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CANEGROWERS**



**Code of
Conduct
stays in
place**



CANEGROWERS

**2019
election
timetable
announced**



**Positive
results for
Wet Tropics
waterways**



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COVER IMAGE: Farm of Burnie and Lorraine Ward after the bushfire. Read more on page 6.

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Community and personal resilience on show

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

Displays of community resilience have been in abundance over the past weeks. Bushfires have ravaged many parts of Queensland and impacted CANEGROWERS members in both a personal and business sense.

Bushfires are always devastating. While the fires around Mackay have had a limited impact on the overall national sugarcane crop, for the growers directly affected they have imposed a profound personal cost and our thoughts are with each of these farming families.

More recently, the communities of Far North Queensland have been impacted by the first tropical cyclone of the season.

No matter what the disaster and where it is, community support and the capacity for a community to bounce-back (its resilience) is a true measure of its sustainability.

Queenslanders, particularly in the north, set the standard when it comes to dealing with natural disasters in Australia.

The strength of a community, as we have seen in the volunteers rallying to fight the recent bushfires and provide support through a range of organisations, is inspiring.

CANEGROWERS strives to act like a community with a common purpose of advancing the interests of cane growers and supporting overall industry sustainability.

Another challenging year is drawing to a close and the only thing that is normal is that there is no real normal.

Our world, our markets, our environment and the community demands on us seem to be ever-changing.

Stability and security in this world of shifting sands is paramount and many of our efforts this year have gone towards providing that much needed foundation upon which we hope CANEGROWERS members can grow their own businesses to sustain their families and, in turn, be part of a vibrant and progressive community.

As we enter the Christmas break, I hope all members and magazine subscribers take the opportunity to reflect on the year just gone, take stock of the blessings that life has provided but also receive comfort, support and friendship from family, friends and your local community.

CANEGROWERS staff too will be taking a short break between Christmas and New Year, so this provides the perfect opportunity for us to extend our thanks to the many growers, industry staff and associated stakeholders who have provided contributions to this magazine.

We strive for *Australian Canegrower* magazine to provide an opportunity for in depth story-telling about the issues within our industry, primarily from a grower perspective.

We look forward to continuing this rewarding service in 2019. In the meantime, on behalf of everyone at CANEGROWERS, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year celebration. ■

"On behalf of everyone at CANEGROWERS, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year celebration."



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Contact your local CANEGROWERS Office to discover how WE CAN HELP YOU!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Code of Conduct secured!

CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri has hosted Agriculture Minister David Littleproud at his farm for an announcement that is a huge relief to the sugarcane industry – the Sugar Code of Conduct is to stay in place providing certainty and protection to growers.

Following a review, the Federal Government has decided to extend the Code for four years after which another review will be conducted.

"Since April 2017, this Code has helped to address the imbalance of power between growers and milling companies by laying out important guidelines for the conduct of negotiations," Mr Schembri said.

"I thank every grower who participated in the review process and made sure the panel clearly understood how important the Code is for us. It sits as a safety net in the background of our industry, preventing mills from abusing their monopoly in any district.

"We thank the review panel and the Federal Government for understanding this reality in our industry."

One amendment will be made to the Code – to make it clear that pre-

contractual arbitration only applies to raw sugar and not any other products.

Minister Littleproud said he brought forward the review, due in October 2018, to July following industry requests for certainty.

"This now provides certainty," Mr Littleproud said. "Public consultations were held in Gordonvale, Innisfail, Ingham, Ayr, Mackay, Bundaberg and

Broadwater and with key stakeholders to make sure a range of views were heard.

"I acknowledge the sugar industry's recent efforts in improving cooperation. I look forward to industry continuing to work together on the recommendation to develop a strategy to address the shared future challenges facing the industry."

"The code came about to give sugarcane growers, millers and marketers certainty to just get on with the job and I'm happy to say it's here to stay," said **George Christensen MP** who accompanied Mr Littleproud to Paul Schembri's farm.

Working in parallel with the *Queensland Sugar Industry Act*, the Code also supports competition in the provision of sugar marketing services.

"The Code's mechanisms for stability and security underpin grower confidence to continue to invest, to get on with the business of producing high quality export sugar for the global market and drive regional economies," Mr Schembri said. ■

Pictured: Agriculture Minister David Littleproud (centre) with (L-R) CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg, State Shadow Agriculture Minister Tony Perrett, Member for Dawson George Christensen and CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri.



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CANEGROWERS Triennial Election - 2019 Important Dates

The timetable has been set for the 2019 CANEGROWERS election process.

Held every three years, the elections are an opportunity for all members to elect Directors to sit on the board of their local CANEGROWERS district - from Mossman to Rocky Point.

Districts have between four and nine Directors that sit on their respective Boards. Nominations for the positions open Monday 28 January 2019.

These local boards then nominate representatives to sit on the CANEGROWERS Queensland Policy Council which elects the new CANEGROWERS Queensland Board.

Members wishing to nominate for a district board position have until 5pm on Monday 18 February to act.

Both men and women of all ages are encouraged to nominate as candidates for these important CANEGROWERS elected positions.

Each CANEGROWERS directors' election is a democratic process which seeks to have the best candidates nominate based

Nominations open	Monday 28 January 2019
Nominations close	Monday 18 February 2019 (5pm)
Official Rolls close	Monday 18 February 2019 (5pm)
Ballot papers will be posted	Wednesday 13 March 2019
Ballot papers to be returned	Friday 12 April 2019 (5pm)
Counting of votes	Monday 15 April 2019
Declaration of election results	Monday 15 April 2019
Elected members term commences	Wednesday 1 May 2019

on merit. The election process will be finalised by Monday 15 April and the new directors will take on their official duties from Wednesday 1 May.

The first step is to contact your local Chairman or Manager.

CANEGROWERS Queensland will be conducting most of the statewide elections, with the exception of Proserpine, Maryborough and Innisfail which will conduct their elections locally.

For the remaining districts, Jodie Mittelheuser, CANEGROWERS Chief Financial Officer, is the returning officer for the 2019 Election process and is working with each local company for the preparation of the official roll.

Members are urged to ensure that their membership records are up to date. The official roll for each election is to be finalised by 5pm on Monday 18 February 2019. ■



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Mackay growers count the cost of fires and storms

The bushfires in the final weeks of November are out and rain has fallen but the growers in the Pioneer Valley who lost property, crops and possessions face a long road to recovery. A number of them spoke to Kim Kleidon for *Australian Canegrower*.

Fires had burned west of Mackay in bushland for ten days posing little threat until temperatures soared and winds howled. Tuesday 27 November and Wednesday 28 November will remain etched into the minds of those who stood in the flames' path.

It's estimated 234 hectares of land owned by CANEGROWERS members has been burnt in the Pioneer Valley along with 600 hectares under cane in the Blue Mountain region and a property owned by cane grower **Joseph Borg** where his family grazes cattle.

"Conditions on the Wednesday were horrendous," Joseph told *Australian Canegrower* describing howling winds and flames which sped through country he'd previously seen fires take three or four days to cover.

