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Sugar Research  
Australia

# eNewsletter

Friday 4 August

In this eNewsletter, we've got details of more events coming up next week designed to enhance your business's productivity and profitability. Hope you can join us.



## LEA identified constraints addressed in first South Johnstone District Productivity Plan

In 2021 SRA initiated a Local Expert Analysis (LEA) initiative in the South Johnstone mill area to develop immediate, mid and longer-term productivity strategies to address declining yields.

Through 2022 the LEA worked closely with representatives from local industry groups including MSF Sugar, CANEGROWERS Innisfail, Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services, Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland.

Following this consultation we have now assembled targeted actions to address the known constraints in the first *South Johnstone District Productivity Plan* which can be downloaded from SRA's website.

The LEA is closely collaborating with the **Cassowary Coast Reef Smart Farming** initiative led by CANEGROWERS Innisfail. Both initiatives have a common goal to improve nutrient use efficiency and improve grower productivity and profitability.

If you have any questions about the LEA or South Johnstone District Productivity plan, contact SRA District Manager Northern, Phil-Anthony Patane on email: [ppatane@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:ppatane@sugarresearch.com.au)

*Above: Principal Research Scientist Dr Rob Magarey (right) at SRA's Tully station, with CANEGROWERS Innisfail, District Extension Officer Peter Becke, loading the last of 9,000 tissue culture seedlings raised in the glasshouse. The seedlings are bound for a satellite seed plot in South Johnstone. The South Johnstone District productivity plan sets a target of increasing adoption of tissue culture to plant an average area of 5 ha per annum (approximately 50,000 seedlings) by 2026.*

### District Productivity Plans - including South Johnstone



### Getting on top of weeds in NSW and Tully

New South Wales and Tully growers who want to know more about understanding and using pre-emergence herbicides effectively on their farms are invited to attend advanced workshops with SRA Weed Scientist Emilie Fillols (*above*) next week.

“Every sugarcane growing district is slightly different in terms of soil types, microclimates and weed problems. I look forward to talking to growers about their own specific challenges with weeds on their farms,” Emilie said.

Emilie will show growers how pre-emergence herbicides work and how to make more informed decisions about them, from 8.30 am next Tuesday 8 August at Wardell and next Friday 11 August at Tully.

“I will discuss the target weeds and their growing habits with growers, then how pre-emergence herbicides work in controlling them, based on the properties of their active ingredients.

“It is important for growers to know that each herbicide has its own strengths and weaknesses in terms of plant uptake, soil binding and mobility in the soil and throughout the plant, persistence of the chemical, breakdown pathways and plant back timing requirements,” Emilie said.

[Wardell - 9 August DETAILS](#)

[Tully - 11 August DETAILS](#)



## Low-cost irrigation scheduling demo at Gargett

Central District growers are invited to spend an hour of their time in Gargett from **8.30am next Friday 11 August** to see a fully live stream irrigation scheduling system featuring moisture probes and a WIFI base station.

To be hosted by District Manager Central Dylan Wedel (*left*) and District Delivery Officer Stephanie Duncan, the discussion will include low-cost irrigation tools such as pump controllers. This activity forms part of the [Central District Productivity Plan](#).

RSVP by Thursday 10 August to: District Delivery Officer - Stephanie Duncan

M: 0459 863 298

E: [sduncan@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:sduncan@sugarresearch.com.au)

[More information on the demo](#)

