



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – May 2008

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms were reported in most states. In northwest Tasmania widespread flash flooding and water damage occurred. A tornado was reported in Western Australia causing a narrow trail of damage.

The passage of a cold front in Western Australia across the Southwest Land Division produced wind gusts in excess of 100 km/h. The cold unstable air affected the Southwest and adjacent South Coastal Districts. A duststorm was reported in New South Wales during the middle of the month. Several wildfires burnt across the Top End where property was damaged.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

New South Wales

On the 13th at Glenorie (Sydney) a thunderstorm with hail up to marble size covered the ground like snow to a depth of 2-3 cm. Small hail was also observed at Hazelbrook and Sutherland. At Crawford River (Mid North Coast), a thunderstorm with heavy rain (48mm in 1 hour) was reported. At Kempsey (Mid North Coast) a thunderstorm with small hail covered the ground like snow on the same day.

On the 15th at Clarence Town (Hunter) a thunderstorm with golf ball size hail covered the road completely.

At Evans Head (Northern Rivers) a thunderstorm produced marble size hail on the 17th and at Grafton 2cm hail was reported during a thunderstorm.

At Batemans Bay (South Coast) a thunderstorm with heavy hail covered the ground on the 27th.

On the 28th at Campbelltown (Illawarra) thunderstorms with hail caused damage to several homes and produced 35mm of rain in 1 hour. At Strathfield (Metropolitan) 2cm hail was reported during a thunderstorm. Smaller hail was observed at Hurlstone Park, Rhodes, Pymble and Gordon. At Gladesville (Metropolitan) a thunderstorm with 3cm hail covered the ground.

South Australia

On the 15th a thunderstorm produced a downburst which resulted in significant damage to a shed near Burra.

Very heavy rainfall (30mm in 30 minutes) occurred at Port Lincoln on the 21st as a result of a slow moving convective shower.

Tasmania

Thunderstorms in the northwest of Tasmania on the 26th caused widespread flash flooding and water damage, mainly between Wynyard and Burnie. Many locations received in excess of 40mm of rain, mostly in a short period of time. Wynyard received 23mm of rain in half an hour, which has an occurrence of a 1 in 20 year event. Up to 100 homes and 20 businesses were impacted by flooding with roofs collapsing at 7 homes in Somerset. Residential claims were expected to peak around \$150,000 and two Burnie businesses had an estimated \$100,000 damage to stock. Roads were closed due to flooding up to 1 metre deep. Some roads began to crumble, damaging cars and part of a railway line at South Burnie was washed away.

Western Australia

On the 25th funnel clouds were observed in the Perth metropolitan area during the afternoon.

On the 28th funnel clouds were observed in Dongara.

On the 31st the passage of a front through the South West Land Division during the day was accompanied by severe thunderstorms. A narrow trail of damage was reported from west Busselton as a result of a possible tornado. There was also damage reported from Rockingham. Maximum wind gusts of 102 km/h were reported from Busselton Jetty and Garden Island.

WIND

Queensland

On the 17th a front linked to a low pressure system in the Tasman Sea passed through southeast Queensland with a wind gust of 102 km/h recorded at Inner Beacon in Moreton Bay.

On the 18th, as the front moved offshore, strong south to southwesterly winds persisted over

southeast Queensland with repeated wind gusts of 94 km/h recorded at Cape Moreton.

On the 30th a weak low pressure system in the Coral Sea combined with a high pressure system in the Tasman Sea to bring strong winds again to southeast Queensland. A wind gust of 98 km/h was recorded at Double Island Point, and a wind gust of 93 km/h was recorded at Cape Moreton.

On the 31st a wind gust of 93 km/h was recorded at Rundle Island.

New South Wales

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

16th Thredbo 105 km/h
17th Thredbo 118 km/h

Victoria

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

17th Mount Hotham 113 km/h

Tasmania

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

6th Hogan Island 94 km/h
7th Mount Wellington 113 km/h
Hogan Island 98 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 98 km/h
8th Mount Wellington 94 km/h
9th Hartz Mountain 96 km/h
16th Mount Read 100 km/h
17th Hartz Mountain 91 km/h
18th Mount Wellington 98 km/h
19th Mount Wellington 124 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 107 km/h
Hartz Mountain 100 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 100 km/h
Hogan Island 98 km/h, Cape Grim 93 km/h
Cape Bruny 91 km/h
20th Maatsuyker Island 107 km/h
Mount Wellington 98 km/h
Hartz Mountain 96 km/h, Cape Bruny 94 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 93 km/h
28th Mount Wellington 98 km/h
Hartz Mountain 94 km/h
29th Mount Wellington 109 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 91 km/h
30th Mount Wellington 96 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 91 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 91 km/h

South Australia

A vigorous post frontal airstream on the 16th produced a wind gust to 93 km/h at Port Lincoln Airport and Neptune Island recorded a wind gust of 106 km/h.

Western Australia

On the 8th the passage of a cold front produced a wind gust of 96 km/h at Cape Leeuwin. No damage was reported.

