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Sugar Research
Australia

eNewsletter

In this eNewsletter, we bring you the digital version of the 2023/24 Burdekin Region Variety Guide, we let you know about two research award/scholarship programs and give details of upcoming events.



Above: Attendees were welcomed by MAPS CEO Anthony Schembri and SRA District Manager Central Dylan Wedel.

Packed program in Mackay

A good crowd in perfect weather assembled yesterday for the MAPS SRA annual Field Day at the Victoria Plains Clean Seed Plot.

Growers took the opportunity to talk to SRA researchers at length about their work, the issues affecting their own farms and possible solutions.

[Read more about MAPS/SRA Field Day](#)

Last call for bookings: Rocky Point Productivity Workshop

Rocky Point sugarcane growers are invited to join SRA and CANEGROWERS for an informative morning next Tuesday 16 May (9am - 12 noon) to discuss the latest productivity results recorded in the district and to hear about new programs of work under way.

Lisa Devereaux, SRA District Manager Southern will be on hand to talk about the update to the Southern District Productivity Plan and the activities underway to meet the Plan's goals. Ben

Spann on behalf of the Southern Regional Variety Committee will provide an overview of the new SRA varieties for 2023.

Growers will also have the chance to speak to SRA District Manager Northern and Agricultural Machinery Specialist about Harvest Mate, the new harvesting decision support tool to help growers and contractors assess different harvester settings to improve profitability.

[More information - Rocky Point Productivity Workshop](#)

Herbert & Burdekin Field Days 30 & 31 May

Hope we see you at SRA's [Herbert](#) and [Burdekin Field Days](#) this month. Both field days will have scheduled presentations and informal conversations with SRA experts and industry partners.

Check out the latest research findings and technology to improve your business's productivity, profitability, and sustainability.



(Above): SRA District Manager - Burdekin Terry Granshaw and SRA staff member Joy Allegri inspect 32,000 new seedlings for the 2023 season

Why not take the bus? The Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming project team are organising a bus to the Herbert Station Field Day with pickups on offer to cane growers on farms between Mourilyan and Ingham. Contact Debra Telford for more information: 0428 875 069 | debra_telford@canegrowers.com.au

Burdekin Variety Guide for 2023/24 now available online

Every year SRA plant breeders produce a detailed and informative publication designed to help growers in each canegrowing region with their agronomic considerations when selecting varieties to plant and trial on their farms.

The data in each of the six Variety Guides comes from the best available data of regional variety performance and includes new varieties that have been approved for release by the relevant [Regional Variety Committee](#).

At the Burdekin RVC meeting held in March the committee recommend the release of SRA34, a variety previously released in NSW and the Southern region.

If you're in the Burdekin and want to know more about SRA34 and other recently released varieties, you'll find it all in the Burdekin Variety Guide 2023/24 – now available on SRA's website. Printed copies of the guide will be mailed to all levy payers in the district and available from the Burdekin Field Day.

Variety Guides for all districts will be available in the coming weeks – watch this space, and your letter box!

[Download the Burdekin Variety Guide 2023/24](#)



Sweet new *Harvest Mate*

"*Harvest Mate* will help sugarcane growers extract the greatest possible value out of their harvest," says Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner.

[Read more of what the Minister said about Harvest Mate](#)

Research awards and scholarship funding rounds open

SRA's research awards and postgraduate scholarships are now open for applications.

Research Mission Manager Dr Tinashe Chiurugwi said the research awards enabled participants to undertake small projects which demonstrated clear benefits to the sugarcane industry. These projects could be used to develop research skills and/or explore new and innovative ideas about issues in the industry.

The Sugar Industry Postgraduate Research Scholarships (SPRS) enable qualified graduates to undertake Research Doctorate or Research Masters study and to facilitate research and training in areas of value to the Australian sugarcane industry. The scholarships are tenable at Australian universities and institutions for postgraduate research study.

Applications for both programs are open until 31 August 2023.

[Research Awards & Scholarship applications](#)

SRA at Women in Sugar Conference

District Manager Southern Lisa Devereaux and Research Mission Manager Cathy Mylrea (*right, with Krystal Golchert*) were on the speakers' platform last week to talk about SRA's work to overcome the barriers to the attraction, retention and progression of women in their professional (particularly science) careers at the Women in Sugar Australia (WISA) conference in Bundaberg.

Lisa also talked about the development of the **Southern District Productivity Plan** and other district productivity plans, now available on the SRA website.



[Read more about the WISA Conference](#)



**POSITION
VACANT**

Jobs available at SRA

Join our highly dedicated and passionate people working on interesting and industry-critical activities to deliver economic, social and environmental outcomes for the sugar industry and surrounding communities. We embrace diversity and seek to attract, develop and retain the highest calibre talent regardless of gender.

- [Plant Breeding Technician \(Crossing\)](#) - Meringa
- [Plant Breeding Technician](#) - Meringa
- [Casual Field Hands](#) - Meringa
- [Pathology Technician](#) - Woodford.

SRA survey underway in May

Listening to and understanding the needs and views of levy payers is a priority for SRA. It helps us identify areas for improved engagement and delivery of enhanced products and services.

Last year you told us that SRA staff are active in engaging in industry matters and events in their district but there remains a sizeable group who suggest more is needed.

Have your views changed? There is a chance for you to tell us this month. An independent research agency, Intuitive Solutions, will call growers and millers in May to give them the opportunity to provide feedback about SRA and identify new research and development opportunities. Don't miss your chance to tell us what you want.

[Your chance to have your say about SRA](#)

Events

Harvest Mate Road Show - as part of the Rocky Point Productivity Day, 8am to 12 noon, Tuesday 16 May

Bus trip to Rotary FNQ Field Day, Mareeba - for Tully growers - 7am - 4pm, Wednesday 24 May

SIX EASY STEPS workshop - 8.00am - 3.30pm, Mossman, Wednesday 24 May

Herbert Station Field Day - 8.00am - 3.00pm, Herbert Station, Tuesday 30 May

Burdekin Station Field Day - 7.00am - 1.00pm, Burdekin Station, Wednesday 31 May

Advanced Workshop on Knockdown Herbicides - 8.00am - 1.30pm, Harwood Community Hall, Wednesday 31 May

Hear the latest in variety development in FNQ - various venues & times, Mareeba, Mossman, Babinda & Gordonvale, 7-8 June

Industry

Virtual careers panel - hear about sugar industry career prospects - SRA's District Delivery Officer FNQ, Paul Calcino is one of three panellists on a live virtual careers panel hosted by the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) this Monday 15 May as part of Careers Week 2023.

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