

**Tony Bartolo**, a Mackay district grower, joins the board of Sugar Terminals Limited, replacing retiring director **Constantine Christofides**.

After being elected, Tony Bartolo told the media he would be putting a large focus on making sure each terminal would be operating efficiently for each customer.

"Sugar Terminals Ltd has strategically located world class assets and we need to make sure that they are being used to the best of their ability," he said.

"The terminals themselves always need to be well maintained because the sugar that moves through them is a very good product."

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is welcoming Isis grower and mill Director **Peter Russo** to its board. The SRA board also includes Dr Ron Swindells, Steve Guazzo, Dr Helen Garnett, Lindy Hyam, Dr Guy Roth and another new appointment, **Sam Bonanno**.

SRA Chairman Dr Ron Swindells welcomed Mr Russo and Mr Bonanno to the Board.

"Both of our new Directors bring specific and valuable expertise to the Board and they will assist SRA to continue to deliver productivity, profitability and sustainability outcomes for growers and millers," he said.



Tony Bartolo



Peter Russo

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# Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Economics with Warren Males

## Climate change – is it in your business planning?

Climate change is a major issue and talking point for agriculture, environment and government, albeit a challenging one.

Climate resilience and adaptation are also important considerations for CANEGROWERS members and the industry.

Given the current drought across Queensland, the impact of sea surface temperature on coral causing bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, the increasing costs of pumping water due to higher electricity prices, and opportunities in carbon markets and carbon trading – it is timely for CANEGROWERS to further engage on climate change.

Key areas for consideration for cane:

1. The impact of climate change on the health of the Great Barrier Reef;
2. The impact of climate change on each growers' business productivity and profitability;
3. Government policies and positions on climate change.

CANEGROWERS has indicated, albeit indirectly, that climate change is a factor affecting our industry, growers and members.

The policy positions for state and federal elections since 2016 that relate to climate change include:

- Recognition that climate change is the greatest risk to the Great Barrier Reef.
- Support adaptation strategies through industry best practice management program Smartcane BMP to ensure farm business profitability can be sustained with changing climatic conditions.
- Focus on innovation and investment in climate research and development to drive innovation and builds resilience.
- Increase the biofuel mandate.
- Recognition that more than 80% of Australian sugar is exported, and that as a trade-exposed sector we must remain competitive within international markets.
- Opportunities for emissions reduction and sequestration projects in the sugar industry to facilitate participation of growers in carbon markets.

Ensuring the industry and growers are strategically preparing for the risk to business viability and sustainability and then looking for diversified income options should be part of grower, industry and CANEGROWERS climate change strategy. ■



## Electricity – let's end the exasperation

Many growers cringe each time they turn on the power switch.

To take control of their power bills, some have switched to alternative energy sources. A few have turned to solar while others have turned the clock back and moved to diesel.

The switch to diesel is weird, especially considering the Queensland Government's objective of securing 50% of the state's power from renewable sources.

It is heartening that Energy Queensland, Queensland Treasury and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) are aware of the anomaly. It's disappointing that they appear powerless to respond.

Perhaps the reason for inaction comes down to money?

Queensland's over-capitalised electricity networks are amongst the most profitable in the country.

Actively engaged in Energy Queensland's customer consultation program, CANEGROWERS retained the Sapere Research Group to independently and objectively analyse Energy Queensland's draft tariff proposal for 2020-25.

There are many causes for concern including that the proposals:

- Continue to ignore the spare network capacity;
- Ignore the recommendations of the ACCC Electricity Supply & Prices Inquiry;
- Do not reflect the most recent demand forecasts;
- Contain tariffs that increase in nominal terms;
- Breach the National Electricity Law and impose a net economic cost; and
- Are based on a flawed method for setting the rate of return.

It is disappointing that Energy Queensland has not responded to these issues and concerns, despite CANEGROWERS having raised many of them in the lead up to the release of the draft proposals.

CANEGROWERS is seeking an efficient tariff structure for Energy Queensland's networks that is reflective of the spare capacity in those networks, contains peak and off-peak charging windows that reflect that spare capacity, takes account of the most recent demand forecasts and, reflecting this, declines in nominal terms over the forecast period.

It is time to remove the exasperation and policy conflicts and design efficient electricity network tariffs that will facilitate Queensland's economic growth and development. ■



# Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

## Resilience and preparedness – drought policy

While the sugarcane industry may not be affected by drought quite as severely as other agricultural sectors, it has not escaped the prolonged dry conditions unscathed.

