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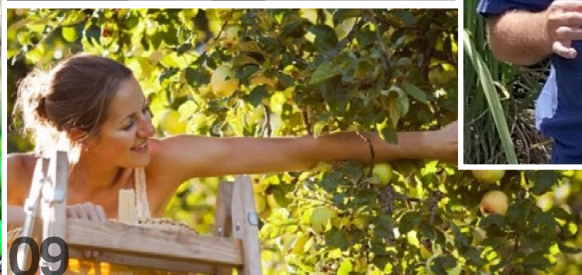
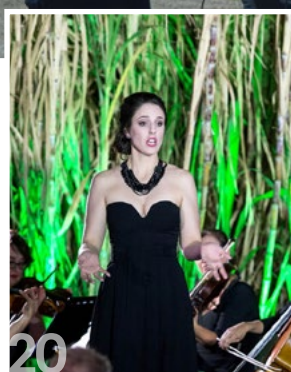
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CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri hosted the Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles on his farm to talk about Smartcane BMP. Story page 8.

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Minister pays visit to Mackay cane farm

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

The Queensland crop in the fields for season 2016 is looking quite promising. However, the official view is that the 2016 crop will be slightly down on the last year's 32.6 million tonnes of cane.

The reason for the downgrade is the long season experienced in most northern regions and the persistent dry conditions in the Burdekin District.

The Burdekin is our principal cane growing region and the lack of rain is extremely frustrating for growers there, as are the huge bills they are racking up with irrigation at a time of year when their pumps should be off. I hope by the time you read this that the Burdekin has had some meaningful rain.

Nonetheless, most growers in most regions are reporting crops growing strongly with ample rain recorded. Weather can turn on a dime, so it is far too early to make a call about our crop prospects, but it is clear that our crop is showing potential at these early stages.

Recently I had the opportunity to have a discussion with the Queensland Environment Minister **Dr Steven Miles**. He called in at my Farleigh farm to have a quick look at how far I have progressed with Smartcane BMP.

It is hardly acceptable for me as Chairman to extoll the virtues of Smartcane BMP to growers and not participate myself. I am well advanced, with my local facilitator advising that I am roughly 80% along the BMP journey.

While the Minister was looking at my cane crops, I took the opportunity to tell him that our interests and his align – we want to keep all of our nutrients and chemicals on farm to work for our crop and this is a win for the environment too.

I strongly indicated to him that environmental programs driven just by a big stick and conflict would never get a result from farmers and that cooperation through programs such as BMP is the better way.

Dr Miles, at the media conference at my home, confirmed that the Queensland Government will continue supporting the program however he was clear that rubber must hit the road and participation in BMP must go up.

In 20 years' time we will either celebrate the vision of BMP or rue the fact that we let an opportunity go by.

BMP represents an opportunity to manage our own environmental affairs. Our industry is best managed by us - not government – do not let this opportunity pass.

Contrary to the views being cast by some, you do not have to undertake BMP by keeping your records on a computer. I am collating my chemical and fertiliser records using farm maps and tables. This method is acceptable as is a printed record book. I ask you to contact your local BMP facilitator to talk through your options.

Finally, by the time this magazine reaches you, ballot papers for the CANEGROWERS elections should be headed to some mail boxes.

This election process determines who will represent your interests over the next three years.

I have constantly stated to growers that you, as growers, own the organisation. You financially support it and you are empowered to choose the leadership of CANEGROWERS. I ask all of you to participate.■



“BMP represents an opportunity to manage our own environmental affairs. Our industry is best managed by us - not government – do not let this opportunity pass.”



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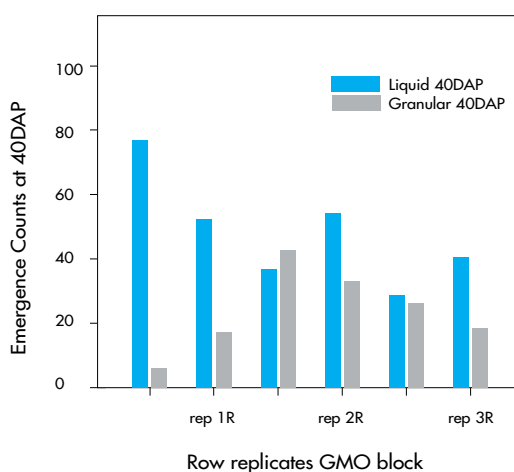
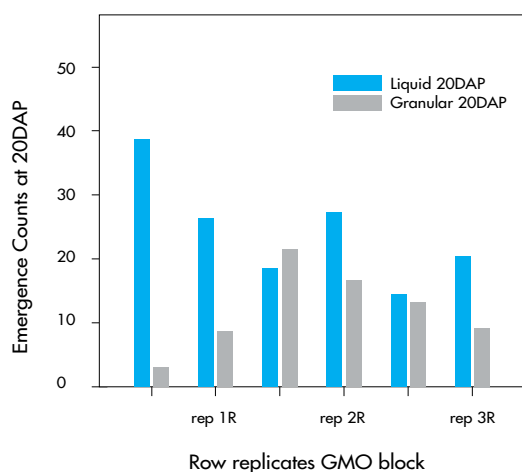
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NEWS IN BRIEF

QLD AG MINISTER BRIEFED ON SUGARCANE ISSUES

CANEGROWERS has held its first official meeting with Queensland Agriculture Minister **Leanne Donaldson** since the Bundaberg MP took over the portfolio in December 2015.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and CEO **Dan Galligan** raised the key industry issues of marketing, yellow canopy syndrome, research funding and productivity and trade challenges.

The meeting was engaging and instructive, giving the Minister a greater understanding of issues from a grower perspective.

"The Minister listened to our perspective on marketing and reiterated the government position that commercial solutions need to be found and that the current government does not support the legislation," Mr Galligan said.

"We pointed out strongly just how important the issue was for growers and why the legislative intervention was needed.

"We also reiterated that growers are looking to enter into effective commercially focused Cane Supply Agreement negotiations as soon as possible."

For an update on how the CSA process is affected by the legislation in each mill district, turn to the Spotlight article on page 6. ■



DAM WATER LEVELS

Growers have been anxiously watching dam levels in two key growing districts as the end of the traditional wet season draws closer.

Lake Kinchant near Mackay is holding 52% of its capacity an increase from 40%

a month ago but still less than half of what it held at this time last year.

The Burdekin Falls Dam is sitting at 89% of its capacity with good rainfalls lifting its level from 42% in just a month. ■



Storm clouds gather over the cane at Lethebrook, south of Proserpine, and reflect in Goose Lagoon.
Pic by Jason Quod.

REEF REGS COMPLIANCE SET TO BEGIN

Officers of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Planning are set to begin reef water quality compliance monitoring within a month.

The Department says the officers have had some training about the cane industry and will focus on the Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions from the end of March or early April.

CANEGROWERS understands that a grower will be initially contacted by telephone so arrangements can be made for a farm visit.

During the visit, the record keeping and other requirements of the regulations will be checked and discussions held on how the grower can meet any deficiencies over the next 12 months.

The officers will be encouraging growers to register with Smartcane BMP and, if already involved, to move towards accreditation.

Growers with good records that are compliant will not be a priority for any follow-up visits. Growers who are not compliant will likely be re-visited within 6-12 months.

Growers who are accredited in the three core modules of Smartcane BMP may be contacted by telephone and asked to provide evidence of their accreditation but they will not be visited by compliance officers.

CONFERENCE TO SHOWCASE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES

The sugar industry's emerging technologies will be under the spotlight when Mackay hosts the 38th annual Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference.

The three-day event at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from 27-29 April is themed Emerging Technologies in a Global Industry and will feature international speakers, presentations of technical research papers, approximately 50 trade displays, tours, and evening networking functions.

