

## Snowfall Events in South-East Queensland 1878-2020

This record is compiled from data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology, Brisbane, newspapers, observer reports, dated photos and Nicholas Oughton's own records.  
Compiled by Nicholas Oughton. (revision date 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021).



The morning of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015: Remarkable falls cover the Granite Belt

Date of fall	Location	Remarks	Sn
3 June 1878	Stanthorpe	A fall of snow	Sn
29 July 1878	Stanthorpe and Wallangarra	Light snow falls in district	Sn
7 May 1879	Stanthorpe and Marylvale	Very light snow	Sn
11 July 1879	Southern Downs districts	Snow reported, Spring Creek, Darling Downs	Sn
12 Aug 1879	Stanthorpe district	Sleet and snow	Sn
3 July 1880	Laidley district, Toowoomba (sleet and a little snow)	Mt mistake, 2-3 ins. On ground in sheltered areas until the afternoon of next day.	Sn
14 July 1880	Toowoomba, Warwick (heavy fall)	Sleet and some flakes of snow at Warwick	Sn
July 1981	Killarney	Falls made with snow from spouting of house	Sn
23 Sept 1881	Stanthorpe	Fall of snow in the morning	Sn
27 July 1882	Brisbane, Stanthorpe, Sugarloaf Toowoomba, Warwick, Clifton	Widespread snow showers. 2" reported at Clifton Plains. Falls observed in Brisbane	Sn
13 Aug 1983	Border Districts	Sleet and snow	Sn
July 1884	Killarney	Heaviest fall to date fell on Thursday morning. In gullies shaded from the sun lasted till Mon am.	Sn
18 Jun 1885	Darling Downs	2 Falls of light snow	Sn
Jun 30 1887	Wallangarra	Light falls of snow	Sn
10 July 1888	Stanthorpe	Bitterly cold with snow	Sn
14 July 1888	Toowoomba	Small flakes of snow falling	Sn
24 June 1889	Toowoomba	Signs of snow	Sn
14 July 1889	Warwick, Killarney	Slight falls of snow similar to 1881	Sn
July 1890	Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl
24 Sep 1991	Border Ranges and Bonoo Boonoo	Ranges whitened for some days	Sn
23 June 1892	Maryland (8 ks East of Stanthorp)	Heavy fall of snow	
July 17 1894	Queensland Border	Snow (Ref heavy snow at Tenterfield on 17 <sup>th</sup> )	Sn
23 July 1894	Queensland Border	Snow has fallen	Sn
21,22 July 1895	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe district, Balandean	3" of snow on the ground	Sn
30, July 1995	Stanthorpe	Snow	Sn
21-22 Jul 1896	Stanthorpe and Darling Downs	2" on the ground at Stanthorpe. 3ins at Sugarloaf	Sn

23- 24 July 1898	Canbooya, Pittsworth, Cabarla, Toowoomba, Stanthorpe. Leyburn.	Heavy snow storms for 1 hour at Cabarla, 15 mins at Pittsworth. Blizzard at Toowoomba on 23 <sup>rd</sup> . Snow in Stanthorpe on the 24th.	Sn
13 June 1899	Yangan, Killarney, Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba.	Stanthorpe reports "fall quite as heavy as three years ago which was a record for this place".	Sn
5 July 1899	South Eastern Mountains	Snow forecast	Sn
6-7 June 1900	Wallangarra	Snow falls and sleet over two days	Sn
20 June 1901	Stanthorpe	Heavy snow on the border and Stanthorpe	Sn
27-30 July 1901	Many districts of the Southern Downs and Granite Belt	Snow was widespread in this 4-day event during a major snow outbreak. 3" and deeper.	Sn
30 July 1905	Stanthorpe	Snow storm	Sn
30 Aug 1905	The Border (Emmaville)	Snow	Sn
15 Sep 1906	Near Longreach	Snow on the Bellfield ranges	Sn
23 June 1908	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra,	Light snow	Sn
12 Jul 1908	Cambooya	Thunderstorm followed by hail and snow	Sn
20 July 1910	Dalveen, Cambooya, Pittsworth.	Sleet and Snow	Sn
11 Jun 1911	Dalveen	Snow	Sn
17-8 Jun 1914	Southern Downs	Snow	Sn
9 June 1915	Dalveen	Snow followed by sleet	Sn
17-8 Jun 1916	Wallangarra	Sleet, Snow on Mountain tops	Sn
23 Jun 1916	Wallangarra	Light snow on mountains	Sn

