

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

CANE

AUSTRALIAN

# GROWER



CANEGROWERS

January 2020 Price \$9.95



## CANE COUNTRY'S REEF CHAMPIONS

WET TROPICS CANE GROWERS HONoured FOR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS AT 2019 REEF AWARDS

CASSOWARY VALLEY GROWER  
HOPES NEW ROCK WALL WILL HELP  
CREEK BANKS HOLD UP IN FLOOD



POTENTIAL TO BOOST INCOME AND  
SOIL HEALTH BENEFITS DRIVING  
DIVERSITY OF FALLOW CROPS



NEW DIGITAL PLATFORM MAKES  
RECORD-KEEPING A BREEZE FOR  
ISIS CANE GROWERS





# CC WELD SOLUTIONS

## We solve your welding and wear problems



- ✓ High quality European products
- ✓ Extend the life of Harvester components with new technology - hardfacing wires and electrodes out of Germany

Interested in less downtime? CORODUR™ has developed a new gasless welding wire that is near the wear resistance of Tungsten carbide but much more affordable and easy to apply yourself, with a standard M.I.G.

Call today and get the jump on these wear issues.

Need a top quality welder or plasma cutter? Then check out our range of CEA (Italian made) industrial machines.

Phone: 0413 700 175

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

Website: [www.ccwelds.com](http://www.ccwelds.com)

**CORODUR**  
FÜLLDRAHT GMBH

*the original*



**WELDING  
TOGETHER**

**EXPERIENCE THE QUALITY**

Since 1950



**WELD LIKE A PRO**

**CEA** WELDING TOGETHER

**PLASMATECH**  
CEA PLASMA CUTTING DIVISION

**"SHARK"**



**In-Field Yield  
Monitoring**



**In-Office  
Yield Analysis**



**Yield Integrated  
Prescription Generation**

## Understand Your Yield Variability With BMS Sugarcane Yield Monitor

Australian farmers are seeing measurable yield differences as a result of being able to accurately identify lower-performing areas of crops and implementing informed mitigation strategies.

Developed by BMS LaserSat, the latest BMS Sugar Cane Yield Monitor provides real-time data that can be used in-field to measure harvest weights, and in-office to generate accurate yield maps and prescription maps, using the georeferenced yield data.

The Monitor's in cab display shows real time yield throughput in tonnes/ha and production in ha/hour. The yield data can be wirelessly transferred to Trimble Ag Software and easily calibrated to your mill reports.

Power-up your planning toolbox with a BMS  
Sugarcane Yield Monitor - contact Vantage NEA:

P. (07) 47 839 000 | W. [vantage-bms.com](http://vantage-bms.com)

**Your Partner In Precision Agriculture**

P. (07) 47 839 000 | W. [vantage-bms.com](http://vantage-bms.com)

**vantage**  
NEA





# Choose profit for members

With no shareholder dividends to pay, Sunsuper's success and growth directly benefits our members - allowing us to keep fees lower and continually improve the products and services we offer. Choose the super fund that invests in you, and dream with your eyes open.

[sunsuper.com.au/choose](https://sunsuper.com.au/choose)



dream with  
your eyes open





## FEATURES

### 16 Cassowary Valley grower hopes new rock wall will help creek banks hold up during flood events

Richard Padovan is shoring up eroding stream banks as part of a landscape remediation project funded by the Queensland Government.

### 24 Wet Tropics cane growers honoured for sustainability efforts at 2019 Reef Awards

Cane growers have once again taken out some of the top honours at the annual Reef Champion Awards, even capturing the prestigious Prince of Wales Award.

### 28 Potential to boost income and soil health benefits driving diversity of fallow crops

Driving through Queensland cane country you could be forgiven for not recognising many of the crops growing, with an ever-expanding variety of fallow crops now forming part of the cane growing cycle.

### 30 New digital platform makes record-keeping a breeze for Isis cane growers

Most of us think of record keeping as a necessary evil. Sometimes we are on top of it and other times, not so much! Finally there is a way to get the job done quickly and without fuss – on your phone, in the field.

**COVER IMAGE:** Three generations of the Rossi family on their Aloomba farm.

**CONTENTS IMAGE:** Lenny Parisi holding The Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award on his Fishery Falls farm.



## EVERY ISSUE

- 4 News briefs
- 8 CEO comment
- 12 From the Chair
- 22 QSL report
- 34 Regional round-up
- 38 Policy updates
- 46 Classifieds
- 47 Rainfall report



**CANEGROWERS**

**Editor:** Wayne Griffin

**Design and classifieds:** Angela Linhart

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

#### Published monthly by

CANEGROWERS  
Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,  
Queensland Australia  
ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,  
Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone: 07 3864 6444

Email: [editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Website: [www.CANEGROWERS.com.au](http://www.CANEGROWERS.com.au)

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 42 Number 1

#### Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 12 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250



## Paradise Dam inquiry underway

An independent inquiry is now underway after technical reports confirmed structural and stability issues with Paradise Dam, on the Burnett River inland of the Bundaberg and Isis sugarcane regions.

A Commission of Inquiry is being led by former Supreme Court judge John Byrne and Professor John Carter.

It will take public submissions as it seeks to determine the cause of the dam's issues and to what extent the governance, processes and systems involved in the design, construction or commissioning of the dam contributed to that root cause.

Natural Resources Minister Dr Anthony Lynham said the terms of reference ensured the Commission could make recommendations to ensure that any future Queensland dam projects were designed, constructed and commissioned to acceptable standards.

In late September SunWater announced it would release 105,000 megalitres of water from the dam over ten weeks to permanently reduce pressure on its wall for safety reasons.

The discharge reduced the dam's capacity to 42% and the spillway is being lowered by five metres.



Of the water that was released, irrigators were offered 80,000ML and some growers with storage capacity did take up the offer of free water. However, CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino said many weren't in a position to use the water.

The Queensland Government says the dam is now safe following the release and work is underway to identify alternative water supply options, especially for irrigators concerned about water availability into the future. ■

## Tully dispute goes to arbitration

As 2019 drew to a close, CANEGROWERS Tully members were waiting on the appointment of an arbitrator in a long-running dispute with Tully Sugar Limited.

"This will be an important step in a process set out in the sugar industry's Code of Conduct," CANEGROWERS Tully Chairman Jamie Dore. "The aim of arbitration is to ensure the issues between the parties can be resolved in a timely manner.

"CANEGROWERS Tully members seek certainty, in the form of a workable and fair cane supply agreement, before planning for

the 2020 harvest begins in earnest.

"We initiated this arbitration process on behalf of our grower members after a year of discussions with the mill were unable to reach an acceptable agreement.

"It is now time for an independent arbitrator to step in and we look forward to continuing to work towards a resolution."

At issue are Tully Sugar Limited's proposal to transfer a harbour cost for sugar shipments on to growers and its demand to extend the crushing season into the wet summer period. ■



## Tully district surpasses 100 Smartcane BMP accreditations

Celebrations were held in the Tully district in December to acknowledge 101 growers attaining Smartcane BMP accreditation - that's over 70% of the district's cane area. These impressive numbers demonstrate a great commitment to a sustainable, productive and profitable future.

Congratulations to all of the growers involved! This achievement was made possible through the efforts of the CANEGROWERS Tully team, especially Nick Stipis, Smartcane BMP Regional Facilitator. ■



## Dry impact harvest

Australia's 2019 sugarcane harvest has come in more than 1.6 million tonnes below the original estimate as most districts recorded below average rain during much of the growing season.

The final total of 30.02 million tonnes through the mills is also 2.4 million tonnes behind the 2018 season.

The Australian Sugar Milling Council reports a season average CCS result of 14.09. In Queensland, the season average CCS has finished at 13.95 with just over 28.39 million tonnes crushed.

The effects of the continuing drought are becoming more pronounced across all agricultural industries, especially in New South Wales and Queensland according to the latest Agricultural Commodities report.

ABARES' Chief Commodity Analyst Peter Gooday, said the total volume of Australia's agricultural production is forecast to fall for a third-consecutive year, something which hasn't happened for more than 60 years.

"The value of agricultural production is forecast to fall by 3% this year, but still remain high at almost \$61 billion, supported by strong demand for livestock products resulting from the African swine fever outbreaks across Asia," Mr Gooday said.

"The value of agricultural exports is forecast to fall by 8% to \$45 billion—the main drivers of this are lower crop and livestock production and a diversion of grain to the domestic market for feed and human consumption.

"While cropping can be expected to rebound quickly once seasonal conditions improve, the livestock sector will require a longer period for pasture to recover and begin herd rebuilding—the national cattle herd is forecast to fall to the lowest level since the early 1990s."

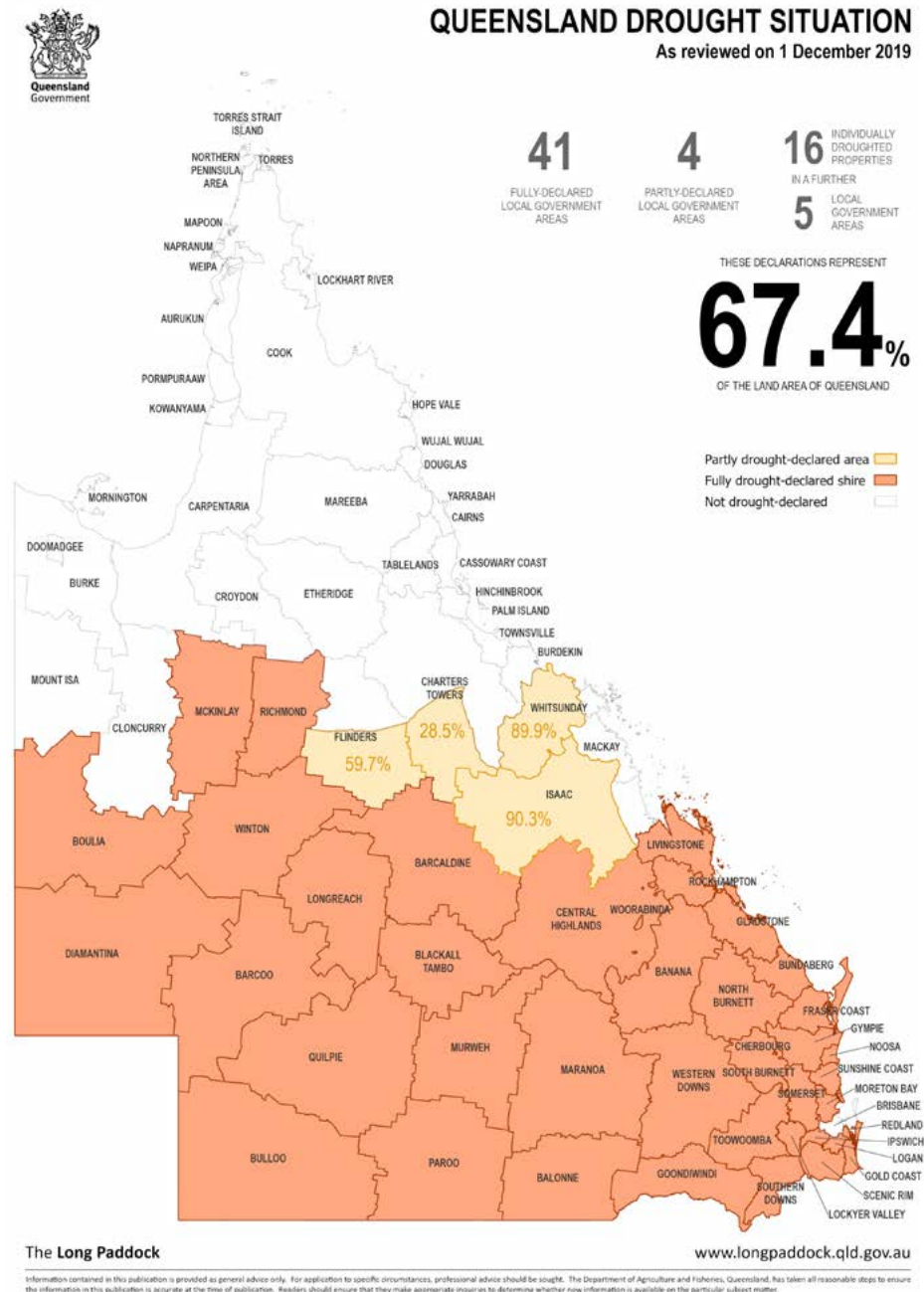
## Almost 70% of State in drought

Drought declarations have been extended to cover Queensland's most southern sugarcane farms.

The Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast local government regions have been declared meaning 67.4% of the state is officially in drought.

The declaration opens up access to rebates on Ergon Energy supply charges and access to financial counselling services and assistance through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority.

Details are on this government website  
<https://bit.ly/36ntX3Q> ■



Pictured: Queensland Government map shows that almost 70% of the state is in drought.





## Growers comfortable with Native Title outcome

CANEGROWERS congratulated the Butchulla people as their connection to almost 100,000 hectares of land and waters around the Fraser Coast was recognised by a special Federal Court determination at Urangan.

Legal counsel Chris Cooper represented the interests of Maryborough region cane growers on behalf of CANEGROWERS as the Native Title claim process was undertaken.

Mr Cooper said growers had been concerned about the claim but became more comfortable as the process unfolded and now hold few concerns.

He said the determination would mainly affect growers looking to expand into areas not already classified as free-hold properties.

Natural Resources Minister Dr Anthony Lynham congratulated the Butchulla people, other respondents and the Federal Court for the spirit of co-operation in achieving the recognition.

The determination recognises exclusive native title rights and interests over more than 17,219 hectares, and non-exclusive native title rights and interests over more than 79,608 hectares of land. ■

## Trade trilecta finalised

After much negotiating, Australia finally ratified free trade agreements with Indonesia, Hong Kong and Peru on 18 December, in a move it's hoped will give farmers greater market access.

Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said these agreements would enhance export opportunities and deliver significant benefits for Australian exporters.

"This trade trilecta will deliver more opportunities and greater access to more markets for Australian farmers and businesses," Minister Birmingham said.

