

A warm end to winter, wet in central and southwestern parts of both Islands, dry for much of the east.

Temperature	Third-warmest August on record. Above average (+0.51°C to +1.20°C) to well above average (> +1.20°C) temperatures for almost the entire country.
Rainfall	Well above normal rainfall (> 149%) in central and western areas of the North Island, with below normal rainfall (50-79%) for the east. In the South Island, rainfall was well below normal (< 50%) in eastern Otago and Southland, but above normal (120-149%) in Fiordland, central parts of the West Coast and Canterbury, and to the very north.
Sunshine	Sunshine hours were near normal (90-109%) or above normal (110-125%) for much of the country. Below normal sunshine (75-89%) occurred in central and southern parts of the North Island, and the very northern portion of the South Island.
Soil Moisture	As at 1 September 2017, soil moisture levels were near normal for virtually the entire country. Soil moisture was slightly higher than normal in Kaikoura through western Marlborough, as well as north of Dunedin through to Oamaru.

Click on the link to jump to the information you require:

[Overview](#)

[Temperature](#)

[Rainfall](#)

[Sunshine](#)

[August 2017 climate in the six main centres](#)

[Highlights and extreme events](#)

Overview

Overall, mean sea level pressure was lower than normal over and to the west of New Zealand during August while higher than normal mean sea level pressure occurred offshore to the east. These pressure patterns resulted in more northerly wind flows across the country, resulting in warmer than average temperatures for the time of year. Several isolated storm events brought large amounts of rain to parts of the country resulting in flooding, most notably around Christchurch and New Plymouth. See the *Highlights and Extreme Events* section for full details.

August sunshine hours were largely near normal to above normal for New Zealand although wetter parts of the central and southern North Island, as well as the northern tip of South Island experienced cloudier than normal conditions.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 23.2°C, observed at Kaikoura on 17 August.
- The lowest temperature was -10.6°C, observed at Tekapo on 4 August.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 128 mm, recorded at Milford Sound on 16 August.
- The highest wind gust was 170 km/hr, observed at Akitio (Taranaki District) on 13 August.
- Of the six main centres in August 2017, Auckland was the warmest and sunniest, Wellington was the wettest and least sunny, Christchurch was the coldest, and Dunedin was the driest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations in 2017 so far (1 January – 31 August) are Whakatane (1646 hours), Blenheim (1608 hours), Richmond (1587 hours), and Napier (1552 hours).

For further information, please contact:

Mr Chris Brandolino

Principal Scientist – Forecasting, NIWA National Climate Centre

Tel. 09 375 6335, Mobile 027 886 0014

Temperature: Above or well above average temperatures for most of the country, near average in only a few South Island locations.

The nationwide average temperature in August 2017 was 10.1°C (1.3°C above the 1981-2010 August average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909). This was the third-warmest August on record, with the warmest and second-warmest occurring in 2013 and 2009 respectively.

The persistence of northerly winds in August meant that above average temperatures (+0.51°C to +1.20°C of the August average) were the norm for most of the country. Temperatures which were well above average (>+1.20°C of the August average) also occurred in many parts of the country although this was less extensive. Near average temperatures (-0.50°C to +0.50°C of the August average) were only observed at a few locations in the South Island including north Tasman and Nelson, and also in very small pockets in southeastern parts of Otago, Canterbury and Southland.

Record high mean air temperatures for August were recorded at Masterton, Haast, Medbury, Kaitia, Paraparaumu, and Mokohinau. Of these, Masterton was the most substantial, where a mean August temperature of 10.5°C was observed which is 2.2°C warmer than normal for the time of year at this site.

