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'Perfect' harvest goes begging, again



NEVILLE McINTYRE
McKenzie Creek

WHAT a difference six weeks makes.

We were looking forward to the perfect harvest.

The hot weather a few weeks ago reduced the yield of most crops, white heads started appearing in the wheat, some barley never filled and the monola was popping before the rest was ripe in the windrows.

The rain has really upset the harvest, but thankfully the monola was off and in storage. We hope this continued rain does not downgrade the cereals any more or split the pea and bean pods.

The monola finished up yielding 0.7 tonnes an acre and the first paddock of barley yielded about 30 bags of malt, but that was on fallow — it looked good all year.

The hay has all been done and carted.

Most of the wool has been sold, minus four lines, and have been passed in at my reserve to be sold in March 2010.

All surplus sheep have been sold along with most of the fat lambs.

The suffolk lambs I sold with electronic tags as a trial for my own use, most producers and buyers at the saleyards did not notice any difference.

Horsham Regional Livestock Exchange will celebrate its 10th birthday in December.

A lot of time was put in by this neighbourhood supporting environmental flows down the Burnt and Bungalally creeks.

Neither has had a flow for nine years, all their normal flows were harvested and sent by channel to Taylors Lake.

Some 3000 megalitres of water was harvested from the McKenzie River system to run through Taylors Lake to the environmental flow down the Wimmera River, 1000 megalitres was environmentally flowed down the McKenzie but only 100 megalitres was sent down Burnt Creek.

The other natural water course the Bungalally, with no local catchment, missed out.

I thank GWMWater for forcing the

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority to accept an environmental flow down the Burnt Creek.

The fiasco over Burnt Creek has highlighted having two organisations looking after our waterways has failed. The CMA should be abolished and total responsibility for our waterways should be given back to GWMWater.

Most water rate payers will have received their quarterly water rate bill.

In section six why should we pay them? We are not hooked up to the pipeline and will not be until June and we have not received a dam fill since October 2004.

This year they had double the trigger point required for a dam fill but we are still left to cart water.

In July, GWMWater knew the pipeline would not be available to section six users — they had plenty of time to prepare their infrastructure for a dam fill.