ASSCT Honorary General Secretary **Arthur Pinkney** says the event aims to help local farmers broaden their technological base to increase efficiencies and productivity within their cane farming business.

"We've sourced international guest speakers to share their experience and knowledge of emerging cane farming innovations with visitors to this year's conference," he said.

Key note speakers include **Simon Usher**, CEO of Bonsucro (an organisation based in Brazil and the UK that is dedicated to fostering the sustainability of a thriving sugarcane sector), and Executive Chairman **Pramod Chyaudhr**, of Praj Industries (a global bioenergy, renewable chemicals and environmental

technologies company in India).

Mackay Sugar's General Manager Milling Operations and 2016 conference President **Terry Doolan** said the conference is expected to draw in excess of 300 visitors.

"With the broad range of presentations on manufacturing and agricultural technologies on offer, I'm certain the conference will provide an ideal networking and learning opportunity for growers, manufacturers, practitioners and providers alike," he said.

"It's our vision that each and every attendee will gain an invigorated interest in renewable energy and technologies following this year's event."

The conference is proudly supported by WEG, Mackay Regional Council, NQEA, Mackay Sugar, Alloys International, and SB Reshellers.

For further information and bookings, visit www.assct.com.au, email assctadmin@ozemail.com.au or phone 07 4954 3956. Early bird registration discounts are available until 18 March.

CANEGROWERS 2016 ELECTION UPDATE

A strong field of grower candidates has stepped up to fill representative positions through the CANEGROWERS district boards.

When nominations closed on 19 February, names had been put forward for 82 of the 87 positions required across all districts with many new faces among the group.

CANEGROWERS congratulates everyone who has sought to take on the challenge, opportunity and responsibility of representing their fellow growers as a director within their local company.

It is a strength of the organisation that this process is open to all members.

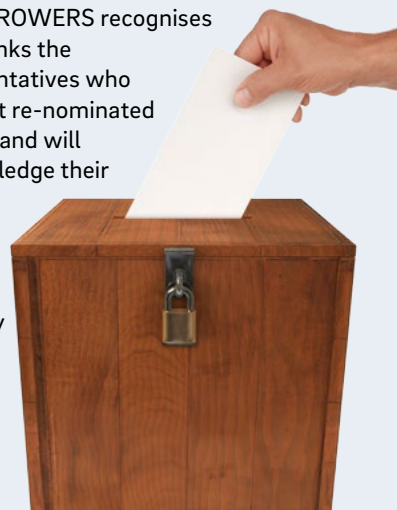
The 2016 election process has achieved its aim of increasing the number of women in representative roles within CANEGROWERS as female directors will sit on the Bundaberg, Mossman, Tableland and Rocky Point boards.

Ballot papers for the election required in the Mackay district will be posted on 18 March and will need to be returned by 13 April.

The Innisfail district will conduct its election at the Annual General Meeting in April.

From among the elected directors, a new state-wide Policy Council will form and meet in May. This Council will then elect the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Board.

CANEGROWERS recognises and thanks the representatives who have not re-nominated in 2016 and will acknowledge their service when their terms officially end in May.





Warren Males

CANEGROWERS
Head - Economics

“We have been working to understand the Act and to identify its implications for Cane Supply Agreements.”

The marketing debate and your Cane Supply Agreement

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015* received Royal Assent in December 2015 and is now law. So the big question is, what's next?

Each mill area has a Cane Supply Agreement in place for the rapidly approaching 2016 season. In all mill areas existing structures will roll forward for the season, with QSL as the marketer of Grower Economic Interest (GEI) sugar.

What about the 2017 season and beyond?

For suppliers to **Bundaberg Sugar**, **Isis Central Sugar Mill** and **Mackay Sugar**, which are the companies continuing with QSL, it is a situation of business as usual.

The five-year rolling Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) for Bundaberg Sugar makes provision for the price of cane to be based on the average price of sugar the mill receives from QSL. With Bundaberg continuing its supplier arrangement with QSL, there is no immediate need for changes to the CSA for 2017 and beyond in response to the Act.

The six-year fixed term CSA that Isis Central Mill has with its growers has another four years to run. It is usual that half way through the period the agreement is reviewed. This review is scheduled to occur after the end of the 2016 season. The Act in itself provides no reason to alter this schedule.

The Bundaberg and Isis CSAs both contain provisions that will trigger a renegotiation in the event the company decides to withdraw from QSL.

It is a similar situation in Mackay. In a joint notice to growers issued on 5 February 2016, Mackay Sugar, CANEGROWERS Mackay and ACFA indicated their support for the continuation of existing marketing arrangements.

They advised growers that there were no immediate plans to open the CSA for renegotiation, writing: “It is expected that the legislation will have no immediate impact on Mackay Sugar and its growers;

it will remain business as usual.”

Both the Cane Supply and Processing Agreement and the Raw Sugar Supply Agreement will be rolled forward.

Wilmar Sugar Australia, **MSF Sugar** and **Tully Sugar** have each given QSL notice of their intention to terminate the Raw Sugar Supply Agreement (RSSA) at the end of the 2016 season and have each given notice to growers that existing CSAs will also terminate at the end of the 2016 season.

Of these three, Wilmar has advised that the terms of the new Act are ‘complex and ambiguous’ and Tully has said that the way in which mill owners and growers are meant to deal with each other is ‘unclear’.

Both Wilmar and Tully have indicated they are not yet in a position to engage with growers on the development of future CSAs.

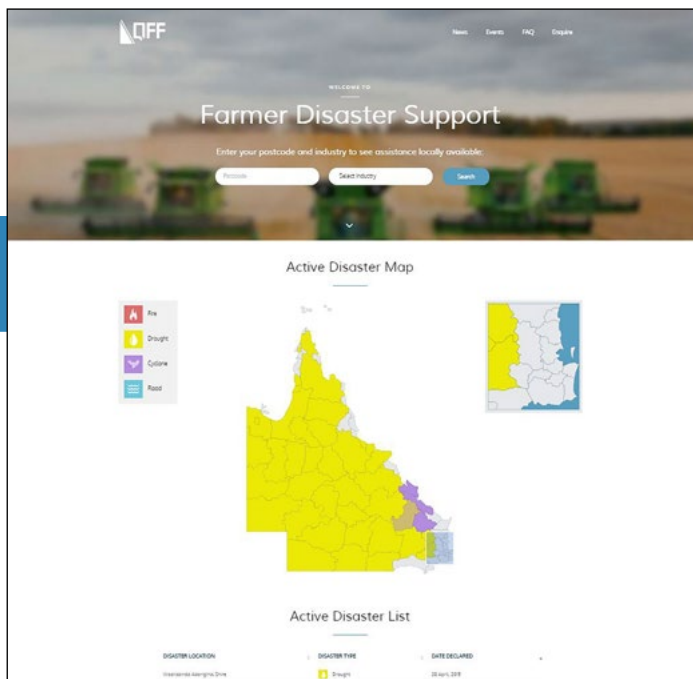
MSF Sugar has taken a different approach. It has worked with its lawyers to understand the Act and its implications and prepare itself for CSA negotiations with growers.

Like MSF, CANEGROWERS has also been working to understand the Act and to identify its implications for CSAs.

To crush growers' cane in the 2017 season Wilmar, MSF and Tully will need new CSAs with those growers.

To enable growers to choose between the mill and QSL as the marketer of GEI sugar, the CSA will need to contain, amongst other things, provisions that:

- detail information flows between mill and marketer as well as between marketer and grower, including definitions and the calculation methodology of GEI and MEI sugar, and



New disaster website

Queensland farmers are no strangers to cyclones, floods and drought. Now there's a new tool to help in the aftermath.

The weeks and months after a disaster can be confusing and overwhelming so the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has launched a new website farmerdisastersupport.org.au designed to assist farmers find localised support quickly.

