

The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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Chair's Update

I hope everyone had a happy and joyous Christmas. I don't think we could have received a better Christmas present if we tried with the welcome rain and storms. The rainfall has been quite variable across the district with some people only just getting enough rain to hold off irrigation, and others having to drain water off. I don't remember the heat and humidity to be so consistent with no reprieve even with the change in wind direction. The crop is now looking magnificent considering the extreme dry we had during the crushing.

With the dramatic drop in the sugar

price from early December there have been some corrections in the advance payments with growers who are 100% in the harvest pool most exposed to reduced pays. QSL notes that the price has improved and expect the future advances should hold their value.

We are currently in negotiations with Bundaberg Sugar to ensure our next crop is harvested in a timely manner and we remain focused on achieving an outcome that is fair for all growers. Sugar prices continue to look strong for the next couple of seasons and with access to QSL Direct you have the ability to take advantage of many different pricing options. If you have not yet received training from Glenn Harris, I encourage you to be in contact to make an appointment.

Paradise Dam ... what a fiasco. We have had meetings with Sunwater, Federal and State politicians which have seen them state they're fully committed to rebuilding a new dam wall 70m downstream of the existing wall to ensure a safe, secure water supply for the Bundaberg region. This comes after unexpected new issues were identified with the long-term strength and quality of Paradise Dam's concrete used in its construction. As usual there will have to be studies and approvals to be gained before any actual work can begin. We have already lost two (2) years since the lowering of the wall and will now have to wait some more before the new dam is built.

On the back of strong sugar prices and dry weather there has been a relatively small planting of soybeans grown through to harvest. Many of these crops, especially the earlier planted crops are flowering and looking good. One thing about soybeans is that different varieties



Authorised by D Holliss, 32 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg QLD 4670

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Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter

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Chair's Update continued ...

(Continued from page 1)

have different planting windows and if a grower is keen to plant soybeans now with a change in the rainfall pattern there are some options. Hayman[®], which is a preferred edible variety, can be planted into early February while Kuranda[®] which has limited edible markets, can be planted until the end of February. The later the planting for each of the varieties, the lower the yield potential.

There have been some delays with Oreco payments and interest due on the November and December instalments will be paid upon receipt from Oreco. Payment for the supply of trash for the period 1/9/2023 to 24/12/2023 is due by way of six equal instalments commencing 15/1/2024. Due to reporting queries and final reconciliation being delayed, Oreco were only invoiced on 24/1/2024. We hope to receive the first instalment sooner rather than later. A new contract will be negotiated for the 2024 Season onwards and growers wishing to supply cane trash will need to sign new documentation in due course.

Tickets are now on sale for the Bundaberg Sugar Industry Dinner and

2023 Season Awards being held on Friday 8 March. This is a great night to celebrate the achievements of the past season and I encourage you all to attend. Please call the office to book your tickets.

Harvesting Group Arrangements

The Collective Contract stipulates the following arrangements for grouping:

8 Grouping

8.1 Formation.- The Mill Owner shall provide an indication of the likely modes of crush for the coming Season in writing to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd by the 14 April. Applications by a Grower to join a harvesting group must be received by the Mill Owner by the 21 April of each year and the Mill Owner must advise the grower by the 5 May of that year of the Grower's new Delivery Point to ensure the efficient and economic operation of the Mill transport system.

Growers who have been advised of a new Delivery Point shall notify the Mill Owner by the 15 May if they will accept the new Delivery Point. In the absence of any Application to the Mill Owner from

a Grower prior to 21 April, and any notification of acceptance of a Delivery Point by a Grower to the Mill Owner prior to 15 May for those growers advised of a new Delivery Point, the Grower's membership of their harvesting group shall be deemed to be the same as the previous season.

In order to avoid some of the issues that arose last year, I suggest you sort out your harvesting needs sooner than the 21 April 2024 deadline.

Mark Pressler
Chairman

Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. Reviewing arrangements for 2024 Season harvesting, transport and analysis;
2. Undertaking soil tests, analysis and assisting with N & P Budgets;
3. Reviewing campaign for Local Government Elections;
4. Preparations for 2023 Season Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards on Friday, 8 March;
5. Preparations for 2024 Soybean Season.