Date of Fall	Location	Remarks	Sn
21 Jun 1917	Toowoomba	Snow fall for about 3 mins	Sn
9 Sep 1919	Southern Downs	Light snow and sleet	Sn
22 May 1921	Glen Aplin	Snow in front of house at Glen Aplin	Sn
30 July 1921	Dalveen, Wallangarra	Sleet and snow Dalveen, Sleet Wallangarra	Sn
1922	Amiens	Snow covered farmland (John Oxley Lib)	Sn
5 Aug 1923	Southern Darling Downs	Rather heavy fall of snow	Sn
10 Aug 1923	The Summit	Snow (Photo in BC Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug p 18)	Sn
1925	Stanthorpe snow	Photo from Mt Marley looking over Stanthorpe	?
25 June 1925	Thornton, Mt Mistake	Snow on summit of Mt Mistake	Sn
1 June 1926	Dalveen, Wallangarra, Summit	Sleet and snow	Sn
24 July 1926	Southern Darling Downs	Snow and some sleet	Sn
27 June 1927	Brisbane and border districts	Snow	Sn
18 April 1928	Wallangarra	Light falls of sleet	Sl
15 June 1928	Border districts	Sleet	Sl
17 June 1928	Border districts	Sleet and snow	?
26,7,8 Jun 28	Stanthorpe and Border districts	Snow and sleet	Sn
25 July 1928	Wallangarra	Showers of sleet. Bald Rock snow capped	Sn
26 April 1929	Wallangarra	Light snowfalls in district	Sn
29 June 1929	Wallangarra	Heavy sleet, light snow	Sn
6-7 Jul 1929	Kyoomba	Heavy snow in the vicinity (3 miles from Stan)	Sn
25 Aug 1929	Stanthorpe	One of the heaviest falls of snow ever	Sn
11 Sept 1929	Wallangarra	Snow	Sn
3 Aug 1930	Stanthorpe	Light snow in Stanthorpe, sleet on D Downs	Sn
11 Aug 1930	Wallangarra	Sleet showers wallangarra snow on Mountains	Sn
6-7 July 1931	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Cotonvale	Heavy snow. Falls on both days. 18 ins at Euky	Sn
17 Aug 1931	Wallangarra	Snow clouds over mountains and sleet	Sl
20 June 1932	Wallangarra	Snow at Wallangarra and surrounding districts	Sn
27 June 1932	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Brisbane. Bunya Mts.	Sleet and snow. In Brisbane just not reaching the ground. Snow elsewhere	Sn
8 July 1932	Border districts	Snow. Sleet on the 7 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sn
13 July 1932	Donnybrook Mountain	Snow on trees	Sn
2 Aug 1932	Stanthorpe and Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl
9 Aug 1932	Wallangarra	Sleet and snow	Sn
17 May 1933	Stanthorpe	Sleet	Sl
30 July 1933	Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl

4 Aug 1935	Wallangarra	Heavy snow in Mountains. Snowballing in town	Sn
16 June 1936	Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl
7 July 1936	Wallangarra	Sleet showers	Sl
6 June 1937	Stanthorpe	Sleet	Sl
21 June 1937	Stanthorpe	Clouds of fine sleet enveloped the Granite district	Sl
22 Aug 1937	Stanthorpe	Sleety showers	Sl
25,26 Jul 38	Toowoomba and D Downs	Snow and sleet	Sn
30,31 Jul 1938	Warwick, Wallangarra	Light snow on Paddy's Knob, highest point on Condamine Range. Light falls of snow and sleet at night at Wallangarra, melted touching ground	Sn
9 Aug 1938	Stanthorpe	Small amount of sleet	Sl
6 June 1939	Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl
11 July 1939	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra	Sleet, but snow possible on mountains	Sn
9,10,11 Au 1939	Stanthorpe, Bunya Mountains Wallangarra	Sleet and snow at Stanthorpe. 6" at Bunya Mts. Nanango residents say snow in each 2 previous years on Bunya Mts. 6" drifts at Wallangarra	Sn
9 June 1941	Wallangarra	Showers of sleet in the afternoon	Sl
1 Oct 1941	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra	Sleet and snow flakes. Wallangarra snow	Sn

