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COVER IMAGE

Young growers Ryan and Suzie Brownlie are enjoying their change from cotton to cane in the Burdekin

Photo credit: Supplied by the Brownlie family.

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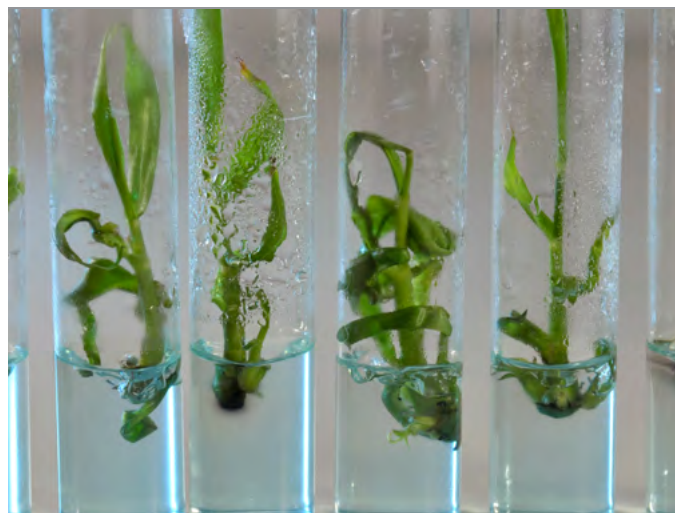
NEWS BRIEFS

GENOMIC SELECTION OFFERS SWEET SUCCESS

Five years of collaboration between researchers from The University of Queensland (UQ) and Sugar Research Australia (SRA) have proven that **genomic selection can successfully predict the performance of key sugarcane traits, with the technology set to improve plant breeding outcomes in the crop.**

Professor Ben Hayes, leading the UQ team, said a validation trial confirmed genomic selection could double the rate of gain for key sugarcane traits.

"We investigated the possibility of using genome-wide DNA markers, termed genomic selection, to



Genomic selection promises to improve plant breeding outcomes

accelerate gains for the sugarcane traits that determine profit for growers," Professor Hayes said.

Dr Jason Eglinton, SRA's Executive Manager of Variety Development, said while other crop industries were also adopting genomic selection, the technology would probably have a bigger impact for sugarcane because of the plant's biology.

"For the UQ team to develop the calibrations, algorithms and then to validate those predictions in field performance work is a significant step forward," Dr Eglinton said.

"Sugarcane is a perennial crop so ordinarily we would be growing a trial for three years over multiple crop cycles to test its performance," he said.

"If you can have a shortcut like a DNA profile telling you something about its performance, we don't just save a year, we save three years."

Dr Eglinton said the models and methods developed by the UQ team were already being deployed in commercial variety development by SRA.

NFF WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

CANEGROWERS has welcomed the election of David Jochinke as President of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF). Mr Jochinke, a grain and livestock producer from Victoria, succeeds Fiona Simson who stepped down after seven years in the role.

"It has been an absolute pleasure working with Fiona over the past seven years. She has set the highest standards for what an agricultural leader should aspire to be and has led the NFF through some of the most challenging times to become a trusted and unifying voice for our sector," CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said.

Mr Menkens congratulated Mr Jochinke on his election at a pivotal time for the NFF as the organisation seeks to make Australian agriculture a \$100 billion industry by 2030.



David Jochinke - photo supplied by NFF



Caption: The sun is rapidly setting on Queensland's 2023 sugarcane harvest - photo credit Mark Webley

HARVEST ON HOME STRETCH

Queensland's 2023 sugarcane harvest has finally hit the home stretch with around 70% of the estimated 29.9 million tonne crop now cut and crushed at the state's 19 sugar mills.

Rain early in the season, combined with below par mill performance, had delayed the crush in some districts, but the long expected El Nino has brought ideal harvesting conditions, enabling many districts to make up ground in recent weeks.

Bundaberg leads the pack with almost 85% the district's crop crushed by mid-October. Tableland and Burdekin were also closing in on 80% as September ended.

It's not all good news however, with some regions such as Innisfail and Plane Creek weeks behind schedule.

Meanwhile, the problem-plagued Rocky Point district is struggling to get its season up and running with just 25% of the crop crushed by mid-September.

"It's a bit of a mixed bag across the industry," CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens said.

"After falling behind early in the season, the dry weather has helped us make up ground and, if the weather holds and the mills perform as they should, we're expecting most districts will finish crushing in late-November or early-December.

"There are a few mill areas, however, where crushing is likely to continue into the Christmas curfew period. Rocky Point in particular is really struggling due to ongoing problems with the mill's co-generation plant. It's an infuriating and frustrating situation for growers in the district, and sadly it seems to be a perennial problem."

Smaller Crop

Queensland's crop estimate was revised down by almost two hundred thousand tonnes in September and is expected to drop further.

"The late finish to the season last year means this year's crop hasn't had enough time in the ground to produce the tonnes you'd expect," Mr Menkens said.

"The estimate is sitting at around 29.9 million tonnes at the minute, but I would be surprised if we see another four or five hundred thousand tonnes or more knocked off that before the end of the season.

"This is why we need to ensure we are crushing the entire crop within that optimal June to November window." ■



Member benefit helps relieve that **BURNING ANXIETY**

"It was terrible to witness a good size crop burn down three months out from harvest."

When Proserpine cane grower Peter Muller received a phone call earlier this year, telling him one of his cane paddocks was ablaze, it came as shock.

It was 15 March and a thunderstorm had just rolled through the district. But rather than giving the crop a welcome drink, the storm had been dry. So, when lightning struck Peter's paddock, the cane immediately caught fire.

Alerted to the smoke rising from his farmland by a neighbour, Peter rushed to the paddock, calling on neighbouring farms for help as he went.

A dozen of his neighbours answered the call and the

blaze was quickly brought under control.

Luckily, a light rain had started to fall, helping the group extinguish the fire and limiting the damaged area to around 3.5 hectares.

Without the prompt actions of good neighbours and the support of the light rain, it's easy to imagine that this fire could have engulfed the entire 23-hectare block.

"It was sad to see it go up in flames like that. The fire resulted in a total loss."

"It was not a good feeling seeing your crop burn," Peter said.

"It was terrible to witness a good size crop burn down three months out from harvest, knowing it would have grown even bigger and with the current high global sugar prices on offer.

"It was sad to see it go up in flames like that. The fire resulted in a total loss.

"Thank goodness for the CANEGROWERS member's Crop insurance, it made a huge difference."

The CANEGROWERS Proserpine district office and the cane inspector provided efficient and very helpful support. The CANEGROWERS crop insurance claim process

with the support of CANEGROWERS insurance staff went smoothly and efficiently. Peter said he received great support and a good outcome.

"Sarah Addis from the CANEGROWERS Proserpine office and the Proserpine Sugar Services have been fantastic throughout this process," Peter said.

"And Frank Miller, the Cane Inspector, established the damaged area and the total crop loss promptly, which gave us peace of mind."

Overall, having the CANEGROWERS crop insurance cover combined with the support of the CANEGROWERS Proserpine and Brisbane office – turned bad into good.

Having the relevant insurance cover meant that the financial loss was minimal as the insurance will correspond to the loss of tonnes.

"I really can't thank my neighbours, my local community and CANEGROWERS enough," Peter said. He is grateful for the support and pleased with the positive outcome.

All CANEGROWERS members have access to the crop fire insurance cover should an accidental fire or hailstorm cause damage to their sugarcane crop.

For more information contact your local CANEGROWERS office or call 07 3864 6417. ■



"Thank goodness for the CANEGROWERS member's Crop insurance, it made a huge difference"



Peter Muller lost 3.5 hectares of his crop when lightning struck during a thunderstorm - CANEGROWERS member's crop insurance helped turn bad into good

IRRIGATION ASSISTANCE

NEW ONLINE TOOL PROMISES TO REDUCE RISK OF CHANGING IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT



Developed by James Cook University (JCU), i-RAT is a decision support tool that allows growers to virtually assess the potential impacts of changing their irrigation practices.

Various water usage and electricity reduction options can be compared with impacts to productivity and profitability.

Dr Brian Collins, Senior Research Fellow at JCU's Agriculture Technology and Adoption Centre (AgTAC), said the rapid assessment

tool provides more certainty for the industry to see how small, medium and large changes in irrigation management can impact profits while saving water and reducing energy bills.

"This tool will make it easier for farmers to understand how they can save water and electricity without loss of cane yield under variable climates," said Dr Collins. "i-RAT harnesses the power of computer modelling and combines it with the knowledge and

experience of local cane growers and advisors to enable rapid comparisons of thousands of combinations of farm management scenarios, which are not possible to test in the field."

To develop i-RAT, JCU's AgTAC partnered with AgriTech Solutions, an irrigation and agronomy company based in Ayr. The first phase, covering the Burdekin region, was completed in November last year. The second phase, which covers the Mackay-Whitsunday region, is scheduled for completion in May 2024.

Director of AgTAC, Professor Yvette Everingham, said the tool also has the potential to analyse potential financial irrigation incentives.

"Quick 'what-if' analyses by i-RAT can inform incentive structures and funding bodies regarding investment in new irrigation technologies, as i-RAT produces scientifically validated information that shows investment in irrigation systems can bring about positive changes," she said. "Given that climate models are predicting a transition to El Niño conditions, which favours drier conditions, i-RAT will be an extremely useful tool to improve drought resilience."

The i-RAT project is funded by a partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. ■

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NEXT RATOON

SUPPORTING OUR EMERGING LEADERS

NEXT RATOON is CANEGROWERS' mentoring program. It is designed to build strong connections by supporting leadership skills and knowledge that will contribute to a profitable and innovative sugarcane industry.

Just as the new shoots grow from the roots of last year's crop, NEXT RATOON will support emerging leaders through a mentoring program that builds on strong foundations and is designed to unlock a world of opportunities by exploring new ideas, new thinking, and new connections.

Applications are open for mentees aged between 18-40 who are connected to a sugarcane growing business that is a member of CANEGROWERS. Applications close 1 December 2023.

We are looking for six individuals with the following qualities:

- Eagerness to learn - our ideal applicant is eager to soak up new insights and put their learnings into action
- Open-mindedness - successful applicants will have an open-minded approach, asking questions, seeking advice, and embracing new challenges along the way
- Committed to success - program participants will invest their time and effort to learn and grow, taking ownership of their goals and actively contributing to the industry's future
- Effective collaborator - our ideal candidate not only listens and responds to mentor feedback, but also strives to amplify their voice of the industry and ambitions of CANEGROWERS

How to get involved?

For more information or to apply for the NEXT RATOON program, visit www.nextratoon.com.au. You can also email nextratoon2024@canegrowers.com.au or call (07) 3864 6444.

What's in the program?

NEXT RATOON runs from February to August 2024 and participants will get:

- Exclusive access to the NEXT RATOON event in Brisbane on 27 and 28 February
- Six personalised monthly mentoring sessions
- Course materials and tools to support participants throughout the program
- Guidance and virtual check-in sessions
- Attendance at the celebration event in August 2024

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TIME TO STOP TINKERING WITH BIOSECURITY

BY DAN GALLIGAN,
CEO, CANEGROWERS

You don't need to tell farmers about the heartache of doing all you can to grow a profitable crop only to have the prospects of profitability snatched away from you because of elements outside your control.

Topping the list of threats is obviously the weather, but pest management is not far behind.

I think it's this lack of control that makes biosecurity management so fraught for agriculture.

Farmers are excellent at controlling agricultural pests such as insects and weeds.

Decades of advancements in crop protection products and application technology has at least "filled the armoury" for farmers to both monitor and counteract crop incursions.

"Let's not get familiar with this situation and miss the gravity of what is going"

Further, we have known for decades that an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is the most comprehensive way of combating crop pests.

IPM takes a multi-faceted, multi-seasonal approach that incorporates monitoring and district level coordinated control measures.

There is no doubt that we need to take a similar approach to what feels like an all-out assault on agriculture from a range of invasive species.

If we just look to the obvious challenges such as feral pigs and rats, we have some farmers reporting 10-20% crop losses from these pests. Then there is the loss of operational capacity and freedom to farm from red witch weed and fire ants. And all of that is only in the sugarcane sector.

Skip across to our sister industries such as cotton, grains, horticulture – they all face similar problems, with their own list of weeds and pests.

Let's not get familiar with this situation and miss the gravity of what is going. Agriculture in Australia is under siege.

