



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – July 2007

SUMMARY

A strong cold front swept through the south of the Continent affecting Western Australia and South Australia resulting in strong winds and damage. Light snowfalls were recorded in New South Wales at the start of the month and again during the middle of the month. Persistent fog in Tasmania caused significant disruption to aviation.

Bushfire events occurred in the northwest Top End, during the middle of the month.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

New South Wales

On the 27th at Goulburn areas of ground were completely covered with pea to marble size hail.

Victoria

On the 17th a cold front hit Melbourne around the morning peak hour, bringing hours of rain and blasts of cold Antarctic air in its wake. The State Emergency Service took 150 storm damage calls across the state, mostly in metropolitan Melbourne. Emerald, Hastings and Sorrento were the worst affected, mostly for fallen trees.

South Australia

A tornado was reported at Poona near Coultas on the Lower Eyre Peninsula on the 4th which caused damage.

Western Australia

A strong cold front swept through the Southwest Land Division on the 1st followed by a secondary development on the 2nd. A low then formed to the south of the state during the 3rd and moved towards South Australia on the 4th. Several severe wind gusts were recorded in the Lower West and Southwest Districts with Cape Leeuwin recording near storm force mean winds. Tree damage was reported in Kings Park with some moderate property damage in South Perth. A tornado was reported in the north west of the Gnowangerup Shire on the 1st whilst Brunswick Junction reported golf ball sized hail on the morning of the 2nd. Widespread, mostly minor damage was reported with only isolated major damage.

A cold front moved through the Lower Southwest during the evening of the 23rd. A suspected tornado caused a narrow swathe of damage about 50 metres wide by 2.5 kilometres in length, through Rockingham/Waikiki, south of Perth. About 70 houses sustained damage along this path mostly to roofing, fences, patios and pergolas. Winds ranged between 118-150km/h. A tornado caused a swathe of damage 10 kilometres south of Meckering, through bushland 100 metres in width by about 1 kilometre long that ripped out large trees. Rottneest Island reported a wind gust of 106km/h then 109km/h the following morning. Cape Leeuwin reported 94km/h, Cape Naturaliste 91km/h and Bussleton 93km/h. The cold front also caused thunderstorms through the metropolitan area.

WIND

New South Wales

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

4th	Nowra 96 km/h, Bellambi 107 km/h Thredbo 117 km/h, Cabramurra 102km/h
5th	Sydney Airport 91 km/h, Moss Vale 91 km/h Kiama 91 km/h, Thredbo 120 km/h
17th	Thredbo 118 km/h
18th	Green Cape 93 km/h
26th	Thredbo 93 km/h
27th	Thredbo 109 km/h
31st	Thredbo 120 km/h

Victoria

Winds greater than 100 km/h were reported on:

1st	Mt Moornapa 107km/h
3rd	Wilson Promontory 117 km/h
4th	Wilson Promontory 113km/h
5th	Mount William 106 km/h
17th	Dinner Plain 104 km/h Wilson Promontory 109 km/h
31st	Mount William 104 km/h Colac 100 km/h

Tasmania

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

3rd	Hogan Island 137 km/h, Cape Grim 96 km/h Mount Wellington 94 km/h Maatsuyker Island 94 km/h
4th	Hogan Island 120 km/h

- 16th Cape Grim 102 km/h, Mount Read 93 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 91 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 91 km/h
- 17th Mount Wellington 113 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 111 km/h
Hogan Island 107 km/h, Cape Grim 106 km/h
Maria Island 100 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 100 km/h
Mount Read 100 km/h
- 18th Cape Grim 91 km/h
- 24th Mount Wellington 98 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 91 km/h
- 25th Mount Wellington 98 km/h
- 27th Cape Grim 93 km/h
- 28th Hogan Island 106 km/h
Mount Wellington 93 km/h, Cape Grim 91 km/h
- 31st Mount Read 100 km/h

Western Australia

On the 19th a low deepened west of the Lower Southwest and moved to the southeast. Gale force winds were observed in the region and a house sustained major damage during a suspected tornado near Margaret River. Little damage was reported. Cape Leeuwin reported a wind gust of 100 km/h, Cape Naturaliste 93 km/h, Rottnest Island 91 km/h and Mandurah reported 98 km/h.

On the 21st/22nd A cold front moved through the Lower Southwest during the morning. One house at Port Kennedy had about one third of its roof torn off. Some significant wind gusts reported on the 21st included Rottnest Island 91km/h and Mandurah 94km/h. On the 22nd, Cape Leeuwin reported 101km/h, Cape Natualiste 93km/h and Busselton 98km/h.

