



# the cotton wrap

## NOVEMBER 2017 SEASON SUMMARY

Wild weather over parts of the Namoi this last few days with some big hail in Narrabri and also knocking about 100ha of cotton on "Milchengowrie", near Boggabri where a storm headed through Emerald Hill. Scott McCalman sent me this picture of hail at his farm south of Boggabri.



Hail at "Kuranda" Boggabri on Monday afternoon.

Nick Beers reports that Tamarang received around 25mm of rain and parts around Blackville had up to 40mm. Over at Gunnedah though Pete Lennox at "Battery Hill" only received 4mm.

Only 6mm rainfall here at Harparary and that was 5mm more than most of the western areas with none at Walgett and Wee Waa only a couple of mm. Moree I hear was a little better with "Keytah" 30mm and Janelle Montgomery 18mm to the west of Moree. Paul Slack is east of Moree and received 66mm in 2 falls at "Belapampa" and 25mm at "Belvedere".

Now you might say that this picture below is a common site with Rob Eveleigh planting another trial but this is going to be the last irrigated cotton trial Rob does for CSD before he retires early next year.

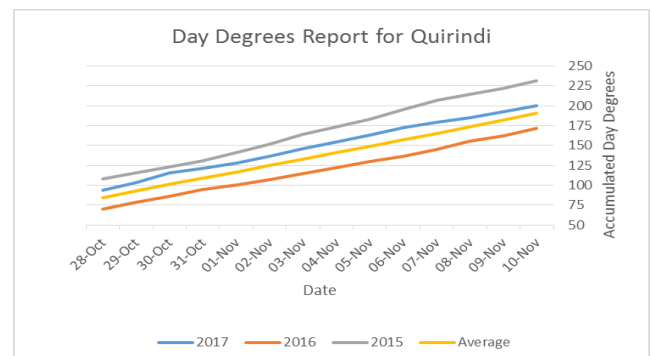
This trial is looking at varietal differences on an irrigated field on a 1.5m row configuration at "West Mourabbie", managed by Dave Miller and owned by MH Premium Farms.



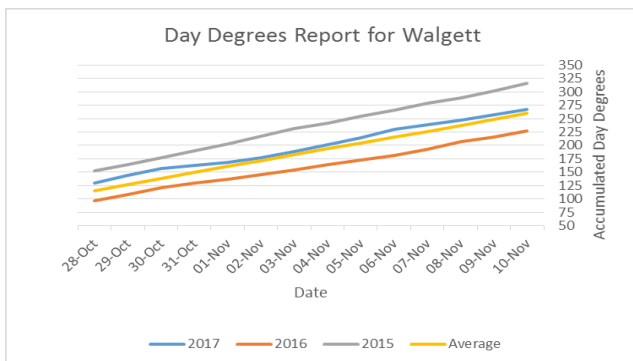
Variety trial at "West Mourabbie", Walgett.

## DAY DEGREES

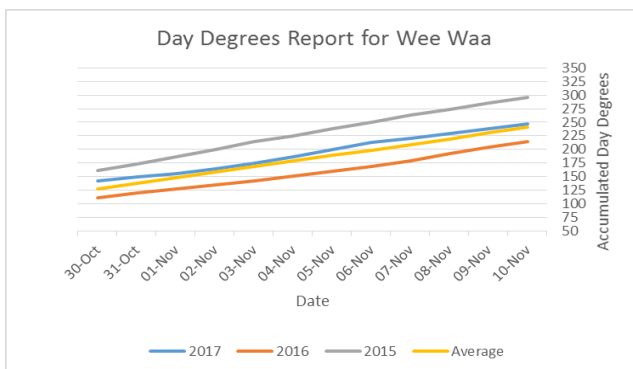
Below is a summary of day degrees for 3 sites with a planting date of **17<sup>th</sup> October**.



