APRIL 2017

Hawke's Day Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL | Environmental Science

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

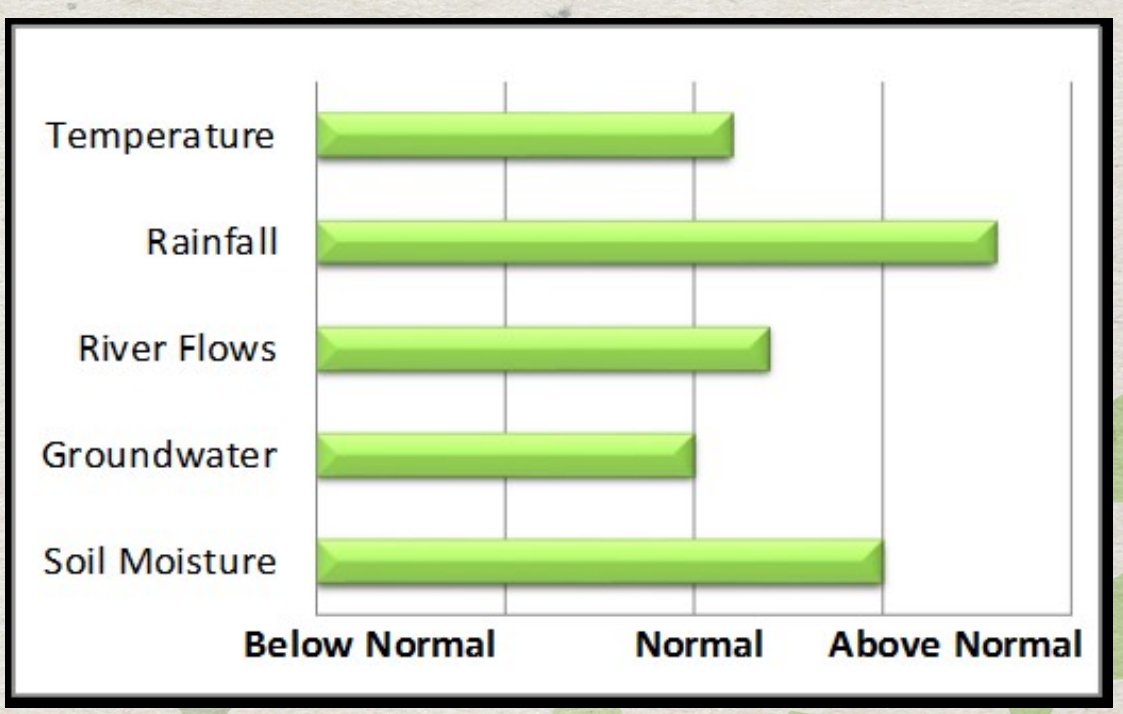
April 2017

Easter is typically a time of swallowing more than we should and we outdid ourselves by swallowing the tropics… twice. We overindulged in rain courtesy of Debbie and gorged on wind thanks to Cook. We're accustomed to strong winds from the northwest in October but not 100 km/h gusts from the east in April. It seems the change in wind direction combined with sodden soil took our trees by surprise, so much so that some needed a lie down. I imagine if my customary brisk nasal rinse unexpectedly changed to forceful colonic irrigation, I'd be unsteady on my pins too. All in all, rainfall, soil moisture and river flows were all above normal for the month and groundwater levels around the region responded to the wet weather as and when it pleased them. Temperatures weren't entirely tropical but respectfully above average

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air

The short summary
Wild, wet and warm

This is a summary of the regions rainfall, river flows, ground water, air quality and soil moisture levels. Data and images provided by HBRC.



May to July Forecast

Temperature	Near average
Rain	Near or below normal
River flows	Near normal
Soil moisture	Near normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information
www.hbrc.govt.nz
P: 06 835 9200

