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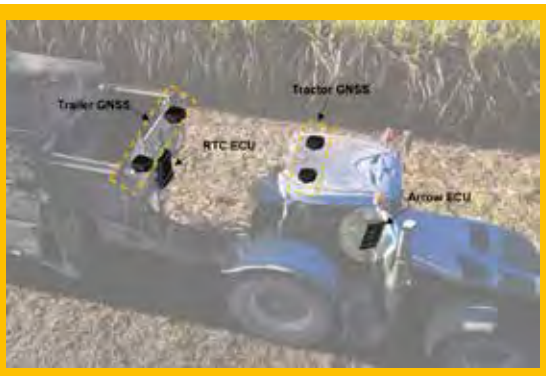

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CANEGROWERS

CONTENTS

04 *Seeking the next generation of leaders*
CANEGROWERS new mentoring program is ready to roll

05 *Time for marketers to step up*
Growers should reap rewards of sustainable sugar demand

06 *Beneficial biological warfare*
The potential replacement for chemicals in the control of pests

10 *Investing in people matters*
The best investment for the industry is one that focuses on people

14 *The harvest is now in full swing*
The question around the sheds is whether the crop will hold up

16 *Variety selection and planning*
It's all about fine-tuning the data

24 *Endless curiosity*
An inquring mind drives aTully grower on a fulfilling career

24 *Harvest contractors challenges*
Supply and demand impact growers and harvesting contractors alike

32 *Regional round-up*

40 *Policy updates*

44 *Legal updates*

46 *Classifieds*

47 *Rainfall report*

CANEGROWERS

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COVER IMAGE:
Tully grower George Henry only ever plants cane following a fallow period

Photo Credit: Renee Cluff

Read more on page 24

NEWS BRIEFS

SEEKING THE NEXT CROP OF INDUSTRY LEADERS

CANEGROWERS is on the hunt for the next group of aspiring industry leaders to participate in a new mentoring program aimed at building their business, leadership, networking and negotiation skills.

Scheduled to kick off in early 2024, the Next Ratoon mentoring program will match young growers with experienced and knowledgeable mentors, from both inside and outside the industry.

"The program will help our next group of leaders build strong connections, leadership skills, and knowledge to contribute to a profitable and innovative sugarcane industry," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"CANEGROWERS IS A PROUDLY GROWER-LED ORGANISATION ... SUCCESSION PLANNING IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURING CONTINUED SUCCESS"

"CANEGROWERS is a proudly grower-led organisation. The Queensland CANEGROWERS Board and Policy Council members are all sugarcane growers, as are the 85 directors that oversee or district companies.

"But as anyone in business knows, succession planning is vitally important to ensuring continued success.

"That's why CANEGROWERS is launching a mentoring program to help nurture and guide the next crop of industry leaders."

Turn to page 42 to read more about the program from CANEGROWERS Membership Engagement and Innovation Manager Matt Kealley.

Mentor or mentees wishing to participate in the program can register their interest at www.nextratoon.com.au or email nextratoon2024@canegrowers.com.au. ■

REPRESENTING GROWERS IN CANBERRA

CANEGROWERS Queensland Chairman Owen Menkens and CEO Dan Galligan were in Canberra recently.

The pair held high-level meetings with a number of government officials and ministers, including Federal Ag Minister Murray Watt, Trade Minister Don Farrell, senior advisors from the office of Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek, and Member for Dawson Andrew Wilcox MP.

On the agenda at these meetings were a range of issues, including biosecurity, industry diversification, Australia-EU trade negotiations, Great Barrier Reef policy and investment issues, and climate change.

Back in Brisbane, Mr Galligan joined a small group of business leaders to meet with Queensland Energy Minister Mick De Brenni to discuss the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the opportunities around bioenergy transition. ■

Owen Menkens, Trade Minister Don Farrell and Dan Galligan in Canberra

TIME FOR SUGAR MARKETERS TO INNOVATE

With demand for sustainable sugar growing, and Queensland's burgeoning bioecomony expanding at a rapid pace, CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens is calling on sugar marketers to find innovative ways to ensure growers realise the full value of their sustainably produced sugar.

When a ship loaded with Queensland sugar sailed up the River Thames last month, destined for Tate & Lyle Sugar's London refinery, it marked a number of industry milestones.

As the first shipment of Australian sugar to the UK under the newly minted Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement, not to mention the first tariff-free Aussie sugar delivered to the UK in half a century, the ship's arrival garnered plenty of media attention both here and in the UK.

What was less widely reported, however, was that this was also the first shipment of Queensland sugar to attract a premium payment because it was produced from sugarcane grown on Smartcane BMP accredited farms.

"It was a pretty big deal and received plenty of media attention. But what most people might not have realised from those media reports is the role a particular group of Queensland sugarcane growers played in making this shipment possible," Mr Menkens said.

"While the government's free trade agreement with the UK opened the door for Australian sugar, and it was QSL who sold the sugar, the buyers only wanted that sugar if it was certified as being sustainably grown. They were even willing to pay a premium for it.

"QSL was only able to meet that demand and achieve that premium thanks to the hard work of those cane growers who have voluntarily sought accreditation in the industry's best management practice program, Smartcane BMP," Mr Menkens said.

In recent years, Smartcane BMP has become a cornerstone of the industry's growth and diversification strategy.

"FIRST AND FOREMOST, MARKETERS MUST PASS ON PREMIUMS ... THEY MUST INNOVATE AND CREATE NEW SUSTAINABILITY MARKETING POOLS AND PRODUCTS."

This industry-led program, which is supported by funding from the State Government, is now recognised by international sugar sustainability gatekeepers Bonsucro and VIVE as meeting their sustainability criteria.

Already over 40% of Queensland's sugarcane producing area is accredited in the program, putting it well ahead of similar programs in other ag sectors.

"For several years CANEGROWERS has encouraged growers to become certified, not simply to improve their farming systems and increase the efficiency, productivity, and profitability of their businesses, but also on the promise that the program would one day attract a premium for their sugar," Mr Menkens said.

"It has taken a lot of time and effort, but we are finally on the cusp of realising that goal, as this first shipment of sustainably grown sugar to the UK proves.

"The government is playing its part, opening new markets for Australian sugar, and the growers are certainly doing their bit, adopting sustainable farming practices, and seeking Smartcane BMP certification.

"Now it is time for sugar marketers to come to the table and ensure that producers of certified sustainable sugar receive a premium for those efforts.

"As consumers become increasingly conscious of how the products they purchase are made, and actively seek sustainable alternatives, demand for sustainably produced sugar will only grow.

"The Australian industry wants to lead the world in this area, and growers are working hard to achieve this.

"But if we want to build on the momentum of the Smartcane BMP program and revitalise the industry through diversification, for the benefit of the entire supply chain and the communities in which we operate, then growers must be recognised and rewarded for their efforts.

"First and foremost, marketers must pass on premiums. But more than that, they must innovate and create new sustainability marketing pools and products where growers can realise the full value and potential of their sustainably produced sugar." ■

Biological warfare

The discovery of viruses in canegrubs and soldier flies could lead to biological controls for the destructive pests.

Killer pathogens are being investigated as a potential replacement for chemicals in the control of root-feeding sugarcane pests.

University of Queensland insect molecular biologist Dr Kayvan Etebari has been studying the genomics of canegrubs and soldier flies to identify viruses that could infect and attack populations of the insects.

He has discovered several insect-specific viruses that will undergo laboratory testing to assess their potential as biopesticides.

"There are lots of natural enemies in insect populations and we just need to identify these viruses," Dr Etebari explained. "Genomic sequencing has improved and become cheaper over the years, now allowing us to identify any pathogen inside the canegrub or soldier fly. We need make sure it's specific to this insect, that it doesn't kill any other insects or have any impact on humans or the environment. The viruses we found in canegrubs have similarities to some other insect pathogens that we know kills other insects.

"That's why we believe we are on the right track to identify a biological control."

Canegrubs - photo credit Sugar Research Australia

The two-year laboratory trials are aimed at determining the efficacy of the viruses in reducing pest populations as well as ensuring the pathogens don't have a negative impact any other insects, such as bees.

If a virus passes those tests, scientists would then need to determine how a virus could be mass produced and applied in the field.

"We are in the early stages, we would have to decide how we can make large scale production of these viruses in the lab much further down the track, according to the virus itself," he said.

"We are hoping the virus can be enhanced in the population, so the beetles can transfer it to each other. Sometimes it just reduces the number of eggs, so the density of the canegrubs in the field is significantly reduced.

continues page 8

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"Successful biological control of insect pests using viruses has been demonstrated in various agricultural sectors, with several notable examples.

"For the coconut rhinoceros beetles for instance, they just soak the adult male in a solution of the virus and then release the infected male into the environment and they will do the job for us. It depends on the sort of viruses we have at the end of our research. There are lots of possible applications."

The research could lead to a replacement for imidacloprid. The chemical is currently the sole tool for controlling canegrubs and the Australian Government is reviewing its use following bans in several other countries.

In the case of soldier flies, there is currently no effective control treatment for the root-eating larvae.

Dr Etebari said the scientific approach has an added benefit in that it can also identify plant pathogenic viruses.

"When we do the sequencing if there are any plant viruses in the insect's body, we can identify those as well," he said. "The insects eat the plant tissue and pathogens from those plants remain in their gut. It's not the main aim of the project but it's a side result. We have a much wider assessment of the environment."

The project is funded by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Sugar Research Australia. ■

Dr Kayvan Etebari - photo supplied by UQ

"That's why we believe we are on the right track to identify a biological control"

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE MATTERS

BY DAN GALLIGAN
CEO CANEGROWERS

It is always worth remembering that the best investment any of us can make in our business is one that focuses on our people.

It is always worth remembering that the best investment any of us can make in our business is one that focuses on our people.

There is tendency for those of us in agriculture to get caught up in statistics around production, profits, and markets.

If you want to drown in data, go deep into a discussion with an international sugar trader and try to understand the fundamentals behind the market.

Equally, the industry lives off performance data around issues such as bin delivery, harvester performance, crop inputs, and on farm budgets.

Data, access to it, and the use of it for decision-making is a hotly contested issue across the industry.

While investing in data management and measuring more so we can manage better is clearly a huge priority. In the end, successful decision-making still comes down to the ability of the decision maker.

Of course, until AI takes over the world this remains the domain of humans.

Our people are clearly our greatest and most valuable asset. Investing in their growth and development is something that every business and every industry should take seriously.

CANEGROWERS has a long and proud history of supporting the development of growers and industry participants. We have a solid track record of investing in industry leadership programs, conferences, scholarships, and bursaries.

However, the reality is this investment has been sporadic, and we have lost some momentum.

With 85 district director positions within CANEGROWERS, and a plethora of opportunities for growers and industry people to contribute on water and productivity boards, mill supply committees, as bargaining agents, NRM regional representatives, and project reference groups, the demands on leaders in the industry are great.

I am pleased that in this magazine we start the process of sharing with you our plans around a new leadership mentoring program.

The program will offer an opportunity for those that wish to participate to learn from experienced leaders from inside and outside the industry, in a structured and guided process.

The important principle is that there is no template that should be followed.

We want to help people contribute to the industry in a place and in a way that they wish. There is not a set pathway nor a set role, because investing in people in our industry will yield dividends no matter where they end up applying their skills.

Keep an eye out for more information about Next Ratoon in this and subsequent magazines. ■

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Southern Queensland

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REMINDER: Choose QSL as your sugar marketer for the 2024 Season by 31 October

2023 WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY QUEENSLAND AWARDS

CANEGROWERS proudly supported Louise Nicholas' nomination in the Raising the Regions Award category at the 2023 Women in Technology Queensland Awards.

Louise was recognised for the impact that her work, advocacy and volunteer efforts is having on helping Queensland 'grow its own' agtech experts. CANEGROWERS Burdekin works closely with Louise to bring the local sugarcane industry into the classroom as she is an Agricultural Science Teacher at Home Hill State High School in Townsville.

She is also involved with the Queensland Agricultural Science Teachers Association (QATA), National Association of Agricultural Educators, PIEFA and initiatives such as the Agribusiness Gateway Industry Schools Program.

Louise was a finalist at the Awards evening held on Friday 22 September in Brisbane were she received a Highly Commended in the Raising the Regions category.

