

Without a trace

ENVIRONMENTAL group Leave No Trace Australia is hoping children will help get the message across about responsible outdoor recreation and travel.

The national not-for-profit organisation, which has its headquarters in Swanbourne, fights the accumulative effects of tourism on natural areas.

It promotes essential skills and ethics via training programs and pamphlets, the latest of which is a resource pack for primary schools.

Executive director Cameron Crowe said it was good to teach children a responsible attitude to the environment at an early age.

"Children have a positive influence on older people and can be a very effective in getting the message across," he said.

"It is a simple message that addresses a fundamental problem."

Mr Crowe brought Leave No Trace to Australia in 2003, based on an initiative developed in the US in the 1960s, when nature-based travel first became popular.

He worked initially with the International Outdoor Leadership School in Broome.

Leave No Trace Australia is now sponsored by businesses including Mainpeak, and works closely with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

"I was inspired to set up Leave No Trace Australia after an experience of driving through the Kimberley and witnessing the huge amounts of waste and rubbish people had left behind," Mr Crowe said.

"The organisation has gained huge support here and it is vital for us to build up our resources to help us deliver the service."

It is working to produce activi-



Richard Lushley and Cameron Crowe hope children will lead the way on environmental matters.

ty specific literature about mountain biking, rock climbing, sea kayaking, four-wheel driving, white water paddling and whale watching.

It is also developing documents about places including the Australian Alps, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and south-west Australia. The group now has partnerships with land managers, teachers, youth

organisations, guides, outdoor equipment retailers and the travel industry to produce the booklets and information boards.

"Most try to leave natural and protected areas as we found them," Mr Crowe said. "But it takes a certain set of skills and awareness of the different characteristics of an area to be able to do this in a range of environments."

Call 9384 9062.