

New Zealand weather and climate news

Courtesy of MetService Library

MetService mentions

Continuing drought could be 'catastrophic' for Waikato districts desperate for rain

Three Waikato districts "really struggling" with a lack of autumn rainfall fear drought concerns are being overshadowed by Covid-19.

Weather: Fog blankets Wellington in start to 'mostly tranquil' week

Newshub

An image from MetService's Kelburn office shows the fog stretching across the city and harbour. "Unlike the cloud that was streaming down Ngaio ...

WMO

WMO strengthens commitment to science

Posted:

The World Meteorological Organization's Scientific Advisory Panel has elected a new chair and vice-chair to cement engagement with the broad science community and support the evolution of its mandate...

ECMWF

Progress towards using visible light satellite data in weather prediction

ECMWF

ECMWF scientists have made progress in using visible light satellite data to estimate the concentration of small particles suspended in the atmosphere ...

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

Cyclone Amphan wreaks deadly havoc in eastern India and Bangladesh

Cyclone Amphan has made violent landfall in eastern India and Bangladesh, lashing communities along the coast with ferocious wind and rain.

South Asia faces increased threat of extreme heat, extreme pollution, study shows

Posted: 18 May 2020 11:49 AM PDT

Scientists know that extreme heat has a negative impact on the human body -- causing distress in the respiratory and cardiovascular systems -- and they know that extreme air pollution can also have serious effects. But as climate change impacts continue globally, how often will humans be threatened by both of those extremes when they occur simultaneously?

Extreme weather (and other news) – Americas and Europe

But it's a dry heat: Climate change and the aridification of North America

Posted: 19 May 2020 01:58 PM PDT

Discussions of drought often center on the lack of precipitation. But among climate scientists, the focus is shifting to include the growing role that warming temperatures are playing as potent drivers of greater aridity and drought intensification.

International news and research

Long-term data show hurricanes are getting stronger

Posted: 18 May 2020 12:49 PM PDT

In almost every region of the world where hurricanes form, their maximum sustained winds are getting stronger. That is according to a new study involving an analysis of nearly 40 years of hurricane satellite imagery.

IndiGo supports Indian Meteorological Department with crucial data for weather forecasting amid ...

Equity Bulls

Ashim Mittra, Sr. Vice President - Flight Operations, IndiGo said, "In view of the current situation, we have decided to take a step forward to assist the IMD ...

Amphan: Why Bay of Bengal is the world's hotbed of tropical cyclones

BBC News

India meteorological officials say it will be an "extremely intense cyclone" ... "It is a very warm sea," says D Mohapatra, head of India's meteorological ...

To Track Massive Locust Swarms, Officials Use Tool that Forecasts Smoke Plumes

The pests that have been laying waste to crops across Africa follow the winds, just like smoke

This App Shows Storm Surge Damage Before Flooding Begins

With floods maps often outdated, augmented reality may help homeowners better understand the risk of inundation

Satellites see Tropical Storm Arthur, the Atlantic's 1st named storm of 2020, from space

Space.com

The tropical storm is being carefully watched by the administration's GOES-16 satellite, also known as GOES-East, the current weather sentinel for the ...

New Documentary Details Life and Career of Ted Fujita, "Mr. Tornado"

Wunderground.com (blog)

Above: Tornado researcher Ted Fujita with an array of weather maps and ... His forensic analyses of these airline disasters led to his discovery and ...

Advertising/promotion

ASA Releases 2019 Advertising Turnover

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) today reported that advertising revenue across all main media was 2.767 billion dollars for the 12 months ended 31 December 2019.

Air quality / air pollution

Coronavirus: Air quality seen during lockdown won't return for 20 years, experts say

Unless Kiwis change the way we work and travel, it will be another 15 to 20 years before the country experiences the same level of clean air as those achieved during lockdown, a scientist says.

New Zealand's world-leading carbon cuts in coronavirus lockdown

New Zealand's daily carbon dioxide emissions fell up to 41 per cent during the alert Level 4 lockdown, according to a new study. It was the largest estimated drop in the world after Luxembourg.

Aviation

Air New Zealand to boost Queenstown flights before Queen's Birthday weekend

Air New Zealand plans to restart its Wellington to Queenstown service ahead of Queen's Birthday weekend, but its continuation will rely on strong demand in both directions

Tornado Season Could Cause Chaos With Parked Aircraft

Simple Flying

With so many aircraft parked in at-risk areas, should **airlines** worry about ... forecast office in the country during that span” the **weather** service notes.

Airways confirms withdrawal of services from seven airports

Seven airports around the country are to lose air traffic services, it has been confirmed.

DTN AviationSentry for Helicopters Launches in Europe

AviationPros.com

Accurate forecasting and access to real-time weather data and meteorological consultation are critical for the aviation industry, but helicopter ..