But this situation has not come about through lack of effort. Australia has some the world's top experts on biosecurity scattered across our industry, government, and research sectors.

Given our geographical isolation and trade exposed status, this is as it should be. It is mission critical.

A recent announcement by Federal Agriculture Minister Senator Murray Watt committing \$268m over four years towards a new fire ant strategy must be commended, as it responds to industry advocacy and recognises that a strategy alone without funding is not an action plan at all.

That being said, it still feels like we're using our finger to stop up a hole in the dam with all these strategies and reviews, the piece meal programs and short term funding.

On the ground things are working more effectively, thanks to strong collaboration between landholders, government agencies at the state and local level, and professional service providers.

This type of collaboration and coordination puts more boots on the ground, people who are tasked with taking plans and putting them into action, but it takes time and effort.

We have to stop tinkering around the edges of these challenges. While the impact on industry productivity is profound, the impact on individual profitability, not to mention the sheer personal stress of being out in the field shooting pigs, or baiting rats, is driving farmers out of business.

Growers need support, this is not something that they can or should deal with alone and CANEGROWERS will continue our strong advocacy on this issue. ■

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- 7-Eleven service stations across the country now accept Mobil Card. To confirm your closest 7-Eleven location please refer to the Fuel Finder via www.mobil.com.au

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Owen Menkens CANEGROWERS Chairman



It is hard to read this month's magazine without noticing a theme. The breakdown in the commercial relationship between Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) and Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) has been a significant industry issue since January, when STL announced it will terminate its contract with QSL to operate the sugar terminals.

Farmers funded two-thirds of the terminals' construction costs, and they are an important pillar in our competitiveness in the export market.

QSL has operated the terminals efficiently and safely, so it is up to STL to show why this decision was made.

QSL is a not-for-profit organisation that runs the terminals on a cost recovery basis. STL needs to show its plans going forward, otherwise growers will remain sceptical of their motives.

CANEGROWERS has repeatedly called on these two companies to come together to resolve this issue. We have offered to mediate or pay for a professional mediator. Growers need to be assured that:

1. Terminals will operate efficiently and reliably.
2. There is a forward operating strategy and business plan in place.
3. Terminals will always prioritise sugar access.
4. Terminals will be operated as one, with no preferential pricing between areas.
5. None of the terminals will be sold.
6. Pricing arrangements will continue to be operated on an equitable basis with no monopoly behaviour.

The underlying issue at play here is the massive issue of share ownership and therefore control and influence of STL.

When the company was formed over 20 years ago, shares were distributed based on what was produced by growers and milled by millers.

Shares have changed hands over the years to the point where Wilmar has more than 50% of miller shareholding, which allows them to put two of their employees on the board.

There are many grower shares held by growers who have retired or no longer grow cane. These are considered dry holdings, as the shareholders are unable to vote. There are also many growers who hold shares but do not vote, therefore MSF, as the largest owner of G class shares, tends to decide the outcome of the G class vote.

QSL has countered this by purchasing many shares. So much so, that they now own more shares than MSF.

Of course, none of this corporate manoeuvring would matter if growers voted.

I ask all growers to make sure their vote is heard in the future. We need to have a say on how STL is run and controlled. Apathy is the biggest danger to our industry, so I call on everyone to make their voices heard in the upcoming STL AGM.

Changes at the top

As this month's magazine went to print, National Farmers' Federation (NFF) members had just voted in a new president.

David Jochinke, Victorian grain and livestock producer and the past Vice President of NFF, will take over the reins from Fiona Simson, who has led the organisation with integrity and distinction over the past seven years.

I'd like to thank Fiona for her dedication to the role and her commitment to improving outcomes for farmers and the agricultural community as a whole. She went about her work humbly, yet determinedly, ensuring farmers had a voice not only in the halls of power, but also in everyone's front room.

She has been a tireless advocate and thoroughly deserves a break after so long in the top job.

I wish David all the best as the incoming president of Australia's peak agriculture representative body. ■

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STL ELECTION WHO WILL SPEAK FOR GROWERS?



Australian Canegrower speaks to the nominees for the position of Grower Director on the board of Sugar Terminals Limited.

Pictured: Bulk sugar terminals like STL's Lucinda Terminal in the Herbert River are key strategic industry assets.



Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) is preparing to hold its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) since deciding to insource operations at its bulk terminals.

The surprise move, announced in late January, ended a long-standing management agreement with industry-owned Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL).

There is continuing industry unease about a publicly listed company having sole operating control of the grower-funded, vital industry assets and so representation of growers on the STL board has never been more important.

The imminent AGM will include the election of a Grower Director.

Stephen Calcagno, Chairman of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region and a Director of Queensland Cane Growers Organisation, who has held the position since 2020, is hoping to return to the role for another three years.

He is running against Steven Kirby, Managing Director and CEO of Australian Cane Farms, one of the country's largest sugarcane producers.

Elected by G-class shareholders, CANEGROWERS members are encouraged to make their own informed decisions and lodge their vote. This can be done in person at the company's Annual General Meeting at the offices of Clayton Utz in Brisbane, by mail or by proxy.

A notice of meeting was dispatched to shareholders on 23 October 2023 advising that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 2.00pm (QLD time) and included details about eligibility, voting, proxies, and a link to access the webcast of the AGM. This link will be included in the CANEGROWERS Member Update from Brisbane - November email.

STEPHEN CALCAGNO

Babinda cane farmer, Chairman of
CANEGROWERS Cairns Region,
CANEGROWERS Queensland Board
Director, and current STL Grower Director



How long have you been involved in the sugarcane industry and in what capacity?

I've been involved all my life. I'm a third-generation cane farmer at Babinda and grew up on our family farm. I took over running farm operations when my father passed away in 1997 and have expanded since then. I've also worked in the milling sector and in overseas sugar industries. Additionally, I have held leadership and representative roles in various capacities.

What are you most proud of regarding your contribution to the industry?

People tend to think it's one thing but in truth, throughout my representative career, I have committed to representing all growers in order for them to achieve a more viable and sustainable future within the industry.

One of my strengths is my ability to represent all growers, not just a section of the industry, to ensure all can move forward and prosper. I'm very fortunate to have a son who has committed to and invested in cane farming, and I'm very passionate about making sure the industry is strong so he can continue farming and prosper along with all his fellow next generation growers.

What is your professional background and have you any experience as a director on other Boards?

Alongside my work as a farmer, I am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I'm also a qualified fitter machinist, having completed my trade at the Babinda Sugar Mill. Additionally, I ran my own engineering business for about five years before the passion for sugar and farming really took hold. At STL, my engineering background is an advantage when assessing maintenance and capital works programs.

My career has also included a stint as an overseas technician for Austoft Industries working in both Thailand and Indonesia, so I have a good insight into overseas sugar sectors and dealing with people from different cultures.

I'm the Chairman of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region and a Director of Queensland Cane Growers Organisation as well as being the G-Class Director of STL for the past three years. Additionally, I serve on the Safety, Risk and Sustainability committee at STL.

Why are you running for the G-Class director position?

I believe the terminals are the competitive edge we have globally in sugar marketing and I want to be a key part in making sure these assets are there for generations to come. I've got the ability and passion to provide grass roots input and bring a grower's balanced view to the boardroom table.

What are the major challenges you see for the sugar terminals?

The major challenge, as with farming, is that input costs are spiralling. The terminals are located in hostile coastal environments, so maintenance of the assets to the highest possible standard cannot be compromised. To achieve this goal we need to identify opportunities for efficiencies within the business, achieving optimal performance and reliability, ensuring we operate as world leading facilities with a competitive edge.

What do you think STL should do to ensure growers can be assured it is making decisions with their best interests in mind?

STL is a publicly listed company, so must report annually. There is a level of transparency above what is required for private companies or not-for-profit organisations. Growers and shareholders have the ability to view all income and expenditure within these annual reports. I think it's imperative that we engage in meetings and other forms of communication to keep growers informed of all STL activities, which is something STL has embarked upon with the introduction of regular newsletters. As custodians of these valuable assets, STL needs to be committed to ensuring safe, reliable and efficient operation of the terminals for the benefit of all stakeholders. In doing so, they will prove to growers that they are a major focus and always front of mind.

STEVE KIRBY

Co-founder and Managing Director of Australian Cane Farms, one of Australia's largest cane growing operations, former investment banker and QSL director.



How long have you been involved in the sugarcane industry and in what capacity?

I co-founded Australian Cane Farms (ACF) in 2005. We have grown from an initial farm of 150ha in the Burdekin at that time to a company that owns and operates over 4,500ha.

What are you most proud of regarding your contribution to the industry?

I believe ACF has shown leadership in three key areas of the industry:

- During the disruption of marketing arrangements, ACF articulated a vision of a fair and just solution.
- Over a 20-year period ACF has been a "good citizen" of the industry advocating for sensible outcomes.
- ACF has also shown that attracting capital to the sugarcane farming sector is possible

What is your professional background and have you any experience as a director on other Boards?

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1986. In 1989 I joined NM Rothschild, a multibillion-dollar private investment bank, where I was a director for many years including head of the structured finance and agribusiness units. I left Rothschild to co-found ACF in 2005 where I have been a director since then. Along with my role as Managing Director of ACF, I am currently one of two Independent Directors of Benedict Industries - one of the largest integrated recycling businesses in Australia. In prior years I have also served on the board of QSL and have advised a number of ASX listed boards in my role at Rothschild.

Why are you running for the G-Class director position?

I believe that Queensland's sugarcane farmers - who have an economic interest in two-thirds of the sugar passing through the terminals but who have become minority shareholders in STL - deserve robust representation on the STL Board. Rather than imposing my views, I'm focused on seeking information and increased transparency, and am keen to work collaboratively with other industry participants.

What are the major challenges you see for the sugar terminals?

In my view, the key issue facing STL is to ensure it remains true to its founding purpose - handling raw sugar at the lowest cost consistent with optimal efficiency. Although in form STL is a publicly listed company it is situated on land granted by the government to the sugar industry and operates assets paid for by the industry. STL is thus in substance a trustee of assets granted to the sugar industry for the betterment of the sugar industry.

Further, STL has a natural monopoly, but remains unregulated precisely because it was intended to be run by the industry. While in the narrowest sense STL is responsible to its shareholders, those shareholders were intended to be the identical industry participants. The disconnection we now have where mills owning G-class shares and a potentially large number of G-class shareholders that are unable to vote because they are no longer in the industry reinforces my, and many other growers' concerns.

STL's assets underpin the success of the wider Queensland sugar industry, so any change to the way these are run is fraught with risks and unintended consequences. It is my view that STL is beginning to stray from its foundational purpose and we need to recognise this and work together as an industry to reform the current structure before significant change is imposed upon us.

What do you think STL should do to ensure growers can be assured it is making decisions with their best interests in mind?

The key to trust is transparency. In my career, I have rarely, if ever, seen decisions made in secret and imposed on unwilling shareholders that succeed. Leadership requires treating shareholders with respect and dignity, explaining the merits, and being prepared to listen and adapt. While this election and a single G-class director is not in itself the solution to growers' mounting concerns, it is a stepping stone to where many in the industry believe that STL needs to get to.



QSL Industry Update: Terminal operations

It is clear from the Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) Chair's most recent note to shareholders that STL remains focused on providing minimal information and deflecting questions raised about their decision to take over the bulk sugar terminal operations.

Rather than consulting with the appropriate transparency regarding their plans to become an unregulated monopoly asset owner/operator and responding to the legitimate concerns raised by shareholders and Queensland sugar producers, STL has sought to stifle these very valid questions and deflect with finger-pointing and conspiracy theories regarding QSL's motives.

QSL's costs, purpose and performance have been both transparent and of the highest quality, while in comparison, very little detail has been provided on STL's plans to insource operations and effectively remove external oversight and the safeguards originally put in place to protect our industry's interests.

