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Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation Limited

HIGHLIGHTS

Kalamia Sweet Notes	
QSL Update2	
Wilmar Sugar Update5	
KCGO Sweet Events7	
Sweet Grower Information 8	
Sweet Industry News9	

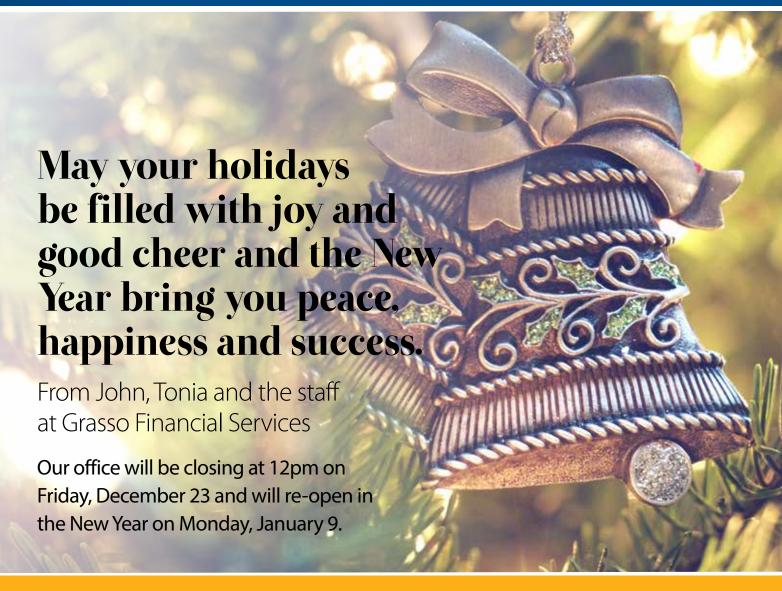
Kalamia Cane Grower's Christmas office times and Kalagro Fuel Christmas ordering information... Page 6





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Kalamia Sweet Notes

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The season progresses, harvest % accumulates, weather has remained favourable and mill performance has recovered, and whilst matters around resolving Cane Supply Agreements, Forward Pricing and GEI Marketer On-Supply Agreements continue to swirl around growers, matters of "social licence" of the sugar industry are continuing to pop up in the media. The exposure of sugar to this concept over the last few years has been focussed on environmental practices and the Reef, but the emerging issue is the one of what impact sugar has on the health of individuals and on the costs of poor health on the national medical budget. The current direction of debate seems flawed. There is no doubt a health and obesity debate is going on in all western society because falling health standards and expanding nationalised health care programs are putting every country's budget expenditure under pressure.

Diet is an issue, exercise is an issue. To what extent is sugar the culprit? It cannot be denied that some food and beverage manufacturers have been using the appealing flavour of sugar to enhance their product sales and in some products seem to use excessive amounts of sugar in a standard serving.

Does government have a responsibility to have policy settings that encourage good health and simultaneously reduce the draw on the public purse of health care? Is the approach applied to other products applicable? There are products that are seen to have detrimental health effects if consumption is excessive but for a long time now there have been standards to

So is it the producers'
responsibility or
the manufacturer's
responsibility or the
consumers' responsibility
to ensure that the individual
consumer's health
isn't compromised?

help consumers understand what that appropriate level of consumption is eg the concept of number of Standard Drinks applies to all alcoholic beverages whether they be low alcohol drinks or high alcohol spirits. Prohibition has never changed consumption so limitation of consumption is not regulated, but consumer behaviour is targeted with education and specific taxes

are used to influence price settings and impact on demand.

How should government respond, how much should it be left to market forces? We have seen the market respond to the strong messaging of too much fat not being good, by seeing a sales opportunity in differentiating product lines to cater to a range of consumer preference. Milk is a classic example of this with Full Cream Milk, Light Milk and No Fat Milk.

The current argument seems to be that a sugar tax should apply to products that contain more than a certain proportion of sugar. These seem predicated on an assumption that sugar consumption is a major contributor to the problem of consumer health and community health costs. Will a sugar tax change consumer behaviour in Australia and lead to a healthier community with lower medical costs? It is reported that a number of other countries have adopted this type of policy successfully, so possibly so. Will these policies impact the Australian sugar industry? It is probable they will have negligible impact on growers as nearly all our production is exported and as the middle class expands in Asia the global demand looks destined to continue to grow.

I hope that by the next edition of Sweet Notes that the harvest will be nearly complete, that prices will hold and that commercial negotiations on CSA and OSA are closer to conclusion.

Regards, David.



QSL Update



THE HARVEST POOL AND WHAT LIES AHEAD



By Bryce Wenham, OSL Finance Manager - Supplier Relations

QSL's 2016 Harvest Pool is currently in a strong position, with an indicative price of \$535 per tonne IPS gross as of 4 November 2016, reflecting an improved ICE 11 price on those experienced last season.

But many growers who track this result on our website will note that this indicative price reflects the pool at just 52 per cent priced, with plenty more pricing to be done before this pool can be finalised and reach price certainty.

So as we face an increasing crop and extended harvest in many areas due to wet weather interruptions, just what are the implications for the QSL Harvest Pool? To answer this question we first need to revisit how the QSL Harvest Pool works and what it aims to do.

THE QSL HARVEST POOL - THE BASICS

The QSL Harvest Pool is designed specifically to manage production risk and aims to achieve this in a number of ways.

All growers supplying raw sugar to QSL's

pools are required to earmark at least 35 CROP VARIATIONS AND THE per cent of their expected production tonnage to the QSL Harvest Pool. This initial attribution is used to help create a buffer tonnage – that is, a portion of the crop that is not priced or sold until it is received at the bulk sugar terminals.

This buffer is designed to absorb possible fluctuations in production that may occur during the course of a season and is essentially a stockpile of sugar kept on hand until late in the season to help our industry meet its sales and pricing commitments.

At an individual level, a grower's final production is used to fill their Committed Sugar allocations first (i.e. Individual forward pricing, QSL's Committed Pools), with any production variations applied to their QSL Harvest Pool allocation.

Each grower's allocation to the QSL Harvest Pool is considered to be Uncommitted Sugar and so, outside a Production Buffer failure, the final amount delivered to the QSL Harvest Pool can vary without cost implications for that grower - they are just paid for the final amount delivered.

The production buffer provided within the QSL Harvest Pool is designed to withstand a significant in-season crop decline. However if the export sugar supply from all Suppliers of QSL-marketed sugar declines by more than the Production Buffer (e.g. following an extreme weather event during the harvest), depending on the circumstances, there may be costs to correct the export sales program to support the pricing undertaken for the actual raw sugar delivered in all remaining pools.

QSL HARVEST POOL PRICE

The current QSL Harvest Pool indicative price is calculated on a mark-to-market basis, which is a combination of the pricing already achieved (a known figure) and an estimate of the value of the remaining unpriced sugar based on the current sugar price.

