

New Zealand's 3rd warmest January on record

Temperature	It was New Zealand's 3 rd warmest January on record. Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) and well above average (> 1.20°C above average) across the country. The only exceptions were the coastal margins of Westland and western Southland where temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to +0.50°C of average). Many locations observed record or near-record warm mean, mean maximum or mean minimum January temperatures.
Rainfall	Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of normal) or well below normal (<50% of normal) across much of the North Island. The only exception were the districts of Napier and Hastings where above normal rainfall was observed (120-149% of normal). In the South Island, rainfall was well below normal in Nelson, Marlborough, Tasman and parts of Canterbury. For the remainder of Canterbury and the upper West Coast, rainfall was below normal. Conversely, above normal rainfall was observed in parts of Otago and Southland.
Sunshine	The dry weather across the country meant that sunshine was plentiful with large parts of the country experiencing higher than normal sunshine hours. Both Richmond (Nelson) and Appleby observed 355 sunshine hours which is a record for the sunniest month ever recorded in the South Island. Nelson (Airport) observed 333 hours of sunshine making it the sunniest January on record there since records began in 1908. Gisborne also experienced its sunniest January on record (records began in 1905) with 325 hours of sunshine.
Soil Moisture	As of 2 February soil moisture levels were lower than normal in Northland, Auckland, parts of Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui, Wellington, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough and the Buller District. Soil moisture levels were largely near normal around Canterbury, Otago, Southland, Hastings District and Gisborne.

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Overview

January 2019 was characterised by lower than normal pressure to the south and south-east of New Zealand and higher than normal pressure over the Tasman Sea. This pressure set up led to more south-westerly winds than normal across the country. Warmer than average sea surface temperatures persisted throughout January around New Zealand's coastlines and marine heatwave conditions were observed in parts of the central and western Tasman Sea.

January was a hot month with many locations experiencing record or near-record warm mean, mean maximum and mean minimum January temperatures. Overall, the month ranked as the 3rd warmest

January on record. The nationwide average temperature in January 2019 was 18.8°C (1.7°C above the 1981-2010 January average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909). For comparison, January 2018 was New Zealand's warmest month on record and had a mean temperature of 20.3°C. It has now been 24 months since New Zealand experienced a nationwide average temperature that was below average (0.51 to 1.20°C below the 1981-2010 average).

The month ended on a particularly hot note during which widespread heatwave conditions led to several locations experiencing their warmest January day on record. The warmest temperature during the month was 38.4°C recorded in Hanmer Forest. This was Hanmer Forest's warmest temperature on record (data since 1906) and New Zealand's 18th-equal warmest temperature on record for all months.

With a high pressure pattern overhead, widespread dry conditions prevailed across much of the North Island and upper South Island. According to the New Zealand Drought Index, meteorological drought conditions were being approached near Westport as of 2 February. Cape Reinga observed just 4 mm of rain in January which was the 2nd driest January on record there (records beginning in 1919). In Masterton, only 6mm of rain fell during the month, making it the driest January on record there since records began in 1926. The dryness went hand in hand with high sunshine hours around the country. The stations in Richmond and Appleby both recorded 355 hours for the month which is a new record for the sunniest month in the South Island. This is also just 1 hour short of the national record which is 356 hours and was observed in New Plymouth in January 2015.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 38.4°C, observed at Hanmer Forest on 31 January.
- The lowest temperature was -0.3°C, observed at Manapouri on 12 January.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 200 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 19 January.
- The highest wind gust was 182km/h, observed at Cape Turnagain on 27 January.
- Of the six main centres in January 2019, Tauranga was the warmest, driest and sunniest and Dunedin was the coolest, least sunny and wettest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four regions in 2019 are Wider Nelson (355 hours), Tasman (355 hours), Gisborne (325 hours) and Bay of Plenty (322 hours).

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Temperature: 3rd warmest January on record

Frequent bouts of high pressure and sunny skies in addition to warmer than normal seas around the country contributed to a warm month. Overall the month ranked as New Zealand's 3rd warmest January on record. The nationwide average temperature in January 2019 was 18.8°C (1.7°C above the 1981-2010 January average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909). Numerous locations observed record or near-record warm mean, mean maximum and mean minimum January temperatures as shown in the tables below.

