

THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND IN APRIL 1987

General—This April south-westerlies predominated over New Zealand, with their highest frequency for April at Invercargill for over 30 years. Strong winds were also much more frequent over the south of the South Island, than is usual for April. Mean sea level pressures were 2 to 3 hPa above normal over the whole of the country, and were particularly high in the central Tasman Sea.

Rainfall—Rainfall was well above normal in Wanganui, where totals were twice the normal for April. It was also wetter than normal in Bay of Plenty, Waikato, King Country and over North Island regions south of Hawkes Bay. Over the South Island rainfall was above normal in much of Marlborough and Nelson, in inland high country regions, and in Southland. It was very dry over much of Canterbury and Otago, where most places recorded only 35 to 40 percent of normal April rainfall.

Temperatures—The only region where there were significant departures from normal in the mean daily temperature for April was Marlborough, where it was 1.5 to 2°C cooler. Mean temperatures were slightly lower than normal on the west coast of the South Island, but near normal elsewhere.

Sunshine—Hours of bright sunshine were above normal in Bay of Plenty and on the east coast of the South Island. It was somewhat cloudier than normal in Northland.

J. S. HICKMAN, Director.