"Congratulations to Louise, it is a very well deserved achievement for an awesome industry champion," CANEGROWERS Education Project Manager Shikira Kalatzis said. ■

Shikira and Louise work closely on projects to bring a stronger understanding of the sugarcane industry to the classroom

Louise received a Highly Commended in the Raising the Regions category

Louise is an inspiring champion of the industry

REPORT
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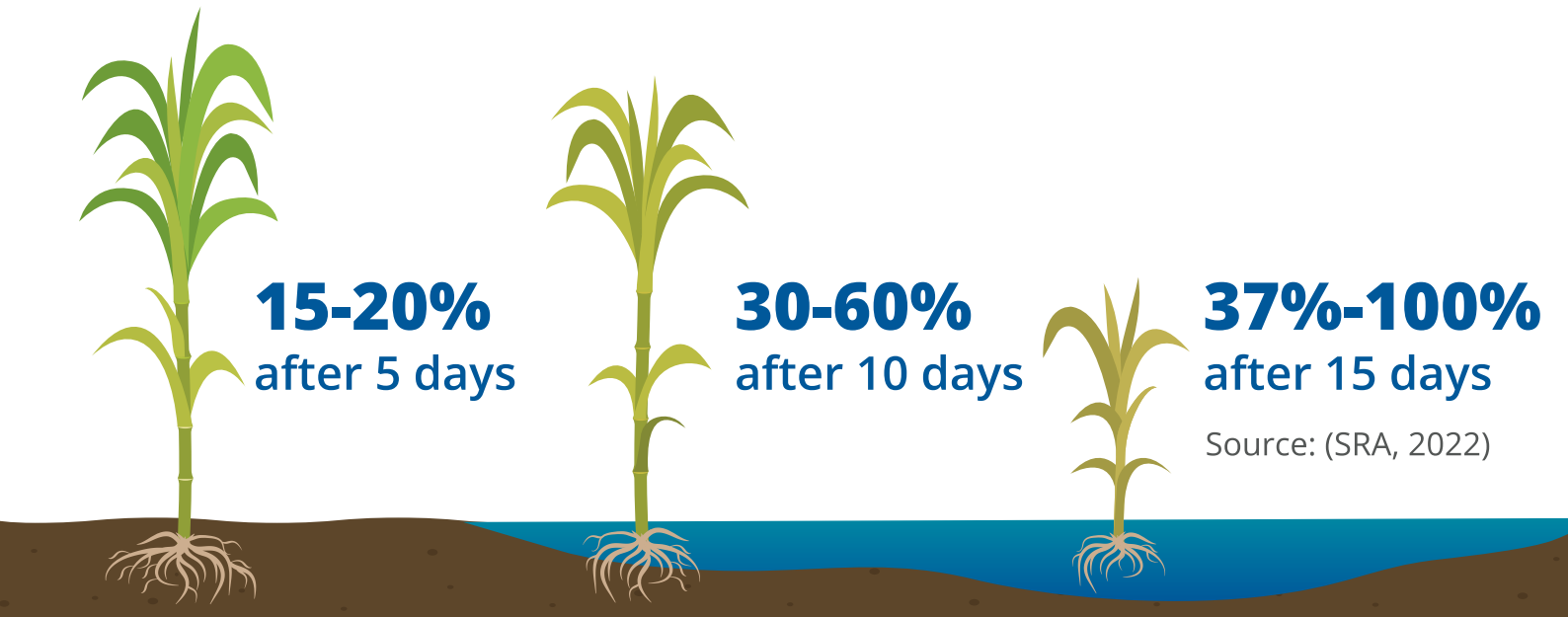

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens CANEGROWERS Chairman

After a disrupted start to the season, it has been good to see paddocks drying out over the past few weeks and the harvest finally in full swing across most districts.

The question most growers are now asking is whether the crop will hold up. Due to the late finish last year, I am hearing that the crop may drop off if we don't get any more substantial rain events.

This will hopefully mean an earlier finish and a lot less standover, which in turn will bode well for the 2024 season. If we can get all the ratooning done earlier, it does make a major difference to the following crop.

With the world sugar price hovering around $900 a tonne for the 2023 season and $800 for the 2024 season, we need as much cane at the mill as we possibly can.

The world price is at unprecedented levels for this year and the coming years. This is good news for the industry and should lead to more investment, and a reduction in debt levels.

Being dependent on the world price can be a fickle game, as prices do tend to move around a lot.

Free trade is very important for us as an industry, so we need to get rid of as many trade distorting tariffs and subsidies as possible.

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and I were in Canberra a few weeks ago, talking to the trade minister Don Farrell about the current negotiations for the EU free trade agreement.

The Australian Government rejected the proposal put forward by the EU in July, basically because it was not a great outcome for the sugar, beef and sheep meat industries. The parties will come together again for more discussions in October, but we will keep working with the government to try to achieve the best possible outcome for growers.

The EU is not and will never be a big market for us due to distances involved and the protections the EU puts in place for its beet growers. It is a premium market though and any decent increase in raw sugar access would be beneficial.

CANEGROWERS is closely involved in all trade negotiations, and it was good to meet with the actual negotiators at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to give them some perspective on what we are hoping for.

We also met with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt, to discuss trade and biosecurity issues.

Biosecurity is fundamental to the survival of our industry, so the Federal Government needs to be across this area in order to provide appropriate funding.

In its budget in May the government announced a biosecurity levy on industry, which was not particularly helpful given the uncertainty around how the money will be managed or charged.

Keeping destructive pests, weeds and diseases out of the country is important to all Australians, but especially the agricultural sector.

Fire ants, pigs and other invasive pests and diseases are a real problem for many growers and a properly funded biosecurity system is vital to maintaining a healthy agricultural sector.

The Minister was informed of these issues and generally understood our concerns, but the management of biosecurity does fall under the State Government control.

Our next QCGO board meeting will be held in Proserpine on 12 October. The board holds regional meetings every year. These meetings are a good opportunity to catch up district directors.

Let us hope the crush continues well over the next month. ■

"It's awesome that we're presented with a list of potential candidates that have been stripped down to meet our needs... that in itself is a huge benefit to us. If you don't have young people who are passionate coming in, it impacts the whole industry."

Jason Dowie, Director/Agronomist at Farmacist based in the Burdekin and 2021 AEWPP Agribusiness Host

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QFF QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

VARIETY SELECTION AND PLANNING: IT'S ALL ABOUT FINE-TUNING THE DATA

Supplied by Sugar Research Australia

Each year Sugar Research Australia (SRA) plants 100,000 seedlings looking for new sugarcane varieties with the single objective of maximising whole-of-industry profitability for sugar production.

Dr Felicity Atkin is a plant breeder and SRA's Variety Development Manager, North based at the Meringa station. She is the first to acknowledge that no one variety is going to cover every situation on all farms.

"Each SRA variety released by the Regional Variety Committee (RVC) is assessed on its performance, disease resistance and industry needs; but they all have additional individual qualities," Felicity said.

"And there are a lot of good qualities to consider and varieties to choose from."

To support growers selecting new varieties to plant and trial on their farm, each year SRA produces a variety guide for each of the six cane growing regions in Queensland and NSW. The guides include the best available data of regional variety performance and disease ratings.

"We like to release the variety guides early in the year, so that we can then work with growers, and industry groups to encourage the adoption of our new varieties," Felicity said.

One such group is the Tully Variety Management Group (TVMG). SRA has been a member since its establishment in 2012 by Tully Sugar Limited, along with Tully Cane Productivity Services Ltd (TCPSL), CANEGROWERS Tully and individual growers.

"The TVMG do a fantastic job in continuing the work we have begun by 'filling in the gaps' for the grower, on a localised, district level"

Sugar Research Australia

Greg Shannon, far right, leads growers, Tully Sugar staff and SRA staff through the variety walk

The group operates in the two-to-three-year timeframe between approval of an SRA variety by the northern RVC and commercial planting.

"The TVMG do a fantastic job in continuing the work we have begun by 'filling in the gaps' for the grower, on a localised, district level," Felicity said.

"The TVMG identify where they feel that additional work can be done to improve productivity and target areas to put the new varieties and to refine variety recommendations.

"Through this work we can reduce the potential failures arising from planting certain varieties in the wrong spot. This then leads to getting the best productivity results from those varieties and improving overall productivity and profitability for the Tully region."

In the past seven years, 14 new varieties have been released in the north. Tully Sugar's Cane Productivity and Development Manager Greg Shannon says that is good news for growers in relation to disease resistance, but at the same time can be confusing when it comes to planning varieties for next season.

"SRA's variety guides tell you 90% of what you need to know about new varieties," Greg said.

"What we're doing on Tully Sugar's farms and other sites (10 in total) is working to fast track the varieties that we believe will work, in each of the eight sub-districts in Tully."

Greg explains that small plots with only a couple of rows of each new variety are planted out, in four areas around the Tully region.

"We gather a lot of good data from those plots, for growers and for the mill. We're continually analysing what we're seeing and share the data with the industry on a weekly basis," he said.

"It's that data that enables us to fine-tune new variety recommendations released by SRA, relevant to our region. That in turn helps growers make better informed decisions on the varieties they're going to plant.

"We're doing that 10% final assessment so that our growers don't have to," Greg said.

Continued page 18 ▶

Peter Sutherland and Bryce Macdonald

CANEGROWERS Tully Chair, Bryce MacDonald said the organisation has always participated in the TVMG and 'it's important that we do'.

"With the Tully milling area currently capped at 35,500 hectares we must plant better varieties that produce more tonnes of sugar per hectare; there's no restriction on that.

"If you want the best results of anything, then you must rely on science. And disseminate the information properly," Bryce said.

"The work that Greg Shannon at Tully Sugar and Peter Sutherland at TCPSL are doing and the data they are collecting in the Tully district are helping us achieve that.

"It's important that the right varieties are planted in the right area, considering our micro-climates," Bryce said.

"For example, the Murray region is the biggest cane growing district in Tully, but within that area there is a distinct dry Murray and wet Murray.

"So even in those areas some varieties are going to be better than others, and growers need to have the data before they decide what to plant."

Peter Sutherland is District Manager of TCPSL and says that a lot of growers 'still shop with their eyes' but that data needs to inform variety choices.

"Our work and contract with SRA is to propagate and distribute new varieties. In parallel to that we conduct our own trials and compare that data with the TVMG members. Crop presentation for harvest is important but it's not all about how it looks," Peter said.

"Often if the cane is tall in the plot, a grower will go for it. So, it's important we get actual mill data as quickly as we can, particularly at the critical period of second and third ratoon. This hard evidence is what most growers are looking for in the Tully district."

"It's important that the right varieties are planted in the right area, considering our micro-climates."

Download your district SRA Variety Guide 2023/24 here by scanning the QR code or visiting SRA's website: sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/varieties

Peter admits to liking statistics.

"I get to analyse our data once a year," he said. "Greg analyses his plots every week but we're continually collaborating and looking at everything we do from a different perspective.

"We're all looking for the best performers, and how to manage them. A variety harvested in November may be average but cut it earlier in the year and it's exceptional. A cane may fall over, so we plant another early cane beside it. Variety selection and planning is about farms within farms," Peter continues.

"The TVMG doesn't tell growers what to do, they know their land better than we do. We give them the options and the skill set and make sure we have the varieties when they want them," Peter said.

Each year the TVMG, facilitated by Greg Shannon holds an End of Early Season Review. This includes a farm walk to inspect and discuss the planted varieties on the mill's farm south of Tully to encourage adoption of the new varieties. Felicity Atkin and Andrew Rigby, SRA Variety Officer, travelled from the Meringa station to contribute to the event in August.

"We like to attend grower and miller meetings where and when we can," Felicity said.

"This event had everyone across the whole value chain there – including the marketing team from Tully Sugar - which was great. And while this was Tully Sugar's event, as the breeder of the varieties, there were questions asked on the day that I could answer, versus Greg's local knowledge of the varieties. It was encouraging to hear the commentary that Greg gave and his experience with the varieties that complement the experience from our trials," she said.

"It was also nice to see some of our recently released varieties in the field and hear what growers thought of them. SRA37 was only approved and released last year. It looked impressive and there were several growers casually talking about how well it had germinated on their farms, the same with SRA9; that was good to hear." ■

Phil Patane, John Edwards and Felicity Atkin

ATTENTION STL G-CLASS SHAREHOLDERS

QSL Your Trusted Partner

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

What's good for STL isn't always what's best for our industry.

Sugar terminal owner STL is a listed company that is primarily driven by maximising profits for its shareholders, rather than working for the best interests of Queensland sugar producers.

So their plans to insource terminal operations and become an unregulated monopoly owner-operator of our industry's only export facilities have understandably prompted widespread concern.

STL's 2023 AGM is an opportunity to send the STL Board a message regarding their plans and ensure the G-Class Director to be elected is aligned with the concerns and priorities of the grower shareholders they have been elected to represent.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Don't let this year's STL AGM go by without making your voice heard on this important issue.

Send a message to the STL Board by:

1. Casting your vote in support of a candidate who will oppose STL's insourcing plans; or
2. Join the growers who have already assigned their proxies to QSL so that we can vote on your behalf for a candidate who will fight this change.

For more information or to assign your proxy to QSL, please contact your local QSL team or call 1800 870 756.

Far North Queensland

Daniel Messina
0429 660 238

Amanda Sheppard
0418 264 393

Central Districts

James Formosa
0437 645 342

Sonia Ball
0418 978 120

Karen Vloedmans
0429 804 876

Burdekin

Russell Campbell
0408 248 385

Kristen Paterson
0438 470 235

Hugh Leeson-Smith
0429 054 330

Herbert River

David Matsen
0447 062 213

Michelle La Rosa-Aili
0408 800 937

Southern Queensland

Glenn Harris
0409 601 349

Disclaimer: Please note that QSL does not provide financial advice and growers should seek their own financial advice in relation to this matter.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

QSL
Your Trusted Partner

Current as at 18 September 2023.