Climate change / global warming

Little bit of sea-level rise = lots more coastal flooding

Scientists warn that a small amount of sea-level rise could have big consequences for some low-lying parts of New Zealand.

NIWA's Scott Stephens and Rob Bell talk with Alison Ballance about sea-level, coastal flooding and working with coastal communities to develop adaptation strategies for now and for the future.

Just how hot will it get this century? Latest climate models suggest it could be worse than we thought

Climate scientists use mathematical models to project the Earth's future under a warming world, but a group of the latest models have included unexpectedly high values for a measure called "climate sensitivity".

Covid-19 / Business

A 'Covid-free' New Zealand could result in a new place in the world order

Foreign companies may shift research work and management teams to New Zealand to take advantage of the country's "hopefully Covid-free status", former chief science adviser Peter Gluckman says.

Coronavirus: Work resumes on major Hollywood films - minus the actors

Production on major Hollywood films such as Avatar 2 and The Lord of the Rings series have resumed in New Zealand, even though the A-list celebrities can't yet return to our shores.

Coronavirus: 29 countries stop sending post to NZ, Kiwis waiting months for letters

Kiwis waiting on mail from overseas have no idea when it will arrive as the global postal system deals with the fallout of coronavirus.

Covid-19 / Wellbeing

Coronavirus: PM Jacinda Ardern says 'no timeframe' for move to Alert Level 1

The Government will not move New Zealand into Alert Level 1 unless director-general of health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, is confident.

Energy and Mining

EPA grants consent for OMV to drill up to 10 exploration wells

Austrian oil and gas company OMV has been granted marine and marine discharge consents to drill up to 10 exploration and appraisal wells off the coast of Taranaki.

Kiwis seeking cheaper power are choosing cleaner energy

Auckland, 15 May 2020 - During the current Covid-19 lockdown period, Kiwi homeowners' demand for cheaper cleaner energy has significantly increased, reports solarcity, New Zealand's leading solar energy service company.

Hydrology / Flooding

Expanding Paved Areas Has an Outsize Effect on Urban Flooding

Researchers have finally been able to pinpoint just how much impervious surfaces exacerbate flood levels

Transport/roading/shipping/freight

Rumours rife over Transmission Gully construction as negotiations drag

It was meant to be the billion-dollar Christmas present for the Wellington region, but now it could arrive in the wrong December.

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.

Grounded aircraft could make weather forecasts less reliable

Phys.org - May 13, 2020

Weather data from aircraft is considered "second only to satellite data in their impact on forecasts", according to experts.

The strongest, most dangerous hurricanes are now far more likely because of climate change, study shows

The Washington Post - May 18, 2020

Researchers find, for the first time, a statistically significant global trend, especially in the Atlantic.

Image: Tiny NASA satellite captures first image of clouds and aerosols

Phys.org - May 15, 2020

The tiny satellite sent back its very first image over Europe with bright splashes of colors defining clouds and aerosols, which are tiny particles in the atmosphere.

Air pollution levels will bounce back as COVID-19 restrictions loosen, scientists say

Space.com - May 13, 2020

"COVID has made clear the health inequities that we face and I hope we can move towards a more fair and just society with less pollution."

New study could help better predict rainfall during El Niño

ScienceDaily - May 13, 2020

Researchers at the University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science have uncovered a new connection between tropical weather events and U.S. rainfall during El Niño years.

Increased frequency of connected patterns from drought to heavy rain in regional hotspots

Phys.org - May 15, 2020

Like an undulating seesaw, weather in some regions swings from drought to heavy rain under the weight of climate-induced changes, according to an analysis published in Geophysical Research Letters.

SpaceX postpones Starlink satellite fleet launch due to Tropical Storm Arthur

Space.com - May 18, 2020

The satellites will launch after SpaceX's Demo-2 mission.

The new science of volcanoes harnesses AI, satellites and gas sensors to forecast eruptions

Nature - May 18, 2020

Forty years after the Mount St Helens eruption galvanized volcano researchers, they are using powerful new tools to spy on the world's most dangerous mountains.

Seeing the pandemic at night: How satellites observe more than just weather

Phys.org - May 18, 2020

At the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIARA) at Colorado State University, scientists who study the Earth using satellites are seeing drastic decreases in atmospheric pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide, around the world.

2 Major Weather Systems To Watch In The East - Tropical Storm Arthur And A 'Cut-Off Low'

Forbes - May 17, 2020

Tropical Storm Arthur is currently located off of the southeastern coast of the United States. Arthur continues a trend in recent years of a named storm prior to the official June 1st start date of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Satellites see Tropical Storm Arthur, the Atlantic's 1st named storm of 2020, from space

Space.com - May 18, 2020

Satellites have spotted the first named storm of the 2020 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season, Tropical Storm Arthur, swirling off the coast of North Carolina.

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WeatherEye by John Maunder

See www.sunlive.co.nz/blogs/14696-the-southern-oscillation-index.html

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