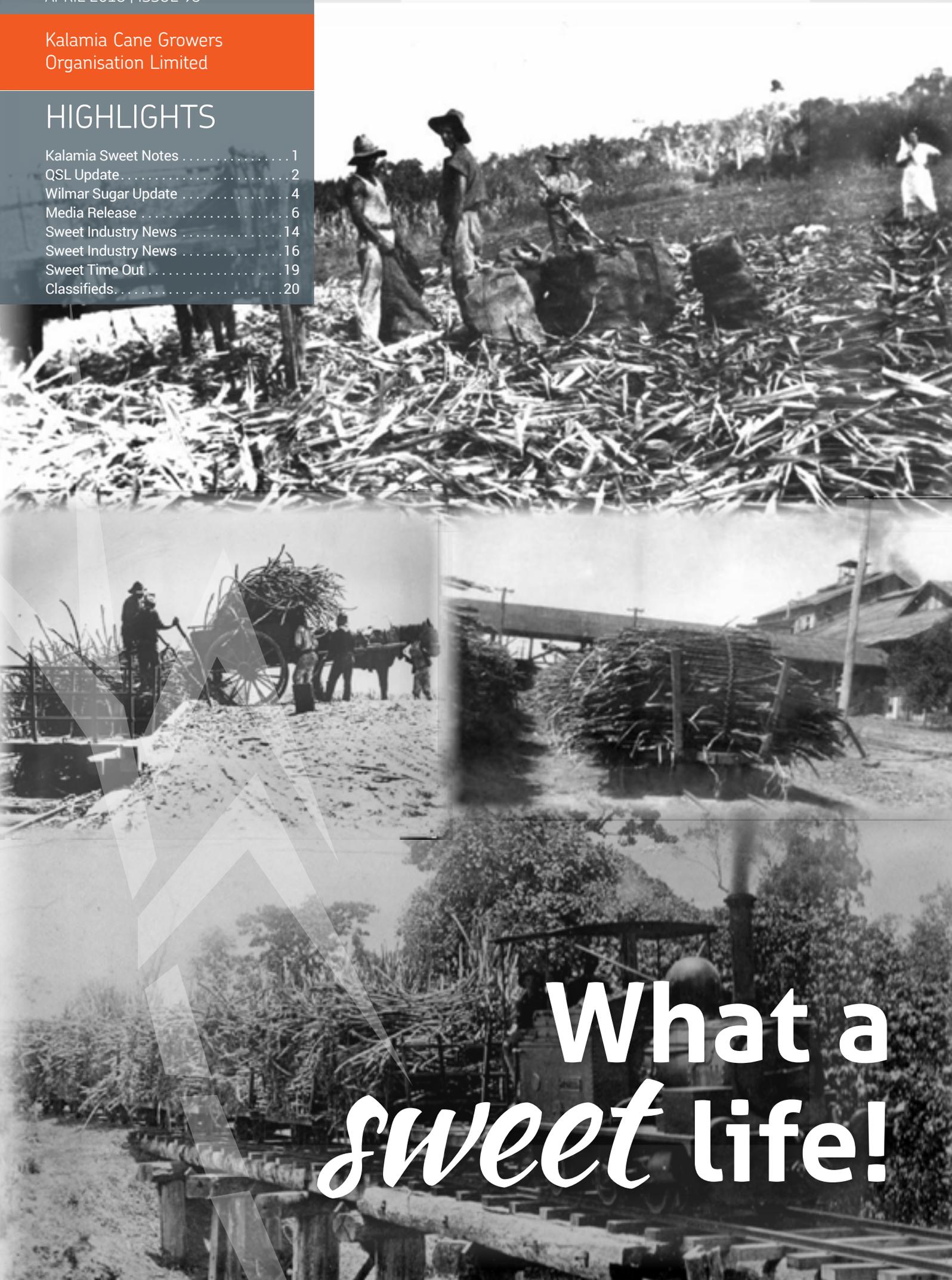


HIGHLIGHTS

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Sweet Industry News	16
Sweet Time Out	19
Classifieds	20



What a
sweet life!



Financial planning for you and your business

Questions to ask yourself...

- Do you have a business plan in place?
- Is cash flow an issue for you?
- Do you know how to manage debt in the most tax-effective manner?
- Have you considered what would happen to your business should something happen to you or a key employee and you were forced to stop work?
- Are you taking advantage of super opportunities to save tax-effectively for retirement?

Grasso Financial Services can help create a solid plan for your finances, so that you can concentrate on taking care of your business. Please call us on 47 831767 to make an appointment so we can show you how we can lighten your load

Phone: 4783 1767

Fax: 07 4783 7107

Email: admin@grassofinancialservices.com.au

146 Queen Street, AYR QLD 4807

PO Box 1425, AYR QLD 4807

www.grassofinancialservices.com.au

FINANCIAL PLANNING SUPERANNUATION PERSONAL INSURANCE

This information is of a general nature only and has been provided without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Because of this, you should consider whether the information is appropriate in light of your particular objectives, financial situation and needs.



John Grasso AFP®
Dip FS (FP), MFinPlan, JP (Qual),
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Tonia Sanderson AFP®
Dip FP, MFinPlan, SSA SMSF Specialist Adviser™
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Kalamia Sweet Notes

Designed and printed by:
Lotsa - Print & Signage 4775 1981
KCGOL acknowledges and
thanks all contributors.

20 April 2018

Well, I am now back on deck and fully refreshed after 4 weeks annual leave. Unfortunately, I missed out on the good drenching rain (9 inches approx.) the district experienced the first week I was away which no doubt was very welcome with farm pumps running silent for weeks following. That maybe a sign that when growers want some rain I need to take some more leave.

Have noticed planting contractors are commencing operations throughout the district and Burdekin Productivity Services have confirmed the opening date for the P & K Farm plot to be the 19th

April 2018 for growers 2018 clean seed cane requirements. A reminder to all Kalamia members that as an added incentive to encourage the use of clean seed cane in order to minimise the risk of disease, KCGOL provides a \$10.00 per tonne rebate on seed cane bought from our P & K Farm. All you need to do is provide our office with a copy of your seed cane purchase invoice whereby a refund will then be processed to your nominated account.

At the beginning of April I attended the Burdekin Regional Variety Committee meeting whereby decisions are made based on data provided as to variety progression through plant breeding programs of SRA/Wilmar. Representatives from SRA, BPS, Farmacist, Wilmar, local collectives and growers who have undertaken strip trials were in attendance. Data is presented and discussed at length after which the RVC panel consisting of 1 representative (director) from each of the four collectives and 1 representative from miller will vote on variety progression. For a variety to progress to release ie. Isolation plot, vote from the panel is required to be unanimous whereas progression of clone through the breeding system needs to be a majority vote. Provided below is a brief

summary of outcomes from meeting.

