

## THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND FOR JUNE 1985

*General*—June was a mild month with above average rainfall in the east of the North Island, about central New Zealand and in the south-west of the South Island.

Northerly winds prevailed over the country, with light winds being slightly more frequent than usual. South-westerlies, which usually predominate at this time of the year, had exceptionally low frequencies. These conditions resulted from mean sea level pressures being well above average to the east of New Zealand. Chatham Islands was 10 hectopascals higher than normal; the third consecutive month of abnormally high pressures.

North Island farmers report generally good stock health and pasture growth for the time of year. South Island farmers noted some slow growth of grass and that stock was in a fair condition.

*Rainfall*—Areas of New Zealand to receive above average rainfall this month include Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Waikato, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, Marlborough and Fiordland. In some of these regions more than 150 percent of normal rainfall was recorded. Locations in these areas include Hamilton Airport 158 percent, Whakatane 216 percent, Rotorua 181 percent, New Plymouth 181 percent, Kelburn (Wellington) 154 percent, Waingawa (Masterton) 151 percent and Haast 187 percent.

A band of rain accompanying a trough of low pressure brought some heavy falls to Waikato and the Bay of Plenty during the 14th and 15th. Hamilton Airport recorded 77 mm on the 14th and at Rotorua 55 mm was measured on the 15th.

In the recently very dry areas of South Canterbury and North Otago, rainfall this month was in general 80 to 90 percent of normal. However in areas around Banks Peninsula, rainfall was about 20 to 25 percent of normal.

*Temperatures*—With the predominance of northerlies this month, mean air temperatures over the country were above average by about 1°C to 1.5°C. Both the maxima and minima were also above normal.

*Sunshine*—Over much of the country sunshine was below average. This was particularly noticeable about the central North Island and about the north of the South Island. Among those stations which had greatest departures this month were:

Taupo (−45 hours, the largest for June since records began in 1950), Tauranga (−37 hours), Nelson (−58 hours, the largest since 1968), and Blenheim (−48 hours).

J. S. HICKMAN, Director.