

Mega-Drought developing

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I wish to convey a dire warning of a developing mega-drought cycle, which I believe will devastate the rural economies of Australia within this decade. Our declining rainfall averages indicate we have been sliding into this mega-drought since the late 1970's.

A mega-drought is described in climate literature as a drought lasting from multiple decades to centuries. Proxy evidence of many past mega-droughts lie secreted in the ice core samples and lake sediments all around the world dating back through the ages. They are very common.

Local evidence in northern Victoria points to the last 200 years being much wetter than the 200 years just prior. Large tree stumps that could only have grown during mega-drought conditions in the deeper swamps and lakes of northern Victoria provide undeniable evidence of the most recent mega-drought. That mega-drought was just finishing when Captain Cook landed on our shores. It appears the present decline in solar activity is the forerunner for the next solar minimum cycle which is predicted to span at least the next three decades, heralding the next mega-drought cycle.

UNRECOGNISED EVIDENCE OF THE LAST MEGA-DROUGHT IN VICTORIA

Perhaps the best preserved evidence of past long-term mega-drought is in the form of mature tree stumps in the lower levels of Lake Meran (south of Kerang).

Lake Meran is the deepest natural lake in northern Victoria, measuring 9 metres deep when full. It has no low-level natural drainage channel. Once filled by a moderate Loddon River flood, or local flood rain, it takes about a decade of below-average climate to dry it out.

During 2004 this lake dried up for the first time since at least the mid-1800's. In the lower depths of Lake Meran many very large tree stumps were exposed, some almost a meter in diameter. They have rotted or been burnt off, almost to the lake bed level, These stumps provide conclusive evidence that in the not-so-distant past **Lake Meran had remained very close to empty for at least a century,**

Their existence confirms that no major floods flowed down the Loddon River System during the life of those massive trees. That also means that no La Nina cycle or 18.6-year lunar flood cycle event was able to produce enough above-average rainfall to fill the lakes and swamps of this region during the life of those big trees.

In contrast, since 1836 Lake Meran and the swamps of northern Victoria have filled at least once every 18.6 years, giving no opportunity for large trees to grow in these low lying areas without being drowned as very young trees.



Just one of the many thousands of old trees that were able to grow in the long-term dry Tragowel swamp before Major Mitchell's time. (Photo: Kevin long March 2013)

I missed the opportunity to photograph the large ancient tree stumps in the lower levels of Lake Meran while it was so very dry during the last decade.

I would appreciate some photographic evidence to go with the many eye witness reports that I have heard in recent years.

Can anybody supply me with that photographic record please?

This climate change evidence correlates well with my understanding of long-term Climate cycles though out history (see over) ...

MEGA-DROUGHTS AND “LITTLE ICE AGE” CYCLES

About 800 years ago, just after the end of the Medieval Warm Period was the last time the world descended into a long term colder and drier climate cycle. That global cooling period ended with the Little Ice Age, approximately 300 years ago (about 1700). By the time Major Mitchell arrived in Victoria 136 years later (1836) the warmer and wetter climate had already returned, starting the drowning process of the large trees in the deeper lakes and deeper swamps of northern Victoria.

Since Mitchell's time the world has continued to slowly warm until the recent global maximum temperature was reached in 1998. In recent years a small cooling trend has been observed. Generally speaking the cooler the sea surface temperatures, the drier the world becomes. This statement is especially relevant to the future climate of the lower Murray-Darling Basin.

During the last three decades, eastern Australian rainfall averages have declined by about 30%; consistent with the steady average decline in total solar radiation and average sunspot numbers.

Since the early 1980's, several solar scientists (Theodor Landscheidt being one of the first ones) have been calculating the solar system barycentre movements with great detail and accuracy. Their work has produced the most accurate predictions available, for the past, present and future sunspot cycles. SEE: www.landscheidt.info

Furthermore these expert scientists have also predicted that a very quiet sun with almost no sunspots will dominate the next 30+ years and a return of “Little Ice Age” type conditions within the next 30 years. That translates to persistent global cooling and mega-drought conditions developing very soon.

During the last decade, for the first time since at least the early 1800's, we have observed a new crop of “gum trees” growing in many of the Australian low lying regions including the very bottom of Lake Meran.

Up to and including this last 18.6 year lunar-driven flood cycle (2010/11), there has been no significant change in these reliable flood cycles, but the drought periods between the floods cycles have been growing longer and dry. Furthermore the decadal average rainfall has declined more consistently during the last three decades than for any period since Major Mitchell's time. The next flood cycle event isn't due until 2029. That flood event is destined to be much reduced compared to the previous flood cycles, due to reducing global sea surface temperatures and the reducing cyclic strengths of the cosmic forces. Consequently much smaller rain events should be expected during the next three decades, resulting in progressively diminishing river flows.

CONCLUSION

The evidence I have gathered points very clearly to Australia being soon impacted by a very long drought, the likes of which Australia has not experienced since the days just prior to Major Mitchell. I believe we will soon see red gums and box trees growing in the lower regions of the Murray-Darling Basin once again. The progressively drying climate is predominantly driven by the long-term climate cycle moving from “warm and wet” to long-term “cool and dry” climate. It is normal for our climate to do this on the 178-year cycles periods and on the 1000- year cycle periods. Both of these dominating climate cycles will be combining their forces during the next half century. Therefore all Australians need to prepare for progressively drier times - not bigger floods - as the next big flood cycle will not return until at least 2047 in the lower Murray-Darling Basin regions. Given the declining rainfall trends of the last 30 years I forecast a major shortage of all water supplies again within this decade. Considering the recent tell tale signs of another dry El Nino cycle developing later this year, that major water shortage could be with us within 2 years.

I would like to thank Mr Neil Barraclough of Gippsland for supplying me with much supporting evidence of past mega-droughts in southern Victoria and other places in the world.