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Find out the latest with the industry's two-page fall armyworm factsheet.

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32 Koumala growers take mixed species fallows to the next level

Plane Creek growers Mark and Patsy Wheeler have seen great improvements in their soil since they started using different mixes of fallow crops to treat particular issues in individual paddocks. Now they're going one step further and growing mixed species in their plant cane as an inter-row cover crop.

COVER IMAGE: Eton grower Philip Blackburn has planted new HB1 varieties of soybean in his fallow.

CONTENTS IMAGE: Innisfail grower Kylie Farinelli appeared in eight episodes of a reality cooking show.



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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

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 42 Number 3

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 12 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250

Ag leaders discuss opportunities and concerns with UK/EU trade deals

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and Head of Economics **Warren Males** joined a National Farmers' Federation delegation to Canberra in February.

The group met with Federal Trade Minister **Simon Birmingham** to discuss opportunities for Australian producers in any free trade agreements negotiated with the UK and EU.

Ag leaders also expressed concerns at the EU's refusal to fully open its market to Australian ag exports.

"We made it clear to the minister that sugar must be included in any free trade agreements," Mr Schembri said.

"A complete shut out of sugar or a last minute token offer will not be acceptable and will actually do a lot of damage to the Australian sugar industry."

Mr Schembri also raised Australia's WTO action against Indian subsidies during the roundtable discussion.

"The delegation gave CANEGROWERS the floor to highlight the enormous damage wreaked on the Australian sugar industry by Indian export subsidies," Mr Schembri said.

"The minister was totally committed to ensuring that this matter is dealt with by the WTO, saying the



Australian Government is adamant that there are international trade rules that must be adhered to and clearly India is in breach of its WTO obligations."

Indonesian deal done

The long-awaited Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was finally ratified by the Indonesian Parliament in February.

The agreement will see a significant reduction in tariffs on Australian sugar, putting Australia on equal footing with Thailand.

"Indonesia is a very important market for our sugar," Mr Schembri said.

"Reducing the tariff on Australian sugar to 5% will make our product more attractive to Indonesian food manufacturers and refiners."

"We had been at a disadvantage since Thai exporters were granted a

5% tariff in 2015 while ours stayed at 12.5%.

"That tariff preference to Thailand essentially left us with a \$400 million headache.

"Now we can compete again on our strengths – quality, reliability and year-round availability."

Peru FTA

Meanwhile, the Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement also came into force last month, opening another modest market for Australian sugar.

The new access for Australian raw sugar starts at 30,000 tonnes per year, increasing to 60,000 tonnes in year six and 90,000 tonnes in year 18. ■

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri (back - third from right) and Head of Economics Warren Males (back - fourth from left) met with Trade Minister Simon Birmingham (centre) as part of a NFF trade delegation to Canberra.

MSF sells Tableland farms

Australia's largest cane grower, MSF Sugar, has announced the sales of its Tableland farms, citing, "... the current regulatory environment for primary producers, market conditions and operational requirements ..." as one of the reasons behind its move.

In a letter to employees on 21 February, MSF Director **Krisda Monthienvichienchai** said it had been, "necessary for MSF Sugar to reconsider whether it is able to continue to maintain ownership (and continue to farm) its extensive landholdings in the Tablelands".

Part of the Thai-owned Mitr Phol Group, MSF Sugar operates four mills at Maryborough, Mulgrave, South Johnstone and Tableland. It also has considerable farming operations in Maryborough and Innisfail.

It's unclear how many jobs will be affected by the sale of the Tableland farms. ■

New feral pig chief

Dr Heather Channon has been appointed as Australia's first national feral pig management coordinator.

There are an estimated 24 million feral pigs in Australia, costing the agricultural sector about \$14.5 million a year.

Dr Channon will hold a roundtable meeting in Canberra later this month to bring together industry, governments, researchers and other stakeholders to deliver a national approach to feral pig management.

Feral pigs can spread disease and are a huge issue for farmers, with significant time and money invested to control them. ■



Water price hikes put regional economies at risk

CANEGROWERS has urged the Queensland Government to freeze water prices for farmers pending a review and resolution of significant issues not addressed in a recent report.

"The recommendation from Queensland Competition Authority that irrigators pay significantly higher prices for water 2020-2024 has left cane growers and other farmers reeling," CEO Dan Galligan said.

"Growers accessing water from the Pioneer River channel scheme in the Mackay region face an increase in their fixed (Part A) charges of 48% over four years. It will be a 51% increase if irrigators are asked to pay for dam safety upgrades!

"In the Bundaberg region, water bills will go up 28.6% and in the Burdekin they'll climb 17%.

"This level of extra impost, on top of high electricity costs, is beyond the

capacity of farmers to absorb. What will happen is that they will turn off their pumps, meaning crops will underperform and there's the real risk that irrigation schemes will fail.

"A price freeze is a practical and sensible step at this point to ensure that issues to secure the economic future of irrigated agriculture and the regional communities that rely on it are properly considered."

CANEGROWERS has written a five-page letter to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Dr Anthony Lynham detailing the issues the organisation raised with the QCA during its consultation process. These issues remain unanswered and were largely ignored by the QCA in its determination to recommend these massive price rises.

"Among these issues is the attempt to unfairly saddle farmers with what could

be quite significant dam safety costs," Mr Galligan said.

"Farmers did not construct dams and are not the only ones to benefit from them – so why should they now be liable for any safety issues?"

"QCA did not respond to this issue when it was raised during the consultation process, nor did it address questions CANEGROWERS raised about SunWater passing electricity cost changes, especially when it finds savings, to growers

"CANEGROWERS is disappointed that important issues raised by farmers with the QCA have been ignored.

"It's time to hit pause on this process and until they are properly assessed." ■



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SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO FALL ARMYWORM



Fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is now considered established in Australia. It has been detected by Biosecurity Queensland at two sites on mainland Australia, including most recently on a farming site in Queensland's northwest Gulf region. It has not yet been detected in Australia on sugarcane.

(Above left) Fall armyworm egg mass;
(Middle) Large larvae -30mm;
(Top right) Large larva head;
(Bottom right) Larvae emerging from eggs.

Fall armyworm images by James Castner, the University of Florida and Sanbi.org.

Fall armyworm is an invasive pest and its larval (caterpillar) stage feeds on more than 350 plant species, and impacts cultivated grasses such as maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and wheat, as well as fruit and vegetable and cotton crops.

Fall armyworm is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, and since 2016 has spread to Africa, the Indian subcontinent, China and South East Asia.

Adult moths are highly mobile and can fly long distances (up to 200km). This pest is also prolific, reproducing at a rate of several generations per year.

Australia's climate and the production of suitable hosts are favourable for fall armyworm to establish and spread. Australia's environment and native flora may also be impacted.

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is continuing to undertake surveillance

across key farming areas.

The National Management Group has determined that it is not technically feasible to eradicate fall armyworm from Australia.

HOW IS THE AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE INDUSTRY RESPONDING TO FALL ARMYWORM?

The Australian sugarcane industry, through the Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee (SIBC), is working closely with governments and a range of groups to manage the threat posed by fall armyworm and respond appropriately. The community, industry and agronomists are encouraged to report any unexpected symptoms in the field by phoning the DAF hotline on **13 25 23**.

CANEGROWERS is the industry representative organisation for fall armyworm. SRA is assisting with specialist knowledge, and is



receiving support from productivity services organisations, Australian Sugar Milling Council, and the Australian Cane Farmers' Association. In addition to the work SRA is doing with DAF, we are also working with other industries as part of the Plant Biosecurity Initiative, including participation in workshops proposed to be held in Brisbane in March and April.

SRA will provide regular technical updates to the industry as further information becomes available.

WHAT COULD FALL ARMYWORM MEAN FOR THE AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE INDUSTRY?

SRA has been in close contact with overseas sugarcane countries regarding the impact of fall armyworm on sugarcane crops. The extent of this impact will be more fully understood as more information is gathered on the strain(s) and feeding preferences of fall armyworm present in Australia.

The strain that has been detected in Australia is the r-strain (rice-strain), which is believed to favour small grass crops and maize. However, it is also understood to impact sugarcane and more information is required on the potential extent of this impact.

Alternative host plants within the vicinity of sugarcane could also be attractive to this pest, such as other crops, fallow crops and native grasses. This is an area which requires further investigation.

Overseas, younger cane is thought to be more susceptible to significant impacts of fall armyworm. The effect of fall armyworm infestation on Australian sugarcane crops remains unclear.

ARE CHEMICAL OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE RESPONSE?

Currently there are no chemicals registered for use in sugarcane for the control of fall armyworm.

The industry is working with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) on an emergency permit for a chemical control option for fall armyworm.

At this point, it is not known if a chemical control option is needed in the long-term, but industry groups will continue to assess the situation.

Any chemical control option needs to be carefully considered in the context of integrated pest management, sustainability (avoiding resistance), potential environmental risk, and economic thresholds.

WHAT SHOULD CANE GROWERS DO TO ASSIST?

Growers and service providers are encouraged to be on the lookout for signs of fall armyworm. Biosecurity Queensland is the main point of contact for identification of potential fall armyworm and they should be contacted on **13 25 23**. Good quality photographs of the suspect caterpillar and plant damage, wherever possible, would assist with this identification. Farms will not be placed under quarantine if fall armyworm is reported and found, and early detection will assist in the response.

For further information on fall armyworm and how it is spread along

with monitoring and action, visit the Biosecurity Queensland web page about this pest: www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/crop-growing/priority-pest-disease/fall-armyworm

*(Top left) Adult female moth - 40mm wing span;
(Top right) Adult male moth - 40mm wing span.*



Grower reps to address Senate committee

CANEGROWERS representatives will call for a reduction in the regulatory burden imposed on growers by all levels of government, as well as longer-term funding of voluntary water-quality programs, when the Senate inquiry into the science supporting Reef regulations holds public hearings this month.

Grower reps will speak at all three of the committee's Queensland hearings in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns on 17, 18 and 19 March, where they'll call on government to ensure that the evidence underpinning reef science is "objective, unbiased, reliable and valid" and will ask for an independent review of the Paddock to Reef program.

CANEGROWERS will also call on all levels of government to commit to the "collaborative development of realistic, industry-specific targets for water quality improvement". ■

Optimism on the agenda

Grower-leaders had plenty of positives to discuss when CANEGROWERS board members gathered in Gordonvale last month for their first meeting of 2020.

With significant rainfall across the state bringing welcome relief to parched cane-growing communities, and a rally on the global market pushing world sugar prices to a 15-month high, there was lots of optimism in the room.

"After two years of disappointing crops, the much-needed rain has brought hope for a better growing season in 2020," Chairman Paul Schembri said.

"Last year we crushed around 28.5 million tonnes of cane - one of our lowest production outcomes in a long time. Whilst the loss of area has been a significant factor, the crop of 2019 was largely influenced by extremely dry conditions in many districts.

"The 2020 crop is still unknown, but early indications are that we may surpass last year's crop. Coupled with a long-awaited rise in the world sugar price, which has floundered below the cost of production for two years, this is very positive news for growers." ■

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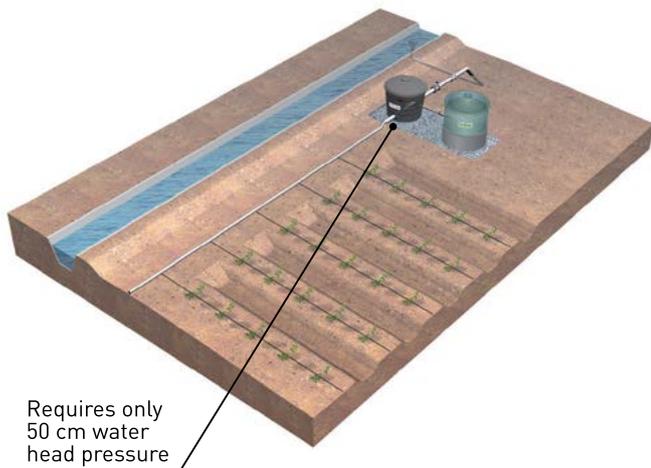
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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY - AN OPPORTUNITY WORTH TAKING

In recent meetings with growers I have touched on key issues affecting the industry and outlined our CANEGROWERS objectives, strategies and actions to deliver on our mission to ensure a secure and profitable future for cane growers.

