

**National Climate Summary – Autumn 2012: Dry and record sunny over South Island.**

- **Rainfall:** Dry over the South Island as well as in Manawatu-Wanganui and the Tararua District. Above normal autumn rainfall for Northland, north Auckland, Gisborne, parts of Hawkes Bay and the south Wairarapa coast. Near normal elsewhere.
- **Sunshine:** Record sunny across much of the South Island and western North Island. Closer to normal sunshine for Northland, Coromandel, and the eastern North Island.
- **Temperatures:** Below average for the north and east of the South Island, and for most North Island areas south of Taupo. Near average autumn temperatures elsewhere.
- **Soils:** Unusually dry at the end of autumn in Canterbury and Nelson, as well as the Tararua District and around Palmerston North.

Autumn was characterised by higher pressures than normal southeast of New Zealand, and extending across the South Island. Lower pressures than usual were observed north of the country, resulting in more easterly quarter winds than usual over the North Island. The higher than usual pressures over the South Island resulted in a very dry month there, while the easterly winds contributed to below average temperatures in eastern regions.

It was a dry autumn over the South Island, with less than three quarters of normal autumn rainfall recorded for most regions (the exception being the Kaikoura Coast, with near normal rainfall). Notably dry were Canterbury and parts of Nelson, with less than half of seasonal normal rainfall observed. It was also rather dry for Manawatu-Wanganui and the Tararua District. In contrast, above normal rainfalls were recorded in Northland, north Auckland, Gisborne, parts of Hawkes Bay, and the south Wairarapa coast. Elsewhere, rainfalls were near normal. At the end of autumn, soils were much drier than normal for the time of year in Canterbury and Nelson, as well as the Tararua District and around Palmerston North.

Autumn was extremely sunny over the South Island, and for the western North Island between Waikato and Taranaki, with many records set. Sunshine totals were also above normal in most other regions. The exceptions were Northland, Coromandel, Wellington and the eastern North Island (Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa), which experienced near normal sunshine totals.

Mean temperatures for autumn were below average across the north and east of the South Island, and for much of the North Island south of Taupo. Autumn temperatures were near average (within 0.5°C of the autumn average) elsewhere, namely in the southwest of the country (Southland, Fiordland, Westland), as well as in Taranaki, around Wanganui, Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, and parts of Waikato, Auckland and Northland. Morning (minimum) temperatures across the country showed much the same pattern; but were near-record low for autumn at many eastern or inland locations. The nation-wide average temperature in autumn was 12.9°C (0.4°C below the 1971–2000 autumn average), using NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909.

**Further Highlights:**

- The highest temperature experienced was 29.2°C, observed at Timaru on 24 March.
- The lowest temperature experienced was -8.1°C, recorded at Ranfurly on 20 May.
- The highest 1-day rainfall experienced was 207 mm, recorded at North Egmont on 27 May.
- The highest gust recorded was 158 km/hr at Brothers Island, Cook Strait, on 3 March.
- Of the six main centres in autumn, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga the sunniest, Wellington the wettest and cloudiest, and Christchurch the coolest and driest.

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**RAINFALL: DRY OVER THE SOUTH ISLAND, AS WELL AS IN MANAWATU-WANGANUI AND THE TARARUA DISTRICT. ABOVE NORMAL AUTUMN RAINFALL FOR NORTHLAND, NORTH AUCKLAND, GISBORNE, PARTS OF HAWKES BAY AND COASTAL WAIRARAPA. NEAR NORMAL ELSEWHERE.**

It was a dry autumn over the South Island, with less than three quarters of normal autumn rainfall recorded for most regions (the exception being the Kaikoura Coast, where near normal autumn rainfall was observed). Notably dry were Canterbury and parts of Nelson, with less than half of autumn normal observed. It was also rather dry for Manawatu-Wanganui and the Tararua District, with below normal rainfall experienced (between 50 and 79 percent of seasonal normal). In contrast, above normal autumn rainfalls were recorded in Northland, north Auckland, Gisborne, parts of Hawkes Bay, and the south Wairarapa coast. Elsewhere, autumn rainfalls were near normal (between 80 and 119 percent of autumn normal).

At the end of autumn, soils were much drier than normal for the time of year in Canterbury and Nelson, as well as the Tararua District and around Palmerston North. Elsewhere, soil moisture levels were generally near normal.

