

HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

Annual General Meeting- 2019.

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- Dr. Jacqueline Williams (University of New England)

Topic-“Defending the Social Licence to Farm”

Board chairman's report

HCPSL mission

To facilitate an increase in productivity, profitability and sustainability within the Herbert sugarcane industry by providing agronomic and technical services.

HCPSL vision

To be recognized throughout the Herbert district as the primary independent resource for agronomic advice, extension and support in regard to the whole of sugarcane value chain.

Our Goals

1. Achieve an annual production of **85 tonnes cane/ha**, through the activities under the **Target 85** program.
2. Achieve a sustainable and environmentally sound sugarcane production system.

The HCPSL Board members



Board highlights for 2019

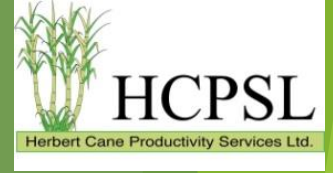
- ▶ Improved company governance
- ▶ Board and governance training for all Board members
- ▶ Implementation of a new financial system to better track expenses
- ▶ Holding 2018-19 expenses within budget
- ▶ 2019-2020 budget approval
- ▶ Review of activities under KTA1 and KTA2
- ▶ Working through office housing issues
- ▶ Review of company policies and direction
- ▶ Purchase of the whole stalk and billet harvesters
- ▶ Leasing of the Pietrobon farm for Clean Seed production

Administration

- ▶ The 2018/19 financials were duly audited and a copy is available for viewing.
- ▶ Grower membership covers over 99% 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 2019/2020 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 5 years.

The HCPSL Board called on money from company reserves to hold the service fee at the same level.

- ▶ The external funded component of the HCPSL business is 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- 4 days a week)
- ▶ Sandra Coco (Resource Officer)
- ▶ Graeme Holzberger (Field Agronomist- Grower Services Team Leader)
- ▶ Adam Royle (Extension Agronomist- Soil and Water Team Leader)
- ▶ Sam Sellick (Field Agronomist- Variety Development)
- ▶ Tony Mc Clintock (Field Agronomist- Grower Services)
- ▶ Mike Sefton (Geospatial and Data Systems Officer)
- ▶ Fieldworkers who assist with seed cane production and trials

Externally funded staff:

- ▶ Richard Hobbs (Extension Agronomist- Farming Systems and Soil Health Officer)
- ▶ Jarrod Sartor (WTSIP Extension Officer)
- ▶ Leanne Carr (WTSIP Extension Officer)
- ▶ Melissa Royle (WTSIP and RP161 Extension Support Officer- casual)
- ▶ Rod Nielson (GIS Officer)
- ▶ Megan Zamhel (Project Catalyst Support Officer)
- ▶ Minka Ibanez (Field Technician- casual)
- ▶ Shannon O'Brien (Extension agronomist- special projects)
- ▶ Ellie McVeigh (QFF Graduate Program Extension Officer)



TARGET 85



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

The HCPSL Board undertook a Strategic Planning Process in early 2018 to reevaluate the Herbert regions progress and lay the foundations for the future.

TARGET 85



The HCPSL Board has approved the company and Herbert Regional Strategy to 2020 to be rolled out through the **Target 85 program.**

HCPSL Strategic Plan Summary 2018-2020



Why we exist

Our mission

To facilitate an increase in productivity, profitability and sustainability within the Herbert sugarcane industry by providing agronomic and technical services.

Where we want to be in the future

Our vision

To be recognized throughout the Herbert district as the primary independent resource for agronomic advice, extension and support in regard to the whole of sugarcane value chain.

What's important to our industry

Our Goals



1. Achieve an annual production of **85 tonnes cane/ha**, through the activities under the **Target 85** program.
2. Achieve a sustainable and environmentally sound sugarcane production system.