2023 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 26 January 2024

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		Target Price Advance Rates
Payment Date	Increase	To	
Initial		\$495.00	\$495.00
Initial QSL Updated	-\$17.00	\$478.00	\$478.00
20-Oct-23	\$83.00	\$561.00	70% or \$561.00
17-Nov-23	\$97.00	\$658.00	72.5%
15-Dec-23	-\$12.00	\$646.00	77.5%
19-Jan-24	-\$7.00	\$639.00	80.0%
17-Feb-24	\$45.00	\$684.00	82.5%
22-Mar-24	\$41.00	\$725.00	87.5%
19-Apr-24	\$21.00	\$746.00	90.0%
17-May-24	\$21.00	\$767.00	92.5%
21-Jun-24	\$20.00	\$787.00	95.0%
Final	\$42.00	\$829.00	100.0%

Notes:

1. The program above represents indicative advances payable by QSL to Bundaberg Sugar based on estimated pool returns, the marketing plan and forecast cash flows at the time. These indicative amounts will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated for changes in forecasts. **Advances highlighted in bold in the table above have been approved by the QSL Board.**
2. This program is indicative only and should not be taken as a commitment by Queensland Sugar (or Bundaberg Sugar) with regard to the estimated pool return, advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in a number of factors including the marketing plan, sugar price and currency movements and timing of cash flows.
3. The advance rates are GST exclusive.
4. The net adjustment, for the estimated US Quota and QSL premiums & costs, to be added / (subtracted) to / (from) ICE No.11 and Foreign Exchange pricing results for the Committed Pools (e.g. Target Price Contract) is **\$40.89**.

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared for general information only. It does not have regard to the specific circumstances of any individual or group who may read it. It is not intended as an offer to buy or sell commodities, futures or options, nor is the accuracy of the report content guaranteed. However, as market circumstances can change quickly, Queensland Sugar Limited and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd disclaim any responsibility or liability for decisions or actions of any individual relying in whole or in part on information contained herein. Individuals contemplating decisions relating to any material discussed in this publication should take appropriate financial advice.

Energy Efficiency Grants Round 2

The second round of funding for the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Enterprises has been announced and will be open for applications **Thursday 28 February at 12:00pm**.

Round 2 will support businesses to upgrade or replace inefficient equipment to improve their energy efficiency.

Eligible activities include:

- purchase of new equipment to replace, or upgrade, existing equipment, where the new equipment is higher energy efficiency
- costs to decommission, remove and dispose of the old equipment that is replaced
- purchase of new equipment or components to help an existing system run more efficiently in regard to energy
- design, and reasonable installation costs of new eligible equipment, including any necessary wiring or

other electrical work required to enable the project

- commissioning or tuning of equipment installed or modified as part of the project, and any related equipment that is affected by the project
- building permits or approval costs to install equipment, where required
- the cost of suppliers, consultants and contracted labour undertaking eligible project activities.
- an energy audit of your site or part of your site
- purchase or hire of equipment to measure, monitor and record energy use or to monitor a process, where this facilitates optimisation or energy management

All applications are subject to assessment against the eligibility criteria and are not automatically approved.

- The minimum grant amount is \$10,000.

- The maximum grant amount is \$25,000.

The grant amount may be up to 100 per cent of eligible expenditure. You are responsible for any remaining eligible expenditure and ineligible project costs.

As this is a demand driven grant opportunity, grants will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first come, first served basis in order of application receipt, until the funding is exhausted in each jurisdiction.

This is a highly popular grant, and the funding for Round 1 was exhausted on the first day of opening, so it is essential that quotes are obtained now in readiness for applications to be submitted on 28 February.

If assistance is required to submit the grant application online, please contact the office to arrange an appointment. ■

Battery Booster program for Homeowners

The Battery Booster program, officially launched Tuesday 13 February, offers rebates of up to \$4000 to about 2,000 eligible households to install a solar battery system.

Households who purchase a battery system will be able to store power for when the sun isn't shining, further cutting power bills and emissions, and reducing load on the grid.

The \$10 million program will allow homes with a new or existing solar PV system of at least 5 kiloWatts a rebate of between \$3,000 and \$4,000 to purchase solar battery systems of 6 kilowatt hours

(kWh) or more.

Rebates are means-tested, and \$3000 cash back is available to eligible households with a combined annual household taxable income of \$180,000 or less.

Queenslanders with an annual income of less than \$66,667 may be eligible for the higher rebate of \$4000.

To qualify, homeowners must use an approved installer and an approved battery system.

If you are eligible, the rebates will offset

the upfront cost of purchasing and installing a home battery system to use with a new or existing solar PV system.

