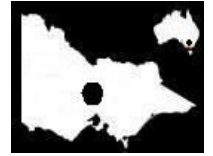


THE WINTER FORECAST **FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2010**



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 03 5441 2394 24/5/2010

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The closest perigee full moon for 17 years occurred on 1st March 2010. This was the driving force behind the heaviest rains in Central Victoria for more than a decade, producing 116mm + (Bendigo) from 5th to 7th of March. During the last five months the most productive rain period has been 5-10 days after each full moon. These good rain events were primarily due to the 18.6 year moon cycle, currently in its strongest rain enhancement phase.

SUNSPOT CYCLES ARE DECLINING

1973 was the year of the highest recorded rainfall in Central Victoria. This coincided with the highest level of sunspot activity for the last 8,000 years. Since the 1970's a prolonged decline in sunspot activity has been observed. **During the last two years we have seen the lowest levels of sunspot activity for over 200 hundred years.** I believe this rapid drop in sunspot numbers has been a major contributing factor to the ongoing decline in rainfall across southeast Australia. The latest sunspot cycle (Number 24), has just begun. NASA and various scientists forecast that this current cycle will be weaker than the cycles during the previous 200 years and should reach a low peak by late-2013. Thus the 35-year trend of reducing rainfall and reducing sunspot numbers is continuing. **This prolonged decline in solar irradiation has now brought about an end to the 20th Century global warming trends. I forecast that the present cooling trend of the last decade will accelerate after 2014, resulting in a much dryer climate for us.**

(See Bureau of Meteorology "Global Temperature Graph" on my website ... on the Climate Change & Sunspots page)
A sunspot expert Dr. Habibullo Abdussamatov, head of the Pulkovo Space Research Observatory in Russia, states that during the next 40 years the Earth's average temperature will drop by 1.2 degrees C as a result of the reducing average solar irradiation. He believes this cooler climate will produce the beginning of another Little Ice Age by 2042. He points out that Global Cooling will be much harder for mankind to cope with than Global Warming!
(His enlightening paper "*The Sun Defines the Climate*" is available on my website ... on the Climate Change & Sunspots page.)

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Regional climate shift in the Asia-Pacific (driven by "The Chinese Effect" pollution cloud) is Central Victoria's major climate concern. During the last year, the global economic downturn helped suppress "The Chinese Effect". This allowed the 18.6 year moon-driven flood cycle to give Central Victoria above-average rain for a short time. But during the last month "The Chinese Effect" has regained extra heat. Once again, it is now promoting north-traveling cross-equatorial moisture flow, thereby enhancing the drying climate trend for southeast Australia. The Indian Ocean Dipole has for many years been locked in the mode that creates dryer weather for southeast Australia. This will mean reduced North-West jetstream moisture flows again this Winter, particularly for this region.

THE FORECAST (NOTE: Recent "Sea Surface Anomaly Temperature" maps have been unavailable from the Bureau.)

Due to the negative forces of the current sunspot minimum, the Winter rains will be less than average. But due to the positive forces of the 18.6 year moon cycle, we will continue to receive small patchy showers about a week before each full moon. The best of the Winter rains will fall about a week after each full moon.

That means the crops should grow well during Winter, with less than average number of Winter frosts. Most high-pressure systems and cold fronts will remain further South than normal this Winter/Spring. Expect only occasional passing showers for Central Victoria during early Spring. However, due to additional positive forces of the slowly developing La Nina Cycle, combined with the strong positive forces of the moon cycle, late Spring should deliver above-average rain. Summer rains should also be above-average, continuing the trend of the last decade.

I believe the runoff will be better this season than we have seen for many years, but there still remains a high risk of well below-average inflows to the reservoirs, due to the increasing number of small farm dams in the transforming catchments. My considered opinion is, Bendigo will receive about 550 mm rainfall for the year, and the rest of Central Victoria will receive about 90% of the long-term average rainfall.

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

Regards, Kevin Long

For more information : www.TheLongView.com.au