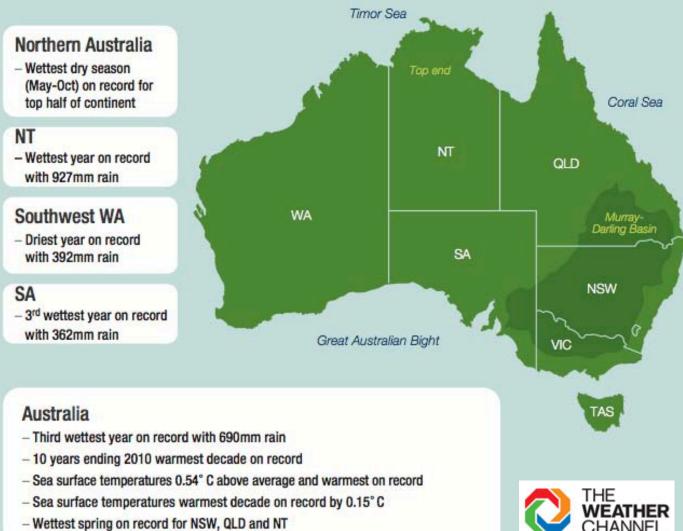
# 2010 – a remarkable year

- \* 2010 was Australia's third wettest year on record
- \* Rapid transition from El Nino to La Nina in autumn
- \* The period July to December was the wettest ever
- \* Wettest ever year for Queensland
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest for the NT, NSW and SA.
- \* 5<sup>th</sup> wettest year on record for VIC.



# **2010 Australian Climate Highlights**



Australian Government

### **Bureau of Meteorology**

Northern Tropics Spring 2010 has the warmest sea surface temperatures on record

### QLD

- Wettest year on record with 1110mm rain
- Major flooding in southern & inland areas

### Murray-Darling Basin

- Wettest year on record
- Water storages up to 80% from 27% one year ago

### NSW

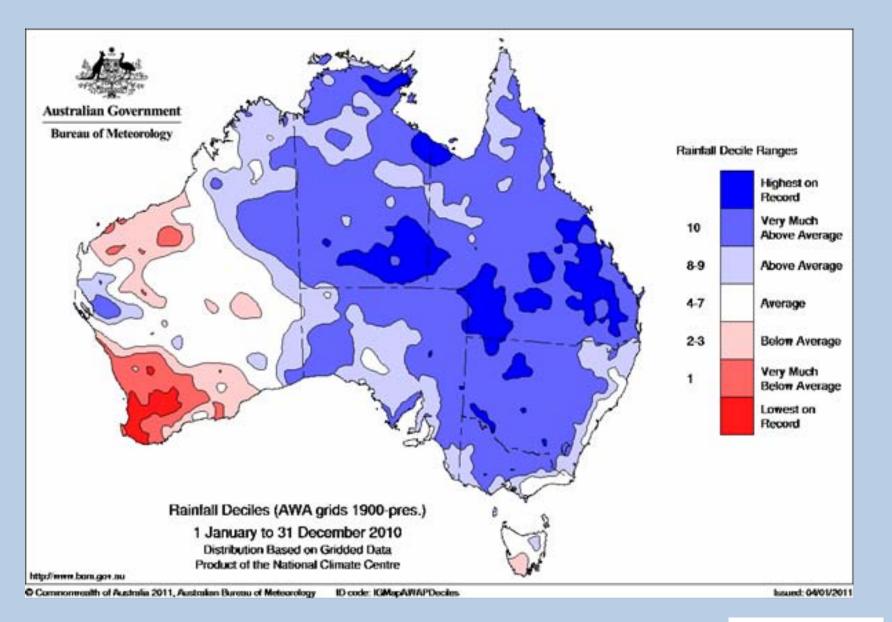
- 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest year on record with 805mm rain
- Major flooding in inland areas

### VIC

- Major flooding in northern area
- 5th wettest year on record with 858mm rain

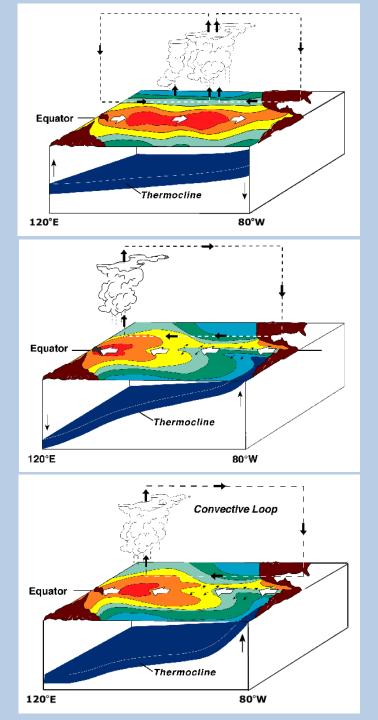
### TAS

- Near average rainfall





Bureau of Meteorology



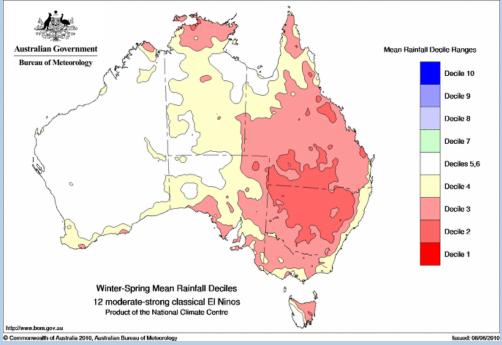


## El Nino SST pattern across the equatorial Pacific

# La Nina SST pattern across the equatorial Pacific

# Neutral SST pattern across the equatorial Pacific

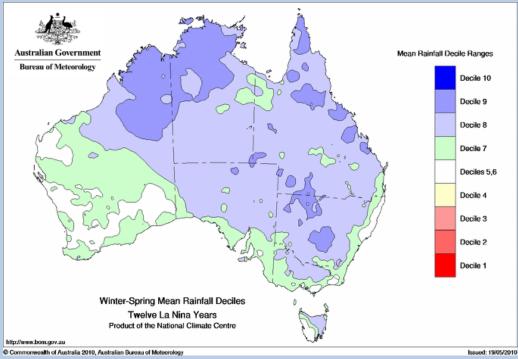
(The thermocline is the boundary between the deep cold water and the warmer mixed surface layer)

