

THE LAST DROP FINAL REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011 City of Ryde engaged Leapfish to present a water environment education program to 15 schools in the Ryde LGA. Leapfish is a not-for-profit environmental education company.

The Leapfish program was called The Last Drop and explored storm water and pollution, the concept of a catchment, water quality and cycles and the importance of water conservation. It also explored local flora and fauna and eco-systems.

The program was developed in partnership with Ryde Council, the Ryde Environmental Educators Network and the Catchment Connections Project. The program was developed through local research and incorporated local characters and the local creeks , rivers and bushland areas of Ryde. In addition to the program workshops were provided and a specially designed teacher's activity booklet developed and distributed to each school.

The show and workshops were presented in 15 schools to approximately 5475 students during 2011, term 2 of the school year.

A teacher's feedback survey was distributed to teachers prior to the performance and collected after the show. 43 teachers returned their surveys.

The teacher's survey indicated that the program was very successful. The surveys showed that teachers thought that the program increased student's knowledge of the Ryde catchment and changed their behavior in order to protect the catchment. 95% of teachers said the program was useful or very useful in teaching students how to prevent negative impacts or improve health of their catchment and environment through their actions. 81% of teachers felt that student's behavior would change to improve health of catchment and natural environment as a result of this program.

In 2011 City of Ryde engaged Leapfish to present a water environment education program to 15 schools in the Ryde LGA. The program was called *The Last Drop* and explored storm water and pollution, the concept of a catchment, water quality and cycles and the importance of water conservation. It also explored local flora and fauna and eco-systems. The goal of the program was both educational and to assist the Catchment Connections goals to 'improve the water quality of local creeks, preserve and enhance remnant bushland areas and improve local biodiversity'

The show *The Last Drop* told the story of a Professor who had a nightmare about the future in which he saw the Lane Cove River and it was full of pollution, rubbish and dead insects, bugs and frogs. He woke up and decided to build a time machine in order to find out what the Lane Cove River used to be like and what was going to happen in the future. The show tells the story of the creeks and rivers of Ryde and how they have changed over the last 200 years.

The show was locally researched through interviews with local bushcare volunteers, council employees and library staff. The show incorporated 3 local characters - Granny Smith, who invented the Granny Smith Apple; Charles Crew who was a teacher at the first school in Ryde - North Ryde Public School (originally City View Public School) and Bill who is a fictional employee of Ryde Council looking after the local waterways.

In addition to the show, workshops were run in schools which explored how students were saving water and reducing litter. Each school received a teacher's activity pack which was developed by Leapfish and included hands-on water activities for teachers to engage their students.

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The schools in which the program was run were:

Date	School	Number Students (aprox.)
May 3	St Kevins Primary School	450
May 19	Eastwood Public School	690
May 23	St Therese Primary	230
May 25	Epping Public School	328
May 27	St Anthony Primary School	312
June 1	Ryde East Public School	414
June 2	Meadowbank Public School	159
June 3	Holy Spirit Primary School	650
14 June	Melrose Public School	129
15 June	West Ryde Public School	313
16 June	North Cross Christian School	450
16 June	Ryde Public School	389
20 June	Eastwood Heights Public School	337
22 June	Boronia Park Public School	376
23 June	North Ryde Public School	248