"We back-burned from 6pm Wednesday night to 6:30am Thursday morning - we went straight through the night. At 2-3 am, when it's normally calm, you

still couldn't hold a hat on your head. One minute it was blowing a westerly, then a southerly then an easterly then a northerly - we were getting all directions."

Joseph says if it wasn't for support from nearby business Racecourse Projects



in coordinating machinery and water tankers, planning with the local Fire Warden and contributing more than 40 staff, he couldn't have saved his house.

The terrain made firefighting difficult and the intensity of the fire made it almost impossible to stop.



"There is a reluctance by government departments to allow the burning of these forested areas"





This has led to discussion around vegetation management and questions are being asked about the lack of controlled burns over a number of years.

Kevin Borg, Chairman of CANEGROWERS Mackay says it is a major concern.

"There is a reluctance by government departments to allow the burning of these forested areas," he said. "The conditions that need to be followed by adjacent property owners wanting to control burn these areas along with road reserves and roadsides are, to say the least, onerous. Unfortunately, this (combination) leads to recent events."

Home and crop lost

Third generation farmer, **Robert Blines** was out fighting fires with neighbour **Michael Muscat**, when his home was engulfed by flames.

"I got back to the house as it was starting to go up," he said. "I just kept it out of the shed, there was nothing else you could do. It was an ember that lit it, it wasn't actually the fire front."

Robert still had a crop of standing cane, following a disagreement with the mill.

"I didn't know what I was going to do with it, a bloke turned up wanting to buy it for his cattle the morning of the fire. When the house burnt down all the cane was still around it, the cane burnt afterwards."



Robert lost everything in the fire, including all identification. "Who takes their wallet out to fight a bushfire?" he asks, hopeful insurance will be enough to cover the cost of rebuilding.

Continues page 8 ►

Pictured: (top left) Robert Blines who lost his home and crops in the fire talking to Burnie Ward, who saved only his house, (top right) the farm of Burnie and Laraine Ward, (bottom left) Robert was able to stop the fire reaching his shed but the surroundings were burnt (right) along with his house (below) the Wards' farm after the fire.



Emmanuel Zammit did all he could to contain the fast-moving fire, pushing breaks to protect homes and sheds. He says 15 head of cattle had reduced the fire risk in the bush areas around his home but trees were still igniting causing a frightening situation.

"People were scattering, farmers trying to fight it were running to escape the intensity," he said.

"Nobody could prepare for that sort of fire. There were quite a few fire trucks and farmers working together to control the spread but there were many embers starting multiple spot fires and it just got out of control."

His wife **Doreen** had left the house to meet the school bus at Eungella Road at the bottom of their driveway and saw the sky turn orange and the winds start to swirl as the fire raced through the Bugeja farm nearby.

At 3:30pm Emergency Services personnel told her she had to go to Finch Hatton and stay there.

"Emmanuel was at home fighting the fire, at the back of the shed. They wouldn't let me go back so I went to the showgrounds. The children had to stay at the school in the library. It was scary to see the fire pick up, I was worried about Emmanuel," she said.

Storm follows fire

On Thornes Road, **Joseph Bugeja** had five months of growth in his ratoons and new cane well on its way when the fire ravaged everything in its path. He now faces many issues some of which were caused by a rainstorm which followed within days of the fire.

"We rely on the trash blanket to retain moisture. With the rain we're getting we're not going to be able to retain it," he said. "I've got quite a bit of erosion in my plant cane where it hasn't been burnt and I lost all the ash where the trash blanket burned."

"I was actually counting on that ash to work as a fertiliser source but a lot of that just got washed away."

"The the cross drains in the plant cane couldn't sustain that much water in such a short period. I've lost soil, it's just a joke."

The storm that followed the fire also damaged trees, fences, sheds and flooded the house he saved from the fire.

Joseph lost his water supply and has had to apply for a temporary permit to access a creek.

"It almost feels like I'm back in Egypt when Pharaoh was being cursed," he

said. "First fire, then flood. I'm waiting for the locusts to be quite honest."

"Weeds are my biggest concern since the fire. I'm petrified of what's going to come up. We always used to combat grasses before we began trash blanketing. We haven't really had to worry about that, the trash gives the cane enough time. Now it's going to be opposite, I'm sure there's a big seed bed under there just dying to explode."

Thinking back to the day of the fire (Wednesday 28 November) Joseph is overcome by his emotions. With tears in his eyes he relays his gratitude for those who rallied to help.

"The only reason we've still got a house is the locals, all the firefighters, everyone showed up. There was fire everywhere here, it was scary, I felt I turned to jelly, my son was here too and I started worrying for him. Makes you realise I suppose that we're very independent but how much you do need the community."

Lucky escape

Just behind the Bugeja property, Wards have cultivated the land since 1904.

Burnie and his wife **Lorraine** had been watching the fires in the distance before one lit up in the hills above them and their son **Darren** came to help.



"Darren and I had been up the back waiting for it to get to our boundary, so we could back burn away from it," Burnie said.

"We hoped we could keep it out of the trash, but it just come down and all a sudden the wind turned, throwing fires all around us and the trash blanket just lit up everywhere. We were terrified.

"Darren said, 'run Dad'. Dad don't run too quick these days but I got out. It was burning my face when I got in the ute - lucky it started, if it hadn't I'd have been gone."

According to Burnie, the fire spread kilometres in minutes jumping creeks and roads to where farm machinery had been moved in a bid to keep it safe.

"The bloody thing crossed the road and got into the other farm and started burning towards my son's house.

"There was a lot of firefighters over there that night, a couple of trucks and dozers kept it out of his house, but it burnt about 20 acres (8ha) on that farm too."

The machinery including a harvester and irrigation hoses were shifted into paddocks which had already burnt.

Burnie, wife Lorraine and son Darren saved the house with three buckets after the electrical infrastructure burned.

Without power for ten days, when asked how he felt Burnie replied, "Pretty depressing, waking up to this every day.



"Without the rain I don't think it would've come back like it has. It's so dry. I can't water anymore, I lost my irrigation motor and everything, so I can't water anyway."

Community

The conditions on Wednesday 28 November were described by authorities as fire storm conditions unprecedented in the Mackay region.

Rural firefighters from many regions helped the community which rallied together.

"Many people not only provided their own time but also provided their own

private equipment, like graders, bulldozers, tractors and fire-fighting equipment," Kevin Borg explains.

"They also worked long hours to attempt to control these fires. Nothing matches the local experience with the lay of the land, and in cane areas the experience of growers, in controlling fire.

"Those growers that were farming prior to the implementation of green cane trash blanketing have vast experience in controlling fires and are some of the best at that job."

There is an expectation that the fire will detrimentally affect 2019 tonnage, however the full impact won't be seen until harvest.

"Hopefully there will be an inquiry into the cause of this event and these issues will be identified and addressed," Kevin said.

"The State Government needs to take greater proactive measures in reducing fuel loads on crown land which in-turn reduces risk to neighbouring properties." ■



Pictured: (page 8) Emanuel Zammit and the cane fields after the fire on the Zammit farm, (above) Burnie Ward on his farm, (left) Joseph Bugeja on his farm.

CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

Mossman

Mossman Canegrowers Limited held its AGM on 28 November (pictured below). Guests included Don Fowler from Mackay Sugar Mossman Mill who gave a recap of the 2018 season, along with QSL representatives who gave an overview of their Pricing Pools for 2019 and an update on the market.

CaneChanger presented a photo board showcasing Mossman's Smartcane BMP accredited growers while

Chairman Drew Watson presented Manager Evelyn Matthews with flowers congratulating her on 35 years of service also acknowledging Karen Moffatt for 10 years with the company.

The Chairman also reminded growers that the term for the current directors would end in April 2019 and he encouraged any with an interest to put up their hand to serve as this was to be his last AGM after 28 years of service.



Cairns Region

With the season well and truly over growers are taking advantage of the fine weather to finalise farming operations before the Christmas break. CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Annual General Meeting was held on the 28th November and was well attended by a good cross section of Members. Guest speaker John Warda, CEO of STL, gave an informative presentation regarding the plans and vision for STL into the future.

Aaron Davis as the team leader of Project 25 presented data relating to the past wet season, forecasted what to expect into the future and answered growers queries on his presentation. With the trust framework well developed growers took this opportunity to analyse and have Arron assist with the interpretation of the data collected.

John Pickering gave a brief but polished performance on the Cane Changer Teams activities during the past year.

The AGM was also taken as an opportunity for the Chairman to present the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Award to V Rossi and Sons in recognition of their innovative farming practices aimed at increased productivity and profitability while minimising their impact on water quality.

General business saw the mood of the meeting swing with Members voicing their frustration about the reliability and operations of Mulgrave Mill during this last season. Members spoke of their fear that if things didn't improve the future for the local industry may become uncertain and the unwillingness of the younger generation to remain within the industry would become more apparent. To this and by a show of hands Members displayed a unanimous call and request to the Board of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region to relay that message on to the MSF Executive Team on their behalf.

Tully

The harvest and crush finished in Tully at 3am on the 6 December with 2,575,000 tonnes of cane crushed with a CCS of 14.45 and a sugar make of just over 364,000 tonnes.

The last weeks of the season were very hot with a high fire risk.

Hats off to those who worked so hard to contain the fires and kept damage to a minimum in our district making us all aware of the value of our Fire Services and that the CANEGROWERS Crop Insurance is there when it is needed.

A mill break down in the boilers caused angst in the final week and again mill staff went to great efforts in terrible heat to make swift repairs.

The season covered 26 weeks. Thanks goes to the harvest and support crews and all involved in the growing and crushing of the crop.

For Tully it has been a dry year with about 320mm of rain recorded over 50 days. As if on order, there was storm rain the afternoon the mill finished and good follow-up rain since.

Now it is less than two weeks until Christmas and less than six months before crushing for 2019 should start.

Herbert River

The Herbert River harvest concluded on Thursday 29 November with the final bin being tipped for crushing at 4 15 am on Friday 30 November.

The final tonnage crushed was 4,718,178.26 at a district average CCS of 14.24. Seasonal average CCS for Relative Payment Pool A was 14.286277 and for Pool B it was 14.084849.

A packed hall at the Noorla Bowls Club on Friday night 7 December marked a Retirement and Farewell celebration for CANEGROWERS Herbert River Manager Peter Sheedy and his wife Elizabeth who were accompanied by visiting family and their seven grandchildren for the occasion.

There were speeches from Executive Officer Maria Battoraro who had worked with Peter when he was first appointed in March 1988.

Chairman Michael Pisano then spoke on behalf of Directors and presented Peter with a ceremonial cane knife and gift (pictured left) followed by Mayor Ramon Jayo and Joseph Marano Chairman of the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership with which Peter has been closely involved since its formation in 2013. Adam Douglas from Wilmar also spoke and presented Peter with an artwork depicting Victoria and

Macknade mills.

A highlight of the evening was a collection of photography marking the highlights of Peter's career in the Herbert presented as a video show prepared by Maria.

Cane Changer conducted some small pilot group meetings in the Herbert on 3 and 5 December where some great engagement was achieved involving Chairman Michael Pisano, the Smartcane BMP duo of Maria Battoraro and Raymond Cervellin along with representatives of SRA and HCPSL, all supporting the theme of the benefits that Smartcane BMP accreditation can bring to the Herbert industry.

From a parched extreme fire danger risk scenario after the end of the harvest season, the Herbert landscape has transformed into a rich green after generous soaking rains from the influence of Tropical Cyclone Owen that drenched the coastal areas north of Rockhampton and Mackay through to the Daintree.

The Herbert River rose rather suddenly after heavy overnight falls of up to 200 mm in some gauges on Sunday 9 December. The falls continued for the next two days at a more moderate rate.

Continues page 12 ▶

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CANEGROWERS Regional round-up

Mackay

At the invitation the STL Board, around 150 stakeholders including Mackay and Plane Creek growers met with the STL Board and management and visited the facilities at the Mackay Bulk Sugar Terminal. It was pleasing to see the number of children who attended and who displayed a high level of interest about the operations of the terminal.

All of the growers who participated in the well-organised tours expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to see this world class facility first hand and to gain an understanding of the process for the storage and handling of raw sugar and molasses, after it has left the mills.

The Mackay Canegrowers Limited AGM was held on 30 November. Due to the bushfire crisis in the area, a number of members were either fighting fires or were impacted. Growers were impressed by the interesting and informative presentation given by Tom McNeill, Green Pool Commodities on issues which are currently affecting the sugar markets.

The Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited AGM was held on 22 November. Members were given a comprehensive overview of the operations of the service and its future direction.

Guest speaker was John Pickering, a Behavioural Scientist who is heading up the Cane Changer Project, which aims to assist growers to create positive change through increased levels of BMP accreditation rates, which in turn then allows growers to receive positive recognition for their environmental efforts.

Maryborough

The final figures for the Maryborough district show 795,354 tonnes harvested for a CCS of 13.49 and an average of 67.8 tonnes per hectare.

The AGM and end of season BBQ were on 4 December with the welcome addition of storms and rain for the afternoon. The guest speaker was Mike Barry of MSF Sugar who provided an update on the power project attached to the Tableland Mill. Mike was proved to be handy on the BBQ as the steaks were disappearing rapidly to hungry growers. The New MSF Marketing Manager was introduced to local growers and we look forward to working with Terry Allom in the future.

Details of the Ergon Energy trial for Tariff 33 are being spread far and wide. The more participation in the trial from irrigators, the better outcome is likely to be.

The CANEGROWERS Maryborough office will be closed for the Christmas break from 21 December, reopening in 2019 on 14 January. We take this opportunity to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2019.

