



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – May 2005

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms in Queensland and Western Australia caused major damage. Multiple tornadoes were reported early in the month as well as in the middle of the month in Western Australia causing substantial damage to buildings and homes. Severe wind gusts in Tasmania were recorded on most days during the month

During the beginning of the month an upper level low off the west coast of Western Australia caused heavy rain near the coast, in the middle of the month the passage of a rain band and associated cold front caused heavy rain over the Lower Southwest.

In South Australia, agricultural areas recorded their lowest monthly rainfall totals.

THUNDERSTORMS

Queensland

A large quantity of small hail was reported in southeast Queensland at Benarkin during a thunderstorm on the 18th.

Intense thunderstorms affected western and northern suburbs of Brisbane during the late afternoon and evening of the 19th, bringing an exceptional coverage of small hail. The combination of hail and heavy rain led to extensive flash flooding and inundation of some properties. Hail was reported as deep as 15cm across roads causing considerable traffic disruptions. Brisbane airport was closed for about an hour. Rainfall reports were of the order of 40mm along the storm path from the southwest of the city through to the coast to the north of Brisbane. One school in the northern

suburbs was closed because of water damage. Preliminary damage estimates were more than \$10 million dollars.

New South Wales

On the 1st at Randwick a thunderstorm with heavy rain produced 25mm of rain in 30 minutes. Flash flooding caused several cars to be stranded.

On the 13th at Norah Head heavy showers during the evening produced 44mm of rain in 30 minutes.

In Sydney strong winds brought down a tree in Surry Hills crushing a motor vehicle on the 16th

Western Australia

Thunderstorms caused heavy rain over a wide area of pastoral lands in the Pilbara, Gascoyne and northern Goldfields. Tuckanarra (near Cue) reported a daily fall of 82mm to 9am on the 6th. Leinster had a daily fall of 77mm of which 41.8mm fell in two hours on the 5th and 21mm fell in 24 minutes. Hail the size of marbles occurred on the 6th at Burringurrah Community (near Mt Augustus). Cumulative falls for the week ending on the 6th included 156mm at Barrow Island, 129mm at Onslow Airport and 148 at Cardabia station.

On the 21st thunderstorms developed during the afternoon in Perth and over the South West Land Division. There were reports of a funnel cloud off the coast near Cottesloe. Golf ball sized hail was reported from the suburb of Atwell. Some notable rainfall totals to 9am on the 22nd included 33mm at Mordetta and 32mm at Oakland both in the Great Southern and 29mm at Redlands in the Central Wheatbelt. Around Perth the highest rainfall was 30mm at Gidgegannup and 27mm at Noble Falls.

Jandakot Airport recorded 7.4mm in 10 minutes and 19mm for the event. The highest wind gust recorded was 72km/h at Jandakot Airport.

Northern Territory

A waterspout was seen near Gawa Community, Elcho Island, at noon on the 12th.

TORNADOES

Western Australia

On the 1st and 2nd a tornado damaged about six properties in Byford, south of Armadale causing extensive damage to a building in Byford where windows were broken and the roof was lifted. The damage trail was only about 30 metres wide for about 1 kilometre towards the southeast. Neighbors heard thunder at the time. Water damage was also considerable.

On the 16th the passage of a strong cold front caused widespread damage to Perth suburbs and parts of the South West Land Division. Multiple tornadoes occurred on the leading edge of the front, the worst hit being at Bicton and Bunbury with other tornadoes possibly affecting the suburbs of Maddington, Martin and Roleystone, Hope Valley to Serpentine, Toodyay and Bokal (110 kilometres Southeast of Bunbury). Substantial building damage was caused in Bunbury and Bicton and 100,000 properties were reported to have lost power. Early estimates put the insurance cost at \$14 million. Wind gusts of 143 km/h were recorded at Rottnest Island (equal second highest metropolitan gust) and 135 km/h at Cape Leeuwin, 113km/h at Swanbourne and 102km/h at Ocean Reef.

