

## New Zealand weather and climate news

Courtesy of MetService library

### MetService mentions

#### Coronavirus: Weather forecast promises sunny days amid restrictions

The MetService long-range forecast for the region until the weekend offered some hope for all those wanting to escape the house and enjoy some fresh air on the front lawn.

#### First glimpse of winter weather blustery, snowy

Social media lit up as strong winds, thunderstorms and snow arrived in the South on Monday — shortly after the lockdown announcement.

However, MetService meteorologist Ciaran Doolin said such a cold snap was not unusual heading into autumn.

#### Snow blankets parts of the South Island as temperatures drop

Parts of Central Otago were blanketed in snow on Tuesday after a strong southerly in the South Island saw temperatures plummet.

#### Spell of unsettled weather follows equinox, heavy rain for some

The passing of the autumn equinox - meaning more darkness than light for the next six months - is being accompanied by a spell of unsettled weather across the country, along with some heavy rain in some places.

#### High winds cause controlled burnoff problems near Timaru

One person was treated for smoke inhalation as eight fire appliances battled a burnoff that had "gotten away" in high winds in Levels Valley, north west of Timaru, on Monday evening.

#### Dynamic Weather On World Meteorology Day

Scoop.co.nz

MetService are forecasting a duo of southerly fronts this week, making for colder and wetter conditions – some active weather to mark World ...

#### Snow blankets parts of the South Island as temperatures drop

Parts of Central Otago were blanketed in snow on Tuesday after a strong southerly in the South Island saw temperatures plummet.

### Coronavirus: Risk of devastation if vulnerable Pacific nations can't control spread

Pacific Island nations are staring down the barrel of devastation if the coronavirus is able to spread across the Pacific.

### Coronavirus: Surf's still up for people wanting to catch waves during lockdown

Surfing clubs cross the country are urging wave riders to be vigilant and mindful during the coronavirus lockdown to avoid the closure of beaches.

### Dynamic Weather On World Meteorology Day

Scoop.co.nz

MetService meteorologist Tui McInnes explains: "Today's buster up the South Island will be a rather significant change in the weather, especially for ...

### Weather: Rain sweeps Bay of Plenty region overnight

New Zealand Herald

Metservice issued a heavy rain watch yesterday, underlining that as fronts moved eastwards across the North Island, downpours would be expected ...

### **MetOcean**

#### Theyr to develop new weather routing application

ShipInsight

UK-based met-ocean data provider Theyr has signed up to the national ... within the industry through the use of AI and high-fidelity metocean data."

#### Ocean fish swim away from warming waters

It's creating a 'massive issue' for the fishing industry.

## WMO

### Flash Flood Guidance System saves lives

Flash floods cause more than 5,000 deaths worldwide annually, exceeding any other flood-related event. They have enough power to change the course of rivers, bury houses in mud, and sweep away or...

### New web tool monitors quality of observations

WMO and the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) launched a new web-based interface on 17 March 2020 to help monitor the availability and quality of global meteorological...

### Major earthquake hits Croatia's meteorological service

Posted:

The headquarters of Croatia's Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DMHZ) were severely damaged by a major earthquake which hit the capital Zagreb on 22 March.

### World Meteorological Day focuses on Climate and Water

Posted:

One of the biggest impacts of climate change is on water, which in turn affects sustainable development and security. But in contrast to internationally coordinated information about rising...

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World Meteorological Organization

### WMO chief: Accelerate action on Sustainable Development Goal on Water

Posted:

Climate and water both lie at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals – the package of 17 crosscutting themes adopted by the international community in 2015. With just 10 years remaining until...

## **ECMWF**

### **Could Less Air Travel Due To COVID-19 Coronavirus Degrade Weather Forecasts?**

Forbes

From the ECMWF website - "European AMDAR coverage for 2 March 2020 (top) and 23 March 2020 ... [+] (bottom)." ECMWF, EUMETNet, and Stewart ..

### **Extreme weather (and other news) – Antarctica and offshore**

#### **Concrete solutions that lower both emissions and air pollution**

Posted: 23 Mar 2020 10:24 AM PDT

Some common strategies to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of concrete production could have unintended consequences for local air pollution and related health damages, according to a new study.

#### **East Antarctica's Denman Glacier has retreated almost 3 miles over last 22 years**

Posted: 23 Mar 2020 09:56 AM PDT

East Antarctica's Denman Glacier has retreated 5 kilometers, nearly 3 miles, in the past 22 years, and researchers are concerned that the shape of the ground surface beneath the ice sheet could make it even more susceptible to climate-driven collapse.

#### **Challenge and desire in Antarctic meteorology and climate**

EurekAlert (press release)

Throughout these meetings, challenges and desires are brought up to improve the observed data and ongoing research to get accurate results. ... observations, numerical modeling, weather forecasting, and meteorological research.