From the 29th to the 31st Cape Leeuwin recorded a wind gust of 94 km/h on the 29th in the north west stream ahead of a cold front. The cold front moved through the Southwest Land Division from late morning on the 30th followed by a pool of cold unstable air that moved over the Lower West, Southwest and South Coastal districts overnight. A tree fell onto a house in Balcatta, but only minor damage was reported elsewhere. Cape Leeuwin recorded a wind gust of 104 km/h on the 30th ahead of the front and 109 km/h on the 31st in the cold unstable air behind the front. Other severe wind gusts recorded on the 30th were Rottnest Island 102 km/h, Cape Naturaliste 96 km/h and Busselton Jetty 94 km/h. Ocean Reef recorded a wind gust of 94 km/h on the 31st.

South Australia

Northwesterly winds ahead of a front on the 2nd resulted in a severe wind gust to 98 km/h at Strathalbyn and some damage in parts of the Mt Lofty ranges including Victor Harbor. A number of students were rescued in Encounter Bay after being blown out to sea while kayaking.

Strong to near gale force winds on the evening of the 3rd/4th removed roof tiles and iron sheeting from

houses. Numerous trees were blown over or limbs were torn off. Wind gusts were in excess of 90 km/h. The strongest gusts were 100 km/h at Sellicks Hill and 98 km/h at both Cape Borda and Minlaton. Tornadoes not associated with thunderstorms, were responsible for damage reported from near Millicent and at Pallamana, near Murray Bridge. The winds caused a rise in sea level to more than a metre which resulted in flooding and damage along the coasts of the Spencer and St Vincent Gulfs.

Strong southwest winds, resulted in a wind gust to 95 km/h at Lameroo on the 17th. Some damage to trees was reported from parts of the Southern Agricultural Areas.

SNOW

Queensland

A low with an associated cold front, which was located west of Tasmania on the 6th, moved northeast and its proximity to southeast Queensland resulted in gusty winds in that area on the 8th. Some light showers and drizzle occurred in the southeast of the state on the 8th and a snow flurry, light hail and sleet were reported from the Stanthorpe area.

New South Wales

Light snowfalls were recorded on the higher parts of the Central Tablelands and Northern Tablelands on the 5th and 6th. Up to 1cm of snow was on the ground at Oberon.

Further snowfalls on the Central Tablelands were observed on the 17th. The heaviest falls were in the Black Springs area (near Oberon) with 10cm on the ground. Several centimetres of snow was also recorded at Millthorpe and Orange.

Victoria

On the 17th snow was reported in many areas of the State, the SkyHigh restaurant and lookout at Mount Dandenong was blanketed in snow. Ballarat had snow in the main street. Roads were closed in Ballan, Daylesford, Trentham, Woodend and Mt Macedon for several hours due to snow and ice. The Victorian ski fields had their best start to the ski season in seven years.

FOG

Tasmania

Persistent fog in Hobart caused significant disruption to commercial aviation with delays, cancellations and diversions on the 4th and the morning of the 5th.

BUSHFIRES

Queensland

On the 5th a large grass fire at the Gap in Brisbane's west threatened houses but was contained before any property loss occurred. It spread rapidly due to strong winds and took five crews more than an hour to contain.

Northern Territory

Three significant fire events occurred in the northwest Top End, commencing on the 19th. A fire near Acacia Hills resulted in the loss of some demountable buildings, a couple of caravans, and some mango trees. Another fire near Batchelor resulted in the loss of farming infrastructure and a few caravans. The third fire event was near Rum Jungle and did not result in any property loss. A total of 50 square kilometres were burnt.

A large fire near Tennant Creek in late July burnt approximately 270 square kilometres. There was no significant loss of property.

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Tasmania				
Bicheno (Council Depot)	7.3	7.2	2001	33
Western Australia				
Badgingarra	9.6	8.8	2002	38
Bencubbin	8.8	8.3	1996	57
Corrigin	7.3	7.1	1949	60
Dalwallinu Comp	8.8	8.2	1964	53
Donnybrook	8.2	8.0	1992	104
Geraldton A/P	12.4	11.9	1964	65
Kalbarri	12.4	11.8	1996	31
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	8.1	7.5	1949	67
Karnet	8.4	8.2	1992	37
Lake Grace Comp	7.7	7.0	1985	52
Meekatharra A/P	10.0	9.9	1996	58
Narembeen	8.6	7.6	1973	36
Ongerup	7.4	7.3	1996	40
Pearce RAAF	10.6	10.4	1996	47
Pingelly	7.4	7.1	1996	36

