

HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

2023 AGM

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 - Rod Nielson.

Topic- "Novel approaches to better feral pig management"



Today we will be videoing the AGM presentations and planning to post the video on the HCPSL website for those who could not attend today.

If you would not like your image to appear in the video, please ensure you see Melissa or Sue to sign the 'Photo/Video Opt Out' form before you leave today.

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.

The HCPSL Board members

Current Board members

- ▶ Peter Larsen - Board Chair
- ▶ Gino Zatta - Board Deputy Chair
- ▶ Greg Erkill
- ▶ Michael Pisano
- ▶ Cameron Barber
- ▶ Ian Davies

Company Manager

Lawrence Di Bella Until 29/9/23



New HCPSL Company Manager

Adam Royle



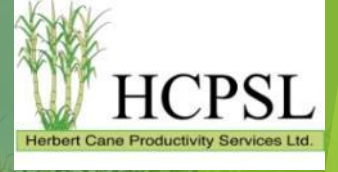
Company staff

Core staff:

- ▶ Adam Royle (Company Manager)
- ▶ Peter Timms (Commercial Services Manager)
- ▶ Sue Becarris (Administration Officer- 4 days a week)
- ▶ Sandra Coco (Resource Officer)
- ▶ Tony Mc Clintock (Senior Field Agronomist)
- ▶ Jason Caruso (Field Agronomist)
- ▶ Rhiannan Harragon (Field Agronomist- 3 days a week)
- ▶ Ray Roveda (Field Technician)
- ▶ Casual fieldworkers who assist with seed cane production and RSD testing



Company staff



Project staff:

- ▶ Adam Royle (Senior Project CaNE Extension Agronomist) - Project Leader
- ▶ Jarrod Sartor (Project CaNE Extension Agronomist)
- ▶ Richard Hobbs (Senior Extension Agronomist)
- ▶ Graeme Holzberger (Project CaNE Extension Agronomist)
- ▶ Ellie McVeigh (Project CaNE and Cultivate Farms Extension Agronomist)- currently on maternity leave
- ▶ Melissa Royle (Project CaNE and Project Catalyst Extension Support Officer)
- ▶ Rod Nielson (Project CaNE GIS Officer and core funded IT support)
- ▶ Bethany Donker (Project Catalyst Extension Agronomist)
- ▶ Megan Zamhel (Project Catalyst Extension Agronomist)



Board report

Board highlights for 2023

- ▶ The 2022/2023 financials were duly audited, and a copy is available for viewing.
- ▶ Completion of a 5-year budget projection
- ▶ Holding 2022-23 expenses within budget
- ▶ 2023-2024 budget approval

Administration

- ▶ The 2023/2024 budget has been approved by the HCPSL Board.
- ▶ The voluntary service fee was held at \$8.46/ha for each the farmers and miller to pay. Total of \$16.92/ha.

Calculations:

4.0M crop- farmers/millers = \$0.131/t cane

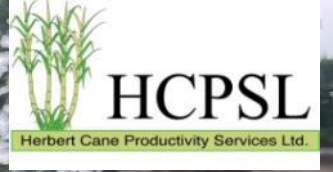
4.5M crop- farmers/millers = \$0.116/t cane

There has been no change to the service fee for the past 9 years.



Administration

- ▶ Core services are funded by cane farmers and Wilmar through the service fee.
- ▶ Wilmar continues to be a member, matching dollar for dollar farmer funding in the core service program.
- ▶ The project funded component of the HCPSL business is significant, with funding coming from the GBRF program, Government projects, the Soil CRC, National Landcare and Project Catalyst.



Administration



The biggest challenges the company faces going forward:

- ▶ Rising operation costs (especially the Approved Clean Seed side of the business).
- ▶ The completion of GBRF project in June 2024, which currently funds 8 of the 16 staff and most extension activities that the company offers.
- ▶ There is no certainty going forward of securing continued project funding.



