

press clip



Whitsunday Guardian
Wednesday 3/12/2014

Page: 11
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slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Workshop on using herbicides

A HERBICIDE management workshop will be held at Lou Raiteri's shed at 4.30pm this afternoon, courtesy of Reef Catchments and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The workshops will include the practical demonstration of two types of spray rigs that can help reduce the cost of controlling weeds, as well as information on nozzle selection and regional updates from the Reef Programme and regional catchment monitoring.

A DAFF Dual Herbicide Sprayer will also be on display. The session will look at the application spray pattern through the use of UV dye and inflorescent light.

All workshops start at 4.30pm and run to 8pm, with a barbecue dinner and refreshments provided. Phone Belinda Billing on 0488 730 021 for details.



press clip

Farmers can save money and reef

REEF Catchments and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have collaborated on a series of workshops to educate farmers on how to improve herbicide management on sugarcane farms.

Farmers met with representatives last Wednesday to observe a practical demonstration of two types of spray rigs that can help reduce the cost of controlling weeds, as well as information on nozzle selection and regional updates from the national landcare Reef Programme and regional catchment monitoring.

DAFF has developed a spray rig to accurately apply a range of residual and non-residual herbicides against cane stool.

Phil Trendell, senior project officer from DAFF, said farmers had enjoyed the demonstrations.

"They've seen how this machinery works," Mr Trendell said.

"The nozzles have been quite popular – we're using what we call a patternator to demonstrate the range of coverage and drift [that] farmers get from different nozzles they use."



MIGHTY MACHINE: Reef Catchment's Scott Underdown, DAFF senior project officer Phil Trendell and Reef Catchment's catalyst grower Lou Raiteri with one of the new sprayers.

PHOTO: JOSH DUTTON

Reef Catchments contact officer Scott Underdown said the environmental impact was taken into consideration.

"Moving away from residuals is a big plus," Mr Underdown said.

"We won't say to move away from them – there's always a place for them."

Reef Catchments catalyst

grower Lou Raiteri said the new spray rigs were very effective.

"They cut down our chemicals going out to the reef dramatically," Mr Raiteri said.

"Some commendation has to go to the government.

"They could have come at us with a big stick. Instead they've allowed growers to

be ambitious – mainly with chemical equipment. "If I do nine hectares it only sprays three hectares of chemical on cane – the other six is round up." Growers were also given information on the Reef Programme and how to access funding for effective long-term farm management. Go to reefcatchments.com.au.



press clip

TRAVEL INSPIRES TRIAL

Resistance to disease key aim of new method

Dominick Czakilew
dominick.czakilew@daily-mercury.com.au

OAKENDEN cane farmer Joe Muscat is set to trial a new farming system called Amuza at his property south-west of Mackay.

Mr Muscat first came across this method when he visited Brazil's Sao Martinho sugar-growing region as part of his Nuffield Agricultural Scholarship.

Working with Reef Catchments under their federally-funded Sustainable Agriculture program, Mr Muscat plans on establishing the first Amuza trial to be conducted in Australia. Mr Muscat said the potential benefits were huge.

"In Brazil, they claim that it improves the productivity by 10%," he said.

"Anything really needs to be investigated to determine whether we can get the same improvement rate over here.

"Unless we do the trial, we will never really know."

The Amuza system requires the trial site to undergo preparation for planting once harvesting is completed.

The method includes applying a sub-surface prescription blend compost, based on the needs of the soil.

Tissue culture, or single eye sugarcane sets, are then planted in two rows with four or six rows skipped.

The skipped four or six rows are planted with peanuts, soybeans or sun hemp, depending on the soil carbon.

Mr Muscat said the process then repeated itself with two rows of tissue culture or single eye sets followed by four to six rows of a legume.

The legume crop is then incorporated into the soil and the one eye sets or tissue culture cane is harvested and planted across the paddock.

Mr Muscat said the system addressed the biology of the soil.

"The clean plant source gives you the best resistance to pest and disease," he said.

"And it's also putting organic material back into the profile."

Mr Muscat and his wife, Christine, have a long history of bringing innovation to the Mackay Whitsunday region.

The couple grows sugarcane with rotational fibre crops on their 130-hectare property.

The Muscats' farm was fully converted to 1.8m rows with a controlled traffic system in 2008.

In 2013, Mr Muscat received a Nuffield Scholarship to support his research into best practice in production, manufacturing and marketing of fibre crops.



Unless we do
the trial we will
never know

JOE MUSCAT



Rural Weekly - Central Queensland

Friday 19/12/2014

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slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



NEW SYSTEM: Oakenden cane farmer Joe Muscat is set to trial a new farming system called Amuza.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/12/2014 6:08:38 PM	Duration :	1 mins 33 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00060028926
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6634	Female 16+	9858
Interviewees :	Carissa Mansfield, Mackay Sugar		
Interviewees :	Peter Muller, Reef Catchments		

Cane farmers and Mackay Sugar are are stepping up efforts to protect the Reef from harmful pollutants. They have embarked on projects to restore local wetlands and improve water quality.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Mackay	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/12/2014 7:04:40 PM	Duration :	1 mins 39 secs
Compere :	Natassia Apolloni	Summary ID :	M00060029408
Demographics :	Male 16+ 2636	Female 16+ 4085	
Interviewees :	Carissa Mansfield, Mackay Sugar		
Interviewees :	Peter Muller, Reef Catchments		

Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments have teamed up to improve water quality and landscape health at Racecourse Mill, with stage three of the project nearly complete. Peter Muller, Reef Catchments says the project will improve water quality going into the reef.

press clip



Whitsunday Guardian

Wednesday 21/01/2015

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slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

2015 the year of soils

By CHARLOTTE LAM

THE United Nations has declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils and local NRM group Reef Catchments is determined to make this a year where local farmers are supported to build their understanding of healthy soils.

The Reef Catchments Sustainable Agriculture Program focuses on working with farmers to improve soil health.

Reef Catchments Sustainable Agriculture co-ordinator Belinda Billing said that farmers from sugarcane, grazing and horticulture had frequently addressed their need to be more equipped with knowledge to better manage agricultural soils.

"Through our Sustainable Agriculture program we are supporting trials and demonstrations of practices that seek to build healthier, more productive soils," Ms Billing said.

"We are also running regular events on the subject and working with collaborators to support



CELEBRATING SOIL: Local farmer Phil Deguara.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

like-minded projects."

She noted farming industries around Australia were suffering a decline in yield that is thought to be the result of soil degradation; this includes our local sugarcane industry.

The key messages of the International Year of Soils highlight the importance of looking after what many experts believe to be the foundation of society.

To learn more about Reef Catchments Sustainable Agriculture program visit

YEAR OF SOILS

- Healthy soils are the basis for healthy food production
- Soils are the foundation for vegetation which is cultivated or managed for feed, fibre, fuel and medicinal products
- Soils support our planet's biodiversity and they host a quarter of the total biodiversity
- Soils help combat and adapt to climate change by playing a key role in the carbon cycle
- Soils store and filter water, improving our resilience to floods and droughts
- Soil is a non-renewable resource; its preservation is essential for food security.

www.reefcatchments.com.

To learn more about the International Year of Soils visit www.fao.org/soils-2015.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Wide Bay	Program :	Rural Report
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	27/01/2015 6:16:05 AM	Duration :	4 mins 33 secs
Compere :	Eliza Rogers	Summary ID :	V00060400109
Interviewees :	Carissa Mansfield, Mackay Sugar		
Interviewees :	Matt Moore, Catchment Solutions		

Compere talks about the importance of wetlands to the rest of the ecosystem, particularly running off chemicals from farmland before it flows out into the Great Barrier Reef. He plays a report on Racecourse Sugar Mill standing on what used to be wetlands. Catchment Solutions has been tasked to rebuild the wetlands and representative Matt Moore talks about the process. Carissa Mansfield from Mackay Sugar talks about the partnership with Reef Catchments.



internet clip

Work under way to rebuild degraded wetland

A rehabilitation project in Mackay is bringing a degraded wetland back to life, recreating creeks, ponds and tracts of native vegetation.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20256309941&p=1i4&v=1&x=1S5qgy cay8Rp1E2v4X31qQ>

Powered By Moreover 1.7 News



internet clip

Project to rebuild a degraded wetland in Mackay

Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments have teamed up to rebuild a degraded wetland next to Racecourse Mill in Mackay. Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions, which is contracted to do the work, discusses the process and Carissa Mansfield from Mackay Sugar...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20256005567&p=1i4&v=1&x=u60MOUhXdJIHNY3QSPEf9Q>

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WEB ABC Online
Monday 26/01/2015 23:41:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Racecourse Mill wetland project in Mackay

. Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments have teamed up to rebuild a degraded former wetland.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20255833191&p=1i4&v=1&x=yWmcYSbC-HKZLy6dCYzBUg>

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broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Southern Queensland	Program :	Qld Country Hour
Location :	Toowoomba	Producer :	
Aired On :	27/01/2015 12:51:48 PM	Duration :	4 mins 20 secs
Compere :	Craig Zonca	Summary ID :	V00060397593
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1600	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Carissa Mansfield, Mackay Sugar		
Interviewees :	Matt Moore, Catchment Solutions		

David Sparkes report on Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments' project to rebuild a degraded wetland next to Racecourse Mill in Mackay. Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions, which is contracted to do the work, discusses the process. Carissa Mansfield from Mackay Sugar explains why the company is backing the project.

Ruralweekly

ISSUE: No. 3 January 30, 2015



■ KING OF DIVERSITY: Sarina farmer Brian Camilleri reckons there is never a "quiet time" on his 60ha operation, thanks to a wide range of fruit crops. Find out how he handles it on page 5.

PHOTO: ANDREA DAVY

FRUIT SALAD MIX

PAGE 3

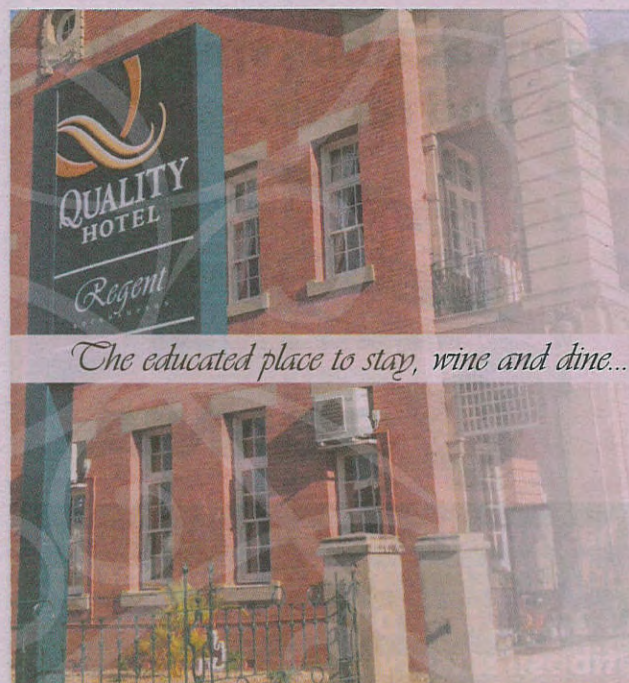
TOO YOUNG TO DRIVE, OLD
ENOUGH FOR BUSINESS

PAGE 7

COMPETITION ORGANISERS
HOPE RAIN WILL INSPIRE

PAGE 24

THE TROUBLE WITH
DROUGHT ASSISTANCE



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CAMILLERI FAMILY'S FARMING TRADITION

KING OF DIVERSITY

There's never a quiet time got fruit grower

■ Andrea Davy

andrea.davy@dailymercury.com.au

BRIAN Camilleri is the king of diversification.

The 62-year-old Sarina farmer produces water-melons, papayas, mangoes, custard apples and avocados, just to name a few.

The greater majority of his produce, including two truckloads taken to the Showgrounds Farmers Markets each Saturday, is sold in the Mackay region.

He said there was never a "quiet time" on his 60-hectare farm near Sarina.

"The mangoes, pumpkins and melons produce all at once," he said.

"And papayas go all year round."

Mr Camilleri was proud to show off some of his bigger produce.

This season he grew mangoes that weighed in at more than 2kg.

The average weight of a Bowen mango is about 400 grams.

Mr Camilleri said the support of his family was the secret to his farming success.

"My wife (Fernanda) has a real eye for detail," Mr Camilleri said.

"She runs the shop."

"And my son has a background in IT, so he does most of the technical side of it."

Mr Camilleri's three other children – Sandra, Mark and Justin – also help with the business if needed.

"I have an accountant, lawyer and carpenter with them," he said.

As well as skills and help from family members, Mr



■ PASSIONATE GROWER: Brian Camilleri from Camilleri's Fresh Fruit has a diverse farm at Sarina.

PHOTO: ANDREA DAVY

Camilleri also studied sugar chemistry when he was younger.

He agreed that his knowledge of farm nutrition was a great benefit to his business.

"People spend a lot of money on machinery," he said.

"But I spend my money on my soil."

Farming runs deep through the Camilleri family, with his grandfather once supplying fresh fruit and vegies to the American Red Cross during wartime.

"His farm was at Mt Jukes," Mr Camilleri said.

"Then my father Joe Camilleri's farm was at Blacks Beach."

"We used to send truckloads of melons to the southern markets from there."

In 2006, Camilleri's Fresh

Fruit opened near the Hay Point turn-off.

While diversification was a challenge, it was also essential, Mr Camilleri said.

"We wouldn't have survived without it," he said.

"We now basically only grow what we can sell out our own outlets."

Selling fresh fruit at the markets is something Mr Camilleri really enjoys.

"We have had some customers who have been buying off us for 30 years," he said.

Mr Camilleri had noticed some trends in customers.

"The healthy eating trend has done us a lot of good," he said.

"People looking to juice with nutri-bullets."

"You can pick them because they will buy seven limes, you know, one for each day of the week."



■ Big mango grown on Brian Camilleri's farm measures 23cm.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

THE PLAN

FORAGE OAT GUIDE NOW OUT

CENTRAL Queensland forage oat growers can now plan ahead for this season's plantings, thanks to the release of the new variety guide for 2015.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry senior plant breeder Bruce Winter said there would be significant forage oat planting this year following a dry spring, patchy summer rainfall and limited standing pasture for the winter period.

"Forage oat growers in central and southern Queensland should be planning ahead to use improved varieties and adopt recommended management practices to increase forage growth," Mr Winter said.

"The new brochure provides guidelines to improve crops, with an updated list of forage oat varieties commercially available from seed merchants." Mr Winter said the brochure also contained extensive agronomic and disease information that growers could use to increase productivity of forage oat crops.

"While it is less likely to be a problem in drier years, leaf rust remains the major disease problem in forage oats," he said.

To find out more download the forage oat variety guide 2015 at www.daff.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

The new guide has been produced with funding from Meat and Livestock Australia.

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■ WETLAND SOLUTION: Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions at the wetland restoration site near Racecourse Mill.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

WETLAND WORK UNDER WAY

MACKAY Sugar and Reef Catchments have joined forces to help restore a heavily degraded wetland on Horse and Jockey Rd, near Mackay Sugar's Racecourse Mill.

People using the road will have noticed foundation works beginning, with earth being moved and plants revegetated in sparse sections of the former wetland area.

Catchment Solutions has been engaged as a contractor to carry out the on-ground site works.

Reef Catchments' Peter Muller said activities would be focused on improving water quality and landscape health.

"This is an exciting project that will aim to restore life to a degraded area on the edges of the Mackay city. The restoration of the wetland will bring back water and wildlife, including birds and the native fish population, which has dwindled over the years," Mr Muller said.

"Water quality is the major focus of the works, and the reinstatement of a functioning wetland will allow for a natural system that is



■ Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions, Mackay Sugar health, safety and environment manager Carlissa Mansfield, and Peter Muller and Iona Flett, from Reef Catchments. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

able to more effectively remove pollutants from our waterways."

Matt Moore, project contractor from Catchment Solutions, said that currently, water draining off the bagasse pad ran into a dam.

"The dam will be incorporated into the wetland system and enlarged to create a first-flush sediment retention basin with water plants. The system will effectively clean the water as

flowing to the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens locally, as well as more widely to the Pioneer River Estuary and the Great Barrier Reef," Mr Moore said.

"The wetland will strengthen the natural landscape of the Mackay region and build resilience to support multiple uses for the long-term future."

Mackay Sugar's Health, safety and environment manager Carlissa Mansfield said Mackay Sugar was extremely proud to partner with Reef Catchments to restore approximately four hectares of land adjacent to its Racecourse Mill.

"This project benefits the environment, our Racecourse Mill operations and provides the community a picturesque viewpoint along Horse and Jockey Rd," Ms Mansfield said.

"The joint partnership between Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments is a real testament of our commitment towards environmental sustainability." Works on the site will continue to June 2016, with Stage 1 works expected to be completed by June 2015.

SUGAR CANE

STILL NO ANSWERS

No closer for resolution on Red Witchweed problem for farmers

CANEGROWERS Mackay is standing firmly behind its growers impacted by notifiable pest Red Witchweed (*striga asiatica*) as the time spent on finding a resolution drags past the 18 month mark.

Canegrowers Mackay chairman Kevin Borg said deliberations between the Federal Government and Biosecurity Queensland, and other industries potentially at risk, had been underway since the Class 1 pest was first found on Mackay region farms.

"Since then, four cane growers and one grazier have suffered significantly through what has been a very long, drawn-out process," Mr Borg said.

"The gift to these primary producers of a resolution appears to be constantly hovering on an ever-moving horizon."

Mr Borg said the most recent frustration for the impacted landholders followed a National Management Group meeting held to address the issue last week.

NMG is the peak decision making body for national eradication programs, and is chaired by the Federal Department of Agriculture.

The NMG's main role is to consider response plans and budgets for national eradication programs and includes the consideration of technical feasibility and determination of cost sharing.

Mr Borg said this particular meeting was meant to be held prior to Christmas, however was rescheduled with the NMG asking for a further two weeks grace – this was granted.

He said a recommendation

has since been put forward to advise on an eradication plan for Red Witchweed, and Canegrowers has agreed to be a part of this with a caveat that this is finalised with a mid to end of February timeline.

"Our growers are close to breaking point – they have lost patience, and frankly I can't blame them," Mr Borg said.

“Our growers are close to breaking point...
point...
Kevin Borg

"It is difficult to continue to have faith in the efficient delivery of a collaborative response when the deadline keeps moving."

"The people affected by Red Witchweed are just that, people."

"Their businesses have been adversely impacted, their finances and their future planning affected – these delays must end."

