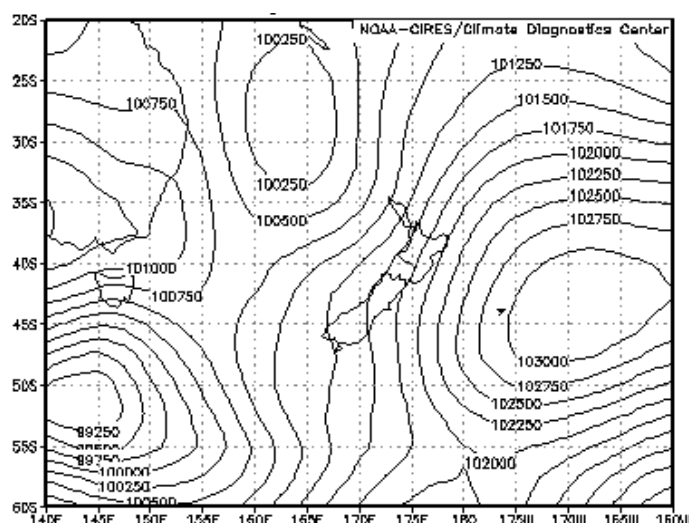


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 4-6 Mar 1954	Wind Direction: NE
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Australian Bight	Pressure Gradient: E to NE
Type: Anticyclonic	

06-Mar-1954 0:00



Synoptic Conditions

Anticyclonic conditions prevailed over NZ from 28th Feb through to 6th. An anticyclone over NZ moved off east and another centre formed from its westward ridge on the 1st. This anticyclone became a large intense system south of the Chatham Islands on the 3rd and had an E to ENE flow on its northern side that swept over the eastern North Island. This easterly flow remained through to the 5th, and veered to the NE as a subtropical low from near New Caledonia moved southward. When the subtropical low reached the eastern Tasman Sea on the 6th the NE flow strengthened over the North Island. These easterly winds blew over a large fetch off the eastern North Island and therefore generated large swells on the east coast.

Sea Conditions

Big seas off Wellington south coast and off Napier

Impact Area

Gisborne

Tauranga

Napier

Auckland

Impacts and Damages

- Uprooted trees and power and telephone outages around city
- Massive seas in the Bay of Plenty; at Mount Maunganui, building swept away or Ocean Beach
- Big (mountainous) seas along coast, smashing into harbour breakwater
- Fallen trees caused telephone and power service outages
- High winds caused extensive damage to orchards with heavy carpets of fallen fruit
- Heavy seas wrecked seawalls at Milford and Takapuna beaches

Impact Area

East Cape
Canterbury

Impacts and Damages

- More than 200mm of rain fell at Te Araroa for the 24hr period upto 9am on 8th
- Sumner foreshore eroded and terraced stonework along beachfront disintegrate

Data Source

- 1 Eight Inches of Rain in 24 Hours: Dominion Post, 9/03/1954, p10
 - 2 Rain & Drop in Temperature ends Wellington Sultry Weather: Dominion Post, 9/03/1954, p10
 - 3 Weekend Gale Damage - Coastal Areas Badly Hit: New Zealand Herald, 8/03/1954
 - 4 Gale-Driven Salt Spray Causes Power Disruptions: Evening Post, 8/03/1954, p10
 - 5 Trail of Damage by 60mph Gale in Auckland Province: Dominion Post, 8/03/1954, p10
 - 6 Gale Sweeps Hawke's Bay Orchard: Power & Phone Disruptions: Dominion Post, 8/03/1954, p10
 - 7 Sea Menace on Sumner Foreshore sill Serious: Gisborne Herald, 9/03/1954, p8
 - 8 Heavy Carpets of Fallen Fruit in Hawkes Bay: Gisborne Herald, 8/03/1954, p8
 - 9 Wind Affects Power and Toll Lines: Gisborne Herald, 8/03/1954, p8
 - 10 Sea Attack on Foreshore in Canterbury: Gisborne Herald, 8/03/1954, p8
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