

Warmest August on record for NZ. Dry in many parts; wet in the east and north of the North Island.

Temperature	Record or near record-high August mean temperatures recorded throughout the North Island and South Island, with many locations at least 2.0°C above August average. Well above average temperatures (more than 1.2°C above August average) throughout most of New Zealand. The exception was areas of Northland, Auckland and western Waikato where temperatures were in the above average range (0.5-1.2°C above August average). The nation-wide mean temperature was 1.9°C above the August average, based on NIWA's seven-station temperature series, making this the warmest August on record since 1909.
Rainfall	Well below normal rainfall (less than 50 percent of August normal) for southwestern and eastern Southland, as well as parts of South Otago and Central Otago, and the McKenzie Country. Below normal rainfall (50-79 percent of August normal) in most remaining areas of Southland and Otago, as well as coastal and inland Canterbury south of Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui and parts of Waikato. In contrast, well above normal rainfall (more than 150 percent of August normal) in parts of Hawke's Bay and Gisborne.
Sunshine	Above normal sunshine (110-125 percent of normal August sunshine) for South Otago, and western parts of Southland and Otago. Below normal sunshine (75-90 percent of normal August sunshine) throughout Nelson, Marlborough, the northern West Coast, Wellington, western Bay of Plenty and parts of Waikato and Auckland. Near normal sunshine elsewhere (within 10 percent of normal August sunshine).
Soil moisture	As at 1 September 2013, most soils throughout New Zealand were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In isolated parts of Central Otago, coastal North Otago and about Kaikoura, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

Click on the link to jump to the information you require:

[Overview](#)

[Temperature](#)

[Rain](#)

[Sunshine](#)

[August climate in the six main centres](#)

[Highlights and extreme events](#)

Overview

August 2013 was characterised by mean sea level pressure (MSLP) which was much lower than normal across all of New Zealand, with strongly negative anomalies to the south of Australia. In contrast, MSLP anomalies were well above normal to the east of New Zealand. These regional pressure patterns resulted in more frequent northerly and north-easterly flows across the country, resulting in high mean temperatures for the time of year across much of the country.

A very warm August was experienced throughout New Zealand. Mean temperatures for August were well above average (more than 1.2°C above August average) across almost the entire South Island, and most parts of the North Island. The exception was areas of Northland, Auckland and western Waikato where temperatures were in the above average range (0.5-1.2°C above August average). Mean temperatures of at least 2.0°C above average for August were recorded in inland parts of Southland, Otago, and Canterbury, as well as Christchurch, Banks Peninsula, West Coast, Manawatu, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty, and Waikato. The nation-wide average temperature in August 2013 was 10.6°C, (1.9°C above the 1971-2000 August average) from NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909. August 2013 recorded the highest August mean temperature on record for the seven-station series.

August was a dry month for southwestern and eastern Southland, as well as parts of South Otago and Central Otago, and the McKenzie Country. Well below normal rainfall (less than 50 percent of August normal) was recorded at those locations. Below normal rainfall (50-79 percent of August normal) was recorded in most remaining areas of Southland and Otago, as well as coastal and inland Canterbury south of Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui and parts of Waikato. In contrast, August was a wet month for Gisborne and Hawke's Bay. Well above normal rainfall (more than 150 percent of August normal) was recorded throughout those regions, with some areas towards the coast recording more the double their August normal rainfall. Above normal rainfall (120-140 percent of August normal) fell in eastern parts of Northland. Near normal rainfall was experienced elsewhere (within 20 percent of August normal rainfall). As at 1 September 2013, most soils throughout New Zealand were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In isolated parts of Central Otago, coastal North Otago and about Kaikoura, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

Sunshine hours for August were above normal (110-125 percent of normal August sunshine) for South Otago, and western parts of Southland and Otago. Below normal sunshine (75-90 percent of normal August sunshine) was recorded throughout Nelson, Marlborough, the northern West Coast, Wellington, western Bay of Plenty and parts of Waikato and Auckland. Near normal sunshine was experienced elsewhere (within 10 percent of normal August sunshine). Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2013 (January to August) are: Whakatane (1800 hours), New Plymouth (1706 hours), Blenheim (1604 hours) and Lake Tekapo (1591 hours).

