

Changeable summer temperatures, dryness ends the season in the North Island.

Rainfall	Rainfall for summer was below normal for much of the North Island (between 50-80 percent of normal) especially western Northland, all of the Waikato (excluding the Coromandel Peninsula) and Ruapehu District. Areas that were particularly affected by the dryness include the western coastal Waikato, southeast through to northern portions of the Manawatu-Wanganui region. Eastern Northland received above normal rainfall (120-150 percent of normal summer rain) with near normal rainfall for other locations of the North Island (within 20 percent of normal). Below normal rainfall (50-80 percent of normal) occurred from Blenheim to Nelson as well as Timaru and Queenstown Lakes District. The remainder of the South Island recorded near normal rainfall (within 20 percent of normal) with some sections receiving above normal rainfall.
Temperature	Summer temperatures were near average for most of the country (within 0.5°C of the summer average). There were a few areas of below normal temperatures on both islands such as parts of the Waikato and from Hokitika to Haast as well as parts of central Otago and Dunedin (between 0.5 and 1.2°C below average). Motu in the Bay of Plenty region recorded above average temperatures (between 0.5 and 1.2°C above average) as well as Akaroa in the South Island.
Soil Moisture	As at 1 March 2014, soils were much drier than normal across the North Island, except for eastern Northland and the coast south of Hawke's Bay where soils are slightly wetter than normal for time of year. Drier than normal soils for much of the interior of the South Island, particularly Tasman, Marlborough and much of Canterbury and Southland regions. Western coastal areas and around Banks Peninsula have slightly wetter than normal soils for this time of year.
Sunshine	Sunshine for the summer was abundant for the Far North, central North Island and inland Canterbury where above normal sunshine was recorded (110 to 125 percent of summer normal). Much of the remainder of the country experienced near normal sunshine (within 10 percent of summer normal).

Click on the link to jump to the information you require:

[Overview](#)

[Rain](#)

[Temperature](#)

[Sunshine](#)

[Summer climate in the six main centres](#)

[Highlights and extreme events](#)

Overview

As a whole, lower pressures than normal dominated the New Zealand region from December to February. Wind flow during the season was quite variable with a weak northerly flow present in December, followed by a strong southwesterly flow anomaly in January. The said flow in December contributed to a very warm start to the summer season with decidedly cooler and unsettled weather following in January. With the predominant wind shifting into the southeast in February, there was an intensification of the unusually dry conditions for the western and central North Island.

Rainfall for the summer season was below normal for much of the North Island (between 50-80 percent of normal summer rainfall), especially the western Northland, all of the Waikato (excluding the Coromandel Peninsula) and Ruapehu District. Areas that were particularly affected by the dryness include the western coastal Waikato, southeast through to northern portions of the Manawatu-Wanganui region where Turangi and Ohakune recorded approximately 40% of normal summer rainfall. An exception was eastern Northland where Kerikeri received above normal rainfall (120-150 percent of normal summer rain). Areas of the North Island receiving near normal rainfall included Hicks Bay, Castlepoint and Wellington (within 20 percent of normal summer rainfall).

For the South Island, below normal rainfall (50-80 percent of normal) occurred in northern sections from Blenheim to Nelson as well as Timaru and Queenstown Lakes District. The remainder of the South Island recorded near normal rainfall (within 20 percent of normal) except for Kaikoura and Oamaru which recorded above normal rainfall and Ranfurly which received well above normal rainfall (more than 150 percent of normal).

The summer season started off on a warm note throughout the country whereas January was quite a bit cooler and February ended on an average note. Therefore, temperatures this past summer collectively ended up being near average for most of the country (within 0.5°C of the summer average). There were a few areas of below normal temperatures on both islands such as parts of the Waikato and from Hokitika to Haast, as well as parts of central Otago and Dunedin (between 0.5 and 1.2°C below average). On the other side of the spectrum, Motu in the Bay of Plenty region recorded above average temperatures (between 0.5 and 1.2°C above average) as well as Akaroa in the South Island. The nation-wide average temperature in summer 2013-2014 was 16.7°C (equal to the 1971-2000 summer average), using NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909.

