MARCH 2017

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW
GROUNDWATER & SOIL
RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL | Environmental Science

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March 2017

I think it's okay for the rain to take a breather now. By the end of March soil moisture sat near field capacity, river levels were getting back to normal, so too groundwater. Rainfall was generous in the north, lean in the far south and normal in between. Water quality at our swimming spots was good for the last month of testing, apart from weather related blemishes in the north. Daytime temperatures were average but the lengthening nights were really quite warm. May they stay that way as our focus turns from cooling ourselves down to warming ourselves up. Goodbye water quality and hello air quality!

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air

The short summary

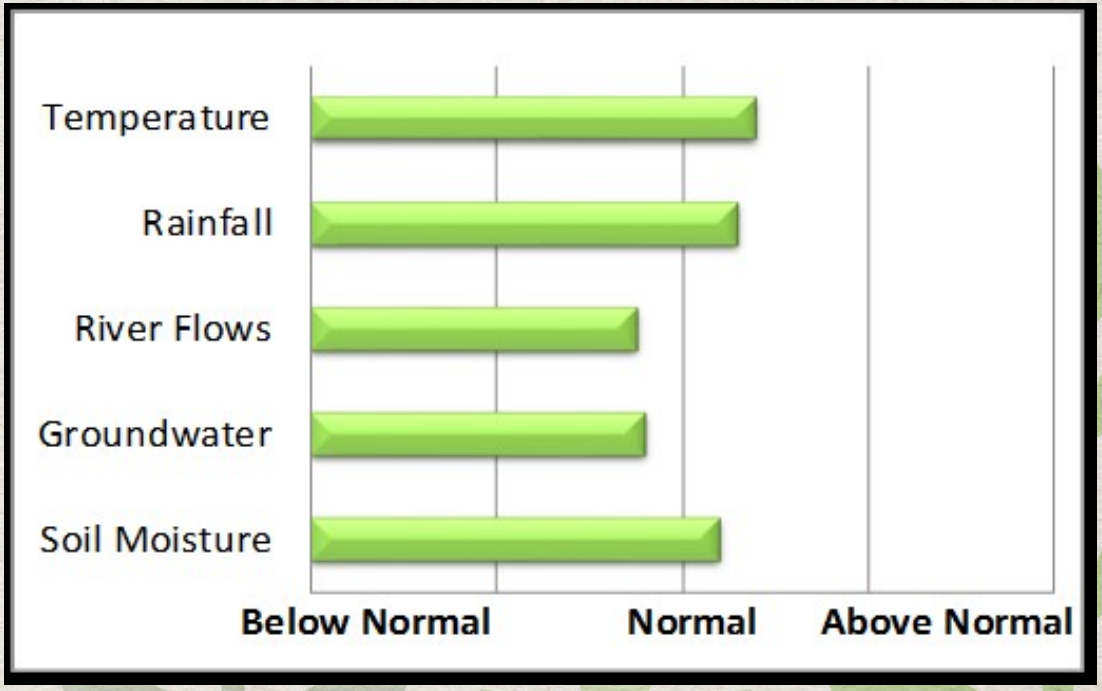
Nothing too dramatic but our fair share of rain

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

April to June Forecast

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

(source : NIWA)



