

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Date: 13-14 Jul 1938 | Wind Direction: |
| Event Type: Wind/Wave | Gisborne Duration (Hours): - |
| Location: Gisborne | Wellington Duration (Hours): - |
| Origin: Tasman Sea | Pressure Gradient: S to SE |
| Type: East Coast Low | |

Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone west of Auckland moved eastward, deepened to be off east of East Cape on the 13th, while the Tasman sea and southern NZ were covered by high pressures. At 9am the pressure was 999 hPa at East Cape and 1026 hPa at Bluff, and thus a very steep pressure gradient created a strong southerly airstream over NZ. The Evening Post weather forecasts describe a southerly wind of Beaufort force 8 on the 13th.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas on Gisborne coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Heavy seas off coast between East Cape to Gisborne
- Temoana buoy in Poverty Bay was dragged 2/5 of nautical mile to the northwest by force of waves
- Waves of tremendous force twisted railway lines at end of Tokomaru Bay wharf
- Launch torn from moorings at Tokomaru Bay
- Telephones out
- Slips and washouts from exceptionally strong SE gale

Data Source

- 1 Storm at Sea - Pakura Rough Trip: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1938, p5
- 2 Temoana Buoy Drags - Seas in Roadstead: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1938, p5
- 3 Seas Smash Launch - Tokomaru Bay Waima - Loss to Harbour Board - Battered on Breastwork: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1938, p5
- 4 Damage to Roads - Waiapu Valley Storm: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1938, p4
- 5 Slips in Hawkes Bay - Country Road Blocked: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1938, p6
- 6 Storm Blows Out - Fiercest for Years - River Peak at 11pm: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1938, p6
- 7 The Forecast - Slow Improvement: Evening Post, 13/07/1938