

## Equal second-warmest spring on record for New Zealand

<b>Temperature</b>	Spring temperatures were well above average ( $> +1.20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in Central Otago, the Southern Lakes and Fiordland, and above average ( $+0.51^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+1.20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for most remaining areas of the country.
<b>Rainfall</b>	Rainfall was below normal (50-79%) in Auckland, the Kapiti Coast, Wellington, and much of the South Island. Rainfall was well above normal ( $> 149\%$ ) in Tauranga, and above normal (120-149%) in parts of Northland and Waikato.
<b>Soil moisture</b>	As of 1 December, soils were significantly drier than normal for the time of year across a large portion of the South Island, particularly in the west, as well as the lower and western North Island. Soil moisture was slightly below normal or near normal in Central Otago, the Central Plateau, Gisborne, Coromandel Peninsula, and northern Northland.
<b>Sunshine</b>	Spring sunshine was above normal (110-125%) for much of the South Island. The exception was Christchurch, Nelson and Marlborough where sunshine was near normal (90-109%). In the North Island, sunshine was above normal in western areas from Taranaki to the Kapiti Coast. Spring sunshine was typically near normal for remaining areas of the North Island.

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### Overview

Overall, spring 2017 was characterised by mean sea level air pressures that were near normal around New Zealand, with no significant air flow anomalies. During September, sea level pressures were lower than normal over New Zealand, which resulted in unsettled weather and regular bouts of rainfall moving across the country. Higher than normal sea level pressures during October brought settled weather and warm temperatures over New Zealand during the month overall. November started settled and warm for most, but was followed by a brief cold outbreak which delivered unseasonably heavy low elevation snowfall to parts of the South Island. The spring season ended with an extended period of very warm and dry weather for most of the country due to a persistent ridge of high pressure, although the dry conditions were punctuated by afternoon convective rainfall events for isolated inland locations.

### Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 33.3°C, observed at Cromwell on 23 November.
- The lowest temperature was -6.4°C, observed at Mt Cook Airport on 4 September.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 126 mm, recorded at Hanmer Forest on 18 September.
- The highest wind gust was 169 km/h, observed at Akitio on 8 November.
- Of the six main centres in spring 2017, Auckland was the warmest and least sunny, Dunedin was the coolest and driest, Hamilton was the wettest and Wellington was the sunniest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations so far in 2017 (1 January to 30 November) were Richmond (2296 hours), Blenheim (2285 hours), Whakatane (2225 hours) and Lake Tekapo (2215 hours).

### For further information, please contact:

Gregor Macara  
Climate Scientist  
Tel. (04) 386 0509

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## Temperature: A warm spring for most of the country

The nation-wide average temperature in spring 2017 was 13.0°C (0.9°C above the 1981-2010 spring average from NIWA's seven station temperature series which begins in 1909). This makes spring 2017 the equal second-warmest spring on record for New Zealand. Spring temperatures were well above average (> +1.20°C of the spring average) in Central Otago, the Southern Lakes and Fiordland, and above average (+0.51°C to +1.20°C of the spring average) for most remaining areas of the country. The exception was parts of Northland, Gisborne, the Central Plateau, coastal south Canterbury and north Otago where temperatures were near average (-0.50°C to +0.50°C of the spring average). Only one station (Appleby) observed a mean temperature below its spring average.

Mean maximum air temperatures were particularly notable in Central Otago and the Southern Lakes, with daily maximum temperatures averaging at least 2.0°C above average. Cromwell observed 23 days with the maximum temperature above 25.0°C, a remarkable 19 days more than normal for spring (the 1981-2010 average in Cromwell is four days).

### Record<sup>1</sup> or near-record mean air temperatures for spring were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Wellington (Kelburn)	13.1	1.0	1927	Highest
Reefton	12.8	1.4	1960	Highest

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<sup>1</sup> The rankings (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>.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.

