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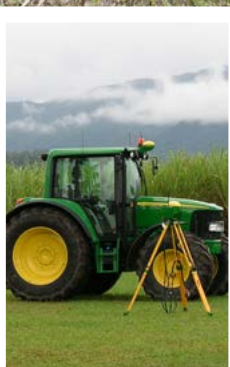


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New safety standard aims for safer quad bikes



Potential impacts of Native Title on cane farms

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COVER IMAGE: Babinda growers Steven and Leo Bonso improved efficiency and soil health by switching to wider rows. Read more on page 12.

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Report reveals sugarcane value

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

"The report identified that the Queensland sugarcane industry is a powerhouse supporting regional communities and the state economy."

The modern Australian sugar industry is on track to hit its 150-year milestone in 2020 because 1870 was the start of production via a system of independent farmers supplying a central mill. It's time to remind everyone how important we are.

When you have been around for a while, there is a tendency for many to undervalue your social and economic importance.

We know that the Australian sugar industry is world class and highly efficient industry by world standards. We have been acknowledged as a world leader in innovation and technology and sustainable farming systems.

But as we say in Australia – what is the size of the engine under the bonnet? What is the economic contribution of sugarcane to the state and the national economy?

CANEGROWERS commissioned an independent study to unearth these answers and the results confirm our economic relevance in a report called *The economic contribution of the Sugarcane Industry to Queensland and its regional communities*.

The report identified that the Queensland sugarcane industry is a powerhouse supporting regional communities and the state economy. It has captured the sizeable economic, employment and other contributions that sugarcane growing makes.

Reports of this nature, and this one was done for us by Queensland Economic Advocacy Services, are critically important when the industry makes representations about various issues that pose a threat to our viability.

Whether it be vegetation management laws, Reef regulations, the cost of electricity and water; all of this government intervention and escalation in costs will have an economic cost to not just the sugarcane industry but to the whole community.

The report identified that for every \$1 of economic activity in sugarcane growing, an additional \$6.40 in economic activity is generated elsewhere in the economy.

It is the aggregation of the businesses in the value chain that contributes to

cane growing being an essential primary industry in Queensland supporting roughly around \$4 billion in economic activity, more than 22,000 jobs and around 10,000 businesses.

Even a region such as Brisbane and the Gold Coast captures a benefit from the sugarcane industry - around \$658 million of local economic activity. There is some cane grown in this region but the huge indirect economic benefits come from sugarcane farms and mills purchasing supplies originating from South East Queensland along with employment in and support of offices, such as CANEGROWERS, QSL and some of the milling companies, which depend upon the industry.

Often in the heat of battle when we are advocating for the sugarcane industry, CANEGROWERS is told, 'Your votes don't matter in terms of numbers'.

This report confirms that those comments fail dismally to acknowledge the huge underlying economic engine of the sugarcane industry.

With this report and other assessments that we have in our arsenal, CANEGROWERS will make the importance of the sugarcane industry a key issue at next year's Queensland state election.

There really is a big engine under this bonnet! ■



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NEWS IN BRIEF

New standard aims for safer quad bikes

New safety standards have been announced for quad bikes in a bid to curb the number of people being killed and injured in accidents involving the vehicles, many of them on farms.

The changes have been announced by the Federal Government and follow a concerted campaign by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and range of rural and medical organisations which included a rally on the lawns at Parliament House in Canberra in September (*pictured below*).

Since 2011, on average 16 people each year have been killed in a quad bike accident in Australia - 128 people in eight years.

The announcement means that within 12 months, all new quad bikes will be required to:

- have a warning label alerting riders to the risk of roll over,
- meet US or European standards (performance of components like brakes, suspension, throttle and clutch), and

- be tested for stability and the result displayed on a tag attached to the bike at point of sale.

Within 24 months, all new general use model (utility) quad bikes will be required to:

- be fitted with, or have integrated into the design an operator protection device (rollbar) and
- meet minimum stability requirements.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will also work alongside Standards Australia as industry develops specifications for the safety of rollbars.

NFF CEO Tony Mahar said the new mandated safety standards were nothing short of life saving.

"Operator protection devices have been proven time and time again to shield riders in the event of a rollover preventing life-ending or life-altering injuries," he said. "Up to six people per day are rushed to hospital with injuries sustained in quad bike incidents, many of them rollovers.

"The safety standard will save lives and protect farmers from crippling injury and be key to achieving zero farm-related deaths by 2030," Mr Mahar said.

When the ACCC reviewed quad bike safety and reported to the Federal Government in February this year, it noted that suppliers were vocally resistant to regulation that may required quad bike redesign.

In announcing the new safety standard, Assistant Treasurer Michael Sukkar said the requirements would put the onus on foreign manufacturers to supply safer quad bikes into Australia. ■



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Research focus for committee meeting

by Burn Ashburner
CANEGROWERS Senior Manager - Industry

The members of the CANEGROWERS Farm Input and Research committee gathered at Sugar Research Australia's Indooroopilly site in Brisbane recently and an update on the organisation's work was a focus of the meeting.

During a tour around the facilities, the growers on the Committee heard that SRA's herbicide tolerance GM cane program with Dupont had been completed and all GM sugarcane involved had been destroyed. It had been assessed that while the technical aspects worked well, the business aspects of GM adoption did not.

SRA still has facilities to develop GM cane in the future and gene editing remains an option however the reality is that the Australian industry is a long way from having gene edited sugarcane growing on farms.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS) remains a significant issue for growers and while the causal agent is still not known, research indicates its appearance may be a multifactorial issue related to particular environmental conditions. The work so far has led to a better understanding of the physiology of the sugarcane plant and sucrose transfer and accumulation.

The CANEGROWERS Committee was informed that the Sugar Industry Adoption and Investment Strategy has been completed – this is a strategy that was built from the regional adoption advisory group strategies and priorities. It contains an element of 'back to basics' focus and one of the issues highlighted was the need for improvements in clean seed availability and distribution.

Related to clean seed is SRA's renewed commitment to improved management and outputs from the Ratoon Stunting Disease diagnostic service to provide a trusted and reliable service as it is considered to be critical for the industry.

Looking at the bigger picture, the Federal Government discussion paper of *Modernising the Research and Development Corporation (RDC) System* was discussed by the Committee with SRA. The paper objective is to change the RDC system to allow for more collaborative projects across agriculture.

