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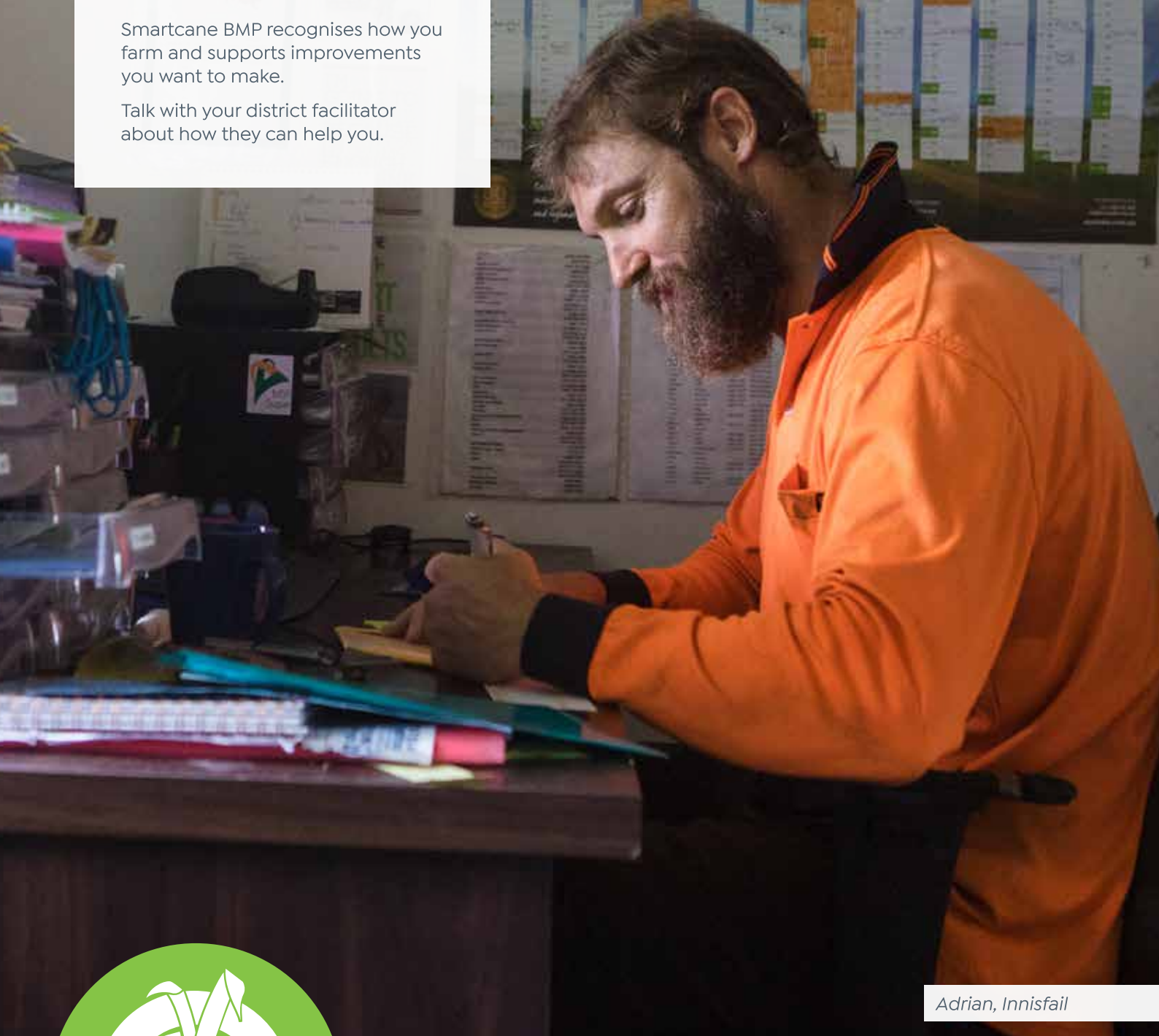


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COVER IMAGE: Babinda cane grower Daniel Messina juggles a full-time job, farming and family time with wife Karina and daughter Marina. Read more on page 24.

CONTENTS IMAGE: Coastal communities from Innisfail to Cooktown took a battering when Tropical Cyclone Niran struck in early-March. Read more on page 5.



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Confidence riding high

Queensland's farmers are brimming with confidence for the year ahead, with near record levels of on-farm investment expected in 2021, according to the latest quarterly Rabobank Rural Confidence Survey.

The survey, completed in February, found 34% of the state's primary producers expect conditions in the agricultural economy to improve over the coming 12 months – a slight dip from 37% with that view in December.

Around 53% expect similar conditions to last year and just 10% expect a deterioration.

While the survey found cotton, grain and cattle producers were in a buoyant mood, expecting a better season in 2021, the majority of the state's sugarcane producers – 54% – are expecting a similar year to last.

"While early season forecasts indicate similar cane production to last year, there is still a long way to go in the season and producers will be hoping for some sunny weather over the coming weeks after such a wet start in the north," Rabobank regional manager Brad James said.

"In terms of price, 2021 raw sugar is up around \$430 to \$440 a tonne, a big lift from the low \$300s this time last year, with solid offerings set to continue in the short-term due to the current tightness in the export market."

In line with the strong outlook for commodity prices, the state's farmers revised up expectations for



their farm incomes over the coming year, with 38% expecting a higher gross farm income in 2021, while close to half are looking at a similar financial result to last year.

This has, in turn, fuelled investment plans, Mr James said, with 30% of surveyed farmers in the state looking to increase investment in their farm businesses over the coming 12 months.

"Queensland farmers' investment intentions are now at levels not seen since early-2008 and the third-highest in the Rural Confidence Survey's 20-year history." ■

Australia overtakes Thai sugar exports

Australia has overtaken Thailand as the world's second largest exporter of raw sugar following a disastrous few years for the Thai industry.

After three years of drought, just over 60 million tonnes of cane were harvested in Thailand this season. As a result, Thai sugar production is likely to fall below 8.5 million tonnes, well down on the 14.7 million tonnes of sugar produced two seasons ago.

This collapse in production will have a flow-on effect on Thailand's raw sugar exports, which are expected to be around 2.6 million tonnes in 2021 - four million tonnes less than 2019.

"The poor Thai crops is a fundamental reason why Asian raw sugar premiums

have been so strong in the last couple of years and a key reason the Shared Pool results of all Australian raw sugar marketers were as strong as they were for 2020/21 and are likely to be for 2021/22 seasons," CANEGROWERS Head Economics Warren Males said.

"It is also the key reason that Australia has resumed its mantle as the world's second largest exporter of raw sugar behind only Brazil."

Australia is unlikely to take out the top spot any time soon however, with Brazil exporting 27.5 million tonnes of raw sugar last season. ■



Seen the latest CANEGROWERS Virtual Bus Tour videos?

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Help for cyclone-hit growers

Far north growers impacted by Tropical Cyclone Niran can apply for grants of up to \$25,000 to help with clean-up costs following the activation of Category C funding.

Despite failing to make landfall, Niran battered coastal communities with heavy rain and powerful winds, damaging property, infrastructure and crops from Innisfail to Cooktown.

The tropical low, which formed off the Queensland coast in late-February, was upgraded to a Category 2 cyclone on 2 March, before intensifying to a Category 3 storm as it finally edged away from the coast.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region Chairman **Steven Calcagno** welcomed the Category C announcement, saying it will help growers impacted by the storm.

"We had a lot of trees down across the region, which caused damage to property, infrastructure, creek banks - so the grants will help with the clean up," Mr Calcagno said.

"In terms of the crop, we've probably had damage to about 10-15% of the crop district-wide, but that's just the price you pay for farming in the tropics, unfortunately."

Banana crops were particularly badly hit, with some banana growers around the Innisfail region reporting losses of up to 100%.

QFF has announced the creation of a support network to assist farmers with the recovery process.

"QFF is in the process of creating an Industry Support Network of people with knowledge of farm practices and business processes, to take on a supporter role to galvanise those who have experienced loss or disruption as a result of a disaster like Tropical Cyclone Niran, and who need a helping hand as they recover," QFF CEO Dr Georgina Davis said.

"In the meantime, we encourage impacted farmers to contact their relevant industry body or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to complete an impact assessment."

Category C recovery grants are available from QRIDA - visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au or call 1800 623 946. ■

"We've had damage to about 10-15% of the crop district-wide, but that's just the price you pay for farming in the tropics."

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WTO DECISION COULD IMPACT COMMODITIES BEYOND SUGAR

The World Trade Organisation panel considering Australia's complaint about India's sugar subsidies has held a Second Substantive Meeting with the countries involved and Australia used the forum to warn that the ramifications of the case go far beyond the world sugar trade.

The March Meeting is considered an important milestone in the formal dispute settlement action launched by the Australian Government in February 2019 after lobbying from CANEGROWERS and the wider Australian sugar industry. At the hearing, Australia has delivered a statement rebutting India's written submission.

Australia is arguing that India's domestic support for sugarcane producers and export assistance for sugar mills are inconsistent with the commitments it has made under two key WTO agreements. The support to growers has led to over-production and the assisted exports have distorted world trade and affected prices.

Australia has warned that by accepting India's argument, that its industry assistance measures do not constitute market price supports because the governments which provide them do not procure sugarcane, the WTO would open up a loophole which would undermine its

objective of world trade free of distorting subsidies.

"If the Panel accepts India's defence of the FRP and SAP measures, the Panel's decision would send a signal to the WTO Membership that any Member may provide trade and production-distorting domestic support to its agricultural producers through legislated floor prices, as long as the government does not directly or indirectly purchase the agricultural product receiving that support."

While some support of production for domestic consumption is provided for in the relevant WTO agreement, Australia is asserting that India has grossly exceeded the allowable level and failed to appropriately provide notification of those measures.

Australia is asking the Panel to find in its favour and recommend that India bring its measures into line with the WTO agreements it has signed, the Agreement

on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

This is not a case Australia is fighting alone. Brazil and Guatemala have also launched actions raising similar issues with India's sugar subsidies.

Although separate cases, the three disputes are being considered together by the same WTO panelists. The disputes have a harmonised timetable, and each country is a third party in the others' action.

Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Panama, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States have joined the dispute as third parties.

Want to read the Australian Government submissions and arguments in full? The documents are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website <https://bit.ly/3sqXqVL>. ■

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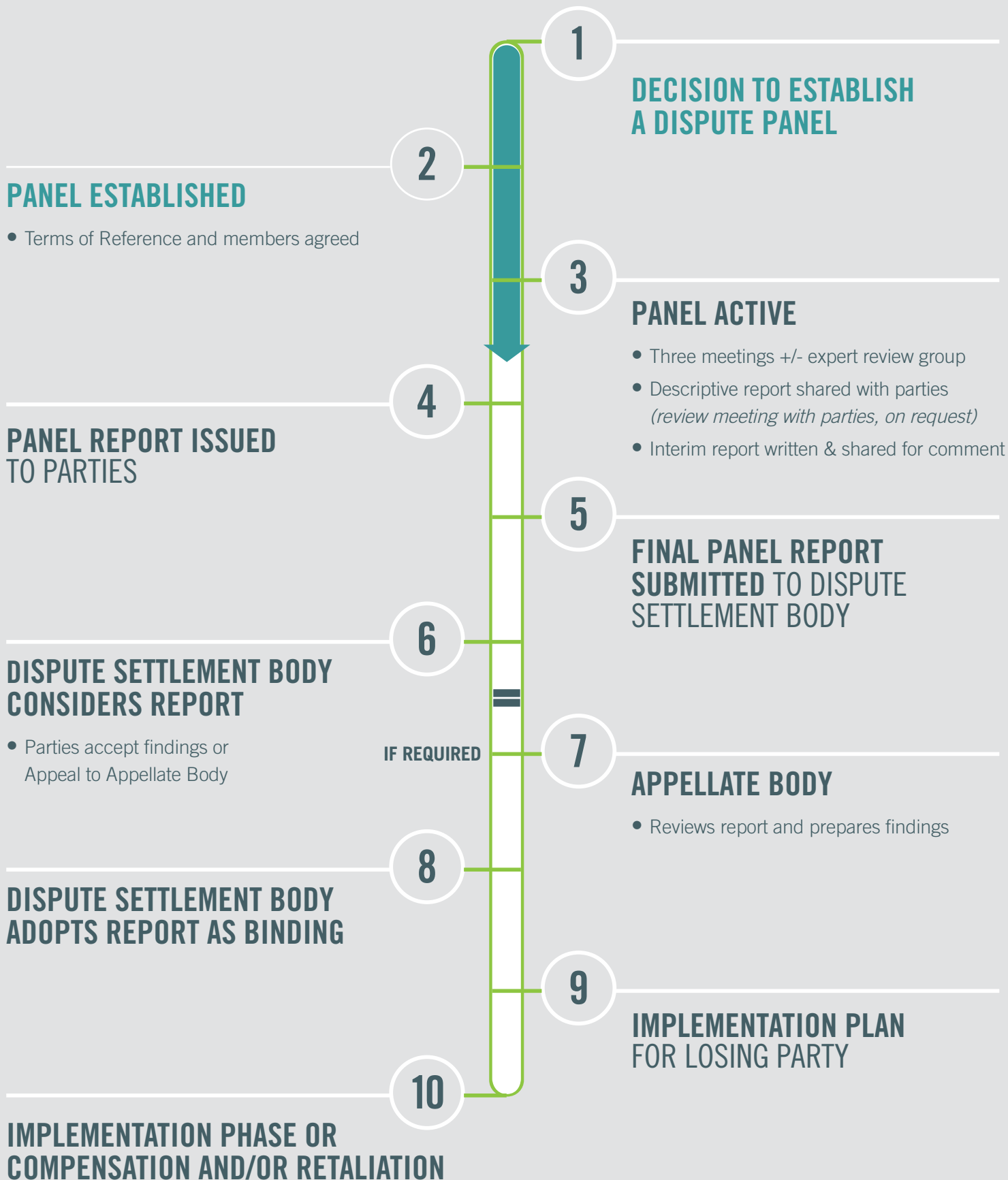
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WTO PANEL PROCESS

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GOVERNMENT COMPLAINANTS: **DS580 AUSTRALIA**, DS579 BRAZIL AND DS581 GUATEMALA



INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT MUST DO MORE

National Farmers' Federation chief executive **Tony Mahar** has called a recent report by the ABC of the alleged sexual harassment of female backpackers on a Queensland cane farm "horrifying" - saying industry and government must do more to better protect farm workers.

