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CANEGROWERS

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Paul Schembri Junior.

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NEWS BRIEFS

GROWERS REEF EFFORTS RECOGNISED

The commitment of Queensland's sugarcane growers to improving farming practices has been recognised, with the Queensland Government recently announcing its continued funding of the industry led Smartcane BMP program.

Acknowledging the tremendous efforts of growers over recent years, which have resulted in 40% of Queensland's cane-growing area now being accredited in Smartcane BMP, the government has committed \$4.47 million to fund Phase 4 of the project.

The funding is part of a wider \$21.71 million package to assist programs that continue to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

"This announcement of continued funding for Smartcane BMP is a validation of the fantastic results that growers in this program have achieved over the past four years," CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said.

"Growers right across the industry have embraced the program which validates



BMP facilitators in Brisbane

changes that are providing positive environmental outcomes, while also improving their business' bottom line."

"While 40% might be the official number, when you take into account the number of growers who are implementing best practice on their farms but have not sought accreditation, the actual figure would be much higher," Mr Menkens said.

"The Smartcane BMP program is 100% voluntary and I encourage growers to seek accreditation. While we in the industry know we are operating at the highest of environmental standards, accreditation provides a validation that opens the doors to policy and market-based recognition."

In just the past few years, more than 500 growers have used Smartcane BMP to document changes to their farming practices. These changes have addressed disease management, weed control, nutrient management, soil health, tillage, fallow cropping, and/or irrigation scheduling.

"This funding support from the government goes directly to underpin the regionally based Smartcane BMP team, with representatives in each district. The BMP team now has security to build on past successes and continue to assist growers who want to document their farming achievements and become accredited."

Smartcane BMP facilitators from across the state gathered in Brisbane recently for two days of meetings and workshops to review and celebrate the tremendous success of Phase 3 of the program and discuss what changes could be made to continue that success in Phase 4. ■

The print version of the February edition of Australian Canegrower incorrectly reported that more than 12 million tonnes of cane had been left unharvested in the Herbert River and Burdekin districts. 12.75 million tonnes was actually the cane crushed in these districts. The correct standover cane figures are 4,918 hectares for Herbert River and 1,134 hectares for the Burdekin district. We apologise for any confusion.



Lucinda Terminal

CONCERNS FOR FUTURE OF QUEENSLAND'S BULK SUGAR TERMINALS

CANEGROWERS has called on Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) to explain the reasoning behind its decision to abandon a long and successful commercial partnership with Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) for the operation of the state's bulk sugar terminals.

CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said the bulk sugar terminals, which give Australian sugar a competitive edge over other sugar exporting nations, were built on the back of investment by growers, but STL had failed to consult growers before announcing its decision.

"These terminals are industry assets, and they remain one of our main competitive advantages, allowing Australian sugar to be traded as a reliable, high quality, sustainable product into our most valuable markets in a timely manner," Mr Menkens said.

"There seems little justification for this change and it appears to be more about corporate manoeuvring."

Mr Menkens also questioned why STL had not made clear in its initial public statements that the current operating agreement with QSL requires a three-year notice period.

"STL have not consulted with anyone in industry about this matter and they have chosen not to make it clear that their agreement with QSL has a three-year notice period," he said.

"While technically CANEGROWERS has no say in this agreement, given their stated intent, we call on STL to clearly explain to growers why they are determined to take this course of action."

There is no disputing that QSL has operated the terminals safely and efficiently, and its performance has been highly scrutinized.

"The successful operation of these terminals is vital to the overall success of Australia's sugarcane industry," Mr Menkens said.

"QSL's smooth and efficient operation of our terminals has ensured the industry maintained a competitive edge. This move by STL is threatening that competitive advantage and growers are rightly concerned. They deserve an explanation." ■

CANEGROWERS is now calling on STL to make clear:

1. *how they intend to operate the terminals to deliver lower operating costs and an improvement in efficiency*
2. *how these cost savings will flow through to growers*
3. *what the forward operating strategy is for the terminals*
4. *how STL will ensure this strategy is used to benefit the Australian sugarcane industry and not be distracted seeking alternative business models driven by a focus on shareholder returns*



GROWERS AHEAD OF THE GAME ON CLIMATE POLICY

"Smartcane BMP helps growers reduce their impacts and many of these practices are the same practices that you would need to adopt to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions."

CANEGROWERS has released a new Climate Change Policy that will assist in telling the industry's story, while also outlining how, with the right government support, the industry can help Australia successfully achieve a low emissions future.

Developed by the grower-led Environment and Sustainability Committee and endorsed by grower representatives from all districts at the November CANEGROWERS Policy Council meeting, the policy is the first of its kind for the industry.

"Most people are well aware of the climate change issue and the role of emissions from human activities impacting on the environment," CANEGROWERS Senior Manager for Environment and Sustainability Mick Quirk said.

"All industries have a part to play in addressing climate change.

"This policy is documenting what the CANEGROWERS position is, what the issues might be, where the risks are for the industry, and where the opportunities lie, so that we can put the role of our industry into context."

The good news is that Queensland's sugar industry has a positive story to tell, with a lot of work already done by sugarcane growers.

This policy will ensure the industry is ahead of the debate so that we are not at risk of becoming another scapegoat.

"Our industry is relatively ahead of the game on the issue of climate change," CANEGROWERS policy officer Elisa Westmore said.

"A lot of our farmers are based along the Queensland coast and close to the Great Barrier Reef, and for that reason there has been a lot of work on trying to manage the risk to water quality.

“Smartcane BMP helps growers reduce their impacts and many of these practices are the same practices that you would need to adopt to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

“There has already been a lot of underpinning research into understanding the industry emissions profile and it indicates that the sugar industry can be part of the potential solutions to some of the climate change issues.

“We are amongst the best feedstocks for biofuel and bioproducts and in the near future there will remain a major role for biofuels to play in reducing the emissions from transport and manufacturing industries.”

It all starts with understanding the industry's emissions

Roughly half of the industry's emissions are called infield emissions, that is nitrous oxide coming off the field after applying fertiliser. The nitrogen in fertiliser is turned into nitrous oxide which is a greenhouse gas.

The other half of the industry's emissions come from using non-renewable energy, like diesel to power tractors and other farm machinery, and using electricity to power irrigation.

The good news is when growers use the SIX EASY STEPS methodology and match their inputs to the crop's requirements, this assists in reducing



Maryborough flood damage

emissions and importantly, it can save on cost.

Ultimately the use of the industry's best environmental practice should also be consistent with improving profitability, Mick says.

“Smartcane BMP, which is informed by industry growers with Sugar Research Australia experience and research data, is good at identifying win-win practices where things are good for the environment and also good for production and profit.

“The Climate Change Policy will assist CANEGROWERS to benchmark where we are, and then see what we can do to leverage

“By being proactive on this policy we want to ensure the industry is not a victim of policy and commitments of government”

opportunities, noting that this is a challenge for all agricultural industries.

“Food security is very important, no one wants to compromise productivity, and no one wants to compromise the profitability of growers, it's about what we can do practically to manage expectations around emissions while we ensure we build the viability of the industry and the productivity of our farms.

“By being proactive on this policy we want to ensure the industry is not a victim of policy and commitments of government, but instead we inform and lead the discussions to obtain a benefit of these policy changes.”

Mick and Elisa delve into the new policy on the latest CANEGROWERS podcast. Find it on the CANEGROWERS website at www.canegrowers.com.au. ■

JOB MATCHING PLATFORM TO HELP QUEENSLAND AG SECTOR THROUGH WORKFORCE CRISIS

The Queensland agricultural sector will now have the support of a sophisticated job matching tool to attract valuable skilled labour along with the opportunity to showcase the incredible career opportunities the sector has to offer.

Officially launched on 23 February, Ag Jobs Queensland is a dedicated industry jobs platform connecting employers from the agricultural sector across the state with prospective employees.

Through the platform, businesses are able to advertise their available positions, promote their jobs through social media and create an Employer Profile to showcase their business as an employer of choice.

Job seekers looking to work in what is arguably the most exciting industry in Queensland can similarly use the platform to upload their CV and connect with

interested employers across the agricultural supply chain.

Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) have developed Ag Jobs Queensland responding to feedback from its peak body members who are hearing from farmers all over the state that attracting a skilled workforce remains one of the critical challenges facing their enterprises.

"The outlook for the Queensland agriculture sector is positive with global demand for our top-quality food, fibre and foliage continuing to grow. While this is good news for our economy and regional communities, the sector needs to be able to attract, retain and grow an appropriate workforce in order to realise this growth," QFF CEO Jo Sheppard said.

"The entire agricultural sector and supply chain are feeling the impact of the workforce shortage and it is placing downward pressure

on productivity, efficiencies and profitability and upward pressure on the cost of production."

In 2020-21, the total value of Queensland's primary industries – agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food – was estimated at more than \$23 billion.

In the five years leading up to the same time period, the total number of people employed in the sector grew 26.2 per cent compared with 9.1 per cent for the state's overall employment.

Not only is the need for workforce in the agriculture sector growing, the traditional workforce composition for agriculture and farming businesses is also evolving with a range of new skills in demand.

"It is an exciting time to work in the Queensland agricultural sector," Ms Sheppard said.

"Businesses are innovating to meet opportunities and challenges and are seeking

talent to fill a diversity of roles within their operations, so no matter where your interests lie, there will no doubt be a career pathway for you in Queensland agriculture."

Ms Sheppard said she is expecting to see increased future demand for skills in a number of areas including technology and data, automation, research and development, environmental sustainability, and biosecurity, markets and trade, climate change, people management, marketing, communications, and finance and risk management.

"So, if you are an employer seeking to fill a role or a prospective employee wanting to work in Queensland agriculture, register on the platform now," Ms Sheppard said.

Ag Jobs Queensland can be viewed at www.agjobsqueensland.com.au. ■

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CAPACITY BUILDING - BUZZ WORD OR MISSION CRITICAL

BY DAN GALLIGAN,
CEO, CANEGROWERS

Our industry has been built on the back of hard-working farming families.

For over 100 years, these families have invested with confidence to not only build their own personal assets and prosperity, but to ensure the success of the industry for future generations.

"It is with this understanding that CANEGROWERS is rebuilding our strong investment in leadership development."

They knew that they would prosper if the industry prospered. It's a sense of community mindedness, of mutual dependence between self and industry, that has made our industry great.

We see such people in everyday life, in all

sorts of environments and situations, working together to get things done. But actually getting things done requires decision-making, and decision-making takes leadership.

So, it is no surprise that throughout our industry we have a strong history of great regional leaders.

Leadership is not necessarily about profile either. Many of our most thoughtful leaders work deliberately behind the scenes, bringing people along with them, encouraging growth and optimism.

It is with this understanding that CANEGROWERS is rebuilding our strong investment in leadership development.

If we are to deliver on the strong prospects of a dynamic and evolving industry, we will need

to invest more in the people who can deliver it. Recent decisions by the Queensland

Cane Growers Organisation Board have put in place new building blocks to support such development.

We have now hosted two excellent groups of young growers from far north Queensland, who travelled to Brisbane to meet with policy and management staff, as well as researchers from SRA and other growers in Bundaberg.

These groups were formed as an initiative of the local district CANEGROWERS companies. Knowing that there will be interest from other regions for such events, QCGO will support districts wherever we can.

Feedback from the participants was impressive, with most remarking on how rewarding and eye-opening it was to see the skills and services that are available behind the industry organisations that support their businesses.

As well as supporting emerging leaders, we also want to support industry people who are already in decision-making roles and want to expand their skills.