Sugar Market & Currency

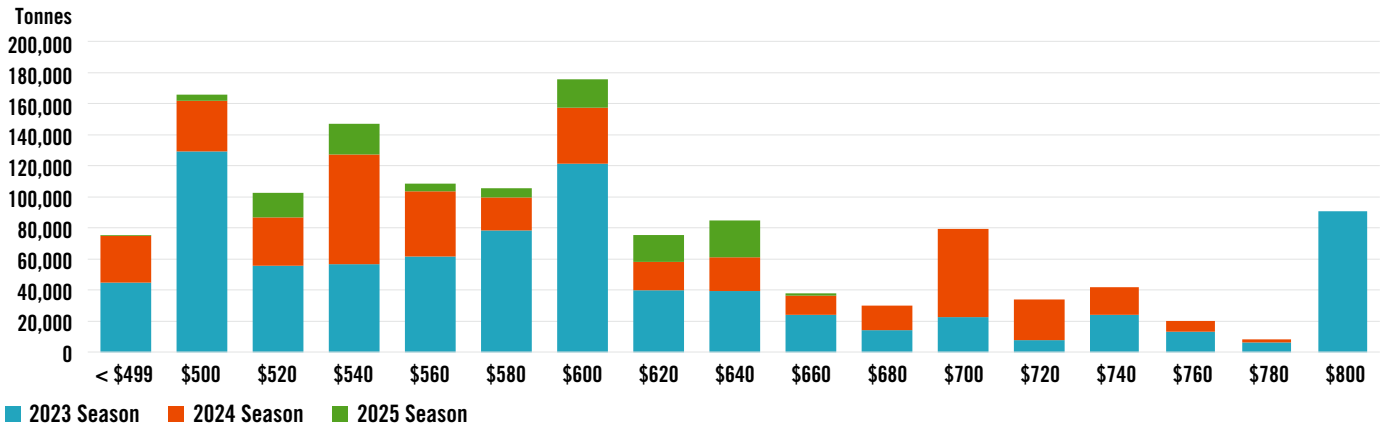
Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	Harvesting in the key cane growing region of Centre South Brazil continues at record speed with initial fears of logistical port issues seemingly overcome, for now, due to forecast rain not eventuating. By the end of August, 406 million tonnes of cane had been crushed and 26.15 million tonnes of sugar produced.	Bearish
India	The monsoon in India has continued to disappoint with August rainfall 34% below the average, with the rain initially forecast for September also being downgraded. Rumours are that there will be no raw sugar or white sugar exports from India in 2024.	Bullish
Thailand	Thailand continues to experience dry weather and heatwaves which is expected to lead to a poor cane crop. The forecast for September is for good rain in most key cane growing regions, however rainfall is expected to return to below average levels in October.	Bullish
Speculators	Speculators increased their net long position to 188,000 lots as of 5 September, an increase of around 77,000 lots month-on-month with the prompt October 2023 contract recently rallying 2.25c/lb.	Neutral
Currency	The AUD fell to yearly lows of 63.63 US cents with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) leaving interest rates on hold at their September meeting, while the Chair of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) recently stated that there was potential for more rate rises in the US depending on upcoming data releases. The Chinese economy continues to struggle which is still weighing heavily on the AUD.	Bullish

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 across all growing regions using QSL products to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
  - 2023 Target Price = $920 / IFC $930 (Oct23)
  - 2024 Target Price = $800 / IFC $830 (Jul24)
  - 2025 Target Price = $670 / IFC $712 (Jul25)
  - 2026 Target Price = $625 / IFC $625 (Jul26)
- Key Dates:
  - **31 October:** Last day to nominate QSL as your sugar marketer for the 2024 Season.
  - **20 February:** Last day to price 2023-Season Target Price Contract tonnage before the pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
  - **20 February:** Last day to achieve or roll pricing allocated to the March 2024 ICE 11 contract through the Individual Futures Contract or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 18.09.23 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.

WORKING SMARTER NOT HARDER WITH QRIDA'S SUSTAINABILITY LOAN

Shimmering sugarcane decorates the surrounds of the Mackay region and amongst the rows of this sweet crop, growers are working hard to improve the sustainability of their operations.

For Andrew Vassallo, this takes the shape of reducing labour and improving water efficiency across his 120 hectares of sugarcane in Brightly, 40 kilometres west of Mackay.

Andrew was able to access a Sustainability Loan through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) to purchase a centre pivot and he's been reaping the rewards ever since.

"I accessed the Sustainability Loan and a majority of those funds went towards the centre pivot irrigation.

"I'm a one-man operation so the labour savings were huge for just the amount of country it covers," he said. "In addition to reducing on-farm labour, the centre pivot has provided Andrew with more control and flexibility over his irrigation.

"As farmers, we've all got a social license to operate and we were doing a lot of water sampling on-farm so we were seeing what runoff we were getting regarding herbicide, chemical and nitrogen."

"With the pivot, I can control how much water I can put on, the uniformity is unbelievable, we don't get any runoff," he said.

Having a local Regional Area Manager available who understood the local industry and ask questions was a great advantage for Andrew through the application process.

"Working with our local [Regional Area] Manager, the whole process was so simple. They had a great understanding of the sugar industry, which was a benefit."

"The application process gave me a better understanding of my business, the detail that QRIDA were looking for, gave you a better understanding of how your business operated."

"The whole process was pretty straight forward, to be honest," Andrew said.

Local Regional Area Manager for the Central Coast and Whitsundays, Tegan McBride, says it's great to see producers being proactive about taking their productivity to the next level.

"It's encouraging to hear how Andrew has been able to improve his farm productivity, decrease his labour on-farm and also improve the water quality coming off his farm with this QRIDA loan"

"Once your farm has achieved profitability, QRIDA's Sustainability Loan is here to help you improve productivity and take it to that next level," she said.

QRIDA's Sustainability Loan offers up to $1.3 million to help growers and producers invest in the latest infrastructure to create a viable future for their farming business.

To find out more about this loan, contact your local Regional Area Manager on 1800 623 946 or visit QRIDA's Sustainability Loan webpage. ■

Advertisement

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority

Grow your sugarcane business with QRIDA

- Tap into emerging on-farm technologies
- Improve irrigation systems
- Implement value adding or supply chain initiatives
- Purchase or upgrade plant and machinery
- Buy your first farm
- Put succession plans in place

- ✓ Flexible repayment terms
- ✓ No set up or exit fees
- ✓ Up to $1.3 million for Sustainability Loans and $2 million for First Start Loans

Talk to your local QRIDA Regional Area Manager on 1800 623 946 or scan to find out how QRIDA could help grow your business*.

**Eligibility criteria applies. The information contained herein is for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon this information as a basis for making any business, legal or any other decisions.*

qrida.qld.gov.au 1800 623 946 contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, Turbot St, Brisbane

RAISING THE BAR

CANEGROWERS Insurance Brokers attended the 2023 CBN Insurance Conference, Shine, held on the Sunshine Coast 17 to 19 September.

It was attended by over 400 delegates, made up of brokers, insurance professionals and underwriters from across Australia.

Brokers had the opportunity to hear from industry leaders, world class keynote speakers as well as attend a range of hands-on workshops, and interact and hold meaningful discussions with our key underwriters and industry partners. After a year of shifting our thinking to cope with new challenges and business demands, the theme 'Shine' focused on how to raise the bar and take broking to the next level. ■

Richard Crawford, CEO of CBN

Ray Goodwin Insurance Regional Manager Wide Bay, Kent Hannam – Head of Market Development for CBN, Brad Hancock Insurance Regional Manager Far North Queensland and Frank Scardamaglia Insurance Broker Herbert River

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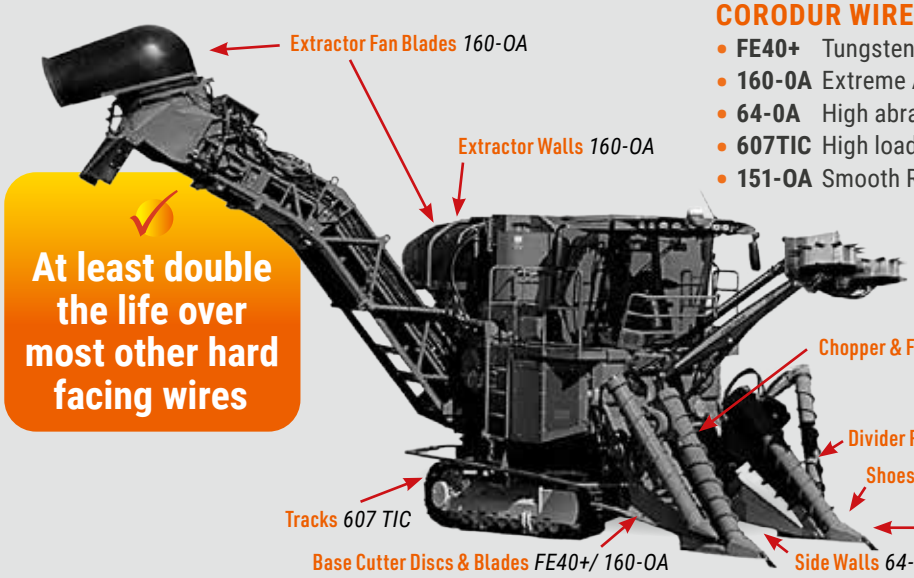

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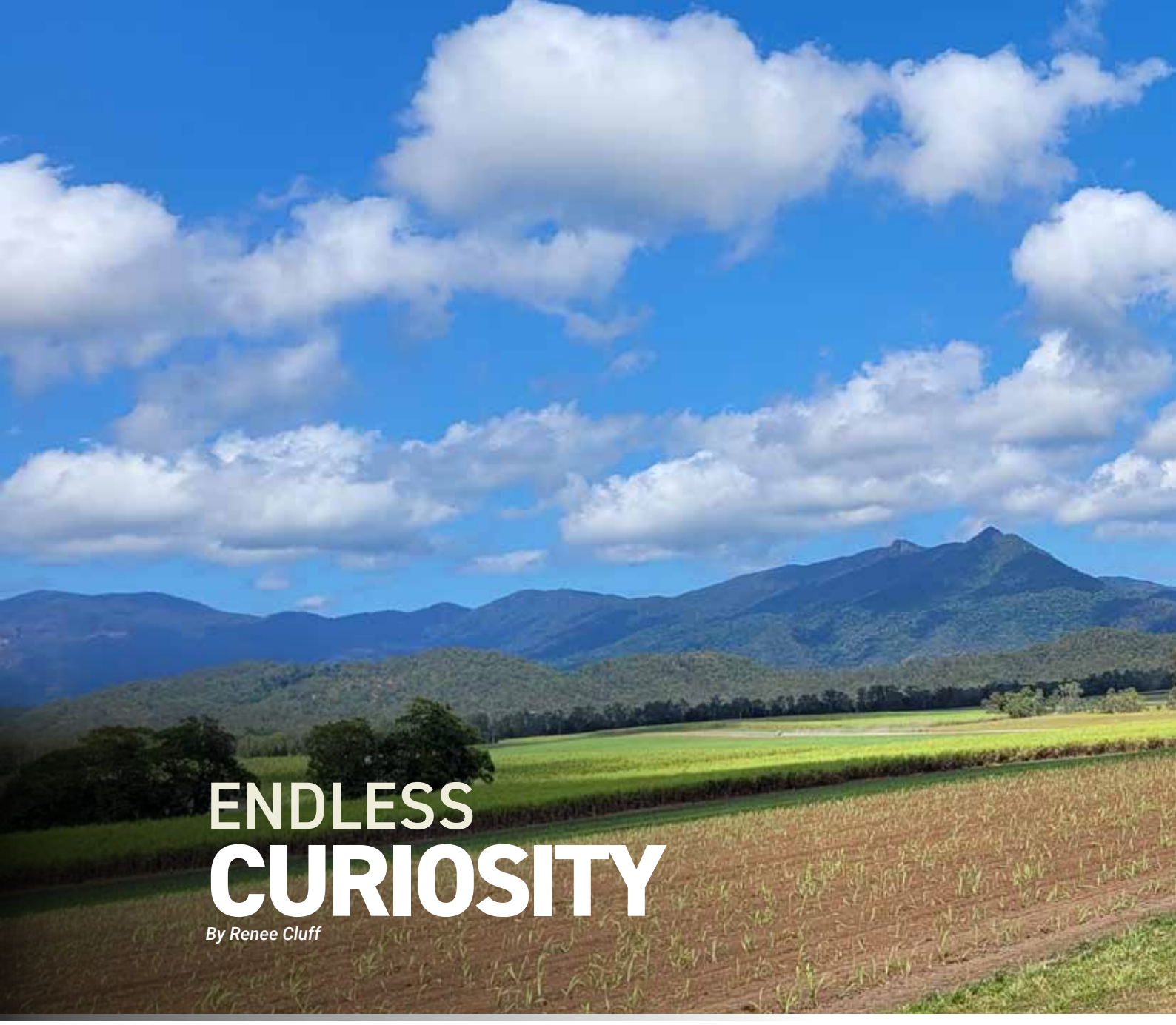

ENDLESS CURIOSITY

By Renee Cluff

The inquiring mind of Tully District cane grower George Henry has led to a pioneering, inventive and fulfilling career.

While George Henry began cane farming later in life, it's easy to argue that the practices he's adopted early on - and still to this day - prove he's well ahead of his time.

After more than 20 years in the banana and fertiliser industries, George and his wife Kathy bought a 200 hectare cattle block in Warrami, south west of Tully, and in 1996 converted it to a cane farm. The area is more commonly known as the 'dry Murray' and George and Kathy's property encompasses five soil types.

A natural inquisitiveness saw George immediately seek out collaborations with scientists and within his first two years of farming, he had introduced a dual row billet planter based on 1.8 metre row spacing and converted the planter to zero till planting.

George also became strategic in his insecticide use, after research on his farm found cane grubs were only damaging the higher blocks in the landscape.

"At the time, the only option for cane grub control was Suscon Blue," he recalls.

"Soil tests indicated a need for high rates of lime and silica to be applied to the elevated blocks prior to planting.

George Henry's property is at the foot of the Tully ranges

"I'm always learning"

"Further research indicated this practice was antagonist to the efficacy of Suscon Blue. To avoid this scenario, I applied the lime in December and the Suscon Blue when planting around seven months later. This is no longer a constraint as liquid Confidor is available for grub control, which is unaffected by pH.

"That was a learning experience at the time. I'm always learning."

Today, George is considering using the alternative granulated version of Confidor which, due to its slow-release properties, further enhances the stewardship of the active ingredient imidacloprid, which is under review by authorities.

It's just one example of his forward-thinking character, which carries on the tradition of his ancestors.

