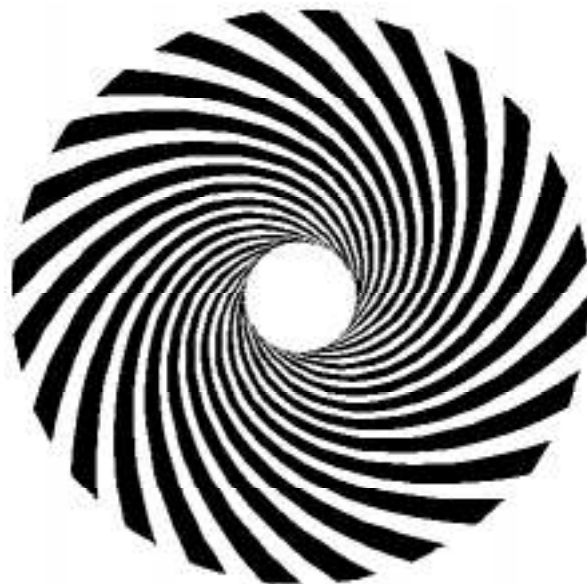


South Australian Climatic Summary

FEBRUARY 1999



Produced by the South Australian
Climate and Consultative Services Section
Bureau of Meteorology
Adelaide

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WEATHER CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1999

SUMMARY

Temperatures were significantly warmer over much of the Settled Areas of the state. Rainfalls were generally above average in the interiors and average to below average in the Southern Settled areas.

RAINFALL

Pastoral Districts

February 1999 rainfall was above average in the western parts of the Northwest Pastoral and in the Northeast districts. Elsewhere was near average.

Rainfall totals between 25 mm and 50mm were recorded in northwest corner of the state and in the Northeast District. Totals of less than 10mm were recorded in the central part of the Pastoral Districts.

The highest monthly totals in the Pastoral Districts were 64 mm at Koonamore and 62 mm at Braemar in the Northeast District.

Settled Areas

February rainfall totals were above average in the eastern half of the Upper North and much of the Murray Mallee.

Below average rainfalls were reported from most of the Adelaide Plains, the Upper Southeast, much of Yorke Peninsula, most of the southern Mount Lofty Ranges and the east coast of Eyre Peninsula. The remainder of the Settled areas had near average rainfalls.

Isolated recordings between 50 and 100 mm were reported from the Upper North. Rainfall totals 25mm to 50mm were recorded in the Western Agricultural, near the WA border, and in the Lower Southeast. The eastern border districts, Upper Southeast and the Riverland, registered rainfalls between 10 and 25mm. The remainder of the Settled Areas received rainfalls of less than 10mm.

The highest monthly totals in the settled areas were 85 mm recorded at Oodla Wirra and 56mm at Bruce in the Upper North.

February 1998 rainfall for selected stations is presented in Table 1. The map in Figure 1 shows the distribution of monthly rainfall.

TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum temperatures for February 1999 were more than 1°C above normal over much of the Settled Areas. Isolated areas around Lake Frome, and between Marla and the Northern Territory border were between 1 and 2°C below normal.

In the Pastoral Districts mean maximum temperatures ranged from 32°C in the south to 38°C in the north. In the settled areas mean maxima ranged from 23°C in the southeast of the state to 33°C at various centres in the north of the state.

The highest maximum recorded during the month was 44.0°C at Moomba Airport on the 2nd.

Mean minimum temperatures were more than 1°C above normal over much of the south eastern sector of the state. Coonawarra and nearby Struan had mean minimums of 2.8°C and 3.0°C, respectively, above normal. The remainder of the state was normal. Mean minima ranged from 13°C in the Southeast to 19°C in the northern Spencer Gulf region of the state.

The lowest February minimum was 4°C recorded at Coonawarra on the 8th.

Temperature statistics for all stations are presented in Table 2.

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER FEBRUARY 1999

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms were reported from much of the Pastoral Districts of South Australia. There were no reports of damage.

Rainfall

Braemar in the Northeast Pastoral District reported a daily rainfall total of 60.6mm on the 12th. This was their highest February daily rainfall total since the 6th of February 1972 when 48.3mm was recorded.