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

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Masterton	10.5	2.2	1906	Highest
Haast	10.2	2.0	1949	Highest
Medbury	8.4	2.0	1927	Highest
Kaitaia	13.9	1.8	1948	Highest
Paraparaumu	10.8	1.4	1953	Highest
Mokohinau	14.1	1.1	1994	Highest
Whangaparaoa	13.3	1.4	1982	2nd-highest
Paeroa	12.1	1.5	1947	2nd-highest
Te Puke	11.8	1.7	1973	2nd-highest
Pukekohe	12.2	1.4	1969	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	12.8	1.4	1969	2nd-highest
Hastings	10.9	1.4	1965	2nd-highest
Waipawa	9.8	1.3	1945	2nd-highest
Wairoa	12.0	2.0	1964	2nd-highest
Mahia	11.6	1.3	1990	2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	11.7	1.3	1971	2nd-highest
Arapito	10.8	1.5	1978	2nd-highest
Milford Sound	8.6	1.7	1934	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	10.9	1.6	1985	2nd-highest
Waiau	8.8	2.1	1974	2nd-highest
Cheviot	8.9	1.6	1982	2nd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	9.0	1.3	1947	2nd-highest
Te Anau	7.1	1.6	1963	2nd-highest
Cromwell	8.1	2.5	1949	2nd-highest
Lauder	7.3	2.4	1924	2nd-highest
Cape Reinga	13.5	0.9	1951	3rd-highest
Whangarei	13.1	1.1	1967	3rd-highest
Whakatane	11.3	1.1	1974	3rd-highest
Rotorua	9.9	1.4	1964	3rd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	12.9	1.3	1959	3rd-highest
Te Kuiti	10.8	1.2	1959	3rd-highest
Wellington (Airport)	11.5	1.3	1962	3rd-highest
Hawera	10.3	1.3	1977	3rd-highest
Westport	10.7	1.4	1937	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	9.9	1.3	1978	3rd-highest
Blenheim	10.3	1.4	1941	3rd-highest
Kaikoura	10.3	1.5	1963	3rd-highest
Akaroa	10.2	1.6	1978	3rd-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.

Oamaru	8.1	0.6	1967	3rd-highest
Roxburgh	8.2	1.8	1950	3rd-highest
Dargaville	13.1	1.6	1943	4th-highest
Auckland (Airport)	12.7	1.1	1959	4th-highest
New Plymouth	11.3	1.1	1944	4th-highest
Ngawi	12.3	1.5	1972	4th-highest
Whanganui	11.5	1.3	1937	4th-highest
Hokitika	10.1	1.7	1866	4th-highest
Tara Hills	5.9	1.4	1949	4th-highest
Ranfurly	6.1	1.8	1897	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Whangarei	17.5	1.6	1967	Highest
Mokohinau	15.8	1.2	1994	Highest
Whitianga	16.8	1.5	1962	Highest
Auckland (Mangere)	16.6	1.6	1959	Highest
Gisborne	16.7	1.6	1905	Highest
Waipawa	15.5	2.2	1945	Highest
Wairoa	17.2	2.4	1964	Highest
Cromwell	14.3	2.9	1949	Highest
Whangaparaoa	15.9	1.1	1982	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	15.8	1.4	1959	2nd-highest
Mahia	14.4	1.4	1990	2nd-highest
Arapito	15.3	1.5	1978	2nd-highest
Haast	13.8	1.7	1949	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	13.6	1.4	1985	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	12.4	1.4	1978	2nd-highest
Clyde	13.6	2.0	1978	2nd-highest
Hicks Bay	15.7	1.2	1969	Equal 2nd-highest
Kerikeri	17.4	1.2	1945	3rd-highest
Paeroa	16.2	1.1	1947	3rd-highest
Te Puke	16.4	1.4	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatane	16.0	1.0	1974	3rd-highest
Rotorua	14.1	1.6	1964	3rd-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	16.2	1.6	1906	3rd-highest
Masterton	15.4	1.6	1906	3rd-highest
Hastings	16.7	2.0	1965	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	12.7	1.3	1934	3rd-highest
Blenheim	15.5	1.4	1941	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	16.3	1.2	1945	4th-highest
Auckland (Airport)	16.4	1.5	1959	4th-highest

