

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 7-9 Aug 1949	Wind Direction: SE
Event Type: Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: E to NE
Type: Cyclone-Anticyclone Pair	

Synoptic Conditions

A subtropical low was north of NZ on the 6th while an anticyclone was moving eastwards across the South Island. On the 7th these two systems collided and created a strong E to NE airstream over the eastern North Island and moved over the eastern South Island on the 8th as the cyclone moved southward over the North Island.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas on Wellington and Napier coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Napier

Wellington

Wairarapa

Impacts and Damages

- Three large slips on railway line between Napier and Gisborne
- Timber spans for new bridge over Tuki Tuki river washed away; river reached highest level in 30years
- Highway linking Haumoana and Te Awanga to Waimarama flooded for ~3km
- Airport closed from surface flooding
- Serious flooding on Heretaunga Plains following nearly three days of heavy rain
- High seas along Eastbourne coast
- Extensive flooding due to many rivers overflowing banks

Data Source

- 1 Recent Storm Results in Widespread Flood Damage in Wairarapa District: Dominion Post, 10/08/1949, p8
- 2 City Missed Most of It: Evening Post, 9/08/1949, p8
- 3 Large Part of North Island Lashed by Rain-Laden Gale: Dominion Post, 9/08/1949, p8
- 4 Storm Recordings at Kelburn Office: Dominion Post, 9/08/1949, p8
- 5 Weather Office Expects Conditions to Improve: Gisborne Herald, 10/08/1949, p8
- 6 South Rail Link in Bad Shape: New Slip Occurs: Gisborne Herald, 10/08/1949, p8
- 7 Flood Risk Recedes in Hawkes Bay: Gisborne Herald, 10/08/1949, p8
- 8 Large Area's of Land Flooded in Wairarapa: Gisborne Herald, 9/08/1949, p6
- 9 Surface Flooding, with Stock Losses, In Hawkes Bay: Gisborne Herald, 9/08/1949, p6
- 10 Napier-Gisborne Railway Line Blocked by Slips: Gisborne Herald, 8/08/1949, p6
- 11 Wettest Week-end Since the Flood - Coast Downpour: Gisborne Herald, 8/08/1949, p6