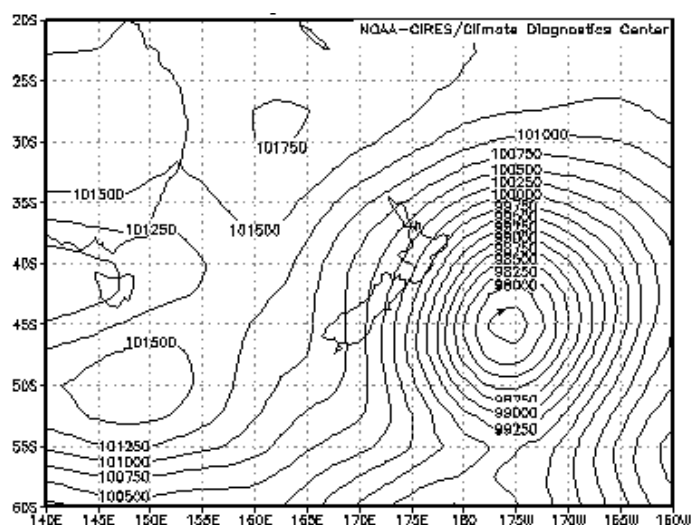


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 15-16 May 1953	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: S to SSW
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	

17-May-1953 0:00



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed south of the Tasman sea from a trough, propagated eastward over lower South Island and once east of NZ moved away southward. However, the large trough of the cyclone still covered NZ and a large intense secondary system developed over the Chatham Islands. On the 16th, the cyclone was over the Chatham Islands and had a very strong S to SSW airstream on its western side that swept over the eastern North Island. It remained near or south of the Chathams through to the 18th with strong winds continuing to blow on its western side off the NZ coast. This cyclone was responsible for the large swells off Wellington.

Sea Conditions

High seas along Wellington south coast and in harbour

Impact Area

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Train services stopped after high seas scoured out ballast and made railway unsafe
- Yachts broke moorings at washed ashore at Days Bay and Evans Bay and swept onto beach/rocks
- Part of road at Day's Bay washed away by high seas
- Airport closed in evening
- High tide and seas destroyed large section of the seawall at Eastbourne and gouged out large section behind wall [GP]

Impact Area

Wairarapa

Impacts and Damages

- Power and telephone outages and trees down
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Data Source

- 1 Eastbourne Erosion Among Damage List: Evening Post, 18/05/1953, p11
 - 2 Southerly Blast Hits Wellington: Evening Post, 16/05/1953, p10
 - 3 High Seas Breach Wall at Eastbourne: Dominion Post, 15/05/1953, p8
 - 4 Cold and Fierce Southerly Gale hits Wellington: Dominion Post, 15/05/1953, p8
 - 5 Bleak gale Brings Damage in WGTN Area: Gisborne Herald, 18/05/1953, p6
 - 6 Wintry Weather Hits Capital: Trail of Damage: Gisborne Herald, 16/05/1953, p8
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