

February 2019

Hawke's Bay Trends

RAINFALL
TEMPERATURES
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY
LONGER FORECAST

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

February 2019

Summer's run of above average temperatures continued through February but the month also spawned a late, southerly shocker that gave us an evil dip in temperature and the coldest day of the season. It arrived on the back of a weather system that fortunately brought the bulk of the month's rain and nudged totals into February's normal range.

Northern areas and the southern coast benefited most but the headwaters of our main rivers were bypassed and flows for the month took a hit. Groundwater levels remain normal and soil moisture levels are now normal, having fallen from the highs of previous months.

It wasn't a stellar month for our swimming spots and a late summer swim in particular was scuppered by rain, not to mention the chill.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist - Climate and Air



SUMMARY

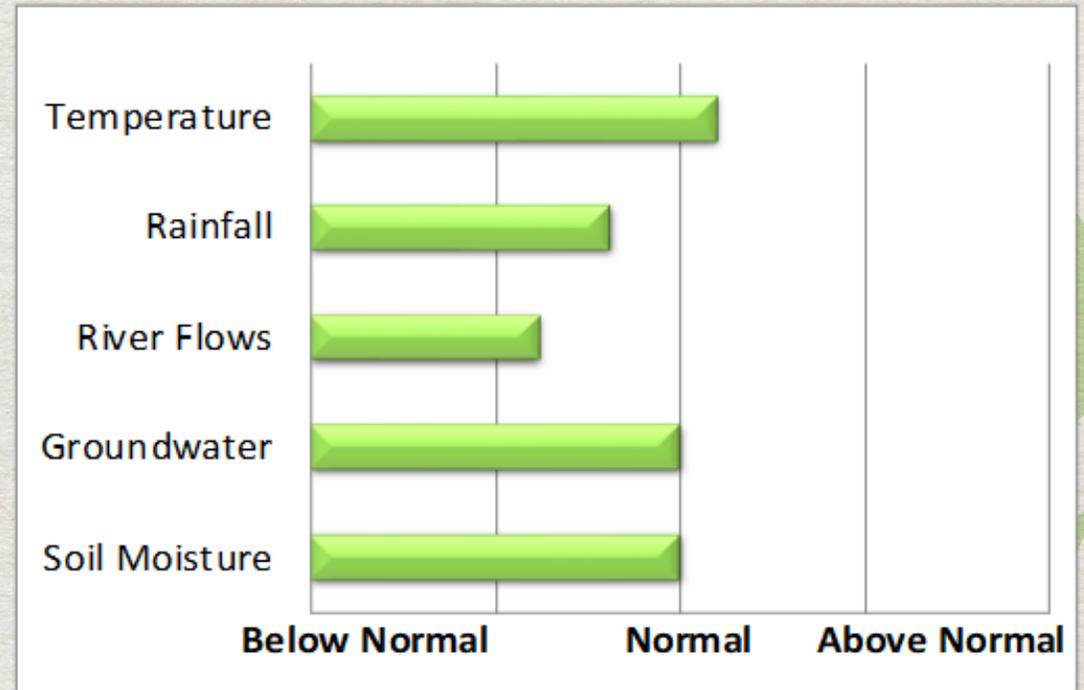
February 2019

Near normal rain and warm days, a delight.