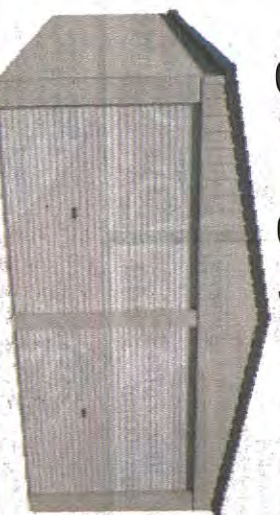
Mr Borg said it was good will alone that had kept the peak representative body for cane growers in negotiations and meetings in an attempt to fast track a resolution.

"Red Witchweed is a notifiable Class 1 pest, and yet the mechanism to resolve the eradication program has not yet been established."

He said he was hopeful a resolution – an effective and viable eradication and management plan – would be forthcoming by the new deadline.

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WEATHER

PLANNING FOR FUTURE

Climate workshops well attended by farmers

“We had more than 60 growers attend the workshops, which aimed to allow them to understand climate drivers that impact on rainfall in our region.”

ROBYN BELL

■ ENVIROCHAT Reef Catchments

OUR region's climate is highly variable – what do climate and seasonal forecasts mean for our farmers and how can they start planning ahead?

This month Reef Catchments, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the University of Southern Queensland came together to hold two Seasonal Forecasting Tools for the Sugar Industry workshops for farmers in the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Reef Catchments Climate and Landscapes Systems co-ordinator Robyn Bell said the workshops were well attended.

“We had more than 60

growers attend the workshops, which aimed to allow them to understand climate drivers that impact on rainfall in our region,” Dr Bell said. “Farmers were provided with tools to use for medium-term forecasts to help improve decision making on the farm.”

“This is very important for our local land managers, who are particularly exposed to forecast changes in weather, rainfall and climatic events.”

“Australia has the highest natural climate variability in the world and the Mackay Whitsunday region has one of the highest levels of variability in all of Australia.”

“This variability and knowledge of what drives it is very important in helping our sugar growers make future decisions, for example about



■ **LEARNING:** Farmers take part in the Seasonal Forecasting Tools workshops.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

fertilising, spraying or making infrastructure changes.”

The workshop covered the following elements linked to weather and climate:

- Current climate outlook for the region
- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) including

SOI Phases

■ Recent developments in international forecast systems (ECMWF)

■ The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) (40 day wave)

■ Discussion of farm management decisions

linked to seasonal forecasts

■ Links to climate information sources

Presenters included Neil Cliffe (senior industry development officer, QDAFF) and climatologist Professor Roger Stone (University of Southern Queensland).

AGFORCE PROJECTS

FREE CSG AND MINING INFORMATION SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS



Emerald CSG, Mining and Regional Planning Information Session, Tuesday 3 March, 9am to 1pm

During this unmissable information session you will hear updates on CSG, mining and regional planning. Learn about resource industry developments including landholder rights and responsibilities, changes to land access laws, potential groundwater impacts and the supporting 'make good' framework. You will also find out about the Regional Planning Interests Act (RPI), Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs) and Strategic Cropping Areas (SCA, formerly Strategic Cropping Land) and what these mean for landholders. Find out what your landholder rights are under both categories and what protection is granted for each.

Middlemount CSG and Mining Information Session, Wednesday 4 March, 9am to 1pm

This information session will discuss the latest industry developments and your rights and responsibilities when negotiating with a resource company. The team will also cover points to consider during the negotiation process including important conduct and compensation provisions; changes to land access laws; tips on property planning; mapping; baseline records and Make Good updates.

Moura Advanced CSG and Mining Negotiation Support Workshop, Thursday 5 March, 9am to 1pm

AgForce Projects are now holding Advanced Negotiation Support workshops for landholders that are in the process of negotiation, have negotiated or are renegotiating an agreement with a resource company. In addition to hearing the latest on industry and government developments, you will have the opportunity to discuss community concerns with other landholders in your area and share experiences, as well as discuss specific issues with AgForce Projects. AgForce Projects encourages landholders to bring supporting documents with them, if they are experiencing issues they would like to discuss.

Registrations are essential. Please visit www.agforceprojects.org.au to secure your place, or call (07) 3238 6048.

WATER

Storage Summary

by **SunWater**

WATER SUPPLY SCHEME	STORAGE	FULL CAP. (ML)	CURRENT CAP. (ML)	% FULL	BLUE GREEN ALGAE STATUS	SAMPLE DATE
BOWEN BROKEN RIVER	EUNGELLA DAM	112,400	101,455	90%	MED	12 Jan 15
ETON	KINCHANT DAM	62,800	52,431	83%	MED	19 Jan 15
PIONEER RIVER	DUMBLETON WEIR	8,840	6,609	75%	LOW	19 Jan 15
	MARIAN WEIR	3,980	3,980	100%	LOW	19 Jan 15
	MIRANI WEIR	4,660	3,013	65%	LOW	19 Jan 15
	TEEMBURRA DAM	147,500	135,653	92%	HIGH	12 Jan 15
PROSERPINE RIVER	PETER FAUST DAM	491,400	421,880	86%	HIGH	19 Jan 15



press clip

WEATHER

PLANNING FOR FUTURE

Climate workshops well attended by farmers

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Reef Catchments

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- Discussion of farm management decisions

linked to seasonal forecasts

- Links to climate information sources

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ROBYN BELL



■ **LEARNING:** Farmers take part in the Seasonal Forecasting Tools workshops.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



press clip

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Matt Moore, project contractor from Catchment Solutions, said that currently, water draining off the bagasse pad ran into a dam.

"The dam will be incorporated into the wetland system and enlarged to create a first-flush sediment retention basin with water plants. The system will effectively clean the water as it moves through, removing nutrients such as

phosphorous and nitrogen," Mr Moore said.

Mackay Sugar will also benefit from the improvements, with access to cleaner water and a larger water storage area for the mill to utilise.

"Improved quality of land and water delivers benefits for everyone in the immediate area. Activities on the site will improve the quality of water

flowing to the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens locally, as well as more widely to the Pioneer River Estuary and the Great Barrier Reef," Mr Moore said.

"The wetland will strengthen the natural landscape of the Mackay region and build resilience to support multiple uses for the long-term future."

Mackay Sugar's Health, safety and environment manager Carissa Mansfield said Mackay Sugar was extremely proud to partner with Reef Catchments to restore approximately four hectares of land adjacent to its Racecourse Mill.

"This project benefits the environment, our Racecourse Mill operations and provides the community a picturesque viewpoint along Horse and Jockey Rd," Ms Mansfield said.

"The joint partnership between Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments is a real testament of our commitment towards environmental sustainability." Works on the site will continue to June 2016, with Stage 1 works expected to be completed by June 2015.



Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions, Mackay Sugar health, safety and environment manager Carissa Mansfield, and Peter Muller and Iona Flett, from Reef Catchments. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland**

Friday 30/01/2015

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Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
Circulation: 24937
Type: Regional
Size: 434.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



■ WETLAND SOLUTION: Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions at the wetland restoration site near Racecourse Mill.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Whitsunday Guardian

Wednesday 14/01/2015

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Whitsunday QLD, AU
Circulation: 2012
Type: Regional
Size: 119.00 sq.cms.



slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Free forecasting workshop for farmers

THERE'S only one day left to register for a free workshop on season forecasting tools for the sugar industry in Proserpine on Wednesday, January 21.

The half-day workshop, to be held at the Proserpine Community Centre, is the collaboration of Reef Catchments, Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the University of Southern Queensland.

The workshop has been designed to improve understanding of the region's climate drivers, providing tools that can be used to access and interpret

climate forecast information.

Registrations close tomorrow (Thursday, January 15) and Reef Catchments climate and landscapes systems co-ordinator Dr Robyn Bell strongly encourages all local growers to attend as this kind of information specific to the region can be sparse.

"We know regionally that high natural variability in rainfall and temperature occurs throughout the region from year to year yet there are now a number of forecasting tools available to predict the likelihood of rain in the short to medium term. These tools are of great assistance in

making future decisions about fertilising, spraying or making infrastructure changes," she said.

"We are now working to try and equip our growers with the tools and knowledge they need to bring together forecast changes in climate and weather patterns with future farm planning and property management."

Key speakers at the workshop will be DAFF senior industry development officer Neil Cliffe and climatologist Professor Roger Stone from the University of Southern Queensland.

To RSVP call 4945 2321 or email debbie.legge@reefcatchments.com.



press clip

WEATHER

PLANNING FOR FUTURE

Climate workshops well attended by farmers

■ **ENVIROCHAT**
Reef Catchments

OUR region's climate is highly variable – what do climate and seasonal forecasts mean for our farmers and how can they start planning ahead?

This month Reef Catchments, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the University of Southern Queensland came together to hold two Seasonal Forecasting Tools for the Sugar Industry workshops for farmers in the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Reef Catchments Climate and Landscapes Systems co-ordinator Robyn Bell said the workshops were well attended.

"We had more than 60 growers attend the workshops, which aimed to allow them to understand climate drivers that impact on rainfall in our region," Dr Bell said. "Farmers were provided with tools to use for medium-term forecasts to help improve decision making on the farm.

"This is very important for our local land managers, who are particularly exposed to forecast changes in weather, rainfall and climatic events.

"Australia has the highest natural climate variability in the world and the Mackay Whitsunday region has one of the highest levels of variability in all of Australia.

"This variability and knowledge of what drives it is very important in helping our

sugar growers make future decisions, for example about

fertilising, spraying or making infrastructure changes."

The workshop covered the following elements linked to weather and climate:

- Current climate outlook for the region

- El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) including

- SOI Phases

- Recent developments in international forecast systems (ECMWF)

- The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) (40 day wave)

- Discussion of farm management decisions

linked to seasonal forecasts

- Links to climate information sources

Presenters included Neil Cliffe (senior industry development officer, QDAFF) and climatologist Professor Roger Stone (University of Southern Queensland).

“

We had more than 60 growers attend the workshops, which aimed to allow them to understand climate drivers that impact on rainfall in our region.

ROBYN BELL



■ **LEARNING:** Farmers take part in the Seasonal Forecasting Tools workshops.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	6/02/2015 6:08:39 PM	Duration :	1 mins 40 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00060536170
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6634	Female 16+ 9858	
Interviewees :	Belinda Billing, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Stacey Hadlow, Cane Farmer		

Proserpine cane farmer Stacey Hadlow is looking to shake up the sugar sector as it faces some of its biggest challenges. Hadlow has created a machine which he says not only improves his crops but saves time, money and the environment. It costs around \$100,000 to customise his tractor, with funding from Reef Catchments helping him to afford the fit out.



press clip

WETLAND WORK UNDER WAY

MACKAY Sugar and Reef Catchments have joined forces to help restore a heavily degraded wetland on Horse and Jockey Rd, near Mackay Sugar's Racecourse Mill.

People using the road will have noticed foundation works beginning, with earth being moved and plants revegetated in sparse sections of the former wetland area.

Catchment Solutions has been engaged as a contractor to carry out the on-ground site works.

Reef Catchments' Peter Muller said activities would be focused on improving water quality and landscape health.

"This is an exciting project that will aim to restore life to a degraded area on the edges of the Mackay city. The restoration of the wetland will bring back water and wildlife, including birds and the native fish population, which has dwindled over the years," Mr Muller said.

"Water quality is the major focus of the works, and the reinstatement of a functioning wetland will allow for a natural system that is able to more effectively remove pollutants from our waterways."

Matt Moore, project contractor from Catchment Solutions, said that currently, water draining off the bagasse pad ran into a dam.

"The dam will be incorporated into the wetland system and enlarged to create a first-flush sediment retention basin with water plants. The system will effectively clean the water as it moves through, removing nutrients such as

phosphorous and nitrogen," Mr Moore said.

Mackay Sugar will also benefit from the improvements, with access to cleaner water and a larger water storage area for the mill to utilise.

"Improved quality of land and water delivers benefits for everyone in the immediate area. Activities on the site will improve the quality of water

flowing to the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens locally, as well as more widely to the Pioneer River Estuary and the Great Barrier Reef," Mr Moore said.

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**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland**

Friday 30/01/2015

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press clip



■ WETLAND SOLUTION: Matt Moore from Catchment Solutions at the wetland restoration site near Racecourse Mill.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	27/02/2015 6:14:20 PM	Duration :	1 mins 00 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00060803012
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6634	Female 16+ 9858	
Interviewees :	Cr Theresa Morgan, Mackay Regional Council		

Whitsunday Regional Council installed 3 pollutant traps in Cannonvale Botanic Gardens. Mackay Regional Council announced \$60,000 for reef catchments.



internet clip

Aussie Sugarcane Farmers Receive Funding Boost to Help Preserve One of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World

The Coca-Cola Foundation today announced a further \$500,000 The Project aims to reduce the environmental impacts of sugarcane production on the Great Barrier Reef by providing funding for technical expertise, economic analysis and opportunities for...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20492680758&p=1i4&v=1&x=Vqj4oqliHiQWxVo1_kVtAw

press clip



Rural Weekly - Central Queensland

Friday 20/02/2015

Page: 24
Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
Circulation: 29641
Type: Regional
Size: 333.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

SUGARCANE FORUM

LOOKING TO FUTURE

Sustainability under microscope

HEALTH and a sustainable future were the key topics at the Case IH International Sugarcane Forum at Sanctuary Cove in Queensland recently.

More than 100 growers and key industry representatives came together at the For Life themed conference, where key speakers discussed what improvements were needed for the environmental and commercial sustainability of the industry.

International speakers, including Gaurav Sood from India, Richard Bennett from South East Asia, and Australian John Pearce, who has been working in the sugarcane industry in Brazil, shared details on what is happening in their markets, identifying opportunities and challenges that could have applications in Australia.

Local speakers such as Paul Deane, senior agricultural economist for ANZ Research, provided insights into developments in the Asian markets and shared predictions for the months and years ahead, while Robert Quirk discussed the benefits of Bonsucro's sustainability standards.

Project Catalyst, a pioneering partnership aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of sugar production on the Great Barrier Reef, was also discussed.

A group presentation included Belinda Billing from Reef Catchments, Ian McConnel from WWF, Rob

Cairns from Syngenta and growers involved in Project Catalyst.

"Now in its fifth year, Project Catalyst is reducing the negative impacts on the reef by showcasing the benefits of more efficient farming practices," Rob Cairns, Syngenta head of corporate affairs in Australasia, explained. "Not only does this result in better water quality, which we've been able to prove, it's also generating higher economic returns for farmers."

Continuing Case IH's commitment to supporting rural mental health, Alison Fairleigh, of Mental Illness Fellowship NQ, addressed the conference on the importance of mental health in the sugarcane industry.

"A sustainable rural industry requires a sustainable rural workforce and this includes all areas of mental health," Mrs Fairleigh said.

The event was also an opportunity to reflect on the innovations made by Case IH in the area of sugarcane mechanisation.

Focusing on 50 years of product research and development, the conference highlighted the importance of research into more efficient farming practices, and the importance of matching mechanisation with agronomy.



**Rural Weekly - Central
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Friday 20/02/2015**

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slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



WORKING TOGETHER: Growers and industry representatives at the CaseIH Sugarcane Forum at Sanctuary Cove recently.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



press clip

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Rural Weekly, Qld (insert)

Friday 20/02/2015

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Region: Toowoomba QLD, AU
Circulation: 58692
Type: Regional
Size: 334.00 sq.cms.



slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



■ WORKING TOGETHER: Growers and industry representatives at the CaselH Sugarcane Forum at Sanctuary Cove recently.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



press clip

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press clip

Opportunities for graziers and local cane farmers

WHITSUNDAY landholders in the Proserpine mill area are encouraged to apply for the Reef Programme Water Quality Improvement Grants.

Over the next five years \$200 million of funding for selected activities across the Great Barrier Reef has been provided by the Australian Government.

A Reef Programme Water Quality Improvement Grant entitles graziers and farmers to paddock-by-paddock nutrient and chemical plan with the programme's precision planning consultant, free EC (electro conductivity) mapping, soil testing (above regulated requirements) and development of a total Property Management Plan to evaluate current operations as well as \$500 to spend on chemical equipment upgrades.

Reef Catchments key contact officer Scott Underdown said the grants would assist with more effective and profitable long-term farm management.

"Whether it be improving their nutrient applications or chemical equipment, even irrigation for their property, they should give us a call to see what their options are," he said.

Canegrowers Proserpine cane BMP facilitator and grower services manager Christine Peterson has been appointed to a precision planning consultant role for the programme as of last week.



GRANT OPPORTUNITY: Reef Catchments precision planning consultant Christine Peterson and key contact officer Scott Underdown.

PHOTO: CHARLOTTE LAM

"I'll be providing assistance to growers to complete pest management plans, nutrient management plans and also part of the process will be growers do an initial plans and reviews of those plans for the next two-three years," she said.

Ms Peterson said she was more than happy to take on the role.

"(I) encourage any growers who are in the system to give me a call if they

want assistance with anything. New growers obviously have to go through the expression of interest online but existing ones are welcome to contact me with any enquiries," she said.

Anyone who is interested in applying for the Reef Programme Water Quality Improvement Grants should submit an expression of interest at www.reefcatchments.com or phone Scott Underdown on 0437 344 851.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	30/01/2015 8:50:01 AM	Duration :	5 mins 46 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060441241
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1100	Female 16+ 1100	
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		

Continuing interview with Robert Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments. Compere says environment seems to be one of the top priorities for the people living in coastal regions while farmers are pressured to reduce runoff for many years. Compere mentions ALP's commitment to reduce farm chemicals. Cocco discusses what they have achieved, saying there is now 20 to 40% reduction. Compere mentions a plan on the establishment of a task force and investigation of a water quality trading scheme. Cocco talks about the sentiments he has been hearing from the regions. Cocco says Mackay Regional Council has been very engaged in helping them and has been an integral partner to the work they are doing.



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Tuesday 9/06/2015

Page: 3
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 9928
Type: Regional
Size: 352.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Steel grass sets New York bouquets alight

Emily Smith

emily.smith@dailymercury.com.au

NEW YORK flower bouquets are about the last thing you'd guess Angela and Ross Bailey's mountainside expeditions to result in.

But thousands of their Xanthorrhoea (commonly known as grass tree) stems are harvested and sent to floral industries around the world every year.

Mrs Bailey said harvesting the stems had occurred in the region for years and she sets out two of three times a week to collect armfuls from her Sarina property for export.

"Grass trees grow in the rockiest, steepest, hardest places to get," Mrs Bailey said.

"It's a good workout, collecting them all.

"I cut each one with a

sickle and put it on the ground in the direction I'm headed, so I don't get lost. It's like leaving a trail of breadcrumbs."

