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*COVER IMAGE: A decades-long quest to improve soil health and boost productivity has led Maryborough grower Ashley Petersen to adopt many of the industry's best management practices. Read about his farming system on page 18.*

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# Qld needs stability and a govt willing to listen

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

As the outcome of the Queensland State Election is decided, CANEGROWERS is taking steps to ensure your voice is heard by the incoming government and, as there was during the weeks of the campaign, there's a role for every district and member.

This 2017 election has been tight and the Labor Party looked set to claim victory as this magazine went to the printer after a significant splintering of the conservative vote on 25 November.

What every industry and advocacy group needs now is certainty and stability from a government which is positive and inclusive in its interactions.

Whatever the outcome overall and in the electorates which cover the sugarcane regions of Queensland, CANEGROWERS tactic will be the same.

From day one of a new government, we will be working to build relationships both at a state level and locally at a district level – by staff and members.

This is critical because this government will be with us for a fixed term – until October 2020.

Whatever their background, CANEGROWERS will ensure that every MP has a clear understanding of how important the sugar industry is for Queensland, for the state's economy and the social fabric of our regional communities.

When the new Cabinet is announced, we will work to build up the skills and knowledge of the individuals given custody of the multiple portfolios which affect our members' operations – Agriculture, Environment, Water, Energy and Natural Resource Management immediately spring to mind.

Our door at the CANEGROWERS office in Brisbane will always be open to both government and opposition MPs.

As we build these new relationships, we will be encouraging the Ministers and MPs of all parties to head out onto Queensland cane farms, to meet our members and see how the modern industry works. For this we will call on your help.

There'll be no surprises from CANEGROWERS for the incoming government. Our preferred policy positions have been well promoted during the election campaign.

Everything is as relevant now as it was when the election was called so we will be posting a copy of the issues and actions brochure to every MP when the seats are decided.

From electricity prices, to environmental regulation and the futures of the Smartcane BMP program and the grower choice and competition in marketing legislation – we will be engaging with the government and opposition on the options which are best for Queensland's cane growers.

Our CANEGROWERS leaders have decades of experience and changes of government and ministers are a challenge they have faced many times.

Our farmer-led structure gives us the strength and credibility that good governments rely upon for sound advice.

It will be up to the willingness of government to listen and be collaborative, so that decisions can be made in the best interests of all of us. ■

*"CANEGROWERS will ensure that every MP has a clear understanding of how important the sugar industry is for Queensland, for the state's economy and the social fabric of our regional communities."*





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# QLD ELECTION



## Finding the election policy sweet spots

CANEGROWERS is committed to work constructively with the government the people of Queensland have elected. We will make sure the incoming government understands the issues and action we put before the parties and voters during the campaign.

Topping the list of actions to secure the prosperity of cane growers and regional economies are cutting electricity prices, maintaining grower choice and competition in sugar marketing and supporting environmental sustainability programs without regulating farm practices.

CEO Dan Galligan wrote to the party leaders during the campaign and across the growing districts, CANEGROWERS staff and elected representatives contacted local candidates.

**"All parties, responding to overwhelming pressure from the electorate, have put forward policies which look capable of putting some downward pressure on electricity prices."**

The full list of the issues and the replies to the CEO are detailed on the CANEGROWERS website [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au)

### GROWER CHOICE AND COMPETITION

CANEGROWERS welcomed the strong support of many candidates for grower choice and competition in sugar marketing services but was disappointed by the response from one major party.

"The Liberal National Party, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, Katter's Australian Party and Greens candidates along with a number of independents have replied to our letters, emails or questions committing to maintaining the anti-monopoly protections in the *Sugar Industry Act*," Mr Galligan said.

"However, our approaches have resulted in the Australian Labor Party, which opposed the amendments in the Queensland Parliament in 2015, saying it supported commercial outcomes in the sugar industry."

The party failed to clarify what an ALP government's plans might be in relation to the legislation.

Growers remain fearful there will be a move to repeal it should vote counting result in an ALP majority government.

### QUEENSLAND State Election Party responses to grower issues



CANEGROWERS issue/action	LNP	ALP	KAP	PHON	Green
Commit to maintain legislation for grower choice and competition in sugar marketing	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Reduce power prices by 33%	No specific commitment to a 33% reduction however all parties have put forward policies which will produce some downward pressure on prices				
Support Smartcane BMP	YES	YES	No response	YES	No response
Reduce regulation on farming practices in Great Barrier Reef catchments	Unclear Have agreed education & voluntary programs are better than regulation	NO Will expand minimum practice standard regulations across all catchments	Unclear Will work on regulatory reform, but did not state if this relates to reef regulations	Unclear Has said additional regulations are not needed	No response



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"CANEGROWERS also supports commercial outcomes and the legislation does not stand in their way," Mr Galligan said.

"Our members need the safety net of the legislation in place to ensure they are not strong-armed by milling companies which hold a monopoly for cane processing in their district. The legislation also protects growers against millers again trying to seize monopoly control of sugar marketing services.

"As the producers of the crop that is the backbone of Queensland's \$2.5 billion sugar export industry, and having been identified as important feedstock suppliers for the expansion of the state's biofuels industry, we are very disappointed in the response."

#### ENVIRONMENT/BMP

CANEGROWERS looks forward to continuing its proactive engagement with government as a partner to securing water quality outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.

"We are confident that there is support for Smartcane BMP, the industry's best practices program, from both the ALP and the LNP," Mr Galligan said.

"This support is welcome as Smartcane BMP is delivering results for sustainability, productivity and profitability in the industry.

"A key difference though is the commitment of the ALP to expand the regulation of farm practices within reef catchment areas - as an industry we do not believe minimum standards are the best way to secure lasting practice change on farms and ongoing innovation toward water quality benefits for the Great Barrier Reef."

**"We are confident that there is support for Smartcane BMP, the industry's best practices program from both the ALP and the LNP ... Smartcane BMP is delivering results for sustainability, productivity and profitability."**

#### ELECTRICITY

CANEGROWERS has been heartened by the attention paid to high electricity prices during this campaign - it is an situation hurting households and businesses and it cannot continue.

"While we welcome commitments to invest in energy efficient technologies, the underlying reasons for the high cost impost must also be addressed," Mr Galligan said.

"All parties, responding to overwhelming pressure from the electorate, have put forward policies which look capable of putting some downward pressure on prices, which is a step towards the result we need to maintain Queensland's international competitiveness.

"CANEGROWERS will be holding the parties to account, expecting to see results from their various commitments." ■

## GROWERS VOICE FRUSTRATION AT ELECTRICITY FORUM

More than 50 people, including many farmers, attended a Queensland Industry Energy Alliance forum in Mareeba to voice their concerns over skyrocketing electricity costs and listen to local election candidates outline their plans for reining them in.

Candidates for Cook - Penny Johnson (LNP), Jen Sackley (One Nation) and Gordon Rasmussen (KAP) - and candidates for Hill - Mario Quagliata (LNP), Johanna Kloot (Greens) and Stewart Worth (Ind) - offered a range of views on how to reduce the cost of electricity.