KEY TARGET AREAS (KTA)

KTA1: Clean seed and variety development

1. Approved (clean) seed provision
2. Cane variety development

KTA2: Agronomic and industry services

1. Crop agronomy advice
2. Cane harvest systems and advice
3. Crop pest and disease advice
4. Crop nutrition advice
5. Farm drainage design
6. Precision Agricultural Services (ie. GPS basestation network, drone imagery, soil and yield mapping)
7. Rotational crop management and advice
8. Specific soil health advice

KTA3: Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship

1. Support environmental monitoring specific to cane production in the Herbert
2. Support and/or deliver activities associated with Smartcane BMP
3. Development of industry Best Practice techniques relevant to the Herbert and Australian sugarcane industry
4. Biosecurity

KTA4: Industry capacity, knowledge and technology transfer, extension and adoption

Knowledge and technology transfer, extension and adoption to the Herbert in the areas of:-

- Crop agronomy
- Crop harvesting systems
- Crop pest and disease
- Crop nutrition
- Farming systems
- Soil health
- Irrigation advice
- Rotational crop management
- Drainage
- Supporting women in the industry
- Supporting youth in the industry
- Supporting new graduates

KTA5: Strategic Alliances

1. Industry groups
 - CANEGROWERS
 - ACFA
 - Wilmar
 - Other Productivity Companies
 - SRA
2. Government agencies
3. NRM groups
4. Co-operative Research Centres (CRC's)
5. Universities
6. Private Companies

TARGET 85



Key Target Areas (KTA) under the
Target 85 program.

Key Target Areas (KTA)



KTA1: Clean seed and variety development

- 1. Approved (clean) seed provision**
- 2. Cane variety development**



Key Target Areas



KTA2: Agronomic and industry services

1. Crop agronomy advice
2. Cane harvest systems and advice
3. Crop pest and disease advice
4. Crop nutrition advice
5. Farm drainage design
6. Precision Agricultural Services (ie. GPS basestation network, drone imagery, soil and yield mapping)
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Key Target Areas

KTA3: Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship

- 1.Support environmental monitoring specific to cane production in the Herbert**
- 2.Support and/or deliver activities associated with Smartcane BMP**
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Key Target Areas



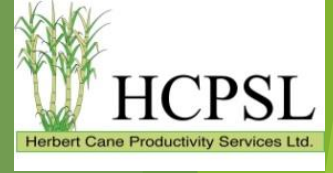
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Key Target Areas



KTA5: Strategic Alliances

1. Industry groups

- CANEGROWERS
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- Other Productivity Companies
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- WTSIP

2. Government agencies

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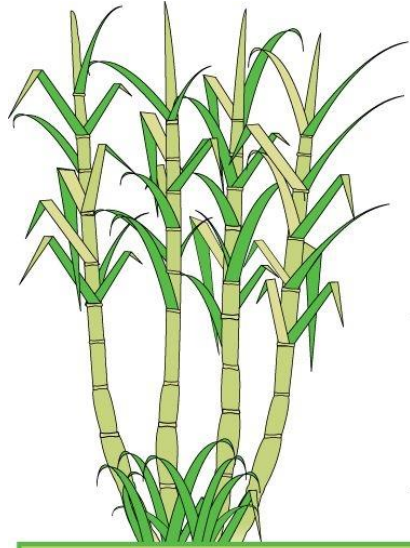
Special thanks



On-behalf of the Board we would like to thank the following:

- * Our members for their on-going support
- * Support agencies who have invested in HCPSL and the region
- * The HCPSL staff





HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

Annual General Meeting- 2019.

The Manager's report

TARGET 85



ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Managing pest and diseases

Investment in Approved Seed provision



- ▶ HCPSL has commercial arrangements with private companies to grow Clean Seed:
 - ▶ Ingham Line
 - ▶ Abergowrie
 - ▶ Hawkins Creek
- ▶ HCPSL now leases 3 properties to grow Clean Seed:
 - ▶ Stone River
 - ▶ Macknade
 - ▶ Central Herbert (July 2019)

HCPSL
CLEAN SEED
PLOTS



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Map scale 1:350,000
0 5 10 15 20
Kilometres
Projection: UTM, Zone 55. Datum: MGA94.
Date: 6/08/2019



