

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF AUSTRALIA'S SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

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# GROWER



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May 2022 Price \$9.95



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CURTAIN FALLS ON ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER REPRESENTING GROWERS

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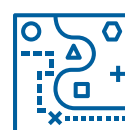
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**COVER IMAGE:** As the grandson of two industry stalwarts, young Marian grower Ryan Soper has big shoes to fill. Read more on page 24.

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## Wet weather windfall

The future looks promising for sugarcane growers in the Bundaberg Regional Council area, as it is one of 11 Queensland local government areas no longer drought-declared, following significant rainfall since October 2021.

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS director Dean Cayley told Bundaberg Today the region had been in drought for a decade, unable to get a regular rainfall to support crops and livestock.

"A regular rainfall pattern was a win for the entire agricultural sector and for the communities where they are based," Dean said.

"When growers are making money, you'll see they'll update their vehicles, tractors and machinery which will flow back through town.

"This past two to three months, we had 1,500mm of rain which is really good.



With welcome news this year, that work to restore Paradise Dam to its original water storage capacity has been fully funded and these recent positive rainfall events, growers in the area are feeling optimistic about their future crops.

"It's a positive the dam wall will be put back to what it was. This will allow people to invest more if they know there's guaranteed water.

"So far, it's looking way better than what it did 12 months ago." ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Bundaberg director Dean Cayley said the end to the drought was a win for the entire community.*

## Isis growers farewell Angela

Angela Williams will step down as district manager at CANEGROWERS Isis this month after five years in the top job.

"Angela has served the district with the utmost professionalism for five years. In that time she has shown dedication, enthusiasm and a strong work ethic," CANEGROWERS Isis Chairman Mark Mammino said.

"She came into this job in difficult conditions with depressed sugar prices, drought, issues surrounding Paradise Dam, as well as having to deal with a declining membership base resulting from the loss of cane land and the resultant decline in levy income.

"Angela has taken a lead role in developing strategies for both CANEGROWERS and IPL in how we face these organisational challenges to stay viable.

"We wish her well in her next role and know she won't be a stranger to the sugar industry."

Joanne Hall will move into the manager's role after a short transition period. ■



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## Sugar export sweetener

The Federal Government has pledged almost \$600,000 to help diversify and enhance market access for Australian sugar exports.

Announcing the funding during a visit to CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri's** Mackay farm on 29 April, Minister for Agriculture **David Littleproud** said the funding would improve trade outcomes for the industry.

"This project will build on past successes in improving trade outcomes, like successful challenges in the WTO and the signing of free trade deals," Minister Littleproud said.

"With potential gains in the order of \$1.2 billion from the freer flow of raw sugar between 2022 and 2040, tapping into this will require the best information and analysis to inform the best approaches to improve our access to high-value markets.

"The project will help maintain our international reputation in key high value markets such as Japan and enable exporters to earn higher premiums from importers seeking high quality cane sugar."

In a joint statement, CANEGROWERS and the Australian Sugar Milling Council welcomed the funding announcement.

"The Australian sugar industry welcomes the decision of the Australian Government to support the first phase of the industry's Five-year Trade Policy and Market Access (TP&MA) strategy," the statement said.

**"With 85% of our raw sugar exported, securing access to a wide range of markets is vitally important. The value of market diversity cannot be understated."**

The strategy is the culmination of multiple years' analysis and discussion across industry stakeholder groups. It has nine action plans and five broad objectives which are:

- *Achieve a fairer global playing field free of export subsidies, and trade distorting domestic price supports;*
- *Maximise export revenues by focussing on the highest-returning global markets;*
- *Look 'over-the horizon' to identify potential new global growth markets;*
- *Address a number of technical barriers to trade; and*
- *Better understand the environmental requirements of global customers.*

The new \$592,900 grant, provided under the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation program, will fund four action plans and the first year of the strategy's implementation.

The four plans relate to the recent win against India at the World Trade Organisation; meeting environmental requirements for accessing global markets; identifying new markets; and improving procedures when exporting to Japan.

Mr Schembri thanked the Federal Government for its support of the strategy.

"With 85% of our raw sugar exported, securing access to a wide range of markets is vitally important. The value of market diversity cannot be understated," he said. ■

*Pictured: (L-R) CANEGROWERS Deputy Chair Kevin Borg, CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri, Mackay Sugar's Carissa Mansfield, Nationals candidate for Dawson Andrew Wilcox and Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud.*

# 2022 Federal Election campaign

CANEGROWERS, with other industry members of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), has developed a strong platform for the 2022 Federal Election campaign that puts agriculture and regional communities in the spotlight.

The platform has five key areas of ideas, proposals and requests, which are detailed on the NFF [www.timetothrive.com.au](http://www.timetothrive.com.au) website.

CANEGROWERS is seeking some additional specific commitments under those key areas to benefit the Queensland sugarcane industry.

## PLAN FOR SMARTER REGIONAL GROWTH

We know the sugarcane industry can grow, that there are export markets to expand into and opportunities for sugarcane to power new, diversified businesses boosting employment in regional communities.

## PARTNER FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

Sugarcane growers have a proven commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable production systems. Growers have invested in projects to support good water quality for the Great Barrier Reef and embraced Smartcane BMP, the industry's best practice verification program which is recognised internationally as a standard for sustainable sugar. The next step is to appropriately measure and reward environmental performance.

## CONNECT EVERY AUSTRALIAN

The industry has a culture of innovation and technology adoption – GPS, drones, digital mapping and imaging are helping growers farm smarter. There is plenty of scope to further unlock the benefits of technology and connectivity for efficiency, productivity, profitability and environmental benefits.

## SECURE AUSTRALIA'S FARM WORKFORCE

The ability to grow into the future to supply expanded export markets and new processing and manufacturing opportunities will depend on the availability of a farm workforce, the encouragement and development of skills and professions within local communities for the whole supply chain and, where necessary, access to overseas recruitment programs.

## GIVE FARMERS A FAIR GO

Australia's sugar industry supports \$1.1 billion of economic activity in Queensland alone each year while operating farm businesses in a commercial environment subject to external costs and pressures.



Sugarcane growers need a government that will partner with farmers to ensure the future is strong, fair and sustainable – that builds on our place as leading sugar exporter while seizing opportunities for more regional businesses and jobs.

Visit the 2022 Federal election page on CANEGROWERS website [www.canegrowers.com.au](http://www.canegrowers.com.au) for more detail of these commitments that CANEGROWERS is seeking to ensure the sugar industry is supported into the future. ■

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and CEO Dan Galligan with National Farmers Federation President Fiona Simson*



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# New district boards get to work

With the CANEGROWERS triennial elections now done and dusted, 83 directors are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work representing growers throughout Queensland's 13 cane-growing districts.

Amongst those 83 are 10 new faces, with Bundaberg, Burdekin, Herbert River, Mackay, Mossman, Plane Creek, Rocky Point, Tableland, and Proserpine all welcoming first-time CANEGROWERS board members.

First on a long list of duties for directors will be appointing a district chairperson and Policy Council representative.

Those Policy Council members will gather in Brisbane on 24 May for the first meeting of their new term, where they will elect a new CANEGROWERS Queensland board of directors.

Amongst the new faces from this year's election are a number of female directors.

Herbert River's Leah Russo (pictured) is one of seven women now serving on district boards, an increase of 75% on last year.

As a relative newcomer to the industry, Leah is looking forward to learning as much as possible so she can better assist other growers.

"We've only been in the industry for about four years, so there's still a lot I probably don't know, but I'm looking forward to learning as much as I can and meeting new people involved in different aspects of the industry," Leah said.

"I'm a little bit nervous because I'm not sure what I've got myself into, but at the end of the day, I'd really like the knowledge and background that I bring to the role to help growers where possible and maybe help bridge that gap with the younger generation and with women."

New district boards (page 9) kicked off their three-year terms on May 1.

With the 2022 season just around the corner, they are sure to have a busy few

weeks before the harvest gets underway.

Other new directors are Charles Pappale, Rian Swindley, Andrew Newbery, Scott Fasano, Ben McClelland, Hayden Paul James Swan, Suz-Anna Burrow-Pearce, Harry Phillott, Bessie Ore, and Sam Ford.



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# CANEGROWERS DISTRICT BOARDS

## Mossman

Scott Fasano  
Michael Giudice  
Ben McClelland  
Matthew Watson

## Tableland

Claudio Santucci  
Liam Wallace  
Wayne Kattenberg  
Harry Phillott  
Douglas Rankine

## Cairns Region

### **Mulgrave Zone**

John Mario Piccolo  
Neil Maitland  
Richard Hesp  
John Arcidiacono  
Paul Gregory  
John Peter Ferrando

## Innisfail

Joe Marano  
Alan Colgrave  
Wayne Gattera  
Sam Spina  
Vic Guarrera

## Mackay\*

### **Makay Area Committee**

Gregory Peter Plath  
Andre Camilleri  
Brett Leach  
Francis Perna  
Paul Vassallo  
Joseph Borg  
Bill MacDonald  
John Muscat  
Andrew Newbery  
Philip Deguara

## Tully

Bryce Macdonald  
Delbag Singh  
Joseph John Vasta  
James Basil Dore  
Steven Crema

## Herbert River

Christopher Bosworth  
Terry Motti  
Paul Marbelli  
Zenán Reinaudo  
Steven Marbelli  
Salvatore Torrisi  
Leah Russo

### **Babinda Zone**

Robert Lance Rodman  
Barry Stubbs  
Stephen Calcagno  
Steven Michael Bonso  
Frank Gatti

## Burdekin

Gregory Rossato  
Owen Menkens  
Glenn Betteridge  
Steven Pilla  
Charles Papale  
Rian Swindley

## Proserpine

Glen Clarke  
Anthony Large  
John Casey  
William Blair  
Justin Blair  
Eric Altmann  
Bessie Ore

## Bundaberg

Michael Cavallaro  
Dean Neville Cayley  
Mark Andrew Pressler  
Anna Attard  
Sam Ford

## Isis

Mark Mammino  
Peter John McLennan  
Simon Ricciardi  
Anthony Mark Russo  
Susan Bengtson

## Maryborough

Ashley Petersen  
Roger Bambling  
Adam Doyle  
Isaac Schmidt

### **Plane Creek Area Committee**

Kevin Joseph Borg  
Hayden Swan  
Malcolm Langdon  
Wayne Schmidtke

## Rocky Point

Michelle Fischer  
Suz-Anna Burrow-Pearce  
Ben Spann  
Anthony Ronald Huth  
Gregory Zipf

### \* Mackay

A Mackay District board, yet to be formed, will comprise members of the Mackay Area and Plane Creek Area committees.

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- **Emergency Drought Assistance Loans** of up to \$50,000

For more information contact QRIDA on **1800 623 946** or visit **qrda.qld.gov.au**

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) is administering these grants and loans on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

\*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

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# CEO COMMENT

By Dan Galligan, CEO CANEGROWERS

## A FOCUSED TRADE STRATEGY PROVIDES HIP POCKET OUTCOMES

With over 85% of our sustainably produced Australian sugar destined for overseas markets, there is no doubt that our industry needs to be proactive on trade strategy.

Like other Australian agricultural commodities, our industry has learnt to scrap it out in the international arena.

Often, as the saying goes, punching above our weight to ensure Australian products make it onto tables across the globe.

Since Australia dropped all its trade protection policies, every exporting industry has had to employ a combination of defensive and offensive strategies to either protect or build our markets.

For Australian sugar, the need is even more acute compared to other commodities. Sugar is seen as a very sensitive product in many developing countries who have a high need to import sugar but also a desire to protect their domestic production bases and what is often a very poor community relying on agriculture for its survival.

As an industry, we are very conscious of that. However, the very profitability of our growers is fully exposed to the global market and therefore we must be in the market as much as possible.

That is why CANEGROWERS has for decades taken a lead role in trade strategy development and implementation.

For years we have done this collaboratively with the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) and QSL.

Most recently, with ASMC we have developed a new five-year trade and market access strategy that is focused on analysing our most profitable markets and taking action to engage with sugar buyers and policy makers to ensure Australian sugar can be sold at the best price and at the best time into the best markets.

Close working relationships with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have seen this strategy identify a work plan that, as we move into implementation, will focus on opening up new markets with appropriate access terms through the negotiation of free trade agreements that don't avoid sensitivities of sugar, as may have happened in the past, but instead seek to identify and deliver opportunities.

One of these is the existing and growing demand for certified sustainably produced sugar. Many sugar buyers want to have confidence in the sustainability of the product they are buying and, in some instances, they provide a market advantage for that verification.

The efforts of Australian cane farmers to demonstrate their sustainability has put us in a great position to meet this demand and as we do so we need to leverage our strong reputation to turn sustainability into hip pocket outcomes.

Our trade strategy, now recognised and supported by the Australian Government, has us set up to be on the front foot like never before. With CANEGROWERS at the heart of this effort, we aim to ensure that growers see the dividends of their hard work.

Much of this collaborative approach has been lead by one of our most passionate advocates for trade. After 39 years of representative roles in CANEGROWERS our chairman Paul Schembri retires this month.

