

New Zealand weather and climate news

These clips have been provided courtesy of MetService

MetService

Chilly southerly storm blows in

"Currently most of the rain we're getting is through Canterbury and Marlborough, and we're also expecting snow to about 300 metres there," MetService meteorologist **Philippa Murdoch** says about 5am.

<https://www.newsie.co.nz/news/113751-chilly-southerly-storm-blows.html>

Spring sting: Snow, showers and southerlies set to strike NZ

MetService was keeping its eye on a cold outbreak as southerly changes pushed up from the Southern Ocean bringing turbulent weather with it, MetService meteorologist **Andy Best** said.

<https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/news/national/spring-sting-snow-showers-and-southerlies-set-to-strike-nz/>

NZ weather: Brace yourselves for icy, windy start to spring, warns MetService

Cold blasts will also whisk through the South Island, which with moist air will likely bring snow to Southland - as well as parts of Fiordland, Otago, Canterbury and Marlborough, said MetService meteorologist **Andy Best**.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2018/09/nz-weather-brace-yourselves-for-icy-windy-start-to-spring-warns-metservice.html>

A week of wild weather: Winter's not done yet as low-pressure system assaults country

"We do have quite a few watches out. There is this complex low crossing the country today," MetService meteorologist **Andy Best** said.

<https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/news/national/a-week-of-wild-weather-winters-not-done-yet-as-low-pressure-system-assaults-country/>

South dodges worst of spring storm

MetService was keeping its eye on a cold outbreak as southerly changes pushed up from the Southern Ocean bringing turbulent weather with it, meteorologist **Andy Best** said.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/south-dodges-worst-spring-storm>

Snow for the south and rain and thunder for central parts of New Zealand

However, things will mostly clear up by Monday afternoon, MetService meteorologist **Josh Griffin** says.

<https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/news/national/snow-for-the-south-and-rain-and-thunder-for-central-parts-of-new-zealand/>

Fog lifts after disrupting 78 flights in rare and extensive three-day fog spell

Metservice meteorologist **Andrew James** said fog blanketed the North Island and caused flight delays and cancellations from Gisbourne through to Auckland on Saturday morning.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/travel-troubles/106749054/fog-disrupts-auckland-flights-for-third-morning-in-a-row>

Winter was warm and dry, with only half last year's rainfall

MetService meteorologist **Andrew James** said while July had not been record setting, it was "significantly drier than average" in Christchurch. At the end of last year, Christchurch had a record stint without rain since observations started at the airport 74 years ago. There were 47 days with less than 1mm of rainfall, and November was the driest on record.

MetService meteorologist **Lisa Murray** said temperatures during last month's warmest day, August 16, peaked at 19C, but three days later dropped to a bone chilling -3C.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/106699076/winter-was-warm-and-dry-with-only-half-last-years-rainfall>

Snow blankets South Island roads

A number of South Island roads have been affected by snowfall and strong winds this morning.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/365522/snow-blankets-south-island-roads>

Four different start dates to Spring

When it comes to the end of Winter and the start of Spring, New Zealanders have the choice of four dates and none are official, says WeatherWatch.co.nz

The *Ministry of Internal Affairs* confirmed to us several years ago that the Government has no official preference on when the seasons change.

<https://www.newsie.co.nz/news/113521-four-different-start-dates-to-spring.html>

MetOcean

Macau | Weather Bureau to access Guangzhou marine weather forecasting data

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau will be able to access data about marine meteorological information collected by the Pearl River Hydraulic Research Institute in order to enhance weather forecasting

<http://www.macaubusiness.com/macau-weather-bureau-to-access-guangzhou-marine-weather-forecasting-data/>

Extreme weather (and other news) – Australia and Pacific

All models used by Bureau now point to El Nino by the end of spring

All of the Bureau of Meteorology's eight international models it uses now predict an El Nino event by the end of spring, dimming hopes of quenching rains that would aid farmers and ease the bushfire risks.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/all-models-used-by-bureau-now-point-to-el-nino-by-the-end-of-spring-20180828-p500cb.html>

#CoonambleRaindance is a social media hit, but will it bring on the rain?

A group of locals in Coonamble on the central western plains of New South Wales have organised a rain dance event for next month, in the hope it will break the drought.