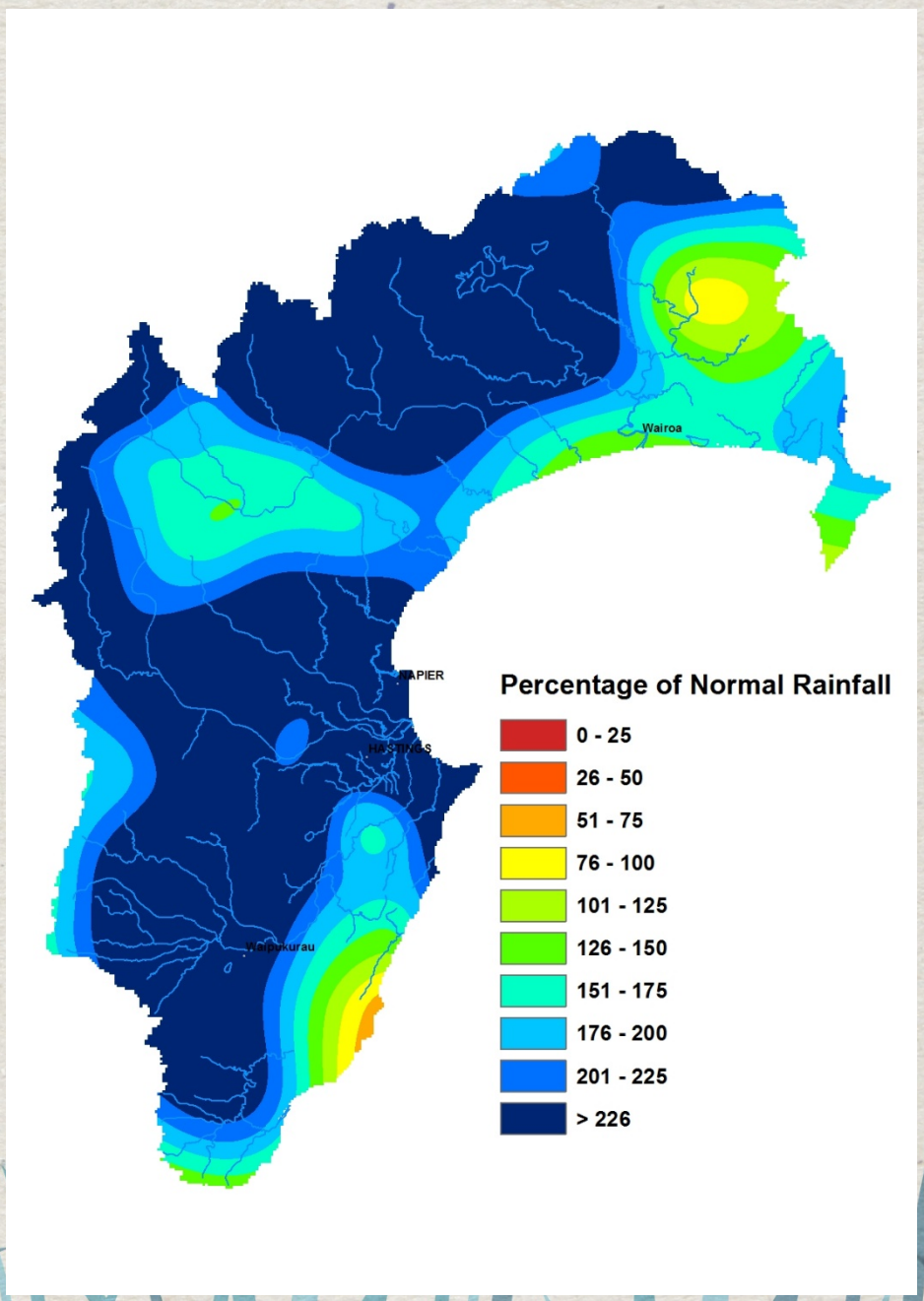
RAINFALL

Soaked – above normal everywhere.

Percentage of normal April rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	**274%**
Northern HB	**191%**
Tangoio	**226%**
Kaweka	**213%**
Ruahine	**199%**
Heretaunga Plains	**267%**
Ruataniwha Plains	**274%**
Southern HB	**208%**
Hawke's Bay Region	**231%**



