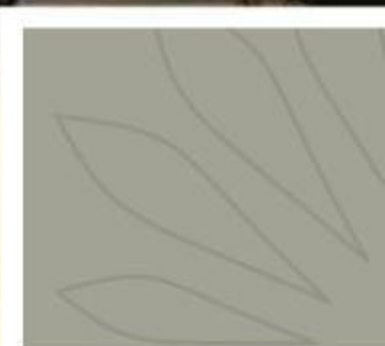


JANUARY 2015

HAWKE'S BAY

trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua




HAWKE'S BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

JANUARY SUMMARY

Regional Council Science Summary

Hello Summer :)

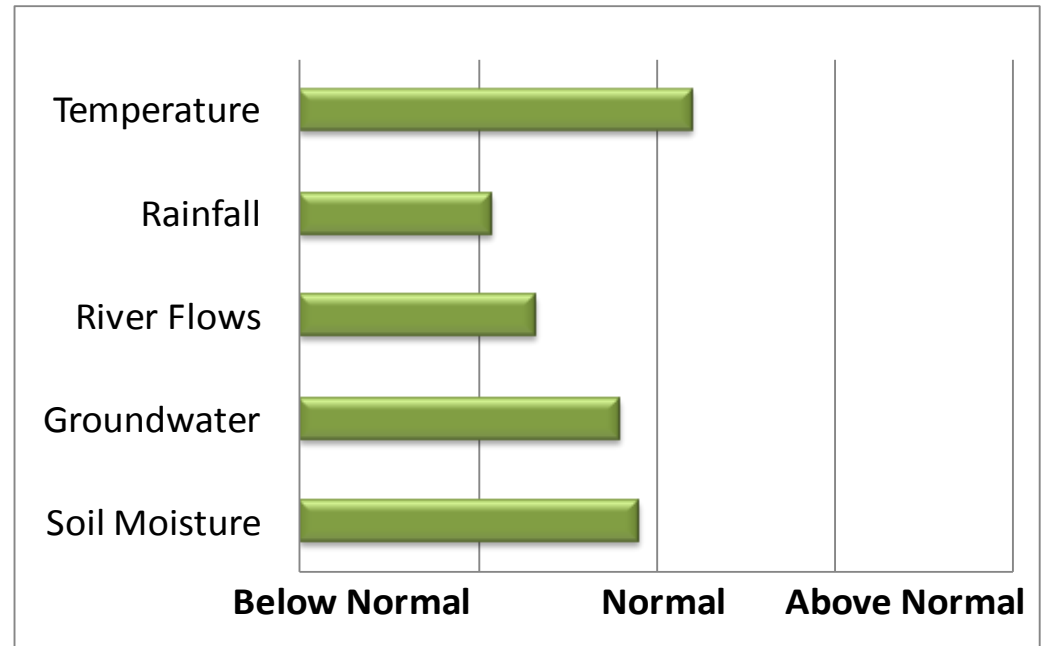
All in all, great holiday weather, but not so great for the garden or pastures.

This is a summary of the region's rainfall, groundwater, river and soil moisture levels.

Data and images provided by HBRC.

www.hbrc.govt.nz

06 835 9200



Summary information in this report reflects regional averages. Specific situations between catchments will vary. More in-depth information is available on Council's website.

February to April Forecast

Temperature	Above average
Rain	Near to above normal
River flows	Near to below normal
Soil moisture	Near normal

source : NIWA

TEMPERATURES

Pretty scorcher!

