

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW JULY 2017

July 2017 was a dry and sunny month with very cold frosty nights.

The rainfall total of 16.0 millimetres was 32 mm lower than the average with rain on just five days. A high pressure ridge was prominent over the middle of Australia for most of the month which kept rain systems to the south and skies mostly clear resulting in warmer than normal day temperatures and much cooler than normal overnight temperatures. Overnight minimums averaged -2.3 degrees which was the coldest for any month since August 2005. Temperatures dropped to -5.0 degrees or lower on nine days with the lowest being -7.3 degrees on the 22nd - see below.

The many calm clear nights meant an increase in number and severity of frosts. The month totalled 26 frosts which was the highest for the month of July since 2002 (26 frosts), and the highest for any month since August 2013 (26 frosts).

Winds were mostly light to moderate westerlies which is normal for July.

Noteworthy events:

10th - A high pressure ridge over northern New South Wales resulted in unusually light winds. During the day Armidale Airport averaged a wind speed of 6.7 km per hour, while in the more sheltered Armidale valley the wind speed at the city weather station averaged just 1.3 km per hour throughout the day. This meant there was an almost complete lack of wind for a full day, a rare event on the Northern Tablelands.

19th - In the first major cold weather event of the year very cold air swept over the Northern Tablelands in the wake of a front. Strong winds, low temperatures and light showers of rain and small hail occurred throughout the day. The maximum temperature at the city weather station was 8.5C, and at Armidale Airport 7.3C.

22nd - A high pressure system over eastern Australia resulted in clear skies and calm conditions which caused very low overnight temperatures on the Northern Tablelands. Armidale's minimum of -7.3C at 7.12am was the coldest temperature recorded since 9th July 2014 (-8.2C).

JULY 2017 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 16.0 (47.8 mm)

Rain days: 5 (9)

2016 rainfall total Jan to Jul: 530.0 mm (445.3 mm)

Average maximum temp: 14.0 deg (12.5 deg)

Average minimum temp: -2.3 deg (-0.2 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 19.7 deg on 30th

Lowest maximum temp: 8.5 deg on 19th

Highest minimum temp: 5.0 deg on 5th

Lowest minimum temp: -7.3 deg on 22nd

Fine sunny days: 20 (15)

Ideal weather days: 6 (4)

Days with thunderstorms: 0 (0.3)

Days with frosts: 26 (19) light: 4, moderate: 8, severe: 14

Days with fogs: 2 (3)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 17, NW: 7, SW: 4, E: 1, N: 1, S: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 1.5 mm (1.4 mm)