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Editorial...

David Dowling, Editor



As the current cotton season winds down, we can rue the fact that there weren't more hectares of seed in the ground. It may not have seemed so at times, but the pickers and gins are telling us that it was one of the highest yielding seasons on record. And a bit more water in the right place at the right time could have made it even better.

Cotton may be a desert plant, thriving on hot weather and able to survive dry periods, but our best yielding seasons are invariably ones with milder temperatures, with enough rainfall but not too much cloudy weather. Which is what we have just had. Some of the yields being recorded are exceptional and, in some cases, unexpected. There will probably be records broken in a few valleys.

Even more encouraging is the outlook for next season. Irrigation supply levels and subsoil moisture at their highest levels for several years and, combined with buoyant prices, should produce a bumper cotton planting. We just need the Chinese to start buying our cotton again – they know they want to.

So the recently announced Cotton Collective in Toowoomba in August should be a beauty. Optimism is through the roof and the industry hasn't had a get-together for two years, so we can expect enormous interest in the event with research and industry presentations, a Trade Show and the Awards Dinner. The previous two Cotton Collectives were held in Griffith and it is now time for the Queenslanders to show what they can do. Hopefully, by 2022, the Australian Cotton Conference will be back in action on the Gold Coast and life will have returned to a semblance of normality.

To all readers of *The Australian Cottongrower*, we must apologise for disruptions to subscriptions over the past couple of months. We have launched a new website which has a lot of functionality and presents the magazine and individual articles extremely well. All back issues of the magazine for the past three years are currently online and can be read in a great flipbook format. Unfortunately, anyone whose subscription expired over this period had trouble renewing. We think most of the bugs have been ironed out and it will all go smoothly from here on, but you never know with new technology.

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