

Near-normal July temperatures for most, with exceptional rainfall for Northland

Rainfall	July was a dry month for most parts of the country with the central North Island, Bay of Plenty, eastern Nelson-Marlborough and Canterbury regions experiencing well below normal rainfall (<50%). Below normal rainfall (50-79%) characterised much of Auckland, the south-eastern coast of the North Island and the western coast of the South Island. In contrast to this general dryness, significant rainfall events occurred in Northland and south-west Southland. These events contributed to the well above normal (> 149%) rainfall anomalies recorded in the regions during July.
Temperature	After a record-warm June, temperatures were back to normal for most of the country during July. A pocket of below average (-1.20 to -0.51°C) mean temperature was recorded in the districts of Waitomo and Ruapehu, while above average temperatures (0.51 to 1.20°C) were observed in southern Canterbury and Otago. A mid-winter warm spell hit the eastern South Island and some areas of the North Island on the last day of July setting new maximum daily temperature records at several locations.
Soil Moisture	As of 1 August, 2014 soil moistures were typical for the time of year for the entire country with the exception of Timaru, where slightly below normal soil moistures were present.
Sunshine	It was an unusually sunny mid-winter with the Waikato and Bay of Plenty experiencing well above normal (>125%) sunshine hours. The high levels of sunshine extended to the rest of the North Island, despite the high rainfall in Northland, as well as to the north-west of the South Island where above average sunshine was recorded (100-125%). Banks Peninsula, Buller, coastal Otago and the south coast of Southland were not as bright, receiving below normal sunshine (75-89%).

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Overview

July 2014 was characterised by lower pressures than normal over New Zealand with well below normal pressures to the south and east of the country. This pressure pattern resulted in an anomalous south to south-easterly flow across New Zealand. This is in contrast to last month (June 2014), when a northerly flow anomaly contributed to New Zealand observing its warmest June on record.

There was quite a contrast in rainfall observed across the country in July. Heavy downpours in Northland meant that the region received well above normal rainfall (>149%) with some stations in the region recording levels double of what is expected in July. Similarly, the south-east coast of Southland also had a wet mid-winter with well above normal rainfall recorded. The remainder of the country experienced a relatively dry July. Below normal rainfall (50-79%) characterised much of Auckland, the south-eastern coast of the North Island and the western coast of the South Island. The Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Nelson-Marlborough and Canterbury regions were even drier with less than 40% of normal July rainfall recorded.

Despite a relatively dry month for many parts of the country, soil moisture levels as of 1 August were normal for this time of year. Timaru was the only location experiencing below normal soil moisture levels which coincides with the low rainfall experienced in this area during July. Low soil moisture levels were present for much of the Hawkes Bay during early July but were able to recharge throughout the second half of the month and are now in the near normal range.

After a record breaking warm June, temperatures remained above average (0.51 to 1.20°C) in many parts of the country at the start of July. This warmth was short lived and a switch to a predominantly south-easterly flow brought cooler conditions to New Zealand which are more typical for this time of year. As a whole, mean temperatures for most parts of the country were in the near average range (within 0.5°C of average) for the month of July. Pockets of below average temperature (-1.20 to -0.51°C) were recorded in the districts of Waitomo and Ruapehu, whereas above average (0.51 to 1.20°C) temperatures were observed in southern Canterbury and Otago. The last day of July was particularly warm for eastern parts of the South Island where the combination of a north-westerly flow and the foehn effect brought the region some mid-winter warmth and set July daily maximum temperature records in several locations. The nation-wide average temperature in July 2014 was 8.2°C (0.3°C above the 1971-2000 July average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909)¹.

It was an unusually sunny mid-winter winter in the North Island, with well above normal (>125%) or above normal (110-125%) sunshine recorded. The regions of Waikato and Bay of Plenty were particularly sunny with sunshine hours in excess of 125% recorded. Despite the rain in Northland, the region experienced many sunny days with above normal sunshine hours recorded for July as a whole. The South Island was also sunny for the most part with above normal sunshine (110-125%) hours recorded in the regions of Nelson, Marlborough, the West Coast, Otago and parts of Canterbury. Banks Peninsula, coastal Otago, the south coast of Southland and the district of Buller were not as bright and received below normal sunshine (75-89%).

