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HELPS TACKLE SOIL  
HEALTH LEGACY



**India thumbs  
nose at  
WTO action  
with new  
subsidies**



**Industry  
rejects  
confusing  
and flawed  
Reef report**



**Getting to  
the root  
of the soil  
compaction  
problem**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY





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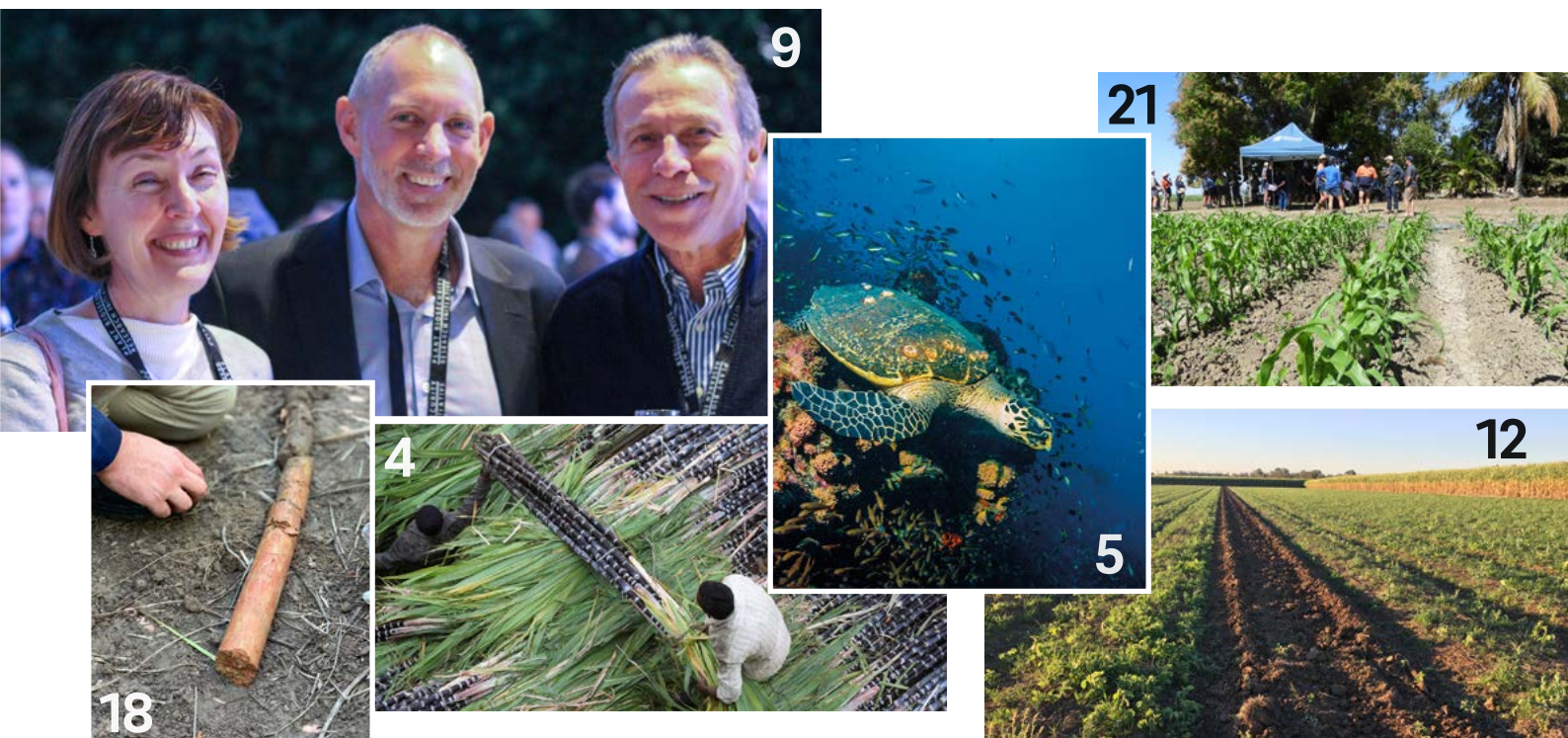
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*COVER IMAGE: Maryborough cane grower Isaac Schmidt is trialling a mixed species fallow in a bid to improve soil health and reduce operational costs. Read more on page 12.*

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Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

**Published every second Monday by**  
CANEGROWERS

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AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 41 Number 18

Printed by Printcraft

37 College Street, Hamilton QLD 4007

### Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250

# Time to get fair dinkum on the future of the reef

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

We hear a lot about the Australian culture of a 'fair go. It reflects the strong belief of most Australians that everybody should be given a fair crack at doing their best. It is this belief that's at the heart of our utter disappointment at a recent government report on Water Quality on the Great Barrier Reef, because it is absolutely not a fair depiction of the work that hundreds, if not thousands, of cane farmers have done to secure a profitable and sustainable future for their families, their farms and the environment.

The facts are in.

As of today, 72% of Queensland's cane-growing land is benchmarked in the government-funded, industry-led best management practice program, Smartcane BMP.

Even more impressive, we now have 25% of our cane production area accredited in the program. That's one hectare in every four, or around 100,000 hectares, that are now at or above best practice standards.

If you want to know what the Smartcane BMP standard is, you can find more information at [www.smartcane.com.au](http://www.smartcane.com.au)

The standards within the program were established based on our own industry research and development through Sugar Research Australia and are influenced by contributions from government and scientists to verify that the practices deliver good outcomes for profitable farms and a sustainable environment.

The standard is not easy, but it is outcome-focused and it's fair, and it now has international recognition.

CANEGROWERS has taken a leadership role within Smartcane BMP to ensure it remains voluntary and responsive to needs of farmers, and the program has in-built mechanisms for feedback and improvement at the property, program and delivery levels.

## Unfair Report

The most recent government Reef report erroneously claims that just 9% of Queensland cane land is operating at best practice standards in terms of risk to water quality for the period 2016 to 2018.

But it reports only on changes during that period, taking no account of progress achieved prior to 2016 or after June 2018. It also completely ignores any practice change undertaken outside of government-funded programs.

It is a small snapshot in time, considering a limited set of criteria, and using unreliable modelling and assumptions around practice change to predict what these changes might mean in respect to water quality.

Exactly what is defined as best practice under this reporting framework is uncertain, but the focus is on water quality not production.

The water quality framework is skewed so that practices with lowest water quality risk are more aspirational and don't necessarily have data to support their implementation on farm

or through a BMP program. In this way it does not fit with the industry best practice framework.

Why do the government's numbers look so low compared to what we know is the reality? We can only infer the answer but it appears the report doesn't take account of anything outside of the changes made in the full knowledge of government and it only considers where practices have changed.

