

# Three Rivers Quarterly

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 – MARCH 2025



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ag Services update
- Seedcane Distribution
- ASP Planting
- 2024 NSW Yields
- Bonsucro Audit
- PRIMEX 2025
- Field Day – Broadwater
- Contacts
- Classifieds

Keeping growers informed of what's happening across the district with regard to Ag Services, as well as highlight topics of particular relevance and importance.



### AG SERVICES UPDATE

The current Ag Services team members are:

**Condong** – Malcolm Warren and Gerard Bambach

**Broadwater** – Darran Boote and David Smith

**Harwood** – Alister Smith and Mark Ensbey

Darran started at Broadwater in April last year and he has been on a steep extension learning curve. He is an Ag Engineer by profession, and worked in the sugar industry in Africa, before coming to Australia.

The activities of Ag Services are managed by the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The current Grower representatives are:

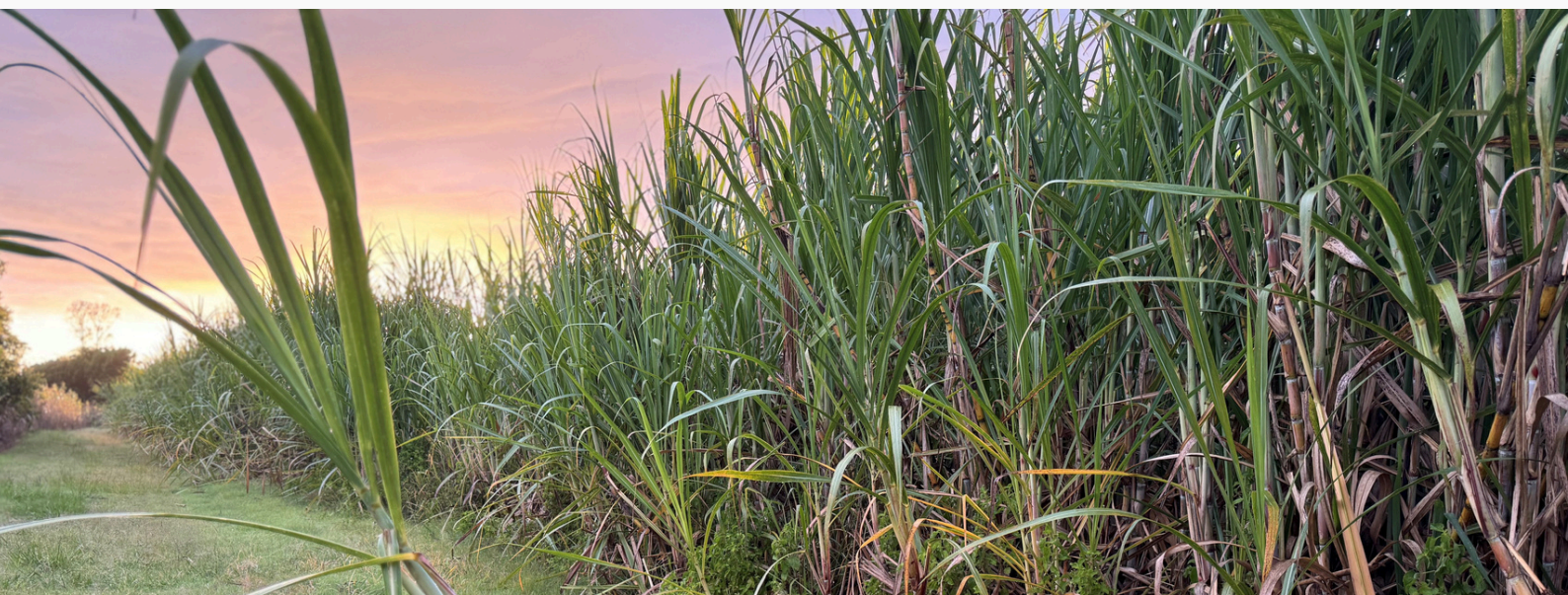
**Broadwater** – Tom Walsh and Dean Murphy

**Condong** – Kevin Twohill (Chairman) and Dave Bartlett

**Harwood** – Milton Lewis and Robert Carr

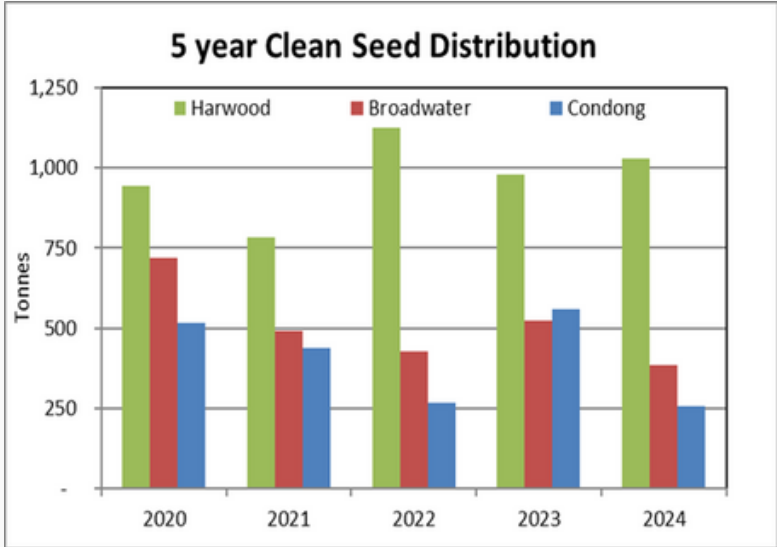
In addition, we now have a dedicated Cane Supply Development Manager focussed on strategies to retain, reclaim or develop productive cane land.