TEMPERATURES

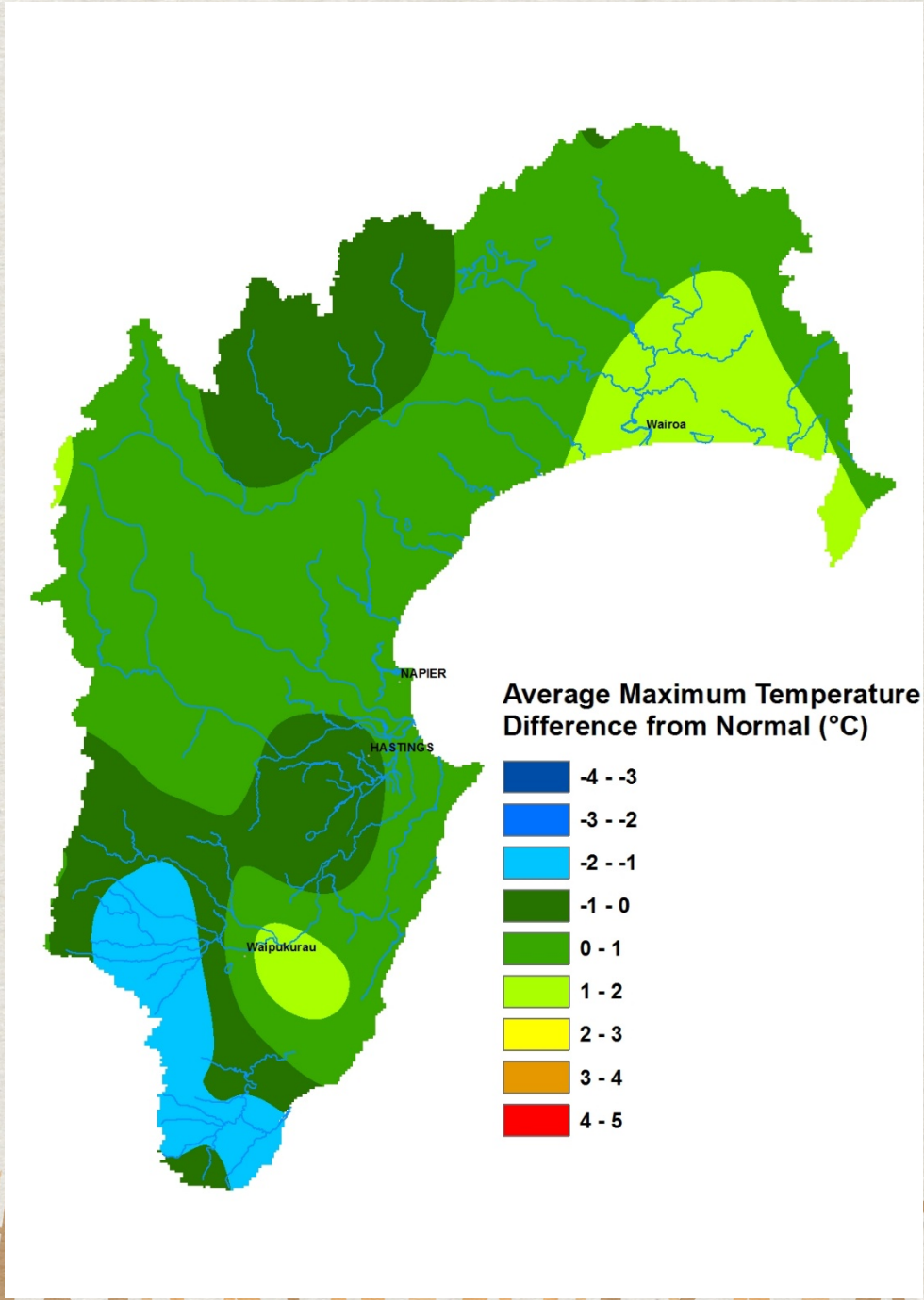
Above average, especially nights

Mean Difference from Normal
Maximum Temperature: 0.4°C
Minimum Temperature: 1.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 18°C
Mean Daily Minimum: 10°C

