



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the July edition of the newsletter.

In this edition:- surveys, Productivity Services updates and more!

Activities from the office have included attended a meeting in Bundaberg investigating Gas exploration rights for the wide bay burnett. The meeting was attended by representatives of cane, horticulture, macadamia and avocado production as well as representatives of "Lock the Gate".

For the coastal regions there a three exploration licenses all coming up for renewal from December 2018 to March 2019 and all currently held by Blue Energy. Historically, Magellan group had done some exploration near Hervey bay over a decade ago, but it was sold off by Magellan without further activity occurring since.

There were presentations on the possible impacts of gas exploration and industry current practices. Particular emphasis was put on the access to water for mining purposes and the priority arrangements they would hold.

For any agricultural operations water is the key and access determines your productivity.

Outcomes from the meeting are:-

1. Establishing an alliance of grower associations from Bundaberg, Childers and Maryborough.
2. Commissioning a report (due in August) on the potential impacts of unconventional gas on local industries.
3. Coordination of activities aimed at achieving cancellation of the licenses on their expiry.

I did mention earlier that representatives of "Lock the Gate" attended and presented their views on this issue, advising the local perspective from Fraser Coast council is that it has declared the shire "gas field free", as has our State Member, Bruce Saunders.

We are currently arranging for an information session on 5th September from the Gas fields commission to give some facts to interested growers.

At the Pre-season meeting we had a presentation to Bill Baxter for his many years of support to our industry. Keep an eye out in the next canegrowers magazine for story on Bill and his adventures.

The association would also like to wish Andrew Dougall well in his move to Melbourne to work on their green waste and compost reuse. I'm sure he will be kept busy. His family will be closer to relatives down there, although they will miss the warmth of Queensland very quickly.



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Welcome to the 2018 crushing season. It's been a slow start for the sunshine coast who have been regularly wet for weeks now. Some blocks of stand over are still wet under foot but all in all a reasonable start.

Finally, Yerra Road access to B doubles has been approved and the new intersection works are well advanced. This had to be followed up continuously but all going well now.

CCS started above 12 but now dropped back to 11.5 which is similar to what the sugar pricing has done in the last couple of weeks. Still a reasonable CCS for this time of year and has signs of improving over the last few days and, hopefully, continuing to improve from here. Quite a good percentage of standover is now harvested.

Really looking for some reasonable fine weather for the near future for good harvesting conditions. Season estimates had us around 940,000 but it seems actuals are coming in a little lighter at present.

I'd like to thank the members behind the making of the show exhibit for Gympie and Maryborough shows.

Annette Bambling, Natalie and Craig Mellor, Kelly O'Farrell, Sarah Walker and others worked well to come up with a fantastic display promoting our area and industry well.



All the best for the season,

Jeff Atkinson, Chairman



MSF Sugar

Cane Supply

As of Friday, 6 July, we had crushed 136,169 tonnes of cane at a ccs average of 11.85. After some initial cane supply shortages in the first two weeks, supply has been consistent although the Sunshine Coast district has been severely hampered by rain.

Modifications to the B Double trailers appear to be successful, with neater looking deliveries, cleaner tipping and tidier trailers leaving the yard.

It is also pleasing to see the quality of loading by harvesters markedly improved from last year, however we need to avoid complacency as some spillage was beginning to emerge by the end of week 3.

Cut to estimate trends are emerging as slightly below estimate, however it is too early to interpret these.

Variety	% of Supply	CCS
Q208	31.7%	11.94
Q240	29.0%	12.02
Q232	13.0%	11.39
Q252	9.1%	12.14

Class	% of supply	CCS
Plant	11.53%	11.69
R1	10.97%	12.33
R2	12.08%	11.72
R3	13.66%	11.59
R4	6.27%	11.61
Standover	40.68%	11.91

Cane Supply Contacts (estimates, mapping etc):

Chris Coutts-Smith..... 0409 269 189

Dannielle Nitschinsk..... 0417 247 020

Don't forget that "moogle" will give you access to your specific farm data and results.



CANEGROWERS
MARYBOROUGH

& MARYBOROUGH CANE
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES

The advertisement features the Canegrowers logo at the top left, followed by the text 'CANEGROWERS INSURANCE'. Below this is a green banner with the text 'NEED INSURANCE?'. Underneath the banner, the name 'Colin Mobbs' is displayed in bold, followed by 'Authorised representative for Bundaberg, Isis & Maryborough'. Contact information includes 'M: 0418 891 783' and 'E: Colin_Mobbs@canegrowers.com.au'. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text 'Call me for a quote today!'.

Upcoming Cane industry & Local Events

July Events-

- 18th- QTA Chain of Responsibility Workshop, Brolga Theatre. Invitation enclosed.
- 22nd- Car boot sale at Maryborough Show grounds. 7:30am start.

August Events

- Thursday weekly street markets- Adelaide street, Maryborough.

September Events

- 5th- Gas field Commission workshop, Canegrowers hall Maryborough. More details to come.



Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

RSD Collection: The collection of RSD samples has progressed well this year for two key reasons (1) a reduced number of blocks being tested, due in a large part to the amount of standover cane from 2017- reduced plantings for 2018 and (2) an ever efficient effort from Craig Rowland- thank you Craig.

Levels detected: The detection rate on sample results received back from SRA is at 4.7% which is about the same as previous years when using the juice collection method. The 2018 juice is now analysed using what is known as the qPCR method- a genetic test which is much more accurate/sensitive to RSD bacteria. Samples which test positive to RSD are then checked using the ELIZA system (as in the past). After all samples are collected and analysed a final detection % will be determined.

Variety susceptibility: We have found RSD in quite a few Q240 samples- this is likely due to the amount of Q240 being tested for plants, rather than a greater susceptibility than first indicated- keeping in mind the sensitivity of the qPCR method

Surface drip irrigation: MCPS is currently assisting an Israeli company-NDrip, who will be installing two demonstration blocks soon in the Maryborough region. To be tested are the key company claims as outlined below

- System will operate efficiently on very low pressure- no pumps required apart from supplying water to 200l containers at strategic points along the edge of a field, the levels of which are kept constant, thus creating the pressure (head) from gravity
- A redesigned emitter which doesn't block up
- Soluble fertiliser can be applied
- Big reductions in water and power use

At an appropriate time field walks will be held to view and discuss the outcomes with their technical and marketing staff. They are also working on developing a bio-degradable tape

MCPS annual roving bus tour: I just wanted to say thank you to all the presenters and MSF field staff who assisted with the infield machinery demonstrations, to Cameron Waterson for his morning tea efforts, the sponsor of the morning tea- Wideland Trucks & Equipment and also to Bill Baxter and his staff for the great barbeque at the Teddington weir park. Also to the SRA people who travelled to Maryborough to help make our tour the success it was.



Group discussion on MSF farms

Frosted Cane: Recently the area experienced some cold overnight temperatures which has resulted in some lightly frosted cane, lightly meaning the growing tip (heart) has been affected (black), however upon slicing, the damage is mainly restricted to the heart with the next node being unaffected. The question has been should these small, irregular areas be harvested. Growers are encouraged to read the SRA information sheet (IS) recently e-mailed which discusses this question. As a lot of the crops at the moment are not 12 mths old and still ripening the best option may be to wait for the next eye down to shoot (already happening) and produce a leaf. This leaf will soon begin to function normally, that is contribute to the sugar accumulation in the stalk. The worst damage seen to date is generally less than in the photo below



Roy Parfitt- SRA pant breeder with “hearted cane”



Machinery Inspections-: Under the current MCPS machinery inspection arrangements, these inspections are carried out at no cost to the grower with the certificate to move machinery into other zones being issued by MCPS. This is due to our commitment to provide a service to growers and industry to try and ensure that machinery moving to other bio security zones is free of plant and soil contaminants which may carry sugarcane diseases. There is a big time commitment, especially for cane harvesters which require at least two inspections. We all understand how difficult it is to clean a harvester to the standards required by Bio Security Qld. (BQ)

While MCPS makes every effort to carry out a thorough inspection, it will be the owner's responsibility to pay any re-cleaning costs should they arise. The machinery owner and the MCPS Inspector will carry out the final inspection together and on agreeing the machine is "clean", the certificate will be issued. Alternative arrangements may be made with BQ where their inspectors will inspect the machine and issue a certificate, charging \$206.80/ hour including travel time at the same rate.

For further information please call Barry Callow on 0487017811

Thank you for your time on the phone last week regarding the new hydrogen engine we are developing. As discussed our early prototypes have worked well and we are now preparing figures for investors. We are pushing to keep manufacturing within Wide Bay. As discussed the potential applications for our engine are extremely broad.

We are currently investigating a few specific applications where our engine can be used as part of a Solar Storage system. Very basically users can use energy from solar panels to create and store their own fuel to run an engine generator at any time. At a recent meeting in Bundaberg we were advised of the sorts of power bills their local Growers cane/fruit/vegetable were facing. I have not been involved with irrigation for 15 years and was shocked by the numbers put forward. Based on the prices we have produced for other applications I am confident what we can put together a package that will be well received.

As discussed, please find attached a short questionnaire we have prepared to help quantify typical Wide Bay irrigator power usage. With this information we can design a model where the irrigator needs are met during their peak usage periods. If we can demonstrate a significant need we will be seeking Government Funding (probably on a dollar for dollar basis). The early units would be part of our R and D program and could attract a component of funding? Obviously, we will eventually distribute outside of the Wide Bay area but at this early stage we wish to keep our footprint local.



Useful Stuff

Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

- TBA - mobile 0408 740 891
- Barry Callow – Mobile 0487 017 811

Contact Canegrowers

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday: 8:30am – 4pm ○ Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm ○ Wednesday: 8:30am - 1pm ○ After 1pm Urgent matters call Cam's mobile ○ Thursday: 8:30am -- 4pm ○ Friday: 8:30am – 4pm 		Qld 4650
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