

SEPTEMBER 2017

# Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES  
RAINFALL  
RIVER FLOW  
GROUNDWATER & SOIL  
MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

**HAWKE'S BAY** | Environmental Science  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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## SEPTEMBER 2017

September rainfall was bang on 100% of the normal total when you lump the region together. Cue incredulous guffaws all round because few spots actually got average rainfall. Instead behind that figure is something akin to a glamour model, i.e. buxom up top and spindly below. We were very top heavy, with northern areas getting about 50% more rain than usual and southern areas 50% or so less. That lightbulb pattern plays out in river levels, whereas groundwater and soil moisture levels sit around normal across most of the region. Temperatures had a typical spring signature – bounding from frosts to mid-twenties – and were a touch warmer than usual, particularly in the fortunate places where the sun showed face.

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, there's a dark, pebbly beach with several large, light-colored rocks scattered across it. The water is a deep blue, reflecting the sky. In the middle ground, there's a sandy area with some sparse vegetation and a few wooden posts. In the background, a long bridge or pier extends across the water towards the horizon. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**Kathleen Kozyniak**  
**Principal Scientist Climate & Air**

**The short summary – mixed fortunes – very wet for some, very dry and warm for others**

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

**October to December Forecast**

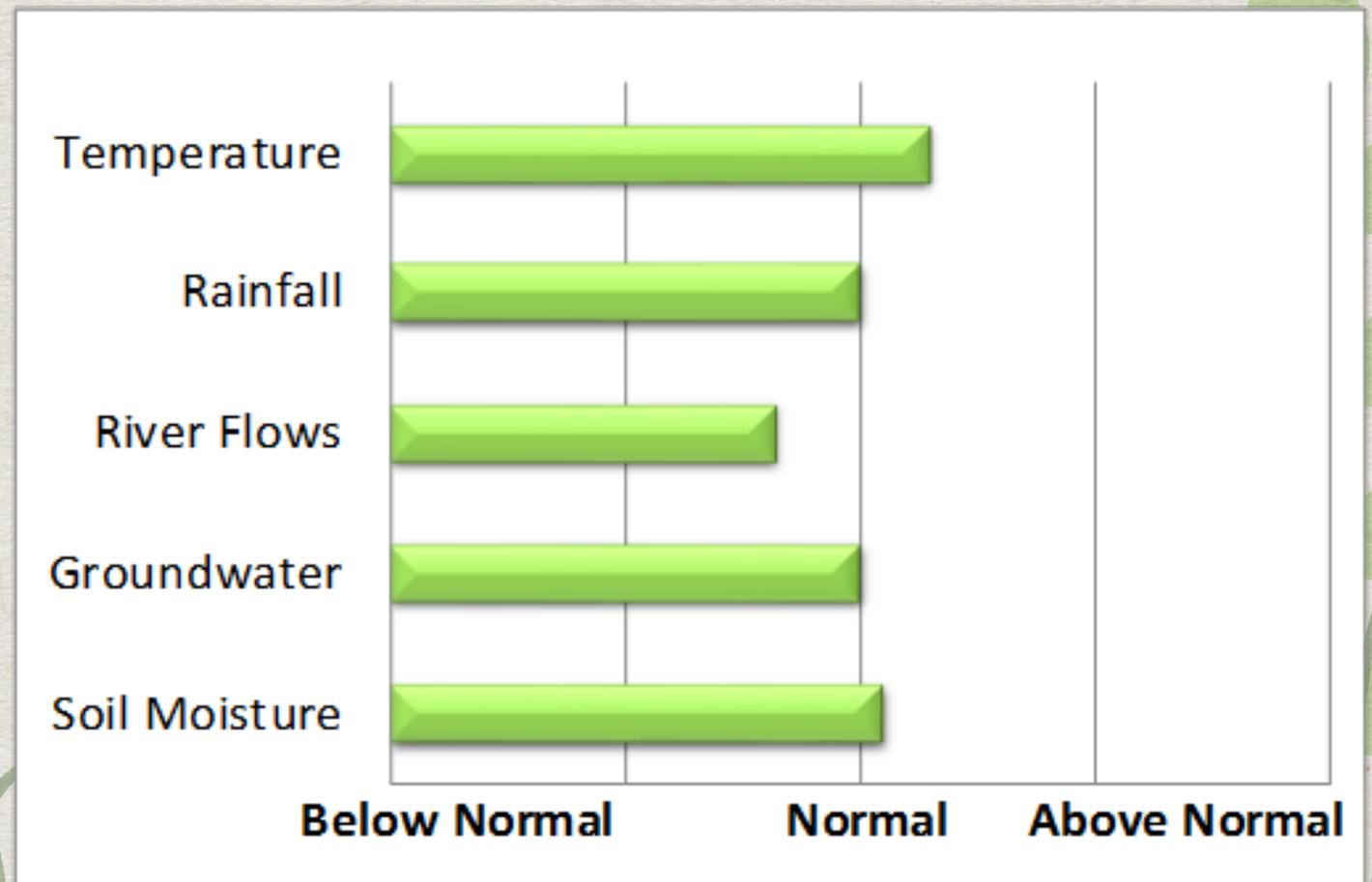
Temperature Above average  
Rain Near normal  
River flows Near normal  
Soil moisture Near normal

