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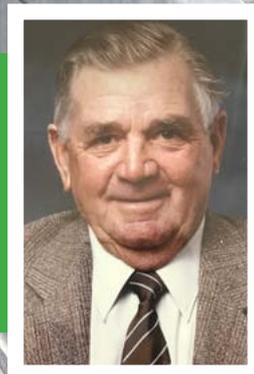
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Australia escalates WTO action against Indian subsidies



Global sugar industry convenes in Cairns for 2019 ISO conference



Southern region cane growers farewell industry 'legend'



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COVER IMAGE: Mulgrave cane grower Michael Santarossa spent two decades working in the mining industry before returning to the family farm.

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Indian export subsidies - Australia rolls up its sleeves!

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The Australian Government's decision to formally request that a World Trade Organisation Dispute Panel be established to investigate and rule on Indian sugar export subsidies, has been welcomed by the industry.

The move, which signals the government's determination to see this issue resolved, brings to an end the period of consultation. The issue will now move to a full-blown legal and court-based approach.

Australia has been joined in this WTO action by Brazil and Guatemala, with other sugar-producing nations also signalling their support.

Indian export subsidies have greatly undermined the world sugar price, which in turn has caused enormous economic damage to the incomes of Australia's growers and millers. I know very well that growers are hurting from a world price that is below the cost of production.

The WTO action against India is important, not only to curtail Indian Government subsidies, but also to send a message to other countries contemplating export subsidies, that Australia and our international partners won't tolerate policies that damage our industries and are a blatant breach of WTO rules.

Recently, I attended a meeting of the Global Sugar Alliance in Cairns to fortify Australia's action against Indian export subsidies.

The Global Sugar Alliance is made up of countries like Australia that believe in adherence to international trading rules and oppose subsidies and protectionism that distorts the world price of sugar.

The meeting was attended by the three largest exporters of sugar in the world: Brazil, Thailand and Australia. The meeting was about confirming our resolve and ensuring we and our respective governments co-ordinate our efforts in taking the WTO action.

I am well aware that growers are frustrated by the seemingly inordinate amount of time that it takes to mount and prosecute these applications in the WTO.

Unfortunately, this process is governed by a prescriptive and cumbersome set of international rules.

Every attempt is being made by the Australian Government to hasten the process, but can only be achieved to the extent that the rules permit.

Whilst the lengthy nature of this WTO action is frustrating to all – a successful outcome will be worth waiting for.

In 2004, when Australia, Brazil and Thailand combined to reduce European exports by as much as six million tonnes per annum, the resultant world price increase lasted many years.

The WTO process, albeit lengthy in duration, does deliver results. In the period 1995 to 2018 nearly 42% of trade disputes were resolved early due to discussions between the parties.

Also, around 80-90% of WTO dispute panel outcomes were complied with by the offending parties.

ISO CONFERENCE

It was a great privilege to attend the International Sugar Organisation Conference in Cairns this month.

The ISO is a unique inter-governmental body devoted to improving the welfare of the global sugar industry. It is made up of 87 member countries.

It is rare for the ISO to meet in Australia and hence this conference had a distinctly Australian flavour.

It is remarkable that whilst every other sugar producing country is structurally different, the challenges faced are the same as Australia.

Worldwide, all countries are facing threats in the sugar and nutrition debate and greater environmental regulation.

More than anything else, these conferences serve as an opportunity to share information and gain insights into how the sugar countries of the world are taking on the same challenges that we face in Australia. Often a problem shared is almost a problem solved. ■



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia pushes WTO action over Indian subsidies

Australia has escalated its international action against India's industry-damaging sugar policies, making a formal request of the World Trade Organisation's Dispute Settlement Body to establish a panel to investigate whether India's high sugarcane prices and export subsidies exceed its international trade obligations.

The WTO action, taken in conjunction with Brazil and Guatemala, is the next step in a long process of taking India to task for its trade-distorting policies. It comes on the back of failed consultations with India earlier this year.

"This has had a serious impact on 4,500 cane growers. Not only the economic impact on farming businesses and mills, but also the damage it's doing to grower morale and confidence in our industry's future."

"For more than a year we have been calling for the Indian government to be held to account for the current and, in the absence of reform, ongoing distortion to world sugar market prices," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"We estimate that we've lost something like \$150 million a year in reduced incomes as a direct result of India dumping subsidised sugar onto the world market, driving down the global sugar price to less than the cost of production.

"This has had a serious impact on 4,500 cane growers. Not only the economic impact on farming businesses and mills, but also the damage it's doing to grower morale and confidence in our industry's future."

Australian Sugar Milling Council CEO **David Pietsch** said overproduction in India and record stocks, stimulated by government subsidies, are weighing on market sentiment and depressing prices.

"Australia wants to see India commit to major reforms that at least bring its subsidies into line with its WTO entitlements," Mr Pietsch said.

"Doing so, will help to restore global prices to levels that reward least-cost producers like Australia."

"If it played by the WTO rules it committed to, India could make two important changes. Drop its use of export subsidies and link sugarcane prices to sugar prices," concluded Mr Pietsch.

Speaking at a Global Sugar Alliance meeting in Cairns earlier this month, Executive Director of Brazil's sugar industry association, **Eduardo Leão de Sousa**, suggested diverting excess sugar stocks to ethanol production could help resolve the issue.

"India's sugarcane prices must be linked to the sugar prices and its excessive export subsidies eliminated," he said.

"The first important steps could be to divert India's excess sugar to ethanol production and to ensure any remaining supports comply with its WTO commitments."

Thailand and Canada have also signaled their support for the WTO action, with both sugar-producing nations suggesting they may join the action at a later stage. ■

GROWERS TO VOTE ON MILL DEAL

As this issue of *Australian Canegrower* went to print, Mackay growers were preparing to vote on the sale of 70% of grower equity in Mackay Sugar Limited to German company Nordzucker.

Grower-shareholders will attend an Extraordinary General Meeting at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre at 5pm on Monday, 29 July, where they'll decide if the deal should proceed.

The recent sale of Mossman Mill to the Far Northern Milling Group cleared the way for the historic vote, with the offload of Mackay Sugar's Mossman operation a precondition of the Nordzucker deal.

While most local growers are behind the deal, at the time of print, a small group was withholding support over a plan to change the cane payment formula from PRS to CCS.

In a letter to shareholders earlier this month, Mackay Sugar Chairman **Mark Day** warned that the company and Mackay's sugar industry more generally faced an uncertain future if the deal was rejected.

"We have had a long journey to get to this point. We have reviewed many options for the business and determined what the Board believes is the best opportunity currently available," Mr Day wrote.

"The alternative is a situation where the company could face an extremely uncertain future impacting on all the growers supplying the three Mackay mills.

"We have a great climate for growing sugarcane, supplemental irrigation in many regions, world class port facilities, well sized farms, well educated growers and workforce in a first world country and we are close to the growing market of Asia. We have all of the ingredients needed to succeed."

Mackay Area Committee Chairman, **Paul Schembri**, said if approved, the deal would help restore confidence in the local industry.

"This is a vote of historic proportions," Mr Schembri said.

"I'm hopeful growers will support the proposal and, in doing so, help secure the financial future of Mackay Sugar and give greater confidence and surety to Mackay Sugar's 800 growers." ■

Cairns plays host to global sugar industry

Delegates from the world's sugar-producing nations descended on Cairns this month for the International Sugar Organisation's 2019 Conference.

It was the first time in the organisation's 51 year history that the conference has been held in Australia and the local industry was eager to showcase its best and brightest with delegates enjoying a whirlwind tour of some of far north Queensland's most innovative farming and milling operations.

"The ISO is a government to government forum of 87 member countries, and represents over 90% of the world's sugar supply," CANEGROWER CEO Dan Galligan said.