Later in the year we will be working with our districts to deliver a leadership mentoring program, a process by which we match our experienced leaders, who may carry the barnacles and wisdom of experience, and put them in a position to share this with people who are expanding their interests in leadership roles in the industry.

These are exciting initiatives and there will be more to come. Some activities will be a redesign and implementation of past programs, while others will be completely new, designed for the needs of the future of the industry.

Importantly though, we understand that while there are day-to-day, and season-to-season battles for profitability, sustainability and certainty, all problems require good people with a sense of confidence in the future of the industry and a desire to contribute in any way they can. ■

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COMMUNITY CHAMPION

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman **Joseph Marano** has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to the local community, with Cassowary Coast Regional Council presenting the prominent grower with a Lifetime Contribution Award during a special Australia Day Awards ceremony on 26 January.

The accolade recognises selfless commitment, dedication, outstanding achievement and leadership in the local community, as well as involvement in activities that promote the wellbeing and welfare of

community members over a lifetime.

Mayor Mark Nolan said Joe received the award for his extensive and ongoing contribution to the sugar industry, as well as his dedication to various local community groups over many years.

"His passion and selfless dedication makes him a deserving winner," Mayor Nolan said.

Joe, a third-generation cane farmer from Mourilyan, has been chairman of CANEGROWERS Innisfail since 2006.



(L - R) Cassowary Coast Councillor Teresa Millwood and Joseph Marano

Previously, he served 12 years on the Mourilyan Productivity Board. He was also chair of the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership, an industry-led extension and training service for growers that helped deliver Reef Trust projects in the Wet Tropics.

Joe's other contributions include involvement in community kindergarten

and schools, and local swimming and soccer clubs.

A humble man, Joe Marano said he was both surprised and honoured to receive the award.

"It was recognition for a lot of hard work," he said.

"I don't do what I do for awards, I do it for my industry and community. I felt really chuffed that someone nominated me." ■



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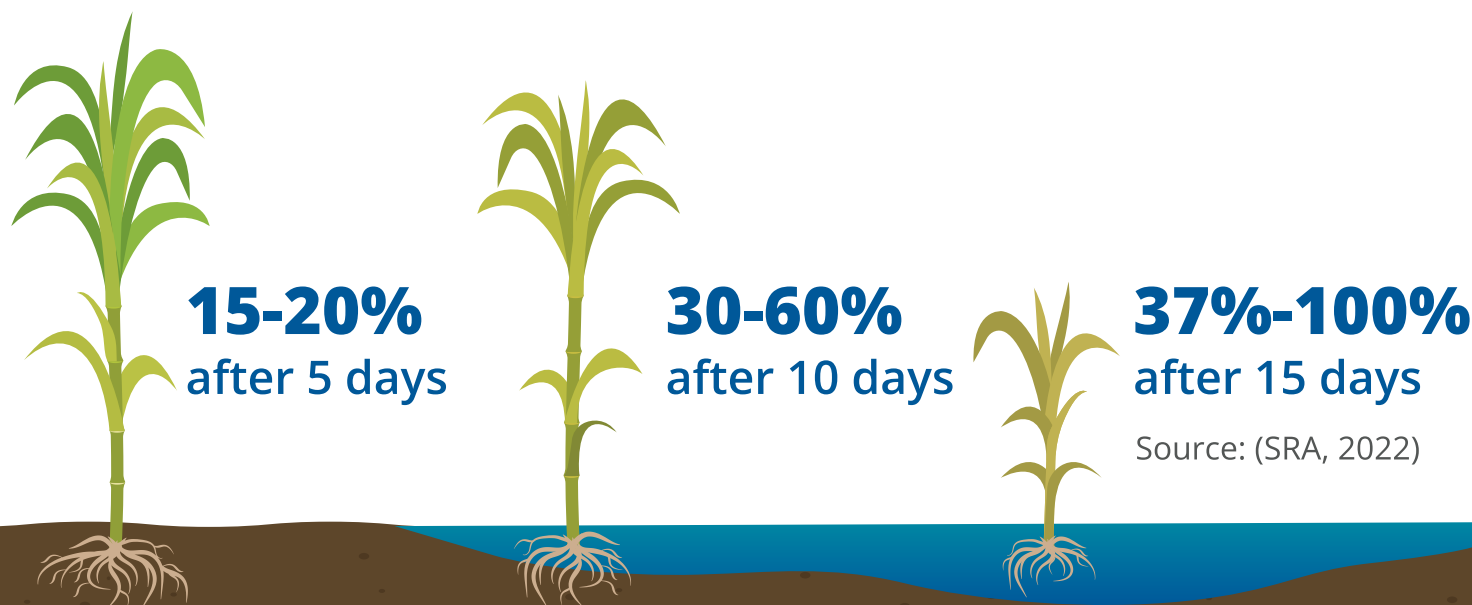
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FROM THE CHAIR

STL MUST EXPLAIN DECISION TO DUMP QSL

By Owen Menkens,
Chairman, CANEGROWERS



There has been a lot of discussion in the media and on headlands recently about the decision by Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) to insource terminal operations and therefore terminate its long-standing and successful operations agreement with Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL).

This decision was made without consulting growers, despite growers having originally covered two-thirds of the cost of building these industry assets.

This was done under a regulated environment whereby the Queensland Government owned the sugar in the terminals and, with industry, managed the sugar terminal assets.

Once deregulation started, QSL and STL were formed.

STL was a listed company with shares allocated on the basis of the tonnage supplied by growers and millers over a period.

QSL was formed to work as a not-for-profit, industry-owned company that marketed the sugar and managed the terminals.

The relationship between the two was essentially a lease arrangement whereby STL's main role was to monitor QSL whilst maintaining the assets and giving a return to its shareholders.

This was in a period when mills were co-ops or Australian owned companies, and the idea of our industry was to maximise the brand of Queensland-produced sugar on the world market.

Over the years, mill ownership has changed and their marketing priorities along with them. The share ownership of STL has also changed, with many growers, millers and QSL taking out large shareholdings.

Last month, STL chose to cancel the lease agreement it had with QSL since 2017 and create a new operating agreement. In the letter to shareholders, dated 3 February, STL says it always contemplated the insourcing of operations.

No STL representatives have ever said this to industry or me as chairman of CANEGROWERS. In fact, on many occasions

STL representatives have explicitly said they had no intention of taking over terminal operations.

The other issue is that in its press release STL failed to mention that they have a three-year contract with QSL to continue running the terminals.

The intimation of the release is that they were taking over operations immediately. This deception calls into question STL's ability to work on behalf of the industry and the growers who pay two-thirds of their revenue.

As growers we are price takers, with costs being able to be passed through to us from different people in the supply chain. Therefore, it is imperative that transparency over costs continues.

QSL manages the terminals on behalf of industry in an efficient and world class manner. This gives us, as an industry, a genuine competitive advantage in the world market.

STL mentions QSL's conflicts of interest in their statements but doesn't provide any evidence of this. STL will meet with the CANEGROWERS Policy Council this month to explain their decision as well as provide evidence of how they could do a better job than an industry-owned, not-for-profit company. These assets need to be managed in the best interests of industry, with long term low operating costs.

STL needs to explain their forward operating strategy and how this will work for growers and not simply extract profits for shareholders.

CANEGROWERS will work tirelessly to keep pressure on STL, QSL and all the other marketers to provide a transparent supply chain system.

We will make sure that we continue to enjoy a world class sugar storage and handling system. We should work together as an industry to maximise our sugar value for now and into the future. ■



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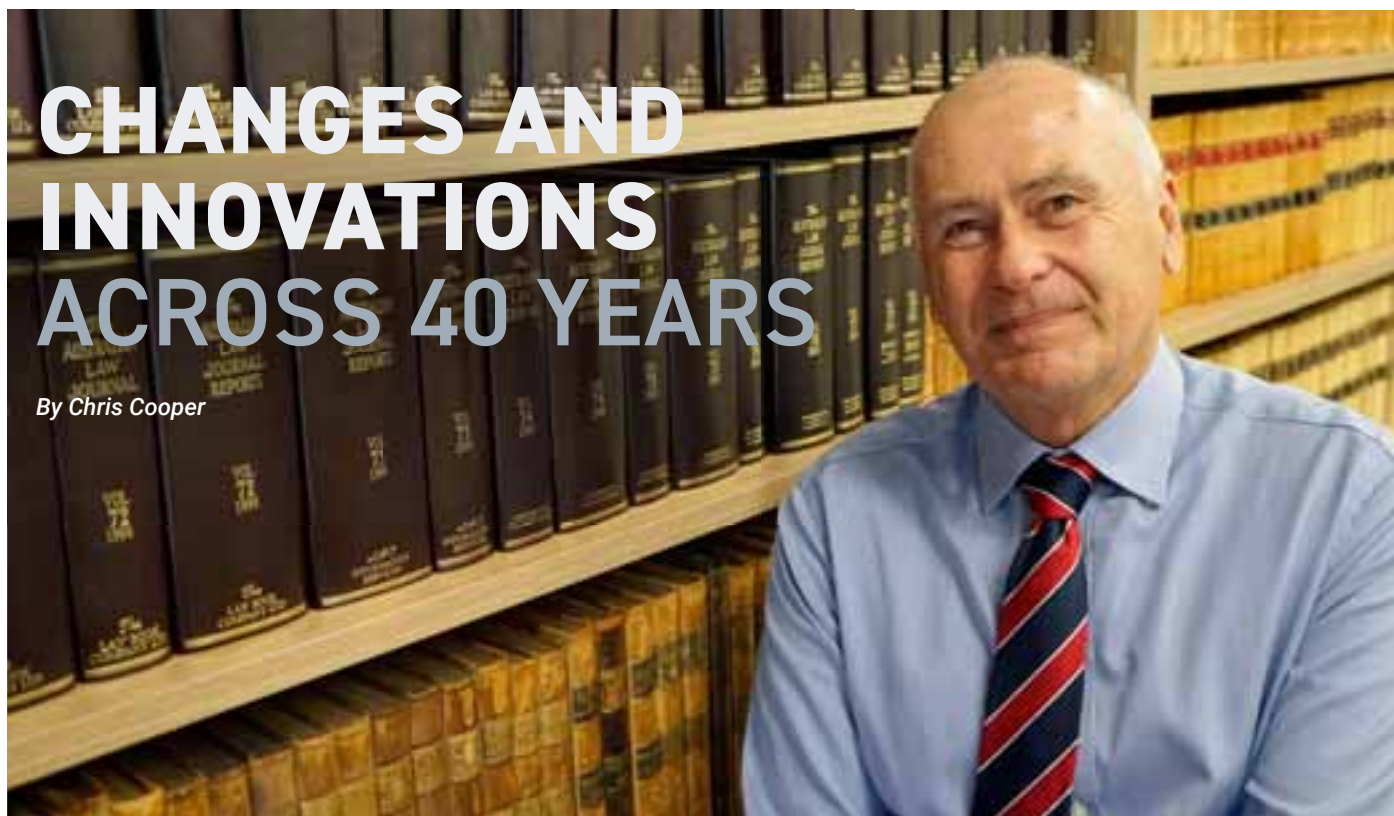
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CANEGROWERS

CHANGES AND INNOVATIONS ACROSS 40 YEARS

By Chris Cooper



As CANEGROWERS legal counsel for four decades, solicitor Chris Cooper has seen significant changes and impressive innovations in Australia's sugar industry. And while growers have faced some challenging times of late, Chris remains optimistic about the industry's evolving future.

Sugarcane has been in Chris Cooper's blood since birth. Growing up on the family's cane farm near Mount Coolum on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, Chris spent his formative years helping out around the farm.

