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SHOULDER**
GROWING
TOGETHER

Daylight robbery



Tackling feral pigs



Cane festival fires up



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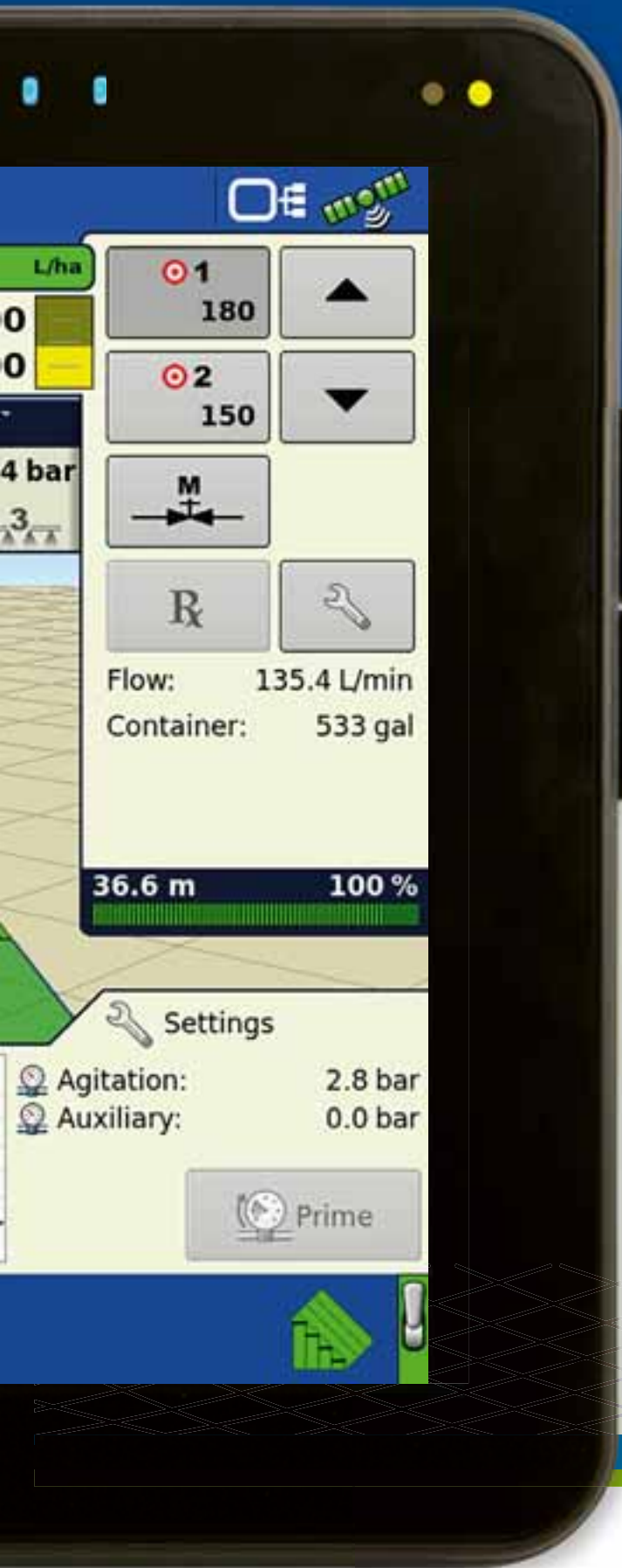
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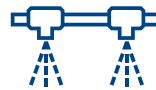


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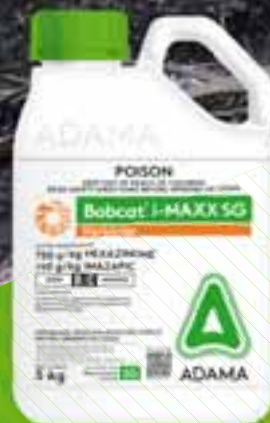
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CANEGROWERS

CONTENTS

-
- 04 *News Brief*
NFF is supporting farmers to protect important farm data
-
- 05 *Fire ants on the march*
Is the Australian way of life at risk without a solid eradication program?
-
- 06 *Theft rates are increasing*
Rural theft is on the increase and it's costing growers
-
- 10 *Many hands make the industry hum*
The industry remains an integral player in regional communities
-
- 13 *Electricity tariffs on the rise - again*
Have you reviewed your tariffs in light of the 1 July changes?
-
- 14 *WABCG convention*
Sharing similarities and learning from our differences
-
- 16 *A shared passion*
It's a team effort to overcome the challenges of multiple farms
-
- 24 *First Fire lights up the sky*
The 2023 Australian Hand Cane Cutting Competition was a blast
-
- 32 *Regional round-up*
-
- 40 *Policy updates*
-
- 44 *Legal updates*
-
- 46 *Classifieds*
-
- 47 *Rainfall report*



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COVER IMAGE:
FNQ growers Liza and Michael
Giudice say its a team effort in
managing their farms, hundreds
of kilometres apart, and hope their
children will share their dream.

Photo Credit: Renee Cluff
Read more on page 16

Funding is flowing for major Queensland water projects

The Queensland Government has committed more than \$1.7 billion investment in water infrastructure and planning in the State budget.

In the north, a further \$440 million, on top of the \$100 million already committed, is locked in to progress the upgrade and raising of the state's largest water storage asset, Burdekin Falls Dam.

Raising the dam by two metres will future-proof Queensland's largest dam by providing up to 150,000

megalitres of new water allocations, locking in water for agricultural irrigation, groundwater recharge, aquifer management, and supplementing urban use, while powering industries and jobs in North Queensland.

This budget ensures the Paradise Dam Improvement Project will progress, providing \$116.4 million this year to continue pre-construction activities prior to major construction works commencing late next year.

"We know water is precious and vital resource and this Budget is further proof of our commitment to water protection and security," Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said.

Will an increase in funds for the aviation industry be a boost for growers?

The Federal Government recently announced a \$30 million boost for the aviation industry and while North Queensland growers have welcomed the funding announcement, they are waiting patiently to see the true benefit for growers.

Burdekin Renewable Fuels, a group of farmers that have been lobbying state and federal governments in recent years, have commissioned a pre-feasibility study into aviation fuel, with a 12-month study into

building a plant, due in a few weeks. Director and Home Hill grower Phil Marano said the funding was encouraging and it's something that is needed.

"If we get this (biofuels) industry up and running we can control our own futures," Mr Marano said.

"Burdekin growers will be keeping a close eye on the funding."



Not sure what deductions you can claim this tax time?

Well good news! The Australian Taxation Office has a range of helpful information tailored to the agricultural industry!

Check it out: www.ato.gov.au/agriculture

IS GOVERNMENT FAILING AUSTRALIANS ON FIRE ANTS?



CANEGROWERS has called on the federal, state and territory governments to redouble their efforts to halt the march of Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA).

This follows the release of a damning report, which has been kept under wrap for two years, on the failure of the current eradication program.

The report makes clear the current strategy will not only fail to eradicate RIFA, but will be unable to stop the global super-pest from spreading beyond south-east Queensland.

‘To prevent RIFA spreading beyond SEQ, building up more around Brisbane, and eventually becoming entrenched throughout Australia, a larger, more comprehensive and inevitably more expensive program will be needed,’ the report states.

Failure to do so would lead to ‘inevitable future costs of major public health impacts and billions worth of damage per

year to Australian agriculture and the wider economy.’

CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Senior Manager Mick Quirk said Red Imported Fire Ants are one of the worst invasive species to ever reach Australia and failure to eradicate the pest would have dire consequences for the entire community.

“The report states that the current fire ant program is not fit for purpose and is grossly under-resourced,” he said.

Mr Quirk questioned why the Queensland and Federal governments sat on the report for two years.

“Why has there been no sign of any decisions or actions in the two years since the report was completed. Where is the urgency and the transparency?” he said.

“We call on all states and territories and the Federal Government to re-commit to a properly funded and coordinated national program that will eradicate fire ants once and for all.

“Failure to do so will have a devastating impact on a whole range of agricultural industries and on the Australian way of life,” Mr Quirk said.

Rocky Point cane farmer Ben Spann said growers in the district were upset and frustrated by the lack of action and transparency by the government.

“Fire ants have been a huge problem in our area for years and we’ve always suspected that the government wasn’t taking it seriously enough or committing the funds and resources necessary to properly tackle this massive environmental and societal problem,” Mr Spann said.

“But to see that in black and white, and to find out that they’ve known for two years but have sat on this report is very upsetting and frustrating.

“We’ve been let down badly by our state and federal politicians and by Biosecurity Queensland. And I don’t just mean the sugarcane industry here in Rocky Point. If not addressed, this failure will eventually impact every Australian.” ■

The economic effect of fire ants in the United States is immense, with the country paying more than US\$6 billion each year to try and mitigate the harmful impacts of this pest on American life. Fire ants first arrived in the United States in the 1930s when an infested cargo ship arrived from Brazil. They now infest over 300 million acres of land throughout the country, with the southern states feeling the brunt of the sting.

Just like in Australia, there are no natural predators to combat fire ants in the United States. Free to spread, they have infiltrated the country and fire ant populations are now 5 to 10 times denser in the United States than in South America!

Source: National Fire Ant Eradication Program

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

Rural property owners are being urged to be on guard amid increased theft rates across Queensland.

Ryan Dingle counts himself as unlucky, having been the victim of thieves twice in the past year. The Bundaberg cane grower and contracting business owner was first hit late in 2022 when a tool truck was broken into in broad daylight.

"It was on a Sunday lunchtime in open conditions," Ryan said. "You could have seen it from multiple roadways. The driver of the truck left it when he went to get a tractor from a nearby paddock and came back to find it had been broken into.

"They stole about \$40,000 worth of tools"

The second incident occurred in late April when a Landcruiser was taken, again during daylight hours. "The operator was working on a corporate farm and he had the vehicle locked on a pad," Ryan said. "He was working just down the road and someone must have been watching him. They took the Landcruiser, along with thousands of dollars' worth of tools and fuel."

The vehicle has since been recovered, although it was modified. Toolboxes and the fuel tank had been removed, the white body had been repainted a matte black and the bull bar had been turned into a bumper bar. The fuel and tools remain missing.

Further north, CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg has also been a victim, targeted by thieves around Christmas time.

"Our shed was locked up but they broke into the shed by cutting the mesh off the



Photo: Courtesy Ryan Dingle

windows," he said. "They took a lot of power tools worth a lot of money, especially the battery-operated power tools, Milwaukee tools appear to be their main target. There was fuel taken, by cutting the lock on a fuel tank."

"We were about three months without tools before we were able to finalise an insurance claim. I guess a lesson to be learned is that when you come to make an insurance claim if you don't have evidence of ownership, it's an argument and a half to get a payout. Invoices or photos make it much easier.

"To wake up and find you've been broken into, it's an eerie, scary feeling"

CANEGROWERS Mackay fought hard for us, if it wasn't for Geoff Youngs and his insurance team we might not have got the full payout."

Kevin has now increased his security, including the installation of alarms and cameras but acknowledges this is all at an extra cost.

Property offences across Queensland have been steadily rising since theft and burglary rates hit a low during the covid-19 national lockdown in 2020. The statistics show around 25,000 offences are being reported statewide each month. Unlawful entry, unlawful use of a motor vehicle and 'other' theft were all

substantially higher in 2021/22 when compared with 2020/21. Townsville, Cairns, Central Queensland and the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday regions all had higher per capita crime rates than the state average. Figures for this year show the number of property offences remains elevated.

A police spokesperson told *Australian Canegrower* many of the incidents are opportunistic. "Thieves will usually act on easy or tempting opportunities, especially when it is evident no one is home or the risk of being caught is low," they said.



Kevin Borg is frustrated by recent thefts and has had to increase security around his property, all at his own cost

Continued next page ►

“Rural property owners should also be locking all property gates and fuel containers, and regularly checking fencing”

“It is essential rural property owners regularly check items on their properties that can be stolen, such as tools, machinery and fuel. Ensure these items are locked away and out of sight.

“Further measures include the installation of security cameras, sensor lights, security screen doors and alarms.”

Police are also urging property owners to be wary of unfamiliar vehicles. “If you find a suspicious vehicle on your property, do not approach the vehicle or offenders and call police immediately,” they said. “If possible, record the vehicle’s registration numbers and any description of offenders. This will greatly help police investigate the matter.”

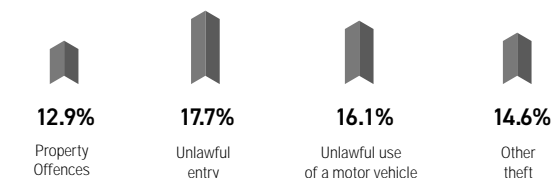
While the statewide property crime figures include both metro and rural/regional areas, the types of vehicles most commonly being stolen add to the warnings for growers. According to motoring body RACQ, the Toyota Landcruiser has topped the list since 2021. The Toyota Hilux has also been in the top three consistently.

“There’s no definitive answer as to why these models are the most commonly stolen,” a spokesperson said. “They are

some of the top selling vehicles so there is more of them around to steal. Previous research from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council found the majority of cars are stolen for short term purposes - this may include joyriding, as a temporary means of transport, or for use in the commission of another crime - and isn’t necessarily linked to the vehicle’s value. As vehicle security improves, the easiest way to steal a car is to use the keys, so drivers need to be extra mindful about where they store their keys.”

Further advice includes avoiding tagging keys with identifying information such as names or addresses and where possible parking in a garage or gated driveway. ■

CRIME INCREASES 2021/22



Source: QPS

MILLS TARGETED

Five burglaries at Wilmar Sugar’s Macknade and Victoria mills have netted thieves \$60,000 worth of stolen property.

In early May, electrical cable valued at \$10,000 was taken from the Victoria Mill. Police say the thieves returned later that month and stole more cable to a similar value. On 31 May, the same product was stolen from Macknade Mill. This was followed by two more incidents at Victoria Mill, with cable worth a combined \$30,000 taken.

