



the cotton wrap

MAY 2017

SEASON SUMMARY

Apologies, I have a correction for my last Newsletter. The Dryland crop being picked at Ian Gourleys was in fact yielding 1.1 bales per acre, not per hectare, sorry Ian.



Annabelle Guest provides a more accurate yield prediction at “Blue Hill” Edgeroi.

Picking is complete or close for many growers through the Namoi. Yields have improved slightly as we moved into the main part of the crop although generally it has been below expectations at between 9 and 12 bales per Hectare a pretty common number. Crops on the Liverpool Plains seem to have fared the best with some very good yields of 12 bales per hectare and Bourke may have suffered the most as the heat intensified. Hugh Urquhart tells me that a few dryland crops are yielding very well with up to 5 bales per hectare being reported down on the Liverpool Plains. Plenty of winter crops have been planted with some marginal moisture profiles although East of Bellata Geoff Kirkby had to wait for things

to dry out after a 40mm fall of rain.



Aerial photo from the drone over “Bellevue” and “Warilea”, Narrabri.

TRIALS

Phil Christie is exploring a better alternative to controlling cotton post picking. In collaboration with TTQ in Toowoomba they have built a prototype which may just provide an option to ratoon control and also to pupae bust if required. With 2 sets of hydraulic rams providing up to 18 tonnes of downforce pressure it has plenty of capability and looks like it could have a fit in a cotton farming system. A field day on the 2nd June is being investigated.



The TTQ prototype being trialled by Phil Christie.



COVER CROPPING

There is still some discussion around cover cropping so when I was talking to Nick Beer he mentioned that they are using an Orthman strip tiller to prepare a better seedbed and prevent 'hairpinning' whilst still maintaining ground cover.



A strip tiller through very heavy wheat stubble at David and Gordon Brownhill's property "Dimby Plains"

WEEDS

I will leave this reminder in for the ICAN run weeds workshops for August. They will be in a small group format and will start at 8:30 am and finish by 5pm (or earlier). Participant numbers will be limited to ensure active participation and discussion – so book early. The workshops will cost \$50pp (GST inclusive). For more information and to register – [click here](#).

What's on.

1st August Rowena- Weeds Workshop, Village Inn, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/
3rd August Bellata- Weeds Workshop, Golf Club, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/
4th August Gunnedah- Weeds Workshop, Services and Bowling Club, 8.30 start. Contact www.icanrural.com.au/
26th 27th July- Cotton Collective in Griffith.

WELSHY'S WEATHER

Some moisture streaming down from the warm Coral Sea will at least break the stable, dry autumn pattern in the short term. Even for the supreme optimist it's difficult to find good news on this year's winter cropping season. Climate

models have backed off on El Nino somewhat but the positive Indian Ocean Dipole remains a concern. If the two align in August then this means warmer temperatures and less rainfall this spring. One can only hope the scientists have got it all wrong and current rainfall events going against the unfavourable winter rain predictions might continue.

SAYINGS OF THE MONTH

"Luck is merely preparation meeting opportunity", Oprah Winfrey.

"Entrepreneurs are simply those that understand that there is little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both to their advantage", Victor Kiam.

WHAT MOVIE?

Sitting on a farm, which is now growing cotton and situated in the Upper Namoi this barn was made famous in a movie some years back.



Some laughing and crying over the weekend with a purple patch around Harparary and Boggabri receiving 75-90mm. Burren area was close to 25mm with some missing out with only 6mm but south up to 50mm. Bellata missed out this time and the story was the same down in the Macquarie as well with plenty missing out.

Until Next time

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