Paul's approach to leadership has informed me greatly as he has shown respect, integrity and at all times passion and focus to keep CANEGROWERS delivering for growers. Paul has positively impacted the culture of CANEGROWERS, to position us to be strong advocates and trusted collaborators.

Paul is always applying a creative mind, that is focused on solutions and he has brought about a new approach to membership service and engagement that ensures we will never take our members for granted.

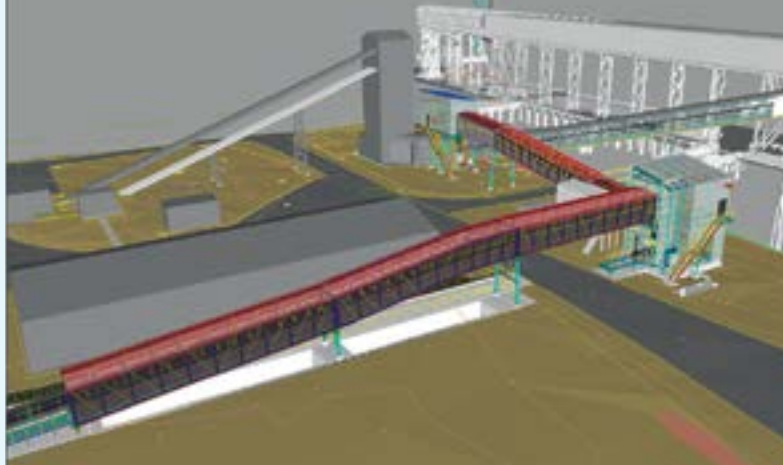
Having the front row seat, as he demonstrates a focus on the issues of growers while supporting the future of the whole industry, has allowed me to learn from one of agriculture's greatest leaders and it has been an honor. ■







Townsville Shed 2 being reroofed in 2021



Bundaberg common user infrastructure (artist's impression)

## Updating our grower shareholders

STL is focused on continuously improving the efficiency and competitiveness of our storage and handling services to the Sugar Industry whilst, ensuring the safety of our people and protection of the environment. We continue to deliver stable returns to shareholders and have made good progress on several key projects designed to secure the long-term future of our assets.

### Half year profit of \$13.8 million

In March, STL announced a 1.3% improvement on net profit after tax compared with the previous six months and a 3.7 cent dividend for the half year.

These results are in line with our commitment to provide steady, reliable and sustainable returns to our investors.

### Ongoing strategic focus

As Mark Gray, the Chair of STL outlined when releasing our half year financial results, the Board has recently undertaken a major review of our strategic plans to confirm STL's future direction.

This review included examining the impact on the future viability of our terminals in the light of recent mill closures and related challenges facing the sugar industry. As a result, the Board has reaffirmed its focus on achieving greater efficiencies in its operations, with the goal of driving down unit costs without compromising the quality of our services.

### Bundaberg Common User Infrastructure funding

Last month, STL received welcome news that the Federal Government would increase its provisional funding commitment for the development of new infrastructure at the Port of Bundaberg to \$17.7 million, an increase of \$7.7 million.

The project involves building multi-user infrastructure which will then integrate with the STL Shiploader to enable the loading of new export products from the Port of Bundaberg and drive further economic development in the Bundaberg region.

The additional funding is subject to satisfying a number of conditions all of which are presently being addressed by the Boards of STL and our partner, Gladstone Ports Corporation.

STL is currently reviewing tender responses from suitably qualified contractors and we have sought to encourage the use of local contractors or suppliers wherever possible.

Whilst raw sugar will continue to be our core business in Bundaberg, this project is about securing the long-term future of our assets by giving us the ability to handle a variety of agricultural and mineral commodities.

### Townsville Shed 1 reroofing underway

The BESIX Watpac team has now mobilised on site and work is underway to upgrade and strengthen the structural steel roof frame of Shed 1. Removal of the old roof cladding will begin in May, using the same innovative roof walker that was successfully employed on Shed 2 last year.

We expect that work on the project will be completed in September 2022. This will bring to a successful close STL's \$100 million reroofing project that has added 40 years of life to 12 sheds across the various BST's. It further demonstrates STL's commitment to the Raw Sugar Industry in Queensland by maintaining world class assets to support our export markets.

### Lucinda conveyor belt replacement

Work is well underway on plans to replace the 12 kilometre-long conveyor belt at Lucinda, which transports raw sugar along the 6 kilometre jetty. The current belt has been in service since 1977 and after over 40 years of service, has earned a well-deserved retirement.

### Storage and Handling Agreement

Negotiations are continuing with STL's six raw sugar customers regarding the terms of a new Storage and Handling Agreement that will come into effect from 1 July 2022.

Discussions with all parties have been constructive and we will continue to provide updates on the status of negotiations via our website.

**David Quinn**  
Chief Executive Officer





## FOUR DECADES FIGHTING FOR GROWERS

Paul Schembri, CANEGROWERS Chairman since 2013, has retired after spending close to two thirds of his life representing his fellow Queensland and Australian sugarcane growers.

"The great opportunity that I had was to start so young," Mr Schembri says. "It's a great privilege I've had to represent growers on the state, national and international stage."

Bailed up at a rail siding by **Bill Benson** and **Charlie Jensen**, a 23-year-old Paul Schembri was convinced to take a vacant place on a local area mill suppliers' committee in 1983.

"Not many months or meetings passed before the rest of the committee realised we had talent sitting around the table," Farleigh committee colleague Malcolm Pratt recalls. "He was keen and you could see Paul had the makings of a leader."

Despite Mr Schembri himself telling his mother after those early meetings that he felt out of his depth, he was made chairman after a few years.

"I was elevated quite quickly up the ladder," Mr Schembri recalled. "In '89, I found myself on the Queensland Cane Growers Council at the age of 31.

"It was one of my first trips to Brisbane representing the sugar industry and it was quite intimidating, but one of the guys that greeted me at the door was one of the oldest members of the Council, **Bert Pollock**, who put his arm around me and put his hand out to me, the hand of friendship to the youngest member."

One year short of four decades representing sugarcane growers, Paul says each one has had its own character and challenges, making the industry today almost unrecognisable from the one in which he started farming as a 17-year-old.

"The 80s were a major struggle for the industry with low sugar prices that nearly collapsed the industry.

"The industry was heavily regulated and growers went on a CANEGROWERS Cane Train rally to Brisbane to argue for a better price," he said.

"In the 90s, the handbrake was let go and the industry boomed. The area under cane increased by 50% and the volume of sugar increased by 40%. Driven by strong world sugar prices we were in expansion-mode.

"Then come the early 2000s we had the first inklings of deregulation and we had to take it on, both within CANEGROWERS and the industry, because then the industry was highly regulated at the macro end, but at the farm gate there was no regulation.

"Two decades on and it's tipped right over - there's very little regulation at the macro end but we are being submerged in farm regulation.

"Then, the past ten years has been the social licence issues, demonstrating we've got the right environmental credentials has been the challenge for us and I believe our credentials are strong and we can make the grade for the community and the government."

Mr Schembri says the one thing that's been constant for growers and CANEGROWERS, is change.

"We have had to change. The drivers of the change have been different, but we've constantly had to evolve.

"The industry's been here for over 150 years, we're one of the oldest, most mature industries in Australia and we will continue to adapt.

"Challenges will come and go, but if we stay united and get our voice out there, we will have a bright future."

After 39 years, Mr Schembri said he knew the 2022 CANEGROWERS election was time to retire.

"I felt it was a good time for me and a good time for the organisation to reset. Renewal is a great thing so I see it as a positive." ■

*Pictured: (right) L-R Bill Benson, Malcolm Pratt, Paul Schembri, (top) Paul Schembri's shed podcast.*



"Paul has been a valuable, pragmatic contributor to the NFF and its leadership of Australian agriculture. He has been at the table as NFF developed positions on the biggest issues facing contemporary agriculture. He has been a steadfast advocate for the sugarcane industry ... he has never taken a step backwards from doing what is needed to secure a sustainable, prosperous future for Australia's sugarcane growers."

Fiona Simson  
Chairwoman, NFF

"Paul's impact on the culture of CANEGROWERS has been profound. He has brought about a sharpened focus to how we consider and service our members with passion and integrity. Through his example he has inspired many of our people to see through barriers and find solutions to bring about what can be a bright future for the industry. He should be very proud of his contribution and the industry should be very grateful for his service".

Dan Galligan  
CEO, CANEGROWERS

"I've known Paul for 23 years ... I sat next to him at my first QCGO board meeting, from that day we struck a friendship that still stands. He was then and still is now a very strong advocate for the sugar industry. Since he took on the role as chairman the growing sector has been well represented across many issues. He has been a great inspiration to many and his industry knowledge will be missed."

Allan Dingle  
Chairman, QFF



## CURTAIN FALLS ON ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER

### CANEGROWERS Farleigh Area Committee

Member (1983 - June 2004)  
Chairman (1989 - June 2004)

### Farleigh Harvesting Equity Committee Chairman (1989 - 2000)

### Farleigh Cane Production Board Grower Member (1989 - 2004)

Mackay Canegrowers Limited  
Deputy Chairman (1989 - 2001)  
Chairman (2001 - April 2013)  
Director (May 2013 - present)

### Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (CANEGROWERS)

Director (1989 - present)  
Vice Chairman (2004 - April 2013)  
Chairman (May 2013 - present)

### Australian Cane Growers Council Chairman (2013 - present)

### CANEGROWERS Board Corporate Support Committee Chairman (1992 - 1998)

### CANEGROWERS Mackay Water Resources Reference Group Chairman (1992 - 2001)

### CANEGROWERS Board Industry Management Committee Chairman (2001 - 2004)

### CANEGROWERS Board Ethanol Sub Committee

### CANEGROWERS Financial Services Pty Ltd Director (2003 - 2014)

### CANEGROWERS Superannuation Pty Ltd Director (2003 - 2014)

### Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) Director (2003 - 2008)

### CANEGROWERS Mackay Area Committee Chairman (July 2004 - 2021)

### ASA (Australian Sugar Industry Alliance) Deputy Chairman and Chairman (2007 - present) Chairman of ASA Trade Committee (2013 - 2020)

### CRSG (Central Region Sugar Group) Member (2008 - present)

### World Association of Beet and Cane Growers Member (2013 - present) Vice Chairman (2017 - present)



# FROM THE CHAIR

*By Paul Schembri, Chairman CANEGROWERS*

## FAREWELL – IT'S BEEN A PRIVILEGE!

This editorial will be my last as CANEGROWERS Chairman. In addition, it will bring down the curtain on 39 years of continuous representation for Queensland cane growers.

Thirty-nine years might seem like a long time, but upon reflection, it seems only yesterday that I attended my first meeting of the then Farleigh Mill Suppliers Committee.

Just how much the industry has changed over almost forty years is literally mind blowing.

There is one memorable observation. By 1983, the industry was highly regulated at the marketing, cane production and institutional levels. There was barely a skerrick of regulations at the farm gate.

Fast forward 40 years and there is little or no macro or institutional regulatory arrangements, yet at the farm gate the level of regulation has multiplied ten-fold.

My time as Chairman is always going to be remembered for the sugar marketing dispute, which ran from around 2013 to 2017.

Deregulation, which was touted as a great opportunity for cane farmers, saw growers stripped of marketing influence and left on the wrong end of a serious imbalance of bargaining power between growers and large sugar milling companies. Growers were rightly stirred to action.

CANEGROWERS and other grower organisations banded together to agitate for a fair go for cane growers. The result of that agitation by growers led to Choice of Marketing Legislation being introduced in the Queensland Parliament, and the Federal Government's Sugar Industry Code of Conduct.

Growers can now enjoy the right to determine the pathway to market for their sugar and have strengthened bargaining power.

**"The industry of 2022 is radically different to that of the 1980s ... clearly the industry in 2050 will be radically different to the industry of today."**

This only happened because growers fought for it.

What is the future of this industry? Today, that question is most frequently asked of me. While nobody can predict the future, sometimes our past can give us a clue.

The Australian sugar industry is 150 years old, and two things define it – change and adaptation.

The industry of 2022 is radically different to the industry of the 1980s when I started my representative career. Clearly the industry in 2050 will be radically different to the industry of today.

The world is an ever-changing place, and we will have to adapt and evolve to ensure the industry remains socially and economically sustainable.

What of the sugar price? I have a sense that sugar prices will remain strong. We are entering a new paradigm where the population of the planet is shooting up to 10 billion, hence the demand for sugar will be strong.

At the same time, there is very little new tropical lands coming into production. Worldwide cane and beet lands are under competitive pressure from other crops.





"Thank you  
for this great  
privilege to  
represent you  
over 39 years. I  
have given it my  
best. Farewell!"

For decades the sugar industry has been handpicked as the industry that could provide the foundation for biofuels, renewable energy, bio foods and bioplastics.

I have never seen so much positivity from both State and Federal governments to develop value adding and diversification projects. We have to make it happen.

There is little doubt that the ongoing challenge for our sugar industry is to demonstrate our environmental credentials

When I joined the CANEGROWERS Farleigh Committee in 1983, the word "environment" was never mentioned at a meeting. As we know, the sugar industry (like every other industry) is now under enormous scrutiny.

