



Sugar Research
Australia

eNewsletter

In this edition of eNews you can read about how we are supporting the industry in skilling for the future and sharing our work with all our partners. If you're in Brisbane next week, head to the Ekka and we'll tell you all about it.



Virtual reality and grubs... the Ekka has it all, and we'll be there

If you are going to be in Brisbane between this Saturday 6 to Sunday 14 August, please come and say G'day to us on the sugar industry stall in the Agricultural Pavilion. CANEGROWERS, Sunshine Sugar and SRA have joined forces to bring the Brisbane public a taste of the industry.

You'll have the chance to visit a sugarcane farm and mill through a Virtual Reality learning experience courtesy of Sunshine Sugar. This will see you travel in a harvester with the driver, sit next to the grower on the planter, in the air over canefields and up close and personal with the processing operations in a mill. A 360 degree view is guaranteed at all times while you learn key facts about the industry.

If you like insects we will have collections on display, ranging from our most notorious cane pests to the fabulous native fauna of north Queensland. Also on the stall will be copies of the new Sugar Industry Road Map brochure and information you can take away with you about SRA's primary functions in the industry.

Thanks to Richard Skopp at Rocky Point for the plentiful and beautiful cane that will be on display.

[Ekka 2022 - All you need to know](#)

We're excited 4 careers in agriculture

The EXCITED 4 Careers in Agriculture Roadshow is kicking off next week and SRA is excited to be involved.

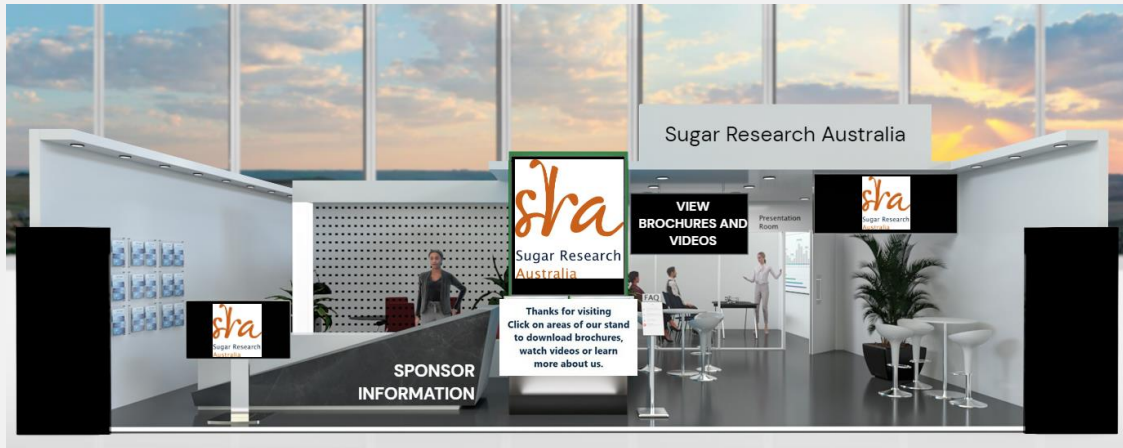
The roadshow will be offering Teacher Professional Development and Career Influencer Speed Dating events at SRA's Sugar Research Farm in Mackay.

SRA Central District Manager Dylan Wedel says those events are aimed to help parents and teachers support students in their exploration of careers in agriculture.

"We know what an impact parents and teachers have on the careers students consider so we want them to be fully informed and ready to answer any questions they have about agriculture and the opportunities it offers," he said.



[More on Excited 4 careers in agriculture](#)



Summit discuss Ag careers

SRA is a key sponsor and exhibitor at this week's Queensland Ag Workforce Summit, an online conference examining workforce strategy for the agricultural sector.

Almost 200 people are attending the virtual event to discuss challenges and opportunities for agribusiness.

SRA Head of Strategy, Insights and Engagement Cathy Weis presented on the Sugar Plus vision and roadmap as well as some of SRA's work to support the industry in skilling for the future.

Topics explored during the three-day event include growing business capability for innovation and adaption to change, growing a diverse and inclusive workforce, careers and becoming employers or choice, and future workforce skills.

The event is hosted by the Queensland Farmers Federation and Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance who recently released the Queensland Agriculture Industry Workforce Plan 2022-2027.

[Read the Workforce Plan here](#)



Southern Weed Management Workshops 9 and 11 August

SRA's Weed Scientist Emilie Fillols (pictured) has been focused on optimising weed management strategies in sugarcane for more than a decade.

Emilie's recent work includes identifying alternatives for effective weed and pest management options that are less costly and have less impact on environmental water quality.

If you're in Rocky Point, Bundaberg, Isis or Maryborough next week, why not aim to join Emilie at one of two weed management workshops - and point and shoot that weed out of your farm!

[Find out more and rsvp for the events](#)

SRA Scholarships for Postgraduate research opportunities - applications closing soon

To encourage young scientists into our industry, SRA makes available a number of Sugar Industry Postgraduate Research Scholarships (SPRS) every year, tenable at Australian universities and institutions, for postgraduate research study.

The purpose of the SPRS is to enable high calibre students to undertake a Masters or PhD research degree in disciplines relevant to the future of the Australian sugar industry.

Awarded on the basis of academic excellence SPRS awards are highly competitive and applications assessed by the SRA Research Funding Panel.

Closing date for 2023 applications is 31 August 2022.

[Read more about SRA Scholarships](#)



Meringa entomology team heads up the hill

SRA's Meringa based entomology team travelled to Mareeba recently to attend FNQ Growers Research & Development Field Day.

PhD student Hang Xu presented a poster and spoke with growers about his work on Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS).

"My research is following the hypothesis that invertebrates may play a part in YCS," Hang said. "The event was a good opportunity for me to talk directly with industry participants and receive feedback from them about my work at the same time as meeting with other researchers in the agriculture industry."

Hang's PhD is under the supervision of UniSQ and SRA and is supported by Grains R&D Corporation, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program and Cotton R&D Corporation, Horticulture Innovation Australia, Wine Australia, Sugar Research Australia and Forest & Wood Products Australia.

Image, left to right: Holly Farnan, Entomology Technician, Dr Kevin Powell, Entomology Leader, Samuel Bawa, Entomologist, Hang Xu, PhD student.

[Read more about SRA's Pest & Diseases research](#)



Strong interest in Burdekin Irrigation Project

Thanks to everyone who expressed their interest in Round 3 of the *Burdekin Irrigation Project*. Twenty Expressions of Interest were received, with a large number of those growers new to the project (75%).

SRA is undertaking an assessment of the EOIs, with assistance from North Queensland Dry Tropics. The team will be in touch in the next couple of weeks regarding the next stage, which will include an on-farm property visit to further discuss the project.

Events

[Southern Weed Management Workshop - Rocky Point](#) - Woongoolba Hall, 1226 Stapylton Jacobs Well Road, Woongoolba, Tuesday 9 August, 3.30pm- 6pm

[Southern Weed Management Workshop - Bundaberg, Isis & Maryborough cane growers](#) - CANEGROWERS, 48 Churchill Street, Childers. Thursday 11 August 12.30pm-3.30pm

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