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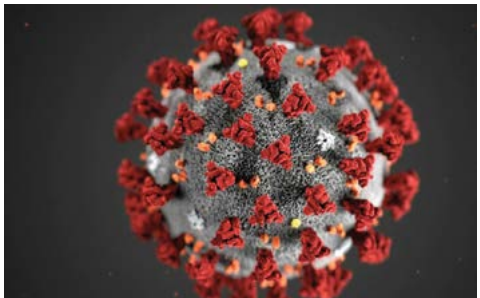

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AUSTRALIAN CANE GROWER

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As COVID-19 causes economic chaos and human devastation around the world, how is Australia's sugarcane industry prepping to ensure the 2020 crush goes ahead with minimal disruption?

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Queensland Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Minister Anthony Lynham was left in little doubt about grower feelings on water pricing when he met with the CANEGROWERS Policy Council in March.

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Industry-led best management practice program, Smartcane BMP, has celebrated a major milestone, clocking up 500 accredited cane farms.

COVER IMAGE: *Farnsfield grower Bruce Peterson has taken up the challenge to help keep Isis District's cane crop disease free.*

CONTENTS IMAGE: *CANEGROWERS board member Owen Menkens (Burdekin) is one of more than 500 growers to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation*

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CANEGROWERS

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News Briefs

Fall armyworm control permit granted

An emergency application from the sugar industry to extend the use of permethrin to fall armyworm control has been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

This permit allows a person to use the product in the manner specified in permit 89295 in Queensland and New South Wales. In sugarcane, permethrin is the only active currently registered for use against fall armyworm in Australia.

The approval came through just days after the new pest was detected in the Burdekin. It has also been found in South Johnstone, Tolga, Lakeland and Bowen. They have been found in maize and sweet corn.

Growers in all areas are reminded that fall armyworm is a new pest and not the same as other varieties of armyworm already seen in sugarcane crops. Suspect eggs or caterpillars should be photographed and reported to Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by phoning **13 25 23**.

Fall armyworm has spread from its origin in the tropical and subtropical areas of the Americas through Africa, India, China and South East Asia since 2016.

Pictured: Fall armyworm damage in corn.

It was first found earlier this year on Cape York.

Adult moths can travel up to 200km and favour crops including maize, corn, rice and sugarcane.

For more information on fall armyworm in sugarcane go to the SRA website ***https://sugarresearch.com.au/pest/fall-armyworm/***

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has factsheets on other crops (which will have different control permits) available on its information page ***business.qld.gov.au/fallarmyworm*** ■

Eton irrigators take control

A group of 300 Mackay region cane growers have taken control of their water future, with management of the local Eton Irrigation Scheme formally handed over to a grower-led cooperative on 23 March.

The scheme, which irrigates 15,000 hectares of cane land west of Mackay, integrating 193 pipelines and six pump stations, was previously managed by Sunwater.

Eton Irrigation Cooperative Chairman **Lee Blackburn** said the switch would have a positive impact for growers and the wider community.

"The opportunity to manage our own water and associated assets means Eton irrigators and cane growers are now ready for times of environmental, climatic or economic changes – safeguarding us and allowing us to focus on what's best for our scheme," Mr Blackburn said. ■

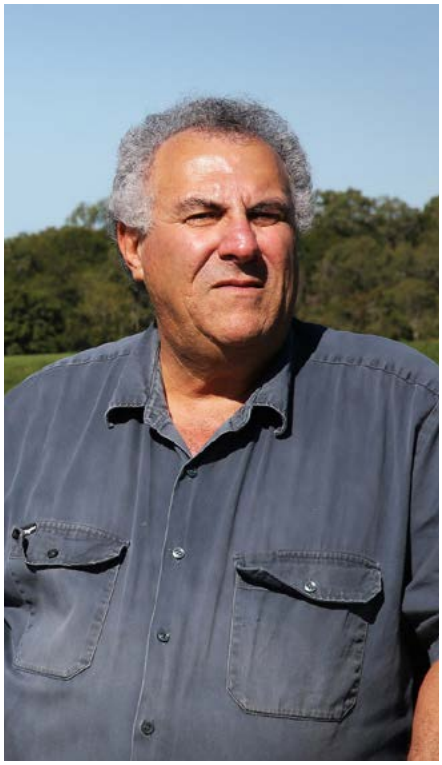
Senate Inquiry: public hearings postponed

The Senate inquiry into the science behind Queensland's latest round of reef regulations may be forced to hold public hearings via video-link in the wake of Australia's COVID-19 restrictions.

The committee had been scheduled to hold public hearings and receive oral submissions in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns in mid-March, before travel restrictions scuppered its plans.

"The committee has indicated it was postponing, not cancelling, the on-site public hearings, as they're not possible under current travel arrangements," CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Manager **Mick Quirk** said.

"The committee is looking for technological solutions, with a spokesperson indicating that video conferencing may be considered as an alternative." ■



Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri says the move by AgForce will cause division in the industry.

CANEGROWERS chief calls out AgForce "nonsense"

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** has called out as "nonsense" claims made by agricultural representative body AgForce that its pursuit of a sugar division would unify the industry.

AgForce recently entered negotiations with a small group of Burdekin growers about the possibility of representation, even going as far as to sign a memorandum of understanding with the group before consulting or even notifying established sugarcane representative bodies like CANEGROWERS or ACFA about its actions.

In a column for the Rural Weekly, AgForce General President **Georgie Somerset** said: "We hope this issue will bring the agriculture industry closer together."

But Mr Schembri said the group's action is likely to have the opposite effect.

"They're making all the right noises about unity and bringing the industry together. It sounds great, but in reality it's nonsense," Mr Schembri said.

"Adding yet another sugar voice to the local, state and national conversations around our industry will only serve to further dilute the message that sugarcane growers want our communities and politicians to hear.

"It will cause division rather than harmony within our industry, and the Queensland agricultural sector more broadly, at a time when we need to be unified."

Mr Schembri said sugarcane growers had found great advantage in working within their industry in a way that puts their commodity front and centre on any local, state, national or international issues impacting the industry.

However, he acknowledged that growers are free to make their own choice about which organisation to join and which one represents their industry and issues best.

"CANEGROWERS values and appreciates the fact that the vast majority of growers in Queensland choose this organisation to represent their interests," he said. "We will continue to do this with our network of 14 offices providing on the ground services and representation.

AgForce, which represents the cattle, grain, sheep and wool sectors in Queensland, said it is consulting existing members before determining how to proceed.

"Most saddening of all is that for many years CANEGROWERS has worked side-by-side with AgForce on the state and national stage to advance the cause of Queensland agriculture. Potentially, we could now be competitors. That's not helpful to agriculture or the sugar industry," Mr Schembri said. ■

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COVID-19 INFORMATION

Australia's sugar industry is planning and working towards the start of the 2020 harvest and crush in a way that keeps people safe and meets requirements around minimising the spread of COVID-19.

CANEGROWERS took the initiative to convene an Australian sugar industry working group to assess and plan for the short, medium and long-term impacts of the outbreak.

"Growers and others in the industry are understandably concerned about what could happen in the coming months," CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan said.

"By bringing together, on regular teleconferences, grower representatives with people from the mills, marketers and port facilities we will be able to talk through scenarios and ensure that there is cooperation at every level.

"We are very conscious of the importance of our industry, of which growers are the foundation, to the local, state and national economies. We are also wanting to ensure that however the industry works as the 2020 season ramps up over the coming months, our people are kept as safe as possible."

CANEGROWERS is representing the sugarcane industry on Queensland State Disaster Management committees and working groups that are meeting at least weekly to consider supply chain, workplace health and safety, workforce availability and business continuity impacts.

The Queensland Government, to date, has assured the agricultural sector that are able to move across the state's otherwise closed borders.

At the national level, CANEGROWERS is representing sugarcane industry interests on a National Farmers' Federation-convened consultative group that is meeting regularly with the Federal Agriculture Minister and Federal Department of Agriculture to forecast and manage impacts.

Following a concerted campaign from the farm sector, led by the NFF, the Agriculture Minister David Littleproud confirmed that Australia's food production and supply chain will not be affected by coronavirus shutdowns.

> "Maintaining food production, access to workers, agricultural supply lines, transportation and logistics is absolutely critical and will not be affected by any of the measures aimed at curbing the virus's spread."
>
> *David Littleproud*

CANEGROWERS

While the situation is changing constantly, be assured that CANEGROWERS is continuing, as always, to work on behalf of growers and the industry.

The CANEGROWERS website contains a dedicated page for COVID-19 news and information relevant to the sugarcane industry. Access it via the home page: ***www.canegrowers.com.au***

MILLING

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR MILLING COUNCIL

Queensland's raw sugar manufacturers are prioritising staff health and safety while continuing necessary maintenance to prepare the mills to commence the crushing season on schedule.

All companies have undertaken scenario planning and adjusted their continuity plans to minimise impacts on the business. Companies are also in close contact with their customers and logistics partners to ensure raw sugar continues to be marketed efficiently domestically and internationally.

Like other agricultural and manufacturing sectors, ASMC has worked closely with various government ministers and departments to secure 'essential service' designation for milling operations and those that supply and rely on these businesses. - David Pietsch CEO

WILMAR - John Pratt, Exec GM - NQ

We're continuing to prepare for the start of crushing in June. This includes finalising pre-season crop estimates, completing the maintenance program at our eight mills and recruiting our seasonal workforce.

The COVID-19 outbreak has created new challenges for our business, our people and the 1500 growers who supply our mills.

EVENTS CANCELLED & POSTPONED

Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists

Public hearings of Senate Committee inquiry (evidence-based regulation of farm practices)

World Association of Beet and Sugar Cane Growers

Bonsucro Global Week

CASE IH Step Up! Next Gen Conference

CANEGROWERS member forums

Women in Sugar Australia Conference

CANEGROWERS Mackay Ag Trade Expo

SUGARCANE TO SANITISER

The sugar industry is playing a part in Australia's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic, with Queensland distillers, Bundaberg Rum and Beenleigh Rum, using local sugarcane to make ethanol for hand sanitisers.

"We will always step up and contribute when Australians need it most, especially at a time like this," Bundaberg Rum posted on Facebook. "That's why we're proud to donate 100,000 litres of ethanol from our distillery to the Queensland Government to be used in the production of around 500,000 bottles of hand sanitiser."

Milling company Wilmar Sugar has announced it has doubled ethanol production at its Sarina distillery to meet unprecedented demand for it as an ingredient in sanitisers and surface cleaners.

Australian sugar well placed, despite global disruption - *Rabobank*

While the OPEC oil fallout and coronavirus pandemic continue to impact global sugar markets, the Australian sector remains firm thanks to an increase in projected yields and strong export prospects, but Rabobank's latest global Sugar Quarterly warns there will be new challenges to navigate amidst this new environment.

In its Q1 report, the agricultural banking specialist said widespread rain across key cane-growing regions – up to 800mm recorded in parts of north-east Australia – had strengthened yield prospects for the incoming 2020 crush, however warned the risk of cyclones and floods still loomed.

CANEGROWERS members can access the Marketing Information Service for independent, expert analysis of the latest market trends, visit ***www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service***

TRADE

Queensland's bulk sugar terminals have plans in place to ensure the export of raw sugar continues and everything is in place for a smooth start to the 2020 season. With ample storage capacity , no bottleneck in the sugar supply chain are predicted. See the Sugar Terminals Limited update on page 9.

Sugar is an important part of the essential food supply chain internationally as it is domestically. Australia's largest markets of Japan, Korea and Indonesia each have significant import supply requirements and don't want to see their import supply slow. Ships coming to Australia have a long enough journey to ensure the crew has effectively been quarantined before arriving.

There could, however, be some disruption to the World Trade Organisation hearings of the case brought by Australia, Brazil and Guatemala against India's sugar export subsidies. With COVID-19 impacting heavily in Switzerland and elsewhere, there is doubt around whether the oral hearings scheduled for May will proceed. Options to keep the case moving are being explored.

In the current situation, it has become necessary to change some of the ways in which the organisation operates.

Most of these changes have been implemented to maintain the health and wellbeing of our staff and to ensure CANEGROWERS is doing its bit to reduce the spread of the virus.

In line with State and Federal Government requirements:

All domestic and international travel has ceased. All Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (CANEGROWERS) face to face meetings have regrettably stopped until further notice. Most Brisbane staff are now working off-site.

With telephones, email and video link technology CANEGROWERS will remain in touch with members, district offices and the wider industry.

Each district office is making its own decision around local operations as the need arises.

We've put steps in place to manage the risks of coronavirus. They include including restricting non-essential site visits and implementing social distancing measures at worksites.

Our business continuity planning is well advanced across all milling regions. We are committed to keeping growers informed of any changes that may impact them.

SUNSHINE SUGAR

Sunshine Sugar is working to ensure that our industry continues to operate, our mills and refinery remain open and our workforce is kept safe. We are working with our suppliers to locally produce 100% Australian sugar and have it available to our customers.

As such, Sunshine Sugar has enacted its Business Continuity Plan for Coronavirus to address the business risks and impact that it could have moving forward and is being managed by a cross-functional team representing each sector of the operations of the business.

We are actively monitoring government and World Health Organisation advice regarding COVID-19 and ... implementing meaningful actions that prioritise the health and wellbeing of our people, customers and the community.

Growers have Minister's ear on water pricing and dam concerns

When Queensland's Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Minister Anthony Lynham met with the CANEGROWERS Policy Council in March he was left in no doubt about the importance of issues of water pricing and the future of Paradise Dam to the sugarcane industry.

The Minister must make a decision by the end of April on a Queensland Competition Authority recommendation that irrigators pay significantly higher prices for water between 2020 and 2024.

CANEGROWERS has urged the Queensland Government to freeze prices pending a review and a re-examination of the recommendations because key issues for agriculture had not been properly addressed.

Mr Lynham told the Policy Council the Queensland Government was working on a response.

"After the QCA recommendations are out we listen to stakeholders. Now your recommendations are just as important as the QCA recommendations," he said.