Ryde East Public School



Ryde West



Ryde Public School



North Cross Christian



Melrose Public School



Meadowbank Public School

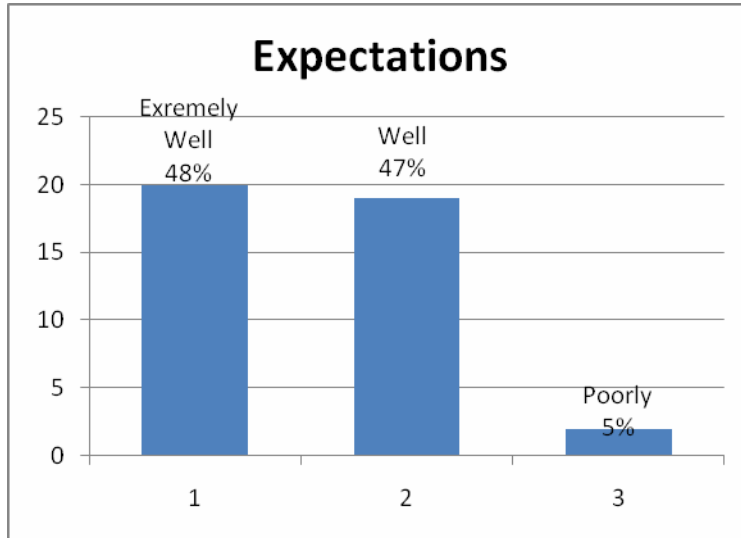


At this stage photos from the other schools which Leapfish visited are not available.

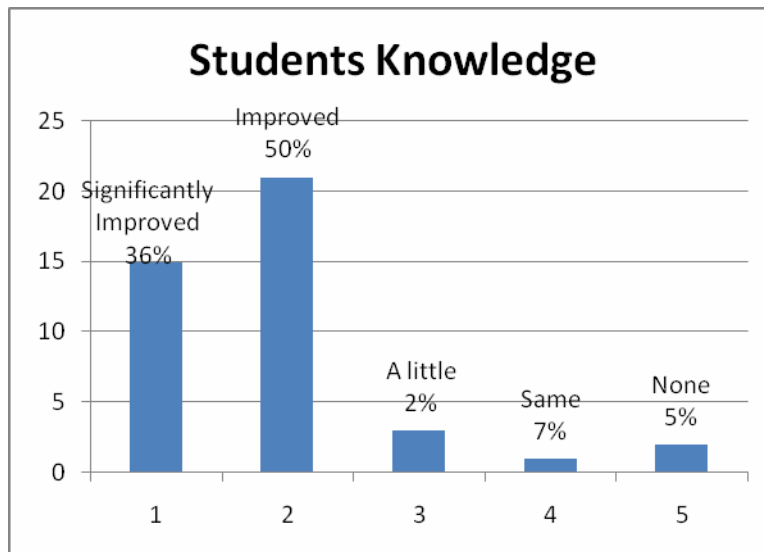
TEACHER SURVEY OUTCOMES

A teachers feedback survey was distributed to teachers prior to the performance and collected after the show. 43 teachers returned their surveys.

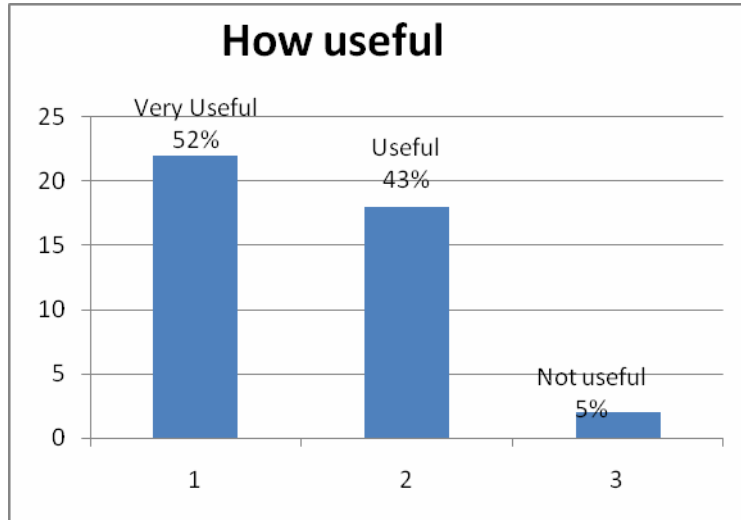
How well did the activity meet expectations?