Rocky Point

The Rocky Point crush is expected to wrap up over the weekend of 15 and 16 December. It has been a long haul for our growers, who have been harvesting since 22 July 2018. As at 9 December (Wk 21) the total tonnes crushed for Rocky Point reached 367,000 of the estimated 391,206 tonnes. The CCS has held reasonably well with the seasonal average of 13.67. Weather conditions have been near perfect for harvesting. ■

Money Matters

with AustSafe Super

4 WAYS TO LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The 'silly' season can be a great time to recharge from the work year, celebrate with loved ones and prepare for the year ahead. For some Australians though it can also be a time of increased levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness. It's important that we all put a little extra care into our mental health and wellbeing during this time of year, as well as caring for those around us if we can. AustSafe Super's workplace mental health partner, SuperFriend, has listed four tips for the holiday season.

TALK ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Feeling a little more stressed or anxious than normal? Talk about it. Sharing and being listened to can help create feelings of being supported and encourages others to share too. Try to reconnect with a card, email or phone call.

EAT WELL, EXERCISE AND SLEEP

According to SuperFriend's 2018 Indicators of a Thriving Workplace survey¹, 22% of Australian workers surveyed experience work-related insomnia, which can effect every element of life. This is particularly relevant in the 35-44 age group (26%) and even more so for those experiencing a mental health condition (33%). Consider whether sleep is a problem for you during the holidays and try to build your day around having a restful night by eating well, doing some light exercise and creating a relaxing routine before bedtime, without technology.

LOOK OUT FOR THOSE AROUND YOU

Christmas can be a lonely time for some and small gestures of inclusion can go a long way. If you know someone who is struggling with poor mental health that will be alone during the holidays, consider inviting them to join you for celebrations or organise another time to visit.

ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

Your GP and other support services are all available to help you.

Visit austsafe.com.au/memberhub for the full article.

Disclaimer: 'SuperFriend's 2018 Indicators of a Thriving Workplace survey'. This is general information only and doesn't take into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs. You may wish to seek the advice of a qualified financial planner. Please read the relevant AustSafe Super Product Disclosure Statement before making a decision at austsafe.com.au. AustSafe Pty Ltd ABN 96 010 528 597, AFSL 314183 is the Trustee of AustSafe Super ABN 92 398 191 503.



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GROWING THE NEXT CROP OF LEADERS

in the Australian sugarcane industry

Australian sugarcane growers are invited to stand up and nominate themselves, or their peers, to participate in a brand-new leadership development program.

Called **Next Crop**, the program is an investment by Sugar Research Australia (SRA).

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that developing future industry leadership has been identified as a priority through SRA's five-year strategic plan and via

"To continue to grow and prosper, our industry needs to increase our leadership capacity. This is more important than ever as the industry faces headwinds from depressed global sugar prices and other challenges."

ongoing engagement between SRA and the industry.

"To continue to grow and prosper, our industry needs to increase our leadership capacity. This is more important than ever as the industry faces headwinds from depressed global sugar prices and other challenges," Mr Fisher said.

He said Next Crop is specific for the Australian sugar industry and will help emerging leaders build their skills and contribute to future leadership roles, delivering a benefit for the whole industry.

In its first year, the program is being targeted at sugarcane growers, following industry consultation that there is a priority need to further build skills within this sector of the industry.

"The future of our industry relies on ensuring we continue to develop and

encourage new leaders to participate, collaborate, and have their voices heard. We want to increase the pool of people who are just as comfortable in meetings at local, regional or industry levels as they are in their own shed," Mr Fisher said.

The program is calling on growers of all backgrounds, ages and gender to nominate.

"If you've ever wanted to step up to a leadership role, and believe you have the potential to do so, this is an opportunity to learn more about what makes you tick as a leader."

Next Crop is now open. SRA is seeking nominations from growers who are keen to build their leadership skills and take part in this innovative initiative. To learn more, visit www.nextcropleaders.com.

Applications close on January 31. ■



QSL prepares for another big year



By Greg Beashel
QSL Managing Director and Chief
Executive Officer

At this time of the year it is traditional to revisit the highlights of the past 12 months, and QSL has certainly had plenty of these in 2018. These include the successful rollout of our new products and services, strong final pool results for the 2017 Season, and increases in the amount of sugar we market on behalf of Queensland's cane growers to remain the largest marketer of Australian sugar in the 2018 Season.

While these accomplishments were certainly satisfying, there is plenty of work still to do including continuing our focus on maximising pool results for the 2018 Season, and the following projects currently being progressed by the QSL team as we head into the new year.

MARKETING CHOICE FOR MACKAY GROWERS

During recent months QSL's negotiating team has been working with Mackay Sugar to secure the new On-Supply Agreement (OSA) needed to enable Mackay growers to continue to access QSL after their miller's existing supply contract with us ends on 30 June 2020. I'm pleased to say that we've made significant progress on this in recent weeks and we hope to make an announcement shortly regarding how Mackay growers can market and price with QSL going forward.

To prepare for this new marketing arrangement and a new, direct relationship with Mackay growers, we've opened an office in Mackay located on Level 2 of the CANEGROWERS building in Wood Street. Sonia Ball has also recently started as our Grower Relationship Officer for Mackay and is available to answer any questions you may have about your QSL Marketing Choice options. You can drop into the office or contact her on 0418 978 120.

MOSSMAN GROWERS

QSL is working with representatives of Far Northern Milling to assist them with marketing, pricing and payment arrangements for growers should their acquisition of the mill proceed.

MARKETING DEADLINE FOR MSF SUGAR DISTRICTS

While many of us are winding down for the year, our growers in the MSF Sugar milling districts still have an important deadline ahead, with marketing nominations for the 2019 Season closing on 31 December 2018.

This means that if you supply an MSF Sugar mill and want to use QSL pricing and marketing services next season, you need to nominate QSL as a marketer by the end of the year. For more information or help with this, give Daniel Messina a call on 0429 660 238.

2019 PRICING DECLARATION DATE

Growers marketing with QSL for the 2019 Season have until April next year to finalise their QSL pool nominations for the coming season.

As in previous years, we'll be hitting the road to explain your QSL pricing options in person, but in the interim, you can find details regarding QSL's managed pools and self-managed pricing products on the QSL website (www.qsl.com.au), or by contacting your local QSL office.

GROWER SURVEY

As an industry-owned service organization, we work for you. So tell us what you think of our efforts by completing our 2018 Grower Satisfaction Survey.

It takes just a few minutes to complete and can be done by visiting www.qsl.com.au/news-media/qsl-wants-your-feedback or contacting your local QSL office for a hardcopy form.



CHRISTMAS OPERATING HOURS

All QSL offices will close for the Christmas break from 5pm Friday 21 December, reopening on Monday 7 January 2019.

However, the sugar market rarely takes a break, so the QSL Marketing team will continue to work hard on your behalf during this period (excluding public holidays) to action pricing orders and man the QSL Direct helpline. Please call 1800 870 756 should you require any assistance during this period.

On behalf of the entire QSL team, I'd like to wish you and yours a safe and happy festive season. All the best with your preparations for next year's crop and we look forward to working hard for you again in the year to come. ■



Disclaimer: This update contains information of a general or summary nature. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this update should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. In addition, nothing in this update constitutes financial product or investment advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the full Pricing Pool Terms available at www.qsl.com.au before participating in any QSL pricing pool or product.