The same two vehicles – thought to be a white Toyota Landcruiser and a silver Nissan Navara - were spotted in the vicinities of the mills at the time of the thefts.

2020	2021	2022	2023 (so far)
Holden Commodore	Toyota Landcruiser	Toyota Landcruiser	Toyota Landcruiser
Toyota Hilux	Toyota Hilux	Toyota Hilux	Toyota Corolla
Mazda Mazda 3	Toyota Corolla	Toyota Corolla	Toyota Hilux

Statistical info for graphics and story taken from:

Crime report, Queensland, 2021–22 (qgso.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Crime Statistics - Queensland Police News (mypolice.qld.gov.au)

YOUR VOICE MATTERS IN ADDRESSING FARM CRIME



One of the primary problems facing rural communities is incidents of crime that impact the function of pastoral, agricultural and aquaculture farming operations. To address this issue, the **UNE Centre for Rural Criminology** is undertaking a survey on farm crime in Australia.

They need valuable information from those involved in farming who have key insights into the important issues. Have your say in improving the safety and well-being of rural farming communities!

THE BLACK HAND

A painful period in North Queensland's cane growing history is being re-visited through a three-part documentary series.

The Black Hand tells the story of the Italian crime gang of the same name which terrorised Italian immigrants trying to build a new life for themselves in the cane fields between Ayr and Mossman in the 1930s. The series centres around Innisfail and Ingham, the two main hubs of The Black Hand.

Innisfail District cane grower Ned DiSalvo was among those interviewed for the docuseries, telling the incredible story of his father's dealings with the 'thugs'. "When they opened up the country to immigration you had bad people come in as well as good people," he explains. "It was basically a group of thugs extorting money out of farmers. They started sending letters of extortion to farmers and roughly the amount they wanted to extort was 500 pounds, which was a lot of money back then."

His father's story is of courage and survival in the face of attempted murders and extreme violence over an extremely



turbulent two to three years. "My father was one of many farmers that received these extortion letters, and he was one of a few who refused to pay," Ned said. "If you didn't pay, they tried to kill you and what made dad's story so bizarre is that he had so many attempts on his life and lived to tell the tale."

Presented by award-winning actor and producer Anthony

LaPaglia, the docuseries re-enacts past events, travels to Italy, and examines the backdrop of hard times, extreme politics and looming war. *The Black Hand* premiered on ABC TV late last month, with the final two episodes following each week thereafter. Once they've gone to air, you can also watch each episode online via ABC iview. ■

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PROSPERITY COMES VIA THE EFFORT OF MANY HANDS

BY DAN GALLIGAN
CEO CANEGROWERS

Agriculture employs more than 14% of Queensland's workforce. This is a huge contribution to the Queensland economy, particularly in our regional towns and cities.

However, employment statistics can mask the huge number of small businesses and associated employees who work for our industry through trades, resources, services, etc. From tyre fitters, to sandwich makers, from sugar traders to boiler makers, not everyone is in the field or hands-on with either plant or product. But there are many people and businesses that rely on the success of our industry for their own financial wellbeing.

Thankfully, despite the boom-bust nature of our commodity, and the impacts of cyclones and droughts, the sugar industry has been the backbone of hundreds of Queensland communities for well over a century.

This is never more obvious than at harvest time when we can literally see the people in the paddocks and the industry is humming with activity.

There are around 23,000 people employed in the raw sugar industry in Australia, about 4,500 of these are in the mills, with numbers expanded during the maintenance season.

It goes without saying that there are many quiet achievers. People who don't seek a profile or status but contribute every day to making your business work and hopefully share in your success.

In recent years we learnt the hard way just how critical our workforce is, as truck and haul out driver shortages impacted our ability to get the crop off. And these challenges remain in almost every district to varying degrees.

Hopefully, with Covid now behind us and traveller numbers starting to return to pre-covid levels, these shortages will soon become a thing of the past.

Based on the feedback CANEGROWERS is getting through our nationwide workforce attraction strategy, we should take heart that people are attracted to work in our regions. But motivating these people to move and try a role in agriculture is difficult and it will take a sustained effort focused on the significant opportunities that exist for a diverse and interesting career for anyone who want to have go.

Vale Kerry Latter

It is with deep sadness this month that we farewelled our CANEGROWERS friend and colleague, Kerry Latter.

Taken so rapidly by one of the most insidious of diseases, pancreatic cancer, Kerry continued to work for growers right up until his final days, demonstrating his deep affection and attachment to the industry.

A high-profile figure within the industry and community, yet a deeply private person, Kerry's passion and commitment to the sugarcane industry and CANEGROWERS was obvious.

While he had a diverse career before coming to CANEGROWERS, it was within this industry and this organisation that he found both purpose, commitment and, in his own words, a second family.

Kerry's life was celebrated at a ceremony in Mackay on 28 June.

The industry is lucky to have many people deeply committed to doing what they can to improve conditions for us all.

As we draw on their reserves to see through a successful harvest, let's take a moment to acknowledge those who toil away day after day, both in the paddocks and behind the scenes, to ensure we share in the success of this wonderful industry. ■



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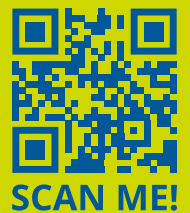
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SAD PASSING OF KERRY LATTER

It is with deep sadness that we advise of the passing of CANEGROWERS Mackay CEO Kerry Latter on Sunday 17 June, following a short and intense battle with cancer.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said the industry and Mackay growers in particular lost a true champion with the passing of Mr Latter.

"Kerry was an integral member of the CANEGROWERS family for 15 years and continued to fight for growers right until the very end.

"Over the years he played a pivotal role in the development of many key industry policies, not just at district level in Mackay, but at state level also.

"He was a fierce advocate for growers and the industry, and had the knowledge, political adeptness, and the connections to make a positive impact on behalf of his members and the community.

"He will be sadly missed by growers and his colleagues in the CANEGROWERS community. On behalf of the entire industry, I offer my condolences to his family, friends and colleagues."

You may choose to contribute to research and patient support for those suffering from pancreatic cancer to mark Kerry's passing.

You can do so by following this link:

<https://pankind.org.au/donate/> ■



L-R: Kevin Borg and Kerry Latter at the Sarina Show 2018

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Nominations for the election of QSL Grower Representative Members open 28 June 2023

Nomination forms are available at www.qsl.com.au or from your local QSL office.

To nominate as a representative for a mill area, you must be a grower who supplies sugar cane under contract to a mill in your mill area. Signed nomination forms must be lodged with QSL by 5pm (QLD time) on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

Voting will be held if there is more than one nomination for each vacancy.

For more information:
www.qsl.com.au

Your QSL grower rep election contacts:

> Cathy Kelly (0409 285 074 / cathy.kelly@qsl.com.au)

> Russell Campbell (0408 248 385 / russell.campbell@qsl.com.au)

Queensland Sugar Ltd ACN – 090 152 211

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS ARE ON THE RISE (AGAIN)!

HAVE YOU REVIEWED YOUR TARIFFS LATELY?

CANEGROWERS has updated its Electricity Fact Sheet which outlines the tariffs and the changes in more detail.

The small business tariffs are all increasing, with the “all use” tariff 20 increasing at a faster rate than tariff 34 (interruptible load control tariff). A new “time-of-use” tariff 22C has been introduced, which has an attractive off-peak rate that may be well worth considering. The old farming tariffs (62A, 65A and 66A) also increased but these are almost certainly going to continue to be more expensive than any other option.

You can find out more about the process for how the regional tariffs are set by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) on their website at www.qca.org.au. They receive an annual delegation from the Minister (for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen) to review and determine the regulated prices for electricity. While the QCA are required to consider the affordability of their recommended prices, there is very little that they are empowered to do about improving affordability.

Why are the QCA involved? The QCA are mandated to regulate electricity prices in

regional Queensland because Ergon Energy receives a subsidy from the Queensland Government to ensure that consumers in higher-cost regional and rural areas (e.g. higher transmission and distribution costs) pay the same prices as consumers in lower-cost south east Queensland. This effectively makes Ergon a monopoly supplier as other retailers do not receive a subsidy and cannot compete; hence the electricity prices need to be regulated to ensure they are fair, transparent, and reflective of the costs incurred in generating and delivering electricity.

The most critical driver of higher tariffs this year are high wholesale energy prices, which are the prices retailers pay when purchasing electricity from the National Electricity Market (NEM) for onward supply to customers. Prices in the NEM are affected by supply and demand dynamics as well as underlying generation costs. Coal and gas prices have had a substantial increase due to the disruptions created by

Russia's war with the Ukraine. At the same time, supply has continued to be constrained due to the outage of the Callide power station (C3 and C4 units), as well as the scheduled retirement of coal fired power stations. This situation has led to higher wholesale energy prices and therefore an upward revision of tariffs for 2023/24.

In addition to the Electricity Fact Sheet, CANEGROWERS has also provided a Tariff Selection Tool which helps growers to forecast their electricity costs under the different tariff options given their predicted usage/requirements. There may be an opportunity to switch between tariffs and save on costs, although there may be one-off costs required to make the change (e.g. meter update, switchboard etc).

In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, and off the back of major spikes in fertiliser prices, growers are now faced with the prospects of drier El Nino affected seasons combined with surging energy prices. In addition, there is further risk that rising water prices will add to the cost pressure.

CANEGROWERS believes that the energy system is flawed and continues to advocate for improvements that deliver electricity to Queenslanders, and in particular to primary producers, with better efficiency, sustainability and affordability. ■

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

T20 - Small business all use tariff (<100MWh)

- Usage: 34.319c/kWh, **up 35.1%**
- Fixed charge: 142.18c/day, **up 15.5%**

T34 – Small business load control tariff

- Usage: 23.528c/kWh, **up 23.0%**
- Fixed charge: 130.88c/day, **up 15.2%**

T22C – New Time of Use Tariff

- Off-Peak: 10.875c/kWh (9am to 4pm (all days))
- Peak: 63.837 (4pm to 9pm (weekdays))
- Shoulder: 25.632 (All other times i.e., nights from 9pm to 9am, or 4pm to 9am on weekends)
- Tiered fixed charges (from 141 c/day to 259 c/day depending on usage)

T44 – Large business tariff (>100MWh)

- Usage: 18.701 c/kWh, **up 26.8%**
- Fixed charge: 4278.095c/day, **up 2.6%**
- Demand Charge kW: 26.349 \$/kWh/month, **up 9.1%**
- Demand Charge kVA: 23.713 \$/kVA/month, **up 9.1%**

T60A – Large business load control tariff

- Usage: 24.775 c/kWh, **up 6.1%**
- Fixed charge: 4278.095c/day, **up 2.6%**



FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens CANEGROWERS Chairman

Recently, I was fortunate enough to travel with our CEO Dan Galligan to Cali, Columbia for the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers (WABCG) annual convention.

CANEGROWERS is proud to be part of this association that has members from 34 beet and sugarcane producing nations and the annual conference is a great opportunity to meet farmers from across the globe and discuss our shared and individual challenges. WABCG members are primarily grower representative bodies, like CANEGROWERS, that work with and advocate for farmers in their home countries.

This year's gathering was the first face-to-face meeting since 2019, with the past few conferences held virtually due to Covid. The 2023 conference also coincided with the 50th anniversary of Colombian grower organisation Procana, so in addition to international visitors, more than 150 Colombian growers were in attendance.

There were some interesting presentations from Columbia and around the world. One of the more interesting discussions was about the new EU green deal. This regulation aims to reduce the use of chemical pesticides and nutrient runoff by 50% by 2030. They also want to reduce fertiliser use by 20%, as well as converting 25% of total farmland to organic.

These strategies will have a massive effect on the EU's ability to feed itself going forward. The reduced use of many chemicals, as well as the phase out of glyphosate in 2025, is already having a huge effect on beet growers.

Similarities and Differences

Sugar beet is a four to five month crop, which is harvested during the cooler months of the year in Europe and the US.

Although the climate in which sugar beets are grown is generally completely different to ours, the issues that growers face, such as input prices, mill performance, contract negotiations, government regulation, etc. are very similar.

Columbia, on the other hand, has a unique set of challenges. The South American nation produces around 20 million tonnes of sugarcane and about 2 million tonnes of sugar annually. However, due to the country's proximity to the equator, which sees about 30 minutes difference between the longest and shortest days of the year, there is practically no seasonal change. This means Columbia's crop grows continually and the industry harvests year-round. This combination of factors results in high yields of around 120 tonnes per hectare, but low CCS of just 9-10 units across the industry.

Mills are responsible for all harvesting and transport, with about half the crop mechanically harvested and the rest hand cut.

Growers are paid a flat rate of 58kg of sugar per tonne of cane. Because of this there is no real incentive for higher CCS.

Growers also get paid for about 40% of the ethanol value that is produced. As a result, Colombian growers on average receive a little bit less per tonne of cane than Australian growers, but their labour and harvesting costs are very low.

Australia will host the WABCG conference in 2025 and we look forward to inviting all the members to the forum so that we can showcase the Australian approach to farming.

I was saddened to hear of the recent passing of industry stalwart Kerry Latter. Kerry was an integral member of the CANEGROWERS family and played a pivotal role in the development of many key industry policies, not just at district level, but at a state level as well, my condolences to his family, friends and the Mackay community. ■

Protect Your Nitrogen Investment with

NProtect®



Stabilise nitrogen in the root zone longer and promote more efficient plant uptake with N-Protect.

N-Protect is a nitrification inhibitor that is uniformly applied to urea fertiliser. N-Protect promotes efficient plant nitrogen uptake and reduces the risk of leaching and denitrification through the suppression of nitrogen fixing bacteria. N-Protect may improve your crop potential this season by promoting efficient plant uptake and reducing the risk of leaching and denitrification.

