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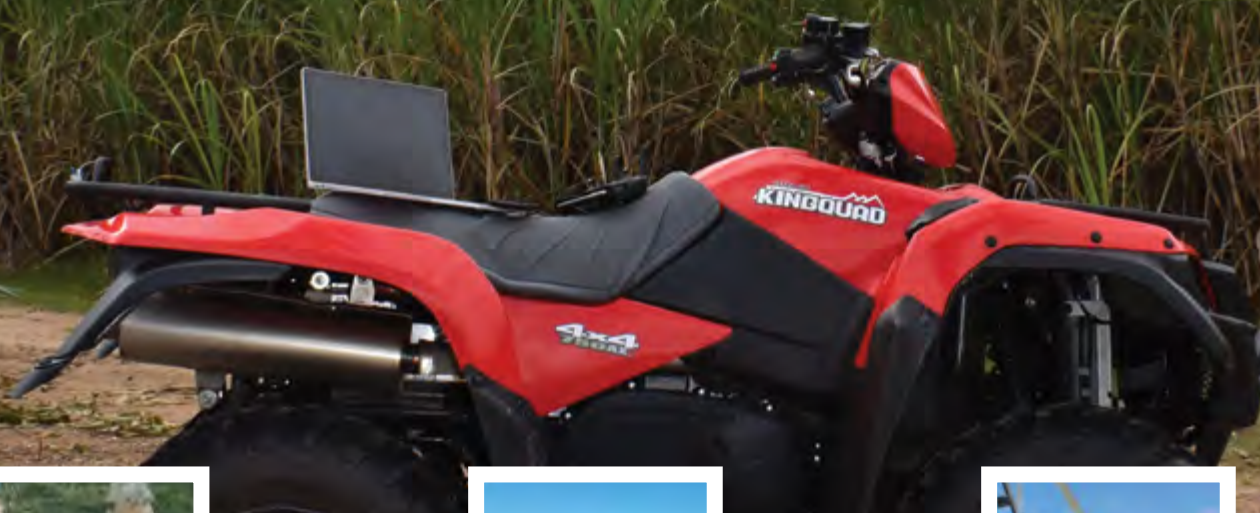
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23 April 2018



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COVER IMAGE: New technology is offering greater insights into crop and soil health. But there are questions around who owns and can see the data collected about your farm. Read the special feature from page 14.

Editor: Wayne Griffin

Design, subscriptions and classifieds:
Jacqui Segond

Articles appearing in *Australian Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS

Published every second Monday by
CANEGROWERS

Level 6, 100 Edward Street, Brisbane,
Queensland Australia

ABN 94 089 992 969

Postal Address: GPO Box 1032, Brisbane,
Queensland 4001 Australia

Telephone: 07 3864 6444; Fax: 07 3864 6429

Email: info@CANEGROWERS.com.au

Website: www.CANEGROWERS.com.au

AUSTRALIAN CANEGROWER ISSN 0157-3039

Volume 40 Number 08

Printed by Printcraft

23 Links Avenue, Eagle Farm QLD 4009

Subscriptions

Yearly subscriptions for 25 issues (postage included)

Within Australia \$160 inc GST

Overseas (AUD) \$250

Strength and advocacy: a leader remembered

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

With the rest of CANEGROWERS, I am mourning the passing of one of our great former chairmen, Harold Rosario (Harry) Bonanno. He was an elected member of CANEGROWERS for 37 years and importantly, served as Chairman of CANEGROWERS from 1989 to 2001.

To attempt to summarise Harry Bonanno's success, his deeds and actions and his fortitude and strength of character into a few paragraphs would be futile.

Harry Bonanno was a fearless and timeless advocate for growers. He was no shrinking violet when it came to ensuring that the cane growers of Queensland were treated respectfully and fairly in an era of great change.

Leadership was one of Harry's greatest qualities. The sugar industry in the 1980s and 1990s was subjected to enormous social, political and economic change.

Growing attention on the environmental sustainability of the sugar industry and its impacts on the Great Barrier Reef created a huge challenge. Harry Bonanno knew the industry was ready to proactively promote our sustainable farming practices rather than take a reactive defensive approach.

Equally powerful forces for deregulation were also emerging as Australia prepared to be part of a global economy. Harry had to find an industry structure that satisfied governments, both State and Federal, yet still allowed growers to retain confidence in the industry.

It is not a well-known fact but during Harry Bonanno's chairmanship, the industry increased production by 50% and the area under cane increased by 40%.

In many respects Harry Bonanno, perhaps more than anyone else, laid the foundation of the modern sugar industry. That will perhaps remain his greatest and most enduring legacy. Queensland CANEGROWERS extends our condolences to the Bonanno family.

Trade alert

There has been a lot of publicity of late on the potential of a full-scale trade war erupting between the United States and China.

A trade war is where a series of tit-for-tat trade restrictions are imposed by the 'warring' countries that normally would trade with one another. The objective is that one country applies

barriers, particularly tariffs, to lessen the inflow of products so consumers will purchase more of the product produced in their own country.

How does this affect the Australian sugar industry? In the short term there is possibly very little impact on our exports of sugar.

The problem with a trade war is that absolutely no-one can predict where it will end and that is where a trade war can be dangerous.

What started as the US administration attempting to curb the inflow of steel and aluminium has already seen retaliatory tariffs applied by the European Union and retaliation by China applying restrictions on goods produced in the US.

Australia exports around 60-70% of all we produce. Hence, we are very exposed if a trade war escalates. More than anything else the danger in the current tit-for-tat situation is the culture of protectionism which could unwind all the gains the Australian sugar industry has achieved.

If subsidies, and particularly export subsidies, creep back into play it will have a catastrophic impact for Australian cane growers. The price we access is a global price. The global price is always heavily discounted when market commentators know that production is supported by subsidies.

In the short run, as Australian cane growers, there is perhaps little to worry about in the escalating trade relations that are emerging.

However, sometimes a grass fire can lead to a wild fire. That is when it will become quite dangerous. ■



"Harry Bonanno was a fearless and timeless advocate for growers. He was no shrinking violet when it came to ensuring that the cane growers of Queensland were treated respectfully and fairly in an era of great change."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Royally annoyed by reef chemical comments

Reported comments about farm chemical use and the Great Barrier Reef from HRH Prince Charles while he visited Queensland recently have drawn a strong and angry reaction from CANEGROWERS members.

Charles' right royal beef over the reef

The newspaper article

The controversial Prince Charles comments were reported in *The Weekend Australian* on 7 April in a story which said:

Prince Charles has questioned why banned farm chemicals continue to pollute the Great Barrier Reef after getting a first-hand look at corals off Lady Elliot Island. The Prince of Wales was participating in a forum of business leaders, politicians, scientists and not-for-profit groups exploring new ways to protect the reef. He said he had been told that farmers on the Queensland mainland were using chemicals that had been banned 25 years ago, and contaminated run-off was washed on to the reef. He stressed this also happened in the UK... In his long experience of campaigning for the environment, Prince Charles said pollution was often caused unwittingly by people who "were simply unaware of the impact at the far end."

Agricultural groups were not invited to be part of the Roundtable hosted by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

CANEGROWERS response

On the day the article was published, CANEGROWERS issued a media release available now at www.canegrowers.com.au

Chairman **Paul Schembri** said he would welcome the opportunity to show Prince Charles around a modern Australian sugarcane farm and explain to him the measures growers have been taking to minimise the environmental impacts of their farming businesses.

"The sale and use of herbicides and pesticides on cane farms in the Reef catchment is highly regulated," Mr Schembri said. "CANEGROWERS has no knowledge of any continuing use of banned chemicals and if allegations have been voiced to a Royal visitor to that effect, they should also be raised with the appropriate authorities.

"The Reef is in our backyard – cane growers work, live and play beside it and in it and have no desire to do it harm."

With almost three quarters of the cane farming area of Queensland voluntarily enrolled in the industry best management practices program, Smartcane BMP, by growers, Mr Schembri said the industry was committed to playing its part to secure the future of the Reef.

