

Annual Weather Review

Armidale NSW - 2020

© Compiled and written by Peter Burr, using data recorded at the Bureau of Meteorology weather station at East Armidale, station no 56037. No part of this review may be reproduced for commercial purposes without prior permission from the author.

2020 was year of good rainfall and warmer than normal temperatures. It was a cloudy year with 135 sunny days, 50 less than the long term average (LTA).

RAINFALL: The severe drought of 2018/2019 came to end in early 2020 as well above average rainfall was experienced at the beginning of the year. The total for the year of 972.8 millimetres was 193 mm higher than the LTA, and was the wettest year since 2011. Rainfall was well above average in January and February with close to average falls during the winter and spring months. Higher than normal rainfall returned again in December with the onset of a La Nina weather event in the Pacific Ocean. January was the wettest month recording 202.0 mm, and November was the driest with 15.2 mm. The highest daily fall was 61.8 mm on 18th January.

TEMPERATURES: Temperatures were overall higher than normal. The months with the greatest deviations above the LTA were January and November. The hottest day was 5th January with a maximum of 36.7 degrees. Temperatures reached 30.0 degrees or higher on 30 days, 17 higher than the LTA. The coldest day was 23rd June with a maximum of 5.5 degrees, and the coldest overnight minimum was -8.7 degrees on 6th August.

WINDS: Winds were moderate in May, July, August, September, and December, and light in all other months. The year totalled 9 windy days* (annual average 19 days). Wind direction at 3pm: west: 119 days, east: 76 days, south-west: 51 days, north-west: 36 days, south: 30 days, south-east: 25 days, north-east: 20 days, north: 9 days.

EVAPORATION: As a result of the high number of cloudy days the total pan evaporation for the year was much lower than normal totalling 1105.4 mm, 93 mm less than the LTA. Average daily evaporation for the year was 3.1 mm.

FROSTS: Total number of frosts was 83 which was 16 less than the LTA. July was the frostiest month recording 20 frosts. There were 30 light frosts, 37 moderate frosts, and 16 severe frosts**. The first frost was on 12th April, ending a frost-free period of 149 days over the summer of 2018-19, and the last frost was on 15th October.

FOGS: There were fogs on 26 days which is five less than the annual average. The foggiest month was June with fogs on 10 days. All fogs occurred in the early mornings.

SNOW: There were snowfalls on two days - 2nd June - light non-settling snow from 8.30 to 9.15am, and 22nd August - light snow mixed with small hail from 3.15 to 3.35pm, partially whitening the ground. The annual average is 2.2 snow days.

THUNDERSTORMS: There were storms on 39 days of the year, two higher than the LTA. Thunderstorm activity was highest in January with storms on 11 days. There were no severe storms.

HAIL: Hail fell on two days. 22nd August - small hail. 28th October - hailstones 5 to 20 mm diameter which caused damage to some trees and gardens. There may have been additional falls of small hail during thunderstorms on other dates which were not recorded. The annual average is 3.3 hail days.

FLOODS: Flash flooding occurred in Dumaresq Creek on 9th, 15th & 26th January, 11th February. Minor flooding on 9th, 13th & 14th February, 22nd December. Moderate flooding on 17th & 18th January. Flash flooding may have occurred on other dates not noted here.

SMOKE: Smoke from bushfires burning to the east of Armidale reduced visibility on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 11th & 12th January.