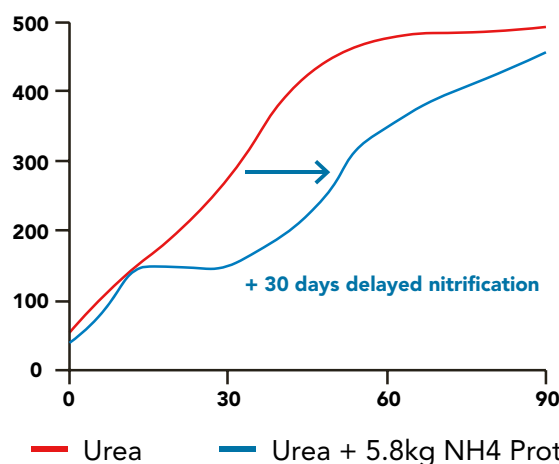
How does it work?

N-Protect treatment stalls microbes which convert urea to plant available nitrate. This keeps nitrogen in the stable ammonium form, allowing plants access to nitrogen with minimum risk of leaching whenever rainfall or irrigation bring on increased chances for nitrogen loss. This risk is more likely in the tropical sugarcane regions.

Protect against tropical climate

Research conducted has shown nitrogen is preserved in the ammonium form for up to 20 days at 28°C, and up to 30 days at 20°C.

This protects your nitrogen investment in tropical conditions, and provides environmental benefits by helping combat nutrient run off.



Study conducted by Pr. Cantarella

Visit impactfert.com.au or call 1800 88 44 88 to find your nearest N-Protect® supplier.



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

By Renee Cluff

Managing farms hundreds of kilometres apart is a team effort for a Far North Queensland cane growing couple.

Michael and Liza Giudice's first encounter through an online dating website 13 years ago paved the way for a true partnership in growing sugarcane. Now married with two children, they operate five sugarcane farms across the Mossman and Innisfail Districts totalling 290 hectares, with the philosophy that all business decisions are made collectively. "We're in it together," Michael explained. "It is a true partnership."

"We've never had an argument," Liza added. "We get really loud but we're passionate about the same things. Sometimes the kids are looking at us like we're yelling but we're not fighting, we're passionately agreeing."

Michael is a third generation Mossman grower and while Liza initially grew up on a cane farm in Tully, she didn't enter the industry until she met her husband-to-be and moved north to be closer to him. A self-confessed spreadsheet and graph fanatic, Liza's bookkeeping and administration skills quickly proved beneficial not only in the farming enterprises but as an employee of Mossman Mill during some turbulent years when the grower-owned factory was sold to Mackay Sugar and then

purchased by cooperative Far Northern Milling.

Instrumental in implementing the changeover as a Director of Far Northern Milling, Liza also secured financial assurances for growers by helping to introduce QSL Direct. "For Mossman, it was most important that we had QSL Direct because if something happened to the mill, QSL would pay us all our cane pays," she said. "Farmers are not secured creditors of the mills so if they fall over, farmers need a safety net. That's the main reason QSL Direct went online for that mill area."

Both Liza and Michael have taken on leadership roles. Michael is a current Director of CANEGROWERS Mossman, a position Liza once also assumed. Outside the boardrooms, they work alongside each other in both the paddock and the office, crediting their horticultural and business acumen to personalities and skill sets that complement one another. Michael counts a willingness to try new things among his greatest strengths, while for Liza it's her endless curiosity and appetite to learn.

Photos taken by Renee Cluff at the Giudice's Silkwood (Innisfail) farm





“Leasing also helps provide tonnes to the mill and that flows through in economic contributions to the community”

Over the years, the couple has been early adopters of Smartcane BMP, minimum tillage and wider row spacings. More recently they've had their first foray into tissue culture planting at their farm in Silkwood, south of Innisfail, where they now live. Several seed plots have been successfully established.

“Some people were telling us it was really hard to grow and others were saying it was really easy,” Liza said. “We just wanted to give it a go ourselves because we know it's clean and I'm really pedantic about RSD (Ratoon Stunting Disease).”

The other benefit was increasing the availability of the sugarcane varieties they sought. “A lot of the productivity board plots

only have a certain amount of area so they can't have every variety that everyone grows,” Michael said. “So you have your few rows of tissue culture then the next year you plant that into another plot and then you have a commercial amount to plant out and it's all clean. We're lucky we've already got a bore so we just ran pipe to where we were planting the tissue culture so watering wasn't really an issue. We just ran a trickle four hours in the morning and four hours at night and found it was alright. But there are a lot of options, you can tow a water cart down the rows, you don't need to go too fancy.”

There was some trial and error, with the couple learning from the experience. “The first time we used the tissue culture planter but we weren't very good at it,” Liza admitted. “We had trouble getting the depth right but it all worked out in the end. This year though, we're going to use a paw paw planter.”

The Giudices are also big advocates for farm leasing, having been both a lessor and a lessee. They say while the practice is commonplace in Mossman, other districts don't tend to have the same uptake. “In Mossman there are growers who lease farms because they've either had families that have moved away, or they received the farm through an inheritance and don't live there so it's an income to help pay the rates rather than doing nothing with the land,” Liza said.

"It's a good way to have production from the land, you're getting something and you're not having to look after it."

"It's also a way to keep a farm in the family if the children don't necessarily want to grow cane at that point in their lives," Michael added. "Sometimes the farm might not be big enough to make it viable to make a living out of and in that case it's easier to lease it to a neighbour and get another job while still living in the house on that land. It can work the other way too - by taking out a lease of more land in your immediate area you can scale up so that it is a viable full-time wage. It's a lot harder now to be able to afford to buy a farm with cane proceeds but if you can lease your neighbour's farm you haven't got that big capital outlay and you can still get a good income."

They also have some tips for ensuring the arrangement is as smooth as possible. "You need a really robust lease agreement and you can tailor that to whatever you want and what the lessee wants," Liza said. "They're not set in stone, they're flexible and they need to be that way because every enterprise is different. You need to trust someone to lease your land but having that contract backs up that trust. But the conversation has to start and that can sometimes be the hardest part."





When it comes to their own succession plan, they're pretty confident their farms will remain in the family and they are already teaching 10-year-old Flynn and 8-year-old Zara the ropes. "Flynn's 100 per cent wanting to be a cane farmer, Zara not so much but we still get her involved," Liza said. "Michael's 75-year-old mum used to stick plant with me, and I was seven months pregnant. If we could do it, the 8-year-old can do it. I used to quite enjoy that, we'd have a chat and she knew all the tricks so it was really good learning from her. Now we're passing that onto our kids." ■







10-year-old Flynn and 8-year-old Zara learning the ropes

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 14 June 2023.

Sugar Market & Currency

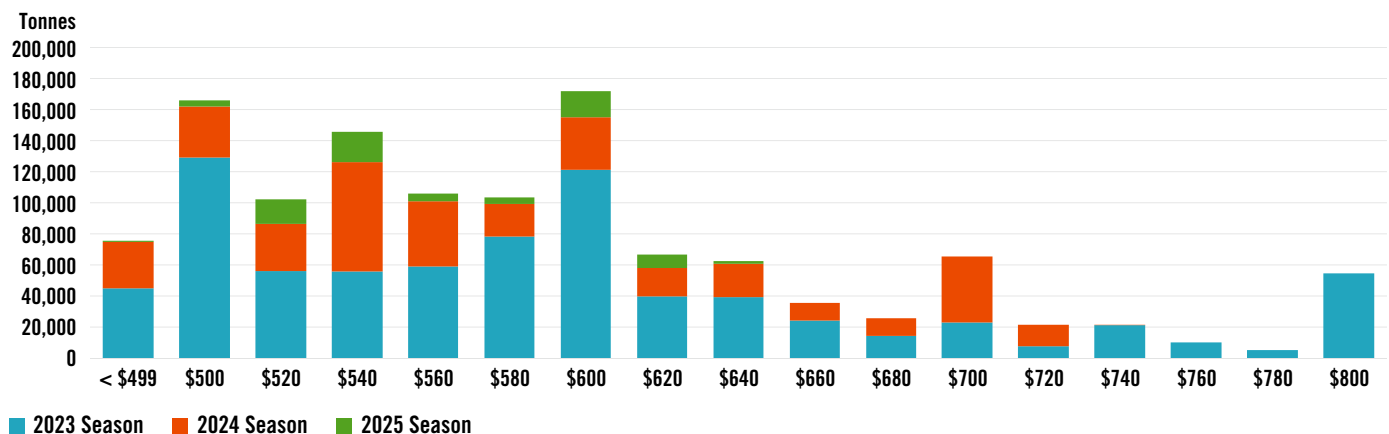
Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	Harvesting is progressing at record speeds with 125 million tonnes of cane harvested and 9.7 million tonnes of sugar produced by the end of May. However, significant weather risk remains, with El Niño forecast to deliver wet weather in key sugar-producing districts and the world market completely reliant on Brazilian sugar at this stage.	Neutral
India	The predicted El Niño weather pattern could deliver hot, dry conditions across India, with the monsoon now late to arrive and predicted to hit south-east India in early/mid-June. Many are forecasting only a small amount of white sugar to be exported from India in the next season.	
Thailand	The predicted El Niño weather pattern could also deliver hot, dry conditions across Thailand during the key growing season.	
Speculators	Macroeconomic worries and strong Brazilian harvesting numbers prompted speculators to liquidate a large portion of their net-long position, reducing it to 179,000 lots as of 9 June.	
Currency	The Aussie Dollar finally broke lower out of its 66-68 US cents range amid concerns of the US debt ceiling issues and Chinese economic slowdown.	

The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices.  A bullish outlook is considered positive.  A bearish outlook is considered negative.

Grower Pricing

- > The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved to date by QSL growers (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2023 Target Price = \$850 / IFC \$870 (Jul23)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$725 / IFC \$750 (Jul24)
 - 2025 Target Price = \$640 / IFC \$650 (Jul25)
 - 2026 Target Price = \$590 / IFC \$600 (Jul26)
- > Key Dates:
 - **20 June:** Last day to price 2023-Season Target Price Contract tonnage before the pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
 - **20 June:** Last day to achieve or roll pricing allocated to the July 2023 ICE 11 contract through the Individual Futures Contract or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.
 - **30 June:** Last day to qualify for the 2022 QSL Loyalty Bonus.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2023, 2024 & 2025 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 14.06.23 by growers from across all sugarcane growing regions using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial or investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



Since we first began operations as the Queensland Sugar Board on 4 July back in 1923, QSL has been committed to serving our state's sugar industry.

Today, 100 years later, we've emerged as a world leader in raw sugar marketing, pricing, payment and logistics services.

While we've seen a lot of change in our time, one thing has remained the same – we're still dedicated to the success of the thousands of Queensland cane farming families and sugar millers who rely on us to take their product to the world.

QSL: Owned by you, focused on you.





RAMPAGING RATS WREAK HAVOC IN THE HERBERT RIVER



A new CANEGROWERS podcast that explores topical issues of interest to growers has just launched. ShedTalk is available on the CANEGROWERS Podcasts page of the website or through usual podcast streaming services (search for CANEGROWERS).

In Episode 1, Herbert River growers, Chris Bosworth, Steven Marbelli and Sam Torrisi discuss what's driving an explosion in the rat population in the local area. They explore the costs to local growers and the wider industry, and what can be done to address the problem. ■

REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

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IMPROVED WEED CONTROL PAYING BIG DIVIDENDS FOR CANE GROWERS

PROMISING returns for sugarcane operations are ensuring strong benefits to those who maximise crop production and productivity, and for MSF Sugar in North Queensland that has included a focus on improving weed control and related efficiencies.

Operations Manager Rob Brooks and Farming Supervisor Glen Millwood overlook the successful production and harvest of about 2000 hectares of cane for MSF Sugar.

They have to contend with a range of broadleaf and grass weeds including vine weeds and guinea grass, and traditionally they have used herbicides including pendimethalin, atrazine and paraquat just after planting, as well as isoxaflutole at out-of-hand stage.

In recent years though they have turned to the use of Bobcat® i-MAXX at the out-of-hand stage and sometimes after harvest, and are set to add another newer herbicide option to the rotation following an encouraging trial result last season.

Bobcat i-MAXX, developed by ADAMA Australia, combines the strengths of two active ingredients, hexazinone and imazapic, for excellent knockdown and extended

residual control, as well as providing important resistance management benefits.

Rob said they had been using the herbicide in a tank-mix with paraquat at the out-of-hand stage in plant cane and in ratoons at out-of-hand stage on trash blanket.

"Last year we ended up using Bobcat i-MAXX in all the ratoons.

"We want to control guinea grass and broadleaf weeds in the ratoons after harvest.

"It is providing control for about 12 weeks after application."

He said it also was controlling the vine and grass weeds for much longer in the plant cane when applied at out-of-hand stage, preventing the need for another herbicide application with an over-row sprayer.

The Bobcat i-MAXX is maintaining good weed suppression as crops achieve canopy closure, helping to limit weed densities and the weed seed bank year-on-year.

Rob said the Bobcat i-MAXX was a greater investment, but it generated savings on labour and chemicals if further applications were not required after the out-of-hand stage.

Meanwhile, he said they trialled another grass and broadleaf herbicide from ADAMA Australia last year and were impressed with the results.

Conducted in conjunction with Nutrien at Tully and supported by Jake Sullivan, Commercial Manager with ADAMA Australia for South Eastern and Far Northern Queensland, the trial investigated the company's Palmero® TX herbicide alongside Bobcat i-MAXX in strip treatments after harvest.

Palmero TX contains isoxaflutole in a co-formulation with terbuthylazine and has a similar use pattern to Bobcat i-MAXX. It also offers control of many hard-to-kill weeds and again offers the benefits of two active ingredients. Both herbicides also have no time of year use restrictions.

"We did the trial on burned cane and six weeks later we couldn't notice any difference in control between the herbicides," Rob said.

