



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – June 2004

SUMMARY

Severe winds were again common over the southern part of the continent during the month. Damage was reported in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. In Tasmania snow closed a few elevated roads and heavy rain caused landslips around Strahan at the end of the month.

THUNDERSTORMS

New South Wales

On the 2nd at Randwick a thunderstorm with lightning and heavy rain (47mm in one hour) caused local flooding.

Victoria

On the 9th severe thunderstorms moved across the state with a front during the afternoon. Very heavy rain was reported at Ararat and also in Beulah West where 20mm of rain fell in 15-20 minutes. Large marble size hail was reported near Albury during the late afternoon and small but widespread hail was reported in Trentham. 30mm of rain fell in 30 minutes at Lake Bolac with thunderstorms. Severe thunderstorms moved across Melbourne during the late evening and caused damage to trees, lifted off roof tiles, blew down signs and lifted a pergola in Noble Park. The long, narrow damage path (3.2km by up to 200m) suggests that it was due to a tornado although no funnel was seen.

On the 14th at Edenhope very strong winds associated with thunderstorms knocked over two trees.

South Australia

A line of thunderstorms, which crossed the south of the state early on the 9th, produced over 18,000 lightning strikes. Strikes in the Adelaide metropolitan area caused damage to two houses, one house sustained damage estimated to be about \$20,000 when the lightning started a fire in the roof.

Early on the 13th, thunderstorms associated with a front produced tornadic type damage just north of Cummins on Lower Eyre Peninsula with around fifty trees uprooted in a path 100 metre wide and 1.5 kilometres long. Squally winds were also reported over other parts of Lower Eyre Peninsula, with wind gusts reaching 95 km/h at Coles Point.

During the evening of the 18th isolated lightning strikes over southern Flurieu Peninsula, south of Adelaide, caused minor tree damage.

WIND

New South Wales

On the 19th at Wollongong strong winds caused damage to houses in the Scarborough area where gusts reached 100 km/h.

Wind gusts greater than 90 km/h were experienced on the following days:

| | |
|------|---|
| 2nd | Thredbo 117 km/h, Bombala 91 km/h |
| 9th | Thredbo 98 km/h |
| 10th | Thredbo 98 km/h |
| 13th | Thredbo 117 km/h |
| 14th | Thredbo 122 km/h, Cabramurra 98 km/h, Nowra 93 km/h. |
| 15th | Montague Island 91 km/h, Mt Boyce 93 km/h, Nowra 98 km/h. |
| 17th | Thredbo 91 km/h. |

- 19th Cabramurra 96 km/h, Nowra 104 km/h, Bellambi Point 100 km/h, Kiama 96 km/h, Albion Park 96 km/h, Bega 93 km/h.
- 23rd Thredbo 104 km/h
- 24th Thredbo 91 km/h
- 27th Thredbo 98 km/h
- 28th Thredbo 104 km/h, Montague Island 91 km/h.
- 29th Thredbo 104 km/h.

Victoria

On the 1st strong, gusty northwesterly winds affected Victoria. The highest gusts were 95km/h at Wilsons Promontory and 90km/h at Mt Hotham.

On the 3rd gale force westerly wind affected southern Victoria. The highest gusts were 121 km/h at Wilsons Promontory and 90km/h at Mt Gellibrand.

On the 13th gale force and gusty northwesterly winds affected Victoria. The strongest gusts were 106km/h at Mt Hotham, 96km/h at Lookout Hill, 96km/h at Falls Creek, 95km/h at Cape Nelson and 91km/h at Dunns Hill.

On the 14th gale force northwesterly to westerly winds continued. The strongest gusts were 119km/h at Mt Hotham, 113km/h at Mt Buller, 106km/h at Falls Creek, 100km/h at Wilsons Promontory, 98km/h at Kilmore Gap, 93km/h at Longerenong, Dunns Hill and Melbourne Airport and 91km/h at Horsham.

On the 15th gale force winds continued but from a west to southwest direction. The strongest gusts were 117km/h at Wilsons Promontory and 93km/h at Mt Gellibrand.

