



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – August 2008

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms were reported in Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. Severe winds were recorded in New South Wales causing damage to houses. Snow was reported in New South Wales and Tasmania. Many large fires burned across the Top End.

Most of Western Australia experienced below average temperatures and several towns in the Southwest Land Division registered their coldest August on record. A notable cold event occurred during the month at Eyre, in the Eucla district, which recorded a minimum temperature of -7.2°C , setting an all time lowest temperature record for Western Australia.

EAST COAST LOW

Queensland

An intense low developed over the Tasman Sea between the 22nd and the 24th with very high winds over a widespread area. The development of a southerly swell reaching a significant height of 6 metres during the 24th, destroyed a yacht just east of Brisbane.

THUNDERSTORMS/TORNADOES

Queensland

There was a report of widespread small hail recorded at Wallal (near Charleville) on the 27th.

New South Wales

On the 7th at Wollongong (Illawarra) there was a report of a hailstorm with small hail piled to a depth of 8cm on the ground.

On the 27th at Lismore (Northern Rivers) a thunderstorm with 2cm hail was reported in the Macleans Ridges area.

South Australia

On a 1st a line of heavy showers and thunderstorms moved northeast across Adelaide during the morning, producing small hail and squally west to

southwest winds, including a wind gust to 91 km/h at Edinburgh Airport. A second line of convection moved through the Murraylands in the early afternoon producing a 91 km/h wind gust at Lameroo.

WIND

New South Wales

On the 1st more than 15,000 homes lost power in western Sydney and Lower Blue Mountains when strong winds near 100 km/h brought down trees onto power lines and damaged houses. Suburbs affected were Blaxland, Penrith and Mount Druitt where traffic flows were disrupted. Several houses lost their roofs in the Mount Ousley area of Wollongong after winds reached 109 km/h. On the far South Coast, Green Cape Lighthouse recorded a wind gust of 135 km/h from the westsouthwest, the strongest winds at this site for at least 5 years.

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

1st	Mount Boyce 98 km/h Badgerys Creek 91 km/h Nowra 102 km/h Moss Vale 105 km/h Kiama 94 km/h Camden Airport 93 km/h Bellambi Point 109 km/h Montague Island 91 km/h Green Cape 135 km/h Goulburn 94 km/h Cabramurra 94 km/h
2nd	Penrith 94 km/h Moss Vale 91 km/h Kiama 100 km/h Bellambi 109 km/h Green Cape 109 km/h
6th	Montague Island 94 km/h
14th	Green Cape 104 km/h
19th	Thredbo AWS 107 km/h
20th	Thredbo AWS 107 km/h
21st	Thredbo AWS 104 km/h
22nd	Ballina 94 km/h
30th	Thredbo AWS 107 km/h
31st	Thredbo AWS 100 km/h

Victoria

Gusty west southwesterly winds were recorded along the southeastern coast on the 1st. Wilsons Promontory recorded a wind gust of 133 km/h with an average wind speed of 113 km/h.

Tasmania

Winds greater than 90 km/h were reported on:

- 1st Hogan Island 117 km/h, Cape Grim 93 km/h
- 2nd Hogan Island 93 km/h
- 12th Maatsuyker Island 122 km/h,
Cape Grim 120 km/h, Hogan Island 109 km/h
Cape Bruny 102 km/h
Mount Wellington 98 km/h
Tasman Island 94 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 94 km/h
Flinders Island Airport 93 km/h
- 13th Maatsuyker Island 117 km/h
Hogan Island 113 km/h, Cape Grim 109 km/h
Cape Bruny 107 km/h, Mount Read 104 km/h
Tasman Island 102 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 94 km/h
- 14th Mount Read 119 km/h
Hogan Island 117 km/h, Cape Grim 109 km/h
Tasman Island 102 km/h
Hartz Mountain 91 km/h
- 15th Tasman Island 98 km/h, Hogan Island 94 km/h
Mount Read 93 km/h, Maria Island 93 km/h
- 16th Droughty Hill 91 km/h
- 18th Mount Wellington 100 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 100 km/h
- 19th Mount Wellington 144 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 126 km/h
Cape Grim 115 km/h,
Hartz Mountain 111 km/h
Cape Bruny 106 km/h
Scotts Peak Dam 106 km/h
Mount Read 100 km/h, Hogan Island 96 km/h
Bushy Park 93 km/h
Hobart (Ellerslie Road) 91 km/h
- 20th Hogan Island 96 km/h
- 30th Mount Read 104 km/h
Mount Wellington 91 km/h
Tasman Island 91 km/h
- 31st Hogan Island 98 km/h
Maatsuyker Island 96 km/h
Mount Read 91 km/h

South Australia

On the 6th a sharp low pressure trough with an embedded meso-low affected the Central district with a burst of near gale force, squally southwest to southerly winds occurring on the western side of the trough and with the meso-low.

