



Sugar Research
Australia

eNewsletter

The long-weekend is nearly on us, a time if you can, to enjoy family, friends and good weather. Next week members of the SRA team will be in Mackay for the ASSCT conference, if you're heading there too, come and say hello. Or maybe we'll see you at one of our field days in the next few weeks. Until then, stay safe.



See you at our May Field Days

Field Days are returning to SRA's stations in May and we're looking forward to welcoming you to events packed with presentations, field tours, displays and stalls and the opportunity to put all your questions directly to our team members and supporting partners.

Top left: *Dr Kevin Powell will present on 'Protecting sugarcane from current and emerging insect threats'.* Top right: *Dr Danielle Skocaj will discuss 'Optimising nutrient inputs during high fertiliser prices'.* Bottom left: *Glen Park, District Delivery Officer Herbert and Burdekin will be on hand at the Herbert Field Day.* Bottom right: *Crowds have flocked to the SRA/MAPS Mackay field day in previous years.*

See you in the Field. RSVPs appreciated for catering purposes.

- Herbert Station Field Day - Wednesday 4 May
- Tully Station Field Day - Thursday 5 May
- Meringa Station Field Day - Tuesday 10 May
- Mackay SRA/MAPS Field Day - Friday 13 May

[Download the Field Day invites from our Events page](#)



First SRA District Plans Released

The first of Sugar Research Australia's District Productivity Plans have been released via the SRA website.

The plans for the Far North, Herbert, Burdekin and Central districts were developed through consultation and engagement undertaken with industry across each district.

Executive Manager Industry Services Hywel Cook said the plans were developed in conjunction with participants across the sugar industry supply chain to identify constraints impacting productivity and profitability at the local level.

"The plans highlight specific local issues with proposed solutions and actions to address them and will be updated and reviewed annually to drive investment at the district level," Hywel said.

Reporting on progress will occur six monthly, with priorities regularly reviewed in partnership with industry.

[Review or download a district plan](#)



Nominations close this week for national Soil Health Award

Nominations for the General Jeffery Soil Health Award 2021 Award will close this Sunday 17 April with the winner to be announced during the National Landcare Conference in August.

Named for Australia's first National Soils Advocate, the late Major General Michael Jeffery, the Award recognises an individual's work to champion, improve and educate others in soil health.

Tweed River NSW cane farmer, Robert Quirk (pictured) was last year announced as one of three finalists at the inaugural virtual event. The overall winner was Emeritus Professor Lynette Abbot at The University of Western Australia.

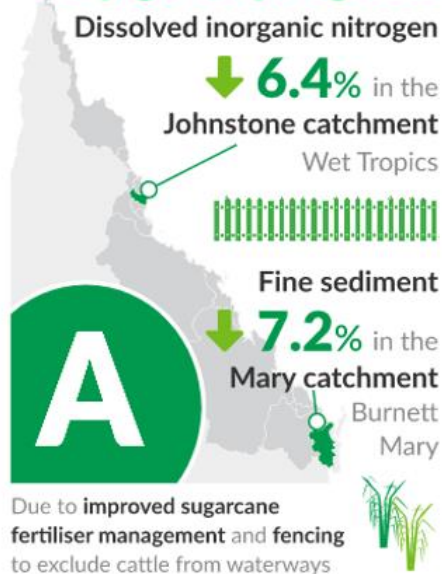
[For more details and to nominate for the award](#)

Growers efforts acknowledged in latest reef water quality card

The latest Reef Water Quality Report Card shows the efforts of sugarcane farmers is making a difference, with progress about half way towards two government improvement targets.

Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef Meaghan Scanlon said the reductions were mostly due to sugarcane growers improving nitrogen fertiliser management and mill mud application, and graziers installing fencing to exclude cattle from waterways.

Very good progress



Pesticide risk improved

↑ to **good** 

in the **Tully** (Wet Tropics), **Mary** and **Burrum** (Burnett Mary) catchments

Inshore marine condition improved ↑ to

moderate 

Ground cover in the Fitzroy region improved to

↑ **63%** 
with many areas still impacted by **drought**

[Read the interactive report card](#)



Australian and international sugar cane technologists events

The Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference will be staged in Mackay next week. Keep an eye out for our social media updates and rolling coverage from the SRA booth and the floor of the conference.

SRA and its research partners will present a number of papers and findings at the event.

Meantime, planning is underway for next February's International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) Congress in Hyderabad, India.

The ISSCT Technical Programme Committee has extended the submission deadline for the Intent to submit papers to 30 April.

[Further information from ISSCT](#)



SRA speakers for PBRI Symposium

Dr Kevin Powell, SRA's Entomology Leader, Translational Research, will present a paper on sugar cane moth borer preparedness at this year's Plant Biosecurity Research Symposium, 11-12 May.

Also featured on the program will be Dr Nicole Thompson, SRA's Manager, Biosecurity and Disease Screening, who will discuss new diagnostics for exotic and endemic threats.

The keynote address will be presented by Joel Willis, Principal Director – Detection Capability and Emerging Technology, Biosecurity Operations Division at the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Dr Beth Woods, ACIAR, will present the dinner address on Partnerships for Research Impact. The Symposium will be held at Hickinbotham Hall, The National Wine Centre, Adelaide.

[Registration site](#)

Recent SRA climate webinars and milling seminars now available online

Thanks to everyone who attended our recent webinars and seminars, virtually and in person. If you missed any of these, they're all now available to watch at your leisure from the SRA website. You'll find the links below.



[Access the Research Milling Seminars here](#)

The presentations were recorded during the final seminar at Rocky Point and have been made available on the SRA website and YouTube. The files are provided in a series of 11 videos – one for each of the research topics covered.

[Watch Webinar 1: Managing climate variability 1](#)

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) Debbie Hudson outlines the development and introduction of new climate extreme outlooks. The tools indicate the chance of unusually warm/cool and dry/wet conditions for the weeks, months and seasons ahead.

[Watch webinar 2: Managing climate variability 2](#)

How are the new climate extreme outlooks helping sugarcane farmers and the agricultural industry? Tweed River sugarcane farmer Robert Quirk and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Tom Bowditch talk about their experience using the tools. Tom used the products to plan activities around forecast dry and wet weather periods as part of a biosecurity project to eradicate red witchweed. Robert says the tools provide additional information and support his medium- and longer-term strategic planning.

More weather... Learn to use the new BOM climate tools

To become more skilled in using the Bureau of Meteorology's two new climate outlooks tools it's worth taking time to watch this demonstration.

[New extreme climate outlooks to benefit Australian farmers](#)

In addition, the latest Climate and Water Outlook from the BOM is also available to watch as a video.

[BOM: Climate outlooks—weeks, months and seasons](#)

You can become a subscriber to these products so you don't miss any updates.

Upcoming Events

[Herbert Station Field Day 4 May](#)

[Tully Station Field Day 5 May](#)

[Meringa Station Field Day 10 May](#)

[Southern Sugar Solutions Regional Presentations May 2022](#)

11,12,13 May, Maryborough, Childers and Bundaberg

[Mackay SRA/MAPS Field Day 13 May](#)

[Precision Agriculture Workshop - Proserpine 1 June](#)

[See details of all events](#)

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