¹ Interim value

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 22.7°C, observed at Timaru on 31 July.
- The lowest temperature was -9.8°C, observed at Lake Tekapo on 16 July.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 159.4 mm, recorded at Kaikohe on 8 July.
- The highest wind gust was 191 km/hr, observed at Cape Turnagain on 5 July.
- Of the six main centres in July 2014, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Auckland was the warmest, Wellington was the wettest, Tauranga was the sunniest and Dunedin was the cloudiest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres² so far in 2014 (January to July) are: Whakatane (1586 hours), Tauranga (1433 hours), Takaka (1364 hours) and Nelson (1361 hours).

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Rainfall: Divided on both islands

July was a dry month for many parts of the North Island, but a particularly wet month for Northland where well above average rainfall was recorded (>149%). Low pressure to the north-west and high pressure to the south-east of the country on the 8th of July set up a strong pressure gradient which brought high north-easterly winds to the upper North Island. The combination strong winds originating in the sub-tropics and warmer than average sea surface temperatures to the east of New Zealand acted like a conveyor belt of moisture resulting in intense rainfall over Northland. Three-day rainfall totals in the region during this time period equated to a 1-in-60 year event. Most notably, Kaikohe received 586mm of rain in July which is 311% of normal and is the highest July rainfall total for this location. Near-record rainfall anomalies in excess of 180% were also observed in Kaitaia, Kerikeri and Dargaville. In contrast, the remainder of the North Island experienced dry conditions for this time of year with Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki and Wellington recording below normal rainfall (50-79%). Well below rainfall (<50%) was recorded in the Bay of Plenty, Gisborne and Manawatu-Whanganui regions. Record or near record low July rainfalls were recorded in several locations within these regions including Tauranga, Dannevirke, Paraparaumu and Palmerston North.

Low rainfall also prevailed for most parts of the South Island with the eastern coasts of Marlborough and Canterbury recording well below normal rainfall (<50%). Of note, only 14mm and 10mm of rain was recorded in Kaikoura and Waipara respectively, which are near record lows. On the other hand, south-western Southland had a wet month and received well above rainfall (>149%). Near normal (80-119%) rainfall was recorded in Westland and parts of Tasman.

² New Plymouth sunshine is still omitted from this ranking while recent instrumentation changes are assessed.

Below normal soil moisture levels experienced in the Hawke’s Bay during June remained so during the first half of July. Much needed rainfall in the region later in the month recharged the soils substantially which are now in the near normal range. As at 1 August, most soils around the country were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In Timaru, soils remained drier than normal due to low rainfall during July.

Record ³ or near-record July rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	586	311	1956	Highest
Kaitaia	328	242	1948	2nd-highest
Kerikeri	350	194	1981	2nd-highest
Lumsden	92	156	1982	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	159	151	1992	2nd-highest
Dargaville	290	205	1943	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Paraparaumu	22	23	1945	Lowest
Dannevirke	30	29	1951	2nd-lowest
Palmerston North	15	17	1928	2nd-lowest
Waipara West	10	18	1973	2nd-lowest
Motu	76	35	1990	3rd-lowest
Paraparaumu (Airport)	24	27	1945	3rd-lowest
Waione	80	58	1991	4th-lowest
Palmerston North	19	22	1928	4th-lowest
Levin	29	29	1895	4th-lowest
Secretary Island	164	65	1985	4th-lowest
Kaikoura	14	16	1898	4th-lowest

Temperature: A return to near-normal for most

Following on from a record breaking June, July temperatures returned to a more normal state for the time of year. As a whole, North Island temperatures were in the near average range (within 0.5°C of average) with pockets of below average temperature (-1.20 to -0.51°C) in the districts of Waitomo and Ruapehu. Similarly, South Island temperatures were also in the near normal range for the month of July with an area of above average temperatures (0.51 to 1.20°C) observed in southern Canterbury and Otago. In contrast to last month, the subdued July temperatures meant that few mean monthly temperature records were set. The nation-wide average temperature in July 2014 was 8.2°C (0.3°C above the 1971-2000 July average from NIWA’s seven station temperature series which begins in 1909).

³ 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.

Despite the near normal temperatures for the month as whole, there were also some weather highlights. The last day of July was a particularly warm one for many parts of the country. Most notably the combination of a north-westerly flow and the foehn effect brought record breaking daily maximum temperatures to eastern parts of the South Island. The warmest July day on record was experienced in Timaru, Ranfurly, Cromwell as well as Auckland on the 31st of July.