"These high-quality and comprehensive agreements will open new doors and deliver wide-ranging benefits in industries including agriculture, manufacturing, mining, education, and tourism. ■

## Online forms for better record keeping.



Mobile friendly



Easy to create

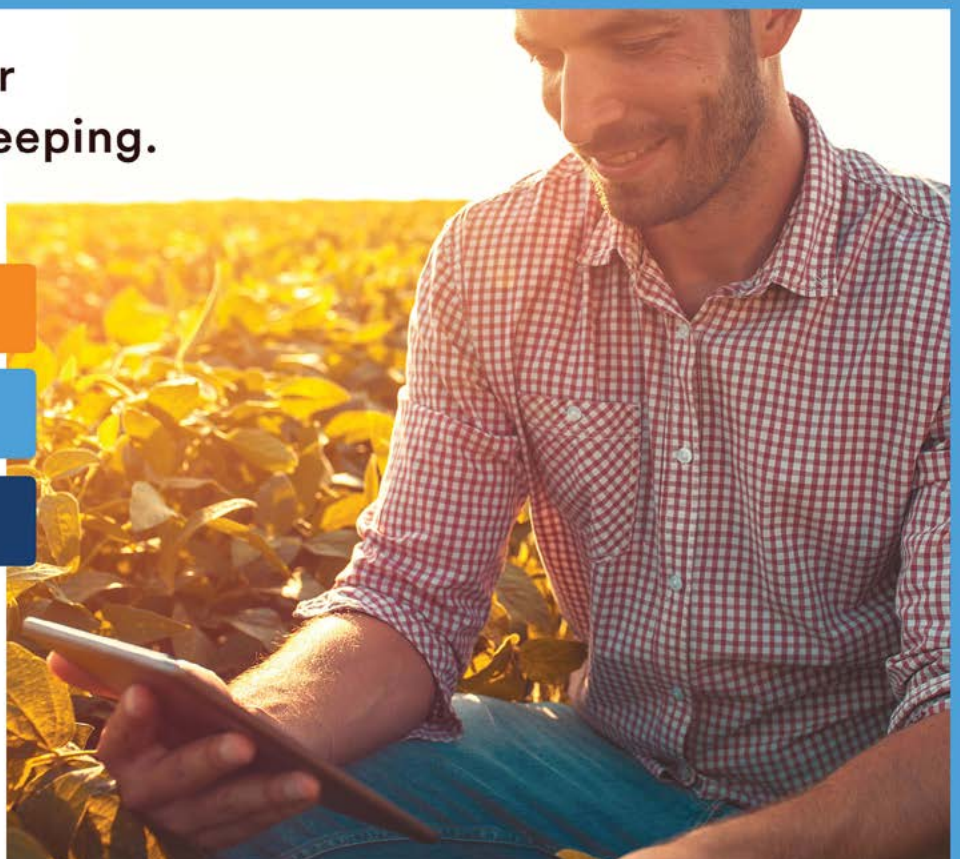


Works offline



**JotForm**

JotForm.com







## What do the Reef regs mean to me?

Information is available for CANEGROWERS members wanting to understand the impact of the Queensland Government's new reef regulations on their farm.

It all depends on the location of the cane farm and whether the growers is Smartcane BMP accredited or not.

The State Government's Office of Great Barrier Reef has guidelines for growers available online at [www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations](http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations)

CANEGROWERS has unravelled some of the key details on a dedicated page on the website <https://bit.ly/2YZbMiQ>

Growers in the Central, Burdekin and Northern regions, must continue with the record keeping and nutrient management

obligations they've been required to fulfil for some years but also now have to cease broadcast applications of fertiliser, take measures to minimise erosion and sediment run-off and ensure fallow blocks have some form of surface cover.

Growers in the Southern regions now have a legal obligation to keep records of inputs and crop applications.

More provisions of the regulations come into force in December 2021 and December 2022.

CANEGROWERS urges all members to become familiar with the specifics of the regulations as they apply to each relevant location. "■



**VERSATILE**  
now standard with  
**Trimble®**  
for the Australian  
market.







**PFG AUSTRALIA**  
1800 789 633 [www.versatiletractors.com.au](http://www.versatiletractors.com.au)



# CEO COMMENT

---

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

## 2020 Vision

A new year brings new horizons, and what better time or place to start a conversation about a fresh approach than from within the covers of a new, revitalised edition of a monthly *Australian Canegrower* magazine.

The year ahead will be characterised by many of the same issues that impacted us last year, such as a depressed world sugar price, difficult climatic conditions and challenges to profitability. These roadblocks are not easily overcome.

History tells us that resilience is the key to surviving tough times, but resilience is not built on a plan to just keep blindly doing the same things in the hope of a different outcome. Instead, we must use these moments to drive innovation and be inspired by the desire to achieve against all odds.

A new year brings an opportunity to reflect on our industry's situation and plan to meet any current and future challenges.

To this end, CANEGROWERS is working through a process to determine how we can best service the industry throughout the year ahead.

Our engagement in the Queensland election campaign, the Senate Committee inquiry into the evidence base for reef regulations, and the World Trade Organisation challenge to subsidised Indian exports, are the obvious policy cornerstones.

However, the subtext of each of these, and many more issues besides, is the extent to which we engage, communicate and represent growers - our ability to understand future needs and respond with current actions.

Whether communication is through our district company offices in a personal, face-to-face way or via other indirect methods such as this magazine, member emails, social media or text messages - our desire is to be diligent in the way we listen and take feedback and action with strength, conviction and a true sense of purpose.

As the issues we face become more complex, it's clear that our organisation needs to be equipped to talk directly with a broad cross-section of growers and to provide opportunities for us to engage in a way that suits members.

As an organisation we are evolving to ensure we can be there for you when you need us in the way that suits you best.

Through the course of the year, and in particular in the first half of 2020, we are planning some activities designed to put us in a position to talk directly to and hear directly from growers, to understand and harvest the great ideas that exist throughout the industry, and subsequently set a revitalised agenda for the organisation that underpins our leadership role in the industry.

As you see these opportunities, I encourage all growers to be proactive, get involved by talking to your local representatives and staff, and help us ensure that the responsibility that exists within CANEGROWERS to set a sustainable and profitable future for cane growers in Queensland is delivered with your interests in mind. ■





# WE'RE ON THE GROUND

**We're in Mossman to Maroochy River and everywhere between.**

We take the latest industry research and make it relevant for your district and the way you farm.

Get in touch with your district facilitator and they'll help you find expert advice and specialised training tailored to you.

Joe, Innisfail



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.



# NEW SRA ENERGY WEBSITE PORTAL RELEASED



Sugar Research Australia has recently revamped its energy information portal for industry. Economists at AgEcon, **Jon Welsh** and **Janine Powell**, have collated a host of findings from their SRA energy research project, which is now available in an easy-to-navigate format.

*"The results were surprising. There can be immediate benefits for an irrigator with no capital outlay in some circumstances."*

Case studies in a range of media such as podcasts, webinars, fact sheets, short articles and videos can be downloaded from the portal.

Detailed written reports and scientific journal articles cover sustainability metrics and energy costs within the gross margin, while a survey of 120 cane irrigators offers some clarity on the main issues impacting energy technology uptake.

AgEcon partner, Jon Welsh, says one interesting line of research was the various funding options available to irrigators, once the decision is made to proceed with the most readily available technology, solar photovoltaic (PV).

"The results were surprising. There can be immediate benefits for an irrigator with no capital outlay in some circumstances," Jon said

"The government is keen to see agriculture transition towards renewable energy sources and the incentives can

include interest rate subsidies and government loans with almost negligible cost of money where the equipment itself is considered collateral."

AgEcon research economist Janine Powell recently completed a study of factors influencing farmer adoption of solar PV in partnership with University of Western Australia economists, Prof Ross Kingwell and Prof David Pannell.

Although solar PV is mature technology and a readily available solutions exist in regional areas, integrating solar PV systems is yet to make big inroads into cane farming or broadacre irrigation in general.

"The adoption element of the research was intriguing and better understanding the factors limiting appetite for investment will help the focus of extension material and discussions with engineers, consultants and irrigators to ensure clarity around the true costs and benefits of making a long-term system change," Janine said. ►



"The literature review uncovered an article from the 1980s investigating the usefulness of solar PV to broadacre irrigation which concluded with 'the expectation of widespread adoption among irrigators by the year 2000' - so this issue of assumed uptake is perhaps more complex than first thought."

The current adoption study on solar PV and irrigated cane will soon be available and has been submitted to a scientific journal. Janine will present a summary of findings at the upcoming ASSCT conference in Bundaberg in 2020.

The inclusion of a podcast to the research outcomes was a novel addition to the suite of available communications.

"Podcasts have grown in popularity among farmers, so this was a good opportunity for us to get together in the local FM radio station and record some of the key findings in a way people can relate to," said Jon.

Better understanding connection policies and incentives from state and federal policy is a major hurdle when considering an energy investment, however, analysis by AgEcon also put these factors in perspective by investigating concurrent changes to irrigation application and basic pump energy audits.

"We know from previous programs such as the Queensland Farmers' Federation's Energy Savers that pump audits can fast-track energy efficiency," Janine said. "We found that if basic energy metrics don't stack up then factoring in an audit can easily pay for itself through sizing up the correct PV array and reducing necessary capital outlay.

"In addition to the economic benefits of an audit or investment in technology, whenever grid energy is saved, there is an associated environmental benefit through reduced carbon emissions – which consumers are now far more conscious of."

The website can be found here: [www.sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/irrigation/](http://www.sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/irrigation/) ■



*Pictured: AgEcon's Janine Powell records the podcast with Ali Smith, opposite, in the Burdekin with Jon Welsh and SRA's Brad Pfeffer.*

## BUMPER STICKER PHOTO COMPETITION



Want to show your support for the sugarcane industry and be in with a chance to win a great prize? Slap a CANEGROWERS bumper sticker on your ute, harvester, haulout, whatever - take a snap of it on farm and email it to us to be in with a chance to win.

WIN your preferred prize from these popular options:

- ✓ Apple AirPods
- ✓ Apple TV
- ✓ Bose Desk Speakers
- ✓ Major Store Gift Card
- ✓ Delongi Nespresso Machine



Email entries to [editor@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:editor@canegrowers.com.au) by 15 February 2020  
Winner announced in the March 2020 *Australian Canegrower*  
For terms & conditions visit [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au)

 **agripower**

# agrisilica

SILICON FERTILISER

*You are losing  
Yield before  
you see it.*



### the stress relief nutrient

- Increases nutrient uptake & reduces nutrient losses from leaching
- Improves crop performance in dry & saline conditions
- Increases crop resistance to diseases, pests, & frost
- Improves structure of soil
- Reduces the toxic effect of excess soil aluminium, chlorides & cadmium
- Approved for use in Organic Agriculture
- Available in a 2-5mm granule. Blendable with other granular fertilisers

**0438 954 500**

[vic@agripower.com.au](mailto:vic@agripower.com.au)

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

Contact us for Trial Data Results, Sales & more information.

**What's your Soil's Plant Available Silica levels?**





# FROM THE CHAIR

*By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS*

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas with plenty of time to relax with family and friends.

I hope too that by the time you are reading this, much-needed rain has finally fallen across Queensland and indeed the country.

I'm sure that you, like I, have pinned your hopes on the New Year bringing better times for the Australian sugar industry.

While there is little doubt that some of the industry's more recent issues will stalk us into 2020, there are also positives on the horizon that we need to acknowledge.

Firstly, the world sugar price has continued to rebuild in recent months, with most market commentators now confident that a global sugar deficit of between 5 and 8 million tonnes will play itself out for 2019-2020. This global deficit, it is hoped, will put upward pressure on prices.

2020 should also see the conclusion of Australia's action against Indian sugar export subsidies at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Growers are very practical people and when we see a problem, we want to rip in and fix it immediately, so the WTO process to challenge the legitimacy of Indian export subsidies may seem frustratingly long and protracted.

However, 2020 will yield us a result. The Dispute Panel has been formed, the Australian Government's legal case is well advanced, and submissions will soon be taken from third party countries.

We are not alone on this journey, with Brazil and Guatemala both joining the action and another 11 countries, including Thailand, the European Union, United States and Canada, entering the fray as third party countries.

This year will also be an important one politically, with Queenslanders going to the polls to decide who will govern the state for the next four years.

Government policy is critical to establishing our industry's international competitiveness. Policy settings around costs such as electricity and water, added to the compliance load of reef regulations, affect every grower.

Increasingly, governments are going in the direction of economic rationalism, where industry bears the full cost of any service, such as water and electricity.

However, an economic report commissioned by CANEGROWERS has identified that for every dollar of sugarcane value, our industry creates an additional \$6.42 of regional economic activity.

Governments need to change their mindsets when it comes to working with the sugarcane industry. Instead of viewing itself as a cost regulator to industry, the Queensland Government (and any aspiring government) needs to behave as co-investors with industry.

If governments partner with industry, the economic benefits to the regions would be substantial.

For this reason, the economic importance of our industry will be a key issue we'll highlight in the upcoming state election.

Unsurprisingly, reef regulations will also form a major part of CANEGROWERS election campaign. The current regulations are not only impractical and unworkable, they are also stunningly bureaucratic, and not befitting an industry that is acknowledged internationally as being one of the world's most environmentally sustainable.

While 2019 was not the kindest season for our industry, 2020 offers us some hope. It would be foolish to think that a new year will resolve all our problems, but optimism is in our nature. So, let's hope that 2020 delivers a better season for the Australian sugar industry. ■



TravelCard™



# Real-Time Travel Insurance

## TravelCard Business Class for Employees Travel Insurance

Executive level travel insurance for leisure trips

### New offer for CANEGROWERS members

Being a CANEGROWERS member provides a range of great benefits. TravelCard Travel Insurance is a value packed offer that is a benefit to you and your employees.

TravelCard Real-Time travel insurance gives you peace of mind while travelling. TravelCard provides exceptional coverage for unexpected medical and travel expenses.

- ✓ Market-leading coverage
- ✓ No \$ excess on trip claims (Medical, Luggage Delay and Cash theft)
- ✓ Save on out of pocket expenses with real-time claims. Receive a TravelCard debit card to pay for medical costs overseas in Real-Time.
- ✓ No age restrictions\*
- ✓ Medical assessment isn't required for pre-existing medical conditions^
- ✓ Includes cover for Winter Sports and Golf. Option to add Cruise cover.
- ✓ Children holiday with their parents at no extra charge
- ✓ 24/7 global assistance



\*Traveller who is over 85 should have a medical clearance to travel.