Reef regulations abound and there is no doubt that we are all suffering from bureaucratic fatigue.

Our environmental credentials are impressive, and, through innovation, we have changed our farming and cultural practices so that soil, nutrients and chemicals stay anchored to our paddocks and not transported off the farm.

Despite all of the mindless regulation that we have to deal with, we will ultimately come through this challenge and gain the environmental recognition we deserve. Around the world we are considered to be one of the most

environmentally sustainable cane farming industries.

It is my view that we will come out the other side and find a bureaucratic 'sweet spot' so that we can get on with life.

Finally, I ask you to support your CANEGROWERS organisation. There is a proverb that says "if you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together".

Governments, politicians and aspiring governments don't lie in bed worrying about our sugar industry. Our organisation gives us a voice to be heard.

Importantly, CANEGROWERS is all about being represented by growers. The most passionate advocacy for growers comes from cane growers themselves.

After 9 years as Chairman and 39 years of continuous representation in CANEGROWERS, I say farewell to you.

Thank you for your friendship, your support and your hospitality in so many regions. To all of the, literally, thousands of staff and elected members, both past and present, who have helped me, I say thank you.

Thank you for this great privilege to represent you over 39 years. I have given it my best. Farewell! ■

# Future-proofing a resilient industry

More than 300 delegates attended the 43rd annual conference of the Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) in April at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre to explore new initiatives aimed at future-proofing the industry.

The conference provided the opportunity to learn about the latest research trails and innovations, to listen to presentations and papers from the industry, as well as the chance to network with colleagues and industry professionals.

Bioproducts or bio-based products - materials, chemicals and energy derived from renewable biological resources like sugarcane and these commodities - were at the forefront of the opening ceremony speeches.

Mackay's Mayor **Greg Williamson** warmly welcomed participants as he officially opened the conference, speaking extensively of the historical and important significance that the Mackay region has played, and continues to play, within the sugar industry.

## "Consumer behaviour is changing and driving a stronger interest in biodiverse commodities,"

The Mayor discussed the current pilots and facilities within the region, including the Greater Whitsunday Alliance and the Mackay Future Foods BioHub. He called for an increase in awareness of the need for funding dollars to support the potential manufacturing opportunities that are arising within the region.

**Jannik Olejas**, CEO of Mackay Sugar Ltd, provided his interpretation of this year's theme "Resilience is 'doing things differently' while 'doing something different' is potentially future proofing," he said.

He pointed out that there were many bio products being created and tested within the lab facilities, with less products being developed within the pilots in the area and even fewer commodities that reach a commercially viable stage.

Mr Olejas said that while technology is ready and consumer behaviour is changing and driving a stronger interest in biodiverse commodities, the challenge remains that even though the global short-term situation is good, the industry remains beholden as a commodity supplier subject to price pressures.

Dr **Graham Bonnett** is currently the interim leader of the Drought Resilience Mission for CSIRO and as a keynote speaker provided some insight into the Climate Services for Agricultural (CSA) tool.

Currently a prototype under development, it is designed to help Australian farmers to adapt to climate variability and related trends and thereby increase the viability of their businesses.

The tool is available online at the CSA website <https://climateservicesforag.indraweb.io> and is an initiative of the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. Dr Bonnet encouraged users to provide feedback about how the tool can be even more useful to growers.

CANEGROWERS Senior Manager Membership and Engagement, **Matt Kealley**, presented a paper entitled 'Emerging opportunities for Australian sugar using blockchain technology'.

CANEGROWERS has been investigating how to use blockchain technology designed for the Queensland sugar industry to show traceability of sugarcane accredited by the Smartcane BMP program.

The pilot successfully traced Smartcane BMP sugarcane delivered to the mill and proved the traceability of products using the KPMG Origins platform. While the research is still ongoing, feedback from growers, mills and the marketer on the platform were positive, and suggestions of functionality and value creation were offered.

"The application of blockchain technology offers improved traceability and has the potential to secure market access, strengthen the industry against global competition and identify means of improving value for growers," Mr Kealley said.

"The demand for sustainable sourced products is growing, which could offer benefits to growers in the shorter term."

The conference enjoyed a good turnout of engineering and milling professionals with strong support from exhibitors and sponsors, but there were limited incentives for growers to attend with comparatively fewer technical papers pertinent to the agricultural sector.

The few growers that did attend ASSCT took every opportunity to network and gain insight from the papers of interest. Unfortunately wet weather set in for the conference and the proposed field trip to SRA and grower visits had to be cancelled, which was disappointing for the growers.

"Overall the optimism for future proofing the industry at the ASSCT conference was positive with the delegates keen to be active contributors, but for growers to be present and involved in these discussions more agricultural based content for the conference is needed to truly reflect an inclusive and resilient industry," Mr Kealley said.





“The demand for sustainable sourced products is growing, which could offer benefits to growers in the shorter term.”



*Pictured: (clockwise from top) Leah Russo, Frank Scardamaglia and Zenan Reinaudo from Herbert River; Chris Gillitt, Dylan Wedel (Mackay) and Burn Ashburner; Tony Large (Proserpine) and Matt Kealley; and Matt Kealley presenting at ASSCT 2022*



The year is moving fast, and the national crop is strong with a forecast increase to 31.5 million tonnes, ready for harvest on the horizon in early June. With maintenance and harvest preparation on everyone's minds, Australian Canegrower contacted the milling companies for an update on their off-season maintenance projects.

#### FAR NORTHERN MILLING

"The focus for the 2022 maintenance and capital program has been on preparing the factory for improved steam efficiencies. The maintenance program again has directed the efforts in targeting areas that are likely to cause poor reliability," Far Northern Milling General Manager Peter Dibella said.

"Maintenance expenditure is similar to previous years. Continuing to work within this budget is becoming more difficult with the significant price increase across the board and capital expenditure has been limited. Some of the key projects are rerouting air from the Babcock boiler to the JTA boiler to improve combustion and output, installing and automatic shredder grid bar adjustment, removing #5A Evaporator from service and rerouting the juice circuit to improve steam efficiencies.

"The plan for 2022 Mossman crush is for 750,000 t from with a season length of 23 weeks from 1 June through to 10 November and a crushing rate of 260 tcph and CCS 13.01.

"There will be no toll crushing will be undertaken this year and Logitrix Management Service (LMS) has been engaged to undertake the management of the cane, sugar and molasses transport."

#### MSF SUGAR GROUP

The MSF Group Tableland, Mulgrave and South Johnstone Mill's maintenance program delivery had some impacts from Covid-19 earlier in the year mainly from manhours lost time. This has been managed by introducing shift and overtime resources hence is progressing satisfactorily on schedule.

Steam trials are expected to commence late May for an early June start of 2022 crushing operations in view of encouraging cane volume.

Major capital expenditure for this year includes partial refurbishment of two Vacuum Pans, cane bin replacement program and on-going upgrades to the cane rail and bridge infrastructure. There are other moderate to low capital injection projects to improve factory reliability and productivity.



## TULLY SUGAR

"The 2022 maintenance season is progressing well, with all major maintenance and Capital projects on track. We like all industries have been impacted by COVID and the close contact quarantine requirements and are currently working additional hours to make up for this lost time. Supply of equipment and materials has also been a challenge this year," Tully Sugar Chief Operating Officer John Edwards said.

"Major projects undertaken are a calandria retube of a 200t batch pan, an upgrade of a Hot Well return pump, installation of a replacement HG fugal, the upgrade of the factory control system and #2 boiler grate structural repairs. As well as a full maintenance program.

"After crushing our fourth largest crop in 2021, the 2022 season it is looking good with early indications of an even larger crop to process this year. Factory maintenance and operational plans are on track and targeting a late May start to crushing."



## WILMAR SUGAR

Wilmar is investing more than \$200 million in capital and maintenance projects this year. General Manager Operations Mike McLeod said the company had worked to address a number of reliability issues from the 2021 crushing season as well as implement major capital replacement projects.

"Our capital works program is currently on track, however we have faced additional challenges with supply chain and labour force issues this year, due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19," Mr McLeod said.

Wilmar's Herbert, Burdekin and Plane Creek mills are currently expected to begin crushing on 7 June, with Proserpine Mill to start on 21 June.

The major components for a new evaporator at Kalamia Mill have been installed and crews are now expanding the tubes in the calandria vessel.

A \$3M major works program to ensure boiler station reliability at Inkerman Mill for the 2022 crush has been undertaken.

A major upgrade to the wet scrubbers on Victoria Mill's Boiler 10 has involved the fabrication and installation of new Ducon ducting and manifolds at a cost of \$1.9M.

Pan 5 at Macknade Mill has been replaced at a cost of \$5M.

Plane Creek's Karloo loco has undergone a complete rebuild at a cost of \$1.8M and the Mill's Marley cooling tower is receiving an \$850,000 overhaul ahead of the 2022 season.

Proserpine's loco 12 and loco 14 have undergone \$1.8M rebuilds, both of the 40-tonne locomotives have been rebuilt from the chassis up.

A new mud filter drum and agitator is being installed at Proserpine Mill ahead of the 2022 crush, at a cost of 1.8M.



## MACKAY SUGAR

"The late end to the 2021 crush has presented extra challenges for our mill maintenance program, as it resulted in a reduced window for preparing the business for the 2022 season," Mackay Sugar Chief Executive Officer Jannik Olejas said.

"A further challenge has been in securing skilled trades, which has also played a role in the progress of our maintenance program.

"This year we again see a lot of focus on our boilers – the heart of our mills. Both at Racecourse and Marian we are completing multiple jobs on our boilers across a range of areas such as fans, grates and economisers. I am happy to see that all jobs are well underway and running to plan, including the annual CoGen shut-down period at Racecourse.

"Further to the various boiler jobs, the significant work of installing a new ash clarifier at Marian is worth a mention. This is a unit that has provided us with significant costs and challenges in the past couple of years, so it will be great to see the new unit in place.

"Another area that caused large amounts of downtime last year was the bagasse system at Marian. The bagasse bin itself, together with the connecting systems, are receiving a major overhaul.

"At Farleigh, we completed many necessary jobs on the boilers in 2019 and 2020 so the larger projects this year include work on mud filter #2 and a new molasses cooling tower.

"Whilst having the mills run better is one thing, we also need to have cane arriving at the mills in a smooth and efficient manner. To this end we saw a very positive effect on our 6T cane bin derailment ratio in 2021 stemming from the extensive work that was carried out prior to the season. This work of replacing wheelsets and conducting general maintenance on the bins is continuing, and this year we have added a special focus on our 5T bins as well. We have good reason to expect a clear improvement in this area for the 2022 season given the strong efforts made by the Rolling Stock team."

### Isis Central Mill

The 2022 crop is growing tremendously well in comparison to this time last year and the full benefits of the rainfall can be seen across the regions. An early June commencement will be required to see the crushing completed at the end of November.

Some of the maintenance projects undertaken include Cells Two and Three of the cooling tower have been demolished and Breezewater has commenced works to construct the new cells. Based on the current schedule, the cooling tower will be operational in time for steam trials to start at the end of May.

A couple of weeks prior to the end of the 2021 Crush Season, the JTA boiler sustained damage. Our 2022 maintenance program is focussed on repairing the boiler. The project has been greatly assisted by local grower and contractor Simon Ricciardi from Racky Enterprises.

ICSM's cane railway sustained significant damage from the adverse weather events last summer with the repair cost approaching \$1Million.

## ROCKY POINT MILL

"Early this year, Heck Group purchased the site cogeneration plant comprising the 2001 commissioned 30MW generator to specifically provide continuous and reliable steam and electricity to the Rocky Point Sugar Mill. Currently this cogen plant is undergoing a massive maintenance program, including OEM major servicing of the steam turbine by Siemens and the generator by ABB, now completed awaiting installation," Rocky Point Sugarmill Managing Director David Heck said.

"In addition, extensive NDT was undertaken including transformers, electrical components, critical plant and motors and a tube replacement program is underway to replace and some 400 boiler tubes. Control system upgrade and replacement is nearing completion to integrate with the sugarmill systems. Hi speed NBN fibre is expected to be installed mid-May which will vastly improve on site communication.

"The sugarmill maintenance program is similarly quite extensive, and includes the purchase of critical milling train spares, Hagglund drives, intermediate conveyors and a complete mill roll combination of top, side and pressure feeders. Complete prepared cane elevator is being replaced, rotary crush screen, shredder grid bar, sugar drier, overhaul of the main high-grade pans and condensor with automation, inspections and maintenance of all large variable speed drives on fugals, rebearing large motors and testing. Some 20 second hand multilift bins were purchased from NSW and being modified along with the annual maintenance of the mill fleet of containers in readiness for the season. Commissioning is expected in mid-June with the crush to start soon after.

"Rocky Point is expecting a large crop this crushing season and this major maintenance program of over \$3M is timely."



