

Warm, with much needed rain for some regions

Rainfall	April rainfall was near normal (within 20% of April normal) to above normal (120-150% of normal) for most of the country. Additionally, there were many locations on both islands, chiefly the southern half of the North Island and the northern half of the South Island, which received well above normal rainfall (more than 150% of normal). In fact, some locations in the country received in excess of 300% of April normal rainfall. In contrast, there were only a few locations that received below normal rainfall (50-79% of April normal), such as in Northland, Gisborne and Southland.
Soil moisture	As of 1 May 2014, soil moisture across the country had increased substantially when compared with March values for much of the North Island. Of note are many locations on the North Island which have improved to near normal or wetter than normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In spite of the improved conditions, there still remains a sizeable area of abnormal dryness in parts of the Northland, Wanganui-Manawatu, Otago and Southland regions where soils are drier than normal relative to the time of year.
Temperature	April was unusually warm for most of New Zealand, in particular the North Island, where well above average temperatures (greater than 1.2°C above April average) were recorded for the month. In fact, many reporting stations on the North Island placed in the top-four for warmest mean April temperatures, including several reporting stations in the Auckland region. The warmth extended to the South Island where above average temperatures (0.5 to 1.2°C above April average) to well above average temperatures occurred. Other regions in New Zealand experienced near average April temperatures (within 0.5°C of April average).
Sunshine	Below normal sunshine (75-89% of April normal) to well below sunshine (less than 75% of April normal) was recorded for the majority of the country. However, regions from northern Waikato to Northland received near normal sunshine (within 10% of April normal) with a few spots in this area observing above normal sunshine (110-124% of April normal). There was also a thin section of the southern South Island that received near normal April sunshine.

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Overview

April 2014 was characterised by higher pressure than normal to the southeast of New Zealand with lower than normal pressures over the Tasman Sea. This pressure pattern resulted in north-easterly quarter wind flow anomalies for most parts of the country, with the exception of the north of the North Island, where lower pressures in the Tasman resulted in anomalous north-westerly airflows.

In terms of rainfall, April featured a much welcome change for many areas of New Zealand, chiefly the North Island. Many areas that were in desperate need of rain received above normal (120 to 150% of normal) or much above normal (more than 150% of normal) rainfall for the month. This was echoed for a large part of the South Island, however there the rain was not so welcome for most locations. This is particularly true for parts of the Tasman, Nelson, Canterbury and Marlborough regions where the wet April followed a wet March. For some locations, the rainfall was exceptional compared to normal with three to five times the April normal falling at some of the aforementioned areas.

As noted above, the surplus of rain was quite beneficial for many as soil moisture levels across much of the North Island responded nicely. For example, entering into the month of April soil moisture was considerably drier than normal. However, in response to the described rainfall distribution, soil moisture levels at the beginning of May have recovered to levels much closer to normal, with some locations now observing wetter than normal soils for the time of year. Having said that, there still remains regions of the North Island, chiefly about parts of Northland and northern Auckland, which have soil moisture levels that remain drier than normal. Soils remain abnormally wet for this time of year from the Tasman east through the Marlborough regions and south into much of Canterbury region.

It was an abnormally warm month for a significant part of the country with much of the North Island experiencing mean temperatures well above average (more than 1.2°C above April average). There were only a handful of locations on the North Island that experienced normal (within 0.5°C of April average) with no locations reporting below average temperatures (0.5 to 1.2°C below April average). The South Island also experienced a warm April. However, while well above average temperatures were common, especially for the west coast of the South Island, they were not as extensive for the island as a whole. Still, outside of that area, above normal or normal temperatures were recorded for much of the South Island. Unlike the North Island, there were a few isolated pockets of below normal mean temperatures observed for the month. The nation-wide average temperature in April 2014 was 14.5°C (1.1°C above the 1971-2000 April average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909).

With the abundant April rainfall came a lack of sunshine for much of the country as below normal sunshine (75 to 89% of April normal) to well below sunshine (less than 75% of April normal) was recorded for most of the country. The sunshine was especially absent for the South Island where only the far southern part of the island managed to receive near normal values (within 10% of April normal). Near normal sunshine was also restricted on the North Island and was limited to areas from the Waikato to Northland, with even a few splashes of above normal sunshine in these areas (110 to 124% of April normal).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 29.6°C, observed at Whakatane on 7 April.
- The lowest temperature was -4.2°C, observed at Pukaki Aerodrome on 29 April.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 197 mm, recorded at Akaroa on 17 April.