^At the time of journey you must be medically cleared to travel.

TCA Insurance Services Pty Ltd (TCA) ABN 76 621 476 220 is an authorised representative (AR 1262773) of the Insurer, The Hollard Insurance Company Pty Ltd (Hollard) ABN 78 090 584 473 (AFSL 241436). Any advice provided by TCA in relation to the TravelCard Real-Time Insurance products and the TravelCard is general advice only. Please consider the Combined Financial Services Guide & Product Disclosure Statement and the TravelCard Terms & Conditions (available at [www.travelcard.com.au](http://www.travelcard.com.au)) before deciding whether they are suitable for you.

To access this member benefit contact your local  
CANEGROWERS office to receive the unique  
promotional code.

[www.canegrowers.com.au/insurance](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/insurance)



CANEGROWERS  
INSURANCE



# Powerline safety on Queensland farms

Fatality statistics for those working on the land tell a sad tale. In the past three years, six people in Queensland's agriculture industry have lost their lives in electrical incidents.

These included a crop-spraying boom towed behind a tractor, a worker trimming crops from an elevated platform, an irrigation pipe stored under a powerline and a crane moving a piece of cane train track.

It is vitally important you don't come too close to overhead powerlines or do anything to cause them to fall. Here are some simple steps to follow:

- Know the heights of your vehicles and overhead lines (Ergon Energy or Energex have free reminder stickers).
- Use the look up and live app, GIS information available for free on the web ([lookupandlive.com.au](http://lookupandlive.com.au)).
- Don't store irrigation pipes, machinery or other large items under powerlines.
- Don't plant crops directly under powerlines or against power poles.
- Paint power poles (with permission) and mark pole stays with high visibility or reflective markers.
- Ask Ergon Energy or Energex about RotaMarkas for powerlines.
- Ask Ergon Energy or Energex for free safety advice about power lines and poles on your farm.

Make sure you know what to do if your machinery comes into contact with overhead powerlines, it could save your life. These YouTube clips are very useful: <https://youtu.be/VTy-hkst2IY> & <https://youtu.be/7vAA95ZZdjl>



## MORE INFORMATION

- *Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 – Working near overhead and underground electric lines.*
- *Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010 – Electrical Equipment Rural industry.*
- For more information, visit [electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://electricalsafety.qld.gov.au) or phone 1300 362 128.
- Ergon Energy, [ergon.com.au](http://ergon.com.au), 13 74 66.
- Energex, [energex.com.au](http://energex.com.au), 13 12 53.
- Dial Before You Dig, [1100.com.au](http://1100.com.au).

**Jake weighs 30 kg.**

**An adult quad bike weighs 300 kg.**



## That's why he rides a kid-sized bike.

## Ride ready.



Find more rider tips at  
[qld.gov.au/rideready](http://qld.gov.au/rideready)



Authorised by the Queensland Government, George St, Brisbane.

ADVERTISING FEATURE





Next Gen's Case IH Step UP! Conference is back in 2020. Organised to help young farmers, millers, harvesters and researchers gain skills in readiness to take the reins of the sugar industry, the conference will be held over two days - 24 & 25 March.

"The Bundaberg region is known for its red, fertile soil and the sugarcane industry is its agricultural backbone providing an ideal location for a conference all about farming in a changing climate," said Gerard Puglisi, President of Next Gen (pictured).

The conference is ideal for younger participants from the sugar and other agricultural industries, as well as established farmers who are keen to pass on their skills and knowledge, research and extension professionals, policy makers and agricultural suppliers.

The Next Gen program has been developed in response to a challenge the sugarcane industry has faced – developing the next generation as a key asset.

The industry has identified a need to encourage and support younger participants into careers in agriculture, specifically in the sugarcane industry.

"This challenge is across all aspects of the sugar industry; farming, harvesting, extension, research and milling. It is also important to ensure the more established participants are encouraged to transfer their wealth of knowledge to the incoming generation," Gerard said.

The theme of the conference is around future-proofing a farm. The content will be progressive, addressing topics such as precision farming, agricultural engineering and technology, innovation, research and development, best farming practise, sugar marketing, succession planning and financial products and planning.

Registrations and sponsorship opportunities are now open. For further information visit [www.nextgenstepup.com](http://www.nextgenstepup.com) ■

### ChemCert Accreditation AQF3

There's only one ChemCert card!



### Local Trainers, Local Practical Knowledge and Credibility

**AHCCHM304** Transport and Store Chemicals  
**AHCCHM307** Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control Pest, Weeds and Diseases.

**ACPMG301** Control Weeds (optional, at extra cost)



**Brisbane** on Wednesday, 22 January

**Brisbane** on Wednesday, 19 February

**Innisfail** on Tuesday 25 February

**Mareeba** on Friday, 24 January

**Toowoomba** on Wednesday, 5 February



Call now to enrol  
**Freecall 1800 444 228**

[enrol@ChemCert.com.au](mailto:enrol@ChemCert.com.au) | [www.ChemCert.com.au](http://www.ChemCert.com.au)

ChemCert Training Group RTO: 90855



# STRENGTHENED STREAM BANKS

## will protect soil and water

A Cassowary Valley cane farmer is hoping that a new rock wall will help his creek banks hold up in flood events and prevent productive land being washed away.

Richard Padovan is shoring up eroding stream banks as part of a landscape remediation project funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Investment Program.

Terrain NRM's Vanessa Drysdale said a 30m rock wall on Richard's farm is part of a larger project that includes work on cane and cattle properties in the Cassowary and Saltwater sub-catchments in the Mossman district.

*"You've only got so much top soil, and once you lose it, you've got nothing left to grow stuff on. That's why we're doing our best to keep it where it's meant to be."*

"We're planting and extending 17 hectares of vegetation along waterways," Vanessa said. "We're also using engineered constructions like rock walls to increase the ability of streambanks to withstand high water flow events.

"Trees do a great job at holding banks together, but of course they take time to establish, which is why we use a combination of 'hard' works and plantings."

Richard has welcomed the work on his farm after experiencing severe flood damage in late 2018 and early 2019.

"It was the worst erosion I've seen since I've been here. It was like a raging torrent and just took everything with it," he said.

"No farmer wants to see that happen. You've only got so much top soil, and once you lose it, you've got nothing left to grow stuff on. That's why we're doing our best to keep it where it's meant to be.

"Trees just make sense. You can see the difference – where there's trees still along the creek bank there's been no real damage in flood events."

Terrain is coordinating the project and working with Mossman Agricultural Services, CANEGROWERS Mossman, and the Douglas Shire Council to deliver on ground work.

Vanessa said that landholders are involved every step of the way.

"They've got a livelihood to make on these properties and it's been shown time and again that the best results come from combining the best available science with expert local knowledge," she said.

Local contractors were engaged to construct a 'rock toe' at Richard's erosion site - it's a short rock wall that armours the lower section of a bank.

Rock walls are used when a streambank is highly eroded and the riparian

vegetation has been severely impacted, or is non-existent. Without intervention, the bank would continue to erode, impacting vegetation either side and also washing productive soil away.

Rock walls are designed to complement a creek's natural features, meaning they curve and slope the way a creek naturally would.

Vanessa said that eventually the new vegetation would take over.

"The rock will be unrecognisable and look like a seamless section of well-vegetated creek bank. We're expecting to see increased biodiversity thanks to the increased habitat, and of course cleaner, clearer water flowing out to the Great Barrier Reef."

Richard has applauded the changes he's seen on his land.

"I'm really happy that Terrain has come on board to work through our erosion challenges together. The problem's better tackled together," he said.

"I'm impressed with the results so far, and how smooth a process it's been. I think it goes to show that when you get all parties genuinely talking and working together, then you end up with a lot better job," he said. ■

*Supplied by Terrain NRM*

*Pictured: Richard Padovan and Vanessa Drysdale at a Cassowary Valley remediation site.*

*Sections of the Padovan's creek bank were heavily eroded during flood events in late-2018 and early-2019, washing away soil and exposing tree roots.*









Supplied by Vantage NEA

## Prescription mapping and sugarcane yield monitoring are **POWERING-UP YOUR TOOLBOX**

Developed by BMS LaserSat, the latest BMS Sugar Cane Yield Monitor provides real-time data that can be used in-field to measure harvest weights, and in-office to generate accurate yield maps, enabling growers to make informed decisions to maximise future yields.

Tully Sugar's productivity development manager and agronomist, **Greg Shannon** said moving to precision farming systems across the company's farms meant having access to information was vital.

"With farms being geographically separated with slightly different microclimates, being able to record yield in tonnes per hectare across individual blocks and the variation within these blocks will enable us to apply inputs more strategically, which ultimately has to be a good thing for us as a business," Greg said.

The BMS Sugarcane Yield Monitor's in-cab live-feed yield display can be logged and calibrated using Trimble software back in an office to produce reports.

Vantage NEA's General Manager, **Michael Munro** said that the monitor provides growers with a geo-referenced representation of where yield is at within the field, providing insight into a zonal resolution.

"This yield information and other field data are highly valuable in creating plans to inform management decisions on inputs and mitigation strategies," Michael said.

Rocks Farming managing director, **Talbot Cox**, has been using the original version of the monitor for four years and has seen measurable results from using the prescriptive mapping tool.

"The results speak for themselves and this season I have upgraded to the latest monitor which has shortened what was previously a two-step process," Talbot said.

The Sugarcane Yield Monitor produces a live-feed showing how many tonnes per hectare are being cut.

For harvester operators, it takes the guesswork out of figuring out tonnes per hectare and they can easily track how they are cutting across the paddocks.

"As a grower, you can easily identify lower-performing areas of the crops and take steps to make the changes needed," Talbot said.

"We produce yield maps of the crops each year and use these to identify trends of lower-yielding areas, and when that crop gets to the end of its cycle, we look at gypsum levels, shifting dirt levels and drainage to generate a detailed plan going forward," he said.

The BMS Sugarcane Yield Monitor and Trimble software are available to purchase through Vantage NEA.

To find out more, please visit [www.vantage-bms.com](http://www.vantage-bms.com) or contact general manager, Michael Munro on 07 4783 9000. ■

*Pictured: Rock's Farming Managing Director, Talbot Cox has seen measurable results using the Sugarcane Yield Monitor over the past four years.*



## Helping to get super on millennials' radars

Super isn't the easiest topic to get on millennials' radars. As a profit-for-members super fund, however, we know it's important since the earlier a member engages with their super, the more likely they are to prepare for – and enjoy – their best retirement outcome.

That's why Sunsuper is excited to be partnering with My Millennial Money – Australia's number 1 money podcast for millennials and their money.

We're working with Australia's Millennial Money Expert Glen James and property investing expert John Pidgeon as they discuss practical money and super tips for millennials (without the yawns). The weekly episodes cover everything from buying your first house to bitcoin, and, thanks to our partnership, content will soon extend to a range of super-related topics, including choosing a fund, how to invest your super, and more.

Sunsuper Chief Economist Brian Parker said the Sunsuper–My Millennial Money partnership is a great way to introduce Sunsuper to a dedicated and growing audience of money-aware millennials.

"We're really excited to partner with Glen and John on My Millennial Money. Glen and the team are passionate about money, and, more importantly, helping millennials take control of their money in really tangible and achievable ways." Brian said.

"Our purpose at Sunsuper is to inspire and empower Australians to live their retirement dreams, and what Glen and John are doing on their podcast to educate, engage and encourage millennials to take positive actions to control their money and finances perfectly aligns with what we aim to do for our members."

It seems that millennials can't get enough of what Glen and John have to say! At the end of November, the My Millennial Money podcast was listed at the top of Spotify's Business & Technology podcast category, and daily listens of the podcast episodes peaked at well over 12,000.

You can listen and subscribe to the podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify. Throughout 2020, Brian Parker and other Sunsuper experts will join Glen and John to introduce and explain super, strategies to take control and grow your super, and how to invest your super.

While you are subscribing to My Millennial Money, don't miss Sunsuper's own podcast the New School of Super. Join Sunsuper's Dream Team Chief Economist Brian Parker and Head of Advice and Retirement Anne Fuchs in our podcast series as they discuss money matters, your super and the things that could affect your financial dreams now, and in the future.

For more information on My Millennial Money go to [www.sortyourmoneyout.com/mymillennialmoney](http://www.sortyourmoneyout.com/mymillennialmoney), to listen to our podcast series visit [www.sunsuper.com.au/podcast](http://www.sunsuper.com.au/podcast) and go to [www.sunsuper.com.au/choose](http://www.sunsuper.com.au/choose) to become a Sunsuper member.

Disclaimer: This article has been prepared and issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd, the trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund. Sunsuper Pty Ltd ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975, is the Trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund ABN 98 503 137 921, USI 98 503 137 921 001.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**LIQUAFORCE**

LIQUAFORCE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF ITS VALUED CUSTOMERS FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR.

The team looks forward to building on the successes of 2019, and working with customers old and new in 2020! LiquaForce HQ will continue to operate throughout the Christmas/New Year period but will close on public holidays.

**CALL LIQUAFORCE TODAY FOR MORE DETAILS ON (07) 4776 5711**

[LIQUAFORCE.COM.AU](http://LIQUAFORCE.COM.AU)

# CANEGROWERS membership pays off after fire

Bushfires in the Mackay region in November 2018 devastated growers who lost property, crops and possessions. The out of control bushfire burnt 7 hectares of **John Zarb's** Finch Hatton farm. Three days later, burning embers from the original fire ignited a second fire and a further 8.3 hectares of trash blanketed cane was lost.

"When the fires came through it was a scary experience," John said. Thankfully no-one was injured, but John and his sons, **Dominic and Dean**, were faced with a lot of work to get ground prepared and replanted with cane.

The process of re-establishing their crop cost them more than \$5,000 in:

- Fertiliser
- Herbicide for weed control
- Additional irrigation
- Labour and machinery costs.

John was relieved that his CANEGROWERS membership included crop insurance and that he was promptly reimbursed for the losses he incurred as a result of the fires. The Zarb's will also be paid for any yield loss they may suffer in the affected cane in the 2019 crushing season.

When collecting his cheque from CANEGROWERS Mackay Member Services, John was very complimentary of CANEGROWERS and the crop insurance scheme, thanking the staff for their efficient service.