Ms Sackley outlined One Nation's plan to build a new coal fired power station in North Queensland, while Johanna Kloot said the Greens' focus would be on boosting renewables and the re-nationalising of Queensland's power assets.



Mr Rasmussen told growers that KAP would push to abolish the rate of return and write down the regulated asset base.

One thing all candidates had in common was scant detail on how they would pay for their plans.

Growers voiced their frustrations and called for immediate action on power prices.

Tableland grower Rajinder Singh has said the cost of electricity is threatening the viability of growing irrigated cane in the district.

Mr Singh, who is Chairman of the CANEGROWERS Economics and Trade Committee, estimated the cost of power to be \$4-\$5 per tonne of cane.

"If you're a 10,000 tonne cane farmer it's around \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, and that's just the cost of electricity. The cost of water is a similar amount as well."

The Queensland Industry Energy Alliance was formed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, CANEGROWERS and the Queensland Farmers' Federation. ■

# CANEGROWERS Regional round-up



## Tableland

A bi-election has been called so CANEGROWERS Tableland members can vote to fill a Board vacancy following the resignation of Director and Chairman Thomas Maisel.

The Directors would like to pass on their sincere appreciation for the selfless contribution that Tom has made to the Tableland cane industry over the past 20 years. We wish Tom all the best for his future endeavours.

Nominations open on 12 January 2018, and close at 5pm on the 31 January 2018. Nomination forms available from the CANEGROWERS Tableland office

## Appointment of new Chair and Deputy Chair

The election of Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd Chair and Deputy Chair occurred at the Board meeting on 23 November 2017. The Board would like to announce that Maryann Salvetti has been elected as Chair and Rajinder Singh has been elected as Deputy Chair. We congratulate Maryann and Rajinder and thank them for making the commitment required of these positions.

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## Cairns Region

With the end of the 2017 crushing season just around the corner, growers and contractors are becoming increasingly frustrated with mill breakdowns. Some stoppages have been lengthy and the amount of delayed cane in bins, as well as the impact on season length, is concerning for growers.

Some rain has fallen over the past two weeks and the plant and ratoon cane is looking promising as a result.

The AGM for CANEGROWERS Cairns Region will be held at Babinda Bowls Club on 13 December, at 2pm.

All members are encouraged to attend. Guest speakers are CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager Matt Kealley and Project Cane Changer's Dr John Pickering.



## Tully

The season wrapped up in Tully at 12:05am on Monday, 27 November with 2,496,000 tonnes crushed with a seasonal average CCS of 12.93.

The 2017 season had a wet finish and while 126 mm of rain was recorded in Tully over 16 days in November, some parts of the district had significantly more rain.

There were many cases where infield transporters were required and where haulouts were pulled through the paddock to deliver the cane to the siding. A small amount of cane remains unharvested because of the wet paddocks.

The crop is the third largest in Tully's history and congratulations goes to all

## Innisfail

As at 26 November, approximately 92% of the crop had been crushed.

There have been a number of issues with milling operations, including a catastrophic failure of No.5 Mill. There had been no forward planning to be able to install a by-pass chute and first attempts were made to fix the mill. However, this was unsuccessful and a chute had to be fabricated.

Poor fibre resulted and the boiler feed suffered chokes and the boilers have not been able to cope.

In past eight days there has not been one full day of crushing operations. Growers are frustrated, especially with the end of harvesting in sight and the prospect of increased rainfall.

National Agriculture Day on Tuesday 21 November was marked locally with an information expo involving local industries and allied groups/organisations. Despite some morning showers the event was well supported and provided the basis of developing similar activities in future years.

involved from the growing, harvesting and milling sectors who worked so hard to make it a successful season.

On the production side the rain has done a lot of good to the plant and ratoon cane and the 2018 crop is progressing well, and growers are busy completing jobs before the cane is out of hand.

A Water Quality Field Day will be held on the 8 December at the Mill Recreation Hall commencing at 8am. The morning will be an opportunity to catch up on the latest monitoring and results from the Reef Report Card as well as seeing some technology and being briefed on a number of project milestones.



## Herbert River

Week 24 (ending 25 November) was impacted by persistent wet weather, with heavy falls in some areas overwhelming most of the harvesters. Crushing got down to a single milling train before conditions improved at the end of the week enabling more groups to operate. The crop estimate shows no sign of slackening. CCS eased further during the week, especially during the very wet days, but appeared to stabilise towards the end of the week.

As of Monday 27 November, the Herbert's crush had exceeded 89% of the current crop estimate of 4.98 million tonnes. District CCS for the week was 11.73 and for the season to date was 13.26 as at the end of week 24.

### Safety net for very low CCS

With some rakes testing below 7 CCS in the wake of the wet harvesting conditions, Wilmar has responded favourably to representations from CANEGROWERS Herbert River seeking consideration of a safety net similar to what has previously applied in some very wet finishes. From Sunday 26 November an ex gratia payment for cane delivered at less than 6 units CCS and at or above 5 units of CCS



will be paid at \$8.97 per tonne of cane plus GST. Wilmar reserves the right to limit this concession to an individual grower's initial delivery tonnage on a particular day where sampling indicates that the affected cane will be problematic for processing. In the event that mill performance or sugar quality is unduly impaired by low CCS cane, Wilmar Sugar reserves the right to withdraw the ex-gratia component of this concession for cane delivered after such a decision. The ex gratia payment will be made with the wash up pay.

### Outlook for a finish date

With well over 500,000 tonnes remaining to be harvested this season and with recent weeks being behind budget, the finish is

now heading towards 16 December, weather permitting.

Juice purity for the district remains in the mid-80s, so provided the weather is favourable and CCS remains in the payment range, the crop is well worth harvesting.

The Herbert River Catchment and Landcare Group had its outdoor inspection activities curtailed by the weather at its final meeting for the year on 22 November, but nevertheless managed to inspect the Lucinda Wetlands area where the Lucinda Progress Association has proposed a partnership project to enhance the area's attraction to visitors by a concerted effort on weed control. It was then agreed to proceed with making this a project for focus by the Group.

## Burdekin

By the time this *Australian Canegrower* is published, all Burdekin mills will be finished, providing there hasn't been any intervening rain or breakdowns.

Wilmar's forecast finish dates were:  
**Invicta** – Wednesday 29 November  
**Kalamia** – Friday 1 December  
**Inkerman** – Friday 1 December  
**Pioneer** – Monday 4 December

The weekly average CCS of 13.08 and 13.16 has shown a little tick up over the past two weeks.

A small quantity of Q200 going just over 15 has been the highest performing variety, whilst Q183 has been the predominant variety at around 13 CCS. Season to date average CCS for the Burdekin district is 14.04.

377,773 tonnes were crushed in the week ending 25 November, with 347,533 crushed the week prior. This brings a season to date of 7,851,807 tonnes crushed or 96.5% of the revised estimate of 8.13 million.

## Mackay

Wet weather continued to plague operations during the week (ending 26 November) causing high mud content.

Unrelated mechanical issues also hampered production. The three Mackay mills crushed 178,222 tonnes in this week, bringing the total this season to date to 4,779,107 tonnes. Individually the mills crushed: Farleigh 51,148 tonnes, Marian 75,096 and Racecourse 51,978 tonnes. PRS average for the week was 10.92 and average for the season to date is at 13.50.

