

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 7-9 May 1931	Wind Direction:
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: S to SE
Type: East Coast Low	

Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone was to the north of North Cape while an intense anticyclone advanced onto the South Island. A steep pressure gradient resulted in created a strong S to SE airstream over the lower North Island and in the Cook Strait area. As the northern cyclone moved eastward and the anticyclone remained over the South Island the steep pressure gradient was maintained and the strong winds veered to the east through the Cook Strait area; they also spread up the eastern North Island as a strong southerly wind.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas on the Gisborne coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Telephone and power lines disrupted
- Broken roofs through-out city
- Heavy seas on coast; large waves smashing into harbour works
- One of strongest gales for years; raged overnight of 7th and continued on the 8th

Data Source

- 1 Terrific Gale - Worst for Years - Experience at Opotiki: Gisborne Herald, 11/05/1931, p10
- 2 Wild Gale Continues - Tale of Minor Damage - Overhead Lines Affected: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1931, p5
- 3 Southerly Gale - Gisbornes Wild Night - Heavy Seas in the Bay: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1931, p6