# Some notes about Daily Weather Observations

#### Data availability

These observations have been taken from the Bureau of Meteorology's "real time" system. Most of the data are generated and handled automatically. Some quality checking has been performed, but it is still possible for erroneous values to appear.

From time to time, observations will not be available, for a variety of reasons. Sometimes when the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, rainfall or evaporation are missing, the next value given has been accumulated over several days rather than the normal one day. It is very difficult for an automatic system to detect this reliably, so caution is advised. For more detail about this or any other data quality issue, please contact us.

## **Summary statistics**

The summary statistics (mean, lowest, highest and total) have been calculated using the data available at the time of preparation. Statistics are only calculated where it makes sense to do so (for example, "total maximum temperature" and "mean maximum wind gust" are not calculated, but "total rainfall" and "mean minimum temperature" are).

The extremes for each field are indicated in the table: the lowest value is shown in blue, and the highest value appears in red.

A hash mark (#) as the direction of an extreme wind indicates that speed occured more than once during the month, from more than one direction. For wind, the direction of the highest (or lowest) wind speed is shown, not the "highest" direction.

As new observations become available or observations are checked and modified, the statistics may change.

#### **Updates**

The table for the current month is updated twice a day: once in the late morning and again in the late afternoon. All observations for the month should be available with the morning update on the first day of the following month. Earlier months are updated every few weeks.

### Column meanings

To save space, most of the columns have abbreviated headings.

Heading		Meaning	Units
Date		Day of Month	
Day		Day of Week	first two letters
Temps	Min	Minimum temperature in the 24 hours to 9am Sometimes only known to the nearest whole degree	degrees Celsius
	Max	Maximum temperaure in the 24 hours from 9am Sometimes only known to the nearest whole degree	degrees Celsius
Rain		Precipitation (rainfall) in the 24 hours to 9am Sometimes only known to the nearest whole millimetre	millimetres
Evap		Class A pan evaporation in the 24 hours to 9am	millimetres
Sun		Bright sunshine in the 24 hours to midnight	hours
Max wind gust	Dirn	Direction of strongest gust in the 24 hours to midnight	16 compass points
	Spd	Speed of strongest wind gust in the 24 hours to midnight	kilometres per hour
	Time	Time of strongest wind gust	local time hh:mm
9am	Temp	Temperature at 9am	degrees Celsius
	RH	Relative humidity at 9am	percent
	Cld	Fraction of sky obscured by cloud at 9am	eighths
	Dirn	Wind direction averaged over 10 minutes prior to 9am	16 compass points
	Spd	Wind speed averaged over 10 minutes prior to 9am	kilometres per hour
	MSLP	Atmospheric pressure reduced to mean sea level at 9am	hectopascals
3pm	Temp	Temperature at 3pm	degrees Celsius
	RH	Relative humidity at 3pm	percent
	Cld	Fraction of sky obscured by cloud at 3pm	eighths
	Dirn	Wind direction averaged over 10 minutes prior to 3pm	16 compass points
	Spd	Wind speed averaged over 10 minutes prior to 3pm	kilometres per hour
	MSLP	Atmospheric pressure reduced to mean sea level at 3pm	hectopascals

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## **Contacts**

If you need to discuss this product, or are after any other meteorological data or advice, you should contact the Bureau of Meteorology office in your area. A full list of contact details can be found on our web site, at http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/how/contacts.shtml