Financial Snapshot

	▶ 2022/2023	2021/2022
▶ Revenue	\$3,530,565.29	\$3,819,175.00
▶ Expenses	\$3,486,611.74	\$3,153,348.12
▶ EBIT	\$ 43,863.55	\$ 665,826.88
▶ Assets	\$3,888,006.68	\$3,785,627.66
▶ Liabilities	\$ 936,944.81	\$ 878,429.34
▶ Reserves	\$2,951,061.87	\$2,907,198.32

WHAT IS PROGRAM RISE ABOVE ?



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Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.



PROGRAM
RISE ABOVE

Driving productivity, profitability
and sustainability for the Herbert Region.

HCPSL STRATEGIC PLAN 2022- 2024

Program Rise Above aims to:

- Increase sugarcane yield and CCS.
- Recover more cane and sugar from the harvested crop.
- Maximise profits through effective growing, harvesting, transport and milling.
- Empower and challenge the industry to move to productive, profitable and sustainable business models.

HCPSL sees its role to lead, partner, make strategic investments and support its members through 5 Key Target Areas under **Program Rise Above**.

KEY TARGET AREAS (KTA)

KTA1: Clean Seed and Variety Development

KTA2: Agronomic and industry services

KTA3: Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship

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

KTA5: Strategic Alliances and Partnerships



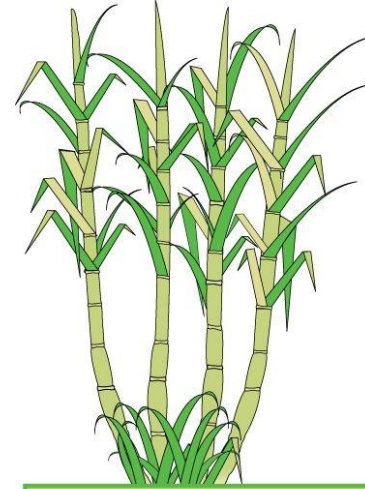
Budgetary challenges going forward



- ▶ **Financial pressure to deliver the same level of services in a rising cost environment.**
- ▶ **Significant cost of running the RSD testing service and Approved Clean Seed operation.**
- ▶ **Project funding to maintain staffing levels and services.**

Board report

The Company Manager's Report



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Approved Seed (Wholestalk) – 551 tonne





Approved Seed (Billets) - 3680 tonne
(1201 tonne via Mizzi Distribution Model)



Approved Seed - Billet Delivery System

Approved Seed Tissue Culture

Record number of tissue cultured plants distributed to growers in 2023.

17,720 plants distributed to 9 growers.

46,000 plants planted by HCPSL in 2023 for approved seed program.



Hot Water Treatment

70t treated in 2023

Approved Seed Plots - 2024

Plant

- Abergowrie
- Stone River
- Central
- Macknade
- Bambaroo

1st Ratoon

- Long Pocket
- Stone River
- Central
- Macknade
- Bambaroo
- Hawkins Creek

HCPSL is in a good position to provide large quantities of cane in 2024

RSD Testing

2023 RSD testing:

qPCR xylem - 1160

PCM - 761

qPCR LSB – 377

LSB currently has a cap of 1 sample/20ha as sampling is heavily subsidised.

256 farms tested (576 farms not tested).

69% of farms have not been tested for RSD before planting... this is very concerning.

Variety Development

New RVT planted on sodic soils (Yuruga)

Existing RVTs - Abergowrie, Ingham (Kingsbury Creek) and Hamleigh.

Propagated new SRA varieties pending approval for release to growers in the next few years.

Supported SRA and Wilmar plant breeding programs (land and glasshouse).



Feral Pig Management

HCPSL;

- ✓ successfully secured funding from the Queensland government (Feral Pest Initiative Program).
- ✓ continues to fund the Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig Management Program.
- ✓ supports and administers funds for the Lannercost Action Group.
- ✓ has been testing alternate ways to remotely set baits (aerial baiting with drones)

Over 1300 feral pigs have been managed to date, with ~80 % baited with 1080 poison.



