

## New Zealand weather and climate news

### **Tribute to Brett Mullan (thanks to John Maunder and Neil Gordon for the link and Susan for the words))**

[https://fairfaxmedianz.pressreader.com/@Neil\\_GORDON.1/csb\\_IEq3Fs9F8nXzmjGqNfvsC4oZwumlvxk\\_IkhhEXrf7WdwVu7\\_t\\_vi4QmeEtOjLrtJ](https://fairfaxmedianz.pressreader.com/@Neil_GORDON.1/csb_IEq3Fs9F8nXzmjGqNfvsC4oZwumlvxk_IkhhEXrf7WdwVu7_t_vi4QmeEtOjLrtJ)

### **MetService mentions**

#### **After stormy spell, sun out across much of the country and expected to hang around**

After several days of cold, windy, wet weather across much of the country, the sun was shining for many on Wednesday with the promise of a lengthy settled spell.

#### **Weather: Close to freezing temperatures in North Island**

New Zealand Herald

Parts of the North Island dropped to the low single digits overnight thanks to a dying southwesterly, MetService said. Taupo is shivering at 1C at 6am ...

#### **Trees fall on to cars as wild weather lashes Bay of Plenty**

New Zealand Herald

MetService meteorologist Tui McInnes said wind gusts of just under 60km/h were recorded in Tauranga Airport about midnight. At Rotorua Airport ...

#### **140 lightning strikes in two hours and more coming**

Winter is coming with lightning, hail, snow, and heavy rain lashing parts of New Zealand.

At 11am on Tuesday the lightning was centred off the coast near Taranaki and the South Island West Coast, MetService meteorologist Andy Best said.

#### **Post-war ketch survives fire and hurricane; sinks in Wellington harbour**

A much-loved postwar ketch that was restored and brought to New Zealand has sunk to the bottom of Wellington's Clyde Quay marina.

#### **Thunderstorms and rain hit Whanganui, but more rain needed**

Whanganui's skies were hit with thunder on Sunday night, along with some much-needed rain for the district.

MetService's Tui McInnes said rainfall in the Whanganui area "probably wasn't as big as some people would have thought".

#### **Weather: Scattered showers across the north this afternoon while the south braces for cold snap**

The tail end of a wet and windy storm continues to lash the top of the North Island this afternoon while the south braces for a chilly snap.

#### **Weather: Snow, hail, thunder, lightning as cold front batters New Zealand**

New Zealand Herald

MetService has warned of snow flurries on the summit of Lewis Pass in Canterbury until 7pm, and brief flurries on the Desert Road in the North Island ...

#### **Weather: Blustery front expected to deliver much-needed rain to drought-hit Northland**

A blustery front whipping across New Zealand should bring much-needed rain and welcome relief to the drought-stricken north today.

#### **Weather: Wild weather on way to New Zealand from Australia**

Now it's expected to bring rain, wind and thunderstorms to New Zealand.

The system was being generated by a broad, complex trough, with an active front ahead of it, MetService meteorologist Andy Best said.

### [More wet weather on the way for North Island](#)

RNZ

Parts of the North Island are in for rain and thunderstorms today, with the centre of the island bearing the brunt. Wet weather in Wellington. Photo: RNZ .

### [Auckland drought: Water levels hit lowest in 25 years](#)

Auckland continues to struggle with drought despite being drenched with rain at the weekend.

### [Auckland drought: Council likely to impose water restrictions from next week](#)

Auckland councillors will decide today whether to [enforce water restrictions](#) for the first time in 26 years as drought depletes the supply to almost-unprecedented lows.

### [Auckland drought: 'Huge rainfall' in Hunua Ranges but more needed](#)

Heavy [downpours](#) saw "huge rainfall" in [Auckland's Hunua Ranges](#) on Sunday, contributing to an increase in the city's water stocks.

### [Drought: Rainfall 'lowest ever' in much of North Island](#)

The [North Island drought](#) — the worst in 50 years in some [parts of Northland](#) — has prompted thousands to seek financial help.

### [Weather: Auckland rain makes little difference to water supply levels](#)

New Zealand Herald

MetService meteorologist Rob Kerr said between 10pm yesterday and 1am today a band of heavy rain brought downpours of 15-25mm in just one .

### [Dry autumn puts pressure on North Canterbury farmers](#)

Stuff.co.nz

MetService figures show Culverden recorded 6.4 millimetres of rain in April, compared to 95.2mm during the same month last year. March was 91mm ...

### [Snow on hills and frost forecast in Hawke's Bay](#)

New Zealand Herald

But MetService meteorologist Andy Best said despite the cold, which saw snow fall to 1000 metre overnight, it'll be a while before it appears again.