Above average for both night and daytime temperatures.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.8°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.9°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 23°C

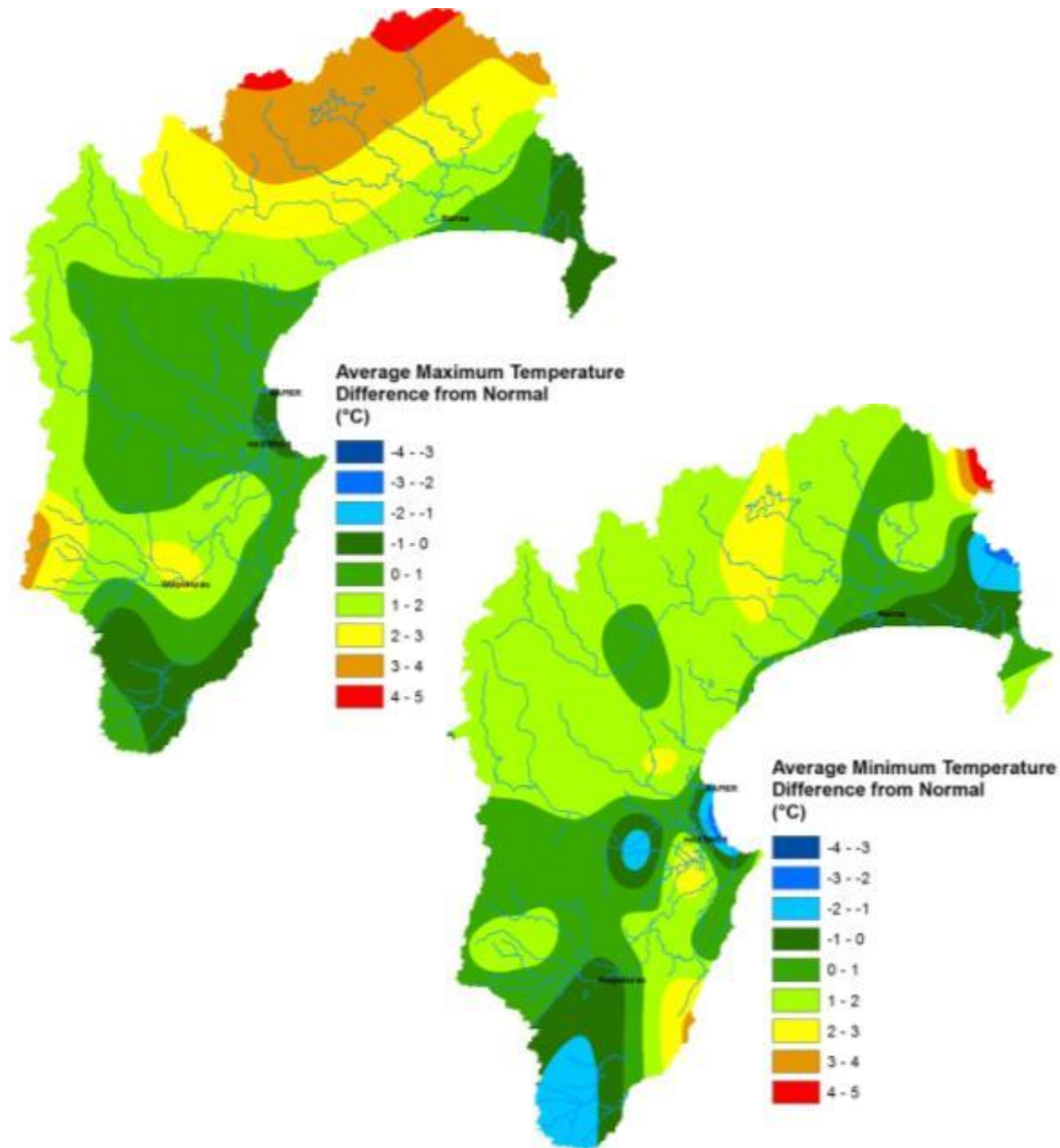
Mean Daily Minimum: 13°C

Highest Daily: 31.9°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde

Lowest Daily: 2.6°C

Location: Taharua





The January Roundup

Summer rainfall was variable. Mid-December rain boosted summer feed crops and pasture growth rates. Many areas now have standing hay to feed stock, and areas north of Napier and along the western ranges benefitted most from recent rain. Wind and high temperatures have reduced the effectiveness of light rain showers.

