

Two large storms bring destruction to parts of New Zealand

Rainfall	Above normal (120% to 149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) rainfall over Auckland City, Coromandel Peninsula, most of the Wellington region, a large portion of the central North Island, and most of the South Island, particularly in the east. Near normal rainfall (80% to 119% of normal) in patches of the South Island, including Tasman, Marlborough, central West Coast, and parts of Southland. Near normal rainfall also occurred over western Northland and the western part of the central North Island. Below normal (50% to 79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall for East Cape, eastern Northland, and localised patches in the Taranaki and Manawatu-Whanganui regions.
Temperature	Near average temperatures (-0.50 to +0.50°C of average) in the southeast of the North Island as well as parts of the central North Island (north Taranaki through to Napier) and East Cape. Above average (+0.51 to +1.20°C of average) temperatures elsewhere in the North Island. In contrast, large parts of central Canterbury, Fiordland, and the West Coast experienced below average (-0.50°C to -1.20°C of average) temperatures while the rest of the South Island observed mostly near average temperatures.
Soil Moisture	By the end of April, soil moisture levels were above normal for much of the South Island except along the West Coast and in Southland where levels were near normal. In the North Island, soils were drier than normal for East Cape, as well as parts of Manawatu-Whanganui, and southern parts of Northland. Remaining locations in the North Island were wetter than normal.

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Overview

Overall, April 2018 was characterised by lower pressure than normal over and to the southeast of New Zealand. Unlike the first three months of the year where La Niña conditions promoted more winds from a northeasterly direction, April's pressure pattern resulted in more southwesterly winds than normal for much of the country. Several low pressure systems and cold fronts passed over New Zealand during April, bringing adverse weather to many locations. Storms occurring on the 10th-11th and 28th-29th days of the month were particularly damaging with the former bringing destructive winds and several tornados to some locations, while the latter brought heavy rain to parts of the country,

resulting in flooding and the declaration of a state of emergency in Rotorua. Refer to the [highlights and extreme events](#) section for further details.

Despite the extreme weather events and southwesterly winds, stretches of calm weather were also observed for much of the country, notably the first week of the month as well as the 19th – 25th days of the month. This resulted near average (-0.50 to +0.50°C) April temperatures overall for large parts of both Islands and even above average (+0.51 to +1.20°C of average) for many parts of the North Island. Parts of the central and southwestern South Island however, experienced below average (-0.50°C to -1.20°C of average) temperatures for April as a whole.

The nationwide average temperature in April 2018 was 13.3°C (0.1°C above the 1981-2010 April average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 28.5°C, observed at Napier on 4 April.
- The lowest temperature was -4.9°C, observed at Ranfurly on 14 April.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 133 mm, recorded at Te Puke on 15 April.
- The highest wind gust was 161 km/h, observed at Akitio on 20 April.
- Of the six main centres in April 2018, Dunedin and Auckland were the wettest, Hamilton was the driest, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch and Dunedin were the coolest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and Dunedin was least sunny.
- Of the available automatic sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four regions in 2018 so far (1 January – 30 April) are Wider Nelson (898 hours), Marlborough (896 hours), Hawke's Bay (887 hours) and Canterbury (873 hours).

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Rainfall: Variable in the North Island despite storms, wet for much of the south

Rainfall anomalies were variable in the North Island, despite the passage of several storms. Below normal (50% to 79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) rainfall levels were observed for East Cape, eastern Northland, and localised patches in the Taranaki and Manawatu-Whanganui regions. Above normal (120% to 149% of normal) or well above normal (>149% of normal) April rainfall levels occurred over Auckland City, Coromandel Peninsula, most of the Wellington Region, and a large portion of the central North Island. Near normal (80% to 119% of normal) rainfall levels were experienced in remaining locations such as western Northland and the western part of the central North Island.