"I'm trying to land a position, but we hear you loud and clear as we hear all the representatives of agricultural bodies loud and clear."

Mr Lynham was also questioned about the future of Paradise Dam.

The southern Queensland dam's capacity has had to be reduced to 42% amid concerns about cracking.

"After the QCA recommendations are out we listen to stakeholders...we hear you loud and clear as we hear all the representatives of agricultural bodies loud and clear."

An economic study has shown that permanently lowering the level of the dam would mean a $2.4 billion economic loss to the Bundaberg and Childers regions over the next 30 years.

An assessment has been prepared by Building Queensland (BQ) which has identified five main options for the future of Paradise Dam.

1. *Maximum primary spillway height (no change)*
2. *Reduce spillway be 5m*
3. *Reduce spillway by 10m*
4. *Reduce spillway by between 5 and 10m*
5. *Decommission the dam*

BQ also recommended further investigations to confirm a final height of the dam. More detailed demand assessments and alternative water supply options will also be investigated during 2020.

The Queensland Government has ruled out Option 5, decommissioning Paradise Dam.

"I have said time and time and time again that yield will be restored for users," Mr Lynham told the Policy Council "It might not be restored in the dam.

"If it's not [able to be done by maintaining the height of the dam], what we do is we make sure that yield is maintained in an area of that catchment for the people that use Paradise Dam.

"The Burnett is one of our best agricultural areas in this state, there's a high amount of investment in the Burnett and governments get income from that investment and we're not going to stifle that investment, it can go ahead with security." ■

Important news for our stakeholders ...

Given the extraordinary circumstances which have emerged in recent weeks, STL and our operations partner, QSL Operations, have taken proactive steps to address the potential impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on our raw sugar handling operations and on all of our stakeholders.

Our operations

STL and QSL Operations are taking all necessary measures to ensure we maintain our capability to continue loading ships and are ready to open the gates to receive raw sugar on the first day of the 2020 crushing season. Our teams are dedicated, flexible and multi-skilled. Each terminal is self-reliant with well-stocked stores and onsite workshops to undertake a range of maintenance activities. We are continuing to outload raw sugar for export customers and domestic refiners, as well as loading molasses for feed and other industrial users.

Our teams

The health and safety of our operational and support teams is paramount. During March, we ceased all non-essential travel and suspended non-essential site visits. Our support staff will work from home should the need arise, in accordance with our Business Continuity plans. Essential staff at our Bulk Sugar Terminals are practicing social distancing and adhering to existing systems to maintain the highest possible hygiene standards. We are currently exploring options to reduce person to person interaction among our front-line staff.

Communications

We value our relationships with all our stakeholders and encourage electronic means of communication to keep us connected through this difficult period. While our industry will face unique challenges in coming months, our team is committed to working more closely than ever before with all our stakeholders to weather this period of uncertainty.

Half year performance

I would like to reassure our grower shareholders that STL is in a solid position to continue supporting Queensland's sugar industry. STL released its Half Year Financial Report to shareholders on 5 March, announcing further steady growth in revenue, profit and the interim dividend.

Mackay reroofing project

In February, STL commenced a $12 million project to reroof Shed 1 at our Mackay terminal, extending the life of the facility by 40 years. The seven-month project will involve up to 40 workers and create local employment opportunities at this critical time.

Our focus

In the coming months, STL will remain focused on maintaining our operational capacity and protecting our financial position for the benefit of all our stakeholders. We take our role in the industry very seriously and the welfare of our people and their families are our highest priority.

Please stay safe and support one another through these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Mark Gray
Chairman

Photos, left to right:
Reroofing project underway at Mackay terminal
STL Chairman Mark Gray
Loading raw sugar for export at Mackay

STL

Mackay growers welcome plant loans

Growers in the Mackay region have welcomed the introduction of a generous loan scheme to assist with the planting of new cane land.

And in recognition of the growing importance of the industry's best management practice program, Mackay Sugar has made Smartcane BMP accreditation a requirement of the loan approval process.

"Under the terms of the plant loan program the grower must be either already BMP accredited or ready for BMP accreditation in the forthcoming season," CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee Chairman Joseph Borg said.

"This is a huge step forward. We welcome Mackay Sugar's public support of our work to achieve voluntary Smartcane BMP accreditation to demonstrate to the public our environmental sustainability.

"The numbers of growers being accredited is growing swiftly and we hope to see even more rapid up-take, thanks to this incentive.

"We are also very pleased to see this positive step forward towards improving productivity, bringing new land into production and encouraging succession planning and leasing of farmland for the benefit of sugar increased production in the region, particularly while sugar prices are improving. We hope it is the first of many such positive incentives for growers," Mr Bog said.

Applications are now open for the program for the 2020 season. Growers who are interested should visit the Mackay Sugar website: www.mkysugar.com.au and navigate to the *Cane Development* section. ■

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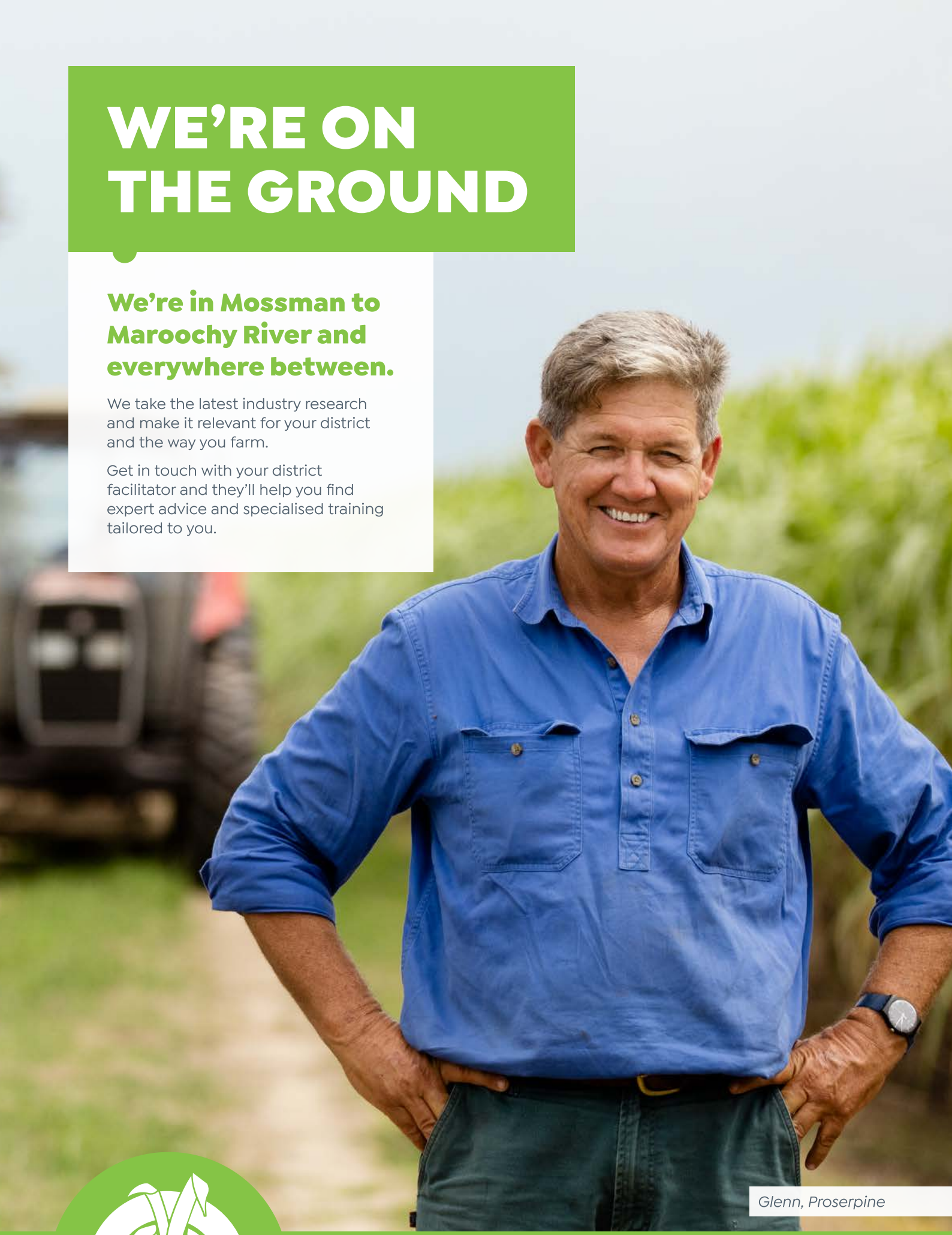

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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Like a shockwave travelling menacingly throughout the community, the global pandemic COVID-19 has swept around the world, leaving economic carnage and human devastation in its wake.

This is a challenge like no other we have faced, with some models predicting up to 60% of the population could become infected by COVID-19. Planning for such an outbreak has stretched the capacity of all policy makers and, tragically, resulted in over one million Australians (so far) losing their jobs and countless businesses suffering losses. We will be years rebuilding the economy once we finally see the end of this virus.

CANEGROWERS has been proactive in trying to position the industry to weather this storm. Through our industry networks we have been directly linked into the State Government's crisis management response and planning. We join weekly meetings of the State's agriculture, health, police and transport departments, alongside politicians, advisors, department officials and other industry representatives. Similarly, we now meet weekly with our colleagues at the National Farmers' Federation, as well as with the Federal Agriculture Minister and his departmental officials.

Initially, the focus of our work was to ensure that agribusiness and agricultural supply chains were recognised as essential services to the nation. Thankfully this endeavour has been successful.

Anyone who has seen their supermarket shelves would see this as an obvious step but it is a very important one, as we all work together to keep as many parts of the economy operating as possible, while we deal with the health crisis.

CANEGROWERS also convened an industry working group with SRA, QSL, STL and the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC), who have been very active in working with employees and government to understand, craft and implement policy.

As supply chain colleagues, we have worked together to understand not only the needs of health officials trying to implement life-saving policies, but also the innumerable issues that need to be managed as we do all we can to keep our people and community safe and healthy, and our industry in a good position to start the season in 2020.

There is a long road ahead. As the health crisis abates (eventually) the economic crisis will continue to unfold. My sense is that the nation has changed and so too has the view of where agriculture fits within the collective security of the people and economy.

While we continue to work through these issues, CANEGROWERS has remained fully operational. Matters of importance around water and electricity pricing, dam safety (Paradise Dam), trade policy and market volatility, as well as cane supply negotiations and arbitration, are all being managed.

Our magazine continues to be produced to ensure growers are kept informed on important industry news. We are engaging on a daily basis with growers via phone, email, teleconference, video conference, social media, etc.

Our 13 district offices are fully operating and growers have access to local leaders and services whenever they need. While how we do things may have changed, what we do remains the same. We are here to listen and to help.

It has been decades in the making, but you have a resilient, secure and grassroots-led organisation that can now ride through these unprecedented times and, at the end of it all, still be there to support you, your business and family.

Together we will prevail. ■

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NEW CEO OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE INDUSTRY

The SRA CEO listening tour took place during February and March 2020 and visited industry and SRA staff at Mossman, Mareeba, Gordonvale, Innisfail, Tully, Herbert, Burdekin, Proserpine, Mackay, Sarina, Bundaberg, Childers, Maryborough, Rocky Point, and Ballina.

SRA CEO **Roslyn Baker** thanked everyone for their attendance and for sharing their insights into the opportunities for SRA and the broader industry.

"The listening tour was very valuable for me as SRA's new CEO and I look forward to building on the relationship with the industry," Ms Baker said. "I heard a range of issues across the regions. There were several areas of common interest when it comes to investment into research, development and adoption from SRA, such as varieties, biosecurity, and improving production.

"There were also unique issues and approaches within individual regions, and there is an opportunity to build on the great work that is occurring in many areas to deliver improved outcomes across the industry.

"Moving forward, SRA will be working with industry and stakeholders to review our strategy in 2020. Our levy payers and industry will hear more about this process in coming months, and I look forward to working with them on co-creating a new strategy for SRA that ensures we deliver greater value for the industry." ■

Pictured: (main) Mackay industry reps meeting with Ros Baker, (right) NSW growers and millers meeting with Ros Baker at Ballina.

Safe use of cranes and lifting equipment

Supplied by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

There are some basic rules to follow when it comes to lifting gear, such as fertiliser bag lifters and hi-ab cranes:

Make sure it's engineer certified – Any lifting equipment must be designed and manufactured by a person who holds engineering qualifications and is competent to do the job. Although many farmers can design machinery and are good welders, risks should not be taken with lifting gear.

Only use it for its intended purpose – There have been several cases of boom-type hydraulic fertiliser bag lifters being used to lift items such as farm equipment or other loads which exceed their lifting capacity. Overloading causes excessive stress in the structure of the lifting equipment which can lead to failure without warning.

Never work under a suspended load – If lifting equipment fails, the consequences can be fatal. When using fertiliser bag lifters, an approved frame which sits over the box of the fertiliser spreader will support the full bag of fertiliser, enabling the worker to move to safety if the lifting equipment fails.

Regularly inspect and maintain – Always carry out plant inspection and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Carry out pre-season checks – These should include checking and replacing the hydraulic hoses and grease nipples, running a wire brush over all welds and inspecting for any cracks, signs of wear and any areas where rust may have formed. If any repairs are necessary, they must be done by a competent welder or engineer. All maintenance should be recorded.

If an incident involving plant occurs, a Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspector will look at all relevant information, including: manufacturer's instructions; risk management and safe work procedures; inspection and maintenance records; traffic management plans; use of control measures such as fertiliser boxes to minimise the risk of injury if a fertiliser bag falls or the lifting equipment fails; and the competence of operators.

Keeping written records will provide evidence of what the duty holder has done to manage the relevant risks.

