

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 11 May 1949	Wind Direction: SE
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: S to SSE
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	

Synoptic Conditions

An intense cyclone was southeast of Cook Strait on the 10th and then moved onto the Chatham Islands while an anticyclone advanced from the Tasman sea towards NZ. The collision of these two systems created a strong southerly airstream over NZ

Sea Conditions

High seas of Wellington south coast and in harbour

Impact Area

Impacts and Damages

Gisborne	● Estimated 30ft (~9m) of shoreline eroded in past 3 years
Wairoa	● Air services disrupted due to shut-up from poor visibility and low cloud
Wellington	● Heavy rain in Wairoa isolated the town through flooding and slips
	● Heavy seas pounded foreshore at Eastbourne and houses only a few feet from edge; resident talks of large shoreline changes over past 10yrs
	● Heavy rain prevented loading and discharging cargo at Port; most coastal vessels sheltering or port-bound (ferries still operated)
	● High seas smashed through and over protective walls on exposed coastal roads

Data Source

- 1 Steady Rain Fills District Streams: No Flooding: Gisborne Herald, 11/05/1949, p8
- 2 Storm Breaks Up After Sudden Swing to South: Gisborne Herald, 12/05/1949, p4
- 3 Eastbourne Houses in Peril From Sea: Evening Post, 13/05/1949, p8
- 4 Floods and Road Slips Cause Big Disruptions In East Coast Districts: Dominion Post, 12/05/1949, p6
- 5 Wet & Windy Night in Wellington: Evening Post, 11/05/1949, p8
- 6 Small Vessels Shelter From Gale: Evening Post, 11/05/1949, p8
- 7 Wellington Lashed by Southerly Gale: Dominion Post, 11/05/1950, p8