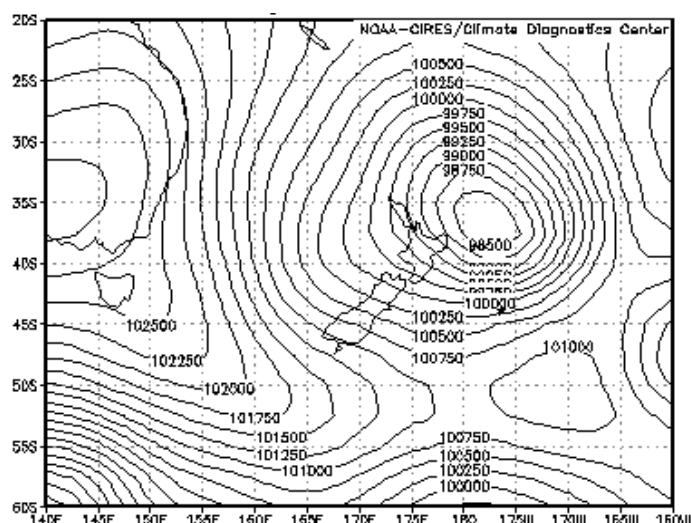


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 13-15 Jul 1956	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: SE to ESE
Type: East Coast Low	

14-Jul-1956 12:00



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone from continental Australia (inland Sydney, north of 35S) moved eastward across the Tasman sea and over North Cape and intensified significantly. On the 13th this cyclone was north of East Cape and a strong ESE airstream on its southern side that swept over the eastern North Island. It then tracked southeast-ward and was off East Cape on the 14th and the strong ESE to SE winds continued to affect the eastern North Island and spread onto the South Island. The flow then weakened on the 15th when the cyclone was NE of the Chathams but continued from the SE.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas off Wellington coast and in Cook Strait

Impact Area

Gisborne
Napier

Impacts and Damages

- Waipaoa river reaches 21ft above normal
- Roads and railways blocked by slips and washouts; two of main roads to Napier impassable
- Flash flood at Tangoio washed one house away and other residents took refuge on rooftops
- Slips and washouts stopped or delayed train services
- Power outages around city
- Slips, toppled trees, collapsed shop verandahs, downed fences and minor street flooding

Wellington

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Only two flight cancellations across Cook Strait● Heavy seas breaking across harbour entrance at Pencarrow head
Wairarapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Floods, slips and washouts throughout district
Eastern Coromandel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Waihi beach received further erosion at the northern end of beach; some house 5-6ft from dune edge

Data Source

- 1 Cyclone & Blizzard over Auckland Area: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1956, p8
 - 2 Worst Southerly Gale in Five Years Lashes Country: Eastland Sun, 7/08/1961, p12
 - 3 Wettest July in Capital Since 1942: Dominion Post, 27/07/1956, p10
 - 4 Whole Island Hit by Storm - Severe Damage to Raods and Railways: New Zealand Herald, 16/07/1956
 - 5 Slips & Washouts Disrupt Railway Service: Dominion Post, 16/07/1956, p10
 - 6 Wairarapa Battered by Storm: Dominion Post, 16/07/1956, p10
 - 7 Tangoio Area Worst Hit in Hawke's Bay: Dominion Post, 16/07/1956, p10
 - 8 Fierce Southerly Brings Wash-outs, Slips and Bitter Cold: Dominion Post, 16/07/1956, p10
 - 9 Big Storm Strikes Auckland: Dominion Post, 14/07/1956, p12
 - 10 Houses Slide Down Hill, Wall Collapses: Gisborne Herald, 16/07/1956, p8
 - 11 Widespread Devastation & Storm Damage: Gisborne Herald, 16/07/1956, p7
 - 12 Heavy Rain & 62m.p.h Winds Pound Gisborne: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1956, p8
 - 13 Waipaoa River Peaks at 21ft After Heavy Overnight Gale: Gisborne Herald, 14/07/1956, p8
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