This should enable a critical mass of funding for things which each RDC on its own could not afford to do. On the other hand, it may mean reduced direct funding to SRA and a need to compete for funding. The process will be monitored to ensure no adverse effects for the sugarcane industry. ■

CYCLONE SEASON OUTLOOK

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting fewer cyclones than average will form in the Australian region this season.

The assessment is based on higher than average pressure over northern Australia and a neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) situation.

On average there are 9-13 tropical cyclones each season of which four typically cross the coast.

However in the 2019-2020 season (November–April) the Bureau says there is a 36% chance of more than average and a 64% chance of fewer tropical cyclones than average.

Read the BOM Tropical Cyclone Outlook here: www.bom.gov.au/climate/cyclones/australia

For growers wanting a greater understanding of weather and climate forecasting to assist with decision making, a series of workshops is being offered by the Queensland Farmers' Federation in conjunction with DTN and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Next month they will be in Ayr, Townsville and Ingham. For more info go to www.qff.org.au/events ■



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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

Coastal growers have supplied a total of 425,459 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.47CCS while Mareeba growers have supplied a total of 203,734 tonnes for a mill average of 13.84CCS. To date 169,418 tonnes of cane contracted to Mossman Mill has been toll crushed at Tableland Mill.

The Mill was forced to cease crushing on Wednesday 9/10, due to a major problem with the continuous vacuum pan requiring immediate repairs.

With approximately 50,000 tonnes of cane still to crush, the end of season date of 16 October was going to be revised once the crushing started again. It is likely to be around 23-25 October 2019.

The CANEGROWERS Mossman AGM date has been set for Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 9am and will be held at the Mossman Bowls Club hall.

CAIRNS REGION

Some welcome rain has fallen across the region setting a good foundation for next year's crop. With planting finalised and fertilising well underway growers are concentrating on their farming activities.

The State Development Area remains concerning for those affected and stakeholder meetings are continuing.

Smartcane BMP engagement is moving forward with several new accreditations and many more in the pipeline.

INNISFAIL

As at 11 October South Johnstone mill had crushed 824,536 tonnes, 65% of the forecast estimate. The daily CCS has risen above 14 for the past 2 weeks. Seasonal average is 12.68.

Some light showers fell in parts of the district over 5 – 7 October and did cause an interruption to harvesting operations in the northern end of the district. Planting is coming to an end and growers are now focused on their fertilising.

There has been an increase in reports of feral pig damage to cane across the district and grower's attempts to restrict further damage and build-up of pig numbers is being hampered by the introduction of stricter control on the use of 1080 bait by the local council.

TULLY

There are an estimated 400,000 tonnes of cane to be harvested and crushed in Tully which should see the 2019 season completed in the second week of November. Six consecutive weeks with the CCS over 14, have bought up the seasonal average to 13.3. With the dry conditions it is expected that it will continue to rise. Some of the district had showers of rain last week with some falls of 20 to 30mm. Some more would be welcomed on the plant and ratooning cane.

Tully will reach the milestone of 100 Smartcane BMP accredited growers this month - a great outcome, and a credit to the Smartcane BMP team and all the growers who have made the effort!

HERBERT RIVER

During the 15th week of the season the mills hit 198,000 tonnes. Victoria Mill crushed 127,000 tonnes and Macknade 71,000 tonnes with no major issues or stops at Macknade. There was an extended down day on Wednesday at Victoria which was needed to take steam off house to safely isolate the steam turbine on B2 mill. CCS continued to hold at a mill average of 14.6. Average mill CCS was 14.49 for the week.

We are into the 16th week of crushing for 2019. The mills are on track to hit 205,000 tonnes this week with Victoria on track for 134,000 tonnes and Macknade on track for 71,000 tonnes. Victoria's maintenance day was extended to remove bypass on B2 mill with the thrust bearing repaired on turbine. Macknade had a four hour shredder tip stop change. The mill is seeing excessive wear at both sites with cane drying out. Fibre in the cane is on the rise with the field conditions drying up. CCS continues to improve around the district. Wilmar has reported that bin weights at Macknade continue to be poor and are limiting the crushing rate.



BURDEKIN

Burdekin's 2019 crushing season is approaching the 80% mark with 6,239,581 tonnes now crushed as of Week 19, Saturday 12 October.

The Burdekin's four mills crushed just under 290,000 tonnes of cane in week 19 which included a scheduled stop at Kalamia Mill. Pioneer Mill was not operational due to ongoing repairs following a fire in the bagasse conveyor system on 5 October.

Pioneer Mill cane is being transferred to Wilmar's three other mills in the Burdekin district. The transfer is set to continue until Pioneer resumes crushing early next week.

The highest CCS sample for week 19 was 18 for a rake of Q183 second ratoon cane from the Kalamia area. CCS may be plateauing with seasonal CCS recorded to date for Burdekin at 14.75. The average weekly CCS for the Burdekin was 15.76 recorded in week 19. Pioneer is still leading the Burdekin mills with 14.92 followed by Inkerman with 14.82 season to date.

In week 19, Q240 continued to be the highest supplied variety at 38% followed by Q183 & Q208 at 18%. On a district basis Q183 achieved 16.23 CCS followed by Q208 & Q252 at 16.08 at 15.86. All of the major varieties all still recording well over 15 CCS in week 19.

MACKAY

Rain this fortnight has been welcomed by Mackay/Plane Creek cane growers in bringing some relief to parched cane fields.

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg said that falls had varied across the region from very little in the gauges to up to 75 and 100 mm and with some very isolated areas experiencing hail.

"Totals varied enormously, even from one side of farms to the other. At my farm in the Plane Creek region there was a difference of 30 mm in a very short distance," he said.

"However, whatever the total, the falls were a welcome relief for growers at this stage of the season.

"Ratoon crops have been struggling to get away in the parched conditions in the paddocks after harvest. Moreover, some plant cane has also been feeling the dry and struggling to germinate.

"These falls will now go some way to getting the 2020 crop on the way."

Growers are on the last weeks of finishing the 2019 harvest.

"Plane Creek mill expects to finish on

16 November while Mackay Sugar hopes for 8 December," Mr Borg said.

"Despite the recent storms, harvesting conditions have remained good with CCS levels up in the 16 range.

