

Weather for the press, immediate release

04 August 2006

Tornado, Snowfalls, very cold and heavy rainfalls!!

A summary of extreme weather 31st July – 3rd August 2006

Monday the 31 August 2006

The cold front moved over the southern and south-western parts of the country on Monday, resulting in very cold, wet and windy conditions over the south-western high ground of the Northern Cape Province. Berg wind conditions were experienced over the KZN north coast and in the Lowveld. Winds over the central and eastern interior were 10-15 knots (about 20-30 Km/hour). Many stations over the central and southern interior experienced below zero minimum temperatures on Monday morning, due to the prevailing dry conditions from the previous days. Significant rainfall was recorded on the Cape south coast and also in places in the Little Karoo.

Ladysmith	44.8mm
Knysna	40.8mm
George Weather Office	37.6mm
Stilbaai	37.4mm
Plettenberg Bay	34.2mm
Tsitsikamma	30.0mm
Oudtshoorn	21.6mm



Snow at the observatory near Sutherland

Tuesday the 01 August 2006

The cold front continued its eastward trek across the central parts of the country, resulting in very cold conditions over the western interior of South Africa, with snowfalls occurring on the high ground of the Northern and Western Cape. A deep upper air trough was developing in association with the front, and this caused a band of showers and thundershowers to develop. This band gradually moved over the Free State North West Province, Gauteng and Limpopo Province during the day and by evening it was affecting Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. Just before 7pm on Tuesday 01 August 2006, a tornado passed through Dullstroom on the Mpumalanga escarpment where, according to reports, 10 people were injured. In Lesotho, Maseru was already reporting heavy snow in the late afternoon as the very cold, wet and windy conditions spread to central interior. Very heavy rainfall was reported on the Cape south coast and heavy falls also occurred overnight on the KwaZulu-Natal north coast.

George Weather Office	230.1mm
Knysna	169.0mm
Cape St. Lucia	94.8mm
Stilbaai	50.4mm
Makatini	48.2mm
Mtunzini	40.8mm
Plettenberg Bay	38.8mm
Oudtshoorn	37.2mm
Graaf Reinet	37.0mm



Flooding in Glentana on the Western Cape south coast



Flooding in Glentana on the Western Cape south coast



Tornado Damage to a shop in Dullstroom, 01 August 2006



Tornado damage to a school at Dullstroom, 01 August 2006



Severe damage to a township house outside of Dullstroom. Injuries occurred to the people in this house at the time of the tornado.

Wednesday 02 August 2006

By Wednesday morning, almost every station in South Africa had reported rainfall during the previous 24 hours, with very significant falls being measured on the Cape south coast (as seen in the table above). By this time flooding was being reported along the Western Cape south coast. Minimum temperatures stayed close to or above zero in most places, due to cloudy and windy conditions over the interior. Winds exceeded 50km/h in many places. Snowfalls were reported in the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg and even as far north as Ottosdal in the North West Province and Johannesburg. Maximum temperatures over most of the interior remained extremely low. The low pressure system associated with the cold front was still just south of the Eastern Cape coast, with cold air still pouring into the interior, while an intense upper air low was centred over the northern Free State. Gale force winds and very rough seas were occurring along the south and south-east coastal regions. It continued to rain over the southern, central and eastern parts of the country, with the very heavy rainfall now clearing over the Western Cape, but spreading to Eastern Cape coast and adjacent interior in the evening and overnight into Thursday.

Humansdorp	300.0mm
Kareedouw Police Station	269.0m
Port Elizabeth	129.6mm
Tsitsikamma	105.6mm
Bisho	102.0mm
Coega	96.6mm
Knysna	86.0mm
Grahamstown	77.0mm
Uitenhage	74.0mm

Cape Hermes	70.0mm
Graaf-Reinet	61.6mm
East London	56.6mm
Elliot	52.4mm
Plettenberg Bay	49.8mm
Mthatha	48.1mm



Snow at Letseng, Lesotho. Note the icicles on the edge of the roof!



Letseng, Lesotho.



This was taken at Philipstown in the De Aar area

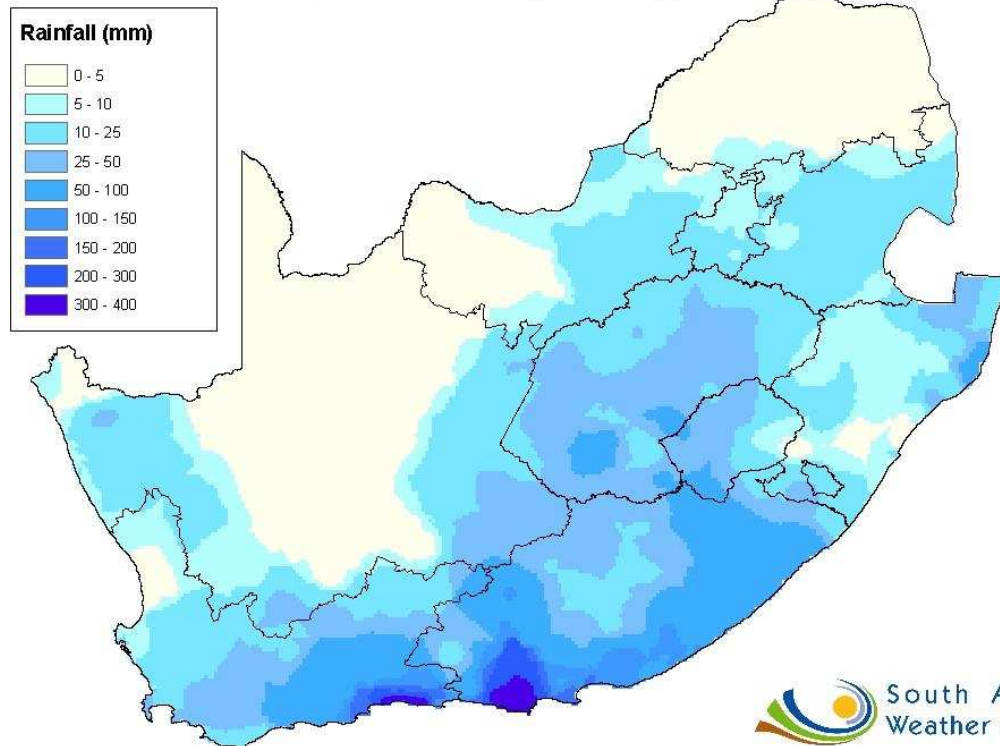


Tiffendell Ski Resort in the Eastern Cape

Thursday 03 August 2006

The system began moving away to the south-east of the country, resulting in clearance over the interior, although it continued to snow in places over Lesotho and the north-eastern mountains of the Eastern Cape, where very heavy snowfalls had already taken place over the past two days. Although it was beginning to clear in most places, it continued to rain over the Eastern Cape, where significant falls took place along the coast and adjacent interior. These areas were also battered by very strong to gale force winds. It remained very cold and windy over the interior of the country where temperatures struggled to reach 10°C in many places! 60.8mm of rain occurred in Port Elizabeth, while Grahamstown had 42.6mm.

Rainfall totals for the period 31 July - 3 Aug 2006



An updated forecast will be available in the South African Weather Service website www.weathersa.co.za.

The South African Weather Service appeals to the public to forward to us any reports or confirmation of significant weather events such as snowfalls, tornadoes or water spouts, hailstorms, heavy rain, damaging winds etc, when they are observed. Such information can also be used for further research that will contribute to the improvement of weather predictions for that particular area.

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