# THE POWER OF BIOSTIMULANTS

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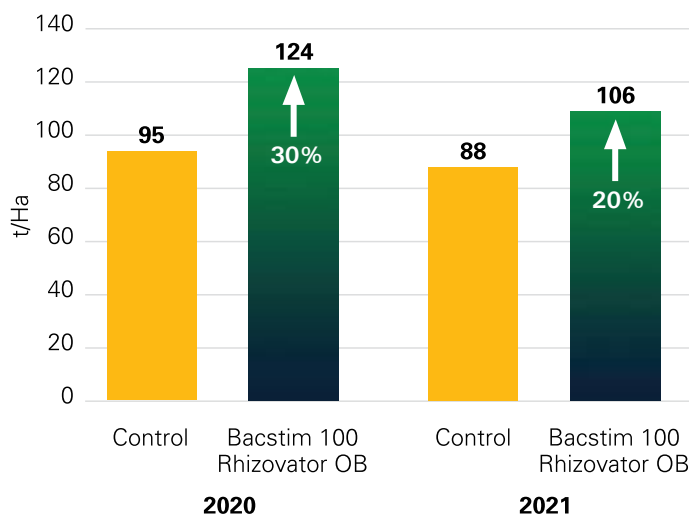
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# QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 27 April 2022.

## Sugar Market & Currency



Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Ethanol	Strong demand for ethanol due to high oil prices has pushed ethanol parity as high as 24.50 US\$/lb equivalent.	
Oil	Oil markets skyrocket due to the ongoing Russia/Ukraine war, dragging commodity prices, including sugar, higher.	
India	Harvest continues strongly with forecasts indicating sugar production of up to 35.5 million metric tonnes (mt) of sugar, of which approximately 9 million mt could be exported to the world market.	
Thailand	As the harvest approaches its final stages, production remains on track at approximately 10.2 million mt (as forecast).	Neutral
Speculators	Speculators pushed their net long position higher in April, up to 187,000 lots.	
Currency	The AUD has fallen in the late stages of April as the USD strengthens from expectations of faster interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.	

The outlook ratings above are in relation to AUD/tonne sugar prices.  A bullish outlook is considered positive.  A bearish outlook is considered negative.

## KEY INDICATORS

	27/04/2022	Monthly change
ICE11 Prompt (May22)	18.99 US\$/lb	-0.27 US\$/lb
Brazilian Real/\$US exchange rate	5.00 BRL	+0.17 BRL
Brent Crude Oil	\$US104.99/barrel	-\$US13.05
Ethanol/Raw Sugar Parity	23.50 US\$/lb	+3.50 US\$/lb
Net Spec Position	175,000 (net long)	+87,000

	27/04/2022	Monthly change
\$AUS/\$US exchange rate	\$US0.7123	-\$US0.0390
\$US Index	102.30	+3.51
Chinese Yen/\$US exchange rate	6.56 CNY	+0.19 CNY
S+P 500 Index	4,175.20	-344.96
RBA Overnight Cash Rate	0.10%	0.00%

## RAW SUGAR PRICES



This is a whole-of-season ICE 11 price chart current as of 27.04.22, based on a 1:2:2:1 pricing ratio for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 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 or 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.*



## Grower Pricing



> The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:

- 2022 Target Price = \$600 / IFC \$610 (Mar23)
- 2023 Target Price = \$550 / IFC \$560 (Jul23)
- 2024 Target Price = \$510 / IFC \$515 (Oct24)

> NEW: Harvest Pool Opt Out

Leave the QSL Harvest Pool at any time during the season and price more yourself using QSL's new Harvest Pool Opt Out.

Just choose to "Opt Out" and any of your harvest Pool tonnage which has not already been priced by QSL will be transferred to the Self-Managed Harvest Contract so you can price it yourself.

Available to QSL Direct growers from Tuesday 3rd May 2022 to 15 April 2023. For further information, please refer to the detailed information sheet on this product on QSL's website.

## QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2021, 2022 & 2023 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 27.04.22 using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

## The importance of the Fed – Hiking to recession?

As the US inflation rate heads towards 9% legitimate questions have been asked as to why the Federal Reserve has been so slow to react.

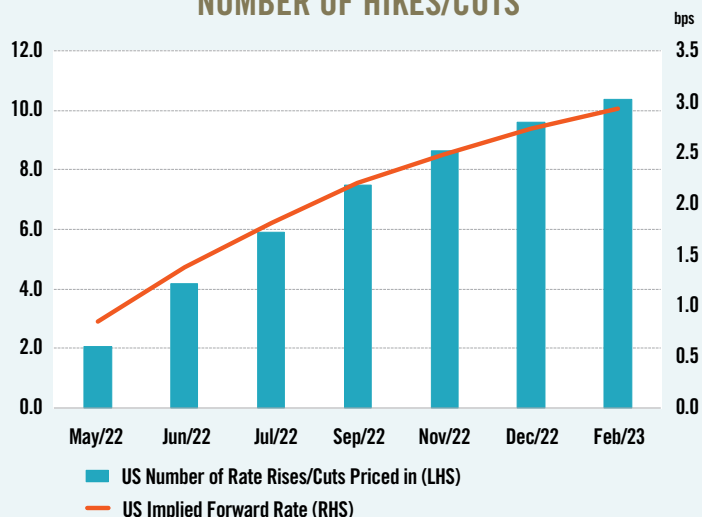
As the chart shows the market is currently pricing 2.5% of hikes to leave rates at just over 3% by February next year and even this may not be enough.

An aggressive tightening cycle will affect sugar prices two-fold. Firstly, it will start to choke off growth expectations and with that the commodity price strength we have been enjoying over the past 12 months. Second, it will see an appreciation in the USD as it enjoys relative yield advantage against other major currencies including the AUD. However, with the Reserve Bank of Australia set to commence its own tightening cycle here in the coming months AUD weakness will likely only be temporary.

Let's hope the constructive fundamentals of sugar are enough to overcome the significant macro headwinds currently buffeting our market and allow us continued access to the rallying prices that have been on offer recently.



## IMPLIED OVERNIGHT RATE & NUMBER OF HIKE/CUTS





# PRIDE AND PEDIGREE

## Inspiring young achiever follows the footsteps of industry greats

*by Robyn Devine*

Ryan Soper, a young grower from Marian, always knew he would be a harvester. From an early age he was involved and helping on the family farms, and with two stalwarts of the industry as his grandfathers, he gained a world of experience and knowledge that have made him wiser than his years.

"I started driving harvesters when I was still in my teens, with my granddad Ted Bussey. It was something I always pushed with him, and he started to let me drive around the headlands when we were shifting from farm to farm or paddock to paddock and as I got older it was like 'you're driving the harvester now'," Ryan said.

"I love harvesting, it suits me to the ground. I don't really know why, but to me there is just something special about cutting cane that's fun."

With a solid family tradition in the industry, it's no surprise that Ryan started his own harvesting business at the young age of 22. Both his grandfathers were industry leaders and

mentors. Fred Soper and Ted Bussey both spent many years in local and state grower representative roles on CANEGROWERS boards.

But to Ryan they were just Granddad Soper and Granddad Bussey. He enjoyed helping them on their farms and now he leases his own land not far from the original family farms. His early years of experience within the industry have provided Ryan with a wealth of valuable knowledge and put him in good stead for his harvesting business.

"When I was young, if we were watering the cane, Granddad Soper's first stop was to pick me up and I remember my job was to hit the green button on the pumps when I was about four or five years old.


"In the mornings I hit the red buttons and in the afternoon, I'd hit the green ones.

"Every weekend during the harvest if Granddad Bussey was cutting cane, I'd be there begging him to let me in the harvester."

Recently Ryan was awarded the Young Achiever of the Year Award at the Mackay Productivity Awards ceremony. He said it was a great feeling to be recognised for the effort put into the industry and he would encourage growers to come back to farming, but only if they are committed.

"The way I look at farming - it is what you make of it. If you put a half effort in then you are only going to get a half return on





*"That smell of a freshly cut field at the start of the crushing - that excites me. That means we are ready to roll, we're back at it again and it's a great feeling."*

*Pictured: Ryan Soper is optimistic that future rain will improve the crop at his family's Marian farm*



it. But if you come in with the motivation then the more effort you put in the more you going to get back. If the heart's not in it, then why bother.

"Cane may be one of the highest paying crops in agriculture, but you still have to grow it, it takes effort, and timing is very important. You need to do what has to be done to grow the crop when the cane needs it to be done, not on your own personal timing, or else you won't grow the best crop.

"For example, you might think to yourself, 'I'll spray that paddock tomorrow morning, I probably should have done it this morning and I think no it'll be OK for tomorrow' and then it rains and now you can't get onto it and then there's an added expense to get a spray chopper in because you missed the timing."

Ryan is different to his school cohort, working the land while most of his colleagues and friends have not returned to the farm. Some work in the mill and a lot have gone to work in the mines.

"I did grow up with sugarcane growing that's true, I love it," Ryan said.

"That smell of a freshly cut field at the start of the crushing - that excites me. That means we are ready to roll, we're back at it again and it's a great feeling."

Ryan did his apprenticeship off farm as a fitter and turner before returning to the family farm and fully embracing the lifestyle.

"When I finished my apprenticeship, I bought my harvester and the gear for the business. Last year the pressure was on, being the first year running the harvesting business and being the youngest harvester in the area. I knew I had a lot of people watching wondering if I was going to make it or not.

"It was a good incentive to prove to everyone that just because you're young doesn't mean you can't give it a go and be successful."

Like any new business, it wasn't without its challenges. His young age was, and still is a hindrance to some, and the perception that he fell back into growing because of the family farms didn't defeat him.

"I found the hardest thing coming into business this young was no one really wants to know you. I got knocked back by some banks when I was trying to get

set up. I wanted to buy the gear that I could afford, which is older gear because it's a more reasonable cost when starting out, but then the banks tell you that the equipment's too old and they won't finance it.

"They tell you if you buy something brand new, they'll have no dramas supporting you but as I'm starting off I can't afford brand new, I can't afford a million dollars on a harvester straight off."

The passion shines from his face when he begins to talk about the season ahead. Using the pre-season time for maintenance, his trade has come in handy assisting him to make the required modifications in-house.

As with all growers the talk eventually turns to rain. Up until recently Marian has been missing the surrounding wet weather and Ryan has his fingers crossed that it rains soon.

"If we have rain it's going to be an OK season. It's not a bad crop but I'm not sure it's as good as what everyone thinks it's going to be. The areas in Mackay that have had the rain have an awesome crop, but here it could be better.

"We've just pulled up irrigating at the moment and are waiting to see if it's going to rain. We've not had a good flood here since 2017 and Cyclone Debbie. It's starting to get a bit scary, if we don't get some good rain soon. It makes you wonder how much water we can keep pumping out of the ground. That becomes expensive and then if it gets really dry there will be water restrictions."

Ryan is also concerned about the increasing cost of fertiliser. Add to that the cost of electricity and it all factors into expensive input costs affecting the margins. Rain would be a great relief at this time.

While Ryan is confident in his skills and abilities, he is also an active member of the CANEGROWERS Mackay networks and attends meetings, when he can, to update and keep abreast of what's happening in the industry.

"Every farmer has their own way of doing things but the way I look at it the wheel has been invented so I don't think there is much that I can do to make that better.

*Continues next page...*

*"I do love to listen to other farmers' ideas and what they're doing ... no one knows everything so it's always good to listen."*

"That said, I do love to listen to other farmers' ideas and what they're doing, how they working the ground etc. No one knows everything so it's always good to listen."

Ryan sees the Reef regulations as one of the biggest challenges the industry faces moving forward.

"Reef regulations are really going to hurt us, if we keep getting the blame for stuff that farmers are not necessarily responsible for.

"If they keep making it harder and harder a lot of farmers are going to get out. When we start to lose control of the way we are farming, what else can we do?

"By making it harder and harder I mean there are so many rules you've got to follow, and if they keep telling us what we can and can't do, what fertiliser we can put on and when, what chemicals we can use, all of that starts to impact on growing a good crop.

"Some growers are getting to the stage of saying why bother. Every year it gets tougher and harder and how tough does it have to get before people start leaving the industry?

"Growers are a lot more environmentally diligent than the general public realise and that can annoy growers, because we have all these regulations and requirements, and we still get the blame."

Another challenge facing the industry according to Ryan is succession planning. Currently there is a large age gap between the older growers and the upcoming younger growers, even among the contractors.



"When they are all starting to think about retiring it's going to be scary, what is going to happen when growers and harvesters start moving on.

"Where will the labour come from to pick up the gaps?"

Labour shortages is currently a topical issue and like other growers within the region, Ryan says getting people to drive the haulouts is of concern.

"The longer crushing time, June to December, is affecting the labour force. My granddad said in the past workers from down south used to come up after harvesting down there had finished, but now that the season is going longer it's not compatible with their lifestyle needs.

*"Growers are a lot more environmentally diligent than the general public realise."*

"There is no doubt it can be a challenging job in the crushing season. I can work six days out of eight in a rolling roster, so you only get a weekend once every two months.

"Down here we start at 3.30am and if everything runs smoothly, we're gone by dinner. I've had a post up on Facebook for a while looking for drivers. I've had a few nibbles but the hours and the length of the crush can be off-putting for some.

"The biggest killer in Mackay for labour is the mines. The closest mine is an hour and a half, they pay better and have better time off."