In order to get perfect stalks, the couple set fire to

their trees each year.

"Fire makes them thrive," Mrs Bailey said.

"They want the stalks perfect and fire gets rid of all the fungus, and gets them greener and fresher."

The stems are then trucked to Cedar Hills Flowers and Foilage, which has exported products from Australia to the global floral industry for more than 20 years.

Sarina stems go mostly to Europe and North America where they are marketed as 'steel grass' for the stems' hardness and texture.

While grass trees take decades to grow, Mrs Bailey

said the stems grew quickly and with almost no labour input, making them one of the most sustainable crops.

"They like the stems to be about a metre, which takes between three and six months to grow to after being harvested," she said.

"They don't need to be fertilized, you don't need to work the soil or anything. They just grow faster when it rains."



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

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slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



FLORAL HARVEST: Ross and Angela Bailey harvest grass tree stems, which are exported for use in floral arrangements in New York and Paris.

PHOTO: REEF CATCHMENTS.



HELP FOR FARMERS

ADVICE HOLDS WATER

Simple tips to reduce moisture loss and soil erosion

■ **Emily Smith**

emily.smith@dailymercury.com.au

THEY say people are a product of their environment.

So after growing up in the New Mexico desert, working out ways to store water in the landscape was an obvious interest for river and wetland restoration practitioner Craig Sponholtz.

"I lived in a very eroded landscape," Mr Sponholtz said.

"On a basic level I wanted to learn how to make the landscape I lived in just that little bit wetter.

"Water is critical when you live in a dry place."

The practice transferred well to the Australian landscape and the American stopped by Mackay last week to give farmers some tips.

Stopping soil loss through erosion with hand-built structures was one of the main techniques he highlighted.

"A gully can act like a sink. Restoring it can help water spread out across the country

and help lots of other aspects," he said.

"I often take examples from the things nature does – the ways streams and rivers heal themselves are often the same physical processes that can be replicated in a gully."

He said many of the erosion problems he saw were the cumulative effect from a range of environmental changes.

"Often people need to look at problems in different ways," he said.

"When you share information, it helps people understand what part they played in that."

Solid plant cover would lead to good drainage – a critical part of stopping soil erosion, he said.

But Mr Sponholtz warned there were never quick-fix solutions.

"It's about understanding the impact of management decisions," he said. "Farmers need to recognise symptoms so they can address the cause directly.

"But it's also about interacting with farmers and understanding how they make management decisions."

During a restoration project at Mossman, Mr Sponholtz said he was surprised a farmer did not leave a strip of native vegetation between his cane crop and the river.

But after asking why that was not standard practice to prevent erosion, he was told the grower needed to farm that country to provide a certain quota of cane to the sugar mill.

"So you have to look at problems in different ways. Sometimes management decisions are political," he said.

Mackay Reef Catchments water and waterways project officer Iona Flett said Mr Sponholtz's visit tied in

with the company's system repair project.

It was aimed at reducing erosion to stop soil ending up

in the Great Barrier Reef.

"When gullies erode, it eats into the farmer's land and they lose soil," she said.

"But farmers can be worried about costs to fix it.

"Craig highlighted that farmers can use hand-built structures to prevent erosion – they don't always need lots of machinery."

Mrs Flett said gully erosion

had become a priority for farmers and about 20 of them came to Mr Sponholtz's demonstration.

She encouraged anyone wanting help with the problem to go online to www.reefcatchments.com.au.



**Water is critical
when you live in
a dry place**

– CRAIG SPONHOLTZ



**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland
Friday 5/06/2015**

Page: 7
Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
Circulation: 29641
Type: Regional
Size: 397.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



■ **WATER FOR THOUGHT:** American scientist Craig Sponholtz stopped by Mackay to give farmers tips on how to retain water in their landscape as well as prevent erosion.

PHOTO: EMILY SMITH



internet clip

Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture officer Daniel O'Keeffe

, who started in the role last month.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21533854311&p=1i4&v=1&x=ngMnGtWjaXp672U6U8Qddg>

WEB ABC Online
Thursday 4/06/2015 02:03:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Daniel O'Keeffe is the new sustainable agriculture project officer at Reef Catchments

Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture project officer Daniel O'Keeffe is the new to North Queensland. He discusses his new job.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21533799805&p=1i4&v=1&x=PA-telGXewoXfybU4k77wQ>

WEB ABC Online
Wednesday 3/06/2015 23:57:04

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

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Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture project officer Daniel O'Keeffe is the new to North Queensland. He discusses his new job.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/reef-catchments-daniel-okeeffe-is-new-sustainable-ag-officer/6520694>

WEB ABC Online

Wednesday 3/06/2015 23:57:04

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture officer Daniel O'Keeffe

Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture officer Daniel O'Keeffe, who started in the role last month.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/daniel-okeeffe-reef-catchments/6500824>



internet clip

Daniel O'Keeffe is the new sustainable agriculture project officer at Reef Catchments

Posted June 04, 2015 09:57:04 Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture project officer Daniel O'Keeffe is the new to North Queensland. He discusses his new job. Read story. David Sparkes Source: ABC Rural | Duration: 1min...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/reef-catchments-daniel-okeeffe-is-new-sustainable-ag-officer/6520694>

WEB ABC Online
Wednesday 3/06/2015 23:57:00

Section: Other
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Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
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internet clip

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Posted June 04, 2015 09:57:04 Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture officer Daniel O'Keeffe, who started in the role last month. David Sparkes
Topics: rural, sustainable-and-alternative-farming, environment, environmental-managem...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/daniel-okeeffe-reef-catchments/6500824>

WEB ABC Online
Wednesday 3/06/2015 16:00:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



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internet clip

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/reef-catchments-daniel-okeeffe-is-new-sustainable-ag-officer/6520694>



internet clip

New sustainable agriculture officer comes to town

Meet the new guy in north Queensland's agricultural sector. Daniel O'Keeffe has just arrived in Proserpine, to become Reef Catchments' new sustainable agriculture officer, and he is hoping to build connections with farmers across the region.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21533112828&p=1i4&v=1&x=RhPR-3tdumRz6FSxqQ2Hzw>



internet clip

New sustainable agriculture officer hopes to connect Reef Catchments with farmers

Posted June 04, 2015 09:57:04 Meet the new guy in north Queensland's agricultural sector. Daniel O'Keeffe has just arrived in Proserpine, to become Reef Catchments' new sustainable agriculture officer, and he is hoping to build connections with...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-04/new-reef-catchments-sustainable-agriculture-officer/6520682>



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Wide Bay	Program :	Rural Report
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	4/06/2015 6:26:55 AM	Duration :	2 mins 13 secs
Compere :	David Sparkes	Summary ID :	V00061967392
Interviewees :	Daniel O'Keeffe, Sustainable Agriculture Officer, Reef Catchments		

Sparkes says Daniel O'Keeffe is the new Sustainable Agriculture Officer of Reef Catchments and has been building connections in the wider region. O'Keeffe says he grew up in the agriculture industry down in southern NSW before moving up to Qld. He says his role with Reef Catchments Mackay is responsible for setting up sustainable agriculture trials. O'Keeffe says liaising with farmers is also part of his job.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	3/06/2015 6:06:03 PM	Duration :	1 mins 30 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00061963017
Demographics :	Male 16+ 7292	Female 16+	11587
Interviewees :	Geoff Niethe, Speaker		
Interviewees :	Mark Tamilleri, Cattle Farmer		
Interviewees :	Michael Boland, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Warren Watts, Cattle Farmer		

Cattle farmers in the region are preparing for hotter, dryer days as El Nino takes hold. There was a forum on the challenges and opportunities facing the local cattle industry and biosecurity at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. Electricity for irrigation is becoming a big issue also. Cattle farmers are also starting to reinvest in cane. Farmers are thankful for the slight rise in cattle prices.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	28/05/2015 8:51:39 AM	Duration :	7 mins 03 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061885096
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1000	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Michael Bowlen(*), Grazing Project Officer, Reef Catchments		

Interview with Michael Bowlen(*), Grazing Project Officer, Reef Catchments. He speaks about the primary industry work he is currently doing in Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac Region. He says matching the constraints of climate with the business' demand is one of the greatest challenge graziers face these days. He mentions the Reef Catchments can facilitate inquiries and serve as source of information in support to these graziers. He says the forum next week in Mackay will gather graziers from the three regions where they can talk about issues that are concerning them locally. He says the graziers can also consult with industry leaders and academics regarding these issues that affect them. He mentions some guest speakers that will be at the forum next week, including AgForce's Lauren Hewitt and MLA's Geoff Niethe.



Queensland Country Life(Qld)

Thursday 28/05/2015

Page: 79
Section: General News
Region: Brisbane, AU
Circulation: 26057
Type: Rural
Size: 398.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Forum to boost coast production

FROM how to win the 'world cup' of cattle when it comes to breeding, to biosecurity, soil health and new pasture varieties for the region – everything beef will be up for discussion at this year's annual Sustainable Grazing Forum for producers on the Queensland coast.

Held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on June 3, the forum is expected to attract more than 100 local graziers from the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac regions.

Forum co-ordinator, Reef Catchments' Michael Boland, said the day would focus on both the challenges and opportunities faced by coastal beef producers.

"The forum is one of the only events focused specifically on graziers in our region," Mr Boland said.

"It will look at both challenges and opportunities in beef production on the Queensland coast, providing graziers with the information they need to improve land and pasture management, and highlighting where efficiencies could be gained – for example, in the area of genetics."

Geoff Niethe, research co-ordinator from Meat & Livestock Australia, will present on building the best foundation for a breeder herd.

"With more pressure on graziers and producers to build efficiencies, there are certainly areas for improvement in fertility

– no one has it quite right yet," Mr Niethe said.

"If you want to win the world cup, you need to have a good junior sports development team coming up through the ranks.

"I will be considering how to select and prepare the right heifers from a young age for maximum life-long productivity in the herd. For example, we know from data that cows targeted at certain times of the year are more likely to calf again in a 12-month cycle. Information like that can be critical in adding value to the herd."

Ross Dodt, senior industry development officer for DAFF, will speak on the challenges facing the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac beef industry.

"A problem for many regional beef properties is insufficient scale," he said.

"For example, properties in Area III of the brigalow ballot scheme were originally sub-divided on the basis they would run

800 head of cattle.

"Technology has enabled producers to stock at higher rates than this, but the temptation for some has been to stock at unsustainable rates, hastening problems such as pasture rundown, unwanted pasture species encroachment and deteriorated land condition.

"Producers are also feeling the 'terms of trade' pinch in a commodity-based market of 'how do we juggle the challenge

of trying to decrease the cost of production while also raising quality animals that are worth more per head?'"

Mr Dodt said there was no "one hat fits all" solution, but that beef producers needed the right information to make an educated decision on how to move forward.

Graziers interested in learning more are invited to RSVP to the free event before May 29 to secure their place.

● Contact Reef Catchments on (07) 4968 4200 or email info@reefcatchments.com



**Queensland Country
Life(Qld)**

Thursday 28/05/2015

Page: 79
Section: General News
Region: Brisbane, AU
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Type: Rural
Size: 398.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

st coast production



Eungella grazier Kel Tennent received funding for improved land management through the Reef Program, which allowed the Tennents to complete 2.8km of riparian fencing, install three off-stream watering points, complete a stocktake pasture course, implement pasture monitoring and improve pasture management.

press clip



Whitsunday Guardian
Wednesday 27/05/2015

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Whitsunday QLD, AU
Circulation: 2012
Type: Regional
Size: 147.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Dent takes the lead in resource control

THERE'S a new kid on the conservation block with the appointment of Reef Catchments' natural resource management (NRM) leader for the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Katrina Dent comes to the role with 20 years experience in regional planning, having helped draft the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Regional Plan.

Mrs Dent said she hoped to help progress the sustainable use of the region's resources.

"I see natural resource management and planning as a key contributor to a sustainable community," she said.

"I will be working within Reef Catchments to identify new and additional projects that can be undertaken to progress and enhance the

natural resources of Mackay, Isaac and the Whitsundays."

Reef Catchments chief executive officer Robert Cocco said managing the area's resources was an important part of keeping the community alive.

"Management of our natural assets today will set our path for tomorrow and it is crucial to find the right balance for sustainable development," he said.

"Katrina brings a wealth of expertise and insight into regional planning and is ideally placed to help facilitate best practice resource management across our region, community and industries."



FRESH BLOOD: Resource management leader Katrina Dent.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	26/05/2015 9:26:12 AM	Duration :	5 mins 32 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061853275
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1200	Female 16+	1400
Interviewees :	Katrina Dent(*), Manager, Reef Catchments		

Kleidon highlights that Reef Catchments has been responsible for many environmental projects. Recently, Katrina Dent(*), who has had experience in local and state governments, has been appointed as the new manager of Reef Catchments. Dent discusses how her previous skills will translate to her new position. Dent says going to state government loses connection with the community that is why she came to Reef Catchments with her governance and planning knowledge to manage growth and environment and obtain positive ground outcomes. Dent says they are building a new team for a lot of programs for the coast, businesses, energy and resources. Kleidon commends Reef Catchments for setting up a good framework and having goals to achieve. Dent says they have funding arrangements from Federal and State Government for some local projects.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	26/05/2015 9:21:47 AM	Duration :	0 mins 21 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061853270
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1200	Female 16+ 1400	

Program Preview

- Continuing interview with Katrina Dent(*), manager, Reef Catchments, to talk about how her town planning experience is going to serve Central Qld in her new role.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	26/05/2015 9:08:02 AM	Duration :	0 mins 53 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061852769
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1200	Female 16+ 1400	

Program Preview

- Continuing interview with Katrina Dent(*) about how her town planning experience is going to serve Central Qld in her new role as manager of Reef Catchments.
- Discussion about erosion and its prevention.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	25/05/2015 9:23:54 AM	Duration :	6 mins 21 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061837821
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1000	Female 16+	1300
Interviewees :	Katrina Dent(*), Manager, Reef Catchments Mackay		

Interview with Katrina Dent(*), Manager, Reef Catchments Mackay, to talk about being a former town planner. Dent says she spent being a town planner in Rockhampton for nine years and in Mackay for eight years. Dent shares what brought her from Rockhampton City Council to Mackay, recalling her work with the Qld Government's Department of Local Government and Planning. Dent reckons there is a difficulty in selling regional centres in terms of the diverse activities and cultural experiences. She thinks it is unfortunate that people in Brisbane are a bit naive on what there is in Mackay. Dent mentions the importance of having a vision for the next 20 years and being ready as well. Dent thinks Mackay is now in a better place than it was before.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	22/05/2015 6:02:20 PM	Duration :	1 mins 35 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00061823937
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6634	Female 16+	9858
Interviewees :	Paul Schembri, Canegrowers		
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		

Research has found that local cane growers are helping to meet ambitious targets for cutting back chemical run off to the Great Barrier Reef. More than 50% of farmers across the region have changed their ways in hope of saving the GBR. Farmers are working to reduce their chemical imprint. The Australian Government Reef program is leading the change yet more work needs to be done.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Townsville	Program :	Seven Local News
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	
Aired On :	22/05/2015 6:04:20 PM	Duration :	1 mins 35 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond	Summary ID :	M00061823839
Demographics :	Male 16+ 5615	Female 16+	10905
Interviewees :	Paul Schembri, Canegrowers		
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		

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broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Breakfast
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Mr Craig Widdowson
Aired On :	22/05/2015 6:52:28 AM	Duration :	7 mins 32 secs
Compere :	Meecham Philpott	Summary ID :	V00061814441
Demographics :	Male 16+ 3000	Female 16+ 2600	
Interviewees :	Rob Eccles, managing director, Catchment Solutions		

Philpott says after a decade of research and trials, harvesting has begun on the Mackay region's first ever commercial rice crops. The two-day harvest began two days ago on 11 hectare plot McCane property(*) North Palmyra just West of Mackay. The crop is a project of Agronomy Consultant Pharmacist(*) who gives cane growers in the region a new source of income. Philpott plays an interview of David Sparkes with Rob Eccles, managing director, Catchment Solutions. Eccles talks about how the rice are being harvested.



internet clip

Soil health workshop for farmers

FARMERS concerned about their soil health should head along to a Reef Catchments breakfast and workshop Tuesday. Event co-ordinator and Marian farmer Simon Mattsson said he would aim to raise awareness about the dire state of the regions' soils and...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21404298859&p=1i4&v=1&x=XC4qbi6DEmbYfT2UyQ9_gA



internet clip

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<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21404074692&p=1i4&v=1&x=uvG4n27clDFw2ExsXwusmw>

press clip



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Friday 22/05/2015

Page: 5
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 9928
Type: Regional
Size: 29.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

IN BRIEF

Soil health workshop

FARMERS concerned about their soil health should head along to a Reef Catchments breakfast and workshop Tuesday. Event co-ordinator and Marian farmer Simon Mattsson said he would aim to raise awareness about the dire state of the regions' soils and describe ways of boosting soil carbon levels. Phone Reef Catchments today on 4968 4200 or email info@reefcatchments.com to secure a spot.

press clip



Whitsunday Guardian
Wednesday 20/05/2015

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Whitsunday QLD, AU
Circulation: 2012
Type: Regional
Size: 128.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Soil health still a dirty word

FARMERS across the region are encouraged to educate themselves on soil health at a Breakfast and Soil Health Field Day on Tuesday, May 26. Event co-ordinator and Marian farmer Simon Mattsson says the challenge of restoring and improving soil health is one of the biggest issues facing sugar producers in today's market.