**Near-record<sup>1</sup> Autumn rainfall totals were recorded at:**

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
Palmerston North	137	62	1991	4th-lowest
Wanganui	140	63	1987	2nd-lowest
Lake Rotoiti	192	50	1933	3rd-lowest
Hokitika	385	54	1866	2nd-lowest
Greymouth	347	57	1947	3rd-lowest
Lincoln	70	43	1881	4th-lowest
Timaru	57	38	1990	2nd-lowest
Lumsden	205	83	1982	3rd-lowest

**SUNSHINE: RECORD SUNNY OVER MUCH OF SOUTH ISLAND AND FROM WAIKATO TO TARANAKI. CLOSER TO NORMAL SUNSHINE TOTALS FOR NORTHLAND, COROMANDEL, WELLINGTON AND THE EASTERN NORTH ISLAND.**

Autumn was extremely sunny over much of the South Island, and for the western North Island between Waikato and Taranaki, with totals exceeding 125 percent of autumn normal in most cases. It was the sunniest autumn on record for Taumarunui and New Plymouth, as well as Cheviot, Lake Tekapo, Invercargill, Dunedin and Balclutha. Sunshine totals were also above normal (between 110 and 124 percent of autumn normal) in most other parts of the country. The exceptions were Northland, Coromandel, Wellington and the eastern North Island (Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa), which experienced near normal sunshine totals (between 90 and 109 percent of seasonal normal).

<sup>1</sup> The rankings (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>....etc) in 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 because of the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

**Record or near-record Autumn sunshine hours were recorded at:**

Location	Sunshine (hours)	Percentage Of normal	Year records began	Comments
Te Kuiti	551	137	1962	2nd-highest
Taumarunui	521	138	1947	Highest
Turangi	555	115	1976	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	651	126	1972	Highest
Paraparaumu	578	121	1953	4th-highest
Greymouth	529	138	1947	2nd-highest
Cheviot	550	114	1983	Highest
Lake Tekapo	662	140	1928	Highest
Dunedin	502	139	1947	Highest
Cromwell	563	117	1979	3rd-highest
Invercargill	454	139	1932	Highest
Balclutha	495	140	1964	Highest

**TEMPERATURES: BELOW AVERAGE IN THE NORTH AND EAST OF SOUTH ISLAND, AS WELL AS NORTH ISLAND AREAS SOUTH OF TAUPO. NEAR AVERAGE ELSEWHERE.**

Mean temperatures for autumn were generally below average (between 0.5°C and 1.2°C below seasonal average) across the north and east of the South Island, and for much of the North Island south of Taupo. Autumn temperatures were near average (within 0.5°C of the autumn average) elsewhere, namely in the southwest of the country (Southland, Fiordland, Westland), as well as in Taranaki, around Wanganui, Bay of Plenty, Coromandel, and parts of Waikato, Auckland and Northland.

Morning (minimum) temperatures across the country showed much the same pattern; but were near-record low for autumn at multiple locations in eastern and inland locations (see Table overleaf).

The nation-wide average temperature in autumn was 12.9°C (0.4°C below the 1971–2000 autumn average), using NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909<sup>2</sup>.

**Near-record monthly-average maximum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded at:**

Location	Mean maximum air temperature (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
Motueka	19.8	1.2	1956	4th-highest
Whitianga	19.3	-0.8	1962	3rd-lowest
Dannevirke	15.9	-1.6	1951	3rd-lowest
Castlepoint	16.3	-1.7	1972	3rd-lowest

<sup>2</sup> Interim monthly value.

