

Very wet in parts of many regions, but dry in south Canterbury and Central Otago. A warm month for the North Island.

Rainfall	Patchy rainfall anomalies observed throughout the country, with well above normal rainfall for September (more than 150 percent of normal) observed in parts of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Manawatu, Wellington, Marlborough, inland Canterbury, and Fiordland. In contrast, below normal rainfall (50-80 percent of September normal) was observed in south Canterbury and Central Otago. Near or above normal rainfall elsewhere.
Temperature	Well above average temperatures (more than 1.2°C above September average) in Hawke's Bay and inland Gisborne. Above average temperatures (0.5-1.2°C above September average) for most of the North Island, except for the Far North, Wellington, and western Waikato – near average temperatures there (within 0.5°C of September average). Most of the South Island recorded near average September temperatures, except for Nelson and Blenheim (above average) and Dunedin and parts of Central Otago (below average; 0.5-1.2°C below September average).
Sunshine	A very sunny month for Westland (well above normal sunshine totals, more than 125% of September normal). In contrast, below normal sunshine (75-90 percent of September normal) for Northland, Auckland, parts of Wellington, Wairarapa, south Canterbury, north Otago, and Dunedin. Near normal sunshine hours elsewhere.
Soil moisture	As at 1 October 2013, most soils around the country were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In Hawke's Bay, and around Gisborne, Kaikoura, and Blenheim, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

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Overview

September 2013 was characterised by much lower pressures than normal around much of the New Zealand region, except for an area of higher pressures than normal to the east of the North Island, and another area of high pressure well to the south of the country. This pressure pattern caused more west to southwest flows across New Zealand. These unstable flows caused numerous storms and fronts to affect the country in September, including a severe wind storm in Canterbury early in the month.

Patchy rainfall anomalies were observed throughout the country in September, with well above normal rainfall for the time of year (more than 150 percent of September normal) observed in parts of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Manawatu, Wellington, Marlborough, inland Canterbury, and Fiordland. Above normal rainfall (120 to 149 percent of September normal) was experienced at other locations within these regions. In contrast, below normal rainfall (50 to 80 percent of September normal) was observed in south Canterbury and Central Otago. Near normal rainfall (within 20 percent of September normal) was observed elsewhere. As at 1 October, most soils around the country were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In Hawke's Bay, around Gisborne, Kaikoura, and Blenheim, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

Well above average temperatures (more than 1.2°C above September average) were experienced in Hawke's Bay and inland Gisborne in September. It was the warmest September on record for Masterton. Above average temperatures (0.5-1.2°C above September average) were recorded for most of the remainder of the North Island, except for the Far North, Wellington, and western Waikato, which experienced near average temperatures (within 0.5°C of September average). Most of the South Island recorded near average September temperatures, except for Nelson and Blenheim (above average) and Dunedin and parts of Central Otago (below average; 0.5-1.2°C below September average). The nation-wide average temperature in September 2013 was 11.0°C (0.6°C above the 1971-2000 September average from NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909).

September was a very sunny month for Westland (well above normal sunshine totals, more than 125% of September normal). In contrast, below normal sunshine (75-90 percent of September normal) was experienced in Northland, parts of Wellington, Wairarapa, south Canterbury, north Otago, and Dunedin. Near normal sunshine hours (within 10 percent of normal September sunshine hours) were recorded elsewhere.

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 24.2 °C, recorded at Kaikoura on 11 September.
- The lowest temperature was -6.4 °C, observed at Albert Burn (near Wanaka) on 14 September.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 253 mm, recorded at Mt Cook on 10 September.
- The highest wind gust was 165 km/hr, at Cape Turnagain on 11 September.
- In September 2013, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch was the coolest, driest, and sunniest, and Hamilton was the wettest and cloudiest of the six main centres.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2013 (January to September) are: Whakatane (1975 hours), New Plymouth (1890 hours), Lake Tekapo (1772 hours), and Tauranga (1763 hours).

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Rainfall: Patchy rainfall anomalies observed throughout the country. Very wet in parts of many regions, but dry in south Canterbury and central Otago.