"The detailed accounts from a number of female backpackers of alleged sexual harassment by a farmer for whom they were working, are nothing short of horrifying," Mr Mahar said.

"I acknowledge the bravery of these the young women in speaking out and importantly, taking the matter up with police. All workers have the right to feel safe when working on Australian farms. Where an employer's actions are proven to have breached their legal obligation they must be held to account."

Mr Mahar said the NFF took seriously its role in ensuring workers had a positive experience on Australian farms and was developing a program to make clear that the sector would not tolerate sexual harassment and to ensure farm employers understood and discharged their legal and ethical obligations.

"The program is intended to drive cultural and behavioural change in the farm workplace. The NFF has also reached out to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner to have input into this important initiative.

"As a nation we are in the midst of an important time reflecting on and importantly taking action to ensure women are safe, are treated with respect and are valued. This conversation is happening at dinner tables, in schools and in workplaces across Australia and the agriculture sector is no exception.

"The majority of farmers act in accordance with the law and workers and farmers enjoy a positive partnership in getting food and fibre from farm to market. However, one instance of mistreatment or harassment is one too many."

Mr Mahar said the NFF's ongoing call to Government to reform the visa system could play an important role in protecting backpackers.

"A dedicated agriculture visa solution would require farm employers to be accredited to access the visa program. The accreditation process would include training and require a demonstrated knowledge of Australian workplace laws and regulations.

"Where an employer is found to have not met their obligations, their access to a dedicated agriculture visa could be denied."

Mr Mahar said the NFF encouraged farm employers to become accredited through the grower-led Fair Farms initiative. ■

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¹ AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE NUTRITION MANUAL June 2019 Chapter 21 : Silicon (Si) 91
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ASSCT BRINGS SMART SCIENCE AND INNOVATION TO BUNDABERG

The Australian sugar industry's premier technical and professional event is back in 2021 following a 12-month COVID-related delay, with the 42nd ASSCT Conference set to be held in Bundaberg later this month.

The theme of this year's conference is Smart Science and Innovation, with event organisers encouraging attendees to use the opportunity to collaborate and think outside the square, saying "hopefully by the end of the conference some new ideas and directions will be forged for the industry."

The keynote speaker will be **Richard Heath**, executive director of the Australian Farm Institute, director of the Grains Research and Development Corporation and former director Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars.

"Mr Heath is passionate about advancing the Australian agriculture industry and ensuring it stays profitable, sustainable, and competitive in the new global 'smart' agriculture space," ASSCT President **Neil Halpin** said.

The conference is open to anyone in the sugar industry; growers and researchers, engineers, millers and harvesting contractors, as well as corporate and extension staff.

During the main days of the conference, technical papers and the poster paper sessions will bring together both local and international experts, focusing on cutting edge research and innovative engineering.

"A key focus is ensuring our industry is viable into the future, and by sharing the latest ideas and findings we are ensuring a united approach to the advancement of the Australian sugar industry," Mr Halpin said.

"The ASSCT Annual Conference is Australia's premier sugar technologist forum and provides an opportunity for all sectors of the sugar industry to gather and share the latest in innovation, research and development. Set amongst the rich red soil of the region, Bundaberg is an ideal location to host this conference."

More than 250 delegates from Australia are expected to attend this year's conference at the Bundaberg Multiplex Convention Centre 20-23 April.

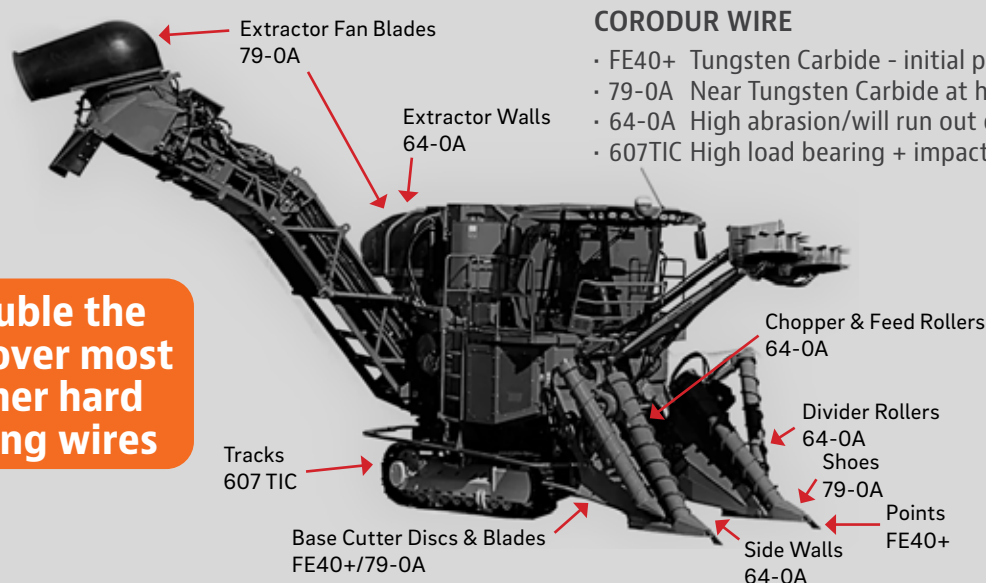
"We are keen to encourage stronger participation in the conference from the industry's younger generation," Mr Halpin said. "We had to cancel the event last year due to COVID-19 and we are keen to host the event in Bundaberg and showcase our local industry and region."

More information about the is available from the ASSCT website www.assct.com.au. ■

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CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

DO YOU HAVE MORE TO CONTRIBUTE?

The issues facing agriculture can be complex and challenging and the journey through them relies on the talent and contributions of all of our people.

Queensland's sugarcane industry is flush with talent and at CANEGROWERS we recognise that investing in our people is one of the best and most reliable investments we can make towards our collective prosperous future.

As I travel through the districts I meet people from diverse backgrounds, many with decades of experience, and multi-generational farming families who have literally devoted their life to the improvement of the industry.

Equally, we have a wealth of talented people who are new to the industry or are striving to find a pathway into a long-term future in cane growing.

Notably, and perhaps most acutely, there are many valued women across the sugarcane industry in critical roles in farm businesses, research and extension.

Our opportunity at CANEGROWERS is to facilitate a pathway for women to come forward into leadership roles if they wish to have greater impact.

While 50% of our CANEGROWERS district office managers are women, only a handful of our grower-elected directors are.

There is plenty of room for improvement and a tremendous opportunity to involve many more people in our organisation.

Recognising that a lot more can be done to tap into the significant skills that exist across our industry's community, our districts and representative structures are focussing on this ahead of the 2022 CANEGROWERS elections.

Next year, 86 grower representative positions will be open for nomination – every CANEGROWERS member can nominate and every member can vote.

There are 13 district boards, one in every Queensland sugarcane region. These district boards then send representatives to the CANEGROWERS Policy Council.

An industry built by growers needs the full diversity of grower voices at every level.

CANEGROWERS' objective is to improve the opportunities for anyone to enter leadership in a position and place that they are most interested in.

Along with district-level mentoring, a number of formal pathways are also available to help members towards active participation in leadership.

CANEGROWERS has offered opportunities for growers to participate in courses run by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

A negotiation skills development course has just been held for grower representatives and a forum, for current and future CANEGROWERS leaders, is being planned for May in Cairns.

CANEGROWERS has also been a supporter of the National Farmers' Federation Diversity in Agriculture Leadership Program, as we are committed to working with our colleague industries to open up more pathways for leadership for women. Applications for the 2021 program are now open to aspiring female leaders with a passion for agriculture.

All of these opportunities aim to encourage women who want to be an active participant in working for a secure, sustainable and profitable future for cane growers to take steps towards that goal in a way that is valued and valuable.

If any of this inspires or excites you to be more involved in CANEGROWERS, I invite you to contact us at info@canegrowers.com.au. ■





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CENTRAL GROWERS COMPARE

LATE SEASON HERBICIDE STRATEGIES

Growers recently inspected a herbicide trial conducted as part of SRA's Cane to Creek Mackay Whitsunday project. The project involves three demonstration sites within the region where nutrient and pesticide strategies are compared for water quality and productivity. The project aims to assist growers with management decisions around farm practices to increase production, profitability and environmental outcomes.



The results of the herbicide demonstration were presented to growers at a workshop on Friday 12 February at the trial site paddock just outside Sarina, in the Alligator Creek sub-catchment.

"We set up a trial comparing two residual controls and an enhanced knockdown application, with the aim of measuring water quality and effectiveness of weed control," said SRA Adoption Officer Steph Roberts.

"The aim was to see how a knockdown application compared to more traditional residual herbicide treatments.

"Being late in the season we reasoned that a knockdown application would offer less risk in terms environmental impact from run-off losses from the wet season. Shortly after the spray application, a heavy rain event reinforced the weather risk at this time of the year."

The trial involved two herbicides commonly used for the control of broadleaf weeds and vines - Bobcat i-maxx, Spark and the newer product Valor 500 WG. All were combined with paraquat.

Treatments were repeated twice across five dual rows each of 470 m in length.

Bobcat i-maxx (imazapic/hexazinone) was applied at 3.8 L/ha for residual control; Spark (imazapic) at 400 mL/ha also for residual control and Valor 500 WG (flumioxazin) at 120 g/ha for enhanced knockdown.

The treatments were applied on 8 December 2020 with a storm on 10 December 2020 resulting in 91mm of rain and subsequent run-off from the paddock.

Samples of paddock run-off revealed relatively high concentrations of imazapic and hexazinone (Spark and Bobcat i-maxx), whereas there was little flumioxazin (Valor 500 WG).

Further, the weed control nine weeks after the storm event was found to be better in the Valor 500 WG treatment as compared to the Spark and Bobcat i-maxx treatments.

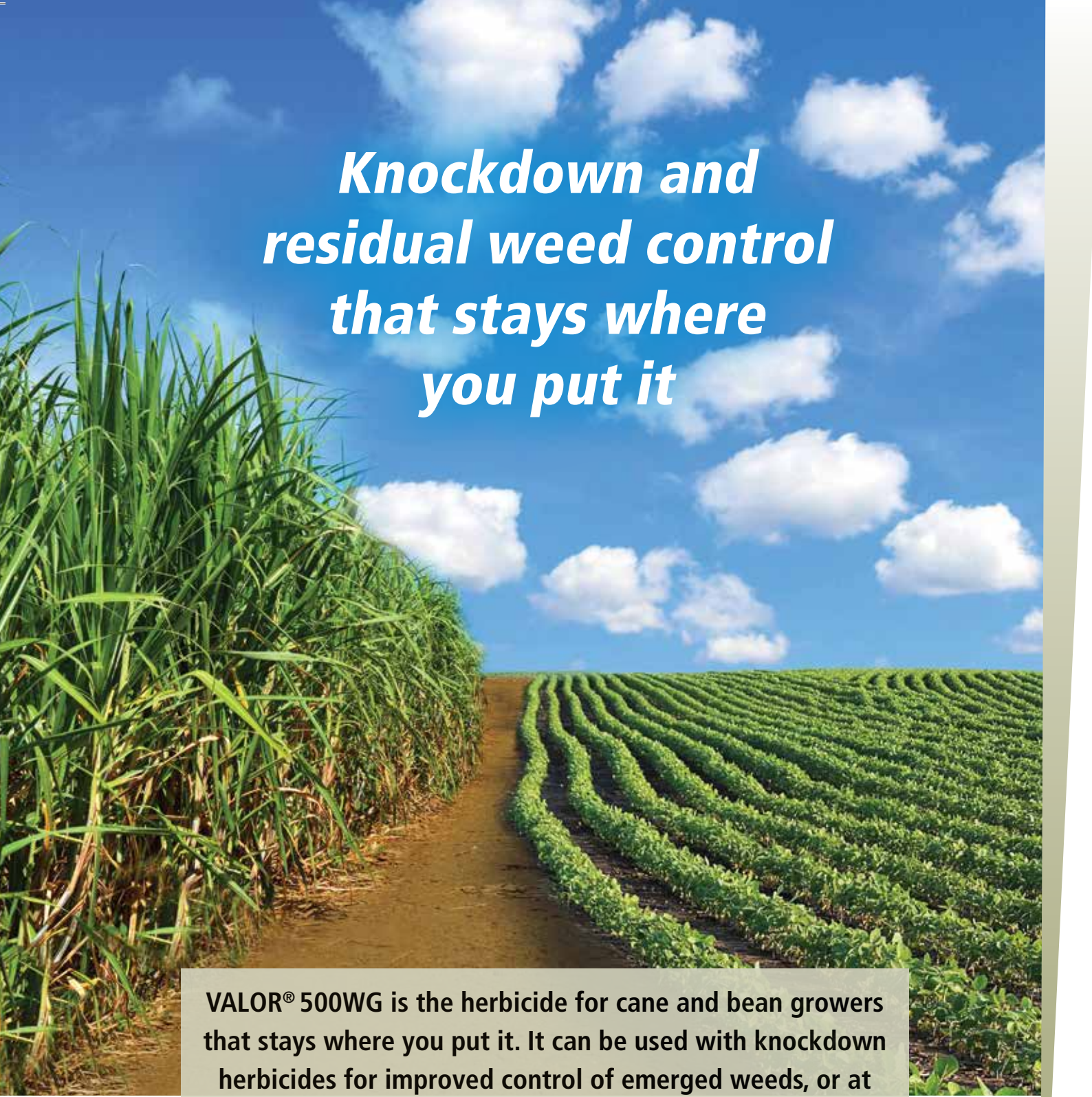
The results are most likely due to the chemical characteristics of the active constituents in the herbicides. Imazapic (Spark) and imazapic/hexazinone (Bobcat i-maxx) are more soluble and mobile than flumioxazin (Valor 500 WG) therefore more susceptible to being washed away in heavy rainfall events shortly after being applied, as happened in this trial.