**Near-record monthly-average minimum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded at:**

Location	Mean minimum air temperature (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
Te Kuiti	7.3	-1.4	1959	2nd-lowest
Taumarunui	5.6	-1.9	1947	2nd-lowest
Turangi	5.3	-1.7	1968	3rd-lowest
Takapau Plains	6.5	-1.6	1962	4th-lowest
Dannevirke	6.8	-1.7	1951	4th-lowest
Martinborough	6.7	-1.4	1986	3rd-lowest
Ngawi	11.2	-0.5	1972	3rd-lowest
Palmerston North	8.0	-0.9	1991	3rd-lowest
Wallaceville	6.6	-1.6	1939	4th-lowest
Motueka	5.4	-1.7	1956	3rd-lowest
Appleby	5.4	-3.3	1943	Lowest
Blenheim	5.6	-1.7	1932	4th-lowest
Hanmer Forest	1.3	-3.0	1906	2nd-lowest
Winchmore	4.4	-1.9	1928	4th-lowest
Christchurch	5.2	-1.5	1863	4th-lowest
Orari Estate	4.5	-1.0	1972	4th-lowest
Timaru	3.6	-1.8	1990	2nd-lowest
Tara Hills	1.9	-1.7	1949	3rd-lowest
Dunedin (Airport)	3.4	-1.3	1962	4th-lowest
Lumsden	3.7	-1.0	1982	4th-lowest
Cromwell	3.2	-1.5	1949	3rd-lowest
Balclutha	4.4	-1.6	1964	2nd-lowest

**AUTUMN CLIMATE IN THE SIX MAIN CENTRES**

For five of the six main centres, it was a remarkably sunny autumn (the exception being Wellington, which experienced near normal autumn sunshine). It was the sunniest autumn on record for Dunedin. Seasonal rainfall totals were near normal for the North Island main centres, but below normal for the two southern cities.

Of the six main centres in autumn, Auckland was the warmest, Tauranga the sunniest, Wellington the wettest and cloudiest, and Christchurch the coolest and driest.

**Autumn 2012 main centre climate statistics:**

Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comment	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comment	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comment
Auckland <sup>a</sup>	16.0	-0.3	Near average	251	93%	Near normal	530	111%	Above normal
Tauranga <sup>b</sup>	15.9	+0.6	Above average	319	98%	Near normal	611	114%	Above normal
Hamilton <sup>c</sup>	13.7	-0.5	Below average	237	86%	Near normal	536 <sup>g</sup>	111%	Above normal
Wellington <sup>d</sup>	13.0	-0.7	Below average	332	108%	Near normal	468	99%	Near normal
Christchurch <sup>e</sup>	11.3	-0.8	Below average	83	52%	Below normal	540	111%	Above normal
Dunedin <sup>f</sup>	11.4	-0.2	Near average	122	60%	Below normal	502	139%	Sunniest autumn on record

<sup>a</sup> Auckland Aero <sup>b</sup> Tauranga Airport <sup>c</sup> Hamilton Airport <sup>d</sup> Kelburn <sup>e</sup> Christchurch Airport <sup>f</sup> Musselburgh <sup>g</sup> Ruakura

## HIGHLIGHTS AND EXTREME EVENTS

- **Rain and slips**

The highest 1-day rainfall experienced was 207 mm, recorded at North Egmont on 27 May.

On 1 March, heavy rain caused a massive slip closing SH2 at Waioeka Gorge between Opotiki and Gisborne. The Gorge remained closed for much of the month – until an alternative, temporary route was opened on 29 March.

A rapidly deepening low (or weather ‘bomb’) approached New Plymouth from the Tasman Sea on 3 March, migrating eastwards across the lower North Island on the 4th. The low brought heavy rain and extremely strong winds. The Round New Zealand yacht race fleet was between New Plymouth and Nelson at the time, with one boat issuing a Mayday and several yachts seeking shelter for a time in Golden Bay. Patea and Waverley were badly affected with property damage, and downed trees blocked SH3 in more than one place. In Wellington, the Hutt River burst its banks. Four classrooms were flooded at Wainuiomata’s Fernlea School. The Karapoti Mountain Bike event held near Upper Hutt was postponed a day.

On 4 March, heavy rain forced the cancellation of the Ironman New Zealand Race, planned for Taupo, and a half-ironman was held on 5 March instead. Postal deliveries in Wellington were cancelled.

On 19 March, Northland was affected by floodwaters due to a deep low stalling east of the Bay of Islands. Rainfall on 18 and 19 March was very significant in Northland (see Table overleaf). A fire crew had to use an inflatable boat to rescue a family of three from rising flood waters near Ngunguru, 22km northeast of Whangarei. The driver of a car was trapped in floodwaters at Motatau, 52 km northwest of Whangarei, but was freed by passersby soon thereafter. Neighbours helped to save a 61-year-old woman who was swept away by floodwaters near Whangarei. The 61-year-old had attempted to cross a bridge in her car about 11.30am at Otaika, 7km southeast of Whangarei, but became stuck. She managed to get out of the vehicle but was swept away by the rising waters. The woman managed to grab hold of a branch and neighbours, wearing lifejackets, managed to pull her to safety.

