

# HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

## **Annual General Meeting- 2017.**

# AGM business

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Apologies
- ▶ Minutes of the previous meeting
- ▶ Business arising out of the minutes
- ▶ Annual Report and Financial Statements
- ▶ Board chairman's report
- ▶ Business managers report
- ▶ Guest speaker

# Board chairman's report

# ADMINISTRATION



- ▶ The 2016/17 financials were duly audited and a copy is available for viewing.
- ▶ Grower membership is ~99.97% of area harvested- the largest grower membership of any voluntary Herbert industry support agency.
- ▶ Wilmar continues to be a member, matching dollar for dollar grower funding in the core service program.



# ADMINISTRATION



- ▶ The 2016/17 budget has been approved by the HCPSL company directors.
- ▶ The total budget was set at \$8.46/ha for each the grower and miller to pay. Total of \$16.92/ha. There is no change in the service fee for the past 2 years.
- ▶ The external funded component of the HCPSL business is now significant, with external funding coming from Government projects, NRM groups, private companies (agri-chemical and fertiliser companies) and universities.



# Staffing



## Core funded staff:

- ▶ Lawrence Di Bella (Manager)
- ▶ Sue Becarris (Administration Officer)
- ▶ Sandra Coco (Resource Officer)
- ▶ Graeme Holzberger (Field Agronomist- Grower Services)
- ▶ Tony Mc Clintock (Field Agronomist- Grower Services)
- ▶ Adam Royle (Extension Agronomist- Crop Nutrition and Water Quality)
- ▶ Sam Sellick (Field Agronomist- Variety Development)
- ▶ Mike Sefton (Geospatial and Data Systems Officer)

## Externally funded staff:

- ▶ Richard Hobbs (Extension Agronomist- Farming Systems)
- ▶ Jarrod Sartor (WTSIP Extension Officer)
- ▶ Leanne Carr (WTSIP Extension Officer)
- ▶ Rod Nielson (GIS Officer)
- ▶ Megan Zamhel (Project Catalyst Support Officer)
- ▶ Minka Ibanez (Field Technician)
- ▶ Sam Lamari, Ray Roveda and Dion Cawthorne (field worker- casual)



# TARGET 85



A HCPSL productivity initiative to get the Herbert industry to an 85tch district average, in a sustainable manner. Launched at the 2013 AGM.

The HCPSL Board has decided to extend this initiative for an other 3 years.

# The next 3 years for **Target 85**

- ▶ The Board would like to hear from the companies membership in formulating the direction for the next 3 years.
- ▶ New business priorities will be developed to align with Target 85 and the HCPSL Strategic Plan; following the membership consultative process.
- ▶ Resourcing of activities will occur to ensure the targets are hit.



# Current HCPSL key focuses



## 1. Productivity

- ▶ Increase cane yields
- ▶ Variety development
- ▶ YCS
- ▶ NUE
- ▶ Harvesting systems
- ▶ Drainage and irrigation
- ▶ Pest and disease management that impact on productivity
- ▶ More robust farming systems
- ▶ Improvements in soil health
- ▶ Better use of mill by-products

**TARGET 85**



# Current HCPSL key focuses



## 2. Sustainability and environment

- ▶ NUE
- ▶ Better use of pesticides
- ▶ Water quality management
- ▶ Better management practices (BMP)
- ▶ Extension

## 3. Biosecurity

- ▶ Approved seed production
- ▶ Quarantine

## 4. Precision Agriculture and data systems

- ▶ Basestation operation
- ▶ Yield monitoring
- ▶ Soil mapping
- ▶ Variable rate and precision application
- ▶ Data mining and interpretation

**TARGET 85**



# Current HCPSL key focuses



## 5. Extension and Training

- ▶ Grower and industry extension and training
- ▶ Community awareness
- ▶ Youth development