The program is now open and will remain so until funding is exhausted.

You must apply for conditional approval before applying for the rebate and the application must include a quote for an Approved Battery System from an Approved Installer or another retailer.

For more information please visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/home-modifications-energy-savings/battery-booster-program>. ■

Fire Disaster Assistance Available

For those growers who were impacted by the fires between 8 September and 7 November 2023, there is Extraordinary Disaster Assistance available to help with the clean up and recovery from those fires. The financial assistance is up to \$75,000 with the initial \$10,000 provided once the initial claim is verified and growers are able to

prove that they are eligible primary producers who are liable for the cost of the clean up and recovery.

This grant has similar guidelines to the Flood Disaster assistance guidelines that growers have used in the past. To be certain of providing the correct information in the initial application,

growers are encouraged to check the guidelines and the application form on the following webpage:

www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/extraordinary-disaster-assistance-recovery-grants-southern-queensland-fires. ■



SUGAR SERVICES NEWS

Autumn Plant Source Inspections

The autumn planting season is fast approaching and BSSL staff have commenced inspections of these plant sources.

Growers intending to plant should contact Bundaberg Sugar Services staff,

Michael Turner 0427 130 467 or **David Dowson 0429 334 553** to inspect and test these sources.

Once the One-eye sett propagation commences, BSSL staff may have limited time to inspect these plants

and the last thing that we want, is for growers to plant out smut or some other disease because their plants were not inspected. ■

New Staff Member

Bundaberg Sugar Services Ltd has employed David Dowson (pictured) as an assistant to Michael Turner.

David has some experience in the sugar industry working with his uncle on his cane farm. He will assist in One-eye sett propagation and distribution, data collection, conduct

surveys, grower requests etc.

If you see David out in the field, please say hello and introduce yourself.

David can be contacted on 0429 334 553 or by email at ddowson@sugarservices.com.au. ■



One-eye sett orders - Autumn 2024

Growers are reminded that if they are intending to order One-eye Setts for autumn, order forms are due now.

To request an Order Form or for more information, contact **Michael Turner** on **0427 130 467**. ■

Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budgets

Under the Reef Regulations every grower that plants cane needs to have a soil test in a representative soil type each year. The test results then become the basis for the nitrogen and phosphorus budget which is created/updated each year.

This means that before planting, a soil test should be arranged so that the nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be determined for the farm including the results of the soil tests from 2023 and 2024.

If growers did not complete a soil test or N & P budget for 2023, they are encouraged to contact their fertiliser reseller to see what services they offer.

Bundaberg Sugar Services also offer a soil testing service as well as providing a N & P budget. ■

SUGAR INDUSTRY DINNER 2023 SEASON AWARDS

Friday, 8 March 2024

The Sails Function Room at The Waves Sports Club

Commencing with Pre-Dinner Drinks at 6:00pm
followed at 7:00pm by a 2 Course Dinner & Entertainment

Subscriptions \$50 per person

(incl. 2 Complimentary Glasses of Beer, Wine or Soft-drink)

RSVP: Friday, 23 February 2024

*Tickets available from Reception at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS
& must be purchased prior to the Night*

TICKETS ON SALE NOW !!!

50 Years Protecting Bundaberg Cane

... by Cindy Benjamin

When Michael Turner took on a 6-month contract to join his Dad on a Fiji disease surveillance gang in 1974, he had no idea it would launch a career spanning five decades.

“At the time, Ken Corrie was the Millaquin/Qunaba Cane Pest and Disease Board supervisor, and I joined Jack Purkis’ gang working alongside my Dad and five or six others,” said Michael. “It was a serious job and we worked hard roguing out infected stools, but it was a great team to work with. There was never a day that someone in the gang wouldn’t play a practical joke on his fellow gang members. Plenty of snakes and the odd flying pine melon to look out for!”

After a few years of trying to eradicate Fiji disease from the district through inspections, roguing and compulsory ploughouts, the focus shifted to monitoring and counting diseased stools as resistant varieties were introduced to the district.

“In the late 1970s, a mother plot was set up at Toweran, north of Gin Gin, to supply disease-free planting material to secondary increase plots. The Millaquin/Qunaba increase plots were at Granite Creek, near Lowmead, and at Mahogany

Creek, near Bundaberg, and they supplied the new resistant varieties to growers as ‘kilogram cane’,” said Michael. “Varieties like Q87, CP44-101, Q108-Q111 were introduced to the area and by the early 1990s, Fiji disease was eradicated from the district.”