## Plane Creek

Wilmar Sugar's Plane Creek mill crushed 15,794 tonnes in the final week of the 2017 harvest (ending 18 November), bringing the season total to 1,171,528 tonnes. CCS average for this week was 12.19 with the final CCS average for the

season at 14.01 units. The mill finalised crushing at 3.30am on Thursday 16 November. This final week did have some disruptions from rain with the mill stopping and batching cane on two occasions.

Continued page 8 ►

## CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

### Bundaberg

The Bundaberg Sugar mills processed 48,023 tonnes during the week ending November 25. This brings the season total so far to a total of 1,590,322 tonnes.

Harvest conditions have been extremely difficult with some contractors using full track equipment to get cane off. The CCS results in both mill areas have remained low due to wet ground and suckers.

The weekly average CCS at Bingera was 10.85 units and 12.53 at Millaquin. The weekly average for the region was 12.12 units with the season to date average at 13.93. The highest variety average CCS for the week was 11.93 units from Q208.

The highest individual CCS recorded was 15.10 units from Q200 old ratoon in the Millaquin area. The major varieties supplied for the week were Q208 (39% of supply – 11.93 CCS average), Q240 (14% -11.41 CCS), Q232 (14% - 10.88 CCS) and Q242 (12% - 10.10 CCS).

Bingera Mill finished crushing for the season on Tuesday, November 28. Cane still to be harvested in the Bingera area will be transferred to Millaquin Mill for crushing.

### Isis

Crushing activities were wound up at Isis Central Sugar Mill at 9.29pm on Saturday, 18 November, 145 days after it had commenced on Monday 26 June. The 2017 season was one of contrast, with very dry conditions for the first 98 days and very wet conditions for the last 47 days.

There were many positives for the season, with 2017 recording the seventh highest total of cane crushed in 125 years. Week 13 saw 11,380 tonnes of IPS sugar produced, surpassing the previous record by more than 300 tonnes, and on six separate occasions good reliability and performance were evident with the weekly throughput exceeding 70,000 tonnes.

The total tonnes crushed for the 2017 season was 1,191,029 with an average CCS of 13.82 units. This equated to 173,572 tonnes of (IPS) sugar.

With the crushing now complete the focus has now shifted to weed control and fertilising. The rainfall of the past couple of months has replenished water supplies and the 2018 crop is off to a great start. Fingers crossed the rain continues through the summer months.

### Maryborough

With the season dragging closer to its end, we now find sunny days attractive. The end is definitely in sight but the final date is variable – like the weather!

At time of writing, 581,838 tonnes or 97% of the estimated crop had been crushed. CCS has struggled, with the seven day average at 11.32 and season average now 13.74.

With harvesting now all but over, it's timely to think about topping up your crop insurance for this season. See Cam at the office for a quote. Also, don't forget to send in your cane pics to help brighten up the hall.

The pilot / escort training held last week was very well attended and all successfully completed their assessment.

A date to lock in-

- 12 December is the end of season meeting, commencing at 2:30pm with a BBQ to follow. ■

## Money Matters

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### KNOWING IS GROWING

Financial literacy is more than numbers and money, it's also about understanding the consequences of financial matters and how they can affect you and your family.

#### Some interesting facts:<sup>1</sup>

- 39% of Australian workers spend over 2 hours a week thinking about their personal finances
- Financial stress is costing private businesses \$35 billion every year and self-employed businesses \$5.4 billion
- 58% of employees are interested in employer-sponsored financial wellbeing programs
- Only 14% of businesses provide these services

#### How do you develop financial literacy?

You work hard for your money – so why wouldn't you ensure you have the tools and skills to manage it? A little bit of know-how can go a long way and help you establish good money habits that will positively impact your financial position over the course of your life time.

There are plenty of tools available that can help you develop your financial literacy. Mobile Apps that track your spending or when your employer makes a super guarantee payment, online blogs that provide a wealth of information, interactive webinars and online tutorials to upskill participants on financial essentials.

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<sup>1</sup>Map My Plan – The Financial Fitness of Working Australians Report – November 2016

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## Research looking to improve harvest efficiency **FOR THE WHOLE VALUE CHAIN**

A new research project is looking at the front end of sugarcane harvesters to see if their components can be better matched to ground speed.



The idea is simple. Currently, on factory-standard machines, the spirals, basecutter and knockdown and fin rollers are not specifically coordinated with the forward speed of the harvester.

Yet these components play a crucial role in impacting the quality of the cane supply, sugar loss and ratoons, with previous research suggesting there is significant damage occurring even before the cane reaches the basecutters.

The research is asking the question: Can the front end be improved?

As part of that question, Norris ECT is working with the Queensland University of Technology on a project that is part of the Rural R&D for Profit project, Enhancing the sugar industry value chain by addressing mechanical harvest losses. This is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, SRA and QUT.

In 2017, field trials have been assessing a modified John Deere 3520s in northern NSW and at Childers and a Case 8000 with Wilmar in the Burdekin.

We caught up with **Stuart Norris** from Norris ECT in August while field trials were

underway in the Tweed Valley at a property managed by **David Bartlett**.

"If you do some analysis, it looks like none of the front-end components are really that well suited to the speeds and conditions we harvest at currently," Stuart said.

"By doing these trials, we are hoping to determine the impact of the current speed of those components and is there any negative impact on yields. Is there some way to fix it to allow us to continue to harvest profitability?"

The 3520 at Condong, run by Tweed Valley Harvesting, has had another controller added that allows the speed of the basecutters, spirals and fin and knockdown rollers to be changed and also automatically linked to ground speed.

Working in a block of dual-row 1.9m one-year old burnt cane, the trial involved four treatments:

- Low speed at factory front-end settings (4 km/hour)
- Low speed at synchronised front-end settings (4 km/hour)
- High speed at front-end setting (8 km/hour)

- High speed at synchronised front-end settings (8 km/hour).

Stuart said that the project had already learnt valuable information about the front-end of modern Case IH and John Deere harvesters.

QUT is developing a detailed model of the behaviour of cane as it interacts with the front end of the machine, and is also continuing the process of engaging a PhD student to be involved in the project.

- For more information contact Stuart Norris, [stuart@schlot.com.au](mailto:stuart@schlot.com.au)
- This project is supported by funding from SRA and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program. ■

*Pictured (above): A new research project is looking at the front end of sugarcane harvesters to see if their components can be better matched to ground speed.*

*INSET: Stuart Norris and grower David Bartlett in the field discussing the trial and harvester settings.*

# QUEENSLAND CANE GROWERS HONoured FOR COMMITMENT TO REEF PROTECTION

The credentials of Queensland's cane-growing industry as an important guardian of the Great Barrier Reef were given a boost this month with public recognition of some of the industry's outstanding growers.

Isis cane farmer Chris Russo and Burdekin growers Angela and Gary Spotswood collected two of the top gongs at the 2017 Reef Alliance Awards night in Townsville on November 22, while Mackay grower Tony Bugeja was runner-up for the prestigious Reef Sustainability Award.

