

## Our long, lost summer

By EMMA MASTRONARDI

GET used to it. The forecast is out – 28 days of consecutive rain for Goulburn.

The onslaught is supposed to start today and carry through until March 9. Though, there could well and truly be more on the way after that, it's just that meteorologists can't predict any further ahead.

Each day is expected to have more than a 75 per cent chance of rain falling with a 91pc humidity reading.

So far there have been 40 days in 2012, 32 of which have had some sort of rainfall or precipitation. That means we've had just eight days of sunshine.

If the 28 day predication is correct, then it will have rained for almost 90 per cent of the year.

The Bureau of Meteorology says Goulburn is experiencing coastal climates at the moment due to the easterly flow of wind dragging lower temperatures and rain with it.

Normally in summer, the wind blows from the North West creating the hot, dry summer periods that Goulburn seems used to, a spokesperson says.

Surprisingly, rainfall for Goulburn in January was well below the recorded January average.

Temperatures were also down 1.5 per cent last month. But it seems the dry spell wasn't set to last long with a drenching of 30mm falling on February 3 within the space of five hours.

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## February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 high	9 high	10 high	11 high
12 high	13 high	14 high	15 high	16 high	17 high	18 high
19 high	20 high	21 high	22 high	23 high	24 high	25 high
26 high	27 high	28 high	29 high			

Chance of rainfall within district  
 high >=75%

• A MONTH OF RAINDAYS: The forecast for Goulburn is looking bleak.

# The source of conflict

By DAVID ALEXANDER and LOUISE THROWER

WINGECARRIBEE councillors say their relationship with Goulburn Mulwaree Council is being put in jeopardy over a dispute about the Highlands Source Project (HSP).

With Goulburn Mulwaree councillor Neil Penning looking on from the gallery, councillors at Wednesday's general meeting said they had been kept in the dark over Goulburn's plans to sell water from the HSP to third parties.

Cr Larry Whipper's motion accusing Goulburn council of "profiteering" and "deceiving" the

people of Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven (from where the water initially comes from) was passed.

"All the way this has been a debate about emergency water supply for Goulburn," Cr Whipper said.

"We were consistently told this would be for drought relief.

"I vehemently oppose (selling

the water to third parties) because it was not what we agreed to.

"I'm flabbergasted that some people have been accusing us of being asleep at the wheel. We have been very vigilant."

Crs Halstead, Arkwright, Mauger, Stranger and Clark agreed asking ratepayers to write to the federal government with

their concerns.

Cr Duncan Gair, however, disagreed saying he could see no problem with what Goulburn was proposing because "it is not our water and we didn't pay for the pipe".

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