

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall, and Sunshine for April 1974—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		Hrs	
Purukohukohu, March 1974	631	17.4	8.3	12.9	..	23.7	16	3.0	21	73	11	..	59	17	..
Minginui Forest, March 1974	366	..	5.9	..	..	..	..	-3.8	22	50	8	-54	19	18	..
Te Kauwhata, March 1974	32	22.0	11.9	17.0	-0.5	26.4	16	4.9	21	36	9	-48	14	17	208
Whakapunake T.V. Station, March 1974	945	12.8	6.3	9.6	..	20.0	6	-0.4	21	367	..	..	120	18	..
Makaretu, March 1974 ..	335	17.9	8.0	13.0	..	25.2	15	0.5	22	133	17	..	45	17	..
Foxton, December 1973 ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	2	-44	25	25	279
Ohakune, February 1974 ..	610	24.4	11.1	17.8	+3.8	28.0	10	0.4	1	62	7	-42	27	16	182
Ohakune, March 1974 ..	610	18.9	4.2	11.6	-0.9	28.0	16	..	..	94	11	+5	31	17	202
Murchison, March 1974 ..	158	21.0	7.6	14.3	..	27.9	11	-2.2	20	62	7	..	17	4	..
Otira Substation, January 1974	383	20.1	9.5	14.8	..	27.5	31	3.4	9	175	8	-224	71	7	..
Otira Substation, February 1974	383	21.8	12.6	17.2	..	28.0	8	6.0	25	380	14	-37	115	14	..
Otira Substation, March 1974	383	18.3	7.5	12.9	..	26.5	11	1.5	21	334	9	-9	187	14	..
Moutere Hills, February 1974	137	23.2	15.3	19.3	+2.0	27.2	2	11.7	28	55	6	-21	22	15	..
Moutere Hills, March 1974	137	20.1	11.5	15.8	-0.2	23.6	11	5.0	21	15	7	-74	11	17	..
Craigieburn Forest, March 1974	914	16.3	4.4	10.4	-1.0	23.5	11	-2.6	21	69	10	-33	27	15	..
Camp Stream, March 1974	1,433	11.6	3.8	7.7	-1.1	17.0	6	..	..	105	10	..	40	15	..
Lake Pukaki No. 2, February 1974	556	21.8	11.2	16.5	..	31.5	1	5.0	1	93	12	..	19	14	..
Waimate, January 1974 ..	61	21.5	9.9	15.7	-0.1	31.9	6	4.1	10	30	10	-31	11	23	226
Takahe Valley, September 1973	762	8.8	-0.4	4.2	..	17.6	29	-6.0	9	170	19	..	44	30	..
Takahe Valley, November 1973	762	11.7	1.9	6.8	..	19.8	29	-2.5	15	304	23	..	47	23	..
Takahe Valley, December 1973	762	16.3	4.4	10.4	..	23.0	15	0.0	19	128	12	..	33	17	..
Takahe Valley, January 1974	762	16.2	3.9	10.1	..	24.5	20	-2.8	9	53	14	..	25	7	..
Takahe Valley, February 1974	762	17.0	7.6	12.3	..	25.0	1	1.5	25	203	20	..	64	8	..
Alexandra, March 1974 ..	141	20.3	7.6	14.0	-0.4	28.5	10	-0.5	20	8	5	-30	5	14	210
Moa Flat, March 1974 ..	410	17.2	5.5	11.4	+0.0	25.2	10	..	..	22	8	-52	8	2	..
Waitangi, Chatham Islands, March 1974	48	16.0	9.8	12.9	-0.9	18.8	11	6.0	8	93	14	+9	24	19	107
Campbell Island, February 1974	15	12.4	7.0	9.7	+0.5	17.2	13	4.1	22	83	19	-31	24	13	93
Campbell Island, March 1974	15	10.9	5.9	8.4	-0.1	16.2	31	-0.6	12	102	26	-28	19	31	59

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. Standard periods for normals are: Temperature 1931-60, Rainfall 1941-70, Sunshine 1935-60. No normals are available for stations with only short records.

\*Indicates that the sunshine recorder is not located at the station but is in the near vicinity.

A rain day is a day with rainfall equal to or greater than 0.1 mm.

Where the extremes of temperature and rainfall have occurred more than once during the month, the date of the first occurrence is given.

#### NOTES ON THE WEATHER FOR APRIL 1974

**General**—The month was characterised by a high frequency of north-easterly winds, giving very cloudy and wet conditions on the eastern side of the country and above normal temperatures in many areas. The above average rainfall and rather warm conditions resulted in very good grass growth in many districts. In some parts of Hawke's Bay and Canterbury conditions were too wet for harvesting some crops. In a small area of Northland and in parts of South Auckland, Waikato, Waitomo, and Taumarunui conditions remained dry.

**Rainfall**—On the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th, and 21st there were heavy rainfalls in many parts of the country. On the 16th, 96 mm was recorded in 6 hours in Christchurch; this is double the previous highest 6 hourly rainfall since 1929. A wide area of Canterbury experienced very heavy rainfalls on the 16th. Over three times the normal monthly rainfall was recorded in some parts of Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Wairarapa, and Hawke's Bay. About the Orongorongo Ranges (15 km east of Wellington City) the rainfall was four times the monthly normal.

**Temperature**—Over the North Island the mean temperature was above normal by about 1 to 2°C. In the South Island the mean temperature was above normal by about 0.5 to 1.5°C. except in

parts of Canterbury and Southland where it was slightly below normal. The first 10 days of the month were considerably warmer than the last 20 in most places.

**Sunshine**—The total duration of sunshine was a little above average in the west of Northland and Auckland and on the West Coast. Elsewhere the totals were low with the east of the North Island and the north-east of the South Island receiving 60% or less of the monthly normal. In some of these areas it was the lowest April sunshine since the 1930s.

**Weather Sequence**—During the first seven days of the month an intense large anticyclone was centred just east of the Chatham Islands and a northerly flow predominated over New Zealand. There was some rain on each day in the north and west of the country but on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th there were some very heavy falls on the West Coast, about Nelson and Marlborough, and in Northland and Auckland.

From the 7th to 11th a slow moving complex trough of low pressure crossed New Zealand and by the 12th an anticyclone had moved from the Tasman Sea on to the country. The trough brought some rain to most districts except the central and northern North Island regions.