QSL welcomes the opportunity to clear the air and in response to the key points STL has raised, we would simply say:

- We agree that STL's decision to take control of the industry's terminals will have little impact on QSL Marketing. Our marketing business will be strong into the future and does not derive any benefit from the operating agreement. However, it is shocking that STL fails to recognise that, as the largest user of the terminals, the largest G-Class shareholder and an industry-owned company, all of QSL's revenues and costs are passed back to Queensland cane growers and sugar millers. It is these producers who will feel the pain of STL's poorly formed decision. While STL remains focused on what this means for QSL Marketing, they seemingly have little regard for the industry it will impact.
- QSL's purpose is clear. Unlike STL, which is driven to maximise shareholder returns derived from terminal users, QSL is dedicated to supporting the long-term prosperity of the Queensland sugar industry, on a not-for-profit basis. We have demonstrated this over many years, keeping costs low and sugar profits within the industry.
- We strongly reject STL's assertions that QSL Marketing has been treated equitably and that STL has shown suitable focus on its customers. In fact, QSL refused to sign STL's storage and handling agreement as it did not provide QSL with the same services given to the mill-owned marketers/competitors of QSL using the terminals.
- STL has continued to ramp up storage and handling prices each year, as detailed in its annual reports. Without the option to use an alternative sugar storage provider, and without the protection afforded by QSL operating the terminals on a cost-recovery basis, STL absolutely is and will be an unregulated monopoly owner/operator with a clear mandate to maximise shareholder returns rather than industry benefit.
- In stark contrast to STL's assurances that sugar will be prioritised at its terminals, STL planned to block QSL's access to the Bundaberg bulk sugar terminal in the first three months of 2023, at the busiest time in the shipping year when sugar exports are most valuable, in order to prioritise the needs of its non-sugar strategy. While QSL remains supportive of initiatives that seek to reduce the ever-increasing STL cost base, any such strategy cannot result in the cure being worse than the disease.

So, if QSL Marketing gains no benefit from operating the terminals, who does?

Since it was established 20 years ago and entrusted with the terminal assets paid for by growers and millers, STL has morphed from an organisation where two-thirds of its shareholders were growers, to one where millers now control nearly half the shares. The prevalence of dry shareholders – who are no longer active growers and so unable to vote – further reduces the grower-based vote.

STL's plans to remove industry oversight by insourcing terminal operations has been accompanied by steadfast refusals to discuss industry concerns, delays to their AGM, a rejection of requests to host this important meeting in a regional centre to increase grower participation, and even legal efforts to disallow the millions of proxies assigned to QSL by their own alarmed grower shareholders.

It is vital that STL's shareholders and the wider Queensland sugar industry are encouraged and supported to have their say on the future of these assets, as they will ultimately pay the price.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Beashel', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Beashel

QSL Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director

Who can better represent YOU at the STL Board Table ?

3RD GENERATION CANE FARMER FROM NORTH QLD

OR Corporate Executive from Pitt St, Sydney ?



STEPHEN CALCAGNO

Occupation: Cane Farmer
Background: 3rd Generation Cane Farmer
Lives: Babinda, Far North Queensland
Office: 400 hectares at the foothills of Mt Bellenden Ker, Qld + farms
another 165 hectares with son Luke, also a Grower

Other Relevant Information:

- G Class Director of STL (Current) – 3 years
- Board Director of Qld Canegrowers Organisation (Current) – 4 years
- Chairman of CANEGROWERS Cairns Region (Current) – 7 years
- QCGO Policy Council member (Current) – 4 years
- 20+ years of Industry Representation for ALL GROWERS on various industry boards
- Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors



STEPHEN'S OFFICE IN FNQ



STEVE KIRBY ??

**Managing Director & CEO of
Australian Cane Farms (ACF) Ltd**
Formerly: 16 year Investment Banker
with NM Rothschild Australia
Lives: Sydney NSW
Office: Level 23 / 56 Pitt St Sydney

- **Former Director of QSL**
- **QSL invested \$20M in ACF
in December 2021**
- **GREG BEASHEL is an ACF
Director**



Steve's Office 56 Pitt St Sydney

GAVE YOUR PROXY TO QSL? IT CAN BE EASILY RESCINDED

TO SUPPORT S CALCAGNO – COMPLETE GREEN AGM VOTING FORM

Insourcing Sugar Terminal Operations



STL is insourcing the operations of its Bulk Sugar Terminals to reduce costs, improve international competitiveness, and better service industry now and into the future.

This will deliver many benefits to the sugar industry, including:

- ✓ Eliminates duplicated QSL head office (Edward St) costs
- ✓ Establishes operating model suitable for multi-marketer industry
- ✓ Provides transparency of operating costs
- ✓ Drives investment in terminals for better industry assets

It's important for growers to understand that insourcing operations will:

- NOT impact QSL's ability to purchase and market sugar
- NOT create monopoly pricing
- NOT impact grower choice
- NOT impact any marketers' storage and handling
- NOT impact operational employees

Want to Know More?

📞 1800 318 239

✉ info@sugarterminals.com.au

🌐 www.sugarterminals.com.au





Smarter irrigation solutions

Supplied by Sugar Research Australia

LOCAL EXPERTS AND SMART TECHNOLOGY ARE IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND WATER QUALITY IN THE BURDEKIN

When the Burdekin Irrigation Project (BIP) was launched in 2021 many were sceptical about how the project would achieve its ambitious goal - to deliver smarter irrigation practices that would benefit growers and improve environmental outcomes - all in the three-year timeframe.

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) District Manager – Burdekin, Terry Granshaw, the on-ground project lead for SRA, says 'it is thanks to a collaboration of experts, and the desire for local agriculture and

industry to take up smart irrigation technology,' that the BIP is achieving and surpassing its goals.

"The BIP is about smart technology that supports efficiency; that leads to improved productivity, profitability and a positive environmental impact," Terry said.

"But it is also about the experts involved and how they collaborate to deliver one-on-one engagement to growers who are willing to test the water and give these new irrigation systems a go.

"That combination of using basic measurements, smart irrigation tools and water quality monitoring to create irrigation systems, that then enables a

grower to reduce water, energy use and run off - while maintaining productivity - is quite an achievement," Terry said.

"Everyone involved needs to be congratulated."

The BIP is overseen by regional natural resource management group NQ Dry Tropics and funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The project delivery is a collaborative initiative of Burdekin extension organisations collectively known as the Consortium made up of AgriTech Solutions, Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory ►

Committee (BBIFMAC), Burdekin Productivity Services, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Farmacist, James Cook University and Sugar Research Australia.

"Industry partners initially thought that technology like soil probes and pump timers would dominate the uptake from growers within the BIP," Terry continued.

"The opposite has occurred. Growers are opting to automate their irrigation systems to reduce water volumes applied and allow scheduling to occur at the optimum time to maximise crop growth, water, and energy.

"A secondary outcome of this is that growers have automatic record keeping and have been able to use time previously spent irrigating on other important aspects of growing the crop."

Arwen Rickert is Manager of BBIFMAC and one of the founding members of the BIP. She says that irrigation efficiency was the single driver for everyone who got on board to get the project off the ground.

"Before the BIP there had been projects that had tackled irrigation efficiency on a small scale.

"But not across a whole region. That to me was the holy grail," Arwen said.

"And that's why we formed this consortium that would later become the BIP. We were a whole bunch of organisations, all working in the Lower Burdekin, at times competing; but whose skills and services could potentially contribute to achieving one significant end goal; an economic outcome for growers and improved water quality.

"Water quality monitoring is what BBIFMAC has done for close to 20 years. In the last seven years we've seen a lot of valuable work being carried out in relation to the best timing and placement of products; all aimed at keeping them on the farm and reducing surface losses to the downstream environment. But we were still seeing high volumes of losses coming off those paddocks, carrying - in a lot of cases - quite high concentrations of product whether it be nutrients or chemicals.

"We knew if we could minimise losses from the first few irrigation events after application of fertiliser or chemicals, then that would have a huge impact

on reducing the downstream impacts of those chemicals.

"It was very clear to us all that an irrigation efficiency project would be the best way to go about it."

Arwen says the BIP has far exceeded BBIFMAC's expectations.

"Every single site we've worked on, we've been able to realise quite significant improvements to irrigation efficiency and that is evident in the water quality monitoring data we've collected," she said.

Arwen also believes two key aspects of the BIP have driven its success.

"The combination in this instance of the tailored expert advice for each farm and each situation has been really important," she said.

"We have seen specialists going out on-farm doing baseline monitoring, understanding what the farm situation is, what its limitations are in terms of technology, infrastructure and labour, and just the general block configuration. It's not a one or two step process. It really is a journey that we're taking these growers on."

She says the second key aspect has been the enabling technology that the project has encouraged and supported farmers to take up.

Professor Yvette Everingham, Director of the Agriculture Technology and Adoption Centre (AgTAC), at James Cook University (JCU) has been part of the BIP consortium since its inception working with colleague Dr Eric Wang.

Prof Everingham said the JCU team has worked closely with AgriTech Solutions and

Opposite: BBIFMAC staff Dennis Stubbs (left) and Angus Houston (right) install water monitoring equipment in a Burdekin cane field.

Below: NQ Dry Tropics Program Manager Rob Hunt, Burdekin cane grower Aaron Linton, Great Barrier Reef Foundation Program Manager Carolyn Trewin and SRA District Manager, Burdekin Terry Granshaw at a recent Lower Burdekin Innovations Day.





other BIP partners to deliver three smart pieces of technology that will support cane growers' productivity and profitability.

1. *UPLINK - which connects the farmer's WiSA (automatic irrigation system) to IrrigWeb (the crop model), by uploading irrigation data automatically.*
2. *The BIP dashboard - which is a comprehensive platform available for BIP participants to navigate, analyse, and benchmark their irrigation practices while making informed decisions to optimise efficiency and productivity. and*
3. *i-RAT, a new online tool launched in June this year.*

"The i-RAT is a rapid assessment tool," Prof Everingham added.

"It is easy to set up and use and answers the simple question of 'what would happen if I was to change my irrigation management practice from scenario A to scenario B? Would that deliver a better economic and environmental output?"

"Add to these tools the expert advice that the BIP provides, and you have a successful outcome for the grower and the environment," she said.

"And for researchers like our team - who want to deliver innovative science and technology - working on the ground with the pipeline of expertise that the BIP brings together including extension providers and farmers, we can be certain that the research and development that we're doing is targeted to the needs of industry."

The first expression of interest to encourage Burdekin growers to take part in the project was communicated in 2021.

Since then, 70 growers have taken the opportunity to be involved in the BIP, and now with the recently launched XXXX Lower Burdekin Smart Irrigation Project and the Lower Burdekin Cane Major Grants projects, up to 20 additional sites will benefit from the consortium's experts.

With the BIP due to finish in May 2024 Terry is hopeful that more growers will benefit beyond that date.

"It is important that work in this space continues and follows a robust framework similar to the BIP," he said.

"We've been able to achieve huge economic and environmental savings in a short amount of time.

"But most importantly the project has earned the support of growers, and I would hate to lose that momentum.

"We need to ensure that with more growers becoming accustomed to new technology that there will be the opportunity to reassess and fine tune these irrigation systems in the future. We need to make sure that the legacy from the BIP is not lost." ■



If you would like to know more about the activities of the Burdekin Irrigation Project:

- contact SRA Manager Burdekin, Terry Granshaw email tgranshaw@sugarresearch.com.au
- visit sugarresearch.com.au/research/burdekin-irrigation-project
- scan the QR code.






Above left: Burdekin cane farmer Steve Pilla and his daughter use a cloud-based platform to access their fully automated WiSA irrigation system from their home office but could do so from any computer or phone in the world that has an internet connection.
Above right: A BIP bus tour held in April this year attracted forty-two attendees from all over Queensland to hear about innovative irrigation systems in the Burdekin.

QSL GROWER PRICING UPDATE



Current as at 18 October 2023.

Sugar Market & Currency

Influence	Commentary	Outlook
Brazil	Another strong month of harvesting has allowed Centre South Brazil to export 3.15 million tonnes of sugar, however some rain has been forecast in the short-term which could cause delays. By the end of September, 493 million tonnes of cane had been crushed and 32.6 million tonnes of sugar produced.	
India	Late September delivered much needed rainfall to the Maharashtra and Karnataka regions as both states battled a disappointing monsoon. The monsoon has now officially retreated from India in time for harvesting to begin in early November. While no government announcement has been made, analysts are assuming there will be no raw or white sugar exports from India in 2024.	
Thailand	Late monsoon rainfall has likely benefited the struggling Thai crop which has been forecast at approximately 8.5 million tonnes of sugar. Harvesting is likely to begin in late November/early December.	Neutral
Speculators	Speculators held a reasonably stable ICE 11 position last month with a 176,000 net-long position recorded as of 10 October.	Neutral
Currency	The AUD continues to battle headwinds from weak iron ore prices as well as high interest rates in the US delivering 16-year high US treasury bond yields. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has also dampened investor sentiment and will be closely monitored by markets.	