Anyone who has spent time discussing industry issues with growers across the different districts would know that almost every cane-growing region is managing a wide variety of significant strategic issues of medium to long term importance. That is, issues that go beyond the immediate difficulties of this current season, commodity cycle or climatic conditions.

There is no one solution to these issues, but there is one surefire strategy. As in the past, the way we will manage our complex issues is to rely on the talent of our people. It will be the quality of our people that will solve the problems of tomorrow.

Investing in our people is therefore probably the single safest investment we can make. Like many other organisations, CANEGROWERS is doing just that.

We realise that we can do more to tap into the significant skills that already exist across our farming community. Our highly successful structures have delivered some of our best leaders. But equally, as the times and issues have changed, in some ways our stable structures have also become barriers to our ability to engage and capitalise on the significant talent that exists but cannot find a pathway to contribute in ways that are valued and valuable.

In part, that is why CANEGROWERS is very pleased to be joining the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) Diversity in Agricultural Leadership program.

In 2020, the NFF will lead the third such program – an initiative that has been making a real difference in increasing the representation of women in the leadership ranks of industry. The program fits under the National Roadmap for agriculture, which has an objective to build a \$100 billion industry by 2030.

The NFF has a goal for agriculture (as a sector) to double the number of women in management roles by 2030. There is plenty of work to be done if this is to occur. Currently, only 2.3% of chief executive officers of Australian agribusinesses are female, compared with an average of 17% across other industries. In leadership roles, only 13% of representatives are women, compared with an average of 28% in non-ag related industries. Within CANEGROWERS 4% of our directors across the state are women.

The program has strong foundations. In 2019, 10 participants successfully completed the one-on-one mentoring program to assist them to achieve their leadership goals.

The program now boasts a range of graduates that are currently pursuing leadership roles that influence the future of their industries.

By joining this years program, CANEGROWERS has committed to working with our colleague industries to open up pathways for leadership for women in the industry in whatever way they choose to pursue it.

The program will provide opportunities for candidates to learn from other leaders, build skills and be exposed a range of other agricultural partners from across the country.

Being part of such programs does not itself change the course of the industry, and certainly there are many opportunities for diversity that may go beyond gender.

However, if you are someone who wants to be an active participant in setting a secure, sustainable and profitable future for your industry, I encourage you to keep up to date with our new and existing initiatives as we provide further details via the magazine and specific grower communication.

You can find out more by contacting us directly and I encourage you to grasp the opportunity to be a part of a great future for you, your community and your industry. ■





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SUGAR RESEARCH ON DISPLAY AT SRA GROWER UPDATES

Sugarcane growers, millers and industry stakeholders have the chance to hear the latest in sugarcane research at upcoming forums for the industry.

The SRA Grower Research Updates are running again this year and are confirmed for the following locations:

- **Bundaberg:** Thursday March 5 at The Waves Sports Club (9am–1pm)
- **Mackay:** Monday March 30 at The Windmill Motel (9am–2pm)
- **Ingham:** Wednesday April 1 at SRA Ingham (9am–2pm)
- **Innisfail:** Thursday April 2 at the Sugar Museum (9am–2pm)
- **Cairns:** Friday April 3 at the Cairns Colonial Club (9am–2pm)

These events will feature the latest information in all things related to sugarcane research.

Visit www.sugarresearch.com.au for more information and for RSVP details.

GROWERS ENCOURAGED TO GET IN EARLY WITH PACHYMETRA SAMPLING

Growers are being reminded to consider the crop pests and diseases that may potentially be in their paddocks and affecting their yields as they plan for 2020.

One of the most significant soil-borne pests of sugarcane is Pachymetra root rot, which can only be properly assessed with a soil sample analysis to determine its severity. The results from this soil analysis, which is a service provided by SRA through its Tully laboratory, provides growers with information on the appropriate management response.

“We encourage farmers to send their samples in to the laboratory for analysis early in the year,” SRA Leader for Disease Management, Dr Rob Magarey, said. “This helps ensure that growers receive their results back with plenty of time before planting, which is crucial for helping them make decisions on what varieties to plant.”

The severity of Pachymetra can vary considerably between districts and even within districts, underscoring the importance of individual growers understand the situation on their own farms and individual paddocks.

To learn more about soil assays, contact your local productivity services organisation or visit the Pests and Diseases section of the SRA website under Growers and Millers.

Visit www.sugarresearch.com.au

SRA BOARD REGIONAL VISIT

The SRA Board recently met with investors and stakeholders in the Tully and Herbert regions. The SRA Board holds six meetings per year and regularly meets with industry to coincide with these meetings. Regional visits are a chance to talk about specific local issues and opportunities for SRA to continue to improve its value in relation to providing research, development and adoption services for the Australian industry.

Thank you to everyone who met with the Board during the visit. ■

Pictured: Herbert grower Chris Bosworth (left) with Jeremy Burdon, Caroline Coppo, Guy Roth, Sam Bonanno, and Ron Swindells



Important Notice for
CANEGROWERS Tableland members



By-Election 2020

CANEGROWERS Tableland will be running a by-election to fill two vacancies that exist on its Board.

A two-zone system of election has been implemented. The CANEGROWERS Tableland board will be made of up three members who supply Mossman Mill (Far Northern Milling) and two members who are contracted to supply Tableland Mill (MSF Sugar). There are currently two vacancies for members who supply the Tableland Mill.

If you are interested in nominating, or you know a grower who would make a great contribution to the CANEGROWERS organisation in that role, please contact the Chairman, Claudio Santucci on 0419 021 012 or call into the District office to pick up the relevant paperwork.

Nominations open on 6 March 2020 and close at 5pm on 30 March 2020. If an election is required, ballot papers will be posted on 1 April 2020, to members who supply Tableland Mill.

Important Information

- Nomination can only be received from a member who holds a cane supply and processing agreement for the delivery of cane to the Tableland Mill.
- Nomination forms must be signed by the eligible nominee and not less than six (6) members as defined in the Constitution.
- Nomination forms and full particulars regarding appropriate qualifications of nominees can be obtained from the CANEGROWERS Tableland office or direct from the Returning Officer, on application to jodie_mittelheuser@canegrowers.com.au or by phone 1800 177 159.

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

THE SUGAR CODE OF CONDUCT - HANDS OFF!

Thanks to plenty of media interest, it is well known in the industry that a serious dispute exists between Tully Sugar Ltd, owned by the Chinese company COFCO, and CANEGROWERS Tully, representing Tully growers.

It is not appropriate to comment on the specific issues of the dispute, as these disagreements over season length and industry charges are not uncommon in the industry.

To comment on these Tully-specific issues could be unhelpful to both parties and the processes that have been engaged to bring the issue to resolution.

However, there is one aspect of the dispute that we at CANEGROWERS are compelled to talk about.

During the legal cut and thrust, a question mark has been raised around the legal standing of the Code of Conduct and its capacity to resolve the industry disputes.

In fact, there has been some media reporting that Tully Sugar Ltd is challenging the validity of some aspects of the Code. This has not been refuted by the company.

CANEGROWERS has acted very quickly to obtain independent legal advice and we have also advised the Commonwealth Government of the potential threat to the Code.

Make no mistake, CANEGROWERS, ACFA and the Burdekin grower groups fought hard to have a Code put in place.

Without a code, the deregulated industry quickly reverted to mills exercising their regional monopoly status to force growers into accepting marketing and contractual arrangements that financially disadvantaged growers.

A lot has changed since the Code of Conduct was implemented in April 2017 and then reviewed in December 2018.

Today, most Australians believe that codes are necessary to ensure that farmers get a fair go, a fair price and a fair return on the level of risk they have invested in their industry.

Codes of Conduct now operate in the dairy, horticulture and grains handling industries, to name a few.

Ultimately, it is our hope that Tully Sugar Ltd and CANEGROWERS Tully can resolve their dispute.

Whether that is achieved through negotiation or arbitration is a matter for the two parties.

What we won't allow is the Code to be undermined and rendered ineffective.

It is not for me to speak on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, but clearly the current government put the Code in place for a reason and we have been assured that they will do everything

required to put its validity beyond any legal challenge.

Recently, I joined other farm leaders as part of a National Farmers' Federation delegation to Canberra where we met with Trade Minister Senator Simon Birmingham.

The meeting was convened by the NFF to ensure that Australian farmers benefit from the proposed Australia/European Union Free Trade Agreement.

I warned the Minister that an 11th hour token offer or a complete shut out would do a lot of damage to the Australian sugar industry.

You would recall that Australia was completely shut out of the 2004 Australia/US Free Trade Agreement.

It has taken us a long time to recover from that and even now, some 16 years on, our access to the United States is still very limited.

In addition, I made it clear that despite world sugar prices improving, we need to not let up on our actions against Indian export subsidies.

The Minister made it clear the World Trade Organisation application against India would remain a high priority for the Australian Government.

We will get one shot at this - failure would be a huge cost to the Australian sugar industry. ■

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The destination's the same, but the journey's different for everyone.

Contact your Smartcane BMP district facilitator to discover what accreditation could look like for you.



Andrew with Burdekin district facilitator, Jasmine



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

SMARTCANE BMP SURGE

ACCREDITATIONS ON THE RISE IN MACKAY

By Kim Kleidon

The number of Mackay growers engaging in the Smartcane BMP program has grown exponentially with more than 100 signing up in recent months and many of them already achieving accreditation.

While the Wet Tropics has long been the coalface of industry-led practice change, the recent expansion of Reef regulations has seen an upswing in the number of northern and central region cane growers taking up the challenge to showcase the industry's sustainability credentials.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in Mackay, with another 13 farming

businesses achieving Smartcane BMP accreditation since the start of 2020, bringing the number of accredited farms to 73 - and growing weekly.

Smartcane BMP is a grower-driven, industry-owned, voluntary accreditation system. Accredited growers are recognised as working at or above industry standard in key farming

practices related to productivity, profitability and sustainability.

According to **Audra Allan**, the Smartcane BMP Facilitator for Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS), growers need to complete three core modules to obtain accreditation, these cover soil health, irrigation and drainage, along with weeds, pest and disease management.

"Firstly, growers need to register and do a self-assessment on the first three core modules, either online at the Smartcane BMP website or with their productivity officer," Audra said.

"An initial one-on-one meeting is arranged with growers on farm to identify their practices and assess their alignment to industry standards."

Growers are required to provide evidence for a range of activities and facilitators work with them to ensure requirements are met.

Where growers do not yet meet industry standards, or are lacking in evidence, facilitators will assist to collect this information and/or help implement any practice change required.





"If you don't like being dictated to about your farming practices you need to make a move to prove you are using best management practices through the Smartcane BMP Program."

This is something **Stephen Russell** experienced first-hand, after he registered and began keeping records in 2017.

Earlier that year, Stephen was visited by Department of Environment and Science auditors who took copies of all his maps, ledgers and spreadsheets, only to advise him that his records weren't up to scratch.

That was when he asked for help, calling Audra.

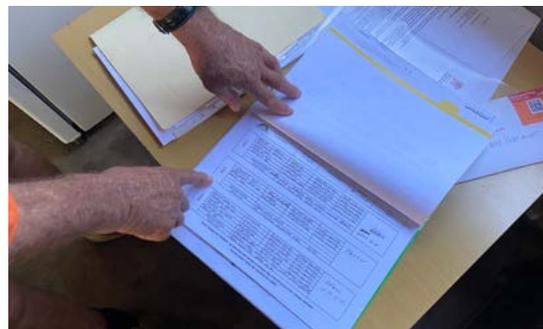
"I thought I was doing a good job with the records, but it was so much simpler the way Audra was doing it, and the system was easy to adopt," Stephen said.