As at 1 March 2014, soils were much drier than normal across the North Island, except for eastern Northland and the coast south of Hawke's Bay where soils are slightly wetter than normal for time of year. Soils were drier than normal for much of the interior of the South Island, particularly Tasman, Marlborough and much of Canterbury and Southland regions. Western coastal areas and around Banks Peninsula have slightly wetter than normal soils for this time of year. Soil moisture deficits are not as extensive as those a year ago in the 2013 drought, but may be as severe as 2013 in isolated regions. Soil moisture levels are lowest, relative to normal at this time of year, in the Waikato, Waitomo and Taupo districts.

Sunshine for the summer was abundant for the Far North, central North Island and inland Canterbury where above normal sunshine was recorded (110 to 125 percent of summer normal).

Much of the remainder of the country experienced near normal sunshine (within 10 percent of summer normal).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 35.7°C, recorded at Clyde on 20 February.
- The lowest temperature was -2.7°C, observed at Waiouru on 27 January.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 220 mm, recorded at North Egmont on 4 January.
- The highest wind gust was 183 km/hr, at Cape Turnagain on 16 January.
- In summer 2013-2014, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga was the wettest and sunniest, Christchurch was the driest with Dunedin the coolest and cloudiest of all the main centres.

For further information, please contact:

Dr Brett Mullan

Principal Scientist, Climate, NIWA Wellington

Tel. 04 386 0508

Rainfall: Dry for most of the North Island, near normal rainfall for much of the South Island.

Overall, summer rainfall was below normal for much of the North Island as well as parts of the northern South Island, Timaru and Queenstown Lakes District. In fact, Toenepi and Ohakune experienced their driest summer season on record. A number of sites, listed on the table below, observed near record dryness for the summer season. In contrast, Ranfurly recorded its 4th wettest summer season on record. As at the end of summer, soils were extremely dry throughout sections of western and central North Island as well as for much of the interior of the South Island.

Record¹ or near-record summer rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Ranfurly	260	171	1943	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Toenepi	62	26	1951	Lowest
Taupo	99	41	1949	2nd-lowest
Turangi	138	39	1968	2nd-lowest
Masterton	99	53	1992	4th-lowest
Ohakune	122	40	1961	Lowest

¹ 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.

Temperature: A warm start gives way to a cool January, but near average as a whole.

There were no record or near record mean temperatures for the summer season as the warmth of December was balanced out by the coolness of January. This was followed by a near average February. The magnitude of the coolness in January allowed for six sites to observe near record mean minimum temperatures (table below). In contrast, Motu experienced its highest mean maximum summer temperature on record. The nation-wide average temperature in summer 2013-2014 was 16.7°C (0.7°C above the 1971-2000 summer average), using NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909².

No record or near-record mean air temperatures were recorded during summer.

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Motu	22.2	2.1	1990	Highest
Low records or near-records				
Secretary Island	16.9	-0.7	1985	3rd-lowest
Balclutha	18.2	-1.4	1964	4th-lowest

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Te Kuiti	10.7	-1.6	1959	2nd-lowest
Taumarunui	9.7	-2.1	1947	2nd-lowest
Turangi	9.7	-1.3	1968	4th-lowest
Appleby	10.5	-1.5	1932	4th-lowest
Lumsden	7.6	-0.7	1982	4th-lowest
Tiwai Point	9.6	-1.0	1970	4th-lowest

² Interim value

Sunshine: Near normal for New Zealand, with pockets of above normal.

Sunshine for the summer was abundant for the Far North, central North Island and inland Canterbury where above normal sunshine was recorded (110 to 125 percent of summer normal) with Turangi and Takaka recording their second highest amount of sunshine for summer on record. Otherwise, much of the remainder of the country experienced near normal sunshine (within 10 percent of summer normal).

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

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Turangi	692	112	1976	2nd-highest
Takaka	758	111	1985	2nd-highest

Summer climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were near average for all of the main centres during summer excluding Hamilton and Dunedin where summer temperatures were slightly below average. The only exception to otherwise near normal rainfall for the main centres was Hamilton which only received slightly more than half of normal summer rainfall. Sunshine was near normal in all the main centres. In summer 2013-2014, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga was the wettest and sunniest, Christchurch was the driest with Dunedin the coolest and cloudiest of all the main centres.

