

New Cane Supply Agreements provide for grower marketing choice

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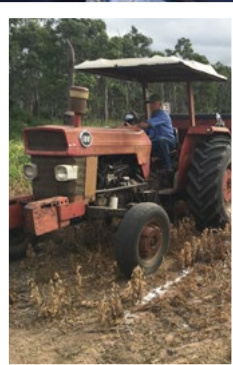


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 Phil Myers 0417 319 321  
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 John Simpson 0417 265 050  
 Bill Pocklington 0427 433 473  
 Wayne Douglas 0400 236 892

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**Cover picture:** Mackay grower Chris Blackburn and Farmacist rep Mark Elwood are carrying out planting and fertiliser trials at Chris' North Eton farm.

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**Editor:** Neroli Roocke

**Design, subscriptions, advertising and classifieds:**  
Wayne Griffin

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Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,  
Queensland Australia  
ABN 94 089 992 969  
Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone: 07 3864 6444; Fax: 07 3864 6429  
Email: [info@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:info@CANEGROWERS.com.au)  
Website: [www.CANEGROWERS.com.au](http://www.CANEGROWERS.com.au)  
CANEGROWERS/Members Card Hotline 1800 177 159

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# A Vision for the Future?

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

It is a phrase that is easy to say, but 'a vision for the future' can be just a precursor to a set of buzz words or pointless phrases that many people disregard as irrelevant to them.

Here at CANEGROWERS, we have a vision statement. It hangs on the wall of our boardroom, a place where industry leaders can see and reflect upon it. It says that our vision is:

*To ensure a secure and profitable future for cane growers.*

It is pretty hard to argue with that - and that is the case for many vision statements.

The harder part is the next question, which is, HOW? How are we securing a profitable future for cane growers?

The good thing is, we have lots of additional statements and objectives that explain how we are doing this, but I will leave that for another time. The point for now is, these are our corporate, organisational statements.

But what about us as an industry? I have heard it implied at almost every grower meeting I have attended. Not as buzz words, or corporate speak but even more powerfully put in plain, unapologetically straight-forward language that can be summed up as:

Where are we going as an industry? What are our priorities? How can I be assured that my farm will be a profitable business for someone to take over? How can we secure our current income but also diversify our income generating capabilities from our farms?

How can we take more control of our future, have a stronger say in the market place and be a price maker not a price taker? How can we explain to the community the importance of what we do and what is at risk when suggestions are made that we should stop doing it?

These are all great questions and they need answers. As I have said in previous magazine columns, our industry appears to be both constantly changing and constantly under threat.

In that context, I fear we are missing opportunities to deal with the

bigger, longer term strategic issues that are at the heart of all these questions. They are often left un-addressed while we 'bunker down' and try and keep things stable, grasping for certainty. In so doing this perhaps we are protecting those things that are actually the least important.

For me, it is time to address this issue. If CANEGROWERS is to genuinely deliver on our corporate vision then we first must understand, and then act on, the vision that all our members, big and small have for our industry. The vision needs to be driven into stark relief.

The next step in building on this process will occur when we bring all of the elected representatives from across the state together in Townsville on 27 May.

This one-day event is notionally a time to assist all company directors to understand their duties but far more importantly, it is an opportunity for us all to come together and revise and understand our vision for our industry.

Where do we want to be as an industry in 5, 10 or 20 years' time and how can we use our collective, collaborative efforts in CANEGROWERS to get there?

I hope this is a well-supported event. It is a critical event that should define our business as a key component in securing your profitable and sustainable future. ■

*“Where are we going as an industry? What are our priorities? How can I be assured that my farm will be a profitable business for someone to take over?”*



# Spotted anything unusual?

## NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

Growers have an important role in keeping watch for exotic pests, diseases and weeds that could devastate the Australian sugarcane industry.

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If you spot anything unusual in your crop please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. The call is free (except from mobiles).

Visit [phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane](http://phau.com.au/industries/sugarcane) for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



**Look, be alert, call an expert**



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NO SUGAR TAX PLAN FOR AUSTRALIA

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri returned from a visit to Canberra with good news recently – the Federal Government gave him assurances that it was not considering implementing a sugar tax.

There have been calls for a levy on sugar-containing soft drinks in Australia since the United Kingdom legislated for one earlier this year.

But Mr Schembri said his meetings with Senator Fiona Nash, the Minister for Regional Development and Rural Health, and other politicians brought guarantees that it had no plans for a similar tax here.

"Senator Nash's advice was clear and unambiguous: The government's position is a sugar tax is a simplistic solution to a complex problem and that the Federal Government will continue to focus on the totality of health and wellbeing rather than targeting a particular product, sugar," he told the Daily Mercury.

"It's very clear the government has no plans for a sugar tax or soft drink tax."

Mr Schembri said the meeting should boost confidence in the sugar industry.

"Growers will take a lot of heart and encouragement out of that announcement," he said.

"What these things do, is they're destabilising for industry and if there is a threat hanging over our industry of a sugar tax it decimates confidence and often investment." ■

## New CSAs provide choice

MSF Sugar and CANEGROWERS members in the Maryborough district are signing the historic first Cane Supply Agreements (CSAs) that deliver on the principles of choice in marketing as guaranteed in the amended *Sugar Industry Act*.

The CSAs comply with the *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015* that became law in December.

CANEGROWERS Maryborough Chairman Jeff Atkinson welcomed the certainty that the CSAs should give growers for the 2017 season and beyond.

"It is a sign that with goodwill, cooperation and effective negotiations, CSAs can be developed at the district level that will deliver benefits to mills and growers," he said.

"Importantly, the Maryborough CSA provides options for choice in marketing pathways for growers, a process perhaps easier for MSF to understand as they have offered options consistent with this principle for some years.

"Mills and growers must work in a partnership that delivers a fair outcome for both. The agreement reached is proof

that the legislation has not detracted from this opportunity in Maryborough."

MSF Sugar CEO Mike Barry said his company took a conscious decision to expedite the CSA negotiations.

"We want our 630 cane suppliers to be sustainable over the long term and to provide them with certainty about operating their businesses.

"We want to facilitate immediate opportunities for our growers to price in a market with positive fundamentals and with the sharply rising raw sugar price over the past three months, we saw an urgency to make pricing available for our growers.

"By finalising the CSAs our growers can forward price their cane."

Mr Barry said CANEGROWERS Maryborough and MSF Sugar had together developed an effective framework based on trust and underwritten by transparency, where a Target Price Committee makes pricing decisions.

"We're working to finalise CSAs with grower representative groups in far north Queensland," Mr Barry said. ■

## MILL START DATES

A number of mills have confirmed start dates for the 2016 crush.

Wilmar says its four Burdekin mills will begin on 7 June and expect to crush about 8.3 million tonnes of cane this year.

"There is an increased potential for a wetter-than-usual winter and we want to give all sectors the best opportunity to ensure all cane is harvested and crushed this season," Burdekin Cane Supply Manager Steve Postma said.

"We've allowed for about two weeks of wet weather delays in our modelling."

The Plane Creek mill will aim to begin on 14 June with an estimate of 1.31 million tonnes, a slight increase on last year.

Kevin Borg, Chairman of CANEGROWERS Mackay, said the start was still dependent on maturity testing, mill preparations and weather.

"After disappointing mill performance at the end of last season, growers are hopeful of vastly improved milling performance by Wilmar Sugar in 2016," Mr Borg said.

"PCPSL (Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited) will be monitoring maturity of the cane weekly between now and the start date."