MAXPROP CLONES CONSIDERED FOR RELEASE:

- » QA04-1448 – Discarded. Poor ratooning ability tonnage, CCS less than the standard varieties.
- » KQ08-2180 – Held. Has an intermediate-susceptible smut rating in laboratory tests, however minimal evidence in field conditions. Tonnage above and CCS slightly less than the standard varieties. Further smut rating test due May 2018. Vote delayed pending test outcome.
- » QA07-2330 – Held. Tonnage slightly less and CCS same as standards however has a high Floc rating. Decision to hold and undertake further strip trial.

ACCELERATED CLONE CONSIDERED FOR MAXPROP:

- » KQ07-4897 – Discarded. Reasonable tonnage with below average CCS against the standard varieties with evidence of high % severe side shooting.

CLONES CONSIDERED FOR POSSIBLE ACCELERATION:

- » QA10-1130 – Held. High tonnage with similar CCS to standards. Has an Intermediate-susceptible smut rating. Further smut rating test due May 2018. Vote delayed pending test outcome.
- » QA09-1589 – Accelerated. Smut resistant variety with similar tonnage and CCS to standard varieties.
- » QA09-1049 – Accelerated. Slightly less tonnage and higher CCS to standard varieties.

This week I also attended a Sunrice grower field day for an update about the ongoing development of Northern Australia's Rice Industry, including progression of promising research and developments. Also, a presentation was undertaken surrounding the Sunrice's Mungbean processing and packing operations and alignment with

large scale pulse traders for grower market access. One of the traders in attendance was Olam International. Olam already has processing and storage facilities on the Darling Downs, but since the demise of Blue Ribbon Group have in conjunction with Sun Rice, offered marketing and processing options for the Burdekin region. Given a projected world sugar surplus over the next two years and with current sugar price at the time of writing dropping below 0.12 US cents per pound, growers may be considering maximising farm potential with alternate cropping of fallow land with pulses as a possible viable option. Apart from the benefit of soil enhancement resulting an increase in sugar cane yields going forward, it may be also a source of supplementary income during these times. If anyone is interested in having a discussion with an Olam representative you can call Leigh Beutel, Marketing Services Officer on 0428 155 539.

In December last year, KCGOL conducted a member survey in relation to its webpage and monthly magazine "What a Sweet Life". Response to the survey was minimal and given that industry relevant issues are also posted to our webpage and the cost impost to our members for its continued issuance, the board has decided to discontinue its production as of June 2018. Members who do not currently have access to internet/KCGOL webpage will be provided with a hard copy newsletter of articles posted to ensure they are kept informed of important industry issues. At this point I would like to thank office staff member, Annmarie D'Alessandro for her tireless efforts in compilation of the magazine and her repeated reminders for me to supply my monthly Manager's notes.

Cheers until next month.

Les



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MARKET UPDATE: BIG SURPLUS WEIGHS ON SUGAR PRICES

By QSL Treasury Manager Ginette Barrett

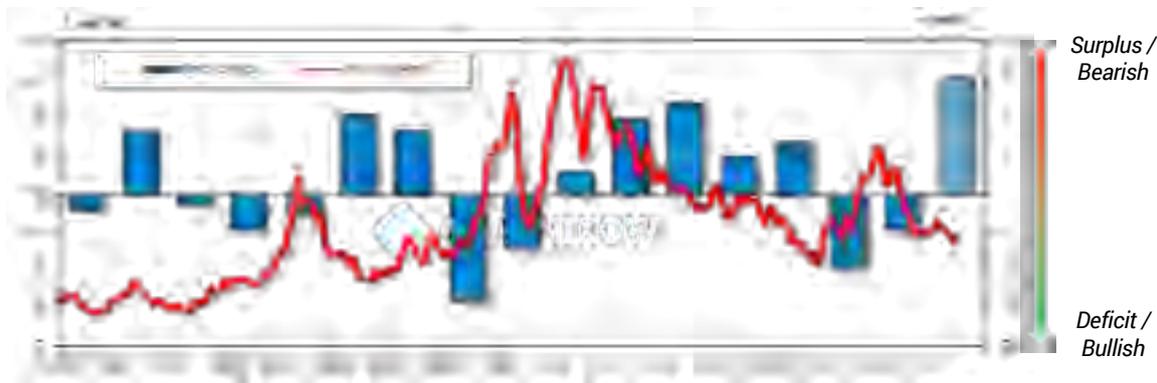
Current as of 18 April 2018

As we head into a new season, it has become clear that the big fundamental market driver of the ICE 11 raw sugar market right now is the growing surplus of production over consumption (i.e. grower sugar stocks). The key driver of this is the growing size of the crops out of India and Thailand, with current expected production levels of approximately 31.5 million tonnes and 13.6 million tonnes respectively. On the back of these upward revisions, the raw sugar price has had continuous downward pressure, holding the price below 13 c/lb for the front three contracts on the pricing curve (July 2018, October 2018, and March 2019). The global surplus for the 2017/18 season is now expected to be in excess of 9 million tonnes of sugar. Focus is also moving forward to the 2018/19 Season where the surplus is expected to continue in excess of 6 million tonnes. As a result, the outlook for the global raw sugar market is an extended period of low prices until we can absorb this excess sugar tonnage.

As the Brazilian harvest gets underway, the raw sugar price remains under ethanol parity, which has never been seen before. This will encourage Brazil to maximize ethanol production from their cane crop over sugar production. But even pushing this sugar mix to the limits will not be enough to swallow up the imbalance between the supply and demand of sugar, and should ethanol prices fall this should further increase the pressure on the sugar price to stay at lower levels.

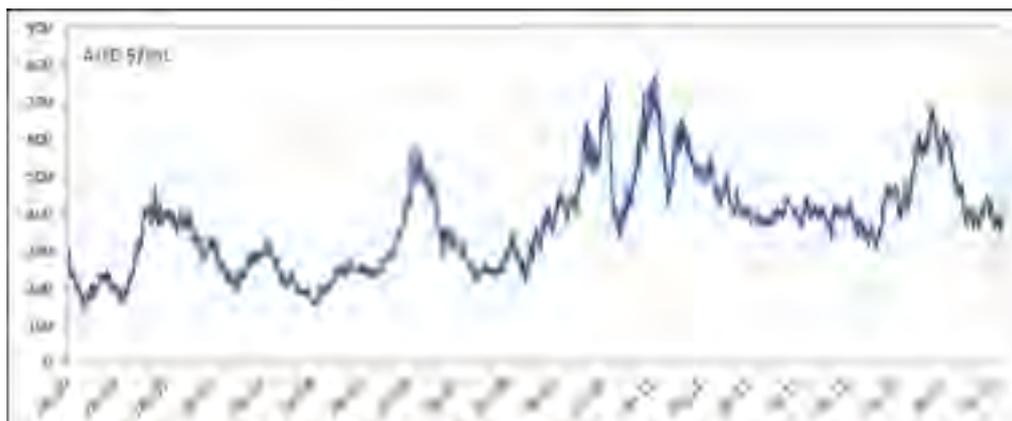
LOOKING BACK

The following chart illustrates the raw sugar trade flows over the last 18 years and shows the correlation between surplus/deficit (the blue bars) and the decrease/increase in the sugar price (red line). More importantly it shows that it takes a lot longer for the price to increase once the market is in deficit than it does to fall when the market is in surplus. For the coming 2018 Season as the surplus grows, raw sugar prices look set to continue to fall, and based on the trends shown in this chart, it would seem any price weaknesses will be slow-moving and prolonged.