Patchy rainfall anomalies were observed throughout the country in September, with well above normal rainfall for the time of year (more than 150 percent of September normal) observed in parts of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Manawatu, Wellington, Marlborough, inland Canterbury, and Fiordland. Above normal rainfall (120 to 149 percent of September normal) was experienced at other locations within these regions. In contrast, below normal rainfall (50 to 80 percent of September normal) was observed in south Canterbury and Central Otago. Near normal rainfall (within 20 percent of September normal) was observed elsewhere.

As at 1 October, most soils around the country were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In Hawke's Bay, around Gisborne, Kaikoura, and Blenheim, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

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

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia (Observatory)	176	138	1985	4th-highest
Kaitaia (EWS)	186	177	1967	4th-highest
Motu	370	186	1990	2nd-highest
Waione	125	171	1991	4th-highest
Takaka	279	142	1976	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Campbell Island	80	68	1992	2nd-lowest

Temperature: A warm September for much of the North Island, especially around Hawke's Bay. Near average temperatures for much of the South Island, and cooler than usual around Dunedin.

Well above average temperatures (more than 1.2°C above September average) were experienced in Hawke's Bay and inland Gisborne in September. It was the warmest September on record for Masterton. Above average temperatures (0.5-1.2°C above September average) were recorded for most of the remainder of the North Island, except for the Far North, Wellington, and western

Waikato, which experienced near average temperatures (within 0.5°C of September average). Most of the South Island recorded near average September temperatures, except for Nelson and Blenheim (above average) and Dunedin and parts of Central Otago (below average; 0.5-1.2°C below September average).

The nation-wide average temperature in September 2013 was 11.0°C¹ (0.6°C above the 1971-2000 September average from NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909).

Record or near-record² mean air temperatures for September were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Dargaville	14.6	1.6	1943	2nd-highest
Whangarei	14.1	0.7	1967	4th-highest
Leigh	14.6	0.9	1966	2nd-highest
Tauranga	13.4	1.0	1913	4th-highest
Te Puke	12.7	0.9	1973	4th-highest
Motu	10.1	1.6	1990	2nd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	13.9	0.9	1959	4th-highest
Masterton	11.9	1.6	1992	Highest
Waione	12.4	0.9	1991	3rd-highest
Gisborne	13.6	1.7	1905	3rd-highest
Hastings	13.0	2.3	1965	4th-highest
Waipawa	11.6	1.3	1945	2nd-highest
Cheviot	9.9	0.4	1982	2nd-highest

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

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Leigh	18.3	1.9	1966	Highest
Motu	14.6	1.7	1990	3rd-highest
Hamilton	18.2	1.8	1906	Highest
Dannevirke	16.0	1.5	1951	2nd-highest
Waipawa	16.8	1.5	1945	2nd-highest
Motueka	17.5	1.8	1956	3rd-highest

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

¹ Interim value

² 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.

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	9.5	1.1	1981	4th-highest
Dargaville	11.5	1.9	1943	Highest
Whangarei	10.5	1.1	1967	2nd-highest
Te Puke	8.7	1.9	1973	2nd-highest
Taupo	6.2	1.8	1949	3rd-highest
Motu	5.6	1.5	1990	4th-highest
Masterton	6.7	2.4	1992	2nd-highest
Waione	8.2	1.7	1991	3rd-highest
Gisborne	9.4	2.7	1905	3rd-highest
Mahia	9.9	1.0	1990	3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	9.4	1.2	1971	4th-highest
Blenheim	7.3	1.5	1941	4th-highest
Waiau School	4.2	1.6	1974	4th-highest
Cheviot	4.6	0.7	1982	3rd-highest

Sunshine: Very sunny for Westland. Below normal sunshine for Northland, Wellington, inland Canterbury, and Central Otago. Near normal sunshine elsewhere.

September was a very sunny month for Westland (well above normal sunshine totals, more than 125% of September normal). In contrast, below normal sunshine (75-90 percent of September normal) was experienced in Northland, parts of Wellington, Wairarapa, south Canterbury, north Otago, and Dunedin. Near normal sunshine hours (within 10 percent of normal September sunshine hours) were recorded elsewhere.

Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2013 (January to September) are: Whakatane (1975 hours), New Plymouth (1890 hours), Lake Tekapo (1772 hours), and Tauranga (1763 hours).

For the month of September, the three sunniest locations were (of the available sites): Franz Josef (202 hours), Cromwell (197 hours), and Queenstown (197 hours).

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

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cheviot	190	132	1983	4th-highest
Queenstown	197	128	1930	4th-highest

September climate in the six main centres

September mean temperatures were above average in all North Island main centres except for Wellington (near average). Mean temperatures were also near average in Christchurch and Dunedin. It was the 4th-warmest September on record for Auckland and Tauranga. Like the country as a whole, rainfall was patchy across the main centres – well above normal rainfall for September was experienced in Hamilton, and above normal rainfall was recorded in Auckland and Wellington. Meanwhile, below normal rainfall occurred in Dunedin. Sunshine was near normal in all centres except for Tauranga and Wellington, where it was below normal.

In September 2013, Auckland was the warmest, Christchurch was the coolest, driest, and sunniest, and Hamilton was the wettest and cloudiest of the six main centres.

September 2013 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	13.9	+0.9	4th-warmest September on record
Tauranga ^b	13.4	+1.0	4th-warmest September on record
Hamilton ^c	11.9	+0.6	Above average
Wellington ^d	11.1	+0.3	Near average
Christchurch ^e	9.0	-0.4	Near average
Dunedin ^f	9.1	-0.4	Near average
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	145	141%	Above normal
Tauranga ^b	93	110%	Near normal
Hamilton ^c	160	159%	Well above normal
Wellington ^d	147	149%	Above normal
Christchurch ^e	36	89%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	38	79%	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	152	101%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	154	88%	Below normal
Hamilton ^g	138	96%	Near normal
Wellington ^d	141	86%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	174	103%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	141	104%	Near normal

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

Highlights and extreme events

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall for September 2013 was 253 mm, recorded at Mt Cook on 10 September.

On 10 September, Fiordland and the West Coast received very heavy rain as an active front passed over the area. Caution was advised to motorists on SH 6 between Fox Glacier and Haast due to flooding.

On 11 September, SH 6 between Makarora and Haast (Haast Pass) was closed due to flooding and a large slip that came across the road. A Canadian couple died as their campervan was swept off the road in a large slip near the Gates of Haast. Caution was advised due to flooding on SH 65 from O'Sullivan's Bridge to Springs Junction, SH 73 from Otira to Kumara and SH 6 from Fox Glacier to Haast. SH 6 at Haast Pass was closed intermittently from 11 September until further notice due to continuous slips and rock falls.

On 20 September, high intensity rainfall associated with a significant electrical storm resulted in widespread surface flooding across Wellington. The local council received around 100 calls, many of which reported manhole covers which had been dislodged due to high stormwater flows.

Early on 22 September, torrential rain associated with thunderstorms affected the Auckland region, causing localised flooding due to overwhelmed stormwater drains and gutters.

On 24 September, the upper North Island experienced the effects of a severe ex-tropical depression. Flooding and slips were reported throughout the upper North Island, which closed some roads for a time. A slip on SH 1 at the Brynderwyns (north of Auckland) caused the road to be reduced to one lane, causing southbound traffic to be diverted through Waipu and Mangawhai.

On 25 September, heavy rain resulted in flooding and slips on numerous North Island roads. SH 2 at the Clive River Bridge and SH 50 from Hastings to SH 2 Junction were affected by flooding, a slip blocked one lane of SH 2 at the Rimutaka Hill, and river scour caused a partial drop out of SH 35 between Te Araroa and Tolaga Bay. Flooding also affected the aforementioned stretch of SH 35. A slip closed SH 5 near Ngongataha, near Rotorua. At Tauweru in the Wairarapa, five families were isolated by a flooded stream, and Castlepoint was also isolated for a time. Nine houses in Picton were evacuated due to a slip. SH 16 between Waimauku and Helensville in the Auckland region was closed due to flooding to motorcycles and cars.

