

More than 300 growers benefit from nutrient management plans - Policy updates

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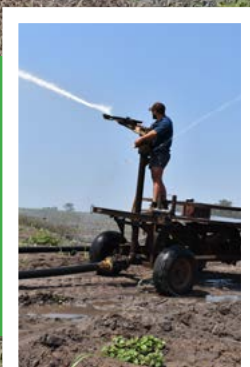
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HARVEST TIME

Tableland District gets the 2019 cane harvest under way



Policy Council appoints new QCGO board of directors



Leadership required: calls for action on power prices



Grower reps tell Premier "time to listen to farmers on Reef regs"

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3 June 2019



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COVER IMAGE: Growers supplying MSF's Tableland Mill got the 2019 cane harvest under way on 29 May. Read more on page 4.

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Federal Election - What about agriculture?

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

It is a great honour and privilege to have been re-elected as Chairman of Queensland CANEGROWERS for what will be my third term at the helm of this organisation.

This is an important industry role and I acknowledge the enormous responsibility that I carry on behalf of all the cane farming families that have a huge economic and social investment in the Australian sugar industry.

I can assure CANEGROWERS grower members that I will discharge this role to the best of my ability in the months and years ahead.

Joining me in the leadership team will be **Kevin Borg** from Mackay as Senior Vice-Chairman, and **Owen Menkens** from the Burdekin as Vice-Chairman.

I am very much looking forward to working with Kevin and Owen as we take on the many challenges we face.

Certainly, we are facing difficult times in the Australian sugar industry. World sugar prices are low and the Queensland Government seems determined to increase the environmental regulatory burden that cane farmers carry.

Additionally, our costs, particularly electricity and water charges, are eroding our economic viability.

These are indeed very challenging times for cane growers and the farming sector generally.

While the challenges are enormous, there is no lack of commitment by CANEGROWERS to take on these problems.

On May 20 and 21, CANEGROWERS representatives gathered in Cairns to discuss the key issues facing our industry and the strategies we will need to employ if we're to mitigate these problems.

I was energised by the fact that around 75% of our 86 elected members attended. It is also encouraging that there are 19 members elected for the first time within our ranks.

Renewal and freshness of ideas is important in any organisation and it was great for me to meet so many of these new elected members in Cairns.

FEDERAL ELECTION

As we all know, the recent Federal Election resulted in the re-election of the Liberal National Coalition Government. While the LNP will have a workable majority in the House of

Representatives, the composition of the Senate is not yet clear. However, it does appear that we will have a stable government.

So what does this result mean for the Queensland sugar industry? All eyes are on this state. The strong LNP vote in Queensland to some extent could be an early poll on the policies of the Queensland Government.

What is clear is that voters in Queensland have come down very hard on the ALP, which is seen by many as anti-mining and anti-farming.

Of course, the State Government would deny this, but down at ground level we see policies making our lives harder, not better.

Since the election, the Premier is attempting to re-connect with rural and regional Queensland. While the mining sector has been given assurances that it will be listened to, we are asking the Premier to not forget agriculture.

The farming sector contributes around \$19 billion to the state's economy. Our industry generates sugar sales of around \$2 billion and we lever up economic activity to the tune of around \$6 billion.

Our message is clear. If the Queensland Government is listening then don't forget agriculture. We need to find a solution to the unworkable Reef Bill before State Parliament and a good place to start might be a discussion about sensible environmental management.

Our door is open. ■



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Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tableland District kicks off 2019 cane harvest

By the time readers receive this issue of *Australian Canegrower* the 2019 harvest will be under way, with MSF's Tableland Mill scheduled to start crushing cane on 29 May.

While the pre-season estimate for Queensland of approximately 30.4 million tonnes is on a par with last year, it's down almost 1 m/t on 2017 and falls around 3 m/t short of 2016's bumper crop.

Widespread flooding in northern districts this year has significantly impacted yield, particularly in the Herbert River region where production is expected to be down by more than half a million tonnes on 2018.

"It's a big hit and there are a lot of growers around who are struggling to hang on. They're just hoping for a better season to come."

Mossman, Innisfail and Cairns Region are also reporting below average crop estimates.

Meanwhile, continuing drought-like conditions in southern-growing regions have further reduced Queensland's crop expectations, with Bundaberg, Isis, Maryborough and Plane Creek all reporting significantly reduced crop estimates.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough Chairman **Jeff Atkinson** said growers in his district were doing it tough and holding out hope for a better season ahead.

"We've had a bit of rain recently," Mr Atkinson said. "But during the peak growing season we had nothing for two months or more."

"We're expecting the crop to be down by a few hundred thousand tonnes, probably about 25-30%."

"It's a big hit and there are a lot of growers around who are struggling to hang on. They're just hoping for a better season to come."

Mossman, Burdekin and Mackay growers are expected to start harvesting during the first week in June, with Isis and Maryborough the last cabs off the rank in early July. ■

TRAGIC DEATHS SHOCK CANE COMMUNITIES

Before the 2019 harvest had even got under way, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland was investigating two industry-related farm deaths.

On the Tablelands, 85-year-old former cane farmer **Antonio Niceforo** was killed in a tractor rollover on 20 May.

Local media reported that Mr Niceforo became trapped under the tractor when it rolled down an embankment at a Chewko property. He was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

Mareeba Mayor **Tom Gilmore** spoke of his friendship with Mr Niceforo and said his death had come as a shock.

"I've known Tony for many years," Mr Gilmore told the *Cairns Post*. "He was a decent, quiet, gentle man, a lovely man. I'm deeply distressed by his passing, which is very unfortunate. He has been well known in the farming community."

Two days later, 67-year-old Ingham cane grower **Stephen Fortini** died when he was struck by a falling tree branch on a property at Upper Stone.

Hinchinbrook Shire Mayor **Ramon Jayo** said he had known Mr Fortini all his life and described him as always willing to help others in need.

"Stephen was a giant of a man, not just his stature but in every way," Mr Jayo told the *Townsville Bulletin*.

"He was basically one of the pioneers in the Stone River region for irrigation. He was a big member of the community. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family." ■

Sugarcane District Extension Officer

Come and use your agronomy knowledge to lead extension & training services to sugarcane growers in Far North Queensland's Wet Tropics. Funded through the Australian Government's and Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Water Quality Improvement Investment Programs, the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership has District Extension Officer positions available to work with Wet Tropics sugarcane growers in the Cairns/Babinda and Tully districts.

If you are interested in applying for one of these exciting roles go to www.wtsip.org.au/careers to download an application kit.

Applications close Monday 17 June 2019 at 4.00pm.