The key message from this work is that for late season herbicide applications, the risk of environmental impact due to heavy rain events can be minimized by selecting herbicides with active constituents less prone to being washed away by rainfall, and by considering whether a knockdown strategy can replace residual herbicides when applied this late in the season.

Attendee growers were presented with the water quality data measured from the paddock and had the opportunity to walk through the paddock examining the weed control of the different herbicide treatments.

The Cane to Creek Mackay Whitsunday project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from Sugar Research Australia, Mackay Area Productivity Services and Plane Creek Productivity Services.■

Pictured above: Weed control results nine weeks after application for Spark (left) and Valor 500 WG (right). Note: heavy rain on site two days after herbicide applications.



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FROM THE CHAIR

By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS

It seems like only yesterday we ushered in the New Year. Time flies, and now at the end of March our crop prospects are a little clearer.

The most substantial factor impacting the 2021 crop has been the failure of the La Nina weather pattern to deliver above average rainfall across the Queensland sugar industry.

Some growers, particularly in the north, might disagree but the rain gauges tell us that the Burdekin, central, and southern growing regions, which normally contribute around 60% of Queensland's total cane tonnage, have had below average rainfall this year.

The southern region, and particularly the growers around Bundaberg, Isis and Maryborough, have been most affected by the dry conditions.

Initial estimates by CANEGROWERS predict a 2021 crop of around 28 million tonnes - down more than a million tonnes on 2020.

Predicting Queensland's cane crop can be as fraught as predicting its weather however, and widespread rain in April and May is not uncommon - so the story of the 2021 crop is far from complete.

Over the past few weeks, CANEGROWERS CEO Dan Galligan and I have been visiting a number of cane regions to meet and talk with members.

So far we've been to Mareeba, Mossman, Cairns, Babinda, Gordonvale, Innisfail and Tully. We plan to visit other districts throughout the year and these will be promoted through your local office.

I thank all of the members who have attended the meetings so far and offered their feedback. It is all vital to informing the policy direction we take as an organisation.

Whether it be on the issue of value adding and diversification, productivity, environmental regulation, or how we promote ourselves to the community - understanding the range of views held by members helps drive our strategy on the big issues facing the industry.

Members are the beating heart of CANEGROWERS. Without you, the organisation has no purpose or relevance.

Membership has been voluntary since around the year 2000. 21 years later, the organisation retains a membership of well over 70% of all the cane growers in Queensland.

CANEGROWERS is no different to most membership organisations around the world. It is the coming together of likeminded people for mutual protection and mutual benefit.

The greatest victories in history were won by those who acted together for a common goal. As the well-known proverb says, *"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"*.

It is the right of every cane grower in Queensland to be a member of CANEGROWERS, or equally, choose not to be a member.

When growers decide to leave the organisation, it is a decision that is carefully considered. That is why we spend time, resources and effort to ensure that growers understand the value of being a member of CANEGROWERS.

In recent times, it was CANEGROWERS and the Australian Sugar Milling Council that approached the Australian Government to launch action in the World Trade Organisation to challenge Indian export subsidies.

The Government acted decisively and launched the action. This would never have happened without members mandating the leadership of CANEGROWERS to act on their behalf.

The point to this example is that without CANEGROWERS members and the organisation's advocacy efforts on their behalf, the government would not have acted.

Governments don't just wake up in the morning and decide to do things for the sugar industry - it is the strength of our membership and presence that encourages governments to take action.

We are most effective when cane growers speak on behalf of cane growers. That might seem more than obvious, but it is important to remember that, because that is our strength. ■



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Government considering bypass changes

CANEGROWERS Mackay Chairman Kevin Borg has welcomed media reports that changes to the \$150 million Walkerston Bypass project are being considered, following CANEGROWERS Mackay's campaign to point out serious road safety risks with the plan.

Mr Borg said it was good to hear that the Department of Transport and Main Roads was investigating options, associated costs and impacts of requested design changes, adding he eager to hear more positive news from the Department soon.

"CANEGROWERS Mackay has argued for months that TMR's decision to require large cane farming vehicles to use a staggered T intersection to traverse the Walkerston Bypass in both directions once built will put motorists using the bypass at risk of accidents," said Mr Borg.

"CANEGROWERS Mackay drew on an independent engineering report to put forward a safer alternative to TMR whereby the traffic could be separated by a simple underpass.

"This would enable large farm vehicles like tractors, harvesters and cane haulout units to pass under the highway and carry out normal farming operations on the farmland on the other side," he said.

This is particularly important during the crushing season when an estimated 220 trips per day (22 large farm vehicles per hour) will cross the bypass, significantly adding to existing traffic volumes during peak periods, slowing traffic and increasing the risk of road accidents.

"The design in its current form is an accident waiting to happen," Mr Borg said. "Motorists' and our farmers' safety should be the Department's paramount concern," he said.

"We are pleased to hear the Department is 'considering' options, however, 'considering' is not decision-making and we look forward to a more positive outcome soon - certainly prior to the beginning of construction in three months' time - which will correct the safety risk to CANEGROWERS Mackay members and the motoring public who will use the Walkerston Bypass in their daily lives."

\$20K FOR TECH ADOPTION

Applications are now open for a new \$20,000 grant to assist with the delivery of workshops and other activities designed to help producers adopt new technologies.

The AgriFutures Australia Producer Technology Uptake Program is open to established producer groups in the farming, fisheries and forestry sectors who "know and understand the producer needs in their region and can help them overcome known barriers to adoption, including digital literacy, lack of understanding on the potential return on investment, and overall appetite for technology."

AgriFutures Australia Senior Manager, Rural Futures, Jennifer Medway said this new program will give producers a practical pathway to evaluate the role and value of new technology in their farming operations.

"Working with producer groups who can tailor opportunities to best meet the needs of local producers makes perfect sense. Eligible activities could be anything from trialing new technologies in the local environment, getting out on-farm to test new equipment, or seeking the knowledge of experts to assess the return on investment and demystify how to use particular technologies," said Ms Medway.

For further information visit: www.agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/producer-technology-uptake-program/

Applications close Thursday, 22 April 2021.

Cane Harvester Parts





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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WOMEN IN SUGAR AUSTRALIA 2021 CONFERENCE

“We are looking forward to seeing our farming friends from other districts at our conference in Mackay in May.”

CANEGROWERS NETWORK Mackay District

Are you a woman involved in the sugar industry - growing, contracting, milling or providing professional services?

After a COVID delay, the CANEGROWERS NETWORK Mackay District is excited to be hosting a two-day conference to build friendships and knowledge within cane growing regions and across the industry.

The 2021 Women in Sugar Australia (WISA) Conference will be held in Mackay on 10-11 May.

The conference theme is 'Farming Friendships' and individuals and groups from all sugarcane regions are warmly encouraged to attend.

If you arrive in Mackay on the Sunday 9 May, there will be a meet and greet at the Shakespeare International Hotel with pizza for all to enjoy. You can register then and receive your conference material to avoid a queue on Monday morning.

The conference proper will begin with a day of guest speakers and networking opportunities at the Mackay Tennis clubhouse followed by an evening of barefoot bowls and a buffet dinner at the Mackay City Bowls Club.

Day two is a bus tour around the Mackay, Pioneer Valley and Sarina districts.

Partners are also welcome to register and attend all or part of the conference.

CANEGROWERS NETWORK Mackay District requests that you register by 12 April 2021 so arrangements can be finalised in plenty of time for the event to run smoothly.

A conference registration form is included on page 18 of this edition of *Australian Canegrower*. ■

WISA 2021 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

DAY 1: MONDAY 10 MAY

Conference Day – Mackay Tennis Association Inc

125 Kippen St, Mackay

8:30am – 3:30pm

Parking available in front of Clubhouse

Barefoot Bowls & Buffet – Mackay City Bowls Club

305 Shakespeare St, Mackay (entry via Shaw St)

5:30pm – 11:30pm

DAY 2: TUESDAY 11 MAY

Bus Tour - Meet at Mackay Tennis Association

(please park only on Kippen St and wear closed in shoes and sun safe clothing)

8am – 3pm (approx.)

A number of Mackay accommodation venues are close to the conference venue:

Shakespeare Motel: 309 Shakespeare St, Mackay
PH: 07 4969 0200 E: admin@shakespearemotel.com.au

- Offering a WISA Discount if you phone or email to book direct
- All room rates include continental breakfast

Coral Sands Motel: 44 Macalister St, Mackay

Quest Mackay: 38 Macalister St, Mackay – studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments

Rydges Mackay Suites: 9 Gregory St, Mackay

Oaks Carlyle: 23 Alfred St, Mackay – hotel rooms, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments

Ibis Mackay: Christensen Circuit, Mackay Airport

Many other choices of motels along Nebo Road.



2021 Conference: *Farming Friendships*

Mackay: Monday 10 – Tuesday 11 May

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM



FULL REGISTRATION

☐ \$77.00 (inc. GST) All conference meals, social bowls, bus tour for 1 person

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Organisation / Business you represent (if applicable): _____

PART REGISTRATION

☐ \$44.00 (inc. GST) Monday daytime only

☐ \$33.00 (inc. GST) Monday night bowls and buffet only (per person) ☐ \$44.00 (inc. GST) Tuesday Bus Tour only (per person)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Mobile: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____ Monday night Social Bowls Yes / No

☐ I will need a seat on the bus for Day 2 **OR** ☐ I will provide my own transport for Day 2

Registration must be returned before MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021

Payment Methods – EFT preferred

☐ EFT

Account: Mackay Canegrowers Limited

BSB: 084789

Account No: 577477567

REF: *Your Surname WISA*

Email Registration Form to: mkyreception@canegrowers.com.au

☐ Cheque / Cash / Credit Card

Payable to: Mackay Canegrowers Limited

Address: PO Box 117, Mackay, QLD, 4740

Phone: 07 4944 2600

ATTN: Accounts– 2021 WISA

All Enquiries: Secretary – Marice Perna

E: mariceperna@gmail.com

M: 0428 316 924



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An update for our grower shareholders...

In the face of ongoing global challenges, STL continues to focus on what matters most to our customers and our shareholders. For customers, we are working hard to reduce operating costs without compromising the quality of our services. For shareholders, we continue to improve the value of your investment and examine opportunities to diversify our income.

Staying safe

It is pleasing to report that our operations team continues to work safely, with no lost time injuries recorded over the last six months. In addition, STL and our operations partner QSL have remained focussed on ensuring all of our sites and all of the people who work there are COVID safe to ensure continuity of operations. We are pleased to report no employees or workers across our operations have tested positive to the virus to date.

Half year results

In March, STL announced its results for the six months ended 31 December 2020, including a net profit after tax of \$13.6 million, which was slightly better than the same period in 2019.

Financial indicators	H1 FY21	H1 FY20
Net profit after tax	\$13.6 million	\$13.3 million
Return on assets ¹	7.35%	7.33%
Share price	\$1.020	\$1.025
Interim dividend per share	3.6 cents	3.6 cents

¹ H1 NPAT, annualised, as a percentage of total assets as at 31 December

Here's a quick summary of the highlights of the first half of the financial year:

- STL terminals received 3.6 million tonnes of raw sugar over the six months, up 3.7% on 2019.
- The \$12 million re-roofing project at Shed 1 in Mackay was completed safely, on time and on budget.
- STL and QSL Operations continued to work together to deliver productivity and efficiency improvements and cost savings across our operations.
- STL signed an agreement with Gladstone Ports Corporation to commence detailed design on common user infrastructure to complement STL's existing operations at the Port of Bundaberg. If the project proceeds, it will enable STL to grow its service offering to customers with other commodities.

We were also pleased to welcome our new CEO David Quinn, who commenced with STL in October 2020 (following the retirement of John Warda). David brings extensive experience in supply chain logistics, asset management and business expansion which will be invaluable to STL in the next phase of our development.

Townsville reroofing begins

The final stage of our \$100 million state-wide reroofing program has commenced in Townsville, with a \$22 million project to reroof two of the four sheds at the facility over the next 18 months. We have engaged BESIX Watpac to deliver the project, which will employ up to 50 people on site and extend the life of the sugar export infrastructure in Townsville by at least 40 years.

The project will see new aluminium cladding as well as upgrading and strengthening of structural steel elements on Sheds 1 and 2, which were commissioned in 1959 and 1965 respectively.

Outlook

STL will continue to focus on optimising costs through commercial and operational best practice, and developing opportunities for complementary storage and handling activities – while maintaining raw sugar as our highest priority.

STL offers a "safe pair of hands" for customers and shareholders alike in an environment of increased volatility and uncertainty for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

Mark Gray
Chairman



QSL MARKET UPDATE

Current as of 25 March 2021.

Sugar



- The Mar21 ICE #11 contract expiry saw a total of 893,166 mt 'delivered to the tape'. While this represented a decent-sized delivery, it was not the record the market was expecting. The mixed bag of sellers, including Indian, Centre South Brazil and Central American producers, gave the market little indication of the global raw sugar supplies available and therefore did not immediately push the market in either direction.
- A volatile month of raw sugar trading on small volumes saw the May21 contract remain range bound between 16.70 and 15.80 US cents for the majority of the month before breaking lowering in the final week off the back of plunging oil and ethanol prices.
- Crude oil performed strongly for the majority of the month before a political feud between the United States and Russian sent prices spiralling 8% lower in one day. A recently announced third wave of lockdowns throughout Europe has also put downward pressure on the demand for oil and subsequently pushing the price lower.
- With only 10 mills still running (out of 57 total), the Thai crush is winding up quickly despite the cane crop sitting 11.5% before this point last year. Final estimates are around 67.7 million tonnes of cane and 7.57 million tonnes of sugar expected.
- **Closely watching:** May21 contract expiry, start of Brazilian harvest, macroeconomic influences, speculative activity, and overall technical indicators.