Tully Sugar had earlier announced it was aiming for a 31 May start, it's earliest in history. Mackay Sugar was to meet grower representatives in the first week of May to discuss its start date. ■



# Sparking more debate on electricity costs

CANEGROWERS has weighed into two relevant electricity pricing processes as it continues to campaign for fairer tariffs for irrigators.

One submission calls on the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) to re-think its decision to increase irrigation electricity tariffs by 10.3% for 2016-17.

CANEGROWERS points out that the proposed prices are excessive, above the cost of power delivery and will have adverse economic and social effects.

The second submission is to the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) review of Ergon's Tariff Structure Statement (TSS) proposal.

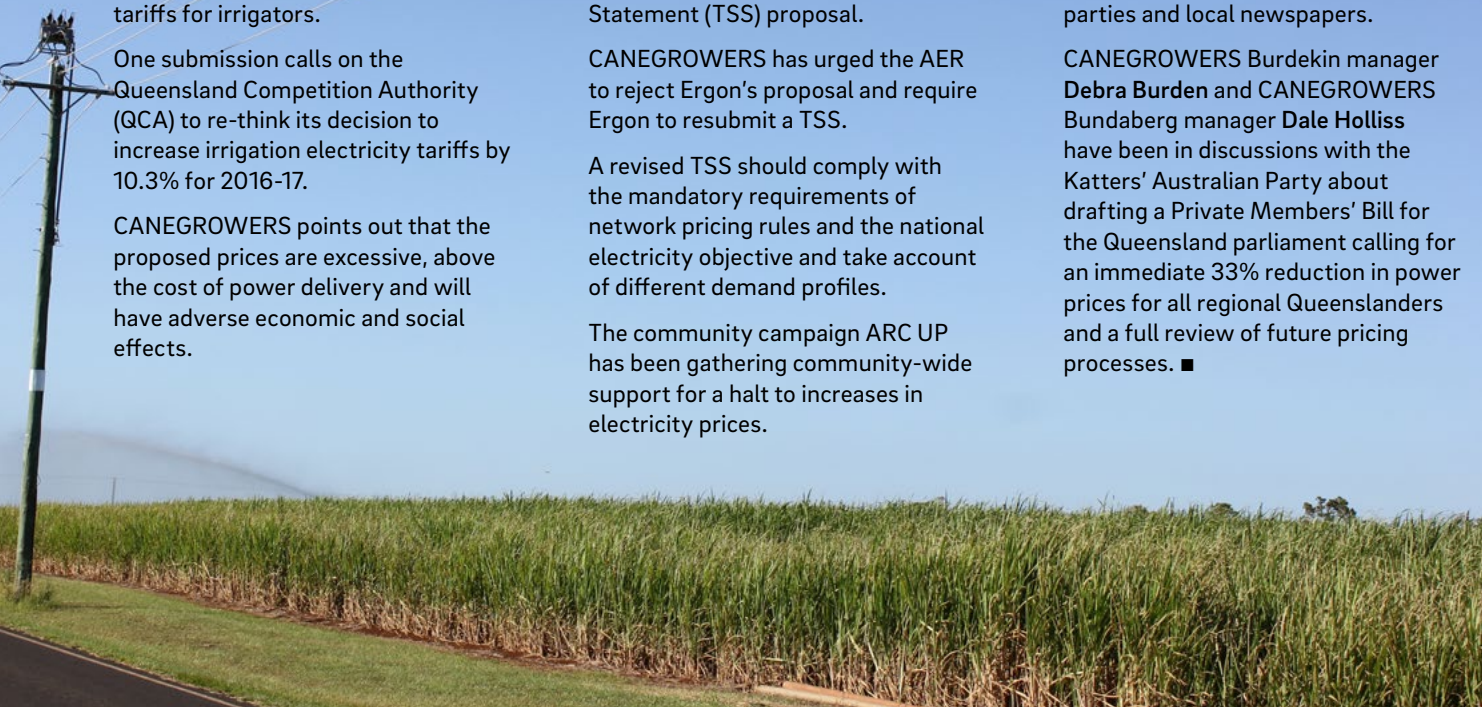
CANEGROWERS has urged the AER to reject Ergon's proposal and require Ergon to resubmit a TSS.

A revised TSS should comply with the mandatory requirements of network pricing rules and the national electricity objective and take account of different demand profiles.

The community campaign ARC UP has been gathering community-wide support for a halt to increases in electricity prices.

Its Facebook page (ARCCupQLD) has information about a letter-writing campaign targeting politicians of all parties and local newspapers.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin manager **Debra Burden** and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg manager **Dale Holliss** have been in discussions with the Katters' Australian Party about drafting a Private Members' Bill for the Queensland parliament calling for an immediate 33% reduction in power prices for all regional Queenslanders and a full review of future pricing processes. ■




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# NEW INVESTMENT IN REEF RESILIENCE

The announcement of a further \$50 million to improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef has been warmly welcomed by the sugarcane industry.

Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, said this latest investment under Phase Three of the Reef Trust will target water quality.

"Poor quality water run-off from farms adds to the impact of climate change on the sensitive coral and seagrass ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef, reducing their health and resilience to stresses such as cyclones and higher than normal sea surface temperatures," Mr Hunt said.

*"There has already been a lot of very good work done... with the significant efforts of individual farmers who are committed to better environmental outputs"*

"Maximising the health and resilience of the ecosystem will help the Reef to withstand pressures such as the high sea surface temperatures that are causing the current coral bleaching event."

Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen said the funding will assist farmers to continue to improve or adopt practices that keep soil, fertiliser and pesticides on their farms where they are needed, and prevent them from entering waterways.

"There has already been a lot of very good work done as a result of investment in previous Reef Rescue and land management programs, combined with the significant efforts of individual farmers who are committed to better environmental outputs from their properties," Mr Christensen said.

He said the investment recognises the vital role that farmers play in the efforts to improve water quality, and commended CANEGROWERS for its hard work as part of the Reef Alliance.

The announcement includes \$19.3 million to support cane farmers to move beyond industry best practice for nutrient, irrigation, pesticide and soil management, with a particular focus on improved fertiliser budgeting.

There is also funding for the grazing, grains, dairy and horticulture industries.

The joint Reef Alliance bid, led by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), focusses on maximising the effectiveness of funding dollars by bringing together the agricultural industry and regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, working together with the Australian Government to support the reef.

CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said proactive partnerships such as these, which have achieved real outcomes on the ground, help growers to afford to implement often very expensive changes to farming practices faster than they otherwise would have been able.

"This has good outcomes for the environment and our communities up and down the coast," he said.

CANEGROWERS is implementing its own best management practice program called Smartcane BMP.

"Over half of Queensland's cane area has been benchmarked to best practice in just two years," said Mr Galligan.

"We are keen to see government investment such as this targeted to supporting the positive initiatives underway within the sugarcane industry, promote continued grower buy in and build on the outcomes the industry has already delivered." ■



Back row. Wayne Thomas (CANEGROWERS Innisfail), Stephen Calcagno, Bob Frazer (CEO Cape York NRM), Stuart Armitage (President QFF). Front row. Sahra Standen (CANEGROWERS Cairns Region), Carole Sweatman (CEO Terrain NRM), Environment Minister Greg Hunt, Emma Jackson (Chair Cape York NRM), Ruth Wade (CEO QFF), Warren Entsch Federal Member for Leichardt.



# March of the Cane Beetles remembered 100 years on

Despite sore feet and aching muscles, a group which had walked 63 km to be in Cairns for Anzac Day were in high spirits – they'd just commemorated an historic march undertaken 100 years before.

The 2016 March of the Cane Beetles was a re-enactment of a soldier recruitment drive undertaken through sugarcane farming districts in 1916 as the First World War raged in Europe.

