



EDITORIAL

Is North Queensland being made a sacrificial lamb? It has become evident to me that the current State Government has set up North Queensland as a trade-off to satisfy the wishes of the environmental movement so that there is quiet for the excesses of the south east corner of the State.

Not one cry was heard from the 'greenies' when the new dams and pipelines were put forward to supply the south east part of the State. Instead they are zooming in on support for the 'Wild Rivers' proposals in the north. North Queensland has abundant water supplies mainly because it rains regularly in the catchments of the major river systems. At present all application approvals for development and water allocation on the peninsula and gulf rivers (so called 'Wild Rivers') have ceased. The environmental movement has been very vocal and authoritative about the situation. Northerners have every right to be cynical.

An urban subdivision is taking place next to our complex here in Mareeba. It is doing all the things a normal landholder would be crucified for; knocking down trees, filling in waterways, clearing to the river's edge, all in the name of urban development. Not a whimper from the environmentalists.

Why has the southern part of the state run out of water? Sure there is drought and "climate change." The main reason is all of the dams are over committed in Queensland, including northern ones, with the exception of the Burdekin Falls Dam. There is a thing called percentage of reliability when considering how useful a dam is. Good reliability is

the amount of water that is taken from a dam with a high probability of it being replaced on an annual basis.

Successive Queensland Governments sold water allocation with a low reliability factor. In other words they sold more than they reliably had to sell. They took the 'fast buck' approach without putting the revenue into new dams and facilities. 'The chickens have come home to roost,' especially in south east Queensland. Urban and industrial development has been going on there at an unprecedented rate for the past decade with no new dam structures being considered until now.

All current utterances about fixing water supply shortages are knee jerk reactions.

John Rains

The tragedy of ulcers is that you can have them and still not be a success.

ON THE ROAD



Fighting cocks, one of the Philippines favourite pastimes

2007 SEED PRODUCTION OUTLOOK

- Ross Newman -

As you may know, Southedge Seeds not only markets seed but is involved in every step of the production cycle of many of its seed crops. This year, seed production for many of the crops looks quite promising, given the start we've had to the season. But as many of you are aware, that situation can change at the drop of a hat.

One of the first crops to come off within the next month will be our Jarra seed. Southedge Seeds has some of the oldest and purest Jarra seed stands in the country, with the seed originating from the initial seed collected at Jarra Creek near Tully, in the first trials conducted. Over the past few years these stands have gone from strength to strength and this year is no exception.

Hopefully this year will see a harvest of our Makueni Guinea Grass crop, which we lost last year due to the cyclone and subsequent wet weather.

For the first time in several years production is underway of our Lee Jointvetch and Villomix, which continue to have their role in the tropical and sub tropical grazing zones. We have also planted an area of Molasses Grass for production at our new facility, and with any luck the season will provide us with a reasonable seed crop. Combine this with the significant areas of Seca Stylo and Verano Stylo under production, and our production crew will have a busy year ahead of them. The continuation of the traditional wet season on the Atherton Tablelands has meant that the likes of Signal Grass, Rhodes Grass and Setaria crops should provide us with reasonable quantities and quality of seed for this year.

On top of our own production, we are always on the lookout for sub tropical seed species traditionally grown in southern Queensland, such as Bambatsi Panic, Purple Pigeon Grass, Premier Digitaria, Buffel Grass (USA, Gayndah and Biloela), Gatton/Green Panic and Hatch Bluegrass. A lot of these crops are opportunity crops to many producers, and they can provide you with an

offset income from your pasture. If you have seed that you have recently harvested, we would be more than happy to talk to you.

A bookmaker is a pick pocket who lets you use your own hands.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Ross Newman -

In the next few months there will be some excellent opportunities for producers to expand their knowledge of pasture production, and meet with Southedge Seeds staff first hand. Firstly, on 11 and 12 April 2007, the 7th Tropical Grasslands Conference will be held in Dalby with the theme "Pastures for Protection and Production in Marginal Cropping Lands." This conference will cover a wide range of topics - from the benefits of Permanent Pastures versus Cropping to Pasture Management (Establishment, Management Principles, Grazing Systems). As well there will be field trips to different systems around Dalby. It will provide some essential information to interested graziers and advisors in the southern and central cropping zone. More information can be seen at www.tropicalgrasslands.asn.au.

On May 30 and 31, northern producers will have the opportunity to attend the FNQ Rotary Field Days to be held at Walkamin Caravan Park, Kennedy Highway, Walkamin, where the Southedge Seeds' tent will be located at site L13 (not too far from the bar!) There will be a living display of many of our grass and legume species, and a range of staff on hand to deal with any questions you may have.

Nothing is impossible to the man who does not have to do it himself.

SOUTHEDGE SEEDS PHOTO COMPETITION

- Ross Newman -

At Southedge Seeds we like to hear about clients' successes with their pasture seeding programs so we have decided to continue the photo competition, picturing your results with either our ENVIROGRO™ pelleted seed or one of our main stream cultivars such as Caatinga Stylo (Unica & Primar), Stylhay, Cardillo Centro, Aztec Atro, Jarra Grass and Gamba Grass. Photos can be sent to us either in hard copy or electronically via email to (ross@southedgeseeds.com.au), with a story explaining the pasture. What's in it for you, you may ask? Well, the winning photo will take pride of place in our main reception area and you will receive a \$550 gift voucher to purchase any seed from our ENVIROGRO™ range. So start snapping, and I look forward to seeing some results.



*Congratulations - Ross and Bridget
- married in January 2007.*

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER PRICING

For the months of April and May, Southedge Seeds has several pricing specials available for newsletter clients. We have limited stocks of two stylo mixes that I am happy to offer at discounted prices for loyal clientele:

Special 1 – CQ Stylmix (Bare Seed)

4% Seca Stylo
12.5% Caatinga Stylo
16.5% Verano Stylo
67% Stylhay
\$15.00/kg incl GST

Special 2 – SQ Stylmix (Bare Seed)

50% Caatinga Stylo
20% Seca Stylo
20% Stylhay
10% Fine Stem Stylo
\$15.00/kg incl GST