Further Highlights:

- The highest temperature was 22.1 °C, recorded at Kaitia on 13 August.
- The lowest temperature was -8.0°C, observed at Lake Tekapo on 28 August.
- The highest 1-day rainfall was 155 mm, recorded at North Egmont, on 8 August.

- The highest wind gust was 154 km/hr, at South West Cape, on 28 August.
- In August 2013, Auckland was the wettest and warmest, Christchurch was the coolest, Dunedin was the driest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and both Wellington and Hamilton were the cloudiest.
- Of the available, regularly reporting sunshine observation sites, the sunniest four centres so far in 2013 (January to August) are: Whakatane (1800 hours), New Plymouth (1706 hours), Blenheim (1604 hours) and Lake Tekapo (1591 hours).

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Temperature: Well above average temperatures throughout most areas of New Zealand, with the exception of parts of Northland, Auckland and western Waikato where above average temperatures were recorded.

A very warm August was experienced throughout New Zealand. Highest ever August mean temperatures were recorded in 31 locations around the country (see Table below), with over half of the locations in New Zealand where long-term temperature measurements have been made (82 out of 146) recording an August 2013 mean temperature in the top four of their respective temperature records.

The nation-wide average temperature in August 2013 was 10.6°C, (1.9°C above the 1971-2000 August average) from NIWA's seven-station temperature series which begins in 1909¹. August 2013 recorded the highest August mean temperature on record for the seven-station series, slightly above the previous record in August 2009 of 1.8°C above average.

Record² or near-record mean air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Mean air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	13.4	0.8	1951	3rd-highest
Kaitaia (Airport)	13.4	1.3	1948	3rd-highest
Kaitaia (Observatory)	13.1	0.9	1985	2nd-highest
Kerikeri	12.9	1.2	1981	2nd-highest

¹ Interim monthly value

² The rankings (1st, 2nd, 3rd.etc) in all Tables in this summary are relative to climate data from a *group* of nearby stations, some of which may no longer be operating. The current climate value is compared against all values from any member of the group, without any regard for homogeneity between one station's record, and another. This approach is used due to the practical limitations of performing homogeneity checks in real-time.

Dargaville	13.7	2.2	1943	Highest
Whangarei (Airport)	13.2	1.2	1967	2nd-highest
Leigh	14.2	1.5	1966	Highest
Whangaparaoa	12.8	0.9	1982	4th-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	12.3	1.3	1945	2nd-highest
Auckland (Lincoln Rd)	12.7	0.7	1948	4th-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	13.0	1.4	1959	2nd-highest
Auckland (Airport)	12.6	1.0	1959	3rd-highest
Pukekohe	12.1	1.3	1969	Highest
Paeroa	12.0	1.4	1947	2nd-highest
Tauranga (Aiport)	12.5	1.7	1913	2nd-highest
Te Puke	12.1	2.0	1973	Highest
Whakatane (Airport)	11.2	1.5	1974	3rd-highest
Rotorua (Airport)	9.8	1.4	1964	3rd-highest
Taupo	8.8	1.6	1949	2nd-highest
Motu	8.7	2.2	1990	Highest
Whatawhata	11.1	1.0	1952	4th-highest
Hamilton (Ruakura)	11.6	1.8	1906	Highest
Turangi	8.7	1.4	1968	2nd-highest
New Plymouth	11.9	1.7	1944	Highest
Stratford Ews	10.4	2.2	1960	Highest
Hawera Aws	10.7	1.7	1977	Highest
Wanganui	11.7	1.5	1937	2nd-highest
Masterton (Airport)	9.7	1.4	1906	3rd-highest
Masterton (Te Ore Ore)	10.3	2.0	1992	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	10.4	1.9	1951	Highest
Waione	10.8	1.3	1991	Highest
Martinborough	10.6	1.7	1986	3rd-highest
Ngawi	12.5	1.7	1972	Highest
Hicks Bay	12.8	1.4	1969	2nd-highest
Gisborne	11.9	1.8	1905	Highest
Waipawa	9.8	1.3	1945	Highest
Wairoa	12.0	2.0	1964	2nd-highest
Mahia	12.0	1.7	1990	Highest
Paraparaumu	10.7	1.3	1953	2nd-highest
Palmerston North	11.1	1.9	1928	Highest
Levin	11.1	1.7	1895	2nd-highest
Wellington (Airport)	11.7	1.5	1962	Highest
Wallaceville	10.1	1.5	1939	2nd-highest
Takaka	10.0	1.3	1978	3rd-highest
Farewell Spit	12.1	1.7	1971	Highest
Westport	11.2	1.9	1937	Highest
Hokitika	10.1	1.7	1866	3rd-highest
Reefton	9.6	2.5	1960	Highest
Greymouth	10.7	1.8	1947	3rd-highest
Haast	10.0	1.8	1949	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	8.6	1.7	1934	Highest
Secretary Island	10.6	1.3	1985	2nd-highest