## 6. Harvest Management

- ▶ Improved cane consignment
- ▶ Improved block records

**TARGET 85**



# The Manager's report

**TARGET 85**

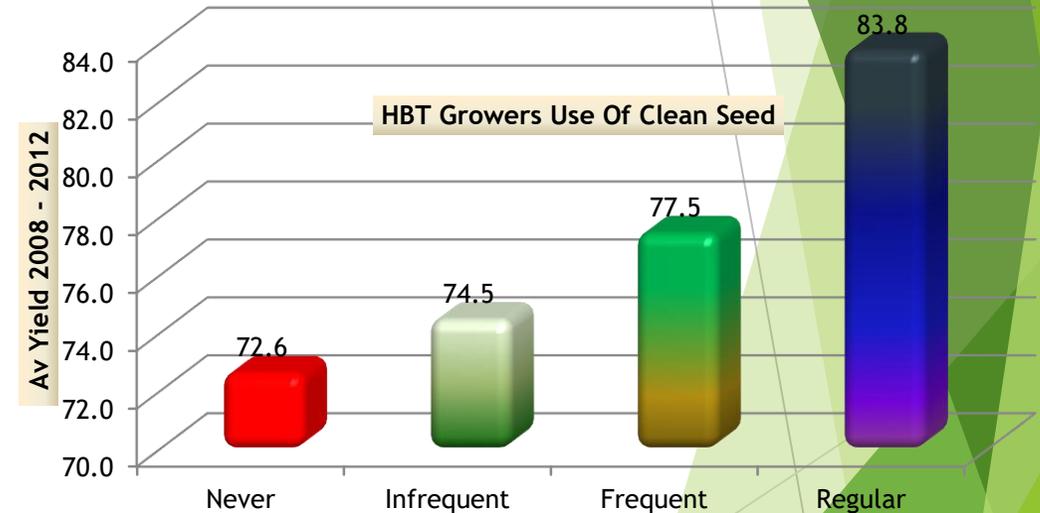


**ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR**

# Investment in Approved Seed provision

- 2014- 1200 tonnes of cane purchased  
200 tissue cultured plants purchased  
110 tonnes hot water treated
- 2015- 842 tonnes of cane purchased  
3500 tissue cultured plants purchased  
93 tonnes hot water treated
- 2016- 1012 tonnes of cane purchased  
2500 tissue cultured plants purchased  
73 tonnes hot water treated
- 2017- 1169 tonnes of cane purchased  
104 tonnes hot water treated

## Productivity Benefits Of Clean Seed



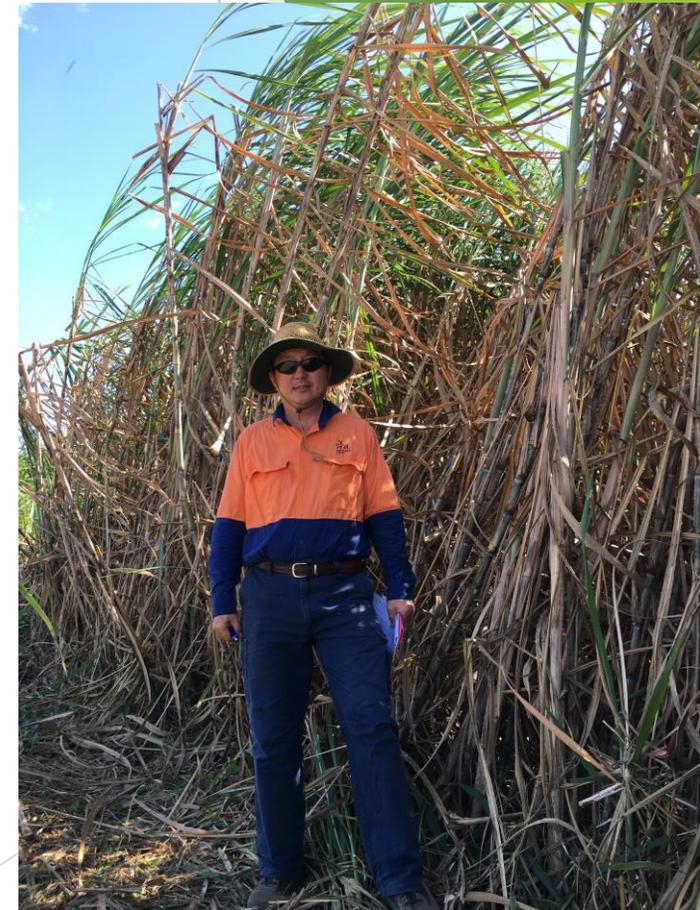
# Variety development and improvement

TARGET 85



Work undertaken with SRA:

