

# THE AUTUMN FORECAST

## FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2007

Predicted by Kevin Long as at 20/2/2007 ph. 03 5441 2394

The sea temperatures around northern Australia have warmed during February. This will most likely promote the development of the third cyclone for the season - this one in the Broome area.

The remains of this cyclone in early March, is our best chance for a little rain. This should help to build average rain across central Vic. to approximately 25mm for March. Jet stream moisture from the Broome Region during April will be the dominant moisture enhancer for the weaker than average southern Low Pressure and Cold Front systems rising up through "The Bight".

I forecast the rain totals for the first half of this year to be below average, most likely only 60% rain. Generally cold anomalies still dominate most of the sea between Brisbane and New Zealand, south of Tasmania, and south of Perth to west of Exmouth. These general sea conditions show little change from last year.

The western half of the Indian Ocean near Africa is currently developing warm anomalies. This is a big negative force which will reduce our autumn rain totals.

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has averaged -5 since May last year. The SOI is showing signs of a move towards the positive during autumn.

Little rain is to be expected from either west or south of Perth. Very weak low pressure systems and cold fronts will develop because the Indian Ocean, especially around Perth and the southern seas, remains cold.

I expect we will receive 80% of our normal average rain for the later part of this calendar year. There is a high probability the central Victorian reservoirs will again miss out on the heavy saturating rains from the Northeast.

This is predominantly due to the increased intensity of the, "Chinese Effect". (See next page)

In general the rainfall will be below average until September, only a small chance of an autumn break, most likely we will have to wait till late June, similar to last Autumn/Winter, for the growing season to commence. The rainfall intensity should build as the year progresses.

### **Update 6-4-07**

SOI reached a peak of +3.1 on 24/3/2007 but is now rapidly declining towards -10. This, together with the stable conditions in "The Bight" and the intensifying influence of the Indian Dipole system, reduces rainfall expectation for April and May. (Expect approximately 20mm per month)

### **Update 1-5-07**

A very strong jet stream originating from the southern tip of India activated a Heat Low in Western Australia in late April. This Low Pressure and Cold Front system was intensified by a small cell of warm water close to Warrnambool as the system entered Victoria. This is where the heaviest rains were recorded. It now appears the weather pattern is returning to the 70% to 80% average status we have been experiencing this year. The small cells of warm water in "The Bight" are the most encouraging signs showing up at present which may promote stronger Cold Front systems leading into Winter.