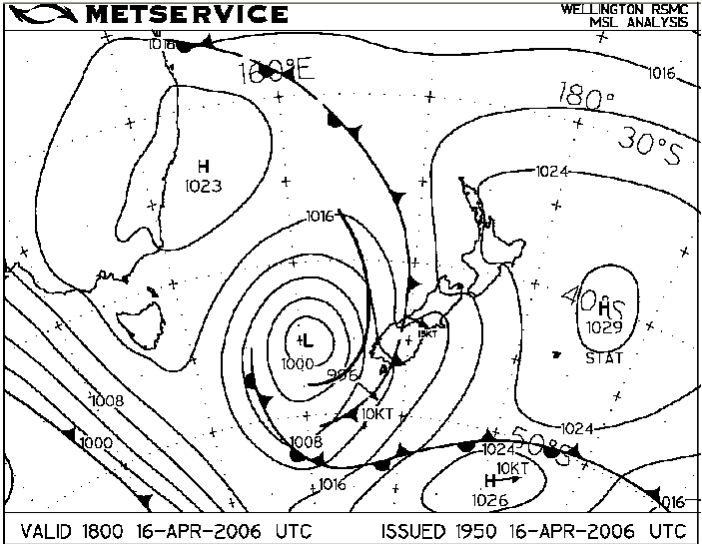


Weather Maps

A person who studies the weather is called a meteorologist. They use weather maps and symbols to convey a lot of information - where the cold air is, where the warm air is, where it is raining, the direction of the wind etc.

The plain lines on a weather map are called isobars (iso = equal, bar = pressure). They join together places with the same mean sea level air pressure.



This is a weather map of New Zealand.
 L = low pressure
 H = high pressure

Isobar

A line joining areas of equal pressure. Isobars close together means wind.

Pressure readings

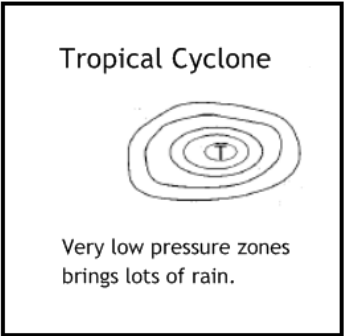
Low pressure means bad weather, high pressure means good weather. Pressure is measured in millibars (mb)

Depression

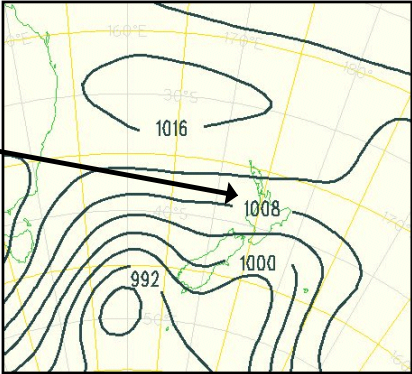
Low pressure systems usually bring wet and windy weather. The wind goes in a clockwise direction.

Anitcyclone

High pressure system usually brings fine and calm weather, the wind goes anticlockwise.



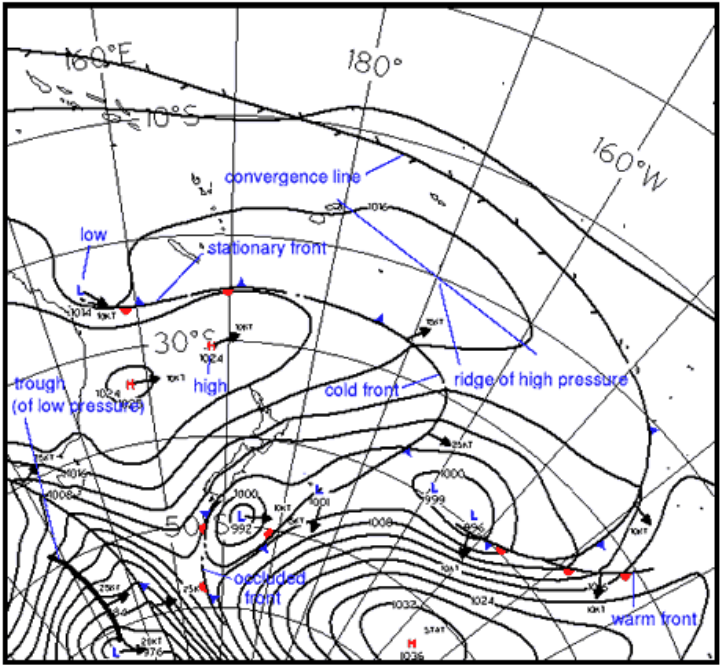
At this point, the air pressure is 1008mb



A cold front is invading colder air, and is marked by a line with triangles pointing to where it is moving.

An occluded front occurs when a cold front overtakes a warm front, so that all that remains of the original warm air is trapped above, where it cools making dense cloud and rain.

A warm front is an invasion of warmer air. It is marked by a line with semicircles pointing to where it is moving.



A stationary front is one that is moving very slowly