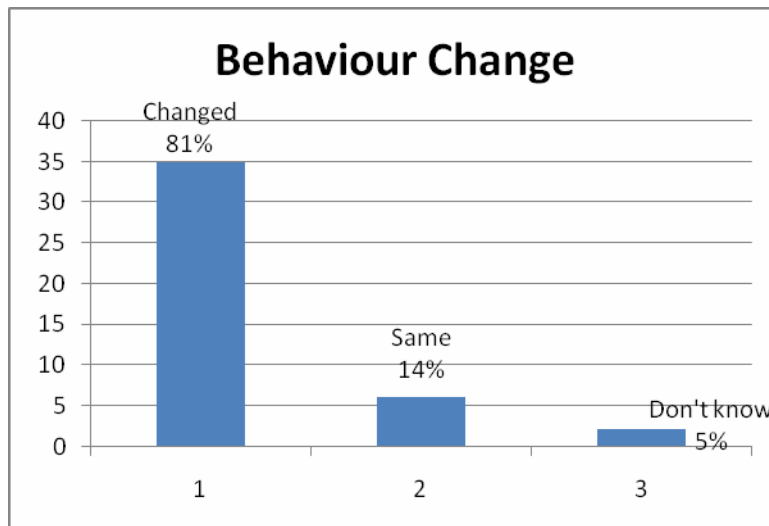
Improvement in knowledge as a result of the program:



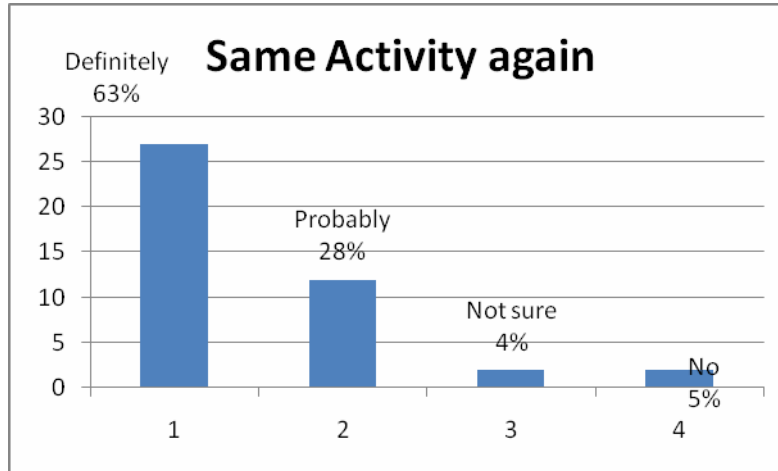
How useful has the activity in teaching students how to prevent negative impacts or improve health of their catchment and environment through their actions



Behavior change to improve health of catchment and natural environment as a result of this program



Would you use the same activity again?



CONCLUSION

Over-all the teachers survey indicate that the program was very successful in terms of the stated goals to improve the water quality of local creeks, preserve and enhance remnant bushland areas and improve local biodiversity. The surveys showed that teachers believed the program increased students knowledge of the Ryde catchment and changed their behavior in order to protect the catchment. 95% of teachers said the program was useful or very useful in teaching students how to prevent negative impacts or improve health of their catchment and environment through their actions. Perhaps even more importantly 81% of teachers felt that student's behavior would change to improve health of catchment and natural environment as a result of this program.

The success of the program is a function of a number of factors which were identified by teachers. The key factors were:

Engagement

The kids loved the sense of drama, story and being able to actively participate in the show

"Kids were listening, watching and totally involved. A great way to teach the subject" Robyn Boyd West Ryde

"The whole performance was thoroughly engaging for K-6 students. They loved the drama" L. Grassi Meadowbank Public School

“The children were really engaged and loved the show” Jennifer Spencer North Cross Christian School

Strong imbedded local message

The show had a clear simple message which was imbedded in the show.

“The kids were very engaged in the show and workshop, and were keen to discuss issues. A great idea to link emotional behaviors to positive environmental outcomes”. Colleen McMahon St Kevin’s Primary School

“Extremely entertaining. Students were enjoying themselves so much they didn’t realize that they were learning. It is also so relevant to the place they live”. J Tanner West Ryde Public School

“It was fun, fast moving and had a message imbedded – very captivating to audience and it was a stimulus for our Green committee to work from”. Anne Rowsell Epping Public School

Two areas for improvement which teachers mentioned were that it would have been helpful if the teacher’s resources were on CD. Secondly some teachers felt that it would have worked better if the show was performed twice with one for K-2 and one for 3-6. This way the material could have been more targeted to each age group.