



As you are no doubt aware, The Case IH Next Gen Conference is on again this month. I enjoy Next Gen conferences in general – the sugar industry one in particular. Call me overly optimistic or just plain lazy but I do believe the next generation is going to do a far better job than I ever have of saving the world and ensuring the success of our species.



My sons, my nieces, my nephews and the vast majority of their contemporaries are much smarter than I ever was, more compassionate, more considerate and far more worldly. And they are much healthier than I ever was – or am now.

That's not to say that I haven't led a good life, its been a beauty! And I wouldn't want you to think that it's ending any time soon – if it is, it will come as an unpleasant surprise to me.

And by 'good' life, I mean indulging in good things, often to excess, such as 'good' food and 'good' wines and 'good' spirits. Seems my body didn't share my view of what was 'good' – indeed it thought a lot of what I ingested was not good for me and reacted accordingly.

There is only so much that Nexium or any other anti-heartburn come anti-reflux medication can mask. And, as I was learnedly informed by the specialist, the consequences of ignoring the underlying condition can be dire, even deadly, and the Big C got a mention.

That got my attention. But wait, there is a solution and there is a wonderfully illustrative pamphlet that describes it – a particularly 'non-invasive, reduced patient pain and discomfort' solution – key-hole surgery!

In publishing there is a thing they refer to as 'truth in advertising' and we at Greenmount Press like to think that we adhere to this principle. Descriptors like 'key-hole' tend, I think, to imply small, not big, little like, well, a key-hole.

Do you recall the 21st birthday traditional offering of the 'novelty' key to the door? It was about the size of your arm!

Now that key would require a key-hole, you could drive a train through, not to mention a video camera installed in a garden hose!

The said camera was inserted via the said key-hole into my stomach and used by the assembled surgeons to assist them in reassembling parts of my digestive tract. There were apparently four of them having a go – each through his or her individual key-hole. That meant I was stabbed a total of five times in the stomach – didn't even make the evening news – 'editor survives multiple stabbings' – not a word.

And as for the 'reduced patient pain and discomfort' – I am reasonably confident that the doctors that wrote the pamphlet had not had key-hole surgery. Or else the alternative 'slash your belly wide open and poke around' approach is clearly really, really painful and uncomfortable – and I doubt that many surgeons have had that done either to assist them in forming an opinion.

Did I mention that the majority of these surgeons were indeed of the next generation variety? Well, they looked very young to me but they oozed confidence and I was reassured by their manner as I slipped into who knows where?

Now that I have manfully struggled through the immense trauma of the past few weeks after just two nights in hospital – I would have thought private cover may have got me a longer stay but not so – I still face a recovery diet that was scientifically described as two weeks 'fluid only'; followed by 'mush/puree'; followed by 'soft' food.

Be advised that 'fluid only' does not necessarily mean a white wine or whisky regime. I thought about this option at some length, but even in my pain wracked addled state I realised that it was these dietary elements that had certainly contributed to my current state of affairs.

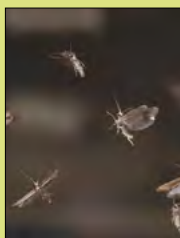
See you in Bundaberg at Next Gen – I will be the one whooping into the 'solids'.

In this issue...



Insect Control Feature

The diamondback moth is one of the most destructive insect pests of brassica crops. Resistance of the moth to synthetic insecticides has been reported in numerous parts of the world, and in extreme situations crops have been ploughed and declared unmarketable.



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A 'tell all' about AquaTill

When liquid is pressurised to 50,000 psi and fed through a nozzle only 0.3 mm in diameter, the resulting jet stream blasts out at nearly three times the speed of sound. The powerful liquid stream makes a formidable cutting tool superseding traditional cutting blades in many industrial applications.



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Contemplations

The new decade is now upon us. We enter it with anticipation, indeed assumption, that as 2020 progresses it will impart a more tranquil and favourable era, endowed with a restructuring of prosperity and comfort, as distinct from the anguish and suffering resulting from the horrors of drought and fires recently.



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