"It was a tough time but it was made better knowing that our CANEGROWERS membership covered us for our losses. I appreciated that the claim process was quick and easy. I don't know what I would have done without CANEGROWERS," John said.

"It's great being able to assist growers when they need it most," says Helle Cook, CANEGROWERS Insurance Regional Manager (Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Rocky Point). "I really enjoy working with CANEGROWERS districts in helping our members throughout the claim process, with the aim of minimising the financial loss they suffer due to the claim." ■

*Pictured: John Zarb on his Finch Hatton farm after the bushfires destroyed areas of his cane land. Photograph Emma Murray/NRM.*



## CANEGROWERS Crop Insurance

CANEGROWERS members automatically have access to crop insurance cover as part of their membership. The policy can provide cover for loss of crop due to accidental fire, transit and hail incidents.



Accidental Fire



Hail Damage



Transit Damage

Between 1 June 2018 to 1 June 2019 a total of 65 claims were reported, accepted and paid across the CANEGROWERS organisation. Nine were for hail damage and 56 were for accidental fire caused by events such as lightning, arson and engine sparks.







# QSL MARKET NEWS

  
QSL  
Your Trusted Partner



By Matthew Page  
QSL Trading Manager

## THE LONG & THE SHORT OF IT

Long = BUY. Those with a long position believe the market price will rise.  
Short = SELL. Those with a short position believe the price will fall. If the market has more short than long positions, it is said to be net short, and vice versa.

### DISCLAIMER:

*This update contains information of a summary nature about the operation of the key aspects of the raw sugar and currency markets. As such, the document does not purport to be comprehensive or complete and QSL makes no representations to that effect. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance. Nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. Any forecasts of future performance are subject to uncertainties and subject to change. The document does not constitute financial, investment or product advice. You should seek your own financial advice before making any decisions in relation to QSL pool/offering selection and pricing as well as reading the Pricing Pool Terms in full, which are available on QSL's website. The information in this document is current only as at the date of this document (unless otherwise noted) and remains subject to change without notice. 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 in this report.*

## 2019: The year that wasn't

Most in the sugar market would view 2019 as a largely forgettable event – a necessary evil of continued lower prices as the global balance sheet attempted to correct itself from two years of bumper surpluses.

Brazil played its role admirably, maximising its ethanol production to record levels and removing 10 million tonnes of sugar from the system. Meanwhile India continued to play the badly disguised villain, with a government seemingly nonplussed by World Trade Organisation lobbying and happy to continue to provide their cane industry with subsidies sufficient to keep them growing the largest sugar crop in the world, even at prices below cost of production for most.

Prices spent virtually the entire year trapped between 11 and 13 US cents/pound, with the average at 12.29 c/lb. Unsurprisingly, volatility was subdued. The main theme of the past 12 months was speculator activity, as a series of new net short records topping out at 226,000 lots net short were posted in September and October. In the absence of any real fundamental changes, market participants were forced to focus on this activity and the underlying macro and technical picture driving it.

Last year proved to be another one of depreciation for the AUD, albeit at a slightly slower pace than the past couple of years. Falling from a first-quarter high of 73 cents to third-quarter lows of 67 cents, it appears to have found a base level of support now. Macro themes dominated the landscape as the trade dispute between the US and China dragged on, affecting both global trade activity and risk sentiment, while the ongoing Brexit saga remained unresolved. The local economy remained stagnant, resulting in a series of RBA rate cuts that left us at 0.75%.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the doldrums of the majority of last year, recent price activity points toward some optimism for 2020. The almost entire liquidation of that record spec net sold position has lifted prices back above 13c/lb

and allowed us to get some decent forward pricing done for the 2020 and 2021 Seasons.

Market fundamentals have a slight bullish bias. Analysts all predict a small but not insignificant deficit for next year, citing a smaller Thai crop, zero Mexican exports (diverted to US in lieu of their beet crop failure) and a continued maximum ethanol mix next year in Brazil. However, price rally expectations remain tempered, with India still producing and exporting at record levels as well as a sizeable carryover of stocks built up over the past couple of seasons' surpluses.

The big unanswered question of course is what will the market speculators do next? A move to a net long position is not impossible but seems unlikely in the current macro environment. Likewise, with more supportive fundamentals in place it also seems they are unlikely to revisit those record net short levels again. What appears more likely is that they will maintain a smaller presence in the market this year which will allow fundamentals to play a bigger role in guiding price activity. With ethanol parity still providing significant overhead resistance, QSL expects a 12c/lb to 15c/lb market for 2020 as the global balance sheet continues to work back towards a more neutral position.

With the Australian Dollar looking steadier at present it would be easy to suggest that the worst is behind it. However headwinds remain and a trip lower towards 66/65 US cent levels is not entirely out of the realms of possibility if the Chinese and US continue to drag out negotiations. And if the local economy remains tepid we are only two more cuts away from where the RBA have flagged we will enter the unknown territory of Quantitative Easing in Australia. That said, risk appetite is beginning to return to the market as evidenced by the reincarnation of volatility (which was clinically dead as little as a month ago), and we are merely a Xi Jinping/Trump squiggle away from seeing AUD back at 70 cents. As such, we're looking for the Aussie Dollar to trade a 66/71 cent range over the next calendar year.



# IMPORTANT QSL DATES FOR 2020



QSL wishes to remind all growers of the following important dates for the new year.

DATE	DETAILS
14 February 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the March 2020 Contract for Growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract</b> .
20 February 2020	<b>MSF Sugar districts:</b> Pricing completion date for the 2019-Season <b>Target Price Contract</b> .
20 February 2020	Any 2019-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the May 2020 Contract and costs may apply.
21 February 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the March 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>Self-Managed Harvest</b> .
15 March 2020	Last day to nominate for the <b>QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme</b> option. This option opens February 1 2020.
16 April 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract</b> .
17 April 2020	Pricing completion date for the 2019-Season <b>Target Price Contract</b> .
23 April 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>Self-Managed Harvest</b> .
29 May 2020	Last day to nominate to receive <b>deferred payments</b> for 2020-Season Advances.
15 June 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the July 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest</b> .
22 June 2020	Any 2020-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the October 2020 Contract and costs may apply.
1 July 2020	Additional tonnages become available for <b>grower-managed pricing</b> for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Seasons.
15 September 2020	Pricing Completion Date for the October 2020 Contract for growers using the <b>QSL Individual Futures Contract and/or Self-Managed Harvest</b> .
21 September 2020	Any 2020-Season <b>QSL Target Price Contract</b> orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the March 2021 Contract and costs may apply.
31 October 2020	Last day for growers to nominate QSL as their marketer for the 2021 Season.
31 October 2020	Last day to select the <b>2021 Self-Managed Harvest</b> option.
31 October 2020	Last day to select the <b>2021 Early-Start Actively Managed Pool</b> .
30 November 2020	Last day to nominate for <b>2020-Season Accelerated Advances</b> .

**Reminders & Updates:** Sign up for our weekly email updates by sending your contact details to [info@qsl.com.au](mailto:info@qsl.com.au) or by contacting your local QSL Grower Services Team Rep.

## Your local QSL Grower Services team representatives

### Far North Queensland

Daniel Messina  
P 0429 660 238

E [daniel.messina@qsl.com.au](mailto:daniel.messina@qsl.com.au)

Amanda Sheppard  
P 0418 264 393

E [amanda.sheppard@qsl.com.au](mailto:amanda.sheppard@qsl.com.au)

Gregory Watson  
P 0411 230 800

E [gregory.watson@qsl.com.au](mailto:gregory.watson@qsl.com.au)

James Formosa  
P 0447 062 213

E [james.formosa@qsl.com.au](mailto:james.formosa@qsl.com.au)

### Proserpine

Karen Vloedmans  
P 0429 804 876

E [karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au](mailto:karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au)

### Burdekin

Kristen Paterson  
P 0438 470 235

E [kristen.paterson@qsl.com.au](mailto:kristen.paterson@qsl.com.au)

### Plane Creek

Kathy Zanco  
P 0437 645 342

E [kathy.zanco@qsl.com.au](mailto:kathy.zanco@qsl.com.au)

### Mackay

Harriet McLennan  
P 0409 830 554

E [harriet.mclennan@qsl.com.au](mailto:harriet.mclennan@qsl.com.au)

### Sonia Ball

P 0418 978 120

E [sonia.ball@qsl.com.au](mailto:sonia.ball@qsl.com.au)

### Central & Southern Region

#### Cathy Kelly

P 0409 285 074

E [cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au](mailto:cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au)

**QSL Direct Helpline 1800 870 756**

# Reef Awards celebrate growers water quality improvement efforts

By Angela Linhart

CANEGROWERS members and others in the industry have been recognised at the 2019 Reef Champion Awards celebrating efforts to improve water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

Innovative nitrogen reduction practices, dedicated approaches to extension, revegetation of farms and conservation of wetlands and native animal species were just some of the success stories honoured at this year's Awards dinner in Mackay.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region member **Lenny Parisi** took out the esteemed Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award for converting seven hectares of cane land to a wetland environment.

The Parisi family has farmed sugarcane on their property in the Wet Tropics region of far north Queensland for three generations. Much of their farmland adjoins areas of significant environmental

value, with the creeks running through their property flowing into the Mulgrave River and on to the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.

The project at Fig Tree Lagoon is part of Greening Australia's Priority Coastal Habitat and Wetlands Project, funded through the Australian Government's Reef Trust Program, and is in partnership with the Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group.

"When it rains here we can get up to 30 centimetres of rain in one night, so we built this sediment pond (*pictured below*) to filter sediment and feed the lagoons," Lenny said when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Parisi family farm at Fishery Falls, just south of Cairns.

Three years on and the revegetation project has seen 14,000 trees planted along 6 km of waterways on his land and 7,000 trees are being planted as part of the constructed wetland, helping to slow the water flow during downpours and increasing water penetration into the soil.

In a testament to the wetland environment that has been created, a rare bird has recently started frequenting the area.

"In the 40 years I've lived here I've never seen a Glossy Ibis. A local ornithologist confirmed 'It is a Glossy Ibis, they love swampy country and obviously they like your lagoon'," Lenny said.

Lenny's passion for the area is clear. He is eager to do his bit for the environment







The winners of the 2019 Reef Champion Awards.

"As time goes on there should be environmental changes for everybody. I think everyone's gotta look after the land a bit more. It's a duty of care to leave it to my grandkids better than how I found it."

*Pictured: (right) Lenny Parisi being presented with The Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award at the Awards dinner, (below left) Lenny amongst the revegetated land that had previously been vacant for over ten years, (below middle) the constructed wetland that is also home to a four metre crocodile, (below right) Lenny with his award on the Parisi farm.*

in the place that he calls home. He is also part of SRA's Cane to Creek Project and MSF Sugar's Project Uplift.

"Every day you learn something new. Farming's like that," he said.

"I like to look outside the square. As time goes on there should be environmental changes for everybody. I think everyone's gotta look after the land a bit more. It's a duty of care to leave it to my grandkids better than how I found it."

Other sustainability initiatives include reducing fertiliser application rates, cutting green and trash blanketing, and planting fallow crops.

Continues next page ►





Lenny was also recently awarded The Chris Jones Environmental Stewardship Award by Greening Australia.

"Lenny has been such an inspiration to partner with as part of Greening Australia's Reef Aid Program, always a willing spokesperson and together we have been able to achieve amazing results," said **Dr Lynise Wearne**, Program Director - Reef Aid, Greening Australia.

You wouldn't guess that just 12 months ago Lenny was battling cancer. He underwent intensive chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant.

"It put a halt on a bit of my work for 12 months. I'm just lucky it's a family partnership, I've got two brothers and my nephew, and we all work together," he said. "We don't make a real lot of money, but we have a lot of fun along the way."

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman **Joe Marano** was also a finalist for this year's Prince of Wales Award.

A third-generation sugarcane grower at Mourilyan, he and his family farm 417 hectares and have been implementing best management practices since the late 1970s.

Joe's family farming business is Smartcane BMP accredited and he has been an active participant in numerous Reef incentive programs to change practices for improved water quality.

This includes improved soil health and nitrogen use efficiency, reduced sediment losses and improved chemical application.

Joe contributes to the industry through a range of leadership positions. In addition to being Chairman of CANEGROWERS Innisfail, he is member of the CANEGROWERS Queensland Policy Council and Board.

He is also a grower representative in Project Cane Changer, has a trial site on his property as part of the EEF 60 Project, is Chairman of The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) and the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project Steering Committee.

"We don't do it for the accolades or the awards. I'd like to congratulate all the award winners for their hard work," he said.

The Rossi family at Aloomba were joint winners of the Reef Nutrient Champion Award - recognised for embracing organic methods of boosting their soil profile and providing nutrient to the crop the way that nature intended.

They use recycled waste materials to create compost, conditioning the soil and supplying their cane with an abundance of organic nutrients. This reduces their need for inorganic nitrogen fertiliser and the risk of nutrient leaving the farm and entering waterways.

In 2017 the Rossi family received funding through the Reef Trust IV Grant to purchase machinery to set up the composting system.

The machines include a feedlot mixer that blends organic ingredients before dispersing them into windrows.

The recycled waste products used depend on what is available and can include biosolids, cane trash, mill mud, bagasse, council green mulch and excess mixed species fallow crops.

The compost turner plays an essential role in the brewing process.







"It aerates and adds oxygen into it. We do it initially once or twice when we first make it then we do it every one to two weeks," Mark Rossi explained. "This speeds up the composting process."

"By research, we've found that if we can keep the heaps between 55-65 degrees celcius for a period of 15 to 20 days that kills all the pathogens and seeds and anything else that you can get in your green waste."

Since implementing the composting system, they have reduced nitrogen application by 30%. These practices, including multi-species fallow cropping, have vastly improved the overall soil healthy and biology.

Green harvesting and trash blanketing, subsurface fertiliser application and improved pesticide regimes have also enhanced operations.

In addition, a silt trap and the revegetation of their creek boundary drain with river cherry have maintained biodiversity and improved water quality.

"We've grown up in this beautiful Mulgrave valley here, loved all the natural surrounds and the river," Tony Rossi said.

"We just see it as part of our core business that we want to be productive cane farmers but we want to do the right thing by the environment too."

"As a family we would like to thank QFF, CANEGROWERS and the Reef Alliance for recognition of our operations."

