



## A convenient truth: students snap up chance to work for more liveable world

By **RACHEL KLEINMAN**

ARMED with nothing more than whiteboard markers, a group of Melbourne children yesterday provided pledges against global warming that would have made Al Gore proud.

The Princes Hill Primary School students committed to help preserve the world around them at the launch of a photographic exhibition recording the state of the planet.

Each child signed a large whiteboard with their own pledge outlining action they would take, such as planting trees or recycling rubbish.

Nine-year-old Mietta told *The Age* she would do everything she could to help keep Victoria's

rivers, creeks and seas clean.

"It is important so that marine life can live," Mietta said. "Creatures like the platypus, which I love because it is different — it is like a duck and a beaver in one — and it is really soft."

Through the school's weekly Environment Club, the children carry out sustainable practices such as composting and recycling rubbish.

The Earth From Above exhibition, at River Terrace, near Federation Square, highlights the planet's beauty and its beastliness through French photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand's lens.

Striking aerial images include a mineral forest in Madagascar and people bathing in a blue lagoon in Iceland.

But the exhibition also illustrates man-made and natural destruction, such as the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster and the Asian tsunami.

Arthus-Bertrand started the project in 1990. The exhibition, in Melbourne until December 12, was first shown in Paris in 2000 and has been shown in 40 countries.

**LINK**

► [www.yannarthusbertrand.com](http://www.yannarthusbertrand.com)



World's eye view: Yann Arthus-Bertrand's photographs are entertaining and amazing all ages at River Terrace.

PICTURE: KEN RYAN



French fields: an agricultural landscape near Cognac, France



Camel caravan: dromedaries cross Niger's Tenere Desert.



Watery ways: trees amid water near Taponas, France.