

Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: **16-19 May 1978**

Wind Direction: **S**

Event Type: **Wind/Wave**

Gisborne Duration (Hours): **-**

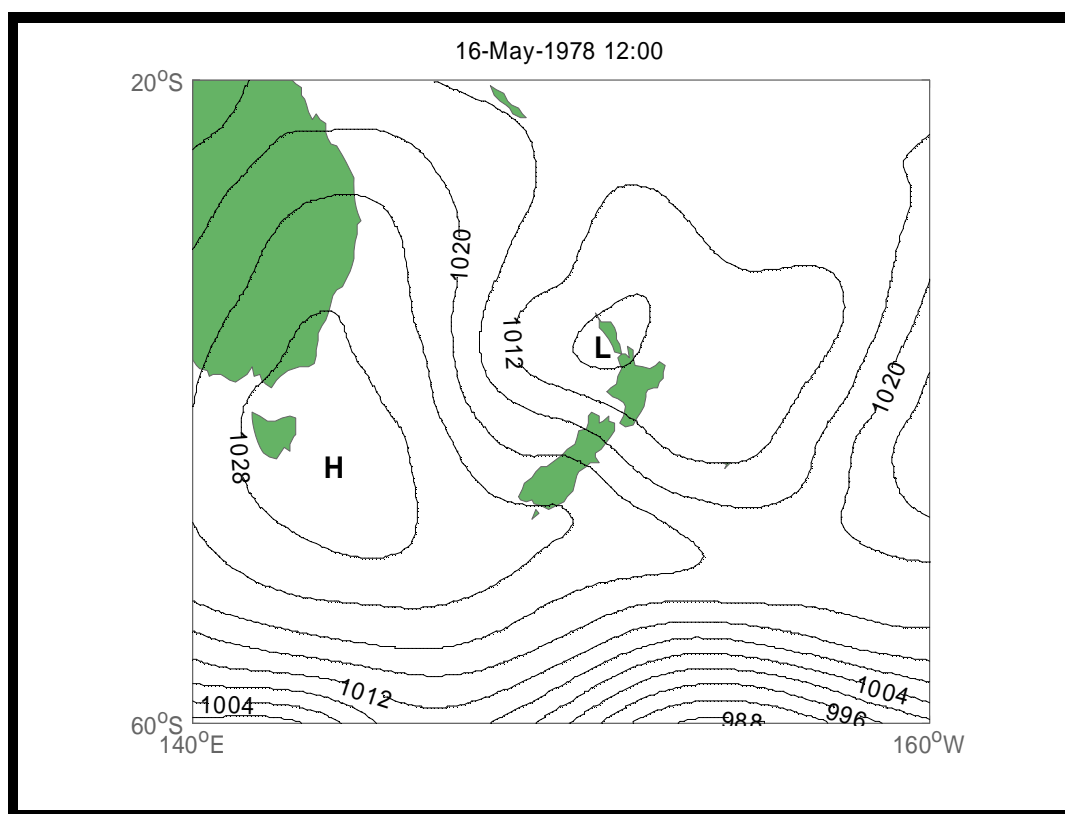
Location: **Wellington**

Wellington Duration (Hours): **72**

Origin: **Subtropics**

Pressure Gradient: **S to SE**

Type: **East Coast Low**



Synoptic Conditions

A subtropical low near 160-165W moved south to southwest-ward towards NZ and became a large area of low pressure to the north and northeast of NZ and covered the North Island. At the same time a ridge over the lower South Island and spread eastward. Between the ridge and cyclone a strong SE airstream developed over the eastern South Island and in the Cook Strait area and was sustained through the 17th and 18th as the cyclone remained off the eastern North Island and was joined by another cyclonic centre from the Tasman sea. During this period the ridge remained over and south of NZ from a southern ocean anticyclone south of the Tasman sea. On the 19th the flow veered to the south.

Sea Conditions

Heavy seas in Cook Strait

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
16-May-78	28 (S)	22 (W)	87 (S)
17-May-78	28 (SW)	33 (S)	95 (S)
18-May-78	33 (SW)	41 (SW)	82 (S)
19-May-78	43 (SW)	41 (SW)	78 (S)

Impact Area

Impacts and Damages

Impact Area

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- Heavy seas in Cook Strait battered ferries

Data Source

- 1 Ferries Have Rough Day: Evening Post, 18/05/1978, p4
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