



Information when you need it



the **cotton tale**

How far are we through picking?



My best estimate is around 60 to 70 % through. Some growers are finished, some are well into picking and some are just starting. Progress has been slow with low drying weather conditions and low availability of contract pickers.

On a positive note, yields and quality have generally been very good. Around 93 % of cotton classed so far has meet base grade for micronaire and 90 % has been at least 31-3. Early reports indicate farm averages around 11 bales/ha.



I recall in 2011 when picking finished on the 30th July. Depending on weather conditions through July and picker availability we could be well into August to see the finish line.

A new John Deere round bale cotton picker costs about \$1.3m+, making it one of the most expensive agricultural machines available in Australia and a major capital expenditure decision for any farm business. The CottonInfo factsheet here examines the economics behind the decision-making.

[Picking: Owning your own or using a contractor | CottonInfo](#)

Fibre quality

Classing results are coming through to growers as gin runs occur. What you need to focus on when you get the report is making at least base grade which for Australian cotton is Colour 31 (Middling) with Leaf 3, length 36 (32nds) and micronaire G5 (3.5 to 4.9). Premiums and discounts apply for higher and lower grades, respectively.

How each of the quality characteristics are graded is explained in the link below

[Fibre quality | CottonInfo](#)



Light spotted (32) on the left compared to middling (31)

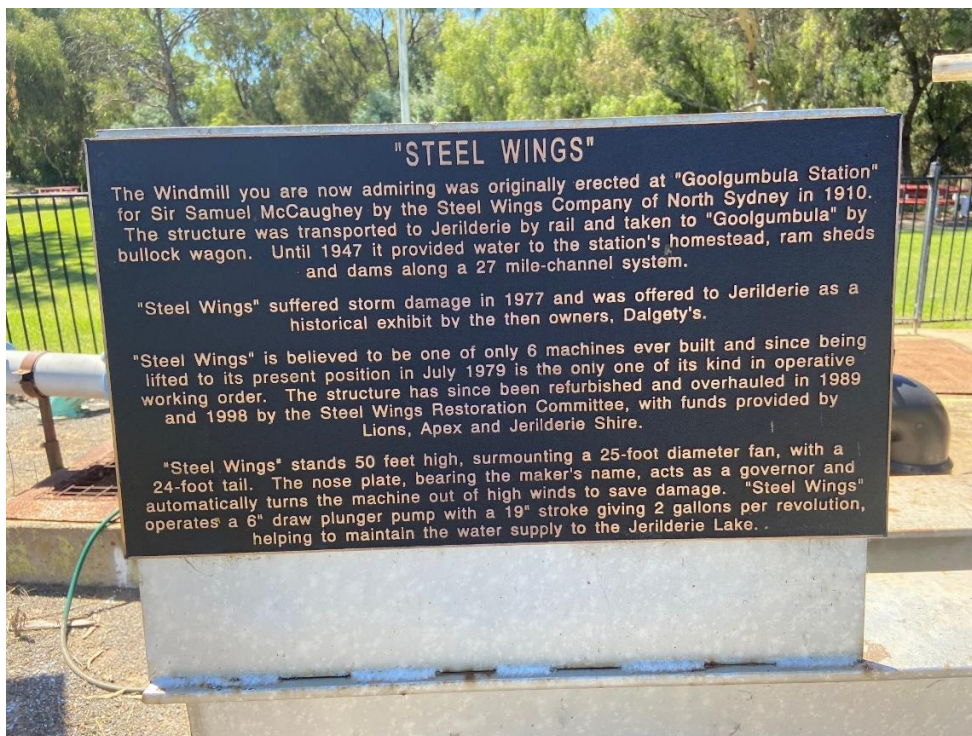
There has been a trend in recent weeks with a higher percentage of cotton coming through as light spotted compared to middling for colour.

If any grower or advisor wants to see how cotton is classed, they can contact Patrick McDonnell at Proclass 23 Battista St Griffith on 69644440 or 0437 909 769.

July quiz. Where and who is this?



April Quiz answer



Regards Kieran

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