This year four people started at the original starting point at Mooliba, just north of the Russell River near Babinda, and by the time they arrived in Cairns, the group had swelled to 25.

"There were 29 recruits when the original recruitment march arrived," said re-enactment organiser Wayne Thomas.

"The final numbers were boosted with the organising committee and family members joining in - it made a great spectacle."

In recognition of their effort, the Cairns RSL put the re-enactors at the head of the city's Anzac Day parade.

"The crowds lining the streets of Cairns clapped loudly and cheered the group as it passed," Mr Thomas said. "Those who had marched the whole way appreciated the response from the public."

**Bob Stewart** took part as the Recruiting Sergeant, Sergeant Major Bloom, and wore a replica WW1 uniform.

"The uniform worn in 1915 is rather thick and at times it was very hot," he said. "But I was very proud to be part of this re-enactment and honoured to have acted the part of the Recruitment Sergeant."

The re-enactment was made possible with funding provided by the Queensland Government through a Queensland Anzac Centenary grant. CANEGROWERS Innisfail organised the event. ■

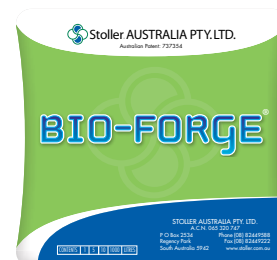
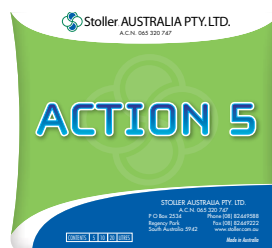
*Pictured: Innisfail growers John Chizzotti, Bob Moore, Vera Moore and Gladys Cecchi with Lauren Mahlberg (Sugar Museum volunteer) Barry Stubbs (Babinda grower), Bob Stewart (aka Sgt. Major Bloom) and CANEGROWERS Innisfail Manager Wayne Thomas.*



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# Market Update

Current as of 3 May 2016

## Sugar

### WHAT HAPPENED?

In consecutive months, raw sugar futures have remained relatively constructive.

A clear bias to the upside was evident as flat prices maintained a rally from mid-April.

Despite a rocky start to the month, the now expired May16 contract rallied on reports of better-than-expected weather for the Centre-South Brazil region.

Paired with a speculative position, which could see the non-index funds continue to reduce or add to their net long position, the market was propelled higher yet again.

The latest UNICA report for 1H April was released above market expectations - 32.84 million tonnes of cane was crushed across the first two weeks, whilst ATR and sugar mix highlighted the release coming in well above year-on-year averages.

Friday night saw the May16 contract expiry which also saw the market squeezed higher. May16 rolled off the sugar board at 16.16 c/lb.

### GOING FORWARD...

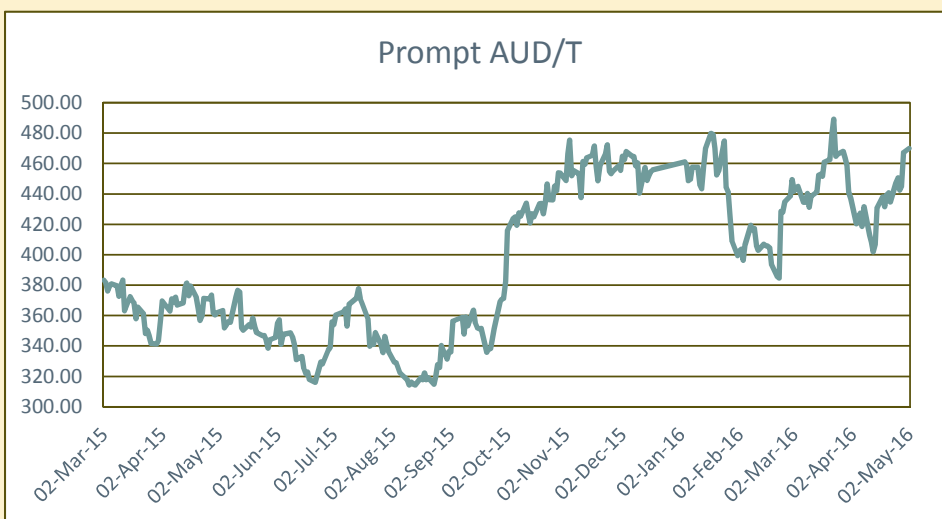
Looking ahead, it is becoming more difficult to foresee any clear direction for raw sugar futures.

The past month has seen all the key indicators point to a bearish market, however, what has transpired after that, disagrees.

Our key drivers over the coming months will look closely at the continued weather patterns in Brazil, the non-index funds long position and continued concerns for other producing regions such as Thailand and India.

The UNICA report for the second half of April, will be key to further directional movements in the medium term.

Contract	Latest Settlement	Monthly Change	High	Low
May-2016	16.16	2.23	16.23	14.00
Jul-2016	16.21	2.19	16.47	14.28
Oct-2016	16.53	2.18	16.73	14.55
Mar-2017	17.02	2.08	17.15	15.07
May-2017	16.74	1.90	16.79	14.89
Jul-2017	16.46	1.79	16.49	14.70
Oct-2017	16.33	1.61	16.32	14.71
Mar-2018	16.46	1.42	16.47	15.05
May-2018	16.25	1.19	16.20	15.01
BRL/USD	3.5017	-12.21%	3.7100	3.4200
Ethanol Parity	12.03			



Whilst the week-on-week Commitment of Traders (CoT) report will hold our attention in the short term.

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

The results of the next UNICA and CoT reports will be key to any possible changes to market sentiment.

Technically speaking, the non-index funds are at a level (net long 210,000 lots) where we have seen them sell off their long position.

Partnered with another better-than-expected UNICA report it is possible to see the market significantly lower.





## Currency

### WHAT HAPPENED?

A pretty volatile month for the AUD with the spot rate running over a fairly wide range. OPEC discussions on the 17 April failed to reach an agreement around capping oil production and markets opened lower with the Aussie no exception.

It did proceed to spend most of the rest of that week on the front foot though with weaker US housing and mortgage data as well as a recovery in risk appetite weighing on the Greenback.

Last week, however, was a somewhat different story. US data was more positive while the local CPI print was a big miss to the downside.

The year-on-year CPI rate has slipped to levels not seen since briefly in Q1 last year but not consistently seen since 1999 (1.3 per cent).

The Fed continued to keep their gunpowder dry holding rates at 0.5 per cent as expected as the local currency ended the fortnight at the lower end of the range.

### GOING FORWARD

This week will be a big one for the AUD. It is now much more likely that the RBA's hand will be forced to cut rates this afternoon (Tuesday 3 May) with the CPI now sitting outside their target band of 1.5-3 per cent.

They have clearly underestimated the spare capacity in the economy at present and even if they drop interest rates by another 25 basis points they will still have plenty of ammunition remaining for any emergency situation in the economy.

Of course it remains prudent to keep abreast of any developments in the crude oil market with OPEC negotiations still ongoing and sentiment still largely reflecting oil performance.

Similarly, it is worthwhile keeping a close eye on iron ore with the recent resurgence above \$500 per tonne driving the underlying AUD strength

### WHAT COULD CHANGE?

Of course any rate cut today (Tuesday 3 May) is far from a full gone conclusion with the market split pretty much 50/50 on whether RBA Governor, Glenn Stevens, will pull the trigger or not.

If he doesn't, it is highly likely that the currency will get a leg up back above 77 cents causing more pain for Australian exporters.

US data remains a burden on the Greenback, and until the Fed see consistent positive prints it will be difficult for them to hike interest rates again, with only one now priced in for the remainder of 2016.