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

Grower Pricing

- > The highest grower-managed pricing levels achieved across all growing regions using QSL products to date (all gross price actual/tonne) are:
 - 2023 Target Price = \$930 / IFC \$945 (Mar24)
 - 2024 Target Price = \$825 / IFC \$850 (Jul24)
 - 2025 Target Price = \$715 / IFC \$715 (Oct25)
 - 2026 Target Price = \$670 / IFC \$650 (Jul26)
 - 2027 Target Price = \$625
- > Key Dates:
 - **20 February:** Last day to price 2023-Season Target Price Contract tonnage before the pricing window is automatically extended and roll adjustments apply.
 - **20 February:** Last day to achieve or roll pricing to the March 2024 ICE 11 contract through the Individual Futures Contract or Self-Managed Harvest Contract.

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



This chart captures all pricing achieved as of 18.10.23 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.

LOCAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT KEY TO CANE-CHANGE SUCCESS

By Robyn Devine

They say a change is as good as a holiday, but for the young farming families making the life-altering decision to move into cane country, it's more than a holiday they're chasing, it's the dream of a better lifestyle and of building something they can be proud to pass on.

The Brownlies are one such family. In February this year, 32-year-old Ryan Brownlie, his wife Suzie and their young son Flynn, moved from a cotton farm in Theodore to Home Hill, to take on the challenge of growing sugarcane.

And they are not alone in making the life-changing move. In March, Clint and Kate Lyon sold their cattle and sheep property at Walcha on the northern Tablelands in NSW to make the cane-change to Ingham.

"There is definitely a lot happening here for us as a young family in the Burdekin, it's a big game changer."

According to these growers, whilst the learning curve has been steep, the support they have received from within the local community and industry has been both exceptional and friendly.

Ryan grew up on a cotton farm, living and breathing that industry, while helping his father over the years and eventually taking over the management of the family farm he achieved some really positive results.

"We made some changes to our farming practices and growing style and were rewarded with the highest yield for the two years in the Dawson Valley area, while we were in management," Ryan said.

"That was probably the biggest achievement in the industry for us. It was great to leave on those highs."

Ryan and Suzie always assumed they would remain cotton growers but after having some big life conversations with their family their road led them to the Burdekin. Suzie is originally from Bowen and still has family there. The young family often spent time in the area while on holidays and were intrigued by the industry.

"We looked at four or five farms in the Burdekin, we limited our wish list to a size of farm where we could see growth for our own business," Ryan said.

"Water security was a really big thing for us, and another big factor was to be close to the coastline and Suzie's family.

"There is definitely a lot happening here for us as a young family in the Burdekin, it's a big game changer for us."

Ryan and Suzie agree that while growing sugarcane uses completely different farming practices to growing cotton, they have been able to work through the differences and gain an

understanding of the soil types on their farm thanks to the local support they have received.

"Everyone has been so helpful, and there are so many local organisations within the industry like CANEGROWERS, Burdekin Productivity Services, AGnVET and Farmacist providing support and advice. The previous owners, and our neighbours, have been a phone call away, it's been phenomenal," Ryan said.

"It makes a big difference to have that support when you are settling into a new industry.

"It has been challenging but I've enjoyed learning something different. In cotton there was only a couple of varieties that worked for us. Whereas here there are so many different varieties that work with different soils, it makes it more interesting."

Suzie agreed that it's always changing and that the learning was an exciting part of the new venture.

"We're looking forward to making something that is our own. Every bit of the blood, sweat and tears is for us," Suzie said ►.



“We’re looking forward to making something that is our own. Every bit of the blood, sweat and tears is for us.”

Above: Young Flynn Brownlie is loving life on the land and Ryan, pictured right, has gained important insights into the industry with the support of neighbours and the local community



"It will be good to experience the full cycle next season and see the results of our work."

Ryan said most nights found him sitting at his diary looking through his notes, to learn more and better understand the crop's needs.

"I spend time trying to replan or go back through things, to get a better understanding while absorbing new information, you are constantly reassessing," Ryan said.

"There were challenges with our first season like getting my head around the watering systems, then came planting and the harvest.

"The farm is 240 hectares and we run a 20% rotation but this year we had to drop extra paddocks out of the rotation due to rain damage. It's a learning curve to figure out the farm, to eliminate any potential for loss of crop."

Along with the stimulation that the new learning provides another potential that excites the young couple is the lifestyle change. They are keen to take advantage of being closer to the coastline and they may even get more chances to put the boat in and enjoy what the area has to offer.

"The opportunity that growing cane offers, it's a bit more lenient than cotton," Ryan said.

"Once we understand the management of the farm better, I am excited to spend more time with the family."

The Brownlies made the transition to growing sugarcane as part of Ryan's family succession planning.

"We talked about succession for eight years always assuming we'd stay in cotton," Ryan explained. "We brought in a facilitator to assist our family discussions and that allowed us to put things on the table.

"The biggest thing is making time to have that conversation. It's a big conversation and it needs the time and focus. That's when things start to change.

"Once we opened up to the opportunity of cane everything just started to fall into place, it's the best decision we made, we really enjoy this area.

"It's a good challenge, it's exciting to be on the same level, both learning together in a new industry. It's truly a joint enterprise. You pinch yourself now and then."

"We can teach our little fellow as he grows too," Suzie said. "We hope to provide the opportunity for him to stay on the land, if that is what he chooses."

Ryan and Suzie admit it has been an exciting time to step into the industry with the current high global sugar price and the potential future opportunities for the industry, they are very optimistic about their future.

"I'd recommend the lifestyle for others, have a crack and enjoy the ride, it's going to be a rollercoaster," Ryan said. ►



"The cold and wet, windy days meant farming was always challenging and Kate was working off farm with a long daily commute, we started thinking about what we wanted our future to look like."





For Clint and Kate Lyon, the opportunity to move into growing sugarcane was also based around lifestyle.

"We enjoyed our time looking after livestock but eventually the climate started getting too much," Clint said.

"The cold and wet windy days meant farming was always challenging and my wife Kate was working off farm with a long daily commute, we started thinking about what we wanted our future to look like. With cattle and sheep its harder to go away for holidays, you might end up with cattle on the road or something else might happen to them. We decided we wanted to try something different, it was time for a change.

"We thought cane would be a perfect fit for us and the climate really drove us to Ingham, besides I love fishing."



The Lyons bought a house at Lucinda in March and in July purchased three adjoining farms in Macknade, approx. 230 hectares of sugarcane paddocks.

"The timing has worked out really well although it was a bit faster than we had anticipated, but we have had the chance to experience the planting and harvesting," Clint said.

"This is keeping both Kate and I busy fulltime on the farm. There's a lot to learn which makes it very exciting, understanding the industry and how to grow sugarcane is challenging but we are looking forward to embracing it.

"We've been overwhelmed by the support that has been provided to us by organisations like CANEGROWERS, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited, and the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program, even neighbours and other cane growers in the area have been so helpful. It has been unbelievable.

"The harvest has been a terrific experience and our contractors have been very informative, explaining the process and helpful with what goes on and what we need to organise.

"And we are recognising areas, with the support of others, where we may need to improve, like drill length, to make our farm more productive in the future, so that's been very helpful."

To date the Lyons have experienced the planting

process as well as harvest for the first time, and recognise that it was an understandably stressful process, not being familiar with all the logistics. For example, acquiring the seed cane or not having enough to plant the paddocks. Clint acknowledges the community and his neighbours have been extremely supportive in assisting them to navigate this busy time.

"It's been relieving for us especially as at this stage as we don't completely understand the industry yet, but each time I've contacted someone they have been responsive and provided information or directed us to someone we should be talking to," Clint said.

"As I learn more about the industry, I'm excited to be here and I'm interested in exploring the farming practices, there may be a few techniques that I can adapt from my previous farming experiences.

"The community and neighbours have all been so friendly and the support has been amazing. I don't know that you get the same sort of support in the sheep and cattle industries. There is so much help here. And the lifestyle works well for us too." ■

Pictured above: Clint and Kate Lyon are enjoying their change in farming practices as well as the warmer weather in Ingham and on the opposite page: Burdekin grower Suzie Brownlie agrees it is an exciting time to step into the industry



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NQAS Powershed is the premium Howard dealer throughout Queensland and has been for over 30 years.

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RAISING THE BAR



By Kate Reardon, Smartcane BMP Project Manager



CANEGROWERS Chairman Owen Menkens' Burdekin farm is just one of almost 750 farming enterprises accredited in Smartcane BMP

THE BENEFITS OF ABOVE INDUSTRY STANDARDS

In the vibrant and ever-evolving sugarcane industry of Australia, Smartcane BMP is established as the cornerstone for sustainable and profitable cane farming.

As technology and sustainability concerns evolve, so do the standards and practices that govern our industry, and staying ahead

"Smartcane BMP industry standard practices are already above the norm."

of the curve is essential. To achieve this, Smartcane BMP modules are regularly reviewed by SRA and other

content experts to ensure they are current and relevant to industry practices.

The term, 'industry standard', often represents the typical practices within a specific sector, the norm so to speak.

Best management practices set the benchmarks of an industry's standards, above and beyond these standards are considered above industry standards.

The Smartcane BMP program industry standard practices are already above the norm, or traditional approaches, with above-industry standard practices higher again.

So, there's a lot to be proud of in having proven, economically sound practices that are within reach of all growers. We find most non-accredited growers are operating at the industry ►



Smartcane BMP is helping secure a bright future for growers. Photo by Ellie Boyd

"Being a Smartcane BMP accredited grower is the ticket to sustainability, productivity, and ensuring long-term success."

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

standard, or above, and only need to make minimal adjustments to meet accreditation requirements.

Furthermore, many accredited growers have adopted those above-industry standards practices that best suit their farm and add further to the reputation of the industry.

The leap between the two industry standards is often not as great as it appears.

A strong example of this is the industry practice of Calculating Optimum Nutrient Rate.

Industry standard requires growers to build and implement a nutrient plan, whereas the above-industry standard seeks more precise management of nutrient and other soil constraints.

Both standards are based on the SIX EASY STEPS program, however the above-industry standard practice requires the use of the SIX EASY STEPS toolbox.

This takes some extra time and planning. It's all about ensuring crops receive the optimal amount of nutrients, to promote healthy growth, higher yields, and better-quality crops.

Progressing to above-industry standards doesn't always mean additional expenses.

In fact, optimising practices can lead to cost savings.

Enhanced water and energy management can result in reduced operational costs over time, while an increased focus on soil health management, crop rotation, and pest control can result in healthier and more robust sugar cane plants, ultimately leading to higher productivity and a superior product.

Being a Smartcane BMP accredited grower is the ticket to sustainability, productivity, and ensuring long-term success.

As an industry we are already consistently exceeding industry norms through good practices, fostering a positive public image through our commitment to producing an ethical product.

By raising the bar to above-industry standard practices, where these suit the farm business, the expectations of the community and the supply chain are not just met, they are exceeded, securing a sweet future for the Australian sugar industry for the generations to come. ■

CANEGROWERS REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Supplied by CANEGROWERS district offices

MOSSMAN



HARVEST WEEK 15



CCS TO DATE 11.72



TONNES TO DATE 262,832
% CRUSHED TO DATE 64.90

Weather conditions continued to improve during September and October but rainfall in September was still above the monthly average.

Growing conditions have improved, and planting has been taking place, but it is at much lower levels than required. We are over 60% cut and the condition of the majority of the crop has been average or substandard, with CCS and purity levels well below where we would expect to see them. Fibre levels, however, have been much higher than usual.

After 15 weeks of crushing, Mossman Mill had processed 262,832 tonnes of cane for a mill average of 11.72CCS and Mossman Tableland growers after toll-crushing for 21 weeks had processed 116,605 tonnes of cane for an average of 13.44CCS.

At the current rate, our finishing date for Mossman Mill is looking to be late November, early December but the weather and cane supply is ultimately going to be the deciding factor.

This will be an important topic of discussion at the next Bargaining Agent meeting on 14 November.

A number of growers attended a SRA Advanced Pre-Emergent Herbicide workshop held in Mossman on Friday 6 October. SRA's Weed Scientist Emilie Fillols customised the practical workshop for Far Northern cane growers using her recent project data and outcomes. Emilie used relatable farming scenarios to show the group how to take control of weeds before they take control of the farm. This included not only quick and early identification of weeds but choosing the best herbicides for the situation and the grower's farming system.