Extreme weather (and other news) – Australia and Pacific

On World Meteorological Day, Australia's weather from space

Mirage News

“Our marine forecasts and warnings totaled 182,000 for the year, while our aviation specialists sent out 1.9 million forecasts for use by pilots and ...

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

Singapore's average sea level now 14cm higher than 'pre-1970 levels': Met Service

TODAYonline

Singapore's average sea level now 14cm higher than 'pre-1970 levels': Met Service. The threat of sea level rise on Singapore was emphasised by ..

Korean, Japanese models predict good monsoon

The Hindu BusinessLine

A number of global models are factoring in the possibility of a monsoon-friendly La Nina episode (exact reverse of El Nino) evolving in the tropical ..

Mekong Delta hit by worst drought ever

VnExpress International

Meteorologists had warned that this month the delta would suffer from ... Highlands at the National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting.

Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe

Weather UK: Mini heatwave to hit Britain just as entire nation goes into lockdown

York Press

The Met Office predicts mostly dry conditions for 10 days - meaning the isolated can at least enjoy some quality garden time

[Track latest hydrological situation across the UK via new portal](#)

EurekAlert (press release)

Rainfall from the Met Office - updated every month. Groundwater levels from the relevant national measuring authority, delivered in collaboration with the ...

### **International news and research**

[Mellanox technology enables faster, more accurate weather predictions in next-gen European ...](#)

ITWeb

“We require the best supercomputing power and the best technologies available for our numerical weather prediction activities,” said Dr Florence ...

[The Mount Fuji Research Station: A Scientific Treasure Trove](#)

Nippon.com

With the launch of the first Himawari geostationary meteorological satellite in 1977, typhoon monitoring switched from ground-based radar to orbiting ...

[How to prepare for severe weather in the age of social distancing](#)

11Alive.com WXIA

AccuWeather Meteorologist Tom Bedard, a volunteer firefighter and EMT who regularly works with emergency management officials, said residents ...

[Faster weather forecasting via DOST research project this year](#)

pna.gov.ph

Data from these microsattellites will be used to a "3D Cloud Reconstruction" that would help in studying thunderclouds and the rains brought by these ...

[Researchers Develop Platform to Improve Weather Forecasting](#)

USC Viterbi School of Engineering (press release) (blog)

“It helps them expeditiously provision the required resources to analyze the weather data in real-time for timely response to quickly developing ...

### Meteorologists teaching kids about weather online during COVID-19 school closures

FOX 29

Fox 29 and News 4 Meteorologist Greg Pollak loves to talk weather. But that's a good thing, because it's an important subject. One kids like to learn ..

### NOAA Seeks Tech Partner for Weather Forecasting Innovation Hub

ExecutiveBiz (blog)

... Prediction Innovation Center. The agency seeks to encourage public-private collaboration to transform the national weather enterprise's forecasting ...

### Passion for Weather: What fuels our meteorologists

Yahoo News Canada

I would, oddly enough, watch The Weather Network or any documentary that came on that involved weather. My fifth grade science project was on ..

## **Weather companies**

### AccuWeather Offers Coronavirus Test Centers and Hospitals Free Weather Forecasting and ...

PRNewswire (press release)

AccuWeather's expert meteorologists have provided customized highly ... worldwide weather forecasts, data and meteorological consulting services.

## **Aviation**

### Asian carriers hit as gov'ts restrict int'l flights

ch-aviation

Exceptions include cargo and emergency medevac flights. ... The Yemeni Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority will suspend flights from the ...

Once the pandemic is over, we will return to a very different airline industry

Volodymyr Bilotkach, Singapore Institute of Technology

We're likely to see fewer airlines, and a greater proportion of them big, if not strong.

General Aviation Welcomes Government Aviation Package

Scoop.co.nz

“We welcomed the aviation package announced yesterday by Transport Minister Phil Twyford,” said Aviation NZ Chief Executive, John Nicholson.

Lufthansa cuts 95% of its flights as world airlines near complete shutdown to face coronavirus

Fortune

Even then, the sector may need \$200 billion in state support to weather the pandemic, according to the International Air Transport Association.

weatherTAP.com sold to Parsons

PRNewswire (press release)

Featuring local, national and aviation weather, it was one of the first online sources for real-time radar and became a valuable resource for pilots.

The future of flying looks grim

Tourism and travel are in free-fall. The industry is on its knees.

A coronavirus has burnt up a \$4.6 trillion international industry – one that was worth \$9.7 billion in New Zealand alone.

Sustainable air travel with AI in the cockpit

The ASEAN Post (press release)

For example, this technology can visualise turbulence and other weather hazards along the flight path, hence, pilots can adjust their courses more ..

Covid 19 coronavirus: Government's air freight package ensures critical imports such as medicine ...