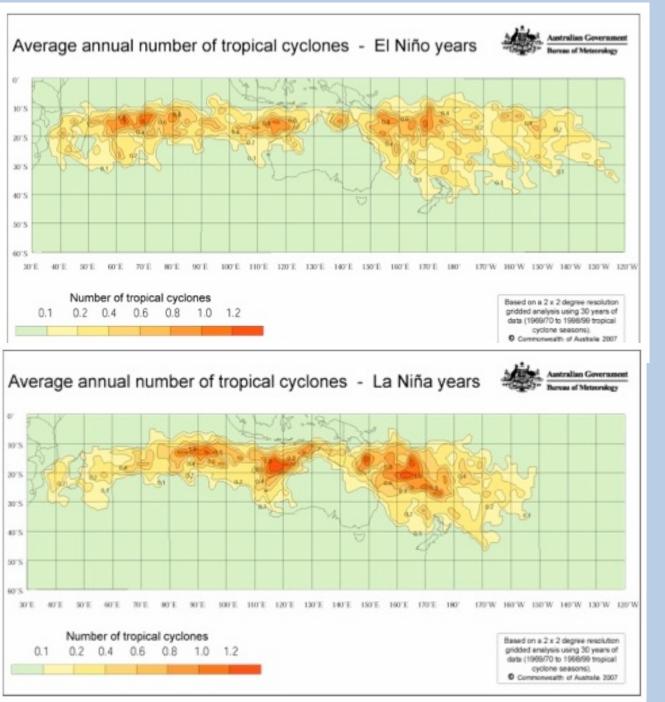


### Winter spring rainfall deciles 12 El Nino years

# Winter spring rainfall deciles 12 La Nina years









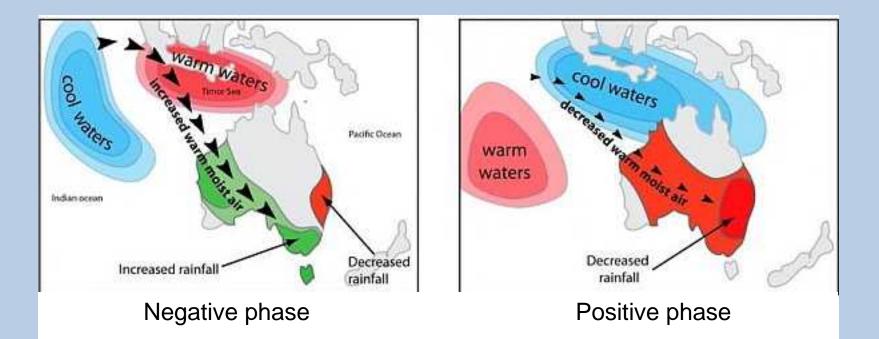


Image: University of NSW

## The Indian Ocean Dipole

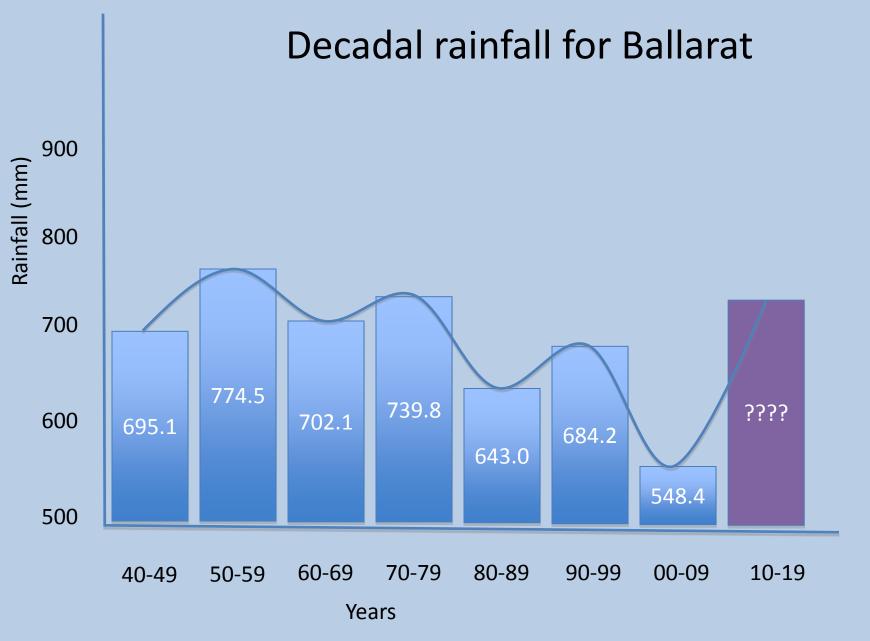


### Inter - decadal Pacific Oscillation?

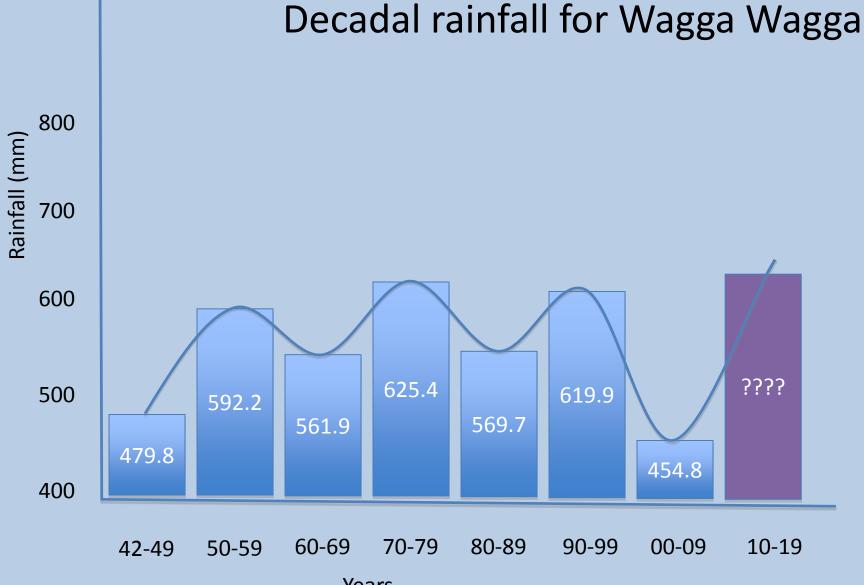
1940's: - Dry with dust - storms and bushfires
1950's: - Widespread floods – 1955 Maitland
1960s: - Dry decade – 1967 Tasmanian bushfires
1970's: - Widespread floods – Brisbane and tropical cyclone Tracy
1980's: - Drought – Ash Wednesday bushfires Victoria
1990's: - Floods – 1993 in Victoria – Shepparton
2000's: - Dry decade – 2003 Canberra and 2009 Black Saturday bushfires
2010's: - So far - floods











Years





## The lead up:

\* 1938 - Driest July to December on record for much of southern Victoria

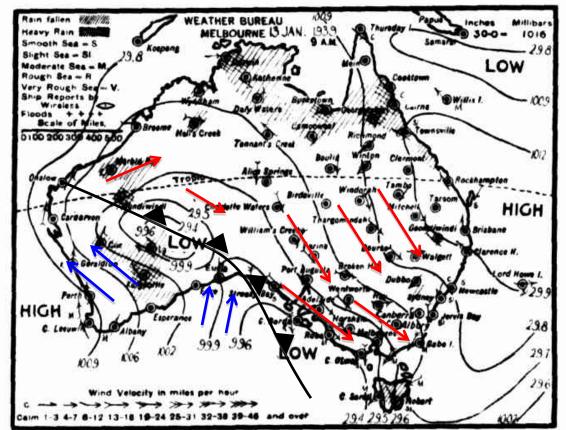
\* Unprecedented heat-wave built from early January