His parents and grandparents started developing a sugar cane farm in 1955 and supplied cane to the Moreton Central Sugar Mill in Nambour until the farm was sold in 1973.

Chris started his education firstly at the little Yandina Creek School, then Yandina State School before heading off to Nambour High until Grade 10. His final and seminal years were spent at boarding school in Brisbane, before taking the plunge into studying law at university.

While it wasn't originally Chris' intention to become a lawyer, an interesting twist of fate sent him down a career path that

"I have been very fortunate and had an interesting and satisfying career in the legal arena, particularly in the sugar industry"



Young Chris helping out on the farm

has meandered through four decades.

"I wasn't really sure what to do at university, I was very interested in sports and still am, but I watched an inspiring movie on TV about two lawyers the night before I had to submit my university choices. I remember watching the lawyers in the show and thinking they look like they lead an interesting life and

so I decided to study law," Chris said.

After finishing his articles of clerkship, Chris was asked to stay on as a first-year solicitor and has been one ever since.

"I have been very fortunate and had an interesting and satisfying career in the legal arena, particularly in the sugar industry. I guess apart from about four or

“The fundamental parts of the industry are still very strong. It’s still a very solid industry.”

five years when I was at uni and my parents had moved to grazing properties out west, I’ve been involved in the industry in some capacity my whole life,” Chris said.

Why the sugar industry?

In March 1983, Chris was approached by a colleague regarding an opening in the CANEGROWERS legal team.

It was a unique opportunity to fuse his previous very real and practical understanding of sugarcane growing, having worked as a youngster on the family farm, with his legal experience and educational background. The position was for a junior in-house lawyer.

“CANEGROWERS, at that time, had a strong and well-resourced legal department due to the organisation’s responsibilities and requirements as a statutory body for the industry,” Chris explained.

“The way the organisation is structured and functions and what it achieves at a local, state, national and international level for members, is very much admired.”

“It was an important role which flowed from the significant obligations that the organisation and its elected members had as a statutory body. One of their core functions was the making of an Award, now called a Cane Supply Agreement.

“Representatives were appointed by the local CANEGROWERS organisation and the local mill owner. The group was chaired by the local magistrate, and those five people, called the Local Board, were charged with making the Award for all growers and the sugar mill. That was automatically binding on every grower and the mill owner. It was a very significant role for the organisation’s members.

“There was a senior lawyer and junior lawyer in-house and the organisation retained very reputable and well experienced Brisbane senior barristers on call as needed.

“There is a tremendous history about the legal services provided by CANEGROWERS over the time, using the best that was available. It was an exciting and stimulating group.



“Back then CANEGROWERS, as an organisation, had powers to appeal against those Awards if they didn’t think they were fair or they wanted improvements or better terms and conditions, or an increase in the sugar price or extra allowances in that contract.

“CANEGROWERS then had the entitlement to lodge an appeal to the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board, which was chaired by a very senior Supreme Court judge. The CANEGROWERS legal team would mount a case and argue that case every year, as the Award was made for only one season at a time.”

A significant change introduced to the industry in the mid-2000s, was rolling agreements instead of annual agreements.

“Every year there were many disputes so we would start in the North and work our way down, arguing these cases in every sugar town before this very senior appellate body with our senior barristers in tow and we’d argue our cases and move on to the next town,” Chris explained.

“This was a very significant

thing that the organisation did on behalf of its growers. We still perform that role today, but it has evolved somewhat, and we don’t see the same level of disputes. The mechanisms for resolving disputes are not as simple and efficient as they used to be, but they’re still there and we still get involved with disputes with the mills from time to time.”

The growers valued the barristers and enjoyed briefing them on the merits of their case and showing them the highlights of their town, occasionally taking the opportunities to fish or showcase the best barramundi in the rivers after a long day in court.

“We were busy but we also made sure we took the time to engage with the local districts and get a feel from the growers. There was a good balance of working hard and also enjoying the local areas and people.” Chris said.

Change is always difficult, and the deregulation of the sugar industry in 2005-2006 was a challenge for the whole of the industry,

particularly for growers.

There were changes within industry itself and changes in the relationship between growers and millers.

Significantly, grower rights and protections that were afforded by the legislation were removed and replaced with commercial arrangements.

"It's the people that make the industry, the growers themselves and the people that work supporting the growers."

However, overall growers handled that transition very well, Chris believes.

CANEGROWERS also changed dramatically around the same time, going from a statutory body with compulsory membership and statutory levying power to a voluntary membership organisation. "The organisation changed from a statutory body to a voluntary membership, but CANEGROWERS managed to maintain a high level of membership, which is unique throughout Australian primary production.

"In my experience, the organisation is very much admired around the world in agricultural circles. The way the organisation is structured and functions,

and how well its supported by its members, and what it achieves at a local, state, national and international level for those members, is very much admired."

Future for growers

Chris sees a bright future for the industry and believes cane farming remains a fantastic way to live and raise a family.

"A few years ago there were concerns, and yes, we have lost a lot of area that was under cane, whether it's to urban expansion, competing land use, or in some areas it's gone out of production through no fault of the industry," Chris said.

"It is understandable that in some districts there has been incredible prices offered for cane farming land by nut and tree growers, and some growers have taken the opportunity to move out of the industry.

"But the fundamental parts of the industry are still very strong. It's still a very solid industry. There are always challenges, but there is not a lot of residual debt in the industry, so many growers are able to weather the ups and downs.

"Currently the inputs costs have been high, but fortunately at the moment the market looks very good and has been good for a while.

"One of the benefits that Queensland growers enjoy is the ability to forward price and we are unique in the world market with that. It's one of the many innovations that the Australian industry

has been able to introduce, benefiting the industry and growers.

"We continue to be admired by the international agricultural industries for a whole range of things including this capacity to manage pricing and forward price. It's got to be done carefully and sensibly but at the moment there is an opportunity for growers to lock in prices a few years out that are reasonably good, despite the input costs.

"It's an exciting, fun and great place to work."

"It's still a strong resilient industry and there is a focus now for the future on value adding opportunities for bio-products and diversification, and with the government now getting behind this, there appears to be a commitment in this space.

"The hope now is that there will be commercial viability. It's not hard to make things from sugarcane and sugar waste products, it's making them affordable that's the key.

"Sugar will remain the main driver of the industry, but if there are real commercial options that will provide extra revenue for growers and millers that can be shared appropriately it will underpin the industry going forward. I'm confident that this will be the case.

"The past 40 years have been interesting, and the industry continues to evolve. It has always made its mark on the world, like with mechanical harvesting, building sugar terminals, forward pricing, all sorts of innovations have been possible because of the people that are in the industry.

"I have developed a lot of friends and relationships over the years. It's the people that make the industry, the growers themselves and the people that work supporting the growers.

"It's an exciting, fun and great place to work." ■

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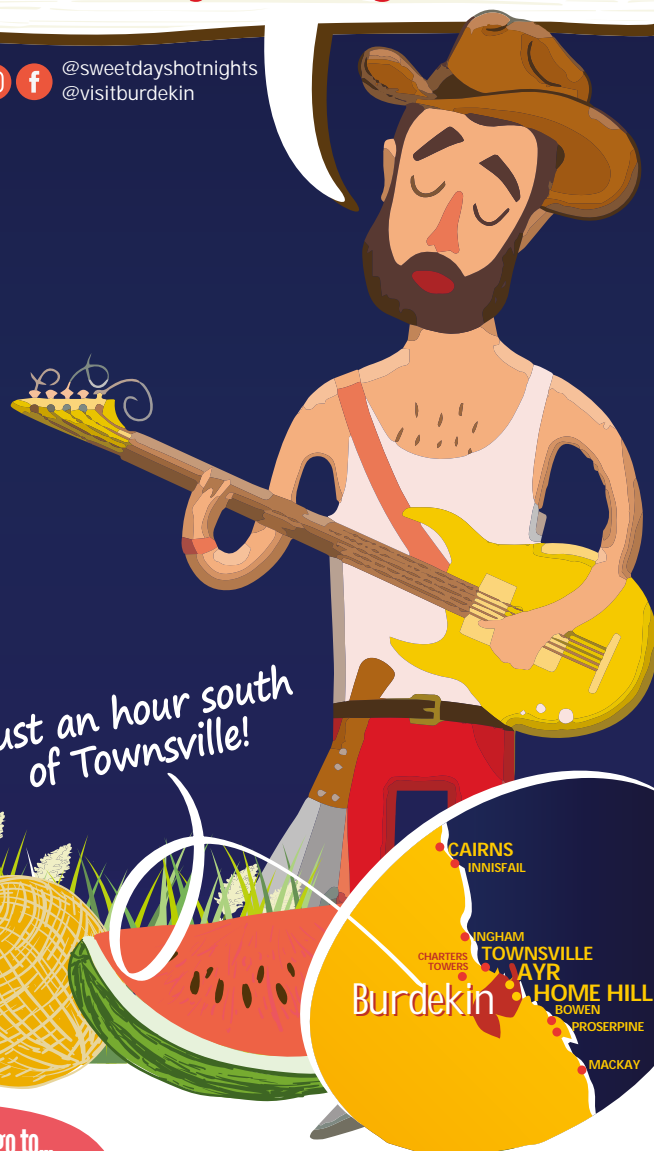
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QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE



Current as of 23 February 2023.

Sugar Market & Currency

Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	The wet season has provided above average rainfall for the Centre South Brazil, leading to a positive outlook for the 2023/24 season crop putting estimates up to above 580 million tonnes of cane. However early season (April/May) logistic constraints are expected and could limit export flows.	Neutral
India	The 2022/23 season harvest has been progressing well. The Indian government has officially rolled out gasoline blended with 20% ethanol (E20), two months ahead of schedule, with the fuel available at 84 pumps in 11 states. E20 gasoline is expected to be made available nationwide in India by 2025. There hasn't been a government announcement regarding additional export allocations as yet.	
Thailand	The Thai harvest has been progressing strongly, with sugar recovery levels reaching new records. Season to date, 51.8 million tonnes of cane has been harvested (up roughly 4% year-on-year) and 5.69 million tonnes of sugar has been produced (up approximately 10% year-on-year).	
Speculators	The Commitment of Traders Report has not been produced for an entire month. Clearing houses had to deal with a cyber-attack at the end of January which continues to disrupt derivatives trading.	Neutral
Currency	The AUD started February strong, above 71 US cents and slowly moved below 68 US cents by the end of the month. US inflation continued to move lower, to 6.4%, with other economies continuing to show resilience. The Federal Reserve continues to indicate that more interest rate hikes are yet to come which will impact the AUD.	