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Timaru	7.6	1.9	1885	2nd-highest
Te Puke	10.8	1.3	1973	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	3.8	1.6	1975	3rd-highest
Lauder	4.4	2.4	1924	3rd-highest
Cheviot	6.7	0.7	1982	4th-highest
Gore	5.7	1.2	1971	4th-highest

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Timaru	12.4	2.2	1885	3rd-highest
Te Puke	15.4	1.1	1973	4th-highest
Milford Sound	10.6	1.4	1934	4th-highest
Lauder	9.4	2.6	1924	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Kaitaia	14.3	-1.2	1967	2nd-lowest
Le Bons Bay	9.1	-0.7	1984	4th-lowest

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	4.4	1.3	1947	Highest
Lauder	-0.6	2.2	1924	2nd-highest
Nugget Point	4.6	1.2	1970	2nd-highest
Cheviot	1.9	1.5	1982	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	-0.7	2.0	1975	3rd-highest
Masterton	3.9	1.9	1992	4th-highest
Oamaru	3.0	0.8	1908	4th-highest
Lumsden	0.4	1.1	1982	4th-highest
Gore	2.1	1.3	1971	4th-highest

Sunshine: A sunny mid-winter for most parts of the country

Low rainfall during July and the associated lack of cloud cover contributed to a sunny mid-winter winter in the North Island, with well above normal (>125%) or above normal (110-124%) sunshine recorded. The regions of Waikato and Bay of Plenty were particularly sunny with sunshine hours in excess of 125% observed. Despite the rain in Northland, the region experienced many sunny days with above normal sunshine hours recorded for July as a whole. Near record sunshine hours were recorded in Te Kuiti and Taumarunui.

The South Island was also sunny for the most part with above normal (110-125%) sunshine hours recorded in the regions of Nelson, Marlborough, the West Coast, Otago and parts of Canterbury. Banks Peninsula, coastal Otago, the south coast of Southland and the district of Buller were not as bright and received below normal sunshine (75-89%).

Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2014 (January - July) are: Whakatane (1586 hours), Tauranga (1433 hours), Takaka (1364 hours) and Nelson (1361 hours).

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

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Te Kuiti	155	146	1962	3rd-highest
Taumarunui	134	147	1947	4th-highest

July climate in the six main centres

Temperatures were near average for all of the six main centres with the exception of Dunedin which experienced above average mean July temperatures. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from near normal in Wellington to 56% of normal in Christchurch. Well above normal sunshine was observed in Hamilton, above normal sunshine occurred in Auckland and Tauranga and near normal sunshine was present in Christchurch and Dunedin. Of the six main centres in July 2014, Christchurch was the coolest and driest, Auckland was the warmest, Wellington was the wettest, Tauranga was the sunniest and Dunedin was the cloudiest.

July 2014 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	11.3	+0.4	Near average
Tauranga ^b	10.7	+0.4	Near average
Hamilton ^c	8.6	-0.1	Near average
Wellington ^d	9.1	+0.2	Near average
Christchurch ^e	6.2	+0.4	Near average
Dunedin ^f	7.1	+0.6	Above average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	78	57%	Below normal
Tauranga ^b	- ⁴	-	-
Hamilton ^c	105 ⁵	79%	Below normal
Wellington ^d	120	88%	Near normal
Christchurch ^e	36	56%	Below normal
Dunedin ^f	38	66%	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	144	110%	Above normal
Tauranga ^b	172	114%	Above normal
Hamilton ^g	157	132%	Well above normal
Wellington ^d	101 ⁵	84%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	119	94%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	91 ⁶	83%	Below normal

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

⁴ Omitted due to no data from 4-16th of July

⁵ Missing one day of data from 2 July.

⁶ Missing one day of data from 31 July.

