

## Tropical Cyclone Audrey, 1964

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*Audrey* tracked from the Gulf down to Coffs Harbour. There were extensive flooding and stock losses in SW Qld and northern NSW with wind damage in the western Darling Downs. The damaging winds from the cyclone hit St George at 8am 14 January where 52 houses lost all or part of their roofs and 22 of the business houses were badly damaged - 38 mm of rain was recorded in 15 min. Details of the wind damage is shown in Figure 1. Very heavy rain accompanied the cyclone with major flooding. Up to 294 mm of rain was recorded in southwest Queensland towns including 181 mm in 12 hours at Eulo.

### Mean Sea Level and upper levels

The transformation of *Audrey* from a mature tropical cyclone to a small intense system embedded in a passing southern trough is evident in Figure 2. *Audrey* was interacting with a major middle to upper level trough which was passing to the south.

### Rainfall

The intense inland rainfall which resulted is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

### Flooding

The worst affected areas were the lower reaches of the Bulloo, Paroo and Warrego rivers. Throughout these three catchments road traffic was almost brought to a standstill whilst in the lower reaches stock losses were heavy, and kilometres of fencing were washed away.

In the Bulloo catchment, serious flooding occurred south of Ardoch as a result of 150 to 225mm rainfalls late on 13 January. At Thargomindah the river spread to a width of 8 kilometres, and started to enter the town when a near record peak (20feet 9inches) was reached on 16 January. Over half the 7000 sheep on one property near Thargomindah were lost.

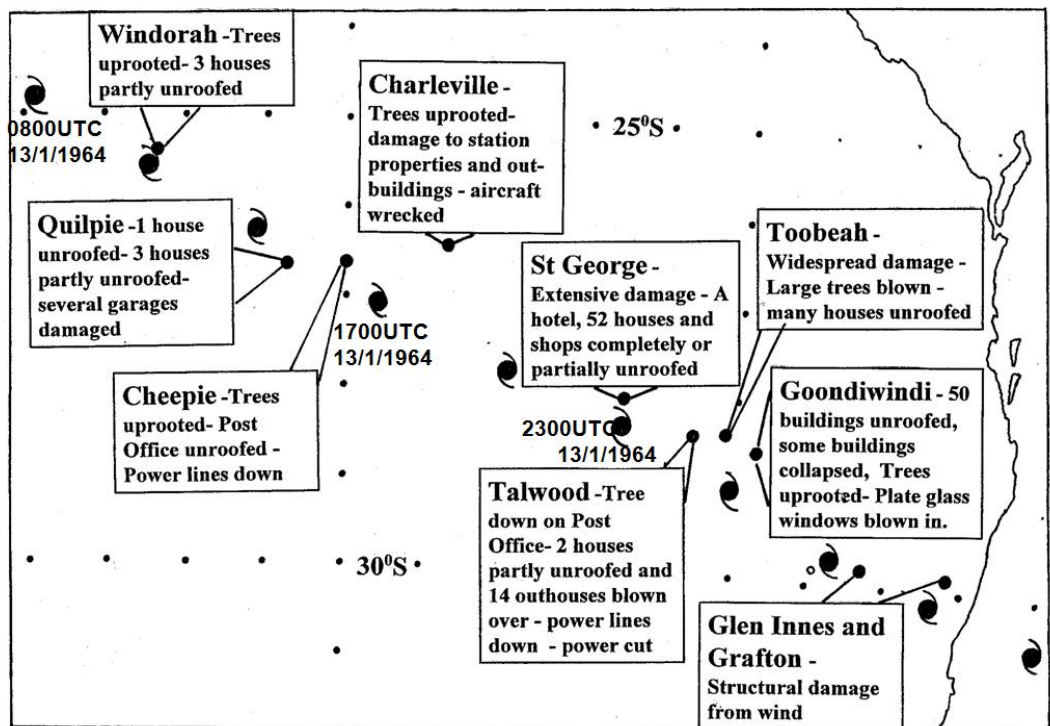
Up to 292mm of rain fell in 24 hours in the Eulo area and on 14 January the Paroo River reached a peak of 16feet 8inches , the highest since 1942 and the second highest on record. By the 18th flood waters had reached Hungerford on the New South Wales border and had spread to over 32 kilometres wide in places.

