



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – July 2005

SUMMARY

Wind was the feature of the month with wind gusts recorded in all states except the Northern Territory. A cold outbreak in the beginning of the month produced heavy snowfalls in the Southern Tablelands.

A tornado was observed in Western Australia and bushfires were reported in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

In New South Wales heavy rainfall on the North Coast caused major flooding in the Richmond-Wilson Rivers and the Brunswick River. Flooding in Tweed Heads caused damage in excess of \$1 million. The total damage bill on the North Coast was around \$25 million. In Western Australia rainfall during the middle of the month produced highest monthly rainfall totals for July.

TORNADOES

Western Australia

On the 16th a tornado was observed about 20 kilometres south of Dowerin. Another tornado was observed approximately 20 kilometres to the north of Dowerin. The system formed in a northwesterly airstream ahead of a cut-off low which was situated to the northwest of Perth.

SNOW

New South Wales

A cold outbreak on the 8th and 9th brought gale force winds and heavy snowfalls to the Snowy Mountains with heavy snowfalls to low elevations in the Monaro district of the Southern Tablelands. Lighter falls were recorded on the central and Northern tablelands. Roads were closed in the Monaro district after snowfalls of 35cm at Nimmitable and 40cm near Jindabyne. Roofs collapsed and tree branches were brought down under the weight of the snow. Rural communities were isolated for 2 days after one of the heaviest snowstorms in decades. Power was lost to thousands of homes for up to 24 hours. Wind gusts reached 117 km/h at Green Cape on the South Coast.

WIND

Queensland

A deep low caused strong gusty westerly winds in southeast Queensland on the 10th.

A deep low moved off the New South Wales coast across the Tasman Sea during the 9th and 10th and drove strong gusty west to southwest winds across southeast Queensland on the 10th. Large trees and powerlines were blown down resulting in more than 45,000 people losing electricity in southeast Queensland. Almost every suburb was affected across Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine coasts. A large gum tree crashed through the roof of a house.

Highest recorded daily maximum wind gusts were recorded as a large high pressure system moved across southern Australia along the east coast with southeast winds.

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

- 19th Coen Airport 93 km/h
- 20th Green Island 100 km/h, Lucinda Point 94km/h, Double Island Point Lighthouse 94km/h, Green Island 93 km/h
- 21st Green Island 91 km/h, Double Island Point Lighthouse 91 km/h
- 22nd Green Island 91 km/h

New South Wales

On the 10th gale force winds brought down many large trees in Sydney. One person was killed when a tree fell on a vehicle. Winds gusted to 98 km/h in coastal Sydney suburbs and 109 km/h in the Wollongong area. Up to 16,000 homes lost power in Sydney, Wollongong and the Central Coast.

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

- 1st Green Cape 93km/h, Montague Is 104km/h, Green Cape 104km/h, Thredbo 105km/h.
- 6th Thredbo 94km/h.
- 7th Thredbo 98km/h.
- 9th Green Cape 117km/h, Montague Is 96km/h.
- 10th Montague Is 113km/h, Green Cape 100km/h, Thredbo 98km/h, Albion Park (Wollongong Airport) 109km/h, Kiama 104km/h, Nowra 94km/h, Jervis Bay 94km/h, Kurnell 96km/h, Little Bay 96km/h, Sydney Airport 96km/h, Bellambi 94km/h, Sydney Harbour 98km/h, Ulladulla 93km/h.
- 11th Byron Bay 91km/h.
- 13th Green Cape 105km/h.
- 14th Green Cape 115km/h.
- 16th Thredbo 105km/h.
- 17th Thredbo 93km/h.
- 24th Thredbo 115km/h
- 25th Thredbo 113km/h
- 26th Thredbo 120km/h (highest in NSW for July 2005), Manly 102km/h, Cabramurra 96km/h, Sydney Harbour 93km/h.
- 29th Thredbo 105km/h.

Victoria

On the 1st strong and gusty winds were experienced in association with a low pressure trough crossing Victoria. Northeasterly gusts to 104km/h were recorded at Green Cape and 100km/h at Gabo Island during the early afternoon. Westnorthwesterly gusts to 94km/h were recorded at Wilsons Promontory during the evening.

Strong and gusty winds ahead of an approaching cold front were experienced. Wind gusts to 96km/h were recorded at Mt Hotham.

On the 9th strong and gusty south to southeasterly winds were experienced over eastern Victoria in association with a developing east coast low. Wind gusts to 102km/h at Gabo Island and 93km/h at Mallacoota.

An east coast low moving away to the southeast on the 10th produced south to southwesterly gusts to 100km/h at Green Cape during the morning.