As pasture covers have fallen, farmers have sold trading stock. Excellent beef prices before Christmas encouraged farmers to sell cattle early.

Meat processors are operating at capacity with farmers having to wait up to a month to get cull ewes killed.

Most dairy farmers are in very good shape having received 100mm plus of rain in the last three weeks.

Farmers generally consider this a normal dry Hawke's Bay summer. As usual they are hoping for rain along with cooler temperatures in late February or early March.

Fruit and grape growers welcomed the lift in temperatures from late December following a cool spring. The apple season is about a week later than normal for the region.

Arable and vegetable crops with adequate irrigation are generally performing well. The cool spring and warm dry summer has meant that the growth of maize crops so far is variable.

Gillian Mangin & Annette Carey
Ministry for Primary Industries
Policy, Ahuriri

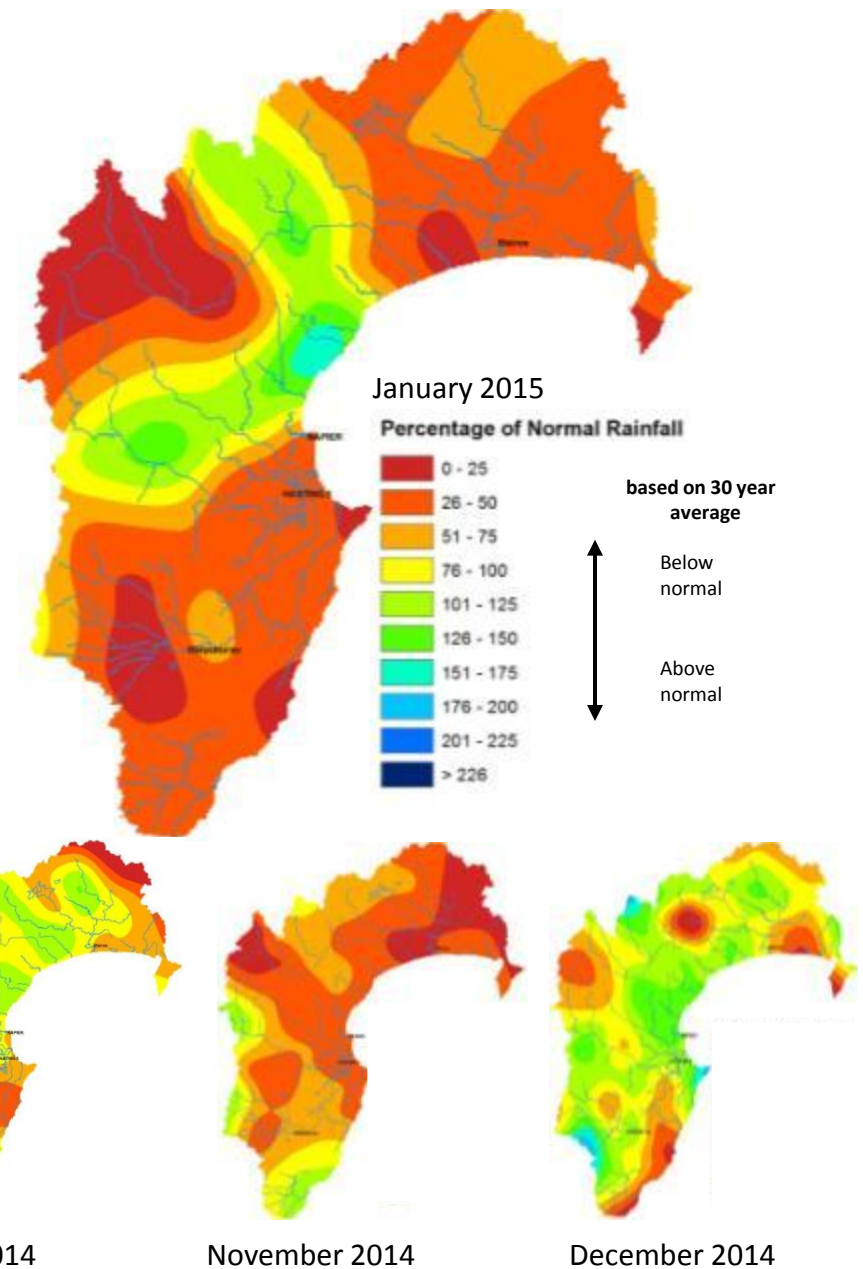
RAINFALL

Below normal

.. and it was very below normal for those in our southern parts.