KEY INDICATORS

	25/03/2021	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (MAY21)	15.63 USc/lb	-1.26 USc/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.50 BRL	+0.12 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US64.62/barrel	+\$US1.17
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	14.395 USc/lb	-0.04 USc/lb
Net Spec Position	190,000 (net long)	-22,000

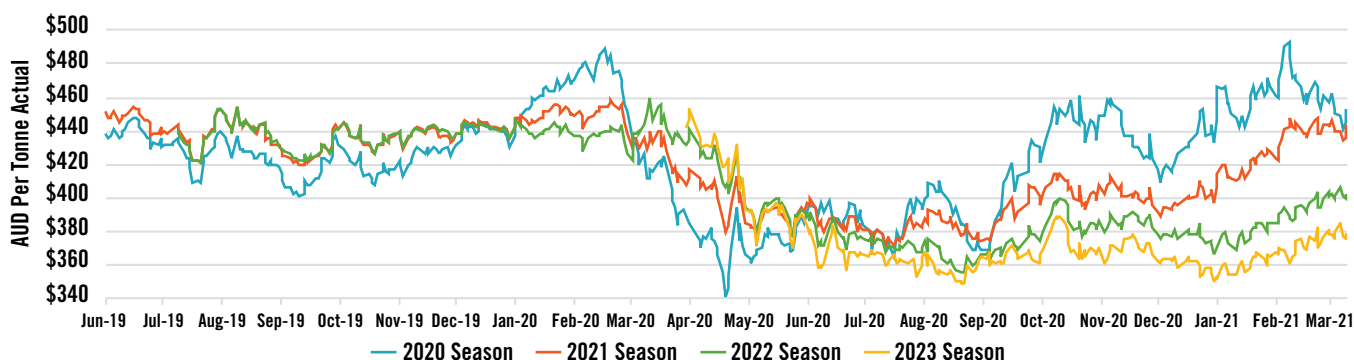
Currency



- The Australian dollar traded sideways for the majority of March in a comfortable 77-80 US cent range.
- The Aussie dollar enjoyed a boost from outstanding February employment results, once again reinforcing the strength of the Australian economy rebounding from COVID-19. The national data release revealed total employment rose 88.7k full time jobs and the unemployment rate fell from 6.3% down to 5.8%.
- Unsurprisingly, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) left the cash rate unchanged at 0.10% at their monthly board meeting on the 2nd of March. The stance on leaving the cash rate untouched for the next three years was reiterated, but it was hinted that the newly announced quantitative easing program could be extended if needed.
- Rising US Treasury bond yields continue to rise, putting downward pressure on the Australian dollar. Despite no evidence as yet, market participants remain fearful of rising inflation in the United States off the back of a low cash rate and large fiscal stimulus packages providing a platform for the economy to rapidly recover.
- **AUD/USD trading range going forward:** 76-82 US cents by the end of 2021.
- **Risks Ahead:** COVID-19 vaccine news and economic recovery, US politics, Australia-China relationships, RBA commentary.

	25/03/2021	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7723	-\$US0.0170
\$US Index	91.74	+1.47
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.51 CNY	+0.06 CNY
S+P 500 Index	3,940.59	+34.59
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 25.03.21, based on the Target Price Contract's current 5:1 pricing ratio for the 2020 Season and 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Seasons.

Disclaimer: This report contains information of a general or summary nature and is based on information available to QSL from many sources. While all care is taken in the preparation of this report, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided in the document is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment advice. You should seek your own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms, which are contained on QSL's website. Nothing contained in this report should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters or that a particular outcome will be achieved. Information about past performance is not an indication of future performance. The information in the report is current as at the time of publication and is subject to change, as the information is based on many assumptions and is subject to uncertainties inherent in any market. 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.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE



Grower Pricing



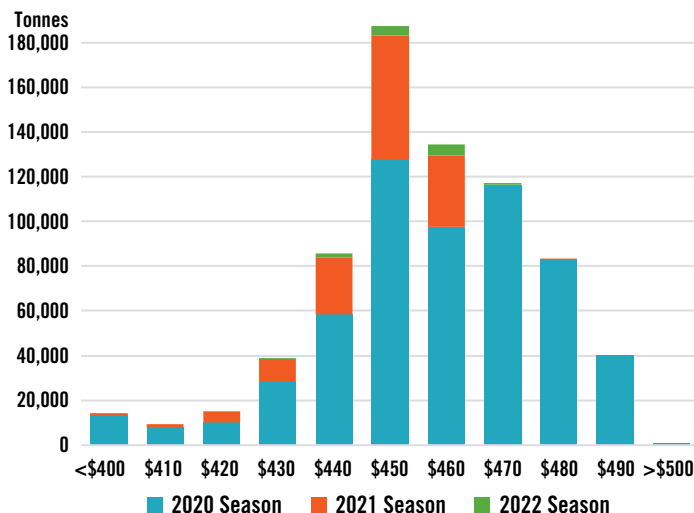
Important Dates –

- > **14th April:** The QSL Standard Advance Rate will increase by 2.5% to 90%.
- > **20th April:** Final pricing day for the 2020-Season Target Price Contract. Any unpriced tonnage after this date will be priced at the next market opportunity.
- > **30th April:** 2021 QSL Pricing Declaration Date is the last day for growers to nominate to their chosen QSL-Managed or Grower-Managed pricing product for the 2021 Season. Any 2021-Season tonnage not nominated to a QSL pricing option will default to the Harvest Pool.

Marketing Sessions –

Herbert River and Burdekin marketing sessions with Treasury Manager Ginette Barrett 12th-18th April. RSVP to James Formosa (Herbert River) on 0447 062 213 or Kristen Paterson (Burdekin) on 0438 470 235.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2020, 2021 & 2022 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 25.03.21 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

Strong Shared Pool result

QSL's 2020-Season Shared Pool is currently returning approximately an extra \$30/tonne IPS (weighted average) to growers on top of their gross pool and grower-managed pricing results.

This strong result primarily reflects the higher physical premiums available for raw sugar sales during the past year.

In a physical sugar transaction, sugar buyers pay a value above the ICE 11 contract sugar price. This is known as the CFR premium and is made up of 2 components – the physical premium and the freight cost.

Physical premiums operate in their own market, that while linked to the ICE 11, represents the more fundamental aspects of the sugar trade, including how much physical sugar is available for delivery and how much demand is present during specific periods.

The difference in freight costs between the world's major raw sugar suppliers (Brazil, Thailand, India and Australia) also shapes premium levels, as does supply chain flexibility, the quality attributes of the supply, various trade agreements and counterparty quality.

Since early last year when the 2019/2020 Thai crop declined substantially, physical premiums have been trading at historically elevated levels. Trade flows have been tight, with demand at times outstripping supply.

Asia represents the largest destination for traded raw sugar and over the past decade, refiners in this region had become used to a plentiful supply of Thai sugar, with cheap physical premiums by virtue of their close location and cheaper shipping costs.

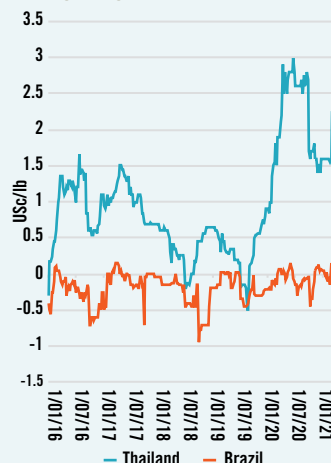
Suddenly, this Asian supply was significantly smaller and buyers have had to pay sellers higher premiums to secure supply of physical sugar. The 2020/2021 Thai crop has declined further, leading to further strength in these premiums.

Logistical constraints posed by large volumes being shipped out of the major Brazilian sugar port (Santos) have also been supportive of higher physical premiums. The recent strength in freight rates have also supported the value of Aussie sugar versus Brazilian supply.

With refined sugar futures contracts trading at a healthy premium over the raw sugar futures contracts for the better part of 9 months, sugar refiners have been incentivising to lock-up supply. As a result, most are willing to pay a higher physical premium to achieve this – and these are passed on to QSL growers through the Shared Pool.

With the next (larger) Thai crop not coming online until the end of this year, a smaller 2021 Brazil crop forecast and an aggressive rally in freight rates, physical premiums are expected to remain strong until at least the first quarter of 2022.

HISTORICAL PHYSICAL PREMIUM AT LOADPORT



Grant shapes positive outlook in Burdekin sugarcane industry

Supplied by QRIDA

Almost 80 hectares of sugarcane thriving in the Burdekin region is testament to Bruce and Natasha Davies' decision to access disaster recovery assistance.

A North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure co-contribution grant allowed the family farming enterprise, Front Row Farming Co, to recover years earlier than it otherwise would have following the monsoon trough that swept through north and far north Queensland in 2019.

Close to two years since the disaster, Bruce says the enterprise "isn't perfect", but the grant, administered through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) on behalf of the Australian Government, allowed them to get back to business.

"We've put a big hole in the recovery and we're operational – that's the key thing," he said.

Recovery efforts are focused on securing viability, maintaining business resilience, and replacing lost crops and damaged infrastructure.

The North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure Grant allowed them to get to work, drawing down when seasons permitted.

"It's very helpful to be able to draw down when seasons permit because we can't do anything in the wet season here," Bruce said. "Our income comes from production, so we needed to maximise the tonnes of cane we could produce."

"The recovery would have been so much slower without the grant, it could have been five to ten years. We're back to being operational and the grant has been of great assistance."

"QRIDA has been very quick, which has allowed us to do even more."

Bruce and Natasha were referred to the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure Grant by their accountant which started the application process off for them.

"We've had to make sure we have enough money to keep moving, and that's where QRIDA's grant has been fantastic. (The grant) has been super helpful replacing some infrastructure," Bruce said.

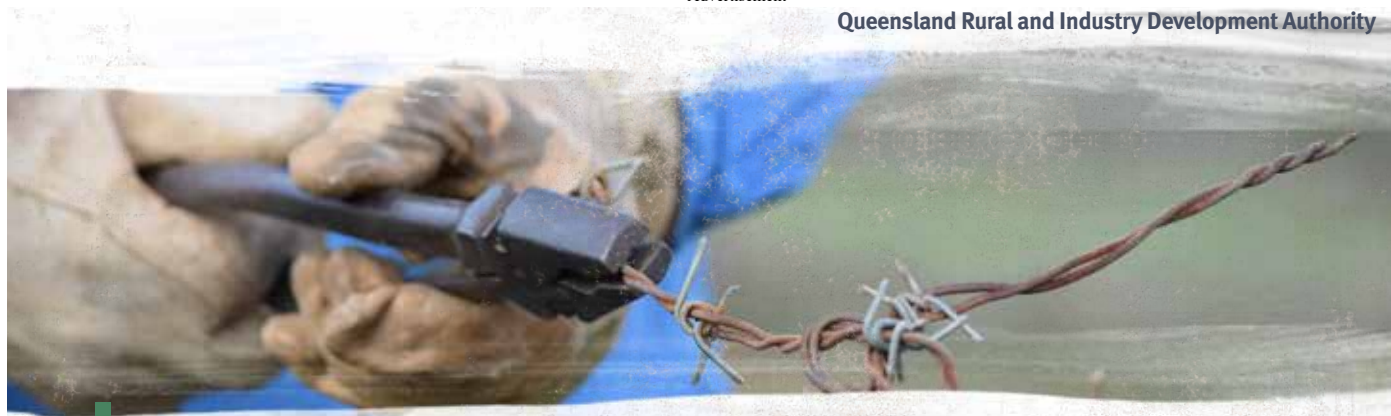
For more information, contact the QRIDA team on Freecall **1800 623 946** or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au. ■



Pictured: Burdekin cane growers and father and son duo Alex and Bruce Davies.

Advertisement

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority



Restock, Replant, Repair your farm business

Are you a primary producer who was affected by the North and Far North Queensland monsoon trough in early 2019?

A **Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure co-contribution grant** can help carry out your long-term recovery plans*. With up to **\$400,000** available, you can restock, replant and repair for the future. Make a start on your application today.

Eligibility criteria apply. To find out more talk to your local Regional Area Manager on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or visit www.qrida.qld.gov.au

The North Queensland Restocking, Replanting & On-farm Infrastructure Grants are funded by the Australian Government and administered by QRIDA.

**The information contained herein is for general information purposes only. You should not rely upon this information as a basis for making any business, legal or any other decisions.*



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Queensland Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, Turbot St, Brisbane

TULLY GROWERS CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY

The achievements of two major Tully farming projects were shared and celebrated with growers during the Tully Sustainable Farming Day event at the showgrounds on 17 March.



Sugar Research Australia's Cane to Creek Project and the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP) have worked closely with Tully growers in the cane and banana industries over the past four years to increase understanding of water quality science and improve practices.

Acting MIP Project Manager **Fiona George** outlined how the project has worked with growers, scientists, and industry to help provide answers to growers' water quality questions.

"Three questions underpin the work we do: 'Show me it's my N [nitrogen]', 'Am I making a difference?' and 'What else can I do?'"

"Through the project's Local Scale Monitoring program, we've been able to supply relevant, localised data back to growers that relates to their farm and catchment."

The project has taken an integrated approach to improving and testing water quality, by trialling a range of catchment repair systems such as wetlands and vegetated drains and implementing an intensive monitoring program at the paddock and sub-catchment level.

"Wetlands and vegetated drains are showing promising results in improving water quality," Ms George said.

Event organiser and CANEGROWERS Tully MIP Extension Officer **Maria Ribbeck** said the event was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements and successes of the projects and acknowledge the vital role growers have in working together to achieve results.

"The success of these projects would not be possible without co-operation and commitment from growers.

"This event acknowledged what we've been able to accomplish by working together, and also provided helpful information for farmers on local agribusiness support and suppliers."

Twenty-five exhibitors, including extension, agribusiness and farmer-led groups participated in the day, which concluded with a 'Where's my N?' workshop presented by **David Hardwick** from Soil Land Food.■



Pictured: (top) David Hardwick presenting a 'Where's my N?' workshop; (middle) Alex Lindsay (CANEGROWERS Tully) and grower Danny Pantovic (below) CANEGROWERS members Chris Condon and Simon Mattsson.



The event is organised by the Wet Tropics MIP, Sugar Research Australia, Tully Sugar Ltd and the Australian Banana Growers' Council.