In Perth the most serious damage was to a primary school in Bicton. Several rooms in the school were demolished by a tornado and the children had to be relocated to another school while repairs were made. Schools were also closed in Shelley, Roleystone and Serpentine due to damage to buildings. Other damage include several roofs completely lifted off and a significant amount of tree, fence and roof tile damage. The closure of a main arterial route into the CBD (Canning Highway) due to the tilt of a crane on a nearby construction site caused major traffic disruption.

WIND

Queensland

On the 2nd/3rd Double Island Point on the southeast coast recorded a wind gust of 93 km/h during the evening of the 2nd and 96 km/h early the next morning near shower activity in a vigorous southeast stream.

New South Wales

On the 24th in Thredbo 91km/h wind gusts were recorded.

On the 25th wind gusts at Green Cape 96 km/h, and at Montague Island 91 km/h were recorded.

On the 28th at Green cape 93 km/h wind gusts were recorded.

Tasmania

Heavy southwest to southerly swells were reported on Tasmania's south and west coasts from the 27th to the 29th. Waves penetrated well north into Storm Bay and the Derwent River, causing beach erosion and damage to some coastal structures in the Hobart area on the 28th.

Wind gusts in excess of 90 km/h were reported on the following days:

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1st | Mount Wellington 133 km/h, Hobart (Ellerslie Road) 102 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 102 km/h, Tasman Island 102 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 100 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 100 km/h, Mount Read 93 km/h |
| 2nd | Mount Wellington 107 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 91 km/h |
| 3rd | Mount Wellington 109 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 93 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 91 km/h |
| 4th | Tasman Island 91 km/h |
| 5th | Mount Wellington 117 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 117 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 113 km/h, Tasman Island 98 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 96 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 91 km/h |
| 6th | Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 115 km/h, Mount Wellington 109 km/h |

9th Mount Wellington 117 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 113 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 107 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 94 km/h

10th Mount Wellington 128 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 115 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 107 km/h

11th Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 119 km/h, Mount Wellington 117 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 109 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 91 km/h

22nd Scotts Peak Dam 120 km/h, Mount Wellington 115 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 109 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 106 km/h, Mount Read 102 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 98 km/h, Warra 91 km/h

23rd Mount Wellington 120 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 109 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 109 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 94 km/h

24th Mount Read 94 km/h, Mount Wellington 91 km/h

25th Tasman Island 91 km/h

26th Mount Wellington 146 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 128 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 117 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 115 km/h, Tasman Island 113 km/h, Mount Read 102 km/h, Warra 98 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 96 km/h

27th Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 133 km/h, Scotts Peak Dam 122 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 117 km/h, Tasman Island 109 km/h, Hobart (Ellerslie Road) 106 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 98 km/h, Warra 98 km/h, Mount Wellington 94 km/h, Mount Read 93 km/h

28th Tasman Island 131 km/h, Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 115 km/h, Mount Read 104 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 102 km/h, Maria Island (Point Lesueur) 102 km/h, Sheffield School Farm 98 km/h, Low Head 93 km/h, Flinders Island Airport 93 km/h, Liawenee 91 km/h

29th Mount Wellington 117 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 106 km/h, Tasman Island 100 km/h, Mount Read 94 km/h

30th Mount Wellington 107 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 98 km/h, Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 94 km/h, Tasman Island 93 km/h

31st Tasman Island 102 km/h, Mount Wellington 98 km/h, Mount Read 94 km/h, Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 93 km/h

Western Australia

On the 19th Ocean Reef recorded a wind gust of 98 km/h.

BUSHFIRES

New South Wales

From the 3rd to the 9th 420 hectares were burnt at Upper Turon near Bathurst.

On the 9th 100 hectares were burnt at Guyra.

On the 28th 250 hectares were burnt near Sofala (Central Tablelands).