Ryan remains steadfast and optimistic, he has a solid knowledge of growing sugarcane and the passion of a new business with the will and motivation to succeed.

"The big goal is to be running all the family farms one day, to keep them all together, it's sentimental to me. I want to keep growing cane, keep the farms together and stay above water.

"To be honest I can't picture doing anything else." ■

*Pictured: Ryan uses the preseason for his harvester maintenance*



# CANEGROWERS BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

## *professional development for growers*

The CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshop is designed to help growers think strategically and check their business' resilience gauge.

The workshop provides a chance to learn strategies and better understand risk mitigation including price fluctuations and the factors that influence sugar prices. Learn how to interpret costs of production with tools designed specifically for growers.

"We need more workshops like this" one grower at the recent Innisfail workshop said. Another from the Tully event said "Fantastic tools to use to make better decisions". Overall participants have agreed the workshop is useful and informative.



### UPCOMING

**PROSERPINE** - TUES 10 and WED 11 MAY

**CAIRNS** - TUES 24 and WED 25 MAY

**BUNDABERG** - TUES 7 and WED 8 JUNE

**ROCKY POINT** - TUES 21 and WED 22 JUNE

### COMPLETED

**INNISFAIL** – TUES 22 and WED 23 FEB

**TULLY** – TUES 8 and WED 9 MAR

**HERBERT RIVER** - TUES 22 and WED 23 MAR

**MACKAY** – TUES 29 and TUES 30 MAR

**BURDEKIN** - WED 27 and THURS 28 APRIL

### BOOK

Contact your district CANEGROWERS office <https://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/about/district-offices> or use the QR code with your phone

### COST

The cost is \$110.00 (including GST) per participant

### ELIGIBILITY

You're eligible for this course if you are:

- a cane grower, a cane grower family member or work on a cane farm
- a permanent resident of Queensland



*This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.*

# Australian Retirement Trust: putting members first

We know from experience that mergers require a huge amount of effort from both organisations. We spoke to Patrick Twomey (*pictured*), Head of Regions and Operations from Australian Retirement Trust about the recent merger and to gain some insights into how Sunsuper and QSuper can leverage each other's strengths to provide a better outcome for their members.

## One of the country's largest superannuation funds was formed when Sunsuper and QSuper merged to form Australian Retirement Trust? Why did both organisations decide to merge?

"Ultimately because it will benefit our members through the increased scale. As you can imagine, we already had a certain amount of scale and size being two of Australia's largest super funds."

"For two equals to come together to take care of more than \$200 billion in retirement savings for two million members was a significant responsibility, but we could see the benefits that would follow for members, and we also saw the opportunity to be a force for good and a respected voice on behalf of our members both in our industry and the broader community."

## And do you see further growth in Australian Retirement Trust's horizon?

"Yes two million members is just the start for Australian Retirement Trust and we know that further growth will continue to create scale benefits for members. This scale will allow us to build on our service capability and total offering for employer clients and members."

## It's unusual to see a merger of equals in the industry right now – was it a difficult decision for both organisations to make?

"Sunsuper and QSuper have taken care of their members' super for a combined 140 years, so it was not a decision that either organisation made overnight. The decision really came down to whether a merged fund would serve the interests of members – Sunsuper's, QSuper's and the merged funds. Through the deep due diligence that both funds conducted it was clear there will be many benefits for members."

## What will the merged fund, Australian Retirement Trust, help to deliver?

"Our size and scale with two million members will allow us to deliver benefits to members. It will enable us to drive down costs and the efficiencies that scale will afford will allow us to provide enhanced products and services, and lower fees. For example, we've already announced that the administration fees from member accounts for most members will decrease from 1 July."

## What were some of the things that really stood out to you during the merger?

"The work and commitment of both legacy fund teams. There was unwavering commitment of both funds to continue to

deliver for members and support our employer clients through the merger process. That both funds continued to service their members and employer clients and grow the funds throughout the merger process is again a credit to both teams."

"The largest and most complex merger ever in the Australian superannuation industry doesn't happen, and happen successfully, without enormous effort and collaboration."



## What will you be focused on over the next 6-12 months?

"The next 12 months will see us focusing on our employer clients and helping them to understand and come to grips with topics like stapling, which is a new process for a lot of employers. And while we have a national footprint, we still have a strong public sector heritage in Queensland and will look to continue to build on that strength."

"We're also squarely focused on supporting our members to and through retirement, and to support our members' future financial wellbeing. Whether our members are starting out their working life, already retired, or somewhere in between, we'll guide them to help ensure they feel secure, confident and protected."

## Not currently with Australian Retirement Trust?

If you're not already with Australian Retirement Trust and you want to start making a real difference to you and your employee's retirement today – it's easy to join.

If you're an employer, register with Employer Online in only 5 to 10 minutes via our secure employer portal or become a member by joining through Member Join Online both available through [australianretirementtrust.com.au](https://australianretirementtrust.com.au)

Prefer to speak to a member of our team? Call our Contact Centre on 13 11 84 between 8.00am to 6.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday.

### Disclaimer:

This content has been prepared and issued by Australian Retirement Trust Pty Ltd (ABN 88 010 720 840, AFSL No. 228975), as trustee for Australian Retirement Trust (ABN 60 905 115 063). It contains general advice and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular individual. You should consider if the advice is appropriate to your own circumstances before acting on it. Consider the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before deciding and Target Market Determinations (TMDs). Visit [australianretirementtrust.com.au](https://australianretirementtrust.com.au) or call 13 11 84 for a copy of the PDS and TMDs.



## Collaboration brings a wealth of data on nitrogen use efficiency

The final report of an extensive research study into Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers (EEFs), made possible through a four-year collaborative industry and government partnership, was released in April.

Carried out over three harvests, on 74 sugarcane farms from Bundaberg to Mossman the 'Support of cane farmer trials of enhanced efficiency fertiliser in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef (EEF60)' project found that under certain conditions EEFs could improve nitrogen use efficiency and maintain productivity for farmers.

"This study evaluated the performance of EEFs relative to conventional fertiliser and was the most extensive evaluation of EEFs undertaken to date," SRA Executive Manager, Industry Services Hywel Cook said.

"The large number of trial sites and consistency in trial design enabled the collection and analysis of a wealth of data which determined what types, blends and rates of EEF perform better, where they get the optimal results - such as soil types, rainfall conditions and regions - and the best time for application," Mr Cook said.

Managed by CANEGROWERS, SRA provided technical oversight through the project leadership of agronomist Julian Connellan and DAF Agricultural economist Matt Thompson, but it was the growers that made the project possible.

"The EEF project partners would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions from all the growers involved in the project over its lifetime," Mr Connellan said.

"As well as all the harvesting contractors and personnel from mills in each region. It was a huge collaborative effort that provided us with a wealth of data."

Two main types of EEFs were tested: controlled release fertilisers (CRFs) and nitrification inhibitors (NIs) and key findings included:

1. *Applying urea at 20% less than the SIX EASY STEPS® recommendation results in lost cane yield. Applying DMPP (3,4-Dimethylpyrazole phosphate, a nitrification inhibitor) treated urea at 20% less than the SIX EASY STEPS® recommendation maintains yield and profitability and also improves NUE.*
2. *Applying a CRF-urea blend (20% CRF & 80% urea) at 20% less than the SIX EASY STEPS® recommendation maintains yield and profitability and improves NUE.*
3. *EEF blends with high proportions of CRF cost more, which made them less profitable to apply.*
4. *Evidence suggests that EEFs were most effective in improving NUE when high loss conditions were experienced, such as in sandy soils, under high rainfall conditions and when applied late in the season.*

"The report concludes that trying EEF products when nitrogen losses are likely is a good starting point that will not

impact on productivity or profitability and will improve NUE and water quality; a great outcome for local waterways, the Great Barrier Reef lagoon and collaborative partnerships," said Mr Cook.

"The high nitrogen fertiliser prices at present provide an additional incentive for farmers to utilise these findings as part of their fertiliser program this coming season," said DAF Economics Manager Mark Poggio.

The EEF60 final report and project guidelines can be downloaded from [sugarcane.sra.com.au](http://sugarcane.sra.com.au)

Sugarcane growers, CANEGROWERS, regional productivity services, Sugar Research Australia (SRA), the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), and the Queensland governments' Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Environment and Science (DES) all contributed to the study.



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# QUEENSLANDERS SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE SUGAR

By Kate Gowdie  
Smartcane BMP Manager

Queenslanders are proud of their iconic sugarcane crop, according to the results of a recent survey run by the industry's best practice farming program, Smartcane BMP.

More than 80% of community respondents to the survey recognised sugarcane as being good for Queensland.

Almost 70% of respondents said they believed that sugarcane should be farmed sustainably in order to protect the environment, including the Great Barrier Reef, a call Queensland growers are heeding with their commitment to Smartcane BMP.

It's clear there is extraordinary community support for cane growers from the people of rural and regional Queensland, who appreciate the positive contribution cane growing makes to the state's agricultural sector and the local economy.

Since 2014, the industry has run its Smartcane Best Management Practice (Smartcane BMP) program for growers

to demonstrate their stewardship of the land and commitment to positive environmental outcomes. Accreditation is evidence for industry, consumers and the community alike that these credentials are being satisfied.

*It's clear there is extraordinary community support for cane growers from the people of rural and regional Queensland.*

We know cane growers already look after the environment because it's their greatest resource. Smartcane BMP gives growers a way to demonstrate this to the community, government and corporate sector. We want growers to know that their community supports them and wants to see the industry become more sustainable to ensure its long-term viability.

There are around 4,000 farming businesses across the state's cane growing regions. So far, over 150,000 hectares representing 37% of cane growing land is accredited by Smartcane BMP, with growers seeing the benefits through productivity, profitability and sustainability.

We know there are many more growers who are growing cane at or above industry standard and we encourage





them to consider accreditation so their efforts can be formally recognised by industry and community alike.

Smartcane BMP accreditation is not about creating more work for growers, but instead helping to document what they are already doing and finding efficiencies through that process. There remains many 'myths' amongst the growing community about exactly what Smartcane BMP accreditation entails.

One of the program's key mottos is "Your Farm, Your Way." Accreditation can be achieved across a range of farming systems, so long as the minimum standards are met. There is no exam required to achieve accreditation.

The first step towards reaching accreditation is to Benchmark – this is where growers assess their current practices against industry standards by answering a series of questions in conjunction with their local facilitator.

Facilitators can then undertake a pre-audit where they gather examples and evidence that will be required at audit. Once the facilitator is satisfied a grower has all the required evidence, they will arrange for an audit with the third-party auditor.

**Over 150,000  
hectares  
representing 37%  
of cane growing  
land is accredited  
by Smartcane BMP.**

This process follows the same process as the pre-audit and many growers comment how 'easy' the audit was compared with their expectations. By working with facilitators along the way,

a lot of the hard work and anxiety can be removed.

The value of Smartcane accreditation is different for each grower. For many, recognition is priceless, for others it is about making efficiencies that deliver financial gains. For example, one farm's adoption of best practices resulted in savings of up to \$250/ha.

With the eyes of our community upon us, we have our sights set on accrediting 40% of the cane area by the end of 2022 and Queensland's sugarcane farmers are being urged to work together to reach this milestone.

The good news is that there is help at hand. Smartcane BMP has facilitators in every cane growing region who are passionate about working with growers to help you achieve accreditation. Visit the Smartcane BMP website to find your nearest facilitator:

<https://smartcane.com.au> ■

# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

## MOSSMAN

Growing conditions continue to be favourable for the crop, with some needed showers finally arriving over the Easter period, followed by some heavier rain in later April. However, it is starting to become obvious how bad the rat, pig and grub damage is in the crop this year. Given this, the final crop estimate isn't expected to change much from the initial estimate.

Far Northern Milling secured the transport necessary for the delivery of road cane to Mossman Mill and urgent works on vehicle and trailer maintenance is underway. Some new vehicles will also be purchased to handle the delivery of raw sugar and molasses to Cairns. The factory maintenance program continues to be slightly delayed due to extra jobs but also absenteeism due to COVID-19 cases within the workforce. There has also been some impact on delivery of equipment.

The QSL Pre-season Market Update for Mossman on 19 April was well attended by growers. The meeting heard about factors driving the ICE 11 and the AUD, as well as the current and forward pricing outlook and global sugar production outlook for the major sugar producers.



*Mossman growers attend a QSL update in April*

The Far Northern Milling grower shed meetings were held in the last week of April and an SRA Field Day is planned for the Meringa Research Station on 10 May 2022.

The Far Northern Milling Productivity Awards night will be held in Mossman on 12 May 2022 and CANEGROWERS Mossman will provide sponsorship towards the event.

The CANEGROWERS Mossman ballot was declared on 20 April 2022 with the new board to start 1 May 2022. The successful candidates were Mr Scott Fasano, Mr Michael Giudice, Mr Ben McClelland and Mr Matthew Watson. The first meeting of the new board will be 5 May 2022.

