

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

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Fahrenheit)							Rainfall in Inches					Bright Sun-Shine	
		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.
Oamaru	99	62.9	45.6	54.2	+1.3	73.2	30	35.2	10	0.33	5	-1.3	2.54	14	164
West Arm, Lake Manapouri	590	55.4	..	..	..	63.5	17	..	..	7.75	13	-4.7	2.58	12	..
Borland Saddle	3,250	52.4	38.5	45.4	..	59.5	19	26.3	10	6.27	8	..	4.40	12	..
Queenstown	1,080	61.3	42.4	51.8	+0.8	69.1	8	35.2	10	1.89	5	-1.0	1.14	12	158
Queenstown Aerodrome ..	1,154	60.1	40.3	50.2	..	66.0	8	32.9	11	1.81	4	..	1.16	12	..
Mid Dome	1,268	61.4	40.4	50.9	+1.0	68.5	26	32.0	18	1.83	7	-1.5	1.27	12	..
Cromwell	698	63.4	39.5	51.4	-0.3	69.6	6	28.4	11	0.57	4	-0.9	0.46	12	..
Ophir	1,000	62.3	36.4	49.4	+0.4	70.0	6	25.2	11	0.78	2	-0.8	0.57	12	..
Moa Creek	1,400	62.5	32.9	47.7	+1.2	65.4	20	23.0	11	0.71	4	-0.6	0.46	12	..
Earnsclough	500	65.3	37.2	51.2	+0.9	74.0	8	26.5	11	0.67	4	-0.7	0.64	12	..
Alexandra	461	63.5	41.4	52.4	+1.0	72.3	8	33.6	10	0.79	4	-0.5	0.60	12	182
Roxburgh, (Power Stn.)	360	62.5	40.7	51.6	-0.5	70.0	30	30.5	18	1.02	6	-0.9	0.79	12	..
Moa Flat, West Otago ..	1,345	59.8	41.0	50.4	+1.9	69.0	30	32.1	11	1.17	7	-1.4	0.81	12	..
Mahinerangi Dam	1,300	59.1	40.7	49.9	..	67.5	8	33.4	16	2.37	11	-0.9	0.94	12	..
Tapanui	740	62.6	43.8	53.2	+2.8	71.5	30	34.5	16	1.32	9	-1.7	0.94	12	..
Rankleburn Forest	835	60.0	41.8	50.9	+1.7	69.0	8	31.2	17	1.42	7	-1.5	0.85	12	..
Taieri Mouth	50	60.3	43.9	52.1	..	68.7	27	35.0	18	0.71	5	..	0.51	12	..
Otautau	180	61.1	39.8	50.4	0.0	69.0	26	28.0	17	1.59	8	-1.9	0.97	12	140
Winton	145	61.4	42.1	51.8	+0.7	69.5	26	28.6	16	1.21	6	..	0.76	12	152
Gore	235	61.4	40.6	51.0	-0.3	68.9	20	30.8	18	0.55	5	-2.2	0.44	12	142
Hokonui Forest	150	62.3	41.0	51.6	+0.9	71.0	26	29.0	18	0.99	8	-2.3	0.61	12	..
Invercargill Airport ..	1	60.4	40.8	50.6	+0.5	67.6	30	27.9	18	1.46	13	-2.3	0.71	12	139
Tiwai Point	15	58.5	46.3	52.4	..	67.6	30	32.1	17	1.29	10	..	0.36	8	..
Milton	60	62.6	40.9	51.8	+0.9	71.9	29	29.8	18	0.86	6	..	0.55	12	..
Finegand, Balclutha ..	20	62.4	41.4	51.9	+1.9	69.1	11	31.0	28	0.79	5	..	0.28	13	162
Nugget Point	430	58.5	46.8	52.5	..	64.8	8	41.5	10	0.78	9	..	0.34	9	..
Rarotonga, Cook Islands ..	15	85.1	73.4	79.2	+1.8	86.4	5	66.2	2	3.94	17	-3.0	0.90	14	232
Raoul Island	126	73.8	64.6	69.2	+0.1	76.6	2	61.3	5	12.22	18	-7.4	3.75	15	110
Chatham Islands	157	59.0	48.0	53.5	-0.2	65.5	9	40.3	11	0.23	12	-2.4	0.03	2	128
Campbell Island	49	50.5	42.3	46.4	+1.5	56.8	28	33.8	7	3.72	25	..	0.50	5	22
Scott Base, Antarctica ..	58	..	..	-19.7	-7.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lake Vanda, Antarctica ..	510	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