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

March to May Forecast

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



source : NIWA

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

P: 06 835 9200

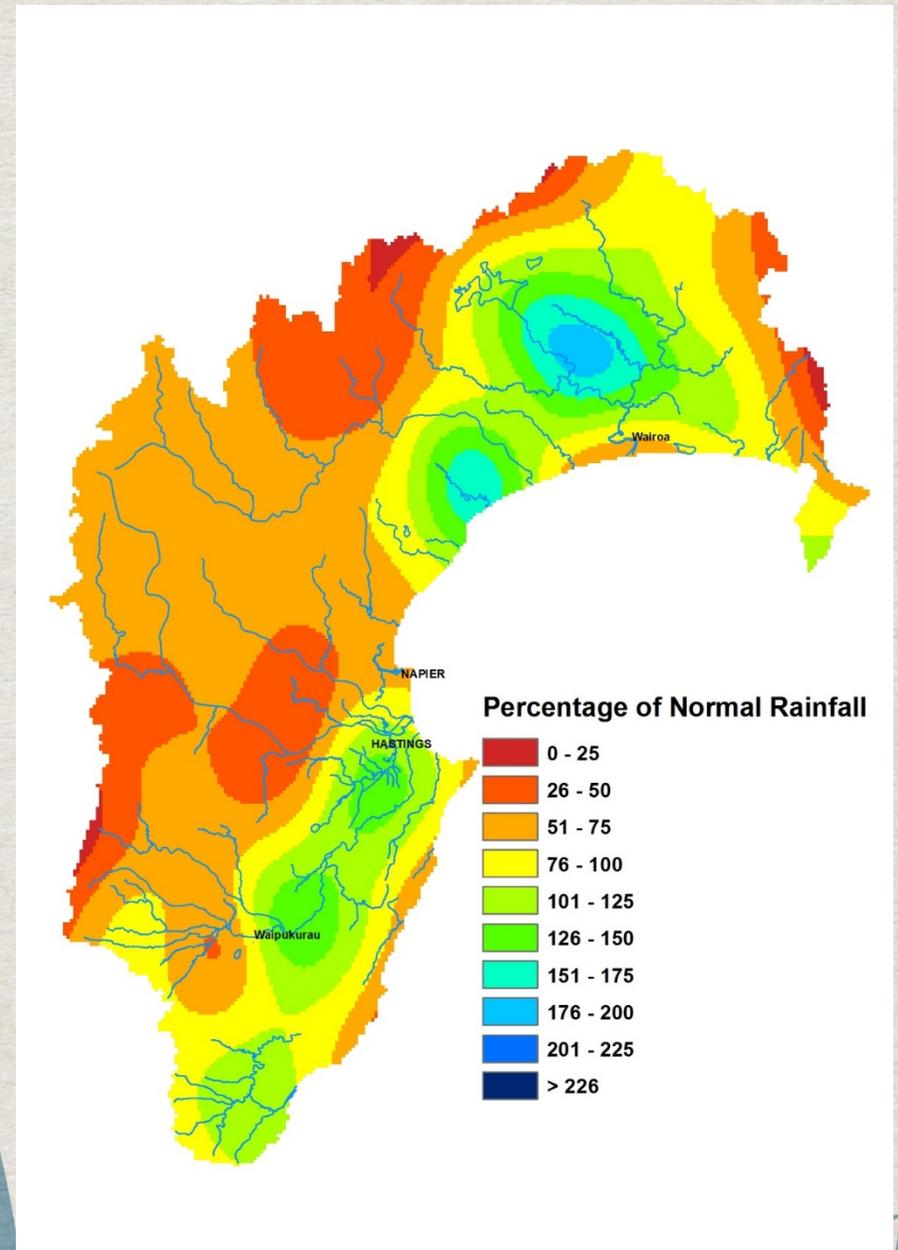
RAINFALL

About normal though very low in the main ranges

Percentage of normal February rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	106%
Northern HB	116%
Tangoio	67%
Kaweka	55%
Ruahine	41%
Heretaunga Plains	78%
Ruataniwha Plains	88%
Southern HB	101%
Hawke's Bay Region	81%



TEMPERATURES

Above average, it's been a summer for it.

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 0.8°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.2°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 23°C

