

WINTER WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

June-July-August 2018

Winter 2018 was cool to cold, very dry, sunny and frosty.

June was cloudy and very dry, and July and August were sunny and dry.

The drought which had been gripping the region intensified further during the winter months.

June recorded 13.2 mm, July 41.6 mm and August 26.6 mm. The total for the three months of 81.4 mm on 26 days was 70 mm lower than the average for the three months.

The cold winter weather started on 25th May and lasted, with the occasional mild days, for around 15 weeks until 6th September when warmer conditions arrived.

Day temperatures overall were milder than normal, while overnight minimums were colder than normal. This was a result of the numerous sunny days and clear nights.

Maximum temperatures reached 20.0 degrees or higher on 2 days, and were lower than 10.0 degrees on 3 days. Minimums dropped to -5.0 degrees or lower on 25 days.

There were no snowfalls, and it was unusual that there was only one major cold outbreak on the 17th-19th June - see details below.

Prevailing winds were westerlies, and were light to moderate in June, and moderate in July and August.

There were 68 frosts, 33 of them severe, with August being the frostiest month.

Noteworthy events:

17th-19th June - Very cold conditions over the three days were caused by upper level cold air and cold south-westerly surface winds which brought light showers and drizzle in the early hours of the 18th. There were light snowfalls in the higher areas of the Northern Tablelands including Guyra and Black Mountain, but none in Armidale. The 18th was an overcast windy, drizzly day with a maximum of 6.6C, although the wind chill kept the apparent temperature below zero degrees most of the day. Total rain recorded over the three days was just 2.2 mm.

15th July - The minimum temperature was -10.1C which was the lowest temperature recorded since 30th June 2010 (-11.2C).

This followed -7.5C recorded on the previous morning the 14th. The temperature dropped below zero degrees from 7.30pm on the 14th until 9.00am on the 15th with the minimum of -10.1C recorded at 7.01am. Severe frosts accompanied the low overnight temperatures which were caused by clear calm conditions, the result of a large high pressure system over eastern Australia. The following day the 16th also recorded a very low minimum of -8.5C.

8th-28th July - 21 consecutive frosts were recorded with the minimum temperature averaging -4.3C over the period. Temperatures dropped to -6.0C or lower on six days with the lowest being -10.1C on 15th July. Strong high pressure ridges over the middle of Australia produced calm clear nights in New South Wales allowing temperatures to fall to frost levels over the 21 day period.

WINTER 2018 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 81.4 mm (151.1 mm)

Rain days: 26 (28)

Average maximum temp: 14.7 deg (13.3 deg)

Average minimum temp: -1.1 deg (0.1 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 20.6 deg on 14th Aug

Lowest maximum temp: 6.6 deg on 18th June

Highest minimum: 7.6 deg on 6th July

Lowest minimum temp: -10.1 deg on 15th July

Fine sunny days: 50 (46)

Days with thunderstorms: 2 (1.2)

Days with frosts: 68 (55)

AVERAGE WINTER TEMPERATURES - ARMIDALE NSW 1981-2018

