

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
MARCH 2023

March 2023 was an unusually warm and cloudy month with well above average rainfall.

The rainfall total of 165.6 millimetres was 99 mm higher than the average with most of the rain falling during and after thunderstorms. There were a number of moderate and heavy falls throughout the month with the highest being 62.2 mm on the 29th, see details below.

Both maximum and minimum temperatures were well above average with maximums of 30.0 degrees or higher on five days. The warmest was 31.0 deg on the 19th. Temperatures cooled down in the last two days of the month with the lowest minimum being 3.0 deg on the 31st.

A higher than usual number of low pressure troughs over northern New South Wales caused higher than normal thunderstorm activity with storms on six days. No hail was observed with any of these storms.

Winds were predominantly light to moderate from the west which is slightly unusual as easterlies usually prevail during late summer and early autumn.

Noteworthy events:

28th/29th - A low pressure trough over inland New South Wales intensified during the 28th producing thunderstorms and areas of heavy rain over the east of the state. Armidale received moderate to heavy falls in the evening of the 28th and morning of the 29th. The 24 hour total to 9am on the 29th of 62.2 mm, which caused minor flooding in Dumaresq Creek, was the highest daily fall since 18th January 2020.

MARCH 2023 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 165.6 mm (66.4 mm) Rain days: 15 (10)

2023 rainfall total Jan to Mar: 311.8 mm (255.9 mm)

Average maximum temp: 25.6 deg (23.5 deg)

Average minimum temp: 11.9 deg (10.5 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 31.0 deg on the 19th

Lowest maximum temp: 17.0 deg on the 31st

Highest minimum temp: 17.5 deg on the 12th

Lowest minimum temp: 3.0 deg on the 31st

Fine sunny days: 10 (15) Ideal weather days: 3 (2)

Days with thunderstorms: 6 (3)

Days with frosts: 0 (0.5)

Days with fogs: 1 (3)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 12, E: 6, SW: 4, NW: 3, SE: 3, S: 2, N: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 3.9 mm (3.6 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

2nd: 3.20-4.20pm - thunder heard in north, no rain

5.55-6.45pm - slight storm from south, 2.0 mm rain

8th: 2.50-3.10pm - slight storm from west - 0.4 mm rain

14th: 12.30-1.00am - slight storm from west

8.20am - thunder heard in west, no rain

4.00-4.10pm - approx - slight storm from west, 0.4 mm rain

24th: 2.40-3.10am approx - slight storm from west

3.20-3.45pm - thunder heard in north, no rain

9.20-10.30pm - thunder heard in east, no rain

27th: 6.30-7.30pm - heavy storm from south-west

8.00-8.30pm approx - slight storm from south-west - 11.4 mm rain from both these events

28th: 4.15-8.00pm - slight storms from west

8.00-8.30pm - heavy storm from west, heavy rain

8.30-9.00pm - slight storm from west