



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – July 2008

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms were reported in Queensland and New South Wales. Severe winds were reported in all states with the strongest occurring in Western Australia. Snow fell in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania during the month. The presence of a rain band extending over north eastern Queensland districts near the end of the month broke many daily and long term monthly rainfall records.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

Queensland

On the 7th an upper trough brought rain areas and isolated thunderstorms to southeast Queensland. Cooyar Creek on the Brisbane River recorded 29mm of rainfall in 5 minutes.

New South Wales

On the 7th a thunderstorm with heavy rain and hail was reported 30 kilometres north of Burren Junction (North West Slopes).

In Sydney on the 27th thunderstorms covered the ground with small hail like snow. Similar hailstorms were recorded in the Wollongong area.

WIND

Queensland

On the 24th a low pressure system developed off the Queensland central coast which combined with a ridge to the south to bring damaging winds to the southeast coast. Wind gusts of between 90 and 102 km/h were recorded.

New South Wales

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

1st Nobbys Head 98km/h, Mount Boyce 93 km/h
Nowra 91 km/h, Moss Vale 102 km/h
Montague Island 102 km/h, Green
Cape 100 km/h, Bega 94 km/h
Goulburn 91 km/h, Bombala 91 km/h
Thredbo AWS 107 km/h
Cabramurra 91 km/h

2nd Kiama 98 km/h, Bellambi 111 km/h
Green Cape 94 km/h
Thredbo AWS 102 km/h
6th Thredbo AWS 91 km/h
10th Mount Boyce 93 km/h
Ulladulla 91 km/h, Thredbo 93 km/h
11th Bellambi 104 km/h, Montague Island 96 km/h
13th Thredbo AWS 91 km/h
20th Thredbo AWS 93 km/h
21st Nobbys Head 96 km/h
Montague Island 94 km/h
Bega 91 km/h, Bombala 93 km/h
22nd Green Cape 96 km/h
28th Wattamolla (Royal National Park) 98 km/h

Victoria

On the 21st and 22nd gusty west to southwest winds were recorded along the southern coasts. A peak wind gust of 148km/h occurred at Wilsons Promontory with a mean speed of 113km/h at 9am on the 21st.

Tasmania

High tides on the 1st combined with low air pressure to cause inundation in Huonville and other low lying areas in the southeast of the state.

Winds greater than 110 km/h were reported on:

1st Maatsuyker Island 144 km/h
Hogan Island 135 km/h
Cape Grim 133 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 128 km/h
Mount Read 124 km/h
2nd Maatsuyker Island 148 km/h
Hogan Island 139 km/h
Cape Grim 139 km/h
Flinders Island Airport 120 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 119 km/h
Mount Read 117 km/h Swan Island 111 km/h
3rd Maatsuyker Island 130 km/h
Droughty Hill 120 km/h
Tasman Island 113 km/h
10th Cape Grim 115 km/h
11th Hogan Island 141 km/h
Cape Grim 126 km/h
21st Droughty Hill 141 km/h
Tasman Island 130 km/h
Maria Island 130 km/h
Hogan Island 126 km/h
Cape Grim 122 km/h, Cape Bruny 115 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 115 km/h
22nd Tasman Island 115 km/h

South Australia

On the 1st a fast moving cold front embedded in a vigorous westerly flow tracked across the South East district, bringing strong, squally winds to the Mount Lofty Ranges and the coastal parts of Kangaroo Island and the South East. Some damage was reported, most the result of falling tree limbs. Cape Jaffa (Lower South East) recorded a brief burst of 65 km/h winds, with gusts to 89 km/h and Mount Crawford in the Mount Lofty Ranges recorded a 91 km/h gust.

On the 10th a period of squally, gale force winds was experienced in parts of the Lower South East district, from a front embedded within a vigorous west to southwesterly flow. Winds at Cape Jaffa were recorded at 65 km/h for 1–2 hours with a peak gust to 89 km/h.

On the 13th a small, but intense low pressure system tracked east from Bight waters, along the south coast of Kangaroo Island. Severe north to northwest winds on the northeast flank of this low affected Kangaroo Island and southern Yorke Peninsula, with gusts of 90–93 km/h reported at Cape Borda and Edithburgh. The strongest winds occurred at Cape Willoughby at the eastern end of Kangaroo Island, where northerly winds were sustained at 90–95 km/h for about two hours, with gusts to 110–120 km/h. Only minimal damage was reported.

On the 19th at Nullarbor (West Coast), a westerly squall with a gust to 91 km/h occurred mid afternoon, as a deep low pressure system passed to the south.