(source : NIWA)

**For more information**

[www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)

**P: 06 835 9200**



# TEMPERATURES

**Warmish, above average**

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.4°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.6°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 15°C

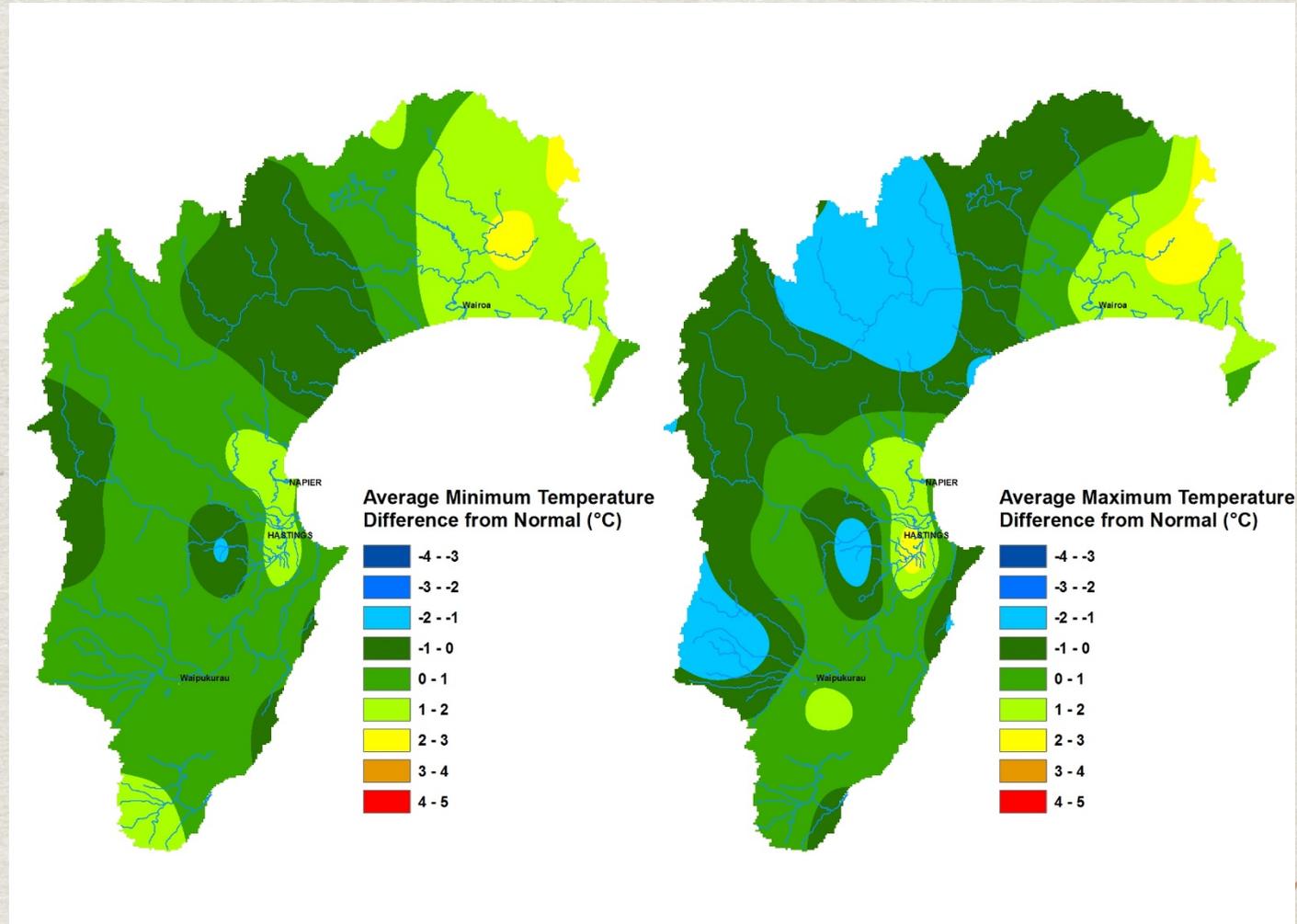
Mean Daily Minimum: 6°C