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

On Wednesday 30 July, a strong north-westerly flow became established over the South Island, bringing anomalously warm temperatures to eastern locations of the island. Thursday 31 July was an especially warm day for the time of year for eastern South Island locations, with many towns and cities recording a maximum temperature in the late-teens or early-twenties (°C). These temperatures were equivalent to record or near-record maximum temperatures for the month of July in these locations.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Auckland (Mangere)	19.2	31st	1959	Highest
Ngawi	21.4	4th	1972	Highest
Timaru	22.7	31st	1885	Highest
Ranfurlly	17.3	31st	1975	Highest
Lumsden	17.2	31st	1982	Highest
Cromwell	18.5	31st	1949	Highest
Nugget Point	17.2	31st	1970	Highest
Te Puke	19.4	31st	1973	2nd-highest
Hawera	17.4	31st	1977	2nd-highest
Cheviot	20.3	31st	1982	2nd-highest
Winchmore	22.0	31st	1928	2nd-highest
Christchurch (Kyle St)	22.2	31st	1863	2nd-highest
Lincoln (Broadfield)	21.0	31st	1881	2nd-highest
Orari Estate	21.3	31st	1972	2nd-highest
Alexandra	18.7	31st	1983	2nd-highest
Balclutha (Telford)	17.9	31st	1964	Equal 2nd-highest
Stratford	16.5	31st	1960	3rd-highest
Wanganui (Spriggens Park)	19.8	31st	1937	3rd-highest
Waiau	20.0	31st	1974	3rd-highest
Timaru (Airport)	21.9	31st	1885	3rd-highest
Queenstown (Airport)	17.0	31st	1871	3rd-highest
Lauder	17.6	31st	1924	3rd-highest
Campbell Island	11.1	11th	1991	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	18.2	30th	1982	Equal 3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	17.0	31st	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Dunedin (Airport)	19.0	31st	1962	Equal 3rd-highest
Waipara West	20.4	31st	1973	4th-highest
Tara Hills	15.4	31st	1949	4th-highest
South West Cape	14.3	11th	1991	4th-highest
Taupo	16.1	31st	1949	Equal 4th-highest
Blenheim	19.0	31st	1941	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				

Westport (Airport)	6.9	2nd	1966	2nd-lowest
Whitianga (Airport)	10.5	17th	1971	Equal 4th-lowest
Greymouth (Airport)	7.2	3rd	1972	Equal 4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Milford Sound	11.1	12th	1935	Highest
Secretary Island	13.0	12th	1988	Highest
Cheviot	13.1	31st	1982	Highest
Orari Estate	8.3	31st	1972	Highest
Masterton	12.8	31st	1992	2nd-highest
Haast	12.2	12th	1949	2nd-highest
Kaikoura	11.6	31st	1972	2nd-highest
Culverden	11.6	31st	1930	2nd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	10.4	31st	1947	2nd-highest
South West Cape	10.7	12th	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Paraparaumu (Airport)	12.9	31st	1972	3rd-highest
Wellington	13.1	31st	1972	3rd-highest
Waipara West	13.2	31st	1973	3rd-highest
Lincoln (Broadfield)	11.2	12th	1881	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	6.9	31st	1975	3rd-highest
Kaitaia (Observatory)	14.4	11th	1985	Equal 3rd-highest
New Plymouth	13.5	31st	1944	4th-highest
Waione	12.5	31st	1993	4th-highest
Alexandra	6.7	31st	1983	4th-highest
Nugget Point	8.6	12th	1972	4th-highest
Kerikeri	14.6	11th	1981	Equal 4th-highest
Whangaparaoa	13.2	11th	1982	Equal 4th-highest
Masterton (Airport)	12.2	31st	1943	Equal 4th-highest
Martinborough	12.6	31st	1986	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
New Plymouth	-2.1	23rd	1944	2nd-lowest
Hokitika	-3.7	22nd	1866	4th-lowest

Rain and slips

From 8 to 12 July, heavy rain fell in many parts of the Far North, resulting in considerable surface flooding and road closures. Roads affected by flooding included SH 1 at Hukerenui, Rangiahua and Turntable Hill, SH 1 between Whangarei and Ruakaka, SH 11 between Kawakawa and Paihia and SH 12 at Taheke. Two people required rescue from their vehicles which had become stuck in floodwaters at the bottom of Lemon's Hill on SH 11 at Kawakawa.

On 19 and 20 July, heavy rain again struck the Far North. In Maungaturoto (south of Whangarei), fourteen people were stranded in their houses as floodwaters passed through their properties. Nearby, a car heading along SH 12 was swept away by a flash flood before coming to rest in a ditch, with the occupant requiring rescue from emergency services. SH 1 between Auckland and Whangarei was blocked by three slips and flooding at Brynderwyn, with traffic diversions necessary.