### **[Snowfall warning for Desert Road](#)**

SunLive

The MetService says this should clear in the evening, with westerly winds hanging around. "Brief snow flurries are likely about the top of the Desert ...

### [Snow on Nelson hills sign of winter's approach](#)

Snow on the hills behind Nelson city and single-digit temperatures have provided a chilly reminder that the cooler months are just around the corner.

### [Snow-capped Alps overlook Tekapo on Tuesday](#)

Snow-capped mountains overlooked Tekapo on Tuesday but it is hard to say how much fell, or how long the white stuff will last, a MetService meteorologist says.

### [Southern skifields get dusting of snow](#)

MetService meteorologist Andy Best said snow was down to 500 metres and could continue to fall into the early afternoon.

### [Look up tonight, for the Eta Aquarids meteor shower](#)

Stuff.co.nz

MetService forecaster Sonja Farmer said it will be "pot luck" if skies clear in time for the shower. "It's really not looking too good at all. "The North Island's ...

### [\*\*Supermoon 2020: Eastern regions have best chance to see 'Flower Moon' on Thursday\*\*](#)

Stuff.co.nz

But MetService meteorologist Andy Best said some bad weather in western parts of both the North Island and the South Island may hinder some ...

### [After stormy spell, sun out across much of the country and expected to hang around](#)

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## **MetOcean**

### [Wave warning system introduced after huge swell hit Wellington](#)

Residents on Wellington's south coast say the swift introduction of a wave warning system is a victory for people power.

### [Wellington's new wave warning system a "sea-level" change in communication](#)

A new wave warning system for Wellington's south coast had its first test just days after it was introduced.

The system, which allows for easy communication between MetService, Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office, and Wellington City Council (WCC), was introduced after residents were not warned about massive waves heading towards the south coast on April 15.

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## **NIWA**

### [Drought hits hard, far and wide](#)

Analysis of drought conditions across New Zealand this year shows it is one of the most severe on record for some regions.

[Scientists seek smoke sniffers](#)

NIWA scientists are seeking help to sniff out smoke in a bid to help improve air quality in New Zealand.

**ECMWF**

[Cyclone Amphan will grow to a very severe cyclonic storm: Europe Met Model](#)

Odisha Television Ltd.

As per the ECMWF (European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast), the LOPAR will develop into a very severe cyclonic storm. The system ...

**Volcano alert/watch**

[Ruapehu volcano \(North Island, New Zealand\): lake temperature is cooling again](#)

VolcanoDiscovery

The volcano is still a very active volcano with the potential of little or no warning. Both the Volcanic Alert Level (level 1) and Aviation Code (Green) ...

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

[Multiple flooding sources threaten Honolulu's infrastructure](#)

Posted: 04 May 2020 01:57 PM PDT

Researchers found in the next few decades, sea level rise will likely cause large and increasing percentages of land area to be impacted simultaneously by the three flood mechanisms. Further, they found direct marine inundation represents the least extensive -- only three percent of the predicted flooding, while groundwater inundation represents the most extensive flood source.

[Australia: Farmers in Victoria celebrate new weather radar](#)

Aljazeera.com

Wimmera, in Victoria, has long been considered a black hole for weather predictions as the nearest stations in Mildura and Mount Gambier are too

**Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe**

[Drought-hit Argentina faces water worries amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

The worst drought in 50 years in northeast Argentina is hitting hydropower and tourism and threatening drinking water

[UK meteorologists confirm April as sunniest on record](#)

The Guardian

Meteorologists have confirmed a new UK record was set for the sunniest April, with an average 224.5 hours of sunshine, beating the previous record ...

["Spanish Plume" sets stage for severe weather in France and Spain](#)

AccuWeather.com

These ingredients can set the stage for severe weather as storm systems approach from the Atlantic. Thunderstorms are expected to first develop on ...

## **International news and research**

### [Climate change has been influencing where tropical cyclones rage](#)

Posted: 04 May 2020 12:52 PM PDT

While the global average number of tropical cyclones each year has not budged from 86 over the last four decades, climate change has been influencing the locations of where these deadly storms occur, according to new research.

### [Decoding the skies: The impact of water vapor on afternoon rainfall](#)

Posted: 05 May 2020 04:05 PM PDT

On days when wind blows in little atmospheric moisture, afternoon rainfall is more likely to occur over wetter soils or higher relative humidity. On days when wind introduces lots of atmospheric moisture, afternoon rainfall is more likely over drier soils or lower relative humidity. The team also found that for both conditions, afternoon rainfall occurrence is more likely with warmer morning soil or air temperature.

