



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – April 2008

SUMMARY

Towards the end of March tropical cyclone *Pancho* moved southwards parallel to the Western Australian coast. In Western Australia the remnants of tropical cyclone *Pancho* combined with a middle level trough to produce widespread moderate to heavy rainfall with local flooding.

A low in the Bight started to deepen rapidly in the early hours of April and entrained the remnants of tropical cyclone *Pancho*. The low affected Tasmania and Victoria early in the month producing destructive winds in both states.

TROPICAL CYCLONE/LOW

Western Australia

22nd/23rd Tropical Cyclone *Rosie*

A low formed on the 18th to the southwest of Sumatra and moved in a eastsoutheast direction reaching tropical cyclone intensity early on the 22nd to the west of Christmas Island. It then passed just to the south of Christmas Island and weakened.

The most significant impact was the heavy swell at high tide at the port area of Christmas Island on the 22nd. A wave of 5-7 metres damaged some facilities on the shore and tore a long-line mooring from its anchor.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

Queensland

On the 6th severe thunderstorms formed over the northern Sunshine Coast and Hervey Bay area with wind gusts of 93 km/h recorded at Double Island Point.

On the 14th a southerly wind change moved north along the southeast Queensland coast bringing scattered thunderstorms to coastal areas. There were widespread reports of local flash flooding and small hail over parts of the Gold Coast and southern Moreton Bay.

On the 22nd scattered thunderstorms formed over southeast Queensland with the passage of an upper trough. South Yaamba recorded 17mm of rainfall in 5 minutes.

On the 23rd scattered thunderstorms formed over much of southeast Queensland with wind gusts of up to 105 km/h recorded at Rundle Island.

New South Wales

Overnight on the 6th at Narooma (South Coast) 68mm of rain fell in 90 minutes.

On the 8th at Bungwahl (Mid North Coast), thunderstorms and heavy rain (90mm in 6 hours) caused minor flash flooding in the area.

On the 13th at Lochinvar (Hunter) thunderstorms with 2cm diameter hail occurred near Maitland. At Gosforth (Hunter) a thunderstorm with large hail up to 5cm in size damaged motor vehicles and shredded trees. Also on the same day a thunderstorm with 2cm hail was reported at Clarence Town and at Cabramatta a thunderstorm with 3cm hail was reported. At Stanwell Tops (Illawarra) a thunderstorm with golf ball size hail occurred. The hail accumulated to a depth of 10cm and was still lying on the ground the next day. At Culburra Beach (near Nowra) a thunderstorm with 2cm hail was reported.

Western Australia

Forrest recorded a wind gust of 111 km/h during a thunderstorm on the 10th.

A tornado on the 16th/17th was reported near Margaret river on the 16th. The path of the tornado was from Redgate, through Forest Grove to Warner Glen. Golf ball sized hail was reported from Warner Glen and damaged a car. At Forest Grove 31mm of rain was reported in 20 minutes. The tornado snapped large trees and power lines were brought down. The hail clogged gutters causing water inundation to a house.

On the 28th Mukinbudin reported large hail of 3-4cm in size during a severe thunderstorm. Thunderstorms were also reported in the northern Wheat Belt region.

Northern Territory

On the afternoon of the 4th a squall line moved through the Darwin rural area with an 81 km/h wind gust recorded at Noonamah (46 kilometres inland of Darwin) with maximum sustained winds of 61-72 km/h.

WIND

Queensland

A low pressure system in the eastern Coral Sea combined with a high over southeast Australia to bring strong winds to the southeast Queensland coast. A wind gust of 91 km/h was recorded at Cape Moreton on the 5th.

On the 16th a strong ridge extended along the Queensland east coast from a high in the eastern Great Australian Bight. This combined with a low in the Tasman Sea and a trough in the eastern Coral Sea brought severe wind gusts of 93 km/h.

