

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR SEPTEMBER 1963

General: September was unusually cloudy, except in the Auckland Province. In most districts farmers were finding the growth of pasture too slow. However, in Waikato and some other parts of the Auckland Province, bloat was reported in dairy cows owing to rapid growth of clover and grass. Cold wet weather early in the month killed some lambs in the South Island; and a few were also lost in both islands in the exceptional cold of the 25th.

Rainfall: Over most of the country rainfall was close to average. However, it was more than 50 per cent above average in the Waitomo-Taupo area, in parts of Nelson, and in North Otago and Dunedin. In central Northland, on the East Coast, and in western Southland it was appreciably below normal.

A prolonged and severe thunderstorm affected parts of the alps on the night of the 12th, with some heavy downpours.

Thunderstorms also affected parts of the Auckland Province on the 21st, and an exceptionally heavy hail storm damaged vegetable crops at Pukekohe.

Temperatures: Temperatures were 1-2 degrees above average in Northland and Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and northern and western districts of the South Island. Elsewhere they were close to normal.

The 25th was an exceptionally cold day, with light snow reported as far north as Waikato, and a heavy fall in the high country of the central North Island.

Sunshine: Except over most of the Auckland Province, sunshine was more than 30 hours below normal. From Wanganui to Wellington and over nearly the whole of the South Island it was more than 50 hours below normal. For most of Canterbury it was the cloudiest September on record, with only 90 hours of sunshine at Christchurch. Other places which had their cloudiest September on record were Wanganui, Wellington, and Westport.

Northland and Auckland were favoured with about 10 hours more sunshine than average, while Waikato and Bay of Plenty received 10-20 hours less than the normal value.

Weather Sequence: During the first four days a complex depression from the Tasman Sea crossed the South Island, and an anticyclone developed near Campbell Island. Some rain was reported in all districts, heaviest in the King Country and Westland; only very light falls occurred in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay, Central Otago, and Southland. Pressures remained high to the

south; and from the 5th to the 7th a depression which had formed east of the North Island moved slowly away, while another depression moved slowly eastward over the south Tasman Sea. Some light rain was reported in eastern districts and more general rain developed later. As the depression from the Tasman Sea crossed the South Island during the next two days the rain was still fairly general, with moderate falls in parts of the North Island and on the West Coast. However, a weak ridge of high pressure brought a temporary improvement to most of the country on the 10th.

Pressures became very low far to the southwest, and during the 11th and 12th a trough of low pressure crossed the South Island. Some heavy rain was experienced in the alps, with severe thunderstorms on the night of the 12th. The West Coast also received heavy rain and many other districts reported lighter falls; but eastern districts from Timaru northward and most of the Auckland Province had fair or fine weather. Rain became more general on the 13th as the trough crossed the North Island, and on the following day there was a change to southerlies with a clearance in some western districts. Another trough brought light rain to many districts during the 15th and 16th; but little or none was reported in eastern districts from north Canterbury to eastern Northland. The next two days brought better weather under the influence of an anticyclone east of the North Island.

The anticyclone moved slowly away, and during the 19th and 20th a depression was almost stationary west of Northland. Heavy rain was reported in Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, and eastern Northland, with light falls in most other areas except for inland South Island. By the 21st the depression had become shallow and the weather cleared in most districts. However, parts of the Auckland Province reported thunderstorms, with some exceptionally heavy hail, especially in Pukekohe. On the following day a weak ridge of high pressure brought fair weather.

Another trough of low pressure crossed the country on the 23rd and 24th, with fairly general rain. It was followed by a rapid change to southerlies, extending to the 25th, with light snow reported even as far north as Waikato and heavy falls on the Desert Road of the central North Island. Four days of better weather followed as an anticyclone moved across the North Island; but on the last day of the month a weak trough brought light rain to many districts.

R. G. SIMMERS, Director.

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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.
<i>Civil Engineering—</i>		
Palmerston-Alexandra S.H. 85: Omakau - Chatto Creek section: Construction of Tiger Hill overbridge	Breen Construction Co. Ltd.	11,276 10 0
Auckland-Hamilton Motorway: Takanini-Drury section: Construction Brown Street underpass	P. J. O'Sullivan and Son	19,152 11 9
<i>Building—</i>		
Erection of control tower, Palmerston North Airport	Bodell and Co. Ltd.	26,537 0 0
<i>Housing Division—</i>		
Contract No. 15/447: Seven units at Palmerston North	L. A. H. Mason Ltd.	20,789 13 0
Contract No. 28/55: Four units at Hawera	Ken A. Bird Ltd.	12,202 10 9
Contract No. 269/180: Five units at Otara	R. Jenkinson	17,264 0 0
Contract No. 269/182: Seven units at Otara	W. Youngman and Son Ltd.	21,790 0 0
Contract No. 269/183: Five units at Otara	A. Walters	15,439 0 0
Contract No. 269/184: Seven units at Otara	E. P. Maddren and Sons Ltd.	22,628 0 0
Contract No. 269/186: Five units at Otara	Margison Broadfoot Ltd.	16,463 0 0
Contract No. 185/13/46: Four units at Otematata	Sutherland and Andrew	15,290 0 0

J. T. GILKISON, Commissioner of Works

New Zealand Railways—Schedule of Civil Engineering and Building Contracts of £10,000 or More in Value

Name of Work	Successful Tenderer	Amount of Tender Accepted
		£ s. d.
Construct new goods shed, Balclutha	Gibson and O'Connor, Ltd., P.O. Box 845, Dunedin	14,996 0 0

A. T. GANDELL, General Manager.

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Authority for Enactment	Short Title or Subject-matter	Serial Number	Date of Enactment	Price (Postage Free)
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