

On the 23rd one depression passed rapidly to the south of the Dominion and another reached the South Island from the Central Tasman Sea. The weather deteriorated generally, and the advance of fresh southerlies brought much cooler temperatures and widespread rain. On Christmas Day, as an anticyclone extended over New Zealand, there was a very rapid improvement. A slight disturbance gave some drizzle in Westland and another shallow depression on the 30th gave rise to local light drizzle and scattered morning fog, but otherwise fine, warm weather prevailed.

M. A. F. BARNETT, Director.

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE.

SUMMARY OF THE RECORDS OF TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL, AND SUNSHINE FOR DECEMBER, 1940.

| Station. | Height of Station above M.S.L. | Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit). | | | | | | | | Rainfall in Inches. | | | | Bright Sunshine (Hours). | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | | Means of | | Mean of A and B. | Difference from Normal. | Absolute Maximum and Minimum. | | | | Total Fall. | No. of Wet Days. | Difference from Normal. | Most in a Day. | | |
| | | A Max. | B Min. | | | Maximum. | Date. | Minimum. | Date. | | | | Amount. | | Date. |
| | | °F. | °F. | °F. | °F. | °F. | °F. | °F. | °F. | In. | In. | In. | In. | | |
| Te Pahi, Te Hapua .. | 200 | 71.4 | 53.4 | 62.4 | (+0.4) | 74.0 | 6 | 47.0 | 4 | 1.47 | 5 | .. | 0.60 | 22 | 275.8 |
| Waipoua State Forest .. | 225 | 71.8 | 52.4 | 62.1 | +0.6 | 78.0 | 24 | 46.0 | 5, 6 | 2.83 | 9 | .. | 1.30 | 14 | 194.7 |
| Riverhead .. | 105 | 71.9 | 51.4 | 61.6 | +2.2 | 79.0 | 31 | 42.0 | 5 | 2.07 | 9 | .. | 0.75 | 13 | .. |
| Auckland .. | 160 | 73.3 | 59.2 | 66.2 | +2.6 | 77.7 | 31 | 52.6 | 25 | 1.37 | 9 | -1.81 | 0.83 | 24 | 232.5 |
| Maioara .. | 172 | 70.0 | 55.6 | 62.8 | .. | 73.7 | 31 | 44.7 | 4 | 1.86 | 10 | .. | 0.80 | 13 | .. |
| Waihi .. | 404 | 72.8 | 55.1 | 64.0 | +1.7 | 78.0 | 23 | 46.0 | 2 | 7.67 | 11 | +2.31 | 4.80 | 14 | 217.2 |
| Wharekawa Nursery, Whangamata | 50 | 75.1 | 53.6 | 64.4 | (+2.1) | 82.3 | 31 | 45.0 | 5 | 5.67 | 8 | .. | 4.08 | 14 | .. |
| Te Aroha .. | 46 | 76.6 | 54.1 | 65.4 | +1.5 | 84.5 | 31 | 41.0 | 26 | 4.28 | 9 | +0.91 | 1.03 | 24 | .. |
| Tauranga .. | 100 | 75.7 | 52.1 | 63.9 | +2.0 | 83.1 | 30 | 45.0 | 1, 2, 26 | 3.93 | 10 | +0.46 | 1.85 | 14 | 239.8 |