Graeme Holzberger, Sam Sellick and
Tony McClintock lead these activities

TARGET 85



Investment in Approved Seed provision



Repairs to the glasshouse



HCPSL planting equipment



HCPSL tissue culture planter



HCPSL hot water treatment tanks



Investment in Approved Seed provision

HCPSL Billet harvester and whole stalk cutter

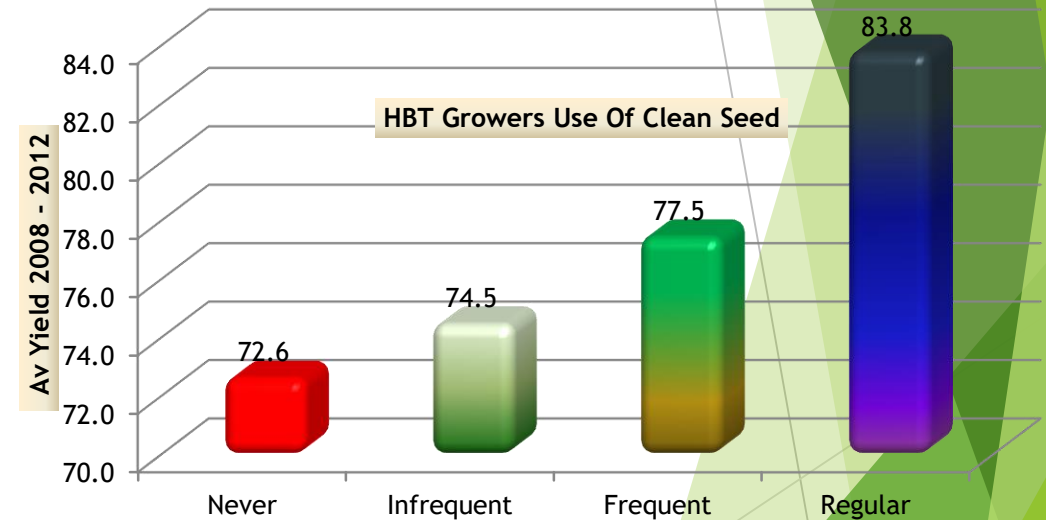


Investment in Approved Seed provision



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
2018-	1183 tonnes of cane purchased 90 tonnes hot water treated
2019-	980 tonne of cane purchased 110 tonnes hot water treated

Productivity Benefits Of Clean Seed



Investment in Approved Seed provision



Cane sales

HCPSL's aim is to sell:

- 2000+ tons in 2020
- 3000+ tons by 2022

Tissue culture sales

HCPSL has orders for 6500 tissue cultured cane for 2020- the highest number of plants ordered by the Herbert industry to date.

Asset investment over the past 8 years- \$250,000

Annual investment by HCPSL: \$200,000



Feral pig management

Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig Management Program:

- ▶ This is a continuing program with a huge success rate.
- ▶ Over 450 pigs were controlled during the period through trapping and baiting activities.
- ▶ The environment, industry and the community significantly benefit from this program