Northland Regional Council figures show that the hills above the Far North township of Kaeo recorded 283.5mm of rainfall in 35 hours – roughly twice the usual rainfall for the month of March. Roads in and out of the township were closed, and floodwater in the main street rose to a metre deep, flooding some businesses. Kerikeri Primary School shut for the day. The Twin Bridges at Kawakawa were shut about 10.50am due to rising flood waters. Flooding was reported on Ngunguru Rd, SH1 Whakapara, SH10 between Kaeo and Hihi Rd, Whananaki North Rd, Matipo Pl, Marua Rd, Otonga Rd, Kokopu Rd and Russell Rd.

On 20 March, this low remained slow-moving to the east of the Bay of Islands, resulting in gale to storm force southeast winds over the North Island. Gisborne was all but isolated, with almost all routes out of the district blocked by slips, trees or flooding for a couple of hours. Rainfall in the Gisborne regions was very significant (see Table overleaf). The two detours out of town, after the closure of the Waioeka Gorge between Gisborne and Opotiki more than two weeks previously, were hit by the severe wind and rain lashing the East Coast. Drivers heading south on State Highway 2 were turned back after flooding temporarily closed both sides of the Whareratas south of Gisborne city during the morning. Temporary road closures also occurred during the morning for SH2 between Wairoa and Nuhaka, as well as between Gisborne and Muriwai. Slips partially blocked SH35, the East Coast highway on the south side of Tolaga Bay during the morning. There was also extensive surface flooding in the same area.

On 21 March, SH12 near Dargaville was closed to all traffic due to flooding, and SH 30 from Whakamaru to Atiamuri remained closed due to a tree lying across the road. A family in Gisborne was evacuated due to a slip in the hill behind their home, some businesses lost power in the city, and several residents were trapped at home as flooding hit the district. Gisborne District Council received 106 requests for service which were related to the rain. Wastewater briefly overflowed at Central School. Parts of Ruatoria temporarily lost power supply, as did residents in Cricklewood, inland from Wairoa.

On 2 April, a slip closed one lane of SH2 at Devil's Elbow, north of Napier. A further slip on 5 April closed SH2 between Napier and Wairoa. In Gisborne, roads and three schools were closed after heavy rain.

On 27 April, heavy rain caused flooding in Nelson, damaging a school, and private and commercial properties.

On 28 April, heavy rain, strong winds and very cold temperatures caused problems for a group of walkers on the Tongariro Crossing. When police rescued the group, some members were showing signs of hypothermia.

On 9 May, heavy rain overnight caused transport problems in Auckland and Bay of Plenty. Fallen trees blocked SH30 at Lake Rotoma near Rotorua, and in Auckland two motorway on-ramps were partially blocked by fallen trees.

On 14 May, heavy rain caused the roof of Porirua warehouse to collapse, destroying furniture and other items donated to Mary Potter Hospice. A supermarket in Titahi Bay was also flooded.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Cape Reinga	120	Mar-18th	1919	2nd-highest
Kaero	146	Mar-18th	1981	4th-highest
Kaitaia	82	Mar-19th	1985	4th-highest
Kerikeri	168	Mar-18th	1981	2nd-highest
Rawene (Hokianga Harbour)	87	Mar-19th	1977	3rd-highest
Kaikohe	136	Mar-18th	1956	3rd-highest
Cambridge	74	Apr-11th	1966	3rd-highest
Maungatautari (near Cambridge)	79	Apr-11th	1975	4th-highest
Waihirere (near Gisborne)	132	Mar-19th	1961	2nd-highest
Gisborne	153	Mar-19th	1937	3rd-highest
Waingake (near Muriwai)	134	Apr-4th	1946	4th-highest
Te Puia Springs (near Ruatoria)	258	Apr-3rd	1946	Highest
Tolaga Bay	159	Mar-19th	1946	3rd-highest
Te Pohue, Hawkes Bay	120	Apr-4th	1983	4th-highest

• **Temperatures**

The highest temperature was 29.2°C, observed at Timaru on 24 March. The lowest temperature experienced was -8.1°C, recorded at Ranfurly on 20 May. During the period 20-22 May, air frosts were unusually severe for the time of year, at many locations around the country.