**Wet Tropics
Sugar Industry
Partnership**

Grower leaders decided for next three years

Mackay grower Paul Schembri has been confirmed as the CANEGROWERS Chairman for the next three years. The appointment was made at a meeting of the new CANEGROWERS Policy Council, which started its term on 1 May 2019.

The make-up of the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd board which will serve until 2022 was also decided in Cairns at the first Policy Council meeting. This was the final step in the CANEGROWERS triennial election process.

There are a number of changes to the Board: **Kevin Borg** has been elected Senior Vice Chairman, **Owen Menkens** is Vice Chairman and **Stephen Calcagno** joins the board.

Tableland grower **Rajinder Singh**, who had previously been a QCGO Director, did not stand for another term.

The QCGO Board is (L-R) in the photo: **Allan Dingle** (Bundaberg), **Stephen Calcagno** (Cairns Region), **Mark Mammino** (Isis), **Joe Marano** (Innisfail), Chairman **Paul Schembri** (Mackay), Senior Vice Chairman **Kevin Borg** (Mackay), Vice Chairman **Owen Menkens** (Burdekin) and **Michael Pisano** (Herbert River)

Paul Schembri said he is delighted and humbled to have the support of his colleagues to continue as CANEGROWERS Chairman.

"Across the 13 district companies which make up CANEGROWERS, 86 of my fellow growers have been elected to take



on representative roles for the next three years. It will be an honour to work as a team with them.

"We are all very busy running our businesses but have decided to take the time to give back to our industry and to help guide and nurture it for the future. This is a privilege and a challenge," he said.

"I wish all of my fellow Directors well for the next three years as we face the

challenges of a low-price environment and encourage continued Australian Government engagement with the World Trade Organisation to combat subsidies that distort the world market.

"We will also continue our work to chart a sustainable future for our farms and the Queensland environment while vigorously opposing the State Government's big stick approach and attempts to grab private business data." ■

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Johnathon Biasi, Hawkins Creek cane farmer

FEDERAL ELECTION 2019



"Farmers are absolutely sick of the argy-bargy between the state and federal governments over who's to blame for soaring electricity prices. They don't care who's to blame, they just want action and they want it now."

National leadership needed to tackle electricity woes

With the Federal Election now over and the Liberal-National Coalition returned to power, Queensland's cane growers are calling for immediate action on crippling electricity prices that are threatening the livelihoods of farmers and the viability of the sugarcane industry in some regions.

"Soaring electricity prices are the scourge of the sugar industry and the farming sector more generally," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said.

"We have evidence of growers turning off pumps in some areas because they simply can't afford to cost of operating them. This obviously impacts yield, which has a knock-on effect on their business and the industry."

Mr Schembri said growers have had enough of the blame game from state and federal politicians and called for real bi-partisan leadership to tackle this issue.

"Farmers are absolutely sick of the argy-bargy between the state and federal governments over who's to blame for soaring electricity prices. They don't care who's to blame, they just want action and they want it now."

"We need real national leadership to solve this problem. We need the state and federal governments to work together rather than trying to score political points off each other."

The LNP Government has committed to a 25% reduction in average wholesale electricity prices by the end of 2021, largely on the back of its proposed "big stick legislation to stop the big energy company rip-offs and banning sneaky late payment fees."

Some electricity companies have warned against pursuing the policy, which threatens to break up poorly behaving energy companies in order to drive down prices, saying it could deter much-needed investment in the sector.

Wholesale electricity prices in NSW and Victoria rose sharply in the aftermath of the Coalition's election win.

For growers in Queensland southern region, who rely heavily on irrigation to grow their crops, the power-price saga has been running for almost 15 years.

CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Chairman **Allan Dingle** has called on the state and federal governments to finally put struggling consumers first when considering their energy policy.

"What we're seeing in a lot of areas is unutilised irrigation water because people just can't afford to pump it and at a time when we've got a low sugar prices, growers are really struggling to make ends meet," Mr Dingle said.

"The introduction of Tariff 33 has definitely been beneficial for some people and it's a step in the right direction, but it's not suitable for everyone and is only one piece of the puzzle."

"It's time the federal and state governments really started putting

the consumer ahead of the big power companies when setting their electricity policies, rather than just paying lip-service to community concerns as they have up to this point."

With the Queensland Budget due to be handed down on 11 June, CANEGROWERS is calling on the State Government to take up the ACCC's recommendation to write down the regulatory asset base of Ergon.

"The real cost of generating electricity is less than 8c/kWh," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** said.

"So while we would welcome a reduction in the wholesale price of electricity, more action is needed to address the problem."

"The ACCC report on electricity prices shows that over the past decade electricity users in Queensland have paid more than they should have for electricity at the cost of the state's international competitiveness."

"Giving back some of the money that should never have been taken in the first place will lift productivity and profitability of businesses across Queensland." ■

Pictured: Growers in Queensland's southern cane-growing region rely on irrigation to grow their crops, but crippling power prices are forcing some growers to turn off their pumps.

continues page 8 ►

Grower relief as Code secured

Queensland's cane growers can breathe a little easier following the Coalition's re-election, with the crucial Sugar Industry Code of Conduct sure to be maintained under an LNP government.

While neither the Liberals or Nationals made any specific election commitment regarding the Code, a number of high profile Coalition MPs including out-going Agriculture Minister **David Littleproud** and the Member for Dawson **George Christensen**, spoke publicly about the importance of ensuring the Code remained in place.

"One of the pleasing aspects of the election result is that we now know the Code of Conduct is secure," CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said. "There was always a question-mark hanging over Labor's commitment to the Code and while some senior Labor MPs were making

the right noises behind the scenes, there was no ironclad commitment.

"The Coalition brought in the Code and its MPs and ministers, even up to the Prime Minister himself, have been very vocal about its importance to the industry and we welcome their continued support."

The Code requires negotiations between millers and growers to be conducted in good faith with each party acting reasonably, fairly and honestly without intimidation. It also provides a mechanism for arbitration should there be a deadlock.

Pictured: Grower representatives met with government ministers to discuss the Code.



Trade

CANEGROWERS is calling on the Coalition government to fast-track ratification of the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement - a free trade deal which has been in limbo for more than two years. The terms of the FTA, which will reduce tariffs on Australian sugar exports from 12.5% to just 5% and on a par with regional competitors, were agreed in February 2017 but it has yet to be formally ratified by parliament.

"Given the current depressed state of the world sugar price, it's imperative we have access to as many markets as possible," Mr Schembri said. "It's equally important that the government continues to pursue action against Indian subsidies at the World Trade Organisation. With Australian sugar completely exposed to world prices it's vital this matter is brought to a speedy conclusion." ■

CANEGROWERS WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE AG MINISTER

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the appointment of Victorian Senator **Bridget McKenzie** as the new Federal Minister for Agriculture.