The Manager attended the Far Northern Regional Bushfire Mitigation meeting held in Mossman on Tuesday 17 October, where discussions included how the planned fire mitigation burns went during the cooler months and looking ahead, what the coming months might bring with drier weather and high fuel loads from a wetter winter.

QSL held a growers' Market Information and Update meeting in Mossman on Wednesday 18 October. There was an update on factors driving the ICE 11 and the Aussie dollar, pricing outlook for 2024 and beyond as well as global sugar production forecasts of the major sugar producers.

Following higher level industry discussions about the rat problems impacting on sugarcane crops in the north, the Mossman team of SRA, Mossman Agricultural Services and CANEGROWERS met on 19 October to discuss some affordable on-ground measures which could be taken to have

an immediate and longer-term impact on the rat populations in the area. The two focal points to start the initiative were Herbert River and Mossman. In Mossman the northern areas are the worst hit with rats taking out entire cane paddocks and also starting on ratooning cane.

CANEGROWERS Mossman Manager enjoyed a morning tea with a few past and present Board members to mark her 40 years in the CANEGROWERS Mossman organisation on 26 September. Needless to say, the cakes and scones were delicious and enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Karen Moffatt for organising everybody and the morning tea.



Evelyn Matthews celebrated 40 years with CANEGROWERS

CAIRNS



HARVEST WEEK 18



CCS TO DATE 11.93



TONNES TO DATE 770,742
% CRUSHED TO DATE 65.65

Growers have welcomed the fine weather, and for most there is still a lot of catching up to be done.

Most planting across the Mulgrave zone has been

achieved unlike Babinda where there is still a way to go. Unfortunately, the impacts of the wet weather are being recognised in the 2023 crop with the base CCS having to be reduced across both zones.

Growers are reminded to get their bean order in, with delivery likely to be late November.

The mud spreader and the direct drill bean planter are already proving popular, and

members are encouraged to get in touch with Joel Tierney on 0472 869 659 to get your name on the list.

TABLELAND



HARVEST WEEK 21



CCS TO DATE 13.80

TONNES TO DATE 610,874
% CRUSHED TO DATE 74.50

The weather is heating up and allowing the harvest to progress on the southern part of the Tablelands.

The forecast from the Bureau of Metrology is for a drier than normal November through to January.

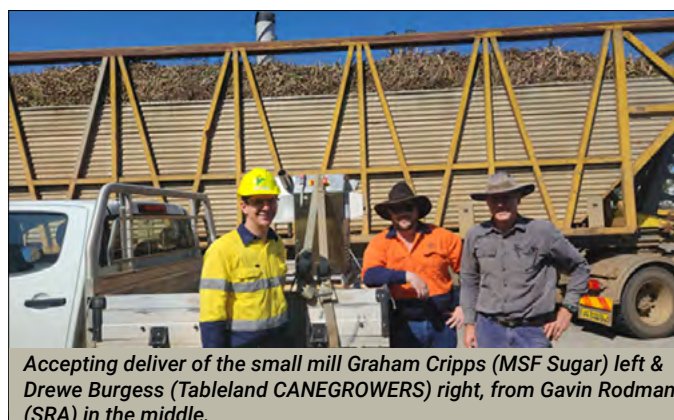
The Tableland Mill has been maintaining its crushing rate with extra cane from the southern Tablelands. There are two extra trucks assisting with carting the southern cane to rectify the inequity in the harvest groups due to previous wet weather.

At the time of writing there is about six weeks left in the season, end of November.

The small mill has been delivered to the Tableland as part of the Far North District Plan to support variety management in the area.

American Sugar Refining (ASR) conducted social verification audit in the Tableland with the MSF mill. Three accredited BMP growers from the district were audited. The completion of BMP accreditation helped the growers meet the requirements of ASR.

The area that needed attention on farm is the Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) component. Members can access information to assist with WHS on the CANEGROWERS website.



Accepting deliver of the small mill Graham Cripps (MSF Sugar) left & Drewe Burgess (Tableland CANEGROWERS) right, from Gavin Rodman (SRA) in the middle.

Drink water regularly

- Drink 2 to 3 litres of water a day at regular intervals, even if you do not feel thirsty
- Limit intake of alcohol, soft drinks, sports drinks, tea or coffee
- Eat as you normally would but try to eat cold foods, particularly salads and fruit. Avoid heavy protein foods which raise body heat and increase fluid loss.

INNISFAIL



HARVEST WEEK 17



CCS TO DATE 11.64

TONNES TO DATE 757,781
% CRUSHED TO DATE 56.28

Harvest in the South Johnstone mill area reached the halfway mark at week 17 with over 1,000 hours lost to wet weather.

Fortunately, at the time of writing, the region is enjoying a much welcomed reprieve from

these wet conditions. CCS results have been disappointing at around 11.7.

The Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming program is continuing to assist growers address challenges of a wet harvest season, as well

as providing personalised agronomic advice based on opportunities that are specific to each individual enterprise.

CANEGROWERS Innisfail Directors and Staff continue to represent the region's growers at local and state government

forums on issues such as council rates, permits, feral pig initiatives and regional planning.

TULLY



HARVEST WEEK 20



CCS TO DATE 12.87

TONNES TO DATE 1,719,500
% CRUSHED TO DATE 62.30

Weather continues to dominate the crush in the Tully District. In the last four weeks up to 16 October, a total of 161mm has been measured at the official weather site for Tully.

Week twenty of the crushing season saw the rain fall across the entire area, halting the

crush once again. Total rain fall since the 26 May now totals 1066.6mm recorded at Tully.

Week 20 shows harvested area is now at 64.6%, with 67% of estimated cane crop now been crushed, which is equivalent to 1,771,350 tonnes. Overall yield has fallen slightly to 90.4 tonnes per hectare, with a prediction of 2,571,584 tonnes

by season's end. Soil is still high at 1.72% and CCS now at 12.90. The last four weeks of sugarcane through the mill rollers averaged 86,108 tonnes. Top varieties supplied to Tully Sugar Mill so far are Q208- 649,055 tonnes, Q253- 441,409 tonnes, Q240- 134,264 tonnes, and KQ228- 101,635 tonnes, totalling 1,326,363 tonnes

or 75% of supply. The newer varieties that are becoming more noticeable are SRA 26- 37,743 tonnes- 13.37ccs, SRA 15- 31,866 tonnes- 12.64ccs, SRA 28- 9,964 tonnes- 13.85ccs. Plant cane dominated the last couple of weeks in supply to the Mill, which increased to 97 tonnes per hectare for plant cane. ►

Price of fuel continues to rise, taking the shine off the current sugar price.

When the cost of energy increases, so does everything else; transport, parts, electricity. Unfortunately, so does theft, in particular, diesel fuel. The perpetrators use all methods

to get the loot. There are even reports of using boats if your fuel storage is near a water course. I urge everyone to be vigilant with fuel storage and security.

Even though the Tully area has a reduction in nitrogen use and over all less fertiliser, there

is the problem of what to do with the single use fertiliser bags. Surely there is a solution that can be beneficial to other industries.

Technology has moved leaps and bounds in recent years with recycling, it would be good to see new initiatives in fertiliser

bag recycling and plastics in general.

CANEGROWERS Tully Annual General Meeting is set to be held on 23 November at the Tully Senior Citizens Hall and all members are welcome to attend.

HERBERT RIVER



HARVEST WEEK 17



CCS TO DATE 12.93



TONNES TO DATE 2,907,665
% CRUSHED TO DATE 69.23

In the time of writing this report, the Herbert has had little rainfall with approximately 20 – 100mm in most sub districts month to date with Lannercost recording 100mm in a day

The Herbert Mills have surpassed 2.9 million tonnes mid-October with a CCS season to date of 12.97.

CANEGROWERS Policy managers Mick Quirk, Elisa

Westmore and Burn Ashburner presented in the Herbert River district in the last week of September.

The presentations were held at Bambaroo Branch, Abergowrie Branch and in the CANEGROWERS Herbert River conference room. These were very informative sessions, and we look forward to more visits from CANEGROWERS Policy managers.

CANEGROWERS Herbert River, the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program and its delivery providers are bringing growers together to share knowledge, celebrate successes and overcome challenges to become STRONGER TOGETHER.

This Grower Forum Networking event will be on Friday 24 November from 5pm – 9pm with Simon Mattson the key

speaker. Simon is a cane/mixed crops farmer from Marian near Mackay in Queensland. Simon completed a Nuffield Scholarship on Soil Biology and is a pioneer of multi-species cover cropping in Australia and a leader in the Australian sugarcane industry, in the area of soil health and regenerative farming practices.

BURDEKIN



HARVEST WEEK 19



CCS TO DATE 14.55



TONNES TO DATE 5,859,373
% CRUSHED TO DATE 72.34

During the month of October, Wilmar revised the Burdekin district estimate down to 8,100,000 tonnes from 8,200,000 tonnes.

At the time of writing they were in the process of finalising manual remains calculations and mill area finish dates. The original estimate for the 2023 season was 8,400,000 tonnes, which we always thought was very ambitious given the late finish in the 2022 season. This latest change represents a 300,000 tonne or 3.6% adjustment when compared to the original estimate.

The good run of dry weather and steady crushing at some sites has seen the crop come

in, in a methodical way which is what we like to see. The one factory that is trailing the other three is Pioneer Mill and CBL asked Wilmar to cease transferring cane into Pioneer Mill and transfer Pioneer Mill cane to Invicta and Kalamia Mills. Wilmar subsequently implemented a cane transfer program in which cane transfer into Pioneer Mill was stopped with that cane re-routed to Inkerman Mill and Kalamia Mill instead and they also commenced transferring more Pioneer cane into Invicta Mill for crushing.

Based on CBL's discussions with our members, if the dry weather continues and barring

any major breakdowns we could be looking at a November finish. If the district can achieve this with an 8million tonne crop, that would be a good result. CCS has been steadily improving with the dry weather and is now tracking back above budget which is pleasing in view of the high sugar prices on offer.

The CBL Board met with the QSL Board and Senior Management as part of their Burdekin visit where they provided an update on markets and their position on STL's decision to insource operations. Both sides are dug-in and the matter is taking up a lot of industry time and we all look

forward to this issue being resolved with a biased eye towards what's in the best interest of the industry, as it is the grower who always pays at the end of the day.

Burdekin Cane Audit Services (BCAS) provided an information session at Kalamia Mill to grower representatives on CCS variation in a block, which is often a contentious issue as the general consensus is that CCS should be roughly the same within a block, but this is not reality in practice in some cases. CCS variation does exist, but the awful truth is that if the sample has been tested correctly and there are no other extenuating circumstances, ►

there is no reason for BCAS to overturn the result where due process has been followed.

After the BCAS meeting, Wilmar provided grower representatives an update on the new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) program that is an IT software-based solution that supports laboratory's data collection and reporting. LIMS will replace some of the lab's paper-based data entry, make data entry easier via iPads, automatic reading from Lab instruments, make calculations and access to data easier and standardise laboratory procedures across mills. LIMS has been rolled out in other districts with the Burdekin rollout scheduled for implementation in late

October. Like any software rollout, we would expect there to be some teething issues.

Stakeholder consultation by the Qld Government for the Burdekin Basin Water Plan Review has recommenced following the preliminary feedback that we provided in May 2023. A meeting with the Department of RDMW was scheduled in Ayr on 25 October to inform stakeholders about the key issues raised during the submission process, clarify with us to see they have understood our issues correctly and update the group on the review progress and explain the next steps.

The CBL Board also met with SRA Burdekin District Manager Terry Granshaw who provided a business update on SRA and a

briefing on the discontinuation of Suscon Maxi Intel and associated implications. Nufarm Australia have stated that they have enough supply for up to two seasons or when the product is exhausted. They also state that they are continuing to work with SRA to investigate alternative methods of controlling greyback cane grubs. The trend in damage from grubs is slowly heading in the wrong direction and it is important that the industry has an effective solution to control cane grubs.

It has been a busy season after the July wet weather stop and the end is getting closer. Let's hope that the dry weather persists, and that Wilmar goes well enough to get us home.



PROSERPINE



HARVEST WEEK 18



CCS TO DATE 14.12



TONNES TO DATE 1,149,223
% CRUSHED TO DATE 66.82

With the total estimate revised down to 1.72 million tonnes for the season, 1.15 million tonnes had been crushed by mid-October.