On the 17th gale force northwesterly winds affected Victoria. Cape Otway and Mt Gellibrand both recorded a maximum gust of 91km/h.

On the 18th gale force northwesterly winds continued with Wilsons Promontory recording a maximum gust of 100km/h and Mt Gellibrand recording a maximum gust of 98km/h early in the morning. Severe winds during the early morning caused trees to be blown over, fences to be damaged and powerlines brought

down in Tecoma/Upwey. Later in the day Falls Creek recorded a maximum gust of 109km/h and Cape Nelson recorded a maximum gust of 91km/h.

On the 19th gale force and gusty northwesterly winds shifted to southwesterly as a front crossed Victoria. The highest gusts were 132km/h at Wilsons Promontory, 109km/h at Mt Buller, 108km/h at Cape Otway, 93km/h at Fawkner Beacon, 91km/h at Mt Gellibrand, 91km/h at Port Fairy, 89km/h at Sale and 89km/h at Aireys Inlet.

On the 20th gusty southwesterly wind continued during the early morning and Wilsons Promontory recorded a maximum gust of 122km/h.

On the 28th strong, gusty northerly winds resulted in gusts to 98km/h at Wilsons Promontory.

On the 30th gusty north to northwesterly winds affected much of Victoria shifting westerly during the day. A dust storm occurred at Mildura and large branches were blown down in Maffra. The strongest gusts recorded were 117km/h at Mt Buller and Gelantipy, 111km/h at Mt Moornapa and 109km/h at Mt Hotham.

Tasmania

Many gusts over 90 km/h were reported on the 2nd to the 4th, 14th, 18th, 20th, 24th and 27th to the 30th. Storm-force mean winds were reported from some sites on six of these dates. On the 30th, there were power cuts to 18,000 premises scattered across the state, largely the result of trees blown down, and minor building damage was reported at Burnie.

South Australia

The passage of a front early on the 14th resulted in squally winds over parts of southern Yorke Peninsula, eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges and coastal areas of the Lower South East. Wind gusts reached 93 km/h at Stenhouse Bay, 91 km/h at Strathalbyn and 96 km/h at Cape Jaffa.

During the early morning of the 25th, pre frontal northwest winds reached gale force on the eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges

and the Lower South East with Strathalbyn recording mean winds of 63 km/h and gusts to 95 km/h and Cape Jaffa recording mean winds around 63 to 65 km/h. The passage of the front a few hours later resulted in gusts to 96 km/h at Cape Borda on Kangaroo Island.

A deep low passed south of the state during the 30th and this again resulted in squally conditions with isolated thunderstorms over the Upper and Lower South East districts. Around dawn, a gust to 124 km/h was registered at Cape Jaffa, while during the early afternoon, Cape Jaffa registered gusts between 93 and 109 km/h and Robe experienced a gust to 111 km/h.

Western Australia

On the 6th a cold front swept through the southwest of Western Australia in the afternoon. A tornado causing damage to a 500 metre swathe of bushland through the Ferguson Valley near Dardanup. Trees to 6 feet in diameter were snapped off. Cape Leeuwin recorded wind gusts up to 102km/h.

On the 7th Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste recorded wind gusts up to 98km/h as a cold front moved through the southwest of Western Australia. Mundaring recorded 52 mm of rain and towns in the Central Wheat Belt had moderate falls.

On the 10th a cold front passed over southwest parts of the state, moving through the Perth metropolitan area in the evening. A few trees were felled in the Swanbourne/Cottesloe area and one house had roof damage. Wind gusts of over 93km/h included North Island in the Abrolhos (115 km/h), Rottnest Island (104 km/h) and Swanbourne (102 km/h). Some heavy rainfall was reported at Mt William with 74mm, Dwellingup 57mm, Wellington Mill 53mm and Bickley 46mm.

On the 12th a front moving at about 75 km/h passed over the Lower West during the morning causing wind gusts up to 92km/h at Garden Island and 106km/h at Cape Leeuwin. Wind gusts of 109km/h occurred at Esperance and Cheadanup there were reports of vegetation damage, but no known damage to property from this event.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

There were many fires across the Top End. However unseasonal early June rainfall meant that fuel curing remained lower than usual despite windy and dry conditions through the middle part of the month.