One severe event was observed where a southerly squall produced a wind gust to 95 km/h at Cape Willoughby on Kangaroo Island.

On the 23rd a wind gust of 120 km/h was recorded at Renmark Aero.

Western Australia

On the 1st the passage of a cold front through the Lower Southwest of the state produced a wind gust of 102 km/h at Cape Leeuwin and 96 km/h on the 2nd.

SNOW

New South Wales

On the 7th an upper cold pool of air brought light snowfalls to low levels over the Southern and Central Tablelands and the higher parts of the South West Slopes. Snow settled to a depth of about 2cm near Batlow on the South West Slopes and 2cm at Crookwell. Snow was reported on the Hume Highway near Yass and on the Great Western Highway between Yethome and Lithgow, disrupting traffic.

On the 10th and 11th a strong cold front and cold southwest airstream brought further low-level snowfalls to the South West Slopes and the Southern and Central Tablelands. The heaviest falls were on the higher ground of the South West Slopes where the Batlow area recorded 20cm and the Central Tablelands where the Oberon area reported 6cm. The Great Western Highway was closed at Medlow Bath. Snow was recorded as low as 300 metres at Blowering Dam and 400 metres at Talbingo. There were also snow flurries in some northern Canberra suburbs and snowfalls in the Collector area disrupting traffic on the Federal Highway. Over half a metre of snow fell in the Snowy Mountains during the first 10 days of the month.

Tasmania

Snow fell to low levels across Tasmania on the 12th, including the suburbs of Hobart and at Bull Bay and Maatsuyker Island. Many major roads were closed, particularly in the west and south.

On the morning of the 13th, a section of the Midlands Highway connecting Hobart and Launceston was closed for more than 5 hours after 3 truck accidents. Road closures also forced at least 22 schools to remain shut, mainly in the Huon Valley and Kingsborough areas.

A second low level snow event on the 21st also led to several road closures. Three people were seriously injured in a two-vehicle accident on the Huon Highway early on the 22nd, due to icy roads.

South Australia

Snow was reported at Mt Lofty Ranges, Stirling and Belair on the 10th.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

Many large fires burned across the Top End. The most significant of these began on the 3rd in Nitmiluk National Park which after two weeks had burnt out most of the National Park.

On the 7th fires started at Lake Bennett, Tortilla Flats and Lambell's Lagoon. A pellet mill was destroyed at Tortilla Flats, while over 1,500 mango trees were damaged.

On the 11th a fire started at Maude Creek near Katherine and burnt for several days.

On the 13th a large fire burnt through the Elizabeth River Valley near Noonamah, while on the 14th another fire started near Lambell's Lagoon.

On the 15th a wildfire started near Jindare and threatened some large pastoral properties before coming under control.

On the 19th a fire started near Mary River Homestead at the southern end of Kakadu National Park and burnt for two days.

Finally, on the 28th a large fire started near Livingston, in the Darwin Rural Area, and was extinguished just before the end of the month.

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).

Western Australia

On the 17th, Eyre in the Eucla district, recorded a minimum temperature of -7.2°C, setting an all time lowest temperature record for Western Australia. The previous lowest temperature on record for the state was -6.7°C at Booylgoo Spring, in the southeast Gascoyne, on the 12th of July in 1969. The previous lowest August temperature on record for Western Australia was -6.1°C at Salmon Gums on the 15th of August 1970.

Lowest Mean Maximum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Bowral	11.2	11.7	1991	41
Montague Island	14.8	15.1	1989	39
Camden A/P	17.5	17.6	1985	33
			1998	
Victoria				
Warracknabeal Museum	13.7	14.0	1992	36
Tasmania				
Launceston Airport Comparison	1.7	1.6	1944	64
Flinders Island A/P	5.1	4.9	1976	32
South Australia				
Kimba	14.9	14.9	1970	41
Adelaide Kent Town	14.8	14.9	1989	32

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Perth Airport	3.5	4.3	1979	43
Bridgetown Comparison	-1.8	-0.4	1967	80