Did you find your magnet at the front of the magazine? Put it somewhere handy to remind you about this service.

The website is built by industry for industry. It contains postcode specific financial and social wellbeing support for the entire Queensland agriculture sector.

The website allows farmers to type in their postcode, select their industry and see the services and programs specific to their area and event with on-farm and industry specific advice.

The site will cut through the frustration in trying to work out where to go for assistance by pulling together information from a variety of organisations and the different levels of government - freeing farmers up to concentrate on the task of rebuilding.

Everything will be up to date because the information will be managed by the QFF team.

There's also an interactive map as an easy way to navigate to areas in which a natural disaster has been declared. Because this is Queensland, we can often have a flood, a drought and a cyclone happening all at the same time!

The website's news and events blog will have up to date declarations and media articles.

QFF has worked closely with the Queensland Government and its industry member organisations, including CANEGROWERS, to ensure the service will help every farmer access the support that is available to them.

Farmerdisastersupport.org.au was constructed through funding from the Queensland Government's Department of Communities.

CANEGROWERS believes the service will be beneficial to growers next time disaster strikes, so take a moment to have a look to familiarise yourself with the layout.

Visit the website now: www.farmerdisastersupport.org.au

- describe the marketing choice and facilitate marketing decisions.

These provisions can be added with minimal changes to current Cane Supply Agreements.

These agreements will be supported by on-supply agreements between each milling company and QSL for GEI sugar which include terms relating to: title; delivery (receival) terms; insurance; quality, comingling, storage and handling; out loading; payment and pricing, pool offerings; advance payment and financing.

Cane Supply Agreements and On-Supply Agreements will both need to contain clauses that ensure growers receive the full value

of net proceeds from sale and protect mills from any financial implications of decisions made by QSL as a non-mill marketer of GEI sugar.

Reflecting its commitment to QSL as the preferred marketer for GEI sugar, CANEGROWERS is working with QSL to develop a relationship agreement that will contain CANEGROWERS' expectations of QSL in entering on-supply agreements with mills.

This agreement will include, amongst other things, the services CANEGROWERS will be seeking of QSL on behalf of members, including market information, reporting, consultation provisions and QSL's undertakings with respect of costs.

Overall, CANEGROWERS sees that the implementation of Grower Choice for growers supplying Bundaberg, Isis and Mackay is business as usual.

For growers supplying Wilmar, MSF and Tully it is envisaged Grower Choice can be provided with minimal changes to current cane supply agreements. These CSAs would be supported by on-supply agreements that deal with the GEI sugar directed to QSL and the flow of payments from QSL.



What has spread across more than half of Australia's sugarcane crops in just two years...and has growers celebrating?

Usually anything spreading like wildfire through crops has alarm bells ringing but when news came that Smartcane BMP had covered more than half of Australia's cane crop, it was cause for celebration.

The benchmarking of more than half of the sugarcane area in the best management practice program is the result of an enormous effort by growers and Smartcane BMP facilitators.

"These early adoption figures outshine any previous ventures in the industry," confirmed CANEGROWERS Chairman, Paul Schembri.

"These levels of buy-in are showing the usefulness of the program to growers on-farm and the understanding amongst farmers that this program will be essential to the success of Australia's cane growing sector into the future.

"80% of Australia's sugar is exported – so it is essential to get a robust process in place to meet the increasing demand from customers the world over for a watertight assurance that the products they buy are sustainably produced."

Growers who have benchmarked their farms in the three core modules, are moving to apply for accreditation – a process now completed by 53 cane farming businesses.

MINISTER VISITS MACKAY FARM

Paul Schembri recently showed Queensland Environment Minister Dr Steven Miles around his Farleigh farm highlighting the work growers do to improve water quality.

"Paul is leading by example, working towards Smartcane BMP accreditation along with his excellent stewardship as head of the Queensland sugar growing



"When it comes to cane farming and protecting the environment, Paul and I are of the same view."

industry's peak body," Dr Miles said.

"When it comes to cane farming and protecting the environment, Paul and I are of the same view – cane farming best management practice helps ensure industry productivity while at the same time deriving sustainability benefits that protect the Great Barrier Reef."

Dr Miles said the Queensland Government had allocated \$5.85 million for Smartcane BMP from 2014 to 2017.

In Smartcane BMP, farmers work through a process to determine if their

practices are below, at or above industry standard and identify measures to resolve any issues identified. Each district has a facilitator to assist growers.

"It can take each farm up to a couple of years to work through the process," Mr Schembri said.

"This makes the early adoption numbers particularly impressive and a real cause for celebration for the Australian sugarcane industry and for the Queensland Government." ■

Smartcane BMP

Congratulations to these newly accredited growers



Smartcane BMP congratulates these growers on their accreditation in the three core modules. From top, **Bill MacDonald** with Mackay facilitator **John Turner**, **Stephen Accatino** with Herbert River facilitator **Maria Battoraro**, **Innisfail grower Charles Giueni** and Mackay district growers **Joanne and Gerard Axiak** with facilitator **John Eden**.

BACKPACKER TAX PETITION URGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER

An online petition urging the Federal Government to reconsider its 'Backpacker Tax' gathered 26,700 signatures in its first three weeks and has continued to grow.

The petition was launched by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and its member organisations, of which CANEGROWERS is one.

It's been supported by all levels of agriculture, the tourism industry and international travellers who say they wouldn't visit if the tax comes into effect.

The 'Backpacker Tax' was announced in the 2015 budget and deems that from 1 July 2016 all working holiday makers be taxed as non-residents at a rate of 32.5% on all income.

It's feared the high rate will put young travellers off working on Australian farms where their labour is crucial at times such as fruit and vegetable harvesting.

NFF President, **Brent Finlay**, said the tax posed a serious threat to thousands of agricultural businesses.

The NFF agrees backpackers should pay tax and proposes a rate of 19%.

"While government may be set to raise \$540 million of the forward estimates through implementation of the 32.5% rate, softening this to 19% would still earn \$315.7 million directly and generate many hundreds of millions more through the ongoing success of farming operations, tourism and regional spending," he said.

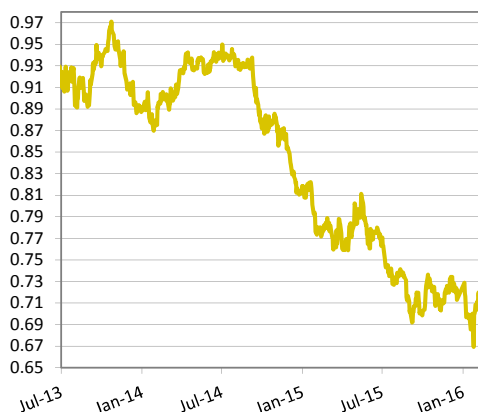
"We urge government to reconsider and to make what we see as a simple and common sense decision to help build, grow and strengthen agriculture and regional economies."

To join the petition go to:
www.change.org/p/australian-government-stop-the-backpacker-tax ■

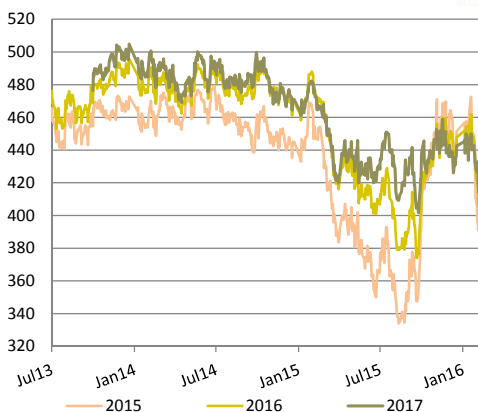
ICE No.11 Prompt Futures Contract



Australian Dollar (AUD v USD)



QSL Forward Fixed Price Contract (A\$/mt)



Data source: QSL Daily Market Report (Futures and Currency) & QSL Daily Indicative Prices

Market Update

By Shaun Tupou, Treasury Analyst

Current as of 22 February 2016

Sugar

Generally choppy with a downward bias, raw sugar futures have tossed and turned through recent support levels. Largely led by a continued macro weakness, raw sugar futures have succumbed to persistent downside pressure, with prompt contract March16 trading to a fortnight low of 12.50c/lb on Friday, following an orderly squeeze lower from the bi-weekly high of 13.56c/lb.

