

# Contents

- 3 By the numbers
- 3 Mr Ian McBean appointed Executive Manager, Regional Delivery
- 4 Levelling trial shows 20 percent improvement to net return
- 6 Information and experimentation drive harvest efficiency
- 8 Practical demonstration helps guide harvest efficiency
- 10 Sensors: where to next for sugarcane harvesters?
- 12 MICRO GRIDS: Powering the future of irrigated sugarcane
- 14 BMP adoption: what's the economic impact?
- 16 PNG biosecurity research puts Australia on the front foot
- 18 China trip delivers valuable research insights
- 20 Soil health: fitting all the pieces together
- 22 Making your life easier with nutrient management plans
- 24 DNA test a technological leap for the sugar industry
- 26 Regular testing keeps Pachymetra from rearing its ugly head
- 27 DNA technology gets to the root of the matter
- 28 Adding local information to variety management
- 30 Examining lime application on improving soil acidity, crop yield and CCS
- 32 Total Research Investment

*(Cover Page) Tully grower Chris Condon continues to look for more opportunities to improve harvest efficiency.*

## Welcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of *CaneCONNECTION*

### We have a diverse range of stories for you in this edition looking at research, development and adoption innovations occurring at SRA and across the industry.

We start this edition in the Far North, where we meet with Glen Anderson and hear about the benefits that he has measured through GPS-assisted Laser levelling at his farm.

In that vein of practical on-farm improvement, we also meet with Tully grower Ray Zamora to hear about his approach to soil health, we chat with Adrian Darveniza about the economic benefits of Smartcane BMP adoption, and we talk with several growers who have been involved in SRA's harvesting demonstration trials in 2017.

Moving from wet areas to irrigated areas, and we also report to you on a current project looking at opportunities for energy innovation in the cane industry. With the huge rise in electricity prices over recent years, this project is investigating practical outcomes for the industry, which you can read more about on page 12 and 13.

We also have a look at recent research where SRA has worked with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) in assessing Predicta technology for our industry. We've also refreshed the design of CaneConnection thanks to the work of SRA Graphic Designer, Catherine Jorissen, who started with SRA recently. You will be seeing more of Catherine's work in our magazines, fact sheets, and event material.

We hope you find this edition useful, and if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know at [bpfeffer@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:bpfeffer@sugarresearch.com.au) or (07) 3331 3340.

**Brad Pfeffer**

*Executive Manager, Communications*

ISSN 2203-1111 (Print) ISSN 2203-112X (Online) © Copyright 2018 by Sugar Research Australia Limited. All rights reserved. No part of CaneConnection (this publication), may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of Sugar Research Australia Limited. Sugar Research Australia Limited acknowledges and thanks its funding providers, including levy payers (sugarcane growers and millers), the Commonwealth Government, and the Queensland Government (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries). Disclaimer: In this disclaimer a reference to 'SRA', 'we', 'us' or 'our' means Sugar Research Australia Limited and our directors, officers, agents and employees. Although we do our very best to present information that is correct and accurate, we make no warranties, guarantees or representations about the suitability, reliability, currency or accuracy of the information we present in this publication, for any purposes. Subject to any terms implied by law and which cannot be excluded, we accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred by you as a result of the use of, or reliance on, any materials and information appearing in this publication. You, the user, accept sole responsibility and risk associated with the use and results of the information appearing in this publication, and you agree that we will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever (including through negligence) arising out of, or in connection with the use of this publication. We recommend that you contact our staff before acting on any information provided in this publication. Warning: Our tests, inspections and recommendations should not be relied on without further, independent inquiries. They may not be accurate, complete or applicable for your particular needs for many reasons, including (for example) SRA being unaware of other matters relevant to individual crops, the analysis of unrepresentative samples or the influence of environmental, managerial or other factors on production.