

## THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN JULY 1987

*General*—July was generally warmer, with well below average rainfall over much of New Zealand.

South-westerlies prevailed over the whole of the country, and were particularly frequent during the first ten days. Strong winds were more frequent than usual over the South Island.

Gale force south-westerlies affected coastal Southland and Otago on the 9th. A maximum gust of 63 knots was recorded at Dunedin Airport, and 90 knots at Taiaaroa Head. In Dunedin some shop windows were shattered, and part of a house roof was torn away.

On the 14th easterly gales and heavy rain affected Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula. A rainfall total of 122 mm was recorded at Coromandel in the 24 hours to 9 a.m. on the 15th. Some surface flooding occurred in Picton on the 24th when a total of 183 mm was recorded.

Mean sea level pressures ranged from 1 hPa above normal in Northland, to 4 hPa above normal in Southland.

*Rainfall*—The only areas where total rainfall for the month was near or above normal were Northland, Auckland, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, the Kaikoura Coast, and in Southland. In many other regions rainfall was only about half normal. In places in eastern Bay of Plenty and Manawatu totals were only about 20 percent of normal. The 16 mm recorded at Ohakea was the lowest recorded there in July for over 40 years.

For the year to 31 July, only 60 percent of normal rainfall had been recorded at Whangarei Airport. This was the least recorded since records began in 1937. July was also the 10th consecutive drier than normal month at Whangarei.

*Temperatures*—Mean temperatures were about 0.5°C above normal over the North Island, and 1°C above normal in most places in the South Island.

Mean daily minimum temperatures were much higher than usual again at Invercargill Airport; being 2.4°C above and the highest for July since records began in 1948.

*Sunshine*—Above normal hours of bright sunshine were recorded in Bay of Plenty, Horowhenua, Wairarapa, Wellington, Otago, and Westland. It was a particularly sunny month in Wellington, Horowhenua and Wairarapa, where totals of 130 percent of normal were recorded. In Wellington this was the third sunniest July since records began in 1935.

Only 70 percent of normal sunshine was recorded at Invercargill Airport.

J. S. HICKMAN, Director.