



# Macquarie bale up

## October 2017

### SEASON SUMMARY

Planting has just begun late September with warm conditions existing with temperatures mid 30's. Rain has been patchy across the valley and interrupted watering up in some cases.

7 Day summary from the MCGA and CSD weatherstations from the 12 of October 2017 (covering both rain events )

<b>Burroway w/s</b>	<b>30.4 mls</b>
<b>Dandaloo w/s</b>	<b>22.8mls</b>
<b>Marthaguy w/s</b>	<b>21.8mls</b>
<b>Mulmblebone w/s</b>	<b>15.4 mls</b>
<b>Auscott w/s</b>	<b>25.4 mls</b>
<b>Collie w/s</b>	<b>19.6 mls</b>
<b>Coonamble w/s</b>	<b>38.4 mls</b>
<b>Buddah CSD w/s</b>	<b>33 mls</b>
<b>Dubbo Airport</b>	<b>40mls</b>

Most farms are now planting or looking to plant soon. The rain has helped to consolidate a few beds but could pose a bit of a problem on soils prone to crusting.

The Macquarie is planting both Sicot 746B3F and Sicot 748B3F with small quantities of Sicot 714B3F and Sicot 754B3F being grown. The area to be planted in irrigated should be close to 37,000 ha.

### MRFF update

Grant Tranter from Macquarie River Food and Fibre (MRFF ) has commented the following. August update saw General Security allocations raised to 38%. This years allocation in addition to substantial account carryover sees about 664GL available for General Security licence holders in the 2017-18 water year so far. Rain later in the season could see this years allocation increased again.

Burrendong Dam is currently at 76%, falling from 81% at the start of September thanks largely to 78GL of environmental water released as part of the Macquarie Marshes watering strategy. By the end of November about 135GL of licenced environmental and EWA allocations will be delivered.

Increased irrigation demand has seen Burrendong releases rise to around 3000ML/d with around 1100ML/d delivered to the environment. Corrective maintenance on Burrendong main penstock is now complete



and the temporary carryover rule expires at the end of September.

Most irrigators are likely to use the water in their on-farm storages first. Water NSW anticipates about 400 GL delivered for irrigation this water year.

## AWARDS SEASON

The awards dinner is to be held on the **10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Soul Food Narromine. Invites will be out as soon as sponsors are confirmed . If you would like to sponsor please contact Sophie on [admin@mcga.org.au](mailto:admin@mcga.org.au)**

Please find attached nominations for Young Achiever of the Year Award and the Jim Beale Memorial Trophy for Services to the Industry.

Could you please send back your nomination to the MCGA email by the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The committee has decided to lower the minimum size to be eligible in the highest yield award from 40 ha to 30 ha .

The photo category will once again be running this year with the theme to be “Farm Stuff Ups” so please send in your funny photos of mishaps.



This is the sort of thing we are after , happy to have scanned copies of days gone by.

Further information will be available shortly regarding the dinner. If you have questions about the awards dinner please contact Sophie O'Brien 0403 833 881 who is filling in for Kerry Duncan in the MCGA secretary position while Kerry is on extended leave.

## SPOTLIGHT NIGHT IN THE PIPES

Due to the great success of the CottonInfo NRM Paddle we held last year we are planning another event with Ecologist Phil Sparks. **Birds, Bats & Bugs! –**

A family wildlife discovery spotlight evening. Join us on our fun and free wildlife spotlight evenings as Ecologist Phil Spark and CSIRO entomologists explore with us the amazing local wildlife in their natural habitats.

Looking to secure 2 locations to host these fun filled family nights. The sites ideally should be largish areas of remnant vegetation that are reasonably well connect to other areas of vegetation. If you have riparian sites near water that would be even better. We have penciled in the following dates so if they suit you and have some river country or remnant veg and keen young people please let me know.

**Warren – 5:00pm Friday evening 24<sup>th</sup> November.**

**Narromine/ Trangie – 5:00pm Saturday evening 25<sup>th</sup> November**

This event is suitable for all ages. A free BBQ dinner will be provided. Last year the kids loved meeting some of Phils pet snakes learning where the wildlife live on the farm. If you have a good river angle where we can get good access or know of a reserve near you that would suit please let me know as I would love to book in the venues in the next week so we can promote the nights.




Phil in action with the budding ecologists ( source Stacey Vogel )

## WEATHER STATIONS AND SOIL TEMP NETWORKS

Cotton Seed Distributors website has a great soil temperature network that will help those all important decisions on when to plant. <http://bit.ly/2vs1PwS> It has heaps of other useful information that can get you off to the best start for the season.