Puysegur Point	9.8	1.2	1978	4th-highest
Motueka	9.7	1.4	1956	4th-highest
Nelson	10.4	1.7	1943	Highest
Appleby	9.6	1.0	1932	4th-highest
Blenheim	10.8	1.9	1941	2nd-highest
Kaikoura	10.5	1.7	1963	2nd-highest
Culverden	8.6	2.0	1928	3rd-highest
Waiau School	8.7	2.1	1974	3rd-highest
Cheviot	9.0	1.7	1982	Highest
Mt Cook	6.1	2.1	1929	2nd-highest
Waipara West	10.0	1.6	1973	4th-highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	9.8	2.1	1863	2nd-highest
Lincoln	9.6	2.0	1881	Highest
Le Bons Bay	9.5	1.8	1984	3rd-highest
Lake Tekapo	5.6	1.8	1927	4th-highest
Orari Estate	7.9	1.2	1972	4th-highest
Tara Hills	6.6	2.1	1949	Highest
Wanaka (Airport)	7.7	2.2	1955	Highest
Cromwell	7.5	1.9	1949	3rd-highest
Lauder	6.6	1.7	1924	2nd-highest
Alexandra	7.6	1.7	1983	2nd-highest
Ranfurly	6.3	2.0	1975	Highest
Oamaru	8.9	1.4	1908	3rd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	9.5	1.8	1947	Highest
Manapouri	6.8	1.7	1963	2nd-highest
Gore	8.8	2.6	1971	Highest
Invercargill	8.1	1.4	1905	Equal highest
Nugget Point	9.1	2.0	1970	Highest
South West Cape	9.5	1.6	1991	Highest
Campbell Island	6.4	1.1	1991	3rd-highest

Record or near-record mean maximum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Mean maximum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kerikeri	17.2	1.0	1981	3rd-highest
Dargaville	16.9	2.2	1943	4th-highest
Leigh	17.8	2.5	1966	Highest
Auckland (Mangere)	16.4	1.4	1959	2nd-highest
Tauranga (Airport)	16.7	1.7	1913	Highest
Te Puke	16.4	1.4	1973	Highest
Whakatane (Airport)	16.3	1.3	1974	Highest
Rotorua (Airport)	13.9	1.1	1964	4th-highest
Motu Ews	14.1	3.0	1990	Highest