- Planting of RVT trials
- Undertook variety recommendations for ~30% of the area planted through QCANE SELECT
- Harvesting of 1 Introgression plant can seedling trial at Macknade (~7,000 clones)
- Selection of 600 new clones from the 1<sup>st</sup> ratoon seedling trial
- Harvesting of 3 Introgression variety trials



# YCS research



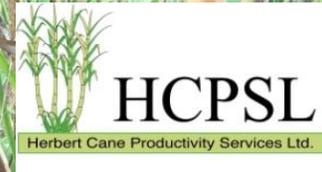
- **HCPSL continues to work with SRA.**
- **We now have a good understanding of the cane plants bio-chemical processes associated with YCS.**
- **Leads are now being followed up.**
- **A variety x time of planting/harvesting time was planted this year to assess genetic differences to YCS.**

**YCS has been a difficult syndrome to research.**



## Rat management

- ▶ In 2016-17 rat damage has now become the largest economic pest for the Herbert cane industry.
- ▶ HCPSL, Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS), ACTA and CANEGROWERS Brisbane worked together to achieve an aerial rat baiting permit.
- ▶ Over 500ha have been rat baited to date.



# Feral pig management



## Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig Management Program:

- ▶ This is a continuing program with a huge success rate.
- ▶ Existing members continue to pay into the program, with the exception of National Parks (NP).
- ▶ The Program continued to attract funding from the Nest to Ocean Program to manage feral pigs in coastal areas managed by NP and DNRM.
- ▶ Over 450 pigs were controlled during the period
- ▶ HCPSL and HSC assisted DAFF research into off-target impacts associated with 1080 baiting
- ▶ The environment, industry and the community significantly benefit from this program



# Harvesting research and extension.

HCPSSL, and SRA undertook harvesting R,D&E in the following areas:

- **Measuring of sugar loss associated with harvesting (funded locally by HCPSSL and Wilmar).**
- **Data analysis concerning the impact of harvester speed and pour rate.**
- **Conducted “Harvest Optimisation Week”. The data is currently analysed.**
- **Industry field tour to Isis and Maryborough Mill areas to view first hand changes in harvesting practices to improve sugar and cane recovery.**



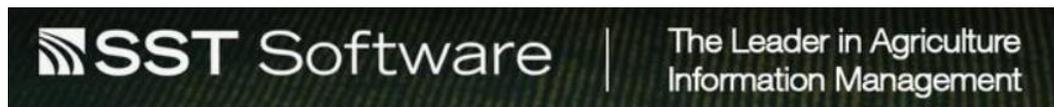
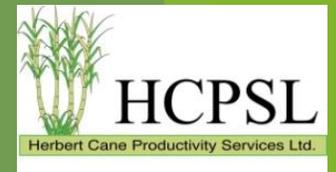
# Industry visit to Isis and Maryborough Mill Areas



An industry delegation visited the Isis and Maryborough to review harvesting and farming systems.

# Data management and analysis

- ▶ SRA funded project- Optimising productivity and variety recommendations through analysis of mill data was completed and outcomes now being implemented.
- ▶ Continuation of the HCPSL Yield Monitoring system
- ▶ HCPSL collects grower data and analyses it to:
  - ▶ Target its extension effort
  - ▶ Identify knowledge gaps
  - ▶ Validate industry practices
  - ▶ Support industry issues (like feral pigs and rats)
  - ▶ Defend the industry position



# Precision Agriculture- Site Specific Management

- ▶ HCPSL continues its investment in the basestation network
- ▶ HCPSL undertook projects with:
  - ▶ CSIRO (SRA funded project) to develop management zones based upon HCPSL yield maps.
  - ▶ UNSW (Terrain and HCPSL funded project) to manage sodic soils south of Ingham.
  - ▶ SST software pilot project (HCPSL funded project) to manage farm related data.



