

23rd April 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

Cyclone and the GFC Have Not Affected Job Opportunities in the Sugar City

Despite a cyclone and a global recession, the sugar industry in Mackay remains strong. Around the region there are now plenty of jobs for qualified farm workers and Mackay Canegrowers is currently offering industry training for participants wishing to obtain work in the upcoming cane harvest season.

Courses are being offered in two rounds of Training in April/May which will allow participants to gain their UD License – a qualification necessary for the operation of cane harvest machinery. After the crushing season in December, a second round of training will be offered and will cover the use of chemicals in controlling weeds.

“Participants who complete both rounds of training may be eligible for a Certificate II in Agriculture which enables workers to obtain employment in numerous rural industries,” Mackay Canegrowers Limited, Training and Development Manager, Janice Nelson, said.

These practical courses are being offered in Mackay on Queensland’s Tropical North Coast where the cane harvest season runs annually from June to December.

Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC), Economic Development Officer, Laura Sorensen, said the Mackay region was not adversely affected by the Global Financial Crisis and has proven time and time again how resilient the economy is.

“Our region has been extremely fortunate,” she said. “The sugar industry is still one of our region’s top performers. This presents a really great opportunity for anyone wanting to obtain transferrable skills in a strong and high-performing industry.”

To register for this course, please contact Mackay Canegrowers on (07) 4944 2614 or email:
lesley_devitt@canegrowers.com.au

-ENDS-

Media Contact: For interview with Janice Nelson contact Roslyn Kirby (07) 4944 2612

Notes:

The course dates are as follows:

Friday 30 April to Friday 7 May (3 May is a Public Holiday)

Monday 10 to Friday 14 May

Monday 17 to Friday 21 May

Monday 24 to Friday 28 May

Time: 8:00am – 4:30pm

Location: Monday – Canegrowers Building, 120 Wood Street, Mackay

Tuesday – Friday – Marian Rural Fire Shed

Mirabellas Road, off Devereux Creek Road, Marian

Course Cost: Full Fee \$450.00

Health Care Card \$230.00