Northern Territory

Two large fires were reported in the Katherine Downs area (Northwest of Katherine) around the 16th, where pastoral loss was the main damage. Further north, there were major fires in Lambell's Lagoon, Darwin River, Mandorah, Double Hill, Willeroo and Scott Creek, from mid to late May. In all cases minor property damage was reported, but no major infrastructure damage occurred.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Peak Hill	22.5	22.2	1999	39
Gulgong	20.9	20.5	1999	35
Bathurst Ag.	18.6	18.4	1999	96
Cowra Research	20.4	19.9	1999	62
Orange	16.3	15.7	1999	36
Cowra A/P	20.9	20.4	1999	38
Canberra	18.4	18.2	1947	66
Yass	18.6	18.2	1991	98
Charlotte Pass	10.1	9.6	1939	74
Thredbo AWS	7.3	7.0	1999	38
Thredbo Village	11.5	11.5	1996	35
Wagga Wagga	20.1	19.7	1947	63
Burrinjuck Dam	19.8	19.4	1939	93

Wyalong	21.4	20.6	1999	54
Narrandera	20.7	19.7	2002	35
Griffith	21.2	20.4	2003	33
Western Australia				
Bidyadanga	35.4	35.0	2002	45
Broome A/P	34.3	33.7	1998	65
Giles	27.3	27.0	1999	48
Warburton	28.7	28.2	2002	30
Wittenoom	31.3	30.5	1994	30

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Albany	13.6	12.9	1921	87
Albany A/P	12.0	11.7	1988	40
Badgingarra	13.9	13.1	2003	34
Beverley	11.4	10.6	1998	35
Bridgetown Comp.	9.7	9.4	1963	103
Brookton	11.0	10.0	1998	36
Cape Leeuwin	15.8	15.3	2003	108
Cape Natrualiste	14.6	14.4	2003	101
Carnamah	14.7	14.1	1998	59
Carnarvon A/P	17.8	17.4	1998	57
Corrigin	10.7	10.3	1988	55
Cunderdin	12.1	11.5	1959	54
Donnybrook	12.4	11.0	1963	100
Dwellingup	11.6	10.6	1963	67
Geraldton A/P	16.0	15.7	1998	62
Hyden	10.9	10.7	1998	32
Jurien Bay	14.8	14.5	1999	35
Kalbarri	16.9	15.6	1998	30
Kalgoorile-Boulder	12.1	12.0	1998	63
Karnet	11.9	11.1	2003	34
Katanning Comp.	11.0	10.9	1921	110
Lake Grace Comp.	11.6	10.8	1988	49
Lancelin	15.4	14.8	2003	37
Manjimup	11.7	11.0	1983	65
Mount Barker	11.6	11.4	2003	87
Mullewa	15.0	13.5	1963	60
Narembeen	11.8	11.7	1998	34
Narrogin	11.2	9.9	1999	37
Ongerup	11.5	10.5	1999	36
Pearce RAAF	14.9	13.1	2003	42
Pemberton	12.2	11.3	1983	61
Perth A/P	13.9	12.8	1999	60
Pingelly	11.6	10.5	2003	33
Ravensthorpe	12.0	11.3	1972	42
Southern Cross	12.1	11.8	1998	108
Wagin	11.5	10.2	1999	30
Wongan Hills	12.9	12.8	1998	48

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
University of Qld (Gatton)	31.6	1	30.5	1980	39
New South Wales					
Nyngan	31.2	1	30.4	1994	84

Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Murwillumbah	16.8	11	16.9	1985	32