The name Henry is synonymous with the Tully region. George is the great grandson of the district's sugar industry pioneer, Isaac Henry, who began growing cane in the area in 1880. Isaac's sons, Hugh and Brice, advocated for and were involved in the establishment of the Tully Sugar Mill in 1926.

George's father, George senior, worked in the timber industry but was injured badly when a tree

Continued page 26 ▶

George wants to purchase a drone for spot spraying problem weeds, like the balsam pear vine in this block

"On reflection, I told them I'd like to fly an aeroplane"

fell across his legs. After several years of convalescence, George Senior introduced the Williams hybrid of Cavendish banana into Queensland to replace the Gros Michel variety. The latter was being superseded by the Cavendish variety globally due to devastation caused by a fusarium wilt which became known as Panama Race 1. The Williams Cavendish was resistant to Panama Race 1 and instantly became a hit among banana growers. As more recent history illustrates, however, it is susceptible to a newer wilt variation, Panama Tropical Race 4.

For his part, George has been an early adopter of farm practices that are now considered best management.

One case in point was the introduction of GPS technology to his farm in 2006 for precision fertilising and spraying.

"I said to Kathy I would like to buy a GPS and she surprised me, she said yes I can, but it's got to be cost neutral," George explained. "Kathy's expertise with numbers is vital for our business. The Minister for War and Finance, a neighbour says. There have been benefits from the GPS ever since.

"Our story of the changeover to GPS titled *His and Her Story* was presented at the 2006 Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) conference in Mackay. This was in collaboration with Dr Neil Sing, an agricultural economist with the then Department of Primary Industries in Atherton."

George's continued collaborations with numerous scientists also included a water quality monitoring project in the early 2000s which was investigating nitrogen and sediment runoff.

He worked in conjunction with the late Dr John Brodie of James Cook University– a world authority on water quality – as well as Drs John Armour and John Faithful.

Together, they built a crump weir on a 23-hectare valley block on George's farm, which was calibrated so they knew how much water was passing through.

"I would sample the water during rain events, even during the night," he said. "It was quite a rigmarole. The conclusion was: the more rain that fell, the more nitrogen was leached from the soil.

"I also had lysimeters, (a lysimeter is a funnel-like device) placed beneath several stools to catch samples of water and nutrient.

"A solar panel driving a little air pump sucks the liquid up into a sample jar. I didn't want my money going down the drain with the nitrogen run-off."

A few years later, George built his own mill mud spreader. He applies mill mud on the higher elevated red soils, while mill ash is applied to lower blocks, to make the clays more friable.

"I had to try different gear boxes and conversions but it's going really well now, it's just about bullet proof," he said. "It applies about 40 units of nitrogen and that plus the fertiliser works out well."

It was during this build that George was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as his experiences serving as a Vietnam War conscript – and the harsh reaction of many of his fellow Australians to the war – began to have an impact.

"That was the thing that really hurt, even to this day I still get those attitudes occasionally," he said.

"I was in transport at Fire Support Base Coral for several weeks and exposed to incoming mortars and rockets most nights."

26 Australians died and more than 100 were injured in the Battle of Coral, which took place in May and June of 1968.

"It's estimated around 300 North Vietnamese were also killed.

The battle has been described by the Australian War Memorial as Australia's 'largest, most sustained and arguably most hazardous battle of the Vietnam War'.

"In 2009 I came down with PTSD and they asked me about my hobbies," George said.

"I said "work". They said, 'wrong answer, what would you really like to do?'

"On reflection, I told them I'd like to fly an aeroplane."

Which is exactly what he began doing. Today, George occasionally flies his Foxcon Terrier around the Tully District, taking off from a 500-metre grassed airstrip on his property.

"It's really good because it focuses my mind on the present," he said.

"When you're flying you've really got to be on the ball, plus I re-skilled my mathematics and things like that."

Spending time with colleagues and friends has also helped. George is an original member of the Tully Variety Management Group, which meets regularly to fast-track commercial adoption of new varieties by determining those that are most productive at a sub district level.

The group led to the introduction of a mobile mill in 2019 for pre-harvest CCS sampling and has strong support from all sectors of the industry.

George said he's always been interested in plant genetics.

"I used to more or less terrorise the plant breeders, badgering them for the genetics of all the different varieties," he said. "I'm in a dry area and I was trying to pre-select varieties that could handle my drier conditions."

Under Dr Alan Garside, he was also involved in the Sugar Yield Decline Joint Venture (SYDJV) which was a group of scientists and growers identifying productivity constraints in the sugar industry. George was selected as the grower representative for North Queensland during the latter stages of the Joint Venture.

"They had a big spread of scientists," he said. "That was where I was in sugar heaven! I loved the discussions about the various trial results."

When considering his own varieties, George won't plant anything that doesn't have an intermediate or higher rating for resistance to both smut and pachymetra.

He works on a five-ratoon crop cycle and always fallows rather than ploughing out and replanting. His legume of choice is soybeans, which he aims to have in the ground within two weeks of harvesting the final crop.

Recently, George has been dealing with an outbreak of the weed balsam pear vine, which is leading him to his next practice change.

"Following on from aerial spraying in early February, I noticed several balsam pear hot spots. To deal with this, Marcus Balustrade from DAF flew a drone over the affected blocks in June, noting an area of one to two hectares. Consequently, he came back in August with a spray drone to spray those designated areas, with good results.

"I'm looking at purchasing a drone to spot spray," he said. "You can do a small per cent of your area without having to do the whole block - and you're controlling it.

"Everything's a work in progress. The learning continues". ■

George flies his aeroplane for recreation - photo supplied by George Henry

NUMBER CRUNCH

Supply, demand and inflation pressures are impacting both sugarcane growers who need their cane cut and harvesting contractors seeking staff and new equipment. *Australian Canegrower* has spoken to three CANEGROWERS leaders across Queensland to find out what it's like on the ground.

GLENN BETTERIDGE BURDEKIN DISTRICT

Glenn's harvesting crew cuts between 85,000 and 90,000 tonnes of sugarcane per year, which is over 10,000 tonnes more than the district's harvester average. He has 30 seasons of experience in the saddle of the harvester. The CANEGROWERS Burdekin director's 29-year-old son Joel now drives, and two haul out operators are employed by the business. Glenn also farms around 30,000 hectares per year.

"If you're a straight-out contractor it doesn't stack up financially to buy new gear anymore.

"The bank manager saw me nearly two months ago and said, 'You must be due for a new machine'.

"Mine's a 2010 model John Deere. I might get $150,000 trade-in on it, and I'd have to finance $750,000-$800,000 and pay that off over five years.

"It just doesn't work.

"If the loan length is longer than that, what security have you got that you're going to be cutting that cane in say eight years' time?

"If growers want that new machinery cutting their cane, they've got to be paying upwards of $11 dollars/tonne to keep running new gear.

"It was aspirational once upon a time, you worked towards buying a sugarcane farm and a harvester. Today, we're at a crossroads and I really don't know what the solutions are.

"Personally, if my eldest son wasn't interested, I'd probably have a for sale sign on my place.

"I wouldn't employ anyone else to do the job because I'd have to hold their hand anyway. It is a tight workforce so drivers can be a little more demanding. When I first started, you nearly had to know someone who passed on to get a seat in the harvester or haulout.

"If you had a harvester driving job, you thought you were lord of the manor.

"Poor mill performance, continuous crushing and season length has taken the shine off the harvesting sector. Mill performance is a major issue - we could cut 100,000 tonnes on a five out of seven roster if the mill's reliability and throughput was more consistent in our district. 1,000 tonnes per day can be achieved with the right staff.

"We're also competing against the mining sector, including 7-day on, 7-day off rosters, good pay, no machinery to maintain and your washing done for you."

BRYCE MACDONALD TULLY DISTRICT

The Chairman of CANEGROWERS Tully recently headed up the taskforce for the Queensland Cane Grower Organisation on ways to attract workers to the sugarcane industry. As well as growing cane, Bryce has spent 30 years in the transport industry, including as state manager for HPS Transport Western Australia, Manager of Raw Materials and Operations Manager for Blenner's Transport as well as being involved in politics.

"In Tully, it's becoming apparent there are fewer harvesters cutting big tonnes of cane.

"We have 26 harvesters cutting 2.6-million tonnes this year and last year it was 2.87-million tonnes with 27 harvesters. The price of machinery and the lag times are also a problem when it comes to purchasing new equipment.

"In the past, machinery dealers have had equipment on the floor waiting to be purchased, but since the pandemic everything is on back order, so it takes more than 12 months to get a tractor, or a harvester, or to manufacture a bin because there's a shortage of boilermakers, fitters and turners and diesel fitters across the country.

"There is a 7-month waiting list for hydraulic pumps,

axles, and other specialist equipment. If you have a breakdown, you've got to hope someone is carrying the parts.

"The cost of a harvester is around a $1.1 million, for haul out equipment you're looking at around $680,000 fitted out per unit. So to set up with three haul outs and a harvester, new, you're looking at $3.5 million, then you've got to get adequately trained people to operate them.

"Due to the shortage in harvester and haul out operators, there's a gap in having time to train people adequately to ensure they are getting the job done with safe practices. Most people who operate the harvester also rebuild the harvester every year for the next season and haul out operators are part of that team in the rebuild. They need mechanical, hydraulic and electronics knowledge.

"When QCGO assembled the Taskforce Working Group, our ambition was to come up with as many solutions as possible to attract agricultural workers. We looked at other seasonal crops, such as the cotton, rice and broadacre and the variations in crop cycles across the country.

"We considered the difficulties associated with seasonal workers such as housing, transport and where would their partners fit into possible employment in the industry.

"Other considerations were similar technologies, same manufacturers of equipment, languages used and licence requirements. It was very common in the 70s and 80s that New Zealanders would come to Australia for the sugarcane season because of the simplicity of being able to work and live between both countries.

"We attached our industry to tourism campaigns to attract New Zealanders to Tropical North Queensland and encouraged possibilities by providing a link to job opportunities through the tourism websites.

"The industry also couldn't do without the seasonal cane planting crews. They only work for about three months and what do you do with them afterwards? You've got to have a job for them. Generally, by the time planting season has finished there is melon and pumpkin picking available. We need to work with other horticultural industries to encourage willing participants to the agricultural sector in North Queensland to ensure our sustainability into the future."

CLAUDE SANTUCCI TABLELAND DISTRICT

The Tableland District is benefitting from the employment of foreign workers in the harvesting sector.

The region's largest contractor, Bray's Harvesting, has told Australian Canegrower it hired harvester drivers from Thailand on six-month working holiday visas. Tableland District CANEGROWERS Chairman Claude Santucci is hoping the path can be cleared for more skilled foreign workers into the industry.

"For the Tableland industry and the wider harvesting industry in Queensland, speaking to diverse operators across the state, everyone is struggling to find suitably skilled Australian staff.

"It's getting to the stage where a lot of contractors are saying it's all too hard.

"If we don't attract drivers into the harvesting sector in Queensland, it's getting to the point where crops will not get harvested.

"The tremendous increase in costs of equipment and servicing - and finding the drivers - all must be covered by the dollars per tonne the farmer pays.

"We compete with the mining sector for skilled labour and the sugarcane industry just can't compete with the financial and lifestyle benefits mining can offer.If we can capture Thailand and Vietnam into the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, that would help.

"The biggest contractor on the Tableland has managed to hire 10 experienced Thai harvester drivers this year.

"The workers are also employed by Mitr Pohl, the parent company of Tableland Mill owner MSF Sugar, and the harvest contractor which has employed them cuts the sugarcane on MSF farms. They worked together to come to a visa arrangement. It was a very convoluted process and involved letters of endorsement to both the Australian embassy in Thailand and the Thai embassy in Australia.

"It works out well because the Thai harvest season is the complete opposite to ours. The Thai guys have a tremendous work ethic, they know how to cut cane, they strive to do a good job and their pay under our award is more than they receive in their home country.

"CANEGROWERS will continue to work with governments to find a more streamlined solution to this issue to allow a skilled labour force to enter the country and help the Queensland sugar industry."■

CREATING
A SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Written by Kate Reardon, Smartcane BMP Manager

In an ever-changing world, sustainability has become the benchmark that enables companies to demonstrate they are considering the environment when conducting business.

Since its inception, 10 years ago, Smartcane BMP has established itself as the industry accreditation program for sustainable sugar, not only throughout the value chain but the greater agricultural industry. Often, milestones like this are not celebrated as we are solely focused on achieving the goal.

The Queensland sugar industry was at the forefront of sustainability when Smartcane BMP was introduced with the first set of growers being benchmarked in 2014. The program's credentials alignment to several other international standards has empowered it to become widely recognised throughout the sugar value chain as a robust and integral program. As interest in sustainably sourced sugar continues to grow, Smartcane BMP positions our industry in the driver's seat to meet these demands and satisfy the sustainability requirements for end users and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies.

Smartcane BMP's significance has shifted from responding to government regulations to a value proposition for end-users and FMCG companies, like Coca-Cola and Nestle, to meet their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) requirements.

"Demand for investment in ESG is increasing exponentially as companies comply with the pressures of consumers who want products that are ethically and sustainably sourced"

SMARTCANE BMP

Demand for investment in ESG is increasing exponentially as companies comply with the pressures of consumers who want products that are ethically and sustainably sourced. As a result of this, sugar and associated by-products are being deemed as 'Sustainable Products' across a range of markets and applications.

The strong foundation of Smartcane BMP for demonstrating sustainable sugar has delivered improved market access and a real prospect of premium payments for sustainable sugar. This transaction highlights the future rewards for accredited growers as manufacturers become comfortable paying a premium for their source ingredients that are ethical and sustainable. With the possibility of even greater payments for fully traceable sugar using the blockchain technology developed last year.