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

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Leigh	84	24th	1967	4th-highest
Warkworth	105	24th	1967	2nd-highest
Te Kuiti	91	21st	1957	2nd-highest

Turangi	56	21st	1968	4th-highest
Waione	40	24th	1991	4th-highest
Hicks Bay	73	24th	1916	3rd-highest
Gisborne	80	24th	1937	2nd-highest
Mahia	65	24th	1990	Highest
Ohakune	55	21st	1961	4th-highest
Takaka	94	19th	1976	3rd-highest
Reefton	81	10th	1960	2nd-highest
Cape Campbell	55	24th	1890	4th-highest
Arthurs Pass	247	10th	1906	4th-highest
Mt Cook	253	10th	1928	3rd-highest
Winchmore	73	22nd	1927	Highest
Lumsden	24	7th	1982	4th-highest
Alexandra	21	10th	1983	Highest

Wind

The highest wind gust was 165 km/hr, at Cape Turnagain on 11 September.

On 4 September, motorcyclists and drivers of high sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 2 at Rimutaka Hill, SH 1 at the Desert Rd, and SH 1 from Blenheim to Kaikoura due to high winds.

On 5 September, strong winds caused minor damage to vegetation and infrastructure in Wellington. There were isolated reports of downed trees, a window that had blown out, and a lifting roof on a residential property. Strong winds toppled trees onto powerlines in Taranaki, resulting in 1000 customers losing electricity supply. Flights in and out of New Plymouth airport were cancelled due to the strong winds. Further south, motorists were warned to take extra care on SH 6 from Harihari to Haast due to high winds.

On 9 and 10 September, motorcyclists and drivers of high sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 1 at the Desert Road due to high winds. In Wellington, strong winds caused a window to blow out, a trampoline to blow away in Titahi Bay, a tree to blow down in Johnsonville, and a roof lift in Island Bay.

On 10-11 September, strong northwest winds affected much of the South Island and the lower North Island, causing downed power lines and trees, damage to houses and businesses, and flipping trucks, boats, and caravans. About 28,000 houses and businesses were without power overnight throughout Canterbury, due to wind blowing trees onto power lines. Over 800 irrigators were damaged in Canterbury, which would cost millions of dollars to repair. Caution was advised for high sided vehicles due to strong winds in Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago, as well as SH 1 at Desert Road and SH 2 at Rimutaka Hill, and many of Canterbury's ski fields were closed for the day due to high winds. At Christchurch's Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, an ostrich named Bubbles died in the storm. The Fire Service attended over 1000 callouts in the Southern region overnight. Many calls were due to vegetation fires caused by downed power lines, and one bush fire near Amberley was particularly large and took a number of hours to extinguish. Two trucks overturned near Dunedin in the high winds, and roofing iron flew off one of Otago University's buildings. A number of schools in Canterbury were closed on 11 September due to storm damage and power outages, and the printing

and delivery of the *The Press* newspaper was delayed. In Wellington, a 20,000 tonne container ship dragged its anchor due to high winds, causing it to come close to shore. A yacht in Evans Bay broke its mooring and washed up on a nearby breakwater. Trains were cancelled in Wellington due to trees on the railway lines, and almost all domestic flights in and out of Wellington airport were diverted or cancelled. Some Interislander ferry sailings were also cancelled or delayed. In the Wairarapa, a number of truck and trailer units were flipped over by the wind, and falling trees damaged houses.

On 12 September, the storm moved up the country and the high winds toppled trees and damaged buildings. Further south, highways that were still closed included: SH 7 from Hanmer turnoff to Springs Junction (Lewis Pass) due to flooding, SH 6 from Makarora to Haast (Haast Pass) due to flooding and slips, and SH 94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound due to snow. Power was still out for 17,000 homes and businesses in Canterbury, and numerous schools were still closed.

On 13 September, a tornado passed through Matapouri, north of Whangarei, felling trees and power poles.