Summer 2013-2014 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	19.5	0.2	Near average
Tauranga ^b	19.3	0.2	Near average
Hamilton ^c	17.5	-0.5	Below average
Wellington ^d	16.7	0.2	Near average
Christchurch ^e	16.5	-0.1	Near average
Dunedin ^f	14.1	-0.6	Below average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	242 ³	111%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	263	101%	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	149	57%	Below normal
Wellington ^d	232	101%	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	135	107%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	226	102%	Near normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	675 ⁴	108%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	740	104%	Near normal
Hamilton ^g	692 ⁵	107%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	659 ⁶	97%	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	642	98%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	534	106%	Near normal

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

³ 1 day of missing data – 8 December

⁴ 2 days of missing data – 6 and 8 December

⁵ 1 day of missing data – 19 February

⁶ 1 day of missing data – 24 January

Highlights and extreme events

Wind

The highest wind gust was 183 km/hr, at Cape Turnagain on 16 January.

On 7 December, a short burst of strong wind caused localised damage on Egmont Road in Taranaki. One home-owner lost part of their roof and had a window blown in, whilst a letterbox, trampoline and swing-set were blown over at a neighbouring property. Further south, caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH2 at the Rimutaka Hill Road due to strong winds. In Wellington, *East by West* ferry crossings were cancelled due to the rough conditions.

On 19 December, a funnel cloud was witnessed over Whanganui.

On 28 December, a funnel cloud was observed over the Hauraki Plains.

On 29 December, damaging winds struck Papamoa, with reports of a weak tornado or waterspout there. Roofing iron and tiles were lifted from houses, whilst fences and small trees were knocked over. Heavy rain at the time resulted in a number of Fire Service callouts, as water was entering houses through their compromised roofs.

On 31 December, a waterspout came ashore at Hokitika.

On 13 December, a century-old macrocarpa tree was destroyed by a bolt of lightning on a farm near Tikokino in the Central Hawke's Bay. A flock of sheep were sheltering under the tree at the time, with 53 ewes killed.

On 16 December, a damaging thunderstorm struck parts of mid-Canterbury, with a tornado occurring near Mayfield. Hail stones of up to 3cm in diameter were reported, which destroyed many crops and stripped trees of their foliage. In Mayfield, the hailstorm broke many windows at homes and businesses in the township. One farmer reported losing 70 - 80% of his carrot and maize crops, with a value in excess of \$100,000.

On 18 December, thunderstorms beginning in Dunedin tracked north over the South Island, dropping hail in Oamaru and causing lightning strikes throughout Canterbury. The thunderstorms tracked past Christchurch city, however heavy rain, thunder and lightning were reported by residents on Banks Peninsula.

On 2 January, strong winds struck parts of the lower South Island. A car was blown off the road between Luggate and Cromwell, and a boat ran aground near Bluff after strong winds caused it to break from its moorings. The Milford Road was temporarily closed due to poor weather.

On 3 January, strong winds hit the lower North Island, with flights in and out of Wellington disrupted. 444 homes and businesses in Pukerua Bay lost power, whilst 144 homes in the Hutt Valley hills around Kelson also lost power. Traffic delays on SH1 between Levin and Otaki were caused by debris from trees lying on the road, and motorists driving on SH2 over the Rimutaka Hill

were warned to take caution due to the windy conditions. Further south, a caravan was tipped over by strong winds near Kaikoura.

On 12-13 January, gale force north-westerly winds hit exposed areas around Wellington, including the Rimutaka Ranges and Mt Kaukau. Strong winds were also experienced in Hawke's Bay, but no damage was reported.

On 16 January, severe wind warnings were issued for Hawke's Bay and the Wairarapa. A 70-year-old walnut tree in Dannevirke was felled by the strong winds.

On 17 January, strong winds were experienced in many regions. Drivers of motorcycles, caravans, and high-sided vehicles on Auckland's Harbour Bridge, SH 1 at the Desert Road, SH 87 from Kyeburn to Mosgiel, SH 8 from Rae's Junction to Milton, SH 90 from Rae's Junction to McNab, SH 1 from Milton to Gore, and SH 73 from Arthur's Pass to Springfield were advised to take extra care due to strong winds. In Queenstown, a poplar was blown over, destroying a corner of the Lakeside Motel, crushing one car, and damaging other vehicles.

On 19 January, strong winds whipped through Wellington, picking up a bouncy castle in Hataitai.