| Ruakura Farm, Hamilton | 131 | 73.3 | 50.8 | 62.0 | +0.5 | 82.6 | 31 | 38.8 | 1 | 3.90 | 8 | +0.74 | 2.18 | 14 | 222.9 |
| Karamu ("Gore's Farm") | 110 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Rotoehu Plantation .. | 235 | 73.7 | 52.8 | 63.2 | (+2.6) | 84.0 | 30 | 44.0 | 5 | 3.72 | 7 | .. | 2.40 | 14 | .. |
| Rotorua .. | 931 | 75.8 | 53.1 | 64.5 | +3.1 | 87.8 | 27 | 45.0 | 5 | 4.41 | 9 | +0.76 | 1.54 | 7 | 227.0 |
| Whakarewarewa .. | 1,000 | 75.0 | 52.0 | 63.5 | +2.8 | 86.5 | 30 | 42.7 | 26 | 3.62 | 9 | -0.21 | 1.03 | 7 | .. |
| Gisborne .. | 25 | 77.5 | 54.0 | 65.8 | (+3.0) | 88.5 | 21 | 43.0 | 26 | 0.61 | 6 | .. | 0.18 | 8 | 267.0 |
| Onepoto, Lake Waikaremoana | 2,110 | 67.5 | 52.1 | 59.8 | +2.2 | 81.6 | 29 | 45.2 | 25, 26 | 2.88 | 13 | .. | 0.49 | 8 | .. |
| New Plymouth .. | 190 | 67.7 | 53.7 | 60.7 | +0.1 | 80.6 | 31 | 44.9 | 12 | 2.12 | 10 | -2.09 | 0.94 | 23 | 240.1 |
| Chateau Tongariro .. | 3,670 | 59.0 | 41.7 | 50.4 | (-0.7) | 71.6 | 30, 31 | 34.2 | 27 | 7.47 | 15 | .. | 2.64 | 24 | .. |
| Karioi .. | 2,125 | 68.0 | 44.5 | 56.2 | +1.4 | 74.8 | 28, 30 | 35.0 | 26 | 2.37 | 10 | .. | 1.05 | 24 | .. |
| Napier .. | 5 | 74.3 | 56.7 | 65.5 | +2.3 | 86.0 | 21 | 46.8 | 26 | 1.01 | 6 | -0.93 | 0.44 | 24 | 278.5 |
| Hastings .. | 45 | 76.9 | 53.5 | 65.2 | +2.3 | 87.4 | 23 | 43.2 | 26 | 3.43 | 5 | .. | 2.30 | 14 | .. |
| Taihape .. | 2,157 | 67.8 | 49.2 | 58.5 | +2.2 | 76.2 | 28 | 43.5 | 16 | 1.81 | 12 | -1.45 | 0.47 | 13 | .. |
| Wanganui .. | 72 | 71.2 | 56.4 | 63.8 | (+2.1) | 79.8 | 24 | 48.8 | 16 | 0.29 | 6 | .. | 0.13 | 24 | 248.5 |
| Tangimoana .. | 8 | 69.7 | 55.9 | 62.8 | +2.2 | 77.0 | 24 | 47.0 | 17, 26 | 0.65 | 10 | -2.05 | 0.31 | 24 | .. |
| Palmerston North .. | 100 | 70.5 | 55.4 | 63.0 | (+2.4) | 78.0 | 24, 27 | 47.0 | 26 | 0.98 | 10 | -2.00 | 0.38 | 24 | .. |
| Massey College, P.N.* | 110 | 69.5 | 54.1 | 61.8 | +1.3 | 78.0 | 24 | 46.0 | 17 | 1.71 | 9 | (-1.65) | 0.76 | 21 | 196.3 |
| Pahiatua .. | 384 | 69.1 | 53.8 | 61.4 | +1.0 | 79.2 | 27 | 43.2 | 17 | 3.10 | 11 | (-0.55) | 1.07 | 21 | .. |
| Kapiti Island .. | 44 | 67.1 | 56.1 | 61.6 | +2.1 | 71.0 | 26, 27 | 50.0 | 26 | 1.72 | 11 | -1.36 | 0.54 | 24 | .. |
| Masterton .. | 372 | 74.7 | 50.2 | 62.4 | +1.2 | 88.5 | 30 | 39.2 | 26 | 1.45 | 10 | -1.32 | 0.78 | 13 | 246.7 |
| Wallaceville .. | 195 | 69.3 | 52.2 | 60.8 | .. | 79.2 | 30 | 40.5 | 26 | 3.99 | 6 | .. | 1.45 | 23 | 235.7 |