"We are thinking of rotating to Palmero TX every alternate year or couple of years."

Jake said ADAMA Australia was strongly focused on expanding the availability of new active ingredients and introducing innovative product solutions to the sugarcane industry.

"ADAMA Australia and its Queensland team have worked hard to develop these latest options for the industry and its encouraging that they are achieving great results for growers in the field," Jake said.

For further information on Bobcat i-MAXX and Palmero TX herbicides, growers and advisers can contact their local ADAMA Australia representative or nearest reseller.



MSF Sugar Operations Manager Rob Brooks (right) and Farming Supervisor Glen Millwood

A dramatic night scene at a sugarcane festival. In the foreground, a person is silhouetted while operating a sugarcane harvester. The harvester is positioned in front of a dense field of tall sugarcane stalks. Behind the field, a massive, intense fire is burning, with bright orange and yellow flames reaching high into the dark night sky. The fire is the central focus, creating a powerful and fiery atmosphere.

2023 CANE FESTIVAL FIRES UP

By Robyn Devine

The Sweet Days Hot Night Festival started with a blast at the Home Hill Showground when the First Fire was lit in front of over 4,000 attendees.

The substantial yield of the Q183 variety, fifth ratoon, blasted high into the night sky. The cane specifically grown for the 2023 Australian Cane Cutting Championships, to honour the traditional way that sugarcane was harvested by hand before mechanical harvesting was introduced.

The Burdekin district is one of the few districts that burn their crop annually in preparation for harvest, and the First Fire did not disappoint the locals and visitors sharing the experience.



Once every two years cutters of all ages and sizes come along to the Burdekin, to go 'cut to cut' against each other on the burnt cane in the Australian Cane Cutting Championships, vying for glory and the champion's cup – a cane knife trophy.

The cane cutters really fired up the crowd on the very hot and humid Saturday in late May, cane knives swung into action and young men and women tried their best amongst

the older and wiser cutters like Olivo (Ollie) Pozzebon, who at 90 years old was a crowd favourite in the 55 years and older category.

He may not have won any trophies on the day, but Ollie had the crowds' hearts in his sweaty palms as he slowly and steadily worked through his drill until his cane was neatly cut, his first-hand knowledge as a cane cutter from the 1960s clearly on show.



Owen Menkens presented the trophy to 2023 Champion Adam Gilbert



Olivo Pozzebon - 90 years old was a crowd favourite

"90 year old Ollie had the crowds' hearts"



Stuart Gilbert a sugarcane grower from Tully after his heat

After a day of gruelling competition, it was Adam Gilbert, from Mareeba, that took out the title of the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Champion at the grand finale, sponsored by CANEGROWERS Burdekin, with a record time of 23.10 minutes.

Adam's nephew Stuart Gilbert came close behind in second place, Stuart was last year's champion cutter and he and his father grow cane in Tully. Stuart said the competition was always exhausting and this year was no different.

Burdekin Shire Mayor Lyn McLaughlin said the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival proved to be a major drawcard for visitors.

"With the festival's unique blend of cultural celebrations, exciting competitions, and engaging activities, it enticed individuals from near and far to experience the charm and vibrancy of our local community," Cr McLaughlin said.

"The Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships served not only as a thrilling spectator sport but also as a means to preserve and honour the traditions of the Burdekin, the sugarcane capital of Australia." ■



2023 Australian Hand Cane cutting Championship finale competitors

RESULTS FOR THE 2023 AUSTRALIAN HAND CANE CUTTING CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL SPONSORED BY CANEGROWERS BURDEKIN

1st	Adam Gilbert	Time - 23.10min
2nd	Stuart Gilbert	Time - 26.17min
3rd	Enzo Codega	Time - 28.09min
4th	Jeff Elwood	Time - 28.25min
5th	Mark Vass	Time - 28.31min
6th	Tony Felesina	Time - 29.55min
7th	John Arrate	Time - 32.19min
8th	Karl Vass	Time - 34.08min

TACKLING FERAL PIGS

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Grower Services Manager Debra Telford was among the presenters at the inaugural National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns last month.

Organised by the National Feral Pig Action Plan, 200 delegates from across Australia attended the two days of proceedings. 42 presentations covered successes and challenges across a range of monitoring, scientific and management programs.

Debra presented findings from a cluster baiting program held on Innisfail cane farms during last year's harvest, a program that was featured in the November 2022 issue of Australian Canegrower. Feral pigs are considered abundant and widespread across North and Far North Queensland, creating hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to sugarcane crops every year.

Also in attendance at the conference was CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joseph Marano and Mulgrave Productivity Committee Chair Glen Anderson. Each was keen to

learn from other programs underway in other parts of the country, including the successful eradication of feral pigs on Kangaroo Island.

"There was nothing specific to sugarcane but plenty of ideas were generated for us to work on," Debra said.

"There is not one solution - multiple methods need to be used. It became clear throughout the proceedings that the number of kills doesn't necessarily represent the impact of a program if population numbers aren't known to begin with. One of the strong messages was if you can't monitor, you can't measure.

"The conference also drilled home the importance of understanding the animals and their seasonal patterns. We found that co-funding models achieved the highest success in terms of project sustainability. This is important because maintaining management methods is crucial.



Deb Telford

There are plans to hold future conferences, with delegates agreeing plenty more needs to be done to understand the significant scale of the feral pig problem nationwide, and how best to control them. ■

"The take-home message was if you stop what you are doing to control feral pigs the numbers will rapidly increase"



SHARING THE SWEET SIGHTS OF SUGARCANE

The colours and familiar sights of the iconic Queensland sugarcane now adorn the entranceway to the CANEGROWERS Brisbane office, a strong visual representation of the industry for all that enter the Charlotte Street office.

Lavinia Letheby, a fulltime fine art visual artist who creates two-dimensional art pieces in varying mediums and surfaces, was commissioned to create the work of art by CANEGROWERS.

CANEGROWERS contacted Lavinia to seek her interest in doing this project, after seeing her mural on the Murray Upper Rural Fire Brigade building, when the QCGO Board visited the Tully district to participate in the October 2022 growers shed meeting.

Lavinia had first-hand experience with sugarcane vistas having spent time as a youngster in North Queensland and gained an even greater knowledge of the industry after moving back to Mission Beach, with her partner and two young boys.

According to Lavinia the hardest part of any painting is the design phase, once that part of the process has been finalised, she said the fun can begin with each new piece becoming a favourite.

The CANEGROWERS mural was a creative collective work styled from North Queensland landscapes and industry photos.

"The design phase for this piece was a little different, as images were blended or merged to represent an overview of well-known industry images.

"Some photos I used to paint from were gathered when I was driving around Tully way, and in the shed is a haulout like the one my husband used to drive," Lavinia said.

"I've pulled little bits and pieces together to create the whole piece, by putting different ideas together and then working with the CANEGROWERS graphic designer Justin, and CANEGROWERS photos as well as mine, it's kind of a collaboration piece."

It's a long way from painting Christmas scenes on shopfront windows while still a teenager at school, where Lavinia started her love of painting large scale scenes to working full time creating murals and large canvas works, keeping her busy for the past six years.

Lavinia's artwork style varies, with many pieces depicting amazing Australian landscapes to spray can portraits, flora and fauna, through to more pop art inspired artworks reminiscent of vintage poster art, some of her murals adorn buildings, streets and walls across the top end of Queensland while other canvases are gaining interest from overseas buyers, while on display at international exhibitions.

Her business, Art by Lavinia, explores her passion for public art and CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan was impressed by her commissioned artwork.

"It's remarkable how quickly it's come together and how much detail is in the picture, both from a distance and up close," Dan said.

"Lavinia has really caught the essence of the sugarcane industry, we are very proud of the industry we work for and by commissioning this mural for the wall at our Queensland CANEGROWERS office every visitor and staff member will have a visual reminder of the beauty and potential behind the landscapes and images of the industry." ■

Upcoming collection of unwanted agricultural chemicals.

Agsafe's product stewardship programs, drumMUSTER and ChemClear, provide farmers with a reliable pathway for the safe disposal of their empty agvet containers as well as any unused or obsolete agvet chemicals.

If you have unused or obsolete agvet chemicals that you would like to safely dispose of, you can register them online at chemclear.org.au and they will be picked up when a collection is scheduled in your area. Collections are conducted once registrations reach a level that can be supported. On average, collections are conducted in each state every two years.

There is currently a ChemClear collection scheduled for Queensland agricultural chemical holders that wish to

dispose of their unwanted chemicals. Simply visit www.chemclear.org.au to register your chemicals. Registrations are open until 31 August for an October collection.

Agsafe's General Manager, Dominique Doyle, noted that farmers' committed engagement in the ChemClear program always impresses, but never surprises. "Farmers understand that they are the custodians of the land, and they are always mindful of sustainable farm practices. ChemClear enables farmers to safely dispose of chemicals off farms and out of rural communities"

ChemClear and its partners are delighted with the progress the service has made since 2003 in which the program has collected

and disposed of almost 1 million litres of obsolete, inherited and unknown agvet chemicals.

ChemClear's goal is to reduce the quantity of unused Agvet chemicals stored on properties and in businesses across Australia, thereby reducing negative impacts on the environment, people and trade in the future. By removing these unwanted chemicals from farms and businesses, a potentially hazardous situation can be eliminated in the event of a fire or flood.

Using ChemClear also ensures that Agvet farmers and chemical users will meet their responsibilities and obligations under any Quality Assurance, Farm or Environmental Management program.

ChemClear sends information to waste holders after they have registered, enabling them to segregate and continue to store their surplus chemicals in their

storages securely until the planned run commences in April.

The program collects registered chemicals produced by 126 manufacturers supporting the Industry Stewardship Scheme. Chemicals classified as Group 1 are collected free of charge.

As an additional service, ChemClear collects what is classified as Group 2 chemicals. This category covers deregistered, out-of-date, mixed, unlabelled or unknown agvet chemicals produced by a manufacturer not signed to the ChemClear stewardship program.

There is a cost for disposal of Group 2 chemicals which is quoted to the waste holder once their registration has been processed.

For further information about Agsafe's ChemClear program, visit www.chemclear.org.au to register your chemicals.



Dispose of your unwanted or obsolete agvet chemicals in one easy collection.

A collection is scheduled for Queensland AgVet chemical holders in June 2023. Simply register your unwanted chemicals for collection by 31 August at www.chemclear.org.au

Group 1 chemicals collected free of charge:

- eligible **drumMUSTER** products
- with readable labels
- still in original containers
- not mixed with other products
- within 2 years of expiry or deregistration

Group 2 chemicals are those that have expired and are not part of the **drumMUSTER** program. Group 2 chemicals may incur a fee for service.

Queensland Collection October 2023

Registrations close 31 August

Register your chemicals at ChemClear:
chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical

For further information call ChemClear.
 1800 008 182

Clear **Agsafe**

SMARTCANE BMP MODULES DUE FOR THEIR REGULAR CHECK-UP

Since the Smartcane BMP modules were first developed in 2014, they have been reviewed every few years to ensure they remain consistent with the best available research data and practical knowledge.



This has always relied heavily on the results of SRA/BSES research, the experience of extension agronomists, and any relevant research results from universities, CSIRO, and government departments.

The modules that focus on sugarcane agronomy are now due for another review, to be completed by the end of this year. In addition to ensuring the modules are up to date with the best information for productivity and profit, the review will consider the practical and affordable measures growers can take to reduce losses of nitrogen, chemicals, and sediment into waterways.

We don't expect any major changes to the modules, but some fine-tuning is possible. The principles of good management rarely change but options for achieving these do evolve with research and with the practical experience and innovations of growers and their advisors.

Accredited BMP growers have already proved they are meeting the principles of good crop management, so should be assured the intent of these reviews is not about changing the goalposts. Where previous reviews have made a refinement to practice options, any implications for growers have been managed carefully, gradually and with plenty of support.

PRINCIPLES UNDERPIN PRACTICE OPTIONS IN SMARTCANE BMP

The distinction between principle and practice is important in farming as it is in most aspects of life. A principle is an understanding about what we need to do to achieve improvement. A practice is what we actually do as a result of the guiding principle.

Smartcane BMP reflects this key distinction, and this is best illustrated by an example.

One key principle for soil health, and for breaking soil-borne disease cycles, is the fallowing of land between crop cycles, with adequate ground cover to reduce the erosion risk. This principle also has other benefits including the opportunity to correct nutritional disorders by addition of soil ameliorants, to rectify land for improved drainage or irrigation efficiency, and to suppress weed populations.

However, the way that this principle is best achieved can vary from farm to farm. For example, the now common practice in most districts of trash retention can be extended through the fallow period while any living cane is sprayed, and weeds are also controlled before they seed. This is a set of 'good' practices that can be employed on any farm and is referred to as 'industry standard' in Smartcane BMP.

In areas where trash retention can create issues, such as the Burdekin, other ways of achieving the same outcomes are recognised.

The principle can also be achieved by growing a legume or other non-grass crop during the fallow and having the crop residue retained on the soil surface. This can improve available soil nitrogen and soil organic matter. This set of "better" practices will suit many farms but is not equally



Innisfail BMP grower Joe Zappala and Deb Telford

suited or advantageous to every farm or situation, and is referred to as 'above industry standard' in Smartcane BMP.

ACCREDITATION REQUIRES 'GOOD' PRACTICES.

To become BMP accredited, a farm must have 'good' practices in place for each aspect of crop management. We find that most growers are already doing this but may not have a full set of records to show this is the case. Our

facilitators in each district work with growers to help acquire the additional evidence needed.

While I have not met anyone yet who likes record-keeping, our facilitators know how to make it relatively painless and routine.

Many growers also have 'better' practices in place for several aspects of crop and farm management, such as fallow use, managing compaction or irrigation scheduling. This is

noted and recognised in the Smartcane BMP system.

