

THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN JUNE 1987

General—June was warmer and cloudier than usual over much of New Zealand, with rainfall below average over the North Island, and above average over the south of the South Island. Mean sea level pressures were near normal to the south of New Zealand, and up to 4 Hpa above normal over the North Island. Strong winds were infrequent over the North Island, but occurred on half the days of the month over the south of the South Island; being the highest frequency in June for at least 30 years. South-westerlies predominated again this month over the whole of the country. Light falls of snow were reported on roads in Otago and inland Canterbury on the 15th.

Rainfall—Rainfall totals were below normal throughout the North Island, and in the north of the South Island, especially in regions sheltered from the south-west (where totals were below 65 percent of normal for June). At Whangarei Airport rainfall at less than 30 percent of normal was the lowest for 20 years. In Blenheim and Nelson totals were also about 30 percent of normal, with both places recording approximately 20 mm. In south Westland, south Canterbury and central Otago rainfall was 50 to 100 percent above normal.

Temperature—Prior to the 15th mean daily temperatures were generally warmer than usual over much of New Zealand, after which it was colder. At Christchurch Airport there were only 3 days during the last 2 weeks when the maximum daily temperature exceeded 10°C. Over most of the North Island mean temperatures were near normal, but on the west coast, from Wanganui south, they were 0.5 to 1°C above normal. Mean temperatures were 1°C above normal in the south of the South Island, and 1.5 to 2°C higher in places in Otago and Southland. Night time minimum temperatures were the highest at both Invercargill and Dunedin Airports for at least 25 years, being almost 2.5 and 3°C above normal respectively. They were also 2°C higher than usual in Westland.

Sunshine—Hours of bright sunshine were about 120 percent of normal in eastern regions, from East Cape to the Kaikoura Coast. Cloudier than usual conditions prevailed in the west coast of the North Island, and over most of the South Island south of Kaikoura, including the West Coast. Just over half of the normal amount of sunshine was recorded at Hokitika Airport, the second lowest for June since records began in 1964. Only 70 percent of normal sunshine was recorded at Dunedin Airport, the lowest since records began in 1963.

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