

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for March 1972—continued

Station	Height of Station Above M.S.L.	Air Temperatures in Degrees (Celsius)								Rainfall in Millimetres					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	
Metres	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	mm	mm	mm	mm	Hrs		
Albert Town	293	21.0	8.3	14.7	..	27.2	2	0.6	6	102	14	..	19	4	..
Taieri	24	20.0	9.3	14.7	+1.7	29.6	4	2.6	6	69	15	+5	24	4	..
Berwick Forest	18	20.3	9.4	14.9	+1.8	29.5	4	2.1	6	70	16	+4	13	4	..
Dunedin Airport	1	20.3	9.0	14.7	+2.1	29.5	4	1.8	8	64	18	+8	17	4	153
Musselburgh, Dunedin	2	19.0	10.8	14.9	+1.4	27.5	4	1.4	14	77	18	+13	25	4	138
Oamaru	30	19.9	10.6	15.3	+1.3	28.6	4	5.0	6	51	11	+8	19	10	154
West Arm, Lake Manapouri	180	15.9	9.7	12.8	+0.7	23.5	2	5.0	18	667	23	+329	99	23	..
Borland Saddle	991	12.7	5.5	9.1	..	19.6	9	-0.5	18	323	..	..	55	23	..
Queenstown	329	19.6	9.4	14.5	+0.8	26.3	2	3.7	6	159	18	+80	33	23	182
Queenstown Aerodrome	352	19.4	8.3	13.9	..	25.4	2	1.3	6	183	16	..	43	4	..
Mid Dome	387	19.6	8.3	14.0	+1.6	27.1	23	-0.5	6	190	15	+93	64	4	..
Cromwell	213	21.6	9.3	15.5	+0.8	28.4	23	0.7	6	69	11	+31	14	23	..
Moa Creek	427	20.3	5.6	13.0	+1.6	26.4	23	-3.4	6	48	13	+15	18	10	..
Earnsclough	152	22.6	8.2	15.4	+1.9	29.3	23	0.1	6	93	11	+57	22	4	..
Alexandra	141	21.5	9.5	15.5	+1.1	28.9	23	2.1	6	82	17	+52	21	4	191
Roxburgh (Power Station)	110	21.3	9.2	15.3	+1.0	28.6	23	2.0	6	56	15	+10	16	10	..
Moa Flat	410	18.3	7.3	12.8	+1.4	24.1	23	0.0	18	134	19	+65	26	4	..
Mahinerangi Dam	396	18.0	7.7	12.9	+1.7	26.0	4	2.3	18	89	16	+3	22	4	..
Tapanui	226	19.0	8.8	13.9	+1.2	27.0	4	3.1	18	129	20	+45	31	4	..
Rankleburn Forest	255	18.3	8.5	13.4	+1.3	27.2	4	2.6	18	129	21	+55	20	4	..
Taieri Mouth	15	18.3	9.3	13.8	..	26.4	4	3.0	6	73	13	-1	17	4	..
Otautau	55	18.2	9.3	13.8	+1.3	25.6	23	4.0	9	214	19	+112	32	4	123
Winton	44	18.7	9.6	14.2	+1.4	27.8	4	3.3	8	161	17	..	36	4	129
Gore, D.S.I.R.	124	18.4	9.5	14.0	..	27.4	4	2.7	8	185	21	+104	36	4	137
Hokonui Forest	46	18.9	9.9	14.4	+1.7	27.3	4	1.5	8	200	20	+101	44	4	..
Woodlands	47	18.5	9.1	13.8	..	26.0	4	1.8	8	194	24	..	38	4	..
Invercargill Aerodrome	0	17.9	9.3	13.6	+1.5	25.3	23	2.2	8	202	20	+93	42	4	114
Tiwai Point, Bluff	5	16.9	10.7	13.8	..	23.7	23	12.7	24	215	20	..	38	4	..
Milton	18	19.7	8.9	14.3	+1.8	29.0	4	1.8	9	75	17	+11	21	4	..
Finegand, Balclutha	6	19.2	9.1	14.2	+1.4	27.4	4	2.9	19	75	18	+11	15	10	140
Nugget Point	131	16.9	10.4	13.7	..	24.3	23	5.0	18	119	22	+43	21	4	..
Rarotonga Airport, Cook Is.	5	28.1	22.9	25.3	-0.3	30.6	9,10	20.5	12	249	25	..	58	12	145
Raoul Id., Kermadec Is. .. .	38	24.7	23.5	21.1	-0.7	26.2	19	17.9	12	32	10	..	15	28	202
Waitangi, Chatham Islands	48	16.7	10.5	13.6	-0.2	19.3	30	6.9	4	52	14	..	20	5	141
Campbell Island	15	11.1	6.2	8.7	+0.2	13.7	14	3.0	18	150	29	..	28	3	68
Scott Base, Antarctica	18	..	..	-17.7	-3.0	-2.8	30	-36.0	26	..	..	..	..	..	..

LATE RETURNS

Tarawera, February 1972 .. .	61	25.2	9.9	17.6	0.0	29.5	27	1.6	7	25	8	-138	7	23	..
Whatawhata, January 1972	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Whatawhata, February 1972	104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	238
Moa Creek, February 1972	427	22.6	5.1	13.9	+0.1	26.6	25	-0.4	6	8	3	-35	5	8	..
<i>Erratum—</i> Patons Rock, Takaka February 1972	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	242

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.

A "rain day" is equal to or greater than 0.1 mm.

NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR MARCH 1972

General—This was the wettest March for at least 50 years over the North Island. It was also generally warm and cloudy. South of Auckland winds from a westerly quarter were more frequent than usual. The warm wet weather was generally appreciated by farmers after the dry weather of February, and good growth was reported. However, in Bay of Plenty, the persistent rain reduced dairy production at times; while in Canterbury conditions remained very dry with stock short of feed in some areas.

Rainfall—Over the North Island rainfall was two-and-a-half times the normal value. Bay of Plenty and most of Waikato and Auckland had more than three times. Greatest excesses were recorded between Tauranga and Whakatane; near the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula; and on the east coast, north of Auckland from Warkworth to Waipu. In these areas the totals of 300-700 mm were the highest ever for March.

In the South Island rainfall was mainly above normal, being more than double in Fiordland, parts of Southland, and parts of Nelson. However, it was below normal in Canterbury, being less than one-half in some inland areas.

In northern districts of the North Island 90 percent of the rain fell in one week, from the 4th to the 10th, with a trough of low pressure stationary from west to east over the area. Stony Bay on

Coromandel Peninsula received a total of 661 mm for the month, of which 605 mm fell during this week. The worst flooding reported was in Bay of Plenty, on the Rangitaiki Plains.

Temperatures—Temperatures were above normal by 1-2°C with highest departures in the east from Canterbury to Southern Hawke's Bay.

Sunshine—Sunshine was below normal by 30-50 hours west of the main ranges and over most of Southland. Greatest deficiencies were recorded in Northland and Auckland. The only area favoured with sunshine appreciably above normal was the Kaikoura coast with part of coastal Canterbury.

Weather Sequence—On the first 2 days of the month a large anticyclone extended across New Zealand with centres to the west of the South Island and to the north-east of the North Island, and the weather was fine.

On the 3rd a complex trough of low pressure moved on to the country associated with a depression to the west of Southland. Rain commenced in Northland and Auckland and on the West Coast. The period from the 4th to the 10th was one of particularly persistent rain over northern and eastern districts of the North Island as the northern part of the trough became stationary through Auckland to East Cape owing to the presence of a depression to