•Approaching front with northerly winds produced record temperatures

12th January: Adelaide 46.1C13th January: Melbourne 45.6C14th January: Sydney 45.3C



# **CHART and FORECASTS**

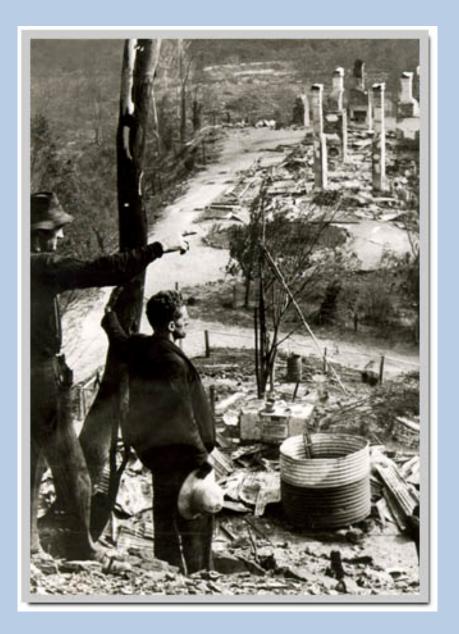


Steamers from which reports have been received are indicated . the bow pointing to the direction of travelling. The arrow indicates the direction of the wind.

NOTES ON THE CHART.—Friday's chart shows a weak "high" over the seas to the east of Australia, with practically the whole of the Australian continent under the influence of two low-pressure systems, one centred over the eastern Bight and the other centred over south-east inland regions of Western Australia. The latter "low" has moved from the north-west coast of Western Australia across inland Western Australia, weakening considerably in intensity and causing very heavy rains in its passage. This low has practically effected a union with the southern "low" in the Bight. During the 24 hours ended 9 a.m. Priday heavy rain occurred in central and south inland Western Australia, and at places north of the tropic, with some light rains in Tasmania. Very strong northwesterly winds were blowing in South Australia, inland New South Wales, and Victoria; many dust-storms being reported from South Australia, and much smoke haze in South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria. On Thursday, under the influence of the hot northerly winds in the south-east of the continent, maximum temperatures were very high. Adelaide recording a record maximum of 118deg. On Friday the hot northerly winds had ireshened very much and extended to Tasmania, and as a result extreme temperatures were again registered through most of South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria, Melbourne having a record maximum of 114.1deg. A slight cool change passed through Victorian coastal districts during the late afternoon, reaching Melbourne shortly before 4 p.m. It is expected that this change will intensify and gradually extend to inland areas. The synoptic chart Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 1939

"Black Friday"





# The remnants of a hospital near Omeo





Guest house destroyed near Healesville





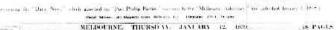
The timber town of Matlock was virtually destroyed













### FURTHER DANGER

#### STORIES OF RESCUERS' HEROISM

Twenty people have periahed in the forest fires which have ewopt the mountain districts of Victoria. The bodies of 18 men, women, and children were recovered yesterday. Two men are still missing, one of them being in the Walwa district.

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### Thursday January 12 1939





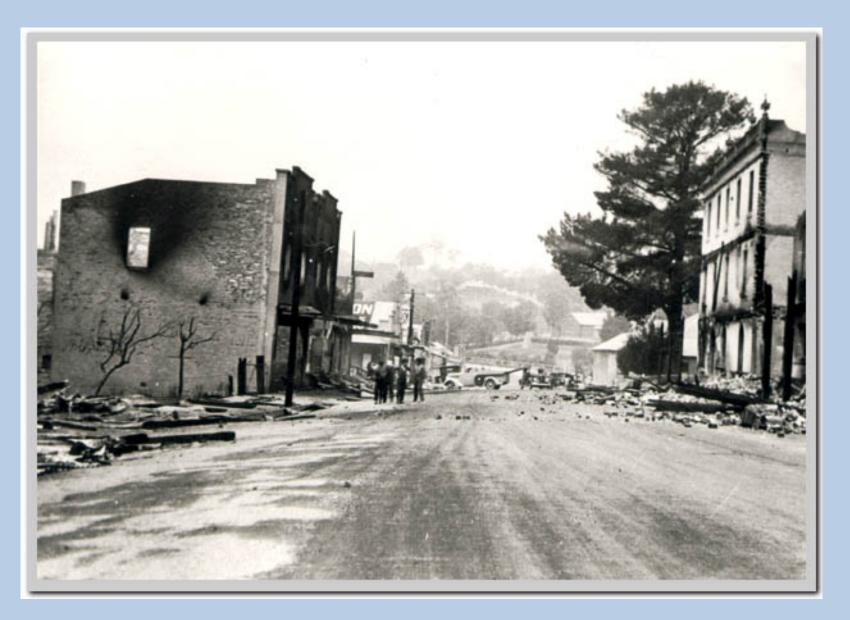


Relage in River



The Black Spur road near Healesville





### The devastated Victorian township of Omeo





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### Friday, January 13 1939



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# The ruined main street of Wood's Point





Erick was reported aster last night, but the neighbouring small settlements of Knull's Siding and Amor's fining were destroyed.

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### Saturday January 14, 1939

THE WEATHER CHANNEL



The areas of Victoria affected by the fires of 1939



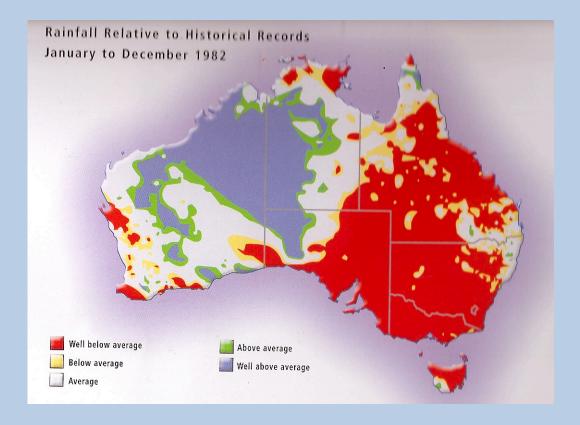




## The lead up:

- \* 1982 driest year for much of eastern Australia.
- \* Heat-wave conditions and strong winds developing ahead of a cold front on 16 February 1983





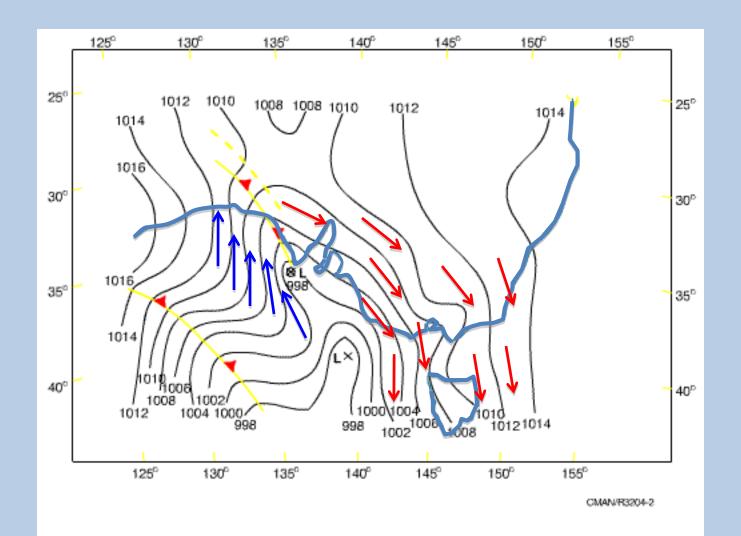
Rainfall deciles for the year 1982 – parts of eastern Australia driest year on record.





