



November 2021

## **MetService publishes *New Zealand's Wild Weather* book –with Penguin Random House**

MetService is delighted to announce that in mid-November the book, they are publishing with Penguin Random House, 'New Zealand's Wild Weather - explained by the experts at MetService' will be available at all good booksellers nationwide.

From tornadoes to drought, tropical cyclones to snow, MetService meteorologists break down the science behind these weather phenomena in simple terms.

Each chapter starts with a gripping eyewitness account of terrifying wild weather such as being struck by lightning or engulfed by storm surge.

Well-known and leading climatologist Professor James Renwick sets the scene of our changing climate and how that interacts with the wild weather that we experience here in Aotearoa.

New Zealand's Wild Weather is a compelling, informative and highly illustrated series of investigations into the different types of weather that occur in New Zealand.

The country's preoccupation with weather is understandable given our island nation can often find itself at the mercy of significantly changing conditions and in particular - wild weather. Christmas and summer holidays like many events or activities are often contingent on the vicissitudes of the weather.

Each chapter opens with real-life stories of people affected by diverse New Zealand weather events over the decades. Popular natural history writer Gerard Hutching tells their stories, bringing these events to life - from a dairy farmer and his quad bike being lifted five metres into the air by a tornado then dropped 100 metres away, to the fisheries inspector who survives a lightning strike.

Other stories include eyewitness reports of rivers washing bridges away, of standing in the path of an ex-tropical cyclone, of a fog induced aviation tragedy, and of car damage from golf-ball sized hailstones, along with MetService meteorologists' expert explanations of the conditions that caused these terrifying weather events.

From extreme weather events and weather in a changing climate, to understanding the weather and its relationship with the ocean *New Zealand's Wild Weather* explains it all in an easy to understand and comprehensive guide

**END**

**Lisa Murray, Science communicator with MetService is available for interviews.**

**Notes to the editors:**

*New Zealand's Wild Weather: explained by the experts at MetService*

From all good bookseller- nationwide

RRP \$45

[Penguin Random House New Zealand](#) - link

## **WEATHER FACTS**

- Charge of a lightning bolt: typically, 300 million volts (pg. 185)
- Average number of lightning strikes on land per year in New Zealand: near to 47,000 (pg. 184)
- The tallest clouds over New Zealand can reach heights of: 12km+ (pg. 186)
- Hottest New Zealand temperature on record: 42.4 degrees Celsius in Rangiora North Canterbury (pg. 160)
- New Zealand hailstones typically fall at speeds of: 15 - 40 km/hour (pg. 200)
- Size of New Zealand's largest hailstones: size of a golf ball. In other parts of the world, they can be the size of cricket balls (pg. 197 & 200)
- Highest officially recorded wind gust: North Island - 248km/h Hawkins Hill, Wellington; South Island - 250km/h Mt John, Canterbury (pg. 113)
- Our top three windiest cities: Wellington, New Plymouth, Whanganui (pg. 113)
- Our foggiest airport: Hamilton (pg. 225)
- Weather balloons can reach heights of: 30 kilometres (pg. 141)