Where a grower is interested in investigating a new change in practice, our facilitators will help growers find the information or expertise they are seeking. In recent months, for example, our team has assisted growers with aspects of irrigation management, identifying and correcting nutrient deficiencies, training in chemical use, and fallow crop options. They can also

help growers access relevant support from industry or government projects that can help meet their objectives for the farm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Smartcane BMP program is delivered by CANEGROWERS and co-funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program. ■

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

EXPECTED CRUSH START DATE 4/07/23

Coming off the record February rainfall the next three months received about half their monthly averages.

So, it has been a much drier start to the winter period. Most days are clear and sunny, and the temperatures have dropped so the crops on the coast and up in the cooler Julatten climate have seen wide-spread mass flowering since May. There is some really good cane about, but the late cut cane is still a big question mark with some growers slashing out late cut cane to get a head start on ratooning for 2024 or to fallow out blocks.

The FNM Mossman Productivity Awards held on 8 June was a very successful night. CANEGROWERS Mossman was sponsor for Best Productivity 2022 – Zone 1 – Daintree. The winner for Zone 1 was Mr Colin McDowall with 10.74 tsph. Mr McDowall was not present on the night so Mr Cole Watson accepted Colin's award on his



FNM Prod night - Cole Watson 2023

behalf. We congratulate all the winners for Best Productivity 2022 in each zone - Zone 2 was D'Addona Electrical & Farming Pty Ltd; Zone 3 was C Fasano & Co; Zone 4 was Brie Brie Estate; Zone 5 was Padovan Harvesting; Zone 6 was Brie Brie Estate and Zone 7 was PJ 7 MA Verri. Other categories included Cane Growing Excellence Award won by Mr CA McDowall; Best 5 year Average Producer won by C Fasano & Co; Sustainable Management Practices Award won by C Fasano & Co; In Appreciation for on Farm Research Award



Julatten cane flowering June 2023

won by Mango Park Canefarming; Best Presented Farm won by RJ Porta and the 2022 Harvesting Group Award won by Padovan Harvesting. SRA held their Cane Varieties meeting for growers on 7 June and talked about the latest variety development and what their planned releases were for this area. FNM held their pre-season Grower Update meeting on 13 June where growers were advised that FNM would be crushing in 2024 and the planned start date for 2023 crushing is 3 July 2023. He said that the mill was leaving the

maintenance phase of operations and entering the commissioning stage and steam trials were planned to start the week of 19 June. Luis took the meeting through the major repairs and maintenance undertaken during the slack period. He said the majority of the budget was spent on power generation being repair and rewire of the 6MW Alternator which was hit by lightning last year, and the front end of the mill. Growers also heard the latest developments regarding the Value-Add projects.

TABLELAND



HARVEST WEEK - 5



CCS TO DATE - 13.54



TONNES TO DATE - 33,312

Tableland Mill has crushed 7% of the total crop as at 10 June, this figure is down a couple of percent due to a break down.

The alternator for the cogen plant had a major issue and is offline but the MSF team got the mill back up and running, processing 32,000 tonnes in the last week.

Manager, Angela, shadowed the auditor during the Tableland Mill's first audit. Thank you to Glen Pope and the staff at

Tableland Mill for firstly allowing Angela to attend the audit and secondly for answering all of her questions. Members from CANEGROWERS Tableland attended the SRA Variety Development discussion, which was very informative about the process involved in developing and distributing new varieties. This process has many stages to ensure a well-tested variety before release and undergoes a very lengthy process.



Gavin Rodman of SRA showing one of the steps for different variety development to members of CANEGROWERS.

CANEGROWERS Tableland also attended a growers' meeting held by Far Northern Milling to introduce the new General Manager, Luis Rodriguez and the Cane Supply Manager, Mariana Maree. An update on the Mossman Mill's progress plus the value adding projects were also part of this meeting.

CAIRNS



HARVEST WEEK - 1



CCS TO DATE - 11.15



TONNES TO DATE - 18,201

Those growers supplying Mulgrave Mill have commenced harvesting and at the time of writing South Johnstone is close to commencing.

The weather across the region has been variable with some catchments receiving showers. The crop looks quite good with the picturesque effects of the flowering creating a splendid vision throughout the region. The preseason testing and plotting of CCS have indicated some promising outcomes.

The Organisation has been busy across a few fronts. Cane Supply Negotiations are underway for both the South Johnstone and Mulgrave Cane Supply

Agreements. In a collaborative approach with CANEGROWERS Cairns Region and CANEGROWERS Innisfail, meetings have continued with the milling company and QSL, towards implementing QSL Direct for the benefit of growers across the region.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region accepted the resignation of one of the Babinda Zone Directors, Frank Gatti. Frank is no longer growing cane and with his lovely wife Danette has relocated to the beach. We acknowledge Frank's contribution to the local cane industry and wishes him well with the sea change.

Caption



Recently the Great Barrier Reef Foundations Mulgrave Russell Program held the annual forum at Barry Stubbs' farm in Mirriwinni. The event was well attended by growers, pictured, from within the region. The forum was an opportunity for growers and stakeholders to

hear about the programs progress within the region. CANEGROWERS Cairns Region also shared a stall at the Gordonvale Sugar solstice, pictured, to promote the organisation and the Sugar Industry to the wider community.

TULLY



HARVEST WEEK - 4



CCS TO DATE - 12.36



TONNES TO DATE - 113,219

Further to the June report, Tully Sugar milling district commenced the crush on the 26 May.

This date corresponds with the exact same date as the 2022 season commencement date. The first week of the crushing season resulted in a positive start, with 86,940 tonnes crushed, averaging 12.45 lab CCS.

Tully district CSA has a traditional determined start date of 15 June. Early cane delivered and crushed prior to 15 June was approximately

210,000 tonnes, with a crush rate of 636 tonnes per hour, fibre 14.55 and CCS at 12.38, tonnage crushed at this point relates to approximately 7.6% of the 2,760,000 estimate.

Crop estimates are indicatively around 8 to 10% down on last year, with CCS more favourable at season start in comparison to 2022. Soil is slightly higher than average, at 1.99 percent, fibre and purity around the average for this type of weather conditions, 14.57 and 87.44 respectively.

CANEGROWERS Tully continues to have regular contact and conversations with all industry representatives including SRA, TCPSL and TSL to ensure that industry benefits as much as possible. Productivity and sustainability are paramount to the industry.

In the past month, CANEGROWERS Tully coordinated the accreditation of six persons for Pilot Level 1 for Oversized and/or Overmassed Loads, as well as the co-ordination of workshops on

the use of the TSL App and new website.

Rainfall statistics for 2023, rain has been recorded on 114 days of this year up to 18 June, with an accumulating total of just above 2500mm rainfall. June recorded rain on 14 days by the 18 June, totalling just under 220mm.

CANEGROWERS Tully urges all road users to take care throughout the year around all districts, with a greater emphasis on the movement of cane trains and haul out equipment.

INNISFAIL



HARVEST WEEK - 1



CCS TO DATE - 11.32



TONNES TO DATE - 25,299

Wet weather has delayed harvesting in the South Johnstone region.

At the time of writing, the factory is scheduled to commence operations on 22 June, nine days

after the original commencement date. The crop forecast is looking average with an expected 1.4m tonnes to be crushed at South Johnstone this year.

The CANEGROWERS Innisfail Board and growers welcomed a visit from the QSL Board and Senior Executives in early June. The meetings were a good opportunity for growers to

interact with the QSL Board on a strategic level and to hear marketing and operational updates from the QSL Executive Team.

Continued next page ►

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chair, Joseph Marano and Grower Services Manager, Deb Telford recently attended the National Feral Pig Conference held in

Cairns. The two-day conference featured eight informative sessions including Deb's presentation on cluster baiting as part of a landscape management

approach to feral pig control in the South Johnstone Mill area. With feral pig populations continuing to cause significant crop damage in the Innisfail district, this conference was considered a valuable and timely learning and networking event.

HERBERT RIVER

UPDATE NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT

In early to mid-June growers had been preparing ground to plant with some growers completing planting, before rainfall fell to many parts of the region.

This halted the planting until the ground dries up. The official estimate is 4.2 million tonnes, but it is expected that the Herbert River district may cut less than estimated.

The 2023 season in the Herbert River started on 19 June,

Macknade Mill had planned to start crushing first but due to breakdowns Victoria Mill ended up being the first mill to crush. It will be a slow start to season.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River recently attended the "Find your Future" Careers Expo showcasing job opportunities and pathways in the sugar industry to Year 10, 11 and 12 students from local schools in Ingham. Students were excited by the many career options in the sugar industry.



L-R Carola Bradshaw – Partnership Coordinator, Leah Russo – Director CANEGROWERS Herbert River, Frank Scardamaglia – Manager CANEGROWERS Herbert River and Cr Ramon Jayo – Mayor Hinchinbrook Shire Council at the Find your Future Career Expo in Ingham.

The Ingham SRA station held the 2023 field day on 30 May. It was well attended with growers having access to SRA scientists and personnel.

BURDEKIN



HARVEST WEEK - 4



CCS TO DATE - 13.46



TONNES TO DATE - 372,834

The 2023 season kicked off in the second week of June as planned with a dry start which helped to enable a steady commissioning of factories.

Invicta Mill and Pioneer Mill commenced on 6 June and Pioneer had some performance issues in Week 2 which settled down and Invicta Mill was crushing well, but has had issues in C, S & T due to staff shortages and inexperienced staff which resulted in challenges with bin deliveries and a derailment.

The two factories we were most worried about due to large capex projects being Kalamia Mill (evaporators) and Inkerman Mill (boiler refurb and A side feeder station) commenced on 8 June and 7 June respectively and have achieved a steady performance so far, which was pleasing, particularly given how both these mills finished the 2022 season. Whilst we are often critical of

Wilmar in terms of mill performance, they do deserve credit for the amount of maintenance and capex work they managed to complete in a short off-season which was great effort on their behalf.

Season to date CCS of 12.96 is slightly ahead of budget which is a good outcome bearing in mind the keenness of affected growers with standover cane to deliver it first up to get rid of it. On the subject of standover, over 50% of it has been harvested and whilst the CCS range has been from 5 – 12, the bulk of it has been around the 7 – 10 CCS mark. In terms of variety performance, observations so far is that KQ228 appears to have held up better in terms of higher CCS than Q240 but we will wait until BPS crunches the numbers on standover at the end of the season to compare how the various varieties stood over. For CBL members with involuntary

standover, please note that under the CBL CSA you will receive your standover compensation payment from Wilmar in the July wash-up pay. Hopefully, when you combine the standover allowance of approximately \$20/t with the actual delivery payment for the standover cane, the combined result may help to soften the blow of having involuntarily left cane behind.

Wilmar and Grower Collectives held their first in-season Harvest Management Group Meeting on 21 June where we went through the production figures for the first 10 days of harvesting. Feedback from cane being delivered to date is that it is cutting lighter than estimate which means the 8.4M tonne estimate is under a cloud. As long as the final crop figure has an 8 in front of it, we will be happy, but if all of the good cane being cut first runs lighter than expected and the poorer cane is reserved for the back end, then we may be



Harvesting 2022 season standover on the Boulter farm

looking at a shorter season if the spell of dry weather continues and the mills perform well.

The main challenge being faced by the industry is filling the seasonal workforce needs. Wilmar, like some harvesting contractors have some gaps and people are getting by with what they have and are doing their best to plug gaps. It is often asked where have all the workers gone, but it is an issue for all industries, and we are not alone with this challenge.

In terms of a negative for the season commencement, a

significant issue remains of contractors not filling in delivery tickets with the proper start time and some of them are just writing the same time they started harvesting in the morning for all deliveries throughout the day instead of when the cane was actually delivered to the siding. This creates issues with C, S & T and auditors who have to manually investigate and amend tickets which is unproductive time. At the end of the day incorrect start times on tickets

impact on CCS calculations and even more so when there are mill stops and cane goes > 24 hours cut to crush. This is costing growers money in lost sugar, and we ask that you speak to your contractors about making sure they train their drivers on recording the correct start time on tickets.

The SRA Board and Senior Management visited the Burdekin on 19 June on a listening tour to find out what is happening on the

ground and what the issues are, and it was good to see them out in the regions.

On 2 June CBL's long standing Office Manager Michelle Andrews chalked up 20 years of service during the month of June and Michelle's loyalty, dedication and service to growers was acknowledged with a dinner in her honour with the Board and staff. Thank you Michelle and we appreciate all that you do for our members!



Office Manager Michelle Andrews chalked up 20 years of service with Greg Watson and Owen Menkens

PROSERPINE



HARVEST WEEK - 2



CCS TO DATE - 13.25



TONNES TO DATE - 57,167

Forty-year high sugar prices are front of grower's minds as the 2023 season kicked off on 16 June.

With a reasonable crop, the success of 2023 will now rest on both harvest and milling performance. Following a mill tour by the CANEGROWERS Proserpine Board on 9 June, the first few days of the crush were met with challenges as the mill fell short of initial targets but recovered well after the first few days of crush. With a lot at stake, growers are eager to get their crop in and secure delivery on their sugar price targets.

Following wet conditions, growers were finally able to do some early season planting prior to the start of crush. With higher-than-average standover for 2023, early CCS results are

likely to begin marginally lower than in previous years, but a significant improvement is expected given the drier season forecast. There is still concern with late season ratoons where some growers will likely consider withdrawing areas from their estimate due to low cane yields. Initial crush plans for a 1.8m tonne crop will be reviewed once initial deliveries and yield trends are assessed. It is unlikely this estimate will be met.

A pre-season meeting was held on 8 June where over 40 growers attended presentations by Sugar Services Proserpine, CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Wilmar. Productivity and mill updates were well received but, as always, positive discussions over post presentation refreshments highlighted the

good position the sugar industry is in after many years of low pricing and poor yields following Cyclone Debbie in 2017. Growers are hopeful of a structural shift in pricing which would improve profitability for many years to come.