Chris, whose story featured in the 23 October issue of *Australian Canegrower*, received the Reef Nutrient Management Award for his innovative high-clearance spray rig which allows him to inject liquid fertiliser directly into the root-zone up to 150 days post emergence.

The modified toolbar, originally designed for precision fertiliser application in corn,

has enabled Chris to adopt a staggered nutrient management plan, resulting in reductions of between 30 and 50 units of nitrogen per hectare without negatively impacting yield at his Farnsfield farm.

Gary and Angela Spotswood, who run a cane, cattle and organic veggie business in the Burdekin, were presented with the Reef Conservation Award for their work restoring the ecological function of Mt Alma's 100 ha lagoon.

The lagoon provides important habitat for native bird and fish species but was choked with thickets of Typha – a native plant that had taken advantage of the constantly wet conditions caused by excess irrigation water.



Thanks to the family's conservation efforts, waterbirds, fish and other flora and fauna have returned and the lagoon is now able to filter and contain runoff during rainfall events, improving water quality for the downstream areas including the Reef.

Their story featured in the 27 February of *Australian Canegrower* – read it here: [www.canegrowers.com.au/page/magazine/magazine/2017](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/magazine/magazine/2017)

Mackay's Tony Bugeja narrowly missed out on the Reef Alliance's headline award, the Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award.







*"These fantastic, forward-thinking growers are outstanding representatives of our industry. They are also just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much innovation taking place across the cane industry right now, as growers really embrace their role as custodians of the land."*

*Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS*

An accredited Smartcane BMP and Project Catalyst grower, Tony has been at the forefront of practice change and innovation in Queensland's cane industry for over a decade.

The award went to banana growers Frank and Dianne Sciacca, co-founders of the Ecoganic farming system, which enables fungicide reduction of 60–100%.

The cane industry took out a third gong at the gala dinner, with CANEGROWERS Innisfail extension officer Deb Telford collecting the Reef Extension Officer Award.

Deb, who has worked in the industry for over 20 years, is also a Smartcane BMP facilitator for the Wet Tropics.

In this role Deb has assisted 141 growers to benchmark their farming businesses and has seen 46 growers accredited in Innisfail, accounting for over 40% of the cane production area in the district.

The final award of the evening — the Reef Sediment Management Award — went to Fitzroy Region grazier Dan Bishop, for his efforts to address gully erosion and sediment run-off across his property. ■

*Pictured (above): Finalists for the 2017 Reef Alliance Awards; (below L to R) Chris Russo; Deb Telford with Caroline Coppo (WTSIP) and Carole Sweetman (Terrain NRM); Angela and Gary Spotswood; Dan Bishop; Queensland Senator Ian MacDonald; Joanne Grainger, Reef Alliance Chair; Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager.*





# Are you disposing of your agvet chemical containers in an environmentally safe way?

## Queensland drum collection numbers

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-17
<b>Mossman</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>1,698</b>
<b>Mulgrave</b>	<b>5,691</b>	<b>7,461</b>	<b>8,186</b>
<b>Tablelands</b>	<b>20,665</b>	<b>22,234</b>	<b>28,505</b>
<b>Innisfail</b>	<b>8,639</b>	<b>7,793</b>	<b>5,776</b>
<b>Tully</b>	<b>11,215</b>	<b>17,565</b>	<b>15,557</b>
<b>Herbert Valley</b>	<b>14,394</b>	<b>17,202</b>	<b>15,445</b>
<b>Burdekin</b>	<b>10,598</b>	<b>17,995</b>	<b>22,840</b>
<b>Proserpine</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>4,278</b>
<b>Mackay</b>	<b>12,294</b>	<b>14,219</b>	<b>14,018</b>
<b>Plane Creek</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>3,730</b>
<b>Bundaberg/Isis</b>	<b>41,586</b>	<b>54,663</b>	<b>58,589</b>
<b>Maryborough</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>2,683</b>
	<b>135,796</b>	<b>173,151</b>	<b>181,305</b>

Record numbers of Queensland farmers are using **drumMUSTER** to dispose of their empty chemical drums.

Meet your QA requirements by recycling empty containers through **drumMUSTER**.



"DrumMUSTER is a fantastic program that continues to help sugarcane farmers across Queensland to safely, responsibly and conveniently dispose of our unwanted farm chemicals and containers.

The program has massive environmental benefits and, by helping growers to meet their Smartcane BMP reporting requirements, plays a role in helping cane farms become more sustainable and achieve the social licence to operate that is vital to the future of our industry."

**Paul Schembri**  
Chairman



CANEGROWERS



Keep  
Queensland's  
cane growing  
regions clean



Find your nearest **drumMUSTER** collection site at  
**[drumMUSTER.org.au](http://drumMUSTER.org.au)** or phone 1800 008 707



# RECYCLE YOUR USED AGVET CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

## DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

**RINSE** empty drums immediately after use

**PUNCTURE** metal drums through the base

**REMOVE** lids to allow drums to dry

**RECYCLE** with  **drumMUSTER**

To find your nearest collection site, simply enter your postcode  
on the interactive map at ***drummuster.org.au***



# Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

## Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Science Synthesis workshop 2017

CANEGROWERS attended the workshop in Townsville designed to provide an opportunity for science, government and industry to come together, share ideas and facilitate improved delivery of GBR water quality management.

The highlight of the workshop was the extension and grower panel which included Deb Telford (Smartcane BMP facilitator) and Tony Bugeja (cane grower in Mackay).

The discussion focused on how the science and program planning cannot be effective without the engagement of growers and extension people on ground to drive it.

My insight from the workshop is that there is a genuine willingness by government and the science community to work with growers for better outcomes on farm and for the reef.

### Reef Awards

The winners of the 2017 Reef Alliance Awards, which recognise the work of farmers to reduce their off-farm impact on the reef, were announced on 22 November. This year's winners are featured in the magazine and I'm pretty impressed with the work by the finalists.

I was very happy that Chris Russo won the Reef Nutrient Management Award and ecstatic for Deb Telford who won the Reef Extension Officer's Award for her instrumental role in delivering grants and extension support to growers over the past 20 years.

### Reef Regulations Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

CANEGROWERS submission to the Reef Regulations RIS has been on hold while the government has been in caretaker mode because of the state election.

Given the election result indicates that Labor is likely to be in Government for the next four years, it can be assumed that the regulations will be back on the table. Watch this space.

### National Environmental Science Program Tropical Water Quality Hub (NESP TWQ)

CANEGROWERS attended to hear updates on 15 of the projects under this program. Some of the highlights included:

- Big Data-based citizen science for evaluating public perceptions of the Great Barrier Reef;
- work on more efficient methods for crown-of-thorns starfish control;
- cane grower led water quality monitoring in the Cairns region called Project 25.

The day was informative and useful to get a broader appreciation of the research being undertaken outside of cane. For more information on the NESP TWQ hub can be found at <http://nesptropical.edu.au/> ■



## Industry strength in relationships

CANEGROWERS is the lead agent on several important industry projects strategically selected to address issues that affect a large part of the industry.