Much of the South Island received above normal or well above normal rainfall levels for the time of year, with the highest rainfall anomalies (departure from normal levels) occurring over eastern parts of

Canterbury and Otago. Near normal rainfall levels were experienced in patches of the South Island, including Tasman, Marlborough, central West Coast, and parts of Southland.

Although intense periods of rain occurred in some locations (see the [highlights and extreme events](#) section), extended periods of calm weather meant that no record high April rainfall totals were observed for the month as a whole. Balclutha came close however, recording 120 mm of rainfall (251% of normal) making April 2018 the second-wettest April on record for this location, where records extend back to 1964. Waipara and Dunedin observed their fourth-wettest April on record, receiving 251% and 304% of normal April rainfall respectively (see table below).

By the end of April, soil moisture levels were above normal for much of the South Island except along the West Coast and in Southland where levels were near normal. In the North Island, soils were drier than normal for East Cape, as well as parts of Manawatu-Whanganui, and southern parts of Northland. Remaining locations in the North Island were wetter than normal.

Record or near-record April rainfall totals¹ were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Balclutha	120	251	1964	2nd-highest
Waipara West	146	261	1973	4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	155	304	1918	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Temperature: Average for much of the country, warmer in the north

The nationwide average temperature in April 2018 was 13.3°C (0.1°C above the 1981-2010 April average from NIWA’s seven station temperature series which begins in 1909).

Overall, mean temperature anomalies were higher in the North Island than for the South Island. In the southeast of the North Island (from Wellington through to central Hawke’s Bay) temperatures were mostly near average (-0.50 to +0.50°C of average), as were parts of the central North Island (north Taranaki through to Napier) and East Cape. Remaining locations in the North Island experienced mostly above average (+0.51 to +1.20°C of average) temperatures. In contrast, large parts of central Canterbury, Fiordland, and the West Coast experienced below average (-0.50°C to -1.20°C of average) temperatures while the rest of the South Island observed mostly near average temperatures.

No mean air temperature record highs or near-record highs were observed during April 2018, unlike previous months where several locations set records in this category. Whitianga however observed a record-breaking mean maximum (daytime) temperature for the month of 22.4°C (2.2°C above the 1981-2010 average), with records at this location extending back to 1962. Much further south, Te Anau

¹ Rainfall totals are rounded to the nearest whole number.

set a record-low in the same category, observing mean maximum air temperatures of only 13.1°C (1.9°C below the 1981-2010 average), with records extending back to 1963. No records were set for mean minimum (night-time) air temperatures although Kaikoura experienced mean minimum temperatures of only 5.8°C (4.1°C cooler than the 1981-2010 average), which is the second-lowest mean minimum April temperature on record for this location (records begin 1963).

Record² or near-record mean air temperatures for April were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from average (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
None observed				
Low records or near-records				
Kaikoura	11.5	-1.5	1963	3rd-lowest
Franz Josef	10.3	-1.4	1953	4th-lowest

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				
Whitianga	22.4	2.2	1962	Highest
Mokohinau	20.8	1.3	1994	2nd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Te Anau	13.1	-1.9	1963	Lowest
Arthurs Pass	11.0	-1.4	1973	2nd-lowest
Franz Josef	14.6	-1.6	1953	3rd-lowest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	11.2	-2.0	1971	3rd-lowest
Reefton	16.0	-1.2	1960	4th-lowest
Manapouri (Airport)	13.7	-1.2	1963	4th-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				
Port Taharoa	14.3	1.8	1973	3rd-highest
Lumsden	6.1	1.6	1982	3rd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Kaikoura	5.8	-4.1	1963	2nd-lowest

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.

April climate in the six main centres

April was a relatively wet month for most of the main centres. Above normal rainfall levels were observed in Hamilton and Wellington while well above normal rainfall levels were observed in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin. Tauranga on the other hand received near normal levels of rainfall for the month. It was a warm April overall for Auckland, Tauranga, and Hamilton, where above average temperatures were experienced. Meanwhile, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin experienced near average temperatures for the time of year. Of the six main centres in April 2018, Auckland was the warmest and equal-wettest, Dunedin was the equal-wettest, equal-coolest, and least sunny, Christchurch was equal-coolest, Hamilton was the driest, and Tauranga was the sunniest.