"We may see a slight drop back in CCS for a short time but this should return, dependant on weather conditions.

"Plane Creek Mill is expecting to crush 1.28 million tonnes while Mackay's estimate is 4.98 million tonnes for the 2019 season.

"If we receive further follow-up rain, we are hopeful the 2020 crop will be well on its way by Christmas."

At the end of week 14 of the crushing in the Mackay district, the three mills had together crushed a total of 3,515,773 tonnes of cane.

Individual mills recorded the following for the week ended 13 October:

- Farleigh – 62,733 tonnes
- Marian – 88,130 tonnes, and
- Racecourse – 50,095 tonnes

The total for the week was 200,958 tonnes with a CCS of 15.18 (year to date CCS: 13.58).

PROSERPINE

Proserpine Mill was forced to deal with a number of mechanical issues over the past fortnight reducing throughput to just over 150,000 tonnes.

An extended stop to patch a boiler tube leak was subsequently followed by intermittent stops to make other critical repairs.

Nevertheless, the mill has now completed more than 70% of the 2019 crush and remains on-track for a mid-November finish.

Weekly average CCS has exceeded 15.0 units for the past few weeks. The season-to-date average CCS is currently 13.91 but is expected to break through the 14.0 unit barrier for the first time next week.

Highest CCS sample was 17.54 from a rake of fourth ratoon Q232 from the Gunyarra Productivity District.

The district received some much needed storm rain last week with falls ranging from 20mm to 60mm recorded.

Harvesting was mostly unaffected, but the impact on CCS remains to be seen.

PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill crushed just under 60,000 tonnes of cane for the week ended 12 October, bringing the season total to nearly 980,000 tonnes.

Scattered showers and thunderstorms disrupted harvesting, contributing to a reduced weekly throughput.

However, CCS increased slightly for the week to 15.90. The season average now sits at 14.30.

The highest CCS for the week was 18.1 from a rake of Q208 5R in the Bollingbroke productivity district.

Continues page 8 ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

ISIS

Showers teased many growers over the past few weeks with those that were lucky enough to be under one receiving some worthwhile rainfall with as much as 25mm being recorded. However, most growers missed out.

The rainfall impacted cane harvesting during week 13 with around 13 hours lost due to the isolated showers in that week. This stoppage was put to good use with mill personnel undertaking some maintenance, mill cleaning and rotation of shredder hammers.

After the completion of Week 14 the team at the Isis Mill had processed a massive 72,834 tonnes for a weekly average CCS of 15.50 units. The year to date CCS at the end of week 14 was recorded as 14.71 units and the Isis Mill has processed 824,007 tonnes of cane from the estimated 975,000 tonnes available for the 2019 season. The estimated completion date for the 2019 season is 26 October.

Growers are reminded to mark their calendar for the CANEGROWERS Isis and Isis Productivity Ltd Annual General Meetings being held on Thursday 7 November 2019 commencing at 2.30pm, at the CANEGROWERS Hall, 48 Churchill St, Childers. The meeting for Isis Productivity will commence at 4.00pm. Please register your attendance with the office.

MARYBOROUGH

Some reasonable rain was welcomed on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 October with falls around 20mm. This should help with planting and fallow crop plans. It also meant the mill finally had to stop for wet weather on Saturday and restarted on Sunday 13 October. Season to date we are at 79% supplied with 494,481 tonnes and our CCS has continued to build for all areas and season to date sits at 14.15.

Our end of season meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held 8 November commencing 2pm with the BBQ to follow.

ROCKY POINT

As at 13 October 2019 (Week 11), Rocky Point had crushed a total of 115,580 tonnes at an average CCS of 12.99. Total crushed this week was only 8,388 tonnes, however CCS at 14.11 appears to be still rising.

The harvest estimate has fallen to 199,376 tonnes and we still have over 80,000 tonnes in the paddock.

On Friday 11 and Saturday 12 October the area received a widespread 30mm of rain, which was very welcome for the plant and ratoon cane. It should also assist farms to complete planting of fallow ground.



RUN, WALK OR SWIM TO HELP SICK KIDS

Every November, Queenslanders get behind 9Telethon to raise \$13 million for the Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF) which helps sick kids battling illness or injury.

In the lead up to 9Telethon this year, you can run, walk or swim the equivalent of a marathon (42km) to help the Foundation reach their target.

Aptly named, the '42k Your Way Telethon Marathon', it provides an opportunity for all Queenslanders to participate and help raise much needed funds for sick kids, with no minimum fundraising amount required.

The CHF invests in vital equipment, supports families and funds life-saving medical research and programs, such as the **Statewide Connected Care program**, which facilitates the care of more than 1,300 children with chronic and complex health conditions from Brisbane to Cape York.

Sunsuper, for the fifth consecutive year, is a presenting partner of 9Telethon, and through its partnership this year will help fund the Statewide Connected Care program for 12 months; helping many more families and sick kids get the care they need at home, no matter where they live.

All Queenslanders can get involved in 9Telethon this year, by simply tuning in to watch the coverage on **Saturday, 16 November** or signing up as an individual or team to run 42K your way and help raise more funds for sick kids. To find out more visit 9telethon.com.au/whats-on/42k-your-way

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ABOUT SHANE WEBCKE

Football legend and sports presenter, Shane is Queensland's Safety Ambassador. Shane has a strong connection and commitment to work safety as his father was killed in a workplace incident.

As Queensland Safety Ambassador, Shane shares the story of how his father's death impacted his family, how his father chose to take a risk, and it was that snap decision that took his father's life.

Shane is passionate about offering advice to workers and businesses around the importance of staying safe at work and creating a strong safety culture.

**PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE ORGANISATIONS
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Time nearly up to choose your 2020 marketer

The deadline to choose your marketer for next season is almost upon us, with growers in Mackay Sugar, MSF Sugar, Tully Sugar and Wilmar milling districts only having until 31 October 2019 to make their 2020-Season GEI Sugar Marketer nomination.

Electing your marketer is an important decision, as they not only sell sugar and negotiate premiums on your behalf, but they also provide your pricing and payment options and any support you may need with these over the coming season.