Source: Czarnikow

The Australian/US dollar exchange rate value (AUD) over the last 20 years, pictured below, shows the average price sitting around **\$375 per tonne** based on the front contract, with the average sugar price at 13.70 c/lb and AUD value at an average level of 0.7800. Looking at the AUD/metric tonnage (mt) graph over this period of time, the price mainly traded between \$300 and \$430 AUD/mt, and prior to 2009 generally sat inside the \$200 to \$350 AUD/mt range.



Source: Bloomberg

QSL Update

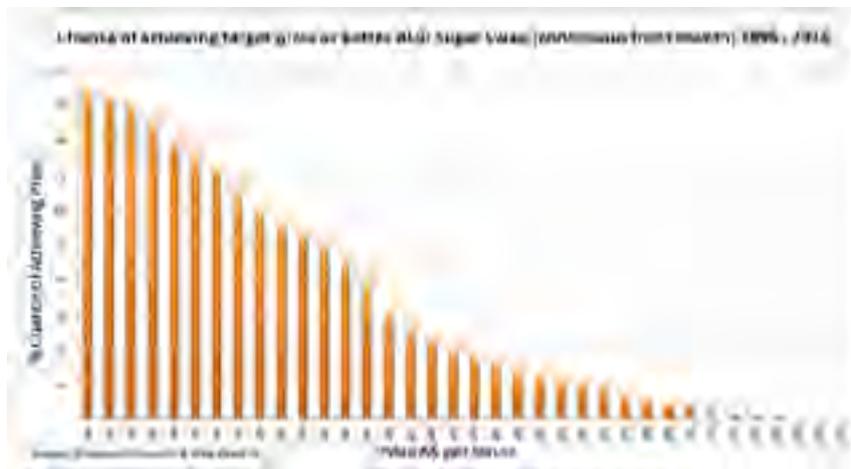
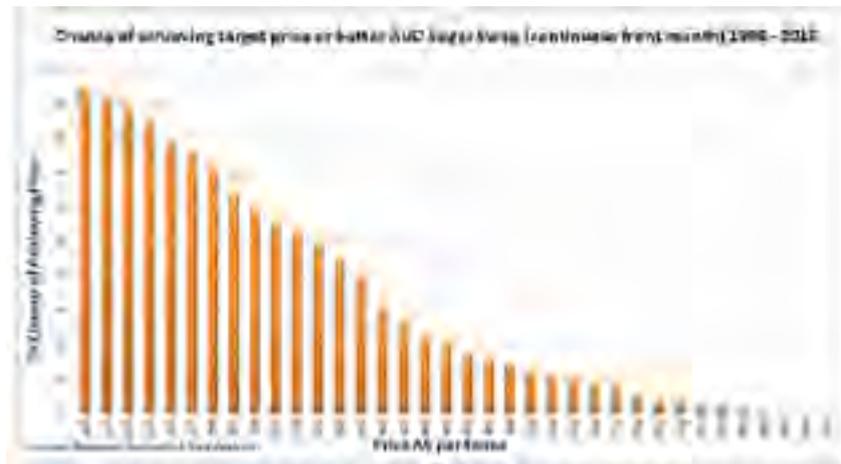


GOING FORWARD

Unfortunately the price outlook does not look good for the next few years as the expected record raw sugar surplus for this year and next will take time to filter through the global market. Prices will need to stay low for long enough to see a supply-side response in the market through mechanisms such as lower plantings, lower levels of husbandry and switches to alternative crops. Given the three to four year average lifecycle of cane crops, this will likely take a couple of years before we see these required responses from producers.

For those growers considering their pricing decisions and the chance of achieving their targeted prices, the following graphs look at the prompt contract price over the last 20 years (The prompt contract is always the closest contract, and so changes from July to October to March and finally to May as we work our way through each season).

As you can see on the next chart, during the last 20 years prices traded at or below A\$450 per tonne 80% of the time. **Prices above \$450 were not available very often – the majority of the time prices were between \$300/tonne and \$400/tonne.**



Looking at what grower pricing orders have been filled and what orders are outstanding for the 2018 Season with QSL, it is evident that there still appears to be a lot of pricing to be completed as the market continues to fall away. Of the grower pricing orders filled to date by QSL, around 64% of the tonnage was priced around the \$450 AUD/mt level. But looking to unfilled orders, around 70% is sitting at pricing targets of \$450 AUD/mt or above. It is vital that during a surplus market environment, growers revisit their pricing targets in light of current pricing levels and resist the tendency to become complacent with a 'set and forget' approach to their orders. Growers need to consider what is an acceptable level of returns in what is likely be a low price environment.

Any sort of rally in raw sugar prices looks set to be jumped on heavily by under-priced producers worldwide, with the chance of prices exceeding \$450 looking remote. The market has now moved to a new floor and in the absence of any fresh news to provide support on a fundamental basis, we are at the mercy of technical drivers and the surplus ahead. Any glimmer of hope for an increase in the sugar price will possibly be left up to a weather event to change the course of the surplus.

PRICING UPDATES

Want to know more about current sugar market prices and trends? Then don't miss QSL's Daily Price Update email. To subscribe, email your details to info@qsl.com.au.

Wilmar Sugar Update



KALAMIA MILL HOSTS TREE PLANTING DAY

More than 400 trees were planted along the banks of Lilliesmere Lagoon at Kalamia Mill on Saturday 21 April as part of World Fish Migration Day.

Kalamia Mill Production Superintendent Chris Scovazzi said the event, organised by NQ Dry Tropics and Wilmar Sugar, had been a great opportunity to showcase the ecological importance of Lilliesmere Lagoon.

“We had about 80 members of the public attend the event, helping to plant, mulch and water the trees,” Mr Scovazzi said.

“NQ Dry Tropics is now in the process of installing an irrigation system, and Kalamia Mill employees will continue to look after the newly planted trees for the next two years.”

The tree planting was part of an ongoing project to improve the ecological health of creek systems in the Lower Burdekin.

Once established, the trees will increase oxygen levels in the lagoon and their underwater roots and branches will provide habitat for fish, and roosting places for birds.

The tree planting was just the beginning of a busy morning of activities.

Members of the public had the chance to hold a baby crocodile and other wetland creatures at the Hands on Wildlife display.