In addition to the records and near-records, widespread above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) and well above average (> 1.20°C above average) temperatures were observed across the country. The only exceptions were the coastal margins of Westland and western Southland where temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to +0.50°C of average).

Record¹ or near-record mean air temperatures for January were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	21.3	2.2	1945	Highest
Rotorua	20.1	2.6	1964	Highest
Mahia	20.3	2.0	1990	Highest
Kaikoura	19.0	2.3	1963	Highest
Cheviot	19.8	3.1	1982	Highest
Whangarei	21.8	1.8	1967	2nd-highest
Mokohinau	21.3	1.5	1994	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	20.6	1.6	1945	2nd-highest
Whitianga	22.0	3.1	1962	2nd-highest
Tauranga	22.1	2.6	1913	2nd-highest
Te Puke	21.0	2.7	1973	2nd-highest
Whakatane	21.4	2.5	1974	2nd-highest
Taupo	19.9	2.8	1949	2nd-highest
Turangi	19.3	2.2	1968	2nd-highest
Martinborough	20.0	2.1	1986	2nd-highest
Ngawi	20.7	2.0	1972	2nd-highest
Gisborne	21.6	2.6	1905	2nd-highest
Napier	22.0	2.8	1870	2nd-highest
Hastings	21.2	3.5	1965	2nd-highest
Waipawa	19.9	1.7	1945	2nd-highest
Wairoa	21.5	2.3	1964	2nd-highest
Stratford	18.3	2.4	1960	2nd-highest

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.

Farewell Spit	19.9	2.1	1971	2nd-highest
Motueka	20.3	2.6	1956	2nd-highest
Blenheim	20.7	2.6	1932	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	18.0	1.6	1997	2nd-highest
Waiau	20.3	2.9	1974	2nd-highest
Akaroa	19.6	2.1	1978	2nd-highest
Kaikohe	20.6	2.0	1973	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	21.2	1.6	1982	3rd-highest
Takapau Plains	18.5	1.6	1962	3rd-highest
Hicks Bay	20.5	2.0	1969	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	19.3	2.1	1953	3rd-highest
Hawera	18.2	1.8	1977	3rd-highest
Waiouru	16.3	2.4	1962	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	15.3	1.5	1978	3rd-highest
Nelson	20.6	2.5	1862	3rd-highest
Hanmer Forest	18.7	2.7	1906	3rd-highest
Medbury	19.5	2.0	1927	3rd-highest
Mt Cook Airport	16.7	2.1	1929	3rd-highest
Rangiora	18.7	2.0	1965	3rd-highest
Dunedin (Airport)	16.7	1.5	1962	3rd-highest
Lumsden	16.2	1.4	1982	3rd-highest
South West Cape	14.1	1.0	1991	3rd-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	20.5	2.1	1906	4th-highest
Masterton	19.9	2.5	1906	4th-highest
Porirua	19.0	1.2	1968	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	18.9	2.0	1927	4th-highest
Wellington (Airport)	19.6	1.7	1962	4th-highest
Ohakune	17.2	1.8	1962	4th-highest
Christchurch	19.2	2.0	1863	4th-highest
Ranfurly	16.6	1.5	1897	4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	17.0	1.7	1947	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	27.5	3.2	1945	Highest
Kaikohe	25.7	2.8	1973	Highest
Whangarei	26.7	2.2	1967	Highest
Whitianga	27.9	4.0	1962	Highest
Te Puke	26.4	2.8	1973	Highest
Whakatane	26.7	2.7	1974	Highest
Rotorua	26.0	3.6	1964	Highest
Takaka	26.0	3.0	1978	Highest

