



# Macquarie bale up

## FEB 2018

### DAY DEGREES SO FAR .....

	2018	2017	AVG
<b>Bourke Airport</b>	<b>2428</b>	<b>2468.2</b>	<b>2179.6</b>
Hot days	74	90	52
Cold shock	4	22	11.7
<b>Warren Auscott</b>	<b>2082.3</b>	<b>2044.3</b>	<b>1842.3</b>
Hot days	50	55	30.4
Cold shock	15	36	25
<b>Trangie Research station</b>	<b>2036.9</b>	<b>1984.3</b>	<b>1778.5</b>
Hot Days	46	48	25.2
Cold Shock	15	35	28.2
<b>Narromine Airport</b>	<b>1976.3</b>	<b>1926.5</b>	<b>1733.1</b>
Hot days	43	49	23
Cold shock	20	41	29.5
<b>Dubbo</b>	<b>1884.5</b>	<b>1849.5</b>	<b>1671.1</b>
Hot Days	39	40	18.74
Cold Shock	21	44	30.9

As you can see from the adjacent table we are well above average Day Degrees (DD) across the regions. The good news is whilst we are above average across the board, the way we have accumulated the DD is very different to last season. We have had half the cold shock days ( below 11°C) across most regions ( except Dubbo ) and we have also had a reduction in hot days ( above 36°C ) across all areas. Night temps have been cooler than last season in all areas. The plant has much better structure this season and the bolls are slightly heavier than this time last season. Most crops have been able to grow out of some off target spray drift to finish off well. There are some reports of hail damaging some fields across the regions.

( Please note that the DD are calculated on the planting date of 1<sup>st</sup> of October )

### WELSHYS WEATHER REPORT

The Autumn period is typically the worst time to rely on any form of guidance from science, despite the need for agencies to push their forecasts and the media to report on them. In the next 2 months, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) resets itself. The 12-month life cycle commences in April and longer term predictions so far favour a neutral ENSO pattern in 2018. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which is quite well correlated to the



Macquarie region in winter/spring will not be known until at least May, but predictions are showing with neutral also. In the period from now until picking, best to stick with the NCEP 16-day forecast for your location (found on Oz-forecast) and put the seasonal forecasts to one side. The other really useful site is <https://weather.us/> Put your location in the search bar. You will see a 10 day 'model comparison' tab that provides a forecast summary of 7 international models for temp, precip. etc. which can save time chasing lots of sites. Keep an eye on the fortnightly e-news for updates.

**Jon Welsh will be bringing some climate experts to the Macquarie in May 2018 to talk with growers so stay tuned for the dates and locations.**

A proposed format as follows;

- Jon Welsh – an overview and due diligence of the 2018 winter cropping season climate info;
- Garry Allan (BOM) – more detailed analysis on the drivers of the winter/spring climate in your area; and
- Dr Rebecca Darbyshire (NSW DPI) – cotton planting decisions and valuing the forecast

## CROP UPDATE REPORT

This section is just a summary of what the consultants are seeing and is very general in nature and the idea is just to get a snapshot of what's going on in our valley and other valleys.

### Macquarie Valley

#### What are consultants seeing .....

*“Crops south of Trangie are finished water and will start defoliating next week ( end of the week ), crops looking good at this stage , SLW are in check and no IGR used for control .*

*Pickers should be going at the end of the first week of April .*

*“Where we have used Admiral® its been effective, still the odd Mirids and GVB about. There are small patches of 2 spotted spider mites throughout the valley. Cotton aphid north of Warren.*

*“Some verticillium found and samples have been sent off for testing, Fusarium patches are found in known areas”*

*“Some of the vert does appear to be the defoliating strain but again this needs clarification from the pathologists.*

*“Most have done are or completing last irrigation, but there is still a bit of late cotton to go. Defoliation starts in some fields in 2 -3 weeks .”*

*“In some cases Sicot 746BRF is looking better than Sicot 748BRF but we wont know till the lie detectors get into the fields.”*

## CROP UPDATE REPORT

### Gwydir Valley

#### What are consultants seeing .....

- One Solonopsis Mealybug found in Gurley/Bellata district.
- SLW adults and nymphs still present, generally no change in numbers this week.
- Parasitism is evident in SLWF populations, levels vary.
- Admiral has worked well.
- Mirids still persistent in anything squaring/young bolls
- Beneficial's ok

#### What the consultants are saying:

*“SLWF still present but not exploding – so OK for now, but prior to the rain I thought some crops would need a follow up knockdown... parasitism is evident in SLWF populations”.*

*“SLW numbers seem to be holding since admiral spray, not decreasing much but definitely not increasing, not seeing any real honeydew as yet”.*

*“SLW numbers decreased and very low where admiral applied 3 weeks ago. Still around but lowering where admiral sprayed 2 weeks ago. Non existent in dryland at the moment. Has not had admiral”*

*“SLW numbers are low - both Adults and Nymphs. Admiral has worked well”*

*“SLW adults are very active, numbers are static, no knock down sprayed as yet, very low levels of SLW parasitism evident”*

*“Mirids still persistent in anything squaring/young bolls”*

- Last irrigations mostly on or due in the next 5 -10 days

#### **What the consultants are saying:**

*“Last irrigation starting in the next few days, defoliation second week of April “*

