

Weather at your fingertips

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Those of you who have access to a computer will affirm the incredible advantages it provides. Whether you use it for monitoring stock, fertiliser programmes or farm management, it far supersedes the old days of pen and paper. Like it or not, the home computer is becoming an essential part of our lives, helping to record and disseminate information.

Some of you may have assessed the “information superhighway” and found it to be very useful. With the aid of a modem attached from your telephone line to the computer, it is now possible to transverse the globe in search of valuable information relevant to farming practice and management.

For those of you with internet connection, it is possible to access the Bureau of Meteorology’s weather gopher (computer that stores weather information) at the following address:

<gopher://babel.ho.bom.gov.au>.

This is a temporary address that contains a wide range of information for farmers on the “internet.”

Using this information, it is now possible to make well-informed decisions that are critical to weather-sensitive operations and forecasts for your region.

This link to the Bureau’s weather gopher will be updated in the next few weeks to a more user friendly “home page” that can be accessed soon at:

<http://www.bom.gov.au>.

This updated link will also provide users with access to radar imagery.

With the aid of a “web browser” such as Netscape, a number of weather charts and diagrams can be viewed. Of use to you will be daily rain and river height bulletins, climate data for most provincial towns in Australia, weekly rainfall analysis, the seasonal outlook and drought statement.

Nonetheless, weather information will still be available by the conventional methods of fax, phone and through local media channels.

It is easy to see the value this information provides for planning purposes, and, best of all, it’s available at your fingertips.