

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 19-20 Feb 1953

Wind Direction: **SW**Event Type: **Wind/Wave**

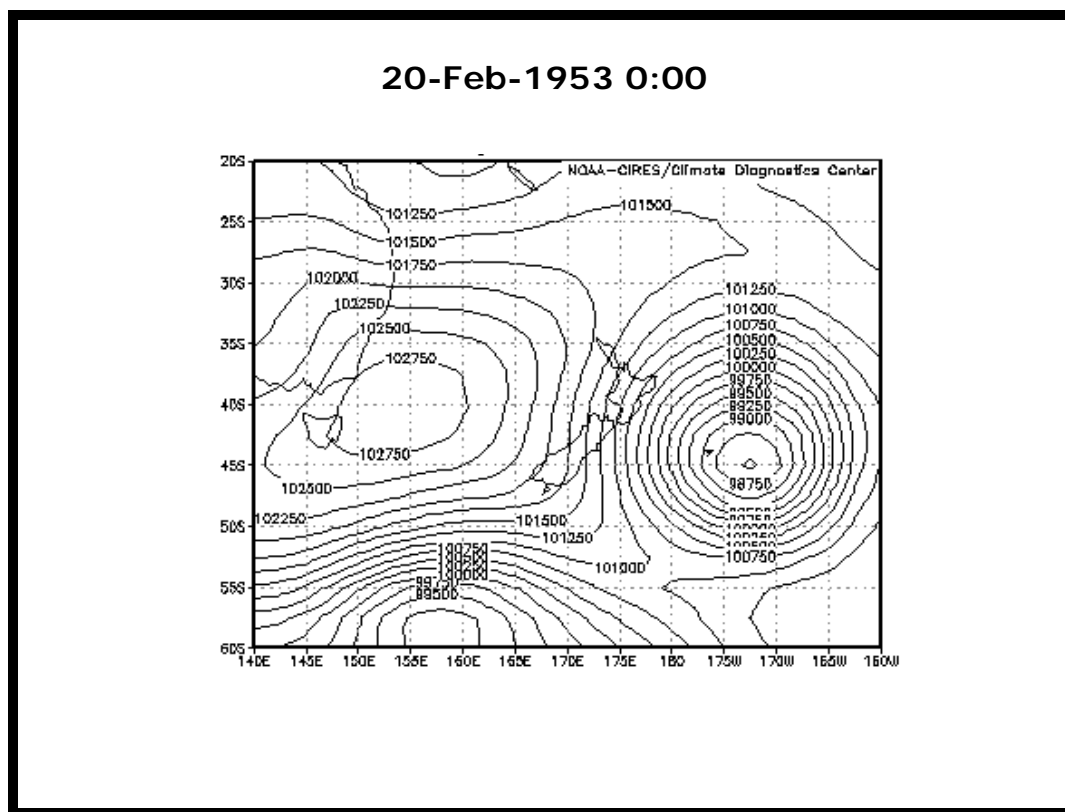
Gisborne Duration (Hours): -

Location: **Gisborne**

Wellington Duration (Hours): -

Origin: **Subtropics**

Pressure Gradient: **S to SW**

Type: **East Coast Low**

Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed off 25S over the eastern Australian coast and moved southward into the Tasman sea and then across the South Island. On the 19th, this cyclone was over the Chatham Islands, and the strong SW flow on its western side swept over the eastern North Island and later veered to the S or SSW. Furthermore, this cyclone had intensified somewhat after it crossed NZ and while over the Chathams, and had a large intense anticyclone on its westward side.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas on Gisborne coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Harbour breakwater destroyed in two places, and deterioration of 50ft of groyne
- Heavy seas postponed the start of NZ surf life-saving championships; officials said the largest seas since May 1948; unable to set marker buoys
- Strong SW winds gusting to 74 km/hr

Data Source

- 1 Harbour Sea Wall Damaged in Last Storm: Gisborne Herald, 10/03/1953, p6
2 Plane Drops Buoy for Surf Life-saving: Gisborne Herald, 21/02/1953, p8
3 Stormy Conditions Delay the Start of Surf Life-saving: Gisborne Herald, 20/02/1953, p6