April 2018 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from average (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	17.3	+1.1	Above average
Tauranga ^b	16.6	+1.0	Above average
Hamilton ^c	14.9 ³	+0.8	Above average
Wellington ^d	14.8	+0.4	Near average
Christchurch ^e	11.7	-0.2	Near average
Dunedin ^f	11.7	0.0	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	155	183	Well above normal
Tauranga ^b	119 ³	99	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	102 ³	117	Above normal
Wellington ^d	112 ⁴	132	Above normal
Christchurch ^e	118 ³	267	Well above normal
Dunedin ^f	155	304	Well above normal (4th-highest)
Sunshine			
Location ⁵	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	145		
Tauranga ^b	170 ³		
Hamilton ^g	154		
Wellington ^d	153		
Christchurch ^e	157 ³		
Dunedin ^f	136		

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

³ 1 day missing

⁴ 2 days missing

⁵ Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch record sunshine use Campbell-Stokes manual sunshine recorders, whereas Auckland, Hamilton and Dunedin record sunshine with high-precision electronic sensors.

Highlights and extreme events

Wind

On 10 April, an active front from the west moved up the country, bringing adverse weather to the South Island and severe thunderstorms to parts of the North Island. Gale force winds and tornadoes damaged homes in Rahotū, Taranaki and National Park Village, Central Plateau. Auckland was severely affected and at least 19 schools around the country were closed. The impacts of this storm due to wind damage are summarised below:

Auckland:

- Winds speeds of more than 120km/h caused heavy damage to Auckland on the evening of 10 April and early hours of 11 April leaving around 120,000 homes and businesses without power, some for multiple days. A Vector spokesperson said 129 lines were down across Auckland, mainly due to fallen trees. Several roofs were lifted and multiple homes and cars were severely damaged by fallen trees. Fire and Emergency New Zealand revealed it had answered more than 170 calls in the upper North Island as people reported damage caused by the storm.
- A 30km/h speed limit was imposed on Auckland's harbour bridge due to the weather.
- There were at least three separate incidents of fallen trees trapping people in their cars in Auckland suburbs. One, a woman in Kingsland, was reported to have suffered moderate injuries.
- Air operations were halted and flights diverted as fierce winds and debris scattered across the runway were making it impossible to fly in or out. One flight from Christchurch to Auckland got just north of Raglan before being turned away, returning to Christchurch. On 11 April, flights in and out of Auckland Airport continued to be delayed or turned away.
- Several public transport services in Auckland were cancelled including ferry sailings to West Harbour, as well as Half Moon Bay. Northcote Point wharf had also been closed until further notice. On 11 April, Auckland Transport had cancelled all ferry sailings until further notice.
- A gust of 146km/h was recorded at the Sky Tower.
- A tornado appeared to have hit the Swanson Railway Station in West Auckland where roofing iron and wood was blown for 100 metres.

Other North Island locations:

- Taranaki was hit by gusts of up to 110 km/h. A few homes were nearly destroyed and several had their roofs torn off. Power cuts affected about 12,000 properties in the region. At least nine schools in the area closed for the day due to the weather and at least 10 flights in and out of New Plymouth Airport were cancelled.
- A tornado swept through Taranaki town Rahotū, northwest of Ōpunake, downing trees and powerlines. Eleven homes were reportedly damaged, three severely, and seven families had to be relocated.
- Galeforce winds and a tornado damaged homes in National Park Village, Central Plateau. The tornado carved a clear path around 500 metres wide through the village, downing trees and power lines, and destroying six homes. Trampolines and sheets of iron were flung through the air hitting cars and powerpoles.
- A group of students and staff were trapped for the day by bad weather on the National Park's Tongariro Crossing.