The Soil Health Field Day will include a breakfast and presentations from industry leaders at the Mackay Wests Leagues Club, followed by a farm field tour to view a soil health trial focused on introducing plant diversity. The event receives funding and support from Reef Catchments, the Australian Government, Canegrowers,



SOIL MATTERS: Marian farmer and Nuffield Scholar Simon Mattsson will speak on soil health. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Wilmar, Mackay Sugar, MAPS, Mackay Rural Supplies, North Queensland Tropical Seeds and Superior Fertilisers. Farmers are

urged to RSVP to Reef Catchments by Thursday, May 21, on 4968 4200 or email info@reefcatchments.com.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	19/05/2015 9:21:45 AM	Duration :	8 mins 27 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061767191
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1200	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Simon Mattsson, Nuffield scholar		

Interview with Simon Mattsson, Nuffield scholar. Kleidon says nitrogen has been implicated in growing outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish. Mattsson has established through his study that the nitrogen is an actually a symptom and not a cause. Mattsson feels the Government need to tackle the problem from the ground up and look at carbon in soils. Mattsson says some plant species offer a way of maintaining soil in an open fashion for one harvest to the next. He says having the soil compaction issue addresses will greatly help soil health. Not only has the compaction issue needed to be addressed, but also the lack of carbon and calcium in soils. Mattsson says increasing carbon levels in the soil can be done conventionally by adding compost but it will have very little potential to stay in the soil. He mentions other guest speakers who will be with him on a field day, namely composting expert Gerry Gillespie and NSW farmer Colin Seis who is a winner of 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award. Mattsson says Seis is the pioneer of pasture cropping. He says the Reef Catchments has been helping him with registration and feedback forms. Kleidon says Mattsson will present on 26 May at 7 until 4.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	18/05/2015 8:36:42 AM	Duration :	7 mins 49 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061749274
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1000	Female 16+ 1300	
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Simon Mattsson, farmer, Mackay		

Kleidon mentions the Caring for our Country Reef Rescue program was initiated by the Australian Government which committed \$200m over five years to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef. According to Simon Mattsson, farmer, Mackay, the focus on nitrogen reduction is misguided. Mattsson says nitrogen is a symptom and not the cause. He says the amount of nitrogen in the reef will not change because there is not enough carbon in the soil to hold the nutrients where they are supposed to be. He talks about his nitrogen runoff problem. Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments, thinks there is a great opportunity in terms of improving soil health. Cocco says they are seeking to focus on key farming practices that will yield in significant imports in terms of the water quality. Cocco says they are hoping the Mackay and Whitsunday regions are beneficiaries of investments from the Federal Budget.



broadcast clip

Station :	4BU	Program :	06:30 News
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	15/05/2015 6:30:18 AM	Duration :	0 mins 52 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	V00061723528

Managing erosion in the Burnett and Mary catchments is among the top priorities of the state government's strategy to improve the quality of water and to protect the Great Barrier Reef from agricultural land use through the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Research Development and Innovation Strategy released yesterday. The scheme sets the targets to achieve up to an 80% reduction in nitrogen and up to a 50% reduction in sediment flowing from key reef catchments by 2025. The strategy also focuses on key catchments in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Fitzroy, and Mackay-Whitsunday and targets priority pollutants.

press clip



Gladstone Observer

Friday 15/05/2015

Page: 5
Section: General News
Region: Gladstone QLD, AU
Circulation: 4823
Type: Regional
Size: 148.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Help reef by cutting chemicals, erosion

Pamela Frost

pamela.frost@apn.com.au

MANAGING pesticide from the Mackay and Fitzroy regions and combating erosion from the Mary and Burnett catchments have been listed among the top priorities in a State Government strategy to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The State Government released the reef water quality strategy in Townsville yesterday, only weeks ahead of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee's decision on whether to list the reef as 'in danger'.

The government strategy report contained a list of priorities for Queensland coastal catchments to help reduce degraded water quality on the reef.

Combating erosion from cattle grazing and cropping in the Fitzroy region was listed among the first priorities to improve reef water quality along with reducing nitrogen from fertiliser in the wet tropics and erosion in the Burdekin.

Addressing pesticide from sugarcane in all catchments in the Mackay and Whitsundays region was listed as a second priority.

Reducing fertiliser nitrogen from sugarcane in the

Mackay and Whitsundays area was listed as a third priority, along with erosion management from grazing in the Mary and Burnett catchments.

Also listed as a third priority was reducing pesticide from grazing and cropping in the Fitzroy region.

The report said whole-farm pesticide and weed management was critical to limiting the impacts on reef water quality.

"Pesticides pose a risk to freshwater, inshore and coastal ecosystems, as their presence in waterways and in the reef lagoon reduces the resilience of aquatic ecosystems," it said.

The report also explained how erosion from cropping and grazing affected the reef.

It said emerging research had shown that fine fractions of soil from grazing, cane and other cropping lands were the most likely to reach and impact on reef systems, particularly in wider flatter reef catchments such as the Burdekin and Fitzroy catchments.

— APN NEWSDESK

SPEAK UP: What do you think? Get in touch on 4970 3023 or newsroom@gladstoneobserver.com.au.

press clip



**Fraser Coast Chronicle
(Maryborough)**

Friday 15/05/2015

Page: 4
Section: General News
Region: Hervey Bay QLD, AU
Circulation: 6712
Type: Regional
Size: 200.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

New report: Combating Mary River catchment erosion is a priority

Rescuing reef's water

Pamela Frost
APN Newsdesk

COMBATING erosion from the Mary and Burnett River catchments, and managing pesticide from the Mackay and Fitzroy regions have been listed among the top priorities in a State Government strategy to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The State Government released the reef water quality strategy in Townsville yesterday, only weeks ahead of UNESCO's World Heritage

Committee's decision on whether to list the reef as 'in danger'.

The Government strategy report contained a list of priorities for Queensland coastal catchments to help reduce degraded water quality on the reef. Combating erosion from cattle grazing and cropping in the Fitzroy

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“Addressing pesticide from sugarcane in all catchments ... was a second priority.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	29/04/2015 8:48:33 AM	Duration :	6 mins 06 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00061524452
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1100	Female 16+ 1100	
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		

Kleidon says Qld is leading a way in natural resource management activities and projects. She says Reef Catchments members and stakeholders have been invited to witness firsthand the activities happening across the region. Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments, explains why they hold these types of annual field days. Cocco says they aim to showcase the works to local community and to give an opportunity to stakeholders some issues they may want to work on in the future. He thinks the region performs quite well despite the pressure existing for a long time. Cocco says their major priorities revolve around enhanced condition of the catchment and improvements on water quality and reef health. Cocco mentions their work with Mackay Sugar about a waterway that needed repair. He says there is a substantial amount of area that requires significant repairs and improvements on waterways.

press clip



Rural Weekly - Central Queensland

Friday 24/04/2015

Page: 3
Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
Circulation: 29641
Type: Regional
Size: 421.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

IMPROVING THE SUPPLY

WORK HARD ON WATER

Statistics look bad but farmers are turning it around

**Troy Kippen and
APN Newsdesk**

STARTLING statistics have revealed a severe water quality in the Fitzroy region and the Mackay and Whitsunday region but farmers are working to turn around the figures.

The Mackay and Whitsunday region has had a 45% drop in water quality.

Earlier this month the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the first ecosystem accounts that examined data taken over the past decade.

It showed seagrass condition had dropped by more than half in the Fitzroy area; going from 100 points when data started being collected in 2005-06 to just 38 points in 2012.

There has also been a decline in seagrass condition in the Mackay and

Whitsunday region, going from 100 points in 2005 to its lowest level of 21 points in 2011.

It then bounced back to 38.4 points in 2012.

Water quality has been following similar patterns.

The report stated climate change, declining water quality from catchment runoff and loss of coastal habitats from fishing and coastal development were the main factors affecting the reef's condition.

The score decreased from 100 points to 59 points between 2005 and 2011 in the Fitzroy area.

It dropped to 54 points in the Mackay and Whitsunday region during the same timeframe.

Reef Catchments has several programs in place to improve the water quality of runoff from catchment areas,

such as Project Catalyst, Game Changer, and the Australian Government Reef program in recent.

Critically, work being done by Queensland cane farmers is now estimated to cut

pollutant loads to the Great Barrier Reef by about 183 tonnes each year.

"The primary purpose of Project Catalyst is to reduce the environmental footprint that sugarcane has on freshwater and the Great Barrier Reef," Reef Catchments CEO Robert Cocco said.

"We do this by supporting a network of innovative farmers that are speeding the adoption of cutting edge management practices."

Factbox

Project Catalyst decreases in the 2014 growing year:



**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland
Friday 24/04/2015**

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Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
Circulation: 29641
Type: Regional
Size: 421.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

- 72 tonne for particulate nitrogen
- 34 tonne for particulate phosphorus
- 64 tonne for dissolved inorganic nitrogen
- 13 tonne for filterable reactive phosphorus
- 551kg for pesticide



■ **QUALITY:** Simon Mattson is one of the farmers trying to turn around the north's water quality issues.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

WEB ABC Online
Tuesday 21/04/2015 23:13:00

Section: General News
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Bad soil health holding back Queensland's Mackay region says cane grower and Nuffield scholar

A cane farmer who recently travelled overseas to investigate soil health says the bad soil health is holding back productivity in Queensland's Mackay region. Simon Mattson runs a cane farm in Marian, west of Mackay, and is a Nuffield Scholar focusing...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21107328612&p=1i4&v=1&x=38QjVuyfpa0-jjxJ7GUlmw>



internet clip

Bad soil health holding back Queensland's Mackay region says cane grower and Nuffield scholar

A cane farmer who recently travelled overseas to investigate soil health says the bad soil health is holding back productivity in Queensland's Mackay region. Simon Mattson runs a cane farm in Marian, west of Mackay, and is a Nuffield Scholar focusing on...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-22/grower-says-soil-health-needs-more-attention-in-mackay-region/6410982>



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Wide Bay	Program :	Rural Report
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	22/04/2015 6:16:07 AM	Duration :	3 mins 55 secs
Compere :	David Sparkes	Summary ID :	V00061436915
Interviewees :	Simon Mattsson, cane grower, Marian		

Simon Mattsson, cane grower, Marian, who recently investigated soil health in New Zealand and South America, says the issue is also holding back productivity in Mackay. Mattsson is preparing to host a field day on his property to give farmers better information about the problems they face as well as some solutions. Mattsson says the soil issues in Mackay include compaction, lack of carbon and lack of available calcium. He explains carbon is what enables soil to be alive. Sparkes says the field day will be on 26 May at Mattsson's property in Marian. Contact reef Catchments for details.



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21106415265&p=1i4&v=1&x=98mLYIT7q5vw0dPn0x7JHQ>



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/exposing-the-ground/2614450/>



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21105625733&p=1i4&v=1&x=g8Mdv0NggiWa6uDWllc8-w>



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21105607677&p=1i4&v=1&x=ncLAjADd2XDcE0t6eysFiw>



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21105512460&p=1i4&v=1&x=m55OEDdPksjHwnBZkRGzIA>



internet clip

Experts explain the impact of soil health on farms

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer - soil health. But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21105508996&p=1i4&v=1&x=lbbhknXI_qO_jx0lvmZrxg

press clip



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Wednesday 22/04/2015

Page: 2
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
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slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

REEF CATCHMENTS: FIELD DAY FOR FARMERS

Exposing the ground

Experts discuss the impact of soil health on farms

Troy Kippen

Troy.kippen@dailymercury.com.au

THERE is one thing that affects every Australian farmer – soil health.

But understand the health of the soil is difficult when it all happens underground.

A Reef Catchments' Soil Health Field Day aims to change all that by explaining the impacts of compaction and how to test for and maintain calcium and soil carbon levels.

Growers are invited to learn more at the second annual Soil Health Field Day on May 26.

The day includes a breakfast and soil health presentations from experts at Wests Leagues Club, Walkerston, followed by a field tour at Simon Mattsson's property at Marian.

Information will focus on how to address and improve soil health on-farm for the long term.

Speakers include:

■ Colin Seis (pasture cropping): Widely recognised in Australia as a pasture cropping pioneer, Colin provides first-hand insight into his own experiences improving soil health, includ-



GUEST SPEAKER: Marian cane farmer and Nuffield Scholar Simon Mattsson has spent time overseas learning more about soil health issues.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

ing through plant diversity and no till methods.

■ Gerry Gillespie (City to Soil Project): Gerry will provide an overview of composting for increased soil carbon. Gerry's method for compost can be done on-farm without the need for expensive turners.

■ Simon Mattsson (cane

farmer): Local grower and Nuffield Scholar, Simon Mattsson, has just returned from his Nuffield travels and will present findings after spending time overseas exploring soil health issues in New Zealand, Chile, Peru and Brazil.

Simon will also provide an update on his rotational crop

trial at Marian.

The event will be followed by a composting workshop on May 27 for those with an interest in learning techniques firsthand.

➔ Cost is \$30 a person and people can phone 4968 4200 to book or for more information.

WEB ABC Online
Thursday 9/04/2015 16:00:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller discusses a wetland rehabilitation project next to Racecourse Sugar Mill in Mackay

Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller discusses a wetland rehabilitation project next to Racecourse Sugar Mill in Mackay. It is a joint project between Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/john-muller-on-mackay-racecourse-mill-wetland-project/6382518>

WEB ABC Online
Thursday 9/04/2015 23:10:20

Section: Other
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Type: Internet News - Australia



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Racecourse Mill wetland

Racecourse Mill wetland in Mackay is the site of a rehabilitation project involving Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/racecourse-mill-wetland-project/6377394>

WEB ABC Online
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Type: Internet News - Australia



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller at Racecourse Mill wetland.jpg

Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller at Racecourse Mill wetland. The area is being rehabilitated.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20987720958&p=1i4&v=1&x=iWhbL9mMatghk16ETlhwwA>

WEB ABC Online
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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Racecourse Mill wetland

in Mackay is the site of a rehabilitation project involving Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20987720983&p=1i4&v=1&x=aqyfy01SHqoXuiqrVKPJ7Q>

WEB ABC Online
Thursday 9/04/2015 23:10:00

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Type: Internet News - Australia



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Racecourse Mill wetland - ABC Rural (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Posted April 10, 2015 09:10:20 Racecourse Mill wetland in Mackay is the site of a rehabilitation project involving Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments Topics: sugar, rural, wetlands, environment, mackay-4740

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/racecourse-mill-wetland-project/6377394>

WEB ABC Online
Thursday 9/04/2015 23:10:00

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Type: Internet News - Australia



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller at Racecourse Mill wetland.jpg

Posted April 10, 2015 09:10:20 Reef Catchments project coordinator Peter Muller at Racecourse Mill wetland. The area is being rehabilitated.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/reef-catchments-project-coordinator-peter-muller/6377386>

WEB ABC Online
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Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Mackay's Racecourse Mill wetland project takes shape to protect the Barrier Reef from sediment and nutrient runoff

Updated April 10, 2015 09:25:58 Four thousand native seedlings are taking root in Mackay in a wetland project that aims to change a weed-infested wasteland into a thriving ecosystem, and to filter runoff water from surrounding farms. The site,...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-10/mackay-racecourse-mill-wetland-project-takes-shape/6382520>



internet clip

Mackay wetland project starts to take shape

Four thousand native seedlings are taking root in Mackay in a wetland project that aims to change a weed-infested wasteland into a thriving ecosystem, and to filter runoff water from surrounding farms. The site, next to Racecourse Sugar Mill, was...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20987462937&p=1i4&v=1&x=Vvj5OkPt8hWM0PUwbbdr9A>



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Wide Bay	Program :	Rural Report
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	10/04/2015 6:19:41 AM	Duration :	4 mins 05 secs
Compere :	David Sparkes	Summary ID :	V00061293855
Interviewees :	Carlos Bueno, worker, wetland rehabilitation project		
Interviewees :	Peter Muller, Coordinator, Reef Catchments		

Sparkes recalls the wetland rehabilitation project they have visited next to Mackay's Racecourse Mill in December. At that time, hundreds of tonnes of earth have been shifted to create creeks and ponds, but the site was mostly bare without any vegetation. After four months, 4,000 indigenous seedlings have been planted and a thousand more is expected by the end of the month. Carlos Bueno, worker, wetland rehabilitation project, talks about preparing soil. Sparkes says the project is being undertaken by Mackay Sugar which owns the mill and Reef Catchments. Peter Muller, Coordinator, Reef Catchments, says the revived wetland will improve and filter the quality of water running out to the Great Barrier Reef from farms in the catchment area. He says they are reinstating the tree species that were there before, including Alexandra palm and Damson.

press clip



Rural Weekly - Central Queensland

Friday 10/04/2015

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

REEF CATCHMENT

POND APPLE PLANT

Invasive tree a threat to farms

REEF Catchments held an information session last month to help control an outbreak of pond apple discovered in Habana.

Reef Catchments project officer Iona Flett said the pond apple tree had been discovered during a monitoring walk as part of ongoing surveillance funded through the Queensland Government NRM Program, which helps ensure the Mackay area remains free of the weed species.

"The tree was found on a creek line and was fruiting," Ms Flett said.

"It is a concern and it is critical we alert landholders to the fact that pond apple control may need to be taken, because there have been no

new outbreaks in the Mackay region for quite some time.

"As a region, we have been very successful in an on-ground approach to eradicating pond apple, thanks to terrific co-operation from landholders.

"We want to make sure this continues and would

encourage all landholders in the area to come along next Tuesday and see first-hand how to manage any incursions they might find.

"Pond apple has the potential to significantly impact the natural areas of the Mackay Whitsunday region and can also affect our agricultural industries, including cane and grazing."

Pond apple (*Annona glabra*) is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread and

economic and environmental impacts.

Infestations were first reported in Mackay in 2009, with outbreaks identified in Andergrove and more widely in the Reliance Creek catchment.

Thanks to several years of intensive on-ground eradication activity, the weed is being slowly but surely eradicated from the Mackay and Whitsunday region.

The pond apple eradication project is a joint initiative of Reef Catchments, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, Mackay Regional Council and the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, through funding from the Queensland Government.



**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland
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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



WATCH OUT: Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*) is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia.

PHOTO: ADAM REECE



HUGE PLANTING PROJECT AT MILL SITE

WETLAND HAS 5000 REASONS TO RETURN

About 30 species of native planted to battle weeds and restore health

PHASE two of a major wetland restoration project near Racecourse Mill is under way, with more than 5000 seedlings set to go in the ground by the end of April.

Reef Catchments project co-ordinator Peter Muller said 3000 seedlings had been planted on the four hectare site over the past two weeks, with 2000 more set to come in the next month.

"This is a major step in the wetland restoration project, which is a joint project between Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments to restore a heavily degraded area of land directly behind Racecourse Mill," Mr Muller said.

He said revegetation of native plants was a critical stage of the wetland restoration process.

"Over time, as these trees mature, they will help recreate the original rainforest ecosystem and environment that was once typical to the Pioneer Valley Catchment.

"The eventual aim of the restored wetland is to provide a corridor, becoming a point of connection in the landscape that allows for the delivery of water quality and ecosystem benefits to a wider area."

More than 30 native species have been selected for the site, including Leichhardt and Damson trees and Alexandra palms.

The seedlings have been provided by Mackay Tree Factory and the Pioneer

Catchment Landcare Nursery.

The team from Whitsunday Catchment Landcare has been contracted to do the planting on-ground, making significant progress in a short period, with thousands of trees now in the ground.

Mr Muller said planting of endemic species (trees native to the area) also helped guard against invasive and environmentally damaging weeds.

"Tree species selected have been based on the regional ecosystem of the site.

"Before we started works, the site was mostly overgrown with weeds.

