

= Cyclone Rewa =

Severe Tropical Cyclone Rewa affected six countries and caused 22 deaths on its 28 @-@ day journey across the South Pacific Ocean in December 1993 and January 1994 . Cyclone Rewa developed from a tropical disturbance on 28 December south of Nauru . After forming , Rewa moved southwest through the Solomon Islands , crossing the 160th meridian east from the South Pacific basin into the Australian region . The cyclone began to strengthen steadily and turned southward , paralleling the eastern Australian coast through 31 December . Rewa reached its initial peak intensity as a Category 4 tropical cyclone on 2 January . It maintained this intensity for about 12 hours before an increase in wind shear induced its weakening by 3 January . The cyclone turned southeastward and moved back into the South Pacific basin on 4 January , before it passed over New Caledonia between 5 ? 6 January . After affecting New Caledonia , Rewa weakened to a tropical depression and turned northwestward before re @-@ entering the Australian basin on 10 January .

Over the following days , the cyclone showed signs of restrengthening and executed an elongated cyclonic loop to the southeast of Papua New Guinea . Rewa subsequently entered a phase of quick intensification while proceeding southeastward , peaking in intensity as a Category 5 severe tropical cyclone . It recurved toward the southwest while gradually weakening for several days . Although forecasters had predicted Rewa to make landfall near Mackay , Queensland , the cyclone began interacting with an upper @-@ level trough on 18 January , causing it to divert to the southeast and move along the Queensland coast . Rewa transitioned into an extratropical cyclone on 20 January , with its remnants bringing heavy rain to New Zealand three days later .

The cyclone caused the deaths of 22 people on its course , affecting parts of the Solomon Islands , Papua New Guinea , Eastern Australia , New Caledonia , Vanuatu and New Zealand . Nine people in a banana dinghy en route to Rossel Island went missing at the height of the storm ; they were presumed drowned after wreckage from their boat turned up at the island . In Queensland , three people died in traffic accidents caused by the storm , and another fatality occurred when a boy became trapped in a storm pipe . One death took place in New Caledonia , while flooding caused eight drownings in Papua New Guinea . After this usage of the name Rewa , the name was retired .

= = Meteorological history = =

During 26 December , the Fiji Meteorological Service 's Tropical Cyclone Warning Center in Nadi , Fiji (TCWC Nadi) , started to monitor a tropical depression that had developed within the Intertropical Convergence Zone about 575 km (355 mi) to the south @-@ east of Nauru . Over the next few days the depression gradually developed and organised further , as it moved towards the west @-@ southwest under the influence of a north @-@ easterly steering flow . During 28 December , the JTWC classified the depression as Tropical Cyclone 05P , before TCWC Nadi reported that the system had developed into a category 1 tropical cyclone on the Australian tropical cyclone intensity scale and named it Rewa . Over the next few days , the system gradually intensified under the influence of favourable upper @-@ level winds while it moved towards the south @-@ southwest , passing through the Solomon Islands on 29 December and affecting the southeastern islands of Papua New Guinea . As it moved through the Solomon Islands , Rewa moved out of the South Pacific basin and into the Australian region , where the Bureau of Meteorology 's Brisbane tropical cyclone warning centre (TCWC Brisbane) took the primary warning responsibility for the system .

On 30 December , the JTWC reported that Rewa had become equivalent to a category 1 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane scale (SSHS) ; early the next day TCWC Brisbane reported that the system had developed into a category 3 severe tropical cyclone , and an eye became visible on satellite imagery . The system then abruptly turned and started to move towards the south parallel to the Queensland coast because of an interaction with an upper @-@ level trough of low pressure . On 2 January both the JTWC and TCWC Brisbane reported that Rewa had reached its peak intensity , with the JTWC reporting that Rewa had peaked with 1 @-@ minute windspeeds of

230 km / h (145 mph) , equivalent to a category 4 tropical cyclone on the SSSH . Meanwhile , TCWC Brisbane reported that the system had peaked with 10 @-@ minute windspeeds of 205 km / h (125 mph) with a central pressure of 920 hPa (27 @.@ 17 inHg) , which made it a category 5 severe tropical cyclone on the Australian Scale . When the data was reanalyzed , TCWC Brisbane lowered their estimate of the wind speed to 175 km / h (110 mph) , which made Rewa a category 4 severe tropical cyclone . Rewa remained at its peak intensity for 12 hours before the system started to weaken during 3 January , as strengthening upper level north @-@ westerlies increased vertical wind shear over the system . Throughout that day , the cyclone started to move towards the south @-@ east , before it started to take a more eastwards track as it approached 160 ° E .

