

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW MAY 2023

May 2023 was an unusually dry, cold and sunny month.

The rainfall total of just 12.4 millimetres was 30 mm below the average, and was the lowest for any month since June 2022 (10.2 mm), and it was the driest May since 2019 (11.0 mm). The rain fell over two days - the 15th and 16th while the rest of the month remained dry.

A number of slow moving high pressure systems over Australia resulted in numerous sunny days and calm clear nights which produced 26 frosts making it the frostiest May since 2006 which also recorded 26 frosts. The first frost of the year arrived on the 4th with a minimum of 2.2C ending a frost-free period of 134 days since the last frost on 20th December 2022.

Despite the many sunny days, day temperatures were a little cooler than normal, but overnight minimums were well below normal averaging -0.6 degrees which was the lowest for May since 2006.

There was one notable temperature extreme on the 28th - see below.

The total of 23 sunny days made it the sunniest May since 2004 which also recorded 23 sunny days.

There were no thunderstorms or snowfalls, and prevailing winds were light westerlies.

Noteworthy events:

28th - The minimum of -6.7C was the lowest for the month of May since 30th May 2016 when -7.0C was recorded. The minimum at the Armidale Airport weather station was a little higher at -3.4C. Such differences between the two weather stations are common on calm clear nights when temperature inversions develop in the Armidale valley.

MAY 2023 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 12.4 mm (42.4 mm)

Rain days: 2 (8)

2023 rainfall total Jan to Jun: 356.0 mm (342.8 mm)

Average maximum temp: 15.9 deg (16.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: -0.6 deg (3.0 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 19.9 deg on the 23rd

Lowest maximum temp: 11.5 deg on the 8th

Highest minimum temp: 10.2 deg on the 16th

Lowest minimum temp: -6.7 deg on the 28th

Fine sunny days: 23 (15)

Ideal weather days: 7 (4)

Days with thunderstorms: 0 (1)

Days with frosts: 26 (14) * light: 9, moderate: 10, severe: 7

Days with fogs: 3 (5)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 16, SW: 4, E: 4, SE: 3, S: 2, NE: 1, NW: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 1.7 mm (1.6 mm)

*Severity of frosts: light: min temp 0.0C or higher, moderate: min temp -3.9C to -0.1C, severe: min temp -4.0C or lower

Armidale weather on-line: www.weatherarmidale.com