

NATIONAL CLIMATE CENTRE
THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER 2005

National Climate Summary – November 2005

Rainfall: Well below normal in Taranaki, Kapiti, and Golden Bay, above normal in Coromandel, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and the far southwest of the South Island

Soil moisture; Significant deficits in eastern regions from southern Wairarapa to Otago, as well as Kapiti, Wellington, and Nelson

Temperatures: Warm at first, much cooler during the last week

Sunshine: Very sunny in Northland, Westland, Nelson and Southland

Little rainfall occurred in many regions during the first two to three weeks of November. Rainfall was well below normal throughout much of the north and west of both islands, and less than 25 percent (quarter) of normal rainfall was recorded in Kapiti, and Golden Bay. Paraparaumu Airport and New Plymouth Airport, both recorded their driest November in at least 60 years. As a result, significant soil moisture deficits occurred in eastern regions from southern Wairarapa to Otago, as well as Kapiti, Wellington, and Nelson. November rainfall was above normal in Coromandel, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and the far southwest of the South Island, with a flood-producing event in the Gisborne region toward the end of the month. Temperatures were average or above average in the South Island, and average or below average overall in the North Island. The national average temperature was 13.9 °C, 0.2 °C above average. It was very warm in the east of the South Island on 9 November, temperatures reaching 30 °C in Canterbury and Otago. November was very sunny in Northland, Westland, Nelson, and Southland. November mean sea level pressures were above average in the Southern Ocean and the South Tasman Sea, producing more southerly quarter air flow than average over New Zealand.

Other Highlights:

The highest temperature during November 2005 was 30.7 °C recorded in Christchurch City on the 11th. The lowest temperature for the month was -3.5 °C at The Chateau, Ruapehu on the 23rd.

Queenstown recorded its warmest November day (29.3 °C) on record since 1871.

Paraparaumu Airport recorded no measurable rainfall until 20 November (the first rain-day after 30 dry days), then 4 mm for the entire month.

Several days of high rainfall resulted in surface flooding in the Gisborne region on the 27th and 28th.

The highest wind gust for the month was 150 km/h from the northwest, at Castlepoint on the 5th.

Of the four main centres Christchurch was the driest and sunniest, and Auckland the wettest. All four centres were drier and sunnier than normal. Auckland and Christchurch were cooler than normal, and Wellington and Dunedin were warmer than normal.

Rainfall:

Rainfall was less than 50 percent (half) of normal throughout much of the north and west of both islands, and less than 25 percent (quarter) of normal in north Taranaki, Kapiti, and Golden Bay. In contrast, totals were 125 to 250 percent (one and a quarter to twice) of normal rainfall in Coromandel, Gisborne, and the far southwest of the South Island.

Temperature: Mean temperatures were above average in Marlborough, Otago, south Westland, Fiordland, and Southland, and below average in Thames, inland Bay of Plenty, Taupo, and Hawke's Bay. They were near average elsewhere.

Sunshine: Sunshine hours were at least 120 percent of average in Northland, Westland, Southland, and Nelson, and above 110 percent of average in Auckland, Taranaki, Kapiti, Wellington, Canterbury, and Fiordland. Hours of bright sunshine were below average in Waikato and Manawatu.

For further information, please contact:

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**WELL BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL IN KAPITI, AND GOLDEN BAY
WELL ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL IN GISBORNE**

Rainfall was less than 50 percent of normal throughout much of the north and west of both islands, and less than 25 percent of normal rainfall in Kapiti, and Golden Bay. In contrast, totals were 125 to 250 percent of normal rainfall in Coromandel, Gisborne, Hawke’s Bay, and the far southwest of the South Island. Rainfall was near normal elsewhere.

Near or record low November rainfall was recorded at:

Location	November Rainfall (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
Kaitaia Observatory	29	28	1985	Lowest
Kerikeri EWS	33	25	1981	3 rd lowest
Kerikeri Airport	29	23	1978	Equal 2 nd lowest
Taupo Airport	25	33	1976	Lowest
New Plymouth Airport	33 ^a	30	1944	Lowest
Lower Retaruke	40	30	1966	Lowest
Martinborough	17	33	2001	Lowest
Paraparaumu Airport	4	5	1945	Lowest
Wallaceville	18	18	1924	2 nd lowest
Stratford	37 ^b	22	1960	Lowest
Waiouru MWD	29	35	1950	2 nd lowest
Takaka	38	19	1986	Lowest
Farewell Spit	15	16	1874	Equal 3 rd lowest
Westport Airport	46	25	1944	3 rd lowest
Reefton	55	32	1960	2 nd lowest
Stephens Island	4	6	1894	Lowest
Riwaka	20	19	1943	3 rd lowest
Blenheim	13	24	1985	3 rd lowest
Le Bons Bay	19	28	1990	Lowest

^a missing 27 Nov. ^b missing 28 Nov.

