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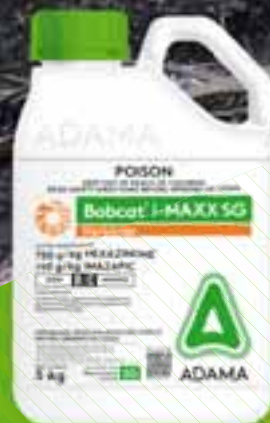
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COVER IMAGE:

Cairns Region growers Don Reghenzani and his son Cameron combine their fabrication skills on their family farm.

Photo Credit: Renee Cluff

Read more on page 24

Ag Ministers acknowledge fire ant threat but lack commitment.

CANEGROWERS welcomes the announcements on the fire ant eradication program following a recent meeting of Australian and State Agriculture Ministers.

There appears to be change in both resourcing and strategy associated with their endorsement of a new fire ant response plan for 2023–27.

These announcements have been a long time coming, given a review of the program in 2021 found it to be grossly under

resourced and failing to even contain the spread of the pest. The review signalled that immediate changes were urgently needed to retain any chance of eradication.

CANEGROWERS remains concerned that there has been no public commitment from the Ag Ministers to the eradication of fire ants, or to implementing all the recommendations of the 2021 review.

A new 10-year response plan is needed urgently so there is transparency and certainty about both objectives and resourcing. CANEGROWERS will continue to advocate to all levels of government for a commitment to eradication achieved through full adoption of all the recommendations from the review.

EU Trade talk negotiations break down

CANEGROWERS has been working closely with our national body, the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), lead negotiators from Foreign Affairs and Trade and directly with Federal Trade and Agriculture ministers to support Australia's negotiations on an EU free trade agreement.

As reported by the media, the Australian Government walked away from negotiations last week.

CANEGROWERS supported this position as the existing offer on the table from the European Commissions was not commercially viable for our industry, and in reality would put Australian sugar at a worse position compared to current access.

CANEGROWERS is hopeful that negotiations may restart later in the year and will continue to support the Government in their work in the area.



Renewable energy zone roadmap

The Queensland Government has released the draft 2023 Queensland Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap for consultation to support the coordinated growth of Queensland's renewable energy sector. Have your say by emailing your feedback as a submission to REZRoadmap@epw.qld.gov.au by Friday 22 September 2023.



QSL Mark Hampson CANEGROWERS Owen Menkens and QSL Greg Beashel at the Port of Townsville - supplied by QSL

SWEET MILESTONE REACHED AS SUGAR HEADS TO THE UK

Years of hard work by Australian trade negotiators and the sugarcane industry have come to fruition this month, with the first commercial shipment of Australian sugar destined for London in almost half a century.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens was on hand at the Port of Townsville on Monday 10 July when the first raw sugar shipment to the United Kingdom under the new Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (A-UKFTA) was loaded.

This shipment of raw sugar, produced from the Burdekin region, signifies the opening of an important new market for the Queensland sugar industry.

Under the A-UKFTA, that came into place on 31 May 2023, tariff-free raw sugar exports to the UK resumed for the first time since 1973 and will gradually increase from an initial allocation of 80,000 tonnes this year (pro rata) until tariffs are eliminated completely on 1 January 2031.

Mr Menkens said it was very pleasing to see the years of hard work by Australian trade

negotiators and the industry had come to fruition with the first commercial shipment of Australian sugar destined for the UK in almost half a century.

"The inclusion of sugar in this free trade agreement is the culmination of a lot of hard work undertaken by CANEGROWERS and other sugar industry stakeholders, who have worked closely with the Australian Government negotiators since 2020 to get this agreement in place," Mr Menkens said.

"This market is opening up for Australian exports because growers have taken steps to adopt the industry-led on-farm environmental management program, Smartcane BMP. UK sugar refiners Tate and Lyle have made it clear from the very beginning that the reason they want to source raw sugar from Australia is because of our world-class sustainability credentials.

"Forty per cent of sugarcane grown in Queensland is Smartcane BMP accredited and growers across the state continue to invest in sustainability while trying to maintain on-farm profitability. I hope sugarcane growers across Queensland stand proud of their efforts in supporting the re-opening of this valuable market for the Australian industry."

Smartcane BMP has been working with sugarcane farmers across Queensland to record and verify their practice improvements since 2014. ■

APVMA

In November 2022, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) made headlines due to allegations of staff misconduct.

In response the APVMA Board commissioned a review by Ernst and Young in November 2022, at the request of the Minister.

The focus of the review encompassed regulatory performance, financial management, and overall administration. Allegations of fee anomalies, prioritizing industry relationships and statutory timelines over compliance and enforcement, potential misuse of public resources in IT procurement, and operational impacts of high staff turnover were among the primary concerns addressed.

Ernst and Young's findings raised several red flags that have caused concern among stakeholders. In addition to the concerns raised above, the report highlighted that many of the agency's ongoing chemical reviews had been in progress for nearly two decades, a

disconcerting revelation that called for urgent action.

The APVMA plays a pivotal role in registering products for use in Australia. Its assessments determine the safety for human health and the environment and set the rules for usage. It is therefore critical that it serves as an independent and efficient regulator that bases its decisions on unbiased scientific evidence. Otherwise, the reputation of Australia's exported produce could be impacted, especially since some chemicals approved for use in Australia are banned in other countries.

However, it is essential to note that the review also concluded that the agvet chemical approval and registration process continues to adhere to stringent regulatory requirements, with no evidence suggesting any issues with the safety or efficacy of approved products.

In the wake of the review's release, both the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the APVMA resigned, and temporary appointments have been made while permanent replacements are sought.

To address the challenges highlighted in the review, the Minister has commissioned Dr. Ken Matthews AO to undertake a rapid evaluation of the APVMA's structure and governance. The recommendations stemming from this evaluation, expected in September 2023, aim to bring about necessary reforms. The Minister has also issued a Directive to expedite the review of chemicals that have been under assessment for an extended period.

The objectivity and efficiency of the APVMA is vital to ensure the continued success of Australia's productive, competitive, and profitable agricultural sector, with a well-deserved reputation for leading the way in food safety and sustainability.

CANEGROWERS supports the efforts to evaluate the culture and performance of the APVMA to ensure the integrity of its work. We await the recommendations of Dr. Ken Matthews AO in the coming months. ■

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STAY ON THE SAFE SIDE

Unfortunately agriculture continues to be one of the most dangerous industries to work in. In 2022, 55 farmers lost their lives on farm, with tractors, quad bikes and side-by-sides continuing to dominate as agents of fatality.

Farmsafe Australia, the national advocate for farm safety, is using Farm Safety Week to urge farmers and farm workers to 'Stay on the Safe Side' highlighting the following points:

Look out for little farmers when operating tractors and machinery on farms

With the farm often encompassing the family home, children spend time near potentially high-risk working area. Although drowning remains the greatest risk for children on farms, quad bikes, side-by-sides, motorbikes and tractors feature heavily in injury and fatality reports amongst this age group. Establishing clear boundaries, active supervision, matching chores with strength and skills and educating small visitors and being vigilant are some key safety messages to implement.

Know your limits

Harvest is a busy time on the farm, with long hours and often not enough hands to go around, it's important to combat fatigue and be aware of prioritising wellbeing during these hectic days.

Farm safety shouldn't cost an arm or a leg

It's important to prioritise safety when working around Power Take-Off (PTO) shafts and farm machinery implements.

PTO shafts transfer power from tractors to various implements such as mowers, balers, and augers.

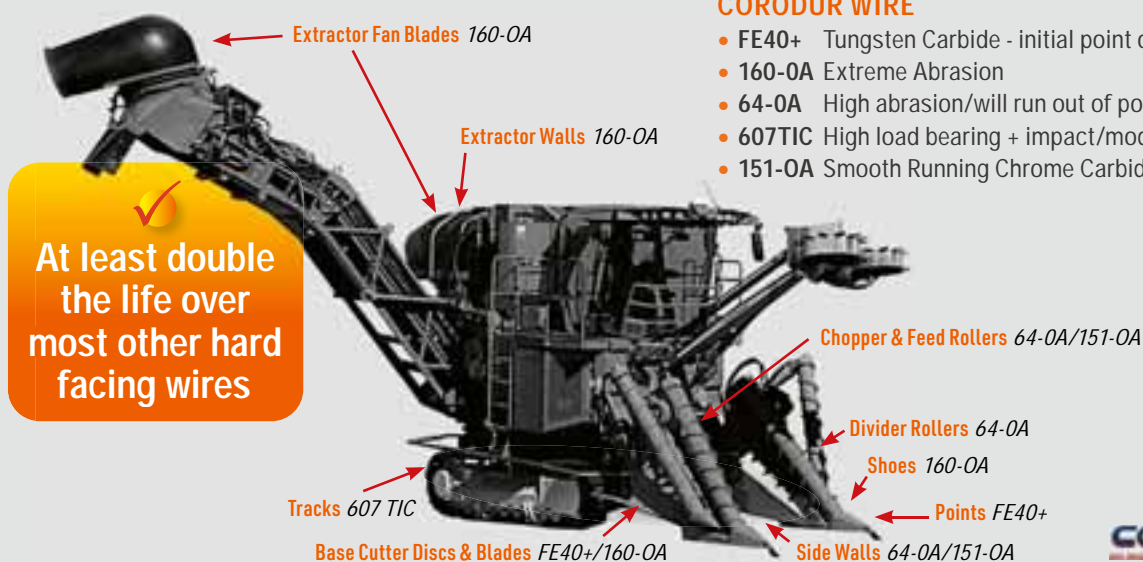
PTO-driven equipment is essential in agricultural operations but can pose significant entanglement risks if not handled with caution. By raising awareness and implementing proper safety measures, farmers and farm workers can prevent injuries and fatalities.

Farmsafe Australia has a series of Toolbox Talks and a free Online Induction Tool to help with safety risks and how to report and manage them, visit farmsafe.org.au to learn more. ■

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COMMUNITY BACKING IS EARNED BUT REWARDED

BY DAN GALLIGAN
CEO CANEGROWERS

Our presence in the community is never more evident than at harvest time. When we are in the middle of it, we can sometimes lose perspective about just how huge harvest is, when it is viewed from the perspective of our local community. While we may find it hard to believe most people in our communities both regional and metropolitan have little or no knowledge of how our industry works. But they want to know more.

We are not just guessing about this, at CANEGROWERS we know this is true. For the past five years CANEGROWERS has collaborated with the Australian Sugar Milling Council to track what the community thinks and feels about our industry. This "community sentiment" work has been delivered by people independent to the industry via surveys and focus groups in major capital cities and with people from both South East Queensland and across our regions.

In our most recent work we asked how much people knew and what they feel about the industry, whether they believed the industry impacted (positive or negative) with the environment and health, what knowledge people had of the impact of our industry programs and economic importance and finally, what other considerations people would need to work in the industry.

Not only is this data powerful in itself but when it is combined with the messages from the previous reports we gain important knowledge that can inform our work across the industry. And it is doing just that.

There are a number of clear messages in the responses. For instance, we have learnt the community has a high regard for farmers, we can tell that people see farming sugarcane as different from eating sugar and their relationship between farmers and processors is different to the relationship they might have with food

manufacturers and food brands. While some of this sentiment has changed over the years, a really consistent theme is that people in our regional towns – just as much as people from cities – respect farmers, trust farmers but have questions and are unaware about farming practices. Essentially many people are interested but largely ignorant of our industry – regardless of where they live.

While it is a huge task, we clearly need to be persistent in our campaigns to work in and with the community to tell the story of the industry. CANEGROWERS is taking up this challenge. Notably later this month we will again lead an industry presence at the Ekka in Brisbane. This year will be bigger and better than last year. With the assistance of SRA and Sunshine Sugar we are showcasing the industry with the use of Virtual Reality headsets and industry production samples and specifically generated information relevant to the crowd. Our involvement in the Ekka education trail will see thousands of community and school students explore the industry and gain a valuable insight into not only our history but our future.

While it is a very busy time of year across the industry, growers and families or your relatives who may be visiting the EKKA would be welcome to pop in to our stand in the agricultural hall, spend a little time talking to the community or just meeting the staff working there who are proud to represent and speak on behalf of this great industry. ■

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WHAT DO CANEGROWERS AND STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING HAVE IN COMMON?

They share a passion for agriculture and have a keen interest in the Queensland sugarcane industry.

