

For NZ Roadmarkers Federation Conference 2007

from Bob McDavitt, MetService Weather Ambassador,
1:50pm Friday 24 August.

Abstract

A Weather Insight.

Bob McDavitt is based in Auckland. As MetService Weather Ambassador his job is to act as a go-between for the weather and people especially when weather gets nasty. He will spend around ten minutes introducing MetService's new Severe Thunderstorm Watch system, and then five minutes introducing the latest seasonal outlook for the coming Spring.

Paper notes: A Weather Insight

The recent swarms of tornadoes remind us that thunderstorms can do a lot of damage to a small area of road in a short time. MetService has traditionally geared itself to identify, track and warn kiwi's of broad scale events of wind, rain and hail. With the help of weather radar MetService has recently introduced Severe Thunderstorm Outlooks, and, since 1st July, Severe Thunderstorm Watches. Bob McDavitt will introduce the areas to be covered by three new radars that should be installed by 2010. When these are in place, and with the right software and training, MetService will be able to issue Severe Thunderstorm warnings.

Weather is a mix of pattern and chaos and pattern. The weather pattern can be captured from barometer reading on a weather map, and this can be extrapolated into the future isobar land. However chaos in the real world causes it to deviate from isobar land, and this limits our ability to forecast the weather. Seasonal outlooks must work with something which changes slower than air pressure -and that something is sea surface temperature SST. Bob will show the main patterns linked to SST, El Nino and La Nina, and how to identify them. By tracking and extrapolating these trends he will introduce a seasonal outlook for New Zealand for the coming spring.

Most of the PowerPoint slides used in the first part of this presentation come from www.metservice.com, and in the second part from http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/index.shtml.

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