A revised kilogram system was introduced in the early 1990s to supply approved clean planting material after closing the secondary increase plots. The ‘kilogram cane’ system continued until the end of the 2021 season.

In 1992, when Ken Corrie retired, Michael was appointed to the Supervisor’s role for the Millaquin Cane Protection and Productivity Board (MCPPB). Twelve months later, the MCPPB created separate roles and employed a productivity officer to assist growers with crop nutrition and irrigation, and Michael continued to provide pest and disease monitoring and management of the approved seed cane program.

“Soldier fly, canegrubs, and pink earth pearls required ongoing monitoring, and in the early 2000s, orange rust was found in the district,” he said. “Orange rust took away variety Q124, which could have been a promising

commercial variety for growers in this area.”

Then, in 2006, sugarcane smut appeared in variety Q205[®], and Bundaberg growers lost many of their commercial varieties except for Q151 and Q155. Fortunately, resistant varieties such as Q208[®], Q177 and Q200[®] were available in north Queensland to fill the variety gap. Several truckloads of planting material were brought to the Bundaberg area to fill the gap until new resistant varieties were released.

The path to full deregulation of the sugar industry resulted in significant changes for the Pest Boards and the wider sugar industry. Sugar Services formed in 2002 to bring the Bingera, Fairymead and Millaquin pest boards together under one banner. The newly-formed Sugar Services partnered with BSES and was based at the BSES Research Station on Ashfield Road to provide extension services to growers. In 2005, Bundaberg Sugar Services became a company in its own right as part of the final stages of industry deregulation.

“Being stationed at BSES for the period 2002 to 2012 kept me informed of

(Continued on page 6)



Michael Turner's 6-month contract to join a Fiji disease surveillance gang in 1974 has resulted in a 50-year-long career serving Bundaberg sugarcane growers.

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results and outcomes of the BSES research projects, and the extension work was very interesting,” said Michael. “One trial that stands out was working with BSES extension officer Bernie Dominiak in the early 1990s to test various control methods for pink earth pearls. We didn’t find an effective control agent, but I was fascinated by the behaviour of these insects. We found they would come to the soil surface at about the same time each morning for an hour or so, then retreat again into the soil profile.”

“One day, Bernie and I went to the trial site at the usual time, and we couldn’t find any pearls – then we realised that we’d been caught out on the first day of Queensland’s daylight-saving trial!”

Once deregulation of the sugar industry was in place in 2005, growers could choose which sugar mill they supplied, and approximately 8000 ha was transferred from Bundaberg Sugar mills to Isis Mill. This resulted in the closure of Fairymead Sugar Mill. A further 4000 ha were transferred to Isis in 2008, and while some of this land still grows cane, much has been converted to other crops.

While many changes have occurred over the years, the most significant change has been to the sugarcane-harvested area

in this district. When Michael began work in 1974, approximately 30,000 ha of sugarcane was harvested in the Bundaberg growing area. The area peaked at around 39,000 ha in the early 1980s and has slowly declined to the current harvested area of 11,500 ha in 2023, primarily due to expansion of other crops like sweet potatoes and fruit and nut trees, and urban encroachment.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS) was first observed in the Burdekin and far north areas in 2012-13. It was not until 2016 that the first symptoms of Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS) was observed in the Bundaberg mill area in a block of Q240[®] plant cane. There did not appear to be a significant yield loss to affected blocks. When conditions are favourable, Yellow Canopy Syndrome can still be found in blocks across the district.

The introduction of one-eye sett seedlings in 2019 was the most recent change to providing disease-free planting material to growers. Bundaberg Sugar Services board approved the one-eye sett method in 2018, and then Michael established germination and nursery facilities and protocols to ensure growers can access new varieties to bulk up on the farm.

“In spring 2019, we supplied 6000 seedlings to growers in the Bundaberg area, and last year, we supplied 95,838

seedlings (2023) from a list of 22 varieties available to our growers,” says Michael.

The one-eye sett seedlings are generated by cutting cane stalks on either side of the nodes. These sections are dipped in fungicide, placed in crates and kept in a temperature-controlled container for a few days until they germinate. They are then potted into trays and moved to an outdoor nursery to grow out for five to eight weeks before they are supplied to growers for planting. Sugar Services also hires a small planter to growers as required to make it easier to plant larger areas.