Bushfires

The Ngarkat bush fire which started on the 27th of January was finally brought under control on the 2nd of February. Strong northerly winds assisted in turning the fire back on itself.

The total area burnt is about 100,000 hectares, including 40% of Ngarkat Conservation Park, 25% of Scorpion Springs Conservation Park and 13,000 hectares of the Big Desert Wilderness Area in Victoria.

A large grass fire five kilometres north of Callendale in the lower south-east of the state burnt 500 hectares of stubble, scrub and grassland as well as 20-30 kilometres of fencing on the 16th of February. There was no damage to stock, machinery or farm buildings in the fire which took about three hours to contain. A total of 30 appliances were working mainly on the northern and southern flanks of the fire, which were about eight kilometres long. Winds were blowing generally in a west-north-westerly direction at about 30 kilometres per hour with gusts of up to 55 kilometres per hour.

ADELAIDE'S WEATHER

Summary

Rainfall in Adelaide during February 1999 was well below normal, temperatures were above average. Summer 1998/99 rainfall was well below normal whilst temperatures were above normal.

Rainfall

February 1999

Adelaide's rainfall for February 1999 was 1.8 mm on 2 days. This is 20.2 mm below the estimated normal of 22 mm on 4 days. This is the lowest February rainfall since 1991 when no rainfall was reported.

In 1998 Adelaide's February rainfall was 27.8 mm on 3 days.

The total for the first 2 months of 1999 was 13.2 mm compared to the normal of 44 mm. The total for the first 2 months of 1998 was 34.4 mm

Summer 1998/99 (December / January / February)

Adelaide's rainfall for summer 1998/99 was 25.0 mm, which was well below the estimated summer average of 72 mm. This is the driest summer since 1991/92 when 17.0mm was recorded. The driest on record for Kent Town occurred in the summer of 1984/85 when only 11.6mm of rain was reported.

Last Summer 58.6 mm was recorded.

Temperatures

February 1999

The mean maximum temperature for February 1999 was 29.9°C, which is 0.8°C above the normal February mean maximum of 29.1°C. The mean February 1998 maximum was 28.1°C.

The mean minimum temperature for February 1999 was 18.6°C, which is 1.7°C above the normal February mean minimum of 16.9°C. In February 1998, 15.5°C was recorded.

Summer 1998/99 (December / January / February)

The mean maximum temperature for this Summer was 29.5°C, which is 1.1°C above the normal Summer mean maximum of 28.4°C. The mean maximum for last Summer was 28.0°C.

This was the warmest summer since 1980/81 when the mean maximum temperature was 30.4°C.

The mean minimum temperature for this Summer was 17.7°C, which is 1.6°C above the normal summer mean minimum of 16.1°C. The mean minimum for last Summer was 16.0°C.

This was the warmest mean minimum summer temperature since 1980/81 when 18.1°C was recorded.

This summer Adelaide recorded 47 days where the temperature reached or exceeded 30.0°C, whereas during the summer of 1980/81 51 days were recorded.

Media Release issued 2 March 1999: For further information please contact Kevin Burrows on (08) 8366 2691.