"By stocking the area heavily with endemic species, we hope to 'shade out' the weed species, some of which have become quite dominant over time – for example, water lettuce, water hyacinth, para grass and hymenachne," he said.

Revegetation could also help improve water quality by enhancing natural filtration.

"Improved water quality and the restoration of land, ecosystem and habitat health are the major focus of the works and we hope the community will notice benefits in these areas moving forward," Mr Muller said.

The project is a joint initiative of Reef Catchments and Mackay Sugar, through co-funding from the Australian Government Reef Programme.

Works on the site will continue to June 2016.

Reef Catchments is currently seeking to partner with private landholders and farmers on similar wetland restoration works across the region.

For more information contact Reef Catchments on 4968 4234.



Tree species selected have been based on the regional ecosystem of the site.

PETER MULLER



**Rural Weekly - Central
Queensland
Friday 3/04/2015**

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Rockhampton, AU
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Type: Regional
Size: 418.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



DIGGING IN: Reef Catchments' Iona Fleet and Carlos Bueno, from Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



press clip

BAYER BACKS REEF PROJECT

Continuing its support of Project Catalyst to cut environmental impact

BAYER CropScience has reinforced a strong commitment to Australian sugarcane innovation and sustainable production, announcing its ongoing support to Project Catalyst Australia at the annual Growers Forum in Townsville this month.

Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of sugarcane production on the Great Barrier Reef through innovative farming practices.

The project seeks to test and validate practices that are good for farmers and also good for the reef, driving on-farm innovation.

Improving water quality from agricultural catchments is vital to improving the resilience of the reef in the face of many threats, including a changing climate.

Bayer CropScience head of new business development Richard Dickmann said the company was delighted to extend support of the project.

"Project Catalyst is a perfect partner for Bayer as we share a commitment to improving reef water quality and the role of innovation as a key driver of delivering sustainable farming outcomes," he said.

Since starting the collaboration with Bayer,

Project Catalyst farmers have undertaken trials targeted at optimising herbicide application, leading to three new registration projects and new weed control protocols.

The Bayer local team

worked with growers to develop more than 50 optimised herbicide treatment plans to improve the rate, timing and placement of herbicides on the growers' farms.

"Together, Bayer CropScience and Project Catalyst growers are highlighting changes in the management practices of weeds, disease and insects in the sugarcane industry," Mr Dickmann said.

Reef Catchments Group chief executive Rob Cocco thanked Bayer CropScience for its support.

Bayer and Catchment Solutions have both agreed to broaden work on the targeted application of herbicides, as well as the potential delivery of projects in the area of

RICHARD DICKMANN

digital agriculture.

"We are focused on initiatives that lead simultaneously to better yields, better water quality and better economic return for the sugarcane industry," Mr Cocco said.

Project Catalyst is a

pioneering partnership of diverse stakeholders and more than 75 forward-thinking cane farmers.



We share a
commitment to
improving reef
water quality



press clip



WORKING TOGETHER: Team Bayer (from left) Tim Murphy, Richard Dickmann, Robert Cocco, Sue Cross and Royce Bishop.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

press clip



Whitsunday Times (Airlie Beach)

Thursday 26/03/2015

Page: 3
Section: General News
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Type: Regional
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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Eco Barge attracts national interest

ECO BARGE Clean Seas founder Libby Edge met with World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Coca-Cola South Pacific and Catchment Solutions (Reef Catchments) on Thursday to discuss all things turtles and Eco Barge.

The entourage, which was made up of WWF CEO Dermot O'Gorman, national project coordinator Ian McConnell, Coca-Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercale and Reef Catchments senior project consultant Rob Eccles, visited Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson before meeting with Ms Edge at Eco Barge HQ in Jubilee Pocket.

All three organisations are partners in Project Catalyst, an initiative that strives to reduce the nutrient, fertiliser and pollutant run-off on the Great Barrier Reef. Ms Edge said Thursday was an interesting day for the national visitors as the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre was hosting students from James Cook University who were examining deceased turtles to understand why they had died.

Ms Edge then took the men on a tour of the rescue centre and briefed them on the Whitsunday Marine Debris Removal Program.

Coca-Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercale looked on in awe and said he had great admiration for Ms Edge. "I like turtles and I like seeing such a young woman making a change – you can see the passion in her eyes," he said.

Ms Edge said to date they have removed over 120 tonne of debris in the Whitsundays. On Friday the men travelled to Bowen to visit a turtle project WWF had been involved in for nearly 10 years.

WWF CEO Dermot O'Gorman said the project monitors turtle health and population size in the Bowen region and that they looked forward to assessing its developments.



Whitsunday Times (Airlie Beach)

Thursday 26/03/2015

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



SPECIAL VISIT: Catchment Solutions (Reef Catchments) senior project consultant Rob Eccles, World Wildlife Fund CEO Dermot O'Gorman, Eco Barge Clean Seas founder Libby Edge, Coca-Cola South Pacific Roberto Mercale and World Wildlife Fund national project coordinator Ian McConnell at Eco Barge HQ last Thursday.

press clip



Whitsunday Guardian

Wednesday 25/03/2015

Page: 12
Section: General News
Region: Whitsunday QLD, AU
Circulation: 2012
Type: Regional
Size: 296.00 sq.cms.



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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS



PARTNERS: Tim Murphy (Bayer) and Richard Dickmann (Bayer) with Robert Cocco (Reef Catchments Group CEO), Sue Cross (Bayer) and Royce Bishop (Reef Catchments Group chair).

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Bayer backs reef

Project Catalyst signs MOU with pesticides expert

A LEADING agricultural pesticides company has reaffirmed its commitment to the innovative sugar industry program, Project Catalyst.

Bayer CropScience and Catchment Solutions (Project Catalyst co-ordinators) signed an MOU at the annual Project Catalyst growers' forum in Townsville last month to extend the partnership between Bayer and Project

Catalyst for the fourth year running.

Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of sugarcane production on the Great Barrier Reef through innovative farming practices.

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development for Bayer CropScience, said the company was delighted to

extend its support for Project Catalyst.

"Project Catalyst is a perfect partner for Bayer as we share a commitment to improving reef water quality, and the role of innovation as a key driver of delivering sustainable farming outcomes," Mr Dickmann said.

Since starting the collaboration with Bayer, Project Catalyst farmers have undertaken trials

targeted at optimising herbicide application, leading to three new registration projects and new weed control protocols.

Bayer's local team worked with growers to develop more than 50 optimised herbicide treatment plans to improve the rate, timing and placement of herbicides on growers' farms.



Whitsunday Guardian
Wednesday 25/03/2015

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



CATALYSTS: World Wildlife Fund CEO Dermot O'Gorman, Coca-Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercale, Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson, and Catchment Solutions (Reef Catchments) senior project consultant Rob Eccles.

PHOTO: MATTHEW NEWTON

Cane producers trial sustainable way to protect profits and Great Barrier Reef

By **MATTHEW NEWTON**

STANDING in the baking hot sun on an unseasonably warm day, Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson has the undivided attention of Coca-Cola South Pacific chief executive officer Roberto Mercale and World

Wildlife Fund Australia chief executive officer Dermot O'Gorman.

Coca-Cola and WWF are partners with Reef Catchments in Project Catalyst, a network of just under 80 farmers up and down the Queensland coast that are trialling innovative farming practices to produce sustainable sugar cane.

Hosted by Catchment Solutions' (the commercial arm of Reef Catchments) Rob Eccles, the two CEOs visited Mackay farmers Gerry Deguara and Tony Bugeja, before heading to

Mr Simpson's farm.

Speaking with animation, Mr Simpson explained his "skip row" cane trial and its benefits to the two men, who were clearly impressed with his results.

"It's been an incredible experience," Mr Mercale said.

"It's one thing to read about it and it's another thing to come here with Gerry and Tony and Scott and just see the great things that they do, the passion with how they do it and the impact that they're having," he said.

Mr O'Gorman was equally as enamoured with what he saw during his visit.

"I've been out to the farms a number of times over the last four-five years, and to see the progress and also the confidence from Scott to talk about what he's

Continued P2



Whitsunday Guardian
Wednesday 25/03/2015

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Innovative trials win supporters

From P1

doing, it's fabulous," he said.

"Farmers can be the hero in trying to help save the Great Barrier Reef, they just need the right support and that's where companies like Coca-Cola come into the partnership.

"(Coca-Cola) is one of the world's largest buyers of sugar so it sends a signal to the market that that's where the future is; producing sustainable sugar that will meet consumer demand but saving the Great Barrier Reef as well, which the consumers also want to see."

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 stated that poor water quality from land-based run-off continued to be one of the greatest risks to the reef's future, and the recently elected State Labor Government is promising to slash the amount of nitrogen flowing on to the reef from key catchments by 80% and total suspended sediment by 50% by 2025.

Mr Simpson's "skip row" trial is an example of innovative farming practices that at first glance seem crazy.

With traditional farming methods, cane is planted 1.5m apart. But with Mr Simpson's trial, the rows are spaced 1.9m apart and the in-between row is planted with legumes, which return nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

"The major benefits of skip row is you use half the fertiliser and half the grub control. It's half the distance for the cane harvester to travel," Mr Simpson said.

"You can access the paddock at any stage of growing the crop and the pour rate of the harvester is probably up around 140/tonnes an hour. The normal rate is about 90/tonnes an hour, depending on how good the crop is," he said.

Mr Simpson is expanding his trial, which is in its seventh year.

"The skip row system, I believe it's ready to go now," he said.

"That's why I'm putting in another 20 hectares this year, because I just feel that after doing seven years of trials with it, it's time to put my money where my mouth is."

Mr Simpson had a request for his fellow growers.

"I'm just doing the trials on my farm and the figures are working out really good and at the very least, all I could ask other farmers to do is to trial it on some of their difficult-to-harvest blocks," he said.

"If farmers would like to have a talk to Sugar Services Proserpine's Peter Sutherland about it, Peter will show them the figures."



CHANGE: Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson talks to Coca Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercalle and World Wildlife Fund CEO Dermot O'Gorman.

PHOTO: MATTHEW NEWTON



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Wide Bay	Program :	Rural Report
Location :	Bundaberg	Producer :	
Aired On :	24/03/2015 6:22:02 AM	Duration :	3 mins 24 secs
Compere :	Eliza Rogers	Summary ID :	V00061092615
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Richard Dickmann, Bayer CropScience		

Bayer CropScience plans to expand its partnership with Project Catalyst in helping reduce the impacts of the cane sector on the Great Barrier Reef. The agreement aims to speed up more sustainable products and practices. Richard Dickmann, Bayer CropScience, says there has been major improvement in herbicide levels and cane farm runoff but more can always be done. David Sparkes interview with Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments. Cocco says improving herbicide products and practices is a high priority when it comes to protecting the Great Barrier Reef.



Good Fruit & Vegetables

March, 2015

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 Size: 314.00 sq.cms.



slice
 CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Farms turning green

By **ASHLEY WALMSLEY**

A LIKELY increase in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef will put greater focus on greener farming methods.

The new Queensland Labor government has appointed member for Mount Coot-tha Steven Miles as Minister for the Great Barrier Reef, a move that suggests the government will adhere to its pre-election promise of spending some \$100 million over five years to reduce damage to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Queensland Labor 2014 State Policy Platform states that the party will "provide incentives to primary producers to assist transition to lower impact agricultural practices, particularly in Great Barrier Reef catchments. Labor will limit the use of agricultural fertilisers, pesticides and other petrochemicals."

Craig Van Rooyen and Conor O'Brien are hoping to be on the front foot when it comes to using more biological growing methods.

Mr O'Brien is the CEO of Multikraft Probiotics Australia, a company that specialises in the use of beneficial micro-organisms that can be used to produce high-quality composts.

These composts in turn reduce on-farm chemical use while improving yields and bolstering plant climate tolerance.

Mr O'Brien was in Bundaberg recently to inspect crops on the macadamia, lychee and mango

farm of Mr Van Rooyen, who has been using the liquid form of the product.

Such 'greener' farming practices are likely to take greater prominence, with the Queensland government committing to achieve an 80 per cent reduction in pollution run-off into the Great Barrier Reef by 2025.

Initially focused on improving animal health, Multikraft became aware of the horticultural and broadacre possibilities after seeing crop improvements that used the livestock waste.

"At the end of the day, we are an environmental company, working in a 'feel-good' business that can be of

benefit to the farmers, businesses, the planet and society in general," Mr O'Brien said.

"We are able to reduce chemical fertilisers by having our microbes in the soil to make the nutrients available for the plants.

"This, combined with improving the soil structure through a combination of composting and liquid soil application, reduces run-off and leaching into the waterways and on to the Great Barrier Reef."

Multikraft does not require

specialist compost turners or machinery.

"Our specialised composting process can be carried out with regular farm machinery and because we make a large pile that doesn't need regular turning, the costs of labour, machinery and fuel are reduced.

Mr O'Brien said there was less odour released than turning conventional composting.

"The compost is also mature within eight weeks, which is half the time of most traditional composts.

"We can also make a lot more compost in the same area, as the piles are much bigger."

Mr Van Rooyen is no stranger to adopting more environmentally friendly farming techniques, having worked with researchers on non-lethal deterrents for fruit bats.

He applies the Multikraft liquid product through fertigation, followed up with a foliar spray at a later date.

"The big benefit for me is all about soil health. This product encourages plant and soil health because it's adding good microbes into the soil.

"The microbes also ensure the fertiliser is more readily absorbed into the plant so there's better nutrient uptake by the orchard.

"Therefore, two things occur - I have a healthier tree and better quality fruit, and secondly I'm able to reduce my chemical fertiliser input.

"By having a healthier tree, there's less use of fertilisers and pesticides."





Good Fruit & Vegetables

March, 2015

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett with nut, lychee and mango grower Craig Van Rooyen and Multikraft CEO Conor O'Brien, inspecting the quality of the macadamia crop which uses biological farming methods.

press clip



Australian Canegrower Monday 16/03/2015

Page: 8
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slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Project Catalyst and cane industry innovation

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS
Manager - Environment

Innovation is something that has been occurring in the Queensland cane industry since its inception. There has been remarkable change over the years, from hand cutting to mechanical harvesting, burning to green cane trash blanketing, irrigation technology, precision agriculture and fertiliser application. This innovation will continue as there will always be a problem to solve, efficiencies to develop and the perpetual question of "What if?"

Project Catalyst is an innovation program that has been going for six years. Supported by Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM, WWF, the Coca-Cola Foundation and other partners and sponsors, it's supported 72 growers with projects designed to test and progress the use of aspirational management practices to improve water quality. The total investment to date is \$3.25 million and the projects are supported by independent agronomists from Farmacist with economic analysis undertaken by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (QDAFF).

Burn Ashburner, Malcolm Petrie and I recently attended the 2015 Project Catalyst grower forum in Townsville to listen, understand and discuss with the growers and sponsors the ideas being tested.

With the continual pressure on growers to adopt improved practices for the health of the Great Barrier Reef, CANEGROWERS is vitally interested in how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to the broader industry and support the continuous improvement cycle advocated by the industry through Best Management Practices and the Smartcane BMP program.

Personally, I think it is great to see involvement from the corporate sector in the innovation space as well as the continued investment by Coca-Cola. What I am keen to understand is the idea / innovation / proof of concept being tested; the hypothesis behind the trial; the methodology of the ideas being trialled and the outcome and data from that trial. I would like to appreciate if the trials are new

concepts, or are they building on ideas from other cane growing regions or other agriculture industries.

It is also important to understand how Project Catalyst and other programs including the "game changer" project funded by the Australian Governments Reef Programme, the nitrogen reverse auction project supported through Reef Trust (Australian Government) and grower group innovation projects can complement the research and development currently being undertaken by others in the industry, be this through Sugar Research Australia, CSIRO, universities, independent agronomists or cane productivity services organisations.

I have had this discussion with many growers, government and WWF about innovative research. A grower can take any idea and implement it on their farm at any time – that is up to them and entirely their decision. However if the expectation is for industry to promote the idea without the appropriate research, development, peer review and analysis, then we have an impasse.

I am particularly interested in what has worked so we as an industry can further progress the projects to the R&D stage, validate them, critic-proof them using peer review processes and extended them for broader industry uptake. This is how the commercialisation process works; it is the core of continuous improvement and is vital for change on an industry-wide scale.

More importantly, I would also like to understand what hasn't worked and why. Unsuccessful research shouldn't be seen as failure, but as an opportunity to improve the hypothesis and retest or conclude the idea doesn't work. Either way, it's important that industry is made aware of these results to ensure that unsuccessful research is not replicated.

Day one of the forum heard about the global perspective with a presentation on the Brazilian sugar industry. **Robert Quirk** from NSW Canegrowers spoke about his role on Bonsucro and **Joe Muscat** talked about his 2013 Nuffield scholarship work on fibre crops.

The national perspective outlined Syngenta's work, heard from **Chris Condon** (Tully grower) who spoke

about his journey from cattle to cane and Next Gen farmers **Gerard Puglisi** and **Phil Deguara** who spoke about their work with young farmers.

The local farming session discussed Catalyst projects being undertaken in the Burdekin, Wet Tropics and Mackay. Two projects that interested me were **Stephen Accornero's** trial on growing corn as a rotational crop to improve cane yield; and the **Reinaudo family's** variable rate nutrient application within block.

I will be taking a keen interest on the nitrogen trial, as Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) has been central to the government policy, reef programs, Smartcane BMP program, water quality targets and productivity needs for industry. This trial will contribute to the NUE debate and therefore must be reported in a balanced manner and be prepared to undergo scientific review to ensure it has the best chance of informing the science around NUE.

The Catalyst Dinner was a great opportunity to network with growers and people in the industry. The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, **Stephen Miles** was a guest at the dinner and spoke about the government's reef policy. The Minister outlined the new 80% water quality targets, the taskforce and the approach government will be taking over the next 12 months. I had the opportunity to speak with the Minister about the Smartcane BMP program and the work the industry has been doing around water quality and best management practice over the last decade.

Day two included a visit to the Australian Institute of Marine Science to hear about their research on chemicals and sediment on corals. The field tour concluded with visits to the farms of **Joe Tama** and **Joe Linton** in the Burdekin

All in all, I enjoyed the conference, the enthusiasm by the growers and the opportunity to hear about some of the ideas being tested. Regardless of I am portrayed in the press, I remain supportive of innovation and will continue to ask how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to broader industry uptake to support the health of the reef and the health of the industry. ■

press clip



Australian Sugarcane Sunday 1/03/2015

Page: 6
Section: Supplements
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 6000
Type: Rural
Size: 417.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Next Gen attends International Sugarcane Forum

Next Gen farmers Gerard Puglisi, Phil Deguara and Sam Deguara attended the Case IH International Sugarcane Forum in December, which brought together over 100 growers and key industry representative together to discuss the health and sustainable future of the industry.