| Wellington .. | 415 | 66.2 | 54.1 | 60.2 | +1.2 | 74.8 | 30 | 47.7 | 26 | 2.68 | 8 | (-0.25) | 0.94 | 13 | 230.0 |
| Nelson .. | 24 | 71.8 | 54.2 | 63.0 | +2.1 | 81.9 | 21 | 48.1 | 13, 26 | 1.89 | 6 | -1.07 | 0.93 | 6 | 288.5 |
| Appleby, Nelson .. | 57 | 71.9 | 54.2 | 63.0 | (+2.3) | 80.9 | 21 | 46.8 | 25 | 1.11 | 5 | .. | 0.52 | 6 | .. |
| Blenheim .. | 30 | 76.2 | 51.9 | 64.0 | (+1.7) | 87.2 | 9 | 41.8 | 15 | 1.08 | 5 | (-0.65) | 0.49 | 13 | 272.6 |
| Golden Downs .. | 900 | 71.2 | 48.6 | 59.9 | +2.0 | 83.0 | 30 | 38.0 | 23 | 2.86 | 7 | .. | 1.12 | 24 | .. |
| Waihopai .. | 860 | 74.9 | 50.2 | 62.6 | +2.9 | 93.0 | 24 | 42.0 | 11 | 1.53 | 7 | .. | 0.60 | 25 | .. |
| Westport .. | 23 | 64.7 | 54.7 | 59.7 | (+1.5) | 71.0 | 4 | 47.0 | 2, 25 | 3.40 | 13 | .. | 1.02 | 23 | 224.5 |
| Hanmer Springs .. | 1,225 | 73.6 | 46.6 | 60.1 | +2.3 | 88.0 | 31 | 38.0 | 25 | 2.07 | 6 | -1.73 | 0.96 | 24 | 233.9 |
| Balmoral .. | 743 | 72.5 | 47.0 | 59.8 | +0.3 | 89.2 | 29 | 38.0 | 2, 26 | 1.75 | 6 | .. | 0.65 | 24 | .. |
| Hokitika .. | 12 | 65.1 | 52.1 | 58.6 | +0.8 | 71.0 | 30 | 44.0 | 14 | 9.82 | 12 | -0.55 | 2.19 | 23 | 191.7 |
| Lake Coleridge .. | 1,220 | 70.8 | 48.5 | 59.6 | +0.9 | 88.0 | 29 | 38.2 | 25 | 1.06 | 5 | -1.37 | 0.35 | 25 | .. |
| Darfield .. | 640 | 73.8 | 48.2 | 61.0 | (+1.3) | 89.1 | 29 | 38.8 | 15, 25 | 1.04 | 6 | .. | 0.41 | 24 | .. |
| Christchurch .. | 22 | 71.0 | 52.7 | 61.8 | +1.9 | 86.0 | 23 | 42.4 | 25 | 0.51 | 6 | -1.95 | 0.28 | 20 | 240.4 |
| Wigram Aerodrome, Sockburn | 74 | 72.1 | 52.1 | 62.1 | (+2.5) | 86.7 | 23 | 43.7 | 25 | 0.60 | 5 | .. | 0.36 | 20 | .. |
| Rudstone, Methven .. | 1,217 | 69.5 | 49.6 | 59.6 | +1.6 | 87.4 | 29 | 39.6 | 14 | 1.65 | 10 | -2.16 | 0.58 | 24 | 234.2 |
| Lincoln .. | 36 | 74.1 | 50.8 | 62.4 | +2.7 | 89.5 | 23 | 39.5 | 11 | 0.61 | 7 | -1.56 | 0.31 | 21 | 199.3 |
| Akaroa (Onawe, Duvau-chelle's Bay) | 150 | 72.8 | 52.4 | 62.6 | (+1.7) | 88.3 | 29 | 44.4 | 14 | 0.79 | 7 | .. | 0.37 | 20 | 222.6 |
| Ashburton .. | 323 | 73.6 | 48.6 | 61.1 | +3.1 | 88.0 | 8 | 39.5 | 25 | 0.72 | 7 | -1.99 | 0.31 | 20 | 202.5 |
| Lake Tekapo .. | 2,350 | 72.9 | 44.7 | 58.8 | +3.2 | 85.0 | 29 | 31.8 | 14 | 0.51 | 5 | .. | 0.17 | 23 | 277.9 |
| Jacksons Bay .. | 22 | 61.6 | 50.6 | 56.1 | (-0.6) | 65.6 | 15 | 45.2 | 6, 7, 15 | 15.79 | 13 | .. | 2.56 | 9 | .. |