- The highest wind gust was 146 km/hr, observed at Baring Head on 17 April.
- Of the six main centres in April 2014, Auckland was the warmest and sunniest, Dunedin was the coolest and driest, Christchurch was the cloudiest and Wellington was the wettest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres¹ so far in 2014 (January to April) are: Whakatane (1050 hours), Tauranga (947 hours), Auckland – Albany (913 hours) and Takaka (893 hours).

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Rainfall: Much needed rain for the North Island, unwanted for parts of the South Island

April was a wet month for most of the country as many reporting stations (noted in table below) placed in the top four for wettest April ever recorded. However, depending on your location the abundant rainfall was either a blessing or a curse. For the North Island, the rainfall was the former as many locations have been enduring consecutive months of abnormally dry weather. However, in the South Island the excess rain for many, particularly for the eastern and northern half of the island, was a curse.

Of note are Takaka and Winchmore in the South Island which both experienced their wettest April on record. In fact, at NIWA's Christchurch weather station (located in Riccarton), 224 mm of rain was recorded in April (499% of normal): the second-wettest April observed in Christchurch since records began in 1863. This is on the back of Christchurch observing its wettest March on record at that station. A total of 424 mm of rain was recorded for the March-April 2014 period. This is more than four-times greater than the average March-April rainfall in Christchurch. Quite remarkably, parts of Christchurch have received 71% of the city's average annual rainfall in just the past two months.

Due to the wet month, as at 1 May 2014, soil moisture levels have rebounded across much of New Zealand following higher than normal rainfall totals across many parts of the North Island and the upper South Island. An intense low pressure system brought widespread heavy rain and high winds to much of New Zealand on and around 17 April. The storm was the result of the merger of ex Tropical Cyclone Ita and a separate mid-latitude cyclone travelling east across the Tasman Sea. Nonetheless, soil moisture levels in parts of the Northland, Wanganui-Manawatu, Otago and Southland Regions have continued well below normal soil moisture levels relative to time of year.

¹ New Plymouth sunshine is still omitted from this ranking while recent instrumentation changes are assessed.

Record² or near-record April rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Te Puke	304	212	1973	3rd-highest
Whatawhata	228	210	1952	3rd-highest
Masterton	187	330	1926	4th-highest
Takapau Plains	228	312	1962	3rd-highest
Dannevirke	163	217	1951	4th-highest
Hawera	203	244	1977	2nd-highest
Ohakune	179	165	1961	2nd-highest
Takaka	398	255	1976	Highest
Motueka	299	283	1943	4th-highest
Blenheim	156	293	1927	4th-highest
Hanmer Forest	229	346	1905	3rd-highest
Kaikoura	264	475	1898	3rd-highest
Winchmore	301	599	1909	Highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	224	499	1863	2nd-highest
Lumsden	107	148	1982	4th-highest
Balclutha	96	201	1964	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Campbell Island	45	37	1992	Lowest

Temperature: Abnormally warm for much of the country

Temperatures for much of New Zealand were either above average (0.5 to 1.2°C above April average) or well above average (greater than 1.2°C above April average). Reflective of this are the numerous locations that recorded record high or near-record high mean temperatures, and record high or near-record high maximum and minimum temperatures across the country. Most impressive, second to the sheer volume of locations, is perhaps the warm overnight temperatures as indicated by the departure from normal with many stations reporting mean minimum air temperatures 2-3°C above their April normal. A likely contributing factor to the warm overnight periods is the abundant moisture in the form of cloud and rain as well as the influence of an ex-tropical cyclone. Regarding below average temperatures (0.5 to 1.2°C below April average), only spotty areas of the country managed to experience such, and that was primarily over the Canterbury and Otago regions. The nation-wide average temperature in April 2014 was 14.5°C (1.1°C above 1971-2000 April average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909)³.