"We are on a steep learning curve but feel we are on the right track to improve soil health, productivity, profitability and enhanced environmental outcomes."

Full finalists details can be found on the Queensland Farmers' Federation website: [www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2019-reef-champion-awards/](http://www.qff.org.au/projects/reef-alliance/2019-reef-champion-awards/) ■

*Pictured: (opposite) L-R: Joseph Marano, Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award Finalist, William Darveniza, Reef Youth Champion Award Winner, Lenny Parisi, Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award Winner, Jayson Dowie, Reef Extension Officer Champion Award Joint Winner, Tony Rossi, Reef Nutrient Champion Award Joint Winner. (Above) three generations of the Rossi family. L-R back: Mark Rossi, Tony Rossi, Peter Rossi, Stephen Rossi, Chris Rossi, L-R front: Andrew Rossi, Rick Rossi. (Below) a compost turner aerating windrows on the Rossi farm.*





# FALLOW MANAGEMENT



Driving through Queensland sugarcane country you could be forgiven for not recognising what's growing on many of the blocks. Fallow crops including; soy-beans, sunflowers, cow peas, peanuts, rice and corn are all being planted. Small crops such as sweet potatoes, tomatoes and pumpkins are also becoming an important part of the cane-growing cycle.

*By Kate Gowdie  
Smartcane BMP Manager*

At the recent Productivity Services Conference, held in the Wet Tropics in November, fallow cropping and species selection were high on the agenda.

Conference delegates were keen to learn about the array of species available and their suitability to different environments and growing conditions.

Chia seeds, sun hemp and forage cereals were just some of the species highlighted.

Of course, fallow cropping is not new. For some growers, fallow cropping has been part of their operation for as long as they have grown cane.

However, the presence of fallow cropping has waxed and waned over time.

It's popularity has been influenced by a range of factors including sugar prices, assignment restrictions, grain prices and access to markets.

Using fallow as part of an overall management strategy is one of the industry standards for Smartcane BMP.

Research has shown significant increases in yield where the cane-growing cycle is broken between the harvest of the final ratoon and the planting of the next cane crop, compared with the traditional plough-out, re-plant approach.

Breaking the monoculture of repetitive cane cycles can reduce pest, disease and weed burdens, and increase over-all soil health.

As with most farming, there is no one-size-fits-all regime when it comes to how and what you grow in your fallow.

Extended fallows of greater than six months, mixed crop fallows comprising different species and consecutive fallows of two or more crops between cane cycles are some of the practices being employed by growers.

Fallow cropping can have both agronomic and economic benefits when well managed.

If you are considering fallow cropping as part of your overall management strategy and would like further information, please contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator and/or productivity services officer. ►





*"Research has shown significant increases in yield where the cane-growing cycle is broken between the harvest of the final ratoon and the planting of the next cane crop compared with the traditional plough-out re-plant approach."*

*Pictured: Smartcane BMP facilitator Christine Peterson discusses fallow cropping with Proserpine grower Andrew Holmes; (above) A trial fallow rice crop at the DAF's Walkamin Research Station; and a small selection of the wide range of legume and other seeds available for fallow cropping from NQ Tropical Seeds.*

### To gain the benefits from a fallow crop for successive cane crops, there are several factors to take into consideration:

- Nitrogen fixing crops – not all legumes are equal. Species, variety and growing conditions will result in varied levels of nitrogen fixing, organic carbon and fallow crop survivability.
- Harvesting versus use as green manure – nutrients extracted in a harvested product will not be returned to the soil. Using fallow crops as green manure allows all plant nutrients to be incorporated back into the soil.
- Water requirements – Where soil moisture and/or irrigation water is limited, allocating this resource to fallow cropping may not be an option.
- Amount of tillage required – crops requiring extensive and/or regular tillage may result in adverse outcomes to soil health.
- Length of fallow/fallow crop cycle – the length of the fallow will partly depend on the crop(s) you chose to plant. Consider the total fallow length required when selecting crops.
- Fallow crop equipment requirements – planting, harvesting, storing and transporting alternate crops to cane may require additional or modified equipment.
- New pests and disease – if your fallow crop is the only one of its kind in the area, it may inadvertently become a beacon for pests that may not have otherwise been present. Growing fallow crops may require a refinement of your pest and disease strategy. ■





# FOR THE LOVE OF RECORD KEEPING

Most of us think of record keeping as a necessary evil. Sometimes we are on top of it and other times, not so much! Finally, there is a way to get the job done quickly and without fuss – on your phone, in the field.

Isis cane growers have been keen to get their hands on a new digital recording platform called JotForms. It's easy to set up and leads to a feeling of relief and genuine excitement that some of the burden of repetitious data collection has been lifted.

*Words by Cindy Benjamin  
Photos by Cindy Benjamin, Andrew Jakins and Joanne Hall*



Most growers find the Farm Chemicals Record Book to be the best way to record their spray applications but, although very fit for purpose, a paper-based book requires the user to re-enter much of the same information for each record.

This is where Isis district Smartcane BMP and Nutrient Management Planning facilitator, **Juliette Greenway**, saw an opportunity for growers to collect the data they need in a way that suits their business, without the usual workload.

"Keeping track of farm inputs is important and provides growers with data to help make informed decisions, but it has to be quick and easy to do," Juliette said.

"We have developed a new way for growers to collect the required information on their phones 'on the go', in just a few minutes a day.

"It is terrific to see how well it is working for our growers."

Juliette said the key to the success of the JotForms platform for farm record-keeping is the fact that the forms are simple to create and use and are fully customisable for individual needs.

"Each grower using the system is able to start with the templates we have created for herbicide, fertiliser and irrigation applications, then make any changes they want to suit their own farm and way of doing things," she said.

"The forms are infinitely flexible and growers are finding it easy to make changes and add extra features. Several growers have also built their own forms from scratch."

The digital platform removes much of the repetition involved with paper records – with many fields pre-filled while other data is collected quickly using check-boxes to select the product, rate and block.

"So many of the applications made are specific to individual farms, but are often used repeatedly," said Juliette.

"The forms are set up with the grower's own block numbers and the relevant areas, and will automatically calculate the total area being treated.

"It can also be set up to calculate the amount of product required, based on the selected rate."

The forms also allow growers to list the standard spray tank mixes and fertiliser blends that they use regularly so they just need to tick the one box each time they spray or fertilise a block. Adding a new combination or removing an old one is simple and doesn't affect previous records.

For chemical applications, weather data is entered on the form, along with the product or tank mix details. Another feature of JotForms that growers have found very useful is the ability to add 'voice to text' notes to an individual record.

The forms also have the capability of storing the relevant farm map on each record and linking to other documents, such as the grower's nutrient management plan.

"The implementation of the system can be staged and is driven entirely by the grower's requirements," said Juliette.

"Some start with one form and once they have that working they will create and start using another one. Some are using JotForms for some activities and continuing with their paper-based system for other activities."

"A free JotForms account gives growers five forms and they can make 100 submissions per month. For the majority of growers this free account is all they will ever need."

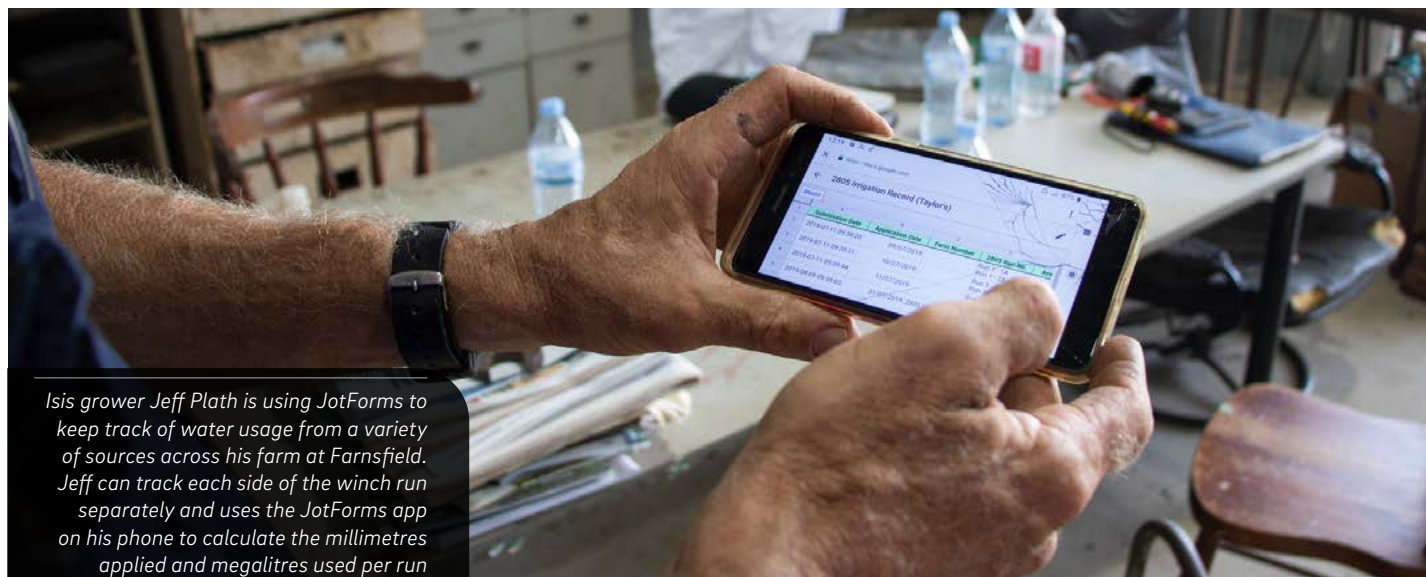
Juliette is confident that setting up and using JotForms will help a large portion of the district's growers achieve their Smartcane BMP accreditation.

"We know that many growers here are using best-practice but showing that has been difficult because of the lack of suitable records," she said. "This digital recording system works across all cropping enterprises and we are seeing that age and computer experience are no barrier – if you can use your phone, you can use JotForms."

Collecting the data is certainly a critical first step and the easier that process is, the better. Juliette sees the next big advantage of the system is the ability to export the data to a spreadsheet for analysis at the end of the season.

"Many growers already use digital recording systems but there are a lot that don't," she said.

*Continues next page ►*



Isis grower Jeff Plath is using JotForms to keep track of water usage from a variety of sources across his farm at Farnsfield. Jeff can track each side of the winch run separately and uses the JotForms app on his phone to calculate the millimetres applied and megalitres used per run





*Pictured: Isis grower Tyler Bengtson uses JotForms to record nutrient applications as he implements the nutrient management plan devised for his farm at Tirroan, near Gin Gin;*

*Isis Smartcane BMP facilitator Juliette Greenway has helped set up the JotForms that Jeff Plath and Tyler Bengtson are using to record farming operations.*



**Queensland  
Government**



"We really think that growers will find it quite easy to use the data they collect on the JotForm platform to do some costings and adjust their input use into the future."

In Queensland's southern growing region, new Reef protection regulations require records to be kept about herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, fertiliser and mill mud/mill ash applied on the farm, as of 1 December 2019.

The records must be made within three days of the activity or action and they must be kept for at least six years.

Growers are already seeing other uses for the platform such as for monitoring diesel use, calculating planting rates, recording cultivation and more accurately calculating input requirements when placing orders with suppliers.

Juliette said JotForms was very secure with data safely stored and accessible across multiple devices and users. This means growers can share some forms with their workers with the editing function turned off so data can be entered but the forms can't be changed.

The system also works off-line so data can be recorded where there is no phone reception. It will upload automatically once the device is again in range or has access to WiFi.



"This whole concept started earlier in 2019 and in just a short time we have built templates and learned so much about how to make use of the platform," said Juliette.

"The growers have seen the value and have been really enthusiastic about adopting and using JotForms to achieve real time savings and are regaining a sense of control.

"There are great opportunities for us to provide more training and support for growers to use this data to better understand their own businesses and make really important decisions."

Juliette, and fellow Isis Productivity Ltd agronomist **Letitia Taylor**, introduce JotForms as a nutrient recording option to growers involved in the *Nutrient Management Planning in the Isis* project, funded through the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program.

Many of the growers involved are choosing to use JotForms for all of their recording needs.

Under Smartcane BMP, the team also ran a workshop in October 2019 to demonstrate JotForms to about 20 growers and to set them up with their own accounts. Growers are now calling for more workshops in early 2020.

"Helping growers use JotForms to keep on top of their record keeping is a perfect example of the grower-first approach we are taking in the Isis district," says Juliette.

"We want to find practical and easily adopted solutions to the things that stand in the way of growers achieving what they want from their businesses."



## FOCUS ON IRRIGATION RECORDS

Six months ago Farnsfield grower **Jeff Plath** started with the irrigation JotForm to replace a time-consuming system he had used previously.

"My old system involved writing the relevant information for each irrigation in a field note book and then at a later date I would transfer that information onto a spreadsheet on the computer," he said.

"Now I only have to record the information once and it only takes a few minutes."

Jeff said he's been irrigating constantly for 12 months and his ten entries a day can all be made in just a few minutes.

He has access to water from multiple sources and is now able to keep track of how much water he has used from each source in real time.

"I use the forms to collect much more information than is required to meet the regulations and so the whole process has more value to our business," he said.

"The irrigation form is probably the most intricate one to set up for your farm but once the initial set-up is done it is simple to use.

"The form we have allows me to track each side of the winch run separately and I can use the app to calculate the millimetres applied and megalitres used per run.

"There's also the potential to monitor the energy use of each pump in the future."

By adopting the new recording platform Jeff has maintained the ability to do further analysis and costings in the spreadsheet but he has eliminated the double-handling of data entry.

"I will definitely be setting up and using the forms for chemical and fertiliser applications this season," he said.

"I am using the Farm Chemicals Record book at the moment but being able to do that on my phone or computer will be much quicker and it has the facility to add a digital signature so the records are fully compliant with the audit requirements."

Jeff and **Judy Plath's** minimum till, controlled traffic cane and soybean operation on 180 ha along the Gregory River became Smartcane BMP accredited in early 2019.