What started as a light-hearted way to raise spirits has become a social media hit, with farmers, school children, mechanics and more uploading their own dance videos to Facebook in the hope of bringing on the rain.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-29/coonambleraindance-gets-farmers-dancing/10174552>

Brisbane wakes to rare dust storm shrouding city, first in 'several years'

The large dust storm blanketing parts of south-east Queensland on Saturday morning is an event not seen in several years, the Bureau of Meteorology says.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-01/dust-storm-covers-brisbane-south-east-queensland/10190768>

Fears vital Tasmanian weather knowledge will be lost under forecasting changes

There are fears plans to move local weather forecasting to Melbourne and Brisbane will result in a "sausage factory" delivering Tasmanian weather from the mainland.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-31/tasmanian-weather-forecasting-changes-angers-union/10186294>

Bureau of Meteorology rejects union claims of Tasmanian job losses

Union suggestions that the jobs of up to 20 Tasmanian weather forecasters are in jeopardy have been rejected by the Bureau of Meteorology.

<https://www.examiner.com.au/news/national/5618256/weather-job-loss-claims-rejected/>

Dry times to continue as BOM releases grim spring outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has released its latest climate outlook, and the forecast is grim.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-30/dry-times-ahead-as-bom-releases-spring-outlook/10177842>

Severe weather causes widespread blackouts across Adelaide as wind whips up

More than 25,000 homes and businesses in Adelaide lost power today after severe winds crossed the state, bringing down trees and power lines and blowing roofs off houses.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-30/adelaide-homes-without-power-as-wind-picks-up/10182942>

Met service has a say at Fiji meeting

Met service director Arona Ngari earlier this month attended a weather conference in Fiji where he contributed to discussions on education training for Met Service personnel, particularly in the maritime and aviation industries.

<http://www.cookislandsnews.com/national/weather/item/70583-met-service-has-a-say-at-fiji-meeting>

Climate change sceptics 'utterly stupid': Tuilaepa

Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi has hit out at climate change sceptics and says developed countries need to reduce pollution to save Pacific island countries from disaster.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/365375/climate-change-sceptics-utterly-stupid-tuilaepa>

Extreme weather (and other news) – Asia and the Middle East, Africa

Hottest summer in China since 1961, says a study
Beijing, Aug 28: China this year saw the hottest summer since 1961 with the national average temperature reaching 22 degrees Celsius, a meteorological official has said. Read more at: <https://www.oneindia.com/international/hottest-summer-china-since-1961-says-study-2764503.html>

The Kerala Floods: A Disastrous Consequence of Unchecked Urbanization

Kerala's busiest airport reopened this week, but the conditions that led to the deadly and destructive floods in the southern Indian state remain.

<https://www.citylab.com/environment/2018/08/the-kerala-floods-a-disastrous-consequence-of-unchecked-urbanization/569014/>

95% of monsoon rain falls in only a few days, show IMD data

In 22 cities of sizeable population, 95 per cent of monsoon precipitation occurs over three days to 27 days on average, according to an analysis of rainfall data provided to The Sunday Express by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/95-of-monsoon-rain-falls-in-only-a-few-days-show-imd-data-5335664/>

India doesn't share data of weather forecast: PMD DG

SLAMABAD - Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) has alleged that Delhi doesn't share data of severe weather forecasts with Islamabad and said that they are getting new weather surveillance radar which can monitor weather 200 kilometres inside India.

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Sep-2018/614709>

Japan to give Rs2.3bn for weather radar installation in Multan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's weather forecasting capability will get a boost with the installation of a new weather surveillance radar in Multan, using the Japanese grant assistance of Rs2.3 billion for which an agreement was signed here on Friday.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1430283/japan-to-give-rs23bn-for-weather-radar-installation-in-multan>

Jebi approaches Japan as a life-threatening typhoon

Residents across Japan should be making preparations as Typhoon Jebi is expected to threaten lives and property from Monday night into Wednesday.

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/super-typhoon-jebi-to-deal-japan-another-dangerous-blow-by-midweek/70005948>

Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe

Dozens of Meteorologists from the Country Gather in Protest in front of BAS

Sofia. Dozens of meteorologists from across the country have gathered in a protest in front of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), Focus News Agency reports. They want the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (NIMH) to be separated from the academy and the government to make a definite decision about NIMH's future.