The annual CANEGROWERS Proserpine Show Cane event scheduled for Friday 23 June, received overwhelming support from local businesses with some of the best prizes up for grabs in years. There was even a drone thrown in for a lucky draw which attracted entries from those who may not have felt they can find a good enough stalk for display. There is also much anticipation of the first recipient of the new 'CANEGROWERS Young Farmers Trophy'.



CANEGROWERS Proserpine Pre-season meeting held at the Metropole on 8 June.

Sugar Services Proserpine completed seven shed meetings over a busy start to June. The search continued for suitable productivity staff which is proving difficult. Attracting staff to the region where there is a shortage in accommodation and very high rentals is proving a challenge for many industries including grower services and the mill. Hopefully improved profitability for both growers and the mill will make the industry more attractive for young professionals into the future.

MACKAY



HARVEST WEEK - 4



CCS TO DATE - 11.73



TONNES TO DATE - 142,149

PLANE CREEK



HARVEST WEEK - 2



CCS TO DATE - 12.31



TONNES TO DATE - 30,364

All mills in Mackay and Plane Creek are now up and running. Farleigh Mill led out and starting crushing a week before its sister mills at Marian and Racecourse, putting 20,457t through the rollers in its first four days/ Week One.

Although Farleigh had an improved start to the year after last year's appalling run, which saw a devilish 66.6% availability, a water quality/ effluent issue at Day 11 meant the mill ordered a to stop operation, leading to a long stoppage of around one week. The mill has had an extensive



CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg and PCPSL Chairman Mal Langdon congratulate Koumala grower Mark Sant, with daughter Selena, recipient of the Arthur Gardner Best Producer of The Season Shield and the Cane Growing Excellence Award.

Continued next page ►

program of maintenance and capital works across the maintenance season, including replacement of tubes to No4 Boiler which was one of the critical causes of mill unreliability in 2022. Water quality improvements had also been part of planned maintenance works.

Marian Mill's maintenance season major project has been the replacement of the Boiler No1 chimney as part of its maintenance season works, a steam off was called for 19 June to complete the project and have the mill running on both trains for the remainder of the season.

Racecourse Mill's 80-T, 38MW generator – that also provides a third of the Mackay region's power supply was replaced over the maintenance season.

Mackay Sugar has started the season with a crop estimate of 5.3Mt

Plane Creek Mill experienced a one-week delay to its planned start date of 6 June, finalising installation of some delayed components, with a halting start over 13-14 June. Crop estimate for 2023 is 1.5Mt.

The slack rounded out with a range of events, including a well-attended SRA and Mackay Area Productivity Services at

MAPS Victoria Plains Farm, where CANEGROWERS Mackay Agricultural Economist John Eden presented a stand dedicated to findings from his Mackay Irrigation Project. The project is showing outstanding returns for productivity alongside great results for the environment in terms of reduced DIN runoff and massively improved Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) driven by Water Use Efficiency through soil moisture monitoring and appropriate timing and volume of irrigation.

CANEGROWERS Mackay was also proud to sponsor awards in the Plane Creek Productivity

Services' annual Productivity Awards. Best Producer for Season this year was taken out by Koumala growers Mark and Tina Sant and family, producing 18.75TSH, 33% above their zone average. Philip Borg and family were awarded Best Producer over Five Years. We congratulate all the winners at this excellent grower community event.

We urge members still looking for workers to check our jobs board, either in-office or on the website, viewing prospective workers or adding their position vacant (online or call 4944 2600).

BUNDABERG



HARVEST WEEK - 4



CCS TO DATE - 13.00



TONNES TO DATE - 44,421

Bundaberg Sugar began crushing pre-season mill-owned cane on Monday 29 May with the Core Season starting on 19 June. A total of 96,485 tonnes was crushed in the pre-season (including organic) and an average CCS of 12.65 was achieved.

The soybean harvest is complete with minimal wet weather hampering harvesting throughout the season, approximately 650 tonnes was harvested by the Grain in Cane Co-operative members for

marketing by the Co-operative in 2023 Season. The prices are relatively strong with the Co-operative able to capture a late price rise. If you are interested in growing soybeans in 2024, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.

Oreco payments to growers have fallen behind schedule and we are working to get these back on-track. If you would like to supply cane trash in the 2023 season please contact the office on 4151 2555.

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has released the final determination on 2023-24 regulated retail electricity prices for regional Queensland, electricity price increases will apply from 1 July 2023. If you require assistance with your electricity accounts or a review of your tariffs to ensure you are on the most cost-effective tariff for your situation, please contact Courtney.

In March 2022, Bundaberg Regional Council entered into an agreement with the Queensland Government to jointly fund a

detailed business case into the opportunity to develop the Bundaberg to Gin Gin Rail Trail. The proposed rail trail will connect Bundaberg to Gin Gin along the old rail corridor, a distance of approximately 46km. The business case is currently undertaking a more detailed planning and design phase and is open for feedback via a survey which closes on 9 July 2023 .

www.ourbundabergregion.com.au/gin-gin-rail-trail

ISIS

EXPECTED CRUSH START DATE 29/06/23

This month we welcomed the new Chair Shaun Tobin to the Isis Mill Board when Darren Harney retired after 22 years of service.

We congratulate Shaun and his new deputy Don Halpin on their appointments and look forward to working with them both. The board also appointed Debbie Leis to fill the casual director vacancy

until the AGM later this year. Recently we attended a farewell morning tea with the Isis Mill Board to acknowledge the work Darren Harney has achieved whilst serving on the Board.

At the time of writing, we are eagerly awaiting the start of crushing later this week. Isis Mill has experienced some delays with replacement

components and negotiating an enterprise agreement which has caused some disruption to their maintenance program. Steam trials have commenced, and we expect crushing to start on Thursday 29 June.

We recently hosted a shed meeting at the Greensill farm at Wallaville, where growers had the opportunity to hear



Isis - Dan Galligan and Owen Menkens with Isis grower Peter Greensill

from both QCGO Chair Owen Menkens and CEO Dan Galligan updating on the efforts of CANEGROWERS, working on behalf of members and the industry.

Growers also had the opportunity to look at Peter Greensill's new 3 row, disc opener billet planter and hear how the planter performed following its first planting season. Growers relished the opportunity to share the issues they are facing firsthand and with Owen and Dan.



Isis - Darren Harney retiring ICSM Chair and Mark Mammino CANEGROWERS Isis Chair

MARYBOROUGH

EXPECTED CRUSH START DATE 29/06/23

Well, we had hoped to be going for a couple of weeks by now with the 2023 crush, but preparations haven't been as smooth as hoped.

Isis Mill has now resolved their EBA negotiations and work on maintenance was reinstated during the week of 19 June. Some unexpected breakages haven't helped, with a result in a delay to the start of the crush of seven days. The weather is perfect at present and people are ready to go in the field.

Another component for this season is transport arrangements, a new contractor this year has seen several changes to the truck fleet and coordination of trailers for the season. The delayed start has helped with preparations for transport, but it won't be perfect from day 1. Technology additions will take time to get

used to and patience will be key for these first few weeks.

Harvester groups have been involved in meetings prior to season start to also understand the planning for the year.

Productivity services, Tony McDermott, has been working hard on RSD testing throughout the district and is now 70% complete on collection of samples, with any positive test results advised as soon as results come to hand.

The soybean crop is almost harvested through the district with only a few blocks to go, cotton harvesting is also now complete, and the focus is on getting the 2023 sugarcane crop in to enjoy the great prices still on offer for sugar. The sugar price into 2024 is also holding well and planting planning for August is in swing.



Second harvester group meeting held Friday 16 June - QSL provided cake!

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ROCKY POINT

EXPECTED CRUSH START DATE 17/07/23

The Rocky Point season is now expected to commence on Monday 17 July, with an estimated 265,000 tonnes of cane.

Our Negotiating Team will this week sign a 5-year rolling CSA with the Rocky Point Mill for the 2023 to 2027 years.

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STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHTS INTO SUGARCANE GROWING

Farming alongside the Great Barrier Reef is always under intense scrutiny, and for one group of American students, it is an underpinning fundamental in their *Politics of Protecting the Great Barrier Reef* curriculum.

Last month 24 political students from the University of Texas at Austin took the opportunity, as part of their Queensland tour, to visit Russell Jordan's Giru farm in the Burdekin and see first-hand how growers are actively engaging in water management practices.

Russell, the first grower in the Burdekin to be Smartcane BMP accredited, provided an in-depth account of his farming practices to the students, who were keen to learn about the sugarcane industry. He said the students were intrigued with the use of modern technology in farm management like Russell's automated irrigation improvements.

"We have end of row sensors, the pumps are all automated, so it can turn on with the computer," Russell said.

"Previously I would open up a valve, turn the pump on and irrigate, keep watching till the water comes out the other end and then change it to the next set. About a decade ago we started to automate our systems,

now we set a schedule and it'll go for the defined hours. Or if we've got an end of row sensor in the field, and the water hits the sensor before the timer is to go off, it will change, but if it hasn't hit the sensor it'll change at the time that we've set.

"The students wanted to see how we grow, they had loads of questions and were interested in the benefits of being Smartcane BMP accredited."

Rhonda Evans is Senior Lecturer and Director in the Department of Government at the Edward A. Clark Centre for Australian and New Zealand Studies and said the students study the different ways in which human life impacts the Reef.

"The students try to understand the actual science that documents the extent of the impact, the effects of the impact, then discuss what government can do to try to mitigate or prevent, if possible, those impacts," Rhonda said.

"And how human activity can be regulated to protect the Reef but balance that against the fact that there are activities necessary for a functioning economy and society, like shipping, commercial fishing and agriculture.

"What's the best way to balance these and then think about the trade-offs that get made, and what does that look like and how does politics determine who wins and who loses.

"I designed this class because in the world today, we face a lot of really complicated problems, and it's too easy to go to the opposite ends of the spectrum, to oversimplify things, to deny problems, simplify solutions, and we need to have a generation of people coming into positions of power who understand complexity," Rhonda said.

"If I can get a couple of students out of each class who go on to do great things, well that's the seeds I'm planting as a teacher."

Two of the students Meghan Hester and Sahan Yerram were keen to talk to growers as their research papers related to the sugarcane industry and they took full advantage of the CANEGROWERS policy team when they visited the Brisbane office.

"The idea for our paper was to explore a policy that affected the Great Barrier Reef, I looked at the communication between the Queensland Government and sugarcane farmers. I could see a disconnect in this communication, as many farmers call for self-regulation while the Queensland Government is calling for more regulation, my paper explored how that may be hurting the farmer's output," Meghan said.

Sahan said he hadn't realised how extensive the industry was in Queensland and enjoyed the chance to get to go on farm and speak to representatives from the industry.

"I think it's cool to see how much technology goes into growing cane and how difficult it really can be, I have a lot of respect for the farmers," Sahan said. ■



Meghan Hester and Sahan Yerram from University of Texas at Austin



Rhonda Evans and Russell Jordan

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SEEING RED OVER FIRE ANTS

Sustainability & Environment

MICK QUIRK

The fight against fire ants in Australia is in trouble. While this is obvious to growers in the Rocky Point district, who have lived with the pest for many years, it has been formally documented in a 2021 review of the national eradication program. But it's a great shame that this review has only recently seen the light of day.

The review found that the program, underway since 2001, is not adequately resourced to even contain the spread of fire ants, let alone eradicate them. While eradication of any pest is a long-term, expensive, and challenging process, the review found that eradication was still reasonably likely if urgent action was taken now (i.e., in 2021).

Such findings should have triggered the urgent development of a new national response plan which reflects the recommendations of the review. This, in turn, should have been carefully considered by the Australian, State and Territory governments and funding commitments secured.

But, two years on, the report suddenly appears, with no evidence of any actions by government and no communication from them about an ongoing commitment to eradication.

Announcements that do not actually provide additional funding, as in the recent Queensland budget, do nothing about the urgent increases in funding recommended in the review.

For anyone who has experienced the impact of fire ants first-hand, eradication is a no-brainer. Should fire ants spread to even a portion of its potential range in Australia, agriculture will suffer significantly, the environmental impacts will be

huge, and outdoor activities, from sports to festivals to picnics, will be disrupted. They are not called 'fire' ants for nothing.

If you have any doubts about the urgency of doing something, talk to one of our Rocky Point growers. I suggest you contact your local Federal and State Government reps and make sure they are suitably motivated on this issue. Lack of urgency, combined with a lack of transparency, is not a recipe for either good government or effective eradication programs.

Being blue over the health of rivers

Growers often mention the chronic lack of investment for maintaining healthy flows in rivers, which is critical for minimising erosion and reducing the impact of flood waters. In the 'old' days, 1940 to be precise, a Queensland Act of Parliament provided for the establishment of River Improvements Trusts (RITS) as statutory bodies.

These RITS had authority to raise funds, enter land, and contract necessary works. Various amendments to the Act have been passed, including in 2013 when RITS were deemed "responsible for restoring natural resilience for flooding and cyclones in rivers and their catchment".

It was up to a local government, or multiple local governments, to apply to the Minister to form a Trust and a river improvement area over which it would have jurisdiction. Local government was also seen as the primary source of funds to undertake works, although this was often supplemented by grants and landholder contributions.

While the RIT model has worked in the past, and several are still active, the flow of grant funding for river health has dried up over time. Catchment management was once a real buzz word (at least for older folk like me), but funding for managing natural resources in recent decades has targeted 'headline' issues such as Reef water quality or carbon farming. A focus on catchment and river management has gone down the drain, so to speak. ►



REEF RECENT RECOVERY

Sustainability & Environment

ELISA WESTMORE

The Queensland Government did initiate a review of RITS in 2021, and many of our districts provided input. But no report has appeared as yet. I have recently been advised that the report will be finalised in the next few months and that it has recommendations relating to both funding and to simpler administrative arrangements.

