

THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2007/08

As predicted by Kevin Long 28 -11-07 ph. 5441 2394

During spring the sea temperatures in the East of the Pacific maintained a strong La-Nina anomaly pattern supported by small areas of warm anomalies along the East coast of Australia. Whilst these conditions were strong drivers for above average rain in the years prior to 1996, little above average rain has resulted from them since due to the strengthening of "The Chinese Effect" pollution cloud. (See separate paper.)

This is now the fourth consecutive La-Nina cycle to have been over-powered by The Chinese Effect, generally producing declining below average Autumn, Winter and Spring rains throughout Central Victoria.

I believe this downward trend is the new climate conditions we all have to contend with **whilst the pollution levels north of New Guinea remain higher than our pollution levels!**

Since Winter the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), trended upwards from -10 reaching +10 at the end of Spring. I predict this improved condition will be short lived.

We can expect an average thunderstorm season this year.

Average rain can be expected during this summer, but then rapidly decline during autumn.

The Coral Sea is now 1 degree above normal; a narrow band of warm anomalies extends all the way to the Southern tip of South America. Cold anomalies continue to dominate the Bight and west to Africa. Cold anomalies are developing along a line from Indonesia to New Zealand. This creates a barrier for the incoming Pacific moisture and reduces the Cyclones.

These conditions, combined with the early signs of the next El-Nino cycle, will mean below average rains totals can be expected after February.

North West jet stream induced rain events are our best chance for late Summer and Autumn rain.

UPDATE 23-12-07

After considering the recent climate cycles and present climate drivers, my estimate at this stage is that next year's rain total will be only 80% of the long-term average for central Victoria.

A little less overall rain than for 2007.

Bore water will be considered liquid gold again this coming year, the only salvation for many.

Only minimal reservoir inflows should be expected during the next Winter /Spring.

My January forecast for 2007 was (70% first half, 80% second half).

During 2007 Central Vic received about 440mm = 82% of the long term average

During the last 5 months I recorded ;

Aug 10mm, Sept 21mm, Oct 2mm, Nov 37mm . Dec 90mm

Compare this with the driest Spring on record for Bendigo 1914

Aug 10mm, Sept. 6mm, Oct 1mm, Nov 34mm. Dec 56mm

Total inflows to Eppalock for 2007 = 6.5% = only 10% of the average inflows.

Wishing you all the very best for the year to come, Kevin Long.