Dannevirke	14.2	1.7	1951	4th-highest
Ngawi	14.5	1.1	1972	4th-highest
Napier	16.2	1.7	1870	4th-highest
Hawera	13.9	1.2	1977	4th-highest
Whanganui	15.9	1.9	1937	4th-highest
Reefton	13.7	1.5	1960	4th-highest
Hanmer Forest	13.9	1.7	1906	4th-highest
Waiau	14.8	2.1	1974	4th-highest
Cheviot	14.5	1.5	1982	4th-highest
Le Bons Bay	11.8	1.4	1984	4th-highest
Tara Hills	11.6	1.7	1949	4th-highest
Manapouri	11.2	1.1	1963	4th-highest
Lauder	12.9	2.7	1924	4th-highest
Hamilton (Airport)	15.7	1.0	1946	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Paraparaumu	7.4	1.7	1953	Highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	8.6	1.9	1927	Highest
Wellington (Airport)	9.3	1.9	1962	Highest
Medbury	3.0	2.3	1927	Highest
Te Anau	3.7	2.8	1963	Highest
Cape Reinga	11.5	1.3	1951	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	10.6	1.9	1948	2nd-highest
Masterton	5.6	2.8	1906	2nd-highest
Ngawi	10.1	1.9	1972	2nd-highest
Mahia	8.9	1.2	1990	2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	9.0	2.2	1971	2nd-highest
Arapito	6.3	1.5	1978	2nd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	5.7	1.5	1947	2nd-highest
Lauder	1.7	2.1	1924	2nd-highest
Dargaville	9.7	1.4	1943	3rd-highest
Mokohinau	12.4	1.0	1994	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	10.6	1.5	1982	3rd-highest
Te Puke	7.1	1.9	1973	3rd-highest
Whakatane	6.7	1.8	1974	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	8.1	1.5	1944	3rd-highest
Hicks Bay	10.0	1.8	1969	3rd-highest
Westport	7.2	1.7	1937	3rd-highest
Haast	6.7	2.5	1949	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	4.5	2.1	1934	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	8.1	1.6	1985	3rd-highest
Culverden	3.2	2.5	1928	3rd-highest

Cheviot	3.4	1.8	1982	3rd-highest
Waipara West	5.2	1.8	1973	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	0.6	1.8	1897	3rd-highest
Roxburgh	3.7	2.8	1950	3rd-highest
South West Cape	7.1	1.4	1991	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	9.5	1.4	1973	4th-highest
Hawera	6.6	1.2	1977	4th-highest
Waiouru	2.6	1.7	1962	4th-highest
Greymouth	7.0	1.9	1947	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	7.4	1.3	1978	4th-highest
Cape Campbell	8.7	1.3	1953	4th-highest
Kaikoura	7.2	1.3	1963	4th-highest
Nugget Point	5.3	1.1	1970	4th-highest
Wairoa	6.7	1.5	1964	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

Rainfall: Dry in much of the east, wet in central and western North Island.

Rainfall was above normal (120-149% of the August normal) for the western and central North Island, as well as part of the Far North. Well above normal rainfall (>149% of the August normal) was experienced in Taupo to Rotorua, Taranaki, and western Greater Wellington. In the South Island, rainfall was above normal in western Southland and Otago, central Canterbury and West Coast, and north Tasman through to north Marlborough (including Nelson). Well above normal South Island rainfall was experienced more locally at Cape Campbell (Marlborough) and Arthurs Pass (Canterbury).

Eastern parts of both islands experienced drier than normal conditions than the rest of the country. The eastern portions of Otago and Southland recorded well below normal rainfall (<50% of the August normal) while the central parts of these regions experienced below normal rainfall (50-79% of the August normal). This is in stark contrast to the wet patterns that have characterised the area in July as well as several previous months in 2017. Below normal rainfall also occurred in northeastern Canterbury although rainfall levels near Christchurch were above normal or near normal (80–119% of the August normal). Most of the eastern North Island, from eastern Greater Wellington north to the East Cape experienced below normal rainfall and remaining parts of the country, including most of the northern North Island, experienced near normal rainfall.

Record high August rainfall was recorded at Hawera, in the Taranaki region, where 266 mm of rainfall (209% of normal) was recorded, making 2017 its wettest August since records began in 1977. Despite rainfall being well below normal in the southeast of the South Island, no minimum August rainfall records were broken. Nugget Point in the Otago region however recorded only 27% of normal August rainfall making 2017 its second-driest August on record, with records extending back to 1930.

As of 1 September 2017, soil moisture levels were near normal for virtually the entire country. Soil moisture was slightly higher than normal in Kaikoura through to western Marlborough, as well as north of Dunedin through to Oamaru.