In some districts, productivity has been impacted by near record-low rainfall and the 2018 crop is expected to be lower than initial estimates as a result.

The industry also regularly experiences other natural disasters, such as floods and cyclones.

Unfortunately, the evidence of climate change (no matter what causes this) indicates that the frequency and severity of droughts, floods and cyclones has changed and will continue to do so.

The general premise of government drought policy is to provide for resilience or preparedness, as opposed to direct payments to growers as the event unfolds.

As often happens, drought policies are brought to the fore when we are in the middle of a drought, as most of Queensland currently is.

At the recent Prime Minister's Drought Summit in Canberra, the National Farmers Federation (NFF) made a number of specific requests. These included:

1. Effective risk management tools, such as:
  - Business planning services, with an increase to the number and geographic spread of Rural Financial Counsellors;
  - A tax incentive on multi-peril crop, farm and climate-related agricultural insurance premiums;
  - Encouragement for states to remove stamp duty;
  - Tax incentives extending farm management deposits (FMD's) to rural companies, trusts and small rural businesses and intergenerational transfers.
- Providing for a tax-free threshold

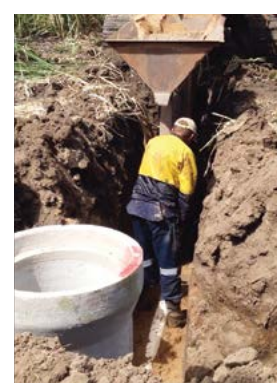
on first off-farm income.

2. Strengthen regions for drought resilience through a range of government policies that will improve the ability of farmers to grow their businesses which, in turn, will increase their drought resilience. These range from road rules and infrastructure planning and investment, to improved water market management, telecommunications, rural and regional employment, and land use policies.
3. Implementation of an effective drought safety net, amending the farm household allowance (FHA) criteria and improving support services to enable more timely access to, and effective use of, payments.

There is also a Queensland Government

Drought Program Review currently underway to assess the state drought response.

CANEGROWERS will be working with NFF and QFF to ensure that members are able to use the opportunities available to increase resilience and preparedness. ■



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# Practical learning a hit with growers

We spoke to the first three recipients of a CANEGROWERS scholarship who recently participated in a week-long rural leadership course in Canberra.

Simon Ricciardi (Isis), Frank Perna (Mackay) and Jason Salvetti (Tableland) completed a Training Rural Australians in Leadership (TRAIL) Program with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

The TRAIL Program was a mixture of approximately 70% practical activities and 30% theory. The thirteen participants ranged in age from people in their 20's to those in their 50's. The group was from a diverse range of backgrounds, such as live cattle traders and turf growers, providing a great opportunity to see different people's perspectives on various situations.

Simon, Frank and Jason all enjoyed the practical approach to learning which really got them out of their comfort zones. At the start of the week the group were dropped at a location in the Namadgi National Park. They spent the next few days hiking through steep terrain and abseiling 15 metre cliff faces to reach various checkpoints. They were given clues and tasks to complete along the way, requiring them to work together, and enabling the group to successfully disarm a device at the final checkpoint.

The course also included some great

public speakers including the Minister for Agriculture. A range of topics were discussed during the theory part of the course, including best practice processing methods and new farm tools available.

Simon, Frank and Jason all went into the course with an open mind and said they got a lot out of it in terms of personal growth and improved leadership skills.

As a busy grower, Simon Ricciardi recognised the rare opportunity to have a short break from his farm. This combined with the course content allowed him to stop and reflect on how he conducts himself as a community leader in his field.

"The course taught me not to focus all of my energy on the final product, it's more about a synergy between the processes and the people involved to obtain a good outcome," said Jason Salvetti. "I've come out of the program a better person and I understand myself better, which will benefit my farm and my local community."

"I am inspired to try to change my point of view and be more open minded. I'm good at talking but I want to make an

effort to stop and listen to others more" Frank Perna said.

CANEGROWERS is accepting enquiries and applications for three scholarships for The Agribusiness Leadership Program. This program is about developing personal and professional skills, a better understanding of sector challenges and collaborating with peers and will run over a 12-week period in 2019.