During 4 January , Rewa moved back into the South Pacific basin and continued eastward as a weakening category 3 severe tropical cyclone , with TCWC Nadi estimating the 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds at 150 km / h (90 mph) . During the next day , its eye became obscured after the mountains of New Caledonia affected Rewa 's circulation by creating a hot and dry Foehn wind . TCWC Nadi reported that the system had weakened into a category 2 tropical cyclone , while the JTWC reported that Rewa had become a tropical storm . The system subsequently made landfall in the vicinity of Saint Vincent Bay on New Caledonia 's south @-@ western coast , before it emerged near Thio from the east coast during 6 January . By 7 January , Rewa 's circulation had become exposed under the influence of upper level north @-@ westerlies ; as a result both the JTWC and TCWC Nadi reported that Rewa had weakened into a depression . Over the next 3 days , the residual low @-@ level circulation was steered towards the northwest and Papua New Guinea in a southeasterly trade wind flow generated by a powerful area of high pressure located between New Zealand and Kermadec Islands . During 10 January , Rewa 's remnants moved out of the South Pacific basin and back into the Australian region while starting to re @-@ intensify into a tropical cyclone , as a mid to upper level trough over eastern Australia increased in size .

As moved into the Australian region , Rewa began to move in a long arc to the northwest and then to the north , and on 13 January , both the JTWC and TCWC Port Moresby reported that the system had reintensified into a tropical cyclone around Papua New Guinea 's southern islands . Later that day , Rewa executed a sharp clockwise turn near Tagula Island and started to move towards the southeast and TCWC Brisbane 's area of responsibility while gradually intensifying further . During 15 January , TCWC Brisbane reported that the system had reintensified into a category 3 severe tropical cyclone while the JTWC reported that Rewa had become equivalent to a category 1 tropical cyclone again . Later that day , the system started to rapidly intensify as an upper level trough approached the system . During the next day the JTWC reported that the system had peaked with 1 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 230 km / h (145 mph) . TCWC Brisbane then reported later that day , that Rewa had peaked with 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 205 km / h (125 mph) , which made it a category 5 severe tropical cyclone on the Australian tropical cyclone intensity scale . After it had peaked in intensity the system recurved towards the south @-@ southwest , and started to gradually weaken . By 18 January the JTWC reported that Rewa had weakened into a tropical storm while throughout that day TCWC Brisbane assessed Rewa as a category 3 severe tropical cyclone . During the next day , TCWC Brisbane reported that Rewa had weakened into a category 2 tropical cyclone as it recurved and started to move towards the south @-@ east about 265 km (165 mi) to the east of Mackay , Queensland . Over the next couple of days the system moved towards the south @-@ southeast along the Queensland coast while maintaining its intensity . During 21 January , TCWC Brisbane and the JTWC reported that Rewa had weakened below cyclone strength , as the system moved back into the South Pacific basin for the third and final time . Rewa 's remnants were last noted late on 23 January , by TCWC Wellington , bringing heavy rain to New Zealand , while dissipating over water about 400 km (250 mi) to the east of Wellington , New Zealand .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Twenty @-@ two people lost their lives in accidents caused by Cyclone Rewa , while it affected parts off the Solomon Islands , Papua New Guinea , Australia , New Caledonia , Vanuatu and New

Zealand . Due to the impact of this storm , the name Rewa was retired .

= = = The Solomon Islands , New Caledonia , Vanuatu and New Zealand = = =

The Solomon Islands were affected by the developing tropical cyclone between 28 ? 30 December and was the first Island country to be impacted by Rewa . As it developed into a tropical cyclone on 28 December , the system passed to the north of the outer lying atolls of Malaita Province in the Solomon Islands . Rewa then passed over the southern tip of Malaita Island , before passing to the south of Guadalcanal Island and the north of Rennell Island during 29 December .

Cyclone Rewa started to affect New Caledonia on 5 January , before it passed over Grand Terre Island later that day . Rewa dumped over 300 mm (12 in) of rain on parts of the archipelago , which made all of the major rivers overflow and burst their banks . Several landslides and a death were recorded within New Caledonia , while on the Loyalty Island of Mare , waves from Rewa partially destroyed the harbour wall at Tadine 's port .