Held at Sanctuary Cove from December 14–16, 'For Life' was the theme of the conference and key speakers discussed what could be done to improve the environmental and commercial sustainability of the industry, and ultimately help farmers get more out of their investments.

The word 'collaboration' came up repeatedly, with most agreeing that despite the disparate challenges presented to sugarcane growers all over the world, collaboration from all those involved in the industry will be the key to its future.

International and local speakers

International speakers, including Gaurav Sood from India, Richard Bennett from South East Asia, and Australian John Pearce who has been working in the sugarcane industry in Brazil, shared details on what is happening in their markets, identifying opportunities and challenges that could have applications in the Australian market.

Local speakers such as Paul Deane, Senior Agricultural Economist for ANZ Research, provided insights into developments in the Asian markets and shared predictions for the months and years ahead while Robert Quirk discussed the benefits of Bonsucro's sustainability standards.

Project Catalyst, a pioneering partnership aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of sugar production on the Great

Barrier Reef, was widely discussed and celebrated at the conference.

A group presentation included Belinda Billing from Reef Catchments, Ian McConnel from WWF, Rob Cairns from Syngenta and growers involved in Project Catalyst: Lou Raiteri, Joe Muscat, Gerry Deguara and Robert Bonassi.

"Now in its fifth year, Project Catalyst is reducing the negative impacts on the reef by showcasing the benefits of

more efficient farming practices," says Rob Cairns, Syngenta Head of Corporate Affairs, Australasia. "Not only does this result in better water quality, which we've been able to prove, it's also generating higher economic returns for farmers."

Commitment to supporting rural mental health

Continuing Case IH's commitment to supporting rural mental health, Alison Fairleigh, Mental Illness Fellowship NQ, addressed the conference on the importance of mental health in the sugarcane industry.

"A sustainable rural industry requires a sustainable rural workforce and this includes all areas of mental health," Alison says. "If you don't have a healthy and sustainable workforce you can't have sustainable rural industries."

"Suicide in Queensland is 2.2 times higher in the agricultural industry than any other industry – only with collaboration will we start to see real change in these statistics."

Innovations made in sugarcane mechanisation

The event was also an opportunity to reflect on the innovations made by Case IH in the area of sugarcane mechanisation.

Focusing on 50 years of product research and development, the conference highlighted the importance of research into more efficient farming practices, and the importance of matching mechanisation with agronomy.

Sugar Research Australia's Cam Whiteing presented on the topic of harvesting best practice.

John Pearce talked about the history of Austoft and Case IH in the global sugarcane industry while Michele Monzio Compagnoni from Case IH Asia Pacific Product Marketing provided a preview of upcoming sugar harvesting machinery developments.

Australian Case IH representatives took delegates on product walkarounds, pointing out key features of the brand's current Austoft cane harvesters and various tractor models.

The conference ended with an engaging panel session on the future of the industry featuring Paul Deane, Rob Cairns, Cam Whiteing and award-winning cane grower and Next Gen Officer, Gerard Puglisi. The panel was hosted by prominent rural woman, Robbie Sefton.

press clip



Australian Sugarcane Sunday 1/03/2015

Page: 6
Section: Supplements
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 6000
Type: Rural
Size: 417.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS



Delegates at the Case IH International Sugarcane Forum.

press clip



Australian Sugarcane Sunday 1/03/2015

Page: 26
Section: General News
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 6000
Type: Rural
Size: 1,709.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

CENTRAL REGION

Crushing: Mackay Sugar finished crushing in early December processing nearly 5.5 million tonnes of cane at 14.3 PRS. Mill performance and cane supply had an indifferent performance. Mackay Sugar intends to address these issues to give a more acceptable result for next year.

The weather at the end of last year finished with useful rain, but conditions became very dry. At the end of December useful falls started and have continued throughout January. There have been optimum growing conditions, bringing the crop on quite well for this year.

Yellow Canopy Syndrome: The effects of YCS are in the district again this year. Growers are quite concerned by visible signs in the crop for the coming season. It is obvious YCS is not specific to any variety. SRA had information meetings in December on the issue. Three research projects have been introduced to find out more on the issue – they are:

- Solving the sugarcane Yellow Canopy Syndrome;
- What biological factors cause or drive the development of YCS; and,
- A novel polyphasic framework to resolve the Yellow Canopy Syndrome Paradox.

It has been observed that YCS is not just associated with sugarcane but vegetation in the surrounding areas as well.

Red witch weed: Four cane growers and one grazier have suffered through what has been a long drawn out process. The National Management Group, which is the peak decision-making body for national eradication programs, is chaired by the Federal Department of Agriculture. The NMG's main role is to consider response plans and budgets for national eradication programs. NMG considers the technical feasibility and determination of cost sharing. Meetings with NMG have been rescheduled to February for finalising a plan. The issue of cost sharing of the resolution continues to be the stalemate. Redwitch weed is a notifiable Class 1 pest and as of yet, the mechanism to resolve the eradication program has not yet been established.

Wetland work at Racecourse Mill: Mackay Sugar and Reef Catchments have joined to restore a degraded wetland area on Horse and Jockey Road. The activities will focus on improving water quality and landscape health. Water quality is the main focus of the works which are intended to reinstate a functioning wetland, which will allow a natural system to more effectively remove pollutants from the waterways. Currently water from a bagasse pad runs into a dam. Mackay Sugar will benefit from the improvements, with access to cleaner water and a larger water storage for the mill to utilise. The water flows into the Botanical gardens then on to a Pioneer River estuary. This project will enhance the water quality entering these areas.

**Steve Fordyce
Southern Qld
February 11, 2015**



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	5/03/2015 8:36:56 AM	Duration :	7 mins 12 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060866481
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1000	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Lead for Beef, WWF [World Wildlife Fund]		

Project Catalyst has held their 7th Growers Forum in Townsville with more than 180 people in attendance. The partnership between Reef Catchments and their sponsors has only grown stronger as a result and has become more evident through the quantification of the reductions. Interview with Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Lead for Beef, WWF [World Wildlife Fund]. McConnel shares the plan to expand the concept from cane farms to cattle. He says what they do in WWF is finding a way where sustainability that underpins good beef production can be recognised by the consumers. McConnel says Canadians are doing a fantastic work for sustainable beef while Brazilians are leading in trying to spread truth around deforestation issues and how beef production can be a solution to biodiversity in Brazil. He adds WWF is trying to bring together all the groups to be part of the solution. McConnel says the Project Catalyst is a fantastic example of bringing together a positive group of people who knows that good farming is a solution to save issues about and in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. He says they are trying to replicate Project Catalyst for its beef industry counterpart called Project Pioneer which is at a pilot phase at the moment. McConnel explains how nitrogen is one of the biggest impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	4/03/2015 8:36:48 AM	Duration :	8 mins 34 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060850876
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1100	Female 16+ 1100	
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		

Improving water quality to reduce the impacts of nutrient loading on the Great Barrier Reef has been the main focus of Project Catalyst since 2008 when a partnership between Reef Catchments, WWF [World Wildlife Fund] and the Coca-Cola Foundation was formed. Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments, says the attendance at the Project Catalyst Growers Forum was fantastic, with almost 200 people there. Cocco says the forum was about celebrating the efforts the producers have undertaken. Cocco talks about a video they produced that showcases what can be achieved having partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation. Cocco says Project Catalyst gives producers the confidence to try something different and push themselves beyond what they thought they can do.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC North Queensland	Program :	06:30 News
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	
Aired On :	27/02/2015 6:32:18 AM	Duration :	0 mins 46 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	V00060790331
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6500	Female 16+	5300
Interviewees :	Robert Coco, CEO, Reef Catchments Group		

Robert Coco, CEO, Reef Catchments Group, says the industry is starting to see results after attempts to reduce run-offs.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	19/02/2015 9:50:33 AM	Duration :	5 mins 16 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060693344
Demographics :	Male 16+ 800	Female 16+ 800	
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		

Compere says Reef Catchments and Project Catalyst have formed unique partnerships with many great organizations to reduce the footprint of agriculture on the reef. Interview with Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments. Cocco announces the Coca-Cola Foundation, with support from WWF, is seen fit to grant the Reef Catchments with another \$500,000 of investment for this financial year in delivering Project Catalyst. Cocco says the money is used to provide evaluation on new farming technique systems. Compere says the next Project Catalyst Grower Forum 2015 will be held in Townsville. Compere says Coca-Cola is one of the world's most recognised brands. Cocco says the Project Catalyst Grower Forum provides a unique platform to have a broader discussion about issues on suppliers, farmers, and processors.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	19/02/2015 9:49:55 AM	Duration :	0 mins 07 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060693051
Demographics :	Male 16+ 800	Female 16+ 800	

Program preview

-Announcement by Reef Catchments in relation to the continuation of Project Catalyst.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC North Queensland	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	
Aired On :	2/03/2015 8:50:27 AM	Duration :	6 mins 46 secs
Compere :	Paula Tapiolas	Summary ID :	S00060820080
Demographics :	Male 16+ 2100	Female 16+ 2500	
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay District farmer		

Interview with Joe Muscat, Mackay District farmer and former Nuffield Scholar. Compere says farmers are talking about new measures at Project Catalyst farm in Townsville to stop nutrients and chemicals from running off into waterways. Compere mentions more than a third of the catalyst farmers are from the Mackay Whitsunday region. Muscat says they are using measures for the slow release of nitrogen. He says it is a new product. He says the whole program enables best practice. He says it allows farmers to test all range of areas to improve the current farming system. He says they are looking at the herbicide application and the nutrition. He says key farmers, the Coca-Cola Foundation, Reef Catchments and WWF are the founding groups for the catalyst program. He says the program definitely changed his perspective towards WWF. He says they need to work together to solve the issue. He says they are manipulating the different ratios of urea to improve the situation. He says the yield and the economics go hand in hand. He hopes to get latest information.



**Queensland Country
Life(Qld)**

Thursday 5/03/2015

Page: 40

Section: Town and Country - Central and North

Region: Brisbane, AU

Circulation: 26057

Type: Rural

Size: 448.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Catalyst added to sugar

MORE than 150 growers and representatives from Queensland's major areas of sugar production donned suit and tie for the Project Catalyst Growers Forum dinner on March 2.

The function at Jupiter's in Townsville was part of a three-day forum focused on sugar innovation.

Growers from Mackay, Whitsundays, the Burdekin and the Wet Tropics joined leading organisations from the sugar industry, including Wilmar, Canegrowers, Sugar Research Australia (SRA), the Australian Cane Farmers Association (ACFA), Bayer CropScience, Netafim, Syngenta, Case IH, Suncorp and Inkerman Lime and Gypsum.

Steven Miles, Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, also attended.

Now in its sixth year, Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership between cane farmers, The Coca Cola Foundation, WWF-Australia, Catchment

Solutions and corresponding NRM groups in key sugar production regions - Reef catchments, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM.

Project Catalyst trials are ongoing year-round on farms across the state, with the forum the major platform for the discussion of trial progress, outcomes and results.

Major partner The Coca-Cola Foundation has announced a further \$500,000 grant to Project Catalyst Australia, bringing its total investment into the Project to \$3.25 million over the past six years.

The project aims to support growers to speed the adoption of innovation for improved practice change, focused on reducing the environmental impact of cane on water quality and the Great Barrier Reef.

To date, more than 75 cane farmers involved in Project Catalyst farm trials have helped improve run-off and drainage water quality of an estimated 102,000 megalitres across 20,345ha of land.



Queensland Country Life(Qld)

Thursday 5/03/2015

Page: 40
 Section: Town and Country - Central and North
 Region: Brisbane, AU
 Circulation: 26057
 Type: Rural
 Size: 448.00 sq.cms.



slice
 CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Gilbert.



LEFT: Meg Star, Betty Raiteri, Maria Simpson and Angela Large.



Belinda Billing, Chris Blackburn and Phil Ross.



John Perna, Nelson Reinaldo and Victor Reinaldo.



RIGHT: Mark, David and Tina Ellwood, with Bruna and Tom



LEFT: John and Jill Fox, with Carolyn and Ian Considine.



press clip

Growers share sweet solutions

BY MATT SHERRINGTON

INNOVATIVE cane farmers from around the region assembled at Jupiters Hotel and Casino in Townsville from March 1-3 for the Project Catalyst Sugar Forum, where they showcased the practices they are using to reduce the impact of agriculture on the Great Barrier Reef.

The focus of the forum was to share ideas and outcomes, and celebrate the major steps being taken to improve the environmental and economic outcomes of Queensland sugar production.

The forum highlighted the outcomes of growers working as part of Project Catalyst to reduce the impact of pollution on the Great Barrier Reef.

As part of the project, cane farmers in catchment areas adjacent to the reef are encouraged and supported to make changes to reduce nutrient, fertiliser and pollutant run-off.

To date, 78 cane farmers involved in Project Catalyst farm trials have helped improve run-off and drainage water quality of an estimated 102,000 megalitres – an amount equivalent to the water it would take to fill 40,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Trials have been implemented across 20,345 hectares of land during the six years the program has been running.

Critically, work being done by Queensland cane farmers is

now estimated to cut pollutant loads to the reef by about 183 tonnes each year.

Reef Catchments CEO Robert Cocco said the primary purpose of Project Catalyst was to reduce the environmental footprint that sugarcane had on freshwater and the Great Barrier Reef.

“We do this by supporting a network of innovative farmers who have adopted cutting edge management practices,” Mr Cocco said.

Tony Bugeja, a Project Catalyst cane farmer from Mackay, said he was a firm believer in combining environmental responsibility and good sense.

“As the saying goes, there is no point being green if you’re in the red. But we have found in our experience that it comes down to

just doing things more efficiently – when there is a dollar value and an improved environmental outcome, why wouldn’t you try something different?” Mr Bugeja said.

“To me, everybody should be worried about things like soil erosion and water quality.

“I want to leave this farm and land for my son in a better condition than when it was given to me.”

Gerard Puglisi from the Next Generation program spoke at the forum about the importance of ensuring that a fresh crop of young farmers was brought into the fold, and detailed the events and networking opportunities

that Next Gen provided for them.

“The average age of a cane farmer is between 62 and 64 years old,” Mr Puglisi said.

“The generation who came after them mostly took jobs in the mines, so we have a generational gap that we must fill if we hope to keep our industry running efficiently down the line.

“The industry has identified a need to encourage and support young farmers, harvesters, millers and researchers into a career in agriculture.

“Now that the mines maybe aren’t as enticing as they used to be and the future of sugar is looking brighter, now is the time when we have to showcase the appeal of ag to young people and assist however we can to ensure they stay on-farm.”

Now in its sixth year, Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership between cane farmers, the Coca-Cola Foundation, WWF-Australia, Catchment Solutions, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM.

Farmers are involved from major areas of sugar production and corresponding NRM catchments in Mackay and the Whitsundays, the Burdekin and the wet tropics.

“I want to leave this farm and land for my son in a better condition than when it was given to me.”



**North Queensland Register
(Townsville)**

Thursday 5/03/2015

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Townsville QLD, AU
Circulation: 3290
Type: Rural
Size: 367.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



Next Generation program representatives Phil Deguara and Gerard Puglisi spoke at the Project Catalyst Sugar Forum held in Townsville earlier this week.



internet clip

Rob Cocco says the new reef water quality targets are ambitious but not impossible to reach

Reef Catchments CEO Rob Cocco speaks about the next stage of Project Catalyst. Read moreSource: ABC Rural | Duration: 4min 17secTopics: rural, great-barrier-reef, environment, sugar, townsville-4810

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-04/project-catalyst-growers-prepare-to-tackle-new-reef-targets/6279232>



internet clip

Coke has been tipping millions into innovation for Queensland's sugarcane farmers

Coke has upped its investment to improve yields of of Australian sugar cane farmers as well as reduce the amount of chemicals they use and boost their tech arsenal. This week Coke invested another \$500,000 into its Project Catalyst initiative, taking...

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/coke-has-been-tipping-millions-into-innovation-for-queenslands-sugarcane-farmers-2015-2>



internet clip

Aussie Sugarcane Farmers Receive Funding Boost to Help Preserv...

The Coca-Cola Foundation today announced a further \$500,000 grant to Project Catalyst Australia, which will bring their total investment into the Project to \$3.25 million over the past six years. For the full multimedia release, click here...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490370687&p=1i4&v=1&x=ELB8j81bhrdgMj3_wyFZYw



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Cairns	Program :	Seven Local News
Location :	Cairns	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/02/2015 6:05:19 PM	Duration :	1 mins 44 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond	Summary ID :	M00060699319
Demographics :	Male 16+ 9047	Female 16+	7801
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Cane farmer		

Local farmers have started a world wildlife fund, highlighting ways they're trying to prevent sediment run off from reaching the Great Barrier Reef. A clip shows cane farmers explaining how they fight pollution. The Qld Government has committed to an 80% reduction in pollution by 2025. The Coca-Cola Foundation has announced a \$500,000 grant for the project.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/02/2015 6:06:11 PM	Duration :	1 mins 42 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00060699460
Demographics :	Male 16+ 7020	Female 16+ 10865	
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Cane farmer		

Local cane farmers have featured in a World Wildlife Fund Australia production. In the film, farmers highlight the methods they have employed to stop sediment run-off from reaching the Reef. Project Catalyst aims to reduce the environmental impacts of sugar cane production on the reef through farmer-led initiatives. The new State Government has committed to an 80% reduction in pollution run-off to the reef by 2025, while the Coca Cola Foundation has announced a further \$500, 000 grant for the project.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Mackay	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:04:36 PM	Duration :	1 mins 57 secs
Compere :	Natassia Apolloni	Summary ID :	M00060826080
Demographics :	Male 16+ 3661	Female 16+	4819
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burdekin Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropic		

Cane farmers from across the State are meeting to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The 'Project Catalyst' conference aims to protect the environment while remaining competitive in international markets. The conference is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Cairns	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Cairns	Producer :	Ms Kirsty Johansen
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:06:21 PM	Duration :	1 mins 55 secs
Compere :	Paul Taylor	Summary ID :	M00060826225
Demographics :	Male 16+ 12682	Female 16+	11081
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burekin Can Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropics		

Cane farmers across the State are meeting for the 'Project Catalyst' conference to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The event is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Townsville	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	Mr Ben Stivala
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:06:03 PM	Duration :	1 mins 58 secs
Compere :	Natassia Apolloni	Summary ID :	M00060826318
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6090	Female 16+	7393
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burdekin Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropics		

Cane farmers from across the state are meeting to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The 'Project Catalyst' conference aims to protect the environment, while remaining competitive in international markets. This year the conference is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC North Queensland	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	
Aired On :	2/03/2015 8:50:27 AM	Duration :	6 mins 46 secs
Compere :	Paula Tapiolas	Summary ID :	S00060820080
Demographics :	Male 16+ 2100	Female 16+ 2500	
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay District farmer		

Interview with Joe Muscat, Mackay District farmer and former Nuffield Scholar. Compere says farmers are talking about new measures at Project Catalyst farm in Townsville to stop nutrients and chemicals from running off into waterways. Compere mentions more than a third of the catalyst farmers are from the Mackay Whitsunday region. Muscat says they are using measures for the slow release of nitrogen. He says it is a new product. He says the whole program enables best practice. He says it allows farmers to test all range of areas to improve the current farming system. He says they are looking at the herbicide application and the nutrition. He says key farmers, the Coca-Cola Foundation, Reef Catchments and WWF are the founding groups for the catalyst program. He says the program definitely changed his perspective towards WWF. He says they need to work together to solve the issue. He says they are manipulating the different ratios of urea to improve the situation. He says the yield and the economics go hand in hand. He hopes to get latest information.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	19/02/2015 9:49:55 AM	Duration :	0 mins 07 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060693051
Demographics :	Male 16+ 800	Female 16+ 800	

Program preview

-Announcement by Reef Catchments in relation to the continuation of Project Catalyst.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	4/03/2015 8:36:48 AM	Duration :	8 mins 34 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060850876
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1100	Female 16+ 1100	
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments		

Improving water quality to reduce the impacts of nutrient loading on the Great Barrier Reef has been the main focus of Project Catalyst since 2008 when a partnership between Reef Catchments, WWF [World Wildlife Fund] and the Coca-Cola Foundation was formed. Rob Cocco, CEO, Reef Catchments, says the attendance at the Project Catalyst Growers Forum was fantastic, with almost 200 people there. Cocco says the forum was about celebrating the efforts the producers have undertaken. Cocco talks about a video they produced that showcases what can be achieved having partnership with Coca-Cola Foundation. Cocco says Project Catalyst gives producers the confidence to try something different and push themselves beyond what they thought they can do.