In July, a group of students from the University of Wyoming and the Senior Research Scientist of Agricultural & Applied Economics Thomas (Tom) Foulke, visited CANEGROWERS as part of a study tour of Australia. The tour was hosted by Peter Lloyd from Agritours Australia and centred around Australia's agricultural led export sector and included the Queensland sugarcane industry so the group could learn about the role sugar plays in Australia's export markets.

Matt Kealley, Senior Manager for Membership and Innovation welcomed the group to the Brisbane office and provided a rundown on work that CANEGROWERS does for growers and the industry at a local, national and international scale. He also

explained the growing and production process as well as the sustainability challenges the industry is facing and how the sugarcane industry is tackling this using Smartcane BMP. The questions from the students were diverse, ranging from how sugarcane was grown and how sugar was made, to the varieties used, R&D and technology, and how growers manage their environmental and social responsibilities required by export markets.

Erin a first-year student from Wyoming was full of questions and said she had "learned so much about something I had never thought about before".

The following day, the tour visited Rocky Point to see sugarcane firsthand. The students were hosted by Greg Zipf, the Chair of CANEGROWERS Rocky Point and Josh Keith, Chief Operating Officer for Rocky Point who make sugarcane mulch, bulk and bagged premium quality products for the

"I learned so much about something I had never thought about before"



“Who would have thought that such a simple product would use such sophisticated tech”

nursery, home gardener, agriculture, and erosion management industries. Greg explained the crop cycle and farming system used in Rocky Point and outlined the importance of diversification in the district.

Josh then took the students on a tour of the factory which started in the shed looking at sugarcane harvesters and sugarcane trash bailing equipment. Their yellow Cameco harvester was being serviced but the familiar John Deere cab and green parts resonated with a couple of the students who talked about John Deere equipment on their home farms in Wyoming and Colorado.

Tom explained seeing the harvester in parts for repair was a chance for the group to really get into the production process and see what it takes to make the whole process happen. It demonstrated how even sophisticated production processes often come down to somebody with a wrench who knows what they are doing and is willing to put that energy and know-how to work.

The tour moved through the various parts of the Rocky Point business, from the diverse range of gardening products, to the robots bagging sugarcane mulch and then onto the composting and recycling facility. Josh explained the diversification strategy of the family run business and the production of compost and gardening soils which all form part of a Rocky Point product line.

“It’s important to share the diversification story of Rocky Point and showcase the sugarcane industry here in the district. It was great to have the students visit and hear their questions as we can always learn something from each other,” Josh said.

Tom said the tour of the Rocky Point factory was a fantastic example of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ag sector and appreciated Josh explaining the entire production process from field waste to palletised product.

“This is exactly what we are looking for with our trip, examples of how innovation and new thinking drives success in building new opportunities in the agricultural sector,” Tom said.

Elizabeth, from California, liked how Rocky Point was recycling old pallets into mulch and Noah, a third-year student who comes from a farming and trucking family in Nebraska was amazed at the technology used in the packaging process.

“Who would have thought that such a simple product would use such sophisticated tech,” Noah said.

Tom explained the students come from a variety of agricultural backgrounds from corn/soy farms to extensive livestock operations, but sugar was new to them. This was an opportunity to give them a new perspective. This is the third tour by the University of Wyoming to Australia and the third time they have visited CANEGROWERS.

“CANEGROWERS is a great opportunity to start the process of opening these young people’s minds to new ideas and new ways of doing things. The fact that it comes so early in their Australian adventure means this is the first opportunity for them to see something new,” Tom said. ■

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens CANEGROWERS Chairman

With the start to the 2023 crush dampened in many districts because of increased rain events that have prevented access to the paddocks, it can be difficult not to focus on the challenges like the weather, the recent changes to electricity tariffs and a volatile Australian dollar to name a few.

But there have also been some great news stories in the media recently about our industry, and the global price and demand for our quality Queensland sugar remains high.

We have just sent a shipment of sugar to London as part of the new Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (A-UKFTA) and the Queensland Government's vote of confidence in the industry's ability to provide feedstock for biofuels is a welcome recognition.

On 14 July the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) released their assessments on the health impacts of the synthetic sweetener aspartame.

Aspartame is an artificial (chemical) sweetener widely used in various food and beverage products since the 1980s, including diet drinks, chewing gum, gelatin, ice cream, dairy products such as yogurt, breakfast cereal, toothpaste and medications such as cough drops and chewable vitamins.

The two entities conducted independent but complementary reviews to assess the potential carcinogenic hazard and other health risks associated with aspartame consumption and we welcome the science-based caution over potential health issues associated with the use of artificial sweeteners. This reaffirms the value of sticking with natural sugars in a balanced and nutritious diet.

Conversations like these in the media help to inform the general public on the things that we already know – our industry is humming and will remain so well into the future.

In fact, independent research found that in the 2020-21 year alone, Queensland's sugar industry contributed \$3.8 billion to the state's economy and supported almost 20,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Our industry is a driving force of our regional towns, and as the weather clears we will get to see the industry active and busy again, supporting our local communities.



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MAPPED OUT

A new spatial mapping system in the Mossman District is a one-stop decision support tool for growers.

The spatial maps on Mossman Agricultural Services' website tell a story. Multiple datasets have been used to develop the decision-making support tools. Information on everything from pest and disease risks to productivity and even block cut dates are available to growers at the click of a button.

Created by Extension Agronomist Simon Engdahl, the spatial maps are based on Mossman Mill's grower shapefiles, which have been edited using QGIS and collated with block and varietal specific data from various Microsoft Excel files. Simon has written all the code for the program using R, a programming language for statistical computing and graphics. The result is a data-rich farm management tool.

"It initially started as a soil map – as a graduate just over a year ago, I just wanted to look at the different soil types," Simon said. "Then I found you can just keep adding other things. It was originally an agronomist's tool but has been quickly adapted for growers to access too."

Eight growers have so far had free custom maps made up since the program was made available in January 2023.

The overlays include soil types, varieties, crop classes and much more. Growers can view their pachymetra results from each block over the past decade, along with resistance for yellow spot and smut and blocks with RSD or grub damage.

Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) are available for each block, along with productivity reports from the past two seasons.

Some information is for owners of each farm only, while some overlays can be viewed by all.

"We have permission from all the growers to be able to see each other's farms," Simon said. "They're happy to share. They can see what other people are doing, for instance if another grower has a variety they might be interested in or where the smut susceptible areas are."

"Any Excel data you have can be mapped spatially"

"We've mapped early, mid and late sugar varieties and growers can see when a block was cut so they can plan their harvest rotations."

A search function adds to the user-friendliness of the site. Unlike many of its competitors, the software is free, with Mossman Agricultural Services spending just a few hundred dollars on website hosting. ■





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The CANEGROWERS 2024 calendar needs 12 outstanding photographs that showcase the sugarcane industry in all its glory. Share the passion and send your photos to: info@canegrowers.com.au

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE

Current as of 17 July 2023.

Sugar Market & Currency

Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	Centre South Brazil harvesting continues to operate at record speeds and has appeared to overcome feared logistical port issues. By the end of June, 210 million tonnes of cane had been harvested and 12.2 million tonnes of sugar produced.	
India	The Indian monsoon, which arrived almost three weeks later than expected, has now covered the entire country and is delivering moderate-to-heavy rainfall. The delayed start has led to June rainfall figures being recorded as well below average.	Neutral
Thailand	Extremely dry weather and heatwaves throughout June may inhibit cane growth in Thailand. Monsoon season rain arrived in July, but is expected to be up to 10% below average.	
Speculators	Speculators reduced their net-long position to 115,000 lots as of Tuesday 11 July after a major speculator sell-off was triggered by a trade house closing their large July 2023 position just prior to the expiry.	
Currency	The AUD returned to its familiar 66-68 US cent range following a pause to the rate hiking programs from the US Federal Open Market Committee in June and the Reserve Bank of Australia in July. Chinese economic slowdown has also provided headwinds for the Australian dollar.	Neutral

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

Grower Pricing

> The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved across all growing regions using QSL products to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:

- 2023 Target Price = \$850 / IFC \$875 (Jul23)
- 2024 Target Price = \$725 / IFC \$750 (Jul24)
- 2025 Target Price = \$645 / IFC \$650 (Jul25)
- 2026 Target Price = \$600 / IFC \$600 (Jul26)

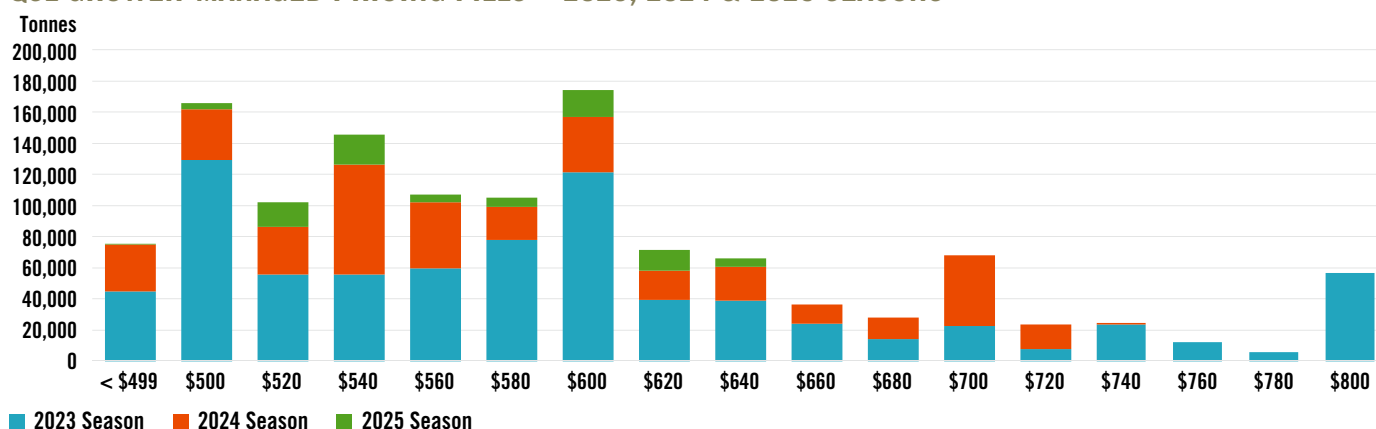
> Key Dates:

- **1 July:** From this day QSL's commitment limits increased for the 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 seasons. Please see the table below for details.

2024 Season	2025 Season	2026 Season	2027 Season	2028 Season
70%	70%	50%	40%	30%

- **20 September:** Last day to price 2023-Season Target Price Contract tonnage before the pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
- **20 September:** Last day to achieve or roll pricing allocated to the October 2023 ICE 11 contract through the Individual Futures Contract or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2023, 2024 & 2025 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 17.07.23 by growers from across all sugarcane growing regions using QSL's Target Price Contract, Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest products. Prices quoted at AUD/tonnes actual gross.

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.



MATE IN THE FIELD

The sugar industry is now using a data-driven platform in the quest for greater harvesting revenue gains.

The choice of harvesting settings, including fan and ground speeds, have long been a point of contention between harvest crews and growers. A new app which aims to find common ground based on hard facts, is now being used for the first full harvest season.

Harvest Mate is a free online platform and smartphone app designed to capture more yield from the paddock by determining the most economically optimal settings on the day of harvest.

Developed by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), the tool uses farm data collected through SRA trials, which is supported by detailed economic data collected and analysed by DAF.

Herbert District grower Michael Reinaudo is among the first to be using it to harvest his own cane.

"Harvest Mate knows what blocks and what varieties and what ratoons there are in particular blocks, through all the data they've injected into the platform," he explained.



SRA District Manager - Northern & Agricultural Machinery Specialist Phil Patane introducing Harvest Mate to growers in the Herbert River

"When you are in a harvester in the block, it'll tell you the optimum fan speed and ground speed and how much money per hectare you can save by changing certain practices. If a grower wants the harvester to slow down, the grower can say, 'look if you

slow down we're going to earn \$100/hectare more, we can share in that."

"It is a guideline," Michael said. "It is great to know what you are able to do and then there's the reality of what you can actually do. We are definitely using the parameters and you adjust



"Harvest Mate has been developed to fill that knowledge gap and increase profitability"



Michael Reinaudo is among the first to be using the Harvest Mate on farm

every day to what the conditions are or the circumstances such as late bin deliveries. There is a myriad of things that can affect your day, which impacts how much benefit you can get from the Harvest Mate parameters. It's about how close we can get."

