

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW SEPTEMBER 2017

September 2017 was an unusually dry, warm and sunny month. The clear skies and lack of rain was the result of a high pressure ridge over New South Wales which remained in position for most of the month confining cold fronts with associated rain to the south of the state.

The rainfall total of just 8.2 millimetres was 43 mm lower than the average and was the driest September since 2003 (6.0 mm).

Although overnight temperatures were a little lower than normal, day temperatures were well above normal with 20.0 degrees reached or exceeded on 16 days with the warmest period being from the 22nd to the 28th - see below.

The first spring thunderstorms arrived on the 3rd, winds were stronger than normal and were predominantly westerlies.

Noteworthy events:

1st and 2nd - The minimum temperatures of -5.7C and -6.2C respectively were unusually cold for the first month of spring. The minimum on the 2nd was the lowest for the month of September since 7 September 1995 (-6.4C). The low overnight temperatures were caused by a very dry air mass over New South Wales along with clear skies and calm nights.

22nd to 28th - Unseasonably warm conditions prevailed over New South Wales over the seven days with maximum temperatures between 6 and 10 degrees warmer than the long term average. The warmest days were the 23rd (28.5C) and the 27th (28.4C). The unusually high temperatures were caused by low pressure troughs drawing hot air from central Australia into New South Wales. The maximum on the 23rd was just 0.2C below the September record of 28.7C recorded on 25/9/2002 and 26/9/2013.

SEPTEMBER 2017 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 8.2 mm (50.9 mm)

Rain days: 5 (8)

2016 rainfall total Jan to Sep: 551.0 mm (544.5 mm)

Average maximum temp: 20.2 deg (17.7 deg)

Average minimum temp: 1.6 deg (2.6 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 28.5 deg on 23rd

Lowest maximum temp: 10.2 deg on 14th

Highest minimum temp: 12.5 deg on 24th

Lowest minimum temp: -6.2 deg on 2nd

Fine sunny days: 21 (19)

Ideal weather days: 5 (3)

Days with thunderstorms: 4 (2)

Days with frosts: 17 (15)

Days with fogs: 0 (2)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 19, NW: 7, SW: 4

Average daily pan evaporation: 3.9 mm (3.2 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

3rd: 6.15-7.00pm - moderate storm from west - 2.8 mm rain

13th: 4.00-4.15pm approx - thunder heard, no rain

24th: 8.15-8.45pm - thunder heard, no rain

10.20-11.30pm - slight storms, thunder heard

25th: 1.15-1.30am approx - thunder heard, no rain