



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER – September 2005

SUMMARY

Thunderstorms occurred in most states and tornadoes were observed in Western Australia causing damage to homes.

Strong winds were recorded in Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Rain at the end of August caused major flooding in the Meander and North Esk rivers, causing damage to cattle and sheep.

THUNDERSTORMS

Queensland

On the 27th, 4cm hail was reported during a thunderstorm at Wilson Peak (south of Boonah in southeast Queensland) and approximately 5cm hail during another storm at Kingaroy.

On the 30th in the Lockyer and Brisbane Valleys thunderstorms caused wind damage to houses, uprooted trees, brought down powerlines and upturned a caravan through the Lockyer and Brisbane Valleys during the afternoon. Lockrose was the worst affected area. Three road accidents at the time of the storm brought the Ipswich Motorway and Warrego Highway to a standstill around 4pm.

New South Wales

Thunderstorms on the 27th at Lismore produced heavy rain and golf ball size hail at La Nook (northwest of Lismore).

Victoria

On the 9th thunderstorms that developed at night produced 2cm hail at Marnoo in the Wimmera district.

On the 10th thunderstorms in the early hours of the morning produced 3cm hail at Cowes, Phillip Island. Thunderstorms redeveloped later in the day with one producing 3.5cm hail at Churchill.

Isolated severe thunderstorms developed in the Mallee on the morning of the 28th. A line of severe thunderstorms associated with this front developed along Victoria's western border during the early afternoon then travelled rapidly eastward during the afternoon. Thunderstorms during the evening produced flash flooding in West Footscray, Braybrook and Taylors Lakes. Hail to 2cm in diameter and damaging wind gusts were also reported at Braybrook. The severe thunderstorms continued moving eastwards with further reports of flash flooding from Wangaratta and Albury. Trees and powerlines were brought down and some houses had roofs dislodged due to damaging winds in Myrtleford.

Tasmania

A horse was killed instantly when struck by lightning in Launceston on the 10th. In the Northwest 26,000 premises were without electricity for a few hours after lightning struck transmission towers on the 11th.

South Australia

On the 28th high based convection near a dry line in the North East pastoral district resulted in a wind gust to 91 km/h at Moomba.

Northern Territory

On the afternoon of the 15th widespread thunderstorms formed across the Alice Springs District. Hail 1 cm in diameter occurred at Papunya (215 kilometres west-northwest of Alice Springs). Wind gusts of 120 km/h were recorded at Territory Grape Farm (200 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs), where grapes were knocked off vines and thirty percent of trees in a 5 kilometre long strip were uprooted. A large door was torn off a building and an air-conditioning unit mounted on the roof was also blown apart. Minor tree damage and 87 km/h wind gusts were also reported at Jervis (250 kilometres east-northeast of Alice Springs).

TORNADOES

Western Australia

On the 5th a strong cold front crossed the west coast causing damage extending from Badgingarra to Pemberton. A tornado was reported in the Badgingarra area with several more being reported in Perth suburbs. About 30 properties were damaged in a strip extending from Morley to Bayswater. Another tornado caused a strip of damage in Canning Vale. Several large sheds of the Canning Vale markets were badly damaged or destroyed and the roof of a shop was lifted and peeled back. There was also damage to homes in Waroona, Mandurah, Harvey, Australind, Bunbury, Pingelly and to two holiday chalets in Pemberton.

A strong cold front crossed the west coast on the morning of the 17th reaching Perth at 4am. In Perth there were two distinct swathes of damage indicative of tornadoes. One path extended from City Beach through Floreat, Daglish, Subiaco and Kings Park. Several houses in Subiaco and City Beach had major roof damage while many others suffered damage primarily due to fallen trees or branches across the metropolitan area. The second tornado trail extended from Kallaroo through Padbury to Kingsley. Other affected suburbs included Lesmurdie and East Victoria Park.

On the same day in the Southwest, another tornado was reported at Cowaramup and minor roof damage was reported at Australind. At Cowaramup roofs were taken off two

classrooms at a primary school, a television antenna mast was bent in half and a number of trees were uprooted. One of the trees fell and damaged two cars.

