

Annual Weather Review

Armidale NSW - 2018

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2018 was a warm and very dry year with drought conditions prevailing from the autumn months.

RAINFALL: It was a drought year with a rainfall total of 552.6 mm which was 231 mm lower than the long term average (LTA), or 71 per cent of the average, and was the second driest year (after 2014) in the last 30 years. Rain was below average in all months except September and October. Conditions were particularly dry in the autumn and winter months with good rain returning in early spring, but dry conditions along with very warm day temperatures and high evaporation rates prevailed again from mid-December. October was the wettest month recording 86.4 mm, and May was the driest with just 7.6 mm. The highest daily fall for the year was 48.0 mm on 12th January.

TEMPERATURES: 2018 was Armidale's fourth warmest year on record (from 128 years of reliable temperature recordings commencing in 1891) with January, April, July, and December having the highest deviations above the LTA for day temperatures. The hottest day was 8th January which recorded 34.2 degrees. Temperatures reached 30.0 degrees or higher on 44 days which was a record high, the LTA is 15 days.

The coldest day was 18th June with a maximum of 6.6 degrees, and the coldest overnight minimum was -10.1 degrees on 15th July which was the lowest temperature recorded for any month since 30th June 2010 which recorded -11.2 degrees.

Overnight temperatures were mostly close to normal except in May which was much warmer than the LTA, and October which was much lower than the LTA.

WINDS: Winds were moderate in August, September, October and November, and light in all other months. The year totalled 8 windy days* (annual average 19 days).

Wind direction at 3pm: west: 119 days, east: 70 days, south-east: 49 days, south-west: 42 days, south: 31 days, north-west: 30 days, north-east: 17 days, north: 7 days.

EVAPORATION: Total pan evaporation for the year was 1,249.8 millimetres which was 62 mm higher than the LTA. Average daily evaporation for the year was 3.4 mm.

FROSTS: Total number of frosts was 102 which was four more than the LTA. August was the frostiest month recording 25 frosts. There were 33 light frosts, 34 moderate frosts and 35 severe frosts**. The frost season was shorter than usual with the first frost on 5th May, ending a frost-free period of 175 days over the summer of 2017-18, and the last frost on 8th October.

FOGS: There were fogs on 24 days which is seven less than the annual average. The foggiest months were May and June with fogs on 6 days on each of the two months. All fogs occurred in the early mornings.

SNOW: There were no snowfalls. The annual average is 2.2 days of snow.

THUNDERSTORMS: There were storms on 42 days of the year, five more than the LTA. Thunderstorm activity was highest in January, October and December. There were no severe storms.

HAIL: Hail was observed on only 1 day - 7th September (hailstones up to 10 mm diameter). There may have been other occurrences of small hail during thunderstorms not noted here. The annual average is 3.3 hail days.

FLOODS: Minor flooding occurred in Dumaresq Creek on 11th & 12th January. Minor brief flash flooding may have occurred on other dates not noted here.

LTA - Long Term Average * Windy day - average wind speed higher than 20 kms per hour: 9am to 6pm

** Intensity of frosts: light - minimum temp > 0.0C, moderate - minimum temp -3.9C to -0.1C, severe - minimum temperature < -3.9C.

Weather Statistics 2018 - Armidale NSW

Data recorded at East Armidale, elevation 987 metres, Bureau of Meteorology station no 56037