New South Wales

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

2nd Thredbo 131 km/h
3rd Mount Boyce 96 km/h
26th Thredbo 100 km/h
27th Condobolin 102 km/h
Coonamble 94 km/h
Murrurundi 100 km/h
Forbes 91 km/h
Thredbo 102 km/h

Victoria

On the 2nd a very strong northerly gradient developed across central and western Victoria bringing very gusty northerly winds which affected parts of the state. The maximum wind gust in Victoria was 131 km/h at Mt Gellibrand (west of Geelong). Dunns Hill (Dandenongs) recorded 115 km/h and Melbourne Airport recorded 107 km/h. The wind gusts reached their peak in the western district in the morning, central areas in the afternoon and as the change moved through eastern Victoria, gusts were strongest in elevated areas. Areas of raised dust were reported from the western half of the state, with visibility down to 200 metres in some places. There were reports of rain associated with the front which fell as mud. Strong westerly gusts were reported overnight from the west of the state. Alpine areas recorded up to 5cm of snow in the colder air in the wake of the front. The heaviest rainfall totals were from Falls Creek (Rocky Valley Dam) with 50mm and Wilsons Promontory with 26mm. Many trees were brought down.

In metropolitan Melbourne the rail network was severely disrupted and 200,000 homes were without power. Lanes were closed on the Westgate bridge where gusts were close to 120 km/h, many traffic lights were out and conditions on the roads were chaotic. Several boats were washed ashore at Mornington, where large waves were observed.

On the 11th at Mount William a wind gust of 100 km/h was recorded with an average wind speed of 67km/h. Colac recorded a gust of 91 km/h on the same day.

On the 26th at Mortlake a wind gust of 91 km/h was recorded. Mt Hotham recorded a wind gust of 102 km/h.

Tasmania

A very deep low pressure system passed close to Tasmania bringing with it destructive winds from late on the 2nd until early on the 3rd with individual gusts well over 100 km/h recorded at several locations. The estimated damage bill is around 2 million dollars. More than 40,000 premises lost power with at least 200 fallen power lines causing road closures. Many buildings lost their roofs. The pressure at Maatsuyker Island dipped to 966.2 hPa on the 3rd, the second lowest mean sea level pressure ever reported in Tasmania.

Winds greater than 100 km/h were reported on:

2nd Maatsuyker Island 169 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 156 km/h
Mount Read 143 km/h
Mount Wellington 139 km/h
Droughty Hill 128 km/h
Hogan Island 124 km/h
Cape Grim 122 km/h
Tasman Island 115 km/h
Strahan 111 km/h
Tunnack 109 km/h
Luncheon Hill 107 km/h
Maria Island 102 km/h
3rd Droughty Hill 176 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 154 km/h
Mount Wellington 154 km/h
Tasman Island 135 km/h
Cape Bruny 131 km/h, Hobart 128 km/h
Hartz Mountain 126 km/h
Hogan Island 124 km/h
Cape Grim 122 km/h
Mount Read 120 km/h
Tunnack 117 km/h
Strahan 113 km/h
Warra 113 km/h
Maria Island 106 km/h
Hobart Airport 106 km/h
4th Mount Wellington 102 km/h
26th Mount Wellington 100 km/h

South Australia

An intense low on the 2nd produced widespread wind gusts in excess of 90 km/h across the Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island and the South East districts.

Western Australia

Strong winds fanned dust storms in the Central Wheat Belt and there were even reports of 'raining mud'. The mid-latitude transition of tropical cyclone *Pancho* resulted in a deep low that passed south of Tasmania causing strong winds across south eastern Australia.

DUST STORMS

New South Wales

Strong winds on the 2nd whipped up dust storms over southern inland New South Wales. Visibility was reduced to 200 metres at Ivanhoe (Lower Western) and 500 metres at Hay (Riverina).

Victoria

On the 2nd areas of raised dust were reported from the western half of the state, with visibility down to 200 metres in some places.

Tasmania

Strong and gusty winds on the 2nd caused a dust storm in the southern Midlands.