## CAIRNS

The crop across the area is looking quite good. The weather has been very reasonable with intermittent showers and sunshine. Damage from feral pigs continue to increase, with some growers reporting huge losses. Several members have recently gained their BMP accreditation with a few others on the cusp of accreditation. It's a pleasing result for the district. Congratulations to those newly accredited growers.

## TABLELAND

CANEGROWERS Tableland is gearing up for the start of the crush, with a number of meetings between this office and the Mills being held during the past month.

Far North Milling has undertaken to crush all assigned cane, with there being no toll crush this season. They have purchased trucks and road bins from QUBE. Logtrix Management Service (LMS) will be undertaking the management of the road transport including cane, sugar, and molasses.

QSL had been holding pre-season market updates for growers. As always, there are a lot of contributing factors that affect pricing. The best advice is

to be vigilant and regularly look at the prices available on QSL direct. There are deadlines coming up on 30 April 2022.

Orders are being taken for clean seed from the seed plot being run by Drewe. He has SRA3, SRA27, Q256, Q240, SRA28, KQ228, Q208 and the new variety SRA32 available. SRA32 has been performing well in the variety trails. An order form has been emailed to members, please complete and return to Drewe.

Cane grub and rat damage have been reported across the district. There has been some significant damage which may affect estimates. Please assess



your crops and, if needed, advise the appropriate person with the respective mills.

Keep your eye out for the invite to the Awards Night being held at the end of May. Hope to see you there.



## INNISFAIL

CANEGROWERS Innisfail has concluded its triennial election process with the previous Board being re-elected at the company's General Meeting on 7 April. This meeting was also a great opportunity for growers to interact and discuss issues such as the 2022 season, feral pig management and recent discussions with stakeholders, such as Cassowary Coast Regional Council and MSF Sugar Limited.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail representatives attended the highly prestigious Banksia Awards in Melbourne, where the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project (MIP) was finalist in the Agriculture and Regional Development category. The

MIP was a four-year water quality project that involved numerous stakeholders including Tully and Innisfail CANEGROWERS.

While the project did not win the award, it is an amazing achievement to be recognised at the Banksia Awards, which recognises individuals, communities, businesses and government for innovation and excellence in environmental and social stewardship.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail continues to work with MSF to tailor incentives for growers to maintain area under cane and hopefully transition other crops back into the industry.

## TULLY

The 2022 crop continues to grow with favourable sunshine and showers, although the weekly forecast predicts some serious rain. Tully Mill has advised it will be ready to start the crush during the last week in May, as the harvest area is 30,000 ha and 90 tonnes per ha is possible. The CCS tests for the Modus campaign is favourable and most of the crop is still standing.

Pre-harvest shed meetings and marketing updates on 21 April, as well as AGM's for Tully Cane Productivity Services and Tully Canegrowers Cooperative Ltd on 28 April, provided growers with good information prior to the season start. Another pre-harvest meeting is scheduled for 4 May.

Workshop groups are progressing the LEA (Local Expert Analysis) to identify areas to progress within the Tully Strategic Plan. The groups include growers and staff representing Tully Sugar, Tully Cane Productivity Services SRA and CANEGROWERS Tully. The themes are progressing and will lead to focused activity on a number of items that will improve profitability of the area.

The Productivity Awards night was held on 7 April, with an enlightening presentation from Dr **Rom Magarey** who outlined the possibilities that technology was providing in detecting the incidence of RSD and other diseases in cane.



## HERBERT RIVER

CANEGROWERS Herbert River held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14 April. Guests **Michael Quirk** and **Elisa Westmore** from CANEGROWERS Queensland presented on the issues the sugar industry is facing with unrealistic water quality targets and outlined the CANEGROWERS plan of attack to combat these targets, including addressing water quality in ways that are proportionate to the environmental risk and economically sustainable.

The AGM was also Chairman Michael Pisano and Director Jeff Cantamessa's last AGM on the board. We would like to thank Michael and Jeff for their contribution to CANEGROWERS Herbert River. Director Zenan Reinaudo, incoming Director Leah Russo and CANEGROWERS Herbert River manager Frank Scardamaglia attended the ASSCT conference in Mackay recently and attended some informative presentations.

The Lower Herbert water Quality Program (LHWQP) Regional Partners Forum 2022 was also held in April in Ingham. Delivery Providers shared the lessons they have learnt from their Project with everyone at the Forum as well as what does 'Enduring practice change' look like in their project.



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# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BURDEKIN

Whilst the Burdekin missed out on its normal wet season, in late April the district received widespread soaking rain which commenced on 21 April 2022 with falls up to 100mm being recorded in one night. There were some very heavy crops in the paddock and the impact of this rain has resulted in widespread lodging of cane throughout the district and more rain is forecast. The tops will eventually turn up towards the sky and start growing again but we will have to wait and see what impact this event has on the crop.

Wilmar is yet to announce its crop estimate, but it is expected to be in the vicinity of 7.9 million tonnes. Wilmar has advised that it will commence its pre-season commissioning programs in the first week of May and is planning to start the season at all four mills on 7 June 2022. The company also confirmed that its capital works program is currently on track, despite some COVID-19 challenges with supply chain and labour force issues. Its \$100M capital and maintenance program for the Burdekin has been targeted in part to address a number of reliability issues from the 2021 crush season, in addition to implementing major capital replacement projects.

CBL is pleased to welcome back **Mindi Lennon** into the office to help members with the preparation of N&P Budgets, Farm Business Resilience Plans and QRIDA applications. Mindi is a familiar face in the Burdekin, having worked at CBL before and also BPS, and is well qualified and experienced to assist growers with their needs in these areas.

On a disappointing note, there appears to be a divisive campaign from some sections of the Burdekin growing community to try and denigrate the Smartcane BMP program. Smartcane BMP is a well-established industry-led and run program with the purpose of helping growers to enhance their long-term sustainability, productivity and profitability.



As an industry, we need to be able to demonstrate that we can self-regulate, and the Smartcane BMP program is one of the industry vehicles to show the government that we can indeed look after our own backyard. The BMP program has been steadily gaining momentum over the years and is recognised by government when making regulatory decisions. It is also now gaining global recognition and will help assist with market access in proving sustainably sourced sugar, which is what the end consumer wants. It is a program there for all growers whether you are a member of CANEGROWERS or not and it has scale which has taken a lot of time, effort and investment to build. There are very good growers out there who are not part of the Smartcane BMP program, which is fine as it is a voluntary program. These growers would be welcome to join the program as it is not difficult to gain accreditation for good farmers who would already be ticking the right boxes. The big picture is about sustainably and achieving self-regulation, and the more growers who become BMP accredited the better the story will be when it comes to the industry lobbying to ensure our right to farm under our own steam. The sugarcane industry is a great industry to be involved in and we need to be unified as an industry to help meet the challenges that both lay before us and ahead.

## PROSERPINE

The Whitsunday region experienced another underwhelming wet season with below average rainfall in February and March. Fortunately, periodic storms and coastal showers have sustained the crop and the outlook remains positive for a slightly bigger crop than the previous few years. An official estimate is still a few weeks away, however current expectations are for a yield of around 80 tonnes per hectare from an area of 21,000 hectares.

The mill's capital and maintenance program remains on-track and indications are for crushing to commence in the third week of June. Given the drier than normal conditions, and the continued warmer temperatures, many growers have commenced (or completed) their early planting regime.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine was not required to hold an election as seven nominations were received to constitute

a valid board. After seven terms (21 years) on the board, including two terms as Chairman, Peter Quod did not seek re-election and was replaced by Bessie Orr. Congratulations to Bessie on her appointment and thank-you to Peter for his long-standing commitment and contribution to the organisation.

Congratulations also to Director, Justin Blair who represented CANEGROWERS at NFF's inaugural Young Farmers' Council meeting held in Canberra in April. The Young Farmers' Council is an initiative by NFF to increase engagement with diverse youth networks within agricultural industry bodies across Australia.

Growers are reminded the Business Essentials Courses will be held in Proserpine on 10-11 May. It's not too late to register your attendance by visiting the CANEGROWERS website or contacting the office direct.



## MACKAY

Plane Creek and Mackay Area Committees have both held Annual Information Meetings. The PCAC event, hosted by PCAC and MCL Chairman **Kevin Borg**, included a presentation by State Development Greater Whitsunday Regional Director **Nikki Wright**, who spoke about State Government plans to develop Mackay as a bio-hub focused on value-adding and diversification of sugarcane products.

The MAC event focused on acknowledgment of outgoing CANEGROWERS Chairman **Paul Schembri** and Policy Council representative **Tony Ross**, both long-serving Mackay Area Committee members.

**Training and Labour:** A successful Farm Business Essentials course was presented in Mackay at the end of March. 14 growers took part and reported that the information presented was "intensive, but highly useful". The course was presented by **Chris Gillitt** (Farm business and risk management), **Douglas Morrow** (Sugar market and pricing), **Dougall Lodge** (Risk management and sugar pricing), with Senior Industry Manager **Burn Ashburner** supporting.

Promotion of the two Haulout Operator courses, presented in collaboration with QAWN, has been highly successful, with all 20 available positions filled, and overflow applicants placed on a waiting list. While this only goes part of the way to filling the projected labour shortfall, there has been

increasing work wanted and positions vacant posts to the regional website jobs board, and solid interest coming from our posts on website and social media-based jobs boards. A mobile electronic billboard has assisted with promotion of both training and the jobs board. Any growers requiring assistance to source harvest labour are welcome to call 4944 2600, or post direct to [www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au/farmers-notice-board](http://www.mackaycanegrowers.com.au/farmers-notice-board)

*Pictured: CANEGROWERS Business Essentials course held in Mackay on 29 and 30 March.*



## BUNDABERG

WR and AJ Baldry were announced as the District Champion at the Annual Bundaberg Sugar Industry Productivity Awards held at The Bundaberg Multiplex on Friday 25 March.

Director of Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited, **Ian Dart** congratulated **Wayne and Andrea Baldry** whose Bundaberg farm took out the top award of the night – Formatt Machinery's District Champion – with a three-year average of 16.86 tonnes of sugar per hectare.

Representatives from all sectors of the industry and their business associates gathered to hear the awards announced and to celebrate some great productivity outcomes despite the weather and other challenges experienced during the 2021 crushing season. The 2021 crushing season was the first Bundaberg crushing season since the closure of Bingera Mill.

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

**Allan Dingle**, former CANEGROWERS Bundaberg Chairman, was recognised for his service to industry that began back in 1997 when he first joined the Fairymead Mill Suppliers' Committee. During his time serving the

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# CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

## BUNDABERG

industry, Allan was Chairman of the Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group and a Director of the Grain and Cane Co-operative. Allan also represented the Bundaberg district on the CANEGROWERS Policy Council and served as Deputy Chairman of QCGO and as a Director on the QCGO Board. Allan was appointed a Director of the Queensland Farmers' Federation in 2014 and in 2019 was appointed President. Allan has held many other committee positions over his farming career.

Well known Bundaberg entertainer **Ashley Walmsley** entertained guests with his tailored performance that tapped into the heart of what makes Bundaberg such a great place to live, while also highlighting the peculiarities of the place.

**Trevor Jensen** was recognised for supplying Bundaberg Mills for 50 Years.

*Pictured: (below) Ian Dart presents Bob Baldry with the Bundaberg 2021 Season District Champion award, (right top) the CANEGROWERS Bundaberg tent, (right bottom) entertainer Ashley Walmsley.*



## ISIS

The crop across the district continues to look good as we march toward an early start to the 2022 Crush, with a total mill crop estimate of 1.4 – 1.6MT.

Growers are doing the final touches to their irrigation schedules to finish the crop with the hope to hold anticipated yields.

CANEGROWERS Isis has been working for members on the following activities:

- **Election** - all 5 directors were returned to their representative positions during a critical time in the district and have had no lag time, leading the CSA review and establishment of the next 6-year contractual period. The next 12 months will see the end of the MSF-ICSM toll crush agreement and a united district.
- **CSA review and negotiations** towards a single agreement for the Isis-Maryborough cane supply area is progressing with a new Sugar Marketing Agreement in place with transport yet to be finalised.
- **Storm damage** - assisting growers to lodge Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants and advocating for a time extension to the program due to a bottleneck in demand for earthmoving contractors.
- **Tariff checks** - we continue to remind and assist growers to review their electricity tariffs to ensure they are on the most effective tariff for their business.

- **Reef Regs** - with the next phase of reef regulations due to take effect on 1 December 2022, we have partnered with Isis Productivity Limited to ensure **every grower** in our district is **Reef Reg Ready**. The team has developed three simple steps to help growers achieve compliance. Isis District growers can rest assured we've got their backs.

### District Date Claimers:

**3 or 5 May** - Getting a Grip on your Numbers- Cost of Production Workshop

**12 May** - Grower Shed Meeting/Farm Walk (am) – Bruce Peterson's Farm

**12 May** - DAF & SRA - Southern Sugar Solutions Update

**7-8 June** - CANEGROWERS Business Essentials Workshop





## MARYBOROUGH

With the Easter break now passed, focus is turning to the upcoming harvest.

Isis Mill has been progressing works on the boiler and cooling towers to ensure the season can start as soon as possible in June.

Growing conditions remain good through the region, although some showers would be welcome over the next few weeks.