On 30 July, caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH 73 from Arthur's Pass to Otira due to flooding. Farther south, the Milford Road (SH 94 from Te Anau to Milford Sound) was closed due to storm debris on the road.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Kaikohe	159	8th	1956	Highest
Kerikeri	117	8th	1981	Highest
Dargaville	81	11th	1943	3rd-highest

Wind

On 1 July, motorists were warned to take extra care on SH 1 at the Desert Road due to strong winds.

On 8 and 9 July, damaging winds struck many parts of the upper North Island, with widespread damage occurring in Northland. At least twelve homes had their roofs blown off, with property damage especially severe around the Kaitaia and south Hokianga areas. At least 20,000 Far North households lost power for a time, and both the Bay of Islands and Dargaville Hospitals were operating on generator power. Concrete electricity poles had blown down, and even snapped in some cases, and many trees were blown down in the Far North. In Kaitaia, an elderly woman was pinned to her chair after a large *Macrocarpa* tree crashed through her roof. SH 12 at Aranga (near Dargaville) was closed by a fallen tree. Some regional flight services in to Auckland Airport were cancelled, and Auckland ferry services to Devonport, West Harbour, Pine Harbour, Halfmoon Bay, Northcote, Birkenhead and Bayswater were cancelled.

On 11 July, strong winds struck Te Aroha West. The winds tore the roof off one house, and damaged a wooden shed and vegetation on a neighbouring property. There were a number of further reports of lifting roofs in the area.

On 30 July, motorists were warned to take extra care on the Rimutaka Hill road (SH 2), SH 73 from Springfield to Arthur's Pass, SH 8 from Raes Junction to Milton and SH 87 from Kyeburn to Middlemarch due to strong winds. On 31 July, warnings remained in place for these roads, with an additional strong wind warning issued to motorists travelling on SH 85 from Alexandra to Palmerston.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Kaitaia	119	8th	1985	Highest
Paeroa	107	9th	1991	3rd-highest
Whakatane (Airport)	98	12th	1974	3rd-highest
Oamaru (Airport)	80	30th	1984	3rd-highest
Manapouri (Airport)	78	4th	1991	3rd-highest
Kaitaia (Airport)	117	8th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Lauder	111	30th	1981	Equal 3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	117	4th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Milford Sound	126	30th	1974	4th-highest
Tara Hills	78	30th	1985	4th-highest

Snow and ice

On 1 July SH 94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound was closed due to snow. The road remained closed on the morning of 2 July, but re-opened for all except towing vehicles in the afternoon. There were widespread reports of black ice occurring about Queenstown on 1 July, with the worst-affected areas being Arthurs Point and SH 6 from Frankton to Gibbston Valley.

On 2 July, snow fell and settled to low levels across much of the South Island, including inland parts of Southland, Otago, and Canterbury. The snowfall wasn't especially heavy for most areas, yet it provided welcome addition to New Zealand ski area snowpack's, which were relatively thin across the board at the beginning of the month. Schools in Te Anau were closed because of the snow, and many businesses in Central Otago closed early to enable staff time to return home safely in the icy conditions. Caution was advised for motorists travelling on SH 94 from Mossburn to Te Anau due to black ice which was covered by a layer of snow. The section of road between Centre Hill and Gorge Hill was closed to towing vehicles. The Lindis Pass (SH 8) was also closed to towing vehicles due to snow, while all other motorists were advised to carry chains. Caution was advised for motorists travelling on SH 90 from Raes Junction to McNab due to snow. Farther north, SH 73 from Springfield to Arthur's Pass (Porters Pass) and from Arthur's Pass to Otira were closed to towing vehicles due to snow, with chains essential for all other vehicles. Motorists were warned to be cautious due to winter driving conditions (snowfall) on the Desert Road (SH 1) and SH 4 from National Park to Tohunga Junction.

On 3 July, motorists were urged to take extreme caution due to ice on SH 6 from Lumsden to Athol, SH 97 from Five Rivers to Mossburn, SH 94 from Mossburn to Milford Sound, and the Lindis Pass (SH 8). Cautions remained in place on SH 90 from Raes Junction to McNab and SH 4 from National Park to Tohunga Junction due to snow, and snow forced the closure of the Desert Road (SH 1). Black ice was a contributing factor in at least twenty accidents that occurred in the Clutha and wider Dunedin districts, and icy conditions contributed to four road accidents in Taranaki.