Hamilton (Ruakura)	17.5	2.9	1906	Highest
Hamilton	15.8	1.1	1946	3rd-highest
Turangi	14.0	1.8	1968	Highest
New Plymouth	15.1	1.3	1944	4th-highest
Stratford	13.9	1.8	1960	Highest
Hawera	14.4	1.7	1977	2nd-highest
Wanganui	16.4	2.5	1937	2nd-highest
Masterton (Te Ore Ore)	15.2	1.4	1992	3rd-highest
Dannevirke	14.7	2.2	1951	Highest
Waione	15.1	0.8	1991	4th-highest
Ngawi	14.9	1.5	1972	3rd-highest
Gisborne	16.7	1.6	1905	Highest
Waipawa	14.7	1.4	1945	3rd-highest
Wairoa	17.4	2.6	1964	Highest
Mahia	14.5	1.5	1990	Highest
Paraparaumu	15.1	1.9	1953	Highest
Palmerston North	15.4	1.9	1928	2nd-highest
Levin	15.3	1.8	1895	Highest
Wellington (Airport)	14.3	1.4	1962	2nd-highest
Wallaceville	14.9	1.7	1939	3rd-highest
Westport	15.0	1.9	1937	Highest
Reefton	14.4	2.2	1960	Highest
Motueka	15.3	1.4	1956	4th-highest
Nelson	14.8	1.4	1943	Highest
Appleby	14.6	0.9	1932	3rd-highest
Blenheim	15.4	1.3	1941	3rd-highest
Kaikoura	13.2	1.5	1963	4th-highest
Cheviot	14.1	1.1	1982	4th-highest
Mt Cook	11.3	2.6	1929	2nd-highest
Christchurch (Riccarton)	14.3	1.7	1863	4th-highest
Le Bons Bay	11.6	1.2	1984	4th-highest
Lake Tekapo	11.0	2.4	1927	2nd-highest
Tara Hills	12.5	2.6	1949	Highest
Wanaka (Airport)	12.7	2.3	1955	2nd-highest
Ranfurly	11.8	2.0	1975	4th-highest
Cromwell Ews	13.3	1.9	1949	3rd-highest
Lauder Ews	12.2	2.0	1924	4th-highest
Alexandra Cws	13.6	1.6	1983	4th-highest
Dunedin (Airport)	13.8	1.7	1962	3rd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	12.7	1.5	1947	4th-highest
Manapouri	11.8	1.7	1963	3rd-highest
Queenstown	12.1	2.2	1871	2nd-highest
Lumsden	12.2	1.6	1982	3rd-highest
Gore	13.2	3.0	1971	Highest
Invercargill	12.5	1.4	1905	Equal 3rd-Highest
Nugget Point	11.8	1.8	1970	2nd-highest
Secretary Island	13.0	0.8	1985	4th-highest
South West Cape	11.7	1.6	1991	Highest

Record or near-record mean minimum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Mean minimum air temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Cape Reinga	11.4	1.2	1951	3rd-highest
Kaitia	10.3	1.6	1948	4th-highest
Kerikeri	8.7	1.5	1981	3rd-highest
Dargaville	10.6	2.3	1943	Highest
Whangarei	9.7	1.5	1967	2nd-highest
Auckland (Whenuapai)	8.8	1.9	1945	3rd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	9.7	1.5	1959	3rd-highest
Pukekohe	8.4	1.4	1969	2nd-highest
Whitianga	8.5	2.1	1962	3rd-highest
Paeroa	8.0	1.9	1947	3rd-highest
Te Puke	7.7	2.5	1973	Highest
Whakatane	6.1	1.7	1974	4th-highest
Taupo	4.7	2.1	1949	3rd-highest
Port Taharoa	9.9	1.8	1973	3rd-highest
New Plymouth	8.7	2.1	1944	Highest
Stratford	6.9	2.6	1960	Highest
Hawera	7.0	1.6	1977	Highest
Masterton (Te Ore Ore)	5.4	2.6	1992	2nd-highest
Dannevirke	6.2	1.6	1951	3rd-highest
Waione	6.5	1.8	1991	Highest
Castlepoint	9.4	1.7	1972	Highest
Martinborough	6.3	2.1	1986	2nd-highest
Ngawi	10.2	2.0	1972	Highest
Hicks Bay	10	1.8	1969	2nd-highest
Gisborne	7.3	1.8	1905	4th-highest
Hastings	5.8	2.4	1965	4th-highest
Waipawa	4.9	1.1	1945	3rd-highest
Mahia	9.6	1.9	1990	Highest
Palmerston North	7.1	1.8	1928	Highest
Wellington (Airport)	9.0	1.6	1962	Highest
Farewell Spit	9.5	2.7	1971	Highest
Westport	7.4	1.9	1937	Highest
Hokitika	6.0	1.9	1866	3rd-highest
Reefton	4.9	2.9	1960	Highest
Greymouth	7.5	2.4	1947	Highest
Haast	6.6	2.4	1949	3rd-highest
Milford Sound	5.2	2.8	1934	Highest
Secretary Island	8.3	1.8	1985	Highest
Puysegur Point	7.7	1.6	1978	2nd-highest
Nelson	6.0	2.0	1943	2nd-highest
Blenheim	6.1	2.5	1941	Highest

