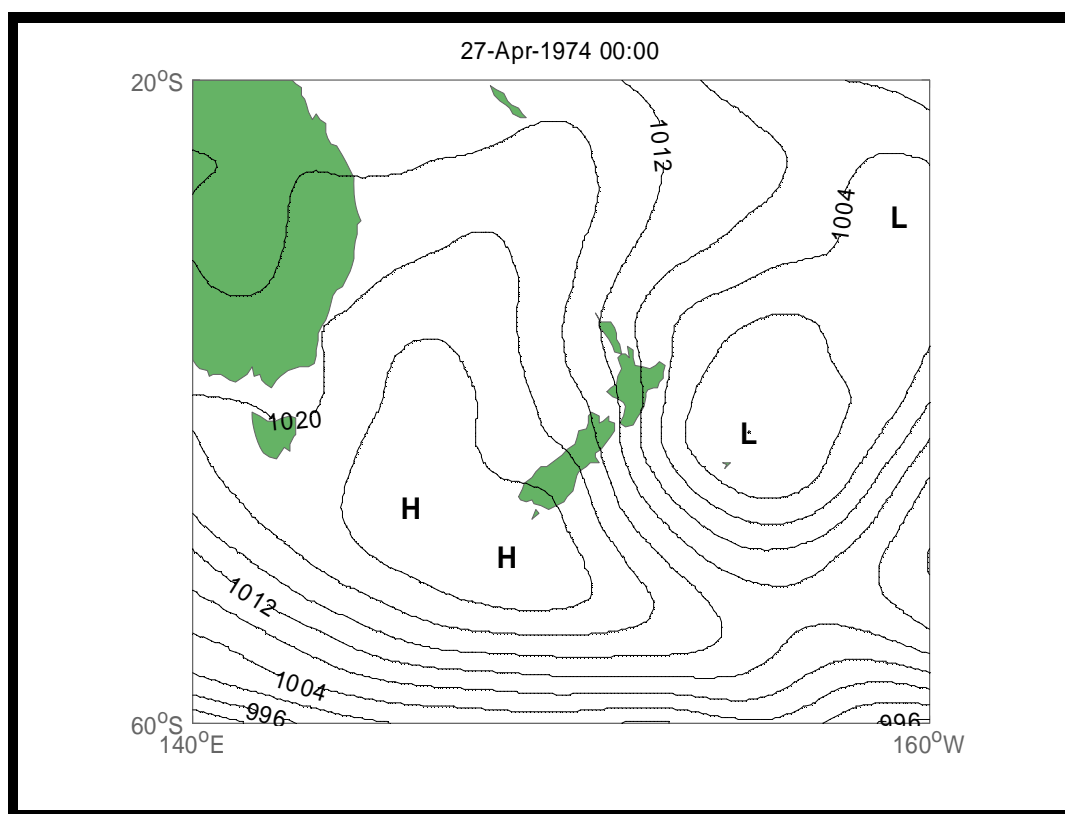


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 26-29 Apr 1974	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): 41
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 69
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: S to SE
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclone developed east of NZ from a trough extending southwest-ward off East Cape (i.e. from the subtropics) and became embedded between two large anticyclones. On the 26th the Tasman sea anticyclone had spread over the South Island and collided with the cyclone north of the Chatham Islands. This generated a strong S to SE airstream over eastern NZ through to till the 28th; during this period the cyclone moved northward and the Tasman sea anticyclone moved across NZ to be southeast of Otago.

Sea Conditions

12m seas estimated in Cook Strait

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
26-Apr-74	63 (S)	67 (S)	128 (S)
27-Apr-74	93 (S)	83 (SW)	158 (S)
28-Apr-74	96 (S)	82 (SW)	126 (S)
29-Apr-74	74 (S)	46 (S)	85 (S)

Impact Area

Gisborne

Impacts and Damages

- State Highway 36 around East Cape had 14 slips causing roading problems
- Telephone and power cuts

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debris-strewn foreshore at town beaches • Crops damaged by winds and rain • Blocked roads from slips and surface flooding • Reported as the longest gale in Wellington since records begun; said to have blown gale-force for 19 consecutive hours with peak gust of 113 km/hr • Waves estimated at 40ft (12m) in Cook Strait by Captain of ferry 'Aramoana' which could not make Port; 3 passengers were injured • Shipping, rail and air services halted; ferry Aramoana trip to Wellington abandoned • Lyall Bay service station lost forecourt roof • 2 houses slipped down hillsides • Cars crushed by fallen trees and widespread power and telephone faults

Data Source

- 1 The Longest Gale: Evening Post, 23/05/1983, p1
 - 2 Aramoana Crew Get Passengers Praise: Gisborne Herald, 30/04/1974, p2
 - 3 Country Roads are Blocked as Gale Lashes East Coast: Gisborne Herald, 29/04/1974, p1
 - 4 Aramoana's Safety Dash - 2 in Hospital: Gisborne Herald, 29/04/1974, p2
 - 5 Devastating Gale Created Havoc: Gisborne Herald, 29/04/1974, p2
 - 6 Nightmare In Rail Ferry Hit By Storm: New Zealand Herald, 29/04/1974, p1
 - 7 Gale Rips Through Capital: New Zealand Herald, 29/04/1974, p1
-