Supply an MSF Sugar mill? Don't miss your chance to market with QSL in 2019

QSL Your Trusted Partner

Marketing nominations for next season close **31 December 2018** for growers in MSF Sugar milling districts.

WHY CHOOSE QSL?



Owned by you, focused on you

We don't pursue our own commercial interests above those of the industry we serve.



Passing on the value

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



Pricing & payment options

Whether you want to make your own pricing decisions or prefer a managed pool, we offer a varied range of pricing and payment options.



Experienced professionals

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



Above & beyond

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

MARYBOROUGH GROWERS

Keen to explore your in-season pricing options?

QSL has a wide range of QSL-managed pools and grower-managed forward pricing products available for the 2019 Season.

For a one-on-one appointment to discuss your QSL options, contact Cathy Kelly on 0409 285 074.

POSITIVE RESULTS in the Wet Tropics

Supplied by WTSIP

The quality of water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef from river catchments in the Wet Tropics has improved according to the latest Wet Tropics Report Card. Nearly 90% of the region's freshwater rivers and estuaries are graded as 'Good' or 'Very Good' for the 2016-17 reporting period.

While continuing below average rainfall is a significant factor in the positive results, the release of the 2018 Report Card is encouraging news for the many cane growers who have been working hard to make practice changes to improve water quality.

High rainfall, short sharp rivers, close proximity of the reef to the mainland and intensive coastal agriculture make the Wet Tropics a hotspot for reef water quality projects, particularly with regards to reducing the runoff of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN), which has been linked to outbreaks of coral-eating Crown-of-Thorns Starfish.

One of these projects was the Australian Government's Reef Trust Phase One Reverse Tender Program, which wrapped

up earlier this year with 14 growers taking part in trials of new farming practices to reduce their use of nitrogen fertiliser. The final results showed the growers collectively reduced their use of urea fertiliser by the equivalent of 19 semi-trailer loads as part of the three-year program.

The program allocated funding through a competitive tender process. Interested farmers who had not already made changes to their nitrogen use, stepped up to propose and trial different practices to reduce nitrogen inputs.

These ranged from the purchase of new equipment such as GPS precision machinery and specially modified fertiliser boxes, to the use of enhanced efficiency fertilisers and the use of

legumes and biological fertilisers to improve soil health.

Joe Marano, Chairman of the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP) and CANEGROWERS Innisfail said the growers were contracted to reduce their use of bagged nitrogen by 178 tonnes but the final results showed they exceeded that amount by over 35%, reducing their application of nitrogen fertiliser by 242 tonnes over the three year project.

"Each individual grower reduced their nitrogen rates by between 20 and 72kg/ha," he said.

"The trials demonstrated that improved farming systems boosted the crops' uptake of nitrogen, enabling growers to tailor their use of fertiliser more precisely to reduce application rates."





Barron Delta cane grower **Mark Savina** was one of the growers who took part in the project. He said he is very conscious of the impact his farming practices have on the sensitive end-of-catchment environment he operates in and is grateful that the Australian Government is able to support trials of new practices.

"This project made me take a good look at my N rates and after conducting a number of different trials I now know I can get a good crop with lower nitrogen rates, which is a good thing with the current low sugar prices," he said.

Some of the trials that Mr Savina has been undertaking on his family farm to reduce his use of conventional nitrogen inputs include supplementing lower N rates with biological inputs, using different cover crops to increase organic matter, evaluating different crops of legumes and working with a microbiologist to trial biological trash conversion. These have been combined with Crop Spec precision technology so he can apply N only in specific areas that need it.

Herbert grower **Gino Zatta** and his brother **Remo** also took part in the program. They manage over 200ha of cane land in an area that drains into Cattle Creek and the Halifax Bay National Park. Gino said their trial has resulted in a win for input costs and productivity as well as the environment.

"We were looking for ways to reduce our fertiliser rates so when this program came along we saw it as an opportunity to purchase a variable rate controller so

we could adjust our rates in soil zones that require less nitrogen as well as adjusting rates on plant cane and older ratoons," he said.

"Initially I was concerned about what would happen if this trial failed and whether I was being compensated enough but it worked for us by reducing our N application by 25kg per hectare. This may not be a huge saving for our business but it is a good result in terms of reducing runoff, and I only represent a fraction of the cane industry."

Under their trials the Zattas continued their existing practice of applying mill mud in zonal sections, which increased their productivity. The farm's distance from the mill makes the application of mill mud expensive so they implemented banding mill mud at a lower rate enabling them to cover most of the fallow with minimal working of the soil. Being on marginal country, cowpea legumes are planted as a cover crop, which are then sprayed out at between 90-100 days to avoid competition with the cane.

Gino says the trial made him realise it was possible to reduce his N application while maintaining decent productivity.

Joe Marano said the success of the Reef Trust Phase One Reverse Tender Program laid the foundations for the subsequent Reef Trust IV Repeated Tenders program, which rolled out in 2017.

"We now have another 41 cane growers engaged in a similar program to trial different ways of reducing nitrogen rates without affecting productivity. This program will run until 2023," he said. ■



Pictured: (above left) rain runoff settlement pond on Gino Zatta's farm, (above right) Gino Zatta in his legume field. (Opposite left) Mark Savina amongst cane cover crops on his farm, (opposite right) Gino Zatta holding legume nodules. (Below top) Gino Zatta and his brother, (below bottom) Gino Zatta with his precision legume planter.



Looking forward to another year of celebrating the **ACHIEVEMENTS OF GROWERS**

By Mick Quirk
Manager Smartcane BMP



In the past year, 87 cane growing businesses (managing 15,100 ha) have become accredited in Smartcane BMP. That brings the total accreditations to 329 representing 78,500 ha of cane.

Smartcane BMP is the vehicle for increasing the recognition of growers' achievements, helping to counter the negative portrayal of the industry in relation to Great Barrier Reef water quality which has understandably upset growers in the past. Smartcane BMP helps to 'set the record straight' and communicate grower efforts to the community.

The take-up of Smartcane BMP accreditation is highest in the Wet Tropics which is not surprising given the proximity of the reef to the coast, the high rainfall and the associated attention the area receives on water quality issues.

Worthy of note is that the Tully district now has over 50% of its cane area managed by accredited growers, while the Innisfail and Tableland districts have 40% of their areas accredited.

Region	Proportion of cane area accredited
Wet Tropics	34%
Burdekin	15%
Central	7%
South	7%
Queensland	19%

Large districts like the Herbert and Burdekin have 15,100 and 12,000 ha accredited, respectively.

Wet Tropics districts have adopted the catchphrase, Set the Record Straight, through their work with the Cane Changer project.

This has helped galvanise efforts to increase recognition of growers' achievements, using Smartcane BMP as the vehicle to achieve this.

For growers in the the Wet Tropics, Smartcane BMP is demonstrating, celebrating and communicating what they have achieved.

It is setting the record straight about their practices and their commitment to further innovation and progress.