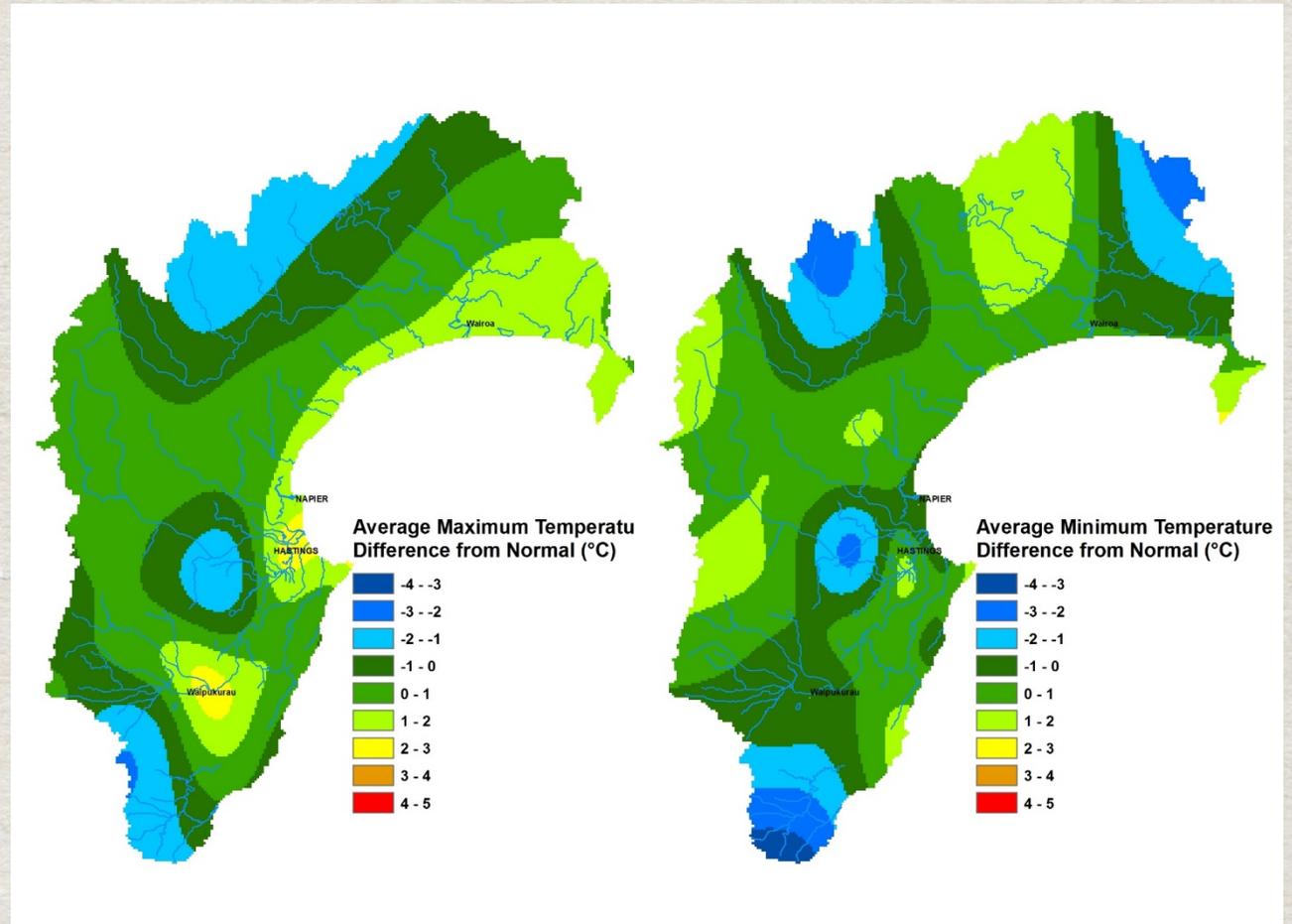
Mean Daily Minimum: 12°C

Highest Daily: 33.1°C

Location: Napier EWS (NIWA)