"We did a pest management plan, drainage plan and nutrient plan, as well as ensuring the chemical storage was compliant."

Stephen admits he was a little hesitant when the first Reef regulations were introduced.

"Since green harvest, we don't work as hard as we used to 25 years ago. We don't require the same amount of labour. But when the criticism against farmers

Continues next page ►



Pictured: (main) Audra Allen, Smartcane BMP Facilitator Mackay presents Mackay grower Stephen Russell with his Smartcane BMP accreditation certificate, (opposite) Stephen can see the results of Smartcane BMP in his cane growth, (above top) recording chemicals according to tank mix, simplifies paperwork, (above bottom) pest mapping allows Stephen to maintain accurate treatment records.



"My advice to other growers is 'just do it', I'm glad I did. I was one of those fellas that didn't want more paperwork, but now that Audra has provided a new system, all I need to record is which tank mix I use, how much and when."

Pictured: (top left) Harrison Craig helping out on the family farm, (top right) growers Brant and Louise Craig set their sights on the future, (opposite) new varieties of soybean released late last year adopted by Philip Blackburn.

began over run-off to the Reef, and once we saw other people getting involved, we thought 'why not?'"

Once all of Stephen's evidence was collated, Audra arranged a visit from the third party Smartcane BMP auditor, who soon confirmed Stephen could be accredited.

"Growers aren't quite sure how to go about it, or if they're doing it correctly," Audra said.

"No two growers have the same recording methods. It can range from writing on farm maps, to diaries, notebooks, paper-based spreadsheets, electronic spreadsheets or now on the new spatial program Agtrix, available for all growers from MAPS. I have also developed templates to assist growers where necessary."

Many growers believe that government bodies are going to continue imposing further regulations and keep 'moving the goal posts' regardless of numbers moving towards accreditation.

But Audra believes this is an opportunity to fine tune current practices and prove further regulation is unjustified.

"If you don't like being dictated to about your farming practices you need to

make a move to prove you are using best management practices through the Smartcane BMP Program, as this isn't going away," she said.

When it comes to reducing nitrogen, legume fallows are an option strongly encouraged by Smartcane BMP. Not only for their ability to improve soil health through nitrogen fixing, feeding microbes and adding organic carbon, but also for their potential to bring in extra income by taking fallow crops through to harvest or baling for cattle feed.

In the few years since Stephen began planting soybean fallows, cutting fertiliser rates and increasing irrigation efficiency, he has recorded the highest CCS ever for his 66 hectare farm.

He says it's one way he's been able to increase profits.

"My advice to other growers is just do it - I'm glad I did. I was one of those fellas that didn't want more paperwork, but now that Audra has provided a new system, all I need to record is which tank mix I use, how much and when," he said.

Eton grower **Philip Blackburn** first heard about Smartcane BMP through an article in *Australian Canegrower* and was keen to be part of the movement proving



that sugarcane growers are farming responsibly and sustainably.

"We're all here to look after our land, to do the right thing for the land, waterways and not pollute our oceans - most of us love fishing," Philip said.

"It's in our best interest not to be wasting chemicals or fertiliser, but also for those who aren't involved in agriculture to understand that farmers are doing the right thing."

Philip believes his practices were always within regulations but says he has been able to quantify his rates more accurately through records.

He's also utilising cover crops annually, growing new soybean varieties (Kuranda and Mossman) that are performing well.

"We used to grow peanuts until the price of transport to Kingaroy made it unviable. Now with the (high) price of soybean, we grow it out. If something goes wrong, we plough it in and still get the benefits of a legume crop," he said.

Audra is hearing from many accredited growers who are discovering the advantages of adopting Smartcane BMP.

"Smartcane BMP offers an opportunity to fine tune your current practices,

it could even assist with financial decisions," she said.

"Many growers who have achieved accreditation have commented that it wasn't as hard as they thought it was going to be."

Like Philip Blackburn, Brant and Louise Craig first heard about Smartcane BMP through articles in *Australian Canegrower*. Louise attended a self-assessment workshop to understand how their practices measured up under Smartcane BMP standards.

It's a real family business, with Louise sharing many of the responsibilities on farm.

"I work the ground, slash, spray ends. Between the three of us, Brant manages most of the spraying and maintenance, while Harrison (19) jumps in wherever I can't, to work ground and slash as well," Louise said.

Louise says the family never planned on being cane farmers, initially wanting to do the 'hobby farm thing' and raise their children on the land.

"It worked out cheaper at the time to buy a small cane farm than a 10acre hobby farm," she said.

Brant agrees that it wasn't his intention to follow in his father's footsteps, especially because he has a full-time job. "We bought this block so that if it got too much for me, we could fence it and put cattle on it."

Motivated, they say to do the right thing, Smartcane BMP accreditation has made them more aware of how they manage water, chemicals and fertiliser.

"We understand more about our soil, the environment and impact to the Great Barrier Reef. We make sure our headlands are grassed and follow common sense when it comes to preventing anything leaving the farm," Brant said.

The greatest change for Brant is the reduction in fertiliser application and the process they use to water now.

Irrigating with a winch first up, after spraying or fertilising to ensure penetration, the cane isn't flood irrigated until it is well and truly up out of the ground. Louise admits she now has a greater understanding of regulated practices.

"My thoughts initially were to reduce the chemicals altogether, but with Smartcane BMP they want us to spray out the weeds and crops on fallow ground, to reduce disturbance of the soil," she said.

Brant's keen to adopt new practices to make sure his soil is getting what it needs.

"We used a lot more lime this year to sweeten our soil," he said.

Being a relatively small producer inhibits investment in high tech equipment like GPS, but correct record keeping has made a big difference to their business, one they hope will be digital in the near future.

"Audra has held our hand the whole way through this, explaining the process over three years. We're keen to continue improving our soil and management practices, even complete more modules. It's not scary, it's not hard, it's just improving record keeping." ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

- The Smartcane BMP program is 100% funded by Queensland State Government through the OGBR, providing facilitators, training and accreditation free of charge. This funding is due to cease in 2022.
- In the Mackay region call Indiana Zarb on 0439 557 839, or Audra Allan for assistance with the registration and benchmarking.
- For full list of facilitators in other districts, please visit www.smartcane.com.au



SILVAN'S INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INTER ROW WEED CONTROL WITH SHIELDED OR SPIDER SPRAY HEADS

Supplied by Silvan Australia

Silvan Australia has developed innovative solutions for intensive growing operations where there is a need to manage and control weed growth in the inter-rows.

The applications are foremost in industries like sugarcane and strawberry production, although there is also application potential in any row crop-growing situation in horticulture in particular.

Silvan's spraying specialist **David Carr** says that solutions have been created by building a fully galvanised multi-row hydraulic fold boom fitted with stainless steel spray lines that can be fitted with multiple Spider spray heads or fully shielded spray heads.

Both these options ensure that the spray application is made direct to the surface growth limiting the risk of spray drift.

The sprayer is typically configured as a four or six row unit with the shielded spray head option commonly being 90cm in width, although it is available in widths ranging from 50 to 130cm as required to suit the specific application.

There are normally two twin swizzle nozzles per shielded spray head with air induction nozzles.

The Silvan spider head is a popular choice in the sugarcane industry for weed control early in the growing season.

"Silvan has the unique ability to build spray application solutions that meet the exact needs of growers," David said.

"We work with farmers and growers Australia-wide to build and supply spraying solutions that exactly meet their growing practices and needs. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For technical advice or more information call 1300 SILVAN (1300 745 826) or email info@silvanaust.com

CANE BOOM SPRAYER DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS



The Silvan Cane Boom is designed specifically for Australian cane growers. It incorporates choice of standard or shielded spray heads with air induced nozzles to minimise spray drift.

The fully galvanised 4 or 6 row boom comes standard with a hydraulic twin folding ram mechanism and adjustable tracking arms.

- Available with 600, 800 or 1100 Litre tank capacity
- 50mm Camlock bottom fill and venturi chemical suction probe (1100 Litre only)
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Now available with 'Spider' spray head

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Silvan

The Spraying Specialists

Time is running out for members with balances of less than \$6,000 to make a choice about their insurance

With the 1 April 2020 commencement date for the government's *Putting Members' Interests First (PMIF)* legislation changes to insurance fast approaching, it's vital for members with low balances to make a choice about whether they would like to retain their insurance before their cover is cancelled.

Who is impacted by the changes?

The PMIF legislation aims to protect members' retirement savings when they are "young" (under age 25) or have a "low balance" (less than \$6,000).

What does this mean for members with a super account balance of less than \$6,000?

As at 1 April, any members with a super account that has a balance of less than \$6,000 will have their insurance cover cancelled (effective 31 March), unless they make an active choice to keep their cover.

How can members keep their insurance cover?

- Members at risk of losing their cover should notify their super fund in writing if they would like to keep their insurance cover.
- New members excluded from automatic cover can opt-in to insurance cover when they join their super fund or open a new account.

What else can members do?

Members at risk of having their insurance cancelled should have received communications from their super fund.

We encourage these members to review these communications and consider whether their current insurance arrangements meet their needs. If members with low balances would like to keep their insurance cover, it's important they contact their super fund as soon as possible.

For more information about the PMIF legislation, refer to our Sunsuper guide for members at sunsuper.com.au/pmif

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Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority



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Are you a primary producer who was affected by the monsoon trough in early 2019?

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Eligibility criteria apply. To find out more talk to your local Regional Area Manager on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au/400kfloodgrant

The North Queensland Restocking, Replanting & On-farm Infrastructure Grants are funded by the Australian Government and administered by QRIDA.



Australian Government

Freecall 1800 623 946
www.qrida.qld.gov.au





Queensland Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, Turbot St, Brisbane



By Matthew Page
QSL Trading Manager

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Market Update: A Tale of Two Halves

If we thought January was wild, February has been nothing short of insane as delegates from around the sugar world recently descended on Dubai to try and unpick the key drivers to our currently volatile market.

What became apparent very early on was that, this year, all focus was primarily on the short-term physical tightness in Q1 driven by a Thai crop that has completely collapsed on itself over the past couple of weeks. An estimated 8% decrease in acreage, largely driven by switching to cassava, as well as a 20% to 30% decline in annual rainfall which has resulted in a crippling drought and massive decline in yields, has led to one of the poorest Thai crops in years. While nearly all analysts expected a smaller number, a decrease from last year's 130 million tonnes of cane to what many are estimating will be closer to 80 million to make 8-9 million tonnes of sugar this year, is on a magnitude far greater than anyone foresaw.

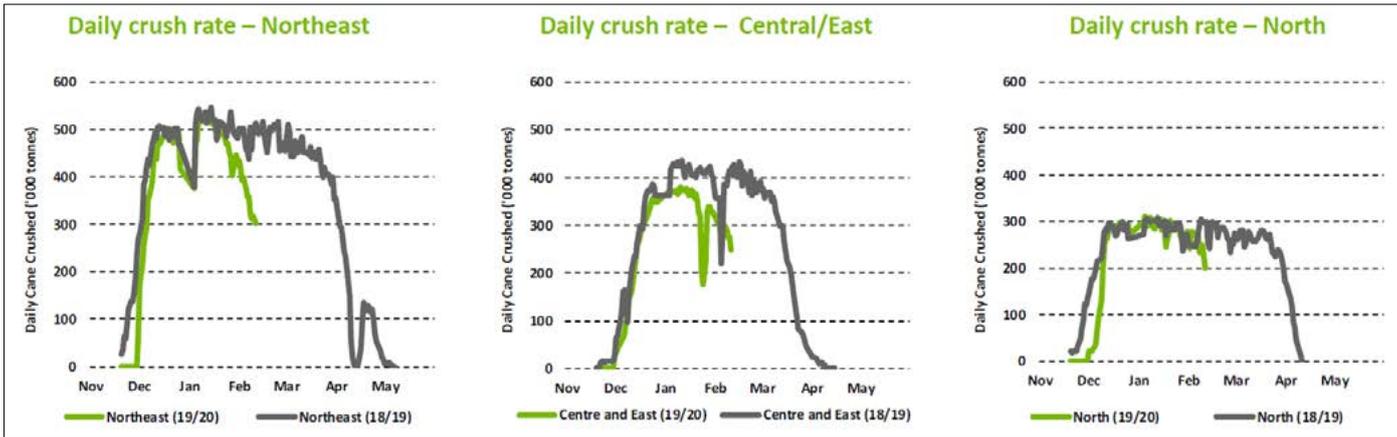
The timing of slowdown in crushing rates and the rapid downgrade in the Thai crop has left us with a very volatile expiry of the MAR20 contract and an inverted sugar market where rapid buying of the prompt contract has lifted prices just below 16 cents in an effort to bring physical sugar forward and fill the void left by the disappearing Thais.