The structure of our organisation, with 14 offices in Brisbane and throughout the sugarcane-growing districts, lends itself to doing this successfully.

Good relationships, not only within the CANEGROWERS organisation itself, but with productivity services, mill based agronomists and SRA, are key in running a successful project.

Our industry "family" provides a very strong network of people who have direct relationships with growers, and is the envy of many other industries.

This should not be underestimated as an industry asset.

I am currently involved with two projects which epitomise this strength.

### EEF60

The Support of Cane Farmer Trials of Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser in the Catchments of the Great Barrier Reef project - known as the EEF60 - includes sub-contracts with SRA, three productivity services and two CANEGROWERS district organisations.

There has also been a wide range of input to assist the project from individuals and organisations outside these formal contracts which also needs to be acknowledged.

In just four months, the EEF60 project has found 60 trial sites on volunteer growers farms. This was possible through the hard work of SRA and because of the good relationships between industry service organisations and growers.

I'd like to thank all involved for their assistance.

### RWUE

The second project is the Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures, which directly contracts three CANEGROWERS district organisations and five productivity services.

This is a well-established program and has developed a significant network of people, both within the industry and outside it.

Our industry strength is often not realised by outside funders and government.

Let's build on this strength and use the opportunity with the new SRA direction for extension and adoption to further align the strategic directions of the entire industry. ■





## Economics with Warren Males

## Consumers are king makers

The economic concept of 'consumer sovereignty' has its roots in the idea that consumers, through their purchasing decisions, have the power to determine what goods and services are produced.

There are usually many suppliers of items that are in strong demand, as producers attempt to profit from a market trend. As demand patterns change, so do items that are available to consumers.

Of course, producers attempt to influence choices through new product development and advertising.

But, ultimately, the success or failure of a new product comes down to whether consumers buy it.

In this way, consumers remain in the driving seat. So, while consumers might not be king, they are definitely king-makers.

Despite sugar being a commodity in a global sugar market, the same idea prevails.

Alert to mounting pressures from a variety of sources to improve environmental outcomes, as part of their marketing strategies, food and beverage manufacturers began to offer product choices that show their supply chains are sustainable.

Consumers, buying into the proposition, are increasingly demanding sustainably produced products.

This has encouraged the world's biggest sugar buyers, like CocaCola, to demand the sugar they purchase is sustainably produced.

Refiners are responding and increasingly demanding sustainably produced raw sugar.

Our industry's Smartcane BMP program was designed to demonstrate to government that Queensland's sugarcane industry is environmentally sustainable and that there is no reason to increase the regulatory burden on growers.

It is now clear that Smartcane BMP has a much wider application. It

can be used in the marketplace to demonstrate that Australian raw sugar is sustainably produced.

Thanks to Smartcane BMP, we are on the front foot.

International buyers like the quality of Australian raw sugar. Once our sugar is accredited as being sustainably produced, they will have more reason to buy it.

I encourage all growers to sign up to Smartcane BMP. Let's give the world's sugar buyers every reason to crown Australia as sovereign of the world sugar trade. ■



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# Advances adjustments mark end of crush



By Bryce Wenham, QSL Finance Manager – Supplier Relations

*As the 2017 harvest draws to a close, a number of adjustments are being made to QSL Advances payments.*

As the 2017 harvest draws to a close, a number of adjustments are being made to QSL Advances payments.

During December and January (depending on local milling arrangements), growers supplying Bundaberg Sugar, Isis Central Sugar Mill, Mackay Sugar, MSF Sugar and Tully Sugar move from receiving QSL Advances based on their current mill district weighted average price, to a payment that reflects their actual pricing position.

This change brings with it a positive or negative payment adjustment to reflect the difference between each grower's individual pricing position and the payments they have received to date based on the mill average result.

Growers who have surpassed the mill average will receive an increase in their Advances payment (excluding any other applicable deductibles/costs), while those below the average may receive a reduced payment or no payment at all for a period to bring them back into alignment with their actual pricing position.

In addition to this, growers may have their coming QSL Advance payments adjusted to reflect the final results of their relative CCS payment scheme.

It is important to note that while Wilmar Growers' Advances from QSL already reflect their individual pricing position, once all mills have finished crushing there may be an adjustment to their sugar tonnages for the season based on the final IPS conversion factor and CCS results.

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The QSL Board is focused on minimising the negative impact of these December/January adjustments on growers, and this is among a range of factors that it considers when it regularly reviews QSL's indicative Advances program.

Other considerations also weighed by the Board before implementing any

scheduled Advances rate change include movements in our marketing and shipping plans, sugar price and currency activity, the timing of cash flows and our suppliers' positions in relation to any pricing elections.

The next review of QSL's 2017-Season indicative Advances schedule will be at the November Board meeting, where the December 2017 and January 2018 Advance rate increases will be considered and confirmed.

## The current indicative QSL Advances schedule is:

Date payment is applicable from*	Standard QSL advances rate	Accelerated QSL advances rate
Current rate (as of 18 October 2017)	72.5%	72.5%
13 December 2017	75%	90%
24 January 2018	80%	90%
21 February 2018	82.5%	90%
21 March 2018	87.5%	90%
18 April 2018	90%	90%
16 May 2018	92.5%	92.5%
20 June 2018	95%	95%
July 2018 (Date tbc)	100%	100%

\* Please note that this is the date the payment is currently scheduled to be made to Suppliers for disbursement to eligible growers. Please refer to your local payment arrangements for your actual payment date. QSL usually makes payments to contracted Wilmar growers on a Thursday. QSL's current Advances program is indicative only in its entirety and should not be taken as a commitment by QSL with regard to either the Advance rate or date of increase.

## ACCELERATED ADVANCES

Those growers who have elected to receive Accelerated Advances will have eligible tonnages in QSL's Guaranteed Floor, Fixed Priced Forward Contract and/or Target Price Contract pools paid at an Advances rate of 90% from December, eventually moving to 92.5% once the Standard Advances program reaches this same rate (currently scheduled for May 2018). ■

### DISCLAIMER:

This Statement (Statement) contains information of a summary or general nature about QSL's Advances Program and therefore does not purport to be comprehensive or complete. While care is taken in the preparation of this Statement, QSL does not make any representations as to its accuracy or completeness. Information about past performance should not be relied on as an indication of future performance, nor should this Statement be taken to include representations as to future matters. This Statement does not constitute financial or investment advice. The information in this Statement is current only as at the date of the Statement (unless otherwise noted) and may change without notice.



# 2018 Season – Why Choose QSL?



MSF Sugar Growers who wish to access QSL pricing and marketing services for the 2018 Season must nominate QSL as their GEI Sugar Marketer by **29 December 2017**.



## NEW FOR 2018

### > IMPROVED PRICING PRODUCTS

We've improved our Grower-Managed pricing options to give you longer to price, more flexibility through smaller pricing increments and the ability to roll pricing forward.

### > MORE PAYMENT OPTIONS

Whether you want a guaranteed minimum return, Standard Advances or Accelerated Advances, we offer a range of payment options designed to support the needs of your business.

### > MORE DETAILED REPORTING

There's no hidden charges, with all costs included in your Shared Pool allocation and detailed in the expanded pool reporting section of our website.