As a result, changes in the sugar price or the amount of sugar to be priced will ultimately affect the earnings secured for the pool.

Many growers are already aware that because the production buffer is priced after the crush concludes (against the March and May ICE 11 contracts), the QSL Harvest Pool is particularly exposed to the prices that are experienced at this time.

However, the amount of sugar to be priced can also impact the QSL Harvest Pool's final result.

If the expected QSL Harvest Pool tonnage were to fall significantly due to increased levels of standover cane or a late-season weather event, then even if the sugar price remained similar to current levels. we could see an adjustment in the QSL Harvest Pool's final price as opposed to the pool's current indicative price levels. This is because less sugar would be priced as opposed to the current mark-to-market estimate. This could be a negative or a positive for the pool price, depending on the sugar price at that time.

The table below shows the potential impact on the 2016 QSL Harvest Pool should the current harvest finish early and a variation in production is experienced.



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QSL Update



Crop scenarios when crush stops due to rain	Production finishes on 30/11/2016	Production finishes on 15/12/2016	No Stoppages
Current Harvest Pool price (\$A/mt IPS)	\$535	\$535	\$535
Sugar production change under scenario - QSL (mt)	- 252,710	- 101,348	+30,056
Current Production Buffer size (mt)	477,710	477,710	477,710
Estimated Harvest Pool price after crop change (\$A/mt IPS)	\$518	\$530	\$538
Harvest Pool price change (\$A/mt IPS)	-\$17	-\$6	+\$2

As you can see, production changes between now and the end of the season would impact the QSL Harvest Pool price, but to what extent will be largely driven by a combination of the tonnage change and the sugar price secured. It is also important to remember that, based on the current size of the Production Buffer, the Harvest Pool could absorb a decline up to 463,000mt

from current levels before the Production Buffer was exhausted.

This potential for price variation until a pool is finalised is why QSL recommends that all pool participants look beyond each QSL pool's indicative price to consider just how much of the pool has been priced. Generally, the higher the percentage priced, the lower the risk of significant changes in pool price.

FACTORING IN VARIABILITY

QSL provides a price matrix for each pool on its website to help flag the impacts to the pool price caused by variations in the combinations of ICE 11 price and the AUD/US exchange rate. Underneath each matrix you'll also find details of how much each pool has been priced. You can access each matrix by clicking on the pool prices featured on our homepage.

While these matrices should be read with caution and not interpreted as a forecast, they illustrate the potential impacts of variability on each pool.

In short, it should always be remembered that QSL's indicative pool prices are just that – indicative – until pricing is complete and the Shared Pool element is finalised and applied to each pool at the official end of every season on June 30 each year.

DISCLAIMER: This article contains information of a general or summary nature. While all care is taken in the preparation of this article, the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided is not guaranteed. The update on marketing and pricing activity does not constitute financial, investment or product advice or a risk management strategy. You should seek your own financial advice. This article should not be taken to include representations as to future matters, and nothing contained in this article should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. 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.



Advances and payments by pricing category



2015 SEASON: HERBERT, BURDEKIN & PLANE CREEK

10 November 2	016										
				US Quota	Wilmar Managed Pool	FSP 2 - 2 Season Forward Pool	FSP 3 - 3 Season Forward Pool	Actively Managed Pool	Guaranteed Floor Price Pool	Harvest Pool	Totals & Averages
POOL PRICES											
Previous Net Pool	Price Estimate	S	A/t IPS								
25 Mar 2016				\$683.12	\$461.45	\$467.72	\$482.58	\$466.35	\$430.06	\$450.12	
29 Apr 2016				\$690.61	\$440.38	\$469.34	\$485.51	\$477.02	\$434.61	\$456.50	
27 May 2016				\$678.06	\$472.58	\$478.59	\$494.70	\$523.84	\$455.59	\$501.29	
30 Jun 2016				\$668.04	\$470.14	\$477.97	\$497.80	\$556.89	\$466.45	\$525.41	
29 Jul 2016				\$669.99	\$470.40	\$475.44	\$493.92	\$541.85	\$456.79	\$508.86	
26 Aug 2016				\$664.97	\$471.00	\$476.47	\$498.09	\$558.88	\$464.76	\$527.68	
30 Sep 2016				\$662.94	\$475.33	\$477.92	\$502.37	\$579.97	\$470.25	\$551.07	
Current Gross Poo	l Estimate		A/t IPS	\$764.78	\$478.30	\$478.35	\$501.17	\$575.65	\$469.60	\$545.17	
Shared Pool Prem	iums		A/t IPS	-\$66.39	\$34.49	\$34.49	\$34.49	\$34.49	\$34.49	\$34.49	
Shared Pool Charg	ges		A/t IPS	-\$34.52	-\$34.63	-\$34.63	-\$34.63	-\$34.63	-\$34.63	-\$34.63	
Net Pool Price Est 28 October 2016 F			A/t IPS	\$663.87	\$478.16	\$478.21	\$501.03	\$575.51	\$469.46	\$545.03	
ADVANCE RATES	A\$/t IPS %	6 Advance	Status								
In-Season \$ Rates	3										
Initial	\$267.00		Paid	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	\$267.00	
18 Aug 2016	\$326.00		Paid	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	\$326.00	
20 Oct 2016	\$368.00		Paid	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00	\$368.00	
15 Dec 2016	\$394.00		Scheduled	\$394.00	\$394.00	\$394.00	\$394.00	\$394.00	\$423.22	\$394.00	
Post-Season Diffe	erential Rates										
26 Jan 2017		80.00%	Scheduled	\$531.09	\$382.53	\$382.57	\$400.82	\$460.41	\$422.51	\$436.02	
23 Feb 2017		82.50%	Scheduled	\$547.69	\$394.48	\$394.52	\$413.35	\$474.79	\$422.51	\$449.65	
23 Mar 2017		87.50%	Scheduled	\$580.88	\$418.39	\$418.43	\$438.40	\$503.57	\$422.51	\$476.90	
20 Apr 2017		90.00%	Scheduled	\$597.48	\$430.34	\$430.39	\$450.93	\$517.96	\$422.51	\$490.53	
18 May 2017		92.50%	Scheduled	\$614.08	\$442.30	\$442.34	\$463.45	\$532.35	\$434.25	\$504.15	
22 Jun 2017		95.00%	Scheduled	\$630.67	\$454.25	\$454.30	\$475.98	\$546.73	\$445.99	\$517.78	
Final		100.00%	Scheduled	\$663.87	\$478.16	\$478.21	\$501.03	\$575.51	\$469.46	\$545.03	
FORECAST RETUR	RN FOR A 'DEFA	ULT GROW	'ER' (i.e. A gro	wer with no	Forward P	ricing or QS	SL Fixed T	onnage Poo	ls)		
% Allocation to US	Quota and Har	vest Pools		2.65%						97.35%	100.00%
Initial Advances to	be Paid		A/t IPS	\$368.00						\$368.00	\$368.00
Final Forecast Adv	vances to be Pa	id	A/t IPS	\$663.87						\$545.03	\$548.17
% Paid Season-to-	Date			55.43%						67.52%	67.13%

Notes to Advances Program

Forward Pricing pools

In addition to the above pools, many growers have undertaken pricing via Wilmar's Forward Pricing program, namely under the Target Price and Call Pool pricing mechanisms. The final returns from these pools are subject to the same Shared Pool adjustment as for the ICE No.11 pools referred to above.