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
RAINFALL mm	67.8	80.4	21.0	26.8	7.6	13.2	41.6	26.6	60.4	86.4	63.2	57.6	552.6
Long Term Average mm	101.4	87.9	65.6	45.1	42.9	55.5	47.6	48.0	50.6	67.6	82.7	88.9	783.9
RAIN DAYS	9	11	7	11	3	9	10	7	11	13	6	8	105
Long Term Average days	10	10	10	8	8	10	9	9	8	9	9	10	110
HIGHEST DAILY RAINFALL mm	48.0	23.0	6.8	8.6	5.8	3.0	13.6	11.0	12.4	31.6	27.2	24.2	48.0
Day	12	20	6	20	9	10	2	7	4	18	22	17	
AVERAGE DAILY MAX TEMP deg C	29.2	27.0	25.4	22.9	17.5	14.0	14.6	15.7	18.4	21.5	24.4	28.1	21.6
Long Term Average deg C	26.4	25.5	23.5	20.0	16.4	13.2	12.5	14.3	17.7	20.7	23.0	25.2	19.9
AVERAGE DAILY MIN TEMP deg C	12.3	12.3	11.8	8.2	1.0	0.3	-1.7	-1.9	2.8	7.7	9.5	11.1	6.1
Long Term Average deg C	12.7	12.6	10.3	6.5	3.0	0.9	-0.3	-0.2	2.6	5.6	8.9	11.2	6.1
AVERAGE GRASS MIN TEMP deg C	8.1	9.0	8.0	3.1	-4.0	-4.4	-6.1	-6.9	-2.3	3.6	4.7	6.2	1.6
Long Term Average deg C	9.7	9.7	7.2	3.0	-1.7	-2.7	-4.2	-4.3	-1.4	1.8	5.8	8.1	2.6
HIGHEST MAXIMUM TEMP deg C	34.2	33.8	32.5	28.0	21.4	17.8	19.0	20.6	24.6	27.5	33.4	32.2	34.2
Day	8	12,13	19	1	2	12	28	14	15	24	6	31	
LOWEST MAXIMUM TEMP deg C	22.5	16.2	17.9	15.0	11.4	6.6	8.9	10.1	10.4	11.6	17.1	22.0	6.6
Day	14	2	22	28	31	18	2	12	25	11	8	6	
HIGHEST MINIMUM TEMP deg C	18.0	18.2	17.6	13.5	8.1	6.1	7.6	6.2	7.6	12.4	16.5	17.9	18.2
Day	13	26	4	4	4	9	6	26	8	21	21	19	
LOWEST MINIMUM TEMP deg C	3.8	5.7	4.0	4.0	-4.3	-6.6	-10.1	-7.6	-3.6	0.3	3.5	5.6	-10.1
Day	17	8	12	29	16,21	24	15	30	17	2	26	1	
LOWEST GRASS MIN TEMP deg C	-2.2	-0.1	-1.3	-1.0	-10.1	-10.2	-14.5	-12.5	-9.0	-4.8	-2.0	-1.0	-14.5
Day	17	8	12	8	16	24	15	30	17	2	9,26	7	
FROSTS	0	0	0	0	18	20	23	25	13	3	0	0	102
Long Term Average days	0	0	1	5	14	16	19	20	15	7	1	0	98
FOGS days	1	1	3	1	6	6	2	1	1	0	2	0	24
Long Term Average days	1	1	3	5	5	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	31
THUNDERSTORMS days	9	5	0	4	0	0	1	1	4	6	4	8	42
Long Term Average days	6	5	3	1	1	0	0	1	2	4	6	8	37
EVAPORATION (Class A Pan) mm	181.8	127.0	115.6	92.4	56.4	37.4	49.8	71.4	85.8	99.0	154.0	179.2	1249.8
Long Term Average mm	160.5	126.8	113.7	75.8	50.6	36.5	42.1	65.3	95.5	127.2	135.5	158.2	1187.6
AVGE. DAILY EVAPORATION mm	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	1.8	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.9	3.2	5.1	5.8	3.4
AVERAGE DAILY WIND RUN km	103.6	114.5	120.5	91.3	92.9	103.3	121.2	137.0	----	----	166.3	110.6	----
Long Term Average km	152.5	145.7	138.6	123.9	122.4	144.8	152.4	163.1	170.5	157.9	152.2	153.2	148.1
PREVAILING 3PM WIND DIRECTION	W	E	E	SE	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	E	-
FINE SUNNY DAYS ^	17	8	12	16	18	10	17	23	15	11	11	20	178
Long Term Average days	15	13	16	15	15	13	15	18	19	18	14	15	185
MAXIMUM TEMP > 29.9 deg. days	13	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	44
MAXIMUM TEMP < 10.0 deg. days	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
MINIMUM TEMP < 5.0 deg. days	1	0	1	5	27	26	25	28	20	7	2	0	142

^ Fine Sunny Day - a dry sunny day generally free from excessive cloud