On the 29th pre-frontal northerly winds blew at gale force across parts of the West Coast and Eyre Peninsula, including Ceduna, Wudinna (West Coast) and Cleve (Eastern Eyre Peninsula). At Cleve the wind averaged 60–70 km/h from late morning to early afternoon, with gusts to 95 km/h. The wind caused thick blowing dust in some areas, with visibility reduced to 200 metres at Ceduna. Some tree damage was also reported from Ceduna.

Western Australia

On the 11th a cut-off low formed off the Lower West coast and deepened as it moved south of the state generating severe winds along the south coast. About 17,000 properties experienced power outages after more than 30 power poles were damaged between Walpole and Bremer Bay. The strongest wind gust on the 10th was 98 km/h at Cape Leeuwin. On the 11th, strongest wind gusts recorded were: 109km/h at Albany Airport, 113 km/h at Walpole, 96 km/h at Esperance Aero, 94 km/h at Esperance and 91 km/h at Munglinup.

On the 18th-19th a strong westerly event with three embedded cold fronts caused widespread damaging winds across the South West Land Division. Heavy rain and some strong wind gusts were recorded at coastal stations with Garden Island reporting a wind gust of 96km/h on the initial frontal passage late

on the 17th. The worst damage occurred on the leading edge of a front that passed through Perth between on the 18th. A trail of damage from Fremantle through Myaree to Bateman may have been caused by a weak tornado, although most damage was related to fallen trees. Severe squalls continued throughout the day and evening. Powerlines were damaged over an extensive area as far north as Geraldton. Riverside Drive in the Perth central business district experienced some inundation of water and lanes were closed on the Kwinana Freeway between Canning Bridge and the Causeway due to the combination of high tide and storm surge.

Some severe wind gusts recorded on the 18th were 120km/h at Rottnest Is, 119 km/h at Cape Naturaliste 106 km/h at Cape Leeuwin and 98 km/h at Swanbourne. On the 19th severe wind gusts included 98 km/h at Esperance and 98 km/h at Hopetoun North. Strong winds extended along the southern coastline on the 19th and finally eased early on the 20th.

On the 30th a moderate front moved through the Lower West on the morning of the 30th. Cape Leeuwin recorded maximum wind gusts of 98 km/h and Cape Naturaliste 91 km/h. The combination of high tide close to the monthly maximum, enhanced river levels from a period of rainfall and prolonged westerly wind flow caused a storm surge that inundated parts of low-lying areas along the Swan River.

SNOW

Queensland

On the 28th snow was reported around Stanthorpe, Cabarlah, Cambooya and some areas of Toowoomba. Hail fell in Toowoomba's central business district and in Oakey at about 1pm. Some sleet also fell over the southern Darling Downs.

New South Wales

A complex low-pressure system near Tasmania on the 9th to the 11th caused a strong cold southwest airstream over New South Wales with snow to low levels along the Tablelands. Over 40cm was recorded in the Snowy Mountains with 15cm in Thredbo Village. Outside the Alpine areas, 5cm of snow fell in Jindabyne with some roads closed in the Berridale area of the Southern Tablelands. Light snowfalls extended to the Orange, Oberon and Mt Victoria in the Central Tablelands as well as Guyra and Armidale in the Northern Tablelands.

Victoria

On the 21st and 22nd there were good snowfalls over the alpine areas and other light snow falls down to 1,000 metres.

Tasmania

Snow fell on a number of days during the month descending to below 400 metres on the 2nd, 300 metres on the 11th and 200 metres on the 21st and caused many road closures and car crashes. The Midlands Highway connecting Hobart and Launceston was closed at Spring Hill from 9.30pm on the 21st until midday on the 22nd blocking at least 50 trucks.

Western Australia

On the 19th a sprinkling of snow fell over Bluff Knoll in the Southwest of Western Australia in the cold southerly airstreams following a cold front.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

Several large fires burned in the Darwin Rural Area during July.

A large fire near Manton Dam recreation area began burnt for several days starting on the 2nd.

On the 3rd a fire started along the northern boundary of Darwin River Dam and took several days to control.

On the 9th a large fire burnt through the Middle Arm area at the top of Darwin Harbour. Further south there were significant fires that burnt near Lajamanu in the Victoria River district and Lake Mackay in the Tanami Desert.