"This commitment has led us on a decades-long journey of innovation and technological and farming practice change and I would be very happy to show Prince Charles around my farm and explain it to him first hand."

Support for industry

Queensland's Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries **Mark Furner** was at the Roundtable. He later told *Australian Canegrower* he wasn't aware of the source of the Prince's information.

"I reiterated, not only to himself, but others around the Roundtable the fact that cane growers in particular, through their best management practices, are sincerely involved in making sure that they operate in a sustainable atmosphere. I think those that were present at the Roundtable were pleased to hear that feedback."

Mr Furner also told the opening session of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Conference in Mackay that Prince Charles raised the remark about chemical use and the Great Barrier Reef with him on a visit to Mossman Gorge and he assured the Royal visitor that sugarcane farmers were the most competent and best performing land managers.

Queensland Environment Minister **Leeanne Enoch** also weighed in, reportedly telling Prince Charles that catchment management was a priority and later saying on Twitter, "I've been on farm with Queensland cane growers to see the fantastic work they're doing on Best Management Practice to not only reduce run-off into the Great Barrier Reef catchment area, but increase yield and profitability."

Natural Resource Management groups which work with CANEGROWERS members on reef and water quality related programs also defended the industry.

The Burnett Mary Regional Group told the *NewsMail* in Bundaberg that cane growers were working with the group to minimise their environmental footprint, going "above and beyond" to implement best practices.

In Mackay's *Daily Mercury*, Reef Catchments said misinformation about the reef could be damaging to all trying to create good will between farmers and environmentalists. ■

Former Chairman remembered

Harry Bonanno, who led CANEGROWERS as Chairman from 1989 to 2001, has passed away aged 88. He has been described as an industry great who worked tirelessly for growers through a period of great change and challenge.

Harold Rosario Bonanno was born in Childers on 10 January 1930. Educated locally, he and his brother, Alf, eventually took over the farm his father bought after arriving from Sicily to cut cane as a 24 year old.

Harry Bonanno's 37 years of service as an elected representative of fellow sugarcane growers included a period as Chairman of CANEGROWERS Isis between 1973 and 2001.

Current CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** delivered a eulogy at Mr Bonanno's funeral in Childers.

"Harry Bonanno was a strong and resolute leader of growers through a period of great social, political and economic change for the industry," Mr Schembri said. "He never failed to stand up for growers.

"During the 1990s he helped the industry increase production by nearly 50% while

also negotiating the challenges of increased environmental scrutiny and deregulation.

"His greatest talent, to my way of thinking, was his capacity to read the big picture for the industry.

"Harry could see the importance of environmental sustainability and being proactive in that debate before many others.

"This vision played a major part in laying the foundation of our modern sugarcane industry."

Mr Bonanno represented cane growers on the boards of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (the forerunner to Sugar Research Australia), Sugar Terminals Limited and the Queensland Sugar Board.

He was also a Vice-President of the National Farmers' Federation and a Vice-President of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers. ■



*Pictured: Harry Bonanno
(image courtesy of Queensland Country Life).*



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Policy Update

Environment with Matt Kealley

Industry with Burn Ashburner

Economics with Warren Males

Sharing info and risk

My role at CANEGROWERS means I often get the chance to speak with people from a diverse range of professions and backgrounds to share information and seek opinions and insights on issues affecting the industry.

Recently I presented to Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) on how Smartcane BMP is responding to risks for sustainable sugar, the environment, regulation, social licence to operate, technology and business viability.

There are some real opportunities in the Smartcane BMP modules to manage business risk, risk to environment and risk to production and profit on farm.

Presenters at the AARES workshop included the CFO of the Rural Bank of SA who discussed finance and risk management models for the Australian farmer with a focus on Asia, Professor Alfons Weersink from the University of Guelph who outlined the Canadian experience with farm insurance schemes and CSIRO's Dr Peter Thorburn who discussed how insurance may play a role in the solution to nitrogen and the Great Barrier Reef.

All these talks were from people looking at risk from a different point of view. My take away message was that risk is easy to identify and hard to prepare for. Insurance could be part of the solution to manage risk if insurers and users were prepared to think differently and create products tailored to the situation and individual.

Not easy yet something we should do more of. ■



Insurance for weather risks

An enhanced crop insurance project involving CANEGROWERS and the Queensland Farmers Federation is developing a product that could help smooth out weather impacts on farming.

With support from the Queensland Government Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, the University of Southern Queensland and brokers Willis Towers Watson have come up with an alternative way of transferring the revenue or cost impact of a natural disaster.

This is not traditional insurance where an event causes damage which is assessed and a payment is made. This option relies on a trigger which would automatically provide for a payout regardless of whether there is actual damage or not.

For example, if a Mossman grower wanted cover for \$100,000 cyclone damage they would pay a premium of \$5,000 (5%) and receive a payment if the farm was within 50km of the centre line of a Category 3 or greater cyclone (the index or trigger) regardless of damage. There's a lot of data available on cyclones making it possible for underwriters to assess risk and use this as a trigger.

Other triggers could be low rainfall in January in the Burdekin for a payout to cover the costs of irrigation or certain flood levels could trigger a payout. All of the detail is some way off but the

concept aims to help growers offset disaster risks in the future. ■



How to cut electricity prices

In its draft determination the Queensland Competition Authority has indicated that electricity prices for small business should fall modestly but the transitional agricultural tariffs would be left unchanged. There are at least three good reasons for prices in regional Queensland to be further reduced.

First, Energex has a 'peakier' load profile than Ergon meaning it pays more for peak electricity. In 2018-19, QCA expects Ergon to pay \$89.64/MWh for energy, 11.44% below the \$101.22/MWh they estimate Energex will pay.

QCA is required to base regulated retail tariffs in the Ergon network on the network charges levied by Energex and the relevant Energex network tariffs. QCA's approach imposes a higher cost structure on electricity users in regional Queensland than is either warranted or required by the Ministerial delegation.

Second, the retail market benchmark used by QCA includes several costs that do not exist in the Ergon business in Ergon's cost structure. For example, without retail competition, Ergon does not face the same marketing and promotion costs as electricity retailers in the south east.

Third, without reference to actual costs incurred, the methodology QCA uses to calculate Large-scale Generation Certificate (LGC) prices appears to significantly overstate the cost of LGCs to an efficient long term incumbent retailer such as Energy Queensland in the light of Queensland government policy and its obligations to manage and operate Ergon Energy.

In short, a QCA decision not to reduce electricity prices facing the intensive agricultural sector will continue to disadvantage regional Queensland. ■



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Financial assistance for Growers **RAIN, FLOODS** and a **CYCLONE**

Some financial assistance measures have been made available to farmers affected by weather events this year.



Cane regions from the Burdekin to Mossman experienced flooding in a series of storm and rainfall events which started on 24 February.

The latest was Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora which delivered heavy rain to the Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook Shire Council regions.

Queensland's Minister for Agricultural Industry Development Mark Furner said Category B assistance has been activated for those shires.

"Just as producers were drying out from the flooding in late February and early March, Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora brought more significant rainfall," Mr Furner said.

"Departmental staff had performed impact assessments and Category B assistance under the joint Queensland and Australian Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) was activated, and now after more assessments post

Cyclone Nora, we have again activated Category B assistance for producers."

Category B assistance provides concessional loans of up to \$250,000 and essential working capital loans of up to \$100,000 and freight subsidies of up to \$5,000.

Mr Furner said primary producers who have suffered major damage outside the above declared areas may apply for an Individual Disaster Stricken Property (IDSP) declaration.

Meanwhile, the deadline for Bundaberg growers wanting to apply for Category C Natural Disaster Recovery Grants because of the severe weather event in October 2017 has been extended for three months to 20 July 2018.

A full list of the assistance available to growers is on this website <http://www.qldreconstruction.org.au/ndrra/ndrra-activations> ■

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MICRO GRIDS:

Powering the future of irrigated sugarcane

Using a combination of renewable energy, battery storage or mechanical storage could be the most cost effective and efficient way to power irrigation on sugarcane farms, according to a new report.



"I jumped at the opportunity to participate in the case study as input costs, especially electricity, are always increasing and we need to be constantly looking at ways to be more efficient while maintaining productivity and managing our effect on the environment."

