

Southern Region Report

Well Maryborough is underway. Sure is good to see the trucks on the Bruce Highway. I was so short of time after having to visit our daughter struggling with a first baby I could not follow any of the Doubles I met going out from the Mill. I would have loved to have followed one and had a yarn to the crew. Some of the cane down that way is so green, but, does not seem to be making any millable cane; I guess it's just wait 'til next year for the standover.

Frosted cane in the Isis is not going anywhere either, but it seems there is so much of it, some has to wait. Even quite reasonable crops have had the tops burnt, but the stalk is OK and holding. Cool nights seem to be holding spring planting from a fast strike. Dry though, so probably the setts will be just waiting for a rising soil temperature. Koel or Stormbirds are to be heard in the bush for the first time this spring so, maybe, just maybe! Isis Mill crop estimate is rising, though much of the poor crop has gained in density if not height.

Irrigation costs are still headline in our region, and it will not go away soon. Local water Management must be out there somewhere but either I've missed something or the job is a bit bigger than anticipated. Schemes to bring more low pressure systems online must be brought to light by anyone who has one. It seems that will be the only solution. At least some science is coming along as the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), our regional NRM Group, is looking to run low-pressure irrigation training which would be a good starting point to bring science and practice together.

And no point rushing the crushing and getting hurt; can't set any records with this one. Work Safe!

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