23rd February 2003

Written by Mike Manning
Sunday, 29 March 2009 20:07 - Last Updated Sunday, 29 March 2009 20:41

Storm Chase 23rd February, 2003

Today was always going to be an excellent day for storm development   due to yesterday's intense rain. This increased the moisture levels dramatically.   Today's maximum temperature for Archerfield was set at 30 degrees with dew points   nudging 20.5 degrees earlier in the day. As with any other severe storm events,   the day started off with clear skies and unlimited visibility. The typical cumulus   started rolling in from the New South Wales border ranges at around 11.00.

It wasn't until around 2.00 that the first cells appeared just north of the   border ranges. The temperature by this time had already exceeded the maximum   with it reaching 31.4 degrees and DP's of 19.4 degrees. The barometer was down   to 1003.2 HPA and there was a nice jet stream to help the development of storms.

I went downstairs to do some wiper-snipping and saw the first storm build up   to my south west. Its updrafts were explosive and the storm doubled its size   in the first 10 minutes. I came back upstairs to get the radar image for 1.20   and the cell was starting to precipitate. This storm was moving north-east but   quickly died off. This trend continued with several cells passing through the   area.

At 2.00 a new cell started to build up outside Warwick. This one did not look   like following the same patterns the other cells followed. At 3.10, the cell   was still gaining intensity with echoes showing in the green with some pink.   Another cell just outside Beaudesert was starting to form as well. These cells   did not move in the usual north east path but they moved north west inland.   At 3:25, the dewpoint was 21.2 degrees celcius which was an excellent indicator   for severe storms.

At 5.00, the cell outside Warwick was almost stationary but it was moving north-east   slowly gaining intensity. Other cells were finally starting to form on the ranges   and were beginning to move north east without collapsing.

[Back <<](#)

23rd February 2003

Written by Mike Manning
Sunday, 29 March 2009 20:07 - Last Updated Sunday, 29 March 2009 20:41

Radar