Motueka	27.0	3.7	1956	Highest
Appleby	25.7	3.3	1932	Highest
Blenheim	27.8	3.6	1932	Highest
Hanmer Forest	27.4	4.0	1906	Highest
Kaikoura	24.0	3.6	1963	Highest
Waiau	27.1	2.9	1974	Highest
Cheviot	26.8	3.7	1982	Highest
Mokohinau	23.8	1.6	1994	2nd-highest
Whangaparaoa	25.3	2.0	1982	2nd-highest
Tauranga	26.7	2.8	1913	2nd-highest
Taupo	26.0	3.3	1949	2nd-highest
Turangi	25.7	2.6	1968	2nd-highest
Ngawi	25.3	2.7	1972	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	24.1	2.4	1969	2nd-highest
Wairoa	27.8	3.3	1964	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	18.4	1.9	1978	2nd-highest
Richmond	26.3	3.9	1862	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	20.5	1.8	1997	2nd-highest
Christchurch (Airport)	25.1	2.5	1863	2nd-highest
Waipawa	26.2	1.7	1945	3rd-highest
Mahia	23.5	1.7	1990	3rd-highest
Stratford	23.2	2.4	1960	3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	24.1	2.4	1971	3rd-highest
Medbury	26.0	1.9	1927	3rd-highest
Rangiora	24.7	2.4	1965	3rd-highest
Akaroa	25.4	2.4	1978	3rd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	21.2	2.3	1947	3rd-highest
Kaitaia	26.3	2.5	1948	4th-highest
Martinborough	25.8	2.2	1986	4th-highest
Gisborne	27.3	2.7	1905	4th-highest
Napier	27.0	2.8	1870	4th-highest
Hastings	26.6	3.4	1965	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	22.5	2.2	1927	4th-highest
Upper Hutt	24.4	2.4	1939	4th-highest
Waipara West	25.5	1.7	1973	4th-highest
Le Bons Bay	21.0	1.8	1984	4th-highest
Oamaru	21.4	1.5	1967	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Mokohinau	18.8	1.5	1994	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	16.2	1.9	1945	2nd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	17.3	2.1	1948	2nd-highest

Whitianga	16.6	2.8	1962	2nd-highest
Tauranga	17.4	2.3	1913	2nd-highest
Taupo	14.2	2.8	1949	2nd-highest
Gisborne	15.9	2.3	1905	2nd-highest
Hastings	15.8	3.7	1965	2nd-highest
Mahia	17.0	2.3	1990	2nd-highest
Stratford	13.4	2.3	1960	2nd-highest
Hawera	14.8	2.3	1977	2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	15.7	1.8	1971	2nd-highest
Brothers Island	15.5	1.3	1997	2nd-highest
Medbury	12.9	1.9	1927	2nd-highest
Waiau	13.5	2.9	1974	2nd-highest
Dargaville	16.5	1.5	1943	3rd-highest
Te Puke	15.7	2.6	1973	3rd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	17.8	1.8	1959	3rd-highest
Takapau Plains	13.4	2.4	1962	3rd-highest
Martinborough	14.2	1.9	1986	3rd-highest
Ngawi	16.2	1.4	1972	3rd-highest
Napier	16.9	2.8	1870	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	15.7	2.4	1953	3rd-highest
Levin	15.5	2.4	1895	3rd-highest
Waiouru	10.7	2.3	1962	3rd-highest
Blenheim	14.5	1.9	1932	3rd-highest
Kaikoura	14.7	1.7	1963	3rd-highest
Culverden	13.5	2.8	1928	3rd-highest
Cheviot	12.9	2.5	1982	3rd-highest
Akaroa	13.8	1.8	1978	3rd-highest
Lumsden	10.5	1.6	1982	3rd-highest
Whangarei	17.3	1.7	1967	4th-highest
Port Taharoa	16.9	1.6	1973	4th-highest
Waipawa	13.6	1.7	1945	4th-highest
Porirua	15.3	1.1	1968	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	15.4	1.9	1927	4th-highest
Wellington (Airport)	16.1	1.4	1962	4th-highest
Ohakune	10.9	1.2	1962	4th-highest
Whanganui	16.1	2.3	1937	4th-highest
Nelson	16.0	2.2	1862	4th-highest
Mt Cook	10.9	2.0	1929	4th-highest
South West Cape	11.0	1.0	1991	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Rainfall: Dry for much of the North Island and upper South Island

Widespread dry conditions occurred across the North Island and upper South Island with Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough as well as pockets of Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui and northern Canterbury all experiencing well below normal rainfall (<50% of normal). Notably, Masterton recorded just 6 mm of rain for the whole month which makes it the driest January on record there since records began in 1926. Cape Reinga observed 4 mm of rain in January which was the 2nd driest January on record there with records beginning in 1919.