For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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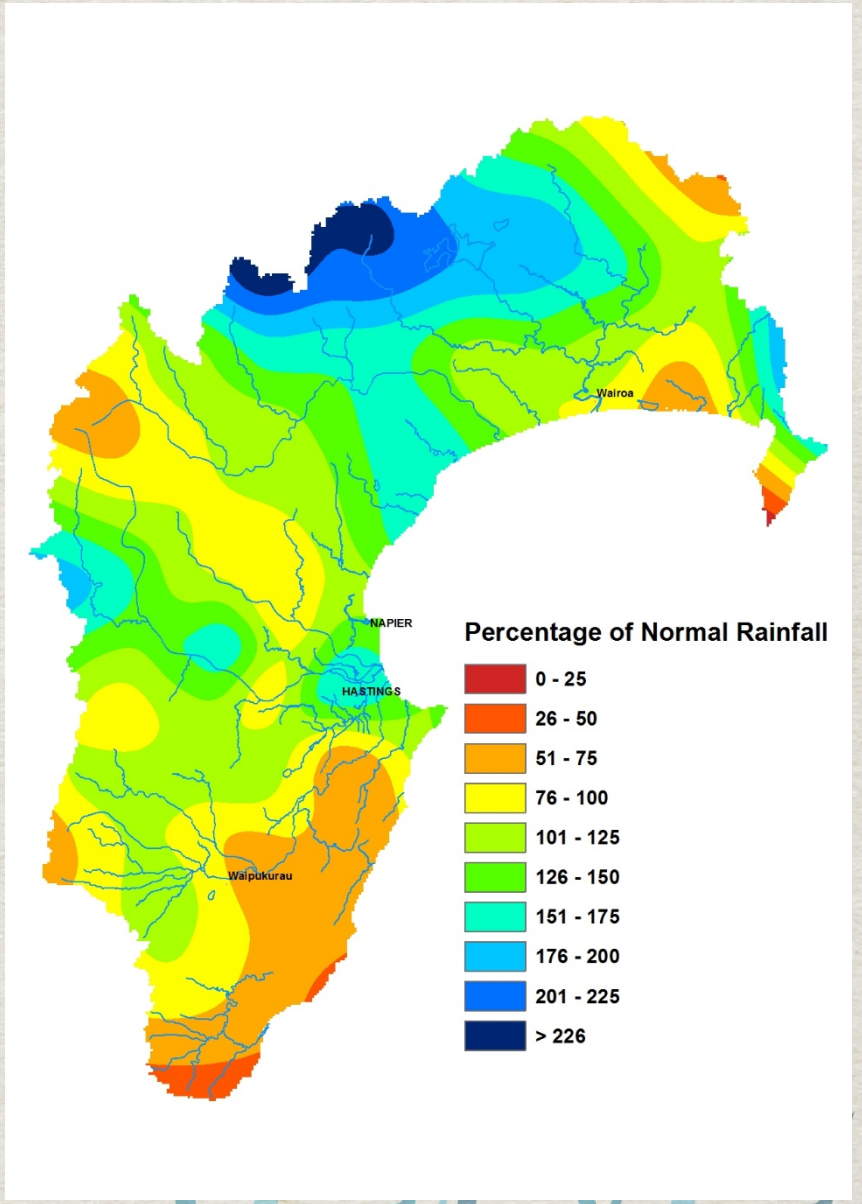
RAINFALL

Wet in the north, frugal in the south, normal in between.

Percentage of normal March rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:	
Waikaremoana	**177%**
Northern HB	**128%**
Tangoio	**116%**
Kaweka	**126%**
Ruahine	**91%**
Heretaunga Plains	**123%**
Ruataniwha Plains	**87%**
Southern HB	**68%**
Hawke's Bay Region	**115%**