This was just over two thirds of the total crop with low yields expected in late ratooned areas for the end of season harvest. The average weekly crush for the most recent four weeks was slightly higher than the previous month at 83,613 tonnes.

This despite an extended 24-hour maintenance stop due to boiler issues and scattered showers that resulted in excessive mud levels, all of which impacted on milling operations in the first two weeks of October. The current target end date is early December, but this would depend largely on the mills

ability to maintain crush rates above 80,000 tonnes per week.

The average to-date CCS was recorded at 14.12 with the previous lag in CCS levels coming in line with expectations for the second week of October.

With drier predictions for the final leg of crush, it is hoped that these higher levels can be maintained at a time when sugar pricing continues to rally on expectations of a continued world deficit.

More recently improved on the back of lower-than-expected production levels from European beet producers.

With fertiliser and chemical prices generally lower when compared to highs of the previous year, 2023 is hoped to be a season that delivers significant value for Proserpine

growers following five years of pressure on the district area under cane.

CANEGROWERS Proserpine and QCGO continued to support growers in accessing QRIDA drought preparedness grants, helping members with budgets and dealing with further siding disputes.

Mill audits progressed well with the Operations Review Committee meeting intermittently to ensure growers had fair access to the mill. An external auditor attended one of the mill audits to ensure the current process remained relevant in protecting grower cane payment interests.

Financial audit meetings were also held for all local entities during the month resulting in clean audits across all four bodies.

The QCGO Board joined CANEGROWERS Proserpine Board for a combined meeting on 12 October. Various issues were raised with interesting insights gained from some productive interactions. Importantly, many of the issues faced by Proserpine growers remain common across districts which highlighted the need for continued cooperation. Annual General Meeting (AGM) preparations were initiated for CANEGROWERS Proserpine, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) and the two Irrigation Cooperatives. Proserpine growers are reminded that the AGMs for both CANEGROWERS Proserpine and SSP will take place at 3:30pm on 13 November. By this time the season end will be far clearer and hopefully far closer!

MACKAY

HARVEST WEEK 20



CCS TO DATE 13.29

TONNES TO DATE 3,319,018
% CRUSHED TO DATE 62.14**PLANE CREEK**

HARVEST WEEK 18



CCS TO DATE 13.73

TONNES TO DATE 799,998
% CRUSHED TO DATE 53.33

Weather has been largely favorable over the past month to the time of writing, with some light showery weather not creating any major delays.

Milling performance has continued to be an issue in all mills, with repeated outages delivering some below-par weekly throughput. At the time of writing, Plane Creek Mill's top performing week across the harvest to week ending 14 October has been 68,159t crushed in that week, at which point growers were also still seeing a rising CCS. There has been improvement in milling performance in Mackay Sugar's

three mills. Hopefully mill performance issues are now behind us, and we can look forward to consistent crushing. It is expected that crushing will continue well into December in both Mackay and Plane Creek milling areas, with a lagging percentage of the crop crushed. There have been some reports from the mills of under-filled bins from some suppliers causing gaps in cane supply. Growers and contractors can't do much about weather or mill performance, but this is one area in our control.

To get through the crush with any hope of enjoying a family

Christmas, growers can help the process by taking every opportunity to cut and ensuring harvest crews are getting bins properly filled.

It's also important that, with that increased pressure to get the crop away, that all involved in our industry take care, keep focused on the moment, and think safety always.

CANEGROWERS has been liaising with TMR, NHVR and Queensland Police Service to get in place provisions for permits in case we need to crush through the Christmas curfew period.

It is expected that applications for permits should be lodged prior to 1 December.

The CANEGROWERS Mackay Annual General Meeting will be held at Mackay Turf Club at 2pm on Wednesday 29 November, with guest speaker Michele Stansfield, CEO of Australian "future foods" company Cauldron.

Any growers requiring assistance with any issues call 4944 2600 to get the ball rolling on a solution. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, The Billet and weekly District Manager Updates for emerging training and industry opportunities.

BUNDABERG

HARVEST WEEK 20



CCS TO DATE 14.46

TONNES TO DATE 849,730
% CRUSHED TO DATE 83.31

There doesn't appear to be any reprieve from the dry weather anytime soon and ratoons are stressing, with some not shooting at all unless irrigation has been applied.

The dry has also slowed down the planting program of many growers and has resulted in a reduction of estimates with a revised season estimate of 1,020,000 tonnes.

Current dry conditions in the region have also brought a heightened fire risk and, as such at the time of writing, 16 October, growers can light fires for standing cane, tops and trash only, and only between the hours of 6pm and 6am the following day.

All fires must be registered with Firecom by calling 1800 354 621.

On the upside the CCS has been phenomenal with some near record tests achieved, the weekly relative average CCS for week ending 15 October was 16.32.

We are approximately 85% through the crushing and look like a finish in early – mid November.

Mill throughput has been very good this year up until 17 September when No. 1 Mill suffered a catastrophic failure, with a repair time of 2-3 weeks the decision was made to bypass No. 1 Mill and proceed with the crush.

This caused some extra problems with CCS sampling required to be taken from No. 2 Mill following the relocation of the NIR. Our auditors were comfortable with all sampling procedures, the NIR was recalibrated and payment was switched over to NIR on 24 September. No. 1 Mill was repaired on 5 October, the NIR relocated, recalibrated and switched over to payment on Monday 9 October.

All cane sampling and analysis procedures continue to be performed as per the Cane Analysis Program Agreement. The final payment for soybeans has been paid with a final average figure of \$789/tonne. The coming season looks very

promising price wise with a prediction of \$800/tonne, and the potential for some upside if the dry weather continues. Our biggest problem with growing the next crop of soys is the lack of soil moisture for ground preparation. For further information contact Matthew Leighton.

A reminder to all groundwater users in the Coastal Burnett groundwater management area for Kolan - Burnett A, Burnett – Elliott A, Elliott - Gregory A and Fairymead A that you are required to have your water meter revalidated to ensure the water meter is compliant by 30 November 2023. This must be performed by an ►

authorised meter validator and all meters must comply with the Departments' non-urban water metering standard.

Non-compliant meters must be upgraded or replaced. Bundaberg Sugar Services Limited and Bundaberg

CANEGROWERS Ltd held their Annual General Meetings on Thursday 12 October followed by a presentation from Mark

Hampson and Elliott Apel of QSL that was well attended by growers and industry representatives.

ISIS



HARVEST WEEK 16



CCS TO DATE 14.60



TONNES TO DATE 581,349
% CRUSHED TO DATE 72.67

The dry weather has continued across the district and fire restrictions have remained in place.

Growers are irrigating ratoons and some standing cane. We are approximately 74% through the season and are looking at finishing in mid-November. The harvesting equity committee will be kept busy for the remainder of the season ensuring that grower and group equity are kept in check.

CCS has continued to rise with the YTD relative sitting at 14.68

and the base payment rate set at 14. The record for the highest individual CCS to date was recorded in Week 17 by a Wallaville grower at 18.91 for some 3R Q208.

We have set our Annual General Meeting for 30 November and are presently preparing the annual report and meeting notice. We have continued to work closely with growers assisting them with electricity tariff comparisons and working on cane trash bale delivery summaries.

This month we have hosted both STL and QSL at grower events and the board attended a thank you dinner acknowledging the seven years of service of retiring Director

Tony Russo. We also attended the Gin Gin State High School awards night and presented agricultural award bursaries to year 10 and 12 students.



CANEGROWERS Isis board, Simon Ricciardi, Susan Bengtson, Mark Mammino, Tony Russo, Peter McLennan

MARYBOROUGH



HARVEST WEEK 16



CCS TO DATE 14.10



TONNES TO DATE 288,130
% CRUSHED TO DATE 62.64

The dry conditions continue and volume in the crop is falling away.

Fortunately the CCS has held up really well with the season average now 14.48 for the combined area and 14.19 for Maryborough growers. The total Maryborough supply

has reached 314,335t and combined is 933,182.70t.

The end of season is now in sight although the finish line shifts according to how much cane is still out there and the mill is keen to know what cane is being left as soon as possible. Understandably, a lot of late cut blocks from

2022 haven't recovered to a worthwhile level and we will have decisions to make on cutting or not as soon as possible.

At time of writing, the likely finish is now looking around 17 or 18 November which puts us in the last month of activity for 2023.

Our end of season meeting will be advised in coming weeks.

Some dramas around trucks and harvesters have seen the best of our local community supporting each other. We look forward to completing a successful season, although a rain delay wouldn't be bad right now.

ROCKY POINT



HARVEST WEEK 8



CCS TO DATE 13.55



TONNES TO DATE 64,486
% CRUSHED TO DATE 24.33

As of week 8, 14 October, the Rocky Point Mill has crushed a total of 64,486 tonnes of cane at a season average CCS of 13.56.

The Mill got back up and running after three weeks of repairs and had the best week of the season to date during week 7. Our two year old cane is in very poor condition, and we

are prioritising trying to get this harvested as soon as possible.

Dry conditions are continuing, which is great for harvesting. Plant and ratoon cane could do with 50mm of rain – this would not stop the harvest for long due to the dry conditions.

The construction of a new bridge over one of the main

drainage outlets has been of concern over recent months. There was a bund wall in place for construction of the bridge over the water course, which raised concerns that if we had serious rain while the bund wall was in place, a major part of the district would have been flooded. The bund wall has now been removed.

Under our Collaborative Agreement with the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce, more fire ant bait has been supplied and distributed to farmers, with most farmers participating in the program.

CANEGROWERS Rocky Point are planning for our Annual General Meeting on 21 November 2023.



INNOVATION KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Membership Engagement & Innovation

MATT KEALLEY

IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THE NEXT GREAT TRANSFORMATION IN AGRICULTURE?

As part of my role at CANEGROWERS, I keep an eye on the innovation and initiatives influencing agriculture and the sugarcane industry. Below is a snapshot of some interesting innovations being researched.

Artificial Intelligence or AI has gained quite the reputation over the past 12 months with the release of ChatGPT, a natural language processing tool driven by AI technology.

This tool, launched in November 2022 by OpenAI, offers human-like conversations and a language model that can help with tasks, answer questions, and even create computer code.

An offshoot of AI is Machine Learning which uses data and algorithms to imitate the way people learn, gradually improving its accuracy.

Combining data, AI and Machine Learning with agronomy and farming knowledge, and applying this to farming operations and management decisions, could improve farm efficiency and productivity. Is this the next great transformation in agriculture?

Laser scarecrows

Laser scarecrows sound cool and could be an effective deterrent for those pesky cockatoos eating our sugarcane. Researchers from the University of Rhode Island in the US have shown that birds are sensitive to the colour green and can be startled by projecting green laser lights across crops.

The green lasers are not detectable by the human eye in sunlight and early testing has shown that the devices can minimise crop



damages by reducing the bird population around farmlands by up to 70%.

Minichromosome tech – the evolution of plant breeding

Research into the use of genetically modified technology for herbicide tolerance in the Australian sugarcane ceased in 2019. Fortunately, emerging research using minichromosomes may be the next evolution of plant breeding.

Minichromosomes contain small amounts of genetic material which can make it easier to pass on the traits from one plant to another without altering the plants genes.

Agricultural geneticists are developing this technology to make plants more drought-tolerant or resistant to pests with the benefit of not interfering with the host's natural development.

Stingless bees making 'smart' sugar from sugarcane

Dr Natasha Hungerford, at the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) at The University of Queensland (UQ) and her team are taking the first steps to produce a 'smart' sugar from the sucrose found in sugarcane with the help of *Tetragonula carbonaria*, a stingless bee found primarily in Queensland.

Trehalulose is a component of this native bee honey that has low glycaemic index properties and reported health benefits. The research has project funding from SRA to understand the trehalulose enzyme and investigate using sucrose from sugarcane juice as a feedstock to produce it.

Maybe our native bees can offer a niche product that fits into the Sugar Plus diversification roadmap?

Innovative alloys to make equipment last longer

The sugarcane industry may soon be the beneficiary of the research of Dr Yahia Ali who is working on developing new, innovative metal-based alloys for sugarcane and mining equipment to solve the problem of damage from wear and corrosion.

Dr Yahia is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UQ and is a recent recipient of funding from Advance Queensland's Industry Research Fellowships.

His three-year project involves industry partner Bradken, who have an extensive presence in Queensland as a manufacturer and supplier of wear-resistant products. The innovative materials are expected to last longer and use less energy to manufacture.

