



www.cottongrower.com.au



Editorial...

David Dowling, Editor

How many times a day do you check the BOM website? If you are anything like me, you'll be checking at least a couple of times a day. That becomes more frequent when there is a likely looking weather system in the offing.

And when some rain actually starts to fall, or the storm clouds are looking a little dark, the website and the radar are open on my computer, phone and iPad all the time.

With apologies to those without broadband – how did we ever get by before the internet gave us the option of immediate and fairly accurate access to detailed weather information? I suppose we just relied on experience and some of the old timers had almost as good a strike rate as the BOM when they predicted some rain was on the way.

So there is a lot more information out there, but how much has it helped in practical decision making? The answer is probably quite a lot in the short term – up to a week. Although this year has seen numerous promising systems and forecasts die as they move across the country. Some areas have done pretty well, but nothing much has changed in the rain shadow of Queensland.

In the longer term, we have all been hanging on with bated breath for the BOM to declare that the long-promised La Niña had arrived, and the 'girl child' fulfilled that promise in late September. A La Niña doesn't guarantee high rainfall, but if you want to have the averages on your side, it might be an idea to get any winter crop off as early as possible and have optimistic summer crop options available if October–December produces the goods in terms of rainfall.

A team from RMIT University in Melbourne has come up with a coating for cotton fabrics to produce low-risk chemical protective clothing (CPC) that retains cotton's comfort qualities – lightweight, comfortable, easily cleaned and durable. At the moment, CPC workwear garments are made of uncomfortable, disposable, liquid repellent synthetic fibres.

The resulting garments from the new system could have a great fit for low-risk level protection against liquid chemicals. Interesting story on page 43.

SMK CONSULTANTS PTY. LTD.

surveying – irrigation – environmental

- FARM LAYOUT & MAPPING
- IRRIGATION PLANNING & DESIGN
- EM & GRID SURVEYS
- FARM GPS PROCESSING
- WATER STORAGE INVESTIGATION & DESIGN
- WATER STORAGE CAPACITY SURVEYS
- ASSESSMENT FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SERVING NSW, QLD, NT & INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

MOREE

39 Frome Street, PO Box 774, Moree NSW 2400
Ph (02) 6752 1640; Fax (02) 6752 5070
Contact: Paul Covell, Peter Taylor
Email: ptaylor@smk.com.au

GOONDIWINDI

9 Pratten St, PO Box 422, Goondiwindi Qld 4390
Ph (07) 4671 2445; Fax (07) 4671 2561
Contact: Ralph Kinsella, Mike Henderson
Email: qld@smk.com.au