Highest Daily: 26.6°C

Location: Hastings AWS

Lowest Daily: -4.5°C

Location: Taharua



# RAINFALL

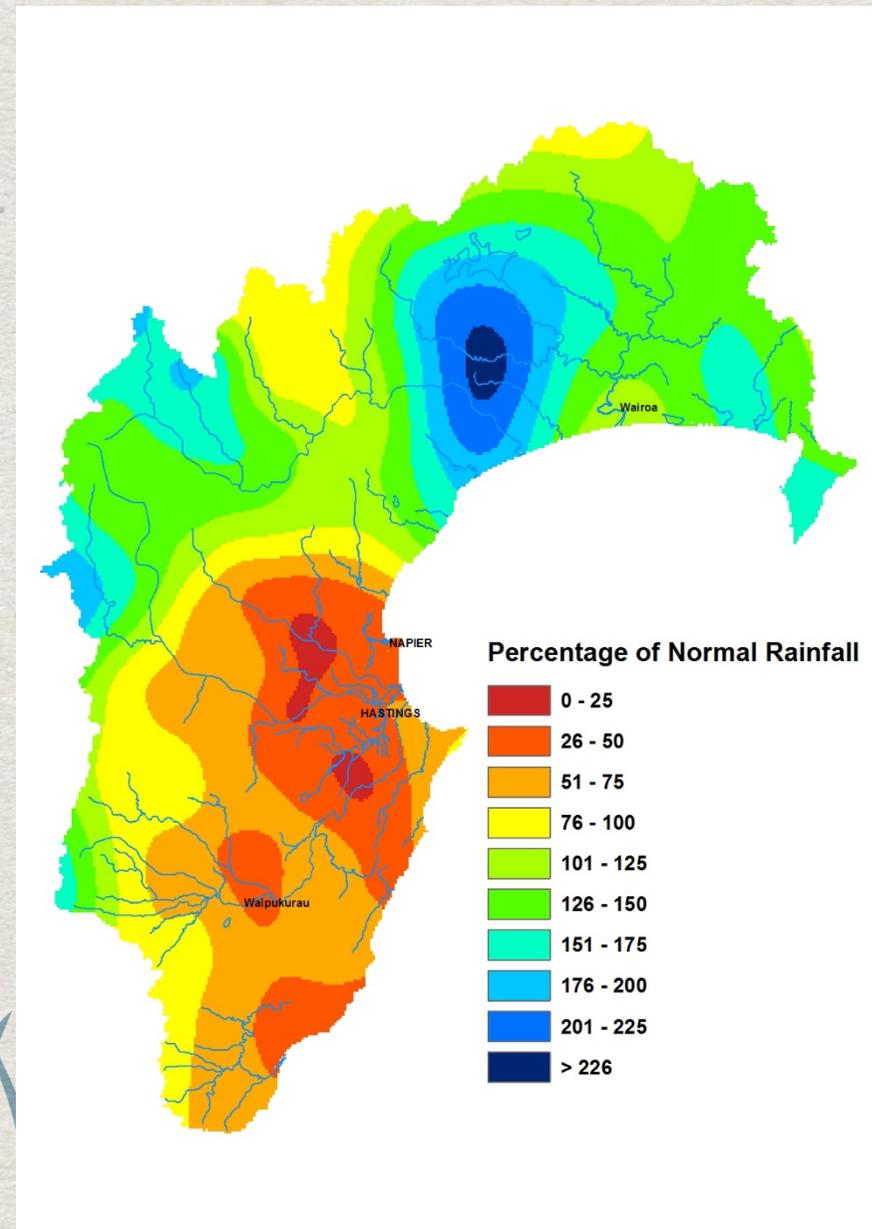
## Wet in the north, dry in the south

Percentage of normal September rainfall  
(30 year average)

### For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	157%
Northern HB	161%
Tangoio	91%
Kaweka	31%
Ruahine	108%
Heretaunga Plains	38%
Ruataniwha Plains	62%
Southern HB	53%