"With the Australian Government taking over as Chair of this powerful and influential group in November 2018, the timing was perfect for us to showcase our industry to the world."

CANEGROWERS supported the organisation and production of the event in partnership with the Australian Government, Australian Sugar Milling Council and Sugar Research Australia.

"We were keen to provide an on the ground experience, the highlight of which was a field trip to SRA Meringa Research Station, the Rossi family farm at Mulgrave and the MSF Tableland Mill," Mr Galligan said.

"While the forum was far more technical in nature, it was a still an excellent opportunity for us to profile our major issues around trade liberalisation, sustainable supply chains and social licence to this international audience." ■

Pictured above: CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan (far right) takes part in a panel discussion on forging the future of the Australian sugar industry, alongside David Pietsch (ASMC), Dr Jason Eglinton (SRA), Don Murday (ACFA). Below: Grower Tony Rossi explains his farm's innovative waste composting system to delegates.







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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

At week ending 13 July Mossman Mill had crushed a total of 166,917 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.56 CCS

Coastal growers have supplied a total of 109,748 tonnes for a mill average of 10.95 CCS while Mareeba growers have supplied a total of 57,169 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 12.89 CCS.

Our annual district show was held on 21-22 July, with The Next Gen group again doing a great job organising the cane display which had 44 entries. Each class was well represented. We congratulate all who entered and with special mention to C Fasano & Co for taking out both the Champion Exhibit and Most Successful Exhibitor.

CAIRNS REGION

Fine weather across the Gordonvale and Babinda area has been well received by growers and contractors, and planting is underway. Mill performance has been much improved although a few suppliers are still awaiting the work on their points to be completed.

Dr Peter Ridd will be presenting his lecture *How reliable is the science demonstrating damage to the Great Barrier Reef* at Cazalys in Cairns on Wednesday 21 August at 7pm. Everybody is encouraged and most welcome to attend.

INNISFAIL

Crushing at South Johnstone sugar mill recommenced on 14 July after an extended shut down due to wet weather. The milling operations now appear to be running smoothly with minimum stoppages since crushing recommenced. Cool weather arrived with minimum temperatures a little below what is expected in the Wet Tropics.

Kim Kendall, who has been manager of operations at South Johnstone Mill, has retired and MSF Sugar has announced that the position has been given to Barry O'Brien, who was employed as an engineer at the mill.

Up until 20 July the mill had crushed 146,576 tonnes, 10.4% of the current estimate. CCS is rising very slowly.

With the district experiencing drier conditions, growers are busy getting ground ready for planting. It will be an exceptional busy period in coming weeks as grower try to catch-up on work after the long period of wet weather.

Arrangements are in place for the Dr Peter Ridd lecture to be held at the Con Theatre in Innisfail on Monday 19 August.

TULLY

The past week has reminded us all why we live where we live. Cool dry conditions have given the harvest crews just what they need after the constant showery conditions that they have operated in since the season started in early June. To date, 522,000 tonnes have been harvested and crushed with a season to date CCS of 11.97. 50% of the cane harvested has been old ratoons and the yield has been disappointing, at 77 tonnes per hectare. As the harvest moves into younger cane, the estimate and CCS is expected to increase. However, it is not likely that the long-term average yield will be reached.

The Tully Show will run over the weekend 26-27 July. Otherwise, planting is in full swing and everyone is getting on with their work.

HERBERT RIVER

Herbert River district's second week of the crushing season for 2019 was hindered by expected rainfall, with Victoria mill crushing 91,586 tonnes for the week. The Macknade mill started crushing on Tuesday morning as cane supplies improved. The mill had a generally good start with only minor commissioning issues and ended up crushing 31,458 tonnes for its first week.

Week 3 wasn't the week we hoped for, with Victoria Mill stopping on Tuesday morning (16 July) having processed just 27,000 for the week to that point. The mill started up again on at 4pm on Friday and, as cane supply improved, Wilmar started the second milling train.

Macknade Mill restarted after a wet stop on Wednesday and has had a good run, settling down from processing old juice. Wilmar managed to get maintenance done at both factories, so no planned stop will be needed in Week 4. Cane quality has generally been good with only a few rakes that caused processing difficulties. The mill CCS average for the week was 12.17. There was total of around 85,000 tonnes crushed for the week.

BURDEKIN

Wet weather had a major impact on harvesting operations in Week 6, resulting in just under 145,000 tonnes being crushed for the week.

The following week, a season high of just under 390,000 tonnes were crushed. As of Week 7 (w/e 20 July) the Burdekin mills have crushed 1,892,565 tonnes of cane for the season, which is approximately 23% of the season estimate.

There were two major breakdowns over the weekend, with Inkerman Mill losing approximately 16 hours due to a voltage trip on Saturday that impacted the alternator and resulted in a lengthy delay. Kalamia Mill stopped on Sunday when the return bar on No. 1 mill failed.

The highest CCS sample for Week 6 was 17.1 from a

PROSERPINE

Proserpine's fortnightly throughput was restricted to 69,764 tonnes due to wet field conditions from the recent rain event. Ground conditions dried out enough to allow harvesting to resume on Sunday 14 July with crushing recommencing late on Monday 15 July. However, harvesters struggled throughout the week to find enough dry paddocks to maintain supply to the mill. CCS for the week was 12.96 which brought the season-to-date average to 12.76. With a little over 10% of the harvest completed, the crop is cutting close to the original estimate of 1.62 million tonnes.

The annual Show Cane Awards were held prior to the commencement of the crush. Champion Six Stalks of the Show was awarded to Watts Farming. Overall winner and Champion Exhibitor for 2019 was BJ & BL Holcombe (pictured right with CANEGROWERS Proserpine Chairman Glenn Clarke). Congratulations to Lethebrook Branch who took out District Exhibit for an unprecedented 20th consecutive time.



MACKAY

At the end of week five of crushing in the Mackay district, the Farleigh, Marian and Racecourse mills, had crushed a total of 1,013,015 tonnes (as at 21 July).

Individual totals for the week were:

- Farleigh – 66,887 tonnes
- Marian – 79,416 tonnes, and
- Racecourse – 64,508 tonnes.

The total for the week was 210,811 tonnes with a CCS of 12.70 (year to date CCS is 11.95).

MACKAY SHOW SUGARCANE COMPETITION AWARDS NIGHT

The winners of the Sugarcane Competition at the Mackay Show were celebrated on Friday 12 July.

About 60 growers and their families and sponsors attended the Awards Night to cheer on the winners.

Dwayne and Estelle Chapman received the Champion Exhibitor of the Show award (showing varieties SP80, Q240, SRA9) while Robert Denman received the champion Stool of Show Award (for variety Q208). Reserve Champion Stool of Show went to Robert Ribaldone (for variety Q135).

Carlo Germanotta received the Award for top CCS (17.3, KQ228).

Local schools received points from the growers' entries with the top prize money for the schools competition going to the P&C of St Patricks College.



Pictured: Dwayne & Estelle Chapman receive the Champion Exhibitor of the Show award from Stuart Hunt, Regional Sales Manager, for sponsor Hardy Spicer.

rake of Q240 plant cane recorded in the Invicta area. In Week 7 the highest CCS sample was 17.4 from Q240 again from a rake of plant cane recorded in the Pioneer area. Seasonal CCS recorded to date for Burdekin is 13.69. Pioneer continues to nudge ahead with 13.92 followed by Inkerman at 13.77.

For week seven, Q240 was the highest supplied variety at 38%, followed by KQ228 at 26%. On a district basis Q240 achieved 14.29 CCS followed by KQ228 and Q183 at 14.02.

