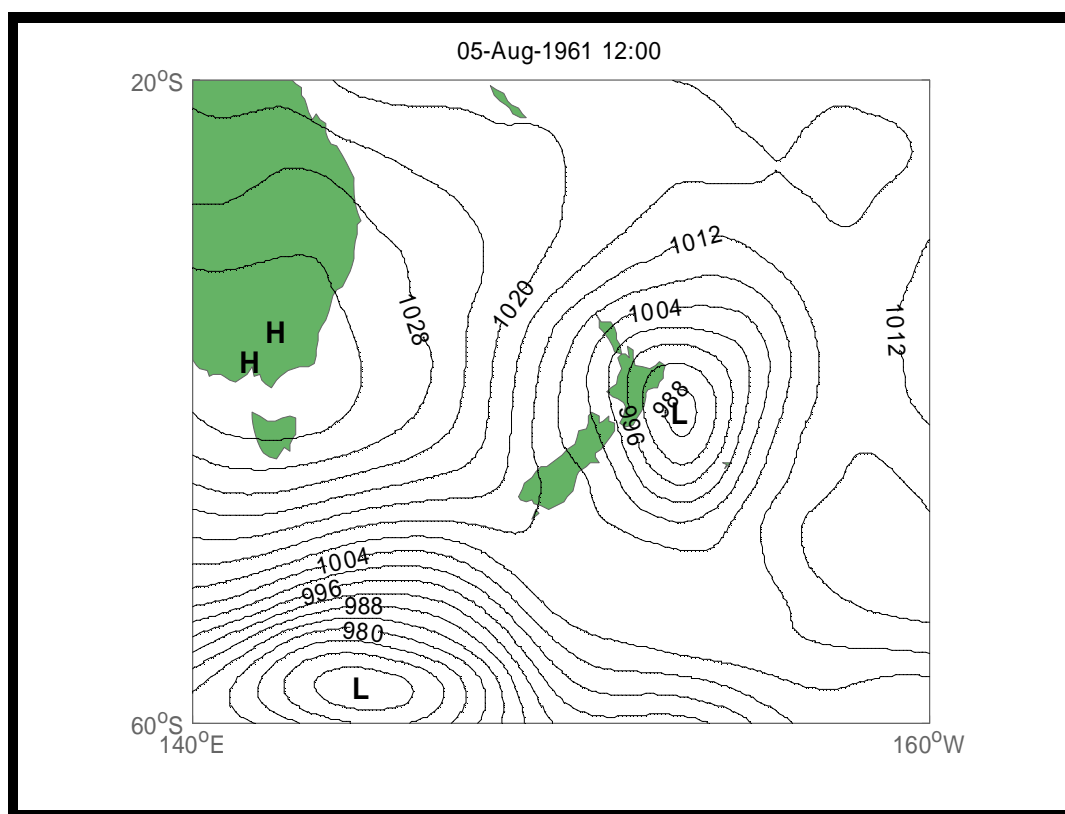


# Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

|                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date: <b>5-8 Aug 1961</b>             | Wind Direction: <b>S</b>              |
| Event Type: <b>Wind/Wave</b>          | Gisborne Duration (Hours): <b>-</b>   |
| Location: <b>Gisborne/Wellington</b>  | Wellington Duration (Hours): <b>-</b> |
| Origin: <b>Eastern NZ</b>             | Pressure Gradient: <b>SSE to SSW</b>  |
| Type: <b>East Coast Secondary Low</b> |                                       |



## Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed over the South Island from a southern ocean trough and rapidly intensified into a large cyclonic system over the North Island. On the 5th, this intense cyclone was east of the Wairarapa coast and completely covered the North Island. A strong S to SSE airstream was on its southern side and swept over the eastern North Island and through Cook Strait. The strong pressure gradient was enhanced by the presence of an intense anticyclone over SE Australia with a ridge towards NZ. The cyclone remained quasi-stationary off the east coast of the North Island from the 5th to 8th and during this period the eastern North Island was blasted with very strong S to SSE winds that didn't weaken till late on the 7th. The cyclone's immobility was caused by the blocking effect of an intensifying anticyclone near 160W and its associated northward-extending ridge.

## Sea Conditions

Huge swell in Cook Strait, estimated at 12ft (~4m)

## Impact Area

Gisborne  
Wellington

## Impacts and Damages

- Coastal vessels sheltering along the East Coast
- 4ft of water covered the road at Naenae in Hutt Valley
- Snow and slips blocked roads and railway services
- Ships unable to leave Port
- Cancellation of all sports

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| Impact Area | Impacts and Damages  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ferry sailings cancelled over weekend due to tremendous seas at Port entrance</li><li>● Airport closed due to strong cross winds and poor visibility</li><li>● Unable to get liner Canberra into Port due to massive swells in Cook Strait and at entrance</li><li>● Roof blown off house at Korokoro and Tawa</li><li>● Prolonged southerly event; 5-6 days long</li><li>● Debris and flooding of road at Eastbourne</li><li>● Train services stopped as waves breaking over line near Ngauranga</li><li>● Peak gusts not as strong as July 1954 and 1956 storms</li><li>● Petone foreshore got a pounding and littered with debris over roads</li><li>● Fishing fleet port-bound</li><li>● Hutt motorway reclamation completely flooded at high tide</li></ul> |
| Wairarapa   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Widespread flooding in Martinborough; Ruamahanga river rose 14ft 3in</li></ul>   |

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#### Data Source

- 1 Canberra Cannot Enter Port Because of Fierce Gale: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p19
  - 2 Attempts to Bring Liner into Harbour Abandoned: Gisborne Herald, 5/08/1961, p10
  - 3 Steady 40mph Gale For Test: Gisborne Herald, 5/08/1961, p10
  - 4 Ships Buffeted by Gales on East Coast: Gisborne Herald, 7/08/1961, p6
  - 5 Canberra Enters Harbour in High Seas: Gisborne Herald, 7/08/1961, p8
  - 6 Blizzard Brings Widespread Damage & Disruption: Gisborne Herald, 7/08/1961, p6
  - 7 Return to Normal After Severe Storm: Gisborne Herald, 8/08/1961, p11
  - 8 Gale Still Lashes Port of Wellington: Gisborne Herald, 9/08/1961, p10
  - 9 Storm Moves Slowly Away: Gisborne Herald, 10/08/1961, p10
  - 10 Air Traffic Disrupted By Southerly: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p19
  - 11 Vicious Southerly 'Buster' Lashes Capital: Gisborne Herald, 5/08/1961, p10
  - 12 Vicious Winds at top of Korokoro: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p19
  - 13 Wairarapa Farms Under Water: Evening Post, 10/08/1961, p14
  - 14 Floods in the Hutt Valley: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p18
  - 15 Vicious Southerly Gale Causes Damage in City, Valley: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p18
  - 16 There were No Pleasure Craft at the Boat Harbour Today: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p15
  - 17 Better Weather is at Last in Sight: Evening Post, 7/08/1961, p12
  - 18 Worst Southerly Gale in Five Years Lashes Country: Evening Post, 7/08/1961, p12
  - 19 Bringing Canberra into Harbour Was Tricky Task: Evening Post, 7/08/1961, p12
  - 20 Relentless Storm Still Gives District Battering & Cold Drenching: Evening Post, 9/08/1961, p18
  - 21 Fierce Southerly Lashes out at Shipping: Evening Post, 10/08/1961, p14
  - 22 Seas Stopped Tamahine From Sailing: Evening Post, 10/08/1961, p14
  - 23 Highway Reclamation Disappears Under Water: Evening Post, 5/08/1961, p18
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