

## NEW ZEALAND WEATHER

### BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WEATHER

#### WINTER 1984 (Fig. 1)

In general winter 1984 was the mildest on record in central and western districts of the country, and in many other areas only the winters of 1970-71 have been milder.

Rainfall totals were above normal only in the west of the South Island. The eastern coast of the country from Wairoa to Timaru was particularly dry, while all other areas had average or slightly lower than average rainfall totals for the period.

Apart from eastern areas of both Islands and some southwestern areas of the South Island winter was generally very cloudy. Sunshine totals in the north-

west of the South Island and parts of Southland were especially low.

Surface pressures in June were very much higher than usual, reflecting the anticyclonic conditions that were frequent that month. Pressures for the rest of the winter were very close to average.

### MONTHLY SUMMARIES

#### JUNE - AUGUST 1984

June was generally very mild and dry. It was less windy than usual in the north but there were more strong winds than usual in the south. Pressures were high this month. Apart from the East Cape-Gisborne area and the northwest Nelson, Westland and Fiordland regions the whole country was drier than usual

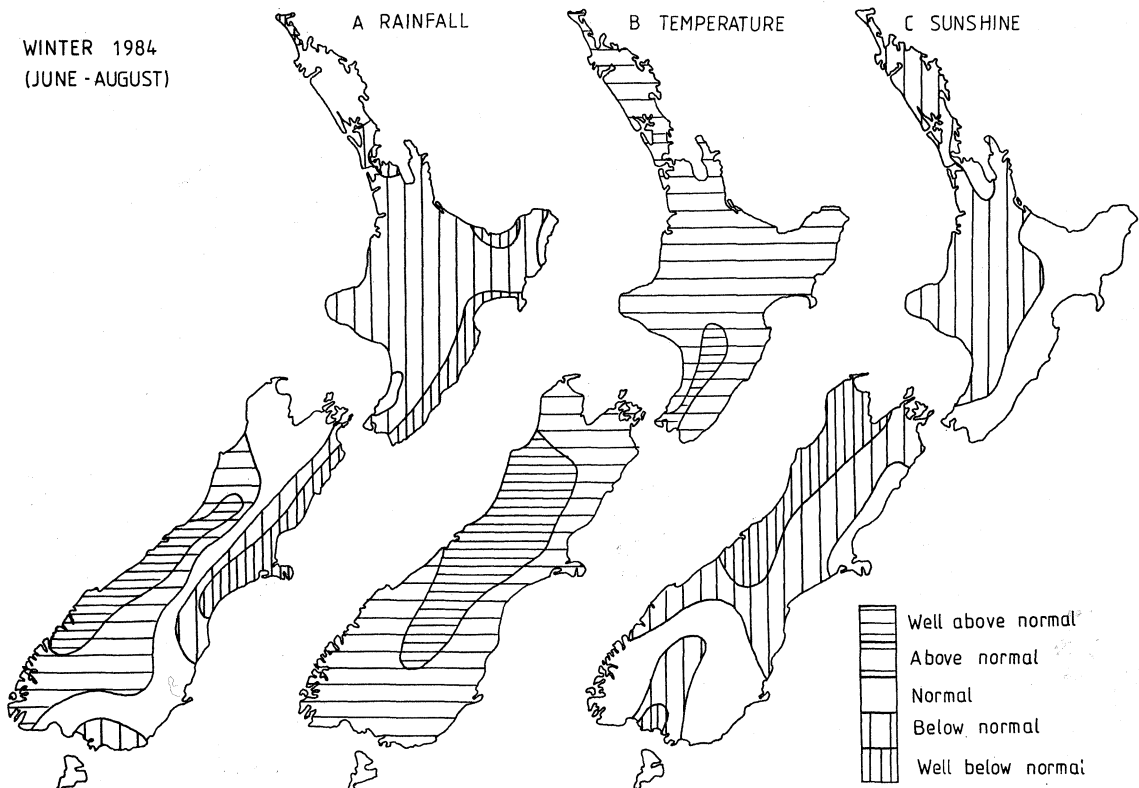


Fig. 1: Winter 1984. Rainfall (A) and temperature (B) departure maps based on observations from 46 stations; sunshine (C) based on observations from 40 stations.

for June. Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa were exceptionally dry, with some recording stations reporting less than 10% of normal rainfall. Mean temperatures indicate that this June was the mildest since 1971 for much of the country, with average temperatures up to 2.5°C above normal in most areas. Areas in the east between Gisborne and Wairoa were sunnier than usual while northern and western areas of both Islands were very cloudy.

Mild cloudy weather continued in **July**. North-westerly winds predominated in the north, but winds were close to average in the south. Pressures were close to normal. The southwest coast of the South Island and north and east of the North Island were dry, but the rest of the country was wetter than usual. Central and southwestern areas had up to 250% of normal rainfall. Heavy snow fell between the 14th-16th with light falls reported as far north as the ranges around Kaikohe. Temperatures were again above average everywhere. Stations in the north and west of the South Island had their warmest July on record and for much of the North Island it was the warmest July since 1974. It was generally a cloudy month.

The mild weather continued in **August**. Northerly winds were more frequent than usual in both the north and south, and pressures were lower than usual except in the East Cape area. The whole country had between 50% and 150% of normal rainfall this month. Temperatures were generally between 1° and 2°C above average except eastern coastal areas of the North Island, Fiordland and Otago, which were up to 1°C warmer than usual. Sunshine hours were slightly above average in southern and eastern areas but northern and western areas were cloudy.

**BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WEATHER  
SPRING 1984 (Fig. 2)**

Rainfall was slightly above average in isolated eastern coastal areas of the South Island and the southwest of the South Island but all other areas had average or below average rainfall. The area around Timaru and some parts of Marlborough were exceptionally dry.