It's also worth noting that if it remains dry through until May, planting will not take place and next year's crop will be similarly awful.

So with the bullish tone set and the consensus all in chorus, the elephant in the room sat there largely in the periphery, acknowledged but ignored as a second-half story. That elephant is the upcoming Brazil crop.

It's generally accepted that the upcoming crop in Brazil is looking fantastic and may produce a figure as high as 600 million cane tonnes. But what sugar/ethanol mix are we looking at? With prices well above the estimated 13.50 US\$/lb ethanol parity price, Brazilian millers are openly stating their desire to increase sugar production, with some estimates as high as 31-32 million tonnes – more than adequate to fill the 'Thai gap'. And if crude oil continues to underperform and the Brazilian Real continues to push to record lows, the risk of this moving higher towards maximum sugar and wiping out this year's small global deficit estimate remains clear and present.

THAILAND CRUSHING RATES (Source: LMC)



QSL UPDATE



March 2020 ICE 11 Prompt
AUD/Tonne



Discussions with Indian millers also confirmed a strong desire and expectation to continue with their export program, ably assisted by a government willing to fund subsidies necessary to incentivise exports and clear the decks for next year's crop, which looks likely to remain somewhere just above 30 million tonnes of sugar.

The annual dissection of consumption was decidedly underwhelming and symptomatic of the longer-term trend towards lower demand. Growth is anticipated to stay around 1.5%, with the usual triggers of taxes and health impacts cited. What was interesting was the additional acknowledgement of a more general slowdown in population growth and global GDP as contributing factors.

So there we have it. A first half of 2020 subject to physical tightness driven by a disastrous Thai crop and the large price volatility this brings, while the second half looks to be at the mercy of a bumper Brazil crop that looks set to swing back to sugar almost as aggressively as it swung out of it two short years ago.

NOMINATIONS CLOSING FOR PRE-CRUSH PAYMENT

Nominations for QSL's 2020 Pre-Crush Advance Payment Scheme close on 15 March 2020.

As its name suggests, the scheme gives growers a payment for their 2020-Season QSL GEI Sugar this month – before the crush begins.

Participating growers receive \$50/tonne of sugar IPS on 27 March for up to half of their 2020-Season QSL GEI Sugar.

This Pre-Crush Advance payment amount is then deducted from their Standard QSL Advance payment/s once they start their harvest.

QSL passes on the charges for this product at cost, enabling participating growers to enjoy the same favourable interest rates available to QSL through our strong relationships with leading Australian banks.

These finance costs are estimated at \$0.50/tonne IPS sugar (utilising QSL's funding costs of approximately 2.3% p.a.) and are incorporated into the grower's final pool prices via a specific allocation from the QSL Shared Pool.

The QSL Pre-Crush Advance Payment is only available to QSL Direct users paid directly by QSL. Call 1800 870 756 or your local QSL representative for further information.

COMING UP

29 February 2020: Expressions of interest close for QSL's 2020 Grower Study Tour to Japan. Contact Sonia Ball on 0418 978 120 to register.

15 March 2020: Nominations close for the 2020 Pre-Crush Advance payment.

18 March 2020: QSL's 2019-Season Standard Advance Rate is scheduled to increase to 87.5%.

24 & 25 March 2020: The Next Gen StepUP! Conference will be held in Bundaberg, proudly supported by QSL. Call 0488 197 400 for details.

15 April 2020: QSL's 2019-Season Standard Advance Rate is scheduled to increase to 90%.

16 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using the QSL Individual Futures Contract.

17 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for QSL's 2019-Season Target Price Contract.

23 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using QSL's Self-Managed Harvest option.

27 & 28 April 2020: Women in Sugar Australia Conference, proudly supported by QSL, will be held in Mackay. Call Jill Fox on 0404 469 899 for details.

30 April 2020: QSL's 2020-Season pricing nominations close. Note: Growers in Bundaberg and Isis districts should refer to their millers for details of applicable local deadlines.

13 May 2020: QSL's 2019-Season Standard Advance Rate is scheduled to increase to 92.5%.

BUMPER STICKER PHOTO

Thank you to everyone that has shown their support for the sugarcane industry by displaying their CANEGROWERS bumper stickers on their vehicles.

We received some very impressive photos, with bumper stickers appearing on a wide range of vehicles including helicopters, motorcycles, tractors, utes and cars.

We loved seeing the photos flow in, and we would like to thank all those who entered.

And the winner is...

Innisfail member Adrian and Tracy Darveniza.

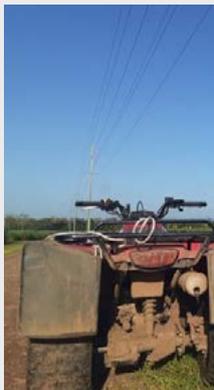
Congratulations Adrian and Tracy!

The winning photo is of Adrian and his youngest son Hamish (*pictured centre*). The photo was taken by Tracy on their family farm at South Johnstone in Far North Queensland.

They will choose their preferred prize from these popular options: Apple AirPods, Apple TV, Bose Desk Speakers, major store gift card, Delongi Nespresso Machine.

Stay tuned for more exciting member only competitions coming soon! ■

Photos submitted by: (main) Innisfail member Adrian & Tracy Darveniza, (clockwise from top left) Isis member John & Shaaryn Tanner, Tully member Chris Condon, Mackay member Vince Muscat, Isis member Heath & Amy Courtney, Burdekin member Steven Pilla, Bundaberg member Michael & Desley Ford, Herbert River member Matt Caruso, Tully member Eddie & Vera Skocaj, Proserpine member Reginald & Karen Muller, Isis member Peter Jensen, Herbert River member Jason Caruso, Mackay member Bryan Grendon.



COMPETITION



MEET THE SUGAR QUEEN

Far North Queensland cane grower and 'sugar ambassador' Kylie Farinelli is ready to take on the world following her TV debut.

By Richard Dinnen



Queens are usually crowned at lavish coronation ceremonies in grand cathedrals, with choirs, trumpets, and heads of state in attendance.

Innisfail cane grower **Kylie Farinelli** became 'royalty' during a quiet chat with a friend over breakfast. He was the first to name her the Sugar Queen.

This was not your average breakfast. Kylie and **Zak Antoniou** were preparing for another day as contestants on the Channel Seven cooking show, *Zumbo's Just Desserts*.

Zak gave Kylie the title because of her passion for desserts and their main ingredient – sugar.

The Sugar Queen nickname stuck and now it's the name of Kylie's just-launched range of fruit-infused sugars that she hopes will find a place in Australian and export markets.

"It's an all-natural form of icing sugar, infused with fruit powders," Kylie explains back at her home, surrounded by sugarcane, near Mourilyan, in far north Queensland.

"It can be used in baking cakes, biscuits. It can replace any recipe that uses icing sugar, and you don't have to add artificial essences."

Chefs and bakers already use it and one Sunshine Coast pub placed a big order aiming to use it on the rim of cocktail glasses for fancy fruit drinks.

There are four flavours so far - banana, strawberry, passionfruit and lemon – with more planned.

Kylie says the product has a long shelf-life which makes it ideal for export.

Her journey to a TV cooking show began by chance, when she found an audition call on Facebook in 2018.

Three months later, Kylie was in Sydney, in a six-week whirlwind of spotlights, makeup and producers, filming for her eight-episode stint on *Zumbo's Just Desserts*.

But she had to keep it all a secret until the episodes were broadcast 12 months later, when Kylie was big news across the Cassowary Coast region.

"For me, it was exciting," she said. "But it was incredible how excited people got about it because it was like I was representing all of them on the show.

"Everything I did was around fruits, and they could all relate to what I was doing. They watched because I was on it, making things inspired by far north Queensland."

"Everything I did was around fruits, and they could all relate to what I was doing. They watched because I was on it, making things inspired by far north Queensland."



One such dish was Kylie's 'taste of the tropics' cake, made for a challenge to create a dessert more than half a metre tall.

"It was 60 centimetres high. Three different flavoured cakes, layered one on top of the other, no support structure, all edible ingredients," Kylie said.

"Three hours, one Mixmaster, one oven. Even Zumbo didn't think I could pull it off."

Kylie delivered a cake tower (pictured right) with layers of lemon, coconut, vanilla bean, roasted pineapple and sugar syrup covered in vanilla bean buttercream with a mango and passionfruit sauce on the side.

The judges loved it. It won dessert of the day and Zumbo called it, "A beautiful representation of far north Queensland".

Kylie lives with her husband Paul and their sons Brett and Travis near Mourilyan, where they grow sugarcane and paw paws.

Paul is a third-generation cane farmer – his grandfather Charlie came over from Italy to cut cane before buying a farm of his own in 1928.

The Farinellis have a planter and harvester and Paul used to cut cane for his neighbours, as well as his own, about 65,000 tonnes per season, before Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Now he just cuts their own cane – about 10,000 tonnes - which is crushed at the nearby South Johnstone mill.

Paul says the current crop, lush green outside the kitchen windows, is looking quite good compared to last year.

"We've had a bit of earlier rain than last year. It's still pretty dry, but we've had some storms and that's helped it grow."

It's a good place to grow cane, but, frustratingly, rain sometimes swerves around the Farinelli farm.

"We're surrounded by mountains," Paul said. "There's the ETTY Bay Range and that's the Basilisk Range, and we're in between."

"Sometimes I'll be on the tractor, high-rising above the cane and I'm looking and it'll be black as anything and I think 'we might get this'. And it misses us. It just follows those mountains. Rain always follows a mountain. So this is a drier area, compared to Innisfail."

Continues next page ►



Pictured: (main) Paul and Kylie Farinelli, and sons Brett and Travis on their Innisfail sugarcane farm, (above) Kylie's recently launched range of fruit infused sugars.



Pictured: (above) the Farinelli family also grow paw paw on their sugarcane farm.

"I'd tell them about the place sugar has in everybody's diet, and everything in moderation, and just how important an industry it is for far north Queensland and Australia."

Paul is currently working his way through the Smartcane BMP accreditation process, introduced in 2014 to help cane growers prove their sustainability through managing soil health, nutrients, irrigation and drainage and weeds, pests and diseases according to industry best practices.

"We've always done our best with runoff and the (Great Barrier) Reef," Paul said. "With the price of chemicals and fertiliser, you can't spray if it's about to rain. We choose the right time and the right way."

The Farinellis are like so many people in Queensland's sugarcane country – resourceful, hard-working and always busy.

Kylie has run two main street shops in nearby Innisfail, a fashion boutique and an ice cream store.

She also served a four-year term as Councillor on the Cassowary Coast Regional Council from 2012, and is running again in the coming elections.

"In Council, I'd love to work with farmers, to really grow that strong agricultural presence in the far north," she said.

"Maybe we can tap in to tourism, make us a foodie destination and a place where people come to check out how farming works.

"In the capital cities, they've got no real understanding of the challenges farmers face every day.

"I want to help people understand the importance of farming in Australia," Kylie said.

Whether or not she is elected, Kylie is going to be busy. She's no stranger to that.

"I do the bookwork for the sugarcane and the paw paws. I do two nights a week as a chef in an Italian restaurant here in town.

"I bake cakes for people, and I'm developing a product I hope will eventually go out into the world, and now I'm running for Council."

Reality television is not for everyone. The drama and chaos producers work so hard to achieve polarises audiences, and can be tough on people who sign up to be on the shows.