At this stage the only scheduled stop planned is for Invicta B side on Tuesday 23 July. Wilmar logistics staff are continuing to audit compliance with induction requirements for all people working at cane train sidings.

PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill achieved good throughput with more than 65,600 tonnes crushed for week 5 ended 20 July. Good harvesting conditions led to improved cane quality and increased bin weights.

The mill crushing rate and consistency improved throughout the week with the return to drier, cooler conditions. The average weekly CCS increased to 13.14 while the average bin weight increased to 3.95 tonnes with the better harvesting conditions.

The highest CCS was 15.8, from a rake of KQ228 first ratoon in the Mt Christian productivity district. No rain was recorded for the week in the Plane Creek supply area. The highest CCS was 15.8, from a rake of KQ228 first ratoon in the Mt Christian productivity district.

Continues page 8 ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

BUNDABERG

Bundaberg Sugar Mills processed 73,942.01 tonnes of cane during week three, bringing the total tonnes crushed for the season to date to 204,982.77. The weekly average CCS was 13.59 units bringing the season to date average CCS to 13.16 units. The highest individual CCS for the week was 16.80 units for Q208 PL cane in Millaquin.

The four major varieties supplied were KQ228 with 39.2% of supply and a CCS average of 13.57 units, followed by Q240A with 31.4% supply and a CCS average of 13.75 units, Q208A with 9.3% of supply and an average CCS of 14.03 units and Q242A with 6.5% of supply and a CCS average of 12.57 units.

Harvesting conditions at present are ideal, however the district is in desperate need of rain to maintain the condition of the crop and assist with ratooning and ground preparation for planting in the Spring.

World-renowned geophysicist Dr Peter Ridd is joining Bundaberg region farmers fighting for their livelihood in the face of increasing Palaszczuk Government regulation around the Great Barrier Reef. Dr Ridd will start a

speaking tour in Bundaberg on 12 August. The lecture, to be held at the Moncrieff Theatre in Bundaberg, will lay out the evidence around the continued health and ongoing growth of the Great Barrier Reef.

According to Dr Ridd, the proposed new regulations make no sense for the Burnett Mary catchment because water from the Burnett River goes nowhere near the Reef - something that government managers admitted in discussions last year.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS is challenging the State Government to ensure legislation and remediation funds are being most appropriately directed to maximise the benefit for the Great Barrier Reef.

How reliable is the science demonstrating damage to the Great Barrier Reef? The need for better quality control

Details: 12 Aug 2019, 5pm for 5.30pm start, Moncrieff Theatre, Bundaberg.

Cost: Free. Tickets required. Visit: www.eventbrite.ie/e/dr-peter-ridd-lecture-bundaberg-tickets-64585150925

ISIS

Week two has seen fine weather throughout the district and this, coupled with the prolonged dry, is making ideal harvesting conditions.

The highest CCS for the week was 16.58 for first ratoon KQ228 from a Bullyard grower. At the end of the week a total of 57,152.84 tonnes had passed through the rollers at the mill.

All stakeholders are reminded that Harvesting Best Management Practices are the key to reducing losses and prolonging ratoons. The 2019 crop has been grown under drought conditions and therefore tonnes per hectare yields are down. In these conditions it is very important to stick to the HBMP guidelines as any CCS or cane loss will increase the impact on everyone's bottom line.



MARYBOROUGH

It's been a dramatic couple of weeks. Weather-wise, persistent rain finally halted and some chilly and frosty conditions hit across the district through the week of 15-21 July.

Several changes in the MSF Sugar executive structure were announced around the same time, which has meant adjustments to operations but all was ready for the start on 22 July. That was until the Department of Main Roads updated its list of B Double accessible roads and gave a few surprises for the start. These are being worked through at present to seek an urgent correction but that may take time to be finalised. MSF's Cane Supply Manager is attending to this urgent matter.

It certainly is the season of change with Barry Callow of Productivity Services now retired and Yolande Kliese in place and busily seeing growers and RSD testing.

Our crop has certainly improved over the last six weeks and we're looking forward to some good results from the harvest. It is good to see the cane moving to the mill for 2019!

P.S. As you can see from the picture, we've found a back-up for the mill in case of any serious breakdown (although the season may be a bit long).

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Maryborough Manager Cameron Waterson hard at work, crushing cane at the Maryborough Show.

Respected Chairman farewelled

Maryborough's cane industry has farewelled one of the district's most respected and successful representatives.

Milton Nielsen, who served on the Maryborough board for almost 40 years, including a 16-year tenure as Chairman from 1985 to 2001, died in July, aged 92.

"Milton was a CANEGROWERS legend" CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said. "He was well known and respected throughout the entire industry."

"He achieved a great deal in his time with Maryborough CANEGROWERS and as a State Council representative during a challenging period when the industry was going through a number of changes."

Mr Nielsen's first foray into grower representation came in 1964, when he stood-in for an absent director during a district board meeting.

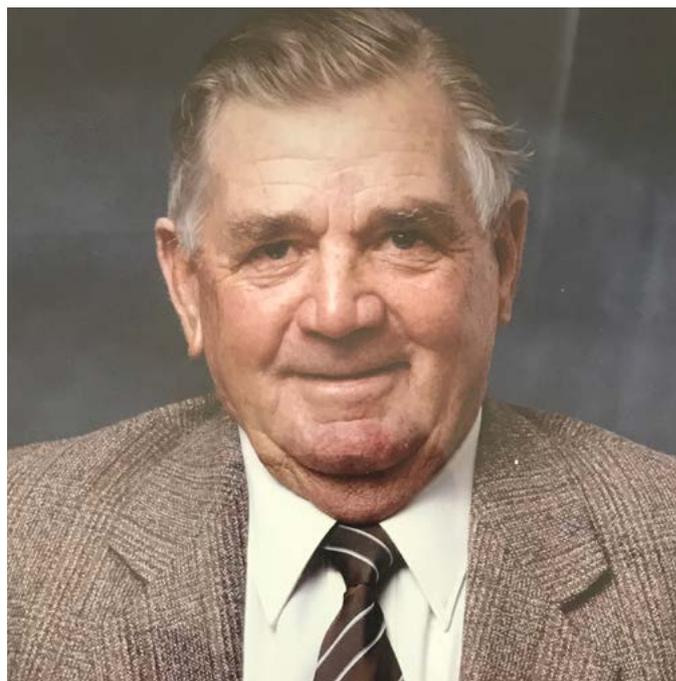
"He must have said the right things as he was elected onto the committee later that year," CANEGROWERS Maryborough manager **Cameron Waterson** said.

He served as Vice Chair under Chairman **Tom Gee** from 1967 until Mr Gee's retirement in 1985, at which time Mr Nielsen took on the Chairman's role.

"The Maryborough district saw an extensive amount of change through Milton's time in charge," Mr Waterson said.

"Through the 1990's the industry was evolving, with changes to season lengths, varieties, the introduction of standard harvest contracts, changes to BSES and the move to green harvesting."

"It wasn't always easy to make these changes and not always popular with all growers, but Milton showed the leadership to make these improvements which I believe made a big contribution to the sustainability of the Maryborough sugar industry."



Mr Nielsen was also directly involved in establishing the Maryborough sugar industry strategic plan in 1993, which had a number of key objectives based on the cooperation between growers and the mill.

Former managing director of Maryborough Sugar Factory, **David Braddock**, worked closely with Mr Nielsen during this period.

"I had great admiration for Milton," Mr Braddock said. "During the period he was Chairman of Maryborough CANEGROWERS the Maryborough sugar industry made great progress through mutual cooperation between CANEGROWERS and MSF."

"It wasn't always easy to make these changes and not always popular with all growers, but Milton showed the leadership to make these improvements which I believe made a big contribution to the sustainability of the Maryborough sugar industry."