QSL has been marketing Queensland sugar for nearly a century and represents more cane growers around our state than any other marketer. Here's just some of the reasons why so many growers choose to market with QSL:

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Premiums matter: We don't sell sugar to our own refineries. Instead, we use our long-term relationships with blue-chip Asian customers to target the best return available on behalf of those we represent.

The value of storage: QSL is the only sugar marketer to export through every Queensland bulk sugar terminal. This means we have unrivalled shipping flexibility to help manage fluctuations in production across the state and maximise pricing and sales returns.

Upfront and transparent: We have a proven commitment to transparency, with regular and public reporting of our returns and clear guidelines on how we account for and pass on any costs.

One system for all: Big or small, new or existing customer, the QSL product offering and loyalty program reward all eligible growers equally. There are no special deals for big growers or new customers.

Dedicated local support: Our Grower Services team is on hand when and where you need them, whether it be at your local QSL office, out on farm or via our free helpline.

For more information about how QSL can support your business, please contact your local QSL rep or call 1800 870 756.

AMANDA JOINS THE TEAM

A familiar face has joined Queensland Sugar Limited's Grower Services team, with Amanda Sheppard starting as QSL's Far North Queensland Grower Relationship Officer, based in Mossman.

Amanda has worked in the sugar industry for the past seven years, including with advocacy body Australian Cane Farmers Association (AFCA) on the Next Gen farmer program and Step UP conferences.

Her most recent work has been with Terrain NRM on their Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project – a water quality monitoring project, working with growers and the community based in the Tully and Johnstone River basins.

Originally from Brisbane, Amanda moved to the Mossman area three years ago, where she now lives on a cane farm with her partner.

"I have worked alongside QSL during my time in the sugar industry, so I am very happy to be part of the team," she said.

"It's very exciting times for growers supplying the Mossman Mill, with the formation of Far Northern Milling and the Daintree bio-precinct. I'm really looking forward to working with them to make the most of what QSL has to offer."

To book a chat with Amanda, contact her on 0418 264 393, or via email at Amanda.Sheppard@qsl.com.au.



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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.

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SWITCHING TO WIDER ROWS BOOSTS EFFICIENCY AND SOIL HEALTH FOR WET TROPICS GROWERS

Supplied by WTSIP

When Babinda cane grower Steven Bonso saw how soft the soil was on a Bundaberg farm during a field trip several years ago, he knew it was time to make some changes at home.

"The penetrometer being used to measure soil compaction levels literally fell into the soil," Steven said of the Bundaberg farm.

"The farmer had been using wider 1.8m rows, zonal tillage and cover crops for nearly 20 years. It was a turning point for me."

The third-generation cane farmer began trialling 1.8m rows and last year, with the

help of an Australian Government Reef Trust III grant through the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP), he started to transition the whole farm. This year he planted using the wider rows across all farms.

The family now uses a controlled traffic system with GPS autosteer on tractors, and will use a multi-species fallow crop this season for more soil health benefits.



These changes follow several years of mill ash application and reducing bagged nitrogen from 160kg per hectare to 140kg for ratoons and 125kg for plants.

Steven said he and his father Leo did their homework first.

"We had a strip trial in a paddock for five years and there was no loss in yield between our 1.6m and 1.8m sections," he said.

"I had a look around at other farms, and went to WTSIP and Terrain NRM workshops with soil ecologist David Hardwick and the Regenerative Cane Farming Forum in Ingham.

"You could see the savings with less trips up and down the paddock and less costs for harvesting.

"Then there's the benefits for soil health with less compaction and, in time, the potential for higher yields."

The Reef Trust grant helped the Bonsos to install GPS guidance on their tractor and widen it, as well as their two-row planter and spray boom.

In the Ingham region, Allan Lynn has found that sharing machinery with





Pictured: Babinda cane growers Steven and Leo Bonso and (right) Ingham grower Allan Lynn.

"...the drill area is as soft as butter, and the root systems are at least a third to double the size of plants across the headlands."

neighbouring growers and moving to 1.8m rows together made the transition easier.

The fourth-generation cane farmer began his changeover a decade ago with the help of an Australian Government Reef Rescue grant.

"It was more about improving soil health," he said. "In the same period my fertiliser regime has dropped at least 50kg of nitrogen per hectare. The highest level now is 120kg and my yield hasn't suffered.

"Going to 1.8m rows can be the start of a bigger change including multi-species cropping. I'm going back into my old beds now and the drill area is as soft as butter, and the root systems are at least a third to double the size of plants across the headlands."

WTSIP regional support extension officer **Michael Waring** said more growers were being encouraged to consider moving to controlled traffic with 1.8m rows.

"Growers who've made the switch are experiencing greater efficiencies and cost savings as a result of spending less time in the field.



"On a 100-hectare property you'll save about 69km in harvester travel a season with wider rows, plus there's less wear and tear and less stool damage by the machinery.

"So even though it's financially challenging to make such a big change there are definite business advantages to be gained and this is encouraging others to consider moving to wider rows," he said.

SMARTCANE BMP ACCREDITATION

As well as boosting efficiency and improving soil health, Steven Bonso's on-farm adaptations have played an important role in him achieving accreditation in the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP.

Alongside dad Leo, he was presented with his accreditation certificate by Cairns Region Smartcane BMP facilitator, **Joel Tierney**, during a grower gathering at Fishery Falls recently.

Fellow Cairns Region grower **Tilly Spertino** also received his accreditation certificate at the event.

Continues page 14 ►



"We want to recognise the efforts of Leo, Steven and Tilly who have been working hard to make their way through the Smartcane BMP program over the past year," Joel said.

"We've seen a lot of interest in the program recently with the majority of growers in the Cairns Region engaged in it."

The Fishery Falls get-together was hosted by the CANEGROWERS Project Cane Changer to celebrate the achievements of growers in the region.

On the night, Cane Changer project leader Dr John Pickering thanked growers for their on-going commitment.

Cairns Region was one of the first cane districts to embrace the project when it was launched in 2016. Since then, more than 70 growers have jumped on board.

"We'd like to sincerely thank all of the growers for helping to set the record straight over the past two years and for all of the work which has been done in the decades before this project began," Dr Pickering said.

At the event, growers were presented with a Cane Changer Declaration

highlighting the practices they have changed over the years to improve productivity and protect the environment.