If, like many farmers, you are operating an efficient farming operation, minimising losses and maximising usage of inputs such as fertilisers, then this report does not acknowledge what you are doing, despite the fact that clearly you are operating at what anyone would consider to be best practice.

So, is it fair to growers to be judged by this reporting framework? Absolutely not!

CANEGROWERS has repeatedly pointed out that this type of reporting sets the industry up for failure and does absolutely nothing to acknowledge the excellent, voluntary work by growers and community groups to secure a sustainable, profitable future.

Tragically it also does nothing to encourage anyone to become further involved.

We must go to the root cause of this issue. In this respect, it is the commitments the government has made to the international community that are the problem.

The targets are not fair, the reporting framework is not fair and the perception that the cane industry must single-handedly deliver water quality targets is not fair.

It is about time to bring this whole thing to a head.

It matters more now than ever, as the State Government pauses before hitting farmers with more regulations based on this unfair house of cards.

Farmers must be in the driving seat to define a sustainability agenda that involves, not blames, them. In doing so it should recognise their past, present and future farm management goals. ■





# WE'LL WALK YOU THROUGH IT

**Smartcane BMP recognises and celebrates the way you farm. And it's not as hard as you think.**

You're always looking for ways to improve your farm. So chances are you're already doing BMP on your own.

Get in touch with your district facilitator to see how easy it can be. We're here to help.



Bill, Proserpine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## India thumbs nose at WTO action

Growers hoping the commencement of WTO action would cause India to reflect on its price-distorting sugar policies were left outraged by the Indian Government's recent announcement of a new \$1.3 billion package of export subsidies.

Less than two weeks after the WTO's Dispute Resolution Body agreed to investigate the legality of India's sugar subsidies, the Indian Government hit back with the approval of the new mega package of sugar export supports.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** said the adverse sugar price effects of India's latest move will be felt around the world.

"This decision by India underlines the vital importance of the WTO process the Australian Government is undertaking with full industry support. We urge those involved to take every opportunity to expedite this process," Mr Schembri said.

"The low value of sugar on the world market is weighing heavily on the mood of the industry and particularly on growers and their future plans.

Australian Sugar Milling Council CEO **David Pietsch** said the latest move by India had stunned the industry.

"India's government has approved a massive market distortion. The amount of sugar involved dwarfs Australia's total annual raw sugar exports of 3.6 million tonnes," he said.

"Australia is one of the most efficient and lowest-cost producers of raw sugar in the world, but we are struggling to survive this current extended period of below-cost returns.

"Rather than this attempt to offload raw sugar on an already over-supplied world market, we urge the Indian government to consider alternative solutions, including long-term storage within country and a commitment to reform of its domestic subsidy measures that have contributed to the global sugar glut."

"This would ease the pressure on both India's domestic price and the world sugar price. It would also be seen as a constructive response to the legitimate concerns raised in the WTO by the Australian, Brazilian and Guatemalan governments." ■

"Rather than this attempt to offload raw sugar on an already over-supplied world market, we urge the Indian government to consider alternative solutions, including long-term storage within country and a commitment to reform of its domestic subsidy measures that have contributed to the global sugar glut"

### KEY POINTS

- In eight of the past 10 years, India has produced a quantity of sugar in excess of its domestic requirements primarily because of its regulated cane prices that the governments of Australia, Brazil and Guatemala are challenging in the WTO as being inconsistent with the WTO's Market Price Support rules.
- India's high cost sugar producers require generous export subsidies to compete with low-cost exporters like Australia in order to clear their domestic market and generate revenue.
- Indian raw sugar production is expected to be around 29-30.5 million tonnes in 2019/20 – down from a peak of 33 million tonnes in 2018/19.
- India's domestic raw sugar consumption requirements are approx. 26 to 27.5 million tonnes.
- India is understood to be currently holding over 14 million tonnes of raw sugar in storage warehouses such as the one pictured below.





# Deeply flawed report ignores reality of grower efforts

*CANEGROWERS has rejected as unhelpful and confusing a deeply flawed Reef Water Quality Report Card release by the Queensland Government.*

In criticising the sugarcane industry's pace of movement towards best management practice, the Report fails to include:

- any practice change that occurred prior to 2016,
- anything that's happened after June 2018 or
- anything that's happened voluntarily, outside of a government program and therefore are not recorded by the government's Paddock to Reef framework.

"This Report grossly underestimates what is actually happening in industry," CEO Dan Galligan said.

"It's a snapshot of data around practice change risk at a particular point in time."

"The Queensland Government is presenting this snapshot as a rating of the whole sugarcane industry in an attempt to paint us in a bad light to justify the increased regulation it is planning via the Reef Bill currently before the State Parliament."

Despite the fancy interactive online graphics, CANEGROWERS has grave concerns that the Report contains questionable analysis and draws inappropriate conclusions.

For example, the approximate average area of land using best practice systems is said to be 9% which is an E ranking overall for the sugarcane industry but the Burnett-Mary at 6% is given a D ranking and the Wet Tropics at 15.5% is an E.

The problems of interpretation are further compounded by the fact that the Report Card is not aligned with Smartcane BMP, a program the State Government supports, which has accredited 25% of the state's cane area.

"The goalposts have also been shifted since the previous Report Card in 2016 to make it appear that more cane land is at high risk of nutrient management impacting water quality when in fact, over the intervening period, the area independently accredited as operating

under industry best practice for minimising impact has continued to grow," Mr Galligan said.

The State Government's claim that the quality of the water flowing to the Reef was still declining is in sharp contrast to recent waterways assessments based on water quality monitoring.

**"CANEGROWERS is committed to assisting growers to play their part towards the resilience of the Reef and the fact is they are doing this by taking action to manage the impact of farming on the waterways which feed into the Reef. The Report Card is a good example of data being used in a counterproductive way that implies blame rather than engendering a shared plan for the future."**

In the Wet Tropics region, the latest report released in July 2019 said more than 80% of the freshwater rivers and estuaries were at a 'good' or 'very good' rating.

The Queensland Government is also at odds with the Reef 2050 Long-Term

Sustainability Plan. The plan which says, "...substantial investment in better land management is improving water quality entering the Reef from the catchment..." and more specifically, "The good news is that the quality of water entering the Reef from agriculture is improving".

CANEGROWERS believes the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, released the same day as the Report Card in late August, is a much more useful document. It concluded that the greatest threat to the Reef is climate change with its impacts of high water temperatures causing bleaching and the increased severity and frequency of cyclone activity.