Highest Daily: 30.1°C
Location: Hastings AWS

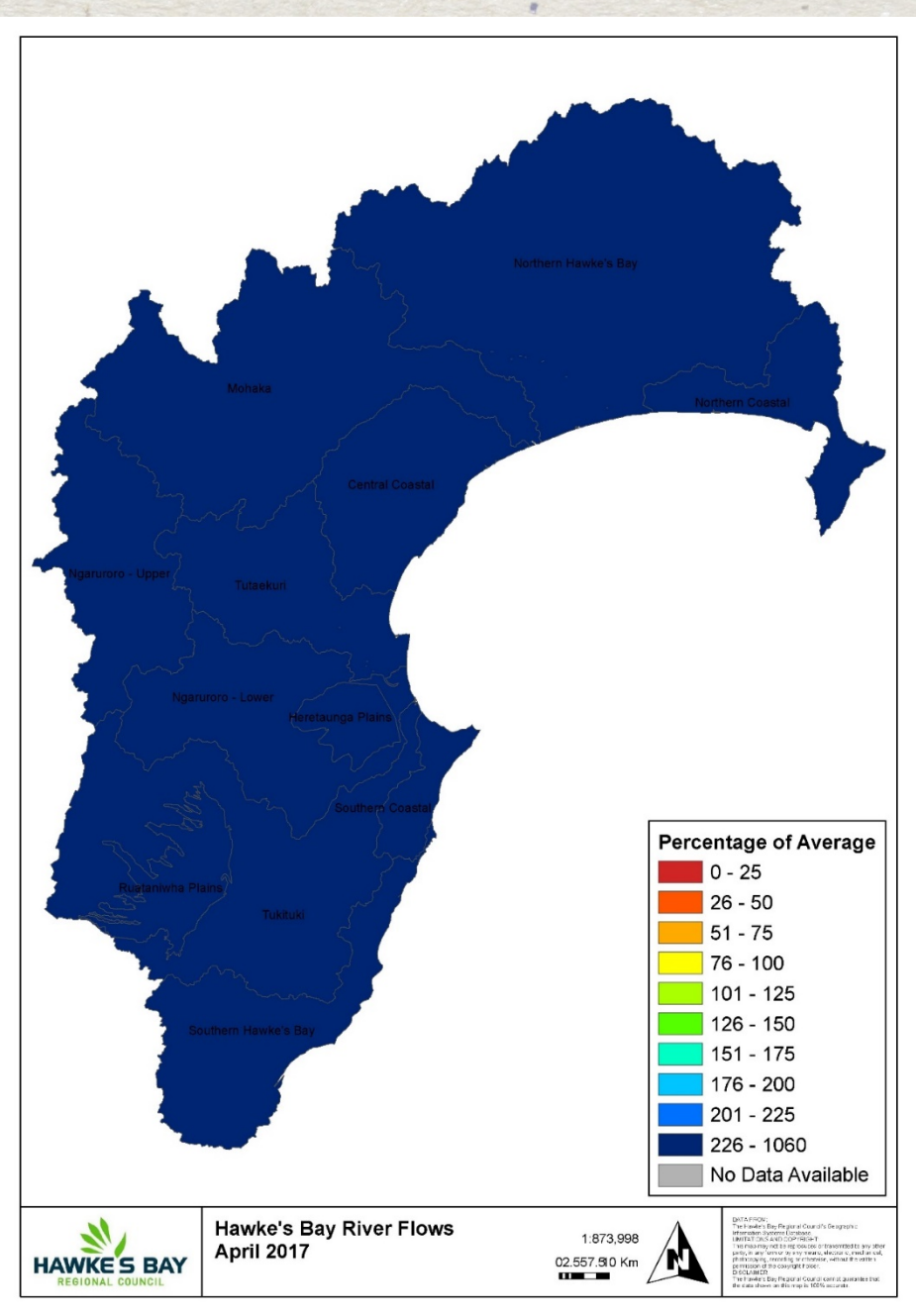
Lowest Daily: -0.2°C
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average April flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	249%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	295%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	275%
Northern HB – Waiau River	430%
Mohaka	249%
Central Coastal	261%
Tūtaekuri	311%
Heretaunga Plains	316%
Ngaruroro - Upper	309%
Ngaruroro - Lower	414%
Southern Coastal	254%
Ruataniwha Plains	549%
Tukituki	365%
Southern HB	1058%
Hawke's Bay Region	**381%**