Much like the flat price, spread activity has softened remarkably over the course of the fortnight. The front spread, March/May, traded in from +18 points inverse to close out at -15 points carry. Despite a four-day steadying, the tighter squeeze in flat prices ultimately dragged down spreads.

The latest Commitment of Traders report was released as expected on Friday. Over the seven-day reporting period non-index funds reduced their previous 43,000-lot long position by 16,000 to sit 27,000 lots long. Market expectations would have the non-index funds at flat, considering the deterioration in flat prices since Tuesday week.

It seems the sugar market and Brazilian Real have begun to regather, with the Real slipping back above 4.00 versus the US dollar, despite trading near 3.85 levels a fortnight ago.

Elsewhere, it appears El Nino continues to cloud production in smaller producing countries. Chile and Peru have recently been added to the growing list of countries who are estimating crop reductions for the current year, while analysts are also flagging a fall in Indian production below 26 million as some regions have had to prematurely end their harvest.

Looking ahead, with the macro environment doing little to offer the market direction in the past week, a technical focus must be taken to raw sugar futures. Whilst the overall backdrop looks bullish, the near-term risk remains on the downside for sugar, with key levels around 11.50c/lb and 12.50c/lb.

Currency

It was a rocky fortnight for the Australian dollar, which traded over a 213-point range (0.6974-0.7187). Global bond and equity markets led much of the major headlines with the AUD seesawing on continued concerns of uncertainty in markets. Additionally, China was absent for an extended period of the fortnight due to Chinese New Year celebrations. Market volatility persisted despite its absence. Albeit short-lived, the AUD was driven lower by RBA speakers talking the AUD lower on Friday. A slightly weaker US Consumer Price Index print ensured the AUD was back on level terms upon opening the new week.

This week we have a few key market drivers which will hold our focus. US GDP and Consumer Confidence are expected to be lower which will add to the dull sentiment of late in the US dollar. Locally we have Private Capital Expenditure (due to be higher) which we expect to test the AUD higher.

While all care is taken in the preparation of this report the reliability or accuracy of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. 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.



Pool prices and your Advances

By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations

QSL's Advances Payment system is designed to provide cash flow to Queensland cane growers both in and out of the harvest season by paying supplying millers in regular instalments throughout the entire year.

Millers then pass these payments on to their growers through agreed local payment arrangements.

QSL pays the first Advances Payment instalment to millers when raw sugar is delivered to a bulk sugar terminal.

Due to our funding arrangements, this initial payment is subject to an upper limit of 60% of QSL's weighted average forecast final price for all pools, and is usually paid on a Wednesday for all deliveries up to midnight of the preceding Sunday.

Top-up payments are then usually made at monthly intervals based on the results of the prior month.

Because pricing of QSL's pools continues until the season finishes in June each year, a portion of each pool usually remains to be sold until May or June.

The indicative pool results used to determine advance payments are therefore a combination of the actual pricing that has been secured and an estimate of the value of pricing that remains to be undertaken in the pool concerned.

For example, at the end of January 2016 the 2015 QSL Harvest Pool was approximately 78% priced, which meant there was still 22% of the pool to be locked in to pricing.

When this pricing is undertaken depends on a combination of the pricing guidelines for the pool and when physical sugar sales have been secured (ie. sales and pricing must be aligned to the relevant ICE 11 contract).

You can't price against October if you not physically selling that sugar until June).

Until 100% of a pool's pricing is complete and the final Shared Pool result secured and applied to all pools, the final result of each pool is unknown.

But in order to value the pool for advance payments, QSL must make an estimate.

To achieve an indicative value for each QSL pool, the pricing that has not been undertaken is valued at what is known as a mark to market.

This means that if 22% of the pool is unpriced, this portion of the pool is valued at whatever the spot sugar price is on an assigned day, usually the final day of the month prior to payment.

If the market improves, there is a possibility the pricing yet to be undertaken will actually be done at a higher rate, increasing the indicative pool price and its subsequent final result.

However, if ICE 11 prices are falling, the pool values can reduce further as the actual pricing achieved may be lower than the mark-to-market estimate.

In short, the pool price is variable until the end of the season and all pool marketing and pricing activities are completed.

But we need to draw a line in the sand in order to come to a value to base the Advances on – hence the use of "mark to market".

Current market impact on Advances

During recent months the ICE 11 market has experienced considerable volatility. As four months remain in the 2015 season, QSL still has sugar to price and so the mark-to-market values used to determine QSL's indicative pool prices reflect the current low ICE 11 prices.

As a result, QSL's 2015 Indicative Pool Prices have reduced in recent months and advance payments based on these have also decreased accordingly.

Growers conducting individual grower pricing will have also noticed that the advance rates based on their pricing may also have fallen, as many growers have avoided pricing at recent prices.

While QSL has the ability to and does adjust the Advances rates to try and maintain cash flow to growers, to increase the payment rate in a falling price environment increases the risk of potential overpayment.

This issue is just one of the factors the QSL Board considers when it reviews the indicative Advances rates each month.

Other considerations when determining the Advances rate include expected cash flow from shipments of raw sugar to customers, expected rates of deliveries from suppliers to bulk sugar terminals, margin calls QSL may need to pay on forward pricing and QSL's available borrowing facilities

While QSL aims to provide as much payment as possible as early as possible, it must also manage the risk that growers are not overpaid based on an indicative Advances rate that leaves no room for adjustment, particularly in a falling market.

For full details of how much remains to be priced in each QSL Pool and an estimate of how future movements in the ICE 11 and our exchange rate could change the final value of each pool, just click on the pool prices on the QSL homepage (www.qsl.com.au) to be redirected to a detailed matrix for each pool. ■

SPRAYING MANTIS

helps Wet Tropics weed management

By Gavin Rodman, Adoption Support Officer, SRA Tully

Mulgrave growers **Mark, Chris** and **Tony Rossi** decided that in order to not get caught out with their spraying, they needed a machine that could cover a lot of ground while the conditions allowed it.

Farming in the Wet Tropics can be a tricky task, particularly when it comes to getting the job done before the next shower of rain.

Because of the weather constraints as well as other issues they had identified, Mark, Chris and Tony need the right machine to do the job.

They didn't believe there was a suitable machine available so they designed and built one themselves.

"In the Wet Tropics we have limited windows for spraying," says Tony.

"It rains a lot up here so we need to get across a lot of our country quickly.

"We find that we can get over 80 to 90 acres (32-36 ha) a day with this machine."

The Spraying Mantis is a rear steer, three wheel hydraulic driven machine

with a turning circle no bigger than the machine itself.

The wheel spacing is easily adjusted to accommodate different row spacing through a parallelogram-type system.

This parallelogram system can alter the wheel spacing from 1.67m centres to 1.37m with a shorter wheel base allowing it to cross bridges and narrow drain crossings.

The operator can see what the wheel spacing is by a simple visual tube gauge in the cab.

The Spraying Mantis has mid-mounted spray booms which Mark says helps with spraying the ends of rows as only half of the machine needs to enter the paddock.

Having the mid-mounted booms also allows the booms and jets to be visible from the cab.

The booms are operated by foot controls in the cab, leaving the operator's hands free for speed, steering and boom height control which is adjusted hydraulically by a switch.

There are six jets on either side of the machine, allowing the Spraying Mantis to cover seven interspaces with each pass.