Refer to the *Rural plant Code of Practice 2004*, *Mobile crane Code of Practice 2006*, and the *Managing risks of plant in the workplace Code of Practice 2013* for further information: ***www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice***

Codes of practice are practical guides that can be used to achieve the standards of health and safety required under the work health and safety legislation. Duty holders are required to either comply with a code of practice, or follow another method, such as a technical or industry standard, if it provides an equivalent or higher standard of work health and safety to that required in the code of practice. ■

Pictured: Working under a suspended load could have fatal consequences.

FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

CORONAVIRUS AND AGFORCE BLUES

"2020 may be the most difficult year of our lives" – Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison.

That statement will possibly be a defining moment, as Australia's 25 million people face off against one of the greatest threats in our lifetime.

CANEGROWERS does not want to place further strain on Queensland's 4,500 cane farming families, but we can't ignore the fact that COVID-19 will have a significant impact on the Australian sugar industry.

Our industry and the value chain that it supports is dependent on people. Growers grow the cane, growers and contractors harvest and haul the cane, mill workers and management crush the cane, and others transport, ship and market the sugar. Add to that the countless people who sell fertiliser, chemicals, machinery - the list goes on and on - and our value chain is seemingly endless.

COVID-19 has the potential to impact upon our lives in a way none of us have ever experienced.

It is not our role to run a commentary on whether the threat from this coronavirus is overstated. Our role is to accept the advice put forward by the Commonwealth and Queensland government medical experts.

We must accept that all of us have a role to play in mitigating the rate of spread of this disease in a situation which is changing rapidly.

Importantly, CANEGROWERS is working with all sectors of the industry – growers, mills, terminals, marketers and others - to ensure we comply with the medical guidelines and reduce, as far as possible, the impacts on the 2020 crush.

Nobody really knows how or when this pandemic will pan out. However, the one thing that is clear is that if we work together, we give ourselves and our industry the best chance of coming out the other side with the minimum impact possible.

We are up for this.

AGFORCE UNITING QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURE – REALLY?

It has recently emerged that Queensland-based agricultural representative body AgForce is considering adding a sugar division within its organisation.

A small group of Burdekin cane growers, Invicta Combined Growers Organisation, has entered into discussions with AgForce with a view to ultimately having AgForce represent them on a range of industry issues.

CANEGROWERS respects the right of farmers to affiliate with the organisation of their choice. However, we feel we need to call out some of the statements made by AgForce to justify this move.

AgForce have put forward the argument that creating a sugar division will unite the sugar industry and Queensland agriculture more generally – what nonsense!

Publicly they claim their intervention in sugar will wondrously bring Queensland agriculture together. But the reality is that this action by AgForce creates further division in Queensland agriculture at a time when we need greater unity.

For Queensland's 4,500 growers it creates a fifth grower representative body, all with their own independent policy and governance arrangements, to advance the needs of Queensland cane farmers. Yet AgForce would have us believe that somehow adding another wing to the plane will make it fly higher and straighter.

AgForce has said it will consult with CANEGROWERS at every opportunity. While this is a commendable intention, the practical reality is much different.

Most saddening of all is that for many years CANEGROWERS has worked side-by-side with AgForce on the state and national stages to advance the cause of Queensland agriculture. Potentially, we could now be competitors. That's not helpful to agriculture or the sugar industry. ■

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DEDICATION TO DISEASE-FREE SEED CANE

By Cindy Benjamin

The triad of clean seed sources, resistant varieties and crop inspections has proven to be effective time and again in protecting crops and nowhere more so than in the Isis District, where growers have faced and overcome Fiji leaf gall disease, sugarcane mosaic virus, ratoon stunting disease, orange rust and sugarcane smut.

Constituted in February 1939 to control Fiji disease in POJ2878, the (then) Isis Cane Disease Control Board started an inspection and roguing campaign with a gang of up to nine men. This formalised the initial response of the Isis Mill and CANEGROWERS to fund a roguing gang in the previous year.

The district was declared free of Fiji leaf gall in 1947, only to see the disease rear its head again in the 1970s, this time emanating from Bundaberg in NCo310 and other susceptible varieties.

Clean seed plots, the introduction of more resistant canes and the elimination of NCo310 eventually brought the disease under control in the mid-1980s.

A similar story has unfolded for the other diseases that have impacted sugar production in Isis, and each time having a source of clean seed cane has been critical to managing the incidence and spread of disease.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Graham and Sandra Webb's immaculate farm at Farnsfield has long been on the front line of efforts to keep the district's cane crop disease free.

For almost 20 years, the Webbs have hosted the Isis District's mother plot and the original distribution plots.

Graham has taken the responsibility very seriously and has always been willing to do everything required to maintain the integrity of the clean cane plots.

Seed cane was previously produced on a number of farms across the district, but in 2002 a dedicated mother plot was established on the Webb's farm in response to an outbreak of orange rust.

The plots quickly bulked up 30 tonnes of planting material for Q205, which was resistant to orange rust, but unfortunately susceptible to sugarcane

"The clean cane plots are the final test for a new variety. If a variety does not perform as well as expected in field conditions it may not be released for commercial use."

smut. The last block of Q205 has been ploughed out this year.

But it's not just Q205 retiring in 2020, Graham and Sandra are also taking a well deserved break from the battle against cane disease.

The couple has handed over responsibility for the Farnsfield clean cane plot to neighbour, Bruce Peterson, with just some first ratoon SRA 19 and SRA 20 left on the Webb's farm.

This will be harvested and distributed to growers later this year, concluding Graham and Sandra's long-standing commitment to the production of disease-free planting material.

"The clean cane plots are the final test for a new variety," says Graham. "If a variety does not perform as well as expected in field conditions it may not be released for commercial use."

"It's an important service to the industry and IPL (Isis Productivity Limited) staff do a wonderful job managing the whole process," he says.

Continues next page ▶

Pictured: After nearly 20 years of service to the local industry, Graham Webb (top) has passed on the baton for the Isis District's clean cane production to his Farnsfield neighbour, Bruce Peterson (left).

"Many years ago my father grew clean seed for the district and I know how important the plots are ... I have big shoes to fill in taking on the responsibility."

"Getting clean cane every few years is a good way to reduce the risk of disease building up on your farm."

The Farnsfield mother plots and clean cane distribution plots are now established on the Peterson farm with Bruce happy to take on the job.

"Many years ago my father, Gavin, grew clean seed for the district and I know how important the plots are," says Bruce.

"Graham has done a brilliant job and I know I have big shoes to fill in taking on the responsibility."

COMMITMENT TO CLEAN CANE

The mother and distribution plots in Childers occupy about 11 hectares on the host farm. This in itself represents a genuine commitment from the growers involved.

When a new SRA variety is due for release, it is supplied to IPL as a bundle of about 300 whole sticks grown from tissue culture seedlings.

These sticks are planted out in the mother plots, along with hot water treated stalks of the district's main varieties taken from the previous year's mother plot. The mother plot occupies just 0.6 ha.

The remaining area in the plot is devoted to the bulk production of clean planting material for all varieties currently planted in the district.

IPL productivity officer Bruce Quinn plans out the plots a few years in advance, knowing what varieties are coming through the SRA plant breeding program and the main varieties Isis district growers require.

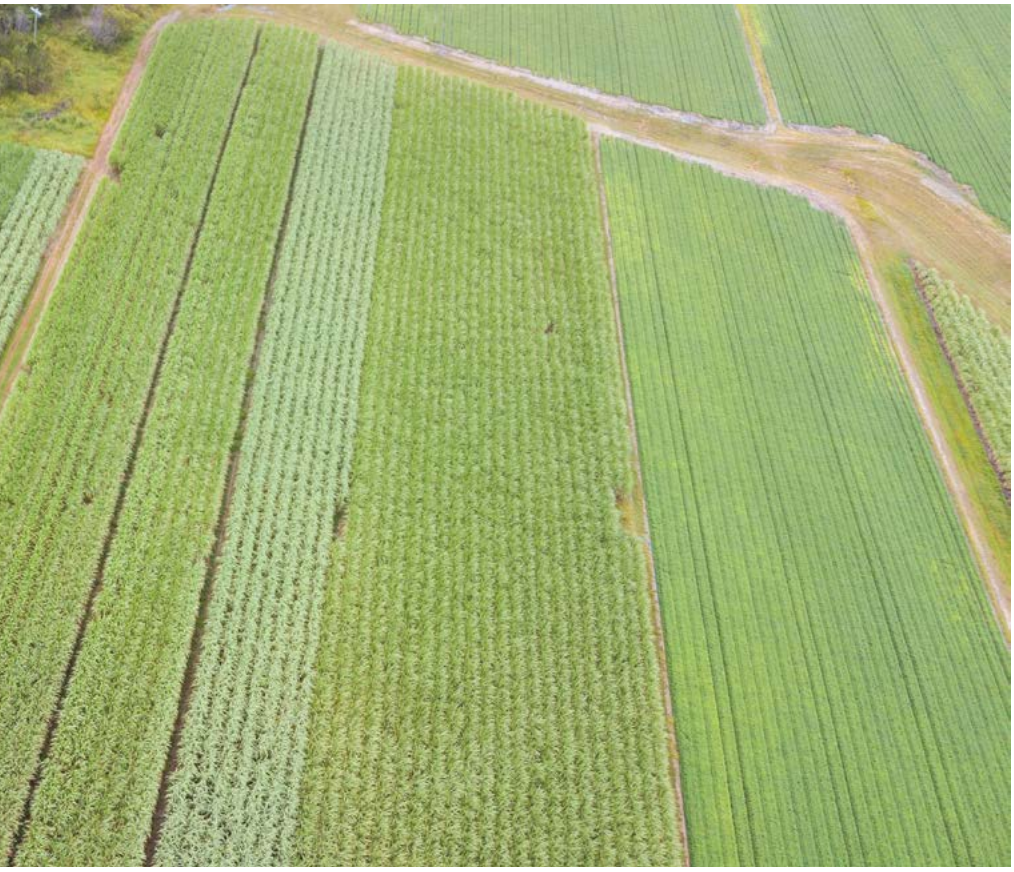
Bruce also plants all the plots using a whole stick planter to maximise the amount of cane produced.

Each year, between 600 and 1000 tonnes of clean seed cane is produced from the Childers plots, ready for distribution to growers in spring.

The local distribution plots are replicated on Tony Chapman's farm at Alloway and on the farms of Gary and Phil Finlay, and Allan Pape at Wallaville.

These distribution plots usually have four to nine varieties, depending on the expected requirements of the growers in each area.

The cane is harvested in spring using designated harvesters, not commercial harvesters, and the clean planting material is made available to growers in billets and wholestalk.



HOT WATER TREATMENT -WHAT IS IT?

The hot water treatment of current varieties involves hand stripping the cane stalks two weeks prior to the treatment to harden the eyes, then the cane is harvested by hand, tagged by variety and loaded into slings ready for transport to the Isis Central Mill.

The bundles of cane are loaded into a hot water tank filled with pure water from condensation at 85 degrees C and then maintained at 50 degrees C for three hours.

After the treatment, the cane is planted out that afternoon or the following day into the mother plot and distribution plots. The hot water treatment is used primarily to kill the bacteria responsible for RSD.

IPL also hot water treats any minor varieties that growers require. Any planting material sourced from outside the Clean Cane program is tested for RSD before it enters the hot water baths and then is planted out directly on the grower's farms.

Growers come to the plots with their billet bins to collect the planting material they have ordered.

The hot water treated cane is ploughed out after its first ratoon because germination is often not as good as is required for commercial production.

This means the plots need to rotate around three small blocks on the farm.

HYGIENE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS

A key component for the success of the clean cane plots is the host grower's meticulous attention to hygiene, with all machinery being thoroughly washed down and sterilised before entering the plots.

IPL staff conduct row inspections three times a year and test for RSD with qPCR.

Graham Webb says it is easiest to treat the whole farm as a clean cane plot and that way there is minimal risk of any disease incursion.

IPL staff also identify any 'sports', plants not growing true to type, and dig them out.

Bruce Peterson has always supported the clean cane program and buys in clean planting material almost every year.

He is impressed with how efficiently IPL staff manage the program and the orderly distribution of plants to growers.

"For our part, we manage the plots in much the same way as the rest of the farm but we give the plots priority when it comes to water, while avoiding the risk of overwatering and potentially causing the cane to lodge," he says.

"Any machinery working in the plots is cleaned down before entering and we always spray the plots first, and ensuring the blocks are completely free of any volunteer cane plants." ■

The Isis Clean Cane Plant Supply program will undergo another upheaval later this year when IPL productivity officer Bruce Quinn hands over the reins after almost 20 years leading the program.

See our interview with Bruce in the May edition of Australian Canegrower.

Pictured: IPL productivity officer Bruce Quinn plans out the mother and distribution plots a few years in advance. Aerial view of the Farnsfield mother plot and distribution plot on Bruce Peterson's farm, including the peanut break crop on the right (and below).

QSL MARKET NEWS

QSL
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By Matthew Page
QSL Trading Manager

Market Update: Virus Concerns Tank Markets

And so the volatility in our markets continues. A period of positivity in sugar based on an improving fundamental outlook that lasted right up until the final week before the March expiry has completely reversed. Only one word can describe the overwhelming macro environment in its current state; panic.

The spread of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outside of China has now become a global pandemic that governments worldwide are struggling to contain. Borders are closing, markets are collapsing and daily life is now beginning to be heavily affected with school and office closures becoming go-to policies. The resulting risk aversion has seen some eye-watering losses in financial markets:

EQUITIES	SUGAR	CURRENCY
Dow Jones ↓ 32.6%	MAY20 ↓ 445 points	AUD ↓ 20.5% (14 cents since 1 Jan)
S&P500 ↓ 30%	BRL ↓ 27%	
ASX ↓ 34%	Crude ↓ 57.6%	

Figures used are current between Mid-Feb and 20 March 2020

Despite the improving fundamental picture we have seen so far this calendar year, sugar has by no means been exempt from the rout. A significant weakening of the Brazilian Real (BRL) to over 5.00 per US dollar coupled with a complete collapse in crude oil, which is now trading under US$26 per barrel, has seen Brazilian mills further favour sugar production over ethanol in the upcoming crush. So much so that most analysts expect the mix to be near max sugar which will result in something around 37/38 million tonnes.