Dust storm in Melbourne - 8th February 1983 Photo: Trevor Farrar, Bureau of Meteorology





The synoptic chart on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1983 (Bureau of Meteorology image)





Smoke from the Ash Wednesday fires 16th Feb 1983 (Image: Bureau of Meteorology)



### Massive fires near Mt. Macedon; Crown fires race through the bush





Post blaze landscape – trees still burning after main front had passed through.

(Images: Wikipedia Commons)



High intensity fire damage

Trees burnt from crown to base

Surface cover destroyed, fences burnt down.





### (Images: Wikipedia Commons)





Ash Wednesday 1983 (Image: State Library Victoria)





Areas devastated by the Ash Wednesday fires 16th February 1983 (Image: Wikipedia Commons)







## The lead up:

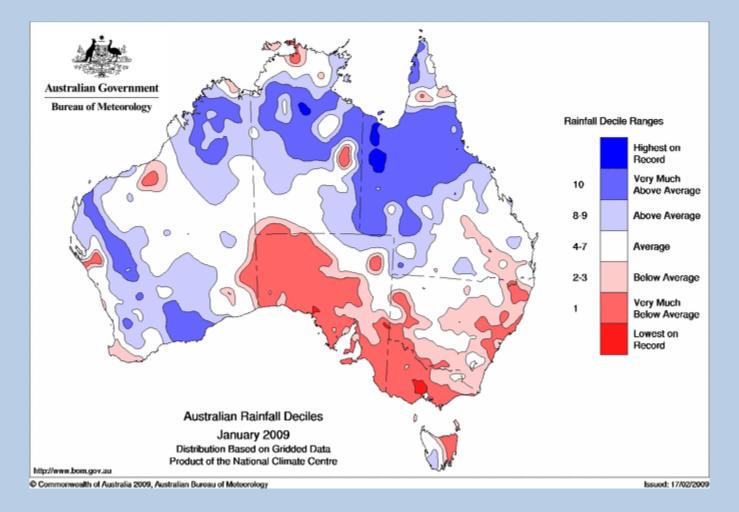
\* Good rains across Victoria during December - increase in fuel load

\* Very dry weather during January and 1st week of February

\* Record prolonged heat-wave across southeastern Australia

\* New record temperature for Melbourne
46.4C on Saturday 7th February - strong frontal system

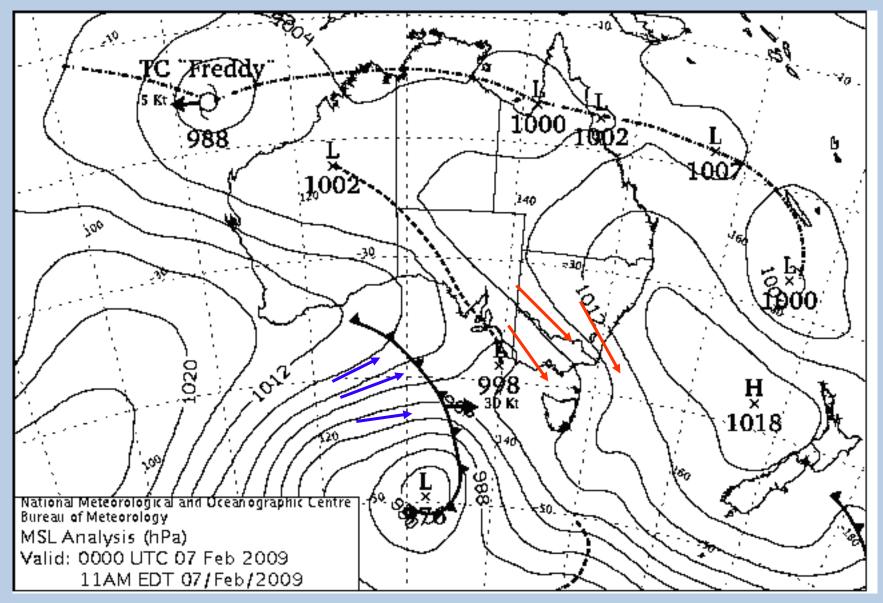




## Australian rainfall deciles January 2009 – very dry weather across southeastern Australia

Bureau of Meteorology image





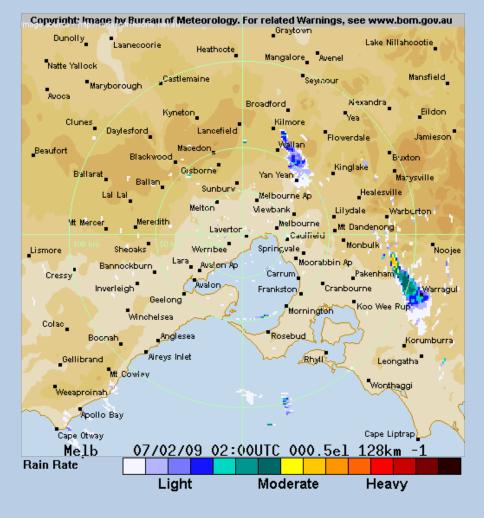
Synoptic chart at 11 am 7 February 2009 (Bureau of Meteorology image)





Bushfire smoke dispersal in northwest winds (NASA image)





### Melbourne radar 8 pm 7 February



### Melbourne radar 1 pm 7 February

#### (Bureau of Meteorology images)





Black Saturday fires (Wikipedia Commons)





Black Saturday fires (Wikipedia Commons)



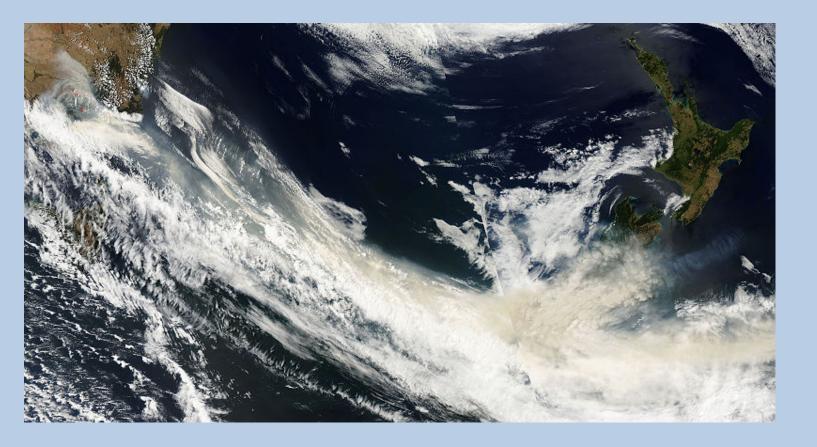


Massive crown fire shoots flames Up to 50 meters in the air

Apocalyptic scenes near Yarra Glen at the height of the fires (Wikipedia Commons)







NASA image shows smoke being carried across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand during the fires.



