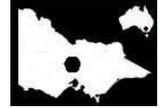


THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2008/09



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 5441 2394 26-11-2008

The developments that have occurred this year.

During the first half of this year we observed the decline of the most recent La Nina cycle.

During early Winter we witnessed signs of El Nino starting to develop. Lucky for us it didn't continue to develop. I believe this was due to the influence of the very intense "Chinese Effect".

(i.e. the warming of seas north of New Guinea. See article "The Chinese Effect" available from website below.)

Surface and sub-surface sea temperatures north of New Guinea are presently about 2 degrees C above average. In the past, **our best rainfall years** have occurred when that area of sea was 2 degrees C below average.

Some good news ... sub-surface temperature in that area has cooled about 1 degree during this year and warm water has connected to Queensland's East coast, stretching half way to South America. .

The first eleven months of this year delivered about 60% of average rain, yet only 2% of average inflows have been yielded to the Central Victorian reservoirs. The rivers in Central Victoria have only flowed for about four weeks this year.

In Bendigo rainfall for July, August and November was above average (approx 60mm rainfall each month). Nov 8th delivered 25.5mm - the highest daily rainfall for Bendigo this year. Total rainfall for Bendigo to 25th November was 320mm. (Long term annual average 551 mm. Most recent 8-year average 404mm.)

Mid-August saw the high-pressure cells intensify and move to a more southerly path forcing the low-pressure systems further south. These high-pressure cells have been common and slow moving.

They dominated the Spring weather and caused the failure of the Spring rain yet again.

The Current Situation ...

Below-average sea temperatures are dominant to the west, south and east of Australia.

The "Chinese Effect" is still very strong and well defined.

In mid-November a small area of above-average sea surface temperature developed very close to Brisbane.

This combined with 2 weeks of +20 SOI delivered to Bendigo 56mm - the largest November rains since 2004.

Recently above-average ocean temperatures have developed around Australia's north coast from Broome to Brisbane, connecting Queensland's east coast to a warm cell of water stretching east for 6,000 km.

Sustained below-average ocean temperatures dominate from the southern tip of Africa to New Zealand.

Ocean temperatures near Broome are warming. The MJO system is gaining strength for the first time this year.

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During December and January thunderstorms will yield average rain.

The majority of high-pressure systems will remain further south than normal this Summer.

"Blocking highs" sitting over New Zealand will be common, giving us long periods of easterly breezes.

Neutral El Nino conditions in the Pacific and the warm sea surface temperature to the east of Queensland will promote average summer rains.

Keeping in mind that La Nina peaked in December 2007 and that 2008 was an intermediate year in the El Nino-La Nina four-year cycle, it would be prudent to prepare for another less than average Autumn.

At this early stage my considered opinion is that 2009 will deliver 300-400 mm of rain for Bendigo.

There remains a considerable risk of another tough year ahead due to below-average sea temperature in the southern seas and the continuation of a strong "Chinese Effect".

I hope this information will assist you to plan for the season ahead.

Regards, Kevin Long