



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – May 2007

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms and winds were features of the month. Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia reported tornadoes. A strong cold front moving across the Bight late in the month produced cold and windy conditions in South Australia and Victoria. In contrast, Queensland experienced a hot spell at the start of the month which saw many new daily maximum records broken.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

New South Wales

On the 9th at Avalon very heavy rain caused local flash flooding with 94mm of rain recorded in 2 hours.

At Pooncarie a thunderstorm with heavy rain and 4cm sized hail caused minor damage on the 16th.

Victoria

On the 3rd a microburst associated with a thunderstorm produced an estimated wind gust to 140 km/h at Woodend. Trees were uprooted in the area and part of the Woodend Library roof was torn off. A severe thunderstorm produced 40mm of rain in less than 15 minutes at Hoppers Crossing resulting in localised flash flooding. At Eildon a microburst associated with a thunderstorm produced a wind gust to 94 km/h followed by heavy rain leading to flash flooding. Also on the same day, a thunderstorm produced a wind gust to 139 km/h at Mt Hotham.

On the 14th a tornado was sighted near the You Yangs. The tornado lasted for several minutes as it traversed across farmland and had an estimated diameter of 50 to 100 metres. No damage was reported.

On the 15th a severe thunderstorm at Ararat produced 34mm of rain in 60 minutes leading to localised flash flooding.

On the 17th a severe thunderstorm produced large hail to 4cm in diameter at Heathmere near Portland. Damage to spouting and security lights and shed roofs were reported. Another severe thunderstorm later in the day produced flash flooding at Portland with 29.4mm of rain recorded in less than 60 minutes.

Tasmania

A tornado in Burnie on the 3rd caused damage to property.

South Australia

On the 14th thunderstorms resulted in hail of around 3cm at Cleve and Heggaton (about 30 kilometres north of Cleve). Heavy rainfall associated with thunderstorms resulted in 42 mm in 40 minutes near Kimba and flash flooding which washed a car off the road between Mangalo and Cleve.

On the 21st several houses were damaged and trees were blown down or snapped off at Moana due to a tornado.

A strong front passed over the southern agricultural areas of the state on the 29th, resulting in severe wind gusts with Minlaton AWS recording a peak gust of 95 km/h. In the wake of this front, strong and at times gale force west to southwest winds with showers and isolated thunderstorms, brought down a number of trees and damaged some roofs. Port Lincoln recorded a wind gust of 105 km/h during a thunderstorm while the Minlaton AWS recorded squally conditions throughout the afternoon with showers, resulting in peak gusts of 95 km/h. Squally conditions were recorded by the Cape Willoughby AWS where the peak gust was 128 km/h. In the Adelaide region numerous trees were downed or limbs snapped off particularly in the southern suburbs.

Western Australia

On the 26th there was minor damage associated with a weak tornado in Ocean Reef which demolished fences.

Northern Territory

Severe thunderstorms in the western Alice Springs district on the 16th caused flash flooding.

WIND

New South Wales

At Thredbo storm force winds averaging 98 km/h and gusting to 146 km/h were recorded on the 29th.

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

2nd Thredbo 94 km/h
 8th Thredbo 115km/h
 19th Mt Boyce 91 km/h
 Holsworthy 91 km/h
 Thredbo 107 km/h
 20th Thredbo 102 km/h
 21st Thredbo 104 km/h
 Cabramurra 91 km/h
 22nd Mt Boyce 91 km/h
 27th Thredbo 91 km/h
 28th Thredbo 91 km/h
 29th Fowlers Gap 94 km/h
 Condobolin 94 km/h
 Holsworthy 94 km/h
 Bombala 102 km/h
 Thredbo 146 km/h
 Khancoban 107 km/h
 Cabramurra 96 km/h
 Young 96 km/h
 30th Thredbo 98 km/h
 31st Thredbo 100 km/h

Victoria

On the 29th a low pressure system moving across Bight waters deepened sharply as it moved toward Portland and then tracked southwards. A vigorous cold front associated with the intense low moved across the State during the day, producing gale force northerly winds and widespread severe wind gusts. The highest gusts recorded were in the Alpine region with Mt Hotham recording a gust of 148 km/h. Damage was reported across most of Victoria, particularly Melbourne's eastern suburbs, Ballarat and Gisborne.

