

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for February 1971—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit)								Rainfall in Inches				Bright Sunshine	
		Means of		Mean of A and B	Difference From Normal	Absolute Maximum and Minimum				Total Fall	No. of Rain Days	Difference From Normal	Maximum Fall		
		A Max.	B Min.			Maximum	Date	Minimum	Date				Amount		Date
	Ft.	°F.	°F.	°F.		°F.	°F.		In.			In.		Hrs.	
Berwick Forest ..	60	72.4	50.0	61.2	+3.1	93.2	10	37.1	7	1.62	6	-1.1	0.68	22	..
Dunedin Airport ..	4	72.5	49.1	60.8	+2.7	94.1	10	34.0	7	1.31	7	-0.9	0.50	22	196
Musselburgh, Dunedin ..	5	69.6	54.3	62.0	+3.2	89.0	10	46.0	7	1.08	5	-1.4	0.46	22	180
Oamaru ..	99	70.8	52.8	61.8	+2.2	95.2	10	45.0	6	1.13	4	-1.0	0.46	24	204
West Arm, Lake Manapouri	590	73.6	54.4	64.0	+7.5	84.0	19	45.0	8	2.70	8	-10.3	1.17	13	..
Borland Saddle ..	3,250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Queenstown ..	1,080	77.7	54.1	65.9	+5.9	88.6	8	45.4	28	1.56	3	-0.9	0.89	23	224
Queenstown Aerodrome ..	1,154	76.1	52.3	64.2	..	85.3	19	42.1	7	1.20	2	..	0.82	22	..
Mid Dome ..	1,268	75.0	50.1	62.6	+5.1	88.0	13	38.4	6	1.41	7	-2.1	0.72	23	..
Cromwell ..	698	80.4	54.5	67.5	+4.5	93.0	19	42.2	7	1.33	5	-0.3	0.80	22	..
Ophir ..	1,000	78.4	49.8	64.1	+4.7	91.0	19	36.8	7	0.66	3	-1.0	0.32	22	..
Moa Creek ..	1,400	76.6	47.1	61.8	+6.0	89.3	19	..	..	0.94	4	-0.8	0.46	22	..
Earnsclough ..	500	78.3	50.6	64.4	+4.3	92.2	13	37.9	7	1.43	4	-0.1	0.92	22	..
Alexandra ..	461	78.3	54.1	66.2	+4.2	90.1	13	43.7	7	1.32	5	-0.2	0.81	22	247
Roxburgh (Power Stn.) ..	360	79.6	52.4	66.0	+5.5	93.0	13	41.0	7	1.80	6	-0.2	0.63	23	..
Moa Flat, West Otago ..	1,345	72.1	49.2	60.6	+5.9	90.1	13	39.0	7	1.34	7	-1.6	0.43	22	..
Mahinerangi Dam ..	1,300	69.3	48.5	58.9	..	88.4	10	35.5	6	1.55	8	-2.0	0.55	23	..
Tapanui ..	740	73.3	50.5	61.9	+4.7	91.0	10	40.0	7	1.40	6	-1.8	0.37	24	..
Rankleburn Forest ..	835	70.9	49.5	60.2	+4.0	88.0	13	39.4	7	1.23	6	-1.5	0.52	24	..
Taieri Mouth ..	50	67.7	51.0	59.4	..	88.0	10	40.3	7	1.12	5	..	0.47	22	..
Otautau ..	180	70.9	48.8	59.8	+2.6	82.4	13	35.5	6	0.48	6	-3.0	0.17	10	175
Winton ..	145	71.7	51.3	61.5	+3.5	87.0	13	39.8	7	0.65	4	..	0.39	25	201
Gore ..	235	72.6	49.9	61.2	+2.5	89.0	13	37.0	6	0.89	7	-2.2	0.63	23	185
Hokanui Forest ..	150	72.2	49.7	61.0	+2.9	86.0	13	38.0	7	0.92	8	-2.7	0.30	23	..
Invercargill Airport ..	1	68.7	49.3	59.2	+3.0	80.4	13	36.0	6	1.17	9	-2.6	0.36	24	188
Tiwai Point ..	15	68.8	54.6	61.7	..	81.0	10	45.2	7	0.87	5	..	0.51	10	..
Milton ..	60	72.8	50.1	61.4	+3.3	89.8	10	35.0	7	0.96	6	-1.5	0.30	23	..
Finegand, Balclutha ..	20	71.4	51.6	61.5	+3.9	89.0	10	41.3	7	1.45	8	..	0.37	25	197
Nugget Point ..	430	67.8	53.6	60.7	..	87.4	10	46.8	5	1.75	12	..	0.75	24	..
Rarotonga, Cook Islands ..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Raouli Island ..	126	75.4	67.5	71.4	-0.9	78.1	8	64.4	7	1.58	13	-4.5	0.63	3	176
Chatham Islands ..	157	64.6	52.7	58.6	-0.1	72.1	24	42.6	7	0.72	8	-1.7	0.29	27	166
Campbell Island ..	49	54.0	45.0	49.5	+1.0	60.3	13	36.7	23	4.79	24	..	1.41	12	34
Scott Base, Antarctica ..	58	..	..	12.9	+0.2	32.0	3	-3.3	28	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lake Vanda, Antarctica ..	510	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