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Mornings
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Ms Kim Kleidon
Aired On :	5/03/2015 8:36:56 AM	Duration :	7 mins 12 secs
Compere :	Kim Kleidon	Summary ID :	V00060866481
Demographics :	Male 16+ 1000	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Lead for Beef, WWF [World Wildlife Fund]		

Project Catalyst has held their 7th Growers Forum in Townsville with more than 180 people in attendance. The partnership between Reef Catchments and their sponsors has only grown stronger as a result and has become more evident through the quantification of the reductions. Interview with Ian McConnel, Global Commodity Lead for Beef, WWF [World Wildlife Fund]. McConnel shares the plan to expand the concept from cane farms to cattle. He says what they do in WWF is finding a way where sustainability that underpins good beef production can be recognised by the consumers. McConnel says Canadians are doing a fantastic work for sustainable beef while Brazilians are leading in trying to spread truth around deforestation issues and how beef production can be a solution to biodiversity in Brazil. He adds WWF is trying to bring together all the groups to be part of the solution. McConnel says the Project Catalyst is a fantastic example of bringing together a positive group of people who knows that good farming is a solution to save issues about and in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. He says they are trying to replicate Project Catalyst for its beef industry counterpart called Project Pioneer which is at a pilot phase at the moment. McConnel explains how nitrogen is one of the biggest impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.



internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Nuffield Farming Scholar Joe Muscat and Rob CairnsPhoto: SuppliedManaging a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to...

<http://www.isentialink.com/?u=theage.com.au%2fsmall-business%2ftrends%2fseven-principles-of-a-successful-agribusiness-2>

**WEB Sydney Morning
Herald**

Thursday 19/02/2015 00:01:28

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Nuffield Farming Scholar Joe Muscat and Rob CairnsPhoto: SuppliedManaging a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to...

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internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Nuffield Farming Scholar Joe Muscat and Rob CairnsPhoto: SuppliedManaging a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to...

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/small-business/trends/seven-principles-of-a-successful-agribusiness-20150218-13iyoc.html>



internet clip

Aussie Sugarcane Farmers Receive Funding Boost to Help Preserve One of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World

SYDNEY, Feb. 19, 2015 /PRNewswire-AsiaNet/ -- The Coca-Cola Foundation today announced a further \$500,000 grant to Project Catalyst Australia, which will bring their total investment into the Project to \$3.25 million over the past six years.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490524664&p=1i4&v=1&x=4N6RxzR4q2RvmJSDxJSyeA>



internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Nuffield Farming Scholar and Rob Cairns Photo: Supplied Managing a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to fibre-crops such...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490529286&p=1i4&v=1&x=hMabei-QvrGaS2Rf9YqzrQ>



internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Managing a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to fibre-crops such as industrial hemp, kenaf and sunn hemp.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490532820&p=1i4&v=1&x=JqJ8kvGKllsIX-3ljeexDw>



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Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Nuffield Farming Scholar and Rob Cairns Photo: Supplied Managing a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to fibre-crops such...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490576979&p=1i4&v=1&x=OcklLYbT_vSYeKKNKgUgMA



internet clip

Seven principles of a successful agribusiness

Managing a 445-hectare, family-run farm in Queensland is a highly challenging and rewarding occupation. We grow a range of crops, from sugar cane, soybeans, mungbeans, peanuts, to fibre-crops such as industrial hemp, kenaf and sunn hemp.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490605261&p=1i4&v=1&x=Ynx0swMvopDVBCkShIL9Q>

**WEB North Queensland
Register**

Friday 27/02/2015 17:00:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

A 'Catalyst' for change

FORWARD thinking cane farmers will gather in Townsville from Sunday, March 1 to Tuesday, March 3, to share ideas, outcomes and celebrate major steps being taken to improve the environmental and economic outcomes of Queensland sugar production at the...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20578262760&p=1i4&v=1&x=23X3qPMs4Pn6x-FsvhEWsA>

WEB ABC Online

Monday 2/03/2015 23:27:34

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Cane growers urge reef policy makers to 'spend time on the farm'

Posted March 03, 2015 10:27:34 Cane growers attending a land management forum in north Queensland have urged the state government to recognise their efforts to improve farm run-off within the Great Barrier Reef catchments. More than 160 farmers,...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-03/canefarmers-showcase-environmental-projects-in-north-queensland/6275996>



internet clip

Cane growers urge reef policy makers to 'spend time on the farm'

Chris Condon says policy makers need to recognise the industry's efforts to improve farm runoff. Canegrowers attending a land management forum in north Queensland have urged the State Government to recognise their efforts to improve farm runoff...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20607701033&p=1i4&v=1&x=4rmOqclMkfc_PzydFTfsAA

**WEB North Queensland
Register**

Tuesday 3/03/2015 01:09:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Attendees unite for Project Catalyst dinner

MORE than 150 growers and representatives from Queensland's major areas of sugar production donned suit and tie for the Project Catalyst Growers Forum Dinner held on March 2. The function was held at Jupiters Hotel and Casino in Townsville as part of...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20608356266&p=1i4&v=1&x=GuZXDdVmLzxo3_76YJl-ag



North Queensland Register (Townsville)

Thursday 12/03/2015

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Townsville QLD, AU
Circulation: 3290
Type: Rural
Size: 260.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Growers gather to hear sweet results

MORE than 150 growers and representatives from Queensland's major areas of sugar production donned suit and tie for the Project Catalyst Growers Forum dinner on March 2.

The function, held at Jupiters, Townsville, was part of a three-day forum focused on sugar innovation.

Growers from Mackay Whitsunday, the Burdekin and the wet tropics joined leading organisations from the sugar industry, including Wilmar, Canegrowers, Sugar Research Aus-

tralia, the Australian Cane Farmers Association, Bayer CropScience, Netafim, Syngenta, Case IH, Suncorp Bank, and Inkerman Lime and Gypsum. Steven Miles, Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, was also in attendance.

Now in its sixth year, Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership between cane farmers, the Coca Cola Foundation, WWF-Australia, Catch-

ment Solutions, and corresponding NRM groups in key sugar-production regions (Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM).

Project Catalyst trials are ongoing year-round on farms across the state, with the forum the major platform for the discussion of trial progress, outcomes and results.

Major partner the Coca-Cola Foundation has announced a further \$500,000 grant to Project Catalyst Australia, bringing its total invest-

ment to \$3.25 million over the past six years.

The project aims to support growers to speed up the adoption of innovation for improved practice change, focused on reducing the environmental impact of cane on water quality and the Great Barrier Reef.

To date, more than 75 cane farmers involved in the farm trials have helped improve run-off and drainage water quality of an estimated 102,000 megalitres across 20,345 hectares.



Gary Considine, Rob Ahern, Ian Haigh, and Steven Miles, Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef.



Mark, David Ellwood and Tina Ellwood with Bruna and Tom Gilbert.



John and Jill Fox with Carolyn and Ian Considine.



Chris Johnson, Dominic Henderson, Evan Shannon and Scott Crawford.



Meg Star, Betty Raiteri, Maria Simpson and Angela Large.



Richard Gherardi, Matthew Girgenti, Joe Tama and Robert Tama.

press clip



Australian Canegrower

Monday 16/03/2015

Page: 8
Section: General News
Region: National, AU
Circulation: 6400
Type: Rural
Size: 944.00 sq.cms.



slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Project Catalyst and cane industry innovation

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS
Manager - Environment

Innovation is something that has been occurring in the Queensland cane industry since its inception. There has been remarkable change over the years, from hand cutting to mechanical harvesting, burning to green cane trash blanketing, irrigation technology, precision agriculture and fertiliser application. This innovation will continue as there will always be a problem to solve, efficiencies to develop and the perpetual question of "What if?"

Project Catalyst is an innovation program that has been going for six years. Supported by Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM, WWF, the Coca-Cola Foundation and other partners and sponsors, it's supported 72 growers with projects designed to test and progress the use of aspirational management practices to improve water quality. The total investment to date is \$3.25 million and the projects are supported by independent agronomists from Farmacist with economic analysis undertaken by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (QDAFF).

Burn Ashburner, Malcolm Petrie and I recently attended the 2015 Project Catalyst grower forum in Townsville to listen, understand and discuss with the growers and sponsors the ideas being tested.

With the continual pressure on growers to adopt improved practices for the health of the Great Barrier Reef, CANEGROWERS is vitally interested in how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to the broader industry and support the continuous improvement cycle advocated by the industry through Best Management Practices and the Smartcane BMP program.

Personally, I think it is great to see involvement from the corporate sector in the innovation space as well as the continued investment by Coca-Cola. What I am keen to understand is the idea / innovation / proof of concept being tested; the hypothesis behind the trial; the methodology of the ideas being trialled and the outcome and data from that trial. I would like to appreciate if the trials are new

concepts, or are they building on ideas from other cane growing regions or other agriculture industries.

It is also important to understand how Project Catalyst and other programs including the "game changer" project funded by the Australian Governments Reef Programme, the nitrogen reverse auction project supported through Reef Trust (Australian Government) and grower group innovation projects can complement the research and development currently being undertaken by others in the industry, be this through Sugar Research Australia, CSIRO, universities, independent agronomists or cane productivity services organisations.

I have had this discussion with many growers, government and WWF about innovative research. A grower can take any idea and implement it on their farm at any time – that is up to them and entirely their decision. However if the expectation is for industry to promote the idea without the appropriate research, development, peer review and analysis, then we have an impasse.

I am particularly interested in what has worked so we as an industry can further progress the projects to the R&D stage, validate them, critic-proof them using peer review processes and extended them for broader industry uptake. This is how the commercialisation process works; it is the core of continuous improvement and is vital for change on an industry-wide scale.

More importantly, I would also like to understand what hasn't worked and why. Unsuccessful research shouldn't be seen as failure, but as an opportunity to improve the hypothesis and retest or conclude the idea doesn't work. Either way, it's important that industry is made aware of these results to ensure that unsuccessful research is not replicated.

Day one of the forum heard about the global perspective with a presentation on the Brazilian sugar industry. **Robert Quirk** from NSW Canegrowers spoke about his role on Bonsucro and **Joe Muscat** talked about his 2013 Nuffield scholarship work on fibre crops.

The national perspective outlined Syngenta's work, heard from **Chris Condon** (Tully grower) who spoke

about his journey from cattle to cane and Next Gen farmers **Gerard Puglisi** and **Phil Deguara** who spoke about their work with young farmers.

The local farming session discussed Catalyst projects being undertaken in the Burdekin, Wet Tropics and Mackay. Two projects that interested me were **Stephen Accornero's** trial on growing corn as a rotational crop to improve cane yield; and the **Reinaudo family's** variable rate nutrient application within block.

I will be taking a keen interest on the nitrogen trial, as Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) has been central to the government policy, reef programs, Smartcane BMP program, water quality targets and productivity needs for industry. This trial will contribute to the NUE debate and therefore must be reported in a balanced manner and be prepared to undergo scientific review to ensure it has the best chance of informing the science around NUE.

The Catalyst Dinner was a great opportunity to network with growers and people in the industry. The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, **Stephen Miles** was a guest at the dinner and spoke about the government's reef policy. The Minister outlined the new 80% water quality targets, the taskforce and the approach government will be taking over the next 12 months. I had the opportunity to speak with the Minister about the Smartcane BMP program and the work the industry has been doing around water quality and best management practice over the last decade.

Day two included a visit to the Australian Institute of Marine Science to hear about their research on chemicals and sediment on corals. The field tour concluded with visits to the farms of **Joe Tama** and **Joe Linton** in the Burdekin

All in all, I enjoyed the conference, the enthusiasm by the growers and the opportunity to hear about some of the ideas being tested. Regardless of I am portrayed in the press, I remain supportive of innovation and will continue to ask how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to broader industry uptake to support the health of the reef and the health of the industry. ■



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Townsville	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Townsville	Producer :	Mr Ben Stivala
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:06:03 PM	Duration :	1 mins 58 secs
Compere :	Natassia Apolloni	Summary ID :	M00060826318
Demographics :	Male 16+ 6090	Female 16+	7393
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burdekin Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropics		

Cane farmers from across the state are meeting to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The 'Project Catalyst' conference aims to protect the environment, while remaining competitive in international markets. This year the conference is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Cairns	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Cairns	Producer :	Ms Kirsty Johansen
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:06:21 PM	Duration :	1 mins 55 secs
Compere :	Paul Taylor	Summary ID :	M00060826225
Demographics :	Male 16+ 12682	Female 16+	11081
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burekin Can Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropics		

Cane farmers across the State are meeting for the 'Project Catalyst' conference to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The event is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	WIN Mackay	Program :	WIN News
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	2/03/2015 7:04:36 PM	Duration :	1 mins 57 secs
Compere :	Natassia Apolloni	Summary ID :	M00060826080
Demographics :	Male 16+ 3661	Female 16+	4819
Interviewees :	Rob Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Ian Haigh, Burdekin Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Mackay Cane Grower		
Interviewees :	Peter Gibson, NQ Dry Tropic		

Cane farmers from across the State are meeting to discuss the best farming practices to achieve a sustainable sugar industry in Queensland. The 'Project Catalyst' conference aims to protect the environment while remaining competitive in international markets. The conference is being hosted by North Queensland Dry Tropics.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Mackay	Program :	Seven News Mackay
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/02/2015 6:06:11 PM	Duration :	1 mins 42 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough	Summary ID :	M00060699460
Demographics :	Male 16+ 7020	Female 16+ 10865	
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Cane farmer		

Local cane farmers have featured in a World Wildlife Fund Australia production. In the film, farmers highlight the methods they have employed to stop sediment run-off from reaching the Reef. Project Catalyst aims to reduce the environmental impacts of sugar cane production on the reef through farmer-led initiatives. The new State Government has committed to an 80% reduction in pollution run-off to the reef by 2025, while the Coca Cola Foundation has announced a further \$500, 000 grant for the project.



broadcast clip

Station :	Seven Cairns	Program :	Seven Local News
Location :	Cairns	Producer :	
Aired On :	19/02/2015 6:05:19 PM	Duration :	1 mins 44 secs
Compere :	Rob Brough and Joanne Desmond	Summary ID :	M00060699319
Demographics :	Male 16+ 9047	Female 16+	7801
Interviewees :	Robert Cocco, Reef Catchments		
Interviewees :	Joe Muscat, Cane farmer		

Local farmers have started a world wildlife fund, highlighting ways they're trying to prevent sediment run off from reaching the Great Barrier Reef. A clip shows cane farmers explaining how they fight pollution. The Qld Government has committed to an 80% reduction in pollution by 2025. The Coca-Cola Foundation has announced a \$500,000 grant for the project.



internet clip

Rob Cocco says the new reef water quality targets are ambitious but not impossible to reach

Reef Catchments CEO Rob Cocco speaks about the next stage of Project Catalyst. Read moreSource: ABC Rural | Duration: 4min 17secTopics: rural, great-barrier-reef, environment, sugar, townsville-4810

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-04/project-catalyst-growers-prepare-to-tackle-new-reef-targets/6279232>

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Rural news

➤ **SUGAR INDUSTRY**



PARTNERS: Tim Murphy (Bayer) and Richard Dickmann (Bayer) with Robert Cocco (Reef Catchments Group CEO), Sue Cro (Bayer) and Royce Bishop (Reef Catchments Group chair).

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTOR

Bayer backs reef

Project Catalyst signs MOU with pesticides expert

A LEADING agricultural pesticides company has reaffirmed its commitment to the innovative sugar industry program, Project Catalyst.

Bayer CropScience and Catchment Solutions (Project Catalyst co-ordinators) signed an MOU at the annual Project Catalyst growers' forum in Townsville last month to extend the partnership between Bayer and Project

Catalyst for the fourth year running.

Project Catalyst is a pioneering partnership aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of sugarcane production on the Great Barrier Reef through innovative farming practices.

Richard Dickmann, Head of New Business Development for Bayer CropScience, said the company was delighted to

extend its support for Project Catalyst.

"Project Catalyst is a perfect partner for Bayer as we share a commitment to improving reef water quality, and the role of innovation as a key driver of delivering sustainable farming outcomes," Mr Dickmann said.

Since starting the collaboration with Bayer, Project Catalyst farmers have undertaken trials

targeted at optimising herbicide application, leading to three new registration projects and new weed control protocols.

Bayer's local team worked with growers to develop more than 50 optimised herbicide treatment plans to improve the rate, timing and placement of herbicides on growers' farms.