“In the 50 years I’ve worked in the industry, I have built great relationships with local growers and staff from Bundaberg CANEGROWERS, BSES/SRA, Bundaberg Sugar, other Productivity boards and industry organisations, and many other people I’ve worked alongside,” said Michael.

“You get to know people and hear a lot of grievances as growers grapple with major changes and issues like low prices, high input costs, and, more recently, Reef regulations. I’ve learnt to listen and give growers time to express their worries, then when the air is clear, sometimes have a cup of tea, then go to the field and plan a strategy to remedy whatever was happening there.” ■



Michael has been instrumental in the successful establishment of the one-eye sett seedlings nursery and associated protocols.

Annual Queensland Land Valuations - 2024

... by Chris Cooper, CJ Cooper and Associates



Current revaluations

During March 2024 the Valuer General will issue new land valuations for 20 local government areas in Queensland including Bundaberg and Fraser Coast. If your property is in a local authority area that was not revalued, then your land valuation will remain unchanged.

What are land valuations used for?

Land valuations are used and relied upon by various government authorities for a variety of purposes including the levying of various taxes and charges against land holders. These taxes and charges are calculated at a specified rate in the dollar of land value. Examples include local council rates, state land tax and state land rental on state leasehold lands. An increase in your land valuation may, but does not automatically, lead to an increase in your relevant government rates and charges.

Will my council rates increase?

Just because your Valuer General land valuation increases does not automatically mean your local council rates will also increase. Councils have very wide powers to manage rating and changes in property values. Councils can apply caps, averaging of values over several years, differential rating and most obviously, changing the rate in the dollar of land value. From my experience, I have noticed many local councils use this as an excuse the increase in land values by the State Valuer General to justify increases in local rates. There however is no valid basis for this approach and councils certainly have many ways in which it can ensure that an increase in land values does not equate to an increase in rates.

How is the valuation calculated?

Lands that are zoned rural are valued on an unimproved basis by state government department valuers. The unimproved basis is intended to reflect the land in its original, natural and undisturbed condition. The unimproved value is the notional amount the land could be expected to sell for without

any physical improvements such as houses and sheds, land clearing, levelling and earth works.

Department valuers usually monitor the local area real estate market and analyse sales of properties within the area. From these sales, they will make calculations about the value of improvements forming part of the sale and deduct them from the gross sale price to come up with a notional unimproved value for the land component involved in that sale. Valuers will also consider physical attributes and constraints on use of the land. These items include matters such as the shape, nature and size of land, any adverse effects of natural disasters, limitations on land use, encumbrances such as easements including cane tramway and powerline easements, planning restrictions and environmental and vegetation issues.

The department does not physically inspect every property in the local authority area every year. Quite often the department will simply carry out desk top valuations using maps and aerial images. Also, in some cases the department will merely apply a factor to adjust the value of all farms by a set percentage. These short cut approaches can lead to anomalies and inconsistent valuations.

Objection process

A land holder can formally dispute a valuation by lodgment of a notice of objection. The notice must follow a set format and be lodged with the department within 60 days of the valuation issuing. In certain special circumstances the Valuer General may accept a late objection.

Review process

If a properly made objection has been lodged by a landholder, then the objection must be considered by senior valuer within the government department who was not involved in the original valuation. With the agreement of the objector and the valuer, a conference to discuss the

valuation may also be held. In some circumstances if there are a significant number of cane grower objectors, CANEGROWERS may also make submissions to the department. The department will reconsider the valuation and notify the objector of the decision.

Appeal process

If the objector does not agree with the decision on the objection, then an appeal can be lodged with the Land Court within 60 days.

Further advice and assistance

The Department of Resources website (www.resources.qld.gov.au) contains useful information about the valuation process undertaken by it. Your local CANEGROWERS district office can also assist with advice and information. ■

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

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

NO
NO to DEMPSEY
NO to high rates
NO to \$\$\$ millions wasted
NO to the BundabergNow council propaganda

Vote NO to Jack Dempsey
Bundaberg Regional Council Elections
March 16, 2024



Authorised by D Holliss, 32 Bourbong St, Bundaberg

Using the Fisheries layer on Queensland Globe

Following the recent experience of a member who modified a drainage line and has since been informed that the modifications could be deemed waterway barrier works that could impede the movement of fish, the member was advised that by not obtaining a development approval, they are in breach of the Fisheries Act. Bundaberg CANEGROWERS has now become familiar with finding the waterway barrier works information including a hard-to-find mapping layer. The mapping layer shows that man made drains, farm dams, depressions as well as gullies, creeks and rivers may be captured under the Act.