Ranfurlly	10.8	1.6	1897	Highest
Dunedin (Airport)	11.7	1.3	1962	Highest
Te Anau	10.9	1.4	1963	Highest
Cromwell	13.9	2.6	1949	Highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	14.8	1.0	1945	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	14.1	1.0	1959	2nd-highest
Levin	13.6	1.1	1895	2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	14.4	1.2	1971	2nd-highest
Milford Sound	11.6	1.2	1934	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	11.2	1.0	1978	2nd-highest
Cheviot	12.4	1.1	1982	2nd-highest
Tara Hills	11.2	1.4	1949	2nd-highest
Wanaka	12.4	1.8	1955	2nd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	12.0	1.0	1947	2nd-highest
Queenstown	12.0	1.7	1871	2nd-highest
Lauder	12.2	2.2	1924	2nd-highest
Leigh	15.8	0.9	1966	3rd-highest
Whitianga	15.1	1.1	1962	3rd-highest
Whatawhata	14.4	1.2	1952	3rd-highest
Masterton	13.7	1.6	1906	3rd-highest
Arapito	13.2	1.1	1978	3rd-highest
Waiau	12.8	1.6	1974	3rd-highest
Mt Cook (Airport)	9.9	1.1	1929	3rd-highest
Lumsden	10.8	1.1	1982	3rd-highest
Alexandra	12.8	1.0	1929	3rd-highest
Tiwai Point	11.3	1.0	1970	3rd-highest
Dargaville	15.1	0.8	1943	4th-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	15.6	1.1	1959	4th-highest
Hamilton	14.0	1.0	1946	4th-highest
Ngawi	14.5	0.6	1972	4th-highest
Paraparaumu	13.4	0.9	1953	4th-highest
Hawera	12.7	0.8	1977	4th-highest
Westport	12.9	1.0	1937	4th-highest
Secretary Island	12.0	1.0	1985	4th-highest
Motueka	13.2	0.9	1956	4th-highest
Richmond	13.7	1.2	1862	4th-highest
Medbury	12.0	0.8	1927	4th-highest
Orari Estate	11.9	1.0	1972	4th-highest
Clyde	12.4	1.1	1978	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
<b>High records or near-records</b>				
Cromwell	21.4	3.8	1949	Highest
Queenstown	17.9	2.0	1871	Highest
Manapouri	16.3	1.5	1963	Highest
Farewell Spit	17.6	0.8	1971	Highest
Cheviot	17.9	0.9	1982	2nd-highest
Mt Cook (Airport)	15.8	1.8	1929	2nd-highest
Wanaka	18.4	2.0	1955	2nd-highest
Ranfurlly	17.2	1.7	1897	2nd-highest
Lumsden	16.7	1.6	1982	2nd-highest
Lauder	19.0	2.9	1924	2nd-highest
Clyde	19.9	2.2	1978	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	19.1	1.0	1959	3rd-highest
Ngawi	17.8	0.8	1972	3rd-highest
Paraparaumu	17.3	1.3	1953	3rd-highest
Westport	16.6	1.2	1937	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	13.9	1.1	1978	3rd-highest
Hanmer Forest	18.6	1.7	1906	3rd-highest
Waiau	18.9	1.3	1974	3rd-highest
Tara Hills	18.0	1.8	1949	3rd-highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	15.1	2.1	1971	3rd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	19.0	1.2	1959	4th-highest
Whatawhata	18.5	1.1	1952	4th-highest
Levin	17.6	1.3	1895	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	16.1	1.1	1927	4th-highest
Arapito	17.3	0.9	1978	4th-highest
Reefton	18.1	1.4	1960	4th-highest
Milford Sound	16.2	1.2	1934	4th-highest
Dunedin (Airport)	17.2	1.0	1962	4th-highest
<b>Low records or near-records</b>				
None observed				

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

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
<b>High records or near-records</b>				
Auckland (Whenuapai)	11.1	1.4	1945	Highest
Whitianga	11.1	1.6	1962	Highest
Farewell Spit	11.1	1.5	1971	Highest