"CANEGROWERS is committed to assisting growers to play their part towards the resilience of the Reef and the fact is they are doing this by taking action to manage the impact of farming on the waterways which feed into the Reef," Mr Galligan said.

"The Report Card is a good example of data being used in a counterproductive way that implies blame rather than engendering a shared plan for the future.

"The State Government should reflect on the work of farmers across Queensland in a positive way rather than with a negative, narrow and misleading grading and reporting system that does little to engage and collaborate with farmers or the community."

Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO Travis Tobin said the focus on climate change was a strong indicator that regulating agricultural practices was a simplistic response to a complex problem that would see a greater burden placed on Queensland's farmers while not guaranteeing any benefits for the Reef.

"QFF does not question that land-based run-off remains a problem and that efforts must be increased if we are going to meet the ambitious targets set by governments. But we do question how the state government is proposing to go about achieving this," Mr Tobin said. ■

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

In Week 12 (ending 25/8) Mossman Mill processed 41,603 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 13.20 CCS. Coastal growers supplied 27,103 tonnes for an average of 12.94 CCS, while Tableland growers supplied 14,500 tonnes for an average of 14.46 CCS.

The cool, dry weather has seen the CCS begin steadily rising. Mossman Mill has crushed 57% of the current season

estimate of which coastal growers supplied 270,302 tonnes (11.75 CCS) and Tableland growers 131,964 tonnes (13.46 CCS). The original estimate has dropped by about 7%, but the estimated cut to crush continues to decline.

To-date 112,676 tonnes of Mossman cane supply has been toll crushed at MSF's Tableland Mill.

## CAIRNS REGION

Fine weather continues across the region. Planting is well underway and growers are taking advantage of new varieties and clean seed.

The recent Peter Ridd lecture was enjoyed by those in attendance.

## INNISFAIL

MSF Sugar has engaged a contractor to carry out repairs to its No.2 Boiler at South Johnstone Mill. Every effort is being made to maximise daily throughput but as the CCS increases it will become difficult to achieve the current rate.

As at 30 August, South Johnstone Mill had crushed 426,895 tonnes, 34% of the estimate. The daily CCS has improved over the past two weeks and is now in the high 12s. Seasonal average is 11.86. A review of the crushing plan has the current expected finish date as 21 November.

Growers are busy completing planting operations with the much-improved ground conditions prevailing.

## HERBERT RIVER

Herbert River mills crushed a total of 196,600 tonnes for Week 8, with Victoria Mill crushing 131,000 tonnes and Macknade 65,600 tonnes. Rain late in the week had an impact on crushing, restricting supply to approximately 22,000 tonnes for Friday. Scheduled maintenance days were held at both factories during the week with Victoria down for 13 hours and Macknade 12 hours. Both mills reported that they were still struggling for bin weight and this was limiting factory rates. CCS continued to improve with 13.3 for the week and 12.6 season-to-date.

A combined total of 208,800 tonnes went through the rollers in Week 9, with Victoria Mill reaching 140,800 tonnes for the first time this season and Macknade crushing 68,000 tonnes. There were some issues at the sugar terminal which caused stops and rate reductions for three days at both mills, with sugar hoppers full. Mill operational staff worked additional hours to get back on track and get levels down. There was another scheduled maintenance day for Victoria Mill in Week 9 and a four-hour shredder tip change for Macknade. The mill reported that cane quality continues to be varied with some high EM cane entering the factory. The average CCS sneaked up a little more to 13.5 for the week.

## BURDEKIN

Burdekin's 2019 crushing season reached the half way point on Thursday 29 August. Wilmar reported that the Burdekin mills have manufactured about 570,000 tonnes of raw sugar season so far this season.

Burdekin mills crushed 388,952 tonnes for week 12, which included a scheduled stop at Pioneer, and 378,397 tonnes for the following week which included scheduled stop at Kalamia.

As of Week 13 (w/e 31 August) the Burdekin mills have now crushed 4,151,430 tonnes of cane for the season which is just over 52% of the revised season estimate.

The highest CCS sample for week 12 was 18.1 from a rake of Q240 plant cane recorded in the Pioneer area. In week 13 the highest CCS sample was 18 from a rake of Q208 fourth ratoon

cane also recorded in the Pioneer area.

CCS continues to rise with seasonal CCS recorded to date for Burdekin at 14.31. The average weekly CCS for the Burdekin exceeded 15 units for the first time in week 12. Pioneer is still ahead of Inkerman with 14.57 and 14.39 respectively season to date.

In week 13 Q240 continues to be the most supplied variety at 39% followed by Q183 at 17%. On a district basis Q183 achieved 15.55 CCS followed by KQ228 at 15.11.

With Queensland Parliament sitting in Townsville there has been a lot of activity such as deputations, press interviews and a farmers community rally that CANEGROWERS Burdekin directors and management have attended.



## PROSERPINE

Since the last report, a further 170,000 tonnes has been crush by Proserpine Mill, bringing the season-to-date total to 658,169 tonnes. Throughput was slightly below budget due to an extended maintenance stop and some niggling mechanical issues in the bagasse retrieval system.

CCS levels continue to increase slowly. Last week's average was 13.91 units bringing the season-to-date CCS to 13.22. The highest sample for the period was 16.27 from a rake of sixth ratoon Q238 from the Kelsey Creek Productivity District.

Field conditions are currently ideal for harvesting. The fine weather has also been conducive for planting and growers are busy making the most of the opportunity.

The HWT facility is due to open in early September and growers are urged to contact SSP to arrange treatment of their cane.

## MACKAY

At the end of week 11 in the Mackay district, the three mills had together crushed a total of 2,282,790 tonnes of cane.

The total for the week was 202,839 tonnes with a CCS of 14.20 (year to date CCS is 12.84).

Individual mills recorded the following for the week ended 1 September:

- Farleigh - 49,102 tonnes
- Marian - 88,890 tonnes
- Racecourse - 64,847 tonnes



## PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek Mill's season total is now rapidly approaching 620,000 tonnes after crushing 65,323 tonnes in the week ended 31 August. The average bin weight for the week was 4.02 tonnes compared with 3.92 tonnes for the season.

Cool and dry weather has seen CCS levels increase by more than 0.5 units. The highest CCS for the week was 17.2, from a rake of KQ228 PLT in the West Hill productivity district.

The weather conditions are favourable for harvesting but may soon affect planting and ratooning of next year's crop.

Congratulations to the growers who entered their cane in this year's Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited's cane competition at the Sarina Show.

A record number of entries were on show this year, with growers competing for the generous prizes provided by a wide range of local sponsors, including CANEGROWERS Mackay and QSL.