On the 16th strong and gusty west to southwesterly winds were experienced in the wake of a cold front moving through Victoria. Wind gusts to 122km/h at Wilsons Promontory, 96km/h at Port Fairy, 94km/h at Colac and Cape Otway and 91km/h at Kingfish B were recorded.

Strong winds continued during the morning of the 17th as the cold front moved to the east. Gusts to 137km/h at Wilsons Promontory, 109km/h at Kingfish B, 98km/h at Gabo Island and 93km/h at Cape Otway were recorded.

On the 22nd northwesterly winds gusting to 93km/h were recorded at Wilsons Promontory during the early morning ahead of an approaching cold front.

A vigorous west to northwesterly airstream with embedded fronts on the 24th produced gusts to 104km/h at Mt Hotham, 100km/h at Falls Creek and 91km/h at Wilsons Promontory late in the day and at night.

On the 25th strong west to northwesterly winds continued with gusts to 117km/h recorded at Wilsons Promontory and 94km/h at Mt Hotham and Falls Creek.

Strong and gusty west to northwesterly winds continued during the early morning of the 26th as a front approached the southwest coast. Gusts to 113km/h were recorded at Wilsons Promontory, 102km/h at Mt Hotham, 100km/h at Kingfish B, 98km/h at Falls Creek and 94km/h at Colac.

On the 29th strong and gusty westerly winds in the wake of a cold front moving through Bass Strait during the day, produced gusts to 98km/h at Wilsons Promontory during the afternoon and evening.

Tasmania

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

- 1st Mount Read 94 km/h
- 2nd Mount Wellington 115 km/h,
Tasman Island 94 km/h
- 6th Scotts Peak Dam 91 km/h
- 10th Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 94 km/h
- 11th Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 98 km/h,
Mount Wellington 93 km/h
- 16th Mount Read 94 km/h
- 17th Tasman Island 117 km/h,
Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 104 km/h,
Droughty Hill (TERSS) 91 km/h
- 18th Mount Wellington 126 km/h, Droughty
Hill (TERSS) 107 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 115 km/h,
Scotts Peak Dam 94 km/h,
Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 91 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 91 km/h
- 19th Fingal (Legge Street) 115 km/h,
Mount Wellington 109 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 93 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 91 km/h
- 20th Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 91 km/h
- 22nd Scotts Peak Dam 128 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 119 km/h,
Mount Wellington 117 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 109 km/h
Droughty Hill (TERSS) 94 km/h,
Eddystone Point 100 km/h, Warra 93 km/h
- 23rd Mount Wellington 126 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 91 km/h
- 24th Droughty Hill (TERSS) 141 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 133 km/h,
Mount Wellington 130 km/h,
Mount Read 128 km/h,
Strahan Aerodrome 120 km/h,
Scotts Peak Dam 120 km/h,

- Tasman Island 109 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 98 km/h,
Hobart Airport 98 km/h,
Hobart (Ellerslie Road) 98 km/h,
Eddystone Point 98 km/h
- 25th Scotts Peak Dam 120 km/h,
Mount Read 117 km/h,
Mount Wellington 115 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 115 km/h,
Droughty Hill (TERSS) 91 km/h
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple)
102 km/h, Eddystone Point 93 km/h
- 26th Mount Wellington 139 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 135 km/h,
Mount Read 133 km/h,
Scotts Peak Dam 126 km/h,
Warra 115 km/h, Droughty
Hill (TERSS) 109 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple)
106 km/h, Liawenee 94 km/h,
Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 91 km/h
- 28th Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 98 km/h,
Mount Wellington 94 km/h
- 29th Mount Read 102 km/h,
King Island Airport 93 km/h,
Eddystone Point 91 km/h,
Mount Wellington 91 km/h
- 30th Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 98 km/h,
Mount Wellington 94 km/h
- 31st Mount Wellington 102 km/h

South Australia

On the 16th, a vigorous front moved across southern South Australia and produced northwest to west wind gusts to 95 km/h at Cape Jaffa and Cape Borda

Western Australia

On the 3rd the passage of a cold front produced a wind gust of 93 km/h at Cape Leeuwin.

On the 12th and 13th the passage of a cold front produced severe wind gusts in parts of the Lower Southwest. Cape Leeuwin recorded wind gusts to 104 km/h and Rottnest Island to 91 km/h. No major damage was reported.

On the 20th the passage of a cold front during the evening caused damaging winds in the Bunbury area. A house had damage to parts of the roof and an air-conditioner unit. A school had windows blown in, a tall antenna mast was

blown down and a fence was damaged. In Gelorup, there was damage to trees and vegetation. The highest wind gusts were 113 km/h at Cape Leeuwin and 105 km/h at Cape Naturaliste. As noted under tornadoes

BUSHFIRES

Queensland

On the 10th 100 hectares of exotic pine plantation were destroyed in a fire at Beerburrum on the Sunshine coast. The fire was deliberately lit and was fanned by very strong westerly winds.