*“Last irrigation happening around rainfall event predicted. Early fields on last water now and later planted cotton over next 2 weeks”  
“748 maturing slower than 746”*

*“Some fields finished Irrigation (10%), most require 1 more (50%-60%), and 30-40% require 2 more. Rain on Sunday/Monday will change this”*

*“Last irrigation done, defoliation to start in about 10 days”*

## **LOCALS TACKLE SPRAY DRIFT HEAD ON.....**

A series of free information sessions will be held across the Macquarie Valley next month to provide chemical spraying accreditation for local farmers. The sessions are the result of a

meeting between agricultural chemical suppliers, chemical resellers, farmers, agronomists and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in Dubbo today to address the industry’s concerns about safe spraying. The meeting was coordinated by the EPA, in collaboration with the SOS (Stop Off-Target Spraying) Committee, which is made up of concerned representatives of the agricultural industry in the Macquarie Valley. Committee Coordinator, Tony McAlary said the meeting was the result of discussions the SOS Committee held with the EPA about how landholders could work together to address spray drift issues after several reports of crop damage in the Warren region earlier this summer. “A range of grain and cotton farmers, agronomists and chemical resellers have joined forces to address an issue that is affecting our environment and cannot be sustainable in the long term,” Mr McAlary said. “The accreditation program will be a voluntary process, highlighting changes in best practice for applying chemicals and showcasing the technology available to support good spray decision making.” Chemical spray expert Mary O’Brien, who is known as The Spray Drift Girl, and Harry Pickering will run the free information and accreditation sessions, which include drinks and a barbecue. Sessions will be held at:

- **Collie Pub 6pm Wednesday 7 March**
- **Marthaguy Hall 6pm Thursday 8 March**
- **Narromine Golf Club 6pm Wednesday 14 March**
- **Armatree Pub 6pm Thursday 15 March**

As well as Macquarie Valley chemical accreditation, attendees will be eligible for a 30 per cent discount on TeeJet nozzles. “The committee is also investigating what technology is available, including access to weather stations and detailed alerts that are

available to support good decision making before spraying," Mr McAlary said. "We recognise that current practices are not sustainable and if we want to drive change, rather than having new rules enforced on us, we need to act now." For details about the information sessions and to RSVP, email [sosmacquarievalley@gmail.com](mailto:sosmacquarievalley@gmail.com) or contact your local reseller.

### 16<sup>th</sup> March – Macquarie Valley Cotton Growers Association (MCGA) Field day . Narromine Farm Tour

This will be an afternoon farm tour that will look at the CSD Variety Trial plus a couple of other farms . Details will be out in the next few days so stay tuned for further details.

22<sup>nd</sup> March – MCGA farm tours in Warren stay tuned for further details.

### TRAINING FOR GROWERS.....

Working in cotton or grains in NSW? Need training? Funding available for any accredited training that improves productivity and profitability of the cotton and/or grains industry. Talk to me for more info!



Claudia Vicary  
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Source : Cotton Australia; April 5, 2017 .

\$14.7 million in funding has been allocated for vocational training for the NSW cotton and grains industries over three years as part of the AgSkilled program. NSW growers are now invited to submit an early expression of interest. Funding has been made available to on-farm staff and industry professionals for full and part qualifications. Details: [ow.ly/WWn030azzwO](http://ow.ly/WWn030azzwO)

They need a minimum of 12 to run a Chem Cert course and can come to you. This would be great for our Bourke growers so if you want to organise get in touch with Claudia and she can help you. We could also do a forklift ticket course if we get enough interest, we have a location in Trangie where this is possible so get in touch with Julie Wise ( Cotton Australia Regional Manager ) or contact Claudia on the number above

### DISEASE ALERT .....

This season has seen a increase in some disease symptoms on farms , especially in back to back crops that have a substantial boll load. If you see anything you have not seen before of you think could potentially be a threat please contact Amanda Thomas. Its also a good idea to throw a pair of secateurs in the ute as a simple stem cut can help identify that a pathogen has infected the plant. However, you still need to send the stems away for clarification. I have several free Biosecurity signs so contact me if you need some updated signage for your farm.



I also have copies of the Cotton Symptoms Guide available at the office. If you don't have copy you can download here

[http://cottoninfo.com.au/sites/default/files/documents/CottonSymptoms\\_Guide.pdf](http://cottoninfo.com.au/sites/default/files/documents/CottonSymptoms_Guide.pdf)

Or let me know and I'll post it out.

## BOURKE NEWS .....

Last week I did a tour of some of the Bourke crops with Craig McDonald from CSD. They have had a long hot season and some of the crops have run out of moisture. However others are hanging on quite well. ( see pic below ). They had less insect pressure this season most probably due to the dry winter.

Growing season rainfall has been hit and miss this year in the Bourke region with between 90 and 175mm falling on various district farms. Of the 4,029 hectares planted, crop defoliation is due to start today and those crops with enough irrigation water look pretty good in what has been a tough season on water budgets. Some fields will be defoliated by ground rigs and others will use aircraft. .  
(Photo courtesy Craig McDonald, CSD and Amanda Thomas, REO Macquarie )



That's it for another edition of the "Bale up" stay tuned for some more info on the field days in the next few days. If you see anything unusual in the field please contact me or your agro as it's always best to confirm things rather than assume.

## FIELD DAY FLASH BACKS .....



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