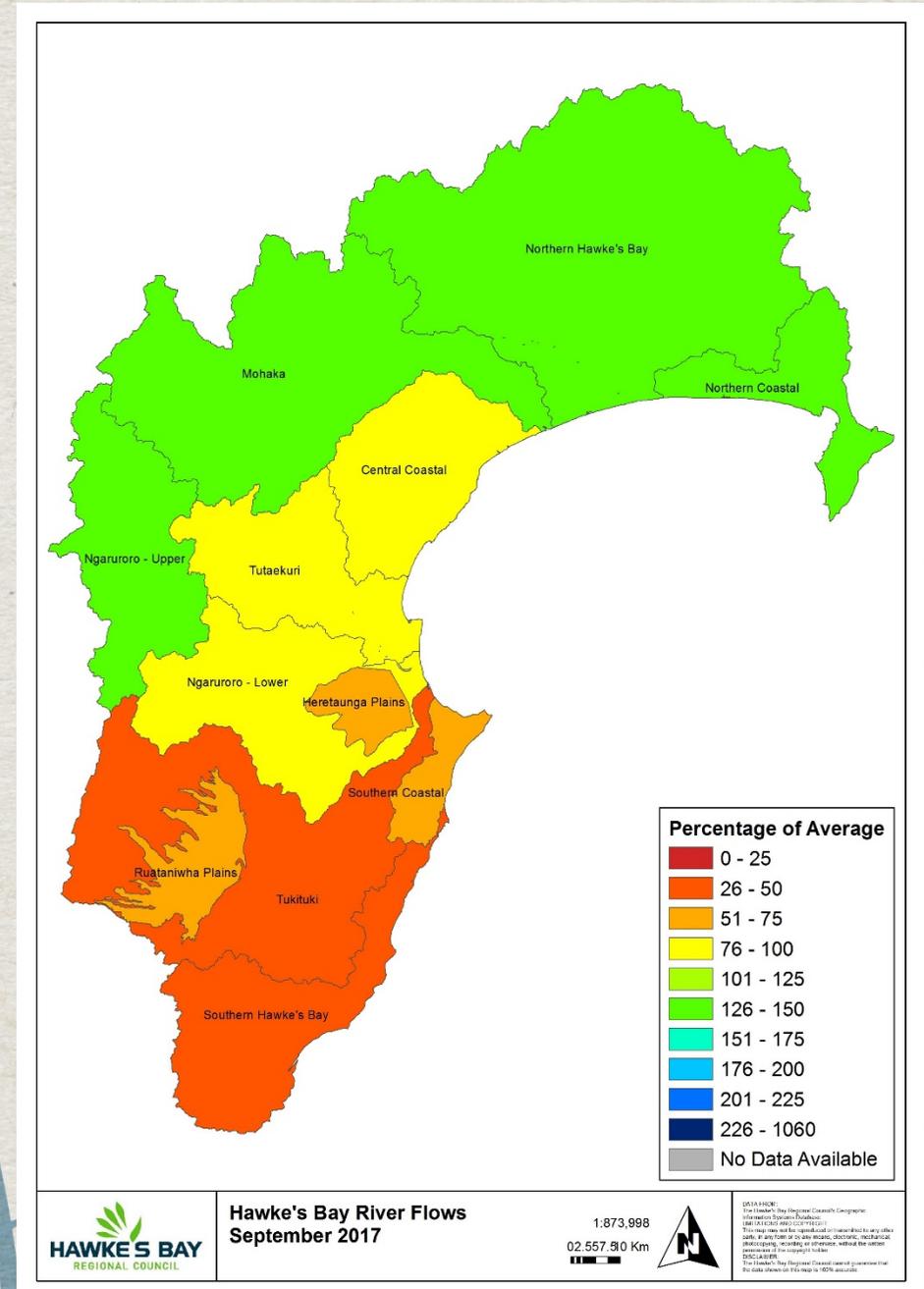
**Hawke's Bay Region** **100%**



# RIVER FLOW

## Percentage of average September flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	139%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	115%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	136%
Northern HB – Waiau River	191%
Mohaka	135%
Central Coastal	89%
Tūtaekuri	82%
Heretaunga Plains	70%
Ngaruroro - Upper	137%
Ngaruroro - Lower	92%
Southern Coastal	63%
Ruataniwha Plains	53%
Tukituki	50%
Southern HB	36%
<b>Hawke's Bay Region</b>	<b>99%</b>