WIND

Queensland

Between the 16th and 17th the passage of a frontal system across southern Queensland was associated with strong gusty northerly winds, ahead of a change and followed by west to southwesterlies. An intense low over the Tasman Sea further strengthened the winds in southeast Queensland. Many powerlines were brought down and more than 100,000 homes and businesses lost power, mainly around Brisbane. The Port of Brisbane was also closed

Wind gusts of 90km/h or greater were reported on:

- 16th Cape Moreton Lighthouse 94km/h,
Double Island Point Light House 96km/h,
Thargomindah Airport 94km/h
- 26th Roma Airport 91km/h

New South Wales

Wind gusts of 90km/h or greater were reported on:

- 1st Thredbo 94 km/h
- 2nd Montague Island 93 km/h
- 9th Thredbo 109 km/h
- 10th Thredbo 122 km/h
- 11th Thredbo 98 km/h
- 15th Thredbo 91 km/h
- 17th Albion Park 91 km/h,
Bellambi 100 km/h,
Mount Boyce 91 km/h
- 28th Thredbo 105 km/h,
Mount Ginini 102 km/h
- 29th Cabramurra 94 km/h,
Mount Ginini 94 km/h,
Cowra 91 km/h, Orange 98 km/h,
Mount Boyce 93 km/h,
Albion Park 91 km/h,
Moss Vale 91 km/h,
Murrurundi 102 km/h,
Bellambi 91 km/h, Thredbo 137 km/h

Victoria

On the 8th strong and gusty northerly winds ahead of a cold front produced gusts to 124 km/h at Mt Gellibrand.

On the 11th strong and gusty winds associated with a low pressure system crossing Victoria produced gusts to 105 km/h at Avalon Airport, 101 km/h at Wilsons Promontory and 94 km/h at Cape Otway.

Tasmania

An electricity outage affected 200 properties in Strahan on the 9th after a tree limb was blown onto power lines. Over 1,000 properties in the southeast and southern Midlands were without power after strong winds on the 12th.

Gusts of 90km/h or greater were reported on the following days:

- 1st Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 109 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 104 km/h
- 7th Mount Read 91 km/h
- 8th Tasman Island 93 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 91 km/h
- 9th Mount Wellington 104 km/h
- 10th Mount Read 109 km/h
- 11th Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 120 km/h,
Cape Grim BAPS 115 km/h,
Mount Wellington 107 km/h,
King Island Airport 98 km/h,
Tasman Island 96 km/h,
Cape Bruny (Cape Bruny) 91 km/h,
Maria Island (Point Lesueur) 91 km/h,
Droughty Hill (TERSS) 91 km/h
- 12th Cape Grim BAPS 104 km/h,
Maria Island (Point Lesueur) 102 km/h,
Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse 100 km/h,
Droughty Hill (TERSS) 96 km/h,
Tasman Island 93 km/h
- 13th Tasman Island 98 km/h
- 15th Cape Grim BAPS 109 km/h,
Mount Read 98 km/h
- 27th Mount Read 93 km/h
- 28th Mount Read 126 km/h,
Tasman Island 96 km/h
- 29th Mount Wellington 102 km/h,
Hartz Mountain (Keoghs Pimple) 94 km/h,
Eddystone Point 91 km/h
- 30th Mount Wellington 106 km/h

South Australia

On the 10th a low pressure system and associated trough intensified near the west coast of Eyre Peninsula and moved northeastward over South Australia. A wind gust to 95 km/h was observed at Nullarbor with the passage of this system.

The passage of a front associated with a low well south of Australia on the 28th resulted in a gust to 91km/h at Elliston and Minlaton.

Western Australia

On the 7th and 8th a low pressure system moved to the south of Albany on the evening of the 8th. A wind gust of 118 km/h was recorded at Cape Leeuwin.

On the 27th and 28th a strong cold front moved along the south coast of the state with maximum wind gusts at Cape Leeuwin of 107 km/h and Forrest, 94 km/h.

A strong cold front moved along the south coast of the state with maximum wind gusts up to 111 km/h at Cape Leeuwin on the 30th.

BUSHFIRES

Northern Territory

There were four significant fires over the Top End. Fires near Elizabeth Valley and Fogg Dam in the northwestern Darwin-Daly District burnt for a day or two before they were brought under control. A fire near Spirit Hills early in the month, and one on Bradshaw Station in the middle of the month (northwestern Victoria River District), lasted for a week or more. These fires were on pastoral land and caused no significant damage to infrastructure.

FLOODING

Tasmania

Rain at the end of August caused major flooding in the Meander and North Esk rivers, moderate flooding in the South Esk, Forth and Mersey rivers, and minor flooding in the Macquarie and Ouse rivers. Some of the damage included: Many cattle and several hundred sheep drowned, including 420 on one property on Pipers River; the evacuation of several houses, and the caravan park at Deloraine; Deloraine racecourse was inundated with at least 40 horses evacuated and significant damage to the training track. A footbridge over the Mersey River at Latrobe was damaged with repairs estimated at \$150,000. Numerous roads in the north were submerged and damaged and 10,000 salmon died at a marine farm when flooded debris blocked its fresh water inlet on Western Creek. The level of Great Lake rose more than 34cm in 24 hours.

