

**National Climate Summary – August 2006**

- **Rainfall: Wet in the south of the North Island, as well as Bay of Plenty, Taupo, Wanganui, and around Christchurch - landslips in several areas; dry over much of the South Island**
- **Temperature: Near average in many regions; warmer in Hawke's Bay, cooler in Otago**
- **Sunshine: Extremely sunny in Otago and Southland**

August rainfall was well above normal in southern parts of the North Island, including Wanganui, Kapiti, Wellington, Wairarapa, and also in Christchurch, with frequent landslips during the month. In contrast rainfall was well below normal on the Kaikoura coast, and below normal in many other South Island regions. The month was sunnier than normal over much of New Zealand, especially in Otago and Southland. Temperatures were near average in most regions, but above average in parts of Hawke's Bay and below average in parts of Otago. The national average temperature of 8.8°C was 0.2 °C above the 1971-2000 normal. More anticyclones ('highs') over south eastern Australia extended ridges of high pressure into the Tasman. These, as well as frequent depressions southeast of the Chatham Islands produced more southwesterlies than normal over New Zealand.

**Other Highlights:**

- The highest temperature during August 2006 was 21.8 °C recorded at Timaru Airport on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest August temperature there since records commenced in 1962. The lowest air temperature for the month was -9.0 °C recorded at Alexandra on the 10<sup>th</sup>. This was one of the lowest temperatures there for August since records commenced in 1929.
- A wind gust of 167 km/h from the northwest was recorded at Southwest Cape (Stewart Island) on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with 143 km/h from the northwest at Castlepoint on the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- High rainfall affected Northland, Bay of Plenty, and Coromandel over the 5/6<sup>th</sup>, Westland and Fiordland over the 18/19<sup>th</sup>, and Marlborough Sounds and Wellington on the 25/26<sup>th</sup>. Surface flooding occurred on 8 August in Christchurch after 3 days of rainfall. A major landslip occurred in Kelson, Wellington on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with another in Oriental Parade, Wellington on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Flooding occurred in Makara, Wellington on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with further landslips in some areas.
- Snowfall occurred in Otago, and inland areas of Southland and Canterbury on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with all major high-country passes closed. Snowfall closed the North Island's Desert Road on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Dunedin was by far the driest, Wellington the wettest, and Christchurch the coldest but sunniest of the main centres. Rainfall was above average in Wellington and Christchurch (especially in the central city), below average in Dunedin, and near average in the other main centres. Temperatures were near average in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, and Christchurch, and below average in Dunedin. Sunshine totals were above average in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and near average in Auckland and Hamilton.

**Rainfall:** Rainfall was almost 200 percent (twice) of normal in parts of Wanganui, Kapiti, Wellington, Wairarapa, and in Christchurch, and also above normal in coastal Bay of Plenty, Taupo, Manawatu, and Wairarapa. In contrast, August rainfall totals were 50 percent (half) or less of normal on the Kaikoura coast, and also below normal in Hawke's Bay, Buller, much of Westland and Nelson, South Canterbury, and North and Central Otago.

**Sunshine:** Sunshine hours and/or solar radiation were at least 120 percent of normal in Otago, Southland, Gisborne, and Wellington and at least 110 percent of normal in Northland, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu, Kapiti, Nelson, Westland, and Canterbury. Sunshine hours were near normal in most other regions.

**Temperature:** Mean temperatures were near average throughout much of New Zealand. However, they were

about 0.5 °C above average in parts of Hawke’s Bay. In contrast, temperatures were more than 0.5 °C below average in parts of Otago.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Dr Jim Salinger – Principal Scientist – Climate, NIWA National Climate Centre, Auckland,  
Tel. (09) 375 2053 (work) or (027) 521 9468 (mobile) or (09) 576 9468 (Home)**

**Stuart Burgess – Climatologist – NIWA National Climate Centre, Wellington, Tel. (04) 386 0569**

**WET IN THE SOUTH OF THE NORTH ISLAND, AS WELL AS BAY OF PLENTY, TAUPO, WANGANUI, AND AROUND CHRISTCHURCH; DRIER OVER MUCH OF THE SOUTH ISLAND**

Rainfall was almost 200 percent (twice) of normal in parts of Wanganui, Kapiti, Wellington, Wairarapa, and in Christchurch, and at least 125 percent (one and a half) of normal in coastal Bay of Plenty, Taupo, Manawatu, and Wairarapa. In contrast, August rainfall totals were 50 percent (half) or less of normal on the Kaikoura coast, and 75 percent (three quarters) or less of normal in Hawke’s Bay, Buller, much of Westland and Nelson, South Canterbury, and North and Central Otago.

