



Special thanks:

The Weather Kit was produced with the assistance of Victorian teachers Naomi Kimpton of Cheltenham East Primary School, Ian Lewis of Portland Secondary College, Pam Dudgeon of Abbotsford Primary School and Wendy Connor of Eaglehawk Secondary College. Special thanks also to Pauline Rogers of the former Cooperative Research Centre for Southern Hemisphere Meteorology.

introduction for teachers

Welcome to the Weather Kit, a resource for Victorian schools. The kit was produced by the Bureau of Meteorology for the *Science in Schools* program of the Department of Education, Employment and Training.

The kit has been provided to each of the nine DEET regional offices in Victoria for distribution to primary and secondary schools in their region.

The main purpose of the kit is to provide teachers and students with weather measuring instruments to help achieve learning outcomes in subjects such as science, geography, and health and physical education. But the scope for the instruments' use is by no means limited to these areas.

The 32 pieces of equipment provided measure:

- wind speed:** 4 anemometers, 2 Venturi meters.
- air pressure:** 2 barometers.
- wind direction:** 4 compasses.
- humidity:** 2 whirling psychrometers, 1 hygrometer.
- rainfall:** 1 rain gauge.
- temperature:** 10 thermometers.
- ultra-violet radiation:** 4 UV meters.
- clouds:** 2 cloud charts.

(There is no liquid mercury in the instruments).

The written material accompanying the instruments is divided into five sections:

Section 1: Introduction for teachers

This section includes a list of suggested activities using the instruments and possible links to the Victorian Curriculum Standards Framework II.



There is also a list of contact names and numbers, and an evaluation form for the kit.

Section 2: How to use the instruments

Section 2a comprises 32 colour, laminated leaflets on how to use each of the





32 instruments. Black and white versions of the leaflets are provided in section 2b for photocopying.

Please ensure that each of the numbered leaflets and their associated instrument are returned to the kit at the end of the lesson. Hopefully the kit will be used by many other classes and schools in your region.

Section 3: Notes and information for activities

This section contains information sheets and forms that may be useful for the activities you choose.

It includes:

- ◆ an observations sheet for recording the weather measurements.
- ◆ a climate almanac that lists average and extreme weather in Melbourne for every day of the year.
- ◆ fun things to do, such as a word find, crossword and jokes.
- ◆ information on what sort of weather triggers a farmers and graziers warning, a weather warning for crops, and wind warnings in Victoria.
- ◆ a list of national meteorological organisations in other parts of the world (refer to the next page for suggested activities related to Languages other than English).

Section 4: Further information

This section contains details on:

- ◆ the Bureau of Meteorology website, including the *Learn about Meteorology* pages and the *Students and Teachers* section containing a number of lesson plans.
- ◆ where to find more information on weather-related learning, such as on the World Wide Web. The Internet hosts schools programs on weather, air quality and ozone monitoring in Australia and overseas.
- ◆ details of the costs and suppliers of the instruments in the Weather Kit. There is also further information on the operation of the UV meter.
- ◆ plans for making your own weather station.

Section 5: Other resource material

This sections contains:

- ◆ *Observing the Weather*, the Bureau of Meteorology's official guide to observing the weather.
- ◆ the Bureau's official field book for meteorological observations.

As of May 2005, further inquiries about the Weather Kit can be directed to (1) the Department of Education and Training and (2) the Bureau of Meteorology ...

(1) Christine Pinto
Schools Innovation in Teaching Program
Department of Education and Training
GPO Box 4367
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
tel: (03) 9637 2481
e-mail: pinto.christine.t@edumail.vic.gov.au
website: www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/science/inschools/

(2) Public Affairs Unit
Bureau of Meteorology
Level 6, 700 Collins Street
(GPO Box 1289K)
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008
tel: (03) 9669 4564
fax: (03) 9669 4113
e-mail: pro@bom.gov.au
website: www.bom.gov.au/info/weatherkit/

The Bureau of Meteorology has three staffed offices in Victoria, in Melbourne, Mildura and East Sale:

Public Weather Officer
Victorian Regional Office
Bureau of Meteorology
Level 11, 700 Collins Street
(GPO Box 1636M)
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008
tel: (03) 9669 4943
fax: (03) 9669 4092

Officer in Charge
East Sale Meteorological Office
Bureau of Meteorology
RAAF Base
EAST SALE VIC 3852
tel: (03) 5144 2381
fax: (03) 5144 1845

Officer in Charge
Mildura Meteorological Office
PO Box 5002
MILDURA VIC 3502
tel: (03) 5023 3404
fax: (03) 5021 4017