

WINTER WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

June-July-August 2024

Winter 2024 was cloudy, damp and cold, but was cut short by the arrival of unusually warm conditions from the middle of August.

A number of low pressure troughs and cold fronts moving across New South Wales kept conditions cloudy and wet with low daytime temperatures and milder than normal overnight temperatures, which in turn reduced the number and severity of frosts over the three months.

Rainfall totals were as follows. June 38.0 mm, July 59.8 mm, and August 36.4 mm. The total for the three months of 134.2 mm was 15 mm lower than the average.

The cold winter weather started on 1st June and lasted for around 11 weeks until 20th August when unusually warm conditions arrived, although a few wintry days made an appearance in September. Based on both maximum and minimum temperatures it was the warmest winter on record (from 134 years of records) with maximums reaching 18.0C or higher on 13 days. Cold wintry days with maximums lower than 10.0C occurred on 12 days between 7th June and 29th July. Overnight minimums were close to normal in June, but well above normal in July and August.

There was one major cold outbreak in mid July - see below. Minor cold outbreaks occurred on 7th-8th June, 15th-17th June, and 1st-3rd July. There were no falls of hail or snow.

It was an unusually cloudy winter with only 29 sunny days, and cloudy nights reducing the total frosts to 42 with severe frosts (-4.0C or lower) on only eight days.

Prevailing winds were westerlies in all three months, light in June, and moderate in July and August.

Noteworthy events:

15th-17th July - A deep low pressure system near Tasmania directed cold air from the Southern Ocean into New South Wales from the 15th to the 17th. Upper level cold air combined with this system to produce very low temperatures and snowfalls over the Central Tablelands, Barrington Tops and Northern Tablelands, with some light snow also falling in southern Queensland.

Snow fell in Guyra and other highland areas of the Northern Tablelands intermittently over the three days, however no snow fell in Armidale.

Minimum/Maximum temperatures in Armidale:

15th: 1.7C/8.5C, 16th: 1.5C/7.6C, 17th: 2.6C/6.2C.

Strong winds on the 16th caused wind chill temperatures to drop as low as -4C during the morning.

21st-31st August - Unseasonably warm weather affected large areas of New South Wales including the Northern Tablelands. In Armidale temperatures exceeded 20.0C on nine of the eleven final days of the month with the warmest of 24.3C on the 30th being the highest winter maximum since 24th August 2009 when it reached 27.4C. Also the minimum on the 31st of 16.4C was the highest on record for any winter month. The previous highest was 14.8C on 25th August 2009.

The unusually warm end to winter was caused by a number of low pressure troughs bringing in warm air to northern New South Wales from central Australia, while colder air from passing cold fronts was kept to the south of the state.

WINTER 2024 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 134.2 mm (149.4 mm)

Rain days: 33 (28)

Average maximum temp: 14.3 deg (13.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: 2.3 deg (0.1 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 24.3 deg on 30th August

Lowest maximum temp: 6.2 deg on 17th July

Highest minimum: 16.4 deg on 31st August - highest on record

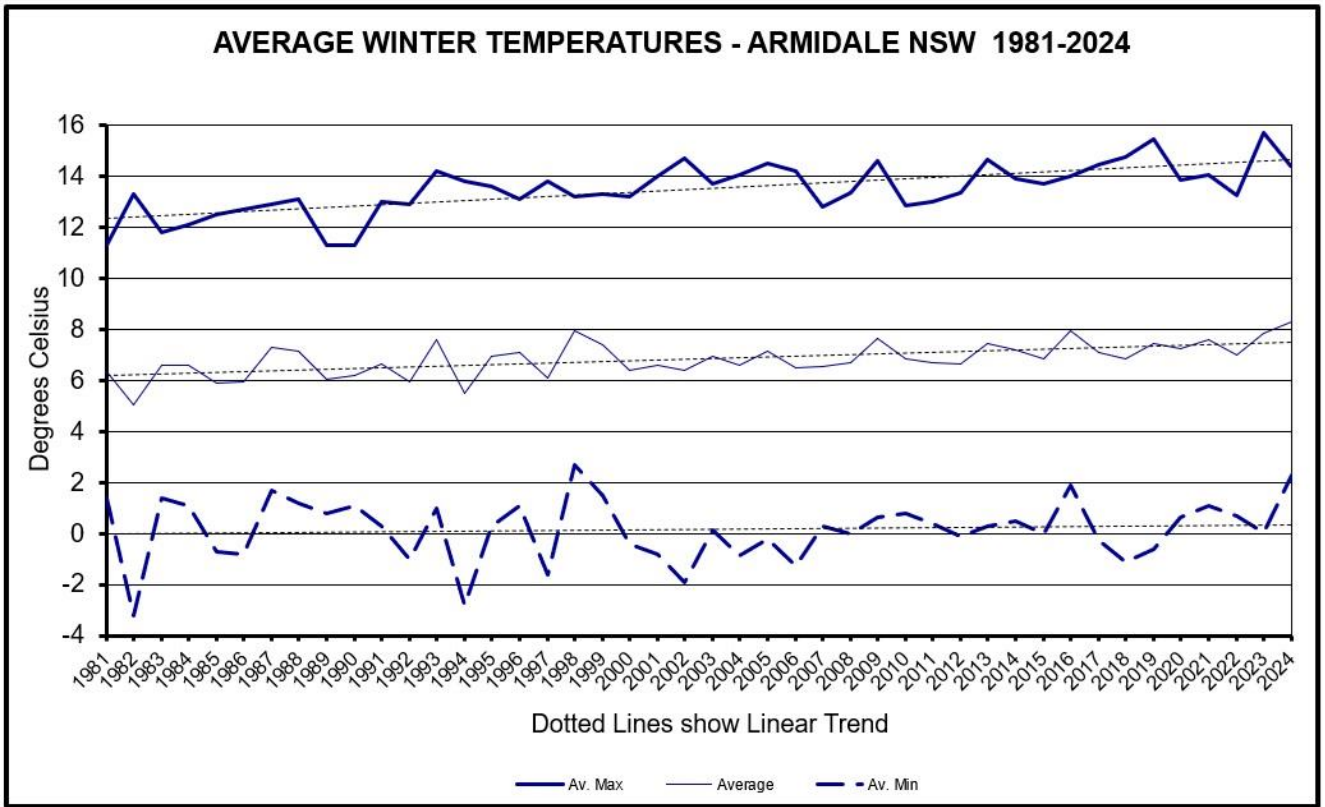
Lowest minimum temp: -5.5 deg on 24th July

Number of days maximum temperature below 10.0 deg: 12 (11)

Fine sunny days: 29 (46)

Days with thunderstorms: 1 (1.4)

Days with frosts: 42 (56)



Armidale weather on-line: www.weatherarmidale.com