Lowest Mean Minimum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Lady Elliot Island	15.2	15.6	1990	69
Amberley AMO	3.1	3.1	1994	68
New South Wales				
Tenterfield	-1.9	-1.2	2005	95
Inverell Research Centre	1.7	1.8	1994	51
Barraba PO	-1.4	-1.3	1997	44
Prospect Reservoir	4.3	5.4	1994	44
Grafton	5.2	5.5	1970	43
Parramatta North	5.5	5.8	1997	43
Bankstown A/P	4.7	4.7	1977	42
			1970	
Lostock Dam	5.3	5.3	1970	39
Scone SCS	3.7	3.8	1994	48
Alstonville	8.7	8.9	1968	37
Pindari Dam	0.2	0.5	2005	37
Glen Innes Ag Res	-1.0	-0.3	2005	36
			1994	
			1970	
Murwillumbah	5.7	6.2	1981	33
Perisher Valley	-6.4	-6.0	1994	33
			1989	
South Australia				
Kimba	3.8	3.9	1970	41
Kyancutta	2.7	2.8	1966	78
Parafield Airport	4.8	4.9	1995	52
Adelaide Kent Town	6.5	6.7	1978	32
Northern Territory				
Kulgera	3.2	4.0	1989	27

Highest Daily Maximum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Northern Territory					
Daly Waters AWS	37.1	31	36.8	1942	38
Jabiru A/P	37.5	31	37.4	1981	31
Elliott	38.0	30	38.0	1985	25

Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Wyalong PO	8.5	22	8.9	1970	44
Burrinjuck Dam	5.5	10	6.9	2005	42
Wellington	7.6	11	8.8	1974	41
Quandialla	7.8	11	8.0	1995	40
Camden A/P	11.2	22	12.0	1986	32
Victoria					
Dartmouth Reservoir	5.9	10	6.3	1989	34

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Burketown PO	24.9	27	24.1	1988	112

New South Wales

Gunnedah	15.8	31	15.6	1958	121
Northern Territory					
McArthur River Mine	23.7	27	23.4	1992	26
Wollogorang	30.5	31	22.0	2005	25

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for August

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Maryborough	-0.8	12	0.1	2003	50
Redlands Hrs	0.1	12	0.5	1994	44
New South Wales					
Glen Innes PO	-8.4	09	-6.7	1964	46
Tenterfield	-9.5	14	-8.3	1974	44
Quirindi PO	-6.4	14	-6.0	1974	42
Alstonville	4.0	12	4.0	1968	36
Murwillumbah	-1.4	15	0.9	1981	32
South Australia					
Oodnadatta	-0.3	11	-0.2	2003	59
Western Australia					
Albany Airport	0.8	11	1.4	1966	44
Northam	-1.5	17	-1.4	2002	100
Northern Territory					
Kulgera	-2.8	11	-2.5	2002	27

Frankland	22.6	24.4	1925	57
Geraldton A/P	7.6	10.8	1956	65
Gidgegannup	26.6	29.0	1978	49
Glenrose	9.3	9.7	1956	57
Gordon River	16.8	25.2	1978	50
Gosnells City	21.5	31.4	1978	48
Green Grove	10.8	13.4	1956	56
Greenbushes	25.6	26.7	1902	116
Hillview Farm	21.4	31.8	1978	38
Indarrie	7.0	7.6	1956	82
Inkpen	9.2	17.4	1978	82
Jandakot Aero	29.6	41.0	1978	33
Jarrahood	23.2	36.6	1978	34
Jerramungup	11.4	19.9	1970	43
Kalbarri	5.0	12.0	1995	37
Karnet	34.0	42.9	1978	43
Karragullen	25.6	34.1	1978	36
Karragullen North	26.0	30.8	1978	36
Katanning	11.0	13.0	1956	117
Comparison				
Kendenup	16.8	21.8	1914	107
Konjonup	12.4	24.6	1987	122
Kuranda	11.0	29.2	1969	52
Lake Leschenaultia	16.8	20.9	1978	37
Lake Preston Lodge 2	21.2	35.6	1978	45
Comp				
Little Chorkerup	35.4	54.9	2006	33
Lower Chittering	5.8	11.8	1956	91
Malyalling	2.1	5.1	1925	57
Manjimup	46.2	49.0	1925	92
Margaret River	52.8	75.4	1956	80
Marradong	15.5	22.7	1925	112
Marrivood	35.0	44.3	1978	52
Mindarabin	7.4	14.5	1956	53
Mingenew	5.4	8.1	1902	112
Mosman Park	30.0	33.4	1978	35
Mount Barker	29.8	33.2	1914	123
Muja Power Station	19.0	21.9	1978	44
Nabawa	12.0	16.5	1912	103
Narrogin	9.8	15.8	1956	117
Newbicum	16.0	19.9	1925	86
Northampton	8.0	17.6	1956	127
Northcliffe	69.4	76.9	1925	83
North Stirlings	7.8	15.5	1978	48
Nyabing	4.4	7.3	1925	95
Ongerup	6.6	12.6	1978	95
Pearce RAAF	17.6	29.6	1978	56
Perth Airport	19.0	23.2	1978	65
Pindarita	8.7	27.1	1975	34
Pingelly	9.6	10.9	1956	118
Quella Park	8.8	13.0	1995	60
Redmond	48.6	56.6	1978	53
Rocky Gully Town	36.2	37.2	1956	55
Roelands	20.4	37.2	1978	67
Roleystone	25.8	27.5	1978	41
Rosa Brook	32.0	79.4	1925	33
Serpentine	25.8	31.3	1956	86
Serpentine Main Dam	33.5	49.2	1978	44
Southbourne	8.0	10.1	1956	86
South Dandalup Dam	27.8	48.0	1978	34
Springdale	27.4	46.8	1978	35
Tambellup	14.3	15.2	1978	97
The Wold	20.4	48.6	1978	35
Twolganup	12.4	16.8	1960	51
Valern	12.4	13.0	1978	36
Victoria Dam	29.2	30.6	1978	40
Wagin	6.3	9.5	1956	118
Warner Glen	54.0	66.6	1978	57
Waroona	27.0	52.2	1978	69
Wickepin	6.8	9.2	1925	97
Williams	13.0	18.9	1925	123
Willgulli North	8.8	19.0	1940	77
Wokalup	26.8	52.5	1956	54
Woodanilling	5.7	14.2	1956	75
Wundi	7.6	15.8	1995	31
Wungong Dam	28.0	37.3	1978	95
Wyndarra	26.2	40.1	1982	35
Yarloop	24.6	49.4	1978	58
Yoongarillup	24.4	32.0	1978	52
Northern Territory				
Palm Valley	22.4	19.0	1983	27
Wycliffe Well	15.5	12.5	1971	20

