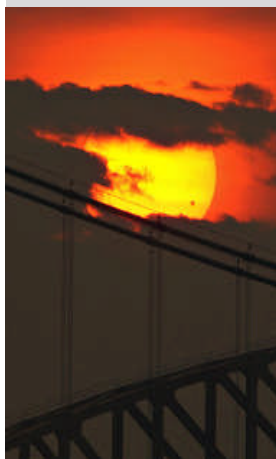




The Transit of Venus  
that we didn't see in the  
Akatarawa Valley



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## Sizzling Summer Success Story!

Once again our weather experts on the committee were proved right with the choice of date for our Summer BBQ get-together, and firewood auction. In a year when summer was more of a mindset than a season, as one writer described it, and we gardeners struggled to ripen outdoor tomatoes or grow a decent crop of sweet corn or runner beans, we had a great crowd of members and friends at the BBQ under clear blue sky and full sun. The pictures from the day tell the full story. Once again we were able to draw on our experience auctioneer, Bruce, to manage the keen interest in the trailer of wood. As you would expect, bidding became heated and was generating almost as much calorific output as the wood itself contained.

The load was finally knocked down to Bill. He's been putting out white smoke ever since so it's burning well



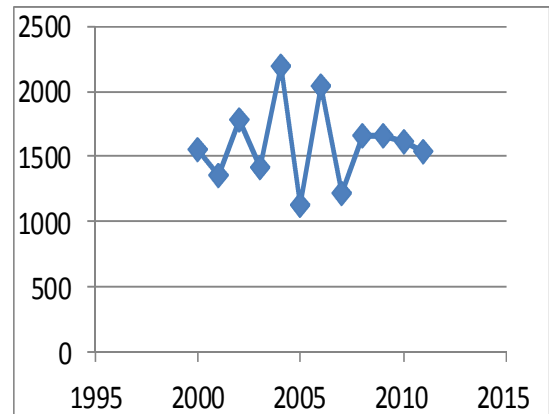
## Thanks to Dixie Lix

We were delighted to have our "resident" band, Dixie Lix, entertain the crowd at the BBQ with their foot-tapping bluegrass inspired tunes.

## Akatarawa weather - enough rain already?

The weather in our valley is a surefire conversation starter, and many of us religiously track the rainfall with our rain gauges and discuss the variability or readings around the area. I am always bemused when I record the rainfall in our farming diary, by the instruction to record to two decimal places. That to me is spurious accuracy for my purposes., just as it surely is for brass band competitions or the gymnastics coming up in London. Then how often do we examine the historical patterns of rainfall and do they tell us anything. The chart below shows the annual rainfall recorded by the Regional Council at their site near the cemetery from

2000 to 2011. The average annual rainfall over this period was 1596.7mm. The pattern is certainly volatile with large swings in the



middle years of the decade.

## What does a bad day look like?

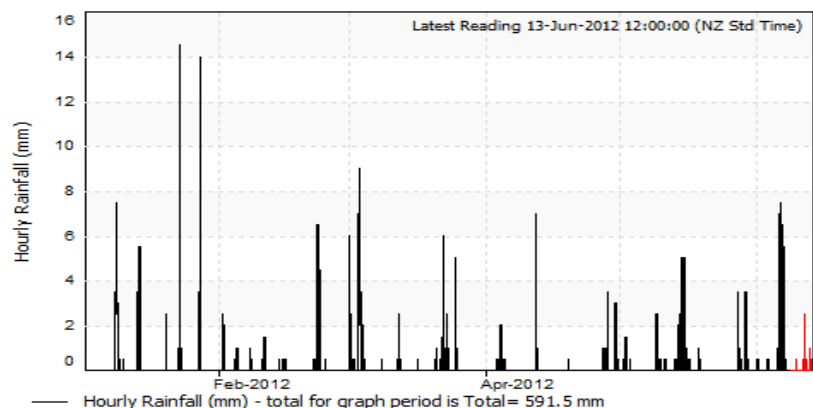
**“Interestingly, in 2005, 10 percent of the annual rainfall fell in one day in January.”**

The Regional Council data also conveniently records when we had our heaviest rainfall day in each year. You will recognize the weather “bombs” in 2004 and 2005. Interestingly in 2005, 10 percent of the annual rainfall fell in one day in January.