"A lot can certainly change over the years, and that's no different for Cairns growers," Dr Pickering said. "In fact, these declarations show that across Cairns, growers involved in the project have changed well over 500 practices in the past decade."

"The majority of growers involved in the project are using fallow crops, sub-surface fertiliser application and have made large-scale changes to their farm layout and drainage systems," he said. "We're also seeing newer practices like the use of GPS and laser levelling increasing in popularity."

"There is a lot of great work happening in the Cairns Region at the moment," said CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Manager Sarah Standen. "Cairns growers have a long history of change and innovation."

"Programs like Cane Changer are just one of the many ways our district is working towards better outcomes for growers and the industry while demonstrating our environmental credentials." ■

Pictured: Cairns Region Smartcane BMP facilitator Joel Tierney presenting Babinda grower Steven Bonso with his Smartcane BMP accreditation certificate.

To find out more about Project Cane Changer visit www.canechanger.com

To find out more about Smartcane BMP visit www.smartcane.com.au

To find out more about WTSIP visit www.wtsip.org.au

The Reef Trust III Water Quality Grants program aims to reduce nitrogen use and improve water quality in cane-growing districts bordering the Great Barrier Reef while also boosting on-farm profitability and efficiencies.



New research and extension to **IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH**

Cane growers and millers in the Central and Wet Tropics growing regions will benefit from new industry-specific research and extension activity aimed at improving soil health.

These projects are seeing multiple organisations working together over two years to examine the impact of farming practices on improved soil health and productivity.

As part of SRA's Soil Health Program, the *Soil Health Project - Central and Wet Tropics Soil Health Project* is pairing neighbouring farms in each region to investigate the benefits of implementing improved farming system (IFS) practices compared with traditional farm management practices.

The outcome for growers will be an increased understanding of farming practices that will optimise yield, increase efficiencies and make a difference to their farming business.

"The sites within the project will allow growers and millers in these regions to understand the practices and benefits of adopting IFS practices that improve soil health," SRA Soil Health Program Leader **Marguerite White** said.

"Each of the paired sites will become a discussion point for local grower and service provider groups engaged in the project. These groups will be supported by SRA Adoption Officers, Farmacist and TRAP Services to interpret data and understand how the key outcomes are transferable to a growers' own farming system practices."

Physical, chemical and biological soil parameters will be measured, along with root development testing, to determine variation between the sites within each pair and therefore the long-term impact of implementing IFS practices. This work will also assist the industry to determine the best set of soil health indicators for these respective regions.



The economic implications of transitioning to IFS will be investigated and communicated through case studies.

Local productivity services and agency extension personnel will also be trained in use of the new SRA Soil Health Extension Toolkit, developed by the Soil Health Project of the Burdekin and Herbert Regions.

"Expansion of the Toolkit into these new regions is a great example of how different projects of the Soil Health Program have been designed to collaborate and value-add to one another. It is an integral component of the new project," Ms White said.

"The components of the Toolkit allow certain soil health indicators to be measured quite quickly in the field and, most importantly, provide a practical tool for advisors to start a good discussion about possible soil health constraints that are limiting yield potential with growers."

The projects are funded to supply the Toolkit to project partners and to validate soil health parameters across soil types.

SRA CEO **Neil Fisher** said the additional research investment will allow the expansion of existing soil health activity in the Burdekin and Herbert regions.

"Improving soil health is a priority issue for our industry, particularly given the cane industry faces several unique challenges and constraints," Mr Fisher said.

"One of our unique challenges has been to identify a short season complementary rotational crop, coupled with the challenge of moving towards an improved farming system and having two systems on farm during the transition phase.

"The good news is that many in the cane industry are finding innovative ways to improve their soil health and improve productivity, profitability and sustainability.

"We are seeing continued adoption of improved farming system practices that improve the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of sugarcane soils.

"This new project is bringing together on-ground innovation with the latest in research and adoption to deliver outcomes for the industry."

- *The Soil Health Project - Central is supported by the Department of Agriculture, through funding from Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Sugar Research Australia and the Queensland Government with assistance from Farmacist Pty Ltd, Plane Creek Productivity Services Ltd, Sugar Services Proserpine Ltd, Central Queensland Soil Health Systems, Wilmar Sugar, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, The University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland.*
- *The Wet Tropics Soil Health Project is supported by the Department of Agriculture, through funding from Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Sugar Research Australia and with assistance from TRAP Services, Tully Cane Productivity Services Limited, MSF Sugar, Tully Sugar, WTSIP, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, The University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland. ■*

CANEGROWERS ACHIEVES CHANGE IN REEF REGS DRAFTS

The Reef Bill has become law and the regulations under it are likely to take effect from 1 December 2019. Drafting them is a long and complex process and CANEGROWERS has clocked up success in minimising the impact on growers.

Known as subordinate legislation, the regulations describe how the various elements of the Reef Bill will apply to existing and new sugarcane operations.

Through our submissions and presence at meetings, CANEGROWERS has gained significant changes to the initial drafts:

- The Environment Minister has agreed to not regulate for the collection of data on sales and use of fertiliser, or other crop data.
- Significant changes have been made to the new minimum standard for growing cane, in particular avoiding the prescription of reduced N and P rates for different crop stages and soil factors.
- Government has committed to not review the new minimum standard for at least five years.
- Changes to the additional requirements for 'new' cane land. The detail will only be finalised in early 2020 so the regulations will therefore not take effect until June 2020.

There will be a phasing-in period for the new minimum standard for growing cane as follows:

- In the Central, Burdekin and North regions all requirements will apply from 1 December 2019, except new requirements for nutrient management which will not be a legal requirement until December 2021. (Note that the existing regulations for N and P management will remain in place until then)



- In the Southern Region record keeping requirements will apply immediately with all other requirements delayed until December 2022.

The Department of Environment and Science will be conducting information sessions and distributing fact sheets once everything is finalised.

TWO KEY SCIENCE QUESTIONS FOR CANE FARMING AND THE REEF

I mentioned recently that CANEGROWERS Policy Council endorsed a strategy that addresses the science of farming practices and their impacts on water quality and the health of the Reef. Growers want to have confidence that:

- Good science is being undertaken, with conclusions that are based on healthy debate and are expressed in terms of the level of certainty;
- Good science is expressed in good decision-making, good design of water quality programs and good policy development; and
- The experiences and needs of growers inform the design and delivery of cane farming initiatives for water quality.

