

Youth network growing fast

For the past two months, ACF has been sharing its Melbourne, Sydney and Perth offices with the Environmental Youth Alliance. 'Fun' may be written into the EYA's constitution, but members are serious about their work. School permitting, they are busy establishing the legal and organisational framework for what seems likely to be a huge national operation. Here, Tathra Street, 18 and Martina Kohoute16, describe the EYA and its objectives.

Young people see the problems of the world clearly and often feel powerless and discouraged. EYA is determined to change this into a strong feeling of empowerment. There is strength in numbers and together we can save the earth.

Throughout the world there is enormous energy among young people for environmental action. The power of EYA lies in the fact that it is run by youth, for youth. EYA's emphasis is on the active participation of its members - on meeting new people and having fun - this has even been written into our Constitution!

The Environmental Youth Alliance is a networking group. By bringing young people together, we can restore faith in ourselves and each other. Then we can work together to help save the world we will inherit. The strength of EYA is at the local level - the people! With independent youth groups in schools, universities and communities, as well as individuals taking action appropriate to their area, everyone can become involved.

EYA originated in Canada and was instantly successful, attracting over 18,000 members in its first eight months. On his recent visit, David Suzuki told Australians of EYA Canada's successes. Young people all over Australia have responded

to this and we now have set up our own EYA, which is closely affiliated with the international network.

EYA encourages us to believe that we are not alone, and that we do play an important role in determining our own fate. By networking environmental groups and concerned individuals of all

ages, and getting all groups to communicate and exchange information with each other, EYA will help give the environmental cause an effective, unified voice.

So, EYA is based on four guiding principles: promoting communication, exchanging information, facilitating co-ordination and having FUN!

The Environmental Youth Alliance of Australia is organising events nationwide. If you want to join us or would like further information about local activities, please contact the group nearest you: Wilderness trips and rallies are being organised in most States in the holiday period.

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