### > LOYALTY PAYS OFF

Nominate QSL as your GEI Sugar Marketer for three years forward and you'll receive a Loyalty Bonus, incorporating a Shared Services Rebate and Supplementary Commitment Premium.

## QSL'S CONTINUING PROMISE TO YOU



### 1. Owned by you, focused on you

QSL does not pursue our own commercial interests above those of the industry we serve.



### 2. Passing on the value

QSL is an income-tax exempt, pass-through industry service organisation. That means we pass on all net value created and don't 'clip the ticket'.



### 3. Multiple pricing options

Whether you want to make your own forward pricing decisions or prefer a managed pool, we offer a varied range of products for you to choose from.



### 4. Experienced professionals

Our Queensland-based marketing and pricing team leverages a range of global partnerships to serve our Members and their interests.



### 5. Above and beyond

Your dedicated QSL Grower Services representative is available to provide support and information when you need it.

# SIX ESSENTIAL STEPS TO IMPROVING YOUR SOIL HEALTH

By Wayne Griffin

For Maryborough cane grower Ashley Petersen, soil health has become something of a passion. So committed is Ashley to improving the quality of his soil, that he has spent 20 years trialling different farming systems and adopting many of the industry's evolving best practices. In some cases he has led the way with innovations of his own.

A fifth-generation farmer, Ashley operates a 1500 hectare cane, cattle and pineapple business with his brother David, son Leyton and nephew Nathan.

His father Lloyd also still helps out on the family farm, which is located on the outskirts of one of Queensland's tourist meccas, Hervey Bay, on the Fraser Coast.

The family also runs a successful contract harvesting business, cutting around 1500 ha of cane a year.

"We are kept pretty busy all year round," Ashley said, when *Australian Canegrower* visited the Petersen Family farm recently.

"We normally cut 500 ha of our own cane every year and on top of that there's the

100 ha of legume fallow, mainly soybean, which we take through to harvest.

"So all up we have about 600 ha in cane rotation and we're expanding some more each year into our cattle country.

"Only 200 ha of that is irrigated, so we're pretty well skewed towards dry-land farming, which hasn't been good for us this year."

At the time of our visit in mid-September, the Maryborough region was in the grip of a one in 100-year drought.

Thankfully, this eased in recent weeks, with the region receiving over half a metre of rain since late October.

The Petersens also farm approximately 40 ha of pineapples, from which they harvest 2000 tonnes per year.

Half of this goes to the Golden Circle cannery in Brisbane, while the other half goes as fresh fruit to supermarkets and shops around the country.







*"Row spacing is a pivotal thing to the industry. It takes up a lot of energy and causes a lot of debate ... but we've tried all of the different systems and this is definitely the best system we've had."*

"The pineapples are predominately planted and harvested in the first half of the year, ensuring year-round work for our staff, when combined with the cane harvesting business," Ashley said.

"Pineapples are quite intensive compared to cane, with 40 ha creating as much work and income as 400 ha of cane."

In addition, the farm runs 350 head of cattle, which they purchase as weaner steers and take through to the feedlot stage.

Unsurprisingly, between cane, cattle and pineapples, there is not a lot of free time.

But this has not stopped Ashley pursuing his passion for improved soil health.

It's a 20-year quest that began with a BSES controlled traffic, raised bed and high density trial in the 90s and has culminated in the Petersen's completely changing their farming system.

*Continues page 20...*



*Pictured: Maryborough farmer Ashley Petersen grows 500 ha of cane on the family's 1500 ha cane, pineapple and cattle farm in Hervey Bay. Ashley says the farm's 2m dual row system has boosted plant cane yields by up to 10%.*





*"This is where the industry has gone wrong over the years, because we've minimised the tillage before we've controlled the traffic ... that just does more harm than good."*

One of the most important aspects of this change - the one that took the longest time to perfect and remains the most controversial - is the row spacing.

"For the last 17 years we have been on 2m row centres, with dual rows at 800 mm apart," Ashley said.

"Row spacing is a pivotal thing to the industry. It takes up a lot of energy and causes a lot of debate and arguments, many of which have been going on for 20 years.

"But we've tried all of the different systems and this is definitely the best system we've had.

"It's the best because it's the sweet spot for plant density. Our plant cane yield has been 8-10% higher than under any other system we've tried, and we have tried them all from 1.5m - 2.4m.

"When you do the economics on it, it's pretty impressive. As contract harvesters we harvest 1500 ha of cane a year, 20% of that, around 300 ha, is plant cane.

"If you've got 8-10% extra yield on that 300ha, that's at least 2500 tonnes of extra cane, which at \$40 a tonne is returning over \$100,000 a year across the harvesting group.

"You've also got the benefits of the wider swath with the harvester itself. Compared to a conventional row you can save about an hour in the paddock every day, which equates to about \$500 per shift or \$1000 per day for us running a double shift.

"That's about another \$100,000 every season to the contractor.

"So the growers and the contractor each get an extra \$100,000 per year for a one-off investment of \$50,000, which is what we had to spend to modify our harvester to be able to cut this row spacing. Other modified farm machinery is needed too, but that can be scheduled in as old gear is replaced.

"A lot of people balk at cutting up a new machine and spending that \$50,000, but if you look at it over a five-year period, for that \$50,000 outlay you're getting a \$1 million return if calculated over a lot of hectare in a large harvesting group."

Row spacing is only one aspect of the Petersen's soil health-driven system.

Earlier this year, Ashley collaborated with Sugar Research Australia, the

University of Queensland, the University of Southern Queensland, and Biological Crop Protection in running a series of soil health masterclasses across cane-growing districts.

These workshops were based on research from the recently published soil health guide - *Soil Health, Biology, Diseases and Sustainable Agriculture*.

"I have six areas that I work on to ensure we have the best soil health possible," Ashley said.

## 1/ CONTROLLED TRAFFIC

"The first one is controlled traffic - without that none of the other steps will work properly."

By reducing the compaction of soil, through the use of row-spacing, GPS and other precision technologies, growers can increase the 'sponge', which is the soil's water-holding capacity and achieve larger, healthier root zones, Ashley says.

## 2/ RAISED BEDS

The second step, raised beds, also makes it easier to control in-field traffic, he says.

However, there are many other benefits, including soil that drains more easily in wet weather, but still retains moisture in dry times.

Raised beds also eliminate the need for cutting away and filling of plant cane and provides warmer soil temperatures during cold spells, which assists growth.

## 3/ SOIL COVERAGE

"Keeping your soil covered is really important for achieving better structured, healthier soil," Ashley said.

"We put in a legume crop in November and harvest it in April, but that soybean stubble and trash just stays on top.

"We don't work that ground again, just slide the bedformer over and direct drill into that with a disc opener, which takes away all that stress getting ground ready to plant.

"So, you've got five years of cane where the soil is covered with the trash blanket, and then a year of legume.

"The only time the soil is not covered is the couple of months from when the cane comes out to when the soybean goes in and this is only on the 20% fallow portion of the farm.