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Hawera	206	209	1977	Highest
South West Cape	167	156	1991	Highest
Low records or near-records				
Nugget Point	14	27	1930	2nd-lowest

Sunshine: Near normal sunshine hours

Sunshine hours were near normal (90-109% of the August normal) for much of the country. Sunshine was above normal (110-125% of the August normal) near Dunedin, Hurunui, Te Kuiti, and central West Coast while record high August sunshine hours were recorded at Invercargill (152% of normal August sunshine hours). Below normal sunshine hours (75-89% of the August normal) were limited to the central and southern North Island, the Far North, and the very northern portion of the South Island.

Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations in 2017 so far (1 January – 31 August) are Whakatane (1646 hours), Blenheim (1608 hours), Richmond (1587 hours), and Napier (1552 hours).

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

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Invercargill	187	152	1913	Highest
Cheviot	178	136	1983	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Rotorua	124	81	1976	3rd-lowest

August climate in the six main centres

August was a warm month for all main centres, with well above average temperatures observed for Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin, and above average temperatures occurring at the remaining three centres. Rainfall was above normal in Christchurch and Tauranga, well above normal in Wellington, near normal in Auckland and Hamilton, and well below normal in Dunedin. In terms of sunshine, Tauranga and Wellington had a cloudier than normal August whereas Auckland, Hamilton, and Christchurch experienced near normal sunshine hours. Dunedin experienced above normal sunshine hours in August.

Of the six main centres in August 2017, Auckland was the warmest and most sunny, Wellington was the wettest and least sunny, Christchurch was the coldest, and Dunedin was the driest.

August 2017 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	12.9	+1.3	Well above average (3 rd -highest)
Tauranga ^b	12.0	+1.2	Above average
Hamilton ^c	10.8	+1.2	Above average
Wellington ^d	10.7	+1.3	Well above average
Christchurch ^e	8.1	+0.9	Above average
Dunedin ^f	9.0	+1.3	Well above average (2 nd -highest)
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	116	103%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	159	144%	Above normal
Hamilton ^c	141	118%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	177	153%	Well above normal
Christchurch ^e	80	129%	Above normal
Dunedin ^f	24	43%	Well below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	154	105%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	149	86%	Below normal
Hamilton ^g	153	106%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	114	78%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	153	100%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	143	117%	Above normal

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

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

The highest temperature recorded in August was 23.2°C, observed at Kaikoura on 17 August.

The lowest temperature recorded was -10.6°C, observed at Tekapo on 4 August.

Temperature extremes for the month are summarised in the tables below.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Whitianga	20.1	31st	1962	Highest
Whanganui	21.0	28th	1937	Highest
Motu	19.2	18th	1990	2nd-highest
Gisborne	21.8	29th	1905	2nd-highest
Palmerston North	20.5	28th	1918	2nd-highest
Wellington (Airport)	18.1	12th	1962	2nd-highest
Te Puke	20.0	7th	1973	Equal 2nd-highest

Wairoa	22.0	29th	1964	Equal 2nd-highest
Mokohinau	17.6	12th	1994	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	19.0	31st	1982	3rd-highest
Te Kuiti	19.7	28th	1959	3rd-highest
Kaikoura (Middle Creek)	23.2	17th	1963	3rd-highest
Arapito	18.5	27th	1978	4th-highest
Secretary Island	17.9	31st	1985	4th-highest
Hanmer Forest	21.3	29th	1906	4th-highest
Waipara West	21.2	29th	1973	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Oamaru	5.0	14th	1972	Equal 2nd-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Mokohinau	15.2	9th	1994	2nd-highest
Whangaparaoa	13.7	9th	1982	2nd-highest
Waiouru	9.3	9th	1972	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	12.0	28th	1988	2nd-highest
Motueka	11.0	30th	1972	2nd-highest
Ohakune	10.0	9th	1972	3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	14.2	9th	1951	Equal 3rd-highest
Paeroa	14.1	9th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Te Puke	13.6	28th	1973	Equal 3rd-highest
Waipara West	13.2	27th	1973	Equal 3rd-highest
Auckland (Western Springs)	14.3	9th	1971	4th-highest
Puysegur Point	11.6	8th	1978	4th-highest
Dargaville	14.5	9th	1951	Equal 4th-highest
Hastings	12.6	28th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Cheviot	9.5	13th	1982	Equal 4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Five Rivers	-7.3	4th	1982	Equal lowest
Kaikoura, Middle Creek	-1.3	23rd	1963	2nd-lowest
Appleby	-5.0	4th	1932	Equal 4th-lowest
Clyde	-7.9	5th	1978	Equal 4th-lowest