| Fairlie .. | 1,000 | 72.9 | 46.9 | 59.9 | +1.7 | 88.5 | 29 | 34.0 | 11 | 1.59 | 9 | .. | 0.63 | 24 | 188.5 |
| Timaru .. | 56 | 70.9 | 51.2 | 61.0 | +2.1 | 85.6 | 10 | 41.2 | 17 | 1.87 | 9 | -0.55 | 0.68 | 20 | 208.7 |
| Waimate .. | 200 | 70.1 | 50.8 | 60.4 | +2.4 | 87.0 | 10 | 40.0 | 14 | 2.05 | 14 | -0.77 | 0.72 | 19 | 129.0 |
| Milford Sound .. | 20 | 62.0 | 49.3 | 55.6 | (+0.3) | 67.6 | 15, 30 | 41.8 | 25 | 24.99 | 20 | .. | 5.29 | 4 | .. |
| Queenstown .. | 1,110 | 70.8 | 48.6 | 59.7 | +0.8 | 81.0 | 28 | 38.2 | 14 | 1.47 | 6 | -1.04 | 0.90 | 23 | 306.6 |
| Ophi .. | 1,000 | 73.6 | 47.5 | 60.6 | +1.4 | 85.4 | 28 | 32.0 | 14 | 1.12 | 3 | -0.42 | 0.83 | 23 | .. |
| Waipiata .. | 1,550 | 71.1 | 46.8 | 59.0 | +2.2 | 86.0 | 28 | 33.7 | 14 | 1.21 | 4 | .. | 0.67 | 23 | 250.1 |
| Alexandra .. | 520 | 74.2 | 50.7 | 62.4 | +2.0 | 89.2 | 28 | 38.2 | 14 | 0.60 | 2 | (-0.81) | 0.59 | 23 | 268.5 |
| Manorburn Dam .. | 2,448 | 65.0 | 42.6 | 53.8 | +1.7 | 79.0 | 28 | 35.0 | 22 | 0.96 | 4 | -1.22 | 0.70 | 23 | .. |
| Dunedin .. | 240 | 68.6 | 50.7 | 59.6 | +3.0 | 82.2 | 29 | 40.0 | 14 | 1.83 | 12 | .. | 0.64 | 23 | .. |
| Dunedin (Beta Street Reservoir) | 690 | 67.4 | 49.5 | 58.4 | .. | 82.2 | 29 | 41.1 | 14 | 1.85 | 10 | -1.62 | 0.74 | 23 | 218.6 |
| Invercargill .. | 12 | 68.2 | 47.9 | 58.0 | +2.3 | 88.0 | 28 | 38.0 | 7 | 2.15 | 10 | -1.85 | 0.78 | 23 | 233.2 |
| Invercargill (City Engineer) | 10 | 66.6 | 47.4 | 57.0 | .. | 85.2 | 28 | 38.9 | 22 | 2.42 | 13 | .. | 0.84 | 23 | .. |
| LATE RETURNS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Akaroa (Onawe), Nov., 1940 | 150 | 63.7 | 47.0 | 55.4 | (-1.8) | 79.8 | 13 | 40.1 | 1 | 1.98 | 10 | .. | 1.20 | 18 | 199.8 |
| Hermitage, May, 1940 .. | 2,510 | 45.4 | 31.2 | 38.3 | -2.7 | 56.6 | 25 | 24.0 | 21 | 17.46 | 15 | +6.79 | 2.44 | 3 | 67.0 |
| Queenstown, Sept., 1940 | 1,110 | 56.0 | 38.6 | 47.3 | +1.3 | 64.8 | 19 | 28.8 | 4 | 2.74 | 8 | -0.20 | 0.86 | 14 | 168.9 |
| Queenstown, Nov., 1940 | 1,110 | 63.2 | 42.8 | 53.0 | -0.9 | 75.0 | 25 | 34.0 | 7 | 2.08 | 10 | -0.63 | 0.75 | 13 | 260.8 |
| Invercargill, Nov., 1940 | 12 | 63.3 | 44.9 | 54.1 | +1.3 | 79.0 | 12 | 34.0 | 9 | 1.90 | 16 | -2.38 | 6.34 | 20 | 193.9 |

NOTE.—At stations where departures from normal are in parentheses the record has been maintained for less than ten years in the case of temperatures and for less than twenty years in the case of rainfall, and the normals are partly interpolated.