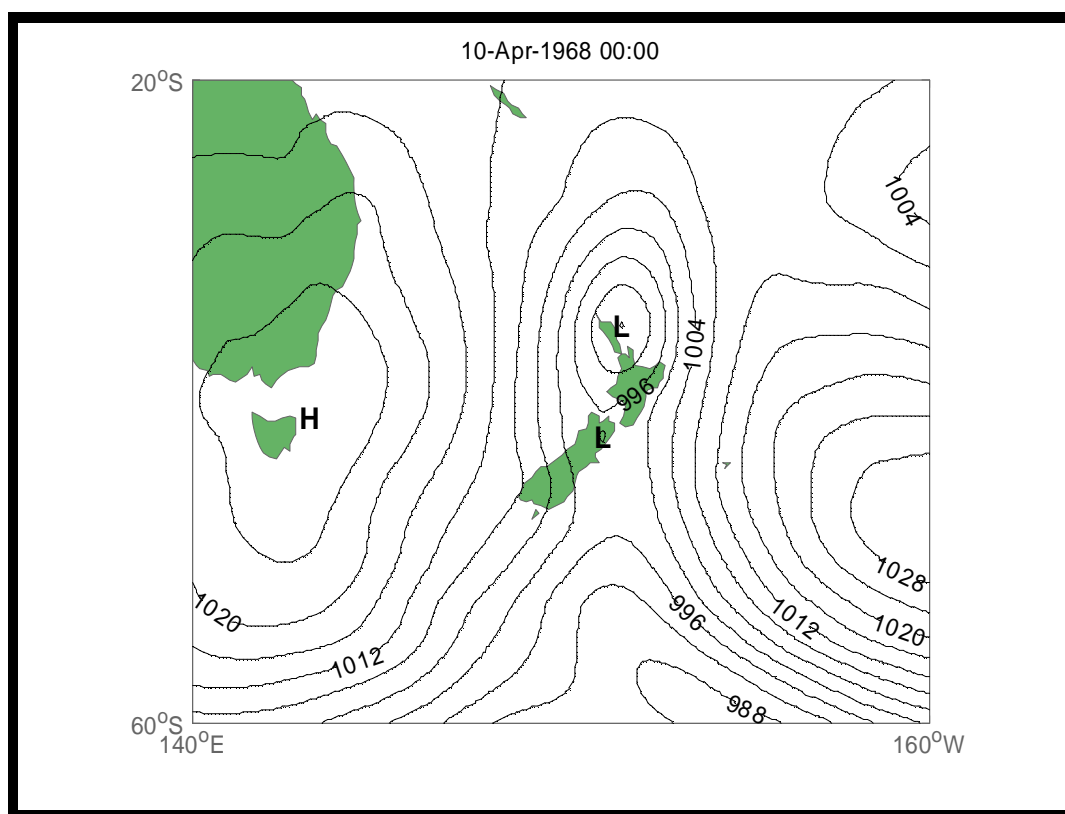


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 9-10 Apr 1968	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: SSE
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone from the subtropics passed over New Caledonia and headed southward towards North Cape. At the same time a southern ocean low was passing south of NZ and extended a trough over NZ, and while a large intense anticyclone covered NZ and the area eastward. On the 9th the subtropical cyclone was over Northland and embedded between two large intense anticyclones and a strong N to NNE airstream affected the upper North Island. By the 10th the cyclone was in Cook Strait and a very strong SSE airstream on its western side swept over the eastern South Island. The Tasman sea cyclone then spread a ridge to the south of this cyclone and the cyclone became cut-off from the south and embedded between two anticyclones, and this restricted movement allowed the cyclone to linger over NZ through to the 13th during which it weakened.

Storm Type Sequence: east coast low - east coast cut-off low

Sea Conditions

10-12ft off Napier (Smith, 1968)
Very big seas along the eastern coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Lowest pressure recorded was 976 hPa between 5 and 6am and by 9am had risen to 986hPa
- Cook Hospital sustained serious damage

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power and telephone services severed Trees uprooted and blocked roads; houses lost roof's House at Wainui Beach had aerial ripped from roof Yacht aground at Sponge Bay due to heavy seas Gigantic waves swept a car and caravan out to seas at Lottin Point Caravan at Makarori Beach was tipped onto side by strong winds
East Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waves estimated at 50ft (~15m) between Gisborne and Napier by captain of 'Nottingham' vessel
Whakatane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claimed that Muriwai Road that leads to Whakatane Heads undermined by high seas and came within few meters of homes
Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption and halts to rail, ferry and air services; airport was closed Inter-island ferry 'Wahine' hit Barretts reef and sank; upto 120 people estimate to have died Road to Eastern Bays (Marine Drive to Eastbourne) blocked and swept by heavy seas 6 houses virtually demolished in Kingston suburb and many houses de-roofed o sustained shattered windows and walls
Wairarapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes flooded in Wairarapa and tree's down
North Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 400 Earthquake and War Damage claims made upto 11th April Spouting, plumbing, windows, roofs and buildings wrecked Low pressure at centre of storm was 967 hPa in Tauranga at 3am and Napier at 6pm
Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several cars and caravans were blown over on Kaikoura coast
Mahia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houses de-roofed and trees torn from roots

Data Source

- 1 South Lashed by Tail of Cyclone: Gisborne Herald, 11/04/1968
- 2 Southerly Leaves Kingston Like Battle Aftermath: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p14
- 3 123mph Wind is City's Fierciest: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p14
- 4 Storm's Fury Carries Debris Aloft, Blocks Roads: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p15
- 5 Wahine Founders off Seatoun, But Only One Passenger Now Believed Drowned: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p14
- 6 Widespread Damage Caused in Hutt Valley: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p15
- 7 Christchurch Blitzed by Vicious Southerly Storm: Evening Post, 11/04/1968, p13
- 8 Huge Transport Backlog A Problem for Minister: Evening Post, 11/04/1968, p12
- 9 Gisborne Battered by Fierciest Storm in Living Memory: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p1
- 10 Many Showground Tree's Flattened by Wind: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p1
- 11 Widespread Storm Damage Around Gisborne: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p7
- 12 Wind Gusts Reached 86 MPH: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p8
- 13 Gigantic Clash of Two Great Storms: Evening Post, 10/04/1968, p14
- 14 Storm Damage Worst in NZ History - Official: Gisborne Herald, 11/04/1968
- 15 Greatest Storm Damage History: Colossal Claims: Evening Post, 11/04/1968, p13
- 16 Battered Towns Count Cost of Damage: Gisborne Herald, 11/04/1968, p2
- 17 Yachts Aground: No Serious Hull Damage: Gisborne Herald, 16/04/1968, p1
- 18 Cyclone Leaves One Dead; Trail of Damage: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p7
- 19 Widespread Power Cuts: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p7
- 20 Roofs, Windows, Suffer in Gale: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p7
- 21 More Storm Damage in Gisborne District: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p3
- 22 Wahine Founders in Worser Bay: Gisborne Herald, 10/04/1968, p1
- 23 Heavy Storm Destruction in Christchurch: Gisborne Herald, 13/04/1968, p2
- 24 Car, Caravan, Tent Swept out to Sea: Gisborne Herald, 13/04/1968, p1
- 25 Ship was Virtually Halted by Storm: Gisborne Herald, 16/04/1968, p1
- 26 The Longest Gale: Evening Post, 23/05/1983, p1
- 27 46 Bodies Recovered but Wahine Death Toll Could Exceed 120: Evening Post, 11/04/1968, p12
- 28 Baches Shattered at Mahia: Gisborne Herald, 11/04/1968, p2