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

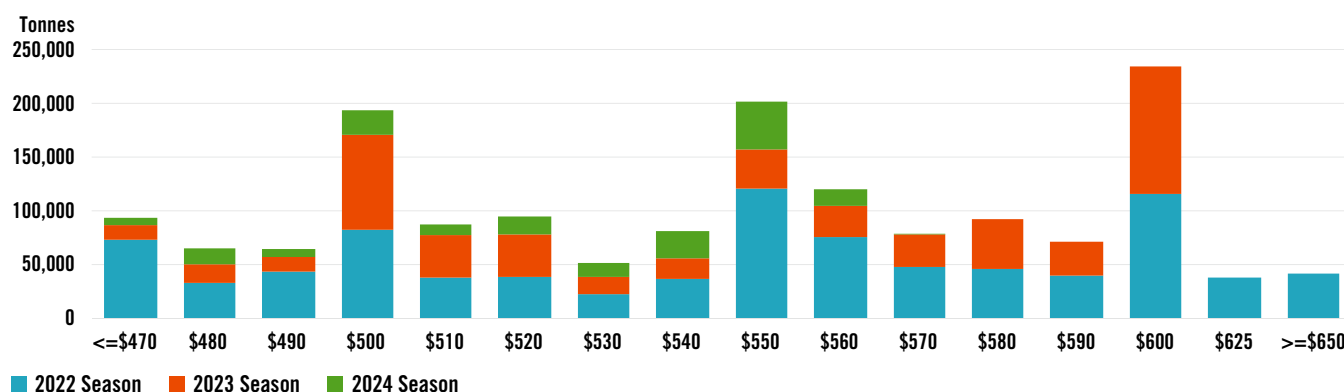
> The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved by growers across all growing regions using QSL products to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:

- 2022 Target Price = \$685.33 / IFC \$690 (Mar23) / SMHC = \$695
- 2023 Target Price = \$615 / IFC \$620 (Mar24)
- 2024 Target Price = \$560 / IFC \$570 (Jul24)
- 2025 Target Price = \$540 / IFC \$545 (Jul25)

> Key Dates:

- **30 April 2023:** QSL's 2023-Season Nomination Deadline. This is the last day to elect QSL products for the 2023 Season, with any tonnage not allocated to a pricing product defaulting to the 2023 Harvest Pool after this date.

QSL GROWER-MANAGED PRICING FILLS – 2022, 2023 & 2024 SEASONS



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 23.02.23 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.

NEW IDEAS AND CONNECTIONS

Professional development is a valuable service CANEGROWERS offers members, particularly younger growers who may not be aware of the valuable research, advocacy and services their industry organisations offer.

CANEGROWERS recently hosted six young growers from the Mossman and Cairns regions and two staff from SRA Maringa as part of a professional development program.

The program is designed to offer an understanding of the work CANEGROWERS does on behalf of members, to see firsthand the plant pathology, pest and disease

research undertaken by SRA, understand farming practices and diversification in other districts, and meet with other young growers and industry people.

This was the second young grower visit to Brisbane to meet with CANEGROWERS staff in the Brisbane office including Dan Galligan (QCGO CEO) and legal counsel Chris Cooper. Specific updates were provided by Brisbane staff on advocacy and projects including Business Essentials and cost of production, Smartcane BMP and sustainable sugar, Farm Inputs and Research and the Environment & Sustainability portfolios.

The group visited the SRA Woodford facility to understand the pest and disease research and variety development work that occurs there. The growers were treated to a masterclass on a pest and disease cane variety research from Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan and his team.

A district tour of Bundaberg region where Matt Leighton from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS showed the cane and grain cooperative facility, the land use changes where other crops now dominate the landscape, and sugarcane farms and their practices. The group met with the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS board and

district manager for lunch and a networking function was held that evening with 20 young growers, providing an excellent opportunity to network, discuss sugarcane farming, make new connections and talk about the future of the industry.

At Chapman Ag, Tony Chapman and his son Mitch discussed the framing practices and composting used on their farm and how this is supporting their productivity and soil health.

CANEGROWERS would like to thank CANEGROWERS Cairns region and CANEGROWERS Mossman for supporting the tour. ■

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SWEET DAYS, HOT NIGHTS



Nestled on the North Queensland coast between Townsville and Bowen, in the delta of the Burdekin River, lies the Burdekin Shire. The region is known for its rich agricultural and horticultural industries and a diverse community of cultures, all of which will be celebrated at the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival from 26-27 May 2023.

All photos supplied by Burdekin Shire Council

The festival combines two iconic Burdekin events, the Burdekin Cultural Fair, featuring the **First Fire** of the sugarcane harvest, and the **Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships** (AHCCC).

The Cultural Fair celebrates the diversity of the region with a number of cultures coming together to provide an array of food, activities and entertainment.

A highlight of this event is the lighting of the First Fire. The Burdekin is one of the only districts in Queensland to still burn sugarcane crops before harvesting, and the symbolic First Fire not only marks the commencement of 2023 sugarcane crushing season, it also prepares the cane for the festival's other iconic event, the cane cutting championships.

The AHCCC is the only competition of its type in Australia and brings a piece of Queensland's colourful sugarcane history back to life, celebrating the back-breaking work of a by-gone era.

Sugarcane cutting by hand was regarded as the hardest but most lucrative seasonal work available until the early 1970s when mechanical harvesters became widespread and helped ease the load for the cutter.

Current champion Stuart Gilbert, a third generation grower from Tully, is looking forward to the 2023 competition and acknowledged there is always a place for friendly rivalry amongst the competitors.

"The competition is a good chance to test your abilities," Stuart said. "You

take your hat off to the old fellows that did this type of work - day in and day out."

Many of the competitors in the Over-55s category once cut cane by hand, with some returning to the district from many parts of the state.

The experience and endurance of these 'old-timers' often leaves the young, gun-hoe hand cane cutting competitors speechless and out of breath.

Hand cane cutting experts from across Australia have been battling it out for the title of Australian Hand Cane Cutting Champion since the 1960s, when the first cane cutting event, the 'World Titles', was held. Championships have been held in various locations around Australia since then.

The Burdekin competition commenced in 1999 in Dalbeg, a small town in the Burdekin Shire, with the Donnelly family running it annually until 2011 when it was included in the Home Hill Harvest Festival for a number of years and staged at the Vass Farm.

Fourth generation grower Mark Vass has competed in eight of the AHCCC. He said he entered the competition to get a better understanding of what his great grandfather and grandfather experienced in the old days of cutting cane by hand.

"It's the only time I ever cut cane by hand and its tough," Mark said.

"You get a real taste of what they went through back in the day and appreciate how hard the previous generations physically worked compared to modern day harvesting.

"My great grandfather migrated from Italy to cut cane before buying his own farm and starting our family's legacy."

In 2015, The Burdekin Tourism Association took over the running of AHCCC, and in 2018 the Burdekin Shire Council rebranded and expanded the competition into The Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival as part of Council's strategy to promote the Burdekin region.

The sugarcane crop is still burnt in the Burdekin district to remove the excess leaves from the sugarcane.



Finalists in the 2021 Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships. Winner Stuart Gilbert (centre)

The purpose-grown crop at the Home Hill Showground is lit on the Friday evening for the First Fire for the season.

The sight, sound and smell of a burning cane crop has to be experienced to be believed.

The cane fire is a vision to behold with roaring heat, thunderous crackles and sizzling orange flames that can leap 10 metres into the air.

QSL Grower Relationship Officer Kristen Paterson competed in the team Corporate Challenge in 2019 and 2021, as well as competing in the solo Ladies Challenge in 2021. She said it's a fantastic community event for visitors and the town.

"I especially enjoy the comradery between the competitors. You're competitors at first and

by the end everyone is standing together cheering on and encouraging the others to get their drill cut," Kristen said.

"I'd encourage others to come along and give it a go. You don't need any experience, there's plenty of experienced cutters there who are more than willing to pass on advice. Not only will you enjoy yourself but you'll gain a whole new appreciation for the art of hand cutting."

Whilst this is an event based in the Burdekin it is open for anyone throughout the state to compete and there is a friendly rivalry between the sugarcane growing districts, with passionate growers proudly ready to challenge any contenders for the trophy.

2023 is shaping up to be no different and more information about the event or to become a partner of the events check out the sweetdayshotnights.com.au website. ■



DOGGED DETERMINATION

AND RESOURCEFULNESS HELP OVERCOME INJURIES AND REALISE DREAM

Words and photos by Kirili Lamb

A capacity for innovative thinking and hands-on know-how, a love for farming, and sheer tenacity are the driving forces that motivate Paul Schembri Junior.

Over the past decade and a half, the 32-year-old has built a business, starting out in excavation, before moving into haulout driving, and now into harvest contracting.

The career path is not so uncommon in the sugar industry, but Paul has forged his particular path working with a serious spinal injury.

"I REALISED HIS FEET WEREN'T ACTUALLY DOING ANYTHING, HE WAS JUST USING HIS HANDS, AND THAT'S WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM."

On July 29, 2007, life forever changed for Paul, then a 16-year-old lad growing up on his family's cane farm at Farleigh, just north of Mackay.

Paul, who was just six months into a trade working with farming machinery hydraulics, was riding his motorbike along the headlands of a nearby farm when he had an accident that, in an instant, left him paralysed from the chest down.

Months of rehab would follow at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, and it was there, watching an excavator at work outside his window day in, day out, that he had an epiphany.

"I've always loved machinery, always loved mucking around with things, operating and things like that," Paul said.

He was not long home before he was figuring out ways to ride and drive farm and recreational machines.

It's been his and his mates' ingenuity – countless hours of working ideas through and tinkering late nights in the farm shed – that has seen the design and fabrication of a multitude of lifts, hoists and hand controls that assist Paul to make a career and enjoy life.

Paul is the son of recently retired CANEGROWERS Chairman Paul Schembri and wife Sally, a community nurse of many years' experience who now works for a spinal injury organisation. The pair are his greatest champions.

He is equally grateful to those who have helped him along the way – the "phenomenal contribution" of family, and of people like mate and co-worker Shaun Wells, who helps him design and build, or neighbours Andrew and George Deguara – farming brothers who first noticed his ease in reversing a trailer and suggested he wouldn't be too bad on haulout, then gave him a start in 2010, acting as understanding and patient teachers.

On haulout, Paul was working across four harvester groups, and moving 55-60,000 tonnes per year. As a harvest contractor he employs two carters and is cutting around 40,000 tonnes from one end of the Mackay milling area to the other.

He shifted to the harvester in 2021, six weeks into the crushing when the opportunity arose to meet growers' needs in a different way.

"The business is still expanding," Paul said.





Image contributed by family

Like most in the Mackay area, he said the crush just gone had been challenging.

"It was an extremely long year. Challenging," Paul said.

"The wet weather didn't help us - there was a lot of shifting around to continue cutting cane.

"Or if you had a pre-planned move and the mill broke down, you had to change your plan."

Paul is aware there have been some people who have doubted his capacity, but he takes diligent pleasure in disregarding the naysayers. He has a motto that hangs in his room: "The greatest pleasure in life is doing what other people say you can't".

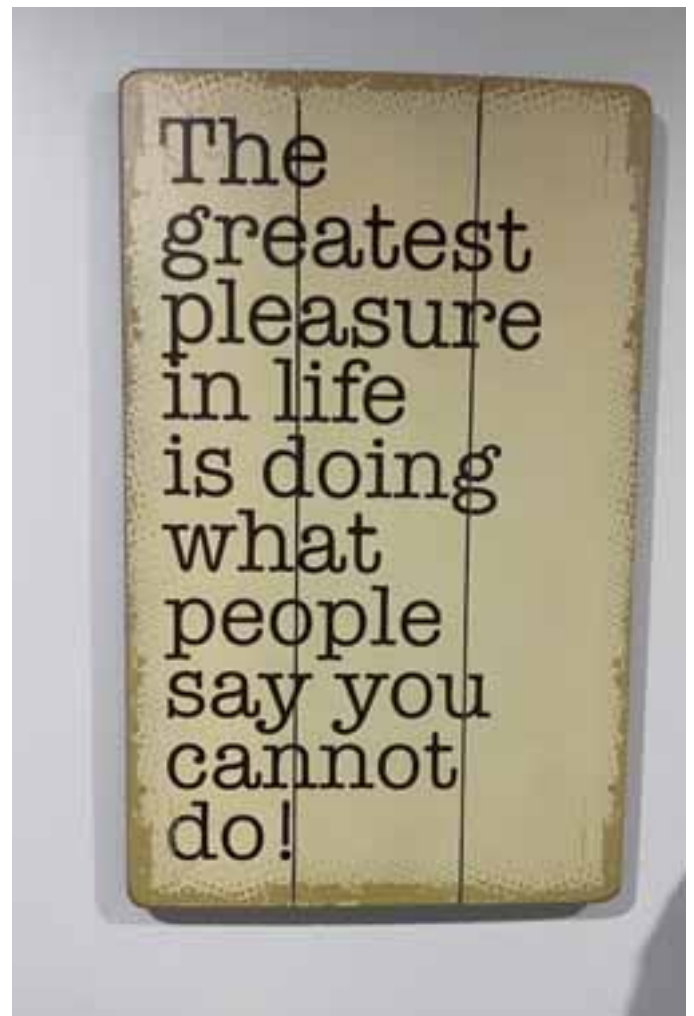
"There are people who always say, 'oh you can't do that,'" Sally said.