The study, commissioned by SRA and conducted by AgEcon, looked at opportunities for energy innovation in irrigated sugarcane and found that new energy technologies could deliver reduced per megalitre (ML) pumping costs and lower carbon emissions.

Study co-author, **Janine Powell**, a research economist with AgEcon, said the findings were important because the energy used to power irrigation is one of the fastest growing costs for growers.

"In Queensland, electricity costs have increased by about 400 percent since the year 2000," Ms Powell said.

The study found the cost of energy to power irrigation on cane farms can account for about one-third of the total cost of growing cane and 22 percent of the carbon emissions of raw sugar.

"Our analysis included an examination of current energy use on irrigated sugarcane farms and plans to explore the feasibility

of implementing new energy technologies in the future to reduce costs and improve sustainability."

AgEcon surveyed the energy use of 115 irrigated farms.

The survey results indicated the most energy intensive irrigation systems were the high-pressure overhead or "water cannon" systems pumped from a ground water source. In this scenario, irrigation accounted for 33 percent of the variable costs compared to 10 percent for furrow irrigation pumped from river water.

The survey results added to a meta-analysis of other available sources on pumping and irrigation by region. The Burdekin, Mackay and Bundaberg regions had the highest energy use of irrigation water with just over half of the industry's irrigation water transferred in the Burdekin.

Ms Powell said this highlights the importance of resourcing future energy productivity solutions.

"Our study found that with a 15 percent electricity price increase, the gross margin for farmers who used high pressure overhead water pumped from a bore, was reduced by 9 percent," she said.

"Farmers who have optimal irrigation systems and good water use efficiency metrics in this situation could consider new energy technologies to reduce pumping costs and improve overall energy efficiency".

Mackay district irrigator **Wayne Vickers** agrees that the industry needs to be looking into new ways to reduce both the cost of irrigating and the impact on the environment.

Mr Vickers grows 170ha of irrigated cane and uses low pressure overhead and furrow systems pumped from the Pioneer River near Marian.

"I jumped at the opportunity to participate in the case study as input costs, especially electricity, are always increasing and we need to be constantly looking at ways to be more efficient while maintaining productivity and managing our effect on the environment," he said.

The AgEcon survey results suggested that a lack of knowledge around energy, renewables, investment feasibilities and a perceived lack of cashflow are the main limiting factors for investment into new energy technologies.

Micro-Grids

The energy technologies most applicable to sugarcane irrigators will likely be pump-site "micro-grids", said study co-author **Jon Welsh**, a research economist with AgEcon.

"Micro-grids are clusters of generators which are operated as single controllable entities," he said.

"For example, a pump-site micro-grid might include a renewable energy source such as solar panels, combined with a lithium-ion battery for storage as well as being connected to power from the electricity grid.

"The power sources are controlled by drive systems to ensure voltages are stabilised at the load source."

Mr Welsh said with prices of flow and lithium-ion batteries forecast to be reduced

by almost 60 percent in the next decade or so, the potential for irrigation farms to adopt these technologies was becoming more feasible.

Mr Welsh added that advanced battery storage systems could facilitate the integration of renewable power generation into existing irrigation systems through their ability to manage frequency variations and handle peak loads.

"There is real potential for new energy technologies to reduce per ML pumping costs, thereby increasing industry competitiveness and improving sustainability."

The AgEcon report "Opportunities for Energy Innovation in Irrigated Sugarcane" is available at: https://sugarresearch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Energy-in-irrigated-cane_2017x.pdf ■

Pictured: Mackay grower Wayne Vickers discusses energy solutions with Janine Powell, AgEcon.

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Market Update: Big surplus weighs on sugar prices



By QSL Treasury Manager
Ginette Barrett

As we head into a new season, it has become clear that the big fundamental market driver of the ICE 11 raw sugar market right now is the growing surplus of production over consumption (i.e. grower sugar stocks).

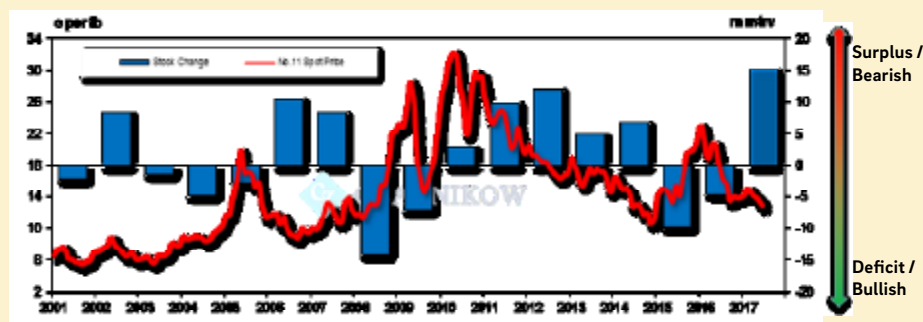
The key driver of this is the growing size of the crops out of India and Thailand, with current expected production levels of approximately 31.5 million tonnes and 13.6 million tonnes respectively. On the back of these upward revisions, the raw sugar price has had continuous downward pressure, holding the price below 13 c/lb for the front three contracts on the pricing curve (July 2018, October 2018, and March 2019).

The global surplus for the 2017/18 season is now expected to be in excess of 9 million tonnes of sugar. Focus is also moving forward to the 2018/19 Season where the surplus is expected to continue in excess of 6 million tonnes. As a result, the outlook for the global raw sugar market is an extended period of low prices until we can absorb this excess sugar tonnage.

As the Brazilian harvest gets underway, the raw sugar price remains under ethanol parity, which has never been seen before. This will encourage Brazil to maximize ethanol production from their cane crop over sugar production. But even pushing this sugar mix to the limits will not be enough to swallow up the imbalance between the supply and demand of sugar, and should ethanol prices fall this should further increase the pressure on the sugar price to stay at lower levels.

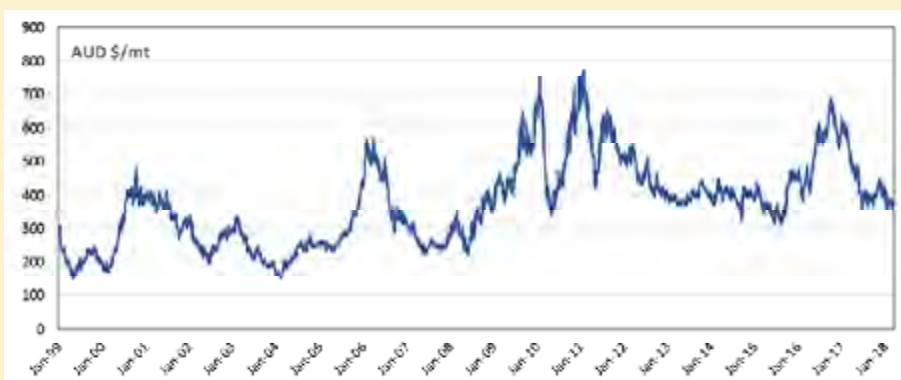
LOOKING BACK

The following chart illustrates the raw sugar trade flows over the last 18 years and shows the correlation between surplus/deficit (the blue bars) and the decrease/increase in the sugar price (red line). More importantly it shows that it takes a lot longer for the price to increase once the market is in deficit than it does to fall when the market is in surplus. For the coming 2018 Season as the surplus grows, raw sugar prices look set to continue to fall, and based on the trends shown in this chart, it would seem any price weaknesses will be slow-moving and prolonged.



Source: Czarnikow

The Australian/US dollar exchange rate value (AUD) over the last 20 years, pictured below, shows the average price sitting around \$375 per tonne based on the front contract, with the average sugar price at 13.70 c/lb and AUD value at an average level of 0.7800. Looking at the AUD/metric tonnage (mt) graph over this period of time, the price mainly traded between \$300 and \$430 AUD/mt, and prior to 2009 generally sat inside the \$200 to \$350 AUD/mt range.



