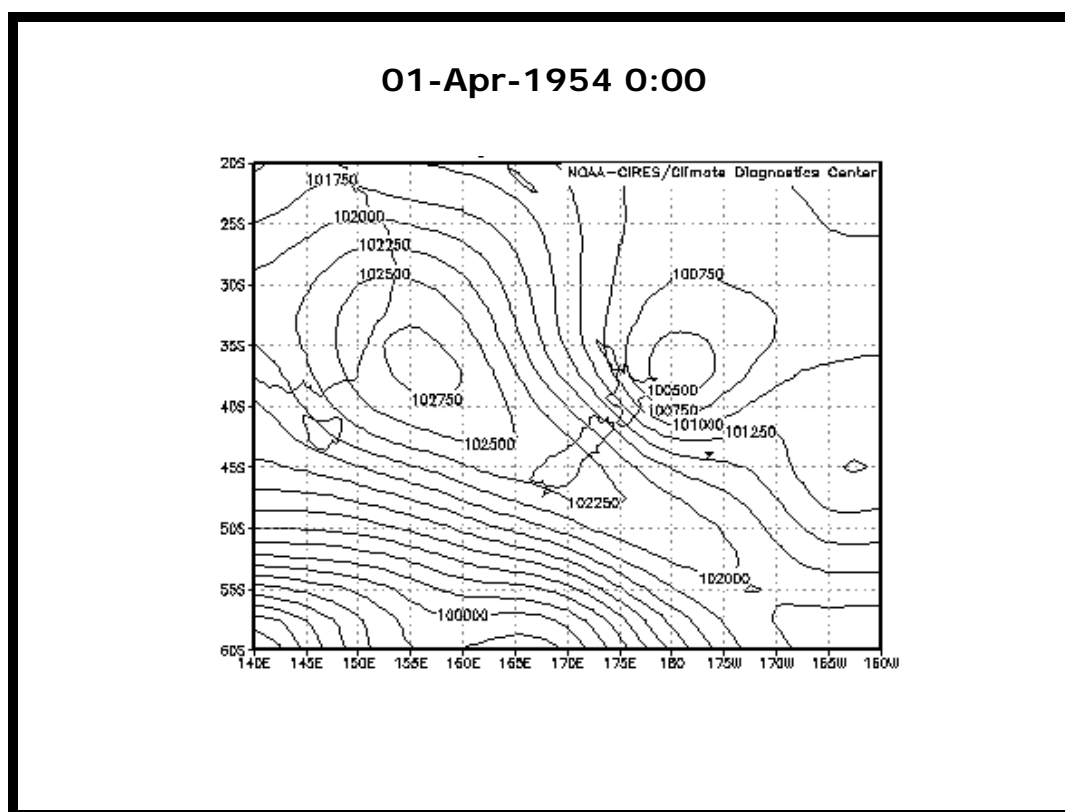


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 30-2 Apr 1954	Wind Direction: SE
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Southern Ocean	Pressure Gradient: S to SE
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A secondary cyclone developed from a southern ocean trough to the south of NZ and extended a trough to the NE over the Chatham Islands. This trough then formed a closed centre. On the 30th, the western side of this cyclone developed a strong S to SSE airstream due to an eastward moving anticyclone in the Tasman sea and swept over eastern NZ. The flow remained strong on the 31st as the cyclone was stationary near the Chatham Islands and a ridge spread over the lower South Island. This cyclone remained off the east coast of the North Island until the 4th, during which SE winds continued to affect the North Island.

Sea Conditions

Big seas on Wellington coast

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- Frigate 'Hawea' struck bad seas south of Gisborne and arrived one day late at Wellington
- Slips and washouts on highways
- Lowest pressure recorded was 988.6 hPa on Friday morning (2nd)
- Waipaoa reached peak level of 17ft 9in and flooding averted
- Slips blocked the south highways out of city
- Slips and washouts on highways
- Heavy downpour (and thunder) caused widespread flooding of streets around city

Napier

Impact Area

Wairoa

Impacts and Damages

- Wairoa river reached phenomenal height (only 2ft below record height of 1948) water level reached decking of town bridge and widespread flooding around town
 - Shipping movements hampered; two coastal vessels forced back by heavy seas and inter-island ferries delayed
 - Big seas pounded Wellington south coast
 - No ships left Port except the inter-island ferries
-

Wellington

Data Source

- 1 Heavy Flooding at Wairoa: New Zealand Herald, 5/04/1954, p8
 - 2 Hawea Hove To in Gale - Gear Smashed by Green Seas: New Zealand Herald, 5/04/1954, p8
 - 3 Wairoa River Invades Shops in the Town: Evening Post, 3/04/1954, p12
 - 4 High Winds Delay Ferries, Turn Coasters Back: Evening Post, 2/04/1954, p10
 - 5 Bitterly Cold Rain and Wind Bring Winter to Capital: Dominion Post, 1/04/1954, p10
 - 6 Wet Wintry Blast hits Wellington: Dominion Post, 31/03/1954, p10
 - 7 Storm Produces Lowest Pressures for Years: Gisborne Herald, 5/04/1954, p8
 - 8 Flood Averted by Small Margin: Peak of 17ft 9in: Gisborne Herald, 3/04/1954, p8
 - 9 Rain and Gale Continue: High Velocity Winds: Gisborne Herald, 3/04/1954, p8
 - 10 Waipaoa's Headwaters Swollen by Heavy Rain: Gisborne Herald, 2/04/1954, p6
 - 11 South Highways Closed By Slips Late Yesterday: Gisborne Herald, 1/04/1954, p6
 - 12 Southerly Gale with Heavy Rain Hits District: Gisborne Herald, 31/03/1954, p6
-