

Little joy in long range forecast

After a fairly good run in the previous period, our long range forecaster, Ken Ring, had some mixed results during August–November.

Although not always ‘on-the-money’, Ken’s forecasts in *The Australian Cottongrower* during the year have attracted a lot of interest — and even anticipation. At least a couple of growers couldn’t wait for the forecast in the previous issue and rang for a sneak preview.

They were probably disappointed in the result.

On the positive side, he did very accurately predict a succession of rainy days towards the end of August through to early September. Unfortunately, the actual totals did not live up to expectations.

You could also say that his prediction of rain around the middle of September had some merit, although the timing was slightly off and the totals, again, were not up to the forecast.

The good falls forecast for the second half of September unfortunately failed to materialise.

The forecast for the overall rainfall total for Moree was wide of the mark. Instead of 130 mm, less than 40 mm fell. For one of the few times this year, the historical mean or median rainfall figures were a better prediction than Ken’s forecast.

The forecast for the next two months is not very encouraging (see Figure 3). The next decent fall is forecast for the end of November, and there will be some cotton crops which may need a drink before then.

If you want to get a forecast for your local area, or can’t wait for the *Australian Cottongrower* to be published to read Ken’s Moree forecast, go to his web site www.predictweather.com where you can order your own forecast.

FIGURE 1: August–September daily predicted vs actual

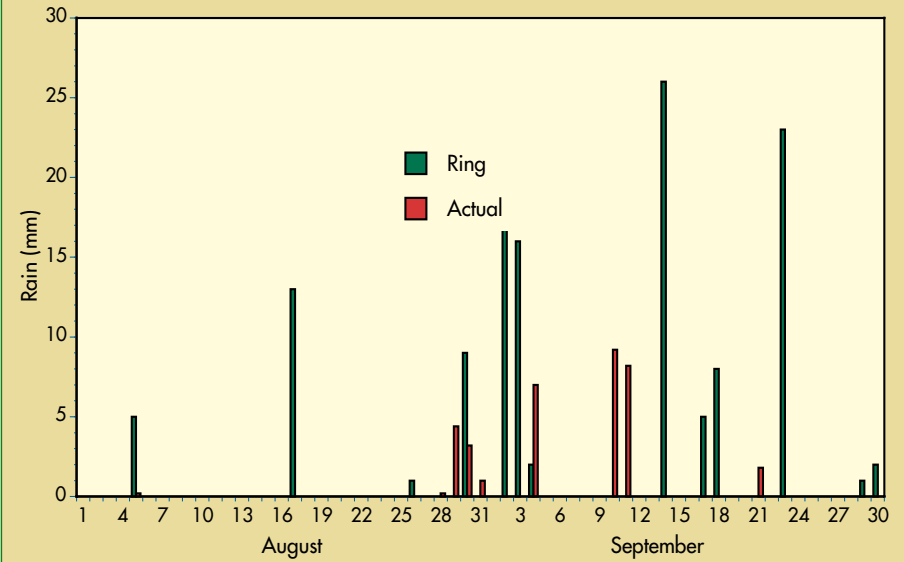


FIGURE 2: August–September totals and rain days for Moree

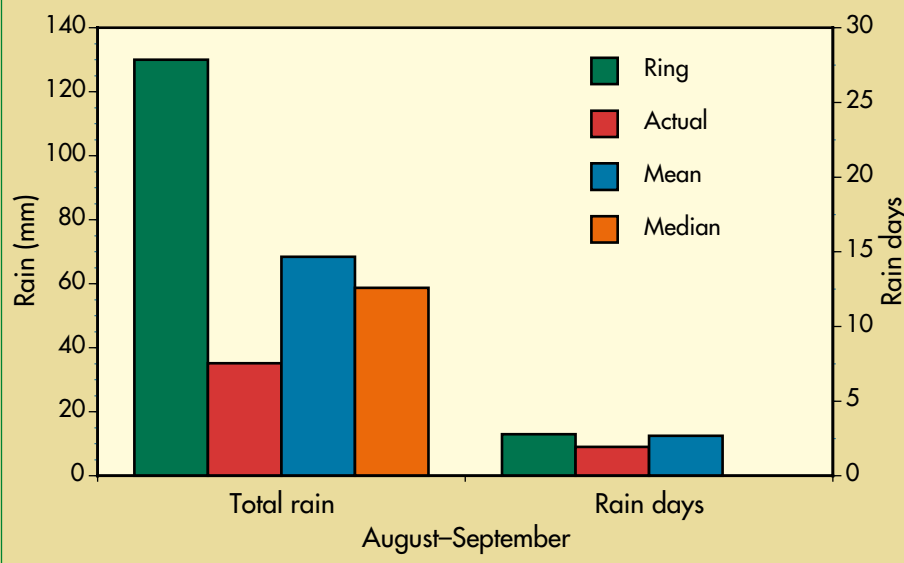


FIGURE 3: Daily rainfall forecast for Moree for October–November 2006 (mm)