"This is also the great benefit of a dual row system where the cane covers the inter-row a month or two sooner, allowing the leaves to intercept the sunlight instead of the ground, which only grows weeds.

"It also helps keep all the beneficial microbiology in the soil. There's so much under there - you just don't understand until you start looking into a microscope.

"It's only when you go to one of these soil health workshops that you realise how many small animals are under the ground that are necessary for healthy soil.

"Farming practices over the years have actually been destroying the soil habitat of these animals."

#### 4/ MINIMUM TILL

Minimum tillage not only saves moisture and decreases nutrient loss, while improving soil structure, but also has the financial benefits of saved fuel and labour costs.

Ashley believes the industry has had problems getting this important aspect of the system right.

"This is where the industry has gone wrong over the years, because we've

minimised the tillage before we've controlled the traffic, leading to yield decline," he said.

"Back in the 80s when minimum till first came in, everyone jumped on it, us included. But we didn't have controlled traffic back then, so we actually did a lot of damage, in that we stopped digging the earth up but kept compacting it with heavy machinery.

"The fact is, a lot of growers are still doing that, they're minimising tillage but not controlling traffic and that just does more harm than good."

#### 5/ ROTATIONAL CROPS AND 6/ ORGANIC MATERIAL APPLICATION

Steps Five and Six, the use of rotational crops and application of organic materials are becoming fairly standard practice across much of the industry.

The Petersens use their rotational crops, like soy and pineapple, not only as a means of improving soil health but also as an additional source of income.

Together with the application of organic materials such as mill mud, compost, manure and ameliorants, these crops also reduce input requirements - saving money and benefitting the environment.

"We put 50 tonnes/ha of mill mud on straight after that fifth year of cane. It goes on in a band on top of the bed and we'll then put soybeans directly into that.

"This combination of the mill mud and soybeans means we don't have to use much nitrogen on the plant cane."

The system is still a work in progress, as Ashley continues to trial new practices and technologies, while benchmarking his success against industry best practice.

But after 20 years of trial and error, he's satisfied they have the most efficient, productive and sustainable farming system the family has ever had.

"It's a long process and I think we've only scratched the surface to be honest," Ashley said.

"But you're continually learning and improving and that can only be a good thing for your business, the industry and the environment." ■

*Pictured: (above) It's been a dry year for growers in the Maryborough region. (Page 18) Leyton Petersen shows the covering effect of the dual row system.*





# What happens to drumMUSTER containers?

Supplied by Agsafe

Before drumMUSTER began operations, landholders had few available options to dispose of their agricultural and veterinary chemical containers in ethical and environmentally sound ways.

Burying, burning and dumping drums were for many years the only ways to manage farm waste.

Then in the late 90s, the agvet chemical industry along with farmers and local government decided it was time to make some changes and give farmers more options.

The first collection took place in May 1999 in Gunnedah, NSW, where landholders surrendered 5,500 containers, which were then processed for recycling and the plastic reused in manufacturing projects.

The idea soon caught on and today, 120 agvet chemical manufacturers participate in the program and display the drumMUSTER logo on product labels.

DrumMUSTER's national program manager, Frank Wimmeler, said Australian landholders demonstrated their commitment to better land management practices through their increasing use of waste management programs.

"Both the drumMUSTER and ChemClear programs are a targeted approach to reducing environmental contamination by diverting chemicals and drums from landfill and being burnt," Frank said.

"Plus, the programs enhance food safety by offering an end-of-life pathway for both unused chemicals and their containers.

"They're effective alternatives to the unlawful burying of chemicals and plastics, reducing the risk of water contamination."

When users purchase products, they become part of the agvet product stewardship chain of custody.

The drumMUSTER logo indicates the user can deliver the empty, clean containers to one of 814 national collection sites, free of charge, as they have already paid a four-cent levy per L/kg towards recycling of the container.

On delivery, containers are inspected to ensure they meet the cleanliness standard.

Collection agencies, which include local government transfer stations and community groups, take responsibility for collected containers, which are stored in a dedicated, secure facility.

Recycling processors retrieve the containers, which are either chipped onsite or baled then transported to a recycling depot for processing.

Processors place drumMUSTER containers through shredders, then the granules are washed and heated up to 250 degrees.

Once the plastic mass reaches molten stage, it is cooled, then heat-extruded to make small pellets.

The pellets are packed in bales ready for transport to a remanufacturing plant.

Recycled plastic remanufacturers create useful products such as wheelie bins, cable covers, public furniture, road markers, construction materials and garden equipment. ■

*"Both the drumMUSTER and ChemClear programs are a targeted approach to reducing environmental contamination by diverting chemicals and drums from landfill and being burnt."*



*Pictured: Empty drumMUSTER containers are shredded, washed and melted to create a quality plastic product ready for the next stage of the recycling process: remanufacture.*



## FIRST 5 LINES FREE\* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online anytime of the day or night at [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) or email us at [ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au](mailto:ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au)

Next deadline is **11 December 2017**.

\* As a FREE service to CANEGROWERS members, *Australian Canegrower* will print suitable classified advertisements **UP TO 5 LINES FREE, FOR ONE ISSUE ONLY**. A charge of \$5.50 will apply for each extra line or part thereof. A charge will apply for advertising of non-cane growing activities. Advertisements must relate exclusively to cane farming activities, e.g. farm machinery etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at \$11 per line incl GST. Only pre-paid ads will be accepted.

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Mackay Region call Noel Jensen 0438 595 325  
Childers Region call Peter Irwin 0428 427 212

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**Used 2 x 6,000 series**  
CHAR-LYNN MOTORS 60 cubic inch.

**WHOLE TOPPERS 2 x CASE**  
as new one is complete.

**OMNITRAC Full Track walking gear**  
complete with 24" rubber belts.  
Hi-Track drive. 5 roller suit Case or JD.

**USED BIG ERNIE or walk down front  
roller suit Case or JD as used in NSW.**

**Used D4 Track Rollers** double flange  
three quarter bolts.

**NEW ! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS**  
Suit JD 3510/20 and CASE. Helps  
Drop Dirt. Enquire NOW!

**HARVESTER PARTS CAMECO 1996.**  
Crop lifters, 8 blade diff chopper  
drums, various hydraulic valves  
and hydraulic motors.

**IN STOCK NOW — 12, 10, 8 & 6 blade  
DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS,**  
suit '05 Cameco to JD 570.  
Tungsten hard faced on wear areas.  
New seal plates, clamping bars  
& dowels with kit.

