

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 14-16 Feb 1947	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave/Erosion	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: S to SW
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	

Synoptic Conditions

A depression formed from a cold front moving northward over NZ. On Friday a weak cyclone was over Cook Strait and moved northward over the central North Island and deepened slowly; the cyclone then moved eastward as an anticyclone over Tasmania began building up. By evening this cyclone was over Gisborne and continued to deepen; on Saturday morning it had moved southward to be near Napier and then quickly moved away. Winds described as from the south to south-west

Sea Conditions

Mountainous seas experienced by ferry; waves estimated at 12-15 m

Impact Area

Napier

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Strong winds caused orchard losses and uprooted trees
- Severe erosion of foredune at Eastbourne; huge waves smashed over seawall and dunes, lowering the beach by 6ft or more
- Most coastal shipping sheltering or remained in Port; shipping brought to a standstill
- Rongotai airport (Wellington) closed due to high winds and poor visibility
- Trees down, numerous slips, houses lost roofs and chimneys toppled
- All rain services in Hutt valley cancelled
- Hinemoa delayed by 8 hours due to mountainous seas off the east coast; waves estimated at 40-50ft hit the ship

Data Source

- 1 Worst Experienced - Storm in Harbour - Delay to Wanganella: Gisborne Herald, 18/02/1947, p4
- 2 Serious Damage - Weekend Storm - Property and Gardens: Evening Post, 17/02/1947, p8
- 3 Low Pressure Area Near Napier Caused Gale and Rain: Dominion Post, 17/02/1947, p8
- 4 Cyclone Causes Widespread Damage in Wellington Area: Dominion Post, 17/02/1947, p8
- 5 Storm Brings Shipping to a Standstill: Dominion Post, 17/02/1947, p8
- 6 Severe Erosion at Eastbourne Threatens Houses: Dominion Post, 17/02/1947, p8
- 7 Tail-end Only - Gisborne Storm - Little Damage Done - One Road Blocked: Gisborne Herald, 17/02/1947, p4
- 8 Orchard Losses - Hastings Area - Some Tree's Uprooted - Torrential Rainfall: Gisborne Herald, 17/02/1947, p4
- 9 Ships Pounded - Hinemoa Battle - Wind at 60 M.P.H - Seasick Passengers: Gisborne Herald, 17/02/1947, p4
- 10 Heavy Storm Damage in South: Gisborne Herald, 17/02/1947, p4
- 11 Heavy Storm Damage - Wellington Blashed by Gale - Severe Cyclone of East Coast: Evening Post, 15/02/1947, p10
- 12 Eight Hours Late - Hinemoa Rough Trip: Evening Post, 15/02/1947, p8
- 13 Wellington Hit by Mid-Winter Weather After Intense Heat: Dominion Post, 15/02/1947, p6