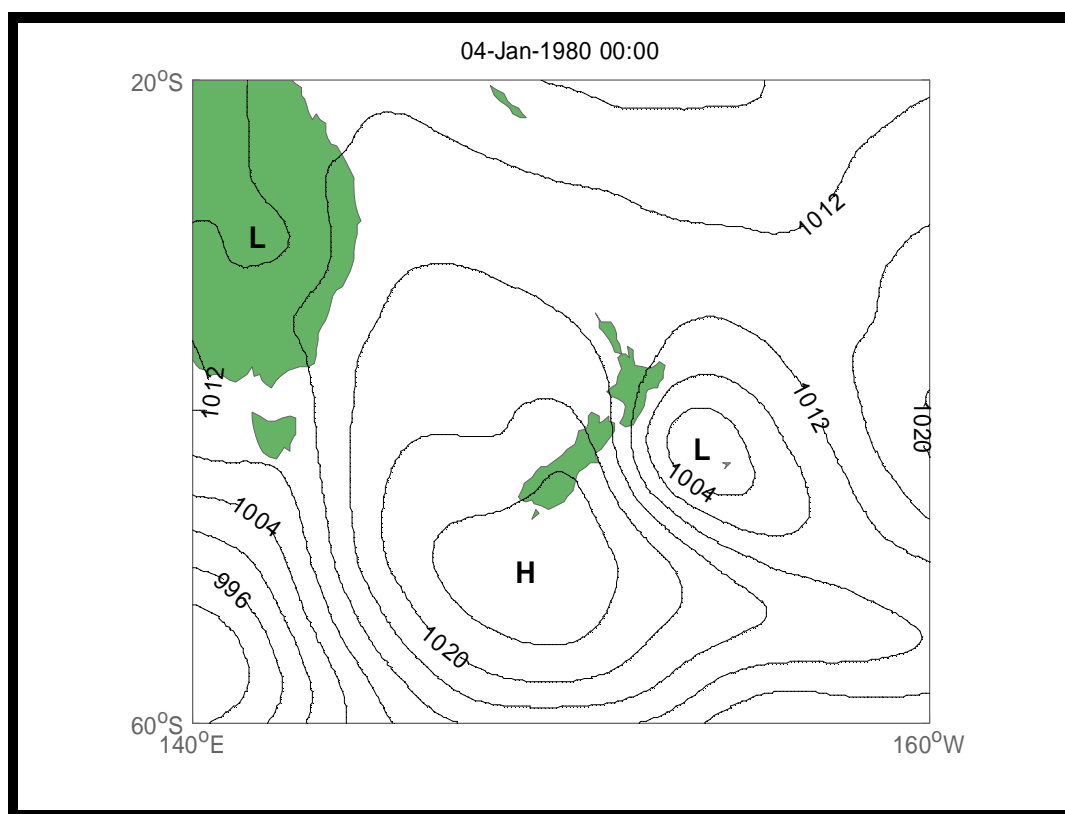


# Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: <b>3-4 Jan 1980</b>	Wind Direction: <b>S</b>
Event Type: <b>Wind/Wave</b>	Gisborne Duration (Hours): <b>-</b>
Location: <b>Gisborne/Wellington</b>	Wellington Duration (Hours): <b>34</b>
Origin: <b>Eastern NZ</b>	Pressure Gradient: <b>S to SSE</b>
Type: <b>East Coast Secondary Low</b>	



## Synoptic Conditions

A secondary cyclone developed east of Otago from southern ocean and moved onto the Chatham Islands where it covered the eastern North Island. At the same time an intense anticyclone was just south of NZ with ridges to the north and east, and covering the South and North Island. Between these two systems, a strong S to SSE airstream swept over the Cook Strait area and upper South Island. As the anticyclone moved eastward and covered all of NZ a weaker SSE airstream spread up towards East Cape.

Storm Type Sequence: east coast secondary low - cyclone-anticyclone pair

## Sea Conditions

Huge seas along East Coast  
Estimated 6-9m swell on Wellington south coast

## Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	4.4	8
Napier	4.1	8
Gisborne	4.4	8

\*Highest Significant Wave Height

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**Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)**

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
03-Jan-80	57 (NW)	80 (SW)	133 (S)
04-Jan-80	69 (SW)	83 (SW)	115 (S)

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**Impact Area****Impacts and Damages**

Wellington

- Huge surf at White Rocks near Cape Palliser where yacht overturned several times
- Waves crashed over roads along harbour side
- All ferries postponed indefinitely after Aranui turn-around
- Baring Head lighthouse keeper estimated swells were 20-30ft (6-9m)
- Ferry 'Aranui' turned around outside Wellington heads and returned to Picton due to treacherous conditions at entrance to Port; one of worse storms captain seen in 15years
- Winds in excess of 100 km/hr forced closure of airport; 104 flights cancelled and 3500 passengers affected
- Hutt Park Motor camp had tents flattened by gale-force winds

Canterbury

- Tree down and flooding in Christchurch
  - Two boats sunk at mooring and others driven ashore at Akaroa
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**Data Source**

- 1 Massive Seas See Ferry Turn Tail: Dominion Post, 4/01/1980, p1
  - 2 Second Wahine Disaster 'Saved': Evening Post, 4/01/1980, p1
  - 3 Massive Seas See Ferry Turn Tail: Evening Post, 4/01/1980, p1
  - 4 Families Rescued as Christchurch Battered by Storm: Gisborne Herald, 2/01/1980, p12
  - 5 Battle to Retrieve Loose Boats: Gisborne Herald, 2/01/1980, p1
  - 6 Harbour Heads are Treacherous: Evening Post, 4/01/1980, p1
  - 7 Storm Bedraggles Flowers, Strands 3200 Passengers: Evening Post, 4/01/1980, p4
  - 8 Miracle Rescue in Raging Seas: Evening Post, 4/01/1980, p1
  - 9 Ferry Forced to Turn Back: Evening Post, 3/01/1980, p1
  - 10 Gale Fells Pines, Trapping Three in Terror Night: Evening Post, 3/01/1980, p18
  - 11 Camp Site Flooded: Evening Post, 3/01/1980, p1
  - 12 Families Flee as Floods Rise: Evening Post, 3/01/1980, p1
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