Source: Bloomberg

GOING FORWARD

Unfortunately the price outlook does not look good for the next few years as the expected record raw sugar surplus for this year and next will take time to filter through the global market. Prices will need to stay low for long enough to see a



supply-side response in the market through mechanisms such as lower plantings, lower levels of husbandry and switches to alternative crops. Given the three to four year average lifecycle of cane crops, this will likely take a couple of years before we see these required responses from producers.

For those growers considering their pricing decisions and the chance of achieving their targeted prices, the following graphs look at the prompt contract price over the last 20 years (The prompt contract is always the closest contract, and so changes from July to October to March and finally to May as we work our way through each season).

As you can see on the next chart, during the last 20 years prices traded at or below A\$450 per tonne 80% of the time. **Prices above \$450 were not available very often – the majority of the time prices were between \$300/tonne and \$400/tonne.**



Looking at what grower pricing orders have been filled and what orders are outstanding for the 2018 Season with QSL, it is evident that there still appears to be a lot of pricing to be completed as the market continues to fall away. Of the grower pricing orders filled to date by QSL, around 64% of the tonnage was priced around the \$450 AUD/mt level. But looking to unfilled orders, around 70% is sitting at pricing targets of \$450 AUD/mt or above.

It is vital that during a surplus market environment, growers revisit their pricing targets in light of current pricing levels and resist the tendency to become complacent with a 'set and forget' approach to their orders. Growers need to consider what is an

acceptable level of returns in what is likely be a low price environment.

Any sort of rally in raw sugar prices looks set to be jumped on heavily by under-priced producers worldwide, with the chance of prices exceeding \$450 looking remote. The market has now moved to a new floor and in the absence of any fresh news to provide support on a fundamental basis, we are at the mercy of technical drivers and the surplus ahead. Any glimmer of hope for an increase in the sugar price will possibly be left up to a weather event to change the course of the surplus.

PRICING UPDATES

Want to know more about current sugar market prices and trends? Then don't miss QSL's Daily Price Update email. To subscribe, email your details to info@qsl.com.au ■

PRICING DECLARATION DATE

Time is running out to finalise your nominations for QSL's 2018-Season pools by this season's Pricing Declaration Date of **30 April 2018**. Please note that growers supplying Isis Central Sugar Mill, Bundaberg Sugar and Mackay Sugar should contact their Miller for details of their local QSL pool deadlines.

DISCLAIMER:

This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial product or investment advice. You should seek independent advice before making any pricing decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this report.

DIGITAL AGRICULTURE - DRONES INFORMING PRECISION DECISIONS

Supplied by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Rapid developments in digital technologies are redefining the way in which farms are being managed, from electronic record keeping to GPS guided tractors, advancements have facilitated significant efficiency gains. These developments are also key to improving environmental outcomes and profitability.

Drone technology is now being coupled with precision agriculture equipment to further increase these gains.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is trialling a range of drone-based technologies in sugarcane farming systems across the Wet Tropics region as part of the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Improvement plan.

Marcus Bulstrode, from DAF's Coastal Farming Systems Team, is leading this work and has identified that drone mapping provides greater spatial resolution for precision agriculture (PA) activities.

"Over the past couple of years, drones have gone from being the play things of enthusiasts and researchers to essential pieces of farm management equipment," he said.

The current range of 'consumer level' drones are both affordable and loaded with capability. With some practice and awareness of Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) guidelines, highly accurate farm mapping can be performed.

"One important thing that my seven years of using drones has shown me, is that there is so much crop variability in the average cane paddock.

"Historically, the same inputs and treatments were applied across the whole farm. Now we have greater levels of awareness of variabilities within the farm which allows for paddocks to be

individualised for differential treatments. However, intra-paddock variability is still very high, particularly in coastal farming systems. Most growers are aware of intra-paddock crop variability but often lack the data to accurately zone these areas.

"Drones now provide us with an ability to increase spatial resolution, or ground sample distance (GSD), of imagery to a few centimetres.

"These images are then processed either in the 'cloud' or on a personal computer to produce a range of mapping outputs including: Crop Health; Orthomosaic (colour image) and Digital Elevation (DEM)."

Marcus added that one of the most usable map outputs is the 'Orthomosaic'.



Stitched Orthomosaic image of the whole block (290 images)

"This output puts together the hundreds of high resolution images taken over the paddock and digitally stitches them together into a single colour image.

"It looks just like a Google Earth image but is current (perhaps the day after capture) and you can zoom into it to see fine detail. This means that any visible variation in the paddock including low yield, disease, grubs, pig damage, wet areas, lodging and weeds can all be seen."

Further enhancements to the images can be made with the Crop Health output. This map uses the drone's standard high resolution camera and the visible part of the spectrum (red, green & blue) and will clearly show variations in crop health.

"Next comes the really interesting aspect of this technology," Marcus said. "Variability maps can then be integrated into 'smart' tractor systems.

"Map data can be entered into a tractor guidance system to allow a range of PA activities such as zonal and variable rate application of fertiliser, pesticide or soil ameliorants such as lime.

"If we consider fertiliser application and nitrogen use efficiency, then we can alter the rate within predetermined zones in the paddock. So the process is: fly the paddock; produce the variability map; send it to the tractor, and perform the task. The key is having variable rate equipment which means either a rate controller for fertiliser and lime, or an on/off switch for herbicide or insecticide.

"I have even heard of growers without all of the variable rate equipment simply using the variability map in the cab and turning things on and off as they go," he said.



Aerial shot of area to be mapped #1



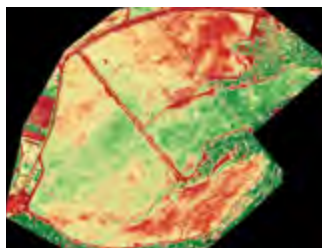
Aerial shot of area to be mapped #2



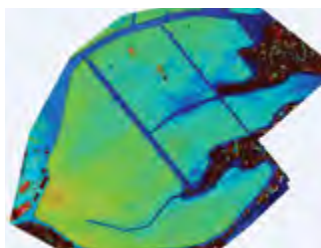
Single drone image used for stitching into one large Orthomosaic.



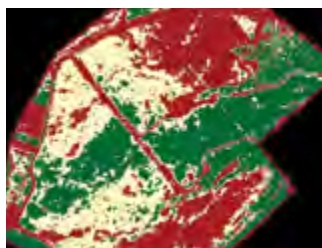
Crop Health output in grid form for tractor systems (green good, yellow medium, red low yielding area)



Crop Health standard output (green good, yellow medium, red low yielding area)



Digital Elevation (red higher, yellow medium, blue lower elevation)



Crop Health output in zone form (green good, yellow medium, red low yielding area)

PA informed by digital agriculture facilitates both 'precision' and 'decision'. The new area for consideration is how to manage this greater awareness of variability.

"We can map it, but how will we manage it to provide the best gains for our farming practice? Focusing on fertiliser application with a split box and variable rate control, I would propose a prescription of three rates which will cover a wide range of expected crop variability," Marcus said. "The standard prescription map produced by the drone mapping process automatically creates these zones."

Mapping provides the opportunity for further investigations - we now know where areas of difference exist, but we don't necessarily know what is causing the variability.

"I see this as the exciting new area in agronomy," Marcus said.