SRA Agricultural Machinery Specialist, Phil Patane, said a need for such a tool was identified years ago.

"In 2019 SRA received 148 responses to a survey that asked growers and harvesting contractors about their harvesting practice," he said. "The vast majority of recipients told us that they didn't know the production and economic benefits when changing from their current practices.

"It's been developed to be user-friendly, which we hope is reflected in the name."

Michael said Phil has assisted with first-time teething issues.

"The support I've had from Phil has been great, making sure it's all lining up and everything is assigned to the right blocks and everything like that. He's been really helpful."

Cane growers and harvesting contractors can register to use the tool by setting up their user profile online at harvestmate.au. Once that's done, it's simply a matter of downloading the app from Google Play or the Apple Store. ■



EQUIPPED FOR EFFICIENCY

By Renee Cluff

Don Reghenzani and his son Cameron have been putting their fabrication skills to good use on the family farm south of Cairns.

Due to a small working window in the Wet Tropics, modifying machinery for improved on-farm efficiencies, precision, quality and quantity is a passion for father and son duo Don and Cameron Reghenzani. Inside a massive shed on their 240-hectare farm at Mount Sophia in Fishery Falls, they have together custom-made a seemingly endless list of machines and implements. A four-row scarifier, an excavator trailer, a three-row bedformer and modified a highrise sprayer that deals with elevated vines and bottom-dwelling weeds in one pass are some of their more recent achievements.

Both Don and Cameron are qualified fitters and turners. Don received his qualification many years ago while working at Mulgrave Mill, while Cameron has just finished his apprenticeship under his father's guidance.

It wasn't an easy feat for the 32-year-old, who has significant visual impairments. His father knew Cameron always had the talent and desire to work in the field but getting trade education institutions onboard proved to be a more considerable challenge than any eyesight limitations.

"With my eyes it was very difficult to basically get a trade through TAFE," Cameron explained.



"If we can keep going without anything breaking down, we can get a lot done but if you don't, you miss that working window"

"They required me to visit a lot of doctors and specialists to get written approval that I would be safe. It was a struggle to get through it, but we got past all the hurdles that the TAFE bureaucracy had thrown at us. On starting the apprenticeship, we had fantastic support from the teachers and staff."

Once he had his chance, Cameron flourished. "Even his teacher said to me that Cameron hasn't got a disability, that he's topping the cohort," Don said. "That didn't really surprise me. I am very proud of him."

Theirs has proved to be a synergistic partnership. Cameron's youthful enthusiasm has combined with Don's experience of both fabrication and farming to deliver a productive collaboration. "I understand what's needed on the farming side of it and Cameron comes to me with his ideas of how things can be made," Don said. "It brings together Cameron's young ideas and energy and my experience. For instance, Cameron recently got me to agree to purchase a CNC machine rather than hand cutting everything. Now we just create the design and it cuts for us. Everything's to do with saving time so we're always modifying things to make it easier the next time."

"Plus, I'm getting older and I'm not going to be able to do what I did ten years ago so that's something I'm conscious of too. I've got to be able to get more done with the hours I've got. Once something breaks, everything stops and it doesn't just stop that one job, it stops the other person too to fix it."



"It was looking really good until we had to transport it off. That's when the cost really ran away"

Images: Renee Cluff and Don Reghenzani

"If we can keep going without anything breaking down, we can get a lot done but if you don't, you miss that working window."

Their modifications also consider safety and the possibility of technology failing. One example is chemical handling. "We've set up a water tank to be able to run the highrise and sprayers with chemical feeders so it's quicker and safer to work because you're not lifting chemicals above your head and rinsing drums out saves you a lot of time," Don explained.

Another example is the fitting of tines to a rotary hoe. Don first began using laser land levelling then GPS to improve drainage on blocks that are lower in the landscape. GPS is also used as a traffic control to avoid compacting soil structures. "We set up the rotary hoe with tines so we could keep following the line if the GPS drops out," Don said. "In this area, it's not uncommon for the GPS to fail."

Sugarcane isn't the only commodity the Reghenzanis grow. In 2016 and 2017 Don successfully grew dryland rice as part of a Wet Tropics trial with SunRice, which is based in the Riverina of New South Wales. However, the numbers didn't quite stack up. "We tried it the first year and it worked, the next year I put in 50 acres and grew over 100 tonnes but with the transport to get it down there and the harvesting it wasn't a very profitable crop.

"It was looking really good until we had to transport it off. That's when the cost really ran away."

"It was interesting to know we could do it and if there was a mill up here it could be a viable goer. It grew very well without any irrigation and it was a relatively easy job. I've also tried cattle but found I didn't have the patience for that. Cane can be processed into a good product by milling as well as being marketed internationally and is something I know well."

Sugarcane growing has been the mainstay of the Reghenzani family for generations. Don is third generation, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Boni, who migrated from northern Italy post WWI at the tender age of 15. Boni was scheduled to meet up with a cousin who lived in Perth

but ended up having to navigate his new country alone. "The cousin's husband had died so the wife went back to Italy as my grandfather was coming out," Don said. "Their boats were going in opposite directions at the same time and my grandfather had to start here by himself."

Boni eventually found his way to the east coast where he worked as a timber cutter until securing a position at the Mount Mulligan coal mine, the site of Australia's second worst mining disaster, west of Cairns. The lives of 75 men were claimed when an underground explosion occurred in 1921, not long after Boni had finished his shift. "He was leaving there when he heard the big explosion," Don said. "He went back and found a lot of his friends had been killed. He helped with the rescue effort and cleanup then left for Cairns where he started cutting cane."

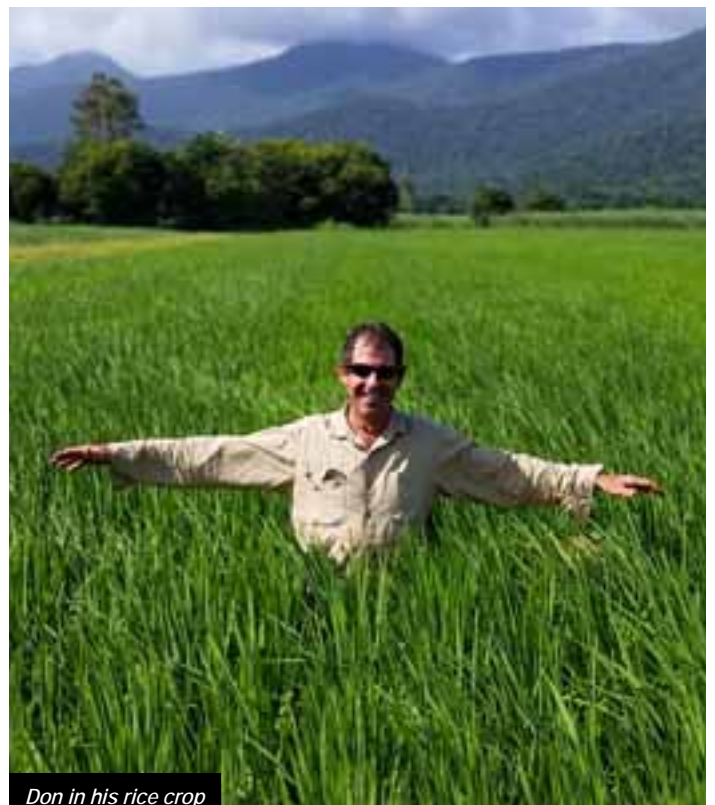
Boni went on to purchase three farms in the area north of Gordonvale but went broke on the first. "The loan sharks would loan the migrants money with really high interest rates with the purpose of taking the farms straight back," Don said. "He hit one good year and he was away then." The Mount Sophia farm, bordering the Mulgrave River, was purchased in the 1930s and Boni's son Hector (Don's father) with brothers Arthur and Vince eventually took over.



For his part, Don spent his early adult years in a range of jobs, including as a fitter and turner at the Mulgrave Mill, hauling cane bins and picking grapes in South Australia. He was also a keen traveller and backpacked around Europe for months on end. Don stopped driving the harvester to help run the farm when his father had a massive heart attack at the age of 60 and could no longer keep up with the demands of working the land.

Don's philosophy has been to never stop learning. He purposefully surrounds himself with people skilled in other areas useful to his

business, such as boilermakers and electrical engineers. The well-rounded knowledge and expertise he's developed over the years is now being passed to Cameron. The philosophy of never-ending learning is now also being handed down to the fourth generation, ensuring the family farm remains well positioned for many years to come. ■



Don in his rice crop



GROWING CANE OPERATION WINNING THE WAR ON WEEDS

ACHIEVING season-long control of grass and broadleaf weeds in sugarcane crops is a constant challenge for an expanding North Queensland operation, however strategic herbicide applications and wider management is helping to win the battle.

Watts Farming Company has grown its sugarcane production to encompass 640 hectares in the O'Connell River area near Proserpine, alongside its large cattle business.

The constant weed management on the property has almost eradicated guinea grass, while they also have to keep on top of vine weeds, bluetop, sicklepod, crowfoot grass and barnyard grass.

"Feathertop rhodes grass also has popped up in some paddocks in recent years and that can require mechanical control if you let it get established," said Farm Manager Steven Drinkwater.

"These tough weeds can reduce yields and require other costly control measures if not kept in check. If vine weeds are creeping out the top of the cane, we may need to look at late season aerial applications of herbicide – and we have buffer zones here due to the reef regulations, so it can be difficult."

However, he said they were gradually winning the war on

weeds and management was becoming easier.

"We have had to tidy up some areas and we are still contending with the weeds, but our herbicide strategies are definitely helping," Steven said.

"We rotate herbicides and we also spot spray and ensure we keep surrounding areas clean."

He said the addition of Palmero® TX herbicide in recent times, used as a rotational partner with Bobcat® i-MAXX, Bobcat® Combi and other herbicides, had proved a major benefit in their push for season-long control of grass and broadleaf weeds.

Palmero TX, from ADAMA Australia, has a similar use pattern to Bobcat i-MAXX and its two active ingredients, isoxaflutole and terbuthylazine, also have provided excellent residual control of many challenging weeds.

Steven said for plant cane, they usually apply Impose® herbicide or a tank mix of Dual Gold® and atrazine at planting, depending upon the soil and weed spectrum in the particular paddock.

Several months later at the out-of-hand stage, Palmero TX is applied as a directed spray at a rate according to soil type and in a mix with paraquat and 2,4-D herbicides.

"If soils are medium to heavy and have higher fertility, we will use the higher label rates, but if they are medium to



Watts Pastoral Company team members on the Proserpine property in North Queensland, including Taylor Drinkwater, Steven Drinkwater and Warren Watts, who are using a range of herbicide options and strategies to keep on top of weeds in its expanding cane growing operation

light with lower fertility, we will apply the lower label rate," Steven said.

"Keeping plant cane clean is important because it makes weed control decisions in the following ratoon crops easier."

Like Bobcat i-MAXX, Palmero TX also has no time of use restrictions and, hence, it has become an excellent rotation option for post-harvest and early ratoon applications.

"Herbicide resistance is not an issue for us at this stage, but it's always good to be aware of the risk and so the ability to add Palmero TX to our program now is a bonus," Warren Watts said.

"We want to rotate our herbicides whether we are in plant cane or ratoon cane."

The Watts Farming Company team deploys various weed management options in ratoon crops.

"All our cane is harvested green and paddocks have a heavy trash blanket after harvest," Warren said.

"Some paddocks will get an application of Palmero TX within a week of harvest, whereas others will get an application once the cane has reached a height where a directed spray can be applied without contacting the cane foliage.

"Applications straight after harvest don't require paraquat or other knockdowns in the mix unless the cane has started to poke through the trash or you can see weeds present.

"We try to apply the directed sprays as late as possible to aim for the season-long control. This can be very dependent on the time of the year and what the season is dishing-up in terms of the weather, but we want to get weeds under control before the wet season sets in," he said.

For further information on Palmero TX herbicide from ADAMA Australia, growers and advisers can contact their local ADAMA Australia representative or visit ADAMA.com

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Working TOGETHER

STRONG GROWER FOCUS

CANEGROWERS' strength comes from its members. District boards provide grass roots representation and they provide representatives to a state-wide Policy Council and Board to ensure growers have direct input to policy development and organisational strategy. The CANEGROWERS network of 13 district offices means that support is always close to you and your business.