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

1st Grampians 109 km/h
 2nd Dunns Hill 93 km/h, Mt Hotham 96 km/h
 3rd Colac 93 km/h, Wilsons Promontory 94 km/h
 Eildon 94 km/h, Mount Buller 118 km/h
 Grampians 94 km/h, Mt Hotham 139 km/h
 Falls Creek 124 km/h
 4th Wilsons Promontory 104 km/h
 Mt Hotham 91 km/h
 5th Wilsons Promontory 109 km/h
 19th Portland 91 km/h, Cape Nelson 105 km/h
 Mount Buller 93 km/h, Colac 96 km/h
 Cape Otway 93 km/h
 Wilsons Promontory 122 km/h
 Falls Creek 94 km/h, Mt Hotham 94 km/h
 20th Wilsons Promontory 100 km/h
 21st Grampians 102 km/h, Mount Buller 96 km/h
 Mt Hotham 109 km/h,
 Wilsons Promontory 102 km/h
 22nd Wilsons Promontory 113 km/h
 23rd Wilsons Promontory 91 km/h
 24th Dunns Hill 91 km/h
 Wilsons Promontory 93 km/h
 25th Wilsons Promontory 102 km/h
 26th Wilsons Promontory 113 km/h
 27th Dunns Hill 94 km/h
 28th Mount Buller 94 km/h, Mt Hotham 96 km/h
 Grampians 94 km/h

29th Grampians 126 km/h
 Mount Buller 133 km/h, Sheoaks 94 km/h
 Kilmore Gap 102 km/h, Dunns Hill 106 km/h
 Mt Baw Baw 100 km/h
 Melbourne Airport 98 km/h
 Fawkner Beacon 105 km/h
 Aireys Inlet 96 km/h, Avalon 94 km/h
 Point Wilson 109 km/h, St Kilda 96 km/h
 Colac 100 km/h, Mt Hotham 148 km/h
 Rhyll 91 km/h, South Channel Is 91 km/h
 Falls Creek 143 km/h, Eildon 94 km/h
 Cape Nelson 91 km/h, Mt Hotham 98 km/h
 30th Falls Creek 96 km/h
 Wilsons Promontory 106 km/h
 31st Wilsons Promontory 111 km/h

Tasmania

Winds greater than 100 km/h were reported on:

1st Mount Read 107 km/h
 2nd Mount Read 107 km/h
 3rd Mount Wellington 107 km/h
 Flinders Island 102 km/h
 Scotts Peak Dam 102 km/h
 King Island 102 km/h, Hogan Island 102 km/h
 Swan Island 102 km/h, Mount Read 100 km/h
 Cape Grim 100 km/h
 4th Scotts Peak Dam 150 km/h
 Maatsuyker Island 148 km/h
 Mount Wellington 130 km/h
 Mount Read 124 km/h
 Hartz Mountain 120 km/h
 Tasman Island 119 km/h
 Eddystone Point 109 km/h
 Cape Grim 107 km/h, Droughty Hill 105 km/h
 Launceston 100 km/h, Hobart 100 km/h
 5th Maatsuyker Island 148 km/h
 Mount Wellington 137 km/h
 Scotts Peak Dam 137 km/h
 Cape Grim 131 km/h, Mount Read 124 km/h
 Hartz Mountain 117 km/h
 Cape Bruny 109 km/h
 Tasman Island 104 km/h, Warra 102 km/h
 6th Maatsuyker Island 154 km/h
 Mount Wellington 135 km/h
 Scotts Peak Dam 126 km/h
 Hartz Mountain 107 km/h Cape Grim 106 km/h
 Tasman Island 102 km/h
 Mount Read 100 km/h
 7th Mount Wellington 111 km/h
 Mount Read 100 km/h
 8th Maatsuyker Island 135 km/h
 Mount Wellington 126 km/h
 Scotts Peak Dam 117 km/h
 Hartz Mountain 104 km/h
 9th Mount Wellington 154 km/h
 Maatsuyker Island 143 km/h
 Scotts Peak Dam 122 km/h
 Hartz Mountain 111 km/h, Warra 100 km/h
 10th Mount Wellington 128 km/h
 Maatsuyker Island 113 km/h
 11th Hartz Mountain 102 km/h
 12th Macquarie Island 104 km/h
 15th Macquarie Island 100 km/h
 16th Macquarie Island 111 km/h