Percentage of normal January rainfall (30 year average) for areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	49%
Northern HB	41%
Tangoio	98%
Kaweka	63%
Ruahine	60%
Heretaunga Plains	49%
Ruataniwha Plains	37%
<u>Southern HB</u>	<u>33%</u>
Hawke's Bay region	54%



October 2014

November 2014

December 2014

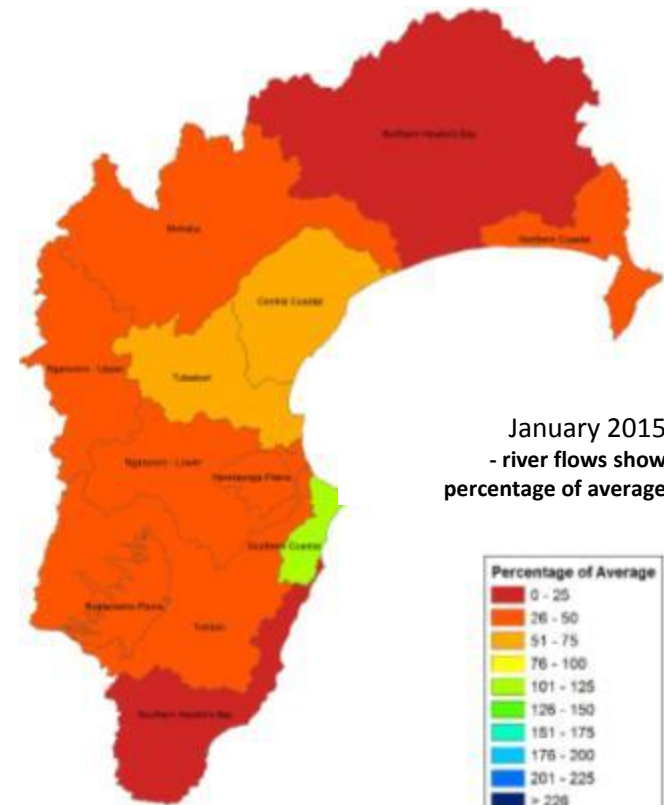
RIVER FLOWS

Below normal

The region averaged 42% of normal river flows, pulled up by a few coastal anomalies.

Percentage of normal January flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	41%
Northern HB	19%
Mohaka	48%
Central Coastal	73%
Tūtaekuri	54%
Heretaunga Plains	29%
Ngaruroro-Upper	31%
Ngaruroro-Lower	26%
Southern Coastal	105%
Ruataniwha Plains	37%
Tukituki	40%
Southern HB	4%