Year	Annual total (mm)	Maximum daily rainfall (mm)	Date of maximum rainfall
2012 YTD	592.5	74	3/03/2012
2011	1543.5	45	23/01/2011
2010	1607.5	97.5	30/09/2010
2009	1661.5	101	12/02/2009
2008	1663.5	66	7/10/2008
2007	1215.5	54.5	8/10/2007
2006	2033.5	111	26/08/2006
2005	1131	112	5/01/2005
2004	2197.7	89.5	11/02/2004
2003	1415.5	104	3/10/2003
2002	1778	66	20/03/2002
2001	1361.4	53.5	22/11/2001
2000	1552.1	84.8	1/10/2000

## Daily variations for 2012

This chart shows the daily spikes in hourly rainfall rates so far this year.

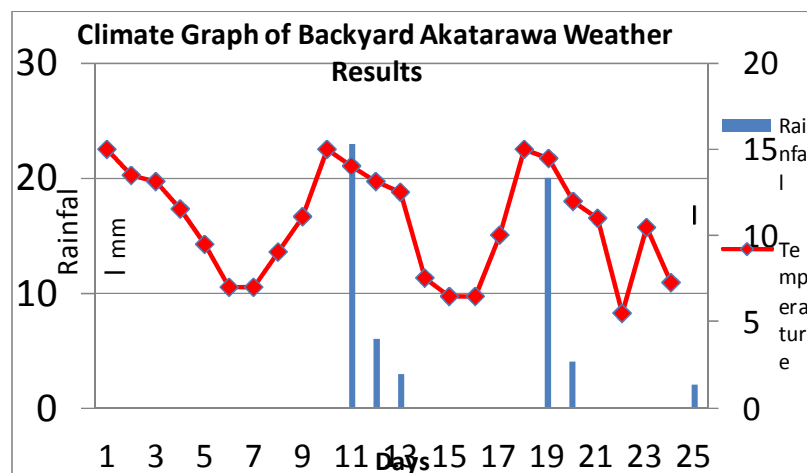
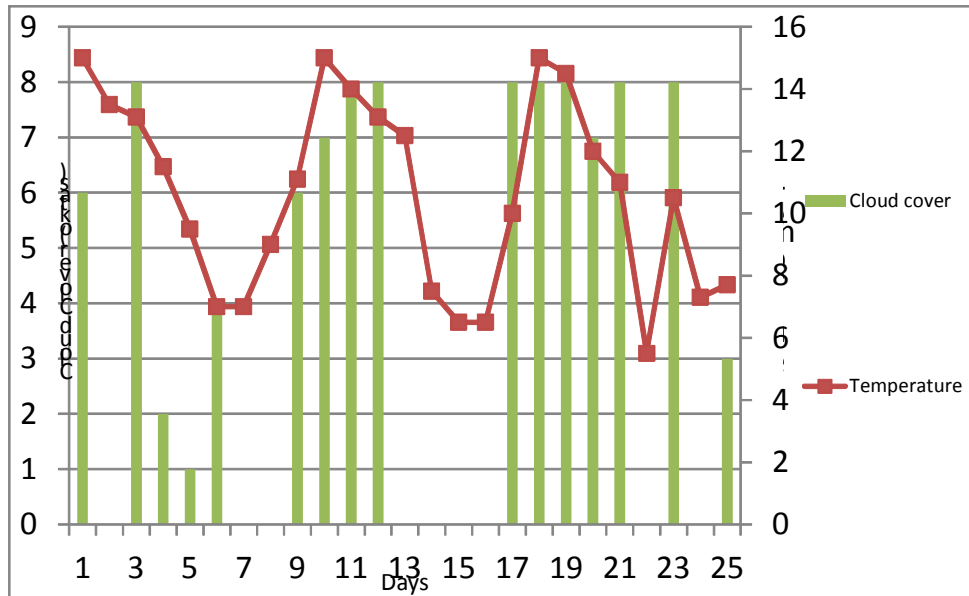


# More weather—research from William Clark

In a recent school research project, William Clark chose to look at some aspects of our weather in the valley. He has kindly agreed to share some of his results so the rest of our Valley weather experts can have our theories or suspicions confirmed.

The first question William looked at was “how much does the cloud cover influence our temperature?”. The results are shown in the upper chart..

The second question was “should we feel warmer when it’s raining?” Well it certainly seems like we should given the results in the second chart.



Some of us think we only get wind from two directions in the Valley. William’s third chart shows his results for wind direction by percent of time over his period of observations which was around the autumn equinox when traditionally we get a lot of wind.