- 19th Hogan Island 154 km/h, Cape Grim 117 km/h
Mount Wellington 100 km/h
- 20th Mount Wellington 122 km/h
Hogan Island 102 km/h
- 21st Hogan Island 126 km/h
- 22nd Hogan Island 124 km/h, Cape Grim 109 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 107 km/h
- 23rd Maatsuyker Island 117 km/h
Mount Wellington 109 km/h
- 24th Maatsuyker Island 135 km/h
Mount Wellington 135 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 133 km/h,
Cape Grim 120 km/h, Hogan Island 115 km/h
Eddystone Point 115 km/h
Hartz Mountain 107 km/h
Mount Read 100 km/h
- 25th Mount Wellington 128 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 122 km/h
Hartz Mountain 106 km/h
Hogan Island 104 km/h
- 26th Maatsuyker Island 128 km/h
Mount Wellington 120 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 104 km/h
- 29th Cape Grim 124 km/h, Mount Read 120 km/h
Mount Wellington 119 km/h
Hogan Island 106 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 102 km/h
- 30th Maatsuyker Island 157 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 152 km/h
Hartz Mountain 131 km/h
Tasman Island 124 km/h,
Mount Wellington 124 km/h
Cape Grim 104 km/h, Hogan Island 104 km/h
Mount Read 100 km/h
- 31st Cape Grim 139 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 119 km/h
Mount Read 113 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 109 km/h
Swan Island 109 km/h
Mount Wellington 109 km/h
Hogan Island 106 km/h
Eddystone Point 100 km/h

Western Australia

On the 27th a passage of a cold front embedded in a westerly produced a wind gust of 91 km/h at Cape Naturaliste.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

Several wildfires threatened property across the western Top End, including two at Lake Bennett, two fires near Batchelor, and a fire that lasted two days north of Adelaide River.

TEMPERATURE

Queensland

A particularly hot spell at the start of the month saw many new daily maximum records. Richmond Post Office recorded its hottest May temperature in 114 years of record 37°C, (previous record 36.8°C) and Amberley recorded a new May maximum of 33.3°C (previous record 32.8°C, 66 years of record). A new record for the highest temperature in Queensland during May was reported from Julia Creek on the 4th with 39.3°C. Queensland had its warmest May on record since 1950. The average day-time maximum temperature across the state was 2.8°C warmer than average for the month and the highest on record, while the minimum temperatures were 2.5°C warmer and the 2nd warmest on record.