A barramundi release, put on by the team at the Burdekin Fish Restocking Association, was a crowd favourite, and saw 225 fingerlings released into the lagoon.

The barramundi are used to control the population of tilapia, a pest species of fish that inhabit Lilliesmere Lagoon.

A range of talks about native fish, the lagoon’s newly installed automated gates and fishway, and the importance of local waterways, were presented on the day.

The event was funded by the Australian Government, as part of a systems repair project being undertaken by NQ Dry Tropics.

A free sausage sizzle was put on by the team from Kalamia Mill, with participants also receiving goodie bags that included Wilmar Sugar hats and water bottles.



Wilmar Sugar Burdekin Regional Operations Manager Paul Turnbull



Kalamia Mill Technical Assistant Blair Aspinall



The NQ Dry Tropics team led a successful tree planting event, with about 80 members of the public taking part.



Lilliesmere Lagoon, at Kalamia Mill, provided the perfect location for the tree planting and barramundi release.



Kalamia Mill Assistant Production Superintendent Darrel Bailey plants a sapling.



NQ Dry Tropics Project Officer Thijs Krugers, Kalamia Mill Production Superintendent Chris Scovazzi, NQ Dry Tropics Project Officer Lisa Pulman and Kalamia Mill Safety Advisor Gary Bohl.

Wilmar Sugar Update



NEW CANE SUPPLY MANAGER FOR BURDEKIN

Peter Luke will be heading up local cane supply operations for Wilmar Sugar this year, stepping into the role of Burdekin Cane Supply Manager.

Mr Luke, who for the past four years has been the Burdekin Transport Operations Manager, is taking over from Steve Postma.

Mr Postma has served as Burdekin Cane Supply Manager for the past four years, and will move to Townsville to become Wilmar Sugar's Grower Relations and Strategic Initiatives Manager as of 4 June 2018.

He takes over from Dave Langham, who is retiring.



Wilmar Sugar's Steve Postma and Peter Luke

YOUR 2018 SEASON TIMELINE

Know your key dates for the season ahead with Wilmar as your GEI Marketer.

Pricing and Advances
Nomination Date

*Including Grower-Managed
Production Risk Scheme
(GMPRS)*

30 April 2018

GMPRS
pricing begins

16 May 2018

Pricing
Completion Date

*For call and
target price*

20 February 2019

7 – 15 May 2018

GMPRS
confirmation
period

20 September 2018

GMPRS In-Season
Target Pricing
Completion Date

19 April 2019

GMPRS
Post-Season
Target Pricing
Completion Date

For assistance setting up for the season ahead, contact our experienced Grower Pricing Team.

CONTACT **Chris Winship** (07) 4722 1986 | 0437 669 118
Trudi Anderson (07) 4722 1931 | 0438 176 335



G&G Ag Contracting

BILLET PLANTING

Glen: 0412 659 856 Gianni: 0428 831 601

Reliable & Quality Service



4 April 2018

CLOSING THE GAP ON PESTICIDE RUN OFF IN SUGARCANE

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), together with industry partners, is developing ways of reducing runoff of imidacloprid, a key pesticide used to control grubs in the sugarcane industry, and also dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN).

Double disc opener applicators are commonly used for applying both imidacloprid and urea based fertilisers in sugarcane ratoon crops. DAF Senior Agronomist John Hughes identified that proper closure of the open slot behind double disc openers was critical in reducing runoff of the pesticide and nitrogen into waterways.

"Closing the slot behind double disc openers helps to minimise sunlight degradation and runoff of imidacloprid, as well as nitrogen losses through runoff and volatilisation," explained DAF project leader John Hughes.

In 2016, DAF provided \$110,000 in funding for the design, fabrication and testing of a prototype assembly that would fix the open slot issue to improve the efficacy and retention of pesticide and nutrient inputs.

EHS Manufacturing was commissioned to develop a practical 'slot closing wheel' for the sugar industry. The apparatus – now dubbed 'StoolZippa' – has been developed and field tested in a range of soil types and crop conditions.

Rainfall simulation trials to determine variations in runoff with and without the new StoolZippa have been conducted. Results to date have been very positive with improved retention of these key inputs with effective closing of the applicator slot.

There has been considerable interest in the project with significant in-kind extension and project support received from Mackay Area Productivity Services, Bayer, EHS Manufacturing, IncitecPivot, Reef Catchments and Sugar Research Australia.

Bayer is leading trials to determine the improvements in insecticide efficacy when using the newly developed StoolZippa, compared to treatment without.

Three StoolZippas manufactured by EHS, and funded by Bayer, have been showcased to selected grower groups at the NextGen Conference in Mackay. Growers will test out the StoolZippas and provide feedback on their performance across variable cane production environments.

DAF's arrangements with EHS Manufacturing to design and fabricate the closing wheel ensures the design/blueprints will be freely available to the sugar industry.

View the StoolZippa here www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kuhqy9uhEa0&feature=youtu.be

HAVE YOU MET YOUR LOCAL RURAL BANK FARM FINANCE SPECIALIST?

Drop into the branch at Shop C, 129-141 Eighth Avenue, Home Hill or phone 4782 2249 to speak to a local specialist about how we can help grow your farming business.

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Bank**

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RURAL BANK



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We exist to keep farmers farming, no matter what.

Visit www.achmea.com.au to find out more or contact your local Risk Specialist today.

Alison Treston
0407 473 062

alison.treston@achmea.com.au



MEMBERS INFORMATION

NOTICE BOARD

KCGO Members Reminder - Preparation before the upcoming crushing season:

GROWER ENTITY OR BANK DETAIL CHANGES

Growers who have had an entity or bank detail change since the last crush season, please make sure that all necessary documents have been completed and Willmar has been informed. If you require assistance, please contact the KCGO office.

HARVEST DEDUCTION AUTHORITY FORM

Members that have their harvesting costs deducted from their cane pay each year are required to renew this application on a yearly basis. The harvest Deduction Authority forms are available at the KCGO office. The office staff are happy to assist you with this matter, emailing authority forms to Willmar to be actioned.

Growers need to be aware if their Contractor's information and rate has had a change from the previous year. These details will be required when completing this form.

CORES DEDUCTION FORM

Willmar are continuing to offer a voluntary CORES Levy to be deducted from a growers cane pay to assist CORES with suicide prevention.

If growers are interested in supporting this worthy cause, please call the KCGO office for assistance.

Kalagro Fuel Customers

Kalagro Fuel Prices have been giving great savings to our current customers.

To maintain our special fuel prices, a minimum of 2000 Litres is required to place an order.

Throughout the coming months, Puma (Kalagro's Supplier) will be delivering on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's

A reminder that to place orders, please ring: Kalamia Cane Growers office - ph 07 47831312.

Kalagro customer's cannot ring direct to Puma and receive the Kalagro discounted rate.