Culverden	6.9	1.9	1928	Highest
Le Bons Bay	8.1	1.0	1984	Highest
Orari Estate	6.7	1.7	1972	Highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	8.4	1.2	1947	Highest
Whatawhata	10.3	1.3	1952	2nd-highest
Medbury	6.5	1.3	1927	2nd-highest
Cheviot	6.9	1.4	1982	2nd-highest
Akaroa	8.9	1.9	1978	2nd-highest
Oamaru	7.0	0.5	1967	2nd-highest
Cromwell	6.5	1.5	1949	2nd-highest
Gore	6.4	1.0	1907	2nd-highest
Tiwai Point	7.8	0.9	1970	2nd-highest
Kaitaia	12.0	1.1	1948	3rd-highest
Te Puke	10.0	1.6	1973	3rd-highest
Hamilton	9.4	1.5	1946	3rd-highest
Te Kuiti	9.1	1.1	1959	3rd-highest
Masterton	8.4	2.3	1906	3rd-highest
Dannevirke	9.0	1.4	1951	3rd-highest
Secretary Island	8.9	0.9	1985	3rd-highest
Puysegur Point	8.6	0.9	1978	3rd-highest
Waiau	6.8	1.8	1974	3rd-highest
Ranfurly	4.4	1.6	1897	3rd-highest
Lauder	5.4	1.4	1924	3rd-highest
Alexandra	6.1	1.4	1929	3rd-highest
Dargaville	11.8	0.8	1943	4th-highest
Whakatane	9.7	1.3	1974	4th-highest
Rotorua	8.7	1.0	1964	4th-highest
Taupo	7.7	1.5	1949	4th-highest
Lower Retaruke	7.9	1.1	1966	4th-highest
Hastings	9.4	1.2	1965	4th-highest
Wellington (Kelburn)	10.0	0.9	1927	4th-highest
Whanganui	10.7	1.1	1937	4th-highest
Westport	9.3	0.9	1937	4th-highest
Reefton	7.5	1.5	1960	4th-highest
Nelson	9.3	1.1	1862	4th-highest
Kaikoura	9.2	0.9	1963	4th-highest
Rangiora	6.8	1.2	1965	4th-highest
Lincoln	7.6	1.3	1881	4th-highest
Tara Hills	4.3	0.9	1949	4th-highest
Wanaka	6.4	1.6	1955	4th-highest
Te Anau	5.9	1.8	1963	4th-highest
Nugget Point	7.2	0.8	1970	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
None observed				

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## Rainfall: Drier than normal for many

Rainfall was below normal (50-79% of the spring normal) in Auckland, the Kapiti Coast, Wellington, Nelson, Marlborough, inland Canterbury, Otago and Southland. In contrast, rainfall was well above normal (> 149% of the spring normal) in Tauranga, and above normal (120-149% of the spring normal) in parts of Northland and Waikato. Rainfall was typically near normal (80-119% of the spring normal) for remaining areas of the country. Soil moisture levels fluctuated throughout the season in response to rainfall events and extended dry periods. However, by 1 December 2017, an extended run of mostly fine weather meant soils were much drier than normal in many parts of New Zealand. The notable exceptions were limited inland parts of both the North and South Island, where afternoon and evening thunderstorms in late-November delivered bouts of isolated heavy rain.

Wellington (Kelburn) recorded approximately half of normal spring rainfall, which was quite a contrast to 2016 when the city observed its wettest spring on record. Clyde recorded 51 mm total rainfall for spring, which was less than half (48%) of its normal spring rainfall. Interestingly, 31% of that total (16 mm) was recorded in just one hour when a thunderstorm passed overhead during the evening of 27 November.

### Record or near-record spring 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				
Paraparaumu	151	56	1945	2nd-lowest
Auckland (Western Springs)	218	76	1948	3rd-lowest
Martinborough	96	51	1924	3rd-lowest
Dunedin (Airport)	94	62	1962	3rd-lowest
Clyde	51	48	1978	3rd-lowest
Tiwai Point	147	55	1970	3rd-lowest
Masterton	128	53	1926	4th-lowest
Levin	169	55	1895	4th-lowest
Wellington (Kelburn)	161	51	1928	4th-lowest
Wellington (Airport)	131	53	1958	4th-lowest
Franz Josef	816	67	1926	4th-lowest

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## Sunshine: Sunniest spring on record for parts of Southland and Taranaki

Consistent with La Niña conditions, spring sunshine was above normal (110-125% of the spring normal) in southern, western and inland parts of the South Island, and western parts of the North Island from Taranaki to the Kapiti Coast. Remaining areas of New Zealand typically observed near normal spring sunshine totals (within 10% of the spring normal). New Plymouth, Gore and Invercargill observed their highest spring sunshine hour totals on record.

Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four locations so far in 2017 (1 January to 30 November) were Richmond (2296 hours), Blenheim (2285 hours), Whakatane (2225 hours) and Lake Tekapo (2215 hours).

### Record or near-record spring sunshine hours were recorded at:

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
New Plymouth	698	125	1972	Highest
Gore	620	133	1941	Highest
Invercargill	582	118	1913	Highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	580	123	1980	2nd-highest
Queenstown	719	127	1930	2nd-highest
Cromwell	735	117	1979	2nd-highest
Upper Hutt (Trentham)	615	126	1939	3rd-highest
Hokitika	605	123	1912	3rd-highest
Stratford	566	113	1963	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Rotorua	476	86	1976	4th-lowest

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## Spring climate in the six main centres

Spring 2017 was a warm season for all New Zealand's main centres, with record or near-record warmth observed in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Dunedin. Most notably, it was Wellington's warmest spring on record. Dunedin observed a pleasant combination of warmer, drier and sunnier spring conditions compared to normal. Of the six main centres in spring 2017, Auckland was the warmest and least sunny, Dunedin was the coolest and driest, Hamilton was the wettest and Wellington was the sunniest.

### Spring 2017 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland <sup>a</sup>	15.6	+ 1.1	Above average. 4th-highest on record
Tauranga <sup>b</sup>	14.8	+ 0.7	Above average
Hamilton <sup>c</sup>	14.0	+ 1.0	Above average. 4th-highest on record
Wellington <sup>d</sup>	13.1	+ 1.0	Above average. Highest on record
Christchurch <sup>e</sup>	12.3	+ 0.8	Above average
Dunedin <sup>f</sup>	12.0	+ 1.0	Above average. 2nd-highest on record
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland <sup>a</sup>	186	72%	Below normal
Tauranga <sup>b</sup>	396	160%	Well above normal
Hamilton <sup>c</sup>	404 <sup>2</sup>	140%	Above normal
Wellington <sup>d</sup>	161	51%	Below normal. 4th-lowest on record
Christchurch <sup>e</sup>	137	101%	Near normal
Dunedin <sup>f</sup>	119	72%	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland <sup>a</sup>	475 <sup>3</sup>	91%	Near normal
Tauranga <sup>b</sup>	574	94%	Near normal
Hamilton <sup>e</sup>	502	98%	Near normal
Wellington <sup>d</sup>	607	107%	Near normal
Christchurch <sup>e</sup>	568	95%	Near normal
Dunedin <sup>f</sup>	580	123%	Above normal. 2nd-highest on record

<sup>a</sup> Mangere <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

<sup>2</sup> Missing two days of data

<sup>3</sup> Missing one day of data



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## Highlights and extreme events

This section contains information pertaining to some of the more significant highlights and extreme events that occurred in spring 2017. Note that a more detailed list of significant weather events for spring 2017 can be found in the *Highlights and extreme events* section of NIWA's monthly Climate Summaries. These monthly summaries are available online, and may be viewed at the following website: <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/summaries/monthly>

### Temperatures

On 19 and 20 October, a warm northwest Foehn wind caused very warm temperatures in the Otago region, with a few locations exceeding 30.0°C. Cromwell recorded 28.6°C on 19 October and 30.0°C on 20 October. The temperature on the 19<sup>th</sup> set a new October record and then this new record was beaten the next day. The 30.0°C reading on 20 October was also the first time a temperature of 30.0°C or greater was observed in Cromwell in October.

On 23 November, Cromwell reached 33.3°C, its hottest spring temperature on record since records began in 1949. Several other locations observed record or near-record high spring temperatures on this day (see table below).

From 19-30 November, Cromwell recorded 12 consecutive days with a maximum temperature above 25.0°C, the longest such streak during November on record. It beat the previous November record of 8 days during 1974.