Northern Territory

The north of the territory experienced dry and windy conditions at the beginning of July and again in the third week. This increased fuel curing and caused very high fire danger over the Top End during these weeks.

Around the middle of the month a fire in Gregory National Park burnt for a couple of days. Beginning around the same time, another large fire in the River National Park burnt for the remainder of the month. During July a number of fires also burnt in the Vernon, Arafura and Katherine regions with fire activity peaking around the time the fire ban was issued. There was damage to property.

FLOODING

Queensland

Flooding was finalized early in July after heavy rain during June for the Paroo, Bulloo, Balonne, Warrego, Moonie and Weir southern interior river systems.

New South Wales

On the 1st very heavy rainfall on the North Coast caused major flooding in the Richmond-Wilson Rivers and the Brunswick River. Minor flooding was reported in numerous other rivers in the northeast of the state. Lismore was declared a natural disaster area with over 3,000 people evacuated. Flooding in Tweed

Heads caused damage in excess of \$1 million after 231mm in 24 hours, the wettest day on record for July. The total damage bill on the North Coast was around \$25 million.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for July

<i>Station</i>	<i>Actual °C</i>	<i>Previous Highest °C</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Years of Record</i>
Queensland				
<i>Monto Township</i>	22.3	22.1	1975	32
<i>Gladstone Radar</i>	24.7	24.4	2004	48
New South Wales				
<i>Murwillumbah</i>	22.0	21.9	2002	32
<i>Coffs Harbour</i>	20.0	19.7	2002	62
<i>Sydney Obs. Hill</i>	19.0	19.0	1975	146
<i>Camden</i>	18.9	18.8	1975	33
<i>Montague Island</i>	16.6	16.1	1990	36
<i>Narooma</i>	17.5	16.9	1994	40
Victoria				
<i>Ballarat Aerodrome</i>	11.6	11.6	1999	96
Tasmania				
<i>Bushy Park (Bushy Park Estates)</i>	13.7	13.4	2002	68
<i>Launceston A/P Comparison</i>	12.3	12.3	2001	67

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for July

<i>Station</i>	<i>Actual °C</i>	<i>Previous Highest °C</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Years of Record</i>
Western Australia				
<i>Eyre</i>	3.6	3.9	1997	47

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for July

<i>Station</i>	<i>Actual °C</i>	<i>Previous Highest °C</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Years of Record</i>
Queensland				
<i>Burketown PO</i>	16.7	16.6	1969	108
New South Wales				
<i>Grenfell</i>	5.9	5.7	1950	98
<i>Hay</i>	6.0	5.8	1993	124
Victoria				
<i>Melbourne RO</i>	8.4	8.4	1975	151
<i>Wonthaggi</i>	7.8	7.7	1991	38
Tasmania				
<i>Cape Bruny Lighthouse</i>	7.8	7.7	2002	81
<i>Grove (Comparison)</i>	4.5	3.7	1975	49
<i>Flinders Island A/P</i>	7.3	8.1	1970	44
<i>Strathgordon Village</i>	4.6	4.5	1988	36
<i>Marrawah</i>	8.1	8.1	2002	35

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Narembeen	25.0	12	24.7	1969	33

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Tasmania					
Burnie (Round Hill)	12.7	6	12.5	1985	56
Marrawah	12.7	24	12.2	1994	35
Western Australia					
Bidyadanga	22.5	12	22.2	1958	45
Halls Creek A/P	22.6	7	22.0	1958	58

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Carnamah	0.4	12	0.6	1990	34
Pemberton	0.0	7	0.2	1996	44
Kellerberrin	-3.5	12	-3.2	1997	46
Pingelly	-1.6	12	-1.2	1997	33
Balladonia	-3.5	9	-3.3	1969	39

RAINFALL

Western Australia

Between the 10th and 12th a middle level trough generated a broad rainband over the Pilbara and Gascoyne districts producing heavy rainfall in the area. Many stations broke their previous one-day records for July including Marble Bar with 106mm, Roebourne 68mm and Bulloo Downs 48mm. As a result of these heavy rainfalls many towns in the Pilbara and adjacent Gascoyne district also recorded highest on record monthly rainfall totals for July including Onslow Airport 106mm and Mulga Downs Station 116mm.

