

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW JULY 2018

July 2018 was dry, sunny month with cool days and cold frosty nights.

The rainfall total of 41.6 millimetres was just 6 mm below the average with most of the rain (37 mm) falling in the first week of the month. This was the ninth consecutive month with below average rain, and the progressive total for the year of 258 mm was just 58 per cent of the average rain for the first seven months of the year, and was the driest January to July period since 1986 (256 mm).

From 8th July to the end of the month a high pressure ridge over the middle of Australia kept conditions mostly sunny and dry, and as a result day temperatures were higher than normal and overnight minimums were lower than normal. There was a run of frosts for 21 days starting on the 8th, many of them severe, with the coldest being -10.1C on the 15th. See details below.

Winds were predominantly light to moderate westerlies.

There were no major cold outbreaks which is unusual for what is normally the coldest month of the year.

Noteworthy events:

15th - The minimum temperature of -10.1C was the coldest morning since 30th June 2010 (-11.2C).

This follows -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 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 minimum on the following morning the 16th was -8.5C.

JULY 2018 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 41.6 mm (48.0 mm)

Rain days: 10 (9)

2017 rainfall total Jan to Jul: 258.4 mm (446.0 mm)

Average maximum temp: 14.6 deg (12.5 deg)

Average minimum temp: -1.7 deg (-0.3 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 19.0 deg on the 28th

Lowest maximum temp: 8.9 deg on the 2nd

Highest minimum temp: 7.6 deg on the 6th

Lowest minimum temp: -10.1 deg on the 15th

Fine sunny days: 17 (15)

Ideal weather days: 3 (4)

Days with thunderstorms: 1 (0.2)

Days with frosts: 23 (20) light: 4, moderate: 5, severe: 14

Days with fogs: 2 (3)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 20, NW: 4, SW: 2, E: 2, SE: 2, NE: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 1.6 mm (1.4 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

29th: 7.30-7.40pm approx - slight storm from west