TABLE 1
Monthly Rainfall totals at Selected Stations

Station Name	ACTUAL (mm)	NORMAL (mm)	DECILE	RAIN DAYS	EXTREME (mm)	DATE OF EXTREME
ANDAMOOKA	3.0	24	4	2	2	23
COOBER PEDY APT	7.2			3	6	3
MARLA	32.2	14	8	2	22.4	3
NONNING	5.4	17	5	5	2.2	3
PT. AUGUSTA	8.6			7	5	3
TARCOOLA APT	24.2			4	20	6
WOOMERA	3.0	21	5	2	2	3
ARKARoola	12.4	38	5	2	10.7	11
LEIGH CREEK APT	42.8	21	9	3	42	12
MARREE	4.4	21	5	1	4.4	13
MOOMBA APT	4.0			1	4	11
CEDUNA APT	7.0	14	5	4	6	6
CLEVE	3.2	23	3	3	2	6
ELLISTON	7.6	13	6	2	6.2	6
KIMBA						
KYANCUTTA	14.4	15	7	3	7.8	5
NULLARBOR	16.8	12	8	6	5	5
PT. LINCOLN PO	3.8	15	4	3	3	6
STREAKY BAY	7.4	14	6	4	6	6
WHYALLA NORRIE	0.6	23	2	2	0.4	23
HAWKER	6.5	20	5	4	2.7	3
YONGALA	17.4	21	7	9	4.3	4
MANNAHILL	42.0	21	9	4	25	11
CLARE	6.2			5	2	3
PT. PIRIE	2.4	18	3	2	2	3
SNOWTOWN	3.0	19	3	1	3	3
KADINA	4.2	18	4	2	3.6	3
MAITLAND	2.6	20	3	2	2	6
WAROOKA	3.8	16	4	3	2.2	6
CAPE BORDA	7.0	17	5	5	4.2	6
CAPE WILLOUGHBY	5.4	18	4	4	3	18
KINGSCOTE	5.8	17	5	4	2.6	6
ADELAIDE APT	1.8	19	2	4	0.6	4
ADELAIDE RO	1.8	12	2	2	0.2	8
ROSEWORTHY AG.	0.0			0		
NURIOOTPA PISA	18.4			3	12	13
MT. BARKER	3.4	25	2	4	1.2	6
STRATHALBYN	4.2	21	3	4	2	6
VICTOR HARBOR	3.4	20	3	2	3	6
LOXTON RES.	23.6	15	7	5	17	12
RENMARK PO	11.6	19	6	3	10	12
EUDUNDA	3.8	22	4	2	3	3
MENINGIE	5.4	17	4	5	2.6	11
MURRAY BRIDGE	2.0	18	3	3	1	6
KEITH	9.8	21	5	4	7.4	13
LAMEROO	3.4	22	3	2	3	13
CP NTHUMBERLAND	30.8	25	7	7	17	18
MT. GAMBIER APT	24.0	26	6	10	12	18
NARACOORTE	10.4	20	5	6	4	18
ROBE	9.2	18	5	7	3.6	18

If the same extreme rainfall was recorded on two or more days, only the first date is listed.

Normals for all years of record to 1995.