### [Simulations forecast US nationwide increase in human exposure to extreme climate events](#)

Posted: 05 May 2020 09:26 AM PDT

Using the now-decommissioned Titan supercomputer, a team of researchers estimated the combined consequences of many different extreme climate events at the county level, a unique approach that provided unprecedented regional and national climate projections that identified the areas most likely to face climate-related challenges.

### [Bacterial behavior influences cloud formation](#)

Phys.Org

Meteorologists have known for almost 50 years that the proverbial flapping of a butterfly's wings can trigger a hurricane in a completely different ...

### [Ask the Weather Guys: When did computer-based weather forecasts begin?](#)

Madison.com

A: Immediately after World War II, it became fashionable to imagine technologies that might allow human beings to control the weather. In fact, one ...

## **America's Cup (and sailing)**

### [Covid-19 sails off with NZ's America's Cup income](#)

New Zealand is expected to miss out on about \$150 million of income because half the superyachts due to follow the America's Cup next year have pulled out.

## **Aviation**

### [Civil Aviation Authority chief executive Graeme Harris retires](#)

The chief executive of the Civil Aviation Authority has retired.

## **Business/Insurance**

### [Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: The Key to Innovation](#)

Innovation doesn't occur in a vacuum. Doers and thinkers from Shakespeare to Jobs, liberally "stole" inspiration from the doers and thinkers who came before. Here's how to do it right.

## **Climate change / global warming**

### [Budget 2020 spending for climate change could lessen coronavirus' blow](#)

Climate change solutions could mitigate future pandemics and public health risks, health professionals say.

#### [Six New Zealands of climate change: Which one are you?](#)

Baby boomers are six times more likely to dismiss climate change than members of Gen Z, and twice as likely to vote, an in-depth survey has found.

#### [Extreme heat to affect more than 3 billion by 2070: study](#)

Up to 3.5 billion people could be struggling to survive in conditions of extreme heat in 50 years' time, if the world fails to curb greenhouse gas emissions, a major new Dutch study has found.

### **Covid-19 / Business**

#### [Business-led group will investigate how to safely reopen NZ-Australian border](#)

A new business-led group will investigate and recommend how to safely reopen the borders between Australia and New Zealand after [both countries committed to introduce a "Covid-safe" travel zone](#) as soon as it is safe.

#### [After COVID-19: Australia and the world rebuild \(Volume 1\)](#)

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

2 May 2020 | Book | Economics, Health, Natural environment

This publication offers a policy-focused analysis of the world Australia will face once the pandemic has passed. It analyses 26 key topics, countries and themes, ranging from Australia's domestic situation through to the global balance of power, climate and technology issues.

#### [Pandemic disruption creates economic opportunity, KPMG leader says](#)

A report from the business advisory firm KPMG says New Zealand is well-placed to develop greater domestic food production, for its own resilience, and also as a way to market itself as a trusted and reliable exporter.

### **Cloud seeding / Geoengineering**

#### [PH Air Force bares cloud-seeding operations in parts of Luzon](#)

INQUIRER.net

MANILA, Philippines—Some parts of Luzon have experienced rainfall in recent days, partly because of the cloud seeding operations conducted by the ...

### **Energy and Mining**

#### [Solar and wind energy sites mapped globally for the first time](#)

Researchers have mapped the global locations of major renewable energy sites, providing a valuable resource to help assess their potential environmental impact.

#### [AEMO updates COVID19 demand impact summary](#)

Energy Magazine

All regions except Queensland are expected to see a lift in maximum and minimum demands during the cold weather. AEMO said it will continue to ...

### **Government (regional and national)**

#### [Coronavirus: Prime Minister downplays Budget spending, says Government will still be 'careful and balanced'](#)

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has downplayed the level of spending likely to be unveiled in her Government's Budget next week.

## **History**

[How a brutal cold stretch led to Frankenstein, a new religion and the invention of bikes](#)

AccuWeather.com

“What's so unusual is to get that large of an area of possible snow this late in the year,” said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Alex Sosnowski.

[Why weather forecasts stopped: The 75th anniversary of VE Day](#)

AccuWeather.com

... Allies knew the weather upstream over the Atlantic Ocean and across the United Kingdom,” said AccuWeather Founder and CEO Dr. Joel N. Myers

## **Hydrology / Flooding**

[Nearly \\$20m paid out after Southland flooding](#)

Insurers have paid out almost \$20 million as a result of February's flooding in Southland.

## **Infrastructure**

[Mayors with long wishlists chase 'shovel-ready' project funding](#)

Mayors around the country have filed shopping lists of 'shovel-ready' projects they hope will get a share of government cash aimed at boosting the post-Covid economy.