More information is available under the News tab on the CANEGROWERS website. The scholarships are being made available with assistance from the Federal Government's Agricultural Industries Fund. ■

*Pictured: (below left) program participants from left (front) Tanya Howard, Anna Drummond, Ali Simmons, Nicole Radcliffe, Mick Corcoran and Ellen Simpson. (Back) Jason Salvetti, Paul Saliba, Frank Perna, Saliman BinJuda, Wayne Smith, Simon Ricciardi and Taresa Hateley.*



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Next deadline is **12 November 2018**.

\* 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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## Classifieds

### Herbert River–Burdekin

HINO Truck, 5.6 by 2.4m with timber tray. 1981 model, only done 39427km, tilt cab, 6 cylinder diesel, \$12,000 + GST. Ph: Bruce 0447 183 182.

### Mackay–Proserpine

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay) New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 16 Fwd & Rev Gears, Semi Powershift, 2005 Build, 40K Box, 4980 hours, 420/70R24 Fronts, 520/R70R34 Rears @ 80% \$44,000 Inc. GST. Ph: 0418 788 643.

40ft. Flat Top Truck & Trailer available for fertilizer haulage between Mackay & Proserpine. Also specialising in agricultural transport work from Mackay north. Step Deck trailer available. Ph: Greg Atkinson 0447 473 424.

High lift 6 ton double axle side tipper with high floatation wheels, middle petition and paddle. Tipper in GC \$8000 +GST. Fiat Super 1000 fitted with turbo, 3 point linkage, dual remotes, drawbar. Paint and panels in VGC. Rear wheels are 23.1.34 in GC, front wheels are 12.0 16. \$8000 +GST. Ph: 0419 601 959. Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6,600. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph: 07 4959 5883 or 0407 643 441.

2016 New Holland TM140 with 10t Carta Tipper Bin. Available for purchase after the current season. Ph: 0428 165 142 / 0417 714 209.

### Bundaberg–Rocky Point

AV Farm All \$6,000 + GST, John Deere 730 \$15,000 + GST (as is/where is), Napier 16 plate off set's \$2,300 + GST. Ph: 0419 577 110.

6T side tipper on Austin truck, \$6,000 + GST, Trash incorporator, s/steel worm & plastic bin, \$13,500 + GST, Grubber \$1,200 + GST. Ph: 0419 577 110.

Ellis 4 row hooded sprayer, 1100ltr tank. Done little work \$8,800. 2 row fertiliser box side dresser 1.25T. Bin double disc openers

and press wheels \$6,600. Southern Cross Model 100 irrigator nelson P200 gun, no hose \$1,500. All prices include GST. Ph: 0428 221 850.

### Wanted

2 X Second-hand 20.8.38 tyres approx. 30% of tread. Ph: 0419 705 530.

Massey Ferguson 8130 and Bonel Power Spinner, both to be in fair condition. Ph: 0428 773 842.

Lower Mary Scheme Water 100 ML. Medium Priority Allocation. 100 ML or close to. Ph: 0405 472 921.

Soybean planter/seeder with disc openers,

will consider any size. Ph: 0490 029 387.

14 X 17.5 inch Tyres. Ph: 0428 221 850.

### Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx\* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Qlder style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

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## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
Location	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–October
	22.10.18	29.10.18		
Mossman	0	0	2189	1897
Mareeba AP	0	0	671	751
Cairns	0	0	1990	1729
Mt Sophia	0	0	3297	2894
Babinda	0	0	1667	3753
Innisfail	0.6	0.2	2966	3135
Tully	0.2	0.2	3197	3647
Cardwell	1	0.2	1638	1807
Lucinda	0	0	1512	1831
Ingham	3	Tce	1699	1717
Abergowrie	4	0	1697	1561
Townsville	8	0	811	933
Ayr DPI	17	0.4	623	780
Proserpine	12	0	836	1136
Mirani	6	0	686	1252
Mackay	0.2	0	698	1293
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0.8	0	834	1423
Bundaberg	3	0.6	632	795
Childers South	7	0	753	687
Maryborough	15	20	893	940
Tewantin	54	0	1456	1425
Eumundi	25	0	1230	1383
Nambour	50	1	1212	1376
Woongoolba	59	6	952	1088
Murwillumbah	97	4	932	1284
Ballina	46	5	1540	1510
Woodburn	63	3	994	1161



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

**HOMEBUSH/OAKENDEN** Cane Farm for sale Mackay region. 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This year's crop, machinery shed with 3 phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil, no rocks. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

**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 fully airconed with pool. Ph: 0400 794 857.

**Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE** 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664.

**Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property**, 96 acres 6kms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408 880 724.




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