NEGOTIATING CANE SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

CANEGROWERS brings together the negotiating power of farmers to seek the best conditions and terms for you from the sugar milling companies and processors. Local representatives are backed up by in-house and experienced legal counsel and industry experts to support negotiating groups to ensure the best possible outcome in the collective cane supply agreements.

LOCAL VOICE WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

Grower voices combine through CANEGROWERS to meet with farmers from other commodities to have an impact around the state, the nation and the world through memberships and affiliations. CANEGROWERS is a member of the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF), National Farmers' Federation (NFF), Australian Sugar Industry Alliance, World Association of Beet and Cane Growers and a founding member of the Global Sugar Alliance which unites countries to work towards greater trade liberalisation.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT LOBBYING

CANEGROWERS is the first port of call for government at all levels for issues relating to sugarcane. When we speak up for you in Brisbane and Canberra, governments listen. Our experienced team works tirelessly on your behalf utilising their networks to build relationships with key government officials. CANEGROWERS maintains political relationships across the spectrum to ensure that at every election campaign, candidates and parties understand the policy positions that will help grow our industry.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

All members receive the Australian Canegrower magazine full of reliable industry news, the key issues we are tackling on your behalf and the latest information on improving the productivity and profitability of cane growing. CANEGROWERS district offices provide training courses and information sessions on important farming and business topics.

Working for you

ENSURING ACCESS TO SUGAR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

CANEGROWERS works for a strong, transparent and competitive sugar marketing service for growers. Our advocacy underpinned the legal framework that enshrines competition in sugar marketing and now we have close relationships and direct connections with our major marketers. We are developing tools for growers to be able to understand and have confidence in the products marketers offer. We provide monthly market commentary and district level training to growers on how to determine their cost of production and understand the major influences on the sugar market. In this way, we are ensuring that growers can take advantage of the sugar marketing and pricing opportunities when they arise.

KEEPING MACHINERY MOVING

CANEGROWERS members work under a range of gazetted notices and permits to move over-size and over-mass agricultural vehicles on and over public roads. CANEGROWERS has a close relationship with regulators running annual district regulator workshops to ensure government decision makers and compliance officers understand the practicalities of their policy requirements.



REASONABLE INPUT COSTS – WATER, ELECTRICITY & FERTILISER

CANEGROWERS works closely with other irrigated agricultural groups at the QFF and NFF to constantly campaign for fair and reasonable electricity charges and pricing policies. We have representations at every level of water and electricity policy making from local irrigation boards, to customer committees with Sunwater, Energy Queensland, Ergon and we make regular representations to the Queensland Competition Authority and Australian Energy Regulator. CANEGROWERS has a long history of understanding and intervening in the fertiliser market. We have conducted a deep analysis of the drivers for fertiliser prices and the

global influences and have formed relationships with wholesalers in this market.

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE WITH PERMITS, COMPLIANCE & LAWS

CANEGROWERS offices provide local assistance on a range of topics from fire permits to rats, pigs and fire ant control, to templates for workplace health safety and industrial relations. CANEGROWERS supports the industry team of auditors in each sugar mill, as well as negotiations on rail sidings. Through CANEGROWERS individual growers and district officers have access to a free experienced legal advisory service.

Growing your business

ACCESS TO PROGRAMS TO ASSIST IN YOUR BUSINESS

CANEGROWERS has secured projects across our major districts that go towards assisting growers in their objectives for their business or for catchment wide solutions. These include reef water quality programs, rural water use efficiency projects, enhanced efficiency fertiliser trials, energy saver / efficiency programs and rural assistance grants and loans to help growers recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

INDUSTRY SPECIFIC INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

As a member of CANEGROWERS, growers obtain free* crop insurance (subject to district variations). CANEGROWERS Insurance arm also provides a comprehensive brokerage service through qualified professionals located in all sugarcane regions. These brokers offer a quality service on all of your insurance needs, either business or personal and no broking fees are charged to CANEGROWERS members.



* Insurance issued by Insurance Australia Limited, ABN 11 000 016 722, AFSL 227681, trading as CGU Insurance. CANEGROWERS Insurance is a Corporate Authorised Representative (CAR No 429264) for Community Broker Network ABN 60 96 916 184 AFSL 233750



Growing your industry



SMARTCANE BMP – GROWING OUR FUTURE

Developed by farmers and industry researchers, this best management practice program is a 3rd party audited standard for productivity, profitability and sustainability on Queensland cane farms. Led by CANEGROWERS, delivered by local facilitators, growers have all the assistance they need to adopt the program. Now over 40% of Queensland Cane production is accredited. CANEGROWERS has ensured the program is to international standards for sustainable sugar and that it is recognised by sugar purchasers as they move towards delivering on guarantees of sustainability. We have also developed a traceability platform for Australian sugar and have worked with other organisations in the industry to deliver the world's first traceable, certified sustainable sugar shipment using blockchain technology. Representation by CANEGROWERS has meant that the Queensland Government has endorsed the Smartcane BMP program and therefore accredited growers are not the focus of reef compliance activities.

IMPROVING TRADE ACCESS

Trade is critical for our industry and CANEGROWERS is the go to grower representative organisation on trade related matters. We invest significant resources into developing and

delivering a comprehensive industry trade strategy in collaboration with the Australian Sugar Milling Council and sugar marketers. We are active at a national and international level to improve access for Australian sugar into key growing markets through trade agreements. CANEGROWERS jointly facilitate the Global Sugar Alliance of countries, committed to better, more open trading arrangements. CANEGROWERS provides advice to the federal government when it comes to the negotiation of our most important trade agreements.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CANEGROWERS supports and influences a targeted and relevant research effort to deliver tangible benefits to our industry through Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and other organisations. Through a 35 cents/tonne of cane levy, growers contribute to projects on variety development, nutrient management, pest and disease control and harvesting efficiency. CANEGROWERS engages regularly at the Board, senior executive and district level with SRA to ensure these funds are spent on the issues of highest priority for growers.

CANEGROWERS also uses our regional network to encourage the co-ordination of extension activities and efforts across a range of providers.

EFFECTIVE BIOSECURITY

CANEGROWERS champion the development of the industry biosecurity plans and is the industry representative and member at Plant Health Australia. We are the signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed that enables industry to respond to biosecurity incursions that could impact your crop and business.

WORKFORCE ATTRACTION, RETENTION TRAINING & EDUCATION

CANEGROWERS works with other industry organisations, particularly as a member of the NFF, QFF and Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance to develop programs to address labour and skills issues for farmers. This includes our district offices offering courses and other learning opportunities for you and your staff. CANEGROWERS runs a national campaign to attract, retain and train a new and emerging workforce for the industry.

CANEGROWERS is a member of the Primary Industries Education Foundation and we have released an industry specific Primary Schools Education resource tailored towards the education curriculum. We have further developed a comprehensive education strategy that will build our capacity to engage with schools at the district level.

* The Smartcane BMP program is delivered by CANEGROWERS and co-funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN



HARVEST WEEK 2



CCS TO DATE 11.59



TONNES TO DATE 22,361
% CRUSHED TO DATE 5.08

After the promising change to the weather pattern in May, we reverted to an above average rainfall month for June and, at the time of writing, July wasn't shaping up to be much better with wet weather severely hampering Mossman Mill's attempts to start the 2023 crushing.

Mossman's first attempt to start the crushing was Monday 3 July but rain over several days caused an early stop the first week. In week one Mossman mill crushed 1,225.78 tonnes of coastal cane for an average of 10.73CCS.

By this time, the Mossman Tableland growers were in Week 7 of their crushing and to-date the MSF Tableland mill had toll-crushed 35,325.75 tonnes of cane for an average of 12.64CCS.

Mossman's second attempt to start was Monday 10 July and, although we were still weather affected, cane supply slowly improved during the week. However, more rain fell at the end of week 2 which then caused delays starting Week 3 of Mossman's crushing. In Week 2 Mossman Mill processed 21,135 tonnes of cane for an average of 11.64CCS taking the Mill average to-date to 11.59CCS. Tableland Mossman growers' toll-crushed 3,830 tonnes of cane that same week for an average of 14.03CCS,

taking their to-date average to 12.78CCS.

The Bargaining Agents met on Tuesday 11 July to get a run down on the start of the crushing but not much had transpired in Mossman at that time except the wet weather interruption.

However, all the commissioning within the mill had been successfully tested during the period the mill was operational. The Mossman Manager attended the National Feral Pig Conference, which was held in Cairns. There were many interesting speakers talking on a variety of topics all involving feral pigs. It was obvious feral pigs are a major problem across northern Australia, but the issue isn't attracting anywhere near sufficient funds to make an impact on their growing population. The focus of the speakers and projects discussed in the Conference were by far more about west of the range in drier more cleared areas. It was encouraging to hear there are communities and stakeholders working together using various combinations of trapping, baiting, hunting, and aerial shooting to try and control feral pig populations in various locations. It was clear that more data was needed about feral pig behaviour and mobility.



Mossman - 2023 first bins tipped 3 July - courtesy of the FNM Facebook page

The conference agreed to the following call to action.

- Seek funding for a strategic, multistakeholder, nationwide, scientifically, and culturally robust, integrated feral pig management program with clear objectives that uses a diverse array of approaches to ensure sustainability of the control measures. This will require a sustained, long-term funding commitment to be effective.
- Support partnerships and collaboration to promote and drive coordinated feral pig management on ground through an annual conference

and facilitated networks supported by the National Feral Pig Coordinator.

The 2023 Wet Tropics Waterway Health Report Card was released on 26 July 2023 along with the next edition of the Reef & Rivers Magazine.

There was no cutting or crushing in Mossman over the Show long weekend 23-24 July 2023.

TABLELAND



HARVEST WEEK 8



CCS TO DATE 13.42



TONNES TO DATE 284,048
% CRUSHED TO DATE 32.65

CAIRNS



HARVEST WEEK 5



CCS TO DATE 11.66

TONNES TO DATE 172,407
% CRUSHED TO DATE 14.69

At the time of writing wet weather has continued to cause havoc for growers within the Cairns Region. For most growers, harvesting and planting operations are at a standstill, along with all other farm work.

CANEGROWERS Cairns Region recently had a Bi-Election within the Babinda Zone

Congratulations to Joe Bonso who was successfully elected to fill the vacancy. Thank you to the other candidate who committed to running and to all the members who returned their ballot papers.



INNISFAIL



HARVEST WEEK 4



CCS TO DATE 11.43

TONNES TO DATE 115,914
% CRUSHED TO DATE 8.27

South Johnstone Mill commenced crushing on 22 June with wet weather delays of almost 200 hours recorded up to 9 July. Very little planting has been undertaken as expected with wet field conditions.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail once again supported MSF Sugar Limited in their inaugural

Sugarcane Show Competition. Congratulations to the growers that participated, pictured, and took out various awards. The competition and resulting cane display requires a huge, collaborative effort by growers and local stakeholders and it's a testament to the industry.



TULLY



HARVEST WEEK 7



CCS TO DATE 12.46

TONNES TO DATE 609,697
% CRUSHED TO DATE 22.09

July has had mixed results with the season thus far. CCS has continued to rise even though the season has been wet or overcast for approximately 50% of the month. Almost 300mm has fallen since 26 May to mid-July.

From the commencement of the season until 13 July, over 600,000 tonnes have been through the rollers with the following averages being recorded, CCS 12.53, fibre 14.62 with soil at 1.96%. Calculated harvested area

is at 22.1% of the cane production area.

Average weekly crush rates have averaged close to 86,000 tonnes, with weeks 4, 5 and 7 over 100,000 tonnes per week, the highest recorded weekly crush was at 112,977 tonnes in week 4.

The top 5 varieties supplied to the season so far are in the following order, Q208- 162,000 tonnes, Q253- 121,000 tonnes, Q240- 85,000 tonnes, Q228 80,000 tonnes and Q250 at 65,000 tonnes. There are several new varieties showing plenty of

potential in the right conditions and soil. Average yield for the district so far is 90 tonnes per hectare, which is very close to the estimate provided.

The planting season has been slow to proceed this year, with only the southern drier areas making a start. There will be plenty of action in the paddocks once the time comes.

Traditionally, the weather pattern for the Tully cane growing area becomes more favourable after the end of July, we hope that this trend continues, and we can all get on

with the business supplying good quality sugar cane and preparing for next year's crop.