New Zealand Herald

Transport Minister Phil Twyford said the second component of this package, announced today, was critical for high-value exporters. At this stage up to ...

### **Communications/social media**

Alabama meteorologist James Spann holds online Weather School

Alabama NewsCenter

Spann, like thousands of meteorologists across the country, had to cancel school and community visits due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

Seven Calming Ways To Keep Up With Stormy Weather While Avoiding The News

Forbes

Broadcast meteorologists are often on the front lines of severe weather coverage, providing valuable and immediate information for folks in the path of ...

Covid-19 / Wellbeing

Coronavirus: Nutritious foods help control our moods

You're mostly stuck inside, your children might be home from school, and the coronavirus pandemic is making the future seem less certain by the day. You might be seeking comfort in a familiar place: the fridge.

5 ways nutrition could help your immune system fight off the coronavirus

Clare Collins, University of Newcastle

The food we eat influences our bodies' immune responses to infection. So focusing on nutrition is one thing we can do to help protect ourselves in the face of the coronavirus threat.

## Helping them understand

Messages we give children need to be factual and have a positive focus around family management of the Covid-19 pandemic, writes Ian Munro.

## Kids at home because of coronavirus? Here are 4 ways to keep them happy (without resorting to Netflix)

If your child is home more than usual, their normal sense of routine has been disrupted and you may be wondering how to ensure they don't go stir crazy.

Here are four ways to keep your kids happy if they're home for long periods.

## What is social distancing and how to you do it?

In response to the covid-19 pandemic, many governments are now recommending social distancing. Here's a guide on what it means for you. [Read more](#)

## 12 ways to stay connected during social distancing

Staying physically apart is the right thing to do during the COVID-19 pandemic, but our physical and mental health and the success of our organizations depend on seeking out emotional and relational connections during this time, write Michael Lee Stallard and Katharine P. Stallard. They offer 12 steps to avoid loneliness while social distancing, including creative group activities, learning something and seeking to serve other.

## Coronavirus: Platform aims to get volunteers to help during Covid-19 crisis

A charitable trust that matches volunteers to good causes has launched help for those running errands during the coronavirus outbreak.

## Finding health and motivation when the situation seems hopeless

OPINION: Amidst the cacophony born of a rapidly-evolving, rapidly-deteriorating situation, the complexity of it all can be overwhelming.

The tendency is to feel distracted and constantly worry – like you don't know what to do.

## **Energy and Mining**

### Wind power project contractor to be decided

Powering on, Southland district councillors are set to decide their choice of contractor for the pre-development stage of the Stewart Island wind power project.

### More Power From The Same Water”: Mercury Mega Project Celebrates Major Milestone

Monday, 23 March 2020, 9:09 am | [Mercury Energy](#)

23 March 2020 – A \$67 million project on Mercury’s Whakamaru power station has future proofed the station and increased output by over 20% (from 100MW to around 124MW) – enough to power an additional 12,700 electric vehicles. · \$67 million .

## **Farming/horticulture/Aquaculture**

### Significance of Weather Forecast in Agriculture

Krishi Jagran (press release) (blog)

With the modern technologies, the access to meteorological information has become a lot easier with weather forecasts being just one click or tap ...

## **Hydrology / Flooding**

### Flood repair cost to be ‘significant’

It could take two months before the "significant" price tag attached to repairs from this summer’s flooding is known.

Tourism

### Coronavirus pandemic: top vacation spots hold out for recovery, but could a more responsible tourism emerge?

The coronavirus pandemic has brought tourism to a virtual halt and many in the industry are hoping for a rebound

## **Transport/roading/shipping/freight**

### NZ And Singapore Commit To Keeping Supply And Trade Links Open

NZ and Singapore commit to keeping supply and trade links open, including on essential goods and medical supplies

New Zealand and Singapore have jointly committed to keep supply chains open and to remove any existing trade restrictive measures on essential goods, especially medical supplies, in the face of the Covid-19 crisis.

#### International freight routes remain open

Mainfreight says the world's freight trade lanes remain open and that its own trading this calendar year remains ahead of where it was in 2019.

#### Get Ready for Autonomous Ships with AI Captains

RIDE by Kelley Blue Book (blog)

One of the biggest challenges for Mayflower will be the weather. To help navigate rough weather, it will use data from The Weather Company to ...

#### E-Navigation is the Future of Shipping

Maritime Professional

According to Svanes, modern ECDIS systems overlaid with passage planning, regulatory information and weather reports, among other things is far ...

#### Maritime Safety Market extrapolated to gain \$23.67 Billion by 2021

WhaTech

Detectors play a key role in changing the maritime safety landscape and is projected to grow at the highest CAGR during the forecast period owing to ...