Cape Campbell	9.2	1.8	1953	Highest
Kaikoura	7.7	1.8	1963	Highest
Culverden	3.6	3.0	1928	2nd-highest
Waiau School	3.0	2.3	1974	4th-highest
Cheviot	3.8	2.2	1982	2nd-highest
Mt Cook	1.0	1.7	1929	4th-highest
Waipara West	5.4	2.0	1973	2nd-highest
Lincoln	5.5	2.7	1881	Highest
Le Bons Bay	7.3	2.3	1984	Highest
Orari Estate	3.0	1.8	1972	3rd-highest
Timaru	4.3	1.6	1885	4th-highest
Tara Hills	0.6	1.5	1949	3rd-highest
Wanaka (Airport)	2.7	2.2	1955	4th-highest
Ranfurly	0.7	1.9	1975	2nd-highest
Alexandra	1.5	1.8	1983	2nd-highest
Oamaru	5.0	1.9	1908	2nd-highest
Dunedin (Musselburgh)	6.3	2.1	1947	Highest
Gore	4.4	2.2	1971	Highest
Invercargill	3.8	1.6	1905	Equal 2nd-highest
Nugget Point	6.3	2.1	1970	Highest
South West Cape	7.4	1.7	1991	Highest
Campbell Island	4.9	1.8	1991	Highest

Rainfall: Dry August for parts of Southland, Otago and inland Canterbury. Wet month for Gisborne and Hawke's Bay.

August was a dry month for Southland, Otago, the McKenzie Country, as well as coastal and inland Canterbury south of Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui and parts of Waikato. In contrast, August was a wet month for Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and Northland.

As at 1 September 2013, most soils throughout New Zealand were at normal soil moisture levels for the time of year. In isolated parts of Central Otago, coastal North Otago and about Kaikoura, soils were wetter than normal for the time of year.

Record or near-record August rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Rainfall total (mm)	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaikohe	260	163	1956	4th-highest
Gisborne	219	288	1905	4th-highest
Low records or near-records				
Turangi	75	49	1968	4th-lowest
Lumsden	25	41	1982	2nd-lowest

Sunshine: Above normal August sunshine hours for South Otago, and western parts of Southland and Otago. Below normal sunshine throughout Nelson, Marlborough and the northern West Coast.

Sunshine hours for August were above normal for South Otago, western parts of Southland and Otago. Below normal sunshine was recorded throughout Nelson, Marlborough, the northern West Coast, Wellington, western Bay of Plenty and parts of Waikato and Auckland.

Record or near-record August sunshine hours were recorded at:

Location	Sunshine hours	Percentage of normal	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Queenstown	156	130	1930	3rd-highest
Balclutha	165	140	1964	2nd-highest
Low records or near-records				
Turangi	102	73	1976	2nd-lowest
Takaka	123	71	1985	Equal lowest
Blenheim	150	81	1947	3rd-lowest

August climate in the six main centres

Mean air temperatures were well above average at all six main centres. It was the warmest August on record for Dunedin, whilst it was the second warmest August on record for Auckland and Tauranga. August rainfall was above normal in Auckland, near normal in Christchurch and below normal at the remaining four main centres. Sunshine hours were above normal in Dunedin, near normal in Auckland, and below normal at the remaining four main centres.

In August 2013, Auckland was the wettest and warmest, Christchurch was the coolest, Dunedin was the driest, Tauranga was the sunniest, and both Wellington and Hamilton were the cloudiest of the six main centres.

August 2013 main centre climate statistics:

Temperature			
Location	Mean temp. (°C)	Departure from normal (°C)	Comments
Auckland ^a	13.0	1.4	2nd warmest August on record
Tauranga ^b	12.5	1.7	2nd warmest August on record
Hamilton ^c	11.0	1.4	Well above average
Wellington ^d	11.1	1.7	Well above average
Christchurch ^e	9.0	1.8	Well above average
Dunedin ^f	9.5	1.8	Warmest August on record
Rainfall			
Location	Rainfall (mm)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	142	126%	Above normal
Tauranga ^b	70	63%	Below normal
Hamilton ^c	89	75%	Below normal
Wellington ^d	99	72%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	51	82%	Near normal
Dunedin ^f	30	55%	Below normal
Sunshine			
Location	Sunshine (hours)	% of normal	Comments
Auckland ^a	133	91%	Near normal
Tauranga ^b	141	82%	Below normal
Hamilton ^g	122	89%	Below normal
Wellington ^d	122	83%	Below normal
Christchurch ^e	126	82%	Below normal
Dunedin ^f	136	111%	Above normal

^a Mangere ^b Tauranga Airport ^c Hamilton Airport ^d Kelburn ^e Christchurch Airport ^f Musselburgh ^g Ruakura

Highlights and extreme events

Temperatures

The highest temperature was 22.1 °C, recorded at Kaitaia on 13 August.