Estimates for season start are being sought by MSF Sugar at present. Our view is a crop closing in on 600,000.

The district conducted a grower meeting on 19 April, updating growers on how we are progressing for the future. Thanks to the many growers able to attend. It certainly helps to make 25 pizzas and garlic breads disappear by having a room full of growers waiting to be fed.

SRA is conducting a series of information sessions covering the Southern Sugar Solutions project. Maryborough is hosting a session on Wednesday 11 May from 12pm to 2pm, with lunch provided. Please let the CANEGROWERS Maryborough office know if you will attend for catering calculations.

After a number of false starts, we are finally holding a celebration dinner for 126 years of cane crushed in Maryborough. The date is now set for the 2 June, with the venue being Carriers Arms Hotel. The event will be invitation only and all current members will be receiving invitations in next few weeks.

To celebrate the industry, the office is looking for historic pictures that members might have of activities in the area. While a history book was made covering up to 1984 there is now a gap I would like to fill. Give the CANEGROWERS Maryborough office a call or bring in your items for scanning and display on the night.



## ROCKY POINT

A CANEGROWERS/SRA Productivity Workshop was held on 24 March, dealing with soil health and SIX EASY STEPS trial results from 2021/2022. We have also engaged an agronomist at Rocky Point who will be working in the district approximately one day a week for the next 12 months. One of the projects the agronomist will be working on will be to put together individual productivity plans for growers and also assist them with any questions they have on farm. This will be the first time in 25 years that we have had an agronomist on the ground in Rocky Point.

We have approached the mill to commence negotiations on the CSPA. One of the issues we are facing is that this is our final year of our CSPA and we are unable to price any sugar until a new CSPA is signed for the next three years. Our current position is that we have no sugar priced into 2023 and beyond, which is unfortunate as it would be beneficial if we could capture some of those high prices.

The soybean crop is beginning to dry off in preparation for harvest.

At this stage our sugarcane crop is an average crop size for Rocky Point. The continual wet weather will be detrimental on the crop size but this will only be realised once we harvest the crop.



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## OUT AND ABOUT

Over the past few months, the sentiment around COVID-19 has changed. The restrictions have lifted and people are starting to meet again. Conferences and face-to-face meetings are back! For me, and the work I do on membership engagement at CANEGROWERS, this couldn't have come soon enough.

### NFF SUSTAINING THE NATION 2022 CONGRESS

I had the opportunity to attend the National Farmers' Federation 2022 National Conference in Canberra in April. The conference attracted over 400 delegates from all parts of the agricultural sector and had a strong focus on sustainability, climate, productivity, labour, and technology.

Face-to-face chats, rekindling networks and warm smiles from people I haven't seen for a few years was interspersed with presentations, key notes and panel sessions.

The conference heard addresses from Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** and Opposition Leader **Anthony Albanese** on their commitments to agriculture should they be elected in the upcoming election.

National Farmers' Federation President **Fiona Simpson** outlined five key priorities for the future in their Time to Thrive – Stronger Regions for all Australians platform.

CANEGROWERS, with other industry members, helped develop the NFF's 2022 Federal Election campaign. Our specific requirements are detailed on the CANEGROWERS website: [www.canegrowers.com.au/page/advocacy/2022-federal-election](http://www.canegrowers.com.au/page/advocacy/2022-federal-election)

### ASSCT

The 2022 Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists conference was held in Mackay and I presented a paper on the work CANEGROWERS and Smartcane BMP are doing with blockchain technology, called 'Emerging opportunities for Australian sugar using blockchain technology'. The work seemed to get some positive feedback.

The event was reasonably well attended with 300 delegates coming to hear about industry and milling research.

I caught up with **Frank Scardamaglia** from CANEGROWERS Herbert River and two of his grower board members. It was good to hear their perspectives on the industry and their visions of the future.

The number of papers was down on previous years and unfortunately the weather disrupted the agricultural field tour. However, there are upsides as the growers I bumped into at the event were thankful for the rain.

It was good to catch up with a few industry colleagues I haven't seen in a while. Don't get me wrong, the use of technology and video conferencing is an excellent way to connect with people but seeing someone in the flesh just builds on the personal connection. ■

## MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION MATT KEALLEY

### KEY POINTS:

- The National Farmers' Federation's 2022 National Conference was held in Canberra in April.
- Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** and Opposition Leader **Anthony Albanese** outlined their commitments to agriculture should they be elected.
- The 2022 Australian Society of Sugarcane Technologists conference was held in Mackay.
- I presented a paper on the work CANEGROWERS and Smartcane BMP are doing with blockchain technology.



# OPPORTUNITIES ARE STRENGTHS

Being a mature industry, sometimes we can take for granted the many great initiatives that have been put in place over the decades to assist growers in their business management.

Many advocacy bodies employ a squeaky wheel strategy. They harp on about the negatives hoping to get some oil. This is a legitimate strategy and at times works well.

However, CANEGROWERS has always sought to provide the leadership, speaking up strongly to address the issues facing growers today, while also focusing on the future and how the industry can best utilise our strengths to take advantage of opportunities.

An important part of CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshops is helping growers analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) facing their business.

Some of the strengths growers have identified are the relatively good growing conditions with low production costs (in world terms), and having committed, experienced growers and strong millers (not all regions). In other words, the industry can produce and mill cane in a competitive environment.

Other, somewhat hidden strengths include:

- the ability for growers to price their sugar 3 or 4 years ahead
- marketing companies which borrow money to pay growers before they have sold the sugar, to allow for good cashflow
- bulk sugar terminals enabling storage to obtain better prices when world supply of physical sugar is low
- a strong research and extension system with our own plant breeding
- a strong unified CANEGROWERS which can negotiate with the mills and lobby governments

These strengths have mostly been achieved over many years, but grower leadership was required to ensure growers were an equal partner. This was largely provided by CANEGROWERS.

Once again, visionary leadership and a unified voice is now required to ensure growers can take advantage of the opportunities identified in the workshops, some of which include:

- value adding by diversifying products from sugarcane
- the growing demand for sustainable products
- utilising the progress made by growers in producing sustainable sugarcane shown by Smartcane BMP and securing a market for this
- technological advances - improving fertiliser products, finding an alternative source of N and gene editing

Of course, we can't ignore the weaknesses and threats with growers identifying challenges including environmental, sugar and health, increasing costs, weather extremes, miller viability, reducing area under cane, and the yield plateau.

The industry has been developing a roadmap for the future and I believe it is vital that CANEGROWERS is part of this. Hopefully in years to come a SWOT analysis will show that many of the opportunities which growers can see today will be strengths which are taken for granted. ■



## INDUSTRY AND FARM INPUTS BURN ASHBURNER

### KEY POINTS:

- Many advocacy bodies employ a squeaky wheel strategy. CANEGROWERS seeks to provide the leadership.
- Many great initiatives that have been put in place over the decades to assist growers are taken for granted.
- As part of the CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshops, growers have identified a number of strengths and opportunities for the industry
- With careful and considered leadership, today's opportunities could be tomorrow's strengths.

# REEF REPORT CARDS FAIL TO DELIVER TRUST OR TRANSPARENCY

Every 1 to 2 years since 2009, the Federal and Queensland governments have jointly released Reef water quality report cards. These purport to assess progress in aspects of land management and the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and pesticides in rivers draining into the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) lagoon.

These report cards rate the progress towards government targets. The long-delayed report card for 2020 was released in early April and sparked little if any curiosity from growers. It is timely to explore the reasons for growers' lack of interest and regard for these reports, but also the risk of such reports going unchallenged.

Notably, albeit with little comfort, the 2020 report card does not include condescending ratings of growers' progress towards universal adoption of practices deemed by the government to be good for both water quality and the bottom line of growers.

This is because the Federal and Queensland governments finally agreed to review these adoption targets after years of lobbying by CANEGROWERS.

They now recognise, we hope, that it is not rational or motivational to expect universal adoption of a whole suite of farm practices, some of which are uneconomic and many others are of variable or uncertain merit. Sustainable farming is not done by one-size-fits-all prescriptions.

But the harm of previous report cards remains. Growers have been consistently awarded ratings of E and D (just like a school report card) on their apparent failure to meet the practice adoption expectations of government.

These ratings have been consistently used by the Queensland Government to justify regulation, first in 2009 and again in 2019. They have also led to growers being demonised by certain lobby groups.

So, it's no surprise that most growers feel frustrated and bitter and that most have 'switched off', knowing the report cards to be unfair and unreasonable.

Over the past 12 months, CANEGROWERS has done a 'deep dive' into the mass of information, assumptions, modelling and expectations that feed into the Reef water quality report cards.

We found many flaws and the whole system is in crucial need of a major overhaul. The aim must be to earn trust which is a pre-requisite for government re-engaging with growers.

It is clear the data collection and modelling process, called the Paddock to Reef (P2R) program, is actually designed to evaluate the success of government project investments, such as those during Reef Rescue and Reef Trust. The P2R program has prospects of achieving this objective.

But the Paddock to Reef program has not been designed to evaluate the progress of the whole cane-farming industry's efforts to reduce impacts on water quality. Making it fit for such a role will be challenging but can only be achieved with industry's close involvement.

Even with realistic goals for practice change and a reliable method of assessing progress, problems remain. The government targets for improved water quality are very

## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

MICK QUIRK

### KEY POINTS:

- Every 1 to 2 years since 2009, the Federal and Queensland governments have jointly released Reef water quality report cards.
- The Federal and Queensland governments finally agreed to review these adoption targets after years of lobbying by CANEGROWERS.
- CANEGROWERS has done a 'deep dive' into the mass of information, assumptions, modelling and expectations that feed into the Reef water quality report cards. We found many flaws and the whole system is in crucial need of a major overhaul.
- We need to continue to challenge, in an evidence-based and reasonable manner, the integrity of reef report cards.



"We need to continue to challenge, in an evidence-based and reasonable manner, the integrity of reef report cards."

ambitious, and some stakeholders still believe that farmers need to do all the heavy lifting through changes in farm management, regardless of impacts on profit.

So, has the government truly recognised the problems created by manipulating practice adoption targets to meet the water quality targets, regardless of the consequences for farms and mills?

For example, the 2020 report states that catchments loads of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) across the GBR region dropped by an estimated 2% in 2019-20 meaning that, since the 2009 baseline year, DIN loads have reduced by an estimated 28%.

For the sake of the argument, let's take these figures at face value. The government target for DIN reduction across the GBR catchments is 60% by 2025.

But government modelling suggests that, even if all growers were using the core elements of the SIX EASY STEPS program, the best possible result will be a 40% reduction in DIN.

Where does the other 20% or more reduction come from? How much less is the environmental risk to the health of inshore reefs when a 40% reduction in DIN has been achieved? There are few reliable answers at this time.

We need to continue to challenge, in an evidence-based and reasonable manner, the integrity of reef report cards.

Indeed, it will be best if industry takes the lead in developing a trusted and transparent process of setting goals for improved water quality and measuring progress towards these.

Otherwise, we risk a continuation of unrealistic targets, changing goalposts and further regulation. ■

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# Easements

Easements are common throughout the Queensland sugar industry, so let's have a look at some basic principles.

## WHAT IS AN EASEMENT?

An easement is a legal right to use a portion of land usually owned by someone else. Easements can provide for a range of uses such as a right of way or access, drainage and water supply. The sugar industry also has special laws that apply only to the industry and allows for easements for tramline purposes for hauling sugarcane and permits to pass for cane delivery purposes.

Easements are usually registered on the title of the land affected and also on the title of the land benefited. Registration of the easement on the title ensures that it remains in place even if ownership of the relevant land changes.

## HOW ARE EASEMENTS GRANTED OR TAKEN?

An easement can be granted by the owner of the affected land to some other person, often a neighbour. Such an arrangement including terms and conditions and any compensation is by agreement between the people involved.

An easement can be ordered by the Court over land in some special circumstances, even if the owner of the land objects. The Court will set the terms and conditions of the easement and any compensation.

An easement can be taken by the government, local council or some other authority by way of compulsory acquisition. The agreement of the landholder is not required and the relevant authorities use powers provided by government legislation and take by compulsory acquisition the easement area it requires. The terms and conditions of the easement are fixed by the authority and any compensation is as agreed or otherwise determined by the Land Court.

In the sugar industry a sugar mill owner can apply to the Land Court for an order that it be granted an access right (easement). Terms and conditions and compensation will be set by the Court in the absence of agreement.

Also in the sugar industry, a cane grower can apply to the Land Court for an access right (permit to pass) over someone else's land. Terms and conditions and compensation will be set by the Court in the absence of agreement.



By Chris Cooper,  
CANEGROWERS  
Legal Advisor





### HOW ARE EASEMENTS REMOVED OR MODIFIED?

Easements remain on the title to the relevant land until removed/modified. This can happen:

- If the parties to the easement agree, a surrender or amendment can be signed and registered.
- The terms of the easement might provide for surrender of the easement once certain circumstances arise under the terms of the easement.
- The Court can order on application by a party the removal or surrender of an easement.
- An acquiring authority has power to remove or modify an easement.
- In the sugar industry special laws exist to allow a person affected by an easement to apply to the Land Court for its removal or amendment.