SOME LIKE TO FISH I LOVE TO FARM

For Cairns Region cane grower Daniel Messina farming is more than a job, it's a lifelong passion. But like countless small and medium-sized cane growers across Queensland, Daniel is forced to work off-farm to keep that passion alive. Thankfully, recent innovations in sugar marketing are giving growers like Daniel a bit more income security.

BY WAYNE GRIFFIN

When he's not in the paddock, which is the case Monday to Friday, Daniel is doing the rounds of far north Queensland's cane farms in his role as Queensland Sugar Limited's (QSL) Grower Relationship Manager.

"It's a great job and I enjoy it a lot — I feel as though I'm one of the lucky ones because I get to do two jobs that I'm passionate about, and when you've got bills to pay unfortunately growing cane alone doesn't always cut it" Daniel said when *Australian Canegrower* visited his Babinda cane farm — one of three properties that total 120 hectares.

"I've had a passion for the industry all my life. I'm a third-generation cane grower, but in saying that, I've done my own thing all my life. I haven't taken over the family farm or anything like that."

He may not have taken over the family farm, but Daniel never strayed far from the industry.

Upon finishing school in 1994 he took up a fitter and turner apprenticeship at the now non-existent Babinda Mill, before going to work at Bundaberg Sugar's then new Tableland Mill in 1998.

But getting back to the farm was never far from his mind, so to make that dream

"To me farming is not a job, it's a passion and something I love doing. It's my thing, my release."





a reality Daniel did what many young men in the north have done — he went to work in the mines in 1999.

"I was in the mines for a few years. The money was good, but it was always just a means to an end. It was always about getting back to the farm," he said.

That dream finally came true in 2000, when he bought his first farm at Bartle Frere. But from the get-go, being a full-time cane grower wasn't an option.

No Robinson Crusoe

For five years Daniel was a fly-in, fly-out farmer, before returning to Babinda full-time in 2005. A stint as a haulout driver followed, before moving into the ag inputs business in 2007.

Over the next few years he worked on getting his qualifications in agronomy so he could better help himself and other growers make the right decisions for their farms.

In 2012, he took on a role with Ravensdown, when the Kiwi fertiliser company joined forces with CANEGROWERS in a bid to bring competition to the Queensland fertiliser market.

When that venture fell over in 2014, Daniel worked with another fertiliser company and tried to fill the vacuum left by Ravensdown to ensure growers continued to have competitive prices.

It was during this time, in 2016, that he saw another avenue to help growers, as a Grower Relationship Manager with QSL.

"Being a grower, I've always tried to champion the cause of the grower. I understand what it's like to get the bills at the end of the month, so if I could play a part in keeping the costs as low as possible for growers, that's what I wanted to do," he says.

Today, more than 20 years after purchasing the first of his three farms, he still holds down a full-time day job, farming on the weekends.

"I get contract planters and harvesters in, but everything in between — the land preparation, the spraying, fertilising - I do that myself. You're really relying on the weather being right on the weekend so you can get work done."

"To me farming is not a job, it's a passion and something I love doing. I always say, some people like to fish, I love to farm. That's my thing, my release, whatever you want to call it.

Pictured: Babinda grower Daniel Messina is one of the many cane growers relying on a second job to make ends meet and enable them to continue growing sugarcane.

Continues next page ►



"When you're growing sugarcane the returns can be very skinny, so if you aren't large scale, you've probably got a second job."

Pictured: (above) Daniel with his Italian Maremma, Kimba, juggles farming and family and (above far right) shares his passion for farming with his young daughter Marina.

"I'm not Robinson Crusoe. A lot of people in the industry are doing what I'm doing with a second job off-farm. To be honest, I can't think of too many people in this region that don't have a second job.

"The fact is, when you're growing sugarcane the returns can be very skinny, so if you aren't large scale, you've probably got a second job."

While not complaining about his lot in life, Daniel does worry that the reliance of so many growers on a second job may spell trouble for the industry down the track.

"I think it might be a problem eventually, but I hope I'm wrong," he says.

"What you have now is a niche group of people who grow sugarcane because they love it. But when you can make five times the money working in the mines or somewhere else, you're going to find it hard to attract new people to the industry."

Holding down a full-time job and farming on the weekends can also put a strain on family life for many growers, Daniel says.

With a three-year-old daughter running around the farm and another bub due any day now, family time is something that weighs heavily on his mind.

"When you work a full-time job all week but then have to come home and work on the farm at the weekend, it doesn't leave a lot of family time.

"Thankfully that's only really a problem for maybe four or five months of the year, then in the slack season you have more

time to spend with the family, but it can be difficult at times.

"If you compare it to my early years at the mines — when you were gone, you were gone, but when you were here you could spend all your time with the family.

"Having said that, I still wouldn't trade the farming for going back to the mines. You can take the man off the land but you can't take the land out of the man. You also can't put a price on putting your head on your own pillow at night."

Choice and pricing power

Small and medium sized family farms have been at the heart of Queensland's sugar industry for more than a century.

But in recent decades, as farming has become ever more mechanised and technologically advanced, the cost of growing cane has risen.

At the same time, deregulation of the industry has left growers exposed to a volatile world market where prices can fluctuate wildly.

While many large scale operators can take advantage of economies of scale, adopting the newest methods and technologies on farm, small and medium-sized growers have struggled to keep up and have been forced to find additional income off farm.

But Daniel believes recent innovations in the marketing space are giving a little bit of power and certainty back to small and medium-sized growers.



"I was director with CANEGROWERS Cairns Region in 2014 when the mills put QSL on notice that they were pulling out of single-desk marketing arrangement, without any consultation with growers," he says.

"It scared a lot of people at the time, especially small growers who were already operating at a disadvantage, but at least they knew that QSL, as a not-for-profit industry-owned company, had their best interests at heart.

"Looking back on it now, it's a really great example of the industry's ability to come together and fight for a cause, and win.

"Full credit to **Paul Schembri** and the CANEGROWERS Board, and also the members and directors at district level, they really took up the fight on behalf of growers to ensure they had choice in marketing.

"It's a legacy that will be remembered for a long time. And I don't think we should ever lose sight of how important it is to have choice.

"Sugarcane is a unique industry, with unique constraints on who growers can sell their product to, so you need to have some legislation to ensure there's competition in marketing to protect the interests of growers."

The introduction in December 2015 of grower choice in marketing legislation on the back of CANEGROWERS' two-year campaign has opened up a huge range of marketing options that enable growers to take control of their own destiny and

decide what products and prices work best for their business.

"There are so many options available to growers now, not just choice of marketer, but also the choice of different price pools, how much risk you're willing to take and if you want to lock in a price for future seasons," Daniel says.

"Everybody has a different business model, everyone has a different profit level — what's profitable for one business might not be profitable for another — and everyone has a different level of risk that they're willing to accept.

"To me, as a grower, it's all about mitigating risk. I'm okay to miss out on \$20-\$30 a tonne on the upside, so long as I also miss out on \$50-\$60 a tonne on the downside.

"So, when the prices are at a level that works for me, that helps me mitigate my risk while making a profit, that's when I'll lock them in.

"That may not work for someone else. They may want to hold out for a better price because that suits their business, but that's the beauty about choice. It enables each individual to make their own decisions about what works best for their business.

"For me it's been invaluable. We're in an environment where we're at the mercy of the world market price, we have ever-increasing regulation — there are so many uncertainties there, so if you have something that can give you a bit of certainty around what you'll get

paid for your crop, it just mitigates that uncertainty a bit."

While a growing number of cane farmers are taking full advantage of the pricing options available to them — researching the market for themselves, participating in QSL workshops and even signing up for CANEGROWERS' new pricing essentials TAFE course — some of the older generation have been slower to come on board, wary of making a misstep in the new marketing landscape.

"The demographics of the industry are changing, albeit slowly, but there are younger growers coming up and they really want to be more involved. They like the idea of taking that control of the pricing mechanisms for their farming business and are more comfortable with the process.

"But for some of the older generation, they do prefer what they'd been used to, which is only natural. When I speak to them about the options available I try to take some of the fear factor out of the new system by fostering a better understanding and then they can decide themselves what they are comfortable with.

"Little by little, I think it's working. The number of growers taking control of their pricing destiny is increasing and even small and medium-sized growers are starting to feel a bit more secure and confident in their future. And it gives growers the option to make their own decisions based on what works for their business." ■

ANNUAL YELLOW CRAZY ANT TASKFORCE

Supplied by Wet Tropics Management Authority

The Wet Tropics Management Authority in partnership with the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC) Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee will be holding its annual yellow crazy ant taskforce over the week of 17-21 May 2021. Workers will survey sugarcane headlands for the invasive ants which can impact cane productivity through farming scale insects and undermining stools.

The annual taskforce brings together workers and participants from a range of state and local governments, Traditional Custodians, and non-government organisations to undertake a large body of work in a short time. As well as providing a valuable workforce, the taskforce serves an educational role in training workers throughout Far North Queensland in the identification of yellow crazy ants.

The Authority's Sugar Industry Liaison Officer Wes Moller said the time is right for the program to expand its survey efforts.

"Over the last seven years we have concentrated our efforts on delimitation and treatment of known infestations in Sawmill Pocket and Mount Peter. Most of those areas have now transitioned to spot treatment and long-term monitoring phases. It's time to ensure we have identified every last infestation in the district." Mr Moller said.

Yellow crazy ants may be moved during planting and harvest activities. To reduce the risk of accidental movement of yellow crazy ants the Authority has worked closely with farmers, contractors, MSF Sugar and CANEGROWERS to develop innovative 'traffic light' maps to keep farmers and contractors informed and plan their operations.

"Our focus is on working with industry to achieve eradication," Mr Moller said. "The ongoing support from farmers and the sugar industry has been crucial in achieving our current level of success." ■

Pictured: Wesley Moller Wet Tropics Management Authority's sugar industry liaison officer inspects yellow crazy ants farming scale insects.

To report suspected yellow crazy ants or for enquiries about the taskforce:

Gareth Humphreys - Taskforce Coordinator

0455 095 690

gareth.humphreys@wtma.qld.gov.au

Wesley Moller – Sugar Industry Liaison Officer

0436 613 383

wesley.moller@wtma.qld.gov.au



REPORT YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

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P: (07) 4241 0525 | E: yca@wtma.qld.gov.au
W: www.wettropics.gov.au/yellow-crazy-ant | Facebook: @ycawettropics



PLANT CANE - A PREMIUM AUSTRALIAN CANE SPIRIT FROM BUNDABERG

Supplied by Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing Company Pty Ltd

International-award winning Bundaberg artisan distillery Kalki Moon has announced the long-awaited release of the first of its Cane Farmer Series of premium rums and cane spirits - Plant Cane.

Founded in 2017 by former Bundaberg Rum Master Distiller Rick Prosser, Kalki Moon Distilling and Brewing Co is Bundaberg's most exciting artisan distillery and is owned and operated by the multi-generational Prosser family.

With a vision to always be a small batch rum producer, Kalki Moon has built its reputation on its internationally-lauded gins, whilst quietly developing its rums and cane spirits over the years.

Inspired by the rich agricultural community of the Bundaberg region, the first of these is Plant Cane, a premium Australian cane spirit. The lovely light-coloured spirit delivers the trademark flavour of Bundaberg's red soil sugarcane, with a light finish that nods to the easy southern Great Barrier Reef climate.

"The Cane Farmer Series pays homage to the men and women who have farmed our great land and grown sugarcane in the Bundaberg region for over a century," said Rick Prosser.

"The region is built on the back of our agricultural industry, and our farmers here in Bundaberg feed the nation from our rich red soils.

"All of our most famous exports have been born from the sugarcane, and it's always been my calling since I learned my craft from the legendary local distillers to have my own range of spirits to pay tribute to my hometown of Bundaberg."



ADVERTISING FEATURE

A perfect base for light summer classics like Mojitos and Daiquiris, Plant Cane will also hold its own in a Light & Stormy, complementing the rich gingers of the region's iconic brewed drink, or in colas.

The Cane Farmer series will join Kalki Moon's range of premium small-batch spirits, as well as its popular range of gins, vodkas and liqueurs.

The Distillery's gins have been awarded medals at Australian Distilled Spirits Awards and International Wine and Spirits Competition and draw on iconic Bundaberg and native Australian ingredients such as ginger, finger limes, lemon and cinnamon myrtles for their botanicals

Plant Cane went on sale Saturday 19 December 2020 from the Distillery Cellar Door and online at kalkimoon.com. ■



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QSuper and Sunsuper announce Heads of Agreement

The QSuper Board and Sunsuper Pty Ltd have announced they had signed a Heads of Agreement to merge and create a \$200 billion superannuation fund, servicing two million members and open to all Australians.

QSuper Chair Don Luke and Sunsuper Chair Andrew Fraser announced the agreement in Brisbane where the merged fund will be headquartered. The merger is planned to proceed in September 2021.

The Chair of the merged fund will be Don Luke and a Board, drawn from the existing boards, has been named.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be Bernard Reilly, current CEO of Sunsuper.

Both Chairs welcomed Mr Reilly, saying: "Bernard brings a global perspective, with a proven track record in leading large-scale enterprises in Australia and internationally. He is an exceptional candidate to lead the establishment of what will be a major, and enduring, Australian superannuation fund."

In a joint statement announcing the agreement, Mr Luke and Mr Fraser said: "This historic agreement will pave the way for the creation of an unquestionably strong superannuation fund with the scale to deliver outstanding services, greater efficiencies and lower costs for members.

"The combination of QSuper's public sector heritage in Queensland and Sunsuper's national employer base combined with commitment to partnering with external financial advisers will create a diversified and resilient organisation investing on behalf of two million members.

"Combining the two strong, successful funds will create an organisation of world-class capability that will be open to all Australians."

QSuper has funds under administration of \$120 billion and 600,000 members. It has been Queensland's public sector fund for more than a century and has been a public offer fund since 2017.

Sunsuper has funds under management of more than \$80 billion and 1.4 million members. It has operated since 1987 and has a strong record of growth in the national market.

Commenting on Mr Reilly's appointment, the Chairs said:

"Bernard has led large-scale efforts in bringing complex organisations together, with a deep understanding of the dynamic regulatory environment. Prior to being appointed as CEO of Sunsuper, a highlight of Bernard's career was steering a new global strategic direction and growth program for State Street Global Advisors.