# GROUNDWATER & SOIL

## Groundwater Levels

### *Heretaunga Basin*

Mainly normal water levels

### *Ruataniwha Basin*

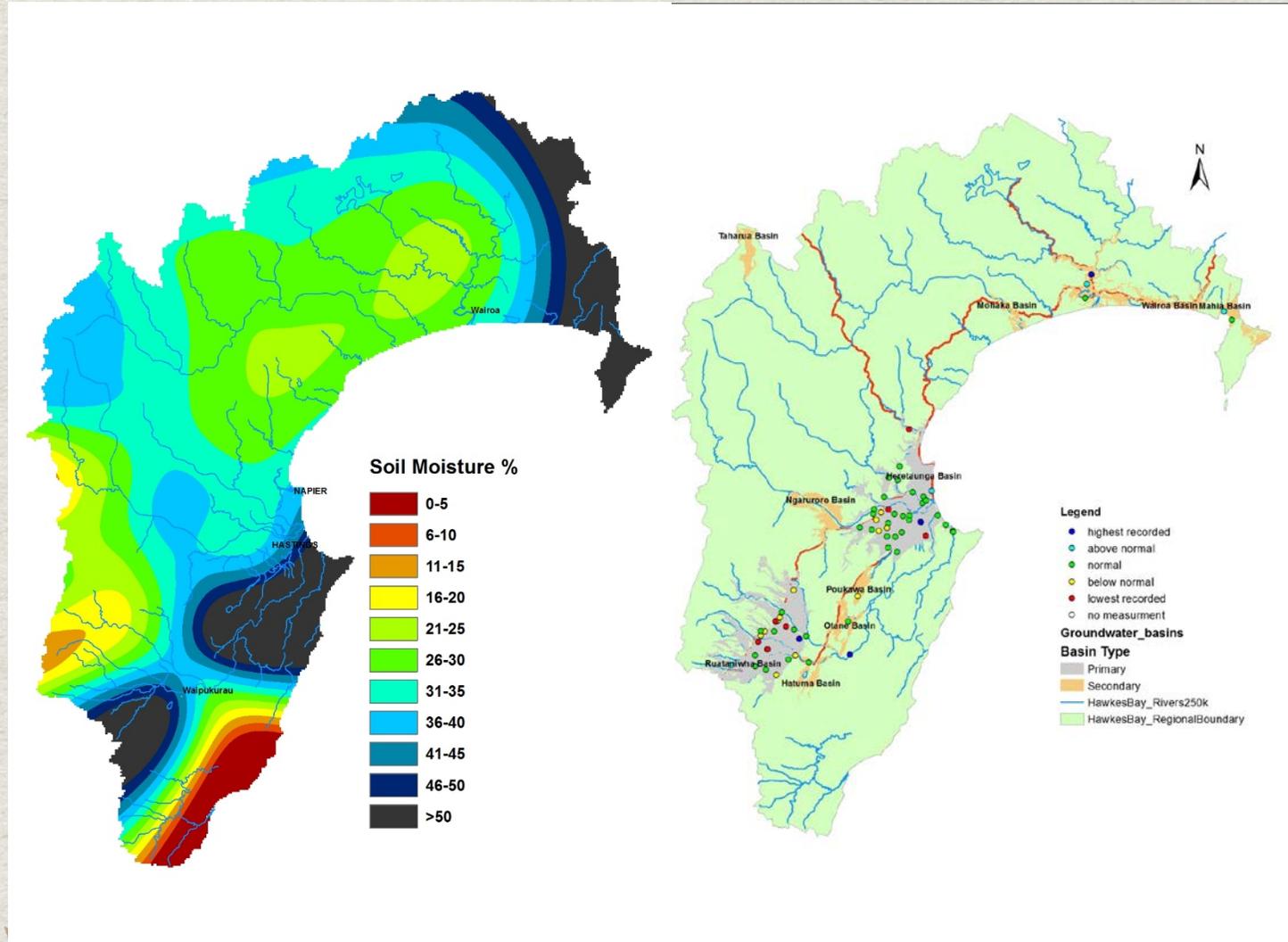
Mainly normal and below normal water levels, some below normal

### *Secondary Basins*

Above normal and above water level conditions

### *Soil Moisture*

Near to above normal



## **MPI comment for September 2017**

Warm weather and rising soil temperatures in September produced good pasture growth. Pasture covers are now getting ahead of feed demand. Drier conditions in central and southern Hawke's Bay have allowed cropping machinery to get onto paddocks in these districts; cultivation and sowing have caught up with planned timeframes. Farmers and growers are hoping that soil moisture levels will be maintained to allow pasture and crops to grow well through the remainder of spring.

Lamb survival has been better than average and good lambing percentages are being reported. Weather conditions have also been helpful for docking.

Dairy farmers are enjoying an excellent spring. Hawke's Bay is the only region where production is up relative to a year ago. Mating will start in a few weeks and cows should be in good condition.

Early winter chill and the absence of any extended cold periods has the season running well ahead of last year for fruit crops in the region. The early winter chill has helped with a more compact flowering period on apple orchards with reports of good fruit set to date. Good fruit set is also being reported for summerfruit.