The system had no effect on Vanuatu while it passed through the Solomon Islands between 28 ? 30 December ; however the southern islands of Vanuatu were affected by the cyclone after it had passed through New Caledonia during 5 January . As it moved towards the north @-@ west between 6 ? 8 January , Rewa brought high seas and strong winds to parts of the island nation including the provinces of Shefa and Tafea . Some damage was recorded to Port Villa 's harbours intertidal zone , as the system passed about 175 km (110 mi) to the southeast of the city .

Between 19 ? 24 January , Rewa 's remnants , a slow moving weather front over Fiordland and a southerly brought widespread rainfall and flooding to New Zealand 's South Island . In Westland , Fiordland and the Southern Lakes , landslides and flooding occurred on 21 January , while several roads and bridges were damaged .

= = = Papua New Guinea = = =

Cyclone Rewa affected Papua New Guinea on two separate occasions while it was active , with the cyclone first affecting the archipelago between 28 December and 1 January , before grazing the archipelago between 12 @-@ 14 January . Before Rewa affected the country , cyclone alerts and warnings were issued for Sudest , Rossel and Samarai islands , while authorities urged people not to go to beaches . As it affected the archipelago , Rewa brought heavy rainfall , high seas , and wind gusts of up to 100 km / h (60 mph) to parts of the archipelago including Sudest , Rossel and Samarai islands . The hardest hit areas were communities near major river systems , with the cyclone blocking roads , destroying a church , bridges , homes and gardens with vital crops such as coffee and copra destroyed . In total , Cyclone Rewa left around 3500 people homeless and caused 17 deaths , 8 of which were due to flooding . Nine other people went missing while travelling to Rossel Island after their boat was caught up in high seas associated with Rewa . They were later presumed dead by the National Disaster and Emergency Service , after a local search and rescue mission found wreckage of the boat . At 00 : 00 UTC on 30 December , the automatic weather station at Jingo on Rossel island recorded a maximum sustained wind of 55 km / h (35 mph) .

= = = Australia = = =

During the opening days of 1994 , Rewa moved southwards parallel to the Queensland coast ; however , because it was located about 600 km (370 mi) to the north @-@ east of Mackay , it was too far away from the coast for there to be any direct impact on Queensland . The only indirect impact was higher surf , from which several people had to be rescued from before the cyclone started to move towards New Caledonia during 4 January . As Rewa affected Queensland for the second time , watches and warnings were issued for various parts of Queensland by TCWC Brisbane , who predicted a landfall near Mackay . On 18 January local disaster committees met to consider evacuating people , while people who were on vacation in national parks were alerted about Rewa by a helicopter . A military training exercise that was due to take place in Shoalwater

Bay had to be cancelled , with army personal evacuated to Rockhampton to avoid being cut off by flood waters . Along the coast , several ports including Gladstone were shut with large vessels told to head to sea and small vessels told to batten down and prepare for the storm .

On 19 January Rewa started to affect Queensland with torrential rain and storm force windspeeds which caused some damage along the coast . However it did not make its predicted landfall near Mackay , instead it recurved to the south @-@ southeast and came to within 100 km (60 mi) of the coast . Two men off Yeppoon 's coast were rescued from a fishing trawler by an army Black Hawk helicopter after high seas damaged the trawler 's propeller and snapped its heavy anchor chain , leaving it drifting helplessly in the cyclone 's path . The worst affected island was Lady Elliot as it bore the brunt of the wind , while on Heron Island , several rare trees and bird rookeries were either destroyed or severely damaged . As Rewa interacted with an upper trough of low pressure on 19 January , heavy rainfall and thunderstorms were observed in parts of Brisbane and the Gold Coast . Brisbane received over 144 mm (5 @.@ 7 in) in just six hours , which led to some localised flash flooding in parts of the city and four deaths . Three of the deaths were from people crashing their cars , while the other death occurred when a person went surfing Brisbane 's flood water and got trapped in a storm drain . Within Brisbane , 100 homes and 20 cars were damaged by the flood waters , while a Sheffield Shield cricket match between Western Australia and Queensland was delayed , after The Gabba resembled a small lake .