Clermont Sirius St	12.0	12.2	1918	93
Tambo PO	7.9	8.1	1937	78
Longreach Aero	13.0	13.7	1978	43
Baralaba PO	12.9	13.5	1972	37
Monto Township	10.5	11.3	1972	35
Gladstone Radar	18.1	18.3	1962	51
Double Is Point LH	18.1	18.2	1964	66
Maryborough	13.8	14.1	1951	99
Oakey Aero	8.3	9.1	1999	35
Injune PO	7.6	8.4	1972	41
Charleville Aero	9.9	10.1	1951	67
New South Wales				
Glen Innes Ag.	5.7	5.7	1971	37
Tabulam	11.8	12.0	1972	37
Scone SCS	9.0	9.1	1997	55
Wollongong	12.2	12.3	2006	37
Tasmania				
Bushy Park (Bushy Park Estates)	3.9	3.9	2006	74
Northern Territory				
Daly Waters AWS	11.5	11.8	1944	38
Victoria River Downs	11.2	12.2	1994	38
Mango Farm	14.8	15.5	1999	27
Timber Creek	13.3	14.2	1999	27
Wollogorang	12.9	13.1	1976	23
Katherine Aviation Museum	13.2	13.9	2001	21

BUSHFIRES

Tasmania

A bushfire on Flinders Island burnt out of control on the 23rd, burning over 3,200 hectares and leading to some local road closures.

Northern Territory

There were a number of fires around the Katherine region in April. There were no other reports if significant fires across the Northern Territory.

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for April

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Mornington Island	28.8	22	28.2	1983	34

Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for April

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Double Island Point Lighthouse	18.4	29	19.1	1985	48
New South Wales					
Balranald	13.8	27	14.2	2006	101
Condobolin Ag.	13.6	28	14.2	1977	43
Yamba	18.4	29	18.4	1994	64
Smoky Cape	16.0	22	16.5	1995	51
Orange Ag.	6.4	28	7.8	1999	32
Wellington	13.0	28	14.5	1974	43
Bowral	9.4	28	10.3	1999	42
Wollongong	16.3	28	16.3	1985	37
Taralga	7.0	28	7.4	1982	51
Charlotte Pass	-1.7	28	-1.2	1995	40
Hume Reservoir	10.6	27	10.7	1985	43
Quandialla	12.4	28	12.4	1999	43
Wyalong	12.5	28	13.2	1994	43
Corowa	10.7	27	10.8	1985	38
Tocumwal	11.2	27	12.0	1982	37
Narrandera	12.0	27	12.4	1982	38
Hay	12.7	27	13.0	1991	51
Lake Cargelligo	12.7	28	15.0	2001	43
Griffith A/P	12.2	27	13.4	1982	37
Victoria					
Mildura Airport	12.1	27	13.9	1964	62
Orbost Comp	11.5	27	11.8	1978	49
Tatura Inst	11.4	27	11.7	1982	44
Scoresby Research	10.3	28	12.0	1976	42
Lake Eildon	10.0	27	10.2	1978	39
Strathbogie	9.0	27	8.5	1995	32
South Australia					
Strathalbyn	12.4	27	13.8	1965	123
Yongala	10.0	27	11.1	1972	52
Renmark	13.4	27	14.0	1964	58
Warooka	14.4	26	14.5	1982	49
Loxton Research	13.1	27	14.4	1982	45
Eudunda	11.0	27	11.7	1982	44
Nonning	15.6	27	15.8	1971	37
Hawker	14.8	27	15.6	1992	35
Kadina	15.4	27	15.5	1992	32

TEMPERATURE

Lowest Mean Maximum Temperature for April

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Casino	24.5	24.6	1923	100
Alstonville	21.7	22.1	1976	40
Murwillumbah	24.0	24.8	1999	35
Smoky Cape	22.0	22.2	1962	69
Mount Seaview	21.8	22.4	1983	39
Gosford	21.3	21.8	1999	54
Cessnock	22.1	22.2	1983	34
Paterson-Tocal	21.8	21.8	1983	37
Lostock Dam	21.0	21.3	1983	38
Richmond	21.3	21.6	1946	80
Bowral	16.7	16.7	1983	42
Wollongong	20.6	20.7	1983	37