<https://www.novinite.com/articles/191869/Dozens+of+Meteorologists+from+the+Country+Gather+in+Protest+in+front+of+BAS>

International news and research

018 APAC HPC-AI Student Competition Sharpens Weather Forecast Accuracy and Image Recognition to Deliver Improved Real-Life Results

Co-Organized by The National Supercomputing Centre (NSCC) Singapore and HPC-AI Advisory Council, The Competition Brought Together 18 Student Teams from 7 Asia Pacific Countries for a 5-Month Challenge

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180827005608/en/2018-APAC-HPC-AI-Student-Competition-Sharpens-Weather>

How a Battle to Build the Best Weather Model Impacts Everyone on Earth

Hurricane Sandy was one of the most destructive storms in US history. But beyond the catastrophic losses of life and property, the storm also dealt a blow to the American weather modelling community. The American weather model whiffed on the initial forecast, but its European counterpart was dead on.

<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/09/how-a-battle-to-build-the-best-weather-model-impacts-everyone-on-earth/>

Earth Today | Met Service gets improved forecasting abilities

Jamaica is now better positioned to keep an eye on the changing climate, thanks to the addition of 35 new automatic weather stations to the Meteorological Service's network.

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20180830/earth-today-met-service-gets-improved-forecasting-abilities>

One Year After Hurricane Irma: How Data Helped Track the Storm

A year ago today, a tropical storm named Irma formed near the Cape Verde Islands in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. Within days, Irma morphed into a monster Category 5 hurricane, barreling across the Atlantic and causing widespread damage across the Caribbean and the Florida Keys. The storm's 5-day track forecasts were remarkably successful – in no small part thanks to improvements in weather prediction models and data from NOAA satellites.

<http://www.weathernationtv.com/news/one-year-after-hurricane-irma-how-data-helped-track-the-storm/>

Long Range Weather Forecasting Is Difficult Even With Sophisticated Data

Predicting weather further out than five to seven days is a difficult task. At the same time NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration along with the Old Farmer's Almanac does it anyway and this winter according to these predictions is shaping up to be dryer and milder than normal for northern Utah. KPCW talked with a resident water expert about the science of predicting the weather. Carolyn Murray has this:

<http://www.kpcw.org/post/long-range-weather-forecasting-difficult-even-sophisticated-data#stream/0>

Meteorology: A field of professionals who found their passion at an early age

The wind was blowing, and I could hear the rain falling on our roof. It was September 2003 and Hurricane Isabel was fast approaching. Normally, during a bad storm, I could be found hiding in our basement, but my previous fear had turned into fascination.

[Read more here](#)

WMO

New study assesses sea level rise over past 25 years

Over the last 50 years more than 90 % of the excess heat excess accumulated in the climate system because of greenhouse gas emissions has been stored in the ocean. The rest has been warming the atmosphere and continents, and melting sea and land ice.

[Read more here](#)

Primary Factors behind the Heavy Rain Event of July 2018 and the Subsequent Heatwave in Japan from Mid-July

Japan experienced significant rainfall particularly from western Japan to the Tokai region mainly in early July (The Heavy Rain Event of July 2018), which caused widespread havoc nationwide. Extremely high temperatures subsequently have persisted throughout most of Japan since mid-July. In this context, the Japan Meteorological Agency held the extraordinary session of the Tokyo Climate Center Advisory Panel on Extreme Climatic Events on 10 August to investigate atmospheric and oceanic conditions considered to have contributed to such climate extremes and related primary factors.

[Read more here](#)

Business development / commodities / infrastructure etc

Competitors

Hot September could burn £320m of UK retail sales

Non-food retailers could lose up to £80m per week in sales this September, if the summer's heatwave returns in the autumn.

<https://news.sky.com/story/hot-september-could-burn-320m-of-uk-retail-sales-11485151>

Aviation

Anger after Jetstar offloads passengers

Jetstar was forced to offload 22 passengers just before take-off for the Cook Islands to load more fuel because of threatening weather at alternate airports.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/anger-after-jetstar-offloads-passengers>

NCDOT Launches “First Flight” in Drone Pilot Program in Partnership with Matternet and WakeMed

Today, the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation has teamed up with WakeMed Health & Hospitals and Matternet to conduct the first round of test flights for drones to carry simulated medical packages packages from Raleigh Medical Park, located across from WakeMed Raleigh Campus on Sunnybrook Road, to a main tower at the hospital.

