

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR FEBRUARY 1963

General: February was warmer than usual and also very cloudy. In parts of the North Island there was very little rain from 12 January to 15 February and this adversely affected crops and dairy production in a few areas. However, good rains from 16 to 22 February benefited pastures, except in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne, where conditions were very dry but stock remained healthy. In Canterbury there was more rain than usual and this was appreciated for pastures and stock, though the wet weather held up the harvesting of grain.

A tropical storm crossed the North Island during the 20th and 21st, causing gales in Auckland, with some damage.

Rainfall: In Gisborne and Hawke's Bay rainfall was mainly less than a quarter of the average value. Over the remainder of the North Island it was also somewhat below average, except in central and southern Northland, Rotorua, western Taranaki, and Manawatu, where it was 30–100 per cent above average.

It was also wetter than usual over most of the South Island, mainly by 30–100 per cent; but in Nelson and Marlborough Sounds it was more than double the average value. In Southland and about the Kaikoura coast it was drier than average by 30–50 per cent.

Temperatures: Temperatures were above average over the whole country, in the North Island by 3–4 degrees, in the South Island by 2–3 degrees.

Sunshine: Sunshine was below average by 20–80 hours in the Auckland Province (excluding Gisborne) and also in Nelson, Westland, Otago, and parts of Canterbury. Elsewhere it was close to or somewhat below average.

The total of 105 hours at Dunedin was the lowest there for February in 50 years of observations and also one of the lowest for February ever recorded in the South Island. In Northland Kerikeri received only 116 hours, one of the lowest February totals ever recorded in the North Island.

Weather Sequence: For the first five days an anticyclone centred to the east extended over New Zealand, while pressures were low

to the north and later also to the north-west. The weather was warm and mainly settled – a continuation of the dry spell which had commenced over the North Island on 12 January. However, showers were reported at times in Northland and Fiordland.

Nearly all districts benefited from some rain, mainly light, from the 6th to the 11th. A complex depression over the Tasman Sea and a trough of low pressure both moved eastward, and at first the rain was confined mainly to the South Island. Later, as the main centre of the depression crossed the North Island, rain became general. Some considerable falls were reported on the 10th about the basin of the Waitaki River and on the 11th in Northland.

An anticyclone covered the country from the 12th to the 14th, and the weather was fine, apart from showers in eastern Northland.

The 15th to the 22nd was another period of unsettled weather, with good rains benefiting nearly all districts. From the 15th to the 17th a trough of low pressure moved slowly over the country and a small depression formed over the North Island. Only in parts of Gisborne and Hawke's Bay did the dry weather persist. Some considerable rainfalls were reported in Northland, Waikato-Rotorua, Taumarunui-Taihape, Buller, and inland Canterbury. The weather cleared for a day on the 18th, apart from some light rain in Northland and Bay of Plenty. However, further fairly general rain occurred during the next four days as first a depression crossed the South Island and on the 20th and 21st a tropical cyclone crossed the North Island. Some considerable falls were recorded in Taranaki, Wellington, Marlborough, and Nelson. On the 21st gales caused some damage in Auckland.

From the 23rd to the 27th pressures were high to the north and low to the south, and westerlies prevailed. The weather remained continuously unsettled on the West Coast, and showers were reported at times in most other districts, except Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay.

On the 28th an anticyclone brought mainly fine weather, but showers were reported in Bay of Plenty.

R. G. SIMMERS, Director.

(N.Z. Met. S. Misc. Pub. 107)

Ministry of Works—Schedule of Civil Engineering, Building, and Housing Contracts of £10,000 or More in Value

Name of Work	Successful Tenderer	Amount of Tender Accepted	
		£	s. d.
Civil Engineering—			
Pokeno-Wellington S.H. 2—Construction of bridge over the Manawatu River at Ngawapuria	Rigg-Zschokke Ltd.	102,253	13 0
Supply, delivery, and installation of automatic fire sprinkler system, Stores Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 13, Seaview	Wormald Bros. Ltd.	18,490	0 0
Auckland-Hamilton Motorway—Takanini-Drury section: Construction of formation 17m. – 18m. 44 ch.	N.Z. Roadmakers Ltd.	48,634	5 4
Building—			
Erection of Onehunga Telephone Exchange extensions	Hall Construction Co. Ltd.	13,956	3 4
Erection of post-primary school, Papatoetoe West	McKerras Bros. Ltd.	183,983	0 0
Erection of new classroom block, Colenso Post-primary School	W. M. Angus Ltd.	40,581	9 0
Housing—			
Contract No. 33/220: Four units at New Plymouth	Union Construction Co. Ltd.	11,432	7 0
Contract No. 160/49: Eight units at Tawa	Fincon (Construction) Ltd.	25,080	0 0
Contract No. 208/336: 12 units at Porirua	Hutt Timber and Hardware Co. Ltd.	35,899	0 0
Contract No. 208/340: Four units at Porirua	Samson Construction Co. Ltd.	13,195	0 0
Contract No. 208/351: Four units at Titahi Bay	P. H. Kerins	13,354	0 0
Contract No. 208/357: Four units at Porirua	A. C. Hesketh	14,000	0 0
Contract No. 208/358: Five units at Porirua	Fincon (Construction) Ltd.	17,100	0 0

J. T. GILKISON, Commissioner of Works.

Notice Under the Regulations Act 1936

PURSUANT to the Regulations Act 1936, notice is hereby given of the making of regulations as under:

Authority for Enactment	Short Title or Subject-matter	Serial Number	Date of Enactment	Price (Postage Free)
Customs Amendment Act 1921 and Customs Acts Amendment Act 1961	Customs Tariff Amendment Order 1963	1963/36	18/3/63	6d.
Education Act 1914	Education Board Grants Regulations 1959, Amendment No. 5	1963/37	18/3/63	6d.
Fisheries Act 1908	Seal Fishery Regulations 1946, Amendment No. 6	1963/38	18/3/63	6d.
Shipping and Seamen Act 1952	Shipping (Fee for Examination of Plans of Ships) Notice 1963	1963/39	13/3/63	6d.

Copies can be purchased from the Government Publications Bookshops—corner of Rutland and Lorne Streets (P.O. Box 5344), Auckland; 20 Molesworth Street (Private Bag), Wellington; 112 Gloucester Street (P.O. Box 1721), Christchurch; 261 Princes Street (P.O. Box 1104), Dunedin. Prices for quantities supplied on application. Copies may be ordered by quoting serial number.

R. E. OWEN, Government Printer.