### Sarina Show Award Winners

- Best 4 stalks of Q208 – D & S Gardner
- Best 4 stalks of Q183 – DJ Pedersen
- Best 4 stalks of Q240 – E Plath
- Champion 4 stalks (Classes 1-5) – E Plath
- Most successful exhibitor (Classes 1-5) – DJ Pedersen
- Most successful exhibitor across all classes – DJ Pedersen
- Most successful collection across all classes: weighting one on the number of varieties entered and the placings – J&V & D&A Borg Family Trust (seven different varieties entered)
- Heaviest 4 x stalks of any approved variety – A Galea
- Longest stalk of any approved variety – RJ & A Thompson
- School competition - 4 stalks of Q208, Q183 and one other approved variety – Koumala Kindy

*Pictured: Winner of the Ray Venton Award for most successful exhibitor (Classes 1-5) was Doug Pedersen who received the award from Kathy Zanco, QSL (sponsor).*

## BUNDABERG

Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 80,604.31 tonnes with a CCS average of 15.03 units during week ending 31 August (Week 9), bringing the total tonnes processed for the season to date to 677,570.44 with a CCS average of 14.03 units.

The highest individual CCS for Week 9 was 17.20 for Q240 & Q208 OR cane in Millaquin area.

The four major varieties supplied for Week 9 were Q240 at 37.11% of supply and CCS average of 15.57, followed by Q238 - 15.57% and 14.28 CCS, Q208 - 13.96% and 14.91 CCS, and KQ228A - 10.96% and 15.26 CCS.

Continues page 8 ►

## CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

### ISIS

Production for week 7 was the highest weekly throughput for the 2019 season so far with 70,046 tonnes of sugarcane processed at the Isis Mill. Week 8 saw 66,637 tonnes processed. At the end of week 8 Isis Mill had processed 447,774 tonnes of the estimated one million tonnes of cane available for harvest. The average weekly CCS continues to climb with 14.37 in week 6, 14.91 for week 7 and 14.99 for week 8. Q240 featured predominately in week 7, making up 38.62% of the overall cane supply and recording an average of 15.30 CCS. The highest individual CCS for week 7 was from a supplier farming on the Burnett River at Wallaville. They supplied Q240 second ratoon cane for a sweet 17.56 units of CCS. The highest individual CCS result for week 8 was 17.34 recorded for Q240 second ratoon from a grower in the Wallaville region.

Harvesting continues without interruption as the extended dry weather continues, and all growers are reminded to contact their fire warden first prior to burning any standing cane, tops or trash.

Sugar industry representatives, emergency services personnel and school students (pictured below) discussed the impacts that a rail incident can have on the lives of community members when they met as part of a local activity for Queensland Road Safety Week at the Childers skate park on 29 August.



### MARYBOROUGH

With the weather remaining fairly clear the crush has progressed well. In week 6 growers supplied 47,670 tonnes with an average CCS of 13.87. Season to date we have now reached 41% of the estimate or 256,016 tonnes, with season average CCS now sitting at 13.44. Only a small storm to report around Maryborough last week with a couple of millimetres of rain if you were underneath it. We could now do with some decent rainfall.

No dramas on the mill side at present with a maintenance day conducted on 2 September. Updated estimates have been sought to help gauge the rest of the season and would be appreciated as soon as possible.

RSD testing is now completed for the district and any impacted growers have been contacted for alternate plans.

The Sugar Research Australia board visited last week to hear of the activities undertaken in the area and the needs for the future. Varieties and diversification were the hot topics.

Our crop is delivered entirely by road and in August we saw evidence that people need to remain alert to the presence of the cane trucks with two crashes reported. Fortunately, only vehicles have been damaged in both incidents. ■

## Money Matters

with Sunsuper

### SUNSUPER IS CALLING FOR CHARITIES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES TO APPLY FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF DREAMS FOR A BETTER WORLD, WHICH CLOSES ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2019.

Sunsuper's Dreams for a Better World awards \$150,000 in grants each year to support local initiatives which help improve the lives of Australians and brings communities together.

Since 2011, Sunsuper has awarded more than 115 grants to help tackle social issues affecting Australian communities, including homelessness, environmental waste and unemployment.

A recent Bundaberg winner, Community Lifestyle Support (CLS) has won \$10,000 from Sunsuper's Dreams for a Better World program to build a café which will provide training and jobs for 20 people living with disabilities at its Bundaberg community centre on Ashfield Road.

Damien Tracey, CLS CEO, said the café is critical to the development of CLS and to the Bundaberg community.

"The high rate of unemployment in our region means that the job market is extremely competitive and this makes it especially difficult for people with disabilities to access training and employment opportunities," Mr Tracey said.

"Sunsuper's grant means we can finally purchase the materials to kick-start our dream for the Nardoo Café, to employ and train locals of all abilities from construction to service, and help our clients transition into the mainstream workforce.

The Nardoo Café will take the form of a modified shipping container with an accessible kitchen, a fully accessible shaded courtyard and an outdoor eating area.

To apply for the next round of grants visit [dreamsforabetterworld.com.au/apply](https://dreamsforabetterworld.com.au/apply)

To apply for the next round of applications for Dreams for a Better World, go to [dreamsforabetterworld.com.au](https://dreamsforabetterworld.com.au)

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# PLANT BIOSECURITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

By Samantha Ryalls, Communications Officer, SRA



It was a packed house at the State Library of Queensland for the Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium last month. With 220 attendees, 47 presenters and three keynote speakers, it was a full program to cover over the two days.

The inaugural event showcased research, development and extension (RD&E) supported by the Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI) member organisations, of which SRA is a member.

The key purpose of the event was to identify areas for future investment with cross-sectoral and trans-Tasman benefits.

The symposium featured a series of presentations around the six key PBRI focus areas: preparedness, diagnostics, surveillance, pest management, capability building and industry resilience.

It also included a dedicated session on future plant biosecurity leaders with presentations from people studying or working in the field.