In 2019, your local Smartcane BMP facilitator invites you to get involved and achieve accreditation.

Be assured that your facilitator is on hand to explain what is required and to assist you each step of the way. Just in the last few months of 2018, Smartcane BMP has supported 190 growers to improve record keeping and collect other evidence required for accreditation.

It is a fact that, prior to accreditation, most growers see Smartcane BMP as a chore (all that record-keeping!) and do not make it a priority for their business.

However we find that accredited growers typically comment that Smartcane BMP was not anywhere near as much work as they expected and that they got much more from the process than they thought.

Why not get involved and decide for yourself?

Supporting growers' ambitions

During 2018, Smartcane BMP facilitators have made increased efforts to support growers in their pursuit of practices that meet their business goals. This will continue in 2019.

This support for growers is happening in several ways:

Using the BMP modules to identify opportunities.

This happens during the self-assessment process, when the facilitator and growers discuss various practices and how they relate to different framing situations. In addition, several of the district productivity organisations are now using the Smartcane BMP modules to assist productivity planning with their growers.

This is different to most programs and projects in that it looks at the whole farm business, not just one aspect like nutrient management or water use efficiency. It is also the only program that captures

growers' achievements across the whole farm business – many projects capture grower data for some else's use, not for the benefit of participating growers.

Providing support to evaluate and implement changed practices.

Just in the past few months, Smartcane BMP has provided technical support for 186 growers who are looking to improve aspects of nutrient, soil, weed, pest, drainage or irrigation management – these growers manage 41,538ha of cane. This will continue during 2019, and will include support for the non-agronomic modules such as Workplace Health and Safety and Business Management.

Integrating BMP into other programs and services.

We are increasing the linkages between Smartcane BMP and the services provided by district productivity organisations as well as collaborating with other programs like nutrient management planning, use of Irrigweb, the SRA soil health project, and localised water quality monitoring.

Additional value for BMP growers

We are looking at ways that Smartcane BMP can provide growers with additional value. For example, work continues with the various global standards for trading sustainable sugar (such as Bonsucro, Vive

and Proterra) to ensure Smartcane BMP meets their on-farm requirements for the supply chain.

BMP is already the sustainability standard for sugarcane products used for biofuel, and we are working on opportunities for BMP growers to receive benefits from proposed trading schemes related to nitrogen credits and carbon credits. These latter programs will reward growers who have adopted certain practices to either improve nutrient efficiency or reduce net emissions of greenhouse gasses.

Make a date in your CANEGROWERS calendar

Grab your CANEGROWERS calendar, or smart phone, and make a time to contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator in early 2019. Be part of the effort to set the record straight and celebrate the way you farm. ■

Pictured: practical and reliable support is provided for growers participating in BMP.



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM CANEGROWERS

Throughout 2018 we have enjoyed keeping you up-to-date on all of the most important sugarcane industry news. *Australian Canegrower* includes regular articles on farming practices and industry issues, along with feature articles on innovation and events. We hope you have enjoyed reading this magazine in 2018 and we look forward to your continued support in 2019. From all the staff at CANEGROWERS, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

To celebrate the Festive Season, this issue is jammed packed with exciting items from CANEGROWERS!

2019 CANEGROWERS Calendar

Keep track of important events with this calendar featuring stunning landscapes and some of the growers featured in the magazine. It has public holidays, important dates and the lunar calendar.



CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour Series 7 DVD

Sit back and watch this 7th season of our Virtual Bus Tour farm visit videos. Take a closer look at innovative practices saving time and improving crops.

2019 CANEGROWERS Pocket Diary

Never miss an important date with your 2019 CANEGROWERS pocket diary. Including useful contact numbers and information, a cane price calculator and more.



2019 CANEGROWERS Rainfall Chart

Pin it up and capture and track all of your important rainfall data in 2019 with the CANEGROWERS Rainfall Chart. ■

Policy Update

Membership with Matt Kealley

The future members of CANEGROWERS

By 2028 the workforce will consist of 5% Baby Boomers, 28% Gen X, 35% Gen Y and 32% Gen Z. So what does that mean for CANEGROWERS? Let's look at the characteristics of these generations.

The Silent Generation (1924-1945): These members came of age during post-World War 1. The wife often stayed home while the husband was loyal to a lifetime job. They worked hard and didn't speak out much. This generation prefers face to face meetings and formal correspondence.

Baby Boomers (1945-1964): With the average age of a farmer in Australia now 56 years, most members are Baby Boomers who generally like to communicate by telephone or face-to-face interaction which is why shed and other meetings get a good roll-out from this group. They want to lead and leave a legacy while liking structure and organisational hierarchy.

Generation X (1965-1981): Most of the workforce is Gen X and these are the growers aged from early 30's to mid-40's. The introduction of the personal computer defines this group. They are self-reliant and independent sceptics. One in 4 has a university degree and they thrive in a casual, friendly work environment. Gen X prefer clear and concise communication via email or text and try for a good work-life balance.

Generation Y (1982-1995): There are the Millennials who will dominate the workforce in a decade. Gen Y grew up with technology and are immersed in the digital world. They are ambitious and love change. With unlimited access to information, they are assertive and have strong views. They like face-to-face meetings with technology access, they participate but are less brand loyal. They are also strong advocates of giving back to the community.

Generation Z (1996-2009): Gen Zs have never lived without computers, mobile phones and the internet. By 2020, they will be 40% of all consumers. Gen Z embrace diversity, want to problem-solve and make a positive difference. Farming for Gen Z will be based on technology, data, connectivity and information.

They are active participants, love collaboration and are builders which means that membership organisations like CANEGROWERS are in safe hands if we are creative and can respond quickly. ■



Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

Water Use Efficiency

Input use efficiency is what growers strive for and the objectives for water use efficiency are to produce more sugarcane with the same amount of water, proportionally more sugarcane per mm with increased water application or at least the same amount of sugarcane with less water.

Of course, it is more complex than this with the economic optimum taking into account the capital costs, water use efficiency, energy use efficiency and cane production. All this in an industry with some of the most variable weather in the world. Not so simple.

CANEGROWERS has for many years been part of the Rural Water Use Efficiency (RWUE) program which has delivered incentives for growers to improve water use efficiency based on good advice. This has been backed up by extension and tools to enable improved irrigation decisions.

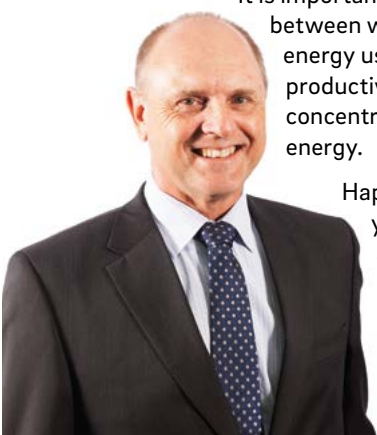
CANEGROWERS has a project with the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy with the objective to maintain some regional extension capacity and to look for additional funding from the alternate sources. It is now under the Farm Water Futures banner.