The science around farming and its water quality impacts and any risk to the health of the Reef is complex. It is therefore very difficult for research to provide high levels of certainty about cause and effect. It comes down to the weight of evidence and a call on what level of certainty is required to justify changes in the management of farms, waterways or the reef lagoon itself.

There are two key questions that are most relevant to growers:

1. To what extent is the health of the Reef affected by cane farming?

2. What can growers afford to do on their farms to help improve water quality?

The CANEGROWERS reef science strategy will provide growers with balanced, evidence-based information on both of these questions. A lot of progress can be made by simply ensuring that there is much more balanced communication from researchers about the strength of evidence behind their findings, including the levels of uncertainty. In addition, we need to see much more engagement, respect and trust between scientists and growers.

Of particular relevance to growers is how well the science informs decision-making and policy development, especially by governments. Poorly informed policy development is the biggest risk to growers.

We have seen an example of this with the Queensland Government's justification of the new reef regulations – its economic analysis assumed that growers could make wholesale reductions in nutrient rates, below the rates recommended by soil testing and the SIX EASY STEPS method, without affecting crop yield. Evidence for this assumption is lacking.

It's perhaps not surprising that its economic study concluded that the new regulations for nutrient management were actually good for growers, and that there will be no net cost of the regulations for industry or society.

It is fortunate that wise heads have moderated the new regulations to avoid the prescription of lower nutrient rates. However, it remains an example of how poor assumptions can be used to justify government actions. This experience also supports the need for CANEGROWERS and other industry organisations to be proactive and outspoken to head off similar problems in the future. ■



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Digital innovation may offer \$300m to cane

When was the last time you pulled out your smartphone to get a weather update, check your social media, pay a bill or to watch Netflix? You may have even used an app to keep a record of your recent insecticide application, check the latest sugar price or see which paddock your harvester has been cutting.



Matt Kealley
CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation

Regardless of how you currently use technology, it's clear that smartphones, apps, sensors and the internet to provide insights which help with decision-making. And this is set to increase in the days ahead.

Digital innovation and the use of technology in farming situations is only limited by the download speed of your internet provider and the imagination of the generations X, Y and Z who are building the apps, algorithms and solutions to support farming efficiency and productivity.

According to research, digital innovation could lift the GVP of the Australian agricultural sector by a huge \$20.3 billion.

For sugar, the estimated benefit is \$293 million. So there are some serious upsides to the grower if technology can be applied in a useful way.

Recently, I attended a *Growing a Digital Future in Agriculture* forum in Canberra and listened to a group of enthusiastic researchers put forward their visions of what this digital future could look like.

It included automation and labor-saving applications, genetic gains through the use of data analytics, tailoring inputs using variable rate technology and improving market access through traceability.

The biggest impediments, they agreed, were access to fast internet and bandwidth speeds, linking different data sets and skilling people to apply this technology in agriculture.

While the Australian government is rolling out the NBN across the country, the challenge for the bush is the slower internet speeds because of lack of bandwidth.

Solutions are being provided for regional agriculture, although maybe not as quickly as the technology is changing. Fortunately for sugarcane, farming on the Queensland coast has its advantages.

Firstly, the infrastructure is in place to access the internet. Greater bandwidth and higher speeds mean that the apps and technology that can support an increasingly digital future can be put in place with greater confidence.

Secondly, the access to skilled IT expertise is greater, given that the coast is a pretty nice place to live and easy to get to from the capital cities.

The question for the sugarcane industry is simple - how do we take advantage of these fortunate circumstances to remain competitive in a global market?

In my mind, an example of sensors connected to an app on a smartphone used to make just-in-time irrigation decisions through remote access not only saves time but allows the grower to work on the business and not just in the business. When margins get tighter, working on the business is where digital agriculture can play a strong role.

As ACCC Commissioner **Mick Keogh** outlined in his address to the forum, Australian farmers have already demonstrated a readiness to adopt digital technology and to adapt it to the Australian farm environment, which is easily demonstrated by the widespread use of GPS systems.

In sugarcane growing, GPS and controlled traffic systems have saved time, reduced costs and allowed the development of some precision application options for fertiliser and chemicals.

Mick Keogh went on to say that some of the biggest gains in value are likely to be generated from the adoption of digital systems that extend seamlessly through the supply chain from farm to consumer.

This can open up opportunities to target higher value and premium markets or demonstrate to customers the provenance of the products they are purchasing.

CANEGROWERS is already in this space, our National Landcare Program-funded sustainable sugar project.

Supported by the Federal Government it is looking at the traceability of sustainably grown sugar, investigating the use of blockchain technology to verify the provenance of sugar for domestic and overseas purchasers, and to test the likelihood of premium payments for a fully traceable product.

Scoping the feasibility and design of a customised, digital supply chain solution for sugar and supply chain mapping are well advanced.

The forum and researchers believe this is a pivotal time for Australian agriculture to digitally innovate. The 15 Rural Research and Development Corporations involved in the research (including Sugar Research Australia), have invested in three national frameworks for the Australian agricultural sector. These are:

- **An agricultural workforce digital capability framework** which aims to lift the digital maturity of the sector from ad hoc to competitive, lift economic growth and prepare the workforce for the future.
- **Agricultural data rules: best management practice** aims to set

up an Agricultural Data Governance Framework and Action Plan, clarifying responsibilities and creating trust among producers and their supply chain partners.

- **A digital maturity index** aims to produce a practical tool that industry can use to systematically collect data to inform the development of a fit-for-purpose digital strategy, and to evaluate progress to achieving on-farm adoption of digital technologies, and improved usage of digital information in decision-making.

All of these can be found at www.crdc.com.au/growing-digital-future

The sugarcane industry is well placed to use this information and there are many examples of growers, millers and industry organisations working in this space.

Our biggest challenges are responding to the speed of change and the pace of technology. There also needs to be a willingness to better coordinate, to share data within the value chain and trust that this data will be used to make us more productive and attractive to buyers of sugar in a global market which is also changing and more reliant on digital technology.