- Central North Island roads were affected by downed power lines, surface flooding and trees. State Highway 4 north of Taumarunui was scheduled to be closed to traffic on the morning of 12 April while work was carried out to repair fallen power lines.
- On 11 April, Metlink Wellington said adverse conditions had caused the cancellation of all ferry trips in the capital.
- On 10-11 April, heavy winds fanned a large fire at a Matatoki timber mill near Thames, making it difficult for fire services to bring under control. Twenty fire trucks were reportedly responding to that fire, including crews from Thames, Ngatea and the Bay of Plenty.

South Island locations:

- Several road closures and power outages occurred along the West Coast of the South Island after the wild weather caused trees to fall. Extremely high winds caused three campervans and one caravan to topple near Hokitika, Mount Hercules, Harihari and Westport.
- Roofs had reportedly been lifted from buildings in Westport and Greymouth. State Highway 67 between Westport and Karamea was closed due to a shed roof iron lifting near Garveys Rd.
- A strong wind warning was in place for vehicles driving on the West Coast's SH6 from Ross to Haast. The highway was closed between the townships of Ross and Franz Josef Glacier due to trees which had been brought down at Pukekura.
- Several other roads were closed across the South Island due to the winter driving conditions including SH1 near Kaikōura, SH77 and SH80 in Canterbury, SH8 in Otago and SH94 in Southland.
- Hundreds of power outages occurred in the Buller region of the South Island. Approximately 600 homes in the Karamea township on the West Coast were running off a generator after power was lost. Twenty-two homes in Dirty Mary's Creek between Westport and Charleston were also without power because of fallen pine trees. Flights out of the region were called off for the day

The weather had also forced the cancellation of Cook Strait ferry sailings for rest of the day, on the 50th anniversary of the Wahine disaster.

On 12 April, strong winds hit parts of Central Otago, leaving some residents in Alexandra and Clyde without power for a time. A large tree was knocked over on Earnsclough Rd, near Alexandra but was cleared later in the evening.

On 28 April, a burst of gusty to gale force winds cut power to over 1000 Auckland homes and brought trees down, some even on to vehicles. Firefighters had been sent to clear debris from state highways in Auckland after high winds sent trees falling into the road.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Auckland (Whenuapai)	113	10th	1972	Highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	95	10th	1994	Highest
Paeroa	102	28th	1991	Highest
Auckland (Mangere)	128	28th	1971	Highest
Pukekohe	82	10th	1986	Highest
Brothers Island	139	10th	1997	Highest
Whitianga	78	11th	1991	Equal highest
Te Puke	63	11th	1987	2nd-highest
Motu	78	10th	1991	2nd-highest
Mahia	91	11th	1991	2nd-highest
Palmerston North	85	10th	1991	2nd-highest
Hawera	93	10th	1986	2nd-highest
Westport (Airport)	122	10th	1973	2nd-highest
Dargaville	93	11th	1997	Equal 2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	109	10th	1971	Equal 2nd-highest
Dannevirke	82	20th	1961	Equal 2nd-highest
Castlepoint	141	19th	1972	3rd-highest
Mt Kaukau	143	10th	1969	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	124	15th	1994	3rd-highest
Baring Head	132	11th	1991	4th-highest
Oamaru (Airport)	78	17th	1984	4th-highest
Cape Reinga	130	11th	1974	Equal 4th-highest

Rain and slips

On 10 April, surface flooding was reported around Lower Hutt and in central Wellington City. Lifted or 'dancing' manholes were observed in Te Aro and Kelburn.

On 14 April, two trampers got into difficulty in the Tararua Ranges due to adverse weather conditions but were located some time later having activated a personal locator while seeking shelter.

On 28 April, flooding occurred at Piha, west of Auckland, after a river running alongside Glenesk Road had burst its banks following heavy rainfall. The flooding affected a local campground and covered a bridge, cutting off locals.