Senator McKenzie, who is also deputy leader of the National Party, will be the first woman to take on the agriculture portfolio when she's sworn in later this month.

She replaces Queensland MP **David Littleproud** who has been given the natural disaster and emergency management portfolio.

"We congratulate Senator McKenzie on her appointment as Minister for Agriculture and on becoming the first woman to take on this extremely important portfolio," CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan**.

"It's always good to get a fresh perspective on industry issues and Senator McKenzie brings a lot of experience to the role having served as minister for sport, rural health, and regional communications during her time in the Senate.

"We've already been in contact with the Senator's office and have extended an invitation to visit a cane farm in north Queensland to help the new Minister better understand the challenges and opportunities facing our industry."

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** thanked the outgoing minister for his positive approach to the cane industry, saying growers would be "sorry to see him go".

"Minister Littleproud has been a particularly effective agriculture minister and was certainly very responsive to the needs of our industry, so we're disappointed to lose him," Mr Schembri said.

"We certainly wish him well in his new portfolio and look forward to establishing an equally close working relationship with Senator McKenzie.

"Hopefully we'll see her on a Queensland cane farm in the not too distant future." ■

Ag industry asks

LNP commitments

Fast-track ratification of the Indonesian FTA

The Coalition is committed to ratification 'as soon as possible'.

Pursue an ambitious global trade agenda

The Coalition will prioritise free trade agreements with the EU and UK, plus the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Non-tariff barriers would also be a focus. It has agreed to ratify the Peru-Australia FTA.

Establish a \$1 billion Ecosystem Services Fund

The Coalition has committed to a \$30 million Agricultural Biodiversity Stewardship Program Pilot. The Coalition has also committed to consider recommendations from the Craik Agriculture Review via the statutory review of the EPBC Act.

Help farmers respond to climate change

The Coalition will invest more than \$9.2 million in 110 projects helping farmers adopt sustainable land management practices.

Act on the Regional Telecommunications review and fund the Mobile Black Spot Program

The Coalition will invest \$220 million in a regional connectivity program, Mobile Black Spot Program and a digital tech hub, in response to the review.

Help transition agriculture to renewable and affordable energy

The Coalition has committed \$50.4 million to support the development of microgrids in regional and remote communities, \$1.38 billion to Snowy Hydro 2.0 and \$56 million for the Marinus Link.

Create an internationally competitive tax system for Australia

The Coalition supports a 25% tax rate for small or unincorporated businesses with turnover of less than \$5 million.

Back a fair go, through proactive competition policy

The Coalition supports a mandatory code of conduct for the dairy and sugar industries and continuation of the ACCC Agriculture Unit - including a dairy specialist.

Establish a comprehensive National Drought Policy

The Coalition has committed to develop a Commonwealth Drought Strategy, plus \$100 million per annum through a Drought Future Fund.

Make small businesses immediate asset write-off measures permanent

The Coalition supports increasing the instant asset write-off from \$25,000 to \$30,000 but has not agreed to make this permanent.

From the National Farmer's Federation Election Commitment Tracker: <https://farmers.org.au/election-commitment-tracker/>

Money Matters

with Sunsuper



Time to listen Premier

STATE LABOR NEEDS TO LEARN FROM FEDERAL ELECTION LOSS

Labor's surprise loss in the 2019 Federal Election has sent shockwaves through State Government, with Queensland Labor fearing a similar backlash at the ballot box in 2020.

In a bid to quell industry unrest and reassure regional communities that her Government is listening, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk made a dash to Mackay in the days following the election to announce the fast-tracking of environmental approvals for the controversial Adani coal mine.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri said it was ironic that the Premier had travelled to Mackay to make the announcement just weeks after ignoring the pleas of cane farmers concerned about the introduction of heavy-handed reef regulations.

"The Federal Election result seems to have flicked a switch for the Premier," Mr Schembri said in a letter published in regional newspapers.

"She's moved quickly to travel to my hometown of Mackay and announce that she wanted action and a lifting of the roadblocks to the approval of the Adani coal mine.

"It is ironic that the Premier has travelled straight through our lush green sugarcane lands to make an announcement that she has heard regional Queenslanders and her government is listening.

"Just weeks ago, several hundred cane growers tried to have their voices heard

explaining the adverse impacts of the proposed additional Reef regulations – but we have been ignored by the Palaszczuk Government."

Mr Schembri called the Bill before parliament "dangerous" and "unnecessary", saying cane growers had been working hard for decades to secure a future for the Reef.

"This Bill proposes wide powers to demand farm data from our advisors and the local business community with a view to use it against us.

"All this will do is put barriers in front of farmers who want to work to best practice without any guarantee it will improve water quality for the Reef.

"It is time for the Premier to show the same leadership for agriculture and our \$4 billion industry as she is doing for one mining company - start to listen and act.

"I am inviting the Premier to my farm, or any of our 4,000 cane farms in Queensland, so we can talk about how the State Government and industry can work together for the Reef and for our communities. We are ready Premier, are you?" ■

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman and Smartcane BMP accredited grower Joe Marano leads a grower protest at the Reef Bill public hearing in Cairns recently.

SUPER & YOUR FINANCIAL WELLBEING

Social researcher Hugh McKay reveals in his latest book "Australia Reimagined" that despite all the natural advantages we enjoy, we're quite an anxious lot. Financial stress plays its part of course, and it does more than weigh heavily on our mind; you could say it's in our DNA.

When we're chronically stressed, certain chemicals that are typically very good for the body become aggravating and even damaging. Adrenaline and Cortisol, useful for the "flight or fight" scenario, can be a dangerous companion.

The good news is that the things you do today can help make a big difference to your financial wellbeing, and they don't have to be difficult. Here are some simple super tips:

ADD TO YOUR SUPER

Will your employer's compulsory contributions be enough? Consider adding a little extra to make a big difference later.

KEEP YOUR SUPER TOGETHER

It can make sense to combine all your super accounts into one – fewer fees, less paperwork, one larger balance.

REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE

Sunsuper's competitive insurance cover can help protect you, your family and your lifestyle if something happens. Premiums are deducted from your super account, not out of your pocket.

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Our customer service representatives can guide the way to help you get the future you want by making the right choices today. If you have a question about your Sunsuper account or superannuation in general, they can help you over the phone at no additional cost. For more information, visit [sunsuper.com.au](https://www.sunsuper.com.au) or call us on 13 11 84.

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Inducted, informed and ready to go....

A meeting packed with learning, discussion and preparation has kicked off the three-year term to be served by CANEGROWERS district company directors appointed in the recently completed election process.

The Directors' Induction Meeting in Cairns was attended by 77 growers and staff, with every one of CANEGROWERS 13 districts represented.