TEMPERATURE: AVERAGE OR ABOVE AVERAGE OVER THE SOUTH ISLAND, AVERAGE OR BELOW AVERAGE OVER THE NORTH ISLAND

Mean temperatures were at least 1.0 °C above average in Fiordland and parts of Otago, 0.5 to 0.9 °C above average in parts of Marlborough, south Westland, and Southland, and 0.5 to 0.9°C below average in Thames, inland Bay of Plenty, Taupo, and Hawke’s Bay. They were near average elsewhere. The national average temperature was 13.9 °C, 0.2 °C above average.

Near record high November mean air temperatures were recorded at:

Location	Mean temperature	Departure from average (°C)	Records Began	Comments
Queenstown Airport	13.4	+1.3	1968	3 rd highest

VERY SUNNY IN NORTHLAND, WESTLAND, NELSON, AND SOUTHLAND

Sunshine hours were at least 120 percent of average in Northland, Westland, Southland, and Nelson, and above 110 percent of average in Auckland, Taranaki, Kapiti, Wellington, Canterbury, and Fiordland. Hours of bright sunshine were below average in Waikato and Manawatu, and near average elsewhere.

Near or record November sunshine hours were recorded at:

Location	November sunshine (hours)	Percentage of normal	Year Records began	Comments
Kaitaia Observatory	248 ^a	130	1985	Highest
Hokitika	239	131	1964	3 rd highest
Nelson Airport	278	124	1948	4 th highest
Invercargill Airport	215	122	1932	3 rd highest

^a to 29 Nov.

NOVEMBER'S CLIMATE IN THE FOUR MAIN CENTRES

Of the four main centres Christchurch was the driest and the sunniest, and Auckland the wettest. Rainfall was below average in all four main centres, especially Wellington. Temperatures were above average in Wellington and Dunedin, and below average in Auckland and Christchurch. Sunshine hours were above average in all four centres.

Location	Nov. Mean Temp. (°C)	Dep. from normal (°C)		Nov. rainfall (mm)	% of normal		Nov. Sunshine (hours)	% of Normal	
Auckland	15.8 ^a	-0.4	Below average	52 ^b	56	Below average	215 ^a	113	Above average
Wellington	13.9	+0.5	Above average	40	40	Well below average	239	114	Above average
Christchurch	13.1 ^c	-0.4	Below average	23 ^c	50	Below average	248	115	Above average
Dunedin	12.8	+0.4	Above average	45	71	Below average	176	109	Above average

a Mangere b Mt Albert c Christchurch Airport

HIGHLIGHTS AND EXTREME EVENTS

Temperature

The highest temperature during November 2005 was 30.7 °C recorded in Christchurch City on the 11th. The lowest temperature for the month was -3.5°C at The Chateau, Ruapehu on the 23rd.

Near or record high November 2005 air temperatures were recorded at:

Location	Maximum temp. °C	Date of occurrence	Records Began	Comments
Takaka	27.7	4 Nov.	1986	2 nd highest
Culverden	30	9 Nov.	1983	Highest
Queenstown	29.3	9 Nov.	1871	Highest
Alexandra	30.0	9 Nov.	1992	Highest

Rainfall

Rainfall totalling 73 mm was recorded in Whitianga on the 25th. Several days of high rainfall, especially in the hill country, resulted in surface flooding in the Gisborne region on the 27th and 28th. Motu recorded 170 mm over two days. The Te Karaka and Manutuke areas were the worst affected. Several roads were closed, including SH2 between Gisborne and Opotiki. A number of schools were closed, and many residents were on standby in case of evacuation, due to high river levels. The rainfall also damaged ripening cherry crops.

High winds

The highest wind gust for the month was 150 km/h from the northwest, at Castlepoint on the 5th.

Hail

Large hail stones were reported in several locations during a period of cold southeasterlies on the 26th and 27th of November.

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