Mr Nielsen is survived by his wife of 70 years, Pam, and a large extended family.

His funeral was held in Hervey Bay on 22 July, the first day of the 2019 crush, and was well attended by the local cane-growing community. ■

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Smartcane BMP accreditation for **SRA TULLY RESEARCH STATION**



Sugar Research Australia has achieved Smartcane BMP accreditation for its research station at Tully.

The accreditation is part of SRA ensuring that its research stations across the industry are meeting the best practice industry standard for farm management and stewardship, with Tully now joining most other SRA research stations as being accredited.

The process was initiated by SRA Farm Operations Leader **Jerome Gumley** who was assisted locally by SRA Technician (Tully) **Andy Rigby**, SRA Meringa Farm Manager **Ken Clarke**, and Tully farm services contractor **Eddie Skocaj**.

Previous Meringa Farm Manager **Jeff Smith** (now retired) also played a key role in assisting with the Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Mr Gumley said that there was momentum building behind Smartcane BMP and its widespread recognition as a valuable tool for reporting on adoption of farming best practice.

"It therefore makes perfect sense for SRA to pursue accreditation for our research stations," Mr Gumley said. "The day-to-day field operations of a research station are quite different to a normal sugarcane

farm. The most valuable product we send out the farm gate is not sugarcane but quality research results and observations.

"It is these results which deliver significant value for the industry by helping to identify a new variety or improving productivity.

"Despite these differences in outputs, the fundamentals of farm stewardship are the same and synchronise with SRA's operational activities and farm management plans.

"SRA is also committed to undertaking sustainable and efficient farm operational practices to the benefit of the broader community.

"SRA continues to invest in our research stations, using farm asset and operational plans, with a focus on improving efficiency, safety, accuracy and best practice. This extends beyond Smartcane BMP to include investments that are recognised as part of the modern farming system."

Tully Smartcane BMP Facilitator, **Nick Stipis**, congratulated SRA on becoming accredited.

"SRA plays a vital role in assisting growers and millers with productivity, profitability and sustainability outcomes, and Smartcane BMP is also a vital component of achieving these outcomes, so it is fitting that our research organisation has gained Smartcane BMP accreditation for the Tully station," Mr Stipis said.

The SRA Tully Station conducts agronomic and nutrient management trials as well as Final Assessment Trials (FATs) for varieties.

It also fulfils an important part of pest and disease management in the Australian industry. It is home to the pathology laboratory which tests samples for the soil-pathogen *Pachymetra* root rot, as well as nematodes. Potential new varieties are also tested for their resistance to *Pachymetra* root rot at Tully. ■

Pictured: SRA Technician Mr Andy Rigby.

Policy Update

Environment with Mick Quirk

Economics with Warren Males

Government cane framework needs review

CANEGROWERS is seeking clarification of a cane practice framework developed by the Queensland Government - including how it may be used in the Paddock to Reef (P2R) program to assess the industry's risk to water quality.

The practice framework has been recently updated but, in relation to nitrogen management, it continues to assume that the optimal N rate is driven primarily by crop yield.

While it no longer explicitly promotes the 'block yield potential' concept, the same logic is apparent.

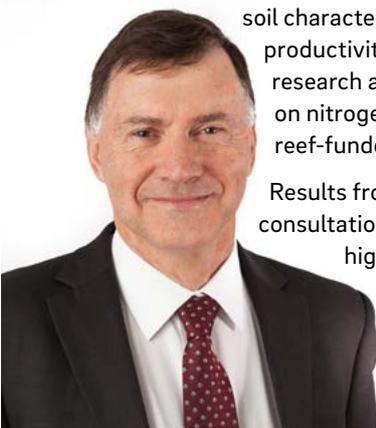
This approach for achieving optimal economic returns is not supported by the weight of experimental evidence. It therefore appears that the P2R framework will continue to promote practices that are not optimal for growers.

In effect, the best that a grower can achieve by following the N recommendations provided by a reputable reseller or consultant (based on a soil test and the appropriate SIX EASY STEPS calculations and deductions) is a 'C' on a scale from A (lowest risk to water quality) to D (very high risk).

This further emphasises the importance of industry having its own best management framework (Smartcane BMP) which is based on evidence and is not focussed just on water quality.

It was therefore refreshing to attend a stakeholder consultation meeting for SRA's R&D investment strategy for nutrient management where participants were very keen to see research and extension efforts address the management of all nutrients and other soil characteristics affecting productivity, to balance the narrow research and management focus on nitrogen typically required by reef-funded RD&E projects.

Results from this and other consultations will identify the highest priority R&D needs for industry. This will inform SRA's new approach of making more targeted calls for R&D projects. ■



Calling India to account

India has predictably rejected the first request made by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala to establish a World Trade Organisation Panel to hear the dispute challenging its sugar and sugarcane subsidies.

As the first set play in the WTO dispute settlement process, this announcement in Geneva on 22 July came as no surprise.

India had the right to reject the call for a Panel and we would be hard pressed to find a single case taken to the WTO in which the first request for a Panel has not been rejected.

With the first step now taken, the path has been cleared and the dispute settlement process can move forward. A second request will be made in August and a WTO Panel will be formed.

India's sugar price support measures may have names that sound harmless enough but their impact is terrible, both in India and globally.

Federally, there is the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for cane and the Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar. Additionally, certain states, and here Uttar Pradesh (UP) is a standout, set a State Advised Price (SAP) for sugarcane. The SAP is higher than the federally set FRP. On top of this India has production-based subsidies, soft loans, subsidies to hold sugar stocks and tax rebates or exemptions.

These support structures generate significant sugar surpluses. India's 8Mt surplus in 2018-19 followed a 7Mt surplus the year before. In just two years, India's sugar stocks have ballooned, increasing by 10.2Mt to 24.8Mt.

India's sugar export subsidies are designed to help fix a problem that its created by domestic support structures. Put plainly, it's a mess.

The world market price impact is clear and present. We are all suffering.

Many in the Indian sugar industry and amongst its government bureaucracy know the policies are not sustainable. At the ISO meeting in London last November, **Abinash Verma**, the Director-General of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, called for reform of Indian sugar policies, saying, "If we are to be in the world market, we cannot keep looking for support from the government or the government cannot shell out financial assistance for these purposes. There has to be a system in which we have to be at par with the world market or the world system, and that is a rationalised sugar cane pricing policy".

Speaking at the China Sugar Association conference held in Nanning in May, he also drew attention to the urgent need to rationalise India's cane pricing policy.

Mr Verma is right. India's sugar policies are not sustainable. The challenge in the WTO will call India to account.

CANEGROWERS calls on India to abide with its international commitments and fix its sugar policies before the inevitable WTO decision. ■



TIME OFF-FARM

OFFERS FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON PRACTICE CHANGE, REGULATIONS AND THE INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

By Wayne Griffin

Ever since Michael Santarossa returned to take over the family farm in Mulgrave five years ago, he and his dad Alan have had differences of opinion on what it takes to grow cane. Farming systems, practice change, row spacings and even inputs have all been hot topics for debate. But on one topic the father-son team is united — the State Government's proposed expansion to the reef regulations are a step too far.

For 20 years Michael worked in the mining industry, not just in Australia but around the world. It taught him many things like there's always room to improve, to be more efficient, to look at problems from a different perspective, and even the importance of paperwork.

It also taught him something about regulations — every industry has them.

"I believe there has to be some sort of environmental regulation because every other industry has them," Michael said when *Australian Canegrower* visited the family farm recently.



"We can't expect to be the only industry with no regulations, but I've got a real issue with this lot of legislation that they're trying to pass now, because I think it really becomes a privacy issue.