Lowest Daily: 1.3°C

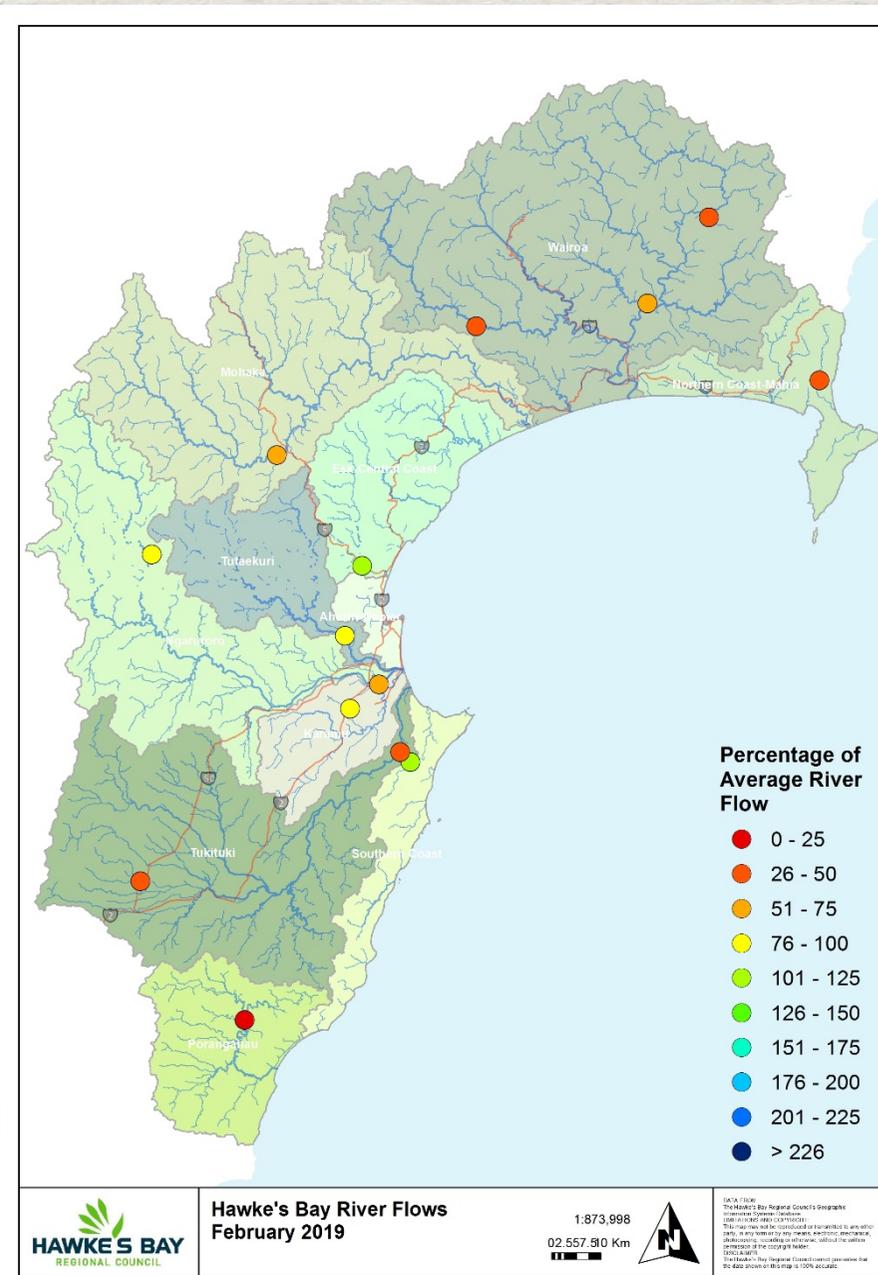
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average February flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastl – Mahia	29%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	42%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	65%
Northern HB – Waiau River	46%
Mohaka	53%
Esk-Central Coast	110%
Tūtaekuri	95%
Karamu	78%
Ngaruroro - Kuripapango	76%
Ngaruroro - Chesterhope	56%
Southern Coast	114%
Tukituki – Tukipo River	30%
Tukituki – Tukituki River	50%
Porangahau	21%
Hawke's Bay Region	62%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin:

Mostly normal and above levels.

