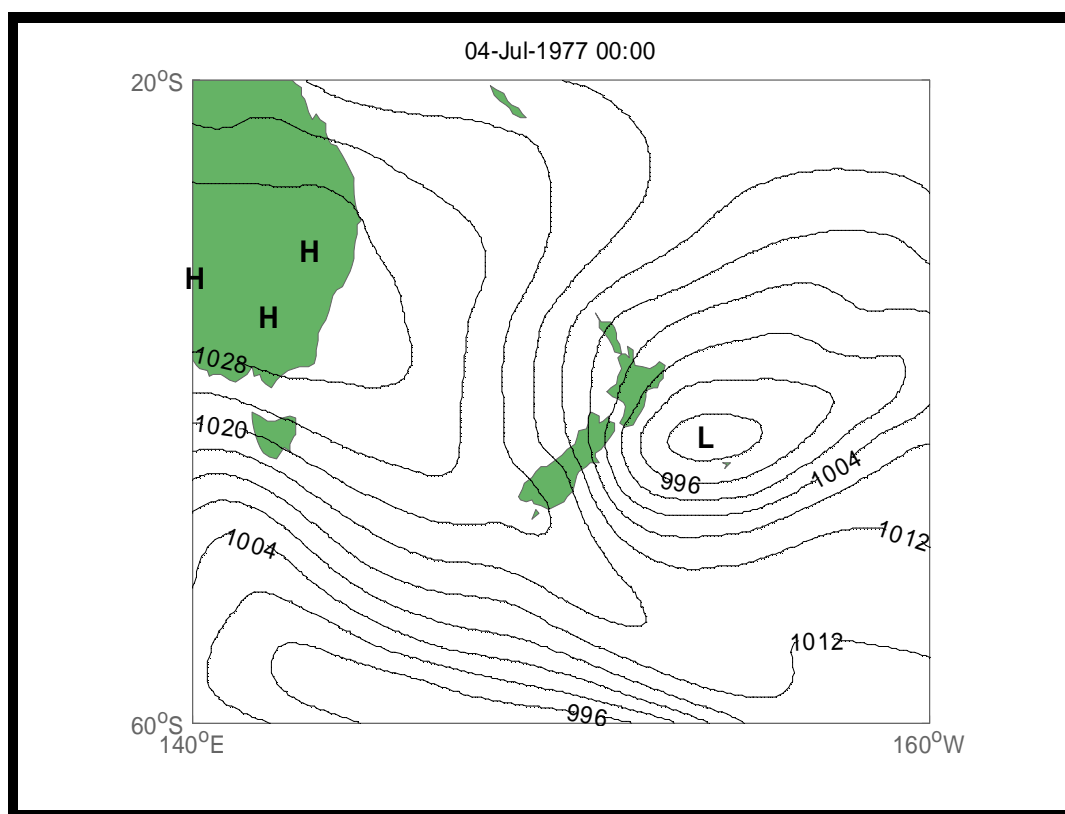


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 3-5 Jul 1977	Wind Direction: SW
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 41
Origin: Tasman Sea	Pressure Gradient: SSE to SW
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed in the central Tasman sea from a southern ocean trough and at this stage was embedded between two anticyclones. It then moved southward into the south Tasman sea and then eastward across the South Island. On the 3rd this cyclone was east of Christchurch and had a ridge on its western side from a Tasman sea anticyclone. Between these features a very strong SSE to SSW airstream developed immediately off the lower South Island and through Cook Strait. The pressure gradient weakened on the 4th and the flow spread up the eastern North Island as the cyclone moved northward.

Sea Conditions

Waves estimated in Cook Strait at 30-40ft (9-12m); heavy seas at Mahia and in Gisborne

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
03-Jul-77	50 (W)	63 (SW)	130 (SW)
04-Jul-77	69 (S)	83 (SW)	121 (SW)
05-Jul-77	59 (S)	45 (SW)	59 (S)

Impact Area

Gisborne
Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Heavy seas in Poverty Bay; outside Poverty Bay waves estimated at ~4m
- Flights grounded

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vert steep swells estimated at 30-40ft (9012m) in Cook Strait according to Aranui ferry Captain • Footpath pushed up by big seas at Days Bay • Large waves aided by high tides breaking over the road at Eastbourne, leaving debris over roads and damaged road • Extremely high tides • High seas cut rail service on Petone-Ngauranga Line; waves breaking over the track and washed out ballast of railway line
Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks Peninsula cut off by flooding and state of emergency declared
Mahia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy seas off Mahia Peninsula (near Portland Island) where yacht overturned and in distress

Data Source

- 1 Two Ships Off Coast Ride Out the Storm: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
 - 2 Families Evacuated in Southern Floods: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
 - 3 Wind Gusts Keep Lions Grounded: Gisborne Herald, 5/07/1977, p14
 - 4 Most Terrifying Experience ever for Solo Sailor: Gisborne Herald, 5/07/1977, p1
 - 5 Terrified Caption Relives Nightmare: New Zealand Herald, 5/07/1977, p1
 - 6 Glen Swam to Rescue: New Zealand Herald, 5/07/1977, p1
 - 7 Well-known Mariner at Weathers Mercy: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
 - 8 Ordeal of Wahine Recalled: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
 - 9 Howling Gale Spells Havoc For Sea, Air and Land Travel: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
 - 10 Heavy Seas Cut Commuter Link to Petone: Evening Post, 4/07/1977, p1
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