Shared Pool Element

The 'Shared Pool Premiums' and the 'Shared Pool Charges', as shown above, together comprise the 'Shared Pool Element' as defined in the Forward Pool and Pricing Agreement (FPPA).

General information

Advances are quoted EXCLUSIVE of GST. All advances are subject to QSL Board approvals, final returns for each price category, Wilmar's final sugar production for the season and tonnage allocations to various pricing methods. All growers who have used any form of Forward Pricing will have different advances depending on their price outcomes and tonnages fixed.

Wilmar Sugar Update



DEAR GROWER

I'm pleased to end the week with our factories running smoothly after what can only be described as a challenging few days.

Some of our mills have experienced mechanical issues over the past week, resulting in unscheduled stops and lost time. This is frustrating for all sectors of the industry, particularly after the large amount of time already lost to wet weather this vear.

Still, we continue to make steady progress with the crush. As at 8am, we had crushed a total of 13.3 million tonnes of cane across the four milling regions, representing almost 80 per cent of the total crop.

The Burdekin mills will pass the 7 million tonnes crushed milestone tonight, putting the district 80 per cent of the way through this year's

Unfortunately, this week's throughput is likely to be below budget around 335,000 tonnes - due to both scheduled and unscheduled stops.

Crushing rates at Inkerman Mill are slowly returning to normal after factory stoppages late last week resulted in a backlog of deteriorated product, severely slowing down the processing end of the mill.

Blackouts at Invicta Mill last weekend also caused some downtime. We have spent considerable time investigating the cause of these outages and implementing solutions.

Pioneer, Kalamia and Invicta's A side all had scheduled cleans this week. CCS levels dropped slightly to around 14.5 units this week and we are seeing a decline in cane purity.

The Herbert mills are on target to crush about 225,000 tonnes this week, which is well above budget.

The region's mills have now crushed total of 3.76 million tonnes of cane, leaving less than 1 million tonnes still in the field.

Sugar levels are holding at around 12.9 units but, like the Burdekin,

cane purity is starting to drop.

There are no scheduled stops for the Herbert this week.

Plane Creek Mill has now crushed a total of 1.063 million tonnes of cane, which represents about 76 per cent of the total crop.

There have been several unscheduled stoppages this week, with the most significant of these caused by a loco breakdown, bin handling issues and a failed mill coupling. Despite this, we expect to exceed the budgeted throughput with about 63,000 tonnes of cane.

Average CCS levels are currently tracking at around 13.49 units - up slightly on last week.

Proserpine Mill passed the 1.5 million tonnes milestone overnight, putting it at the 79 per cent mark.

The mill had an extended stop early this week when we carried out repairs to the expansion joints of No. 4 boiler on the back of a 24-hour maintenance stop.

The mill has been running at abovebudget rates since resuming operations Tuesday morning and is on track to meet this week's target of 87,000 tonnes of cane.

CCS levels in the Proserpine region exceeded 13 units last week for the first time this season and are currently averaging 13.5 for the week to date. Cane purity has been consistent at 84.5 per cent, which is promising.

I'm hopeful of making good progress with the crush over the next fortnight and being able to get the bulk of this year's crop off before Christmas.

Best regards, John Pratt Executive General Manager - North Queensland

INDUSTRY NEWS

LAST BINS ROLL OFF PRODUCTION LINE

The team at Plane Creek Mill's bin shop completed the last of 110 new cane bins for the Sarina region this week.

The crew fabricated the four-tonne bins over the past few months as part of a large-scale project incorporating Wilmar Sugar workshops across the Plane Creek, Burdekin and Herbert regions.

About \$5.5 million has been dedicated to the bin replacement program across the group this year, with a further \$3.5 million budgeted for next year.

Wilmar Sugar proudly sourced all of the materials for the new bins from local suppliers. Importantly, the project povides direct employment for local tradespeople and trade assistants.





COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENTS WE'RE SUPPORTING

Wilmar Sugar is a proud supporter of many community festivals and events in north and central Queensland.

This week, we are supporting the:

- » Ingham Family Race Day
- » Giru Men's Open Fours bowling event, and
- » Men's Health Whitsundays event at Bowen.

MEMBERS INFORMATION

NOTICE BOARD

Kalamia Cane Grower's Christmas Break -Office Closure

Kalamia Cane Grower's office will close at 4.30pm Friday, 23rd December 2016 and re-open at 8.30am Monday, 9th January 2016.

Kalagro Fuel Customers

A reminder to all Kalagro Fuel Customers -Fuel orders are required before the end of business on Friday, 23rd December 2016 to ensure your fuel needs are covered throughout the Kalamia office Christmas break.

PUMA DELIVERY DAYS OVER CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR

Delivery Dates Available while Kalamia Office is closed: Wednesday, 28th December 2016, Friday, 30th December 2016, Wednesday, 4th January 2016, Friday, 6th January 2016

Tentative End of Crush Dates

Member Notice: Constant date changes for the finish of crush for each mill prevents us from confirming each mill end of season dates.

Kalamia, Pioneer and Invicta mills have tentative finish dates in the week before Christmas, while Inkerman mill tentatively finishing after Christmas.

All Kalamia Members will be kept informed with up to date closure times when confirmed.

Website

Members are encouraged to register to use our new website at: www.kalagro.com.au - Kalamia Cane Growers information hub.

To register, click on the member's login button, then click on the register drop down tab. Fill in the necessary details required and approval to view Kalamia's Exclusive Member's Information will be updated and available within 24 hours.

Member Email Changes

Kalamia member's emailed information has changed where clicking on the link in your email will link you directly to the website without a login process for easy access to daily information:

- Daily Kalagro Fuel Prices,
 Loadings, Sugar Prices
 QSL Weekly Updates
- What a Sweet Life monthly magazines - Upcoming sugar industry events
- Kalamia Member information updates

Please Note: Registration is still required to browse the website without these direct links.

KCGO Sweet Events



THE YWAM MEDICAL SHIP

David Rutledge

When I visited Townsville not long after taking on the role at KCGO I saw this lovely old building on the corner of Walker and Stanley St. It was badged "ywam".

