



Sugar Research  
Australia

# eNewsletter

In National Science Week this week, SRA celebrates our scientists and researchers and talks to students of all ages about exciting careers in the sugar industry.



## Cane Matters is out this week

The latest edition of SRA's magazine *Cane Matters* is on the way.

In the winter bumper edition we outline the work undertaken for the first shared industry vision and roadmap: *Sugar Plus - fuelling the future of food, energy and fabrications*.

We also feature coverage of the return of SRA's popular field days including interviews with the researchers who pleased the crowds with their presentations.

[Read more](#)



## PBR days in Mackay

*In National Science Week this week SRA pays tribute to all our scientists and researchers, including our variety development staff.*

A team of SRA staff work together every year to describe the new sugarcane varieties that have come through the SRA Breeding Program. The information is used to apply for Plant Breeder's Rights (PBR) protection for the new varieties.

"This year's PBR activities were held in Mackay in July, and five new varieties were described in combination with 11 other comparator varieties growing in the same PBR trial," said Tissue Culture Leader, Variety Development, Clair Bolton.

[Read Clair's report](#)





## **Southern Weed Management Workshops create interest**

With growers starting to think about pre-emergent weed control, SRA Weed Scientist, Emilie Fillols' recent Southern Weed Management workshops were well attended. Growers gave the workshops a score of 9/10 on whether they felt they had learnt valuable information from the workshop. "Hold more workshops," was one comment.

The three-hour workshops looked at a variety of weed species and the factors which influence their control, including the life cycle and habits of the particular weed, the type of herbicide used, the timing of application, the soil type, the presence of a trash blanket, the farming system and the method of incorporation e.g. mechanical or rain.

"Unlike knockdown herbicides that display visual effects on weed foliage, the action of pre-emergent herbicides is underground, so you can't see what's happening (or not happening). Knowing the factors that impact on pre-emergence herbicides' efficacy helps the grower achieve greater success every time," said Emilie.

*Above: Rocky Point growers investigate a weed identification app available on a smartphone, during the workshop.*



### **SIPP visit for SRA Woodford**

Fifteen Grade 10 students and two teachers from Caloundra State High School visited SRA Woodford Pathology Research Station this week.

Students were shown the laboratory to see nematode and smut research. They were intrigued to see live smut and nematodes under the microscope. They were also taken out to see sugar cane growing in the field and the diseases that can afflict the crop.

The tour was hosted by Biosecurity and Disease Screening Manager, Shamsul Buiyan and Field Operations Leader Andrew Greet (*above with students in the cane field*), as part of the School to Industry Partnership Program (SIPP) in the Sunshine Coast area aimed at increasing students' and educators' awareness of the variety of careers in agriculture.





## **Mackay students get EXCITED!**

"You'll find an exciting job in agriculture that suits your interests." That's what organisers of the EXCITED 4 Careers in Agriculture national project want children from kindergarten to Grade 10 to know.

A roadshow for the project started in the Mackay district on 9 August with a visit to Homebush State School. SRA District Manager Central Dylan Wedel (*above*) gave a presentation to primary school students showing the jobs involved in making sugar. A teacher-industry networking evening at SRA Mackay followed and visits to a number of other schools in the region.

"The days gave students an insight into what careers are available in the sugar industry and hopefully they will consider this in the years ahead," said Dylan.

*Funded by the Australian Government's National Careers Institute, EXCITED for Agriculture is a joint initiative between CQUniversity Australia and a range of industry partners, including Sugar Research Australia.*



## Great support for the sugar industry stand at the Ekka

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt, was a special guest at the sugar industry stand at the Ekka last week. He tried out the virtual reality (VR) experience, visiting a cane farm, mill, and refinery, and chatted with representatives about the Sugar Plus roadmap and Smartcane BMP.

Other visitors included the Governor of Queensland, Dr Jeannette Young, the Queensland Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Mark Furner and the Federal Opposition leader, Peter Dutton. The stall was a collaborative effort between SRA, CANEGROWERS and Sunshine Sugar and hugely successful with children and adults alike.

*(Above: SRA Head of Strategy, Insights and Engagement, Cathy Weis, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt, and CANEGROWERS Environment Manager, Matt Kealey.)*

## SRA Scholarships - applications close soon

Closing date for applications for  
Postgraduate research opportunities in  
2023 is 31 August 2022.



[More about SRA scholarships](#)



## Events

### **Managing waterlogged soils workshops**

*Tully and Babinda - Tuesday 6 September*

Join the workshop in either Tully or Babinda for presentations and discussions as part of the SIX EASY STEPS® Toolbox.

Please RSVP by 2 September.

[More information](#)

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