Rain and slips

On 2 August, at least two central North Island highways were affected by heavy rain, with SH1 between Bulls and Hunterville closed by flooding and SH3 north of Urenui partially blocked by a slip. A large slip had also occurred the across a highway on a blind corner in north Taranaki. Traffic was blocked in both directions and no diversions were in place.

On 4 August, Ngaio Gorge Road (a major route into central Wellington) remained closed after a further 100 tonnes of rock was added to the slip which initiated at the end of July.

On 10 August, heavy rainfall in the Bay of Plenty region caused a major slip at the Waioeka Gorge closing SH2 between Opotiki and Gisborne. Further south, a slip occurred on Birdwood St, an important route in and out of Wellington, reducing traffic down to one lane.

On 13-14 August, torrential rain in the area surrounding Christchurch caused slips, flooding, and road closures in Christchurch, Banks Peninsula, and the Canterbury plains. This included the main route from Christchurch to Akaroa, SH75 as well as SH77, between Darfield and SH72. A motorist in Selwyn had attempted to cross the Glendore stream, off Riversleigh Rd during the 14 August rainfall event and the car was swept 50 metres downstream. The driver had been able to walk away before this happened.

On 15 August, heavy rain in the lower North Island resulted in flooding which affected streets in Levin between Queen St and the SH57 intersection with SH1.

On the night of 27-28 August, heavy rainfall occurred for much of the North Island resulting in rising water levels and flooding. In the Far North, flash flooding resulted in roads being cut off which left motorists stranded. The occupants of three cars were rescued having been trapped on a bridge in Kaitaia, surrounded by rising water. Many low-lying roads across Whangape were also flooded and emergency crews had to wade hundreds of metres to reach three cars about 1km from the Herekino pub on Whangape Rd. Parts of Taranaki and New Plymouth were also flooded following the heavy rainfall event. An intermediate School in Devon was forced to close for the day due to sewage-contaminated floodwaters. Minor slips also occurred onto roads in the area. Meanwhile, Lake Okareka in the Rotorua District reportedly rose to the highest level recorded since the 1960s.

On 30 August, heavy rain in Auckland added to traffic delays on motorways. A large slip occurred on Scenic Dr, Auckland, between the Titirangi Roundabout and Woodlands Park Rd, blocking all traffic.

Also on 30 August, motorists were warned to watch for floodwaters spilling across the highway at Warkworth.

On the night of 31 August - 1 September, heavy rain caused more than 20 slips across Wellington. Thirteen slips were reportedly blocking roads in the north of the city while a further 11 were blocking roads in the south. One slip had covered a car on Palliser Rd overnight. The Ngaio Gorge Rd was again partially blocked by a small slip, and the Pass of Branda between Seatoun and Breaker Bay remained closed by a large slip, causing major traffic disruption. Inner harbour ferries were on a restricted timetable and sailings in or out of Seatoun were cancelled.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Levin	50	14th	1949	2nd-highest
Hawera	41	27th	1977	3rd-highest

Wind

On 12 August, high winds toppled trees on the Haast Pass Highway, between Haast Pass-Makarora Rd and Marks Rd, and on the Whataroa Highway, between Main Rd and Oneone Rd. Two people suffered minor injuries when their car crashed into a third fallen tree on Homebush Rd, near Sheffield. The tree had fallen on power lines and police advised that the road near Deans Ave would be closed overnight.

On the morning of 17 August, gale force winds with gusts of more than 100km/h hammered Wellington leading to the cancellation of flights in and out of the capital, as well as ferries across the Wellington harbour. One flight was diverted back to Auckland after two failed attempts to land. Power was out to more than 850 properties across Upper Hutt and firefighters were busy securing roofs, trampolines and signs in downtown Wellington which had blown loose. Windows in Wellington CBD were reportedly taken out by the winds.