The lowest temperature was -8.0°C, observed at Lake Tekapo on 28 August, which was associated with clear overnight skies after the passage of a cold front.

Record or near-record daily maximum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Extreme maximum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
Kaitaia	22.1	13th	1967	Highest
Kerikeri	20.5	5th	1981	3rd-highest
Whangarei	20.6	7th	1967	Equal 4th-highest
Leigh	20.9	4th	1966	Highest
Motu	17.7	5th	1990	3rd-highest
Auckland (Mangere)	19.2	6th	1959	Equal 4th-highest
Port Taharoa	20.3	3rd	1973	Highest
Waione	20.2	9th	1991	4th-highest
Levin	20.5	25th	1895	Highest
Wallaceville	20.5	25th	1939	Highest
Stratford	17.3	3rd	1960	3rd-highest
Hawera	17.7	9th	1977	2nd-highest
Wanganui	20.8	25th	1937	Highest
Westport	18.5	3rd	1937	Equal highest
Arapito	18.4	3rd	1978	Equal 3rd-highest
Reefton	18.7	17th	1960	Highest
Secretary Island	19.2	17th	1985	2nd-highest
Motueka	20.8	10th	1956	3rd-highest
Nelson	18.9	10th	1943	Highest
Appleby	20.0	10th	1932	Highest
Ranfurlly	17.2	31st	1975	4th-highest
South West Cape	16.3	18th	1991	2nd-highest

Record or near-record daily minimum air temperatures for August were recorded at:

Location	Extreme minimum (°C)	Date of extreme temperature	Year records began	Comments
High records or near-records				
New Plymouth	13.6	8th	1944	Highest
Masterton (Te Ore Ore)	11.6	8th	1992	Equal 3rd-highest
Dannevirke	12.3	8th	1951	3rd-highest
Martinborough	12.9	8th	1986	4th-highest
Wellington (Airport)	13.1	8th	1972	3rd-highest
Wallaceville	12.3	9th	1972	Equal 4th-highest
Stratford	11.4	8th	1972	2nd-highest

Rain and slips

The highest 1-day rainfall was 155 mm, recorded at North Egmont, on 8 August.

The lack of rain in July and early August caused some Waikato water tanks to run dry. Demand for water tankers to fill tanks was up 80% from the same time last year.

On 10-11 August, heavy rain caused slips and washouts in the Gisborne region, closing some roads.

On 12 August, caution was advised to motorists on SH 35 from Gisborne to Te Araroa due to severe weather conditions. A slip blocked one lane of SH 35 at the intersection of Waihau Road.

On 17 August, heavy rain in Marlborough forced the closure of Marama Rd, Old Renwick Road and Omaka Road due to surface flooding.

On 19 August, heavy rain resulted in a slip that blocked one lane of SH 5 between Napier and Taupo near the Mohaka River.

On 22 August, slips blocked the south-bound lane and part of the north-bound lane on Kopu Hikui Rd in Coromandel, and on the Tauranga side of the Kaimai Range on SH 29.

On 22 August, three people were rescued from a mountain near Taupo where they had become disoriented and cold when weather conditions changed while they were walking.

Record or near record August extreme 1-day rainfall totals were recorded at:

Location	Extreme 1-day rainfall (mm)	Date of extreme rainfall	Year records began	Comments
Mahia	60	4th	1990	2nd-highest
Ohakune	152	11th	1961	Highest
South West Cape	32	15th	1991	4th-highest

Wind

The highest wind gust was 154 km/hr, at South West Cape, on 28 August.

On 3 August, the delay of a flight to Brisbane was blamed on the lack of wind at Wellington airport. Some passengers had to get off the plane to lighten the plane's weight before take-off.

On 7 August, a waterspout was seen off the coast of New Plymouth. It hit land near Bell Block but no damage was reported.

On 13 August, winds caused a large pine tree to fall onto a house in New Plymouth.

