

WINTER WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

June-July-August 2019

Winter 2019 was cool to cold, very dry, sunny and frosty.

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

The drought of 2018/2019 intensified further during the winter months.

June recorded 11.8 mm, July 6.2 mm and August 7.0 mm. The total for the three months of 25.0 mm on 28 days was 126 mm lower than the average for the three months and represented just 17 per cent of the normal winter rainfall. It was Armidale's driest winter on record from 154 years of rainfall records. The previous driest winter was 1982 which recorded 27.2 mm..

The cold winter weather started on 27th May and lasted, with the occasional mild days, for around 15 weeks until 11th 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 6 days, and were lower than 10.0 degrees on 2 days. Minimums dropped to -5.0 degrees or lower on 17 days.

There were two major cold outbreaks on the 4th June, and 10th/11th August which included two days with light snowfalls.

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

There were 66 frosts, 26 of them severe, with July being the frostiest month.

Noteworthy events:

4th June - Cold southerly winds combined with an upper level pool of cold air resulted in snowfalls over parts of the Northern Tablelands in the early hours of the morning. Settling snow fell in the higher areas around Guyra and Ben Lomond. Snow also fell at Glen Innes and north of the Queensland border near Stanthorpe. In the centre of Armidale only a few snowflakes were observed falling with rain as temperatures were not quite low enough. However south Armidale experienced a few snow flurries early in the morning with some slight settling on roofs. Maximum temperature for the day was 7.0C at 3.50pm.

14th July to 8th August - 26 consecutive frosts occurred which was a new record. It consisted of 6 light frosts, 8 moderate frosts and 12 severe frosts with the coldest being -8.2C on 20th July. The previous record was 25 consecutive frosts from 20th June to 14th July 1971.

10th & 11th August - Very cold surface air following the passage of cold fronts on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th combining with upper level cold air produced snow over the Central and Northern Tablelands on the weekend. In Armidale there were light snow showers in the evening of Saturday 10th from 6.30 to 8.00pm approximately, but there was little settling of snow on the ground.

On Sunday 11th heavier snow fell from 8.30 to 9.15pm with snow settling on roofs, cars and lawns. The snow was still there the following morning Monday 12th, but melted quickly by 9am.

Sunday's maximum temperature was 8.4C at 12.55pm, but strong westerly winds throughout the day gusting over 50 kms per hour caused the wind chill to make it feel closer to zero degrees..

This was Armidale's first proper snowfall since 17th July 2015.

WINTER 2019 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 25.0 mm (150.7 mm)

Rain days: 19 (28)

Average maximum temp: 15.5 deg (13.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: -0.6 deg (0.1 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 21.6 deg on 18th August

Lowest maximum temp: 7.5 deg on 4th June

Highest minimum: 7.6 deg on 27th June & 5th July

Lowest minimum temp: -8.3 deg on 22nd June

Fine sunny days: 47 (47)

Days with thunderstorms: 1 (1.3)

Days with frosts: 66 (56)

AVERAGE WINTER TEMPERATURES - ARMIDALE NSW 1981-2019