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for April

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Mount Isa Aero	15.3	15.9	1978	42
Cairns Aero	19.6	19.9	1946	66
Walkamin DPI	15.9	16.4	1997	40
Townsville Aero	18.1	18.3	1951	68
Collinsville Post Office	14.0	14.0	1972	51
Mackay MO	18.2	18.4	1962	49

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for April

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Low Isles Lighthouse	20.8	09	21.0	1997	41
Monto Township	2.7	30	3.2	1972	35
Amberley AMO	1.0	29	2.1	1944	67
Uni of QLD Gatton	3.2	30	4.7	1978	43
Gympie	3.6	30	4.8	2006	44
Redlands Hrs	5.0	29	6.3	1972	41
Stanthorpe Leslie Parade	-2.2	30	-2.0	1978	46
Oakey Aero	-1.1	29	-0.5	1999	35
Injune PO	-0.8	30	-0.5	1978	41
Mitchell PO	-0.9	30	-0.7	1978	39
Surat	0.0	30	1.3	1999	47
New South Wales					
White Cliffs	2.6	29	3.0	1978	46
Brewarrina	1.4	30	3.5	1978	43
Mungindi PO	0.4	30	2.0	1978	43
Baradine	-1.2	29	-0.2	1976	43
Quirindi	-3.2	30	-2.0	1978	43
Glen Innes	-3.5	30	-1.5	1990	46
Inverell Research	-0.3	29	1.5	1996	43
Tenterfield	-5.0	30	-2.7	1970	43
Armidale	-5.8	30	-5.0	2004	51
Tabulam	5.2	29	5.6	1978	37
Yamba	7.2	30	8.3	1944	64
Grafton Pool	3.6	30	4.8	1966	41
Alstonville	8.3	30	8.6	1972	40
Kempsey	4.5	29	5.1	1982	43
Coffs Harbour	4.3	30	6.1	1952	65
Murrurundi	-2.9	30	-2.1	2006	43
Scone SCS	1.3	30	1.6	1978	43
Mudgee	-3.7	30	-2.7	1978	46
Riverview	5.7	29	6.1	2006	46
Wollongong	5.1	30	5.6	1995	37
Moruya Heads	5.0	29	5.0	1977	51
Cooma	-6.5	30	-6.5	1978	34
Victoria					
Longeronong	-2.5	29	-2.0	1999	44
South Australia					
Cape Borda	6.0	27	6.7	1963	66
Woomera Aerodrome	4.8	28	4.9	1952	60
Western Australia					
Eneabba	7.6	20	8.0	2007	35
Learmonth Airport	12.9	21	13.0	1994	34
Wyndham	16.0	18	17.1	1999	41
Northern Territory					
Brunette Downs	4.0	28	4.4	1959	42
Mango Farm	7.6	30	9.9	1990	27

RAINFALL

Western Australia

The remnants of tropical cyclone *Pancho* combined with a middle level trough to produce widespread moderate to heavy rainfall with local flooding. Flooding was reported from Northam which recorded 21.6mm in 19 minutes. Local flooding forced the evacuation of a nursing home.

On the 5th/6th a slow moving cloud band produced heavy rainfall over the Perth metropolitan area. Perth recorded 73mm of rain for the event (14.6mm in the 24 hours to 9am on the 5th and 58.6mm in the 24 hours to 9am on the 6th. Other notable falls in the 24 hours to 9am in the 6th were 57.8mm at Pickering Brook and 57mm at Whiteman Park.