"Above all else, Bernard has a deep commitment to the mission of serving the best interests of members," Mr Luke and Mr Fraser said.

As announced by QSuper separately, the current CEO of QSuper, Mr Michael Pennisi, did not seek a role in the new organisation and will leave the fund in September 2021.

"Michael intended to conclude his time at QSuper in October 2020 at the end of his five-year term, but with the merger negotiations underway he agreed with the QSuper Board to extend his tenure to sponsor the merger during the critical phase leading to today's announcement and into the transition," Mr Luke said.

Both Chairs expressed their gratitude to Mr Pennisi, and praised his leadership.

"Michael put the interests of members first in agreeing to stay and we honour his commitment and leadership - both in respect to the merger, and QSuper's success during his tenure as CEO," said Mr Luke and Mr Fraser.

The Chairs also announced the members of the Board, that will oversee the merged fund.

"The Board brings together a strong and diverse array of talent and skills. We have put together a group which will assuredly focus on the best interests of members and provide the governance needed to create a fund that can capture the opportunities our members expect," Mr Luke said.

Under the Heads of Agreement, both organisations will continue to work together to agree the merged organisation's structure and how operations will deliver material benefits to each fund's membership, with details to be shared with members of each fund during the coming months.

All staff, below senior management, at both organisations have been given commitments of employment security for at least two years.

The merger announcement comes after a substantial period of due diligence for what will be the most significant merger in the superannuation industry.


"The due diligence process we have undertaken demonstrates a strong business case for merging with achievable efficiencies and savings," said Mr Fraser and Mr Luke.

Both trustee boards are required under law to determine if a merger is in the best interests of their members.

"Each of our Boards believe that signing a Heads of Agreement is in their members' best interests and we are each taking the next step to realise the potential of this merger," Mr Luke and Mr Fraser said.

The merger remains subject to a range of conditions, including regulatory and legislative, and final Board approvals.

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



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Jessica Turchet – Plane Creek

MACKAY – WHITSUNDAYS



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BURDEKIN



Jasmine Connolly – Burdekin



Juliette Greenway – Isis



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*Smartcane BMP Facilitators are the only trained providers available to conduct pre-audits (a prerequisite for Smartcane BMP Accreditation audits)

The Smartcane BMP program, including facilitators are supported by the QLD government until June 2022

If you haven't been in touch with your local facilitator yet, or are looking to reconnect, please visit the Smartcane BMP website



Contact one of our Smartcane BMP Facilitators

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Cairns Region (Babinda & Mulgrave)	0472 869 659
Herbert River	(07) 4776 5350
Innisfail	(07) 4063 2477
Isis	(07) 4126 1444
Mackay	(07) 4963 6832
Plane Creek	(07) 4956 1488
Maryborough	(07) 4121 4441
Mossman	(07) 4098 2286
Proserpine	(07) 4945 0516
Tablelands	0400 140 558
Tully	0428 002 252
Rocky Point	0428 875 069

 smartcane.com.au

BURNETT-MARY



Tony McDermott – Maryborough



CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and CEO **Dan Galligan (pictured)** spoke with Mossman growers at the Bally Hooley Station on 2 March.

The meeting was well attended, given Tropical Cyclone Niran was just forming off the coast and behaving quite erratically.

It proved to be a good opportunity for interaction and discussion about local and much broader issues affecting the industry.

QSL ran a number of Grower-Managed Pricing workshops in Mossman, preparing growers for the 2021 season.

The sessions brought growers up to date with new offers and pricing options in various pools for 2021.

They also helped growers understand the amount of sugar they had for pricing, how to place and manage orders on the QSL Direct platform, and how to use of the QSL App.

The rainfall for February was below the monthly average, but there were some heavy showers and many overcast days, which continued into March.

We haven't had any major flooding events so far this growing cycle, however, in low lying areas water is now sitting for longer periods. Overall, the crop has coped, but the autumn period will be key to the final crop condition and size.

The initial mill estimate for planning purposes is 818,675 tonnes of cane (516,810 coast and 301,865 Tableland).

The growers' estimate forms went out in March and are due back 12 April 2021.

Mossman Mill will operate on a continuous basis with a targeted average crushing rate of 320 tonnes of cane an hour and discussions continue around toll-crushing and transport arrangements for the 2021 harvest.

Those who watched the start of the Amazing Race Australia will have seen Mossman Mill and the Douglas Shire surrounds featured in the first episode, which aired 1 February 2021.

CANEGROWERS Mossman will add its financial support to the Annual Aspire Awards aimed to provide incentives and opportunities for secondary students, throughout the wet tropics area, in a range of curriculum areas. The Award our sponsorship will contribute to is the Agricultural Futures Award.



CAIRNS

The Cairns Region was impacted by the tropical low located off the coast on and around Monday, 1 March.

Some cane across the region has been affected as a result, with varying degrees of damage across the pockets and sub catchments. With fine weather and sunshine in the week following the event, some of the cane has started to recover. However, it is expected that the stress on the affected blocks of cane and subsequent suckering because of the damage will impact the yield and CCS of these blocks when harvested.

Members within the region had the opportunity to meet with CANEGROWERS CEO **Dan Galligan** and Chairman **Paul Schembri** to discuss local issues and industry matters recently. With five grower meetings held across the region, there were opportunities for good membership engagement. This was recognised as a good initiative and members look forward to further opportunities.

The Young Grower Group recently held its first meeting for 2021. The gathering was well attended with the group forming a committee to work with CANEGROWERS Joel

Tierney and Gavin Rodman (SRA) to plan activities for this year.

Any younger growers interested in attending this forum are encouraged to contact Joel on 0472 869 659.



INNISFAIL

Cane growers in the Innisfail region have welcomed news that grants are now available for those affected by Tropical Cyclone Niran and the associated low-pressure system that impacted the region between 25 February and 3 March.

These grants are being administered by QRIDA with an initial amount of up to \$5,000 and subsequent amount of up to \$20,000 if needed.

Details of the grants can be found on the QRIDA website or contact the office for support.

The South Johnstone Cane Supply Agreement is on track for completion by the end of March with the completed document and summary of changes to be rolled out to members in the coming weeks.

A group of 'young farmers' has been established in the Innisfail area to interact and unpack best management

practice on farm including nutrient management, weed pest and disease management, record keeping and water quality outcomes.

This project is jointly supported by the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program, Smartcane BMP and the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project.



TULLY

Rainfall for March (normally a very wet month in Tully) has been very modest, with only 230mm recorded as of 23 March. The recent cyclone event caused some lodging of cane and breakage on some farms. Damage was mostly in the north of the district where banana crops in particular were significantly impacted.

The relatively dry conditions since then have allowed the ground to dry out and sunshine has helped the cane crop along. There's still a while to go until the end of the wet season, but so far so good.

The local agricultural community came together for the Tully Sustainable Farming Day on 17 March. The event highlighted the achievements of two major Tully farming projects, as well as the technology and support available to assist rural producers.

The day was the result of a lot of work by the extension community.

CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and CEO **Dan Galligan** visited Tully in March, providing growers with an update on industry issues. They outlined the strategy that CANEGROWERS is following to ensure that grower interests are represented on important issues at the local, state, national and international level.

More than 20 Tully growers were scheduled to participate in the TAFE Queensland Pricing Essential for Cane Growers course in late-March, which will coincide with the regular QSL Update.

BURDEKIN

The 2021 harvest season is only months away and productive meetings have been held with the mill to update progress. Wilmar field staff have been completing their crop estimates, with early forecasts putting the crop at 7.9 million tonnes. A more formal estimate will be provided when available. On the production side, Wilmar has advised that its capital expenditure and maintenance programs are on schedule, with indications pointing to an early June start.

The region has continued to receive rain, albeit patchy at times. Some good days of sunshine and heat have helped to kickstart renewed growth in the crop. Planting has commenced in those areas that were dry enough to do so.

The Burdekin Regional Variety Committee met in March to receive updates on new varieties in the system and to decide on which varieties to progress or discard. There is a good body of work going on and there are a few new varieties which have potential, with the usual balancing act being the tradeoffs between yield, CCS, fibre and disease resistance.

The mill is currently reviewing the Cane Analysis Program for the Burdekin District and meetings have been held with Wilmar, Burdekin Cane Auditing Services and the grower collectives to fine tune and improve this agreement, which is an important tool in how growers are paid. This review is due to be finalised by 30 April 2021.

Irrigation tariffs with Ergon are due to change from 30 June 2021, which is when tariffs classified as obsolete (tariffs 62, 65 and 66) will be changed over to other tariffs. This can be a complex issue for growers and they need to get the right advice to ensure they are on the best tariffs that suits their needs, as it could save them a lot of money in electricity bills.

On the topic of irrigation, rising groundwater in the Burdekin, particularly in some parts of the Mulgrave and GBA, is becoming a more pressing problem. This complex issue will require a lot of collaborative planning to develop a solution. Sunwater and the Queensland Government are liaising with industry to develop a plan to address this rising groundwater challenge and we should hear more about this in 2021.

Continues next page ►

HERBERT RIVER

The weather in March has provided good sugarcane growing conditions, except for the flattening of cane in some areas due to strong wind gusts associated with Cyclone Niran, which passed off the coast in early March.

The CANEGROWERS Herbert River AGM will be held 3pm on Monday 19 April at the Noorla Bowls Club and all Herbert growers are encouraged to attend. CANEGROWERS Chairman

Paul Schembri will be the guest speaker and the CANEGROWERS Board will be in attendance.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program will officially kick off at the Program Launch to be held on 27 April at the Tyto Precinct Restaurant. The Program and associated projects are managed by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation as part of the Reef Trust Partnership with the Australian Government.

PROSERPINE

Despite the higher rainfall generally associated with La Nina events, Proserpine has experienced unusually dry conditions over the past month.

Some useful rain was received in the latter part of March, however falls were mostly scattered and varied throughout the district.

Growers are reporting slow development in late-harvested cane, although early-planted cane has continued to thrive in the current conditions.

The area under crop has decreased slightly on last year, but providing there is some follow-up rain, the size of the crop should be similar.

Sugar Services conducted a full round of shed meetings during March with good attendance at some venues.

Topics covered included clean seed and varieties and some updates on test results for RSD and Pachymetra.

Proserpine Mill's annual maintenance program remains on track for a traditional late-June start.

In mid-March, the newly fabricated calandria for No: 6 Pan was lifted into position.

At a cost of \$6 million, the 115-tonne capacity pan was the biggest capital project undertaken at the mill this year and will improve production rates and sugar quality going forward.

MACKAY/PLANE CREEK

Optimism is growing for a successful 2021 season after the district received another period of widespread soaking rain in March.

On top of the intermittent rain received following the deluge at Christmas, the crop is responding well with extra growth.

Mills have been busy working on estimates with the increased likelihood of a higher yielding crop.

Coupled with this optimism is the prospect of further good sugar prices on top of those that have been available recently on the New York No. 11 Futures Contract. Prices for the May 2021 contract recently reached a healthy US 18.78 c/lb.

In February, we celebrated the second anniversary of CANEGROWERS victory in the campaign to secure choice and competition in the marketing for growers.

As a result, growers in the district have been able to take advantage of the high sugar prices in their forward pricing. They can continue to be on price watch for further opportunities to secure good returns for 2021 production.

CANEGROWERS Mackay was proud to team up with the Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) and CANEGROWERS Proserpine to support the Ag Mastermind event at the new Resources Centre of Excellence facility in March.

The Greater Whitsunday Alliance was established in 2017 with the aim of increasing economic development of the region through encouraging investment, funding and business growth.

Ag Mastermind was specially designed to listen to our young growers from the Mackay, Plane Creek and Proserpine regions.

The aim was to determine the barriers to young people entering our industry and how these can be overcome.

This is a great industry with fantastic days ahead, but the current economic circumstances make it very difficult for young people to get the start they need on farms.

Among the issues raised were:

- The high price of land and the difficulty in raising equity to take out loans.
- A negative perception of sugarcane growing and farming in general as a worthwhile career.
- Government red and green tape as a barrier to further development.

CANEGROWERS Mackay will take on board the issues we heard raised at the Ag Mastermind meeting and ensure that the cohort which came together at this event continues to have opportunities to be heard and to see progress made towards implementing plans for a better future.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has always stood beside our growers and supported them on the journey.



BUNDABERG

On 25 February, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) CEO **Josh Thomas** and Chief Scientist **David Wachenfeld** visited Bundaberg.

This tour was organised and hosted by the Maryborough, Isis and Bundaberg CANEGROWERS organisations and the Burnett Mary Regional NRM Group.

The purpose of bringing GBRMPA to our region was to demonstrate that reef regulation in our catchment is neither necessary nor justifiable.

Apart from the site visits, the group was presented with a literature review of peer reviewed research papers that show good coral growth in our region, low nutrient status of the water, as well as examples of research papers that seem to be ignored in the 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement.

Fall Army Worm Update Bundaberg

Fall Army Worm (FAW) have been present in the district for about 12 months and impacted a range of crops including corn/maize (pictured below), forage sorghum, and ginger. To date they have not been found in cane locally,

While there are permits for chemicals to control FAW in cane, maize and a range of other crops including soybeans and peanuts, the biggest issue is getting the FAW larvae to ingest the chemical.

Luckily, several of the insects used in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program of soybeans, peanuts and small crops have been found to attack FAW, however at this stage they are struggling with the sheer size of the current outbreak and are not yet in balance with the level of FAW. This means good IPM programs are required in the district to allow these natural predators to build up in sufficient numbers.

What can growers do about it?

Given what has been found locally to date and based on what has happened on the Atherton Tablelands is that growers should consider not growing corn/maize as this seems to be the most preferred host of the FAW. The growing of forage and grain sorghum is also high risk, however unless being harvested as a crop there is less financial risk.



Pictured right: Tony Chapman showing Josh Thomas a crop of peanuts with Matt Leighton watching on.

