

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of *CaneConnection*



We have another bumper issue for you inside these pages, looking at several of the research projects that SRA is investing in on behalf of sugarcane growers and millers.

Our cover story this September looks at a harvesting project led by Norris ECT (page 4-5) where they are investigating the optimisation of the front-end components of the harvester with ground speed. With the trials underway, the industry can look forward to learning more about the results in coming editions.

We also go underground to look at soil health. Page 18-19 looks at the biocontrol agent, *Pastueria penetrans*, and strategies you can implement on-farm to maximise its potential for controlling root-knot nematodes. We have a look at companion cropping on page 20-21, and we head up to Mossman to learn more about Gerard Puglisi's wavy disc cultivator.

This edition also presents some of the results from the 2017 SRA grower member survey, where we spoke to 400 grower members in May. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts via this survey. We value your participation.

The results of individuals are fully confidential, and SRA received only the aggregated data, meaning no one's responses were identifiable to themselves as individuals.

In our newsletters, we also hear the latest from the yellow canopy syndrome (YCS) research program, and we hear about the new varieties SRA9 and SRA10 in the *Varieties and Plant Breeding Update*.

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