



Youth Environment Council of SA: Where are they now?



Name: Mark Cawdron-White

Years involved: 2000 – 08

Current role: New Home Consultant, Metricon Homes.

I studied Environmental Law at university and now I'm studying architecture. The YEC helped to give me a sustainability focused mindset that I'm able to use in my current job. I talk to my customers about sustainable home design and really get them thinking about their lifestyle and how the proposed home will match this.

What was the most significant change that came from your involvement with the YEC?

The most significant thing for me to come out of my YEC experience is the self-worth and self-confidence side of things that you get. It gave me an option to focus my energy on what I can do, what my options are, and what I can do as a member of society. You don't always get the opportunity to do that at the age I was then. It was so important as a teenager. It helped me with my mental development; this is who I am and what I stand for.

Why was this important?

The YEC helped me to develop confidence and the ability to articulate my point of view. Also critical thinking; am I standing for the right thing? What would I do if I was the devil's advocate? Being in the YEC definitely challenged my thoughts and taught me to think about other people's point of view. I learnt how to coordinate people, challenge others thoughts and opinions, how to play devil's advocate, to question things, how to educate others, and about influencing. I also learnt that it's ok to turn around and admit you're wrong.

What advice would you give to current and future members of the YEC?

Just do it! Just jump in legs first. What's the worst that can happen? Grab the bull by the horns and ride it! We all make mistakes and mistakes can be fixed.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I'm glad the YEC is still going and offering an output for young people.