The mapping layer can be found on Queensland Globe by clicking on the layers tab and under the Environment tab, click on waterways and then click on Qld waterways for waterway barrier works. The easier way to find it is to type Barrier into the layers search function and it will pop up. Once highlighted, the map will show a wide

range of fish passage areas, some even over very small depressions that only carry water in large floods. There are five (5) levels starting at green (low concern) up to purple (major concern) and the tidal areas which are definite no-go areas in grey.

In the areas marked on the map as of concern, development can still occur although a permit should be applied for as part of a development application.

What is listed as barrier works for fish is wide ranging and can include dams, roadways, fences and levee banks. The full list, which is quite extensive is at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/habitats/policies-guidelines/factsheets/what-is-a-waterway-barrier-work>. It should be noted that existing structures are allowed to stay, it is new structures that create issues.

Just as important is what is not deemed waterway barrier works which is listed

on this webpage <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/habitats/policies-guidelines/factsheets/what-is-not-a-waterway-barrier-work>. The removal of weeds that does not affect the bottom or side of the channel and maintenance of existing crossing points are some of the works that are not deemed waterway barrier works.

The important thing to remember is that if growers are considering doing any work on an area that runs water, they should check to see if what they are considering is deemed waterway barrier works. Unfortunately, this is not the only check that is required as clearing vegetation within 50 meters of Category C or Category R waterways, the general definition of a waterway, as well as wetlands, can all be checked on Queensland Globe to see if they impact grower's properties and any intended earthworks. ■

QRIDA's First Start Loan

For families looking to bring their children into the family farm business there are several options regarding financing. However, before the financing process begins the first step is to have a discussion with all the family so that a succession plan can be put into place, and everyone understands what will happen and when.

One of the finance options for the new farming business is QRIDA's First Start Loan which offers up to \$2 million for aspiring young producers to carry out the family succession plan. It offers a loan at a reduced interest rate for eligible new primary producers.

In addition to carrying out the family succession plan, the First Start Loan can be used for other opportunities including entering lease or share-farming arrangements. Lease or share-farming is an alternative way for young producers to start their own farm business without the substantial debt and risk linked to owning land. Lease or share-farming minimises that immediate financial burden, allowing young producers to invest their money in other capital like equipment and livestock.

This alternative method of starting your own farm business can also benefit the landowner as it creates a diverse income stream for their business and maximises

the productivity of their land, rather than letting it go unused.

Producers interested in getting their foot on-farm are encouraged to explore QRIDA's First Start Loan and talk with QRIDA Regional Area Manager for the Wide Bay and Fraser Coast, Mark Barrett. Mark can meet with growers in person or chat over the phone about their circumstances and aid in getting a start in agriculture.

For more information on QRIDA's First Start Loan and how it can be utilised for succession planning, contact Mark on 0417 775 547 or visit QRIDA's website qrda.qd.gov.au. ■

Farm check-in

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility and we must all play a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks to protect Queensland's lifestyle, industries and environment from pests and diseases.

All people in Queensland have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014* to ensure they do not spread a pest, disease or a contaminant. This applies to corporations too.

This means everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are under their control; and to the best of their ability, recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or places they are visiting.


To assist with record keeping, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have available an online Farm Check-in form to record visitors to your agricultural property. Recording visitors is a key component of a biosecurity management plan and can help growers

and their visitors to meet their general biosecurity obligation.

Growers should also download and display the Farm check-in front gate signage on your property entrance to help visitors check-in to your property.

Further information can be found here <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/news-media/campaigns/on-farm-biosecurity/farm-check-in> ■





Blitz Ballroom Dance Studio

BUNDABERG

A fun & friendly way to get fit,
meet new people and gain confidence!

LEARN TO DANCE

**8 Week Beginner Program commencing
Monday 5th February**


Kids Class Mondays 3:30-4:20pm
Teens Class Mondays 4:30-5:20pm
Adults Class Mondays 7:00-8:00pm

Specialising in Modern, Latin American & New Vogue
Ballroom Styles. Come & learn dances like Cha Cha, Jive,
Samba, Waltz, Tango, Quickstep & many more!