² The rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd.etc) in all Tables in this summary are relative to climate data from a *group* of nearby stations, some of which may no longer be operating. The current climate value is compared against all values from any member of the group, without any regard for homogeneity between one station's record, and another. This approach is used due to the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

³ Interim value

Record or near-record mean air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	17.4	1.6	1973	2nd-highest
Whangarei	18.0	1.4	1967	4th-highest
Whangaparaoa	18.2	1.2	1982	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	17.1	1.6	1945	4th-highest
Auckland (Henderson North)	17.5	1.6	1948	4th-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	18.2	2.0	1959	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	18.0	1.7	1959	3rd-highest
Whitianga	17.1	1.8	1962	3rd-highest
Tauranga	17.8	2.2	1913	2nd-highest
Te Puke	16.7	2.1	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatane	16.8	2.3	1974	3rd-highest
Rotorua	14.9	1.6	1964	3rd-highest
Taupo	14.2	2.2	1949	4th-highest
Motu	14.1	3.0	1990	Highest
Pukekohe	17.2	1.7	1969	2nd-highest
Hamilton	16.2	2.0	1946	4th-highest
Te Kuiti	15.8	1.7	1959	3rd-highest
Turangi	13.9	1.9	1968	3rd-highest
Masterton	15.6	2.9	1992	Highest
Dannevirke	14.7	1.9	1951	4th-highest
Hicks Bay	17.8	1.8	1969	Highest
Waipawa	15.1	2.2	1945	2nd-highest
Mahia	16.3	1.4	1990	Equal 3rd-highest
Stratford	14.5	2.1	1960	Highest
Reefton	14.4	2.6	1960	2nd-highest
Haast	14.2	2.2	1949	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	13.5	2.4	1934	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	14.6	2.0	1985	Highest
Motueka	14.3	1.6	1956	3rd-highest
Nelson	15.0	1.8	1943	3rd-highest

Record or near-record mean maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	22.4	1.4	1981	3rd-highest
Kaikohe	21.3	2.0	1973	Highest

Whangarei	22.4	1.9	1967	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	21.5	1.7	1982	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	21.7	1.6	1945	Equal 2nd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	21.8	1.7	1959	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	21.7	1.7	1959	3rd-highest
Whitianga	21.7	1.5	1962	2nd-highest
Paeroa	21.6	1.2	1947	4th-highest
Tauranga	21.6	1.6	1913	3rd-highest
Whakatane	21.6	1.6	1974	4th-highest
Motu	18.9	2.8	1990	Highest
Hamilton	21.5	1.6	1946	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	20.9	1.2	1959	4th-highest
Turangi	19.2	1.6	1968	2nd-highest
New Plymouth	19.9	1.4	1944	4th-highest
Paraparaumu	19.1	1.4	1953	3rd-highest
Palmerston North	20.7	2.2	1928	3rd-highest
Stratford	18.4	1.5	1960	Highest
Haast	17.5	1.7	1949	Equal 4th-highest
Milford Sound	17.5	1.8	1934	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	17.6	2.1	1985	Highest
Low records or near-records				
Cheviot	16.7	-1.5	1982	3rd-lowest
Waipara	16.8	-1.7	1973	4th-lowest
Orari Estate	15.0	-2.0	1972	2nd-lowest

Record or near-record mean minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Auckland (Whenuapai)	12.5	1.5	1945	4th-highest
Auckland (Henderson North)	13.4	2.5	1948	4th-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	14.7	2.3	1959	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	14.3	1.6	1959	3rd-highest
Whitianga	12.5	2.2	1962	3rd-highest
Tauranga	14.0	2.7	1913	4th-highest
Te Puke	12.5	3.1	1973	3rd-highest
Rotorua	11.0	2.5	1964	3rd-highest
Taupo	9.6	2.8	1949	3rd-highest
Motu	9.2	3.1	1990	3rd-highest
Pukekohe	13.0	1.9	1969	3rd-highest
Masterton	11.3	4.9	1992	Highest
Takapau	9.8	3.1	1962	4th-highest
Dannevirke	10.6	2.6	1951	Equal 3rd-highest
Martinborough	9.8	2.4	1986	3rd-highest

Hicks Bay	14.8	2.1	1969	3rd-highest
Waipawa	10.4	3.1	1945	2nd-highest
Mahia	13.8	1.8	1990	2nd-highest
Stratford	10.7	2.7	1960	Highest
Hawera	11.4	2.2	1977	2nd-highest
Wanganui	12.6	2.3	1937	4th-highest
Takaka	9.9	2.5	1978	4th-highest
Reefton	10.1	3.6	1960	2nd-highest
Greymouth	11.4	2.4	1947	3rd-highest
Haast	10.9	2.7	1949	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	9.5	2.9	1934	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	11.5	1.9	1985	Highest
Nelson	11.1	2.1	1943	3rd-highest
Blenheim	10.3	2.5	1941	3rd-highest
Waiau	7.4	2.2	1974	4th-highest
Cheviot	8.1	2.8	1982	Highest
Orari Estate	8.0	2.7	1972	3rd-highest
Timaru	10.1	3.1	1885	Highest
Tara Hills	5.3	2.1	1949	4th-highest
Ranfurly	5.1	2.5	1975	2nd-highest
Alexandra	6.0	2.1	1983	Highest
Gore	7.4	1.7	1971	4th-highest
South West Cape	9.3	0.8	1991	4th-highest

