

New Zealand weather and climate news

Clips courtesy of MetService

MetService

Southerly blast expected to deliver heavy snow

Just when you thought winter was over, MetService has confirmed heavy snow is likely to fall in inland Southland, Central Otago and inland Clutha for the next two days.

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/southerly-blast-expected-deliver-heavy-snow>

Snow blankets lower South Island with more on the way

MetService duty forecaster Bill Singh said an unstable southerly flow is the culprit behind the snow.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/376237/snow-blankets-lower-south-island-with-more-on-the-way>

Chilly weather on the way as cold front moves up country

MetService meteorologist Andrew James said the change would be felt in the South Island today.

"A lot of cold and wintry weather is on the way down south," he said.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/environment/news/article.cfm?c_id=39&objectid=12162032&ref=rs

Cold blast coming in fast for the South

Lisa Murray of MetService says a low pressure zone to the east of the country will suck up cold air from Antarctica over the country.

<https://www.msn.com/en-nz/news/national/cold-blast-coming-in-fast-for-the-south/ar-BBPKTzP>

'Definitely a novelty': Koru shaped cloud hugs South Island coast

The spiral shape is caused by eddies in the wind rotating the low cloud upwards, MetService meteorologist Tom Adams told Newshub.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2018/11/definitely-a-novelty-koru-shaped-cloud-hugs-south-island-coast.html>

Hawke's Bay has a wet week ahead

MetService meteorologist Tui McInnes said the next couple of days will be grey across the region.

"Wet weather, cloudy weather, is expected to dominate the skies for the next day or so," McInnes said.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503462&objectid=12162084

MetService explains 'amazing' optical phenomena spotted over Northland yesterday

MetService meteorologist Tui McInnes said the rainbow was in fact a phenomena called a Circumhorizontal Arc.

"Basically what happens is sunlight enters the cloud and ice crystals in the cloud refract the light and form a rainbow," she said.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/metservice-explains-amazing-optical-phenomena-spotted-over-northland-yesterday>

'Massive tornado' hits north of Ashburton

MetService said the severe weather conditions were present for a tornado, but it could not confirm that one had occurred.

MetService meteorologist Tui McInnes said "substantial" hail between 20 and 30 millimetres started to pour down over Ashburton around 3pm Sunday.

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/376216/massive-tornado-hits-north-of-ashburton>

Watch: Big tornado in mid Canterbury

A tornado has rolled through Canterbury this afternoon.

The twister was captured by local resident Alesha Plew as she and her husband Richard were driving along State Highway 1 north of Ashburton.

<https://www.f3nws.com/news/watch-big-tornado-in-mid-canterbury-b716fd97664>

Tornado hits Mid Canterbury, after day of wild weather

MetService meteorologist Brian Mercer said about half a dozen people had contacted them about the tornado.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/108686831/severe-thunderstorm-warning-for-waimate>

Explained: all you need to know about NZ and twisters

Today's spectacle near Ashburton was a reminder that big tornadoes can and do hit New Zealand – although they remain fortunately rare.

On average, about seven to 10 moderate to strong tornado events are reported each year.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/climate-change/news/article.cfm?c_id=26&objectid=12162277&ref=rss

MetOcean

Largest waves on the planet target Newfoundland, see it here

Thursday, November 15, 2018, 8:00 AM - The effects of the incredibly strong low pressure system moving through Atlantic Canada will cause more than ripples across the Atlantic Ocean this week, causing giant waves to track towards Europe and Africa. Check out these monstrous swells and the science behind the maximum theoretical wave height, below.

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/news/articles/monster-waves-europe-atlantic-canada-weather-bomb-swells-visualize-heights-building-story/116931>

Scientists dial back ocean heat warning due to study errors

Friday, November 16, 2018, 11:45 AM - There's good news and bad news. Errors in a recent ocean heat study have reduced the warnings reported in it from 'dire' to simply 'bad', meanwhile a new study reveals how the impacts of hurricanes are growing worse due to climate change.

[Read more here](#)

NIWA

Annual report –

Online <https://www.niwa.co.nz/about/annual-reports/2018-annual-report>

Extreme weather (and other news) – Antarctica and offshore islands

The 19th-Century Antarctic Air Molecules That Could Change Climate Models

“Don’t forget to write!”

Friends and loved ones bid adieu to members of the latest research team to begin the long trek to Antarctica this weekend.

[Read more here](#)

Explainer: how the Antarctic Circumpolar Current helps keep Antarctica frozen

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current, or ACC, is the strongest ocean current on our planet. It extends from the sea surface to the bottom of the ocean, and encircles Antarctica.

[Read more here](#)

Extreme weather (and other news) – Australia and Pacific

New graduates to strengthen Tonga Met Services

The return of seven graduates, including Tonga's first woman Meteorologist, will boost the Meteorology Department, said 'Ofa Fa'anunu, Tonga's Director of Meteorology.

Fa'anunu said today that for a long time they had struggled to maintain 24/7 operations at Fua'amotu weather centre with the professional experience and competence required to carry out Meteorological Services under MEIDECC.

<https://matangitonga.to/2018/11/16/new-graduates-strengthen-tonga-met-services>

Why predicting the weather and climate is even harder for Australia's rainy northern neighbours

Australians love to complain about weather forecasts, but compared with some other parts of the world ours are impressively accurate. Our large, mostly flat continent surrounded by oceans makes modelling Australia's weather and climate relatively straightforward.

The same cannot be said about our neighbours to the north.