As government non-financial performance indicators, like sustainability, to ensure accountability of companies' carbon footprint become mainstream, programs like Smartcane BMP become the verification to prove compliance. It is for this reason the success and longevity of the program should be celebrated, principally because it is a voluntary program with the highest percentage of accredited area of all industry BMP programs.

Australian sugar has always been recognised as a high-quality product throughout the value chain. By providing the production and environmental requirements to manufacturers, through Smartcane BMP, the Australian sugar industry is delivering an even stronger product into the marketplace. This milestone should be celebrated at all levels, as we are not only creating a sustainable industry but changing the perception of our farming practices to a positive one.

And that is something we should be proud of! ■

The Smartcane BMP project (2022-2026) is delivered by CANEGROWERS with funding from the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program and CANEGROWERS.

CANEGROWERS **REGIONAL ROUND-UP**

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

HARVEST WEEK 11 | CCS TO DATE 11.80 | TONNES TO DATE 173,434 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 41.29

During the second half of August and in September the weekly tonnes processed improved with over 20,000 tonnes of cane crushed in most weeks.

CCS still hasn't improved greatly but in drier periods the weekly CCS is still responding well but any moisture causes these improvements to stall or reduce.

After 11 weeks of crushing, Mossman Mill had processed 173,433.98 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.80CCS. Mossman Tableland growers after toll-crushing for 17 weeks had processed 81,519.37 tonnes of cane for an average of 13.17CCS.

Mill and grower representatives met on 12 September to discuss the season and crushing to-date.

There were concerns about the original crop estimates as the percentage cut to crush was averaging more than 10% down across the mill area. However, data from wetter areas was not yet sufficient to be certain of the long-term trend so the coastal crop estimate was reduced to 405,000 tonnes and the Mossman Tableland estimate was reduced to 155,000 tonnes of cane.

On a positive note, the mill's availability has been regularly over 90% and while this puts pressure on cane supply, we need good weeks to try and bring back the season length into the preferred timeframe.

The Manager attended the second workshop by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning held in Cairns on 20 September. This workshop continued the process of review of the FNQ Regional Plan.

The group was provided with an overview of outcomes from the first workshop, project data and evidence so far.

The group also worked on proposed key focus areas and associated regional planning outcomes.

The Manager also attended the Douglas Chamber of Commerce AGM on 22 September and renominated for the Management Committee and attended Police Remembrance Day on 29 September.

At the end of August Far Northern Milling had a presence at the Mossman State High School Subjects and Careers Expo. They also hosted a group of QSL and Japanese delegates visiting Mossman Mill to see production of the JB1 sugar brand. This brand is regularly made in Mossman specifically for QSL's Japanese customers. The visit also included a farm tour.

Shareholders of Daintree Bio Precinct were notified that founding director Maryann Salvetti had submitted her resignation from the board of the Company and this vacancy will need to be filled.

QSL and Japanese delegates visit Mossman Mill in Sept 2023

TABLELAND

HARVEST WEEK 17 | CCS TO DATE 13.72 | TONNES TO DATE 561,489 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 68.47

The Bureau of Meteorology states the northern rainfall onset date has a 60 to 70% chance of being late.

For those of us, who don't know what the northern rainfall onset date is, it is:

"The northern rainfall onset date occurs when the rainfall total reaches 50 mm since the 1st of September. It is considered to be approximately the amount of rainfall required to stimulate plant growth."

Discussion between representatives of Tableland Canegrowers, Jet Zero Australia and Datagro.

So far so good, if this keeps up there should be little to no interference, from wet weather, with the rest of the harvest.

There has been a reduction in the estimate of the crop size from 870,000 to 820,000 tonnes, this is inclusive of the toll crush cane. This now means the end date for the crush will be at the end of November.

Over the past few busy months with meetings, Angela attended Far North Queensland Regional Plan review workshop run by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. There were 70 delegates from across various sectors of Far North Queensland covering 21 Shires from the Torres Strait to Tablelands.

Claude and Angela also met with representatives from Jet Zero Australia, Managing Director – Ed Mason – and Datagro, Executive Director – Guilherme Nastari, who were on the Tableland on a fact-finding mission to evaluate the cane growing and milling systems in this district. This is part of the process by which Jet Zero Australia hopes to identify a location in Queensland where they, in conjunction with their partners, would like to construct Australia's first Sustainable Aviation Fuel manufacturing facility.

CAIRNS

HARVEST WEEK 14 | CCS TO DATE 11.86 | TONNES TO DATE 550,789 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 46.92

Wet weather has once again caused disruptions to farming, harvesting and crushing.

Managing the harvest and maximising milling capacity remains the focus. Planting is well behind schedule with some growers reconsidering their options and rotations.

The implementation of QSL Direct and any opportunity to have this platform functional by the 2024 season is fast slipping away with processes remaining unresolved.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region will shortly be organising members bulk bean purchases.

Growers are reminded to get their order in as some varieties could be in short supply.

Congratulations to the cane exhibit winners at the Cairns Show and Babinda Harvest Festival.

The overall championship events were sponsored by Canegrowers Cairns Region, with the winners receiving an appropriately engraved trophy.

- Cairns Show Champion Exhibit & Most Successful – V Rossi & Sons
- Babinda Harvest Festival Overall Champion: Woopen Creek Bananas.

Cairns Show Champion Exhibit & Most Successful – V Rossi & Sons

Babinda Harvest Festival Overall Champion: Woopen Creek Bananas

INNISFAIL

HARVEST WEEK 13 | CCS TO DATE 11.61 | TONNES TO DATE 521,540 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 37.20

Wet weather delays have become quite concerning across the Innisfail District with only 37% of the crop having been harvested by week 13.

Weather is also impacting CCS results with the average to date an underwhelming 11.61.

Growers are reassessing their planting regimes with very little having been undertaken to date.

Overall, the mill area is cutting below the anticipated crop estimate with individual growers' estimates having been revised to avoid a potential overpayment.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail, as part of the Industry Management Committee, will continue to work closely with MSF to implement strategies that maximise the delivery of cane to the mill when weather permits.

Three growers from the Innisfail district participated in Proterra Verification Audits in mid-September. As part of this audit, the growers were asked to provide evidence to verify practices in areas such as human resources (labour) and agricultural practices.

Their participation was voluntary and much appreciated given the busy time of year.

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TULLY

HARVEST WEEK 16 | CCS TO DATE 12.82 | TONNES TO DATE 1,344,615 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 48.72

The Tully district has seen more favourable conditions in the last four weeks, and the crushing statistics show the variability from wet to drier conditions.

From 16 August until 16 September, the area harvested has increased from 32% of total area to 49.3% of total area, an increase of 17.3% in a four-week period. The harvested estimate crop is at 52%, slightly higher than the area harvested.

At the end of week 16 the yield is still tracking at 91 tonnes per hectare with a total of 1,360,000 tonnes being processed through the rollers. The measure of CCS is slightly higher, currently a season average of 12.84, fibre at 14.69 and a drop in soil levels due to the drier conditions currently sitting at 1.76%.

The last four weeks have averaged 106,914 tonnes per week being crushed.

Week 16 was the highest at 112,784 tonnes. The average CCS for the last four weeks is 13.2.

Planting is starting to catch up, with contractors working extra time. In addition, farmers with billet planters who do not normally contract planting have assisted neighbours in some areas to ensure the area is up to date with their crop rotations. It is important to the industry that crop cycles are up to date with varieties and that we maximize the use of CPA so that farmers can benefit from the current price.

QCGO Environment & Sustainability Manager, Mick Quirk and Smartcane BMP Manager, Kate Reardon visited the Tully District recently.

We appreciate the generosity of planting contractor Luke Apap and harvesting contractor/farmer Stuart Gilbert for allowing Kate and Mick to experience firsthand the harvesting and planting of sugarcane in the Tully district.

Reports have been received of increased numbers of feral pigs damaging crops, and damage in areas where feral pigs have not been seen for decades.

Rat damage is also on the increase, with water in drains all year-round, making breeding conditions almost perfect for rats.

Kate Reardon and Luke Apap

Mick Quirk and Bryce Macdonald with Stuart Gilbert

HERBERT RIVER

HARVEST WEEK 13 | CCS TO DATE 12.76 | TONNES TO DATE 2,123,244 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 50.55

In the time of writing this report in mid-September, the Herbert has had little rainfall.

With approximately 5 – 10mm in most sub districts except Bambaroo who have had approximately 40mm MTD, Upper Stone 15mm MTD and Hawkins Creek 26mm MTD.

This was much needed rain for Bambaroo as it has become fairly dry in the last month or so.

The Herbert Mils have surpassed the halfway mark with 2 million tonnes mid-September with a CCS YTD of 12.75. Due to the amount of standover from last year, its poor condition is proving to be a challenge for harvester contractors and the mill.

The standover has sustained a large amount of rat damage, which has heavily affected the yields, so much so that some paddocks will not be harvested this year and will need to be destroyed.

Wilmar mill have just implemented a new Lab Software program named Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to bring the Herberts lab software into the 21st century and assist in removing human error in the lab and cane analysis departments.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River members are excited to hear from CANEGROWERS Policy managers Mick Quirk, Elisa Westmore, Kate Reardon and Burn Ashburner who will be attending the Herbert River district late September.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River are in the process of developing a Young Growers group for 2024.

If there is any interest from members please contact the CGHR Manager Frank Scardamaglia on email at frank_scardamaglia@canegrowers.com.au

BURDEKIN

HARVEST WEEK 15 | CCS TO DATE 14.21 | TONNES TO DATE 5,275,111 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 48.86

September saw the continuation of the good run of dry weather with no meaningful rainfall having been seen since the week ending 5 August.

This is exactly what the industry needed after the July wet weather stops to make some headway into the crop.

At the end of August, Wilmar reduced the Burdekin crop estimate from 8.4 million tonnes down to 8.2 million tonnes and if the dry run continues it may fall further still as we get into the late ratoons from the 2022 season.

This is a high probability outcome after the BOM released its update during September with their forecast being supportive of a warm and dry forecast continuing with El Niño which will strengthen the likelihood of above average temperatures across the country and below average rainfall for large areas of Australia between October and December.

Climate models forecast that this El Niño is likely to persist until at least the end of summer.

Fortunately for the Burdekin, our water infrastructure affords growers the ability to offset Mother Nature's dry periods with ample irrigation water at the push of a button, albeit with such security coming at the cost of purchasing electricity and water.

September saw the Burdekin pass the halfway mark of harvesting the crop and pleasingly the CCS is recovering well after the July wet weather, although it is causing problems in the factories with high liquor levels and associated stops, but this is to be expected at this time of the season.

At the time of writing, the district had 3,769,604t to get off and unfortunately Wilmar had just announced an extended stop for Pioneer Mill to repair an evaporator leak. CBL's policy is to have a uniform finish date (or close thereof) for all four mills in the Burdekin.

Pioneer Mill is currently lagging all other Burdekin factories with the amount of cane it has crushed. CBL has members in each of the four mill areas and we are concerned about both the impact of this stop and Pioneer's mill performance to date which places it at risk in terms of its finish date relative to the other factories.

CBL is of the opinion that this constitutes a major disruption to crushing under the CSA and we have requested that Wilmar;

a) cease any further transfer of cane into Pioneer Mill, and

b) implement a Cane Transfer Proposal to transfer Pioneer cane to be crushed at Invicta and/or Kalamia Mills.

On a positive note for the long term future of the Burdekin industry, the CBL Board took up an invitation from the BPS Board to participate in an information session and opportunity to review and contribute to BPS' strategic plan for the next planning period being 2024-2026.

BPS took the participants on a bus trip to a range of their sites and trials around the district to showcase some of their current activities and productivity initiatives for the industry, followed by a session at the office to allow input into the next three years strategic plan.

It was a productive and revealing session which reinforced how much BPS does for the Burdekin sugarcane industry which often goes unseen by the growing community.

A snapshot where each mill area was as at week ending 16 September

Mill - WE 16/9/23	***% delivered***	***CCS season to date***
Inkerman	*51.65%*	*14.29*
Invicta	*54.87%*	*14.43*
Kalamia	*56.80%*	*13.90*
Pioneer	*50.38%*	*14.03*
Pioneer	***50.38%***	***14.03***

PROSERPINE

HARVEST WEEK 14 | CCS TO DATE 13.85 | TONNES TO DATE 814,772 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 46.56

With the crush moving out of Augustand into September, there were both wins and losses for Proserpine Mill.

Well beyond the half-way mark for the planned 2023 season, by mid-September only 47% of the crop had been crushed. This leaves both Proserpine Mill and harvesting groups with a significant amount of work ahead to ensure a crush out before mid-December. The previous month of crush averaged 80,831 per week, largely due to a good milling week occurring towards the end of August (94,508 tonnes). Unfortunately, there were two weeks of crush that were well below the target crush rate due to maintenance challenges, including the impact of a power outage.

Mid-September also saw some contractor setbacks that removed 150 bins of supply for a few days. This sadly included an unfortunate incident with an overturned haulout and severely injured driver whom we hope will see full recovery.

A reduction in the estimate from 1.8 to 1.75 million tonnes was not unexpected. This was largely due to late harvested ratoons and we are expecting a drop of close to 40% from the original estimate.

Little weight has been added to the cane in the paddocks because it missed out on most of the spring and summer rainfall. Thankfully, standover cane tested at CCS levels slightly above expectations with almost no deliveries being condemned.

However, there remained a significant portion of standover in paddocks which would hopefully be crushed before the end of September.