TEMPERATURE

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Giles	30.8	30	30.2	1975	52
Northern Territory					
McArthur River Mine	35.0	20	34.8	2005	27
Yulara Aero	30.5	30	30.1	2007	21

Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Toorak Res Stn	14.0	23	15.5	1978	32
Isisford PO	12.7	23	12.8	1960	51

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Mornington Island	24.2	14	23.7	1973	34

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Armidale	-9.0	12	-8.6	2002	51
South Australia					
Parafield A/P	-1.9	28	-1.4	1997	52
Rosedale (Turretfield Res Centre)	-2.5	28	-2.3	1997	47
Western Australia					
Wyndham	9.0	11	9.4	1984	41

RAINFALL

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Wrotham Park	41.6	23.9	1950	45
Kowanyama Airport	56.6	32.3	1950	96
Einasleigh Township	107.9	86.4	1993	78
Gilberton	59.2	50.4	2006	89
Maryvale Station	136.5	94.5	1922	108
Mount Surprise Township	98.6	81.5	1874	133
Pentlands PO	128.2	103.3	1950	123
Prestwood Station	119.8	59.2	1936	86
Wando Vale Station	117.8	76.7	1922	115
Forsayth Caravan Park	106.6	34.0	1978	49
Conjuboy Station	111.2	47.7	1993	44
Gregory Springs Station	99.8	84.3	1984	82
Toomba Stud	128.6	78.4	1981	49
Lucky Springs Station	106.2	65.5	1985	41
Hillgrove Station	128.6	68.0	1985	109
Strathtay Station	97.2	85.2	1984	38
Greenvale Township	97.1	62.5	1985	95
Ravenshoe Kuradilla St	83.9	79.0	1993	77
Innot Hot Springs Township	62.4	47.1	1968	54
Upper Stone Exelby	120.8	99.1	1957	69
Ooonoonba	98.0	56.8	1984	48
Blue Range	95.6	54.3	1985	55
Ingham Composite	129.3	95.0	1989	41
Elphinstone Pocket No1	143.8	110.0	1993	53
Rollingstone	90.6	38.0	2005	37
Mutarnee Store	109.9	63.8	1984	35
Ayr Dpi Research Stn	105.4	53.7	1956	56
Cardowan	137.8	95.0	1957	51
Orkobie West Hill	139.5	109.8	1984	47
Clare	81.0	62.6	1984	70
Mirambeena	103.8	75.4	1985	47
Turrawulla Station	109.8	103.1	1984	35
Dalbeg	104.0	66.0	1985	49
Balfes Creek PO	173.2	101.7	1950	114
Mount Mcconnell	159.4	85.1	1922	106
Broadleigh Downs	190.6	125.6	1981	46
Mt Douglas	151.4	131.0	1950	92
Barmount	106.5	88.5	1984	36
Oxford Downs	129.2	106.9	1922	55
Western Australia				
Chesalon	89.1	88.8	1984	43
Lancelin	241.4	203.5	1973	43
Victoria				
Hawkesdale PO	165.8	157.0	1964	116

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
South Australia				
Goolwa Council Depot	5.2	15.2	1924	146
Gulnare	7.8	8.4	1976	103

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Kowanyama Airport	40.4	23	25.4	1950	96
Einiasleigh Township	53.9	23	38.1	1938	78
Georgetown PO	37.4	23	31.0	1990	137
Gilberton	32.2	23	29.6	1981	89
Mount Surprise Township	45.4	23	42.4	1968	133
Prestwood Station	86.4	23	54.1	1936	86
Forsayth Caravan Park	83.4	23	28.0	1978	49
Conjuboy Station	40.0	23	24.5	2005	44
Gregory Springs Station	60.0	23	36.0	2006	82
Toomba Stud	62.2	24	58.4	1981	49
Lucky Springs Station	40.0	24	33.1	1985	41
Greenvale Township	40.8	24	32.0	1985	95
Bingil Bay	85.5	16	84.6	1933	84
Ooononba	41.6	24	35.4	2005	48
Blue Range	38.0	24	31.8	1985	55
Ingham Composite	46.1	24	42.0	1990	41
Rollingstone	43.0	24	34.0	2005	37
Cardowan	69.4	24	60.0	1984	51
Wilson Beach	78.0	24	49.0	1978	39
Shoalwater The Glen	87.0	23	75.5	1984	32
Turrwalla Station	59.6	24	56.4	1978	35
Dalbeg	54.0	24	42.0	1985	49
Balfes Creek PO	64.6	24	55.9	1922	114
Cattle Camp Station	54.4	24	47.0	1978	36
Lucknow	57.0	24	55.2	1978	35
Woodbine	52.0	24	51.4	1984	35
Urangan Hibiscus St	75.2	24	68.8	1993	40
Victoria					
Penshurst PO	39.6	09	37.6	1951	126
Woolsthorpe	47.8	08	30.0	1993	119
Hawkesdale PO	52.0	08	32.2	1993	116
Terang	45.6	08	34.0	1975	111
Terang (Wooriwyrite)	39.6	08	30.0	1936	109
Penshurst (The Gums)	39.0	09	38.1	1964	72
Caramut	37.0	08	34.6	1984	50
Western Australia					
Lochnagar	32.4	16	28.6	1991	65

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