Agricultural robotics – coming to a paddock near you

I am a big fan of science fiction, and as a kid I dreamed of owning my own robot. According to market intelligence from Contrive Datum Insights, the global market size of agricultural robotics in 2022 was nearly \$5 billion due to increasing global food demands.

Farming activities carried out by agricultural robots can improve farm productivity and efficiency. Drones are a common sight in the industry, but how long before we have an agribot planting sugarcane tissue culture seedlings in the paddock? ■

HOW MUCH TIME HAVE YOU SPENT WORKING ON YOUR BUSINESS RATHER THAN IN YOUR BUSINESS?

As the new calendar year approaches, perhaps it is opportune to take time out to think strategically about your business.

What are the risks your business will face over the course of the coming year? The next year after that? The next five years? A lot can happen!

While it is not possible to plan for every eventuality, it is worthwhile to consider and prioritise your efforts to make changes, even small ones, that will improve your business' ability to endure, and to minimize the stresses and strains along the way.

CANEGROWERS Business Essentials workshops help you identify, assess, and manage business risks such as drought, by developing strategies and actions to address these risks.

If you identify drought as a key risk, there may be actions that can be implemented before the drought takes hold, and which will reduce its impact on your business.

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) has grants and loans available to assist primary producers to implement plans to mitigate drought. This will require that you have a business plan. The Business Essentials workshops are designed to help you develop your plan for this purpose.

Visit www.canegrowers.comm.au or your CANEGROWERS district office today to find out more!

Workshops start in February 2023. Register your interest today!





REFLECTIONS ON HARVEST MATE

Farm Business Resilience

CHRIS GILLITT

Much has been written about harvesting in recent months, as well as the Harvest Mate application which has come into being and is ready for use during the current harvesting season.

Harvest Mate has been built from a comprehensive cost model based on many years of research and recompiled into a user-friendly application.

It will take some time for growers and harvesters to become accustomed to the application and put it to work for their operations.

This article is written from the perspective of a new user exploring the application for the first time.

Harvest Mate is a free online platform and smartphone app that supports operational decisions during harvesting.

The main purpose of Harvest Mate is to optimise harvester settings (such as fan speed and ground speed) in order to maximise return considering revenue and costs associated with recommended settings.

As with all new programs and applications there is a learning curve to get started and to extract the most value from it.

To add to the learning curve, Harvest Mate also has two user roles that provide differing levels of functionality when using the application.

There is the Contractor Role as well as a Grower Role.

The Contractor Role allows the creation of the machinery and equipment profile of the harvester as well as the group and operational setup.

After initially setting up the farm and cane blocks for harvesting, the Grower Role is mostly for viewing the net benefit or cost resulting from a change in harvesting parameters, such as changes to ground speed and fan speed.

This allows a mutual decision/negotiation to make any practice changes and apply any fee rate adjustments to accommodate the cost differences (settings which provide a net benefit are indicated by the app).

This is not the only way that this tool could be used, and as a contractor, one could gain helpful insight into harvesting costs of the operation.

There could also be merit for growers to create an account using the Contractor Role on the platform even if they are not harvesters.

This allows growers to input theoretical costs, and use parameters for growers' own fields/blocks (row spacing, row lengths, etc.) in order to model estimated harvesting costs for their situation or scenarios.

This then enables a grower to see firsthand what parameters influence the rate per ton of harvesting and subsequently the attractiveness (or not) of their property to contractors.

It may be particularly helpful as a budgeting tool (e.g., for estimating the cost per ton) for growers doing their own harvesting, and/or contract harvesting for others.

It can also help with assessing the cost impact of various changes to a system, for example, if there is a siding closure which adds distance and cycle time for the haul-out units, Harvest Mate makes it is easy to calculate these differences. ►



WHAT I HAVE LEARNED WHILE GETTING STARTED WITH HARVEST MATE?

- It is useful to have a Contractor Role to access functionality for creating a harvesting budget. This will need to be a different account if you are already, or will be, a grower user within a harvesting group. The Contractor Role also includes the ability to add a farm and harvest blocks which allows for the scenario of a user being both a contractor and a grower. This is probably the easiest way to test out scenarios on your own.
- Logging in from a computer through a browser (as contractor) lets you set up machinery assumptions. The mobile app is mostly for tweaking the current field situation on the fly and predicting the harvesting outcomes.
- There is some complexity in linking a block to a harvester (specific machine), but once you know where to look it becomes easier.
- It may be useful to make a note of the process (as you figure out the steps) to make it easier the next time you use the platform. It does take a bit of getting used to, and easy to forget if not using it regularly.
- In using the platform to test changes, I found an easy way to do that was to set up two identical blocks and then make changes to one of them, then run the comparison scenarios on each of them to see how the cost rate per ton changes. I was surprised by the cost rate sensitivity to some of the changes (e.g., extra turning time for the harvester) so it certainly can be worthwhile testing changes to see how they influence the cost.

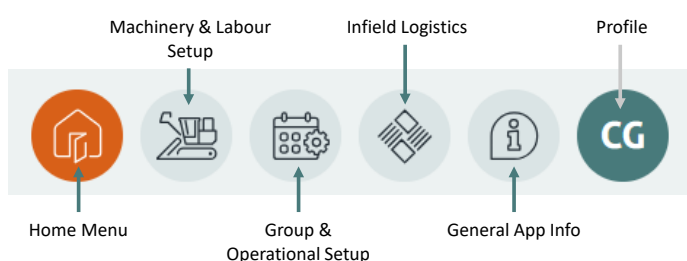
As with many new applications, there is a learning curve to use it effectively and efficiently.

In future there may be further refinements to usability as new versions are released.

Regardless, it is well worth the effort and the tool provides interesting and useful insight for any harvesting operation (real or theoretical).

Below is a quick comparison between the user roles within the app. ■

Contractor Role menu options



Machinery & Labour

Set up the harvesting machine(s) info, and details for the specified season. This includes numbers and costs of haulout units and also the driver wage details.



Group & Operational

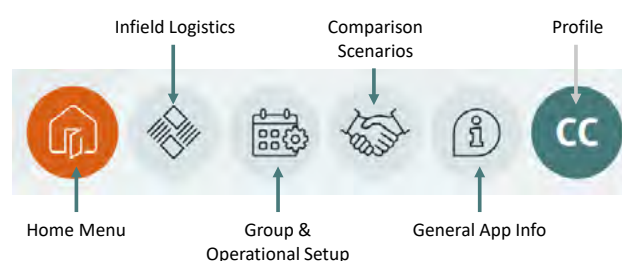
Set up the total tonnage and area to be harvested by the group. Also add blocks to the group (contractors own blocks), and add other growers blocks to be harvested (growers must be invited), select the grower and allocate a machine to the blocks to be harvested.



Infield Logistics

Set up the details of contractor's own farm, define the block parameters (e.g. area, turn-around time, haulouts used) as well as the details of the crop to be harvested from that block. These are then allocated to be harvested under Group & Operational Setup.

Grower Role menu options



Infield Logistics

Set up the details of the farm, define the block parameters (e.g. area, harvester turn-around time, haulouts used) as well as the details of the crop to be harvested from that block (season specific details). These are then allocated to the contract harvester (*once invited/linked*) under Group & Operational Setup.



Group & Operational

Once linked to harvester, this item is simply to allocate blocks to be harvested by that contractor.



Comparison Scenarios

This provides the analysis of harvesting costs, and provides alternative scenarios with varying harvesting settings and indicates changes in productivity, costs and revenue.



Home Menu

Provides access to the same options as the icons above, however, for Contractor Role, this provides access to Comparison Scenarios which is absent from the icons.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - GROWERS IN A GOOD PLACE

Sustainability & Environment

MICK QUIRK

A LOT OF WORK ALREADY DONE

With climate change concerns looming large and the demand for verified sustainable farming practices growing by the day, CANEGROWERS commissioned a study to better understand greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in sugarcane.

The study led by Dr Marguerite Renouf, Senior Research Fellow at QUT at the time of the study, examined three regions: the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, and Mackay.

The objective? To develop regional response curves that connect farm GHG emissions to variations in key inputs such as nitrogen, fuel, pesticides, irrigation, tillage, and row spacing.

Australian agriculture contributes to the nation's greenhouse gas emissions, and previous Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) of the sugar industry offered a broader view of the causes of those emissions.

However, this study zeroes in on



Growers have already made substantial contributions to reducing emissions, but there seems limited scope for further significant reductions without sacrificing crop production.

understanding how specific changes in farming practices affect emissions. This allows us to:

- **Identify the Most Effective GHG Mitigation Practices**
The study pinpoints which changes in inputs and practices are the most effective in reducing GHG emissions. This knowledge is invaluable for farmers looking to make more sustainable choices.
- **Calculate Historical Emissions Reductions**
By analysing historical data, the study shows the reductions in emissions that have already been achieved. For example, data from the Wet Tropics shows significant declines in emissions since the early 2000s, most likely due to the substantial N-rate reductions over that time.

The study has unveiled some important findings:

- **Herbicides Have Minimal Impact:** Changes in herbicide use make very little difference in emissions. Changes in amounts of herbicide applied results in negligible emission changes, even when considering the fuel consumption during application and the embedded emissions from herbicide production.
- **Tillage and Row Spacing:** Changes in tillage and row spacing had less impact on emissions than anticipated, given that fuel use is a key source of carbon dioxide. The influence of row spacing on harvester fuel usage was a more significant factor than reduction in tillage operations.
- **Nitrogen Matters Most:** The study underscores that changing the amount of nitrogen applied has the most substantial influence on farm emissions, due to changing the in-field emissions of nitrous oxide. However, emissions per tonne of cane begin to rise if nitrogen usage falls significantly below rates derived from the Six Easy Steps program, primarily due to yield losses. Striking a sensible balance between low emissions intensities and production is essential for the viability of the industry .



- **Irrigation's Role:** After nitrogen, irrigation emerges as the second-most influential input affecting emissions. Changes in emissions are linked to alterations in electricity usage for pumping. The Burdekin region stands out as a significant user, emphasizing the potential for reduced emissions from improvements in irrigation efficiency and scheduling.

The study also delves into historical emissions reductions in the Wet Tropics, where emissions data extends back to 2000.

These historical reductions highlight the industry's contributions to reducing Queensland's emissions, showing that practice change has already made a significant impact, even if the rate of emissions reduction seems to be tapering off.

The study's findings offer a promising path forward. Growers have already made substantial contributions to reducing emissions, but there seems limited scope for further significant reductions without sacrificing crop production.

Fully irrigated systems probably have the most room for additional emission reductions.

As the world moves toward cleaner energy sources, biofuels made from sugar will play a crucial role, especially in industries like aviation.

It's worth noting that sugar mills already power 27% of the renewable energy grid, and initiatives like Canegrowers' Sugar Plus are actively working to help increase renewable energy production.

This study provides cane farmers with a roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It not only highlights the most effective on-



farm mitigation strategies but also showcases the substantial progress growers have already made in reducing emissions.

By exploring renewable energy sources like sugar-based biofuels, the cane industry can lead the charge toward a greener and more sustainable future for Australian agriculture. ■

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NATIVE TITLE WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

*CANEGROWERS
Legal Advisor*

CHRIS COOPER

Although I have previously published articles about native title, there have been two recent new claims where I am providing free representation to several potentially affected members and so I thought it timely to provide this update on native title matters.

Native Title became part of Australian law following the 1992 High Court Mabo decision. The Court decided that indigenous people hold certain interests in the land and waters and that these interests continued to exist despite European settlement.

The Commonwealth subsequently passed the Native Title Act which regulated native title law. The Act provides a process for indigenous people to make an application to the Federal Court for a determination that native title exists over certain land and waters.

The Act also makes it clear that certain types of land tenure are not subject to claim. These tenures include freehold land and public works such as roads.

RELEVANCE TO CANE FARMS

Most sugarcane farms are held as freehold and accordingly are not subject to claim. However, some growers may hold a permit or licence or lease over small Crown land lots. Such lots, being over Crown land and not freehold land, can be affected by a native title claim depending on the nature of the current and historical tenure of the lots in question.

CANEGROWERS SUPPORT

CANEGROWERS, as a service to members, currently provides free legal representation to grower members who have interests in Crown lots that are subject to native title claim.