HCPSL annual investment into feral animal management- \$50,000



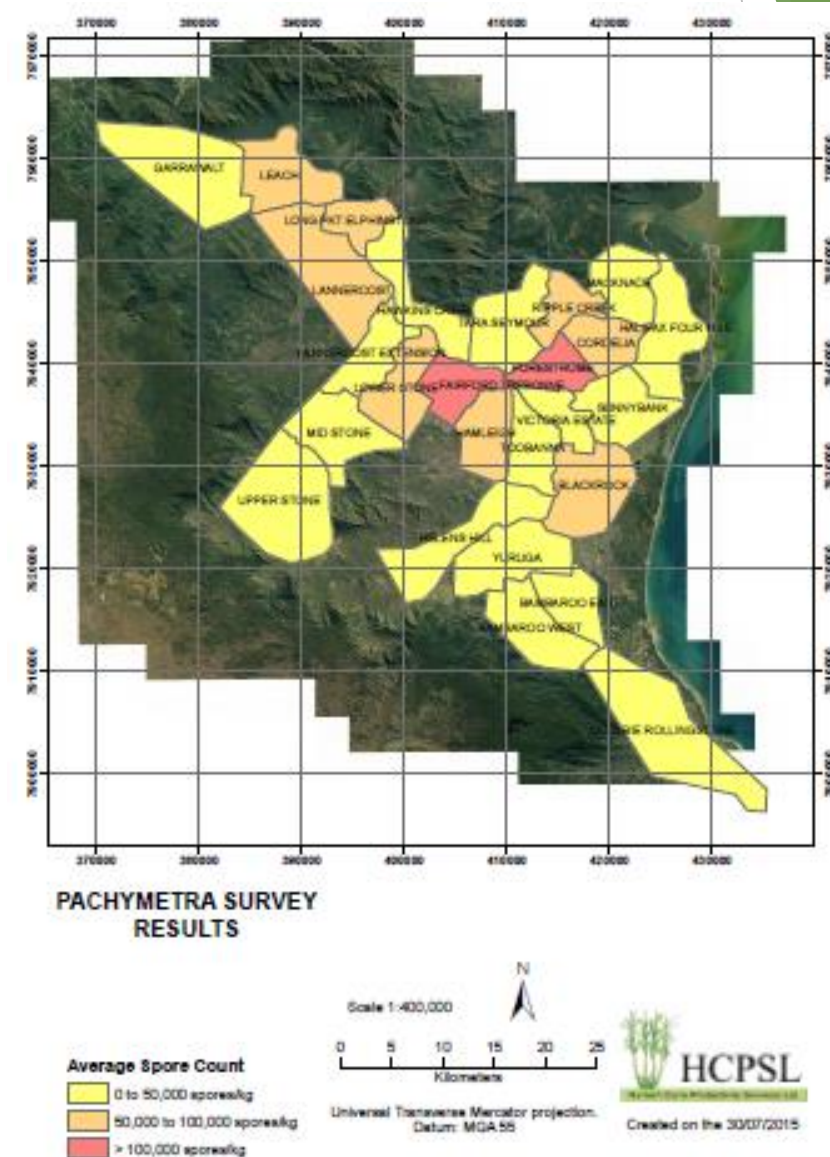
Pachymetra root rot survey

HCPSL have undertaken a district wide *Pachymetra* root rot survey 3 years ago- HCPSL funded.

The survey confirmed that 51% of samples taken as a part of the survey were above the economic threshold.

SRA plant breeding program now modified to breed for resistant varieties.

HCPSL now offers a grower service in the provision of a *Pachymetra* soil testing service. To date this year 184 samples have been sent for analysis from the district.



Nematode survey



- ▶ The survey commenced September 2019.
- ▶ Research indicates that root rot and root lesion nematodes can have significant impacts on cane yield.
- ▶ HCPSL 2014 Nimitz trial results
 - Control- 96 tcph / 11.59 tsph
 - Nimitz @ 4L/ha- 122 tcph / 19.45 tsph
 - Nimitz @ 8L/ha- 132 tcph / 18.32 tsph
- ▶ Survey funded by HCPSL
- ▶ Work undertaken by Mike Sefton and Ellie Mc Veigh, with assistance from SRA staff
- ▶ Survey results will be reported when it comes available.
- ▶ HCPSL offers a nematode soil testing service.