From the 21st to the 23rd the passage of a cold front across the Southwest Land Division produced a wind gust of 102km/h at Cape Leeuwin on the 21st and 102km/h at Rottneest Island on the 22nd. In the wake of the front, a pool of cold unstable air affected the Southwest and adjacent South Coastal Districts with a wind gust of 91 km/h at Busselton Jetty on the 22nd. A deep low then passed well south of Albany and produced a wind gust of 107 km/h at Cape Leeuwin on the 22nd, 91 km/h at Busselton Jetty on the 23rd and 93 km/h at Cape Naturaliste, also on the 23rd.

DUST STORMS

New South Wales

Duststorms were reported on the 13th at Thargomindah.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

Several wildfires burnt across the Top End where property was damaged. Those most significant were around Annaburroo Station, Tenarra Station, Litchfield National Park, Douglas Daly and Bachelor. One property was completely burnt. Several other fires burnt around the Stuart Highway, with one at The Pines. There was no known damage to property with these fires.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	24.4	24.3	2002	67
Meekatharra A/P	27.3	27.2	1998	59
Norseman	24.4	23.9	2002	58
Warburton Airfield	29.3	28.7	2005	35
Yeelirrie	27.7	26.8	1994	35

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Prospect Dam	8.1	8.1	2006	43
Wollongong	10.1	10.2	2006	37
Western Australia				
Kuri Bay	18.2	19.1	2006	39
Wyndham	16.0	17.5	1976	41

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
Wollongorang	12.9	13.1	1976	23
Katherine Aviation Museum	13.2	13.9	2001	21
Tindal RAAF AWS	13.5	13.9	2001	20

Tasmania

Grove (Comparison)	10.4	17.2	1991	57
Taroona (Taroona Crescent)	9.8	10.5	1972	42
Huonville (Tutton Avenue)	14.2	16.7	1967	38
Geeveston (Cemetery Road)	19.4	22.0	1991	35
Victoria				
Gabo Island Lighthouse	13.6	13.7	1976	146
Mallacoota	13.2	14.8	1975	33
Genoa (Fools Haven)	6.6	12.8	1975	37
Western Australia				
Eneabba	13.8	18.5	1964	43
Karara	1.2	2.2	1992	31
Onslow Airport	0.0	0.2	2000	45

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for May

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Kowanyama A/P	8.5	19	9.4	1967	38
New South Wales					
Thredbo Village	-10.6	24	-9.5	1996	39
Perisher Valley	-9.8	23	-9.5	1977	32
Charlotte Pass	-13.4	24	-13.0	1997	40
Victoria					
Essendon Airport	0.1	24	0.4	2003	40
Moorabbin Airport	0.0	24	0.2	1981	37
Scoresby Research Institute	-0.3	24	-0.1	1997	42
Tasmania					
Grove (Comparison)	-5.5	29	-4.3	1979	49
Bushy Park (Bushy Park Estates)	-6.0	09	-4.8	1994	48
Northern Territory					
Brunette Downs	4.0	28	4.4	1959	42
Mango Farm	7.6	30	9.9	1990	27

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Elliott Heads Road	113.0	31	107.0	1983	30
South Australia					
Hallett (Lorraine)	48.0	17	37.8	1968	108
Tickera	27.0	16	22.6	1969	38
Bolivar Treatment Works	26.0	17	26.0	1989	35
Edinburgh RAAF	31.0	17	28.8	1974	36
Clarendon	70.0	17	58.4	1898/58	138
Mount Bold Reservoir	59.0	17	58.6	1975	69
Aldgate	75.0	17	72.4	1988	40
Williamstown (South Para Reservoir)	54.2	17	39.4	1971	41
Blackwood (Wittingunga)	46.0	17	42.2	2004	30
Tailem Bend (River Downs)	24.6	17	21.4	1985	40

RAINFALL

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

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for May

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Roma Peak	2.4	2.5	1970	46
Kalinga Bowls Club	0.0	2.8	1975	51
Buaraba	1.0	1.3	1962	55
Caloundra Wtp	19.4	22.8	2001	36
New South Wales				
Tibooburra	0.0	0.0	numerous	122
Narrabri West	0.0	0.0	numerous	117
Wyong	3.5	3.8	1957	123
Cessnock (Nulkaba)	0.8	3.6	1975	42
Gosford North	7.2	7.8	2004	36
Sydney (Observatory Hill)	3.0	3.7	1957	149
Richmond	1.1	1.5	1957	127
Hawkesbury Ag.				
Bexley	5.6	7.6	1957	77
Sans Souci	4.0	4.5	1957	108
Castle Cove	4.0	4.5	1982	49
Rose Bay	11.2	12.2	2007	80
Turramurra	2.6	2.6	1982	96
Berowra	5.5	6.6	1982	105
Camden Airport AWS	0.0	1.6	1982	65
Burrawang	7.8	9.1	1918	117
Frenchs Forest	5.2	5.3	1957	51
Eden (Timbillica)	2.6	3.8	1947	99
Eden (Caravan Park)	0.0	1.4	1982	139
Pokolbin (Jacksons Hill)	0.0	3.4	1982	47
Pokolbin (Somerset)	2.2	4.4	1982	46
Narrandera Airport	5.2	5.4	1976	41
Nulkaba (O'Connors Road)	1.0	6.0	1982	38