UNSW  
AUSTRALIA



 SST Software

The Leader in Agriculture  
Information Management





DI BELLA  
JCK 0134A-1-3  
agnetic Conductivity

Total Area 0.23Ha  
Total Product: 0  
Scale All Maps - 1:500

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UAV Imagery: 16/02/17 28/09/2017

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UAV Imagery: 09/03

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# Precision Agriculture-drone technology

# Dualem 421S

- ▶ HCPSL purchased a Dualem 421S through a Terrain NRM grant and HCPSL funds. Mossman Agricultural Services (MAS) supported the HCPSL project application with Terrain NRM.
- ▶ To date individual growers, SRA and MAS have utilized the fee for service program offered by HCPSL.
- ▶ The use of the data generated by the Dualem 421S unit, conjunction with other geo-spatial data (like yield monitoring) has been used to develop variable rate soil amendment maps.
- ▶ A number of cane blocks in the Herbert have had variable rate lime and gypsum applications.
- ▶ HCPSL worked the UNSW to develop soil mapping protocols and analytics.



**MIRIWINI LIME** Pty. Ltd.



# Prescription maps developed by HCPSL



**Giordani Block 0796-5**  
 Variable Rate Zones  
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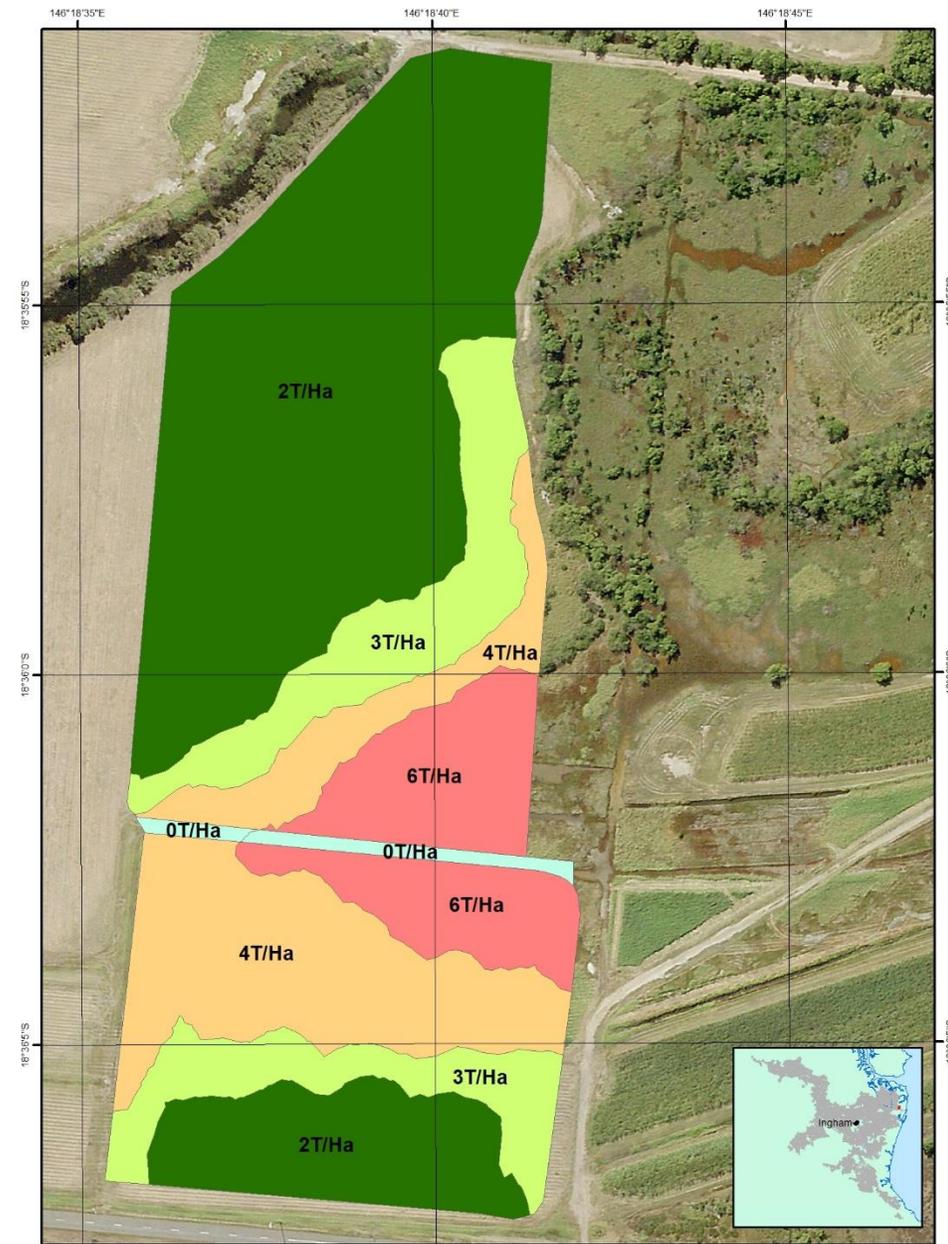
**Zones 0796A 5**  
 Total: 18.591 Tonnes  
 Area: 8.464Ha

