



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

**VICTORIAN REGIONAL OFFICE**

GPO Box 1636, Melbourne,  
Victoria, 3001, Australia

## **SPECIAL CLIMATE STATEMENT 34**

**An unseasonable warm spell affecting Victoria in early August 2011.**

*Issued 12th August 2011*

*Victorian Climate Services Centre  
Bureau of Meteorology*

Cite: Bureau of Meteorology, Victorian Climate Services Centre, 2011. An unseasonable warm spell affecting Victoria in early August 2011. Special Climate Statement 34.

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***This Special Climate Statement from the Bureau of Meteorology details the recent unusual winter warm spell across Victoria.***

A high pressure system centred over the NSW coast drifted into the Tasman Sea on the last weekend of July 2011. The high pressure system directed north westerly winds across Victoria. This northerly wind flow contributed to Victoria experiencing unprecedented warm weather for this time of year.

Many early season<sup>1</sup> heat records were set for both warmest day and warmest night following mid winter (noting that late June/early July is typically the coldest time of year in southeast Australia). A summary of records set are given in Tables 1 through 4. While warm conditions are not unprecedented in late August, it is most unusual for such warm conditions to occur in early August so soon after the winter solstice and the coldest time of year.

In addition to early season records, a number of whole of August records were also broken. Perhaps the most significant was Melbourne<sup>2</sup> which broke its overnight high temperature record for August on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> when the minimum temperature was 17.3 °C. The previous warmest overnight temperature for Melbourne in August was 16.2 °C on the 20 August 1885. Similar record warmth was experienced in suburban Melbourne (Laverton and Essendon) and the Yarra Valley with an estimated 4% of Victoria experiencing the warmest August night in at least 100 years. Melbourne's maximum temperature of 23.2 °C on the August 3<sup>rd</sup> was the warmest day in Melbourne for the first half of August and an 'early season' record for Melbourne ahead of the 23.1°C set on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1975.

Perhaps the most remarkable observations during the warm spell occurred during the early hours of August 4<sup>th</sup> when many sites in coastal Victoria experienced exceptionally mild conditions. As an example, Wilson Promontory recorded a temperature of 23.5 °C at 4am, approximately 15 °C above average and easily breaking the old high temperature record of 22 °C set on 28 July 1975.

Average maximum temperatures were more than 8 °C warmer than usual in parts of the state during the first 4 days of August 2011, see Figure 1. Average minimum temperatures were more than 4 °C warmer than usual in parts of the state during the first 4 nights of August 2011, see Figure 2.

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<sup>1</sup> For this purpose an early season record means a record high temperature following mid-winter. For Victoria the coldest period of the year on average occurs in the first half of July, just after the Winter Solstice (which occurred on June 22, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> The Melbourne temperature record used for comparison of extreme values comprises of multiple different sites since 1855.

<b>Station Name</b>	<b>Highest daily minimum temperature in early August 2011 (°C)</b>	<b>Previous warmest for August (°C)</b>	<b>Years of record</b>	<b>Average for August</b>
Laverton RAAF	15.1 on the 4th	14.9 on the 26th in 2004	68	5.5
Gabo Island Lighthouse	14.5 on the 4th	14.2 on the 27th in 1999	55	8.5
Point Hicks (Lighthouse)	17.5 on the 5th	15.2 on the 26th in 1999	43	8.5
Essendon Airport	14.7 on the 4th	14.2 on the 31st in 2007	42	5.5
Strathbogie	12.4 on the 5th	11.6 on the 26th in 2004	34	2.3

Table 1: August highest daily minimum temperature records set in August 2011

<b>Station Name</b>	<b>Highest temperature in August 2011 (°C)</b>	<b>Previous warmest for August (°C)</b>	<b>Years of record</b>	<b>Average for August</b>
Edi Upper	21.8 on the 4th	21.4 on the 29th in 1999	24	13.3