"I'm fine with being audited. They can come in and check that I'm doing the right thing. What I'm not ok with is with my intellectual property being demanded from my resellers and by a roundabout method some official being able to find out my entire farming method. I don't agree with that, I think it's way out of line.

"Also, to be honest, I don't really trust the government to keep my records private. Every second week the government or something is being hacked, so that's another issue. They haven't got a great track record on data security."

Unlike many of his peers, Alan (Michael's father) also agrees that some level of environmental regulation is a necessary evil, but he too thinks the government is looking for a scapegoat rather than seeking to address the problem properly.





"We've all got a part to play in water quality, but I definitely don't think we're wholly and solely the big, bad boogeymen that we're portrayed to be by the government."

Pictured: After 20 years in the mining industry, Michael Santarossa decided to return to his roots, taking over the family's Mulgrave cane farm from his dad, Alan, in 2014.

"At the end of the day, you can't get accountability without legislation and, as Michael says, we've no problem with auditing but this new legislation is too far," Alan said.

"Wrights Creek, which runs around all these farms, it starts way up on the Tableland, it drains half the township of Edmonton, but we're on the end down here so we must be doing the damage. No, there's a lot of sediment and nutrients in that water before it hits here.

"Look we've all got a part to play in water quality, but I definitely don't think we're wholly and solely the big, bad boogeymen that we're portrayed to be by the government," Michael added.

While the pair agree on reef regs, when it comes to other farming-related topics they haven't always seen eye-to-eye.

Alan (72), has lived and worked his entire life on the family farm bought by his father in 1944. Cane farming has been his life's work and, until recently, he had some very set ideas about how it should be done.

Michael (39), a diesel fitter by trade, left the farm at 17 to work in the mining industry. He travelled the world, working his way up the ranks in the gold, zinc, copper and chromium mines of Africa, Kazakhstan and Indonesia, before returning home in 2014.

"I was sick of working overseas, to be honest," Michael said. "I was a bit burnt out after years working away, so I came back and the company I was with offered me a different role in Australia.

"I decided to lease Dad's farm off him. It's only a smallish farm, so I could manage it in my weeks off. And then the guy next door decided he wanted to retire, so he leased me his place. Then another neighbour decided he wanted to retire as well, so I leased his place as well."

Now farming 146 hectares of cane land, Michael had to choose between farming full-time and his mining role. It wasn't a difficult decision – in 2016 he called time on his mining career and settled into a life of cane farming.

Initially Alan was a font of farming knowledge for his inexperienced son.

Continues page 14 ►



"I think the industry has a lot of potential for the future. But it will require a few changes in attitude and a period of adjustment."

However, as Michael found his feet, Alan became increasingly skeptical of some of the new practices being adopted on-farm, such as Michael's decision to move from a 1.6 to 1.8 metre row system.

"There was complete agreement for a little while – basically both of us thought it was dumb," Michael said.

"Then there was disagreement, where I was leaning towards it but Dad wasn't. And that's probably my fault a bit. Because I come from a mining background and he comes from a farming background, I think I wasn't communicating my ideas very well. It was getting a bit lost in translation.

"Then recently we went and visited (CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman) Steve Calcagno down on his farm. He has a similar set-up to what I want here, and when Dad could actually see what I was talking about firsthand, it was like 'oh, that's way different to what I was envisaging when you were explaining it to me.' Then it started making a lot of sense to him."

Alan, now a convert to the 1.8m row system, is yet to be completely sold on Michael's other big change – targeted nutrient management plans.

"Probably the biggest change I've made is introducing nutrient management plans and laser levelling of blocks," Michael said.

"I do a lot of soil tests to make sure I'm getting my inputs right. I probably do them a bit more other than other people because I want to get the optimum uptake of nutrients.

"I then vary the rate of application depending on what the soil sample says, which is why Dad tears his hair out, I reckon. I think we had five different mixes of fertiliser last year."

"A load of you know what," Alan joked. "A bucket of something in this one and two teaspoons of something else in that one. Can't you just get a blend that'll pass the test?"

"No, I'm not fully converted yet, but I'm getting better."

However, even Alan has to admit the results to date have been impressive.

"Last year we averaged 91 tonnes to the hectare, which was actually a lot higher than the district average," Michael said.

"The average CCS in the mill region was 14.5, which was great because I think it's usually around 12.5, so it was a really good year for sugar. But I was getting a half a unit more than that, so I was really happy. I put a lot of it down to the nutrient management plan.

"I went away to a lot of seminars, because I was starting from scratch. Noel Wright and Michael Porter from MSF were kind enough to take me away for a few seminars. Then CANEGROWERS had a couple of agronomists come up and we were able to pick their brains. The guys in the mill were really good too.

"I base my nutrient plan off a standard soil test. But I think a big difference is, that after doing these seminars and talking to all these experts, I can actually read the test results properly now.

"You'd be amazed at how many people can't read a soil test properly. They look at the first five lines, do I need lime or don't I, but there's a lot of other information and they have no idea what it means.

"And to be honest, there's still some people who have never had a soil test done. I know an old guy who's been farming cane all his life and he got his first ever soil test last year."

Michael is currently working towards Smartcane BMP accreditation and hopes to have completed all three core modules in the next few months.

He hasn't found the process too challenging - something he puts down to his mining background.

"I think it does help when you come from somewhere else, from another industry. Because you know nothing, you try to get as much information as possible and absorb everything. You're open to all ideas and you haven't got any preconceived notions.

"I'm working my way through BMP at the moment. I've completed most of the core modules. I've got my records done, my fertiliser application rates, my spray regime, that's all sorted, but I still have to get my chemical storage solution in place."

Record-keeping is regularly raised as the most challenging aspect of the program for growers. However, after 20 years in mining, keeping accurate records is second nature to Michael.

"That aspect of it didn't really worry me and that's probably just from my background. In the mining industry you have to record everything," he said.

"It's funny, I spoke to the girls from the Cane Changer project recently. They'd just run a record-keeping course for the wives of growers and apparently all these women came away from the course saying, 'What are they (their husbands) whinging about, it's not even that hard'.

"In fairness, the average age in the district is over 60. There's only a handful under 40 and even those are usually driving harvesters or whatever, and not really involved in the day to day farming, so I suppose those demographics make the record-keeping aspect more challenging, especially when it comes to using technology," Michael admitted.

Despite his concern over the impending reef regulations and the current low world sugar price, Michael is optimistic about his future in cane farming.

"I think the industry has a lot of potential for the future. But it will require a few changes in attitude and a period of adjustment, like every other industry in the world has had to go through or is going through at the minute.

"And we need that willingness to go along with it. But definitely, I think there's a bright future.

"You know, being from another industry, I wouldn't have dropped everything to get into this if I thought it was going to go belly up in five or 10 years' time."

As for Alan, despite his skepticism about some of the newer farming practices, he's happy to take a back seat and let his son get on with it.

"There is a generational change coming and I think for my generation, we can't be obstructionist, because we've had our go," Alan said.

"It's been good too, we've enjoyed it. Now it's time to let the younger ones have their go." ■

Money Matters

with Sunsuper

SUNSUPER REDUCES FEES AND COSTS FOR MEMBERS

Members of Sunsuper can now benefit from reduced fees and costs following changes introduced 1 July 2019. Sunsuper has reduced its weekly fee from \$3.00 to \$1.50 for pension members and reduced the investment fee and costs for its pension account default investment option from 0.80% to 0.73%.

For more than 1.3 million Super-savings members, Sunsuper has reduced the investment fee and costs for its default investment option from 0.85% to 0.79%.

Sunsuper's Chief Financial Officer Jason Sommer said the Fund is also maintaining its insurance premiums at a time when a number of other funds have had to increase insurance premiums in response to the Protecting Your Super legislation.