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Richmond PO	23.1	10	23.0	1992	111
Tasmania					
Hobart (Ellerslie Road)	16.2	4	16.1	1889	123
Grove (Comp)	17.7	5	15.7	1969	50
Hobart A/P	16.0	5	15.1	1982	47
South Australia					
Ceduna A/P	21.1	4	20.4	1990	67
Streaky Bay	19.8	4	18.5	1997	49
Mt Gambier A/P	16.4	4	16.3	1980	64
Western Australia					
Eucla	21.8	4	20.5	1981	39
Marble Bar	26.2	4	25.0	1990	45
Northam	18.8	2	18.2	1998	35
Port Hedland A/P	25.8	4	25.7	1988	56
Wiluna	22.0	2	21.6	1981	43
Wittenoon	24.7	3	24.2	1977	46
Yeelirrie	20.5	2	19.6	2002	31

RAINFALL

Western Australia

On the 1st and 2nd an upper level low off the west coast caused heavy rain near the west coast. Notable daily falls to 9am on the 2nd included: 110mm at Manurah, 107mm at Pinjarra, 88mm at Katanning Research Station and 73mm at Ongerup.

In the passage of the cold front, mentioned in the tornado section, the heaviest rainfall occurred in the Busselton area with Acton Park reporting 89mm in the 24 hours to 9.00am on the 16th and other nearby sites 60-80mm.

From the 18th and 19th the passage of a rain band and associated cold front caused heavy rain over the Lower Southwest. Brunswick Junction recorded 111mm to 9am on the 19th which led to some localised flooding in parts – there was a report of the river breaking its banks at Brunswick Junction where a family was evacuated when their house flooded. Some Perth metropolitan sites recorded over 50mm.

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Previous		Years of Record
		Lowest mm	Year	
Western Australia				
Badgebup	130.5	117.7	1974	89
Ballaying	136.2	123.0	1974	45
Broomehill East	117.6	112.9	1924	70
Congee	121.6	119.2	1974	60
Darkan	191.2	175.4	1974	103
Dellyanine	152.6	116.8	1923	89
Hamelin Station	140.9	129.0	1999	63
Katanning Comp	165.2	148.4	1921	113
Kendandra	126.5	114.5	1999	34
Mindarabin	135.6	122.8	1988	49
Mosman Park	208.0	189.8	1974	34
Subiaco Treat Plant	179.4	178.4	1981	37
Tuckanarra	147.0	118.5	1921	75
Woodanilling	177.2	135.4	1942	71
Yealering	120.8	120.6	1921	83

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Previous		Years of Record
		Lowest mm	Year	
New South Wales				
Condobolin Ag.	0.0	1.0	1957	50
Trangie	0.0	0.5	1934	83
Ogunbil	7.0	10.2	1975	46
Euchareena	0.8	12.0	1984	43
Cowra Research	1.8	2.7	1957	62
Bigga	0.4	8.1	1939	67
Bigga (Greenmantie)	0.4	5.4	1976	44
Lisdale	2.6	4.4	1982	45
Orange	4.0	17.8	1994	36
Orange Ag.	4.2	16.5	1972	39
The Lagoon	2.0	4.2	2003	37
Tuena	2.0	4.6	1976	54
Cowra Airport	1.0	3.0	1976	38
Moss Vale	0.2	1.8	1982	135
Picton	0.7	1.6	1935	125
Crookwell	2.6	4.0	1934	121
Ainslie	0.4	1.4	1982	70
Stromlo Forest	0.4	1.4	1982	37
Garran	0.0	0.4	1982	33
Tidbinbilla	0.0	3.8	2001	39
Dalton	0.0	1.5	1902	106
Berridale	0.6	0.8	1976	58
Thredbo Village	12.2	25.2	1991	35
Wagga	4.4	4.6	1957	63
Ournie	2.2	7.8	1984	53
Blowering dam	2.2	14.8	1984	50
Batlow (Halloween)	2.6	8.0	1984	38
Holbrook	3.8	8.0	1984	35
Yarrangobilly Caves	3.3	12.5	1912	99
Tubbul	0.6	3.6	1994	36
Pulletop	3.6	5.4	1998	38
Ganmain	4.2	5.7	1994	37
Belfrayden	5.2	7.6	1984	37
Tasmania				
Devonport A/P	7.8	12.2	1996	42
Sth Mount Cameron	8.8	13.9	1959	47
Kimberley (Siding)	19.2	19.3	1972	41
Memana (Babel Farm)	21.4	28.6	1981	41