LATE RETURNS

Riverhead Forest, Jan. 1971	91	77.7	58.2	68.0	+5.2	83.0	4	51.0	21	1.17	3	-2.6	0.88	3	..
Mangere, Jan. 1971 ..	14	77.1	63.1	70.1	+4.6	81.3	4	55.2	19	1.25	5	-1.9	0.96	3	215
Makahu Spur, Jan. 1971 ..	4,850	57.2	45.8	51.5	..	69.9	26	37.0	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Makaretu, Dec. 1970 ..	1,100	69.8	49.5	59.6	..	81.5	24	35.3	10	2.04	10	..	0.72	20	..
Makaretu, Jan. 1971 ..	1,100	71.6	54.2	69.2	..	84.0	29	46.5	27	8.19	16	..	2.11	4	..
Waipukurau, Jan. 1971 ..	450	73.3	55.2	64.2	+1.4	84.0	26	45.0	26	4.82	13	+1.9	1.31	4	111
Flock House, Bulls, Jan. 1971	30	..	54.6	..	..	..	..	49.0	29	6.48	9	+4.0	1.43	7	..
Murchison, Jan. 1971 ..	520	77.1	55.7	66.4	..	85.2	27	43.5	15	3.68	13	..	0.79	21	..
Christchurch Gardens, Jan. 1971 ..	22	70.4	55.8	63.1	+1.4	91.8	29	48.9	5	0.82	10	-1.4	0.27	6	..
Gore, Jan. 1971 ..	235	72.0	..	..	..	84.2	17	41.9	5	2.03	9	-1.2	0.83	29	179

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. The standard periods for normals are: for temperature 1931-60, for rainfall 1921-50, and for sunshine 1935-60. No normals are available for stations with only short records.

*The sunshine recorder is not located at the station but is in the near vicinity.

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR FEBRUARY 1971

General—February was exceptionally warm, especially in the west and south. As in January, there was an unusually high frequency of north-easterly winds. It also resembled the previous month in that many districts had nearly all their rain in a few days, from the 23rd to the 25th. Between the rains from cyclone Rosie early in January and this period in February there were 6 weeks of dry hot weather, affecting especially the South Island and southern districts of the North Island. Parts of the Southland Plain and western Southland were still very dry by the end of the month, with some sheep being sold off and young trees also affected. Forest fires were exceptionally frequent in Westland, Otago, and Southland and they also affected some North Island areas, especially around Wellington.

Rainfall—Rainfall showed unusually wide variations from record low values for February of less than 10 percent of the normal on parts of the Southland Plain to record high values of more than four times normal around New Plymouth and Kaitaia. It was below normal, mainly by 50 percent, over most of the South Island besides Wellington, Wairarapa, Southern Hawke's Bay, and Taihape.

Northern Northland, western Taranaki, and Taupo received more than double the normal rainfall. A slow-moving trough

brought most of the month's rain to Kaitaia from the 20th to the 25th and to New Plymouth in a little over 24 hours on the 24th and 25th, with flooding in both areas. The 24-hour fall at New Plymouth Airport of 14 in. was quite exceptional, and the flooding in the city was reported to be the worst in living memory. The total rainfall for the 23rd and 24th at Stratford Mountain House was 31.3 in., one of the highest 2-day totals ever recorded in New Zealand.

Temperatures—This was equal with February 1935 as the third warmest month on record, the two warmest being February 1938, and January 1956, also about equal. Departures above normal ranged from 1°F (0.5°C.) in east coast districts from Kaikoura to Gisborne to 7°F. (4°C.) over parts of the Alps and Fiordland. The average departure over the North Island was 2.5°F. (1.4°C.) and over the South Island 4.5°F. (2.5°C.). The maximum temperature of 101°F. (38°C.) at Darfield in North Canterbury on the 10th was equal to the previous highest value for New Zealand recorded at Ashburton, on 19 January 1956.

Sunshine—Sunshine was mainly 20-70 hours below normal over the North Island, with especially low values in Bay of Plenty. The South Island was favoured with 20-60 hours above normal, except for Nelson.