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Mount Isa Aero	31.1	29.9	1986	41
Georgetown PO	34.0	32.2	1988	114
South Johnstone Exp Stn	27.5	27.5	1988	54
Townsville Aero	29.4	29.2	1996	67
Collinsville PO	29.8	29.3	2002	49
Mackay MO	25.5	25.4	1973	48
Taroom PO	27.9	27.3	1973	55
Longreach Aero	30.3	28.8	1986	42
Camooweal Township	32.2	31.9	1988	100
Urandangi	30.5	30.4	1986	66
Winton PO	31.2	30.5	1946	69
Windsorah PO	28.6	28.0	1958	72
Lady Elliot Island	26.3	25.9	1973	68
Rockhampton Aero	28.4	28.0	1946	68
Monto Township	27.3	26.7	1973	34
Gladstone Radar	28.1	27.8	1973	50
Amberley AMO	27.3	26.5	1973	66
Cape Moreton Lighthouse	24.0	23.6	1958	94
Double Island Point Lighthouse	24.4	23.8	1998	64
University of Queensland Gatton	27.2	26.9	1923	84
Archerfield A/P	26.8	25.1	2006	34
Redlands Hrs	25.9	24.7	1973	45
Nambour Dpi	25.3	25.0	1973	51
Applethorpe	20.3	19.9	1973	38
Oakey Aero	24.9	24.6	1973	35
Injune PO	26.5	25.1	1993	40
Mitchell PO	26.9	25.8	1993	87
New South Wales				
Mungindi	25.8	25.3	1938	92
Tabulam (Muirne)	21.8	21.4	1973	36
Murwillumbah	26.0	25.4	1973	34
Smoky Cape	23.7	23.6	1958	68
Gosford	22.4	21.8	1975	53
Scone SCS	22.8	22.3	1973	54
Cessnock	23.2	22.4	1999	33
Paterson	22.6	22.4	1973	36
Lostock Dam	22.3	22.1	1973	37
Katoomba	16.5	15.9	1939	100
Oberon	15.3	15.0	1982	61
Dunedoo	21.8	21.6	1999	61
Parkes	21.4	21.3	1939	100
Parramatta	22.9	22.0	1973	39
Riverview	21.9	21.6	1947	98
Bankstown	22.5	21.7	1982	38
Prospect Dam	22.4	21.5	1982	42
Bowral	17.3	17.1	1999	41
Wollongong	21.8	21.1	1999	36
Camden Airport	22.3	21.9	1999	35

Montague island	20.2	19.3	1999	38	Castlemaine Prison	8.5	7.2	1978	37
Narooma	20.7	19.7	1999	42	Melbourne Airport	10.9	10.2	1988	37
Nerriga	17.7	17.6	1999	36	Moorabbin Airport	11.5	10.6	1988	36
Bombala	18.1	17.8	1999	95	Point Hicks LH	12.5	12.4	1988	36
Thredbo Village	11.6	11.5	2005	37	Warracknabeal Museum	9.4	8.6	1975	34
Victoria					Strathbogie	7.5	6.0	1983	30
Melbourne RO	19.6	19.6	1866	153	Tasmania				
Orbost Comparison	20.6	20.6	1947	67	Hobart (Ellerslie Rd)	10.0	9.4	1999	125
Laverton RAAF	19.4	19.4	1947	64	Cape Bruny Lighthouse	10.5	10.3	1939	83
East Sale Airport	19.2	19.2	1947	62	Grove (Comparison)	7.6	6.9	1973	52
Scoresby Research Ins	18.8	17.9	1999	50	Swansea PO	9.0	8.9	1988	51
Essendon Airport	19.0	19.0	1947	39	Hobart A/P	9.3	8.9	1988	49
Ararat Prison	16.8	16.8	2002	38	Orford (Aubin Court)	8.9	8.8	1988	39
Melbourne Airport	18.7	18.0	2003	37	Strathgordon Village	7.6	7.3	1980	37
Point Hicks LH	19.5	18.6	1975	37	Marrawah	11.2	10.8	1988	36
Wonthaggi	18.9	18.4	1980	37	Bicheno (Council Depot)	10.7	9.8	1988	33
Moorabbin Airport	19.3	18.3	1999	36	South Australia				
Tasmania					Robe Comparison	13.1	12.4	1975	123
Hobart (Ellerslie Rd)	17.3	16.9	1980	126	Mount Barker	9.8	9.7	1975	107
Cape Bruny Lighthouse	16.2	15.4	1999	82	Lamerook Comparison	9.9	9.8	1988	93
Bushy Park (Bushy Park Estates)	17.1	17.0	1939	73	Cleve	12.0	11.7	1990	67
Grove (Comparison)	17.2	16.6	1999	53	Mount Gambier Aero	10.5	9.8	1988	66
Swansea PO	18.2	17.8	1999	51	Cape Borda Comparison	12.8	12.5	1975	60
Eddystone Point	17.8	17.3	2002	49	Adelaide Airport	12.1	12.0	1958	53
Hobart A/P	18.0	17.4	1999	49	Keith	10.6	10.2	1988	52
Orford (Aubin Court)	17.6	17.4	1972	39	Maitland	11.9	11.8	1988	51
Strathgordon Village	13.3	13.0	1988	38	Meningie	11.6	11.3	1975	41
Bicheno (Council Depot)	19.0	17.9	1972	33	Adelaide (Kent Town)	12.1	11.6	1988	31
Northern Territory					Arkaroola	11.4	10.1	1988	30
Larrimah	34.1	33.7	1988	39	Northern Territory				
Daly Waters AWS	34.9	34.1	1958	37	Jervois	13.0	12.8	1988	39
Jabiru A/P AWS	35.2	34.8	1988	29	Centre Island AWS	24.6	24.0	1988	30
Timber Creek	35.5	35.1	1988	26	Pirlangimpi AWS	23.0	22.2	1988	23
Wollogorang	33.7	33.4	1988	24					
McArthur River Mine	34.8	34.4	1988	23					