ISIS

We have continued to meet regularly with Marland Law, BFGV and CANEGROWERS Bundaberg in relation to a number of joint campaigns including Save Paradise and the Class Action, Rates, and the formalisation of an Ag Alliance to express the voices of farmers across the region and defend their right to farm.

Recently CANEGROWERS organisations in the southern region met with the Office of the Great Barrier Reef (OGBR) to highlight:

- Why the southern region does not need Reef regulations;
- Issues with the current science and lack of independent review;
- What growers have already been doing over many years in this region.

We met on Tony, Katrina and Mitch Chapman's farm in Alloway who showed them many fine examples of sustainable cane growing.

Maryborough cane

We have continued to work closely with CANEGROWERS Maryborough to develop a single CSA for growers to come into effect after the Toll Crush Agreement ends.

We hosted a CSA workshop during March where both boards met to determine mutual ground and to plan a 'meet the neighbours' bus trip scheduled for the end of April.

It has been pleasing to see the confidence shown from the government in the sugar industry in this region.



MARYBOROUGH

126 years of sugar celebrations

Our proposed celebration dinner for late April has hit a hurdle, with COVID restrictions limiting venue sizes around town too much to continue with our first version of the event. We are still investigating an open-air option, with more details and revised date to come.

Season 2021

Recent funding commitments from the Federal and State governments mean the transloader remains on track for completion by the season start.

With this year having a higher demand on the use of B Double transport, it would be advisable for all growers to check, prepare and improve their loading pads before season start.

We understand 36 lead trailers have now been ordered to bolster the fleet and necessary contracts for transport are now signed off.

While a Heads of Agreement is in place between MSF and Isis mill, the final toll agreement is still being developed.

There will remain a need for single trailers for limited access sites and these sites will be catered for in planning for harvest.

Information sessions with growers have been discussed but been on hold waiting for advancements in contracts.

We are planning for a series of grower meetings after the Easter holidays. The aim is to update all growers on progress for the upcoming season and clarify any changes to the process for delivery of cane and sugar payments.

We understand growers are looking for certainty beyond 2022 and continued development of a CSA document is occurring.

The district board is focussed on progressing CSA development for the 2023 season and beyond to give growers this certainty.

MCPS Activity

Changes to Maryborough Cane Productivity Services are now complete but the service hasn't stopped for any period of time.

You will see new logos on Tony McDermott's vehicle to help identify Tony when he is out on your farms.

Grower productivity reports are on their way to growers directly from MSF Sugar via Australia Post.

The productivity services' annual bus tour is on Wednesday 28 April.

The day will start at 7:30am with a BBQ brekkie at Nutrien Fertilisers on Saltwater Creek Road, Maryborough followed by a visit to sites around Childers with a BBQ lunch included. Bookings essential so please contact Cam at the office to book a seat.



ROCKY POINT

Since 14 February, Rocky Point has received on average 120mm from general rain and storms. The cane and soybeans have flourished in these conditions.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point met with Biosecurity Queensland on 25 February to try to convince them that we must continue with the farmer self-management program in Rocky Point for the control of fire ants.

From this meeting we have been successful in accessing free fire ant bait for registered cane farmers for a further 12 months to use on their farms.

Farmers will be supplied enough bait for three applications over the next 12 months, with the first bait to arrive in late March for distribution.

The first SRA Six Easy Steps workshop was held on 16 March. SRA representatives walked growers through the soil specific nutrient management guidelines for sugarcane production in Rocky Point.

Increased land valuations were proposed by the Valuer General (VG) mid-way through last year. CANEGROWERS Rocky

Point lodged 17 properly made objections to the increases in Unimproved Land Values.

Our representatives have asked the VG's office to give some specific answers to how they arrived at the new increased valuations.





Check the latest local newsletter for information on bugs to keep an eye out for in your soybeans and more details and pics you can use.

To date no response has been received. In an attempt to access information, CANEGROWERS Rocky Point will be seeking information via Right to Information avenues.



STICKER SPOTTER COMPETITION



CANEGROWERS sticker spotters are out and about in all sugarcane regions looking for vehicles proudly displaying their CANEGROWERS Growing Together bumper sticker.

Is this your number plate? If so, you're a winner!

690 YVV 999 ZCT

671 IYV 987 LWI

Can't find your bumper sticker? Need another one for another vehicle? Contact your local CANEGROWERS office.

How to enter:

- ✓ Make sure your CANEGROWERS bumper sticker is on your vehicle
- ✓ Check the next *Australian Canegrower* magazine for a list of number plates
- ✓ Wait for one of the CANEGROWERS sticker spotters to spot you as you drive around your district
- ✓ If yours is listed, contact CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to claim a prize on **07 3864 6444** or info@canegrowers.com.au



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WE'RE WORKING FOR MEMBERS

CANEGROWERS POLICY UPDATE



Mick Quirk

Environment and Sustainability Manager
CANEGROWERS

Time for a fair dinkum review of Reef Report Cards

CANEGROWERS analysis has exposed major flaws in the system that produces the Reef Report Cards. In a nutshell, the current system sets up growers to fail.

The only way for industry to get a pass mark in these report cards is for growers to adopt uneconomic practices. These practices would also reduce cane supply, potentially making mills unviable.

The poor rating of industry efforts in these report cards has been the government's justification for ever-increasing regulation of cane farming.

Without change to the report card system, growers will never be able to escape this spiral of blame and regulatory action.

Persistent lobbying for reform of the report card system by CANEGROWERS has finally resulted in some action from the Federal and Queensland governments.

The recent announcement of a review of the Reef Report Card process, including its farm practice targets and the Paddock to Reef program, offers hope that science and sanity will prevail.

We await the terms of reference for this review, as we need to make sure it will address the flaws we have exposed and will involve industry participation at all stages.

Government-centric design of farm practice targets and evaluation systems has led to the problems we now encounter, and we're unlikely to find a solution by repeating this approach.

If government is serious about addressing major scientific and design faults in their report card system for sugarcane, it will commit to a comprehensive review and redesign of the system. This should include:

- Industry participation in all stages of the review and in the testing of all components of the redesigned system.

- A realistic and practical target for management practice that is aligned to the industry's Smartcane BMP Program.
- A Paddock to Reef Program designed to properly assess cumulative progress towards the new practice target.
- Reliable modelling of water quality outcomes.

Industry water quality plan required

The CANEGROWERS Environment and Sustainability Committee met recently and focussed on the urgent need for review and reform of the Report Card process. While hopeful that the Federal and Queensland governments will restore integrity and relevance to their report cards, the committee decided that industry should produce its own plan on catchment water quality.

This plan will describe how industry will manage its water quality impacts while sustaining a viable cane industry, and will detail the following:

- A credible and realistic farm management target.
- How such a target is a proportionate response to the environmental risk.
- The role of Smartcane BMP in measuring progress.
- The changes needed for a fit-for-purpose Paddock to Reef program.
- Communication of growers' achievements to the wider community.

This will enable industry to get on the front foot with reef water quality issues - proactively influencing government policies and perceptions of the wider community, rather than simply reacting every time a report card is released. ■



Without change to the report card system, growers will never be able to escape this spiral of blame and regulatory action.





Burn Ashburner

Senior Manager - Industry
CANEGROWERS

Cane analysis and auditing

A core function of CANEGROWERS is to work with millers to ensure that the Cane Supply Agreement (CSA) terms are met. This role is critical to the smooth functioning of the industry.

Cane analysis is one of the functions agreed to in the CSA. Mill staff provide the analysis according to agreed methods and cane analysis auditors provide an audit of this to ensure it is all on track.

This includes the weighbridge and tip, sample tracking, sampling and cleanliness at No 1 mill, analysis of Brix, pol and fibre, NIR validation, and control charting.

Other issues include the checking procedures with out of limits, non-compliance, CCS, cane payments, and grower complaints.

This role can be very technical, but is critical to determining CCS and grower cane payments. It determines not only the split between miller and grower economic interest sugar, but also between growers and growers. Mistakes can be costly to growers.

This is possibly one of the less recognised but highly important issues which CANEGROWERS at both a district and state level manages on behalf of members. It is not new and thus perhaps it is taken for granted as a member service.

Access for oversize agricultural vehicles

We are still receiving enquiries regarding access for over dimension agricultural vehicles on public roads.

Now may be a good time for growers with oversize agricultural vehicles to review the National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice Operators Guide.

This can be found on the NHVR website:

National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Mass and Dimension Exemption Notice | NHVR - <https://bit.ly/39aPIHQ>

Growers can also find sugarcane and district specific information on the CANEGROWERS website, on the Member resources page under the Resources tab.

This information is listed by region and covers dimension and mass limits, maps of critical and major roads and a checklist if you are taking an oversize ag vehicle on public roads. Check it out!

Electrical Safety

In general, agriculture does not have a good record in workplace health and safety, and the sugarcane industry is no exception. One of the issues often pointed to is the number of incidents related to working around powerlines.

CANEGROWERS Mackay has assisted in developing a short Online Electrical Safety Induction course, which is suitable for sugar industry workers who are required to work near live electrical apparatus.

The course will provide growers and their employees with a basic understanding of hazard identification, risk control and risk assessment specific to the rural industries.

The online course takes approximately one hour to complete, and costs \$95. To enrol, [go to www.tafeqld.edu.au](http://www.tafeqld.edu.au), click on Courses and type rural electrical safety awareness into the search at the bottom of the page.■

Cane analysis is one of the less recognised but highly important issues that CANEGROWERS at both a district and state level manages on behalf of members.

Warren Males

Head - Economics
CANEGROWERS



QCA draft electricity determination disappoints – again!

The Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) has issued its draft retail electricity price determination for regional Queensland. When finalised, the new prices will take effect from 1 July 2021.

The draft provides the first insights into QCA's thinking with respect to the new transitional tariffs (T62A, T65A and T66A) that will replace the obsolete tariffs T62, T65 and T66, which are due to expire on 30 June 2021. The new tariffs, which mirror the tariffs that they will replace, will be available to existing customers who accessed the corresponding obsolete tariff in the three years 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020.

The residential electricity price (tariff 11) is the bellwether tariff of QCA's annual electricity price determination. Reflecting the lower cost of generating electricity and the record low cost of capital (interest rates are at record low levels), the consumption charge for residential electricity looks set to fall to 19.4c/kWh, down 12.1%. The draft fixed daily charge, 88.317c/day, is down 2.7%.

Many small businesses will also see electricity prices fall, but not by as much as for the politically sensitive residential sector. In the draft determination, usage charges for tariff 20 will fall by 4.83% to 22.135c/kWh and the fixed charge will by 5.7% to 120.135c/day.

For irrigators using the traditional irrigation tariffs, the QCA draft determination is disappointing. Sharp increases in daily fixed charges, more than 30% look to be in store for all who use T62 and T65 and plan to use T62A and T65A (table).

- For T62A, initial and peak usage charges are set to increase by more than 8% and 7% respectively, more than offsetting the modest 3% reduction in the off-peak usage rate.
- For T65A, both peak and off-peak rates will be higher.

The QCA draft pitches the daily charge for T66A at 18.8% below the daily charge for T66. It envisages a modest (0.33%) reduction in the usage charge. The most surprising feature of the draft report is the 90% reduction in the T66A capacity charge.

For those irrigators who are willing to work with the possibility of their power being interrupted, charges associated with the load control tariff T34 appear set to fall, with fixed charges down 6% to 110.907c/day and the usage charges down 8%, to 15.9c/kWh.

The cost of generating electricity has fallen sharply, interest rates are at record lows and irrigators are typically low-cost users of electricity on non-congested parts of the electricity network. In this context, is disappointing that once again QCA appears set to ask the state's irrigators to pay more for electricity than previously.

Given the electricity price outlook contained in the draft QCA report, I strongly urge irrigators to consider alternative tariffs. Control Load tariffs look increasingly attractive especially for those who can irrigate outside of the 4.00 pm to 9.00pm peak period. Remember, with Ergon's dynamic load control system, electricity supply is not interrupted every day.

CANEGROWERS remains concerned that the cost of electricity across the state is too high and will be continuing the fight for lower and fairer electricity prices.■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Males'.

" The cost of electricity across the state is too high and we will continue our fight for lower and fairer electricity prices. "



Joint Machinery Ownership

- some options

The ownership of agricultural machinery is an important consideration for growers. Whilst many growers would prefer to own and have total control over their machinery, there are a range of options and structures available to growers as alternatives to owning every piece of equipment.

The purpose of this article is to briefly explore some of these options.

Modern machinery can be expensive, so spreading the cost of acquisition can allow greater economy of scale and more efficient use of up-to-date equipment.

Sharing equipment can also help new growers to get established and allow established growers to expand operations by reducing capital investments and operating costs.

ALTERNATIVE OWNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

1. Third Party Ownership – Hire

- a. Commercial - There are numerous commercial agricultural equipment hire companies that will enable growers to hire the equipment.
- b. CANEGROWERS loan – Some district CANEGROWERS offices own equipment, such as a mud applicator, and make that equipment available to grower members to use, usually free of charge.

2. Loan

A free loan of equipment from a friend, neighbour or relative may be an option. Such an agreement is usually informal and not in writing but needs a close relationship between the parties and is not ideal for regular or ongoing arrangements.

3. Informal Agreement

A group of growers, usually in same geographical area, or otherwise related or closely associated, might have an informal, unwritten understanding between them about the joint use of certain machinery.

Arrangements can be quite loose and rely on the goodwill and cooperation of everyone involved. With nothing in writing,



By Chris Cooper,
CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor



disagreements and misunderstandings can sometimes arise.

Disputes about who bears what proportion of costs and expenses, including repairs and maintenance can arise. Personal liability for loss or damage or injury from use of this equipment can also be an issue.

4. Contractual Arrangement

A group of growers can document their joint machinery agreements by way of a written agreement. Similar to a written partnership agreement, the document will cover issues like equipment acquisitions, allocation of expenses and costs, use and operating procedures.

Important matters like decision making processes and dispute resolution can be provided for as well as participants entering and exiting the group. Personal liability issues will still arise under this contractual model.

5. Corporate Structures

- a. Company – a corporate entity such as a company can provide a more commercially sophisticated and separate structure for joint ownership.

The machinery is actually owned, managed and controlled by a separate corporate entity. The growers are shareholders in the company and growers act as directors of the company.