In ignorance I thought is this something to do with YWCA who are prominent in the part of the world I hail from.

Some weeks later I drove around to the commercial marina where the fishing fleet lives and saw this magnificent looking vessel that might otherwise have been a small luxury cruise liner. It too was emblazoned with "ywam" but also carried the logo of our fuel supply partner PUMA.

PUMA subsequently invited me to a breakfast and inspection of the vessel.

I did some research and found Ywam is short for "Youth with a mission". Ywam Australia is an offshoot of a charitable movement that started 50 years ago in the USA.

I was very surprised when I arrived on the day to find this was not a small gathering, but a breakfast for 400 people and included the Premier, various other dignitaries and the business community of the Townsville region.

I was fortunate to go on an inspection of the vessel that PUMA had arranged.

This vessel is principally a result of the Townsville region support. It has a full dental clinic and a full day surgery facility on board and supports numerous women's and maternal health nurses In outpatients centres as it visits remote areas of Papua New Guinea and islands in the region. In the first 10 months of 2016 it provided services to 35,000 patients. Many of the medical procedures carried out on board are to repair eye damage and restore sight. The



women's and maternal health outposts are vital to reduce the number of deaths of mothers and babies which is still many many times the rates which occur in even regional towns.

It is hard to comprehend the issues these people who live closer to us than Brisbane is have to cope with. Ywam has stories of people paddling canoes for 2 days to get to the vessel so a child can be treated.

PUMA donate all the fuel for the vessel. It is a very commendable demonstration of good corporate citizenship, and they are to be congratulated.

Ywam is a registered charity and would appreciate any donation you may care to make to assist in their work.



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Sweet Grower Information



BPS NEWS - WHAT GROWER'S GET FOR THEIR LEVY

BPS SERVICES TO MEMBERS

Burdekin Productivity Services Ltd provides many services to its members throughout the Burdekin Cane growing region. Sometimes, when members are very busy, it is easy to forget what services are available or perhaps members do not realise they can receive more value from their levy deduction.

Below is a chart that itemises some of the most important services provided by BPS to its members through the 7c/tonne levy or from external funding, and indicates whether there are any additional costs involved or subsidies available.

Service		No Additional Cost	Additional Cost	Subsidy Available
Pests and	Seed cane sales		Yes	
Diseases	Plant source inspections	Yes		
	Crop inspections	Yes	,	
	Itch grass rogueing	Yes		
	Pig shooting subsidy			Yes
	Weed and pest inspections and identification	Yes		
	Herbicide and insecticide recommendations	Yes		
	RSD testing	Yes		
	Nematode and Pachymetra testing		Yes	
	Cane grub management and planning	Yes		
	Machinery inspections	Yes		
	Machinery sterilisation	Yes		
	Hot water treatment of grower's cane		Yes	
roductivity	Agronomic advice	Yes		
	Variety advice and planning assistance	Yes		
	Planting advice	Yes		
	Equipment calibrations – fertiliser box and spray rigs	Yes		
	One-on-one advice	Yes		
Nutrition	Soil testing: Sample collection, analysis and recommendation		Yes	
	Soil test interpretation	Yes		
	Nutrient management plans	Yes		
	Leaf testing: sample collection and recommendations		Yes	
rigation	Pump flow testing	Yes		
	Water testing: quick EC (salt) and nitrate tests	Yes		
	Water testing: full analysis		Yes	Yes
	Scheduling advice	Yes		
	IrrigWeb (online scheduling tool) access	Yes		
	Irrigation assessments and planning	Yes		
	G-Dots – supply and install		Yes	Yes
	Assistance with stalk growth measurements to calibrate scheduling tools	Yes		
	Access to online soil moisture monitoring probes and weather data	Yes		
Soil Health	Whole of farm system planning	Yes		
	Fallow management advice	Yes		
	Legume cropping support	Yes		
	Mill mud, gypsum and lime application advice	Yes		
MP	Self-assessment	Yes		
Smartcane	On farm support to achieve Accreditation	Yes		
	Training	Yes		
	Record keeping advice	Yes		

SUGAR TAX COULD CUT SOFT DRINK CONSUMPTION, HELP HALT GROWING OBESITY RATES: GRATTAN INSTITUTEAM

By Lexi Metherell - www.abc.net.au/rural

A tax on sugar could cut soft drink consumption by 15 per cent and raise \$500 million for the budget, recently released economic modelling shows.

KEY POINTS:

- » Obesity costs taxpayers \$5.3 billion annually, one in three Australians classed as obese
- » A tax of 40 cents per 100 grams of sugar would lift the price of a two-litre bottle by about 80 cents
- » Taxing soft drinks has shown to help cut rising obesity

The Grattan Institute has recommended a sugar sweetened beverage tax to address obesity rates, which have climbed in recent decades.

It has calculated obesity costs taxpayers \$5.3 billion annually, with one in three Australians now classed as obese.

They are proposing a tax of 40 cents per 100 grams of sugar, which would lift the price of a two-litre bottle of soft drink by about 80 cents.

Stephen Duckett, director of the Institute's health program, said soft drinks were not solely responsible for the obesity problem, but they should be targeted because they have no nutritional value and children are big consumers.

"What we're trying to do is recognise that this is not the solution to obesity in this country, rather part of the solution," he said. "We've tried all sorts of other programs, there's been dozens of inquiries, there's been dozens of programs and still obesity, the prevalence of obesity is going up both for adults and more importantly for children."

EVIDENCE SHOWS SUGAR TAXES HALT OBESITY

The food industry, sugar cane growers, sugar millers and farmers have opposed proposals for sugar taxes, saying there was no evidence they improve health.

But Dr Duckett said taxing soft drinks had shown to help cut rising obesity.

"There's been a number of studies of overseas countries where they've introduced taxes of this kind — Mexico, the city of Berkley in California and so on," he said.

"And what it shows is there is a shift away

from sugar sweetened beverages towards tap water or mineral water or other beverages, and that reduces sugar intake.

"They've found that and have predicted a marginal reduction in obesity and in a sense a plateauing of the escalation prevalence in the country."

'BONKERS MAD'

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce has described a sugar tax as "bonkers mad" and a "moralistic tax" that would have huge impacts on sugar farmers in the north of Australia.

on all beverages — not only sugar sweetened — is less than .75 per cent of their household income, and for wealthier households it's .45 per cent.

"So there is a regressive effect, but it's such a small proportion of household income that it's not really significant."

The Grattan Institute report said industry data showed the soft drink industry was worth more than \$3 billion a year in revenue.

Dr Duckett believes industry have overestimated the impact of a sugar tax.



Photo: Graph showing the impact of proposed sugar tax on the retail prices of sugar-sweetened beverages. (Supplied: Grattan Institute)

"If you want to deal with being overweight, here's a rough suggestion — stop eating so much and do a bit of exercise," he said.

