



ANNA BINNA update

July 2017 Newsletter

Finally it rained!!

After 12 nervous weeks, it finally rained. This year has been the driest start to the growing season in 30 years. Many areas on the Central Yorke Peninsula had only received around 25mm (1 inch) of rain from the end of February to the end of June. Most of our crop had germinated and had emerged with many areas suffering extreme moisture stress for weeks.

The mice continued to cause havoc during this time, eating both the seed and the green shoots. This required ongoing monitoring and baiting to keep the damage to a minimum.

We were fortunate to receive around 15 mm at the end of June and the last two fronts have delivered another 20 mm. The crops are starting to grow again and we have been applying low rates of nitrogen fertiliser to encourage growth as they are now eight weeks behind their normal growth stage. With a forecast for a drier-than-average spring, we will apply small doses of nitrogen fertiliser more often so we don't over-fertilise for the moisture we have available.

On a positive note, the world wheat price has increased in the last few weeks as it's getting dry in the U.S. and Canada. This will certainly help us in what's likely to be a lower production year.

Recent visitors

We often have groups visit us during the year.



Hurricane lentils near Price, surviving on virtually no rain since April



Scepter wheat, suffering moisture stress, is thinner than normal due to dry conditions



Recently, we hosted a busload of staff and students from the Glen Osmond Primary School. It's great to give the students a farm experience and they asked lots of questions as they have been studying a "paddock to plate" program. We had a large fire going and we topped them up with plenty of marshmallows for the trip home.

Congratulations and best wishes

Congratulations to Clifton Power, who has worked with us on a seasonal basis since 2011 and has now gained a full-time position driving a Kenworth for Garden Grove haulage. He drove a chaser bin and the water truck for two years at Anna Binna. He obtained his semi licence in 2012 and his road train licence in 2013, drove a semi tipper in the 2013 harvest and a B-double in the 2016 harvest. We wish him all the best!

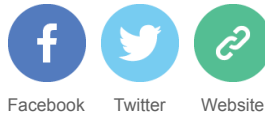
As always, we thank you for your support throughout the season.

Regards,
Ben Wundersitz

Students & staff from Glen Osmond Primary School roasting marshmallows on the fire



Congratulations to Clifton Power, who has gained full-time employment driving a Kenworth for Garden Grove Transport



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