I have represented growers who have held licences and permits over lots of Crown land that due to historical tenure issues, have been accepted during the claim process as being excluded from native title claim because



the native title rights that had existed have been extinguished.

I have also represented growers who hold Crown lots under permit or licence whereby the native title rights and interests are found to still exist but are non-exclusive.

In these cases it has been resolved that the grower rights to continue to use the lot for the purposes of the permit or licence continue.

I also represent growers who hold Crown lots under permit or licence whereby the native title rights and interests are likely to continue to exist and to be exclusive in nature.

This means that if the Court accepts these rights are exclusive then the grower's permit and licence to

use the Crown lot will be cancelled.

If growers do hold permits or licences over Crown land then there is potential for those to be affected by a claim, depending on the historical nature of the tenure and the type of licence or permit held.

If growers have any concerns about native title issues they should contact CANEGROWERS for advice and assistance.

On the opposite page is a more detailed consideration of native title.

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

WHAT IS NATIVE TITLE

Australian native title laws recognise some indigenous peoples' rights to some land and waters.

The nature of the rights recognised depends on the particular native title holders' traditional laws and customs and the native title laws of Australia.

Native title is not like freehold and cannot be bought and sold by the native title holders. Native title cannot exist over minerals, gas or petroleum. Native title may include rights and interests to:

- live on an area;
- access an area for traditional purposes;
- visit and protect important places;
- hunt, gather and fish an area;
- teach law, custom, and engage in cultural activities.

Native title remains in two forms; exclusive possession and non-exclusive possession.

Where exclusive native title is recognised, it will generally include the right to possess and occupy the relevant area to the exclusion of all others.

Such exclusive possession areas can only be granted over limited parts of Australia, mostly unallocated and vacant Crown land.

Where non-exclusive native title is recognised, the native title rights and interests co-exist with the non-indigenous property rights.

For the most part, even non-exclusive native title can only be recognised over certain crown lands and waters.

NATIVE TITLE CLAIM PROCESS

To be granted native title rights, indigenous people must make an application to the Federal Court. It is only the Federal Court that can make an order granting native title.

The applicants must prove that they are the appropriate claim group and that they have a sufficient continuous and unbroken connection to the country since Australia was colonised by Great Britain in 1788. The claim process involves:-

- An application to the Federal Court.
 - The application is then referred to the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) which will assess the application against the registration test to ensure the application meets certain basic criteria.
 - The claim if registered, is then advertised and any person with an interest in the claim that may be affected by the claim can apply to become a party. Usually the NNTT will write to any potentially affected landholders advising that a claim has been made and providing advice about the process to become a respondent party. If a cane grower receives such a letter they can contact their local CANEGROWERS office if they want support, advice and assistance.
 - The Federal Court then manages the claim and regularly conducts direction hearings, case management conferences and mediations to facilitate the determination of the claim.
 - The native title applicants will prepare their evidence and material to seek to prove they are the appropriate native title holders and claim group and that there is sufficient connection to the country claimed.
- Related expert and comprehensive genealogical and anthropological evidence is gathered.
- The respondent parties, including the State government can review this material. The State undertakes its own expert research to determine whether it is prepared to accept the claim group and accept that there is sufficient connection to country.
 - If this connection to country and claim group identification does not satisfy the State and any other interested parties, then the claim is unlikely to proceed and the applicant claim group will need to decide whether to provide more information or seek a determination by the court or abandon the claim.
 - If the State is satisfied about those matters then it will undertake a detailed tenure analysis of all potentially affected lots within the claim area. In some cases, there are thousands of lots that must be considered. The State, in consideration with other parties, will consider the tenure history of any potentially affected lots and will form a preliminary assessment of whether native title has been extinguished or whether it continues in either a non-exclusive or exclusive form.
 - If all parties agree they can apply to the Court to make a determination of native title by consent.
 - If all parties don't agree, then the claim can go to trial with a hearing in the Federal Court. A Federal Court Judge will make a decision about the claim and whether native title has been extinguished or exists and if so over what areas and whether the particular rights and interests that are claimed are exclusive or non-exclusive. ■



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2020 Case Maxxum 135 CVX premium, 50kph Fully factory optioned, front 3PT linkage, 4 electric remotes, new One Lift 60 Challenge loader with 4 in 1 bucket and forks, New Trimble GFX1260 GPS 3120hrs 160k + GST Ph: 0427 678 572

4.5 thousand litre fuel tank with stand, completed with hose, nozzles and is bottom filling. Ph: 0418 185 663 for price

Krone 1500 Vario pack baler \$16,500. Krone mower 2.8m easy cut flail \$36,000 as new. Swadro 38 rake \$12,000 as new. Southern Cross SX-200 travelling irrig. New 230m hose \$8,800. Ph: 0447461132

AR 50" rotary hoe, fully reconditioned. HR 42 120" rotary hoe, fully reconditioned. Ph: 0407 643 441 for price.

Rainfall Report

Brought to you by  Australian Retirement Trust

LOCATION	RECORDED RAINFALL (mm)			
	Month prior (Sept 2023)	Month to date (1 Oct - 22 Oct)	Year to date 2023	Year to date 2022
Whyanbeel Valley (Mossman)	72.4	31.2	2840.8	2583.8
Mareeba Airport	2.8	0	434	761.2
Cairns Aero	36.4	21	1728.2	1600.6
Mt Sophia	140	104	3168	3367
Babinda Post Office	0	0	0	3714.7
Innisfail	205.2	38.2	3173	2962
Tully Sugar Mill	162	51.9	3303.1	3181.8
Cardwell Marine Pde	18.6	36	1370	1434.2
Lucinda Township	18.2	21	1570.4	1739
Ingham Composite	11.8	32.4	1532.3	1565.4
Abergowrie Alert	12	7	831	309
Townsville Aero	1	8.2	1018	1040.6
Ayr DPI Research Stn	0.8	7.6	1075.6	835
Proserpine Airport	17.4	20.8	1466.6	1090
Mirani Mary Street	13.8	0	0	820.7
Mackay MO	8.2	11.6	1314.8	820.2
Plane Creek Sugar Mill	13	0	0	965.8
Bundaberg Aero	2.6	0.2	413.6	957
Childers South	8.8	4.5	412.3	1068.8
Maryborough	20.6	9.6	476.4	829.8
Tewantin RSL Park	56.8	31.8	695.4	2240.2
Eumundi - Crescent Rd	41.4	13.4	312.4	2324.4
Nambour DPI - Hillside	41.8	10.6	563.3	2048.7
Logan City Water Treatment Plant	31.7	5.5	423	1382
Murwillumbah Bray Park	14.7	9.5	678.2	497.9
Ballina Airport	34.4	50.8	50.8	2502.4
New Italy	12.6	5	5	2272.2

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

SPEARMAN DIESEL FITTING P/L

IN STOCK

3M WIDTH
INCLUDES
ROLLER



Celli Tiger 190 Rotary Hoe

8 Maxwell Crescent
Tolga Industrial Estate

0418 350 651
0419 725 781

spear@spearmandiesel.com.au

Hodge side dresser fertiliser box - with 4 front fertiliser Coulters, 2 centre rippers and Coulters with crumble rollers and centre drawbar. Also can be used as a soil buster. In the Mackay area. \$11,000 + GST. Ph: 0408 874 974 or 0418 874 974.

Bonel plant cutter for sale GC \$450. Ph: 0428 782 202

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

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

Elevator chains for 102. Ph: 4954 1174

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

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

3 Point linkage cane topper. Ph: 0417 542 783 for price

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

4,000 litres of 50/50 diesel/petrol mix suitable for Firebug burners or parts washing. Ph: 0411 196 860

Southern cross LAH 7 stage turbine pump. Ph: 0407 595 218

4040 John Deere for sale. Ph: 4954 1174

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

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

6 and 8 inch cast iron flanged gate valves. New never used. Ph: 0411 196 860

1973 Ford 5000 2wd with 4ton Newton side tipper \$11000 +GST. 3m Niemeyer nr1411 Power Harrows \$5,600 + GST. Ph: 0437 184 822

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

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

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

Don Mizzi 741 model on Fiat 750 special turbo plus MF102 half-tracks to suit. Mackay. Ph: 0438 606 578.

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

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

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

BUNDABERG-ROCKY POINT

Howard HR100 inch rotary, Napier 24 plate offset discs, Yeoman 11 tyne chisel plough and other excess equipment. Ph: 0417 617 084

No Till vacuum planter fitted with disc openers and John Deere planter boxes, will plant 3rows at 2 x 400mm at 1.6 m centers, has water tanks for inoculant, row widths can be adjusted. Soybean plates included. \$16,500 incl GST. Ph: Alan 0409 632 656

JCB 3220 Fastrac and JCB 3185 Fastrac high speed tractors. Ph: 0413 584 728

2011 John Deere 3520 wheel cane harvester, very tidy machine. Ph: 0413 584 728

Gessner 2 row bed former. Excellent condition, always shedded, no further use \$17,000 ONO. Ph: 0422 118 466

MF165 H/C 212 engine 8 speed original 4225 HRS remotes ROPs canopy \$12,500 inc GST. 2x Two row 3PL Faun potato planters set up to lay trickle tape while planting \$3,000 + GST each. 30 RJ Hydrant sealing caps, good condition \$80.00 each. Two row potato harvester - Grimme D.L 1500 - sorting table - canopy \$40,000 + GST. Ph: 0427 597 363 or 0408 062 830

New Holland T6070 Tractor, \$185k neg Challenge FEL, quad remotes, excellent condition, 450 Hrs, call Justin 0415 626 715

Brand new Howard AH4000/255 2.5m heavy duty rotary hoe w/wheels \$44k inc GST. Hodge stool splitter 3 row 1.5t S/S bin disc openers, press wheels, row spacings 1.5-1.8m, only done 25ha, oiled & shedded \$42k inc GST. Rocky Point - Ph: Greg 0421 277 126

2 x single axle Hi lift tipper bins, one 8 tonne and another one 7 tonne \$12,000 plus GST. Ph: 0413 584 728

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. 4 wheel trash rake \$1,650 incl. GST. Ph: 0408 761 463

WANTED TO BUY

New Holland 8970 tractor suitable for wrecking. Ph: 0419 710 280 or email tctownley@bigpond.com

2 x Front weights for John Deere 3140. Ph: 0407 630 499

Trailco TP 125 Hard Hose Irrigator or larger. 0419 710 280 or tctownley@bigpond.com

All panels for Fiat 780. Ph: 0438 421 217 Mackay / Sarina area.

1x Ford 6600 or Ford 7600 two-wheel drive tractor. Ph: 0439 591 455

Trailer with side tippers suitable for billet planter. Ph: 0448 482 213 before 7pm

6 FT 3 Point linkage grader blade in reasonable condition Ph: 0478228375 Bundaberg area

Looking for a late model billet planter to up grade my old one. Not trailer type. Mackay region. Ph: 0408 190 493

Trailer with side tippers suitable for billet planter (Mossman - Tully). Ph: 0448 482 213 before 7pm.

11-12ft roller, Herbert River area. Ph: 4776 1386

Chasing some unwanted plow discs to use on a fire pit project. Ph: Simon - 0448 744 013

Crumble roller to suit Howard HR40 90" rotary hoe or two 50cm steel depth wheels. Ph: Alan 0467 786 464

10-14 tonne elevating tipper coupled to a 4WD tractor. Ph: 0437 503 818

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

Permanent purchase Lower Mary River Water Allocations on Mary River, Tinana Creek and Channel Pipeline sections of the scheme. Ph: 0427 930 696.

Water tank trailer, about 5,000 litres. Ph: 0417 784 642

6 Cylinder Turbo Cat Motor. Ph: 0417 193 385

Tractor with FEL 100-140 HP up to \$50k. NQLD area. Call Peter 0427 760 449

Cane stripper in good condition. Ph: 0407 675 361

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

2 X 2ND hand tractor tyres. 14.9-23 to suit Massey 35. Ph: Michael on 0419 952 119

PROPERTY - FOR SALE

Cane Farm Halifax total area 217 ha, CPA 126.4 ha. 2 minutes from Taylors Beach & 20 mins from Ingham CBD. Includes large machinery shed which has 3 phase power & water plus 2 smaller sheds. Price \$1.62 million. For inspections contact Felix Reitano Real Estate on (07) 4776 5007 or email felix@reitano.com.au

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

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

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

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

PROPERTY WANTED

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

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

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

\$35

(+ GST & delivery)

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