That said, from a global supply and demand perspective this merely replaces what has been lost from the Thai crop failure and also what won't be exported from India now that we are below the export parity levels required to bring those sugars out. This narrative is clearly reflected in cash premiums for physical sugars which remain resilient at the elevated levels seen in February despite the collapse in the ICE11 flat price.

So if these moves in BRL and Crude Oil aren't significantly changing the supply and demand outlook, why are prices lower? Back to our dear friends the speculators. While our run up to 15 cents last month was adequately supported by the investors building a reasonable net long of 165k lots, the opposite can certainly be said of the now 4 cent drop, with funds running for the hills and liquidating their positions in sugar faster than Woolies can sell loo rolls! The one direction order flow we are seeing means technical indicators and momentum all point towards selling the current market and this will likely continue for the short term.

Further, the ongoing discord among OPEC (the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), particularly between Russia and Saudi Arabia, has only exacerbated the situation hence why oil has been hit even harder. While supply continues to creep up with OPEC members flooding the market with increased production, the downturn in demand (and not just in oil) that will result from ever-increasing doses of "social distancing" will likely throw us into a protracted period of global recession. Quite how long the virus risk

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This report contains information of a general or summary nature. While care is taken in its preparation, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information 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, as forecasts are subject to uncertainties and change. Nothing in this report constitutes financial or product advice. Growers should seek their own advice before making any pricing/pool selection decisions, along with reading the QSL Pricing Pool Terms which are available on QSL's website. 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. The information is current only as at the date of this report.

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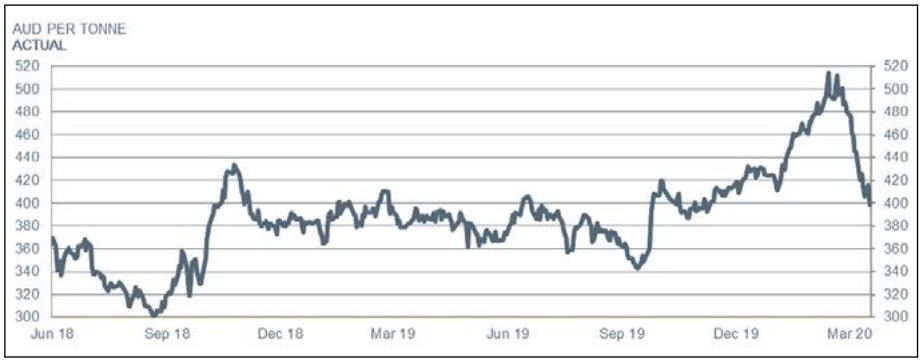
AUD/mt Prompt (per tonne of sugar)



hangs around for and the economic damage it will inflict is anyone's guess at this stage unfortunately.

Similarly the Australian dollar has also not been immune to the virus and while it had already been depreciating since the start of the calendar year the speed of the devaluation has increased markedly, particularly in the past week, with it a full 5 cents lower against the US dollar. Travel restrictions, decreased consumer spending, and the unavoidable downgrade in exports to China will all weigh heavily and likely push the local economy into its first recession in 29 years.

We are already now well below 60 cents so a longer stint on the 5 handle looks likely and the sub-50 cent lows experienced back in 2001 are certainly well within reach. A final RBA rate cut to 0.25% and Quantitative Easing has now been announced so how much further this pushes us remains to be seen. However, monetary policy alone will not suffice and the market will look to the government for a significant fiscal response to support the economy.

Despite the significant drop in AUD, its smaller weighting in making up our AUD/metric tonne sugar prices has not been enough to offset the significant downturn in sugar and we are now over $100 lower per tonne than we were a short 3 weeks ago. QSL used its discretion as best as we could to capture the rally.

QSL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

As part of COVID-19 precautions, QSL's Grower Services Team is now working from home and our regional marketing offices are temporarily unmanned. Your QSL team remains available to provide information and support during this time - just contact your local QSL rep direct on the numbers below:

FNQ: Daniel Messina 0429 660 238 | Amanda Sheppard 0418 264 393

Herbert River: Russell Campbell 0408 248 385 | James Formosa 0447 062 213 | Michelle La Rosa-Aili 0408 800 937

Burdekin: Kristen Paterson 0438 470 235 | Kylie Burkett 0428 664 057

Proserpine: Karen Vloedmans 0429 804 876

Mackay: Harriet McLennan 0409 830 554 | Sonia Ball 0418 978 120

Plane Creek: Kathy Zanco 0437 645 342

Southern QLD: Cathy Kelly 0409 285 074.

COMING UP

15 April 2020: QSL's **2019-Season Standard Advance Rate** is scheduled to increase to 90%.

16 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using the **QSL Individual Futures Contract.**

17 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for QSL's **2019-Season Target Price Contract.**

23 April 2020: Pricing Completion Date for the May 2020 Contract for growers using QSL's **Self-Managed Harvest** option.

27 & 28 April 2020: Women in Sugar Australia Conference, proudly supported by QSL, will be held in Mackay – CANCELLED

30 April 2020: QSL's 2020-Season pricing nominations close. Note: Growers in Bundaberg and Isis districts should refer to their millers for details of applicable local deadlines.

13 May 2020: QSL's **2019-Season Advance Rate** is scheduled to increase to 92.5%.

29 May 2020: Last day to nominate to receive QSL's **Deferred Payments** for 2020-Season Advances.

15 June 2020: Pricing Completion Date for the July 2020 Contract for growers using the **QSL Individual Futures Contract** and/or **Self-Managed Harvest.**

17 June 2020: QSL's **2019-Season Advance Rate** is scheduled to increase to 95%.

22 June 2020: Any **2020-Season QSL Target Price Contract** orders which are unfilled beyond this date will be rolled to the October 2020 Contract and costs may apply.

SMARTCANE BMP

Congratulations to the more than 500 enterprises now accredited in Smartcane BMP!

Smartcane BMP Accredited Grower keychains have been posted out to all accredited enterprises in recognition of your contribution to improved productivity, profitability and sustainability for the Queensland sugarcane industry. We are proud of the achievements of our industry and hope you will display your keychain with pride.

500 CLUB

SMARTCANE BMP

SMARTCANE BMP

When this magazine hit the printers' rollers, there were 521 Smartcane BMP accredited enterprises in Queensland, representing more than 119,324 hectares of accredited land. To put this in perspective, more than 30% of all Queensland cane-growing land is now certified as producing the crop profitably and sustainably.

WHAT IS SMARTCANE BMP?

Smartcane Best Management Practice (BMP) is an industry owned, voluntary and internationally recognised management program open to all Queensland sugarcane growers.

Smartcane BMP commenced in 2014 in response to the State Government's Reef Regulations as a way for the cane industry to demonstrate that farming practices are productive, profitable and sustainable.

Smartcane BMP is set around a baseline of industry standards that meet and/or exceed regulations.

For growers to obtain Smartcane BMP accreditation, they must demonstrate that they are operating at or above industry standards for the three core modules of Soil Health and Nutrient Management; Irrigation and Drainage Management and Weed, Pest and Disease Management.

Smartcane BMP is about achieving good agronomic, economic and environmental outcomes for individual growers and the cane industry as a whole.

WHAT SMARTCANE BMP ACCREDITATION GIVES TO GROWERS?

- Recognition for operating at/or above industry standards (Smartcane BMP is the only formal recognition program that is accepted by government, end users and industry).
- Through the self-assessment and accreditation process, business and operating practices are reviewed providing an opportunity to identify areas for improvement and/or modifications.
- Compliance with Reef Regulations – (Smartcane BMP accredited growers are a low priority for Reef Compliance Officers).
- Financial Incentives – for some milling districts, there is a financial incentive, paid by the mill to accredited growers. Other Smartcane BMP growers have made monetary savings through improved efficiencies with fuel, water, chemicals, energy and fertiliser use.
- Market access where there is a demand for sustainably produced products.
- Social licence to operate. Having a recognised program whereby participants are independently audited against standards, gives consumers and the general public confidence that the industry is operating as good corporate citizens who uphold standards that are acceptable to all.
- There is no cost to participate in the Smartcane BMP program, access the support of facilitators or undertake a third-party audit.

500 CLUB

SMARTCANE BMP

WHO ELSE BENEFITS FROM SMARTCANE BMP?

- Government
- Mills
- Industry
- Chemical companies/re-sellers
- End users – manufacturers and consumers
- SRA
- CANEGROWERS
- Productivity Services
- Marketers/traders
- The general public

Six years ago if someone asked what Smartcane BMP meant for growers the answer would inevitably be; "It helps to meet compliance with reef regulations,". But Smartcane BMP has always been about much more than just meeting regulatory requirements.

Recently there has been a concerted shift in people's attitudes towards Smartcane BMP and the motivations behind grower involvement in the program. The desire to be recognised as having sustainable practices, a social licence to operate and access to markets (current or potential) has driven growers to Smartcane BMP participation.

The Rocky Point cane growing district is a prime example of this.

Situated on the coastal plains between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the district does not fall within any of the reef catchments captured under legislation so meeting 'reef compliance' isn't a motivator for growers in this region. In early March, the first Rocky Point grower was accredited followed by another six local enterprises in quick succession.

The Rocky Point district's interest in Smartcane BMP is driven by recognition for their best management practices in an area where urban encroachment is continuing, along with a desire to maintain and expand market access into the future.

The Smartcane BMP program has cemented itself as a foundation for the ongoing success of our industry. There are now accredited growers in every cane growing district in Queensland.

Growers who engaged in the program at its inception are now undertaking reaccreditation after successfully upholding the program standards for five consecutive years.

Smartcane BMP is a strong foundation for demonstrating sustainable sugar and the program has now been benchmarked and has excellent alignment to Bonsucro, ProTerra and the Vive sustainability frameworks, all of which have international recognition.

End-users and Fast-Moving Consumer Goods companies such as Coca Cola and Nestle have also recognised that Smartcane BMP can offer the production and environmental requirements to meet their needs for sourcing sustainable sugar.

CANEGROWERS, through an initiative called The Sustainable Sugar Project, is investigating how to use blockchain technology to show sugar buyers the provenance of sugarcane, and to test the possibility of premium payment for fully traceable sugar.

The Smartcane BMP program has funding from the Queensland Government until 2022. Anyone thinking of participating should take advantage of the support that is on offer as soon as possible. ■

Travel restrictions put skids on CANEGROWERS roadshow

CANEGROWERS long-awaited Member Forum roadshow kicked off in March, but organisers only managed to squeeze in one meeting before COVID-19 travel and social-distancing restrictions saw plans for future events put on ice.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri**, CEO **Dan Galligan** and Membership and Innovation Manager **Matt Kealley** traveled to Tully on Wednesday 4 March, where they met with local CANEGROWERS board and staff members, followed by a meet and greet with Tully growers.

"We had a great meeting with around 45 growers, where we spoke about some of the big issues facing the industry locally, as well as at state, national and international level," Matt said.

"This was followed by a Q&A session and then a friendly chat over beer and pizza, where growers got to mingle with members of the state executive and discuss what mattered to them."

"It was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow growers and get to know the CANEGROWERS representatives that work on their behalf."

With future events postponed due to travel restrictions, CANEGROWERS is looking at other ways to engage, so stay tuned.

Pictured: CANEGROWERS Membership Engagement and Innovation Manager Matt Kealley with local Tully cane grower Alf Nuciforia.

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COVID-19 and early access to super

While superannuation helps people to save for retirement, the Government has recognised that for those significantly financially affected by the coronavirus, accessing some of those savings today may outweigh the benefits of maintaining those savings until retirement.

The federal government has announced that people facing financial stress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be granted early access to their super on a temporary basis. Eligible individuals will be able to apply online through my.gov.au from mid-April to access up to $10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further $10,000 in 2020-21.

It is important to note that you can only apply for early access to your super through myGov, you cannot apply through Sunsuper directly.

Am I eligible?

To apply for early release of your super, you must satisfy one or more of the following requirements:

You are unemployed, or

You are eligible to receive a:

- job seeker payment, or
- youth allowance for jobseekers, or
- parenting payment (including the single and partnered payments), or
- special benefit, or
- farm household allowance,

or

On or after 1 January 2020, you:

- were made redundant, or
- had your working hours reduced by 20% or more, or
- are a sole trader and your business was suspended or there was a reduction in your turnover of 20% or more.

How do I apply?

If you are eligible, you can apply online through myGov for early access to your super from mid-April 2020; you cannot apply through Sunsuper.

Further information

To find out more, read the government's Early access to superannuation fact sheet at treasury.gov.au or visit sunsuper.com.au/covid19 to read market updates from our Chief Economist and find out what Sunsuper is doing, what it could all mean for your super investment, and what (if anything) you should consider doing.

Disclaimer: This article has been prepared and issued by Sunsuper Pty Ltd, the trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund. Sunsuper Pty Ltd ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975, is the Trustee and issuer of the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund ABN 98 503 137 921, USI 98 503 137 921 001.

CANEGROWERS - Giving you a voice

When Cairns Region grower Lenny Parisi needed legal help in the 1970s, he turned to CANEGROWERS. He's never looked back.

"My journey with CANEGROWERS began in 1975," he explains. The issue was a discrepancy over the price being charged on delivery for a new harvester he'd pre-ordered and desperately needed to get the season underway.

"We paid the increase under protest and CANEGROWERS fought it for us for five years in court and we won," Lenny said. "I will never forget that. CANEGROWERS did a good job and we got our money back.

"It pays to have a voice, it pays to have an organisation to represent you. So I said that's it I'm staying in, end of story."

CANEGROWERS is proud to offer all members access to free, initial legal advice with CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper.

This advice can cover a range of issues including property transactions, native title claims, easements, dividing fences, trespass, aerial spraying, machinery performance, disputes with mills and safety.