TEMPERATURES

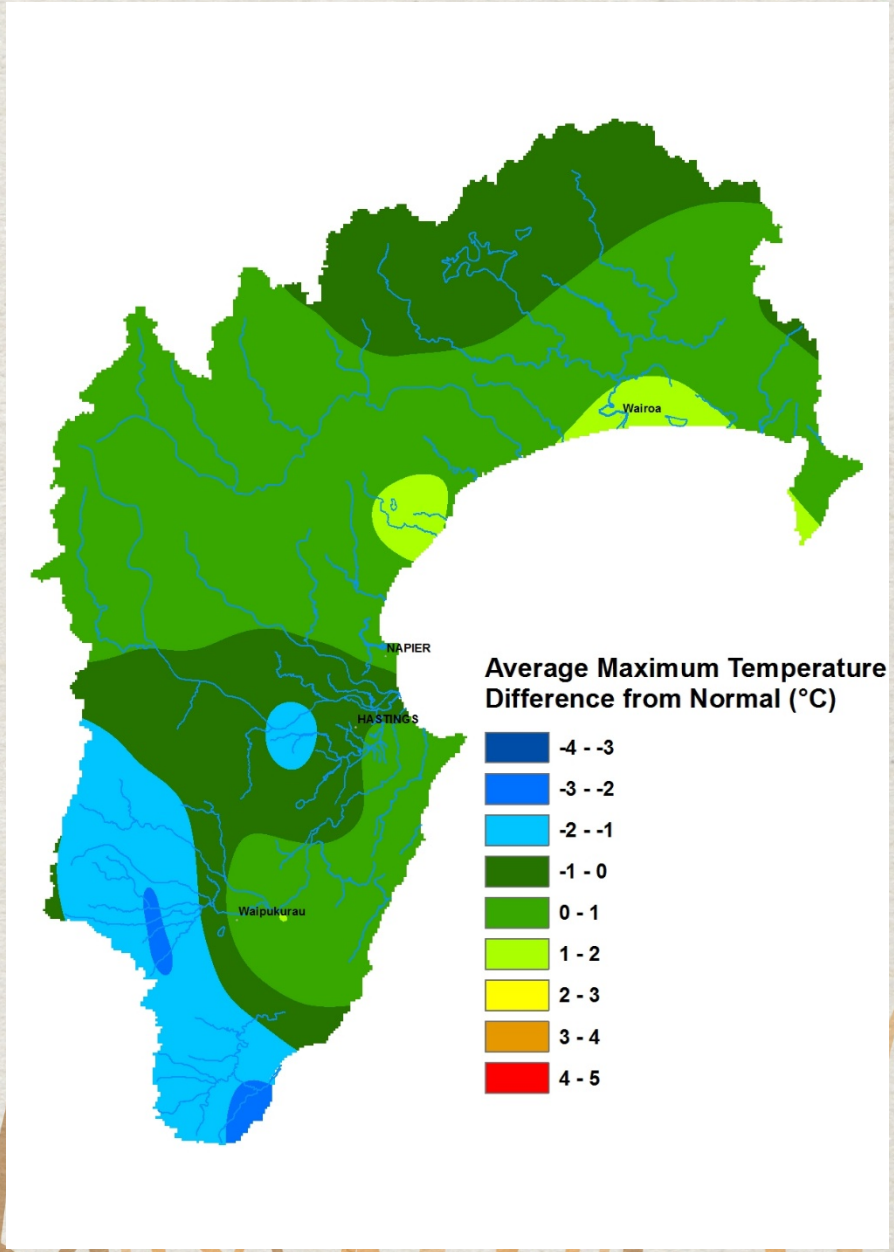
Temperature – Warmer than usual nights

<u>Mean Difference from Normal</u>
Maximum Temperature: 0.2°C
Minimum Temperature: 1.4°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 21°C
Mean Daily Minimum: 12°C