Average mill CCS to the end of week 13 was 13.79. CCS levels continued to lag the interim target with the most recent average of 14.37 recorded for week 14.

With sugar prices continuing to trend upwards, it is hoped all the cane is crushed within a reasonable period, but this would require a more

Continued next page ▶

consistent crush rate for the remainder of the season.

With Stacey Corrie starting as the new Productivity Manager on 21 August, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) has been able to expand their services to growers. Recent advertisements for assistance with soil testing, recommendations and nutrient management plans are now available to members.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine also continued to work with re-accrediting Smartcane BMP growers with the support of Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited (PCPSL).

CANEGROWERS Proserpine hosted an Irrigation Tariff Selection Workshop on 15 September, the CANEGROWERS Electricity Tariff Selection Tool provides an easy-to-use tool for members.

Users have begun to realise significant benefits in the form of electricity cost savings through application of the tool to their businesses. For help in using the tool, members are encouraged to contact the Proserpine office.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine continued to support growers in accessing QRIDA drought preparedness grants, siding disputes, Council road maintenance issues and harvesting cost analyses.

There remains significant pressure on the local industry as rural living continues to expand into sugarcane growing areas. This is a growing challenge and something local industry will need to address to ensure harmonious existence continues between rural neighbours into the future.

With high sugar prices, the 2023 season will be one to remember as growers eagerly look ahead to getting the rest of their cane through the mill.

MACKAY

HARVEST WEEK 16 | CCS TO DATE 12.95 | TONNES TO DATE 2,426,674 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 45.43

PLANE CREEK

HARVEST WEEK 14 | CCS TO DATE 13.43 | TONNES TO DATE 594, 306 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 39.62

North Queensland Bulk Ports (NQBP) have released throughput figures for 2022-23FY, which show a 15-year record for the sugar port, the highest since 2007-08's 883,203t of raw sugar.

This is testimony not only to the large crops growers delivered over 2021 and 2022, but also to the excellent work of QSL's port operations in Mackay. Sugar, the port's second-largest trade, was up 8.2 per cent at 1.06 million tonnes in the last financial year.

Finer weather is affording some reasonable progress with the harvest, despite some breakdowns.

Leading into early September, Marian Mill experienced a rapid deterioration of its 5MW turbo generator, raising safety issues, so switched to milling on one train to facilitate repairs. Farleigh at the same point experienced issues with Boiler No 3, resulting in a 40-hour stoppage, which also allowed for No.2 turbine rotor installation.

Mackay Sugar has revised its crop estimate upwards to 5.5Mt, up from the previous estimate of 5.35Mt.

Wilmar has advised that Plane Creek's crop estimate has been revised down to 1.45Mt, from 1.5Mt. Plane Creek Mill experienced a breakdown in late August with damage to two rotor bearings in the shredder, resulting in several days of factory outage.

The big issues tackled by elected representatives have been grower advocacy in Harvest Equity meetings, a focus on mental health and wellbeing of growers in a difficult year of slow harvest progress, and a media campaign focusing on the substantial increases of up to 90% for council rates payable in the Mackay Regional Council area following the new State Land Valuations.

Any growers requiring assistance with any issues are encouraged to call 4944 2600 to get the ball rolling on a solution.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page, The Billet and weekly District Manager Updates for upcoming training and industry opportunities.

From left, CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg, Deputy Chairman Joseph Borg, and District Manager Michelle Martin address the issue of high rates payable by growers following State Land Valuations.

BUNDABERG

HARVEST WEEK 16 | CCS TO DATE 14.11 | TONNES TO DATE 687,560 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 64.86

CCS continues to rise with extraordinary high test rates continuing, we currently have a base CCS set at 13.8 with the YTD relative average sitting at 14.3566 for week ending 10 September.

We are approximately 65% through the total season (including pre-season) and looking at an estimated finish in early November, weather dependent. Current dry conditions in the region have brought a heightened fire risk and as such there has been a change to fire restrictions.

At the time of writing (15 Sept) growers can light fires for standing cane only and only between the hours of 6pm and 9am the following day. These restrictions are to avoid fire on the ground in the heat of the day and when the winds tend to be more unpredictable. By following this request, we can delay further restrictions on

allowed times to burn until later in the harvest if dry conditions persist as expected.

If you have any further questions, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555.

Kepnock Year 12 Chemistry students recently attended a lab and mill tour organised by Bundaberg CANEGROWERS and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd.

It was good for students to see first-hand how the laboratory is run and how tests are performed. They also toured the mill to observe the process of extracting sugar from the cane.

We extend our thanks to Rob Zahn, Salesh Kumar and Rav Deo for taking the time out of their day to host the tour, and Mr Brandon and Mrs Munro for allowing students to attend. The tour was well received by all attendees.

Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd and a QSL Marketing update will take place from 6pm on Thursday 12 October at Rowers on the River.

Please call the office on 4151 2555 for further information or to register your attendance.

ISIS

HARVEST WEEK 12 | CCS TO DATE 14.22 | TONNES TO DATE 422,347 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 52.79

Things are starting to look very dry across the district with little chance of any rain on the horizon.

The combined estimate has been reassessed and revised to 1.2m/t with 745,000t coming from the traditional Isis area and 455,000t from Maryborough.

The seasons, highest individual CCS was recorded in week 12 by a Wallaville grower at 18.08 for some 1R SRA11.

Isis Mill has continued to operate reliability with only a few very short maintenance stops over the past month and directors and staff have been heavily focused on ensuring all cane supply agreement issues are dealt with promptly.

Isis Productivity facilitated clean seed distribution over 3 grower plots during September, with most planting across the district almost wrapped up.

There has been a considerable increase in the amount of planting this year and plenty of land double fallowed with rotational crops coming back under cane. We have continued to work closely with growers assisting them with electricity tariff comparisons in readiness for the peak irrigation season to come.

Fire permits have been restricted across the area to standing cane and trash blankets only and we have continued to keep growers informed of the changing restrictions to their permits.

With the dry weather ahead of us it looks as though our area will face an increase in fire danger in the months to come. The office has been busy preparing end of year reports in preparation for the AGM which will be held in late November and bringing together the cane trash payment summaries for the June to August period.

We recently called for nominations to fill the vacant director position. Unfortunately, we did not receive any nominations and the board will consider their next steps during their October meeting.

MARYBOROUGH

HARVEST WEEK 12 | CCS TO DATE 13.74 | TONNES TO DATE 206,713 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 44.94

At the end of week 13 the season is rolling on with little to no wet weather impacts.

The mill undertook repairs and clean through the week which have gone well with a better crushing rated outcome.

As mentioned the conditions have remained dry for a number of weeks and the impact to the harvest is in reduced tonnage as weight drops off.

CCS on the other hand is significantly better than last year.

This week averaged 14.56 units and the season average is 13.8units.

The dry conditions haven't slowed planting activity although the mill has sent out a notice seeking updates on where plant cane is being access from on farm and noting the location and type of the varieties planted.

The mill is also keen to understand any decisions on blocks being stood over, particularly late cut cane from 2022, to keep the harvesting rosters equitable for all.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough and CANEGROWERS Isis have commenced discussions on a future structure that best represents the vast area we supply from.

With both Boards in place through to 2025 this will be a steady process to prepare for life beyond 2025.

Upcoming events to mention are:

- visit from QSL CEO and reps on Wed 11 October, an opportunity for growers to hear firsthand the market influences and the outlook for next few years. Meeting will start at 3:45pm with a BBQ to follow.
- New two-day course being conducted in Bundaberg called Soybean Masterclass on 4 - 5 Oct by DAF, flyers are out now.

Maryborough cane fire

Continued next page ▶

ROCKY POINT

HARVEST WEEK 4 | CCS TO DATE 13.08 | TONNES TO DATE 24,385 | % CRUSHED TO DATE 13.79

Rocky Point has had another disappointing start to the season, with 3 breakdowns in as many weeks.

The latest breakdown, on 8 September 2023 relates to hairline cracks in the co-gen boiler steam drum, which could see the Mill/Cogen out of action for up to three weeks.

To date, as at 10 September 2023, Rocky Point has crushed 24,385 tonnes of cane at an average CCS of 13.08. CCS is dropping off as much of the 2 year old cane has a percentage of dead sticks or in poor condition, as a result of ongoing dry conditions, and the delay to the crush. In some cases, entire two year old blocks may be lost if not harvested soon.

Around half the growers have still not had their first cut and no cash flow - very stressful times!

Planting is well underway, however, plants have been difficult to source due to the continued dry conditions and poor plant crop size.

Advertising Feature

LIMES AIN'T LIMES – UQ FINAL REPORT

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT AGGREGATION?

In our last editorial, we mentioned the work of Dr. Bernhard Wehr from The University of Queensland.

In his final report titled 'Efficacy of Kennedy Creek liming materials', Dr. Wehr has provided further insights into the unique qualities of KCL lime and dolomite.

Soil samples with very low soil pH, collected on our behalf by Farmacist from nine local farms, were tested by Dr. Wehr who compared three KCL products with two common aglime products sourced from Central Queensland, both of which have higher neutralising values (NV) than KCL lime.

Dr. Wehr noted 'for most soils, the pH difference between CQ and KCL lime at 1 t/ha rate were not significant……hence CQ lime is not better than the KCL product.'

Dr. Wehr also noted '…and the limestones were equally effective in raising soil pH when applied at the same NV.'

So why purchase the local product as opposed to an out of town aglime. Well if you put pH to one side for a minute – let's talk about aggregation. KCL aglime is the only one locally available which has significant aggregation properties.

Dr. Wehr – 'Samples with aggregation will have a higher porosity and surface area. And the porosity permits water entry into the aggregates. As a consequence, the aggregated limestone samples will dissolve quicker, resulting in greater efficacy than non-aggregated particles of the same overall size.'

Aggregation gives your soil water holding capacity – like good soils used to have in the old days! ■

NSW SUGAR INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO GROW STRONGER

Supplied by Sunshine Sugar

The NSW sugar industry continues to show its resilience as it reaches the pivotal point of the cane season when crushing reaches the half-way mark and cane planting begins.

Just 18 months on from the catastrophic flooding of 2022, the three NSW sugar mills have achieved an impressive milestone by crushing over 650,000 tonnes of the projected 1.2 million tonne 2023 crop.

Consistently good cane quality, high purity, and a high CCS (sugar content) are a result of favourable harvesting conditions and the reliable performance of the mills.

Since 30 June, the Harwood mill has processed over 250,000 tonnes of cane, boasting an average CCS of 12.6.

In addition, both the Condong and Broadwater mills commenced crushing operations on 3 July.

Condong has processed approximately 220,000 tonnes of cane with an average CCS of 11.9, while Broadwater has crushed over 180,000 tonnes of cane with an impressive average CCS of 12.3.

The future of the NSW sugar industry looks promising, with growers keen to capitalise on record-high prices and maximise the planting window from now through to the end of the year.

The 2023 plantings represent a significant step in the ongoing recovery of the cane production area, which suffered significant setbacks due to the 2022 flooding.

In another positive development, the industry welcomes Scott Thompson as the Operations Manager of the Harwood Mill and Refinery.

Scott brings a wealth of experience to Sunshine Sugar, with an extensive background in various industries, including packaging, print, beverages, and confectionery. His expertise spans operations, sales, logistics, procurement, and project management.

Scott assumed his role in the historic 149th season of the Harwood Mill. ■

Scott Thompson, the Operations Manager, Harwood Mill and Refinery.

WARDING OFF UNWARRANTED BIOSECURITY CHARGES

Sustainability & Environment

MICK QUIRK

WARDING OFF UNWARRANTED BIOSECURITY CHARGES

Further discussions with other peak industry bodies achieved agreement on Australian agriculture's opposition to the Federal Government's intent to impose new annual charges on farmers.

These charges would be collected in a similar way as existing R&D levies, but the funds would be diverted to Government revenue and, in theory at last, used for some aspect of national biosecurity.

Farmers would have no say on how the funds are spent. In fact, there would be no transparency with how the funds are used.

At best, they will be used to shift costs of the national biosecurity system on to farmers, making cost savings for government. New legislation will be needed to give the government the power to impose such charges without farmers' agreement, and these new laws will also allow government to vary the charge over time!

All of this is totally at odds with the government's own guidelines for collection and use of R&D levies. CANEGROWERS, with other peak farmer organisations, will strongly oppose the imposition of these charges.

While all of us want a stronger and better prepared biosecurity system, any funds provided by farmers need to be invested on the priority biosecurity issues of their own industry, be this sugarcane, grains, or livestock.

And the investments must be directed by industry representatives and not by Canberra bureaucrats.

The Government maintains the decision to impose these charges is not up for discussion. To help ensure the Minister listens to agriculture's concerns, you are strongly encouraged to contact your Federal parliamentary representatives.

APVMA INSTRUCTED TO FINALISE CHEMICAL REVIEWS

The APVMA has been in the spotlight recently following a review, commissioned at the request of the Federal Agriculture Minister, that examined its regulatory performance, financial management, and overall administration.
A credible, effective, and evidence-based regulator of chemical use is critical for ongoing community and international confidence in Australian farming practices. Proposed reforms to the APVMA will be released in 3 weeks' time and hopefully these will address any concerns (real or perceived) over its operation. ►

One immediate outcome of the review was an instruction from the Minister that APVMA finalise several long running, but incomplete, chemical reviews. What does this mean, and which active ingredients are affected?

The APVMA instigates a review of an approved active ingredient if new information suggests a change in the risks to human health, the environment, animal or crop safety, or trade.

For example, 25 chemicals are currently under review to determine if their current conditions of use require changes.

The results of a review can significantly change how an active ingredient can be used.

