THE LUNAR "AIR TIDE CYCLE" EXPLAINED

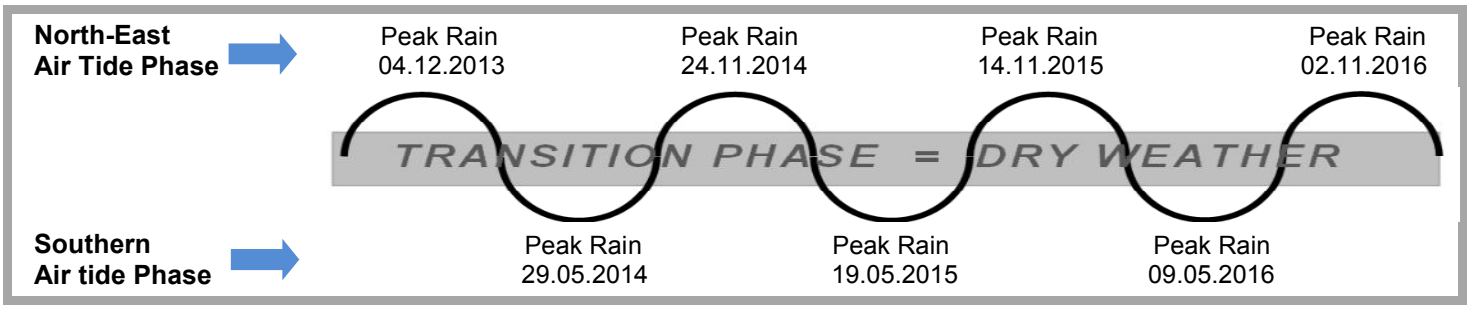
Written by Kevin Long Oct 2012 (updated 1 Dec 2014) www.TheLongView.com.au

The Air Tide Cycle is controlled by the "355 day lunar declination cycle". This cycle produces two above-average rainfall periods and two below-average rainfall periods every 355 days. This cycle peaks ten days earlier each year due to the lunar cycle being 10 days short of a year. The high-rainfall periods produced by the air tide cycle usually only last for about 89 days, followed by 89 days of usually much drier weather. The effects of these cycles are constantly being enhanced or diminished by the combined gravity forces of the solar system planets.

The North-East Lunar Air Tide Phase ... is the most productive phase of this Lunar Cycle and is one of the main driving forces behind most of the major rain events that occur in the Murray Darling Basin (MDB). The heaviest of these rainfall periods are most likely to occur when the new moon is passing over central QLD during mid-Summer with the sun and moon at 23 degrees south of the equator. Thus the new moon passes very high in the sky with the sun directly above. During these times, extra moisture is drawn off the Equator and enters Australia from the north-east direction. At this stage, if any of the most influential planets are also closest to Earth, an extra enhancement to the gravitational forces occurs. These combined forces result in increased air tide movements. Thus, during peak air tide strength, monthly rainfall totals can build up to 400% above-average in many regions of the MDB (as was the case in January 2010 and 2011).

The Southern Air Tide Phase ... reaches its peak strength about 177 days after the peak of the North-East Air Tide Phase. The best rainfall during this phase usually occurs when the new moon is occurring at its northern-most declination point (i.e. when the new moon and sun are near Japan and appear low in the northern sky). During these times, extra moisture is drawn up into Australia from the south. The resulting rainfall boost in the MDB is generally much less than that produced by the North-East Air Tide Phase. This high-energy phase of the cycle also lasts for about 89 days. Again, the heaviest rains are reliant on the close proximity of one or more of the influential planets, as well as favourable La Nina-type sea surface temperatures.

The Dryer Transition Phases ... occur in-between each North-East and Southern Air Tide phases. These are usually the times when extended below-average rainfall periods develop. These drier periods are also typically about 89 days long. The lowest monthly totals usually occur when the new Moon and full Moon phases are occurring in the Equatorial region. These transition periods can be especially dry if the planetary forces are week during that time period.



The practical impacts on weather forecasting Air Tides build to "super-high strength" every 37.2 years and to a lesser degree every 18.6 years. The strongest air tides are responsible for regular and predictable damaging floods (such as those that occurred in 2010 and 2011 across eastern Australia). After the peak of the flood cycle, the air tide strength gradually declines again until the weakest point about 9.3 years later. At that stage, the driest drought years usually develop (e.g. 1967, 1982, 2002). I forecast another in 2019.

Based on these lunar cycles and related planetary influences, I now forecast the most damaging drought experienced in Australia for over 200 years will develop during the years 2017 to 2023.

In the meantime, we all need to prepare for the cooler and much drier general climate that will dominate coming decades due to the Bicentennial Solar Minimum Cycle. (i.e. the trend will be Global Cooling).

By understanding these Air Tide Cycles and the supporting planetary and solar cycles (which are currently NOT used by the Bureau of Meteorology) the most likely times for above or below-average rain events can be calculated with a good degree of confidence, particularly for the regions of the MDB. Ultimately, sea surface temperatures have the final say on the strength and location of rain events, and by tracking the El Nino / La Nina cycle as well, a reliable long-range forecast can be made for more than 12 months in advance.