However, I suspect the funding and focus will be limited and piecemeal, and government funding for natural resource management will continue to be rained down on topical issues, especially carbon farming.

There must surely be scope for a coalition of agricultural, regional NRM, environmental and community organisations to lobby for a return to a primary focus on catchment management. This would ensure a whole range of desirable catchment outcomes are considered and resourced in an integrated manner, including improved water quality, healthy soils, reduced erosion, riparian condition, targeted revegetation, and reduced impacts of flooding.

I suspect regional NRM bodies have solid, ready-to-go catchment plans sitting on their web sites, but have been hamstrung by the narrow focus of available funding sources. ■

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) has recently witnessed a remarkable achievement. According to the Annual Summary Report of Coral Condition published by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), hard coral cover has reached a 36-year high across two-thirds of the reef, thanks in large part to the absence of climate-related impacts like severe cyclones.

For decades, AIMS has been monitoring the condition of the GBR through its Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP), which commenced in the mid-1980s. The LTMP plays a crucial role in assessing the reef's health by monitoring key indicators such as hard and soft coral cover, proportion of coral bleached, the number and size of Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS), and populations of coral trout and sharks.

The recently released 2021-22 report reveals that the Northern and Central regions of the reef experienced significant increases in the percentage of hard coral cover. However, there is still an ongoing decline in the Southern regions, primarily caused by a COTS outbreak on the Swain reefs.

The increase in coral cover can be attributed to the ability of the Reef to recover when given respite from key disturbances. The absence of severe cyclones impacting the reefs and a reduction in COTS outbreaks in the Northern and Central areas have played pivotal roles in facilitating this recovery. It demonstrates how critical stress events such as cyclones, bleaching, and COTS outbreaks are to the Reef's overall health and resilience. During periods free from these disturbances, the Reef can bounce back and even thrive.

However, the report also serves as a reminder of the intensifying challenges the Reef faces due to climate change. Rising temperatures contribute to more frequent climate-driven events, including cyclones and bleaching. These events pose significant threats to the Reef's ability to recover and adapt over time, gradually diminishing its resilience. While water quality can influence the health of inshore corals, it is crucial to acknowledge that climate-driven events have a far more severe and widespread impact. Scientists and farmers alike have long recognised that the intensification of climate impacts represents the greatest threat to the Reef.

As we celebrate the Reef's recent recovery we must remain steadfast in our commitment to doing our part to protect it. ■



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Membership Engagement & Innovation

MATT KEALLEY

CANEGROWERS has been running member meetings across the districts for the past 5 years. These meetings have allowed the growers to interact with the Chair, Board and CEO of CANEGROWERS, as well as the Brisbane staff. These meetings have been held in sheds, halls, and sporting clubs from Mossman to Rocky Point.

Walking into Greensill's shed in Wallaville about 32km north-west of Childers for the CANEGROWERS Isis member meeting, I couldn't quite get over the sheer size of the building - it was huge!

As it turns out, it was a fitting venue for the Isis meeting and for the 60 odd growers and industry reps that showed up to hear Owen Menkens, Dan Galligan and myself, talk about the vast array of work that CANEGROWERS is doing on behalf of the industry and for our members.

CANEGROWERS is taking on some challenging issues and is working behind the scenes with state and federal governments, industry and organisations in the sugar supply chain to influence the bigger opportunities coming our way.

We are responding to the everyday issues affecting your business such as electricity prices, fertilizer costs, and attracting people to assist with the harvest. We are also working with the districts to support Cane Supply Agreement negotiations, ensuring vehicles can travel on the roads and making sure that the Cane Analysis Auditors have the appropriate resources to ensure you get paid on your cane quality.

These are relatively easy things to demonstrate. Yet, describing the advocacy work CANEGROWERS does for growers to

support the industry is not as straight forward. There are no quick wins. It's about being in the room, having a seat at the table and taking the opportunity to put our views forward. Things don't always change the way we would like them to, but we can influence and make things more workable.

As the saying goes: "the world is won by those who show up." CANEGROWERS is showing up, we are at the table, in the room and in the growers' sheds across the districts - working for you and letting you know why we're tackling these issues, how we are going about it and what we are doing to support your business and attract people into the industry, now and into the future.

The meeting at the Greensill shed allowed Owen to talk about the work he has been involved with at CANEGROWERS to create this future. The advocacy transitions from the farm to the districts, from the government departments in Queensland to the corridors in Canberra and then overseas.

From meeting with the Premier of Queensland Anastacia Palaszczuk on sustainable aviation fuel linking back to the Sugar Plus industry roadmap; to working with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator the Hon Murray Watt and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to get sugar into the UK Free Trade Agreement; to addressing the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers— it's a diverse range of topics which take time, persistence and credibility. The credibility is crucial and this comes from the growers speaking about these issues and opportunities on behalf of the industry.

The member meetings have been well attended this year. I appreciate the effort that the District Managers have made to support these events. I'm grateful for the willingness of the growers and representatives from the district CANEGROWERS boards to take time from their busy day, provide a place to meet and show us around their farms. Finally, I wish to thank the members for supporting CANEGROWERS and the growers who have turned up to the meetings, said g'day asked questions and shared a laugh. It's the best part of my job and I know, with your support, we are making a difference. ■



BENEFITS OF COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION

Industry & Farm Inputs

BURN ASHBURNER

For a grower busy with the everyday on farm planning, decision making and operations there is little time to reflect on and fully comprehend the bigger picture of what representative organisations like CANEGROWERS and National Farmers' Federation (NFF) are doing which can have immediate benefits. I have taken a few small issues which are being dealt with by NFF which could and will affect a number of our CANEGROWERS members.

Right to repair - NFF is in the process of workshopping a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) granting Australian farmers the right to repair, to be negotiated between NFF and the Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia (TMA). This work is in alignment with next steps and strict timelines for those steps discussed by NFF Members Council in April 2023.

Importantly, NFF emphasise that pursuing an MoU does not preclude NFF from continuing advocacy towards a legislated right to repair scheme. It is their assessment that this demonstrates good faith from industry and, if this course of action does not deliver desired outcomes in the coming months, this will only further and firmly demonstrate the need for legislative intervention to interested Ministers and the Government.

Instant asset write off - NFF is continuing its advocacy to the Government to extend the Instant Asset Write Off (IAWO), to cover plant and machinery ordered and invoiced prior to 30 June 2023 which have not been received. Significant delays to existing orders disadvantage farmers who made good faith investments in line with government policy. Due to factors outside their control, farmers will lose out.

The NFF has written to the Treasurer on a number of occasions highlighting the direct impact on farmers if the IAWO is not extended. The NFF is also engaging directly with the Treasurer's office and relevant advisors.

Fuel tax credits – For now the Government has left the Fuel Tax Credits Scheme unchanged and NFF will continue to advocate to politicians of all persuasions to correct misinformation regarding Fuel Tax Credits and explain the important role they play in farm businesses.

Industrial relations - NFF has commenced a campaign alongside multiple business groups to push back against the Government's upcoming industrial relations reforms, importantly, the Same Job Same Pay policy. This could mean a whole lot of red tape for farmers. NFF will continue to press the issue with government and update members accordingly.

Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme - The Government is currently reforming the PALM scheme Deed and Guidelines, which an approved employer (AE) must agree to in order to hire PALM workers. Most AEs are grossly unhappy with the current state of play, which contains new requirements relating to minimum hours, minimum pay, and vastly increased admin and red tape requirements. This shows no sensitivity for the pressures of managing harvest workforce and is commercially unrealistic. NFF has strongly expressed this concern with the relevant ministers.

This list could go on, but the point is CANEGROWERS being a member of NFF has the opportunity to ensure cane growers issues are in the mix and have added weight at a national level backed by the whole NFF membership. Each CANEGROWERS member contributes to allow this work to happen, and I firmly believe the benefit of collective representation far outweighs the cost. ■



CAN MY NEIGHBOUR FLOOD ME OUT?

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

CHRIS COOPER

I have received several requests for advice in the last month from growers and districts on the rights, duties and obligations relating to water flow and drainage. These requests have been associated with neighbours over irrigating or carrying out works which have contributed to flooding on the grower's cane farm and leading to inability to access paddocks for harvest due to wet conditions.

Drainage issue disputes between neighbours are always difficult to resolve, and there are no easy answers.

These types of cases always depend on their own particular facts and circumstances.

Options for resolution

There are various steps a person can take to resolve a dispute between neighbours regarding water flow, drainage and run-off issues and include the following, not in any particular order:-

1. Direct discussions and negotiations between the neighbours should be explored.
2. Use of the independent free mediation service through the local Dispute Resolution Centre. These free services involve using an independent person to meet with the neighbours and try and work out a mutually agreed solution and settlement of the dispute. These dispute centres are located in each major cane growing region.

3. Raise the matter with the local council and/or Department of Resources office. These government authorities do have some jurisdiction in this area, although my experience tells me they are usually reluctant to get involved but you never know. In some cases, applying fill, and interfering with the flow of water can be matters that require government authorisation, planning approval or licence.
4. Are there any relevant River Trusts or local water authorities (Water Boards) that may have jurisdiction?
5. Consider exercising legal options. Legal proceedings are possible but should not be taken lightly as they can be expensive, time consuming, uncertain in outcome and stressful with potentially adverse effects on neighbourly relations.
6. Contact your local CANEGROWERS office and seek assistance. Often a letter can be written on the grower's behalf to the neighbour.
7. Through the local office, in certain circumstances I can send a legal letter of demand to the neighbour.

Legal principles

The legal principals applicable in disputes of this kind are relatively easy to state but not so easy to apply in practice. The particular facts and circumstances that have to be considered in light of the legal principles that have been established. The High Court has generally accepted the following passage as the proper test:-

"A balance has to be maintained between the right of the occupier to do what he likes with his own, and the right of his neighbour not to be interfered with. It is impossible to give any precise or universal formula, but may broadly be said that a useful test is perhaps what is reasonable according to ordinary usages of mankind living in society, or more correctly in a particular society."

The type and nature of the watercourse involved is important. If the water course involved is a natural one then the higher elevated owner is not liable just because surface water flows naturally in an unconcentrated state from their land to the lower less elevated owner land.



The higher owner may be liable however if the natural water flow is interfered with and the water flows in a more concentrated way that causes damage to lower lands that adjoin that water course. Legal action may well be available to the lower proprietor due to the special rights that apply for natural watercourses.

The higher owner may still not be liable though if the interference is just from a reasonable and natural use of the higher owner's land.

All is not lost for the lower owner as the lower owner is generally not bound to accept the water and may put up barriers (even if those steps cause problems for the higher owner) provided the lower owner does no more than reasonably necessary to protect the enjoyment of the lower owner's land.

Reasonableness test

From a legal perspective, the basic rule is that if your neighbour is doing something unreasonable on their property, which is unfairly and unreasonably interfering with your property then you may have rights to make a claim for compensation or associated court orders preventing the interference. What is reasonable will depend on the particular circumstances of each situation.

Well - Can the neighbour flood me out?

No, the neighbour cannot flood you out unless the neighbour is doing no more than reasonably and lawfully using the neighbour's land. In most cases if the neighbour is flooding you out by something that the neighbour is doing, such as over watering, then you are justified in making a complaint.

You may also be entitled to claim compensation and seek orders preventing any further interference with your cane lands. Further specific advice is recommended before taking any action and consider the options for resolution listed above.

A word on levee banks

In some cases the modification or construction of a levee bank may require local council approval. ■

This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account. Any grower wishing to discuss aspects of this article or any other legal matter should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper, for free initial legal advice.



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Next deadline is 19 July 2023

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, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

MOSSMAN-TULLY

Tatu heavy duty offset disc 25 plate 34 inch disc 320 mm disc spacings \$60,000 (plus gst) in brand new condition. PH: 0439 965 921

Olympic 20.8.42 65% \$500+ gst; 80 inch rotary hoe, on second set of blades since new no rust \$2200+ gst; front end loader with 4 in 1 bucket, blasted and 2pac painted, resembling required \$4500+gst. Ph 0437 434 280

Celli Rotary Hoe 90 inch \$5500, Ripper Coulter \$1400, 4 Implement Rollers Each \$100, 1000 Litre plus Diesel Tank on Stand \$1100, Single Row Fertiliser Box Stool Splitter \$400. 186 Ross Road DEERAL Ph 0412 968 434

JD 4030 106HP 2WD Good clean condition, front weights, back wheel weights, canopy, new seat. Good small farm tractor. \$10,000 (+gst) Tully Ph: 0429 681 264

32 inch scalloped discs 32inch plain discs Phone: 0418 824 085

24 Plate Heavy Duty Offset Discs PH 0407 364 012

Accommodation available for seasonal workers 2023 sugar cane crushing season on the Atherton Tablelands (Mareeba/Walkamin/Atherton areas). Please contact Robert to learn more on 0429 933 884.