Paul laughs: "but like Shaun always says: well, that sounds like a challenge to me!"

"He's never seen himself as disabled, only as physically challenged," Sally said.

"But I wouldn't be able to do without the support of people around me, and without trusting myself in what I can and can't do," Paul said.

Paul Snr and Sally assist with the harvesting business. Sally has obtained a Pilot Escort licence to assist with harvester site moves, and she often helps out with machinery clean down.





***“THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
ALWAYS SAY,
‘OH YOU CAN’T
DO THAT’*”**

Paul Snr, who is enormously enjoying retirement from public life, has been helping out on occasion with some haulout driving.

“Although I think he’s sacked me twice!” Paul Snr laughs.

Looking through a collection of clippings that tell of his journey, Paul Jnr stops and points to a picture of him getting lifted into a excavator seat, and chuckles.

“That’s where it started, right there - a lift using an old boat winch and pulley! We’ve come a long way since then,” Paul said.

“It was primitive,” Paul Snr agreed. “But it worked.”

“He’s come a long way,” said Sally. “It’s all been trial and error.”

“The important thing is that it has all been his own ambition. When he got hurt, I thought perhaps his future might be tied behind a desk. But his ambition to be like others burnt so bright,” Paul Snr confided.

Sally said: “We’ve always said - whatever you want, we’ll make it happen.”

The family have become well used to welding flashes in the night while Paul builds the gear he needs to make life flow. It takes time, life with a spinal injury means tasks of daily life take a little longer, but it’s a fact the family accept and work together around.

The tech - all engineer certified and complianced but self-manufactured - has come a long way, working through various refinements to a staged hoist to get from wheelchair

into a tractor independently, to the staged hoist that now gets him in and out of the harvester, which has been designed to work to varying heights, depending on whether the harvester is on the ground, or on the float.

“Shaun drew it up on his computer, he could see where it was going to swing, we had to work with heights: it was pretty challenging,” Paul said.

That has followed initial mods to the harvester in 2021, to quickly get up and running with contracts.

“All we needed to change was the elevator slew. It’s normally on your feet. Shaun managed to put a rocker switch up the top on the dash where I could reach it,” Paul said.

The lift would come later, so it was a make-do situation getting up into the harvester.

"They just had to put me in and out every morning and afternoon with a HIAB on the service trailer, with a sling. Which was a pain, but it got the job done."

Paul Snr said Shaun and Paul always impressed him.

"Their capacity to innovate and bring things together, regardless of how many roadblocks or problems are in their way, I just find it amazing. There is no end to their innovation and resourcefulness."

The pair have been mates since around 2013. Shaun came from a farming background in Tasmania, but had an apprenticeship in auto electrical, and self-taught auto-cad skills.

"I remember vividly, he had seen a video of me riding a motorbike, and had all these questions about it," Paul reflected. "As curious as the rest of us, I guess."

The pair of mates have spent a good bit of time at the nearby Leap Hotel since then, hatching ideas.

Sally said that while there had been good endeavours by health bodies to assist, and the family had trialled aids designed by occupational professionals, these were seldom practical to the farm environment.



"We learned very quickly that you may as well do what you have to do, with good farming know-how," she said.

A piece of marine ply, or a well-placed block of wood often were more serviceable than more complex solutions.

"Farmers tend to be more lateral, practical thinkers," Paul Snr agreed.

And working in farming and with farming machinery is the ambition that has always burnt brightest for Paul.

"I just love it, it's what I have always wanted to do and I'm doing it. It's just instead of going Northeast, it's going Northwest." ■

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SMARTCANE

BMP ACCREDITATION IS:

By Kate Gowdie

The Smartcane BMP network of facilitators, along with representatives from each of our Host Organisations met in Brisbane last month to review phase 3 of the program, celebrate their successes and to plan for phase 4. Feedback from the team indicated that there is still some confusion from growers and industry about what Smartcane BMP accreditation involves, the value and benefits of the program and who can participate.

Smartcane BMP accreditation does not involve any written assessments.

To find out more about Smartcane BMP accreditation – contact your local facilitator.

The Smartcane BMP project (2022-2026) is delivered by CANEGROWERS with funding from the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program and CANEGROWERS. ■

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CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN

While 2022 didn't seem particularly wet for a La Nina year, overall rainfall was actually 500mm above the 54-year average, totalling 3,567mm. 2023 also started off pretty wet, with January well above the monthly average and further rainfall in February leaving rivers swollen and land saturated. As a result, localised flooding is becoming more prevalent with each rain event. The earlier cut crop is still looking good and coping quite well, but the cane cut towards the end of crushing is suffering, especially in low lying areas.

The Bargaining Agents are currently reviewing the Cane Analysis Program for 2023 season. Preparations for

the 2023 crushing have also begun with the appointment of a permanent lab supervisor, review of transport operations for 2023, essential maintenance on #1 and #6 milling train, and the repair of the 6MW Alternator and the shredder turbine.

Far Northern Milling has advised that FNM General Manager Peter Dibella has resigned and they have appointed Mr Luis Rodriguez as his successor. Luis has 25-years of diverse experience in the sugar industry in Australia, Guatemala and most recently Belize. Peter was the first manager of Mossman Mill under the new management of Far Northern Milling. He worked tirelessly to keep

mill operations on track over the past four years. We wish him well in retirement and welcome Luis to Mossman Mill. DPB and FNM now have a live website at www.fnmilling.com.au. Three Mossman growers attended the Young Grower Group trip in mid-February. They visited the CANEGROWERS Brisbane office to meet staff and hear about what CANEGROWERS does for members. They also travelled to the SRA Woodford site for a field visit and discussions with the SRA scientists and technicians. They then travelled to Isis to look at the transloader at Isis mill in Childers, toured the Bundaberg area and the Bundaberg Rum distillery and met various productivity and

CANEGROWERS personnel.

Mossman growers attended an End of Season wrap up for 2022, on Monday 27 February. QCGO Chairman, Owen Menkens, and a couple of the QCGO Board members also attended to meet and talk to growers about the state of the organisation and industry.

Mossman Agricultural Services Annual Shed meeting will be held 10 March – details as follows:

WHEN:

Friday 10th March (8:30am – 11:30am)

Where:

Chris McClelland's shed.
100 McClelland Rd.

RSVP:

Mtoyne@mossag.com.au
Mob: 0478 417 206

TABLELANDS

Wet, wet, wet.

The total rainfall for the Tableland District in January was 616mm, making it the wettest January since 2001. At the time of writing, we had received another 225mm of rain in February, bringing the total rainfall of 32 wet days over the Jan/Feb period to 841mm. This is significant considering the average rainfall for Jan/Feb, since 2001, has been 459.6mm

over 28.3 days. (Reference www.farmonlineweather.com.au).

The good news about all this rain is that Tinaroo Dam is running over the spillway, so that stands the district in good stead for the up coming season. The bad news is that the lack of sunshine and amount of ground water laying around could affect the productivity of this season's crop. Senior Agronomist Drewe Burgess has suggested that it

could result in a 10% reduction on last season's crop.

Far Northern Milling (FNM) and MSF are currently in discussions regarding the possibility of MSF's Tableland Mill crushing Tableland district cane that is currently contracted to FNM. The discussions are at a very early stage, with no in-principal agreement reached at this time. Grower representatives are doing their best to negotiate

a way through this complex situation and to find outcomes for growers. It is no secret that there are still financial challenges ahead and that these challenges being negotiated are to secure 2023 and 2024 operations.



CAIRNS

The hot and humid days throughout February have been good for growth of the 2023 crop around the Cairns region. February has been a very wet month across the district with the lower country within the catchment being inundated. As of 20 February, 270mm of rain had been recorded at the Cairns Racecourse.

Vines have become an issue as a result of the rain and good growing conditions. Due to limited opportunity to get into the paddocks, some growers within the region have been trialing aerial spraying via drone as an alternative to traditional equipment such as high risers and inter-row sprayers.

Members of the Cairns Region Young Grower Group recently had the opportunity to attend a Professional Development trip

to Brisbane. The Young Growers spent time in the Queensland CANEGROWERS office (QCGO) getting a better understanding of the roles QCGO performs. The tour also included a visit to SRAs Woodford Pathology station, a tour of the Bundaberg region and a networking dinner with other young growers from the Bundaberg area.

The tour was a follow up to the 2022 Young Grower trip. This year the invite was

extended to Mossman CANEGROWERS young growers, allowing for further opportunities for young growers to extend their networks.



INNISFAIL

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Chairman Joseph Marano was awarded the Lifetime Contribution Award at the Cassowary Coast Regional Council Australia Day Awards.

This award recognises selfless commitment, dedication, outstanding achievement and leadership in the local community. It also acknowledges involvement in activities that promote the

welfare and wellbeing of the community over a lifetime period. Joe has been recognised not only for his extensive and ongoing contribution to the sugar industry but also for his dedication to various community groups over many years. Congratulations Joe!

The Board of CANEGROWERS Innisfail met with Mayor Mark Nolan, Cr Baines, Cr McCleod and Cr Barnes to discuss

issues impacting growers in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council area. High on the agenda for this meeting were council rates, feral pig management and biosecurity, amongst other topics. Representatives from CANEGROWERS Innisfail will continue to advocate on behalf of growers via forums such as the Rates Reference Panel, Feral Pig Executive Oversight Group and the Economic Development Advisory Committee.



J Marano – Australia Day Award
Lifetime Contribution

TULLY

The Tully district has seen a wet start to the new year with rainfall totalling 953ml to date, slightly below the long-term average.

Chemical training has been completed with participants successfully obtaining a Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

The Tully LEA will meet this month to discuss productivity and scope actions for the year. SRA will be hosting a Drain Design and Management workshop and field trip aimed at calculating the optimal drain size to reduce erosion and maintain effective drainage. The Tully Business Essentials course is also planned for 9 March.



HERBERT RIVER

Rainfall in the Herbert River District has been slightly above average, which has caused water logging in some areas.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River met with Wilmar senior management to discuss the issues raised at the members' 2022 season review meeting,

and the need for Wilmar to find solutions and address these issues.

On another note, it is pleasing to see a number of growers working towards BMP accreditation. Maria Battararo is engaging with a number of growers who are up for re-accreditation

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of Leah Russo and Paul Marbelli as they continue to receive applications for round 3 of the Major grants project which has been a success to date.

We would also like to thank Caroline Coppo for her contribution to the Lower

Herbert Water Quality Program (LHWQP) and wish her luck in her future endeavours. Welcome to Carola Bradshaw as the newly appointed Partnership Coordinator for the LHWQP.

BURDEKIN

We are having a decent wet season compared to last year, with wet weather continuing in February.

While the rain has been patchy in places and some growers have had to irrigate to keep the crop ticking along, on the whole, there have been good savings banked on not having to use electricity and water.