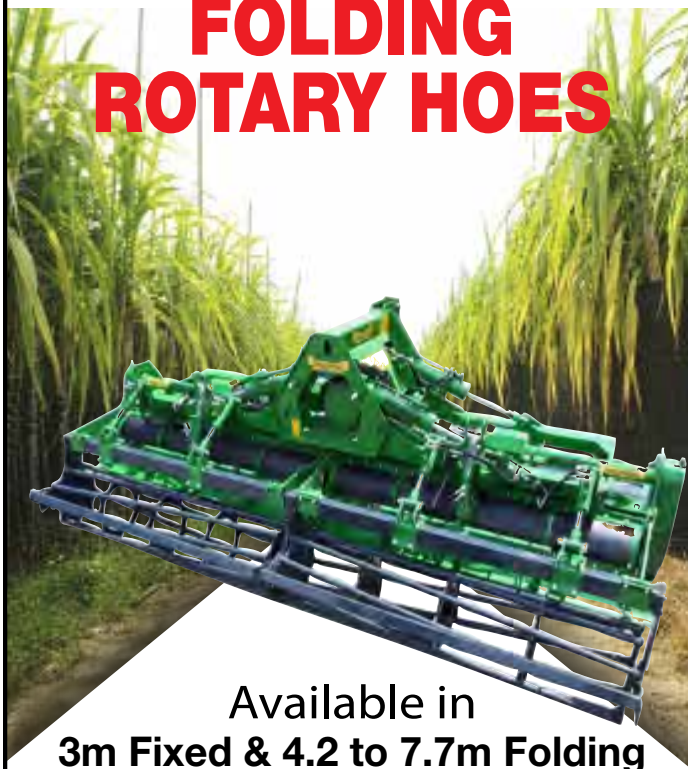
Most growers are aware of good and poorer zones in the paddock and that this sometimes changes depending on the particular year or more seasonal factors. Zones that present fairly constant yield from year to year can clearly be targeted by this approach.

"I think that the 'game changer' has been the willingness for drone manufactures, such as DJI, to allow external developers to produce apps that can fly the machines. Dedicated apps are now built around agriculture. This, coupled with online 'cloud based' image processing portals, has provided the full range functionality. For a modest investment growers can now map paddocks at around a hectare a minute."

So the real message from the rise of drone technology is that it has now progressed to the point at which it is affordable, functional and accessible and will be used more and more to improve productivity and reduce costs. ■



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BIG DATA – QUESTIONS FOR GROWERS

The new frontier in farming is data. Information on everything from soil condition and moisture content to leaf structure and weed load is being collected digitally. This data can make for smarter farming decisions and, potentially, better yield and profit outcomes. But it's also raising some big questions – almost as big as the data bank itself.

They're questions Griffith University Associate Professor **Leanne Wiseman** put to the cane growers at the recent StepUP! conference in Mackay: *Who actually owns the data being collected about your farm? Where is it being kept? Who can use it? What laws apply to farm data?*

The answers are not necessarily clear as Associate Professor Wiseman and her colleague at the University of the Sunshine Coast Associate Professor **Jay Sanderson** write.

Empowering Australian producers with skills for digital agriculture

One of the key concerns of Australian producers in relation to digitalisation of agriculture and the consequential growth of big data in agriculture is the lack of transparency and clarity around issues such as data ownership, privacy, trust and the security of their agricultural data.

These concerns were the focus of *The Legal Dimensions of Digital Agriculture* report that was completed as part of the Commonwealth Government's Rural R&D for Profit research grant, *Accelerating precision agriculture to decision agriculture research project (P2D)* (Wiseman and Sanderson, 2017).

Given the fact that there is little, if any, law in Australia that directly deals with ag data, data licences are the primary means by which data relationships are managed in Australian agriculture.

Many data licences are embedded in ag software and machinery and involve the use of a 'click wrap' agreement (where the click of an 'I agree' icon signifies consent to the terms of the software licence).

These standard term contracts are presented to producers on a take it or leave it basis, so producers have very little or no option but to accept a number of standard terms of use that relate to the ownership, control and use of the agricultural data collected.

Lack of transparency

The Producer Survey, that was conducted as part of the P2D research project, has

revealed that 47% of producers surveyed said they have no understanding and an additional 27% said they have little understanding of the terms of data licence agreements before signing up to a new ag software or service. (Zhang, 2017)

As producers do not understand the implications of what they are signing, they are often unaware of how much control the service provider or data aggregator is asserting over their data or the extent to which their data is being shared and traded with third parties.

More transparent and fairer ag data contracts

One strategy for facilitating more transparent and fairer ag data contracts is to encourage agri-businesses to engage with producers in discussion around appropriate data principles, policies and practices.

One way to do this is to empower farmers with knowledge about the terms and conditions to look out for in their data contracts.

Both the United States and New Zealand have taken steps to increase the transparency around data relationships,

by implementing industry negotiated sets of guidelines that reflect best practice in data licensing.

For example, the US Data and Security Principles deal with education; ownership; collection, access and control; notice; transparency and consistency; and liabilities.

The *New Zealand Farm Data Code of Practice* requires organisations to agree to disclose their practices and policies around ag data rights, data processing and sharing, and data storage and security.

While the benefits of both approaches are not fully understood, they have played a pivotal role in raising awareness among agricultural sectors about the issues of data ownership, privacy and security.

Privacy, safety and security of ag data

Other key concerns involve whether producers' data is private, safe and secure.

Some believe that protections to ag data are afforded by Australia's privacy regime however not all data is treated equally.

While many Australian farmers are concerned about the security of their personal, financial and health data, some are less concerned about the use of machine data (sensor and machine data) or agronomic data (yield and nutrient data).

Importantly, Australian privacy law distinguishes between different types of data or information – that is, personal and non-personal information.

Put simply, personal information is data or information that can be used to identify a person, such as name, address, location data, telephone number, medical records and bank account details.

Non-personal information is data or information that cannot be used to identify a person.

The distinction between personal and non-personal information is an important one to make because Australia's Privacy regime applies only to 'personal information'. By contrast, 'non-personal information' is generally governed by the law of contract.

This means that the way most ag data will be managed is governed by terms of the data licences entered into between producers and their agribusinesses.

Proposed reforms to the management of data

In May 2017, the Australia Productivity Commission released its final report, *Data availability and Use in Australia*¹.

If implemented in their current form, the recommendations will have a fundamental impact on the way data is managed.

A new *Data Sharing and Release Act* is proposed, the centre piece of which is a new consumer (and small business) right to access data that is held about them.



In late 2017, the Australian Government committed to the introduction of a consumer data right in relation to banking, electricity, phone and internet transactions.

It is anticipated that this right will eventually apply to individual and small business customers of all businesses, but with a sector-by-sector approach, indicating to all data aggregators and custodians a strong and clear cultural shift towards better data management and use.

The European Union has also passed the *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)* that will come into effect in May 2018 that will again radically change the landscape of data management in the EU, empowering consumers with rights to access data that is held about them.

These changes mean that data aggregators and custodians will have to have better data management practices in place.

Conclusion

Finally, the key to building trust and confidence in the way ag data is managed is to begin an industry-wide dialogue around best practice in data management such that trust can develop between producers and agri-businesses.

To this end, as part of the *P2D project*, a Grower Online toolkit has been developed to provide guidance to producers about some of the issues to be considered when entering into contracts for new digital technologies on farm.

Empowering producers and agribusinesses with knowledge about best practices in data management will help to create a more productive and open dialogue. ■



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Contact the authors: Associate Professor Leanne Wiseman, Griffith University l.wiseman@griffith.edu.au (left) and Associate Professor Jay Sanderson, University of the Sunshine Coast jsander4@usc.edu.au (right).

Blockchain – What's in it for cane growers?



Wes Lefroy is agricultural analyst with leading food and agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank.

"The three major benefits of blockchain are enhanced transparency of supply chains, provenance, as well as financial efficiencies for participants on the blockchain."

You may have heard about 'blockchain' – but do you know what it actually is, and how this digitised technology could be implemented in the sugar industry, and the wider food and agri sector?

Wes Lefroy, Rabobank's agricultural analyst, has been following the potential of this new digitised approach to managing supply chains and how blockchain could enhance traceability and transparency along an agricultural supply chain, providing greater downstream visibility for producers and to mitigate production risk.

A speaker at the Case IH Step UP! sugarcane conference in Mackay late last month, Mr Lefroy discussed the potential of blockchain for the Australian sugar industry.

"Conceptually, blockchain makes a lot of sense but the potential of it in the sugar sector to enhance the marketing of sugar, food safety and environmental sustainability is not something that has been widely considered," Mr Lefroy says.

"Yet the shift towards this technology is progressing quickly and it might be here quicker than we think, with a number of companies in the grain and beef sectors, in particular, already trialling this technology."

Blockwhat?

At the present time, Mr Lefroy says, the sugar supply chain relies on human trust, requiring each party to transfer financial and specification data records along the supply chain, together with the transfer of the physical commodity.

