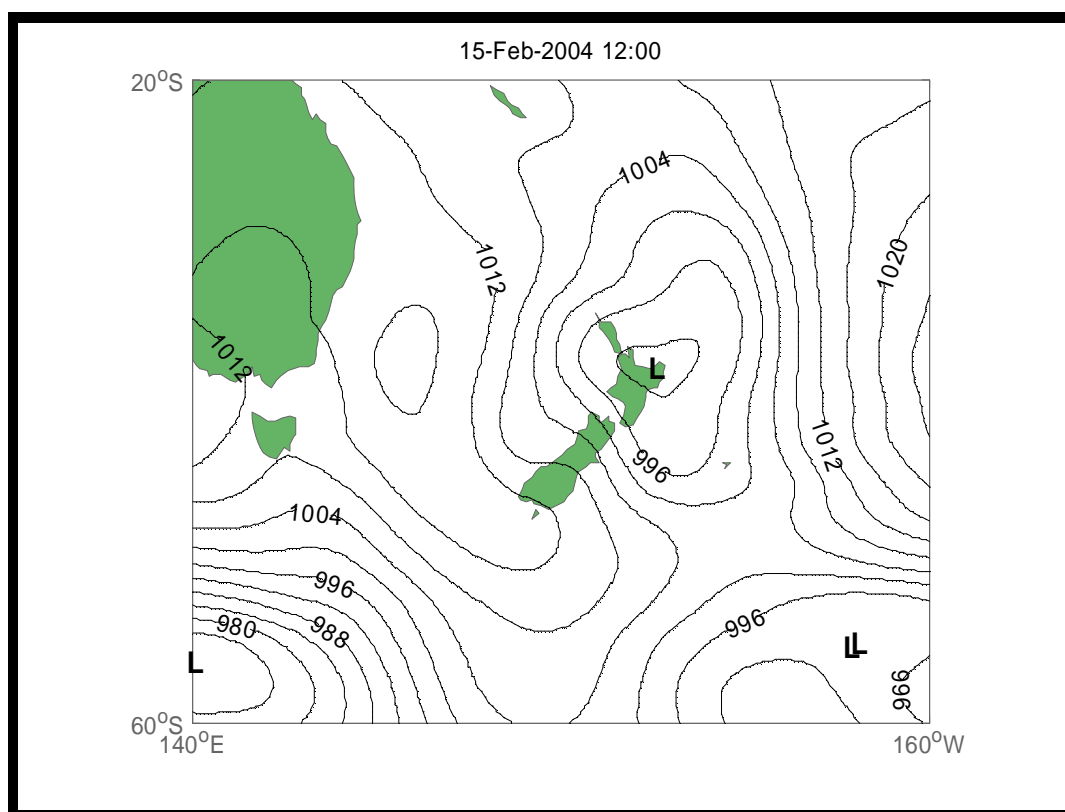


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 15-16 Feb 2004	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 34
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: SSE to SE
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A large cyclone developed off the Otago coast from a southern ocean trough as it passed over NZ. On the 14th this cyclone was flanked by two large anticyclones. As the Tasman sea anticyclone extended a ridge to the southeast across the lower South Island, the cyclone was forced northward over East Cape. Between this ridge and the cyclone a strong SSE airstream was created over the upper South Island and through Cook Strait. The pressure gradient strengthened on the 15th due to the cyclone remaining near-stationary while the Tasman sea anticyclone moved east. The flow then veered to the SSW and spread up the eastern North Island on the 16th after the cyclone moved off the eastern North Island. Over the total duration of this storm, the responsible cyclone was blocked and unable to move due to a large anticyclone in the central South Pacific.

Sea Conditions

Waves upto 10m on Wellington south coast

Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	11.9	11
Napier	2.5	8

*Maximum Wave Height

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
15-Feb-04			111 (S)
16-Feb-04			113 (S)

Impact Area**Impacts and Damages**

Wellington

- Train services stopped
- Eastbourne cut off by slips and flooding
- 2000 homes without power around city
- Flooding from Waiwhetu stream in Lower Hutt; residents leave homes
- Flight cancellations
- About 18 section of State highways under water in lower North Island
- Giant waves in Cook Strait cancelled all ferry crossings

Wairarapa

- Massive flooding in coastal and inland Wairarapa

Data Source

- 1 Storm Bill Likely to Top \$100m: Gisborne Herald, 17/02/2004, p5
 - 2 Two Men Missing as Winds and Rain Lash Central NZ: Gisborne Herald, 16/02/2004, p5
 - 3 No Letup: Dominion Post, 18/02/2004, p1
 - 4 The \$50m Deluge: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p1
 - 5 Over the Edge - The Region at a Glance: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p3
 - 6 Hundreds Flee Hutt Homes: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p3
 - 7 Havoc on Land, Sea and Air: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p2
 - 8 Phones & Mail Services Disrupted: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p2
 - 9 A 40-Year Event for Month of February: Dominion Post, 17/02/2004, p2
 - 10 Storm Havoc: Dominion Post, 16/02/2004, p1
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