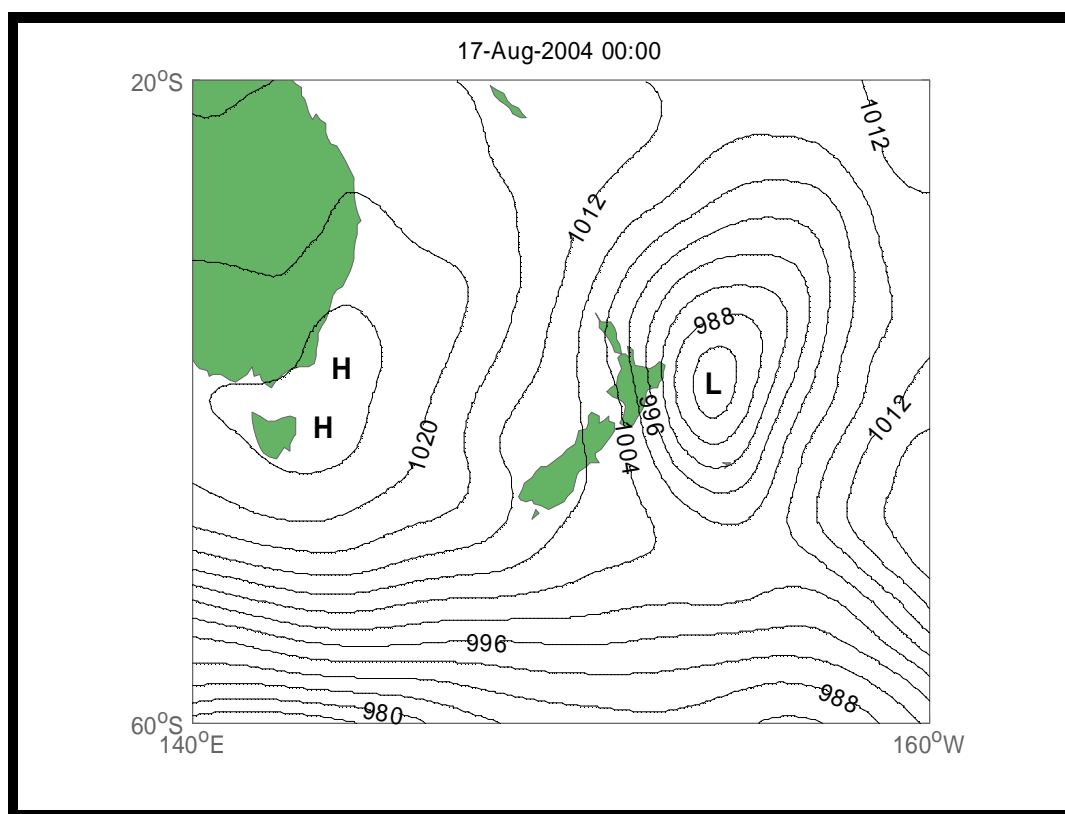


Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: 16-19 Aug 2004	Wind Direction: S
Event Type: Wind/Wave	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: Wellington	Wellington Duration (Hours): 79
Origin: Eastern NZ	Pressure Gradient: S to SSE
Type: East Coast Secondary Low	



Synoptic Conditions

A secondary cyclone developed off East Cape from an extensive southern ocean trough that passed over NZ. On the 16th this cyclone was east of Gisborne and had a strong S to SSE airstream on its southwestern side that swept over the eastern North Island. The cyclone then proceeded to travel southward and became slow-moving north of the Chatham Islands. The pressure gradient on its western side had since increased significantly and affected the entire eastern North Island and Cook Strait area. The immobility of the cyclone resulted from a large anticyclone east of 160W, and the intense winds continued through out the 18th along the North Island.

Sea Conditions

Swells peak at 14.4m off Wellington south coast; 5m at harbour entrance

Maximum Wave Statistics

Location	Max Wave Height (m)	Period (s)
Wellington	14.4	11
*Maximum Wave Height		

Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
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Maximum Wind Gusts (kph and dir)

	Date	Gisborne	Napier	Wellington
	16-Aug-04			82 (S)
	17-Aug-04			111 (S)
	18-Aug-04			119 (S)
	19-Aug-04			83 (S)

Impact Area	Impacts and Damages
Gisborne	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Huge swells washed large number of concrete blocks from rock sea wall at end of wharf near Kaiti Beach
Wellington	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Houses lost roofs and trees uprooted● Storm likened to Wahine storm of 1968● Schools closed in Wainuiomata and Lower Hutt● Four boats ripped from moorings at Porirua Harbour● Waves crashed over railway lines and stopped trains going into city● Fallen trees caused power outages● Breaker Bay residents cut off by slips and big waves● Harbourmaster reported waves at Baring Head reached 14.4m at 3.30am● Flights cancelled, stranding around 9000 passengers; worst disruption to Wellington airport in years with all 140 flights cancelled● Trains between city and Petone stopped after waves weakened tracks● Big swells in Cook Strait upto 9m and closure of Tory Channel halted all ferry crossings
Wairarapa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Surface flooding in Wairarapa

Data Source

- 1 Southerly Storm Batters Sea Wall, Displacing Blocks: Gisborne Herald, 20/08/2004, p2
 - 2 More Rainfall is Recorded Inland: Gisborne Herald, 19/08/2004, p4
 - 3 Gale 'Like Wahine' Storm: Gisborne Herald, 18/08/2004, p6
 - 4 Storm Abates in South as Gales, Snow head North: Gisborne Herald, 17/08/2004, p5
 - 5 Storm Brings Capital to Halt: Dominion Post, 19/08/2004, p1
 - 6 Thousands Stranded: Dominion Post, 19/08/2004, p2
 - 7 Struggle to Save Flooded Homes: Dominion Post, 19/08/2004, p3
 - 8 One of the Worst on Record: Dominion Post, 19/08/2004, p4
 - 9 Airport in Chaos as Flights Cancelled: Dominion Post, 19/08/2004, p2
 - 10 No End to Mid Winter Misery: Dominion Post, 18/08/2004, p1
 - 11 Chilled to the Bone: Dominion Post, 17/08/2004, p1
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