On 20 and 21 January, the remnants of ex-Tropical Cyclone June caused wet and windy weather for much of the North Island and northern South Island. On 20 January, rain on long-dry roads in Northland caused a number of car crashes occurred as drivers lost control on the greasy tar seal. About 800 households in Kerikeri lost power for two hours after a branch fell onto power lines. On 21 January, gales hammered exposed parts of Northland, high winds blew debris and a trampoline onto roads in the Manawatu, and trees were blown onto roofs and roads in the Waikato. More than 5500 households in Auckland lost power for a time, and trees and branches fell on roads, cars, power lines, telephone lines, and houses across the region. Drivers were warned to take care on roads due to high winds, especially on Auckland's Harbour Bridge and Mangere Bridge. A boat was assisted to shore in Tauranga Harbour by the Coastguard, as the people onboard could not get back into shore themselves due to strong winds and choppy conditions. In Manawatu and Taranaki, the windy weather caused a number of small faults on the power network, affecting 120 rural properties.

On 23 January, drivers of motorcycles, caravans, and high-sided vehicles were warned to drive with care on SH 1 at Desert Road, SH 7 from Hanmer turnoff to Springs Junction (Lewis Pass), SH 1 from Gore to Dunedin, SH 90 from McNab to Raes Junction, and SH 8 from Raes Junction to Milton, due to strong winds. High winds cut power and caused problems for firefighters battling a blaze in Clyde. Power was also cut in Cromwell when a line went down in the wind.

On 24 January, drivers of motorcycles, caravans, and high-sided vehicles were warned to take care due to strong winds on SH 1 at Desert Road.

On 26 January, a mini-tornado hit the Kapiti coast settlement of Raumati South, lifting two roofs, ripping out fences and trees and throwing patio furniture and trampolines into the air. At least eight domestic flights were cancelled and another 12 were delayed at Auckland airport due to stormy weather. On SH 1 at the Desert Road, drivers of motorcycles, caravans, and high-sided vehicles were warned to take care due to strong winds.

On 6 February, drivers of caravans, motorcycles, and high sided vehicles were warned to take care on SH 1 at the Desert Road due to strong winds.

On 9 and 10 February, strong southerlies pounded Wellington, but no damage was reported.

On 23 February, a supercell storm swept through northern and mid-Canterbury. Two tornadoes formed, one in Amberley (north Canterbury) around 6pm and one in Leeston (mid-Canterbury) earlier in the day. The Amberley tornado ripped the roof of a home, lifted tiles off roofs near the Burnham Military Camp area, smashed windows, felled trees, and brought down powerlines. Trees that fell on powerlines in Southbridge sparked a fire in a paddock. More than 1000 homes lost power in the storm. The Leeston tornado was much weaker, only kicking up dust. On the Rimutaka Hill, a motorcyclist was knocked off her bike by a strong gust of wind.

On 25 February, wild weather battered Southland, with boat owners told to secure their moorings and sports practices cancelled.

On 27 February, a scrub fire near Cromwell spread quickly due to strong winds, eventually covering 50 hectares.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Cape Reinga	133	Jan-21st	1974	3rd-highest
Paeroa	104	Jan-21st	1991	Highest
Wanganui	102	Jan-26th	1977	2nd-highest
Westport	124	Jan-13th	1973	Equal highest

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 35.7°C, recorded at Clyde on 20 February.

The lowest temperature was -2.7°C, observed at Waiouru on 27 January.

In the first week of December, a warm northerly airmass ahead of an approaching trough resulted in a number of consecutive hot days, particularly in inland parts of the South Island. Clyde (in Central Otago) had four consecutive days of maximum temperatures reaching at least 29.9°C. Meanwhile, temperatures along the east coast of the South Island remained near the low 20's due to a mild sea breeze associated with the high pressure system present at the time. As the high departed to the east, northerly winds strengthened on 6 December, allowing warm foehn winds to prevail over the sea breeze along the east coast. For example, Ashburton had reached 26°C by 10 a.m., whilst Leeston recorded a maximum temperature of 32.7°C.

In early January, frequent westerly to northwesterly airflows over the eastern North Island resulted in an extended warm spell for areas of Gisborne and Hawke's Bay. Over the first 11 days of the month, the average daily maximum temperature for Gisborne, Napier and Hastings was 26.5°C, 26.4°C and 26.6°C respectively. In Wairoa (Hawke's Bay), the average daily maximum temperature

over the first 12 days of the month was 27.2°C, with the maximum daily temperature exceeding 28.0°C on seven out of twelve days.

In mid-January, unseasonably cool temperatures were experienced over much of the country associated with frequent west to south-west airflows.

On 19 January, temperatures over 30°C were recorded in Canterbury and Hawke's Bay, due to the foehn effect caused by northwesterly winds.