On 14 August, motorists in Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, and SH 1 at the Desert Road were warned to take extra care while driving due to strong winds.

On 16 August, motorcyclists and drivers of high sided vehicles were cautioned to take extra care on SH1 at the Desert Road due to high winds.

On 17 August (the day after a significant earthquake), the Fire Service spent much of the day securing chimneys in Seddon, but high winds eventually brought their work to a standstill.

On 21 and 22 August, drivers of motorcycles, caravans and high-sided vehicles were warned to take extra care on SH 1 from Rangipo to Waiouru (Desert Road) due to high winds.

On 29 August, strong winds caused damage to scaffolding in central Auckland, closing part of Queen Street for a time.

Record or near record August extreme wind gusts were recorded at:

Location	Extreme wind gust (km/hr)	Date of extreme gust	Year records began	Comments
Paeroa	85	2nd	1991	Equal 2nd-highest
Turangi	82	15th	1973	Equal 4th-highest
Westport	102	14th	1973	Highest
Winchmore	85	23rd	1970	4th-highest

Snow and ice

On 12 August, a man was killed by an avalanche whilst climbing in the Remarkables Range near Queenstown.

On 14 August, SH 94 between the Hollywood turnoff and Milford Sound was closed to towing vehicles due to snow, and all other vehicles had to carry chains.

On 28 August, chains had to be carried on SH 94 from Hollyford to Milford Sound due to snow.

On 29 August, a short southerly blast caused snowfall across parts of Central Otago, Canterbury, and the hills around Nelson, boosting the snow base at ski fields which hadn't seen decent snowfall for over a month. SH 73 from Springfield to Otira (Arthurs Pass and Porters Pass) and SH 94 from Te Anau to Milford Sound were closed to towing vehicles due to snow, and all other vehicles had to carry chains. Caution was advised on SH 8 between Fairlie and Omarama due to snow and ice.

Lightning and hail

On 17 August, a heavy hailstorm on SH 30 near Rotorua caused hazardous driving conditions, which were thought to contribute to a collision between a car and a truck that resulted in the death of a 55 year old woman.

In the early hours of 25 August, thunderstorms caused flooding of some homes and set off security alarms in Auckland. A house in Helensville was struck by lightning.

Cloud and fog

On 5 August, a number of domestic flights were delayed or cancelled at Christchurch airport due to fog.

On 23 August, thick fog delayed some domestic flights at Hamilton, Rotorua, and Whakatane airports.

On 26 August, around 50 domestic flights were delayed or cancelled at Auckland airport, and Auckland ferry services were delayed, due to heavy fog. Flights were also cancelled and delayed at Hamilton airport due to fog.

For further information, please contact:

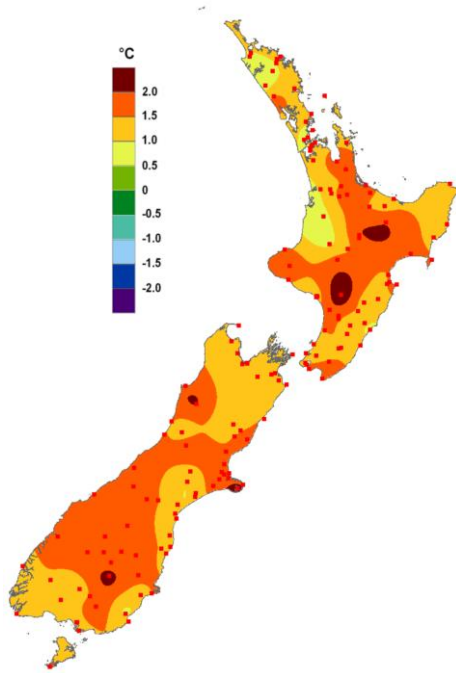
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August 2013 mean temperatures, expressed as a difference from average (°C).

Dark red colour indicates that mean temperatures were more than 2.0°C above average, whilst orange colour indicates mean temperatures were more than 1.5°C above average. Mean temperatures for August were well above average (more than 1.2°C above August average) across almost the entire South Island, and most parts of the North Island. The absence of any green, blue or purple colours indicates that mean temperatures were above average in August throughout all of New Zealand (at least 0.5°C above August average). Note that this map is produced by interpolating across many individual stations, resulting in a dampened pattern compared to the earlier table.

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