TABLE 2
TEMPERATURES AT DAILY REPORTING STATIONS

	MAXIMUM °C						MINIMUM °C					
	HIGH	DATE	LOW	DATE	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	DATE	LOW	DATE	MEAN	DEPART
ANDAMOOKA	42.3	14	28.3	7	35.9	0.4	27.4	12	15.0	18	21.2	0.1
COOBER PEDY APT	41.1	1	26.0	7	34.5		30.2	2	13.4	7	21.2	
MARLA	41.1	1	27.0	7	34.8	-1.3	28.4	2	13.9	9	21.1	0.1
NONNING	40.1	14	24.3	7	33.6	0.7	26.9	2	9.2	17	16.4	-0.3
PT. AUGUSTA	41.6	14	23.9	18	33.7		30.2	2	13.6	20	20.2	
PUKATJA	35.0	28	32.0	26	33.7	0.0 #	20.0	27	19.0	28	19.5	0.3 #
ROXBYS DOWNS APT	43.0	2	28.0	7	35.3		29.0	2	12.0	9	19.9	
TARCOOLA APT	42.0	1	26.0	7	34.5	0.0	27.0	2	11.0	16	19.5	1.5
WOOMERA	40.0	14	26.0	7	34.0	0.5	28.0	2	14.0	7	20.3	1.1
ARKARoola	40.0	2	24.8	7	31.5	-1.9 #	29.0	3	16.1	24	20.6	1.5 #
LEIGH CREEK APT	39.8	2	26.9	7	33.9	-0.1	27.4	22	14.1	20	20.4	0.7
MARREE	42.6	14	30.9	18	36.8	0.2 #	29.4	2	13.9	19	21.5	0.7 #
MOOMBA APT	44.0	2	30.0	18	37.3		32.0	3	17.0	20	23.9	
MT. DARE STN.	43.6	1	31.0	7	37.8		31.5	2	14.8	20	23.0	
OODNADATTA APT	43.1	1	30.7	7	37.0	0.6	31.1	2	14.4	8	22.8	0.6
CEDUNA APT	43.0	1	21.0	7	29.0	0.9	22.0	2	10.0	19	15.3	0.4
CLEVE	38.0	1	20.0	7	29.0	1.4	27.0	2	11.0	18	17.1	1.2
COLES POINT	37.9	1	20.8	6	28.4		22.0	2	9.0	19	15.8	
ELLISTON	36.7	1	20.2	7	25.6	0.1	20.9	2	10.3	19	16.4	0.7
KIMBA	38.6	1	21.5	7	31.8	0.6	26.8	2	8.8	18	17.3	1.3
KYANCUTTA	40.6	1	24.0	7	33.1	0.8	27.4	2	8.5	16	15.7	1.5
MINNIPA PISA	40.5	1	24.4	7	32.8		24.5	2	9.0	18	16.2	
NEPTUNE ISLAND	27.0	10	19.0	7	22.2	0.0	21.0	2	14.0	7	16.6	0.0
NULLARBOR	42.0	1	20.0	4	27.5	-0.6	21.0	2	8.0	17	15.4	-0.4
POLDA BASIN	40.7	1	23.0	17	32.3	1.2	25.6	2	9.5	18	16.4	1.5
PT. LINCOLN APT	33.4	2	21.1	7	26.6		24.4	2	12.8	18	17.2	
PT. LINCOLN PO	32.0	1	23.0	5	27.5	2.4	22.0	11	13.0	7	17.0	1.2
STREAKY BAY	42.0	1	23.0	6	30.7	1.6	23.0	2	11.0	19	17.1	1.2
WHYALLA AP	38.5	1	22.9	18	31.8	2.5	28.2	2	12.4	20	19.2	2.0
WHYALLA NORRIE	39.0	1	24.0	18	32.5	3.6 #	25.0	2	14.0	17	19.0	0.3 #
HAWKER	38.9	14	25.4	7	32.7	-0.5	26.3	2	11.4	19	18.2	0.4
YONGALA	36.4	11	22.9	17	30.9	1.0	23.3	2	7.8	18	15.2	2.1
YUNTA	38.0	2	21.0	15	31.2	-0.9	24.0	2	9.0	19	16.1	1.1
CLARE	36.7	5	20.6	18	30.0	#	24.2	2	7.6	18	16.2	
PT. PIRIE	40.0	1	24.0	18	33.4	1.7	30.0	2	13.0	7	19.7	2.1
SNOWTOWN	39.0	1	23.0	18	32.6	2.1	27.0	2	7.0	19	16.5	1.9
EDITHBURGH AWS	35.0	2	19.8	7	24.9		23.5	2	14.1	7	17.8	
KADINA	38.8	1	23.0	7	32.1	1.8	25.5	2	9.9	19	17.4	1.3
MAITLAND	37.0	1	21.0	7	30.5	2.0	25.0	2	10.0	7	17.0	1.2
PRICE	38.8	4	22.5	18	31.1	3.4 #	24.1	2	10.3	18	16.9	1.1 #
STENHOUSE BAY	33.4	10	20.3	8	24.6		21.7	2	13.9	7	17.2	
WAROOKA	36.5	1	20.5	7	27.5	0.3	25.4	2	11.1	18	16.7	0.9
ALLANDALE	35.0	1	20.0	24	27.7	#	22.0	2	9.0	18	14.4	#
CAPE BORDA	32.8	1	18.8	6	25.4	2.3	24.8	2	9.2	8	15.2	1.0
CAPE WILLUGHBY	32.0	2	17.0	7	21.7	-0.2	20.0	11	12.0	15	16.1	-0.2
KINGSCOTE	32.2	14	19.2	7	24.5	0.9	22.0	11	10.4	18	17.0	1.6
KINGSCOTE APT	34.8	1	20.4	7	27.2		21.3	2	7.7	20	14.4	
ADELAIDE APT	37.0	1	21.0	7	29.5	1.6	29.0	2	9.9	19	18.1	2.3
ADELAIDE RO	37.0	1	21.0	7	29.7	0.6	27.0	2	10.0	7	18.5	1.6
EDINBURGH APT	39.0	1	22.0	18	31.8	2.1	28.0	2	8.0	19	17.6	1.3
PARAFIELD APT	40.2	1	22.5	18	33.0	4.3	28.6	2	9.4	7	19.0	2.7
ROSEWORTHY AG.	39.0	1	22.0	18	32.2		27.0	2	5.0	7	16.0	
NURIOOTPA PISA	37.0	5	21.0	7	30.0	1.5	25.0	2	6.0	7	15.9	2.0
HINDMARSH ISLAND	35.6	1	17.8	7	24.6	0.3	21.7	2	10.0	8	16.0	0.9
MT. BARKER	35.5	4	19.4	18	29.0	2.5	23.3	2	6.4	8	13.5	1.7
MT. CRAWFORD	34.1	4	16.8	7	28.1	#	22.5	2	6.4	8	14.5	
PARAWA AWS	33.3	1	16.0	7	24.0		23.8	2	9.7	19	13.9	
STRATHALBYN	38.0	4	21.0	7	29.5	2.2	21.0	11	7.0	8	14.8	1.3
VICTOR HARBOR	36.0	2	20.0	7	25.0	0.6 #	21.0	11	11.0	20	16.3	1.0 #
LOXTON RES.	39.0	5	23.0	18	31.8	0.8	23.0	12	8.0	19	15.7	2.0
RENMARK APT.	38.4	5	24.9	18	32.7		24.4	2	8.7	20	16.4	
RENMARK PO	39.0	5	25.0	7	32.6	0.5	24.0	3	10.0	7	17.6	1.1
EUDUNDA	36.0	4	22.0	7	30.1	1.4	22.0	2	7.0	7	14.8	0.6
MENINGIE	37.4	4	20.1	7	28.1	1.6	22.4	11	8.2	19	15.0	1.3
MURRAY BRIDGE	39.0	4	22.0	7	30.8	1.7	23.0	11	6.0	19	15.4	1.0
KEITH	38.8	4	22.0	18	31.1	1.4	25.0	11	5.5	19	14.8	1.8
LAMEROO	39.0	4	23.0	18	32.0	1.6	24.0	11	7.0	7	15.4	2.1
CAPE JAFFA	36.7	2	20.1	19	26.3		23.4	2	8.4	8	14.5	
COONAWARRA	37.0	4	20.0	17	28.7	2.2	23.0	11	4.0	8	13.7	2.8
CP NTHUMBERLAND	37.2	2	17.7	24	22.0	0.5 #	17.9	3	9.2	19	14.6	0.7 #
MT. GAMBIER APT	36.0	1	18.0	17	26.8	1.9	23.0	11	6.0	8	13.5	2.1
NARACOORTE	37.0	1	20.0	7	30.0	1.3	25.0	11	6.0	7	14.5	2.2
ROBE	30.0	2	19.0	7	23.6	0.9	21.3	11	7.3	8	14.7	0.9
STRUAN RES.	35.7	2	20.5	17	29.7	0.6 #	24.4	11	5.0	8	14.3	3.0 #

