

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 22-23 May 1948	Wind Direction: SE
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Tasman Sea	Pressure Gradient: S to SE
Type: East Coast Low	

Synoptic Conditions

An intense cyclone covered the eastern Tasman sea and NZ on the 21st and crossed the central North Island. While off the east coast a strong S to SE airstream in its wake swept over NZ.

Sea Conditions

High seas along Wellington south coast

Impact Area

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Some coastal vessels sought shelter; rough trips for inter-island ferries
- Debris over roads to Eastbourne as deposited by the sea; at one stage, road reduced to one lane
- Heavy seas along Petone and Eastbourne coast, and Cook Strait
- Seawall breached at Eastbourne; concrete slabs of seawall dislodged; created breach of about 12m

Wairarapa

- Heavy flooding in Wairarapa

Data Source

- 1 Ships in Shelter - Cook Strait Rough: Evening Post, 24/05/1948, p8
- 2 Storm Causes Heavy Floods in Parts of Wellington Province: Dominion Post, 24/05/1948, p8
- 3 Fears Renewed - Poverty Bay Settlers: Evening Post, 22/05/1948, p12
- 4 Serious Flooding in Wairarapa: Most Stock Moved to Safety: Gisborne Herald, 24/05/1948, p6
- 5 Southerly Storm Hits Wellington: Gisborne Herald, 24/05/1948, p6