The image shows a screenshot of a digital form titled "Nutrient Record". The subtitle reads "Use this form to record your fertiliser and ameliorant applications." The form contains several sections with input fields and radio button options:

- Date:** A date picker set to 12/12/2019.
- End Date:** A date picker with a "Date" label and a calendar icon.
- Farm Number:** A radio button selection for "1234".
- Block numbers:** A list of radio button options: 1A, 2A, 2B, 3A, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 6C, 7A, 8A, 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A, 14A, 15A, 15B, 15C, 16A, 16B.
- Area Treated (ha):** A text input field.
- Crop Class:** Radio button options: Autumn plant, Spring plant, Ratoon, Late ratoon, Fallow.
- Application Timing:** Radio button options: Pre-Plant, At Planting, Side-dress, Other (with a text input field).
- Application Method:** Checkable options: Surface, Subsurface, Banded, Broadcast, Foliar, Other (with a text input field).
- Product Applied:** Radio button options: CK140S, CK50/50, CK50/50S, Other (with a text input field).
- Application Rate (kg/ha):** A text input field.

*"It takes no time at all to select the products you are applying, the rate and the blocks. We have our farm maps in the forms and can record the nutrient applications as we follow the recommendations for each block."*

## FOCUS ON NUTRIENT AND CHEMICAL RECORDS

Farming at Tirroan on the outskirts of Gin Gin, **Tyler and Susan Bengtson** have been using the JotForm templates for nutrient and chemical records. They've found that the system is very user-friendly and it is easy to keep records up to date.

"It takes no time at all to select the products you are applying, the rate and the blocks," Tyler said.

"We have our farm maps in the forms and can record the nutrient applications as we follow the recommendations for each block.

"The form calculates the units of N, P, K and S applied to each block so we can see that we are on track."

At the end of each cane cycle the Bengtsons do soil tests and then grow a crop of soybeans.

IPL agronomists then use the results to devise a nutrient management program for the block throughout the cane cycle, taking into account the expected nutrient gains and losses from the soybean crop.

"On the form I have listed all the products and blends that I will be applying across the farm so I just have to select the relevant items and the rate for each block," Tyler said.

"Using a rate controller I can apply up to two different prescriptions to different blocks as I travel down a row simply by the touch of a button when I go across a headland.

"Juliette has done a great job of getting us started and Susan and I are now able to adjust and fine-tune the forms ourselves.

"When we get our new nutrient recommendations it is very straightforward to add any new products or blends to the list.

"Nutrient management planning also opens up the reality of variable rate applications within blocks in the future using EM soil mapping or yield data from the harvester."

The Bengtsons also use JotForms to record their herbicide spray applications and are keen to start using the irrigation form to help monitor their energy and water use. ■



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

CANEGROWERS Mossman held a Cane Changer session for younger growers on 18 November 2019. There was a good turn-out with some partners also attending.

Mill representatives provided a seasonal and Mossman Mill update and Rebecca and Kate from MAS provided an update on local environmental projects and Smartcane BMP.

Sam from Project Cane Changer then spoke about the challenges of farming and approached the topic of succession planning in family farming. The group commented on how hard it was to start the conversation, but also how important it was to start talking and getting everyone involved in the planning process. Attendees asked for information on the importance of succession planning to be distributed within the industry and were interested in participating in a more in-depth session incorporating people with financial, legal and accounting expertise.

The company held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27 November 2019, followed by the End of Season meeting with guest speakers from Mossman Mill and CANEGROWERS Membership Engagement and Innovation Manager Matt Kealley.

Another 10 farm businesses received their Smartcane BMP Accreditations in Mossman during 2019. Of the 8,376 hectares in the Smartcane BMP database attributed to Mossman, the area now accredited is 3,141ha or 38%. There are still growers on their BMP journey, with 79% of the total area benchmarked. We can look forward to more growers joining those with accreditations in 2020.

We have approached the Office of the Great Barrier Reef in the Department of Environment and Science to run an information session in Mossman on the new Reef regulations. At the moment it looks like this session will be held on Friday 31 January 2020. Keep an eye out for details in the local newsletter.



*Pictured: (above L-R) Recently accredited Mossman growers Richard and John Padovan, with Michael, Scott and Glen Fasano; (below) CANEGROWERS' Matt Kealley (second from right) met with local Mossman growers at the recent AGM.*



## CAIRNS

As things wind down some light rain was received in the region.

Beans were delivered to members with a good uptake. CANEGROWERS Cairns Region has just acquired a direct drill bean planter which is available for members to utilise.

Pleasingly, several new Smartcane BMP accreditations were achieved recently. The AGM was recently held with members enjoying the presentations by the guest speakers.

## MACKAY

Mackay Area Committee Chairman, Joseph Borg, said the 2019 Mackay Sugar crush was positive for growers since all the Mackay Sugar crop available for harvest had successfully been taken off.

Finishing in the first week of December is not ideal and is a longer time frame than growers would like.

However, given the circumstances – both the financial and physical condition of the mills – growers will be relieved the harvest was finished with no standover.

While the pre-season estimate of 5 million tonnes was not achieved, the total of

more than 4.925 million tonnes is up from last year's crush of 4.67 million tonnes. About 685,000 tonnes of raw sugar were manufactured.

The 2019 figures for each mill are:

- Farleigh: 1,609,900 tonnes
- Marian: 1,939,300 tonnes
- Racecourse: 1,376,700 tonnes

Thanks to the Nordzucker investment, we are looking forward to a better milling performance in 2020. We have already heard about progress on this front with an investment program for all three mills in place.



## HERBERT RIVER

A charity golf day to celebrate the end of the 2019 Herbert River crushing season was a massive hit, with 120 people taking part.

The inaugural event was organised by CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Wilmar Sugar Australia and held at the Ingham Golf Club on Sunday, 8 December.

The event was organised to support men's health, with the proceeds donated to Herbert River Men's Shed.

The event was sponsored by Honeycombes, Timrith, Incitec Pivot, Vella & Russo, Tweak Gym, Hinchinbrook Hotel, Bricks Café, Performance Physio, CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Wilmar. A big thank you to Steve Marbelli and his partner Rae for their efforts in setting up.

*Pictured, from left, are Albert Bison (Sugar Terminal), Cam West (Ergon), Greg Erkkila (Herbert River Canegrower Member), Frank Scardamaglia (Herbert River Canegrower Manager), Allan Cazzulino (Ingham Travel) and Steven Marbelli (Director Herbert River Canegrowers).*



## PROSERPINE

With the 2019 harvest completed, Proserpine growers are busy preparing next year's crop. The weather has been particularly dry and a significant time and effort is being devoted to irrigation management. As a result of the high demand, Sunwater is experiencing some difficulties maintaining sufficient supplies to the lower end of the river. Irrigators are reminded to abide by Sunwater's water ordering process to ensure the system remains efficient during this critical time;

In early December, CANEGROWERS Proserpine received a visit from LNP's Agriculture Spokesman, Tony Perrett and Parliamentary Agriculture Committee member Pat Weir. Issues discussed included proposed new water metering requirements, electricity prices, Reef regulations and continued funding for Smartcane BMP.

Representatives on Sugar Services Proserpine Board travelled to Ayr for their December meeting. The trip enabled them to view the Burdekin's hot water treatment facility and discuss the potential to work together to produce the district's clean seed requirements.

*Pat Weir MP (Member for Condamine); Justin Blair; John Casey; Glenn Clarke; Tony Perrett MP (Shadow Ag Minister)*

Harvest weather was mostly fine and dry which was a bonus in getting the crop off quickly, efficiently and safely, with just one week's crushing lost due to rain in weeks 5 and 6.

It also meant that crushing CCS was up to a bit over 14 on average, compared with last year's 14.33. From Week 15, CCS remained around 15 CCS throughout the final weeks.

Joseph said that all things considered, growers had a better year to look forward to next year.



*Pictured: The last blocks of Mackay's 2019 crush were harvested at Balnagowan on 2 December*

*Continues next page* ➤



# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## PLANE CREEK

Plane Creek's 2019 cane crush finished on Monday 25 November.

Chairman of CANEGROWERS Mackay and Plane Creek mill area grower, Kevin Borg, said growers were relieved to finish the harvest, even if later than the ideal due to technical issues at the mill.

Harvesting conditions were welcome – dry practically throughout. This has seen the estimate of 1.27 million tonnes achieved which is an improvement on last year's 1.142 million tonnes.

It was slightly lower (30,000 tonnes) than the original estimate due to the run of dry weather.

At the time of writing in December, growers were looking to the skies to open to ensure the 2020 crop can get away. To date, rainfall has been patchy throughout the region. Ratoons and plant cane look reasonable but are behind where they should be in terms of growth.

Average tonnes per hectare in the growing district were around 72 t/ha, an increase on last year's 66.5T/h, which was a reduction on the five-year average of 75T/h.

It was unfortunate that Plane Creek mill didn't crush any cane during Week 19 because of a shredder vibration. The lost week of crushing added to an already low crushing time availability figure.

Hopefully, these major breakdowns are a thing of the past as growers are concerned that additional cane coming in from the Clairview Racecourse Projects farm will compound the problem and make it difficult for the miller to maintain a crushing season of reasonable length.

The ideal season for sugarcane in our region is from the middle of June to the first week in November. Growers expect the miller to achieve a milling capacity to process the crop within these parameters to ensure income on-farm can be maximised.

About 185,000 tonnes of raw sugar were manufactured.



## ISIS

Long term water reliability and security is of high concern in the Isis District given the issues surrounding Paradise Dam and the area being drought declared.

Growers have serious concerns around the structural integrity of the dam and the real possibility of reduced water allocations into the future during the investigation period.

Mark Mammino, CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman and the Bundaberg Irrigation Advisory Committee, has been leading the cross-industry coordination and advocacy around this vitally important issue to the economic viability of the region.

Continuing drought conditions in the south has meant heavy irrigation burdens to growers and morale is starting to suffer.

Many growers are in the process of making rotational cropping decisions with some peanuts, soybeans and forage crops already planted are doing well. Should there be rain we expect more growers to plant in the new year.

As part of the Isis 20:20 Productivity and Profitability initiative, Smartcane BMP, Nutrient Management Plans

and Individualised Productivity plans are being developed with growers in an integrated way to ensure work that is done is streamlined.

The team works closely with growers to customise record keeping solutions that meet grower's needs with a particular innovative use of jotforms. Isis 20:20 is a combined effort of CANEGROWERS Isis, Isis Productivity Ltd and Isis Central Sugar Mill and progress is being measured in terms of incremental practice improvements live in the field using the AgKonect system.

The district has engaged irrigation agronomist Pat Daley (Daley Water Services) as part of Isis 20:20 to undertake farm irrigation/energy assessments and crop water use efficiency work which has been timely and realising practical results for growers.

This will be a particularly important activity moving forward if water allocations are reduced.

Another key focus is the Regional Cross Industry extension project and associated activity led by CANEGROWERS Isis Manager, Angela Williams.

## BUNDABERG

As of 1 December 2019, Bundaberg growers are required by law to keep more records of farming operations. As you are aware, we opposed the reef regulations for the Burnett Mary catchments, but were unsuccessful.

This is the start of a three-year implementation process in which we will need to prove we are doing the right thing in regard to pesticide and fertiliser applications. To assist growers with record keeping CANEGROWERS Bundaberg has created some templates that can be used as well as having copies of a chemical record book. To get a copy either call into the office or call Sam at reception and a copy will be posted to you.

If you have concerns about the regulations or how you are to meet them please ring either Matt or Dale on 4151 2555.



## MARYBOROUGH

An emerging issue for the district is the encroachment of tree crops over the past six months. We will experience losses to area under cane in the order of 920 hectares, and production loss of around 40,000 tonnes, following a series of sales in the Bidwill area closing off very soon.

Water storage for the district is an ongoing issue. During the Federal Election a commitment to fund an off-stream storage facility was given and this is gradually gaining momentum with the support of Sunwater to seek further funding and progress to a reality in the coming years.

Upcoming events - Maryborough Cane Productivity Services is taking a tour group of 34 to Tasmania on 12 January for a three-day, action-packed investigation of farming methods. Participants will also visit a few museums, eat some very good steak and learn about glow worms.

We're still waiting on some much-needed rain for the district, with the Fraser Coast, Gympie and Sunshine Coast council areas now drought declared. Growers are encouraged to take a look at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website for a list of drought assistance available.



## ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point season wrapped up on 4 December 2019 after 18.5 long weeks of crushing caused by the numerous cogeneration breakdowns and industrial action.

Total tonnes crushed were 193,931 at a season-average CCS of 13.58. Of these recorded tonnes, 1,776 tonnes were too stale to crush but were supplied as cattle feed and mulch.

The two top performing varieties for both CCS and % crushed are as follows: Q208 – CCS 14.10, 12.86%; Q232 – CCS 13.49, 23.67%.

Due to the stressed crop and high demand for cattle feed, there were significant amounts of cane cut for forage this season, which was otherwise unmillable.

Next season's crop is also very stressed due to the extended drought and is in desperate need of rain. We are looking forward to some storm rain to enhance growth.

At the date of writing we have had a maximum of 600mm of rain across the district during 2019, with the last decent rain in October at approximately 35mm.





# **WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

---

**CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE**



## Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager  
CANEGROWERS

### Regulator reviews imidacloprid: an urgent signal for improving farm practice

Imidacloprid is a critically important pesticide for cane farming. It is the only effective and affordable active ingredient for reducing the impact of cane grubs.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) can decide to review the current use and label conditions for an approved farm chemical when there is new evidence suggesting that the risks to human health, the environment, animal or crop safety, or trade are different to the assumptions made when the chemical was approved.

In announcing its review of imidacloprid (and other related chemicals), the APVMA stated that 'new scientific information raised concerns for some uses, including where the potential exists for contamination of aquatic areas via runoff, and in applications where spray drift and adverse impacts on non-target species were considered to be likely'.

It is no coincidence that this review follows water quality monitoring over several years that shows exceedances of imidacloprid in waterways that drain sugarcane farms. In particular, exceedances have been a problem in the Proserpine River, Pioneer River and Sandy Creek in the central region, and to a lesser extent in the Tully district.

The threshold value for imidacloprid that will ensure freshwater organisms are not harmed is 0.11 µg/L. This is the same as 0.11 parts per billion.

Not only have waterways in the central region had some samples within a year exceeding this level, but they

appear to have periods of persistent exceedance. For aquatic organisms it is persistent exposure, rather than occasional exposure, that is of most concern.