The company would have an operating agreement or shareholder agreement to detail how the company will manage the use of the equipment for the benefit of the grower shareholders.

Personal liability is much reduced as most liabilities will reside in the company itself and not the shareholders or directors.

- b. Cooperative – similar to a company, a cooperative enjoys limited liability status such that the

members and directors of the cooperative largely are not personally responsible for the liabilities of the cooperative.

The directors control the business and management of the cooperative and members of the cooperative have one vote each in cooperative business.

The cooperative rules and use of equipment rules can govern how the equipment can be utilised by members. Often the investment and benefits to members are proportional to usage.

There is currently an extensive cooperative farming project being undertaken by the Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals. The project provides information, resources, support and practical advice and assistance to farmers interested in setting up a cooperative.

SUMMARY

Farming equipment ownership models are becoming more seriously considered. Whether for a single item of equipment, or a whole harvesting and haul out operation, joint ownership models may be worth exploring.

(This article contains general advice only. The particular facts and circumstances of each case always need to be taken into account).

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Agsafe committed to helping farmers clean-up after natural disaster

Supplied by Agsafe Ltd

Many farmers storing chemicals will have been impacted by the recent flooding in Queensland and New South Wales and may have containers of chemicals that, due to flood damage, will be unidentifiable. CropLife Australia's agricultural stewardship program, Agsafe, is providing a service to safely collect and dispose of these chemical through the program, ChemClear.

Agsafe has demonstrated the absolute necessity of providing this service after the floods that followed Cyclone Yasi in 2011. With the assistance of the Queensland Government, more than 52,000 litres of chemicals were collected from properties.

"Farmers understand that they are the custodians of the land, and are always mindful of sustainable farming practices," Agsafe General Manager, Dominique Doyle said. "ChemClear enables farmers to safely dispose of chemicals off their farms and out of rural communities. Following the recent floods, it is more important than ever to remove any unidentified chemicals safely."

Agsafe is ready and willing to work with the Queensland Government to ensure farmers have the assistance they need to safely remove their unwanted, obsolete or unidentifiable chemicals as part of any government flood recovery program.

Farmers are well educated on the safe storage of their chemicals, however, even farmers that adhere to absolute best practice in the storage and use of herbicides, insecticides and pesticides will be at risk following weather events like those we have just witnessed.

There is a collection currently scheduled for Queensland for July and August. Chemical holders can register via the ChemClear website. For more information visit www.chemclear.org.au. ■

ChemClear helps farmers and growers remove unwanted agvet chemicals from their land

Dispose of your unwanted or obsolete agvet chemicals in one easy collection.

Group 1 chemicals collected free of charge:

- eligible **drumMUSTER** products
- with readable labels
- still in original containers
- not mixed with other products
- within 2 years of expiry or deregistration



Group 2 chemicals are those that have expired and are not part of the **drumMUSTER** program. Group 2 chemicals may incur a fee for service.

QLD Collection
July-August 2021

Registrations close
13 June

Register your chemicals at ChemClear:

 chemclear.org.au/register-your-chemical

 **1800 008 182**

For further information

call Colin Hoey.

Mobile: 0428 964 576



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Next deadline is **20 April 2021**.

* 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.

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HBM Single row planter 2014 model. Very Good Condition.

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Mossman-Tully

John Deere 6930 FWA; T7 170 New Holland FWA; TM 155 New Holland FWA; TS 125 New Holland FWA; (all tractors with HBM 6T Tippers). Ph: 0428 453 640.

Austoft A8800 Cane Harvester, Ford 7710 2WD Tractor, 1000 gal Fuel Tanker with Pump & Meter. Ph: 0407630499.

Hodge 3 Disc reversible plough, 3 row plant scratcher, finger wheel rake - 4 Wheel, drill marker, 6-1 1/4 Coil tynes & clamps. Ph: 0428420973.

2200 litre diesel fuel tank. VGC \$2000 plus GST. 2 Type Ripper Coulter with drag rollers. 12 cast iron wheels either side with grease-up bearings, GC \$1600 plus GST. Located Tully. Ph: 0429681264.

GCA-1050 Hooded Sprayer \$20,000; M100 4WD Tractor PAVT 18.438 Rear/14.928 Front Wheels \$20,000; 5 Furrow Hodge Rev Plough \$1,500. (all GST inc) Ph: 0429652235.

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7700 Austoft 93' leg basecutter box, standard topper, hyd lift side trim saws, swing out radiator, blade saver differential 12 inch 6 blade, near new grouse plates, 4 ft. ceiling fan, trailbrothers turn table slew, air conditioning, Cummins engine M11 340 hp done 10 hours since reconditioned from Cummins Townsville. Ph: 0412488898.

2004 Cameco Harvester VGC \$150,000 (GST incl). Ph: 0427655168.

2x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph: 0740562063.

Herbert River-Burdekin

Don 20 plate drag offset with hydraulic ram, no hoses. 6ft page slasher with adjustable skids in good condition. Ph: 07 4777 6148.

Fordson Major Belt pulley. 1952 model, non runner. Needs injector pump repairs \$500. Early TE20 Fergy and slasher. \$5,200.00. Photos available. Ph: John 0417070844.

Ferguson TE20 Petrol. 1950 Model runs perfectly. Nice appearance. Collector Item. 4.6 Slasher included. Ph: 0417070844.

Howard broadacre boom 12m cover folds to 2.5m \$10,000, set of under slung base cutter disc suits model toft 7000 near new \$500, set Massey Ferguson 135 Hi clearance GC \$7,000. Single bin trailer on super single tyres always in shed. \$1500. All prices GST Excl. Ph 07 47761750 after 7pm.

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Mackay-Proserpine

Fairview 4 tonne rear tipper. Parkison (Bonel) double chain plant cutter. 2 fan stripper. Moller single chain planter, make an offer. Phone after 7pm 49591765.

Refalo 2-tonne fertilizer box on wheels; 3-row trash rakes; 3-row multi-weeder; cutaways; grubbers for ratoon and fallow; cane break pushers; & more. Ph: 0417612883.

Howard AH 100 inch Rotary Hoe \$7,700 including GST. Ph: 0419024067.

Carry All - Heavy duty, 1800mm W x 800mm D x 850mm H, Frame is 100mm x 50mm Box, Main uprights are 100mm x 100mm box, 5mm Floor, \$1,350 ono. Ph: 0428236165.

Fiat 100-90 4WD with 9t Tully Welding Works Transporter - \$28,000 plus GST. Fiat 100-90 2WD with 6t Farview Engineering side tipper-\$20,000 plus GST. Ford 7700 with 6t Farview Engineering side tipper-\$20,000 plus GST. Ph: 49540190 or 0407638381.

Cane harvester 8800 Case 2016, new tracks, sprockets & elevator chain, 4685 Hrs, custom made multiplier, serviced & work ready, VGC, \$250K + GST. 10t cane side tipper bin VGC \$18K + GST. 10t cane side tipper bin (2 axle trailer) VGC \$20K + GST. Proserpine Ph: 0408755453 or 0438755459.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ian Ritchie tipper bin. \$25,000. Good Condition. Ph: 0418716043.

Trailco poly reel 125mm x 394mtrs, front hydraulic jack, Sime Gemini Gun, 3 wheel gun carriage. Machine has done minimal amount of work. Excellent condition \$45,000 + GST. Ph: 0435111968.

120 inch Howard rotary hoe, excellent condition, always maintained, always shedded, chain side drive, oil cooler fan for gearbox. \$27,000 + GST. 6 inch poly footvalve, 1 x poly foot valve float [never used, both made by Rodney Industries]. Ph:0435111968.

Harvesting contract at end of 20/21 season. Includes JD570 Fulltrack Harvester, 3 x MAN TGA390 trucks w/ Griffcam 10T tippers, 4 x CASE Powerhauls & misc harvesting equip. To be sold w/ 50,000 tonnes + cut. Harvesting 90,000 tonnes this season. Ph: 0410 664 890.

2001 Case Mx210, 7900 hours, power shift, 40k box, cab and front suspension, 3-point linkage, front weights, good condition. \$42,000 plus GST, ONO. Mackay area. Ph: 0447 240 415.

Tline 2670 with 14tonne carter bin, with high flotation tyres. Very good condition. \$80,000 + GST. Ph: 0427355391.

Bonel extra heavy duty 9 tyne ripper, 3 point linkage style. 5/8" shear bolts behind each ripper leg, 90 mm solid square bar front and back. 2.65 mtrs wide, 30 mm wide ripper legs [as new only done one season]. 7 spare legs \$11,000 + GST. Ph:0435111968.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Baldwin GTCR 30 plate, 32 inch disc, excellent condition \$38k + GST neg. Ilgi disc

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by Sunsuper

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Feb 2021)	Month to date (1 Mar-26 Mar)	Year to date	Jan-Mar
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	485.2	175	1339	1714.9
Mareeba Airport	143	85.2	621.4	598.4
Cairns Aero	290.4	279.2	1177.6	1262.1
Mt Sophia	504	193	1380	1857.3
Babinda Post Office	438.3	219.2	1769.8	2173.5
Innisfail	436.6	204.4	1628	1759
Tully Sugar Mill	1041	236.3	2446.8	2088.3
Cardwell Marine Pde	551.8	194.8	1662.4	1308.4
Lucinda Township	572.2	320.8	893	1268.6
Ingham Composite	737.7	177.1	1756.3	1265
Abergowrie Alert	404	212	1295	884.5
Townsville Aero	228.4	162.8	752	766.6
Ayr DPI Research Stn	131.6	152.8	718	611.1
Proserpine Airport	177	102.6	698.2	863.3
Mirani Mary Street	120.5	154	524.6	897.3
Mackay MO	95	156.4	599	873.2
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	68.4	230.8	299.2	1041.5
Bundaberg Aero	39.2	111.6	192.6	434.7
Childers South	17.6	133	182.2	350.1
Maryborough	22.2	201.6	276.2	490.9
Tewantin RSL Park	93.2	354.8	607	582
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	96.2	305.4	587.8	715.5
Nambour DPI - Hillside	78.2	259.8	482.6	789.9
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	119.8	380.8	594.5	421.4
Murwillumbah Bray Park	299.4	359	832.1	651
Ballina Airport	329.2	410.2	857.8	578.9
New Italy (Woodburn)	198.4	415.2	724.7	504.4



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.

tiller, 3TPL 6 metres, new condition \$35k + GST neg. Hodge multi-cultivator 3 row, excellent condition \$14k+ GST neg. Gessner 3 row stool splitter. 2 tonne bin excellent condition \$26k + GST neg. KUHN EL282 – 400 culttiller excellent condition \$24k + GST neg. Gough Bonnel planter & Moller sorter trailer bin 1.5 tonne \$2k + GST neg. Ph: 0477704134.

JD 2010 3520 track machine 7350 hrs, wide toppler, wide basecutter box 775mm&fronts long elevator ext 900mm 2 m centres 16 inch trousers, Maryborough. Ph: 0418881343.

4080 Chamberlain Tractor with John Deere Engine and Cane Multiplier and TOFT 9 ton High Lift Track Transporter. Ph: 0428 937 164.

LG double 6t side tipper, 2x double 6t side tippers. Ph 0428578234.

2012 John Deere 3520 wheel harvester, New Holland 8560, New Holland 8360, John Deere 6820 - all with 10t Newton tippers. Ph: 0400844581 or 0488415781.

Wanted

750 x 20in steel rims x 2. Ph: 0438421217.

28 plate offset disc harrow. Ph: 0429 652 866 or 0427 760 070.

STL shares wanted. Best price, quick cash payment. Ph: 0408448227.

Positions Vacant

Cane Harvester Contractor - Belberrra area - Ph: 0418882342.

2021 Expression of Interest – Plant Sugar Cane at MSF Sugar Silkwood Farms, 51 Spanos Road SILKWOOD. Plant 600ha

of sugar cane on a 2m, 600mm dual row control farming system. If interested in doing the planting but not set up for dual row, we may supply a planter, terms to be discussed. Contact Rob Brooks robertbrooks@msfsugar.com.au or Glen Millwood glenmillwood@msfsugar.com.au.

Work Wanted

Cane harvester & haul out operator for the 2021 season. Can do farm work, maintenance, case 7700-8800 and other farm machinery. Located in Mauritius. Em: cyrilgilbert1956@yahoo.com Ph: +230-57523057.

Keen to work as haulout driver anywhere in Queensland. Have HR licence and forklift ticket, plenty of driving experience but not in this industry. Very fit 63. Please phone Daniel or leave message 0424949950.

Property

Very Productive Pioneer Valley Cane Farm. 580 acres - As a whole - 4 titles or 2 separate farm options. 240meg water alloc, very fertile soils, full machinery list. High production records, quality farm, crop in good cond. EOI closing 23.04.2021 - Phone Gary Johns - 0427 241 250.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres Cane Production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam Allocation. Supplied to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Phone 0466 241 656.

Wanting to lease - cane farm in the Walkerston/Eton/Pleystowe areas and surrounds. Phone 0421520331.

2 Mackay cane farms on 4 lots; one farm 113.62ha with total area 74.67ha CPA and second farm 126.57ha with total area 82.17ha CPA. Farms have common boundary. Ph: 0415 881 092.

Young grower wanting to expand. Looking for farms to lease. Mulgrave Area. Ph: 0431036229.

Cane farm wanted to lease Racecourse mill area Mackay. Young farmer wishing to expand. Ph: 0408011983.

Mulgrave cane farm. 47 ha total. 11.5 ha high flat fertile land. River flat 40 ha prime river silt land. River frontage. Water available for irrigation. Ph: +44427525173.

Pleystowe cane farm. On 2 Lots. Approx 190 acres all up. Teemurra 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.

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.

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Spotted anything unusual?

NOTHING WILL PROTECT YOUR CROP BETTER THAN A GOOD HARD LOOK

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

Early detection and reporting is the key to protecting farms, industries and the communities that rely on them. Every moment lost harms our chance of successful eradication.

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

Visit planthealthaustralia.com.au/sugarcane for further information and a list of the top priority cane pests.



**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

☎ 1800 084 881