The keynote speaker was Queensland Safety Ambassador, former rugby league player and television presenter **Shane Webcke**. His challenging and inspiring talk included his own family's tragedy of losing his father to a workplace accident and a near miss he experienced moving a tree stump on his own farm. Teamwork and leadership were also topics he covered with observations from his career playing rugby league.

A practical lesson on the responsibilities of directors was delivered by CANEGROWERS lawyer **Chris Cooper**. He was followed by a voice of experience in **Keith DeLacy**, who has served on the boards of Queensland Sugar and Cofco Australia among others.

Mr DeLacy's list of what makes a good director included:

- Sound overall commercial skills
- A good nose for risk
- A team player
- A good leaner
- Integrity
- Understand conflicts
- Appropriate industry skills

He urged the growers in the room to adhere to the director's doctrine:

"To act honestly, in good faith and to the best of your ability".

Three panel discussions involved directors and district managers and prompted questions and discussion on the expectations and roles of directors within a CANEGROWERS context, the provision of services by district offices to members and grower perspectives on retaining and increasing membership.

A session on industry issues, led by CANEGROWERS senior staff, outlined the work being done on social licence, driving down production costs while driving up production, environment and sustainability, and leadership succession.

Everyone in the room was then engaged, with each table asked to identify an issue or challenge for cane growers, what needs to be achieved, the work done so far, and what the future should look like.

After being shared by the group, these have been collected to inform future work by CANEGROWERS.

The induction meeting also provided invaluable social opportunities for directors to meet and talk with colleagues from other districts with an aim to build networks and foster cooperation across the CANEGROWERS companies. ■

Pictured: (below top) CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri speaking at the Directors' Induction Meeting in Cairns, (below bottom) the newly elected 21-person CANEGROWERS Queensland Policy Council.



Directors' Field Trip



A bus load of CANEGROWERS district directors and staff took the opportunity to participate in a morning field trip in the Cairns Region following the Directors' Induction Meeting.

The first stop was the Smartcane BMP-accredited Gordonvale farm of **Paul Gregory** where he explained his farming system which is being implemented under MSF Sugar's Project Uplift.

Paul has transitioned to 1.85m row spacings. His focus has been on laser levelling blocks and implementing controlled traffic which he says have delivered time savings and resulted in improved yields.

In a block less than a kilometre from the top of the Trinity Inlet waterway, Sugar Research Australia's **Julian Connellan** explained the water quality monitoring component of the EEF60 project (a CANEGROWERS initiative funded by the Queensland Government and Australian Government's Reef Trust to trial enhanced efficiency fertilisers).

He demonstrated a ground-level flume which captured surface run off and then

automatically notified his team to collect the sample and an underground probe which collects water from below the sugarcane plant's root zone.

At SRA's Meringa Research Station, growers walked through the stages of the plant breeding program hearing from Dr **Jason Eglinton** and Dr **Felicity Atkin** about the complex processes and trials the sugarcane crosses move through before being considered for commercial release and that soon there will be more genetic data available on which to base decisions.

NIR (Near Infrared Reflectance) cane analysis system is being trialled in the Australian industry and **Steve Staunton** gave a summary of the calibration and testing work being undertaken using different NIR units by SRA.

After a day in a conference room, the fresh air and passing showers of the Cairns Region were welcome. ■

Pictured: (main) Paul Gregory explains his 3-row GPS-guided bed former to fellow CANEGROWERS district directors, (below) SRA's Julian Connellan demonstrates water quality monitoring equipment being used in the EEF60 fertiliser trial project.



Market outlook: What's ahead for 2019?



By Ginette Barrett
QSL Treasury Manager

Traders, buyers and sellers of sugar gathered in the Big Apple from 13-17 May 2019 for New York Sugar Week. Many questions were asked, including:

- Is there going to be a surplus or deficit?
- How much cane will Brazil convert to ethanol?; and
- Will India continue to export?

As we head into a new season, it has become clear that the two directions of the sugar market (bulls and bears) are starting to become foggy. We will try to make some sense of it below.

THE EVOLVING MARKET

In the last 12 months sugar has generally traded in an 11-14c/lb range, as per the graph below, but 75% of that time it has been in a tighter 11-13c/lb range. The big fundamental market driver of the ICE 11 raw sugar market has mainly been the surplus that has dragged the market down for the past two years. The key markets were the sizable crops out of India and Thailand, which flooded the market with sugar and extended the period of low prices.



Source: Bloomberg

As the 2019 season gets underway, the surplus outlook is starting to change. Record ethanol production out of Brazil last year has given the market an uplift, helping to absorb rather than add to the growing world surplus. Sustaining these high levels of global sugar production will be difficult as many producers around the world are sitting below the cost of production.

So what are the major sugar producers doing going forward?

THAILAND

Crushing is almost complete for the 2018/19 season, producing 14.7 million tonnes (MT) of sugar, and re-melt of 4.1 MT. Expectations for the 2019/20 season are that Thailand will produce approximately the same amount of sugar at 14.6 MT, but there's talk of a smaller re-melt of 3.5 MT, indicating we could see 1 million extra tonnes on the market.

INDIA

As the 2018/19 harvest comes to an end total sugar production is close to 32.9 MT, with expectations next season will sit around 28 MT, a significant decline on the previous year. Indian millers were granted 5 MT of export subsidies, but only



2.1 MT have currently been exported and 2.7 MT contracted for export. The subsidy comes to an end in September and the pressure remains on India to export sugar, with 15 MT accumulated over the last two years in surplus stock. India's monsoons over the last two years have been less than expected, leaving their reservoirs at drought levels. This year's monsoon is due to begin in June and will be the focus point for this year's crop.

CENTRE SOUTH BRAZIL

Final results for the 2018/19 harvest show sugar production closed at 26.5 MT. As the Brazilian harvest gets underway, estimates for the 2019/20 season have decreased from 33 MT and are now closer to 27.5 MT. The low price has encouraged Brazil to continue to maximise their ethanol production and minimise sugar production which will decrease sugar exports out of Brazil and should once again create a deficit in the region, allowing the surpluses to be exported from other regions.

Global Stock Change



Source: Czarnikow

GOING FORWARD

Unfortunately the price outlook does not look to be breaking outside of the range any time soon, with record raw sugar surpluses still needing to be chewed through. We believe the 2019 season could be the year to do just that. Thailand and India will create pressure over the next six months as they try to move stock before the next season begins. India have now completed their election and there has been no talk about extending the export subsidy as yet, which would help to dampen exports.

For the moment sugar prices will need to stay low for long enough so that ethanol parity remains above sugar (parity is currently sitting around 13.30c/lb) and Brazil maximises ethanol production, creating a short-term deficit that can mop up some of this leftover surplus.