Table 2: August highest daily maximum temperature record set in August 2011

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<b>Station Name</b>	<b>Highest daily maximum temperature in early August 2011 (°C)</b>	<b>Previous highest early season record</b>	<b>Years of record</b>
Melbourne Regional Office	23.2 on 3 Aug	23.1 on 30 Jul 1975	157
East Sale Airport	25 on 4 Aug	24 on 28 Jul 1975	66
Mildura Airport	27.9 on 4 Aug	26.8 on 29 Jul 1975	65
Gabo Island Lighthouse	24.4 on 5 Aug	20.9 on 22 Jul 2009	55
Ouyen (Post Office)	27.5 on 3 Aug	27 on 29 Jul 1975	55
Echuca Aerodrome	26.3 on 4 Aug	24.2 on 28 Jul 1975	54
Orbost (Comparison)	25.2 on 4 Aug	25 on 28 Jul 1975	54
Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse	23.5 on 3 Aug	22 on 28 Jul 1975	53
Kerang	27 on 3 Aug	25.7 on 29 Jul 1975	47
Hume Reservoir	23.5 on 4 Aug	18.8 on 3 Aug 1990	46
Kyabram DPI	25.6 on 4 Aug	23.1 on 28 Jul 1975	46
Mangalore Airport	22.4 on 4 Aug	22 on 28 Jul 1975	46
Maryborough	22.6 on 3 Aug	22 on 30 Jul 1975	46
Point Hicks (Lighthouse)	26 on 4 Aug	24 on 28 Jul 1975	46
Tatura Inst Sustainable Ag	25.1 on 4 Aug	22.5 on 28 Jul 1975	45
Scoresby Research Institute	22.2 on 3 Aug	21.6 on 28 Jul 1975	44
Wonthaggi	23 on 3 Aug	21 on 28 Jul 1975	44
Ararat Prison	21.7 on 3 Aug	21 on 30 Jul 1975	43
Lake Eildon	22.3 on 4 Aug	21 on 29 Jul 1975	42
Essendon Airport	22 on 3 Aug	19 on 7 Aug 1947	40
Moorabbin Airport	23.2 on 3 Aug	22.5 on 30 Jul 1975	39
Strathbogie	19.7 on 4 Aug	18.5 on 28 Jul 1975	38
Dartmouth Reservoir	20.4 on 4 Aug	19.6 on 28 Jul 1975	33
Bundoora (Latrobe University)	22.1 on 3 Aug	20.3 on 7 Jul 1994	32
Bairnsdale Airport	25.5 on 4 Aug	22.4 on 21 Jul 2009	31
Noojee (Slivar)	21.5 on 3 Aug	19.2 on 4 Aug 2000	30
Portland (Cashmore Airport)	22.6 on 3 Aug	19.4 on 3 Aug 2000	30
Weeaprounah	17.2 on 3 Aug	16.3 on 3 Aug 2005	30

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Hamilton Airport	20.7 on 3 Aug	19 on 3 Aug 2005	28
Morwell (Latrobe Valley Airport)	24.5 on 4 Aug	21.8 on 21 Jul 2009	28
Wangaratta Aero	22.5 on 4 Aug	19 on 25 Jul 1989	25
Cerberus	22.8 on 3 Aug	19.6 on 3 Aug 2005	22
Edi Upper	21.8 on 4 Aug	19 on 3 Aug 1990	22
Rhyll	20.3 on 3 Aug	19.3 on 7 Jul 1994	22
Aireys Inlet	22.8 on 3 Aug	20.7 on 3 Aug 2005	21
Port Fairy AWS	22.6 on 3 Aug	20.9 on 3 Aug 2005	21
Sheoaks	21.4 on 3 Aug	19.3 on 7 Jul 1994	21
Willow Grove (Blue Rock Reservoir)	23.5 on 4 Aug	20.2 on 21 Jul 2009	21
Bendigo Airport	21.9 on 3 Aug	19.7 on 13 Jul 2002	20
Cranbourne Botanic Gardens	23.1 on 3 Aug	20.1 on 6 Jul 1994	20
Frankston AWS	22.3 on 3 Aug	18.9 on 21 Jul 2009	20
Mortlake Racecourse	21.5 on 3 Aug	21 on 3 Aug 2005	20

Table 3: Highest daily maximum temperature records for the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 7<sup>th</sup> of August broken in early August 2011. This table provides a list of those stations which set new early season records for 24 hour (9am) maximum temperatures.