"Each episode is one hour," says Kylie. "But it takes us three days to film that.



"The cooks are timed precisely, but there's a lot of behind the scenes things. The judging process is a long one, even presenting our desserts to the judges goes for a lot longer than what you see on TV.

"It was really hard. I had my moments, but I've been through tough situations in life. I think that prepared me for it," Kylie said.

"In a couple of our cooks, they reduced the time they gave us because they felt we were doing it too easy. They would remove things from the set to make life harder.

"The good thing was we didn't have to wash any dishes. I loved that."

"I was so proud that every cook I did. I put up what I wanted to put up. No failures."

That success rate owes much to Kylie's cool-under-pressure temperament, and to a long-time love of cooking.

"I've always loved baking. I've loved being in my kitchen. I've cooked from a very young age," she said.

"My grandmother loved baking and cooking, so quite often I'd spend time in her kitchen cooking and learning how to

make Maltese dishes. That was always really exciting."

Kylie started her professional life in fashion, eventually finding her way to food when a friend suggested she put her love of baking to work in a business called Flavour With Flair.

The Sugar Queen title that's become her brand was a logical next step for someone who has long been a passionate ambassador for sugar.

"We all take the sugarcane for granted up here because we see it every day," Kylie said.

"But people travelling through the area, they love the cane paddocks, they stop and take photos, and I see great potential for tourism around sugarcane.

"I've heard a lot of the negative spin of 'sugar isn't good for you' and I really want to fight the battle against that," Kylie said.

She dreams of doing that from an agribusiness she'd start on the nearby Bruce Highway - a farmers' market and café offering fresh local produce and a deeper understanding of sugar.

"I'd tell them about the place sugar has in everybody's diets, and everything in moderation, and just how important an industry it is for far north Queensland and Australia," she said.

"It would be somewhere that people can stop, see what food the region offers, and learn about sugar, how it's grown and its many uses.

"When I tell people what we do, they're actually quite fascinated, but in the cities, they don't see it."

Fulfilling that dream depends on the Sugar Queen range and the early response has been promising thanks to *Zumbo's Just Desserts* keeping her in the spotlight.

The show is rolling out to a global audience on Netflix so Kylie gets comments and fan mail from far-away places like Brazil.

"I've learned to use Google Translate, and they're saying 'Where can we get your sugars?', Kylie said.

"It's a lot of work to find avenues to get it over there, but I'm hopeful we'll find a way. There's always a way.

"This was the big rush for me to take something we talked about over breakfast one day, and get it ready while the show still has momentum.

"I've taken what I learned on the show, and what I did best, working with Australian fruits and with sugar, I've put it in to a product that I could send anywhere in the world."

Kylie offers recipes on her website to encourage kids to get into cooking.

"I'm really passionate about wanting children to get back into the kitchens with their parents," she said.

"So I've created recipes that I know mums and dads can get their kids in the kitchen and cook, and it's so easy to do."

Read more about Sugar Queen by Kylie Farinelli and try some of her recipes at www.kyliefarinelli.com.au ■

Vale John Barfield and Gary Comelli

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** has paid tribute to two former elected members from the Mackay district who passed away recently.

John Griffin Barfield was a member of the Queensland Cane Growers Council from 1989 to 1992, serving at the same time as Paul. He was also a member of the Mackay District Cane Growers Executive for that period.

John began representing growers as a member of the Pleystowe Mill Suppliers Committee in 1980, becoming Deputy Chairman in 1984. He was appointed Chairman in 1989.

Paul remembers John as a ferocious fighter for growers' interests, a man who was highly regarded for his integrity but equally well known for his flexibility and pragmatism when it came to achieving the best outcomes for the industry.

Paul also served with John 'Gary' Comelli on the Farleigh Mill Suppliers Committee. Gary first became an elected member in 1981 and served for seven years until 1988.

Paul remembers that Gary was very committed to growers in his district and in working to get the best for them. He retained a strong sense of pride in the sugar industry all his life.

Gary was loved as a true character and remembered for enjoying playing a gentle practical joke from time to time.

He was renowned for his generosity and would regularly visit the CANEGROWERS Mackay office laden with provender, including fresh fish and fruit and vegetables, to thank the staff. ■



Pictured: Gary Comelli and MCL Board Director Frank Perna

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BRAZIL TRIP TO HARVEST NEW IDEAS

A sugarcane delegation from the Hebert River region is setting off on a study trip to Brazil to harvest new ideas.

The group of 11 growers and industry representatives will leave in April for a two-week tour to investigate farming methods and technologies that could lead to efficiencies in an Australian farming context and improved environmental outcomes.

On the group's return, a series of information workshops will share the new-found knowledge.

These workshops will be funded by the Enhanced Extension Coordination in GBR project, administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

DAF Reef Extension Coordination Dr Niall Connolly said study tours were a great way for farmers to learn from their peers.

"Our experience is that farmers bring back lots of new ideas and the motivation

to make improvements to their own farms and are very receptive to adopting new farm practices to improve profitability and reduce runoff from their land," he said.

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited Manager Lawrence Di Bella, also a cane grower, is coordinating the trip and said Brazilian companies were progressive and innovative.

"We have had great support from Brazilian companies willing to host our group," he said. "There is a lot we can learn from seeing first-hand new technologies and innovations."

Bambaroo cane growers Gino Zatta and Robert Bonassi have both hosted Brazilian delegates in the past and are looking forward to the reciprocal opportunity.

"You need to keep moving ahead all the time. We can learn from seeing how cane is grown on a larger scale and how they use technology," Robert said.

Also a harvesting contractor, Robert is keen to see the latest in machinery and

find out how the Brazilians plan to tackle problems in the future such as cane grub.

Gino said the Brazilians were leaders in the field and he was particularly interested to find out information on plant breeding.

The group has a packed itinerary including visits to farms, mills, experimental stations and agricultural companies. ■

Pictured: (L to R) Bambaroo cane growers Gino Zatta and Robert Bonassi are off to Brazil as part of the study tour.



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KOUMALA GROWERS TAKING MIXED SPECIES FALLOWS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

By Jessica Turchet, Smartcane BMP Plane Creek Facilitator



Plane Creek growers **Mark and Patsy Wheeler** have introduced some big changes to their farming system in recent years, and so far, they're excited by the results.

The Wheelers, who farm 150 hectares of cane at Koumala, 50 minutes south of Mackay, started growing alternate crops on their fallow land over a decade ago.

Originally the fallow crops were grown as fodder to bolster their cattle herd while the price of cane was low. But when the Wheelers went to plant cane the following season, they were surprised by the difference in their soil.

"When we planted it back you could just notice there was a difference in the soil, it smelt sweeter and looked like cottage cheese," said Patsy.

They've tried many different rotations over the years but the biggest gains for their farm have come from a mix of species, each bringing something different to the table.

Having options enables them to tailor the blend they plant to the issues on the paddock, as well as the season's conditions and timing.

Being adaptable is key to their continuing success.

"You never know what the season is going to bring, so you need to be able to roll with it and change things to suit," Mark said.

They use a blend of up to seven species that provide a mix of benefits, including keeping the soil structure intact, preventing weeds taking hold, encouraging a healthy soil biota, enhancing the soils organic matter and carbon content, improving nutrient cycling, enhancing water infiltration, and supporting the nutrition of their cattle.

"It may look like a paddock full of weeds to some, but the benefits come from breaking that cycle of mono-cropping," Mark said.

The biota in the field all have preferred conditions and hosts. By growing the same crop on a continuing cycle, you attract and amplify all those bugs, fungi and bacteria that want to live amongst

(and eat) cane and lack the incentive or habitat diversity to bring in anything else.

By breaking that monoculture, you can encourage a range of biota into your field that will not only benefit your soil health, each in a different way, but keep other pests at bay by restoring the predator to prey balance.

The Wheelers use sunflowers for their great fibrous roots and to boost mycorrhizal fungi, attract beneficial insects, and cycle nutrients, while the deep taproot of tillage radish helps keep the soil open and the worms happy.

Mix in some Brassicas, like goliath forage rape, for their bio-fumigant quality and their fast breakdown time, as well as chicory and cowpea for the cattle, and you have a host of benefits, all worth the effort and outweighing the expense for the Wheelers.

Over the past three years they've gone further and are now utilising the mixed species in their plant cane as an inter-row

cover crop. This keeps the ground covered and soil active and healthy across the entire paddock, extending the benefits from their fallow into the cropping cycle.

"On some of the hard setting white soils, even under just steady rains, you'd see the water just running out the end of the rows, and I thought, this isn't the way to farm," Mark said.

"Since planting the inter-row, particularly with the tillage radish, it doesn't happen anymore. It just soaks it up like a sponge and I'd rather have it go into the soil, and into those plants, than evaporate or run out the ends."

With limited water available in the Plane Creek region and most growers either fully rainfed or on subsistence irrigation, enhancing the soils ability to take in water and hold onto it is vital.

Cover and inter-row cropping allows for better water penetration, prevents the collapse and crusting of surface soils, and enables soil to build up its organic carbon sink, which allows it to better retain water.

The Wheelers have found that it's all part of a continual learning curve.

"Soy is a greedy bean, it doesn't like the competition and didn't do well as an inter-crop, while the sorghum can do too well and end up as big as the cane, so you have to be careful," Mark said.

"There's no one boot that's going to fit every farm, and everyone will have to experiment with things to find that right fit," added Patsy.

The Wheelers have managed to change their farming system quite radically, with minimal capital investment, by working with what they have wherever possible and continuing to search for improvements.

They are currently looking into extending the inter-row crop out into their ratoons, and admit that while there is always risk, that's farming, and "...it certainly keeps farming interesting!". ■

Pictured: (main) Patsy and Mark in a fallow crop after 300 head of cattle have grazed on it for three days. (Above right) soil under fallow cover crop, still friable and with legume nodules and insect activity present, after cattle have grazed on it following 85mm rain the day before.



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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

Three representatives from the Department of Environment's Office of the Great Barrier Reef held a grower session on reef regulations in Mossman on 31 January. The session was well attended by growers and everyone had a chance to ask questions and talk with the staff individually, where desired. The session covered existing requirements, minimum practice standards and new areas coming online with the amended regulations.

The Wet Tropics Healthy Waterways Partnership met on 12 February. The process of gathering all the necessary data for the next Waterways Health Report Card has begun. A draft will be ready for the partners to review at the next meeting in May, with the launch of the 2018-19 Report Card data scheduled for the end of July 2020.

Board members from both CANEGROWERS Mossman and Tableland met with the new Mossman Mill manager, Peter Di Bella on 11 February. It was an informative meeting and Mr DiBella brings much industry experience to the job.



The growing conditions for the crop have been favourable so far this year, with the crop estimate at 900,000 tonnes of cane. We don't have a formal start date yet, and final decisions on trucks for transport and tonnes for toll-crush will be made by the end of March.

Photo supplied from the OGBR: Chris Johnson Program Manager of Reef Programs, talks to a group of Mossman growers.

CAIRNS

The good rain received across the area combined with hot days has created ideal growing conditions for the cane crop.

The recent notification of the biosecurity threat from the exotic pest fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) remains concerning and growers should remain engaged on this issue.

The Emerging Leaders program, run collaboratively between CANEGROWERS Cairns Region, SRA and Evidn (Behavioural Scientists), is making progress and looking to formalise some processes. Anyone requiring information or wishing to be involved contact Joel Tierney on 0472 869 659.



Pictured: Neil Maitland.

TULLY

Rainfall for December, January and February has mostly been from storms and is still well below the long term average. The 2020 crop prospects improved with rain at the end of December and early January, however more rain is needed to counter the hot conditions.

On a positive note, the storms have allowed for much of the over-row spraying to be completed, legume crops have benefited, and the crop has not been impacted by early floods.

CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service workshops were held on 26 and 27 February, with Dougall Lodge providing a timely update on the market prior to grower decisions around 2020 pool options.

