

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
JANUARY 2019

January 2019 was an extraordinary month with consistent well above average temperatures, and below average rainfall.

The rain total of 69.6 millimetres was 31 mm less than the average, largely as a result of a complete lack of any rain systems during the month. All rainfall fell during thunderstorms with two moderate daily falls of 26.8 mm on the 19th, and 25.6 mm on the 27th.

A number of low pressure troughs lingered over western New South Wales for the entire month drawing in hot air from central Australia and generating thunderstorms in the east of the state. As a result of this stagnant system, Armidale, along with 90 per cent of New South Wales recorded its hottest January and hottest month on record (from 128 years of Armidale temperature records). Maximums reached 30.0 degrees or higher on 26 days which was a new record (the previous record at the present site was 16 days in December 1990).

Thunderstorm activity was higher than normal with storms on nine days, winds were light and variable, and evaporation rates were almost at a record high as a result of the very hot conditions.

Noteworthy events:

26th December 2018 to 7th January 2019 - 13 consecutive days of temperatures reaching 30.0C or higher which was a record high. The previous highest was nine days in January/February 2017. The hottest during the period was 32.6C on 4th January.

19th - Maximum of 37.4C was the second highest on record at the present weather station site. The previous highest was 37.6C on 12th February 2017.

JANUARY 2019 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 69.6 mm (101.1 mm)

Rain days: 6 (10)

Average maximum temp: 32.1 deg (26.5 deg)

Average minimum temp: 14.9 deg (12.7 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 37.4 deg on the 19th

Lowest maximum temp: 25.4 on the 21st

Highest minimum temp: 20.3 deg on the 27th

Lowest minimum temp: 11.2 deg on the 2nd

Fine sunny days: 12 (15)

Ideal weather days: 0 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 9 (6)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 1 (1)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: SW: 7, E: 6, W: 5, NW: 3, N: 3, SE: 3, NE: 2, S: 2

Average daily pan evaporation: 6.5 mm (5.2 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

1st: 3.20-4.25pm - slight storm from south - 0.1 mm rain

10th: 7.15-9.00pm - thunder in east & west, no rain; 9.00pm-9.45pm - slight storm from west, 0.2 mm rain

15th: 4.00-6.00pm - thunder heard in south & east, no rain

16th: 3.10-4.00pm - thunder heard in south, no rain

19th: 6.00-7.00pm approx - moderate storm with gusty winds & heavy rain, 26.8 mm rain

21st: 3.30-4.10pm - moderate storm from west, 0.6 mm rain

22nd: 1.50-4.30pm - thunder heard, slight storm

23rd: 6.10-7.00am - slight storm

5.00-5.20pm - thunder heard; 5.20-7.00pm - moderate & slight storms from south

10.30-11.00pm - slight storm from south

27th: 6.35-8.30pm - slight storm, thunder heard in east, 25.6 mm rain