"These changes further strengthen Sunsuper's position as one of the lowest cost superannuation funds in Australia," Mr Sommer said.

"As a profit-for-members fund, our strong growth and increasing scale means we can pass on savings to members," Mr Sommer said.

"Passing on a reduction in fees and costs is consistent with our duty to act in our members' best interests and halving the weekly administration fee for our pension members and reducing investment fees and costs is a great outcome".

For more information on how to join Sunsuper, visit www.sunsuper.com.au/choose

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Sessions share market insights



Ginette Barrett
QSL Treasury Manager

Growers can tap into the latest sugar market insights from the QSL pricing team at a series of market briefings to be held around the state in August.

QSL's Executive Manager of Marketing and Risk Mark Hampson and Treasury Manager Ginette Barrett will host the sessions, which will range from small-group shed meetings and individual appointments to larger group briefings.

Ginette said each session would cover off on key market trends and drivers, as well as the current outlook.

"We really want to ensure that the growers who come along are able to ask questions and have a chat about the topics and issues that they're interested in, so it's more of a

discussion rather than a presentation," Ginette said.

"The small-group sessions are really good for that, so if you can't make one of the get-togethers we've already planned, invite some neighbours around and host something at your own place or book a one-on-one appointment – we're happy to come to you."

For details of your local sessions or to book in a time with Ginette or Mark, please contact your local QSL representative.



Mark Hampson
QSL Executive Manager of Marketing and Risk

2022-Season pricing now available

QSL is now accepting grower pricing orders for the 2022 Season.

Growers marketing with QSL can now also access additional pricing tonnages for the 2020 and 2021 Seasons.

GEI Sugar pricing limits for forward seasons are now:

- **2020 Season:** Up to 60% of your GEI Sugar estimate
- **2021 Season:** Up to 50% of your GEI Sugar estimate
- **2022 Season:** Up to 40% of your GEI Sugar estimate

Contact your local QSL representative for further information about your grower-managed pricing options.

DISCLAIMER:

This article contains information of a summary nature about QSL's payment arrangements and other activities. You should not make a decision based on this summary information unless you have read the full Pricing Pool Terms available on QSL's website or from your local QSL office. Please note that the information in this article does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL pool/offering selection and pricing. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters.

THE QSL LOYALTY BONUS



WANT A LOYALTY BONUS THAT REALLY ADDS UP?

Not only has the QSL Loyalty Bonus already returned over **\$5 MILLION** to participating growers to date*, it's the only bonus system delivering all of the following benefits:

- \$ NO MARGINS OR MARK-UPS:** We don't make a profit **FROM** you – we make a profit **FOR** you. That means we don't add margins or corporate mark-ups to our services.
- \$ PASSING ON SAVINGS:** Our not-for-profit & income-tax-exempt status minimises costs, adding to the value returned to you.
- \$ STRONG PERFORMANCE:** As Australia's most experienced marketer, QSL has a strong track record of outperforming the market and our competition.
- \$ PREMIUMS MATTER:** We don't sell to our own refineries. Instead, we use our unrivalled long-term relationships with blue-chip Asian customers to target the best return available.
- \$ THE VALUE OF STORAGE:** We're the only marketer exporting through every Queensland bulk sugar terminal, giving us unrivalled storage to manage production risk and maximise pricing and sales returns.
- \$ UP FRONT & TRANSPARENT:** QSL has a proven commitment to transparency, with regular reporting of our returns and clear guidelines around how and when we pass on any costs.
- \$ ONE SYSTEM FOR ALL:** Whether you're a big grower or small, a new or current customer, our bonus rewards all eligible growers equally rather than luring new growers in with a better deal than our existing growers enjoy.

When QSL pays you a bonus, it's in ADDITION to these benefits, not INSTEAD of them.

To learn more about the QSL Loyalty Bonus and how QSL keeps more money in your pocket, contact your local QSL rep today.

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BONUS DETAILS

- > The QSL Loyalty Bonus has returned \$1.50 per tonne IPS Sugar to eligible growers in previous seasons.
- > To qualify for the 2019-Season bonus you must nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Seasons by **30 June 2020**.

REFERRAL BONUSES? NOT AT QSL.

We believe the best referrals are those that come with no strings attached.

So for an honest opinion of who you should market with, ask one of the thousands of Queensland cane growers using QSL.

* total paid in QSL Loyalty Bonuses in the 2017 and 2018 Seasons.

Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available on the QSL website) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance.

Biological additive trials show promise

A study into the use of organic fertilisers in conjunction with conventional fertilisers and growth-promoting bacteria has produced some promising results, with pot trials showing an increase in cane weight, set numbers and CCS.

The trials are being conducted by Sustainable Organic Solution's Senior Researcher **Dr Chanyarat Paungfoo-Lonhienne** (Adjunct Fellow at the University of Queensland) and **Dr Nantida Watanarojanaporn** from the Mitr Phol Sugarcane Research Center.

"Conventional fertilisers that are currently the primary source of fertilisers rely on limited natural resources such as petroleum, phosphate rock and potassium salts," Dr Paungfoo-Lonhienne said.

"The unavoidable depletion of these products will lead to problems for farmers including interrupted availability and increasing costs. In addition, more than half of the applied conventional fertiliser in cropping systems is lost to the environment, resulting in water, soil, and air pollution."

Recognising the importance of organic nutrients and the detrimental effect of chemical fertilisers when applied in excess, modern agriculture is moving to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers by combining it with organic fertilisers, Dr Paungfoo-Lonhienne said.

"There are several studies that have shown the beneficial effects that this practice has on soil chemical-biological properties and crop yields.

"To maximise the efficiency of this system, plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) have great potential.

"Our study showed that the addition of PGPR to soils amended with a mixture of 50% organic and 50% chemical N fertiliser increased the growth of Kikuyu grass, leading to yield similar to 100% chemical N fertiliser.

"Importantly, the presence of PGPR also reduced N loss by 95% relative to full chemical fertiliser treatment."

The potential benefit of using PGPR to support the use of organic/inorganic fertiliser mixtures in agriculture is demonstrated by similar results obtained with sugarcane, where the application of PGPR enhances plant growth, set number, and sugar yield, the researchers claim.

Sugarcane was grown on soils fertilised with combined Soil Mate NPK fertiliser (Mitr Phol Sugar Corp) and Soil Mate organic fertiliser, or EcoNPK organic-inorganic fertiliser (Sustainable Organic Solution Pty Ltd).

All treatments received the same N application rate of 230kg per hectare from the applied fertilisers, without or with 10 g (108 cell/g) of SOS3 PGPR, for 8.5 months.

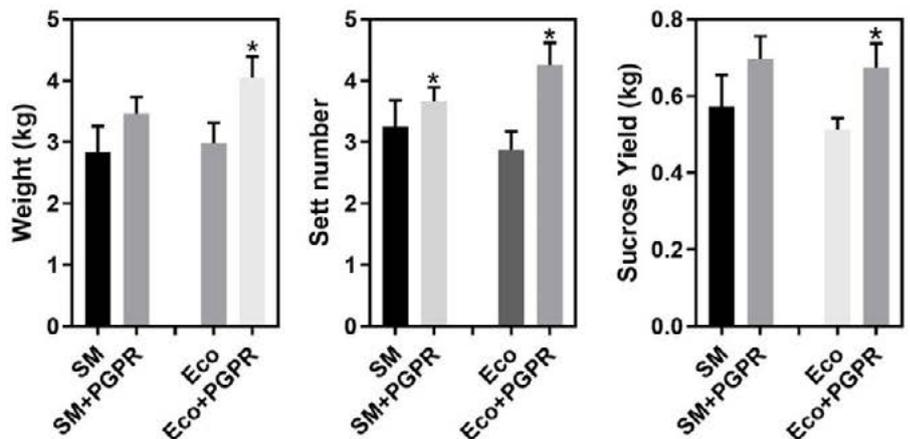
Each pot contained one sugarcane seedling and each treatment consisted of 8-12 replicates.