Howard CH2000 4.2m rotary hoe, crumble roller. Comes with spare brand new gearbox still in

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crate. \$28,000 (plus gst) Ph: 0439 965 921

2006 Case 7700 Track Harvester, 10.3Lt Iveco Motor 3,500hrs Very Good Condition Ph: 0467 198 700 AH: 4067 1498

Fiat 980 2WD-3,500hrs, Fiat 1000 2WD - 5,000hrs, John Deere 4040 2WD - 3,600hrs, Chamberlain JD 4080 2 WD - 5,000hrs, Case 2590 2WD - 5,700hrs, Michigan 110-14 Elevator Scraper-New engine & Spare engine, D Massey Ferguson 3635 4WD - 5,500hrs, 6tonne tipper bin, Silvan Euro Spand CX2 Spreader, Portable bulk bin, Hustler Super Z Zero turn mower, Bunning Lowlander Mk 40-60 Ag Spreader(near new), Complete tracks to suit cane harvester, Half tracks to suit cane harvester, and Fuel trailer tank. Mulgrave Area 0407 160 673

2012 Case 8800 fulltrack cane harvester fitted with Trimble GPS and new walking gear. All in good condition. Near new 6t side tipper. Mulgrave Area Ph: 0407 160 673

07 Case 7700 lots of mods tripple sai chopper motors 10 blade lift drums; 2x case 97 powerhauls 10ton l/hand tip & suspension w/ cummins qsb 6.7l engines & upgraded cooling packages; Fiat 140 tractor. Call 0429 795 883 or fb messenger Scott Warland

Toft 6000 harvester \$20k Liqueforce 5 row applicator \$25k stainless steel 25000L tanker on tandem axle trailer \$15k 10 tonne side tipper \$12k kubota 8580 \$22k rotary hoe grubbers rollers ploughs plus more call Rodney 0429 984 920

Rotocult 1 shot cultivator \$7,000 ONO + GST. Ph: 0149 988 158

2022 Case 9900 Harvester Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2018 Case 8810 Harvester Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2 of 2019 Case Puma 210 cut with 14T GTB Razor Tippers Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2 of 2021 Case Puma 225 Cut with 16T GTB Razor Tippers All Articulated units Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

International 866 Tractor \$11,000, 1000 Litre plus Diesel Tank on Stand \$1800, 2 Ripper Coulter's each \$1900, Single Fertiliser Box Stool Splitter \$700, Implement Rollers Each \$200, 3 Row Scratcher \$700, Line Marker \$500, Ph 0412 968 434, 186 Ross Road DEERAL.

2006 Case 7700 Track Harvester. 10.3Lt Iveco Motor 3,500hrs. Very Good Condition Ph: 0467

198 700 AH: 4067 1498

Multi-Weeder \$350; Cane Drill Marker \$250; Silvan 600L Water Tank \$300. Ph: 07 4065 2165

Howard 80 inch Ripper Rotary (new blades & new ripper tips) \$3,300. GST incl. 2 x second hand Tractor tyres. 20.8 38 8 ply \$100 ea. GST incl. Ph. 0438 988 858

Toft 6000, CAT 3306DI, Rotary Chop, Bent elevator, standard topper. Good condition for age. Ph: 07 4067 5327

Silkwood Implements whole Stick plant cutter with topper \$5,000 Includes GST Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

Quantity of used Harvester track plates - curved and flat Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

2015 Case 280 Magnum Ultimate 1750 hrs- equipped with Case Trimble FMX 1000 GPS \$300,000 includes GST Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

2012 Case iH Magnum 340. 4950hrs, Hydraulic Top Link 4 Remotes, Trimble RTK GPS Included. G/C \$230,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 700 555 or 0447 226 739.

Kubota M9540 4850 Hrs G/C \$38,000 + GST. Two Ford 5000 articulated tractors coupled to 4 t side tippers \$10,000 each + GST. One Ford 5000 tractor \$8,000 + GST. Ph Jamie 0427 089 009

2010 Austoft A8800 Cane Harvester, New Motor, 1800 hrs, Walking Gear has done 1 Season, \$90,000 inc. GST ono. Ph: 0407 630 499 or 0428 453 640

MACKAY-PROSERPINE

GPS Autosteer kits, can be fitted to any tractor, FJ Dynamics brand, \$12,000 inc GST. Ph: 0401 847 162.

Celli Tiger Rotary Hoe 260DD, 4.2 metre, Hydraulic adjustable crumble roller, Hydraulic adjustable rear door, Oil cooler fitted, \$25k+ Ono Phone Brett 0418 190 429

Massey Ferguson harvester 102 base cutter box. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

Elevator chains for 102. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

2004 Case MXM175, in good condition, 4, 440 hours, power shift transmission, only used for farm work. \$65,000 plus GST. Ph: 0457 801 267

7T Tractor 200 auto command, super steer, GPS ready, 5549 hours, great condition, farm work only. \$110,000. Ph: 0427 503 738

Rover 52 inch mower, zero turn, Kawasaki motor, 19 horsepower. \$4,000. Ph: 0427 503 738

Massey Furgeson 65 tractor \$3500. Two Perkins 354 motors for parts \$500. Baggots 3 row cultivator, ripper. Duck feet tynes \$3500. Email: michael.cousen@hotmail.com PH: 0435 550 737

Farview Engineering 6 tonne side tipper. Ph.0407 761 364

3 Point Linkage Cane Topper. Ph: 0417 542 783 for price.

Pegoraro 120 inch rotary hoe in good condition. Ph: 0417 542 783 for price.

Billet Planter- Hodge Front, Moller sorter bin with single chain, auger, Lorsdan tank. \$6200 Moller tipper bin and trailer. \$2500. 2 fan stripper with Hyd topper, new hose and clutch \$2500, Hodge upright thrash planter, spare knives \$500 2 x plant trailer \$800 ea, whole stick plant cutter \$950. Contact Michael 0427 846 246

4000 litres of 50/50 diesel/petrol mix suitable for firebug burners or parts washing. ph.0411196860

Southern cross LAH 7 stage turbine pump. Please phone 0407 595 218.

4040 John Deere for sale. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

John Deere 8300 tractor 1998 model 8552 hours Has had engine and front differential rebuild Dual wheels, A5 gps and base station Good condition. \$65,000 Inc gst Ph Stacey 0427 678 572

1 international 414 for sale, tyres 90% tread, engine needs repairs, \$1,000. Ph: 4954 1174

2016 Case 8800 Track Harvester; 4887 Hrs; Good Condition. PH: 0408755453 Proserpine

Goldacres 800Ltr spray unit with in-cab controls, 110 LPM pump, near new condition. No boom. Spare new solenoids included. Good condition. \$3,200 + GST ono. Ph: 0419 646 235.

Water meter never used SIEMENS BRAND(no before or after the meter pipework required) 150 MM FLANGED, TABLE D/E Ph: 0411 196 860

Diesel Tank on 2 wheel trailer 4500 Litres Ph: 0411 196 860

6 and 8 inch cast iron flanged Gate Valves. New never used. Ph: 0411 196 860

Howard AH 120" Rotary Hoe. New blades, oil cooler, hydraulic lift crumble roller. Always kept in shed. In great condition. \$12600 +GST. Ph: 0428 761 324

1973 Ford 5000 2wd with 4ton Newton side

tipper \$11000 +GST .3m niemeyer nr1411 Power Harrows \$5600 + GST. Ph: 0437 184 822

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

2 fan stripper \$500. Moller single chain planter \$4000. Roberts 6T goose neck trailer \$5000. Grubber & box \$300. Hodge upright planter

\$3000. Ph: 0408 776 336 OR 4959 1765 after 7pm

Case 8810, 2018 model cut 4 seasons, low hour low tonnage machine, owner driver. Ph: 0427 271 278.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by  Australian Retirement Trust

LOCATION	RECORDED RAINFALL (mm)			
	Month prior (May 2023)	Month to date (1 June -25 June)	Year to date 2023	Year to date 2022
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	50	79.4	2594.2	2213.4
Mareeba Airport	2.8	0.2	400.8	635.6
Cairns Aero	46	45.8	1494.2	1420
Mt Sophia	146	98	2439	2984
Babinda Post Office	242.2	158.6	no data	3145.3
Innisfail	135	241.2	2528.8	2532.2
Tully Sugar Mill	147.8	224.3	2467	2551.3
Cardwell Marine Pde	25.4	7.2	1151.8	1289.5
Lucinda Township	47.6	69.6	1343.4	1564.8
Ingham Composite	16	82.2	1398.2	1369.9
Abergowrie Alert	12	42	764	no data
Townsville Aero	7.6	0.6	925.4	968.4
Ayr DPI Research Stn	0.2	0	975.6	715.2
Proserpine Airport	5.4	14.8	1325	983.6
Mirani Mary Street	15	20	1210.4	625.5
Mackay MO	117.6	33.2	1144.4	no data
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	9.3	24.6	1077.5	832.8
Bundaberg Aero	19	6.8	374.8	817.2
Childers South	18.4	19.2	343.2	900.2
Maryborough	27.8	18.4	361.6	no data
Tewantin RSL Park	123.6	102.8	477.6	1913
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	no data	no data	no data	1961.4
Nambour DPI - Hillside	96.8	29.8	29.8	no data
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	82.5	6.5	346.1	1142.5
Murwillumbah Bray Park	120.5	26.1	594	no data
Ballina Airport	136.8	6.8	738.4	2083
New Italy	50.6	16	454.2	2028

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.

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

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl GST. Ph: 0438 606 578

BUNDABERG-ROCKY POINT

Brand new HOWARD AH4000/255 2.5m Heavy Duty Rotary Hoe w/wheels \$44k inc gst; HODGE Stool Splitter 3 row 1.5t S/S Bin Disc openers, press wheels, row spacings 1.5-1.8m, only done 25ha, oiled & shedded \$42k inc gst; Rocky Pt, Ph Greg 0421277126

2 x Single axle Hi lift tipper bins, one 8 tonne and another one 7 tonne \$12,000 plus gst Phone 0413 584 728

Massey Ferguson harvester 305 \$5,000, stick plant cane cutter 3 point linkage \$600, 2 fan stripper \$500, whole stick planter \$500, spinner weeder \$600. All + GST. Ph: 0402 781 765

Howard rotary hoe 90 inch reasonable condition \$3,000. Bonnel single stick cane planter good condition \$1,000. Aged billet planter weathered condition \$2,500. Belt spreader 3 ton bin good condition \$15,000 Phone 0437 266 711

Plant cane cultivator 2 x 1.6m row w/ 3 weeder rakes and tines \$2,200 incl GST, Land plane w/ 4m. hyd. tilt blade \$4,400 incl GST, 2x1.6m. row cultivator w/ 10x 30ml. tines \$2,200 incl GST. Ph: 0408 761 463.

JD 2010 3520 harvester 7700hrs GC \$175,000 + GST. Ph: 0418 881 343.

Case 8810, 2018 model cut 4 seasons, low hour low tonnage machine, owner driver. Ph: 0427 271 278

HBM billet planter set up for dual row or single. \$9,000 + GST. Ph: 0413 584 728

2 row Bonnel fertiliser box with ground drive, \$1,100 + GST. Ph: 0413 584 728

WANTED

Wanted hi clearance spray tractor. Must be a trike and must have air con cab. Send photos and information to 0407 639 985

Wanted 2 X 2ND hand tractor tyres. 14.9 - 23 to suit Massey 35 Please call Michael 0419 952 119

Wanted to buy Yeoman 7 leg ripper or similar style preferably with roller Ph: 0428 724 025

Wanted permanent purchase Lower Mary River Water Allocations on Mary River, Tinana Creek and Channel Pipeline sections of the scheme. Phone 0427 930 696.

Wanted to buy high rise spray tractor. (Mackay area) Ph: 0427 541 346

Wanted - Water tank trailer, about 5000 Litres PH 0417 784 642

Fertilizer box drop on stool type Tableland -Mossman -Tully Ph. 0439 951 110

Wanted 6 Cylinder Turbo Cat Motor - Phone 0417 193 385

Wanted a vintage 3 ton cane railway bin to display at the Childers historical complex QLD. Anything considered even parts. Email: Darrensbrengun@outlook.com Contact Number: 0402 122 790

Wanted 1996 - 2004. Toft / Case 7000, wheeled cane harvester. Phone 0420 600 943

WTB Tractor with FEL 100-140 HP up to \$50k. NQLD Area. Call Peter 0427 760 449

Cane stripper in good condition. Ph: 0407 675 361

Double 5 or 6 tonne side tipper with load sharing hitch. With or without tractor. Ph: 0418 379 253.

Weeder rake. Preferably heavy-duty frame, looking to modify. Condong area. Ph: 0438 428 113.

14 tonne elevator bin and tractor 50klm box or more. Preferably JCB. Ph: 0400 794 857.

Flat bed trailer approx. 3000 x 2100. Mackay/ Sarina area. Ph: 0439 752 381.

Wanted 2 X 2ND hand tractor tyres. 14.9 - 23 to suit Massey 35 Please call Michael 0419 952 119

PROPERTY - FOR SALE

Mulgrave Sugar Cane Farm - 82 Ha on 2 titles will sell separately. Lot 1 - 47 Ha with water License. Lot 2 - 34 Ha with house and shed. Ph: 0437 293 241 Mulgrave Area

2 Tableland Farms 59.145ha and 23.395ha 9(203.65 acres) on 4 Titles Walkamin area. 304 megs Tinaroo irrigation water, 65ha CPA, 10ha avocado and mangos, 2 houses, sheds, machinery, center pivot and hard hose irrigator. Soil and climate suitable for vast array of other crops. Ph 0439 951 110

PROPERTY - WANTED

Want to buy farm in Victoria Plains, Eton, Pleystowe area. Ph 049 00 29 387

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438 545 251

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm in the Septimus area. Ph: 0417 607 722



BUYERS BEWARE

Buyers please be aware of scam emails when buying online.

Scammers may try to intercept emails between genuine buyers and sellers by sending the buyer a fake invoice with different account details for the payment. vBuyers should check with the seller by phone for accurate account details before making payment.

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LIQUID IS...THE FUTURE IN FERTILISING

WANT AN ECONOMICAL & ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS FERTILISER OPTION WITH SOIL SUPPORT AND PLANT STIMULANTS? YOU WANT **LIQUAFORCE BIGSHOT!**

A one-shot application containing high analysis NPKS, LiquaForce BigShot also includes a super shot of molasses to slow down nitrogen release and help tillering plants absorb nutrients.

Flexible and adaptable, BigShot offers growers the option of adding additional trace elements to support specific soil and crop requirements.

But don't take our word for it. BigShot is backed by independent research by the University of Southern Queensland to reduce nitrogen leaching by 17% to help the microbial slow release of nitrogen.

CALL OUR LIQUAFORCE AREA REPS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

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