South Australia

Neptune Island	14.2	17.8	1967	48
Pt Lincoln West	12.2	13.5	1934	138
Tumby Bay	5.4	5.8	1972	99
Ardrossan	2.0	2.8	1996	126
Curramulka	3.6	5.4	1912	119
Minlaton	4.6	6.1	1912	126
Price	3.0	3.8	1996	62
Stansbury	4.0	8.1	1930	126
Bolivar	3.8	6.0	1990	32
Edinburgh A/P	2.4	8.6	1991	33
Magill	13.6	13.8	1996	38
Owen	1.6	2.2	1996	81
Kapunda	2.0	2.6	1959	145
Stockport	3.0	5.8	1991	46
Inman Valley	8.8	18.1	1954	73
Lenswood Res	8.0	29.6	1996	38
Lonsdale	3.2	6.8	1990	37
Meadows	8.0	8.4	1934	119
Mt Bold Res	9.9	14.9	1959	66
Parawa	17.6	29.7	1954	64
South Para Res	7.6	17.6	1996	38
Yankalilla	5.2	11.7	1959	114
Baramera	0.8	1.2	1991	67
Blanchetown	1.4	3.0	1994	38
Langhorne Creek	6.4	6.9	1934	116
Nildottie	0.2	3.4	1991	41
Caliph	1.0	1.8	1991	31
Claypans	1.3	2.0	1947	79
Peebinga	0.8	1.0	1991	53
Sandalwood	0.6	1.4	1991	90
Beachport	11.2	13.0	1996	124
Cape	15.6	15.8	1890	140
Northumberland				
Lucindale	6.4	7.5	1991	126

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual Date Mm	Previous		Years of Record	
		Highest mm	Year		
Queensland					
Gue	66.0	11	24.4	2000	66
Mitchell PO	68.2	11	68.2	1980	122
Augathella PO	79.0	11	77.2	1893	117
Mungallala	84.0	11	80.0	1913	89
Western Australia					
Araluen	69.2	19	66.4	1994	38
Badgebup	54.6	2	45.0	1932	86
Ballaying	57.2	2	29.4	1989	45
Broomehill East	45.0	2	43.2	1923	68
Brunswick Junction	111.0	19	80.3	1945	96
Callagiddy Station	82.0	2	77.5	1921	94
Cardup	62.0	19	50.0	2000	34
Chamingup	61.4	19	54.1	1942	92
Cossack	131.8	24	68.1	1918	37
Cranham	39.4	16	37.0	1977	51
Depot Springs	105.0	6	42.2	1929	73
Dwellingup	107.0	2	79.6	1989	71
Frankland	32.5	19	31.0	1975	33
Gosnells	69.6	19	66.5	1963	44
Katanning Comp.	75.0	2	59.4	1985	98
Kenandra	52.5	3	51.6	1974	34
Kojonolokan Hills	71.2	2	40.4	1968	44
Mindarabin	64.0	2	47.4	1988	49
Mosman Park	60.2	19	56.0	1980	33
Ongerup	73.0	2	57.9	1922	90

<i>Parkfield</i>	87.6	19	75.7	1947	55
<i>Pinjarra</i>	109.0	2	87.6	1927	97
<i>Roleystone</i>	73.0	19	72.2	1994	37
<i>Sandstone</i>	73.4	6	54.1	1942	94
<i>Springdale</i>	71.4	19	57.6	1984	32
<i>Subiaco Treat Plant</i>	60.2	19	56.6	1981	37
<i>Tuckanarra</i>	82.0	6	53.8	1922	69
<i>Woodanilling</i>	91.0	2	54.1	1923	69

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