



Welcome to the Winter edition of *CaneConnection*

You are reading a new look version of CaneConnection. This new format of the magazine brings together the latest information about how SRA is working for you into one handy location, combining articles on SRA-funded research along with industry extension information.

CaneConnection is aiming to deliver information to you in a way that translates back to what things really mean on the farm and at the mill. This will mean that we will have a strong focus on case studies and an emphasis on growers' and millers' views.

This issue contains stories on some key research projects as well as extension articles that discuss topics relevant to the activities happening on the farm during winter.

With harvest approaching, this issue provides a timely update on harvesting efficiency. With potentially as much as 25 percent of cane being lost in the harvesting process, we can't afford to not pay attention to this area of the farming system.

We also provide a timely update on the process after harvest in terms of fallowing and break-crops, which is looking to be an especially important

consideration with the forecast El Niño and the pressure this may put on irrigation supplies for some growers.

SRA was proud to unveil the first of its newly named varieties recently: SRA1, SRA2, and SRA3. We take a look at these in more detail.

On research, this issue also provides an update on important work into Yellow Canopy Syndrome, a grower-led project in the Herbert looking at mill ash, we delve into a look at how the SRA breeding program chooses its parent varieties, and we look at the benefits of controlled-release fertilisers.

I'd also like to introduce myself as the Acting Manager for the Professional Extension and Communication (PEC) unit. I was previously with the PEC as Southern Region Development Officer for Biosecurity, but since being in this role have been up and down the industry meeting many of you.

I extend my thanks to Andrew Ward, who has now taken on the role of Manager Plant Health with SRA.

SRA is continuing to improve the way we work together on development and adoption service, which is a critical issue for ensuring that the great work that SRA does turns into bang for your buck.

It has been a busy few months for the PEC team with numerous field days and events held in the months leading up to harvest.

These events, this magazine, and many other activities are important ways of keeping you informed of our activities, and I look forward to building on that into the future.

James Ogden-Brown

Acting Manager of the Professional Extension and Communication Unit