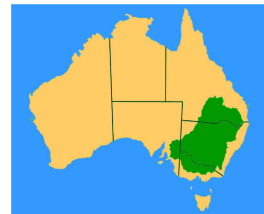


THE AUTUMN FORECAST

FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2016

As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 March 2016 ph (03)54412394



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POSITIVE LUNAR AND PLANETARY FORCES ARE BUILDING ...

Autumn begins with Earth in closest proximity to Jupiter. Then during May, the Earth will pass Mars and Saturn. These close encounters with the three most influential planets will help to enhance the three southern air tide surges that are the main driving forces for the coming Autumn Break.

New moon forces will be the keys to open up the heavens for most of this year's Autumn and early Winter rainfall:

- The first reasonably strong southern air tide surge will be coming through just after the new moon in early April.
- The second and strongest southern air tides for this year is in early May, likely providing the majority of Autumn rainfall.
- The third and final strong southern air tide will enhance early Winter rains close to the first Winter new moon of 5th June.

... BUT COSMIC FORCES ARE LIKELY TO BE COUNTERACTED BY COOL SEAS OFF WA

An extensive band of cold sea surface is circulating around Antarctica at present. This is the result of three years of exceptionally high sea ice levels. However, during the last three months a record high melt rate has been observed due to the El Nino heat surge being dissipated into the polar regions. This is a typical trend that usually follows most El Nino cycles.

The expectation of the present return to average sea ice levels (and warmer Southern Ocean) is that it would give us a chance to receive a few months of average rain. However, another large slug of "cooler than average" sea surface has recently appeared close to WA.

I believe those WA cool sea surface anomalies are likely to minimise many of the Autumn rain events, even though we have very positive lunar and planetary forces at work this Autumn.

THEREFORE, JET STREAM MOISTURE IS LOOKING PATCHY

The one saving grace of Winter 2015 was the warm central Indian Ocean which resulted in a steady stream of Jet Stream moisture flowing in across central Australia to central NSW. Predicting where the Jet Stream will be during this Winter is very difficult at this stage. Recently it has been looping up and flowing well to the south of Tasmania. Therefore with the present cool sea surface anomaly to the west of WA, I cannot envisage the Jet Streams delivering very much rain to the MDB region this Winter.

UNFORTUNATELY, A DRYER PHASE OF THE LUNAR CYCLE WILL DOMINATE THE WINTER

After mid-June, the lunar air tides and planetary forces will both be reducing in strength (i.e. the air tide cycle will go through the dryer "transition phase"). Thus it is very unlikely that we will receive any major reservoir-filling rain events in the period July to October.

THE AUTUMN FORECAST **IN BRIEF: Best chance of reasonable rains is during early May.**

I warn of well below-average rain during March, then a slow build up to average rains by early May. This most productive period of rain will be all over by mid-June. After June, rain events will become unreliable and patchy across most regions of the MBD. Gippsland is the only region that I forecast will receive above average rains for the next four months.

Very little reservoir-filling rain is forecast this Winter, and major water shortages are forecast for many years to come. Unsustainable environmental releases during the last three years have prematurely brought on devastating water shortages as we approach the next cyclic drought - which I forecast will be more devastating and longer than any that has gone before.

At this stage I am optimistic that this year will be the best year for many, being helped along with a developing La Nina condition by next spring. For those making hay, early October represents the highest risk period for rain this spring. Then in early November there will be a very high risk of hail and strong thunder storms sweeping across the MDB.

The long-term forecast for the MDB generally is for dry conditions for the majority of Winter, with mostly small rainfall events. By Christmas I forecast most MDB regions will have accumulated about 75% of average rainfall.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be an enjoyable year on the farm, with very few extreme weather events.

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