Arbitration is underway, under the Sugar Code of Conduct, on the terms of a Cane Supply Agreement for 2020. CANEGROWERS Tully and Tully Sugar Limited were unable to agree on the terms and CANEGROWERS Tully gave the notice which has resulted in the arbitration. It is expected that the process will be completed by 17 March.

The local extension network ran two successful workshops last week, with attendance of more than 60 growers. The WTSIP funded workshops were focused around phosphorus and mill mud and speakers included Dr Phil Moody and Dr Peter Larson. Reports are that there were good question and answer sessions from and to the panel.

BURDEKIN

The Burdekin district finally received some decent rain in late January through to early February with some areas receiving up to 500mm of rain within a 24 hour period.

In the Delta in particular, the monsoon event did cause damage to some farms, such as erosion, washouts and crops losses, and we are currently liaising with Government to determine if any assistance is available to assist growers to remediate the damage.

That aside, the rain was very beneficial in allowing pumps to be turned off which was followed by a series of hot sunny days and the crop has responded accordingly and more follow up rain has been received.

Burdekin Productivity Services in conjunction with SRA and Pharmacist ran a series of shed meetings in the district which were well attended and provided growers with an update on variety trials, high yielding farming practices, regulations, herbicides and the benefits of using seed cane.

Lower Burdekin Water also held a number of well supported shed meetings where they provided updates on capital works, organisation structure and water plan review.

The Qld Department of Environment and Science have been conducting fertiliser audits and to help prepare for these audits, farmers should ensure that they have their records readily available as these records are being photographed as part of the process.

Farmers are also encouraged to make sure that the farm and infrastructure are well presented.

In some cases the compliance auditors are interested in having a look over the farm, particularly those that are located near waterways to gain an understanding of how any run-off is being managed and where it could go to.

The Burdekin hosted four first aid courses for farmers which resulted in 42 first aid certificates being presented to attendees and the feedback was very positive.



PROSERPINE

Proserpine's 2020 crop has enjoyed ideal growing conditions over the last month.

The last few weeks in particular have been hot and humid with light but persistent coastal shower. While the rain has been patchy, growers are reporting regular top-ups across the district.

The district's legume crops have also responded to the favourable weather. Sunflower is a new addition on the Proserpine landscape which has captivated the local community.

Proserpine Young Farmers Group recently conducted a farm tour of the Burdekin which focussed on automated irrigation and precision agriculture.

The tour also included green-on-green weed spraying technology, an irrigation workshop at SRA's Brandon Station and Trimble SIS presentation.

The recent spike in sugar price has also raised optimism for the season ahead. A Marketing Information Service workshop is scheduled for 23 March to update members on the recent sugar price movement.

Pictured: Reg Muller's mixed species fallow, Strathdickie.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

The central district continues to enjoy good falls of rain which is a welcome sight for growers and helping to enhance this year's crop growth rates.

REEF REGULATIONS

Growers are expressing concerns about the Reef regulations introduced by the Queensland Government last year with some clear confusion and misunderstanding regarding nutrient and chemical management plans and fallow management criteria.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has raised the issue with the Department, calling for some grower education meetings during the wet season. Scott Robinson from the Office of the Great Barrier Reef has also been invited to address the Plane Creek Area Committee annual meeting on Friday 6 March to assist growers to understand what is required under the new regulations.

EVIDENCE-BASED REGULATION OF FARM PRACTICES

CANEGROWERS Mackay representatives will attend a public hearing expected to be held in Mackay in May for the current Senate Inquiry into evidence-based regulation of farm practices that affect water quality outcomes in the Great Barrier Reef. The Senate Committee is due to report to the Federal Parliament in the first week of October.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF FOUNDATION (GBRF) FUNDING ALLOCATION

A funding allocation of \$22 million has been made by the GBRF across the Mackay and Plane Creek regions. CANEGROWERS Mackay will be working to ensure that funding for projects reaches a broad spectrum of growers.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY

There was an 81% majority vote for the Kinchant Dam Scheme to move to Local Management Arrangements (LMA). The process will start on 30 March 2020. An investigation is under way to compare the amount of downtime allocated to weed control processes.

MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION

In the lead-up to the Mackay Regional Council election in March, CANEGROWERS Mackay will support a push from farmers and graziers for the reintroduction of rural banding for ratepayers.

WISA REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Women in sugar are invited to attend the WISA conference in Mackay on 27-28 April. Registrations are now open for the conference with a program that promises:

- networking opportunity to meet people involved in the sugar industry from throughout Queensland, with other WISA groups attending from Herbert, Burdekin and Bundaberg
- speakers who will make you think about friendship, support and balance in life

- a social gathering for 'Barefoot Bowls' instead of a formal dinner
- a bus tour in the Sarina area with an industrial site visit and tour of 'Sarina Sugar Shed'
- a great time to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

The conference registration form can be found on page 49 of this magazine. For more information contact CANEGROWERS Mackay Network Secretary Jill Fox by emailing jfoxfarm@outlook.com or phoning 0404 469 899.

PROUDLY CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

CANEGROWERS Mackay plans to celebrate members and the generations of their families at this year's Mackay Show (16-18 June).

In collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Arts annual art exhibition, CANEGROWERS Mackay is calling on Mackay/Plane Creek members to send in a current photograph of their family members to display in a photography section entitled Our Farming Generations. More information in the March issue of The Billet.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 6 March – Plane Creek Area Committee Information Meeting
- 27-28 April – Women in Sugar Australia conference in Mackay, organised by CANEGROWERS Mackay Network group
- 15-16 May – CANEGROWERS Mackay Ag Trade Expo – safety demonstration planned
- 28 May – PCPSL Productivity Awards Night
- 14 June – Pioneer Valley Show
- 16-18 June – Cane Competition/Sugar Pavilion at the Mackay Show
- 10 July – Mackay Show Cane Competition Awards Night (TBC)
- 1-2 August – Sarina Show
- 21 August – Sarina Show Cane Competition Awards night (PCPSL) (TBC)



BUNDABERG

The weather has finally improved and most areas, with the exception of Wallaville and parts of the Elliot, have received more than 100mm over the past few weeks. Fairymead has had more than 350mm.

This rain event could not have been more timely, with many growers almost exhausting their allocations. Moisture profiles are improving and the crop is responding well to the ideal growing conditions. Unfortunately, in some instances this rain is too late to save stools and areas will be lost to the extended dry spell. Some runoff has begun to fill on-farm storages, but more is needed.

Even if this great weather continues until the crushing commences, I don't think last year's crop total can be achieved. It's been too dry for too long and we are in mid-February already. In saying that, cane can and does respond very well to these hot and humid days and nights. There is certainly a lot more positive outlook in the area now.

PARADISE DAM

We understand that community safety is paramount, and that the Queensland Government and SunWater have received advice that Paradise Dam wall needs to be lowered up to five metres in the dry season, prior to any significant inflows, and that they will be acting on that advice.

We met with Minister Lynham and highlighted the value of water to the agricultural sector, and the wellbeing and development of the Bundaberg Irrigation Area and stressed that the Queensland Government must protect the nominal allocations and ensure water allocation security is maintained.

Along with CANEGROWERS Isis, BFVG and the Bundaberg Regional Council we have commissioned a firm of consulting economists to look at the Economic Costs of Inaction on Paradise Dam. This report should be available shortly.

2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Nominations for candidates for election as mayors and councillors will be open from the publication of the Notice of Election on 22 February 2020, until midday on Tuesday, 3 March 2020, with the election day being on 28 March 2020.

Given the importance of having a sustainable sugar industry for the Bundaberg community, it would be good to have a grower voice elected to Council and we would encourage growers to consider their position and nominate by the due date should they wish to run for Council. As in past years we will be preparing a briefing document for all candidates.

Further details can be found at www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/2020-local-government-elections

ISIS

After battling the dry conditions for months, the arrival of rain over most parts of the district has been a welcome relief. Although still patchy in parts, the forecast looks promising and we look forward to more widespread rain in the coming weeks.

With respect to Paradise Dam, we continue to work collaboratively with Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers (BFVG) and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg on our agreed three-pronged approach:

1. Support BFVG – through membership, donation to the fighting fund for more dam wall testing and financial contribution to the Economic Impact report;
2. Pushing SunWater and DNRME hard in Mark Mammino's role as Chair of the Bundaberg Irrigation Advisory Committee (IAC) on review of allocations and

their associated governing rules to enable irrigators to go about our business now and into the future; and

3. Utilise our close regional linkages with QFF, CANEGROWERS, Growcom & Macadamias Australia for united advocacy.

We are now awaiting the Building Queensland Report and the final Economic Impact Report and will continue to keep members informed of progress and welcome your questions and phone calls.

The Isis sugar district is helping the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) to develop a coordinated cross industry feral pig strategy. Planning meetings have been held along with an excellent trapping workshop with skills and resources to trial on an initial five key sites.

Isis Central Sugar Mill is currently making 70,000 sleepers on site to deliver a major expansion to its cane rail network. The mill is in the process of laying 39km of new line to give rail access to cane farms as far afield as Wallaville and Gin Gin.

In addition to the efficiencies it will produce for the mill, the positive impact on road safety will be significant. Once completed, the tramline will eliminate an estimated 6000 heavy vehicle movements and reduce an estimated 21,000 heavy vehicle movements currently incurred in transporting cane from these locations to the mill each year.



Pictured: Mill concrete sleepers.

Continues next page ►

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

MARYBOROUGH

The district has continued to benefit from the ongoing rainfall throughout the state. Most of the area has seen at least 200mm, with significantly higher numbers around.

The Fraser Coast Regional Council removed level 2 water restrictions on 18 February, when all water supply storages reached 100%. In the space of just over a week, Lenthalls Dam filled from 53% capacity to 100%. The Mary River has been on flood warning, but only minor inundations have occurred around Tiaro and Maryborough.

The crop is responding and significant growth is evident. Of course, the weeds love this weather too, but it has been too wet to slow them down.

We have a few training courses over coming weeks. Chemical accreditation training is proving popular and will now be offered on two possible dates – 5-6 March or 16-17 March. Please contact the office if you would like to participate.

Smartcane BMP has been a focus in the past few weeks, with the addition of two casual staff to progress interested growers through pre-audit activities. Smartcane BMP Facilitator Deb Telford visited from north Queensland and conducted a workshop on the process as well as tips and tricks (pictured).

The 30 attendees were kept busy and I'm sure will also be keeping Yolande, Tony and Tony busy over the next few months. Record keeping is one of the key activities as we move toward 2022 and reef regulations.



ROCKY POINT

Directors have been busy negotiating the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement ("CSPA") for the 2020/21/22 years and are hopeful of signing off before the end of February. There have only been minor changes to the agreement.

The cogeneration plant has been offline since around 10 January due to an issue with the plant, and then due to asbestos being found in the woodpiles. We believe the cogen operators are allowed to restart but they don't have any clean material on site yet.

The district received a good soaking of around 200mms during the February rain event.

The soybean crop was responding very well to the earlier wet weather, but as the soil profile was already full, the additional rain caused some localised flooding and we lost some soybeans that went under water for a number of days.



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IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELONGING AND OWNERSHIP?

In 2004 I moved to Queensland. My wife Jo and I left Perth with our 14-week-old daughter and landed in a new town where we knew no-one, had no family and didn't follow the local football code.

Fortunately, we settled in quickly. We found a nice place to live and met some great people.

What made the transition easier was finding a place to belong. I played in bands back in Perth, so when we moved to Brisbane I found the music circles and stumbled across a singing session.

Over the next few weeks I went along and sang a few of my songs. The musos were very welcoming and I soon felt like I belonged. As the months went by, I began to feel a sense of ownership of the session, as I wanted it to be a great place to make my music better.

I started working at CANEGROWERS in 2009 and had a similar sense of belonging. I now work in Membership Engagement and, as luck would have it, CANEGROWERS value proposition is offering a place to belong.

In February, a group of CANEGROWERS members participated in CANEGROWERS first Membership Reference Group meeting. The day was designed to provide advice, feedback and ideas to support the membership needs of CANEGROWERS.