Any further stalling in the US recovery may push this out to 2017, giving the USD more upward resistance. ■

	Settlement	Change	High	Low
AUD/USD	0.7667	0.59%	0.7835	0.7492



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# AUSTRALIA-INDIA RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

to help explore new ground for sugarcane variety improvement

By Neil Fisher, CEO, SRA

A new research partnership between Australian and Indian sugarcane researchers will conduct joint research to help accelerate gains in sugarcane breeding and variety development for both of these countries.

The project is occurring thanks to a new grant that has just been announced as part of the Commonwealth Government's Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF).

The grants allows for a partnership between Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and the Sugarcane Breeding Institute in Coimbatore, India.

Establishing partnerships with leading sugarcane breeding institutions overseas is a critical aspect of continuing to improve the Australian sugarcane variety development program, which is run by SRA.

India is the second largest producer of raw sugar in the world and is an important country for Australia to collaborate with.

This research partnership has enormous potential for both countries.

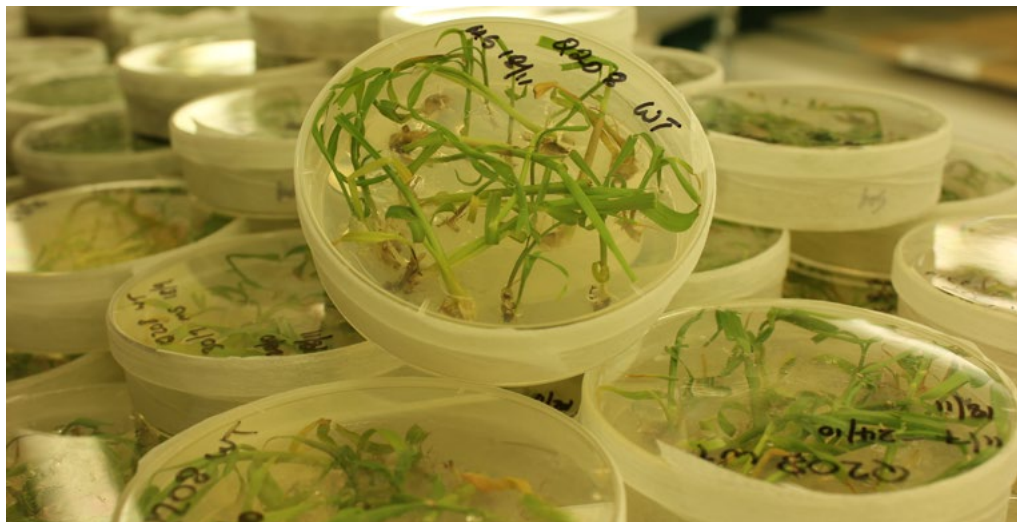
The project will identify genetic markers for cane yield, sugar content, drought tolerance and red rot resistance in sugarcane varieties, using sophisticated biotechnology.

It builds on previous investments made by the Australian sugar industry in developing this technology jointly by SRA, CSIRO, and Syngenta.

The results will be used to determine ways to accelerate gains in sugarcane breeding, as well start mutually beneficial cooperation for sugarcane improvement.

The SRA breeding program is SRA's largest area of investment on behalf of our investors.

Projects such as this fit into a much broader spectrum of research looking for continued improvement in sugarcane breeding, and ultimately for the delivery of improved varieties for growers and millers.



Use of cutting edge technologies will help our researchers explore new ground in improving sugarcane varieties.

The AISRF helps Australian researchers to participate with Indian scientists in leading-edge scientific research and workshops.

The AISRF is Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral research with any country and one of India's largest sources of support for international science.

The project is being awarded \$644,000 through AISRF.

## Independent Performance Review

The first independent Performance Review of SRA is occurring over the coming months.

All industry-owned organisations like SRA are required, under their statutory funding agreements with the Commonwealth Government, to commission regular independent corporate performance reviews.

In short, the review will examine how effectively and efficiently SRA is fulfilling its obligations to levy payers and Government.

Following a competitive tendering process, a project team headed by Scott Williams of Scott Williams Consulting has been appointed to undertake the first performance review for SRA and has commenced its work.

A key component of the project will be to consult with industry. The project team will contact key industry organisations to obtain input into the review. The team also invites any industry stakeholder (growers, millers, research providers, consultants or any other interested party) to make a submission.

People or organisations wishing to do contribute should visit the project website ([www.sraperformancereview.org](http://www.sraperformancereview.org)) or send an email to [submissions@sraperformancereview.org](mailto:submissions@sraperformancereview.org). Alternatively, please contact Scott Williams on 0413 059 190. Submissions close on 17 June 2016. ■





# Soil health: the key to yield success

By Kim Kleidon

*“Agriculture will only survive in the long term if soils are farmed in ways that not only repair historical damage but also improve their physical, chemical and biological properties.”*

*Pictured: Norman Marshall and Dr Greg Bender of Australian Soil Management at the Soil Health Field Day at Marian.*

There is a silent problem developing across cropping regions in Australia. No matter how much money is spent on inputs, yields are declining. Could soil be the key and could science help farmers understand nature's systems?

Soil is the cornerstone of agricultural production, yet little is known about this complex organism. Yes - soil is alive, or at least it should be.

Some farming practices though have essentially mined soils and not put back enough of what's needed resulting in lifeless, degraded and often compacted land making it increasingly challenging to grow the next crop and keeping vital nutrients and minerals out of the food chain for people.

But instead of despair there is growing interest in remediation.

“Once a soil's key functions are impaired in some way, or its most fertile components have been lost due to wind or water erosion, this limited resource begins to function in a sub-optimal manner,” says **Dr Graham Stirling**, a nematologist and co-author of *Soil Health, Soil Biology, Soilborne Diseases and Sustainable Agriculture*.

“Agriculture will only survive in the long term if soils are farmed in ways that not only repair historical damage but also improve their physical, chemical and biological properties.”

## Organic matter matters

The key message of the 3rd Annual Soil Health Field Day at Marian was simply - DO something to get organic matter into your soil.

Composting is one method to achieve this and according to **Norman Marshall**, Director of Australian Soil Management, it is the best way.

“The whole program works by balancing the chemistry,” he explains. “Compost has a job to do there.

“Once the chemistry is right, the compost then feeds the biology and the biology is the microbes which give the nutrients to the plants, which uses carbon and gets the plants to give ▶



*"I'm not feeding the sugarcane, I'm feeding the microbes and the microbes feed the crops."*

*Pictured: Dr Neil Wilson says fungi create microhabitat niches in soil for bacteria which work to unlock nutrients and make them available for plants.*

carbon, so then this is all about building the carbon in the soils and compost is the most cost efficient and effective way of doing it."

In a sugarcane farming system, trash left on the ground acts as a valuable and compostable soil conditioner but the speakers at the field day believe even more is needed.

Investment in methods like composting to increase soil potency and quality has produced results and **Dr Greg Bender** from Australian Soil Management cited a study in Monaro, New South Wales, where the granite and basalt soils are only fit for grazing.

"The best outcome we've seen is a 1% increase in carbon levels over 13 months," he says. "Monaro's quite cold and dry, 400mm of rainfall and below zero overnight temperatures.

"It was a big challenge for us to get carbon up in that environment. We're quite surprised that we got such an increase."

Dr Bender is now focussed on achieving a 1% increase in carbon levels in soil throughout Australia which he says would neutralise the country's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

There are many benefits for farmers in increasing organic matter in soils, with a key one being increased water holding capacity.

"A 1% carbon increase gives you 150,000 litres of water per hectare to the depth of 30cm in moisture storage capacity," he says.