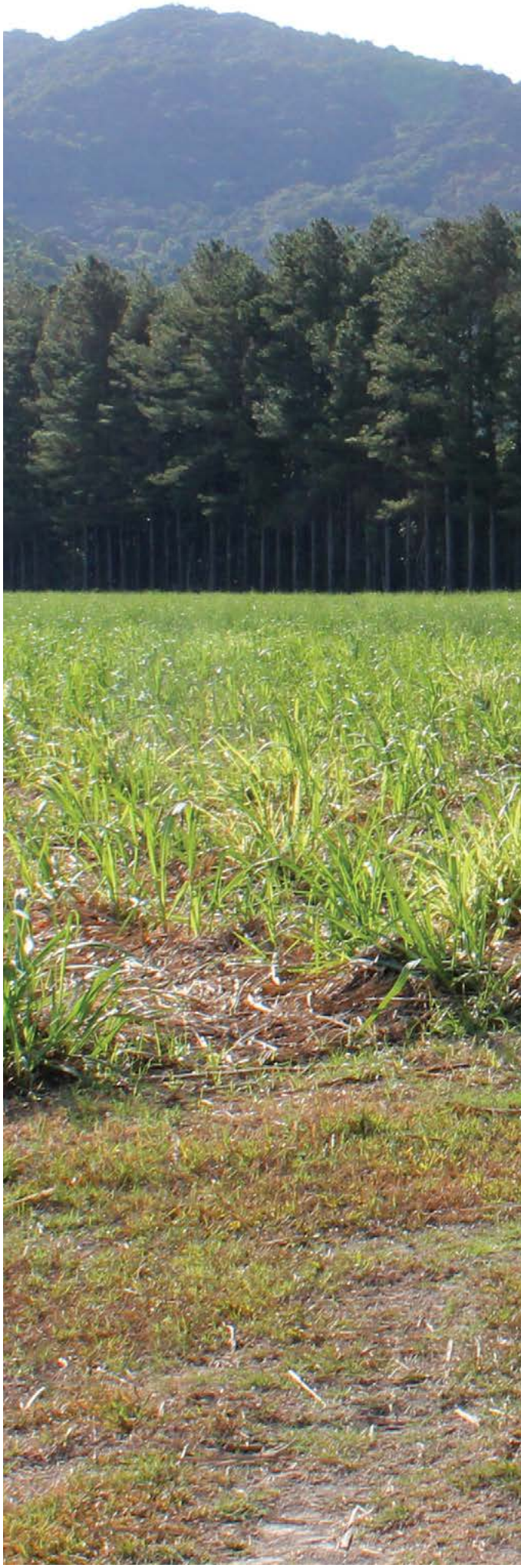
Chris Cooper has been CANEGROWERS legal consultant since 1983 and regularly travels to all sugarcane regions.

In some matters, where there are ongoing legal services required, and where the issue in question might be helpful as a test case or precedent for CANEGROWERS or other growers, Chris can provide legal services free to growers as part of his retainer agreement with CANEGROWERS.

Chris Cooper also writes regular articles for *Australian Canegrower* magazine. In this edition he's written about land valuations and your options if you disagree.

Members can access a library of previously published articles by logging in here: ***www.canegrowers.com.au/page/resources/legal***

Members can contact Chris Cooper, solicitor and principal of C.J. Cooper and Associates, via your local CANEGROWERS office or call Free Call **1800 177 159** for free initial legal advice. ■



Pictured: Long-standing CANEGROWERS member Lenny Parisi with his Prince of Wales Environmental Leadership - Reef Sustainability Award on the Parisi farm.

Nutrifert Australia Presents

REEF REGULATIONS – DO NOT WASTE YOUR FERTILISER

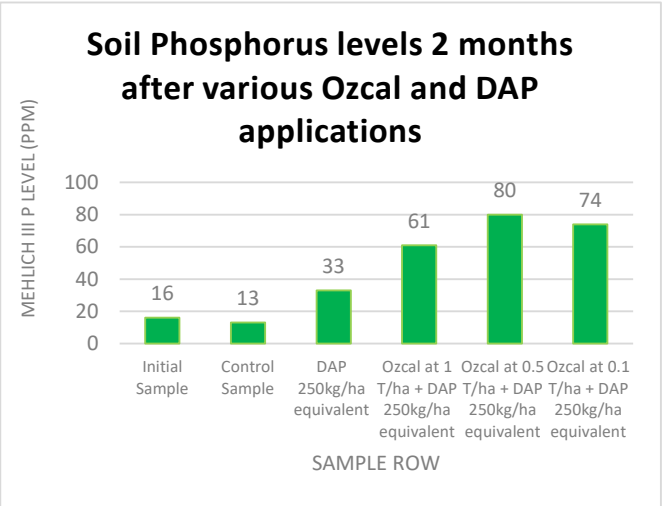
New regulations on the use of fertilizer in Reef Catchment areas means you need to maximise the value you get from N-P-K applications. When fertilizer is applied, its efficiency is significantly affected by pH:

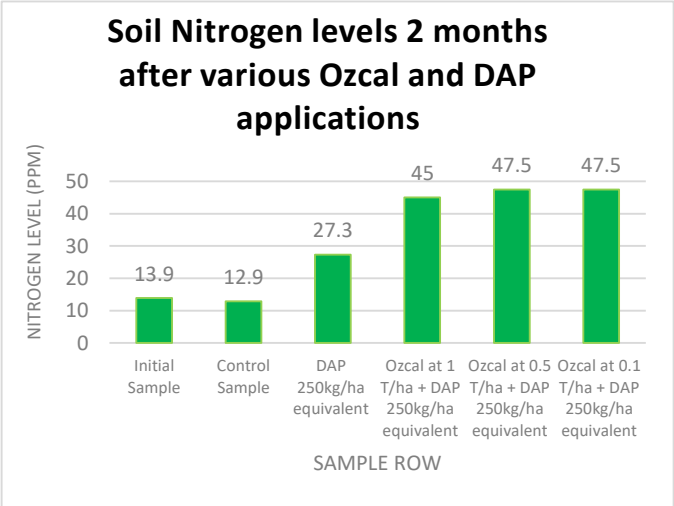
Limestone Increases Fertilizer Efficiency and Decreases Soil Acids				
SOIL ACIDITY	**NITROGEN**	**PHOSPHATE**	**POTASH**	**FERTILIZER WASTED**
Extremely Acid - 4.5 pH	30%	23%	33%	71.34%
Very Strong Acid - 5.0pH	53%	34%	52%	53.67%
Strongly Acid - 5.5 pH	77%	48%	77%	32.69%
Medium Acid - 6.0 pH	89%	52%	100%	19.67%
Neutral - 7.0 pH	100%	100%	100%	0.00%

(Ref: https://www.cropnutrition.com/efu-soil-ph)

Soil pH can be very low in Tropical regions meaning up to 70% of your fertiliser can be wasted. The new Reef Regulations may restrict the amount of fertilizer you are able to use so it makes sense to address soil pH issues with quality lime products such as **Ozcal** and **OzcalMag.**

Ozcal and **Ozcalmag** are granules containing ultra-fine particles of lime, delivering more immediate pH boosting benefits than standard lime products. The following trial conducted in the Mackay region showed greater **phosphorus** and **nitrogen** levels after **Ozcal** was applied with DAP:

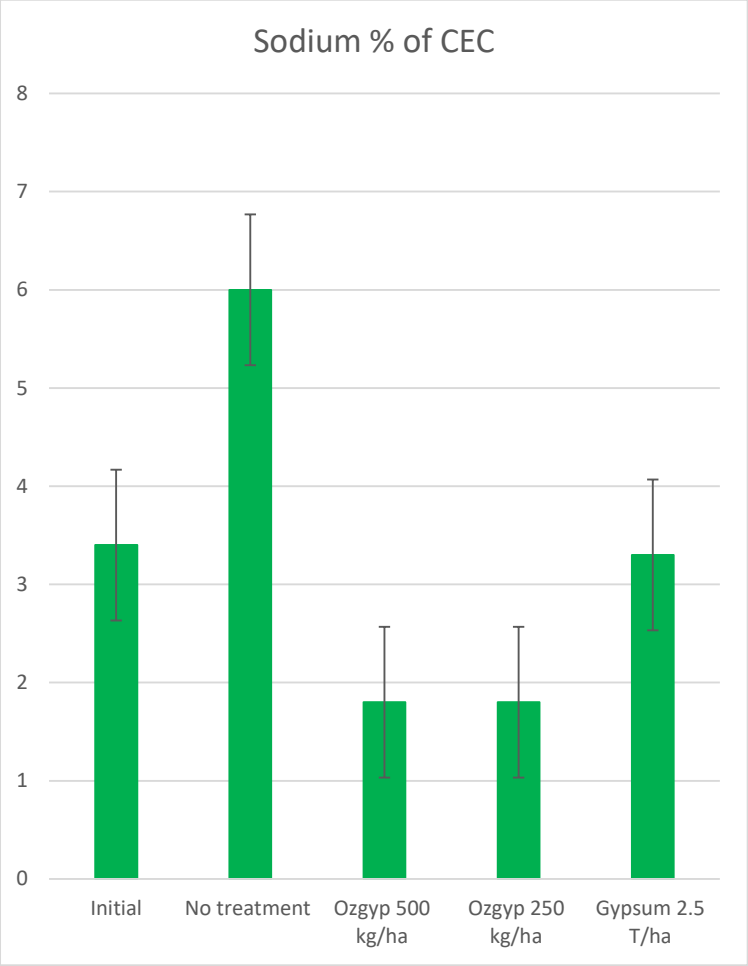


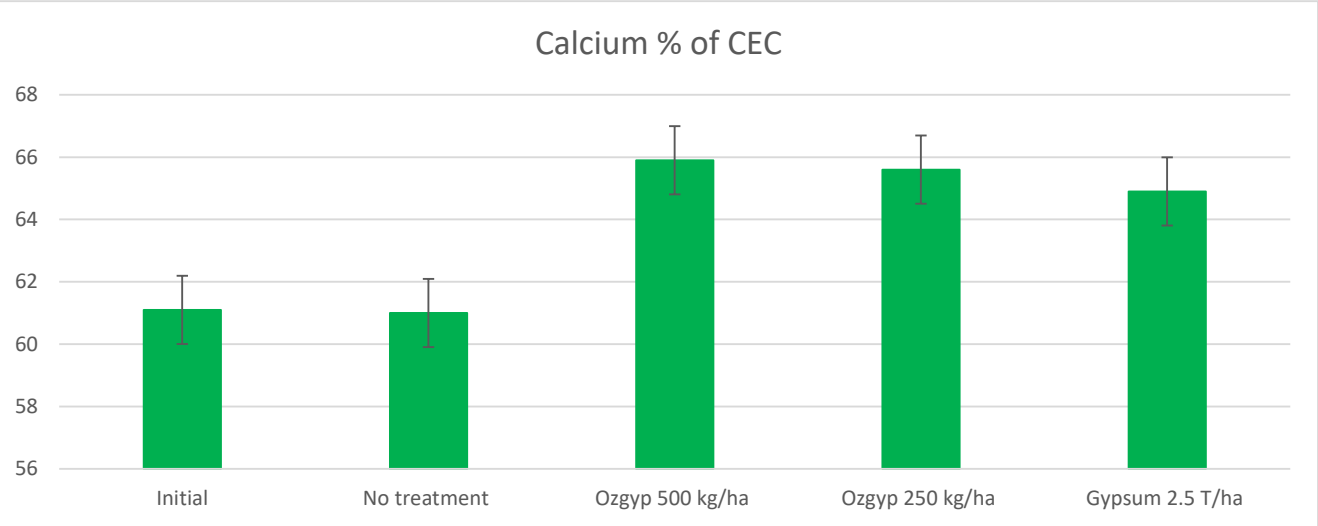


Ozgyp for Sediment and Erosion Control

Reef Regulations also require that you address erosion and sediment run off. Soils containing high **sodium** levels, such as those in the Burdekin region are more prone to erosion from high rainfall events leading to loss of topsoil and fertiliser. **Gypsum** is often used to address this issue however the type and quality of **gypsum** can have a big impact on effectiveness.

Ozgyp granulated ultra-fine gypsum delivers effective **sodium** reduction and **calcium** increase at reduced rates compared to standard **gypsum** products, as this trial in the Burdekin demonstrates:





With **Ozcal**, **OzcalMag** and **Ozgyp**, the low use rate and easy to use granule make lime, dolomite and gypsum applications far more convenient. Apply direct to the row, broadcast, or else blend with your NPK fertiliser.

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

New Sugar Research Australia CEO Ros Baker visited the Mossman District on 24 February and met with a group of growers as part of her 'listening tour'. About 12 growers attended and provided some detailed and varied feedback for her and SRA staff. Some of the issues discussed included variety breeding, how to improve SRA's contact with growers and improve information flow back to the farm.

On 2 March, CANEGROWERS Mossman Manager Evelyn Matthews attended a Carbon Farming workshop run by the Queensland Government and Queensland Farmers' Federation. The workshop promoted the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund to landholders, explained the application process and provided information on the first investment round.

Also present at the meeting in Mareeba were the Carbon Market Institute, the Carbon Project Developers, NRM staff, and various other industry representatives. There was a strong push from government attendees to get landholders involved and making applications, if not this round then in subsequent rounds. But it seemed that there would be limited opportunities for cane farmers, specifically in these early stages.

On 16 March, CANEGROWERS Mossman, with support and sponsorship from the Cane Changer group, held a Succession Planning night in Mossman. Attendees heard speakers from Marino Lawyers and SiDCOR discuss the importance of starting the conversation around planning for the future of cane farming businesses as early as possible.

The speakers covered both the financial and legal aspects that families should look to consider when doing Succession Planning. The point was made that all families are different and so requirements will vary, but they encouraged everyone to get their Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney and Health Directives in place.

The other point made was that farming is a business, not just a way of life, so the farm needs to be treated as a business when doing Succession Planning. This planning should also incorporate all outside income and any other businesses controlled by the family. It was a successful night and very well attended, and we hope to be able to do more sessions in the future.

