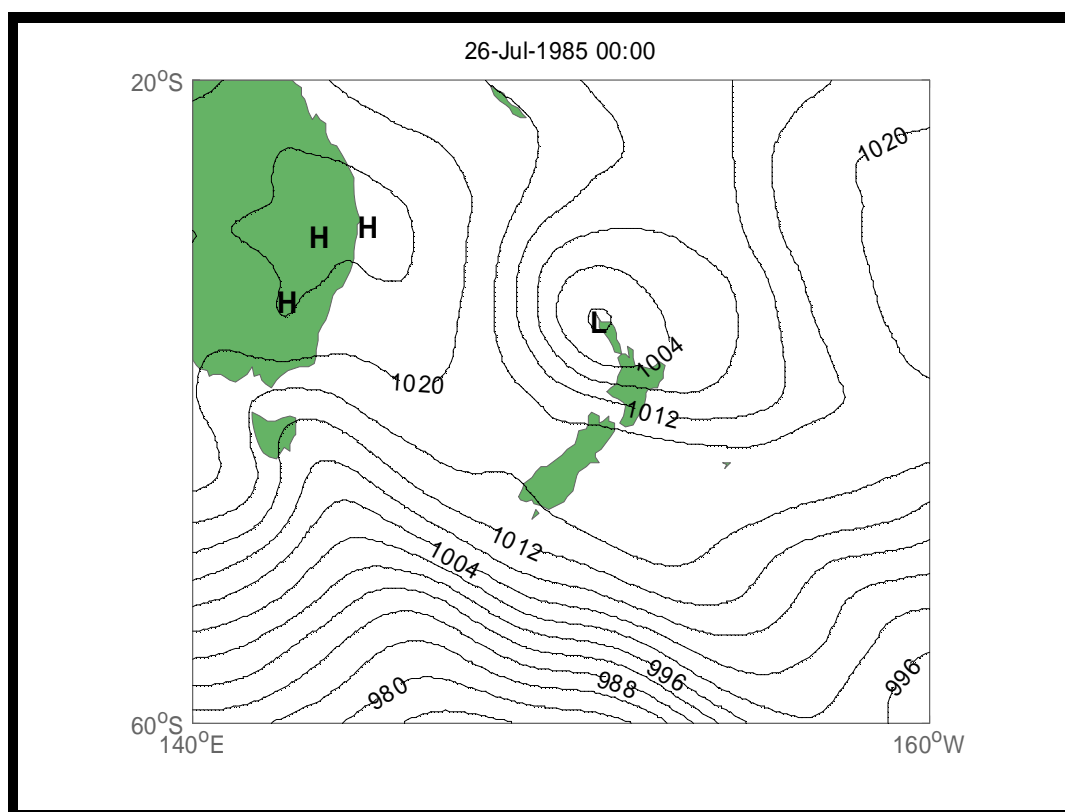


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 25-28 Jul 1985	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave/Erosion	Gisborne Duration (Hours): 12
Location: Gisborne/Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 61
Origin: Tasman Sea	Pressure Gradient: ESE to S
Type: East Coast Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A cyclonic centre developed west of Northland from the trough of an earlier Tasman sea cyclone. On the 25th this cyclone was over Northland while a ridge covered the South Island and a strong E to ESE airstream developed between them and affected the eastern North Island. This cyclone then moved southeast-ward past East Cape and the ESE flow continued along the east coast and then spread through the Cook Strait area and upper South Island. The cyclone then lingered just north of the Chatham Islands between the 26th and 28th, during which the flow veered to the south and remained strong around Cook Strait. This immobility was caused by three anticyclones bordering the cyclone - one to the west, south and northeast.

Sea Conditions

Big seas along East Coast

Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	6.7	10
Napier	5.1	11
Gisborne	5.1	11

*Highest Significant Wave Height

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
25-Jul-85	82 (S)	46 (E)	80 (S)
26-Jul-85	72 (SE)	85 (S)	106 (S)
27-Jul-85	46 (S)	65 (W)	121 (S)
28-Jul-85	50 (NW)	65 (W)	132 (SW)

Impact Area**Impacts and Damages**

Gisborne	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Roebuck Road bridge closed three times overnight from flooding of Taruheru River● Flooding of Waimata river in Marian Drive and Graham Road● Approximately 40,000 hectares of Poverty Flats covered in water● Sewage system unable to cope with water volumes and discharged into city rivers● Anzac Park under water from Waimata River● Slips and surface flooding along State Highway 35 north of Gisborne● Serious flooding around region led to state of emergency declaration● Erosion of foredune at Wainui Beach just north of the surf-club; Norfolk pine ha fallen onto beach, and rocks exposed on beach; stairs down to beach destroyed
Napier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Houses at Haumoana evacuated as precautionary measure
Wairoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wairoa isolated due to surface water
Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Six Cook Strait ferry crossings cancelled because of high seas● 16 flights cancelled at airport on Sunday (28th)● Road to Eastbourne closed due to high seas and waves breaking over it
Wairarapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High seas off Castlepoint, and Beach Hotel had to be evacuated● Large sand dune on beachfront washed away at Castlepoint (Riversdale settlement)● Large areas in Wairarapa under water
Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cottage at Goose Bay, Kaikoura, destroyed by big seas; heaviest seas seen in 10years around Canterbury coast● Large holes appeared in Timaru harbour breakwater

Data Source

- 1 High Seas Topple Norfolk: Gisborne Herald, 30/07/1985, p12
 - 2 Gisborne Awash: Evening Post, 26/07/1985, p1
 - 3 Floods, Gales - The Mop-Up Starts: Evening Post, 29/07/1985, p3
 - 4 Gisborne Storm Comes South: Evening Post, 27/07/1985, p1
 - 5 Howling Gale Shreds Hamlet: Evening Post, 27/07/1985, p1
 - 6 Huge Land Area Hit By Slipping: Gisborne Herald, 27/07/1985, p1
 - 7 Road Bridge Closed on Three Occasions: Gisborne Herald, 26/07/1985, p14
 - 8 City Sewerage System a Total Washout: Gisborne Herald, 26/07/1985, p3
 - 9 As Rain Lashes District, Civil Defence Declares A State of Emergency: Gisborne Herald, 26/07/1985, p1
 - 10 City Soaks Up Record Fall: Gisborne Herald, 26/07/1985, p1
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