In 2025, Tully Sugar will see it's 100 years of operations, with celebrations taking place in the first quarter that year. The 100-year committee is currently planning for the occasion, so if anyone has stories or photos, they would like to share of the Tully area, they can contact CANEGROWERS Tully office.

HERBERT RIVER



HARVEST WEEK 4



CCS TO DATE 12.30

TONNES TO DATE 511,373
% CRUSHED TO DATE 12.18

The 2023 season in the Herbert River has commenced with some wet weather and mill breakdowns from the operations and the transport department which has been challenging for growers trying to get their standover to the mill in July. Some parts of the district are receiving more rain than others.

In mid-July, students from Ingham State High School were involved in a two-day agricultural workshop facilitated by CANEGROWERS Herbert River.

The students met with delivery providers of the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program, and other industry representatives, who held presentations relating to soil testing, water quality sampling, GPS and EM Mapping. The project deliverers informed the students about the practice changes growers are adopting to benefit their productivity, profitability and the environment.

The students also set out on a field trip to meet with Herbert growers on-farm to learn about ground preparation, planting and harvesting. This gave an opportunity for students



Photo above of students on farm field trip at RFC Agri Services.

to drive a tractor and experience technology firsthand in the industry.

BURDEKIN



HARVEST WEEK 6



CCS TO DATE 13.37

TONNES TO DATE 1,340,098
% CRUSHED TO DATE 15.95

After the dry start in June 2023, the winter rain finally arrived in early July with falls of up to 100mm of soaking rain, which brought the crushing to a halt on 3 July.

Wilmar resumed crushing at all four factories on 17 July and had been achieving good loadings until further rain fell on 23 July which impacted crushing again. Wilmar used the initial two-week rain stop to do caustic cleans and maintenance and two significant repair jobs were undertaken during the stop being:

- the repair of the 9MW alternator at Kalamia which failed on its last crushing day; and
- at Inkerman Mill structural issues were detected in the cooling tower.

They were unable to fully repair the Inkerman cooling tower in time and decided to run the factory for a week at a reduced rate until 24 July which is when it is due to be fixed. The alternator

at Kalamia has had repairs done to keep it going, but at the end of the season the alternator will need to be removed and rewired to be fixed properly.

Unfortunately, through just one rain event the district has now effectively utilised our 14 days of budgeted wet weather stops for the whole season. The next Harvest Management Group meeting is scheduled for 3 August and we will find out more on what the impact on season finishing dates that the recent rain events may have had. CCS for the week on restart was 14.16, but the crop is cutting at roughly 95% of estimate. Approximately 90% of the standover cane from the 2022 season has been harvested and on the whole, the CCS has not been too bad, falling between 7 to 11.

Members of CBL Board and staff attended a lab and mill tour organised with Burdekin Cane Audit Services Limited (BCAS) and Wilmar at the



BCAS Manager Barb Colls and BCAS Direct Kayleen Walsh with CBL Director Rian Swindley in Kalamia Mill Laboratory

Kalamia Mill Laboratory. It was good to see first-hand how the laboratory is run and tests are performed, and it was also re-assuring to see the level of checking undertaken in accordance with the Cane Analysis Program. We are fortunate in the Burdekin to have BCAS completing the audit function which provides a vital level of independent oversight in the checking process.

NBN's Executive Manager Agriculture and Health, Rob Hardie visited the Burdekin on 28 July to meet with representatives of CBL to discuss how technology can

drive improved productivity in the growing sector. Technology has provided society with enormous benefits including the agricultural sector and ingoing technological advances will achieve efficiencies and optimise business returns.

QSL Grower Representative Member nominations were called for and the Burdekin district received more than four nominations for the Grower Member positions, which means an election is to be held. Voting is now open and will close at 5pm on Tuesday 8 August 2023. All documentation to lodge your vote is available

on the QSL website and we are pleased to advise that four of our CBL members have nominated for these roles, being - Russell Jordan, Roger Piva, Charlie Papale and Glenn Betteridge. These are all capable members who are committed to the long-term future of the sugarcane industry and marketing choice.

The role is an important one to provide grassroots feedback to QSL leadership. Support for your fellow members when voting for these important roles would be welcome.



Kalamia Mill Laboratory. Wilmar's Darrel Bailey explaining the milling process to the group.

PROSERPINE



HARVEST WEEK 5



CCS TO DATE 13.37



TONNES TO DATE 242,225
% CRUSHED TO DATE 13.46

Milling performance has continued to improve as the season progresses.

The mill opened briefly on 14 June, but this was short lived due to an early mechanical failure. Crush rates increased from week two to three with rains impacting harvesting operations in week four. Mud filter issues and delays in the commissioning of a pan limited maximum crush rates, but these continued to improve into week five with 242,265 tonnes of cane crushed by 15 July.

It was encouraging to see many growers receive higher than expected CCS results for much of their early crop, this despite standover cane testing poorly. Mill average CCS continued to trend higher than budget at 13.38 (15 July). This is in part, due to the relatively dry April to June period experienced by the southern supply areas.

The current estimate of 1.8m tonnes is likely an overestimate due to late season ratoons remaining well below required growth targets at this time of year. However, mid-winter rains could help improve final crush results.

Sugar Services Proserpine continue with their search for staff. With the 'Regional Capacity Through Migration Forum' taking place in Bowen on 13 July, the lack of skilled agricultural staff was a focus point for agriculture in the region. This, added to the lack of housing, is likely to be a challenge for some time to come. Two CANEGROWERS Proserpine Directors received Biosecurity accreditations in support of SSP. This will ensure no interruptions in the moving of harvesters and other equipment around the district when SSP staff are unavailable.

Unfortunately, there was an early season incident where a car collided with a cane train, thankfully without injury. Wilmar have continued with their awareness campaign for the region. CANEGROWERS Board has been considering wider safety challenges for the area as the local population increases. Growers and contractors are encouraged to remain vigilant on issues of safety for both their staff and public at large.

Show Cane 2023 took place on 23 June with new variety sections and the Young Farmers trophy presented for the very first time. It was an event well supported by growers and sponsors alike, showcasing the very best cane from around the district.

Historically, the earliest article available pertaining to the



Show Cane 2023

Proserpine Show Cane event was written in 1921. Prizes for this year amounted to "five guineas for the best section of milling cane on ploughed land" and "a Deluxe Wonder Cultivator donated by the International Harvester Co. for cane grown on scrub land". Times have changed over the past 100 years with a drone being one of the many prizes taken home this year, with such a long history, it is hoped the Show Cane event continues for many more years to come.

MACKAY



HARVEST WEEK 7



CCS TO DATE 11.98



TONNES TO DATE 820,667
% CRUSHED TO DATE 15.36

PLANE CREEK



HARVEST WEEK 5



CCS TO DATE 12.70



TONNES TO DATE 175,289
% CRUSHED TO DATE 11.69

Rain events and mill performance issues dogged July with one particularly abysmal week seeing mill throughputs at all four of Mackay/Plane Creek's mills well down, ranging between 13,910-52,046 tonnes.

Plane Creek Mill reported some difficulty processing standover cane.

At mid-July, Mackay milling area was over 12% through the 5.34Mt estimated crop, while Plane Creek, which started two weeks later than Mackay, was over 9% though a 1.5Mt est. crop.



Mackay Show Cane committee members assessed 153 entries in this year's comp. From left: Chief Steward Andrew Camilleri, Lachlan McLennan, Adam Deguara and Josh Ferlazzo



CANEGROWERS members Lyn and Robert Denman. As a Show Patron, it was Mr Denman's 70th Show

Clearly, this is affecting morale among growers, but CANEGROWERS Mackay is continuing to make representations to the mills and also urging our members to remain optimistic and take every opportunity to cut, so that we can make the best out of a year of large crop size and strong sugar prices.

Rain across late June and into July has also affected planting underway, but as we move into a forecast drier run across August-October, planting has been able to resume, and presumably we can look forward to some undisrupted crushing going forward. On a positive note, it is buoyant for the local industry to see the precision fermentation/

plant-based protein manufacturing sector developing a presence in the region, with a third company proposing to establish in the region, sourcing raw sugar to manufacture whey proteins for lactose free dairy. CANEGROWERS Mackay is continuing to advocate for a premium for growers on value-add opportunities like this, and we are maintaining that voice through membership on the Mackay-Whitsunday Biofutures Leaders working group, with Chairman Kevin Borg continuing the strong work of late CEO Kerry Latter in the biofutures space. It is Show season in Mackay with some strong cane competition entries in the Pioneer Valley and Mackay

Shows. We encourage Plane Creek Members to get entries to Sarina Show in August! CANEGROWERS Mackay is proud to sponsor sections at each of the shows. We urge members still looking for workers to check our jobs board, either in-office or on the website, viewing prospective workers or adding their position vacant (online, or call 4944 2600).



Champion cane at this year's Mackay Show

BUNDABERG



HARVEST WEEK 7



CCS TO DATE 13.17



TONNES TO DATE 284,725
% CRUSHED TO DATE 26.86

Bundaberg Sugar Mills processed 43,411.39 tonnes for the week ending 9 July 2023.

This brings the season to date to 234,209.28 tonnes. Average CCS for Bundaberg Sugar Mill for week 6 was 13.53 CCS and the season CCS average for Bundaberg Sugar Mill is at 13.05 CCS. The highest individual CCS for the week ending 9 July was 16.30 units for Q240 Standover and the highest variety average CCS for the week was 14.93 units for variety Q151.

CCS has started the season on a positive note with some extraordinary high tests for this time of the year however the estimate is down somewhat. The roll-out of QSL Direct in the region has been a success with growers achieving good pricing outcomes. The local QSL representative, Glenn Harris, is in the region most Mondays and Wednesdays to assist growers and can be contacted on 0409 601 349. CANEGROWERS Bundaberg and Isis representatives recently

met with Deb Frecklington MP and Burnett MP Stephen Bennett in Bundaberg to provide an update on the burden of Groundwater metering validation requirements and the increased costs associated with bringing meters and associated infrastructure up to the new specifications. Representatives requested support for an extension to the November 2023 deadline as well as financial support for growers. The initial announced allocation for Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme has been calculated for the 2023-2024 water year under

the rules defined by the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme Operations Manual and will be applicable until revised and communicated by SunWater. Kolan subscheme - High priority 100% and Medium priority 100%. Burnett subscheme - High priority 100% and Medium priority 95%. Effective Date: 1 July 2023. To check your estimated available water balance log in to Sunwater Online here: <https://bit.ly/SunwaterOnline>

ISIS



HARVEST WEEK 3



CCS TO DATE 13.07



TONNES TO DATE 76,049
% CRUSHED TO DATE 9.51

Isis Mill has lost very little time through wet weather and generally has been performing well with a few normal start up teething issues.

The Mill is gradually improving its crushing rate and is currently averaging about 59,000t per

week. Winter has been a little cooler than recent years with small pockets of frost damage. We have been working with Isis Mill and CANEGROWERS Maryborough around haulage logistics to ensure the Maryborough haulage system is

cost effective and efficient. It has become apparent when the Maryborough system is running well it means our loco system also runs efficiently. Most growers are currently preparing to plant with a sizable

increase in planting across the district expected this year. The only downside is the limited number of planting contractors. We are working on trying to link growers with contractors and are encouraging neighbours to work together.

We have recently assisted a number of growers survey the potential impacts to their farming businesses which border or have the proposed Bundaberg to Gin Gin Rail Trail run through their properties. We are also working with Bundaberg Regional Council and Isis Mill on assessing the long-term future of the old Wallaville Bridge. The bridge will soon become single lane use and limited to 60km. We are working on ensuring any necessary repairs are undertaken and the bridge remains open.

We continue to attend meetings regarding the reinstatement of Paradise Dam.

Our Board Director Tony Russo recently resigned from his position to allow himself more time to focus on expanding his family business. Tony said he learnt so much whilst serving on the Board and has a new found appreciation for what goes on behind the scenes to ensure grower advocacy is maintained. The Board wish to thank Tony for his service. His legacy will live on with our company tagline 'your business



Isis Tony Russo.

is our business' just one of the great ideas Tony shared with us. We will call for nominations to fill Tony's position in the coming weeks.

MARYBOROUGH



HARVEST WEEK 3



CCS TO DATE 13.00



TONNES TO DATE 29,615
% CRUSHED TO DATE 6.44

Week 4 has just completed and starting to see some momentum in the harvest volumes.