Peak heights were:

Meander river

Meander	3.2m	31st	August
Deloraine	3.6m	31st	August
Strathbridge	8.1m	1st	September

North Esk River

Ballroom	3.9m	31st	August
Corra Linn	3.9m	31st	August

South Esk River

Fingal	5.8m	31st	August
Llewellyn	5.2m	1st	September
Perth	5.2m	2nd	September

Mersey River

Kimberly	3.8m	31st	August
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There was moderate flooding in the Macquarie River, and minor flooding in the South Esk, North Esk, Jordan and Clyde Rivers as a result of flowing heavy rain on the 11th and 12th.

Peak heights were:

Macquarie river

Mt Morrison	1.8m	12th	September
Ross	2.7m	12th	September
Morningside	4.2m	12th	September
Westmoor Bridge	4.3m	13th	September
Cressy	4.4m	14th	September

TEMPERATURE

Highest Mean Maximum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Northern Territory				
Daly Waters AWS	37.0	36.5	1942	35

Lowest Mean Maximum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Mardie	29.6	30.0	1970	49
Badgingarra Res.	18.7	18.7	1999	34

Highest Mean Minimum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia				
Broome Airport	20.8	20.5	1944	66
Northern Territory				
Curtin Springs	13.6	13.3	1997	39

Highest Daily Minimum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Highest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Woolbrook	14.5	29	14.0	2000	35
Williamtown	18.2	29	17.8	1965	63
Hume Reservoir	16.5	10	15.7	1998	40
Northern Territory					
Curtin Springs	21.5	28	20.9	2003	39

Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
Wilcannia	11.6	3	12.2	1966	48
Cobar	9.8	3	11.7	1996	43
Nyngan	10.9	3	12.2	1960	46
Western Australia					
Ravensthorpe	10.0	9	10.7	1994	44

Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for September

Station	Actual °C	Date	Previous Lowest °C	Year	Years of Record
Western Australia					
Cape Naturaliste	3.8	10	4.4	1987	49
Katanning Comp.	-0.8	10	-0.6	1972	99
Ravensthorpe	0.0	10	0.2	2004	44

RAINFALL

Highest Monthly Rainfall on Record for September

Station	Actual mm	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales				
White Cliffs	97.9	91.5	1935	104
Cowra	139.1	138.4	1960	62
Golspie	138.1	132.2	1995	108
Bigga	194.0	175.3	1960	65
Tuena	169.2	141.2	1978	54
Manildra	124.8	105.1	1949	112
Parkes	127.8	126.4	1892	116
Taralga	150.9	145.0	1892	123
Goulburn	99.8	97.8	1997	34
Tasmania				
Premaydena Hatchery	228.2	130.3	1953	99
Eaglehawk Neck (Jetty Rd)	210.4	132.4	1984	89
Richmond (Lowlands)	89.8	86.7	1966	82
Woodbury (Warringa)	93.4	86.2	1966	75
Opossum Bay	107.8	97.1	1966	74
Hobart Airport	117.8	83.0	1966	48
Seven Mile Beach (Royal Hobart Golf Club)	91.2	87.9	1984	43
Mount Rumney (Mount Rumney Road)	117.3	115.8	1966	36
Dunalley (Bangor)	122.4	116.6	1983	31
South Australia				
Ceduna	87.0	73.6	1978	66

Highest Daily Rainfall on Record for September

Station	Actual mm	Date	Previous Highest mm	Year	Years of Record
New South Wales					
White Cliffs	50.0	24	48.3	1935	104
Bundarra	51.0	4	51.0	1998	40
Murrurundi	38.0	4	35.0	1979	45
Bigga	57.0	29	57.0	1974	65
Hume Reservoir	53.8	29	53.3	1963	83
Culcairn	63.0	11	38.9	1949	93
Tasmania					
Premaydena Hatchery	84.4	12	72.1	1953	98
Maria Island (Darlington)	104.4	12	97.8	1971	85
Richmond (Lowlands)	38.4	12	31.5	1966	83
Orford South	63.8	12	55.0	1984	69
Launceston (Distillery Creek)	58.0	12	44.2	1974	54
Orford (Aubin Court)	77.6	12	68.1	1960	53
Hobart Airport	63.8	12	39.1	1971	48
Ross (Mount Morrison)	40.0	12	27.9	1967	47

Orielton (East Orielton Rd)	68.8	12	55.8	1984	37
Huonville (Tutton Avenue)	60.6	12	53.3	1966	36
Mount Rumney (Mount Rumney Rd)	67.9	12	48.8	1962	36
Geeveston (Cemetery Road)	50.0	12	44.0	1988	35
Dunalley (Bangor)	49.0	12	46.4	1983	32
Western Australia					
Ferguson Valley	43.8	6	38.8	1995	33
Marrivood	42.8	6	36.6	1996	46
The Wold	41.0	6	34.4	1981	31
Youanmi	26.0	8	20.8	1970	39
Northern Territory					
Ammaroo	36.4	15	26.9	1965	46

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