



CANEGROWERS
MARYBOROUGH

& MARYBOROUGH CANE
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the December edition of the newsletter. In this edition, we cover End of season, Productivity Services updates, Pricing updates.

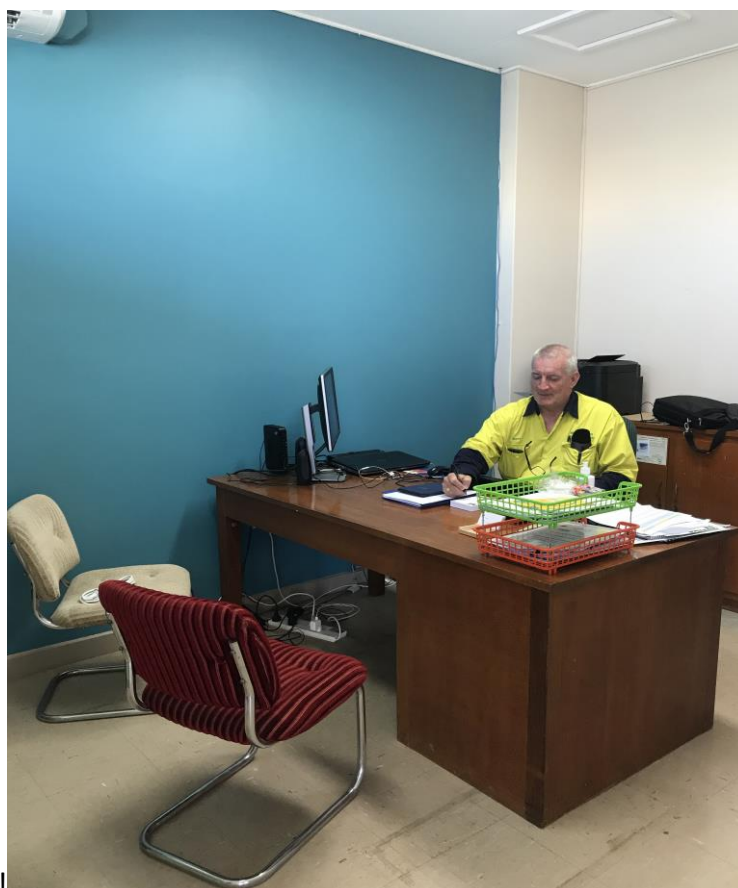
On A personal note, my first year in the Maryborough Canegrowers community has already gone by and as I write the weather appears to have tipped from drought to flood.

Last edition I commented that we hoped for more consistent rain and that has certainly happened.

Every where in the district is just dry enough to start irrigating and it has meant a finish to the Crushing season has been called as of Friday 01/12/17.

The office will be closed from the 22nd December through to 5th January 2017 and reopens on the 8th January. We wish you and your families all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Renovations at the hall



What a difference some fresh paint can make!



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The inside has certainly come to life and we are now just looking for a good home for a three desks

As part of the update, the industry posters that have hung in the main hall for many years will be replaced. What with is the next question. I ran a little photo competition with the topic **“my best cane pic”**.

At the end of season meeting we ran a presentation of those pictures which will then be periodically used in the frames around the walls.

Election outcomes and the future

The state election held a couple of weeks ago saw the returning of ALP's Bruce Saunders to the Maryborough Electorate. What we don't know yet is who is running the state as the ALP still doesn't have it's 47 seats confirmed for clear majority.

The impacts to the industry, with a return of the ALP, is likely to be on the following areas:

- Water security- ALP had supported the progression of the proposed Glendorff Water Storage to the federal government for assessing on funding prior to the election. We are still to hear of state funding but Mr Saunders' office agrees this is a focus for the year ahead.
- Reef Regulation- Prior to the election the ALP state government had undertaken a review of the existing reef regulations. The implications to this area are that we could be added to the recognised impact areas and then required to conform to controls on nutrient run off, sediment controls, pesticide use and others. This particular legislation change hasn't been passed and had to be deferred until after the election for further consultation. Stay tuned....Electricity prices- a very hot topic through out the election but unfortunately the ALP had only offered a small rebate to users which will do nothing to reduce the burden. There are, however, a number of interesting trials running on alternate power sources to run pumps currently under way near Bundaberg. Hopefully technology may help with reducing the bills. Sugar Marketing Choice- For the last 3 years we have been able to choose who markets our portion of sugar which has meant a wider range of product offerings becoming available as well the ability to forward sell for greater stability and control of returns at the growers end. The ALP have stated they will repeal this legislation. Unfortunately, this would seemingly only cause expense and uncertainty for the industry. There is still some chance of the ALP not proceeding, however, it would take a lot of protesting from growers to have them back down.
- Locally, the Maryborough ALP member currently stands for repealing the legislation.



