

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW OCTOBER 2021

October 2021 was a warm and partly cloudy month with good falls of rain.

The rainfall total of 84.4 mm was 17 mm higher than the average, the highest daily fall being 19.8 millimetres on the 1st.

Both day temperatures and overnight temperatures were close to normal for this time of year with no notable extremes.

There were only four frosts, and thunderstorms on three days which included a severe storm with large hail and a tornado on the 14th - see details below.

Winds were mostly moderate westerlies which is normal during the spring months.

Noteworthy events:

14th: An active low pressure trough moved through New South Wales generating thunderstorms over the eastern part of the state. Severe storms developed in a number of locations including Armidale when a storm passed over the city from the north-west between 9.30 and 10.30pm. The storm produced heavy rain, and hail from 9.50 to 10.10pm. Hailstones measured up to 25 mm diameter and whitened the ground.

Between 10.10 and 10.15pm a tornado passed across North Armidale moving rapidly in a south-easterly direction. Damage included uprooted trees, damaged roofs, smashed windows, power lines brought down, a car was overturned, and large amounts of debris were lifted from the ground and scattered for some distance. Several houses lost their entire roofs. This damage is consistent with an F1 tornado as measured by the Fujita Scale which means wind speeds in excess of 116 kms per hour. Power was lost to hundreds of homes and not restored until the following day. The tornado developed about 15 kms north-west of Armidale and headed on a south-easterly path towards Armidale leaving an intermittent track of destruction to rural properties along the way. Damage to trees east of Armidale along the Waterfall Way near Burying Ground Creek indicates the tornado continued some kilometres east of the city before finally dissipating.

Hail was fairly widespread across the city, while the tornado damage was confined to a narrow track from the university across the north of Armidale to eastern Erskine Street. Intermittent damage along this track indicates the base of the tornado funnel probably lifted off the ground in some places.

OCTOBER 2021 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 84.4 mm (67.6 mm)

Rain days: 14 (9)

2021 rainfall total Jan to Oct: 673.8 mm (609.5 mm)

Average maximum temp: 21.2 deg (20.9 deg)

Average minimum temp: 6.1 deg (5.7 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 28.9 deg on the 23rd

Lowest maximum temp: 12.2 deg on the 12th

Highest minimum temp: 13.4 deg on the 30th

Lowest minimum temp: -1.1 deg on the 7th

Fine sunny days: 15 (17) Ideal weather days: 2 (2)

Days with thunderstorms: 3 (4)

Days with frosts: 4 (6) light: 2, moderate: 2

Days with fogs: 0 (2)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 14, NW: 6, SW: 6, E: 2, NE: 2, N: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 3.9 mm (4.1 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

1st: 2.00-3.00am approx - slight storm, 7.50-9.20am - slight & moderate storms from north-west
5.00-5.30pm approx - slight from north-west

14th: 7.10am - slight storm from north-west
9.30-10.30pm - severe storm from north-west: 9.50-10.10pm - hail up to 30mm diameter
10.10-10.15pm - tornado in North Armidale - details above in "Noteworthy Events"

15th: 7.25-8.00am - slight storm from north-west

20th: 3.05pm - thunder heard in south