Smartcane Accreditation Information

Smart Cane Accreditation can be completed at Burdekin Productivity Services with local representative, Terry Granshaw - mobile 0437 553 149, email tgranshaw@bps.net.au. Terry regularly holds Smartcane BMP self-assessment workshops as an initial introduction as well as one-on-one interaction with a grower for the three required modules to achieve Smartcane BMP accreditation.

Smartcane BMP is funded by the QLD Government with no cost to growers to undertake the course. Bonsucro accreditation requires further modules to be completed in addition to that for Smartcane.

Bonsucro accreditation requires further modules to be completed in addition to that for Smartcane

Please Note:

As an incentive for Growers to undertake Smartcane BMP adoption and Bonsucro accreditation, Willmar makes available a per tonne incentive payment (capped at 25,000 tonne). Please refer to Collective CSA (Cane Supply Agreement) - Page 77 - 78 for additional information.



KCGO PROVIDES PAYROLL SERVICES FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

- Wages preparation - Fairwork and ATO Compliancy
- Superannuation
- Group Certificates
- WorkCover - Premiums & Claims Assistance

Members - \$9.90 (incl GST) per Payslip

Non-members - \$11.00 (incl GST) per Payslip

All Clients - \$16.50 (incl GST) per Group Certificate

HARVEST INVOICE SERVICES

KCGO provides a contractor invoicing service for members and non-members

PREPARATION OF WEEKLY HARVEST INVOICES
(Invoices emailed, posted or KCGO office options)



Members - \$9.90 (incl GST) per Invoice
Non-members - \$11.00 (incl GST) per Invoice
Postage Charges - \$1.00 per envelope used

Sweet Memories



Service Station, Brandon



Sugar Cane Workers, Burdekin Area



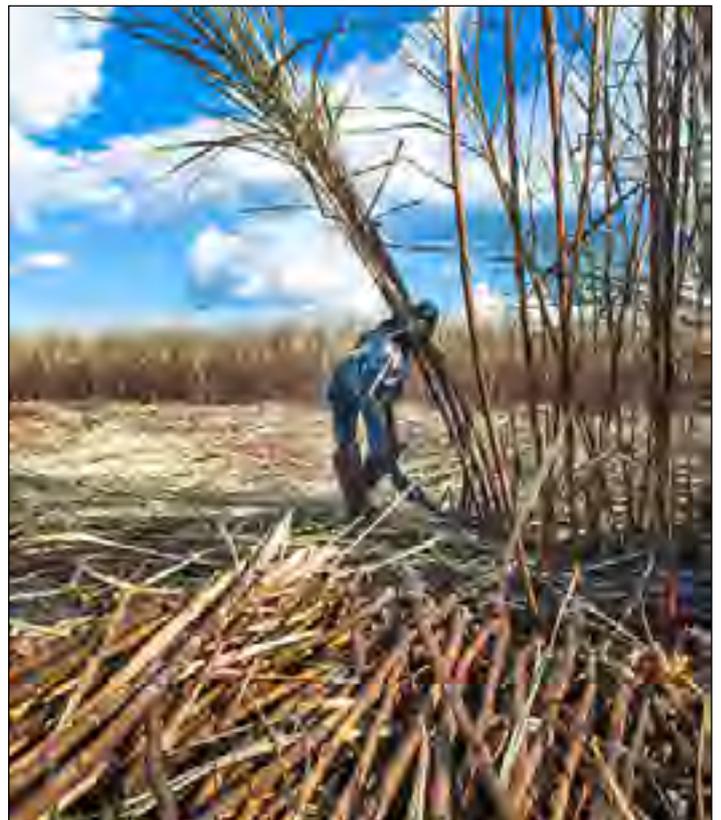
Arriving Motor trolley - Inkerman Sugar Mill



Working in a canefield Pioneer Brandon 1884



Preparation for HOME HILL flood 1927



Handcutting cane



BPS NEWS

SEED CANE PRICE LIST - APPROVED PLANTS PRICES 2018

Points to Note

1. BPS is the on-seller of approved seed cane and does not set the prices. Prices are set by plot owners and managers.
2. BPS has been granted permission by the owners of all plots to advertise the prices they have set.
3. BPS retains the right to set a management fee to provide and support this service and to cover costs incurred due to:
 - a Unforeseen Circumstances
 - b Transport of planting material to plots
 - c Operation of Isolation plot
 - d Operation of additional Mother plots due to transition to billet planting
 - e Administration of accounts on behalf of plot owners

	Annual Fee to purchase from plots		Price to Grower (Ex GST)	Price to Grower (Incl GST)
Fee to purchase from plots – Non BPS Member	\$ 600.00		\$600.00	\$660.00

INKERMAN

	Base Price/T (Ex GST)	BPS Management Fee (Ex GST)	Price to Grower (Ex GST)	Price to Grower (Ex GST)
Approved Seed - Ink Area Grower	\$ 48.00	\$0.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 52.80
Commercial Plants - Ink Area Grower	\$ 53.00	\$0.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 58.30
All Plants - Non Inkerman Grower - non BPS member	\$ 70.00	\$0.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 77.00
Mother Plot Plants	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 82.50
Swindleys Distribution Plot	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 82.50
Hand Cutter - Full Stick	\$ 40.00		\$ 40.00	\$ 44.00
Machine Strip/Cut/Load - Full Stick (when available)	Pensini to Charge		\$ -	\$ -
Cutter - Billet	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00	\$ 33.00
Loader - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00
Cartage - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00

AYR

Approved Seed (KCGO/PCGO members OR Pion/Kal mill suppliers) TO BE CONFIRMED	\$ 45.00	\$0.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 49.50
Commercial Plants (KCGO/PCGO members OR P/K mill suppliers) TO BE CONFIRMED	\$ 55.00	\$0.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 60.50
All Plants - Non Pion/Kal Grower - non BPS member	\$ 70.00	\$0.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 77.00
Mother Plot Plants - Whitson's & Duncan	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 86.90
Isolation Plot Plants - Christensen	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 86.90
Cutter - Full Stick	\$ 40.00		\$ 40.00	\$ 44.00
Cutter - Billet	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00	\$ 33.00
Loader - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00
Cartage - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00
Cartage - Billet (per hour)	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00

INVICTA

Approved Seed	\$ 60.00	\$0.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 66.00
Commercial Plants	\$ 60.00	\$0.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 66.00
All Plants - Non Invicta Grower - non BPS member	\$ 60.00	\$0.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 81.40
Mother Plot Plants	\$ 75.00	\$0.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 82.50
Cutter - Full Stick (Giru/Clare)	\$ 45.00		\$ 45.00	\$ 49.50
Cutter - Full Stick (Millaroo)	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 55.00
Cutter - Billet (Giru)	\$ 27.00		\$ 27.00	\$ 29.70
Cutter - Billet (Brock Rd/Rapisarda)	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00	\$ 33.00
Cutter - Billet (Millaroo) <i>Limited Availability M.Cervoni</i>	\$ 27.00		\$ 27.00	\$ 29.70
Cartage per hour - Full Stick	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00
Cartage per hour - Billet	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00