On each side, three air-induced nozzles connect to the top 1,000 litre tank which is used for chemicals like 2,4,D and three air-induced nozzles connect to the bottom 1,000 litre tank which can be used for chemicals such as paraquat and atrazine.

Chemicals are added to the tanks via a separate chemical mixing hopper with a quick connector on the rig, improving operator safety. ►

"In the Wet Tropics we have limited windows for spraying. It rains a lot up here so we need to get across a lot of our country quickly."





Caption: Tony, Mark and Chris Rossi (above) designed and built a spraying machine to fit their specific needs. The Spraying Mantis (below) is three-wheel drive and its tanks are filled via a quick connector and valves (below).

A Raven SCS 4600 controller allows application rates to be maintained independent of travel speed.

Different spray rates can also be set for the same travel speed.

The next step is to fit the spray rig with GPS and auto steer system.

By being able to cover large areas in less than favourable ground conditions, the

Spraying Mantis has given the Rossis more time to concentrate on other on-farm operations within the limited periods of fine weather.

"I think we just needed to build our own machine to make it suit," says Chris.

"We used the old farmer know-how and made it how we wanted it."

For more information contact Mark Rossi 0408 770 218. ■





Less water more often means more cane and less runoff

“With the centre pivot with low pressure, we should get minimal runoff.”

By John Flynn

A \$15 million project to improve water use efficiency and boost productivity is taking shape in the Maryborough district. CANEGROWERS Maryborough Director **Allen Birt** is among the farmers to benefit.

Ten kilometres south of Maryborough and parked at the top of a small ridge, the nine span, 450 metre-long Zimmatic low pressure overhead centre pivot irrigator was hard to miss against a backdrop of thriving cane fields.

“The 2015 season in Maryborough is one of the biggest crops for at least a decade,” Allen Birt told *Australian Canegrower* at the 105 hectare farm that he leases from MSF Sugar.

“The crop’s come off about 101% of estimate.”

It could be a taste of things to come if, as expected, the rollout of 40 new centre pivot irrigators in the district by miller MSF Sugar delivers the anticipated boost in productivity over coming seasons.

Allen’s lease farm was one of the first to have a centre pivot commissioned as part of the project.

The irrigation upgrade included construction of a new pumping shed and an increase to the farm’s irrigation/recycling dam.

Described by Allen as ‘marginal’ cane land, the sandy soil farm immediately west of Tinana Creek had previously been irrigated with water winches. It’s a technology which proved to be less than ideal given the soil tends to compact quickly when watered and has limited water holding capacity.

“The surface does seal up and even with a trash blanket, the water runs off with a high pressure system,” Allen explained.

“With a centre pivot with low pressure, we should get minimal runoff.”

Keeping water on the farm means costly inputs such as fertiliser stay with the crop and don’t wash into waterways and the ocean.

Making the switch to a technology that can irrigate the crop more gently, ►

Caption: A nine span low pressure overhead irrigator has been installed on a farm CANEGROWERS Maryborough director Allen Birt leases from MSF Sugar.



This on farm story has been brought to you by the **RWUE program**



more consistently and with less time between irrigation events is also sure to boost productivity.

Not only that, it will also deliver an environmental dividend in substantially reducing the risk of nutrient runoff.

“The crop’s come off about 101% of estimate.”

“I’m expecting to increase yield,” Allen explained. “I average just around 70 tonnes a hectare at the moment which I averaged over the past ten years.

“The biggest thing is that it’s only marginal soil and it’s not as fertile as river flats or red soil, I can put water on and top the soil profile up all the time.

“I’m hoping that I’ll get around the 90-odd tonne to the hectare average across the whole farm - that’s not just under the centre pivot because I’ll be able to water more efficiently right across the whole farming operation.”

The centre pivot system will take two days to walk around the property and, based upon the experience of other farmers already using overhead centre pivot systems, Allen is anticipating watering the 70 hectares beneath the pivot twice a week, or as needed, with an application of 20-25 mls per irrigation event.

“Because of the ease of irrigating, you top the profile up before it dries out,” Allen said. “I’ll start irrigating earlier and only put small amounts of water on.”

The farm’s water supply is drawn from the nearby Tinana Creek barrage, with water pumped at a rate of 75 litres per second over a distance of 1.1 kilometres.

To cater for the centre pivot irrigator, an upgrade of the farm’s irrigation/ recycling dam was required to ensure there was enough water available, both for the pivot to complete a circuit of the farm and for the high pressure system to operate on the remaining 35 hectares not being serviced by the overhead system.

The dam was excavated to give it a ten megalitre holding capacity but it will still be a juggling act to operate the low pressure and high pressure systems at the same time without draining the reservoir.

Nonetheless, there will be significant energy savings given two thirds of the farm is now using the more energy efficient low pressure irrigation system.

“Under the high pressure system I’ve got the 75 kilowatt motor to deliver the water to the farm, then we boost it with 45 kilowatt motors for the high pressure system,” Allen said.

“I’ll still be having the creek pump deliver water to the farm, but for the centre pivot the area that was serviced by two high pressure systems I’ll only have one pump and it’s going to be 90 horsepower.

“So there is an energy saving there plus then there is going to be efficiencies in the farming operation where I don’t have to change irrigators or employ people to change irrigators and get better use of water too - that’s the big thing.”

As the rollout of the \$15 million low pressure overhead centre pivot irrigation project continues, the CANEGROWERS Maryborough director believes there will be mutual benefits, for growers and the miller in the years ahead, helping secure a reliable ongoing source of sugarcane for the mill and a future for the industry.

“Definitely it’s a two-way street, the mill has to have cane but the farmers have got to be viable to keep growing cane,” Allen said. ■

Watch our Virtual Bus Tour to the Birt farm

www.youtube.com/canegrowers



MT KELLY FARMER SEES LIQUID FUTURE FOR THE BURDEKIN

Supplied by Liquaforce

While the Burdekin broils in the summer heat, Mt Kelly cane farmer **Denis Pozzebon** has one eye scouring the sky for rain and the other looking out for innovation and practical ideas that lighten the burden of farming in the 21st century.

The Smartcane BMP-accredited* farmer believes liquid fertiliser is the way of the future, providing a cost-effective, reef and water-ways friendly method of putting the right amount of fertiliser right where it is needed, without waste and polluting run-off.

He changed from granular fertiliser about four years ago and last year planted with PlantStarter Burdekin 15, a new custom blend specifically designed for the region by Liquaforce, a subsidiary of Ingham-based Liddle & Sons.



Caption: Burdekin grower Denis Pozzebon has used a new liquid fertiliser designed for his region.

"I wanted a different fertiliser with a higher analysis for my cane and Liddles came up with this brew," Denis said.

"I won't be harvesting this block until August but at planting time I noticed a difference in tillering, I got a better strike rate and within a month of planting the cane was looking better than previous plantings."

Denis said the 120ha farm his father began working more than 60 years ago has three different soil types, ranging from clay through to silt and sand.

"I contacted Liddles because I wanted to get the right analysis for my strike rate on the sandy soil. Cameron Liddle brought the Liquaforce down from Ingham and the service has been phenomenal.

"The good thing about liquid fertiliser is the convenience – you can apply what you want, when you want. It is much easier to apply than granular fertiliser and it saves time.

"You don't have to worry about rain, fertiliser chutes clogging up, or fertiliser falling out on the road when you leave the paddock. It's safer than working with fertiliser bags and there's no loss.

"The fertiliser is directed at the stick, which will take it up virtually as soon as it sends out new roots. It is available to the stick quicker, and there is more value for money in that.

"It's another help, another tool that farmers can use and I believe it's a benefit to us. A lot of farmers, when they are talking dollars and cents can't see past the cents.

"It might cost a little more but I gain through getting the proper analysis for my soil. I wanted a starter application and Liquaforce had the brew that I wanted."