Conversely, the Napier and Hastings Districts saw above normal rainfall (120-149% of normal) which was largely driven by several days of rain mid-month. Likewise, the occasional passage of cold fronts (which didn't continue further up the country due to persistent high pressure) brought above normal rainfall to Stewart Island and parts of Otago, Southland and Westland.

After a wet end to 2018, the prolonged dry conditions throughout January caused soil moisture levels in all regions other than Southland to rapidly decrease. As of 2 February soil moisture levels were much lower than normal in Tasman and parts of Northland and lower than normal in Auckland, parts of Waikato, Manawatu-Whanganui, Wellington, Nelson, Marlborough and the Buller District. Soil moisture levels were largely near normal around Canterbury, Otago, Southland, Hastings District and Gisborne.

According to the New Zealand Drought Index, meteorological drought conditions were being approached near Westport as of 2 February.

Record or near-record January rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
None observed				
Low records or near-records				
Mokohinau	5	9	1994	Lowest
Masterton	6	10	1926	Lowest
Cape Reinga	4	7	1919	2nd-lowest
Warkworth	7	8	1966	2nd-lowest
Takaka	11	9	1976	2nd-lowest
Arapito	61	32	1978	2nd-lowest
Appleby	4	5	1932	2nd-lowest
Kaitaia	5	7	1948	3rd-lowest
Kerikeri	5	4	1935	3rd-lowest
Whitianga	13	16	1961	3rd-lowest
Paraparaumu	13	22	1945	3rd-lowest
Whangarei	7	8	1937	4th-lowest

January climate in the six main centres

January was a hot month across all six main centres with well above temperatures recorded. The mean temperatures in Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch were in the top 4 warmest on record. January was also a dry month for the North Island with all main centres there recording well below normal rainfall. Tauranga received just one fifth of its normal January rainfall. The dry month and lack of cloud cover there contributed to high sunshine hours (322 hours), and it was only the 10th time more than 300 hours of sunshine have been recorded during any month in Tauranga since records began in 1933. Rainfall was near normal in Christchurch and Dunedin. Of the six main centres in January 2019, Tauranga was the warmest, driest and sunniest and Dunedin was the coolest, least sunny and wettest.

January 2019 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	21.1	+1.3	Well above average
Tauranga ^b	22.1	+2.6	Well above average - 2 nd highest on record
Hamilton ^c	19.8	+1.5	Well above average
Wellington ^d	18.9	+2.0	Well above average - 4 th highest on record
Christchurch ^e	19.2	+2.0	Well above average - 4 th highest on record
Dunedin ^f	17.0	+1.7	Well above average - 4 th highest on record
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	32	48	Well below normal
Tauranga ^b	16	20	Well below normal
Hamilton ^c	32	39	Well below normal
Wellington ^d	25	33	Well below normal
Christchurch ^e	30	85	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	84	115	Near normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)		
Auckland ^a	287		
Tauranga ^b	322		
Hamilton ^g	271		
Wellington ^d	244		
Christchurch ^e	251		
Dunedin ^f	216		

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

Highlights and extreme events

Rain and slips

On 14 January an 18-day dry spell affecting many parts of the North Island and upper South Island came to an end.

On 23 January, heavy rainfall led to a rockfall and the closure of State Highway 23 between Arthur's Pass and Otira.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
None observed				

Temperatures

Between 23 and 24 January, Christchurch saw a large temperature swing of 25.4°C over 16 hours, from a maximum of 33.4°C to a minimum of 8.0°C as the Southern Alps became dusted with snow following the passage of a cold front.