On 28 April through to 29 April, Rotorua received 167.8 mm of rainfall over a 36 hour period, which is almost 1.5 times its normal rainfall for April as a whole. Rotorua also recorded its wettest hour on record on 29 April with 51.8 mm recorded between 10-11 AM. A local state of emergency was declared for Ngongotaha near Rotorua after Ngongotaha Stream burst its banks, forcing the evacuation of about 30 homes. Surface flooding was widespread in Rotorua and many vehicles were submerged. A reported 200 people were trapped by rising waters at the Rotorua Agrodome. Parts of the sewage system were unable to cope with the volume of water trying to enter which caused diluted sewage to overflow the system, resulting in contaminated wastewater entering the stream and lake.

On 29 April, surface flooding on the Coromandel Peninsula forced the closure of several roads, including State Highway 25 between Waihi and Whangamatā. Flood waters were also lapping across the road on State Highway 2 through the Karangahake Gorge although this did not force the closure of the road. Some residents in Tairua had their homes and properties flooded. Oropi Rd near Tauranga was closed between the intersection with State Highway 36 and Glue Pot Rd overnight after water scoured out the road surface. Parts of Canterbury also observed surface flooding including State Highway 1 between Timaru and the Waimate Junction. Heavy rain had caused extensive surface flooding and closed several roads around Dunedin and Mosgiel. Highcliff Rd on the Otago Peninsula was closed overnight between Sandymount and Seaton Rds due to concerns about a potential landslip near Seven Sisters. Emergency services were also responding at 10.30pm to reports that a tree had fallen on Portobello Rd near Weller St, blocking both lanes. On Norfolk St, fire crews responded to reports that water was flooding into a home.

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
Mahia	88	10th	1990	Highest
Orari Estate	96	28th	1897	Highest
Timaru (Airport)	85	28th	1881	Highest
Te Puke	133	28th	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatane	114	28th	1952	3rd-highest
Hawera	57	10th	1977	3rd-highest
Waipara West	52	9th	1973	4th-highest
Waimate	58	28th	1898	4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	63	29th	1918	4th-highest
Ashburton (Airport)	61	28th	1927	Equal 4th-highest

Lightning and hail

On 10 April, an active front from the west brought severe thunderstorms to parts of the North Island. More than 13,000 lightning strikes hit Taranaki in the morning, with close to 6000 occurring between 7-9 am.

Also on 10 April, more than 247 lightning strikes were recorded in the Auckland/Northland region between 11 AM and 1 PM as severe thunderstorms battered the Upper North Island.

On 11 April, lightning took out the runway lighting at Wellington airport, grounding flights in and out of the capital. Lightning also struck the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre in Kilbirnie, causing it to be evacuated.

On 29 April, 230 lightning strikes were observed overnight in the Bay of Plenty region, while 50 lightning strikes were observed in Coromandel.

On 30 April, early morning lightning strikes set off false fire alarms in commercial buildings around Tauranga and in the afternoon one took out a set of traffic lights in Mount Maunganui.

On 30 April, lightning also split a large tree in half outside a house in Te Puke. The two trunk halves fell on either side of the house. The owner’s dog was found dead outside, believed to have been electrocuted by a lightning strike.

Temperatures

On 10 April, a low pressure system moved up the country bringing southerly winds and cold temperatures to much of the country. Many locations experienced record or near-record low maximum temperatures for April on the 10th and 11th days of the month (see table below).