## **Black Friday:**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1939 71 deaths, 1300 homes destroyed

## Ash Wednesday:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 1983 75 deaths, 2500 homes destroyed

## **Black Saturday:**

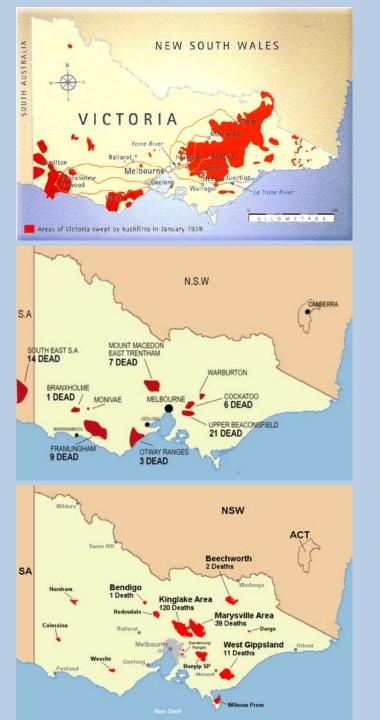
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 173 deaths, 1800 homes destroyed



## **Common features:**

- \* Drought in the lead up
- \* High temperatures with NW winds ahead of a front
- \* Low humidity less than 8%
- \* Strong NW winds ahead of a SW change





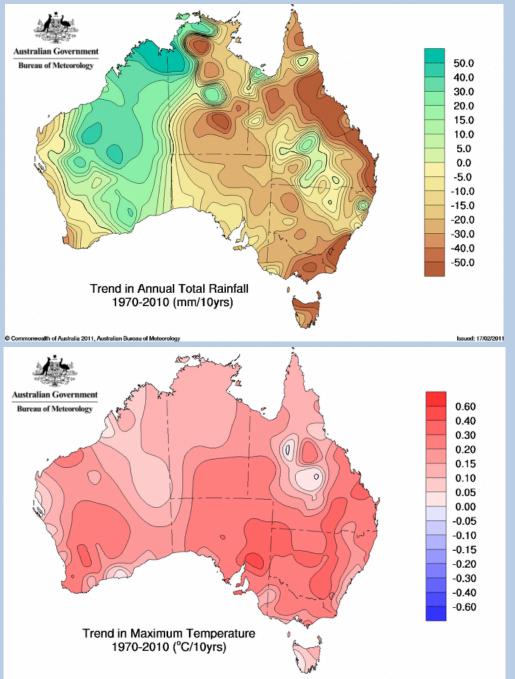
#### Black Friday 1939

Ash Wednesday 1983

Black Saturday 2009 (in red)



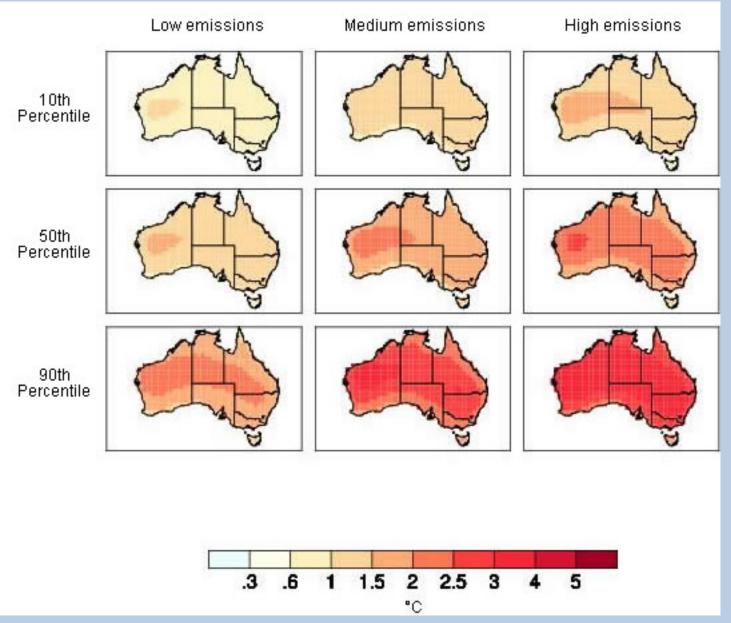
(Wikipedia Commons)



## Rainfall and temperature trends 1970 to 2010

(Bureau of Meteorology)





CSIRO Temperature predictions for the year 2050



Research by the CSIRO, Climate Institute and the

Bushfire Council found that a 'low global warming scenario'

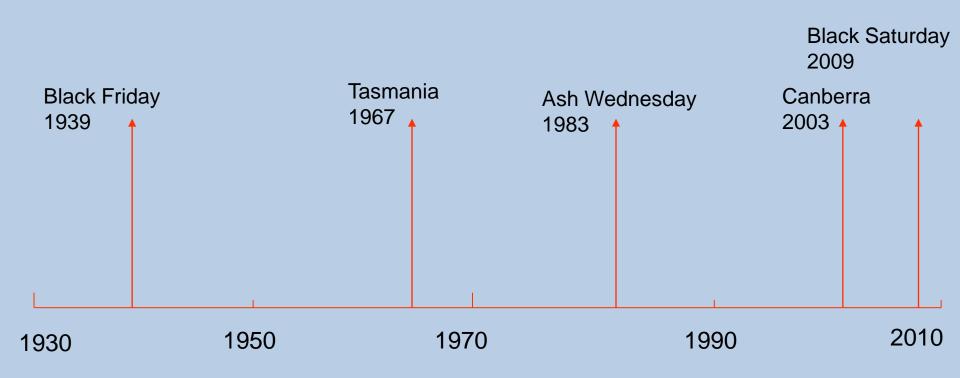
"will see catastrophic fire events happen in parts of

