



ABN 59 052 168 226

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Drayton Street  
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DALBY QLD 4405

20th September 2000

CRDC

### Report on DDCGA Weather Station Network

Our network currently consists of 18 Campbell Scientific automatic stations spread across the Darling Downs (see enclosed map). The cost of network was approximately \$130,000 and we believe it to be the largest privately operated network in the country.

Installation commenced in November 99 and finished in February 2000. Delays to connections occurred because Telstra could not find the spare lines they had previously told us were available.

All stations are connected via landline to the telephone network, and are fitted with voice modems which are programmed to give callers the current weather conditions. ( i.e. wind speed and direction, humidity, air temp ect.)

The phone numbers of the individual stations have been made public and are available for anybody to use to receive the voice message.

Financial contributors to the network have access to the data files which are regularly downloaded and stored by a computer at Cotton House in Dalby. This computer is set up as a server and can be accessed via a PC with a modem. Data files for particular stations can be selected and down loaded. This phone number is not public and users are given a password to access the system.

As a backup to our system QDPI in Dalby have set up their own computer to download, store and make available data to DPI researchers doing cotton related projects which include:

Fusarium work, - Joe Kochman

Pupae parasite, - Jamie Hopkinson

Future uses include:

CRC trial work at Warra for the modelling group

Water use efficiency

The data loggers in the stations have plenty of spare capacity to add additional probes and sensors that may be required for future research projects and we encourage any researchers to use them.

A survey conducted by DDCGA of its members indicated that 85% of respondents used and were happy with the network. We estimate 1300 call per week are made by growers through the cotton season. We feel this figure would have been higher had we been able to have all the station installed earlier in the season. Users also include aerial and ground spray contractors and Workplace Health and Safety officers investigating spray complaints. We believe we have reduced the incidences of spraying in adverse conditions as growers and operators are better informed on conditions and the network recording conditions acts as a deterrent to others.

We found the network particularly useful to check conditions following an occurrence of "sun scald" on crops in the Warra and Hopelands areas. This problem had not been seen in our area before and having access to accurate weather data helps growers and their agronomists establish when and under what conditions damage occurred.

Technical problems with the stations through the season were minimal with one station needing to have a logger replaced and just recently two batteries have failed. We intend to conduct a thorough check of the network before the new season gets underway.

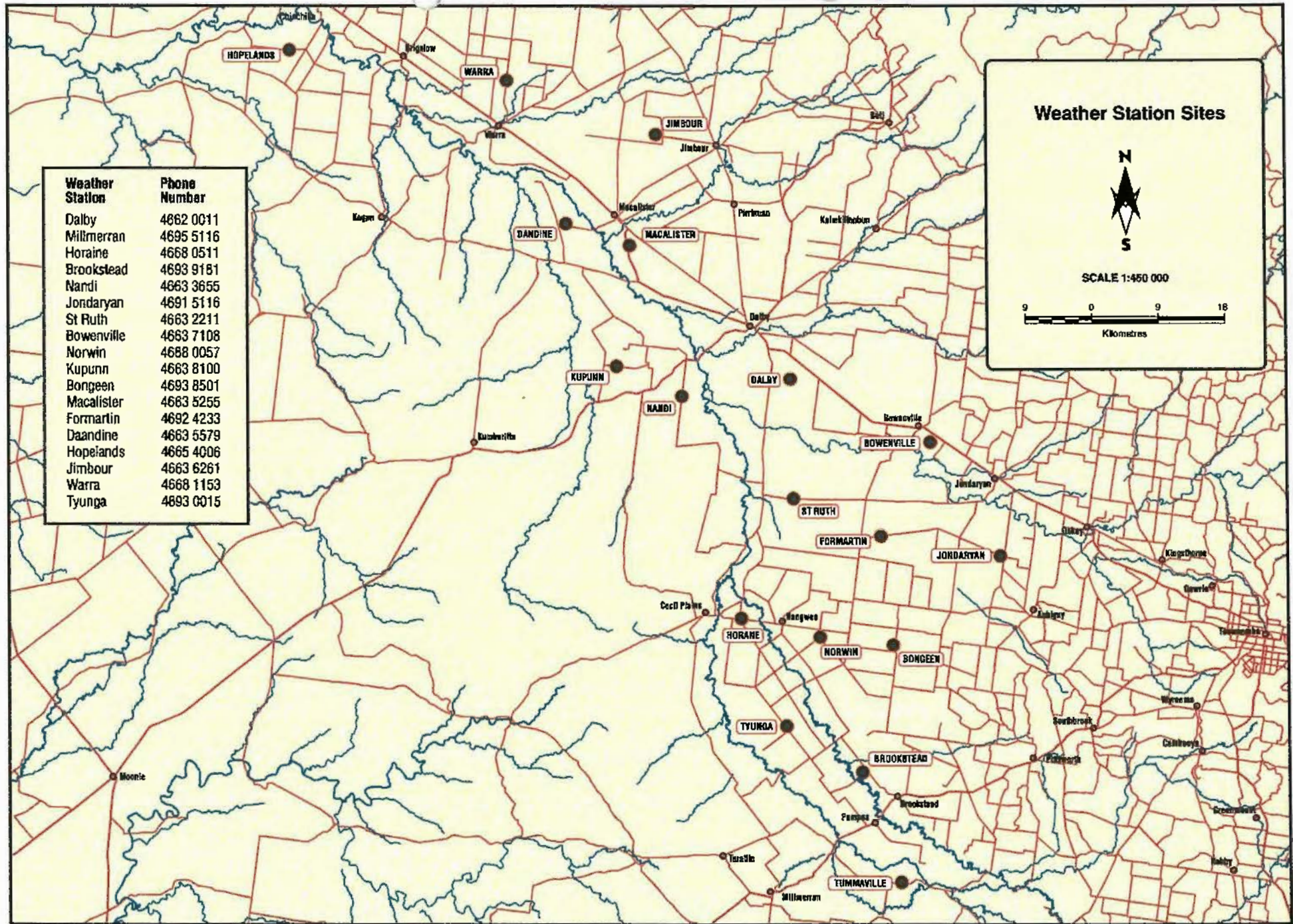
DDCGA has been successful in finding a corporate sponsor for the network, funds will be used for normal running costs, phone line rentals, maintenance and calibration expenses ect.

We would like to thank CRDC for its contribution and feel the money has been well spent.

For any further information or if you need to access the data please contact,  
DDCGA Weather Station Sub Committee

Bill Arthur Ph. 0746633566

Ian Walton Ph. 0746624338



Weather Station	Phone Number
Dalby	4662 0011
Millmerran	4695 5116
Horaine	4668 0511
Brookstead	4693 9181
Nandi	4663 3655
Jondaryan	4691 5116
St Ruth	4663 2211
Bowenville	4663 7108
Norwin	4668 0057
Kupunn	4663 8100
Bongeen	4693 8501
Macalister	4663 5255
Formartin	4692 4233
Daandine	4663 5579
Hopeiands	4665 4006
Jimbour	4663 6261
Warra	4668 1153
Tyunga	4693 0015

**Weather Station Sites**

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SCALE 1:450 000

9 0 9 18  
 Kilometres