"You're storing moisture rather than having runoff, it will go straight in the ground instead of into the creek or someone else's property with your topsoil.

"What I'm talking about really is top priority for people with 400 mm rainfall where they say they're really water managers not crop managers. Moisture, getting roots down deep so you're less affected by climate variability."

### Symbiosis of soil

Beyond water management, Dr Bender says other issues, like nutrition, can be dealt with gradually. He says it's about rebuilding soil structure and letting air spaces re-form with aggregates.

The best person to explain aggregates is **Dr Neil Wilson**, a microbial ecologist from the University of Sydney, whose presentation on bacteria and fungi (considered the building blocks of life) had some field day participants feeling like they were in over their heads.

"Humans tend to approach matters with soil and microbiology as subtly as a sledgehammer," he says. "We have operated in complete and total ignorance of the living breathing nature of soil for so long."

So is it too late? The response from Dr Wilson was a resounding no, not even remotely close.

"There's one thing about biology and that is resilience," he says. "You can flog biology until it's within an inch of its life and it will spring back."

For broad acre farming the challenge seems immense and even Dr Wilson admits he knows 'bugger all' when it comes to the biology of soil.

Currently only 2% can be cultured, or grown in a laboratory. Most bacteria are only recognised by their DNA and not a lot is known about their function.

"The answer is to start to take notice of biology; it's starting to pull back the conventional agricultural practices ... flogging the land with herbicides and pesticides, chemical nutrients that treat agriculture and, for example, sugarcane as the plant in isolation," he says.

"You need to start looking after the soil. That can mean applying biological techniques, applying inoculants or applying things which stimulate the things that are living in the soil.

"They're still there, they're just not operating – they're operating at 5% efficiency when you need them to operate at 100%."

Getting the soil right is the first step so fungi can play a pivotal role in aggregation.

"Fungi are very important in the soil structure," Dr Wilson says.

"Fungi are not micro-organisms in the sense of being single-celled, fungi are multi-cellular creatures and some of the largest on the face of the earth because they extend through the soil for several kilometres.

"They give the soil structure, they make the soil aggregates. ►





"The more soil aggregates you have the more microhabitats you have for different bacteria.

"So the fungi create niches (little homes). Bacteria are the biochemical geniuses of the soil. They are the ones that can solubilise phosphorous; they can bring the nutrients that are locked up in your soil back to being available to the plant."

## Growing results

This is a fact that hasn't been lost on sugarcane farmer **John Attard** who began seeking answers to his own declining yields on the land his father also farmed.

"In the early days, we were getting a good price for our sugar so we were doing a lot of crop maintenance, putting lime on, filter press and just looking after it," he says.

"When the sugar price collapsed, we stopped doing the maintenance and we found as soon as we stopped looking after the soil, our yields just started going down and down and down.

"Now we're working with a consultant and making our own fertiliser using the paunch of a cow, which has microbes in it, and we're mixing a food source – molasses and milk – to grow the microbes and then we're putting our sulphates in it.

"We'll make potassium sulphate, zinc sulphate, iron sulphate, whatever our soil needs.

"We'll do a soil test for what we need, then the microbes break down all that sulphate so it gets rid of all that salt and what the microbes are doing is exactly what the soil is doing itself so when we put that fertiliser onto the soil it's all plant available, it can't be leached and it can't be tied up in the soil."

The biofertiliser is diluted and applied over five or six passes through irrigation injection four times per year.

John reports he's using half the fertiliser now for the same size crop, he's again adding lime and has been surprised by the results.

"Calcium's our biggest issue because we've got low pH, so now we're applying a lot of calcium to our soil. Last year was the first year I went back to putting lime on the paddocks and I got a huge response," he says.

He applied it in September and by March the crop took off.

"Now I've boosted my soils, I expect a yield increase of 10% every year from now on, but you've got to do your baseline first," John says.

It's an investment John has been happy to make. He's realised the organic potential of residues like trash, which he rotary hoes into the paddock with the addition of stubble digester, sulphates and molasses to break it down in six weeks.

"I want to build carbon," John says. "Humus is the secret there and that's what I'm doing.



*Pictured: The 3rd Annual Soil Health Field Day watched an application of lime on a Marian cane paddock.*

"I'm not feeding the sugarcane, I'm feeding the microbes and the microbes feed the crop. That's my system and I'm starting to enjoy farming again now."

What does the future hold?

Norman Marshall sees farmers playing a pivotal role in removing carbon from the atmosphere.

"It's an opportunity – countries around the world are now getting to the point where governments are paying whoever it is for storing the carbon in the soil," he says. "This is another job where farmers can get money for what they want to do."

*The 3rd Annual Marian Soil Health Field Day was run by Central Queensland Soil Health Systems and supported by CANEGROWERS, Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday, Landcare Australia, Mackay Regional Council, BMS LaserSat, Bayer, Eco Growth and Bio Processing Australia. ■*



**Australian Government**

This story has been brought to you by the Australian Government Reef Programme



## Planting system innovation on display for ASSCT ag tour

By Wayne Griffin

A group of enthusiastic growers and industry representatives got to experience firsthand some of the innovative farming practices being adopted in Australia's sugarcane industry during an afternoon field trip at this year's Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists conference. The group visited two Mackay farms currently trialling different planting systems.

The ever-popular agricultural bus tour made its first stop at Blackburn Harvesting's North Eton property, where **Chris Blackburn** walked the group through the farm's trial 2.4 metre planting system.

The visitors also heard from **Mark Elwood**, who explained the enhanced efficiency nitrogen fertiliser trials currently being conducted by agronomic consultancy firm Farmacist at the Blackburn property.

At their second stop, **Joe Muscat's** Oakenden farm, the group was introduced to Agumsa, a Brazilian planting system that boasts increased productivity through the innovative management of fallow paddocks.

*"Everyone keeps telling farmers harvesters go too quick. At 2.4m rows, some of the stuff they were harvesting last year they were doing at 3km an hour."*

### BLACKBURN HARVESTING

Together with his brother **Lee**, Chris Blackburn operates one of Australia's largest cane harvesting groups, cutting over 1,200 hectares of cane per year.

So it's no surprise he has a keen interest in harvester efficiency and getting the most from his machines.

In fact, it was this drive for increased efficiency that led the Blackburns to trial the 2.4m planting system on their own 230ha property at North Eaton, 30km west of Mackay.

"My normal system here is 1.8m, dual rows at 450 wide," said Chris.

"Everything is controlled traffic and has been since about 2003, but I've only been dual row that last four or five years.

"A couple of farms in the region have recently changed to 2.4m row spacing and they think it's not too bad, so we decided we'd trial it here, mainly because of the harvester efficiency benefits.

"I've done some skip-row work before but I wasn't 100% convinced to go that way, because the yield difference wasn't quite enough to make up for the lower costs involved. I thought 2.4m might be the way to go instead. ►



*Pictured: P14 Chris Blackburn (centre) explains the 2.4m planting system being trialled at his Nth Eton farm, with tour guide John Agnew from MAPS (left) and Farmacist rep Mark Elwood (right). Below: Joe and Steve Muscat on the family farm at Oakenden where they are trialling the Brazilian planting system, Agumsa.*



Chris says the 2.4m row spacing slows the harvester down significantly by putting more cane in front of the machine, leading to much greater efficiency while reducing compaction and stool damage.

"Everyone keeps telling farmers that harvesters go too quick," he said.

"At 2.4m rows, some of the stuff they were harvesting last year they were doing at 3km an hour.

"So far it's looking pretty good, but we'll have to see what happens when we harvest these rows, probably in early September."