"Blockchain, as a digital platform however, will store and verify all transactions associated with transferring the physical commodity, such as sugar, along the supply chain," he says.

"Transactions are recorded in a shared record book, also known as a shared ledger. Each entity has their own copy of the ledger, so when a transaction is made, a new record (or block) is created and added to the blockchain and is verified to be a true transaction by all of the other entities."

With this enabling secure and near-instant interactions between businesses, Mr Lefroy says the payments are made in real time. Critical to blockchain is that each 'block' is encrypted and a non-replicable digital record, so it cannot be deleted, reversed or edited.

What does it mean for growers?

Mr Lefroy says blockchain offers huge possibilities.

"The three major benefits of blockchain are enhanced transparency of supply chains, provenance, as well as financial efficiencies for participants on the blockchain," he says.

With blockchain facilitating traceability, Mr Lefroy says it is set to drastically simplify the process of verifying product origin, quality attributes, and production practices.

It will also help growers share their production story, potentially enabling them to forge stronger relationships with trade partners or deal directly with consumers.

"In a world where consumers are increasing factoring in the environment and sustainability of production into purchasing decisions, blockchain can assist to mitigate risk by making the Australian sugar production story more visible to consumers," he says.

Mr Lefroy says the rise in online food purchases is also seeing consumers having greater access to products with desired characteristics, and with consumers also interested in the provenance of their food, these trends are favouring the use of blockchain technology.

"So not only are consumer preferences changing, but consumers, through online shopping, have greater access to the products with desired attributes," he says.

What is Blockchain?



- Digital Platform; Stores and Verifies Transactions
- Facilitates transfer of commodities, finance, production data.
- Each entity has copy of same shared record book.
- Transactions verified by other users.
- Secure and Near Instant Transactions

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An Alteration to Traditional Supply Chains



Traditional Supply Chains Rely On Trust



Transactions On A Blockchain Is Verified By All Users



14

In line with the sustainability theme, Mr Lefroy says, Coca Cola and the United States Government recently announced the launch of blockchain to combat cheap labour in countries where they source sugarcane.

For blockchain to take off, Mr Lefroy says, it requires involvement from all the stakeholders along the supply chain.

"It is particularly pertinent for producers to record their data, as the provenance story is diluted without high-quality information about production inputs and origin," he says.

Mr Lefroy says while it is 'not a silver bullet for the supply chain' and there are still barriers to wide-scale adoption, such as calculating a proper distribution of costs and benefits, there is no doubt that blockchain holds promise and is the way of the future.

"For blockchain to take off in the sugar industry, it will be up to each segment in the supply chain to make sure they can participate in the blockchain," he says. "And the sugar industry is waiting for someone to put up their hand to develop and implement the technology." ■

Identifying yellow crazy ants

Yellow crazy ants are pests, and can devastate sugarcane crops by farming sap-sucking bugs such as white fly for honeydew, causing disease and mould. The Wet Tropics Management Authority is leading an eradication program of a 1,400ha infestation situated around Edmonton, near Cairns.

A range of treatments are used to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the area, but the first step—identifying the ants—can be a challenge.

Luckily, several defining features can assist to differentiate yellow crazy ants from the hundreds of ant species found in the Wet Tropics region.

Appearance: The ant is yellow-gold in colour and relatively small, around 4mm long. They have long legs and antennae, a small, oval-shaped head and teardrop-shaped abdomen.



Behaviour: Yellow crazy ants don't bite, but spray formic acid from the tip of their abdomen for defence and predation. They move in a haphazard manner and are easily startled by wind and nest disturbances. What they lack in size they make up for in numbers, foraging 24 hours a day in extraordinary densities involving multiple nests.

Environment: Yellow crazy ants prefer humid and shaded environments, such as cane trash, the base of trees and beneath logs and machinery.

If you think you've seen a yellow crazy ant please contact the **Wet Tropics Management Authority Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP)**.

Ph: (07) 4241 0525

Email: yca@wtma.qld.gov.au

Website: <http://www.wettropics.gov.au/what-are-yellow-crazy-ants>

Pictured above: Two of the slides used by Wes Lefroy when he explained blockchain and how it would work for the sugar industry at the recent Case IH StepUp! conference in Mackay.





A note from the STL Chairman...

As it has been over a year since I was appointed Chairman of Sugar Terminals Limited (STL), I would like to take this opportunity to provide growers with an update on STL.

NEW ROLE

STL has worked closely with the industry to implement a new operating model to respond to changes that have increased marketing competition. STL is now responsible for providing storage and handling services, by contracting directly with raw sugar marketers. We have in place a long-term operating agreement with QSL Operations; retaining its long-standing expertise but ensuring QSL's operations team is separated from its marketing team (through 'ring-fencing' arrangements) to address industry concerns about conflicts of interest in the new marketing environment.

ENGAGEMENT

Given this new role, STL is committed to increasing its engagement with our shareholders and the wider growing community. During the past year, members of the STL Board and management team have travelled extensively through sugar regions and met with a number of grower groups. For the first time, the Board held a stakeholder event during a Board meeting at the Bundaberg terminal in December, which was attended by a number of growers who had not previously seen inside a bulk sugar terminal.

We will hold similar events in Mourilyan, Cairns, Mackay and Lucinda during 2018, so that more shareholders can view 'up close' assets that they ultimately own. We will ensure your local CANEGROWER office is informed of these plans and hope you will be able to attend to tour our facilities and meet the STL Board.

STORAGE AND HANDLING AGREEMENTS

Over the last six months, STL has been working with our customers to finalise longer-term storage and handling agreements. These agreements will provide the industry with increased certainty and stability. The majority of these agreements are now signed, with the intention for all contracts to be finalised in time for the 2018 season.

STL AS AN INVESTMENT

STL continues to deliver stable returns to shareholders. As at end of March, the STL share price had grown to \$0.92 per share, which is an increase of over 9% over the past 12 months. At the same time, STL has paid a combined dividend of 5.5 cents, which is an additional return of over 7% (fully franked). I encourage all active growers to discuss with their financial advisors what role STL could play in your investment portfolio, as an attractive investment that supports your industry.

UNCLAIMED MONEY

If you are already a shareholder, please ensure your contact details are kept up to date. This will ensure dividend payments are paid promptly. If you need to update your details, please contact our share registry, Link Market Services Toll Free on 1300 554 474.

All the best for the 2018 season. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the STL team on info@sugarterminals.com.au

Sincerely,

Mark Gray
Chairman

IMAGES, LEFT TO RIGHT

- CHAIRMAN MARK GRAY AND INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR LEANNE MULLER INSPECT THE BUNDABERG BST
- THE BUNDABERG BST WHARF
- STL BOARD AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TOURING THE BUNDABERG BST



SUGAR TERMINALS
LIMITED

Wet Tropics farmers on Soil Health Tour

Compost, bio-fertilisers and even chickens are improving farm soils.

A soil health innovation tour has shed light on the latest methods farmers are using to regenerate soils, boost returns and better protect the environment on sugar, banana, tropical fruit and grazing properties.

30 farmers from Mossman to Mackay toured southern Queensland and New South Wales recently to learn more about a range of innovative soil management practices from compost and bio char production to fallow cover cropping and minimal chemical use.

Terrain NRM's **Michael Waring** said the initiatives could be applied to North Queensland properties.

"Growers who came on the tour are already actively working to improve soil health on their properties through investments of both time and money," Mr Waring said.

"This trip was about fresh ideas, sharing the results of innovative practices, learning from others first-hand and strengthening projects that are already underway."

Farmers visited bio-fertiliser and bio char manufacturers and primary producers using commercial-scale compost systems or multi-cover cropping practices.

The trip was organised by Terrain NRM in partnership with Central Queensland Soil Health Systems, with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Terrain NRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator and Reef Catchments.

"It doesn't matter who you speak to, whether it is cattle people or veggie people, at the end of the day we are all using the same thing, and that's soil."

Mossman grazier and tropical fruit farmer **Carmen Henning-White** said hearing from a diverse range of primary producers and business owners had been invaluable.

"I've come away with new ideas, like a worm farm, that I can incorporate into my pastures and tropical fruits," she said.