Digital innovation is here and I'm sure there are many applications we haven't thought of yet that will help shape the future of agriculture and how we interact. ■

KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHTS FOR DECISION MAKERS

Growing a Digital Future in Agriculture



RDC PARTNERS

RESEARCH PARTNERS

NATIVE TITLE AND SUGARCANE FARMS



Native Title became part of Australian law following the 1992 High Court Mabo decision. The Court decided that Indigenous people hold interests in the land and waters and that these continued to exist despite European settlement.

The Commonwealth subsequently passed the *Native Title Act* which regulated native title law. The Act provides a process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to make an application to the Federal Court for a determination that native title exists over certain land and waters.

The Act also makes it clear that certain types of land tenure are not subject to claim. These tenures include freehold land and public works such as roads.

RELEVANCE TO CANE FARMS

Most sugarcane farms are held as freehold and accordingly are not subject to claim. However, many growers also hold a permit, licence or lease over small Crown land lots. Such lots, being Crown land and not freehold land, can be affected by a native title claim depending on the nature of the current and historical tenure of the lots in question.

CANEGROWERS SUPPORT

CANEGROWERS currently provides free legal representation to members who have interests in lots that are subject to a native title claim. In addition, the Commonwealth also provides limited funding to CANEGROWERS to assist in supporting members in relation to native title issues generally.

I have represented members who have held licences and permits over lots of Crown land that, due to historical tenure issues, have been accepted during the claim process as being excluded from native title claim because the native title rights that had existed have been extinguished.

I have also represented members who hold Crown lots under permit or licence whereby the native title rights and interests are found to still exist but are non-exclusive. In these cases, it has been resolved that the grower's right to use the lot for the purposes of the permit or licence continue.



Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

I've also represented members who hold Crown lots under permit or licence whereby the native title rights and interests are likely to continue to exist and to be exclusive in nature. This means that if the Court accepts that these rights are exclusive, the grower's permit and licence to use the Crown lot will be cancelled.

If growers do hold permits or licences over Crown land, then there is potential for such permits and licences to be affected by a claim, depending on the historical nature of the tenure and the type of licence or permit held.

If members have any concerns about native title issues they should contact CANEGROWERS for advice and assistance.

WHAT IS NATIVE TITLE?

Australian native title laws recognise some Indigenous rights to some land and waters.

The nature of the rights recognised depends on the particular native titleholders' traditional laws and customs and the native title laws of Australia.

Native title is not like freehold and cannot be bought and sold by the native title holders. Native title cannot exist over minerals, gas or petroleum.

Native title may include rights and interests to:

- Live on an area;
- Access an area for traditional purposes;
- Visit and protect important places;
- Hunt, gather and fish an area; and/or
- Teach law and custom and engage in cultural activities.

Native title remains in two forms: exclusive possession and non-exclusive possession.

Where exclusive native title is recognised, it will generally include the right to possess and occupy the relevant area to the exclusion of all others. Such exclusive possession areas can only be granted over limited parts of Australia, mostly unallocated and vacant Crown land.

Where non-exclusive native title is recognised, the native title rights and interests co-exist with non-Indigenous property rights. For the most part, even non-exclusive native title can only be recognised over certain crown lands and waters.

NATIVE TITLE CLAIM PROCESS

To be granted native title rights, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who believe they are entitled to hold native title rights and interests to an area must make an application to the Federal Court. It is only the Federal Court that can make an order granting native title.

The applicants must prove that they are the appropriate claim group and that they have a sufficient continuous and unbroken connection to the country since Australia was colonised by Great Britain.

The claim process involves:

- An application to the Federal Court.

- The application is then referred to the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) which will assess the application against the registration test to ensure the application meets certain basic criteria.
- The claim, if registered, is then advertised and any person with an interest in it that may be affected can apply to become a party. Usually the NNTT will write to any potentially affected landholders advising that a claim has been made and providing advice about the process to become a respondent party. If a cane grower receives such a letter they can contact their local CANEGROWERS office if they want support, advice and assistance.
- The Federal Court then manages the claim and regularly conducts direction hearings, case management conferences and mediations to facilitate the determination of the claim.
- The native title applicants will prepare evidence and material to seek to prove they are the appropriate native title holders and that there is sufficient connection to the country claimed. Related genealogical and anthropological evidence is gathered.
- The respondent parties, including the State can review this material. The State undertakes its own research to determine whether it is prepared to accept the claim group and accept that there is sufficient connection to country.
- If this connection to country and claim group identification does not satisfy the State and any other interested parties, then the claim is unlikely to proceed and the applicant claim group will need to decide whether to provide more information or abandon the claim.
- If the State is satisfied about those matters then it will undertake a detailed tenure analysis of all affected lots within the claim area. In some cases there are thousands of lots that must be considered. The State, in consideration with other parties, will consider the tenure history of any potentially affect lots. The State will form a preliminary assessment of whether native title has been extinguished over that lot or whether it continues in either a non-exclusive or exclusive form.
- If all parties agree they can apply to the Court to make a determination of native title by consent.
- If all parties don't agree, then the claim can go to trial with a hearing in the Federal Court. A Federal Court judge will make a decision about the claim and whether native title has been extinguished or exists and if so over what areas and whether the rights and interests are exclusive or non-exclusive.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any member wishing to discuss aspects of native title or any other matter should contact their local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser Chris Cooper, on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■



By Kate Gowdie
Smartcane BMP Manager

Smartcane BMP is about a whole of farm approach to productivity, profitability and sustainability.

While we often focus on the three core modules of the Smartcane BMP program (Soil Health and Nutrients, Irrigation and Drainage, and Weeds, Pests and Disease), the non-core modules (Planting and Harvesting, Farm business, Natural Systems, Workplace Health and Safety, and Pathway to Sustainable Sugar) are equally valuable to a grower implementing a comprehensive Best Management Practices program. Below is an overview of the non-core modules.

PLANTING AND HARVESTING

The planting component looks at factors that can affect productivity for the whole crop cycle, for example:

- the variety of cane and its characteristics for productivity, disease resistance, etc.
- the disease status of the planting material
- the quality of the billets
- the time of planting, ensuring good soil temperature and moisture levels
- using a planting system that works for you and your farm

The harvesting section is about optimising efficiency and timing while minimising damage to the stool.

