

New Zealand weather and climate news

Courtesy of MetService Library

MetService mentions

Winter is coming: Temperatures drop, snow to fall in parts of country

Much of the country is waking up to wintry weather for the first time this year, with parts of the South Island falling to negative temperatures overnight.

Rain in Northland still not enough while year's first wintry blast hits elsewhere

Drought-hit Northland farmers are desperate for more rain to turn around a dire drought.

Easter weather: Showery, cooler conditions to push through Monday, Tuesday

New Zealand Herald

Temperatures will also cool as there's a switch to southwest winds, the MetService says. Duty forecaster Andrew James said the West Coast and ...

More rain and cooler temperatures expected for Tauranga, Rotorua, Whakatāne

New Zealand Herald

According to the metService, wet weather will continue throughout the Bay of Plenty for the rest of the week. Tomorrow, Thursday and Friday will see ...

Wind and rain set to reach Hawke's Bay

New Zealand Herald

MetService issued a strong wind watch warning for areas of Hawke's Bay south of Waipawa on Sunday. On Monday the warning was changed to ...

Rain scattering light gives South Canterbury lightning a purple hue

Stuff.co.nz

"Purple lightning is the most common," Lewis Ferris, of the MetService, said on Tuesday. Lightning south of Timaru on Monday evening. JOHN BISSET/ ...

Humble Raoul Island hut wins place on shortlist for Auckland's best architecture

New Zealand Herald

Michael O'Sullivan of Bull O'Sullivan Architecture designed the new MetService hut on Raoul Island to store hydrogen for operating weather ...

Cold, wintry weather on the way for New Zealand's fourth week of lockdown

New Zealand Herald

"We'll have some very cold temperatures for Christchurch, Alexandra and Wanaka," said Metservice duty forecaster Sonya Farmer. A southwesterly ...

Temperatures drop, risk of severe gales for parts of south in coming days

MetService meteorologist Andrew James said many South Islanders should expect "colder than usual weather" as southwesterly winds from Antarctica bring a cold snap to most of the island for the rest of the week.

Snow's over, but Southland cold until Friday

It was a snowy Easter for some of Southland and Otago, but MetService meteorologist Andrew James says the worst is over.

Snowy cold spell set to peter out

MetService meteorologist Lewis Ferris said the snow came from a cold southerly outbreak that closely followed a weather system that passed over the region during Easter weekend.

First snowfall of year on Hawke's Bay peaks

New Zealand Herald

MetService meteorologist Andrew James said the snowfall in the range was not surprising, given the cold snap that swept up the country over Easter.

April snowfall in Kingston a 'bit of a shock' as cold snap hits

For many people in the far south, isolation at home has come with a new challenge - Autumn's first dusting of snow.

Roads closed as large waves waves pummel Wellington South Coast

MetService said there were waves expected from Palliser Bay to Wellington's South Coast of three to 5.5m.

These would ease to 4m peaks on Wednesday evening and to 2m by Thursday afternoon.

Huge waves hit Wellington's south coast, person swept out to sea rescued

Freak waves on Wellington's south coast have left a person in hospital and forced residents to evacuate their homes.

Super tides tear up concrete and damage homes on South Coast

Ōwhiro Bay residents are waking up to a major clean-up job after a battle with ocean tides left several residents facing extensive home repairs.

What caused Wellington's extreme waves?

The huge swells originated south east of the South Island, MetService meteorologist Gerard Bellan said.

Person rescued after being swept out to sea by massive waves at Ōwhiro Bay, Wellington

New Zealand Herald

MetService shared an animation on Twitter showing heavy swells moving up the East Coast yesterday and this morning. The swells are the reason ...

MetOcean

Climate change: encroaching seas to affect coastal homes by 2040s

Flooding will become an increasing reality for low-lying coastal properties in just two decades, well within the lifetime of an average mortgage, a new Niwa study warns.

NIWA

First snow of 2020 blankets parts of Southland

NIWA weather forecaster Chris Brandolino tells Jesse Mulligan about this early cold snap and what we can expect in the coming weeks.

WMO

Tropical Cyclone Harold challenges disaster and public health management

Posted:

Low-lying islands in the South-west Pacific Ocean are counting the human and economic toll of Severe Tropical Cyclone Harold, which destroyed key infrastructure and highlighted the challenges of...