In spring 2017, the highest temperature recorded was 33.3°C, observed at Cromwell on 23 November. Mt Cook Airport observed the lowest temperature in spring 2017, with -6.4°C recorded on 4 September.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cromwell	33.3	Nov-23rd	1949	Highest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	27.5	Nov-23rd	1971	Highest
Tara Hills	29.9	Nov-23rd	1949	Equal highest
Te Kuiti	27.3	Nov-24th	1959	2nd-highest
Puysegur Point	22.1	Oct-30th	1978	2nd-highest
Mt Cook Village	28.5	Nov-23rd	1929	2nd-highest
Wanaka	30.6	Nov-23rd	1955	2nd-highest
Lauder	30.7	Nov-23rd	1924	2nd-highest
South West Cape	22.2	Oct-31st	1991	2nd-highest
Okarito	22.7	Oct-8th	1982	Equal 2nd-highest
Taupo	27.9	Nov-23rd	1949	3rd-highest
Reefton	28.6	Nov-23rd	1960	3rd-highest
Haast	23.3	Oct-8th	1949	3rd-highest

Arthurs Pass	25.8	Nov-23rd	1973	3rd-highest
Manapouri	26.4	Nov-27th	1963	3rd-highest
Five Rivers	25.8	Oct-19th	1982	3rd-highest
Whangaparaoa	24.0	Nov-30th	1982	Equal 3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	24.9	Nov-28th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Whatawhata	26.4	Nov-27th	1952	4th-highest
Taumarunui	28.6	Nov-23rd	1947	4th-highest
Milford Sound	24.1	Oct-8th	1934	4th-highest
Wanaka	29.4	Nov-22nd	1955	4th-highest
Lumsden	25.6	Nov-30th	1982	4th-highest
<b>Low records or near-records</b>				
Oamaru	6.1	Sep-1st	1972	Lowest
Taumarunui	7.4	Sep-10th	1947	Equal lowest
Manapouri (West Arm Jetty)	2.6	Sep-9th	1972	2nd-lowest
Queenstown	3.9	Sep-9th	1871	Equal 2nd-lowest
Cape Reinga	11.8	Sep-10th	1971	4th-lowest
Haast	7.2	Sep-7th	1949	4th-lowest
Akaroa	7.1	Sep-1st	1978	4th-lowest
Five Rivers	5.4	Sep-10th	1982	4th-lowest
Lower Retaruke	7.8	Sep-10th	1972	Equal 4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
<b>High records or near-records</b>				
Farewell Spit	16.8	Nov-30th	1972	Highest
South West Cape	12.9	Nov-1st	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Reefton	14.5	Nov-26th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Secretary Island	14.3	Oct-31st	1988	Equal 3rd-highest
Westport	15.5	Nov-26th	1966	4th-highest
Wanaka	15.1	Nov-25th	1972	4th-highest
Mokohinau	16.8	Nov-4th	1994	Equal 4th-highest
Tauranga	17.8	Nov-25th	1941	Equal 4th-highest
Akaroa	17.6	Nov-4th	1978	Equal 4th-highest
Te Anau	13.6	Nov-27th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
<b>Low records or near-records</b>				
Mokohinau	7.8	Sep-12th	1994	2nd-lowest
Puysegur Point	2.0	Sep-3rd	1978	3rd-lowest

### **Rain and slips**

On the morning of 20 November, a 39-day dry spell ended in Hastings (Hawke's Bay) when 1.2 mm of rain was recorded between midnight and 3:00 a.m. Surface air pressures had been higher than normal in the eastern North Island during the preceding 39 days, and this was a key contributor to the dry spell.

On 26 November, isolated thunderstorms caused downpours across the interior South Island. Roxburgh in Central Otago was particularly hard hit, where residents in seven households were evacuated from their homes due to flash flooding. The town was cut off entirely from the south for a time with slips and surface flooding on SH8 and Teviot Rd. Roxburgh School was also closed on 27 and 28 November. The pipe to the town's reservoir was ruptured during the flood on 26 November, thus the town's water supply was also cut off and water tankers and portaloos were brought into the town for residents.