Fallow management, land preparation, weed management, grub control, and nutrient management are also important, and are in modules one and three.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

This module is about analysing your business performance to help you to

identify the management factors that have the most influence on profit.

With declining terms of trade, varying sugar prices and seasonal conditions, it's complicated. Knowing your cash flow, profitability and cost of production (dollar per tonne of raw sugar) will assist in farm management planning and decisions.

Good farm business records ensure you get a reliable assessment of how the business is performing.

NATURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

This module looks at managing your natural systems for economic and environmental outcomes. Land used to farm sugarcane is typically fully cleared. However, many farms have wetlands, waterways and associated riparian zones which are critical to surface drainage. Some farms also have patches of native vegetation. No matter the size of these aquatic or vegetated areas, they can make important contributions to conserving native species.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

As a business owner, you have legal obligations to minimise the risks to which you and your workers, visitors and contractors are exposed. Implementing workplace health and safety procedures is all about using common sense and there are many resources to help ensure the risk of injury on a farm is kept as low as possible.

In your procedures, you need to show that you understand your responsibility for your workers, contractors and visitors, and how you take appropriate

action to meet your obligations. This module helps you identify areas that may require attention to comply with regulation.

PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE SUGAR

We're beginning to see a global shift with consumers becoming more interested in where their food comes from. They're demanding that materials in the products they buy are produced sustainably and ethically. As a result, organisations like Bonsucro, Proterra and Fairtrade have developed ways to certify that the supply chain (growers, millers and refiners) meet global standards.

We already know Australian sugar is the best in the world, but we may need to start exporting certified sugar to satisfy some export markets. It's important to understand that the whole supply chain is certified, so it is only relevant to you if the mill you supply has been certified by Bonsucro, Proterra or an equivalent global standard.

If you're already accredited with Smartcane BMP, you're well on the way to meeting the on-farm requirements of the global standards. We developed this module so you can see what's involved and the extra steps you'll need to take to meet the requirements of a certified supply chain.

For more information or to benchmark your enterprise in any of the Smartcane BMP modules, visit the website www.smartcane.com.au

For further assistance, contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator. ■

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Next deadline is **28 October 2019**.

* 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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2 row mounter, with spiked crumble roller. Herbert River area. Ph: 0417648543.

Mackay–Proserpine

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, hyd. adjustable fronts 1.50m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted to front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system fitted; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All in good condition. Ph: 0427617807.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, Trimble GPS, Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors, Standard Topper, 2 speed wheel motors, Pro Rata Engine Warranty. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428182464 or 0427541030.

KUBOTA BX2670 4WD, 26hp, 187hrs, Front End Loader with GP Bucket, 60" Side

Discharge Mower, 170kg Counterweight, \$19,990 Inc., Ph: 0428236165.

Case harvester back tyre and rim 16 ply 23-1-26 BKT 80% thread, \$1100 incl. GST. Ph: 0418159998.

15 mgl's Kinchant Dam water allocation. By expression of interest. Ph after 6pm: 0749545179.

Toft 6000 series 4 with toft rotary chop GC. Howard HR 40 Rotary hoe with crumble roller. Ph: 0418776064.

3x RTK GPS systems + portable base station. Integra screen & edge screen, roof array with all wiring. 3rd system includes wiring, steering valve, mounting brackets. No screen or roof array. Portable base with tripod. All

three systems & base station only \$38,000 + GST. Ph: 0414322729.

2500 Cameco full track cane harvester 1995/96 excellent condition. MF 1085 good condition. Poplin billet planter excellent Condition. Rinaudo 3t stainless steel Fertilizer box side dresser. Howard 3 leg square plough. Ph: 0488053298.

Howard AH Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned - 1 x 100", 1 x 90", 1 x 80". Howard AR Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned - 2 x 80". Also available S/H AR Howard 90". Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from \$50 to \$500. Ph: 0749595885 or 0407643441.

Chisel plough (Graham Plow Yeomans) 3350 wide or 11' 2230 deep or 7'6", 11 legs (+4

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–October
	07.10.19	14.10.19		
Mossman	0	0	2493	1897
Mareeba AP	0	0.2	634	751
Cairns	38	0	1936	1729
Mt Sophia	37	0	2779	2894
Babinda	26	0	2605	3753
Innisfail	37	0	2943	3135
Tully	17	0	2262	3647
Cardwell	4	0	1938	1807
Lucinda	0	0	2251	1831
Ingham	1	Tce	2650	1717
Abergowrie	0.6	0	1904	1561
Townsville	0.4	0	1756	933
Ayr DPI	0	0	948	780
Proserpine	3	30	1427	1136
Mirani	31	6	1426	1252
Mackay	8	6	1065	1293
Sarina (Plane Ck)	8	71	1382	1423
Bundaberg	16	16	284	795
Childers South	7	15	291	687
Maryborough	6	20	472	940
Tewantin	90	81	978	1425
Eumundi	18	0	524	1383
Nambour	38	48	928	1376
Woongoolba	2	31	591	1088
Murwillumbah	9	21	527	1284
Ballina	0	4	865	1510
Woodburn	0	0	261	1161



dream with
your eyes open

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.

spare legs) with leaf harrows \$3850. Ph: 0749595883 or 0407643441.

Nuffield 460 (working condition) and International 624. Sell for parts or whole for wrecking. Ph: 49540190 or 0407638381

Bundaberg–Rocky Point

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427598333.

Kubota Tractor B6100 Four Wheel Drive with inner-row spray tank. GC. Hydraulic self drive and steering planter. Suit most hilled crops. Can be modified to more rows. Excellent condition. Bundaberg Area. Ph: 0458598445.

Wanted

International 766 to 1566 row crop tractor any condition even if not going. Ph: 0428283454.

125/350 hard hose irrigator. Ph Steve: 0419705530.

Chamberlain 4080 in good condition with good tyres. Ph: 0418784291.

Farmers son needs a starter boat. Approximately 4 metres. About \$6,000. Ph: 0488535847.

Property

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, + 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 27.82 ha total, 27.62 under cane on 1 freehold title. 5 yr av 97 t/ha. 7.5 kms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water. Ph: 0417647002.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 07 4777 4633 or 0408608664.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408880724.



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Mark and Andrew, Burdekin



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