A recent example was the review of 2,4-D which resulted in significant changes to buffer zones, and to the periods of restricted use, for different forms and rates of 2,4-D product.

Of most interest to growers, the following were included in the Minister's instruction to complete the reviews as soon as possible: chlorpyrifos, paraquat, diquat and fipronil.

These reviews will likely be finalised within the next 12 months, and we need to be ready for any significant changes to their allowable use.

STATUTORY REVIEW OF 2019 REEF REGS

Changes in the 2019 Environment Protection Act modified regulations on growing sugarcane in GBR catchments, and the Act requires the Environment Minister to review these regulations every five years.

One aspect of this review has been undertaken by Ernst & Young consultants, who have interviewed representatives of stakeholders and growers on:

1. their perceptions of the regulations' impacts on farm practices, and
2. any opportunities to improve their implementation.

CANEGROWERS told the consultants it is unclear if the regulations have had any positive, lasting impact on farm practices.

Our gut feeling is that the compliance program has forced some changes in the short term but that these were unlikely to persist unless growers saw agronomic advantages.

We pointed out that the cane industry has been regulated since 2009, and the government must surely have analysed its own data to evaluate impacts.

Why waste time asking for perceptions of impact when they are the ones with the relevant information?

CANEGROWERS also pointed out issues with implementation of the regulations including complexity and ambiguity in preparation of N and P budgets, applying 'black and white rules' that are picky and waste time and effort, and being a distraction from a focus on more holistic and adaptive approaches to crop nutrition. Very long delays in getting feedback from compliance officers is another issue that is often observed.

This part of the regulations review will report to the Department at the end of October, with a finalised report to be tabled in Parliament early next year. ■

NEXT RATOON MENTORING PROGRAM

Membership Engagement & Innovation

MATT KEALLEY

WHAT IS NEXT RATOON?

NEXT RATOON is CANEGROWERS mentoring program designed to empower the next generation of leaders across agriculture and the Queensland sugarcane industry. It has been designed to help unlock a world of opportunities within our industry and is a unique chance to explore new ideas, new thinking, and build new connections.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

CANEGROWERS is on the lookout for growers in the sugarcane industry and people connected to agriculture who embody the qualities to benefit from the NEXT RATOON program.

MENTEES

We are looking for individuals who excel with the following qualities:

1. **Eagerness to learn** - Our ideal applicant is eager to soak up new insights and put their learnings into action.
2. **Open-mindedness** - Successful applicants will have an open-minded approach, asking questions, seeking advice, and embracing new challenges along the way.
3. **Committed to success** - Program participants will invest their time and effort to learn and grow, taking ownership of their goals and actively contributing to the industry's future.
4. **Effective collaborator** - Our ideal candidate not only listens and responds to mentor feedback, but also strives to amplify their voice of the industry and ambitions of CANEGROWERS.

To apply for this program, you need to be a current member or linked to a member of CANEGROWERS and aged between 18-40.

MENTORS

We are seeking mentors who are interested in playing a pivotal role in the NEXT RATOON program:

1. Experience that is relatable to agriculture - Broad experience preferably with agricultural leadership in areas such as production, marketing or business management.
2. An enthusiasm to share and learn - Open to learning new skills and applying the program material in their interaction with their mentee to create a positive learning experience.
3. Encourage diversity of opinions - Open to different perspectives and have a willingness to listen to mentees' ideas and perspective.
4. Invested in success - Committed to allocating the time needed to help mentees succeed.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

NEXT RATOON runs from February to August 2024 and participants will get:

1. Exclusive access to the NEXT RATOON event in Brisbane in February 2024
2. Personalised Monthly Mentoring Sessions
3. Course materials and tools to support mentors and mentees throughout the program
4. Guidance and virtual check-in sessions
5. Attendance at the celebration event in August 2024

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There are several ways to get involved:

1. **If you're ready** – go to www.nextratoon.com.au and complete the application form.
2. **If you're interested but want more information** - send your expression of interest with your name, email address and contact number to nextratoon2024@canegrowers.com.au. CANEGROWERS will send you further information.
3. **If you know someone who would be a great candidate** - tap someone on the shoulder!

For further information contact nextratoon2024@canegrowers.com.au or call (07) 3864 6444. Applications close 1 December 2023. ■

DECISIONS IN GOOD TIMES

Industry & Farm Inputs

BURN ASHBURNER

It is likely that growers in general will be looking at a reasonable profit this year and possibly the next few years.

Of course, nobody knows what the future holds in terms of cane yield. The Bureau of Meteorology has just formally declared El Nino and this can mean better yield for some areas of the sugarcane industry and higher risk of lower yields for other areas.

We do know that at the time of writing this, growers could lock in sugar prices for a portion of their crop through QSL (and similar for other marketers) at $810/tonne sugar for 2024 and $679/tonne sugar for 2025.

This goes some way to ensuring a sugar price which is well above the average costs of production. The profit levels will depend on at least an average crop and the in-season sugar prices.

Anyone close to agriculture will realise that good times don't last forever and cane growers operate in a high risk environment with floods, cyclones, droughts, pests, diseases and volatile sugar prices.

Thus, making good decisions in times of profit are perhaps more crucial than any other time.

In order to make good well thought out decisions there are processes and tools which can assist growers.

A clear business plan which sets out the strategic direction i.e. planning to retire, hand over to the next generation or expand.

A risk management process which will identify the future risks, estimate the likelihood of these happening and the impact they may have and determine how to mitigate them.

A budget to understand what the profit level is likely to be is important to balance tax, investments, private expenditure and capital expenditure while maintaining cashflow.

Decisions based solely on minimising tax are not always the best. Each grower is different and experienced accountants will be critical but if the above is done well it will assist accountants to provide better advice.

I expect some of the issues to think about will revolve around investments into Farm Management Deposits, planting additional land, buying another farm, replacing equipment, paying off debt or paying out partners or family.

On the other hand, if retirement is the plan, it may be a good time to sell as land values may go up.

I strongly recommend the CANEGROWERS Business Essentials program to growers as it provides the tools and process to develop a Business Plan, Risk Assessment and a Budget. Register on the CANEGROWERS website - www.canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/business-essentials.

From an industry perspective it is perhaps long overdue for some major investment across all sectors. In analysing the age of a sample of 189 harvesters it was interesting that 37% where purchased in the 7 years between 1994 and 1999 which we know was a period of good rainfall distribution and high yields with a major contribution from variety Q124. Only 34% where purchased in the next 22 years between 2000 and now.

This shows the industry does invest when times are good. Perhaps this will be the opportunity for growers, harvesters and mills to build resilience. ■

REEF REGULATION – GROWERS BEWARE
PENALTY INFRINGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor
CHRIS COOPER

The Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) has been active recently. Department audits of cane farmers who are not BMP accredited have been occurring. The number of DES investigative officers also seems to be increasing.

It is unsurprising then that within the last few weeks I have become aware of a north Queensland farmer issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN). The PIN was for an amount of $2,156 and relates to a 2022 claim of failing to have soil tests done within 12 months of planting.

Many of these government Reef Regulations have been law for some time. If you don't comply with them you run the risk of being prosecuted.

Growers in the relevant catchment areas (including the Wet Tropics) are required to comply with various standards set out in the sugar cane agricultural environmentally relevant activity (ERA). Special condition 6 of that ERA standard requires soil testing be carried out within 12 months prior to fertiliser being applied to a new plant cane crop.

In this case, DES investigated the grower who was not BMP accredited. Subsequently DES issued the PIN for $2,156 which the grower has 28 days to pay or to elect to take the charge to Court.

Growers are reminded that if you are in the relevant reef catchment areas the Reef Regulation will apply. DES may investigate and may issue charges for any non-compliance.

The charges might be way of formal court prosecution or might be by way of a PIN. Either way, fines can be significant and difficult to dispute. It is a defence to the charge of failing to comply with the standard if the grower is currently BMP accredited and comply with the BMP requirements.

REEF REGULATIONS

"We have focussed on engagement and education with producers and ensuring they understand what is required with the Reef Regulations," a DES spokesperson said.

"In general, most cane growers are voluntarily making changes to comply with the Reef Regulations and we can see this trend has increased over the past two years.

"To date, we have not prosecuted any cane growers in relation to the Reef Regulations, but have issued four fines (PINs), four statutory notices requiring records and information, and 53 formal warnings, with a total of 796 sugarcane growers being visited."

BACKGROUND:

The Reef Regulations came into effect in Great Barrier Reef catchments on 1 December 2019, introducing minimum practice standards for agricultural producers, and permits for new or expanding cropping and horticultural developments.

The regulations were designed in consultation with industry to help keep nutrients and sediments on-farm and maintain productivity and profitability. The end result being better water quality flowing into Great Barrier Reef catchments.

More information about the Reef Regulations, the compliance program, and what to expect during an inspection visit is available at www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef. ■

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.

ExecutiveLink

RCS

Unearthing Farmers' Potential

G'Day. My name is Trevor Crook, General Manager at RCS Australia. Have you heard of **ExecutiveLink**® Australia's leading Professional Development program for producers?

It's a holistic 360 degree program designed to inspire and empower agricultural professionals like you. **ExecutiveLink**® is a program offering a three-year membership to a network comprising of peers who share similar goals to you. Visit the new site at executivelink.farm

As part of ExecutiveLink®, members are grouped into a Board of Directors composed of fellow motivated producers. These boards convene three times annually in facilitated meetings. During these sessions, members harness the collective skills and knowledge of their board colleagues to aid in their decision-making processes. These meetings are skillfully guided by RCS facilitators and are organised across diverse geographic regions. Piqued your interest? Call me and learn more.

Trevor Crook | General Manager RCS Australia | 1800 356 004

The sweet spot.

As a member of Canegrowers, who are members of QFF, you are eligible for this sweet offer. **15% off** eligible online courses.
CODE - SWEET15 (expires 30/11/23)

Juggling a hectic life with farm management responsibilities can be tough. Especially when you want to enhance your farm's performance but lack enough time for face-to-face courses. We've got the solution for you. RCS **Online+**

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Take a deeper dive into the course offerings by scanning the **QR code** of the course you're interested in, or speak to our online+ team directly via free call **1800 356 004.**

rcsaustralia.com.au

01

Business

Online+ Business Fundamentals Workshop

- Learn management accounting essentials.
- Understand business technology systems.
- Master record keeping, P&L statements, budgets, benchmarks, KPIs and PAYG.
- Improve bookkeeping efficiency, organisation and proficiency.

02

Cropping

Online+ Cropping Workshop

- Understand the six Soil Health principles.
- Develop a systems-thinking management approach.
- Measure key ecological health indicators.
- Foster soil microbiology for sustainable productivity.
- Manage economic and ecological risk when changing practices.

QFF
QUEENSLAND FARMERS' FEDERATION

FIRST 5 LINES FREE FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online 24/7 at *www.canegrowers.com au*
or email us at *ads@canegrowers.com.au*
Next deadline is *18 November 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

2 x 480/70R34 tractor tyres. 5 years old. 95% rubber. 1 tyre needs minor repair. $1,000 (inc GST) for both tyres. Ph: 0408 728 072 (Tully)

Hydraulic Spraying Machine – High Rise Diesel Motor, 1600 litre stainless steel tank $25,000 + GST Ph: Tim 0428 183 307

Tatu heavy duty 25 plate offset 2021 model new condition. Ph: 0439 965 921

Howard CH2000 4.2m rotary hoe, crumble roller comes with brand new spare gearbox . $20,000 (plus GST) Ph: 0439 965 921

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

Farm clearance sale ... all machinery in good working order all reasonable offers considered. 2 x 90" Howard rotary hoes. Fiat 640 Hi Clearance 32"3400 hrs,Hardi 600 l sprayer5 row boom +4 irvine spider legs. 3row plant cane cleaner, Ford 4500 loader backhoe + 1t bag boom + tree trim cage. New Holland TS125A 125hp 4x4 16 speed ps 11800hrs. Trailed 4T MSW 3 row stainless steel fertilizer bow with stool splitters or drop on top. John Deere 3130, Superior 8 ft galvanised Hd slasher, 2x 20.8 x38 tyres (30%) ,rims,centres & weights to suit ford or new holland axle, 900 l cropland spray tank Ph: 0437 504 272

John Berends Heavy-Duty Hydraulic Backblade, 2.4m; 2006 Nissan Patrol Ute, Intercooled, TD DX 4.2, 6 cyl., 267,000km. Ph: 0429 653 461

John Deere 6130M with John Deere loader HRS 2650, 130 hp $90,000 incl GST. Ph: 0408 197 223

Celli rotary hoe 90 inch $5,500. 2 implement rollers each $100. 1000 litre plus FUEL tank on stand $1,100. Single row fertiliser box stool splitter $400. 186 Ross Road DEERAL. Ph: 0412 968 434

HBM Bulk bag lifter - $1,500 (plus GST) Ph: 0439 965 921

Bonel 1 tonne boom lift $1,500 + GST. Ph: 0439 965 921

Olympic 20.8.42 65% $500+ gst; front end loader with 4 in 1 bucket, blasted and 2pac painted, resembling required $4500 + GST. Ph: 0437 434 280

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

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 Ph: 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

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

2022 Case 9900 Harvester Ph: 0436 332 044 - Craig

2018 Case 8810 Harvester Ph: 0436 332 044 - Craig

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.