FLOODING

Tasmania

Heavy rain led to landslips around Strahan on the 28th blocking some roads and undermining parts of the West Coast Wilderness Railway.

Western Australia

On the 6th the Collie river experienced some flooding. There were also reports of overflowing drains in the Bunbury area.

SNOW

Tasmania

Snow closed a few elevated roads on the 3rd, 4th, 19th and 20th.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Previous Highest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| New South Wales | | | | |
| Gosford | 20.1 | 19.9 | 2001 | 50 |
| Norah Head | 19.9 | 19.7 | 2003 | 34 |
| Parramatta | 20.0 | 20.0 | 2001 | 37 |
| Riverview | 19.8 | 19.3 | 2003 | 95 |
| Bankstown | 19.7 | 19.5 | 1991 | 35 |
| Narooma | 18.2 | 17.9 | 2003 | 39 |
| Western Australia | | | | |
| Carnarvon A/P | 25.4 | 25.2 | 1985 | 57 |
| Nyang | 28.5 | 27.9 | 1976 | 31 |
| Onslow A/P | 28.5 | 28.3 | 1962 | 38 |
| Roebourne | 29.6 | 29.3 | 1996 | 83 |

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Previous Highest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------|

Western Australia

| | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|----|
| Beverley | 8.3 | 8.1 | 1983 | 34 |
| Jurien Bay | 12.6 | 12.5 | 1987 | 34 |
| Lancelin | 13.7 | 12.8 | 1988 | 36 |

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Previous Lowest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|------|-----------------------|
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|------|-----------------------|

New South Wales

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|----|
| Pindari Dam | 0.3 | 0.6 | 1982 | 32 |
| Williamtown | 5.6 | 6.2 | 1965 | 53 |
| Paterson (Tocal) | 5.6 | 6.2 | 2000 | 53 |
| Wollongong | 7.7 | 8.2 | 2000 | 33 |

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Date | Previous Highest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|

New South Wales

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Paramatta | 25.5 | 14 | 25.4 | 1997 | 37 |
| Riverview | 24.9 | 14 | 24.6 | 1997 | 42 |
| Narooma | 23.2 | 14 | 22.8 | 2003 | 39 |

Western Australia

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Katanning Comp. | 24.0 | 16 | 23.2 | 2000 | 47 |
| Narrogin | 24.0 | 16 | 23.2 | 1977 | 36 |
| Onslow Airport | 32.3 | 13 | 32.0 | 2001 | 38 |
| Pingelly | 24.3 | 16 | 23.5 | 2000 | 32 |

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Date | Previous Lowest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|

Western Australia

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Salmon Gums R.S. | 15.9 | 17 | 15.0 | 2002 | 33 |
|------------------|------|----|------|------|----|

Northern Territory

| | | | | | |
|----------|------|---|------|------|----|
| Larrimah | 23.0 | 2 | 22.8 | 1981 | 37 |
|----------|------|---|------|------|----|

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for June

| Station | Actual °C | Date | Previous Lowest °C | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|

Queensland

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Uni. Of Qld (Gatton) | -2.4 | 30 | -2.1 | 1985 | 39 |
|----------------------|------|----|------|------|----|

Oakey Aero

| | | | | | |
|------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Oakey Aero | -6.9 | 30 | -6.7 | 1982 | 31 |
|------------|------|----|------|------|----|

New South Wales

| | | | | | |
|------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Mt Seaview | -2.5 | 29 | -1.3 | 1986 | 35 |
|------------|------|----|------|------|----|

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Burrinjuck Dam | -2.6 | 05 | -1.7 | 1969 | 39 |
|----------------|------|----|------|------|----|

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|
| Lord Howe Is | 7.8 | 29 | 8.0 | 1992 | 118 |
|--------------|-----|----|-----|------|-----|

