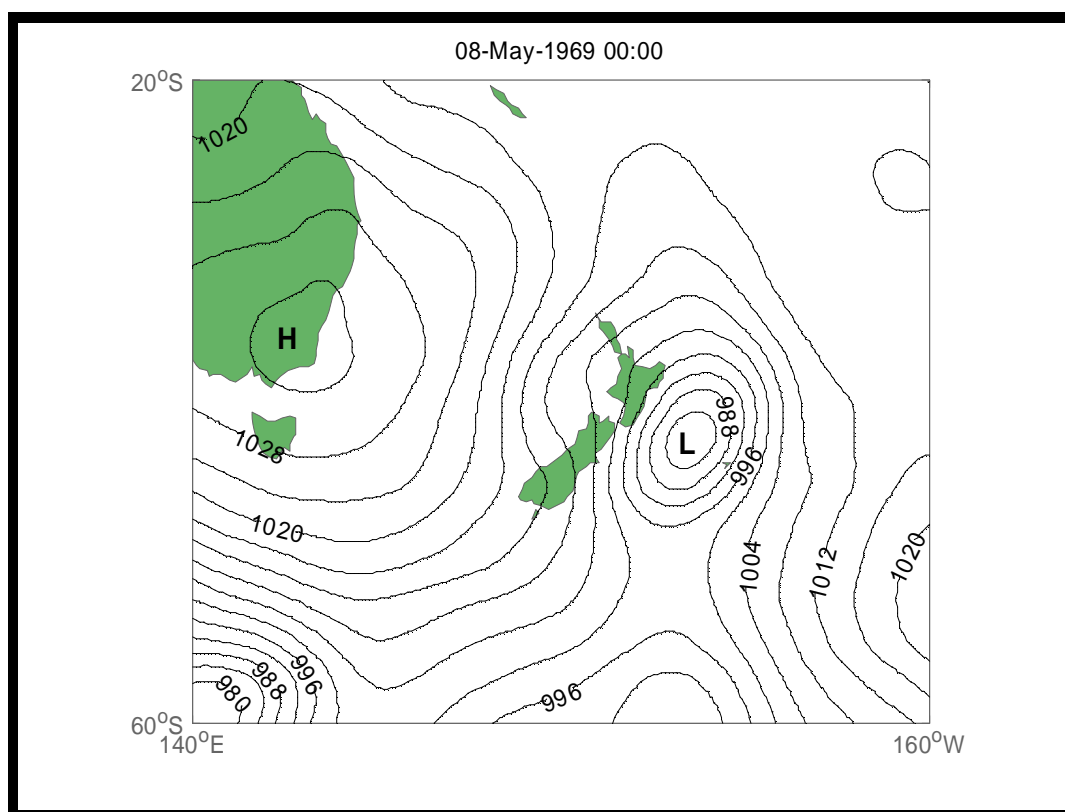


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 7-8 May 1969	Wind Direction: SW
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 37
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: SSW to SW
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed from a subtropical trough south of New Caledonia (just above 35S) and moved southeast-ward across the North Island. On the 7th this cyclone was east of Cook Strait with a very strong S to SSW airstream on its western side that swept over the eastern North Island. The cyclone then became slow-moving and lingered around the Chatham Islands area on the 8th, and with the eastward movement of a large anticyclone in the Tasman sea, the strong SSW winds continued to affect NZ. The stalling of the cyclone east of NZ was caused by a large anticyclone to the east.

Sea Conditions

Huge seas along east coast between Wellington and Gisborne

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Three local fishing boats forced to shelter at Tolaga Bay
- Harbourmaster described seas at Port entrance as worst seen in 21 years; waves coming up channel and breaking over fisherman's wharf on western side of Port
- Strong surges in harbour damaged wharf structures and sheltering boats; the water rose within 1ft of the top of Butlers Wall
- One fishing boat unable to enter Port due to strong surge at entrance
- Heavy seas pounding breakwater at Gisborne Port

Impact Area

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Road blockages between Ohiro Bay and Breaker Bay from debris (rocks, seaweed) over roads from high seas; road impassable at high tide
- Waves (assisted by high tides) entered basement of Worser Bay Surf and Yacht Club; and launch on trailer well above high tide tipped onto side
- Marine Drive from Petone to Eastbourne lashed by high seas causing damage to roads and spreading debris over roads; parts of road washed out at York Bay and Point Howard
- Some ferry crossings were cancelled
- Airport closed to all flights because of gusty winds
- Harbourmaster closed the Port entrance due to debris from Wahine wreck
- Wreck of 'Wahine' broken up into 3 pieces by heavy seas
- Harbour surging across Lowry Bay roadway and several boats dragged mooring;
- Seas were too rough to a pilot aboard two Chinese warships to assist into harbour
- Inter-island ferry 'Maori' forced to shelter from gale and rough seas off the top of the South Island

Data Source

- 1 Wind Gusts up to 55mph: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1969, p1
 - 2 Wellington Battered by Southerly Gales: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1969, p12
 - 3 Surge Damages Gisborne Wharf: Ferry Wreckage Found by Launch: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1969, p1
 - 4 Wellington Port Closed: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1969, p1
 - 5 Gale Lashes Strait - Wahine Hull Splits in Two - Maori Shelters: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1969, p1
 - 6 Fierce Seas: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1969, p1
 - 7 Kelburn Gust Sets 85mph Wind Record: Evening Post, 9/05/1969, p12
 - 8 Vehicles Abandoned on Eastern Bays Highway: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
 - 9 Rubble Blocks Roads Near Sea: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
 - 10 Wahine Now in Three Pieces after Southerly Pounding: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
 - 11 Wahine Splits in 82mph Gale: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p1
 - 12 Near Disaster for Chinese Warships: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
 - 13 Gale-Lashed Inter-island Ferry Maori Forced to take Shelter off Cape: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
 - 14 82mph Gust Recorded at Kelburn: Evening Post, 8/05/1969, p16
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