

**MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
OCTOBER 2019**

The drought of 2018/19 continued to worsen during October with very low rain and unusually warm daytime temperatures.

The rain total of 24.2 millimetres was 44 mm lower than the average with October being the seventh consecutive month with below average rainfall. Falls were very light except for a rain event on the 11th and 12th which delivered 18.2 mm - see below.

The rain total for the year to the end of October of 218.4 mm represented just 36 per cent of the normal rainfall for the January to October period, and was the driest on record.

Although overnight minimums were close to normal, daytime maximums averaged the highest since 1896, with the hottest temperature of 32.7 degrees on the 7th being the equal highest on record for the month of October along with 26th October 2014.

It was a mostly sunny month with light to moderate westerly winds prevailing.

Visibility was reduced to less than 15 kilometres by smoke from bushfires in the Ebor area on ten days - 6th, 11th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th, 31st.

Noteworthy events:

11th-12th - After the severe drought conditions which prevailed over the previous six months, Armidale received moderate falls of rain on the 11th, and light falls on the 12th. The total for the 48 hours to 9am on the 13th of 18.2 mm was Armidale's highest two day rain total since 30th March this year. The rains were part of widespread falls over eastern New South Wales generated by a low pressure trough which developed over the centre of the state on the 10th and slowly moved east over the following three days.

OCTOBER 2019 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 24.2 mm (67.8 mm)

Rain days: 5 (9)

2019 rainfall total Jan to Oct: 218.4 mm (611.0 mm)

Average maximum temp: 24.4 deg (20.8 deg)

Average minimum temp: 5.5 deg (5.7 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 32.4 deg on the 7th

Lowest maximum temp: 12.1 deg on the 12th

Highest minimum temp: 12.4 deg on the 17th

Lowest minimum temp: -1.0 deg on the 19th

Fine sunny days: 15 (17)

Ideal weather days: 3 (2)

Days with thunderstorms: 3 (4)

Days with frosts: 5 (6) light: 4, moderate: 1

Days with fogs: 1 (2)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 7, SW: 5, E: 5, S: 4, NW: 3, SE: 3, NE: 2, N: 2

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.3 mm (4.1 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

11th: 11.35-11.50am - slight storm from west

12.55-3.00pm - thunder heard, slight storms from west

16th: 5.20-8.30pm - slight & moderate storms from west - 3.4 mm rain

10.45-11.05pm - thunder heard, no rain

26th: 4.00-4.30pm - slight storm from west - 2.2 mm rain