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

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Hokitika	122	6th	1972	Highest

Snow and ice

On 12 August, two campervans and a further 10 to 15 vehicles were stuck in snow on the Crown Range, between Queenstown and Wanaka, in Central Otago. Police officers were sent in 4WDs in response.

Also on 12 August, SH94 around the Homer Tunnel was closed due to snow cover in the morning.

On 13 August, Mt Hutt and Mt Dobson were closed due to blizzard conditions and severe black ice on their access roads.

Between 13-14 August, many ski fields in Canterbury received a blanketing of snow, including Mt Cheeseman, Roundhill, and Craigieburn. Almost a metre of "light, dry powder" had reportedly fallen on Mt Hutt and 40 centimetres on Porters Ski Area in the 24 hours to the evening of 14 August. Porters Pass was closed on 14 August after approximately 35cm of snow settled near the summit.

Lightning and hail

On the evening of 13 August, lightning strikes nearly hit the 10,000 mark as a band of thunderstorms swept across the North Island. In Auckland, more than 100 strikes were recorded between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., including those at sea. At one point, the Auckland region experienced 15 lightning strikes in only five minutes.

Cloud and fog

On the morning of 10 August, heavy fog blanketed Christchurch, delaying or cancelling about 20 domestic flights.

On 18 August, morning flights were diverted and cancelled as thick fog blanketed many suburbs across Auckland. This led to the cancellation of at least 22 domestic flights while a further 17 were delayed.

Additionally, an international flight from Melbourne was diverted to Wellington. Auckland ferry services also experienced delays and cancellations.

For further information, please contact:

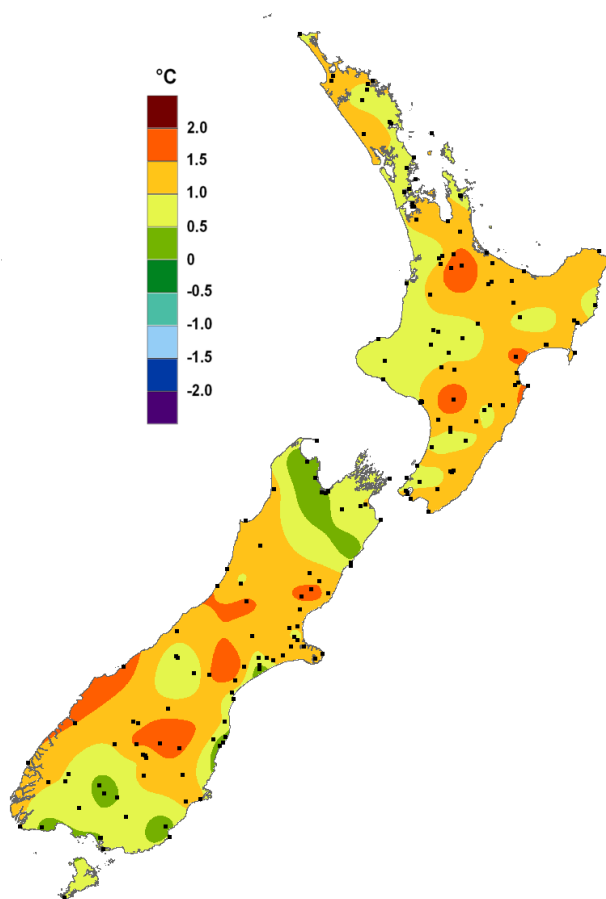
Mr Chris Brandolino

Principal Scientist – Forecasting, NIWA National Climate Centre
Tel. 09 375 6335, Mobile 027 886 0014

For climate data enquiries, please contact:

Mrs Petra Pearce

Climate Scientist, NIWA Auckland
Tel. 09 375 2052



August 2017 mean temperatures, expressed as a departure (°C) from the August average (1981-2010 normal).

August temperatures were above average (+0.5 to +1.20°C) or well above average (>+1.20°C) for most of New Zealand as indicated by the red, orange, and yellow colours on the map. The absence of any blue or purple signifies that below average temperatures (-1.20 to -0.50°C) were not experienced in August. The patches of green indicate the few locations in the South Island where temperatures were near average.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate> © Copyright NIWA 2017.

All rights reserved. Information presented in this summary is based on data available at the time of publication, which is subject to ongoing quality assurance procedures.