I asked the participants what CANEGROWERS should focus on to ensure that we provide value to our members.

Belonging was one idea, yet the theme of ownership came out very strongly.

I probed a little more on what they meant by ownership. The sentiment was more a feeling of camaraderie. A local focus and emphasis on issues that affect the growers' bottom line. I asked whether there was a difference between belonging and ownership?

Belonging was seen as being part of something and acceptance. It was a good thing to belong. Ownership on the other hand, was partly viewed as taking responsibility, but was more about a sense of success for CANEGROWERS. Ownership meant that you felt part of something bigger than just yourself.

That made sense to me.

As a member of CANEGROWERS, you all belong to your local CANEGROWERS organisation and the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (QCGO). Ownership comes down to how you engage with CANEGROWERS and from grower involvement within the organisation.

Members elect a local board and each board appoints representatives to the CANEGROWERS Policy Council. Through this, grower members determine CANEGROWERS policy, which is implemented by staff in our offices in Brisbane and across the state.

When you start to analyse what CANEGROWERS does, the organisation is taking ownership of many of the industry issues and challenges to support your business.

For example, CANEGROWERS fought and won a long campaign to secure choice and competition in sugar marketing services. We have followed this up with the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Services to assist members to make informed decisions and reap the benefits of competition.

Locally, CANEGROWERS Tully is engaged in arbitration to secure a workable and fair cane supply agreement. Internationally, we are working with the government on its action against illegal Indian sugar subsidies that affect your business profitability.

We are the industry representative for biosecurity and are engaged in activities meet the challenge of fall armyworm, an exotic pest now found in Queensland.

We tackle transport, electricity and reef regulations. We provide insurance, legal support and continue to lead the Smartcane BMP program.

It's your organisation and you have the opportunity to shape it any way you like.

Belonging or having greater ownership starts with getting involved. You could ask questions at your local meetings, drop into your district office, send a text to your local representative, call the Brisbane office and have a chat with one of the helpful staff or suggest an article for the magazine. You can even put your hand up for a committee or your local board.

There are many ways you can engage and have ownership of your organisation.

I think belonging is being a member. Engagement is how well you use CANEGROWERS products and services. Ownership is your buy-in and feedback to make CANEGROWERS better.

As one of the growers at the Membership Reference Group meeting said, "Membership starts at the front door of local CANEGROWERS office".

My door is always open. Come in, tell me how your team is doing and give me your thoughts on CANEGROWERS.

You never know, it might lead to something great and give me something to sing about! ■



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



WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS

Sugar pricing - it's your choice!

It's been a good start to the year. Rain and the lift in sugar prices have boosted spirits and incomes across our industry.

The post-November price lift was initially supported by expectations of an emerging global supply deficit, on the back of poor northern hemisphere beet and cane crops. Despite there being massive global sugar stocks, speculators began switching their exposure from short to long.

News of a dramatic, almost 40%, collapse in the Thai cane crop and sugar production added fuel to the fire. Sugar prices surged higher and the prompt raw sugar contract passed A\$500/t (US15.5c/lb).

How long will it last? Great question! Only time will tell.

With the Brazilian Real at record lows, market commentators are now eyeing Brazil's likely response. A good cane crop is expected and a switch in production is widely anticipated as Brazilian millers move to make more sugar. There is also the impact Corona virus (COVID-19) has had on global financial markets, sugar included.

In this uncertain price environment it is great to see so many growers take control and more actively manage the price risk they face. For some this means actively selecting a different pool to that used previously. For others, it means setting scale up target pricing orders to take advantage of price increases.

It is also good to see the marketers improve the range of pricing options they make available to growers. The introduction of competition in marketing has certainly increased the options and opportunities available to growers.

Different marketers are now putting forward different pricing pools and services.

I have often been asked why pool returns vary so much.

There are at least five reasons pool performance varies:

1. **Risk profile** - The approach taken to pool management - passive, active or otherwise.
2. **Timing** - The length of time the pool pricing window is open. A longer pricing period is likely to provide more opportunity for effective price risk management.
3. **Discretion** - The level of discretion a Pool Manager has in make pricing decisions.
4. **Pool components** - Pools with similar names can contain different components. For example, some marketers have a separate pool for US quota (USQ); some lump USQ sales proceeds into their Shared Pool and others include US sales proceeds in their Seasonal Pool. Similarly, different marketers treat financing charges in different ways.
5. **Performance** - The performance of the Pool Manager is an important factor.

Before choosing, it is important to read your marketer's pool terms and conditions. Remember, it's your choice.

CANEGROWERS is unable to provide financial advice to members, but our Market Information Service distils market information for members to assist their decision making.

The next round of grower workshops is underway. Contact your CANEGROWERS district office for more information. Weekly Market Notes and monthly videos are available to members on the CANEGROWERS website. ■

“ The uplift in sugar prices has certainly boosted spirits and incomes across the industry, and news of the dramatic, almost 40%, collapse in the Thai cane crop added fuel to the fire. ”



Burn Ashburner

Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Research, development and extension capability in the sugarcane industry

In late 2019, Sugar Research Australia commissioned a Sugarcane Industry RD&E Capability Audit and developed a National Sugarcane Industry RD&E Employment and Capability Strategy.

The industry's capability consists of almost 200 people in more than 30 organisations with SRA being the dominant provider (46%). Two-thirds are researchers and technicians, while one third are adoption/extension practitioners.

The industry has strong on-farm research capabilities in crop improvement, some areas of crop protection and in farming systems. However, current research capability is relatively low in weeds and pests, crop water use, robotics and automation, farm economics, soil physics, soil chemistry, rural sociology and sugarcane bio-products.

On the extension/adoption side, there is low capacity for addressing business management and succession planning. Also, around a quarter of the workforce has less than four years adoption/extension experience.

While the overall RD&E capacity looks OK, the sugarcane industry lacks an experienced employment-ready pool of capability, particularly with adoption/extension skills.

Organisations interviewed as part of the RD&E capability audit indicated that, outside of large cities, they experience difficulty recruiting of skilled candidates. Of concern is that school leavers do not always see sugarcane as an industry of choice due to its perceived impact on health and the environment.

Opportunities for Improvement

The following opportunities were identified to be addressed for the future:

- Reallocation or additional investment in capability.

- Balancing the reef-funded on-farm nutrient management planning with on-farm nutrient run-off R&D.
- Increased emphasis on building capability for strategic and transformative R&D compared to existing traditional applied R&D.
- Longer term projects (~5 years) and longer term program planning with stop-go decisions guided by project and program evaluations.
- Large-scale strategic partnerships between industry investors and other RD&E providers to address important capability issues and ensure research is focused on priority industry issues.
- Increased collaboration between Rural Industries R&D Corporations to address common cross-sector issues.
- Coordination of postgraduate research scholarships and appointments made independently at CSIRO and universities in order to align to industry priorities in the medium to long term.
- Attraction, up-skilling and retention of high calibre specialist research and extension staff to regional locations.
- Addressing the perceived negative associations of sugar with human health and the environment, which is affecting the attraction of school leavers and new entrants to the industry.

CANEGROWERS is addressing some of these issues through membership of Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance, the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia and work on sugar and health. ■

The industry has strong on-farm research capabilities in crop improvement, crop protection and farming systems. However, capability is relatively low in weeds and pests, crop water use, robotics and automation, farm economics, soil physics, soil chemistry, rural sociology and sugarcane bio-products.

Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS



Fall armyworm on the march

Soon after its first detections in mid-February through surveillance trapping in Torres Strait and the tip of Cape York Peninsula, the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) was found in the Queensland gulf country.

At this time, the national committee of government and industry reps responsible for managing incursions by exotic pests accepted the advice of Biosecurity Queensland that eradication was not feasible.

CANEGROWERS, as a member of Plant Health Australia, sits on this committee, with technical support from SRA.

As covered in an SRA factsheet on pages 6 and 7 of this edition of *Australian Canegrower*, this new pest is likely to spread to most agricultural areas of Australia and affect a large variety of crops.

While its preferred hosts are reported to be maize, sorghum, rice, millet and some pasture grasses, it will no doubt occur in sugarcane crops.

It is a matter of waiting and watching for its arrival in cane areas, to observe if high populations build up, and to see what sort of impact it will have.

Once the decision was made to not pursue eradication, our focus turned to helping industry prepare for this new pest.

CANEGROWERS and SRA have worked closely with reps from QDAF and from district productivity organisations to distribute information about the moth's identification, biology, likely impacts and control.

We have also applied for emergency permits from the APVMA so that chemical control options are available to growers if needed.

We will continue to meet frequently with the Sugarcane Industry Biosecurity Committee to ensure the best-available information and control strategies are being developed and delivered to growers.

MORE REEF REGULATIONS – FOR 'NEW' CROPPING ACTIVITIES

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef has initiated public consultation on the proposed standard conditions for new or expanded commercial cropping and horticulture activities under the Reef protection regulations. The standard conditions aim to achieve 'no net decline' in water quality by preventing and minimising nutrient and sediment run-off. They relate to the way the land (or features of the land) and farming infrastructure are designed, implemented and maintained, and relate mainly to soil and erosion control measures and irrigation requirements.

These standard conditions will apply to new or expanded commercial cropping and horticultural activities between five and 100 hectares that do not have a cropping history. Under the regulations, a cropping history is when cropping or horticultural activities have occurred during three out of the past 10 years (with at least one of the years being in the past five years). From 1 June 2020, the standard conditions will apply to the Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary Reef regions.

Written submissions must be submitted to the OGBR by Tuesday, 7 April 2020. CANEGROWERS will prepare a submission and will integrate any concerns or suggestions provided by the district organisations. ■



This new pest is likely to spread to most agricultural areas of Australia and affect a large variety of crops. It is a matter of waiting and watching for its arrival in cane areas, to observe if high populations build up, and to see what sort of impact it will have on cane crops.

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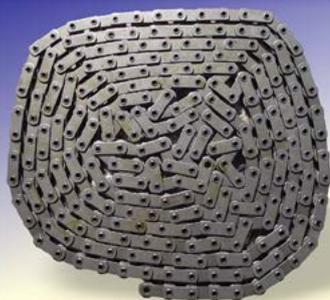
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LEGAL ISSUES

LAND TITLE DEEDS – A THING OF THE PAST

Since 1861, land ownership in Queensland was evidenced by a Certificate of Title or title deed.

The Registrar General held the official register of certificates of title and a duplicate was issued to the owner. The certificates were originally printed on parchment which was made of dried sheep skin to aid longevity.

In 1994, the Land Title Act did away with the paper-based title system and duplicate certificates of title were no longer issued.

Since October 2019, certificates of title are no longer issued and a fully computerised registration system manages the land title registry.

If you still have an old paper or parchment certificate of title they are no longer of any real effect. You can keep them for sentimental value if you wish, but it might be worth checking with your land registry office to ensure the electronic recording of your title is accurate.

FIRE BREAKS – DO I NEED COUNCIL APPROVAL?

Under previous laws, some local councils required approval to clear native vegetation for necessary fire breaks. On 6 December 2019, the State Government passed laws which allow landholders to clear vegetation to establish or maintain necessary fire breaks within a set of general rules without the need for any local council or State approval.

The basic rules allow clearing of native vegetation without approval if:

- establishing or maintaining a necessary fire break to protect infrastructure up to 1.5 times the height of the tallest adjacent vegetation, or 20 metres, whichever is the wider; or
- establishing a necessary fire management line of 10 metres width.

FARM TRESPASS – INCREASED PENALTIES

On 13 February 2020, penalties for trespass onto farmland were doubled by new Queensland laws. Maximum fines have been increased to \$2,669 along with a maximum term of imprisonment of one year.

FARM DEBT MEDIATION – ACCESS EXTENDED

There are current laws which require a mortgagee (lender) to engage in mediation with farmers before enforcement action can be taken against the farmer.

New laws have now extended the range of persons who can participate in the mediation to include partners and other persons associated with the farm and the loans.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any member wishing to discuss aspects of any legal matters should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call me on Free Call 1800 177 159, for free initial legal advice. ■



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor

Classifieds

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Next deadline is **23 March 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.