In short, any rally in the next few months will be pounced on by under-priced producers worldwide wanting to move stock. Prices look set to remain contained for the remainder of the year, giving rise to ethanol production for the time being, which should lead to higher prices late this year to early next year.

PRICING UPDATES

Want to know more about current sugar market prices and trends? Then don't miss QSL's Daily Price Update email. To subscribe, email your details to info@qsl.com.au

This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial product or investment advice. You should seek independent advice before making any pricing decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.

SRA COLLABORATES ON CROSS-INDUSTRY **BIOSECURITY SURVEILLANCE**

A national, cross-industry plant pest surveillance program is underway, with a prototype of a mobile surveillance unit currently under construction to monitor and report the presence of high-priority airborne pests and diseases affecting major agricultural sectors, including sugarcane, cotton, grains, horticulture, viticulture and forestry.

iMapPESTS: Sentinel Surveillance for Agriculture (or **iMapPESTS** for short) is a national program of research, development and extension designed to put actionable information relating to pest and disease dynamics into the hands of Australia's primary producers, industries and governments. The timely delivery of this information will support enhanced on-farm pest management, biosecurity response efforts and proof-of-freedom claims.

Over a five-year period (2017-2022), the iMapPESTS program will research, develop and validate advanced pest and disease surveillance, diagnostics and forecasting technologies, including custom-designed and built mobile surveillance units, known as 'sentinels', that incorporate specialised trapping equipment and technology.

The sentinels will be deployed at various locations across the country, where they will capture airborne samples of insects and fungal spores and reference them against GPS, temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction data.

Samples captured by the sentinels will be analysed using morphological identification and advanced molecular diagnostics tools to rapidly detect and quantify pests and diseases present in the region at the time of sampling.

Surveillance data will be used by CSIRO to develop pest and disease forecasting models, which will help identify patterns that can lead to better predictions of potential outbreaks or incursions of pests and diseases that are important to the various plant industries.

Some of the samples captured by the sentinels will be used by Agriculture Victoria to investigate the application of new plant pest diagnostic techniques for the broadscale detection of plant pests and diseases, including those not yet found in Australia.

Information generated by the surveillance activities will be summarised and shared with end users to arm them with



actionable information that will be used to improve on-farm productivity.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is involved in the program as the representative of the sugar industry and is also contributing important research to improve molecular diagnostics for a range of diseases and exotic pests that threaten sugarcane.

This research will explore and design a toolkit for new pest and disease threats and modernise molecular and morphological diagnostics for priority pests.

SRA is also responsible for improving diagnostics for important exotic and established pathogens and initiating the metagenomic research for sugarcane.

The team at SRA is developing extraction methods for plant parts for metagenomics and improving molecular diagnostic tools for the industry.

For more information on sugarcane industry biosecurity, visit the growers and millers section of the SRA website: www.sugarresearch.com.au

For background information on the iMapPESTS program, refer to the AUSVEG website here: <https://ausveg.com.au/biosecurity-agricultural/biosecurity/imappests/> This article has been adapted from Vegetables Australia, a bi-monthly magazine from AUSVEG.

This project is supported by Hort Innovation, through funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit Program and funding from 16 partner organisations, including SRA. ■

Pictured: SRA Principal Researcher, Disease Management, Dr Nicole Thompson, is leading SRA's involvement in the iMapPESTS project.

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300+ GROWERS BENEFIT FROM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Supplied by WTSIP



More than 300 cane growers in the Wet Tropics region have so far taken advantage of assistance to develop whole-farm nutrient management plans - to better match nutrient inputs to crop requirements, increase their understanding of their farm's soils and in some cases, save money.

The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) is offering customised nutrient management planning through the Australian Government's Reef Trust III funding – and it has been well received by growers.

WTSIP and CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman **Joe Marano** said the plans are a starting point for fine-tuning a whole farming system, and while each plan was individualised there is a consistent approach.

"When we first came together as a partnership, we saw this as an opportunity to substantially improve

nutrient management planning - by developing a consistent approach that could be applied across the whole region," Mr Marano said. "Over time, it has evolved as we've found more ways to add value for growers."

He said significantly less nitrogen had been applied to crops since WTSIP's extension team began working with growers on nutrient management plans in the Wet Tropics.

"Our extension officers take a holistic approach to nutrient planning so they're looking for a range of possible underlying restraints that may be affecting yields.

This could include drainage issues, disease, soil physical properties and many other factors as well as nutrient levels," Mr Marano said.

"It's about being a bit more scientific in matching inputs and crop requirements to improve yields but we're also identifying areas in the landscape that are at a higher risk for nutrient loss into waterways."

Herbert grower **Paul Marbelli** worked with WTSIP extension officer **Leanne Carr** to develop a nutrient management plan as part of the funding he received through the Australian Government's Reef Trust IV Repeated Tenders program.

"Like most land managers I'm trying to find the sweet spot between minimising impacts on the environment and maintaining a sustainable productive farming business," Mr Marbelli said.

"I applied for financial backing while trialling less than recommended nitrogen rates across my farm over a crop cycle and the plan matched very closely to my new, lowered application rates. It gave me a lot more confidence that I was heading in the right direction.

"I'm close to the mill so I've been using a lot of mill by-products over the years but by analysing my soil tests Leanne has helped me see the potential to reduce my rate of application of mill by-products and utilise application of lime."

Feluga grower **Chris O'Kane** said he had reduced inputs and costs since working with extension officer **Alex Lindsay** on a nutrient management plan.

"Alex visited our farm, reviewed our soil samples and did a lot of work for us off-farm to work out the best whole farm plan for nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. We had about 30 different soil tests, each with a slightly different recommendation, and Alex rationalised it to three or four blends of fertiliser."

Mr Marano said many growers were pleasantly surprised to discover how easy their WTSIP nutrient management plans are to use.

"Once it's done you've got all your soil tests and recommendations in one place so when you're ordering fertiliser you only need to refer to the one plan," he said.

"NMPs are useful both for Smartcane BMP accredited growers as well as those who are working towards accreditation because they help with keeping accurate records without spending hours hand-writing block numbers, fertiliser products and percentages."

The Australian Government's Reef Trust III program, which is funding WTSIP's extension team, had been extended to the end of 2019.

Growers in the Wet Tropics who are interested in developing a nutrient management plan are encouraged to contact their local WTSIP extension officer.

Visit www.wtsip.org.au to find your local contact. ■



Australian Government

REEF TRUST



Pictured: (page 16) Herbert River grower Paul Marbelli, (above top) Feluga grower Chris O'Kane working with WTSIP Extension Officer Alex Lindsay, (above bottom) Joe Marano on his farm.