19/06/2017

1:2,000

0 50 100 Meters

**HCPSL**  
 Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.



**FARM 5131A-46-02 LANCINI**  
 Variable Rate Zones  
 © Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd. 19/06/2017.  
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Total: 22.212 Tonnes  
 Area: 7.33Ha

19/06/2017

0 50 100 Meters

**HCPSL**  
 Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

# Miriwinni Lime VR Truck



# Minimising our environmental



- ▶ HCPSL continues to invest in water quality monitoring from cane lands. This data will assist industry make informed decisions
- ▶ HCPSL is managing projects associated with improvements in water quality going to the Reef

ie. Project NEMO, Reef Rescue, Enhanced Efficiency fertiliser research, improved herbicide practices, WTSIP, etc.





# Improving NUE



## INCITEC PIVOT



# Improving NUE- developing and extending knowledge



## Activities:

- ▶ Project NEMO- working with growers to improve NUE
- ▶ The assessment of nitrogen loss pathways glasshouse experiment- project # 2 (funded by DOW Agrosiences)
- ▶ WTSIP nutrient management planning
- ▶ Involvement in the industry nitrogen review
- ▶ SRA/ DSIT Legume management trial
- ▶ UQ companion legume cropping

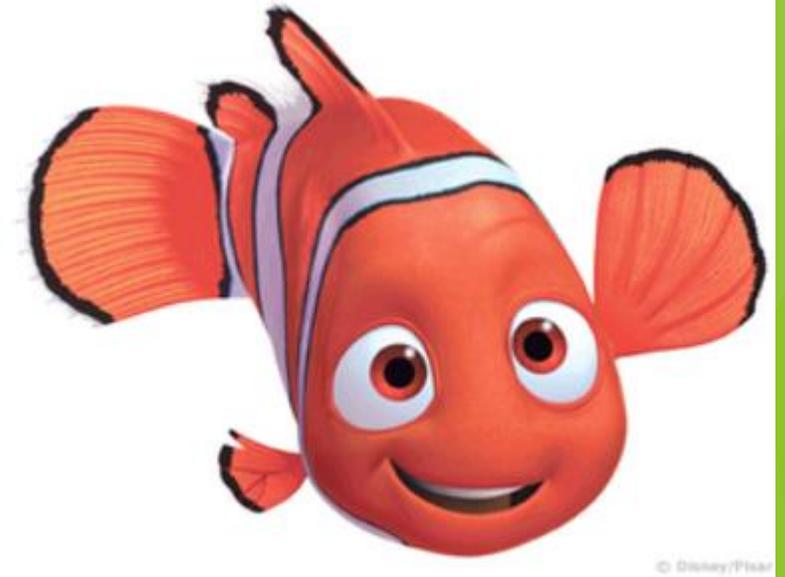


# Extension activities- Project NEMO

- ▶ Aim: To improve grower practices in relation to nitrogen use, while achieving water quality outcomes.
- ▶ 3 year project funded by the Queensland Government.
- ▶ Adam Royle (Captain NEMO) leads this project.