The Greens have drafted legislation for a "sugar-sweetened beverages tax", foreshadowing a private senators bill to be introduced before the end of 2017.

"People are sitting on their backside too much, and eating too much food and not just soft drinks, eating too many chips and other food," Mr Joyce said.

IMPACT OF TAX ON INDUSTRY 'WOULD BE MINIMAL'

Dr Duckett said the tax modelled would raise \$500 million for the budget, by targeting only those who consumed soft drinks. "Certainly the tax is regressive, but it's important to recognise that it's only very marginally regressive," he said.

"That is the total spending of a household

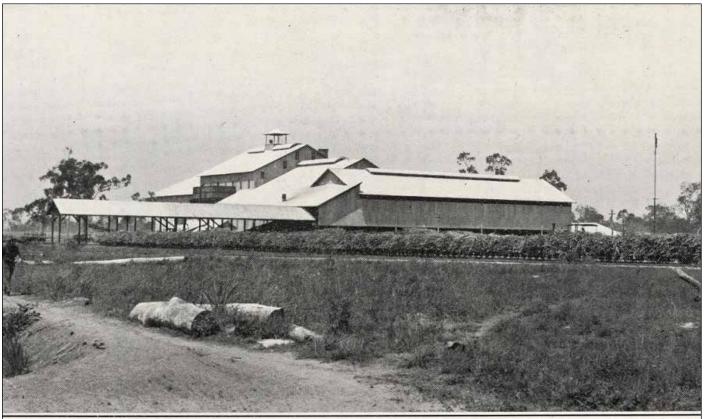
"If you look at the Australian sugar industry, 80 per cent of Australian sugar is exported and when you look at the remainder, there's a lot of sugar used in other sorts of food and drinks," he said.

"So the impact of our change is going to be very small on the sugar industry.

"In terms of the impact on the beverage industry, I don't know the relative profitability of say Coca-Cola versus Mount Franklin mineral water, but the same company owns both brands.

"So there might be a shift from Coke to Mount Franklin that may change the profitability — it may improve the profitability."



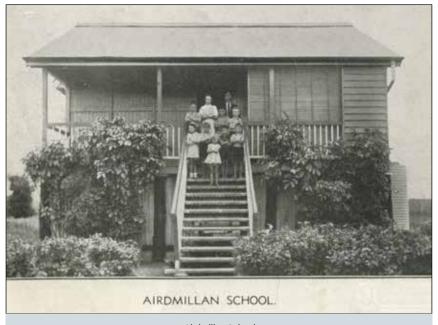


Inkerman Raw Sugar Mill, near Home Hill, Bowen-Ayr Railway Line.

INKERMAN RAW SUGAR MILL



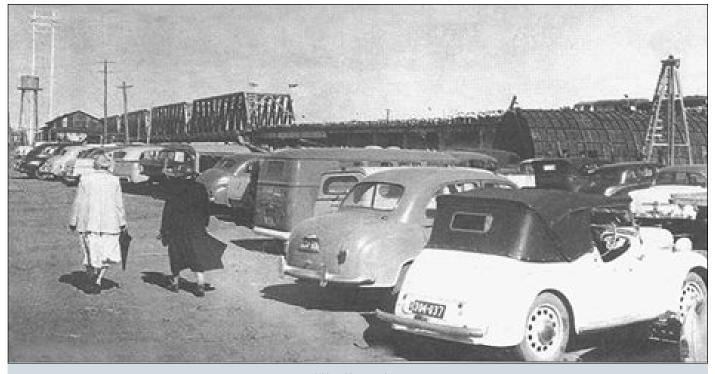
8th Avenue, HOME HILL 1960



Airdmillan School



Inkerman Sugar Mill construction - 1913



Burdekin Bridge opening 1957

VIRTUAL FENCES DUE FOR COMMERCIAL RELEASE NEXT YEAR, AGFUTURES CONFERENCE HEARS

By Robin McConchie and Craig Zonca, ABC Rural – www abc.net.au/rural

Robots. DNA technology, the Internet of that grew faster. Things and climate modelling are just some of the ideas and technologies being showcased at the AgFutures conference in Brisbane today and tomorrow.

Hosted by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, AgFutures is this year focusing on innovation and investment.

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) chief executive Robert Henry spoke at the conference, saying gene technology had the potential to play a huge role in increasing the productivity of crops.

He said QAAFI scientists had been looking at major crops such as wheat, rice and sugar cane, identifying the genes that controlled the quality and efficiency of production, allowing them to breed better crops

But rather than relying on genetic modification, Dr Henry said many scientists were focusing on an acceleration of conventional breeding.

"Using the rapid developments in biotechnology and the information technology, we can speed up the process [of conventional breeding] and make bigger gains," he said.

"In wheat we understand bread quality and in rice the qualities the consumer wants, and that means we are going to be able to produce products that attract a higher price in a competitive market place."

Another example of a long list of research Dr Henry has been involved in over the years is research into wild rice.

He said gene technology was allowing scientists to find and use disease-resistant

genes in wild rice to modify domesticated rice, one of the major crops in the world.

VIRTUAL FENCES TO BECOME A REALITY

The question delegates at AgFutures wanted answered was, will virtual fences ever be a reality?

CSIRO principal research scientist David Henry said the answer was simple.

"Well, the good news is, yes," he said.

"We are right in the throngs now of a startup company in Melbourne commercialising the technology.

"We are testing their commercial prototypes on animals, making sure they behave appropriately, working out how to apply it in industry and how do you capture value from it

"It's due for commercial release next year." Dr Henry said despite what we were led to believe, cows were easy to train.

He said the virtual fence used sound and a very small electrical impulse to control stock movement.

"You train them with a combination of sound and a small electrical stimulus, that is much less than the shock from an electric fence," Dr Henry said.

"Within about three associations they learn to respond just to the audio cue. It is independent of where they are - there are no visual cues, the audio is just a buzz, and they learn to associate it within 24 hours."

Delegates at the AgFutures conference were told the farm sector could not rely so heavily on governments to fund research, but where an idea or technology could show a return on investment, investors would invest.





PUSH FOR CANE, NOT SUGAR: GLOBAL INSIGHTS INTO NEW INDUSTRY



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: Ireland's Owenroe Lemass, Ed de Jong from the Netherlands, Australian Geoff Bell, Canada's Eric Soucy, Austrian Michael Mendl and Canada's Murray McLaughlin. Emily Smith

Emily Smith, Daily Mercury

IF MICHAEL Mendl had fields of sugar cane at his disposal, it wouldn't go into making sugar.

The Austrian environmental engineer was one of a cross-section of biorefining specialists from around the

world who visited the Racecourse Mill Pilot Plant on Thursday, after attending the Bioenegy Australia

conference in Brisbane.