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

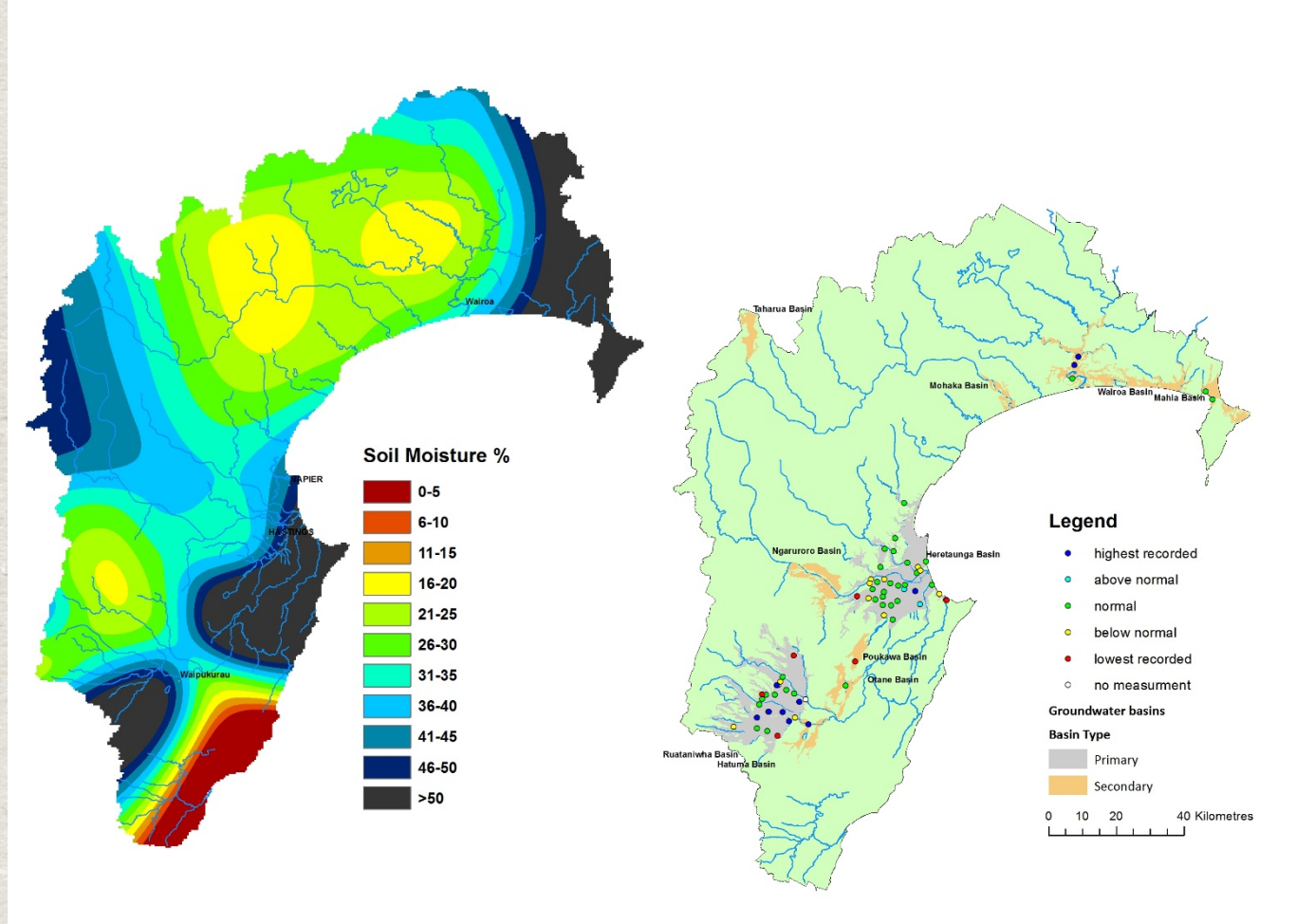
Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin –
Mostly normal water levels

Ruataniwha basin –
Mainly Normal and above normal water levels

Secondary basin –
Mainly normal to above normal conditions

Soil Moisture
Above normal



Significant rain since mid-February and above average temperatures have produced unprecedented autumn pasture growth. Conditions on pastoral farms are more like those seen in spring.

Ewes have gone to the ram in very good condition, which should mean good lambing percentages. The high pasture covers have seen store stock attracting significant price premiums. Many farmers sold stock early due to the dry summer and are now holding onto anything remaining to add weight and control pasture, while others compete for the limited supply available to buy in for finishing through winter. Beef cattle in particular are fetching high prices.

The April rainfall and wet ground conditions proved troublesome for harvesting maize silage, applying autumn fertiliser, planting new grass and for shearing.

It has been a challenging harvest period for cropping farmers, and grape and fruit growers. In addition to the rain interrupting picking, the predominance of mild, cloudy weather in March and early April delayed colour development in mid- to late-season apple varieties.

The priority for wineries during periods of wet weather is to harvest fruit in good condition. This meant that some grape crops were harvested before optimum ripeness could be achieved. There have also been instances of grape loss.

The harvest of onion and tomato crops was hampered by wet weather. The marketable yields of some main-season onion crops are likely to be reduced.

The damaging winds that accompanied ex-tropical Cyclone Cook mid-April meant some areas were without power for several days and as a result, a number of dairy herds were dried off early. Plantation forests and orchards in the region seem to have escaped OK, with only minor and localised damage reported.