Sunshine: Cloud dominates nearly all of the South Island and much of the North Island

With many parts of New Zealand experiencing a wet April, much of the country also received either below normal (75-89% of April normal) or much below normal sunshine (less than 75% of April normal). The sunshine was especially obscured over the South Island where only the extreme southern part of the island observed near normal sunshine (90-109% of April normal). The skies were a bit more generous over the North Island where parts of the Auckland and Northland regions enjoyed above normal sunshine (110-124% of April normal).

Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2014 (January - April) are: Whakatane (1050 hours), Tauranga (947 hours), Auckland – Albany (913 hours) and Takaka (893 hours).

Record or near-record April sunshine hours were recorded at:

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitiāia	188	109	1985	3rd-highest

Low records or near-records

Turangi	126	76	1976	3rd-lowest
Martinborough	120	74	1986	3rd-lowest
Takaka	121	66	1985	2nd-lowest
Hokitika	70	48	1912	Lowest
Nelson	131	67	1948	3rd-lowest
Blenheim	124	65	1947	2nd-lowest
Cheviot	92	56	1983	Lowest
Lake Tekapo	120	61	1928	4th-lowest
Cromwell	145	84	1979	4th-lowest

April climate in the six main centres

All the main centres recorded well above normal rainfall for the month of April, with Wellington and Christchurch receiving more than three times the April normal. Above average or well above temperatures were observed for all centres, with centres on the North Island experiencing near record high April temperatures. The surplus of rainfall meant a lack of sun for some main centres, with Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin receiving either well below normal or below normal sunshine. In contrast, Auckland enjoyed above normal sunshine hours in April. Near normal sunshine was observed in Tauranga and Hamilton. Of the six main centres in April 2014, Auckland was the warmest and sunniest, Dunedin was the coolest and driest, Christchurch was the cloudiest and Wellington was the wettest.

April 2014 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	18.2	2.0	2 nd Highest
Tauranga ^b	17.8	2.2	2 nd Highest
Hamilton ^c	16.2	2.2	4 th Highest
Wellington ^d	14.7	1.0	Above average
Christchurch ^e	12.5	0.6	Above average
Dunedin ^f	12.2	0.5	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	129	153%	Well above normal
Tauranga ^b	225	187%	Well above normal
Hamilton ^c	162	185%	Well above normal
Wellington ^d	263	310%	Well above normal
Christchurch ^e	162	368%	Well above normal
Dunedin ^f	100	196%	Well above normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	185	115%	Above normal
Tauranga ^b	177	96%	Near normal
Hamilton ^g	161	98%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	115	71%	Well below normal
Christchurch ^e	71 ⁴	45%	Well below normal
Dunedin ^f	94	75%	Below normal

^a Mangere ^b Tauranga Airport ^c Hamilton Airport ^d Kelburn ^e Christchurch Airport ^f Musselburgh ^g Ruakura

⁴ Missing one day of data from 2 April.

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

Near the end of the first week of April, very warm temperatures for the time of year were experienced in many central and northern locations across the North Island. On 6 April, nine locations observed their highest or equal-highest April maximum temperature on record. However, temperatures were even higher for some of those locations on the following day – six of the nine locations (i.e. Hamilton, Tauranga, Paeroa, Te Puke, Whakatane and Rotorua) established new April maximum temperature records.

On 7 April, Whakatane recorded 29.6°C, which was the highest daily maximum temperature recorded there for the year 2014 to date. Prior to this observation, the highest daily maximum temperature for 2014 recorded in Whakatane was 28.4°C on 10 February, 1.2°C less than that observed on 7 April. New Zealand locations typically observe their highest daily maximum temperatures for the year in January or February, so for Whakatane to observe its highest daily maximum air temperature for 2014 (to date) in April is both a rare and remarkable occurrence. Similarly, Tauranga recorded 28.4°C on 7 April, which was the second-highest daily maximum temperature recorded there for the year 2014 to date. Whakatane's 29.6°C ranks 38th-equal highest all-time for daily maximum temperature recorded in April across all New Zealand stations.