#### Farmacist fertiliser trials

The effects of row spacing on harvester efficiency isn't the only trial currently underway at the Blackburn farm.

Consultancy group Farmacist is also undertaking enhanced efficiency nitrogen fertiliser trials.

"We know that we can get efficiencies from these types of products (controlled release fertilisers) and in terms of reducing denitrification losses, they are a very useful tool, but they're also more expensive than urea," said Farmacist rep Mark Elwood.

"Trial work to date - we've been doing some reduced rates and we've seen across the board that we could come down to about 90% nitrogen compared to urea, without suffering a yield penalty, but below that it's hit and miss."

As with the new row spacing, only time will tell if Farmacist's fertiliser trials have been successful.



"At the minute you can't see much difference between the cane treated with ENTEC® and the cane treated with urea," Chris said.

"That's not to say there won't be a difference come harvest time, but it's early days."

#### MUSCAT FARM

The second stop on the tour's itinerary was Joe Muscat's Oakenden farm, which he runs with his son Steve.

Joe, a Nuffield Scholar and grower well-known for his innovative practices, is trialling a planting system he first came across while visiting the massive cane farms of Brazil as part of his scholarship studies.

"I had a good contact at one of the mills over there. I told him I wanted to see the new frontier in sugarcane, the latest advancements in the field," said Joe.

What he saw was Agumsa.

"When you see Agumsa it's very distinctive and has some specific fundamentals. You've got a couple of rows of cane, in Brazil they used one eye sets, which is one of the cleanest lines of plant source you can have. In our case we've used one row of tissue culture and one row of plot cane, and we purely did that around cost.

"We've then got a legume planted next to those rows - in Brazil they have either four or six rows of legume - then another two rows of cane, and so on.

"In Brazil they determine what legume they put in relative to the organic carbon level.

"I spent many hours in their lab and I saw many carbon levels up to about 2.6, which was probably the top end of what they have, down to about 1.6, which is probably about the top end of what we have.

"If their carbon levels were up around 2.6 they'd put in peanuts, if it was down in the lower twos, they'd put soya bean and if it was below 2 they would put sunn hemp, which they wouldn't harvest."

Another key component of Agumsa is the sub-surface application of compost in the planting zone. The compost is applied at approximately 300mm depth and at about 15 tonnes per hectare.

The legumes are then planted into the prepared and composted beds.

"The last stage of the system is that, once the legumes have been harvested, we use tissue culture from the two planted rows to plant the rest of the crop," said Joe.

"We've done some basic biology in here to really understand what we started with and then we'll do a measurement after we take the soys off, before we prepare it to plant the cane. That will give us an idea of the difference using this system has made.

"It's a bit of a long term approach. Realistically it will be after next year's harvest before we get some definite results, but we're quite hopeful it will be a successful trial." ■



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The Speedtiller has found a niche in strategic tillage systems, as a one-pass tillage tool.

The combination of the adjustable rubber-torsioned jump arm system with disc undercut and the effective action of the levelling crumble roller makes the Speedtiller ideal for stubble incorporation and seedbed preparation.

Incorporating your crop residue builds up humus levels in the soil profile, feeding microbes, increasing soil organic matter and allowing for much-needed microbial activity.

This leads to healthier soils and, eventually, less reliance on outsourced nitrogen.

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# PRODUCTIVITY SHINES

## as Case IH tweaks track-technology leader

Supplied by Case IH

A full 360 degrees of LED illumination for night work is just one of the upgrades to Case IH's 2016 Steiger® Quadtrac tractor models.

The LED lighting package will be standard on new models, as will several other impressive upgrades.

"The twin driving forces behind all features on the 2016 models were productivity and durability," says **Pete McCann**, Product Manager for Case IH High Horsepower.

"Australian farmers tend to do a lot of paddock work at night. That's because sometimes there are not enough daylight hours, or they just keep going until a job is done.

"Having every light possible on these tractors will really help productivity."

Other upgrades include a change to the 6500 heavy-duty Camso belts.

"You need the heaviest belts available when you're using 600hp, so we've included the 6500 belts as standard on new models."

Case IH has also refined steering with the addition of Advanced Steering.

Advanced Steering is a speed reactive system that helps the driver during headland turns, line acquisition and

reduces the amount of physical turns while in the paddock working, but increases it when roading at high speeds, therefore increasing the stability of the Steiger while in road mode.

A further upgrade is the new automatic diff lock actuator, which disengages as the driver steers into the turn, then re-engages as the vehicle straightens up and re-acquires the line.

"This means drivers don't have to tap the brake to get the diff lock to disengage for sharp turn. It's just one more little feature we've added to the 2016 model as standard."

Pete says the enhancements mean Case IH's leading Steiger® Quadtrac range is even better.

"Case IH is an innovator in track design, which is why we're the leader in tracked equipment.

"We launched the technology 20 years ago and our experience, knowledge and understanding have kept us at the forefront.

"Of course, others are going to get around to developing this technology too, but without experience behind them, copies tend to miss some of the better-quality sophistications."

Pete says Case IH uses an exclusive, five-axle design, giving its four-track system tractors a smoother ride and more power to the ground.

"This exclusive five-axle design features independent oscillating tracks on a five-axle per track design.

"This lowers soil pressure, provides better flotation in the field and reduces compaction. This results in less ground pressure and a more agronomic seed bed.

"On top of the developments Case IH made in the 2015 Steiger® Quadtrac tractor models — including a proven wider track undercarriage design — the 2016 upgrades all add up to improved productivity and durability.

"Case IH is all about finding ways of doing things better, knowing our customers trust and want to work together with us, just as we do them.

"Because we're made to do our best, we make the best equipment and then we ensure we have features that protect our customers' equipment investments."

For more information see your local Case IH dealer or visit the website [www.caseih.com](http://www.caseih.com). ■



## THE SUGAR CANE SPECIAL

Supplied by Vin Rowe

Antonio Valentini has been making rotary hoes and power harrows at his Italian factory since 1974. Having travelled the world, Valentini thought he'd seen all the conditions his machines could work in. That was until he visited North Queensland in 2011 and experienced first hand the unique and challenging conditions facing the region's cane growers.

Prior to 2011 Valentini had supplied his range of top of the line tillage machinery directly to farmers, mainly in Victoria and New South Wales.

In 2011 Vin Rowe Farm Machinery in Warragul (100 km east of Melbourne) was appointed the national distributor for Valentini and since then the company's profile has taken off in Australia.

Valentini machines have established a wide following due not only their robust frames and heavy-duty gearboxes, but also for a number of innovations that Mr Valentini has introduced to add value for Australian farmers.

In the pursuit of perfecting his machines for Australian growers, Mr Valentini visited far north Queensland on three occasions and met with many growers to discuss their needs.

Out of these visits, Valentini has developed a new rotary hoe specific to the requirements of the region's farmers.

Known as the Sugar Cane Special, the new range of rotary hoes with a number of features attractive to cane growers.

One of the machine's most important features is removable flanges allowing for zonal tillage, which potentially qualify Queensland farmers for grants via Federal Government Reef Programme.

Another key feature is the option of vibrating rubber hoods, minimizing the build-up of mud in the machine, which can be of particular importance in sticky conditions.

Other options many cane farmers are taking up include cage rollers and hydraulic rear door adjustment.

The Valentini range of rotary cultivators is robust and strong with a gearbox rating of up to 400hp. Aside from their sturdy construction, Valentini rotary cultivators are foldable, allowing a transport width of under 3 metres.

The Sugar Cane Special range of rotary hoes focuses primarily on 4.2 to 6.2 metre working widths.