Project Squealer™

An initiative of the

Hinchinbrook Community Feral Pig
Management Program.

Rat Management

HCPSL;

- ✓ continues to report crop damage and data related to the control of rats to the government (native species management obligations).
- ✓ worked with and grower collectives to secure permits for ground baiting and aerial application of baits.
- ✓ working with SRA and grower collectives to expand aerial application permit to include all ratoon (currently lodged only) and area wide application (currently farm x farm), as well as potential new products.

GPS Base Station Network

New base station installed at Warrens Hill.

Progress has been made on new Goitiandia Hill site (Bemerside).

Maintenance and upgrades of the HCPSL network is ongoing.

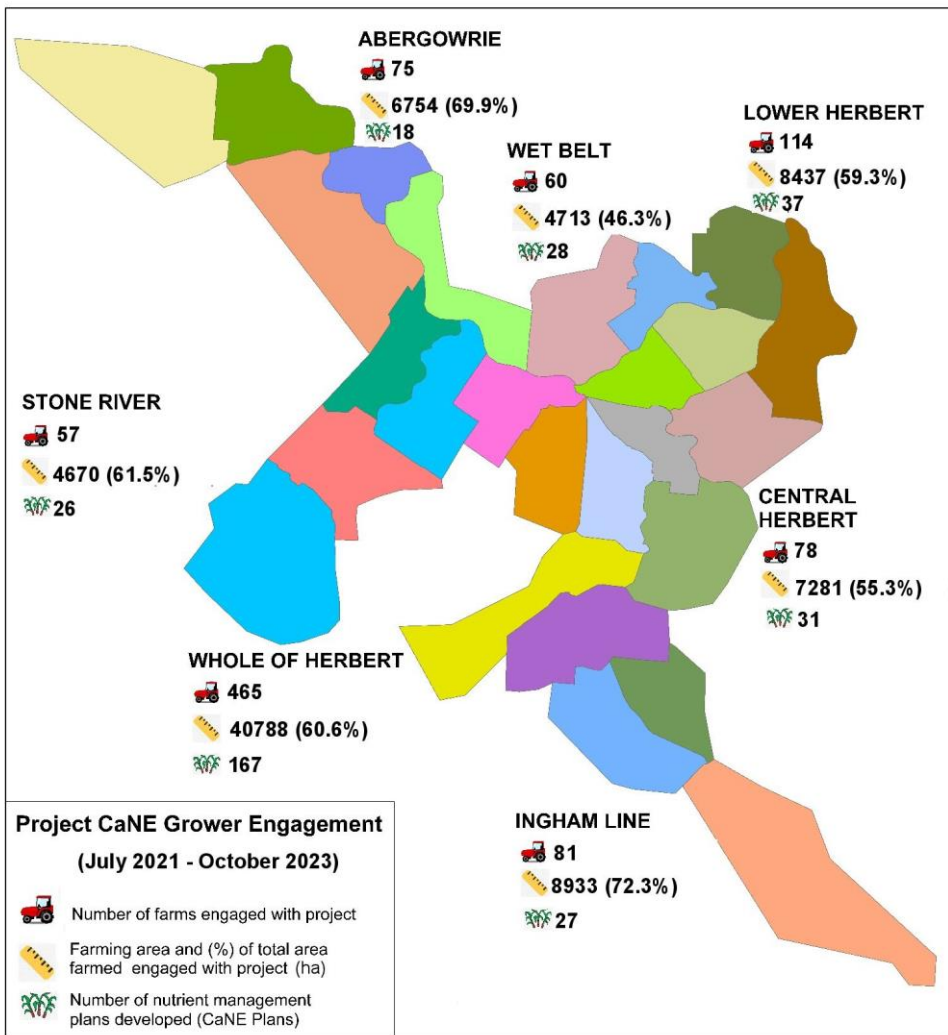
Fee for Service Activities

- ✓ electromagnetic mapping (EM)
- ✓ UAV (drone) services
- ✓ soil testing (nutrient & pathology)
- ✓ equipment hire (tissue culture planter etc)

Nuturing our Youth

HCPSL;

- ✓ sponsored the U18 section of the Ingham show.
- ✓ Facilitated the schools plant tissue culture challenge.
- ✓ hosted work placement students from Ingham State High and Gilroy Santa Maria College.
- ✓ manned a stall at the “Future Careers in Hinchinbrook Day”.