Babinda area - 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

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

HERBERT RIVER - BURDEKIN

Holden RG Colorado 4x4 Space Cab Ute. 2015 model. White. 6sp Manual. Alloy Tray, Bullbar,Tow Bar, Redarc "In-car" Electric Brake Controller, Anderson Plug, Neoprene Seat Covers. VGC. $25,500. Ph: 0427 550 721

Single row SCUDERI Fert box mounted on 6 Leg Grubber. Good working order. $250 incl GST. Single row HBM upright stick planter. Working order. $200 incl GST. MOB: 0431 458 850

1997 FIAT AGRI GENIUS 190. Good condition, one owner, Hyd toplink, hubs for dwels - 5,200 Hrs Ph: 0419 666 544

3 -5 International Disc harrow 28 Plate Ph: 0408 889 446

6 x 1 1/4" COIL TYNES SUIT 2 1/2" BAR. $200 inc GST, 2 x 1 1/4" RIPPER LEGS. $100 inc GST. Ph: 0431 458 850

Scoopmobile 4wd Loader, Excellent condition, no leaks, new rubber. Brakes need attention. Perkims 354 Motor. LD 6 Model. $17,000 plus GST. Ph: 0417 070 844

1996 Fiat 130 with 80 inch Kuhn Rotary Hoe. Under 2000 hours. $45,000 + GST for both. Ph: 0427 337 929

Holden Commodore Ute 2012 SSV Redline v8 6litre 6 speed gear box. Immaculate condition 220ks. $26,000 photos available. John 0417 070 844

Loader Moore Scoopmobile. perkins 6 cyl 354 Motor. Runs nice. No faults or cracks in 1 metre dirt bucket new tyres. $18000. Photos available John 0417 070 844

Case 5150 4wd w front end loader $18,000. 100 hp. chamberlain canelander $3,500. Massey ferguson 178 $8,000. Fert box 2t drop on top $950. Back blade suit 100hp no hydraulics $500. Phone John 0417 070 844. Photos available. All items plus GST if applicable.

2015 Austoft 8800 harvester. Good condition. Ph: 0499 888 919 or 0429 989 502

MF178 Tractor. Reasonable running condition - Multipower, no canopy, new mud guards $10,000. Chain driven Row. Fertiliser box 1.5 tonne. trailled $1,000. 3pl Back blade no hydraulics. $600. Chamberlain Canelander Tractor good for spare tractor or tow boat $4,000 Ask for photos. Ph: John 0417 070 844

MACKAY-PROSERPINE

Krone 1500 Vario pack baler $16500. Krone mower 2.8m easy cut flail $36000 as new. Swadro 38 rake $12000 as new. Southern Cross SX-200 travelling irrig. New 230m hose $8800. Ph: 0447461132

AR 50" Rotary Hoe, fully reconditioned. HR 42 120" Rotary Hoe, fully reconditioned. Ph: 0407 643 441 for price

HODGE SIDE DRESSER FERTILIZER BOX - With 4 Front Fertilizer Coulters, 2 Centre Rippers and Coulters with Crumble Rollers and Centre Drawbar. Also can be used as a soil buster. In the Mackay area. $11,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 874 974 or 0418 874 974

Bonel Plant Cutter for sale GC $450. Ph: 0428782202

GPS Autosteer kits, can be fitted to any

SNG
MACHINERY SALES

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SECONDHAND 2021 8810 AUSTOFT HARVESTER - MANY EXTRAS

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tractor, FJ Dynamics brand, $12,000 inc GST. Ph: 0401 847 162

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

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

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

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

4000 lites 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Zimmatic high clearance poly lined centre pivots for sale, contact 0448 100 117

Howard HR100 inch Rotary, Napier 24 plate offset discs, Yeoman 11 tyne chisel plough and other excess equipment. Ph: 0417 617 084

No Till Vacuum planter fitted with disc openers and John Deere planter boxs, will plant 3rows at 2 x 400mm at 1.6 m centers, has water tanks for inoculant, row widths can be adjusted.Soybean plates included.$16500 incl GST. Phone Alan 0409 632 656

JCB 3220 Fastrac and JCB 3185 Fastrac high speed tractors. Ph: 0413 584 728

2011 John Deere 3520 wheel cane harvester, very tidy machine. Ph: 0413 584 728

Gessner 2 row bed former. Excellent condition, always shedded, no further use $17,000 ONO Ph: 0422 118 466

MF165 H/C 212 Engine 8 Speed original 4225 HRS Remotes ROPs Canopy $12,500 inc GST. 2x Two Row 3PL Faun potato planters set up to lay trickle tape while planting $3,000 + GST each.30 RJ Hydrant sealing caps, good condition $80.00 each. Two row potato harvester - Grimme D.L 1500 - sorting table - canopy $40,000 + GST Ph: 0427 597 363 or 0408 062 830

New Holland T6070 Tractor, Challenge FEL, Quad Remotes, Excellent condition, 450 Hrs, Call Justin 0415626715

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

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Australian Retirement Trust

LOCATION	RECORDED RAINFALL (mm)			
	Month prior (Aug 2023)	Month to date (1 Sep - 24 Sep)	Year to date 2023	Year to date 2022
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	94.4	62	2799.2	2583.8
Mareeba Airport	8.6	2.2	433.4	761.2
Cairns Aero	68.2	24.8	1695.6	1600.6
Mt Sophia	182	104	3028	3367
Babinda Post Office	138.9	0	0	3714.7
Innisfail	171.4	128.2	3057.8	2962
Tully Sugar Mill	177	80	3169.2	3181.8
Cardwell Marine Pde	28.6	3.4	1318.8	1434.2
Lucinda Township	22.4	4.8	1536	1739
Ingham Composite	4.4	2.8	1490.9	1565.4
Abergowrie Alert	6	7	819	309
Townsville Aero	6.8	1	1009.8	1040.6
Ayr DPI Research Stn	0	0.8	1068	835
Proserpine Airport	3.8	15.8	1444.2	1090
Mirani Mary Street	4	13.8	1427.7	820.7
Mackay MO	26.4	6.8	1301.8	820.2
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	0	9.6	1316.9	965.8
Bundaberg Aero	6.2	2.2	413	957
Childers South	7.2	7.8	406.8	1068.8
Maryborough	11.4	6	452.2	829.8
Tewantin RSL Park	41.6	51.4	658.2	2240.2
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	0	29.6	287.2	2324.4
Nambour DPI - Hillside	36	28.8	539.7	2048.7
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	21.1	20.9	406.7	1382
Murwillumbah Bray Park	46.6	1.7	655.7	497.9
Ballina Airport	40.6	21.4	21.4	2502.4
New Italy	16.8	12.4	12.4	2272.2

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.

openers, press wheels, row spacings 1.5-1.8m, only done 25ha, oiled & shedded $42k inc GST; Rocky Pt, Ph: Greg 0421 277 126

2 x Single axle Hi lift tipper bins, one 8 tonne and another one 7 tonne $12,000 plus GST Ph: 0413 584 728

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. 4 wheel trash rake $1,650 incl. GST. Ph: 0408 761 463

WANTED

Trailer with side tippers suitable for billet planter. Ph: 0448 482 213 before 7pm.

6 FT 3 Point linkage grader blade in reasonable condition. Ph: 0478228375 Bundaberg area

Looking for a late model billet planter to up grade my old one. Not trailer type. Mackay region Ph: 0408 190 493

Trailer with side tippers suitable for billet planter (Mossman - Tully). Ph: 0448 482 213 before 7pm

11-12ft roller - Herbert Rover area Ph: 4776 1386

Chasing some unwanted plow discs to use on a fire pit project. Ph: Simon - 0448 744 013

Crumble roller to suit Howard HR40 90" rotary hoe or two 50cm steel depth wheels. Ph: Alan 0467 786 464

10-14 tonne elevating tipper coupled to a 4WD tractor. Ph: 0437 503 818

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

Permanent purchase Lower Mary River Water Allocations on Mary River, Tinana Creek and Channel Pipeline sections of the scheme. Ph: 0427 930 696

Water tank trailer, about 5000 Litres. Ph: 0417 784 642

6 Cylinder Turbo Cat Motor. Ph: 0417 193 385

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

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

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

PROPERTY - FOR SALE

Cane Farm – Ingham Line - CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT.
Established irrigated cane farm with a large machinery shed, plus smaller shed. Includes travelling "Monsoon" irrigator and pump. It has a total area of 144.11 hectares with a CPA of 129.58 Hectares For further details, contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on 4776 5007

288 Acres 35 minutes South of Maryborough 200 acres under cane. Permanent creek with underground mains 4 bedroom timber home 12x9m shed with 3 phase power. Ph: 0407 398 852

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 irragation 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

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

ROD LYNCH TYRES

Ph / SMS Anthony 0408735125

14.00.24G2	16 ply	$700
24.5 - 32	16 ply	$1,900
30.5L - 32	20 ply	$2,200
23.1 - 26	18ply D/ BeadR3	$1,430
23.1 - 34	14 ply	$1,800
23.1 - 30	14 ply	$1,400
18.4 - 28	12 ply	$850
18.4 - 34	12 ply	$990
18.4 - 36	16 ply	$1,100
18.4 - 30	12 ply	$880
30.5 - 32	26 ply Logger	$3,750
24.5 - 32	20 ply Logger	$2,700
23.1 - 26	20 ply Logger	$2,400
800-70R-38		$3,950
620-70R-42		$2,400
800.65R-32		$3,200
420/70R28		$820
520/85R42		$1,980
23.5-25	24 ply	$1,385
225 95 R16	+ Land Cruiser wheels	$245

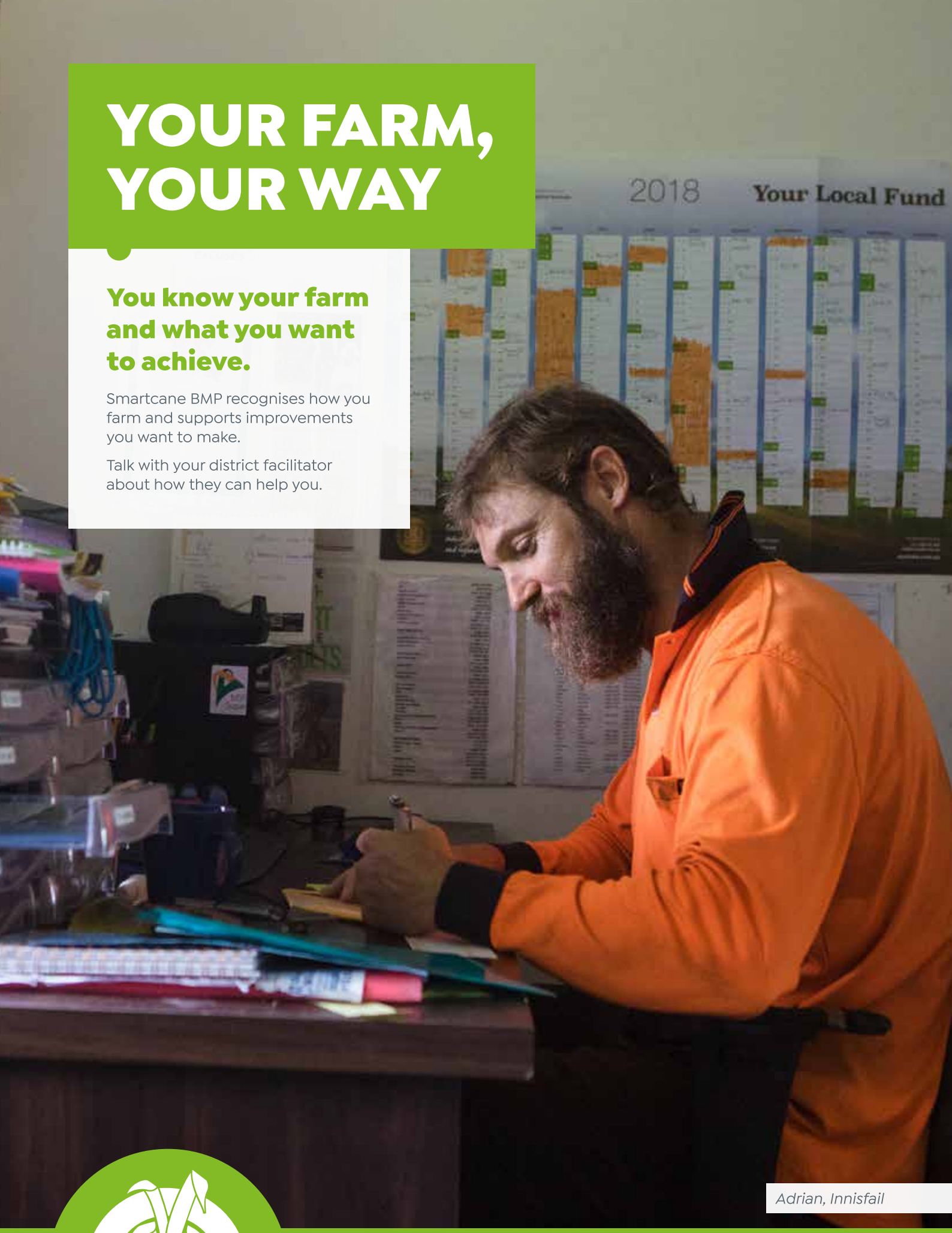
8 YEAR WARRANTY ON RADIAL

YOUR FARM, YOUR WAY

You know your farm and what you want to achieve.

Smartcane BMP recognises how you farm and supports improvements you want to make.

Talk with your district facilitator about how they can help you.



Adrian, Innisfail

SMARTCANE BMP

Contact your district facilitator to find out more.

LIQUAFORCE – COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE COASTAL FARMING

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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!

MACKAY REGION:
Don McNichol, 0429 540 066

BURDEKIN REGION:
Robert Woods, 0429 658 318

INGHAM REGION:
Cameron Liddles, 0427 765 711

TULLY & FNQ REGION:
Maurice Shephard, 0457 924 762
Jordan Villaruz 0404 787 144