

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

JANUARY 2026

January 2026 was a dry and very warm month.

The rainfall total of 49.8 mm was 51 mm less than the average, and was the driest January since 2021 when 34.0 mm was recorded. Rain fell on 11 days, the highest daily fall was 14.8 mm on the 3rd.

It was a very warm month with maximum temperatures averaging 2.1C higher than the long term average making it the warmest January since 2020. Temperatures reached 30.0C or higher on 11 days which is five more than the average. The highest was 36.4C on the 26th, Armidale's hottest day for six years - see details below.

Overnight minimum temperatures were close to the long term average with no notable extremes.

Thunderstorm activity was lower than normal with storms on five days, no hail was observed with any of these storms.

Winds were predominantly from the east and were slightly stronger than normal. There were no notable windy days or strong wind gusts.

Noteworthy events:

26th - the maximum temperature of 36.4C was the highest for any month since 2nd December 2020 when 36.4C was also recorded. At Armidale airport it was slightly higher at 36.8C. The unusually hot conditions were caused by a low pressure trough over north-western New South Wales directing very hot air over the state from the centre of Australia with temperatures reaching the mid forties in many areas west of the Divide.

JANUARY 2026 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 49.8 mm (101.2 mm)

Rain days: 11 (10)

Average maximum temp: 28.8 C (26.7C)

Average minimum temp: 13.1 C (12.9C)

Highest maximum temp: 36.4 C on the 26th

Lowest maximum temp: 22.9 C on the 19th

Highest minimum temp: 17.2 C on the 17th

Lowest minimum temp: 8.7 C on the 8th

Fine sunny days: 14 (14)

Ideal weather days: 1 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 5 (7)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 1 (1)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: E: 13, W: 6, SW: 5, NE: 3, NW: 3, S: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.3 mm (5.2 mm)

Thunderstorm Details:

2nd: 3.00-4.00pm - moderate storm from south-west, 12 mm rain

3rd: 3.30-4.10pm - thunder heard, no rain

5.00-6.15pm - moderate storm from south-west, 6.0 mm rain

4th: 7.45-8.00pm - slight storm from south-west, 1.8 mm rain

5th: 10.00-10.10pm - slight storm from south-west, 1.0 mm rain

18th: 7.15-8.10am - slight storm from west. 12.0 mm rain