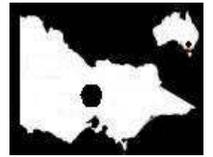


THE WINTER FORECAST FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2011



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 03 5441 2394 20/5/2011

COMMENTS ON THE RECENT EXTREME WET SEASON

Well I will start by saying what a unique and incredible wet 12 months we have just endured, the likes of which is unlikely to occur again for 297 years. These extreme flood events were due to the marriage of three major climate drivers, all peaking together during the last 12 months. This marriage was between the 18.6 year lunar "flood" cycle, the 19.86 year synodic "flood" cycle of Saturn and Jupiter and the strongest La Nina cycle for many years. The forces of the Lunar and Saturn-Jupiter cosmic cycles only become synchronized and focused on eastern Australia in the same year once every 297 years; hence the recent extreme record breaking flood events. When these two climate cycles are close to being in phase with each other the effect is to polarise the climate into the dry and wet extremes. The extremes are usually 9 years apart. This is what we have just endured. In previous lunar flood cycles, the rain events were spread over two or three years due to the Jupiter-Saturn flood cycle not peaking in the same year as the 18.6 year lunar flood cycle. It is also to be noted that the four major flood rain events that occurred during the last 12 months all occurred when the Earth was closest to at least one of the planets Saturn, Jupiter, Venus or Mars. The last of the flood rain events occurred in mid-March as the Earth drew close to Saturn. Many areas of Victoria and Tasmania received from 100mm to 450mm in that rain event. Thank our lucky stars that this rain event went around Central Victoria. It is also to be noted that the Earth will not be close to any of the above-mentioned planets again until mid-October (late Spring). Also, La Niña has now run its course. Reading all these climate drivers, my understanding is that the major floods events have finished for another 18.6 years.

(For more details refer to the document "*Cosmic Cycles Bring Floods and Droughts to Eastern Australia*" available on my web site.)

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- At present, the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) of the Pacific equatorial region (stretching from the Americas to New Guinea) is warming up again. It had been about 4°C below average due to the very strong La Niña conditions that persisted up until March. Recently, in the eastern Pacific equatorial region, the temperature has warmed to 3°C above average, meaning the first signs of the next El Niño cycle are now showing up.
- The average number of sunspots has been very low for many years, causing the upper atmosphere to cool and collapse to lower levels. This has promoted severe frosts and cold snaps in many places around the world in recent Winters. These severe frosts and cold snaps are likely to occur in Australia this Winter.
- "The Chinese Effect" is again active and is drawing moisture from the east of Australia, feeding it up to the north of New Guinea. Hence, in eastern Australia we have already experienced a marked drop-off of rainfall.
- The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has also been moving rapidly towards negative in recent weeks.
- The global average Sea Surface Temperatures are now much cooler than they have been for many years.
- The global average Air Temperatures for Jan-April 2011 (as per the IPCC's HadCrut3 data) have been similar to those of the early 1990's. Many climate experts believe that the cooling trend of recent years is the start of an extended cooling trend to continue for many decades into the future, dominated by reducing sun spots.

THE WINTER FORECAST

In brief: Below-average rain ... Above-average frosts.

Due to the plunging SOI, only small amounts of rain from the northwest can be expected during this season. The overall sea surface temperatures around Australia have moved towards conditions that produce below-average seasonal rainfall. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also not favorable.

Only the seas to the south and west of Perth have above-average temperatures at present. Therefore, we need some good luck to get the growing season off to a good start. **The recent short period of flood conditions cut off very sharply in mid-March, returning us to the dry conditions that dominated the last decade.**

I forecast that below-average rainfall will persist throughout most of this decade.

A rapid decline of the soil moisture can be expected during the rest of this year.

I forecast Central Victoria will average only 50% rainfall for the Winter and Spring seasons of this year.

I hope this information will assist you to develop the best plans for the growing season ahead. Regards, Kevin.

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