The results show an increase in yield and CCS for cane grown using the inorganic/organic mixture with the addition PGPR bacteria (Figure 1).

"We are very pleased with the results and would like to thank the Cooperative Research Centres Projects for funding this project." Dr Paungfoo-Lonhienne said.

"This experiment is currently being repeated in the field trials at Mitr Phol Sugarcane Research Center in Thailand. In addition, field trials will be undertaken in Ingham by Herbert Cane Productivity and in Innisfail by MSF Sugar, in August 2019." ■

Figure 1. : The performance of sugarcane grown with the plant growth promoting rhizobacteria strain SOS3. Sugarcane was grown for 8.5 months on Soil Mate (SM) or EcoNPK (Eco) organic/chemical mix fertilised soil amended with SOS3 PGPR bacterium. The Bars represent averages and standard errors of 8-12 replicates. Asterisks above bars indicate significant differences from the control.





Uni of Wyoming Ag Students Visit Down Under

An inquisitive group of Ag students and their Professor from the University of Wyoming visited CANEGROWERS' Brisbane office recently to learn more about Australia's sugarcane industry. The students are from rural backgrounds in the beef production so the world of cane was all new to them.

"I really enjoyed the interesting discussion on the challenges that the cane industry is facing with regard to the international market. This is right in line with our trip theme of *Australia's export-led Ag sector*," said Professor Tom Foulke. "It was a perfect introduction to the global perspective that we are trying to present.

"It was also a good discussion on how the industry is tackling environmental challenges. Every part of ag is facing similar issues, so it was fantastic for our students to get that perspective in the sugar industry."

The group also got a dose of farm life with a visit to Ben Spann's Rocky Point cane farm. As none of the students had been in a cane field before, they enjoyed a close up look at the crop and a harvester with Ben explaining and demonstrating the mechanics of the machine.

"This is something our students could understand, when we talked about maintenance, wear and tear, and costs," Prof Foulke said. Blake Ferris, one of the students whose family raises cattle in Colorado said, "This is amazing! I never knew there was so much to sugar (production). We would never see this any other way." ■



Pictured: (main) The group visited the CANEGROWERS office in Brisbane to learn more about our sugarcane industry, (right top) Ben Spann speaking to the group on his farm (right bottom) the group learning about the machinery involved in the sugarcane process.

Working on the problems affecting your business

I have this saying: "It's easy to find the problems, but it takes hard work to find solutions, and sheer determination to make them work."

In my experience of working for CANEGROWERS and in the sugarcane industry more generally, we're never short of problems. However, at CANEGROWERS we work to ensure a secure and profitable future for members by taking on the challenges affecting your business. Problems such as increases in electricity pricing, the addition of more reef regulations and the bureaucracy of transport permitting can add costs to your business.

Problem-solving is probably one of the most important, yet challenging membership services we offer and most likely one of the reasons you are a member.

It's important because the problems affecting your business impact on your bottom line. It's challenging because the problems we are dealing with are complex and can take a significant amount of time, resources and patience to get to a workable solution.

From my experience, problem-solving takes persistence, perseverance and patience. Yet I can totally appreciate the questions from our members asking what is happening on certain issues and why is it taking so long? Let's take a look at some of the problems we are currently tackling.

REEF REGULATIONS - ONGOING

Since increased regulation was proposed as part of the 2017 State Election campaign, CANEGROWERS has been working tirelessly to demonstrate that more legislation is not needed. It would be

fair to say this started back in 2010 with engagement by growers in the Reef Rescue Program and since 2013 with Smartcane BMP.

You only need to look at any edition of the *Australian Canegrower* or the Cane to Coast section of the CANEGROWERS website (www.canegrowers.com.au/page/cane-to-coast/research-and-the-reef) to see the remarkable work growers are doing to protect and care for their environment and the Great Barrier Reef. It's important to tell this story because it helps to set the record straight.

Broadscale changes have been implemented and innovative research projects continue to improve water quality in the catchments flowing to the Great Barrier Reef while maintaining or improving farm productivity.

A few noteworthy changes include controlled traffic farming; fallow cropping; soil testing and precision application of chemicals and nutrients; the use of biofertilisers; and advancements in irrigation and drainage management.

For many years our members have been involved in a remarkable array of projects and trials. They have designed and implemented innovative and creative solutions to improve productivity and profitability and reduce the impact of farming on the environment.

You can see this on the Sugarcane RD&E and the Great Barrier Reef Interactive Story Map of Queensland's cane farming districts



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Senior Manager - Membership Engagement & Innovation



(www.canegrowers.com.au/page/cane-to-coast/research-and-the-reef).

This interactive map captures 50 projects which have aimed to minimise nutrient and pesticide run-off from cane farms into catchments running towards the Reef since 2008.

It shows the collaborative relationship between sugarcane growers and scientists, working together for improved water quality for the Great Barrier Reef and a strong and sustainable farming future.

CANEGROWERS has continued to engage with the Queensland Government on the reef regulations. Hundreds of growers attended the hearings of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg as it investigated the enabling *Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*. We have put our case to the Department of Environment & Science and have invited the Premier to meet with us.

CANEGROWERS staff across the regions have been attending meetings, writing letters and providing constructive feedback. We have lobbied and responded to parliamentary and departmental submissions. We have even gathered signatures on a national online petition opposing the Bill.

All of this takes time and effort to coordinate and, hopefully, it's making politicians question the Bill's justification and passage.

SMARTCANE BMP – OVER 400 ACCREDITED GROWERS AND COUNTING

In 2013, when the Smartcane BMP program was launched in Mackay, I had a personal goal to see 400 accreditations in the program, as this was about 10% of the industry. I honestly thought if the Smartcane BMP program could achieve

that, then we would have a genuine program to tackle the problems around reef regulations and water quality.

Move to 2019 and we have more than 400 cane-growing businesses accredited in the core modules of Smartcane BMP.

While some people may question whether 10% is a sufficient return on six years of time and effort, bear in mind, these 400+ cane farming businesses account for almost 100,000 hectares of cane-growing land, or around 25% of Queensland's total cane production area.

That's right, one in every four hectares of cane land is now accredited in the Smartcane BMP program and the numbers are growing by the day, with a backlog of farming businesses queuing up to receive their accreditation.

The Smartcane BMP program tackles many problems. It provides an avenue to meet reef regulations, it helps us tell our story, it supports productivity and profitability on farm, and it provides a pathway to meet the market demand for sustainably produced sugar.

OTHER PROBLEMS BEING TACKLED BY CANEGROWERS

Burning is an issue that has been smouldering for quite some time. CANEGROWERS has been concerned about when and where growers can and can't burn cane and trash as the Cane Burning Notification was open to interpretation. This problem took over 12 months to solve, yet was managed very proactively by CANEGROWERS and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services through consultation and workshops up and down the coast. The outcome is a new Notification for Burning of Sugar Cane, which was published in the Queensland Government Gazette No 29.

Getting from A to B on public roads has always been challenging for agricultural vehicles. CANEGROWERS has resolutely worked with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) on this issue for over three years to ensure growers can move

over-mass and dimension machinery under a new National Notice – the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimensions Exemption Notice 2019.

Finally, lets look at how Australia, through the support of CANEGROWERS and working with the Global Sugar Alliance, has lodged a formal dispute resolution request with the World Trade Organisation against India's sugar subsidies. While there is still a way to go, Australia, Brazil and Guatemala have lodged a joint request with the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body to establish a Panel to investigate and rule on whether India's high sugarcane prices and export subsidies exceed its WTO obligations.