From 27 January – 1 February a combination of warm seas, high pressure over the country and a hot air mass originating from Australia led to heatwave conditions across New Zealand. Several locations across the country observed record or near record high daily maximum and minimum January temperatures. The warmest temperature during the month was 38.4°C recorded in Hanmer Forest on 31 January. This was Hanmer Forest's warmest temperature on record (data since 1906) and New Zealand's 18th-equal warmest temperature on record for all months in New Zealand. On 28th January, Richmond only dropped to 24.3°C, which became the new warm minimum temperature record for the Wider Nelson region (data since 1862). On the 29th of January, both Hamilton and Wellington set new all-time highest temperature records (32.9°C and 30.3°C respectively). This was the first time two main centres broke their all-time maximum temperature records in the same day. The heatwave conditions led to water restrictions put in place in the Tasman District as well as the closure of recreational bike/walking trails through private and council owned forest areas due to high fire risk in the district.

Throughout the month of January, sea surface temperatures around the New Zealand coastline and in the Tasman Sea were warmer than normal. The warmest temperatures occurred during the early part of January with the largest anomalies observed off the coast of Hawke's Bay (up to 4°C warmer than average). Marine heatwave conditions were observed in parts of the central and western Tasman Sea.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitiā	31.2	29th	1948	Highest
Whangaparaoa	29.4	29th	1982	Highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	30.3	29th	1945	Highest
Whitianga	31.7	11th	1962	Highest
Whakatane	33.3	28th	1975	Highest

Taupo	32.9	29th	1949	Highest
Whatawhata	32.2	29th	1952	Highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	32.9	29th	1906	Highest
Hamilton (Airport)	32.0	29th	1946	Highest
Te Kuiti	33.3	29th	1959	Highest
Taumarunui	33.6	29th	1947	Highest
Levin	32.6	29th	1895	Highest
Porirua	31.0	29th	1968	Highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	30.3	29th	1928	Highest
Upper Hutt	33.5	29th	1939	Highest
Stratford	29.5	29th	1960	Highest
Ohakune	31.1	29th	1962	Highest
Waiouru	29.7	29th	1962	Highest
Takaka	32.6	28th	1978	Highest
Motueka	34.0	27th	1956	Highest
Appleby	32.6	28th	1932	Highest
Richmond	33.8	27th	1862	Highest
Brothers Island	27.0	29th	1997	Highest
Hanmer Forest	38.4	31st	1906	Highest
Medbury	37.9	31st	1927	Highest
Waiau	37.8	31st	1974	Highest
Lake Tekapo	35.0	31st	1925	Highest
Paeroa	31.9	29th	1947	Equal highest
Farewell Spit	29.0	29th	1971	Equal highest
Ranfurly	33.7	31st	1897	Equal highest
Rotorua	31.4	29th	1964	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	29.1	7th	1969	2nd-highest
Kerikeri	31.2	6th	1945	Equal 2nd-highest
Kaikohe	29.8	29th	1973	3rd-highest
Nelson	32.9	27th	1862	3rd-highest
Blenheim	35.3	27th	1932	3rd-highest
Kaikoura	32.4	23rd	1963	3rd-highest
Cheviot	36.1	30th	1982	3rd-highest
Cape Reinga	26.0	30th	1951	Equal 3rd-highest
Mt Cook Airport	31.7	31st	1929	Equal 3rd-highest
Tara Hills	34.6	31st	1949	Equal 3rd-highest
Whakatane	32.3	6th	1975	4th-highest
Pukekohe	30.4	30th	1969	4th-highest
Turangi	31.3	29th	1968	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	23.9	29th	1978	4th-highest
Nelson	32.3	28th	1862	4th-highest
Blenheim	35.0	28th	1932	4th-highest
Le Bons Bay	28.9	2nd	1984	4th-highest
Ngawi	31.5	30th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Wairoa	33.7	28th	1964	Equal 4th-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	31.4	5th	1947	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
South West Cape	10.4	23rd	1991	4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Tauranga	21.6	30th	1941	Highest
Te Puke	20.4	29th	1973	Highest
Appleby	20.5	28th	1941	Highest
Richmond	24.3	28th	1862	Highest
Tara Hills	19.9	6th	1949	Equal highest
Whitianga	21.2	30th	1971	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	19.4	31st	1978	2nd-highest
Cheviot	20.2	23rd	1982	2nd-highest
Nugget Point	16.6	31st	1972	2nd-highest
South West Cape	17.1	31st	1991	2nd-highest
Whangarei	21.6	30th	1967	3rd-highest
Mahia	20.3	20th	1990	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	17.1	31st	1988	3rd-highest
Waiau	20.8	28th	1974	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	20.4	30th	1982	Equal 3rd-highest
Taumarunui	20.0	30th	1947	Equal 3rd-highest
Clyde	20.6	23rd	1978	Equal 3rd-highest
Mokohinau	20.5	29th	1994	4th-highest
Whakatane	20.8	19th	1975	4th-highest
Porirua	18.4	2nd	1972	4th-highest
Queenstown	18.6	23rd	1871	4th-highest
Wanaka	18.9	6th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Cromwell	1.6	24th	1949	4th-lowest

