

THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN MAY 1987

General—May was warmer than usual over the whole country with rainfall below average in the North Island and above average in the South Island. Mean sea level pressures were considerably above average ranging from 8 hPa above in the north and west to 5 hPa above in the south and east of the country. Winds were lighter than usual in the north but with a strong westerly predominance. Speeds were high in the far south with the highest frequency of strong winds at Invercargill since 1973.

Rainfall—Northland had the lowest May rainfall for more than 10 years. Heavy rain on the 19th caused surface flooding and minor slips in Nelson. In South Canterbury and North Otago rainfall totals were more than twice the normal for the month. Block culverts and stormwater in sewers caused problems in Timaru city with persistent rain from 16th to 21st.

Temperature—Lower than usual minima resulted in below average mean temperatures from Coromandel north. Over the remainder of the country temperatures ranged up to 3°C above normal. Inland South Island from north Canterbury to Southland had mean temperatures more than 1.5°C above normal.

Sunshine—Eastern coastal stations from Bay of Plenty to Wairarapa and in Canterbury had more sunshine than usual. Elsewhere cloud conditions gave reduced sunshine to as low as two thirds normal in Manawatu and south Westland. Paraparaumu and Levin had lowest sunshine on record in May since observations began in 1953 and 1955 respectively.

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