The very mild conditions of winter were continued into spring. Unlike winter, sunshine totals

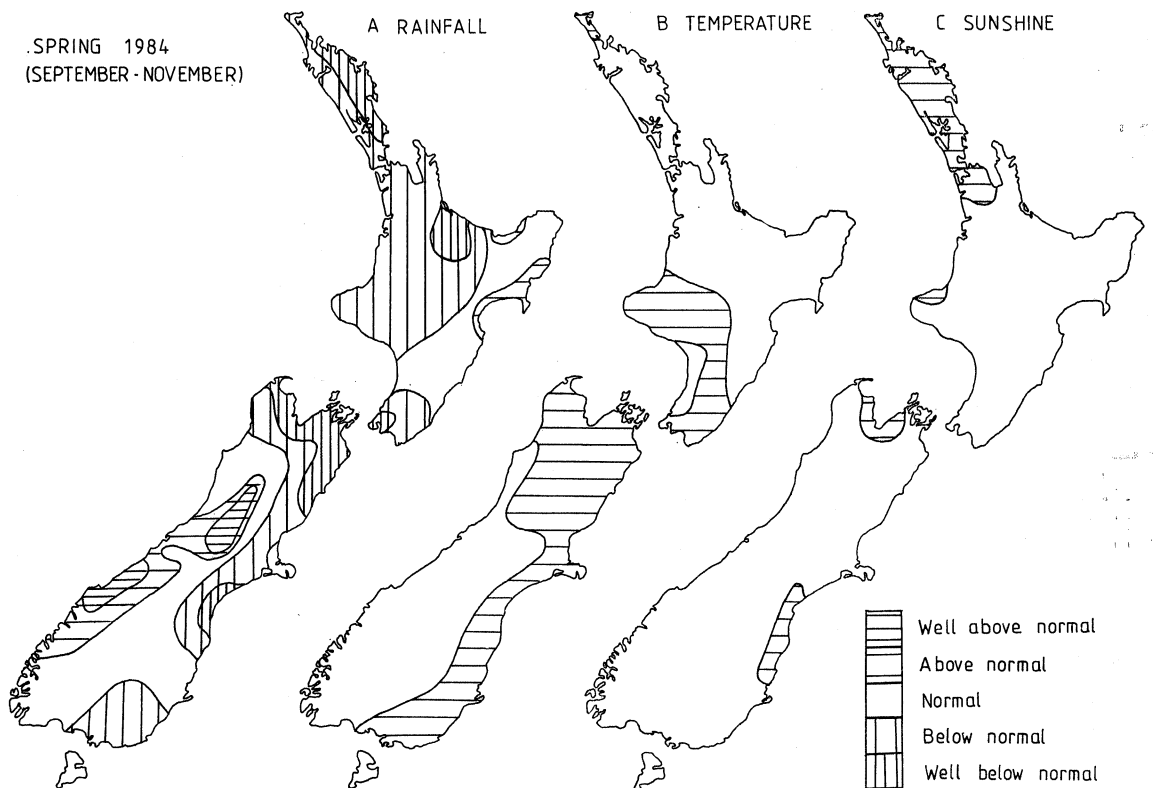


Fig. 2: Spring 1984. Rainfall (A) and temperature (B) departure maps based on observations from 46 stations; sunshine (C) based on observations from 40 stations.

for spring were average or above in all areas.

Surface pressures were slightly higher than usual in the southwest in September but low elsewhere. Average surface pressures for the other two months of spring were higher than usual.

### MONTHLY SUMMARIES SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1984

The weather in **September** was locally very variable. Northeasterly winds were unusually frequent: Auckland had its highest frequency since recording began in 1956 and Invercargill its highest since 1966. Pressures were high to the southeast and low to the northwest. Parts of Northland, the east of the North Island, South Otago and Southland were wetter than usual while the rest of the country was dry, especially around Timaru. Heavy snow fell in Otago and Southland on the 29th-30th, with some heavy lamb losses in the high country. Temperatures were very close to normal for the month. Northern and western areas of the North Island and the south and west of the South Island were sunny, the rest of the country was rather dull, especially the east and south of the North Island.

**October** was a dry, sunny month. Southerly winds predominated in the north and westerlies in the south. Pressures were high to the north and west and slightly lower than usual to the south. The North Island and the north and east of the South Island were much drier than usual, with rainfalls generally less than half the average for October. However southern Westland, Fiordland and South-

land were wetter than usual. Intense frontal activity on the 22nd brought thunderstorms, hail and strong winds to Wellington and Hawke's Bay and there were light snow showers in parts of Hawke's Bay where some vineyards and orchards suffered severe damage. Temperatures were average or slightly below average in the North Island and the south and west of the South Island, but a little milder than usual elsewhere. October was sunny, being the second sunniest October on record (exceeded in 1954) for many places.

**November** was a mild, often cloudy month. North-westerly winds predominated and pressures were generally higher than usual. Parts of Northland, north Auckland, Bay of Plenty, some central areas and the Wellington region in the North of the South Island, Southland and parts of south Westland were drier than normal while the rest of the country had up to twice normal rainfall. Prolonged moderate to heavy rain fell in inland areas of north Westland on the 21st-22nd and much of the commercial area and low lying residential areas of Greymouth were flooded when the Grey river overtopped its banks. November was mild, with temperatures between 1° and 2.5°C above average. For many parts of the country this was the warmest November since 1972. Sunshine hours were generally average or below average this month.

#### Acknowledgments

I wish to thank the New Zealand Meteorological Service for making available data from which this summary was compiled.

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