In addition to this CANEGROWERS is part of the Energy Savers Plus Program Extension tender won by Queensland Farmers Federation. Through this project CANEGROWERS will provide about 40 cane grower applicants with a professional energy audit and they will then have the opportunity to apply for a grant up to \$20,000 to make changes to improve their energy efficiency.

So RWUE as we know has ceased but CANEGROWERS is still actively seeking to provide growers with opportunities to improve their input efficiency.

It is important to focus on the nexus between water use efficiency, energy use efficiency and productivity - and not just concentrate only water or energy.

Happy Christmas and may your cane have the right amount of water in the right place at the right time. ■



Sugar trade - It pays the bills!

2018 has been a big year.

CANEGROWERS has worked hard to secure a more favourable and profitable export market environment for Australian sugar. This means reducing or removing tariff and other barriers that make it more expensive or prevent refiners around the world from accessing Australian sugar. It also means working to change arrangements that result in the production of subsidised sugar surpluses.

Australia's competitiveness to Indonesia increased this year and the commercial relationships between Australian exporters and Indonesian importers were strengthened as a result of Indonesia removing the sugar tariff differential that had favoured Thailand over Australia.

The Peru-Australia Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA) signed on 12 February and the TPP-11 agreement signed on 8 March both increase opportunities for Australian raw sugar exports.

On entry into force, PAFTA will open for the first time the possibility of Australian sugar being sold to Peru. Commencing a new chapter in economic relations between the two countries, the agreement means Peru's refiners can source some of their sugar needs from Australia.

On 31 October, Australia joined Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and Singapore as part of the first group of signatories to ratify the TPP-11. With six countries now signatories, it will enter into force on 30 December 2018.

This is good news for the Australian sugar industry. Australia's sugar sales to Japan increased following implementation of the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement. Once TPP-11 enters into force, there will be a further improvement in the terms of trade and higher returns for Australian raw sugar sold to Japan, strengthening the already strong commercial ties that exist between Australian sugar exporters and Japan's sugar refiners.

CANEGROWERS is working to ensure sugar is included in all trade agreements that Australia is negotiating including, amongst others, with the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom, once it leaves the EU.

The trade agenda is not just about market access. It also means stopping the trade distorting actions of others.

The glut of sugar being produced in India is a result of its domestic sugar price supports that are in clear contravention of India's World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitments. Australia has already notified the WTO's Committee on Agriculture of India's contravention and gained the support of 13 other WTO members.

Reflecting the vital importance to the world sugar market of resolving this situation, CANEGROWERS, working closely with ASMC and Global Sugar Alliance members, has built strong international support to escalate this issue. Formal steps in the WTO will assist the voices in India calling for change.

As big a year as 2018 has been for securing sugar trade outcomes, 2019 looks set to be just as important. ■



Project Cane Changer: two years on

Supplied by Cane Changer

Cane Changer is a CANEGROWERS initiative that has been working with growers to highlight the positive changes taking place throughout the industry and help build an even more sustainable future. With the help of local district CANEGROWERS offices, more than 250 growers across the Wet Tropics have jumped on board since February 2017 to 'set the record straight' about the sugarcane industry.

The second year of the project started strongly with newly-elected Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef, **Leanne Enoch**, visiting CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman, **Joe Marano's** farm to sign a Cane Changer Commitment just two weeks after entering office in January.

In doing so, Ms Enoch pledged her support to the sugarcane industry, committing to recognising the industry's on-going efforts to improve farming practices, especially as they relate to the Great Barrier Reef, and to work collaboratively with the industry for a better future for the industry and the environment.

"They've listened to cane growers and recognise the positive changes we're making on our farms, so we've been able to work collaboratively towards better outcomes for all," said Joseph.

Cane Changer Project Leader, **Dr John Pickering**, said the recognition was a sign of the support sugarcane growers have from the Queensland Government.

"Growers have been making significant improvements over the years to their farming practices to improve the water quality running out into the Great Barrier Reef," he said. "It means a lot for growers to have that support and acknowledgement of the changes they have made."

"We hope to continue that into the future as we work with growers and share more stories of change from the sugarcane fields"

As part of the project, growers are invited to sign up to the project through their own Cane Changer Commitment which asks growers to highlight many

of the on-farm practice changes they've been making over the years. And there's certainly been some changes that are worth celebrating, with growers throughout the active project districts collectively reporting they have changed more than 1,600 practices over the past decade.

What else has happened this year?

Cane Changer and CANEGROWERS offices in each active region have developed and implemented workshops on local issues. In March, a workshop in Mossman saw more than half of the sugarcane growers in the district turn up to have their say and hear about what's been happening in their district.

"It is important that we hear from all growers and industry members so that we can form a united approach," said CANEGROWERS Mossman Manager, **Evelyn Matthews**.

"The industry has faced a number of challenges over the years but we believe that by working together we can build a brighter future for everyone."

In the Cairns and Tully regions, recent Women's Field Days were organised in partnership with local CANEGROWERS offices to celebrate the vital role of women in the industry and identify ways to continue to support them into the future.

"Women help drive this industry and we believe it is crucially important to recognise the role they play on-farm and support them wherever possible," said CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman, **Stephen Calcagno**.

In Innisfail, the achievements of local growers were celebrated at an event held with CANEGROWERS Innisfail. Growers were presented with a Cane



Changer Declaration, recognising the practices they've changed in the past and highlighting those they're aiming to work on in the future. Together, Innisfail growers have changed well over 400 practices in the past decade.

"We've faced some scrutiny over our connection to the Great Barrier Reef and over the years growers have been making significant changes to help protect it," said Joe Marano. "It hasn't always been easy and has sometimes put growers out of their comfort zone, but they have done it for the sake of the environment."

Just last week in the Herbert, growers across the district came together to share their farming practice data and dispel some of the misconceptions around programs such as Smartcane BMP.

The workshops were run by

"It just goes to show how willing growers are to get involved in new projects, try new things and learn about what's happening in their industry."

CANEGROWERS Herbert River, Smartcane BMP and Cane Changer, with updates from SRA and HCPSL.

"We've had a great turnout for all of these events," said Dr Pickering. "It just goes to show how willing growers are to get involved in new projects, try new things and learn about what's happening in their industry."

It's likely this initiative and willingness to give things a go that was behind the results of the latest Wet Tropics Report Card, which rated the condition of eight of the nine catchments as either Good (B) or Very Good (A).

"It's great to see results like these starting to come out that reflect the on-farm changes growers have been making to protect the environment," said Dr Pickering.

"These positive results are set to continue and that is a testament to the mentality of growers for giving things a



go and getting involved with programs such as Smartcane BMP."

In just two years, there has been more than a 300% increase in Smartcane BMP accreditations throughout the Wet Tropics, with districts such as Tully increasing by over 1000%.

As Dr Pickering explains, it's statistics like these that can go a long way to setting the record straight.

"It's these statistics that we can show as proof that growers have been doing the right thing and are continuing to make changes to improve their productivity and protect their environment," he said.

What's happening next year?