LATE RETURNS

Mangatu Forest Mar. 1971	570	70.0	50.0	60.0	-1.1	78.0	3	38.0	29	4.60	12	+0.3	1.45	12	..
Makahu Spur Mar. 1971	4,850	54.0	42.0	48.0	..	72.0	18	34.0	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greymouth Mar. 1971	14	68.7	54.5	61.6	+2.7	75.0	3	32.1	28	3.98	10	-3.2	0.90	26	213
Moa Creek Mar. 1971	1,400	67.6	39.0	53.3	+0.7	78.0	2	30.0	20	2.96	10	+1.7	1.38	24	..
Alexandra Mar. 1971	461	69.4	48.6	59.0	+1.1	80.6	2	40.5	20	2.13	8	+0.9	0.70	24	198
Gore Mar. 1971	235	66.5	48.2	57.4	+1.7	77.4	2	41.0	23	3.32	15	+0.1	1.24	2	131
Whakapunake Mar. 1971	3,100	57.2	46.0	51.6	..	68.0	18	40.1	8	8.81	8	..	1.93	11	..
Black Birch Range Feb. 1971	4,580	63.0	48.5	55.8	..	77.2	10	32.2	8	4.00	..	..	..	..	..
Black Birch Range Mar. 1971	4,580	54.3	42.2	48.2	..	64.9	18	32.5	6	3.22	..	..	..	..	..
Foxton Mar. 1971	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	237

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 APRIL 1971

General—April weather was a continuation of that of March. There was again an unusually high incidence of easterly to north-easterly winds over the North Island, with floods and slips in eastern districts from Hawke's Bay to Bay of Islands, while the remainder of the country had sunny, warm, dry weather. In southern and western districts of the North Island and in Canterbury the rainfall was inadequate, adversely affecting crops and pastures.

Rainfall—Rainfall was less than three-quarters of the normal value over most of the South Island and the greater part of the North Island. In the Taihape-Wanganui-Manawatu area it was less than a quarter of the normal and many stations had their lowest April rainfall.

By contrast, rainfall was well above normal in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne, in Coromandel, and also in eastern districts from about Auckland to Bay of Islands, with a considerable area receiving more than double the normal. The heaviest rain was reported around Port Charles, near the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula, which received a total of 21 in., of which about 9 in. fell in 6 hours during the night of 15-16 April. The main period of easterly rains was from the 10th to the 20th, with many thunderstorms.

The persistence of easterly to north-easterly winds from November to April over the North Island has caused unusually low rainfall at Wellington over this period, the total of 11.32 in. being the lowest there since the same months in 1886-87. Stations with unusually low rainfall from January to April include Christchurch

and the Hermitage. On the other hand, Whangarei Aerodrome's total from January to April of 29.13 in. was the highest there since 1944.

Temperatures—Temperatures were above normal by 1°-2°F. (1°C.).

Sunshine—The West Coast, Otago, and Southland besides Manawatu were favoured with 30-60 hours above normal sunshine. Eastern and some northern districts of the North Island received 20 hours below normal.

Weather Sequence—At the beginning of April an anticyclone was centred near Tasmania with a ridge of high pressure extending on to New Zealand. Showers were reported at first in Northland besides Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki. However, by the 4th the showers were only isolated.

From the 5th to the 7th a depression over the eastern Tasman Sea drifted slowly on to Northland, while a weak trough of low pressure crossed the South Island. Light rain fell in northern districts of the North Island, and there were also a few showers on the Southland coast. Another trough of low pressure moved north-eastward over most of the country on the 8th and 9th accompanied by fairly general rain, mainly light. During the next 2 days this trough became stationary over Northland while an anticyclone covered the eastern Tasman Sea and the South Island. Eastern Northland reported strong winds with heavy seas and considerable rain. Rain also affected western Northland, Auckland, Coromandel, and Gisborne. On the 12th and 13th pressures were low to the north-east, and another trough of low pressure crossed