Roelof Venter  
rventer@sunshinesugar.com.au  
0459 853 360



# SEEDCANE DISTRIBUTION 2024

One of the main functions of Ag Services is the supply of disease free, true-to-type seedcane to growers for planting into their own nurseries. Seedcane distribution volumes were affected by persistent wet weather in all districts.



Conditions dried out slightly later in the season at Harwood, which allowed growers to get some planting done. As a result, Alister and Mark were able to maintain their high distribution numbers at Harwood, despite the wet early season. Mark was both Harvester operator and Truck driver for most of the season, and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

Broadwater and Condong distribution was badly affected by the very wet planting season of 2024, with the wet conditions persisting into December. Every effort was made to meet orders, but it was just too wet to plant in some areas.

Distribution Totals: Harwood – 1023 T, Broadwater – 385 T, Condong 257 T.

Variety	KQ228	Q183	Q208	Q211	Q232	Q240	Q244	Q252	Q254	SRA11	SRA29	SRA41	SRA45	SRAW30
Broadwater		8	125		52	46	0	42	0	2	26	0	25	59
Condong	56	11	40	29		68			5	15		26		
Harwood			118		119	92	22	40	12	98	296		9	191

Q208, Q240 and Q232 were again the most popular of the “older” varieties, and of the “new” Varieties, SRA11, SRAW30 and SRA29 were the most in demand.

## ASP PLANTING 2024

The ASP plots at all 3 sites, although affected by wet growing conditions, will provide a fair crop of seedcane for distribution in 2025. The Broadwater ASP has been re-established at Pimlico, and the assistance of the Corporate Farming crew in achieving this, within a very narrow weather window is most appreciated.



## 2024 NSW YIELDS

The 2024 season proved to be a better yielding year for all three rivers. This was a welcome relief following the low yields in previous seasons. The table below shows the yield and CCS statistics for the 2024 season. For more detailed information, please read the mill-specific variety reports that will be available and emailed to you shortly.

Mill	Age	Tonnes Harvested	Hectares Harvested	Act. CCS	Yield T/ha
CONDONG	1	279,224	2,658	12.0	105
	2	120,293	866	11.5	139
	3	132	1	12.9	94
<b>Total</b>		<b>399,649</b>	<b>3,526</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>113</b>
BROADWATER	1	102,653	1,082	11.4	95
	2	408,737	3,062	11.6	133
<b>Total</b>		<b>511,391</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>123</b>
HARWOOD	1	125,065	1,013	11.0	123
	2	478,528	3,168	12.0	151
	3	244	5	10.8	53
<b>Total</b>		<b>603,836</b>	<b>4,185</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>NSW Total</b>		<b>1,514,876</b>	<b>11,856</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>128</b>



### BONSUCRO AUDIT

54 farms were audited this past month. Preparation for the audit took up most of January due to the number of farms involved and the volume of information required by the auditors. The final outcome of the audit is not yet known, but there were areas of operation where the farms audited did not meet the standards as set by Bonsucro. Thank you to the Growers who participated in the audit as it involved a lot of effort and preparation.

### PRIMEX 2025

The dates for the PRIMEX Ag Field Days are 15th to 17th May.

A **Cane Growers Day** is being proposed for Friday 16th May and will include discounted entry along with scheduled activities, presentations and demonstrations tailored specifically for NSW cane growers.

More to come...

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

A confidential counselling service is offered to all Sunshine Sugar staff and NSW cane growers.

This service can be utilised for problems of any kind – whether they are personal or work related.

Contact details  
P: 1800 644 327 (24/7)  
E: eap@ipar.com.au



## FIELD DAY – BROADWATER

Following the past seasons wet harvest, there has been a renewed interest in the benefits of wider row spacing. This subject has been discussed and debated at length for two decades. Some growers made the change early on and others have made incremental changes over the years. One of the main factors that is raised at every discussion on the topic is the cost of changing all the implements and the inconvenience of having different spacings in different paddocks during the transition period.

With this in mind, a field day at Broadwater is being planned for the last week in March. The program for the day will include a short discussion/presentation session and breakfast followed by a bus tour to various farms in the district to see and discuss the practicalities of making the move.

Growers who are in the process of changing and some who have converted completely will share their experiences. The day will end off with a BBQ. As mentioned, this topic is not new, and some growers might not be interested in attending as they would have heard it all before. However, the real benefit of field days is the social interaction, networking and just catching up with old acquaintances, so please consider joining us on the day.

Depending on the number of people that express interest in attending, transport will be arranged from Harwood and Condong to Broadwater. More details of the field day will be forthcoming, but for the moment, if you are interested in attending this event, please let us know via return email, phone or text to enable us to make the necessary bus and catering arrangements.

**RSVP 14 MARCH 2025**

## WRAP UP

Hopefully the looming weather system will not be too severe, and the industry can come through it unscathed. If you have any suggestions, topics and content for future newsletters, please give us a call and we will endeavour to include them in the next issue.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Machinery and equipment for sale or wanted can be viewed on the Sunshine Sugar Classifieds page.

[Grower Site Classifieds](https://growers.sunshinesugar.com.au/agricultural-information)

<https://growers.sunshinesugar.com.au/agricultural-information>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Malcolm Warren  
0408 764 742  
[mwarren@sunshinesugar.com.au](mailto:mwarren@sunshinesugar.com.au)

Darran Boote  
0457 148 618  
[dboote@sunshinesugar.com.au](mailto:dboote@sunshinesugar.com.au)

Alister Smith  
0429 842 472  
[alistersmith@sunshinesugar.com.au](mailto:alistersmith@sunshinesugar.com.au)

