



Sugar Research
Australia

eNewsletter

Resilience and optimism; that's what's shone through from the industry this fortnight. While our thoughts are with those affected by the recent floods, there was positivity at an industry event in the Herbert. SRA's operations are continuing to support our industry partners. We look forward to seeing you at one of the many upcoming industry events.



Optimism for the future at Herbert Walk and Talk

More than 120 attendees at the 2022 Herbert Walk and Talk Day on 9 March heard there's a strong sense of optimism for the future of the local industry.

The event was coordinated by Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL) with Sugar Research Australia (SRA), Stoller and Nufarm among the sponsors.

HCPSL Manager Lawrence Di Bella said the event highlighted innovation and included annual awards recognising a strong commitment to improved productivity for the industry.

Caption: Plant Breeding Technician Linda DiMaggio and District Manager Phil Patane address growers about new varieties during Herbert Walk and Talk Day at HCPSL's Macknade farm.

[More on the Herbert Walk and Talk Day](#)



Guidelines for managing flood damaged cane

SRA has produced guidelines for growers in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales who are trying to decide whether to continue with a crop of cane which was underwater during the recent floods.

[See the Information Sheet](#)

The Queensland Government is offering financial help for Queensland farmers affected by the flooding through the jointly funded [Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements \(DRFA\)](#). The NSW Government has also announced [storm and flood assistance for businesses](#).

Levy payer advice from DAWE

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) has encouraged levy payers concerned about meeting payment deadlines or incurring penalties as a result of a natural disaster or COVID-19, to contact their office on 1800 625 103. DAWE advises it will assess, case by case, each request for additional time to lodge returns or deal with outstanding payments.

[More on the DAWE website](#)

More rain means more mozzies. Protect yourself.

On 14 March after 18 cases of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) were confirmed in Australia and sadly two deaths, the Department of Health declared the virus a [Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance](#).



We spoke to expert entomologist Professor Scott Ritchie (Adjunct), James Cook University for his insights into the virus that is found in waterbirds and pigs and is spread by mosquitoes.

[Read what Professor Ritchie had to say](#)

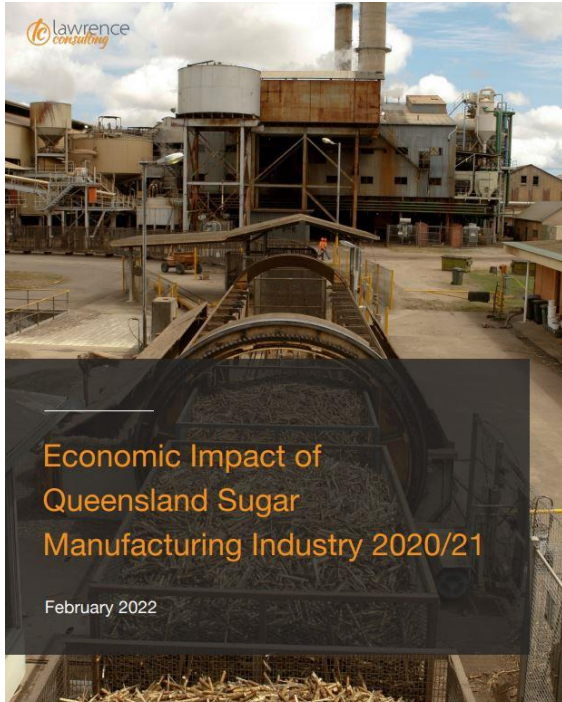


A new dawn in Mackay as young growers' group established

SRA in Mackay has reached out to local sugar organisations to support the formation of a young growers' group. The aim is to encourage the next farming generation to network, explore their industry and innovate. The new Mackay Area Young Farmers group voted in February to form an incorporated association.

SRA District Delivery Officer, Stephanie Duncan is the Group organiser and has established a membership-by-request Facebook Group to encourage discussion between on-the-ground events. She hopes that young grower groups in other districts will connect to the Mackay group in order to establish a network for bus trips, farm tours and facility visits.

On the agenda is a precision agriculture workshop planned by Proserpine Young Growers for 1 June 2022 at Proserpine showgrounds. Join the Mackay Young Farmers Facebook page for more information.



Prepared for the Australian Sugar Milling Council

Sugar Milling

Queensland sugar industry remains a resilient performer

The Queensland sugar milling sector contributed nearly \$4 billion to the Queensland economy in 2020/21, despite COVID, poor global sugar prices, international market distortions and adverse weather.