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).

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for August

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Victoria				
Mallacoota	193.2	181.5	1990	31
Dromana Sussex Farm	151.8	140.8	1989	48
Moorooduc	138.1	130.0	1989	41
Western Australia				
Badgebup	7.3	8.6	1925	92
Badgingarra Res Stn	13.0	15.2	2005	47
Balingup	16.8	34.0	1925	82
Bangalup	32.2	36.4	1978	88
Barooga	9.0	15.3	1956	97
Bokerup	22.2	36.4	1978	49
Boscabel	7.8	17.9	1925	80
Bridgetown Comp	26.2	33.2	1925	121
Broomehill	5.4	14.5	1956	118
Broomehill East	3.2	12.5	1950	75
Brunswick Junction	28.3	40.6	1925	100
Caernarvon Park	5.6	19.4	1978	32
Cape Leeuwin	32.0	55.9	1956	112
Cape Naturaliste	30.8	42.0	1956	105
Capercup	10.6	22.4	1978	43
Cardup	21.8	48.8	1978	39
Carnamah	8.2	12.0	1989	121
Cherry Tree	6.6	13.2	1956	83
Chidlow	15.2	23.6	1978	103
Collie	16.6	31.3	1956	107
Congee	5.8	20.1	1904	65
Coondernuppin	4.3	11.5	1969	41
Cowaramup	45.2	74.2	1975	69
Cranbrook	19.0	21.3	1925	116
Crendon	19.4	57.6	1987	36
Culford	17.2	20.4	1978	40
Dardanup East	28.8	32.5	1978	74
Denbarker	36.4	62.0	1966	37
Dunelm	8.4	11.4	1995	40
Dwellingup	29.2	51.8	1978	75
Eradu	10.2	12.7	1910	67
Ferguson Valley	36.0	57.0	1978	37
Forest Grove	57.2	74.4	1953	82

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for August

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
Mulwala PO	3.0	3.4	1994	100

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for August

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland					
Westward Ho	25.0	31	18.8	1974	38
New South Wales					
Dunedoo PO	52.5	31	45.8	2003	97
Leadville (Moreton Bay)	50.2	31	47.2	2003	56
Blackville (Junbarlee)	60.8	31	58.9	1966	40
Budgee Budgee	51.0	31	41.0	1986	38
Victoria					
Gabo Island LH	80.4	08	76.7	1896	148
Mallacoota	103.8	08	41.0	1985	31
Genoa (Fools Haven)	81.0	08	56.4	1975	37
Western Australia					
Lochnagar	32.4	16	28.6	1991	65
Northern Territory					
Atula	17.2	31	16.0	1988	29
Palm Valley	16.8	29	10.0	1983	26

Lowest Monthly Rainfall on Record for August

Station	Actual mm	Previous Lowest mm	Year	Years of Record
Queensland				
Ingham Composite	0.4	1.4	1976 2001	41
Mackay MO	0.4	1.2	1962 1977	49
Bundaberg Sugar Res Stn	0.0	2.8	1977	43

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