Date of Fall	Location	Remarks	Sn
21 June 1943	Dalveen	Sleet	Sl
25 Jun 1943	Wallangarra	Sleet	Sl
19 July 1945	Warwick	Sleet	Sl
18,19 May 46	Applethorpe, Summit, Stanthorpe, Wallangarra.	Snow falls for 11/2 hrs 2" on ground at Summit Heaviest for 50-years at Stanthorpe and Wallan	Sn
20 June 1946	Wallangarra	Snow reported	Sn
25 Aug 1947	Bald Mountain	Light snow	Sn
4 June 1949	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra, Boonah Dalveen	Snow, heaviest for 20 years. (See 1929 above). Sleet at Boonah. 6 ins at Dalveen	Sn
19 July 1949	Springbrook, Cunningham's Gap, Mt Tambourine, Donnybrook, Mt Mitchell	Sleet reported at Springbrook and Mt Tamborine. Snow reported at Mt Donnybrook, Cunningham's Gap and Mt. Mitchell	Sn
21 Jul 1951	Wallangarra	Sleet in morning	Sl
21 Aug 1951	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Dalveen, Amiens	Light sleet and snowfalls in the district	Sn
12 July 1953	Lamington Plateau	Sleet reported	Sn
16-17 Aug 53	Stanthorpe and district, Dalveen	Good snow cover 3in. Sleet reported at Dalveen	Sn
7 July 1954	Mount Mitchell	Mt Mitchell snow capped	Sn
1 June 1956	Wallangarra, Eukey	Light snow reported	Sn
9 June 1956	Stanthorpe district	Light snow reported but melted as hit ground	Sn
10 June 1956	Bunya Mountains, Eukey	2 short falls of snow, Light falls on Bunya Mts	
22 May 1957	Stanthorpe district	Light falls of snow and sleet at Stanthorpe and Marshals crossing (8 miles SW of Stanthorpe)	Sn
4 Sep 1958	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra, Dalveen, Amiens, Eukey	Light snow	Sl
21 Sept 1958	Brisbane	Light snow flakes seen by 4 observers at 5.15pm: OIC Met Office Eagle Farm at Moorooka, a New Zealand woman at Wooloowin, Bowen Hills near Cloudland and at Taringa ( <i>Screen temp at time 60 degrees F</i> )	?
21 Sept 1958	Donnybrook Mountain	Heavy falls of snow. Cover could be seen from Wallangarra	Sn
24-5 July 1959	South East Districts	Snow reported in scattered areas from Biggenden to NSW border	Sn
25 July 1959	Toowoomba	Snow in heart of city from 6 to 8am. Sleet during the day	
25 July 1959	Bunya Mountains	Heavy snow on peaks, lighter falls at foot	
25 July 1959	Posiers, The Summit and Amiens districts	Snow up to 3 inches deep	
25 July 1959	Crows Nest, Anduraurba, Pechey,	Light snow	

	Glenauen, Plainly, Boonara (6 miles from Goomeri), Biggenden, Mt Walsh		
25 July 1959	Warwick	Light snow early morning, sleet during day	
24-5 July 1959	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra	Heavy Snow	
25 July 1959	Mc Phearson Range	Snow capped	
25 July 1959	Dalby	Sleet at 6.00 am	
5 July 1960	Cunningham's Gap and Bunya Mountains	Light falls	Sn
12 July 1960	Sunday Creek, 25 K from Kilcoy	Evening Falls	Sn
13 July 1960	Southern districts	Snow in scattered areas on 24 mile front, 150 miles of NSW border (Kingaroy to near Roma)	Sn