What needs to be done?

Sugar Research Australia studies with liquid product have recently confirmed that there is little risk of loss of imidacloprid to waterways if the label conditions for application are followed.

In other words, it is not a problem with the chemical itself, but a problem with how some growers (or their contractors) are applying the product.

Correct depth of application is one key factor that reduces the risk of loss to the environment. Shallow application must be avoided.

To reduce the chances of future restrictions on the use of this very important chemical, growers need to ensure that it is being applied correctly.

There is no shortage of advice and information available including the product label itself.

The major chemical suppliers are working with SRA, Farmacist and other local advisors to support growers but growers need to take the initiative on this. ■

It is not a problem with the chemical itself, but a problem with how some growers (or their contractors) are applying the product.





## Burn Ashburner

Senior Manager - Industry  
CANEGROWERS

### How did 2019 stack up?

---

It doesn't seem like long ago that I was writing about our hopes and expectations for 2019. So, how did they stack up?

As 2019 dawned, I was hoping that the roll-out of SRA's adoption strategy would see the significant investment in extension and adoption, by both the sugar industry and government, coordinated and focused to provide an improved service that better enabled growers to adopt practice change.

To some extent this has happened, with the development of the Sugar Industry Adoption and Investment Strategy. However, extension and adoption is a slow process and there is still a long way to go. The Strategy is a living document and process and I'm hopeful that as an industry we can keep making improvements.

I also expected the proposed new harmonised National Agricultural Vehicle Notice would be finalised, giving growers the same (or slightly improved) access to the road network, but in a format that enabled growers to more easily understand and comply with the regulations.

The *National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice 2019* was gazetted in May 2019 and achieved what I expected in terms of access.

However, a 12-month phase-in period has meant growers have been able to continue traveling under the old regulations and have had limited need to fully understand the new Notice.

As the end of the phase-in period approaches, growers will need to get up to speed with its conditions.

Thankfully, the new Notice is easier to understand than the previous collection of rules and CANEGROWERS will provide members with further opportunities to be informed.

At the beginning of 2019, I was also expecting that there would be an updated Cane Burning Notice with conditions which improved safety and allowed growers to comply.

This was more difficult to achieve than expected, due to the different views and needs within the sugarcane industry although there was a clear recognition that the old Notice was effectively inoperable.

The Notification for Burning of Sugar Cane was gazetted in May 2019 providing clearer conditions and processes for growers to follow to enable them to comply.

There is still some work to do and it is expected that an improved Notification will be in place for the start of the 2020 crush.

As always with cane burning, I recommend that growers get a permit if they are in any doubt about their ability to comply with the Notification.

Although not the most exciting topics, these issues are critical to the running of members' businesses and CANEGROWERS will continue to work to get sensible and safe regulations where possible.

All the best for 2020. ■

" The Notification for Burning of Sugar Cane was gazetted in May 2019 providing clearer conditions and processes for growers to follow. "

## Warren Males

Head - Economics  
CANEGROWERS



### 2020 brings reason for optimism

We start the New Year with some strength in sugar prices and newfound optimism in the market outlook.

In the last quarter of 2019, sugar prices increased by more than 22%. Sugar was the second-best performing soft commodity and the third best performer across the wider commodity market.

The much-awaited change in market sentiment has been driven by an outlook for poor northern hemisphere harvests. The beet harvest in Europe fell below expectations and the US beet harvest was hampered by wet and freezing weather. Northern hemisphere cane production is also expected to be well down on last year.

Most analysts are predicting sharply lower Indian sugar production, a decline in Thai and Chinese production and poor cane crops in the US, Mexico, Pakistan and Vietnam.

Combining this outlook with expected modest growth in consumption, there is widespread agreement amongst sugar analysts that 2020 will see the first global sugar supply deficit since 2018 and 2019. According to some, the deficit could be 8 million tonnes or more.

While the outlook for 2020 prices is certainly more constructive, it is important to keep in mind (at least) three potential drags on the market.

1. There are plenty of sugar stocks in the world: As prices rise, physical exports of Indian sugar (old and new season) become increasingly viable.
2. Current prices are attractive for producers: Brazilian, Thai and Central American mills are likely to see emerging prices attractive for pricing their 2020 production.

3. The attractiveness of sugar compared with ethanol to Brazil's mills: Sugar looks increasingly attractive in Brazil at prices above US\$14.5c/lb. As prices rise, expect to hear more about sugar prices at 'ethanol parity'.

Because these pricing opportunities may be short-lived, the challenge for growers in managing their price exposure for the longer term will be to take advantage of pricing opportunities as they emerge.

A common strategy for growers who know their cost of production is to set price targets two or three years ahead, scaling up their commitments as prices rise. These same growers give their preferred marketer maximum opportunity to manage any remaining uncommitted sugar in-season.

Understanding production costs, taking advantage of opportunities and time are essential elements of price risk management.

While 2020 brings reason for optimism, it is also likely to bring opportunity for those ready to grasp it.

The CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service is designed to provide members with market insights. Check it out at: [www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service)

*This article contains basic general comments only and not financial advice. Marketing and pricing decisions should not be based on these comments. Readers should consider their own circumstances and take their own financial, legal and accounting advice as required. ■*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Males', written in a cursive style.

" In the last quarter of 2019, sugar prices increased by more than 22%. Sugar was the second best performing soft commodity. "



# STRAYING LIVESTOCK

## INCREASING COMPLAINTS

With the worsening drought conditions, I am receiving more complaints about straying cattle damaging sugarcane crops.

I have recently advised CANEGROWERS members in the Herbert River, Burdekin and Maryborough districts about steps they could take to prevent cattle from trespassing, to force their grazier neighbour to fix boundary fencing and to potentially recover losses for damage to crops.

## LIVESTOCK OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRAYING ANIMALS

The general proposition is that stock owners have a duty and a legal obligation to keep their livestock enclosed and from trespassing on someone else's property. Stock owners are generally liable for any damage, such as damage to crops, that their stock cause by such trespassing.

## PROPERTY OWNER RIGHTS

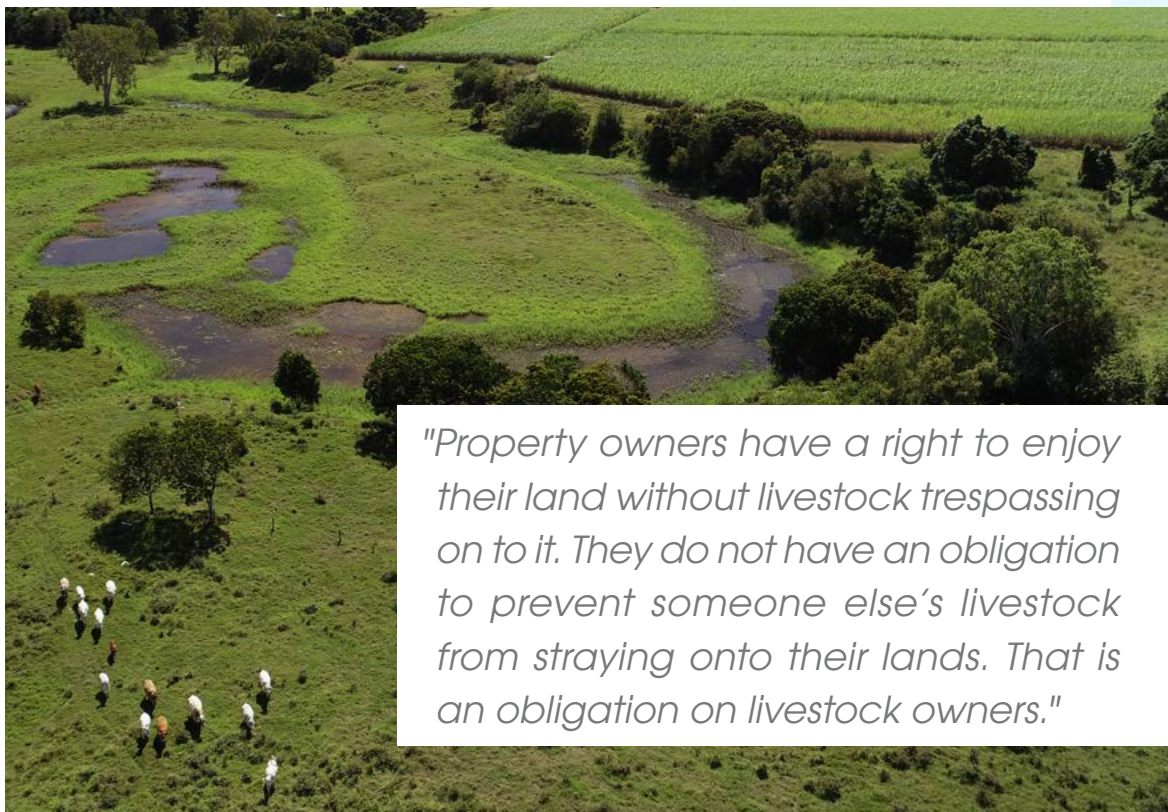
Property owners have a right to enjoy their land without livestock trespassing on to it.

They do not have an obligation to prevent someone else's livestock from straying onto their lands. That is an obligation on livestock owners.

If the property owners suffer loss or damage as a result of livestock trespassing on the property owners' land, then generally the property owners are entitled to recover compensation/damages from the livestock owners.

Opposite are some options for growers whose lands are subjected to livestock straying.

To check out the new Legal Services page on the CANEGROWERS website containing a member-only archive of legal articles on topics of interest visit: <https://bit.ly/2MlyAUv>. If further information or advice is required, please consult your local CANEGROWERS office or contact me on the CANEGROWERS Free call number 1800 177 159.



*"Property owners have a right to enjoy their land without livestock trespassing on to it. They do not have an obligation to prevent someone else's livestock from straying onto their lands. That is an obligation on livestock owners."*



By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor

## DISCUSSION

Try to resolve the issue of livestock trespass through discussion directly with the livestock owner.

## MEDIATION

If direct discussions are not possible or fail, consider using the Disputes Resolution Centres administered through the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General.

This dispute resolution system is free and is designed to resolve disputes between neighbours without going to court through mediation involving the relevant parties with an independent mediator.

The mediator is appointed locally through the Disputes Centre and conducts a meeting between the parties. The mediator's role is to bring the parties together with the mediator and try to work out, by discussion, some way of resolving the problem that the parties agree to and can live with.

Dispute Centres are located in Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

## LETTER OF DEMAND – CANEGROWERS ASSISTANCE

Growers could consider sending a formal letter of demand, either from the grower or local CANEGROWERS office or a lawyer, to the livestock owners.

The letter could give notice of trespass and demand preventative action be taken, in default of which other steps will be considered.

Such a letter might apply sufficient pressure to have the livestock owners take the necessary steps to prevent further trespass.

## LOCAL COUNCIL

Most local government bodies have powers, through their Local By-Laws, to operate a pound and to capture and detain straying livestock. Councils usually prioritise complaints about cattle straying on roads given the safety aspect.

Councils have the power to issue compliance notices for fences to be repaired. Lodging a complaint with council may assist.

Often, however, when the problem occurs directly between adjoining cane and cattle properties, councils tend to let the neighbours sort it out themselves.

## IMPOUNDING

In some cases growers themselves can capture and hold the livestock and claim against the livestock owner the costs and expenses of doing so, and any damage caused.

## POLICE/STOCK SQUAD/RSPCA

A complaint could be made to the local police and also the stock squad officer, through the local police station.

Also, under the *Animal Care and Protection Act*, the RSPCA and relevant department officers have the right to take action, including the seizing of animals, if the animals are in danger or risk of harm.

If the cattle are straying on public lands or gaining access to your farm from the road, this may be an option.

## LEGAL ACTION

Livestock owners are liable for any damage caused by their trespassing cattle. Growers can take legal action in court to recover damages from the livestock owners.

A claim could also be made for an injunction (binding court order) to require the livestock owner under court order to take all necessary steps to prevent livestock continuing to trespass.

Any such court action would have to be carefully considered as it can be expensive, stressful and time consuming.

Good evidence of the trespass, and clear evidence of the identity and ownership of the livestock, would have to be established as part of proving the case. Photos, videos, eyewitnesses are also useful to mount a strong case.

## SELF-HELP

Self-help measures, such as erecting a suitable barrier or a fence to prevent the livestock coming on, might be considered.

Whilst the growers are not at fault, and have no legal obligation or duty to keep the livestock out of their property, in some cases, self-help may practically and commercially be an option to consider.

## DIVIDING FENCE

Under the *Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act*, a dispute about the construction, maintenance, and contribution to costs of, a suitable dividing fence, if unable to be resolved by the neighbours through discussion and negotiation, can be resolved by order of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

As a general rule, cane growers are not required to contribute to the cost of erecting or maintaining a suitable dividing fence.

This is because various courts and tribunals have consistently found that growers derive no benefit from a dividing fence, and in many cases, such a dividing fence acts as a detriment to cane growing activities.

It may be possible, subject to the particular facts and circumstances, under the Act for growers to make application in the Tribunal for an order that a proper stockproof fence be constructed and the cost be the sole responsibility of the grazier neighbour, not the grower.

## PROTECTION

Property owners have the legal right to use such force as is reasonably necessary to defend themselves and their property.

However, the shooting of straying livestock is likely to be regarded as using excessive force and may well be unlawful. ■



# Growers - the life blood of our industry

It's been a busy few months of CANEGROWERS district AGMs and I had the opportunity to attend a number of them to talk with growers, hear their views and listen to their ideas. For the most part, I got the feeling that members are happy to put 2019 behind them.

Being in the Membership Engagement role, I generally talked with growers about the work that CANEGROWERS does for them and about how the district and Brisbane offices work together to support their businesses and families.

I also touched on some of the activities and initiatives CANEGROWERS invests in, as well as the issues we're dealing on behalf of members.

A couple of areas in particular created the most interest – these were the world sugar price and education around Australia's sugar industry in schools.

## Sugarcane in schools

Growers have often said that CANEGROWERS should do more to get our message into schools so students understand a bit about sugarcane growing and how growers support the environment.

So it was nice to show growers that we have engaged with schools regularly through the GBRMPA Reef Guardian schools' program, visits by individual growers to classrooms and participation in an annual rural discovery day held at the Brisbane showgrounds.