Unfortunately, due to the delayed 2022 season finish and wet weather, growers have been unable to work ground, ratoon and fallow crop and we are looking at a delayed planting season, which will have impacts on future crops.

On the subject of water, CBL was invited to attend a meeting for GBA irrigators in Giru recently. Irrigators met to discuss the upcoming QCA Review and what course of action they wanted to pursue in regard to the review process.

CBL had a meeting with Wilmar to review the 2022 season and we raised concerns around the management of harvest equity, which was not managed

appropriately in our opinion, as the practice of remains to the end was missing in action in a number of cases.

Mill performance continues to cost growers and extends the season length and we have stressed to Wilmar that we need to see mill availability get to a minimum of 90%.

Good mill performance achieves a shorter season length and takes away the need to transfer cane, which is to everyone's benefit. Wilmar has advised that CBL members will be receiving a performance payment for the 2022 season as the benchmark dry crushing periods were not achieved for the North Bank and South Bank. We would prefer to see their mills perform instead of receiving these performance payments.

For the 2023 season, Wilmar have flagged the start dates of 30/5/23 for Inkerman Mill and 6/6/23 for Invicta, Kalamia and Pioneer. These dates are indicative only pending completion of 2023 season

estimates which won't be done until late March or early April.

We are not keen on starting Inkerman Mill a week earlier unless Wilmar agree to underpin CCS and we have our doubts that the major capex projects underway will be ready by then.

That said, Wilmar has advised that they are confident the major works projects underway at Kalamia Mill (evaporator) and Inkerman Mill (No 1 boiler and A side feeding station) will be completed on time and periodic updates will be provided.

There are quite a few changes underway for harvesting group applications which had to be submitted by 28/2/23. We will be meeting with Wilmar in March to go through these changes.

Group meetings are underway and harvesting prices are on the increase for the 2023 season and it is important for contractors and growers to realise that we are all in this together for the long term.



Removing evaporator at Kalamia Mill

The growing sector needs their cane cut and to do this we need harvesting contractors who are running successful businesses that do a good job and have well maintained machinery. We therefore need to meet in the middle on what is the right harvesting price to achieve a satisfactory outcome for all, as we don't want to see harvesting groups cease business which places pressure on who can then cut growers cane for ensuing seasons.

PROSERPINE

Following the extended crush there remain concerns about the growth of late ratooned cane for the coming season. Despite these concerns, the crop is growing well with pre-estimate indications being close to a 1.7 million tonne crop assuming average rainfall for the months of March, April and May. This remains well above production levels that followed Cyclone Debbie, where the 2018-2021 seasons averaged 1.55 million tonnes. Average CCS remained at 13.56 following final calculations for the 2022 season.

With a much shorter off-season, the mill remains under pressure to finish the required repairs and maintenance program. The work remains on schedule but there are some issues which need resolution before the start of the season. This includes work on the mud filter and fabrication changes. CANEGROWERS will continue to monitor progress.

The Peter Faust Dam catchment remains above 72% following the good rains experienced in January (some areas even exceeding 1,000 mm during the mid-month downpour). Despite the

heavy rains, the region only experienced isolated incidents of road and bank washaway with little crop damage being reported (lodging was as expected).

RSD testing has started for the region. Growers are encouraged to submit their farm information to CANEGROWERS or Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP).

Growers are also encouraged to follow the CANEGROWERS Proserpine Facebook page for the recently launched Board and Staff Member Series.

Our first Board Member featured is John Casey and his infamous “pet”, Charlene the crocodile.

The CANEGROWERS Business resilience workshops were run in Proserpine over 21-22 February. Although there were good registration numbers for the event, growers are encouraged to make use of other opportunities in this area. Improving business skills for the future will be key in dealing with challenges to come.



MACKAY / PLANE CREEK



With some downtime after a long harvest, there is a strong focus on training and accreditation at CANEGROWERS Mackay.

It was great to see a strong turnout for an ACDC Farm Chemical accreditation course

in February, and bookings for the next, to be held 28-29 March, are already strong.

We encourage members to look ahead to needs for the coming year. We are welcoming expressions of interest for Pilot and Escort licensing, and suggest members assist workers interested in entering the harvest sector to get in touch about our annual Haulout Operator courses to run in May. We are also looking for expressions of interest in a digital literacy course aimed at older growers needing to connect with the growing suite of online tools.

Equally, it's a great time to knock out some modules towards Smartcane BMP accreditation. The more growers we have fully accredited across the region

the more it helps position our industry for the economic advantages of diversification into renewable food, fuel and fibre, as these sectors are keen to source sustainably produced feedstock. BMP is a strong brand for that!

Mackay Area Committee has been working towards a new cane supply agreement,

while both Mackay and Plane Creek area committees are in communication with mills around maintenance works and meeting the likelihood of another very large crop in 2023

Any growers requiring assistance with any issues are encouraged to call 4944 2600 to get the ball rolling on a solution.



BUNDABERG

Bundaberg's 2023 crop estimate is looking strong.

However, while some blocks are looking quite spectacular, others, sometimes neighbouring blocks, are very much behind. This is a direct result of the later than optimal finish. Storms around the district resulted in minor damage to some farm infrastructure and laid over some cane, although rainfall from these storms was welcome. Estimates will be due in April and it is important to be as accurate as possible to allow for adequate planning and rostering arrangements. If you require assistance with your estimate, please contact your GSO.

We are currently in negotiations with the mill to try and come up with some solutions for getting this year's crop off in a timely manner. We remain focused on achieving an outcome that is fair for all growers.

Sugar prices look strong for the next couple of seasons and once the required paperwork is signed, you will be able to access QSL Direct. QSL representatives are available to assist with signing your Grower Pricing Agreement and the implementation of QSL Direct.

Recently we welcomed a group of young growers from the Mossman and Cairns regions and we provided a tour of our region to show the vast differences in our landscape and cropping compared with their home towns. Local growers were provided with the opportunity to attend a young growers networking event and meet with other growers and form new connections.

Following the announcement from STL regarding operations of their terminals, we recently met with the STL Board to discuss terminal arrangements. We will continue to work toward achieving the best outcome for our members.

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (10 November to 3 December 2021)	Extended to 17 March 2023
Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Ex Tropical Cyclone Seth (2 to 10 January 2022)	Extended to 5 May 2023
Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – South-east Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (22 February to 5 April 2022)	Extended to 10 March 2023

QRIDA have extended the various disaster assistance programs for the November, January and February to April rainfall events. Each of these now have different completion dates, enabling much of the unfinished earthworks to be completed, especially if the weather begins to dry out. Guidelines or criteria for these programs have not changed and if you require assistance, please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035.

We remain members of Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association to support growers and the community in the Bundaberg Regional Council area. The current focus of the group is sourcing and training suitable candidates with an interest in agriculture to nominate for the March 2024 Local Elections.



MARYBOROUGH

The past few weeks have been focused on rolling out the new CSA with Isis Central Sugar Mill.

A grower meeting was held on 14 February with representatives of ICSM and QSL attending. The changes from our previous CSA were explained and growers had an opportunity to ask questions to ensure a clearer understanding. Since the meeting, growers have been able to decide on signing the CSA and many appointments have been kept to accept the CSA and sign the Grower Pricing Agreement with QSL. The QSL Direct app is also a new item for growers to experience and

we understand several growers have already successfully priced sugar for 2023 at over \$600 per tonne. With no ability to forward price for the past two years, this will be a welcome step to stability for our growers.

End of season block data has become an urgent matter to help with season planning, so if you haven't completed any yet, please give the office a call for assistance.

One of the changes for 2023 and beyond will be around cane transport (in-season), with a new logistics contractor / coordinator to operate. This presents a new opportunity for sub-contracting



trucks for haulage from local growers, irrespective of any connection to Maryborough Cane Hauliers. If you would like to express an interest in subcontracting vehicles and drivers, please forward an email to the CANEGROWERS office within the next two weeks.

There will be a change of Isis Mill Cane Supply officer shortly. Stay tuned on who the new person will be.

Conditions in the field have dried out recently, with some irrigation activity underway, although a few showers keep threatening. The fallow crops across the district are performing strongly in the hotter weather. Productivity services have been keeping an eye out for signs of smut in some varieties. If you have some sightings, please let Tony McDermott know.

ISIS

The Isis District has been blessed with steamy growing weather and some good but inconsistent follow-up rain. Most growers have dusted off their irrigators and are tending to their rotational crops.

A group of young growers from Mossman and Cairns Region, pictured, recently dropped in on their way through to Bundaberg. We accompanied them on a tour of Isis Mill's transloader facility. Paul Nicol from the mill gave the group an overview of the transloader operations. The growers were very interested in the commissioning process, and particularly what has worked and what the mill would do differently if they had the opportunity.

Chairman Mark Mammino and Deputy Chair Peter McLennan recently attended an industry function in Bundaberg hosted by STL. They took the opportunity to have one-on-one discussions with the STL Directors to express our disappointment in both the process and the decision taken by the board over the insourcing of the sugar terminals operations.

Other activities Canegrowers Isis has been working for members include:

- **Crushing Review** – reconciling data received during the 2022 crushing season in preparation for the end of season review
- **Groundwater Meter Revalidation Process** – participating in the local



groundwater management advisory committee and advocating for process improvements around water meter revalidation

- **Disaster Grant Applications** – assisting members to lodge grant applications and advocating for closing dates to be extended

- **Trash Contracts** – administering the processing of trash bales and preparing for new contract negotiations
- **Fire Permits** – arranging urgent permit extensions for members as a result of the extended crushing season

ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point 2022 harvest commenced four months late, on 29 October 2022, and ceased on 5 February 2023, after 14 weeks of crushing and 13 days mill shut down for Christmas.

A total of 194,936 tonnes were crushed out of an estimated 375,616 tonnes.

The average CCS for the season came in at 13.25.

The district was very lucky to have had very limited rainfall across December and January. The dry conditions helped to hold the CCS at a reasonable level. However, there was a huge variation in CCS levels, with a number of growers registering CCS levels as low as 7.5 units. Given the weather was favourable during this time, it allowed the crush to continue for as long as it did.

Now we need some rain!

Many growers are disappointed with the overall outcome of the season, however, some growers never thought the mill would get the tonnes off that it achieved, because at this time of the year weather can be the limiting factor! Cashflow will be severely impacted with only 50% of the crop harvested.

For our priced sugar positions in the RPRSP we have achieved 74.9% of total. A final decision on how we deal with the unfilled positions has not been made at this point, but whatever path we take will impact growers' cane pays.

We have commenced negotiations for a 5-year CSA

from 2023 to 2027, with very slow progress at present due to some disagreement between parties over the inclusion and wording of a few clauses.

On a positive note, we had the pleasure of hosting Dan Galligan, Jodie Mittelheuser and the QCGO Board, pictured, in Rocky Point on 7 February for a tour of the district. This included a visit to the Rocky Point Mulching factory where they bag sugarcane mulch and other products, and the viewing of some fire ant nests around the district.



DOUBLE DEPARTURE

The Lower Herbert Water Management Authority has farewelled its final two original board members. Robert Quabba and Gary Accornero have served on the board since 2006, after four local water management groups were amalgamated to form the panel in 2005.

The Category Two Water Authority is responsible for creating a coordinated drainage system for the removal of excess water from some 12,500 hectares of agricultural lands. Both outgoing board members count the significant

drainage works that were carried out in the wake of Cyclone Yasi as among the group's greatest accomplishments.