CANEGROWERS Mackay crowns Plane Creek 2018 productivity champions

By Christine Walker

PLANE CREEK'S TOP PERFORMERS FOR 2018 WERE CROWNED IN FRONT OF A GATHERING OF 160 FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS IN CARMILA ON 27 MAY.

Plane Creek Area Committee Chairman, **Kevin Borg** said the 2018 season saw 1.14 million tonnes crushed in Plane Creek with 162,132 tonnes of sugar produced from 17,311 hectares harvested.

"It was pleasing to see that CCS has pushed higher in the district than in the past few years, however, tonnes cane per hectare, while similar to 2017 season, were well below average for the previous 13 seasons. We hope that the extended dry period between May and November won't impact on ratoons and yields in 2019," Mr Borg said.

"Estimates for Plane Creek's crush, which is due to start on Tuesday 18 June, are for an average season of 1.3 million tonnes, compared with Mackay's three mills expected to process 5.1 million tonnes from next Tuesday 4 June.

"Early CCS results have been good with 12.1 CCS recorded in mid-May. We hope to see about 75 tonnes cane per hectare harvested at 14.3 CCS or about 10.7 tonnes sugar hectare produced."

The Productivity Awards recognise growers leading productivity in the district or supporting research and adoption.

While one person receives an award it is often the whole farming family which has contributed to the results.

Mr Borg congratulated **Phillip Borg** on behalf of Borg MP & Mrs MM, who won the Arthur Gardner Shield for Best Producer for the Season Award (sponsored by QSL) with a return of 13.94 tonnes sugar hectare.

The Award is given based on the highest relative tonnes of sugar per hectare for the entire mill area in 2018.

He also congratulated **John Borg** on behalf of Borg DM & AL F/T & JR & VM Borg F/T, who won the Best Producer over 5 years award (sponsored by CANEGROWERS Mackay) with a result of 14.39 tonnes sugar hectare.

The Award is calculated based on the highest average TSH over 5 years.

Other outstanding results for the night were:

CANE GROWING EXCELLENCE AWARD (FARMHQ)

Bourke CJ & Mrs LK (No 1) (143.4%) (Carmila) – based on the farm with the largest difference between their tonnes/sugar/ha produced and their zone average

BEST HARVESTING GROUP AWARD (WILMAR SUGAR)

Perry Harvesting Group – based on a range of factors including consistency of supply/cane quality, care and attention to WHS, quality field operations & management/communication

HIGHEST ACTUAL CCS SAMPLE AWARD (WILMAR SUGAR)

Currie PJ & Mrs PM: 18.2 CCS (single sample, 7/10/18 Q252 plant)

NEXT GENERATION GROWER AWARD (CANEGROWERS MACKAY)

Chris Thompson

JIM PEDERSEN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AWARD (WHITSON DAWSON)

Gary Loadman – awarded for outstanding adoption of conservation farming practices

REEF CATCHMENTS PRACTICE ADOPTION AWARD (REEF CATCHMENTS)

P & P Currie – awarded for outstanding implementation of farming principles or machinery to improve water quality. ■



Pictured: (top main) Mary and Phillip Borg with Kathy Zanco, QSL, (top left) Greg Howland and Damian Baxter, Wilmar BioEthanol, (bottom left) Greg Howland and Damian Baxter, Wilmar, (right) Peter Currie and Katrina Dent, Reef Catchments, (bottom right) Rodney Hindle and Wayne Berginey (NQ Farmshed).





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Policy Update

Environment with Mick Quirk

Economics with Warren Males

Getting ahead on reef water quality

With the recent focus again on cane farming and its relationship to the Great Barrier Reef many growers are again feeling disenfranchised and even victimised, disrespected and powerless. So what are our next steps?

When I first joined CANEGROWERS in 2015 to manage the Smartcane BMP program, I noticed a degree of grower fatigue and even hostility to reef-related issues. Three years later, with a Reef Bill before State Parliament, growers remain suspicious of what is termed the 'reef industry' which appears to drive the science, policies, programs and targets.

While report cards claim that water quality has not improved despite government spending, it is not as if the sugarcane industry has been inactive over the past two decades.

Growers have improved many practices and engaged with reef incentive programs. CANEGROWERS has partnered with other local and regional organisations to help deliver some programs, and we initiated the Smartcane BMP program and the Cane Changer project.

The latter focuses on getting all participants with an interest in reef water quality, from farmers to government ministers, to treat each other with due respect and regard. In other words, developing a positive culture for discussions, debate and innovation.

It seems we need to do more to get ahead of reef water quality issues, and to ensure that:

- Growers are respected and can engage with confidence.
- Growers are the ones driving cane farm initiatives for water quality.

To achieve these outcomes, we need to build on our work to date by:

- Building confidence that good science is being undertaken, with conclusions that are based on healthy debate;
- Ensuring that good science is expressed in good decision-making and policy development.

I will explore how we could go about achieving these goals in future policy updates. ■



Price relief on the horizon

There is presently plenty of sugar in the world but a change in the market appears to be on the horizon.

The picture certainly seems to be one of over-supply with markets being sought for surplus Thai, Indian and European sugar at a time when the new season (2019) Centre-South Brazil harvest is getting underway and the first sugarcane of the Australian is about to be cut.

But if we lift our eyes beyond the here and now, the outlook is a little more constructive. There are signs that the worst of the surplus phase of the crop cycle may be over.

While still in its infancy, data released by UNICA shows the CS-Brazil cane harvest is 18% (19 million tonnes) behind where it was this time last year, recoverable sugar is low at 119.7kg/t, and the production mix is strongly favouring ethanol over sugar.

Looking further ahead, many expect the next Thai and European Union crops to be smaller than the just completed harvests.

Australia, Brazil and Guatemala are using World Trade Organisation mechanisms to shine a spotlight on India's illegal sugar subsidies and with the Indian elections now complete, the re-elected Modi government has an opportunity to change tack. The WTO processes are likely to help those in India looking to reform the country's sugar policies.

A 21 May Commitment of Traders report released in New York showed the net short position of non-index speculators had increased by a further 29,000 lots to a near record 186,500 lots short.

There is still plenty of selling pressure. Yet, in the same week, sugar prices moved modestly higher. At some point these short positions need to be squared. To do this, speculators will switch from being sellers to buyers, which may be very constructive for prices.

With the world sugar market moving from a global surplus to a small deficit this year, excessive stocks should start to be drawn down.

In this phase of the production cycle it is not uncommon to see increased price volatility, especially in the nearby sugar futures positions as speculators square their positions - so expect most market commentary to focus on that volatility. From a producer's perspective, it is often best to look beyond the here and now and look at prices in the more distant futures positions.

