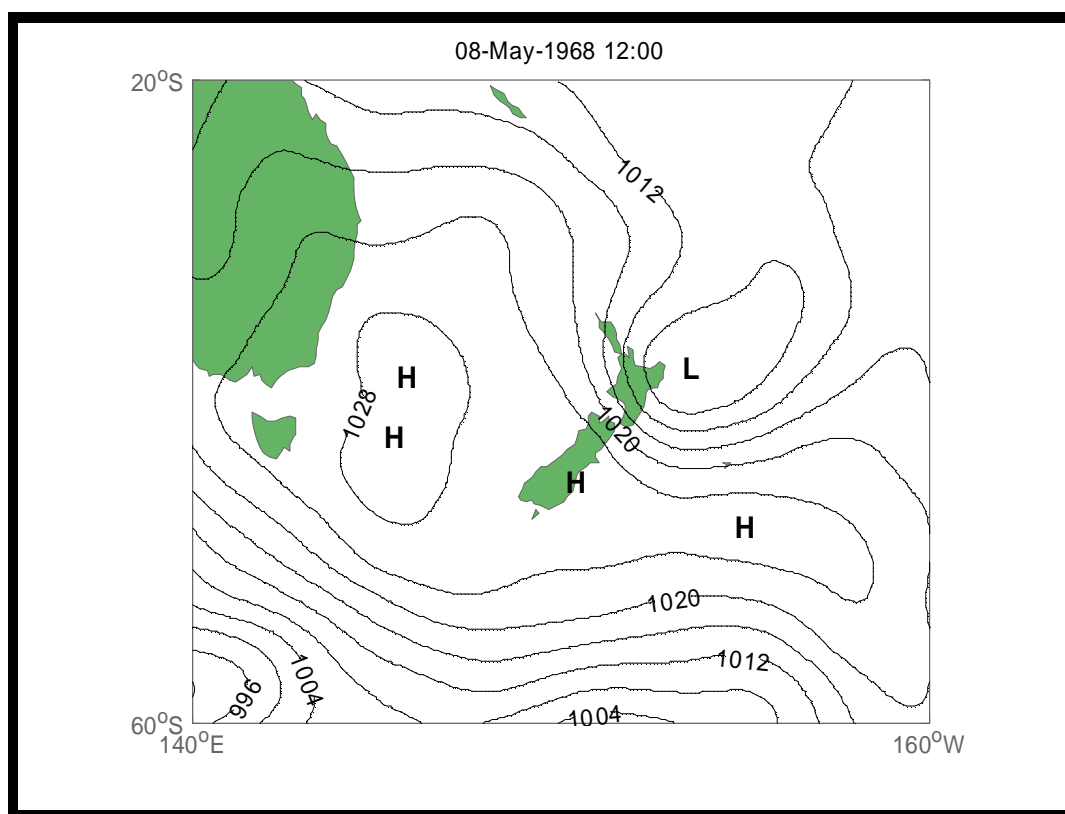


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 7-9 May 1968	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): 27
Location: Gisborne/Napier/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 69
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: SSE to SE
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A secondary cyclone developed east of Canterbury from a southern ocean trough and moved northward, and at the same time, an intense anticyclone in the Tasman sea was spreading onto the South Island. On the 7th a SSE airstream developed between these two systems over the lower North Island and through Cook Strait and intensified on the 8th as the southern ridge strengthened over the South Island. This strong SSE to SE airstream then spread up the eastern North Island and continued on the 9th but with less velocity.

Sea Conditions

Mountaineous seas off east coast
Waves estimated at 8-10ft in Napier (Smith, 1968)

Impact Area

Gisborne
Wairoa
Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Downed trees cut telephone and power lines
- Boat wrecked by heavy seas at Sponge Bay
- Electrical storm
- Fences and garages down in Petoneq
- Marine Drive between Seaview and Eastbourne took hammering from high seas
- One coastal freighter returned to Port
- Airport closed most of morning mostly to DC3 and Friendship flights
- Ferry 'Aramona' held up outside Wellington harbour by high seas

Data Source

- 1 Strait Ferry Betters Own Record: New Zealand Herald, 18/08/1971, p1
 - 2 Winds and Seas Too Much for Freighter: Evening Post, 8/05/1968, p14
 - 3 Wairoa Hit By Brief Storm: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1968, p1
 - 4 City has Minor Storm Damage: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1968, p1
 - 5 Boat Wrecked in Gale, Crewman Still Missing: Gisborne Herald, 9/05/1968, p1
 - 6 Ferry Heaves-To When Gale hits Wellington: Gisborne Herald, 8/05/1968, p1
 - 7 Gale Keeps Ferry Outside Harbour: Evening Post, 8/05/1968, p14
 - 8 Storm Hits Auckland Too: Evening Post, 8/05/1968, p14
 - 9 City Takes Its Third Battering in Four Weeks: Evening Post, 8/05/1968, p14
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