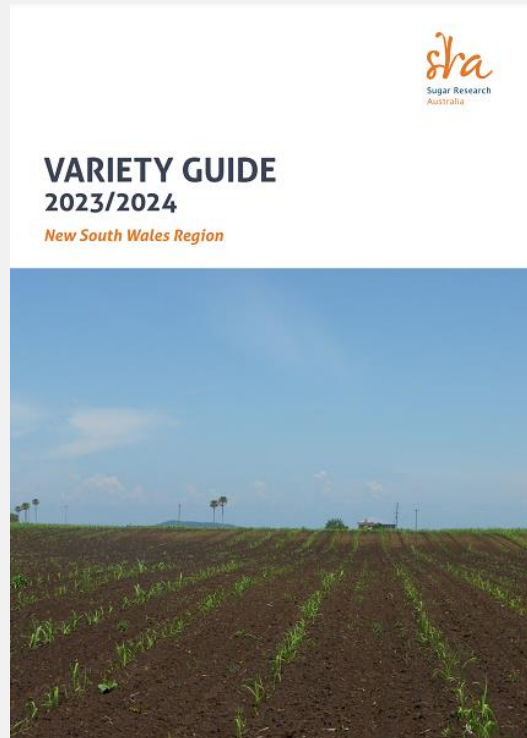
## NSW Variety Guide out now

SRA's NSW Variety Guide for 2023 is now available on our website (see the link below) and will be making its way in hardcopy form by mail to all levy payers in the NSW cane growing region over the coming week.

The Variety Guides are designed to help growers select varieties to plant and evaluate on their farms based on performance information and agronomic characteristics.

The NSW guide includes trial data for recently released varieties SRA29 , SRAW30, SRA34, SRA35 and SRA41, approved for release by the NSW Regional Variety Committee (RVC). Membership of the NSW RVC is drawn from the NSW Agricultural Advisory Committee, Sunshine Sugar, Agricultural Services staff and Sugar Research Australia.

The NSW guide also includes commercial performance data for varieties grown in 1-year and 2-year farming systems in the Condong, Broadwater and Harwood mill areas, noting that 2022 wasn't a typical season due to the harvesting of severely flooded cane in all mill areas.



If you have any questions on variety trials in NSW contact:

NSW Variety Officer Anthony Cattle on [acattle@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:acattle@sugarresearch.com.au)

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

## Research Awards for 2023 - closing soon

As a component of SRA's investment in industry capability, we offer research awards and postgraduate scholarships for researchers who provide services to the Australian sugar industry.

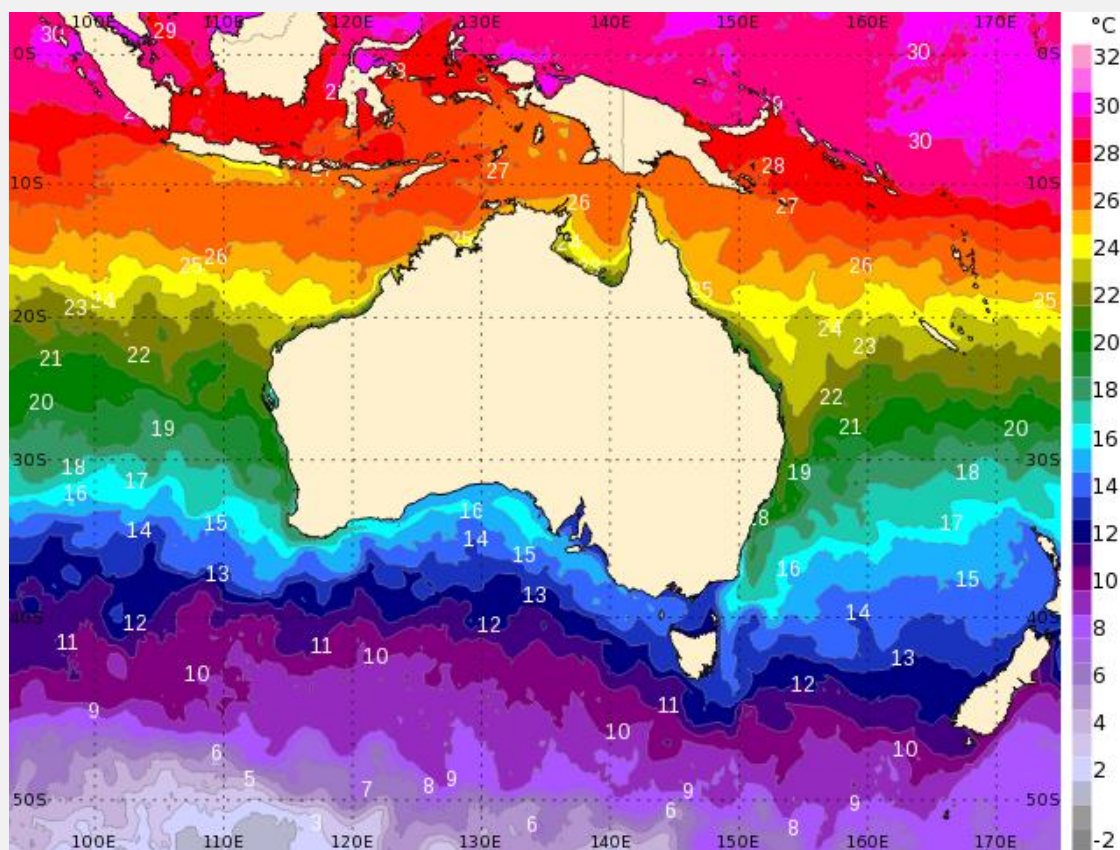
The research awards are intended to encourage innovative thinking and allow participants to conduct small projects which can clearly demonstrate benefits to the Australian sugarcane