regional Victoria every 5-7 years by 2020,

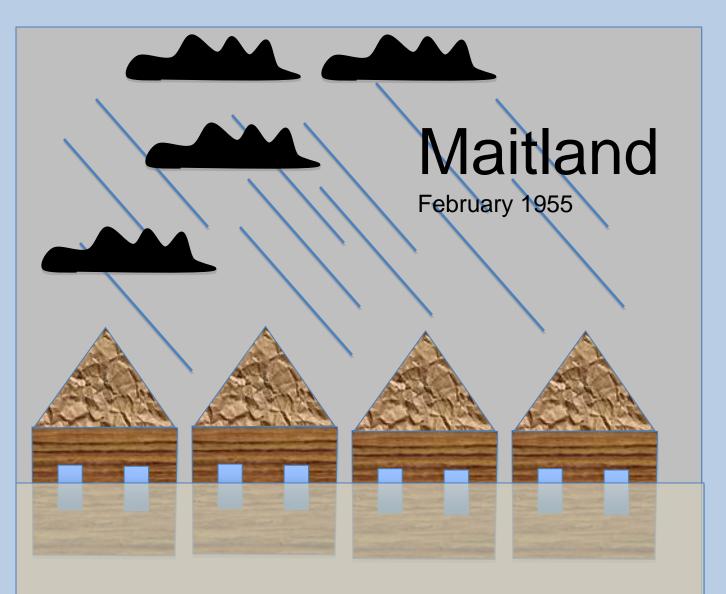
and every 3-4 years by 2050, with up to 50 per cent

more extreme danger fire days". .