Ingham cane farmer **David Morselli** said a strong focus on soil was crucial.

"It doesn't matter who you speak to, whether it is cattle people or veggie people, at the end of the day we are all using the same thing, and that's soil," he said.

Farmers visited a commercial carrot farm at Kalbar where radishes, corn and onions are grown in a cycle for three years between carrot crops to regenerate the soil. They also visited a pecan farm where woodchips from pruned pecan branches have become a competitive second industry.

Terrain NRM's Regional Landcare Facilitator **Jen Redway** said visiting the EAL Soil Laboratory at Southern Cross University was also invaluable.

"Some of our farmers use this lab and for others it was a chance to see first-hand how easy and useful soil tests are and the speed of turnaround from a test to getting answers that help to improve soil biology on-farm and help farmers to continue to move away from chemical fertilisers," she said. ■



RESEARCH FUNDING PANEL

Expressions of Interest are sought from qualified and skilled persons for the roles of Chair and Members of the SRA Research Funding Panel.

The primary function of the Research Funding Panel is to conduct a contestable research investment program from applications from external research providers and SRA and recommend a suite of research projects/programs consistent with the SRA Strategic Plan, for approval by the SRA Board.

Taking account of the Key Focus Areas of SRA's Strategic Plan (visit www.sugarresearch.com.au), it is desirable that the collective expertise of the members of the Research Funding Panel includes contemporary farming systems and management, multi-trait breeding, soils and nutrition, process engineering, mill operations and on farm adoption.

Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate the well-developed skills and expertise required to carry out functions for the benefit of the Australian Sugar Industry and associated communities including:

- knowledge or an appreciation of the key SRA Key Focus Areas outlined in the Strategic Plan 2017/18-2021/22;
- knowledge of sugar industry technologies, economic drivers, threats and opportunities; and
- the capacity to review research applications, proposals, reports.

ADDITIONALLY AND IMPORTANTLY, CANDIDATES WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

- a high degree of integrity;
- an inclusive and collaborative nature;
- an inquiring and constructive questioning nature;
- effective listening and communication skills; and
- an ability to think critically and innovatively.

Appointments to the SRA Research Funding Panel range from 1 to 3 years tenure with the expectation that the Panel will meet approximately 6 days a year, with an additional 6-8 days required for preparation and research.

Please apply online through our 'Current Vacancies' page on the SRA website: www.sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/current-vacancies

Applications close Monday 7 May, 2018.

Annual Queensland Land Valuations

Current revaluations

During March 2018 the Valuer-General issued new land valuations for 22 local government areas in Queensland, some of which included sugarcane districts. If your property is in an area that was not revalued, then your land valuation will remain unchanged.

What are land valuations used for?

Land valuations are used and relied upon by various government authorities for a variety of purposes including the levying of various taxes and charges against land holders. These taxes and charges are calculated at a specified rate in the dollar of land value. Examples include local council rates, state land tax and state land rental on state leasehold lands. An increase in your land valuation may, but does not automatically, lead to an increase in your government rates and charges.

How is the valuation calculated?

Lands that are zoned rural are valued on an unimproved basis by State Government valuers. The unimproved basis is intended to reflect the land in its original, natural and undisturbed condition. The unimproved value is the notional amount the land could be expected to sell for without any physical improvements such as houses and sheds, land clearing, levelling and earth works.

Valuers usually monitor the local area real estate market and analyse sales of properties within the area. From these sales, they make calculations about the value of improvements forming part of the sale and deduct them from the gross sale price to come up with a notional unimproved value for the land component involved in that particular sale. Valuers will also consider physical attributes and constraints on the use of the land. These may include the shape, nature and size of the land parcel, any adverse effects of natural disasters, limitations on land use, encumbrances such as easements including cane tramway and powerline easements, planning restrictions and environmental and vegetation issues.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRM) valuers do not physically inspect every property in the local authority area every year. Quite often the department will simply carry out desk top valuations using maps and aerial images. Also, in some cases the department will merely apply a factor to adjust the value of all farms by a set percentage. These short cut approaches can lead to anomalies and inconsistent valuations.

Objection process

A landholder can formally dispute a valuation by lodging a notice of objection. This can be done online at www.qld.gov.au/landvaluation. The notice must be lodged within 60 days of the valuation being issued. As the recent new valuations were issued on 7 March, affected landholders have until 8 May to lodge an objection.

Prior to lodging an objection, landholders might consider phoning 1300 664 217 to endeavour to speak with the valuer to ask about their valuation. This further information may assist

in deciding whether to object or not. Some common complaints in objections include that the valuation:

- relied on an inflated and abnormal local area sale that did not reflect true area values;
- failed to consider particular characteristics of the property, such as soil type and terrain;
- failed to consider flooding issues and permanent adverse effects from a natural disaster;
- made inconsistent valuations compared to neighbouring properties.
- failed to properly consider the value of making the improvements to the property such as the cost of earthworks and drainage works and the cost of timber treatment in clearing the land.

Further advice and assistance

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy website contains useful information about the valuation process and your local CANEGROWERS office can also assist. As a free service CANEGROWERS members can also call Chris Cooper for additional help and information. ■



By Chris Cooper
CANEGROWERS legal adviser

JOB VACANCY

Sugar Research
Australia

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Farm Technician - Harvester Operator

SRA Ingham Station

- Operate sugarcane harvester and other farm machinery
- Provide farm services support to field research trials
- Irrigating, fertilising, planting, cultivating, spraying and harvesting
- Maintain and repair farm machinery

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU HAVE:

- Experience operating harvesters and other farm machinery;
- Experience in spraying, fertilising, cultivation and irrigation;
- Skills and experience in machinery maintenance;
- C class manual license;
- Basic computer ability.

Applicants *must* have the right to work in Australia in order to apply.

Please submit your application via the SRA website at
www.sugarresearch.com.au/sra-information/current-vacancies
Relocation package available

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Next deadline is **30 April 2018**.

* 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 Hydraulic Heavy Duty OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All bath bearings
\$11,000 plus GST (\$12,100 incl GST)
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New Heavy Duty SLASHERS

2.1 metres width \$3,300 incl GST
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2012 JD 3520 Wheel Cane Harvester
9 Litre 375 HP 7,700 Hrs 8 blade chopper system, Standard toppler. Elevator rebuild.

2010 JD 3520 Track Harvester
9 litre 375 HP engine 9,200 Hrs. 10 Blade Twyford chopper system. 16" grouser plates, new track hubs 2017. 24" elevator extension. Standard toppler. Good machine for age!!

JD 2004 6920S 4WD tractor
155 HP 9,000 hrs. Front suspension 40K, IVT transmission, coupled to a single axle 10 tonne 1994 Carta elevating trailer. Located in Mackay.

CASE 7000 1999 & 1/2 model
2000 Upgrades, Wheel machine Komatsu 325 HP engine 11,500 hrs. 15" x 8 blade diff chopper system. Tidy condition for age, new rear tyres, tilt cabin.

JD 7810 4WD tractor 40 K,
fitted with a 1999 14 tonne Carta elevating cane trailer.

CARTA 14 tonne elevating cane trailer
fitted to a JD 7710 4WD tractor 40 K gearbox tractor. Immediate delivery in Mackay.

CUMMINS QSL 8.9L Eng.
325 HP @ 1900 RPM. 750 Hrs.

NEW ! BILLET PLANTER 2500
Rubber belt cane feed, Immediate Delivery. In Mackay NOW.

Used 10,000 series
Char-Lynn motors 40 cubic inch.
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.