**Near-record daily maximum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme maximum temperature (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year Records Began	Ranking
Westport	27.3	Mar-21st	1937	3rd-highest
Arapito	27.0	Mar-21st	1978	4th-highest
Greymouth	26.6	Mar-21st	1947	4th-highest
Hamilton	9.1	May-30th	1940	4th-lowest
Taumarunui	7.0	May-30th	1947	3rd-lowest
Dannevirke	6.9	May-29th	1951	3rd-lowest
Castlepoint	8.9	May-29th	1972	Equal 3rd-lowest
Martinborough	9.1	May-16th	1986	4th-lowest
Palmerston North	9.8	May-16th	1991	3rd-lowest
Wallaceville	7.6	May-16th	1972	4th-lowest
Wanganui	10.7	May-16th	1987	4th-lowest
Puyssegur Point	8.1	May-28th	1978	4th-lowest

**Near-record daily minimum air temperatures for Autumn were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme minimum temperature (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year Records Began	Ranking
Leigh	5.3	May-30th	1966	Equal lowest
Whangaparaoa	7.1	May-30th	1982	4th-lowest
Taupo	-4.5	May-21st	1949	Equal 4th-lowest
Port Taharoa	3.2	May-30th	1973	3rd-lowest
Taumarunui	-4.0	May-30th	1947	Equal 3rd-lowest
Turangi	-4.9	May-22nd	1968	Lowest
Takapau Plains	-2.5	May-21st	1962	3rd-lowest
Dannevirke	-3.3	May-30th	1951	4th-lowest
Martinborough	-3.8	May-21st	1986	Lowest
Napier	-1.7	May-30th	1868	Equal 2nd-lowest
Paraparaumu	-2.5	May-21st	1953	3rd-lowest
Palmerston North	-2.5	May-21st	1991	3rd-lowest
Wallaceville	-4.3	May-21st	1939	4th-lowest
Motueka	-3.4	May-20th	1956	3rd-lowest
Appleby	-3.6	May-20th	1943	3rd-lowest
Hanmer Forest	-7.5	May-20th	1906	2nd-lowest
Le Bons Bay	2.0	May-29th	1984	4th-lowest
Kaikohe	19.3	Mar-1st	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Puyssegur Point	16.8	Apr-26th	1978	3rd-highest

- **Wind**

The highest gust recorded was 158 km/hr recorded at Brothers Island, Cook Strait, Wellington, on 3 March.

A low rapidly deepened over the Tasman Sea on 3 March, migrating eastwards across the lower North Island on the 4th. The winds associated with this low tore down trees and cut power to homes and farms in Taranaki, Wanganui, the Coromandel Peninsula, Te Puke, Wairoa, Kawhia, Kapiti Coast, northern Wellington, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Auckland, Piha, Waiheke Island and Kaipara. Cook Strait ferries were cancelled on 4 March, and flights cancelled or delayed at Wellington, Napier and New Plymouth Airports. At the Egmont A & P showgrounds, the storm

blew down the doors to a pen housing 500 horses and ponies assembled for the three-day Show Jumping New Zealand's series final show. All the animals were moved to a safer area in the early hours. All the fences in the jumping arena had to be retrieved and reset, and the Saturday programme was cancelled, with the first Trans-Tasman test between New Zealand and Australia postponed a day.

Nearly two weeks later (16 March), about 40 rural properties were still without power in the Patea, Waverly and Waitotara areas, as well as some farms in the Whanganui hill country. Lines company Powerco said the damage has been so great during the storm of 3-4 March that it had had to completely rebuild line networks in some places. Meanwhile, foresters had begun the task of clearing hundreds of hectares of trees flattened or damaged in the 3-4 March storm over the southern North Island.

On 19 March, a total of 24 return flights had to be cancelled due to Auckland Airport's gusty cross winds and wet runway, caused by a deep low east of the Bay of Islands. And the Volvo Ocean Race yacht 'Abu Dhabi' spent the night sheltering in the Hauraki Gulf, waiting for 60-knot winds to ease before resuming the round-the-world race, after being forced to turn back with a damaged bulk head the previous evening. Firefighters in Gisborne had a busy night overnight on the 19th, with gusts lifting roofs at some properties.

