

Re: Australian meteorological event (looking for the name)

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In article <jollinofrenoamano-D3ABE4.00420215092006@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Jollino <jollinofrenoamano@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hello everyone,
the first thing I should say is that I know very little -- close to nothing -- about meteorology. I find it very interesting, but I just never got into it.

A few months ago, while browsing wikipedia, I came across a curious meteorological phenomenon which took place in Australia (or New Zealand, I can't remember).

It is a 'wall of clouds' which forms suddenty and discharges a violent storm. I remember reading some pages on other websites about it, and how some crazy people 'rode the clouds'.

If I recall correctly, it's a common event in a specific part of Australia (or NZ, again), but for some reason it's not widely known by the rest of the world.

Could anyone give me some hint about its name? I vaguely remember that it has "Great" in its name, but I'm not 100% sure.

Dunno whether this is what you're after, but there's a roll of clouds comes in over the Gulf of Carpentaria pretty regularly at this time of year. Commonly referred to as the morning glory. See:

<<http://www.abc.net.au/science/scribblygum/august2003/>>

for a pretty comprehensive account of the phenomenon.

Heard on Radio Labor yesterday that the glider crowd was currently quizzing the Met Bureau about forecasts because, on a good day, they can ride the wave for 100s of kilometres.

Another reference:

<<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/09/16/1032054714456.html>>

<quoting extract from above URL>

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Russell White, of Byron Bay, was one of two glider pilots who pioneered the art of soaring on a Morning Glory in 1989. He has returned every year since. "It is the most fabulous experience. There is nothing like this in the world," he said.

Turbulence and down-draft make flying behind the cloud dangerous, but the strong updraft at the front of the wave makes it possible for the glider to zigzag across it, "very much like surfing on a board". Some trips last several hours and can cover more than 300 kilometres.
</quoting>

Cheers, Phred.

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