The highest temperature was 29.6°C, observed at Whakatane on 7 April. The lowest temperature was -4.2°C, observed at Pukaki Aerodrome on 29 April.

Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	25.7	8th	1981	2nd-highest
Kaikohe	24.9	8th	1973	4th-highest
Whangaparaoa	24.9	8th	1982	3rd-highest
Whitianga	27.8	6th	1962	Highest
Paeroa	26.9	7th	1947	Highest
Tauranga	28.4	7th	1913	Highest
Te Puke	27.4	7th	1973	Highest
Whakatane	29.6	7th	1975	Highest
Rotorua	25.0	7th	1964	Highest
Taupo	24.2	6th	1949	Equal 4th-highest
Motu	23.5	18th	1990	Highest
Whatawhata	27.0	1st	1952	Highest
Hamilton	27.9	7th	1946	Highest
Te Kuiti	27.8	6th	1959	Equal highest
Taumarunui	28.3	6th	1947	Equal highest
Turangi	25.1	6th	1968	Highest

Masterton	28.3	2nd	1992	Highest
Waione	27.0	2nd	1991	4th-highest
Paraparaumu	26.3	18th	1953	Highest
Palmerston North	26.4	3rd	1918	Equal 3rd-highest
Wellington	23.2	18th	1962	Equal 4th-highest
Wallaceville	26.0	3rd	1939	Highest
Stratford	23.6	2nd	1960	Equal 2nd-highest
Ohakune	24.7	1st	1962	3rd-highest
Wanganui	27.1	18th	1937	4th-highest
Reefton	25.6	3rd	1960	Highest
Haast	22.8	8th	1949	4th-highest
Secretary Island	23.4	18th	1985	Highest
Mt Cook Village	24.4	3rd	1929	Highest
Tara Hills	25.9	2nd	1949	2nd-highest
Wanaka	25.3	3rd	1955	Highest
Ranfurlly	25.6	2nd	1975	Equal highest
Manapouri	23.8	3rd	1963	Highest
Lumsden	24.8	3rd	1982	3rd-highest
Cromwell	26.6	3rd	1949	4th-highest
Lauder	25.6	3rd	1924	Equal 3rd-highest
Alexandra	28.4	2nd	1983	Highest
Invercargill	25.4	2nd	1905	3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	23.3	2nd	1970	4th-highest
Campbell Island	15.4	1st	1991	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Kuiti	12.6	24th	1959	Equal 4th-lowest
Takaka	12.6	28th	1978	Equal lowest
Farewell Spit	12.3	28th	1972	Lowest

Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Te Puke	18.2	8th	1973	4th-highest
Rotorua	17.1	9th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Motu	15.2	8th	1990	Equal 2nd-highest
Port Taharoa	18.5	9th	1974	Equal 3rd-highest
Mahia	17.5	8th	1990	Equal 3rd-highest
Motueka	16.0	11th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Secretary Island	15.5	4th	1988	2nd-highest

Rain and slips

On 3 April, 14 mm of rain was recorded in Hamilton. Whilst not a considerable rainfall total, it was noteworthy due to the dry conditions being experienced there at the time – the fall of rain was greater than double the total rainfall recorded in the previous month (6 mm in March 2014). Particularly heavy downpours associated with thunderstorms occurred in Cambridge, where at least three properties required assistance from the local Fire Brigade to pump away floodwaters. Isolated surface flooding was also reported in parts of Auckland, where there were localised bursts of heavy rain. For example, 25.8 mm of rain was recorded in Mangere, Auckland, in just one hour between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

On 8 April, heavy rain was the likely cause of a slip on SH 2 at the Rimutaka Hill Rd. Farther north, surface flooding was reported in Dannevirke on High Street. There were numerous reports of slips, dropouts and surface flooding on minor roads throughout the Wairarapa region.

On 9 April, Whanganui received a total of 6 mm of rain, with rain first falling between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. The rainfall ended a 34-day dry spell in the city which began on 6 March 2014.

On 11 April, a slip closed the Johnsonville train line in Wellington, causing disruption to train services.