### WHAT CAN THE EASEMENT BE USED FOR?

The nature of the right of use provided by an easement is determined by the type of easement and the terms and conditions set out in the easement itself. For example, if an easement is granted for an underground drainage pipe, the easement cannot be used for general right of way purposes.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE?

Check the terms of the easement first. If there is nothing about maintenance, then usually the grant of an easement does not require the owner of the land over which the easement exists to maintain the easement to any particular standard. Usually, these matters are resolved by discussion and agreement, but disputes can arise.

### HOW TO RESOLVE A DISPUTE ABOUT AN EASEMENT

Dispute resolution is a favourite topic of mine and I have published various articles on the options available. Generally they are as follows:

- Direct discussions and negotiations between the relevant parties.
- Seeking assistance from your local CANEGROWERS district office if it is not a member/member dispute.
- Contact the local Disputes Resolution Centre and arrange a free mediation between the parties. These centres are located in each major regional town and administered through the local court office.
- Seek legal advice early on to understand your options and the details and nature of the easement.
- Apply to the court to make orders seeking the resolutions you are after. This can be an expensive and stressful exercise and uncertain in outcome with usually a damaging effect on neighbourly relations and should not be undertaken lightly.

*(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. ■

# Optimising Farm Inputs & Boosting Profitability With VRA



It's been found that approximately 10-20% of a field under-performs. So, how are you ensuring that you don't waste your inputs in these 'high-risk' zones?

With input costs on the up and up, many farmers are exploring opportunities to minimise expenses with precision farming technology such as Variable Rate Application (VRA).

VRA is when the rate of farm inputs, such as fertiliser, chemicals, and ameliorant, is continuously adjusted during application to match the predetermined target rate for specific field areas. VRA can apply to select areas, rows, and even single plants within a field.

VRA can be done in two ways; pre-planned mapping, which enables growers to see how each field will be approached before operations start, and real-time VRA, which relies on in-field sensor data and makes automatic adjustments on the fly based on real-time field data.

By using precise targeting and controlling the optimal amount of input at the correct location, VRA manages field variability by eliminating the time-consuming, human-error factor that can occur when these tasks are done

manually, boosting input efficacy and minimising environmental impact.

Before implementing VRA, growers should undertake an evidence-based process to find the impact and cause of variability. The greatest benefits of VRA occur where there is high variability of crop growth conditions. Reviewing yield maps and working with trained consultants who have access to the appropriate data layers, computer software, and equipment is a great way to understand your variability.

Vantage BMS, your locally authorised precision ag dealer, offer several data collection, yield and profit mapping, and Soil Information System (SIS) services to help you understand your variability and factors that impact yield.

By using systems such as Field-IQ, Trimble's crop input control system, which guides farm equipment to automatically apply the right rate of input at the right place at the right time, Vantage BMS helps growers to

automatically manage and control the flow and application of their farm inputs with ease.

Other solutions, such as Trimble's WeedSeeker 2, precision spot spray system, make real-time decisions based on optical sensor technology, identifying the presence of individual weeds on each pass, minimising chemical application and boosting profit.

By using variable rate technology, you can ensure that your fields get what they need when they need it. VRA enables growers to lower input costs, improve crop yield, and reduce environmental impact, while helping to better manage and control their overall farming operation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

To understand how VRA can boost your profit and yield, contact your local Vantage BMS representative on 1300 TRIMBLE or visit [www.vantage-bms.com.au](http://www.vantage-bms.com.au) to learn more. ■

ADVERTISING FEATURE





## Look behind the curtain provides useful insight for young growers

The Cairns Young Farmers Group recently met in Brisbane to undertake some professional development specifically designed for young growers.

This included a visit to the SRA Woodford facilities to see plant pathology, pest and disease research, and engagement with CANEGROWERS staff to discuss operations and future projects.

Mulgrave grower **Thomas Greenwood** found the week useful in providing a broader view of the industry and insight into some of the practices that growers use in areas that differ from his home.

"It was good to see behind the curtains and understand what happens at CANEGROWERS and to see the plans for the future.

"It's reassuring to know that the industry is progressing and to get to see the bigger picture.

"I have a new appreciation for the effort that SRA puts into developing disease resistant varieties, I had no idea that thousands are discarded for every few released.

"The visits also provided me some lateral thinking about diversification possibilities. Overall it was a useful week."

Thomas was joined by fellow Cairns Region growers **Steven Bonso, Michael Harding, Michael Gray, Matt Arcidiacono, and Joel Tierney** from the CANEGROWERS Cairns office.

On their final day, the group visited the Rocky Point district to meet with local young growers, **Sam Mischke, Mitch Zipf, Mitch Fischer, Ryan Fischer and Ben Spann** for the chance to discuss practices and the opportunity to visit Rocky Point mulching.

The professional development of the young growers in Cairns was an initiative of CANEGROWERS Cairns region supported by the CANEGROWERS Cairns region board. CANEGROWERS Cairns Chairman **Stephen Calcagno** said the \$20,000 investment into the Young Farmers Group is important to the district and was appreciative of QCGO for its support of the tour. ■



*Pictured: The Cairns young growers group visited Rocky Point where they met with fellow young growers, visited farms, spoke about alternative practices and visited Rocky Point mulching with Ben Spann and Josh Keith.*

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\* 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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2x 6 Tonne Farview Engineering Side tippers. \$13,000 ea. Ph: 0407761364.

Bonel 9 tyne ripper with as new legs 120 inch Howard rotary hoe chain drive [always shedded] Perkins 3 cyl. direct coupled to Southern Cross 100 x 65 x 315 centrifugal oil bath pump on trailer with 800 litre diesel tank as new. 2 Southern Cross soft hose irrigators [always shedded]. Case 1690 c/w Howard 90 inch rotary hoe [chain drive]. Ph: 0411196860.

Break Pusher - can suit various machines, galvanised pipe construction. Length 5.2 metres, Width 3.5 metres, Height 2.2 metres. Mackay area. Photos on request. Ph: 0408874974 or 0418874974.

4080 Chamberlain tractor, air con cab, John Deere engine. In good cond. Ph: 0409264351.

6 tonne Ian Richie tipper bin. Can be converted into high lift with not much cost. Good Condition. \$11,000. Mackay Area. Ph: 0418716043.

Case full track harvester 7700. New fronts, 3000 hrs on new engine. All maintenance and services up to date. \$100K. BSM side tipper 12 tonne. Work ready. \$50K. All + GST. Ph: 0427595774.

4" aluminium irrigations pipes IBC. Ph: 0481821301.

6 tonne BSM Side Tipper. Good Condition \$19,800 ONO. Located Pinnacle QLD 4741. Ph: 0418583306.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438606578.

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. 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. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438606578.

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

### Bundaberg-Rocky Point

Valley pivot pipes. 8 poly line pipes 11.5m x 150mm. 8 sub tower pipes 150mm. POA. Ph: 0477704134.

HBM billet planter set up for dual row or single. \$10,000 + GST. Twin 2.5 tonne billet planter tipper bin, carries 5 tonne \$5,000 +GST. Ph: 0413584728.

Ford 8401 coupled to 6 tonne Ritchie tipper, new 23-1-34 tyres, new PTO clutch, new hydraulic pump, new high-low, new air con, also wet weather buggy wheels. \$22,000 incl GST. Will separate. Ph: 0409875241.

3 point linkage 3 row stool rake \$800. Whole stick cane planter \$500. Single row fert box with tynes \$350. All + GST. Ph: 0413584728.

3 inch 2 in 1 Avoca double reel water winch, 4 inch Avoca 2 in 1 heavy duty water winch, 2,200litre diesel fuel tanker is a complete trailer Massey Ferguson 65 high clearance. Ph: 0427598333.

2 x Massey Ferguson 102 cane harvesters VGC Shedded \$5,000 each, 4 tyne Paraplow Ripper \$4,000, Croplands Ute Sprayer 1200L 16M BOOM \$5,000, Grain Bin Trailer \$1,000, 2 x Linkage break pusher \$400 each, Side Dresser Fertiliser Box \$1,200, ½ Tonne Linkage Spreader \$500. All + GST. Ph: 0488662313.

## Rainfall Report

Location	Recorded rainfall (mm)			Average rainfall (mm)
	Month prior (Mar 2022)	Month to date (1 Mar-29 Apr)	Year to date	Jan-Apr
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	255.2	856.6	1950.4	2008.4
Mareeba Airport	73.4	92.2	553.4	633.3
Cairns Aero	352.6	372.2	1227	1455.4
Mt Sophia	682	691	2463	2271.7
Babinda Post Office	705.1	0	1610.4	2700.6
Innisfail	451.2	356.4	1785.4	2209.8
Tully Sugar Mill	470	632.2	1976.3	2606.3
Cardwell Marine Pde	155	306.2	965.2	1508.4
Lucinda Township	143.2	530.6	1169	1471.6
Ingham Composite	147.2	434.8	1072.2	1465.3
Abergowrie Alert	29	10	319	992
Townsville Aero	39.6	293.4	791.4	827.3
Ayr DPI Research Stn	4.2	192.2	481.4	655.5
Proserpine Airport	123.4	120.2	800.2	974.2
Mirani Mary Street	48.9	177	417.7	940.6
Mackay MO	123.8	204.6	574.8	1010
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	123	246.2	665.2	1158.6
Bundaberg Aero	153	12.2	596.4	492.3
Childers South	149.8	13.8	612	411.5
Maryborough	98.6	36.4	635.2	577.9
Tewantin RSL Park	167.6	66.4	1232.2	759
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	134	4.6	1219.4	874.2
Nambour DPI - Hillside	275.6	99.6	1537.2	990.4
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	0	49	804.1	525.6
Murwillumbah Bray Park	162.8	72.5	1020	810.8
Ballina Airport	811.8	96.4	1774	811.9
New Italy (Woodburn)	686.8	114.6	1760.2	663.1

Brought to you by Australian Retirement Trust



Zero indicates either no rain or no report was sent. These rainfall figures are subject to verification and may be updated later. Weather forecasts, radar and satellite images and other information for the farming community can be accessed on [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). Weather report sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology Recent Rainfall Tables.

## Classifieds

### NSW

4m Bertie Luna rotary hoe, 90% hard faced blades, hydraulic crumbler roller, \$20,000. Ph: 0402105244.

### Positions Vacant

Haulout Driver wanted. 90,000t group, permanent early, 5 day roster, Volvo trucks, roll on roll off. Inkerman area. Ph: 0407122460.

Position available on a sugarcane farm in the Burdekin area, Giru. Duties include flood irrigation set up, slashing and spot spraying. Must be physically fit and have valid Drivers licence. Experience preferred. Email: [girucane@bigpond.com](mailto:girucane@bigpond.com)

CANEGROWERS Tully is seeking a Cane Auditor to ensure the weighing, sampling and analysis of cane and the calculation of CCS and cane payment are carried out correctly. Experience in Cane Analysis an advantage and laboratory experience essential. Applications close 14 April. Email: [tul@canegrowers.com.au](mailto:tul@canegrowers.com.au)

Articulated Bin Hauler Operator needed for 100,000 tonne contract situated in the Tully area. Heavy Vehicle Licence required. Phone Alf on 0427 656488 (after hours 07 40656488) or email [alf.jen@bigpond.com](mailto:alf.jen@bigpond.com)  
2x Haul-Out Operators, Innisfail Area, experience preferred but not essential, own transport required. Ph: 0429653461.

### Work Wanted

Qualified diesel fitter looking for work. 18 years experience, John Deere, Caterpillar equipment. Cairns area. Ph: 0419726025.  
Couple looking for casual work from June

to August in tractor/harvest work, own transport and a slide on camper. Have experience as an owner operator of a dairy farm on 1,500 acres for 25 years. Multi-skilled workers experienced with machinery, maintenance, administration and accounting, livestock knowledge. Email for more info: [yanakiefarms@dcsl.net.au](mailto:yanakiefarms@dcsl.net.au)

### Property - For Sale

70ha Cane Farm with 61.5ha under cane. Located 8 km from town centre and 1 km from Victoria Mill. Property is flood free with town water supply running along property front. Paddocks have all been lasered and are well maintained and up to date with new varieties. Ph: 0427912277.

Cane farm to lease Munburra, Sunnyside or Oakenden areas. Have own equipment. Ph: 0408011983.

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph Larry: 0418496864.

DEERAL Cane Farm for Sale. 52.9ha on 2 titles. Only 45mins to CBD. Peaceful location, close to panoramic river, boat ramp & mountain views. 186 Ross Road, Deeral. Ph: 0412968434.

Cane Farm, 47 acres. 23 acres Cane Production for 2021, remainder fallow. 40MG Kinchant Dam Allocation. Supplied to Racecourse Mill. 20 mins from Mackay. Ph: 0466241656.

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: 0415881092.

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 2021 crop. Selling due to health reasons. Ph: 0408733793.

### Property - Wanted

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438545251.

Want to buy farm in the Mackay or Proserpine area. Must have two good condition houses and irrigation. Ph Paul: 0447545550.

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Ph James: 0429621145.

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

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



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