CANEGROWERS Mossman will have its first Bargaining Agents meeting with Far Northern Milling on Tuesday 31 March 2020.

Presentation from Janelle Wheeler SiDCOR.

CAIRNS

There's been good rain and sunshine across the region and the crop has responded accordingly.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region has prepared and enacted its business continuity plan to try to best safeguard against any COVID-19 impacts on office staff and the services we provide to members.

A thank you dinner was hosted by the Cane Changer team at the Fishery Falls Hotel recently. This event was well attended with more than 40 growers enjoying the evening. Cane Changer highlighted some of the significant changes made by growers, shared some of their learnings over the past few years, awarded well deserved certificates, and thanked everyone for their participation in the project.

TABLELAND

After a dry December the rain arrived in January, much to the relief of growers who were tiring of relentless irrigation schedules. The crop has responded well to the rain and with favourable growing conditions over the past two months, we are hopeful of a good crop for the season.

Irrigation has recommenced as the end of the rainy season looms and growers aim to keep the growth momentum in the crop. Tinaroo Dam is at 72% capacity, compared to 101% at the same time last year. This may become a concern should there be no substantial rain and inflows in the near future.

A zonal voting system has been introduced within CANEGROWERS on the Tablelands. This allows for the Tableland Canegrowers Ltd board (TCL) to be comprised of three Mossman Mill suppliers and two Tableland Mill suppliers. To fill two vacancies that currently exist on the board, nominations were called from Tableland Mill suppliers. They closed 30 March 2020. Positive interest shown during the process gave hope that two capable growers would fill the vacancies.

MSF's recently announced divestment of its Tableland farms seems to have progressed to completion, with two growers having purchased the approximately 2500 hectares of land and infrastructure. These growers are now in the process of land preparation prior to planting later in the year.

TULLY

The gumboot in Tully has not been used much in 2020, as the district (to date) has experienced only a modest wet season. The limited rainfall has progressed the crop, which was behind because of the hot, dry conditions. Pundits are now predicting an average crop for the coming season, which is still a significant improvement on last year's low yielding crop.

The arbitration on the 2020 CSA is now over, and the arbitrator has delivered his award. This is now being finalised in a collective cane supply agreement for the 2020 to 2023 seasons. The award delivered is very similar to the 2017-2019 CCSA, and TCGL is working on ways to fully explain the new agreement to growers. This is not easy given the restrictions associated with COVID-19, however the aim is to have everything in place in time for marketer nominations and pool declarations.

The annual productivity awards function has been cancelled. Staff are working out the safest way to hold AGMs and extension activities.

HERBERT RIVER

Herbert River's 2020 crop is starting to look good - the colour is good and it's not showing any ill-effects from the weather. However, some parts of the district that were heavily affected by the dry harvest late last year are still trying to catch up and young plants have been affected by the dry start, in some areas more than others.

For the most part, however, the crop is showing promise and growers are cautiously optimistic that if good growing weather continues, we will be able to optimise the crop for 2020.

In late February, CANEGROWERS Herbert River hosted the final Industry Resilience and Recovery event in Ingham. The night featured 'The Unbreakable Farmer' Warren Davies, who shared his life journey as a farmer and how he built resilience, persistence and determination. We had an impressive turn out, with almost 100 people in attendance.

BURDEKIN

The Burdekin crop looks good and has benefited from recent rain and a period of hot weather. Wilmar is currently in the process of finalising its estimate for the 2020 season, which will be released soon.

Farmers are now expressing concerns about what impact the COVID-19 virus might have on harvesting crews, mill operations, shipping of sugar and storage capacity in bulk storage terminals. The virus has resulted in the cancellation of several important public events, with the most prominent being the public hearings for the Senate Committee inquiry into the evidence behind the regulation of farm practices that impact water quality outcomes in the Great Barrier Reef. The industry was keen to provide further feedback on this issue and will be pushing to ensure the public hearings are rescheduled when appropriate.

CANEGROWERS Burdekin Ltd Directors Owen Menkens and Steve Pilla had an opportunity at the March Policy Council meeting to question Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Dr Anthony Lynam, over the recent Queensland Competition Authority report on the Irrigation Price Investigation 2020-24. Steve Pilla discussed the need to retain natural yield for the Giru Benefit Area and Owen Menkens stressed that costs for dam safety upgrades shouldn't be borne by irrigators and should be treated the same as other public infrastructure.

Fall armyworm has been detected in the Burdekin and traps are being established to assist with surveillance. The National Management Group has determined that it is not possible to eradicate fall armyworm from Australia, and SRA and industry partners have worked on an emergency permit for permethrin as a control agent.

Continues next page ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

PROSERPINE

Heavy rain in mid-March provided another boost to the 2020 crop without causing much damage or disruption. Falls in excess of 200mm were recorded over one 24-hour period. Light showers have continued over the past few weeks and the crop is responding well.

While growers remain optimistic about the prospect of a bigger crop, early indications are that production will be only slightly higher than last year.

Growers are being urged to keep a look-out for fall armyworm as it has been detected in Bowen (although not in sugarcane). Anything suspicious should be immediately reported to the Biosecurity Hotline 13 25 23.

Over the past few weeks a number of industry meetings were postponed due to coronavirus. It could take several months before these meetings can be reconvened.

Despite the imposed travel restrictions and embargos, the mill's maintenance program currently remains on track.

MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

State Government fails to recognise progress in farming practices

The Plane Creek Area Committee held its annual information meeting in Sarina last month when about 50 growers attended to listen to the highlights of the past season, as well as what the industry faces in the future.

A representative from the Department of Environment and Science (DES) spoke at the meeting about the new reef regulations and the mechanics of implementing them on farm.

Chairman of the Plane Creek Area Committee, Kevin Borg, said that it became evident to growers during the presentation that the regulations are ambiguous with some suggesting there are "holes in them large enough to drive a truck through".

Mr Borg said the Queensland Government was not recognising the positive progress being made by Mackay/Plane Creek cane growers in changing their farming practices for the benefit of water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef.

Smartcane BMP is the way forward

Mr Borg said there was a way out of the dilemma for growers and that was to take the initiative and complete the industry's own Smartcane Best Management Practice program.

He said it was pleasing to see the increased numbers of growers in the Mackay/Plane Creek area who were engaged in completing the program.

Hopes for crop following useful rain

In his presentation to the meeting, Mr Borg said the crop was coming along well, thanks to the rain since Christmas. He is hopeful the crop will be at least the same size as last year, provided that conditions didn't dry out too early.

Local Member asked to help with water prices

CANEGROWERS Mackay has called on the Member for Mackay and Assistant Minister Julieanne Gilbert to back local cane growers and the region by advocating for a water price freeze.

This follows the recommendation from the Queensland Competition Authority that irrigators pay significantly higher prices for water between 2020 and 2024.

In a letter to the Daily Mercury, CEO Kerry Latter said the recommendation, if taken up by the State Government, would be another short-term cash grab in the district, the same as with electricity prices for irrigators.

Kerry argued that there was a real risk that local growers in the Mackay district would turn off their pumps and not use the water, resulting in underperforming crops. As a result, some local irrigation schemes could fail, with jobs lost.

Pictured: (below) local growers at the Plane Creek Area Committee annual information meeting.

BUNDABERG

A new District Champion was announced at the Annual Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards held at The Waves Sports Club recently.

TM Dahl and JS Weston's Bingera farm recorded a three-year average of 16.70 tonnes of sugar per hectare to take out the top award of the night – Formatt Machinery's District Champion. They pipped WR and AJ Baldry's Millaquin farm, which came in second with a three-year average of 16.25 tonnes of sugar per ha.

Chairman of the Awards Committee Mark Pressler congratulated the District Champions, who had not previously won the award, although they had been runner-up for the previous six seasons.

Representatives from all sectors of the industry and their business associates gathered to hear the awards announced and to celebrate some great productivity outcomes in spite of the weather and other challenges experienced during the 2019 crushing season.

Chairman of CANEGROWERS Bundaberg, Allan Dingle, took the opportunity to acknowledge the continued support of local sponsors of the awards and encouraged growers to continue to do business with these local service providers.

Well known Bundaberg musician Mark Lavender provided guests with some great entertainment. Mark's love and passion for music showed through his performance.

Pictured: (clockwise from top right) Wayne and Andrea Baldry with their award for Highest Tonnes Sugar per Cane Production Area (Hectares) average of past three seasons, Ron Lines accepting the Cane Growing Excellence Award Division 2, Dan and Rachel Tobin with their award for Closest Percentage Estimate to Actual Tonnage, Joanne Loeskow accepting the award for Aileen Loeskow who won the Inspiring Female Leader Award.

ISIS

Good growing weather coupled with rainfall across most of the district during February and early March is being reflected in the growth of the current cane crop. This has finally boosted grower spirits as they look forward to more rain to finish the crop for the 2020 season.

Soybeans and peanuts across the Isis district have responded well to the recent rain, although fungicide management in peanuts during wet weather events can be challenging. Some growers have commenced harvesting peanuts and would like to see some blue sky over the coming weeks.

Pricing workshops were held in early March with Dougall Lodge from the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service. Dougall discussed recent fluctuations in sugar price and explained the impacts of world markets on price. Growers showed an ever-increasing understanding of the fundamentals impacting on sugar price and how these help guide decisions.

The Economic Impact Report on Paradise Dam was made available during March with the key finding that the cost of inaction on Paradise Dam is approximately $2.4 billion over the next 30 years - the cost to the Queensland economy of a permanent lowering of Paradise Dam by up to 10m. CANEGROWERS Isis continues to work collaboratively with Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg on this crucial regional issue. .

Continues next page ▶

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

MARYBOROUGH

There has been so much focus on the COVID-19 virus that I had to dig out last month's report to remember what happened just a few weeks ago.

It's a good thing the weather has been so kind recently. The crop has really responded to the good growing conditions and there is confidence in a reasonable recovery for the year.

There are plenty of soybeans growing throughout the district, with prices strengthening further on last year. Even the peanuts are developing nicely and pricing well.

Obviously the COVID-19 virus is causing significant problems for the country and while we are fortunate to live in regional areas, we are not immune to its impacts. Pubs and clubs have shut, while restaurants and cafes have been forced to either shut or change to takeaway service only.

The vast majority of outdoor sports in every community are now suspended with no clear timeframe available for when they can restart.

These are certainly actions we have not experienced before and when you add the step of social distancing it is easy to think we have all lost our minds.

Unfortunately, the explosion of cases and deaths in countries that haven't acted quickly is forcing action here. The best thing we can do is pay attention to the health advice, limit interaction with others and take steps to keep up high levels of hygiene.

A large number of events and meetings have been cancelled due to the virus, meaning the calendar for the year is very blank through the months of April and May. Two of the three local shows for our district have been cancelled.

Fortunately, two training courses for chemical use were run in the early part of March, with 15 growers and employees able to complete the three modules toward a commercial operator license.

A reminder that the Maryborough office remains open at this point to assist growers as best we can. In the event that schools are closed we may be required to carry out some work from home, but email and phone will still be a simple means of contact for our members.

Take care one and all.

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Pictured: Lenthalls Dam following recent rain.

ROCKY POINT

The district has continued to receive rain on and off over the past couple of weeks and the crop has responded very well to the climatic conditions.

The soybean crop across the district is also looking good, although we have had issues with insects attacking the beans in isolated areas.

Our biggest issue remains the performance of the cogeneration plant, which has still not begun operating again. To our understanding, they have clearance to start but still have issues with the removal of the asbestos material from the site.

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WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE

Warren Males
Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS

COVID-19: Sugar market impact
NO NEED TO PANIC

Anxiety is rising as efforts to stem the spread of coronavirus increase. While human health is the priority, the world economy is being impacted and many industries are being tested, with tourism, air travel and the service industries on the front line.

Governments and reserve banks around the world, including the US Federal Reserve and the Reserve Bank of Australia, have responded with measures such as cutting official cash rates to record low levels and taking unusual measures such as buying government bonds and other securities to boost liquidity and support the economy as it responds to the virus.

Share markets and the broader range of financial markets have been impacted. Volatility is at unprecedented levels and sugar is no exception. Most growers would be aware that sugar prices are amongst the most volatile of all commodity prices. Generally, volatility increases during periods of uncertainty and COVID-19 is the latest trigger.

The headline falls in daily sugar prices – down more than 30% since the US15.29c/lb recorded on 12 February and giving up all the gains made since October 2019 – are making growers understandably nervous.

In these uncertain times, it is pleasing that many growers secured relatively high prices for the 2020 season, either directly with their marketer or through the early pricing products offered by marketers before the price downturn.

A weaker AUD is doing its bit to cushion the blow for Australian exporters and some growers have secured 2022 season prices at AUD460/t.

It is worth bearing in mind that this price collapse is not due to a dramatic change in sugar market fundamentals. The surge in prices that began in January, accelerated as a downturn in northern hemisphere crops became apparent.

The sugar market flipped from two years of significant surpluses to a very large deficit, more than 13.5 million tonnes according to Czarnikow, after the sharp and surprising six million tonne decline in Thai production.

Looking ahead, the sharp fall in oil prices flowing through to lower ethanol prices is expected to result in increased Brazilian sugar production and narrow the size of expected deficits over the next two years.

Fundamentals in other parts of the economy are also strong. China's production of steel, up 3.1% in February, is strong.

With low stocks, its demand for iron ore seems set to continue. In recent days, rising iron ore prices have seen the AUD strengthen towards the end of March.

While I don't have a crystal ball, a couple of things seem clear. Both fundamental and technical indicators suggest that most commodity markets, sugar and oil included, are over sold.

Around the world, governments and central banks are doing what they can to protect human lives and to restore financial market stability. The best scientists in the world are working on a coronavirus vaccine and some are saying the virus will run its course later in the year.