**Graham Twyford**  
48 Central Park Drive, Paget, Mackay  
Mobile: +61 (0) 418 742 696  
[graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au](mailto:graham@gtmachinerysales.com.au)  
[www.gtmachinerysales.com.au](http://www.gtmachinerysales.com.au)

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## Classifieds

### Mossman-Tully

Fiat F140 4WD. Excellent Condition. Ph. 0417 717 013

Ford 7000 tractor new radiator, alternator and clutch, recent respray, 3ptl with assist ram. \$12,500. Ph. 0404582501

Ceramic spray nozzles available, wide angle 140 degrees, single and twin fan, air induction and conventional, various sizes. These nozzles are perfect fit for rows from 5' to 6' giving an even swath. ceramic floodjets also available. Call 0458411945

Breakpusher MF35 tractor. Modified 4000 harvester full track motor 3yrs old. Contact Mob 0401281262

### Herbert River-Burdekin

Rotary Ground Cutter KT 2400B. Great for irrigation/comms/water/drainage installations. Spoil is stacked to the side for back fill. Cut Depth 330mm - Variable Width to 120mm. Purchased new paid \$14,500 ex + Shipping replacement cost. Near new \$9500 ono Ph. 0418 720 553 or 0417 778 547 [www.littlebeaver.com/products/kwik-trench-mini-trencher/](http://www.littlebeaver.com/products/kwik-trench-mini-trencher/)

Portamole Directional Boring Unit. Boring Head 2 1/2 inch Soft rock, Dirt, Clay. Carbide tip 3x5 ft Lengths boring rod, 3x10 ft Lengths boring rod. Great for boring tasks up to 10 M up to 330mm diameter. Purchased new paid \$14,000 ex + Shipping replacement cost. Near new \$ 9500 ono. Ph. 0418 720 553 or 0417 778 547 [www.portamole.com/videos.html](http://www.portamole.com/videos.html) | [portamole.com.au/machines.html](http://portamole.com.au/machines.html)

### JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

#### New Hydraulic Heavy Duty

#### OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,  
All bath bearings  
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)  
Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m,  
2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.  
3 point linkage offsets available also



#### New Heavy Duty

#### SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST  
Other sizes available are 1.2m, 1.5m & 1.8m

#### Johnny Farming Company

Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John)  
or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)

133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

For sale 2 cement culverts \$50. Toft loader with buckets and cane grab \$3,000. Ph. 0400 440 127

### Mackay-Proserpine

2012 John Deere 3520T harvester, very good condition, well maintained, Mirani area, Ph. 0412 037 484

MF102 Cane Harvester \$5,500 inc. gst; Bonel Billet Planter \$5,500 inc. gst; Bonel 3PL Side Dresser \$5,500 inc. gst. Ph. 0447 423 053

Toft 6500 Harvester, very good 3306DI engine, walking gear and mechanically very good allround machine. Needs a paint job, no rust and worth inspection. \$18000 plus GST or reasonable offer. Ph. 0407 176 828

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)

Sprayrite Tempo 1200 Spray Tank, Brand New, 1200L Capacity UV resistant tank, 170LPM PTO driven Pump feeding a 5 section electric controlled spray controller, Heavy Duty 3point Linkage carry frame, \$15,200 inc. 12m or 15m boom and Hyd. Mast can be added. Ph. 0428 236 165

DitchWitch R100 trenching machine with back hoe attachment. F10 Volvo 10-tonne tipper with tagalong trailer used to transport trencher. Ph. 4959 2260

## Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Year to date	Average rainfall (mm) January–November
	7 days to 9am 20.11.17	27.11.17		
Mossman	8	99	2058	2022
Mareeba AP	2	22	718	806
Cairns	4	33	1659	1821
Mt Sophia	47	67	3230	3069
Babinda	0	18	3191	3933
Innisfail	15	41	2953	3290
Tully	18	47	2420	3814
Cardwell	22	32	1854	1922
Lucinda	2	74	1788	1925
Ingham	17	47	1552	1835
Abergowrie	8	17	1231	1632
Townsville	1	20	743	992
Ayr DPI	0	0	863	825
Proserpine	8	15	1490	1211
Mirani	20	20	1300	1333
Mackay	16	35	1961	1382
Sarina (Plane Ck)	25	48	2645	1531
Bundaberg	27	10	1093	885
Childers South	33	21	1050	769
Maryborough	27	45	960	1026
Tewantin	66	19	1467	1542
Eumundi	69	48	1332	1504
Nambour	43	67	1184	1516
Woongoolba	8	15	958	1202
Murwillumbah	55	16	1543	1413
Ballina	6	43	1840	1632
Woodburn	10	7	1645	1250



**AustSafe  
Super**



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



AR 80" Howard Rotary Hoe fully reconditioned, new galvanised doors and gear box panel, good blades \$6600. Other fully reconditioned AR & AH Rotary hoes also available in different sizes. Ph. 4959 5883 or 0407 643 441

## Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Low pressure irrigator, Avoka winch with Bauer 50m boom \$47,000 inc gst, MF 1085 Tractor, motor needs attention \$3,750 inc GST. S fold cultivator \$6,250 inc GST and International 766 \$7,700 inc GST. Ph. 0419 577 110

Two Toft 6000 base-cutter discs Brand new with factory hard facing \$1200 + GST Ph 0413 584 728

KUHN EL 201 (3m) rotary hoe complete with crumble roller, stands and wear guards. As new condition. Ph Dean 0408 062 830. POA Bonel plant can cutter w/topper in good condition. Best offer. Ph 0402 085 833

## Wanted

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph 0419717006 or 0408448227

GROUND WATER WANTED to purchase and permanently trade in the Mulgrave Russell Groundwater Zone 1A, 1B, 1C or 1D. Up to 60 megalitres. Please phone Darryl 0417 776 870

Planetary rear wheel hub 35-1 ratio to suit TOFT 6000. Ph. 02 6646 0207

WANTED TO BUY. Stick planter and trailers. Tractor. 4wheel drive with cab. 100 hp or above. Up to \$20000. Ph. 07 47761386

Howard 60" Rotary Hoe. Good Condition. Ph. 0427 160 771 Mulgrave Area

Toft-Case harvester 93 to 00 model wheels or tracks. Ph. 0400 794 857

Belt billet planter; Trash incorporator. Ph. 0439 622 347

WANTED: 6-cylinder Perkins engine. Any conditions for parts. Ph. 0438 997 118

Tractor tyres - BUY & SELL. All sizes. Ph. 0418 775 698

## Positions Vacant

Cane person required to live on and manage irrigated cane farm at Mirani. 4br house, close to town and schools. Ph: 0419 654 457

## Property

CANE FARM FOR SALE \$750,000. 507 Eton-Homebush Rd, OAKENDEN (Mackay Region, Central Qld). 6brm home and sheds. 65.58ha (162 acres), 2 freehold titles, WIWO. Irrigated, close cart, flat, no rocks, good soil, 25 mins to town. Ph Pauline 0428 575 787 or Kent 0427 877 874

INGHAM: Cane Farm for sale Hawkins Creek. Total area 48.3ha. CPA 46.6ha. Shed, electricity & water. Genuine enquiries Ph. 0407 635 175

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls phone 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

Wanted Cane farm up to 30mins from Mackay 5000t +. Genuine buyer 0407629940



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# DOING THE SAME THING EVERY DAY FOR 175 YEARS. THAT'S INNOVATION.

Since 1842, we've been in an endless cycle of innovation. Fuelled by a desire to help you squeeze every ounce of productivity out of every hectare you farm. After every breakthrough — from the first Farmall® to our new Early Riser® planters — we've gotten up every day since with a mission to make them better. More efficient. And more productive for you.

Which is why, for the next 175 years, we intend to continue doing the same thing every day.



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THE HEART OF FARMING BEATS RED