Extreme weather (and other news) – Australia and the Pacific

Fiji declares State of Natural Disaster after Cyclone Harold

Fiji's government has declared a State of Natural Disaster in areas affected by last week's Cyclone Harold.

Wharves and coastal roads in Tonga need repairng after Cyclone Harold

The biggest issues confronting disaster officials in Tonga following last week's battering from Cyclone Harold are the state of wharves in 'Eua and Ha'apai and some of the coastal roads on both 'Eua and Tongatapu.

'As if it was bombed': Vanuatu's Pentecost devastated by Cyclone Harold

Thousands of homes have reportedly been wrecked on Pentecost along with its main medical centres.

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

Lightning kills two, injures nine in Khotang

KHOTANG, April 12: At least two persons died and nine others sustained injuries after being struck by lightning in Khotang district last night

Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe

Tornadoes and storms hit US south as six killed in Mississippi

Twister destroys hundreds of buildings in Louisiana while at least six die in Mississippi due to severe weather

International news and research

How COVID-19 Could Ruin Weather Forecasts and Climate Records

As climate- and ecological-monitoring projects go dark, data that stretch back for decades will soon contain coronavirus-associated gaps

Aviation

A glimpse of aviation's future?

Covid-19 has drastically reduced the number of international flights to and from New Zealand, so how much difference will this make to the percentage of New Zealand's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory total that comes from international transport? None.

Regional flights in doubt after shutdown

Some regions face the possibility they'll be left without air travel links post-Covid-19 as regional airlines drop down the Government's support list.

Coronavirus: What will alert level 3 mean for Air New Zealand?

The move from coronavirus alert level 4 to level 3 won't end the pain for Air New Zealand, but it could bring a few opportunities.

More freight-only passenger flights expected over next month

Eighty new flights of freight-only passenger planes are scheduled to land at Auckland Airport in the next four weeks.

Covid-19: Long term grounding of large planes is 400 hours per aircraft

As thousands of planes lay dormant around the world, a senior aircraft technician explains a lot of work goes into taking planes out of action.

Coronavirus: Airlines to see \$514 billion drop in revenue, IATA says

Airlines are going to take a 55 per cent hit to their passenger revenues this year due to the coronavirus crisis, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) says.

Rocket Lab inks deal to carry Japanese startup Synspective's first satellite into orbit

TechCrunch

The well-funded Japanese space startup Synspective has tapped launch provider Rocket Lab to take its first Earth observation satellite to orbit.

Covid-19 / Business

Coronavirus: Online marketplace launched to showcase New Zealand companies

A local tech company has launched digital marketplace for local small and medium businesses.

Takapuna-based Unleashed Software has launched goodproductsmatter.com, a digital marketplace showcasing Kiwi businesses that have been given permission to keep trading during the alert level four lockdown.

Coronavirus: What telco data tells us about the economic impact of lockdown

Location data being used to inform the Government's pandemic planning also highlights the economic impact of the country's escalating restrictions.

Unemployment can be kept below 10 percent - Treasury

Economic scenarios released by the Treasury back the government's decision to go 'hard and early' in the fight against Covid-19.

COVID-19 economic commentary

The Treasury has increased the release frequency of some of its regular data and commentary and developed new commentary focused specifically on the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy.

Coronavirus: This brave new world might be closer to the old one than we think

OPINION: Some are calling the current changes to our economic landscape a brave new world, suggesting a shocking departure from contemporary values that parallel the deviations in Aldous Huxley's dystopian novel of that name.

Covid-19 / Wellbeing

Sir John Kirwan launches mental health app free for all Kiwis

All Blacks legend Sir John Kirwan is stepping up to support all Kiwis during the COVID-19 pandemic with a leading-edge mental wellbeing app which will be available for free for the duration of the crisis.

[Read more](#)

[Personalities that thrive in isolation and what we can all learn from time alone](#)

The coronavirus pandemic has caused tens of thousands of deaths around the world and pushed major economies into a tailspin. Beyond those impacts, almost all of us will face psychological challenges – trying to maintain a responsible social distancing regimen without sliding into psychological [isolation and loneliness](#).

[Energy and Mining](#)

[Solar power plants get help from satellites to predict cloud cover](#)

Phys.Org

While weather forecasting can be used to predict the amount of sunlight reaching ground-based solar collectors, cloud cover is often characterized in ...