Whatever the timing, now is not a time to panic. Instead, it is a great time to plan. Understanding cost structures will help anchor price risk management decisions to ensure growers benefit from any turnaround in the currently low sugar price. ■

For a more detailed, independent insight into the latest market movements, members can avail of the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service. Visit www.canegrowers.com.au/marketing-information-service

"Now is not a time to panic. Instead, it is a great time to plan. Understanding cost structures will help anchor price risk management decisions to ensure growers benefit from any turnaround in the currently low sugar price."

Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Paddock to Reef program does growers no favours

CANEGROWERS has had long-standing issues with the integrity of the Government's Paddock to Reef (P2R) program as it applies to sugarcane farming. We recently made another attempt to resolve these issues through a meeting with representatives from research organisations and State Government departments.

This meeting led to at least some recognition by government of the issues with P2R, but there seemed little enthusiasm to address these problems.

The issues with the P2R program include:

- It is a water quality risk framework and, therefore, does not relate well to best practice for productivity. However, P2R has been promoted by government and other organisations as reflecting best practice for both water quality and profit.
- Its use of expected cane yield 'in a good year' to derive the optimal rate of nitrogen for a crop is spurious and totally misrepresents how SIX EASY STEPS was developed. An N rate derived in this way will reduce grower profits.
- These sorts of spurious assumptions also drove the cost-benefit analysis the government did to justify its reef regulations, so P2R is penalising growers in several ways.

At the very least, government should focus on Smartcane BMP as a measure of industry best practice and profit, while P2R is just a broad measure of water quality risk. However, this will not address the ABCD rating process that leads to cane farmers being rated poorly in government reef report cards.

WATER QUALITY SCIENCE

In March, CANEGROWERS met with research leaders to discuss efforts by the Tropical Water Quality Hub to bring together its findings that relate to measurement and management of dissolved inorganic nitrogen.

We identified two major sugar industry needs that align with the program's research outcomes. These are:

- to clearly describe the extent of DIN's potential impacts on environments within the reef lagoon
- to bring together the best information on the design of collaborative water quality monitoring within a sub-catchment and the use of the data in partnership with growers.

The Tropical Water Quality Hub is funded by the Australian Government and managed by the Rainforest to Reef Centre and James Cook University.

FALL ARMYWORM IMPACTS REMAIN UNCLEAR

The fall armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) has now been found as far south as Bowen and is therefore likely to be detected in central Queensland during the next few weeks. At the time of writing, there have been no confirmed instances of the pest in sugarcane, with maize and sweet corn being the most common hosts to date. This matches overseas experience.

CANEGROWERS is hosting regular meetings of the Sugar Industry Biosecurity Committee to ensure growers are receiving the information and tools they need to respond to any outbreaks.

The APVMA has granted an emergency use permit for certain products containing permethrin to control fall armyworm in sugarcane (permit number 89295).

SRA will also pursue permits for other active ingredients to avoid longer-term reliance on one chemical. Any consideration of chemical control must follow all the conditions of use on the permethrin permit. ■

> Government should focus on Smartcane BMP as a measure of industry best practice and profit, while P2R is just a broad measure of water quality risk.

Burn Ashburner
Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Farm Input and Research Committee TOP PRIORITIES

CANEGROWERS' Farm Input and Research committee recently revisited its priority list, which ranks issues in the committee's portfolio based on the desired outcomes for members and the likelihood of achieving those outcomes.

ADOPTION

Adoption is, as always, top of the list. This relates to both the benefits to growers if they adopt best practice and the extension required to give growers the best opportunity to adopt. It's always a bit of a chicken and egg scenario, but adoption and extension go hand in hand.

RD&E

It's no surprise that next on the list is the setting of research development and extension priorities. Clearly this is a task which Sugar Research Australia carries out, with significant input from growers and CANEGROWERS.

The biggest question is always how do we best invest the limited resources to get the best results to improve productivity? There is always a debate around doing research to solve immediate problems versus more targeted, long-term, strategic research.

Unfortunately, there is something of a disconnect between SRA and the average grower at present. To some extent this is an unintended consequence of a restructure which occurred seven years ago. Some of the regular complaints we hear from growers include:

- SRA is not getting through to growers. The average grower does not feel connected to SRA. They do not know what SRA is doing. SRA doesn't listen.
- Growers do not have a clear point of contact to engage with SRA.
- The relationship between SRA and productivity services varies across the districts and the resources SRA is putting into each district may be different.

With a new CEO at SRA, there is an opportunity to address grower concerns and CANEGROWERS will be working closely with SRA to provide continuous improvement.

DIVERSIFICATION

The third priority on the committee's list is the diversification of grower income streams. Sugarcane is lauded as a great producer of biomass and there are a number of alternate product opportunities being discussed. However, the current commercial reality in Australia is that we have very little other than raw sugar in the average grower's income stream. The committee is looking at ways to increase the opportunities for members.

WH&S

The fourth priority is workplace health and safety, which is a newcomer to the top 5. This is due to a number of incidents involving growers in recent years, which could perhaps have been avoided. The concern is not about complying with regulations, but rather wanting growers to adopt a culture of keeping themselves safe. This includes the safe burning of cane.

CANE ANALYSIS

The fifth priority is cane analysis auditing and maintaining the reliability of the analysis system through professional auditing. This is the basis of growers' cane pay and therefore the integrity of the system is of the utmost importance to members. ■

"CANEGROWERS' Farm Input and Research committee recently revisited its priority list, which ranks issues in the committee's portfolio based on the desired outcomes for members and the likelihood of achieving those outcomes."

ANNUAL QUEENSLAND LAND VALUATIONS

During March 2020, the Valuer General issued new land valuations for 21 local government areas in Queensland, some of which are in sugarcane districts such as Mackay, Bundaberg, Hinchinbrook and Fraser Coast.

If your property is in a local authority area that was not revalued, then your land valuation will remain unchanged.

By Chris Cooper, CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

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 relevant government rates and charges.

HOW IS THE VALUATION CALCULATED?

Lands that are zoned rural are valued on an unimproved basis by state government department 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.

Department valuers usually monitor the local area real estate market and analyse sales of properties within the area.

From these sales, they will 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 use of the land.

These items include matters such as the shape, nature and size of land, 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 does not physically inspect every property in the local authority area every year.

Quite often the department will simply carry out desktop 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 lodgement of a notice of objection.

The notice must follow a set format and be lodged with the department within 60 days of the valuation being issued. As the recent new valuations were issued on 4 March, affected land holders have until 5 May to lodge their objection.

Prior to lodging an objection, land holders might consider contacting the department on **1300 664 217** and endeavour to speak with the relevant valuer and seek further information about how their valuation was arrived at.

This further information may assist you in deciding whether to object or not. Some of the common complaints in objections include that the department:

- 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 State Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy website contains useful information about the valuation process it undertakes.

Any member wishing to discuss aspects of any legal matters should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call me on Free Call **1800 177 159**, for free initial legal advice. ■

Are you ready for the **digital future?**

In 1953, an article titled *There'll Be No Escape in Future From Telephones* was published in a variety of papers across the United State.

The Associated Press article quoted Mark R. Sullivan, the president and director of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, who outlined his prophecy for the future form of the telephone:

"In its final development, the telephone will be carried about by the individual, perhaps as we carry a watch today. It probably will require no dial or equivalent, and I think the users will be able to see each other, if they want, as they talk".

Today, I am working from my COVID-19 induced work-from-home office. It's a mobile phone and a laptop computer connected to Wi-Fi and the internet.

"For engagement, you can't beat face to face, but given the current situation, are you ready for a faster move to a digital future?"

I'm using a suite of programs and apps to link with my colleagues at CANEGROWERS and connect and communicate with the outside world.

Video conferencing and VoIP allow me to see real-time images of the people I am talking with through my computer and mobile phone.

Sometimes it's glitchy, but as Mr Sullivan predicted almost 70 years ago, I'm having a face-to-face conversation on my phone.

Like most of us, I am totally mobile. I have access to technology, and I can engage through numerous online platforms and communication channels.

This is a good thing, as I just had to cancel all the grower member face-to-face meetings I had planned for April and May due to the coronavirus. This was disappointing but not unexpected.

Yet, out of adversity comes opportunity. Now I'm thinking – what's the best way to engage with CANEGROWERS members and the industry while we all sit at home and wait for the coronavirus to pass?

Do we use video conferencing? Webinars? Live streaming over social media or podcasts? Do you have good internet speed, access to this technology or a preferred platform?

Being a member of Generation X, I'm familiar with technology and can adapt.

I migrated to computers and phones through my exposure at school and work. My baby-boomer Dad is ok on a computer, while my millennial daughter is never off her phone.

The membership of CANEGROWERS has a similar mix.

Our traditional way of interacting is through the CANEGROWERS magazine and by face to face meetings.

We use social media and we're starting to use video conferencing between the Brisbane and various district offices.

These concepts aren't new and have been used successfully in other industries and sectors.

For engagement, you can't beat face to face meetings, but given the current situation, are you ready for a faster move to a digital future?

Over the coming weeks, I will be testing a few different platforms to see what works.

I welcome your input, so please let me know what works for you and whether you have the technology to be part of the digital future.

If you have a prediction, like Mr Sullivan, I'd love to hear it. You can reach me on most of the communications platforms.

Please feel free phone me on **0407 657 779** or email ***matt_keally@canegrowers.com.au*** ■

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS Senior Manager - Membership Engagement & Innovation

FIRST 5 LINES FREE* FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!
Book online anytime of the day or night at www.canegrowers.com.au or email us at **ads@CANEGROWERS.com.au**

Next deadline is **23 April 2020**.

* 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, such as farm machinery, etc. Advertisements from non-members are charged at $11 per line incl GST. Only prepaid ads will be accepted.

Graham Twyford Machinery Sales Pty Ltd

Specialising in Used Cane Harvesting Equipment Sales

2012 John Deere 3520 Wheel Harvester, 8,000 hrs. 9 litre engine, 8 blade chopper standard topper. Well maintained.

2006 CAMECO 3510 Track Harvester JD 8.1 Litre. 8 blade chopper, standard topper. Good condition for age.

2005 CAMECO 3510 Wheel Harvester, JD 8.1 Litre new engine, 3,500 hrs. SAI chopper motor conversion 8 blade chopper.

1997 CASE Track Harvester Komatsu 325 HP engine 6,000 hrs. 15" x 8 blade, raised cab with tilt kit, standard topper.

1995 CAMECO Track Harvester 325 HP CAT engine 1,500 hrs rebuilt engine. Very good condition for age.

BSM 6 Tonne Side Tipper, Single axle unit 23x1x26 tyres.

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.

Whole Topper late model CASE as new complete with hydraulic valve.

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

IN STOCK NOW 10, 8 & 6 BLADE DIFFERENTIAL CHOPPER DRUMS Suit '05 Cameco to JD 570. Tungsten Hard Faced on Wear Areas. New seal plates, Clamping Bars & Dowels with kit.

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

Mossman–Tully

Double 2.5t planting tipper, excellent condition, taillights flasher $9000 incl. GST neg. Ph: 0437434280.

2 of 7810 John Deere articulated with 14 tonnes Carta bin $100,000. 1 of 6175M John Deere articulated with 14 tonnes Carta Bin $175,000. All + GST. Tully area. Ph: 0408713854.

2x 2009 John Deere 7630 Articulated Tractors with 14 tonne Carta Elevator Tippers. Will consider selling Elevator Tipper separately from Tractor. Tully Area. Ph: 0418181646.

2004 Cameco Harvester VGC $150,000. Fert Box 3T Side Stool Dresser $4,400, Draw Bar on Wheels. GST incl. Ph: 0427655168.

HARD HOSE IRRIGATOR, OCMIS VIR6, 330m x 140mm hose with computer compressor, fully hydraulic, only done 2 seasons $40,000. Peanut thrasher KMC 4-row, model 3355 wide body, VGC, heaps of spare parts $50,000. Peanut digger KMC, 2-row, GC, new chains/sprockets, spare parts incl. Only is thrasher has been sold $10,000. All + GST. Ph: 0427924867.

Toft Loader with Nuffield 460 tractor runs and works but needs some repairs $5000. Rome 32 plates full drag offset with hydraulic of open and close cut, dishes are 50% $10000. All + GST ONO. Ph: 0418761341.

FORD 5000 $6000; MF188 $5000; 24Plate Napier Wheel Offset $3000; 5 Furrow Bonel Rev. Plough $1000; Fiat M100 $22,000; 90" Ripper Rotary $1500; Famall AM Petrol $500 ONO. Prices + GST. Ph: 0429652235.

Toft 6000 harvester. 3blade chop 4' ceiling fan. Shredder topper run well. $15000 + GST. Babinda. Ph: 0408722710.

1x Massey Ferguson 6475. 1x Massey Ferguson 5465. 6 tonne side tipping haulout tractors. Low hours. Very good condition. Can sell separately. Ph: 0740562063.

JOHNNY FARMING COMPANY

New Hydraulic Heavy Duty
OFFSETS

3 metre width, 28 discs,
All bath bearings
$12,000 plus GST ($13,200 incl GST) Other size offsets available are 1.8m, 2.2m, 2.5m, 3m & 3.4metres.
3 point linkage offsets available also

New Heavy Duty
SLASHERS

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

Johnny Farming Company
Phone (07) 4952 2577 or 0412 535 887 (John) or 0407 638 674 (Andrew)
133 Schmidtke Road Mackay Qld 4740

Herbert River–Burdekin

Expressions of interest: Contractor seeking acres to plant in the Herbert 2020 & beyond. Hi floatation harvesting gear. Wide Shute HBM billet planter with Trimble GPS. Granular fert or liquid application. Ph Kris: 0439509519.

1999 10 Ton Newton Tipper attached to 2009 John Deere 6930 Premium. Very good condition. Price on application. Ph: 0427912277.

Mackay–Proserpine

Tyres and rims, 23-1-26 brand new tyres and rims to suit case 7000 harvester $4000 ONO. Ph: 0427355391.

