

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW DECEMBER 2016

December 2016 was an unusually warm cloudy month with high thunderstorm activity. Rainfall was a little below the average at 89.1 millimetres with almost half of it (39.6 mm) falling in one afternoon during thunderstorms on the 23rd. The remainder of the falls were mostly light. Temperatures were much higher than normal with maximums averaging at their highest for the month of December since 1990 with 30 degrees reached or exceeded on nine days. The unusually warm conditions were caused by a number of troughs drawing in very warm air from the centre of Australia. Thunderstorm activity was higher than normal with storms on ten days, and hail on one day - the 23rd. Winds were predominantly light to moderate westerlies.

Noteworthy events:

23rd - A series of thunderstorms built up over the Armidale area in the afternoon with a number of heavy falls of rain and small hailstones from 3.30 to 5.00pm. The storms dropped 39.6 mm of rain in Armidale city and 57.0 mm at the airport where wind gusts of 96 kms per hour were recorded between 3.53 and 4.00pm. The deluge caused moderate flooding in Dumaresq Creek which closed all low level causeways in the city.

DECEMBER 2016 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 80.0 mm (89.1 mm)

Rain days: 12 (10)

2016 rainfall total: 780.6 mm (784.0 mm)

Average maximum temp: 28.1 deg (2.0 deg)

Average minimum temp: 11.9 deg (11.1 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 33.4 deg on the 5th

Lowest maximum temp: 21.0 deg on the 9th

Highest minimum temp: 17.0 deg on the 6th,7th,16th

Lowest minimum temp: 5.6 deg on the 10th

Fine sunny days: 10 (15)

Ideal weather days: 1 (0.5)

Days with thunderstorms: 10 (8)

Days with frosts: 0 (0.3)

Days with fogs: 0 (1)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 11, NW: 7, SW: 6, E: 4, NE: 1, N: 1, S:1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.1 mm (5.1 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

3rd: 2.20-5.00pm - slight storms from west - 0.2 mm rain

5th: 8.00-10.30pm - moderate & slight storms from west - 12.0 mm rain

6th: 3.00-5.00pm - moderate storms, 10.50-11.20pm - slight - 12.2 mm rain from afternoon & eve storms

8th: 1.15-1.45pm - slight storm from west, 4.45-5.20pm approx - slight storm from west

7.20-8.00pm approx - slight storm from west

11th: 5.50-6.10pm - thunder heard in east, no rain

17th: 3.50-4.15pm - slight storm from west - 2.8 mm rain

19th: 7.45-8.15am - slight storm from west - 1.6 mm rain

21st: 1.25-1.35pm - thunder heard in north, no rain

23rd: 3.20-5.45pm - moderate & slight storms with heavy rain and hailstones up to 10mm diameter
- 39.6 mm rain

24th: 4.20-6.00pm - thunder heard in east, no rain

[December 2016 daily data](#)