The highest 1-day rainfall for spring 2017 was 126 mm, recorded at Hanmer Forest on 18 September.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Tapawera	83	Oct-8th	1992	Highest
Hanmer Forest	126	Sep-18th	1905	Highest
Riverside	81	Sep-18th	1916	Highest
Powder Creek	88	Sep-18th	1993	Highest
Morrinsville	53	Oct-27th	1978	2nd-highest
Motupiko	73	Oct-8th	1947	2nd-highest
Whalesback Station	111	Sep-19th	1937	2nd-highest
Green Island, Kaikorai	37	Sep-18th	1993	2nd-highest
Campbell Island	42	Sep-15th	1991	2nd-highest
Lichfield	41	Sep-26th	1996	4th-highest
Kaikoura Plains	71	Sep-21st	1980	4th-highest

**Wind**

On 8 November, strong winds across the top of the South Island left a catamaran beached in Nelson. The boat blocked access to a property at Martin St in the suburb of Monaco. Widespread power outages were also reported across the area and a couple of houses in Nelson had their doors blown off. Richmond observed a wind gust of 95 km/h on this day, which is the equal fourth-highest spring extreme wind gust on record for that location.

The highest wind gust for spring 2017 was 169 km/h, observed at Akitio on 8 November.

**Record or near record spring extreme wind gusts were recorded at:**

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/h)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Kaikohe	104	Oct-1st	1986	Highest
Waiouru	126	Sep-26th	1970	Highest
Hawera	96	Nov-7th	1986	Equal highest
Mokohinau	117	Sep-9th	1994	4th-highest
Hokitika	107	Nov-7th	1972	4th-highest
Oamaru	96	Sep-25th	1984	4th-highest

Richmond	95	Nov-8th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
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### Snow and ice

On 8 November, snow blanketed the South Island down to approximately 300 metres above sea level. The Mountain Safety Council advised those headed to Mt Cook that there was a high avalanche danger. Tekapo had a snowy start to the day (10 cm reported), as did Kingston (15 cm reported). State Highway 94 was closed south of Milford Sound because of snow and the NZ Transport Agency was urging drivers to be cautious because of snow on the Lindis Pass route and on State Highway 6 in Otago.

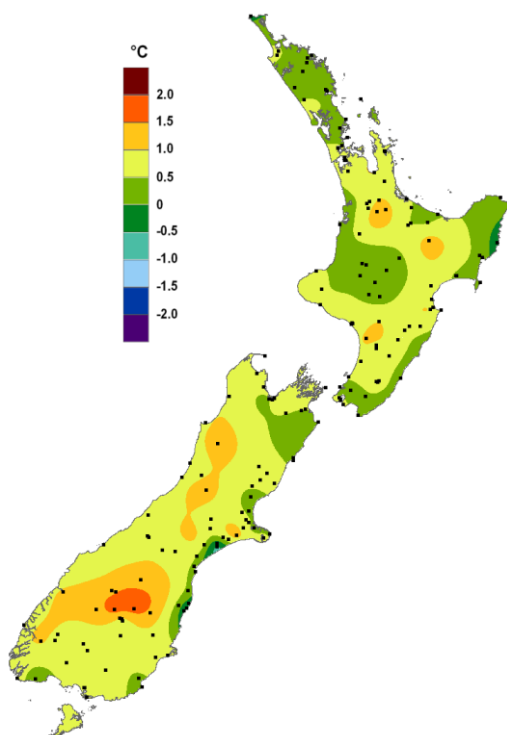
### Lightning and hail

On 11 October, Christchurch residents were woken by a thunderstorm that caused 21 lightning strikes in less than an hour. Power was briefly cut to over 3100 homes in Clifton, Redcliffs, and Sumner. New Plymouth was also hit by lightning, with a strike in the suburb of Fitzroy leaving 4000 properties without power for a time.

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### For further information, please contact:

**Gregor Macara**  
Climate Scientist  
Tel. (04) 386 0509



*Spring 2017 temperature expressed as a departure from the 1981-2010 average, illustrating that it was a particularly warm season in many parts of New Zealand (indicated by the yellow and orange shades).*

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