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Stirling	38.0	35.8	1973	33
Western Australia				
Coolawanyah	113.8	77.5	1928	82
Ilgarari	74.5	64.2	1973	41
Mininer	100.2	73.6	1998	41
Mulga Downs	116.0	106.7	1904	107

Noreena Downs	105.6	77.5	1946	85
Onslow A/P	105.8	96.5	1972	41
Pannawonica	90.6	59.1	1972	32
Paraburdoo Aero	113.6	66.2	1980	31
Pyramid Station	102.1	88.0	1980	49
Strelley	86.0	81.3	1923	74
Telfer Aero	86.0	78.4	1986	31
Turee Creek	88.2	75.6	1980	76
Wittenoom	95.7	52.1	1998	30

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Geraldton A/P	23.2	24.0	1979	62
Carnamah	9.4	11.4	1976	117
Mosman Park	57.0	70.8	1977	32
Pinjarra	56.9	82.1	1959	126
Walpole	111.2	122.0	1997	53
Wokalup	81.5	86.2	1969	53
Gordon River	29.6	39.0	1976	46
Denbarker	56.4	59.1	1994	31
Bruce Rock	5.8	10.2	1957	90
Cunderdin	10.6	13.3	1937	91
Doongin Peak	7.6	11.3	1976	110
Bungulla	7.7	9.9	1937	77
Mouroubra	3.4	5.4	1979	59
Nungarin	10.6	11.4	1977	101
Tammin	10.0	13.8	1976	94
Cherry Tree	26.6	28.0	1957	79
Cranbrook	18.0	24.4	1957	112
Darkan	34.2	34.4	1976	103
Dumbleyung	14.5	16.3	1957	95
Duranillin	25.8	29.9	1957	93
Riverdale	23.2	26.4	1957	92
Tambellup	21.8	25.8	1918	95
Amrista Park	10.8	16.9	1959	49
Jerramungup	13.4	15.2	1994	39
Boodjerakine	10.6	11.0	1976	91
Swanara	12.8	16.3	1976	43
Swan View	61.0	85.0	1977	31
Benalla	13.5	29.6	1918	72
Gosnells	70.2	82.4	1977	44
Karnet	104.2	104.6	1998	39
Eneabba	28.9	34.7	1976	39
Kojonup	29.0	30.1	1918	120
New South Wales				
Pambula	219.4	205.6	1912	96

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Tully Sugar Mill	101.4	5	100.0	1988	81
Oonoonba	35.4	21	21.4	1984	45
Stirling	34.0	21	27.2	1973	33
New South Wales					
Tweed Heads	230.8	1	213.1	1900	119
Eden	104.0	10	96.0	1936	136
Canberra	47.2	9	43.8	1991	66

Western Australia

<i>Bulloo Downs</i>	48.2	11	38.0	1984	80
<i>Carlindie</i>	95.0	11	81.3	1923	60
<i>Carnegie</i>	50.4	11	36.8	1972	49
<i>Coolawanyah</i>	74.4	11	46.0	1959	75
<i>Dampier Salt</i>	63.6	11	44.6	1998	34
<i>Glen Florrie Stn</i>	52.2	10	39.0	1998	57
<i>Hamersley</i>	56.0	11	45.0	1980	86
<i>Hillside Station</i>	100.8	11	76.2	1946	74
<i>Ilgarari</i>	46.0	11	38.1	1959	39
<i>Karratha Aero</i>	66.6	11	48.0	1998	31
<i>Kooline</i>	47.0	10	45.7	1927	73
<i>Marble Bar Comp.</i>	105.6	11	62.7	1946	106
<i>Mardie</i>	41.0	11	40.6	1959	106
<i>Marillana</i>	91.0	11	65.0	1946	53
<i>Millstream</i>	48.6	11	39.9	1910	97
<i>Mininer</i>	66.4	11	57.0	1980	41
<i>Mount Florance</i>	77.0	11	68.8	1959	103
<i>Mulga Downs</i>	87.0	11	71.1	1959	100
<i>Mundabullangana</i>	90.0	11	58.7	1946	70
<i>Onslow Airport</i>	81.6	10	68.3	1948	31
<i>Pannawonica</i>	52.2	10	43.0	1995	32
<i>Paraburdoo Aero</i>	58.4	11	38.0	1980	31
<i>Pardoo Stn</i>	67.2	11	63.0	1998	87
<i>Port Hedland A/P</i>	73.2	11	46.2	1946	62
<i>Pyramid Stn</i>	90.3	11	42.1	1998	49
<i>Roebourne</i>	67.8	11	57.4	1946	105
<i>Strelley</i>	83.0	11	55.9	1923	71
<i>Telfer Aero</i>	56.0	11	44.0	1978	31
<i>Warrawagine</i>	79.2	11	66.0	1956	89
<i>Wittenoon Airport</i>	52.6	10	37.8	1995	30

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