In this phase of the cycle, more distant futures positions usually trade at a premium to the nearby contracts. The price volatility combined with this market characteristic may provide opportunities for growers to secure more favourable prices for their 2020, 2021 and 2022 crops.

For daily price updates and forward price indications, please contact your preferred marketer. ■



NEW NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE NOTICE

A new National Notice for the operation of agricultural machinery/combinations exceeding general access regulation mass and dimensions came into effect on 1 May 2019.

The *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2019* will replace current access arrangements, harmonise mass and dimension limits and provide a single set of national standards/guidelines for the operation of agricultural machinery.

Just to be clear, any agricultural vehicle over the general access dimensions (2.5m width, 12.5m single vehicle length, 19m combination length, 4.3m height and 3.7m rear overhang) will need to travel on public roads under:

- The new National Notice (subject to the phase in period), or
- A permit if the agricultural vehicle does not meet the mass and dimension limits or the conditions in the National Notice

PHASE IN PERIOD

Growers can still operate over-mass and dimension agricultural machinery under their existing arrangements until they expire. Alternatively, during this phase-in period they may operate under the National Notice.

The following Notices will be replaced by the National Notice and are operational until the end of the transitioning period:

- Guideline for excess dimension agricultural vehicles and agricultural combinations, Form 14, Version – including Amendment Notice 2019 (No. 1) **Phase out on 31 December 2019**
- Queensland Agricultural Machines and Cane Bins Flotation Tyres Mass Exemption Notice 2017 (No. 1) **Phase out on 30 April 2020**
- Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1) **Phase out on 30 April 2020**
- Queensland Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Northern Coastal Zone 1) Dimension Exemption Notice 2016 (No. 1) **Phase out 30 April 2020**
- Queensland Heavy Vehicle Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle (Bundaberg Region 5.0m wide) Dimension Exemption Notice 2017 (No. 1) **Phase out 30 April 2020**

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

Under the new National Notice, the regulations for sugarcane regions have not changed significantly from the current arrangements. There are still specific Queensland regulations that duplicate what is in the documents listed above.



Burn Ashburner
CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Industry

The one thing which will be new to growers is the towed mass ratio. This is a safety issue based on research and relates to the ability of a tractor and trailer to brake safely at certain speeds. This leads to limits for the ratio of towing and towed vehicle masses in an agricultural combination.

- Un-braked agricultural implements and trailers may have a mass up to 1.2 times more than the mass of the towing vehicle when the speed limit exceeds 25km/h or 1.5 times more than the mass of the towing vehicle when the speed limit does not exceed 25km/h.
- Braked agricultural implements and trailers that comply with Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 38/00 – Trailer Brake Systems) 2006 may have a mass up to 3.0 times more than the tow mass ratio of the towing vehicle.

CANEGROWERS' information is that this should not be an issue for the majority of the current fleet, particularly with the weight transfer from the trailer to the tractor being part of the tractor mass. There are, however, some old trailers and some rigs that will not meet this safety requirement.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The National Notice, which works in conjunction with an operator's guide, an appendix of road manager conditions and an online map and can be found on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulators website.

- National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2019 (No.1)
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/c2019g00390-national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-and-combination-mass-and-dimension-exemption-notice-2019-no1.pdf
- National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2019 (No.1) - Operators Guide
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201904-1043-national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-and-combination-operators-guide.pdf
- Appendix 5 - Road Manager Conditions
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201904-1044-appendix-5-road-manager-conditions.pdf
- Agricultural Heavy Vehicle Zone Map
www.nhvr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffa527a24fd040ac9082235f000a73ee
- Road Manager Information Sheet
www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201903-1021-info-sheet-national-class-1-agricultural-vehicle-combination-notice.pdf

Please be aware that restrictions are subject to change during the phase-in period. Growers are encouraged to visit the NHVR website for further information. ■

Belonging is not just joining – we're all in this together

The staff and growers who attended the CANEGROWERS Directors Induction Meeting in Cairns on 21 and 22 May heard me sing a few unaccompanied lines of a song by Australian singer-songwriter Ben Lee. The song is called "We're all in this together" and it sums up CANEGROWERS perfectly.

In preparing for my presentation on membership engagement this song became stuck in my head.

Subtly, it was my psyche connecting my love of music to the work I do for CANEGROWERS.

Belonging to CANEGROWERS is not just about joining and being a member. It is much more. CANEGROWERS is a place where you can belong and can talk with other growers about your challenges, opportunities and ideas.

Belonging gives you a collective voice, ensuring your farming interests are represented at local, state, national and international levels.

Belonging allows CANEGROWERS to offer products and services and to work on the problems affecting your business so there is a strong industry for future generations.

Belonging helps to ensure a secure and profitable future for growers.

Sometimes we win. Sometimes we don't and we dust ourselves off and get ready for the next round.

Yet here we are, together, taking on these challenges on behalf of members and the industry.

And why wouldn't we? We are CANEGROWERS. Together anything is possible!

At the Directors Induction Meeting, the grower-leaders present heard about what CANEGROWERS does and their role in that.

They also heard about the issues, the challenges, and the initiatives CANEGROWERS is taking on to support and represent members.

These include sugar marketing and grower choice, electricity, water, transport, environment and reef, insurance, Smartcane BMP and communications. The list is long!

In this modern world of distraction, we are often so busy focusing on the immediate problems and issues that we rarely stop to look up and see what we have achieved - together.

Yet, if we stop to reflect, we'll see the remarkable achievements that have been made possible through your hard work, determination and your membership of CANEGROWERS.

For example, the international community, other industries and agricultural peak bodies look to us for guidance and advice.

Grower members and non-members look to us to represent them and take on the issues on their behalf.

The science community and government seek our opinions and green groups concede we are fierce when we need to be.

We get in front of school students and teach them about sugarcane and how we manage the environment. We work hard to get our message out, to influence and engage.

Through our efforts, we have the ear of government - and that's the power of CANEGROWERS and being in this together.

I am always grateful and stand in awe of the grower representatives, who give their time and passion to the organisation. I also highly respect the managers and staff who give tirelessly to the organisation.

There are some very dedicated people in this organisation, in Brisbane and in the districts, working hard to help achieve our goals to support your business. The sum of these parts working together make us formidable.

CANEGROWERS represents 72% of the sugarcane industry. A recent survey of the 86 grower CANEGROWERS district company directors found:

- 80% are from three generations or more of cane growing families – supporting the history and legacy of their profession and CANEGROWERS organisation
- 36% have represented CANEGROWERS for 15 years or more – so there is experience in the leadership
- 18% in their first term – so there is succession and a desire to support the industry
- 20% under 45 years old – the next generation of leaders are stepping up to lead the industry and organisation to the future challenges and opportunities
- 4 women directors – bringing diverse skills, expertise and a different perspective to the organisation.