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for April

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Upper Landsdowne	519.6	427.1	1989	39
Western Australia				
Alexandra Bridge	185.0	181.2	1973	38
Bickley	157.8	144.4	1980	40
Brookton	115.7	101.2	1974	101
Culford	123.2	83.4	1987	40
Dwellingup	157.5	154.4	1968	75
Gascoyne Jct	86.8	82.2	2007	101
Gnaraloo	92.4	82.3	1915	92
Gosnells	170.8	106.0	1976	48
Hillview Farm	157.6	155.5	1980	37
Jandakot Aero	105.8	91.3	1985	34
Jimba Jimba	106.6	92.3	1923	98
Karnet	166.9	165.1	1990	45
Karragullen	137.8	134.1	1976	36
Karragullen North	155.8	119.4	1980	38
Marron	144.0	69.4	1996	97
Meckering	97.3	94.0	1934	111
Mosman Park	109.2	104.3	1980	38
Nindethana Farm	74.4	72.8	1992	31
Northam	99.2	88.2	1974	128
Perth Airport	135.0	113.3	1951	64
Perth Metro	153.6	148.8	1926	132
Pickering Brook	149.8	125.4	1976	31
Roleystone	139.6	115.9	1968	40
Serpentine Main	158.4	141.3	1969	45
Springdale	170.0	143.9	1990	35
Subiaco Treatment	108.6	91.3	1987	41
Swan View	122.6	89.4	1980	35
Tarwonga	92.0	85.8	1975	45
Valern	121.0	81.2	1985	36
Victoria Dam	182.2	123.0	1980	40
Warroora	159.2	140.0	1923	82
Wokalup	173.4	166.1	1980	57
Yanmah	131.2	130.6	2005	38
Yaringa Stn	110.2	84.1	1966	83
Yarloop	170.5	141.2	1980	56

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for April

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Cairns Aero	12.0	15.0	1946	66
Daintree Tea	88.0	138.6	1974	43
Mt Sophia	70.0	98.0	1995	40
Walkamin DPI	1.6	6.0	1984	44
Ingham Composite	33.4	33.6	1972	40
Dalrymple Heights	3.2	8.1	1951	70
Roma Peak	2.2	2.5	1967	45
Peachester	5.9	10.1	1944	92
Tasmania				
Orford (Aubin Court)	5.8	11.7	1967	56
Bicheno (Council Depot)	9.0	0.3	1967	34
Victoria				
Springvale Necropolis	14.6	16.3	1967	60
Glen Waverley Golf	9.4	23.0	2007	35
Altona City Offices	8.8	10.5	1981	37
Orford Aubin Court	5.8	11.7	1967	56

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for April

<i>Station</i>	<i>Actual mm</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Previous Highest mm</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Years of Record</i>
New South Wales					
<i>Craven (Longview)</i>	77.8	25	64.2	2006	47
<i>Upper Lansdowne</i>	218.4	25	105.9	1972	39
<i>Dungog (Main Creek)</i>	96.0	25	76.2	1963	48
<i>Lostock Dam</i>	57.8	25	57.6	1998	39
Western Australia					
<i>Belka</i>	62.4	01	49.8	1919	97
<i>Boddington Shire</i>	49.2	01	47.2	1957	87
<i>Brookton</i>	52.5	06	50.3	1953	101
<i>Clontarf Farm</i>	60.5	29	59.7	1966	72
<i>Dunelm</i>	30.0	06	26.4	1975	40
<i>Gnaraloo</i>	56.2	05	52.0	2007	83
<i>Hamelin Pool</i>	88.0	29	58.4	1991	96
<i>Hamelin Stn</i>	94.0	29	53.4	1991	62
<i>Hillview Farm</i>	61.0	01	54.5	1980	37
<i>Marron</i>	88.4	29	69.4	1996	97
<i>Nindethana Farm</i>	63.2	29	44.4	2006	31
<i>Tamala</i>	59.0	29	57.2	1968	91
<i>Victoria Dam</i>	82.8	06	64.2	2002	40
<i>Warroora</i>	135.0	05	57.0	2005	76
<i>Wokalup</i>	69.0	01	56.0	1985	57
<i>Woodleigh</i>	51.0	29	33.5	1966	74
<i>Wyndarra</i>	41.0	01	39.6	1987	35
<i>Yaringa Stn</i>	50.6	29	43.9	1966	74

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