

The ACE model in action!

Piloting of the Active Catchment Education (ACE) model has been occurring since mid March at a wide range of metropolitan locations, with a cross section of the key audiences it has been designed for.

ACE stormwater education sessions have been conducted with:

- Primary students
- Secondary students
- Teachers at Professional Development sessions
- Council officers (road maintenance teams)
- Councillors
- Shop traders
- Family groups at Festivals and Open Days

The ACE model was also exhibited at seminars and conferences including:

- Do it Right On Site Building Sites seminar 2
- National Leading on Litter Conference

Another important part of the piloting was to sort out all the operational aspects of the model, trailer and solar power system so that it is all now working simply, safely and easily.

Apologies to those who missed out during the piloting phase, but the good news is that ACE is now available for booking (see back page for details).



Evaluation shows ACE model improved attitudes and learning

Evaluation of the ACE model was conducted with school groups during May. Questionnaires were used with students before and after the ACE model session to ascertain how the ACE session affected their levels of awareness, attitudes and understanding of stormwater issues. See back page for further details.



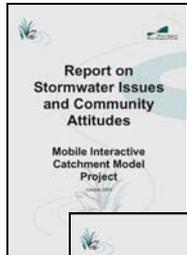
The ACE Project – from idea to reality



Over the last year the ACE model has developed from an idea into reality. A scale model reality that is – 200 times smaller than the real thing, enabling people to view a miniature working version of catchment with running rivers, rain storms and pollutants being washed into the drains and on into the river and eventually the Bay. They also learn about the impacts of these pollutants and what they can do to improve stormwater quality and reuse water.

Planning reports

A research report and action plans were developed during the first stage of the project.

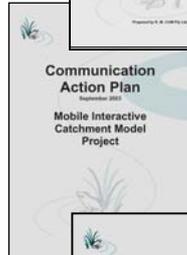


The **Report on Stormwater Issues and Community Attitudes** summarised the interviews and desktop research to guide the content of the model and support materials.



Action Plans were developed, reviewed and revised as required throughout the project:

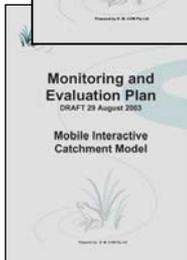
A Business Plan to guide effective and efficient project management and financial viability.



A Communication Action Plan to outline the activities to keep key stakeholders informed and ways to increase awareness of the model to a wider audience.



A Marketing Action Plan to provide a strategic approach to creating a demand for the use of the catchment model and support materials.



A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to guide the design, development and piloting of the project.

ACE Model and trailer

The 1.5 x 2.4 metre ACE catchment model has a built in simulated stormwater drainage system so the leader **just needs to add water** to show how rainfall flows over the landscape, down stormwater drains, in to the waterways and in to the bay! Simulated pollutants are added to the model's streets to show how pollutants get into the river and bay.

The model includes a house and garden (larger scale), school, shopping centre, sportsground, construction site, industrial estate and Council depot, farm, park, residential area, artificial wetlands, bushland and natural wetlands.

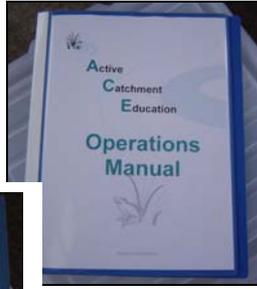


The ACE model is transported in a custom built trailer. A solar panel on the trailer provides 12 volt power to operate the water pump used with the model. A portable battery provides 12 volt power for session locations where the trailer cannot be kept close by. A fold-up table housed in the trailer can be quickly erected at a site to support the ACE model. This strong, custom made table has individually adjustable legs so it can easily be levelled, allowing water to flow properly through the model.



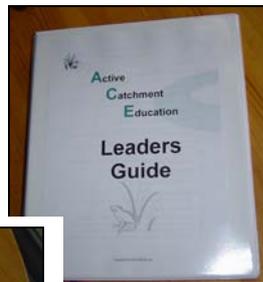
ACE Operations Manual

A photographic step-by-step manual provides instructions for the easy and safe set up and use of the ACE model and trailer.



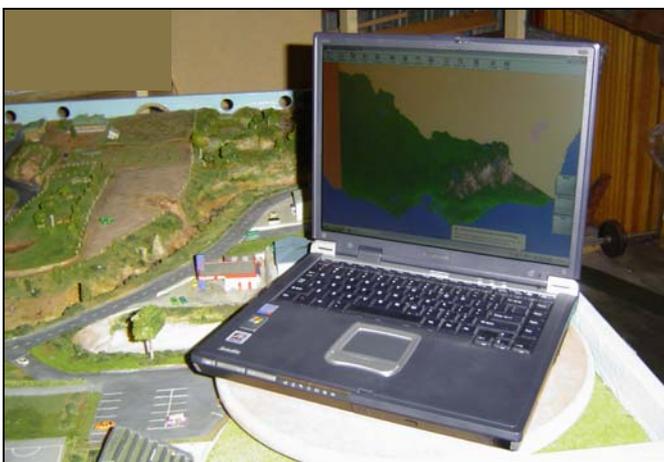
ACE Leaders Guide

The manual for presenters describes all the stormwater features of the ACE model, key concepts, action messages and provides reference material.



Computer and Image Bank

A laptop computer includes an Image Bank which can be used to show real life images to the audience. The leader selects relevant photographs, clips and other resources from the Image Bank, as appropriate to the venue and key messages for that audience.



ACE Displays

Three double-sided easy-to-set up display panels can be erected near the ACE model to explain:



- Introduction to the ACE model
- What pollutes our waterways and bays?
- Clean waterways are home to many kinds of plants and animals
- Clean bays are home to many kinds of plants and animals
- Help keep our rivers, beaches and bays clean (two panels about 'what you can do')



ACE Resource Packs

- *Teachers Resource Pack*
- *The Community Resource Pack*
- *Industry Resource Pack*

Each Pack contains display copies of key materials for each of these audiences.



The new managers of the ACE model are Melbourne Water and Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria

Metro West Waste (formerly Western Regional Waste Management Group) is now pleased to announce Melbourne Water and Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria will take over the management of the bookings and maintenance of the ACE model.

Melbourne Water aims to use the ACE model as part of its *Prep to PhD Education Program* across the greater Melbourne area while KABV provides opportunities to use ACE in its regional and rural Victoria program.

Bookings for the ACE model can now be made via Melbourne Water.

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Evaluation results

- The project was successfully completed within the overall timeline and budget.
- **There is a high degree of awareness of the ACE model among key stakeholders.**
- More than 220 key stakeholder representatives attended ACE sessions.
- 69 stakeholder representatives were sent ACE newsletters.
- There have been over 60 enquiries made to date about bookings.
- There is a high degree of satisfaction among users regarding the ACE model and its support materials
- Teachers rated the level of student interest in stormwater issues generated by an ACE session very highly (rated it as 4.7 out of 5)
- Teachers rated the ACE model very highly (4.8 out of 5) as a tool for explaining stormwater to students



Following the ACE session:

- Most students rated their enjoyment of the ACE session very highly (average 4.2 out of 5).
- There was a 19.7% increase in the correct definition of stormwater by participants.
- 46% more students strongly agreed with the statement "I can make a difference [about stormwater pollution]", compared to 27% prior.
- 74% of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "It [stormwater] is an important issue to me", compared to 8% prior to the session.



This is the last newsletter our team will produce. We enjoyed bringing the ACE project to reality and look forward to seeing it in use in many places in future.

How to contact us

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