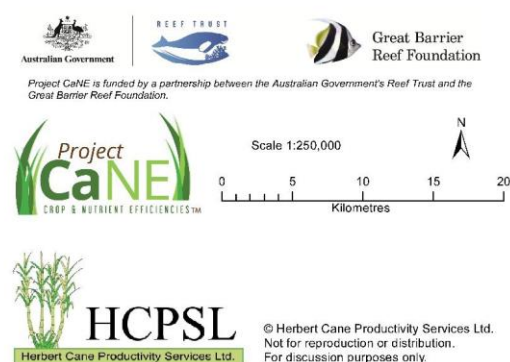
Farms engaged: 465

Area engaged: 40788ha (60.6% of the district)

Nutrient management plans developed: 167



Queensland Government



Great Barrier Reef Foundation

Project CaNE™ is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.



Nutrient Planning

Agronomic Advice

Mill By-product
Demonstration Sites

Water Quality
Monitoring

Workshops

Info sessions





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PROJECT
CATALYST



Australian Government



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



The LHWQP is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from The Coca Cola Foundation and the WWF-Australia.



The Catalyst (girls) team

INNOVATION TRIALS



Fertilising the trial



Marking out the trial

VARIABLE RATE PHOSPHORUS

Strategically apply phosphorus where it is required as opposed to broad rate application of phosphorus to target and improve yield and profitability.



Spot-spraying guinea grass



Groundtruthing guinea grass GPS pts

MANAGING WEEDS SMARTER WITH DRONES

Using high resolution aerial imagery from Remotely Piloted Aircraft (drones) to map weed infestations in cane and to precisely apply different herbicide treatments to address infestations of weeds.



Trial team

ZONAL IMIDACLOPRID

Creating prescription maps for canegrub-susceptible soil and applying imidacloprid through GPS rate controller to test if imidacloprid can control cane grubs without the traditional blanket application approach.

38% Reduction of applied Imidacloprid product.

\$2,080 Estimated savings by zonally applying product*.

*Based on Confidor Guard in 2020. Product no longer available. Costs may differ



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The LHMVP is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with support from The Coca-Cola Foundation and the WWF-Australia.



• • Smarter Weeds with Drones trials

Trial design and setup:

- Chose 1st ratoon crop with existing guinea grass pressure.
- HCPSL drone flown over the block on the 11th October 2021 at 65m above ground for pixel size of 1.56cm.
- Guinea grass stools were identified using the drone imagery and recorded into a mapping system.
- Ground truthing commenced early November to compare drone identification of guinea grass with in-field visibility of the grass stool.
- Drone footage missed around 30% of the guinea grass stools compared with ground truthing.

ABERGOWIE SUGAR
Block 9731A.2-7

NEW 2020
HCPSL

• • Smarter Weeds with Drones trials

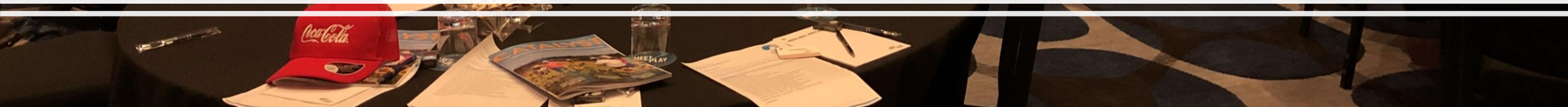
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ABERGOWIE SUGAR
Block 9731A.2-7

NEW 2020
HCPSL

2023 Project Catalyst Forum - Cairns





Providing the next generation of farming families with pathways to farm ownership.