On the morning of 8 July, all services on the Johnsonville train line in Wellington were cancelled for nearly two hours due to ice on the overhead wires.

On 15 July, caution was advised for motorists travelling on SH 94 from Te Anau to Knobs Flat due to ice.

On 18 July, caution was advised for motorists travelling on the Desert Road (SH 1) and SH 8 from Fairlie to Omarama due to ice.

On 21 July and 22 July, snow showers fell to low levels across southern and eastern parts of the South Island, and southern and central parts of the North Island. Chains were required on the Crown Range road between Queenstown and Wanaka, with two accidents there attributed to the icy conditions. Caution was advised for motorists travelling on SH 6 from Kingston to Lumsden, SH 85 from Kyeburn to Palmerston, SH 87 from Kyeburn to Mosgiel and SH 94 from Te Anau to Milford Sound due to snow, with caution required by motorists travelling on SH1 from Dunedin to Waitati and SH 94 from Mossburn to Te Anau due to ice. Both the Desert Road (SH 1) and the Rimutaka Hill road (SH 2) were closed for a time because of snow.

On 28 July domestic flights at Dunedin Airport were delayed and cancelled due to ice on the runway.

Lightning and Hail

On 2 July, lightning strikes hit switch boards in Auckland, causing power outages in the suburbs of Papakura and Pukekohe. A Papakura resident's bed caught fire after a lightning strike travelled up their telephone wire and through to the modem in the bedroom, and several windows were broken at a neighbouring property.

On 30 July, *First Tracks* skiing (between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m.) at *Coronet Peak* in Queenstown was cancelled due to lightning strikes in the area. The operation of chairlifts at *Treble Cone* ski area near Wanaka were affected by thunder and lightning in the area.

On 31 July, lightning strikes forced the *Treble Cone* ski area to close and lift operations at *The Remarkables* ski area to be temporarily suspended.

Cloud and fog

On 14 July, international and domestic flights at Auckland Airport were delayed, diverted or cancelled due to fog. Auckland Ferry services were also disrupted by fog, with ferries forced to lower their speeds because of poor visibility.

On 21 July, caution was advised to motorists travelling on SH 1 from Levin to Sanson and SH 57 from Levin to Linton due to fog.

On 31 July, flights at Nelson Airport were disrupted by fog.

For further information, please contact:

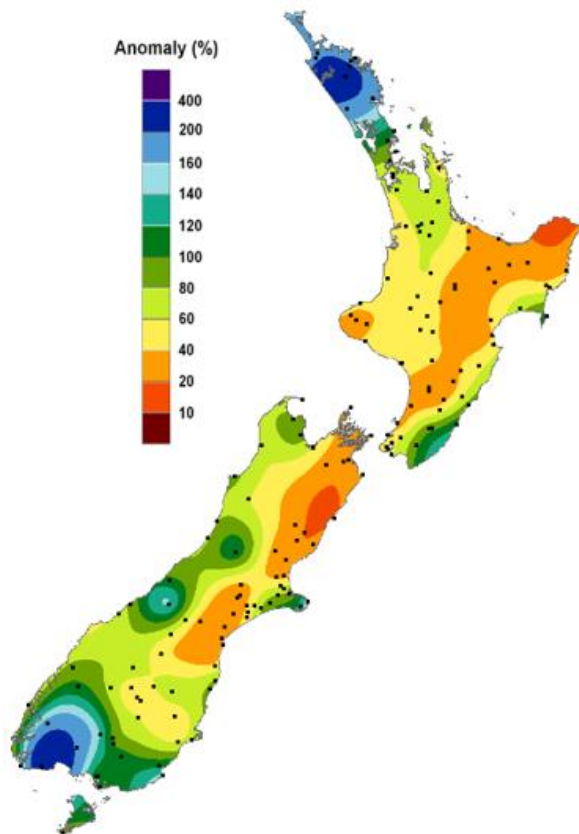
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July 2014 total rainfall, expressed as a difference from average.

Rainfall was much divided this month with Northland and south-west Southland receiving well above normal (>149%) rainfall. On the other hand, well below normal rainfall (<50%) characterised much of the central North Island, Bay of Plenty, eastern Nelson-Marlborough and Canterbury regions. Below normal rainfall (<50%) was observed in Auckland, the south-eastern coast of the North and eastern coast of the South Island.

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