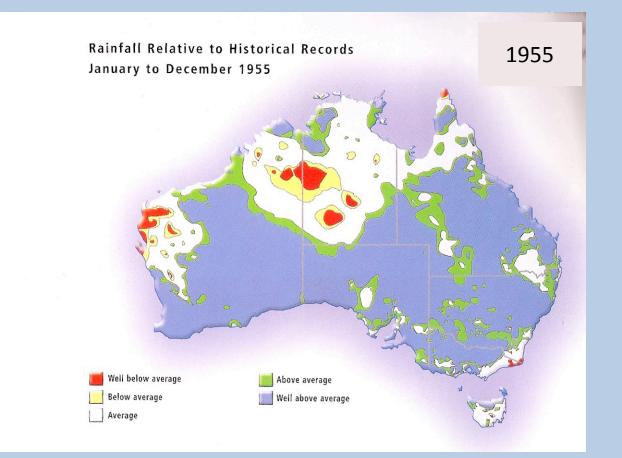




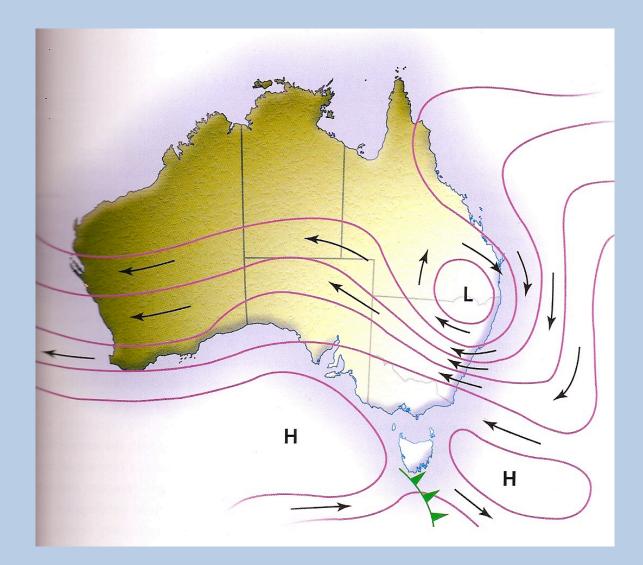






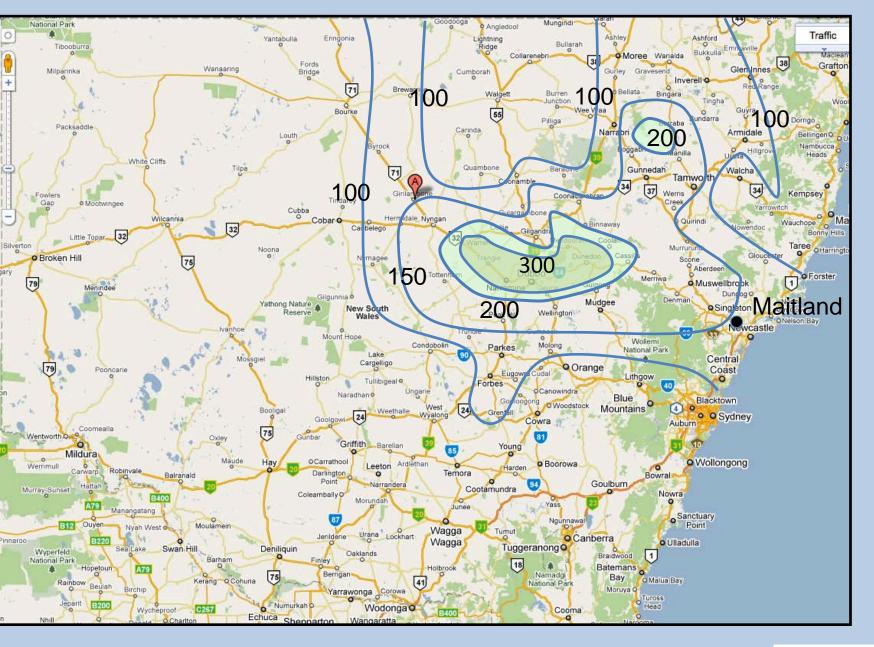






Synoptic chart for 24<sup>th</sup> February 1955





Rainfall in mm recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 1955























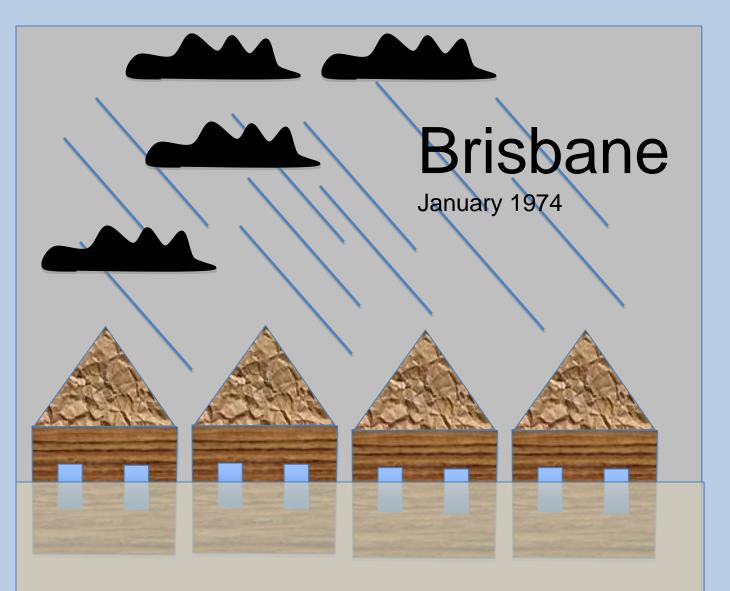






Maitland floods 1955 - Image Courtesy of the Newcastle City Library







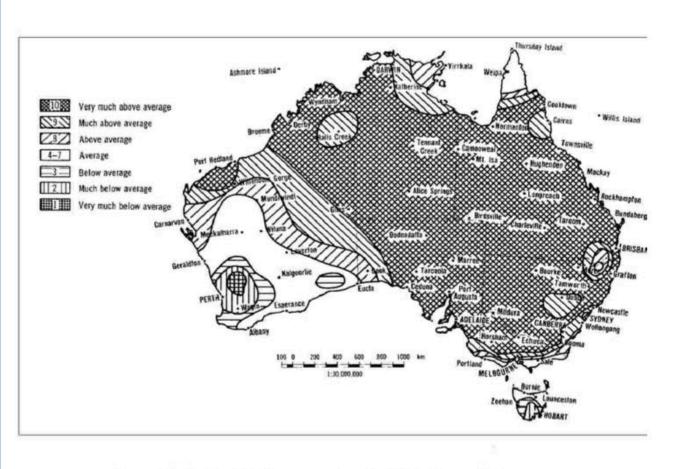


Figure 4:Distribution of decile range numbers of rainfall in January 1974

Rainfall deciles for January 1974 (Bureau of Meteorology)



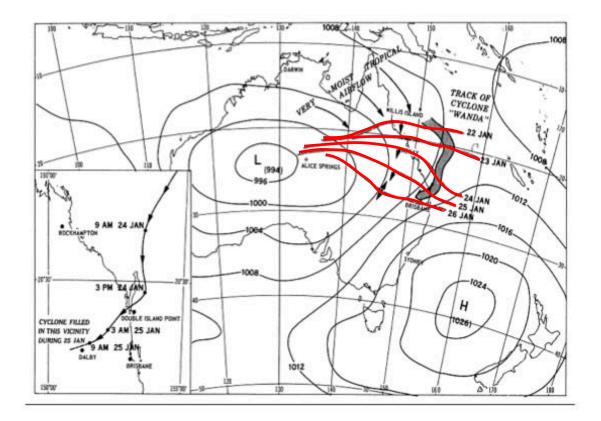


Figure 5: Schematic diagram illustrating the main meteorological influences between 22 –29 January 1974. The mean MSL pressure analysis (mb) is shown by the thin lines and the heavy dashed lines represent successive positions of the monsoonal trough. The broad arrow represents the track of cyclone 'Wanda'. (Inset: Enlargement of south Queensland coast showing landfall of cyclone 'Wanda'.)



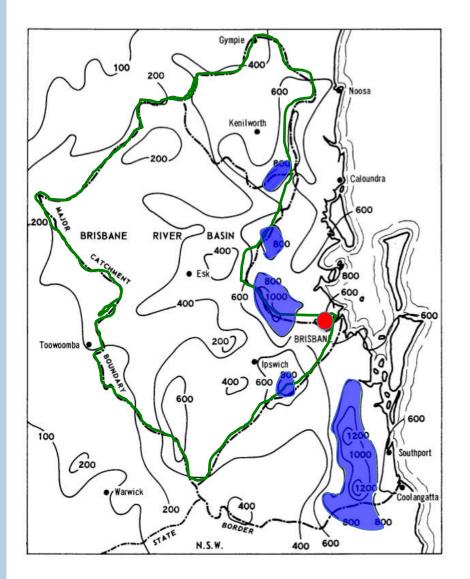


Figure 7: Rainfall isohyets (mm) for the 5 day period ended 9 am Tuesday 29 January 1974 Rainfall isohyets across the Brisbane River Basin for the 5-Day period ending 9 am Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 1974

(Bureau of Meteorology)

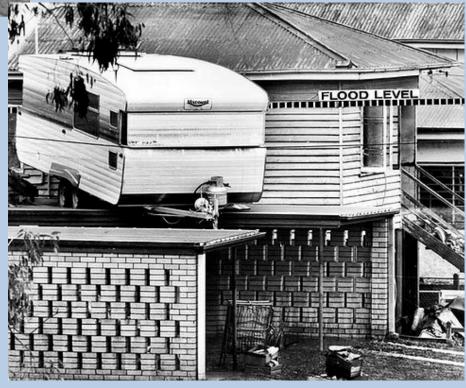




Floodwater reaching the eaves of houses in the Brisbane suburb of Yeronga, January 29, 1974

The floods carried this caravan from a sales centre five miles away and dumped it on a carport roof in Salisbury. January 1974 Brisbane

Images: State Library of Queensland





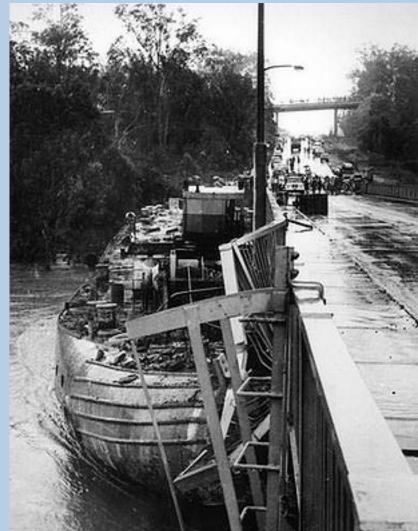


A gravel barge wedged against the upstream side of the Centenary Bridge 27<sup>th</sup> January1974

Images: State Library of Queensland



The flooded Riverside Expressway while under construction looking Towards South Brisbane in the background, January 1974.





A flooded Charlotte Street in Brisbane's CBD, January 1974.

### Albert Street, Brisbane CBD, January 1974

Images: State Library of Queensland





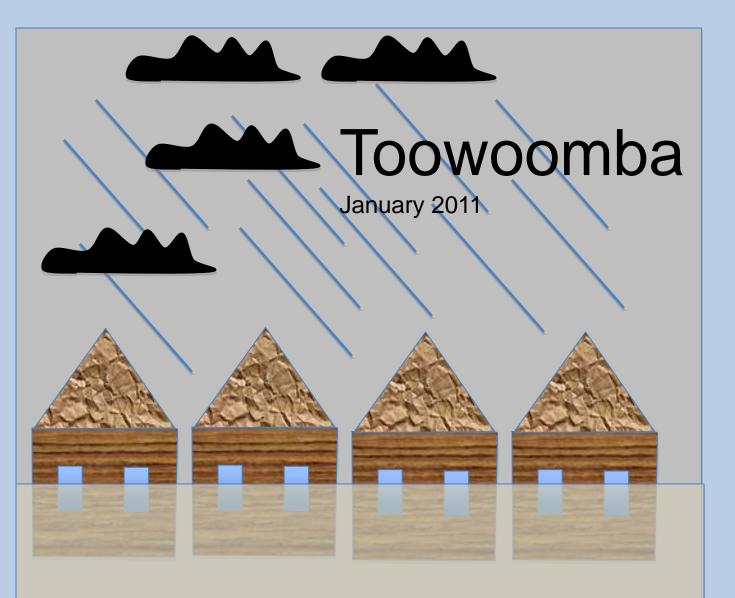


Rubber dinghies traversing a flooded Alice Street in the CBD. The Parkroyal Motor Inn can be seen in the background. Brisbane January 1974

