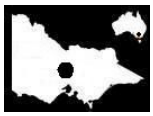
THE AUTUMN FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2009



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 5441 2394 26-2-2009

THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Good general rains commenced on 7th November (the same as in November 2007) delivering above-average rain to Central Victoria during the last month of Spring and the first month of Summer.

Dominant "Blocking Highs" (high-pressure systems) situated east of Tasmania produced a drying influence over our weather from 19 Dec-8 Feb. The contrast between warmer water east of New Zealand and cooler water in the Tasman Sea produced that Blocking High condition. That condition finally broke down in early Feb due to the warming of the Tasman Sea. That warming was helped along by the massive amounts of fire pollution.

The combined drying forces of the Blocking High systems together with "The Chinese Effect" and the Indian Ocean Dipole produced the record-breaking (hottest, longest, driest and deadliest) period in Victoria. The influence of those powerful systems reduced the Summer rainfall totals to only 33% of my Summer forecast. My apologies for not recognizing the early signs of that development when I wrote the Summer forecast (mid Nov).

The weak La-Nina system that peaked during December 2007 continues to morph into the next El Nino System.

Surface and sub-surface sea temperatures north of New Guinea **remain about 1.5 degrees C above average. In the past, our best rainfall years have occurred when that area of sea was 2 degrees C below average.** Most of Central Victoria received about 70% of long-term average rain during 2008 (388mm at Bendigo airport). The rivers of Central Victoria flowed for about four weeks last year and the reservoir inflows were approx. 1%.

THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Below-average sea surface temperatures are dominant to the north, west and south of Australia. The "Chinese Effect" is still well defined and continues to draw "our" atmospheric moisture northward. Take note of the floods in the north of Australia. (See supporting doc. "The Chinese Effect" available from my web site).

Recently aided by the bushfire pollution, the surface temperature of the Tasman Sea warmed to 1 degree C above average. After only two weeks the sea surface cooled to be generally below average once again. (See the current weekly "SSTA map" on my website in the links section and follow the changes during the year). Below average sea temperatures dominate the waters of the southern hemisphere (36 to 44 degrees south). During Autumn the high-pressure cells will occupy this band. Most low-pressure cells will stay even further south. The Indian Ocean Dipole **is a major influential system for our weather** and remains in the mode that creates the driest weather for us. This will mean reduced north-west jet stream moisture flows this Autumn and Winter. **Above-average sea surface temperatures to the east of Australia are currently the only positive force to help promote rain during Autumn.**

THE FORECAST

This year the trends of the last 13 years will intensify. That means, most likely, **no effective Autumn break**. Most high-pressure systems and cold fronts will remain further south than normal this Autumn; delivering only the occasional passing shower to Central Victoria during **March April and May - averaging 15mm per month**.

Keeping in mind that the La Nina cycle peaked in December 2007 then declined into an intermediate year during 2008, it would now be prudent to prepare for this year to be **the lowest rainfall year in the El-Nino/La- Nina cycle**. We have four major negative forces likely to dominate our weather this year; below average Sea Surface Temperatures in the southern seas, Indian Ocean Dipole in its dry mode, The Chinese Effect and possibly El-Nina.

I believe the reservoir inflows will be minimal this season, creating acute water shortages in Central Vic.

My considered opinion is Bendigo will receive less than **300 mm rainfall for the year,** or **55% rainfall for Central Vic.**

I hope this information will assist you to plan for the season ahead. Regards, Kevin Long

More info: **www.TheLongView.com.au**