[Marsden Point oil refinery's future under review amid pressure](#)

Refining New Zealand said the Marsden Point refinery is being pressured by a slump in refining margins, which provide much of its income, and an oversupply of fuel products in the region.

[Government \(regional and national\)](#)

[Wellington City Council submits \\$1.3b wish-list for Govt-funded projects to reboot local economy](#)

Island Bay cycleway safety improvements and a new convention centre are among urgent projects proposed to reboot Wellington's economy following the coronavirus lockdown.

[The \\$4 billion wish lists for Government funds after coronavirus](#)

Councils across the country are jostling for a slice of the Government's fast-tracked spend on infrastructure projects, asking for more than \$4 billion to support projects that could reboot the economy following the coronavirus lockdown.

[Infrastructure](#)

Floodwalls among \$40m of reboot projects

Floodwalls to ring Westport and Franz Josef Glacier townships, new bridges and a Greymouth reservoir are among at least \$40million worth of projects being put forward to reboot the West Coast economy after the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown.

Cost blow out means Wellington ratepayers stuck with \$16m sewer bill

Wellington rate payers could end up spending up to \$16 million fixing failed pipes after a multi-million dollar cost blowout - and even then there are no guarantees.

Transport/roading/shipping/freight

Manawatū Gorge replacement highway raises issues and opportunities for iwi

Building a new highway across the lower North Island has iwi worried about the impact on significant cultural sites, including the burial site of chiefs.

Things to entertain

Stretch, sweat and stay active

Missing your regular workouts during isolation? A bunch of Wellington studios and fitness centres are offering at-home classes online. With yoga, tai chi, upbeat dance classes, personal training sessions, and pilates on offer, there's loads of reasons to get off the couch!

18 fascinating nonfiction podcasts (that aren't true crime)

Need a distraction? Try these podcasts that will take you away from coronavirus news and expand your knowledge of the world.

=====

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.

In the Era of Coronavirus and Social Distancing, Should You Go to a Tornado Shelter?

The Weather Channel - April 10, 2020

"Do not let the virus prevent you from seeking refuge from a tornado," the American Meteorological Society said in a statement issued Thursday.

At Least 29 Are Killed as Tornadoes and Severe Weather Strike Southern States

The New York Times - April 12, 2020

The devastating weather system started Sunday and barreled through the region into Monday, causing deaths, destroying homes and knocking out power to thousands of people, meteorologists and officials said.

One More Coronavirus Problem: Accurate Weather Forecasts

NPR - April 3, 2020

Widespread cancellations of commercial flights are creating problems for meteorologists around the world. That's because weather forecasting models rely on temperature and wind data gathered by thousands of planes flying overhead.

Assessing the Global Climate in March 2020

NCEI - April 13, 2020

The globally averaged temperature departure from average over land and ocean surfaces for March 2020 was the second highest for the month in the 141-year NOAA global temperature dataset record, which dates back to 1880.

NASA satellite sees air pollution drop over northeastern US amid coronavirus outbreak

Space.com - April 10, 2020

NASA satellite data revealed significant reductions in air pollution over major metropolitan areas of the Northeast United States as people reduce travel during the pandemic spread by the new coronavirus.

Podcast: The satellite boom that threatens to clog the skies

MIT Technology Review - April 7, 2020

We're entering the era of satellite mega-constellations, but so far there are no rules for how to avoid collisions in orbit.

Solar Energy Tracker Powers Down After 17 Years

NASA - March 20, 2020

After nearly two decades, the Sun has set for NASA's Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment (SORCE), a mission that continued and advanced the agency's 40-year record of measuring solar irradiance and studying its influence on Earth's climate.

How COVID-19 could ruin weather forecasts and climate records

Nature - April 13, 2020

As climate- and ecological-monitoring projects go dark, data that stretch back for decades will soon contain coronavirus-associated gaps.

Nine-Inch Hail? Potential World-Record Hailstone Identified in Argentine Research Project

The Weather Channel - April 8, 2020

A gargantuan hailstone produced by a supercell thunderstorm in Argentina more than two years ago could have potentially set a world record for size, according to a new study.

Why We Can't Trust Warm Weather To Stop Coronavirus

Forbes - April 13, 2020

Will warm weather and high humidity stop the coronavirus pandemic, or is this a false hope pinned to comparisons with common viruses like influenza?

=====
==