

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
JANUARY 2014

January 2014 was an unusually hot and very dry month.

The rainfall total of just 17.2 millimetres was the lowest for January since 1981 (13.2 mm), and the December 2013/January 2014 total of 39.2 mm was the lowest December/January rain total for 132 years since 1881/82 (31.5 mm).

With the dry conditions came high day temperatures with maximums exceeding 30.0 degrees on 13 days. The average maximum of 28.5 degrees was the highest for any month since January 2003 (28.7 deg). The highest of 37.1 degrees on the 3rd was the hottest for 62 years - see below.

Despite the very warm days, overnight temperatures however were overall slightly lower than normal with a number of cool nights below 10 degrees.

Thunderstorm activity was unusually low with storms on just two days producing very little rain.

Prevailing winds were moderate easterlies

Noteworthy events:

3rd - A low pressure trough over inland New South Wales directed very hot north-westerly winds originating from central Australia over the north of the state. As a result many areas recorded their hottest day on record. In Armidale the maximum of 37.1 deg was reached at 4.00pm. This was the highest temperature recorded at the present weather station site (33 years of records). Earlier temperature records taken in the CBD indicate it was the highest since 26th January 1952 when the post office recorded 38.4 deg. The temperature remained above 30 deg for 13 hours from 10am to 11pm. At 9pm it was 34.5 deg, and by midnight it had cooled down to 26.5 deg.

The Armidale airport weather station reached 37.0 deg.

JANUARY 2014 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 17.2 mm (101.9 mm)

Rain days: 7 (10)

Average maximum temp: 28.5 deg (26.3 deg)

Average minimum temp: 11.9 deg (12.7 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 37.1 deg on the 3rd

Lowest maximum temp: 20.7 deg on the 23rd

Highest minimum temp: 19.5 deg on the 4th

Lowest minimum temp: 7.4 deg on the 31st

Fine sunny days: 16 (15.5)

Ideal weather days: 0 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 2 (6)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 1 (1)

Wind direction at 3pm & number of days: E: 16, W: 6, SW: 3, SE: 3, NE: 1, N: 1, S: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.9 mm (5.2 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

19th: 3.30-4.30pm - slight storm from south

6.10-7.30pm - slight storm from south - 0.8 mm rain from both these events

20th: 6.15-7.15pm - slight storm from west 4.0 mm rain