

THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN NOVEMBER 1986

General—This November was drier than normal over much of the North Island, but wetter than normal in most regions of the South Island. It was also slightly warmer in most places.

South-westerlies prevailed over the north of the North Island, while north-westerlies prevailed over the South Island. Wind strengths were generally lighter than usual.

Mean sea level pressures range from almost 1 hPa below normal over the north of the North Island, to 1.5 hPa above normal at Invercargill.

Most farmers reported good pasture and stock conditions this month.

Rainfall—November was much wetter than normal at East Cape, and in Christchurch, where total rainfall for the month was just over 200 percent of normal. At Christchurch Airport this was the wettest November since 1967, and the third wettest for over 40 years. 57 mm of the 106 mm was recorded in the 24 hours to 9 a.m. on the 26th, and localised flooding resulted due to the Heathcote River overflowing.

Over much of the North Island rainfall for the month ranged from 50 to 75 percent of normal. Only 40 percent of the normal rainfall for November was recorded at Paraparaumu Airport, and 20 percent of normal rainfall at Whangarei.

Temperature—Mean daily temperatures were about normal for November over the North Island. Over the South Island temperatures were about 0.5°C above normal in most coastal areas

(apart from north Canterbury, where they were near normal). In inland Canterbury mean daily temperatures were almost 2°C above normal at The Hermitage, and at Mount John.

Many places on the East Coast of the South Island recorded temperatures of 25 to 30°C on the afternoon of the 5th. A maximum temperature of 32.6°C was reached at Blenheim Airport on the 7th. This was almost as high as the record of 33.9°C for November, which was recorded at Hastings over 35 years ago (30 November 1949). Another high temperature of 31°C was recorded at Alexandra on the 5th.

Mean daily maximum temperatures were 1.2°C below normal this month at Christchurch Airport, making the afternoons the second equal coolest there since November 1953.

Sunshine—Hours of bright sunshine were near normal in most places. It was cloudier in the Manawatu where about 85 percent of normal sunshine for November was recorded, but sunnier in Taranaki, Eastern Bay of Plenty, Wellington, and the Wairarapa, where total hours of bright sunshine ranged from 110 to almost 120 percent of normal.

To date this year there have been 10 months with above normal sunshine recorded at Kelburn, Wellington. This is the only station (for which long term normals are available) where this has occurred this year.

J. S. HICKMAN, Director.