Project funded Ellie McVeigh from HCPSL.

Provided growers with technical and agronomic support.

Achieved 3 growers matches.



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

Funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.





Green Waste Project

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

Assessments looked at comparisons with other available products (mill by-products etc)





HCPSSL is involved in following projects funded by the CRC Soils:

- Visualising Australia's Soils
- Affordable rapid field-based soil tests*
- Rapid soil test using 'lab-on-chip' and an app*
- Review and meta-analysis of waste-derived fertiliser products, nano-porous materials for pesticide delivery, moisture retention and microbial carrier technologies*
- The value of organic amendments in unlocking soil nutrients and improving nutrient use efficiency *
- Improving pesticide delivery efficiency*
- New organic amendments for retaining soil moisture*
- Evaluating alternative rhizobial carriers*
- Plant based solutions to improve soil performance*
- Evaluating ecosystem's role in increasing soil carbon and soil resilience
- Building soil resilience and carbon through plant diversity*
- Building Capacity



Performance through collaboration

**2023 Soil CRC conference -
Tasmania**





This talk will discuss

- Pesticide Decision Support Tool (PDST)
- New developments in the PDST
- Pesticide Risk (PR) Tool
- Public release of the PDST and PR tools and workshops



SITE
1

Smarter Pesticide Use Day



Herbert Walk and Talk Day



Biggest Morning Team (Ladies Day)



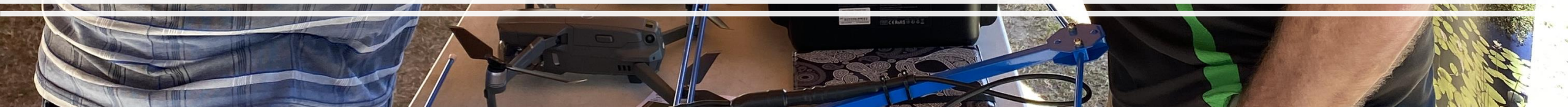


Regenerative Sugar Forum





SRA Herbert Field Day





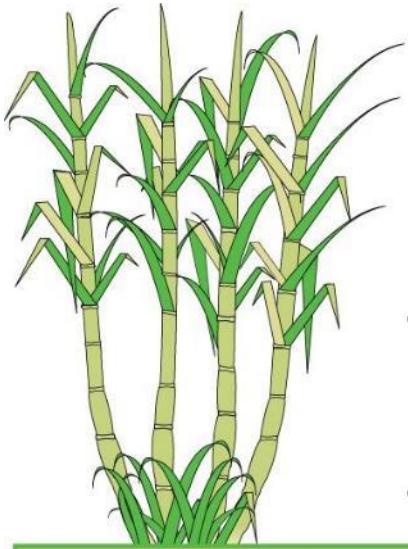
Grower Collectives Bus Trip



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Thank you to our fantastic 2023 team!



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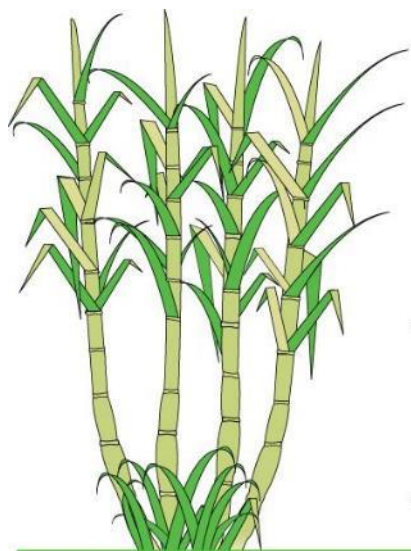
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Guest speakers-
Rod Nielson

Topic- “Novel approaches to better manage feral pigs”



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Thank you for attending