

SEVERE ~~HEAT WAVE~~ STROKE ON S. TABLELANDS

MANY CENTURIES RECORDED

MAXIMUM OF 103.4 IN CANBERRA

THE SEVEREST HEAT WAVE ON RECORD FOR DECEMBER WAS EXPERIENCED THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN TABLELANDS YESTERDAY.

At Canberra, the maximum reading of 103.4 degrees at 2.45 p.m. was more than five degrees above the previous December records.

Temperatures in excess of 100 degrees were recorded at several district centres. ...Yass recorded 106 degrees.

The extreme heat discouraged tourist traffic, which though brisk in Canberra, fell far short of last year.

From an early hour yesterday, hot conditions were experienced at Canberra, and the temperature was over 100 degrees for six hours.

The previous Canberra record for December was 98 degrees, which was recorded on December 12, 1914, and December 31, 1931.

The record for all time is 104.2, which was recorded on January 28, 1932.

The hourly readings were:—

9 a.m.	85.2
10 a.m.	89.4
11 a.m.	96.8
12 noon	100.7
1 p.m.	101.6
3 p.m.	102.3
4 p.m.	102.0
5 p.m.	100.5
6 p.m.	95.0
7 p.m.	94.2
8 p.m.	84.0
9 p.m.	79.4

A hot northerly wind bringing clouds of dust added to the discomfort which increased until the climax was reached with the maximum of 103.4 degrees at 2.45 p.m.

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A cool southerly change was heralded by a dust storm at 3.40 p.m., but a thunderstorm afforded some relief.

Oppressive heat, continued, however, during the night, and it was still 79.4 degrees at 9 o'clock.

The largest attendance this season was registered at the Canberra Swimming Pool. Although no official check was kept of season and monthly ticket patrons, 367 adults and 259 juniors had paid for admission. This is nowhere near the record, as in 1934 nearly 1,500 people visited the baths in a single day. The water in the baths was affected by the sun and for most of the day the water temperature was 76 degrees.

The Cotter River and Pine Island picnic resorts attracted a large number of holiday makers. The water at the Cotter dam was six inches below the top of the wall.

Officials controlling the water supply of Canberra said last night that the draw off during the last few days had been particularly heavy, but supplies had been able to cope with the rush. Figures for the consumption will not be available until

with the fuel figures for the consumption will not be available until this morning.

The Canberra Tourist Bureau reported that the excessive heat mitigated the tourist traffic, which fell far short of previous years. Nevertheless, throughout the day vehicles laden with camping accessories and crowded with tourists aroused the sympathy of residents in the trying conditions.

Goulburn, too, experienced trying conditions, and the day was the hottest experienced for some years.

The Canberra forecast for to-day is mainly cloudy and hazy, with a tendency to thunderstorms developing and local severe squalls likely later in the day, with winds at first fresh and strong, but a cool change later.