CANEGROWERS membership engagement needs to ensure we build on our legacy and look to the future so we can continue the work and support your needs.

We're all in this together and I think it is best summed up by one of our grower directors:

"Standing together we are stronger to talk with one voice". ■



Matt Kealley

CANEGROWERS Senior
Manager - Membership
Engagement & Innovation

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1x Massey Ferguson 6475, 1x Massey Ferguson 5465. 6 tonne side tipping haulout tractors. VGC. Ph: 07 4056 2063.

2004 Cameco Harv. VGC \$150,000. HBM Billet Planter GC \$22,000. Fert Box 3T Newton Type Side Stool Dresser 760mm OD Cltrs - Draw Bar on wheels, 2 new Cltrs, Full Set Bearings to suit, Stainless Worms & Chutes \$4,400. GST incl. Ph: 0427 655 168.

New Holland T60 70 - 1029 hrs 18/4R/42 Rear \$65K. Kubota L295DT Inter row stripper \$7K. Howard 120" Rotary Hoe with crumbler HR 43 \$15K. JAM 3 Row Stool Splitter with 1.5 Ton Fert Box \$30K. All prices incl GST. Babinda zone. Ph: 07 4067 6212.

Planter: Accord Miniair S 8 row small seed precision planter, Port onion harvester, Box tipper & grader, 60 half ton wooden bins. Tableland area. Ph: 0439 951 110.

2x John Deere 7710 4wd Tractors. Both were ex articulated haul outs. Well maintained & in good condition. Ph: 0418 456 071 or 0418 158 319.

Complete s/h chains, sprockets, idlers and rollers to suit track cane harvester. Case 2590 2 WD. Chamberlain 4080. Fiat 1000 2 WD. Fiat 980 2 WD. Michigan 14 yd Scraper. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0407 160 673 or 07 4055 4449.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Howard 80 inch rotary hoe S Series, 540 rpm, good blades, no depth wheels, works fine \$1,100. Ph: 0417 070 844.

C-Dax Spreadmaster fertilizer and pasture seed spreader. With quick hitch to mount on quad bike or 4 wheeler. Brand new \$1,000 + GST. Ph: 07 4777 4966 after 6pm.

High Rise - FORD 5000 with hydrostatic steering, 8 foot clearance, Hardi chemical mixer, 2 tanks, 7 Row boom with droppers and overhead broadcast boom, calc-an-acre fitted. Good Condition \$50,000 + GST. Ph: David on 0488 774 705.

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).

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

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.

Hardi 600 Lt spray tank with pump and controls, no boom. \$1650. Ph: 0407 761 364.

Howard AH Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned - 1x 100", 1x 90", 1x 80". Howard AR Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned - 2x 80". Also available S/H AR Howard 90". Ph: 07 4959 5885 or 0407 643 441.

Austoft Powerhaul, good for planting, \$15K incl GST. Ph: 0408 755 453.

Right-angle drive gearbox for a Turbine pump Randolph 60hp, 1:2 gear ratio. Good cond. \$2,000 + GST. Ph: 0427 146 990.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		January–May	
	20.05.19	27.05.19		
Mossman	27	25	2393	1668
Mareeba AP	1	18	622	702
Cairns	42	18	1794	1551
Mt Sophia	75	81	2470	2470
Babinda	0	128	2300	3055
Innisfail	131	106	2470	2525
Tully	167	88	1876	2953
Cardwell	13	34	1867	1608
Lucinda	21	18	2197	1583
Ingham	21	41	2576	1509
Abergowrie	28	16	1763	1379
Townsville	0.2	3	1719	847
Ayr DPI	0	0.2	919	686
Proserpine	7	1	1337	985
Mirani	5	6	1300	1060
Mackay	22	14	938	1104
Sarina (Plane Ck)	19	8	1242	1225
Bundaberg	12	0.4	220	560
Childers South	10	2	222	472
Maryborough	20	7	389	660
Tewantin	55	12	526	1019
Eumundi	30	0	381	995
Nambour	25	10	618	996
Woongoolba	50	3	398	745
Murwillumbah	22	14	389	938
Ballina	52	12	462	948
Woodburn	0	0	261	765



sunsuper

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.

HOWARD EHD 6 ft Slasher. Runs well but needs work. \$3,000 + GST. Proserpine. Ph: 0418 770 218.

Trailco 125 mm x 394 mtr poly reel irrigator, original owner, above average condition. Ph: 0479 111 968.

6 and 8 inch cast iron flanged gate belts. New, never used. Ph: 0479 111 968.

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. All in good condition. Ph: 0427 617 807.

Isuzu 1989 FVR series service truck fitted with a 4400lt diesel tank with electric pump & meter; 3 hose reels for oil with air operated pumps; air grease pump; Swager hoses & fittings. RWC. 2 large tool boxes. Ph: 0427 617 807.

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

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

Wanted

Wanted 2x second hand tractor tyres 23.1x26. Ph: 0427 590 746.

Positions Vacant

Want to make engineering your future? HB Machinery established in 1960, in Wangan

near Innisfail is open for 1 or 2 energetic persons to take on a spacious, fully equipped workshop. Experience in welding & turning essential, finance can be provided. For more info email hbmach@bigpond.com or phone 07 4064 2049.

Work Wanted

Looking for work as a haul out operator. Some experience and willing to learn. Ph: 0499 611 306.

Property

Koumala cane farm for sale, 300ha, cane and cattle, 3 titles, large water licence and aquaculture water licences. Ph: 07 4959 1036.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 35 kms South of Cairns. 209 Acres Total. Approx 170 Acres cane area. 2019 crop included, Estimate 4,000 ton. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm Mulgrave Valley. 40 kms South of Cairns. 185 Acres Total. Approx 100 Acres under cane. 2019 crop included, Estimate 2000 ton. Ph: Steve 0410 600 247.

Cane farm, Silkwood area. 39.94 ha total, 31.74 under cane on 2 freehold titles. 5 yr av 97 t/ha, Part Bruce Hwy frontage, and 7.5 Klms from Kurrimine Beach. Shed and bore water on 1 title. Ph: 0417 647 002.

92 acre lifestyle block, ex cane, cane ground was approx 65 acres, 3 bed house shed,

power, water, 3 phase, landline, underground for irrigation, property runs along the Pioneer River located Mia Mia/Pinevale area Mirani Mackay. Suit persons wanting extra cane ground or a hobby farm \$550,000. Ph: 07 4959 1008.

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

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

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

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

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Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



Look, be alert, call an expert