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Friday 1 September

**Welcome to Spring! We hope the 2023 crush is going well for you, whether you work on the farm or in the mill, the refinery or at the port.**



### **New research projects**

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has announced three new research projects to drive productivity, profitability, and sustainability for Australian sugarcane growers and millers. These projects will:

- investigate the potential of new biocontrol agents to control canegrubs
- develop diagnostic tests for key species of soldier fly and an artificial diet to enable researchers to better evaluate what control agents can be used to control them, and

- seek to develop a machine learning system to measure the extraneous matter and billet length in each cane consignment.

These projects are funded by Sugar Research Australia and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

[Read more details about the new projects](#)

[View all current research](#)



### Farm walk to view new varieties

An *End of Early Season Review* was held recently by the Tully Variety Management Group (TVMG), facilitated by Tully Sugar's Cane Productivity and Development Manager Greg Shannon. The review included a farm walk to inspect and discuss the planted varieties on the mill's farm south of Tully.

SRA has been a member of the TVMG since its establishment in 2012 by Tully Sugar Limited, Tully Cane Productivity Services Ltd, CANEGROWERS Tully and individual growers.

*Pictured: Above left: Greg Shannon, far right, leads growers, Tully mill staff and SRA staff through the variety walk. Above right (L to R): SRA's Northern District Manager, Phil Patane, Tully Sugar's Chief Operating Officer John Edwards and SRA's Variety Development Manager, Felicity Atkin participated in the variety walk.*



[Read more here](#)



**Watch our 2-minute video about why we dig soil pits**

“What is below the surface is quite often very different,” says SRA’s Principal Agronomist, Dr Danielle Skocaj.

[Play the video](#)



**RSD testing at the mill and the block now possible in NQ**

A recently announced project *Delivery of a pest and disease diagnostic step change for the sugarcane industry (RSD-LAMP)* led by Dr Jimmy Botella at The University of Queensland aims to apply an RSD protocol that will detect the bacteria in the first expressed juice at the mill.

This will then enable RSD incidence to be mapped for every mill area for every crop in every year and highlight the factors governing disease incidence. This project is funded by SRA and The University of Queensland.

*Pictured: Above left: Dr Sriti Burman, Research Fellow, School of Agricultural and Food Sustainability, The University of Queensland trains TCPSL Manager Peter Sutherland in using the LAMP assay. Above right: Peter Sutherland, Gerry Borgna, Sriti Burman and Seona Casonato.*

[Read more about this ground-breaking RSD project](#)



[instagram.com/sugarresearch.com.au](https://www.instagram.com/sugarresearch.com.au)

**New SRA social media platform**

SRA has a new SRA page on Instagram: @sugarresearch.com.au

[Please follow us on Instagram](#)



## El Niño alert continues

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño alert continues, with El Niño development likely during Spring. When El Niño criteria have been met in the past, an El Niño event has developed about 70 per cent of the time. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific are exceeding El Niño thresholds and have continued to warm slightly in the past fortnight.

The long-range forecast for Australia predicts warmer and drier conditions across large parts of Australia from now until November.

[More about El Niño](#)



### Get the latest news on your harvest weather

The latest Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook briefing from the Bureau of Meteorology is now available for your region:

1. Far North & North: [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [PDF](#)
2. Burdekin: [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [PDF](#)
3. Central: [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [PDF](#)
4. South - QLD: [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [PDF](#)

5. South - Gold Coast & NSW: [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [PDF](#)

These agriclimate outlooks are prepared by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology on behalf of Agricultural Innovation Australia (AIA). Do you find them helpful? Feedback on the content and format is invited in order to tailor future briefings to ensure they meet the needs of the sugarcane industry.

[Please provide feedback on the Sugarcane Rainfall Outlook](#)



## Calling all young sugar industry leaders!

AgriFutures is on the hunt for aspirational young leaders who are motivated to promote a sustainable and innovative future.

Applications for the AgriFutures evokeAG Future Young Leaders Program for the 2024 cohort have recently opened. The program aims to build the capacity of emerging leaders, by providing a pathway and support network to share their ideas for the future of agriculture. This could range from a new technological concept to a thought-provoking idea about how we can advance agricultural industries.

The five Future Young Leaders selected will receive in-depth mentoring from an industry professional to refine their idea and ultimately present on the main stage of the evokeAG 2024 conference in Perth. Applicants must be between the ages of 18-30 and a resident of Australia, New Zealand, or a country in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

[Apply today young leader!](#)



## Best wishes. Ross Broadfoot

SRA wishes mill researcher Dr Ross Broadfoot all the best for his retirement. Ross is stepping down from fulltime work at QUT this week after 52 years in research and development work for the sugar industry. He will still work casually and as a mentor.

Ross commenced employment at the Sugar Research Institute (SRI) in Mackay, Queensland, Australia in January 1971, working there for 34 years before relocating to Brisbane as an employee of QUT. While in Mackay he enrolled in a PhD at the University of Queensland, focussing on the design of continuous vacuum pans. *All the best, Ross!*



*Ross Broadfoot*



## Central website for information about Reef water quality projects

A new website, CaneRise, has been launched to link cane growers in the Mackay Whitsunday region to information about Reef water quality projects in the region. The aim is to help cane growers implement practices that improve their cane, soil and water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchment areas.

The website provides information on:

- opportunities to get involved with water quality improvement projects in the Mackay Whitsunday region
- tools and resources
- local support to implement sustainability practices
- funding that's available in the region.

It is part of a project funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

[Visit CaneRise](#)

## Events

### SRA

[Advanced Pre-emergent herbicide workshop](#) - **Gordonvale** - Monday, 2 October 2023, 12pm-5pm

[Advanced Pre-emergent herbicide workshop](#) - **Mossman** - Friday, 6 October 2023, 10am-3pm

[SRA's 2023 AGM](#) - 11am, Thursday 16 November 2023

### Industry

[Optimising Soil Health Workshop](#) - Friday, 15 September, 8.00am - 1.30pm



## Follow Us



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