

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW JANUARY 2020

January 2020 was a very wet and warm to hot cloudy month.

The rainfall total of 202.0 mm was double the average and was the wettest January since 2004 (212 mm), and it was the wettest month since November 2011 (244 mm). A series of low pressure troughs developed over New South Wales during the month drawing in tropical moisture from northern Australia generating widespread thunderstorms and rain during two main events on the 15th to 19th (114.4 mm), and on the 23rd to 27th (45.4 mm). Other falls from thunderstorms also contributed to the impressive month total which provided a welcome relief after nine months of below average rain.

The moderate and heavy falls caused minor and flash flooding in Dumaresq Creek on six days.

Both daytime and overnight temperatures were well above the long term average with maximums reaching 30.0 degrees or higher on 17 days.

Thunderstorm activity was higher than normal because of the numerous active trough systems over the state. No hail was observed with any of the storms.

Prevailing winds were light to moderate westerlies, and visibility was reduced by bushfire smoke on six days.

Noteworthy events:

28th December 2019 to 10th January 2020 - A record high of 14 consecutive days with temperatures reaching 30.0C or higher. The previous highest was 13 days in December 2018/January 2019.

The prolonged hot conditions were caused by low pressure troughs lingering over inland New South Wales drawing in very hot dry air from central Australia. The highest temperature recorded during the 14 day period was 36.7C on 5th January.

15th to 19th - An intense trough of low pressure over north-east New South Wales produced Armidale's best falls of rain since March 2017. Over the five days thunderstorms and rain periods delivered a rain total of 114.4 mm.

18th - The 24 hour total to 9am of 61.8 mm was the highest daily fall since 24th November 2011 (87.6 mm).

JANUARY 2020 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 202.0 mm (100.9 mm)

Rain days: 14 (10)

Average maximum temp: 29.9 deg (26.6 deg)

Average minimum temp: 15.8 deg (12.8 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 36.7 deg on the 5th

Lowest maximum temp: 18.1 deg on the 12th

Highest minimum temp: 20.7 deg on the 11th

Lowest minimum temp: 8.2 deg on the 22nd

Fine sunny days: 10 (15) Ideal weather days: 0 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 11 (7)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 2 (1)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 5, SW: 5, S: 5, E: 5, NW: 4, SE: 3, NE: 2, N: 2

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.5 mm (5.2 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

1st: 4.05-7.30pm - moderate from south & thunder, 9.50pm-12.15am - thunder and moderate from south

2nd: 4.15-5.30pm - thunder & slight storm from south, 7.10-9.30pm - slight storm from south & thunder

7th: 5.00-6.00pm - thunder heard

8th: 3.40-6.00pm - slight storms from south

9th: 7.40-8.40am - slight from south, 2.40-8.30pm slight & moderate from south-west - 20.0 mm

15th: 12.55-4.00pm - slight & moderate storms from north: 1.30-2.15pm - heavy rain

16th: 1.40-4.00pm - slight & moderate storms from west

23rd: 3.25-4.30pm - slight from north-west & thunder, 5.45-6.30pm - moderate storm from north-west

25th: 2.45-6.30pm - slight & moderate storms

26th: 3.15-4.30pm approx - slight storm from west, 7.40pm - thunder heard

27th: 1.25-3.30pm - thunder heard, slight storm from south-east