The MCGA along with Porosity is continuing its funding of the two current weather stations in either end of the valley to access the weather stations at Mt Foster and Farrendale follow the steps listed below

- Instructions on how to access the data (same as last year – however note the instructions to hit your REFRESH button as explained below):
  - 1) Go to [www.porosity.com.au](http://www.porosity.com.au)
  - 2) Under the Porosity/Members login enter the following:
    - Username; mcga
    - Password; ctstrial
  - 3) Once logged in, save the page straight to your home screen by clicking on the "box with  arrow" , or to your favourites
  - 4) IF you logged into this website last season, then you will have to hit the REFRESH BUTTON on your web-

browser to see the changes from last year.

## REBEL AG CHANGES HANDS

Rebel Ag has a long history in the Macquarie Valley, having been established for around 40 years. Marcus and Rebecca Ashby are the new owners and are looking forward to carrying on the business for decades to come.

Originally from South Australia, both Marcus and Rebecca were raised on grazing and cropping properties in the south-eastern districts. Marcus returned to the family farm following secondary school, and this is where he met Rebecca.

After a few years working in the family farming business, Marcus gained his Commercial Pilot's rating and with Rebecca, headed up to fly charters in the top end, based at Kununurra, WA. From there it was onto Alice Springs, NT and then back to South Australia flying for REX.

With agriculture in his blood, Marcus eventually joined his brother Angus in Narrabri and they have been operating AirCair Narrabri for the past few years with both having their ag rating and a solid reputation for getting the job done.

The decision to purchase Rebel Ag from Julie Black was the next step for the brothers and Marcus and Rebecca have just made the move from Narrabri to Trangie. They have three young children, Tommy the eldest will begin school in Trangie this Term.

Marcus will fly this season, joining long time Rebel Ag pilot Matt Thomas, and Godfrey Gardiner, an ag pilot with close to 40 years' experience. Former proprietor, Tony Jones, will return to Trangie to fly during the cotton



season with Marcus and Matt. Tony and Matt have extensive knowledge of the Macquarie Valley, and Marcus is focussed on providing an efficient and effective service for their clients.

The Rebel Ag team will be running a fleet of 502 and 802 Air Tractors.

You can contact Marcus or Operations Manager, Amanda Ferrari at the Trangie Airstrip on 6888 7101 or email [operations@rebelag.com.au](mailto:operations@rebelag.com.au)



*Marcus and Bec Ashby and the children (L-R) from left to right (cockpit out ) Tommy, Harry and Holly (supplied Amanda Ferrari)*

### **NEED HELP FINDING WORKERS ?**

As part of the CRDC funded Developing Education Capacity in the Cotton Industry project, The Education Officer Trudy Staines has been joining forces with other cotton industry organisations such as Auscott, Cotton Australia, CGS and the Crop Consultants to attend the agricultural careers days at the University of New England and Charles Sturt University. Here they met with students looking into a career in agriculture and specifically the cotton industry. Trudy has been putting together a network list of those student who were most keen.

The network is an avenue for agribusinesses, growers, researchers etc. to access a pool of possible employees who are keen and looking to gain on the job experience. It's an opportunity for growers and businesses, employers to 'test drive' possible candidates for future positions in their organisation. The students range from 1<sup>st</sup> years to graduates.

So if you're looking to fill a position over the coming growing season contact Trudy with your job offer and she will send it around. You should then be able to choose the best candidate for your situation.

[Trudy.staines@csiro.au](mailto:Trudy.staines@csiro.au) 0429 924265

### **IPM SHORT COURSE PARTICIPANTS**

We had a really good turn out for the IPM short course run over 2 days 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of September, this course will have another training day out in the field later in the season.



*Richard and Kevin Flynn and David Burgess with Trudy Staines from CSIRO checking out the Beneficials*



*Kevin Flynn , Sam Pagan, David Burgess and Adam Delany, checking out the critters on the beat sheet.*

## **WHAT'S ON**

**16 October - Robotics demonstration day**  
**- Nevertire** click the link to find out more.

**30<sup>TH</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November Disease surveys will be conducted in the valley**

**10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER – Cotton Awards Night at Soul Food in Narromine**

**24<sup>th</sup> Family fun Spotlight night Warren**  
**Location to be announced soon.**

**25<sup>th</sup> Family fun Spotlight night Narromine or Trangie**