A new economic report commissioned by the Australian Sugar Milling Council (ASMC) shows the industry remained resilient and stable in those years injecting \$3.8 billion, or more than \$10 million a day, into the economy and supporting nearly 20,000 full-time equivalent direct and indirect jobs.

[Read the ASMC report \(PDF\)](#)

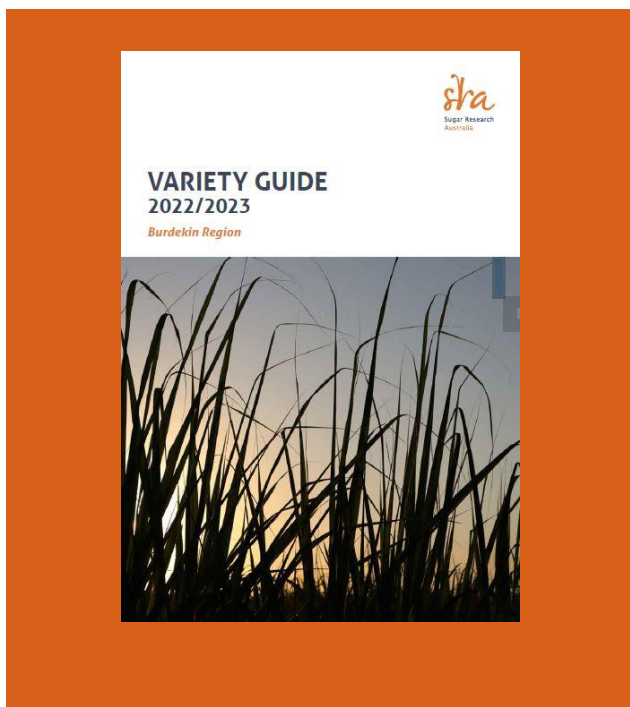
Cane Matters publication to launch next month

SRA will launch a new publication next month called *Cane Matters*.

Head of Industry Communications and Marketing Cathy Weis said the new magazine would combine the former *Milling Matters* and *CaneConnection* publications into a single quarterly edition.

"While combining the titles of the current publications, the proposed name represents a strong statement on the importance of the sugarcane industry to regional communities and economies – Cane Matters," Cathy said.

[More about Cane Matters](#)



The first of our 2022/23 variety guides is now available online

These guides are designed to help growers in the selected canegrowing region with their agronomic considerations when selecting new varieties to plant and trial on their farms. The information comes from the best available data of regional variety performance and disease ratings.

[Download the Burdekin Variety Guide 2022/23](#)



Think tank in Brisbane

SRA hosted an industry workshop this week in Brisbane where representatives of the growing and milling sectors, the Queensland Government and SRA staff drilled down into the root causes of industry problems which lead to productivity gaps.

The meeting follows the release of the [SRA Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#) and will refine priorities and programs in the months ahead.

Caption: Hywel Cook, SRA Executive Manager Industry Services debates the industry's root problems with Lisa Devereaux, District Manager, Southern Industry Services, Robert Quirk, Deputy

Chairman (Senior), Australian Cane Farmers Association, Burn Ashburner, Senior Manager, Industry, CANEGROWERS and Kevin Moore, Cane Development Manager, Mackay Sugar.

Upcoming Events & Webinars

[Webinars - Managing climate variability](#)

Wouldn't it be helpful to be able to predict when extreme climate events, including extreme high or low rainfall and temperatures, might occur in the weeks and seasons ahead? In our upcoming webinars learn about the science behind the tools and how the agricultural community, including sugarcane farmers, are putting them to use.

6 April - Introducing the new extreme climate tools

8 April - Climate tool users discuss how the tools help them

[Soybean mid-season meetings](#)

21-24 March - Bundaberg, Mackay, Burdekin

[Regional Milling Research Seminars](#)

21-31 March - Meringa, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg, Rocky Point

Meringa

22 March - [Adoption of new harvesting technologies demonstration trial](#)

Herbert

18 March and 21 March - [Farm Economic Analysis Tool \(FEAT\) Online](#)

12 April - [Herbert region ratoon stunting disease workshops](#)

Woodford

31 March/1 April - [Diseases workshops](#) (rescheduled)

The disease workshops originally scheduled for 1-2 March and 3-4 March at Woodford and postponed due to the floods, will now be held as a single workshop on 31 March and 1 April. We will be in touch with all registered participants to coordinate attendance. In the event of non-availability on the revised dates, the ticket price will be refunded.

Rocky Point

24 March - [Productivity workshop](#) (rescheduled)

[See details of all events](#)

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