Classes and lessons to suit all ages, from beginners to social & competition level.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! BOOK IN NOW

Phone Courtney on 0499 110 020
or send a message on facebook!

 Blitz Ballroom Dance Studio

CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified & employment advertisements of up to thirty (30) words only will be printed.

Advertisements will be accepted from non-members, charged at \$11 per seven (7) word line or part thereof.

Contact

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office on
telephone no. 4151 2555 or email
bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

Austoft/Case Wheel Harvester 1995 to
2006 model - Any area.
Ph: 0417 193 385.

FOR SALE

Massey Ferguson Anniversary 105
Harvester \$7,700 (incl GST); Trash
Incorporator \$7,700 incl GST; Bonel 3-Row
Cutaway \$6600 (incl GST); 3-Point Linkage
Offset 16 Plate \$2,300 (incl GST).
Ph: 0419 577 110



Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd

Representation on your Behalf

*The Chairman, Elected Members and Staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS represented cane growers on a number of occasions.
Executive members also attended many Branch meetings and other engagements in their own time.*

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
08/01/2024	District Managers Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
11/01/2024	Paradise Dam Briefing	To represent members	Mark Pressler, Tanya Howard, Dale Holliss
15/01/2024	SRA Grower Focus Group: SRA Independent Review	To represent members	Mark Pressler
16/01/2024	Horticulture Development in the Bundaberg Region	To represent members	Dale Holliss
17/01/2024	SRA Southern District Plan	To represent members	Mark Pressler, Tanya Howard
30 - 31/01/2024	District Managers Workshop	To receive updates	Tanya Howard
02/02/2024	SRA Webinar: Accelerating development of new sugarcane varieties with genomics	To receive update	Mark Pressler, Tanya Howard
06/02/2024	QCA Workshop: 2025-29 irrigation price review	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss, Tanya Howard, Matthew Leighton
13/02/2024	Biosecurity readiness training	To receive update	Tanya Howard

Fee-Free TAFE 2024

In 2024, the Australian and Queensland governments will provide around 14,500 fee-free places to Queenslanders, with a similar number of places planned for 2025 and 2026.

These places form part of the Australian Government's commitment to deliver a further 300,000 Fee-Free

TAFE places across Australia over 3 years from January 2024.

Qualifications and skill sets funded through Fee-Free TAFE are aligned to national and state skills priorities, in-demand areas, and emerging industries to enable Queenslanders to be job-ready and meet current and future skills needs and includes

qualifications in Agriculture, Rural Operations, Horticulture plus more.

For further information or to view the full list of Fee Free TAFE qualifications available, visit <https://desbt.qld.gov.au/training/training-careers/incentives/fee-free-tafe>.

February Soybean Update

The rainfall through December and January has been beneficial to the soybean crops that have been planted, though there were a few issues in some areas due to being too wet to plant in early January.

The A-6785 crops planted in December are now flowering which means if they are to be harvested for grain, they should no longer be sprayed with Verdict or other similar products. This is because the chemical can enter the developing grain. This beginning of the reproductive phase means a lowering of the threshold for spraying grubs of various species as well as the pod sucking bugs and an increase in the bug checking frequency. With the canopy beginning to close and the continuation of hot and humid conditions, the application of a fungicide may be of benefit. There are a number of registered fungicides and some under permit depending on the disease most likely to be present.

Hayman[®] soybeans are at variable stages of growth depending on when the crops were planted in between the rain. The more mature crops will be a similar maturity to the A-6785, however there are some younger crops around the district. Hayman[®] matures later than A-6785 and can be planted until about the middle of February, though experience from other regions says they can be

planted a little later, though there may be a significant yield penalty.

A variety that can be planted until the end of February in Bundaberg is Kuranda[®]. This is a higher yielding late variety that has fallen out of favour due to limited markets. After release, it was found that it wasn't the best variety for tofu or soy milk, however it can be used in the soy flour market. This means that the prices are generally discounted by \$50 per tonne for edible 1 quality, however if you have spare ground it is one of the best performing latter season



varieties for Bundaberg.

The Grain in Cane Co-operative has not signed any contracts currently due to a small crop from reduced plantings. Currently this is not an issue as it seems that plantings across the country are either delayed or smaller than expected due to wet weather. This means prices for Hayman and A-6785 that are edible 1 quality are in the price range of \$850 to \$900 per tonne. ■

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The Bundaberg District Canegrower

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