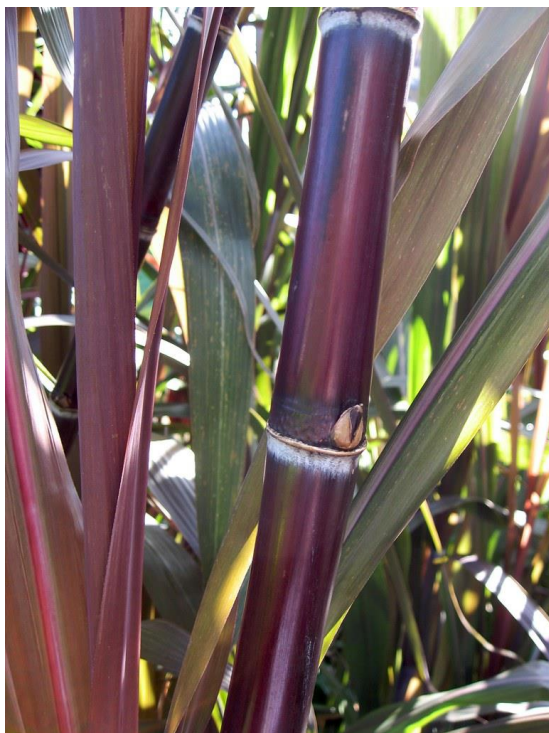
YCS research



- HCPSL continues to work with SRA.
- Leads are now being followed up.
- A variety x time of planting/harvesting time was harvested this year to assess genetic differences to YCS and an insecticide treatment.
- A insecticide trial will be established in late 2019.

Variety development and improvement

Variety development and improvement



- ▶ Assisted Wilmar and SRA planting breeding efforts in the Herbert.

- ▶ *Annual investment by HCPSL- \$70,000*



- ▶ Sam Sellick leads project activities



Variety development and improvement

Work undertaken by HCPSL:

- Undertook variety recommendations for ~30% of the area planted
- Funded and established the following agronomic trials:
 - 2017- SRA5 nitrogen rate trial- Stone River
 - 2018-Variety x crop ripener trial- Abergowrie

Work undertaken with the Wilmar Plant Breeding Team:

- Provide land and maintain the Wilmar genetic collection and crossing material at the HCPSL Macknade Farm

Variety development and improvement

Work undertaken with SRA Plant Breeding Team:

- Funded the RVT program in the Herbert, which consists of 8 trials across the Herbert to assess ratooning of varieties under difficult conditions.
- Funded the planting of the RVT YCS trial site in the Herbert and support SRA research staff.
- Supported SRA through:
 - The Introgression plant breeding effort in the Herbert, through the provision of land and glasshouses at the HCPSL Macknade- at no cost to SRA.
 - HCPSL funding of the third ratoon harvest of the SRA FAT trials across the Herbert.

Managing Soil Health



SRA funded Soil Health Project

This is a joint project between SRA research group, HCPSL, BPS, Wilmar, Universities of Queensland and Southern Queensland and QDAF.

This project will define what is soil health and develop tools and strategies to improve soil health in a sustainable and economic manner.

Dr Danielle Skocaj (SRA research group) leads this large industry project. Richard Hobbs (HCPSL) is the Herbert Soil Health Officer.



- ▶ A 10-year funded national program investing into soils and soil health.
- ▶ HCPSL and BPS are the only sugarcane partners nationally.
- ▶ Projects operating in the district:
 - ▶ Soil chemical project
 - ▶ Compaction /Drought resilience
 - ▶ Root rhizosphere
 - ▶ Innovation in soils
 - ▶ Soils data systems





Green waste stream project

- ▶ HCPSL received a grant from the National Landcare Program to assess the value of green waste streams from regional councils.



Improving water quality through improved land management practices

Extension activities: WTSIP



Wet Tropics
Sugar Industry
Partnership

Employment of Jarrod Sartor, Leanne Carr and Megan Zamhel as WTSIP Extension Officers and Melissa Royle as Extension Support Officer.

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
4. Industry training and development ie. Back to Basics Workshops

Key partners:



Extension activities: RP161

- ▶ The project funded by State and Federal governments to improve industry profitability and sustainable land use (especially managing water quality outcomes).
- ▶ Adam Royle, Shannon O'Brien, Ellie McVeigh, Rod Nielson, Melissa Royle and Farmacist deliver activities under this project.
- ▶ Activities undertaken:
 - ▶ 53 Farm Management Plans delivered under this project
 - ▶ On farm assistance and advice
 - ▶ Soil testing for nutrient, *Pachymetra* and nematode.
 - ▶ EM mapping
 - ▶ Farming 4 CASH™ workshops