First 50,000 tonnes from Maryborough growers is in and CCS is reasonable at 13.19 year to date.

A meeting was conducted on Friday 14 July with all parties to the harvest delivery attending.

The new technology now assisting the transport coordination is taking time to set up properly. Equipment needed for trucks has been difficult to source but mostly now in place. The first 3 weeks suffered from a lack of

operational trailers and delivery volumes were down. This has improved in week 4 with consistent days over 3500t for the transloader being recorded. The mill is working to catch up on some lost equity position from the trailer issue and this work will continue over the next few weeks.

RSD testing is almost complete for the district with a low number of positive results and Tony McDermott has made contact with all cases. Planting and seed cane access will also be coordinated over the next few weeks.



ROCKY POINT

EXPECTED CRUSH DATE MONDAY 31 JULY

The Rocky Point crush has been pushed out to Monday 31 July, with an estimated 270,000 tonnes of cane (of which 230,000 is estimated as standover).

The Rocky Point Mill still has an extensive maintenance program

to complete at the Cogen plant. The district received approximately 34mls of rain since the start of July, with relatively constant cloud cover keeping it warm. With many hectares of late cut cane and with small ratoons, a frost could devastate the district.

Soybeans have been harvested, with all beans being food grade. Rocky Point finally received aerial baiting for Fire Ants from Biosecurity Qld in early June, however, it was disappointing that large parcels of non-cane land including soybeans were not treated.

Hooning continues to be a problem for the district, with one farmer losing a number of acres of plant cane recently.

VALE VINCENT CASTLE

PROVIDED BY SUNSHINE SUGAR

The name Vince Castle is one that many people throughout the Clarence Valley and the Australian Sugar Industry will have heard.

Vince sadly lost his battle with illness earlier this week. Whilst he may be gone, Vince Castle will long be remembered for his honesty, integrity and his commitment to family, community and industry.

Referred to by those who know him, whether it be personally or professionally, as an 'exceptional man', Vince was born and raised on a sugarcane and dairy farm in the Palmers Channel area near Yamba. Vince and his twin brother Tony were known as many things....family men, hard workers, negotiators, orators and accomplished practical jokers.

Having attended school at the now closed Palmers Channel School, Vince and Tony are still remembered by their peers as having played on their likeness as twins to pull off many a prank on friends, family and even their doctor!

Having led cane cutting gangs in his early twenties, Vince was an extraordinarily hard worker. He is known for having led a team of 6 men cutting and loading some 120 tonnes of cane by hand per day for more than 20 seasons. It was remarkable to him when the first of the mechanical harvesters arrived on the scene and could cut some 600 tonnes in a day.

Mechanisation and other advancements in cane farming allowed Vince to focus more of his energy on industry involvement. He was the founding Chairman of the Palmers Island Harvesting Co-operative. This later became Central Clarence and then Clarence Harvesting Co-operative as it's known today.

Vince served as an executive member of the Clarence Cane Growers Association for many years and held the position of Chairman from 1998 to 2012. Furthermore, he was a delegate on the NSW Cane Growers Council, holding the Chairman's position from 2007 to 2012.

Anyone who ever met Vince will know that he was a confident and practical man who was never afraid to speak up over an issue he was passionate about. He had an uncanny ability to articulate himself to any audience from other cane growers to lawyers and politicians and did so with an authoritative yet calm demeanour.

Some of his neighbour's recall watching Vince driving his tractor whilst simultaneously rehearsing for an upcoming meeting or encounter. The giveaway was the pounding of his hand on the bonnet of the tractor as he leaned forward and spoke to it with great vigour and expression!

Vince's passion for his family saw him direct enormous drive into support for families with disabled children. In 1953, Vince played an instrumental role in raising money to start the Caringa School for children with disability. Fast forward 70 years and Caringa now delivers a wide range of disability support services regionally.

In 2013 Vince was awarded a Premiers Community Award and in 2021, a plaque was unveiled to officially name the new Caringa building after Vince for his long tenure as Chairman and his incredible service to the community. ■



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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, offers 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.

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 to learn more.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING – SAME FOUNDATIONS BUT WITH NEW DEMANDS.

Sustainability & Environment

MICK QUIRK

Sustainable agriculture. How many times have I heard this term used in shed meetings, field days, meetings, and forums over the last 40 years? And how often were these discussions held with an agreed idea of what it meant? At times it was as useful as discussing rugby league with an Aussie rules fan, or vice versa.

One of the first documented uses of the term in Australia was in the 1980s by the pioneering Victorian researcher, Tim Reeves. He was describing dryland cropping systems that preserved the integrity of the soil so that yields and farming enterprises were maintained or enhanced into the future.

It has since broadened to include other aspects of environmental sustainability, and even aspects of social and economic sustainability. So, as with beauty, sustainable ag is very much in the eye of the beholder. For our purpose, I will keep to its original scope - 'agriculture that uses soil and other natural resources in a manner that ensures long-term production while reducing any negative offsite impacts on air, water, or land.'

I have not met a farmer who does not want to keep ag land productive and do their best to reduce harm to the wider environment. Being seen as sustainable is also important to each agricultural industry, as this is the key to retaining the trust of the wider community. Trust ensures an industry's 'social licence', i.e., that it is regarded as both economically important and environmentally responsible and should be able to go about its business with minimal regulation.

This explains why every major ag industry in Australia has a framework for sustainability. The framework describes the relevant aspects of sustainability for that industry and how they can

be measured which, in turn, enables reporting at regular intervals. Beef, cotton, dairy, grains, and wine (my favourite) each make regular public reports on their sustainability.

While sugarcane is working towards its own industry-wide reporting of sustainability, it has the great advantage of already having an on-farm sustainability program in Smartcane BMP. So, we have already defined the important issues (e.g., soil health, responsible chemical use, balanced crop nutrition, down-stream water quality) and the evidence-based practices that achieve sustainability. And we have credible data on growers' use of good farm practices that can inform industry reports.

But sustainability is increasingly an international issue and not simply a regional or national one. Australian agriculture is reliant on export markets and, for trade negotiations, there is increasing expectation that we can demonstrate our sustainability credentials. We have also seen the preference of some end-users for sourcing sugar from farms certified in Smartcane BMP.

To top it all off, we now have an international trend 'sweeping' the corporate world called ESG reporting. This is not some sort of food preservative (that's MSG I think), but some ESP would be useful for predicting where all this will lead. ESG reporting is about large corporates disclosing their performance in relation to Environmental impacts (including waste, greenhouse emissions), Social impacts (e.g., care for workers, customer relations), and Governance (e.g., transparency, accountability, integrity).

Investors have started to seek ESG reporting to ensure their funds go to companies that are more likely to be responsible stewards of the environment, good corporate citizens, and led by accountable managers.

How will this affect agriculture? The short-term impacts will be in relation to reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. Each large corporate will need to report not only their direct emissions (from their offices or factories) but also the emissions within its value chain that are from entities not owned or controlled by it. These are called their Scope 3 emissions.

For example, the Scope 3 emissions for a corporate marketer of raw sugar will include the emissions of farms from which the raw sugar was derived. So, this marketer will need to derive a reasonable estimate of those farm emissions and include these in their ESG reporting. They may also get pressure from their customers to show how they are reducing their direct and indirect emissions.

How such Scope 3 emissions will be informed and estimated remains to be sorted. CANEGROWERS has commissioned work on the 'typical' emission profiles of farms in different regions, including the effect of variation in key practices.

In any case, all Australian farmers who are part of a supply chain involving one or more corporate entities are likely to see this reporting need emerge over the next year or two.

Interestingly, governments around the world strongly support this type of reporting as it helps them with estimating their national Greenhouse accounts. So, there may well be regulatory or other pressure on corporates to adopt ESG reporting, at least with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. ■





FROM CLASSROOM TO GLOBAL MARKET OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR INDUSTRY

Membership Engagement & Innovation

MATT KEALLEY

Smartcane BMP supports access to the UK Market

The first shipment of sugar went to the UK last month as part of the Australia-UK FTA. I'm particularly proud that the work CANEGROWERS has done to develop, implement and align the Smartcane BMP program to support market access has come to fruition. Sustainable sourcing has been on CANEGROWERS agenda since 2016, and Smartcane BMP will continue to play a role in meeting market access needs as well as offering a platform to support the future needs of climate and ESG reporting.

It's Ekka time!

I love the show, the animals and all the agricultural produce on display. I can lose myself for hours visiting the various stalls, checking out the cows and talking to some of the farmers who take time out to show what they do to the public.

Last year CANEGROWERS had a stall at the Royal Queensland Show which allowed us to showcase the sugarcane industry to the public. The display was very well received by families with many visitors saying they had a connection to the sugarcane industry. It wasn't uncommon to hear "my grandfather was a cane cutter, my uncle worked at the mill or my brother-in-law is a grower"

This year we will be back at the Agricultural Hall. Agricultural shows like the Ekka are important platforms to showcase farming by promoting agricultural innovations, sustainable practices, and modern technology. They also celebrate rural

traditions and educate the public about the importance of agriculture in food production and the economy.

If you're in town, drop by and say hello. We will have a great display and Virtual Reality headsets which were a hit with kids and teachers at last year's Ekka.

Supporting education from primary school to university

Speaking of education, CANEGROWERS and the Primary Industries Education Foundation (PIEFA) have developed a curriculum-aligned resource for schools. Called One Plant, Many Products it is designed for years 5-8 science, design and technology and geography. This is part of CANEGROWERS strategy to get information about sugarcane into schools, so if you know a teacher – let them know about it.

University of Wyoming visit

CANEGROWERS hosted a group of students from the University of Wyoming who were part of a study tour to Australia.

The students visited the CANEGROWERS Brisbane office and Rocky Point district, they also toured the factory of Rocky Point that makes bagged sugarcane mulch and garden products. Tom Foulke from the University who accompanied the students said "CANEGROWERS is a great opportunity to start the process of opening these young people's minds to new ideas and new ways of doing things. The fact that it comes so early in their Australian adventure means this is the first opportunity for them to see something new".

Getting our story to the community, schools and international visitors is important to show the value of the sugarcane industry.

Member benefits

CANEGROWERS has a number of existing member benefits for members available through the CANEGROWERS website and through our membership with Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF).

Go to the members section of the CANEGROWERS website to check out the deals from BOC on gas and gear, Queensland Country Health Fund for health insurance, and offers from Mitsubishi and Ampol through QFF. ■



UNDERSTANDING THE FERTILISER SUPPLY CHAIN IN THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY

Industry & Farm Inputs

BURN ASHBURNER

It is a no brainer that growers want low input prices and high sugar prices. When input prices rise rapidly there is often concern from growers and a call for an investigation to reduce the price. This was the case when the world price of fertiliser went through the roof in 2008 and more recently in 2021.

CANEGROWERS has again been investigating the fertiliser supply chain to the sugarcane industry for renewed understanding and to see where there may be opportunities to influence the price in the long term. I say long term because knee jerk reactions can be emotionally driven and not based on genuine market failure.

There is also some history with a full Australian Competition and Consumer Commission inquiry into the fertiliser market in 2008 and many growers will remember CANEGROWERS facilitated the entry of Ravensdown into the market which was ultimately unsuccessful.

CANEGROWERS has in the last year met with most players in the supply chain and the following are some points of interest.

The world price is the largest component of the fertiliser price (about 70%) and cannot be influenced. Australia's fertiliser usage is only around 2% of the global market and usage in the sugarcane industry is only around 5% of Australia's 2%. Over 95% of fertiliser is imported and domestic supply is priced at world parity prices (like domestic market sugar).

The bulk of fertiliser imports are centred around southeast Australia and Geelong. The sugarcane industry stretches over a

large geographic area and requires smaller partial drops across several high cost port locations. A ship is typically 40,000 tonnes and the sugarcane industry usage is around 200,000 tonnes so partial drops (minimum 5,000 tonnes) are required.

The transaction costs of entering the wholesale markets and importing fertiliser are high. Investment is required in port facilities including storage and blending. There is also a cashflow issue with the cost of a full ship load of 40,000 tonnes requiring between \$50 million and \$100 million. This is paid when the ship is loaded and based on the world price at the time.

Cane growers have a relatively high-cost model with small, disaggregated volumes compared to broadacre crops. Growers can buy blends with 48 hours' notice in small order sizes of around 3mt in 1mt bulk bags. Reef regulations exacerbate this requiring a large number of custom blends with one retailer suggesting there were now up to 3,000 blends. It could be said that we use a "horticulture approach" for a broadacre crop.