Definitions

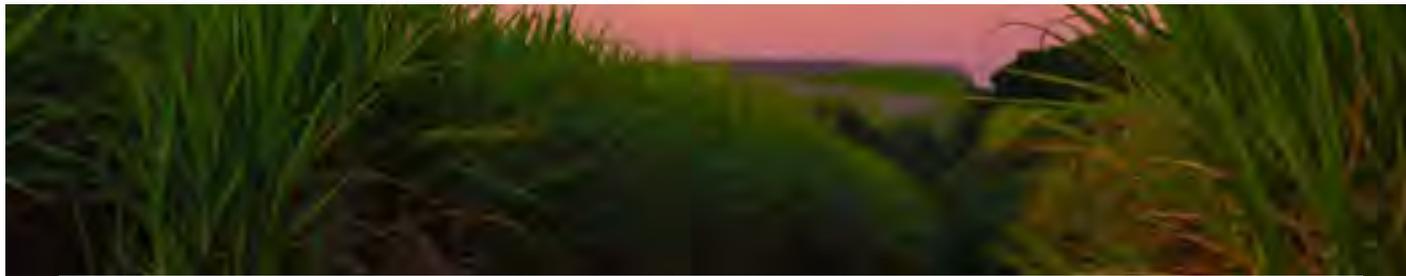
Approved Seed - Plant cane from distribution plot

Commercial Plants - Ratooned cane from distribution plot

All Plants - Plants obtained by growers who are from another mill area or plants obtained by growers who are not members of BPS

Terms of Trade

1. Strictly 30 day trading terms on approved seed cane sales
2. All commercial quantities above pro rata allocation will require either a mill deduction authority or approval by BPS to extend credit.
3. BPS reserves the right to refuse credit.



Burdekin Region Grower Update 2018

SRA and BPS invite you to our Grower Update to share the latest research developments in your region.

You will have the opportunity to speak directly with the people conducting the research, as well as those who have implemented outcomes of research in their farming operations.

Program

Varieties

New breeding target

Jason Eglinton, SRA

Local Variety Update

Rob Milla (BPS) and Catherine Kettle (SRA)

Local Update

Irrigweb

Rob Milla (BPS) and Marian Davis (BPS)

BMP Update

Terry Granshaw (BPS)

Nutrition and EEF60

Nicholas Hill (SRA)

Harvesting

Harvesting Project

Phil-Anthony Patane (SRA)

Implementing harvest best practice

Michael Russo (Grower)

Yellow Canopy Syndrome

Mobilise or perish

Gerard Scalia (SRA)

Agronomy and insect trials

Davey Olsen (SRA)

What's new with YCS

Frikkie Botha (SRA)

Details

Date:

Tuesday, 22nd May 2018

Time:

8.30am – 2.00pm

Venue:

The Ayr Showgrounds

Address:

Bruce Highway, Ayr

Please RSVP as smoko and lunch will be provided on the day:

Mark Rickards (BPS) on 4783 1101 or
mrickards@bps.net.au

Renee Van Drunen (SRA) on 3331 3324 or
rvandrunen@sugarresearch.com.au

This event is free of charge.

Sweet Industry News

AUSTRALIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY WARNED TO LOOK BEYOND BIOFUEL FUTURE

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural, By Lara Webster



These are some of the potential pathways for the sugar industry in the future, with a greater focus on customers and diversification. (Supplied: Brad Pfeffer)

The Australian sugar cane industry is being told to look beyond biofuels due to the risk of future technologies wiping out demand. Only a fortnight ago the Queensland University of Technology delivered a report outlining how the biofuels industry could create thousands of jobs and \$1 billion dollars per annum in revenue.

But that report also said there needed to be progression made from biofuels to bioproducts.

That was a point Emergent Futures futurist Paul Higgins raised when he addressed a roomful of industry representatives gathered in Mackay to discuss the direction of the sugar industry.

He told those present that the biofuels revolution would not last forever and that those in the supply chain needed to consider other bioproducts for a sustainable future.

He said future trends indicated the demand for biofuels would start to decline around 2030, due the growth of electric cars.

"If we go out into the 2030s, even the big oil companies are saying we are heading towards electrification of the transport fleet," he said.

"What that means is people charging their cars off their solar panels at home instead of using petrol or biofuels."

Mr Higgins said once that happened, demand for biofuels would decline sharply.

"I do not think the sugar industry wants to be dependent on a rapidly falling market," he said.

He suggested millers and growers think of biofuels like ethanol as a platform for other bioproducts such as biodegradable plastics.

MSF SUGAR'S BIO PRODUCT JOURNEY

Some millers have already begun to look further afield than the production of ethanol.

MSF Sugar has begun work to convert cane fibre into electricity, with a plant expected come online later this year.

Hywel Cook is the general manager of business development.

He believed the industry could double its value by diversifying into other bioproducts.

"The sugar cane industry has really been fixated on just making sugar but in the future we really need to get value out of all the parts of the plant," he said.

However, he said ethanol was still an important investment in the short term and it would provide a platform to produce other bioproducts.

"Ethanol is only here for the short time but if we do not have it, we do not get to the next stage," Mr Cook said.

GROWER'S THOUGHTS

Mackay region cane farmer Joe Muscat says his industry can no longer afford to just think of sugar cane as a food source.

The Nuffield Scholar is well known for his work within the sector and for his own diversification.

"Food, energy and fibre are the three components that the plant can be used for, so the way forward is to be able to add value to each of those," he said.

"I have got no doubt sugar will be used as a food in the future, but it will not be the only thing it will be used for."

"If it is we really won't be sustainable."

BIOFUELS COULD STILL FLY

Another person to weigh in on the conversation at the Australian Sugar Cane Technologists Conference was chemical engineer Chris Greig.

He is the director of the Dow Centre for Sustainable Engineering Innovation at the University of Queensland.

While he also agreed that more electric transport would be used in the future, he said planes, ships and other long-haul forms of transport would still need biofuels.

"We cannot afford to carry batteries that far in planes and we certainly cannot have power cords that plug into a plane," Mr Greig said.

"[Aviation] is not a huge sector, but it is big enough to make a difference to something like the sugar industry.

"If the sugar industry can get on the front foot and provide sustainable jet fuel, then I think it can participate."

However, Mr Greig said more government incentives and projects were needed help the sugar industry move in that direction.



Mackay region cane grower Joe Muscat believes sugar cane is a diverse plant that could be utilised more. (Supplied)

Sweet Industry News

CORALS BUILD 'CLOUD UMBRELLAS' TO HELP KEEP COOL UNDER BLAZING SUN, STUDY SAYS

ABC Far North – www.abc.net.au/rural, By Sharnie Kim and Adam Stephen

Australian researchers have found corals build “cloud umbrellas” to protect themselves from the scorching sun, and say coral loss through bleaching events could have wider ramifications for weather and agricultural production along the Queensland coast.

