

Sugar season sweet

LIFE is sweet on the Sunshine Coast as the Moreton sugar mill in the heart of Nambour heads into a record crushing season.

"Prospects are looking good for a big result," mill manager Graham Coleman said yesterday.

While much of Queensland has suffered under drought, a super-wet year on the north coast has produced a bumper cane crop of 570,000 tonnes which should pump more than \$27 million into the local economy.

Moreton mill, now owned by Bundaberg Sugar Company, has been crushing cane just behind Nambour's central business district for almost 100 years. Most of the crop is still hauled by cane trams up the main street.

"The mill and the town have learned to co-exist over the years. We are an important part of the community," Mr Coleman said.

The cold weather has given an ideal start to the crushing season, helping the crop to mature and raise sugar content.

Mr Coleman said the district's 150 farms which stretch for almost 100 km along the coast were making good progress with the harvest even though the fields were still damp.

Nambour will celebrate a prosperous season in style at the town's annual Sugar Festival next weekend.



THE 1994 sugar crop winds its way through the centre of Nambour on its way to the Moreton sugar mill.