industry. These projects may be used to develop research skills and/or explore new and innovative ideas. The scholarships enable qualified graduates to undertake research doctorate or research masters study and to facilitate research training in areas of value to the industry. The scholarships are tenable at Australian universities and institutions for postgraduate research study.

The 2023 Sugar Industry Research Awards and the Sugar Industry Postgraduate Research Scholarships are now open and will close 31 August 2023.

[Download the Application Kit - research awards](#)

[Download the Application Kit - scholarships](#)



Sea surface temperature (deg C): Daily analysis for **Wed 2 Aug 2023**  
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## El Niño remains likely

The Bureau's El Niño Alert continues. When El Niño Alert criteria have been met in the past, an El Niño event has developed around 70% of the time. Currently, the Pacific Ocean and atmosphere have yet to become fully coupled.

Australia's climate has warmed by an average of  $1.47 \pm 0.24$  °C since national records began in 1910.

[Read more about El Niño](#)



## **Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit**

Queensland Farmers' Federation has released a new resource to provide information and practical guidance for landholders considering hosting a renewable energy project on their property.

[Download the Renewable Energy Landholder Toolkit](#)



## SRA will be at the Ekka

If you're in Brisbane in the week 12-20 August please come and see us at the Brisbane Ekka. We'll be presenting exciting aspects of our work for the sugar industry in the Agricultural Pavillion alongside CANEGROWERS and Sunshine Sugar.

Yes, the VR headsets will be there again for the kids to take a trip from the farm to the mill to the refinery to the store (pictured above at last year's show). We'll also have live canegrubs to view and free tattoos of a variety of sugarcane pests for the kids.

## Conference on feral pig management

This year's National Feral Pig Conference shared the latest research and innovative development in feral pig management, including the ecological impact of feral pigs and innovative control strategies. Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Dr Allison Crook, spoke about the approach to an emergency animal disease response involving feral pigs



from a CVO's perspective.

[Read the Conference proceedings](#)

*(Above) A feral pig monitoring trial has been set up at Woodford station. This feral pig and its kin throughout the State cause hundreds of thousands of dollars' damage to sugarcane crops every year.*

## Events

[Advanced Pre-Emergent Herbicide Workshop Wardell, NSW](#) - Tuesday 8 August, 8.30am - 12.30pm

[Advanced Pre-Emergent Herbicide Workshop Tully, FNQ](#) - Friday 11 August, 1.00pm - 5.00pm

[Low-cost irrigation scheduling demo at Gargett](#) - Friday 11 August, 8.30am - 9.30am

## Follow Us



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