Irrigation Water Use Rebates

In 2015 growers were able to claim for the water usage on irrigation through the season.

This scheme hasn't been formally cancelled and as such growers can seek payment for the past two years.

categories and rates that apply are as follows:

Scheme	Section	\$ per ML
Sunwater	Upper Mary	\$1.80
Sunwater	Lower Mary	\$2.07
Sunwater	Tinana Creek	\$2.43
Sunwater	Channels & Pipelines	\$6.00
Wide Bay Water Effluent Recycle	Maryborough	\$10.00
Farm Dams & Bores	All	\$4.00

- Growers should claim their subsidies by invoicing MSF Sugar directly, stating the volume of water used under each scheme as per the above schedule.
- These invoices should coincide with a particular crop year, so should be July – June.
- You will need to claim from July 2015 to 30 June 2016 as well as July 2016 to 30 June 2017.
- They will need to be supported by invoices showing ML used or (in the case of farm dams) water or electricity meter readings.

You have until 31 December to lodge the claim



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MSF Sugar

2017 Season Update

Season Wrap-up

As of Friday 1st December our 2017 season is complete. Total cane crushed was 598942 tonnes which was just short of our preseason forecast and about 11,000 tonnes of the revised 610,000 tonne forecast. We were well placed to exceed this revised forecast prior to the season ending rain as there was still an estimated 30,000 tonnes left, spread across 11 harvest groups.

Cut to estimate for all groups averaged 95% for the season, however individual groups ranged from 83% to 109%. While this creates challenges for harvest equity, these trends can be identified early when we have accurate consignments and up to date maps & block data.

Growers can expect to receive the End of Year Data Collection Forms soon.

Please be aware two sets of forms have been sent out and the second set are the correct ones to complete.

Your prompt return of these along with any mapping changes will allow us to update the block details and give us the best chance of managing the 2018 crop. Please call if you require assistance filling these forms out.

Cane Supply Contacts (estimates, mapping etc):

Chris Coutts-Smith..... 0409 269 189

Dannielle Nitschinsk..... 0417 247 020




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Major Variety Summary:

VARIETY	TONNES	% OF SUPPLY	CCS
208	246573	41.2	13.73
240	150844	25.2	13.94
242	37988	6.3	13.19
232	47463	7.9	13.15
138	23924	4	12.96
252	19758	3.3	14.3
All Varieties	598942	87.9%	13.68

Don't forget that "moogle" will give you access to your specific farm data and results.

**CANEGROWERS
INSURANCE**

NEED INSURANCE?

Colin Mobbs
Authorised representative for Bundaberg, Isis & Maryborough
M: **0418 891 783**
E: Colin_Mobbs@canegrowers.com.au

Call me for a quote today!



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QSL pricing options explained

Considering your pricing options for next season, or just keen to try your hand at forward pricing?

QSL has a range of in-season managed pools and grower-managed forward pricing products available for Maryborough Growers.

A short information session on these pricing tools and how you can access them for the coming season will be held at the Maryborough Canegrowers Hall at **6pm Wednesday 20 December 2017**.

All growers are welcome to attend and are reminded that to access QSL pricing products in the coming season, they must first nominate QSL as a marketer in their GPA **by 29 December 2017**.

For more information about QSL's pricing options, or to make an appointment to discuss which of these products might best suit the needs of your business, contact QSL Industry Relationship Manager Cathy Kelly on **0409 285 074** or via email at Cathy.Kelly@qsl.com.au.

