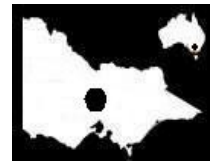


THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2011/2012



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 03 5441 2394 15 November, 2011

COMMENTS ON THE RECENT SEASON

Early this year we all endured the peak of the lunar flood cycle. This event was synchronised with the synodic 'flood' cycle of Jupiter and Saturn and also the strongest La Nina cycle for many years. This triple synchronisation is an extremely rare event; only occurring **once every 297 years**. We will not encounter the next lunar 'flood' cycle until 2028. However in the mean time, smaller flood events are likely to occur during the stronger La Nina years.

The overall climate in Eastern Australia has settled down in a very predictable way during the last nine months. Short periods of above-average rain occurred at the times when Earth was closest to any of the planets.

In the Spring Forecast I predicted that the first month of Spring would be very dry - mainly because there were no planets near Earth during that time. As it panned out there were 5 weeks of very warm dry weather which set most crops back a long way. Luckily the "Spring money rain" finally came close to the predicted time and since that rain event, the growing season has progressed well with regular good rains.

During Winter and early Spring, below-average Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) were dominant along most of Australia's east coast. This was the main reason why we missed out on the Spring floods. In recent weeks most of that cool coastal sea water has again warmed to above-average. Furthermore, the La Nina condition has "hung in" and hence there still is enough potential moisture to produce flooding rains in Central Victoria during this Summer. Consequently, I recommend that all reservoirs be given 8% air space to minimise the considerable flood risk that still exists. As we have observed during last Summer, the flood damage caused from poorly-managed reservoirs has been in the realm of "fifty dollars damage for each dollar of water stored". GMW would serve Central Victoria much better if they managed all Victorian reservoirs with the same expertise that the NSW water authorities have shown is possible with the management of the Hume Reservoir and the Murray system. The Murray River has barely been placed above the minor flood level throughout this whole predictable flood cycle. Well done to all NSW authorities.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- The most significant change is global average SSTs are now much cooler than they have been for many years.
- At present, the sea surface temperatures of the Pacific equatorial region (stretching from the Americas to New Guinea) are still well below average. To the east of Australia, there are large areas of above average SST. This overall La Nina condition is not as strong as it was last year.
- The average number of sunspots has been slowly building during this year but remains well below the average of the last 50 years. As a result the upper atmosphere temperatures are declining, increasing the risks of hail and storm damage. The global average temperature for 2011 so far (as per HadCrut3 data) has also dropped significantly, compared to the warmest four-year period 2002-05 which averaged **0.467 °C** above the 1961-90 average. By the end of this year, the average global temperature record will have dropped to about **0.340 °C** above average. This well-established declining trend is predicted to continue for the next 30 years.
- "The Chinese Effect" (i.e. pollution heat-island effect which often draws away our moisture feed from the Pacific) is fortunately still blocked by the La Nina system. La Nina will be a "spent force" by the beginning of Autumn.
- Our main Pacific moisture pump, the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has been positive (i.e. wet) for most of this year and no significant change is expected throughout the Summer period.

THE SUMMER FORECAST

In brief: Above-average rain ... some strong thunderstorms.

Due to the generally positive (wet) SOI, the warm sea to the east of Australia and the current strength of La Nina, I forecast a major rain event close to Christmas Day. This type of rain event is likely to be repeated, generally every 28 days throughout Summer, which is each time the moon moves to its southern declination point.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also slightly favorable. Therefore the North-West Jet Streams will enhance many of the Summer rain events. I forecast Central Victoria will receive about 136% of average rainfall by year's end.

I forecast approximately 120% average rainfall for most areas of Central Victoria during the summer period.

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

For more information:

www.TheLongView.com.au