November 2014



December 2014

GROUNDWATER + SOIL

GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Heretaunga basin

Mostly below normal water levels

Ruataniwha basin

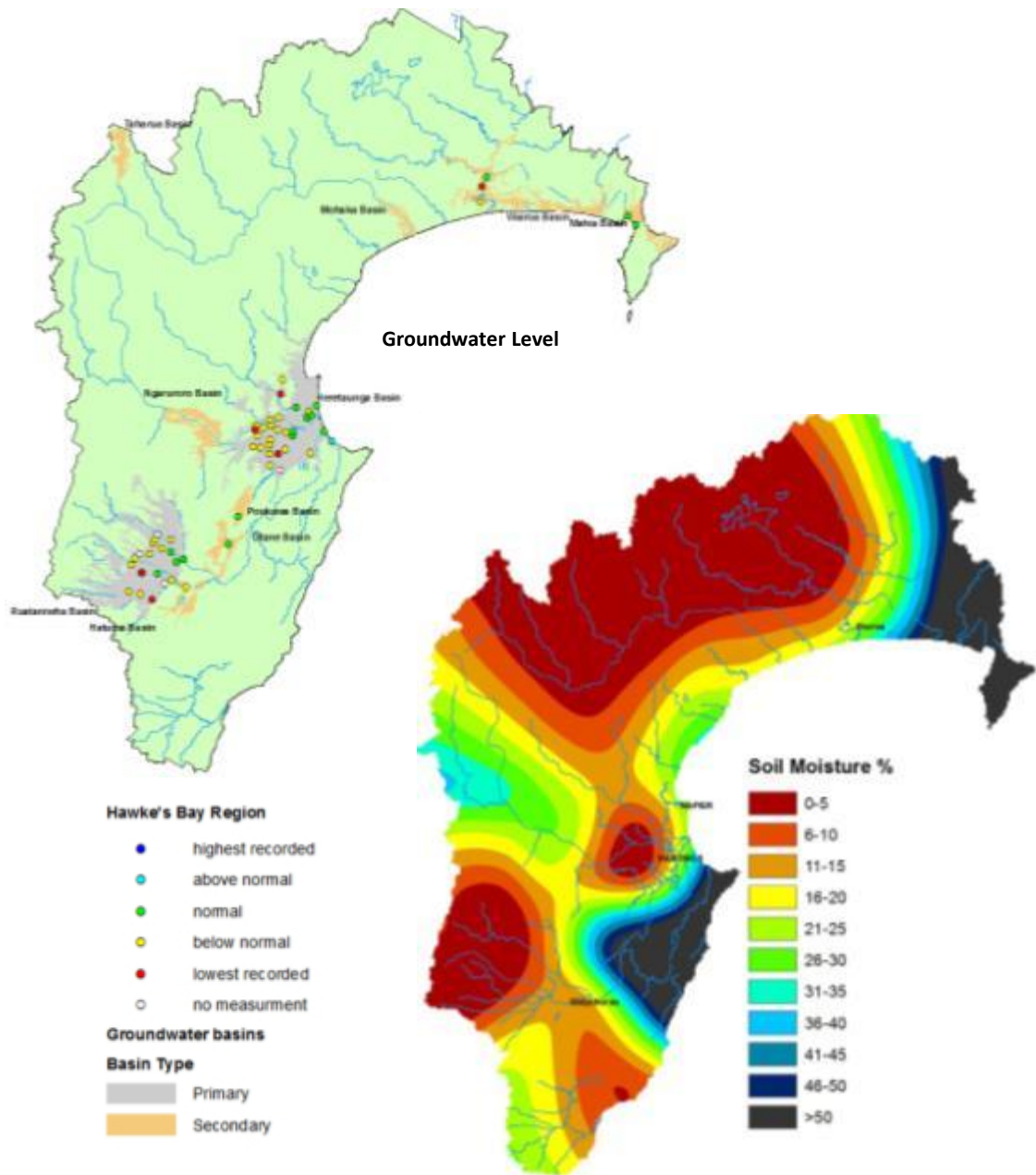
Mostly below normal water levels

Secondary basins

Mostly normal water levels

SOIL MOISTURE

Near to below normal levels
(compared to last 5 years)



RIVER + BEACH SWIM MONITORING

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

Our team monitors where people like to swim until 17 March

The month of January was very good with low bacteria levels across the region's fresh and salt water sites.

There was one exceedence at Mahia Beach. And in our rivers, phormidium (cyano bacteria, or blue/ green algae) surveys show only background levels <10% coverage of river cross-sections – not posing any major risk to bathers. The Maraetotara river at Te Awanga is the only site with it so far this season.

The rule of thumb for swimming after rain is, if you can't see your feet in knee deep water, try another location or simply don't swim.