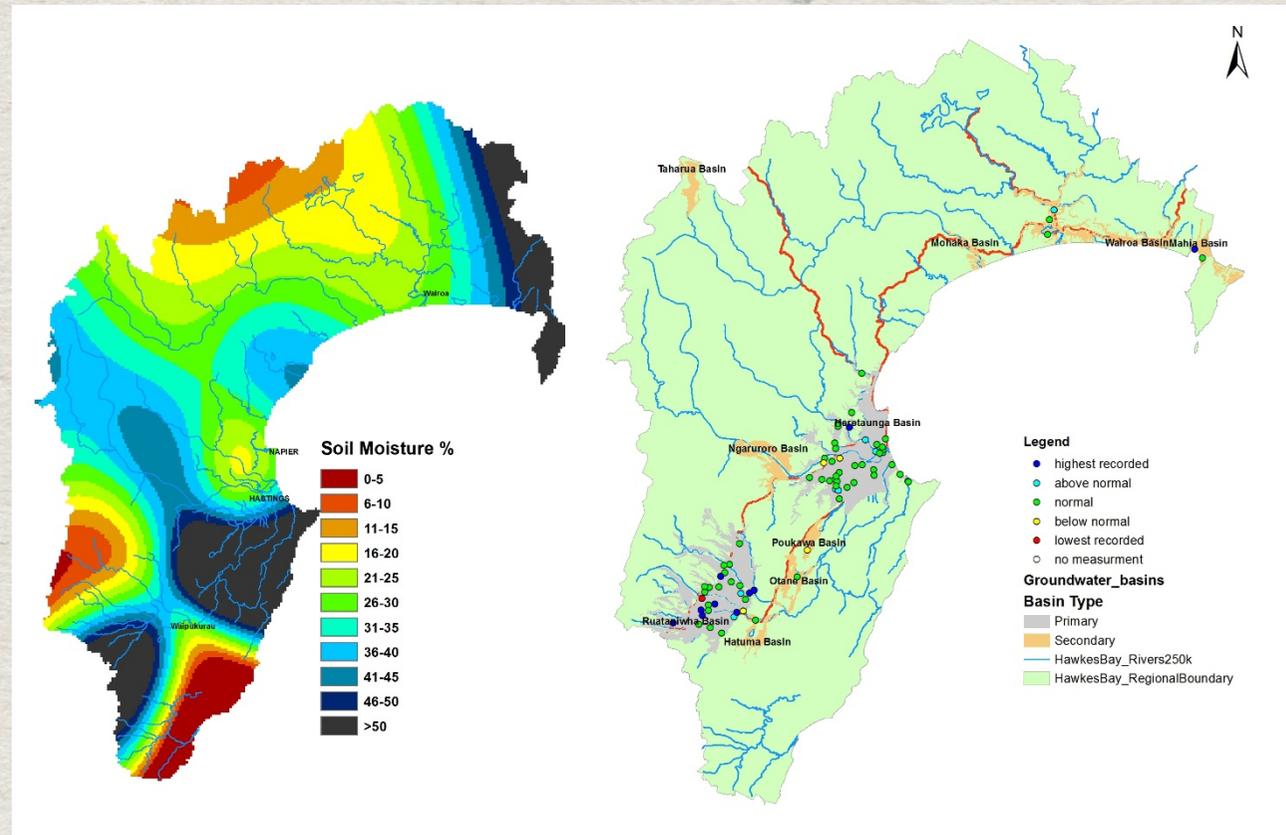
Ruataniwha basin:

Mostly normal and above normal levels.

Secondary basins:

Mostly normal and above normal levels.

Soil Moisture: About normal



Recreational Water Quality

Water Quality at our recreational swim spots over February was a mixed bag. With a generally dry month a few sites experienced non-rainfall related exceedances during the first few weeks of Feb.

Results were significantly impacted by the heavy rainfall and large swells we experienced in the last week of the month, with an unusual number of beach sites exceeding guideline levels – resulting in more than usual ‘unsuitable for swimming’ sites.

The upper reaches (SH2 and Walker Rd) of the Tukituki River, Porangahau Beach and Te Mahia were the most suitable sites for swimming over February. Although Lake Tutira experienced no exceedances again this month, it remains ‘closed for swimming’, as in previous years.

Phormidium monitoring continues as part of the recreational water program, with 7 sites monitored weekly for cyanobacteria in the Tukituki River.

The 2018-2019 season for Rec Water is due to come to an end on the 18th March.

Ariana Mackay

*Resource Technician WQE
Hawke's Bay Regional Council*



LONGER FORECAST

Knock me down with a feather, a central Pacific El Niño event is, by some accounts, upon us.

The overall weather pattern ahead isn't entirely clear with variations amongst models of normal to above normal sea level pressures over the country or potentially lower than normal pressures over the south.

The seasonal models aren't settling well on a predominant wind direction. Sea surface temperatures around New Zealand are still warmer than usual so air temperatures should be reasonably balmy over autumn.

The scenario of low pressure in the south has potential to give us dry weather otherwise typical autumn rainfall could transpire given the surrounding warm seas and if normal sea level pressures are the go as some models suggest.

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