A team of scientists from Griffith University, Southern Cross University and the University of Southern Queensland analysed satellite data spanning 15 years to find corals produce and release aerosols into the atmosphere to create a barrier of cloud cover to help keep themselves cool.

Associate Professor Albert Gabric from Griffith University said the study looked at a 100 square kilometre area around Heron Island in the southern Great Barrier Reef.

“The corals can get stressed by strong levels of irradiance or indeed warming, warm temperatures and ocean temperatures,” he said.

“And what we’ve seen is a correlation or a connection between the amount of aerosols above the reef and the amount of stress the corals are undergoing.”

Associate Professor Gabric said coral polyps produced “quite large quantities” of miniscule compounds, which underwent chemical transformations when they reached the air to form small particles in the lower atmosphere.

“The importance of these particles is that water vapour can condense around them,” he said.

“So they form what’s known technically as condensation nuclei, and are therefore very

important in the creation of clouds and the modification of cloud properties like the brightness of clouds, and even the lifetime of clouds.”

“So if you have a lot of these aerosol particles being emitted it basically changes the physics of clouds over that area.

“Without saying that corals are consciously going through that, over evolutionary timescales where we’re talking millions of years or hundreds of millions of years, it’s certainly possible corals have evolved a protection mechanism.”

ARTIFICIAL CLOUD COVER FOR CORALS

Associate Professor Gabric said it might be possible to mimic the phenomenon by spraying sea salt into the air above the reef to generate aerosols to create cloud cover for corals.

“But on a large scale this would be quite expensive, so we need further research on how best to maintain and encourage natural coralline aerosol emissions,” he said.

The findings were published in the journal, *AMBIO*.

FURTHER BLEACHING COULD WEAKEN CORALS' ABILITY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

Associate Professor Gabric said scientists were doing further studies to find out what impact bleaching had on corals’ ability to influence clouds.

He said his PhD student Rebecca Jackson was specifically analysing satellite data over parts of the reef that had been bleached, including a major bleaching event in 2016.



Researchers say it may be possible to create cloud cover for corals by spraying sea salt into the air. Supplied: Griffith University

“Very interestingly what she’s found is the aerosol levels increased before the bleaching event, presumably as the corals have been stressed, and then after the bleaching event there’s actually an abrupt drop in aerosols,” he said.

“We can understand that because post-bleaching, the corals have expelled their symbiotic zooxanthellae, and we know that zooxanthellae are a source of these compounds.

“The concern there is of course if bleaching continues due to warming of the oceans, the corals will lose this protective mechanism, and therefore bleach more in the future and be more susceptible to warming.”

POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN CORAL AND CLOUDS

Associate Professor Gabric said a decline in coral health could have wider implications for Queensland’s climate, and subsequently on agricultural production.

“If the distribution of clouds is intricately connected to the health of the coral reef, and as we know clouds produce rain, then the continuing demise of coral reefs and that impact on cloud cover could certainly influence agriculture along the Queensland coastline.

“In other words, a decrease in rainfall, which we already know agriculture in Australia is very sensitive to.”

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LIQUID FERTILISER STUDY FINDS LESS HARMFUL NITROGEN RUN-OFF TO GREAT BARRIER REEF

ABC Rural – www.abc.net.au/rural By Tom Major and Lara Webster

Efforts to keep nitrogen fertilisers on farm and away from the fragile Great Barrier Reef can be boosted by use of liquid fertilisers, a study has found.

Research conducted in the north Queensland town of Ingham has proven the use of molasses, a sugar milling by-product, can slow the rate at which nitrogen leaches from soil.

Pam Pittaway from the National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture at the University of Southern Queensland said the blended fertiliser considerably reduces nitrogen run-off from paddocks.

“Our results show that molasses-amended liquid fertiliser should be considered an enhanced efficiency fertiliser, as it significantly reduces the risk of fertiliser nitrogen leaching,” Dr Pittaway said.

About 37 per cent of the nitrogen from the molasses-blended liquid fertiliser was still in the soil four months after application, compared to just 27 per cent with granular fertiliser.

“This is a major finding for the sugar cane industry as we can confidently say that liquid fertiliser as a whole improves the retention of nitrogen in soil,” Dr Pittaway said.

MICROBES ACTIVATED

Dr Pittaway said soil microbes were the key to understanding how the liquid fertiliser worked.

“The soil microbes are stimulated by the molasses, and they grab luxury amounts of the urea fertiliser, and they turn it into slow-release organic nitrogen,” she said.

“If you think that for ratoon, you put the fertiliser on ... you want it to be there for

summer storm season – that’s when you really want your nitrogen in the soil. “It is a win for growers and a win for the reef.”

REEF BENEFIT

Mackay Conservation Group co-ordinator Peter McCallum welcomed the research, but said there was still too much nutrient run-off hurting the Great Barrier Reef.

“It is really good to find out exactly what is happening but I think the results show that when cane farmers purchase fertiliser, two-thirds of their money is ending up in the ocean,” he said.

“There is a stack more work that needs to be done.”

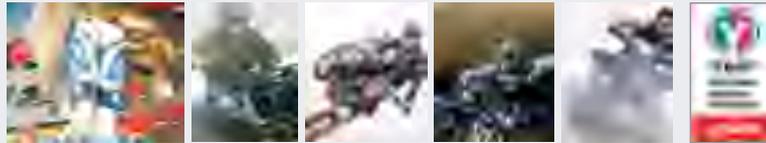
He would like to see more systems such as sediment ponds or artificial wetlands being constructed on farmland to capture



Johnathon Biasi from Ingham has converted to liquid fertiliser on his family's 600-hectare farm in the Herbert district. (Supplied: Johnathon Biasi)



Reducing nitrogen run-off has long been a critical issue for cane growers in wet tropics regions like the Herbert River district. (ABC Rural: Tom Major)





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Sweet Industry News

nutrient runoff.

Ingham cane grower Johnathon Biasi said, with an eye on future potential reef regulations, anything that reduced leaching was a bonus for his business.

"Down the track if [environmental regulators] say we have to use a slow-release fertiliser, we can say 'we are'," he said.

LONG-TERM USE

Mackay agronomist Tony Crowley, from agronomic solutions provider Farmacist, said many farmers had been using molasses to retain nitrogen in the soil for longer periods, but to have research proving it meant a lot.

"There has never been proper research completed on it ... and their findings are quite significant," Mr Crowley said.

"The problem we have got with liquid fertilisers is that over the years it was just 'throw a compound into a drum, mix it up and spray it on'.

"[Now] we are getting smarter with that as we go further, so we are putting the right compounds in the right spots."



While the cost of new equipment is significant, more growers around north Queensland are turning to liquid fertilisers on their cane farms. (Supplied: Cameron Liddle)

GROWER TAKE-UP

While granular products still rule the market, transition is taking place across the state.