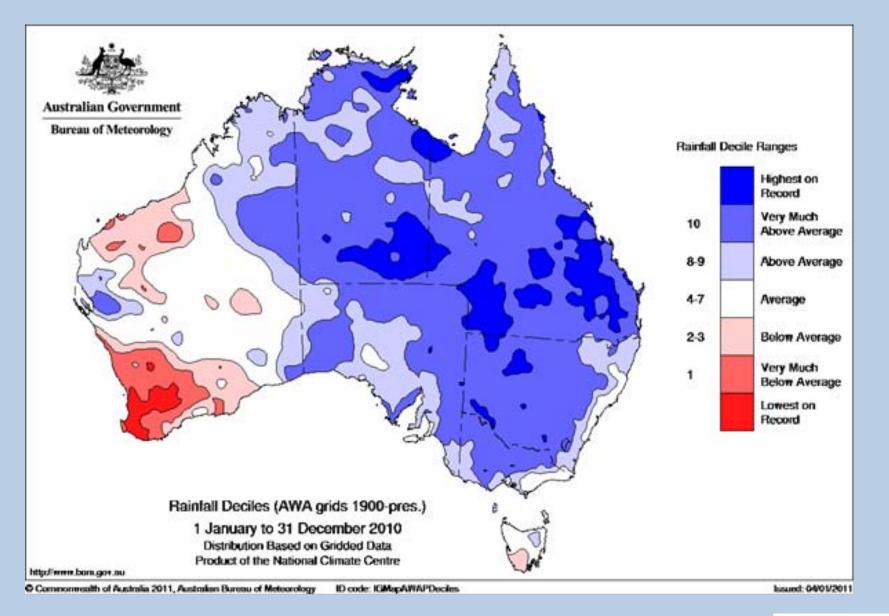
# Extensive flooding through the CBD Brisbane 1974



Images: State Library of Queensland



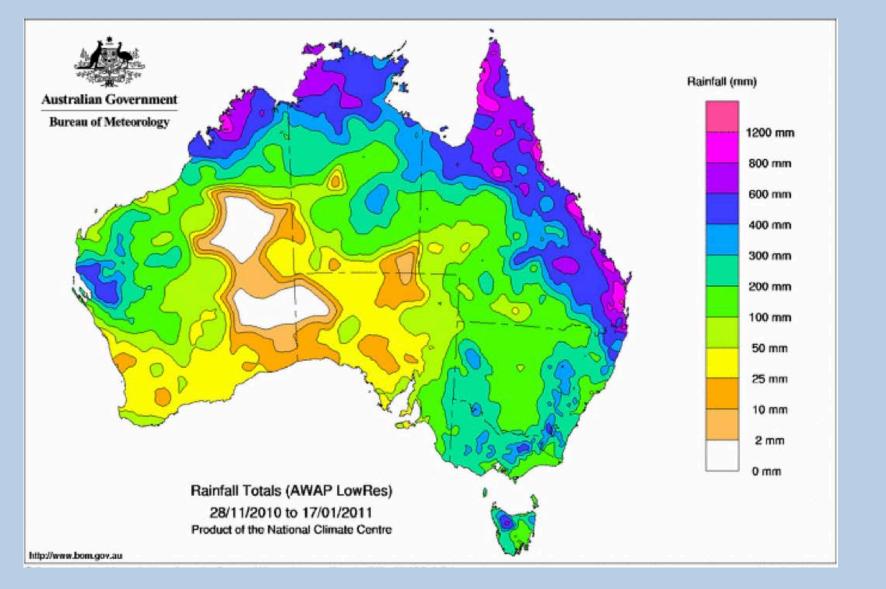




Rainfall deciles for 2010

(Bureau of Meteorology)

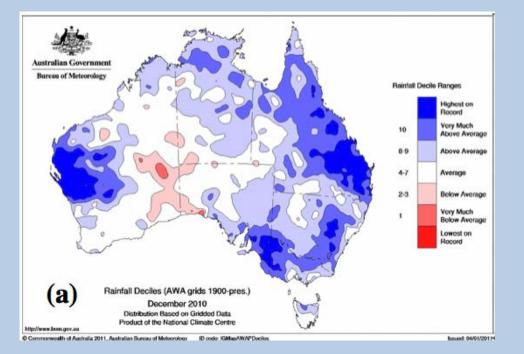




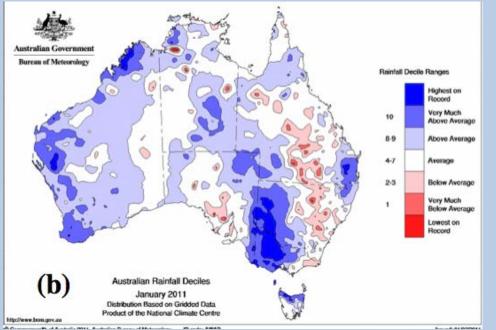
Rainfall totals 28th November 2010 to 17th January 2011



Bureau of Meteorology



### **Rainfall deciles** December 2010



Add and the same

### **Rainfall deciles** January 2010

Bureau of Meteorology





Disastrous flooding in Toowoomba 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 Rainfall rate measured at 60 mm per hour but probably much greater Image: Wikipedia Commons



#### Rainfall intensity, frequency and duration IFD data for Toowoomba

RETURN PERIOD (YEARS)							
DURATION	1	2	5	10	20	50	100
5 mins	90.8	117.	146.	164.	189.	224.	252.
6 mins	84.7	109.	136.	153.	177.	209.	235.
10 mins	69.4	88.9	111.	124.	143.	168.	188.
20 mins	51.4	65.4	80.2	89.2	102.	119.	133.
30 mins	41.9	53.3	64.9	71.9	82.0	95.5	106.
1 hour	28.0	35.5	43.0	47.5	54.0	62.7	69.5
2 hours	17.6	22.2	26.9	29.7	33.8	39.2	43.5
3 hours	13.1	16.6	20.1	22.2	25.2	29.3	32.5
6 hours	7.86	10.0	12.1	13.4	15.3	17.8	19.8
12 hours	4.79	6.10	7.49	8.34	9.54	11.2	12.4
24 hours	3.01	3.86	4.82	5.41	6.24	7.36	8.25
48 hours	1.89	2.44	3.12	3.54	4.13	4.94	5.59
72 hours	1.38	1.79	2.32	2.64	3.10	3.74	4.26

**RETURN PERIOD (YEARS)** 

(Raw data: 36.65, 6.19, 1.83, 59.69, 10.43, 3.51,skew= 0.340) HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE (C) AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