Herbert RP161
Crop & Nutrient Plan



Project Catalyst supported the following activities:

- Employment of Megan Zamhel and Minka Ibanez- as the Project Support Officers
- Supported grower driven trials
- Supported the Herbert and Tully grower update, held in Cardwell
- The 2019 HCPSL Herbert Walk and Talk event
- The September 2018 Soil Health Shed and Legume 101 meetings

Project Catalyst Partners



The Herbert Water Quality Project



- ▶ HCPSL continues to invest in water quality monitoring from cane lands. This data will assist industry make informed decisions
- ▶ The 2018-19 project partners were:



Precision Agriculture



Precision agriculture- HCPSL base station network

Mike Sefton leads this activity.

Capturing data- drone technology

Rod Nielson leads this activity

- ▶ The HCPSL drone has been used to capture trial data.
- ▶ The drone is hired out at commercial rates to SRA and other commercial groups.



Flood damage assessment

HCPSL worked with Queensland Government DAF staff, CANEGROWERS Herbert River and the Lower Herbert Water Management Authority to develop an accurate flood damage assessments.

Soil mapping

- ▶ HCPSL worked the UNSW to develop soil mapping protocols and analytics.
- ▶ Over 1500ha have been mapped in the past 2 years
- ▶ HCPSL now develops variable rate soil amendment maps for use on farm



Data management and analysis



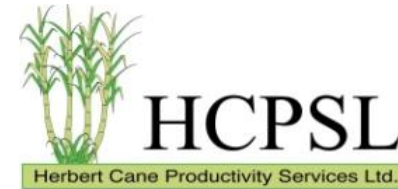
- ▶ HCPSL website and Facebook site
- ▶ Continuation of the HCPSL Yield Monitoring system
- ▶ HCPSL collects grower data and analyses it to:
 - ▶ Target its extension effort
 - ▶ Identify knowledge gaps
 - ▶ Validate industry practices
 - ▶ Support industry issues (like feral pigs and rats)
 - ▶ Defend the industry position

Supporting groups:



Developing & extending knowledge- nutrition

Developing & extending knowledge- nutrition



Developing & extending knowledge- nutrition

Activities:

- ▶ Development of a Decision Support Tool for the Use of EEF's (funded by SRA funding unit and managed by CSIRO)
- ▶ New generation EEF products (funded by SOS Bio)
- ▶ WTSIP Nutrient Management Planning
- ▶ DSIT Smart Blend EEF trials
- ▶ UQ funded legume nitrogen trials
- ▶ Silica research (funded by Agripower)
- ▶ EEF60 project (funded by Australian Govt, managed by CANEGROWERS Brisbane)



TARGET 85

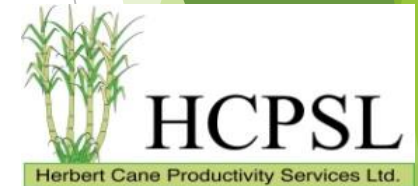


Developing & extending knowledge- EEF60 Project

- ▶ The project was established to assess the benefits of Enhanced Efficiency Fertilisers (EEF) across the Great Barrier Reef Catchment areas.
- ▶ CANEGROWERS Brisbane lead the project, with SRA leading the research effort and HCPSL providing the extension activities for the Herbert and Tully areas.
- ▶ Shannon O'Brien (HCPSL Extension Agronomist- Special Projects, is funded 50% on this project)
- ▶ Dr. Jullian Connellan (leads the SRA research effort for the Herbert and FNQ)



Herbert
project
partners:



Developing and extending knowledge- pesticides

Developing and extending knowledge- pesticides

Activities undertaken this year:

- ▶ Auschem training (fee for service)
- ▶ IWM training under WTSIP program
- ▶ Weed management planning under the WTSIP program
- ▶ Release of Amitron- HCPSSL was contracted to undertake 3 trials as a part of the product development work (funded by Arysta)
- ▶ Smut fungicide research (funded by Nufarm)
- ▶ Assisted Nufarm with the Suscon Maxi and Crucial stewardship programs
- ▶ Established a crop ripener trial in the Abergowrie area in 2018 (funded by HCPSSL)



Key partners:



Extending knowledge

Back to Basics workshops

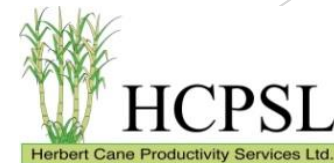
- ▶ WTSIP and RP161 funded staff worked together the Back to Basics workshops
- ▶ These workshops were well received by growers.



