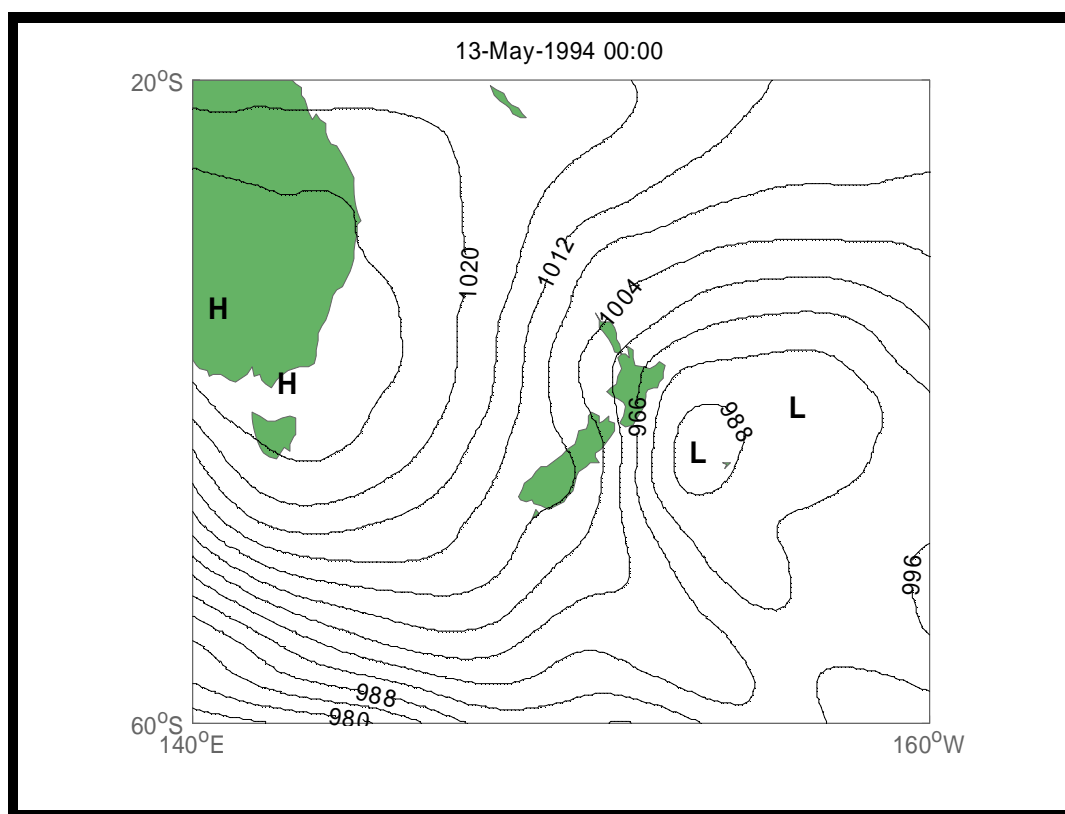


# Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: <b>12-14 May 1994</b>	Wind Direction: <b>S</b>
Event Type: <b>Wind/Wave</b>	Gisborne Duration (Hours): <b>-</b>
Location: <b>Wellington</b>	Wellington Duration (Hours): <b>44</b>
Origin: <b>Subtropics</b>	Pressure Gradient: <b>S</b>
Type: <b>East Coast Low</b>	



## Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone from the subtropics north of NZ moved southward and was east of NZ from the 9th to 11th. On the 12th the cyclone was over the Chatham Islands and covered the North Island while a Tasman sea anticyclone covered the South Island with a ridge. Between these systems a strong southerly airstream was created and swept over the lower North Island and Cook Strait area. The southerly flow then spread northward to cover the eastern North Island. This flow continued at strength on the 13th when the cyclone had moved east of the Chatham Islands and the ridge over NZ intensified. The slow movement of this cyclone could have been linked to the presence of a large intense anticyclone east of 140W (i.e. further eastward of the cyclone in the central South Pacific).

## Sea Conditions

Huge seas in Cook Strait; waves estimated at 5m

## Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	5.3	8
Napier	5.8	9
Gisborne	7.2	9

\*Highest Significant Wave Height

---

**Impact Area**

Wellington

**Impacts and Damages**

- Ferry Aratika listed about 35degrees in huge seas in Cook Strait; some passengers injured

---

**Data Source**

- 1 Aratika Rolls Heavily, 5 Hurt: Evening Post, 13/05/1994, p1
  - 2 Scary Trip for all Aboard as Aratika Rolls in Huge Seas: Gisborne Herald, 14/05/1994, p1
-