From 18 to 23 February very high humidity was experienced in Auckland, due to a combination of high temperatures and airflows from the east and northeast. The highest recorded humidity was 97 percent on the morning of 23 February, and 94 percent humidity was recorded on 21 February. Humidity did not fall below 69 percent on the night of 19 February. All week, night-time temperatures were around 20°C, making it difficult to sleep.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Palmerston North	31.9	Feb-19th	1918	4th-highest
Ohakune	30.7	Feb-20th	1962	Highest
Milford Sound	27.8	Feb-09th	1934	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	25.9	Dec-26th	1985	Equal 2nd-highest
Cheviot	34.4	Feb-04th	1982	3rd-highest
Le Bons Bay	29.1	Feb-18th	1984	4th-highest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Kaitia	6	Feb-08th	1967	Equal 2nd-lowest
Martinborough	1.9	Jan-28th	1986	3rd-lowest
Franz Josef	1.5	Jan-04th	1982	Equal 2nd-lowest
Ranfurlly	-1.5	Feb-24th	1975	4th-lowest
Balclutha	-2.2	Dec-23rd	1964	Lowest
Nugget Point	3	Jan-30th	1970	3rd-lowest

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 220 mm, recorded at North Egmont on 4 January.

Heavy rain during the first week of December brought relief to soils in the upper North Island which were drier than normal for the time of year. Kerikeri recorded 102 mm of rain on 4 December, and

Whakatane recorded 108.8 mm of rain on 5 December. On 5 December, caution was required on SH23 between Hamilton and Raglan due to surface flooding. In addition, access along SH25 between Whitianga and Tairua was restricted to 4WD vehicles due to flooding at Wades River, and firefighters had to rescue a woman who had become trapped in her car in the resulting floodwaters along the road.

On 16 December, a short burst of torrential rain associated with a thunderstorm struck Dunedin, causing surface flooding on a number of the city's streets. There were reports of leaking roofs and burglar alarms being triggered by the heavy rain, whilst water washed into around 20 businesses on George Street.

On 29 December, police advised motorists against all non-essential travel in the northeastern Waikato. The eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula was hit hard, with flooding in Tairua, Pauanui, Matarangi, Whitianga, and camping grounds at Opoutere and Cooks Beach. The community hall at Cooks Beach was opened to accommodate evacuated campers. On SH25 between Tairua and Whitianga, flooding closed the north-bound lane whilst a slip is caused delays to both lanes at Pumpkin Hill.

On 30 December, firefighters were called to help clear a slip near Marahau (Tasman region) which blocked one lane of the road between Sandy Bay and Marahau.

On 3 January, a short but heavy burst of rain in Levin caused surface flooding, with some campers at the Levin Holiday Park displaced by water-logged grounds.

On 9 January, heavy showers affected the northern North Island.

On 20 and 21 January, the remnants of ex-Tropical Cyclone June caused wet and windy weather for much of the North Island and northern South Island. On 21 January, morning games of the Taranaki Open Fours bowls tournament were postponed for half a day due to rain.

On 6 February, multiple road accidents in Northland were attributed to the wet weather conditions. The heavy rain didn't stop big crowds enjoying the Waitangi Day atmosphere at Waitangi.

On 7 February, Northland police officers were called out to six road accidents in two hours, which were attributed to wet and greasy roads.

The weekend of 8-9 February was wet for the Hawke's Bay and Gisborne due to the remnants of tropical cyclone Edna.

On 12 February, at least six Christchurch homes in the suburbs of Avonhead, St Albans, Rangiora, Wigram, and Belfast, were flooded after a burst of heavy rain clogged stormwater drains.

From 20 February, New Plymouth District Council introduced water use reduction measures for the district due to declining reservoir levels as a result of low rainfall. Hand-held hoses were only able to be used on alternate days. The use of sprinklers and unattended hoses was banned.

On 23 February, rain forced the 'Party in the Park' event in Mosgiel to end early. A fire ripped through part of a farm near Huntly, due to the tinder-dry condition of the vegetation in the area.