Date of Fall	Location	Remarks	Sn
13 July 1960	Bunya Mountains	Commenced 2am, 6 inches deep at 9am and still falling. Reported heaviest in memory. Snow patches on Mt Mowbullan late afternoon	
13 July 1960	Muckadilla, Yuleba, Mitchell, Cooranga North, Surat, Roma, Bell	Snow reported in districts	
13 July 1960	Darling Downs	Sleet	
19 July 1960	Wallangarra, Dalveen, Amiens, The Summit, Applethorpe, Mt Tully, Liston	Snowfalls reported in these Granite Belt districts	Sn
22 June 1961	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe and neighboring districts, Bunya Mountains, Muckadilla	Light snow reported with sleet at Stanthorpe. 2 in at Wallangarra.	Sn
27 July 1961	Stanthorpe	Light snow and Sleet on Granite Belt	Sn
10 Aug 1961	Poziers, The Summit	Light snow	Sn
24, 25 Aug 1961	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra	Sleet during the night	Sl
21,22 Aug 1962	Wallangarra, Stanthorpe, Eukey, Pozieres, Thulimbah, Summit	Light snow	Sn
13, 14 June 1963	Dalveen, Passchendale, Stanthorpe, Eukey (3 inches deep), Wallangarra, Tenterfield	Light to heavy snow. Sleet at Boonah on the 13th	Sn
12 May 1964	Granite Belt	Light snow, hail and sleet, earliest on record	Sn
22,23 Jun 1965	Granite Belt	Sleet and very light snow	Sn
19,20 Jul 1965	Clarke Range (western Mackay), Central Highlands, northern Warrego, Maranoa, Darling Downs	Light snow falls reported over wide area extending from the Clarke Range (western Mackay), the Central Highlands, through the northern Warrego to the Maranoa and S Downs	Sn
19,20 Jul 1965	Dalrymple Heights	Light snow reported northwest of Mackay. believed to be the northernmost occurrence of snow in Australia in recent times	
13 July 1967	Girraween National Park	A covering of snow fell on this day	Sn
15 May 1968	Stanthorpe	Light snow	Sn
23 July 1968	Stanthorpe	Light sleet and snow	Sn
16 Aug 1968	Bunya Mountains. Proston	Snow reported	Sn
21 Aug 1968	Stanthorpe	Snow reported	Sn
22 Sep 1969	Stanthorpe, Summit, Kilarney	Snow reported	Sn
27 June 1971	Dalveen and Granite Belt	Light falls of snow	Sn
8 July 1972	Stanthorpe, Wallangarra, Sumit	Snow. Sleet in Toowoomba	Sn
7, 8 Jul 1974	Moorlands (East of Stanthorpe)	Snow, heaviest for some years. 2 ins Mt Tulley	Sn
10 Sep 1976	Stanthorpe district	Snow fell in district	Sn
10 June 1977	Mt Mowbullan	Reports of snow on Bunya Mountains	Sn
18 July 1978	Girraween Nat Pk	Approx 3cms of snow shown in photos of the Girraween area. Photos: Paul Grimshaw	Sn
21 June 1982	Mt Canning, Mt Mitchell	Sleet Mt Canning. Mt Michell snow capped	Sn
3 July 1984	Bellthorpe, Cunningham's Gap	Snow reported. Rain and sleet at Upper Pilton	Sn
3 July 1984	Applethorpe, Toowoomba, Stanthorpe, Giraween National Park, Springbrook,	Heavy snow throughout many districts in the most widespread outbreak in SE Qld. Snow	

	border ranges, Wallangarra, Waranga,	observed on the top floor of Lennons Hotel in Brisbane.	
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Date of Fall	Location	Remarks	Sn
3 July 1984	Girraween National Par	Up to one foot of snow recorded	
3 July 1984	Binna Burra Lodge and ridges	Snow was reported during the afternoon at Binna Burra Lodge and on ridges near Uki ( <i>15 km southwest of Murwillumbah</i> )	
4 July 1984	Stanthorpe, Bunya Mountains	Snow reported throughout the day	
5 July 1984	Wallangarra	9.00am snow and sleet	
6 June 1985	Eukey	Snow reported	Sn
2 Sept 1985	Ballandean	Snow was reported from Amiens, Pozieres and Ballandean on the Granite Belt on the morning of the 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sn
18 July 1989	Stanthorpe	Widely scattered light snow did not settle	Sn
9 Aug 1989	Granite Belt	Wide spread light snow	Sn
20 July 1992	Texas, Amiens, Pozieres, Eukey	Snowfalls at Texas, Amiens, Eukey on southern Granite Belt ( <i>Courier Mail 21 Jul 1992</i> ) and light snow at Pozieres ( <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> )	Sn
14 July 1996	Mt Tully, Mt Superbus	Snow Mt Tully ( <i>18 km west of Stanthorpe</i> ) and Mt Superbus ( <i>just east of Warwick</i> ) ( <i>Courier Mail</i> ) "First sleet and snow in Queensland's high range country for years" ( <i>Courier Mail</i> )	Sn
19 Aug 1996	Granite Belt, Eukey	Snow on Granite Belt melted as quickly as it hit the ground. Grassier at Eukey "had snow last month too". ( <i>Courier Mail</i> )	Sn
23 June 1998	Eukey	Snow fell for about 2 minutes during the morning at Eukey	Sn
27 July 2000	Bunya Mountains	Sleet	SI
27 July 2000	Springbrook, Mudgeraba	Very light snow melting on impact with ground	Sn
17 July 2004	Granite Belt	Sleet in the district	SI
23 June 2005	Eukey, Ballandean, Amiens	Light snow, settled very briefly and some sleet. Sleet reported at Wacol in Brisbane!	Sn
12 Aug 2005	Springbrook	Very light sleet and snow	Sn
17 Nov 2006	Stanthorpe	Very light snow and sleet	Sn
8 June 2007	Eukey, Wallangarra	1-2 cm of snow reported by Bob East at Eukey	Sn
28 July 2008	Granite Belt district	Good light snow falls about 1-2 cms at Eukey	Sn
12 Aug 2010	Applethorpe	Rain showers with sleet	SI
5 June 2012	Eukey and Granite Belt	Sleet observed falling	SI
12 June 2012	Eukey and Balandean,	Snow falling but not settling	Sn
25 June 2013	Eukey	Light dusting, but did not cover ground	Sn
29 June 2014	West of Stanthorpe	Flakes of snow and sleet. No settling	SI
13 July 2015	Eukey	Very light dusting reported	Sn
16-17Jul 2015	Large area of Granite Belt	Heavy snow, 6-8 cms overnight	Sn
16-17Jul 2015	Toowoomba, Cunningham's Gap,	Light snow and sleet falling, but not settling	SI
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	Eukey	Light Sleet/snow reported by Bob East and others. No settling	SI
17 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Granite Belt	Sleet reported	SI
4 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019	Eukey, Pyramids Road, Girraween	Light snow falls, 1-1.5 cms	Sn
30 April, 2020	Eukey	Sleet reported by Bob East	SI
22 Aug 2020	Girraween	Sleet recorded at Mt Norman Rd, Girraween	SI