LTA - Long Term Average * Windy day - average wind speed higher than 20 kms per hour from 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 2020 - 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	202.0	171.4	59.4	41.2	38.6	35.6	45.2	44.2	34.8	91.6	15.2	193.6	972.8
<i>Long Term Average mm</i>	<i>100.9</i>	<i>87.4</i>	<i>65.4</i>	<i>44.7</i>	<i>42.4</i>	<i>55.0</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>47.6</i>	<i>50.4</i>	<i>67.5</i>	<i>82.2</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>779.4</i>
RAIN DAYS	14	16	15	4	10	11	12	11	6	15	6	22	142
<i>Long Term Average days</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>110</i>
HIGHEST DAILY RAINFALL mm	61.8	36.2	25.8	22.4	11.6	14.8	21.0	16.2	12.2	33.0	8.8	45.0	61.8
Day	18	9	26	11	21	11	26	15	10	22	23	4	
AVERAGE DAILY MAX TEMP deg C	29.9	24.7	22.3	21.2	15.4	13.9	13.2	14.5	18.9	22.5	26.0	24.8	20.6
<i>Long Term Average deg C</i>	<i>26.6</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>25.4</i>	<i>20.0</i>
AVERAGE DAILY MIN TEMP deg C	15.8	14.6	11.5	6.2	2.6	1.3	0.4	0.2	3.4	6.8	9.2	13.3	7.1
<i>Long Term Average deg C</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>6.1</i>
AVERAGE GRASS MIN TEMP deg C	13.4	12.3	8.8	2.1	-0.9	-2.5	-3.2	-3.7	-1.1	2.7	4.6	10.7	3.6
<i>Long Term Average deg C</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>-2.8</i>	<i>-4.3</i>	<i>-4.5</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>2.5</i>
HIGHEST MAXIMUM TEMP deg C	36.7	32.5	28.0	24.8	18.7	18.7	17.5	19.7	24.5	26.4	32.5	36.4	36.7
Day	5	1	2	17	8	15	3	31	21	4	28,29	2	
LOWEST MAXIMUM TEMP deg C	18.1	16.6	16.1	15.8	6.7	5.5	7.6	8.3	10.1	18.0	18.7	15.1	5.5
Day	12	14	9	10	22	23	14	9	10	22	8	12	
HIGHEST MINIMUM TEMP deg C	20.7	21.0	17.6	16.0	9.6	8.0	8.7	9.5	12.5	15.0	17.4	20.0	21.0
Day	11	2	6	4	2	10	26	15	22	24	30	2	
LOWEST MINIMUM TEMP deg C	8.2	7.7	3.6	-1.1	-4.5	-5.4	-8.0	-8.7	-3.0	-0.1	2.0	3.3	-8.7
Day	22	20	19	19	11	4	21	6	27	10	3,7	9	
LOWEST GRASS MIN TEMP deg C	5.5	4.9	0.5	-5.3	-8.4	-9.1	-12.2	-13.1	-8.4	-5.0	-1.5	-0.7	-13.1
Day	22	20	19	23	11	4	21	6	27	10	3,7	9	
FROSTS	0	0	0	6	12	15	20	18	8	4	0	0	83
<i>Long Term Average days</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>99</i>
FOGS days	2	0	2	1	1	10	5	1	2	1	1	0	26
<i>Long Term Average days</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>31</i>
THUNDERSTORMS days	11	7	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	5	1	9	39
<i>Long Term Average days</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>37</i>
EVAPORATION (Class A Pan) mm	165.4	103.0	91.0	74.8	48.6	37.6	31.2	63.8	85.6	112.8	161.0	130.6	1105.4
<i>Long Term Average mm</i>	<i>162.2</i>	<i>127.7</i>	<i>114.3</i>	<i>76.4</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>36.3</i>	<i>42.6</i>	<i>66.1</i>	<i>96.2</i>	<i>127.4</i>	<i>138.3</i>	<i>160.4</i>	<i>1198.8</i>
AVGE. DAILY EVAPORATION mm	5.5	3.6	2.9	2.5	1.6	1.3	1.0	2.1	2.9	3.6	5.4	4.2	3.1
AVERAGE DAILY WIND RUN km	100.6	115.9	116.6	102.6	138.9	111.2	143.2	182.7	139.9	104.7	134.1	150.8	128.4
<i>Long Term Average km</i>	<i>149.7</i>	<i>144.8</i>	<i>137.9</i>	<i>122.3</i>	<i>121.2</i>	<i>142.3</i>	<i>151.2</i>	<i>162.1</i>	<i>169.5</i>	<i>156.8</i>	<i>152.2</i>	<i>151.3</i>	<i>146.8</i>
PREVAILING 3PM WIND DIRECTION	W	E	E	W	W	W	W	W	W	SW	W	W	-
FINE SUNNY DAYS ^	10	6	8	13	14	10	10	17	13	12	18	4	135
<i>Long Term Average days</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>185</i>
MAXIMUM TEMP > 29.9 deg. days	17	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	30
MAXIMUM TEMP < 10.0 deg. days	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	13
MINIMUM TEMP < 5.0 deg. days	0	0	1	12	26	25	23	27	22	12	3	1	152

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