In late February, urban areas of Tasman district were under water use reduction measures due to intensifying dry conditions. Residents were given notice to conserve water, with handheld hosing only permitted on alternate days.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Edgecumbe	120	Dec-05th	1990	3rd-highest
Awakeri (Bay of Plenty)	120	Dec-05th	1962	4th-highest
Collingwood (Tasman)	181	Jan-04th	1992	4th-highest
Kaikoura Plains	64	Dec-28th	1980	3rd-highest

Snow and ice

On January 8, about 10 cm of snow fell at the summit of the mountain above Mt Hutt Ski Area. January snow is not unusual there, but usually the amount of snow that falls in January is much smaller.

On 28 February snow settled on the mountains around Queenstown including Remarkables Ski Field and Cardrona Ski Field.

Lightning and hail

On 13 December, a century-old macrocarpa tree was destroyed by a bolt of lightning on a farm near Tikokino in the Central Hawke’s Bay. A flock of sheep were sheltering under the tree at the time, with 53 ewes killed.

On 16 December, a damaging thunderstorm struck parts of mid-Canterbury, with a tornado occurring near Mayfield. Hail stones of up to 3cm in diameter were reported, which destroyed many crops and stripped trees of their foliage. In Mayfield, the hailstorm broke many windows at homes and businesses in the township. One farmer reported losing 70 - 80% of his carrot and maize crops, with a value in excess of \$100,000.

On 18 December, thunderstorms beginning in Dunedin tracked north over the South Island, dropping hail in Oamaru and causing lightning strikes throughout Canterbury. The thunderstorms tracked past Christchurch city, however heavy rain, thunder and lightning were reported by residents on Banks Peninsula. On January 9, a lightning strike took out the only set of traffic lights in Kawerau, and isolated hail hit parts of Auckland. Thunderstorms were also observed between Taupo and Gisborne, and north to Auckland.

On 23 February, a supercell storm swept through Canterbury. Large hail stones pelted the ground and lightning strikes caused a small fire in Halswell. Hail stones the size of golf balls fell in Ashburton.

Cloud and fog

On 10 February, a rare iridescent ‘rainbow’ cloud was spotted by a tramper above the Molesworth hills in north Canterbury.

On the evening of 19 February and the morning of 20 February, thick sea fog surrounded Wellington city and grounded many domestic flights at Wellington airport.

On 20 February, flights were disrupted in and out of Blenheim airport and Wanganui airport due to fog. Heavy fog may have contributed to a car crash in Blenheim where a man was left in a serious condition.

On 21 February, flights were cancelled and delayed at Christchurch airport and Palmerston North airport due to fog.

On 22 February, sea fog was observed over the Waitemata Harbour in Auckland.

For further information, please contact:

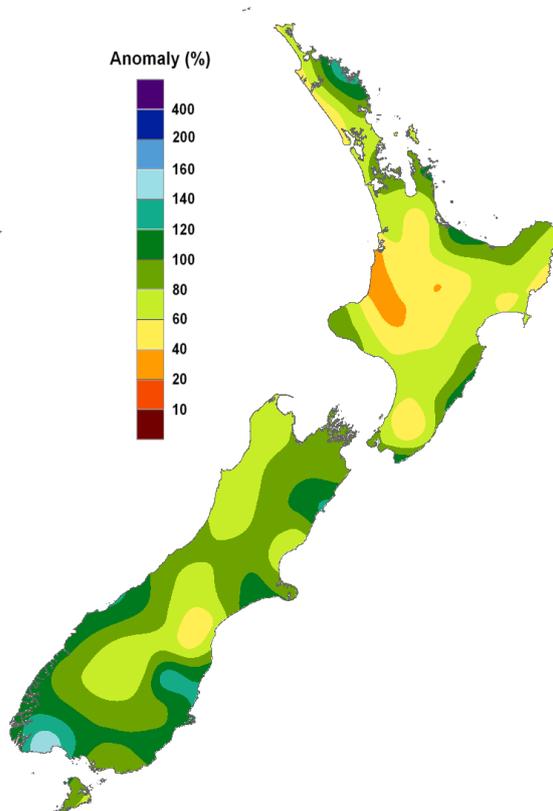
Dr Brett Mullan

Principal Scientist, Climate, NIWA Wellington
Tel. 04 386 0508

For climate data enquiries, please contact:

Ms Petra Chappell

Climate Scientist, NIWA Auckland
Tel. 09 375 2052



Summer 2013-2014 total rainfall expressed as percentage (%) of normal.

Orange shades in the western Waikato and Ruapehu District refer to well below normal rainfall with yellow and light green throughout most of the North Island indicating below normal rainfall. Darker green colours represent near normal rainfall for the summer season