*A special thanks to the Bureau of Meteorology, Brisbane who provided the many of the records used in the above table.*

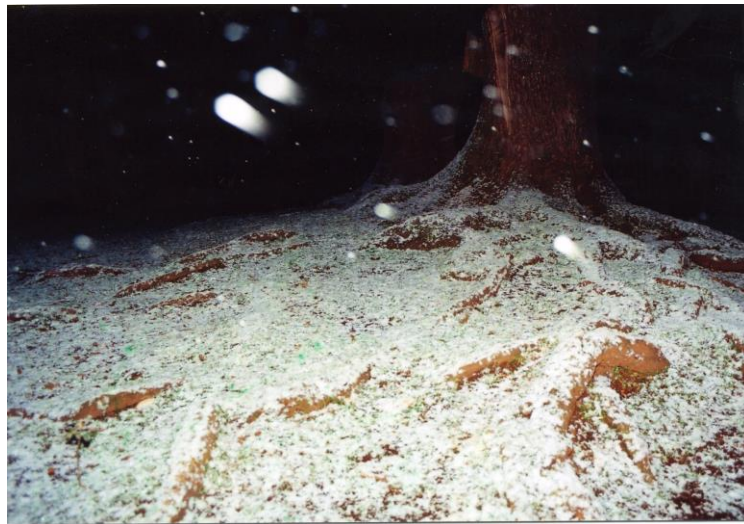


## Notes on the Table

1. This record includes reports of settling and non-settling snowfalls and sleet in South East Queensland. These falls predominantly occurred in the Granite Belt and Southern Downs districts. An 'Sn' indicates snow and an 'Sl' sleet.
2. The above table includes information from sources such as newspaper archives, library databases, net and paper-based references. An 'N' is used when no archive, library or paper-based account can be found to verify a reported event, for example, a photo may have an attached date, but no text-based corroboration can be found.
3. There have been 161 snow days in 142 years in Queensland giving 1.13 snow days per year. These occurrences range from non-settling snow showers to 4-day events with 8-25cm on the ground.
4. In general, many weather observers believe that snowfalls in South East Queensland tend to be under rather than over reported and that this more than compensates for the occasional misreporting of an event e.g. sago snow, sleet or hail being falsely identified as snow.

In addition, when sleet is reported at centers such as Wallangarra (840 meters) or Stanthorpe (800 meters), snow may have fallen unobserved on the surrounding mountains. For example, those adjacent to the Donnybrook State forest, which rise to 1300 meters in altitude. These areas are inaccessible and distance from habitation. There have been 28 sleet days in the past 142 years.

5. With 197 snow/sleet events over the past 142 years, this amounts to the chance of possible snowfall, on average every 1.38 years.
6. Snow has been observed falling in Brisbane on a number of occasions, most notably in 1882, 1958 and 1984. In 1898 Sleet and snow was recorded in George Street, Brisbane (23 July) according to Queensland Government's 'Queensland's history - 1800s'. On some occasions, it is likely that soft hail or sago falling in the Brisbane area was mistaken for snow.



Night snowfall at Toowoomba 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1984 (Liesegang Collection)