Growers tend to be loyal to trusted retailers and receive other benefits and products apart from fertiliser. Although there are the two big retailers there are benefits from having competition from the smaller retailers.

CANEGROWERS has developed a fertiliser cost model however the connection between local prices and global prices is still not fully transparent. Global market information is available, and potentially each ship load can be priced when it arrives at the port but how the different priced imports (ship loads) are blended to get to a local price is the issue.

The good news is that the fertiliser prices have almost come back to pre-2021 levels and hopefully the price and supply will hold for the coming ratoon crop requirements.

The Policy Council will be assessing the fertiliser supply chain information and looking for the options which will realistically make a difference. ■



CANE SUPPLY AGREEMENTS & COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

CHRIS COOPER

WHY HAVE A CSA?

Current Queensland legislation (*Sugar Industry Act 1999*) states that a grower may only supply sugarcane to a mill if the grower has a signed, written contract with the mill owner.

WHAT DO CSA'S CONTAIN?

Cane Supply Agreements (CSA) set out how the sugar industry's \$2.5 billion in revenue is allocated between growers and the mill owners. It also deals with matters such as crushing season arrangements, harvesting arrangements, starting and finishing dates of crushing, harvesting rosters and allotments, allowances and deductions.

Almost everything to do with the relationship between the grower and mill owner is dealt with by the CSA.

The CSA is the most important document or agreement for growers and mill owners.

INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT?

Each grower must sign a CSA with the mill. The CSA can either be an individual agreement or a collective agreement involving a number of growers.

An individual CSA is one negotiated by an individual grower with the mill owner directly.

A collective agreement is a CSA negotiated by a bargaining representative for a group of growers.

By growers forming a collective group and negotiating together through their bargaining representative, it is hoped that the negotiation playing field is levelled.

Mills do largely enjoy a monopoly position and collective negotiations are adopted to try and improve the negotiation power of growers.

CANEGROWERS has used its experience and collective negotiating capacity to finalise collective CSAs with mill owners for nearly 100 years.

If a grower wants to be part of this collective agreement, they will have to appoint CANEGROWERS as their bargaining representative and also sign the CSA.

If a grower does not want to sign the collective agreement they don't have to. But if they want to supply cane they will have to negotiate their own written individual agreement with the mill owner. No signed agreement, no supply.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Bargaining representatives are authorised by the *Sugar Industry Act* to negotiate CSA arrangements with mill owners for a group of growers.

In addition, CANEGROWERS has been authorised by the Australia Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) with specific and comprehensive powers to collectively bargain on behalf of its members all necessary cane supply aspects including the CSA, pricing and marketing agreements and any associated agreements. CANEGROWERS negotiates for and on behalf of those growers who appoint it as bargaining representative which forms part of the membership of CANEGROWERS.

MAKING A COLLECTIVE CANE SUPPLY AGREEMENT

The negotiations for collective CSAs are difficult, complex and extremely time consuming for CANEGROWERS representatives.

Many hundreds of hours, over an extended period, are spent preparing, discussing and negotiating as grower representatives seek to reach a reasonable commercial cane supply agreement with the mill owner.

Once the CSA is finalised the functions and services provided to grower members by CANEGROWERS in negotiating the CSA do not end with the signing of the contract.

The CSA, once agreed upon and signed, is usually a three-year rolling contract and will continue indefinitely until terminated by either the mill owner or the grower. (In some cases it may be for a fixed term.)



The benefits of the CSA will continue for those growers who have signed it for as long as they remain a party to the contract.

CANEGROWERS monitors performance of the contract generally to ensure growers rights and entitlements under the CSA are delivered and that mill owners perform their obligations.

There are a variety of roles and functions CANEGROWERS performs under the contract. These are too many to mention in this brief article but include:

- overseeing the mill's performance under the contract
- ensuring growers are properly paid and GEI sugar is properly allocated to growers
- ensuring cane analysis and CCS determination is correctly carried out to protect growers payments and GEI determination
- reviewing the terms of the CSA and continually seeking improved terms and conditions for growers in the CSA
- participation in Operational and Equity Committees with the mill owner to oversee fair and equitable harvesting arrangements.

These are only a few of the many ongoing functions and services CANEGROWERS undertakes for and on behalf of its grower members under the collective CSA.

The ongoing provision of these essential services and functions by CANEGROWERS to preserve, enforce and enhance the rights and benefits of growers under the CSA, requires considerable time, effort, expertise, experience and resources, including financial resources.

These necessary resources are largely derived from the membership fees paid by members.

It would be unfair and unreasonable to expect that CANEGROWERS should provide these ongoing CSA resources to growers who are not members and not making their fair contribution by way of membership fees. ■

OPT OUT REQUIREMENTS

While CANEGROWERS has a strong membership base, it would naturally prefer if every grower was a member. This would lead to an increase in bargaining power, as well as improved financial and negotiation strength during the ongoing dealings with large multinational milling companies. CANEGROWERS is a voluntary organisation and growers are not obliged to become or remain members.

However, if a grower chooses to not be a member, then there are consequences to that decision.

That grower cannot fairly expect that the important functions and services provided by CANEGROWERS and funded by members, including those ongoing extensive services in relation to the CSA, should continue to them when they are not making any contribution towards the resources needed.

As a consequence of CANEGROWERS being a voluntary membership organisation and recognising that a member may resign, and as a consequence of the unfairness, unreasonableness and unacceptability of a situation where non-members who make no financial contribution might get to enjoy and receive the same benefits as members who are making a financial contribution, most CSAs make provision for growers to opt out of the collective CSA.

These opt out clauses mean that when a CANEGROWERS member who is party to the collective CSA resigns membership of the organisation, CANEGROWERS can require that grower to leave the collective CSA, forcing the grower to enter into an individual supply contract directly with the mill owner.

In these circumstances the non-member will no longer be part of or party to the collective CSA and will not enjoy the services, benefits, entitlements and protections afforded to CANEGROWERS members.



FIRST 5 LINES FREE FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS!

Book online 24/7 at www.canegrowers.com.au
or email us at ads@canegrowers.com.au

Next deadline is 22 August 2023

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.

MOSSMAN-TULLY

THBM Bulk bag lifter - \$1,500 (plus gst)
PH: 0439 965 921

Bonel 1 tonne boom lift \$1,500 + GST.
Ph: 0439 965 921.

Celli Rotary Hoe 90 inch \$5500, Ripper Coulter \$1400, 4 Implement Rollers Each \$100, 1000 Litre plus Diesel Tank on Stand \$1100, Single Row Fertiliser Box Stool Splitter \$400. 186 Ross Road DEERAL Ph 0412 968 434

Olympic 20.8.42 65% \$500+ gst; front end loader with 4 in 1 bucket, blasted and 2pac painted, resembling required \$4500+gst. Ph 0437 434 280

JD 4030 106HP 2WD Good clean condition, front weights, back wheel weights, canopy, new seat. Good small farm tractor. \$10,000 (+gst) Tully Ph: 0429 681 264

32 inch scalloped discs 32inch plain discs
Phone: 0418 824 085

24 Plate Heavy Duty Offset Discs PH 0407 364 012
Accommodation available for seasonal workers 2023 sugar cane crushing season on the Atherton Tablelands (Mareeba/Walkamin/Atherton areas). Please contact Robert to learn more on 0429 933 884.

Howard CH2000 4.2m rotary hoe, crumble roller. Comes with spare brand new gearbox still in crate. \$28,000 (plus gst) Ph: 0439 965 921

2006 Case 7700 Track Harvester, 10.3Lt Iveco Motor 3,500hrs Very Good Condition Ph: 0467 198 700 AH: 4067 1498

Fiat 980 2WD-3,500hrs, Fiat 1000 2WD - 5,000hrs, John Deere 4040 2WD - 3,600hrs, Chamberlain JD 4080 2 WD - 5,000hrs, Case

2590 2WD - 5,700hrs, Michigan 110-14 Elevator Scraper-New engine & Spare engine, D Massey Ferguson 3635 4WD - 5,500hrs, 6tonne tipper bin, Silvan Euro Spand CX2 Spreader, Portable bulk bin, Hustler Super Z Zero turn mower, Bunning Lowlander Mk 40-60 Ag Spreader(near new), Complete tracks to suit cane harvester, Half tracks to suit cane harvester, and Fuel trailer tank. Mulgrave Area 0407 160 673

2012 Case 8800 fulltrack cane harvester fitted with Trimble GPS and new walking gear. All in good condition. Near new 6t side tipper. Mulgrave Area Ph: 0407 160 673

07 Case 7700 lots of mods tripple sai chopper motors 10 blade lift drums; 2x case 97 powerhauls 10ton l/hand tip & suspension w/ cummins qsb 6.7l engines & upgraded cooling packages; Fiat 140 tractor. Call 0429 795 883 or fb messenger Scott Warland

Toft 6000 harvester \$20k Liqueforce 5 row applicator \$25k stainless steel 25000L tanker on tandem axle trailer \$15k 10 tonne side tipper \$12k kubota 8580 \$22k rotary hoe grubbers rollers ploughs plus more call Rodney Ph: 0429 984 920

Rotocult 1 shot cultivator \$7,000 ONO + GST. Ph: 0149 988 158

2022 Case 9900 Harvester Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2018 Case 8810 Harvester Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2 of 2019 Case Puma 210 cut with 14T GTB Razor Tippers Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

2 of 2021 Case Puma 225 Cut with 16T GTB Razor Tippers All Articulated units Ph- Craig 0436 332 044

International 866 Tractor \$11,000, 1000 Litre plus Diesel Tank on Stand \$1800, 2 Ripper Coulter's each \$1900, Single Fertiliser Box Stool Splitter \$700, Implement Rollers Each \$200, 3 Row Scratcher \$700, Line Marker \$500, Ph 0412 968 434, 186 Ross Road DEERAL. 2006 Case 7700 Track Harvester. 10.3Lt Iveco Motor 3,500hrs. Very Good Condition Ph: 0467 198 700 AH: 4067 1498

Multi-Weeder \$350; Cane Drill Marker \$250; Silvan 600L Water Tank \$300. Ph: 07 4065 2165
Howard 80 inch Ripper Rotary (new blades & new ripper tips) \$3,300. GST incl. 2 x second hand Tractor tyres. 20.8 38 8 ply \$100 ea. GST incl. Ph. 0438 988 858

Toft 6000, CAT 3306DI, Rotary Chop, Bent elevator, standard topper. Good condition for age. Ph: 07 4067 5327

Silkwood Implements whole Stick plant cutter with topper \$5,000 Includes GST Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

Quantity of used Harvester track plates - curved and flat Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

2015 Case 280 Magnum Ultimate 1750 hrs- equipped with Case Trimble FMX 1000 GPS \$300,000 includes GST Ph: Ron 0407 667 819

2012 Case iH Magnum 340. 4950hrs, Hydraulic Top Link 4 Remotes, Trimble RTK GPS Included. G/C \$230,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 700 555 or 0447 226 739

Kubota M9540 4850 Hrs G/C \$38,000 + GST. Two Ford 5000 articulated tractors coupled to 4 t side tippers \$10,000 each + GST. One Ford 5000 tractor \$8,000 + GST. Ph Jamie 0427 089 009

2010 Austoft A8800 Cane Harvester, New Motor, 1800 hrs, Walking Gear has done 1 Season, \$90,000 inc. GST ono. Ph: 0407 630 499 or 0428 453 640

HERBERT RIVER - BURDEKIN

For Sale 3-5 International Disc harrow 28 Plate Ph: 0408 889 446

6 x 1 1/4" COIL TYNES SUIT 2 1/2" BAR. \$200 inc GST, 2 x 1 1/4" RIPPER LEGS. \$100 inc GST. Phone: 0431 458 850

Scoopmobile 4wd Loader, Excellent condition, no leaks, new rubber. Brakes need attention. Perkins 354 Motor. LD 6 Model. \$17,000 plus gst. Ph: 0417 070 844

For Sale - 1996 Fiat 130 with 80 inch Kuhn Rotary Hoe. Under 2000 hours. \$45,000 + GST for both. Ph: 0427 337 929

Holden Commodore Ute 2012 SSV Redline v8 6litre 6 speed gear box. Immaculate condition 220ks. \$26,000 photos available. John 0417 070 844

Loader Moore Scoopmobile.perkins 6 cyl 354 MotorRuns nice No faults No cracks in 1 metre dirt bucket new tyres.\$18000. Photos available John 0417 070 844

Case 5150 4wd w front end loader \$18,000. 100 hp. chamberlain canelander \$3,500. Massey ferguson 178 \$8,000. Fert box 2t drop on top \$950. Back blade suit 100hp no hydraulics \$500. Phone John 0417 070 844. Photos available. All items plus gst if applicable.

