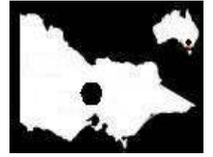


# THE SUMMER FORECAST FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2010-11



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 03 5441 2394 28/11/2010

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

This Winter/Spring saw the predicted La Nina cycle rapidly develop and then peak during October. This La Nina cycle has been enhanced by the 18.6 year lunar flood cycle. Together they have delivered to Central Victoria the best rains since 1973. The rain enhancement power of the 18.6 year lunar flood cycle peaked twice during the year - first during early March, then again in early September. This enhancement power was predicated on the moon's two closest and southern-most orbits for 17 years for eastern Australia. Within a few days of each close pass (perigee moon), most of Central Victoria received about twice the monthly average rainfall. Generally most local areas have received about 150% of their average monthly totals so far this year. However the reservoir inflows were very slow to respond, receiving only about 60% of the inflows of previous extreme wet years. This is an alarming situation given the high rainfall totals during Autumn, Winter and Spring. These extreme high rainfall totals are not likely to recur until the lunar flood cycle rebuilds similar conditions around 2028.

## **THIS YEAR THE SUNSPOT NUMBERS HAVE REMAINED ABNORMALLY LOW**

For 16% of this year, there have been zero sun spots and the average sun spot numbers have remained very low. This low sun spot average has produced a steady decline in average global temperature with this year's global average well down on the 1998 record high year. The last half of 2010 has been much colder in most areas of the world. Central Victoria is just one example. November this year has been approximately 6 °C cooler than the same month last year. Record breaking cold snaps have been occurring in many places around the world in recent years as a result of the very low average solar radiation experienced during the last seven years.

## **CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

At present there is below-average sea surface temperature covering the Pacific equatorial region - stretching from the Americas to New Guinea. This strong La Nina condition has been blocking most of the northward flow of moisture from the central South Pacific to the South China Sea area for most of this year. This has effectively killed off "The Chinese Effect" for the time being, therefore helping to promote higher rainfall across most of Australia. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end sooner or later. Recently the first sign of the decline of La Nina has started to show. As this progresses the cooler water will move back away from the eastern tip of New Guinea, resulting in "the Chinese Effect" becoming dominant again.

The average global sea surface temperatures have been plunging during the last few months. Many climate experts believe this is only the start of a cooling trend that will continue for many decades into the future. The presently reducing global average sea and land temperature will have their greatest impacts first in the southern hemisphere. The most damaging impacts for Central Victoria will be the return to lower average rainfall. I forecast this decade will set another new low rainfall average due partly to the overall reducing sea temperatures.

## **THE SUMMER FORECAST**

**In brief: Above-average rain, above-average thunderstorms.**

As the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) moves back towards negative, increased moisture flow from the northwest can be expected during this thunderstorm season. The overall sea surface temperatures around Australia are still currently set up to produce well above average Summer rainfall. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also favourable. Only the seas to the south of Australia lack the favourable above-average temperature at present. In other words, this is almost as good as it gets. New high rainfall records for much of Australia will be established this year, primarily due to the powers of the 18.6 year lunar flood cycle combined with the warm water close to Australia that the lunar cycle helped to develop and maintain during most of this year. **Looking into next year, this lunar cycle has one more peak rain event still to come - centered around the closest perigee full moon which occurs on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March.** I forecast a good Autumn break in early April. The end result for 2011 will be above-average rain building to about 110% for Central Victoria. After June the rain will trend down as "The Chinese Effect" becomes dominant again.

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

Regards, Kevin Long

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