SUGAR SHIP: QSL loads the Transformer at the Cairns Bulk Sugar Terminal today.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

QSL shipment makes history

A NEW chapter in the history of the Queensland sugar industry was written in Cairns on Friday when Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) loaded the first shipment of high-polarity Brand 1 sugar bound for Japan.

The cargo of 26,000 tonnes of North Queensland raw sugar set sail from the Cairns Bulk Sugar Terminal for one of QSL's Japanese refining customers on Saturday aboard the Transformer.

QSL general manager of trading and risk Dougal Lodge said although QSL had a 50-year history with Japanese sugar refiners and had already exported more than 21 million tonnes of raw sugar to Japan to date, the weekend's cargo marked an important milestone.

"The Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into force on January 15 this year, now enables us to export Queensland's high-quality Brand 1 sugar

to our Japanese refining customers," Mr Lodge said.

He said QSL, Australia's largest raw sugar exporter, was hopeful Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations would result in further reductions to levy for high-polarity Australian sugar sold to Japan.

QSL is a not-for-profit organisation which provides raw sugar marketing, finance, risk management and logistics services to Queensland sugar growers.

It operates Queensland's six bulk sugar terminals in Cairns, Mourilyan, Laidley, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg.



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Connecting the Community

PRIME MINISTER TONY ABBOTT UNVEILS REEF
2050 PLAN ON HAMILTON ISLAND PAGE 3



CATALYSTS: World Wildlife Fund CEO Dermot O'Gorman, Coca-Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercale, Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson, and Catchment Solutions (Reef Catchments) senior project consultant Rob Eccles.
PHOTO: MATTHEW NEWTON

Cane producers trial sustainable way to protect profits and Great Barrier Reef

By MATTHEW NEWTON

STANDING in the baking hot sun on an unseasonably warm day, Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson has the undivided attention of Coca-Cola South Pacific chief executive officer Roberto Mercale and World

Wildlife Fund Australia chief executive officer Dermot O'Gorman.

Coca-Cola and WWF are partners with Reef Catchments in Project Catalyst, a network of just under 80 farmers up and down the Queensland coast that are trialling innovative

farming practices to produce sustainable sugar cane.

Hosted by Catchment Solutions' (the commercial arm of Reef Catchments) Rob Eccles, the two CEOs visited Mackay farmers Gerry Deguara and Tony Bugeja, before heading to

Mr Simpson's farm.

Speaking with animation, Mr Simpson explained his "skip row" cane trial and its benefits to the two men, who were clearly impressed with his results.

"It's been an incredible experience," Mr Mercale said.

"It's one thing to read about it and it's another thing to come here with Gerry and Tony and Scott and just see the great things that they do, the passion with how they do it and the impact that they're having," he said.

Mr O'Gorman was equally

as enamoured with what he saw during his visit.

"I've been out to the farms a number of times over the last four-five years, and to see the progress and also the confidence from Scott to talk about what he's

Continued P2

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Local news

Innovative trials win supporters

From P1

doing, it's fabulous," he said.

"Farmers can be the hero in trying to help save the Great Barrier Reef, they just need the right support and that's where companies like Coca-Cola come into the partnership.

"(Coca-Cola) is one of the world's largest buyers of sugar so it sends a signal to the market that that's where the future is; producing sustainable sugar that will meet consumer demand but saving the Great Barrier Reef as well, which the consumers also want to see."

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 stated that poor water quality from land-based run-off continued to be one of the greatest risks to the reef's future, and the recently elected State Labor Government is promising to slash the amount of nitrogen flowing on to the reef from key catchments by 80% and total suspended sediment by 50% by 2025.

Mr Simpson's "skip row" trial is an example of innovative farming practices that at first glance seem crazy.

With traditional farming methods, cane is planted 1.5m apart. But with Mr Simpson's trial, the rows are spaced 1.9m apart and the in-between row is planted with legumes, which return nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

"The major benefits of skip row is you use half the fertiliser and half the grub control. It's half the distance for the cane harvester to travel," Mr Simpson said. "You can access the



CHANGE: Bloomsbury cane farmer Scott Simpson talks to Coca Cola South Pacific CEO Roberto Mercale and World Wildlife Fund CEO Demott O'Gorman.

PHOTO: MATTHEW NEWTON

paddock at any stage of growing the crop and the pour rate of the harvester is probably up around 140/tonnes an hour. The normal rate is about 90/tonnes an hour, depending on how good the crop is," he said.

Mr Simpson is expanding his trial, which is in its seventh year.

"The skip row system, I believe it's ready to go now," he said.

"That's why I'm putting in another 20 hectares this year, because I just feel that after doing seven years of trials with it, it's time to put my money where my mouth is."

Mr Simpson had a request for his fellow growers.

"I'm just doing the trials on my farm and the figures are working out really good and at the very least, all I could ask other farmers to do is to trial it on some of their difficult-to-harvest blocks," he said.

"If farmers would like to have a talk to Sugar Services Proserpine's Peter Sutherland about it, Peter will show them the figures."

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



STUNNING: This week's Whitsunday Amateur Photographers Photo of the Week goes to Gabrielle Costello with this incredible capture of the Byron Bay Lighthouse. If you're interested in taking part in the weekly photography competition, head to facebook.com/groups/whitsundayamateurphotographers to post your photos.

PHOTO: GABRIELLE COSTELLO

Reminder to be croc safe on river

NEVER smile at a crocodile.

While this may be nothing more than a children's rhyme, there's an element of truth to it on the Proserpine River.

Crocodile tour guide Mark Norman says hatchlings are emerging and 'cute' though they may be, their much larger mothers are lurking dangerously close by.

"Mothers will be

guarding hatchlings for the first couple of months at least and they will be present where the hatchlings are so anybody using the Proserpine River needs to be aware it's extremely dangerous to approach them," he said.

Of the nests hatching in the past couple of weeks, Mr Norman said one had returned a bumper brood of more than 70 hatchlings – more than twice the



MUM'S THE WORD: A female crocodile watches over her hatchlings on the Proserpine River bank.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

normal amount for a standard 2.5-metre-long Proserpine River female croc.

He said these particular hatchlings had a "large" 3m female for a mum, who would now be watching closely over her kin.

With a survival rate of less than 1%, it's a tough

life for a baby croc.

Mr Norman said they were threatened by a range of predators including other crocodiles and even man.

This year, one of the first nests went from a cluster of 35 hatchlings to just two in only a day.

Mr Norman, who

reported the incident to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), said this was a "very unusual" decline, "so the possibility of human intervention is there".

"I've heard of people

catching them over the years although nothing's been proved. Anybody using the river just needs to be aware they're a protected species," he said.

An EHP spokesperson said in the case of this most recently observed loss, there was no evidence human activity was responsible and that it was possible the crocodiles were eaten by predators or simply swam away.

Crocodile hatchlings

will continue to emerge on the river from now until the end of April.

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Australian Canegrower

Monday 16/03/2015

Page: 8
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Size: 944.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Project Catalyst and cane industry innovation

By Matt Kealley, CANEGROWERS
Manager - Environment

Innovation is something that has been occurring in the Queensland cane industry since its inception. There has been remarkable change over the years, from hand cutting to mechanical harvesting, burning to green cane trash blanketing, irrigation technology, precision agriculture and fertiliser application. This innovation will continue as there will always be a problem to solve, efficiencies to develop and the perpetual question of "What if?"

Project Catalyst is an innovation program that has been going for six years. Supported by Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics and Terrain NRM, WWF, the Coca-Cola Foundation and other partners and sponsors, it's supported 72 growers with projects designed to test and progress the use of aspirational management practices to improve water quality. The total investment to date is \$3.25 million and the projects are supported by independent agronomists from Farmacist with economic analysis undertaken by the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (QDAFF).

Burn Ashburner, Malcolm Petrie and I recently attended the 2015 Project Catalyst grower forum in Townsville to listen, understand and discuss with the growers and sponsors the ideas being tested.

With the continual pressure on growers to adopt improved practices for the health of the Great Barrier Reef, CANEGROWERS is vitally interested in how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to the broader industry and support the continuous improvement cycle advocated by the industry through Best Management Practices and the Smartcane BMP program.

Personally, I think it is great to see involvement from the corporate sector in the innovation space as well as the continued investment by Coca-Cola. What I am keen to understand is the idea / innovation / proof of concept being tested; the hypothesis behind the trial; the methodology of the ideas being trialled and the outcome and data from that trial. I would like to appreciate if the trials are new

concepts, or are they building on ideas from other cane growing regions or other agriculture industries.

It is also important to understand how Project Catalyst and other programs including the "game changer" project funded by the Australian Governments Reef Programme, the nitrogen reverse auction project supported through Reef Trust (Australian Government) and grower group innovation projects can complement the research and development currently being undertaken by others in the industry, be this through Sugar Research Australia, CSIRO, universities, independent agronomists or cane productivity services organisations.

I have had this discussion with many growers, government and WWF about innovative research. A grower can take any idea and implement it on their farm at any time – that is up to them and entirely their decision. However if the expectation is for industry to promote the idea without the appropriate research, development, peer review and analysis, then we have an impasse.

I am particularly interested in what has worked so we as an industry can further progress the projects to the R&D stage, validate them, critic-proof them using peer review processes and extended them for broader industry uptake. This is how the commercialisation process works; it is the core of continuous improvement and is vital for change on an industry-wide scale.

More importantly, I would also like to understand what hasn't worked and why. Unsuccessful research shouldn't be seen as failure, but as an opportunity to improve the hypothesis and retest or conclude the idea doesn't work. Either way, it's important that industry is made aware of these results to ensure that unsuccessful research is not replicated.

Day one of the forum heard about the global perspective with a presentation on the Brazilian sugar industry. **Robert Quirk** from NSW Canegrowers spoke about his role on Bonsucro and **Joe Muscat** talked about his 2013 Nuffield scholarship work on fibre crops.

The national perspective outlined Syngenta's work, heard from **Chris Condon** (Tully grower) who spoke

about his journey from cattle to cane and Next Gen farmers **Gerard Puglisi** and **Phil Deguara** who spoke about their work with young farmers.

The local farming session discussed Catalyst projects being undertaken in the Burdekin, Wet Tropics and Mackay. Two projects that interested me were **Stephen Accornero's** trial on growing corn as a rotational crop to improve cane yield; and the **Reinaudo family's** variable rate nutrient application within block.

I will be taking a keen interest on the nitrogen trial, as Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) has been central to the government policy, reef programs, Smartcane BMP program, water quality targets and productivity needs for industry. This trial will contribute to the NUE debate and therefore must be reported in a balanced manner and be prepared to undergo scientific review to ensure it has the best chance of informing the science around NUE.

The Catalyst Dinner was a great opportunity to network with growers and people in the industry. The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, **Stephen Miles** was a guest at the dinner and spoke about the government's reef policy. The Minister outlined the new 80% water quality targets, the taskforce and the approach government will be taking over the next 12 months. I had the opportunity to speak with the Minister about the Smartcane BMP program and the work the industry has been doing around water quality and best management practice over the last decade.

Day two included a visit to the Australian Institute of Marine Science to hear about their research on chemicals and sediment on corals. The field tour concluded with visits to the farms of **Joe Tama** and **Joe Linton** in the Burdekin

All in all, I enjoyed the conference, the enthusiasm by the growers and the opportunity to hear about some of the ideas being tested. Regardless of I am portrayed in the press, I remain supportive of innovation and will continue to ask how the innovation projects and ideas can translate to broader industry uptake to support the health of the reef and the health of the industry. ■

**WEB North Queensland
Register**

Tuesday 3/03/2015 01:09:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Attendees unite for Project Catalyst dinner

MORE than 150 growers and representatives from Queensland's major areas of sugar production donned suit and tie for the Project Catalyst Growers Forum Dinner held on March 2. The function was held at Jupiters Hotel and Casino in Townsville as part of...

http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20608356266&p=1i4&v=1&x=GuZXDdVmLzxo3_76YJl-ag



internet clip

Aussie Sugarcane Farmers Receive Funding Boost to Help Preserve One of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World

SYDNEY, Feb. 19, 2015 /PRNewswire-AsiaNet/ -- The Coca-Cola Foundation today announced a further \$500,000 grant to Project Catalyst Australia, which will bring their total investment into the Project to \$3.25 million over the past six years.

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490524664&p=1i4&v=1&x=4N6RxzR4q2RvmJSDxJSyeA>



internet clip

Aussie Sugarcane Farmers Receive Funding Boost to Help Preserv...

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http://ct.moreover.com/?a=20490370687&p=1i4&v=1&x=ELB8j81bhrdgMj3_wyFZYw



internet clip

Coke has been tipping millions into innovation for Queensland's sugarcane farmers

Coke has upped its investment to improve yields of of Australian sugar cane farmers as well as reduce the amount of chemicals they use and boost their tech arsenal. This week Coke invested another \$500,000 into its Project Catalyst initiative, taking...

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/coke-has-been-tipping-millions-into-innovation-for-queenslands-sugarcane-farmers-2015-2>

press clip



Daily Mercury (Mackay) Saturday 16/05/2015

Page: 6
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 9928
Type: Regional
Size: 33.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

IN BRIEF

Cats on the prowl

THE conclusion of a feral cat monitoring survey in Slade Point has revealed some interesting results.

A total of six cats were captured on camera in Slade Point's environmental reserves over a 15-day period.

Reef Catchments, Mackay Regional Council and North Queensland Bulk Ports employed local consulting firm Kleinfelder to set up 10 motion-detecting cameras in environmentally significant areas of Slade Point to monitor the prevalence of feral cats.



internet clip

Feral cat monitoring survey complete in Slade Point

THE conclusion of a feral cat monitoring survey in Slade Point has revealed some interesting results. A total of six cats were captured on camera in Slade Point's environmental reserves over a 15 day period.

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/news/feral-cat-monitoring-survey-complete-slade-point/2639956/>



internet clip

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<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21335127013&p=1i4&v=1&x=xSyGAX7wjriCn-oNuiSSEg>



internet clip

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http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21335107159&p=1i4&v=1&x=0Jhw-zjou_75kK22xHsAgg



internet clip

Feral cat monitoring survey complete in Slade Point

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<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21335093818&p=1i4&v=1&x=pjGTqY6iKK8g9sPGqkZwiA>

WEB Daily Mercury News

Thursday 14/05/2015 14:00:00

Section: General News
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Feral cat monitoring survey complete in Slade Point

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http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21335016322&p=1i4&v=1&x=17HOGLFG3X_A1AcICIAwsg



broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Breakfast
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Mr Craig Widdowson
Aired On :	13/05/2015 7:23:48 AM	Duration :	6 mins 30 secs
Compere :	Meecham Philpott	Summary ID :	V00061694017
Demographics :	Male 16+ 2900	Female 16+ 3000	
Interviewees :	Stefanie Wabnik, Project Officer, Reef Catchments		

Interview with Stefanie Wabnik, Project Officer, Reef Catchments, to talk about the information session about feral cats held last night. Wabnik says the session went really well and they had an intimate crowd. She says it had been a very informative and interactive approach to monitoring feral cats in the Slade Point area. Wabnik says a resident has reported witnessing horrific things caused by feral cats. She says this project aims to raise awareness in the community and mentions the Mackay Regional Council is being very proactive in that quest. She says they have now established good relationships with the partners including Mackay Regional Council, Reef Catchments and North Qld Bulk Ports to further monitoring feral cats within Slade Point and other areas. Philpott adds this story can be seen at the council's website Connecting Mackay.



broadcast clip

Station :	SEA FM Mackay	Program :	07:30 News
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	
Aired On :	11/05/2015 7:32:50 AM	Duration :	0 mins 47 secs
Compere :	Newsreader	Summary ID :	V00061665456
Demographics :	Male 16+ 3500	Female 16+ 1400	
Interviewees :	Stefanie Wabnik, Reef Catchments		

Feral cats at Slade Point are causing havoc for local wildlife and turtles, in which a 15-day cat-trapping and recording process has been deemed necessary. The results begin to show, where there is a huge number of cats in the area. An info-session to provide further insight into the problem for residents will take place tomorrow at the Sea Breeze Resort. Stefanie Wabnik, Reef Catchments, says that the community has been able to provide some vital information for the project.

broadcast clip

Station :	ABC Tropical North	Program :	Breakfast
Location :	Mackay	Producer :	Mr Craig Widdowson
Aired On :	11/05/2015 7:25:05 AM	Duration :	5 mins 16 secs
Compere :	Meecham Philpott	Summary ID :	V00061662364
Demographics :	Male 16+ 2700	Female 16+ 2600	
Interviewees :	Stefanie Wabnik, Reef Catchments		

Philpott says Slade Point residents are invited to attend an information session tomorrow evening at the Seabreeze to learn more about the prevalence of feral cats and Reef Catchments will be there to provide information. Stefanie Wabnik, Reef Catchments, says there were reports there are quite a few feral cats residing in the Mackay Harbour area and North Queensland Bulk Ports. She says the information session aims to understand the feral cats' abundance and occupancy within the area of Slade Point Reserve. Wabnik clarifies that a feral cat is a declared pest animal and should not be caught by humans or housed in a domestic situation. She mentions the threat of feral cats to Slade Point where people go to bird-watch. She says they want to promote responsible pet ownership in the community as well.



internet clip

Locals invited to learn about feral cats in Slade Point

LOCALS are being invited to attend an information session on Tuesday, May 12 to learn more about the prevalence of feral cats within Slade Point. The session will cover topics including what makes a cat feral, why they are a problem, pest management...

<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21257153031&p=1i4&v=1&x=xSQ3EfYN6MLYLWVLDAhNyQ>



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internet clip

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<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21257082804&p=1i4&v=1&x=QJIFer3PUaJjThUPP2hSnQ>

WEB Daily Mercury News

Wednesday 6/05/2015 14:00:00

Section: Other
Region: Online, AU
Type: Internet News - Australia



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

internet clip

Locals invited to learn about feral cats in Slade Point

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<http://ct.moreover.com/?a=21257076058&p=1i4&v=1&x=VxJVXDue6737UTvjclSg4g>

press clip



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Friday 17/04/2015

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Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 9928
Type: Regional
Size: 37.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

IN BRIEF

Feral cat program

A NEW program is trying to gain an insight into feral cat behaviour and the effects on native wildlife populations.

The program will involve the monitoring and control of feral cat populations around Mackay.

Mackay Regional Council, Reef Catchments Mackay and North Queensland Bulk Ports are running the program.

Phase one will focus on specific areas of concern in Slade Point. Reef Catchment project officer Alice Spencer said the program would be seen as a trial and could be expanded to include other suburbs and areas in later phases. Monitoring will begin this month.