<b>Station Name</b>	<b>Highest daily minimum temperature in early August 2011 (°C)</b>	<b>Previous highest early season record</b>	<b>Years of record</b>
Melbourne Regional Office	15.5 on 4 Aug	14.3 on 1 Jul 1903	157
Cape Otway Lighthouse	14.8 on 4 Aug	13.9 on 6 Aug 1911	146
Laverton RAAF	15.1 on 4 Aug	13.4 on 28 Jul 1975	68
Gabo Island Lighthouse	14.5 on 4 Aug	14.2 on 6 Jul 1988	55
Ballarat Aerodrome	11.1 on 4 Aug	10.1 on 6 Aug 1973	54
Point Hicks (Lighthouse)	17.5 on 5 Aug	15 on 31 Jul 1975	44
Ararat Prison	12.4 on 4 Aug	10.8 on 28 Jul 1975	43
Scoresby Research Institute	15.8 on 4 Aug	13 on 7 Aug 1973	43
Warracknabeal Museum	11.5 on 4 Aug	10.8 on 30 Jul 1975	43
Essendon Airport	14.7 on 4 Aug	11.8 on 1 Jul 1966	42
Melbourne Airport	12.7 on 4 Aug	12.7 on 28 Jul 1975	42
Strathbogie	12.4 on 5 Aug	9.5 on 7 Jul 1988	38
Moorabbin Airport	15.6 on 4 Aug	13.6 on 28 Jul 1975	37
Bundoora (Latrobe University)	14 on 4 Aug	12.5 on 21 Jul 2009	32
Weeaprounah	10.5 on 4 Aug	10.2 on 5 Aug 2000	30
Hamilton Airport	11.9 on 4 Aug	10.6 on 8 Jul 1988	28
Aireys Inlet	13.8 on 4 Aug	12 on 10 Jul 2001	20
Falls Creek	4.7 on 4 Aug	2.8 on 16 Jul 1992	20
Mount Hotham	3.7 on 4 Aug	2.3 on 28 Jul 1996	20
Sheoaks	13.9 on 4 Aug	12.1 on 5 Aug 2003	20

Table 4: Highest daily minimum temperature records for the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 7<sup>th</sup> of August broken in early August 2011. This table provides a list of those stations which set new early season records for 24 hour (9am) minimum temperatures.

AWAP Max. Temp. Anom. (°C) 01/08/2011 to 04/08/2011 (base 61-90)  
Product of the National Climate Centre

