

## Welcome to the Winter 2017 edition of *CaneConnection*

*In this edition we feature a range of stories from across SRA and our research, development and adoption investment for sugarcane growers and millers.*

Inside, we talk with SRA Researcher Dr Nathalie Piperidis (Page 16-17) on research using introgression to improve sugarcane varieties and explain how SRA is looking to bring “new blood” into the sugarcane variety team.

We also talk to some young and innovative growers at Mackay who have implemented a number of improvements at their properties to help drive productivity and profitability. Each change itself is making incremental improvement, and together it is continuing to add up to an improved bottom line at the end of the year.

We also visit a Burdekin grower on pages 14-15 to talk about SRA-funded research that has looked at technology to automate furrow irrigation, working with three grower collaborators. Not every improvement in farming can be measured precisely in tonnes or dollars, but there is certainly a lifestyle and labour-saving benefit of increasing the automation of irrigation.

In our newsletters, we also answer some of your questions around yellow canopy syndrome, and we explain the Sugarcane Hub, a valuable new tool for researchers, as well as introduce you to Dr Jason Eglinton, who has joined the SRA breeding program.

We also discuss research led by QUT that is assessing the milling performance of low-fibre varieties such as SRA1<sup>®</sup>, and we look at the achievements and activities of the Southern Region Group.

**Brad Pfeffer**

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