[Projects of \\$100m-plus approved by council](#)

Invercargill city councillors have given the nod to five “shovel-ready” projects totalling more than \$100million to stimulate the economy.

[\\$8m project at Timaru's port to start next month](#)

A multi-million dollar upgrade to the log yard at Timaru's port will go ahead in June.

PrimePort chief executive Phil Melhopt told Stuff the project, which would cost in the region of \$8 million, would involve the sealing off of four hectares of the log yard, plus the haul and access roads in and around it.

['We are starting to see some hope': Forestry back up and running in Gisborne area](#)

The heart of the Gisborne economy is beating again as the forestry industry is back in full swing under alert level 3.

## **Lightning**

[Lightning strike causes power cut in Hāwera](#)

Power has been restored to about 420 Hāwera customers after a lightning strike took out the electricity supply earlier today.

## **Outdoor recreation**

[Mt Taranaki snowfall could see early start to ski season](#)

A timely dumping of snow on Mt Taranaki has local skifield operators rubbing their hands for an early start to the ski season.

Transport/roading/shipping/freight

[Seven-month delay to Christchurch Southern Motorway](#)

Another major roading project has been delayed for at least seven months due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

## **Transport**

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### [Transmission Gully project a 'circus', sections to be re-laid](#)

The Transport Agency has admitted that sections of Wellington's billion-dollar project, Transmission Gully, need to be re-laid after an error.

## **Innovation and technologies and AI**

### [Coronavirus crisis spurs IT innovation](#)

The coronavirus crisis sees CIOs accelerating their adoption of automation, analytics and new processes to cope with the pandemic's disruptions and steer the enterprise forward in uncertain times.

## **Safety/ wellbeing**

### [Open Polytechnic of NZ launches free course on infection prevention](#)

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand Ltd, the country's largest specialist provider of vocational distance learning, has launched a free self-directed course on infection prevention in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Journal and articles online**

Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, Vol. 146, No. 728, April 2020 Part A

### [Hourly 4D-Var in the Met Office UKV operational forecast model](#)

Marco Milan, Bruce Macpherson, Robert Tubbs, Gareth Dow, Gordon Inverarity, Marion Mittermaier, Gemma Halloran, Graeme Kelly, Dingmin Li, Adam Maycock, Tim Payne, Chiara Piccolo, Laura Stewart, Marek Wlasak

Pages: 1281-1301 | First Published: 26 December 2019

In this paper we describe the hourly cycling four-dimensional variational data assimilation (4D-Var) implemented operationally in the Met Office's convective-scale UKV forecast model. The new operational system extends this capability to the full UK and surrounding area (shown in the figure), delivering outputs suitable for blending into nowcasting products and for general forecasting of a full range of meteorological variables.

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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.

### [How the coronavirus has changed air quality and what it could mean for the weather](#)

EurekAlert! - May 4, 2020

The change in air pollution in China from January to February as stay-at-home orders were put into place to stop the spread of the coronavirus has intrigued Louisiana State University meteorologist Paul Miller.

### ['Gargantuan' hail in Argentina may have smashed world record](#)

Phys.org - April 30, 2020

A supercell thunderstorm pelted a city center in Argentina a few years ago with hailstones so large scientists suggested a new category to describe them—gargantuan hail.

### [Climate Crisis: The \\$600B Problem One Company Is Trying To Weather](#)

Forbes - May 1, 2020

Even while we work as a country to address the novel coronavirus pandemic, there's another large crisis bearing down — climate change.

[Arctic 'shorefast' sea ice threatened by climate change](#)

ScienceDaily - May 4, 2020

A new study shows that coastal sea ice used by Arctic residents for hunting and fishing will be reduced as the planet warms.

[More accurate prediction of scale and impact of weather events](#)

Phys.org - May 1, 2020

Large-scale weather events, such as monsoons and tropical cyclones, can now be more accurately predicted, findings from a joint India-UK research project show.

[The National Weather Service is working to revolutionize severe storm warnings](#)

The Washington Post - May 3, 2020

New technology will help forecasters constantly update, fine tune and focus warnings.

[Building satellites amid COVID-19](#)

Phys.org - May 5, 2020

One might assume that like many industries, the construction and testing of satellites has been put on hold, but engineers and scientists are finding ways of continuing to prepare Europe's upcoming satellite missions such as the next Copernicus Sentinels.

[Hurricane Season Starts June 1st - 4 Lessons From The Coronavirus Pandemic To Apply](#)

Forbes - May 3, 2020

Hurricane season is a month away. Are you prepared even as the coronavirus pandemic continues?

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**Weather Eye with John Maunder**

<https://www.sunlive.co.nz/blogs/14636-tauranga-april-rainfalls-18982020.html>