Cathy Kelly

Communications and Industry Relationship Manager

Mobile 0409 285 074

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www.qsl.com.au



We serve the interests of Growers and Millers for the long-term prosperity of the Queensland sugar industry.



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Upcoming Cane industry & Local Events

December

Events-

- **20th December -QSL Grower information evening**
- **22nd December- Office closes for Christmas!**
- **25th December- Christmas day- Family ,food and presents.**
- **26th December- Boxing day – 4th ashes test, Start of Sydney to Hobart!**
- **31st December Grower nominations for marketing choice required(if changing marketer)**

January

- **1st January 2018- New Years Day**
- **8th January- Canegrowers Maryborough Office re-opens**
- **26th January- Australia day celebrations at town hall, Maryborough**



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Productivity Services Updates

Machinery Inspections

I recently attended the Productivity Services Conference in Ballina-NSW. One of the last sessions was about the legal requirement for farm machinery moving into or out of quarantine zones to be inspected and a permit issued prior to the machine moving off the farm. It seems that in some other areas the high level of cleanliness required has slipped- harvesters etc arriving “pretty dirty”. Our area has been good, certainly with equipment leaving. This note is a courteous reminder though to all who wish to send machinery to notify myself so I can inspect and issue the correct paperwork. Biosecurity Queensland are expected to ramp up their level of attention to this situation after some of the complaints in Nth Queensland. In conclusion I would like to say how pleased I am at the level of initial cleanliness of the machines I am asked to inspect. This helps so much with regard to minimising travel time to and from a farm to re-inspect.



A clean harvester

Importance of good drainage

Effects of poor drainage: Poor drainage in a block of cane will likely result in yield loss which can be extreme. This is especially true in soils on flat or low lying ground which has a shallow top soil overlying a clay subsoil.-sound familiar i.e. poor lateral and vertical drainage.



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Poorly drained soils not only severely reduce yields, but also creates conditions which favour weed growth

Benefits of good drainage: Being able to remove saline or excess water prior to ameliorating a block is essential in order to improve the soil structure at depth, thus improving drainage and increasing the soil volume for plant root systems to explore.

When to correct problems: Drainage issues can really only be corrected in a fallow situation, after plough out of old ratoons. Poor drainage in the photo below has emerged as a problem after recent heavy rain.

Compaction from heavy farm machinery e.g harvesters, can also cause drainage problems



Surface or sub surface: Either option can be used, depending on the situation. At times it may be essential to install sub surface drainage e.g. pipes which run obliquely across a slope taking water from above an exit seepage point, however professional assistance can be accessed to come up with the best plan. Of course it may be a case of taking levels and using the cut and fill method.



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Methods:



Surface levelling –large scale

Sub-surface methods

Costs: Information I have received indicate surface levelling as a “touch-up” on average costs about \$270.00/ha but substantial surface work will likely cost considerably more. Sub surface designs using 100mm pipe and gravel costs on average \$15.00 per metre installed. Professional service providers would give more accurate numbers

As discussed previously Project Uplift has two components regarding financing (1) Federal Government grants of 50% of the costs of drainage improvement and farm layout and redesign and (2) 0% interest on loans for machinery and modifications to machinery-with conditions. One of the key conditions is moving to the SRA Farming System, a cont

rolled traffic (CT) system i.e. 1.8m row spacing or greater.



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Useful Stuff

Maryborough Cane Productivity Services

- Andrew Dougall - mobile 0408 740 891
- Barry Callow – Mobile 0487 017 811

Contact Canegrowers

<u>Maryborough Office</u>		<u>Postal</u>
106 Bazaar Street, Maryborough Qld 4650		PO box 172
2017 Office Hours:		Maryborough
○ Monday: 8:30am – 4pm		Qld 4650
○ Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm		
○ Wednesday: 8:30am - 1pm		
○ After 1pm Urgent matters call Cam's mobile		
○ Thursday: 8:30am -- 4pm		
○ Friday: 8:30am – 4pm		
Cameron Waterson	Manager	Mobile: 0427 577 557
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Allen Birt	Deputy Chair	Mobile 0428 118 053
Ashley Petersen	Director	Mobile 0418 787 032
Allan Otto	Director	Mobile 0409 632 656
Roger Bambling	Director	Mobile 0419 788 376