Mr Biasi said, five years on from his first application of liquid, he was a convert to the product.

"The ease of it, to put it out, no more bag lifters, no more trucks running around, yeah it's a lot safer to use," he said.

In addition, the potential to retain more expensive fertiliser on farm was a big plus. "Because it probably won't leach as much as a granular product in a wet year there's a very big bonus, where you put it is where it stays."

Cost is one issue for many growers, however, with infrastructure such as tanks and equipment like subsurface applicators turning some farmers off.

"It's probably the same cost to build an applicator as buying a fertiliser box," Mr Biasi said.

"That cost there is probably persuading people not to shift to that way but there are contractors, there are other ways to get around it."

EXPANSION ON

Manufacturer of liquid fertilisers Cameron Liddle from Liquaforce in Ingham funded the research through an Australian Commonwealth Innovation Connections grant.

He said demand for the liquid fertiliser product was growing year-on-year.

"We do about 15 million litres [annually] ... the last two years we've seen 20 per cent growth," he said.

"Farmers are starting to understand the value aspect we give them ... they're looking at the comparative nitrogen use efficiency."



The Herbert River flooded cane fields around Ingham last month, causing millions of dollars in damage.

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Sweet Time Out

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q: What's the difference between a cat and a complex sentence?

A: A cat has claws at the end of its paws and a complex sentence has a pause at the end of its clause.

Q: What did one hat say to another?

A: You stay here, I'll go on a head.

Q: Why did the girl wear glasses in math class?

A: It improves di-vision.

WORD OF THE MONTH

busticate

verb [buhs-ti-keyt]

to break into pieces



'Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.'

NELSON MANDELA



DID YOU KNOW...?

- » Did you know cats have a peripheral vision of 285 degrees
- » Did you know you burn more calories sleeping than watching television
- » Did you know your most active muscles are in your eye
- » Did you know rain contains vitamin B12



CHOCOLATE RIPPLE PAVLOVA WITH CARAMEL BANANAS

INGREDIENTS

- » 6 Coles Australian Free Range Egg whites
- » 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- » 1 1/2 cups (330g) caster sugar
- » 1 tablespoon cornflour
- » 50g Coles Belgian 70% Dark Chocolate, melted
- » 20g butter
- » 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- » 4 small lady finger bananas, halved
- » 300ml thickened cream
- » 1/4 cup (60ml) salted caramel topping
- » 1/3 cup (45g) macadamias, toasted, coarsely chopped

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat oven to 100°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Use an electric mixer to beat the egg whites and cream of tartar in a clean, dry bowl until firm peaks form. Add the caster sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, beating well after each addition until sugar dissolves and mixture is thick and glossy. Beat in the cornflour.

Step 2

Pour half the chocolate over the meringue mixture in the bowl. Use a large metal spoon to drop dollops of mixture onto the lined tray. Drizzle with remaining chocolate. Use a palette knife to gently shape and marble the pavlova. Bake for 1 1/2 hours or until dry to the touch. Turn oven off. Leave the pavlova in oven, with the door ajar, for 2 hours to cool completely.

Step 3

Melt butter in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Stir in brown sugar. Add the banana, cut-side down. Cook for 2 mins or until banana is caramelised. Transfer to a plate. Set aside to cool.

Step 4

Place the pavlova on a serving plate. Use an electric mixer to whisk the cream in a bowl until soft peaks form. Spoon over the top of the pavlova. Top with banana. Drizzle with caramel topping and sprinkle with macadamia.

Sweet Time Out

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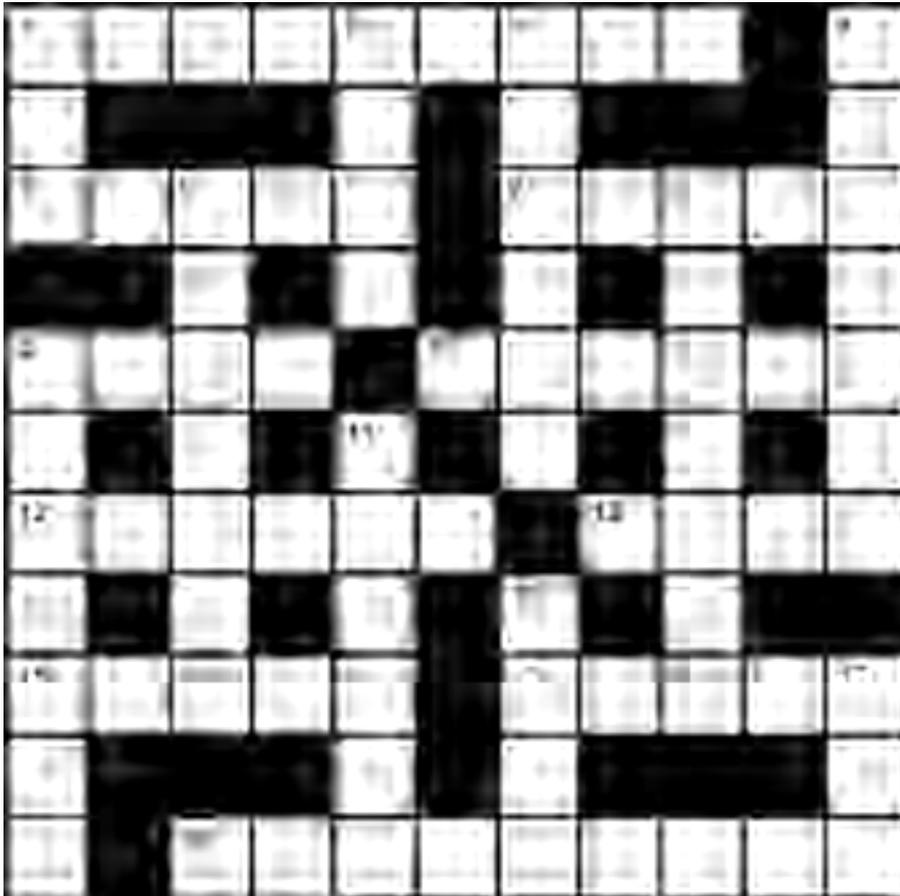
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DOWN

1. Cutting tool (3)
2. Remedy (4)
3. Wildcat (6)
4. Contradiction in terms (7)
6. Article of clothing (7)
8. Findings of a jury (7)
9. Of times long past (7)
11. Attack (6)
14. Dull pain (4)
17. Concealed (3)

ACROSS

1. Oily or greasy (9)
5. Bet (5)
7. Young eel (5)
9. Land measure (4)
10. Sultry (6)
12. Dairy product (6)
13. Hex (4)
15. Crowd scene actor (5)
16. Hidden drawback (5)
18. Accumulated (9)



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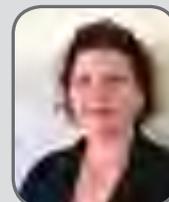
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