**High August rainfall was recorded at:**

Location	August Rainfall (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year Records began	Comments
Wanganui, Spriggens Park	135	194	1890	Well above normal
Paraparaumu Airport	158	175	1945	Equal 4 <sup>th</sup> highest
Wellington, Kelburn	206	168	1862	Well above normal
Christchurch Gardens	130	189	1864	Well above normal

**EXTREMELY SUNNY IN INLAND AND SOUTHERN SOUTH ISLAND REGIONS**

Sunshine hours and/or solar radiation were at least 120 percent of normal in Otago, Southland, Gisborne, and Wellington and at least 110 percent of normal in Northland, Hawke’s Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu, Kapiti, Nelson, Westland, and Canterbury. Sunshine hours were near normal in most other regions.

**Well above average August sunshine hours were recorded at:**

Location	August Sunshine (hours)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
Gisborne Airport	191	124	1906	Well above average
Wellington, Kelburn	165	121	1928	Well above average
Lake Tekapo	185	123	1928	Well above average
Dunedin, Musselburgh	169	148	1948	2 <sup>nd</sup> highest
Invercargill Airport	161	135	1932	3 <sup>rd</sup> highest

**TEMPERATURE: NEAR AVERAGE IN MANY REGIONS; WARMER IN HAWKE’S BAY - COOLER IN OTAGO**

Mean temperatures were near average throughout much of New Zealand. The national average temperature was 8.8°C, 0.1°C above average. However, mean temperatures were about 0.5 °C above average in parts of Hawke’s Bay. In contrast, temperatures were more than 0.5 °C below average in parts of Otago.

**AUGUST’S CLIMATE IN THE FIVE MAIN CENTRES**

Dunedin was by far the driest, Wellington the wettest, and Christchurch the coldest but sunniest of the main centres. Rainfall was above average in Wellington and Christchurch (especially in the central city), below average in Dunedin, and near average in the other main centres. Temperatures were near average in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, and Christchurch, and below average in Dunedin. Sunshine totals were above average in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and near average in Auckland and Hamilton.

Location	August Mean Temp. (°C)	Dep. from normal (°C)		August rainfall (mm)	% of Normal		August Sunshine (hours)	% of Normal	
Auckland	11.5	0.0	Average	112 <sup>a</sup>	92	Near average	145	102	Near average
Hamilton	9.6	-0.2	Near average	114	100	Average	141	102	Near average
Wellington	9.1	-0.1	Near average	206	168	Well above average	165	121	Well above average
Christchurch	7.0	0.0	Average	98 <sup>b</sup>	150	Above average	168 <sup>b</sup>	113	Above average
Dunedin	7.2	-0.4	Below average	38	57	Below average	169	148	Well above average

<sup>a</sup> Owairaka    <sup>b</sup> Christchurch Airport

## HIGHLIGHTS AND EXTREME EVENTS

- **Temperature**

- The highest temperature during August 2006 was 21.8 °C recorded at Timaru Airport on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest August temperature there since records commenced in 1962. The lowest air temperature for the month was -9.0 °C recorded at Alexandra on the 10<sup>th</sup>. This was one of the lowest temperatures there for August since records commenced in 1929.

- **High winds**

A wind gust of 167 km/h from the northwest was recorded at Southwest Cape (Stewart Island) on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with 143 km/h from the northwest at Castlepoint on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

- **High rainfall**

There were several high rainfall events, with at least 50 mm in 24 hours, during August. These were:

Date	Region/s affected	Population centre with high rainfall	Rainfall (mm)
5-6 August	Northland, Bay of Plenty, Coromandel	Whitianga Airport	138 (2-days)
18-19 August	Westland and Fiordland	Milford Sound	210 (2-days)
25-26 August	Marlborough Sounds and Wellington	Kelburn	100 (2-days)

Surface flooding occurred in Wellsford, Northland on 6 August, and 8 August in Christchurch after 3 days of rainfall causing the Heathcote River to burst its banks. A major landslide occurred in Kelson, Wellington on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with another near in Oriental Parade, Wellington on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Flooding occurred in Makara, Wellington on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with further landslips in some areas.

- **Snowfall**

Snowfall occurred in Otago, and inland areas of Southland and Canterbury on the 21<sup>st</sup>, with all major high-country passes closed. Snowfall closed the North Island's Desert Road on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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Tel. (09) 375 2053 (work) or (027) 521 9468 (mobile)**

**Stuart Burgess – Climatologist – NIWA National Climate Centre, Wellington, Tel. (04) 386 0569,  
or Geoff Baird, NIWA Communications Manager Tel. (04) 386-0543 or (027) 229 6314.**

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