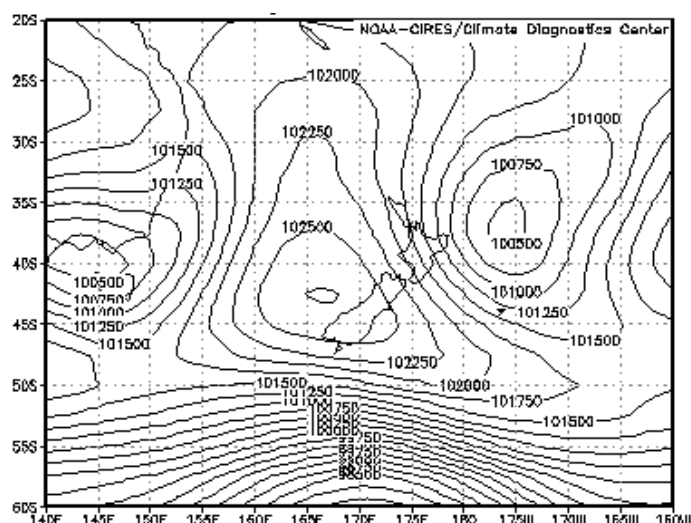


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 13-15 Jul 1955	Wind Direction: SE
Event Type: Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: SE
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	

14-Jul-1955 12:00



Synoptic Conditions

A southern ocean trough passed over NZ and the 12th was over the Chatham Islands and was flanked by two large anticyclones. On the 13th the trough developed into a secondary centre off East Cape while an intense anticyclone was covering NZ. Between these systems, a strong SE airstream developed and strengthened on the 14th during which the cyclone had intensified and anticyclone weakened. The strengthened flow was related to the near-stationary behaviour of the cyclone off East Cape and the eastward movement of the anticyclone.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas in Cook Strait

Impact Area

Gisborne

Napier

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Snowfalls on hill country around city; heaviest falls in over 60 years
- Waipaoa river peaks at overflow level and minor flooding around banks
- Peak wind gust of 85 km/hr recorded at airport
- Street flooding in city
- Heavy snow on high hills around district; in back country, snow upto 3ft deep
- Difficulty loading and unloading cargo at Port due to gusty winds and heavy rain
- Heavy seas in Cook Strait prevented several coastal vessels from leaving Port; those expected from the South Island were forced to seek shelter
- Light snowfall on higher hills around city

Impact Area

Wairarapa

Impacts and Damages

- Trawler 'Hautapu' caught in gale and churning seas off Castlepoint; captain described as worse gale in his 30yrs experience on the NZ coast

Data Source

- 1 Rainfall and Wind Velocity in Storm Period: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1955, p8
 - 2 Trawler in Storm has Had Fight: Dominion Post, 16/07/1955, p14
 - 3 Rain, Gusty Wind Again Disorganise Waterfront Work & Delay Sailings: Dominion Post, 15/07/1955, p10
 - 4 Trains Delayed, Tolls Disrupted and Roads Blocked: Dominion Post, 15/07/1955, p10
 - 5 Heavy Rains Bring Hawkes Bay Floods: Dominion Post, 15/07/1955, p10
 - 6 Flood Damage not Serious in Wairarapa: Dominion Post, 14/07/1955, p10
 - 7 Snow, Rain, Hail & Sleet hit Heavily at North Island: Dominion Post, 14/07/1955, p10
 - 8 Trawler Fights it Out with Gale: Gisborne Herald, 16/07/1955
 - 9 Waipaoa Peaks at Overflow Level: Minor Breaks: Gisborne Herald, 15/07/1955, p8
 - 10 No Flood Danger from Snowfall in Hill Country: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1955, p10
 - 11 Some Surface Flooding: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1955, p10
 - 12 Snowfalls Bring Bleak Weather, Close Highways, Disrupt Road Traffic: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1955, p10
 - 13 Heaviest Snowstorm in 60years Sweeps District Inland Area: Gisborne Herald, 13/07/1955, p8
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