On 24 September, motorcyclists and drivers of high sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 1 at the Desert Road due to high winds. Strong winds brought down trees onto roads and power lines in Auckland's North Shore and Hauraki Plains, as well as the Coromandel Peninsula and East Coast region. At one point 6600 customers were without power in west and south Auckland. Strong winds contributed to damaging seas which both flooded and eroded coastal properties in Orewa and Whangaparaoa.

On 25 September, nine domestic flights were cancelled at Auckland airport due to the wind, and a similar number were delayed. Auckland's waterfront venue the Cloud was damaged by the wind, with a rip in its plastic covering. In the western Bay of Plenty and the Coromandel Peninsula, as well as in Tauranga, about 7000 properties were without power due to gales.

On 29 September, a man was injured when his truck was blown off the road in Horowhenua.

Record or near record September extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Paeroa	106	24th	1991	2nd-highest
Tauranga	89	28th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Castlepoint	161	10th	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Napier	96	12th	1973	4th-highest
Mt Kaukau	145	5th	1969	Equal 3rd-highest
Wanganui	87	28th	1977	Equal 3rd-highest
Blenheim	91	11th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Cape Campbell	120	25th	1963	Highest
Ashburton	128	10th	1970	Highest
Christchurch	133	10th	1972	Highest
Timaru	109	10th	1972	2nd-highest
Oamaru	107	10th	1984	Highest
Tara Hills	96	10th	1985	4th-highest

Manapouri	85	10th	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
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Temperatures

The highest temperature in September 2013 was 24.2 °C, recorded at Kaikoura on 11 September.

The lowest temperature was -6.4 °C, observed at Albert Burn (near Wanaka) on 14 September.

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

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Leigh	21.5	27th	1966	4th-highest
Levin	21.5	25th	1895	Equal 4th-highest
Hawera	19.1	20th	1977	3rd-highest
Greymouth	19.8	24th	1947	4th-highest
Haast	21.0	25th	1949	2nd-highest
Nelson	21.0	26th	1943	4th-highest
Kaikoura	24.2	11th	1963	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Kaitaia	12.9	5th	1971	Equal 4th-lowest
Kerikeri	10.8	5th	1981	Lowest
Kaikohe	10.1	5th	1973	2nd-lowest
Milford Sound	4.2	13th	1935	Lowest
Secretary Island	8.2	13th	1989	4th-lowest
Campbell Island	2.8	12th	1991	4th-lowest

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

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
Low records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	5.7	5th	1951	2nd-lowest
Kerikeri	0.7	5th	1981	Lowest
Kaikohe	3.1	5th	1973	4th-lowest
Te Kuiti	-1.5	18th	1959	4th-lowest
Paraparaumu	-2.1	18th	1953	4th-lowest
Dunedin	-5.0	18th	1962	4th-lowest
Lumsden	-4.1	18th	1982	Equal 3rd-lowest
Balclutha	-3.6	18th	1964	2nd-lowest
High records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	14.3	12th	1971	Equal 3rd-highest
Kaitaia	15.7	21st	1948	4th-highest
Kerikeri	15.9	21st	1981	4th-highest

Kaikohe	14.8	21st	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Dargaville	17.0	12th	1951	Highest
Whangaparaoa	14.1	12th	1982	Equal 3rd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	15.1	12th	1951	3rd-highest
Whakatane	14.8	21st	1975	3rd-highest
Motu	11.3	21st	1990	4th-highest
Whatawhata	14.0	12th	1952	4th-highest
Masterton	13.7	21st	1992	Equal 3rd-highest
Ngawi	15.0	12th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Gisborne	15.8	12th	1940	Equal 4th-highest
Mahia	14.5	12th	1990	Highest
Stratford	12.4	21st	1972	2nd-highest
Hawera	13.6	21st	1977	Equal 2nd-highest
Farewell Spit	13.6	21st	1972	Equal 3rd-highest
Haast	12.3	21st	1949	2nd-highest
Nelson	13.4	22nd	1943	Equal 3rd-highest
Appleby	13.0	22nd	1941	2nd-highest
Kaikoura	13.1	21st	1972	2nd-highest
Cheviot	12.3	11th	1982	3rd-highest