"We achieved a lot because we received NDRRA (Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements) funding to replace crossings and build a rock overflow channel," Robert said. "I found my time on the board a rewarding experience and recommend it to anyone considering getting involved. But after 34 years in water management, which started with the



(L-R) Outgoing board members Robert Quabba and Gary Accornero, Secretary Maria Battoraro and current board member Charles Girenti

Seymour Drainage Committee in 1989, I thought it was time to make way for new people with new ideas."

Gary spent six years with the Foresthome Drainage Committee before the amalgamation. "The first year following the merger was the difficult one, we had to sit down and make policies for this new board," he said. "We spent a lot of time doing that to set the foundations. We've got to mention our secretary Maria Battoraro has also been there from the start and has always done a fantastic job. For me, I'm turning 70 and I'm ready to step aside for other people with new ideas to get into it. But I'll still be around."

Why it's important to check the level of pH in your soil.


The soil pH value is a measure of soil acidity or alkalinity. Soil pH directly affects nutrient availability, with the pH scale ranging from 0 to 14, with 7 as neutral. Numbers less than 7 indicate acidity, while numbers greater than 7 indicate alkalinity. The pH value of soil is one of the main contributors and directly affects the quality of healthy plant growth.

Plants thrive best in different soil pH ranges. Sugarcane thrives best in slightly acidic soils, with pH values greater than 5.5. The major impact that extremes in pH have on plant growth is related to the availability of plant nutrients or the soil concentration of plant-toxic minerals. In highly acidic soils, aluminum and manganese can become more available and more toxic to the plant causing damage to the roots.


Balancing soil pH in harmony with your farm requirements is to encourage good root development and improve top-soil structure. It is to increase the availability of minerals and trace elements essential for plant growth and, ultimately, business profitability through increased plant health, quality and yield.

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SUGARCANE POWERED PLANES

Membership Engagement & Innovation

MATT KEALLEY

Sugarcane powered planes

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) is a type of fuel that is derived from renewable or low-carbon sources and can be used as a substitute for conventional jet fuel in aviation.

The production and use of SAF can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the aviation industry, which is one of the largest sources of emissions.

SAF offers an appealing opportunity for the sugarcane industry and is a product that CANEGROWERS is looking at through the lens of the Sugar Plus industry roadmap.

SAF fits the Sugar Plus mantra of fuelling the future of food, energy and fabrication, so what is happening in this space?

How are Sustainable Aviation Fuels produced?

SAF can be produced from a variety of sources, including sugarcane, which is one of the most common.

Sugarcane-based SAF is typically made by converting the sugarcane feedstock into bioethanol through fermentation.

This is further refined to produce jet fuel that meets the specifications of the aviation industry.

A significant amount of ethanol can be produced from Queensland sugarcane and Wilmar Sugar Australia, which owns the Sarina Distillery makes around 60 million litres of ethanol per year. This ethanol is fermented from approximately 220,000

tonnes of molasses that is sourced from the Burdekin and Plane Creek cane growing areas.

However, the production of ethanol for use in aviation fuel is still relatively new and Queensland's capacity to produce SAF from sugarcane is currently limited. In response, the Queensland Government has identified SAF as a priority area for the state's biofutures industry. R&D investment to support a SAF industry in Queensland has begun with the Deputy Premier of Queensland wanting to capitalise on the global shift to green jet fuels.

Net-zero emission targets driving SAF

Sugarcane-derived SAF is considered to be a sustainable option for the aviation industry, as sugarcane is a renewable resource that can be grown on a large scale without causing significant harm to the environment. Smartcane BMP accreditation of the feedstock (sugarcane and molasses) also adds to the appeal.

However, the production and use of SAF is still limited due to its higher cost and availability compared to conventional jet fuel.

Qantas has set a goal to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and sustainable aviation fuel is a key component of its strategy.

In 2020, Qantas announced that it had signed an agreement with the global SAF producer, World Energy, to purchase 10 million gallons of SAF per year for the next 10 years. This represents the largest-ever purchase of SAF by an airline, and it is expected to reduce Qantas' carbon emissions by 20% on a lifecycle basis, compared to traditional jet fuel.

The Queensland Government has also set a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and SAF is one of the key technologies it is exploring. Actions the Queensland Government has taken include the establishment of a Biofutures Acceleration Program to support the development of a biofutures industry and the creation of a \$500 million Queensland Renewable Energy Fund, which provides funding for large-scale renewable energy projects, including bioenergy and biofuels.

Overall, the development of a SAF industry in Queensland would help to support the state's sugarcane industry by offering an additional market for sugarcane growers and milling companies. Sustainable aviation fuels fit nicely into the Sugar Plus industry roadmap. Hopefully it will create a new economic opportunity for the industry and the growers are up the front of the plane. ■



WORLDWIDE WORKFORCE ISSUES FOR AGRICULTURE

Industry & farm Inputs

BURN ASHBURNER

Workforce shortages in agriculture is a major challenge for growth in all OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation) countries, according to a recently released OECD Food, Agriculture and Fisheries paper.

The January 2023, Labour and Skills Shortages in the Agro-Food Sector paper points out:

- The relatively small, and declining, contribution of agriculture to GDP, and the negative public perception of the sector with relatively low wages and limited career prospects
- The key trends in agricultural employment indicate a continuous decline in the proportion of the workforce in agriculture, a decline in family labour, and an increase in salaried workers
- In Australia, the total number of people working on farms declined by 5.5% between 2007 and 2018, with a decline of 20% of farm owner managers, and a net increase of 19% in employees (ABS, 2019)
- Growing concerns over the steadily ageing workforce, relatively low education levels, and the low attractiveness of careers in the sector for young, qualified people
- A “brain drain” of young talent from rural to urban areas
- Entry barriers to agriculture tend to be high in many countries
- An increasing reliance on temporary and seasonal workers, many of whom are sourced via migration
- The demand for employees with higher level entrepreneurial and management skills, digital know-how, and business and marketing experience is expected to increase.

This sounds very much like what we hear from Australia’s sugarcane industry. Clearly we are not alone or unique. Broadly to address these workforce issues the paper goes on to say:

- Many of the solutions to addressing this issue lie outside the sector, nevertheless, any solutions will involve a mix of policies such as general labour market policies, migration policies, as well as education and training policies for the sector.

The agricultural sector also has an important role to play in contributing to finding the best solutions to addressing these shortages in the sector.

- Some of the elements include improving the working conditions, providing better career prospects, and raising investment in agricultural education and training of young people to enter the sector
- In many countries, the farm advisory services and vocational training courses are also important in building the skilled human capital workforce to meet the future needs of the sector.

The sugarcane industry has for many years had sufficient workforce, generally sourced locally. There has been no great need to focus on workforce. Evidence suggests this has or is about to change and has been highlighted by the CANEGROWERS Policy Council.

A workforce task group has been formed to provide recommendations on strategies to attract, skill and retain a suitable workforce.

This is complex and involves both short, medium and longer term strategies with advocacy and action at a national, state, district and grower level.

CANEGROWERS is addressing these issues and working with the National Farmers’ Federation, Queensland Farmers’ Federation and districts.

Growers and contractors, however, are at the cane face and need to have their own campaigns and strategies to be employers of choice and attract, skill and retain workforce. ■



AGRONOMIC AND REGULATORY CHALLENGES TO VINE CONTROL

Sustainability & Environment

MICK QUIRK

Many growers will be familiar with the challenge of aerial control of vines, perhaps not every year but in years favourable to vine establishment and growth.

Impacts on the crop are well known – vines pull the cane plants down which leads to physical damage and attracts rats, results in poor cane yield and poor ratooning. Vines can also entangle harvesters and slow down harvesting operations.

The factors leading to vine problems are many – if the soil has a significant 'store' of vine weed seed, this can create problems when there is:

1. Inadequate residual control from pre-emergent herbicides, and
2. Subsequent germination and growth of vines in the crop that cannot be treated by either conventional spray booms or high-rise sprayers.

The first condition typically arises from situations where residuals are either not used, are applied too early in relation to vine germination, or are not retained in the soil.

The second condition occurs when the infestation develops after the crop is out of hand and a high-rise sprayer is either not available or it cannot access the crop due to lodging or wet conditions.

The wet conditions in several regions during the extended 2022 harvest season have amplified this problem, as pre-emergent application was delayed or not possible in many cane blocks.

The incomplete finish to the 2022 harvest has also led to standover cane blocks, which are more vulnerable to vine outbreaks.

In all these cases, aerial application of knock-down herbicides is the only option for reducing the impacts of vines on crop yield, as well as for preventing seed set that can affect subsequent crops.

However, there is a relatively small range of effective active ingredients that can be used to control vines with aerial application. Of these, 2,4-D is a key ingredient with label conditions permitting aerial application to sugarcane.

A national review of 2,4-D by the APVMA, completed in 2020, considered the need for changes in its use to address concerns over toxicological, occupational health and safety, and environmental issues. A particular concern was around spray drift and its risks to the environment and other land uses.

A large number of changes were made to labels covering the use of different forms of 2,4-D for various field crops across Australia.

This included restrictions around which products and rates can be used at different times of the year in different environments and circumstances.

There were also substantial increases in the length of downwind buffer zones to areas of vegetation and natural waterbodies.

In sugarcane, for example, aerial application of 2,4-D amine products via helicopter now requires downwind buffers that vary from 60m to 200m, depending on application rate.

The impracticality of using aerial application with these buffer restrictions in many sugarcane areas is obvious, but what are the options?

Some other partner herbicides, such as Fluroxypyr, can be aerially applied without buffer zones, but do not control several vine species unless mixed with 2,4-D. The label conditions for another partner herbicide that helps control vines, MCPA, do not permit aerial application on sugarcane.



CANEGROWERS was successful in getting an emergency permit for aerial application of MCPA during 2022, but the APVMA requires data on crop residue levels from a number of sites before any additional permits can be granted. This is a standard requirement to ensure our export trade is not compromised.

Getting this data will require significant funds, and no one chemical company wants to invest these funds as the product is now a generic.

Regardless, CANEGROWERS and SRA are getting advice on data collection requirements from the APVMA so we can estimate the funds required, and then present a cost-benefit analysis to potential funders.

We need to keep in mind that when herbicide products get reviewed, they are reassessed by the APVMA for their drift risk. This means other herbicides currently used for aerial vine control without buffer zones, may end up with downwind buffer requirements being

imposed similar to those of 2,4-D.

So, what is a longer-term solution?

One option is to investigate application method. In forestry, a permit for helicopter application of 2,4-D using Accu-Flo nozzles with orifice size 0.020 or larger has been granted by the APVMA with reduced buffer zone requirements.

We need to get some idea of the efficacy of this approach for vine problems in sugarcane so growers

can decide if it is worthwhile. While SRA investigates efficacy, we will make an application to the APVMA for an emergency permit.

Given that buffer zones will continue to be a constraint on the practical use of aerial control options, achieving effective residual control of vines becomes critical.

Our advice from SRA is that the preemergent product needs to be applied at an appropriate time and to match the soil type so that it remains bound in the soil and not lost through leaching and runoff. ■

WORK IN THE INDUSTRY

CANEGROWERS helps members find workers for their farms and helps to match people looking for work in our dynamic industry.

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CONSIDERING YOUR OWN
ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS



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Join us with solicitor Kylie Wilson, Partner at Holding Redlich law firm and benefit from her professional experience as we explore this complex topic!

Workshops start in February 2023. Register your interest today!

www.canegrowers.com.au

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



CANEGROWERS



WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY PROSECUTORS ACTIVE IN THE AG SECTOR

CANEGROWERS Legal Advisor

CHRIS COOPER

With rural properties being among the most common source of workplace injuries, it is unsurprising that Work Health and Safety prosecutors are active.

Unfortunately, there continues to be injuries occurring on farms, including cane farms, and Work Health and Safety will always investigate serious workplace incidents.