All Valentini rotary cultivators are available with Valentini's easy drive, low friction, 4-gear system, which maintains low temperatures in the toughest conditions.

Valentini also offers its own ripper system if required.

For information on your local dealer please call Vin Rowe Farm Machinery on (03) 5623 1362 or visit the website [www.vinrowefarmmachinery.com.au](http://www.vinrowefarmmachinery.com.au). ■



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# Maschio Presto - high speed, great job

Supplied by Howard Australia

Shane Otto of Bowen, north Queensland has just discovered he can do 25 hectares with a Maschio Presto speed tiller in a quarter of the time it took him to do the same work with offset disc harrows.

Shane and his wife Nikki grow watermelons, pumpkins and mangoes on 324 hectares.

Soils on the farm vary from loams to grey and black.

In September, the Ottos bought a four metre 3-point linkage Maschio Presto and crumble roller from Honeycombes Sales and Service in Ayr.

Shane said he'd seen Presto speed tillers on some of the bigger farms in the area and did some research on it.

"I needed a machine that would get over the ground quickly and deal with weeds and regrowth to stop disease," he said.

"Before we got the Presto, I'd have had to run tynes to knock out the high weeds, but then high weeds can also knock out the tynes, so I would have had to disc and it was all taking too much time.

"I've been getting through the work so fast with the Presto, the missus asked me to sell it because I'm spending too much time at home.

"It's amazing how much work it's saved me, not to mention the fuel. It's much easier on the tractor too.

"I did 25 hectares with the Presto in 4.5 hours. The same work would have taken 16-18 hours with the offsets.

"The speed tiller was going at 12- 13 km/h on a 140hp tractor at 1800-1900 revs and did an absolutely beautiful job.

"I only used about 120 litres of diesel and I would have had to fill the fuel tank twice if I'd been using the offset discs," Shane said.

The Presto has been designed for work on tilled soils to finish off seedbed preparation and in no-tilled soils to incorporate crop residues.

It chops, pulverises and incorporates residues at shallow depth, promoting decomposition and nutrient release without too much aggressive soil movement or compaction.

The tillage operation covers 60% of residues with the remaining 40% left on top to prevent erosion and improve water retention.

The inclination and concavity of the hard tensile boron steel 460mm discs allows them to throw much more dirt than conventional tillers, while perfect overlapping between front and rear gangs provides consistent soil mixing with no side drift.

Shane said because his soils are quite light, he works at about 10cm deep, which is enough to hook under the weed growth, rip it out and kill it, without disturbing the soil too much.

"The Presto breaks down clods in the black soil and incorporates heavy growth in pretty ordinary conditions," he said.

"Using offsets, you need to adjust your wheels all the time to stop them jamming up but the Presto doesn't drag things up into a big hump like that.

"It just leaves an excellent bed. Even where the beds are usually 30-40cm high, it leaves them completely flat.

"It's beautiful to go into the paddocks after the Presto's been through," he said.

For more details, visit the website [www.howard-australia.com.au](http://www.howard-australia.com.au) or call your local dealer. ■

*Pictured: Presto folding pull type tiller.*





## Growers honoured at Mackay Sugar awards

Cane growers supplying Mackay Sugar's Mackay region and Mossman mills have been honoured at productivity awards nights recently.

At the Mackay event, company Chairman **Andrew Cappello** said it was important to recognise and celebrate the successes of local farmers.

"Farming can be extremely challenging, with weather, sugar pricing and various other influences affecting farmers' livelihoods, so it's very important that we pause to recognise those who are not only dealing with the typical challenges of farm life, but are also going the extra mile to improve their productivity," he said.

"Productivity is, of course, extremely important to our company, because it facilitates growth and ultimately

advances the prosperity of our stakeholders.

"Our award recipients exemplify the commitment, resilience and innovation that sustains our local sugar industry."

On the Tableland, the evening was one of reflection following the tragic accident involving grower **Brad Maisel**.

A brief statement prepared by **Tom Maisel** was read out before the growers paused for a minute's silence to remember Brad and to acknowledge the valuable contribution he made to the industry, particularly through his involvement on various water committees.

*Pictured: (clockwise from top left): Michael and Belinda Tarca with children Nate and Sarah won two Tableland awards; Damian Baxter (Wilmar Bioethanol Ag Services) presenting Graeme Blackburn with the Mackay Sustainable Management Practices Award; Rodney and Richard Vassallo with the Mackay Cane Growing Excellence award; Shane, Lucy, Vince and Wayne Kattenberg won the Tableland awards for Outstanding Canegrower, Champion Farm 100 – 200ha and Approved Seed; Mossman Canegrowing Excellence Award winner Michael Fasano with sponsor Russell Lauridsen of Miriwinni Lime; CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri congratulates Mackay district Young Grower Award recipient Tim Bone.*

### MACKAY WINNERS

Harvesting Award – Under 30,000 tonnes Award: **Binstead Brothers**

Harvesting Award – 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes Award: **Anthony Ferlazzo**

Harvesting Award – Over 50,000 tonnes Award: **Andrew Deguara**

Young Grower Award: **Tim Bone**

Sustainable Management Practices Award: **Graeme Blackburn**

Best Average Producer Over Five Years Award: **Kajavi Pty Ltd ATF; The Kevin Lay Family Trust**

Cane Growing Excellence Award: **Mimelyn Pty Ltd ATF; The Vassallo Family Trust**







#### MOSSMAN WINNERS

Best Productivity in each district 2015:  
 Daintree - CA McDowall - Daintree  
 Bamboo, Syndicate and Whyanbeel - D'Addona's  
 Electrical and Farming  
 Miallo, Mossman and Mowbray - C Fasano & Co.  
 Shannonsvale and Cassowary - JV & JK D'Addona  
 Julatten - PJ & MA Verri  
 Atherton and Tolga - Primo Produce  
 Canegrowing Excellence Award - C Fasano & Co.  
 Best Average Producer 2015 - C Fasano & Co.  
 Young Grower Award - Brenton Eagle  
 Sustainable Management Practices Award and  
 Best Presented Farm Award - Puglisi Farming  
 In Appreciation for on-Farm Research - Brie Brie  
 Estate

#### TABLELAND WINNERS

Champion farm 20-50ha - A & G Bianco  
 Champion farm 50-100ha - M & B Tarca  
 Champion farm 100-200ha - Kattenberg  
 Farming  
 Champion farm 200+ha - Salvetti Farming  
 Highest Farm CCS - A Rocca (14.96)  
 Highest tonnes cane per ha - A & G Bianco  
 (150.69)  
 Most improved - W & E Tognola  
 Outstanding Canegrower - Kattenberg Farming  
 Achievement - Rankine Farms  
 Best Presented Farm - M & B Tarca  
 Approved Seed - Kattenberg Farming  
 Industry Co-operator - Claude Santucci



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Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
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2010 CASE 8800 TRACK  
HARVESTER 5,677 Hrs. Iveco  
Engines 9L 350 HP. 10 Blade Fagg  
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New chains fitted to elevator. IN  
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JUST TRADED 2006 CAMECO 3510  
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suspension, Linkage & D/Bar fitted.

6 Tonne Side Tipper BSM type, Single  
axle bolt in on 23 x 1 x 26 tyres,  
S-Cams brakes, On trailer hydraulic  
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Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps  
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CAMECO 2500 TRACK FRAMES  
Complete with L & S hubs, Volvo track  
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Tippers on trailer remote hydraulics.  
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IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE  
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## Mossman –Tully

Kubota B6100 4x4 tractor with slasher and  
Triple-K scarifier to suit. 3-point linkage fert  
bin. 2 inch arch bar. 3-phase plasma cutter,  
Unimig 105. 3-row folding cotton king. Price  
negotiable. Ph: 4066 9889.