Sugar Research Australia speakers included Dr Robert Magarey, Dr Chuong Ngo, Dr Nicole Thompson, Dr Peter Samson, Alison Jensen and Dr Harjeet Khanna. Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS Senior Manager Membership Engagement & Innovation, also spoke. ■



*Pictured: (Top) Biosecurity Queensland Senior Scientist, Christine Horlock, with CANEGROWERS Senior Manager Membership Engagement and Innovation, Matt Kealley, and SRA Program Manager, Peter Samson; (above) SRA General Manager, Research Funding Unit, Harjeet Khanna speaking at the forum.*

## Act now for first of 2020-Season pricing options



By Bryce Wenham  
QSL Executive Manager Supplier  
Relations and Systems

QSL is now accepting nominations for its 2020-Season Early-Start Actively Managed Pool and Self-Managed Harvest, with nominations for both products closing 31 October 2019. Some key considerations for growers contemplating these pricing options are outlined below:

### 2020 QSL EARLY-START ACTIVELY MANAGED POOL QSL MAKES THE PRICING DECISIONS

The 2020 QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool targets the best return by using the same pricing approach and tools as QSL's popular Actively Managed Pool, but extends the pricing window to 18 months by starting to price earlier. QSL makes the pricing decisions for any sugar in this pool, and can use a variety of pricing instruments, trade currency and unwind pricing to re-price at a later date in a bid to enhance the pool's returns. The minimum tonnage nomination for the QSL Early-Start Actively Managed Pool is 10 tonnes.

### 2020 SELF-MANAGED HARVEST THE GROWER MAKES THE PRICING DECISIONS

Our Self-Managed Harvest option is designed to give growers the opportunity to manage their own production risk. To participate, growers must have a minimum of 300 tonnes and 35% of their GEI Sugar with QSL allocated to the QSL Harvest Pool. They are then responsible for pricing the entirety of their QSL Harvest Pool allocation against each of the four futures contracts available each season (July, October, March and May).

It is important to note that pricing restrictions remain in place for 20% of each participating grower's nominated tonnage in the Self-Managed Harvest in order to maintain their production buffer. No pricing is permitted for this production buffer portion until it has been received by QSL in the later part of the harvest, with the grower only able to price it against the March and May contracts post-delivery.

Any decreases to a participating grower's initial nomination to this product will be applied against tonnage allocated to the March and May contracts first, with the balance against that grower's in-season pricing. Alternatively, any increases to their estimate can be priced against their March and May positions upon completion of their deliveries.

Growers interested in using either of the pricing options outlined above should read the associated Pricing Pool Terms available at [www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au) or by contacting their local QSL representative.

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



# Take the sugar market into your own hands



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QSL APP TODAY**



For more information, please contact your local QSL representative.

[www.qsl.com.au](http://www.qsl.com.au)

# INNOVATIVE THINKING HELPS TACKLE SOIL HEALTH LEGACY

By Wayne Griffin

Queensland's first commercial cane crop was planted in Brisbane in the 1860s. Over the intervening 150 years, generations of growers, hailing from all corners of the globe, have helped build a proud, resilient and profitable industry that supports dozens of regional communities along the Queensland coast.

However, the legacy left by previous generations hasn't all been positive. After a century and a half of cultivation, maintaining yields has become increasingly difficult, with more inputs, more water and more effort required to grow a good crop.

While climate change, drought, pests, and diseases have undoubtedly played a part, research suggests declining soil health may be the biggest factor.

That's why a new generation of growers, like Maryborough's Isaac Schmidt, have been moving away from the methods of their forefathers and trialling new and innovative practices in a bid to improve the condition of their soil.

When Isaac took over the family farm in 2017, even some of the most widely accepted industry practices, such as trash blanketing and controlled traffic, hadn't been implemented.

He quickly set about changing the farming system in a bid to improve his efficiency, productivity and profitability.

"Yeah, there was a bit of work to be done," Isaac joked when *Australian Canegrower* visited his Maryborough cane farm recently. "I'm transitioning the farm to a 1.85 metre, controlled traffic system and now we do trash blanketing and grow about 15 hectares of soybean fallow."

Isaac farms about 90 ha across two properties, the family farm at Island Plantation and a leased property at Tinana.

In addition to planting, spraying and fertilising his own cane and soybeans, and doing some contract planting work for his neighbours, he also harvests about 6,500 tonnes of cane each year.

And, when he's not working on the farm, he can be found helping wife Yen with their 22-month-old son Daniel.

However, despite his busy life, Isaac was determined to continue improving practices on the farm. Inspired by a biological farming conference in 2016,







*"Eventually it comes to a point where you've got to actually do something and not just read about it, so the idea just developed from there."*

he spent three years researching soil health before hitting on an idea that he hopes will eventually revolutionise the way he cultivates and reduce his fertiliser requirements.

"I went up to Cairns for a biological farmers conference, just to have a look and find out what other growers were doing. A few people there sparked a bit of an interest in soil health and from there I just started researching the subject online and talking to other growers and agronomists," Isaac said.

"But eventually it comes to a point where you've got to actually do something and not just read about it, so the idea just developed from there."

The idea was to use the 12-week window between harvesting his soybeans and planting cane, to grow a second fallow cover crop that, he hopes, will retain the nitrogen from the soybeans while also keeping the soil loose enough to make planting easier and less expensive.

"We grow soybeans in our fallow that we harvest to make some extra income, which we really needed the last couple of years," Isaac said.



*Pictured: Maryborough Cane Productivity Services Senior Agronomist Yolande Kliese helped Isaac Schmidt establish a mixed species fallow trial on his Maryborough farm*

*Continues page 14 ►*





*"I thought that rather than trying to rip 300-500mm deep, if you could get a plant to do the work for you it would be a lot cheaper option, plus you have the benefits of keeping the nutrients in the soil. Ripping is quite an expensive operation."*

"But then we've got a period of a few months after the soybeans have been harvested in May-June until we plant cane in August-September. During that time the ground is just sitting there doing nothing.

"I felt, from fertiliser trials I'd done previously, that we were actually losing some of the nitrogen from the soybeans during that break period before the cane could use it. So that was one of the things I wanted to address.

"But also, during that period you don't have ground cover or any roots in the soil for all the other things living there that rely on them, the beneficial microbes and what have you. I thought we should try some sort of cover crop in between the soybean and cane to address that.

"So, that was one of the things I wanted to achieve — to have a bit of ground cover that would cycle the nutrients in the soil so they weren't lost. We could plough it all back in and the nutrients would be there for the plant cane.

"The other thing I wanted to trial was using crops that would keep the soil loose and reduce the amount of work we had to do to the paddock before planting cane."

That's where the star of Isaac's trial comes in — the tillage radish.

"Tillage radish was one I really wanted to try," he said. "If you Google it you'll see they have these huge tap roots that go right down to the centre of the earth it looks like.

"I thought that rather than trying to rip 300-500mm deep, if you could get a plant to do the work for you it would be a lot cheaper option, plus you have the benefits of keeping the nutrients in the soil. Ripping is quite an expensive operation."

Isaac planted a commercial cover crop blend called Wintermax, sourced from Victorian company AGF Seeds. In addition to the tillage radish the blend included ryegrass, rye-corn, oats and field peas.