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Walkamin DPI	10.3	10.8	1982	40
Northern Territory				
Alyangula Police	15.8	16.1	1995	24

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Badgingarra RS	26.0	18	25.8	1976	41
Carnamah	26.6	18	25.5	2006	47
Eneabba	29.3	18	28.2	1977	34
Geraldton A/P	29.0	18	28.8	1976	65
Goomalling	25.8	18	24.5	2006	32
Hyden	24.5	18	24.4	2002	35
Kalbarri	30.5	18	30.0	2006	32
Northam	25.2	18	25.0	2006	41

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Katanning Comp	13.5	30	12.5	1985	50
Mullewa	15.7	19	15.0	1996	36
Pemberton	14.0	30	13.9	1959	46
Telfer Aero	20.9	31	20.0	1996	31

Lowest Daily Minimum for Any Month

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Sandy Cape LH	5.2	02	7.7	Jul, 1965	51
Gympie	-4.3	20	-3.0	Jul, 2002	42
New South Wales					
Pindari Dam	-6.5	19	-6.3	Jul, 2002	36
Glen Innes Ag	-9.5	22	-7.2	Jul, 1970	37
Prospect Dam	-0.6	17	0.0	Jul, 1978	42

DUST

Queensland

A dust storm that occurred in Maleny on the 5th, was associated with the passage of a surface trough.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Albany A/P	17.1	17.0	1976	43
Cape Naturaliste	18.0	17.9	2006	103
Hyden	18.9	18.7	1977	33
Kalbarri	24.3	23.9	2006	32
Katanning Comp	16.4	16.2	1976	113
Norseman	19.5	18.9	1994	56
Northam	19.1	19.0	1977	96
Ravensthorpe	18.2	18.0	1994	45

Lowest Mean Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Northern Territory				
Gove Airport	26.7	26.8	1971	27
Alyangula Police	26.2	26.8	1985	24

Lowest Daily Minimum for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Amberley AMO	-4.8	19	-4.5	2002	66
Gympie	-4.3	20	-3.0	2002	42
Sandy Cape LH	5.2	02	7.7	1965	51
New South Wales					
Pindari Dam	-6.5	19	-6.3	2002	36
Glen Innes Ag	-9.5	22	-7.2	1970	37
Prospect Dam	-0.6	17	0.0	1978	42
Western Australia					
Bidyadanga	3.5	10	3.9	1967	49
Northern Territory					
Mango Farm	3.3	11	5.0	1985	27

New South Wales

Bonalbo PO	0.0	0.8	1958	94
Tabulam (Muirne)	0.2	4.1	1972	37
Lillian Rock	0.4	0.6	1970	44
Rosebank (Upper Coopers Creek)	2.2	3.0	2002	32
Tasmania				
Burns Creek (Janefield)	37.6	45.4	1976	32

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Esperance	46.4	04	45.6	1984	38

RAINFALL

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

Tasmania

Moderate to heavy rain from the 5th closed the road through St Marys Pass for a few days.

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Learmonth Airport	99.0	89.0	1984	55
Pickering Brook	322.2	315.4	2000	31

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for any Month

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Mackay MO	0.0	0.9	Jul, 1963	48
Carneys Creek	0.0	0.6	Jul, 2002	35
Boonah Border Gate	0.0	2.6	Jul, 2002	49
Hinze Dam	0.0	0.6	Jul, 2002	33
Greenbank	0.0	3.6	Jul, 2004	31
Thompson Rd				
Mandala Farm	0.0	0.8	Jul, 2002	37

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Mackay MO	0.0	0.9	1963	48
Carneys Creek	0.0	0.6	2002	35
Boonah Border Gate	0.0	2.6	2002	49
Hinze Dam	0.0	0.6	2002	33
Greenbank	0.0	3.6	2004	31
Thompson Rd				
Mandala Farm	0.0	0.8	2002	37
Gallangowan Forestry	1.6	1.8	1943	74
New Beith	0.4	0.5	1963	46
Caltex Refineries (Qld) Ltd	0.3	0.4	2002	44
Darlington	0.4	0.8	2002	33
Doolandella	1.4	1.8	2002	34
Wadeville St				
The Head	1.0	1.2	2002	49
Spring Creek	0.8	2.2	2002	49
Oakington	2.0	2.4	2002	30