On 20 March, the strong southeasterly winds associated with the same slow moving low brought trees down between Taupo and National Park, blocking roads including State Highways 4, 46, 47 and 49. The Fire Service also dealt with wind damage problems in Ohakune and Turangi. Around 2500 properties lost power, mainly in Taranaki, as trees and branches came down onto lines due to the high winds. Air New Zealand flights were cancelled or delayed in many parts of the North Island due to strong winds, with about 10 flights in and out of Wellington Airport cancelled. Winds in the Capital caused the mooring of a yacht to snap at Evans Bay and forced it on to nearby rocks. Wellington's East by West ferry cancelled all sailings and high winds forced the rescheduling of Interislander sailings.

On the morning of 21 March, strong winds cut power in parts of Feilding for a short time. Around 1000 homes remained without power in the Taranaki region, even after crews worked overnight to repair the network. Around 500 Taupo residences also remained without power.

On 3 and 4 April, a strong southeasterly regime affected the entire North Island.

On 13 April, wind warnings were issued for SH1 between Allantown and Gore.

On 27 April, strong winds brought down trees, damaging power lines and cutting power to some suburbs of New Plymouth.

On 29 April, a mini-tornado struck Hokitika, knocking out power and causing property damage. A tree was blown onto a transformer, setting the line and nearby trees on fire. Greymouth also lost power during the evening. Storm damage was also reported in Ross. In Canterbury, the wind and rain caused power outages in the Hororata area.

On 30 April, gales in Wellington and Horowhenua downed trees and lifted roofing iron.

On 14 May, a twister moved through Papamoa Beach, lifting roof tiles and causing other property damage, including a piece of "2x4" timber being blown through a window. In Taranaki, water spouts were reported off the coast at Oakura.

On 27 May, strong winds in Kaikoura caused damage to property and trees, and even tossed two shipping containers on to a fishing boat.



### Near-record high extreme wind gusts for Autumn were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust speed (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records Began	Ranking
Paeroa	91	Mar-21st	1991	3rd-highest
Taupo	107	Mar-20th	1982	3rd-highest
Turangi	96	Mar-20th	1973	3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	100	Apr-30th	1973	Equal 3rd-highest

- **Lightning and hail**

On 29 April, a thunderstorm, with associated heavy rain, provided a dramatic end to the Arrowtown Autumn Festival.

On 30 April, lightning struck the metal roof of the gymnasium at Southland Girls' High School in Invercargill, setting off the fire alarm, causing the evacuation of the school. Lightning also affected traffic lights in the city.

On 15 May, thunder and hail were reported across the Canterbury Plains. Severe thunderstorms also crossed north Auckland. Several funnel clouds were also reported off the south coast of Wellington.

On 16 May, an Air New Zealand flight from Auckland to Wellington returned to Auckland after flying into a lightning storm. The plane was not damaged.

On 29 May, a hailstorm lashed Wellington, settling on the roads causing hazardous driving conditions.

- **Snow and ice**

On 30 April, snow fell in South Otago and Southland.

On 15 May, the first snow of the season fell on Mt Ruapehu, closing some access roads. Snow also fell in Southland and Otago, with chains required on the Crown Range Road.

On 21 May, ice on both the tracks and overhead power lines delayed commuter trains into Wellington by up to an hour.

- **Cloud and fog**

On 11 March, low cloud and fog prevented two incoming flights from landing at Nelson Airport, and one flight from taking off.

On 21 March, evening fog and low cloud in the Capital forced the cancellation of about 30 flights from Wellington Airport, upsetting the travel plans of about 2500 people.

On 7 and 8 May, fog disrupted flights at Timaru Airport.

On 10 May, fog caused the cancellation or delay of about 30 domestic flights into and out of Auckland Airport.

On 19 May, dense fog blanketed South Canterbury, making life difficult for road-workers resurfacing Temuka Bridge during the night.

On 24 May, fog caused the cancellation or delay of domestic and international flights into and out of both Auckland and Hamilton Airports.

On 26 May, fog again caused the cancellation or delay of about 40 domestic flights into and out of Auckland Airport. Two international flights were diverted to Christchurch.

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