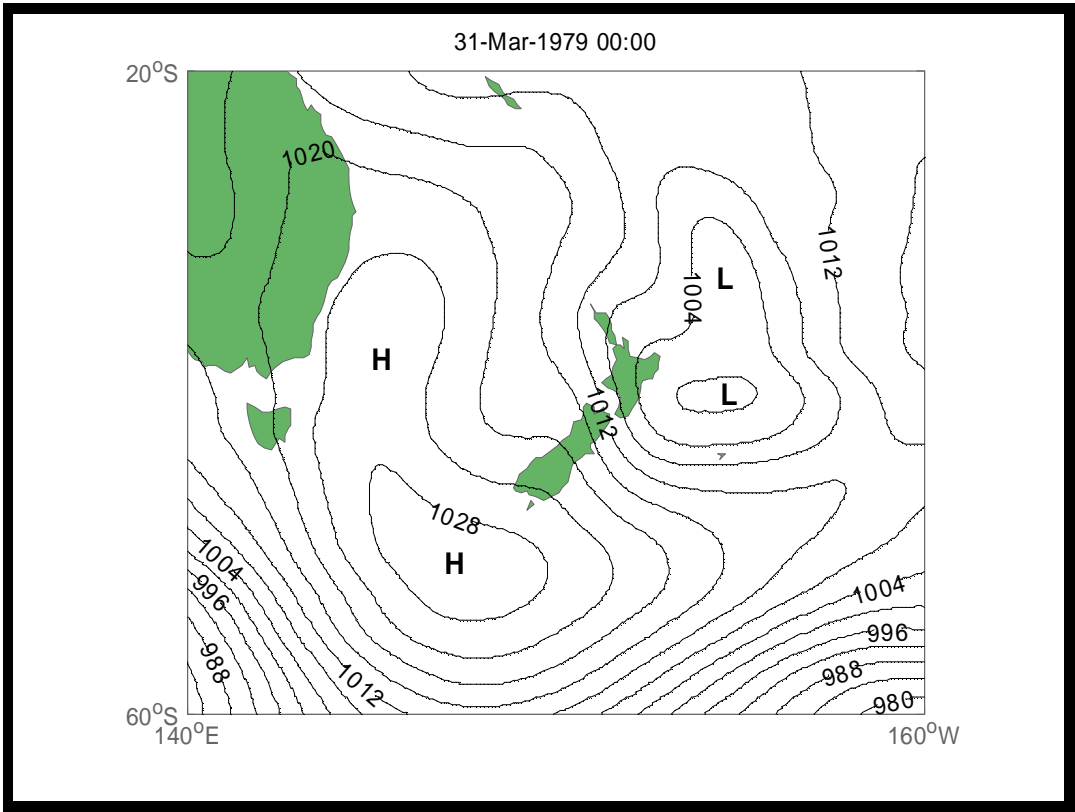


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 30-31 Mar 1979	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): 12
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 43
Origin: Subtropics	Pressure Gradient: SE
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A subtropical low moved southward from east of New Caledonia and spread onto the North Island. At the same time a large intense anticyclone was in the south Tasman sea and covered the lower South Island. Between these two systems a strong SE airstream developed over the eastern North Island and in Cook Strait. This flow intensified over the eastern North Island on the 31st as the southern ocean anticyclone spread northwards over the South Island.

Sea Conditions

Raging seas in Cook Strait

Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	3.5	7
Napier	3.2	7
Gisborne	3.6	7

*Highest Significant Wave Height

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
------	----------	--------	------------

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
30-Mar-79	43 (S)	56 (W)	115 (SW)
31-Mar-79	87 (S)	98 (SW)	104 (S)

Impact Area

Wellington

Impacts and Damages

- \$28,000 yacht wrecked on shoreline at York Bay
- Two ferry crossings cancelled after 'Aramona' bad crossing
- Ferry 'Aramoana' battled gale force winds and raging seas and delayed 3hrs; 2 passengers injured; Captain described as one of worst trips
- Strong gust of wind, rain and mist closed airport, cancelling 106 flights

Data Source

- 1 Gale Claims Yacht: Dominion Post, 2/04/1979, p3
 - 2 Wahine's Ghost Rears Stormy Head: Dominion Post, 31/03/1979, p1
 - 3 District Lashed by Heavy Rain, Strong Winds: Gisborne Herald, 31/03/1979, p16
 - 4 Ferry Passengers Feared Disaster: Gisborne Herald, 31/03/1979, p16
 - 5 Lots of Rain; More Coming?: Evening Post, 30/03/1979, p4
-