

THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2006/07

As predicted by Kevin Long 30-11-06 ph. 5441 2394

The sea temperatures, from south around to north west of Australia, have developed some warming trends during the last two weeks.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), is presently trending upwards from -11 during recent months, to zero at present. (This year's good rains have occurred when the SOI has been + 10 or higher.)

These rising sea temperatures in the north-west will enhance the moist jet stream flows from the Broome region during this summer.

These improving conditions in the west should promote some significant rain around mid-December/New Year in this region.

We can expect the thunderstorm season to be less intense than last year.

A lift in rain probability can be expected mid February then rapidly decline.

The Coral Sea is now 1 to 2 degrees below normal.

This cold water extends all the way to the southern tip of South America and back to the South Pole, including the ocean south of Tasmania.

This condition, combined with the developing El-Nino, will mean very little rain can be expected from the south, the east, or the northeast, this summer autumn and winter.

After considering the recent climate cycles and climate drivers my estimate at this early stage is, next year's rain total will be only 60% of normal for central Victoria.

Bore water will be considered liquid gold this coming year, our only salvation.

UPDATE 14-12-2007

The very encouraging developments of warm water in recent weeks south through to north west of Australia has now been almost totally swamped by more cold water.

The late December rains I forecasted are now very unlikely to occur.

I believe this means most of Victoria's Forests will be burnt before the next good rain event occurs; most likely not until mid February.

UPDATE 10-1-2007

The sea off the west coast of Australia warmed again briefly, but was cooled with the passing of the small cyclone in early January.

The continuation of the below average rain measured over the first three months of 2007 is most probable now.

Total rainfall for Bendigo for 2006 was approximately 300mm, = 56% of average

This was 4% less than my January 2006 forecast.

During the last 5 months approx 85mm only. The 140-year Bendigo rainfall average is 540mm.

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