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Burketown PO	21.0	20.5	2004	108
Richmond PO	17.6	17.0	1958	115
Springsure Dame St	15.0	14.4	1983	59
Barcaldine PO	16.3	16.1	1989	89
Isisford PO	15.8	14.9	1983	91
Winton PO	16.9	16.8	1989	69
Gladstone Radar	18.9	18.8	1973	50
Cape Moreton Lighthouse	19.1	18.5	1989	95
Double Island Point Lighthouse	19.6	19.3	1973	64
New South Wales				
Broken Hill A/P	10.7	10.4	1958	50
Cobar	11.6	11.3	1989	44
Byron Bay	16.8	16.5	1983	32
Alstonville	15.0	14.8	1983	38
Nelson Bay	15.0	14.1	2003	93
Katoomba	8.6	8.3	1989	100
Bowral	8.0	7.5	1980	41
Montague Island	14.7	14.3	1988	38
Narooma	11.9	11.7	1974	42
Thredbo AWS	0.7	0.2	1973	40
Tumbarumba	5.6	5.3	1989	42
Grenfell	10.1	9.6	1989	100
Victoria				
Melbourne RO	12.6	11.6	1988	153
Cape Otway LH	12.4	11.9	1919	143
Ballarat Aero	8.2	8.0	1974	99
Ouyen PO	10.1	9.9	1958	71
Laverton RAAF	11.5	9.8	1988	63
Walpeup Research	10.4	10.0	1942	59
Scoresby Research Inst	11.3	10.9	1988	50
Mangalore Airport	8.8	8.8	1988	48
Casterton Showgrounds	10.7	9.4	1975	45
Kyabram DPI	9.1	8.9	1988	42
Essendon Airport	11.2	10.1	1942	39
Ararat Prison	9.1	8.2	1988	38
Wonthaggi	11.0	10.4	1988	38