"To sow it we just used a very simple spinner spreader, then I harrowed it and rolled it just on top of the soybean stubble," he said. "We added some fertiliser to the mix in the hopper, just to give it a bit of a kick start and I didn't need to irrigate it because we had rain very soon after.

Continues page 15 ►



"We got a reasonable establishment, maybe it could have been better but it was a quick trial so I was happy enough with it."

While the quick trial wasn't a complete success, Isaac was encouraged enough by the results that he's decided to give it another go in 2020.

"Originally, I had an idea that if I had enough of a mix in there, with all the root systems and such, it might keep the soil loose enough that I wouldn't need to cultivate at all before planting cane.

"That hasn't worked out this year, possibly due to the shorter growing window we had between soybean and cane. All up we only had about eight weeks and also we didn't get the best establishment.

"But I was pretty impressed, by the tillage radish especially. We were getting growth to a depth of 30 cm in just seven or eight weeks."

Isaac will also have to wait until next year's harvest to see what impact, if any,

his trial has had on his sugarcane yield.

"I'm quietly confident it will be positive, but the proof will be in next year's harvest," he said.

"Overall, even though this first run didn't work out exactly as I'd hoped, it's given me the confidence to have another crack at it next year."

Isaac and his father, Don, regularly talk about the challenges facing cane growers these days. But while they agree on the challenges, they don't always agree on the cause.

"Dad loves telling stories about the way things used to be. He says that our seasons aren't as kind to us as they used to be and our varieties aren't as good. We used to be able to grow a good crop without irrigation, but now you need to water and that's expensive.

"There's something in what he's saying but in the end I think our soil might actually be the biggest problem. All these things, like how much water you can hold in your soil, needing to use more

fertilisers, things like that, they all come back to the reduction in organic carbon in the soil and the impact of monoculture on soil health.

"My great grandfather started growing cane on this farm 130 years ago, and up until I took over a couple of years ago it was full cultivation, no trash-blanketing, none of that. You know, that has to take its toll on the soil.

"From about the 1970s cane harvesters came in and haul outs and planters and other heavy machinery. The compaction they caused, added to that monoculture and no soil health practices, that has just really impacted the soil health.

"Obviously, there's more to the whole story than just a bit of a cover crop. We need to be looking at a whole range of things in the way we grow. Things like the machinery and the fertilisers and chemicals we're using, and what impact they're having on our soil and the beneficial microbes and bacteria that depend on it and that we depend on for good crops." ■

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# Knowledge is key to variable rate success

Supplied by Bryan Granshaw, Vantage NEA



**Variable rate application isn't a new concept. In fact, people have been able to use precision ag technology to apply different rates of material across designated zones in a paddock for 20 years.**

Anyone with basic Geographical Information System (GIS) knowledge/access can produce zones within a boundary and attribute values to those zones for a rate controller to distribute accordingly.

Growers can also use Cloud-based platforms, use satellite imagery to draw boundaries and, at the click of a button, produce variable rate prescriptions based off that imagery.

Yes, traditional variable rate prescription methods are quick and simple, however, they're leaving the most significant questions unanswered – What are you treating? Why are you treating it? And where in the paddock is most affected?

Understanding what is driving your profitability and productivity is key to improving your production. You also need to understand what's hindering your production from performing at its best.

## **Cue - Trimble's Soil Information System.**

This system, which Vantage NEA has been operating for the past four years, provides more insight on soil issues than any other soil analysis method on the market.

A message that gets thrown around in farming a lot is "if we can't measure it, we can't manage it." In reality, our rule of thumb should be "If we can't

measure it confidently, we can't manage it confidently."

The first step to understanding whether you even need to incorporate variable rate into your production is understanding the variability of a paddock.

Is it one tonne difference from your best to worst yields, or three tonnes? People commonly use yield monitors to understand their variability, which is a great starting point.

If variability is significant, the next step to improving profitability is finding out why variability is occurring. This is a step that traditional variable rate prescription methods fall short on.

SiS testing determines why soil issues are occurring, as it looks at the physical and chemical attributes of your soil.

Are your plants not able to access water? Is there too much water in your paddock from pooling? Do you have compaction, soil acidity, sodicity issues? Is your soil lacking nutrition?

Whatever it is, SiS tests determine the issues occurring, pinpoints where they're occurring and articulates why. It also highlights the size of the areas the issues are occurring in, and to what depth the soil is affected.

SiS provides foundation information about soils in paddocks. It uses sound soil scientific principles to develop spatially correct, high-resolution data down to 1.2M.

So, when farmers and agronomists look at SiS maps, they're able to develop variable rate prescriptions with a significant amount of knowledge regarding what's causing yield loss in a paddock.

This results in them applying the right amount of inputs to the correct zones in order to maximise yields.

The cost benefits of SiS analysis in the sugarcane industry have been significant, especially in terms of variable rate adoption.

We've assisted numerous growers in developing prescriptions for gypsum application, with growers reporting significant savings on input costs.

SiS is the foundation every farmer needs to manage variability. I've been working with farmers across every state, developing soil maps that they have been used to confidently practice variable rate application.

For more information, call Vantage NEA on 1300 TRIMBLE. ■

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# Getting to the root of the soil compaction problem

By Dr Annelie Marquardt, CSIRO



UNCOMPACTED SOIL



COMPACTED SOIL

*An example of the effects of compacted soil on root growth in just one month in otherwise ideal conditions.*

The switch to mechanical harvesting in the 1950s and 60s revolutionised Australia's sugarcane industry.

Replacing the slow and laborious process of cutting and loading cane by hand, mechanical harvesting was faster, cheaper and easier, making farms more efficient and profitable. However, not all the changes that accompanied mechanical harvesting were positive.

Unbeknown to farmers of the day, the harvesting revolution also marked the beginning of one of the most important agronomic issues affecting the industry today – man-made soil compaction.

This is a problem which cannot be seen by the eye, but the effects upon plant growth can be substantial.

Compacted soil leads to restricted root exploration, which, in turn, leads to less nutrient uptake, poor plant anchorage, reduced ratoon vigour and it even

prevents the plant's interaction with beneficial soil microbes.

Given that roots are as important as leaves in contributing to yield, there is a limit to how well a plant can grow if the root system is restricted.

Unfortunately, knowledge of sugarcane root systems is generally lagging relative to the visible parts of the plant and obviously, this is mainly due to the difficult nature of studying plant parts that grow underground.

*Continues page 19 ►*





Not only can the roots not be seen, but digging them up disrupts their structure and causes many of the finest roots to be lost – and it is often the finest roots that do the most work in nutrient uptake.