Denis is also planning on using Liquaforce growth stimulant.

"I asked Cameron whether they could apply more kelp to their growth stimulant for my needs and they are happy to do that," he said.

"I know he is coming out with a couple of different products and I am hoping it will take off in the Burdekin.

"I definitely think it is the way of the future. You go down south and you see a lot more liquid being used on crops."

Liquaforce general manager Cameron Liddle said granular and liquid fertiliser trials carried out over 12 months at three test sites near Ingham by the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture and the University of Southern Queensland had proved that liquid fertilisers provided improved crop quality, greater yields, faster strike rate and better environmental management outcomes.

"Burdekin 15 is a unique mix of nitrogen, phosphorous and growth stimulants developed in the north for local conditions to ensure these nutrients deliver a faster strike rate and greater shoot length at the critical early stage of growth," he said.

"Farming practices have never been as closely scrutinised as they are today, particularly as the State Government looks to manage run-off reduction from farms as part of the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef.

"Liquaforce is about helping growers in the sugar industry achieve best practice in production and, ultimately, best returns."■

** The Smartcane BMP program does not endorse any particular products and encourages all farmers to evaluate for themselves the products, processes and practices which work best on their farms.*

Mineral Mulch makes economic sense

Supplied by Rob Howe, Mineral Mulch

Mineral Mulch is a sustainable soil amendment product containing much needed soluble plant-available silicon and calcium silicate.

Last year's results from replicated field trials showed that Mineral Mulch delivers significant increases in cane yield and stalk height when applied at a rate of 6 tonnes/hectare, with no loss of sugar content.

The requirement for a silicon fertiliser supplement can be reliably indicated by soil or leaf analysis.

"Around 30% of soils in most sugarcane regions of Queensland are candidates for silicon supplements," wrote Dr Graham Kingston.

Research in Australia has shown that supplementation with silicon will deliver increased yield responses between 0% and 45%, with the average at 16%.

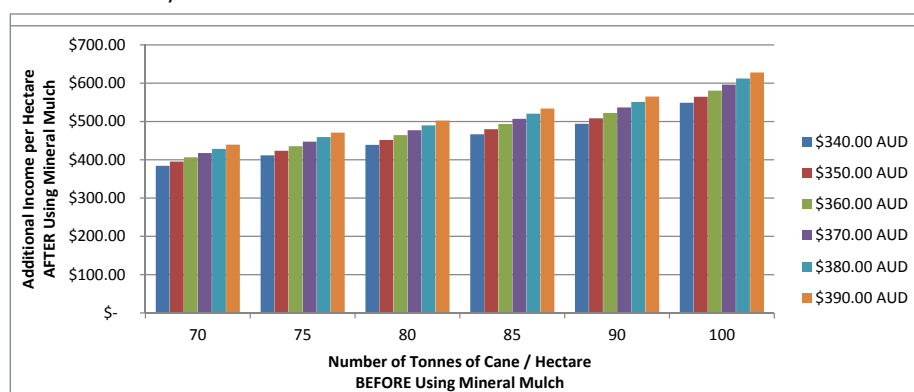
The graph shows the additional income per hectare, based on an average yield response of 16% and a CCS of 15.

The sugar price per tonne (AUD) is shown in the legend on the right for each comparison.

As an example, a property may be producing 80 tonnes of cane per hectare prior to the application of Mineral Mulch.

After the application of Mineral Mulch at an average yield response of 16%, a CCS of 15 and a sugar price of \$350.00 per tonne, that property would have an increased income of over \$450.00 per hectare.

To give Mineral Mulch a go and see the results for yourself, give Rob (0447 888 018) or Wendy (0447 888 029) a call, or send an email to info@mineralmulch.com for further information.



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SO YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN OVERCHARGED?

Here's what to do next...



CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor **Chris Cooper** is regularly contacted by growers with complaints about being overcharged for mechanical repairs on vehicles or farm equipment. Here he outlines a number of steps that could help resolve the issue.

NON-LEGAL OPTIONS:

Problems with bills for services can become quite complex and expensive to resolve if legal steps are taken.

In most cases, it may be better to try and sort the dispute out through these non-legal options.

DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION

Usually the best way to resolve a dispute is by direct discussions and negotiations with the repairer. If you don't get anywhere with the mechanic who did the repairs, seek to speak with the manager and the business owner.

LETTER OF DEMAND

If discussions don't resolve the dispute, send the repairer a letter or email setting out the details of your complaint, what you propose as a solution and also specify a time period in which you want to reach agreement – say seven days.

CANEGROWERS

Seek assistance from your local CANEGROWERS office which may be able to help bring some pressure to bear on the repairer and provide further

advice. CANEGROWERS can also provide free legal advice about options and rights.

INDUSTRY BODY

In some cases repairers will be members of an industry body such as the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTAQ). This body has dispute resolution processes for complaints involving its members. Making a complaint to such an industry body may push the issue along.

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

The next step would be to make a formal complaint to Office of Fair Trading Queensland. This body is part of the Queensland Government and its role includes helping consumers of services, such as repair services, receive information about their rights as consumers and resolving disputes with repairers.

The Office of Fair Trading has the authority to investigate the complaint and seek to resolve the complaint between you and the repairer.

The Office of Fair Trading does not have the power to issue binding orders but it can and does conciliate between the

parties. It will act as an intermediary between you and the repairer and try to find a resolution to the dispute.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

There are State Government Dispute Resolution Centres located in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Pinalba and Brisbane.

These centres offer free services and information, including free mediation of commercial disputes. Mediation helps to resolve disputes without going to court.

An independent person can be appointed as mediator who, at no cost, will try and help the parties to the dispute reach an agreement.

LEGAL OPTIONS AND RIGHTS

Unfortunately not all disputes can be resolved through non-legal avenues. Consumers of repair services are entitled to take their dispute to final determination through legal action in the relevant court or tribunal.

The following items generally explain the legal rights that might seek to be enforced by a grower who has been overcharged. ►

CONTRACT

The engagement of a repairer to carry out mechanical repairs is really a contract for services between the customer and the repairer. Normal rules around contracts and contract law will apply and the terms and conditions of the contract are really what is agreed between the customer and the repairer.

QUOTE OR ESTIMATE

Whilst in some cases there may be no written contract, in many cases an estimate or quote will be given. It is very important to understand the difference between these two terms.

A quote generally is fixed and binding and if a quote is accepted then the repairer is bound to carry out the repairs for the quoted price and the customer is required to pay the quoted price. If only an estimate is provided then usually the repairer is not bound by it and may change the price depending on the terms of the estimate.

QUANTUM MERUIT

This is a latin term which essentially means 'the amount he deserves' or 'what the job is worth'. Even if there is no formal or written contract, or additional work is done outside the contract, or the contract itself is not valid for some reason, in many situations a repairer will be able to make a claim for cost of repairs based on a quantum meruit claim. A quantum meruit claim is based on what is a reasonable charge. What is reasonable will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.

MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE CONDUCT

In some cases, a dissatisfied customer can object to the charges claimed by the repairer on the basis of misleading and deceptive conduct. If the repairer made certain representations, such as the likely cost of the repairs, or the time to do the job, or the repairers ability to do the job properly, and these turn out to be grossly incorrect, then it may be that the charges can be challenged because of the misleading and deceptive statement or conduct of the repairer.

NEGLIGENCE

In some cases, if an estimate is given

but the final charges are substantially in excess of the estimate, then it might be argued that the initial estimate was given negligently and the customer might be able to challenge the charge. It might be arguable that the repairer failed in the repairer's duty to give a reasonable estimate and/or failed to discuss the options when it became apparent that the estimate was wrong.

