

CLIMATOLOGICAL TABLE—Summary of the Records of Temperature, Rainfall,* and Sunshine for December 1973—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		
Wanganui, November 1973	22	19.5	12.7	16.1	+1.4	25.5	5	8.6	26	44	13	-25	20	15	169
Farewell Spit, November 1973	3	18.4	10.6	14.5	..	21.3	18	6.0	26	139	16	+55	21	3	..
Murchison, November 1973	158	18.8	8.4	13.6	..	24.4	29	1.2	26	265	18	..	55	20	..
Hari Hari, November 1973	45	16.6	8.7	12.7	+0.9	20.3	7	1.8	26	589	25	+170	170	2	..
Brightlands Bay, November 1973	15	17.7	11.8	14.8	..	19.5	18	9.4	23	254	13	..	54	3	..
Elie Bay, November 1973 ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	318	..	..	65	3	..
Black Birch Range, October 1973	1,396	10.1	2.5	6.3	+1.3	15.5	10	-3.8	25	51	7	..	21	23	..
Black Birch Range, November 1973	1,396	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	141	17	..	25	20	..
Hammer Forest, November 1973	387	19.2	7.4	13.3	+1.2	25.8	6	1.0	17	93	11	+4	31	12	167
Godley Peaks, Tekapo, November 1973	762	16.1	4.1	10.1	..	20.9	7	0.2	19	65	..	-6	24	2	..
Ski Basin, Craigieburn, November 1973	1,554	9.3	1.1	5.2	+0.3	15.1	29	-4.6	19	211	..	..	..	..	..
Craigieburn Forest, November 1973	914	15.4	4.0	9.7	+0.2	21.6	29	-4.0	26	179	14	+39	49	3	..
Camp Stream, November 1973	1,433	11.1	2.9	7.0	+0.3	17.0	29	-2.8	15	287	15	..	57	3	..
Winchmore, November 1973	160	19.6	8.0	13.8	+1.4	26.2	7	2.9	20	42	7	-24	14	3	..
Haldon, September 1973 ..	399	14.9	0.2	7.6	..	25.7	30	-2.2	8	6	..	..	4	1	..
Haldon, October 1973 ..	399	..	..	..	..	25.0	11	-3.0	12	42	7	..	13	23	..
Clyde, November 1973 ..	183	19.8	6.1	13.0	..	24.7	6	1.3	15	37	9	..	20	2	..
Moa Creek, August 1973	427	..	-2.4	..	..	..	..	-9.0	2	25	..	+10	11	30	..
Moa Creek, November 1973	427	17.4	3.6	10.5	-0.6	24.0	29	-3.9	26	53	..	+15	18	3	..
Alexandra, November 1973	141	19.5	7.5	13.5	-0.3	25.8	6	1.8	26	45	12	+12	17	2	192
Manorburn Dam, October 1973	746	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	..	-2	..	..	..
Manorburn Dam, November 1973	746	15.3	3.0	9.2	+0.2	21.1	29	-2.2	26	65	8	+19	36	4	..
Woodlands, November 1973	47	15.7	5.6	10.7	..	22.4	7	1.2	15	122	22	..	21	21	..
Rarotonga Airport, October 1973	7	26.8	20.9	23.9	+0.9	28.9	15	16.6	8	131	24	+1	37	10	152
Scott Base, Antarctica, November 1973	16	-6.2	-13.4	-9.8	+2.3	-2.1	18	-19.1	11	..	..	..	..	..	..

The "normal" refers to the present site of the instruments. Standard periods for normals are: Temperature 1931-60, Rainfall 1921-50, 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 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 DECEMBER 1973

General—Pressures were unusually high to the south-east of the South Island in December, and easterly winds were somewhat more frequent than usual. It was a dry month, and also warm and sunny except in the east. The weather was particularly favourable for haymaking but many farmers, especially in Northland, found conditions too dry.

Rainfall—Rainfall was below normal over almost all the country, mainly by about 40 percent. It was less than half the normal value over almost the whole of Northland; in the greater part of Taranaki, Wanganui and Manawatu; and also in the greater part of Otago and Southland.

The only two periods of considerable and fairly general rain were the 17th and 18th and the 24th and 25th. Many stations received very little or no rain in the first half of the month.

In a thunderstorm at Taupo in the late afternoon of Christmas Day 30 mm were recorded in half an hour, an unusually heavy downpour.

Temperatures—Temperatures were mainly above normal by about 1°C. However, in some coastal areas, mainly in the east, they were only normal.

This was the 4th successive month of generally warm temperatures, and the year 1973 has been a warm one.

Sunshine—Sunshine was mainly above normal by 30-80 hours. However, on the east coast from Marlborough to Bay of Plenty it was only normal.

New Plymouth's total of 293 hours was one of the highest ever recorded there for December; and Paraparaumu's total of 300 hours was also unusually high.

Weather Sequence—For the first two days of December a depression near the Chatham Islands was moving away and a rather cold south-westerly airstream covered the country, with scattered light showers. On the following day an anticyclone was centred over the North Island and the weather was fine. During the 4th and 5th a deep depression near Macquarie Island moved eastward and the associated trough of low pressure crossed the South Island but soon became weak. In the warmer north-westerlies rain was reported on the West Coast with a few isolated showers elsewhere.

Pressures were particularly high over the country during the period from the 6th to the 16th, with fine dry weather predominating except in some eastern districts. At first an anticyclone was centred to the south-east of the South Island. On the 7th another high pressure centre developed west of the North Island and some rain was reported in Fiordland. For the next two days a belt of high pressure covered the South Tasman Sea and the South Island, but pressures were low to the north-east. A weak trough brought light showers to some eastern districts from Timaru northward and temperatures became cooler. Conditions remained somewhat similar on the 10th, when light showers affected mostly areas from Invercargill to Christchurch. Conditions remained very similar for another four days with the belt of high pressure almost stationary, but the depression to the north-east slowly moving away. During this period showers affected mainly areas from Gisborne to eastern Northland. By the 15th and 16th the main centre of high pressure lay to the east of the North Island, and the weather cleared in most eastern districts. However, some showers were reported at times in the North Island ranges.

During the 17th and 18th a trough of low pressure with a small depression on it crossed the country from south-west to north-east. Considerable and welcome rain was reported as far north as