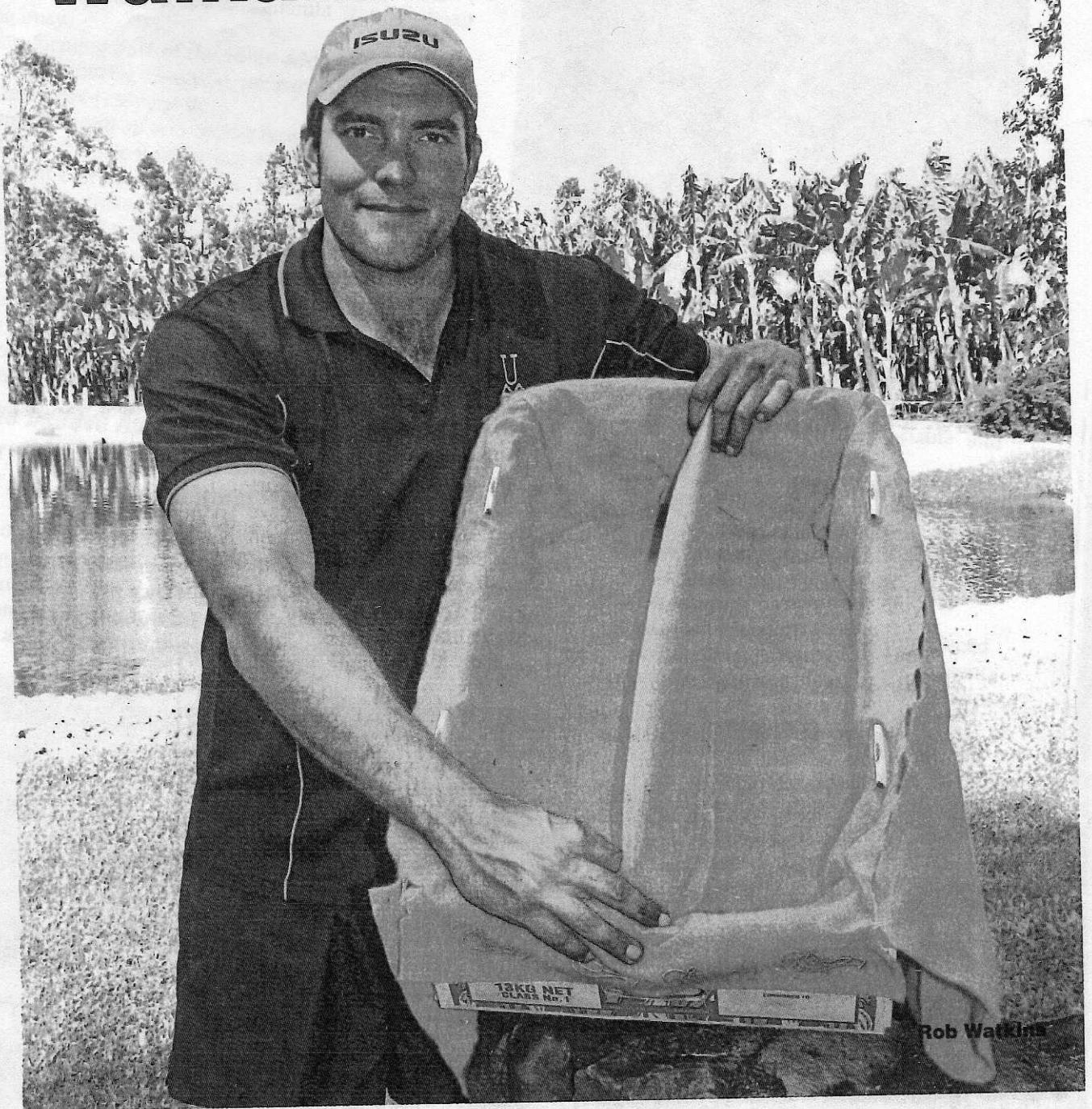


# Walkamin's world firsts



**The Watkins family is leading the way in employing innovation to offset the impact of banana imports in the Australian market. Paul Oliveri reports**

**W**ith the decision to allow bananas from The Philippines into Australia, the bureaucratic steamroller we call government has informed the local banana growers they have to be more innovative.

The Watkins family, who live at Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands, is already leading the way.

In the past 12 months they have already established a manufacturing plant to produce paper and other products from banana trunks (in conjunction with Papyrus Australia) and invented a new form of packaging for bananas called the 'Banana Blankey' (patent pending).