Properties on the Warrego River between Cunnamulla and the border recorded from 125 to 250mm in 24 hours to 0900 14th. The resultant flooding in this catchment caused considerable stock losses and widespread disruption to traffic. Damage from flooding was extensive and 5000 sheep were lost on Kulki, a property near Thargomindah, and 7000 sheep in the Yowah Creek area near Cunnamulla. Mt Margaret a station near Quilpie lost 10,000 sheep. Thousands of sheep were drowned near Goodooga. Many kilometres of fencing were washed away.

In the north-west of the State, the Cloncurry, Leichhardt and Gregory rivers reported considerable run-off, and local flooding caused widespread traffic disabilities, including the closure of airfields. In western districts less serious flooding was reported in the Diamantina River, with Birdsville reaching a peak on 29 January.

In New South Wales serious flooding occurred on the Namoi and Gwydir systems affecting the towns of Barraba, Manilla, Bundarra, Carrol, Narrabri, Gravesend, Boggabri, Armidale and Bingara. Many hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes.

**Figure 1** Details of wind damage through inland Queensland and Northeast New South Wales.



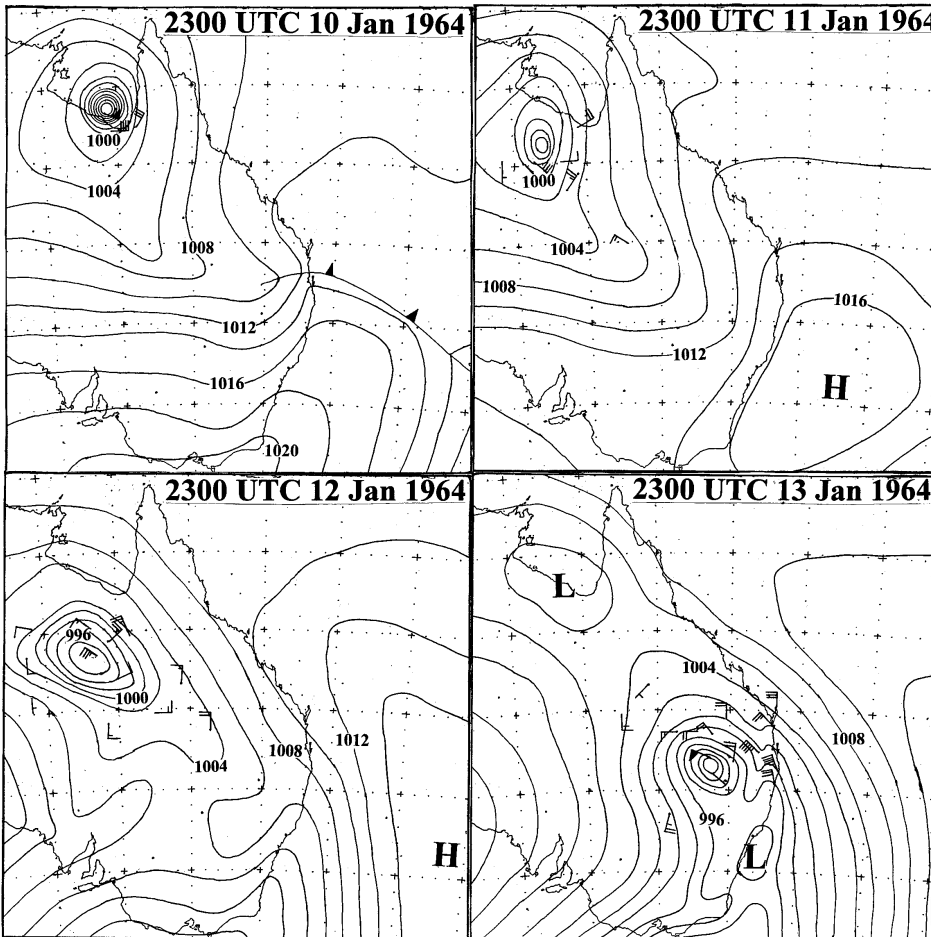
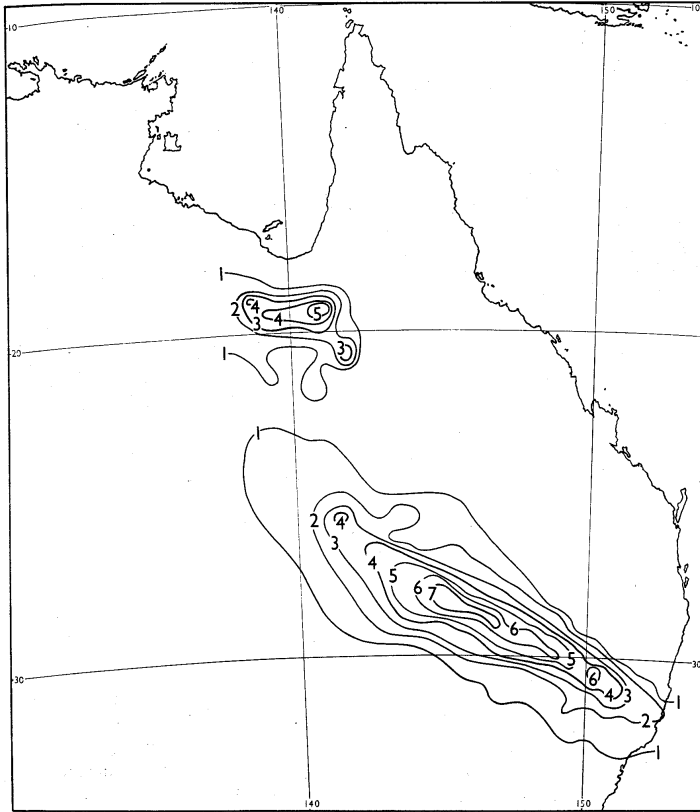
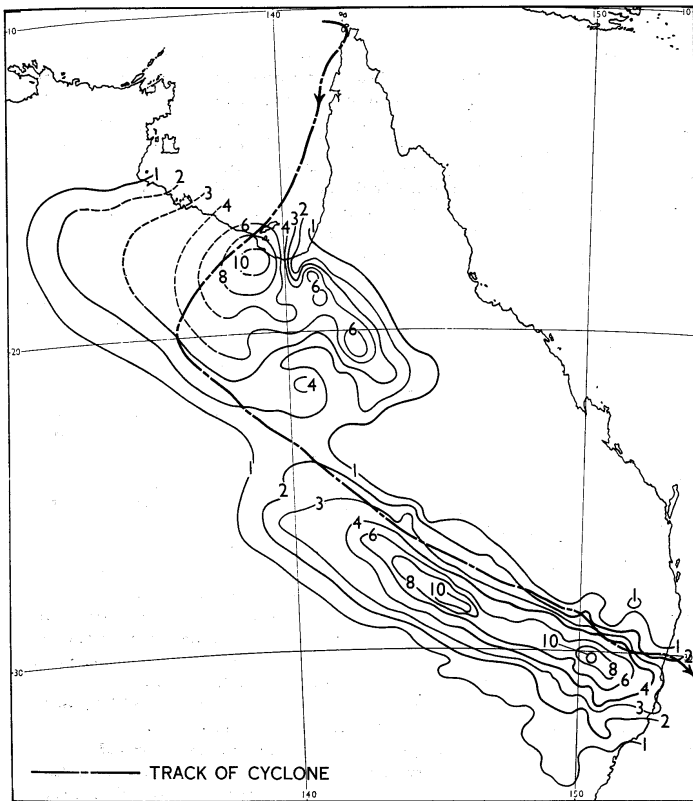


Figure 2 Mean Sea Level analyses of tropical cyclone Audrey as it moved from the Gulf of Carpentaria to northeast New South Wales from 2300UTC 10 January 1964 to 2300UTC 13 January 1964.



**Figure 3** Rainfall (inches) in the 24 hours to 9am 14 January 1964.



**Figure 4** Rainfall (inches) for the 72hours to 9am 15 January 1964.