CANEGROWERS is now working with the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) to get sugarcane into the national curriculum.

All of this information was well received.

## Sugar price

As members of CANEGROWERS know, one of the services we offer is the negotiation of Cane Supply Agreements.

We work to ensure CANEGROWERS members get the best conditions and payment for their sugarcane.

Part of this member benefit is that we also ensure that CSA conditions are followed.

However, being price takers, growers remain at the mercy of the world sugar market and at present, the market is distorted by the India's

move to export subsidised domestic raw sugar.

CANEGROWERS has, with ASMC, supported Australian Government action to bring India to account in the World Trade Organisation and this action is being supported by other sugar exporting countries.

Representatives from CANEGROWERS have been in London and Geneva this year, working with the Global Sugar Alliance and International Sugar Organisation on this issue.

This is all part of what we do for growers and the industry.

## Your views

One of my favourite parts of any district AGM is the end - when the formalities are over and I get to chat directly with growers.

Sometimes, I cop a spray and sometimes I just get a nod. More often than not, I get a smile which leads into a question: "Hey Matt, what do you think about...?"

I learned a long time ago it's not about what I think. Usually the conversation ebbs and flows from the thing that is top of mind, to some cane-related issue, then to nostalgia and back. Mostly, it's about their farm and their family.

To me, that's the true value of CANEGROWERS. I'm proud to represent you and find ways to support you at a local, national and international level.

CANEGROWERS offers a place to belong. A place where you feel you can talk with other growers in the sugarcane growing family.

I know we have our challenges. Sometimes we have our wins and sometimes we dust ourselves off and get ready for the next round. Yet we're here for you - working together, for you, to grow your business and your industry.

I look forward to what 2020 brings.

There's plenty to do, but mostly I look forward to kicking some dirt and getting a question "Hey Matt, what do you think about...?" ■



By Matt Kealley,  
CANEGROWERS Senior  
Manager - Membership  
Engagement & Innovation

## Painting in the Paddock



Women in Sugar Herbert group decided to do something a little different this year for their Christmas breakup and they attended a 'Painting in the Paddock' afternoon run by local artist **Kristina Fontana**. A great afternoon of painting, antipasto and drinks was enjoyed by all who attended. Despite Waterfall Creek Falls being a little dry at this time of the year, imaginations and interpretations were allowed to run wild in a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Congratulations to **Dominik Cvjetanovic** who won a lecturette competition in the Burdekin region with an impassioned speech on the relationship between cane farming and the Great Barrier Reef.

"He spoke about how cane farmers are not killing the Great Barrier Reef and he won," proud mum and cane grower **Michelle Cvjetanovic** said. "It was a heartfelt speech and he did it with great passion representing all cane growers. All who witnessed agreed that he deserved the win and said that they were persuaded that farmers are not killing the Reef."

# LED Lights

Work through the night!

1400 to 16200 Lumens!

Aluminium Alloy Housing

## 1800 463 457

AH 0417 662 137

neils.com.au



# Classifieds

## FIRST 5 LINES FREE\* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) or email us at [ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Next deadline is **23 January 2020**.

\* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

### Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales



2012 John Deere 3520 Track Harvester, 9 litre engine, 8 blade chopper standard toppler. Greenstar GPS. Well maintained.

2006 CAMECO 3510 Track Harvester JD 8.1 Litre. 8 blade chopper, standard toppler. Good condition for age.

2005 CAMECO 3510 Wheel Harvester, JD 8.1 Litre new engine, 3,500 hrs. SAI chopper motor conversion 8 blade chopper.

1997 CASE Track Harvester Komatsu 325 HP engine 6,000 hrs. 15" x 8 blade, raised cab with tilt kit, standard toppler.

1995 CAMECO Track Harvester 325 HP CAT engine 1,500 hrs rebuilt engine. Very good condition for age.

BSM 6 Tonne Side Tipper, Single axle unit 23x1x26 tyres.

NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500. Rubber belt cane feed. Immediate delivery.

2x TOFT 7 tonne Hi-Lift side tipping trailers. Remote hydraulic's. 23x1x30 tyres on single axles.

Whole Topper late model CASE as new complete with hydraulic valve.

NEW! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS. Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

IN STOCK NOW 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas. New seal plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.

**Graham Twyford**  
48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay  
Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696  
[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)  
[www.gtmachinerysales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinerysales.com.au)

### Mossman-Tully

Custom Built Over Row Sprayer, Air cabin 6970 Kubota Tractor on top with 2x 1150lt tanks separate pumps, 6 mths Rego \$45,000. Kipor 8.5kva Diesel Generator, Electric start \$2,500. Ph: Bill 0409271016.

3x 2009 John Deere 7630 Articulated Tractors with 14 tonne Carta Elevator Tipplers. Will consider selling Elevator Tipper separately from Tractor. Tully Area. Ph: 0418 181646.

2004 Cameco Harvester VGC \$150,000; HBM Billet Planter GC \$22,000; Fert Box 3T Side Stool Dresser \$4,400, Draw Bar on Wheels. GST incl. Ph: 0427655168.

Fiat 90-90DT tractor, mid to late 1980s, 5,447hrs, Rego C 57406, spent \$7,500-\$8,000 on it over past 18 months including full re-wiring, reconditioned injector, injector pump, radiator & water pump. \$10,000. Ph Brian: 0427667964.

Coil tyne plant cane hiller/tool bar implement. HR 120 inch Howard rotary hoe. Drawbar type baglifter. Hi-ab 8m one tonne crane with PTO pump and reservoir. POA. Ph Jamie: 0427089009.

2017 CH 570 for sale at end of crushing. Well maintained, full service history available. Ph Brian: 0427667964.

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs, All bath bearings \$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres. 3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

**Johnny Farming Company**  
Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John) or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)  
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

4T HBM Side Tipper, Good Condition. Ph: 0428100564.

Second hand loader tyres – 20.5/25 16 ply. Mulgrave area. Ph: 0407160673.

1x Massey Ferguson 6475. 1x Massey Ferguson 5465. 6 tonne side tipping haulout tractors. VGC. Ph: 0740562063.

Southern cross 100-65-315 high pressure pump with 90kw weg motor in good condition. Ph Frank: 0417703230.

### Herbert River-Burdekin

2x 2007 JCB Fastrac 3230 with 2007 Carta 14 tonne Tipper. 2008 New Holland T7040 with 1999 Carta 14 tonne Tipper. 2010 John Deere 3520 Track Harvester. Ph: 0417077343.

JD 6920 2004 model 50km quad box and 14t Carta tipper good condition. Located Ingham. Ph: 0429402248.

2003 V6 Commodore Executive VY Sedan. 210,000kms. VGC. RWC. \$2,500. Ph AH: 0747773181.

### Mackay-Proserpine

Bean Planter. 3 x 2 row Covington Box Seeder. Hydraulic drive, 3 point linkage, Liquid inoculant injection. Assortment of seed plates included. Has been used to plant Soy Beans & Mung Beans with excellent results. Ph: 0428761324.

Cane Brake Pusher. Good condition. \$100. Ph: 0457551626.

JCB Fastrac 185-65 ; 95 model 200 hp motor: double 6t side tipper on rockers & springs. \$66,000 inc. GST. JCB Fastrac 3170: 2005 model connected to 14t Carta bin 1996 model; new tyres all round. \$99,000 inc. GST. Ph: 49588092 or 49588050.

Massey Ferguson 35, 3-Cyl diesel. 4 new tyres & has been restored. Ph: 0407733030.

Case Cane Harvester 2016, multiplier attached, new track chains & elevator chain. JD 7700 & Newton Elv Bin; Claas Tractor; 2 Side Tippers with Trailers; Iveco Trakker 6x6 2013 Truck with Side Tipper & Body Side Tipper; Nissan UD 2006 with Side Tipper & Truck Body; Isuzu NPR Service Truck 2002, Tool Boxes & Compressor; Mahindra Pick Up Twin Cab 2013 Ute with Steel Tray. Proserpine. Ph: 0408755453 or 0438755459.

1996 Toft Track 7700. 325 HP Komatsu engine. Swing out radiator. Extra pump for choppers \$65,000. 1x Ford 8210 and 2x Ford 8700 with Charlie Galea built 6 ton Tipper Bins with apron. \$25,000 each. Ph: 0428969651.

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay). 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

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

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay). 6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, hyd. adj. fronts 1.5m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All GC. Ph: 0427617807.

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

New Holland T5.95 Electro Command 4WD, 99hp, Genuine 61 hrs, 16 x 16 Semi Powershift, 480/65 R24 Fronts, 600/65 R34 Rears \$71,500 Inc., Balance of New Tractor Warranty - Sep 2020. Ph: 0428236165.

## Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Trailco hard hose 300m rung, 110mm hose, fast return gun. Good working condition. Diesel pump and anchor tractor available. Ph: 0437266711.

Austil Soybean planter, 6 row vacuum planter with 2x 220 L water tanks for inoculant injection. VGC. Will plant no till or worked ground. John Deere boxes. \$22,000 incl GST. Ph: 0409632656.

2007 John Deere track harvester. Engine, fuel pump, injectors, electrical harness done 1200hrs. 1999, 1994 & 1992 elevating 9 tonne powerhauls. Ph: 0407629427.

Horwood Bagshaw 6 row vacuum soya bean planter and fertiliser bins \$12,000.

Howard Rotary Hoe HR 40, 120 inches with roller \$6,000. Both in good condition. Ph: 0438997118.

P&H trash incorporator fertiliser box, plastic bin, stainless steel worm \$10,000 + GST. 100" heavy duty powered rotary hoe \$6,000 + GST. Ph: 0417 617 084.

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Sleys and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit

Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427598333.

## Wanted

2 Tyres 12.4 x 24. Tread wear is not an issue. Ph: 0428761549.

125/350 Hard Hose Irrigator. Ph Steve: 0419705530.

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

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–December
	09.12.19	16.12.19		
Mossman	0	0	2493	2249
Mareeba AP	2	7	646	911
Cairns	0	21	1989	2001
Mt Sophia	0	46	2910	3346
Babinda	0	0	2727	4236
Innisfail	5	15	3013	3559
Tully	6	30	2300	4082
Cardwell	2	27	1974	2116
Lucinda	26	26	2318	2101
Ingham	0	29	2691	2032
Abergowrie	2	33	1946	1790
Townsville	0	0.2	1761	1117
Ayr DPI	0	0	953	932
Proserpine	5	5	1450	1379
Mirani	2	20	1453	1493
Mackay	0	12	1082	1562
Sarina (Plane Ck)	1	0	1399	1725
Bundaberg	0	0	307	1007
Childers South	2	1	311	875
Maryborough	0	29	545	1153
Tewantin	0	14	1026	1697
Eumundi	0	18	562	1668
Nambour	0	1	1003	1694
Woongoolba	0	0	613	1342
Murwillumbah	0	9	557	1573
Ballina	1	9	927	1770
Woodburn	0	0	275	1358



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.



## Classifieds

### Positions Vacant

Murray Harvesting seeks experienced Harvester Operator for 2020 Season & beyond, January start. Full package of benefits on offer. Contract is 120,000 tonnes. Good farm layout, high productivity, excellent machinery & resources. Please send resume to [accounts@doreandco.com.au](mailto:accounts@doreandco.com.au) or phone Brian Dore on 0427667964 to arrange an interview.

2019 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

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

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 0747774633 or 0408608664.

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 0408880724.

### 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

Are you a CANEGROWERS member and want a **FREE** electronic version of *Australian Canegrower* delivered to your email inbox every fortnight?

To receive your free electronic copy, email: [editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:editor@CANEGROWERS.com.au)



CANEGROWERS

## CANEGROWERS POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE \$30 EACH

VISIT [WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU](http://WWW.CANEGROWERS.COM.AU) AND GO TO THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE TO DOWNLOAD THE ORDER FORM



## Want to sweeten your sugar profits?



**Information & education**  
Workshops, videos and newsletter updates



**Expert insight**  
Price and production forecasting



**Independent service**  
Does not favour one marketer over another



CANEGROWERS  
MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

### Sugar Market Updates now available

CANEGROWERS members can use their member number to access exclusive monthly video market updates and supporting documents online now. Visit: [www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service)

# Farm for sale in village setting.



## 50 Scott St, Halifax, North Qld

Fertile cane farm. Potential for other crops, grazing or tourism/caravan park or retirement village (STCA).

First time offered in 90 years. Farm house is 200 metres from Halifax's main street with its supermarket, fishing store, butcher, hotel, chemist, doctor's surgery and service station. Only 400m to two primary schools, the police station and two churches.

140km north of Townsville and 15 min drive from Ingham, between two popular tropical getaways - Lucinda and Taylors Beach. Enjoy easy access to the Herbert River, Halifax Bay, Orpheus and Pelorus Islands.

Three titles. Multiple access points from Scott St and Anderssen St. Rail siding adjoins farm.

### Area:

58.7 acres

55.03 acres under cane

### Enquiries to

Robert Carey,  
Carey Group  
(07) 4760 5900  
robert.carey  
@careygroup.com.au

For sale by tender,  
closing **Friday,**  
**28 February 2020**



# INNOVATION STEWARDSHIP FARM BUSINESS

SAVE THE DATE  
**24 - 25**  
MARCH 2020

at

**BUNDABERG  
MULTIPLEX**

Sport & Convention Centre  
1 Civic Ave, Bundaberg West QLD 4670

**REGISTER AT:**  
[www.nextgenstepup.com](http://www.nextgenstepup.com)

**CASE IH**  
AGRICULTURE

**Case IH StepUp!**  
FARMING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE 2020

**WELCOME FUNCTION  
SPEAKER SESSIONS  
TRADE HALL EXHIBITION  
FIELD TRIP  
CONFERENCE DINNER**  
at the Bundaberg Rum Distillery

COME AND JOIN A  
SHOWCASE OF INNOVATION  
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR  
NEXT GEN FARMERS IN A  
CHANGING CLIMATE

## CONTACT

 Ainsley Gatley | **Conference Coordinator**  
[nextgenfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:nextgenfarmers@gmail.com) | 0488 197 400

 Gerard Puglisi | **Next Gen Officer**  
[gtpuglisifarming@bigpond.com](mailto:gtpuglisifarming@bigpond.com) | 0428 988 136

 **next  
gen**

ACFA: Harvesting the Next Gen