In November last year, Roma Magistrate Elliott fined a beef cattle business \$200,000 for failing to comply with its primary health and safety duty and also imposed court costs.

The case involved a telehandler configured as a forklift. In January 2021,

while it was reversing on the farm, it unfortunately ran over and killed a worker.

The Magistrate found that the telehandler's reversing alarm had a reduced audible output and was not fitted with a right-side rear vision mirror.

The court noted there were control measures that could have been implemented to reduce the risks but were not.

These included implementing an exclusion zone when reversing, issuing clear instructions to workers to implement the exclusion zone, ensuring adequate training and instruction for workers and ensure the telehandler was properly maintained.



LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

- Work Health and Safety will investigate serious incidents and will prosecute if potential breaches of Work Health and Safety obligations arise.
- Fines imposed can be significant
- Be aware of your Work Health and Safety duties and do what you reasonably can to manage safety risks.
- Make use of the freely available CANEGROWERS Workplace Health and Safety guide.

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

Any grower wishing to discuss aspects of this article or any other legal matter should contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call CANEGROWERS Legal Adviser, Chris Cooper, for free initial legal advice. ■



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Next deadline is **18 March 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

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 Phone- Ron 0407 667 819

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

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

FOR SALE 186 Ross Road DEERAL International 866 Tractor \$11,000 1000 Litre plus Diesel Tank on Stand \$1800 2 Heavy Duty Ripper Coulter's each \$1900 20 Disc Harrow \$1400 Single Fertiliser Box Stool Splitter \$700 Implement Rollers Each \$200 Ph 0412 968 434

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 044 722 6739.

Planting set up, Ready to go. HBM single row billet planter, 1982 Toft 6000 with rubber rollers, rotary chop, Mercedes engine, 1989 Austoft powerhaul with 10t elevating bin.

\$55k ono plus GST. Liqueforce 5-row fertiliser applicator, 5000L rate controlled on 2006 NH TM140, 25000L stainless steel tanker trailer connected to 2006 NH TM140, all together \$150K ono. 100" rotary hoe, 7 tyne Bonel ripper, heavy rollers, Hodge reversible 4 furrow plough, ratooning discs, 5tonne HBM tipper, ripper/rotary hoe, and more. Call Rodney 0429984920

2011 John Deere 7200R FWA tractor, 5,915hrs, G/C, Trimble GPS, rear PTO, 3PL, front weights, tinted cab, \$120,000 + GST. Ph Peter 0427 976 416

2012 Case 8800 fulltrack cane harvester fitted with Trimble GPS and new walking gear. All in good condition. 20t EHS tri-axel cane hauling bin fitted to 7810 John Deere. Ready for work. Near new 6t side tipper. Mulgrave Area Phone: 0407 160 673

Billet Planter Harvester - Austoft 7000 optimised for billet planting \$50,000+ GST. Ph: 0439 852 185 or 0448 918 422.

Ford 5000 MF 178 with loader 411 Fiat High Clearance. Best Offer. Ph: 0473 332 751.

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

2x Ian Ritchie 6t side tippers. VGC. Ph: 0740 562 063.

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

Ford 8340 SLE 4WD \$30,000, Newton 6T Side Tipper \$5,000, JD 4055 with Newton 6T Side Tipper, \$20,000, 2 x Complete Axle Assemblies to suit HBM Tipper \$600 for both. All +GST. Ph: 0429 652 235

2012 Case 8800 fulltrack cane harvester fitted with Trimble GPS and new walking gear. All in good condition. 20t EHS tri-axel cane hauling bin fitted to 7810 John Deere. Ready for work. Near new 6t side tipper. Mulgrave Area Phone: 0407 160 673

HERBERT RIVER - BURDEKIN

1988 Ford 7700 - 6,720 hrs, 2WD, Single Remotes, Good Condition. \$12,000 plus GST Phone: 0407 154 250

M135 4WD, 15,000hrs. Good Condition. \$35,000 inc GST. Ph: 0407 636 055

2015 Austoft 8800 Harvester. Good Condition. Phone: 0499 888 919 or 0429 989 502

Dunlite 7kva Generator. Honda GX390 petrol engine. Good condition. \$1250.00 Ph: 07 4777 3181 after 7:00pm

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. Call 0429181276 for more information or photos. Ph: 0429 181 276

MACKAY-PROSERPINE

Howard AH 120" Rotary Hoe. New blades, oil cooler, hydraulic lift crumble roller. Always kept in shed. In great condition. \$12600+GST. Phone 0428 761 324 Massey Ferguson 8110 4-wheel drive with cab, 135hp, only 2,636 hours in good condition. \$55,000 incl. GST. Ph: 0438 606 578.

Austoft 1991 Wheel Harvester, set up for cutting plants. 2 blade chop, cuts nice billet. Air cond with new compressor and just serviced. Chopper box and basecutter box ok. Hydraulic valves resealed last season, with or without rubber rollers. Good Machine. \$50,000 + GST ono. Phone James 0408 733 793.

1973 Ford 5000 2wd with 4ton Newton side tipper \$11000 +GST .3m niemeyer nr1411 Power Harrows \$5600 +GST pH 0437 184 822

12t self-propelled 6x6 elev infielder. VGC. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

6t side tipper on Leyland tandem. GC. 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.

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

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

SNG

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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.

BUNDABERG-ROCKY POINT

2006 John Deere, Cameco 3510 track cane harvester suitable for 1.8m rows, in good condition. Ph: 0413 584 728

JCB 3220 Fastrac haulout tractor, single axle 7 tonne high lift tipper bin. Ph: 0413 584 728

Bonel whole stick plant cane cutter 3 point linkage \$500 plus GST. Dual row fertiliser machine with 4 counters ground wheel drive \$500 plus GST. PH 0457 447 561.

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, 1½ inch tynes, \$1,100 + GST. Ph: 0413 584 728.

WANTED TO BUY

Cane stripper in good condition. Ph 0407 675 361

HBM billet planter and rear tipper bin. Mackay area. Ph: 0419 764 616.

Wanted to buy 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.

Wanted 14ton 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.

Service truck/trailer set up for harvester. Must have a good compressor. Ph: 0437 503 818.

PROPERTY - FOR SALE

Cane land at Gollgoly' Road, Hawkins Creek. 2 Separate parcels. 1st parcel: 57 acres. 2nd Parcel: 47 acres. Sell as one parcel. Priced to sell. Contact 0747761750 after 7pm. Mobile 0409411149. Genuine buyers only. Ingham area.

Sugar Cane Farm - Mulgrave Valley - 218 Acres for sale. Situated less than 4kms from Gordonvale Township is this existing sugar cane farm with 2km of river frontage. Farming area is approx 185 acres of fertile land with average yield in excess of 5000 tonnes. With good rainfall in the area there is no need to irrigate. Call Steve 0410 600 247

Established Sugar Cane Farm in the Highleigh area of Gordonvale 25 Km South of Cairns City. Regarded as one of the premiere farms in the district averaging over 100 tonne/ hectre. The farm is well managed with 20 acres fallow, 20 acres plant cane and regular rotation of ratoon crops. Situated only 4km from the township of Gordonvale for shopping, schools, medical and general farm supplies. Call Steve 0410 600 247

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by  Australian Retirement Trust

LOCATION	RECORDED RAINFALL (mm)			AVG. RAINFALL (mm)
	Month prior (Jan 2023)	Month to date (1 Feb - 26 Feb)	Year to date	Jan - Dec
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	744.6	1011.6	1756.2	2948.9
Mareeba Airport	404.4	196.4	600.8	844.9
Cairns Aero	393.6	419.6	813.2	2008.3
Mt Sophia	565	632	1197	3406.5
Babinda Post Office	657.9	138	795.9	4268.9
Innisfail	539.8	742.2	1282	3547.3
Tully Sugar Mill	557.6	486	1043.6	4072.6
Cardwell Marine Pde	438.2	356.3	794.5	2119.2
Lucinda Township	507	411.6	918.6	2127.8
Ingham Composite	500	382	882	2122.6
Abergowrie Alert	307	116.6	423.6	1374.6
Townsville Aero	410.6	306.8	717.4	1135.4
Ayr DPI Research Stn	584.4	569.2	1153.6	940.6
Proserpine Airport	952.6	142.2	1094.8	1451.8
Mirani Mary Street	700.6	121.8	822.4	1481.1
Mackay MO	677.8	120.4	798.2	1583.6
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	754.8	47.9	802.7	1742.8
Bundaberg Aero	85	123.4	208.4	1002.7
Childers South	54	93.6	147.6	894.4
Maryborough	101.4	37.4	138.8	1145.8
Tewantin RSL Park	48.4	47.8	96.2	1591.4
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	37.4	39.2	76.6	1674.8
Nambour DPI - Hillside	92.8	92.8	185.6	1803.1
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	72.6	40.4	113	1115.2
Murwillumbah Bray Park	47	258.7	305.7	1605.5
Ballina Airport	72.6	245.6	318.2	1782.8
New Italy (Woodburn)	140.4	102.6	243	1349.7

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.

Cane farm for sale, 31.94ha, 2 combined lockable sheds, boundary on Russell River, Bartle Frere. Ph: 0418774849

Cane farm for sale, 124.95ha, 2 x large sheds, highway frontage, machinery & house, Silkwood area. Ph: 0467 333 989.

Cane Farm Cooks Lane Victoria Plantation. 69.75 ha. 61.38 ha under cane. High producing area. 1km from Victoria Mill. Road frontage. Ph: 0427 912 277.

Cane farm 87 hectares - 215 acres at Como Road on Trebonne Creek, 5 minutes from the Ingham CBD. Includes a two bedroom cottage and farm shed. Contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on felix@reitano.com.au or (07) 4776 5007.

70ha Cane Farm with 61.5 ha under cane. Located 8 km from town centre and 1 km from Victoria Mill. Property is flood free with town water supply running along property front. Paddocks have all been lasered and are well maintained and up to date with new varieties. Ph: 0427 912 277.

Cane farm to lease Munburra, Sunnyside or Oakenden areas. Have own equipment. Ph: 0408 011 983.

840 meters opposite Moore Park Beach. Coastal Cane Farm 93 Acres and 146 megalitres of ground water. Large storage Shed. 1 x Diesel Irrigation pump for the underground irrigation. There are 2 fenced off areas, currently used for horses and cattle. No house on this property. Comes with crop. Ph Larry: 0418 496 864.

PROPERTY WANTED

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

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

Wanting to buy/lease cane farm in the Septimus area. Ph: 0417607722.

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

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

WTB: Grazing & Irrigation Property. Grazing to run 300-500 head. 100 - 200 acres irrigation. Located Sarina-Proserpine Regions. Ph James: 0429 621 145.



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Buyers please be aware of scam emails when buying online.

Scammers may try to intercept emails between genuine buyers and sellers by sending the buyer a fake invoice with different account details for the payment.

Buyers should check with the seller by phone for accurate account details before making payment.



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2023

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Dept Justice & Attorney General
Investing in QLD Women Grant

Day 1 | Tuesday
2nd May

Bargara Cultural Centre

160 Hughes Rd, Bargara

Conference

8.30am - 3.00pm

Guest Speakers &
Local Atrisian Markets

Followed by

Formal Dinner

6.00pm to 11.30pm

Guest Speaker Angela Williams
Presenting 'Walking the Wire' & Live Entertainment



Day 2 | Wednesday
3rd May

The Lighthouse Hotel

66 Zunker St, Burnett Heads

Bus Trip & Lunch

8.30am to 3pm

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks
One Little Farm
Bundaberg Rum
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