HIBRIX™
Higher yields

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

We have been involved in recent QLD cane sugar growing trials and the results give us quiet confidence that we have an exciting future in QLD. The company has been testing our fertiliser (company and independent trials) for the past seven years. We are seeking representation in QLD – please call the MD on his direct line (0418 364 880) for a confidential discussion.

CONTACT DETAILS:
Managing Director - 0418 364 880
www.hibrix.com

Claas Tractor 2012 $33,000, 3 Axle Trailer with 10 T Cane Side Tipper $22,000, 2 Axle Trailer with 10 T Cane Side Tipper $22,000, 10 Tonne Cane Side Tipper $22,000, Isuzu Tray Truck 2002 with Tool Boxes & Compressor $15,000. All incl. GST. Ph Lionel: 0408755453.

FM10 Volvo 8 wheeler, flotation rear tyres, 2x 6T side tippers. Good tyres, GC $25,000. NISSAN UD Auto with 2x 6T side tippers, GC $19,000. High-lift side tipping trailer Jones Engineering double 6T with remote hydraulic. Sits on tandem wheel rockers or 30 inch wide rubber tracks $25,000. All +GST. Ph: 0407347900 or 0749541047.

Hardy 900L spray tank, 9m hydraulic boom, 3 way electric controls, GC $6000 ONO. 1000L spray tank with new pump $2750 Neg. 2 brand new 380/85R34 or equivalent 18.4.34 rims & centres to suit new Holland stud pattern $1100. Fiat 550, Hi/low clearance $6000 ONO. All incl. GST. Ph: 0427504118.

50 x 9 metre, 4¾ aluminium pipes, sprinklers & stands. Ph after 7pm: 0749545179.

Marshall TM950 spreader, mounted on international truck chassis, currently fitted with augers but also comes with spinners. VGC, $17000 excl. GST. Ph: 0749588264.

Howard 4.7 metre Hoe. Full rotor for open field or 3 x 1.8 meter zonal rotor. 3 Ripper legs for zonal beds. New rubber top to go with it. $52000 + GST. Ph: 0419707805 or 0405140322.

24 plate Gibbons-Rawlings wheeled offsets, good condition $7,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0749545052.

Cane Brake Pusher for sale, good condition, $100. Ph: 0457551626.

2x 14 Ton Tully Welding Works bins coupled to TW 35 Tractors, FWA, engines recently rebuilt. Bins elevate both sides $45,000 ea. 10 Ton Tully Welding Works bin coupled to TW 30 Tractor $25,000. Mechanically sound, perform very well. All + GST ONO. Ph: 0418416415 or 0427327279.

18 plate drag offsets GC $800. Hodge ratoon offsets GC 3 point linkage $1,800. Large metal lathe Nuttall good working condition gap bed t/turn attachment. 5hp Single Phase Motor some tools $5,000. Ph: 0428782202.

1x 100", 1x 90", 1x 80" Howard AH Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned. 2x 80" Howard AR Rotary Hoes fully reconditioned. Also available S/H AR Howard 90". Parts available for Howard AR & AH Rotary Hoes from $50 to $500. Ph: 49595883 or 0407643441.

95' single axle, 10 tonne Carta double door elevating bin. VGC. New Tyres. $45,000 +GST. Ph: 0417427480.

ASHLAND earthmoving scraper buckets, ranging from 7.3m3 to 17m3 capacity, fast loading, designed to work with any existing 4WD, tracked and articulated tractors. Affordable and efficient. Perfect for developing and improving agricultural land, expanding acreage, dams and waterways. Buy new/used from $75,000 + GST. Rental options from $60/hr. Ph: 0429080024.

Fiat 1300 Super DT 4wd Tractor; Fiat 750 Special Tractor. Ph: 0417612883.

Trash incorporator; double row marker with hydraulic ram; double row fertiliser box; stick planter with tank & suson box; 3-row trash rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways; rippers; disc offsets; grubbers for rattoons and fallow; slasher; cane break pushers; 3-row stool splitter with gal fertiliser box & more. Ph: 0417612883.

EXCAVATOR: 2002 Caterpillar 325CL Mistro 29 tonne, 16475 hrs, has quick hitch, crane burst valves, hand rails, UHF radio & 1800 GP bucket $39,000. LOADER: 1993 Komatsu WA470-1, ROPS, 4.2m3 bucket, 21T operating weight, UHF radio $35,000. GRADER: 1990 Cat 140G, 12,800 hours, UHF radio, spare wheel. $69,000. All +GST. Ph: 0419700761.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Feb 2020)	Month to date (1 Mar-30 Mar)	Year to date	Jan–Mar
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	357.6	267.8	1153	1718
Mareeba Airport	153.4	37	381	600
Cairns Aero	292.2	133.4	886	1262
Mt Sophia	351	355	1205	1863
Babinda Post Office	285.9	256.9	1091	2174
Innisfail	240.6	571.3	1311	1759
Tully Sugar Mill	267.6	680.5	1260	2079
Cardwell Marine Pde	318.4	280.8	1007	1305
Lucinda Township	378.2	426.6	1166	1268
Ingham Composite	488.8	363.6	1224	1260
Abergowrie Alert	215	102	503	870
Townsville Aero	285.4	103.4	653	768
Ayr DPI Research Stn	176.4	48.8	796	611
Proserpine Airport	293.2	100.2	558	867
Mirani Mary Street	343.1	185.8	765	914
Mackay MO	286.6	292.6	854	875
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	348.2	264	906	1045
Bundaberg Aero	162	22.6	326	440
Childers South	194.8	18.4	302	354
Maryborough	345	69.2	485	493
Tewantin RSL Park	509.6	182.8	861	587
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	619.9	121.2	926	718
Nambour Daff - Hillside	520.2	222	941	791
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	386	141.7	700	424
Murwillumbah Bray Park	700.5	119.1	1083	650
Ballina Airport	668	85.2	923	576
New Italy (Woodburn)	515.3	157.4	881	504

sunsuper dream with your eyes open

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 sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

90" Howard Rotary Hoe, GC $5,500. 3-row stool splitter Confidor applicator, can be adapted for fertiliser box, excellent condition $8,000. Silvan 600 ltr spray tank with hydraulic boom lift & 4 Irwin legs, for spraying cane ratoons, GC $4,000. All +GST. Ph: 0417612883.

2500 Cameco full track cane harvester 1995/96 excellent condition. MF 1085, GC. Poplin billet planter excellent condition. Rinaudo 3t stainless steel fertilizer box side dresser. Howard 3 leg square plough. Ph: 0488053298.

12T self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

6t side/tipper on Leyland tandem. Good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. Very good condition. Ph: 0438606578 (Mackay).

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition $15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478719294.

2015 Case Track Harvester 8800, Trimble GPS, shedder topper, hyd. adj. fronts 1.5m to 1.85m. Balance valve fitted front suspension; iFit engineering chopper drums; Glenella Engineering taper locks on chopper gears; Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors; greasing system; Tungsten on front shoes; floating side walls & base cutter discs. Track transporter; 2x6t side tippers; V10 Mercedes motor; Robot running gear. All GC. Ph: 0427617807.

2016 Case 8800 Track Machine, 2200 Hours, EHS 8 Blade Choppers, Trimble GPS, Blackey Bisalloy elevator floors, Standard Topper, 2 speed wheel motors, Pro Rata Engine Warranty. Very tidy machine. Ph: 0428182464 or 0427541030.

New Holland T7.200 Auto Command, SuperSteer, 4,400 hrs, 4 Rear Remotes, GPS, $77,000 Inc., Massey Ferguson 399, A/cCab, 4WD, 2,303 hrs, Very Tidy, $20,000 Inc. Ph: 0428236165.

Bundaberg–Rocky Point

Bonnel stick planter, good condition. Aged billet planter, working condition. 4 row hooded sprayer, 600 litre tank, good condition. Ph: 0437266711.

High Rise, 3500ltr, self levelling 27mtr boom & 5 row Irvin legs $11,000. Hodge Trash incorporator $6,600. Single row air seeder $2,200. Fowler crane $2,200. Single phase cold room $550. Kubota 7100 with mower $5,500. 4x4 camper trailer, triton tub, nut de-husker & more. Can email all items with photos. All prices incl. GST, ONO. Ph: 0417644001.

New Holland TS 100 with around 4800hrs has Delmore front fork, 3 sets of remotes, tyres are 95 percent, 3 sets of remotes in excellent condition. Ph Mick: 0417785832.

Austoft secondary plastic extractor hood, in good condition, would suit toft 7000 $550. Early model toft 7000 radiator $660. Ph: 0413584728.

2 Avokah T410 water winches $5000. Avokah T415 water winch $6000. Howard 600 series 100 inch rotary hoe $10000. 800 Silvan spray unit, electric controls, 8m boom, 4 hoods $9000. Howard 3 furrow square plough $3000. Stainless fertiliser bin with 4 coulters $5000. Fertiliser bin with 1 1/4" tynes on 2 1/2" toolbar $1500. Yeoman centre ripper $2500. Bonel wholestick planter and cutter (offers). All + GST. Ph: 0427629434.

1 ton Bonell Trash Incorporated fertiliser bin $2,000. 1 ton galvanised fertiliser bin with curly tynes and rakes $2,000. Hydraulic self and steer driver planter, three seater rows $1,500. 3x Tyne rippers with curly tynes $500. 4x spray hoods $200 ea. All + GST and good condition. Ph: 0458598445.

John Deere 7720 Header 4WD, 2 speed drum reversible feeder house with 22ft floating cutter bar front with pick up reel & trailer to suit. All in good condition. Always shedded. $20,000 inc GST. Ph: 0428296218.

WOLVERINE ROTARY DITCHER. Build/repair/desilt waterways, contours, irrigation channels and contour banks. Requires minimum 180+HP. Disperses soil left or right of the cut. Rent from $130/h for short term projects or buy from $103,500+GST. Ph: 0407350884.

Old grey bonel 3 furrow disc plow. Criton Mark 2 Harvester with 135 Massey Ferguson Tractor attached. 2x 6000 Austoft Harvester Elevator Slews and 1 Ram. Quantity of elevator flights to suit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000. Hydraulic Wheel Motor to fit Austoft Cane Harvesters 4000 & 6000, as new condition. Quantity of commercial pumps and motors to suit Austoft Cane Harvester 4000, 6000 & Mark 1. Diff and Episicals to suit Austoft Harvester Mark 1 and Mark 2. Dyna Power motors and pumps. Quantity of 5 inch irrigation pipes. Topper to suit Austoft Harvesters 6000 & 7000. Ph: 0427598333.

Wanted

7-foot heavy duty Howard slasher with galvanised top. Crumble Roller to suit 120-inch Howard rotary hoe. Ph: 0417542783.

Rear tractor tyre, sized 20x8x38 radial. John Deere 7710 or 7610 tractor. Ph: 0749541174.

125/350 Hard Hose Irrigator. Ph Steve: 0419705530.

Interested in leasing additional cane farming land in the Tully area. Currently have own farm and machinery. Ph: 0438796591.

Hard hose irrigator, 400/450m length or space on the reel to extend the poly to 400/450m. Ph: 0490029387.

New grower in desperate need of STL shares. Any amounts. Ph: 0411755685.

Positions Vacant

Experienced Harvester Driver. Ingham Area. Approx 60,000 tonnes. Start immediately. Ph: 0499888919 or 0747772130.

Work Wanted

Mitchell Beattie. Maryborough QLD. Willing to travel for the right position. Front end loader. Skid Steer. ACDC licence. HC OPEN licence. Em: Pedalsmaryborough@gmail.com. Ph: 0400025928.

Cane harvester and haul out operator for the crushing season 2020. Can do farm work, repairs and maintenance, case 7700-8800 and other farm machinery. From Mauritius. Em: cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com

Property

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemburra water, 2 pumps & licences, plus 32,000 gallons an hour underground bore. Machinery/irrigation shed. 2x 4" soft hose irrigators, farm lasered, underground main throughout. 2 sidings adjoin farms. Access to farm from Pleystowe School Rd & Formosa's Rd. Does not include 2019 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

Cane farm Tarakan Road ABERGOWRIE 270 acres freehold Genuine enquiries pls. Ph: 0747774633 or 0408608664.

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. Easy farm to maintain. Ph: Mandy 0408880724.

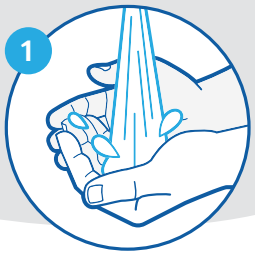
Queensland Health

CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES

12 steps to successful everyday handwashing

Duration of hand-wash

STEPS 3 TO 10



1. Wet hands with water.

2. Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.

3. Lather thoroughly.

4. Rub hands palm to palm.

5. Rub hands palm to palm with fingers interlaced.

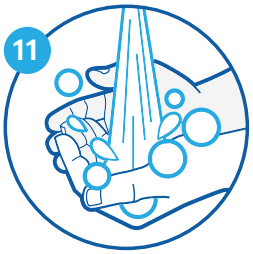
6. Rub back of hand using the palm of the other with fingers interlaced.

7. In a circular motion rub the tips of fingers in the palm of the opposite hand.

8. Clean thumb by holding it in the other hand and rotating.

9. Rub wrist with the opposite hand.

10. Interlock fingers and rub back of fingers on opposite palms.



11. Rinse hands with water.

12. Dry hands with clean paper towel and use paper towel to turn off tap.

Researchers think that if everyone washed their hands properly, about 1 million lives would be saved every year.[1]

When performed correctly, hand hygiene results in a reduction of microorganisms on hands. Poor hand hygiene contributes to the spread of pathogens, which can cause health issues such as gastrointestinal and respiratory infections.

Please note: These guidelines are for social handwashing only, such as after toilet use and before touching food. This poster is not intended for use in clincal settings.

1. Curtis, V 2003, 'Effect of washing hands with soap on diarrhoea risk in the community: a systematic review' Lancet Infec Dis, Retrieved 19 March 2019, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12726975

'Based on the 'How to HandWash Poster' © World Health Organization 2009.

Queensland Government