India's trade-distorting sugar policies have driven down global sugar prices and adversely impacted the livelihoods of Queensland's cane farmers and sugar mills, and the regional communities they support. Through CANEGROWERS' continued strong engagement on this matter, hopefully the process can run expeditiously to reduce the impact on the Australian sugar industry and our members hip pockets.

CANEGROWERS will continue to work on the problems affecting our members. It may take some time, yet the patience and persistence of the dedicated people in the organisation will find a way to ensure a secure and profitable future for growers. ■



NEW FACES FOR SMARTCANE BMP



KATE GOWDIE

Kate joined CANEGROWERS in June to fill the role of Smartcane BMP Manager. Kate takes over the reigns from Mick Quirk who has commenced in the role of Environment and Sustainability Manager. Kate studied a Bachelor of Agricultural Science before working for organisations including Growcom, AgForce and the Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture. Kate has commenced visiting district facilitators and looks forward to meeting as many growers as she can over the next couple of months.

JOEL TIERNEY

Joel has joined CANEGROWERS Cairns Region as the Environmental and Sustainability Officer where he will also undertake the role of Smartcane BMP facilitator for the district. Joel has studied environmental science and has worked on projects ranging from erosion control to weed management and soil health. Joel was previously working for the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership focusing on developing whole of farm nutrient management plans with growers in the Cairns Region. He is keen to continue working with growers on all aspects of farming to assist with productivity and profitability. Originating from the Cassowary Coast, Joel is at home in the Wet Tropics.



YOLANDE KLIESE

With the retirement of Barry Callow from Maryborough Cane Productivity Services, Yolande has taken on Barry's role which includes being the Smartcane BMP Facilitator for the Maryborough District. Yolande is a familiar face in the district having worked with MSF Sugar. She has a degree and PhD in Soil Science. For her PhD research she investigated the benefits of nitrogen in piggery effluent for grain crop production.

JESSICA TURCHET

Jessica has recently been appointed to the Smartcane BMP Facilitator role for Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited (PCPSL). She is completing her Environmental Science degree, with dual majors in Land and Water Management, at Central Queensland University. Jessica has spent most of her life in Mackay. While not from a cane farming background, she looks forward to further developing her skills in the agricultural sector and getting to know the growers in Plane Creek. ■



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HBM billet planter, wide elevator, tank for liquid fertiliser, 2 cameras, stray bar and shute, 2 fill fertiliser boxes. Toft 6000 harvester, 4 tonne tipper bin with hydraulic paddle \$25,000. Ph: 0407 364 012.

2005 Case 7700 Track Harvester. Totally done up ready to cut. Shredder Topper, 10.3 Iveco motor, extended elevator, 95mm 8 blade chop, BSES auger style front, slippers, ernie roller, swing out radiator, brand new primary hood, raised cab, corridini floor, salt track chain. Only cut 37,000Ts. Elevator chains & sprockets new, 18" curved grouser plates etc. \$100,000 + GST. Ph: 0400 050 212.

4T HBM Side Tipper, Good Condition. Ph: 0428 100 564.

HBM tipper bin suit billet planter \$2,500 + GST. JD 3510 radiator, half tracks make an offer. Ph: 0407 162 514.

7 ft slasher, GC, new PTO shaft \$6,000 ONO. Ph: 0408 770 054.

Herbert River-Burdekin

2005 New Holland - TG-285 h/p, 2805 hours, 4 remotes, 480/80 R50 rear tyres with duals (90% rubber), 480/70 R34 front tyres (90% rubber). Tidy unit. Selling as we have no further use. POA. Ph: 0418 188 446 or A/H 07 4782 7549.

Leyland truck tandem drive twin steer 8 new rear tyres front 90% 29ft. Hd body 2 year machinery VGC no rust \$18,000 + GST. Fiat F120 and 12ton Tully tipper VGC \$35,000 GST inc. Zara cane cleaner 3 row brand new never used \$1,500 + GST. Ph: 0400 730 328.

Mackay-Proserpine

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438 606 578 (Mackay).

150mgs water Pioneer Valley Water area. Ph: 0428 773 842.

John Deere Fwd 3350 Air cab 8500 hrs

\$16,500. Massey Ferguson 65 \$4,500. 2 x 2.5 tonne single rear tippers on 6ton tandem axle trailers. Can be converted into 2x twin side tippers. Good condition, new tyres \$3,500 each. Husqvarna 2242 ride on mower, mulching kit & spare blades. Excellent condition 490 hrs \$2,600. Ph: Troy 0419 646 066.

Early model Toft 7000 harvester, complete with halftracks, good condition \$30,000 + GST. 2x 6t Bob Smith side tippers, \$10,000 + GST each. Ph: (07) 4959 1029.

Moller Billet Planter, 3t tipper bin. Ph: 0417 393 142 or 0428 186 261.

Toft 6000 series 4 fitted with toft rotary chop \$25,000 inc. Howard HR 40 3 M (120 inch)

rotary hoe \$5,500 inc. Ph: 0418776064.

Howard AH Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned - 1x 100", 1x 90", 1x 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: 49595885 or 0407643441.

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478 719 294.

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

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January-July
	7 days to 9am 15.07.19	22.07.19		
	Mossman	33	0	2471
Mareeba AP	4	0	633	724
Cairns	21	0	1869	1628
Mt Sophia	91	0	2684	2655
Babinda	115	0	2559	3402
Innisfail	55	2	2759	2849
Tully	74	0	2216	3303
Cardwell	10	0	1920	1686
Lucinda	8	0	2223	1705
Ingham	2	0.2	2638	1591
Abergowrie	5	0	1861	1457
Townsville	8	0	1755	882
Ayr DPI	0.8	0	947	727
Proserpine	1	0.6	1393	1049
Mirani	0.2	0	1382	1155
Mackay	0.6	0.8	1043	1209
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0.2	0	1302	1316
Bundaberg	0	0	242	652
Childers South	0.8	0	246	552
Maryborough	0	0	433	781
Tewantin	0	0	749	1217
Eumundi	0	0	498	1172
Nambour	0.4	0	827	1169
Woongoolba	0.4	0	553	906
Murwillumbah	0	0	474	1103
Ballina	0.4	0	792	1265
Woodburn	0	0	261	968



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.

shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. All in good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. Good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

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: 0428 182 464.

New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 4,980hrs, \$42,900 Inc., Kubota M135X-DC 4WD, Loader + 4in1 bucket, 135hp, 4,970hrs, \$58,000 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

S tyne cultivator, \$1,500 inc GST. Trash incorporator, plastic bin, stainless steel worm, \$12,000 + GST, Trailco irrigator with hose reel \$11,000 + GST. Other equipment available on request. Ph: 0419 577 110.

Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. Fiat High Spray Rig 7 Foot clearance. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Slews 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: 0427 598 333.

P&H trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worm \$12,000 + GST. 100" heavy duty powered rotary hoe \$7,000 + GST. Whole stick planting machinery and various other items. Ph: 0417 617 084.

NSW

Mf102 harvester \$2000, Mf305 harvester \$5000, 3 billet planting trailers \$2500 ea, Billet planter \$2000, John deer 4040 tractor \$3000, Bonel square 4 plough \$2000, 4Mulbord plough \$2000, Slott making machine \$1000, 5ft Howard slasher \$1000, 2.5 m Howard rotary hoe \$2000. Ph: 0412 292 055.

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Massey 178 in good condition. Ingham Area. Phone Rick: 0429 182 192.

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408 448 227.

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2005. 3 machinery sheds. Ph: Geoff 0477 704 134.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

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: 0417 647 002.

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. Queenslander style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

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 6klms 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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