Recent work by the CSIRO's Dr Johann Pierre to characterise the root systems of a range of Australian sugarcane varieties shows that, in optimal conditions, a sugarcane root system can achieve in excess of two kilometres of roots in less than four months.

Unfortunately, this benchmark is not easily achieved in the field conditions. There can be many reasons for this, but soil quality and compaction are major contributors.

That is not to say hope is lost when soil conditions are less than ideal. Australian sugarcane varieties differ greatly in their root system structures.

Dr Pierre's recent work provided the base knowledge needed to delve a bit deeper, to see what these differences mean.

For example, certain varieties may be able to handle compacted soils – or indeed, other challenging conditions, such as waterlogging – better than others.

Sugar Research Australia-funded research led by Dr Anne Rae of CSIRO is putting Australian varieties to the test.

By analysing how different varieties push through tough soils and which root

traits are important, the results should allow for a recommendation of more compaction-hardy cane varieties to industry.

However, the safest bet remains using recommended controlled traffic practices.

CSIRO is also assigning a number to the benefits of these controlled traffic practices. With the help of Yolande Kliese and Barry Callow of Maryborough Cane Productivity Services, field soil core collection from a farm transitioning to controlled traffic practices has shown greater root system exploration and associated follow-on benefits.

The help from growers is incredibly valuable and appreciated for scientific data collection in these cases.

Overall, soil compaction is not completely avoidable, but the aim of this research investment is to ensure yield impacts can be minimised.

For more information contact the CSIRO researchers involved:

**Dr Anne Rae (Project Lead)**  
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**Dr Kirsten Verburg**  
[kirsten.verburg@csiro.au](mailto:kirsten.verburg@csiro.au)

Also visit the SRA Soil Health Toolbox, including a soil compaction guide produced by MSF Sugar:  
[sugarresearch.com.au/soilhealth/](http://sugarresearch.com.au/soilhealth/) ■

*Pictured: (Above left) A compacted soil field core collected in Maryborough showing very little space for roots to push through. (Above right) A compacted soil field core collected in Maryborough showing the difference in soil structure between the topsoil (black) and underneath (clay; brown). (Below) A soil core showing presence of roots. Collected from beneath the plant bed (softer soil) in Maryborough.*



# Policy Update

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

## Doing the right thing is important

Sugarcane is grown in and around many highly populated areas along the Queensland coastline and this coexistence of farming and urban life brings its own set of challenges that must be properly managed to ensure both the industry and our communities can live in harmony.

Two of the most consistent sources of public complaints to CANEGROWERS are spills of cane billets onto roads and smoke and debris from cane burning.

While growers understand the economic and agronomic reasons why cane loads are not always covered and why burning is necessary in certain conditions, the general public often does not and these are issues we need to manage.

### Spillage

The 2013 *Guidelines for Loading of Sugar Industry Cane Haulage Units for Travel on Public Roads* have been developed by CANEGROWERS in consultation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to assist growers to reduce the possibility of spillage.

These useful guidelines can be found in the membership area of the CANEGROWERS website [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au). You will need your membership number to access the Member Resources.

### Burning

The burning of cane and trash can mostly be managed to reduce its impact on the public. Cane growers can only burn legally under:

- The *Notification for Burning of Sugar Cane*. This is available on the Rural Fire Service website with an information sheet and checklist of conditions, or;
- A permit to light a fire from a local fire warden.

Both the Notice and a permit contain certain conditions which growers must meet. These are designed not only for safety and to prevent the spread of fire, but also to manage the impact on roads and urban areas. If in doubt about meeting the Notice conditions, growers are encouraged to obtain a permit from the fire warden who will be able to provide additional local advice.

Managing these issues responsibly is important to help maintain the industry's social licence to operate, so I would encourage all growers to continue doing the right thing. ■



## Grower choice in marketing – the benefits are clear

Grower choice in marketing facilitated by amendments to the *Sugar Industry Act* and supported by the federal Sugar Code of Conduct is in its third season.

When the debate was being held, CANEGROWERS argued that the benefits of marketing choice would continue to accrue to the industry, while the ongoing costs of the new structures would not be significant.

We noted that it would take some time for the new arrangements to deliver their full benefits and to enable an assessment of their effects because providing sugarcane growers and sugar mills with the opportunity to manage their sugar price risk exposure independently of each other had never been done before.

The Queensland arrangements are a world first. New contracts, systems and processes were required.

These new systems are now mostly in place and our assessment that the benefits would exceed the costs has proven to be spot on.

The cane supply and processing agreement remains the cornerstone contract. These contracts are complimented by pricing agreements between the grower and their preferred marketer of Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar.

The introduction of competition into a part of the industry's supply chain where none had previously existed has created a new dynamic.

GEI marketers are offering growers a greater range of sugar marketing and price risk management options than ever before. Some marketers even allow growers to price 100% of their GEI sugar.

However, there is still work to be done. In several districts, growers can place orders directly with the GEI marketer of their choice. Reducing their own risk exposure, some mills have enabled growers to receive payments directly from their GEI marketer. Others are exploring these options.

While some mills make the full range of the GEI marketer's pricing and price risk management options available to growers, there are still some districts that do not.

In most districts, there is scope for the information flow between the mill and GEI marketer to be improved.

While these issues are a cause of frustration, systems and process are improving.

Marketing choice has created strong incentives for better industry outcomes by improving returns and the risk management instruments available to growers, while leaving millers no worse off.

As expected, competition is the key driver of innovation in this part of the supply chain.

CANEGROWERS is arming its members with information to navigate the new structures and tools to inform marketing and pricing decisions. These can be found at [www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service) ■





# Farmers reap benefits from lessons in legumes

With legume prices hitting all-time highs, farmers in the north are reaping the benefits of planting high-value crops that can fit into their sugarcane rotation.

Breaking the sugarcane monoculture with grain legumes not only offers growers an opportunity to diversify their income stream, it is also important for soil health.

To help growers make the most of their legume fallows, Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) recently funded a series of workshops on the benefits of inoculating legumes with the microbes needed to capture nitrogen from the air to be used by crops and to enhance soil health.

DAF's Coastal Farming System Team extension officer **Brock Dembowski** said it was a topic that had been frequently suggested by growers.

"There has been a lot of talk about how to successfully inoculate legumes and the workshops have been a good way to bust some of the myths and misconceptions on how that can be achieved," he said.

DAF Principal soil microbiologist Dr **Nikki Seymour** presented the workshops in Mackay, Ingham and the Burdekin.

Dr Seymour spoke about how nitrogen fixation works and the potential gains



for farming systems, as well as best practices for inoculation and handling and storing inoculum.