NEW ! 4 SLAT OPEN BUTT ROLLERS
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Classifieds

Mossman-Tully

1 x J.A.M Stainless Steel Fertiliser Box, 1.5 tons drop on stool (nearly new) \$7,000 plus GST. Ph. 07 4067 1250 after 7pm

John Deere 7400, A/C, 4WD, 120HP, good for spray tractor. MSW Fert Box, S/S, 3t, side dresser, good condition. Newton Fert Box, 4t, twin, S/S, worn. Ph. 0408 456 218

GESSNER 2 ROW SIDEDRESSER 1.5 Tonne, sub-surface confidor injection (both sides of each row), ground drive, canvas cover, modified for Tableland red soil, works great, VGC \$16,500 inc GST Ph. Rick 0414 604 974
BONEL 8 Wheel V Rake \$1,500 + GST. Ph. 0414 604 974

2005 JD 6620 7310 Hrs Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul 2008 MF 7465 4630 Hrs Coupled to Austoft Trailhaul. Ph. 0407 162 514

Herbert River-Burdekin

Harmonic balancer to suit Ford 5000 1976 model. Good condition \$200 plus gst. Ph. 0407 154 250

Inter 4 disc plough \$450; Belly roller \$100; Drill plough \$100; "Oversize" sign \$50; Ratoon roller \$175; 2 row line marker \$200. Ph. 0400 957 003

International 786 100HP 3468 hrs with Howard HR30 90" Rotary Hoe vgc \$12,000 + gst; MF65 with 400l Hardy spray unit \$4,500 gst Contact 0447 183 182

Ripper 4 legs with 4 curly tynes 1 1/4"; Rotary Hoe 100"-good cond; Fiat 1300 Super 2wd 150hp; Spreader Viccon 1/2 good for beans or fertilizer-500kg. Irrigator Trailco 4"-200m hose-good cond. Ph. 4777 4650

Good amount of 4" and 5" aluminium pipes; 3000lt tank on cradle; 5000 l poly rain tank; 10,000 l Rain tank; 1 Quick Hitch; 8 only 1 1/4" Ripper Legs. Ph. 07 4777 4650

Hodge 6 furrow reversible plow in good condition - \$4,000 ono. Ph. Sam on 07 4776 5114 or 0417 638 318 (Herbert Rvr)
5-leg ripper with crumble roller \$3,000; 2000L fuel tank on 2m stand \$900; 1x1m cement blocks \$75 each. Ph. 0447 183 182

L&R crop divider saws \$600; HBM stick planter with 2xtrailers and hot water crates \$1,000. Ph. 0447 183 182

Mackay-Proserpine

Fordson Super Major; new tyres, 3 point linkage, fitted with backhoe loader, GC. Ph. 4959 8974

2012 JD3520 full track cane harvester, POA; 2 x TS115A DELTA New Holland tractors coupled to 6T BSM side-tippers, POA; International 414A tractor, \$2,000. Ph. 07 4959 1479

Mathew mini elevating scraper to tow behind tractor \$20,000+GST. Moller stone picker with elevator \$15,000+GST. Six tyne ripper mounts in front of 120 inch rotary hoe \$3,000+GST. Ph. 0427 639 598 (Mackay)

Sprayrite Tempo 1200 Spray Tank, Brand New, 1200L Capacity UV resistant, 170LPM PTO driven Pump feeding 5 section electric controlled spray controller, H Duty 3pl carry frame, \$15,200 Inc. Ph. 0428 236 165

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. Howard rotary hoe HR40, 255cm wide - GC. Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler - VGC. 0438 606 578 (Mackay)

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Case 5140 with HBM Billet Planter \$20,000; Hodge Trash Incorporator with fert box \$3,300; Howard HR35 120" rotary with Hydraulic crumble roller \$5,500; Kubota B6100 with 3 row trailer sprayer \$5,500. All prices include GST. Ph. 0428 221 850, Maryborough area.

Rainfall Report

brought to you by AustSafe Super

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)		Average rainfall (mm) January–April	
	7 days to 9am			Year to date
	09.04.18	16.04.18		
Mossman	12	4	1908	1585
Mareeba AP	0.4	0	646	680
Cairns	4	9	1827	1459
Mt Sophia	2	17	2911	2260
Babinda	8	0	1460	2708
Innisfail	19	42	2292	2224
Tully	15	1	2424	2623
Cardwell	4	7	1278	1513
Lucinda	3	2	1310	1465
Ingham	24	2	1472	1397
Abergowrie	10	11	1554	1286
Townsville	7	0.8	736	814
Ayr DPI	3	10	567	643
Proserpine	112	59	796	911
Mirani	116	54	582	996
Mackay	85	42	582	996
Sarina (Plane Ck)	99	32	752	1147
Bundaberg	9	0	415	489
Childers South	24	1	540	396
Maryborough	50	4	569	581
Tewantin	28	0.6	622	867
Eumundi	15	9	749	861
Nambour	19	1	567	859
Woongoolba	56	6	559	617
Murwillumbah	8	0	386	800
Ballina	16	0	508	780
Woodburn	14	1	413	629



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

Machio 6.2 metre double G heavy duty rotary hoe, Ford 5000 with 6 ft slasher, inter row 6 row cultivator (soya beans), 2 BKT 20.8 / 42 tyres 40% left. 16 x Pioneer triple disc hiller unit. Call for details all in good condition 0408 768 489

CASE 7700 cane harvester 1998 model, approx. 5000 hrs, M11 Cummins engine, rubber rollers set up for cutting plants, fixed blade chop, Bladesaver, 4 base cutters set up to cut 1.8–2.4m rows. Currently used for 2m. \$82,000 + gst. Ph. 0428 212 792

Half-tracks to suit 4000, 5000 or 6000 TOFT harvester. Fair condition. Open to offers. Ph. 0419 717 006

Wanted

Wanted: 35-1 planetary final drive to suit Toft 6000. Ph 02 6646 0207

WTB: Trash Fertiliser Box, Irvin Boom Spray or similar with or without spray tank. Ph. 0419 788 376

2x second hand tractor tyres size 18-4-34 in reasonable condition. Ph. 0429 771 209

Massey Ferguson 4WD, 160-170 hp, with low hours. Ph. 07 4959 8974

1¼ inch tyne grubber for working fallow. Also ripper. Ph. 0448 605 722

STL shares wanted. Genuine grower. Pay market price. Let's keep STL shares in the hands of non-miller growers. Ph. 0419 717 006 or 0408 448 227

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

Positions Vacant

Haulout Operator required 2018 season, Carmila area. Ph. 0407 701 298

Work Wanted

Work wanted in the Burdekin or Cairns region. 10 years' experience in all types of plant and cane machinery, including tractors, artics, side-tippers, elevators etc. Reliable conscientious worker. Please phone Ray on 0458 798 020 or email: ray.canute@gmail.com

Looking for work for 2018 crush in Isis areas. 2 seasons operating full track harvesters. Organising of cane bin allocations for sugar mill etc. 5 seasons with haulout gear, elevators, side-tippers, roll on roll off, artics etc. MC licence, experience in all trucking, road trains, B doubles etc. Farm work skills, mechanically minded, energetic, hard worker, reliable, conscientious worker. Phone Daniel on 0429 993 646 or email thebartonfamily1@bigpond.com

Property

Wanted to Buy: Farmhouse on separate title (without farm) up to 25klms from Mackay City Gates. Please leave a message on 07 4954 4869. Thank you.

EOI- 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 on the farm main house is fully airconed and has a large swimming pool. 0400 794 857

VICTORIA PLAINS CANE FARM 84ha – average 6000 tonne – Kinchant dam allocation and bore water. Irrigation equip, 2 sheds, machinery. Renovated 4-bedroom home. Genuine enquiries 0409 342 123

100ha VICTORIA PLAINS canefarm for sale, 318ml Kinchant dam allocation, this years crop, tractors, irrigation and implements included. 15x9m shed. For more information Ph. 0419 541 372

Cane Farm Cone Creek Road MT CHRISTIAN. Total area 93.43ha CPA 70.81ha. House, sheds, machinery, irrigator with 2 dams. Genuine offers/enquiries only. Ph. 0428 852 279

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 07 4777 4633 or 0408 608 664

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

Tropical Paradise Cane Farm/Equestrian Training Property, 96 acres 6klms to PORT DOUGLAS. All farmable land, 70 acres producing quality cane, 25 acres set up for horses. More Pics www.horsedeals.com.au/listings/tropical-horse-paradise-b46ffd33-0236-427b-9f3e-ddaad136bb28. Easy farm to maintain. Call 0408 880 724 Mandy



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