



## **SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – April 2004**

### **SUMMARY**

Severe thunderstorms occurred in New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria. An intense low located off the southwest coast caused wind damage in Western Australia. Strong winds were also experienced in Victoria and Tasmania where trees and power lines were blown down. Flash flooding in Wollongong in New South Wales resulted from the highest daily rainfall on record for April.

### **THUNDERSTORMS**

#### **New South Wales**

On the 4th at Bankstown rainfall of 44mm in one hour caused local flooding. At Kembla Grange (Illawarra) 54mm in 2 hours was recorded and at Wollongong 83mm in 2 hours and 117 mm in 6 hours. There were reports of cars being swept off roads.

#### **Victoria**

On the 29th a severe thunderstorms occurred in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne with flash flooding reported in Burwood.

#### **Western Australia**

On the 8th thunderstorms caused heavy rain at several locations in the eastern Central Wheatbelt. Both Mount Walker and Gibb Rock recorded over 20mm of rain. Heavy rain was also registered near Tammin and Merredin.

At Bidgemia station near Gascoyne Junction a severe storm on the 11th damaging winds lifted roofs from buildings. Damage was in a 150 metre wide swathe that extended for about 500 metres near the homestead. A total of

53mm fell in just 15 minutes and accompanied pea size hail. Other storms occurred from the 10th to the 12th through the eastern Wheatbelt but no damage was reported.

### **WIND**

#### **Victoria**

On the 23rd strong, gusty south to southwest winds occurred as a low pressure system developed over eastern Bass Strait. Aireys Inlet recorded a wind gust of 90km/h.

On the 24th strong, gusty winds continued with Lookout Hill and Falls Creek both recording a wind gust of 98km/h.

#### **Tasmania**

On the 1st much of the state was affected by gales with winds locally averaging storm force at times. Many trees and power lines were blown down and over 9,000 households had power interruptions. The strongest reported gusts were: Droughty Hill (TERSS) 167 km/h, Maatsuyker Island 146 km/h, Mount Wellington 144 km/h, Cape Grim (BAPS) 120 km/h and Hartz Mountains (Keoghs Pimple) 120 km/h.

Gales were experienced in the north and east of the state on the 23rd and 24th. Four people were rescued from a yacht that was beached near Eddystone Point. Another 5 yachts were damaged when blown onto rocks near Beauty Point. The strongest gusts reported were: Friendly Beaches 120 km/h, Cape Grim (BAPS) 111 km/h, Eddystone Point 109 km/h and Swan Island 102 km/h.

## Western Australia

On the 13th isolated convection associated with a weak front caused wind damage to a few properties at Quinns Rocks and Hillarys in Perth's northern suburbs.

## FLOODING

### Queensland

Flooding occurred in the Tully and Murray Rivers towards the end of the month.

#### *Tully and Murray Rivers*

Very heavy rainfall commenced in the Davidson Creek area late on the 25th. As a result, moderate flooding commenced in both the Tully and Murray Rivers on the 27th. Heavy rainfall continued in the area until late on the 28th. At the peak of the flood, floodwaters were over the Bruce Highway for several days in the Euramo area.

### New South Wales

Local flash flooding occurred after heavy rain on the 4th at Liverpool, Bankstown and Audley with minor damage to houses reported. Flash flooding occurred on the 4th in Wollongong after 169mm of rain fell at Berkeley (suburb of Wollongong). This was the highest daily rainfall on record for April. There were several reports of cars being swept off roads.

## Western Australia

On the 2nd a person died when floodwaters caused by overnight thunderstorms swamped a rescue team assisting a tourist trapped in a narrow gorge in Karijini National Park in the inland Pilbara.

## BUSHFIRES

### Victoria

Fires broke out on the 14th in West Gippsland. The two largest fires were at Blue Rock (2,200 hectares) and Tonimbuk (750 hectares). The fires were contained by the 18th.

## TEMPERATURE

### *Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for April*

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
<i>New South Wales</i>				
<i>Cobar</i>	28.1	27.9	2002	41
<i>Smoky Cape</i>	25.8	25.8	1968	65
<i>Bathurst Agric. Res.</i>	23.9	23.2	1997	95
<i>Cowra Research</i>	25.7	25.1	1997	60
<i>Orange</i>	21.3	20.6	1997	35
<i>Wellington Research</i>	26.5	26.0	1997	58
<i>Cowra</i>	26.1	25.8	1993	37
<i>Northern Territory</i>				
<i>Maningrida</i>	33.9	33.7	2003	37

### *Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for April*

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
<i>New South Wales</i>				
<i>Casino</i>	16.4	16.3	1928	96

### *Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for April*

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
<i>New South Wales</i>					
<i>Nelson Bay</i>	30.1	17	29.6	1969	35
<i>Bombala</i>	30.0	14	28.9	1998	35
<i>Taralga</i>	28.9	15	28.2	1998	47
<i>Yass</i>	31.2	15	30.5	1998	38
<i>Cooma</i>	30.4	15	30.4	1986	30
<i>Thredbo Village</i>	22.3	14	22.0	1998	33
<i>Tumbarumba</i>	29.4	15	29.0	1998	39
<i>Lake Cargelligo</i>	35.2	15	34.4	1998	39
<i>Northern Territory</i>					
<i>Maningrida</i>	36.0	20	35.8	1998	36

### *Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for April*

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
<i>Queensland</i>					
<i>Cunnamulla PO</i>	16.2	29	17.4	1988	46

### *Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for April*

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
<i>Queensland</i>					
<i>Windorah PO</i>	25.7	06	25.5	2000	37

**New South Wales**

Brewarrina	22.0	07	22.0	1992	39
Wellington	20.0	04	19.8	1990	39
Cowra	19.0	04	18.2	1998	37
Corowa	19.4	15	19.2	1989	34
Hay	21.0	15	20.9	2002	47
Griffith Airport	21.0	15	20.0	2002	33

**Western Australia**

Pearce RAAF	24.2	04	23.8	1999	35
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**Northern Territory**

Curtain Springs	22.8	08	22.6	1979	38
Jervois	26.6	01	24.7	2003	35

**Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for April**

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
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**Queensland**

Mount Isa Aero	6.2	30	8.3	1999	37
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**New South Wales**

Wilcannia	1.8	26	2.4	1978	47
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**RAINFALL****Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for April**

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
<b>New South Wales</b>				
Broken Hill (Langawirra)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	117
White Cliffs	0.0	0.0	Numerous	103
Broken Hill	0.0	0.0	Numerous	115
Lake Victoria	0.0	0.0	Numerous	82
Menindee	0.0	0.0	Numerous	128
Pooncarie	0.0	0.0	Numerous	121
Wentworth (Wamberra)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	122
Wentworth PO	0.0	0.0	Numerous	136
Wentworth (Burtundy)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	124
Euston (Sunnyside)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	62
Balranald (Tillara)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	102
Oxley (Walmer Downs)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	81
Hay	0.0	0.0	Numerous	126
Hay (Pevensey)	0.0	0.0	Numerous	65

**Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for April**

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
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**New South Wales**

Berkeley	169.0	05	165.0	1988	44
Enngonia	118.0	29	98.0	1996	115

Note: Some statistical records mentioned in this report are based on data that have yet to be fully validated