Indicates that less than 25 observations were available from this station

TABLE 3
SUMMARY OF ADELAIDE OBSERVATIONS

ITEM	FEBRUARY 1999	NORMAL OR EXTREME
Pressure (reduced to MSL) Mean of 9am and 3pm (hPa)	1013.3	1014.8
TEMPERATURE		
Mean 9am (°C)	22.6	21.1
Mean 3pm (°C)	28.4	27.7
Mean daily max. (°C)	29.9	29.1
Mean daily min. (°C)	18.6	16.9
Mean for the month (°C)	24.3	23.0
Highest during the month (°C)	37.3	43.4
	on 1st	15/1981
Lowest during the month (°C)	10.0	9.5
	on 19th	22/1993
Days 40°C or higher (No.)	0	1
Days 30°C or higher (No.)	17	12
Days 2°C or lower (No.)	0	0
HUMIDITY: mean at 9am (%)	54	55
HUMIDITY: mean at 3pm (%)	38	37
WIND: Strongest gust and date (Km/h)	SW 63 on 6th	ENE 93 on 26th 1995
WIND: Days when gusts 63km/h or more (No.)	2	1
BRIGHT SUNSHINE: mean daily (Hours)	10.0	10.2
EVAPORATION (class A pan)		
total for month (mm)	193.4	188
RAINFALL total for month (mm)	1.8	22
RAIN DAYS (No.)	2	4
PHENOMENA		
Days when thunder heard (No.)	0	0
Days when hail fell (No.)	0	0
Days when frost occurred (No.)	0	0

February 1999 Rainfall Deciles