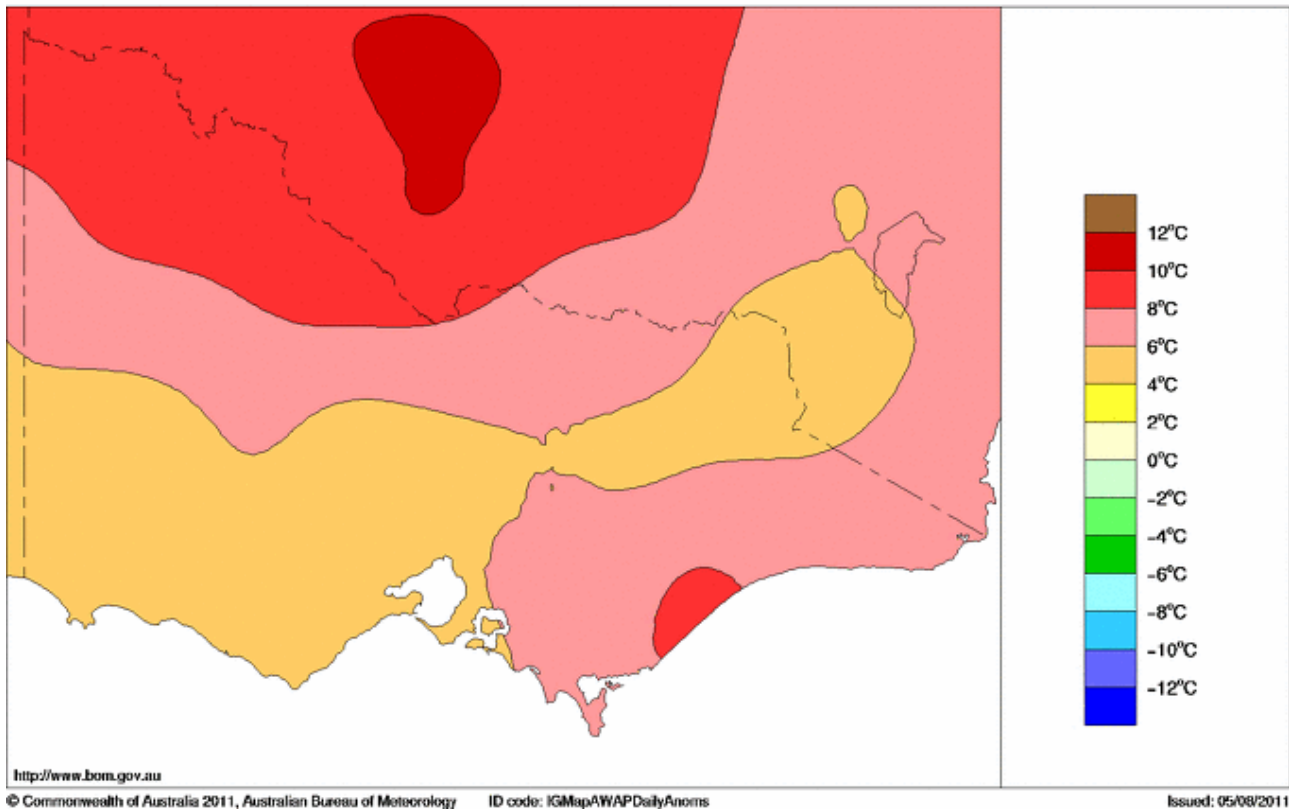


Figure 1: Average maximum temperature anomaly for the first 4 days of August 2011.

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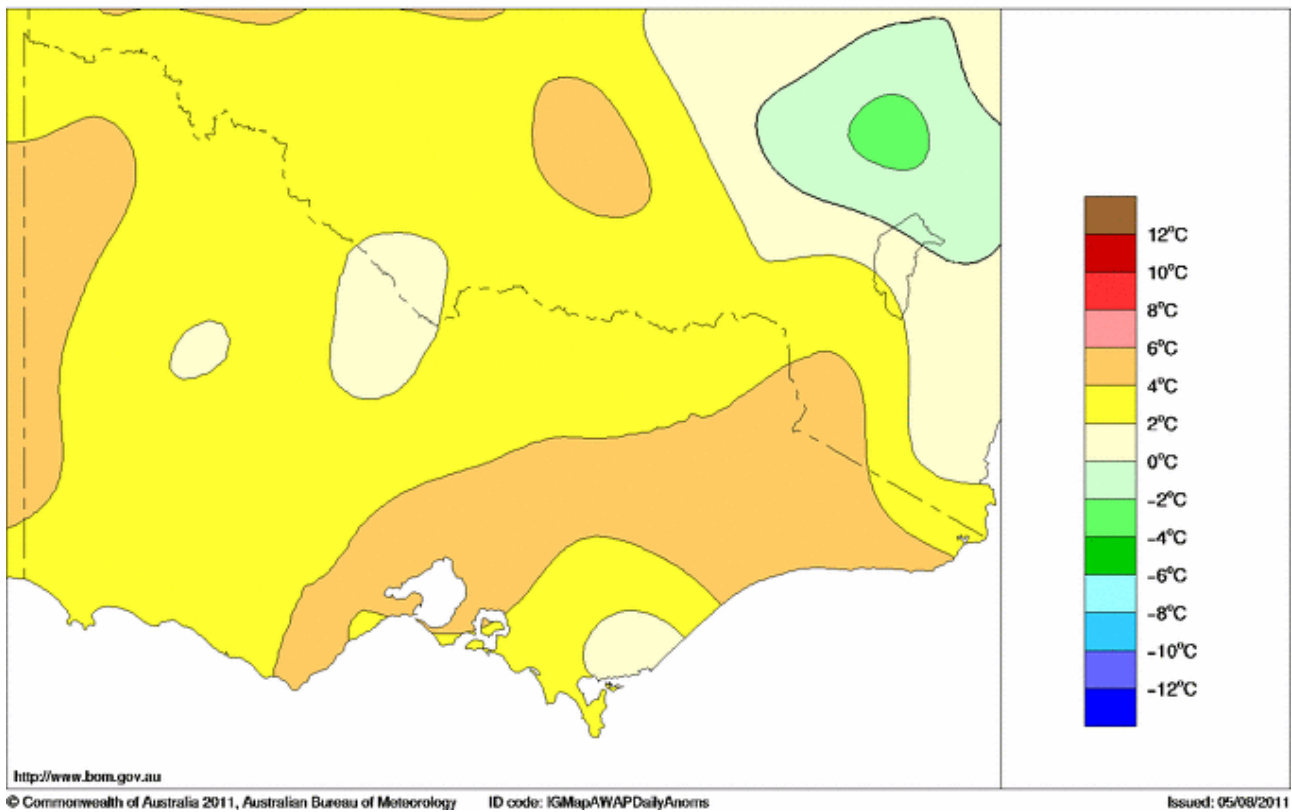


Figure 2: Average minimum temperature anomaly for the first 4 nights of August 2011.

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