2015 Austoft 8800 harvester. Good condition. Ph: 0499 888 919 or 0429 989 502

15KW WEG Mining motor High Efficiency E3 415 Volt 3 Phase 1470RPM. \$1300 Neg inc GST. This motor was manufactured in Feb 2018 and was in service for 3 years until the switchboard was completely upgraded to fit a VSD for better pump control. Motor was in perfect working condition when taken out of service and has been sitting in the shed since then. Motor is complete with a taperlock and a 4 belt drive pulley. Current replacement cost is \$2,150.00 bare motor ex Melb. without pulley. Ph: Mario 0429 181 276

SNG

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MF178 Tractor. Reasonable running condition - Multipower, no canopy, new mud guards \$10,000. Chain driven Row. Fertiliser box 1.5 tonne. trailed \$1,000. 3pl Back blade no hydraulics. \$600. Chamberlain Canelander Tractor good for spare tractor or tow boat \$4,000 Ask for photos. Ph: John 0417 070 844

M135 4WD, 15,000hrs. Good Condition. \$35,000 inc GST. Ph: 0407 636 055 International 1086 Trike (146HP). Tractor was manufactured as a trike from the factory and has the genuine front pedestal and twin front wheel set up. Complete with full set of front weights, standard 3 point linkage as well as a locally produced mid mount implement toolbar. Tractor is in good operating condition other than the aircon which does not operate. Selling due to lack of use and taking up shed space. \$12,000 + GST. Ph: 0429 181 276 for more information or photos.

MACKAY-PROSERPINE

GPS Autosteer kits, can be fitted to any tractor, FJ Dynamics brand, \$12,000 inc GST. Ph: 0401 847 162.

Celli Tiger Rotary Hoe 260DD, 4.2 metre, Hydraulic adjustable crumble roller, Hydraulic adjustable rear door, Oil cooler fitted, \$25k+ Ono Phone Brett 0418 190 429

Massey Ferguson harvester 102 base cutter box. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

Elevator chains for 102. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

2004 Case MXM175, in good condition, 4, 440 hours, power shift transmission, only used for farm work. \$65,000 plus GST. Ph: 0457 801 267

7T Tractor 200 auto command, super steer, GPS ready, 5549 hours, great condition, farm work only. \$110,000. Ph: 0427 503 738

Rover 52 inch mower, zero turn, Kawasaki motor, 19 horsepower. \$4,000. Ph: 0427 503 738

Massey Furgeson 65 tractor \$3500. Two Perkins 354 motors for parts \$500. Baggots 3 row cultivator, ripper. Duck feet tynes \$3500. Email: michael.cousen@hotmail.com PH: 0435 550 737

Farview Engineering 6 tonne side tipper. Ph.0407 761 364

3 Point Linkage Cane Topper. Ph: 0417 542 783 for price.

Pegoraro 120 inch rotary hoe in good condition. Ph: 0417 542 783 for price.

Billet Planter- Hodge Front, Moller sorter bin with single chain, auger, Lorsdan tank. \$6200 Moller tipper bin and trailer. \$2500. 2 fan stripper with Hyd topper, new hose and clutch \$2500, Hodge upright thrash planter, spare knives \$500 2 x plant trailer \$800 ea, whole stick plant cutter \$950. Contact Michael 0427 846 246

4000 litres of 50/50 diesel/petrol mix suitable for firebug burners or parts washing. PH.0411196860

Southern cross LAH 7 stage turbine pump. Please phone 0407 595 218.

4040 John Deere for sale. Ph: 4954 1174 for price.

John Deere 8300 tractor 1998 model 8552 hours Has had engine and front differential rebuild Dual wheels, A5 gps and base station Good condition. \$65,000 Inc gst Ph Stacey 0427 678 572

1 international 414 for sale, tyres 90% tread, engine needs repairs, \$1,000. Ph: 4954 1174

2016 Case 8800 Track Harvester; 4887 Hrs; Good Condition. PH: 0408755453 Proserpine

Goldacres 800Ltr spray unit with in-cab controls, 110 LPM pump, near new condition. No boom. Spare new solenoids included. Good condition. \$3,200 + GST ono. Ph: 0419 646 235.

Water meter never used SIEMENS BRAND(no before or after the meter pipework required) 150 MM FLANGED, TABLE D/E Ph: 0411 196 860

Diesel Tank on 2 wheel trailer 4500 Litres Ph: 0411 196 860

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by  Australian Retirement Trust

LOCATION	RECORDED RAINFALL (mm)			
	Month prior (June 2023)	Month to date (1 July - 25 July)	Year to date 2023	Year to date 2022
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	79.4	130.8	2725	2429.4
Mareeba Airport	0.2	21.2	422	730
Cairns Aero	45.8	92.4	1586.6	1561
Mt Sophia	98	168	2607	3192
Babinda Post Office	183.8	151.2	3458.2	3452.9
Innisfail	241.2	161	2689.8	2771
Tully Sugar Mill	224.3	221.8	2688.8	2829.3
Cardwell Marine Pde	7.2	64	1215.8	1387
Lucinda Township	72.4	128.4	1474.6	1680.2
Ingham Composite	82.2	58.3	1456.5	1480.5
Abergowrie Alert	42	29	793	309
Townsville Aero	0.6	69.4	994.8	1018.4
Ayr DPI Research Stn	0.2	84.4	1060.2	809.2
Proserpine Airport	15	66.4	1391.6	1049.8
Mirani Mary Street	20	86.5	1296.9	768.3
Mackay MO	33.2	33.4	1177.8	762.8
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	43.4	89.6	1185.9	915.8
Bundaberg Aero	6.8	26.8	401.6	899.8
Childers South	19.6	41.4	385	999
Maryborough	18.8	57.4	419.4	769.8
Tewantin RSL Park	103.2	71.4	549.4	2089.8
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	no data	71.4	329	2180
Nambour DPI - Hillside	29.8	64.2	474.1	1916.1
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	6.5	18.6	364.7	1252.2
Murwillumbah Bray Park	26.1	13	607	478.2
Ballina Airport	6.8	47.4	785.8	2237.4
New Italy	16	26.4	480.6	2098.2

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

6 and 8 inch cast iron flanged Gate Valves. New never used. Ph: 0411 196 8601973

Ford 5000 2wd with 4ton Newton side tipper \$11000 +GST .3m niemeyer nr1411 Power Harrows \$5600 + GST. Ph: 0437 184 822

6t side tipper Ian Ritchie, Excellent condition \$15,000 + GST. Ph: 0478 719 294.

2 fan stripper \$500. Moller single chain planter \$4000. Roberts 6T goose neck trailer \$5000. Grubber & box \$300. Hodge upright planter \$3000. Ph: 0408 776 336 OR 4959 1765 after 7pm

Case 8810, 2018 model cut 4 seasons, low hour low tonnage machine, owner driver. Ph: 0427 271 278.

Celli Tiger spike hoe, 2.5m wide with hydraulic crumble roller and oil cooler. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578. 12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl GST. Ph: 0438 606 578

Bonel Plant Cutter GC \$450. Ph: 0428782202

BUNDABERG-ROCKY POINT

Brand new HOWARD AH4000/255 2.5m Heavy Duty Rotary Hoe w/wheels \$44k inc gst; HODGE Stool Splitter 3 row 1.5t S/S Bin Disc openers, press wheels, row spacings 1.5-1.8m, only done 25ha, oiled & shedded \$42k inc gst; Rocky Pt, Ph Greg 0421277126

2 x Single axle Hi lift tipper bins, one 8 tonne and another one 7 tonne \$12,000 plus gst Phone 0413 584 728

Massey Ferguson harvester 305 \$5,000, stick plant cane cutter 3 point linkage \$600, 2 fan stripper \$500, whole stick planter \$500, spinner weeder \$600. All + GST. Ph: 0402 781 765

Howard rotary hoe 90 inch reasonable condition \$3,000. Bonnel single stick cane planter good condition \$1,000. Aged billet planter weathered condition \$2,500. Belt spreader 3 ton bin good condition \$15,000 Phone 0437 266 711

Plant cane cultivator 2 x 1.6m row w/ 3 weeder rakes and tines \$2,200 incl GST, Land plane w/ 4m. hyd. tilt blade \$4,400 incl GST, 2x1.6m. row cultivator w/ 10x 30ml. tines \$2,200 incl GST. Ph: 0408 761 463.

JD 2010 3520 harvester 7700hrs GC \$175,000 + GST. Ph: 0418 881 343.

Case 8810, 2018 model cut 4 seasons, low hour low tonnage machine, owner driver. Ph: 0427 271 278

HBM billet planter set up for dual row or single. \$9,000 + GST. Ph: 0413 584 728

2 row Bonnel fertiliser box with ground drive, \$1,100 + GST. Ph: 0413 584 728

WANTED

Wanted hi clearance spray tractor. Must be a trike and must have air con cab. Send photos and information to 0407 639 985

Wanted 2 X 2ND hand tractor tyres. 14.9 - 23 to suit Massey 35 Please call Michael 0419 952 119
Wanted to buy Yeoman 7 leg ripper or similar style preferably with roller Ph: 0428 724 025

Wanted permanent purchase Lower Mary River Water Allocations on Mary River, Tinana Creek and Channel Pipeline sections of the scheme. Phone 0427 930 696.

Wanted to buy high rise spray tractor. (Mackay area) Ph: 0427 541 346

Wanted - Water tank trailer, about 5000 Litres PH 0417 784 642

Fertilizer box drop on stool type Tableland -Mossman -Tully Ph. 0439 951 110

Wanted 6 Cylinder Turbo Cat Motor - Phone 0417 193 385

Wanted a vintage 3 ton cane railway bin to display at the Childers historical complex QLD. Anything considered even parts. Email: Darrensbrennun@outlook.com Contact Number: 0402 122 790

Wanted 1996 - 2004. Toft / Case 7000, wheeled cane harvester. Phone 0420 600 943WTB Tractor with FEL 100-140 HP up to \$50k. NQLD Area. Call Peter 0427 760 449

Cane stripper in good condition. Ph: 0407 675 361

Double 5 or 6 tonne side tipper with load sharing hitch. With or without tractor. Ph: 0418 379 253.

Weeder rake. Preferably heavy-duty frame, looking to modify. Condong area. Ph: 0438 428 113.

14 tonne elevator bin and tractor 50klm box or more. Preferably JCB. Ph: 0400 794 857.

Flat bed trailer approx. 3000 x 2100. Mackay/ Sarina area. Ph: 0439 752 381.

Wanted 2 X 2ND hand tractor tyres. 14.9 - 23 to suit Massey 35 Please call Michael 0419 952 119

PROPERTY - FOR SALE

Cane Farm - Ingham Line Established irrigated cane farm with a large machinery shed, plus smaller shed. Includes travelling "Monsoon" irrigator and pump. It has a total area of 144.11 hectares with a CPA of 129.58 Hectares For further details, contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on 4776 5007.

288 Acres 35 minutes South of Maryborough 200 acres under cane. Permanent creek with underground mains 4 bedroom timber home 12x9m shed with 3 phase power Phone 0407398852

Mulgrave Sugar Cane Farm - 82 Ha on 2 titles will sell separately. Lot 1 - 47 Ha with water License. Lot 2 - 34 Ha with house and shed. Ph: 0437 293 241 Mulgrave Area

2 Tableland Farms 59.145ha and 23.395ha 9(203.65 acres) on 4 Titles Walkamin area. 304 megs Tinaroo irrigation water, 65ha CPA, 10ha avocado and mangos, 2 houses, sheds, machinery, center pivot and hard hose irrigator. Soil and climate suitable for vast array of other crops. Ph 0439 951 110

PROPERTY - WANTED

Want to buy farm in Victoria Plains, Eton, Pleystowe area. Ph 049 00 29 387

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm. Close to Racecourse mill, Tekowai, Alexandra areas. Ph: 0438 545 251

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm in the Septimus area. Ph: 0417 607 722



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