## Activities:

- ▶ Working with growers through one on one and group processes
- ▶ 12 demonstration sites have been established to date
- ▶ Rainfall simulation study
- ▶ Water quality monitoring (co-invested with HCPSL funds)
- ▶ Facebook account- informing the farming and wider community



# Extension activities: WTSIP



Wet Tropics  
Sugar Industry  
Partnership

Employment of Jarrod Sartor and Leanne Carr as WTSIP Extension Officers.

Role-

1. Assist growers with nutrient management planning
2. Assist growers adopt better pesticide application and IPM programs
3. Assist growers with specific Reef water quality grants projects

Key partners:



# Managing pesticides

## Activities undertaken this year:

- ▶ Auschem training (over 200 attended)
- ▶ IWM training under WTSIP program (over 150 attended)
- ▶ Weed management planning under the WTSIP program
- ▶ Conduct research and development with DOW, Arysta and Sumitomo to investigate an alternative herbicides to Duiron and variety phytotoxicity
- ▶ Grower demos on the Blair leg application system
- ▶ Conduct a glasshouse experiment to assess fungicides in high CEC soils



## Key partners:



# Investment into youth.

- ▶ Support of the U18 cane section of the Ingham Show.
- ▶ Support of the 2016 Hinchinbrook Careers Day.
- ▶ School visits by staff.
- ▶ Support of a Herbert River Young Farmers Group.
- ▶ Hosted 1 university placement student from QUT.



# Showcasing our industry

## Pest Animal Symposium:

- ▶ The Herbert River Catchment Group and HCPSL hosted delegates from the symposium to view first hand activities associated with feral pig management.
- ▶ Presentation concerning the Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig Management Program as a conference paper.



# GFRAS APEN international conference

HCPSL hosted 330 delegates from 45 countries at the conference.

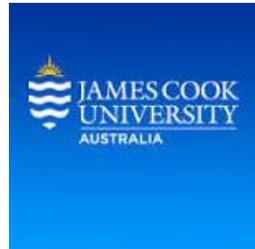
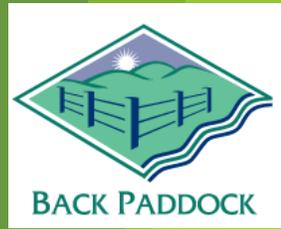
Delegates viewed first hand activities of the sugarcane industry.





# Special thanks

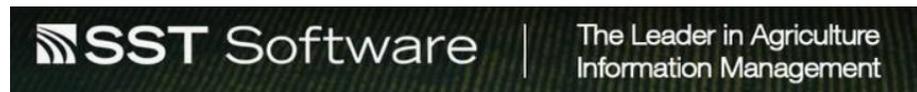
# Key partners in 2016-17:



## INCITEC PIVOT



Project Catalyst Partners



# Thanks to the HCPSL staff



# Conclusion

The HCPSL aim is to continue to strive to make things better, through the services it provides for its members.

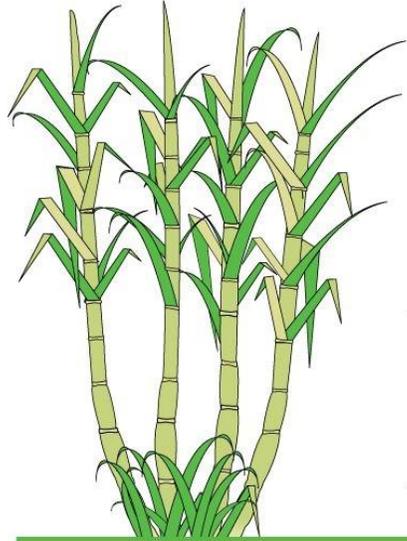
Thanks for your on-going support.





**Thank you!  
Questions ?**





# HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

## **Annual General Meeting- 2017.**