Highest Daily: 29.9°C
Location: Napier EWS

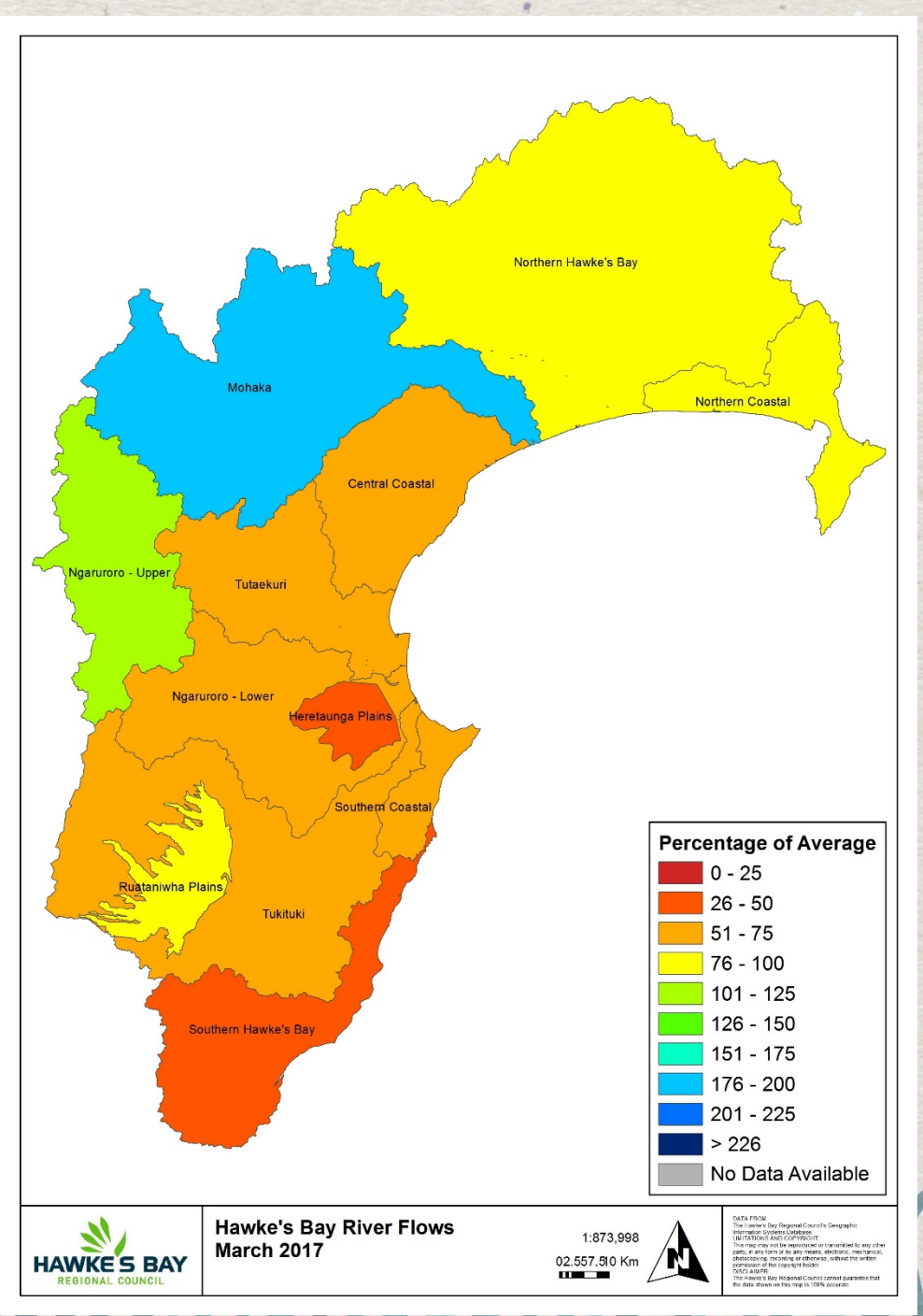
Lowest Daily: 2.5°C
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average March flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	86%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	103%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	80%
Northern HB – Waiau River	161%
Mohaka	188%
Central Coastal	69%
Tūtaekuri	72%
Heretaunga Plains	42%
Ngaruroro - Upper	117%
Ngaruroro - Lower	71%
Southern Coastal	62%
Ruataniwha Plains	79%
Tukituki	61%
Southern HB	46%
Hawke's Bay Region	**88%**



