



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – July 2009

SUMMARY

Strong winds were reported in all states except the Northern Territory. Two tornadoes occurred in South Australia causing damage to houses and trees. Snow was reported in New South Wales. Dust was reported in Queensland and New South Wales.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

South Australia

On the 1st thunderstorms associated with a cold front affected parts of the Lower South East. A wind gust of 91 km/h was recorded at Naracoorte.

A small supercell spawned a significant tornado in the southern Adelaide suburb of Port Noarlunga on the 11th. The tornado damage track was 2,700 metres long. At the western end, the tornado damaged five houses, demolished a shed, shifted cars and hurled iron and glass debris across an oval during a football match. One person on the oval was injured. Substantial tree damage occurred along the eastern section of the track. A second tornado occurred on the same day. Two buildings were damaged and several pine trees brought down on a property near Bray in the Lower South East.

WIND

Queensland

On the 10th a wind gust of 96 km/h was recorded at Double Island Point Lighthouse.

New South Wales

Windy conditions prevailed over New South Wales from the 1st to 5th, especially in southern and eastern districts associated with an intense low pressure system south of the continent.

Gale force winds were recorded on the far South Coast and at Lord Howe Island on the 4th and 5th. Wind gusts reached 102 km/h at Lord Howe Island and 98 km/h at Green Cape.

On the 22nd the passage of a cold front produced a wind gust of 91 km/h at Murrurundi (Upper Hunter).

Victoria

On the 11th a wind gust of 130 km/h was recorded at Mount William.

Tasmania

On the 20th strong and gusty northwest winds developed ahead of a cold front which crossed the state. Wind gusts reached 137 km/h at Scotts Peak and Maatsuyker Island, but most of the damage reported was in the southeast and lower east where gusts reached 122 km/h on Maria Island and 100 km/h in Hobart. There were reports of power outages at Triabunna and Orford, boats breaking their moorings at Orford, Bicheno, Little Conningham Bay and Dodges Ferry and large trees uprooted at Orford, Hobart and Little Swanport. Fallen trees blocked the Southern Outlet (in Hobart) and the Tasman Highway, as did a truck which rolled over due to the wind.

South Australia

On the 2nd a wind gust of 96 km/h was recorded at Neptune Island.

On the 10th a wind gust of 96 km/h was recorded at Cape Willoughby.

Western Australia

Severe winds, thunderstorms and hail were observed southwest of a line from Lancelin to Walpole as a deep low pressure system passed to the south of Western Australia from the 19th to 20th. An initial front passed through during the evening of the 19th, with thunderstorms and hail being reported, resulting in only minor damage. The strongest winds occurred on the evening of the 20th as the low intensified below 995 hPa and moved north-eastwards towards Albany. The strongest wind gusts occurred in coastal areas from Lancelin to Walpole: Cape Leeuwin recorded a wind gust of 106 km/h, Cape Naturaliste 109 km/h and Cape Leeuwin 113 km/h. Power was lost to about 5,000 properties. An office roof was damaged in Henderson, whilst in Yokine, residents were trapped inside their home when a tree branch fell on powerlines.

FLOODING

Tasmania

On the 1st a low pressure system led to abnormally high tides in parts of the southeast. The tide gauge at Battery Point in Hobart registered just over 1.8

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metres. The high tides caused inundation of a section of the Channel Highway at Huonville and a road at Dover. Water also lapped the road at Lauderdale.

On the 11th and 12th heavy rain fell in northern areas as an active cold front crossed the state and a slow moving, complex low pressure system passed near the west coast. Several sites in the northwest recorded close to or over 100mm in the 24 hours to 9 am on the 12th, with a further 10 to 20mm falling in the next 24 hours. The rain caused moderate flooding of the Mersey and Meander rivers on the 12th. The flooding caused at least 20 road closures in the north and northwest. A Wildlife Park at Gunns Plains was forced to close for two days after flood damage.

DUST

Queensland

On the 1st and 2nd, widespread dust was observed across the state. Visibility was reduced to 2,000 metres in parts of western Queensland on the 1st, while southeast parts of the state reported reductions in visibility to 4,000 metres on the 2nd.

New South Wales

Strong southwesterly winds on the 1st caused dust storms and areas of raised dust in western New South Wales. Dust was reported from Wanaaring, Wilcannia and Pooncarie with a reported visibility of 500 metres at Wanaaring.

A cold front on the 21st and 22nd caused raised dust and dust whirls (dust devils) at Broken Hill in far western New South Wales with visibility of about 8 kilometres. Raised dust also occurred at Tibooburra and Wanaaring in the Upper Western, reducing visibility to 10 kilometres.