CONSUMER GUARANTEES AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Under Australian consumer law, where a customer buys certain services such as mechanical repair services, those services are often required to be supported by consumer guarantees. All businesses must guarantee their services, including repair services that are:

- *under \$40,000 in value; or*
- *over \$40,000 that are usually bought for personal or household use.*

These guarantees are automatic and apply regardless of any other warranties or contract terms the repairer might offer. If these consumer guarantees are not met the consumer has in most cases the right to:-

- a. *a refund, repair or replacement;*
- b. *cancel a service;*
- c. *compensation for loss or damage.*

The three consumer guarantees for services are:-

- a. *The business must provide the service with care and skill. The business must take care to avoid loss and damage and meet a reasonable level of skill or knowledge.*
- b. *The business must provide the service that is fit for purpose. That is, the service must achieve the results you want and request.*
- c. *The business must provide the service within a reasonable time.*

If consumer guarantees apply then a consumer can enforce them by legal action. Often a better approach though in these circumstances, before embarking on legal proceedings, will be to complain to the Office of Fair Trading which can investigate consumer complaints and assist in resolving them.

As can be seen there are a wide variety of options available to resolve disputes about repair costs. Try and resolve the issue with the repairer directly first. If unsuccessful, consider the non-legal options then before embarking on the legal options which can be stressful, expensive and uncertain in outcome. In some cases though, legal action is the only available option and various courts and tribunals can hear such disputes and make binding orders. ■

How to avoid being overcharged

Resolving a dispute over a mechanical repair bill can be time-consuming and distressing. The best approach is to try and avoid a dispute in the first place.

Here are some tips to consider:

- *Use an experienced and reputable repairer.*
- *Check if the repairer is a member of a respected industry organisation such as the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTAQ).*
- *Fully disclose and discuss the nature of the repairs required.*
- *Ask for a detailed quote or estimate and, if possible, seek a fixed price quote (which is likely to be binding rather than an estimate which is not).*
- *Obtain more than one quote or estimate so you can compare.*
- *Discuss and understand any possible add ons or extra costs. Discuss and agree that you be consulted before any extra work is done.*
- *Check the main terms and conditions of any contract.*
- *Authorise all repairs that are to be carried out.*
- *Beware of open-ended arrangements without a fixed price. If these can't be avoided, insist on consultation and authorisation before further works are carried out. Have this requirement noted on your quote/estimate or job card.*
- *Insist on a detailed itemised account.*



New rural jobs network

Queensland Agriculture Minister **Leanne Donaldson** says rural employers and job seekers will benefit from a new partnership between government and industry called the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (QAWN).

"A series of industry-based officers will be working throughout the state to help employers better understand local employment and training options," Ms Donaldson said.

The organisations involved are CANEGROWERS Mackay, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association and Growcom.

"We recognise that for many rural agricultural businesses labour supply issues are a real barrier to prosperity and we have forged a partnership with industry groups to tackle those issues," Ms Donaldson said.

"QAWN officers will identify labour and skills gaps, provide information on educational and employment pathways and guide employers to the service providers and funding sources that can help them grow."

The officers will also work with regional employment and training services providers to ensure they understand the

needs of agricultural employers and best match job seekers with vacancies.

"This is another element in a Queensland Government package of rural jobs initiatives that includes the Queensland Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance, industry to schools programs and support for agriculture industries to address labour shortages and skills gaps," Ms Donaldson said.

"The aim is to build greater capacity by supporting the attraction, retention and development of agricultural workers, with a particular emphasis on activities that consider the unique needs of our regions and rural communities."

The network will operate until the end of 2017, during which time its contribution to agricultural production will be monitored and evaluated.

Pictured (L-R): Far North Qld, Leanne Kruss; Southern Qld, Janne Dipple; South East Qld, Michelle Templin; Agriculture Minister Leanne Donaldson; Wide Bay Burnett, Kylie Jackson; South Burnett, Stephanie Denman; Central Qld, Janice Nelson; North Qld, Bianca Fullarton.

We recognise that for many rural agricultural businesses labour supply issues are a real barrier to prosperity.

SINGING IN THE CANE

Sugarcane farming has inspired a few musical items over the decades but probably never before has it provided the setting and inspiration for an opera.

For the past five years, a professional arts production company based in Bundaberg has been developing a new opera called *The Crushing*.

It's set on a sugarcane farm and is described as a mythological story written by Rod Ainsworth and composed by Peter Rankine (who calls Bundaberg home).

The company behind the project is Creative Regions. It's planning to produce the opera in both Bundaberg and Brisbane in October 2016.

The opera will be combined with a gourmet menu designed from the themes of the opera and using all local produce.

It'll be launched in Brisbane as part of the Regional Flavours event at South Bank and it's hoped it will drive tourism traffic north to Bundaberg.

The Creative Regions Team says it takes a community to make a piece of art and its hoping to gather support from industry and art lovers alike – as donors, sponsors and project champions (who can pre-purchase tickets).

"If you believe the project might assist, as we hope it will, to promote the sugar and associated food and beverage industries of the region, maybe this is for you," they say.

For further information visit the website www.creativeregions.com.au ■



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In addition to calculating the most important atmospheric readings, the Kestrel 4000, like all Kestrel Meters, also provides minimum, maximum and average values and has the ability to graph and track trends over time.

The Kestrel 4000 measures:

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KESTREL 3500 DT \$395 plus postage (was \$495.00)

The Kestrel 3500 DT was designed specifically to meet the needs of agricultural professionals who require accurate, fast Delta T readings. This is the difference between the Dry-bulb and the Wet-bulb temperature, a measurement which plays a major role in thermal drift, which is a result of unstable meteorological conditions.

Farmers also know it is critical to measure relative humidity, wind speed and wind direction, as this ensures safety and effectiveness in spraying. Many locales regulate the maximum permitted wind speed during spraying to minimise spray drift.

The Kestrel 3500 DT measures the following:

- Air, water and snow temperature
- Altitude
- Current / Average / Maximum (gust) wind speed
- Delta T reading
- Dew point
- Maximum wind gust
- Relative humidity
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CASE 8800 Chopper Drums only cut 1 season. Ph: 0427 163 748

SLIP on crop divider shoes to suit a 3520, as new condition \$2000+ ONO. Ph: 0409 912 062

TOFT/CASE 15' 8 blade chopper drums, new, genuine - \$5000 +GST. New 3510/3520 8-blade chopper drums \$4500 +GST. Used 3510/3520 8 blade chopper drums (no hardfacing) \$500 +GST. HBM billet planter. Ready for work, stainless fert boxes, gate, taper lock sprockets, very tidy unit \$15000 inc GST. Ph: 0427 554 526

HARD HOSE, Idrofoglia 400 metres 140 hose with computer, variant gun and pump to pump water out of hose, excellent condition. \$45000+gst. Ph: 0419954486

1989 JOHN DEERE air cab 2wd 4055. Very Good Condition. \$15,500 + GST. 1981 John Deere Rops 4wd 2140. VGC. \$15,000 +GST. 1994 Ford 8340 4wd SLE. \$9,500 +GST. 1995 Ford 8340 4wd SLE. \$16,000 +GST. Massey Ferguson 188. VGC. \$7500 +GST. Ph: 0418 185 064

Herbert River – Burdekin

CASE 7700 harvester 03, in good condition, 2,000 hours on engine with spare 10.3 Iveco engine. Ph: 0417 749 353

NEWTON TIPPER, 10 tonne, coupled to JD6810. Ph: 0417 641 307

INTERNATIONAL E-200 Pay Scraper, good tyres, elevator broken, engine not 100%, good transmission and diff. - \$5000 ono. Nissan Pulsar 02 manual 1.8Q 246k, good tyres, vgc - \$4000 ono. Ph: 0437 346 341

