Shed meetings

Its time to catch up on some news at our annual pre-season breakfast meetings.

Here are the dates and details:

**Pimlico Hall - Tuesday 29th May at 7am for breakfast, meeting starts at 8.00am**

**Dungarubba Hall - Wednesday 30th May at 7am for breakfast, meeting starts at 8.00am**

Chris Connors will give a season and price update. David Wood will talk about Broadwater mill off season maintenance and Walter on cane supply matters and I’ll cover some ag topics.

See you there.....

Mill Mud

A letter with the new mud prices for 2018 is attached. Order forms are also enclosed.

Please get this back to us as soon as you can, all the orders will be collated and given to FEDC who will make contact and arrange delivery.

Harvesting Forum

Just a reminder about the Broadwater Harvesting Forum being organised by SRA. The forum is being held on:

**TUESDAY 22 MAY**

**PIMLICO HALL**

**starting at 2.30pm**

It should be an interesting afternoon with the latest harvesting research results being presented by Phil Patane, Joe Bonassi and Chris Norris.

All farmers and harvesting crews are welcome.
Ag Services Plan

Ag services recently conducted a review of the strategic plan. Around 30 farmers from all areas had a hand in reviewing the current situation and then providing guidance on the direction and activities for ag services over the next 5 years.

A plan has been developed with programs looking at yield improvement, RSD control, weed control, new varieties, crop nutrition, controlled traffic farming systems, drainage improvement and harvest best practice.

We’ve set out to look at what the achievable gains might be from each program and what gain per year could be achieved.

If we made gains in all areas the hope is that we might be able to claw some extra tonnes to make up for the production that’s been lost from land out of production.

The Ag Services Plan can be downloaded from the Sunshine Sugar website.

If you have any feedback or suggestions the Ag Advisory Committee would welcome the feedback.

Look out for this weed

Torpedo grass, it’s on the move around the area. The top photo shows an infestation on a farm on the Woodburn end of Kilgin road.

Torpedo grass is a type of panic, Panicum repens. This weed takes its name from its pointed (torpedo-like) growing tip of the rhizome under the ground. It can grow to about 1 m in height and has a typical panic like seed head. Seeds are sterile and the main spread is by the rhizome from expansion or fragmentation by tillage. The rhizomes can sprout repeatedly (see the second photo) and will form a thick colony of stems.

Control will mainly be with glyphosate in and around cane and rate and timing will be critical to ensure that there is good translocation to the rhizomes. In Florida where the weed is common they talk about a new herbicide Fluridone - particularly with drain spraying. Malcolm from Condong is working with an aquatic weeds group and will investigate the possible use of this and other products.

It’ll be a hard weed to eradicate but with some vigilance hopefully we can keep it contained.

Rick Beattie 0418 162964
Tom Lock 0439 283404