SNOW

New South Wales

The heaviest snowfalls in the Snowy Mountains during July occurred from the 1st to 4th with strong winds causing blizzard conditions at times. The 4-day snow accumulation was about half a metre. Another 30cm or so fell mid month associated with low pressure systems. The total snow depth for the season at Charlotte Pass was 121cm at the end of July. An upper cold pool of air on the 15th moved northeast over New South Wales causing snowfalls at higher elevations of the Northern Tablelands. Up to 6cm snow was reported at Guyra with light snowfalls at Glen Innes, Woolbrook and on Mount Kaputar (North West Slopes).

TEMPERATURE

Note: The record tables below are only shown for sites with 30 years or more of observations. (Northern Territory is 20 or more years).

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Rockhampton Aero	25.0	24.6	2004	69
Gladstone Radar	24.8	24.7	2005	51
Kairi Research Station	23.3	22.9	1995	47
Lockhart River Airport	28.3	28.1	1988	43
Walkamin DPI	24.8	24.8	1995	40

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
South Australia				
Streaky Bay	10.4	10.3	1946	83
Ceduna AMO	8.2	8.2	1963	69
Adelaide Airport	8.5	8.5	1993	55
Elliston	9.9	9.5	1972	48
Kimba	6.6	6.2	1999	42
Nonning	5.6	5.4	1973	39
Hawker	5.9	5.4	1973	36
Adelaide (Kent Town)	9.0	8.5	1995	33
Arkaroola	5.5	5.2	1998	32
Maitland	8.2	8.2	1974	30

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Tambo Post Office	30.0	01	29.6	1996	53
Taroom Post Office	30.0	01	29.4	1958	53
Gladstone Radar	29.4	02	28.7	1964	52
Clermont Sirius St	30.7	01	30.5	1996	48
Monto Township	28.4	01	28.3	1963	37
New South Wales					
Camden Airport AWS	25.4	22	25.3	1975	33
Victoria					
Gabo Island LH	20.9	22	20.7	1989	53
Western Australia					
Roebourne	33.9	07	33.8	2002	52
Kuri Bay	36.8	02	36.3	1981	40
Telfer Aero	33.4	24	32.8	1974	36
Troughton Island	31.8	02	31.5	1998	30
Northern Territory					
Victoria River Downs	35.8	01	35.8	1995	41
Centre Island AWS	32.3	02	31.2	2006	32
Jabiru Airport AWS	36.1	01	36.0	1998	29
McArthur River Mine	35.2	02	35.0	2008	28

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Low Isles LH	23.7	01	23.5	1981	42
Western Australia					
Cocos Island Airport	26.9	08	26.9	1984	58
Wiluna	15.5	09	15.5	1973	53
Troughton Island	26.0	02	25.7	1958	30
Northern Territory					
Jervois	20.6	22	19.8	1995	40

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Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for July

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Wiluna	-2.2	27	-2.2	1969	53

Western Australia

Manjimup	58.0	19	49.8	1961	94
Paynes Find	29.0	10	28.2	2008	48

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

RAINFALL

Note: The record tables below are only shown for sites with 30 years or more of observations. (Northern Territory is 20 or more years).

Tasmania

A cliff collapsed at Gormanston Hill near Queenstown early on the 28th after it had rained nearly every day for over a week. The Lyell Highway was blocked for most of the day.

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
South Australia				
Port Vincent	104.2	93.0	1995	108
Kimba (Cortllyne)	70.7	69.8	1978	59
Murdinga (Mungala)	100.2	83.0	1995	41
Rudall (Swaffpro)	82.3	78.2	1974	41
Wirrulla (Pimbena)	92.6	77.2	1986	41
Kyancutta (Kyanbrae)	77.6	72.4	1972	39
Salt Creek (Pitlochry Outstation 1)	151.4	130.8	1990	38
Furner (Kennion Section 235)	170.6	143.2	2000	34
Mount Gambier (Blue Lake Holiday Park)	171.7	164.5	2004	30

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Victoria				
Meredith	13.4	17.0	1928	109

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for July

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Victoria					
Casterton Showgrounds	34.2	01	32.3	1958	53
Tasmania					
Frankford (Rossville)	103.2	12	86.8	2000	109
Yolla (Sea View)	119.4	12	97.3	1963	103
Mole Creek	123.6	12	79.5	1951	93
Railton (Cement Australia)	113.6	12	99.0	2000	90
Hampshire (Neena Road)	102.0	12	89.0	1980	68
Poatina (Billopp)	56.6	12	44.0	2000	61
Blackwood Creek (Kopanica)	86.6	12	73.2	1981	45
Kimberley (Siding)	73.6	12	72.4	2000	45
Barrington Post Office	99.0	12	75.8	2000	43
Liena (Old School House)	113.6	12	104.8	1998	37
Gowrie Park	84.0	12	61.0	2000	34
South Australia					
Warooka	40.2	11	38.6	1940	125
Wudinna	41.4	13	28.2	2002	76
Lock (Keriody)	28.2	11	27.4	1986	41
Wirrulla (Pimbena)	26.4	11	25.4	1990	41