On 16 April, heavy rain associated with the remnants of ex-tropical cyclone *Ita* moved onto New Zealand. Surface flooding was reported on many roads in Nelson. The Manuka St ford was closed, and the Nelson Fire Service was required to pump water out of a flooded garage on Tui Glen Rd. In addition, the Maitai River burst its banks and the Maitai Valley Rd at Sharlands was closed due to flooding. Farther north in Wellington, flash flooding and surface water was reported on the Urban Motorway (SH 1) from Aotea Quay to Ngauranga Interchange, Hutt Rd, as well as parts of Porirua, Hutt Valley and central Wellington. At around 9.30 p.m., Wellington City Council inspectors ordered the evacuation of two Oriental Parade buildings due to a slip. A storm-water drain was severed in the slip, resulting in torrents of water flooding nearby property.

On 17 April, a slip was reported across the entire Nottingham Street, off Karori Road, in Wellington. Caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH 3 through the Manawatu Gorge due to rock falls in the area. Waikato Police advised against all but essential travel to or around the Coromandel, as numerous roads were affected by slips, flooding and fallen trees. Tairua was cut off to the south, whilst the Pauanui access road was closed, as was the Kopu Hikau Road. Farther south in Marlborough, Port Underwood Road (east of Picton) was closed due to a large slip, whilst a diversion was activated on Old Renwick Road due to flooding. In Blenheim, the Taylor River burst its banks, flooding Nelson Street. Motorists were urged to exercise caution on SH 6 between Blenheim and Rai Valley due to surface water on the road, whilst SH 1 south of Ward was temporarily closed due to numerous slips and debris strewn across the road. To the west, a slip on Takaka Hill had reduced the road there to a single lane.

A heavy downpour of rain on 22 April resulted in flash flooding for parts of Levin. The local Fire Brigade were required to carry out sandbagging, as well as pump out flood water from a number of houses. One commuter was temporarily trapped in their car, with flood water reportedly approaching the height of the vehicle's windscreen.

On 28 April, motorists were advised to take care on SH 1 from Oamaru to Pukeuri and SH 83 from Pukeuri to Duntroon due to surface flooding. Weather conditions were such that the Waitaki District Council activated its Civil Defence emergency operations centre at 2.30 p.m., and a number of rural roads in the area were closed due to flooding. Surface flooding occurred in many parts of Timaru due to the heavy rain that fell there.

On 29 April, heavy rain caused widespread surface flooding in Christchurch, resulting in the closure of a number of streets in the city. SH 73 from Port Hills Road to Tunnel Road, and SH 75 from Little River to Akaroa were also struck by flooding. Farther south, SH 1 at Hilderthorpe (north of Oamaru) was closed due to flooding.

Record or near record April extreme 1-day rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Kerikeri	84	16th	1981	3rd-highest
Kaikohe	106	16th	1956	3rd-highest
Masterton	37	7th	1992	4th-highest
Waione	26	7th	1991	4th-highest
Levin	48	16th	1949	3rd-highest
Cape Campbell	78	17th	1890	4th-highest
Kaikoura	138	17th	1898	2nd-highest
Winchmore	97	28th	1927	Highest
Orari Estate	69	17th	1897	3rd-highest
Balclutha	33	4th	1964	3rd-highest

Wind

On 3 April, a funnel cloud was reported near a thunderstorm occurring over rural areas close to Auckland Airport.

On 8 April, drivers of motorcycles, campervans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 6 between Harihari and Haast due to strong winds.

On 15 April, drivers of motorcycles, campervans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 1 at the Desert Road due to strong winds.

On 17 April, strong winds associated with ex-tropical cyclone *Ita* struck much of both the North Island and South Island. In Auckland, around 17,000 properties were without power – mostly as a result of trees blowing onto power lines. Strong winds and high-tide combined to cause severe flooding on Tamaki Drive, as waves crashed over the sea wall there. Farther south, caution was advised to motorists on SH 29 near Te Poi (east of Cambridge) due to fallen trees across the highway. In Cambridge, Victoria Road near the intersection with Bellevue Road was closed after trees and power lines came down there. Falling trees also closed SH 5 from the intersection with SH 1 south of Tirau through to Rotorua. More than 1000 Waikato customers were without power. In Manawatu, power was out for around 9300 properties due to faults caused by strong winds,