Western Australia

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----|----|-----|------|----|
| Mandora | 3.4 | 29 | 4.2 | 1971 | 40 |
| Wyndora | 8.6 | 29 | 9.6 | 1977 | 40 |

Northern Territory

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------|----|------|------|----|
| Larrimah | 3.5 | 22 | 3.8 | 1976 | 37 |
| Yuendumu | -1.1 | 29 | -1.0 | 1967 | 34 |
| Wave Hill | 1.3 | 29 | 2.0 | 2002 | 29 |
| Timber Creek | 5.0 | 20 | 5.6 | 1994 | 23 |

RAINFALL**Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for June**

| Station | Actual mm | Previous Highest mm | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|

Queensland

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|----|
| Hazelmere | 89.4 | 79.2 | 1990 | 32 |
|-----------|------|------|------|----|

Tasmania

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|------|----|
| Renison Bell | 455.5 | 433.4 | 2002 | 75 |
| Cressy House | 118.9 | 116.0 | 1956 | 62 |
| Campbell Town | 112.0 | 88.9 | 1939 | 58 |
| Poatina | 143.4 | 124.9 | 1953 | 55 |
| Dunorlan | 217.8 | 176.9 | 1971 | 53 |
| Lake Echo Power Stn | 174.0 | 170.6 | 2002 | 47 |
| Western Creek | 244.4 | 228.2 | 1964 | 41 |
| Barrington | 220.6 | 207.1 | 1991 | 38 |
| Togari | 275.2 | 259.6 | 1971 | 38 |
| Zeehan | 502.8 | 455.6 | 2002 | 36 |
| Ross | 120.4 | 95.0 | 1988 | 34 |
| Woolmoor | 119.5 | 93.6 | 2003 | 34 |

Northern Territory

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|----|
| Darwin Airport | 50.6 | 41.4 | 1973 | 63 |
| Maningrida | 12.4 | 8.6 | 1990 | 42 |
| Jabiru Airport AWS | 11.8 | 9.0 | 1985 | 26 |

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for June

| Station | Actual mm | Previous Lowest mm | Year | Years of Record |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|
|---------|--------------|--------------------------|------|--------------------|

Queensland

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|----|
| Maroon Dam | 0.7 | 2.5 | 1993 | 32 |
| The Head | 2.0 | 4.6 | 1986 | 46 |
| New Beith | 0.6 | 2.0 | 1986 | 43 |
| Upper Tent Hill | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1986 | 46 |
| Fordsdale | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1986 | 51 |

New South Wales

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Old Koreelah | 1.6 | 2.2 | 1986 | 91 |
| Taree | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2001 | 122 |
| Riverview | 3.6 | 3.9 | 1962 | 99 |
| Bankstown | 3.0 | 7.4 | 2001 | 35 |
| Marsfield | 3.4 | 4.6 | 1986 | 33 |
| Eden | 3.0 | 4.3 | 1971 | 135 |

Western Australia

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|----|
| Meekatharra | 0.0 | 0.3 | 1944 | 59 |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|----|

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for June

| <i>Station</i> | <i>Actual</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Previous</i> | <i>Year</i> | <i>Years of</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | <i>mm</i> | | <i>Highest</i> | | <i>Record</i> |
| | | | <i>Mm</i> | | |
| Western Australia | | | | | |
| <i>Fossil Downs</i> | <i>69.4</i> | <i>04</i> | <i>40.6</i> | <i>1951</i> | <i>87</i> |
| <i>Ellendale</i> | <i>33.0</i> | <i>04</i> | <i>28.4</i> | <i>1962</i> | <i>48</i> |
| Northern Territory | | | | | |
| <i>Darwin Airport</i> | <i>46.8</i> | <i>02</i> | <i>29.7</i> | <i>1973</i> | <i>63</i> |
| <i>Maningrida</i> | <i>10.9</i> | <i>01</i> | <i>8.6</i> | <i>1990</i> | <i>42</i> |
| <i>Jabiru Airport AWS</i> | <i>11.8</i> | <i>01</i> | <i>9.0</i> | <i>1985</i> | <i>26</i> |

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