While most created products from corn, starch and grain-based feedstock, Mr Mendl saw equal potential

for creating high-value products like paint, de-greasers and solvents when he looked at Mackay's cane fields.

"I would not go and make plain sugar, I would focus on high value products. So you're not exposed to the fluctuation in the sugar market," Mr Mendl said.

But he also noted the potential for biorefining was spread across the agricultural sector.

After seeing Brisbane buses were running on natural gas, he suggested "you can

exchange that with biogas and you'll have a really sustainable fuel".

Canadian Dr Murray McLaughlin said the biofuels mandate in Canada, which was 10% across the nation and 15% in some provinces, has helped fuel their industry. However, Owenroe Lemass said in Ireland, the introduction of a biofuels mandate had coincided with an excise duty exemption, driving distributors to import their "greener"

"We had a vibrant enough biofuels sector but it's actually kind of closed down overnight, not intentionally, but we had an excise duty exemption that was granted to biofuel producers," Mr Lemass said.

fuels from Brazil and Argentina.

"And then we introduced a mandate (so) that fuel distributors were obliged to find (biofuels) but find it at the lowest cost, so they started buying biofuel from Brazil and biodiesel from Argentina."

While Australia is set to introduce a biofuels mandate at 3% from January 1 next year, Mr Lemass did not believe it would suffer similar side effects.

"I'm not familiar with the situation here but it looks like you have the right conditions for a competitive industry," he said.

Following the success of ethanol production in Canada, Mr McLaughlin said the industry was now geared at creating higher value products from its feed stocks, like chemicals and alcohol.

That was also likely to be the future in Australia.

Geoff Bell, chief executive officer of a company called MicroBioGen, is working to improve the strains of yeast used to create ethanol, to increase yield and lower costs. While the company was Australian-based, it conducted trials overseas.

He said the technology was "basically ready to go", but hoped the costs involved would fall enough in the next few years for companies to bring it back to Australia.

"That's the problem in Australia, someone has to want to buy the fuel and we have to make money out of it," Mr Bell said.

"I think Australia will be a follower in this technology, the risk is very, very high. (But as it) gets proven over there you can expect that technology to come back."

DELAYS AT GOLD COAST SUGAR MILL COSTS GROWERS \$5M, FUEL CALLS FOR FARM LAND TO BE SOLD FORDEVELOPMENT

By Marty McCarthy, ABC Rural - www.abc.net.au/rural



Photo: Delays at Rocky Point Sugar Mill, between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, are hurting growers. (ABC News)

Cane farmers on Queensland's Gold Coast claim delays at the local sugar mill have left them \$5 million out of pocket, fuelling concerns sugarcane production there is unviable.

Frustration with the operations at Rocky Point Sugar Mill could lead to further calls for the region to be rezoned and the cane land sold off for urban development.

At this time of year farmers around Rocky Point are usually wrapping up their harvest season, but this year they have only just started.

Woongoolba farmer and Canegrowers Rocky Point director Greg Zipf said the crush usually started in mid-July, but this year started on the last day of October.

"In the history of Rocky Point that is the latest start we have ever endured," Mr Zipf said. "Getting that crop off gives you your cash flow. If we don't get that, we're all going to

struggle.

"If I took half your wage away or only gave you a third of your wage for the year, it would be tough to survive. That is basically the position we are in."

Mr Zipf said some growers had had little to no income since July and were struggling to pay machinery bills.

"When you are a cane farmer your last cane payment comes early in July. That is the last cash flow you will get if you're just cane farming," he said.

"To not have any cash flow until October 31 meant there are a lot of growers that suffered financially.

"There is a number of new pieces of equipment that came into the district this year, and growers would have had to do serious adjustments to manage their payments on those."

The delay also means Gold Coast growers

are missing out on higher sugar prices, with the October contract peaking at about 22.86 cents per pound, doubling the price of sugar compared to this time last year.

"The sugar price got up to nearly \$700 a tonne and we haven't been in a position that we couldn't even price," Mr Zipf said.

"We are looking at a [monetary loss] in the vicinity of the five million dollar mark in this point of time for the region."

Rocky Point Sugar Mill declined to comment on the delays, but breakdowns at the mill and power troubles are thought to be the issue.

MILL STOPPAGES COULD FUEL URBAN DEVELOPMENT PUSH

Frustration with the mill comes as a majority of Rocky Point growers continue to push for the land to be rezoned for urban development, arguing the local sugar industry is no longer viable.



Photo: Gold Coast cane farmer Greg Zipf is frustrated with delays to the Rocky Point cane crush season. (ABC Rural: Marty McCarthy)

In September about 40 cane farmers in the region formed a consortium, managed by Canford Property Group, to sell their farms as a block to a major planner and property developer.

Farmers hope a rezoning of the land will increase its value.

Future development in the area is expected to include tourism sites such as theme parks and motor racing complexes, medical research facilities, an IT facility, an educational area and a satellite city.

State Planning Minister Jackie Trad said in September the redevelopment of the site for urban purposes was not currently consistent with the current planning framework, at both a state and local government level.

That was reinforced in October, when the Queensland Government decided it would not rezone the Rocky Point area for urban development as part of its draft South East Queensland Regional Plan.

However, Mr Zipf said concern with the mill and the viability of the local cane industry was fuelling desire amongst growers to see the land made available to developers.

"At the [time of the consortium announcement] growers had not cut a stick of cane and had no cash flow, and a company came along with a proposal for them to sell their land at a fairly high price," he said.

"At that point in time in September there was a possibility that the mill might not even start, so that is why almost 90 per cent of land owners in the district signed up.

"You can see why individuals grabbed hold of a proposal and an offer that was out there. It was an easy way out and people were so frustrated to a point they were happy to exit."

LONG TERM-PLAN NEEDED, FARMER SAYS

Cane farmer and mulch producer Matthew Keith, who also farms in the region, said the rezoning issue could not be brushed aside, and local farmers needed certainty.

"There is talk about developers moving in, but what we really need is a long-term plan, and we really would welcome knowing what the future holds for us here," he said.

"We welcome an investigation and a plan for the future. It is hard at the moment to invest any money into planning and equipment because we just don't know what is happening."

Mr Keith said the fact the region was floodprone was still the biggest concern to property developers considering investing in the area.

"There is definitely plenty of obstacles in the way for any developers because we are on a flood plain," he said.

"We are happy to keep growing cane here for as long as we can, but we would be happy to have an end date so we can plan for that."

The Queensland Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Local Government has been contacted for comment.

CRUSHING DELAYS COULD HURT 2017 HARVEST

Mr Zipf said if the cane was harvested late, the fresh cane would not grow in time for next year's harvest, meaning growers could also lose income in 2017.