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				
Whitianga	27.0	5th	1962	2nd-highest
Rotorua	24.1	5th	1964	3rd-highest
Takaka	25.2	3rd	1978	3rd-highest
Arapito	23.7	29th	1978	3rd-highest
Akaroa	28.4	6th	1978	3rd-highest
Mokohinau	23.5	6th	1994	4th-highest
Motu	22.7	7th	1990	4th-highest
Oamaru	26.1	4th	1967	Equal 3rd-highest
Lumsden	23.8	2nd	1982	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Warkworth	13.4	11th	1966	Lowest
Whakatane (Airport)	10.5	11th	1975	Lowest
Rotorua (Airport)	9.3	11th	1972	Lowest
Port Taharoa	12.5	11th	1974	Lowest
Palmerston North	9.5	10th	1940	Lowest
Upper Hutt	8.4	10th	1972	Lowest
Waiouru	3.4	11th	1972	Lowest
Takaka	11.7	10th	1978	Lowest
Farewell Spit	12.0	10th	1972	Lowest
Westport (Airport)	10.8	10th	1966	Lowest
Hanmer Forest	1.7	10th	1972	Lowest
Kaikoura	5.9	10th	1972	Lowest
Culverden	4.9	10th	1930	Lowest
Waiau	4.8	10th	1974	Lowest
Cheviot	6.2	10th	1982	Lowest
Waipara West	5.6	10th	1973	Lowest
Rangiora	7.4	10th	1972	Lowest
Whangaparaoa	13.5	11th	1982	Equal lowest
Kaikohe	13.4	11th	1973	2nd-lowest
Mokohinau	14.4	11th	1994	2nd-lowest
Taupo	9.5	11th	1950	2nd-lowest
Taumarunui	10.4	11th	1947	2nd-lowest
Lower Retaruke	9.8	11th	1972	2nd-lowest
Takapau Plains	7.6	10th	1972	2nd-lowest
Gisborne	11.5	11th	1940	2nd-lowest
Waiouru	3.9	11th	1972	2nd-lowest
Whanganui	11.3	10th	1972	2nd-lowest

Greymouth (Airport)	10.3	10th	1972	2nd-lowest
Kaikoura	6.8	10th	1972	2nd-lowest
Arthurs Pass	1.7	10th	1973	2nd-lowest
Medbury	5.1	10th	1927	2nd-lowest
Mt Cook	1.9	10th	1929	2nd-lowest
Tara Hills	5.5	28th	1949	2nd-lowest
Masterton	8.6	10th	1943	Equal 2nd-lowest
Brothers Island	10.5	10th	1997	Equal 2nd-lowest
Cape Reinga	15.3	11th	1971	3rd-lowest
Te Puke	13.0	11th	1973	3rd-lowest
Motu	9.0	11th	1990	3rd-lowest
Dannevirke	8.3	10th	1951	3rd-lowest
Castlepoint	10.0	10th	1972	3rd-lowest
Martinborough	9.9	10th	1986	3rd-lowest
Ngawi	10.8	10th	1972	3rd-lowest
Gisborne	11.9	11th	1940	3rd-lowest
Waipawa	10.3	10th	1945	3rd-lowest
Mahia	10.8	11th	1990	3rd-lowest
Paraparaumu (Airport)	10.0	10th	1972	3rd-lowest
Reefton	8.9	10th	1972	3rd-lowest
Blenheim (Airport)	9.8	10th	1947	3rd-lowest
Cape Campbell	10.1	10th	1972	3rd-lowest
Wanaka (Airport)	6.9	28th	1972	3rd-lowest
Five Rivers	5.6	10th	1982	3rd-lowest
Kerikeri Aerodrome	15.0	11th	1952	Equal 3rd-lowest
Auckland (Western Springs)	14.7	11th	1971	Equal 3rd-lowest
Paeroa	13.9	11th	1971	Equal 3rd-lowest
Leigh	14.6	11th	1966	4th-lowest
Masterton (Airport)	8.8	10th	1943	4th-lowest
Paraparaumu (Airport)	10.2	10th	1972	4th-lowest
Motueka	11.3	10th	1972	4th-lowest
Le Bons Bay	7.5	10th	1984	4th-lowest
Whitianga (Airport)	15.1	11th	1971	Equal 4th-lowest
Hastings	12.5	11th	1972	Equal 4th-lowest
Appleby	10.9	10th	1941	Equal 4th-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				
Oamaru	13.8	3rd	1972	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	16.5	4th	1997	Equal 2nd-highest
Five Rivers	13.6	4th	1982	3rd-highest
Lumsden	14.4	6th	1982	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	18.9	4th	1974	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Mokohinau	8.0	12th	1994	Lowest
Whangaparaoa	7.4	11th	1982	Lowest
Kaikoura	-0.1	12th	1963	Lowest
Arapito	1.0	11th	1978	Equal lowest
Cape Reinga	7.2	12th	1951	2nd-lowest
Kaikohe	5.6	12th	1973	2nd-lowest
Greymouth (Airport)	0.7	11th	1947	3rd-lowest
Le Bons Bay	1.7	11th	1984	3rd-lowest
Lumsden	-4.2	14th	1982	3rd-lowest
Five Rivers	-3.9	14th	1982	Equal 3rd-lowest
Clyde	-4.4	14th	1978	Equal 3rd-lowest
Westport (Airport)	1.7	11th	1937	4th-lowest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	-1.1	14th	1971	4th-lowest

