

THE AUTUMN FORECAST

FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2021

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LA NINA FORCES DELIVERED ONLY A FEW GOOD STORMS FOR EASTERN AUSTRALIA

The weakening La Nina forces during mid-late January helped produce the best rain events of the Summer period. Since those few wet days in January, a drying trend has set in for most regions of the MDB. Inland monsoon rains have largely failed again this Summer. Many northern MDB regions remain drought-affected, due to the failure of major rain-filled cyclones to cross into the MDB again this year.

The memorable late Spring extreme heat wave of 45+°C was not repeated with the same intensity during Summer. In fact, quite the opposite climate trends have dominated the Summer period, resulting in the mildest Summer that I can remember. (This present period will most likely be remembered as the start of a long period of global cooling!)

SUMMER RAINS MINIMISED BY WEAK LUNAR AIR TIDES

The strongest Northeast Air Tides for 2020 occurred during mid-Sept and mid-Oct. Hence, the following weaker part of the lunar cycle (the "Drier Transition Phase") was only able to providing small positive rain forces during Summer.

THE STRONGER SOUTHERN AIR TIDES WILL HELP DRIVE AN AUTUMN BREAK

This Autumn begins with the Southern Air Tides building to their first "weak peak" in late March. Then, the strongest Southern Air Tide surges for this year will come through in late April, producing the best chances of an Autumn break.

GROWING ANTARCTIC SEA ICE TRENDS INDICATE FROST ALERT FOR SPRING

This year the Antarctic sea ice begins its growth cycle from only a little below average. However, due to the general decline in the high-altitude atmospheric moisture levels during recent years, this year's growth cycle is forecast to be well above average by early Spring. Hence I issue a frost alert for the early to mid-Spring period.

WEAKENING LA NINA TRENDS OVER SUMMER MEANS ENSO IS RETURNING TO NEUTRAL

Another reason that the monsoon season has generally been very poor is the usual warm coastal sea surfaces did not develop this Summer. This was due mainly to a very large and extremely warm sea surface anomaly, half way between Australia and South America. This produced significant cooling to the sea surfaces along our east coast. The anomaly was the largest and warmest in the world in recent times, and it provided a major negative force for the development of our Summer and Autumn rains.

I must now forecast there is a very high chance of dry conditions returning to most MDB regions, due to a combination of: the ongoing reducing solar cycles, the current very weak planetary forces and the weakest lunar forces for 9 years.

THE AUTUMN FORECAST **IN BRIEF: Below-average Autumn rains, following weak monsoon.**

The strengthening Southern Lunar Air Tides will be most productive in the southern-most regions of the MDB, with their effects lessening gradually as they reach northwards into NSW.

The extreme warm anomaly in the Pacific (as mentioned above) has now begun dispersing and cooling, and is likely to have faded away by Winter. This will allow warmer seas to once again return to our eastern coastal regions, helping to generate good late-Winter and early-Spring rains for eastern Australia, especially in the coastal regions.

Jetstream moisture flows into central NSW will be much reduced this Autumn and Winter, due to cooler sea surface anomalies now dominating the central Indian Ocean. Hence I forecast that the MDB will generally receive below average rainfall and cooler night time averages for the next 5 months.

The strongest planetary forces for 2021 come into play in late-Winter / early-Spring. Therefore good general rains are likely to commence in August, increasing the chance of another good finish for the Winter growing season.

I wish you all the best for this Autumn and the 2021 growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

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