"It has been proven that any cane normally harvested after the end of November is unlikely to be cut next year," he said.

"We're going to cut the bulk of our crop, or a large percentage of our crop, through November and into December, and more than likely the December cut won't make cane for us next year.

"A lot of the growers realise it will take us three years to dig ourselves out of the upset to our routine."

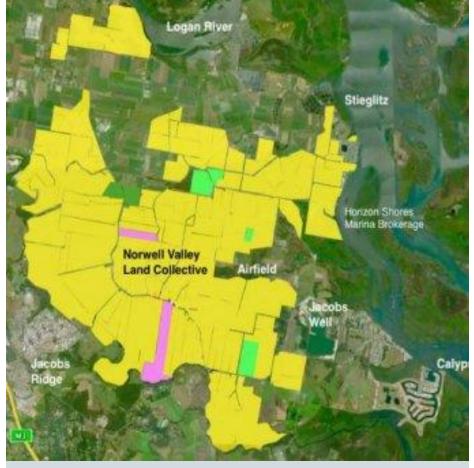


Photo: Forty Rocky Point cane farmers formed a consortium in September to sell their farms as a block. (Supplied: Canford Property Group)

TURNBULL GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO REASSURE AUSTRALIANS FOLLOWING DONALD TRUMP VICTORY IN US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

ABC Rural – www.abc.net/rural Bv Anna Vidot

The Turnbull Government has sought to reassure Australians in the wake of the US presidential election which could dramatically change the global trade landscape.

Trade Minister Steven Ciobo told the ABC: "it's important that people don't start hyperventilating" following the election of a vehemently anti-trade Donald Trump to the presidency.

"The fact is that we have a great trading relationship with the United States, we have a great relationship full stop with the United States," he said.

"I am very confident that we will continue to engage fulsomely."

Mr Ciobo said he did not believe a Trump presidency would see the US "withdraw from the world".

He noted that Mr Trump's stated aim of securing trade deals that benefit America was a sentiment shared by all nations in approaching trade negotiations.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IMPACT ON GLOBAL TRADE IS UNCLEAR

Mr Trump made trade a centrepiece of his campaign and will be expected to follow through on promises that could have serious ramifications, not only for America's own trading relationships with China, Mexico and other nations, but for nations including Australia.

He has promised to formally label China a currency manipulator, and impose large new tariffs on Chinese goods that enter the United States.

But the first casualty of the new administration is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) — a deal rejected by both presidential



Photo: US President-elect Donald Trump made trade a centrepiece of his campaign. (AP: Evan Vucci)

candidates and described by Mr Trump as a "rape" of America.

The Obama administration, urged on by the Australian Government, was determined the controversial trade pact could be signed off by the US Congress in its 'lame duck' session — the period after the election, but before the new president is sworn in.

But after the election of Mr Trump and a campaign that tapped into Americans' anger over free trade agreements, the political cover for congressmen and women wishing to vote for the unpopular deal has evaporated.

Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop conceded the Obama administration's lame duck strategy was built on an expectation that Hillary Clinton would win, and she did "not know the likelihood" that President Obama of pursuing that strategy now.

Against backdrop of Trump victory, TPP critics not celebrating

Opponents of the TPP in Australia and the United States argued it placed corporate

interests ahead of environmental and public health considerations.

Australian National University research fellow and TPP critic Dr Kyla Tienhaara said she "should be happy" the deal is dead in the water.

"But of course, I'm too dismayed about the election result to really take this as a victory, and it's not the way I wanted to see the TPP go down," she said.

"I wanted it to die because progressives won the debate."

The Coalition Government said the TPP was not only in Australia's economic interest, but its strategic interest as well.

WATCH AND WAIT AS TRUMP TRADE AGENDA UNFOLDS

Trade consultant Peter Gallagher said he was "concerned, but watching" to see what would happen as Mr Trump rolled out his agenda.

But he said it was too early to know what that might look like.

"We don't know what he is really going to do," Mr Gallagher said.

"He has given a speech in which he's laid out some of those things, months ago. The question is whether, when he gets into office, he'll amend that or have different priorities."

Mr Gallagher noted that the US constitution divided responsibility for trade policy between the president and the Congress.

"Mr Trump has a number of checks and balances in the constitution that he has to navigate before he can do anything very outrageous — or any president for that matter, not just Mr Trump," he said.

"So I'm sort of holding fire for the moment."



AUSTRALIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY LAMENTS LOST OPPORTUNITY AS TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP LOOKS DOOMED

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural Bv Charlie McKillop

The Australian sugar industry concedes its chances of seeing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement ratified are "very dim" following the election of Donald Trump, an avowed anti-trade liberalist.

Nonetheless, chief executive of the peak body Canegrowers, Dan Galligan, said not all of the American President-elect's rhetoric should be interpreted negatively by the agricultural sector.

He said the TPP agreement's doubling of the access of Australian sugar into the United States from 80,000 to 160,000 tonnes was "profound" — not because of the volume involved but it 'opened the door' to a US domestic market in which a 4.5 million tonne deficit in sugar was expected in the next decade.

"So, in terms of lost actual trade, in reality, not huge but lost future potential, very dramatic," Mr Galligan said.

Australian cane growers are the only sugar farmers in the world to compete in a totally unregulated market, which is why they invested so heavily in securing the passage of the high-level, multi-lateral trade agreement.

It took 12 Pacific Rim countries more than five years to negotiate and needed to be ratified by at least five signatories to be confirmed. But the industry has acknowledged the TPP agreement is now dead and buried. The industry would work closely with Australian trade officials to assess the 'fall out' of losing the TPP agreement and explore other opportunities.

"On trade, Trump hasn't said only negative things," Mr Galligan said.



Photo: Cane growers hope new president-elect will develop a taste for Australian sugar, but his rhetoric suggests otherwise (ABC News: Giulio Saggin)

"He's said America will do trade deals that are in the best interests of America.

"I think they'll also be looking to do more bilateral trade work, so I don't think they're very keen on multi-lateral trade negotiations and they're very difficult deals to do anyway.

"The main thing is we've just got to understand Australian farmers need trade and we need to be open to making trade negotiations but they also need to be in the best interests of the Australian industry as well." SUGAR MARKETS STABLE

Sugar analysts are breathing easier after yesterday's plunge in commodity and equity markets.

Queensland Sugar Limited general manager for trading Dougal Lodge said after the volatility of the past 24 hours, trading is back to normal and there is an expectation of a further price increases as world sugar stocks head toward a predicted 10-milliontonne deficit.

"I think the good news is we're now trading on fundamentals," Mr Lodge said.

"Hopefully we're not going to see the market fall off a cliff or anything in the short term because there is a large amount of buying sitting below the market and we might see a potential test on the upside to where we've been in recent history between now and March next year."