Snow and Ice

On 10 April, a storm brought snowfall down to 400m in several areas of the South Island, reaching 300 m in Otago. Significant accumulations occurred for the highest passes including Lewis Pass, Arthur's Pass, and Porters Pass.

On 11 April, State Highway 1's Desert Rd from Rangipo to Waiouru was closed due to snow and ice.

On 11 April, snow had fallen across much of the South Island and down to 500 metres on the North Island Central Plateau.

On 11 April, traffic was backed up on roads out of Wellington after hail settled on the road, making driving conditions difficult, and resulting in several crashes. Icy driving conditions occurred in both directions between Tawa and Porirua.

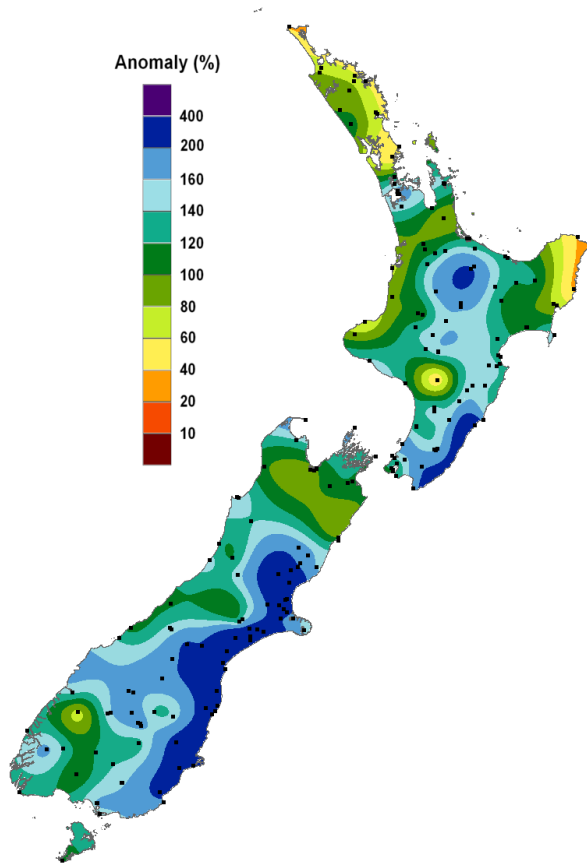
On 29 April, a group of three international students had become stranded in deep snow while tramping on the track up to Mueller Hut, in the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. The Department of Conservation had warned the group about the changing weather conditions. The trampers were able to raise the alarm using a cellphone, which was triangulated to find the women about 1600 metres above sea level, in a steep basin, just after midnight.

For climate data enquiries, please contact:

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April 2018 rainfall expressed as percentage of the 30-year April average (1981-2010 average).

Much of the South Island experienced wetter conditions than normal, particularly eastern parts of Canterbury and Otago as indicated by the blue shading.

Rainfall in the North Island was more variable, ranging from well below normal to well above normal.

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