

Correspondence

The Editor
Australian Meteorological Magazine

Dear Sir,

The assertion that '... the second highest recorded wind gust in Australia, 222 km/h, occurred during tropical cyclone *Elsie* ...' (Manchur 1987, p.95 and reiterated on p.100), is not consistent with statements on maximum wind gusts made in previous cyclone season summaries.

Both the Onslow cyclone of 3 to 10 February 1963 (Bureau of Meteorology 1965), and cyclone *Kathy*, 16 to 24 March 1984 (Thom 1984), rate higher than *Elsie* on the list of recorded wind gusts in Australia. Coincidentally, both had maximum gusts of 232 km h⁻¹. It is believed that the list of highest recorded cyclone wind gusts in Australia should therefore commence with:

1. *Trixie* (February 1975) 246 km h⁻¹ at Onslow
2. Un-named cyclone 232 km h⁻¹ at Onslow (February 1963)
Kathy (March 1984) 232 km h⁻¹ at Centre Island
3. *Elsie* (February 1987) 222 km h⁻¹ at Mandora
4. *Sandy* (March 1985) 220 km h⁻¹ at Centre Island
5. *Tracy* (December 1974) 217 km h⁻¹ at Darwin

K. Murphy and G. Garden
Darwin Regional Office, Bureau of Meteorology

The Editor
Australian Meteorological Magazine

Dear Sir,

Garden and Murphy are correct. The statement in the report should have read '... third highest wind gust reliably recorded in Australia...'

W. Manchur
Brisbane Regional Office, Bureau of Meteorology

References

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