[Read more here](#)

New weather app 'a quantum leap' for understanding extreme events

Rain of biblical proportions, heatwaves, tornadoes and bushfires — extreme weather events happen around the world on a regular basis and Australian scientists are hoping to improve their forecasting with the help of citizen scientists.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-16/weathex-new-app-research-qld/10496202>

Eastern Victoria to dodge El Nino, but hot, dry summer looms elsewhere

As large parts of the country sweat on the prospect of a hot and dry summer, farmers and firefighters of eastern Victoria were given some welcome news on Thursday.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/eastern-victoria-to-dodge-el-nino-but-hot-dry-summer-looms-elsewhere-20181115-p50gbp.html>

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

Actively responding to El Nino phenomenon

Saltwater intrusion and water scarcity are issues attracting much public concern in recent days. The paradox is that water shortages and saltwater intrusion still occur during the rainy season.

<https://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/environment/213073/actively-responding-to-el-nino-phenomenon.html>

12 dead in central Vietnam flash floods, landslides

Rains pound central Khanh Hoa province as tropical depression Toraji blows in from the South China Sea.

[Read more here](#)

Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe

Winter weather forecast: What Canadians can expect from coast to coast

The days are getting darker and colder, and it's only a matter of time until winter officially arrives. So will Canadians be piled under mountains of snow or enjoying mild winter days? Well, it depends where you are.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4667162/winter-weather-forecast-canada-2019/>

Warmer, Wetter Than Usual Winter Headed for Much of US

Just over half of the United States has no need to fear an exceptionally frigid, frozen winter in the coming months — instead, they'll likely experience a warmer and wetter winter than usual, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center.

<https://www.livescience.com/64107-december-january-february-weather-forecast.html>

Effects of El Niño: Landslides in Peru - tornado in Argentina

An avalanche of rocks and mud fell on a town in the Peru's Huanuco province, about 350 km north-east of Lima. Some 80 houses were buried in the mud.

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9044580/effects-of-el-nino-landslides-in-peru-tornado-in-argentina/>

New Zealand research

Resilience Challenge to receive \$40M for a further five years of research

Crucial research to help New Zealanders bounce back from natural disasters will continue, as Resilience to Nature's Challenges celebrates a grant of \$40M for a further five years of operation.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1811/S00056/resilience-challenge-to-receive-40m.htm>

International news and research

How Natural Disasters Impact Meteorologists

Scientists reporting on severe weather can get hit hard by emotions, flashbacks and even nightmares.

<https://www.insidescience.org/video/how-natural-disasters-impact-meteorologists>

Meteorologist Explains Why President Trump Is So Wrong About California's Wildfires

President Donald Trump tweeted some incredibly ignorant things over the weekend about the wildfires that have so far killed at least 31 people in California. Firefighters have explained repeatedly why the president is so wrong, but CNN meteorologist Tom Sater broke it all down on Sunday to show why President Trump has no idea what he's talking about.

<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/11/cnn-meteorologist-explains-why-president-trump-is-so-wrong-about-californias-wildfires/>

Climate simulations project wetter, windier hurricanes

New supercomputer simulations by climate scientists have shown that climate change intensified the amount of rainfall in recent hurricanes such as Katrina, Irma, and Maria by 5 to 10 percent. They further found that if those hurricanes were to occur in a future world that is warmer than present, those storms would have even more rainfall and stronger winds.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/11/181114132019.htm>

From cartooning to science: History of weather forecasting at KING 5

KING 5 Weather started with cartooning, but it has evolved into science and powerful computers.

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/from-cartooning-to-science-history-of-weather-forecasting-at-king-5/281-614493231>

WMO

Special observing period begins in Antarctic

A concerted campaign to boost weather, ice and atmospheric observations in some of the most remote and inhospitable parts on Earth started this week, with the launch of a three-month Special Observing Period in the Antarctic.

[Read more here](#)

Aviation

Air NZ announce more services to the Gold Coast after Air Asia pulls out

Air NZ its adding additional capacity to the Auckland-Gold Coast route from February next year.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/travel/2018/11/air-nz-announce-more-services-to-the-gold-coast-after-air-asia-pulls-out.html>

Energy and Mining

Mercury storage slides to two-year low

Nov. 16 (BusinessDesk) - Hydro storage in Lake Taupo has fallen to a two-year low after unusually dry weather in the central North Island in recent weeks.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1811/S00533/mercury-storage-slides-to-two-year-low.htm>

Counties Power: Million-dollar project to power Kaiaua

Kaiaua locals will see Counties Power crews roll in shortly to complete a million-dollar upgrade to the electricity network.

The project involves removing low voltage overhead lines from the back of people's private residential property and undergrounding it on the council-owned berm along the roadside. A further two kilometres of high voltage lines will also be rebuilt into the township.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/5/326146>

Extreme heat and drought could cause summer blackouts, energy market operator says

Heatwaves can limit generator capacity and lead to equipment failures, Aemo warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/nov/16/extreme-heat-and-drought-could-cause-summer-blackouts-energy-market-operator-says>

Lightning

IITM develops app to zero in on lightning strike sites

PUNE: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) will release an app to access lightning data on Saturday, after coming up with an application to gauge air pollution.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/iitm-develops-app-to-zero-in-on-lightning-strike-sites/articleshow/66660154.cms>

Weather in pictures

Amazing photos of Australia's Uluru taken during a massive thunderstorm

Photos taken in the Australian outback have captured the moment lightning struck the iconic landmark of Uluru.

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/travel/2018/10/amazing-photos-of-australia-s-uluru-taken-during-a-massive-thunderstorm.html>

Thanks to MetService for the above clips

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My latest WeatherEye by John Maunder

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/blogs/12731-tropospheric-temperatures-1979-to-october-2018.html>