Wind

On 22 January, gale force winds across south Otago fanned a fire in Pukeawa. Three milking sheds were destroyed in the incident. Additional fires occurred in northern Southland.

On 23 January, a strong southerly change caused damage to the electricity network across Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago and brought rain and cooler temperatures to the lower South Island. Downed trees and powerlines resulted in the loss of power for 4500 homes and/or businesses as well as road closures throughout the region. The maximum gust in Queenstown was 106 km/hr and this was the equal highest wind gust on record there.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Kaikoura	172	23rd	1972	Highest
Queenstown	106	23rd	1972	Equal highest
Whakatu	89	21st	1997	2nd-highest
Oamaru	91	23rd	1984	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	124	26th	1994	Equal 3rd-highest
Dannevirke	85	21st	1961	Equal 4th-highest
Castlepoint	156	27th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
South West Cape	163	26th	1991	Equal 4th-highest

Cloud and fog

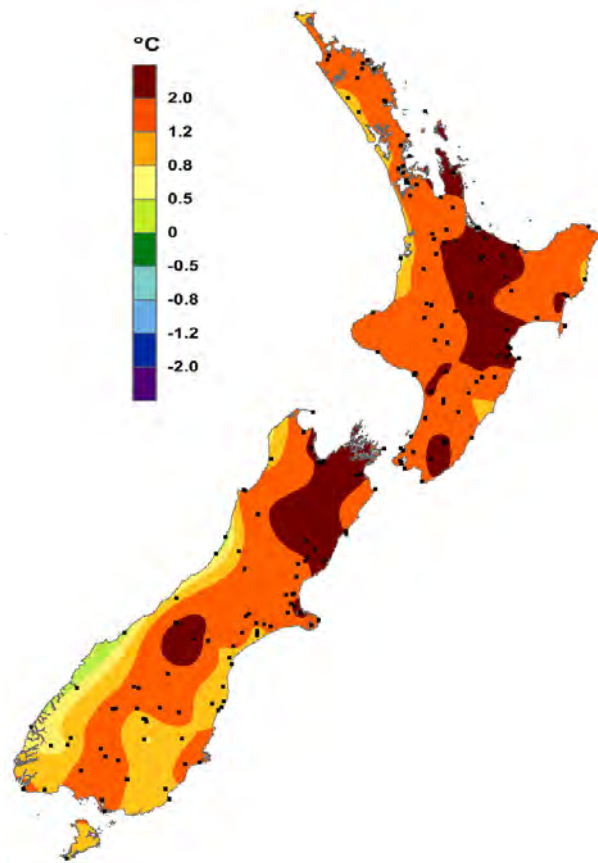
On 29 January, fog cancelled at least 30 flights and delayed several others at Wellington Airport. The fog was caused by a very humid air mass and relatively light winds.

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January temperature, expressed as a difference from average (1981-2010 normal).

Temperatures were above average (0.51-1.20°C above average) and well above average (> 1.20°C above average) across the country.

The only exception were the coastal margins of Westland and western Southland where temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to +0.50°C of average).

Several locations observed record or near-record warm mean, mean-maximum and mean-minimum January temperatures.

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/our-science/climate>

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