

THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN DECEMBER 1986

General—This December was much drier, warmer, and sunnier than usual over the whole country apart from the far north of the North Island and isolated areas in the South Island.

There was an unusually high frequency of days with light winds over the whole country. In the north, winds from the northeast were predominant but in the far south, winds were most frequently from the southwest.

Mean sea level pressures were 3 to 5 hPa above normal over the whole country.

Rainfall—Lowest December rainfalls on record were observed at several stations including—

Station	Amount (mm)	Previous		Records Began
		Low (mm)	Year	
Hamilton	31	39	1973	1936
Kinleith	31	72	1973	1968
Ohakea	16	16	1961	1941
Paraparaumu	18	28	1970	1945
Kaikoura	12	15	1971	1949

Tauranga and Kelburn recorded their lowest December rainfalls since 1930 and 1934 respectively.

Temperatures—Mean daily temperatures were around 0.5°C above average for the lower half of the North Island and most of the South Island. Parts of the West Coast, inland and South Canterbury and Central Otago were 1°C above average. Maximum temperatures of just over 30°C were recorded at Christchurch on the 20th and Timaru on the 29th.

Sunshine—Total sunshine hours were generally above normal except for Gisborne/East Coast and the south-east of the South Island. More than 20 percent above normal was recorded in the Wellington region and at Hokitika.

J. S. HICKMAN, Director.