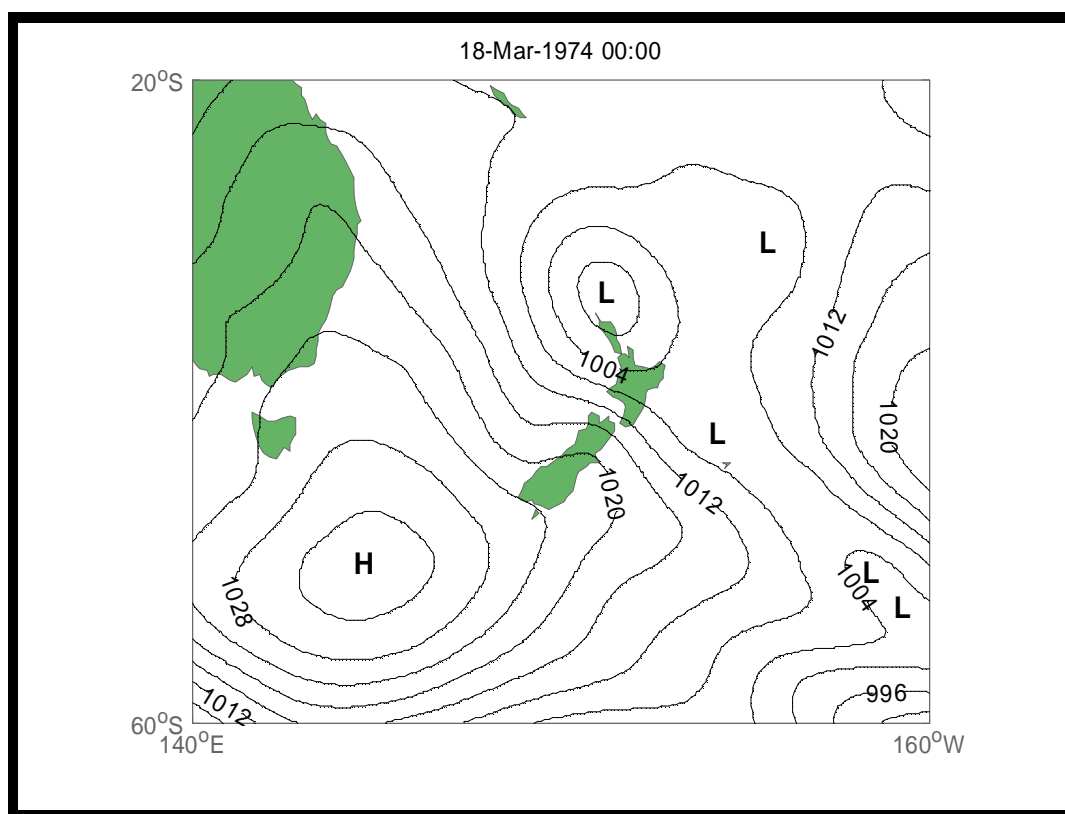


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 17-21 Mar 1974	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave/Erosion	Gisborne Duration (Hours): 42
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 111
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: S to SE
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone from off the north Sydney coast tracked eastward towards NZ and had a large intense anticyclone below in the southern ocean (and covering the western Tasman sea. On the 17th this cyclone was northeast of North Cape and spread a trough to the southeast over the Chatham Islands while the southern ocean anticyclone spread a trough eastward over the South Island. Between these systems a SE airstream developed over the eastern South Island and lower North Island and continued through the 18th and 19th as the cyclone moved towards East Cape. The flow was very intense on the 19th and 20th during which the cyclone intensified and the flow shifted to the south; these changes occurred as the the cyclone tracked past East Cape towards the Chatham Islands.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas in Gisborne

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
17-Mar-74	41 (S)	41 (SW)	109 (S)
18-Mar-74	104 (S)	35 (SW)	113 (S)
19-Mar-74	109 (S)	54 (SW)	130 (SW)
20-Mar-74	65 (SW)	89 (SW)	132 (SW)
21-Mar-74	56 (SW)	35 (SW)	72 (S)

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
Gisborne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beach erosion south of Wainui stream and 1-3m scarp in dune near Wainui Beach surf club ● Excess driftwood left piled up on Waikanae Beach ● 50ft of retaining wall at Port broken from heavy seas and signal station temporarily inoperative ● Bus shelter at Sponge Bay was destroyed by winds ● 3.5-4.5m waves at Tokomaru Bay dragged fishing boat from moorings ● Harbour board reported 2 yachts broke mooring from strong seas and one sunk ● Power lines brought down by fallen trees ● Flattened crops and heavy rain swelled grapes to bursting
East Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roofing torn off buildings and century-old church at Hicks Bay flattened
Whakatane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Windows of some beach houses blown in at Whakatane
East Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seas swirling around baches at shoreline at Hicks Bay and close to being undermined; one bach later washed out ● Winds so strong the East Cape Lighthouse keeper had to crawl to lighthouse
Data Source	
1	Violent Winds Batter East Coast Farms: New Zealand Herald, 19/03/1974, p1
2	Now its Operation Mop-Up as District Counts Gale's Cost: Gisborne Herald, 20/03/1974, p1
3	Church Levelled as Gale Batters Coast: Gisborne Herald, 19/03/1974, p1
4	Fishing Boat Aground: Gisborne Herald, 19/03/1974, p1
5	Storm hits Poverty Bay Area: New Zealand Herald, 20/03/1974, p3