Snow and ice

On 4 September, widespread snow fell along SH 94 from Te Anau to Milford Sound, forcing closure of the road between Lower Hollyford and Murrells. Motorists were advised to take extra care on SH 8 from Twizel to Fairlie due to snow. Chains were essential for all vehicles on SH 73 at Porters Pass due to snow, as well as SH 73 from Arthurs Pass to Otira. The Mt Hutt Ski Area access road was closed around midday due to bad weather creating dangerous travelling conditions, trapping 316 people at the ski area until the road was re-opened at 2 am the next morning. The wintry weather resulted in 10 flight cancellations at Queenstown Airport.

On 9 September, caution was advised and chains were required to be carried by motorists travelling on SH 94 at the Milford Road due to snow.

On 10-11 September, SH 94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound was closed due to snow. Avalanches affected a 12 km stretch of the Milford Road, including a section which was hit by three separate avalanches leaving a five metre deep layer of snow.

On 16 September, SH 94 between Te Anau and Milford Sound was reopened after being closed for a week due to avalanches and landslides. Motorists were warned to drive with extreme care.

Lightning and hail

On 10 September, firefighters were called after a house in Fox Glacier township caught fire after being struck by lightning. Numerous fires in Canterbury were caused by lightning strikes, damaging barns, hay stocks, and trees.

More than 4000 lightning strikes were recorded over the South Island on 10-11 September. In Burkes Pass, a 136-year-old oak tree was struck by lightning and was destroyed.

On 20 September, a significant electrical storm struck central areas of New Zealand. Approximately 800 lightning strikes hit the Wellington region between 5 pm and 8 pm, causing temporary power outages and loss of internet services, as well as triggering home and business alarms. The storm resulted in disruption to flights at Wellington Airport and train services on the Hutt Valley line.

Early on 22 September, a Birkenhead (Auckland) home was struck by lightning during an electrical storm, which started a fire in the home's insulation, and caused considerable damage including shattered glass, cracked gip walls and a collapsed ceiling. Further south, nine cows were killed on a Kihikihi farm (Waikato) after being struck by lightning.

For further information, please contact:

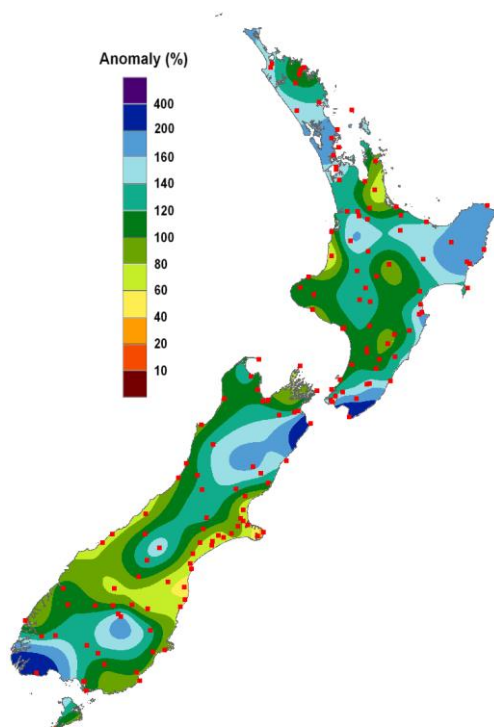
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September 2013 rainfall totals, expressed as a percentage of normal (%)

Dark blue colour indicates that rainfall totals were 200-400 percent of the September normal in parts of Wairarapa, Blenheim, and Fiordland. The lighter blue colours indicate well above normal rainfall for September in parts of: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Manawatu, Wellington, Marlborough, inland Canterbury, Southland, and Fiordland. Green shades indicate near normal rainfall totals (80-120 percent of September normal), and light green and yellow colours indicate below normal rainfall totals (50-79 percent of normal) in south Canterbury and Central Otago.