As Cane Changer continues into 2019, we will be looking to take the project to other Queensland regions. We will be working with the local CANEGROWERS board in each district. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved, please get in touch.

As a final note, the Cane Changer team would like to thank the CANEGROWERS boards and our project partners for working with us throughout the entire project design, implementation and evaluation.

Most importantly, we'd like to thank all of the growers who have jumped on board. Thank you for giving us your time, inviting us onto your farms and sharing your stories.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday period. Have a very merry Christmas and we look forward to working with you in the New Year! ■

Pictured: (left) Cane Changer Project Leader Dr John Pickering talks to growers at a Tully Variety Management Group meeting, (above) Participants at the Cairns Region Women's Field Day visited SRA's Meringa Research Station to hear more about their cane varieties.

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 April 2019

2019 Women in Sugar Australia Conference

Theme: The Challenge of Change

Location: Ingham

Monday 29 April: TYTO Conference and Event Centre

Tuesday 30 April: District Bus Tour

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Next deadline is **7 January 2019**.

* 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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NEW! BILLET PLANTER 2500
Rubber belt cane feed
Immediate delivery

2x TOFT 7 tonne Hi-Lift side tipping
trailers remote hydraulic's
23x1x30 tyres on single axles

McLean three quarter tracks
6 roller good condition
suit CASE 8000 or
Cameco 3510- JD 3520/570

Whole Toppers 2 x CASE as new one is complete

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

IN STOCK NOW 12, 10, 8 & 6 BLADE
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Graham Twyford
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Mossman-Tully

2010 Case 180 IH Puma coupled to a 14 tonne Carta Tipper. Tully Area. Ph: 0418 181 646.

4m Agrator rotary hoe, needs some work. All offers considered. Ph: 0428 561 197 for more details.

7700 John Deere, 8500 Hrs good mechanical condition, good rubber, \$30,000 + GST Neg.
7710 Magnum, 10,000 Hrs, full transmission rebuild, good rubber, \$25,000 + GST Neg.
Howard AR 140 120 inch Neg. Ph: Jamie 0427 089 009.

Howard 100" Hoe & Crumble Roller \$11,000,
Howard 80" Ripper Hoe & Crumble Roller \$5,000. 12x1" Spring Tyne Grubber \$300,
JD 6630 4WD 18.4.38 Rears, Air Cab, Power Quad, Cat 2 Quick hitch, Hydraulic Arm \$70,000. H.B.M Billet Planter, Wide Elevator & 2 x 100L Austral Tanks, Stainless Steel Fertiliser Boxes \$15,000. ALL O.N.O Plus GST. Ph: 0419 988 158.

Herbert River-Burdekin

100" Howard Rotary Hoe, Heavy Duty with Steel Roller. Viccon Spreader. 12ft Roller. Ph: 0429 136 399.

Set of 8 blade chopper drums to suit John Deere Cane Harvester. Ph: 0419 188 185.

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. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)
New Holland TS110A 4WD, 110hp, 16 Fwd & Rev Gears, Semi Powershift, 2005 Build, \$44,000 Inc., KUBOTA M135X-DC 4WD, 135hp, 16 Fwd & Rev Gears, Semi Powershift, 2012 Build, \$44,000 Inc. Ph: 0418 788 643.

SUPERIOR OIL BATH BEARINGS

kits available for off-set disc harrows to suit International 3-5, 3-4, Bonel, Napier and other brands.
Tillage Discs available in all shapes and sizes (Boron steel)



PH: 07 4095 5050

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, GPS, and more. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428 182 464.

6 Tonne High Lift Side Tipper, rams & brakes reconditioned, good working condition, inc high-flow pto hyd pump \$7700 inc GST. 306/670 Chamberlain parts including good 306 engine, also some parts for 65 & 165 fergy's. 2x New 6 Tonne Tipper Chassis, heavy axles & hitches fitted, 2 heavy rims & some spare 23.1x 26 tyres \$7150 the lot. Hodge ratoon roller, GC \$1210. 2x Bonel (Contractor Model) billet planters with spares \$4950 both. Ph: 0407 176 828.

Black ARB Canopy to suit twin cab Rodeo. Ph: 0400 583 234.

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6kms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408 880 724.

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Wanted

STL Shares. Pay market price, no brokerage cost. Ph: 0408 448 227.

John Deere 3520 wheel cane harvester. Also 5 or 6 roller tracks to suit. Ph: 0409 481 269. 600ltr Silvan Tank with or without pump. Ph: 0417 628 044.

HBM Billet Planter. 305 Massey Ferguson Cane Harvester. Soybean Planter with disc openers. Ph: 07 4959 6197.

Property

GLEN ISLA Cane Farms - Tightly Held Area. Approx* 334.82 acres in 8 FH titles with fertile alluvial soils. 2 equip irrig bores, mains & hydrants, 190ML allocation. Qlder style home. Motivated Vendors looking to retire. Ph: Gary Johns 0427 241 250.

HOME BUSH/OAKENDEN Cane Farm for sale Mackay region. 100t/ha 5 year average 57 ha property. Fully laser levelled farm with a large bore & underground water mains. Block has 2 deeds 90 acre and 50 acre which can be sold separately. This year's crop, machinery shed with 3 phase power and water, tractor, irrigation winch, some implements and tail water pit pump included in sale. Siding on boundary, great soil, no rocks. Ph: Andrew 0428 597 324.

Cane farm PROSERPINE 199 hectares total 155 hectares under cane. 2018 crop 10500 ton approx. 495megs of water. 2x hardhoses and half of the farm is flood irrigated. Farm comes with machinery. 3 houses; main house fully airconed with pool. Ph: 0400 794 857.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	7 days to 9am		Year to date	January–December
	03.12.18	10.12.18		
Mossman	8	189	2423	2249
Mareeba AP	1	127	811	911
Cairns	3	208	2229	2001
Mt Sophia	0	266	3626	3346
Babinda	0	0	1667	4236
Innisfail	4	230	3280	3559
Tully	0	282	3520	4082
Cardwell	2	504	2172	2116
Lucinda	11	228	1781	2101
Ingham	18	140	1874	2032
Abergowrie	2	272	1993	1790
Townsville	21	41	883	1117
Ayr DPI	14	53	730	932
Proserpine	0	209	1052	1379
Mirani	0	89	801	1493
Mackay	0.4	160	883	1562
Sarina (Plane Ck)	0	183	1043	1725
Bundaberg	0.6	17	681	1007
Childers South	0	29	819	875
Maryborough	15	38	987	1153
Tewantin	0	32	1522	1697
Eumundi	0	36	1299	1668
Nambour	0	30	1292	1694
Woongoolba	0.8	18	1023	1342
Murwillumbah	0	43	1020	1573
Ballina	0	0	1647	1770
Woodburn	0	0	994	1358



**AustSafe
Super**



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fund for rural and
regional Australia

Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on www.bom.gov.au. Weather report provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Commercial Weather Services Unit.

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different for everyone.

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discover what accreditation could look like for you.



Frank and Frankie Gallo, Tablelands



Contact your district facilitator to find out more.