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

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

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.

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Mossman-Tully

FORD 5000 \$6000; MF188 \$5000; 24Plate Napier Wheel Offset \$3000; 5 Furrow Bonel Rev. Plough \$1000; Fiat M100 \$22,000; 90" Ripper Rotary \$1500; Famall AM Petrol \$500 ONO. Prices + GST. Ph: 0429652235.
Adjustable Row Spacing Coulter Ripper \$4,500. Atkinson Plant Cane Cutter \$1,200. Ph Brice: 0417665588.
1 Set of Bridge Girders coupled together with Cross Braces 1240mm apart 18300mm long

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Fertile Agricultural Land, Abundant Water

This highly productive farm in the Tully (Qld) area is for sale by tender.

Currently under sugarcane, in an area with substantial rainfall, Tully River boundary plus other water sources, this clean, tidy property shows good income return.

- 530.94Ha, 2 titles
- Net cane production area 439.54 Ha (61.11 Ha currently under fallow)
- Consistent 11% average above mill TCPH
- 95 Ha underground mains & submains suitable for banana or other orchard production
- Irrigation licence 990 mgl
- Currently BMP accredited cane farm
- 2 Machinery sheds, mains power
- List of machinery & equipment included in sale
- Bitumen road access

Successful history of beef cattle & banana production which could be re-established or developed into other agricultural industries.

Sold as a going concern no GST applies.

Genuine inquiries only
Ph: 0417 180 378
Email: farmtender1@gmail.com
Tender closes 5pm 3rd April, 2020

RSJ size 560mm x 180mm x 18300mm long. POA. Ph: 0428669266.

2x 7810 John Deere articulated with 14 tonne Carta bins \$100,000 each. 6175M John Deere articulated with 14 tonne Carta bin \$175,000. All + GST. Tully area. Ph: 0408713854.

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

1x Massey Ferguson 6475. 1x Massey Ferguson 5465. 6 tonne side tipping haulout tractors. Low hours. Very good condition. Can sell separately. Ph: 0740562063.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Massey Ferguson 201 cane harvester, GC, has spare parts, great machine for someone who wants to plant their own. \$8000 + GST. Ph: 0417624822.

9lt Iveco Engine. Injectors, Turbo, Fuel Pump, Wiring Harness all 1 year old. Approx 10,000hrs. Still running GC. \$10,000 + GST. 1 x Double Bin Trailer \$5500 + GST. Ph: 0427912277.

Chamberlain Tractor 4 cyl 1963 Model High clearance Fair condition. For wrecking or restoration only \$3500 + GST. Howard S Series Rotary Hoe 80 inch. Working order. Good small garden hoe \$500 + GST. Ph: 0747774966.

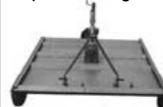
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3 metre width, 28 discs, All bath bearings \$12,000 plus GST (\$13,200 incl GST) Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.

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

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

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.

Billet Planter HBM. Old model with narrow shoot ready to plant. \$7,000 GST inc. Ph: 0448958037.

Mackay-Proserpine

95' single axle, 10 tonne Carta double door elevating bin. VGC. New Tyres. \$45,000 +GST. Ph: 0417427480.

Harvester Case 2016, custom made multiplier, 4700 hrs, new tracks & elevator chain \$363,000, Iveco Trakker 6x6 with 10 T Cane Side Tipper \$143,000, Earthmoving Side Tipper \$11,000. All incl. GST. Ph Lionel: 0408755453.

1998 Case Track Harvester. Komatsu Motor 450hrs since new engine installed. Modified front end & base cutters to cut 2m drills. New back elevator chains & floor installed mid 2019, extended elevator \$65,000. JCB FASTRAC 185-65 with 12 tonne corridinni elv bin. Good tyres, GC \$39,000. All +GST. Ph: 0407347900 or 0749541047.

Hodge 28 plate medium duty wheel offsets. Ph: 0435550737.

Fiat 1300 Super DT 4wd Tractor; Fiat 750 Special Tractor; Massey Ferguson 165 Tractor; Massey Ferguson 188 Tractor. Ph: 0417612883.

Trash incorporator; 3-row multi-tyne weeder rake; double row marker with hydraulic ram; double row fertiliser box; stick planter with tank & suson box; 3-row trash rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways; rippers; disc offsets; grubbers for ratoons and fallow; slasher; cane break pushers; 3-row stool splitter with gal fertilizer box & more. Ph: 0417612883.

1997 Samsung SE 280LC Excavator, 28 tonne, 16923 hrs \$35,000. 2002 Caterpillar 325CL Mistro 29 tonne Excavator, 16475 hrs \$39,000. Each has quick hitch, crane burst valves, hand rails, UHF radio & 1800 GP bucket. 1993 Komatsu WA470-1 Loader, ROPS, 4.2m³ bucket, UHF radio \$35,000. All + GST. Ph: 0419700761.

90" Howard Rotary Hoe, GC \$5,500. 3-row stool splitter Confidor applicator. Can be adapted for fertiliser box. Excellent condition \$8,000. Silvan 600 ltr spray tank with hydraulic boom lift & 4 Irwin legs, for spraying cane ratoons, GC \$4,000. Parts for Fiat 1000 tractor: Front 4wd diff, wheels,

tyres, selector box \$1,200. Irrigation pump, 4 cyl Perkins engine, watch dog set up, diesel tank on trailer, centrifugal pump, GC \$7,200. All +GST. Ph: 0417612883.

7 foot heavy duty Howard slasher with galvanised top and Crumble Roller to suit 120 inch Howard rotary hoe. Ph: 0417542783.

2x Populin billet planters, both wide elevator models, one complete, other near complete. Could make one very good planter (with spares) out of the two, \$3300 ONO. Ph: 0407176828.

1x Ford 8700 & 1x Ford 8210 with Charlie Galea built 6 ton Tipper Bins with apron \$22,000 each incl. GST. Ph: 0428969651.

15 megalitres Kinchant Dam water. Ph after 7pm: 0749545179.

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

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).

Rainfall Report

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Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Jan 2020)	Month to date (1 Feb-27 Feb)	Year to date	Jan-Feb
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	528.2	254.8	783	1110
Mareeba Airport	191.2	119	310.2	440
Cairns Aero	460.6	259.2	719.8	844
Mt Sophia	499	323	822	1200
Babinda Post Office	548.9	49.6	598.5	1382
Innisfail	499.2	169.2	668.4	1098
Tully Sugar Mill	312.3	250.6	562.9	1327
Cardwell Marine Pde	408.4	290.2	698.6	903
Lucinda Township	361.5	320.1	681.6	853
Ingham Composite	372.3	478.2	850.5	859
Abergowrie Alert	186	193	379	587
Townsville Aero	264.6	252.8	517.4	574
Ayr DPI Research Stn	571.6	175.2	746.8	456
Proserpine Airport	164.6	293	457.6	653
Mirani Mary Street	236.7	342.3	579	622
Mackay MO	275.2	280.8	556	591
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	294	347.2	641.2	748
Bundaberg Aero	141.8	153.8	295.6	327
Childers South	89.4	189	278.4	243
Maryborough	71.4	328.6	400	334
Tewantin RSL Park	169	493.6	662.6	358
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	185.8	579.8	765.6	476
Nambour Daff - Hillside	199.4	495.6	695	494
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	172.3	386	558.3	281
Murwillumbah Bray Park	263.9	699.1	963	425
Ballina Airport	170	658.2	828.2	356
New Italy (Woodburn)	209.2	506.3	715.5	302



dream with your eyes open

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

Classifieds

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 T7.200 Auto Command, SuperSteer, 155hp (Boosts to 203hp), 4,400 hrs, 4 Rear Remotes, GPS, 14.9/R30 Fronts, 18.4/R42 Rears \$77,000 Inc. Ph: 0428236165.

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

David Brown 990 with loader \$6,750. Whole stick planter, Whole stick cutter & Cotton King \$1750 (for all). Fiat 100-90 \$11,000. Trailco irrigator & hose reel \$6,500. All prices exclude GST. Ph: 0419577110.

140 CASE PUMA with trimble GPS and Base Station. 4" Water Winch plus hose and reel. 1.5 ton Fertiliser Box, 4 Furrow hodge square plough. 2x Coil Tyne Cultivators, 2x fully equipped service trucks with hiab crane. 16 ton Bigfoot Transporter. Ph: 0428937164.

Single Row HBM Billet planter \$3750, 4 Row Janke Eliminator Mulcher \$4000, 1200lt Fuel Tank \$400, Grain Bin Trailer \$1000, Side Dresser Fertiliser Box \$1200, Single Row Stick Planter \$600, Tractorpac welder/generator \$600, PTO Driven Flood Pump \$500, ½ Tonne Linkage Spreader \$500, Linkage Back Blade \$350. All + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

1999, 1994 & 1992 Austoft Power Hauls all 9 tonne elevating and in good condition. Ph: 0407629427.

2x Massey 305 harvesters, HBM billet planter, triple bin planter tipper, Iskei inter row tractor and spray boom, 3 tonne 3 row stool splitter. Ph: 0488415781.

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

Wanted

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

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

Interested in leasing additional cane farming land in the Tully area. Currently have own farm and machinery. Ph: 0438796591.

New grower in desperate need of STL shares. Any amounts. Ph: 0411755685.

Positions Vacant

Relief Harvester/Haul out driver position & haul out position available for the 2020 season. Must be motivated with good machine maintenance knowledge. 80-90,000t run. Condong mill area. Email westtweedharvesting@gmail.com.

Property

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

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.

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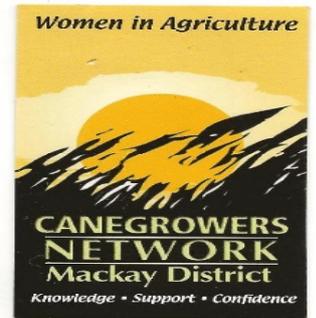
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MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE



2020 Conference: *Farming Friendships*

Mackay: Monday 27 – Tuesday 28 April

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM



FULL REGISTRATION

\$77.00 (inc. GST) All conference meals, social bowls, bus tour for 1 person

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Organisation / Business you represent (if applicable): _____

PART REGISTRATION

\$33.00 (inc. GST) Monday night bowls and buffet only (per person)

\$44.00 (inc. GST) Tuesday Bus Tour only (per person)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

I will need a seat on the bus for Day 2

OR

I will provide my own transport for Day 2

Registration must be returned before MONDAY 30 MARCH 2020

Payment Methods – EFT preferred

Email Registration Form to: mkyreception@canegrowers.com.au

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Payable to: Mackay Canegrowers Limited

BSB: 084789

Address: PO Box 117, Mackay, QLD, 4740

Account No: 577477567

Phone: 07 4944 2600

REF: *Your Surname WISA*

ATTN: Accounts– 2020 WISA

All Enquiries: Secretary – Jill Fox

E: jfoxfarm@outlook.com

M: 0404 469 899

PH: 07 4958 7776

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- ▶ Saves up to 30% on chemicals

- ▶ Proven drift reduction and better penetration in the crop
- ▶ Faster spraying speeds
- ▶ Lower water consumption

WHEN IT COMES TO protecting Australia's cane crop, HARDI is your ideal choice.

Our high productivity sprayers include the lightweight Self-Propelled, high capacity Trailers and a wide range of linkage sprayers suited for any application. Hardi sprayers

are packed with proven technologies, including the unique TWIN concept, to optimise rate accuracy, operating efficiency, boom height control and driver comfort.

And, because they're built in Australia, we can tailor a sprayer to your needs – from boom size to track width.



HARDI MASTER

- ▶ 1,000 to 1,800 l capacity
- ▶ 12 m to 21 m boom



HARDI NK

- ▶ 400 to 1,000 l capacity
- ▶ 6-12 m boom



HARDI Australia
www.hardi.com.au

e info@hardi-aus.com
p 1300 042 734

