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**sra**

Sugar Research  
Australia

**eNewsletter**

Friday 19 February 2023

What's been in your rain gauge in the past 24 hours? Are you getting any benefit from The Wet this summer or has it missed your farm again? If it has been raining too hard to get on your paddocks of late, there are a heap of interesting events from SRA to take your mind off the start of the next crush.



### Young sugarcane growers from the far north visit SRA Woodford

A young growers group from Cairns and Mossman this week visited SRA Woodford as part of their tour of parts of the Southern Region.

*Pictured from left to right: Michael Fasano, Scott Fasano, Cameron Reghenzani, James Oldacre, Andrew Greet, Matt Kealley, Shamsul Bhuiyan, Paul Calcino, Gavin Rodman, Ben McClelland and Luke Calcagno.*

[Read more ... SRA Woodford visit](#)



## Harvest Mate on the road

*Harvest Mate* is a new harvesting decision support tool (now available online and via a smartphone app) developed and funded over three years by Sugar Research Australia and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, with the support and input from hundreds of sugarcane growers.

A series of harvesting forums to encourage take-up and adoption of the app in time for the 2023 season will get underway in northern Queensland from March.

*Pictured: SRA District Manager Northern & Agricultural Machinery Specialist Phil Patane (left) with Tully grower Jamie Dore.*

[HARVEST MATE NORTHERN  
ROADSHOW DATES](#)





## Want to know more about Tissue Culture?

SRA's tissue culture program provides an alternative source of clean seed by supplying sugarcane seedlings that are disease-free and are DNA tested to ensure genetic identity.

Tissue culture is a way of replenishing clean source material for existing varieties and is an effective way of getting new varieties out to industry faster. And it is an effective way of controlling diseases that are spread through planting material, including ratoon stunting disease (RSD).

SRA and Productivity Services encourage growers who are considering tissue culture to talk to their local productivity services organisation for local advice on variety selection to meet their needs.

[Tissue Culture Walk - 22 February in the Burdekin - Find out more and RSVP](#)



## Are you in the Murray Catchment and need help managing your drains?

A free full-day workshop is planned next week for growers, contractors and extension staff in the Murray catchment who are interested in learning about how drains can be reprofiled and managed to reduce erosion and nitrogen run-off and maintain effective drainage.

*This is a Mobilising the Murray project event and is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

[Workshop 23 February, Murray Upper - Information](#)

## Farmsafe Australia - *Toolbox Talks* podcasts

Farmsafe Australia is releasing a series of podcasts about safety on farms with special guests talking about subjects such as the importance of communication in safety. Focusing on

farm culture, the series hopes to raise awareness about how to achieve a safer working, living and playing environment on farms.

[Toolbox Talks - Listen on Spotify](#)



### Monitoring cane stalk growth

Central district growers: SRA District Manager Dylan Wedel and District Delivery Officer Stephanie Duncan are collecting daily stalk growth measurements to determine the trigger point for irrigation when using soil moisture probes.

“This crop of KQ 288 has grown 21 mm in the past 24 hours after being irrigated on the weekend. I've seen it grow 30 mm previously so I'm expecting this paddock will increase its rate in the coming days,” Dylan said.

“The stalk growth allows us to provide growers with a simple trigger point on the moisture probe so that they don't have to do their own stalk measurements.

“We use Chameleons which are a low cost, multi-level soil moisture probe that has the ability to upload data every two hours via WiFi. We've been working with a number of growers and have installed these probes on their farms to improve their irrigation scheduling.”

***If you'd like to improve your irrigation scheduling or irrigation costs give Dylan a call on 0490 029 387.***



## Good rollup for Central region events

It was a big couple of days in Central region last week with a good turnout for agronomy events at SRA Mackay and in Proserpine.

Featured on the program was an overview of SRA research with practical outcomes for 2023; including the latest recommendations on the use of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers (EEFs); key outcomes for growers from the Cane to Creek project and the latest on profitable crop ripener usage.

Look out for similar events happening in the north in the coming weeks - see listings below.

## Nurturing farmers' great ideas

Got a big idea you'd like to get funded?

Australian producers can apply for a grant of up to \$500,000 to help them develop new market-leading products, technologies and processes.

Applications for Round 11 of Coles Nurture Fund are now open and will close on Friday 24 February 2023.

The program was launched in April 2015 to help food and liquor farmers to innovate and grow.



[Coles Nurture Fund - guidelines and application form](#)

## **SRA Brisbane corporate staff are on the move**

From Monday 27 February SRA's corporate staff will move from Indooroopilly to Suite A, Level 10, 300 Queen Street, Brisbane. Laboratory staff are unaffected.

Our central location will give us a new way of working and provide a broad range of efficiencies and cost savings.

The move will also enable us to work closer with some of our key stakeholders: the growers' organisations, the milling companies and agencies of government, who are situated close by. This will encourage greater communication and collaboration.

Our postal address will change to GPO Box 133, Brisbane 4001. Telephone numbers remain the same.

## **SRA Events**

[Tissue culture: An alternative approved seed source](#) - Ayr, Wednesday 22 February, 9am

[Drain Design and Management](#) - Upper Murray, Thursday 23 February, 8am

[CANEGROWERS Rocky Point and SRA , Tour of the Woodford Pathology Station](#) - Thursday 23 February, 9am

### **The latest in sugarcane research to enhance your business practices**

Join us at any of the four scheduled events listed below.

Click on the relevant link for more information, the full agenda and how to rsvp.

[- Atherton, Tuesday 28 February, 8.30am](#)

[- Mareeba, Tuesday 28 February, 1.30pm](#)

[- Babinda, Wednesday 1 March, 8.30am](#)

[- Gordonvale, Wednesday 1 March, 1.30pm](#)

### **Knockdown Herbicides - Advanced Workshops - March**

SRA, in partnership with Nufarm and Croplands, invite growers in [Mackay, Rocky Point and Bundaberg](#) to attend an advanced workshop about knockdown herbicides in March.



The workshop is designed for growers already familiar with knockdown herbicides and spray applications but who want to take their knowledge further to make more informed weed management decisions.

The workshop will include live demonstrations from Croplands and Nufarm to illustrate product incompatibility and the effect of nozzle and adjuvants on drift.

***Check the [website](#) for more details as these become available. More workshops in other regions are planned.***

## Upcoming industry events

[ASSCT](#) - 44th Annual Conference, 18-21 April, Cairns Convention Centre

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