Attendees also learnt about the differences in nitrogen contribution to the soil from a harvested crop, versus green manure.

"Following these events growers will possess the knowledge required to properly inoculate their legume crops, giving them the confidence to reduce nitrogen application rates in their plant cane crops, which are more likely to be

planted several months later following legumes," said Mr Dembowski.

"This will push back fertiliser application in plant cane to April/May which is a lower risk period for extreme weather events."

Mr Dembowski said industry staff and resellers could now ensure their clients got the best out of their legumes as the demand increased for these high-protein products in both the domestic and international marketplace. ■

## How to successfully inoculate legumes

- ✓ Inoculants contain live rhizobia bacteria which are needed to fix the N - they need to be handled properly to keep them alive
- ✓ Keep inoculants cool but don't freeze them – they are killed by heat so store in fridge or esky
- ✓ If inoculating on seed, inoculate just before planting (hours not days) – maximise the number of live bacteria on the seed and hence maximise nodulation
- ✓ Where possible, plant into moist and cool soil
- ✓ Use an inoculant form that suits your practice – peat, freeze-dried, liquid or granules
- ✓ Do not mix with fertilisers - micronutrients, particularly Zn, Cu or Mg, and high levels of NH<sub>3</sub>(ammonia) can be toxic
- ✓ Don't directly mix with fungicides, seed dressings (unless stated on label) and herbicides
- ✓ Don't mix with insecticides containing endosulfan, dimethoate, omethoate or carbofuran
- ✓ Dig up plants 4-6 weeks after planting to check for nodulation. Nodules should be pink inside (not white, green or brown).

# Manage Soil pH with Mineral Mulch

*Supplied by Rob Howe, Mineral Mulch*

Mineral Mulch is a sustainable soil amendment, delivering cost effective calcium, plant available silicon and trace elements. However, it is now also a cost effective choice for the management and treatment of acid sulphate soils.

Mineral Mulch has been regularly used as an alternative to lime for management of soil pH. Now, after extensive trial work, it's been shown to be an effective alternative to traditional treatments such as lime for acid sulphate soils.

An acid sulphate soil is a naturally occurring marine sediment that, when exposed to air, reacts with oxygen to produce sulphuric acid. It is estimated that around 23,000km<sup>2</sup> of Queensland coastal land is likely to contain these soils.

Large scale commercial trials were undertaken in October 2018 using Mineral Mulch to neutralise acid sulphate soils and the net result was a complete validation of the hypothesis that the product would work.

Previous desktop studies and laboratory work showed that Mineral Mulch was a more than suitable candidate for the treatment of acid sulphate soils.

On ground where the topsoil is marginal and on top of a bed of acid sulphate soil, Mineral Mulch will, over time, increase the usable topsoil and improve the viability of the land for agricultural purposes. ■

**Further information is available from Mineral Mulch**

Phone: Rob 0447 888 018

Wendy 0447 888 029

Email: [info@mineralmulch.com](mailto:info@mineralmulch.com)

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Next deadline is **16 September 2019**.

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The ROCCA SupaTill ST-350 Heavy-Duty speed tillage equipment is ideal for addressing heavy crop residue and re-incorporating it back into the soil. The SupaTill is designed to operate at high speeds (8-14kph) to produce a uniform seedbed with approximately 60% of the residue mixed into the soil. The SupaTill is the perfect machine for improving soil quality and maximizing crop yields.

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## Classifieds

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, hyd. adjustable fronts 1.50m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted to front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system fitted; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All in good condition. Ph: 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., Brand New FEL & 4in1 Bucket can be added for an extra \$17,000 Inc. Ph: 0428 236 165.

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

P&H trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worm \$10,000 + GST. 100" heavy duty powered rotary hoe \$7,000 + GST. Whole stick planting machinery and various other items. Ph: 0417 617 084.

Sweet potatoes equipment: planter, digger, washer, round table and rollers. 1 ton fertiliser bin. Bundaberg area. Ph: 0458 959 445.

M160 Tractor 160HP \$45,000. TM165 New Holland with 9-10 Tonne Toft Highlift Tipper. 4450 hours \$65,000. Fordson Major Diesel \$5000. New Holland 339 Flial Forage Chopper and New Holland 2A Feedout Wagon \$11,000. All +GST. All in GC. Maryborough area. Ph: 0428 879 341.

CASE 140 Puma and CASE Billet Planter with Trimble GPS and Base Station. 1 x 4 furrow hedge square plough. Ph: 0428 937 164.

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427 598 333.

### Wanted

Heavy duty 24 plate offsets. Hodge, Grizzly or similar. Good condition. Ph: 0408 037 037. 4 inch pump stand alone or tractor driven. Giru area. Ph: 0428 182 804 or 07 4782 9248.

International 766 to 1566 row crop tractor any condition even if not going. Ph: 0428 283 454.

STL shares wanted. Ph: 0408 448 227.

### Positions Vacant

Haul out operator required for the remainder of the 2019 season. Tully area. Experience

with Articulated John Deere Tractor with Carta Elevator bin required. Ph: 0418 181 646.

### Property

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Ph: 0408 733 793.

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–August
	26.08.19	02.09.19		
Mossman	2	0	2493	1795
Mareeba AP	0	0	634	731
Cairns	0	0	1897	1655
Mt Sophia	0	0	2738	2725
Babinda	0	0	2579	3517
Innisfail	3	0	2888	2967
Tully	3	1	2241	3433
Cardwell	0	0	1934	1716
Lucinda	0	0	2251	1753
Ingham	Tce	Tce	2649	1631
Abergowrie	0	0	1903	1488
Townsville	0.4	0	1756	898
Ayr DPI	0	0	947	743
Proserpine	1	0	1394	1077
Mirani	3	0	1389	1183
Mackay	2	0.2	1050	1240
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	0	1303	1344
Bundaberg	0	1	252	686
Childers South	0	1	261	585
Maryborough	0	1	445	822
Tewantin	2	3	793	1270
Eumundi	0	1	506	1231
Nambour	0	3	840	1222
Woongoolba	0	1	556	960
Murwillumbah	0	8	493	1154
Ballina	0	2	858	1350
Woodburn	0	0	261	1035



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](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.



Cane farm Crystalbrook Proserpine. 154 hectares with 350ML of water allocation from River. Lateral move irrigator. 122.1 hectares currently developed for cane. Ph: 0427 678 572.

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.

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.

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. Currently under contract. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.



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# SAVE THE DATE

## 27 & 28 April 2020

### 2020 Women in Sugar Australia Conference

Theme: Farming Friendships

Location: Mackay



**Enquiries: Jill Fox - Secretary**

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