<https://www.suasnews.com/2018/08/ncdot-launches-first-flight-in-drone-pilot-program-in-partnership-with-matternet-and-wakemed/>

Energy and Mining

Shell Taranaki boss to join company's Prelude offshore gas project in West Australia

Shell Taranaki general manager Rob Jager has accepted a role with Shell Australia.

Jager's new position with VP Prelude, Shell Australia, will begin on November 1.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/106696545/shell-taranaki-boss-to-join-companys-prelude-offshore-gas-project-in-west-australia>

Fog

The influence of humidity on the performance of a low-cost air particle mass sensor and the effect of atmospheric fog by Rohan Jayaratne, Xiaoting Liu, Phong Thai, Matthew Dunbabin, and Lidia Morawska <https://www.atmos-meas-tech.net/11/4883/2018/>

Short Summary: It is important to correctly interpret the readings reported by low cost airborne particle sensors at high humidity. We demonstrate that deliquescent growth of particles and the formation of fog droplets in the atmosphere can lead to significant increases in particle number and mass concentrations reported by such sensors, unless they are fitted with dryers at the inlet. This is important as air quality standards for particles are specifically limited to solid particles.

Health

NASA Is Tracking Disease Outbreaks From Space—And Trying To Prevent the Next One

Weather satellites can predict where cholera outbreaks will be the most severe.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/health/a22866548/nasa-satellites-cholera-disease-yemen/>

Lightning

Flight operations at Raipur airport hit as lightning damages equipment

Raipur, Aug 31 (PTI) An aircraft navigation equipment at Swami Vivekanand Airport in Raipur was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm this evening, resulting in disruption of flight operations, an

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/flight-operations-at-raipur-airport-hit-as-lightning-damages-equipment-3267631/>

Transport/roading/shipping/freight

To Make Self-Driving Cars Safe, We Also Need Better Roads and Infrastructure by Nick Oliver, Kristina Potočnik, Thomas Calvard

Getting the automotive technology right will only take us so far.

[Read more here](#)

Innovation and technologies (inc data and new products)

The Weather Channel App, Reimagined. Here's What You Need to Know.

Weather is something that impacts us all. Most people check weather apps often for the latest updates to help in daily planning and making better decisions based on weather. However, the amount of mobile information we process in a day, and the amount of time we spend on our mobile devices, has become overwhelming: emails, texts, news, the weather – but what if an app could lighten the load and have the weather check in on you? With this latest update, [The Weather Channel app](#) has been completely reimagined to help people make quick decisions and confidently go about their day.

<https://weather.com/news/news/2018-08-25-the-weather-channel-app-update>

AccuWeather app adds activity suggestions based on the weather and your location

The popular weather app leverages Foursquare data on an opt-in basis.

<https://download.cnet.com/blog/download-blog/accuweather-app-adds-activity-suggestions-based-on-the-weather-and-your-location/>

For whom do the mobile phones ring? Future of climate information delivery in Sri Lanka

Most people use weather forecasts to plan their daily activities. However, for those whose livelihoods depend on variations in weather, this information becomes a lifeline. Farmers, as a community, are highly-sensitive to weather forecasts, as their agronomic decisions revolve around daily temperatures, rainfall patterns, and wind speeds.

<http://www.ft.lk/opinion/For-whom-do-the-mobile-phones-ring--Future-of-climate-information-delivery-in-Sri-Lanka/14-661828>

Climate change / global warming / sea level rise

Quantifying excess deaths related to heatwaves under climate change scenarios: A multicountry time series modelling study

31 Jul 2018

Yuming Guo, Antonio Gasparrini, Shanshan Li

PLOS Medicine

Heatwaves are a critical public health problem. There will be an increase in the frequency and severity of heatwaves under changing climate. However, evidence about the impacts of climate change on heatwave-related mortality at a global scale is limited.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002629>

Thanks to MetService for these clips