Qurindi	2017	2016
Hot Shocks	0	0
Cold Shocks	16	20



Walgett	2017	2016
Hot Shocks	3	2
Cold Shocks	9	14



Wee Waa	2017	2016
Hot Shocks	1	1
Cold Shocks	9	14

## RESEARCH CORNER

If you want to know what is going on in your area the online trials map has now been updated with the 2017-18 trials. You can find it here:

[www.cottoninfo.com.au/farm-trials](http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/farm-trials)

Jon Welsh and Janine Powell have also updated the latest gross margin budgets and they can be accessed on the link below.

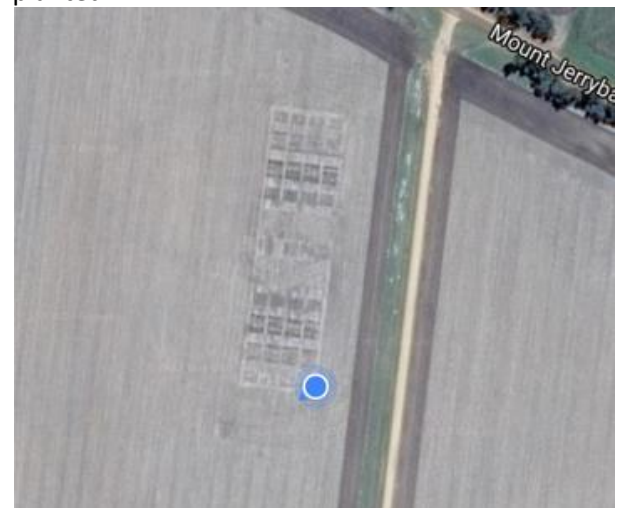
<http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/publications/australian-cotton-industry-gross-margin-budgets-2017-18>

## WHAT'S ON

<b>15th Nov-</b> Upper Namoi CGA meeting, 10am in the Baxter Room Gunnedah.
<b>15th Nov-</b> Lower Namoi CGA meeting, 1.30pm in the back meeting room at CSD.
<b>21st 22nd Nov-</b> Cotton Australia General meeting at Coogee in Sydney.
<b>12th Dec-</b> Dryland Cover Cropping Field Day, "Belvedere" Moree. Ph Annabelle 0428 924 568
<b>16th &amp; 17th Jan-</b> Fertiliser calibration day at Boggabri and Spring Ridge, RSVP's essential, Ph Geoff on 0458 142 777.
<b>9th Feb-</b> Nitrogen and Irrigation Tour, "Waverley" Wee Waa.

## DRYLAND COTTON

A detailed trial to look at cover crop alternatives following cotton is coming to an end at "Belvedere" Moree this season. The picture below shows that it is even visible on Google so it must be real. The trial, being managed by Kalyx has 160 small plot trials which are replicated 4 times and based on treatments of both cereals and legumes, harvest vs brown manure, winter vs summer. Planted after cotton in 2015 the treatments were planted over with a wheat crop in 2016 which yielded up to 6tonnes per hectare then long fallowed back to cotton which has just been planted.



Google maps

Below is a photo of just one plot of brown manured barley where you can see the increased bulk of ground cover still evident from 2015.



*A plot of Barley brown manured then followed by Wheat*

This is a multi-funded project with support from LLS, The National Landcare Programme and the Fastart® programme and a field day will be held on-site 12th December to look at the findings. Well worth a visit.

Another project which is progressing well is the planter bar which is nearing completion and will be trialled at Moree and on display at the cover cropping trial at “Belvedere” on the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.



*Planter Bar under construction.*

## WELSHY’S WEATHER

No obvious shift in climate towards wetter conditions despite talk of La Niña thresholds almost being met in the tropical Pacific. The SAM has been negative since around the 10 October not helping the circulation patterns delivering moisture into our area. This key indicator is predicted to swing back positive in November, so let’s hope the next passing MJO can combine to bring a more general rain event. On temperatures, there looks to be no sign of extreme heat for November, so quite a stable pattern for irrigators in the current outlook. Keep an eye on Mondays Moisture Manager for more details.

## SAYINGS OF THE WEEK

*“Don’t wish it were easier, wish you were better”.*

*“Don’t wish for less problems, wish for more skills”.*

*“Don’t wish for less challenges, wish for more wisdom”.*

*Until Next time*

**Geoff Hunter**

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