



Macquarie bale up

November 2017

SEASON SUMMARY

Day Degree is for the planting date of 20th of October and Rainfall is from the 20th of October

Location	Day Degrees	Average DD	Cold Shock	Rainfall
Mumblebone East	301.8	310.6	8	73ml
Trangie Research station	281.7	286.5	8	57.2ml
Narromine Airport	272.3	277	12	
Westwood Narromine				8ml
Farrendale Narromine				11.2ml

Table 1. Day Degrees and Rainfall Table

As you can see from the table most areas are below average or right on average for Day Degree accumulation. We are however in front of last season in all areas. The insect pressure has been very varied as has the rainfall, there has been some pretty good egg lays from Helicoverpa before the last lot of rain north or Warren, but it was not across the valley. Apple dimpling bugs have been spotted about in some areas and thrips have been consistent across the valley. Some of the more advanced cotton is starting early squaring however (in some cases 5 – 6 nodes) which puts us in front of last season. There is a big range of plant stages (even farms next door to each other) and we can see plenty of weeds popping up due rain after a dry winter. The storms over the last month have been very patchy. In some cases, we have seen some replant happening due to storm pockets and or hail events and in some cases due to the seed bed not being ideal. The pheromone traps have been working and last week it was 75% punctigera moths that were trapped.

VALLEY UPDATE

We have some raingrown cotton (new buzz word for dryland) about 2000ha at this point. The valley has around 38000 ha in this season, so we are shaping up for a pretty big year in terms of area. Allocations remain on 38%. We do have some new growers this season who are growing for the first time and cotton going in around Guerie.

COTTON AWARDS NIGHT

Friday 10th November 2017 saw the annual CSD Macquarie Cotton Grower Association awards evening at Soulfood Narromine, where 160 growers and industry representatives met to socialise and celebrate the efforts of their peers over the past twelve months. With a slightly changed format the guests were treated to a cocktail style evening with plenty of mingling on the menu!!! After a tough season in 2016/17 the awards were eagerly anticipated, top field above 30ha was awarded to Boree Park Pastoral with a yield of 14.22b/ha. The farm average in the valley last season was 306 ha with this in mind large farm average was awarded to Glen and Narelle Whittaker "Killowen" with 12.01b/ha over 424ha. Small farm was awarded to Boree Park pastoral with 13.62b/ha over 114 ha. Congratulations to these growers with great results under such trying conditions.

Young achiever was awarded to Thomas Quigley for his local efforts with the MCGA and for undertaking a Nuffield scholarship to look at farming systems under overhead irrigation. Our final award was very well received, and much deserved Dr Pat Hulme was awarded Jim Beale services to industry

for over 30 years working within and alongside the cotton industry.

Finally onto the entertainment for the evening and guests were treated to comedian Tommy Deans views on the real reasons Aussie men watch cricket for five days, cotton is actually vegetarian wool and some differences between Australian and American gun laws..... rounding up a wonderful catch up was the spinning efforts of DJ Calamari....

Everyone got right into the photo comp this year the theme was "farm stuff ups" Billy Browning won with "caterpillar truck" .



Photo Supplied by Billy Browning.

On behalf of the MCGA committee we would like to thank Sophie Obrien for coming on board to help out planning and running the awards night.

WORRIED ABOUT WHITEFLY?

Julie Wise and myself took some time after last season to call growers and find out what their research priorities and information gaps were from the 2016/2017 season. On top of the list for many was the management of Silver Leaf Whitefly. Many saw this as an emerging problem that is growing in our area. With this in mind I have been working closely with my counterpart in the Gwydir (Janelle Montgomery). Janelle has been approached by consultants and growers to help re introduce Area Wide Management groups to help combat the problems they have been seeing over the last 5 or so seasons. In the past we have brought out the researchers to talk to growers and consultants and while the messages are getting through we thought we could try to connect with growers and consultants who have lived through some hairy times in terms of outbreaks of SLW and mealy bugs. We also want to hear from Arthur Spellson to get a sense of what a “ sticky cotton reputation “ could mean to us. We will also find out about the past 5 years trends in terms of quality. We have put lots into organising this day and are flying in the speakers so I do urge you to make time to attend this meeting. (see flyer attached) .

WHATS ON

24TH NOVEMBER – BIRDS BATS AND BUGS NIGHT <..\..\Field days\2017\BIRDS BATS AND BUGS NIGHT.pdf>

29TH & 30TH NOVEMBER PRECISION AG TRAINING [Precision agronomy training - Trangie November 29/ 30](#)

6TH DECEMBER SLW MANAGEMENT TOUR

<..\..\Field days\2017\SLW management tour 2017 flyer page2.jpg>

11TH DECEMBER IPM SHORT COURSE BUGCHECKING PRACTICAL SESSION (MORE INFO TO FOLLOW)

COTTON MAP

If you don't want to incur the fierce wrath of Julie Wise you best make sure all fields are entered on this years cotton map program. We are launching a very big spray drift campaign over the next weeks so we want to make sure all the fields are in and accounted for. If you have problems contact Julie Wise or your TUA to get this sorted as soon as possible. <http://www.cottonmap.com.au>

Julie Wise juliew@cotton.org.au or 0447370043

DISEASE SURVEYS

As some of you would already know the surveys were done a few weeks ago and I will be conducting a few more in the over the next few weeks. We are seeing some moderate levels of Black Root Rot (BRR) across the valley. If you want to positively identify a disease in your crop plant samples can be sent to the NSW DPI pathology team. Strict care must be taken when packaging and sending samples to ACRI. If Fusarium Wilt is suspected do not send samples to ACRI but contact the NSW DPI team. I have packs to assist with sending samples in the office at warren please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance Aphrika Gregson 0429 963 894
Dr Duy Le 0439 941 542
Fusarium wilt samples are diagnosed by Dr Linda Smith in Queensland 0457 547 617

That's a wrap for another edition of the Macquarie Bale up . I will put a few pictures from the photo competition for those who missed the cotton awards, as we were so impressed with the "bugger it awards" we might have to do it again next year.



Pic 1. Ben Egan " Opps I did it again "



Pic 2. Anthony Corderoy
" 5 meters would have done it "

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Pic 3 Jenna Richardson " Air Grading "



Pic 4 John Noonan " how sturdy is that road ? "



Pic 5 . Billy Browning " Upside down miss Jane "