Herbert Walk and Talk



Sponsored by:



Kicking the Dirt Workshops



- ▶ These workshops were held in late 2018
- ▶ Joint effort between HCPSSL, SRA and DAF
- ▶ Over 135 growers attend



Legume 101 workshops

- ▶ In late December 2018.
- ▶ The workshops covered:
 - ▶ Legume varieties
 - ▶ Mixed fallow legumes
 - ▶ Soil health benefits



Empowering and supporting women

- ▶ Leanne Carr presented at the State Women in Sugar forum
- ▶ HCPSL sponsored the State Women in Sugar Forum
- ▶ HCPSL attend WISH local meetings regularly
- ▶ ½ of HCPSL staff are women



Women in Sugar Herbert



Investment into youth.

- ▶ Supported the Cane Section at the Ingham Show.
- ▶ Support of the U18 Cane Section of the Ingham Show.
- ▶ School visits by staff.
- ▶ Hosted Ingham High, Abergowrie College and GSM secondary students throughout the year at various events.
- ▶ Hosted university students
- ▶ Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce and Shire Council- Future Leaders Program.



QUEENSLAND
FARMERS'
FEDERATION



Supporting youth.

HCPSL hosted Ellie Mc Veigh-QFF graduate program



Special thanks

The HCPSL Board members





Thanks to the
HCPSL team-
job well done

Key partners in 2018-19:



Project Catalyst Partners



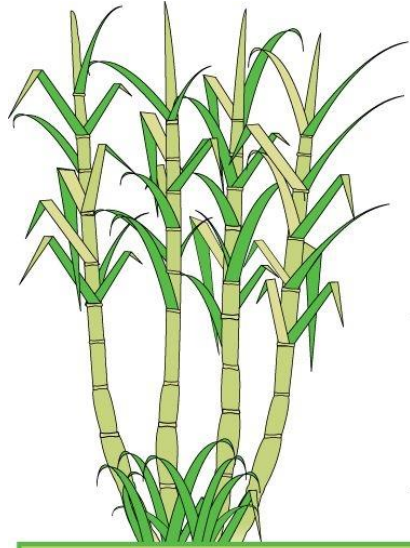
Conclusion

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.



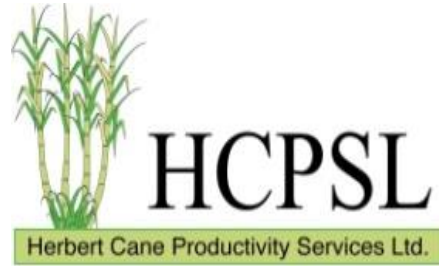
Thank you!
Questions ?



HCPSL

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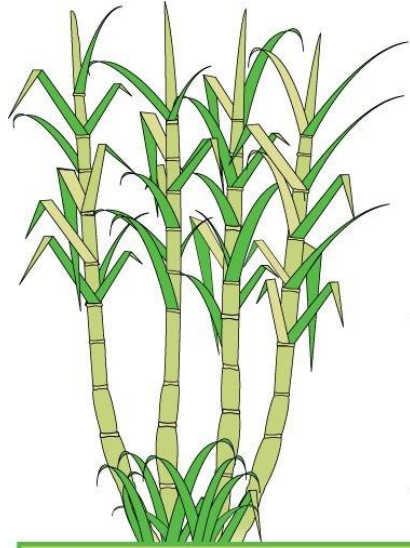
Annual General Meeting- 2019.



AGM

Guest speaker- Dr. Jacqueline Williams (University of New England)

Topic-“Defending the Social Licence to Farm”



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