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

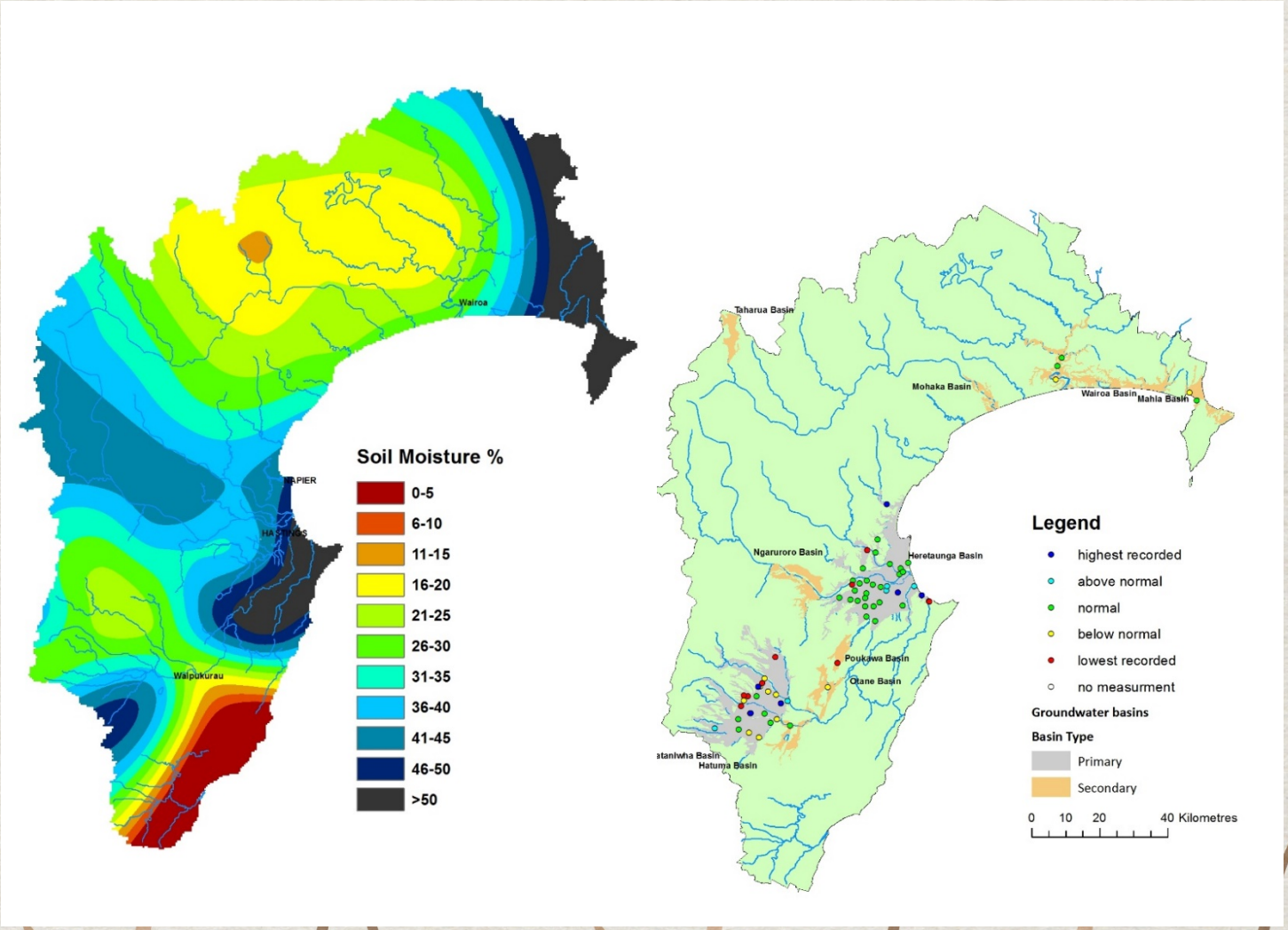
Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin –
Mostly normal water levels

Ruataniwha basin –
A mix of conditions

Secondary basin –
Mainly normal to below normal conditions

Soil Moisture
Above Average



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

March 2017

Compliance this month was better than the February due to slightly less rain fall at the recreational water sites. This report concludes the final samples taken for the season over the 2016 – 2017 summer. There were 3 samples taken this month as the monitoring programme finishes after 20 weeks from the first sample being taken in November 2016. Nuhaka River exceeded twice this month, on one occasion it was rainfall related and the other not related. Mahia Beach and Mahanga Beach both exceeded the amber mode threshold on one occasion.