FIAT 980 with loader, 3400hrs, ROPS,  
with new injector pump, good condition,  
\$16,500+gst. Ph: 0407 364 012

Howard AH 120inch rotary. Reconditioned  
gear box. Good Cond. \$7000 inc GST ono.  
Ph: 0439 471 496/ 0428 639 711.

Weeder rake. 5 tyne delta ripper. 3m x  
0.9dia roller. Centre buster. Side dresser fert  
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Motor to suit Fordson Major tractor or a  
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HBM Cane Stripper, GC. 0488 050 017

JCB 2135 New 190HP Engine, coupled to  
6T HBM Tipper. JCB 155-65 New 190HP  
Engine & Tyres, coupled to 6T HBM Tipper.  
(Willing to separate) \$55,000 for each inc  
GST. PH: 0427 337 601

## Herbert River – Burdekin

2010 Case Harvester 8000 For Sale \$175k.  
Good condition. 5550 hours on the clock.  
Phone: 0427598603

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm)	
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	
	25.04.16	02.05.16		Jan-May
Mossman	0	31	968	1668
Mareeba AP	2	0.4	332	702
Cairns	25	37	694	1551
Mt Sophia	36	72	1168	2470
Babinda	65	193	1919	3055
Innisfail	147	146	1705	2525
Tully	159	119	1875	2953
Cardwell	14	37	1254	1608
Lucinda	42	11	1365	1583
Ingham	50	9	1300	1509
Abergowrie	41	16	919	1379
Townsville	0	0.2	798	847
Ayr DPI	0	0	373	686
Proserpine	2	18	926	985
Mirani	0	8	907	1060
Mackay	14	14	1081	1104
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0.4	40	1214	1225
Bundaberg	3	0.2	465	560
Childers South	38	3	480	472
Maryborough	0.2	16	480	660
Tewantin	0.6	61	630	1019
Eumundi	1	89	515	995
Nambour	2	84	487	996
Woongoolba	0.2	14	156	745
Murwillumbah	6	20	584	938
Ballina	8	14	564	948
Woodburn	0	13	308	765



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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](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

## 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, GC, \$60,000. Can also be sold for parts. Ph: 0458 525 310

Toft 4000 cummings motor 4ft ext rams on elevator very tidy machine \$15000.00 +gst ono. Ph: 0427588037.

John Deer cotton picker with 3 point, mister, spray boom, 1200litre tank, elect controls, \$1100+gst .PH 0427 588 037

1989 International Truck 1850D, 15 ton GVM, tipper, recon motor 300hrs ago, new drive tyres, steers 90%, VGC. Open to offers. Ph 0407643441 or 49595883

Front end loader to fit 80-100hp tractor, quick release, 4 in 1 bucket, brand new, \$6,000 ONO incl. GST Ph 07 49588248

M135 Ritchie bin, single 6 side tipper, 8500 hrs, GC. \$40,000 + GST. Chopper boxes to suit a 2500 Cameco, \$2,500 + GST. Ph: 0409 271 446

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

9t Trailhaul attached to McCormack 140 tractor. Exc cond. \$66,000+ GST. PH: 4954 1327

6000L O/H dies. tank, 2000L Fuel tank, 2010 425cfm Sullair trail air compr. aft/ cool air VGC, new 600 psi 50'x2" wire braid hoses AM26 ends, International 574 tractor, Black R. crush. Ph 0438784684

Sanderson billet planter, 3t, good condition \$9,000.00 + GST. Ph: 0428 192 787

John Deere 6920 IVT Front Suspension, Full Cab Suspension, Air Compressor 3PL, 4WD - \$45,000. Ph: 0407 139 083 or 0418 798 955

Toft Infield track transporter, A/c Cab, Bedford engine, sunstrand pumps, Dyna power track motors, 8 Ton bin sectioned off at 5 ton, Hi lift side tip , 24inch bent Grouser plates, G/C, \$50 000 or swap for elevating power haul. Ph 0417746001

5 roller Maclean three quarter tracks, new stone guards, VGC \$6000 plus GST. Ph: 0418 159 998.

Case harvester 1 back tyre and rim, 80 % tread BKT Agriculture tyre, \$2000 plus GST. Ph: 0418 159 998.

Case 970 Rear transmission fully rebuilt, VGC, Howard 6 ft slasher. Ph: 0424 295 376.

19 bottles Shirtan \$100. 10 ltrs. Bobcat I MAX \$100. 120kg. Box Baton Low \$100. 10 kg. Dirurex WG \$50. 1 Tractor splitting frame + carriage \$250. 1 4" Drain Mole \$100. Ph: (07)4956 1984 or 0447 561984

## Bundaberg – Rocky Point

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

K LINE SPEEDTILLERS for hire, efficient tillage implement, phone AgQuip hire. 1300 859 869

Fully irrigated cane farm for sale 75ha cultivated, 40 ha grazing on 4 titles, 314 ML water with 2016 crop included. High production close to town Ph- 0419665001 Trailco T400 Irrigator 200m hose 2 new floatation tyres \$5700inc. Hodge 3 row cane rake \$1500inc. Gandy Box on 2" toolbar ground drive \$900inc. Goph Planter and 2 trailers \$500inc. Naiper 3 tyne Ripper with 6 x 1" tynes spare ripper leg and clamps 2500inc. Hodge 2 tonne fertilizer box 2 row with coulter \$5000inc. Ph: 0418 874 615

MF 3505 tractor FWA 110 hp (needs tyres), Bonel 5 m hyd fold multi weeder, Bonel 3 row hyd fold tracking plant cane cultivator, Bonel contra rotating plant cane weeder, Bonel plant cane cutter. Ph 0448 174 691 or 0412 708 937

## Wanted

FORD TW15 or 25 tractor engine block Ph 0418180650 anytime

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

Power haul up to 10 tonnes or a tag along 6 - 10 tonnes. Ph: 0414 931 716

24 Plate Napier wheeled offsets. Will consider other brands Ph.0407 638 381 or 49540190 AH

2 x 18.4 x 30 tractor tyres reasonable condition Ph: 0407638381 or 49540190 AH

Pair of 18.4 x 34" rims and centres to suit Ford 5000, 6600 or 7000 tractor. Ph: 0419 710 280

Set of forks to suit John Deere hitch, Trailing scoop bucket 2 metres and above. Ph 0419 788 376

## Work Wanted

MOSSMAN/BABINDA/TULLY/BURDEKIN - Looking for cane haul out position for 2016 harvest, have farm experience on Atherton Tableland, good work ethic, Open C class license. Nicholas Ph 0473561692

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

PROSERPINE AREA - Seeking work, apprentice boiler-maker, 3 years experience with Extreme Mining Services. Ph: 0409 104 459

## Property

MACKAY: 1750 Acres, seven lots, Coastal flat freehold property. South of Mackay supplying 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, 4 lots, all freehold. 2016 crop not included. Interested persons please phone 4777 4633

WANTED TO LEASE cane farm in the Mackay area. Currently farming in the Farleigh area. ph - 0409897557

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale Hawkins Creek area. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407635175.

WANTED TO LEASE cane farm in the Mackay area. Currently farming in the Farleigh area. ph - 0409897557

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale Hawkins Creek area. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407635175.

WANTED TO BUY: Cane farm 200-250 acres, irrigated, Marian Mirani Nth Eton areas Ph: 0428 774455

WANTED TO LEASE cane farm in the Bundaberg area. Ph 0429 026 690





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