Fiat tractor 650. Good tyres, runs well. \$8500.00 inc gst. Ph: (07) 4776 1386

PRIME MOVER International 2670 1982 model, McGrath 40ft trailer. Ph: 07 4776 6249

Mackay – Proserpine

12T SELF-PROPELLED 6x6 elev infielder VGC. 6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem GC. Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mason 9550 4-row precision vacuum seed planter GC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

6500 TOFT cane harvester, Good Condition, \$60,000. Ph: 0458 525 310

MASSEY FERG 168 8-speed, tyres 50%, rops good order \$6500+GST ONO Ph 0417 615 250

SET OF TYRES, rims & centres to suit New Holland 18.4/42 rads 80% tread \$2,500 incl. 3 conveyor belts 1,600wide, 15mms thick, approx roll lengths 66m, 130m, 163m - \$8/m. Ph: 0427 587 945

FORD COURIER turbo diesel 4x2 steel tray immaculate one owner \$9750. phone 0438162972

S/CROSS LAH turbine pump. 7 stage S/S shaft & bronze impeller & bowls complete with Star Delta starter & 40hp electric motor coupled to S/Cross drive head & discharge head. Ph: 0407 595 218

Valtra 6400 4WD Tractor - 100HP, Air-Con Cab, 2004 Model. 3700 Hours. Good Condition. \$30 000. (incl GST) ONO. Ph: 0418710958 / 49503048.

20 Plate Drag offset - \$1000 plus GST ONO. Ph: 0418 710 958.

New 6 tonne Jones Engineering RH Tipper Bin. 23-1-26 Tyres, tractor remote hydraulics, high lift rams & stabilizing foot ram. Mounted on semi-trailer axle to main frame by U clamps Universal hitch to fit draw bar - \$12,000. Ph: 0427 873 184

FORD 5000 + Newton 4-tonne side tipper \$12,000 + gst. Ph 0437 184 822

1 SET 24 plate 26" disc wheeled Gibbin Rowllins offsets, with scraper bar. Always shedded A1 cond. Shredder off Toft 98 wheeled machine less the 2 gathering motors. GC. PH: 0428 591 048

M135 Ritchie Bin Single Six Sidetipper @ 8,500 Hrs in good condition \$40,000 + GST. Chopper boxes to suit a 2500 Cameco, \$2500 +GST. Ph: 0409 271 446

Bundaberg – Rocky Point

DROP-DECK, tautliner and flat top extendable for hire. 07 4159 8174 or 0417 004 717.

Classifieds

K LINE SPEEDTILLERS for hire, efficient tillage implement, phone AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869 www.agquiphire.com.au

High-rise spray tractor – 7 row folding boom, G International 756, 100hp power unit, 2 x 600L Hardi tanks, strong well-built frame, can be disassembled for transport. Ph: 0417 764 952

91 AUSTOFT leg box vertical arm primary extractor, plastic hoods, shredder topper, vgc \$60,000 +gst. ph 0407398852 0408964516.

SHREDDER topper (Cantrell) to suit Austoft 7000, needs work \$1500 plus gst. Ph: 0408 062 830

RIMS AND TYRES x 2 to suit Austoft 7000, size 14x17.5 - \$500 plus gst. Ph: 0408 062 830

Cane Harvester – Modified 4000 Corradini – rotating extractor hoods, primary and secondary. The latest 6000 epi-cycles, Austoft shredder topper, front end 7000, good condition. For sale or parts. Ph: 0427 598 333

Howard HR40 Rotary hoe, 120 inch Howard 4-furrow square plough. All good condition. Wrecking International 866 + 566 tractors. Ph: 0438 997 118

95 FULLTRACK cane harvester, good order - \$70,000, case planter \$22,000, prices incl GST, HBM single planter bin. Ph: 0427 589 219

Wanted

FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

TRACTOR TYRES of all sizes. 0418 775 698 all hours.

YEOMAN or Gesner 11 or 13 tyne ripper. Phone 0419710280

O'BRIEN 3.5 metre wide ejector laser bucket or similar. Phone 0419710280

PROSERPINE AREA

10 TONNE BSM style side tipper or similar. Ph: 0418 798 955

Side tipper for planting, doubles or triples, in fair condition. Ph: 0419 771 504

Parts for an A16 or a complete Holder tractor, model number A16. Ph: 0428 712 368.

Bonel single row billet planter, Hodge wide mouth whole stick plant cutter in good condition Ph: 0427 583 277

Positions Vacant

BUNDABERG/AVONDALE AREA - Harvester driver. Experience preferred. Phone Charlie on 0413 698 922.

CONDONG AREA NSW - Sugarcane harvesting bin driver req. Harvesting, mechanical & management skills an advantage. Full-time position for 2016 season & beyond, with prospect of future full-time harvester driver position and management. Applications to jschiller1@bigpond.com

Work Wanted

FARM MANAGER seeking a job to grow cane and manage the day to day duties of a cane farm. Ph: 0456 977 181 or email deon.barnard@mail.com

BURDEKIN AREA - Cane harvester driver seeking work for 2016 season. Experienced. Ph 0477 000 498

MACKAY AREA - Experienced harvester operator seeking full time position, experienced in all aspects of harvesting and farming. Ph 0437 673 367

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January
	7 days to 9am 04.01.16	11.01.16		
Mossman	143	0	143	450
Mareeba AP	55	19	74	203
Cairns	112	3	115	385
Mt Sophia	74	9	83	503
Babinda	190/10	0	0	633
Innisfail	171	18	189	504
Tully	98	1	99	598
Cardwell	87	31	118	435
Lucinda	77	0	77	372
Ingham	58/8	Tce	0	372
Abergowrie	32	1	33	335
Townsville	83	13	96	269
Ayr DPI	96	23	119	210
Proserpine	152	34	186	297
Mirani	37	50	87	326
Mackay	52	32	84	278
Sarina (Plane Ck)	48	39	87	362
Bundaberg	2	128	130	172
Childers South	0.2	36	36	125
Maryborough	0	54	54	163
Tewantin	1	43	44	218
Eumundi	0	74	74	228
Nambour	2	54	56	230
Woongoolba	39/11	0	0	164
Murwillumbah	21	30	51	198
Ballina	40	30	70	179
Woodburn	3	36	39	142



**AustSafe
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fund for rural and
regional Australia.

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 provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

BURDEKIN AREA - Harvester or Haul out operator for the early planting season, many years' experience driving both, HR license, GPS experience, own vehicle, can provide own tools, trade qualified boilermaker. Phone Dan on 0424 243 461 or email Bilby81@yahoo.com.au

BURDEKIN AREA - Seeking full-time farmhand work or haulout job for 2016, have HR license, forklift license, white card and chemical accreditation. Ph: 0417 682 797 or email jgreco127@yahoo.com.au

TULLY / INNISFAIL AREA - Harvester contractor available for 2016 cane season. Looking for farmers interested in smaller Group (80,000 tonne max). 0418 183 584

INGHAM / AYR / TULLY AREA - Seeking haulout position. 11 years experience - including driving 5 tonne side tippers, 8 tonne carta tippers, 14 tonne carta tippers and powerhauls 8 tonne tippers. Have a UD licence. Ph: 0478 701 097

Property

MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay suppling Mackay Sugar. High rainfall area and endless potential for diversification. House and garage, equipped irrigation system, shed, machinery and equipment. Ph: 0407 157 792

MACKAY: 422 hectares, cattle and cane. Huge supply of water, absolutely drought-proof property, 120 mega-litre water license, right on the coast. Ph: 0407 157 792

HERBERT RIVER: Cane farm 60.73ha with machinery and 4 bedroom dwelling at 194 Lannercost Ext Rd, Ingham Ph. 40454321

ABERGOWRIE cane farm for sale - Tarakan Rd, 270 acres all freehold, sell as one or in separate lots, 2016 crop not included. Interested persons please Ph 4777 4633





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