

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW FEBRUARY 2017

February 2017 was a wet and unusually hot month.

The rainfall total of 100.8 millimetres was 13 mm higher than the average with most of the rain falling during thunderstorms. Heavy rain from thunderstorms on the 2nd and 19th caused flash flooding in Dumaresq Creek.

Temperatures were well above the long term average, and based on maximums it was the hottest February since 1939*. Temperatures exceeded 30.0C on 13 days, ten more than the long term average, and two days reached 37C. See below. The unusually hot conditions were the result of numerous low pressure troughs developing over inland New South Wales drawing in hot air from central Australia. There was also a lack of any major rain systems which usually bring cooler conditions. Thunderstorm activity was quite high with storms on eight days producing a number of moderate and heavy falls of rain.

Winds were mostly light to moderate and were divided equally between westerlies and easterlies.

* *When comparing temperatures taken at the present weather station site in East Armidale with those in the CBD the readings have been adjusted to be compatible with the earlier recordings.*

Noteworthy events:

30th January to 7th February - Nine consecutive days above 30.0C. The highest over the period was 34.4C on the 6th. This equaled the record for the most number of consecutive days above 30C set on 16th to 24th December 1990.

11th-12th - The maximums of 37.0C on the 11th and 37.6C on the 12th were the highest for any month since 15th January 1939 when 39.7C was recorded at the post office.

FEBRUARY 2017 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 100.8 mm (87.8 mm)

Rain days: 9 (10)

2017 rainfall total Jan-Feb: 168.8 mm (189.4 mm)

Average maximum temp: 29.2 deg (25.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: 14.7 deg (12.5 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 37.6 deg on the 12th

Lowest maximum temp: 20.1 deg on the 28th

Highest minimum temp: 19.6 deg on the 4th

Lowest minimum temp: 7.1 deg on the 20th

Fine sunny days: 13 (12)

Ideal weather days: 0 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 8 (5)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 1 (1.5)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 8, E: 6, SE: 6, NW: 3, N: 2, S: 2, SW: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.6 mm (4.5 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

2nd: 7.50-9.40pm - thunder heard, 9.40-11.30pm - slight & moderate from west

4th: 3.40-8.30pm - thunder heard

7th: 3.35-5.30pm - thunder heard, slight storm

14th: 1.30-2.15pm - thunder heard, 4.00-6.00pm - thunder heard, moderate storm - 3.0 mm rain

15th: 3.50-5.00pm - heavy storm from south-west - 14.0 mm rain

17th: 7.30-10.30pm - slight & moderate from west - 17.0 mm rain

18th: 3.30-4.00am approx - slight storm from west - 1.0 mm rain

7.10-8.30pm - heavy storm from west with light rain - 1.2 mm rain

19th: 1.20-2.30pm - moderate from north-west

3.30-6.30pm - moderate and slight from north-west - 21.2 mm rain from all storms on the 19th