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Merredin	5.7	5.8	1968	42

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Mornington Island	34.9	02	34.7	1973	34
Mount Isa Aero	37.1	04	35.3	1988	41
Georgetown PO	36.8	04	36.7	1961	98
Richmond PO	37.0	03	36.8	1903	114
Clermont Sirius St	35.0	04	33.4	2003	46
Tambo PO	34.4	04	34.0	1964	50
Taroom PO	34.7	04	33.8	2003	51
Barcaldine PO	35.2	04	34.1	2003	46
Isisford PO	36.4	04	34.2	1995	51
Longreach Aero	36.2	04	34.2	2003	42
Camooweal Township	38.2	04	37.1	1988	66
Urandangi	37.8	03	37.5	1988	49
Winton PO	36.8	06	35.6	1964	51
Windorah	35.7	03	35.0	1987	39
Monto Township	32.8	04	31.4	1973	34
Amberley AMO	33.3	05	32.8	1943	66
Uni of Queensland	33.7	05	31.6	2005	42
Gympie	32.8	05	31.6	1973	43
Archerfield A/P	31.3	05	30.4	2003	34
Brian Pastures	32.5	05	32.1	1973	39
Stanthorpe Leslie Parade	27.3	04	26.0	1973	45
Applethorpe	26.3	04	25.0	2003	38
Oakey Aero	31.6	04	30.1	2003	35
Injune PO	33.3	04	31.7	1969	40
Mitchell PO	33.0	04	31.9	2003	38
Surat	33.0	04	32.4	1973	46
New South Wales					
Cobar	29.6	08	29.5	1985	44
Trangie Research	28.2	03	28.1	1994	38

Mungindi	32.3	04	31.5	1985	42
Pindari Dam	29.2	04	28.5	1973	35
Quirindi	27.8	05	27.6	1985	42
Tabulam (Muirne)	28.4	05	28.3	2003	36
Casino	32.7	05	31.8	1973	42
Alstonville	30.1	04	29.5	2003	38
Murwillumbah	31.9	04	31.6	2003	34
Kempsey	31.0	04	30.7	1991	42
Smoky Cape	29.5	04	28.0	1973	50
Coffs Harbour	29.8	04	29.6	1973	64
Mount Seaview	29.5	04	29.4	1994	38
Scone SCS	28.7	08	28.0	1973	42
Cessnock	30.1	04	29.4	1995	33
Lostock Dam	27.8	04	27.5	1995	37
Dunedoo	28.6	03	27.7	1997	42
Camden	27.5	03	27.4	1972	35
Narooma	25.6	03	25.5	1994	42
Northern Territory					
Brunette Downs	38.1	06	37.6	1988	42
Yuendumu	34.8	04	33.0	2002	41
Larrimah	36.5	04	36.4	1998	39
Daly Waters AWS	38.6	05	37.8	1942	37
Tennant Creek A/P	36.4	04	35.5	1988	37
Jabiru A/P AWS	37.6	02	37.0	2003	29
Timber Creek	38.6	04	37.7	1987	26
McArthur River Mine	37.7	03	37.4	1988	24
Wollogorang	37.7	03	37.2	1992	24

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Carneys Creek	0.6	3.0	2006	35
Navilloween	0.0	1.5	1966	49
Coolmunda Dam	7.6	7.8	2002	31
New South Wales				
Little Bay	11.4	14.4	1970	82
Rose Bay	12.2	12.8	2004	79
Tasmania				
Premaydena	9.0	9.4	1991	102

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Mumbil (Burrendong Dam)	48.2	18	39.6	1987	56
Howlong	57.8	18	48.6	1978	123
Goolma (Brooklyn)	58.0	18	56.1	1931	88
Northern Territory					
Lajamanu AWS	45.6	17	29.0	1959	35

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Peak Hill PO	18.3	08	17.6	1972	41
Parramatta	18.5	04	18.0	1987	39
South Australia					
Arkaroola	22.5	03	19.1	1999	30

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

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Balladonia	-0.1	22	0.0	1993	41
Beverley	-0.6	22	-0.2	2004	38
Hyden	-2.8	22	-1.3	1975	35
Narembeen	-1.8	22	-0.9	1968	37

RAINFALL

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Tibooburra PO	94.0	92.8	1893	121
Victoria				
Castlemaine Prison	152.4	127.3	1988	42
South Australia				
Wilkawatt (Newhouse Farm)	73.0	68.4	1974	39
Bordertown (Beeama Section 48)	119.8	113.1	1971	37
Tasmania				
Barrington PO	239.8	229.3	1965	41
Scottsdale (West Minstone Rd)	207.4	181.4	1997	36
Westbury (Birralee Rd)	141.4	139.0	1997	30