#### **Climate change / global warming / sea level rise**

##### How the climate is benefiting from Covid-19

As the coronavirus pandemic sends countries - including New Zealand - into lockdown, there's evidence emerging that the world's climate is dramatically benefiting.

##### Environmental sustainability students not sure on compulsory climate change

A new climate change resource has become available for teachers, but Marlborough students were undecided if climate change education should be compulsory.

The resource is now available to download from the Ministry of Education website, but is not a compulsory part of the curriculum.

## **Cloud seeding / Geoengineering**

### Six Crazy Attempts to Geoengineer the Weather

Smithsonian

As climate change churns up extreme weather, would-be geoengineers are proposing revolutionary new technologies to minimize the effects of global ...

## **Things to entertain**

### If you're doing lockdown DIY, please be careful

OPINION: Welcome to lockdown, folks.

I suppose the best thing we can do is apply a certain amount of stoicism to the situation. Be like the archetypal colonial British gentleman and display a stiff upper lip

### Six great new local albums to listen to while in self-isolation

Looking for stuff to listen to while in self-isolation? The RNZ Music team have picked six newly-released New Zealand albums for your listening pleasure.

### Let's go to Stewart Island!

Little Blue Penguins run the gauntlet to escape great white sharks—but they're not the only species flirting with death on New Zealand's famous Stewart Island. Watch the video!

### 10 (ish) music documentaries to watch during lockdown

If you want something great to watch during lockdown, the RNZ Music have got you covered. Here's a bunch of top-notch music documentaries we've handpicked for your viewing pleasure.

### Solo sports to take up when organised sport has had fulltime called on it

OPINION: You're prowling the lounge like an angst-ridden tiger; the lack of sport is driving you up the wall, the news depressing to watch, Netflix keeps freezing with the internet overwhelmed by self-isolationists. You have to get out and do something energetic. But what?

Need to keep the kids entertained? We've got you covered

RNZ has a treasure trove of stories to keep children entertained during the next few weeks. Why not start off with Hairy Maclary's adventures? We've got a whole bunch of Lynley Dodd stories to explore.

Read, watch, play Kōrero, mātaki, purei

Browse New Zealand's rich history through pictures, quizzes, videos, and articles. Learn about the natural environment, Pacific and Māori culture, and everything in between – from vintage fashion to rugby.

Wellington Portrait Gallery to move exhibition online during isolation

An exhibition showing a different side to one of New Zealand's best-known artists will be available online this week.

**Emergency preparedness / disaster planning / resilience**

Coronavirus: What to do if a natural disaster strikes during a pandemic

Stuff.co.nz

New Zealand is no stranger to natural disasters, with the Kaikoura earthquake and Whakaari/White Island being recent additions to the tally, along .

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**Welcome to AMS News You Can Use.**

**Each week, we send out a sampling of recent news and items of interest in meteorology and related fields, as covered by various media outlets.**

Ice watcher: climatologist carries on 165-year tradition on Madison lakes

Wisconsin State Journal - March 19, 2020

Every winter and spring since the 1850s, observers have staked out Madison's lakes to determine when they freeze and thaw, adding to a vast data trove that offers a window into history.

AMS names award after meteorology pioneer and leader

PennState - March 23, 2020

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) recently created a national award in honor of Penn State meteorology alumnus and weather pioneer Warren Washington.

Global warming influence on extreme weather events has been frequently underestimated

ScienceDaily - March 18, 2020

A new Stanford study reveals that a common scientific approach of predicting the likelihood of future extreme weather events by analyzing how frequently they occurred in the past can lead to significant underestimates -- with potentially significant consequences for people's lives.

'Count every drop, every drop counts': UN weather agency calls for better water data on World Meteorological Day

United Nations - March 23, 2020

Floods, extreme rainfall, droughts and melting glaciers...many of the major signs of climate change involve water. On this year's World Meteorological Day, the UN weather agency (WMO) is reinforcing the message of World Water Day, by focusing on the links between climate and water, and calling for better water-related data.

Increasingly mobile sea ice risks polluting Arctic neighbors

EurekAlert! - March 19, 2020

The movement of sea ice between Arctic countries is expected to significantly increase this century

New satellite-based algorithm pinpoints crop water use

Phys.org - March 20, 2020

The growing threat of drought and rising water demand have made accurate forecasts of crop water use critical for farmland water management and sustainability.

NASA find Herold a fading ex-tropical cyclone

EurekaAlert! - March 20, 2020

Former Tropical Cyclone Herold is now a fading area of low-pressure in the Southern Indian Ocean and NASA's Aqua satellite provided forecasters with a visible image.

World Meteorological Day 2020

RMetS - March 23, 2020

World Meteorological Day is an annual event, celebrated on 23 March. It is recognition of the convention that resulted in the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

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John Maunder's Weather Eye

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/blogs/14512-global-temperatures-1996-february-2020.html>

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Thanks to our regular contributors

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