The ICE number 11 had been trading at three-year highs, with canegrowers being paid an Australian equivalent price of more than \$600 per tonne for sugar.

But many canegrowers who supply Wilmar's nine sugar mills in north Queensland have been unable to lock in forward prices because negotiations over a new cane supply agreement have broken down.

"We do have a little bit of time up our sleeve but then further out, we're definitely seeing there'll be a return to a more normal supply and demand situation," Mr Lodge said.



SRA RESEARCH CRACKS THE MYSTERY ON CHI OROTIC STREAK DISEASE

Researchers at Sugar Research Australia (SRA) have made a major breakthrough in determining the cause of a sugarcane disease that has remained a mystery for 87

Chlorotic Streak Disease (CSD) was first recognised in 1929, and since then there has been research effort from around the world to determine the cause of the disease, how it is spread, and how to manage it.

In a major breakthrough, SRA researchers Dr Kathy Braithwaite, Dr Chuong Ngo and Mr Barry Croft have recently used modern DNA technology and traditional pathology to identify a new type of organism that causes CSD, isolating a microscopic organism that is a type of protozoan.

CSD is a serious and widespread disease of sugarcane. In the worst cases, yield losses can be as much as 40 percent and it has been estimated to cause an annual loss to the sugarcane industry of \$8 million to \$10 million. Because it is transmitted via water, its impact is worst in wet growing districts of the Australian industry.

SRA Biosecurity Manager, Mr Barry Croft,

said it was an important discovery for the material, for example," said Mr Croft. Australian sugarcane industry.

"Understanding the cause of a disease is crucial to developing control and management strategies for that disease," Mr Croft said. "By SRA identifying the protozoan that causes CSD, we hope this leads to better management options and information, which will lead to benefits for sugarcane growers and millers.

"For example, SRA already gives all of its varieties a rating for resistance to diseases, including CSD. That information is crucial for growers when they choose what variety to plant according to the conditions on their farm. The discovery of this organism has opened up more reliable ways to screen the varieties for resistance to CSD."

SRA has also developed a technique to diagnose whether sugarcane is infected with CSD, and is working with productivity service organisations to ensure this technique is useful and practical.

"Because CSD can spread so easily, proper use of a diagnostic test for CSD could reduce the spread of CSD via planting

"Now that we know what the organism is, we also may be able to develop more targeted control methods."

Sugarcane grower Mr Ray Zamora's farms are in one of the highest rainfall areas of the Australian sugarcane industry at Tully, meaning he has faced significant yield losses from CSD in the past when there have been particularly wet years.

He welcomed the news that SRA researchers had discovered the organism that causes CSD.

"Managing CSD is something that I could change on my farm if there was improved information. If I had better resistance information for sugarcane varieties I could avoid planting susceptible varieties in the low lying parts of my farm, so this discovery is welcome news," Mr Zamora said.

This research activity has been jointly funded by SRA and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



Sweet Info

56

'The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.'

NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What do get if you cross a Snowman with a Vampire?

A: Frostbite

Q: Did you hear about the hungry clock? A: It went back four seconds.

Q: What do you call a cow with two legs? A: Lean beef.

word of the month ensorcell

verb [en-sawr-suh l]

to bewitch.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know if you add up all the numbers from 1 to 100 consecutively (1 + 2 + 3...) it totals 5050
- » Did you know fire usually moves faster uphill than downhill
- » Did you know hummingbirds are the only bird that can fly backwards
- » Did you know paper originated from China

CHRISTMAS PUDDING TRUFFLES



INCREDIENT

- » 800g pkt light fruitcake, coarsely chopped
- » 100g dark chocolate, coarsely chopped
- » 2 tablespoons brandy
- 200g white chocolate, coarsely chopped
- » Red & green glace cherries, thinly sliced, to decorate

METHOD

Process the cake in a food processor until fine crumbs form.

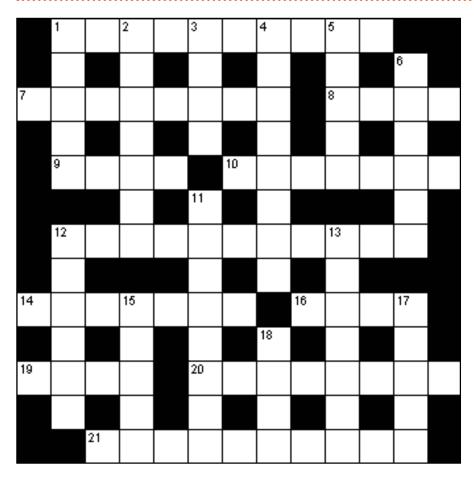
Place the dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water (make sure the bowl doesn't touch the water). Stir with a metal spoon until the chocolate melts and is smooth. Add the melted chocolate and brandy to the cake crumbs and process until well combined.

Line a tray with non-stick baking paper. Roll 2 teaspoonfuls of cake mixture into a ball. Place on the prepared tray. Repeat with remaining cake mixture. Place in the fridge for 30 minutes or until firm.

Meanwhile, place the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan half-filled with simmering water (make sure the bowl doesn't touch the water). Stir with a metal spoon until the chocolate melts and is smooth.

Line a tray with non-stick baking paper. Spoon the melted white chocolate into a piping bag or a small sealable plastic bag (if using a plastic bag, cut 1 corner from the bag to make a small hole). Drizzle over each truffle. Top with the cherry.

Crossword



ACROSS

1 Bizarre (10)

7 Severe headache (8)

8 Level, regular (4)

9 Wet thoroughly (4)

10 Eighth sign of the zodiac (7)

12 Difficult (11)

14 Raise to a higher grade (7)

16 Church song (4)

19 Pay a visit (4)

20 Helicopters (8)

21 Below (10)

DOWN

1 Leaves out (5)

2 Violent whirling wind-storm (7)

3 Parched (4)

4 Soaked (8)

5 Guide (5)

6 Cooking instructions (6)

11 Hindrance (8)

12 Menace (6)

13 Exhibition centre in London (7)

15 Large fruit (5)

17 Compass bearing (5)

18 Urban area (4)

Classifieds

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- » Nissan UD tip truck. Ph 0418987099
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- » Double row stubble shaver, 4 furrow blade plough Ph: 0419 733 185
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- » Kleverland 3 Blade reversible plough. Ph: 0429 077 608
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Down:] - Omits, 2 - Tomado, 3 - Arid, 4 - Drenched. 5 - Steer, 6 - Recipe, 11 - Obstacle, 12 - Threat, 13 - Olympis, 15 - Melon, 17 - North, 18 - Town. Across: I – Outlandish, / – Migraine, 8 – Even, 9 – Soak, 10 – Scorpio, 12 – Troublesome, 14 – Promote, 16 – Hymn, 19 – Call, 20 – Choppers, 21 – Underneath.



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