including in parts of Aokautere, Apiti, Ashurst and Pohangina. In the South Island, drivers of motorcycles, campervans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 1 between Blenheim and Kaikoura, and SH 6 from Harihari to Haast. Many roads in the West Coast region were closed due to downed trees and powerlines, whilst a number of vehicles, including several buses, were blown over. Strong winds felled a number of trees in Nelson and surrounding areas, and the power supply to thousands of properties throughout Golden Bay, Stoke and Richmond was affected. A section of Nelson Hospital's roof had to be replaced after it had lifted and was damaged by the winds. Westport lost its power supply, and many roofs were lifted in the township and surrounds. Westport *New World* had a plate glass window blown in. In Greymouth, the central business district was closed in the afternoon because of danger from flying debris after a roof had lifted off an industrial building. There were reports of flight cancellations in Auckland, New Plymouth and Wellington, whilst *Interislander* and *Bluebridge* ferry crossings on Cook Strait were significantly delayed or cancelled.

On 25 April, drivers of motorcycles, campervans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 8 between Twizel and Tekapo due to strong winds.

On 28 April, more than 300 homes in Timaru lost power due to strong winds damaging power lines. Strong winds brought down a large tree west of Wanaka, completely blocking Mt Aspiring Road.

On 29 April, drivers of motorcycles, campervans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 6 between Harihari and Haast due to strong winds.

Record or near record April extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Cape Reinga	137	17th	1974	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	85	17th	1985	4th-highest
Kaikohe	87	17th	1986	Highest
Whangarei	93	17th	1973	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	91	17th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Paeroa	100	17th	1991	Highest
Tauranga	85	17th	1973	Equal 3rd-highest
Whakatane	95	17th	1974	2nd-highest
Rotorua	89	17th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Pukekohe	65	17th	1986	Equal 4th-highest
Hamilton	83	17th	1978	4th-highest
Baring Head	146	17th	1991	Highest
Palmerston North	93	17th	1991	Highest
Levin	104	17th	1971	Highest
Farewell Spit	104	17th	1973	Highest
Westport	126	17th	1973	Highest
Nelson	89	17th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Cape Campbell	102	8th	1963	Equal 3rd-highest

Snow and ice

On 28 April, caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH 8 over the Lindis Pass due to wintry conditions: snow had fallen and settled at higher elevations on the road. The Crown Range Road between Queenstown and Wanaka was affected by snow, and chains were required by motorists using that road in the morning. Staff at *The Remarkables* ski area in Queenstown reported approximately 20 cm of snow had fallen there. Farther north, staff at *Mt Dobson* and *Mt Hutt* in Canterbury reported 50 cm of snow had fallen at their ski areas.

Cloud and fog

On 1 April, fog caused the delay or cancellation of 51 flights due to depart or arrive at Auckland airport.

On 2 April, low cloud and fog at Palmerston North Airport caused the cancellation of eight passenger flights there, with additional inbound flights diverted to Whanganui.

On 7 April, low cloud at Wellington Airport forced the delay or cancellation of a number of domestic flights. However, the Royal New Zealand Air Force Boeing 757 carrying Prince William, Kate and their son George was able to land just prior to midday as scheduled.

For further information, please contact:

Mr Chris Brandolino

Meteorologist – NIWA National Climate Centre

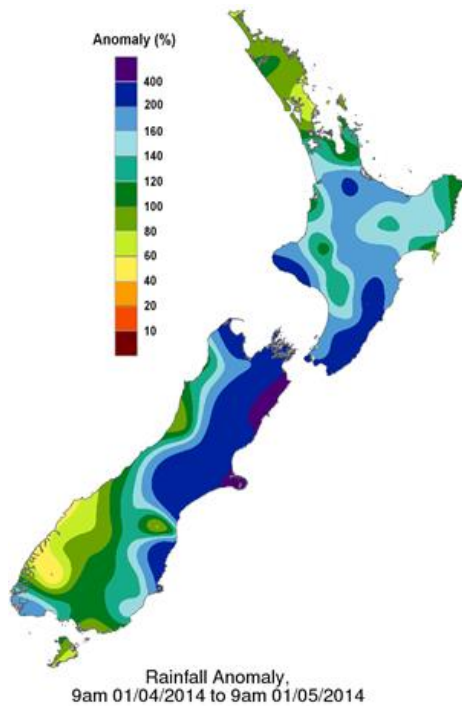
Tel. 09 375 6335

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Tel. 04 386 0509



April 2014 total rainfall expressed as a % of normal.

Well above normal rainfall many parts of New Zealand, but especially about the central and southern North Island, and northern and eastern areas of the South Island (150% or more of April normal rainfall – darker blue and purple shades).

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